

Tools for strengthening the role of small-scale livestock keepers in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources.

Side-Event, CGRFA 12
19 October, 2009



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LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT



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Elinor Ostrom received the Nobel Prize for Economics for showing how common resources are often managed more successfully by the people and communities who use them, rather than by governments or private companies.





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LIFE Network

- LIFE: “**L**ocal **L**ivestock for **E**mpowerment for Rural People”.
- Loosely structured network that supports collective and community-based conservation of animal genetic resources.
- Originated in November 2000 at Internat. Conference/Workshop linking conservation of breeds to livelihoods of rural people.
- Active in India and Africa

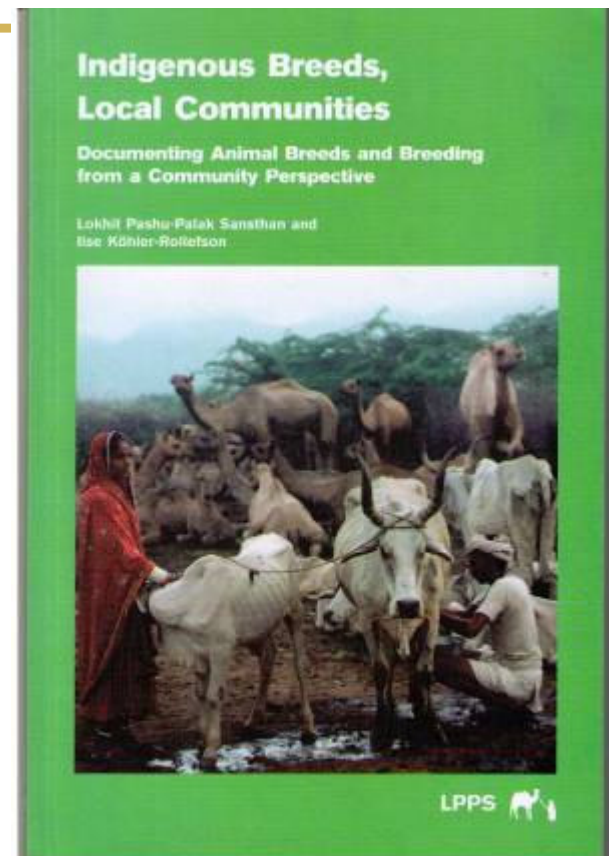




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Outputs of the LIFE Network

- LIFE-Method for Documenting Breeds
- „Livestock Keepers‘ Rights“ Concept
- „Documentation of the roles of LK as „Keepers of Genes“
- **Development of First Bio-cultural or Community Protocol for Pastoralists**
- **Code of Conduct on LKR**





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Supporters of LIFE-Network

- Misereor
- HIVOS Oxfam-Novib Biodiversity Fund
- Swedbio
- Swiss Development Cooperation (DEZA)
- FAO
- The Christensen Fund

THANK YOU!!!





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**Fortunately, in developing countries,
„naturally organic“ production
systems still survive**





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Association between communities and breeds

- Different groups of West African Fulani developed the White Fulani and Red Bororo cattle, and Peulh sheep and goats; Touareg developed Touareg sheep and goats.
- East African pastoralists created Somali and Red Maasai sheep.
- Borana pastoralists of East Africa bred Boran cattle, adapted to their three-day watering interval.
- Southern African small-scale farmers developed Mashona and Nguni cattle.
- In the Himalayas, the Gaddi pastoralists rear the sheep and goat breeds named after them.
- In South India, the Toda tribal community has collectively bred the Toda buffalo breed.
- The Navajo Churro sheep in the southwestern United States of America was bred by the Navajo Indians.





