

## CELEP Update

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### CELEP’s stakeholder meeting on land and pastoralism during MEP visit to Tanzania

On 20 September 2016, CELEP organised a stakeholder meeting for its members, partners and local civil-society representatives at the delegation of the European Commission in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This meeting was held on the occasion of an official visit of members of the Development (DEVE) Committee of the European Parliament to Tanzania. The delegation was composed of the following Members of the European Parliament (MEPs):

- Linda McAvan (Socialists & Democrats, UK), President of the DEVE Committee of the European Parliament (unfortunately, she couldn’t join the CELEP meeting)
- Maria Heubuch (Greens/European Free Alliance, Germany), member of the DEVE and Agriculture Committees of the European Parliament (she can be considered a CELEP pastoralist “champion” and has a good knowledge and understanding of pastoralism)
- Lola Sánchez Caldentey (European United Left, Spain), member of the DEVE Committee and of the delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China
- Bogdan Brunon Wenta (European People’s Party, Poland), member of the DEVE Committee and of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states and the European Union (JPA ACP–EU)
- Eleni Theocharous (European Conservatives & Reformists, Cyprus), member of the DEVE Committee.

The local partner organisations and European member organisations of CELEP that were invited included: Oxfam, ActionAid, CARE, Mviwata, Pastoralist Indigenous Non-Governmental Organisations (PINGOs) Forum, Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF), Hakiardhi and the Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT). The meeting was facilitated by Pablo Manzano on behalf of CELEP.

Pablo started the meeting by welcoming everybody and presenting CELEP. He then made a presentation on key issues related to pastoralism and particularly about problems of land access in the region. In his presentation, which can be found [here](#), he focused on the economic importance of pastoralism and its potential to alleviate poverty. He also pointed to the linkages and comparisons that can be made between African and European pastoralists – an entry point of interest for the MEPs. In his final slides, Pablo argued that the European Union (EU) has considerable potential to help create an enabling environment for pastoralist development. He highlighted the importance of pastoralism in terms of export earnings for many African countries and, in particular, the huge demand for livestock coming from the Gulf countries.

Then, Joseph Olila from TNRF took the floor. In his presentation, he covered several issues but focused on the Tanzanian law allowing for land leases but not land ownership.

The subsequent discussion revolved around animal diseases such as brucellosis and the organisation of veterinary services in Tanzania, but also land issues and human rights. One MEP argued that fencing would be good for animal health surveillance; this led to several counter-arguments by CELEP partners and members attending the meeting. The MEPs expressed interest in the parallels between African and European pastoralism and inquired about existing policy arrangements for pastoralists in Africa. In response, the representatives from civil-society and community-based organisations informed the delegation about the African Union’s Policy Framework on Pastoralism. The discussion on land focused on issues of communally held land and the problem that grazing areas are not protected by law. It is always assumed that pastoralism destroys the environment, and many government “development” strategies undermine livestock mobility, either directly or indirectly. During the discussion, several participants mentioned the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT).

Thus, CELEP managed to raise awareness on pastoralism and land issues with several delegates of the DEVE Committee of the European Parliament. The next step will be to see how to take this up and make use of these newly established contacts to advance pastoralism in Eastern Africa in EU development and domestic policies. Contacts will be maintained in Brussels with the MEPs who took part in the visit to Tanzania.

## CELEP annual meeting 2016

The 2016 annual meeting of CELEP was held on 5–7 October in the headquarters of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in London, United Kingdom. It was hosted by IIED and organised by Vétérinaires Sans Frontières–Belgium (VSFB).

A total of 25 people took part, including European members and Eastern African partners of CELEP. On the first day of the 3-day meeting, Marcel Rutten from the African Studies Centre, Leiden, spoke about the land-water nexus in semi-arid Kenya. Saverio Krätli and Ilse Köhler-Rollefson then spoke about the potentials and pitfalls of Biocultural Community Protocols and implications for investments in pastoral regions. On the second and third day, past activities of CELEP were discussed and future ones defined in working groups. The report on the annual meeting and the workplan for 2016–17 (in the annex) can be found [here](#).

