

Minutes of the meeting ERFP – Working Group Documentation and Information, Ljubljana, 26 -27 May 2015

Attending:

17 persons:

WG members: Christina Ligda (Chair), Bozidarka Markovic, Grazyna Polak, Eva Marie Stalhammar, Enrico Sturaro, Sebastian Winkel, Metka Zan-Lotric, Zhivko Duchevev, Rita Hoving, Montse Castellanos, Ligija Ozolina, Ante Ivankovic, Srdjan Stojanovic, Ján Tomka, Mesut Yildirim
Eildert Groeneveld (invited expert)
Roswitha Baumung (FAO)

Minutes kept by Rita Hoving

26 May, 14:00-18:00

DAD-IS (Domestic Animal Diversity Information System) status and development

Roswitha informs the ERFP on the developments on this issue. DAD-IS has been relying on project funds for many years which came to an end in January 2015. Further, the maintenance of DAD-IS was secured during the last years mainly thanks to the skills of one person, who left the organization in January 2015. Therefore the system cannot be maintained in this way any longer. FAO hired external experts to assess different alternatives for future DAD-IS maintenance and development. An option based on available in house expertise was recommended as the most sustainable one regarding financial resources and avoiding dependency on one person. Based on this assessment FAO, in collaboration with an external IT expert, developed a project proposal. For the project a phased approach was chosen to allow flexible refinement and reorientation as new requirements (e.g. requests from the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture) or technologies emerge. Roswitha presented the first phase of the planned project that includes a “needs’ assessment” to involve the National Coordinators closely in the development of the new system. The discussion focused on the need to use new technologies or to invest in the current version/technology of DAD-IS and by which approach the developments can be made with low investments, ensuring long term sustainability and increasing the flexibility of the system. A matter that discussed also was the implications of such development for EFABIS and the National Nodes. Roswitha explained that EFABIS and the current version of DAD-IS will be maintained throughout the first phase of the project. National Coordinators will have the chance to test a prototype of the new system before further decisions are taken.

Overview of the country’s data update process

Zhivko Duchevev presented the information, according to the data from EFABIS. Only 5 countries updated for all recorded breeds the breed classification field. The discussion that followed addressed the main points of not updating and using EFABIS regularly. Christina: We discussed several times: which are the reasons that NC do not fill in data? Awareness? The requested data do not always exist. Roswitha: there is always a peak in filling in data following a reminder of FAO (prior to ITWG meetings). To monitor the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* updating of population size data is of uttermost importance. Metka: breeds with no selection program do not have performance data. Is the solution to ask less information?

Needs Assessment

Christina presented an outline of the process to review the current status of EFABIS utilisation and the possible improvements, changes by contacting the NCs. The presentation focussed on the different levels of this assessment process, which has to address the possible users, their needs, to review the fields and

completeness, the reporting and how these could be exploited. The proposal was to prepare a preliminary survey to all NCs. The WG needs to decide on the structure of the questionnaire, probably this may be modified in some parts for the NCs with national node and present the preliminary results in Annual Assembly, where we could discuss on refinement of the procedure.

Workplan of the WG 2015 - 2016

The first activity concerns the process of needs assessment. This action is in line with the previous decisions of the WG on contacting the NCs to collect information on the procedures that are followed in the country on data collection and update. Thus under this aspect a survey on the real needs and concerns of the NCs will help in understanding the situation and improving the system. The main points in the discussion referred to the objectives of the survey and how these could be achieved. The scope of the survey is to identify the users in each country and the purposes that EFABIS is used, how the data are collected and updated, making a distinction on countries with a national node and without. The WG agrees to develop a condensed questionnaire and organise the process into two steps.

Christina asked for volunteers to draft the first version of the questionnaire and then circulate it to the group together with the minutes of the meeting to finalize. Rita, Zhivko and Sebastian together with Christina will prepare the first version. This work could also be useful for the needs assessment at global level. Define main objective: What is the value of EFABIS for monitoring farm animal genetic resources. How can we use the information system better / with added value?

