



LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS AFFECTING THE MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES - 2013 -

Country: Luxembourg

SECTION 1: SUSTAINABLE USE, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

This section targets information on legislation and policies related specifically to the management of animal genetic resources, i.e. to:

- characterization, surveying and monitoring;
- sustainable use and development;
- conservation; and
- research and development related to animal genetic resources management.

It also includes issues related to patenting and access and benefit sharing. Instruments in these fields of action may or may not include specific provisions related to animal genetic resources or to relevant broader categories such as living organisms or genetic resources for food and agriculture.

1. Overall management of animal genetic resources

Note: In the policy field, this might include, for example, a national strategy and action plan for animal genetic resources.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

No such measure in place; application of the common European zootechnical and animal health legislation

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

2. Integration of animal genetic resources management with the management of other genetic resources for food and agriculture (plant, forest or aquatic genetic resources)

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

No such measure in place; application of the common European zootechnical and animal health legislation

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

3. Surveying and monitoring of animal genetic resources

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

No such measure in place; application of the common European zootechnical and animal health legislation; breeding organizations managing breeds at risk, will keep track of the evolution of the breed.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

4. Official recognition of livestock breeds

Legislation

No

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

No such measure in place.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

5. Animal breeding and genetic improvement strategies

Legislation

Yes

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Application of the common European zootechnical legislation.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

Do these measures address:

5.1 Animal identification and recording

Note: Sections 2 and 3 include questions on traceability and on animal identification as it relates to animal health. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Application of the common European legislation defining the systems of identification and registration of animal species.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

5.2 The establishment and operation of breeders' associations

Legislation

Yes

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Application of the common European zootechnical legislation.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

6. Use of reproductive biotechnologies (excluding zoonitary issues)

Note: Zoonitary issues are covered in Section 3.

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Application of the common European zootechnical and veterinary legislation.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

7. Genetic modification of animals used for food and agriculture

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Application of the common European legislation on GMO's: no genetic modification of animals used for food and agriculture, no use of transgenic animals in research.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

8. Suitability of imported genetic material for use in local production environments

Note: For example, rules requiring a "genetic assessment" before genetic material can be introduced.

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

No such measures in place.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

9. Conservation programmes for animal genetic resources

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

National implementation of the agro-environmental measure (within the Common Agriculture Policy) with regard to the protection of animal genetic resources.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Measure encouraging the keeping of horses from the breed called "Cheval de trait ardennais" - Ardennes horses (in situ conservation program). Owners of Ardennes horses receive annual payments for keeping Ardennes horses (payments are paid based on the number of horses kept - horses "under contract"). Also horse keepers are obliged to practice breeding / reproduction.

Future needs

Besides the protection of the equine breed "Cheval de trait ardennais", two more breeds were identified for future conservation measures: the sheep breed "moutons ardennais" and the cattle breed "Pie-Rouge de l'Oesling". Also the conservation program will be extended to ex situ conservation measures, such as performance testing and linear scoring of body parts - information which describes the population and may be used in genetic evaluation.

Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:

9.1 *In vivo* conservation

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

See explanations above: owners receive a financial incentive which is meant to compensate for lower production performances compared to the conventional breeds.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Aims to stabilize or increase the population size for breeds put under conservation measures (alter the ongoing trend in decline of population size).

Future needs

Encourage keeping of endangered breeds by creating improved market opportunities and increased value of the breeds (meat, milk, work, sustainability projects, touristic activities etc.).

9.2 Cryoconservation

Legislation

No

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

The national agro-environmental measure (within CAP 2014-2020) will contain provisions allowing the establishment of cryoconservation programs.

10. Research and development related to animal genetic resources management

Legislation

No

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

The national agro-environmental measure (within CAP 2014-2020) will allow to set up research and development work related to animal genetic resources management.

11. Patenting

Legislation

No

If legislation is place or under development, does/will it include provisions (including exemptions) specifically targeting:

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture

No

Living organisms in general

No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

This topic should be regulated by EU law.

12. Access and benefit sharing arrangements

Note: The Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, on 8 August 2013, invited countries to report on the conditions under which genetic resources for food and agriculture are exchanged and used (Circular State Letter C/ NRD-5). Please coordinate responses within your country.

