

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 2009:

According to the National program and Action plan of conservation and sustainable using, which adopted on the middle of 2008. activities on the identification and inventory of the new heads of most endangered autochthonous breeds were continued during the last year. Monitoring of already identified heads of autochthonous breeds have been done, too.

1. Identification and inventory of autochthonous brachyceros cattle breed Busha

This activity include morphological characterization (data about body measures, exterior characteristics as pigmentation of hair and nostrils, size and shape of horns etc) and it was organized on the farms that raised this breed.

New heads of Busha breed identified on two farms. First of them is located in Central part of Montenegro (municipality Niksic) with 9 heads, and the other one in North East part of Montenegro (municipality Plav) with 8 heads characterized as Busha. Both farms will be under monitoring for next years.

Monitoring of already identified Busha heads and farm included in program of conservation showed decreasing of number heads with typical breed characteristics from 30 in previous year to 25 heads in 2009.

Total number of 40 animals was chosen for further monitoring.

2. Identification, inventory and monitoring of autochthonous breeds of sheep:

a. Zuja (Zetska zuja)

Zetska zuja is the most threatened breed by extinction in Montenegro. Through activities of identification, inventory have been identified new heads and a farm of one specific variety of Zuja sheep breed named Piperska zuja. Variety of Piperska zuja has some specific morphological trait, different of Zetska zuja (bigger body scope – body measures, usually horned all of heads – male and female). In total identified 63 heads of Zuja – variety Piperska zuja.

By monitoring activities controlled of heads of Zuja breed already involved in Program and identified their current status with 35 heads.

b. Pivska pramenka

This breed still not in danger, however it is breed specific only in particular area of Montenegro (Durmitor mountain circle in North West part of Montenegro) and trend of population size is in decreasing.

In the three flocks identified 285 heads of Pivska pramenka sheep breed.

c. Sora

Sora breed has small population and it is still not defined as a breed. Morphological characterization of this breed by collecting data for body measures of 85 heads from two flocks was done. The main aim of morphological characterization is defined of typical breed traits. Number heads in two flock which already involved in program, according to monitoring, has increased and current number is 230 heads.

Actions planned for the next year 2010:

- 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,
- Starting of genetic characterization of AnGR .

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Actions undertaken during the past year 2009:

The most chances for sustainable using there are for breeds of sheep: Pivska pramenka and Sora. 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 and it is very difficult organize sustainable using and development of them.

Actions planned for the next year 2010:

- 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 2009:

- *In situ* program of conservation of farm animal genetic resources has started three years ago. list of breeds, number of heads included in *In this* program in the last year were:
 - 40 heads of Busha breed of cattle on three farms (36 cows and 4 bulls),
 - 35 heads of Zetska zuja sheep breed (33 ewes and 2 rams) + 63 heads of Piperska zuja (61 ewes and 2 rams),

- Two flocks of Sora sheep breed with 230 heads (224 ewes and 6 rams),
- Three flocks with 285 heads of Pivska pramenka sheep breed (277 ewes and 8 rams).

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+60 € /head (total 140€/head),
- For sheep 10 +8 € / head (total 18 €/head) for Pivska pramenka, Sora and Piperska zuja breeds,
- For Zetska zuja breed of sheep it is 10 + 15 €/head (total 25 €/head).

Actions planned for the next year 2010:

- To increase number of Busha cattle breed, covered by in situ program, up to 80 animals,
- To increase number of Zetska zuja sheep breed, covered by in situ program, up to at least 80 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 the 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 2009:

- Prepared of new Law on livestock breeding, that will bring a legal frame for animal genetic resources.
- Participation of national Coordinator on Annual meeting of ERF on EAAP in Barselona, participation in ERF regional projects: Study of origin and conservation strategy of the Pramenka sheep breeds as regional trans boundary breeds.
- Updating of national database in EFABIS with direct links to the DAD-Is is in process.

Actions planned for the next year 2010:

- Adoption of the new Law on livestock breeding regulation, and to start preparation of the sub laws – rulebooks,
- Establishing of laboratory for genetic characterization (lab. for molecular analysis),
- Fully establishing and updating national data base in EFABIS.