



Reinforce and support landscape management with native breeds

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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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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




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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



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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!

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