



International organization progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources 2007-2013

1. Contact information and mandate

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Name of organization	African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
E-mail of organization	simplice.nouala@au-ibar.org
Geographical coverage of your organization	Africa

2. Animal species coverage of your organization

General livestock-related mandate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Large ruminants	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small ruminants	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pigs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poultry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rabbits & micro livestock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camelidae	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equines	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategic Priority Area 1:

Characterization, Inventory and Monitoring

1. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of projects or programmes on phenotypic characterization of animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved and whether you include characterization of production environments:

The project "Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of African Animal Genetic Resources" does a comprehensive and systematic inventory of existing AnGR in Africa so as to establish their status. At country levels, national inventories detailing animal populations per species and breeds, including population trends is done. A particular focus is given to endangered breeds, for which a detailed census is currently being performed (or estimates when census is not feasible). Data collected at national level is analyzed at regional level so as to identify national and trans-boundary breeds at risk. The project has a continental coverage, all the 54 AU MS. All production systems are targeted. All livestock species are targeted in the project (large ruminants, small ruminants, pigs, poultry, rabbits & micro livestock, camelidae and equine).

2. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of projects or programmes on molecular characterization of animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved:

The project is undertaking molecular genetic characterization, including estimation of genetic distances among populations and quantification of within-species genetic diversity as well as genetic variation in adaptive characteristics in order to facilitate development of rational utilisation and conservation strategies. Livestock species targeted in the project are large ruminants and small ruminants. The project has a continental coverage, all the 54 AU MS.

3. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of projects or programmes for surveying the size and/or structure of animal genetic resources populations and monitoring population trends?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved:

At country levels, national inventories detailing animal populations per species and breeds, including population trends is done. Data collected at national level is analyzed at regional level so as to identify national and trans-boundary breeds at risk. Livestock species targeted in the project are large ruminants and small ruminants. The project has a continental coverage, all the 54 AU MS.

4. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of projects or programmes for identifying and monitoring threats to animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved:

Training on advances in sustainable utilization and management of indigenous animal genetic resources information for research, teaching, development and policy making purposes is provided to various stakeholders as an early warning tool with specific focus on the analysis and utilisation of data on breeds at risk. Livestock species targeted in the project are large ruminants and small ruminants. The project has a continental coverage, all the 54 AU MS.

5. Does your organization support countries in the development of early warning and response systems for animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved:

The project establishes country-based risk monitoring that will assist in setting up early warning systems and response mechanisms, at national and regional levels. The system first focus on trans-boundary ruminant livestock and could be adapted to other breeds. Livestock species targeted in the project are large ruminants and small ruminants. The project has a continental coverage, all the 54 AU MS.

6. Is your organization involved in research and development on methods, technical standards or protocols for phenotypic or molecular characterization, surveying and monitoring of population size or threats to animal genetic resources, or breed evaluation, valuation and comparison?

Phenotypic characterization

Yes

No

Molecular characterization

Yes

No

Surveying and monitoring

Yes

No

If yes, participatory monitoring

Yes

No

Breed evaluation or comparison

Yes

No

Economic valuation

Yes

No

Please provide details:

In order to assist countries and RECs in the production of inventories and characterization of their AnGR, and to ensure homogeneity of data and therefore easier compilation, harmonized standard tools (guidelines, protocols, templates for data collection instruments) are produced, tested, and disseminated to countries. This entail assessing all existing guidelines and protocols for their strength and weakness, particular attention is given to their robustness and the friendly usage. A panel of experts is invited to discussed and agree on an harmonized protocols that will be used for the inventory and characterization of AnGR. These protocols will be compatible with those set by the Commission of Animal Genetic Resources for food and agriculture.

7. Has your organization identified major obstacles to inventory, characterization and monitoring of animal genetic resources in all or part of your mandate area or species coverage?

