

LEAGUE FOR PASTORAL PEOPLES
AND ENDOGENOUS LIVESTOCK
DEVELOPMENT



Annual Report 2016



Pastoralists to the Fore!

In the last several years, pastoralists have been able to gradually carve out a niche for themselves in international policy processes and are now recognized as a separate stakeholder group in various fora seeking to address livestock sector sustainability, such as GAA/GASL (Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock), LEAP (Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership), and others. The FAO established the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub, 2015 which spreads information to both pastoralists and non-pastoralists about the benefits of pastoralism.

There has also been progress in the official attitude towards pastoralism, partly because it fits well with current trends in development topics (such as “resilience” and “adaptation to climate change”), but also because its role in food security has been highlighted in a number of prominent publications. Policy makers are (hopefully) beginning to re-evaluate their anti-pastoralist stance and appreciate its economic contribution, as well as its ecological significance.

Other strands of development also create hope for pastoralists: The livestock efficiency paradigm is beginning to crumble (although it is still held up with force by the “stakeholders” - industries and scientists - that benefit from it). Scientific evidence is accumulating to show that switch to higher performing breeds brings no benefits in terms of climate gas emissions. FAO’s own studies recently confirmed that backyard poultry and pig systems have less Greenhouse Gas Emissions per kg of egg or meat produced than industrial systems which is a reversal of earlier beliefs but has not been given much attention. At the UNFCCC in Paris, the contribution of agriculture to greenhouse gas emissions was highlighted and looked into for the first time. This topic is inching into the mainstream and can be expected to reveal and draw attention to how pastoralists produce food WITH nature by making best possible use of native adapted vegetation, rather than trying to replace it with crops as farmers do.

Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs) are the ideal tool for making this amazing role of pastoralism visible. A current emphasis of the work of LPP is therefore to “mainstream” BCPs as a tool for pastoralist and other livestock keeping communities to document their role in both biodiversity conservation and food production and thereby convince policy makers of their importance. We seek to refine the methodology for BCPs, to establish standards, and to build the capacity of more communities to develop BCPs. In addition, an institutional framework to monitor the genuineness of BCPs and further advocacy for their recognition are required. This is the work that LPP regards of utmost importance in order to prevent pastoralist cultures from further disintegration. We ask all our members and donors to support this goal!

International Activities

January, 9-13th

Field visit in Maharashtra

The League for Pastoral Peoples supported the NGO BAIF – that has that has traditionally promoted exotic breeds – through a field visit from 9-13th January to various sites in Maharashtra to probe the potential for a Biocultural Protocol by the Banjara cattle nomads. The blog: *Banjaras, bullocks and Biocultural Protocols* can be found at <http://www.ilse-koehler-rollefson.com/?p=914>

February, 23-25th

Contribution/participation in India's Alternative Future Book

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson participated in an author's meeting organised by Ashish Kothari that was held in Delhi from 23-25th February at the Centre for the Study of Developing Studies (CSDS). Together with Hanwant Singh of LPPS, she has contributed a chapter on the future of pastoralism in a book that envisions alternative futures for India.

March, 9-12th

FAO Expert Meeting on value chains for small-scale livestock keepers held at Zaragossa in Spain

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson was invited to this meeting to share her experiences with value chain development from her experiences in India. The purpose of the meeting is to start developing guidelines for value chains that benefit small-scale livestock keepers. It was a very interesting meeting with valuable learnings from Mediterranean countries.

March and April

Advocacy for camel milk marketing in Rajasthan

Throughout March and April, IKR supported our partner LPPS with advocacy for camel milk marketing in Rajasthan. She participated in a number of meetings with camel breeders in Sojat Road, near Jaipur, in Bhilwara and Shekhawati districts. Her article on the subject was published by Scroll.in at <http://scroll.in/article/805937/the-key-to-saving-rajsthans-dwindling-camels-is-their-milk>. It has had 4600 views and received widespread attention.

April, 12th-13th

Guiding Group Meeting of GASL (Global Agenda of Sustainable Livestock)

From 12th-13th April the Guiding Group Meeting of GASL (Global Agenda of Sustainable Livestock) took place at FAO headquarters in Rome. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson attended and gave an invited presentation about including social and economic sustainability into the overall livestock sustainability framework.

April, 15th-25th

Meetings with camel breeders in Pakistan

From 15th-25th April Ilse Köhler-Rollefson travelled to Pakistan to lay the foundation for a Biocultural Community Protocol for the Malgadda community that breeds the Brela camel. Her extensive tour was organised by Prof. Muhammed Younas of the University of Agriculture in Faisalabad and Rao Abdul Qadeer, both LIFE Network members. Ilse also got very interesting insights into the Rohi camel culture which is totally different from that of the Malgadda.



Consultation with camel breeders in Cholistan

May, 13th-15th

Workshop held in Kullu (Himachal Pradesh, India)

With the purpose of creating visibility for pastoralism - a livestock production system that is gaining increased international recognition but not recognized officially by Indian policy makers - fourteen experts from all over India met in Kullu (Himachal Pradesh) from 13th - 15th May, 2016 to define the term in the Indian context and establish a methodology for estimating numbers and assessing trends. The workshop that was initiated and was cofunded by LPP resulted in the Kullu Call for the Recognition of the Importance of Common Pool Resources and Pastoralism for India's Livestock Sector. <https://www.slideshare.net/IlseKöhlerRollefson/kullu-call-for-the-recognition-of-the-importance-of-cprs-and-pastoralism>

June, 20-23rd

Meeting of the Multistakeholder Partnership of GASL in Panama

From 20-23 June the 6th Meeting of the Multistakeholder Partnership of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock took place in Panama. <http://www.livestockdialogue.org/events/events/multi-stakeholder-meetings/panama-20-23-june-2016/en/> At this meeting the focus was on showing the connection between livestock and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which is certainly a very timely and appropriate endeavor. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson attended together with Elizabeth Katushabe, Ankole cattle breeder from Uganda and fellow member of LIFE Network International. During a side event of the meeting Elizabeth Katushabe held a presentation in which she showed the draw-backs for farmers and the environment of the transition from local cattle to Holstein-Friesian cows for dairy production. Ilse presented on the sheep pastoraists of Rajasthan. An important trend is the participation of pastoralists and the attention that is given to the subject of pastoralism, as reflected in the number of best practice notes that were published for the occasion by the Action Network on "Restoring Value to Grasslands", including one based on experiences with the social institutions upholding sheep pastoralism in Rajasthan.

