



**International organization progress report
on the implementation of
the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources
2007-2013**

1. Contact information and mandate

Name and position of respondent	Elli Broxham, Programme Director
Name of organization	SAVE Foundation
E-mail of organization	office@save-foundation.net
Geographical coverage of your organization	Europe

2. Animal species coverage of your organization

General livestock-related mandate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Large ruminants	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small ruminants	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pigs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poultry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rabbits & micro livestock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camelidae	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equines	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategic Priority Area 1: Characterization, Inventory and Monitoring

1. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of projects or programmes on phenotypic characterization of animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved and whether you include characterization of production environments:

2. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of projects or programmes on molecular characterization of animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved:

Under the UN-FAO Funding Strategy for the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources the project "BushaLive" has been accepted. Together with partners from the universities of Sarajevo and Munich, SAVE runs this project for the "determination of different types and strains of Busha Cattle in the Balkans through collection of existing information from projects and meetings e.g. of ERF and SAVE, phenotypical characterization of different types and strains and molecular genetic analysis including the estimation of the purity of distinct subpopulations".

3. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of projects or programmes for surveying the size and/or structure of animal genetic resources populations and monitoring population trends?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved:

See answer to questions 1 & 2

4. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of projects or programmes for identifying and monitoring threats to animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved:

Europe and especially S.E. Europe. Species specific for donkeys (see <http://agrobiodiversity.net/regional/index.htm> => Donkeys), Waterbuffalo and Cattle in S.E. Europe.

5. Does your organization support countries in the development of early warning and response systems for animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved:

Through the above mentioned projects, contact to stakeholders on the ground

6. Is your organization involved in research and development on methods, technical standards or protocols for phenotypic or molecular characterization, surveying and monitoring of population size or threats to animal genetic resources, or breed evaluation, valuation and comparison?

Phenotypic characterization

- Yes
- No

Molecular characterization

- Yes
- No

Surveying and monitoring

- Yes
- No

If yes, participatory monitoring

- Yes
- No

Breed evaluation or comparison

- Yes
- No

Economic valuation

- Yes
- No

Please provide details:

BusheLive includes all components, all the other SAVE projects include some or most of the above factors e.g. the "donkey use" survey (pan-European) looks at the economic valuation of donkeys in Europe.

7. Has your organization identified major obstacles to inventory, characterization and monitoring of animal genetic resources in all or part of your mandate area or species coverage?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please list them being as specific as possible regarding geographical area / species:

Lack of up-to-date information on stock numbers or herd-book data. This often in S.E. Europe but also to be found in Central Europe too. Especially in the case of feral populations and donkeys.

8. What are the priority measures that need to be taken to address these obstacles?

Capacity building for data handling, e.g. herd-book and record keeping

9. Please describe any additional activities relevant to the implementation of Strategic Priority Area 1: Characterization, inventory and monitoring of trends and associated risks.

Communication about characterisation methods

Strategic Priority Area 2: Sustainable Use and Development

1. Does your organization support countries in developing, reviewing or adjusting their national policies affecting the sustainable use of animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved:

Information sharing through websites, meetings and newsletters. In Bulgaria through the programme: "Linking nature protection and sustainable rural development" funded by the Swiss Contribution thematic fund "Civil Society Participation in Bulgaria"

2. Does your organization promote agro-ecosystem approaches?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

The agro-ecosystem approach is promoted in every project, article, website etc of SAVE Foundation. It is the basis of the approach taken by SAVE.

3. Does your organization contribute to the planning or implementation of strategic breeding programmes?

Mainstream breeds

Yes

No

Under-utilized breeds

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details (including the breeds involved) being as specific as possible:

Breeds currently supported: Busha, Prespa, Greek autochthonous cattle in general, Ciuta sheep
In the past breeding programmes for various breeds have been supported and/or implemented in the following: Balkans, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Alpine region

4. Does your organization contribute to the development of recording systems or organizational structures for breeding programmes?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details (including the breeds involved) being as specific as possible:

In the context of projects for the breeds mentioned in question 3

5. If the projects and programmes that your organization implements or supports involve the use of exotic breeds, have any assessments been made of the long-term impacts of the use of exotic breeds on animal genetic resource diversity, livelihoods and/or food security in the affected countries and production systems?