Yes

No

If yes, please list them being as specific as possible regarding geographical area / species:

The basis for the sustainable conservation and utilization of AnGR mainly lies in the existence of comprehensive legal and regulatory frameworks in each country and at regional level to govern breed utilisation, including breed improvement and exchange of genetic materials and, at the same time, assure and define the role and responsibility of each stakeholder. The trans-boundary nature of many breeds and the mobility of animals across national borders for various reasons, among them trade and search of water and pasture, the absence of regional policies and strategies has not facilitated the inventory, characterization and monitoring of animal genetic resources and the protection of endangered breeds especially where

commensurate conservation measures (both *in situ* and *ex-situ*) are regarded to be more efficient and cost effective at regional level. Livestock species targeted in the project are large ruminants and small ruminants.

8. What are the priority measures that need to be taken to address these obstacles?

Given AU-IBAR's strategic choices, its institutional position and links and its experience of working with national authorities and RECs, the institution chose to take up the important task of assisting the AU Member States with the design of frameworks and policies as a high priority. The main outcome of this intervention will be increased capacity in countries for defining policy, legal and regulatory frameworks and strategies, in order to convince national decision makers, private sector and other partners on mobilizing the necessary human and financial resources to maintain and further enhance AnGR, as well as increased capacities in RECs for harmonizing policy frameworks at regional level. In this regard the CAADP round table process within the countries is instrumental for the mobilisation of resources.

9. Please describe any additional activities relevant to the implementation of Strategic Priority Area 1: Characterization, inventory and monitoring of trends and associated risks.

No additional activities.

Strategic Priority Area 2: Sustainable Use and Development

1. Does your organization support countries in developing, reviewing or adjusting their national policies affecting the sustainable use of animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved:

In order to successfully conduct genetic improvement initiatives in the regions as an economically viable industry in the future, the project is providing technical and financial support to national and regional initiatives. An inventory and assessment of existing policies and regulations on the use of animal genetic resources including genetic improvement of livestock in Africa is done. In parallel to the inventory conducted at countries level, one is as well as done at regional level, to identify existing policy, strategy or regulatory frameworks related to management of animal genetic resources. Using guidelines and policy frameworks developed, countries are assisted to develop their National Action Plan for Animal Genetic Resources, including related budgets, investment and financing plans. The project is supporting meetings of livestock policy hubs established in the framework of the "Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa" project, to mainstream these actions into the livestock priorities for consideration into the national agricultural investment plan. All livestock species are targeted in the project (large ruminants, small ruminants, pigs, poultry, rabbits & micro livestock, camelidae and equine).

2. Does your organization promote agro-ecosystem approaches?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

AU-IBAR's mandate is to support and coordinate the utilization of livestock, fisheries and wildlife as resources for both human wellbeing and economic development in the Member States of the African Union (AU). Animal Resource Production Systems and Ecosystem Management is based on an agro-ecosystems approach and we promoted this approach in the new Strategic Plan mainly within two Key result areas:

- 1) Sustainable utilization, management and conservation of animal resources and their ecosystems enhanced. This result contributes to the formulation and establishment of regional and continent-wide strategic frameworks and cooperation

arrangements that will ensure judicious utilization, management and conservation of Africa's animal resources and their ecosystems.

- 2) Sustainable natural resources management practices promoted. This includes coordinating and facilitating the formulation and implementation of initiatives that promote sustainable management and conservation of resources on which animals depend with particular attention to trans-boundary shared resources, restoration of degraded ecosystem and recovering of depleting stocks.

3. Does your organization contribute to the planning or implementation of strategic breeding programmes?

Mainstream breeds

- Yes
No

Under-utilized breeds

- Yes
No

If yes, please provide details (including the breeds involved) being as specific as possible:

The project will provide subvention to support the established initiatives on the continent, such as:
The three tier open nucleus breeding scheme (ONBS) for N'Dama, and the Djallonke sheep and goats in the Gambia.

4. Does your organization contribute to the development of recording systems or organizational structures for breeding programmes?

- Yes
No

If yes, please provide details (including the breeds involved) being as specific as possible:

5. If the projects and programmes that your organization implements or supports involve the use of exotic breeds, have any assessments been made of the long-term impacts of the use of exotic breeds on animal genetic resource diversity, livelihoods and/or food security in the affected countries and production systems?

