

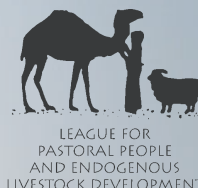
The results are shared in regional meetings and by means of an international workshop. Next steps will include the investigation of the technological requirements for producing products tailored to urban consumer preferences and the identification of business partners or donors willing to invest and to build up a value chain on labelled products.

Creating value chains in which the control over the resources remains in the hands of traditional livestock breeding communities and in which processing is carried out locally has the potential to revive rural economies and to provide a future perspective for youths from these communities. For this endeavour, we are seeking collaboration and joint projects with private enterprises to connect livestock keepers and their unique, biodiversity conserving production systems to markets and consumers.



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THE ARK OF LIVESTOCK BIODIVERSITY



DEVELOPING THE MARKET POTENTIAL OF TRADITIONAL LIVESTOCK SPECIALITIES



Photos:
Georgina Julia, Abdul Raziq
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**LEAGUE FOR PASTORAL PEOPLES AND
ENDOGENOUS LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT**

THE LIVESTOCK BREEDS KEPT BY PASTORALISTS AND OTHER LIVESTOCK KEEPERS ARE TRULY SPECIAL.

They

walk for miles in harsh terrain to seek out scattered, spiky, fibrous plants that survive in areas where crops could never be grown;

take droughts and hunger in their stride and act as insurance;

are social animals in the true sense – living in a herd, responding to the voice of their keepers, and defending their young against predators;

are part and parcel of their respective eco-systems and provide a host of environmental services;

produce delicious and healthy food as well as a range of other organic products.



These breeds are the consolidated result of hundreds or even thousands years of purposeful breeding and of natural selection.

They epitomize oodles of traditional knowledge and selection criteria of which no scientist has dreamt, such as the urge to forage, being social, and the guts to survive droughts and other calamities.

Unfortunately, this type of sturdy livestock is threatened by extinction as the world is being taken over by livestock mono-cultures: poultry produced by two or three companies globally, white hybrid pigs, and genetically closely related Holstein Friesian cows.

The League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development (LPP) was founded in 1992 to provide relief in an acute crisis experienced by Raika camel pastoralists in India. Soon its focus expanded to other small-scale livestock keepers around the globe facing similar challenges. Now we are working globally and locally (through our partners in the LIFE Network) for resilient and socially sustainable livestock production.

In order to ensure the survival and better utilization of ecologically important breeds – animals that are the foundation for a more sustainable and greener approach to livestock production – LPP has partnered with the Fondation d'Entreprise Hermès, to investigate the potential and opportunities for developing value chains around traditional products from these breeds.

Working with pastoralist communities that have developed Biocultural Community Protocols (under the Nagoya Protocol of the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity/CBD), LPP and its partners in the LIFE Network are currently examining the scope for developing a special label – **»the Ark of life«** – that indicates to consumers that a product is from a locally adapted livestock breed and derives from biodiversity conserving production systems.

THE »ARK OF LIVESTOCK BIODIVERSITY« PROJECT

In the first stage of the project we document traditional products made from these breeds and the ways they are processed as well as local perceptions about their nutritional and medicinal value. The properties of the products are then examined scientifically – with respect to sensorial qualities, nutritional composition, health effects, and processability – in collaboration with local universities and scientific institutions.

In India, Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan (LPPS) is investigating the meat from Jaislameri goats and the ghee (butter fat) from local cows in the Thar Desert. Another aim is to better understand the health enhancing effects of camel milk: Camel milk is widely used traditionally for treating tuberculosis, typhoid and other diseases and is becoming increasingly popular with diabetes patients and for autistic children.

In Pakistan, SAVES is documenting techniques for making dried meat from sheep and goat breeds in Baluchistan.

In Kenya, the LIFE Africa Trust is focusing on the worm-resistant Red Massai sheep and the value of its meat and fat in terms of tastes and medicinal properties.