Yes

No

No projects or programmes involving exotic breeds

If yes, please provide details:

6. Has your organization implemented or supported the implementation of animal genetic resources-related projects that aim at achieving sustainable intensification of production?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and animal genetic resources involved:

7. Does your organization contribute to the development of mechanisms for facilitating interactions among stakeholders, scientific disciplines and sectors as part of planning for sustainable use development of animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries or regions involved:

All SAVE activities are based on the multi-stakeholder approach including civil society, science, government and commercial interests.

8. Do your organization's activities contribute to improving farmers' and livestock keepers' knowledge of animal genetic resources from various sources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and types of animal genetic resources involved:

Running of workshops and seminars on best practice and knowledge exchange, publications and networking.

9. Do your organization's activities contribute to improving farmers' and livestock keepers' access to animal genetic resources from various sources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and types of animal genetic resources involved:

Exchange of animals and/or breeding material

10. Does your organization contribute to the development of agreements for equitable sharing of benefits arising from access to and use and development of, animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

Contributions to the discussion on policy level. No on the ground activities as it has, as yet, never been an issue within SAVE activities

11. Does your organization contribute to efforts to preserve and respect indigenous or local production systems and associated traditional knowledge and practices related to animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

Through project elements relating to economic valuation and, also, collection of traditional knowledge relating to local systems.

12. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of projects that aim to promote the marketing of products from local breeds or local production systems?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details and specify the breeds and production systems involved:

Promoting and marketing of products and services from local breeds occurs on three levels: the Arca-Net (<http://www.arcenet.info>), the Arca-Deli Award (see <http://variety-savers.net/page/arca-deli-award-2013>) and Heritaste(R) a pan-European label that will come into use from mid-2014. The objectives of this label are to promote the in situ/on farm conservation of autochthonous agrobiodiversity in Europe and to add value to the products and services that can be made or provided from European agrobiodiversity.

Through promoting the economic benefits of conserving agrobiodiversity a number of secondary effects are expected to ensue, these include:

- Ecosystem conservation
- Improved rural livelihoods
- Eco-tourism to rural areas
- Improved local market structures

13. Has your organization identified obstacles to enhancing the sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

- Lack of knowledge about the e.g. ecosystem benefits or the special nutritional qualities of local breeds
- Lack of funding

14. What are the priority measures that need to be taken to address these obstacles?

- General PR to improve knowledge about local breeds
- Research on ecosystem benefits or the special nutritional qualities of local breeds

15. Does your organization provide, or support the provision of, training or technical support programmes for animal breeding activities in pastoralist and farming communities?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

16. Has your organization identified priorities for future training or support programmes to enhance the use and development of available animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details of the priority activities, being as specific as possible:

Recording, sharing and strengthening of traditional knowledge

17. Please describe any additional activities relevant to the implementation of Strategic Priority Area 2: Sustainable use and development.

Strategic Priority Area 3: Conservation

1. Is erosion of animal genetic resources occurring in any of the countries or regions in which your organization is active?

Yes

No

Do not know

If yes, please describe. Please be as specific as possible and indicate which factors or drivers affect which species in which countries or regions:

Example: in the Prespa region the Liqenas goat is endangered due to the replacement with mainstream breeds.

2. Does your organization support the establishment of emergency response systems that provide for immediate action to maintain threatened breeds?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

Through the ELBARN project (www.elbarn.net) however, the implementation of the guidelines has, in many countries, not occurred - probably due to lack of funding/resources.

3. Does your organization take or support actions to protect breeds and populations that are at risk from natural or human-induced disasters?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

4. From your organizational point of view, how would you judge the state of conservation policies for animal genetic resources in the countries and regions in which you operate?

Everywhere where SAVE is active, the actors are depending too heavily on subsidies and state policy. The state funding for local breeds is cut very quickly when states have to reduce budgets. Local breeds are not "important enough" within national policies. This endangers conservation.

5. What types of conservation measures for animal genetic resources does your organization implement or support the implementation of?

In situ

Yes

No

Ex situ in vivo

Yes

No

Ex situ in vitro

Yes

No

Please provide details, and specify the countries and animal genetic resources involved:

6. If your organization maintains *ex situ* collections of animal genetic resources, could you please provide further information on these collections?

7. Is your organization conducting research to further develop methods and technologies for *in situ* or *ex situ* conservation of animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please briefly describe the research:

8. Has your organization identified major obstacles to enhancing the conservation of animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

Economic problems, lack of knowledge on many stakeholder levels, lobbying from the "mainstream" is more effective.