- Yes
No
No projects or programmes involving exotic breeds

If yes, please provide details:

The indigenous genetic resource base and diversity has been deeply affected in recent decades by the extensive use of exotic breeds which has often been considered as the main, most effective and fastest way of intensifying livestock production systems. Initially restricted to high potential areas like peri-urban zones and highlands, this progressive gene substitution phenomenon eventually spread out to rural areas, and also affected agro-pastoral and pastoral systems, where the genetic characteristics of local animal populations have been modified. Movements of animal populations, linked to transhumance and/or commercialization, have also influenced the genetic characteristics of indigenous populations. The project is taking stock of the existing situation and is generating knowledge and evidences that will be used for policy dialogue and guidance, advocacy and awareness raising. The first phase of the assessment will consist of the establishment of a typology of crossbreeding programmes/phenomena in the area. The typology will in particular distinguish the implementation modalities of the programme (regulated, planned, erratic, government supported, private sector based, linked to movements, etc...) and its objective (creation of synthetic breed, breed absorption and substitution, improvement of local breed, etc...). For each type identified, one or two case studies will be conducted to assess the impact of these programmes on genetic diversity, productivity of the animal population, sustainability of the production system, and the short and long-term socio economic benefits for the livestock owners and the economy.

6. Has your organization implemented or supported the implementation of animal genetic resources-related projects that aim at achieving sustainable intensification of production?

- Yes
No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and animal genetic resources involved:

7. Does your organization contribute to the development of mechanisms for facilitating interactions among stakeholders, scientific disciplines and sectors as part of planning for sustainable use development of animal genetic resources?

- Yes
No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries or regions involved:

Under the project, all countries have appointed national coordinators on AnGR. For Africa these national coordinators meet on an ad hoc basis when they are invited to the meetings. This activity is establishing an interactive learning system for information sharing and discussions among national coordinators of Africa and will support one biannual meeting of these national coordinators.

As part of the implementation of the GPA, AU-IBAR and partners are establishing the sub-regional focal points for sustainable management of animal genetic resources in West and Central Africa, East Southern and Northern Africa. This activity will support the meetings of the governance organs of the focal points (steering committee and general assembly) and the communication/advocacy activities of its secretariat. The project has a continental coverage, all the 54 AU MS.

8. Do your organization's activities contribute to improving farmers' and livestock keepers' knowledge of animal genetic resources from various sources?

- Yes
No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and types of animal genetic resources involved:

Past experiences, in Africa or outside the continent, in breeding and/or breed conservation programmes, indicate the necessity of anchoring these interventions to stakeholders' organizations and in particular farmers' organizations.

The project supports the establishment of regional breeders associations and supports their operations through their live spam. An exit strategy to sustain these associations beyond the project is being designed. In order to play their role adequately in the breeding and conservation domains, these organizations are being strengthened and their capacities related to management of genetic resources improved. South-south exchanges between farmers organizations involved in breeding/conservation activities are also being used as a sensitization and capacity building tool. Livestock species targeted in the project are large ruminants and small ruminants. The project has a continental coverage, all the 54 AU MS.

9. Do your organization's activities contribute to improving farmers' and livestock keepers' access to animal genetic resources from various sources?

- Yes
No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and types of animal genetic resources involved:

AU-IBAR recognizes the significant role that commercialized livestock enterprises can play to safety demands for animal products. The project is attempting to meet the needs of farmers and livestock-keepers, within the framework of the existing national laws, to have non-discriminatory access to the genetic material so that they may continue to manage and improve their animal genetic resources, and benefit from economic development.

Livestock-keepers contribute to the conservation of AnGRs and in the long run this might be a field of income generation because this is a positive externality and can be regarded as an environmental service for which eventually the whole society

will pay.

The project addresses this gap by targeting in particular the institutional frameworks to be established, and the policy frameworks. One of the areas of policy making related to conservation of AnGR includes incentive mechanisms to farmers for conservation and breeding of improved animals and intellectual property rights, patents and their enforcement. Livestock species targeted in the project are large ruminants and small ruminants. The project has a continental coverage, all the 54 AU MS.

10. Does your organization contribute to the development of agreements for equitable sharing of benefits arising from access to and use and development of, animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

One of the project activity is assisting countries in ratification of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to develop technical standards, legislation or regulatory requirements for the exchange of their genetic materials.

