

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



Annual Report 2019

International Activities

February

Inauguration of the Kumbhalgarh Camel Dairy



On 24 February, the Kumbhalgarh Camel dairy that has been established by our partner organization Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan (LPPS) on its campus in Sadri (Rajasthan) with substantial support of LPP was formally inaugurated in a festive event with about 300 guests. Among them were the local MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly) and former Energy Minister Pushpendra Singh, Sarita Kumari of Ghanerao, IFAD country director Rasha Omar, German benefactor Bettina Bock, and various other dignitaries, foreign guests, friends, Startup Oasis, mentors, women groups, etc.

The MLA promised support for setting up a solar energy unit to make the dairy independent of the main power supply. Also present were the local hoteliers who were served a "Camel Conservation Lunch" featuring various novel menu items prepared with camel milk. Also showcased were a range of camel cheeses.

The celebration was preceded by a two-day training programme in hygienic milk collection for camel breeders from all over Rajasthan.

March

Invited Lecture by Ilse Köhler-Rollefson at the “Regional Workshop on Underutilized Animal Genetic Resources and their Amelioration”, 4.-6. March in Selangor, Malaysia.

This workshop was organized by APAARI (Asian-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions) and the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) and provided an opportunity to share our experience and analysis of the implications of the Nagoya Protocol for Animal Genetic Resources. Ilse presented a paper entitled *Access and benefit-sharing of underutilized livestock breeds under the Nagoya Protocol Framework* in which she stated that Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) of animal genetic resources has had a low profile and even the mandatory Nagoya Protocol has not changed this, as country representatives struggle with understanding the implications of ABS for the livestock sector. In the course of the discussions the original rationale of ABS as a tool for conserving genetic resources has been lost. The core argument of this paper is that the ABS concept – which was originally developed with wild biodiversity in mind – needs to be adapted to address the specific characteristics and requirements of the sector. If tweaked in the right way, ABS for AnGR could support the conservation of those animal genetic resources that matter most in the context of climate change and for achieving food security within planetary boundaries. The promotion of Community Protocols, a key element of the Nagoya Protocol, could be the starting point for conserving climate resilient livestock breeds in situ to ensure access to them in the future. Developing countries should push for an enabling mechanism in the relevant international for a, such as the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA).

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Foundation of International Camel Organization (ICO) in Riyadh, Saudi-Arabia



The International Camel Organization (ICO) was founded on 16 March in Riyadh. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson was invited to the event and registered as one of the founding members.

Advising about use of camel heritage in Al-Ula, Saudi Arabia

At the invitation of the Royal Commission on Al Ula, Ilse Köhler-Rollefson conducted a survey of camel nomads, their traditional knowledge and economic situation in and around Al Ula to identify ways of integrating the camel heritage of the area into the development of Al-Ula as an international tourist destination. The experience gained during the implementation of LPP's camel dairy work in Rajasthan proved very useful



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April

Invited lecture by Ilse Köhler-Rollefson on „Biocultural Protocols during the Community of Practice (CoP) Workshop on the Nagoya Protocol on ABS for European, CIS, Arab and Asian countries, 9-12 April 2019 in Istanbul organized by UNDP-GEF Project on Access and Benefit-Sharing.

This Community of Practice Workshop on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing for European, CIS, Arab and Asian countries of the UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project and their partner countries/institutions aimed at strengthening the capacities of national ABS focal points, ABS practitioners and policymakers as well as indigenous peoples and local communities, researchers and the private sector to deal with legal, policy and practical issues relating to the management and governance of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in the context of bioprospecting. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson was invited to present on the development of Biocultural Community Protocols.

Identification of Success/Inspirational Stories

In the context of the current Misereor project, numerous Success stories and inspiring approaches have been identified which can successfully implement pastoral animal husbandry and motivate other livestock keepers to take individual paths in animal husbandry. For example, the Ethiopian goat herder Agitu Idea Gudeta, who grazes goats in northern Italy and successfully markets cheese, or the Parisian city shepherds, who care for urban green spaces with their animals, or the Towfiq Self Help Group, which markets camel milk from local producers in Garissa, Kenya. These and other examples will be published on a special website.

May/June

Support to partner organization LPPS on dairy value chain.

One of the obstacles encountered in the operationalization of the camel dairy value chain in Rajasthan is the marketing of the products to increase the turn-over and thereby benefit more camel breeding families. Considerable efforts are necessary to standardize, package and label the products and to build up linkages with retailers and even supermarket chains to establish sales channels. This took up most of the months of May and June and a lot of lessons were learned!

