



LEAGUE FOR PASTORAL PEOPLES AND ENDOGENOUS LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

Liga für Hirtenvölker und nachhaltige Viehwirtschaft e.V.

Annual Report 2007

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Interlaken and beyond

Advocacy for Livestock Keepers' Rights

By Ilse Köhler-Rollefson and Evelyn Mathias

In September 2007, delegates of 109 governments met in Interlaken, Switzerland, to highlight the critical situation of farm animal genetic resources worldwide and to reach an agreement on common strategies for their management and conservation. Preparations for the First International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources in Interlaken had started about a decade ago with the development of a report on *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* under the leadership of FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. More than 160 countries submitted Country Reports contributing to The State of the World report, and many individuals and organizations from government, civil societies and research provided inputs (including LPP's Evelyn Mathias, Ilse Köhler-Rollefson and Paul Mundy). The State of the World report and the national and regional consultations that went along with it formed the basis for two documents to be adopted in Interlaken: an "Interlaken Declaration", and a "Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources".

Interlaken was also the culmination of almost 7 years of advocating for Livestock Keepers' Rights by the League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development (LPP) and the LIFE Network. In 2007, two large multi-stakeholder workshops on Livestock Keepers' Rights were held in India and Ethiopia in addition to a number of other activities at the national and international level. These and the League's other 2007 Livestock Keepers' Rights advocacy activities are detailed below.

What came out of Interlaken?

On the final day of the Interlaken conference, the governments adopted the Global Plan of Action and issued the Interlaken Declaration. Disappointingly, but predictably, the Plan casts animal genetic resource management as an issue that is to be controlled and managed by the state, and gives livestock keepers only a supporting role – instead of making them the key actors. Together with financing and (non-)trade-distorting incentives, Livestock Keepers' Rights were one of the three main contentious issues for governments in Interlaken due to strong support from African delegates. But developed countries regarded these rights as un-chartered legal territory and therefore opposed them. Nevertheless, the Plan does recognize and emphasize the **important role of local and indigenous communities** in upholding diversity.

Strategic Priority 6 (see box on the right) is directed entirely at supporting indigenous and local production systems by various mechanisms that also address the welfare of livestock-keeping communities.

The Plan mentions the rights of livestock keepers six times – even if rather obliquely, and in some rather unexpected contexts. By comparison, there are just two references to sovereign rights of nations over their animal genetic resources, and two of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs, which were

Global Plan Strategic Priority 6

“Support indigenous and local production systems and associated knowledge systems, of importance to the maintenance and sustainable use of animal genetic resources

Actions:

- Support indigenous and local livestock systems of importance to animal genetic resources, including through the removal of factors contributing to erosion. Support may include the provision of veterinary and extension services, delivery of micro-credit for women in rural areas, appropriate access to natural resources and to the market, resolving land tenure issues, the recognition of cultural practices and values, and adding value to their specialist products.
- Promote and enable relevant exchange, interaction and dialogue among indigenous and rural communities and scientists and government officials and other stakeholders in order to integrate traditional knowledge with scientific approaches.
- Promote the development of niche markets for products derived from indigenous and local species and breeds, and to strengthen and associated knowledge systems, of importance.”

<http://tinyurl.com/3qf5ns>

deleted from the context in which they were contentious to non-government organizations). While the Plan does not use the term "Livestock Keepers' Rights" explicitly, it touches upon several of the cornerstones of Livestock Keepers' Rights, notably points 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 (see box on the right).

Nevertheless, the Plan falls short in two critical aspects. First, it does not address the crucial issue of concentration in the livestock genetics sector which is recognized as the major factor driving change. Second, it does not directly address the likely scenario of patents and other types of IPR interfering with the customary right of farmers and pastoralists to breed their animals. However, Strategic Priority Area 4 leaves a loophole by recognizing "*the need to take into account the increasing role of intellectual property rights in the sector, and the need to secure equitable benefit-sharing, the rights of indigenous and local communities, particularly pastoralists, and the role of their knowledge systems.*"

Where do we stand?

Livestock Keepers' Rights have become a recognized concept that is beginning to be accepted by mainstream agencies. For instance, LPP was asked to contribute a paper on Livestock Keepers' Rights for a publication by the Chinese government on animal genetic resources (this will be translated into Chinese). LPP has also been asked to write a paper for the respected academic journal *Tropical Animal Health and Production* on the value of indigenous breeds for development. This indicates that technical specialists are becoming aware of the connection between cultural and biological diversity, rather than viewing breeds merely as a product of nature.

Through participation in the preparatory workshops and the numerous side-events in the course of the Interlaken process about 150 -200 policy makers and scientists dealing with animal genetic resources have been familiarized with the concept of Livestock Keepers' Rights.

Information about Livestock Keepers Rights has been disseminated via mailing lists, websites and publications to a large number of individuals and organizations tuned into pastoral development and animal genetic resource management.

A pool of developing country representatives working with livestock keepers in the field or hailing from pastoralist backgrounds have developed the capacity to articulate their position and situation in international policy processes, by means of solid argumentation in line with the requirements of international environmental conventions. The experience gained during the Interlaken process can now be applied to the continuing negotiations surrounding the UN conventions on biological diversity and desertification for achieving greater recognition for pastoralism as a means of conserving biodiversity and sustainably managing drylands.

At the request of Brazil, FAO has been mandated to look into the rights and roles of livestock keepers in maintaining domestic animal diversity and prepare a report for the next meeting of the Commissions on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Countries such as India are looking into developing legal frameworks for Livestock Keepers' Rights tailored to their specific needs and situations at the national level.

The League's *Bellagio Brief* (see *Annual Report 2006*) and study on concentration in the livestock industry (see below in this *Annual Report*) were significant contributions to intense discussion about intellectual property rights and patenting of animal genetic resources. Along with pressure from other NGOs, this has deterred companies from pursuing unjustified patent applications.

Intellectual property rights on animal genetic resources are an issue that is now on the international agenda. Due to the Livestock Keepers' Rights movement, pastoralists and other livestock keepers will be seen as legiti-

Cornerstones of Livestock Keepers' Rights

Livestock Keepers' Rights are a bundle of rights and entitlements that would enable livestock keepers to continue keeping their breeds and use them as the basis for sustainable income generation:

1. Recognition of livestock keepers as creators of breeds and custodians of animal genetic resources
2. Recognition of the dependency of the sustainable use of traditional breeds on the conservation of their respective ecosystems
3. Recognition of traditional breeds as collective property, products of indigenous knowledge and cultural expression.
4. Right of livestock keepers to breed and make breeding decisions
5. Right of livestock keepers to participate in policy making processes on animal genetic resources issues
6. Support for training and capacity-building of livestock keepers and provision of services along the food chain.
7. Right of livestock keepers to participate in the identification of research needs and research design with respect to their genetic resources, so as to ensure compliance with the principle of Prior Informed Consent.

Some of these cornerstones have already been spelled out in existing international agreements, including the Interlaken Declaration, the Global Plan of Action, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Unesco Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Experiences. The one exception is cornerstone 4. The League is concerned that it will be referred to the World Intellectual Property Organization, where things are known to move very slowly.

mate stakeholders with an interest in policy development regarding intellectual property rights on animal genetic resources. Much remains to ensure they are automatically involved in such decision making, but we are on the right road.

The way forward

Since the “rights of livestock keepers” are referred to in the Interlaken documents, but without further specification, the logical next step is to investigate the nature and extent of the customary rights of livestock keepers and then analyse their potential for official codification.

Another goal will be to achieve recognition of Livestock Keepers’ Rights as guiding principles for livestock development, by both national governments and by mainstream agencies, such as the World Bank. If the same donors that have promoted cross-breeding and replacement of indigenous breeds with exotic breeds over the last several decades – often with enormous sums – could now start to support livestock keepers with developing their local breeds, with getting organized, and with niche-marketing and value-addition to the products of their breeds, then a major contribution would be made to saving biodiversity and to creating rural income opportunities. Since no financial resources have been allotted or raised for the implementation of the strategic priorities yet, it is very important to convince mainstream development agencies and governments of the economic potential of local breeds and raise awareness among them about their positive ecological effects. The already existing international environment conventions, including those on biological diversity, desertification and climate change, also represent important opportunities for pushing for more ecologically and socially responsible livestock development that should be made use of.

Advocacy for Livestock Keepers’ Rights and community involvement in the conservation of local breeds

National-level LIFE Network Workshop

Sadri, India 24–26 February, 2007

This workshop was attended by about 100 pastoralists from throughout India. In addition, there were delegations and observers from India, Iran, Mongolia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

Participants agreed to organize first at the grassroots level, then to come together in a formal national forum. Obstacles to getting organized include language barriers and the difficulty in ensuring that women are adequately represented.

The delegates decided to focus activities on training for pastoralists and education of the younger generation, micro-credit, adding value to animal products, sharing knowledge and innovation, and sustainable management of land, water, forests and grazing land.

The participants raised the following points:

- Pastoralists should be formally recognized as custodians of animal genetic resources
- To protect the livelihoods of pastoralists, their customary practices and systems of mobile animal keeping need to be protected.
- Livestock keepers must have the right to participate in national policy-making processes



- Pastoralists' customary rights to access to natural resources, including forest lands, need to be protected.
- The allocation of common lands that are customary grazing areas to corporate farming and commercial plantations must be stopped.
- Pastoralists' mobile animal husbandry should be accepted as indigenous tool for ecosystem management in semi-arid desert regions and be recognized as pastoral heritage system rich in knowledge and survival strategies.

International Workshop on Livestock Keepers and the Management of Animal Genetic Resources: Roles, Rights, and Responsibilities

Sadri, India, 26–28 February 2007

This workshop followed on from the national meeting described above. It aimed to clarify the concept of Livestock Keepers' Rights (see box on Cornerstones). Delegates from 11 countries (Bangladesh, China, Germany, India, Iran, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, UK and Vietnam) discussed and elaborated the concept. They analysed the draft documents for the Interlaken Conference and developed specific wording that would reflect the contents and essence of Livestock Keepers' Rights.



Vishwa Gou Sammelan (World Cow Conference)

Shimoga and Hosianagar, India, 26–30 April 2007

The Vishwa Gou Sammelan was organized by Swami Ramachandra, a Indian religious leader, with financial support from prominent Indian industrialists. Mr Swami has collected over 20 cattle breeds from all over India, all of which were exhibited at the conference.

Many thousands of people attended the 10-day meeting. Part of the event was a scientific symposium, to which a small number of foreigners were invited, especially from Brazil and East Africa, where Indian cattle have left their mark. The focus of the symposium was on making commercial use of milk, urine and manure through value-addition and medicinal use. Many participants thought that old, sick cows should be kept alive because they can still give urine and dung. Some of the foreign contributions showed that Indian breeds have done well in their countries, making the Indian participants realize the value of their cattle. The discussions also revealed that many scientists have applied for patents on various applications of urine and milk.

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson was among the invitees and presented a paper on Livestock Keepers' Rights and biopiracy. Together with Indian animal scientist Dr Ramesha, she also presented a paper on the forthcoming Interlaken Conference.



Animal Genetic Resources and Intellectual Property Rights Meeting

New Delhi, India, 11 May 2007

This one-day interaction was organized by the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources and the Centre for the Advancement of Sustainable Agriculture. Some 40 Indian scientists, along with LPP's Ilse Koehler-Rollefson (the only foreigner invited) discussed breeding societies, Livestock Keepers' Rights, research for development, and linkages. India currently has only one breed society, for the Marwari horse. The delegates saw such breeding societies as being able to establish breeds as "prior art" (important to establish intellectual property rights), and to protect the breeds. Because FAO has declared the Marwari breed to be threatened,



the Indian government has banned exports; the breeders' society made a case to revoke this ban to allow breeders to earn money.

Many of the participants wanted to exert patents on all possible intellectual property, including indigenous technical knowledge; they saw this as a way of adding value to the property and said that the benefits should be shared with the livestock keepers. However, one participant pointed out that there were only three or four successful examples of such benefit-sharing.

Workshop on Managing Animal Genetic Resources in Africa: Strategies, priorities, livestock keepers' rights, and the way forward

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 24–25 May 2007

This workshop, held at the Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (IBC), aimed to give African stakeholders in animal genetic resources management the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the Interlaken process and the documents to be discussed at the Interlaken Conference. About 50 stakeholders from nine African countries, Europe and India attended, including nine African National Coordinators for animal genetic resources or their representatives, staff from government and non-government organizations, communities and research institutions.

The workshop organizers included LPP/LIFE, the Ethiopian Society of Animal Production, the IBC, the International Endogenous Livestock Development Network and the Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia. The participants issued a statement proposing that Livestock Keepers' Rights be adopted into the official agenda of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

A summary of the workshop and selected papers were published in the June 2007 issue of the *Ethiopian Society of Animal Production Newsletter*. Several participants gave interviews to newspapers as a result of the workshop. The workshop reports and presentations were distributed widely through websites and various networks. The two Indian participants organized a similar meeting in India on 9–10 July 2007 (see below).

11th meeting of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA 11)

FAO in Rome, 11–15 June 2007

LPP and the LIFE Network provided inputs during sessions of this meeting, and organized a side-event entitled "Diverse Livestock for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation". Presentations included:

- Ethnic communities, local breeds and development: Observations from China (Andreas Wilkes, The Mountain Institute, China)
- Saving the camel for sustainable land-use and poverty alleviation (Hanwant Singh, Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan (LPPS), Rajasthan, India)
- Community based breed documentation as a tool for empowerment (Tom Loquang, Kisup Ateker, Uganda)
- Strengthening Patagonian shepherders through obtaining a Geographical Indication (Marcello Centeno, INTA, Argentina).

Due to the efforts of African delegates, references to Livestock Keepers' Rights were included into the draft Global Plan of Action.



Preparatory meeting for Interlaken, Indian Ministry of Agriculture

9 July, New Delhi, India

This preparatory meeting of Indian government officials for the Interlaken Conference was convened on the initiative of LIFE Network member Vivekanandan. Hanwant Singh of LPP partner organization Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan, LPP's Ilse Köhler-Rollefson and Vivekanandan provided background information about Livestock Keepers Rights and the Interlaken process to the approximately 15 government representatives.



Orientation for Argentinean researcher

Germany, August 2007

In August 2007, Argentinean scientist Maria-Rosa Lanari visited the League to discuss Livestock Keepers' Rights and learn about community-based animal genetic resources management approaches in Germany. LPP arranged for her to visit the Society for the Conservation of Old and Endangered Livestock Breeds in Witzenhausen, and together with LPP's Ilse Köhler-Rollefson she attended a conference organized by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements on regional marketing in Schwäbisch-Hall. Dr Lanari works with the Bariloche Agriculture Experiment Station, part of the national agricultural research agency in Argentina. Her work includes smallholder sheep projects, and she was a member of her country's delegation to the Interlaken Conference.



First International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources

Interlaken, Switzerland, 1–7 September 2007

This conference set a course for the future of local breeds and the livelihoods of their keepers. LPP mobilized 28 participants (including four staff) from 12 countries (5 in Africa, 3 in Asia, 2 in Latin America and 2 in Europe) to attend the Conference and the related activities. All the League-sponsored participants were either from livestock-keeping communities or worked closely with them on the ground.



Activities of the League and the LIFE Network in Interlaken included:

- Participation as respondents to four scientific lead papers in a pre-conference science forum
- Organization of four side-events
- Organization of the Civil Society Organization Animal Diversity Forum (together with the International Planning Committee of the Food Sovereignty Forum), held parallel to the Interlaken Conference in nearby Wilderswil.



Details of the Conference and its outcome are given on pages 1–2.

World Gathering of Transhumant and Nomadic Peoples

La Granja, Segovia, Spain, 8–15 September 2007

This global meeting of pastoralists was organized by Spanish shepherds with the support of various international organizations. LPP was a member of the steering committee. About 300 pastoral representatives and other actors from 40 countries exchanged information and experiences and debated solutions to problems faced by nomadic and transhumant herders around the world. The gathering also aimed to help establish strong, representative pastoralist organizations, raise attention to issues relevant to pas-



toralists, and make their needs widely known to politicians and international institutions.

The Gathering coincided with the traditional transhumance of Spanish sheep flocks on 16 September 2007. The participants accompanied a flock that crossed Madrid on the royal shepherd road. Hundreds of pastoralists marched through the city centre to demonstrate their cultural and ecological significance. This event was followed by a Shepherds' Fest in la Casa del Campo, with exhibits of local livestock breeds and pastoral cultures from around the world.

As the Gathering took place directly after the Interlaken Conference, the bulk of the LIFE Interlaken delegates were able to participate in Segovia on their return trip. Most also attended the Open Dialogue Session and side-events at the 8th Conference of Parties of the UN Convention on Combating Desertification, that was taking place in Madrid at the same time. The LIFE Network organized a side-event entitled "The role of pastoralism in biodiversity conservation", during which the film *Keepers of Genes* was screened (see below).

For further advocacy activities in Spain, see "Drynet" below.

The LIFE Network

LPP is coordinating and backstopping a 2-year project supported by HIVOS to strengthen the LIFE Network in Africa (Uganda) and Asia (India).

LIFE stands for "Local Livestock for Empowerment". The LIFE Network supports community-based conservation of animal genetic resources and seeks to strengthen rural livelihoods through the conservation and use of indigenous livestock breeds and species (see www.lifeinitiative.net).

From its foundation in 2000 up to Interlaken, the LIFE Network has been a loosely structured network of non-government and community-based organizations and individuals engaged at the grassroots level in community-based animal genetic conservation and national and international advocacy.

LIFE members have been essential partners in the advocacy activities described above.

In 2007, new members joined from Argentina, Cameroon, China, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. During a network meeting in Interlaken, participants discussed to establish a LIFE secretariat. They asked LPP to host this for the next 2 years and develop a charter and a minimum structure allowing the network to expand while keeping its flexibility.

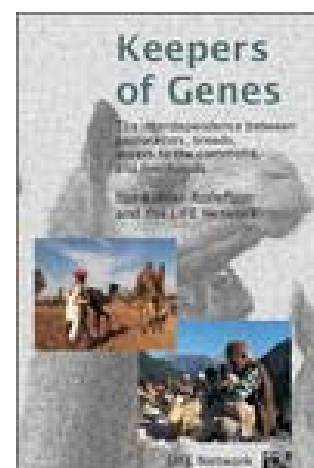
Keepers of Genes film and book

Policy makers are a key audience for LPP's lobbying efforts. It is vital to convince them that pastoralists play a crucial role in conserving livestock biodiversity. To demonstrate the connection between conservation and access to resources, LPP and the LIFE Network cooperated with Delhi-based documentary makers Moving Images to produce a film on this theme. *Keepers of Genes* was shot at several locations in India, and is accompanied by a book with the same title. Eight hundred copies of the book were printed, and the film has been shown widely on four continents, including Argentina, Brazil, Ethiopia, India and Europe. It has been entered in several film festivals, and will also help raise awareness among non-specialists.

To help international audiences to understand the Raika camel pastoralists and their role in husbanding diversity in Rajasthan, a short clip, *Camel breeders of the Kings* was also shot by Moving Images.



LIFE Network



Drynet

Launched in March 2007 and coordinated by the Dutch NGO Both Ends, Drynet seeks to strengthen local non-government and community-based organizations' involvement in the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and its links to other development frameworks. The project has 14 partners in 17 countries, including LPP in Germany.

LPP is represented on the Drynet project by Silke Brehm and Ilse Köhler-Rollefson.

Drynet aims to make the current activities of its partners more visible, strengthen these activities and the organizations behind them, and create a platform for exchange. The project manages a website (www.dry-net.org), publishes national and global newsletters, and gathers descriptions of successful initiatives in drylands. It also organizes national and regional seminars, training, and a joint radio programme on dryland experiences.

Capacity building is an important part of Drynet's work. Activities in 2007 included a review of current NGO involvement in Convention-related activities to combat desertification, and planning on how to involve civil society in the Convention's processes and improve their understanding of National Action Plans prepared under the Convention.

The project provided stakeholders with information on international environmental and development conventions and multilateral agreements. It prepared materials for national training seminars (to be implemented in 2008) to strengthen the NGOs in lobbying, programme and project development, and proposal writing. It coordinated the development of NGO inputs on hot topics for the global dryland development agenda, including a paper entitled *The bright side of life stock: Mobile pastoralism and the environment* by Ilse Koehler-Rollefson and Silke Brehm, in response to a controversial FAO study "Livestock's long shadow".

A key Drynet communication mechanism is a series of national and global newsletters, distributed to Network members and concerned organizations. These newsletters and other Drynet publications are also available on www.dry-net.org.

Major Drynet activities included:

- **June 2007:** Participation in the yearly environment conference of the GUE/NGL (a grouping of left-wing/green parties in the European Parliament) on "Climate Change and Developing Countries: Who pays the price?"
- **September 2007:** Coordination of a side-event at the 8th Conference of Parties of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Madrid, entitled: "Developing capacities in changing times: NGOs and land users in combating desertification and coping with climate change". Participants included senior EU policymakers, scientists and representatives of donor agencies and development organizations.
- **September 2007:** Presentation of the Drynet project at the side-event of the European Desert-Net/Oasis on "Desertification: science, policy making and the chain of users".
- Preparation of a background paper on biofuels survey published on the drynet extranet



Study on concentration and impact of livestock industries

During 2007, LPP's Susanne Gura focused on the trend towards concentration in the livestock breeding industry and the impact of industrial livestock production on smallholders in developing countries.

Concentration in the livestock breeding industry

This study demonstrates the high concentration of the livestock genetics industry and describes the strategies firms use to prevent others from using their genetic materials for breeding. It also discusses the environmental, economic and social impacts of these strategies. Susanne presented the findings at the events listed below during 2007, and 1200 copies were printed and distributed. German, English, and Spanish versions are available at www.pastoralpeoples.org.

- 2 March, Berne, Swiss National FAO Commission
- 30 April, Foggia, Pastoralismo Domani
- 3 May, Rome, 30th Session of Committee on Agriculture, in collaboration with Coldiretti, Swissaid and Greenpeace
- 22 May, Berlin, International Civil Society Organization Workshop on Agricultural Biodiversity
- 4 June, Bonn University
- 11 June, Rome, Side-event, FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- 30 June, Paris, Civil society preparatory workshop to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, 12th meeting
- 1 September, Wilderswil, Civil Society Parallel Forum to Interlaken Conference
- 3 September, Interlaken, side-event at FAO Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources.

Susanne also contributed articles or information to numerous newsletters and press releases, including *Arche Nova* (March 2007), the *Interlaken Brief* (3 September 2007), *Unabhängige Bauernstimme* April 2007 (a German farmers' newsletter), and *Eins Entwicklungspolitik* June 2007 (a development magazine). Articles based on her studies appeared, among others, in the *Hamburger Abendblatt* (1 March) and the *Tageszeitung* (27 Feb)

Impact of industrial livestock production on smallholders

In 2006 and 2007, Susanne Gura compiled data for a study looking at the expansion and impacts of industrial livestock production in developing countries. The main points were summarized in a 4-page leaflet, "Intensive livestock production destroys diversity and livelihoods", which served as the basis for the lobby and public relations activities during the FAO Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources in Interlaken in September. The full study will be published in 2008.



Endogenous Livestock Development Network

The Endogenous Livestock Development Network is a sharing, learning and advocacy network supporting livestock keepers' initiatives and striving for a shift in livestock development away from the productivity paradigm.

Evelyn Mathias edited the *People and Livestock* newsletter, since 2006 published by the Network. Two issues appeared in 2007, focusing on endogenous livestock development (April 2007) and participatory innovation development (September). www.eldev.net



Miscellaneous

Workshop on Livestock in Highland Lesotho

Growing Nations, Tebellong, Lesotho, 13 February 2007

Evelyn Mathias facilitated a one-day workshop on livestock for staff of Growing Nations, a development organization focusing on conservation agriculture and HIV/AIDS in Lesotho. This led to insights in how to combat overgrazing in the Lesotho Highlands and integrate livestock into conservation agriculture techniques.

LPP's Paul Mundy and Evelyn Mathias assisted Growing Nations to write a project proposal to seek funding for these activities.



Nyéleni Food Sovereignty Forum

Nyéleni Village, Sélingué, Mali, 23–27 February 2007

LPP funded two LIFE members from the Ugandan NGO Kisup Ateker to attend this forum. The forum discussed various aspects relating to livestock, including trade policies and local markets, local knowledge and technology; access to and control over natural resources; conflicts, disasters and forced migrations; production modes; and impacts on people, livelihood and environment. The participants issued the Nyéleni declaration on food sovereignty. www.nyeleni2007.org



IFOAM Conference on Marketing of Organic and Regional Values

Schwäbisch-Hall, Germany, 28 August 2007

Ilse Köhler-Rollefson was invited to present a paper on "Local Breeds as Basis for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development in Developing Countries: The LIFE Approach".



Networks and working groups

Memberships of the League (or staff representing the League):

- **Drynet** (Silke Brehm, Ilse Köhler-Rollefson)
- **Endogenous Livestock Development Network** (Ellen Geerlings, Sabine Homann, Ilse Köhler-Rollefson, Evelyn Mathias)
- **Genet** (European NGO Network on Genetic Engineering) (Anita Idel)
- **German NGO Forum for Environment and Development**, working group on desertification (Christiane Herweg, Ilse-Köhler-Rollefson)

- **German NGO Forum for Environment and Development**, working group on agriculture and environment (Susanne Gura (until September 2007), 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)
- **WISP** (World Initiative on Sustainable Pastoralism) (Susanne Gura (until September 2007), Ilse Köhler-Rollefson)
- **Working Group on Food Security**, Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Susanne Gura (until September 2007), Evelyn Mathias).

Publications

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

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- Swedbio
- Swissaid

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national Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements. 1st IFOAM international conference on marketing of organic and regional values. Schwäbisch Hall.

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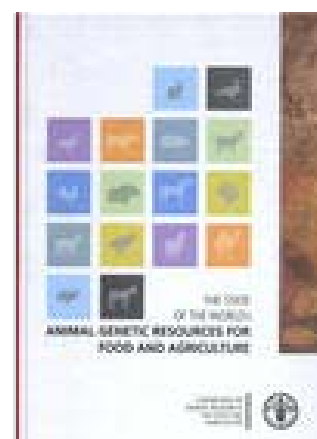
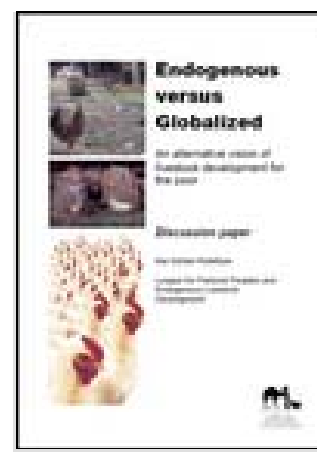
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About the League

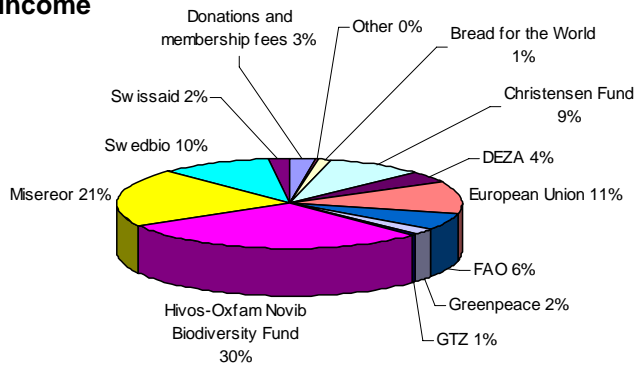
Financial

The League's income in 2007 was about €250,000, and expenditures amounted to €279,000. Details are given below. The accounts were audited by a professional auditing firm in Ober-Ramstadt.

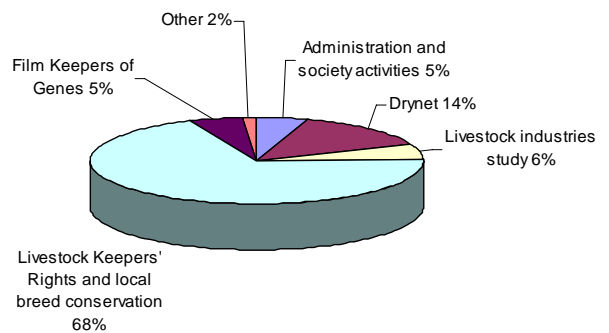
The League is registered as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under German law. Donations are tax-deductible.

Euros	Funds at end of 2006	Income 2007	Expenses 2007	Income – expenses	Funds at end of 2007
Society	6,736.14	12,134.20	- 13,860.14	- 1,725.94	5,010.20
Projects	60,398.69	237,519.21	- 265,202.74	- 27,683.53	32,715.16
Total	67,134.83	249,653.41	- 279,062.88	- 29,409.47	37,725.36

Income



Expenditures



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

- Dr. Christiane Herweg
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- Dr. Juliane Bräunig
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- Dr. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson
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- Dr. Evelyn Mathias
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Welcome to new members

- Silke Brehm

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Bank account

Account no. 28004893, Sparkasse Darmstadt, Bank Code 508 501 50. Donations are tax-deductible.

Registration

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