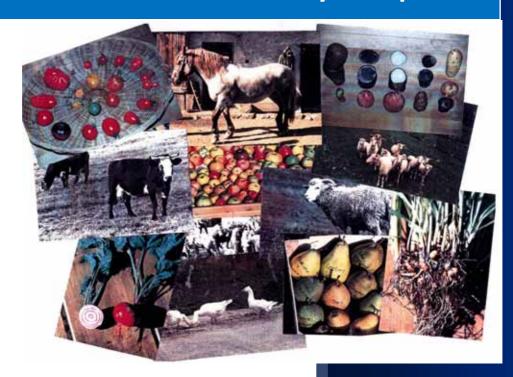


2013

SAVE Foundation Activity Report



Foreword

In 1993 the SAVE Network came into existence to address the need for coordinated conservation work. Therefore, in 2013, the SAVE Network celebrates its 20th anniversary at the Annual Meeting in Biezenmortel, Netherlands.

Since 1993 SAVE has grown from an idea to a reality. The SAVE Network has worked to connect people from all over Europe, to pass on ideas, knowledge, practical advice and to make sure that European agrobiodiversity does not get neglected. SAVE has been instrumental in setting

up national NGOs to work for the conservation of autochthonous breeds and crops. SAVE has worked on the ground, in places where attention was urgently required, has organised high-level

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Governance
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workshops, planned and carried out actions.

When SAVE was formed, Europe was rapidly changing: the fall of the Iron Curtain was opening up parts of Europe that had been closed for many years. A rush to "develop" but also "conserve" started and the SAVE Network was an important part in the coordination, networking and the field-work that took place on the subject of agrobiodiversity.

SAVE's projects on the ground have ranged from the dramatic rescue of the Turopolje pigs in wartorn Croatia to scientific projects such as the current "BushaLive", financed by the UN-FAO Funding Strategy for the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources. SAVE has worked to coordinate stakeholders around themes, such as fruit varieties in Transylvania and to network on a Europe level, as was seen in the European Commission supported project "ELBARN". Over the years, respect for SAVE's work has grown and SAVE is seen as an essential point of contact for all issues regarding European agrobiodiversity.

The SAVE Network is made up of people and organisations throughout Europe who are committed to the conservation of European

agrobiodiversity. The SAVE
Network currently has 21
member organisations
who make up the "Council
of Cooperation Partners".
The Project Commission,
who will also be meeting in
Biezenmortel, is made up

of 11 individuals who act in an advisory role for the SAVE Project Office. In addition, the SAVE Board of Directors also commits time to steer the direction of the SAVE Network and Foundation. Without the engagement of all these organisations and individuals, SAVE would not be able to fulfil its task of coordinating the "three pillars of conservation": the NGOs, the scientific community and the governmental level.

In the last 20 years, SAVE's work has been supported by the chairpersons of the Network and Foundation as mentionned in the table below.

Year	Chairman	Vice Chairnan	
1993 – 95	Hape Grunenfelder	Piet Oehmichen	
1995 – 97	Hape Grunenfelder	Imré Bodo	
1997 – 1999	Hape Grunenfelder	Andreas Georgoudis	
1999 – 2001	Andreas Georgoudis	Hape Grunenfelder	
2001 – 2003	Imré Bodo	Hape Grunenfelder	
2003 – 2005	Staf van den Bergh	Hape Grunenfelder	
2005 – 2007	Staf van den Bergh	Hape Grunenfelder	
2007 – 2009	Riccardo Fortina	Hape Grunenfelder	
2009 – 2011	Riccardo Fortina	Hape Grunenfelder	
2011 – 2013	Riccardo Fortina	Hape Grunenfelder	
2013 – 2015	Geert Boink (appointed)	Hape Grunenfelder	

The SAVE Team wishes to thank all the people who have helped make SAVE what it is for their commitment over the last 20 years!

Europe has changed a lot in the last 20 years, these days people, businesses and organisations all over Europe are feeling the effects of the current economic problems. Many people are remembering the benefit of growing their own food by planting a vegetable garden and keeping animals, they are often also keen to support small, local businesses. The message about autochthonous breeds and crops is being spread by SAVE and the network members and is being received by an

20 for 2() interested audience.

