

**COUNTRY REPORT PORTUGAL**  
**FOR 2008-2009 of**

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**GENERAL**

Actions undertaken during the past year

- Legislation was approved establishing support measures for “Conservation and Improvement of Animal Genetic Resources”. This legislation provides the framework under which breed associations can be supported in their efforts to establish and carry out conservation and genetic improvement programs of livestock breeds. Also, the measures approved include support to producers of endangered breeds.
- Based on this legislation, all native breeds should have either a conservation or genetic improvement program underway by 2010.

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

Actions undertaken during the past year

- Inventory and monitoring of all livestock breeds is carried out on a regular basis, and made available to the public and policy-makers.
- Funding has been approved for genetic and demographic characterization of all native breeds, and work has already started in several breeds.

Actions planned for the next year

- Continue inventory and monitoring of all livestock breeds.
- Further studies on genetic and demographic characterization of native breeds, in cooperation with research groups and institutions from other countries.
- Catalogue of native breeds to be initiated

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT**

Actions undertaken during the past year

- Guidelines approved for breeders organizations to qualify for support to their genetic improvement programs
- Routine genetic evaluations are now performed in five cattle breeds, based on performance and pedigree information collected by breeders organizations.

Actions planned for the next year

- Expand routine genetic evaluations to other cattle, sheep, goat and swine breeds.
- Strengthening of certified products from native livestock breeds

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION**

Actions undertaken during the past year

- In-depth demographic studies and development of recommendations to minimize genetic erosion in several breeds
- Coordinated efforts to manage ex situ conservation of different livestock breeds
- Establishment and maintenance of conservation herds/flocks for *in situ* conservation of highly endangered breeds.

Actions planned for the next year

- Formal establishment of the National Animal Germplasm Bank
- Further expansion of conservation herds/flocks for *in situ* conservation of highly endangered breeds.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

Actions undertaken during the past year

- In September 2008, the VI Iberian Congress on Animal Genetic Resources took place in Lisbon, Portugal. There were about 130 participants, and nearly 70 papers were presented on Genetic characterization, demographic characterization, Morphologic and productive characterization, Reproductive technologies and conservation programs, Breeding schemes, Certified products and sustainability of AnGR, and Free communications.

Actions planned for the next year

- Follow-up of the conservation and genetic improvement programs carried out by breed associations