



Livestock out of balance?

The livestock sector is clearly out of balance: During the last half century, the numbers of farm animals has been growing much faster than the world's human population. While the numbers of people more than doubled during this time period, the number of farm animals grew 3.6 times, and the number of slaughtered animals even multiplied by the factor of 7.1. This trend is putting an unprecedented strain on the earth's resources, with devastating effects on the environment, soil fertility, climate, and biodiversity. Public health – the massive use of antibiotics and growth promoters, as well as the rapid spread of diseases around the globe – is another major concern. And it seems that there is no end in sight to “Livestock's long shadow”: The Food and Agriculture Organization predicts that the demand for livestock products will increase dramatically until 2050. The realization that we have a major predicament at hand, has triggered international organisations to initiate the Global Agenda of Action for a Sustainable Livestock Sector (GAA).

LPP attended the second multi-stakeholder platform of the GAA that took place in December 2011 in Phuket and tried to raise its voice on behalf of the small-scale livestock keepers that represent a major stakeholder group but are so far not represented in the process which has brought on board the big players, such as the International Meat Secretariat, the International Dairy Federation, the feed industry and the International Egg Council – organizations that promote industrial livestock production. In Phuket, we emphasized that livestock keepers have an important role in achieving a sustainable livestock sector, and that furthermore we also need to look into social sustainability. Unfortunately, the GAA so far seems to be pre-occupied mostly with greenhouse gas emissions as an indicator of sustainability, rather than taking a broader view and also looking into biodiversity issues and long term soil fertility, as well as livelihoods. LPP will be trying to change this, but it will require much strength, support and strategic partnerships in order to achieve this!

What is the Global Agenda of Action towards Sustainable Livestock sector Development (GAA)?

According to its website at www.livestock-dialogue.org, “the Agenda brings together actors committed to sustainable livestock sector development.

The purpose of this partnership is to catalyze and guide the continuous improvement of livestock sector practices **towards more efficient use of natural resources.**”

International Activities

09. – 14 Januar: International Association of the Commons (IAC): Organization of pre-Conference Workshop and two panel discussions

During the 13th Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons held in Hyderabad, LPP organized, together with Natural Justice, a pre-conference workshop about “ Biocultural Community Protocols – A tool for Securing the Rights of Pastoralists and Livestock Keepers for In-Situ Conservation and Access to Common Property Resources”. This workshop was attended by more than 40 participants from NGOs and Pastoralist Organisations as well as grant-making institutions. During the main conference, Dr. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson also presented a paper on “Pastoralists and ICCAs” during a session on Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) organized by Kalpavriksh and participated in a panel discussion about the Forest Rights Act and Rights-based approaches.

Odessa / IFAD-Project

May 2011: In collaboration with IFAD and the Odessa Centre UK LPP started the Project “Inter-Regional Learning on Animal Fine Fibre Processing and Niche Markets”

Livestock Keepers in the semi-arid subtropics, temperate and high altitude rangelands keep livestock species or breeds that have warm fleeces as protection on cold winters. These fleeces have an international commercial value, but expected beneficiaries currently process and sell these animal fibres at less than optimum qualities and prices. In these regions, rangelands livestock keepers are among the poorest rural households, as well as often the most physically isolated, depending solely on low-productivity rangelands to raise their livestock and with inadequate alternative income sources. At the lower end of the marketing chain, among producers and small-scale traders, it is often women who mainly deal with animal fibres. Women livestock owners process animal fibres for home use and to sell. They appreciate the qualities of animal fibres and are often more interested than men in learning how to improve the finished quality and gain better market prices.

The project is aimed at livestock keepers produce and sell high value animal fibres in the following countries and regions:

- High altitude Andean regions (Argentina, Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay) with wild and domesticated camelids – alpaca, llama, guanaco and vicuna;
- High altitude Himalayan, Hindu Kush and Tibetan regions (China, India, Pakistan) with cashmere goats and yaks;
- Temperate continental Asian regions (Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) with karakul sheep and cashmere goats;

- Subtropical southern Africa regions (South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia) with mohair goats and karakul sheep;
- While not in target countries, organisations in temperate European and north American developed regions (EU, USA, Canada), with cashmere and angora goats, speciality sheep wool breeds, camelids, bison, musk ox etc. will provide learning experiences.

The overall objectives of the Project are the following:

1. To provide information and practical assistance for livestock producer groups in diverse world regions to increase the value of their animal fibre products.
2. To allow those at the lowest end of the marketing chain to gain access to useful marketing information.
3. To support livestock keepers to capture the increased value from an expanding international demand for some animal fibre products.
4. To create linkages and promote exchange of information among animal fibre producer groups.

“Ark Project”

At the end of September, LPP started with the activities for the Project “ From Biocultural protocols to the Ark of Livestock Biodiversity”, that is funded by Fondation d`entreprise Hermès.

