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BUREAU FOR ANIMAL
RESOURCES
AU-IBAR**



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Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of African Animal Genetic Resources

Inception Phase Report

July 2013 – June 2014

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Acronyms

AnGR	Animal Genetic Resource
APU	Animal Production Unit
ARIS	Animal Resources Information System
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AU-IBAR	African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCARDESA	Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa
CIRDES	Centre International de Recherche-Développement sur l'Élevage en zone Subhumide
CORAF	Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricoles
DAD-IS	Domestic Animal Diversity Information Service
DAGRIS	Domestic Animal Genetic Resources Information System
DREA	Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture
EAC	East African Community
EC	European Commission
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community Of West African States
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSTP	Food Security Thematic Programme
GPA	Global Plan of Action
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority for Development
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
ITC	International Trypanotolerant Centre
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MS	Member States
NASRO	North African Sub-Regional Research Organization
PROGEBE	Project on Sustainable Management of Endemic Ruminant Livestock in West Africa
PSC	Programme Steering Committee
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SoW-AnGR	The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
S-RFP	Sub-Regional Focal Point
TA	Technical Assistant
WALIC	West Africa Livestock Innovation Centre

Executive Summary

Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) for food and agriculture are essential for Africa food security, and contribute to the livelihoods of millions of people. However, genetic improvement programs in Africa, by governments, non-governmental organizations, bilateral aid agencies, and the private sector, have favoured the use of exotic breeds for crossbreeding, upgrading, or replacement. These programs have mostly been implemented without clear policies, regulatory frameworks, strategic thinking and a long term view and were only motivated by the objective of rapid productivity gain resulting in indiscriminate, uncoordinated or uncontrolled crossbreeding activities. Moreover, the trans-boundary nature of the spatial distribution of livestock breeds calls for a harmonised legal and technical frameworks of exploiting the genetic attributes of Africa's livestock. Genetic resources are a global concern and of public interest that require global governance mechanisms.

On 18th July 2013, the African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) on behalf of the African Union Commission (AUC) signed with the European Commission (EC) a € 14.929 million grant for a joint management project through the signature of a Contribution Agreement for the implementation of the "Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of African Animal Genetic Resources" project. The project aims 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. The project will strengthen the inherent capacities of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the end-users at community level to improve the utilization of AnGR and rural livelihoods through:

- Establishment of the status and trends of animal genetic resources in Africa.
- Development of Policy frameworks for the sustainable use of AnGR.
- Supporting and strengthening national and regional conservation and improvement strategies and initiatives
- Increasing knowledge, attitude and practice of the contribution of livestock and livestock sector to economic growth, food security and poverty reduction.

The European Commission agreed that an inception period of six months would be allocated in which arrangements for the project implementation would be done. The present Inception Report focusses on the establishment of the project team, consultations with the stakeholders that will participate in the Project including Government agencies, partners and beneficiaries, report on Regional Inception and facilitation workshops carried out by the project team and partners, relevant government counterparts, and representatives from both Implementing Agencies.

The Inception Report has seven chapters. Chapter one is an introductory part including the project overview, its structure and the reasons of the Inception phase. The second chapter outlines the project management and implementation arrangements. The third focuses on the Regional Inception Workshops. The fourth chapter reports the Year 1 planning retreat and its outcomes. Chapter five gives an overview of the implementation of project activities. Issues and challenges are reported in chapter six, while chapter seven compiles the recommendations to address challenges and improve implementation.

Chapter 1: Introduction on the project

Project Overview

Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) for food and agriculture are essential for Africa food security, and contribute to the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people. However, genetic improvement programs in Africa, by governments, non-governmental organizations, bilateral aid agencies, and the private sector, have favored the use of exotic breeds for crossbreeding, upgrading, or replacement. These programs have mostly been implemented without clear policies, regulatory frameworks, strategic thinking and a long term view and were only motivated by the objective of rapid productivity gain resulting in indiscriminate, uncoordinated or uncontrolled crossbreeding activities. Moreover, the trans-boundary nature of the spatial distribution of livestock breeds calls for a harmonized legal and technical frameworks of exploiting the genetic attributes of Africa's livestock. Genetic resources are a global concern and of public interest that require global governance mechanisms.

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The main beneficiaries of the action will be livestock owners in target countries, especially those who rely on livestock production for their livelihoods, and members of breeders' associations. Other beneficiaries will be technical staff and decision makers of national, regional and continental institutions and research centers involved in policy development, design of intervention strategies and support tools, and implementation of specific activities. Indirect beneficiaries will be local communities benefitting from biodiversity conservation measures. The exhaustive list of beneficiaries and their quantification, disaggregated per gender, will be finalized during the inception phase of the action. The project will lead to the following key results (outcomes):

1. Establishment of the status and trends of animal genetic resources in West, Central and East Africa
2. Development of Policy frameworks for the sustainable use of AnGR
3. Supporting and strengthening national and regional conservation and improvement strategies and initiatives
4. Increasing knowledge, attitude and practice of the contribution of livestock and livestock sector to economic growth, food security and poverty reduction.

Project Structure

The project will run for five years from July 2013. The lead executing agency for the project is AU-IBAR, which is directly responsible for the timely delivery of inputs and outputs and for coordination with all other executing agencies. The project document details the roles and composition of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), and the Project Management Team (PMT). The PMT plays the key role in project execution, supervising the production of project outputs and outcomes/results. The formal requirements of project management entail quarterly progress reports, annual reports and budgeting and annual review processes based on progress reporting. The PSC appraises the Work Plan and budget for the following year.

The Reasons of the Inception Phase

The Inception Phase of six months focused at fine-tuning the project strategy for producing the outputs and outcomes and at the same time to set up the project structure to manage and implement the project. It clarified the definition of the activities, the implementation and monitoring arrangements and outlined the communication and visibility plans. The Project Team is deployed and the Project Steering Committee established to create the project management and advisory framework.

Various discussions with stakeholders were undertaken and the Project Team undertook field trips to prepare draft designs of pilot activities. The Inception Report is an output of the Inception Phase that outlines the above elements and includes a budget for the project and procurement plan. It will be presented to the Project Steering Committee that is established for endorsement. The Inception Phase has paid special attention to the design of activities as these will produce the outputs that carry the capacity building objective and the production of best practices.

Changes in the project document since the approval

There are few modifications made during the Inception. The geographical coverage of the project was modified and included now all the AU Member States instead of 34 as earlier mentioned.

Chapter 2: Project management and Implementation arrangements

Recruitment of project Staff

The project will run for five years from July 2013. As a lead executing agency for the project, to ensure timely delivery of inputs and outputs and coordination of the project management, AU-IBAR set a Project Management Team (PMT). The PMT plays the key role in project execution, supervising the production of project outputs and outcomes/results. The formal requirements of project management entail quarterly progress reports, annual reports and budgeting and annual review processes based on progress reporting.

The Genetics Project Team is composed (with respective dates of employment) of a Technical Assistant (December 2013), two (2) Project Officers (in December 2013 and January 2014) and a Data Management Expert (November 2013).

The details of project team roles including their major duties and responsibilities are described below in Annex 1.

Consultations with Partners

Series of consultation meetings were held with partners to be involved in the project implement. These included:

- A Meeting with ILRI on 9th June, 2013: After the presentation of the project, several issues were discussed, including how to avoid duplication of the activities and building synergies, and conducting a partners workshop were stressed.
- A second meeting was held on 17th January 2014 which was an opportunity to introduce the project and make presentations on ARIS and DAGRIS databases. Several issues were discussed, including the importance/purpose of creating an African AnGR information system, options of partnership strategies and Development of a roadmap to establish the Information system/hub for AnGR.
- A meeting with CIRDES on 10th November 2013: After the visit of the CIRDES laboratories and facilities and the presentation of the project, several issues were discussed among them the identification of the areas for the involvement of CIRDES in the initiative and building synergies.
- A visit was conducted from 7th to 10th December 2013 to WALIC. After visiting the ITC/WALIC infrastructure and the genetic improvement program station in KENEBA (8th December), a meeting with the WALIC team was held (9th December) where the presentation of the project was done and several issues were discussed among other, the identification of possible areas of involvement of WALIC in the AnGR project.

From the consultations held with all these partners, it is concluded that FAO, ILRI, CIRDES and WALIC/ITC will play key roles in providing specialised, technical/institutional advice and support to the co-ordination of the project. These partners will also implement and coordinate specific project activities.

