



LIFE Network

## The Future of Animal Genetic Resources: Under Corporate Control or in the Hands of Farmers and Pastoralists?

International Workshop  
Bonn (Germany) 16 October, 2006

in preparation for the  
FAO First International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources  
to be held in Interlaken (Switzerland) in September 2007

Please note: 17 October – Planning session; 18 October – Field visit

Ever since humans started domesticating animals - well over 8,000 years ago - farmers and pastoralists have developed their livestock breeds based on their own judgement, needs and preferences. This freedom has not only enabled them to adapt to their diverse environments and make the most out of their specific production conditions, but also generated a vast array of livestock and poultry breeds. Now the inherent right of livestock keepers to *use and develop their own breeding stock and breeding practices* is coming under strong assault by commercial interests that are exploiting the current Intellectual Property Rights System to their advantage. While companies are shoring up control over the livestock sector, small-scale livestock keepers and pastoralists are progressively losing their rights:

- Customary **grazing rights** of many pastoralists are abolished by the establishment of protected areas, biodiesel cultivation, landbanks, land-grabbing, etc.
- Even the **right to keep animals** is jeopardised in the wake of pandemics, esp. Avian Influenza. For instance, in many countries small-scale poultry keepers are losing the right to keep their traditional poultry in the vicinity of industrial chicken complexes. Biosecurity requirements eliminate small farmers from the livestock business.
- The **rights to sell** animals and their products across national boundaries have been seriously undermined, due to sometimes inappropriate animal hygiene regulations. Developing countries are forced out of international markets, and big players come in.
- The **rights to breed** animals may be threatened in the future by patent laws.
- Unfortunately, in most developing countries, farmers and pastoralists have never had the **right to be consulted** and heard when livestock policies are being designed.

See also: **Karen Commitment** ([www.pastoralpeoples.org/docs/karen.pdf](http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/docs/karen.pdf))  
**Bellagio Brief** ([www.pastoralpeoples.org/bellagio/bellagio\\_brief.htm](http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/bellagio/bellagio_brief.htm)).

### The Interlaken Conference

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the Government of Switzerland have announced the First International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources to be held in Interlaken in September 2007 [www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/angrvent2007.html](http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/angrvent2007.html). This conference is the equivalent to the Leipzig Conference on Plant Genetic Resources that was held in 1996 and generated an enormous response by Civil Society.

The purpose of the Interlaken Conference is to

- reach agreement on how to best address priorities for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources, and
- raise awareness and appreciation of the various roles and values of these essential resources

A formal outcome will be the finalization of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*.

### **Preparatory activities for the Interlaken Conference**

The League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development, members of the LIFE Network and other partners will be undertaking a series of activities to project the role of livestock keepers and communities in in-situ conservation of animal genetic resources and the linkages between livestock biodiversity, secure livelihoods and sustainable land use. We invite other like-minded organisations and individuals to join the effort of legally securing Livestock Keepers' Rights.

### **International workshop, 16 October 2006**

Addressed are civil society organisations dealing with environment and development more generally, those who focus on biotechnology, biopiracy, or animal welfare, and organisations actively supporting livestock biodiversity.

The *objectives* of the workshop are

- To draw attention to the Interlaken Conference and its importance
- To raise awareness on the related topics
- To identify potential for action
- To devise cooperation opportunities.

This is an opportunity for pastoralists and livestock keepers' organisations to present their case. Relevant aspects will be analysed and ongoing study work presented: Livestock patents and biotechnology, smallholder livestock biodiversity conservation and breeding, alternatives to industrial livestock production are examples.

### **Interlaken Planning Session, 17 October**

A session to jointly plan activities to accompany the FAO conference 2007 in Interlaken is scheduled for 17 October. The venue is a meeting room in the Old Town Hall located in the city centre.

### **Field visit, 18 October**

In cooperation with the German Society for the Conservation of Old and Endangered Livestock Breeds (Gesellschaft zur Erhaltung alter und gefährdeter Haustierrassen e.V., GEH, [www.g-e-h.de/](http://www.g-e-h.de/)), we will spend the day (08:00–18:00) visiting several farms involved in breed conservation. The tour is by bus in the area around Bonn. Although we hope for a sunny day, please bring rain protection and waterproof shoes. English translation is provided.

