

International Camel Consortium for genetic improvement and conservation (ICC-GIC)

PREAMBULE

The dromedary camel (*Camelus dromedarius*) has been relatively left out from the livestock “genomic revolution” until recently. This is particularly unfortunate given the importance of the species for many pastoral societies, and in a context where several dromedary populations are at risk of losing their genetic diversity or even are close to extinction. The recent publications of the dromedary camel *Camelus dromedaries*, domestic Bactrian camel *C. bactrianus* and wild Bactrian *C. ferus* genome sequences of references are opening the door to extensive genomics studies in Old World camelids. However, at the opposite of other major livestock species no genome-wide screening tool is today available and no population genomics study has so far been published for these species.

Performance recording of individual animals is usually associated with selection for genetic improvement. Despite the recently recognised milk and meat production potential of dromedary camels and their remarkable ability to survive on marginal resources in extreme conditions, dromedary camels have not been specifically selected for milk and meat productions and no systematic methods have been applied for genetic improvement. Parallel with this, there is little differentiation among camel populations (breeds) and the distinction is not based on sound quantitative parameters. The lack of camel identification and production recording systems are considered to be the major obstacles that face any attempt to develop camel agribusiness.

According to the need for improvement of camel performances as an important genetic resource while conserving biodiversity and local adaptation, it is decided:

ARTICLE 1 - NAME AND SEAT

The name of the Consortium is **International Camel Consortium for Genetic Improvement and Conservation (ICC-GIC)**. The Consortium is created under the umbrella of FAO. ISOCARD is the official society of the International Camel Consortium. The Consortium logo and the website link are reported in the Annex A.

The headquarter of the Consortium is the country and city where the Secretariat is established; this place is also venue for any court case and the legal system of the country in which the Secretariat is placed is applicable to all activities of ICC-GIC.

ARTICLE 2 - CHARACTER

The Consortium is a non-political, non-religious and non profit-making network of actors (individuals/groups, private/public) interested and/or involved in camel conservation, management, animal phenotypic recording and genetic improvement.

ARTICLE 3 – MISSION

The overall mission of the Consortium is to support at various levels the network of involved scientists and professionals in order to boost, harmonize, coordinate activities and collaborate on camel genetic conservation, management, animal phenotypic recording and genetic improvement in order to promote sustainable development of the camel sector and food security.

ARTICLE 4 - OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSORTIUM

- To propose the development and implementation of tools for genetic improvement, including identification and recording systems, genome map, SNP-Chip, full genome sequencing, etc...
- To promote sharing of resources (bio-bank, gene-banks, database, genome information)
- website
- To exchange expertise and strengthen capacities within ICC-GIC
- To standardize and make available protocols (phenotypes, recording data, samples collection and storage for bio-bank, etc...)
- To support policy makers in the design and implementation of strategies for conservation and genetic improvement of camel production
- To encourage the creation of camel nucleus per country for breed characterization
- To mobilize resources for implementing ICC-GIC activities

ARTICLE 5 - MEMBERSHIP

The membership shall consist of:

- Active scientists and professionals in the field of camel genetics, molecular biology and camel production
- Local, regional, national and international public institutions active in the camel sector
- Private camel stakeholders (sector associations, companies and individuals)

Membership application can be addressed to the Executive Committee using the application form in Annex B.

ARTICLE 6 - ORGANS

The organs of the Consortium are the “Executive Committee”, the “Scientific committee” and its sub-committees, and the “Development committee”

- “**EXECUTIVE** Committee” consisting of:

- The Chairman (ICC-GIC representative role, coordination of general activities, responsibilities over the financial and administrative issues)
- Two Vice chairmen (serving as Chairman in the latter's absence)
- The General Secretariat (supporting role for tasks under the responsibility of the Chairman, general reporting issues, etc...; in charge for six years)
- The Treasurer (responsibilities over the financial and administrative issues)

The current *ad hoc* Executive Committee will act as a temporary executive committee until the next general assembly (within the next three years).

- “Developmental committee” consisting of representatives from the different participating countries
- “Scientific committee” consisting of active camel scientists in the field of genetic improvement and conservation

A general ICC-GIC meeting could be organized during periodic ISOCARD conference or any other international valuable event.

All the Committee members could organize specific workshops whenever needed.

ARTICLE 7 - THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee is the highest organ of the Consortium, both in terms of legislation and decision-making. It shall be elected by the majority of the general assembly.

ARTICLE 8 - THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The ICC-GIC general assembly is organised during the ISOCARD periodic Conference. Among its goals, there will be also the re-election of the executive committee. The President can be elected for a maximum of two mandates.

ARTICLE 9 - OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The official and working language of the Consortium shall be English. But the general information on this website of the Consortium should be available in English, Arabic, and French in order to cover the main languages spoken by camel scientists worldwide. Links will be provided on the front page. It will not be necessary for the entire website to be replicated in each language – only relevant sections for each sector.

ARTICLE 11 - BANK ACCOUNT

A bank account at the name of Consortium should be open at the country where the chairman is established. The available funds are managed by the Chairman and the Treasurer with the agreement of the whole Executive Committee in case of expense above 1000 USD.

ARTICLE 10 - DISSOLUTION

A decision to dissolve the Consortium shall require the consent of at least two thirds of the votes cast by the members present and voting. It may only be taken at a meeting of the General Assembly specially called for this purpose. The procedures applied to the dissolution shall be those required by the laws of the country in which the Secretariat is situated.

ARTICLE 11 - BY-LAWS AND CONGRESS RULES

In order to regulate the affairs of the Consortium, the Executive Committee shall draw up By-laws and Congress Rules to be approved by the president and vice-president.

ARTICLE 12 - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND CONGRESS RULES

Amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws and Congress Rules shall only be proposed by the Executive committee and approved by the General Assembly at any of its meetings. Provided members are advised at least four months in advance by the Secretariat.

ARTICLE 13 - FINAL REGULATION

This Constitution was suggested by the participants to the workshop on “Genetic improvement of camel performances” held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 7-9 April 2015 and the present statute was proposed by the nominated *ad hoc* committee composed of:

- Faisal Almathen (KSA) as Chairmen of the Committee
- Fuad Alzuraiq (KSA) Treasurer
- Bernard Faye (KSA/France) Vice Chairman responsible for Development Committee
- Elena Ciani (Italy) Vice Chairmen, General Secretariat
- Pamela Burger (Austria) Vice Chairman responsible for Scientific Committee
- Mohammed Bengoumi (FAO)
- Hussain Bahbahani (Kuwait)
- Habbib Yahyaoui (Tunisia)