

CELEP Update

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Pilot project – next steps and some explanation

The pilot was submitted by the International Land Coalition (ILC). The document as it was submitted can be found [here](#). This pilot will contribute to the attainment of CELEP’s mission. As a result of this project, closer ties will be created between ILC and CELEP and we will benefit from each other’s experience. CELEP will also be reinforced financially as at least some activities (for instance, the organisation of a conference on land and pastoralism in Brussels) will be financed through the project. Also, RECONCILE, as Focal Point for both CELEP and ILC Africa, will coordinate the grant and represent both structures. The pilot is also meant to produce some specific advocacy tools on Participatory Rangeland Management to raise awareness on pastoralism in the EU institutions.

It was agreed that a Steering Committee (SC) composed of ILC and CELEP members will be created to give input to the project. The exact description of what the SC, who will be part of it and what it will do still needs to be fine-tuned. The core group will make Terms of Reference (ToRs) for this and will contact CELEP members and partners to be part of it.

For Your Action: CELEP members and partners who are interested in being part of this process, please contact the CELEP Focal Point.

Journalists to Tanzania to conduct research on the New Alliance

CELEP has done some work on the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition with the European Parliament. A short recap of what exactly CELEP has done on this and what the New Alliance is, can be found in the box below.

CELEP has worked with the European Parliament on a report on the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (NAFSN). [The NAFSN](#) is basically a public–private partnership which “*commits to policy changes and investments that accelerate implementation of African country plans for improving food security and nutrition*”. There is an interest for CELEP, as some of the countries targeted through the NAFSN are in Eastern Africa (Ethiopia and Tanzania). Different NGOs and research institutes have been particularly concerned about the impact of this programme, mainly due to its focus on large-scale agriculture and big investments. On the CELEP website, you can also find some briefs that were

published on the issue in 2014 by CELEP member the Future Agricultures Consortium together with Tufts University, proposing clear linkages between the investment done through the NAFSN and pastoralism in Eastern Africa (<http://www.celep.info/policy-briefs-on-pastoralism-for-the-g8-new-alliance-agenda/>).

At the same time, Mrs. Heubuch, German Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for the Greens/European Free Alliance, was appointed as a rapporteur to make a **report for the parliament** on the NAFSN, as the European Parliament became suspicious about the NAFSN investments. There is a clear link to the EU, as many of the investments involve public money from the EU and from the EU member states (France, Italy, UK, Germany, etc.). Prior to the report, research was conducted by Olivier De Schutter – former rapporteur for the UN on the right to food – to deliver some recommendations to the EU on the New Alliance. In the [report](#), references are made to pastoralism regarding land titles, an issue CELEP has been active on previously with regard to a resolution of the parliament on land grabbing. This report was presented in the European Parliament in December 2015, in the presence of our Eastern African partners from Uganda (Benjamin Mutambuka, COPACSO), Kenya (Shoba Liban, PWHE and PDNK) and Tanzania (Edward Loure, UCRT) and our Regional Focal Point (Peter Ken Otieno, RECONCILE). Edward took the floor and made a very interesting presentation on land rights and land entitlement in Tanzania. Following this presentation, our recommendations were included in the report, which was approved with a large majority in the parliament. You can find the report here (http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A8-2016-0169+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&mc_cid=4915083f63&mc_eid=ce7b343f40). As you can see in the report, specific references are made to pastoralism, which is a good way to draw attention to the particularities of pastoralism. The adoption of this report gained some visibility in some European and international media outlets, such as in the ones mentioned below:

- http://www.theecologist.org/News/news_round_up/2987772/eunbsp-parliament_stop_aid_funding_billions_to_agribusiness_in_africa.html
- <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/jun/08/european-parliament-slams-g7-food-project-in-africa>

Terra Nuova recently contacted the CELEP Focal Points (Ken and Koen) to find out whether there would be an interesting case for journalists to do some research and publish in international media. The CELEP core group¹ proposed to follow up on this resolution and investigate how the New Alliance and, in general, investment in large-scale agriculture are influencing pastoralism in Eastern Africa and particularly in Tanzania, one of the focal countries of the New Alliance. Working through VSF-B, the CELEP core group thought it would be a good idea to combine this with an opportunity to obtain funding for a joint team of Belgian and African-based journalists to be added to the funding from Terra Nuova. This additional funding was obtained, and articles will very likely be published online in Belgian outlets and in outlets in Africa (probably “*The East African*”).

For Your Action: If you have interesting contacts in Tanzania to facilitate this research, please contact the CELEP Focal Point.

¹ The 2015-16 Core Group is composed of the European members African Studies Centre, Agrecol, Cordaid and VSB-Belgium and the Eastern African partners COPACSO and RECONCILE.

Resolution in the European Parliament on investment in ASALs

Related to the NAFSN, CELEP thought that it would be a good idea to have a specific report/resolution of the European Parliament on the ASALs. This would show, on the one hand, that the EU is particularly concerned about the situation in the ASALs and, on the other, that the EU recognises that there is a need to have guidelines for investment in these areas. These investments should be coherent with the pastoralist way of life. CELEP has found some MEPs willing to push forward this proposal.

