

# SAVE FOUNDATION

Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe  
(Sicherung der landwirtschaftlichen Arten-Vielfalt in Europa)

<http://www.save-foundation.net>

Geographic Range: EUROPE



## Brief Portrait 2018



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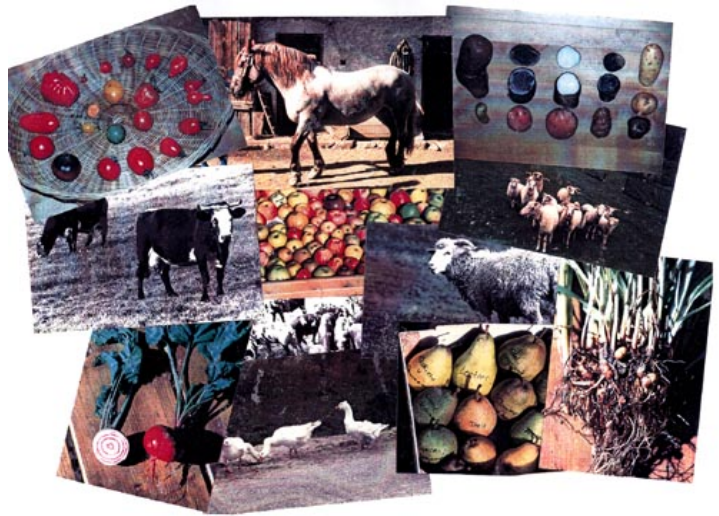
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## Importance of Agro-Biodiversity

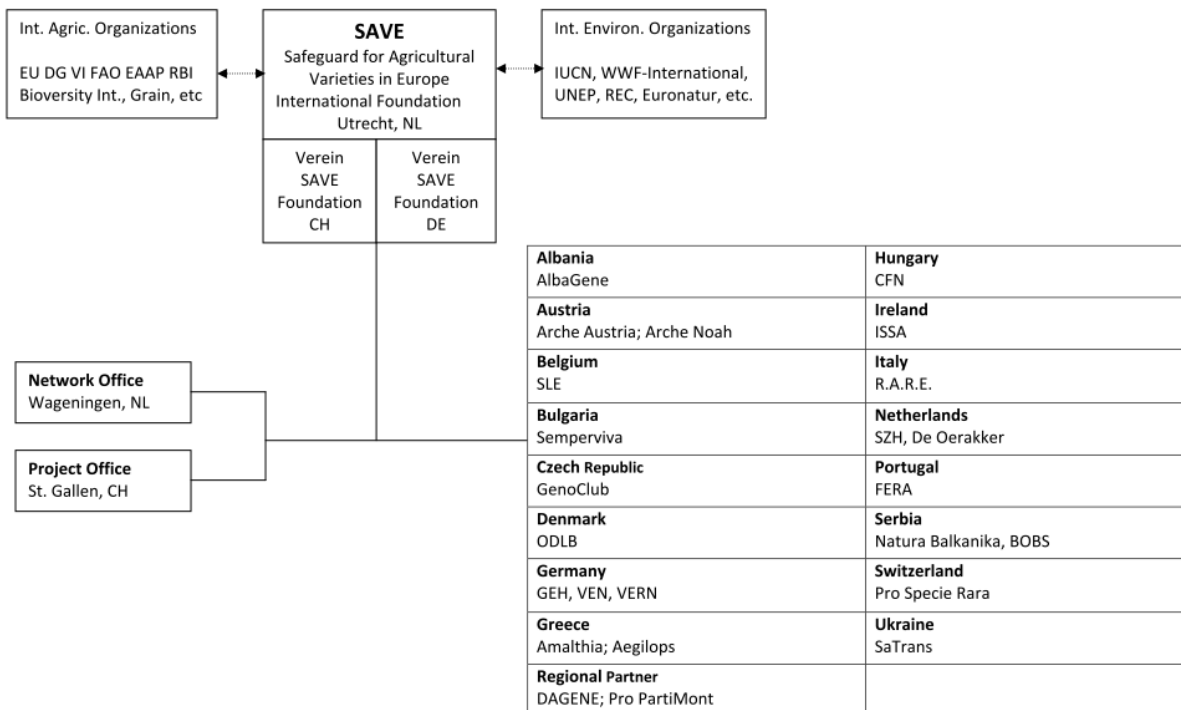
Over generations our ancestors developed a large variety of domesticated animals and plants that are optimally adapted to their particular local environmental conditions. Today, this diversity, the agrobiodiversity, is endangered – and thus a genetic, cultural and historical heritage. The loss of diversity of native breeds and crops is also a loss for sustainable special high nature value landscape. Agrobiodiversity is endangered, because not only languages and customs are going to be forgotten and lost, but also breeds, varieties, land use systems and traditional peasant knowledge.



