

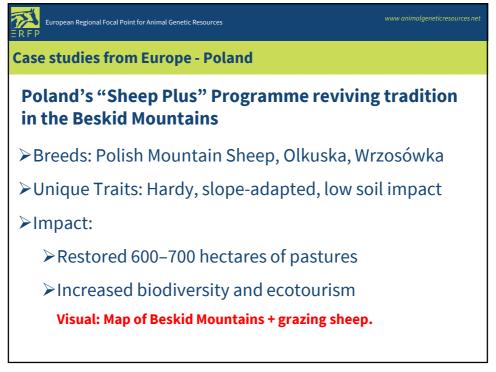
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European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources

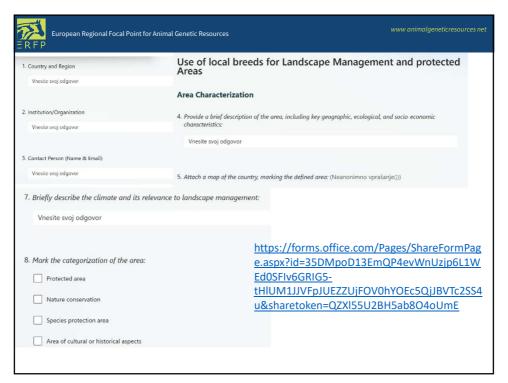
Why Local Breeds Matter - Case studies from Europe

Case Studies Overview

- ➤ Poland: "Sheep Plus" Programme (Beskid Mountains)
- > Hungary: Hortobágy National Park
- ➤ Serbia: Busha Cattle Conservation (Stara Planina)
- > Czech Republic: Milovice Nature Reserve
- ➤ Netherlands: Slikken van de Heen Wetland Reserve



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Case studies from Europe - Hungary

Organic Grazing on Europe's Largest Grassland

- ➤ Breeds: Hungarian Grey Cattle, Racka Sheep
- ➤ Unique Traits: Drought-resistant, maintains open steppe
- > Impact: Hungary's Hortobágy National Park
- ➤ 6,800 hectares of grassland managed



- ➤ UNESCO World Heritage status preserved
- Local employment in park management and tourism

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Case studies from Europe - Serbia

Serbia's Busha Cattle Conservation - Saving an Endangered Breed in Stara Planina

- Breed: Busha Cattle
- Unique Traits: Cold-hardy, small stature, scrub grazer
- Impact: Genetic diversity preserved
- Smallholder livelihoodssupported





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Case studies from Europe - Czech Republic

Czech Republic's Milovice Reserve - Rewilding with Aurochs-like Grazers

- > Breeds: Tauros Cattle, European Bison, Exmoor Ponies
- Unique Traits: Mimics extinct aurochs' grazing patterns
- ➤ Impact:
 - Restored 250 hectares of former military land
 - Increased biodiversity (e.g., rare butterflies)





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Case studies from Europe - The Netherlands

Netherlands' Slikken van de Heen - Bison and Horses in Wetland Management

- > Breeds: European Bison, Konik Horses
- Unique Traits: Creates mosaic landscapes, controls

invasive plants



- > Impact:
 - Enhanced wetland biodiversity
 - ➤ Demonstrated bison adaptability to wet climates



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Why local breeds matters

- ➤ **Key Message:** Local breeds are critical for biodiversity, cultural heritage, and sustainable land management.
 - > Prevent habitat degradation
 - ➤ Support fire prevention and soil health
 - Boost rural economies and tourism



Local breeds play a critical role in sustainable landscape management.

Initiatives across Europe demonstrate environmental and socio-economic benefits.

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Benefits of landscape management with local breeds (1)

Direct Economic Benefits:

- ➤ Job creation for farmers, shepherds, and local workers
- Growth in local products (meat, cheese, wool)
- ➤ New business opportunities (e.g., agritourism, crafts)
- Increased funding and investment in rural areas

Tourism and Local Services

- Growth in ecotourism and educational visits
- Increased demand for local accommodation and services
- > Promotion of the region as a destination for nature and culture



- Preservation and revival of traditional knowledge and practices
- Strengthening of community identity and pride
- Support for local festivals, crafts, and food traditions
- > Intergenerational knowledge transfer

Environmental-Economic Benefits

- > Improved biodiversity and landscape health boosts ecosystem services
- > Healthy ecosystems support sustainable agriculture and tourism
- > Reduction in land abandonment and maintenance of open habitats

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