However, this is only one side of the coin. Whilst people are enthusiastically embracing a more sustainable lifestyle in order to cut living costs, organisations like SAVE are struggling to cover costs and governments and donors are cutting budgets. For organisations that rely on donations and grants, this means that donors and grant-givers are awarding less money and that each available cent has to be stretched as far as possible. Whatever one's personal opinion of the politics of the situation may be, the fact remains:

for SAVE Foundation to continue as an umbrella organisation, funds need to be raised! 20 for 20 is a fund-raising campaign that lets everyone join in

for 20 years work done and 20 still to come –help us to raise money by donating 20 to our fund.

We accept 20 in all forms – from 20€ through to 20'000€ and everything in between!

The more money that is raised the more we can do to raise the profile of our traditional agrobiodiverity

Bank Account:

SAVE Foundation, 78467 Konstanz Deutsche Postbank, D-Hannover/Germany IBAN: DE81 2501 0030 0648 4643 00

BIC: PBNKDEFF

Or donate through paypal using the donate button on Variety-Savers, the dedicated social network for networking and listing all keepers of indigenous livestock breeds and cultivators of indigenous cultivated plants found in Europe: http://variety-savers.net/page/20for20

Programs and Projects 2012 - 2013

The Activity Report 2012 gave a comprehensive overview about all SAVE activities, projects and actions. From the plethora of projects, actions and activities of the SAVE Foundation hereinafter some special highlights of the period summer 2012 - summer 2013 will be described more detailed.

Pan-European Networking

Arca-Deli® Award - Awarded Prestige and Marketing Value



Most producers selling direct to customers, from the farm gates or on local markets, realise how important it is to let consumers know that a product is special – however, it is often hard to communicate this quickly and simply. The Arca-Deli Awards offer help: the Awards are presented annually to products and services of locally adapted livestock breeds and cultivated plants. The award is presented to products and services seen as being recommendable as a model or example of good practice. The Arca-Deli Award label can then be used on labelling of products and services as a means of adding value.

The award tells customers that producers value the heritage and culture of the community. The Arca-Deli award can be valuable especially on local markets as it tells consumers that there is a local person standing behind the quality of the product. This means that the niche products associated with locally adapted breeds and varieties become, on a small scale, more competitive and more economically viable. It also reminds customers that they are an important part of the conservation of their living heritage.



Products and services must meet the following conditions:

- Product or service (PoS) must originate from a farm that is connected either to the European Ark Network "Arca-Net" or the "Variety-Savers" Network.
- PoS must serve the in situ/on farm conservation of the autochthonous breed or variety.
- PoS must be qualitatively above the average
- PoS must be recommendable as a model or example of good practice.

The Arca-Deli Awards are judged and presented each year at the SAVE Annual Meeting. Entries can be either brought along by participants or sent by post. Each entry comprises of a sample of the product or photo/video documentation of the service; a full description of the product or service including how it

secures conservation of the breed or variety; the information sheet and signed declaration. The declaration states that

- The livestock and/or cultivated plants belong to an autochthonous breed or variety of the egion
- The production is local and not industrial
- Livestock and/or cultivated plants are of value for the local cultural heritage
- · No GMOs have been used
- Livestock is pure bred and kept in accordance to documented traditional husbandry methods as long as this does not compromise animal welfare regulations (baseline is EU regulation or national law)

A maximum of two products per farm can be entered per year. Winning entries receive a certificate and the right to use the Arca-Deli logo on their winning product/s. The logo includes the year it was awarded, so there is no time limit on how long it can be used. There is also no limit on the amount of times the same product or service can be entered.



The entries are judged by a "judging committee" who make sure that entries fulfil the requirements and are recommendable as a model or example of good practice. The SAVE Board of Directors then confirms the decision of the judges and the awards are presented to the participants of the SAVE Annual Meeting. The Arca-Deli Awards are open to all members of Variety-Savers and Arca-Net. SAVE Staff are excluded from entering the Awards.

Arca-Deli Award

2012

haft Elbe und Biosphärenregio

10 Arca-Deli Awards have already been presented to a range of products and services ranging from traditional cheeses and cakes, through regional tourism concepts to innovative uses for wool and eggs.

The Arca Deli Award is not a competition; all entries that

fulfil the entry criteria are given an Award. Details can be found here:

http://variety-savers.net/pagearca-deli-award or at www.save-foundation.net.

