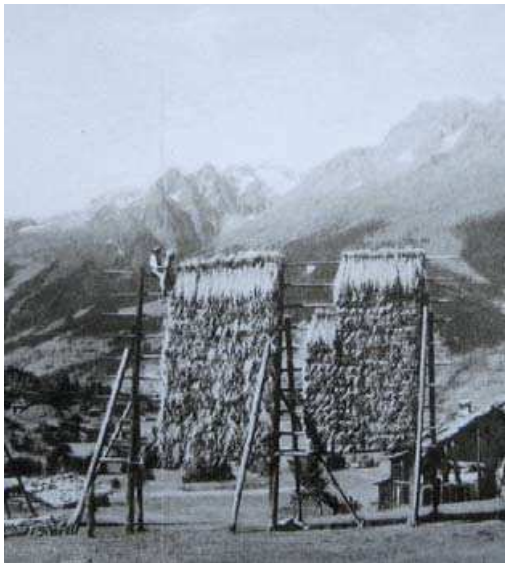




## Biodiversity Day 2015

Biodiversity is the basis of Nature. The "International Biodiversity Day" reminds us that this basis of life is under threat. Up to 150 species become extinct daily. This includes also crops and livestock. Their protection is often neither part of the agriculture nor part of nature conservation. SAVE Foundation based with its Project Office in St. Gallen, Switzerland, and the SAVE Network Office in Wageningen, The Netherlands, cares to them Europeanwide, like for example in the Alps.



Today the Alps are used often very intensively, while some regions are getting abandoned. Most of the traditional knowledge how to treat the different and often naturally very sensible habitats are going to be lost. One example may be the broad-leaved dock, bitter dock, bluntleaf dock, dock leaf or butter dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*): Today every farmer who works in the alpine transhumance hates this plant because it occurs where the soil is well manured around the buildings and the animals don't like to eat it because of its high content of oxalic acid. But broad-leaved dock belongs to one of the oldest known plant vegetables in the Alps! Previously, it was bred even in fenced alpine gardens! What the animals did not eat was processed into silage as

animal feed and in the winter, the boiled leaves were welcome at the animals. There have been also other uses for this plant: It was a perfect fully biological toilet paper. It was also used as a "Wrapping" for fresh alpine butter, which should be brought down to the villages. Therefore the plant is also known as "Anke Blacke" in some parts of Switzerland, where butter is called "Anke".

Within the project Fundus Agri-Cultura Alpina SAVE collects information on livestock and crops that have been previously used in the Alpine region. This includes their use and integration into rituals and customs. The importance of intangible cultural heritage is increasingly recognized and SAVE wants to contribute to this appreciation. SAVE foundation is accredited to provide advisory services to the intergovernmental United Nations Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Readers from the Alpine region with knowledge on this issue are invited to share their knowledge on a wiki based platform with other users. You can have a look on this platform at: [www.fundus-agricultura.wiki](http://www.fundus-agricultura.wiki) or you can contact [office@save-foundation.net](mailto:office@save-foundation.net) to get more information.

See also:

Ark Network: <http://www.arca-net.info>

Agrobiodiversity.Net: <http://www.agrobiodiversity.net>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/agrobiodiversity](http://www.facebook.com/agrobiodiversity)