Other activities to propose:

- Develop an ad-hoc action to be proposed to the ERFP SC on assessing breed's risk status using data of various sources as a follow up of the ERFP project on georeferenced data, the TF risk status and indicators. In this respect contributions from experts (not members of the WG) working on this field will be asked. The aim is to investigate and identify the most appropriate sources of information, identify a list of indicators that will be tested and formulate a proposal of a system for integrated evaluation of risk status and perspectives of the breed. This action is within the WG aim: monitoring of trends.
- Montse suggested to link information from national websites (p.e. Spanish information) to ERFP website, EFABIS & National Node, to diffuse the information on the work that is done in national level. In this respect it would be also useful that the WG could collect information on national activities, some interesting examples that could be put in a common framework and distribute each year in the ERFP assembly as a motivation and to increase our knowledge on the work in the different countries.

Any other business

- The EFABIS Management Committee has official ended in February 2015, Sebastian as a member of the WG will continue to represent ERFP in the unofficial meetings of the three parts (FAO, EAAP and ERFP)
- To continue efforts to remind the NCs for data updating in EFABIS, with special reference on the need to update the breed classification field. A separate letter will refer to the update of the gene bank data to EFABIS (see below).

27 May - Joint Meeting with WG Ex-situ - 8:00-10:30

(from the report ERFP WG Ex-Situ, by Sipke-Joost Hiemstra, Chair of the WG)

ERFP – Joint Meeting WG Ex situ Conservation and WG Information and Documentation 27.05.2015

Announcement and plea to register for the General Assembly in Krakow, Poland

Zhivko Duche:

Uploading cryoWeb data into EFABIS

- Additional module for countries allowing storage and access to cumulated data from national gene banks

Gene bank data in EFABIS

- Records per breeds
- No individual sample data

Data entry

- Two step procedure
- export cumulated gene bank statistics
- upload/enter data in EFABIS

Data file requirements

- One line per breed
- EFABIS breed names
- Species and country names have to match EFABIS names in English
- 19 positions in each line
- UTF-8 encoded

Current status of EFABIS:

- 18 countries have listed 389 breeds over 35 years with 2201 records.

Discussion and problems to be solved:

- Can transboundary breeds be found?
- Will commercial AI centers be willing to send data to EFABIS/EUGENA ?
- What is "long term" conservation/storage?

Eildert Groeneveld:

Linking data from genotyping (e.g. SNP or full sequence data which will be more and more available) to CryoWeb

Discussion

- Access to gene bank material data through EFABIS website
- More transparency of information about gene bank collections
- ERFP should organize an attractive portal ===== > EUGENA

27 May – WG Documentation and Information, 10:30-12:00

About gene bank data upload in EFABIS

Christina: The low degree of gene bank data uploaded to EFABIS may be due to lack in communication. We should formulate a letter explaining the procedure, the type of data that is expected for which objective. Roswitha, mentioned that when it is evident that there is not enough uploading activity, a reminder informing on what is agreed, for motivation and support will help. Eva-Marie offered to write a first draft of the letter, that will refer to the gene bank data upload, explaining the objectives and benefits of publishing the gene bank information and remind what has been agreed regarding the transboundary breeds' programmes.

Continuing discussion on the preparation of the questionnaire

The discussion cover the organization of the survey on the needs assessment. The goal is to understand the current situation about using EFABIS. The questionnaire will include general questions to all NCs and few additional only to the countries who installed national nodes. In general the questions will address the rate of

satisfaction when using the system, in the different sections of EFABIS (population data, breed description, reports etc). Zhivko has the opportunity to see how many users there are in a country.

Ligija from Latvia mentioned they don't use EFABIS, as the country has its own system with more information.

The WG agreed that before initiating the survey addressing to all NCs, it will be tested by 3 persons

The survey aims to understand the value of the system, understand whether the translation in national language is needed. Regarding the reports, who are using this tool and what kind of reports are the most used. The survey is addressed to all NC's/ National Focal Points and NC's with/without national nodes.

Close of the meeting.

The presentations, the report and the list of participants will be available in the ERFP website.