

On-line Seminar, 30th September, 2 p.m. CET

# ACCOUNTING FOR PASTORALISTS



LEAGUE FOR  
PASTORAL PEOPLES  
AND ENDOGENOUS  
LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

# Accounting for Pastoralists

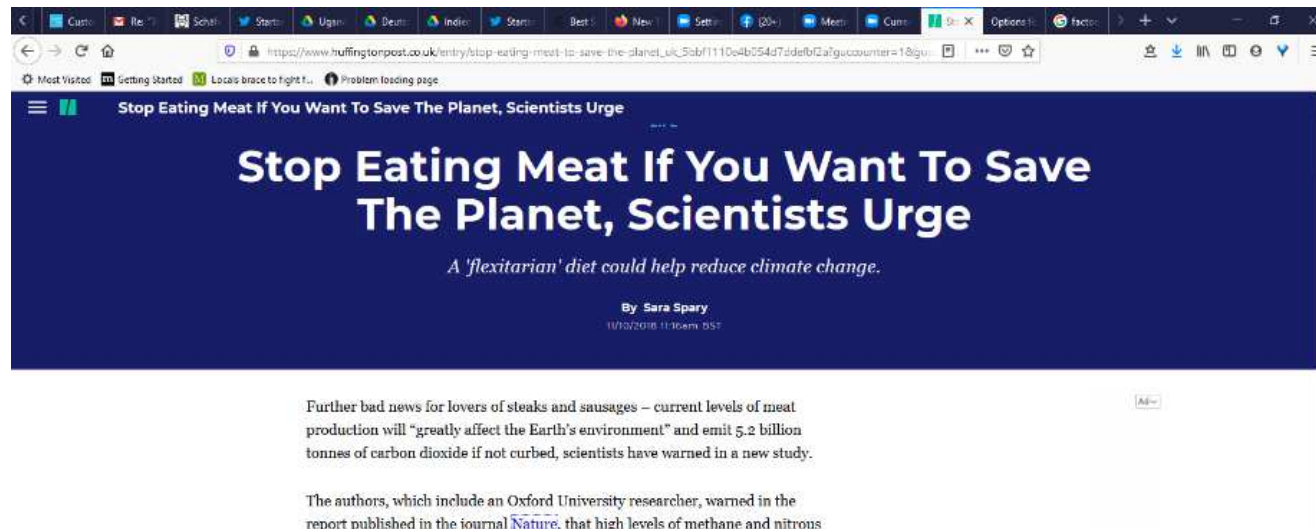
*or why we have to make pastoralists  
visible*



Ilse Köhler-Rollefson

# Global assault on livestock

- Articles in journals such as NATURE and SCIENCE state that veganism is the best thing one can do for the planet.
- Concerted effort by EAT Lancet Initiative, some UN agencies, and the private sector to promote 'plant based diets'.



# Avoiding meat and dairy is 'single biggest way' to reduce your impact on Earth

Biggest analysis to date reveals huge footprint of livestock - it provides just 18% of calories but takes up 83% of farmland



▲ Cattle at an illegal settlement in the Jamanxim National Forest, northern Brazil. The 1.3m hectare forest is today a microcosm of what happens in the Amazon, where vast areas of land are prey to illegal woodcutters, stock breeders and gold miners. Photograph: Antonio Scorza/AFP/Getty Images

Avoiding meat and dairy products is the single biggest way to reduce your environmental impact on the planet, according to the scientists behind the most comprehensive analysis to date of the damage farming does to the planet.

**Damian Carrington**  
*Environment editor*

✉ @dpcarrington

Thu 31 May 2018 19:00 BST

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Without any doubt livestock concentrated in feedlots and factory farms has massive negative impacts on the environment, animal welfare, public health and livelihoods.



# But pastoralism is an alternative way of raising livestock WITH nature

- high animal welfare
- solar-powered: No fossil fuels are used to grow, protect, harvest, process and transport animal feed. Livestock walks to its forage
- low-risk with respect to pandemics: Animals are genetically diverse and often disease-resistant, dispersed instead of concentrated, and are healthy because they move.
- nurtures biodiversity: no native vegetation is replaced by monocultures, manure fosters insect life at the bottom of the food chain. It is a way of regenerating landscapes. IT IS BETTER THAN PLANT-BASED!
- extremely efficient way of protein production
- provides healthy and delicious food, creates rural employment, attracts tourists.

Photo © Mark Michel  
in Kyrgyzstan





A photograph of a herd of camels being herded by a person in a dry, hilly landscape. The camels are walking along a dirt path, and the person is standing behind them. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a hazy sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

If we want to make the livestock sector sustainable,  
we need to support pastoralism (and other land-  
based livestock systems)

Photo ©Mark Michel of Hari  
Ram Raika in Rajasthan  
(India)





But we currently do not even know how many pastoralists there are in the world!

Figures quoted:

- „considerably greater than 180 million pastoralists globally“
- IPCC (2019): potentially one billion people dependent on rangelands

Photo ©Mark Michel of Knut Kucziak  
from Germany <http://www.schaefer-altlandsberg.de/>



# Results of ,Accounting for Pastoralists‘

- None of the 5 study countries collects data on ‘pastoralism‘.
- Pastoralism is included under “extensive” (Kenya), “family farming”(Argentina), or “unorganized sector” (India). In Germany it is regarded as nature conservation measure.
- The type of pastoralism varies tremendously even within a country.
- Boundaries between pastoralism, ranching and smallholder livestock-keeping are vague and fluid.
- People move in and out of pastoralism. Difference between ethnic and practicing pastoralists.



# Steps towards a methodology

- Concentration in certain geographical areas (Cattle Corridor, ASALS, Andes, etc.)
- Data + assumptions
- Sample household surveys
- Project related data
- Transparency is important!

**We can do better than we do presently!**



# Recommendations

- **FAO should lead** an effort to collect data on production systems, including pastoralism, at the national level.
- Discuss a **uniform definition of pastoralism** (and whether a common definition is possible).
- Build the **capacity for collaboration** between local pastoralist organizations and research institutions to obtain and analyse data
- Undertake '**True Cost Accounting**' of pastoralist systems, and of livestock systems in general.
- Cooperate with us to **develop Accounting Pastoralists studies** for more countries



# Thank You and long live pastoralism!



Photo @ Mark  
Michel from  
Peru

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[http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/  
accounting-for-pastoralists-briefs-  
now-available-for-five-countries/](http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/accounting-for-pastoralists-briefs-now-available-for-five-countries/)

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