



Society for the Conservation of old and endangered Livestock Breeds in Germany (GEH)

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H.E. Mendsaikhan Zagdjav
Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MoFALI)
Mail: ariunbayar@mofa.gov.mn

Witzenhausen, 29.09.2020

Dear Minister Mendsaikhan Zagdjav,

the German Society for the Conservation of old and endangered Livestock Breeds (GEH) sends thanks to your activities for the pastoralists and their work in rangelands.

We are active for the maintenance of rare breeds for 40 years now together with our partner-organisations in Europe and worldwide.

Since the UNCED-Conference in Rio in 1992, the disappearing biodiversity has increasingly become the focus of public attention, and the responsibility for its conservation has become a governmental matter. Thus, the Federal Republic of Germany is under obligation to elaborate national programs and strategies which guarantee the identification and monitoring of endangered breeds, their in situ as well as their ex situ conservation and their sustainable management.

Sustainable management means in our ideas to do extensive farming and to keep animals under animal friendly systems for what they are adapted to since many centuries.

The responsibility for conservation of endangered breeds as living stocks is entirely in the hands of private animal breeders. Today, more than 2200 members are scattered all over Germany.

Rare breeds are generally used in low input systems like extensive pastures. Here they are perfectly adapted to the conditions like fodder, climate, geography. They created diversity of the cultural landscape by being used in traditional agricultural systems. Ruminants, pigs and geese created the landscape in pastoral systems. Today a large variety of grassland, protected areas like national parks and biosphere reserves needs a traditional way of landscape management – pastoralists are specially supported for their way of animal keeping in such sensible areas.

For this it is necessary, to show the work pastoralist do since hundred of years and to show how their work is needed today and specially in the time of decreasing diversity, climate change and demands of extensive and well adapted farming systems like grassland management.

Our organisation GEH will support the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists as far as we are able to do in our region with our regional livestock.

Yours sincerely

Antje Feldmann
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(Dipl. Ing. agr., Manager of GEH)

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