

SAVE eNews 1/2012

Quarterly e-mail service of the European SAVE Foundation
(Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe)



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Feral Populations in Europe

The feral, white Camargue horses are a well known breed from France. For visitors of the Camargue at the mouth of the Rhone river they are a symbol of freedom and adventure. Together with the Betizu cattle in the Pyrenees, the Chillingham cattle in England, the Sandsøya goats in Norway and many other breeds and varieties they were once farm animals and are now feral and exist mostly without the influence of humans – sometimes since many hundreds of years. In other parts of Europe, horses, cattle, goats and sheep



Camargue Horse; source: tgv-europe

have been left to themselves – sometimes due to migration away from war zones or disadvantaged rural areas. These feral or semi-feral populations have often been more or less ignored. Unless, of course, they disturb forestry or agriculture through disease, damage, cross-breeding, fodder or water competition. Nature protection bodies view these populations ambivalently: on the one hand, these livestock populations have a massive impact on the eco-system balance, on the other hand they are put to use as semi-feral populations in the conservation of natural and park landscapes. Thus, the New Forest in England has been grazed by horses, cattle and pigs for hundreds of years and a unique park-like landscape with its own ecosystem has been created. The interaction between the management of indigenous livestock breeds and the traditional agro-eco-system are of great importance to conservation of both types of biodiversity – the wildlife and the domesticated.

Up to now there has been no overview of the European feral and semi-feral livestock populations. With the project "The Ecological Value of Feral Populations in Europe" SAVE Foundation addresses this issue and the problems surrounded the often forgotten feral and semi-feral populations. The project aims to collect data and information about the occurrence of feral breeds and varieties of livestock, to network key persons from the In Situ - On Farm conservation work as well as nature protection organisations and to develop plans for "best management".

Documentation

65 breeds and populations in 22 countries have already been identified. Also within this data are feral livestock which cannot be identified within a breed, such as for example, the feral ponies in the Axios Delta in Greece or the horses in the protected area Hutovo Blato in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Exactly such populations show that terms such as feral, semi-feral and semi-domesticated are "points on a continuum from wild to domesticated species" (Prescott-Allen et al 1996). Especially in southern and south-eastern Europe the herds of feral livestock breeds are hardly known about. It is often a Sisyphean task to obtain general information, let alone attempt to verify a breed. Thus, it is estimated that in Greece about 3000 horses are living in feral conditions in diverse regions and islands. In the Balkan countries the situation is equally unclear. However, here at least there are some clues to follow up. In the Pyrenees some populations are well described. But there is conflict with the local people and the tourist organisations. In other countries there are also similar conflicts. Furthermore, there are often, sometimes massive, legal problems and problems of acceptance, which are explained below:

Marketing and direct payments



Current EU regulations stipulate a clear traceability. This means that the animals must be marked. Markers for feral and semi-feral grazing animals are, however, difficult to apply. In addition, earmarks frequently tear and get lost. The use of meat for human consumption is possible only from registered animals. Even if, as in the case of the Chillingham cattle, it is recognized as a wild animal, the meat may not be sold as game, because it is classified as "non-hunted"

game. Marketing as a niche product can therefore only take place in semi-feral situations using appropriate labelling. Regardless of these regulations, wild cattle in particular, are often hunted illegally. Additionally, direct payments can only be made for registered animals. In the case of horses, the Equine Passport required throughout the EU is all but impossible to implement in the case of feral horses. It is not well known that the relevant EU regulation allows for member states to make defined exceptions to this regulation. The legal status of feral and semi-feral populations is thus far from satisfactory.

Nature Protection

Since the end of 2010 conservation areas are also eligible for agricultural subsidies, because the European Court of Justice (ECJ) found that there is no conflict between the promotion of nature conservation and agriculture. The ECJ ruled that an agricultural area "as defined in EU regulations exists also, if their use is for agricultural purposes, even if the predominant purpose is the pursuit of the objectives of landscape management and nature conservation (Case C-61 / 09, NABU)." This decision must be still implemented at the Member State level.

"High Nature Farming" is currently an important topic in the common agricultural policy. These are large extensive cultural landscapes, in which there is also some semi-feral grazing. It remains to be seen whether special arrangements can be found for the semi-feral populations in this context.

Forest grazing



Letea Forest Horses, Romania; source: Kerkdijk-Otten

A further difficult subject is the theme of forest grazing. Within large protected areas there are often areas of forestry. These provide the animals with a natural protection for weather and insects. Alongside production of wood, grazing was a main use of forestry in the Middle Ages. With the advent of the forestry industry at 19th Century, forest and meadow were separated. Thus, forest grazing became forbidden in many countries. Special regulations for forest grazing in protected areas are rare and need to be intensively and carefully ap-

proved of by all stakeholders. The positive influence of forest grazing on the local ecosystem has only been studied in recent years.

