

Thursday, 15th August 2019

Mr. Sebastian Winkel

Chair of the In situ conservation and valorisation of AnGR working group

Report of In situ conservation and valorisation of AnGR ERFP working group

1. Objectives of the group (Summary)

The overall goal of this WG is the improvement of the *in situ* conservation (on-farm conservation) and valorisation of AnGR to provide a base for their sustainable use. Therefore, experiences on different initiatives with sharing of information among countries about implemented and planned activities related to on-farm conservation, success stories and projects need to be exchanged. The group will review legal conditions and financial support measures in order to optimize their implementation in on-farm conservation strategies. The WG will also support the on-farm conservation efforts for transboundary breeds as well as the promotion of the utilization of rare breeds and respective R&D activities to relevant stakeholders, for value chains and landscape management, the identification of “added value”-arguments (e. g. cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, ecosystem services, local marketing, organic agriculture). Approaches for a better integration of *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation activities in Europe need to be elaborated and promoted together with the WG *Ex situ* conservation.

2. Membership of the group (chair in grey)

Country	Name Member	Surname
Albania	Kristaq	KUME
Austria	Beate	BERGER
Croatia	Ante	IVANKOVIĆ
Finland	Juha	KANTANEN
France	Coralie	DANCHIN-BURGE
Germany	Sebastian	WINKEL
Greece	Dimitrios	TSIOKOS
Iceland	Birna K.	BALDURSDÓTTIR
Italy	Fabio	PILLA
Latvia	Ligija	OZOLINA

Country	Name Member	Surname
Lithuania	Ruta	ŠVEISTIENĖ
Montenegro	Milan	MARKOVIC
Nordgen*	Mervi	HONKATUKIA
Norway	Peer	BERG
Poland	Agnieszka	CHEŁMIŃSKA
Portugal	Filomena	AFONSO
ProSpecieRara	Philippe	AMMANN
Serbia	Srdjan	STOJANOVIĆ
Slovenia	Danijela	BOJKOVSKI
Spain	Jesus	FERNANDEZ MARTIN
Sweden	Per	THUNMAN
Switzerland	Philippe	AMMANN
The Netherlands	Jack	WINDIG
United Kingdom	Marcus	BATES

*observer

3. Activities in the past year and output/results

Task “Position paper on the CAP” (lead: Beate Berger, AT/Sebastian Winkel, DE):

In cooperation with the TF EU matters, the WG has re-drafted a joint position paper of ERFP and ECPGR (The CAP is not relevant for EUFORGEN.) on better consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR and PGR in the CAP. The draft position paper has been adopted by the NCs for AnGR and PGR. It has been sent to the European Parliament, to the European Council and to the European Commission. The General Secretariat of the Council has dispatched the position paper to all Member States for their consideration. Furthermore, it has been published on the ECPGR-website. The sending and publication of the position paper have completed this task.

Task “Best practices for in situ conservation and valorisation of AnGR” (lead: Coralie DANCHIN-BURGE, FR):

A census of previous and on-going projects, in which best practices has been collected has been done.

Task “ERFP Guidelines for *in situ* conservation of transboundary breeds” (lead: Jack Windig/Sipke Hiemstra, NL):

An inventory of points to be covered by the guidelines has been elaborated. The WG discussed the topics and concluded that such guidelines should not be limited to the scope of *in situ* conservation and valorisation. The conservation and sustainable use of transboundary breeds requires an integrated approach of *in situ*-, *ex situ*- and documentation measures.

A particular problem is the segregation of a transboundary breed into subpopulations. Countries sometimes act in this way to declare the subpopulation a local breed and to justify payments. For the breed, however, the threat posed by the artificial separation of subpopulations may be greater than the benefit of payments.

Task “Promote and support rural development measures for AnGR” (lead: Srdjan Stojanovic, RS):

A questionnaire on support measures for individual breeds in the countries has been developed. This questionnaire also contains questions on opinions as to what would be the right measure to stop the decline in the number of breeds and to conserve the breeds in the long term. The WG discussed the questionnaire in order to get answers for the above objectives from the European NCs, especially for which endangered breeds and with help of what kind of conservation programs they want to sustain the breeds.

Task “Exchange of recommendations of national advisory bodies on AnGR” (lead: Sebastian Winkel, DE):

The WG has made a compilation of relevant publications. There are three documents proposed by Spain, one document proposed by Serbia and three documents proposed by Germany.

Task “Support of the project GenRes Bridge” (lead: Danijela Bojkovski, SL):

During a joint meeting of all three ERFP WGs, questions have been identified to be answered by each WG. The WG discussed the questions and worked out the following answers:

Key arguments, reasons/motives for a European strategy for GRFA:

- Agrobiodiversity contributes to the human wellbeing.
- Agrobiodiversity is important for cultural heritage.
- GRFA have a value in itself.
- We need diversity of GRFA for adaption to climate change.
- GRFA provide ecosystem services.
- GRFA have economical potential for market niches with higher value development.
- GRFA contribute to the economic and social impact particularly in rural regions.
- Local GRFA can support the tourism sector.