SAVE Foundation stands for the protection of agrobiodiversity, within unique, man-made cultural landscapes in Europe. The SAVE network acts as a representative of non-governmental organizations, owners and breeders to meet their needs for grassroots development. There is an indispensable connection between human culture, sustainable management and agrobiodiversity. This aspect is an integral part of all the activities of SAVE Foundation.

## The European SAVE Network

### SAVE Foundation Network (November 2017)





# What we do every Day

## Rescue Projects

SAVE is active in the live conservation of endangered breeds and varieties in their region of origin. Only if conservation in this region cannot be guaranteed animals or plants will be moved to another area. These projects are carried out, whenever possible, in close collaboration with local organizations and experts. If this is not possible, [SAVE Foundation](#) itself carries out these projects.

### **Example: Rescue of the Carpathian Buffalo**

Carpathian buffaloes, the northernmost representatives of their species, have been part of agriculture in the Danubian basin and in the Southern Carpathians for thousands of years. They differ from their southern counterparts by particularly hard hooves, a long-haired coat and a compact massive conformation.

Coordinated breeding in the Transcarpathian region (Carpatho-Ukraine) stopped with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Today, the buffalo are threatened with extinction. Together with committed local partners, it was possible to set up an ark and rescue station for the Carpathian buffaloes in Transcarpathia in the former kolkhoz Saldobosch and to create a breeding program. The project is a success because a few, very dedicated people and organizations contribute their ideas and strengths. However, the realization was only possible through financial support from third parties.



*The Buffalo cows Julka und Raissa in Transcarpathia in the Ark- & Rescue Center Saldobosch*

## Structures for a sustainable Development

SAVE Foundation works cross-border with breeders organizations, sets up coordination programs, organizes international meetings and conferences for breeders, experts and governmental bodies. The projects are integrated in concepts of sustainable production, the rural development, nature conservation and tourism.

### Example: Cross-Border Coordination in the Balkans – the Busha Cattle

Busha cattle, a shorthorn cattle breed, were kept in all the Balkan countries today. Therefore, a great genetic diversity has developed within this breed. But today, these robust cattle are only scattered across the Balkan countries in small, rapidly declining stocks. The preservation of this genetic diversity is a challenge. SAVE Foundation coordinates the exchange of know-how within the Balkan countries and supports conservation in small populations, breeding and marketing. A FAO-funded project to survey and maintain the Busha cattles, [BushaLive](#) was completed in 2016.



*Busha cattles are frugal, robust and resistant to many diseases*

### Example: Fruit Inventory Romania

As part of the project "Conservation and adding Value to Fruit Varieties" next to various actions, the variety of fruits in Transylvania was recorded and published in an accessible pdf, which was also delivered out and published locally. This register is available in german and in english [here](#).



## Monitoring and Data Collection

SAVE Foundation searches actively for the last remnants of lost breeds and varieties, records the stock numbers of livestock populations and rare varieties in databases and evaluates them. The general procedure is as followed:

**Mapping**, capturing past diversity versus current occurrences

**Watching**, monitoring of the stock development (early response)

**Alarming**, reaction to negative developments (emergency response)

Extensive databases must be maintained and kept up to date.

### Example: Monitoring in Greece

In Greece, a country with a very heterogeneous landscape and climate, a large diversity of livestock breeds developed on the more than 9'000 isolated islands and richly chambered landscapes of the mainland. Breeds were also spread by the migration of ethnic groups across the present day borders. In a comprehensive monitoring of the situation of the livestock breeds of Greece, more than 196 breeds and varieties of 12 animal species were identified, recorded in a "[Breedatlas](#)" and made available to a broad public. In close cooperation with interested people on site, the Greek organization for the conservation of old livestock breeds "Amaltheia" was established. The three levels of conservation work state, science and civil society were brought together for the first time. The diversity of Greek agriculture is a cultural treasure of European importance, because this is the cradle of our civilization. To preserve this treasure financial support of the activities is necessary.



