



## SHAPING POLICIES THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING AND RESEARCH



Livestock keepers often have strong traditional institutions, but they are not formally organised, making it difficult for them to participate and be heard in policy making processes. Together with our partners that form the LIFE Network, we are changing this. Over the last several years, we have facilitated, in an extended series of grassroots sessions with livestock keeping communities, the concept of **Livestock Keepers' Rights**. These are a bundle of rights that are already implicit in existing legal frameworks and – if implemented – would help to create a more level playing field with the industrial systems. We have supported numerous livestock keepers to participate in national and international policy processes and as a result, governments are increasingly supporting this concept. Nevertheless, it will need sustained advocacy to turn Livestock Keepers' Rights into legally binding norms.

To help livestock keepers argue their case, we are providing research support and policy analysis. Currently we are looking into the nutritional qualities of livestock products from pastoral systems, and we are also analysing how the Livestock Revolution has impacted rural livelihoods.



## LEAGUE FOR PASTORAL PEOPLES AND ENDOGENOUS LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

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## INVESTING IN LIVESTOCK »FUTURES«



LIGA FÜR  
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**SUPPORTING PEOPLE IN MARGINAL  
AREAS TO SECURE RESOURCES AND  
DEVELOP THEIR ASSETS**



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





About 600 million poor people in the world depend on livestock as a source for food and income. Societies, especially in marginal areas, have developed a multitude of livestock breeds that represent the source of their cultural identity. This livestock has endured centuries or even millennia of combined natural and human selection: it is »climate ready«, so to speak and can withstand any turn of climatic events and other challenges. It also has the potential for a wide range of products that are nutritionally, ethically and ecologically superior to those emanating from industrial systems.

These livestock systems are extremely resilient; nevertheless they also face many threats. The latest of these is land-grabbing. This is precipitated, for one, by the collapse of the housing and stock markets that led to an increasing interest in new investment opportunities. The realisation that the earth's terrestrial resources are limited and that access to land and freshwater will be of crucial value in the future provoked a competition in large-scale »landgrabbing« in rural areas of Africa, Latin America and Asia by international investors.

**The League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development (LPP) was founded in 1992 to provide relief in an acute crisis experienced by Raika camel pastoralists in India. Soon its focus extended to other small-scale livestock keepers around the globe facing difficult challenges and now LPP works globally and locally (through its partners in the LIFE Network) for resilient and socially sustainable livestock production.**



## SECURING RESOURCES



The livelihoods of livestock keepers depend on access to land and on their genetic resources. As a means of securing these resources, we promote the development of **»Biocultural Community Protocols« (BCPs)**. These are a tool that is backed by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and that assists communities in developing awareness about their resources and rights under various international legal frameworks. By invoking rights for in situ conservation, BCPs can help to preserve traditional grazing lands and breeds, uphold sustainable management practices and protect from biopiracy.

## DEVELOPING ASSETS



Originating in the western world, industrial animal farming has now spread around much of the globe. This form of production is increasingly criticized due to its negative impacts on the environment, rural livelihoods, public health and animal welfare. Pastoralist and other small-scale production systems are much more sustainable, as well as usually more benign for animals. Yet, these systems cannot economically compete with industrial animal production.

In order to strengthen small-scale livestock keepers and raise awareness about the unique characteristics of their products, we are working towards developing a special label called **»Ark of livestock biodiversity«** that indicates to consumers that a product originates from an indigenous livestock breed and from a production system that helps to conserve biodiversity. We work with our partners and a range of specialists to create innovative products from local livestock that appeal to niche markets, for instance bio-diverse paper from camel dung, soap from camel milk, and trendy camel wool products.

