

**COUNTRY REPORT
FOR 2007-2008 of**

ICELAND

Reported by

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**STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 1: CHARACTERIZATION, INVENTORY AND
MONITORING OF TRENDS AND ASSOCIATED RISKS**

Actions undertaken during the past year

- Project on genetic polymorphism at gene coding loci and microsatellite loci of cattle.
- Analysis of the conservation value of the Icelandic cattle breed in relation to possible import of other dairy breeds
- Study of genetic diversity within the Icelandic goat breed which is endangered
- Characterization of the leading trait of Icelandic leader sheep and building up of pedigree files for the leader sheep
- Genetic studies of the Icelandic horse to reveal the possible origin of the breed and the diversity within the breed.
- Participation in EFABIS-net to build up databases for all breeds

Actions planned for the next year

- Conclusion of the current genetic project of cattle, goats and horses and the project on conservation value of cattle.
- Further genetic studies of cattle and goats – molecular diversity
- Continued work within EFABIS-net
- Build up systems for registration of all goats and all leader sheep in order to get complete pedigree files for both populations

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Actions undertaken during the past year

- The local Icelandic livestock breeds are currently in full use for production of food and fibre or as leisure animals, with the exception of the endangered goat breed.
- Work is underway to support goats as production animals.

Actions planned for the next year

- Work towards establishment of at least two partly sustainable goat herds that produce milk and meat for niche markets.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION

Actions undertaken during the past year

- Regular incentive payments to goat farmers are continued as a conservation measure and monitoring of the number of goats.
- Continued collection of bull and ram semen from all AI sires into gene banks

Actions planned for the next year

- Continue activities already in function.
- Develop a breeding and conservation program for the goat population according to results of diversity studies and under the veterinary restrictions that apply to movement of stock. Utilize methods of optimal genetic contributions of breeding animals for the program.
- Start to develop a similar program for leader sheep.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Actions undertaken during the past year

- The Icelandic Commission on Genetic Resources in Agriculture has worked out a strategic plan which includes analysis of current status and necessary actions regarding conservation of GR in agriculture in Iceland during 2007-2008.
- Promotion of further incentive payments for establishment of dairy goat farms that could become sustainable.
- Documentary film on the leader sheep with emphasis of the special characteristics of the animals.

Actions planned for the next year

- To start working according to the strategic plan and promote financing of the necessary actions defined in the plan.
- Publishing of posters with information about the Icelandic goat, the Icelandic sheepdog and the Icelandic chicken populations