SAVE Foundation – Variety Savers Facebook Group



These days, social media is a part of life for many

people, even those who appreciate the importance of traditional, rural lifestyles. In order to reflect this and to provide networking space for people interested in the conservation of indigenous livestock breeds and cultivated plants, SAVE has created a group on Facebook called "SAVE Foundation – Variety Savers". We hope that

you will take part in this group and post your news, photos, events and questions and take part in the discussions!

The link to the new group is:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/62651631069 5064/

Please feel free to add people from your own networks to the group!

The official SAVE page in Facebook is here: www.facebook.com/agrobiodiversity

Topic Network

The ecological Value of feral Livestock Populations in Europe



Big herbivores played a major role in the development of diverse landscapes in Europe. 7000 years ago at least the lowlands were predominantly semi-open parkland. The hypothesis that without human influence only forest would grow is largely disproved today. Big herbivores were instrumental in shaping plant

communities in addition to natural events such as fire and wind damage. The aurochs as ancestor of the cow did not live in the forest, but in open floodplains. He therefore held these areas free from bushes etc. and contributed to the development of species-rich meadows and floodplains. Recent studies show that large herbivores can have a much stronger positive impact on a conservation area than previously thought. The deliberate reintroduction of animals again and again pushes its limits: the public acceptance is (still) low and legal issues complicate the practice. Besides this unintentional releases of animals take place with consequences which are difficult to assess.

On <u>www.agrobiodiversity.net/regional</u> a page "feral populations" was set under "Topic Networks". In addition to the information system, which includes more than 100 breeds and occurrences in Europe, the results of the first workshop on the subject in November in Seville, Spain, were published. A collection of "best practice" information for download completes this page. The information and the database are continuously updated during the project with further information, images, etc. The database allows a search by country, according to the type and management of the species. In addition, the

search for the breed name, local name or place (location) is possible. Thumbnail pictures provide an initial visual impression already in the list modus. With a click on the picture the respective population appears. Professionals and interested persons easily can inform themselves about the particular population or breed.

In November 2012 an international workshop with the title "Problems, Chances and Pitfalls of Feral Populations in Europe" took place in Seville, Spain.



Experts in nature protection, veterinary, agrobiodiversity and science from 9 countries discussed the possibilities and needs for a better acceptance of feral livestock populations in Europe.

Reports of the countries showed how different the situation is in many aspects. Often the feral populations are not recognized in the public as such. In some countries rare breeds are kept under traditional feral or semi feral conditions. The existing European veterinary and traceability rules are big hindrances to set feral populations into value for the market. The replacement for big herbivores in some nature protection areas are developing. A big agreement is a better information to the public.

The problems and need for maintaining and promoting feral livestock populations are determined as follows:

- The special status of feral livestock populations is not recognized yet.
- Information and support of the public and of the government is needed.
- There is a need for practicable compromises within the veterinary laws and rules
- Single problems differ from country to country sometimes also within one country.
- There is a competition among institutions: often the competences are not clear. The rules also are sometimes incompatible. The health policy and sanitary rules for domestic animals lead to a culling e.g. when only signs of tuberculosis are seen, but no outbreak



• Legal exceptions for feral livestock populations are necessary. In some respects, feral populations should be handled according to the regulations for wildlife.

Most common problems

diseases and prevention concepts: EU laws and obligations on contagious diseases must be fulfilled. There is a need of cooperation with the veterinarian services. A problem is the interaction with livestock. When diseases like e.g. TB occurs (Spain), investigations are necessary. In the Netherlands such investigations are not necessary because the country is TB free.

Registering (traceability): Ear tagging often is difficult, but necessary for e.g. traceability and disease control. As long as the animals are not declared as wild animals, registration is an obligation. In other cases the animals are not allowed to leave their area.



Herd management control of population: Collection and documentation of feral populations in different areas and countries is very important. An analysis how the population is influenced by different factors (e.g. climate, predator, food resource, and human activity) will be helpful to find out the way to control and manage the population. The introduction of a predator could be also a possible method to control the feral population.

In different counties, there are different ways to

deal with dead feral animals. In Germany, hunters are allowed to shoot the feral animals, after they do the test on the dead body, if it is considered as a healthy animal, it is allowed to be sold as food. But in

UK, at least in Chillingham, after the feral animals are killed, they must be buried – by ensuring that the meat does not enter the food chain. The animals do not need ear tagging

Animal welfare: Suffering of animals rises protest and interaction of the public. Often there are mis-



understandings, information of the public is needed. Especially in rewilding projects, the public must be informed about reasons of probable suffering like e.g. food, density, diseases, age.

