



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

COMMISSION ON
GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE

Agenda item 3

STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES

CGRFA/WG-AqGR-6/26/2



Introduction

✓ The Global Plan of Action was adopted by 168th Session of FAO Council, in December 2021

✓ Four Priority Areas



INVENTORY, CHARACTERIZATION AND MONITORING

Establish and strengthen national and global characterization, monitoring and information systems for AqGR



CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF AqGR

Promote the conservation and sustainable use of cultured and wild relative AqGR



DEVELOPMENT OF AqGR FOR AQUACULTURE

Accelerate the development and uptake of genetic improvement of aquaculture farmed types, with a focus on the expansion of selective breeding programmes

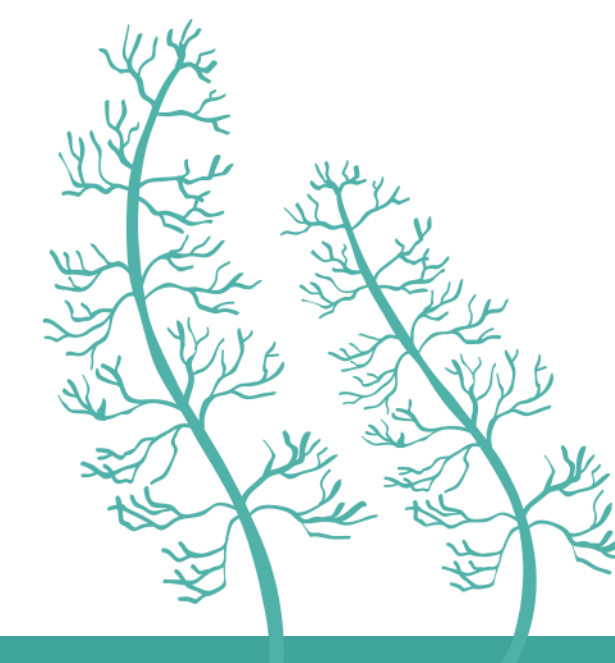


POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Promote the development of AqGR-related policies, support the development of stakeholder institutions and build capacity to support the management of AqGR

21 strategic priorities

≈100 actions



Country implementation of the Global Plan of Action

Feedback received from 21 National Focal Points



Priority Area 1
Actions
Development and/or update of AqGR databases
Genetic characterization of farmed and wild stocks
Monitoring of genetic status of wild populations and introgression with escapees
Challenges & needs
Absence of national AqGR databases
Limited capacity in genetic characterization and monitoring of AqGR



Priority Area 2
Actions
<i>In situ</i> species conservation
Habitat restoration (e.g. restoration of mangrove ecosystems)
Establishment of in vitro gene banks for conservation and/or hatchery production; development of cryopreservation protocols
Challenges & needs
Weakly structured conservation programmes
Lack of baseline genetic information to support the appropriate conservation actions



Country implementation of the Global Plan of Action



Priority Area 3
Actions
Development of breeding programmes and hatchery improvement initiatives
Development of innovative farming practices for the valorization of new species
Development of innovative farming practices for broodstock management and larval rearing
Trainings on selective breeding and broodstock management for national stakeholders
Challenges & needs
Inconsistent seed quality
Lack of national breeding programmes
Infrastructure and institutional capacity
Limited public data to start breeding programmes



Priority Area 4
Actions
Strengthening of regulatory and institutional coordination and capacity
Training and awareness-raising activities
Improved integration of AqGR management into national policy frameworks
Regional initiatives for information exchange and networking
Challenges & needs
Improving national and regional exchange of information among relevant stakeholders
Establishing or strengthening national institutions with mandate in AqGR management
Mobilizing resources for AqGR conservation and development
Developing AqGR national policies and strategies



FAO activities facilitating implementation

- ✓ At its 20th Regular Session, the Commission FAO continued to distribute the Global Plan of Action and promote its implementation at relevant events:
 - International Seaweed Symposium 2025 (Canada, May 2025)
 - Regional virtual workshops on “FAO reporting and monitoring framework on the status and trends of management of aquatic genetic resources”, (online, November and December 2025)
 - Consultancy Meeting on Nuclear Techniques in Aquaculture organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (Austria, February 2026)



1- AquaGRIS

- ✓ At its 20th Regular Session, the Commission:
 - recommended that FAO continue to provide technical support, including through manuals and training
 - emphasized need for interoperability
 - agreed to consider the frequency of the updating of AquaGRIS at its Twenty-first Regular Session
- ✓ FAO has continued to host, maintain and further develop AquaGRIS, thanks to financial support of Federal Republic of Germany (Project GCP/GLO/1173/GER – end date May 2027)
- ✓ Several updates implemented