*Hardly any other country in southern europe is so rich in different lanscapes and climates and therefore also for breeds and varieties*

### Information Systems

For a comprehensive conservation work databases are necessary. SAVE has published various information on the Internet. The [Agrobiodiversity Net](#) lists regionally or internationally active organizations by country. Furthermore, regional networks such as the [Alpine Network](#) or the [Balkan Network](#) offer a lot of background information. For the Balkans and Greece, an Atlas of rare livestock breeds and varieties is also available.



## International Cooperation

### Cross-Border Cooperation

The breeding and use of livestock breeds and cultivated plant varieties developed independently of the current political borders. Therefore, the cross-border dialogue and the cooperation across ethnic and religious political boundaries are essential for sustainable conservation programs. SAVE Foundation works together with breeders' organizations across borders, sets up coordination programs, organizes international meetings and conferences.

### Horizontal Cooperation

Different levels are essential for successful live conservation of agrobiodiversity. SAVE Foundation promotes the cooperation of the three important pillars State - Science - Private / NGOs. Through information exchange, references to the obligations of the various stakeholders, conferences and working groups, SAVE is particularly effective where communication up to now has hardly been possible.

## International Anchoring

Consultative status at	Collaboration	Nature conservancy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- FAO, Rome, Animal Genetic Resources Group</li><li>- GEF, Global Environment Facility</li><li>- EU – Commission</li><li>- UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Bioersity International</li><li>- ERFP, Bonn (Europ. Region Focal Point)</li><li>- Rare Breeds International</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- WWF, World Wide Fund for Nature</li><li>- IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature</li><li>- Euronatur</li><li>- Local conservationist groups</li></ul>

## The SAVE-Networks

### Arca-Net – the European Ark Network

Arca-Net is a database-driven Internet portal that provides access to Ark farms, pet parks, open-air museums, accessible to an interested public throughout Europe. Through extensive search functions, interested parties can search for what is to be seen. Arca-Net is available in four languages: German, English, French and Italian. It currently comprises over 680 institutions in 46 European countries:

[www.arca-net.info](http://www.arca-net.info)

### ELBARN - European Livestock Breeds Ark and Rescue Net

ELBARN is a pan-European concept for the in-situ conservation of animal genetic resources.

[www.elbarn.net](http://www.elbarn.net)

## Who is behind SAVE Foundation?

- **A board of trustees** with 14 members from 11 countries
- **A network** with 24 partner organizations from 17 countries as well as 2 regional NGOs
- **A project commission** with 10 members from different departments

### Council of cooperation partners

The Council of Cooperation Partners is reserved exclusively for SAVE partner organizations. Here, the national partners influence the SAVE Network. The Council is an exchange and discussion forum. It submits proposals to the Foundation Board. The Council meets once a year at the SAVE Annual Conference.



## **Project Commission**

The project commission discusses projects at European level. Ideas and projects can be introduced all year-round or at the network meetings. In the SAVE network project experiences and information are exchanged and project participations are discussed. The involvement of the individual organizations and the output for them depends on their involvement in the network.

## **Financing**

As a non-profit organization, we can only carry out our projects with the help of third parties. We provide the know-how and our logistics and count on your generous support of our urgent projects. Any amount, large or small, helps and encourages us to make further efforts. Thank you for your support!

The co-financing of projects is mentioned in reports and web publications by name.

## **Open questions?**

Our websites and information portals are always available:

[www.save-foundation.net](http://www.save-foundation.net)

[www.agrobiodiversity.net](http://www.agrobiodiversity.net)

[www.arca-net.info](http://www.arca-net.info)

[www.elbarn.net](http://www.elbarn.net)

## **We are happy to give you personal information:**

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/agrobiodiversity](http://www.facebook.com/agrobiodiversity)

# Reference list SAVE Foundation

## **Collaboration with international organizations:**

- FAO (Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture), Italy
- Bioversity International, Italy
- GEF (Global Environment Facility) United Nations Development Programme
- IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Switzerland
- EuroNatur, Germany
- ERF (European Regional Focal Point)
- Rare Breeds International
- EU - DG Agriculture, Belgium

## **Long-term project funding (abstract)**

- Fondation Sur-la-Croix, Matthias Hofer, CH-4051 Bâle
- Graf Fabrice von Gundlach & Payne Smith-Stift.; A. Engi; CH-7000 Chur
- Grovni Stiftung, CH-9000 Saint Gall
- Lotteriefonds St.Gallen; CH-9001 Saint Gall
- Margarethe & Rudolf Gsell-Stiftung, CH-4005 Bâle
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