- FAO will advice on conservation and use of indigenous AnGR for poverty alleviation and food security enhancement and assist in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action (GPA) for sustainable use of AnGR in Africa, contribute to policy reform at the national and regional levels and will use its technical expertise to provide guidance and back-stopping. FAO will also provide important links to other UN Agencies.
- ILRI will provide guidance on approaches/tools/protocols to be adopted in revamping the database DAGRIS/Country DAGRIS and linking it to the ARIS database of AU-IBAR as its Animal Genetic Resources component.
- CIRDES and ITC will play important roles at Regional levels, addressing issues related to harmonization of national policies, and regional policies for trans-boundary breeds. They will be in charge of the sustainable development of genetically improved breeds of N'Dama cattle and Djallonké sheep and goats, in partnership with national agricultural research networks (cryopreservation and live animals).

- The Sub-regional research organisations: CORAF, ASARECA, CCARDESA, NASRO will monitor the implementation of specific actions in the countries in their jurisdictions.

The matrix used to conduct discussions with the individual partners is shown in Annex 4. The Responsibility Matrix (also called the Responsibility/Accountability Matrix or the Roles and Responsibility Matrix) concerning their expected level of involvement on the project is provided. The matrix is constructed by listing the project tasks or activities down the vertical side of the matrix and the project Partners on the horizontal side of the matrix. The project Partner is responsible for planning and ensuring that each task is executed properly. In addition, the matrix identify other project team members who are involved in some way on the activities. The Responsibility Matrix is used primarily on Full-Scale projects as a tool for both communicating assignments and for risk identification with respect to the capacity and capability of project team members.

To create more space for Synergies, the project has put in place a fairly broad network of coalition partners and stakeholders belonging to interest groups and organizations. The complexity of the project linkages highlights the need for institutional mechanisms to be fully effective to ensure success of the project. Institutional factors identified as important for the project include historical relationships involving previous collaborations that will influence the linkages and formal working agreements that control the relationships between partners. Historical and existing working relationships between the coalition partners and stakeholders are the main factors that will have important bearing on the successful implementation of the Genetic project. The main strategy here is that, with the active involvement of the key stakeholders in the implementation of the project, communication of results to the end user is made easier.

The proposed project will build on achievements and lessons learnt of the EU-funded project (Programme concerté de recherche/développement sur l'élevage) PROCORDEL –by ITC and CIRDES in West Africa between 2000-2005 through which significant progress was made in spreading genetic advances realized on-station to village herds by distributing the improved genetic material obtained from the selected nucleus to multiplication herds and creation of associations of stockbreeders who own multiplication herds.

The project will also complement and synergize with an on-going Regional Project on Sustainable Management of Endemic Ruminant Livestock in West Africa (PROGEBE) - A project on in-situ conservation of endemic ruminant livestock in West Africa - jointly financed by GEF and AfDB and based at the International Trypanotolerance Centre (ITC), with technical assistance provided by ILRI, CIRDES and FAO. Finally it will contribute to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for AnGR and the Interlaken Declaration on AnGR especially establishment or strengthening of national and regional focal points for sustainable management of AnGR.

Project Steering Committee

In accordance with the Project document, a Project Steering Committee (PSC) is to be established to guide and support the project to meet its objective. It will as such, monitor progress in project execution, provide strategic and policy guidance, review and approve annual work plans and budgets. The PSC shall provide the overall guidance on policy and strategy for the effective

coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Project. It shall comprise representatives from the main stakeholders, technical and implementing partners, development actors in the sector and the European Commission. The PSC will be chaired by the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission, to ensure African ownership of the Project, and its alignment with the CAADP process. The PSC will meet at least once a year and will provide strategic guidance, oversee coherent implementation of the different agreements and monitor progress.

The TORs of the SC have been drafted for submission to the inaugural meeting for endorsement

The First PSC meeting is planned to be held before June 2014. In preparation to that, the project team has anticipated the preparation. The main outcomes so far include:

- Drafting the Concept note of the PSC,
- Drafting the TORs of the PSC proposing the composition and specific roles of its members
- Official communication (Memo) to the DREA.

Implementing organs and their responsibilities

AU-IBAR will, given its institutional position as AUC office, its mandate and specific politically endorsed role in the execution of the CAADP, be the lead institution and coordinator for the programme, and the signatory of the Contribution Agreement. AU-IBAR has a major interest in the project as it will largely contribute to the realisation of its Strategic Plan for the 2010-2014 period. AU-IBAR has the necessary support, capacity, experience and systems to take up this leadership role. AU-IBAR will partner with International Organisations, mainly FAO, ILRI, CIRDES and ITC which will provide specialised technical and institutional advice/support.

AU-IBAR in co-operation with AU-DREA will ensure that the required coordination channels are put in place for the project in order for African countries to benefit from the synergies that could be possible amongst the various programmes. Coordination of donor activities related to the project is to be ensured through a Project Steering Committee (PSC) that will be chaired by the AU Commission of Rural Economy and Agriculture. African Union institutions play important roles in coordination, including donor coordination. This is particularly the case for AU-IBAR. The institution has established synergies and close coordination with donors as well as with Regional Economic Communities.

RECs: Given their lead role in the implementation of the CAADP agenda and their coordination and harmonization role of regional SPS matters, the Regional Economic Communities are crucial implementing partners but also beneficiaries of the programme. They will on one side play an active role in the implementation by supporting and coordinating countries' activities, while the project will also build capacity of RECs to sustainably perform this role. This methodology was already developed by AU-IBAR under previous cooperation programmes and AU-IBAR has the necessary coordination mechanisms and management systems in place to implement such agreements successfully, as proven through other projects.

The approach for the programme implementation has been designed on the principles of subsidiarity and is based on the mandates and the relationships of the different institutions involved:

- AU-IBAR will be in charge of the overall coordination of the programme and will implement activities at continental level
- RECs and countries will implement most activities at regional level. At national level, they will on the one hand provide an important part of the support to individual countries, and on the other hand ensure their coordination and harmonisation missions in this sector.

During a Regional Workshop for the Creation of the Sub-Regional Focal Point on Animal Genetic Resources in West and Central Africa (S-RFP - AnGR - WAC) held in Libreville Gabon in June 2011 participants agreed on a set of priority actions to be implemented as part of the GPA and the proposed action reflects those priorities.

One of the guiding principles, concerning the organization of governance meetings, is that whenever possible, consultation and governance meetings, and workshops, will be organized back to back, or using video/tele-conferencing, in order to reduce the cost of travel, the Project CO₂ footprint and preserve the availability of the officers concerned.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Monitoring and Reporting Indicators

All partners will send directly their financial report to AU-IBAR at frequency to be detailed in the contract with AU-IBAR. Focal points at Member States and RECs will send their technical reports (mission's reports, workshop report etc.) to AU-IBAR with copy to partners. Implementing partners will send their activities reports and all other reports to AU-IBAR with copies to RECs and Member States. These reports should also be copied to implementing partners sharing activities under the same result area. Reporting frequency will coincide with the Steering Committee (SC) meetings in order to facilitate discussion on progress achieved, challenges encountered, opportunities discovered, lessons to be learned etc. The reporting format as developed by the AUC will be used throughout project implementation. The SC will approve reports before submission to the European Commission.

Regular Progress Report: the Project Team will submit quarterly progress report. The Project Team has in advance developed a progress reporting format.

Update of the Risk Log: based on the initial risk analysis mentioned in the project document, the risk log will be regularly reported by the project Team to re-assess the status of existing risks.

Field Visits: the Project Team will be regularly visiting project site(s). Field visits serve the purpose of results validation and should provide latest information on progress for annual reporting preparation. Field visits will be documented through mission and action-oriented reports, submitted within the week of return to the office.

Annual Report: will be prepared by the Project Team and shared with the Donor, Project Partners and all the relevant stakeholders. The report will be based on the standard format for the EU project

progress report covering the whole year with updated information as well as a summary of results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level.

Project Review: Based on the above reports, an annual project review shall be conducted to assess the performance of the project and appraise the annual work plan for the following year. In the last year, this review will be a final assessment.

Monitoring Strategy

Monitoring is important as it will ensure that activities are implemented as planned. It will help the Project Team and Partners to measure how well they are achieving their targets. As such, the proposed strategy will help tracking the evolution of the project, this should involve all stakeholders. If activities are not going on well, arrangements should be made to identify the problem so that they can be corrected.

Chapter 3: Inception Workshops

Inception workshop in Abidjan

The inception workshop to launch the new AU-IBAR genetic project was held at Hotel Belle Côte in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 14th to 15th April 2013. The workshop was attended by representatives from governments (46 countries), RECs (4) and sub-regional organization (2), with expertise in genetics and animal breeding. The overall objectives of the workshop were to exchange ideas and technical information related to Animal Genetic Resources and to clarify mutual expectations, key concerns and attitude to exercise and how to best implement the project on the field. The workshop focused on the technical needs and opportunities and placed less emphasis on policy and institutional issues. During the workshop, expected results of the project, related initiatives by national and regional and sub-regional partners for building synergies with the project, and necessary actions required to start the project implementation were discussed. The workshop resulted in four major findings, some priorities for action and identified four broad areas where information and knowledge were lacking.

