

# **Milestones in the development of Livestock Keepers' Rights**

## **1- 4 November 2000: International Workshop on Local Livestock Breeds for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods, Udaipur and Sadri, Rajasthan, India**

Some 80 participants from non-government organisations, scientific institutions, universities, governments and international donor agencies from Asia, Africa and Europe came together and discussed the process of implementation of the Convention of Biological Diversity in regards to domestic animal diversity. They issued a joint declaration, known as the “Sadri Declaration,” a statement on the importance of local livestock breeds that was widely circulated and taken note off. This workshop triggered the foundation of the LIFE Network by the League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development (LPP) {[www.pastoralpeoples.org](http://www.pastoralpeoples.org)} and Lokhit Pashu PalakSansthan(LPPS) {<http://www.lpps.org/>}.

## **10 - 13 June 2002: World Food Summit, Rome, Italy**

{<http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsummit/documents/>}

At this occasion, the League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development (LPP) {[www.pastoralpeoples.org](http://www.pastoralpeoples.org)} arranged a workshop on “LivestockDiversity: Keepers' Rights, Shared Benefits and Pro-Poor Policies.” During this workshop, the term “Livestock Keepers' Rights” was coined.

## **13 - 18 October 2002: 9th Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Rome, Italy**

Non-government organizations and representatives of livestock communities called for an International Treaty on Animal Genetic Resources, but the Commission referred the issue to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources.

## **27 - 30 October 2003: Conference of Indigenous Livestock Breeding Communities on Animal Genetic Resources, Karen, Kenya**

About 40 leaders of pastoral communities from across Africa, India and Mongolia and some 20 participants from non-government, government and research institutions came together and discussed the implications of emerging trends in livestock development and research, such as the Livestock Revolution, globalization and advances in genetic engineering. The meeting resulted in the “Karen Commitment,”{<http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/the-karen-commitment>} an appeal to governments and international organizations to recognize the role of pastoralists and other indigenous livestock keeping communities in upholding livestock genetic diversity.

## **30 March - 2 April 2004: 3rd Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources, Rome, Italy**

Government representatives of Botswana, Kenya and Uganda requested to start negotiations on an International Treaty on Animal Genetic Resources. But the Working Group ducked the issue and postponed further discussions until completion of the State of the World Report on Animal Genetic Resources.

## **27 March – 2 April 2006: Workshop on Livestock keepers, Livestock Biodiversity, Indigenous Knowledge and Intellectual Property Rights: Opportunities and Threats, Bellagio, Italy**

{<http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/bellagio/>}

Members of civil society, government, inter-governmental organizations, researchers, livestock keepers and the private sector from 17 countries met to discuss issues related to livestock biodiversity, indigenous knowledge and intellectual property rights. They issued the Bellagio Brief{[http://pastoralpeoples.org/docs/bellagio\\_brief.pdf](http://pastoralpeoples.org/docs/bellagio_brief.pdf) } requesting governments to recognize the rights of livestock keepers to continue to use and develop their own breeding stock and breeding practices.

## **10 - 19 July 2006: Pastoralist gathering in Yabello rangelands, Ethiopia**

More than 300 pastoralists from 60 ethnic groups and 18 countries, including the Horn of Africa, West Africa, Palestine, India and Peru, discussed issues of concern to pastoralists including the threat to local breeds.

## **7-9September 2007: International Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Interlaken, Switzerland**

{<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/angrvent2007.html>}

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. They agreed on the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources as a voluntary framework and issued the Interlaken Declaration. 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. But it 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.

## **24 - 26 February 2007: National-level LIFE Network Workshop, Sadri, India**

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 requested to be formally recognized as custodians of animal genetic resources and other rights that would enable them to continue keeping their local breeds.

## **26 - 28 February 2007: International Workshop on Livestock Keepers and the Management of Animal Genetic Resources: Roles, Rights, and Responsibilities, Sadri, India**

Delegates from 11 countries (Bangladesh, China, Germany, India, Iran, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, UK and Vietnam) discussed and elaborated the concept of Livestock Keepers' Rights. They analysed the draft documents for the Interlaken Conference and developed specific wording that would reflect the contents and essence of Livestock Keepers' Rights.

## **24–25 May 2007: Workshop on Managing Animal Genetic Resources in Africa: Strategies, priorities, livestock keepers' rights, and the way forward, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

This workshop gave 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.

