

# SAVE eNews 3/2003



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

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## Convention on the Carpathians signed

In Kiev, capital of Ukraine, the bordering states of the Carpathians signed the convention for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian Mountains. The convention aims to contribute to the integration of nature protection, the promotion of nature-friendly tourism and the economic recovery of the region. Like the Alps the Carpathians have breathtaking landscapes and a multiplicity at natural and cultural heritages. The protection of agro-biodiversity is also anchored in the convention. In article 11, the following is put down:



### *Article 11 Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge*

*The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage and of traditional knowledge of the local people, crafting and marketing of local goods, arts and handicrafts. The Parties shall aim at preserving the traditional architecture, land-use patterns, local breeds of domestic animals and cultivated plant varieties, and sustainable use of wild plants in the Carpathians.*

Invited by the European office of the UNEP (UN environmental programme) which accompanied the negotiations, SAVE Foundation and Monitoring Institute were able to participate in two preliminary conferences, to explain the importance of the protection of agricultural genetic resources and to present own studies on the agrobiodiversity of the Carpathians (compare also SaveNews 3/2002). This may possibly have contributed to the success of the negotiations.

For more information:

[http://www.unep.ch/roe/assets/programme\\_activities/environmental\\_law/04\\_emi/carpathians.htm](http://www.unep.ch/roe/assets/programme_activities/environmental_law/04_emi/carpathians.htm)

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## Interreg project „Gene Save“

The new Interreg IIIa project "Gene Save" has the objective to facilitate the conservation and securing of old local cereal, vegetable and apple varieties in South and North Tyrol. Seeds and plant material is to be collected, to be conserved in a genebank and to be cultivated.

During the last decades, field cropping has reduced considerably at higher altitudes and high performing varieties are imported. In order to counteract this development, old local varieties which are particularly well adapted to local conditions and altitudes are to be conserved. The local population is asked to collect planting material and old seeds and to report sites of old apple orchards. Experts are to examine the collections, collect the seeds and carry out scientific experiments, e.g. germination experiments. The research institute Laimburg in South Tyrol (I), the Office of the Tyrol Government (A) and other project partners co-operate in the project (Information CIPRA). More information may be taken from: [http://www.provinz.bz.it/LPA/news/news\\_d.asp?art=53615](http://www.provinz.bz.it/LPA/news/news_d.asp?art=53615)

## Stock exchange crisis hits SAVE

When establishing the European umbrella organisation, it was agreed that SAVE (and later also the Monitoring Institute) should financially not rely on a broad members' organisation but rather on highly efficient supporting organisations to avoid competition with national partner organisations. To date, this worked out quite well.

However, considerable parts of the capital of the generous organisations and foundations supporting us have been worn down by the recent development of the stock exchange. Interest rates are very low and payments for projects have been reduced to a minimum. Long-term projects and obligations have priority over new ones which are rarely initiated. Therefore, SAVE and the Monitoring Institute are forced to reduce their activities to a minimum. Even ongoing projects have to be reduced or even stopped. The position of the leaving SAVE managing director Petra Gansneder will not be occupied for the time being, the same applies to the project coordinator Dr. Andreas Stamer. The ad interim management is taken over by Annette Marx. Despite the honorary activities of the SAVE founders, the services of the europe-wide network have to be reduced.

SAVE Foundation and Monitoring Institute are trying to open up new financial resources. The number of patron and patronesses is to be enlarged, and promoters, supporters and co-operators are looked for. In case you – as reader of the eNews – might see a way of supporting us, either personally or through others, please contact us via e-mail: [office@save-foundation.net](mailto:office@save-foundation.net). Thank you very much!

=> SAVE Foundation: <http://www.save-foundation.net/english/support.htm>

=> Monitoring Institute: <http://www.monitoring-inst.de/support.htm>

## GAP reform

The EU ministers of agriculture have decided on a basic reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (GAP) in June. Besides several decisions on prices, and the reduction of subsidies for large enterprises, subject to basic change in particular was the EU subsidies practice.



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## Important dates (extract)

25-28 August: Symposium "Livestock Farming Systems: Product quality based on local resources and its potential contribution to improved sustainability". Benevento, Italy. Contact: [fez2003.benevento@virgilio.it](mailto:fez2003.benevento@virgilio.it)

31 August - 3 September: 54th Annual Meeting of European Association for Animal Production, Rome, Italy. Contact: [eaap@eaap.org](mailto:eaap@eaap.org), Web: <http://www.eaap.org>

19-22 September: "Cheese 2003, the forms of milk". Congress and exhibition around cheese and the system of transhumance, Organizer: Slowfood Italy; Brà (Province of Cuneo, Piedmont), Italy. Contact: [v.musso@slowfood.it](mailto:v.musso@slowfood.it), Web: <http://www.slowfood.com>

26 September: Regional Fair "Balkan Agrobiodiversity and Rural Heritage", Dimitrovgrad, Serbia; Exhibition of 15 indigenous Balkan breeds. Contact: [balkanika@ptt.yu](mailto:balkanika@ptt.yu)

27-28 September: National trade fair "Piante e Animale Perduti" (lost plants & domestic animals) at Guastalla (Reggio Emilia), Italy. Contact: [vitabio@tin.it](mailto:vitabio@tin.it). At the same place, 27 September: Annual meeting & convention "Recovery and valorization of rare breeds" Associazione R.A.R.E.; Contact: [daniele.biggi@stpa.unibo.it](mailto:daniele.biggi@stpa.unibo.it)

2-5 October: "To Market, To Market, to Sell a Rare Breed; Niche Marketing and Rare Breed Conservation". Members' meeting and conference of ALBC at Sedgwick County Zoo, Wichita, Kansas (USA): Contact: [albc@albc-usa.org](mailto:albc@albc-usa.org) Web: <http://www.albc-usa.org>

25-26 October: "Rencontre des Fruits Alpains" (Conference on pomology of Alpine fruits) at the Conservatoire Botanique National Alpin at Gap-Charance (Hautes Alpes), France. Special topic "Pears" at October 25; Contact: [mf.tarbouriech@cbn-alpin.org](mailto:mf.tarbouriech@cbn-alpin.org);

7-9 November: (postponed) Annual Meeting of SAVE Foundation at the point where the four countries Austria-Germany-Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein meet. Jubilee programme "10 years SAVE Foundation". Contact: [office@save-foundation.net](mailto:office@save-foundation.net)