Strategy/strategies; integrated or domain specific?:

- The WG agrees to the concept to have a general integrated strategy for GRFA plus domain-specific programmes i. a. for AnGR.
- AnGR should be equally represented as other GRFA.

- We have to point out why AnGR are different to other GRFA.

Gaps/challenges in management and conservation of AnGR:

- Lack of awareness and activity.
- Lack of definitions e. g. for “pure bred animals”.
- Different interpretation and implementation of the same regulations between countries.
- CAP reform, sanitary legislation – need for proper conditions for AnGR.
- Need for appropriate management of predators.
- Segregation of transboundary breeds into subpopulation because of national interests.

Overview of the existing strategies:

- Making use of the progress report on GPA.
- Making use of FAO questionnaire from the 2nd SoW report on AnGR.
- Really short questionnaire would be feasible.

Collection of examples/demonstration cases on transboundary breeds:

- Demonstration cases – use of Preparatory Action.
- See Task 1: transfer of examples for transboundary breeds to Enrico Sturaro.
- WG members could send additional cases of best practices to Coralie.

Experts of the WG *In situ* conservation attending the workshop on the Compiling Scientific messages for integrated conservation strategy in July 2019:

- Jesus Fernandez (presentation on the *in situ* conservation of AnGR)
- Mervi Honkatukia (observer from Nordgen)

The results of the WG were presented to the other WGs on 23rd May 2019 during the joint WG meeting.

Task “Experience exchange on *in situ* conservation and valorisation of AnGR” (all WG members):

Experiences from Iceland and Greece were presented (presentations attached). Particularly impressive was the existence of population size data on livestock in Iceland since the 17th century. Iceland has native breeds of horse, cattle, sheep and goat. For the agricultural production of pigs and poultry commercial genetics are used. With regard to the presentation from Greece, particularly the collaboration between the various institutions was discussed in the WG. Greece is intensively committed to the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR.

4. Plans and priorities for the next year (to be formally approved by Assembly)

Task “Best practices for *in situ* conservation and valorisation of AnGR” (lead: Coralie DANCHIN-BURGE, FR):

The WG will promote the identified projects via the ERFP website. Further projects can be added at any time. Due to the huge effort and the lack of capacity, the originally planned development of a grid to collect best practices for *in situ* conservation seems not to be feasible anymore.

Special attention should be paid to transboundary breeds. Coralie Danchin-Burge will provide the WG members with a template in which further best practice examples can be added, particularly for transboundary breeds. The template will copy the structure of the ecompendium of the Preparatory action – EU plant and animal genetic resources. Special attention will be paid to ERFP projects, e. g. on Pramenka sheep and Podolic cattle, as well as the GPA Trust Fund project on Busha cattle. Another relevant initiative for the *in situ* conservation of transboundary breeds is SAVE. It has been agreed that certain dog breeds are also in the scope of ERFP.

Task “ERFP Guidelines for *in situ* conservation of transboundary breeds” (lead: Jack Windig/Sipke Hiemstra, NL):

Since the other two ERFP WGs and the ERFP Secretariat are also in favor for a joint effort of all three WGs, an *Ad hoc* action is proposed to the ERFP Assembly in 2019 to develop ERFP guidelines for transboundary breeds. If the ERFP Assembly agrees to the proposal, all three WGs can support this *Ad hoc* action by providing the content of the guidelines.

Task “Promote and support rural development measures for AnGR” (lead: Srdjan Stojanovic, RS):

The questionnaire will be sent to the NCs after the ERFP Assembly Meeting 2019 with a deadline of one month. After receiving the replies from the NCs, the WG will continue to work on this task as agreed in the work plan.

Task “Exchange of recommendations of national advisory bodies on AnGR” (lead: Sebastian Winkel, DE):

The documents will be distributed in August 2019 via the ERFP website. Further documents can be added at any time.

Task “Support of the project GenRes Bridge” (lead: Danijela Bojkovski, SL):

The results of the joint WG meeting on 21st – 23rd May 2019 have been taken up by the *Ad hoc* action GenRes Bridge for further consideration in the HORIZON2020-project.

The WG will keep on discussing and developing on an integrated strategy for GRFA and a domain specific programme for AnGR. Care should be taken that AnGR are equally represented to other GRFA. The main reasons why AnGR are different to other GRFA need to be pointed out.

Experience exchange on *in situ* conservation and valorisation of AnGR:

The experience exchange will continue in the next WG meeting.