Legislation

No

Policy

No

If instruments are in place or under development, do/will they include provisions (including exemptions) specifically targeting:

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture

Genetic resources for food and agriculture in general

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

SECTION 2: MARKETING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION AND PROTECTION

This section targets information on legislation and policies addressing the marketing of animal products, including those addressing:

- the production and marketing of organic products;
- the production and marketing of products sold under protected designations of origin or similar labels;
- production and marketing of products sold under labels indicating adherence to animal-welfare-related standards; and
- food safety.

While some policies and legislation in these fields of action may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. Consumer demand for animal products often has a major influence on the use and development of animal genetic resources. A lack of demand may place a breed at risk of extinction. Marketing initiatives for breed-specific products, or products from production systems in which locally adapted breeds are kept, can provide a means of promoting the use of at-risk breeds and reducing the risk that they will become extinct. Legislation and policies that facilitate initiatives of this kind can have a positive effect in terms of the maintenance of animal genetic diversity. Conversely, legislation and policies that inhibit the marketing of particular types of products, or products from particular locations or production systems, may inhibit the use of animal genetic resources associated with these products, locations or production systems.

1. Marketing of animal products in general

Note: This question refers to measures that are not specifically focused on market subsectors such as organic products or products with designated labels of origin.

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Animal products are to a great extent valued under the national meat quality labels (beef, pork, direct farm sales etc.) or private initiatives. Mostly conventional intensive beef breeds and pig hybrids are valued under these labels.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

For Ardennes horses (breed under conservation) there are currently only little marketing opportunities.

Future needs

As the Ardennes horse breed appears to be a transboundary breed, efforts should be set up in order to create a common transboundary label for quality horse meat originating from Ardennes horses (label "races menacées") raised in the geographical area of the Ardennes (France, Belgium, Luxembourg). Maybe common efforts should also be set up at European level for introducing a quality sign distinguishing products originating from protected breeds.

2. Production and marketing of organic products

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Application of the common European legislation on organic farming. Set up of a so-called "national action plan" for promoting organic products / organic farming, identifying bottlenecks in the further development of organic farming practices and aiming to increase the rate of land farmed organically compared to conventional farming methods.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Rare breeds currently do not benefit from any special measures encouraging their keeping on organic farms or less extensive farming systems.

Future needs

As less intensive breeds are more suitable for organic farming systems, organic farming systems such as low input systems could offer certain opportunities for the promotion and conservation of rare breeds.

3. Production and marketing of products sold under protected designations of origin or similar labels

Legislation Yes

Policy No

Details of the measure(s)

Application of the common European legislation on European quality systems (PDO, PGI, ...).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

At national level, there are currently no PDO's, PGI's on animal products originating from rare breeds.

Future needs

4. Production and marketing of products sold under labels indicating adherence to particular animal welfare-related standards

Note: For example, rules relating to the marketing of products as "free range" or under similar designations. Basic animal welfare legislation (i.e. not specifically related to marketing) is covered in Section 3.

Legislation Yes

Policy No

Details of the measure(s)

Application of the common European animal health and welfare legislation; national labels often adapt animal welfare standards which prove to be slightly stricter than the European animal welfare regulation.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

No impact on animal genetic resources management.

Future needs

Often in reality consumers are not willing to spend significantly more money for products originating from higher animal welfare standards. A national proposal was set up for introducing higher animal welfare-related standards for the production and marketing of products, but is currently not implemented.

5. Safety of food products from animals

Note: If relevant, include measures related to the marketing of products derived from genetically modified organisms.

Legislation Yes

Policy No

Details of the measure(s)

Application of the common European legislation on food and feed security.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

Legislation on food and feed security, such as animal health provisions should take into account the breeds at risk and reconsider culling decisions in case of disease outbreaks (vaccinations, quarantine etc.) which may significantly endanger the breed or lead to its extinction.

6. Traceability of animal-origin products

Note: Sections 1 and 3 include questions on animal identification as it relates to breeding and to animal health. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.