## **30 November - 2 December 2008: Livestock Keepers' Rights: Legal and policy perspectives, Kalk Bay, South Africa**

LIFE Network members, a group of African lawyers and other stakeholders met to word the contents of the cornerstones in a legally acceptable language and identify the legal frameworks supporting the different rights and principles contained in the cornerstones. The outcome was a Declaration on Livestock Keepers' Rights {[http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/12\\_08\\_27\\_BHP\\_Liga\\_Declaration\\_neu.pdf](http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/12_08_27_BHP_Liga_Declaration_neu.pdf)}.

## **The Declaration on Livestock Keepers' Rights**

The Kalk Bay workshop{Link to the heading: 30 November - 2 December 2008: Livestock Keepers' Rights: Legal and policy perspectives, held in Kalk Bay, South Africa}resulted in a Declaration on Livestock Keepers Rights{[http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/12\\_08\\_27\\_BHP\\_Liga\\_Declaration\\_neu.pdf](http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/12_08_27_BHP_Liga_Declaration_neu.pdf)}. This presents and explains the three principles and five rights and matches themto existing international legal frameworks in support of the Livestock Keepers' Rightsincluding:

- the UN Convention on Biological Diversity
- the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources
- the InterlakenDeclaration on Animal Genetic Resources
- the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- the United Nations Declaration on theRights of Indigenous Peoples
- the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
- the Convention (No. 169) concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries
- the Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

## **Towards implementing Livestock Keepers' Rights**

Since the formulation of the Declaration on Livestock Keepers' Rights{[http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/12\\_08\\_27\\_BHP\\_Liga\\_Declaration\\_neu.pdf](http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/12_08_27_BHP_Liga_Declaration_neu.pdf)}a number of developments have taken place furthering the implementation of these rights.

- In September and October 2009, participants of consultations in Kenya and India further discussed and refined the issues behind the principles and rights of the Livestock Keepers' Rights and developed **Guidelines for putting Livestock**

**Keepers' Rights into practice**{[http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/12\\_08\\_29\\_BHP\\_LIga\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/12_08_29_BHP_LIga_Guidelines.pdf)}to explain how to these issues.

- In 2009, through contact with the South Africa-based non-government organization Natural Justice {<http://naturaljustice.org/>}, the LIFE Network became aware of the potential of **Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs)** {<http://www.lifenetworkinternational.org/projects-bedford/>}for conservingbiodiversity. The protocols are written documents (or a video or other type of evidence) that highlight the community's knowledge, traditions and the resources that it stewards. They also state the reasons for conserving the resource and the community's rights to do so. The process of compiling the protocols is as important as the resulting product. When communities come together to compile and agree on the common product, they reflect on their way of life, their values, customs, resources and priorities. This makes them aware of the value of their resources and raises their interest in conserving them.

Livestock-keeping communities have enthusiastically received this tool. Within only six months, Raika{[http://www.community-protocols.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/India-Raika\\_Community\\_Protocol.pdf](http://www.community-protocols.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/India-Raika_Community_Protocol.pdf)}, Samburu{[http://community-protocols.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/Kenya-Samburu\\_Community\\_Protocol.pdf](http://community-protocols.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/Kenya-Samburu_Community_Protocol.pdf)}, Lingayat{[http://www.community-protocols.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/India-Lingayat\\_Biocultural\\_Protocol.pdf](http://www.community-protocols.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/India-Lingayat_Biocultural_Protocol.pdf)}and Pashtoons{[http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/docs/pashtoon\\_biocultural\\_protocol.pdf](http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/docs/pashtoon_biocultural_protocol.pdf) }had established their own biocultural protocols.

- On 29 October 2010, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting in Nagoya, Japan, adopted the **Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization**{ <https://www.cbd.int/abs/>}. This international agreement aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way. It also addresses the appropriate access to genetic resources. It recognises community protocols in its Article 12, requesting that “parties shall endeavour to support, as appropriate, the development by indigenous and local communities, including women within these communities, of Community protocols in relation to access to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of such knowledge.” It also indirectly supports Livestock Keepers' Rights.

Although the Nagoya Protocol entered into force in October 2014, by November 2014 only few of the 51 signatories and other countries had fully implemented it.