Environmental protection and impact: Feral populations are very important for biodiversity conservation; they play important roles in ecosystem services.

One impact is the control of other species like rats, rabbits, etc. This aspect is hardly known in the public.

Forest grazing: Ecosystem services like fire defense are often not really seen. Information and convincing is necessary. There are very different rules around. In Greece the municipality is responsible.

Water protection areas: In protected ground water areas grazing is not allowed. In Germany Heck cattle e.g. has to be kept in stables, Buffaloes are not allowed.

Slaughtering: Within the actual law, slaughtering is not possible, because the animals are not allowed to leave their territory. An idea could be mobile slaughterhouses like they are used for reindeer.

Public acceptance: The acceptance of the public and perception is very important. Therefore it is necessary to communicate the topic wide and in various media, including video documentation, (children) books, media and scientific articles.

Conclusions

The subject "Feral populations in Europe" covers a lot of aspects and knowledge. There is a big need to learn more about the state of the knowledge and the situation within Europe. To form an active network the following aspects needs to be considered:

- Nomination of country experts
- Small country networks for the management of national characteristics
- Establishment of subject-related links
- Meetings of stakeholders
- Joint publications

The next steps

In autumn 2013 a workshop with stakeholders and nature conservation experts will take place in the Balkans. Special attention will be



paid on the benefit of feral populations in nature conservation areas.

The list of "best practice" on the internet will be expanded. Within the running project not only the most feral populations in Europe could be identified, but also the relevant stakeholders in the single countries. A networking and collaboration throughout Europe, especially concerning the EU rules and practices, is urgent necessary.

Model Projects

Sustainable Agriculture in Remote Areas of Romania: Conservation and Adding Value to Fruit Varieties

Already since 2011 SAVE Foundation made investigations to the situation of rare fruits in Romania, especially in Transylvania. A round table discussion took place in November 2012 in the village Mălâncrav of Laslea commune in Transylvania. Rare varieties were examined and their occurrence discussed. During the winter, a list with the main varieties was merged and in spring 2013 scions were grafted at the Pomological Institute in Bistrica.



In parallel, a proposal was worked out for a partnership block grant in the frame of the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Program. The Mihai Eminescu Trust and SAVE Foundation will deploy for the next two years, in the village Mălâncrav of Laslea commune, the project "Sustainable

Agriculture in Remote Areas of Romania: Conservation and Adding Value to Fruit Varieties", a project co-financed from Switzerland through the Swiss Contribution to the enlarged European Union.

The Mălâncrav orchard, first mentioned in 1305, fosters a wide range of fruit varieties, and a diverse flora and fauna. Especially the old native apple varieties have great historic and economic value. In this context, the project aims at adding value to native fruit varieties and to traditional farming, as sustainable income-generating activities for rural communities. The project will help build awareness within the local communities, and will provide locals the opportunity to get knowledge necessary for traditional tree growing.

The experience exchange between the Swiss and Romanian experts and the active participation of locals, will result in building an inventory of native fruit varieties and a demonstration orchard. The orchard will be the location for a tree grafting and growing training for locals. In the future, it will be a source of native fruit trees, supporting the conservation of native fruit varieties, and implicitly the national and European biodiversity.

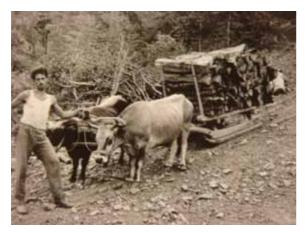


The project also aims at building the awareness and

knowledge of rural children, for perpetuating sustainable agriculture in the future. As such, a small replica of the demonstration orchard will be created near a local school. The pupils will help plant the trees and will be responsible for managing the orchard in the future. Additionally, a fruit network shall be established to strengthen communication and collaboration between privates, science and community representatives. A first meeting takes place in August 2013.

BushaLive - Determination of different types and Strains of Busha Cattle in the Balkans

Under the Funding Strategy for the Implementation of Action for Animal Genetic Resources the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) supports the Project "BushaLive". The project is a part of the portfolio of projects submitted under the First Call for Proposals related to the FAO Trust account in support of the Global Plan of Action (GPA) for Animal Genetic Resources .