As well as the problems listed above, the feral and semi-feral animal populations offer great opportunities: their value as "replacements" for the extinct large herbivores of Europe for keeping the landscape clear and enriching various ecosystems is hardly disputed. In many areas they serve as inexpensive landscapers and also as tourist attraction. Furthermore, their value as a genetic resource has been previously neglected.

In the next phase of the project an internet platform will be created that presents the data and information. In a workshop with experts from nature protection, agriculture and related fields the problems will be discussed and solutions developed. Examples of best practice and management plans will help to give the almost forgotten feral and semi-feral populations a voice. If you are interested to participate in this process, please contact us.

The questionnaire can be found under "Management of feral livestock breeds – survey" http://www.save-foundation.net/temp/Feral_Pop_Survey.doc. We look forward to hearing from you! E-mail: waltraud.kugler@save-foundation.net

The project is kindly supported by: Margarethe & Rudolf Gsell-Stiftung, Basel; Parrotia Stiftung, Zurich (both Switzerland) and Gerda Techow Stiftung, Vaduz, Liechtenstein.

Heritaste® - results of the public consultation and next steps



Heritaste®, the label for marketing the products and services of indigenous livestock breeds and crop varieties was much discussed in the past year. Between September 2011 and the end of the year, this discussion was opened up to anyone who was interested in taking part in a public consultation. The idea behind the consultation was to reach an agreement about the exact terms of use for the label. This consultation took part on the dedicated social network for networking and listing all keepers of indigenous livestock breeds and cultivators of indigenous cultivated plants found in Europe, Variety-Savers (<http://variety-savers.net/>).

The areas that were still problematic have now been discussed and reviewed and a number of final decisions have been reached. The conditions for use have been streamlined to reflect the opinions of participants in the discussions and the goals of the SAVE Foundation in launching this label. These final decisions and conditions are listed below.

2012, SAVE will enter into contract with 3rd party certifying bodies with the intention of launching some products or services onto the market with the label as a model that can be repeated in other places. If you are interested in having your product or service as part of this model project, please get in touch with the SAVE staff on office@save-foundation.net. Please be aware that not all products and services will be suitable for this pilot project and SAVE will make a careful consideration of each product or service before choosing the most suitable.

Finalised Decisions:

- The label can be used in the geographical area of SAVE Activity.
- Products and services can be certified (i.e. not whole farms). National organisations (e.g. SAVE Network members) should provide a list of breeds and plant varieties that they wish to see promoted. Only those breeds and plant varieties on the list can be certified. Farmers and producers will lobby national organisations to get "their" breeds and plant varieties onto the list.
- A Guiding Committee made up of SAVE staff members together with SAVE Network members. The guiding committee will meet annually as a part of the combined Project Commission (PC) and Council of Cooperation Partners (CCP) meeting, which takes place as part of the SAVE annual meeting. This meeting is open but only representatives of the CCP and SAVE staff have voting rights in the Guiding Committee. Final decisions regarding Heritaste will be made by the SAVE Board of Directors. The Guiding Committee will make recommendations and applications to the Board of Directors in the same way as the other SAVE bodies do.
- Any regional or national differences will be discussed with the 3rd party inspectors and an exact procedure will be worked out.
- Only purebred animals and the products and services thereof can be sold using the Heritaste logo.
- Heritaste is a quality label and this aspect should be in the conditions for use.

- Regarding Condition for Use point 3: specifications for each species will be discussed with the 3rd party inspectors and an exact procedure will be worked out.

Finalised conditions for use:

1. The livestock and/or cultivated plants must be documented (herdbook/approved records) and on the national lists prepared by national NGOs for Heritaste.
2. The production must be local, extensive and not industrial.
3. Animals should be kept in accordance to documented traditional husbandry methods as long as this does not compromise modern animal welfare regulations.
4. Traditional processing should be used and quality should be guaranteed (seasonal fluctuations are accepted for natural products).
5. Ecosystem services (e.g. grazing) should provide proven benefit to local ecosystems.
6. Other services should provide proven benefit to in-situ/on farm conservation.
7. The production and distribution must respect rules of fair trade and support local economic structures.
8. No use of GMOs is permitted.