11. Does your organization contribute to efforts to preserve and respect indigenous or local production systems and associated traditional knowledge and practices related to animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

The project learned from previous and ongoing interventions in Africa (e.g. Belgian Technical Cooperation projects on conservation of genetic resources in Sahel, and FAO/UNDP N'Dama cattle breed Project in Guinea). Sustainable management of AnGR indicates that, community-based management and private sector involvement is the most effective way to establish and sustain animal genetic conservation and improvement initiatives, as they develop a sense of ownership among farmers and other members of the community, thus enhancing transparency and encouraging accountability. The project is working with farmers on their local animal genetic resources and helps them in utilizing their animals in a more sustainable way through low-cost feeding, rangeland rehabilitation and value addition, hence helping the livestock-breeders to preserve their local production systems.

The African Model Law for the protection of the Rights of local communities, farmers and breeders and for the regulation of access to biological resources was adopted in 1998 by the ministerial session of the African Union. The model was developed to assist Member States deliberate, formulate and implement national policies and legal instruments compatible with national goals and political aspirations while at the same time satisfying their international obligations. The model provides a legal framework for the conservation, evaluation and sustainable use of biological resources and associated knowledge and technologies with specific reference to the right of local communities, farmers and breeders.

12. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of projects that aim to promote the marketing of products from local breeds or local production systems?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details and specify the breeds and production systems involved:

Value chain analysis is essential to an understanding of markets, their relationships, the participation of different actors, and the critical constraints that limit the growth of livestock production and consequently the competitiveness of smallholder farmers. Important activities implemented consist of developing measures to help pastoralists both minimize risk and maximize profits by creating access to more lucrative markets. It includes strengthening the competitiveness of the communities to sustainably improve pastoralist livelihoods and increase their economic resilience. This is done through trainings, development of business skills of pastoralists, livestock traders, exporters and abattoir owners. The activities also include establishment of sustainable marketing facilities that enable pastoralists to sell their livestock for fair prices.

The project implemented encourage a more favorable trade and marketing environment in which pastoralists and related stakeholders progressively assume a more significant role; explore opportunities to increase market linkages; opportunities for engaging small holder pastoralists to produce higher-value livestock products; opportunities for value chain linkages between pastoralists and small-holder farmers to enhance productivity; strengthen animal health service delivery and surveillance, and improve breed and feed management. The development of quality grading standards, certification, bio-safety and sanitary and

phyto-sanitary regulations and customs procedures are also taken into account.
The projects capitalize on the regional economies of scale and coordinate market information systems to make information available on a region wide basis. They also strengthen the process of regional integration through promoting intra-regional trade through intra- and inter-regional integration of livestock species targeted in the project are large ruminants and small ruminants. The project has a continental coverage, all species.

13. Has your organization identified obstacles to enhancing the sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

Past programs have mostly been implemented without clear policies, regulatory frameworks, strategic thinking and a long term view and were motivated mainly by the objective of rapid productivity gain resulting in indiscriminate, uncoordinated or uncontrolled crossbreeding activities.
The lack of information and consensus on the current status and trends of AnGR, harmonisation of methodologies for their characterization and inventories. This is making very difficult, if not impossible to inform policy makers.
Traditional institutions are weakened - difficult to sustain pastoral systems.
Farmers' associations are non-existent and are difficult to introduce because of bad experiences with cooperatives in the past.

14. What are the priority measures that need to be taken to address these obstacles?

The basis for the sustainable conservation and utilization of AnGR mainly lies in the existence of comprehensive legal and regulatory frameworks in each country and at regional level to govern breed utilisation, including breed improvement and exchange of genetic materials and, at the same time, assure and define the role and responsibility of each stakeholder.

15. Does your organization provide, or support the provision of, training or technical support programmes for animal breeding activities in pastoralist and farming communities?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

Within the project, collaborative efforts between AU-IBAR, ILRI-SLU, FAO and the Tertiary Education for Agriculture Mechanism for Africa (TEAM-Africa), are built to provide opportunities for communication, exchange and sharing of knowledge and information as well as building teams and partnerships and strengthen regional platforms and capacity for conservation and utilization of Africa's AnGR.

