

## CELEP update

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### 1. Advocacy activities with the European Union (EU) institutions

Throughout September–November 2014, the Focal Point of the Coalition of European Lobbies on Eastern African Pastoralism (CELEP) renewed contacts with the European Parliament and also contacted the European Commission (ECHO and DEVCO) to raise awareness on pastoralism in Eastern Africa. Several activities were organised to establish new relationships and to expand the CELEP network within the EU institutions.

#### a. European Commission (EC)

##### *Organisation of a lunch-conference on pastoralism and conflict*

On 22 September, CELEP together with the Infopoint of the EC organised a lunch-conference on pastoralism and conflict. About 77 people registered for the conference and probably even more attended, as registration was not mandatory. The conference was opened by Bernard Rey, Deputy Head of DEVCO Unit C1 (Rural Development, Food Security and Nutrition). During the conference, four CELEP partners from Eastern Africa made interesting interventions related to pastoralism and conflict. Peter Ken Otieno (from RECONCILE and CELEP Eastern Africa Focal Point) kicked off the 1.5-hour conference with an overall introduction on the subject



from an Eastern African perspective and then highlighted some success stories of interventions financed by the EU. This was followed by a presentation by Shoba Liban Das from Pastoralist Women for Health and Education (PWHE), a Cordaid-funded NGO in Kenya and PDNK focal point for Isiolo, looking at pastoralism and conflict from a gender perspective. Then, Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT) director Edward Louer gave a presentation on land issues in Tanzania. Finally, a film on the importance of involving local civil society organisations in tackling climate change was introduced and shown by Daoud Tari Abkula from Resource Advocacy Program (RAP). After all these interesting presentations, very little time was left for discussions but some interesting networking was done by all CELEP members and partners present at the meeting. You can find all of the documents related to the conference [here](#).

Following this lunch-conference, CELEP was asked to send a summary of the conference to the Commission based on the specific recommendations that were presented. This reaction was shared by the Commission at the Brussels level and the EU Delegations. You can find the detailed communication that was sent to the Commission below.

*Pastoralism is at the crossroads of many global issues such as land tenure, climate change and food and nutritional security. Examples of challenges and success stories in managing emerging conflicts related to these issues in pastoralist' regions pave the way for new approaches towards pastoralism and conflict resolution. During the conference, the Brussels development community was informed on specific situations regarding pastoralism and conflict from a land tenure, gender and policy perspective. Conflicts in pastoralist areas are mainly caused by cattle raiding, economic and social insecurity, inadapted land policies, institutions and investments; and are reinforced by global drivers such as climate change and demographic growth. Examples of success stories of managing these conflicts by local civil society organisations in the arid and semi-arid lands of East Africa were presented during the conference to give ideas on very specific measures that can be undertaken to reduce conflict in the pastoral drylands. One of the most important recommendations that were made includes the need to increase the number of community-based conflict resolution plans and programmes in pastoralist areas because communities need to decide themselves on their priorities. Reinforcing local civil society to be able to express themselves and influence local land governing policies is pivotal in resolving conflicts with farmers and over use of land for wildlife conservation or mineral extraction. This would also help to secure women's land rights and recognize communal land ownership more explicitly. Second, there is a need to have more research on private investments in the region to see, for example, to what extent local communities are involved in the process and what the environmental consequences of large-scale investments entail. This is also related to local land management. Finally, recommendations were expressed to actively engage in the implementation of the African Union Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa, specifically the parts concerning security in the drylands such as the instalment of police posts in the remote centres in pastoralist areas and specific measures to advocate against the proliferation of small arms. These recommendations were followed by a brief discussion with the public. Overall, the recommendations were well received. The conference created a lot of attention and involved participation of over 85 participants. For more information on pastoralism and on CELEP, please consult their website at [www.celep.info](http://www.celep.info)."*

***DLCI presentation of the research "Counting the pastoralists" by Saverio Krätli***

On 24 September – after having made the same presentation at the CELEP 2014 annual meeting – Saverio Krätli presented his research on "Counting the pastoralists" at a meeting with ECHO officials in Brussels. This meeting was organised by the Drylands Learning and Capacity Building Initiative

(DLCI), a partner of CELEP. The meeting was attended by about 15 people, mostly ECHO staff. The CELEP Focal Point had been in contact with ECHO following an invitation to the ECHO Brussels office to participate at the core group meeting in April. At that time, they declined the invitation and stated that pastoralists could not be considered a population that ECHO focuses on, unless they are victim of a major crisis or deprived of any sources of income as during the 2011 drought in the Horn of Africa. Saverio's presentation therefore was very relevant to reconnect with ECHO and to give some more specific information on pastoralists. The presentation, which focused on how to count pastoralists and what needs to be taken into account when doing so, makes an important distinction between socio-economic groups involved in pastoralism, which is very relevant for defining beneficiaries of ECHO projects and programmes. In his presentation and the discussion afterward, Saverio stressed the importance of pastoralists' capacity to adapt to changing systems and the importance of good measurement and data collection.

