

Reinforce and support landscape management with native breeds

Holger Göderz

**Information and Coordination Centre for Biological Diversity (IBV)
Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE), Germany**

Meeting of ERFP Working Group *In situ* Conservation

Toledo, 22nd May 2023

1

Structure

- **Examples of suitable domestic breeds for landscape management in Germany**
- **Problems/Obstacles**
- **Initiative of the National Advisory Board on Animal Genetic Resources**
- **Possible actions for our WG**

2


 Federal Office
for Agriculture and Food

Suitable domestic breeds in Germany

Dülmener (wild horse)

- Domestic horse breed with high risk of extinction
(Only 7 stallions and 36 mares registered in studbook in 2019)
- Herd of approx. 400 horses in a 400 ha reservation ("Merfelder Bruch")




3


 Federal Office
for Agriculture and Food

Suitable domestic breeds in Germany

Dülmener (wild horse)

- No stables or non-natural shelters
- Wide area consisting of moor, heathland, forests and oak trees
- Supply with hay only in the winter months

→ **highly adapted to the environmental conditions and very suitable for all-year outdoor landscape management**

4

 Federal Office
for Agriculture and Food

Suitable domestic breeds in Germany

Murnau-Werdenfelser Rind (cattle)

- Domestic cattle breed with high risk of extinction
- Dual purpose (milk/meat)/ suckler cows



Photo credits: Christel Simantke, GEH

5

 Federal Office
for Agriculture and Food

Suitable domestic breeds in Germany

Murnau-Werdenfelser Rind (cattle)

- Adapted to rough mountain climate as well as to humid habitats
- Strong and resistant claws

→ **highly adapted to different environmental conditions and very suitable for all-year outdoor landscape management in humid habitats**

6

 Federal Office
for Agriculture and Food

Problems/Obstacles

But...

- Landscape management with domestic livestock breeds is still not the norm
- Many landscape management projects are done with the use of exotic breeds/species




7

 Federal Office
for Agriculture and Food

Problems/Obstacles

Why?

- Exotic breeds/species may be more attractive for some people (Highland Cattle, Water Buffalo)
- Farmers that are responsible for landscape management keep “their own” breeds for long time and do not see any reason to change
- Use of domestic breeds is sometimes not profitable without further financial support
- Lack of awareness for the importance of conservation und sustainable use of AnGR for food and agriculture within nature conservation associations

8



Federal Office
for Agriculture and Food

National Advisory Board on Animal Genetic Resources

Initiative of our National Advisory Board on AnGR

- Committee of national experts from science, public administration, breed societies and NGOs
- Advisory function for implementation of the National Programme for the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR
- BLE-IBV as Secretariat

9



Federal Office
for Agriculture and Food

National Advisory Board on Animal Genetic Resources

Idea to..

- write a statement to strengthen the use of domestic livestock breeds in landscape management
- address it to the responsible associations and municipalities
- raise awareness for the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR
- show possible synergies between nature protection and agriculture

10



Federal Office
for Agriculture and Food

National Advisory Board on Animal Genetic Resources

Arguments

- We have domestic livestock breeds that are adapted to our environmental conditions over centuries and that have contributed to their creation
- Germany has committed to international (**CBD**, GPA, SDGs) and national (National Programme for AnGR, Agrobiodiversity strategy, National animal breeding law) agreements
- Domestic livestock breeds as cultural heritage (e.g. for tourism)
“Real regionality only with regional breeds”

11



Federal Office
for Agriculture and Food

National Advisory Board on Animal Genetic Resources

Arguments

- Use of endangered domestic livestock breeds could be a useful symbiosis of agriculture and nature protection

→ **Cooperation between the agricultural sector and nature conservation as guideline for future developments**

12



Federal Office
for Agriculture and Food

National Advisory Board on Animal Genetic Resources

Important

- **Cooperation with Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)**
 - to make the statement more readable for the nature protection community
 - to ask for their support in the distribution of the statement

13



Federal Office
for Agriculture and Food

Possible actions of ERFP WG In situ

What can we as ERFP WG In situ do?

- **Cooperation with ERFP TF „Conservation of Genetic Resources at Landscape Level through Demonstration Cases“**
- **Cooperation with landscape management initiatives like Landcare Europe?**
- **European Workshop?**
- **ERFP statement (booklet)?**

14



Possible actions of ERFP WG In situ

What can we as ERFP WG In situ do?

Open for discussion and your suggestions!

.....