

SAVE-News 3/2002

This newsletter is issued four times a year by SAVE Foundation (Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe)

World Atlas of Biodiversity in the Internet

UNEP, the Environment Programme of the United Nations, has made the 'World Atlas of Biodiversity - Earth's living resources in the 21st Century' available in the Web. Texts and interactive maps can be retrieved from the Internet <http://stort.unep-wcmc.org/imaps/gb2002/book/viewer.htm>. Most recent research results are used as basis for the information on various aspects of biodiversity, e.g. forests, humid areas and key ecosystems. Maps and statistics on endangered livestock are included, however, only schematic. For more detailed information, the FAO World Watch List for Domestic Animal Diversity (3rd edition, 2000) is referred to. Information on the individual breeds may be taken from the online information system of the FAO (DAD-IS), accessible under URL: <http://www.fao.org/dad-is/>

International Conference on the Carpathians

On invitation of the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory, the Regional Office for Europe of the UNEP organised, together with the European Academy Bolzano (EURAC), a conference on 'Co-operation for the protection and sustainable management of the Carpathians' (Bolzano, June 17-19, 2002). I-NGOs were also invited to participate in this international governmental conference. Italy, at present holding the chair of the Presidency of the Alpine Convention, defined the motto 'Sharing the Experience - Mountain sustainable development in the Carpathians and in the Alps' in the International Year of Mountains. The representatives of the Carpathian countries decided to recommend the transformation of the "Carpathian Initiative" into a "Carpathian Partnership" to their governments, and agreed to draw up a Carpathian Framework Convention similar to the Alpine Convention. SAVE Foundation had the opportunity to demonstrate the invaluable heritage of agro-biodiversity in the Carpathians and to present the comprehensive work already done for its recording.

As consequence of the realisation that the genetic and cultural-historical diversity of livestock and cultivated plants was particularly great in remote mountain areas, the SAVE Foundation and the linked-up Monitoring Institute have become active in the last years. After repeated travelling and expeditions in the Carpathians between 1995 and 1998, they invited - in co-operation with a Romanian genebank - 30 experts from 5 Carpathian countries to an international workshop 'Rare Breeds and Plant Varieties in the Carpathian Mountains' to Suceava, Romania. During this meeting in May 1999, problems connected with the conservation of biodiversity were thoroughly discussed and an

urgency program for further examinations and measures was drawn up. The resulting projects are to be implemented by and by, and to be evaluated by the initiating group. The workshop and the report on the workshop were supported by the Swiss Agency for Environment, Forest and Landscape (SAEFL), as well as by the Margarethe and Rudolf Gsell-Foundation, Basel.

An English short version of content and results of the workshops (synthesis) can be downloaded from the website of the SAVE Foundation as pdf-file (<http://www.save-foundation.net/english/projects.htm>). The entire report with 120 pages and photos may be ordered from: Monitoring Institute, Schneebergstr. 17, CH-9000 St.Gallen/Switzerland, against 20 EURO cash (report: 15.-, package and postage 5.-).

In Italy, country-wide active NGOs are founded

Italy is one of the European countries housing the richest biodiversity of livestock breeds and cultivated plants. Diversity has partially been very thoroughly recorded (e.g. in three editions of the Atlante Etnografico), but for the actual conservation, very little was done compared to other European countries. Within the last two years, however, two organisations have been founded which operate country-wide.

- Rete 'Semi Rurali'

'Semi Rurali' (Rete per la Conservazione Rurale delle Razze e Varietà Locali) was founded in July 2000. It is a network of organisations, farmers, researchers, agriculturalists and individual persons who are active for the conservation and protection of local varieties of vegetables, fruits and cereals. At present, a national catalogue (catalogo nazionale) on the distribution of local varieties in Italy is drawn up. The catalogue will also include information on who is going to look after certain varieties.

Address: Rete Semi Rurali, c/o Cornale coop. Agricola, Corso Marconi 64, I-12050 Magliano Alfieri, fax: 0173/266835; Presenter (moderatore): Dott. Massimo Angelini
E-mail: semi.rurali@libero.it
Internet: http://biodiv.iao.florence.it/semi_rurali/

- Associazione R.A.R.E.

The association R.A.R.E. (Associazione Italiana Razze Autoctona a Rischio di Estinzione) deals with the protection and support of endangered autochthonous breeds and populations. The association has cultural, environmental and scientific objectives. Besides the implementation of direct conservation projects, the association is active for raising awareness and informs a broad public on old breeds and their socio-economic background. Last June, e.g., R.A.R.E. organised a conference on 'Local breeds and the value of their typical products' in Agerola, together with the University of Naples.