The Project Regional Inception workshops

The Regional Inception Workshops co-organized by AU-IBAR, ILRI-SLU and FAO for West and Central Africa were held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on from 6th - 9th November 2013, from 20th - 23rd November 2013 Kigali, Rwanda, 26th - 29th November 2013 Gaborone, Botswana. The Regional Inception workshops for the project were aimed at acquainting National Coordinators, Focal Points of Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR), implementing partners and other key stakeholders with the project. The workshops were appropriate platforms to exchange and share ideas and technical information related to AnGR and to build on expectations, address key concerns and elicit inputs on the implementation strategy. The workshops provided opportunities for promoting synergies among partners and key stakeholders. It also offered guidance to National

Coordinators on the process of drafting Country Reports for the Second State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources (SoW-AnGR).

Interactive discussions were held between the AU-IBAR Animal Genetics Team and the participants regarding the project, with focus on the project's activities, the implementation plan and targeted expected outcomes. The participants gave positive feedback on the project objectives as well as the institutional arrangements.

Further, the status of the four strategic priorities of the Global Plan of Action (GPA) was deliberated upon at length. Four general aspects were discussed;

- Mapping of the national and regional initiatives (inventory)
- The current status of implementation of these initiatives (nationally and regionally)
- Status of the Global Plan of Action initiatives
- Opportunities for enhanced regional collaboration in development of breeding programmes with the current resources

Early in the discussion it became clear that the majority of the countries have successfully set-up national initiatives and highlighted additional activities that they intend to roll-out in future. The workshop emphasized the need to develop clear breeding strategies for these breeds across the regions, strengthening of pre-existing regional projects and promoting capacity-building initiatives within the regions.

During the workshops, FAO also provided, to the participants, guidance on drafting, compilation and submission of the Country Reports to contribute to the 2nd SoW-AnGR. All National Coordinators were reminded of the requirements needed whilst for uploading the data in DAD-IS. Deadlines for the various FAO activities were highlighted.

Roundtable workshop with partners

From 3rd to 6th March 2014, AU-IBAR and FAO jointly organized a workshop, focusing on strengthening institutional capacity for the management of animal genetic resources in Eastern Africa. This extensive consultative workshop was an opportunity to bring together the various stakeholders involved in AnGR initiatives in other parts of the continent and the world beyond. Apart from identifying the initiatives/projects/programmes on AnGR and their location and area of impact, the Round-table Consultative Workshop did also evaluate the capacities and potential contributions of these initiatives/projects/programmes to the sustainable utilization and conservation of AnGR. The workshop also assessed the gaps in knowledge and information as well as potential overlaps of the various continental and global initiatives. It finally provided an opportunity to promote synergies and a platform for communication and enhancing project team building and partnerships for the successful implementation of the project.

On the other hand in executing its coordination role, AU-IBAR has initiated consultations with key stakeholders at regional level to foster coherence, coordination and collaboration in the management of AnGR on the continent.

The main outcomes included :

- Agreement on a roadmap of the implementation with the partners.
- Partners were acquainted with the Financial Rules and Regulations of the AUC.
- AU-IBAR to send the amended matrix of activities to the partners and potential partners
- AU-IBAR to initiate the drafting of the Memorandums of Agreement with the various partners to ensure effective implementation of the project once the comments on the matrix received from partners;
- AU-IBAR to draft the contracts and share with partners for comments before submission to AU Legal office for clearance.

Chapter 4: Year 1 Planning Retreat

A project team retreat was organized to plan for effective and efficient management of the project and to critically discuss the requirements of the project, implementation modalities and to provide opportunities to engender creativity and interaction among project team members. The retreat further offered opportunities for team members to make their contributions on how best the project could be implemented and managed; setting goals and expectations as well as allocating roles and responsibilities of the team members. **In details, refer to the minutes.** A detailed Work Plan was developed based on the four project Result Areas and their Activities. **Sub-activities and sub-sub-activities were derived and developed for each Result Area. The project team then allocated roles and responsibilities to each member.** However, it was stressed that the allocation of tasks and responsibilities should not be viewed as fixed allocation of project duties and activities but rather as a way of creating more efficiency and mutual responsibility among the team members. The project team discussed the budget for 2014 which was incorporated into the Work Plan, in line with the overall approved budget. The Senior Human Resources and Administration Officer (SHRAO) explained the procedures and regulations on procurement. The project team informed the SHRAO that there was need for Skype facilities to enable the team discuss and share information with partners and other stakeholders. The Project and other users could be allocated a “user account” for Skyping. The team was also informed of the need for participants to confirm their attendance to workshops in time to minimize potential losses incurred by AU-IBAR. **The team therefore, discussed the Communication and Visibility Plan of the project. This was based on a similar one developed for earlier projects within the unit. The information required for promotional materials was discussed and included in the Communication and Visibility Plan. The team revised and improved on the draft. The team then developed the TORs for the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The project team worked on the outline of the, specifically on the aspects/topics which need to be captured in the report. Other issues discussed during the retreat included the development of TORs for various project studies and information required to feed the Exit Strategy and the M&E plan, identification of information required for the project internet page, engagement of other AU-IBAR projects, the preparation for the first Partners’ and Steering committee meetings and the EU reporting system.**

Work Plan and milestones

The Annual Work Plan for January – December 2014 is based on the Strategic Results Framework as specified in the Project Document. The Annual Work plan is fully in line with the project main activities described in the Project Document (Project Goal, Outcomes and Outputs/activities), without any substantial change however allowing further direct comparison. Nevertheless, minor alterations and further specification of the activities (as described in the Project Document) have been applied and therefore addressed below. The changes are almost entirely a result of defining sub-activities that have been discussed extensively during the Project team retreat.

The Annual Work Plan for the first year of project implementation, January – December 2014, is presented in the text further in this chapter and summarised in the table “Annual Work Plan”. The activities not planned to start or starting later are just mentioned in the table.

The January – December 2014 Work Plan at the end of this chapter outlines the output, target activity, indicators, person with primary responsibility, expected completion date of output, and monthly calendar. The deliverables are also outlined under the activities they support.

Result Area 1: Establishment of the status and trends of animal genetic resources in Africa

During the design phase of the project it was found that the baseline characterization and inventory of AnGR are fundamental for breed improvement and conservation programmes, and for contingency planning to protect valuable resources at risk. However, the gaps in data and information on the breeds and their production systems are obstacles to the effective sharing of data and information within and between countries, which hinders the joint development of trans-boundary breeds. The activities in this result area will mainly aim at taking stock of the existing situation and generate knowledge and evidences that will be used for policy dialogue and guidance, advocacy and awareness raising, under the other three result areas.

Activities

1. Establish the state of AnGR in Africa to identify threatened ruminant breeds and breeds at risk of extinction.
2. An inventory and assessment of existing policies and regulations on the use of animal genetic resources including genetic improvement of livestock in Africa.
3. Assessment of the genetic and socio-economic impact of production systems (i.e. and management systems i.e. crossbreeding with exotic breeds, intensification, transhumance and commercialization on local/indigenous AnGR).
4. Assessment of selection and breeding programs impact on animal genetic diversity and socio-economic status in Africa.

The project document suggests strategic studies on the state of AnGR in Africa. An inventory of existing AnGR in all the regions of Africa will be conducted to establish the status on AnGR. Regional assessments will also be conducted to establish the types of crossbreeding programmes in Africa, whether regulated, planned, erratic, government supported, private sector based, linked to movements and the intended objectives whether creation of synthetic breeds, breed absorption and substitution or improvement of local breeds. A similar exercise as done in Activity 3 for selection and breeding programmes of local breeds in Africa. National Coordinators, will parallel to the inventory conducted under Activity 1, identify existing national policies, strategies or regulatory frameworks related to the management of AnGR. For all the activities, TORs for

consultancies will be developed and advertised. After the studies, national, regional and one continental validation workshop will be organized.

Deliverables for December 2014

- Studies on filling gaps regarding the state of AnGR in Africa
 - Reliable data available and accessible on AnGR indicating threatened breeds at risk of extinction in Africa.
 - Policy Gaps and intervention entry points identified and best practices and lessons learned identified on policies and regulations and documented on the use of AnGR in Africa.
 - The genetic impact of crossbreeding with exotic breeds on local AnGR documented and disseminated.
 - The impact of transhumance and commercialisation of livestock on sustainable management of AnGR in Africa documented and disseminated.
 - Impact of selection programs and breeding objectives documented and disseminated.
 - Best practices and lessons learned from past and current selection programs on AnGR in Africa documented and published.