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Example of animal culture: Raika pastoralists in India





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Adaptation traits are prioritized: pastoralist breeds retain many behavioural traits of their wild ancestor (e.g. urge to migrate and to defend against predators)



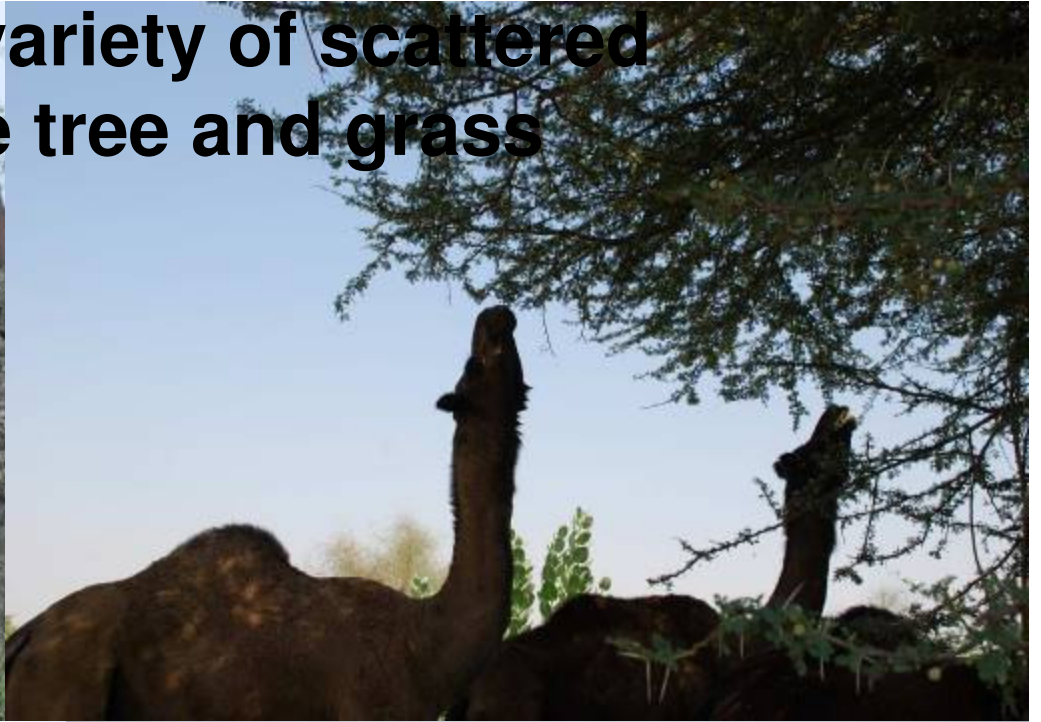


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Camels in India have co-evolved with local vegetation and can convert this into food and energy – are independent of external feed and fodder inputs



Camels utilise a wide variety of scattered and seasonally variable tree and grass vegetation





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Selection for feeding competence

- Peul select cattle to exploit seasonal variations in feed resources and maximise feeding competence (study by Saverio Krätli)





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Need no inputs

- Example:
Damara sheep
from southern
Africa – exploit
vegetation far
from water holes
and protect
young from
predators





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Necessary for upholding functionality of eco-system and biodiversity





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Policy Neglect

- No recognition of the role („backwards“)
- Lack of pastures (due to encroachment, population pressure)
- Socially marginalised
- No linkages to the market
- No access to services





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No official recognition for the role of livestock keepers as guardians of livestock diversity

- Until early 2000s, FAO did not recognise livestock keepers as stakeholders in animal genetic resource management
- Nevertheless, „Farmers‘ Rights“ were embedded in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- At World Food Summit in 2002, Civil Society requested „Livestock Keepers‘ Rights and an International Treaty on Animal Genetic Resources“





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History of Livestock Keepers' Rights

- First mention at World Food Summit in 2002, in allusion to Farmers Rights in International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources
- Clarified in further meetings
 - “Karen Commitment” - 2003
 - Bellagio Brief - 2006
 - Regional Pastoralists Gathering in Yabello, Ethiopia - 2006
 - Asia-level LIFE-Network Meeting in Sadri (Raj./India) – February 2007
 - Africa –level LIFE-Meeting in Addis Ababa – May 2007 (African region adopted LKR on official agenda)





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Livestock Keepers' Rights

- # 1: Recognition of livestock keepers as creators of breeds and custodians of AnGRFA
- # 2: Recognition of the dependency of the sustainable use of traditional breeds on the conservation of their respective ecosystems
- #3: Recognition of traditional breeds as collective property, products of indigenous knowledge and cultural expression.
- #4: The right of the livestock keepers to make breeding decisions
- #5: Right of livestock keepers to participate in policy making processes on AnGRFA issues
- #6: Support for training and capacity-building of livestock keepers and provision of services along the food chain.
- #7: Right to be involved in setting research priorities and to be consulted (prior informed consent).