16. Has your organization identified priorities for future training or support programmes to enhance the use and development of available animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details of the priority activities, being as specific as possible:

- Training in animal breeding and genetics
- Training on design, development and management of breeding programmes for smallholders in Africa
- Training in conservation and sustainable use of AnGR
- Training in characterization (molecular and phenotypic)
- Assist all stakeholders to strengthen capacity-building on AnGR issues through exchange visits and experience sharing.

17. Please describe any additional activities relevant to the implementation of Strategic Priority Area 2: Sustainable use and development.

No additional activities.

Strategic Priority Area 3: Conservation

1. Is erosion of animal genetic resources occurring in any of the countries or regions in which your organization is active?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

If yes, please describe. Please be as specific as possible and indicate which factors or drivers affect which species in which countries or regions:

Indigenous livestock breeds are under various types of threat. Many of African animal breeds are either facing extinction or are undergoing rapid genetic dilution. Wildlife sanctuaries, national parks and other types of protected areas almost always deprive livestock keepers of their pasture. Combined with efforts to persuade farmers to adopt high-input breeds, this contributes to the pressure on local breeds. Conflicts have also contributed to the disappearance of indigenous breeds. Changes in production systems are a major factor leading to the elimination of indigenous farm animals. The switch to certain cash crops eliminates crop residues that used to be an important component of fodder. Irrigation makes two or three crops a year possible, eliminating the possibility of grazing on stubble or browsing on trees in the fields. Replacement of draught power by tractors for agricultural works or transportation is a prime cause for the gradual extinction of many draught livestock breeds. Making a living from keeping livestock is hard work that ties people down day in and day out and many young people succumb to the attractions of city life. Animal-handling skills are disappearing very quickly, within one generation. Village based breeding institutions, such as keeping a community bull, also deteriorate rapidly once economic returns are not sufficient or social networks break down. Once such institutions have disappeared, they are very difficult to resurrect.

2. Does your organization support the establishment of emergency response systems that provide for immediate action to maintain threatened breeds?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

3. Does your organization take or support actions to protect breeds and populations that are at risk from natural or human-induced disasters?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

4. From your organizational point of view, how would you judge the state of conservation policies for animal genetic resources in the countries and regions in which you operate?

Mostly they are non-existent. Where policies and strategies have been initiated, this has been constrained by a lack of information and consensus on the current status and trends of AnGR, the harmonisation of the methodology for their characterization and inventory, making it very difficult, if not impossible to inform policy makers. In most African countries, where they exist, the livestock breeding policies are embedded in the National Agricultural Policies. There is a need to build separate livestock breeding policies that would fulfil the following requirements:

- 1) recognize the role of indigenous breeds and local farming systems for conservation of animal diversity;

- 2) recognize that different ecological zones require different livestock management policies;
- 3) support not only the conservation but also the improvement of farm animal genetic resources;
- 4) provide for capacity-building of livestock keepers as well as livestock professionals;
- 5) regulate export and import establishing protocols for the guidance of donors and NGOs when importing exotic breeds;
- 6) embrace participatory approaches and place emphasis on them; and
- 7) address education and awareness raising about both indigenous and exotic breeds.

5. What types of conservation measures for animal genetic resources does your organization implement or support the implementation of?

In situ

- Yes
- No

Ex situ in vivo

- Yes
- No

Ex situ in vitro

- Yes
- No

Please provide details, and specify the countries and animal genetic resources involved:

In situ conservation is essential but needs to be supported by *ex-situ* conservation strategies. *Ex-situ* conservation is relatively simple to implement (compared with *in-situ* conservation programmes) but is costly (cost of liquid nitrogen for conservation, cost of production of semen and embryos). Investment in conservation facilities and running costs can easily be reduced by mutualising the financial burden, through establishment of regional or sub-regional conservation facilities. The project through its activity is technically and financially supporting the establishment of gene bank(s). The first step is to assess existing facilities on the continent so as to identify those with high potentials to be upgraded to regional facility. Some facilities will then be selected in each region and strengthened as regional gene bank for AnGR. Livestock species targeted in the project are large ruminants and small ruminants. The project has a continental coverage, all the 54 AU MS.

