

Protected areas and Livestock Keepers' Rights



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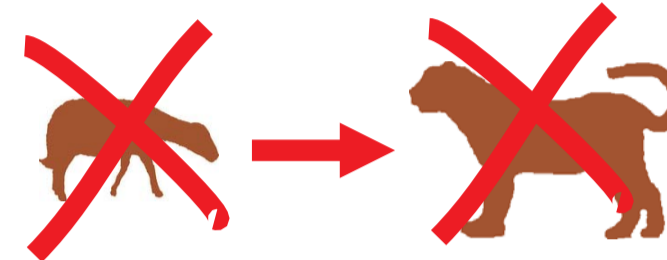
Hanwant Singh Rathore
Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan, Rajasthan, India, www.lpps.org

How to destroy biodiversity in protected areas?

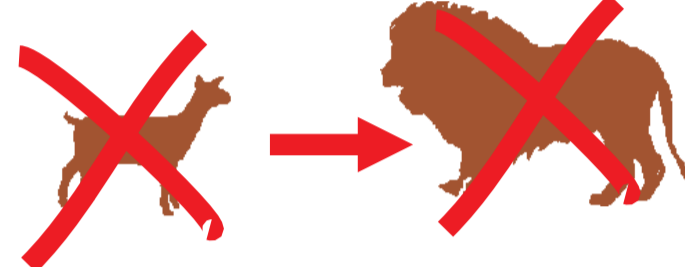
Easy! Just ban traditional grazing there.

Grazing bans in western India

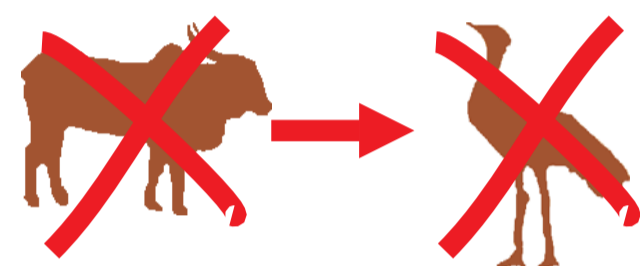
Grazing ban in **Kumbalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary**, Rajasthan
→ no more sheep and goats
→ less food for leopards and wolves



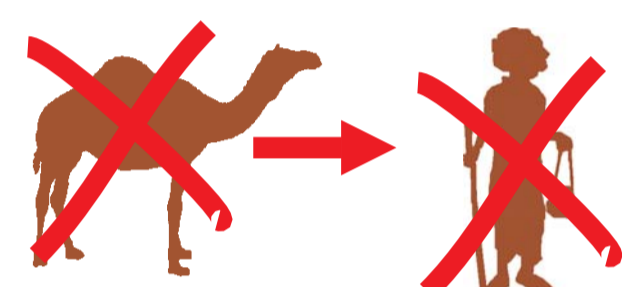
Grazing ban in **Gir Lion Sanctuary**, Gujarat
→ no more livestock as prey
→ lions stray out of sanctuary



Grazing restrictions in **Desert National Park**, Rajasthan
→ less dung → fewer insects
→ fewer Great Indian Bustards



And grazing bans erode the biodiversity of traditional livestock breeds that have developed there, and the livelihoods of local people. This is against **CBD article 8j** "...respect, preserve and maintain... traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity."



Young pastoralists are rare

Fighting a grazing ban in Kumbalgarh, Rajasthan

- <1950** Kumbalgarh = traditional summer grazing ground of Raika camel pastoralists
- 1970s** Kumbalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary established
- 1999** Forest protection committees ban non-local animals from forest (nomadic Raika are not "local")
- 2002** NGO **Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan** files High Court petition requesting grazing rights be reinstated
- 2003** Court decides in favour of Raika
- 2004** State Government refuses to issue grazing permits
- 2004** Raika request clarification (no response)
- 2005** Raika file another petition requesting grazing permits
- State Government refers case to Supreme Court
- Supreme Court asks Chief Wildlife Warden for recommendation
- Warden recommends ban on **ALL** grazing in Sanctuary

Pastoralists husband biodiversity

Pastoralists have created many livestock breeds. Herds retain wild genetic traits that have disappeared from high-performance breeds: disease and drought resistance, behavioural traits, and hardiness.

Pastoralism is a valuable reservoir for livestock genetic diversity in times of climate change. Domestic herd animals enhance the landscape and represent important bio-cultural heritage.

Pastoralists and their herds must have legal recognition, training and capacity-building to improve their biodiversity management. Without support, pastoralist systems are doomed to disappear, with serious implications for animal genetic resources, rural livelihoods, sustainable crop cultivation and wild biodiversity.



Entering the Kumbalgarh Sanctuary

Falling through the cracks

Pastoralist production system must be recognized. It maintains domestic animal diversity and provides ecosystem services.

- **Wildlife conservationists** scorn pastoralist livestock as "domestic" animals – enemies of the environment and wildlife.
- **Animal scientists** compare pastoralist breeds with high performance breeds

But there is a fluid border between domestic and wild animals: pastoralists' livestock retains many characteristics of wild animals

Acknowledgements

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Livestock Keepers' Rights

Rights of pastoralists and other small-scale livestock keepers to maintain their role in *in-situ* conservation of domestic animal diversity

- Developed by **LIFE Network** (www.lifeinitiative.net) in 7-year multi-stakeholder dialogue
- **Recognition** of pastoralists as creators of breeds
- **Dependency** of traditional breeds on conservation of ecosystems
- Backed by African and other G77 countries in the **Global Plan of Action** of International Conference on Animal Genetic Resources in Interlaken



Appeal for Livestock Keepers' Rights



Lobbying at the Interlaken Conference, 2007