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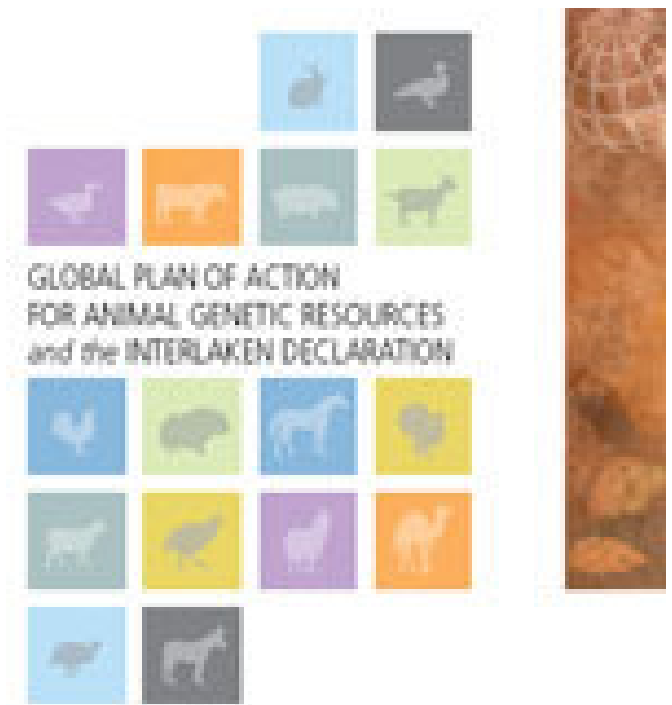
Lobbying for Livestock Keepers' Rights in the „Interlaken process“ by LIFE movement partially successful.





Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources

- was agreed upon by 109 countries in Interlaken (Switzerland) in September, 2007.
- recognizes the role of pastoralists (and other small-scale livestock keepers) in the conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources





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Strategic Priority No. 6 of the Global Plan of Action calls for:

- Support indigenous and local livestock systems of importance to animal genetic resources, including through the removal of factors contributing to erosion.
- Promote exchange, interaction and dialoguein order to integrate traditional knowledge with scientific approaches.
- Promote the development of niche markets for products derived from indigenous and local species and breeds.....





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Current Status

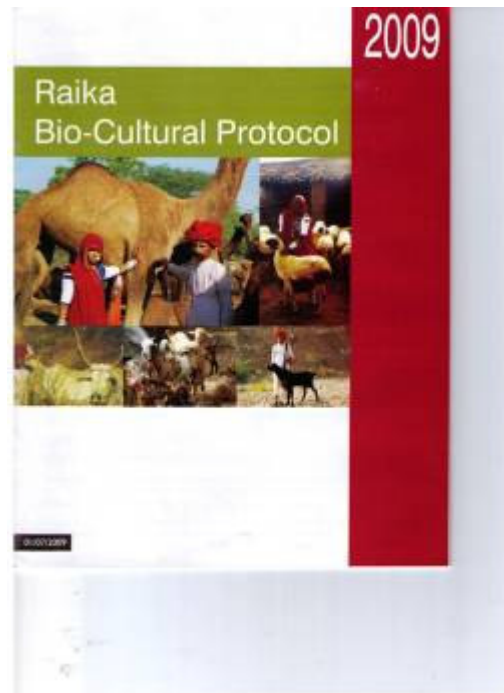
- Livestock Keepers' Rights are being talked about
- Yet, no on-going policy process in which they could be achieved.
- Solution: **Code of Conduct on Livestock Keepers' Rights** that stakeholders can voluntarily agree to.





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A new approach: Biocultural Protocols



- Biocultural Protocols document the role of a community in conserving AnGr and eco-systems
- Are the product of a facilitated process in which communities reflect how they want to handle access to their knowledge and genetic resources.
- Are an extremely empowering experience
- Provide a legal tool for access to grazing resources





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Declaration on Livestock Keepers' Rights

- Explains the cornerstones of Livestock Keepers' Rights
- References them to existing legal frameworks that support the cornerstones
- Is open for signature – please sign!