Result Area 2: Development of policy frameworks for the sustainable use of AnGR

This result is foreseen in three stages. The project will develop a number of potential policy instruments and regulatory options, relevant for the African context. 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.

Activities

1. Develop national, regional and continental guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of crossbreeding policies
2. Develop regional frameworks and policies for *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation
3. Develop technical standards and protocols (including property rights and benefits sharing) for the exchange and use of genetic materials

Each of the countries have an interest in developing and enhancing National Policies related to AnGR. This component constitute a logical continuum of Result 1 Activities 1, 2 and 3. Concept Notes will be drafted on the guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of crossbreeding, on strategic options for frameworks and policies which would support sustainable *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of AnGR. Strategy and roadmaps for these activities will be developed. National and regional validation workshops will be conducted with key stakeholders to ensure ownership and harmonization which should lead to consensus on appropriate and preferred options for genetic improvement programmes with crossbreeding and strategic options for frameworks and policies which would support sustainable *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of AnGR. The resultant recommendations will be translated into policy guidelines for use by Member States. The development of technical standards and protocols will borrow from the existing standards and protocols for the fair and equitable sharing of plant genetic resources. TORs for consultancies to

conduct the studies will be developed and advertised. Technical standards and protocols, legislation or regulatory frameworks for the sharing, exchange and utilization of AnGR will then be developed.

Deliverables for December 2014

- Initiation of the development of one continental guideline for the formulation and harmonization of cross breeding policies that includes national and regional specific guidelines.
- Initiation of the development of regional frameworks and policies for in situ and ex situ conservation.
- initiation of the development of technical standards and protocols (including property rights and benefits sharing) for the exchange and use of genetic materials.

Result Area 3: Supporting and strengthening national and regional conservation and improvement strategies and initiatives

In order to successfully conduct genetic improvement initiatives in the region as an economically viable industry in the future, result 3 is proposing technical and financial support to national and regional initiatives. Great importance will be given to collaboration among breeding institutions, research organizations, and large enterprises from the regions and abroad to build up strategic alliances to share resources, and to achieve synergies in the common development of AnGR.

Activities

1. Support Member States to establish and implement their National Action Plan for Animal Genetic Resources within their livestock policy
2. Support Member States to establish or strengthen their national breeding and conservation strategies as part of their National Action Plan for Animal Genetic Resources
3. Support the development of regional conservation policy and strategic frameworks for transboundary breeds and populations that are at risk
4. Support the establishment of regional facility(ies) for ex situ conservation, in particular cryogenic storage and gene banks on AnGR
5. Support the establishment and strengthening of national and regional livestock breeders' associations

The project will provide support to Member States on AnGR after having assessed the existence of National Action Plans (NAPs) on AnGR in Member States. The development and compilation of guidelines for the production of NAPs on AnGR will be borrowed from FAO, and where appropriate, provide financial and technical support to MS, after gap analysis and assessment of breeding and conservation strategies with focus on endangered breeds. The selected initiatives will be supported with subventions provided to the MS in consultations with key stakeholders and governments. A Concept Note and roadmap on regional conservation policy frameworks for transboundary breeds will be developed. An inventory of existing policies will be conducted and developed frameworks will be published and disseminated. The project will technically and financially support the establishment of gene bank(s). Prior to that an assessments of existing gene bank facilities will be conducted to identify and determine the potential for use as regional facilities. A workshop for experts will be conducted to ensure cost-effective selection of facilities to serve as regional gene banks. A Concept Note and roadmap on the support to animal breeders

association will be developed, assessments of the existing animal breeders associations and their capacity will be conducted, visits to selected associations will be conducted and five regional animal breeders confederations will be established.

Deliverables for December 2014

- Assessment of the existence of National Action Plan for AnGR and initiation of support to Member States
- Initiation of support to number of national breeding and conservation programmes/project in target countries.
- Initiation of adoption by RECs of conservation policies and strategies for transboundary breeds and populations that are at risk.
- Assessment of functional gene bank on AnGR and initiation of the discussions on the establishment of regional gene banks.
- Initiation and support the establishment of number of national and regional livestock breeders associations and organization into regional networks.

Result Area 4: Increasing knowledge, attitude and practice of the contribution of livestock and livestock sector to economic growth, food security and poverty reduction

This component will focus on dissemination of information on issues affecting AnGR and rural community living in the targeted regions, provide decision makers with timely information regarding AnGR, and promote the role of AnGR in resource stewardship, animal health and production of high-quality safe and nutritious products.

Activities

1. Develop harmonized tools (protocols) for characterization and inventory of AnGR
2. Establishment of AnGR database
3. Establish and strengthen national and regional systems for monitoring of trends of breeds and associated risks
4. Develop regional networks for information sharing
5. Establish or strengthen regional focal points for animal genetic resources
6. Document and disseminate best practices and lessons learnt from animal genetic conservation and improvement initiatives

An assessment will be undertaken to establish existing tools and protocols for characterization and inventory of AnGR. Harmonized standard tools will be produced, tested, and disseminated to Member States. A workshop for experts will be conducted to validate the protocols. Under this activity, it is planned that an African Animal Genetic Resource Information System will be developed as a module within ARIS II. A Concept Note will be developed on the establishment of or support to regional networks. The concept note will include the assessment of existing networks to determine their status and functionality. An interactive e-learning system for information sharing and discussions among National and Sub-Regional Focal Points (S-RFP) of Africa will be established. A roadmap on the strengthening and establishment of S-RFPs will be developed and the functionality of the joint RFP for West and Central Africa will be assessed. Best practices and/or major lessons learnt in the management and conservation of AnGR will be continually

identified and documented. Good practice papers and policy notes will be produced and disseminated.

Deliverables for December 2014

- Harmonized tools developed and in use for characterization and inventory of AnGR.
- Initiation of the development of a continental functional database on AnGR.
- Initiation of adoption by RECs of a functional regional monitoring system on the trends and associated risks of transboundary breeds.
- Initiation of adoption by RECs of a functional regional networks for information sharing on AnGR by the end of the project
- Initiation of the establishment of regional focal points for coordination of AnGR.

Communication and visibility

The project structure is aimed at creating results that are sustainable feeding into mainstreaming the GPA. It will take guidance from the Steering Committee and enhance capacity through learning by doing to reach results. The structure supports a learning process that helps spread the message of the project as the team members interact with their partners as well as with line agencies. This requires a good internal communication system to be established in the project and use of email and internet is important. Transparency in the project is guaranteed by the project management team, which will ensure that the Project stakeholders are kept up to date with progress and outputs and strategic thinking.

The Project will have concise, informative presentations in Power Point of issues related to the project ready for any event. The project has prepared a one-page print that informs about the project. It is available to each team member to hand out wherever s/he goes and for the project in general. The Project has provided information to feed the AU-IBAR website from where relevant documents on AnGR can be downloaded. The Project shall identify ways to create a demand for AnGR messages by keeping itself knowledgeable of government and stakeholders plans and identify where and how messages on AnGR can come into the picture.

The Stakeholders will be continuously and fully informed of the goals of the project, its budget plans, the scope, the resources, their involvement and the timeframe. The SC will not be informed of day to day details but they will be given regular information that calls for policy advice as well as regular progress reports. A communication plan is being developed based on an understanding of the different stakeholders interests and perspectives.

Chapter 5: Implementation of project activities

Result Area 1: Establishment of the status and trends of animal genetic resources in Africa

1. Establish the state of AnGR in Africa to identify threatened ruminant breeds and breeds at risk of extinction.

Under this activity:

- During the Continental inception Workshop in Abidjan, countries presentations were made. The aim was to gather the range of information on the status of AnGR as baseline information for the project. Participants agreed that the information provided was not updated; the need to conduct additional studies was requested. Following the request, TORs were prepared and advertised. The project has hired national consultants to conduct the assessment on the Status and Trends of AnGR in Africa in order to take stock of the current status of AnGR in Africa and generate knowledge and evidence that will guide policy dialogue, formulation, advocacy and raising awareness among stakeholders. Some more contracts are to follow as the assessment is to cover the 54 AU MS. To ease report compilation, a draft reporting outline has been prepared for the consultants to follow. The studies are planned for May 2014.
- Draft TORs for consultancy to consolidate into a continental report have been developed for advertisement. This consultant will be recruited to synthesize and compile continental report. This is in anticipation that from the National consultancy reports will be drawn Regional reports and a final compilation into a Continental report, to be validated during a Continental workshop.
- Here preliminary data and information were collected during the presentation made by MS during the inception workshop and while preparing the country report for the SOW. however these information were scatted and not update and therefore national consultants are recruited to collect, compile information etc you list the information you are expecting them to collect

2. An inventory and assessment of existing policies and regulations on the use of animal genetic resources including genetic improvement of livestock in Africa.

