



INFORMATIVE BULLETIN

Conservation and Improvement of Genetic Resources (Animals, Plants and Forests)

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Conservation and Improvement of Genetic Resources (Animals, Plants and Forests)

Areas of Intervention

Within the scope of **animal genetic resources**, ensuring the conservation and improvement of resources, of native breeds and non-native breeds, population management and monitoring work, genetic, productive and demographic characterization, the promotion of the genetic evolution of the characteristics of interest in each breed, as the ultimate goal of improvement programs, through genetic or genomic evaluation and the use of selected breeding stock, as well as the collection and conservation of genetic material in the Portuguese animal germplasm bank, and the promotion, dissemination and enhancement of animal genetic resources.

For the conservation and improvement of **plant genetic resources**, support is given to actions provided for in conservation or genetic improvement programs approved by the competent authority. Conservation or genetic improvement programs have a maximum duration of five years, and a second program may be submitted after the first has been completed.

In the forestry component, support is given to actions for the conservation and improvement of **forest genetic resources** provided for in projects that are in line with the Public Administration Operational Program for the Conservation and Improvement of Forest Genetic Resources (PROGEN). Given its multi-annual nature and its integration into the forestry area, the aim is also to create the conditions for safeguarding the genetic material studied and conserved by PROGEN.

Conservation or genetic improvement projects have a maximum duration of five years, and a second project can be submitted once the first has been completed.

This intervention contributes to the following PEPAC targets:

Number of operations contributing to environmental sustainability and to achieving mitigation and adaptation to climate change in rural areas.

Geographical Area

National Territory.

Conservation and Improvement of Genetic Resources (Animals, Plants and Forests)

Eligible entities

- **Animal Genetic Resources** - Associative organizations in charge of managing herd books and public or private entities or their partnerships in support of the conservation and improvement of animal genetic resources.
- **Plant and Forest Genetic Resources** - Public entities, their partnerships, including partnerships with private entities, or by private entities in protocol with the State.

Access conditions

Animal Genetic Resources

- Existence of a conservation and/or improvement plan approved by the DGAV and provision of the respective information by the associative organizations to the official databases;
- Associative organizations must have the human and material resources, technical and scientific support capacity needed to carry out actions, directly or through other breeders' organizations, with a view to complying with the Animal Genetic Conservation Programme or the Animal Genetic Improvement Programme.

Plant Genetic Resources

- Existence of a conservation and/or improvement programme approved by the DGAV and availability of the respective information in official databases;
- The programmes must respect the plant species with value for agriculture and food covered by the National Plan for Plant Genetic Resources (PNRGV), belonging to one of the groups and bringing together the minimum number of accessions, genotypes, artificial crosses, populations or clones to be defined by the DGAV.

Forest Genetic Resources

- Existence of a conservation and/or improvement plan approved by the competent authority in line with the Public Administration Operational Programme for the Conservation and Improvement of Forest Genetic Resources (PROGEN).

Conservation and Improvement of Genetic Resources (Animals, Plants and Forests)

Eligible Expenditure

Animal Genetic Resources

Eligible expenses are those that are directly related to the implementation of an Animal Genetic Conservation Program or an Animal Genetic Improvement Program approved by the DGAV, which respect the autochthonous breeds and non-autochthonous breeds identified in the annex, namely those related to actions:

- Registration in the Genealogical Book of Autochthonous and Non-Autochthonous Breeds;
- Conservation and genetic improvement;
- Monitoring, genetic and productive characterization of Autochthonous Breeds;
- “Genetic Evaluation” in Autochthonous Breeds;
- Management of herd books;

- Implementation and execution of animal genetic improvement programmes by breeders' organizations officially recognized for the management of herd books or by the official service responsible, and management of computerized databases on breeds, namely herd books and improvement programmes;

- Actions to promote and publicize the breeds, including participation in breed exhibitions and/or competitions;

- Collection and conservation of genetic material in the Portuguese Animal Germplasm Bank (BPGA), including duplicate poles.

Plant Genetic Resources

Expenditure that is directly related to:

- Conservation actions:
- Prospecting and collecting the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and their wild relatives;
- Conservation of collections of cultivated species and their wild relatives;
- Characterization of collections of cultivated species and their wild relatives;

Conservation and Improvement of Genetic Resources (Animals, Plants and Forests)

- Registration in the National Information System for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture based on the GRIN GLOBAL platform.

■ Improvement actions:

- Targeted genetic evaluation and identification of genotypes of interest in collections of cultivated species and their wild relatives;

- Creation of genetic variability through the introgression of traits of interest;

- Selection of materials in segregating populations, populations of materials collected from the national spontaneous flora and selection in species with intravarietal variability;

- Agronomic and technological evaluation of genotypes;

- Registration of varieties in the National Variety Catalogs;

- Registration of traditional and/or conservation varieties in the National Catalog of Varieties.

Forest Genetic Resources

Expenditure directly related to:

■ Collecting samples and carrying out laboratory analyses, setting up, selecting and monitoring experimental fields, mapping and georeferencing, preventive forestry operations and actions related to the systematization and transfer of knowledge;

■ Support for investments in infrastructure and equipment to protect the existing collections and stands studied and monitored by PROGEN, particularly those related to fire risk.

Grant

The grant provided for in this decree takes the form of annual payments under the integrated management and control system.

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