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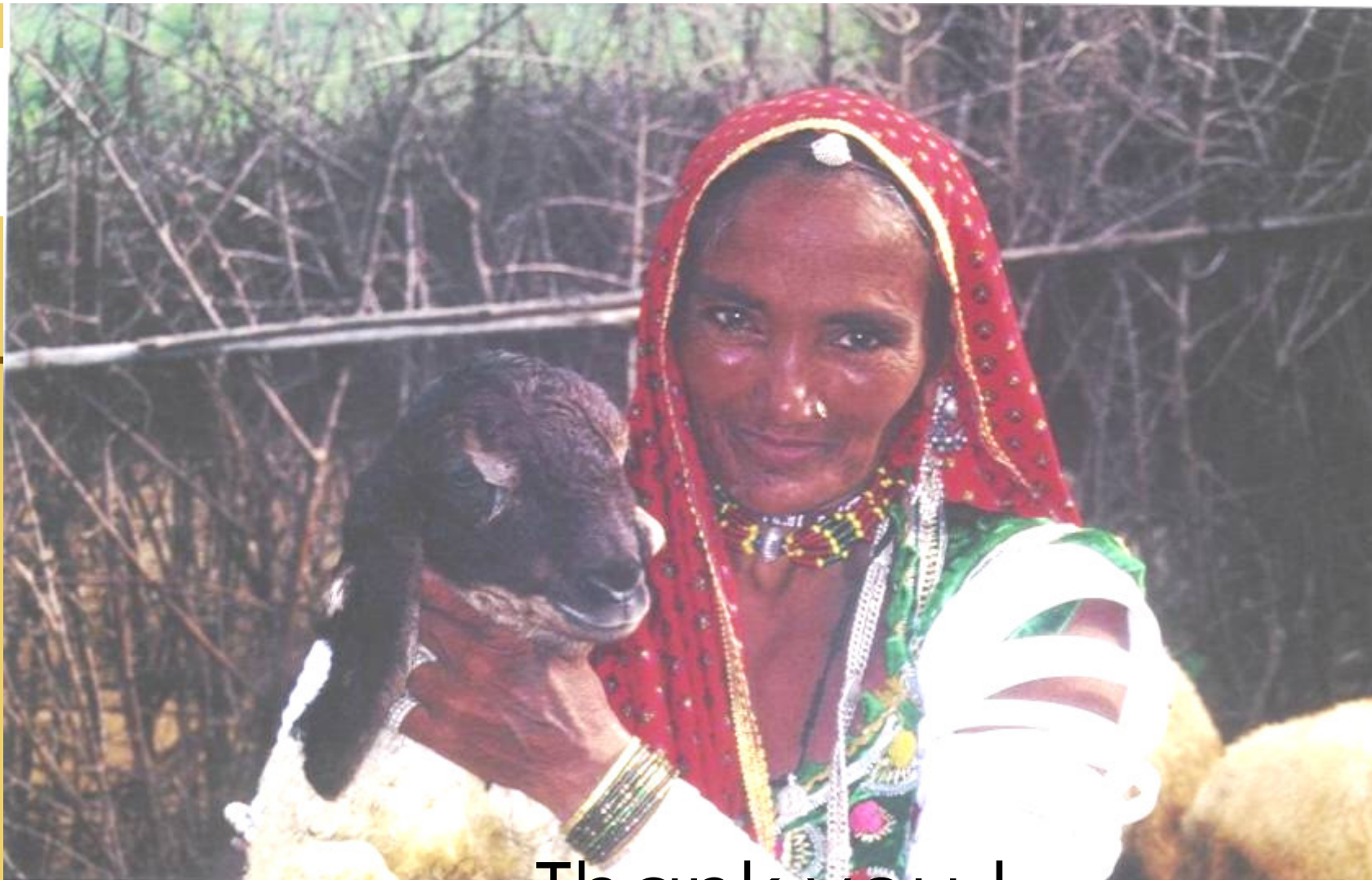
Conclusion

- There are livestock keepers with a long cultural heritage of keeping animals as part of the eco-system
- These cultures fulfill a valuable role in conserving livestock biodiversity and adhere to principles of ecological livestock keeping
- They need strong support in order to survive
- Ecological livestock keepers in south and north must unite!





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Thank you !

www.pastoralpeoples.org

www.lifeinitiative.net

