

WHAGR VI

★ *Overview*

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO), agricultural biodiversity that took our ancestors over ten thousand years to develop is disappearing at an unprecedented rate. Preserving the ability to utilize all of these vital resources is paramount for present and future world food security. Global veterinary and animal science educational systems are struggling to keep pace with new and changing agricultural demands, climate change and evolving diseases. Universities are struggling to fill the expanding void that exists between these sciences and prepare enough students for these increasing and changing world demands.

Advances in genomic research, veterinary medicine and animal sciences have given rise to a unique opportunity to integrate biodiversity conservation with these academic disciplines. The UN FAO in collaboration with Birchwood Conservancy are poised to develop the World Heritage Animal Genetic Repository Veterinary Institute (WHAGR VI) global network. Birchwood Conservancy's vision offers the opportunity for present and future generations of veterinary and animal science students and genomic researchers the advantage of unparalleled access to the world's rarest agricultural animal biodiversity resources. WHAGR VI will be the first institution of its kind integrating genomic and veterinary and animal sciences through agricultural animal resource conservation, education and research. WHAGR VI, headquarters shall extend these opportunities to other nations, through UN FAO cooperation, by a "hub and spoke" network of institutions. WHAGR VI will become a new world model of education and shall serve as an international think tank for the best and brightest veterinary, animal science, and genomics educators and students, positively influencing future veterinarians and scientists in all corners of the world.