September, 10-12th

Visit LIFE Network partner

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson visited our LIFE Network partner in Tamil Nadu, the Sivasenaapathy Kangayam Cattle Research Foundation, to finalize the draft BCP for Kangayam cattle and Korangadu pastureland from 10.-12. September, 2016.

October, 5-7th

CELEP Annual Meeting, London

At the CELEP (Coalition of European Lobbies for east African Pastoralism) Annual Meeting held at IIED (International Institute of Environment and Development) in London, Ilse held a presentation on Biocultural Community Protocols, in tandem with Saverio Krätli, entitled “Access - Benefit Sharing of What? Potential and pitfalls of Biocultural Community Protocols and implications for investments in pastoral regions”.

November, 6-9th

First International Agrobiodiversity Conference, Delhi

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson was invited by the organizers of this conference as a keynote speaker in a session on Access and benefit-Sharing and presented a paper entitled “Access and Benefit-Sharing of Animal Genetic Resources: The need to think out of the box”. The paper was very well received and commented upon extensively by the chair of the session, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan. It was subsequently published in the Journal of Plant Genetic Resources (sic!) The conference led to various contacts, including with Olivier Hanotte, ILRI, who indicated his interest in working with pastoralists and in validating pastoralist breeding and diversity generating strategies. Other contacts were with Siepke Hiemstra of the Netherlands Wageningen University and Centre for Genetic Resources, and Toby Hodgkin – Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research (PAR) – to organize side-event at CGRFA 16 in January/February 2017 at Rome. He is keen to work more on AnGR. Luis Waldmüller, GIZ climate adaptation, requested Ilse to give expert talk at GIZ in the next year.

6

December, 2-18th

Living Lightly Exhibition, Delhi

LPP gave major inputs to the Living Lightly Exhibition showcasing Indian pastoralism from 2-18 December at the Indira Gandhi National Centre of the Arts in New-Delhi. This event provided the opportunity for an introduction to Srimati Maneka Gandhi, Minister of Woman and Child Welfare and a major activist on camel welfare. LPP also helped organize camel cheese making workshops with Anne Bruntse which introduced camel cheese to a Delhi audience.

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson also provided the foreword for an illustrated book on pastoralism that was released during the exhibition, and in an international scientific conference on pastoralism, she presented a keynote on “Indigenous knowledge and breeding systems of pastoralists”.

Furthermore, she guided the Stakeholder Consultation from 14-16 December and gave a presentation on “The Kullu Call for the Recognition of Pastoralism and Common Pool Resources”.

Other Activities

June, 16-19th

Visit Elizabeth Katushabe in Germany Meeting /Film Production

LPP’s Ugandan partner Elizabeth Katushabe stopped over in Germany en route to Panama for the purpose of connecting her to Mark Michel who is making a film entitled Herders and would like to film one of the sequences among the Ankole breeders of Uganda.

June, 22nd

Expert meeting about antibiotic resistances, Bielefeld

Evelyn Mathias represented LPP on invitation of BUKO Pharma (www.bukopharma.de) at the expert meeting about antibiotic resistances in the livestock keeping sector that was held in Bielefeld. The meeting was part of a project that developed an e-learning concept to inform employees of German NGOs about antibiotic resistances and to impart responsibility in dealing with antibiotics.

June, 28th

LPP Information event: Camels and their herders, Ober-Ramstadt

In collaboration with the culture office of Ober-Ramstadt LPP organized an information evening about the work of LPP, especially about Ilse’s efforts to conserve the culture of the Raika camel herders.

Publications 2016

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson. Pastoralists’ breeds hold generations of knowledge. **Farming Matters. Issue on Listening to pastoralists.** <https://www.ileia.org/2016/12/19/pastoralists-breeds-hold-generations-knowledge/>

LPP. Beyond Material Transfer Agreements – Access and Benefit-Sharing of animal Genetic Resources: about the need to think out of the box. (pamphlet)

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson. Innovations and diverse livelihood pathways: alternative livelihoods, livelihood diversification and societal transformation in pastoral communities. In **The Future of Pastoralism** (Eds. J. Zinsstag, E. Schelling & B. Bonfoh). OIE Scientific and Technical Review 35(2):

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson. Foreword to **World without a Roof**, graphic book introducing pastoralism to a wide audience, published at “Living Lightly” exhibition in Delhi.

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 2016 was about € 95.939,54 and expenditures amounted to € 76.811,15. Details are given below. The accounts were audited by a professional chartered accountant in Darmstadt.

Euros	Funds at end of 2015	Income 2016	Expenditure 2016	Income – Expenditure 2016	Funds at end of 2016
Society	12.608,08	20.560,91	14.024,98	6.535,93	19.144,01
Projects	135,43	75.378,63	62.786,17	12.592,46	12.727,89
Total	12.743,51	95.939,54	76.811,15	19.129,39	31.871,90

9

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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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 2016

- Misereor