



Working Group 1: Rescue & Quarantine; February 9, 2008

Laws and systems already in place

CBD

At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro 1992, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was negotiated. CBD and Agenda 21 present today the legal and social framework for sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. Meanwhile, the international treaty has been signed by 187 countries and the EU. The term "biodiversity" relates both to "*wild and domesticated species*" (Art. 2, ff.). Thus, not only the diversity between species and between ecosystems is relevant, but also the diversity within species, that is breeds and varieties. Agro-biodiversity is in integral part of the CBD. The Conference of the Parties (COP) has compiled a program of work on the topic "**Conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity**" (COP 3, decision III/11) in 1996, because agro-biodiversity is of special importance in the entire biological system: interaction between environmental factors, production methods and genetic resources that occur in agricultural ecosystems contribute to the conservation of a dynamic stock of biological diversity.

FAO

Global Plan of Action of Animal Genetic Resources and the Interlaken Declaration

On September 11, 2007 delegates from 109 countries have adopted a Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, the first internationally agreed framework to halt the erosion of livestock diversity and support the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources. This is the latest agreement.

EU Regulations on conservation of AnGR

The EU legal frameworks related to conservation and animal breeding are as follows:

Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF)

Opportunities to support conservation measures are to be further strengthened from 2007 onwards under

Council Regulation (EC) No. 1698/2005. on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

The objective is to compensate farmers who provide environmental services for the "additional costs and income foregone ... [and where necessary] ... may cover also transaction cost" (Article 39:4). The regulation requires that Member Countries establish national strategy plans setting out details of agri-environmental payments.

Regulation (EC) No. 817/2004

In this regulation financial support for farmers rearing farm animals of “local breeds indigenous to the area and in danger of being lost to farming” is regulated. Threshold population sizes, determining the eligibility of local breeds (of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, equines or poultry) for inclusion in the scheme are set out in this regulation:

Article 14

1. Support may relate to the following commitments:

(a) to rear farm animals of local breeds indigenous to the area and in danger of being lost to farming;

(b) to preserve plant genetic resources naturally adapted to the local and regional conditions and under threat of genetic erosion.

2. The local breeds and plant genetic resources must play a role in maintaining the environment on the area to which the measure provided for in paragraph 1 applies. The eligible species of farm animals and the criteria for determining the threshold of loss to farming of local breeds are defined in the table in Annex I to this Regulation.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1974/2006

of 15 December 2006 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) contents in article 27 (4) rearing farm animals of local breeds indigenous to the area and in danger of being lost to farming.

Reg. 817:ANNEX I (Article 14) / Reg. 1974:ANNEX IV (Article 27,4)

Eligible farm animal species Thresholds under which a local breed is considered as being in danger of being lost to farming (number of breeding females *):

Cattle	7.500
Sheep	10.000
Goat	10.000
Equidae	5.000
Pigs	15.000
Avian	25.000

- Number, calculated for all EU Member States, of breeding females of the same breed available for a pure-bred reproduction, included in a register recognised by the Member State (e.g. herd book or zoological book).

Countries

EU is a party of the CBD and, in consequence, all EU countries are obliged to develop national biodiversity strategies and conservation of AnGR. In Situ conservation is regarded as the preferable approach, because it enables utilization and characterisation and also adaptation to changing environmental conditions. The Biodiversity action plan was adopted in 2001. The CAP instruments provide the framework for integrating biodiversity concerns into EU agricultural policy. Directly related to the implementation of the Action Plan is Council Regulation (EC) No. 870/2004. Under this regulation the current project could be implemented.

(EU) Countries must enable the establishment of herd books and breeders' organizations. EU legislation defines a pure-bred animal as an “animal the parents and grandparents of which are entered or registered in a herd-book of the same breed, and which is itself either entered or registered and eligible for entry in such a herd-book.”