The central question of the project is how pastoralists can be supported and incentivized to continue their role as stewards of much of the world remaining livestock biodiversity. In order to ensure the survival and better utilization of their 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 Bicultural Community Protocols (under the Nagoya Protocol of the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity/CBD), LPP and its partners in the LIFE Network will examine the scope for developing a special label that indicates to consumers that a product is from a locally adapted livestock breed and derives from biodiversity conserving production systems.

A Planning meeting of the Indian and Kenyan members of the Ark-Project to share the project idea with other organisations, to identify selected traditional products to be analysed and to discuss methodological issues was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 28th-30th November. In India, Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan(LPPS) will investigate the meat from jaisalmeri 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 autistic children.

In Pakistan, SAVES will document techniques for making dried meat from sheep and goat breeds in Baluchistan. In Kenya, the LIFE Africas Trust will focus on the worm-resistant Red Massai sheep and the value of its meat and fat.

July, 18th-22nd: The Thirteenth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

LPP delegation (Dr. Jacob Wanyama, Dr. Abdul Raziq, Hanwant Singh Rathore and Dr. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson) participated in the international meeting at FAO and organized a Side Event on Biocultural Community Protocols and the Ark of Livestock Biodiversity. This event was well attended by about 50 government and non-government delegates and it was given the necessary weight by having Dr. Paul Boettcher of the FAO introducing and presiding over it. More details are available at <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cgrfa13/20july.html>. On behalf of the delegation, Dr. Raziq also presented a statement in the plenary.

July 23rd – 29th: LPP Theme Week, Ober-Ramstadt, Germany

We used the presence of LPP partners in Europe for the CGRFA meeting, to also invite them for a “retreat” and a number of media and exposure events at our headquarters in Ober-Ramstadt.

On one day, LPP’s international partners from Kenya, India, Pakistan, and the Netherlands discussed with LPP members, friends and local livestock keepers the future of livestock keeping. The meeting illustrated the commonality of problems between livestock keepers in the South and in the North; it also made clear how the “production paradigm” focusing on producing ever more livestock products at ever cheaper rates is harming livestock keepers and rural development globally.

In a function that was widely publicized in the local media, they presented a copy of their colleague Dr. Balaram’s book “Ten days in a German village” to the mayor of Ober-Ramstadt. At the same event, the highly bio-diverse camel dung paper produced by LIFE Network partner LPPS was highlighted. Together with some other camel products, the paper is now available at a local store that sells eco-friendly and fair-trade products.

They also visited Misereor headquarters in Aachen and had exchanges with the various programme coordinators.

December, 1-4th: “Setting a Global Agenda of Action for a Sustainable Livestock Sector” Meeting in Phuket, Thailand.

We attended this preparatory meeting for the Global Agenda of Action for a Sustainable Livestock Sector, an initiative spearheaded by FAO, financed by the governments of Switzerland and The Netherlands, supported by Worldbank and ILRI. LPP was one of only a couple of NGOs present, but is concerned that this multi-stakeholder platform will not really address the issues in a proper way, but instead gloss over the fundamental problems in the livestock sector.

Regional Activities

March, 15th: National Consultation on Camel Products Development and Marketing

This meeting was attended by all main stakeholders and its recommendations were submitted to the National Planning commission (of which a member, Dr. Sahukar, participated in the meeting) for consideration in the development of India's 12th Five Year Plan. A high ranking official from German Embassy also attended, and a report about the long standing collaboration between LPP and LPPS on saving the camel was published on the website of the German Embassy.

March, 31st – April, 6th : Asian Regional Initiatives on Biocultural Protocol in Sri Lanka

This was the kick-off meeting for an Asia-focused programme of work (India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan & Malaysia) on BCPs that was initiated by Natural Justice and ETC Foundation. The project has the purpose to secure the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities over their natural resources and associated traditional knowledge, leading to improved access to and management of natural resources, as well as to improved well-being. To achieve this purpose, the project partners will work with local communities to develop biocultural community protocols, implement field programmes to improve communities' access to and management of natural resources, and enable communities to assert their rights under various national and international fora to lobby for policy change. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson and Raziq Kakar represented the LIFE Network.

May, 10th – 21st : Ilse Köhler-Rollefson Trip to Kenya/ Uganda: Meeting with ACCA, PENHA, LIFE-KARI

Capacity-building for African LIFE Coordinator, Jacob Wanyama and for Ugandan LIFE representative, Elizabeth Katushabe during the time period from 11 until 21 May. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson travelled to Nairobi and jointly with Dr. Wanyama attended the Inter-Agency Donors meeting, held at the offices of OA-IBAR. Furthermore, they discussed how to establish a trust for the conservation of African livestock breeds. From 15-19 May, Ilse was in Uganda and visited the Ankole breeding area together with Elizabeth Katushabe. On 19th May, Dr. Wanyama, Elizabeth and Ilse met in Nairobi discussing future LIFE network activities and how also to establish a trust for the Ankole cattle.

June 5th: RLN Meeting about breeding policy

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson was invited by the Rainfed Livestock Network to participate in a meeting about India's breeding policy on 5 June at the Institute of Rural Management (IRMA) in Anand. The group produced an input for the working group on animal genetic resources for India's 12th Five Year Plan which emphasized the need for strengthening livestock keepers and community-based management of AnGR rather than on government farms. Indian LIFE Network coordinator, Vivekanandan has been selected a member of the working group and is doing his best to influence the outcome and the plan in favour of livestock keeper focused interventions.

