

## SESSION I

CONSERVATION GÉNÉTIQUE EN EUROPE  
EN RAPPORT AVEC L'ÉLEVAGE DU FUTUR**Conservation of animal genetic resources.  
Reviewing the problem**

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The success in breeding of highly productive farm animals resulted in a situation where animal breeders and other people consider it necessary to preserve less productive breeds. Arguments for conservation cover emotional, cultural and scientific reasons as well as the concern of loosing genetic material which could be valuable for future animal production. Costs and time require priorities for objectives, species and forms of conservation. International cooperation in documentation, evaluation and conservation of genetic material seems necessary to ensure the efficiency of actions.

**Preliminary report of the working party  
on animal genetic resources in Europe**

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The tasks and first activities of a working party set up by the Genetics Commission of EAAP in 1980 were described. On the basis of three questionnaire forms, to which a good half of the countries replied, and of available literature, about 1 200 « country populations » of cattle, horses, pigs, sheep and goats were found. Of these almost 200 were considered endangered. Some of these breeds had counterparts elsewhere.

Most of the countries had started conservation. In the majority the government had assumed the responsibilities, but there were also more and more private organizations acting in the field. Frozen semen and conservation herds were commonly used, but also embryo freezing had been started in some cases.