



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

1. Contact information and mandate

Name and position of respondent	Rienzzie Kern, Senior Director Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation
Name of organization	Heifer International
E-mail of organization	rienzzie.kern@heifer.org
Geographical coverage of your organization	Global

2. Animal species coverage of your organization

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

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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

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

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:

Heifer staff in some country programs participate in such board and have influence to review/adjust or develop new policies for AnGR.

2. Does your organization promote agro-ecosystem approaches?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

Holistic / integrated community development involving crops, grazing lands, water, soil and livestock

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:

Depends on the economic situation of the community project, need for improved production and availability of nutrition inputs and also level of partnership between Heifer Intl. and government livestock agencies.

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:

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:

In most projects with livestock as a major component, high quality local breeds are utilized. Training on male and female characteristics / selection is part of the project.

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:

Some Heifer country offices sponsor such types of planning meeting and facilitated discussion as a part of collaboration and partnership.

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:

When Heifer provides livestock to the beneficiaries, we provide training by using various resources related to animal genetic resources.

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:

Through education, training and creating awareness; resources as available in the country where Heifer has its presence.

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:

All projects promote use of local breeds and also improvements in local animal production system to maximize benefits.

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:

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:

Currently all of Heifer supported projects have value chain as a major component where marketing is a major component and projects always involved around livestock (use of locally available breeds).

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

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

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

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:

Through various means, e.g. training, and sponsoring government run programs but its not a high priority.

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:

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

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:

It is rather difficult to name them all as it depends upon country where Heifer works. However, in pastoral areas, land use and availability is an increasing concern. In sedentary areas, lack of infrastructure, such as roads and markets are major obstacles.

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?

It is hard to name them all as Heifer operates in more than 50 countries. However, in pastoral areas, land use and availability is an increasing concern. In sedentary areas, lack of infrastructure, such as roads and markets are major obstacles.

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 each of the ~50 countries where Heifer works, all projects are initiated with local breeds of animals. As livelihoods improve, there is more cross-breeding to enhance production for the family.

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

We do not maintain collections of AnGR, only assisting communities and families to raise and market animals.

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:

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

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:

Each country would be somewhat different. We would need to start with emphasis, encouragement and training at Heifer country office level.

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

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 some countries, Heifer staff sit in the planning meeting as a stakeholder of the livestock development and also support and facilitate such meeting as appropriate.

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:

By facilitating of meetings/workshop for formulating action plans on AnGR and also providing technical support.

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:

Some of our country program staff are participating in the such regulatory frameworks. Not possible to provide details at this time.

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:

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:

Each country program has a link to each one of those stakeholders; however, emphasis on conservation and preservation of AnGR is not a priority.

6. Does your organization cooperate with breeders' organizations?

- Yes
No

If yes, please provide details:

Depends on the particular project. In some projects where improved production for market development is a higher priority, then breed associations are involved in providing semen.

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:

Heifer's East Africa Dairy Development program has developed a hub model (dairy association) so that producers can be more involved in the management, training and marketing of milk commodities. Projects like this are also ongoing in other countries for goats and swine and chicken, etc.

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:

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:

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

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:

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:

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:

There might be cases of small grant support provided in some countries for small activities for printing and publications related AnGR, small financial support to conduct training on AnGR, etc.

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:

Several countries, especially in East Africa and South and South East Asia, have participated in regional planning for the control of trans-boundary diseases.

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: