



LEAGUE FOR PASTORAL PEOPLES AND ENDOGENOUS LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

Liga für Hirtenvölker und nachhaltige Viehwirtschaft e.V.

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Deserted biodiversity

Why pastoralists need help to conserve livestock biodiversity

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson

Ask someone about the causes of **desertification**, and the answer is likely to be “**overgrazing**”. Many policy makers and development agencies still think that overstocking, and an irrational desire by herders for large numbers of animals, are causing deserts to spread. Such myths die hard.

Research into the ecology of nomadic livestock systems has long shown that the concept of “**carrying capacity**” does not apply to drylands. Rainfall varies too much to set a fixed stocking rate for animals. For herders, it makes sense to have a lot of animals, because then at least some of them are likely to survive when drought hits. And dryland vegetation is astoundingly resilient – after all, it has evolved under pressure from herbivores for millennia.

According to rangeland management expert **Maryam Niamir-Fuller** of the United Nations Development Programme, “**as long as mobility is maintained, negative effects are easily reversible.**” She also points out that scientists have convincingly shown that traditional livestock systems in the Sahel are significantly more productive than ranching operations in North America. Among ecologists, there is no doubt that mobile livestock production is the most sustainable way of food production in low rainfall areas.

Now evidence is piling up that these traditional systems contribute to food security in another crucial way: they act as **reservoirs for livestock biodiversity**. This is important as livestock industries expand around the globe and a handful of high performing (but genetically extremely narrow) breeds crowd out locally adapted animals. These animals produce enormous yields, but they also need high inputs and standardized conditions in order to perform. Sensitive to even slight changes in their regime, they are also extremely vulnerable to disease outbreaks.

So far these livestock monocultures have not been able to expand into marginal environments, where most livestock genetic diversity is conserved. Drylands are hotspots of domestic animal diversity. The number of breeds has always been disproportionately high in these areas, and pastoralists deliberately keep diverse herds, so as to be prepared for all eventualities. Their breeds are continuously exposed to all sorts of stresses and can cope with insufficient feed, extreme temperatures and diseases. **Pastoralists act as stewards of livestock diversity.**

The **Food and Agriculture Organization** (FAO), which is preparing a report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources, emphasizes the need for strategies to conserve livestock biodiversity, for instance to cope with global warming and new diseases. While some scientists pro-

mote ex-situ conservation in gene banks, **in-situ conservation** of breeds in the systems in which they developed is even more essential. Breeds, the indigenous knowledge of their keepers, and the production systems in which they are embedded, cannot really be separated from each other.

Much work lies ahead. While in Europe the loss of breeds has practically been halted by paying farmers premiums for keeping traditional breeds, no such support is available in developing countries. Even worse, in most countries, policies actively discourage mobile livestock keeping.

The situation is especially threatening in countries that experience rapid economic growth, such as India and China. India's western state of **Rajasthan** is famous for the quality of its livestock breeds, some of which form the foundation of the massive South American beef industry. But common grazing grounds are being converted to irrigated agriculture, and Rajasthan's sheep population has declined by over 30% in the last 5 years, and its camel numbers have fallen by 50%. "Rajasthan's pastoralists are forced to rapidly abandon livestock keeping, and our young people migrate to the cities", says **Hanwant Singh** of the NGO Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan, "This also means that their breeds will become extinct".

Policies that support mobile livestock keeping not only conserve livestock biodiversity, but also contribute to sustainable land use management. This is dramatically evident in the **Gobi Desert**. In the Chinese part of the Gobi, the government promotes land privatization and commercial dairy production. In the Mongolian part, efforts are made to revive pastoral mobility and to add value to the traditional livestock, including camels. A team from Cambridge University analysed the effects of these different land use strategies by means of satellite photos, and noted massive erosion on the Chinese side of the border, while the soil-binding vegetation is still intact on the Mongolian side, where there is little erosion.

The role of pastoralists in conserving livestock biodiversity must be recognized by the global community as an important environmental service. It would be best to do this in the context of an **international treaty on animal genetic resources**, such as already exists for plant genetic resources. Such a treaty would be of special importance for dryland countries.

International lobbying and advocacy

LPP had a busy year advocating for "**Livestock Keepers' Rights**". LPP members and partners from the LIFE Network attended a large number of events in Africa, Europe, and Latin America.

3rd Int VI simposio iberoamericano sobre conservación y utilización de recursos zoogenéticos

Chiapas, Mexico, 7–10 November 2005

Ellen Geerlings' presentation on Livestock Keepers' Rights was received with great interest. CYTED (Programa iberoamericano Ciencia y Tecnología para el Desarrollo), an organization with over 200 members in Latin America and Spain, decided to write a declaration supporting LPP in its work on intellectual property rights of livestock keepers and urging FAO to take action. CYTED has field projects worldwide, mostly concerned with the characterization of local breeds.

Workshop "Does poultry reduce poverty and assure food security? A need for rethinking the approaches"

Copenhagen, 30–31 August 2005

Participants from Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the USA attended this workshop, which was organized by the Network for Smallholder Poultry

Development. **Evelyn Mathias** presented a paper entitled “The importance of Livestock Keepers’ Rights” to a group of development professionals interested in alternative approaches to livestock development.

Fourth all-African conference on animal agriculture, “The role of biotechnology to address poverty in Africa: Opportunities and challenges”

Arusha, Tanzania, 18–23 September 2005

The conference was organized by the All Africa Society for Animal Production in association with the Tanzania Society of Animal Production, and with administrative support from the International Livestock Research Institute.

The League’s **Ilse Köhler-Rollefson** and **Evelyn Mathias** participated in this conference, and **Jacob Wanyama** (Vetaid Mozambique), **Tom Loquang** (Kitup Ateker, Uganda), **Bhopala Ram Raika** and **Hanwant Singh** (LPPS India), and **Wolfgang Bayer** (Agrecol) participated on behalf of the LIFE Network and the Endogenous Livestock Development Network. In addition, the League supported the participation of four NGO staff and herders from Tanzania: **Nathan Olelengisugi** (Maasai Resource Centre of Indigenous Knowledge), and **Daniel Murumbi**, **Etifuraha Laitaika** and **Moringe Parkipuny** (PINGO, an umbrella organization of pastoral non-government and community-based organizations in Tanzania).

The League made three oral presentations (including a plenary keynote by **Wolfgang Bayer** and **Jacob Wanyama**), and organized a side-event on Livestock Keepers’ Rights attended by approximately 50 African scientists.

The conference revealed that biotechnology has made very limited inroads in Africa. Mainstream national and international organizations and some commercial firms promote biotechnology as a key way to alleviate poverty. But many of the scientists (especially those with field experience) were more critical, noting that animal biotechnology rarely reaches the poor or into remote areas. Biotechnology innovations in animal health (such as vaccination) might hold more promise. The conference also showed that few scientists are aware of the political issues around indigenous knowledge and breeds, patents and property rights.

Pastoralism in the Horn of Africa: Surviving against all odds

London, 15 September 2005

At the 15th anniversary conference of the Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA), **Evelyn Mathias** gave a presentation on “Pastoralists, Breeds and Livestock Keepers’ Rights”.

Sixth global conference on the conservation of domestic animal genetic resources

Magaliesburg, South Africa, 9–14 October 2005

Tom Loquang attended this bi-annual conference of Rare Breeds International, as one of over 50 participants from developed and developing countries. His keynote speech addressed the topic of Livestock Keepers’ Rights, and he also represented the pastoralist perspective during a roundtable discussion.

Options and strategies for the conservation of farm animal genetic resources

Montpellier, France, 7–10 November 2005

This conference was sponsored by the French government, and organized by IPGRI, FAO and GTZ. It was attended by some 50 scientists, government representatives and development professionals, including the League's **Evelyn Mathias**.

Afghan pastoralist conference

Kabul, Afghanistan, 15–17 November 2005

Around 10% of the Afghan population are transhumant (and partly nomadic) pastoralists. They are popularly known as the *Kuchi*. Years of drought and war, and the associated breakdown of customary arrangements, have led to a serious decline in their production system. Very little reconstruction assistance has been targeted at this population group. Few organizations have experience with migratory populations; and ethnopolitical factors and land-tenure conflicts hamper development projects. The Ministry of Frontiers and Tribal Affairs, and the Ministry of Agriculture with the support of USAID organized a conference in Kabul with representatives of the national *Kuchi shura* to discuss these issues. **Ilse Köhler-Rollefson** was invited to this conference to relate her experiences in the development of India's Raika pastoralists, who originally hail from Afghanistan

The LIFE Project

In addition to the training, advisory and advocacy activities described above, LIFE continued its networking activities and the dissemination of information on community-based animal genetic resources conservation. **Evelyn Mathias** coordinated the networking and published two issues of the ***People and Livestock electronic newsletter***. Issue 2 focused on camels and pastoralism, and issue 3 on people-centred livestock development. www.pastoralpeoples.org/peopleandlivestock.htm

Evelyn also moderated the ***Endogenous Livestock Development Mailing List*** (ELDev), which opened in January 2005 (see box).

Paul Mundy managed the LIFE project's website, <http://lifeinitiative.net/>

People-centred livestock development

Training course, Sadri, Rajasthan, 13–18 March 2005

The League held a course on people-centred livestock development in cooperation with its Indian partner, Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan. Ten participants from the following countries and organizations attended:

- India (AFPRO, Cecoedecon, Krapavis)
- Philippines (Heifer Project, Masipag)
- Bangladesh (Barcik)
- Mongolia (New Zealand Nature Institute)
- Kenya (Pelum)
- Uganda (Karamoja Peace Initiative).

The training team was composed of **Hanwant Singh Rathore** (LPPS), **Aman Singh** (KRAPAVIS), **Uttra Kothari** (College of Jaipur/LPPS), **Dewaram Dewasi** (government veterinarian and LPPS), as well as the League's **Ilse Köhler-Rollefson** and **Evelyn Mathias**.

The course consisted of a combination of field exercises, lectures, group work and discussions. Informal exchange of experiences was also very

The ELDev Mailing List

This mailing list focuses on the development of livestock production, based on livestock keepers' initiatives, their own worldview, values, knowledge, institutions, and locally available plus suitable outside resources. The list is co-managed by Katrien van't Hooft, Evelyn Mathias and Eve Barth in collaboration with an international advisory team. In May 2005, the list had about 250 members.

To subscribe please send a blank message from your email address to ELDev-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ELDev/> for instructions.

important. Most of the participants were keen to join the LIFE Network on community-based conservation of animal genetic resources.

Advisory services

As part of the **Misereor**-supported LIFE Project, the League provided advice on livestock and pastoralist development at the request of NGOs. Most of these advisory activities focused on India and Pakistan, where LPP has long-standing and close relationships with NGOs working at the grassroots level.

Formation of a state-level association of pastoralists

Rajasthan, India

Rajasthan's pastoralists are increasingly losing out as their grazing lands are progressively alienated and used for unsustainable irrigated agriculture. They will only be able to survive if policy makers take note of their needs and more favourable policies are implemented. This will only happen if pastoralists get organized and collectively raise their voice.

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson assisted KRAPAVIS and LPPS, two NGOs that form the Rajasthan Pastoralist Network, organize and structure a state-level meeting of pastoralists and establish a state-level association (*sangatan*).

A historical meeting at the KRAPAVIS field centre in Bakthpura, near Alwar, in June was probably the first ever to cross the traditional social boundaries of caste and gender. Men and women from different pastoralists groups in Rajasthan attended. Participants called for unity among Rajasthan's diverse pastoralists communities, and emphasized the need to create a state-level *sangatan*. The *sangatan* should fulfil multiple functions: raise the voice of pastoralists, pressurize the government to consult pastoralists in policy development, market products, protect local livestock breeds, save the pastoralists' culture, fight corruption, develop leadership, save the environment, and help pastoralists gain self-confidence. A detailed road-map was laid out for building the association.

Improving livestock economy

Acchrothar, Sindh, Pakistan

Acchrothar is an isolated area next to the Indo-Pakistan border. Lacking infrastructure and services, its inhabitants are entirely dependent on livestock. Several NGOs in the area, including the Trust for Voluntary Organizations (TVO) office in Umerkot, Thar Sangi Sujjag and AWARE, had requested advice with how to support the local livestock economy.

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson visited the area on 30 June–3 July 2005. TVO organized a meeting with local NGOs about livestock issues; this was followed by a trip to Acchrothar arranged by Thar Sangi Sujjag. Ilse advised the organizations to conduct a participatory animal disease survey, using local disease terms rather than English disease names, to identify the main animal health problems based on the livestock keepers' own perceptions. She also suggested training some younger people in appropriate treatments. TVO has since decided to work on livestock issues, and the local NGOs are now collecting data on animal diseases. Ilse's stay was concluded by a press conference organized by AWARE.

Lobbying for supportive pastoralist policies

Delhi, India

At the initiative of SEVA (an organization working in Tamil Nadu), pastoralists and support organizations (LPPS and KRAPAVIS) that form the Indian

Pastoralist Network spent 3 days in Delhi to meet parliamentarians and ministers and raise their awareness about pastoralists' problems.

SEVA requested support with compiling a policy note on pastoralism in India, summarizing the various legislation and guidelines that India has endorsed and that relate to pastoralism. These include the Convention on Biological Diversity, the "Right to Food", and the Durban Declaration.

A group of 12 pastoralists and supporters met the Tribal Minister, suggesting that pastoralists be included in the pending Tribal Bill so they would obtain rights to use forests. They also talked with Mr A Raja (Minister of Environment and Forests), Sharad Panwar (Minister of Agriculture), Ashok Gahlot (Secretary of the Congress Party and former Chief Minister of Rajasthan), and Manvendra Singh (BJP member of parliament for Barmer, Rajasthan), the Communist Party of India, and others.

Encouraged by the response, the group concluded that the Pastoralist Network should have a permanent presence in Delhi to bring pastoralism onto the political agenda.

Award-winning documentary maker, Sanjay Barmela, interviewed the pastoralists and shot footage of their interaction with the Tribal Minister. His film will be an important input to the lobbying activities of the LIFE Network at the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources that will be held in September 2007 in Switzerland.

Support for Rajasthan's camel pastoralists

Rajasthan's camel population is in stark decline and if no remedial measures are undertaken, this important genetic resource is heading for near-extinction. During a state-level workshop of camel breeders in November 2004 in Sadri, participants requested LPPS to develop a project to revitalize camel husbandry as a basis for peoples' livelihoods in the arid western districts of the state.

The Ford Foundation and the Global Environmental Facility-Small Grant Project fund encouraged LPPS to submit a proposal for funding. The League helped LPPS design the project and prepare the proposal. The proposal emphasizes pastoralist institution building, developing camel milk marketing as additional income opportunity, improving understanding of the pasture problem, and identifying possible solutions. The Ford Foundation has approved the proposal, while that submitted to the Global Environmental Facility is still pending.

Analysis of Pakistan's livestock policy and institutions

In cooperation with SCOPE, **Ilse Köhler-Rollefson** completed research on Pakistan's livestock policy and institutional framework from the perspective of pastoralists. During a visit to Pakistan on 24 June–8 July, she interviewed a wide range of stakeholders from government and non-government organizations, projects funded by the European Union, Faisalabad University, as well as livestock keepers and pastoralists.

She was also able to visit Baluchistan with SCOPE director **Tanveer Arif**. They were hosted by the Sardar of Wadh, Mr Menghel, who arranged them to meet with members of his tribe. These people had suffered enormously from drought and their herds had been reduced to a small number of goats, giving an impression of an severe emergency. There was definitely rationale for interventions, but it was difficult to decide how to go about this.

Information sharing and awareness raising

The camel *yatra*

In January 2005, LPPS embarked on a 30-day camel trek, or *yatra*, from its headquarters in Sadri to Jaisalmer and Bikaner. This trek aimed to draw attention to the declining camel population. The team, composed of LPPS staff, **Ilse Köhler-Rollefson** and 5 camels, covered 800 km. The trek attracted a lot of interest from the Indian media and was shown on several TV programmes. The team was also interviewed by *India Today*, a major weekly magazine. In addition, the group distributed several thousand flyers and calendars to local people and collected comments on the plight of the camel in a diary. An article about the *yatra* was published in the environmental magazine *Down to Earth*.

Swiss film on camels

LPP and LPPS cooperated with a film-maker from the *Neue Züricher Zeitung* (a Swiss newspaper) to produce a documentary on "Camels: Phenomenal livestock" that gave Raika pastoralists the opportunity to speak about their problems. The film was aired in Switzerland and Germany.

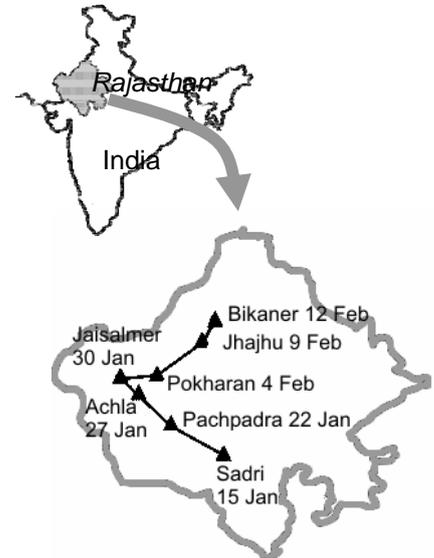
Moving Images film about animal genetic resources and the commons

LPP partnered with the reputed documentary-making company Moving Images in Delhi to make a film on *Pastoralists, livestock biodiversity, and the commons* as input for the First International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources in 2007 in Interlaken. Shooting started in November 2005, beginning with the Pushkar camel fair. In the meantime, the FAO has agreed to part-fund the film.

InWEnt media seminar

15-17 December 2005, Feldafing, Germany

"*Der Desertifikation auf der Spur. Wie der Entwicklung der Boden entzogen wird!*". Ilse gave a presentation on the role of camels in combating desertification at this training seminar for journalists, managed by the German capacity building organization, InWEnt.



The yatra route in Rajasthan

LPP participation in networks

- **ELD network** (Ellen Geerlings, Sabine Homann, Ilse Köhler-Rollefson, Evelyn Mathias)
- **German NGO Forum for Environment and Development's** working groups on desertification (Ilse Köhler-Rollefson, Christiane Herweg) and agriculture and environment (Evelyn Mathias)
- **LIFE** (Local Livestock for Empowerment) Network (Ilse Köhler-Rollefson, Evelyn Mathias)
- **WAMIP** (World Association of Mobile Indigenous Peoples) (Ilse Köhler-Rollefson, Evelyn Mathias)
- **Working Group on Food Security** of the German federal ministries of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture, and Economic Cooperation and Development (Evelyn Mathias).

Activities of LPP members

This section describes activities of LPP members relevant to the work of the League but not mentioned elsewhere in the report.

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson gave a talk about her work to the Zonta Association of Darmstadt.

Ilse acted as a resource person for the project "Improving the livelihoods of poor livestock-keepers in Africa through community-based management of indigenous farm animal genetic resources", supported by the International Livestock Research Institute and the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. She participated in the Second Annual Project Workshop and Training in ILRI Ethiopia on 11–15 September 2005. In particular she advised on the process of obtaining "prior informed consent" by the communities.

Evelyn Mathias presented an invited paper during the 6th International Congress for Holistic Veterinary Medicine in Nuremberg on 22–23 April 2006.

She also co-organized a meeting of the Endogenous Livestock Development Network, held concurrently with the German Tropentag ("Tropics Day") in Hohenheim, Stuttgart, on 11–13 October. Both Evelyn and Ilse presented papers and a poster at this event.

Publications

This section includes outputs of LPP projects as well as documents by LPP members relevant to the objectives and focus of the League.

Köhler-Rollefson, I. 2005. *Building an international legal framework on animal genetic resources. Can it help the drylands and food-insecure countries?* Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung, Bonn, Germany. www.pastoralpeoples.org/docs/int_legal_framework_an_gen_res.pdf

Köhler-Rollefson, I. 2005. Participatory approaches to using the camel in combating desertification. In: B. Faye and P. Esenow, eds, *Desertification combat and food safety*. IOS Press, Amsterdam. Pp. 35–42.

LPPS and I. Köhler-Rollefson. 2005. *Indigenous breeds, local communities. Documenting animal breeds and breeding from a community perspective*. LPPS, Sadri, India. 66 p. www.pastoralpeoples.org/docs/ikab.pdf

Mathias, E. and P. Mundy. 2005. *Herd movements. The exchange of livestock breeds and genes between North and South*. League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development, Ober-Ramstadt. www.pastoralpeoples.org/docs/herdmovements.pdf

Papers at meetings, workshops and conferences

Proceedings of 4th All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture: *The role of biotechnology in animal agriculture to address poverty in Africa*. Arusha, Tanzania, 18–23 Sep 2005. www.ilri.org/ILRIPubAware/ShowDetail.asp?CategoryID=TS&ProductReferenceNo=%20TS_070607_002

The following items are from this volume:

- Bayer, Wolfgang, and Jacob Wanyama. Biotechnology in animal agriculture and poverty alleviation: An NGO perspective. [plenary session 1]

A word of thanks

The following have kindly supported LPP's work in 2005:

- Misereor
- Deutscher Naturschutzring/ Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung
- GTZ/ Sektorvorhaben Welternährung

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- Günther Bock
- The Stürz family, Wembach
- Dr. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson

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- Evelyn Barth for assistance with administration.
- Jutta Habedank and Brigitte Köhler for checking LPP's financial records and books.

- Koehler-Rollefson, Ilse, Jacob Wanyama and Evelyn Mathias. Challenges of developing *sui generis* system for the protection of indigenous livestock genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. [parallel session 3]
- Loquang, T.M., and I. Köehler-Rollefson [sic]. The potential benefits and challenges of agricultural animal biotechnology to pastoralists. [plenary session 2]

Köhler-Rollefson, Ilse. 2005. Desertifikation – ein aktueller Blick auf die globale Dimension und die Herausforderungen des Problems. Impulsreferat bei der Tagung “Desertifikation – Antworten auf die weltweite Zerstörung von Landesressourcen? Zum Stand der Umsetzung und Engagement der Zivilgesellschaft im Rahmen der internationalen Konvention (NCCD)”, Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung, 28 Apr, Frankfurt.

Köhler-Rollefson, Ilse, and H.S. Rathore. 2005. The LIFE method: A people-centred conceptual and methodological approach to the documentation of animal genetic resources. Paper presented at Deutscher Tropentag, Stuttgart-Hohenheim, 11–13 Oct 2005. www.tropentag.de/2005/abstracts/full/604.pdf

Mathias, Evelyn, Ilse Köhler-Rollefson, and Jacob Wanyama. 2005. Pastoralists, local breeds and the fight for Livestock Keepers' Rights. Paper presented at the PENHA 15th anniversary conference “Pastoralism in the Horn of Africa: Surviving Against All Odds”, London, 15 Sep 2005. www.penhanetwork.org/attachments/Paper%20Evelyn%20Mathias.pdf

Mathias, Evelyn, Ilse Köhler-Rollefson, Ellen Geerlings, and Katrien van't Hooft. 2005. Endogenous livestock development – Can it help the poor? Paper presented at Deutscher Tropentag, Stuttgart-Hohenheim, 11–13 Oct 2005. www.tropentag.de/2005/abstracts/full/583.pdf

Mathias, Evelyn. 2005. Livestock breeds and genes on the move: Exchanges between North and South. Poster presented at Deutscher Tropentag, Stuttgart-Hohenheim, 11–13 Oct 2005. www.tropentag.de/2005/abstracts/links/Mathias_W2x7oqL4.pdf

About the League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development

Mission

LPP is a research and resource organization for socially and ecologically responsible livestock development. 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 pastoral-

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New members and staff

LPP welcomes Dr. Eva Schlecht und Joachim Warncke as regular members.

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Registration

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

ists 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.

In 2005, LPP officially expanded its mandate beyond the problems of pastoralists by also including “Endogenous Livestock Development” in its name.

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.