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**Contracting Authority: African Union – Interafrican Bureau for
Animal Resource**

**Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation
and Sustainable Utilisation of African Animal Genetic Resources**

**Guidelines
for call for proposals**

Contribution Agreement No: DCI-MULTI 2011/280-158

Reference: Call for Expression of interest 001

Deadline for submission of requests:

31st August 2015

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Summary of Award Opportunity

The African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) is a specialized technical office reporting to the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the AU Commission. The Institution is mandated to support and coordinate the improvement of Animal Resources (livestock, fisheries and wildlife) as a resource for human well-being in the member states of the African Union and contribute to economic development, particularly in rural areas. In the framework of the implementation of the EU funded project on “***Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of African Animal Genetic Resources***”, which supports the implementation of the Global Plan of Action (GPA) for Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) in Africa, in line with its current strategy AU-IBAR plan to support livestock breeders association on the continent.

In order to efficiently target the most indicated livestock Farmers/Breeders Associations for its financial support toward the implementation of their activities, the project proposed to send out Calls for proposals which will lead to awards of Grants.

The following call for proposals is composed of six sections:

- The first describe the award as well as the framework in which it is availed,
- The second provides the necessary information on the award among which the total available funds and the possible amounts of the awards.
- The third refers to the eligibility conditions while the fourth provides the methodology to apply.
- The last 2 sections focus respectively on the analysis of the applications and the provision of support or guiding information to ease application.

Section I: Funding Opportunity Description

1. Project Description

Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of African Animal Genetic Resources

Animal genetic resources (AnGR) for food and agriculture are essential for Africa food security and contribute to the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people. However, genetic improvement programs in Africa, by governments, non-governmental organizations, bilateral aid agencies, and the private sector, have favoured the use of exotic breeds for crossbreeding, upgrading, or replacement. These programs are mostly implemented without clear policies, regulatory frameworks, strategic thinking and a long term view and motivated by the objective of rapid productivity gains resulting in indiscriminate, uncoordinated or uncontrolled crossbreeding activities. Moreover, the trans-boundary nature of the spatial distribution of livestock breeds calls for harmonised legal and technical frameworks of exploiting the genetic attributes of Africa's livestock. Genetic resources are a global concern and of public interest that require global governance mechanisms.

Operating within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and in coherence with the Strategic Plan of the African Union Commission (AUC) Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA), the African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) contributes to the initiation and promotion of policies and strategies that can significantly impact on the development of the African rural economy and improve livelihoods through increasing agricultural productivity, ensuring food security and enhancing sustainable use and management of Africa's natural resources.

The Genetics project aims at strengthening the capacity of Member States (MS) and Regional Economic Communities (REC) to sustainably utilize and conserve African animal genetic resources through institutionalising national and regional policy, legal and technical instruments that are crucial for judicious exploitation of AnGR across the continent. It is anticipated that the project will strengthen the inherent capacities of RECs and the end-users at community level to improve the utilisation of AnGR and rural livelihoods through:

- Establishment of the status and trends of animal genetic resources in Africa;
- Development of Policy frameworks for the sustainable use of AnGR;
- Supporting and strengthening national and regional conservation and improvement strategies and initiatives;
- Increasing knowledge, attitude and practice of the contribution of livestock and livestock sector to economic growth, food security and poverty reduction.

2. Award description

The acknowledgement of the livestock sector's importance and its contribution to the countries' Gross Domestic Product (GDP), derives indubitably from the full involvement of all the keys

actors, among which livestock farmers/breeders/keepers and their forms of organization in the sector activities.

Livestock farmers/breeders/keepers associations can be essential to the long-term success of conserving animal genetic resources, by playing many roles, including the effective monitor for threats to the breeds and species. They are the main custodians of Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR). They have also a role to play in promoting the breeding strategies among their members and in implementing the strategies; their roles may similarly include practical tasks such as distribution of improved genetic material, animal recording and securing finance.