Autochthonous livestock breeds in the Balkans developed well adapted to the local environment. Busha cattle (synonyms: Busa; Buša, Dukagjini Busha, Illyrian Cattle; Brachyceros; Rhodopi; Rodopy Shorthorn) exhibit a very high polymorphism. Because of its hardiness, it is ideal especially for extensive farming. Conservation of this genetic diversity is challenging, the animals are spread through various countries in small rapidly declining subpopulations. Sustainable conservation programmes are hindered by lacking information and data. Furthermore collaboration

across the borders is urgent necessary to strengthen the conservation needs, exchange of best practice, methods and dialogue. Based on already carried out investigations, with molecular genetic analysis different types/strains of Busha cattle will be determined and the purity of distinct subpopulations shall be estimated. Alongside empirical recording and characterization on the basis of Busha cattle, the project will develop a model for the cross-border in situ conservation of highly polymorphic breed groups.

The BushaLive project will achieve the determination of different types and strains of Busha Cattle in the Balkans through collection of existing information from projects and meetings e.g. of ERFP and SAVE, phenotypical characterization of different types and strains and molecular genetic analysis including the estimation of the purity of distinct subpopulations. There is also a focus on the sus-



tainable use of Busha cattle. A



comprehensive overview in the field will be made including the collection of information about the situation, production, conservation and market possibilities of Busha cattle. Furthermore discussion and determination of best practice methods will take place. Finally, and importantly, the development of a crossborder in situ conservation and data management model is a

main feature of the project. This reflects the need for information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building within the Balkans.



The Steering Committee of the BushaLive project have met in Sarajevo in April 2013. The situation of Busha in each country in the Balkan region was discussed along with a systematic approach to monitoring, characterising and collecting samples for DNA analysis. A map of the area was marked with all known populations – black to show known populations, red for places that need to be verified.

The essence of the general discussion showed that:

Busha are frugal, fertile, robust, resistant to disease, agile in difficult landscapes and live into old age. They are also very rare – in some places critically endangered. The main factors of their endangerment are a) crossbreeding b) old-age of farmers c) migration of people away from poor rural areas.

Why keep Busha?

- use of grazing land that modern cattle can't survive on
- high production levels as 1 cow = 1 calf + 1 lactation per annum
- high fertility means that there are more calves per cow than with high performance breeds
- longevity Busha will produce for many years, it is not unusual for them to reach 20.





One of the challenges of SAVE Foundation and the colleagues in this project face is to find ways of making Busha cattle economically viable. Or rather, showing that they are economically viable in order to show both farmers and consumers that keeping these animals alive and in agricultural production is important. Busha cattle are a very important factor in rural economies, for example, where there is only rough grazing available, Busha remain productive in a low in-put, extensive system. Indigenous breeds such as Busha are very important for the conserva-

tion of delicate eco-systems. These animals belong in the pastures and not in the history books!

Prespa Cattle

The Prespa Lakes National Park is the area where Albania, Greece and FYR Macedonia meet. It is one of the largest protected areas in Europe. This area not only provides a habitat for wild biodiversity, it also contains some unique livestock breeds. Especially the Prespa cattle is a very unique breed as DNA microsatellite investigations show. The small and agile Prespa cattle prevent the area at Lake Prespa from vegetation encroachment, dreaded in many nature protection areas.

SAVE Foundation identified the Prespa cattle already in 2006. Since then several actions for the conservation of this unique breed took place. In 2012 a coaching with the local partners took place. An

Village	Total cattle	foreign blood	Prespa blood	Estimated pure animals
Ligenas	520	200	320	~ 120
Zaroshkë	170	100	70	20-30
Lajthizë	95	63	32	15-20
Diellas	295	155	140	~ 50
Gollomboç	140	90	50	15-20
Goricë e vogël	165	100	65	~ 25
Goricë e madhe	330	170	160	50-60
Kallamas	385	215	170	~ 60
Çerje	32	22	10	?
Total	2'132	1'115	1'017	ca. 370

investigation in the surrounding villages was made to estimate the most purebred Prespa cattle. This is necessary for the future breeding. In this frame also information from the nearly not achievable mountain village Çerje could be collected. The results of this investigation are estimated data as shown in the table.