Information to be gathered under this activity is taken into account in the Consultancy reference as “Assessment of the Status and Trends on AnGR”. The outcome of the consultancy will go through National validation, then regional before the Continental validation workshop.

3. Assessment of the genetic and socio-economic impact of production systems (i.e. and management systems i.e. crossbreeding with exotic breeds, intensification, transhumance and commercialization on local/indigenous AnGR).

The methodology to conduct the assessment is currently in discussion with the partners ILRI and BeCA. The specific input from BeCA will be in assisting to develop spatial distribution and mapping of trans-boundary breeds; as well as is there, the opportunity to have research fellows under BecA’s African Biosciences Challenge Fund (ABCF). The Fellowship program with its activities could contribute to collecting information. A workshop is planned during the second semester of 2014 to agree on the methodology to undertake the assessment.

4. Assessment of selection and breeding programs impact on animal genetic diversity and socio-economic status in Africa.

The methodology to conduct the assessment is currently in discussion with the partners ILRI and BeCA. The specific input from BeCA will be in assisting to develop spatial distribution and mapping of trans-boundary breeds; as well as is there, the opportunity to have research fellows under BeCA's African Biosciences Challenge Fund (ABCF). The Fellowship program with its activities could contribute to collecting information. A workshop is planned during the second semester of 2014 to agree on the methodology to undertake the assessment.

Result Area 2: Development of policy frameworks for the sustainable use of AnGR

1. Develop national, regional and continental guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of crossbreeding policies

A concept note is developed for the organization of a think tank meeting "Towards the Development of national, regional and continental guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of crossbreeding policies". This draft includes the Road Map for the development of the guidelines. The think tank meeting is planned for September 2014.

2. Develop regional frameworks and policies for in situ and ex situ conservation

Not planned for this year

3. Develop technical standards and protocols (including property rights and benefits sharing) for the exchange and use of genetic materials

Discussions are engaged with partners on the methodology to use for the development of the protocols. There is a compilation of Articles of the Nagoya Protocol. The familiarization process with the Articles of the Protocol may require legal interpretation of the Articles to be able to decipher and develop technical standards and protocols. Additionally the discussions will take into account the existence of the "African model legislation for the protection of the rights of local communities, farmers and breeders, and for the regulation of access to biological resources" and the "African Model Law on Safety in Biotechnology".

Result Area 3: Supporting and strengthening national and regional conservation and improvement strategies and initiatives

1. Support Member States to establish and implement their National Action Plan for Animal Genetic Resources within their livestock policy

The project facilitated a workshop for National Coordinators to submit their Country Reports (CR) on SoW-AnGR (32 MS attended; 30 submitted (94%) their reports at the end of Facilitation Workshop. The update made by FAO early this year mentioned that 39 AU MS have submitted to FAO. Lastly among the 29 countries worldwide which have not submitted their reports, FAO mentioned that only 2 African countries (Egypt and South Africa) were included in the list.

During the workshop in Abidjan considerable information were included in the presentations made by AU MS. Requests have been received from MS for support to Additionally, in facilitating the workshop on the preparation of the report on the SoW-AnGR, some requests were made by National coordinators (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Liberia, and Côte d'Ivoire). An internal review is being conducted to find out which of the countries have already developed the National Action plan (NAP) on AnGR within their livestock policies. The review will be confirmed with the results of the assessment on the Status and Trends and also from the recently-submitted Country Reports for the 2nd SoW-AnGR. The requests as result will be considered for support within the NAPAs.

2. Support Member States to establish or strengthen their national breeding and conservation strategies as part of their National Action Plan for Animal Genetic Resources

Some requests have been received for consideration. Baseline information on the existence and effectiveness of the National Action Plans (NAPs) will be gathered from the consultancy report on the Assessment on Status and Trends. From there the requests will be considered for support within the NAPs developed.

3. Support the development of regional conservation policy and strategic frameworks for trans-boundary breeds and populations that are at risk

Not planned for this year

4. Support the establishment of regional facility(ies) for ex situ conservation, in particular cryogenic storage and gene banks on AnGR

The project will, through this activity, technically and financially support the establishment of gene bank(s). The first step has been set to carry field visits of the existing gene banks in Africa and the material held by them as well as the conditions under which the material is available. This overview will serve further deliberations on:

- Build new gene banks
- Upgrade existing gene banks (from national to regional)
- Strengthen regional gene banks
- Build a network of gene banks

So far 10 initiatives were visited on the continent. *In-Situ* initiatives on the continent were also considered in the field visits as they will inform the decisions that will be taken to achieve the goals set for Activity 3.

5. Support the establishment and strengthening of national and regional livestock breeders' associations

A prior Assessment of the existing Breeders associations and their operationally is required to serve as a baseline. This assessment on the breeders associations is already considered under the Consultancy related to the Status and Trends of AnGR.

Result Area 4: Increasing knowledge, attitude and practice of the contribution of livestock and livestock sector to economic growth, food security and poverty reduction

1. Develop harmonized tools (protocols) for characterization and inventory of AnGR

Collation of information on tools for characterization has been initiated, starting with the FAO breed factsheets used for the Farm Animal Genetic Resources project from 2000.

- A Partners Roundtable and Project Implementing Partners Meetings was organised by AU-IBAR with representatives from FAO, ILRI, CIRDES, WALIC, CORAF, ASARECA and RUFORUM. It was also agreed to harmonize tools and protocols for the characterization of AnGR and that sub-regional research and development organizations had an important role to play in the Genetics project. Roles and responsibilities of partners and potential partners were identified and incorporated into the draft document.
- The project also engaged discussions with CIRDES to organise a regional workshops for the harmonisation of protocols. The objectives of these workshops are - to harmonize protocols for studies on animal genetic resources in the sub-region - develop a network of researchers and scientists working with the molecular biology tools applied to the management of AnGR.
- The Meeting held with BeCA-ILRI also assisted to identify Key areas of synergy and potential areas for collaboration among which “Characterization and harmonization of tools” was listed.

2. Establishment of AnGR database

Following discussion with ILRI on the creation of an African AnGR database, a roadmap was agreed for the establishment of an African Information system/hub for AnGR.

ROLES/ACTIVITY	INSTITUTIONS ROLE	DEADLINE
Facilitate a Consultative meeting with stakeholders to carry out comprehensive needs assessment/survey and additional potential partners	AU-IBAR	Q1
Establish missing information in pre-existing databases	AU-IBAR	Q1
Compilation of information from 2 nd SoW-AnGR and others	AU-IBAR	Q2
ROLES/ACTIVITY	INSTITUTIONS ROLE	DEADLINE
Determine minimal information required on global interface	AU-IBAR	Q2
Develop information system structure, layout, architecture	AU-IBAR ILRI	Q4
Feedback on previous “pilot studies”	AU-IBAR ILRI	To be communicated

Pilot the developed tools within new information system in selected countries	AU-IBAR	2015
Roll out information system across continent	AU-IBAR	2016

This activity is to be implemented by a Consultant. From the call for consultancy 8 applications received. The selection process is completed and the contract is to be awarded.

3. Establish and strengthen national and regional systems for monitoring of trends of breeds and associated risks

Not planned for this year

4. Develop regional networks for information sharing

A meeting with Institutions involved in regional animal breeding initiatives on the continent was organised by AU-IBAR with representatives from FAO, ILRI, CIRDES, WALIC, CORAF, ASARECA and RUFORUM. The meeting was held to identify differences or similarities between initiatives conducted by various actors on AnGR, identifying gaps in knowledge and key areas of concern in AnGR, strategizing on what can be done to fill knowledge and information gaps and to discuss and agree on the roles and responsibilities of each implementing partner and potential partners to contribute towards the achievement of the activities of the Genetics Project. The partners identified some priorities for action on matters related to AnGR. There was a consensus emerging among all participants with the recognition that all of them face similar challenges and opportunities with regard to animal genetic resources management. The meeting succeeded in discussing and creating complementarities and synergies that will allow more collaboration and coordination over a sustained period among stakeholders involved in the management of animal genetic resources in Africa. There was an opportunity to bring together the various stakeholders involved in AnGR initiatives in other parts of the continent and the world beyond. Apart from identifying the initiatives/projects/programmes the meeting did also evaluate the capacities and potential contributions of these initiatives/projects/programmes to the sustainable utilization and conservation of AnGR. It finally provided an opportunity to promote synergies and a platform for communication and enhancing project team building and partnerships for the successful implementation of the project. On the other hand in executing its coordination role, AU-IBAR has initiated consultations with key stakeholders at regional level to foster coherence, coordination and collaboration in the management of AnGR on the continent.

