

ERFP Country report 2010 – 2011

COUNTRY: Iceland

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Strategic Priority Area 1: Characterization, Inventory and Monitoring of Trends and Associated Risks

Actions undertaken during the past year

- By October 2010 both EFABIS-Net and Cryo-Web were fully operational for Icelandic animal genetic resources.
- Continued studies on the genetic diversity of the Iceland goat breed now numbering 729 head (endangered).
- Completed work on building up pedigree files for Icelandic leadersheep, a unique strain within the Iceland sheep breed.
- Continued studies on the possible origin of the Iceland horse breed.
- Continued studies on the conservation value of the Iceland dairy cattle breed.

Actions planned for the next year

- Continue studies on the genetic diversity of the above mentioned breeds.
- Continue studying the molecular diversity of the old Iceland poultry breed initiated last year.
- Build up an individual recording system for goats.
- Continue work on AI in goats initiated last year.

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 the production of food and fibre, or, as leisure animals, with the exception of the endangered goat breed.
- Continue work to support goats as production animals.
- Continue work to maintain the old Icelandic poultry breed (small population), mainly by marketing their eggs in labelled packages.

Actions planned for next year:

- Continue supporting the small populations of Icelandic goats and poultry.
- Place greater emphasis on supporting the small populations

Strategic Priority Area 3: Conservation

(please give details for the most relevant institutions for national genebanks / cryopreservation in the table in Annex 1)

Actions undertaken during the past year:

- Continued regular, annual, payments of goat conservation grants (6500 ISK = 40 euros/recorded goat) and the monitoring of goat numbers according to the Agricultural Law nr.70/1998.

Actions planned for the next year:

- Continue all regular activities already in progress
- Continue developing a breeding and conservation programme for the highly inbred Iceland goat breed.

Strategic Priority Area 4: Policies, Institutions and Capacity-building

Actions undertaken during the past year:

- The Icelandic Commission on Animal Genetic Resources continued work on a strategy plan regarding the conservation of all GR in Iceland from 2009-2013.
- Continued participation in international activity within NordGen, ERFP and EAAP.
- Continued dissemination of information to the general public and EU officials (membership application) on the great genetic diversity of all the native Icelandic livestock breeds.

Actions planned for the next year:

- Continue activities listed above, publish posters with colour photographs and texts Icelandic and English for the Iceland goat breed and the old Icelandic poultry population, respectively, and the Icelandic Commission on Genetic Resources in Agriculture will seek co-operation with the Hvanneyri Agricultural Museum.
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