

# Developing a Code of Conduct for furthering *in-situ* conservation of animal genetic resources

Evelyn Mathias

League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock  
Development, Germany, [evelyn@mamud.com](mailto:evelyn@mamud.com)

*Presentation at the side event of the LIFE Network during  
CGRFA 12, Rome, 19 October 2009*





# Overview

- ✦ Which livestock keepers?
- ✦ Why a Code of Conduct?
- ✦ Coverage of the Code
- ✦ The way forward

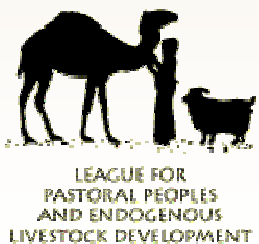


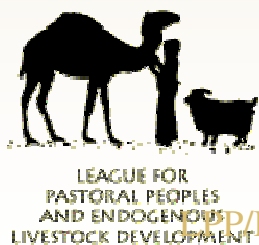
LEAGUE FOR  
PASTORAL PEOPLES  
AND ENDOGENOUS  
LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT



# Which livestock keepers?

- ✧ Pastoralists, mixed crop–livestock farmers, and landless livestock keepers
- ✧ Both indigenous and non-indigenous communities
- ✧ Cultural association with their livestock
- ✧ Developed their breeds in interaction with a specific territory or landscape; *or*
- ✧ sustain their animals and the environments, where these animals live
- ✧ rely largely on natural vegetation or home-grown fodder and crop by-products

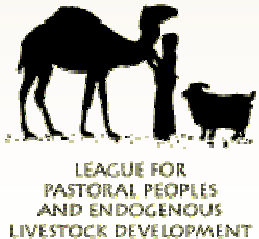






# What is at stake?

- ✦ Livestock Keepers are “Keepers of genes”
- ✦ Sustainable use of marginal areas (where traditional management still possible)
- ✦ Substantial contribution to food security in marginal areas
- ✦ Contribution to national Gross Domestic Products





# What needs to happen?

✪ To continue these contributions and conserving their breeds, Livestock Keepers need recognition and and certain rights and support

→ Livestock Keepers' Rights (LKR)



LEAGUE FOR  
PASTORAL PEOPLES  
AND ENDOGENOUS  
LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

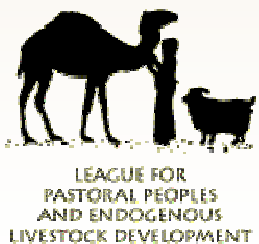


# Why a Code of Conduct?

The Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources recognises the contribution of Livestock Keepers to breed development and conservation.

**But:**

- ✱ Recognition only on paper
  - ✱ Many would like to implement Livestock Keepers' Rights but do not know how to achieve this
- Code provides guidance on how to operationalise in-situ conservation and LKR





# Code of Conduct: Goals

- ✦ Ensure active role of livestock keepers in activities relating to their breeds and resources
- ✦ Prevent adverse effect of such activities on livestock-keeping communities
- ✦ Further breed conservation
- ✦ Support ecologically and socially sustainable livestock development in marginal areas



# Code for whom?

- ✦ Development professionals: individuals and members from NGOs and other development organizations
- ✦ Business, corporate sector
- ✦ Scientists and researchers
- ✦ Research institutions
- ✦ Governments/national policy makers
- ✦ International policy makers and intergovernmental working groups



# Code of Conduct: Structure

- ✦ **Builds on the Livestock Keepers' Rights Declaration**
  - ✦ 3 principles and
  - ✦ 5 rights



LEAGUE FOR  
PASTORAL PEOPLES  
AND ENDOGENOUS  
LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT



# Principle 1

*Livestock Keepers are creators of breeds and custodians of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture*

- ✦ Include reference to the communities associated with the breeds into breed databases
- ✦ Involve communities as key actors in any planning and activities concerning the breeds they are associates with
- ✦ Respect and promote Biocultural or Community Protocols



## Principle 2

*Livestock Keepers and the sustainable use of traditional breeds are dependent on the conservation of their respective ecosystems*

- ✦ Prioritize *in-situ* conservation
- ✦ Reward or pay livestock keepers to maintain ecosystems and conserve breeds
- ✦ Respect and support communal ownership and control of grazing land





# Example Chilka buffalo breeders in Orissa, India



LEAGUE FOR  
PASTORAL PEOPLES  
AND ENDOGENOUS  
LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

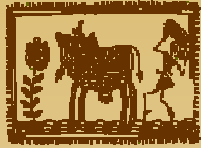
LPP/L



## Principle 3

*Traditional breeds represent collective property, products of indigenous knowledge and cultural expression of Livestock Keepers*

- ✦ Respect local culture and traditional knowledge
- ✦ Work through existing traditional decision making structures
- ✦ Develop local institutions and breeding organizations for pastoral communities



# 3 principles

**Livestock Keepers**

**Culture,  
traditional  
knowledge**

**breed**

**environment**



LEAGUE FOR  
PASTORAL PEOPLES  
AND ENDOGENOUS  
LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT



## Right # 1

**Livestock Keepers shall have the right to make breeding decisions and breed the breeds they maintain**

- ✦ Promote local breeds and support community-based breeding efforts
- ✦ Provide Livestock keepers with realistic information about the value and disadvantages of exotic breeds
- ✦ Involve livestock keepers in selection of bulls for artificial insemination

