

**COUNTRY REPORT
FOR 2009-2010**

Switzerland

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

All important data of Swiss breeds of the main species – cattle, horses, sheep, goats and pigs – is available on the EFABIS.ch database and is updated yearly. Data is provided by Breeding Organisations and reflects the number of animals registered in the Herdbooks. The total population size must be estimated. Breeding Organisations are responsible for the rare and endangered breeds as well as for the continuous monitoring of the active breeding population and the management of the latter. Since 2009, several Breeding Organisations use the PopRep program for monitoring. Trends show that endangered breeds are maintained or their effective population size is increasing. The coefficient of inbreeding remains a problem in small populations due to the small number of breeding males. Support has been given to international surveys and by answering several questionnaires.

Actions planned for the next year

EFABIS should be completed with new pictures of local breeds. For the first time a project for native rabbit breeds will be financed to establish a Herdbook.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Actions undertaken during the past year

Breeding and production techniques, as well as breeding objectives, have been improved in rare breeds, resulting in increased population size. Programs for endangered breeds have been focussing on sustainable use including marketing of products of high value for specific breeds as well as on selection of optimal contributing animals. Technical support has been offered to Breeding Organisations.

Actions planned for the next year

Technical support will continuously be proposed to Breeding Organisations. Attention will be given to the use of rare native breeds in mountain regions. Projects shall also focus on sustainable use of land with rare breeds and include consideration of broad genetic variety within breeds. Approaches will be discussed within Breeding Organisations how to select optimal contributing animals for reproduction.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION

Actions undertaken during the past year

Several meetings took place especially with goat and sheep Breeding Organisations to promote conservation activities. A new conservation program has been financed for native bees. Reports on in situ conservation programs are revised continuously in order to improve conservation strategies. Incentives consistent with existing international agreements were again allocated to breeders participating in conservation programs.

The Swiss Parliament agreed to introduce a new paragraph in the ordinance for animal breeding which allows to cofinance long term conservation of cryomaterial together with organisations for artificial insemination.

Several meetings took place with an organisation for artificial insemination in order to set up and collaborate in the national Cryobank.

Actions planned for the next year

Next year's action will focus on ex-situ conservation programs for goats as well as on long term strategies for the management of the Cryobank for cattle, horses, goats and sheep.

Contracts for long term conservation of Cryomaterial and for the utilization of the Cryoweb will be concluded.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Actions undertaken during the past year

A training workshop with national and international speakers has been organised in May 2010 for Breeding Organisations with small populations in order to improve breeding activities.

Actions planned for the next year

In 2011 a workshop is planned with Breeding Organisations to promote and enable exchange of know-how and experiences made within projects for endangered breeds.

Active participation in international workshops.