

POLICIES AND LEGISLATION REGULATING ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

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**agriculture,
forestry & fisheries**

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

BACKGROUND ON POLICIES AND LEGISLATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

- Animal husbandry in South Africa is a departmental subject and every department (National: DAFF or Provincial: PDA) is making its departmental policies for livestock and development.
- At the national level Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is coordinating the development programmes; and the Agricultural Research Council is taking care of research, extension and human resources development for the livestock sector.
- In South Africa, national policies and regulatory frameworks for conservation of animal genetic resources are still inadequate and ineffective.



BACKGROUND ON POLICIES AND LEGISLATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

- Policy and legislative development is required to address the different dimensions that are shaping the sector, and deal with increasingly complex emerging issues, such as an increasing focus on consumer affairs, food safety and food standards, response to diseases, the humane treatment of animals, increasingly sophisticated biotechnology, as well as the assessment and mitigation of the environmental impacts of livestock production management practices.
- A further area that requires development is the framework for the exchange of animal genetic resources among countries.
- Policy development should take into account the increasing role of intellectual property rights in the sector, and the need to secure fair and equitable benefit-sharing, the rights of indigenous and local communities evolved and maintaining native breeds, particularly pastoralists, and the role of their traditional knowledge systems.



IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS ON POLICIES AND LEGISLATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA PRE AND POST 1994.

- During the post-independence era, the Government undertook various measures towards the improvement and development of the breeds, however, conservation of AnGR, as such, was not the area of primary concern.
- Conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources across all farm animal species and breeds, was recognized as a matter of national Animal Improvement Act and Agricultural Research Council Act that was followed by the Agricultural Research Council that was established in 1993 with the mandate of Agricultural Research in the country.



IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS ON POLICIES AND LEGISLATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA PRE AND POST 1994.

- The aforementioned organizations and departments have been sensitized about the importance of AnGR and the activities related with their characterization, conservation and utilization.
- Despite all these achievements, there are some key weaknesses of AnGR management including inadequate policies and legislation, lack of financial support, scarcity of trained personnel, and effective involvement of State Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Departments in programmes related with conservation of AnGR.
- The National Focal Point responsible for the tasks outlined in the FAO's Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources has been designated within the directorate responsible for the conservation and sustainable use of farm animal genetic resources at DAFF.



EXISTING SOUTH AFRICAN POLICIES AND LEGISLATIONS

- **Animal Improvement Act, 1998 (Act No. 62 of 1998)**
- The Animal Improvement Act focuses on the implementation and documentation of breeding animals, and governs the type and scope of performance testing and recording in compulsory breeding programmes. In addition, the Animal Improvement Act contains provisions on the implementation and use of biotechnology in artificial insemination and embryo transfer. The Animal Improvement Act also governs the approval of breeding associations, breeding companies, insemination centers and embryo transfer institutes along with the approval of their breeding programmes, herd-book regulations (herd-book recording) and their area of activity. The Responsibility for the implementation of the Improvement Act lies with the Registrar of the Animal Improvement Act.
- **Animal Improvement Policy**
- The Animal Improvement Policy was gazette in November 2007. The objectives of this policy include promoting the sustainable use of Animal Genetic Resources as major contributor to national food security and facilitating the conservation of Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. This policy serves to guide the implementation of the Animal Improvement Act, 1998 (Act. No. 62 of 1998).



INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

- The most significant regulatory framework for the conservation and use of genetic resources is the “Convention on Biological Diversity” (CBD).
- With its ratification in 1992, more than 170 signatory states have committed themselves to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in their sovereign territory by developing national strategies, programmes and plans to integrate the convention’s aims into their sectoral policies.
- A working programme for agricultural biodiversity was agreed at the Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2000.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) plays another important role in implementing Agenda 21.
- In 1983, the FAO established a Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, the mandate of which was expanded in 1995 to include farm animals, and that was renamed “Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture” (CGRFA).



INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

- In May 1997, the Commission established a subsidiary Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources (ITWG-AnGR) to address issues relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture and to advise the CGRFA on the development and implementation of the “Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources”.
- The Global Plan of Action is the culmination of an extended process involving the participation of 169 countries.
- It was adopted by 109 country delegations at the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, held in Interlaken, Switzerland, from 3 to 7 September 2007.
- An African Union initiative, under the AU-IBAR Genetic Project (Strengthening the capacity of African countries to conservation and sustainable use of African animal genetic resources), was launched in 2014.



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PLAN FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF FARM ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

- The National Plan for Animal Genetic Resources can be taken as a guideline to develop activities and draft the organisational requirements needed for the conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources.
- It is also an indispensable addendum to conventional farm animal breeding programmes.
- Once established, it should become good practice in farm animal breeding in South Africa.
- This can only be achieved if animal breeding regulations and the availability of long-term funding are consolidated.
- The DAFF and PDAs are thus called upon to establish the basis for this and to implement the plan.



OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL PLAN FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF FARM ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

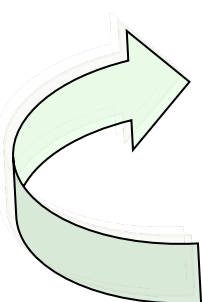
- Promote long term *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of the diversity of animal genetic resources in scientifically sound and cost-effective breeding programmes;
- Enhance attractiveness of animal genetic resources for sustainable animal production systems by means of description, evaluation, documentation and breeding evaluations;
- Contribute to the conservation and use of agricultural grassland ecosystems and supporting the utilization of animal genetic resources in nature and landscape protection areas;
- Support all actions concerning the conservation of animal genetic resources and establishing a transparent system of competence and responsibilities between the Republic and DAFF, NGOs and private livestock sector;
- Promote co-operation at national, SADC, African Union, and international level and exploiting the resulting synergies.



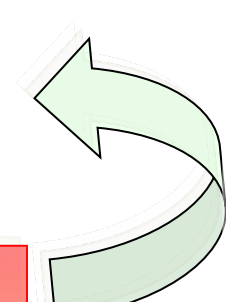
Conservation & Sustainable use of FAnGR

Livestock Massification Programme

**Indigenous
breeds**



**Productive & Adapted
breeds**



**Commercial
breeds**

ex situ

Cryo-genebank

Semen, Oocytes
Embryos, Somatic cells
(*BioBank, ARC*)

In situ

**National Herds
(LDC)**

**Breed Society:
Commercial/
communal farmers**

**Research & Development
(ARC Research Projects)**

FAnGR Inventory

animal numbers characterisation
- number of gametes number of embryos
- number of tissues

PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

- South Africa has submitted its report on ***The Second state of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.***
- The African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) informed the RSA that in the framework of the implementation of the Genetics Project “**Strengthening the capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of African Animal Genetic Resources**”.
- The AU-IBAR requested South Africa through DAFF Directorate Genetic Resources to initiate the process of formulating the National Strategies and Action Plan for animal genetic resources (AnGR).
- The South African NSAPs workshop was held on the 08th November 2018 in Pretoria.
- To date, the 1st 2nd and 3rd draft of the NSAPs have been published and circulated to stakeholders and the final Stakeholder Workshop will be held on 27 November 2019.



THANK YOU!!!



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