Issues discussed

- Access and benefit sharing in terms of exchange and use of AnGR are of increasing importance and will influence the willingness of various states, agencies, institutions and the private sectors to invest in the conservation and further development of AnGR
- Issues of access and benefit sharing will also affect the ability of farmers and livestock keepers, individually and collectively, to continue to play their key roles as custodians of AnGR and innovators in the management of these resources
- There is also need for awareness-raising; cooperation in capacity-building, capacity development and strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities on access and benefit-sharing
- Every effort should be made to ensure that benefit sharing and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues are considered when discussing AnGR and that all countries develop Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) laws by end of 2014 and that the African Common Law was awaiting the Nagoya Protocol, once completed
- It was noted that there is an absence of freely sharing of research information and materials between countries, this lack of co-operation is driven by the fear in Africa concerning gene patenting by other countries
- With the release of the Nagoya protocol this situation should change as rules and regulations will be put in place.

Outcomes

Some collaboration entry points were identified during the discussions and these included:

- An opportunity for partnership between CIRDES and WALIC on conservation of semen from superior bulls from the WALIC open nucleus selection scheme
- Results obtained by different partners on the introgression of different genes in trypanotolerant breeds could be used to formulate future projects and avoid duplication of activities.
- There is need for continuous monitoring of the impacts of cross-breeding on trypanotolerant breeds
- Agreement to develop tools for monitoring populations, socio-economic and environmental impacts of different breeding programmes
- It was suggested to establish a back-up system for gene banking of important African breeds, preferably at ILRI
- The value chain on sheep in Burkina Faso could be the entry point for collaboration between CIRDES and ILRI
- It was agreed to establish an African Animal Genetic Resources Secretariat that will foster coordination, collaboration and coherence in the management of Animal genetic Resources in Africa. This Secretariat will among other tasks, facilitate knowledge sharing through creation of a network and strengthening existing networks on AnGR and joint planning
- It was agreed to promote harmonized approaches, protocols and tools for the characterization of AnGR

- It was suggested that National Advisory Committees should be strengthened to spearhead initiatives on AnGR, and create synergies and prevent duplication of efforts.
- It was agreed to document and share lessons learnt from both success and failed attempts at breed improvement
- There is need to articulate the link of AnGR activities to food security, livelihoods, poverty alleviation. FAO is drafting a paper on this issue. However, obtaining evidence is a challenge due to lack of data.
- There is need to intensify collaboration in resource mobilization using ideas from the different partners
- There is need to document who is conducting what AnGR activities on the continent. This would involve the collection of post-graduate theses on AnGR.
- It is necessary to identify key external partners from other countries to contribute to discussions and plans for AnGR issues
- Where feasible, there is need to share and distribute improved livestock breeds

5. Establish or strengthen regional focal points for animal genetic resources

With the technical support of FAO (TCP) the process for the establishment of Sub-Regional Focal Points in Eastern Africa and Southern Africa was launched.

- In East Africa (Kampala, Uganda) this resulted:
 - o In the establishment of an Interim Steering Committee comprising the National Coordinators of Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan and Rwanda; representatives from IGAD, EAC and COMESA; technical agencies AU-IBAR, FAO, ILRI and ASARECA; NGO representatives (e.g. VSF and Heifer International) and Producers organizations (e.g. EADA and PENHA) to spearhead the establishment of the S-RFP.
 - o A roadmap for the Interim Steering Committee with timelines and responsibilities
 - o Set some priorities for the functionality of the interim steering committee
 - o Formulate two sub-regional projects.
- The workshop for the establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for Southern Africa was conducted in Harare. Participants agreed:
 - o On a structure for the S-RFP, to be comprised of a Secretariat, a Sub-regional Coordination, a Steering committee and Specific Task Forces.
 - o CCARDESA was appointed as the Host Institution for the S-RFP for Southern Africa.
 - o The Membership of the Steering Committee to be composed of 13 members constituted of 4 National Coordinators, one representative each from the Breeders Associations in the region, SADC, COMESA, CCARDESA, NGOs/CSOs and 4 technical institutions (FAO, AU-IBAR, ILRI and RUFORUM).

- Elected the Interim Steering Committee (ISC) to guide the process till the establishment of the Steering Committee. The ISC will be composed of the following countries and institutions: Zambia, Namibia, Mozambique, Malawi, CCARDESA, FAO, ILRI, AU-IBAR and one Breeders' Association. The ISC is agreed to be chaired by Zambia with Namibia as Deputy Chair and CCARDESA as Secretary.
 - A roadmap for the Interim Steering Committee with timelines and responsibilities
 - Formulate two sub-regional projects.
- In North Africa a meeting is planned for June 2014 (Algiers, Algeria).
 - In Western and Central Africa a meeting is planned to strengthen the focal point that was already established in 2011 in Libreville, Gabon.

6. Document and disseminate best practices and lessons learnt from animal genetic conservation and improvement initiatives

To ensure knowledge management and to facilitate informed and timely decision-making with regard to the Project, the team has adopted an approach which includes:

- Conduction/ implementation of Inception workshops to have a wider adhesion, ownership of the project by stakeholders and decision makers. Three regional workshop were organized;
- Systematic preparation of Communique and Press releases after every key workshop which are posted on the AU-IBAR website;

<http://www.au-ibar.org/angr/432-regional-inception-workshops-for-animal-genetic-resources>
<http://www.au-ibar.org/angr-press-releases>

- Development of a specific Animal Genetics Project Webpage on which specific project activity outcomes are posted;
- Development of a communication and visibility strategy for the project which has been drafted during the project team retreat for validation by the Steering Committee.
- Special prescription in the Assessment related to the Status and trends of AnGR in Africa to include a preparation of a photographic gallery of all domestic animal species and breeds (including fish and unconventional species).

Chapter 6: Issues and Challenges

During the inception period, the challenges identified were:

- During the initiation phase, coordination was difficult. This is frequently the result of individuals from outside attempting to influence the project. Such environments can create an atmosphere of faulty or disjointed decision-making.
- Partners may have had very different perceptions of the importance of stakeholder involvement. The individual match between project participants was also important since project success is based on reciprocity, trust, mutual understanding and enthusiasm.
- Changing the initial distribution of roles and responsibilities between partners institutions during the course of the project could be a challenge. Therefore adequately discussions were planned and held.
- During the inception phase, it was understood that the teamwork necessary to complete this project would be significant. The ability to plan and execute as a multinational team required cooperation and efforts at the highest level. From a project management perspective, building a project team was one thing, but getting agreement on ownership, activities, and timelines was another.
- The schedule required planning all activities dependent of the status and trends. This was somewhat complicated due to the need to hire consultants to conduct the studies and the administrative burden.
- Deadlines in reporting on the activities. The challenge for the team was during the inception phase the reporting "on time". The Team did manage the stress of the different project deadlines and the project issues with creative planning, alternatives analysis, and communication.

Chapter 7: Recommendations

The following recommendations were made during the inception period:

- It is recommended to establish from the beginning of the partnership clear agreements with the implementing institutions. Collaboration and planning between partners in implementation and planning will need to be emphasized.
- The Project Management Team should continue to coordinate and mobilize implementing partners in the implementation of the approved work plan.
- Adequate communication provides key support towards achieving the overall project goal, the recognition and articulation of interests of all stakeholders, a sense of ownership with all stakeholders. Communication should not be purely aimed at awareness creation. Awareness alone may not have the desired impact.

List of annexes

Annex 1: Outline project team roles: major duties and responsibilities

Annex 2: Project log frame

Annex 3: Workplan and milestone for the first year of the project

Annex 4: Matrix

Annex 1: Outline project team roles: major duties and responsibilities

Project Technical Assistant

He will provide general technical assistance to the Project Team. Specifically he will:

- Assist in developing work plans, the execution of the project and follow-up activities implemented at continental, regional and national levels;
- Provide technical support to the project Team at AU-IBAR and technical backstopping to MS and RECs in project related fields;
- Ensure approaches used to implement project activities by the project team and partners are scientifically and technically sound and provide regular feedback to the project management at AU-IBAR;
- Ensure quality on reporting of the programme activities;
- Initiate and lead the production of project publications;
- Plan and organize with the project team technical meetings;
- Provide technical input and support; ensure that relevant genetic quantitative and qualitative data related to animal genetic resources is collected, reviewed and analysed to make recommendations for greater impact and organizational efficiency;
- Establish or strengthen and maintain regional/international networks for the use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources;
- Identify technical problems and implement corrective measures as required ;
- Propose amendments to assure that project objectives can be met;
- Provide technical support in the operational, management and organizational aspects of national and regional animal gene banks;
- Perform all other duties as requested by the Chief Animal Production Officer or the Director.