Address: Associazione R.A.R.E., Corso G. Agnelli 32, I-10137 Torino;
Phone +39-011/670 85 80; fax +39-011/437 39 44; Chairman: Dott. Riccardo Fortina
E-mail: fortina.wwf@libero.it
Internet: <http://www.save-foundation.net/RARE>

The chairmen of both organisations are also represented in the SAVE committees. Massimo Angelini is a member of the SAVE Board of Directors, Riccardo Fortina participates in the SAVE Project Commission. SAVE Foundation wishes both organisations a lot of success!

Towards a Biodiversity Vision for the Alps

Approx. 60 experts from all Alpine countries discussed the requirements for the conservation of biodiversity in the Alpine region during a three-day workshop in the French Gap-Charance. The workshop was organised by the WWF (WWF European Alpine Programme), in co-operation with the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA), the 'Network of Alpine Protected Areas' and the International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (ISCAR). SAVE Foundation was represented by the Monitoring Institute and the Italian organisation R.A.R.E. who also contributed in the area of agro-biodiversity.

Aim of the workshop was the interdisciplinary exchange of information and experience, the collection of basic data for the definition of priority areas for the conservation of biodiversity without considering national borders. Basing on the results of the workshop, an efficient long-term conservation is to be implemented. The participants declare their readiness to contribute to a strong network for the conservation of the Ecoregion Alps. Further steps will be discussed during the 'Forum Alpinum' at Berchtesgaden/Germany in September.

Important dates (extract)

25-30 August: "The Third European Congress on Restoration Ecology" in Budapest, Hungary. Information: <http://www.botanika.hu/restoration>

26 August - 4 September: World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. Information: <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org>

29 August: Meeting of the 'Rare Breeds International' (RBI) in Kairo, Egypt, in the frame of the yearly conference of the EAAP. Information: Cesare Mosconi mosconi@eaap.org
Web: <http://www.rbi.it>

7-9 September: International OENGENE/DAGENE Meeting at the Agriculture Fair at Wels, Austria. Scientific session on rare breeds in the Danube countries with excursion to Austrian rare breed farms. Information: Laszlo Radnoczi radnoczil@ommi.hu

12-14 September: "The Role of Non-Governmental Organisations in Mountain Areas", Annual Symposium of CIPRA in Liechtenstein. Information: <http://www.lgu.li>

20-22 September: "Choosing Genetic for Sustainable Production", Conference in the frame of the 25th Anniversary of the ALBC (American Livestock Breeds Conservancy) at Hancock Shaker Village, Pittsfield, Massachusetts/USA. Information: Donald E. Bixby dbixby@albc-usa.org

23-27 September: Forum Alpinum "The Nature of the Alps" at Alpbach/Tyrol. Organized by the International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (ISCAR). Information: christoph.arnold@uibk.ac.at; Web: <http://www.forumAlpinum.org>

26 September: International Symposium "Protect Knowledge to Feed the World? - Application of intellectual property rights in international agriculture today and tomorrow" at Muri near Bern, Switzerland. Information: info@infoagrar.ch; Web: <http://www.infoagrar.ch>

14-16 October: "Le patrimoine génétique: la diversité et la ressource", La Châtre, France. Fourth national colloquium of the 'Bureau des Ressources Génétiques'. Information: brg@inapg.inra.fr

24-28 October: "4th Salone del Gusto". exhibition center Lingotto, Torino, Italy. World congress of oenogastronomy. Mail: salone@slowfood.it; Web: <http://www.slowfood.com>

28 Oct. -1 Nov.: "Bishkek Global Mountain Summit" in Bishkek, Kirgistan. Information: andrewvf@mail.ru

7-9 November: Conference on "Ecolabels and the Greening of the Food Market", Boston, Massachusetts/USA; Organizers: Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University. Web: <http://nutrition.tufts.edu/conted/ecolabels>

9-10 November: Jubilee Fruitshow to the 10th anniversary of the 'Stichting Behoud en Bevordering Fruitcultuur' at Doesburg, Netherlands. Exposition of more than 1000 old, new and special fruit varieties. Contact: fructus.doesburg@wxs.nl

21-25 November 2002: "From Biodiversity to Genomics. Breeding Strategies for Small Grain Cereals in the Third Millenium". Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy. Organisation: EUCARPIA. Web: <http://www.eucarpia.org>

=> Further information is available from:

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