Response to Reviewer 1 Comments

Point 1. In general: breed is more commonly used than race in the context of livestock species.

Response 1: The word “race” has been changed in all the manuscript to “breed”.

Point 2. Abstract: First sentence. The word “miscegenation” is not really an appropriate term for livestock. Please rephrase the sentence.

Response 2: The word “miscegenation” has been changed by “crossbreeding”

Point 3. I section 2.1 it would be better to also have a short phenotypic description of the sheep. How big are they? Which colour(s) do they have? Do they have horns? How many lambs do they typically get? No detailed description is required, but when reading a paper about a sheep population I would like to get some idea of which type of sheep it is. It is very good that there are photos I Figure 1, but do all sheep in this population look like that or are there some variation? The description of the sheep could be either in the introduction or in this section.

Response 3: A short phenotypic description has been added in the Figure 1 caption. It includes all the characteristics required.

Point 4. Table 1: South Africa is the correct English name of the country where the Dorper sheep comes from.

Response 4: The name of South Africa has been corrected in the table 1.