Additional Activities

Establishment of Public Private Partnership Project with GIZ and Hess Natur

LPP has entered into a PPP agreement with German eco-textile company Hess Natur for developing products from dromedary wool in Rajasthan.

LIFE Network

January, 15th – 19th : Visit to Orissa with Livestock Keepers with Dr. Balaram Sahu

Visit by Ilse Köhler-Rollefson to various livestock keeping communities in Orissa together with Dr. Balaram Sahu of the LIFE Network and release of his book "10 days in a German village" based on his stay in Germany during the COP 9 of the CBD in 2008.

November, 30th – December, 1st : Workshop in Nairobi on Biocultural Protocols – An Emerging Approach to Strengthening Livestock Keeping Communities

This workshop was organised in collaboration with LIFE Network Africa, Natural Justice, and WISP. The goal of this workshop was to introduce Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs), to a wider audience, and it was attended by about 40 people including pastoralist communities, policy makers, NGOs, and

bureaucrats. The programme included presentations by the Ministry of Livestock Development, LPP, ILRI, LIFE network and community representatives as well as group discussions. Together with the workshop, a planning meeting of the Indian and Kenyan members of the "Ark" project that is funded by Fondation d'entreprise Hermes was also held. (The Pakistani team member, Dr. Abdul Raziq, unfortunately was not able to attend because of visa problems.) A separate report about the event is available.

Papers presented at scientific conferences and meetings

November, 4th

Panel discussion at a symposium of Tierärzte ohne Grenzen (TOG) about The future of pastoralist livestock production in Africa.

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson participated as a panel member in this event <http://www.togev.de/aktionen/tagung.html> celebrating 20 years of VSF Germany <http://www.vsfg.org/>. The topic: *Does pastoralism in East Africa have a future?* Experts and participants overwhelmingly agreed that pastoralism is there to stay, despite the current crisis in the Horn of Africa – which is more detrimental for farmers and agropastoralists than pastoralists, according to some sources.

Publications 2011

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson

2011. Livestock Keepers' Rights: A tool for Countering the Livestock Revolution? in a special issue of Ecology and Farming

An article on Biocultural Community Protocols for Pastoralists appeared in the May issue of the Kalpavriksh Newsletter People in Conservation. Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihood Security. It is available at http://www.kalpavriksh.org/images/Documentation/Newsletters/pic%20may2011_english.pdf.

A press release about the situation of the Ankole cattle in Uganda was prepared and circulated via the DAD-Net which reaches 7000 subscribers. ftp://DADnet:Mobile45@ext-ftp.fao.org/ag/reserved/dad-net/Ankole_cattle.pdf

About the League

The League is registered as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under German law. Donations are tax-deductible.

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taxdeductible.

Registration

The League for Pastoral Peoples was registered as a non-profit society at the Darmstadt County Court (VR 2337) on 15 March 1993.

Euros	Funds at end of 2010	Income 2011	Expenditure 2011	Income – Expenditure 2011	Funds at end of 2011
Society	25.571,08	20.064,36	24.110,12	- 4.045,76	21.525,32
Projects	11.227,20	264.341,82	234.628,74	29.713,08	40.940,28
Total	36.798,28	284.406,18	258.738,86	25.667,32	62.465,60

The League's income in 2011 was about € 284.406,18 and expenditures amounted to € 258.738,86. Details are given below. The accounts were audited by a professional chartered accountant in Darmstadt.

Mission

LPP provides technical support, advisory services and advocacy for pastoral societies and other small-scale livestock keepers to help them pursue their own vision of development and to stand their ground in the face of unfavourable policy environments and alienation of their pasture grounds. LPP is also a resource organization for holistic and people-centred livestock development and promotes the concept of endogenous livestock development relying on indigenous knowledge and institutions, local animal genetic resources and feed. The well-being of domesticated animals is a secondary but important focus of its work.

Background

LPP was established in 1992 by a small group of veterinary and other concerned professionals confronted with the crisis situation of camel pastoralists in Rajasthan. Efforts to alleviate their situation set into motion a mutual learning process and a series of measures such as action research, projects related to animal health (including ethnoveterinary approaches) and marketing, as well as training and capacity-building. This has resulted in the establishment of the independent local organization Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan (LPPS) which now represents a key partner and provides infrastructural support for activities in India.

Philosophy

Taking our cues from pastoralists, we believe in the interconnectedness between the well-being of people and their domesticated animals. By conceptualizing animals as machines, industrialized animal production systems sever one of the few remaining links between humans and the natural world. We regard animals as fellow creatures on this planet and not as subjects. The ultimate goal of our effort is human well-being.

Donors

LPP is extremely grateful to its donors supporting its work in 2011

- Misereor
- IFAD
- Fondation d'entreprise Hermès
- The Christensen Fund (through ETC)