6th European Seminar on Agrobiodiversity 2012 „Economic Value of local Breeds and Varieties“



SAVE Foundation is pleased to invite partners, stakeholders and other interested people to Switzerland for the Annual Meeting and the 6th Seminar on Agrobiodiversity. The event will take place from the 13th-15th September 2012 in Urnäsch in the Canton Appenzell Ausserrhoden. The “Economic Value of Local Breeds and Varieties” will be closely addressed this year. Alongside presentations and experiences from other countries, the example of Switzerland and, in particular the Appenzeller Cantons, will be experienced in the form of excursions and activities.

Switzerland has already a rich experience in adding value to traditional breeds and varieties and also in the marketing of traditional craftwork and customs. The two Appenzeller Cantons in the east of Switzerland are known internationally for their customs, their products e.g. cheese and the special landscape.

It is planned to visit the „Appenzeller Ziegenprodukte AG“, a company that makes cheese and other products from the local goat breed, to visit an Ark Farm and also a tour of the traditional orchards of Höri, which holds over 250 varieties. Höri is a primary collection within the Swiss National Action Plan for conservation of plant genetic resources.

Provisional Agenda

Thursday, 13th September

Up to 14.00 Arrival and Registration
 14.00 6th Seminar on Agrobiodiversity: "Economic Value of Local Breeds and Varieties"
 18.00 Organic Ark Farm Mühlstatt
 20.00 Dinner

Friday, 14th September

8.30 – 10.30 Meeting of the PC and CCP
 11.00 Excursion to the orchards of Höri (Mosterei Brunner)
 Lunch
 16.00 Schwägalp sightseeing (possibility of a cableway trip over to the Säntis Mountain)
 Parallel: Closed meeting of SAVE Board of Directors
 19.00 Dinner at "Passhöhe Schwägalp"
 21.00 Presentation of Arca Deli Awards

Saturday 15th September

10.30 Alpabtrieb Urnäsch – traditional procession of animals returning from the summer on the high Alpine pastures (see picture above)
 12.00 Excursion to Gonten and the „Appenzeller Ziegenprodukte AG“, Apéro
 14.00 Farewell



This event takes place with the kind support of the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture. More information and registration at: www.save-foundation.net/pdf/SAVE_2012.pdf.

The Annual European Agrobiodiversity Day (EAD): 29th September 2012



This year the subject chosen by the SAVE Foundation is the economic value of Agrobiodiversity. Under the title:

"Economic value of local breeds and seeds"

Public awareness is important! There is still very little awareness of the enormous diversity of breeds and varieties found in European agriculture or the needs for conservation – public awareness of our subject helps on all levels: it helps producers of traditional produce find a market for their products or, it reminds our politicians about their international obligations to create strategies to protect the national agrobiodiversity.

We are interested to hear about your activities to promote agrobiodiversity. Perhaps you have an event for the newsletter or a website that might be interesting to our readers?

Don't forget to promote the date **29th September – European Agrobiodiversity Day!**

David Vs Goliath: Seed trading laws called into question

The Association Kokopelli, a French non-governmental organisation for the conservation and dissemination of old, local crop varieties holds 461 non-approved varieties in their range, as Graines Bauman SAS, a reputable seed company in Nancy, France noted. Therefore, in 2005 Bauman SAS brought a lawsuit against Kokopelli for unfair competition. The company called for a lump sum compensation and the suspension of advertising for these varieties. In the first instance the Tribunal de Grande Instance in Nancy allocated Graines Bauman damages and dismissed the rest of the case. Kokopelli lodged an appeal at the Court of Appeal in Nancy. The case then went to the European Court of Justice.



Now, Juliane Kokott the Advocate General at the European Court of Justice (ECJ), recommended in her conclusions on 19th January 2012 a lift on the ban on marketing. This ban exists for seeds of crop varieties that are not registered in official catalogues. She stated: "The prohibition to sell seed of varieties that are not demonstrably distinct, stable and sufficiently uniform... is invalid due to violation of the principle of proportionality, (...)"

Furthermore, the Advocate General confirmed that, on the one hand, the admission requirements of the official seed catalogue "*are not related* to plant health," and on the other "it is up to the farmers to decide which varieties they grow" and that this legislation limits consumers' freedom because "*they* will not have access to food or other products from varieties that do not meet the eligibility criteria, nor can they grow them themselves - for example in their own gardens."

Lastly, in her conclusions Juliane Kokott honours the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources (ITPGR-FA) as a source of law.

If the EU Commission follows up the requests of the European Court of Justice Advocate General it will have to adapt regulations and policies and invite the member states do likewise. Thus, the limitations of the seed market laws would collapse.