On the Continent, livestock associations have moved forward the agenda with regard to conservation and sustainable utilization of AnGR. The African Livestock International Conference and Exhibition (Alice) is one of these forums promoted by livestock association such as the Eastern and Southern Africa Dairy Association (ESADA), Kenya Livestock Producers Association (KLPA) and Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFB). In west Africa, community based groups have served as partners in Research and Development to move rural agriculture forward (e.g West African Shorthorn Breeders Association (WASHBA) members in the Saboba-Chereponi District in the Northern Region of Ghana. In Northern Africa region, farmers associations play a key role. The most known organizations in promoting the management of AnGRs include the National Association for Sheep and Goat Breeders (ANOC), the Maghreb Union of Sheep and Goat Associations (UMAOC) and the Maghreb Union of Cattle Breeders' Associations (UMAEB). These are national and regional organizations involved in coordination activities with local associations. In southern Africa region, the practice is more enriching and has numerous well-known breeders' associations (among others, Tuli Cattle Breeders' Society, the Boran Cattle Breeders' Society, the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Breeders' Society, the Beefmaster Cattle Breeders Society, The Brangus Cattle Breeders' Society, the Boer Goat Breeders' Association, the Nguni Cattle Breeders' Society and the Damara Sheep Breeders' Society). These co-exist with small holders associations dealing with local breeds and that will need support.

Farmers' and livestock keepers' associations, with the main objective of which is to promote the interest of their members, exist in various forms ranging from lobby organizations to producer cooperatives. Where there is a strong commercial sector, as in most developed countries, such associations are usually well organized and influential. Organizing breeders presents numerous challenges. In many African countries, however, farmers' and livestock keepers' associations are less well organized and sometimes scarcely visible. Their capacity and the size of their memberships vary. Furthermore, it cannot be taken for granted that such organizations represent the interests of all the farmers or livestock keepers in the country.

Farmers' and livestock keepers' associations are generally democratic institutions. Members have to meet requirements for active membership and participation and to agree to a set of rules. They are able to participate in shared decision-making, are eligible to register livestock and can benefit from recording schemes and promotional efforts.

Major lessons learned from previous and on-going interventions in Africa (e.g. Belgian Technical Cooperation projects on conservation of genetic resources in Sahel, and the FAO/UNDP N'Dama cattle breed Project in Guinea) on sustainable management of AnGR indicate that a participatory approach, involving the farmers, breeders and other livestock

keepers as much as possible is important, both to increase the accuracy of the information upon which the conservation programme will be based and to ensure interest and ownership of the programme on the part of the livestock keepers and thereby increase its sustainability. Livestock keepers are the key to the success of any breeding policy, and it is therefore essential that they be involved from the start. Their interests, goals and perspectives should be represented throughout the planning process.

In order to play adequately their role in the breeding and conservation domains, these organizations need to be strengthened and their capacities related to management of genetic resources improved. In the framework of the Genetics project, it is planned to support the establishment of regional breeders' association, as well as the support for their operations through the project life span.

In its implementation strategy, the project considered that areas related to conservation of AnGR should include incentive mechanisms to farmers for conservation and breeding of improved animals. Also, In concordance with this strategic option to support some of these Associations and considering the existence of multiple, varied level of capacity and functionality of these group of stakeholders, the efficiency in their support imposes setting criteria and conditions for a better targeting.

In order to successfully conduct genetic improvement initiatives on the continent as an economically viable industry, the result 3 of the Genetics Project is proposing technical and financial support to national and regional initiatives. High importance is given to collaboration among breeding institutions, research organizations and large enterprises from the regions and abroad to build up strategic alliances to share resources, and to achieve synergies in the common development of AnGR.

Within the Animal Production Unit, on 26th February 2015, an internal technical meeting was held to reflect on the possible mechanisms and criteria to support the various stakeholders namely: Member States, Sub-Regional Focal Points, Livestock Breeders/Farmers' Associations and regional initiatives on AnGR.