In cooperation with the Greek "Society for the Protection of Prespa" (SPP), also active in the Albanian part of the small Prespa Lake, a breeding nucleus could be set up in 2011 at Shuec in the south-eastern part of the Albanian Prespa region. With the purchase of animals for Shuec the opportunity has been taken to purchase some animals from the as yet not monitored northern part of the large community of Liqenas. This brought fresh blood into the breed, helped to estimate the numbers of purebred animals in this area and to raise awareness, not least with their owners, of the



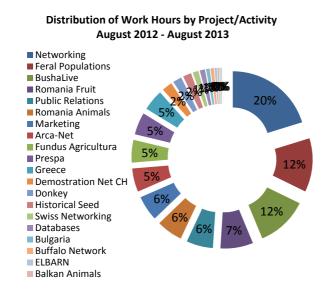
value of purebred cattle. It was probably the first time that someone — and especially outsiders — showed interest in and bought the "dwarves". The animals are, thus, placed in a new light and have gained in value and prestige. This nucleus group is growing and develops well. The interest in the traditional Prespa breed is increasing, one farmer already showed interest for a breeding group.



In Greece two other nucleus groups could be established, one on the island of Agios Achillios. There they are in an exceptional arc farm within the national park together with water buffaloes and Greek landrace pigs. The Prespa cattle there also develop well.

Overview of SAVE Actions and Activities

The SAVE Project and Network Offices carried out 23 actions and activities in the reporting period. Despite the fact that funding is not in place for all the networking tasks that need to be performed,



one of the main tasks of SAVE is networking. This includes discussions and questions regarding the SAVE partners, but also questions and correspondence to officials and institutions and, last but not least, requests and information from third parties seeking information and contacts.

The Pan-European Networking activities such as Arca-Net, Variety-Savers, various social media, up-dating the several online databases and those for internal use, as well the theme "Marketing and Labeling" are important actions and are undertaken according to the mandate given by the SAVE

Network. However, all these tasks are time-consuming and, as long as they are not fully funded, they cannot be realized to the desired extent. The discrepancy between what SAVE and its Network Partners see as being important activities and the possibilities to fund them is a problem that will need to be solved in the near future.

Projects like the BushaLive, Feral Populations in Europe and the Romanian Fruit project that are profiled in this report also took a lot of working power. These projects are fully funded activities, which is why they receive much attention. For the remainder of the projects listed here, funding is sought in order to continue working on them.

Family Farming



In December 2011, the UN General Assembly declared 2014 to be the International Year of Family Farming and invited FAO to facilitate implementation of the International Year, in collaboration with its partners. SAVE Foundation supports the aims of the International Year of Family Farming 2014: to stimulate active policies for sustainable development of agricultural systems based on farmer families, communal units, indigenous groups and cooperatives. This type of farming fits well with SAVE's aims for creat-

ing and promoting sustainable "agro-eco-systems", in which agriculture works with the local environment rather than against it, in order to enrich the local biosphere and support the local community. "Agro-eco-systems" support small-scale, family farming and production systems which can help improve livelihoods in rural areas. By encouraging economic diversity and redefining agricultural cooperativism, rural areas can become vital economic areas that are attractive for work and leisure.

The Bodies of SAVE Foundation

The SAVF Board of Directors

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References

Collaboration with international organisations:

- Irene Hoffmann, Chief Animal Genetic Ressources, UN-FAO, Rome
- Bioversity International, Maccarese-Rome
- GEF (Global Environment Facility) United Nations Development Programme
- IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature), Gland
- EuroNatur, Radolfzell
- ERFP (European Regional Focal Point), Bonn
- Rare Breeds International, Thessaloniki
- EU DG Agriculture, Brussels

International Patronage Committee

- Dr. Franz Fischler, former EU Commissioner for Agriculture, Absam (A)
- Dr. Dagmar Schratter, Director Vienna Zoo Schönbrunn, Vienna
- Marleen Felius, Artist and scientific animal illustrator, Amsterdam

Patronage Committee Switzerland

Aeschbacher Kurt TV Moderator, Zurich

Bötsch Manfred Retired Director Federal Office for Agriculture, Bern

Gysling Erich Publicist, President Forum East-West, Zurich

Semadeni Silva President Pro Natura Switzerland, Chur-Araschgen

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