Legislation Yes

Policy No

Details of the measure(s)

Application of the common European legislation on traceability of animal-origin products.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

None

Future needs

SECTION 3: ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

This section targets information on legislation and policies addressing animal health and animal welfare. While some policies and legislation in these fields may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. Animal genetic resources and their management can be affected both by the direct effects of animal diseases and by the effects of measures taken to control animal diseases. For example, a disease epidemic may threaten the existence of at-risk breeds, particularly if their populations are concentrated geographically. Animal diseases, as influenced by the presence or absence of effective animal health services, can also influence the type of animal genetic resources that can be kept in particular locations, influence breeding objectives and/or affect the economic sustainability of livestock-keeping livelihoods. Compulsory culling measures used to control disease epidemics may pose a threat to geographically concentrated breed populations. Legal restrictions on the import of genetic material because of zoosanitary reasons may affect breeders' access to genetic resources. Legal restrictions on livestock movements, restrictions on particular husbandry practices, or onerous requirements for animal health-related actions on the part of livestock keepers (or in the food processing and marketing chain), may inhibit the keeping of animal genetic resources associated with the production systems targeted. Zoosanitary legislation related to the use of semen, embryos and other genetic materials may have implications for cryoconservation programmes. Legal and policy frameworks related to animal welfare might promote or inhibit the keeping of animals in particular production systems or the use of animals to provide specific products or services. In turn, these developments might promote or inhibit the continued use of the animal genetic resources associated with the respective production systems, products or services.

1. Delivery of animal health services and control of animal diseases

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Application of common European animal health legislation and provisions.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:

1.1 Animal identification

Note: Sections 1 and 2 include questions on animal identification as it relates to breeding and on traceability. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Application of common European legislation on animal identification.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

1.2 Control of the import of animal genetic resources (live breeding animals and/or germplasm) for zoosanitary reasons

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

Application of common European veterinary and zootechnical legislation.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

1.3 Control of the export of animal genetic resources (live breeding animals and/or germplasm) for zoosanitary reasons

Legislation

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Application of common European veterinary and zootechnical legislation or any measures required by other third countries when exporting animal genetic resources.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

1.4 Zoosanitary rules related to the use of reproductive technologies

Legislation

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Application of common European veterinary and zootechnical legislation.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

1.5 Control of livestock movements (within the country) for zoosanitary reasons

Legislation

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Application of common European veterinary and zootechnical legislation.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

1.6 Restrictions or compulsory actions related to husbandry practices (for zoosanitary reasons)

Legislation

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Application of common European veterinary and zootechnical legislation.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

1.7 Compulsory culling in the event of outbreaks of specific diseases

Legislation

Yes

If legislation is in place or under development, does/will it include provisions to protect at-risk animal genetic resources from the effects of culling programmes?

Details of the measure(s)

Application of common European veterinary and zootechnical legislation.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

2. Animal welfare

Legislation

Yes

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Application of common European veterinary legislation on animal welfare measures.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

SECTION 4: AGRICULTURE, LAND USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

This section targets information on legislation and policies that address the overall management of the production systems, ecosystems and environments within which animal genetic resources are used and developed. The questions address the following main topics:

- general frameworks or strategies for rural development;
- agriculture, land use and natural resources management;
- management of biodiversity;
- other aspects of environmental protection;
- overall livestock-sector development;
- management of rangelands and other grazing lands;
- establishment of livestock farms or holdings
- establishment and operation of civil society organizations in the livestock sector
- participation of livestock keepers in decision-making in livestock-sector development; and
- prevention, preparedness and response to natural or human-induced disasters

While some policies and legislation in these fields may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. For example, policies and legislation that promote or constrain the keeping of livestock in particular production systems, for particular purposes or in particular geographical areas may promote or discourage the use of the animal genetic resources associated with these systems/uses/locations (hence possibly affecting their risk status), lead to the establishment of breeding objectives targeting the development of animals suitable for the favoured systems/uses/locations or lead to the import of genetic resources suitable for these systems/uses/locations.

1. General framework or strategy for sustainable agriculture, land use and natural-resources management

Note: This question relates to broad strategic-level instruments such as national agricultural or rural development policies, strategies or laws. Instruments related to specific aspects of agricultural and rural development should be described under other questions as and where relevant.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Application of common European rural development policy; national aid schemes for the protection of biological diversity in the rural, wine and forestry areas

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Not particularly aimed at conserving farm animal genetic resources; measure in place for the protection of forest soils against compaction and erosion: aid is granted for the work with horses (Ardennes horses are very well suited for this measure).