1- AquaGRIS – updates

Data-entry UI

Accessible exclusively to National Focal Points and other nominated contributors. It includes:

- resource indicator questionnaire
- process indicator questionnaire – finalized following testing in January 2026

Public data-dissemination UI

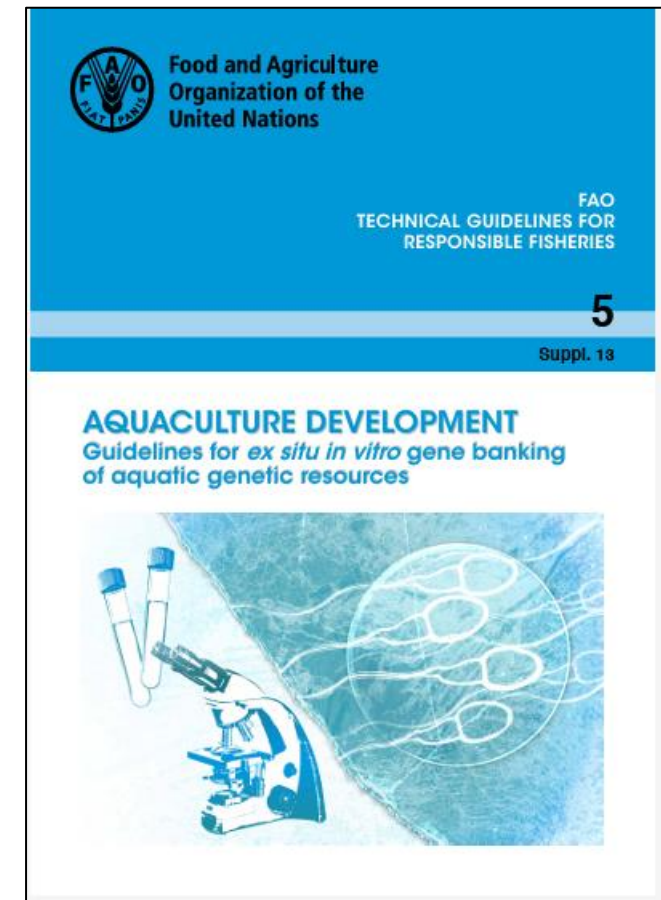
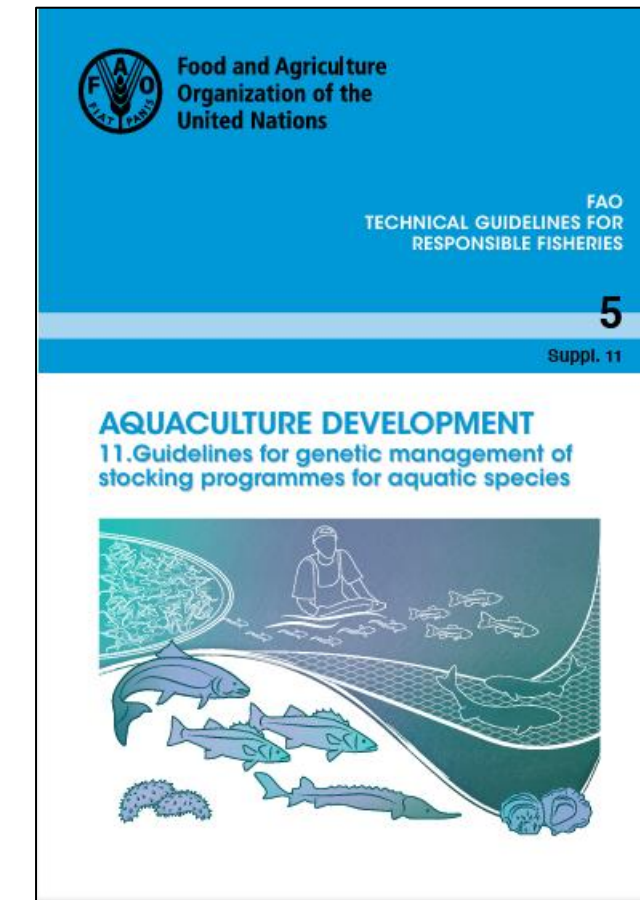
Accessible to any user from FAO website. It includes:

- country, species, farmed type and genetic stock fact sheets
- AqGR glossary
- resource and process indicator tools

Contents of both UIs translated into all UN languages, with deployment planned by November 2026

2- Capacity development and knowledge sharing – *Technical guidelines and toolkits*

