

Livestock Keepers' Rights

history and conceptual
aspects

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Summary

**What is the issue?
Conceptual aspects**

**Who are livestock
keeper's**

**What is Livestock
keepers right's?
Why?**

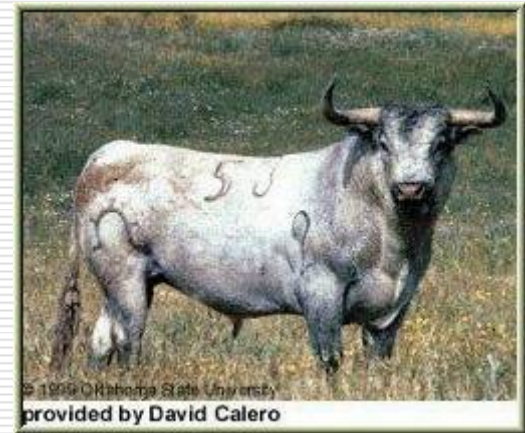
**The Karen
Commitment**

**What has
happened so far?**

**What is the future -
Challenges?**

Livestock and Livestock Keepers

- ❑ 70% of world's poor own livestock
- ❑ 640 million subsistence farmers keep livestock
- ❑ 190 million pastoralists and agro-pastoralists depend on livestock
- ❑ Livestock keepers are custodians of the world's rich animal genetic recourses.
- ❑ However, 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".



What are the dangers

- Abandonment by Livestock keepers.
 - Policies – breeding and general development policies
 - Development approaches - Marginalization
 - Disasters – Droughts, floods, conflict, diseases outbreaks
 - Modernization – young generations
- “Modern” Science and breeding practices
 - Artificial insemination – embryo transplant – and now genetic engineering.
 - Possibility of patenting and exclusive exploitation of unique genetic characteristics – Boorola gene (Bengal Sheep)



provided by Jan-Willem Doornenbal

Specific 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?

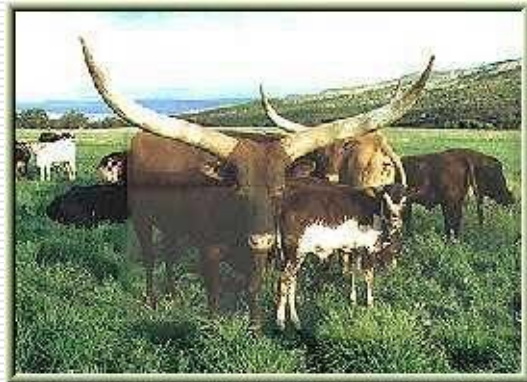


WHAT AFRICAN INDEGENOUS LIVESTOCK KEEPERS HAVE ON OFFER.

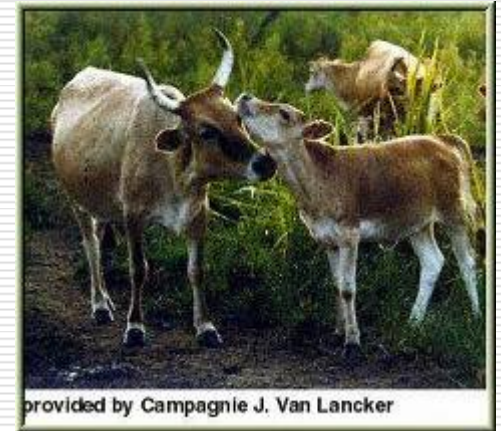


Provided by: Drew Conroy

Red Maasai



Nguni



provided by Campagnie J. Van Lancker

Ndama

Boran



International Conference of Indigenous Livestock Keepers, Oct 2003

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



Leaders of Traditional Livestock and Pastoral Communities, government representatives, Civil Society Organizations with a focus on livestock genetic resources, academics and livestock researchers met in Karen, Kenya from 27 to 30 October, 2003.

They issued a statement as follows:

Karen Commitment Pastoralist/Indigenous Livestock Keepers' Rights

We call on governments and relevant international bodies to commit themselves to the formal recognition of the historical and current contribution of pastoralists and pastoralism to food and livelihood security, environmental services and domestic animal diversity.

We also demand that they recognise the contributions of pastoralists and other livestock keepers, over millennia, to the conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture including associated species and the genes they contain (AnGRFA).

Furthermore, we insist that there is international legally-binding recognition of Inalienable Livestock Keepers' Rights and the Rights of their communities to:

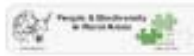
- continue to use their knowledge concerning the conservation and sustainable use of AnGRFA, without fears of its appropriation
- participate democratically in making decisions on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of AnGRFA
- access, save, use, exchange, sell their AnGRFA, unrestricted by Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and (modification through) genetic engineering technologies that we believe will disrupt the integrity of these genetic resources
- have their breeds recognised as products of their communities and indigenous knowledge and therefore remain in the public domain
- benefit equitably from the use of AnGRFA in their own communities and by others.

We call on the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO) to start negotiating such a legally-binding agreement, without delay, ensuring that it will be in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

We further call on the FAO to develop a Global Plan for the conservation and sustainable use of AnGRFA by pastoralists, other livestock keeping communities and relevant public institutions.

Finally, we insist that AnGRFA be excluded from Intellectual Property Rights claims and that there should be a moratorium on the release of genetically-modified livestock until bio-safety is proven, in accordance with the Precautionary Principle. We call on relevant institutions concerned with food, agriculture, trade, intellectual property and animal research to provide assurances and such legal protection as is necessary to sustain the free flow and integrity of AnGRFA, vital to global food security and the environment.

Workshop was supported by:



Statement is endorsed by:



LIFE
Local Livestock For
Empowerment of
Rural People

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION
VERHÄLTEN/WELTTRAF
WORLD HERDSMAN COUNCIL
NAHWITAL HANDBOOKI DENKA

THE KAREN COMMITMENT

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 keeper's 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

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 – LPP
 - Networking – ELD, LKR.

- Lobbying and policy influencing
 - State of the World on AGR at Country.
 - International processes – at FAO (PA, LPP)
 - Conference e.g. Conference on Biotechnology by ILRI (October 2005) - LPP
 - COP 7 e.g. in Kuala Lumpur – Patrick Mulvany - PA
 - Bellegio meeting in Milan – Italy March/April 2006

Bellagio brief

- Calls on National Governments to:
 - Recognize Livestock keepers' inherent rights to continue to use and develop their own breeding stock
 - Acknowledge their contribution to national economies
 - Adapt their policies and legal frameworks accordingly.
 - Pre-empt attempts to use the intellectual property system to obtain control over animal resources that are an important component of the world's food supply.

- Civil Society and others who care should join the efforts of livestock keepers to get their rights formally recognized



Conclusion

There is a great risk of denying livestock keepers all over the world their rights to continue keeping, and benefiting on the farm animal genetic materials they have natured and developed for Centuries

There is an urgent need for...

- ❑ An International Treaty on Farm AnGR which recognizes livestock keeper's rights Genetic Engineering and Livestock Keepers Rights
- ❑ An International ban on patents of animal genes is essential for conservation as well as for poverty reduction.

Conservation efforts for Farm Animal Genetic Resources should also include the promotion of the systems and the people who have done this same activity for years.



Acknowledgement

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VETAID - Mozambique

KHALIMAMBO



ASANTE SANA