Project officer in charge of the Project Management and Institutional capacity development

He will provide day to day management of the project and oversee institutional capacity development activities of the project. Specifically he will:

- Assist the Chief Animal Production Officer to develop working procedures and contractual arrangements with the implementing partners;
- Assist the Chief Animal Production Officer to ensure effective use of the project's human, financial and technical resources;
- Assist the Chief Animal Production Officer in coordinate the execution of the programme and follow-up activities implemented at continental, regional and national levels;

- Brand the project and liaise with implementing partners, AU-IBAR, steering committee, and all other identified stakeholders during the execution of the project ;
- Assure effective communication to all stakeholders on the programme ;
- Assist to identify functional problems and implement corrective measures as required;
- Propose amendments to assure that project objectives can be met;
- Provide technical input and support for the establishment or strengthening of fully functional national and Sub-Regional Focal Points for animal genetic resources;
- Prepare reports according to agreed formats and standards to IBAR, steering committee and donors
- Prepare an annual report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to be submitted to FAO
- Assist in organizing steering committee meetings and other technical and coordination meetings
- Undertake institutional capacity development activities of the project in line with the GPA
- Perform all other duties as requested by the Chief Animal Production Officer or the Director

Project Officer in charge of Policy and capacity development He will provide support and oversee the implementation of policy and capacity development related activities. Specifically he will:

- Review existing national/regional policies and regulatory frameworks, with a view to identifying any possible effects they may have on the use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources
- Provide guidance and oversee policy formulation processes
- Assist to assure effective communication to all stakeholders on the programme
- Assist to identify functional problems and implement corrective measures as required
- Assist to prepare reports according to agreed formats and standards to AU-IBAR, steering committee and donors
- Assist to Brand the project and liaise with implementing partners, IBAR, steering committee, and all other identified stakeholders during the execution of the project
- Review the implications and impacts of agreements and developments relevant to access to animal genetic resources and sharing the benefits of their use upon animal genetic resources stakeholders
- Assist to prepare an annual report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to be submitted to FAO
- Assist in organizing steering committee meetings and coordination meetings
- Perform all other duties as requested by the Chief Animal Production Officer or the Director

Data Management Expert

She will provide technical support in the establishment and operationalization of AnGR database at national, regional and continental levels. Specifically she will:

- Compile and analyse genetic data using statistical tools (e.g. ASReml, Genpop) and prepare reports that exhibit outputs, outcomes, and genetic trends

- Develop and manage Databases integrating registration and performance testing data that could be used for breeding value estimation through BLUP technology
- Provide inputs in the development of protocols for participatory monitoring of trends and associated risks, and characterization of local breeds managed by livestock keepers
- Provide inputs in the development of technical standards and protocols for phenotypic and molecular characterization, including methods for the assessment of important traits and economic valuation.
- Provide input and support in the organization of animal genetic resources activities, including the preparation of breed characterisations, identification of breeds which are endangered, matching of breeds in adjacent countries which have different names, but which may be genetically identical
- Provide inputs and technical support to the development of a module on AnGR in ARIS 2 at national, regional and continental levels that is compatible with the main databases DAGRIS and DAD-IS;
- Recommend and implement new operating methods to improve data flow, collection, editing, processing, analyses and distribution.
- Assist in data management related activities of projects within the unit
- Perform all other duties as requested by the Chief Animal Production Officer or the Director

Annex 2: Project log frame

	Intervention logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators for achievement	Source of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
Overall Objective	To enhance the contribution of livestock to food security and economic growth in Africa	<p>Incidence of poverty and food insecurity among livestock dependent people reduced by 10% by the end of the project.</p> <p>Increase of livestock sector contribution to GDP by 10% by the end of the project</p>	<p>National health statistics</p> <p>National economic indicators</p> <p>PSRs</p> <p>World Bank Reports</p> <p>FAO Statistical Data Base</p>	
Purpose	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	<p>60% of target countries have established databases on status and trends of AnGR by the end of the third year of the project.</p> <p>80% of target countries have livestock policy frameworks for the sustainable use and conservation of AnGR by the end of the project.</p> <p>Regional improvement programmes established in 100% RECs by the end of year 4 of the project.</p> <p>80% of the target countries have national conservation initiatives by the third year of the project.</p> <p>80% of target countries promote in-situ and ex-situ breeding conservation programmes by the fourth year of the project.</p>	<p>Published guidelines and frameworks</p> <p>Project reports</p> <p>List of institutions participating in information sharing</p>	<p>Regional coordination and information sharing will support the continued existence and effectiveness of regional organizations that harmonize regional policies</p>

<p>Result 1</p>	<p>Status and trends of AnGR in West, Central and East Africa established.</p>	<p>The impact of crossbreeding of indigenous cattle breeds and exotic breeds in West, Central and East Africa documented and published by the end of the second year of the project.</p> <p>The impact of transhumance and livestock trade on AnGR in West Africa documented and published by the end of the second year</p> <p>At least 4 policy notes on the success stories and lessons learnt from past genetic conservation and improvement program produced and disseminated by the end of the year 3.</p> <p>The state on AnGR in all countries involved in project updated by the end of the year 3.</p> <p>All countries timely submit their contribution to the global report</p>	<p>Assessment reports</p> <p>Survey reports</p> <p>Project reports</p> <p>Published guidelines</p> <p>Breeds fact sheets</p>	<p>Government priorities in the regions will remain or become more supportive of</p> <p>endemic ruminant livestock production</p> <p>Policies of existing local and national extension services relevant to livestock production favours the conservation of endemic ruminant livestock</p>
<p>Result 2</p>	<p>Policy frameworks for the sustainable use and conservation of AnGR developed.</p>	<p>At least 20 Countries have developed policy and protocols for the use of biotechnology for genetic improvement by the end of the project.</p> <p>Technical standards and protocols for the exchange and use of genetic materials developed for at least 2 livestock species by the end of the third year</p> <p>Policy framework, Technical standards, guidelines and protocols for in situ and ex situ conservation of at least 3</p>	<p>Published frameworks</p> <p>Published technical standards</p> <p>Project reports</p> <p>Published guidelines</p> <p>Technical standards and protocols</p> <p>Policy notes</p>	<p>The viability of endemic ruminant livestock pure breed genetic improvement programme could be compromised by artificial insemination</p>

		livestock species developed by the end of the third year		
Result 3	National and regional conservation and improvement strategies and initiatives established and strengthened	<p>At least 30 Countries have developed national action plan for AnGR by the end of the project</p> <p>At least 4 regional livestock breeders' associations supported by the end of the third year</p> <p>At least 25 livestock breeders association strengthened or established by the end of the project</p> <p>At least three programs for the conservation of transboundary breed formulated or strengthened</p> <p>At least three RECs have AnGR issues in their regional livestock development agenda</p>	<p>Project reports</p> <p>Community multiplication herds reports</p> <p>Financial and technical advisory notes</p> <p>Training workshop reports</p>	Potential conflicts in the sub-region could hamper the sustainable management of livestock and lead to increased migration Natural phenomena (floods, drought, etc.) could have direct negative impacts
Result 4	Knowledge, attitude and practice of the contribution of livestock and livestock sector to economic growth, food security and poverty reduction, increased.	<p>Protocols for the characterization and inventory of at least four livestock breeds developed and implemented by the end of the third year.</p> <p>An AnGR database established at the end of the second year of the project</p>	<p>Project reports</p> <p>Published technical reports</p> <p>AnGR database</p> <p>Compilation of best practices</p> <p>Monitoring tools</p>	

		<p>A tools for monitoring of trends and associated risks of transboundary breeds developed and implemented by the third year of the project</p> <p>At least 3 regional information sharing networks established by end of project</p> <p>04 regional focal points for animal genetic resources are established and strengthened by the end of the third year</p> <p>Information and best practices on animal genetic resources conservation and improvement initiatives documented and easily accessible by all stakeholders at end of project</p>	<p>List of focal institution being part of the networks</p> <p>Regional focal points reports</p>	
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Annex 3: Workplan and milestone for the first year of the project