For more information see:

<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=118143&pageIndex=0&doclang=DE&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=66802>

And http://www.saatgutkampagne.org/PDF/Kokopelli_EuGH_DT.pdf

And also <http://www.kokopelli.asso.fr/proces-kokopelli/bauman.html>

Contact: Blanche MAGARINOS-REY Lawyer to Kokopelli, contact@avocat-magarinos-rey.com



The black Castellana und Ganeca Chicken

José Luis Yustos (President) GANECA, *Amigos de la gallina castellana negra*.
ganecastellananegra@googlegroups.com facebook: [Amigos de la gallina castellana negra](#)

Origin and current situation



The black Spanish chicken is one of the oldest European breeds of chickens. Christopher Columbus travelled to America with these chickens in the 15th century because they were the favourite of Queen Isabel "the Catholic". And these chickens went to Flanders as part of the Spanish rule of Charles V. Many of the current black-coloured chickens that exist in Europe come from our Black Castellana. This assertion, popular among enthusiasts and breeders, has been confirmed by genetic studies that have been made in recent years.

The first definition of its standard was made in 1926. It is therefore one of the first European chickens have clearly defined standard. In the first half of the twentieth century it was one of the most popular chicken breeds used in Spain

to obtain white eggs. This breed was forgotten with the advent of the industrial poultry breeding and hybrid races in cages. Currently, the Black Castellana is included in the National Spanish Program for conservation, improvement and promotion of livestock breeds (Royal Decree 2129/2008), under Annex I, in the Official Catalogue of Livestock Breeds of Spain. The Black Castellana is listed as endangered.

Breed description

The chicken is completely black with iridescent bluegreen, more pronounced in the cock. It is lightweight, dynamic, vigorous and proud. It is so light that it can climb trees to sleep and be safe from predators. The Rooster standard includes a red face with white ear lobes, Medium comb, smooth and right, with five or six "teeth", deep red. Big eyes, with iris from orange to reddish-brown. Tail arched and almost at right angles. Weight 3 kilos.

GANECA: association of breeders of Black Castellana



After years of breeding this chicken a large group of people decided to create an association called "Association of Friends of the Castellana Negra chickens" GANECA. The core membership is in Castilla and León, although there are members from other regions such as Madrid, Extremadura and Andalusia.

To improve the quality every year, chickens with defects are removed and the population is continued with only the best individuals. With this selection we can maintain the rustic traits of the birds and improve egg laying to reach the levels that the breed had in early twentieth century. The older visitors fondly remember their grandparents had this breed of chickens.

But GANECA chickens not only looks "prettier". We know that the viability of the breed, according to sustainable agro-ecology, is to find its real value. So now we have now two partners who are producing certified organic eggs by Organic Agriculture Regulatory.

Transhumance manifestation in Madrid, October 2011

Spanish shepherds have led flocks of sheep through the streets of Madrid to defend ancient grazing, migration and droving rights threatened by urban sprawl and man-made frontiers.

Jesus Garzon, president of a shepherds council established in 1273, said 5,000 sheep and 60 cattle crossed the city on Sunday to exercise the access rights to droving routes that existed before Madrid grew from a rural hamlet to the capital city it is today.



Newsflash

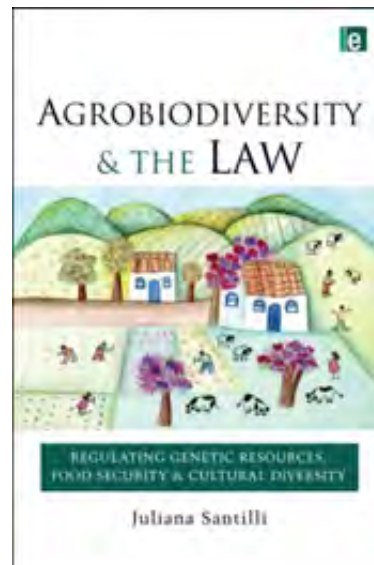
New executive secretary of Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced in January the appointment of Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, a national of Brazil, as Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, at the Assistant Secretary-General level. Mr. Dias will succeed Ahmed Djoghla, to whom the Secretary-General is grateful for his continued commitment and contribution to the Convention on Biological Diversity in his capacity as Executive Secretary. Mr. Dias brings to this position extensive experience in policymaking and in coordinating the implementation of biodiversity policies, programmes and projects at the national and international level.



