



The Karen Commitment

*Indigenous Livestock Keepers
Rights*

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Livestock and Livestock Keepers

- 70% of world's poor own livestock
- 640 million subsistence farmers keep livestock
- 190 million pastoralists depend on livestock
- Livestock keepers are custodians of the world's rich animal genetic recourses.
- Livestock keepers all over the world lack rights to appropriate development support.
- Importance of unique characteristics of indigenous livestock as "innovative" solutions to world hunger and poverty increasingly being "recognized".



Concerns

- How can animal genetic resources be prevented from privatization?
- How can livestock keepers and developing countries protect themselves from misappropriation of their indigenous animal genetic resources?
- How can the indigenous livestock breeds and knowledge be conserved for future generations



International Conference of Indigenous Livestock Breeding Communities

27th - 30th October 2003

Organizers - League of Pastoral Peoples and ITDG/PA

Objectives

- To raise awareness among livestock keepers about international processes
- To showcase importance of cultural diversity and diversity in agricultural production for Farm AnGR
- To document links of indigenous communities and particular breed
- To discover commonalities and differences between various livestock keepers
- To develop strategies for influencing international processes.
- To articulate linkages between sustainable use of livestock breeds and access to grassing lands



Participants

- 60 from East Africa, West Africa, Sudan, India, Mongolia, Europe,
- Pastoralists, government representatives, NGOs, Research institutions, Journalists, Experts in AnGR



Proceedings

- Opened by the Minister of Livestock Production and Fisheries
- Presentations by livestock keepers, NGOs, Government, and research

Outcome - Karen Commitment Statement and Proceedings

Represented Communities

Community	Region
Kawahla	Eastern Uganda
Somali	Northern Kenya and Somalia
Karamajong cluster	Western Kenya, Eastern Uganda, Southern Ethiopia, Southern Sudan
Maasai	Southern and Northern Kenya and Northern Tanzania
Borana	Southern Ethiopia and Northern Kenya
Bahima	Western Uganda
Orog Nuur	Mongolia
Raika	Western India
Tamil Nandu	Southern India
Fulani	Burkina Faso
Akamba	Eastern Kenya*
Mbororo	Cameroon

The Karen Commitment

We call on Governments and relevant institutions to commit themselves to formal recognition of the contribution by pastoralists and pastoralism to:

- Food and livelihood security, environmental services and domestic diversity
- Conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture...

We insist that there be international legally binding recognition of the livestock keepers rights to:

- Continued use of their knowledge in conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources
- Participate democratically in making decisions on conservation and sustainable use of AnGR
- Access, save, use, exchange and sell their AnGR...unrestricted by IPR through genetic engineering
- Have their breeds recognized as products of their communities and indigenous knowledge...remain in public domain
- Benefit equitably from use of AnGR in their own communities and others

The Karen Commitment Cont

We call on the FAO to:

- Start negotiating such agreement without delay ...ensuring harmony in the CBD
- Develop a Global Plan of Action for conservation and sustainable use of AnGR by livestock keepers, other communities and relevant public institutions

We insist that AnGR Food and Agriculture resources be excluded from IPR claims...there be a moratorium for release of Genetically modified livestock until bio-safety is proven.

We call on relevant institution concerned with food agriculture, trade, IPR and animal research to provide assurance to such protection.

What has Happened so far?

Information dissemination

- Publications
 - The Karen Commitment and workshop report (Text and CD)
 - Papers, booklets and newsletters by LPP.
- Workshops and conferences
 - Rear Breeds International Conferences in South Africa on Indigenous lives (Tomas Loguang - LPP)
- Networking
 - Life Network
 - ELD

Lobbying and policy influencing

- Participation in country processes
 - Preparation of state of the world report.
- Participation in international processes
 - Intergovernmental Meetings on AnGR in FAO (ITDG, LPP)
 - Arusha Conference on Biotechnology (LPP)
 - COP 7 in Kuala Lumpur - Patrick Mulvaney (Practical Action)

Challenges

- International treaty on Farm AnGR which recognizes livestock keepers rights
- Genetic Engineering and Livestock Keepers Rights
- Information sharing and Knowledge Management

Acknowledgements

League for Pastoral Peoples

Practical Action (Formally I TDG)

VETAID Mozambique

A photograph of a pastoralist herding a flock of sheep in a savanna landscape. The herder, wearing a red and black shuka, stands in the center, holding a staff. The sheep are scattered across the green and brown grass. The background features scattered acacia trees and a clear sky. The text 'KHALI MAMBO' is overlaid in large, bold, black, italicized letters across the middle of the image.

KHALI MAMBO

ASANTE SANA