9. What are the priority measures that need to be taken to address these obstacles?

Information about the value and importance of AnGR needs to be spread to a wide audience - research to back up the information.

10. From your organizational point of view, what are the priority requirements for enhancing conservation measures for animal genetic resources in the countries and regions in which you operate? Please list the requirements, being as specific as possible:

Funding! Better public relations and collaboration between actors. Political lobbying and multi-actor information sharing. An inclusive and bottom-up approach that includes all actors.

11. Please describe any additional activities relevant to the implementation of Strategic Priority Area 3: Conservation.

Capacity building at the level of civil society, anchoring conservation in state policy in such a way that changing governments and economics have a lessened impact on policy.

Strategic Priority Area 4: Policies, Institutions and Capacity-building

1. Does your organization support or facilitate the establishment of institutional frameworks for planning and implementing animal genetic resources programmes?

Yes
No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries or regions involved:

In Bulgaria through the programme: "Linking nature protection and sustainable rural development" funded by the Swiss Contribution thematic fund "Civil Society Participation in Bulgaria"

2. Does your organization support countries in formulating or implementing national strategies and action plans for animal genetic resources?

Yes
No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries involved:

Bulgaria, as above

3. Does your organization contribute to the development of regulatory frameworks or legislation for animal genetic resources?

Yes
No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries or regions involved:

Both in general and specifically in Bulgaria at the moment

4. Does your organization have a database or information system for animal genetic resources-related data?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe the purpose and contents of the system and, if relevant, how frequently data are updated:

Online: breed atlases already mentioned plus a digital database for internal office use

5. Does your organization have collaborative links to other stakeholders involved in the management of animal genetic resources (e.g. the breeding industry, livestock keepers, government agencies, research institutes and civil society organizations)?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

The SAVE network incorporates all of these apart from the breeding industry.

6. Does your organization cooperate with breeders' organizations?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

When relevant to projects and activities

7. Has your organization supported the establishment or strengthening of community-based organizations, networks or initiatives for sustainable use, breeding or conservation?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

E.g. R.A.R.E in Italy, Amaltheia in Greece, Network for Waterbuffalo Breeding in Southeast Europe

8. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of training or capacity-building programmes for animal genetic resources management?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify countries involved:

Workshops on herdbooks, breeding in small populations

9. Has your organization identified priorities for future animal genetic resources-related capacity-building and education?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

Awareness of local breeds should be encouraged from an early age. Within Arca-Net there are many initiatives to provide educational resources for schools. Furthermore, keepers of local breeds need more capacity building and education about various aspects of promoting local breeds and marketing their goods and services. Economic sustainability needs to be promoted.

10. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of programmes to increase public awareness of the roles and values of animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

This is a very important part of the SAVE programme and is conducted through websites and social media, eNews, meetings, workshops and seminars. More work could be done but there is a lack of funding to support these activities.

11. Please describe any additional activities relevant to the implementation of Strategic Priority Area 4: Policies, institutions and capacity-building.

Implementation and Financing of Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources

1. Has your organization's budget for activities supporting the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and animal genetic resources programmes increased since the plan's adoption in September 2007?

- Yes
- No

Please provide details:

Funding for BushaLive

2. Has your organization contributed to the establishment or strengthening of international research and/or education programmes to assist developing countries or countries with economies in transition to better manage animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

Various projects in Rumania and the Balkans

3. Has your organization contributed to the establishment or strengthening of international programmes to assist developing countries or countries with economies in transition to obtain training and technologies or develop information systems related to animal genetic resources?

- Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

e.g. the previously mentioned breed atlases

4. Has your organization provided funding to countries for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries involved:

5. Has your organization contributed to establishing or strengthening international collaboration with regard to:

Characterization of animal genetic resources

Yes

No

Use and development of animal genetic resources

Yes

No

Conservation of transboundary breeds

Yes

No

Please provide details and specify the countries involved:

Annual European seminars on these topics; cross-border management strategy for Busha cattle

6. Does your organization collaborate with national or international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the fields of:

Characterization

Yes

No

Sustainable intensification

Yes

No

Conservation of breeds at risk

Yes

No

Please provide details and specify the countries involved:

All SAVE projects and activities include these elements

7. Please describe any additional activities relevant to the implementation and financing of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources:

Annex

Pressures on the three main actors in conservation of Animal Genetic Resources

State: Political and economic - the pressure on nation-states to take part in, sign and conform to international treaties and conventions . The expectation to provide financial and structural capacity for conservation.