MEP mission to Tanzania

Related to the above is the mission of MEPs, who will visit Tanzania on 19–23 September. This visit is an official visit of the European Parliament, meaning that it will be organised by the DEVE Committee Secretariat. CELEP contacted the organisers and can be included in the programme. There is a possibility to visit pastoralist projects/areas, and the DEVE Committee is expecting some input from us. They will definitely go to Iringa to visit some projects related to the New Alliance. CELEP local partners have been contacted to see what is possible. Reactions and propositions for things to visit related to pastoralism are very welcome and can be shared with the Focal Points (Ken and Koen). Partners/members with representatives in Dar es Salaam are also welcome to get in touch with the Focal Points, as it is almost certain that meetings will take place in Dar es Salaam and there might be a possibility to have a CELEP representative at a meeting there.

During the most recent Skype meeting of the core group, it was agreed that CELEP would try to get a slot during the MEP visit to facilitate a discussion in Dar es Salaam focussing land rights, bringing in the pastoralists' perspectives. As the MEPs are also very much interested in the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) through the New Alliance, part of the discussion could also be focused on that.

For Your Action: CELEP partners and members active in Tanzania and with an office in Dar es Salaam who are interested in preparing this stakeholder meeting, please get in touch with the Focal Points. Suggestions for speakers are also very much welcome.

Submitted proposal

CELEP was recently explicitly integrated into a VSF project proposal written for the EU in response to a call for proposals for reinforcing African civil society organisations and supporting African Governance Architecture. The final proposal as it was submitted can be found [here](#).

CELEP annual meeting

The CELEP annual meeting will be organised in London and will be hosted by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) on 5–7 October 2016. As usual, the meeting will focus on reporting on past activities and planning new ones. There will also be a moment to exchange on some relevant experiences/research regarding pastoralism in Eastern Africa. The CELEP Focal Point is working on a proposal together with IIED. Some lobbying actions are also foreseen in Brussels, but are yet to be confirmed. For now, a photo exhibit is planned in the European Parliament and will be opened on Monday, 10 October. Another action in Brussels will probably take place on 11 October. Partners will be invited to the meeting and funded thanks to a grant from MISEREOR. Additional funds to cover other expenses, e.g. the facilitator, are very welcome.

UNEA meeting and International Year of Pastoralists/Rangelands

Some members and partners of CELEP participated recently in the second meeting of the UNEA (United Nations Environment Assembly), specifically in the side event on “Moving towards sustainable pastoralism and responsible consumption of livestock products”. As an output of this event, a resolution was passed – sponsored by Ethiopia, Namibia and Sudan – entitled “Combating Desertification, Land Degradation and Sustainable Development of Pastoralism and Rangelands”. See more at: <http://www.unep.org/stories/Ecosystems/Putting-sustainable-pastoralism-on-the-global-agenda.asp#sthash.EtfQ1Wt1.dpuf>. The CELEP members and partners who participated in the meeting evaluated it positively, as it raised the profile of pastoralism as well as rangelands. The work which was done by the Ethiopian Minister who proposed this resolution was quite remarkable.

During the conference, some participants expressed their willingness to have an International Year of Pastoralists/Rangelands in 2021. CELEP could look into that and find out how it can collaborate in this through its actions at the European level.

International Rangeland Congress (IRC)

Several members and partners of CELEP will be taking part in the IRC in Saskatoon, Canada, on 18 – 22 July 2016, and some also in the pre-congress workshop on multifunctionality of pastoralism. The IRC Organizing Committee has made a small stand available for CELEP, where the CELEP leaflet, poster and a position paper will be made available. At the IRC, there will be a side meeting on plans for the International Year of Pastoralists/Rangelands. If other CELEP members and partners are going to attend the IRC and are interested in joining this meeting, they should contact the CELEP Focal Point if they haven’t done so yet.

For Your Action: Contact the CELEP Focal Point if you intend to take part in the side meeting on the International Year of Pastoralists/Rangelands during the International Rangelands Conference.

Action points

- CELEP members and partners who are interested in being part of the process related to the Pilot Project in PRM in Kenya, please contact the CELEP Focal Point (k.vantroos@vsf-belgium.org)
- If you have interesting contacts in Tanzania to facilitate the research of the journalists, please contact the CELEP Focal Point.
- CELEP partners and members active in Tanzania and with an office in Dar es Salaam who are interested in preparing this stakeholder meeting, please get in touch with the Focal Points. Suggestions for speakers are also very much welcome.
- Contact the CELEP Focal Point if you intend to take part in the side meeting on the International Year of Pastoralists/Rangelands during the International Rangelands Conference.
- CELEP members and partners who want to participate in the annual meeting, please register [here](#) before the end of August. To select a relevant topic for the key-note speaker, please fill out [this short form](#).