

**COUNTRY
REPORT FOR
2008-2009 of**

MONTENEGRO

Reported by

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**STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 1: CHARACTERIZATION, INVENTORY AND
MONITORING OF TRENDS AND ASSOCIATED RISKS**

Actions undertaken during the past year 2008:

The field of Animal genetic resources in Montenegro at the end of 2007 and during the first half of 2008 was characterized by preparing and adoption of the National program and the Action plan of conservation and sustainable using of animal genetic resources.

According to the Action plan, the identification and inventory of the most endangered autochthonous breeds were undertaken during the last year.

The detailed description of the:

1. Work on identification and inventory of autochthonous brachiceros bovine breed Busha has been started on the farms that raised this breed - this activity included morphological characterization (body measuring, data on pigmentation of hair and nostrils, size and shape of horns etc);

Remarks:

- Severe decreasing trend in numbering of this breed is present,
- Busha is only raised in long distance remote areas, where 1 to 3 animals, rarely up to five, are raised per farm,
- Mainly the old persons people raise this breed, they are not ready to cooperate on conservation activities

Total number of 30 animals was chosen for further monitoring

2. Autochthonous breeds of sheep:

- a. Work on identification, inventory and morphological characterization of autochthonous sheep breed Zetska zuja, most threatened breed by extinction, was done;

Remarks:

- Severe decreasing trend in numbering of this breed is present, close to extinct completely from the population,
- No interests of the farmers to raise this breed because of its very low productivity

Total number of 40 animals was chosen for further monitoring

- b. Work on identification, inventory and morphological characterization of autochthonous sheep breed Pivska pramenka – breed still not in danger, however it is specific breed only in particular area of Montenegro (Durmitor mountain circle) and trend number is also

decreasing. Total of number of 350 animals is covered by identification and morphological characterization

- c. Work on identification, inventory and morphological characterization of autochthonous sheep breed Sora, which is still not defined as a breed and with a very small population, has been started in order not only to conserve but to recognize it as a particular breed

Actions planned for the next year 2009:

- To continue identification, inventory and morphological characterization with aim to include more animals for each of already chosen breeds,
- To complete monitoring of already identified animals,
- To include new species and breeds into regular conservation activities

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Actions undertaken during the past year 2008:

No concrete actions have been undertaken in order to use mentioned breeds on sustainable way. In that sense, most chances there are for certain breeds of sheep (Pivska pramenka, Sora and Balkan breed of goats) – all of them are convenient for extensive way of rearing. Pivska pramenka, for example, is suitable due to its high value products like crem (skorup) that can reach very high price at the market. However, due to lack of labor force, milking of ewes is less and less practiced, so that produce of milk product named “skorup” permanently decries.

The opposite is for Zetska zuja sheep breed and Bush breed of cattle, both of them are not economically attractive for rearing primarily due to low productivity

Actions planned for the next year 2009:

- To start with promotion of high value products of these autochthonous breeds (cream – skorup; cheese, meat, home made sour milk)

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION

Actions undertaken during the past year 2008:

- In accordance to the plan defined by National program and by the Action plan, in situ conservation after identification and morphological characterization has been started thus it includes:

- 30 animal of Busha breed of cattle (27 cow and 3 bulls),
- 40 animals of Zetska zuja sheep breed
- Flock of 195 animals of Sora sheep
- Two flocks with 240 animals of Pivska pramenka sheep

For breeds included into Program of in situ conservation, farmers were obliged by signing the contract in which obligation were clearly defined. In the state budget for Agriculture (Axis two of Rural development policy) premiums for Animal genetic resources were provided:

- For Busha cattle - 80 EUR/head
- For sheep 15 EUR / head

Actions planned for the next year 2009:

- To increase number of Busha cattle breed, covered by in situ program, up to 60 animals,
- To increase number of Zetska zuja sheep breed, covered by in situ program, up to at least 80 animals,
- To increase number of Sora animals, covered by in situ program, up to 250 animals,
- To increase number of Pivska pramenka breed, covered by in situ program, up to 400 animals,
- To include at least 100 animals of Domestic Balkanian goat breed (red colored)

According to the National program for Agriculture and rural development, it was foreseen to increase premiums at level of:

- For cattle 130 EUR per head
- For sheep and goats 18 EUR per head
- For animals of Zetska zuja as most endangered breed premiums would be 25 EUR per head

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Actions undertaken during the past year 2008:

- Preparation and adoption by Government of National program and action plan of conservation and sustainable using of Animal genetic resources;
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management officially appointed Dr. Bozidarka Markovic as a National coordinator for Animal genetic resources in FAO;
- Biotechnical faculty and its' Department of Livestock Science was nominated as the focal point institution responsible for the implementation of the Program and the Action plan of conservation of Animal genetic resources.
- Drafting new Law on livestock breeding, that will bring a legal frame for animal genetic resources.
- Montenegro has established good cooperation and participation in ERFP, SAVE and FAO, and actively participate in ERFP Project: Study of origin and conservation strategy of the Pramenka sheep breeds as regional trans boundary breeds.
- Establishing of national database in EFABIS with direct links to the DAD-Is is in process.

Actions planned for the next year 2009:

Adoption of the new Law on livestock breeding regulation, and to start preparation of the sub laws – rulebooks,

Fully establishing and updating national data base in EFABIS.