Civil society: Ideology and day-to-day pressure - the ideologies of grassroots stakeholders, which influence the work of the NGOs/CSOs and the daily pressures of caring for animals, financial concerns etc .

Scientists: Excellence and funding - the pressure to produce scientifically rigorous results, the pressure to find adequate funding that allows for independence and excellence.

(Commercial: Profits and consumer confidence – the need to regularly provide consumers with quality products.)

Information exchange and dialogue between the actors is essential for successful conservation.

The State actor

Strengths:

- Takes part in international negotiation
- Represents interests of national stakeholders
- Structural support to strengthen argument (hierarchy)
- Legitimised to represent national interests

Weaknesses:

- Unverified, politically expedient claims
- Works within the “norms”
- Bargains to create an agreement
- Acts through political self-interest and that of most powerful national stakeholders

The NGOs

Strengths:

- Small, fast working, no red tape, innovative
- Have the support of the grassroots
- Look for “what works” and act on that
- Have vast experience in conservation work

Weaknesses:

- Lack of power
- Lack of resources
- Not always representative, professional or effective
- Can make a simple issue too complex

Science

Strengths:

- Objective, evidence based
- Independent
- Methodologically sound

- Legitimation through peer review

Weaknesses:

- Lack political power
- Resources from third party funding (not always sustainable)
- Expensive (laboratories etc) and time-consuming (e.g. longitudinal studies)
- Unable to compromise easily due to evidence-based stance

Sharing the Load

“State”

- Financial assistance
- Cooperation with the private sector
- Reassessing the legal framework
- Positive regulation

“NGO”

- Monitoring of breeds and their conservation status
- Livestock transfers
- Advice to breeders/keepers
- Management of herdbooks
- Promotion of cultural heritage and products
- In situ/on farm conservation

“Science”

- Scientific documentation and verification
- Advice, recommendations and strategies
- Ex-situ conservation

Working together

- Without a planned strategy, loss of genetic diversity cannot be halted
- Cooperative goal setting is essential
- Means for achieving goals – not just financial, they are also structural/legal
- NGOs need to be brought on board but also need the freedom to remain innovative and representative of their members
- Where no NGOs exist, space should be provided for them to emerge
- Success will only be found in the cooperation of all stakeholders!

SAVE Foundation Activity Report 2013

http://www.save-foundation.net/docu/reports/SAVE_activity_2013.pdf

SAVE Projects since 2007

- Arca-Net
is an internet portal for the networking and promotion of institutions in Europe showing rare breeds and historical plants to the public, as ark-farms, pedagogic farms, open air museums, animal parks, variety gardens etc.. Search functions in English, French, German and Italian.
=> Link to the [Arca-Net](#)
=> Project description [Arca-Net overview.pdf](#) (download 76 KB, requires Acrobat Reader)
- Variety-Savers
an internet-portal for listing all keepers of indigenous livestock breeds and cultivators of indigenous cultivated plants in Europe. Variety-Savers should be used to network, to share information, to list events and to sell products and services relating to European agrobiodiversity. => [Information flyer](#)
=> Link to the [Variety-Savers.Net](#)
- ELBARN
European Livestock Breeds Ark and Rescue Net
Co-financed by the EU-Commission in the frame of GenRes 870/2004
=> [ELBARN.pdf](#) (435 KB, project description)
=> [Report of the Pilot study](#) from March 2000 (requires Acrobat Reader)
=> Link to the [ELBARN-Website](#)
- Agrobiodiversity.Net
Internet-Portal with links to NGO- and GO-Networks on European, regional and national level. The portal is suitable as a start page in the internet browser for those who regularly have to do with agrobiodiversity.
=> [Link to Agrobiodiversit.Net](#)
- Launching of the "Heritaste" trademark (registered) to promote products and services from autochthonous livestock breeds and cultivated plants.
=> [Trademark](#) with draft conditions
- Donkey breeds in Europe*
=> [Final report of the study](#) (PDF 1.3 MB)
=> [English abstract](#) (PDF 132 KB)
- Management of Feral Populations in Europe
=> [project description](#) (PDF 44 KB)
=> [data sheet](#) for the survey 2011/2012
- Alpine Network for Agrobiodiversity
=> Link to the [Network website](#)
- Alpine Knowledge Database (Alp-Wiki)
=> [project description](#) (PDF 48 KB)
=> Project "Fundus Agri-Cultura Alpina"
- Conservation of highly endangered autochthonous breeds of the Alps
=> conservation of black Alpine pigs, short report (in Italian): [Suino Nero delle Alpi](#)
=> conservation of the Ciuta sheep (smallest of the Alps): [Progetto Ciuta](#) (in Italian!)
- BushaLive Project - Under the UN-FAO Funding Strategy for the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources the project "BushaLive" has been accepted. Together with partners from the universities of Sarajevo and Munich, SAVE runs this project for the "determination of different types and strains of Busha Cattle in the Balkans through collection of existing information from projects and meetings e.g. of ERF and SAVE, phenotypical characterization of different types and strains and molecular genetic analysis including the estimation of the purity of distinct subpopulations". A comprehensive overview in the field for the collection of Information about the situation, production, conservation and market possibilities of Busha cattle will be done as well as discussion and determination of best practice methods. The development of a crossborder in-situ