6. If your organization maintains *ex situ* collections of animal genetic resources, could you please provide further information on these collections?

7. Is your organization conducting research to further develop methods and technologies for *in situ* or *ex situ* conservation of animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please briefly describe the research:

8. Has your organization identified major obstacles to enhancing the conservation of animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

Establishment of regional gene banks would be preferable, but it involves considerable amount of dialogue and negotiations to convince the countries and to work together.

9. What are the priority measures that need to be taken to address these obstacles?

The project exploits regional complementarity and pools of resources for the establishment of regional gene banks that are only cost effective if manage at regional level, and create the institutional environment for the implementation of the GPA at regional level.

10. From your organizational point of view, what are the priority requirements for enhancing conservation measures for animal genetic resources in the countries and regions in which you operate? Please list the requirements, being as specific as possible:

- Establishment of national cryo-conservation facilities for threatened livestock breeds and species.
- Establishment of regional gene banks
- Establishment of regional virtual gene banks (networks)
- A continental gene bank with ILRI as back up should be supported as it could at least help to store information on genetic diversity and help to identify the genetic base for adaptive traits.

11. Please describe any additional activities relevant to the implementation of Strategic Priority Area 3: Conservation.

No additional activities.

Strategic Priority Area 4: Policies, Institutions and Capacity-building

1. Does your organization support or facilitate the establishment of institutional frameworks for planning and implementing animal genetic resources programmes?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries or regions involved:

In the framework of the project, a number of potential policy instruments and regulatory options, relevant for the African context, are under development. They represent important biological, historical, socio-economic and institutional tools to be provided for the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR. Further exploration of such instruments and options is likely to be useful in order to assist decision-makers in making informed decisions regarding the design of future regulatory and policy environments concerning AnGR. The project has a continental coverage, all the 54 AU MS.

2. Does your organization support countries in formulating or implementing national strategies and action plans for animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries involved:

Using guidelines and policy frameworks developed, countries are currently being assisted to develop their National Action Plan for Animal Genetic Resources, including related budgets, investment and financing plans. The project has a continental coverage, all the 54 AU MS.

3. Does your organization contribute to the development of regulatory frameworks or legislation for animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries or regions involved:

The specific objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of countries and Regional Economic Communities to sustainably use and conserve African animal genetic resources through institutionalising national and regional policy, legal and technical instruments

In order to provide systematic support to the conservation and management of AnGR, the project strategy is to make interventions at two levels:

At the Regional level, the project addresses issues related to harmonization of national policies, and regional policies for trans-boundary breeds.

At the National level, the project will build capacity for formulation of national policies and strategies as well as national action plan for the implementation of the GPA, ensure mainstreaming of the AnGR concept in national sectoral and inter-sectoral plans, strategies and policies. The project has a continental coverage, all the 54 AU MS.

4. Does your organization have a database or information system for animal genetic resources-related data?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe the purpose and contents of the system and, if relevant, how frequently data are updated:

The ARIS 2 database has been actively involved in various training activities across the continent. ARIS 2 has been developed for use by MS and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to further enhance the gathering, analyzing and dissemination of data on animal resources. ARIS 2 is cost effective and based on an open source system and will be sustained as a regular tool/information system in Africa. Thus in so doing, AU-IBAR's key role of providing advisory support, promotion of policy, advocacy, capacity enhancement and development of programmes on matters related to the development and use of animal resources in Africa.

5. Does your organization have collaborative links to other stakeholders involved in the management of animal genetic resources (e.g. the breeding industry, livestock keepers, government agencies, research institutes and civil society organizations)?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

In term of AnGr, the project collaborates with FAO, ILRI, WALIC, CIRDES. They play key roles in providing specialized, technical/institutional advice and support to the co-ordination. They also implement and coordinate specific project activities.

6. Does your organization cooperate with breeders' organizations?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

Past experiences, in Africa, in breeding and/or breed conservation programmes, indicate the necessity of anchoring these interventions to stakeholders' organizations and in particular farmers' organizations.