Specifically for the Genetics Project and for the support to Livestock Farmers/Breeders Associations, the deliberations concluded on:

- The applicant association should be
 - a livestock Farmers/Breeders Associations dealing with animals for food & agriculture and
 - be officially registered (at local or national level).
- An evaluation including the criteria for the selection of the Livestock Farmers/Breeders Associations was proposed and adopted.
- The applications from interested associations will be submitted following a call for proposal that will be published by AU-IBAR and circulated similarly to some identified Associations.
- After the selection and notification, the qualified livestock Farmers/Breeders Associations will undergo a "capacity assessment" as per the AU-IBAR procedures on "Sub-delegation" as described in the Manual, prior to signing the contract and allocation of the subvention.

- The transfers, monitoring and reporting will follow the other steps and procedures as described in the “Sub-delegation manual”.
- The target to support and achieve extreme impact will be a maximum of 2 livestock Farmers/Breeders Associations per region and the amount should not exceed **US\$ 15,000** each.

In order to implement the activity, the project invites qualified livestock Farmers/Breeders Associations to participate in the call for proposal process.

3. Overall objective of the Award

The global objective of the approach is to efficiently target the most indicated livestock Farmers/Breeders Associations for the project financial support toward their activities.

The specific objectives are to:

- Launch a call for proposal to select suitable livestock Farmers/Breeders Associations to be supported
- Provide Support to livestock Farmers/Breeders Associations in concordance to the AU-IBAR sub delegation manual.

Section II: Award Information

The total available fund for the award is **US\$ 300,000.00**

Estimate of funds available

Amount earmarked for support to breeders/ livestock farmers’ associations

- The maximum amount per Association: **US\$ 15,000.00**

Section III: Eligibility Information

1. Eligibility of applicants: who may apply?

In order to be eligible for a grant, applicants must be:

- A farmers/breeders’ association/organization dealing with animals for food & agriculture and officially registered (at local or national level) from AU Member state.

NB: Are not eligible

- Associations under EU and/or AUC sanction;
- Associations that have benefited similar Grant from the same project.

NB: The above-mentioned beneficiaries should be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action. In case they are associated with partners that are not part of the above mentioned categories, the beneficiary should not act as an intermediary.

2. Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made

Definition:

An action (or project) is composed of a set of activities, with clearly defined targets, to be implemented in a limited timeframe.

Duration

The planned duration of an action may not exceed 12 months.

Location

Local/community level or Country wide or transboundary level

Types of action

1. Actions aimed at Animal genetic resources conservation and utilisation activities.
2. Actions aimed at promotion of breeds or leading to labelling of specific breeds;
3. Actions included in the National and/or Regional action plans

Types of activity

The activities proposed should satisfy the following criteria

- A. Relevance to Genetics project overall objective
- B. Focus on breeding, conservation and utilization of animal genetic resources
- C. Innovative
- D. National and Regional relevance
- E. Replicable in neighboring countries or region / continent
- F. Targeting many stakeholders (Gender, Youth, producers, traders, public and private services providers, regulatory bodies, policy makers)
- G. Based on a well thought needs analysis
- H. Potential to generate at least 1 good practice paper

Section IV: Application and Submission Information

1. How to apply and the procedures to follow

Full Application form

Proposed proposal format

- I. Title page**
 - a. Title
 - b. Associations involved
 - c. Partners involved
- II. Introduction**
 - a. Problem statement
 - b. Literature review
- III. Description of the action**
 - a. Overall objective
 - b. Specific objective
 - c. Expected results
 - d. Activities
- IV. Budget**
- V. Potential to generate a good practice paper**
- VI. References**

2. Where and how to send the Full Application form?

Applications must be submitted by email to: procurement@au-ibar.org

Applicants mentioning partners should send the applications with the partners' statements.