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July

FAO Regional Meeting on „Mainstreaming Biodiversity“ in Bangkok, Thailand, 16-19 July

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson was invited to participate in this *Regional Consultative Meeting on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across the Agricultural Sectors for Asia and the Pacific*, from 16-19 July. She also used the opportunity to link up with Dr. Katinka de Balogh, Senior Animal Health and Production Officer at FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

UNDP-GEF ABS Project National Workshop in Dushanbe Tajikistan – Facilitation of a ToT (Training of Trainers) Workshop on Biocultural Community Protocols, 23-24 July

At the request of the UNDP Country Office in Tajikistan, Ilse Köhler-Rollefson facilitated a workshop that was organized in partnership with the National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center of the Environmental Protection Committee under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (NBBC) for training of trainers on "Development of Biocultural Community (BCP) Protocols" within the UNDP/GEF Project "Strengthening Human Resources, Legal Framework and Institutional Capacities to Implement the Nagoya Protocol".

The training was attended by 25 participants, including representatives of UNDP-CO in Tajikistan, representatives of the National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center of the Environmental Protection Committee under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, a specialist of the regional ABS project, an international consultant on the preparation of the biocultural community protocols, experts from ministries and agencies, research institutes, as well as public organizations and NGOs.

On 25 and 26 July, meetings with national experts on animal genetic resources were held.



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August

First International Conference for Central Asian Countries "Camel Culture in Central Asia: Historical Heritage and Development Prospects", August 26-31, in Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek, Cholpon-Ata.



Together with LPPS director Hanwant Singh Rathore, Ilse Köhler-Rollefson was invited to represent India at the 1-st International Conference on Camel Culture in Central Asia: Historical Heritage and Development Prospects that took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and organized/sponsored by ICO, the International Camel Organization from Saudi-Arabia. She presented a paper about. The samples of the camel dairy products developed with the help of this project generated a lot of attention and showed how much relative progress there has been by comparison with other countries.



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September

“Counting Pastoralists Workshop” from 1.-4. September in Sadri India

Pastoralism is absolutely a worldwide phenomenon, but it takes different guises and has variable significance in individual countries. This is one of the reasons why nobody knows how many pastoralists there are in the world. There is no uniform definition and countries do not collect data on how many of their livestock are kept in pastoralist systems. As part of a project supported by Misereor, LPP has contracted country studies to experts in three countries (Argentina, Germany, and Kenya/Uganda) to look into developing a unified methodology. The results of these country studies by Jacob Wanyama, Evelyn Mathias, Maria Rosa Lanari and Kamal Kishore were shared in a workshop hosted by LPPS in Sadri.



**Multistakeholder-Platform (MSP) of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) ,
September in Manhattan, Kansas, USA, from 9.-13. September.**

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson and Elizabeth Katushabe attended this meeting in which Ilse presented a paper entitled 'Connecting nomadic camel herders to urban markets' that was very well received.

http://www.livestockdialogue.org/fileadmin/templates/res_livestock/docs/2019_Sept_Kansas/presentations/Kohler-Rollefson_-_Connecting_nomadic_camel_milk_producers.pdf . The meeting provided opportunity to plan BCP activities in Argentina and also to join in the efforts to advocate for an International Year on Pastoralism and Rangelands (YRP).

Lecture at the Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies of the University of Wisconsin in Madison, USA.

At the invitation of Prof. Paul Robbins, director of the Nelson Institute on Environmental Studies, Ilse gave a talk entitled *Culture, Commerce and Conservation: The curious case of the camel in Rajasthan* which was attended by 40 students and faculty from across the university (Environmental Studies, Dairy Science, Biological Systems Engineering, and many others).

October

CELEP's 10th Annual Meeting from 16.-18. October in Brussels

Evelyn Mathias participated in CELEP's 10th Annual Meeting (CELEP: Coalition of European Lobbies on Eastern African Pastoralism) on behalf of LPP and held a presentation on LPP activities in Africa.

November

Arte Film Crew

15-27th November: Arte Film Project about herders



The Raika camel breeders were selected as a case study for a 5 part Arte series on Herders that is filmed in Germany, Uganda, India, Kyrgyzstan and Peru and to be aired around August in Europe. The film team directed by Mark Michel spent almost two weeks engaging with camel breeders and also focused on the role of the Kumbhalgarh Camel Dairy. LPPS facilitated the interaction and also arranged for Prof. Anil Chhangani from Bikaner University to provide inputs on the role of pastoralists in conservation.

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Workshop on Pastoralism and Conservation, 22-25 November



In collaboration with the Indian Pastoralist Research Network, we helped LPPS host a meeting about pastoralism and conservation which had the purpose of collecting information about traditional knowledge of pastoralists in conservation. It was attended by about 12 pastoralists of the Van Gujjar community of Uttranchal and resulted in lively discussions with the Raika pastoralists. The workshop was supported by the French government through the Indian Pastoralist Network.

