

**LEAGUE FOR PASTORAL PEOPLES  
AND ENDOGENOUS LIVESTOCK  
DEVELOPMENT**



# Annual Report 2014



## Access and Benefit-Sharing

In October 2014, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing entered into force. This legally binding add-on to the Convention on Biological Diversity places special emphasis on obtaining “prior informed consent” not only from governments but also from local and indigenous communities when accessing their traditional knowledge with respect to genetic resources.

It mandates in its Article 7, that parties, “in accordance with domestic law, take measures, as appropriate, with the aim of ensuring that traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that is held by indigenous and local communities is accessed with the prior and informed consent or approval and involvement of these indigenous and local communities, and that mutually agreed terms have been established.

In Article 12, parties are urged to, in accordance with domestic law take into consideration indigenous and local communities’ customary laws, community protocols and procedures, as applicable, with respect to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources. Furthermore it is stated that *“parties shall endeavour to support, as appropriate, the development by indigenous and local communities, including women within these communities, of Community protocols in relation to access to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of such knowledge”*.

Well, pastoralists and other keepers of locally developed breeds certainly qualify as “indigenous and local communities” under the CBD. As readers of this blog know, several of them have already developed “Biocultural Protocols” for their breeds and communities.

And this is where the potential lies: in community documentation of animal genetic resources and of local production systems. For, even in the absence of any party requesting “access”, such documentation will make visible the existence, the significance, and the meaning of livestock production based on local breeds whose economic contribution is routinely underestimated or even entirely ignored.

Visibility of these systems would be the first step towards putting livestock development – conventionally based on “high yielding” introduced genetics and higher inputs from outside – on a more sustainable path, both ecologically and socially.

On 26th November, LPP organised a side-event at the FAO, during the 8th session of the [Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources](#) with reports from the field about the importance of community documentation and BCPs by Elizabeth Katushabe from Uganda, Dr. Maria Rosa Lanari from Argentina and Rao Abdul Qadeer from Pakistan. The event was chaired by Dr. Ela Martyniuk, Poland’s National Coordinator of Animal Genetic Resources.

The Rainfed Livestock Network in India kicked off a project on developing BCPs for several communities and/or breeds, including the Bakkarwal pastoralists of Jammu and Kashmir, the Golla pastoralists in Odisha, the shepherds of the Deccan Plateau, and the Kangayam cattle breeders of Tamil Nadu.

All these are small, but important steps forward towards getting more visibility – recognition should then follow – for the long neglected “traditional” livestock production systems based

on locally evolved animal genetic resources – hopefully quickly enough to support and save some of these precious systems!

In timely fashion, LPP published a study together with the ABS Capacity Building Initiative, entitled Access and Benefit-Sharing of Animal Genetic Resources: using the Nagoya Protocol as a Framework for the Conservation and Sustainable use of Animal Genetic Resources and which can be downloaded here: <http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/ABS-for-AnGr-Final-201412041.pdf>

## International Activities

**January, 16th**

### **Panel discussion during GFFA at the Green Week in Berlin**

Together with “Tierärzte ohne Grenzen e.V.” and the Berlin Seminar for Rural development, LPP organised a panel discussion on the subject of “The hunger of the forgotten people” during the Green Week. Neil Fraser, the chairman of the GAA, accepted the invitation to be one of the panellists. The event was reported about in Rural 21

[\(http://www.rural21.com/francais/news/detail/article/pastoralists-the-forgotten-hungry-00001045/\)](http://www.rural21.com/francais/news/detail/article/pastoralists-the-forgotten-hungry-00001045/)



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**January, 20th-23rd**

### **Diamond Jubilee of the University of Khartoum's Veterinary Faculty**

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson was invited to the Diamond Jubilee of the University of Khartoum's Veterinary Faculty from 20th-23rd of January, providing the opportunity to discuss opportunities for collaboration with selected faculty members for working on Biocultural Community protocols and for visiting the university' camel farm and milk marketing operation.

## **June 20th-22nd**

### **World Camel Day at University of Agriculture in Faisalabad in Pakistan**

Hosted by Prof. Muhamed Younas, Chair of the Department of Livestock Management of the University of Agriculture in Faisalabad (Pakistan) for the celebration of World Camel Day on 22nd June. Initially conceived by Dr. Abdul Raziq Kakar, a great camel researcher and currently dean at Lasbela Agricultural University, it was an event with dancing camels, scientific sessions and launch of the Dacha brand of camel milk. Dancing camels are a typical part of the culture of the desert that straddles the border between India and Pakistan:



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## **August, 17th-21st**

### **Field Research with Bakkarwal pastoralists**

In the context of a project on developing BCPs for several communities and/or breeds that is under the umbrella of the rainfed Livestock Network India, Ilse Köhler-Rollefson and Hanwant Singh from LPPS travelled to Kashmir to explore the possibility of a Biocultural Community Protocol with the Bakkarwal pastoralists.

