Aarhus, August 19-20 1993
INTERBULL Open Session

To

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OF INDIGENOUS BREEDS OF CATTLE
CONSERVATION AND EVALUATION
Propositions:

1. Globally, there is a great range of production environments; these will persist, and they have differing requirements for achieving least-cost, sustainable food and agricultural production.

2. About 2/3 of world agriculture will always be low-medium input.

3. Dual- and multi-purpose types of cattle are required.

4. Highly-gaited breeds are not universally best.

5. The logistics of maintaining heifer replacement via crossing systems are frequently grossly underestimated.

6. About 1/2 the genetic differences in a domestic species are between-breed.

7. The simplest way to conserve a breed is to use it (carefully).

8. INTERBULL is (unintentionally) contributing to the loss of genetic resources, by enabling a. Increased exposure of a very small number of breeds b. Increased selection differentials in these breeds.

9. INTERBULL could facilitate the development of locally sustainable types by providing a. Guidance on evaluation b. Evaluation tools e.g. user-friendly, robust software for small populations, and reports on sets of traits required to develop sustainable production systems!