In order to play their role adequately in the breeding and conservation domains, these organizations are being strengthened and their capacities related to management of genetic resources improved. The project is supporting the establishment of regional breeders association and also supports their operations.

7. Has your organization supported the establishment or strengthening of community-based organizations, networks or initiatives for sustainable use, breeding or conservation?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

Regional networks to build collaborative partnerships, to coordinate regional management efforts in animal genetic resources, to further develop information sharing and for technical cooperation.

8. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of training or capacity-building programmes for animal genetic resources management?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify countries involved:

- Training in animal breeding and genetics
- Training on design, development and management of breeding programmes for smallholders in Africa
- Training in conservation and sustainable use of AnGR
- Training in characterization (molecular and phenotypic)
- The project has a continental coverage, all the 54 AU MS.

9. Has your organization identified priorities for future animal genetic resources-related capacity-building and education?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

10. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of programmes to increase public awareness of the roles and values of animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

Awareness raising and advocacy for policy change necessitates the use of evidence and experiences coming from the field. From the activities undertaken under the project, best practices and/or major lessons learnt in management and conservation of AnGR will be identified, and documented. Good practice papers and policy notes will be produced and disseminated through the Project activities but also through AU-IBAR other advocacy forums, including the ALive platform. The project has identified proper channels through which the generated information will reach the potential beneficiaries. Such channels include policy briefs, specialized dissemination and training sessions on the use of the data tailored to the needs of various target groups, use of community radios and local publications in local languages. The project will partner with other projects, global fora to create access and also disseminate information.

11. Please describe any additional activities relevant to the implementation of Strategic Priority Area 4: Policies, institutions and capacity-building.

No additional activities.

Implementation and Financing of Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources

1. Has your organization's budget for activities supporting the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and animal genetic resources programmes increased since the plan's adoption in September 2007?

- Yes
- No

Please provide details:

On July 2013, the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) on behalf of the African Union Commission (AUC) has signed with the European Commission (EC) a € 14,929 million grant for a joint management project titled "Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of African Animal Genetic Resources" project.

The overall strategy of the project is to facilitate and fast track the implementation of the Global Plan of Action (GPA) for sustainable use of AnGR in Africa for which the continent is lagging behind. The project will also focus on building capacity for effective formulation and implementation of policies and strategies for the management of AnGR and create awareness for its inclusion into national and regional agricultural investment priorities.

2. Has your organization contributed to the establishment or strengthening of international research and/or education programmes to assist developing countries or countries with economies in transition to better manage animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

3. Has your organization contributed to the establishment or strengthening of international programmes to assist developing countries or countries with economies in transition to obtain training and technologies or develop information systems related to animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

Discussions are underway with ILRI, FAO for the possible establishment of an African Information system/hub for Animal Genetic Resources not restricted to the project lifespans.

4. Has your organization provided funding to countries for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries involved:

Countries will be assisted to develop their National Action Plan for Animal Genetic Resources, including related budgets,

investment and financing plans. They will receive financial support to implement few activities identified in the developed NAPAs. The project has a continental coverage, all the 54 AU MS.

5. Has your organization contributed to establishing or strengthening international collaboration with regard to:

Characterization of animal genetic resources

Yes

No

Use and development of animal genetic resources

Yes

No

Conservation of transboundary breeds

Yes

No

Please provide details and specify the countries involved:

In executing its coordination role, AU-IBAR has initiated consultations with key stakeholders at regional/continental level to foster coherence, coordination and collaboration in the management of AnGR on the continent. For the implementation of the Genetic project, implementing partners were identified during the formulation of the project and consultations initiated with them since the inception of the project to agree on their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the project. AU-IBAR will partner with International Organizations, mainly FAO, ILRI, CIRDES and ITC which will provide specialised technical and institutional advice/support. The project has a continental coverage, all the 54 AU MS.

6. Does your organization collaborate with national or international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the fields of:

Characterization

Yes

No

Sustainable intensification

Yes

No

Conservation of breeds at risk

Yes

No

Please provide details and specify the countries involved:

7. Please describe any additional activities relevant to the implementation and financing of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources:

No additional activities.