Future needs

2. Management of biodiversity

Note: Please use this question to provide information on the general framework for managing all aspects of the country's biodiversity (e.g. instruments related to the designation and management of protected areas). Include, for example, information on whether animal genetic resources issues are included in your country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and on any provisions addressing potential conflicts, or perceived conflicts, between the management of animal genetic resources and the management of other elements of biodiversity. Specific animal genetic-resources-related instruments (e.g National Strategy and Action Plans for Animal Genetic Resources) should be reported in Section 1 (Question 1).

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

National aid schemes for the protection of biological diversity in the rural, wine and forestry areas; in this context no special measure in place for the protection of farm animal breeds at risk, except the agro-environmental measure for the conservation of rare breeds.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

3. Environmental protection

Note: Instruments specifically targeting the management of biodiversity are covered under Question 2. Please use this question to provide information on instruments addressing other environmental issues (e.g. addressing pollution of land and water, deforestation, climate change, water use or flood protection). If an instrument addresses both biodiversity and other aspects of environmental protection, please indicate this using a cross-reference to your answer to Question 2.

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

National aid schemes for the protection of biological diversity in the rural, wine and forestry areas

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

4. Overall development of the livestock sector

Note: This question relates to broad strategic-level instruments addressing the livestock sector as a whole, such as national livestock development strategies or laws. Instruments related to specific aspects of livestock development should be described under other questions as and where relevant.

Legislation Policy

If provisions are in place or under development do/will they include:

Particular provisions aimed at supporting livestock keeping in harsh production environments

Note: Please consider direct and indirect forms of support (e.g. grants or subsidies, favourable access to credit or livestock services, facilitation of market access).

Legislation Policy

Particular provisions aimed at supporting large-scale, high external input or export-oriented production systems or supporting management practices associated with such systems

Note: Please consider direct and indirect forms of support (e.g. grants or subsidies, subsidized inputs, favourable access to credit or livestock services, support for infrastructure development or mechanization).

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Subsidies paid to farmers which keep livestock all year round on extensive managed grassland.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

So far, no rare breeds take advantage of special promotion measures for their use in extensive grassland management systems.

Future needs

5. Management of and access to rangelands or other grazing lands

Legislation

No

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

6. Establishment of livestock farms or holdings

Note: This question relates to planning rules related to the size, location, ownership, registration, etc. of livestock farms or holdings.

Legislation

No

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

7. Establishment and operation of civil society organizations in the livestock sector

Note: Instruments specifically related to organizations focused on breeding (genetic improvement) activities are covered in Section 1 (Question 5.2). Please use the present question to provide information on instruments of a more general nature (e.g. related to the operation of cooperative societies or community organizations).

Legislation

Yes

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Breeding organizations are in place for the main farm animal and "fancy" breeds kept in Luxembourg (covers cattle, pigs, sheep & goats, horses, avian, rabbits etc). Lists of breeding organizations available on the web-page of the ministry of agriculture.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Being of great importance for the management of animal genetic resources.

Future needs

With regard to transboundary breeds, it will be important to strengthen ties / links with breeding organizations from other countries managing the same breed or genetically closely linked rare breeds in order to better survey the endangered population and exchange genetic material.

8. Participation of livestock keepers in decision-making related to the development of the livestock sector

Legislation

Yes

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

The breeding organization are in the hands of the breeders, they are mostly farmer cooperatives or associations.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

9. Prevention, preparedness and response to natural or human-induced disasters

Legislation

No

Policy

No

If instruments are place or under development, do/will they include any provisions specifically targeting:

Animal genetic resources

Note: For example, measures targeting the protection of at-risk breeds.

Legislation Policy

Livestock in general

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

As to the Ardennes horse breed, a small population of Ardennes horses also exists in Sweden, Poland and Switzerland. This population may be regarded as genetic pool or "back-up" of the population in case of an outbreak of a natural or human-induced disaster, although this "geographical dislocation" of the Ardennes horse breed was not particularly intended as a "breed security measure".

SECTION 5: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please provide information on any aspects of your country's legal and policy framework that affect animal genetic resources and their management but are not covered by any of the questions above.

Submit by e-mail