			Period (Months)											
			J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Result 1	Sub-Activities	Sub/Sub-Activities												
Activity 1: Establish the state of AnGR in West Central and East Africa to identify threatened ruminant breeds and breeds at risk of extinction	Hire (54) national consultants	Develop Consultancy TORs												
		Advertise & Pass contract												
		Data collect & Get reports												
	Have hired General Consultant	TORs, Recruit, Report												
	National Validation													
	Regional Workshop													

Activity 3. Develop technical standards and protocols (including property rights and benefits sharing) for the exchange and use of genetic materials.	Hire consultant	Develop Consultancy TORs																															
		Advertise & Pass contract																															
		Data collect/ Nat validation & Get reports																															
		Continental workshop																															
Result 3	Sub-Activities	Sub/Sub-Activities	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D																			
Activity 1. Support member states to establish and implement their National Action Plan for AnGR within their livestock policy.	Support MS to develop/review their National Action Plan for AnGR	Assessment of the existence of NAP																															
		Get FAO Guidelines for NAP on AnGR , Compile STD guide																															
		Regional Validation & Training Workshops																															
		Financial & Technical support for producing/ reviewing																															
	Support MS to mainstream AnGR into their national livestock priorities investment (support to national livestock policy hubs meetings)	Select of key priorities actions to be funded																															
	Support (financial & technical) through policy hubs/ CAADP country team/ support develop proposals																																
Activity 2. Support member states to establish or strengthen their national breeding and conservation strategies as part of their National Action Plan for AnGR.	Assessment of National Breeding strategies	Compilation, analysis of gaps from R1-A2 with focus on endangered breeds/ at risk																															
	Subventions to support national programs based on gaps identified	Analysis (1 or 2 initiatives per region)																															
		Provide support/ subsidies																															
Activity 3. Support the development of regional (REC based) conservation policies and strategies for transboundary breeds and populations that are at risk	Assessment and Drafting of the policy and strategy	Develop concept note & road map of the activity																															
		Conduct inventory of regional policies																															
	Regional validations	To valid outcomes and analysis on the inventory of Policies																															
	Publication & dissemination																																
Activity 4. Support the establishment of a regional/sub-regional facility for ex situ conservation, in particular cryogenic storage	Assess existing G banks/ functionality/ performance of physical/ virtual facilities																																

Annex 4: Matrix

	Partners					
	ILRI	FAO	CIRDES	WALIC	ASARECA	RUFORUM
Result 1: The Status and trends of animal genetic resources in West, Central and East Africa established						
1- Establish the state of AnGR in West Central and East Africa to identify threatened ruminant breeds and breeds at risk of extinction	Participation on the analysis and interpretation of identified threatened ruminant breeds and breeds at risk of extinction	Provide access to results of analyses of Country Reports for the 2 nd SoW-AnGR Collaborate to foster synergies in covering countries and harmonizing approaches under “TCP RAF 3403”	Analysis and interpretation of results			
2- An inventory and assessment of existing policies and regulations on the use of animal genetic resources including genetic improvement of livestock in West, Central and East Africa	Participation in the analysis of existing policies and regulations	Provide access to results of analyses of Country Reports for the 2 nd SoW-AnGR. Provide technical backstopping in analysis of information Collaborate to foster synergies in covering countries and harmonizing approaches under “TCP RAF 3403”	Participation on the analysis of existing policies and regulations			
3- Assessment of the genetic and socio-economic impact of production and management systems ie. crossbreeding with exotic breed, intensification, transhumance and commercialisation on local AnGR	Provide some information at continental level and/or oversee studies, genomic markers Participation on the analysis of existing policies and regulations To facilitate the specific studies in the regions (Assessment studies on socio-economic, genomic and environmental impacts)	Provide access to results of analyses of Country Reports for the 2 nd SoW-AnGR. Provide “off-line tool” and other support for harmonized collection of PEDs information Participation on the analysis of existing policies and regulations	Participate in the identification of criteria to define the case studies To facilitate the specific studies in the region (CORAF to provide information on study with Zebu introgression Transhumance studies)	To facilitate the specific studies in the region To start proposed project on transhumance to provide information on the current study on Transhumance	Participate in the identification of criteria to define the case studies	Participate in the identification of criteria to define the case studies
4- Assessment of selection programs (including breeding objectives) on animal genetic diversity in West, Central and East Africa	Provide information or technical backstopping in studies Participation in the analysis of selection programs To facilitate the specific studies in the region (Assessment studies on socio-economic, genomic and	Provide information or technical backstopping in studies	Participation in the analysis of selection programs	To facilitate the specific studies in the region Participation on the analysis of selection programs	Provide information or technical backstopping in studies	Provide information or technical backstopping in studies

	environmental impacts					
Result 2: Policy frameworks for the sustainable use of AnGR developed						
1- Develop national, regional and continental guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of crossbreeding policies	Participation in the guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of crossbreeding policies	Provide technical backstopping in the in designing guidelines – crossbreeding section in breeding and In Vivo guidelines harmonization of crossbreeding policies	Participation in the guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of crossbreeding policies	Take active part in designing the guidelines (for regional & Ndama - Djalonke programs consideration	Provide information or technical backstopping in studies	
2- Develop regional frameworks and policies for in situ and ex situ conservation		Will assist in developing the frameworks Development of general policy document				
3- Develop technical standards and protocols (including property rights and benefits sharing) for the exchange and use of genetic materials.	Participation in developing the standards and protocols	Provide technical backstopping in developing the standards and protocols Liaise with CGRFA to ensure legal compliance	Participation in developing the standards and protocols			
Result 3: National and regional conservation and improvement strategies and initiatives strengthened or established						
1- Support member states to establish and implement their National Action Plan for AnGR within their livestock policy.		Provide capacity building to “train the trainers at regional level” on institutional development and NSAP				
2- Support member states to establish or strengthen their national breeding and conservation strategies as part of their National Action Plan for AnGR.		Part of NSAP	Monitoring the implementation of specifics actions in the countries in their jurisdiction	Monitoring the implementation of specifics actions in the countries in their jurisdiction	Monitoring the implementation of specifics actions in the countries in their jurisdiction	
3- Support the development of regional (REC based) conservation policies and strategies for transboundary breeds and populations that are at risk	Participation in policy formulation & development	Provide technical backstopping in in policy formulation & development	Participation in policy formulation & development	Participation in policy formulation & development		
4- Support the establishment of a regional/sub-regional facility for ex situ conservation, in particular	Provide the back-up gene bank as part of their biobank for the REGION	Serve on “Advisory Board”; software “cryoweb” available in DAD-is (Europe) national to regional	Possibly hosting & animating of a Regional Gene Bank (West Africa)			

cryogenic storage and establish a gene bank on AnGR						
5 -Support the establishment and strengthening of national and regional livestock breeders' associations.	Build on approaches from East Africa Dairy work	FAO has guidelines on general establishment of associations	Participation in the identification of the livestock breeders' associations. monitoring the implementation of specific actions in the countries in their jurisdictions	Participation in the identification of the livestock breeders' associations. monitoring the implementation of specific actions in the countries in their jurisdictions	Participation in the identification of the livestock breeders' associations. monitoring the implementation of specific actions in the countries in their jurisdictions	
Result 4: Knowledge, attitude and practice of the contribution of livestock and livestock sector to economic growth, food security and poverty reduction, promoted.						
1 -Develop harmonized tools (protocols) for Characterization and Inventory of AnGR	Will assist in developing harmonized tools	Will assist in developing harmonized tools, possibly e-learning: to develop tools for each species for capture of individual phenotypic characterization data and compilation of breed-wise statistics for DAD-IS	Will assist in developing harmonized tools			
2 -Establishment of AnGR database	Will assist in developing database, expand country DAGRIS	Could assist on interoperability of database with DAD-IS: regional display? DAD-IS training				
3 -Establish and strengthen regional monitoring of trends and associated risks of trans-boundary breeds.	Through ILRI could assist in protocols/systems for monitoring of trends	Develop transboundary breed tool for DAD-IS (national tool already available)	Implement the monitoring system at regional level	Implement the monitoring system at regional level		
4 -Develop regional networks for information sharing	Everybody This activity will consist of strengthening or establishing new one (network for coordination of regional initiatives, position of Africa Pre-ITWG)					
5 -Establish or strengthen regional focal points for AnGR.	Provide technical support to the national focal points, S-RFP, regional focal points	Will assist in strengthen National, sub-regional, regional focal points;	Will participate to the consultations Provide technical support to the S-RFP	Will participate to the consultations Provide technical support to the S-RFP	Will participate to the consultations Provide technical support to the S-RFP	
6 -Document and disseminate best practices and lessons learnt from AnGR conservation and improvement initiatives	Make available, share best practice on AnGR initiatives for compilation and publication (joint publication of all partners)					