## **September 24th**

### **The 15th annual meeting of the Inter-agency Livestock Donor Group hosted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson made the case for donor investment in camel dairying. She also suggested to precede all Public Private Partnerships involving livestock keeping communities



with the development of Biocultural Protocols, a tool that has been developed in the context of implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, but would be useful in mainstream sector interventions as well to ensure that these meet the needs and desires of the “target groups”.

## **November, 26th-28th**

### **Participation in the ITWG AnGR at FAO in Rome**

For the Intergovernmental Working group on Animal Genetic Resources, LPP organized participation of partners from Uganda (Elizabeth Katushabe), Argentina (Dr. Maria Rosa Lanari) and Pakistan (Rao Abdul Qadeer) and organized a side-event which was chaired by Dr. Elzbieta Martyniuk from Poland and attended by at least 40 national delegates and FAO staff. Also a paper on Access and Benefit-Sharing of animal genetic resources that LPP co-published with GIZ and is authored by Ilse Koehler-Rollefson and Hartmut Meyer was distributed.

However, the government discussion during the ITWG-AnGR on ABS was extremely disappointing and flat, indicating that not enough governments have spent any amount of time reflecting on the issue. The time did not yet seem ripe for any substantial discussion. During the eighth session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources (ITWG-AnGR 8), the confusion of delegates about how to apply the concept of “Access and Benefit-Sharing” to animal genetic resources (AnGR) was palpable. Developed countries such as USA and Canada argued that nothing should interfere with the free flow of AnGR. Of course they have the interests of their genetics companies in mind. Developing countries such as Bolivia expressed their fear that the indiscriminate import of exotic breeds destroys their locally adapted ones. There is also the latent fear of biopiracy especially of climate resilient local breeds, although at a side-event by WIPO and FAO about the patent landscape in the livestock sector it was stated that there have been no patent applications on genetic material from any indigenous breeds.

Francois Pythoud from Switzerland argued for brainstorming the issues and “thinking out of the box”, but unfortunately nobody picked up the suggestion. LPP and LIFE Network tried to make the case for community protocols, but this elicited neither any response nor support despite a side-event on the previous day that sought to bring across the point that locally adapted breeds are often low-input and high output. And that this can be made visible by means of the Community Protocols that feature importantly in the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing that recently entered into force. Our side-event was chaired by Poland’s National Coordinator, Dr. Elzbieta Martyniuk and featured presentations by Elizabeth Katushabe of Uganda about community documentation of Ankole Longhorn Cattle, by Rao Abdul Qadeer from Pakistan about the significance of Pakistan’s genetic resources for the camel dairy industry in the Gulf countries and by Dr. Maria Rosa Lanari of Argentina on the low-input but high-output indigenous livestock production systems of Patagonia.

Trying to get across the value of locally evolved food production systems and adapted AnGR during an LPP/LIFE Network side-event at the ITWG-Angr 8 on 26th November: Rao Abdul Qadeer, Maria Rosa Lanari, Ilse Koehler-Rollefson, Elzbieta Martyniuk (chair), Elizabeth Katushabe (left to right)



In order to move forward, we really need to get back to the basics and remind ourselves of the rationale of Access and Benefit-Sharing in the first place: to provide positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Now, in the case of AnGr, it is quite clear that there is currently not much of a commercial interest in locally adapted AnGR because they do not really fit into the industrial systems for which the genetics companies work. On the other hand, it is just the spread of industrial systems that poses the danger to livestock biodiversity as they contribute to the destruction of native livestock based food production systems – which are often much more productive than is evident, or worse: which have never been documented and remained invisible. Thus the community protocols that are mandated by the Nagoya Protocol have an extremely important role to play in changing perceptions about local systems and providing at least moral support and empowerment to the local livestock keepers that continue to be the backbone of food production in many countries.

## **October 7th-14th**

### **Participation at the 5th GASL Multistakeholderplatform meeting in Cali, Columbia**

Elizabeth Katushabe participated in this meeting and presented the results of her study of pro-poor livestock interventions and livestock biodiversity conservation projects and approaches of the LIFE Network India “Towards Resilience and Social Sustainability of the Livestock Sector”: <http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/ek-knowledge-product.pdf>

## **December, 8-15th**

### **Study on economics of sheep pastoralism**

In the context of a three-country study (China, India, Kenya) coordinated by IIED (International Institute of Environment and Development) LPP and LPPS collected field data on the economic output of nomadic shepherding systems in Rajasthan. The results of the research contributed to the book “Valuing Variability” edited by Saverio Krätli. It is available at <http://pubs.iied.org/10128IIED.html>



## Other Activities

**February, 10th-11th**

### **Preparation of proposal for BCP development**

LPP supported LPPS to develop a project proposal for a programme on BCPs which was discussed during a core group meeting of the Rainfed Livestock Network (RLN) held in Hyderabad from 10th-11th of February. The project was accepted, and a meeting with project partners on the methodology was held in Delhi in November.

**March, 5th-21st**

### **“Strengthening the LIFE Network”**

The LPP office organized a two week visit by Elizabeth Katushabe, an Ankole cattle keeper from Uganda and representing LIFE Network Africa to India to visit and exchange experiences and information with four LIFE Network members – LPPS, Pathe Pathshala, Senapathy Kangayam Cattle Research Foundation and ANTHRA, from 5th March-21st March.