Activities in Germany

February

Winner in the Idea Competition #Social Vision“ of Spotconsulting GmbH and the SV Darmstadt 98 with the project „How to minimize the ecological footprint of livestock keeping. (Success Stories in livestock production such as description of positive impacts of mobile pastoralism on people, animals and the environment. Participation in Coaching.

<https://imzeichenderlilie.de/index.php/archiv/262-socialvision-gewinner-steht-fest>

March

- Development of a Facebook page for LPP to make its work better known and publicize success stories.
- Participation in the Model Ecological Region South in district Darmstadt-Dieburg / Odenwaldkreis, Mitarbeit in der Projektgruppe „Erzeugung und Verbrauch im Dialog“ mit dem Ziel, ökologische Leistungen von Schäfern bekannter zu machen.

September

- Oberfeld, Info booth at the Symposium: “Stadt und Land im Klimawandel“
- Collaboration in the Project Group „Erzeugung und Verbrauch im Dialog“ Ökomodellregion Süd

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Publications 2019

Raika Camel Milk. <https://www.fondazione Slow Food.com/en/ark-of-taste-slow-food/kumbhalgarh-camel-milk/>

Regional Expert Consultation on Underutilized Animal Genetic Resources and Their Amelioration, March 4-6, 2019, MARDI Serdang, Malaysia – Regional Status Reports and Strategic Papers http://www.apaari.org/web/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2019/Underutilized%20Animal%20Genetic-Regional%20Status%20Report_24-10-2019.pdf

Rajasthan's Biggest Treasure. Food Forever Initiative
<https://www.food4ever.org/news/rajasthans-biggest-treasure/>

Marwar Magazine: Indefatigable Crusader
<http://www.marwar.com/indefatigable-camel-crusader/>

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/blink/shoot/the-last-herders-of-pushkar/article30039530.ece/photo/1/>

Blogs

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The EAT- Lancet Report, pastoralism and artificial meat. <http://www.ilse-koehler-rollefson.com/?p=1240>

Camel Milk Alchemy: Nature's Antidote for Urban Lifestyles. <http://www.ilse-koehler-rollefson.com/?p=1249>

This is for you, pastoralists! <http://www.ilse-koehler-rollefson.com/?p=1264>

Rajasthan's unique and caring camel culture is on its deathbed....but we can still save it!
<http://www.ilse-koehler-rollefson.com/?p=1279>

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 2019 was about € 96.114,14 and expenditures amounted to € 73.023,81. Details are given below. (The accounts of the Misereor funded project were audited by a professional chartered accountant from Heidelberg)

Euros	Funds at end of 2018	Income 2019	Expenditure 2019	Income – Expenditure 2019	Funds at end of 2019
Society	32.423,08	38.920,30	18.355,43	20.564,87	52.987,95
Projects	14.801,86	57.193,84	54.668,38	2.525,46	17.327,32
Total	47.224,94	96.114,14	73.023,81	23.090,33	70.315,27

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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

Silke Brehm; silke.brehm@gmx.de

Günther Czerkus; czerkus@eifel-lamm.de

Christiane Herweg; christiane@pastoralpeoples.org

Aisha Rollefson; aisharollefson@web.de

Contact

Pragelatostr. 20
64372 Ober-Ramstadt
Germany
Tel. 06154-53642; 06154-630357
Email: info@pastoralpeoples.org
Web: www.pastoralpeoples.org

Bank Account

IBAN DE23 5085 0150 0028 0048 93
BIC HELADEF1DAS
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 2019

- Misereor
- Deutsche Umwelthilfe Hand in Hand Fonds

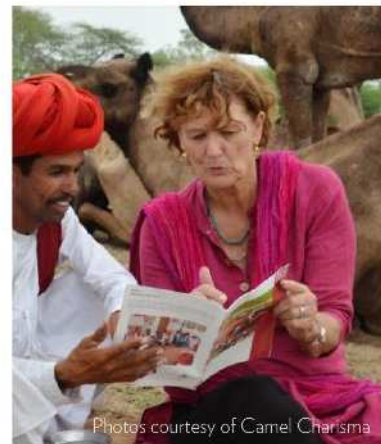
CULTURE, COMMERCE, AND CONSERVATION: THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE CAMEL



Dr. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson

LEAGUE FOR PASTORAL PEOPLES
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DEVELOPMENT

For more than two-decades, Dr. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson has utilized her background in veterinarian medicine and archaeozoology to support socially responsible and ecologically sustainable livestock development. In particular, she has focused much of her work on camels, authoring the book, *Camel Karma: Twenty Years Among India's Camel Nomads* and starting the social enterprise, Camel Charisma.



Register to Attend: go.wisc.edu/cameldiscussion

 **Free Pizza Lunch** 



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