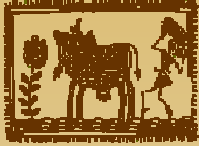


## Right # 2

**Livestock Keepers shall have the right to participate in policy formulation and implementation processes on animal genetic resources for food and agriculture**

- ✿ Facilitate genuine participations of livestock keepers in policy formulation at all levels
- ✿ Make sure to involve existing community institutions/traditional leaders, women etc.
- ✿ Allow sufficient time for participation





## Right # 3

**Livestock Keepers shall have the right to appropriate training and capacity building and equal access to relevant services enabling and supporting them to raise livestock and to better process and market their products**

- ✦ Facilitate and support marketing of products from local breeds by livestock keepers (e.g., public investment, training, capacity-building of livestock keepers)





## Right # 3 (continued)

- ✦ Build up public animal health care systems disease control and prevention appropriate to marginal livestock keepers
- ✦ Develop education models appropriate to pastoralists

**Services to pastoralists should recognise that mobility is key to environmental conservation!!!**



## Right # 4

**Livestock Keepers shall have the right to participate in the identification of research needs and research design with respect to their genetic resources, as is mandated by the principle of Prior Informed Consent**

- ✧ Involve communities in identification of research needs
- ✧ Follow rules outlined in this Code of Conduct or Biocultural Protocols when working with communities
- ✧ Get Prior Informed Consent



LEAGUE FOR  
PASTORAL PEOPLES  
AND ENDOGENOUS  
LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

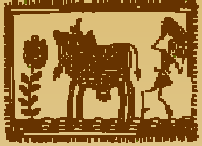


## Right # 5

**Livestock Keepers shall have the right to effectively access information on issues related to their local breeds and livestock diversity**

- ✧ Return research results to communities
- ✧ Use language that livestock keepers can understand
- ✧ Provide access to legal advisory services to communities





# The way forward

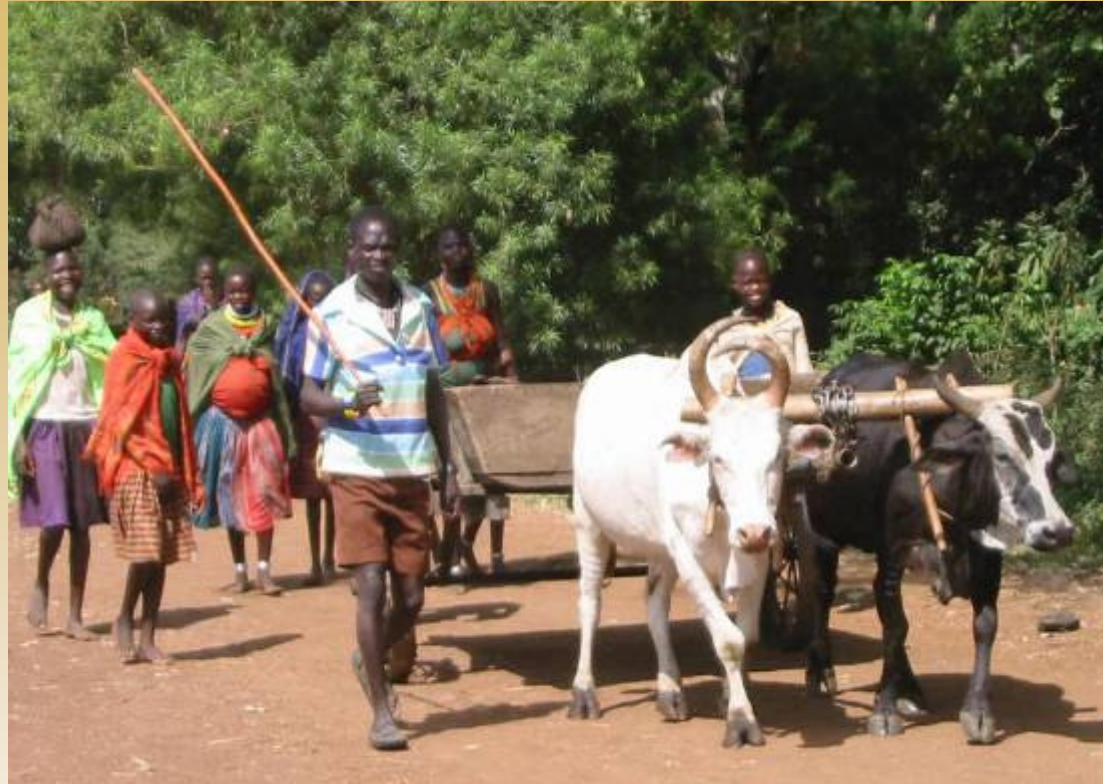
- ✦ The Code of Conduct is not an end, but the beginning of a process

## Key elements:

- ✦ Awareness raising about contribution of livestock keepers among all stakeholders
- ✦ Promote implementation of Code of Conduct to further livelihoods and conservation



LEAGUE FOR  
PASTORAL PEOPLES  
AND ENDOGENOUS  
LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT



Thanks to

- ✳ DEZA, HIVOS-Oxfam Novib Biodiversity Fund, Misereor and Swedbio for financial support. The opinions expressed in this presentation are those of LPP and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of these organizations.
- ✳ All livestock keepers and other stakeholders who have contributed to the development of the LKR Declaration and Code of Conduct
- ✳ [www.pastoralpeoples.org](http://www.pastoralpeoples.org), [www.lifeinitiative.net](http://www.lifeinitiative.net)