ELIZABETH INTERACTING WITH THE “SPINNING” WOMEN IN JAISALMER (THEY SPIN CAMEL WOOL IN AN LPPS PROJECT)



ELIZABETH TALKING TO CATTLE KEEPERS IN ODISHA. DR. BALARAM SAHU ON THE RIGHT.

Elizabeth wrote a report about the LIFE Network approaches towards livestock keepers' empowerment in India entitled “Towards Resilience and Social Sustainability of the Livestock Sector” as an input to the GAA.

## **March, 25th -30th**

### **Book Writing Symposium Brisbane, Australia**

Participation of Ilse Köhler-Rollefson in Book Writing symposium on Customary Rights and Traditional Knowledge at the invitation of Brendan Tobin of Griffiths University in Brisbane (Australia).

## **March, 25th-April, 5th**

### **Visit to Papua New- Guinea National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)**

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson visited Papua New-Guinea from 31st March to 5th April at invitation of Dr. Workneh Ayalew of the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) in Lae, including a visit to women pig farmers and presentation of a lecture on “The power of indigenous breeds for rural transformation”. <http://de.slideshare.net/IlseKoehler-Rollefson/the-power-of-indigenous-breeds-for-rural-transformation-presentation-given-at-the-national-agricultural-research-institute-in-lae-pngg>

## **May 27th**

### **Marwar Ratna Award**

LPP’s co-founder, Dr. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson, and Hanwant Singh, director of LPP’s long-standing partner organization in Rajasthan, Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan jointly received the Marwar Ratna Award 2013 for “Exceptional and Outstanding Contribution in the Field of Conservation, Preservation and Promotion of Regional Culture and Heritage”, presented by H.H. Maharajah Gaj Singhji II of Jodhpur on 12th May, 2014. The award honored their efforts over two decades to save Rajasthan’s camels as well as the associated Raika culture. Recently the Government of Rajasthan announced its intention to declare the camel as state animal of Rajasthan, as well as a number of far reaching interventions to protect it.

## **July**

### **Evaluation Report**

The evaluation of the LIFE network was conducted by Daniel Temesgen an Ethiopian specialist on network development and networking manager of the Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia / Ethiopian society of Animal Production and Kanika Chandel an Indian market researcher and specialist on forest management. It was evaluated the effectiveness of the LIFE network in relation to its major objectives.

E-mail and Skype interviews responses were collected from LIFE network members and also from representatives of organizations with similar goals.

The general opinion was that the LIFE network has successfully been able to bring the voice of the Livestock keepers to the international platform through different forums such as GAA conferences, COP of the CBD and others. The network has also realized to generate awareness among policy and decision-makers and general public about the importance of smallholder livestock production. The LIFE network is considered as being the only network, especially in India which is looking at the traditional livestock keepers' rights and native breed conservation.

The guiding questions of the interviews also asked for suggestions for the future improvement LIFE network. The network should be structured formally to realize that actions are more effectively taken. This would streamline the work and spread responsibility to all members. To make the LIFE network more representative it was suggested to connect to other networks for example or to include ministry officials from agriculture and rural departments.

## **October 9th**

### **Release of Camel Karma,**

**Camel Karma.** *Twenty Years among India's Camel Nomads* was released at Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur during the Rajasthan International Folk Festival by HH Maharaja of Jodhpur. This book by LPP's project coordinator Ilse Koehler-Rollefson chronicles her research and work in Rajasthan. More information about the book published by Tranquebar Press is [here](#)

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## **November, 30th**

### **Vernissage at Galerie Smend in Köln**

Lecture by Ilse Köhler-Rollefson at invitation of Amelie Schenk during the annual exhibition of Mongolian felt products of the "Freunde des Altai" e.V.

## **Publications 2014**

Discussion Paper and Input to the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL)  
“Why Livestock Keepers’ Rights are relevant for the Sustainability of the livestock sector”

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson (2014): Camel Karma: Twenty Years Among India's Camel Nomads, TRANQUEBAR, 1-377.

## About LPP

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

### Financial

The League's income in 2014 was about € 58.006,82 and expenditures amounted to € 65.682,26. Details are given below. The accounts were audited by a professional chartered accountant in Darmstadt.

Euros	Funds at end of 2013	Income 2014	Expenditure 2014	Income – Expenditure 2014	Funds at end of 2014
Society	12.681,60	18.768,76	17.116,25	1.652,51	14.334,11
Projects	26.380,40	39.238,06	48.566,01	-9.327,95	17.052,45
Total	39.062,00	58.006,82	65.682,26	-7.675,44	31.386,56

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### 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.

## LPP Board Members

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## Bank Account

IBAN DE23 5085 0150 0028 0048 93

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Donations are tax deductible.

## Registration

LPP was registered as a non-profit society at the Darmstadt County Court (VR2337) on 15 March 1993.

# Donors

LPP is extremely grateful to its donors supporting its work in 2014

- Misereor
- Brot für die Welt
- ErbacherStiftung
- HIVOS

We would also like to express our thankfulness to all other supporters of LPP.

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