### **Venue and accommodation**

The workshop on 16 October will be held at the Haus der Evangelischen Kirche, Adenauerallee 37, 53113 Bonn. It is located near the river Rhine in the city centre (map will be available on [www.pastoralpeoples.org](http://www.pastoralpeoples.org)). Coffee and a light lunch will be provided free of charge. We have block-booked hotel accommodation (single and double rooms) in walking distance. The rates are between €40 and €80 per night. Please book your accommodation with LPP ([susanne@pastoralpeoples.org](mailto:susanne@pastoralpeoples.org)) **before 20 September**. After that date, kindly arrange your own hotel room.



## Draft Workshop Programme, 16–18 October 2006

<b>Monday 16 October 2006</b>		Adenauerallee 37, Bonn
8:00	Registration	
9:00	Welcome	Ilse Koehler-Rollefson, LPP P. Vivekanandan, LIFE Initiative Bernhard Walter, BFDW
<b>Session I: Overview of global trends</b>		
9:10	The global status of animal genetic resources and the significance of the Interlaken Conference	Irene Hoffmann, FAO
9:40	The Monsanto patent applications and their implications	Christoph Then, Greenpeace
10:00	Concentration in the livestock breeding industry	Ilse Koehler-Rollefson and Susanne Gura, LPP
10:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
<b>Session II: Perspectives from communities, NGOs and governments</b>		
11:15	Experiences with indigenous breeds in India	Sagari Ramdas, ANTHRA, India
11:45	No commons, no breeds?	P. Vivekanandan, SEVA, India
12:15	Of Tzotzil women, local sheep and globalization	Raul Perezgrovas, Instituto de Estudios Indigenas, University of Chiapas, Mexico
12:45	Boran cattle breeding association	Daoud Tarie, Boran Breeding Association, Kenya
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00	Breed conservation in Germany and Europe	Information Center on Biological Diversity, German Federal Agency for Food and Agriculture
14:30	Perspectives on the Interlaken Conference	Karin Wohlfender, Swiss Ministry of Agriculture
15:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
<b>Session III: Livestock Keepers Rights</b>		
16:00	Livestock Keepers' Rights: history and conceptual aspects	Jacob Wanyama, Vetaid Mozambique
16:30	Panel discussion about Livestock Keepers' Rights: Strengths and weaknesses of the concept; Future strategies	Patrick Mulvany (Practical Action, UK) Hermann Schulte-Coerne, German Ministry of Agriculture E. Groeneveld (Livestock Research Mariensee) Nitya Ghotge (ANTHRA, India) Jacob Wanyama (Vetaid Mozambique) Anita Idel (Project Management Animal Health & Agrobiodiversity)
17:45	Summing up and closure	
<b>Tuesday 17 October</b>		Old Town Hall, Bonn
Planning session for 2007 Interlaken Conference		
<b>Wednesday 18 October</b>		
Field visit to breed-conservation farms around Bonn		



### About the Organisers

The **League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development** is engaged in advocacy, research and field activities to support pastoralists and marginal livestock keepers.

[www.pastoralpeoples.org](http://www.pastoralpeoples.org)

The **LIFE Network** is a group of organizations and individuals who promote community-based conservation and development of indigenous livestock breeds and species. [www.lifeinitiative.net](http://www.lifeinitiative.net)

### Registering for the workshop

**Please note: Registration is free. There is no refunding of travel, accommodation or per diems; please arrange your own funding.**

Please complete the form below and return it to *Susanne Gura*, [susanne@pastoralpeoples.org](mailto:susanne@pastoralpeoples.org), tel. +49-228-948 0670

Name (first, last)

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Organization

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Address

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Email

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Telephone

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Fax

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Do you want us to book accommodation for you? Yes / No

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If yes: Arrival date

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Departure date

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Note: Accommodation is available for €40 to €80 per night. If you would like us to book accommodation, please return this form before 20 Sept 2006

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I will attend the following events:

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|---|----------|
| • Workshop, 16 Oct  | Yes / No |
| • Planning session for 2007 Interlaken Conference, 17 Oct | Yes / No |
| • Field trip to Bonn surroundings, 18 Oct                 | Yes / No |
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