Agrobiodiversity and the Law

This book analyzes the impact of the legal system on agrobiodiversity. Using an interdisciplinary approach, it takes up the emerging concept of agrobiodiversity and its relationship with food security, nutrition, health, environmental sustainability, and climate change. It assesses the impacts on agrobiodiversity of key legal instruments, including seeds laws, the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, plant breeders' rights, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. It discusses interfaces between the free software movement, the 'commons' movement, and seeds, as well as the legal instruments to protect cultural heritage and their application to safeguard agrobiodiversity-rich systems. Finally, it analyzes the role of protected areas and the possibility of using geographical indications to enhance the value of agrobiodiversity products and processes. ("Agrobiodiversity and the Law Regulating Genetic Resources, Food Security and Cultural Diversity", Juliana Santilli ISBN: 978-1-84971-372-6, Routledge – 348 pages, £60.00).



EU Directive 2008/90 (marketing of fruit trees)



A new draft for the implementation of the regulation from the Standing Committee for Fruit of the European Commission has been published. According to this draft, the marketing of new varieties for the commercial (and national) orchards will be regulated throughout the EU. For the old varieties is simply stipulated that these should be registered. The individual member states will regulate how they can create this register. (Source: H.J. Bannier, Po-

mologen-Verein e.V, Germany, Umbrella Organisation for Cultivated Plants and Livestock Diversity): www.kulturpflanzen-nutztiervielfalt.org;
http://ec.europa.eu/food/fs/rc/scpfqs/summary08062011_en.pdf

Follow SAVE on Twitter:

@VarietySavers or click "like" and "share" on the SAVE page on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/SAVE-Foundation/293654690663822>

and disseminate knowledge of agricultural biodiversity and the SAVE Network in this way.

Variety-Savers is the dedicated social network for networking and listing all keepers of indigenous livestock breeds & cultivators of indigenous cultivated plants found in Europe. If you have not yet joined up, then now is your chance! Go to <http://variety-savers.net/>



Important dates (extract)

30 March - 1 April: City Farms Annual General Meeting, Pietersheim City Farm in Lanaken, Belgium, Web: <http://www.cityfarms.org/>

13 April: NATUR Congress "Landscape in the tension between protection and utilization", Basel, Switzerland. Congress in the frame of the NATUR Fair (13-16 April) "Sustainability Platform". Web: <http://www.natur.ch/>

13- 14 April: 4th International conference on the organic sector development in Central/Eastern European and Central Asian countries; Izmir, Turkey. Contact: conference@eto.org.tr, Web: <http://turkey.organic-conference.info>

15-17 April: Conference on Sustainable Land Use and Rural Development in Mountain Areas, Stuttgart, Germany. Contact: uplands2012@uni-hohenheim.de, Web: <https://uplands2012.uni-hohenheim.de/>

17-18 April: 6th Europ. Organic Congress; Copenhagen, Denmark. info@ifoam-eu.org

19-20 April: Shaping the future of agriculture: The role of diversity in lowinput and organic cropping systems. Rome, Italy. Contact: r.bocci@aiab.it, Web: <http://www.solibam.eu>

21-23 April: International Seed Days in Greece at Paranesti (Drama), Greece. Contact: info@peliti.gr, Web: <http://www.peliti.gr>

7-9 May: 7th Organic Marketing Forum: "Processing and Marketing Organic Products and Raw Material". Warsaw, Poland. Web: www.organic-marketing-forum.org, Contact: info@ekoconnect.org

8 May: Donkey & Mule Conference, London, UK. Mail: ed.emery@thefreeuniversity.net

19-23 May: Dry Grasslands of Europe: Grazing and Ecosystem Services. Lake Prespa, Greece. Mail: mvrhnaak@teilar.gr, Web: http://www.edgg.org/edgg_meeting_2012.html

21 - 23 May: 2nd Nordic Conference for Rural Research "Rural at the Edge" in Joensuu, Finland. Web: <http://www.mua.fi>

28 May - 2 June: BALWOIS 2012 International Conference: "Environment and Human Activities", Ohrid, Macedonia (FYROM). Web: <http://www.balwois.com/2012/>

6-7 June: Regulatory and Institutional Frameworks for Markets for Ecosystem Services; Interdisciplinary Conference, Surrey, UK; www.ias.surrey.ac.uk/workshops/ecosystem

14-15 June: ELN-FAB European Seminar 2012 with special focus on issues, problems and solutions related to the Mediterranean region and region-specific crops. In Avignon, France; Web: <http://www.eln-fab.eu>

4-8 July: SEEmore Conference 2012: Mountain Resources and Their Response to Global Change" in Ankara, Turkey. Web: http://csaum.ankara.edu.tr/index_en.php

=> Further dates see: <http://www.save-foundation.net/english/actual.htm>