

## Annex 2

### **Explanatory note on the National Catalogue of Livestock and Poultry Genetic Resources (consultation draft)**

The Ministry has organised and drafted the “National Catalogue of Livestock and Poultry Genetic Resources (consultation draft)” (hereafter referred to as “the Catalogue”) in accordance with the relevant provisions of the “Decisions of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress relating to a total prohibition on illegal wildlife trade, eliminating the bad habit of excessive eating of wildlife, and effectively safeguarding the lives and health of the public” (hereafter referred to as “the Decisions”) and the “Animal Husbandry Law of the People’s Republic of China”. Opinions are now being sought from the public. The following explanatory note is provided regarding the current relevant circumstances.

#### 1) Necessity and basis

Article 2 of the Animal Husbandry Law stipulates: “This Law applies to the protection, utilisation, breeding, keeping, trade, transportation and other activities relating to livestock and poultry genetic resources conducted within the territory of the People’s Republic of China. The term “livestock and poultry” as used in this Law refers to livestock and poultry included in the catalogue of livestock and poultry genetic resources to be published in accordance with Article 11 of this Law.” Article 11 stipulates: “The department responsible for administration of livestock husbandry and veterinary medicine under the State Council is responsible for organising research into livestock and poultry genetic resources, shall issue reports relating to the state of national livestock and poultry genetic resources, and shall publish the catalogue of livestock and poultry genetic resources following approval from the State Council.” The Decisions of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress stipulate: “The department responsible for administration of livestock husbandry and veterinary medicine under the State Council shall draw up and publish the catalogue of livestock and poultry genetic resources in accordance with the law.” Drawing up the Catalogue is an important step in implementing the requirements of the Decisions, shall help to clarify the scope of the application of the Animal Husbandry Law, and is of great significance in regulating the supervision and management of the livestock industry, correctly handling the relationship between resource protection and utilisation and development of the industry, promoting the sustained healthy growth of the livestock industry and safeguarding the lives and health of the public.

#### 2) Development process and key contents

Following the issuance of the Decisions of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, the Ministry accelerated the drawing up of the Catalogue, building on two nationwide surveys of livestock and poultry genetic resources and clarification of such resources. The ministry solicited opinions from 36 central departments, 31 provincial-level people’s governments and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps; convened a special symposium to hear the opinions of experts and scholars

from relevant scientific research institutes, higher education institutions and industry; and constantly revised and improved the list to develop the Catalogue. The Catalogue includes a total of 31 types of traditional household livestock and special livestock, and has essentially ensured that domestic livestock and poultry that should be listed are listed.

1. 18 kinds of traditional livestock and poultry: pigs, ordinary cattle, zebu, water buffalo, domestic yaks, gayal, sheep, goats, horses, donkeys, camels, rabbits, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, pigeons and quails.
2. 13 kinds of special livestock and poultry: sika deer, red deer, reindeer, alpaca, guineafowl, ring-necked pheasant, partridge, mallard, ostrich, rhea, emu, mink, blue fox, Arctic fox, racoon-dog.

### 3) Explanatory notes on several key issues

1. Principles behind drawing up the catalogue.

“Livestock and poultry” refers to domestic animals that have been domesticated and selectively bred for a long time by humans, populations of which exist at a certain scale and which are used in agricultural production. Populations can propagate under artificial conditions and demonstrate fundamental differences from wild populations. They produce products for humans such as meat, eggs, milk, fur, fibres or medical ingredients, or meet the needs of the military or sport. Such mammals are referred to as livestock, whereas birds are poultry. During the process of drawing up the Catalogue, the following four principles were strictly adhered to, based on the actual situation relating to breeding of livestock and poultry in China. Firstly, adhere to science. The livestock and poultry included in the catalogue must have been domesticated and kept by humans for a long time, with established traits artificially selected for for economic reasons. Secondly, highlight safety and prioritise safeguarding of food safety, public health and safety, and ecological safety. Third, respect the customs of minorities, consider factors such as the production and lifestyle needs of multiple ethnic groups and traditional cultures. Fourth, align with the international community and consult common international methods and practices.

#### 2. Special kinds of livestock and poultry

Special livestock and poultry listed in the Catalogue refer to livestock and poultry other than traditional kinds, primarily including: sika deer, which has been bred for a long time and for which there exists a perfected industrial system; red deer, for which there is a tradition of keeping in ethnic minority areas in the Western region, such as Xinjiang, Gansu, Ningxia and Inner Mongolia; reindeer, which are important for production of daily living materials for the Evenki minority, mainly distributed in Genhe City and its surrounds in Inner Mongolia; alpaca, an introduced breed with a long history of breeding and domestication and various uses; guineafowl, ring-necked pheasant, partridge, mallard, ostrich (including African ostrich, rhea and emu), which are all breeds introduced from abroad and for which there are established techniques for keeping and breeding; fur animals including mink, silver fox, Arctic fox and racoon-

dog, of which China has already cultivated breeds suitable for domestic rearing, and which are mainly used for fur processing and product export, not for consumption as food.

### 3. The relationship between “type” and breed of livestock and poultry in the Catalogue

The 31 types of livestock and poultry listed in the Catalogue each belong to a single taxonomic “species”, and their forms are relatively fixed. Building upon the species, over a long period of artificial selected breeding and improvement, varieties with relatively stable genetic traits and different productive capacities have been developed, and the number of breeds is constantly changing with innovations in breeding and introductions from abroad. Breeds of livestock and poultry are subject to review and appraisal by the National Livestock and Poultry Genetic Resources Committee, including local breeds, cultivated breeds and imported breeds.

### 4. The relationship between livestock and poultry in the Catalogue and terrestrial wildlife

The Catalogue is a supplementary list for implementation of the Decisions of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, and also represents the list which the Animal Husbandry Law specifically requires be drawn up, with clear legal and strict scientific bounds. The livestock and poultry listed in the Catalogue shall be subject to the Animal Husbandry Law, and shall be managed by departments responsible for livestock husbandry and veterinary medicine. The wild populations of the species listed in the “Catalogue” and terrestrial wildlife that is not listed in the Catalogue shall be subject to the Wildlife Protection Law, and shall be managed by departments of forestry and grassland.

### 5. Dogs

With progress in human civilisation and the attention and preferences of the public with regard to protection of animals, dogs have from traditional domestic animals become “specialised” as companion animals. Internationally, they are generally not regarded as livestock, and it would be inappropriate for China to list them as livestock.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs is responsible for explaining this Catalogue. Where need for amendment of the Catalogue is clear from its implementation in practice, this shall be undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, based on circumstances in reality, and shall be reported to the State Council for approval following careful consideration and evaluation.