3. Submission deadlines and times

The applications must be received by 31st August 2015

4. Further information for the Full Application form

Questions may be sent by e-mail [or by fax] no later than 21 days before the deadline for the submission of applications to the addresses listed below, indicating clearly the reference of the Call for proposals:

E-mail address: pissang.tchangai@au-ibar.org and edward.nengomasha@au-ibar.org

Contracting Authority has no obligation to provide further clarifications after this date.

Replies will be given no later than 11 days before the deadline for the submission of applications.

In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of an applicant, a partner or an action.

Questions that may be relevant to other applicants, together with the answers, will be published on the internet at website www.au-ibar.org . It is therefore highly recommended to regularly consult the abovementioned website in order to be informed of the questions and answers published

Section V: Application Review Information

1. Evaluation and selection of applications

Applications will be examined and evaluated by the Contracting Authority with the possible assistance of implementing partners and the European Commission. All actions submitted by applicants will be assessed according to the following steps and criteria.

If the examination of the application reveals that the proposed action does not meet the eligibility criteria, the application shall be rejected on this sole basis.

Criteria	Score
1. Relevance of the action	35
1.1 How relevant is the proposal to the objectives and priorities of the Call for Expression of interest?* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance to Genetics Project overall objective • Focus on breeding, conservation and utilization of animal genetic resources • Regional relevance • Innovation • Replicable in neighboring countries or region / continent • Based on a well thought needs analysis (GPA, NAP,...) • Potential to generate a good practice paper 	
2. Design of the action	10
2.1 How coherent is the overall design of the action? In particular, does it reflect the analysis of the problems involved; take into account external factors and relevant stakeholders?	5
2.2 Is the action feasible and consistent in relation to the objectives and expected results?	5
1. Financial and operational capacity	20
1.1 Do the applicant and, if applicable, partners have sufficient experience of project management?	5
1.2 Do the applicant and, if applicable partners have sufficient technical expertise? (notably knowledge of the issues to be addressed)	5
1.3 Do the applicant and, if applicable, partners have sufficient management capacity? (including staff, equipment and ability to handle the budget for the action)?	5

1.4 Does the applicant have stable and sufficient sources of finance to ensure co-funding and implementation ?	5
4. Sustainability of the action	15
4.1 Is the action likely to have a tangible impact on its target groups?	5
4.2 Is the proposal likely to have multiplier effects? (Including scope for replication and extension of the outcome of the action and dissemination of information.)	10
3. Effectiveness and feasibility of the action	10
3.1 Are the activities proposed appropriate, practical, and consistent with the objectives and expected results?	2.5
3.2 Is the action plan clear and feasible?	2.5
3.3 Does the proposal contain objectively verifiable indicators for the outcome of the action? Is evaluation foreseen?	2.5
3.4 Is the partners' level of involvement and participation in the action satisfactory?	2.5
5. Budget and cost-effectiveness of the action	10
Are the activities appropriately reflected in the budget?	10
Maximum total score	100

Section VI: Award Administration Information

1. Notification of the Contracting Authority's decision

A. Content of the decision

Applicants will be informed in writing of the Contracting Authority's decision concerning their application and, in case of rejections, the reasons for the negative decision.

B. Indicative time table

	DATE	TIME*
Deadline for request for any clarifications from the Contracting Authority	13 th August 2015	15.00 hours local time
Last date on which clarifications are issued by the Contracting Authority	23 rd August 2015	15.00 hours local time
Deadline for submission of applications	31st August 2015	15.00 hour's local time (as evidenced by the date of dispatch, the postmark or the date of the deposit slip).
Information to applicants on the evaluation	30th September 2015	-

Notification of award (after the eligibility check)	30 th September 2015	-
Contract signature	15 th Oct 2015	-

***Provisional date.** All times are in the time zone of the country of the Contracting Authority

This indicative timetable may be updated by the Contracting Authority during the procedure. In such case, the updated timetable shall be published on internet at the AU-IBAR website.