conservation and data management model shall ensure a sustainable conservation. This reflects the need for information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building within the Balkans. See <http://www.agrobiodiversity.net/regional/index.htm>

- Balkans Network for Agrobiodiversity (coord. of conservation measures, establishment of rare breed centres)
 - => Link to the [Network website](#)
 - => Project description [Balkan_Network.pdf](#) (download 236 KB, requires Acrobat Reader)
 - => SAVE Focus, Special Edition Balkan: [Balkan_Focus.pdf](#) (PDFfile, 2.6 MBe, requires Acrobat Reader)
 - => Rare Breeds and Varieties of the Balkans, Atlas 2009 [BreedatlasBalkan.pdf](#) (140 pages, 4,6 MB)
- Water Buffalo in Southeast Europe, especially the Carpathian type, and establishment of an international Buffalo-Network
 - => Intermediate report [Carpathian_Buffalo_2009.pdf](#) (56 KB)
 - => Link to the [Buffalo Workshop Sighisoara 2011](#)
 - => Link to the "[Network for Waterbuffalo Breeding in Southeast Europe](#)"
- Rescue Station for three endangered Albanian pig breeds in the Buna-Delta, Albania
 - => [short english summary](#) (PDF 56 KB)
 - => [Report 2008](#) (PDF 988 KB)
 - => [Report 2009](#) (PDF 384 KB)
- Prespa cattle in Albania and Greece
 - => [Prespa_cattle.pdf](#), report on identification and conservation (PDF file, 376 KB)
 - => [Prespa_cattle_2012.pdf](#), intermediate report 2012 (PDF file, 750 KB)
- Bulgaria – expert role in the programme "Linking nature protection and sustainable rural development" funded by the Swiss Contribution thematic fund "Civil Society Participation in Bulgaria"
- Conservation of Agrobiodiversity in the Carpathians
 - => [Project description](#) (download 268 KB, requires Acrobat Reader)
 - => [Final report phase II, 2005-2008](#) (PDF, 256 KB)
- Animal Genetic Resources in Romania – breed atlas Romania under <http://www.agrobiodiversity.net/national/index.htm> => Romania
- Animal Genetic Resources in Greece*
 - => [Project description](#) (download 292 KB, requires Acrobat Reader)
 - => [Breedatlas_Greece](#) (download 4.8 MB, requires Acrobat Reader)
 - => Link to the [AgroBiodiversity-Net in Greece](#)
- Prespa cattle in Greece and Albania
 - => [Prespa_cattle.pdf](#), report on identification and conservation (PDF file, 376 KB)
 - => [Prespa_cattle_2012.pdf](#), intermediate report 2012 (PDF file, 750 KB)
- Survey regarding the population and ethology of feral Axios horses in Greece 2008* executed by Amaltheia (Greek Society for the Protection and Preservation of Livestock Breeds)
 - => [Report Axios horses](#) (PDF 1,3 MB)

Information distribution to as many stakeholders as possible through:

- eNews (free, quarterly) sent to c. 3000 people
- Facebook - www.facebook.com/agrobiodiversity
- Promotion of discussions and exchange – Facebook group SAVE Foundation - Variety Savers <https://www.facebook.com/groups/626516310695064/> should be used to share news, photos, events and questions and take part in the discussions relating to conservation of European agrobiodiversity.