### b. European Parliament

In September, the CELEP Focal Point, VSF-B, contacted several Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to present CELEP and its main results and activities up until now. Meetings were organised with MEPs Hautala (Finland), Stier (Croatia), Van Brempt (Belgium) and Neuser (Germany) and/or their assistants. The MEPs were selected based on their involvement in the Development Committee (DEVE), responsible for drafting development policies of the EU. They will also be contacted to participate in the MEP trip that CELEP will try to organise for European deputies in Uganda in April 2015. To find out more about what is going on in the DEVE committee in the European Parliament, please click [here](#).

### c. European Economic and Social Committee

On 31 October, VSF-B director Joep Van Mierlo made a presentation on pastoralism at the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of ACP-EU Economic and Social Interest Groups. This meeting is organised by the European Economic and Social Committee, one of the important advisory institutions of the EU whose opinions are requested in specific legislative procedures. You can find all documents related to this event [here](#). Originally, CELEP invited Ikal Angelei from Friends of Lake Turkana to participate at the event



but, due to health problems, she had to cancel at the last minute and was replaced by the VSF-B director. The presentation was similar to a presentation that was given by Joep Van Mierlo at a meeting of the Social and Environmental Working Group of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly in April 2013. His presentation was part of a panel discussion on family farming. In his presentation, the importance of pastoralism, its current and future challenges and its relation to climate change were stressed. His recommendations included the need to

raise visibility and awareness on pastoralism, the need to protect pastoralists' land and improve market access, and the need to measure the contribution of pastoralists to the national economy. In the final declaration of the event, recommendations regarding smallholder farming and family farming included, for instance, the specific recommendation to the EU to provide technical expertise

to ACP countries on veterinary drugs and service and on access to markets for pastoralists as well as livestock-keeping farmers. You can find the final declaration [here](#).

## 2. The CELEP Annual Meeting

On 23–25 September, the fifth CELEP annual meeting took place in Aachen, Germany. The meeting was organised by VSF-Germany and hosted by Misereor, which also financed the meeting. Thanks to this additional funding, eight Eastern African partners were able to participate in the meeting. The meeting was very successful, with reporting on past activities on the first day, working on planning future activities on the second day, and exchanging on organisational and communication issues on the last day. Some interesting thematic presentations were given by the partners from East Africa for Misereor staff, and Saverio Krätli also presented his research on “Counting the pastoralists”. The



Annual Meeting led to an operational workplan that will be used by CELEP members and partners to coordinate activities in 2014–15. You can find all of the documents and presentations related to the meeting [here](#). The report on the meeting as well as the 2015 workplan can be found [here](#). If you have any remarks concerning the report or if you still have some photos that can be added to the Dropbox, please contact the CELEP Focal Point at VSF-B.

Also, if you would like to actively engage in one or more of the activities mentioned in the operational action plan, please contact the Focal Point ([k.vantroos@vsf-belgium.org](mailto:k.vantroos@vsf-belgium.org)).

## 3. CELEP presentation in Mali, West Africa

On 24 October, the CELEP Focal Point made a presentation on CELEP to the “groupe élevage” in Mali, which is a consultative group of local CSOs and NGOs involved in livestock in the country. Local representatives from the FAO, VSF-B, SNV, Réseau Billital Maroobe (RBM) and local NGOs participated at the meeting. This presentation was the result of two evolutions. On the one hand, it was agreed at the CELEP annual meeting that opportunities would be explored to expand CELEP into West Africa or at least to see what the possibilities are to have a similar/related coalition in West Africa around pastoralism. On the other hand, it was the consequence of a local willingness of local representatives of CSOs and NGOs to create something similar to CELEP, as some of the international NGOs involved in CELEP have activities and programmes in both Eastern and West Africa. Following the presentation, a draft concept note was made with some ideas on how to continue developing this coalition. These ideas include translation into French of news and updates sent through the CELEP googlegroup, organising a West African workshop in early 2015 to set up a “West African CELEP”, etc. You can find the presentation [here](#) (in French).



#### 4. Activities being prepared

At the EU Focal Point level, activities for next year are currently being prepared based on the operational action plan. These activities include:

- Finishing the work on the CELEP leaflet
- Updating the Position Papers and transforming them into policy briefs
- Networking at EU conferences and events
- Preparing for next year's MEP trip.

Several other activities are also being prepared by partners in Eastern Africa, such as the pastoralist days/weeks in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. If you have any question regarding this, please get in touch with VSF-B, the CELEP Focal Point or the regional focal point Reconcile.

#### 5. For your action

- Get familiar with the operational action plan and try to identify which actions you would like to contribute to.
- If you have not done this so far, try to include a link to the CELEP website on your website in order to increase the number of visits and the visibility of CELEP.