- ✓ Guidelines revised, finalized and published:
 - *Guidelines on genetic management in stocking programmes for aquatic species*
 - *Guidelines for ex situ in vitro gene banking of aquatic genetic resources*
- ✓ Other documents prepared/under finalization:
 - *Draft technical guidelines for establishing genetic breeding programmes in small-scale aquaculture (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-6/26/2/Inf.1)*
 - *Manual for responding to the resource indicator questionnaire on aquatic genetic resources (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-6/26/2/Inf.2)*
 - *Manual for responding to the process indicator questionnaire on aquatic genetic resources (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-6/26/2/Inf.3)*
 - *Rapid Aquaculture Seed Production Assessment toolkit (Aqua-SeedProd)*



2- Capacity development and knowledge sharing – *Monitoring of AqGR*

- ✓ Adaptation of questions in AquaGRIS following Working Group's recommendation at its last Session to:

- i. quantify extent of characterization of genetic resource

PA1.R1(H) – Extent of recording of AqGR in AquaGRIS

- ii. enable creation of indicators to quantify germplasm stored in *ex situ* gene banks for species, farmed types and genetic stocks

PA2.R6.2– Extent of (a) species, (b) wild stocks and (c) farmed types subject to ex situ in vitro conservation

2- Capacity development and knowledge sharing – Monitoring of AqGR



Convention on
Biological Diversity

- ✓ CBD Notification 2025/044 – **four AquaGRIS indicators proposed for inclusion in the KMGBF in May 2025:**
 - **All four indicators proposed for inclusion as complementary indicators in the KMGBF (only 17 in total are proposed)**
 - Selected out of more than a hundred changes and new indicators submitted by Parties and observers
 - Proposals will be discussed at the **next SBSTTA/SBI, from 26 July in Nairobi**



Proposed indicators:

- Extent of lost farmed types (Target 4)
- Extent of wild populations subject to conservation (Target 4)
- Extent of *ex situ* conservation for important farmed types (Target 4)
- Extent of non-native species used in aquaculture posing a risk for native biodiversity (Target 6)

2-Capacity development and knowledge sharing – *Training events and opportunities*

- ✓ Five regional virtual workshops on AqGR reporting and monitoring framework (November-December 2025) – for National Focal Points and their nominees

Region	Country	In-depth AquaGRIS training	Started reporting / initial reporting steps
Africa	Algeria		✓
Africa	Madagascar	✓	✓
Africa	Nigeria	✓	✓
Africa	Uganda	✓	✓
Europe	France	✓	✓
Europe	Türkiye		✓
Europe	Ukraine	✓	✓
Latin America & Caribbean	Antigua and Barbuda	✓	
Latin America & Caribbean	Bahamas	✓	
Latin America & Caribbean	Belize	✓	
Latin America & Caribbean	Brazil	✓	✓
Latin America & Caribbean	Dominica	✓	
Latin America & Caribbean	Grenada	✓	
Latin America & Caribbean	Guyana	✓	
Latin America & Caribbean	Jamaica	✓	
Latin America & Caribbean	Saint Kitts and Nevis	✓	
Latin America & Caribbean	Saint Lucia	✓	
Latin America & Caribbean	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	✓	
Latin America & Caribbean	Suriname	✓	
Latin America & Caribbean	Trinidad and Tobago	✓	✓
North America	Canada		✓

2-Capacity development and knowledge sharing – *Training events and opportunities*

- ✓ Publication of e-learning course Aquaculture Breeding and Genetics (accessed by 2,331 learners) – in collaboration with Nofima
- ✓ Technical assistance in developing a national strategy for the sustainable management of aquatic genetic resources (TCP/INS/3904) – project ended in June 2025
- ✓ Development of a strategy to implement the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, funded by the Government of Chile



Guidance sought

The Working Group may wish to:

- a. acknowledge FAO activities to facilitate Global Plan of Action implementation
- b. welcome the publication of:
 - i. *Glossary for aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture*
 - ii. *Guidelines for genetic management of stocking programmes for aquatic species*
 - iii. *Guidelines for ex situ in vitro gene banking of aquatic genetic resources*
 - iv. e-learning course *Aquaculture Breeding and Genetics*
- c. review and, as appropriate, revise the draft guidelines for breeding programmes in SSA and recommend finalization
- d. take note of the preparation of the Manuals for the process and resource indicator questionnaires

Guidance sought

The Working Group may wish to:

e. recommend that the Commission:

- i. stress the importance of FAO's continued support to Members to facilitate the effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action
- ii. invite FAO to continue to host, improve and maintain AquaGRIS and support Members in its use
- iii. urge Members to prioritize the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including by mobilizing the resources
- iv. call upon governments and donors to make financial resources available to support the implementation and monitoring of the Global Plan of Action.