**For your action:** *CELEP members and partner are encouraged to implement and participate in the actions for the coming year.*

## CELEP annual activity report 2015–16

The past 12 months have been particularly busy for CELEP, with activities in Europe, Eastern Africa and Canada, in the last-mentioned case for the International Rangelands Congress (IRC). The activity report for CELEP for 2015–16 was presented during the annual meeting and can be found [here](#).

## CELEP photo exhibition in the European Parliament

On 10 October, immediately after the 2016 annual meeting in London, CELEP members and partners opened a photo exhibition on pastoralism in Eastern Africa in the European Parliament in Brussels. The aim of the exhibition was to raise awareness on the importance of pastoralism to fight poverty and food insecurity and to deal with climate change.

The exhibition – which had previously been shown during the 2015 Tropentag conference in Berlin – is made up of 15 photographs depicting different aspects of pastoralism. The photos, which had been sent in by CELEP European members and Eastern African (EA) partners, were displayed in the European Parliament for six days (10–15 October).

On the opening night of the exhibition, the two MEPs who had travelled with CELEP to Uganda in October 2015 – Maria Heubuch and Norbert Neuser – took the floor, along with CELEP EA partner Benjamin Mutambukah from the Coalition of Pastoralist Civil-Society Organisations (COPACSO) in Uganda. In her speech, Ms Heubuch stressed the challenges of access to land and pastoralist land rights as among her priority issues during the current legislature. She linked the issue of land grabbing in Africa to the grabbing of farmland in Europe. Finally, she thanked CELEP for organising the mission to Uganda.

Mr Neuser then spoke, emphasising the important economic value of pastoralism and its contribution to food security by producing milk and meat in a sustainable manner. He praised pastoralists for their knowledge of the environment and the local ecosystems. Like Ms Heubach, he stressed the need to solve land issues between mobile pastoralists and settled farmers. He concluded with the statement that there is a clear need for pastoralists to be able to advocate for their own interests and to have policies adapted to their needs.

Mr Mutambukah then thanked the MEPs for their engagement in raising awareness on pastoralism in Eastern Africa, and showed [a video of the MEPs' mission to Karamoja](#). The video screening was followed by drinks to celebrate pastoralism and a small networking dinner involving the two MEPs, the CELEP partners and the CELEP Focal Point.



## CELEP InfoPoint Lunchtime Conference

On 11 October, CELEP organised a lunch conference on “Moving herds, changing paradigms: about pastoralism in East Africa” at the InfoPoint of the European Commission in Brussels. This event focused on pastoralism or (semi-)mobile livestock-keeping. During the lunch conference, some hands-on experiences in dealing with these challenges were presented. Edward Loure (UCRT and [Goldman Environmental Prize recipient](#)) gave a presentation. Shoba Liban ([Pastoralist Women for Health and Education](#) and [Pastoralist Development Network of Kenya](#)) talked about promoting gender equality in pastoralist societies. The presentations can be found [here](#). Lastly, Peter Ken Otieno ([Resource Conflict Institute](#) and regional CELEP Focal Point) addressed the need for mobility for sustainable pastoralism. His presentation can be found [here](#). The lunchtime conference was recorded and can be viewed [here](#).



## World Bank's Conference on Land and Poverty in 2017

The World Bank is organising its 18th Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty on 20–24 March 2017 at its headquarters in Washington DC. The conference theme will be: “Responsible Land Governance: Towards an Evidence-Based Approach”.

At its 2016 annual meeting, CELEP's possible participation in a side event on land-rights issues and pastoralism was discussed. Fiona Flintan (Coordinator and Technical Adviser, International Land Coalition/ILC Rangelands Initiative – Global; International Livestock Research Institute/ILRI) compiled a note on collaboration of organisations supporting a side-event on pastoral land issues, which can be found [here](#). CELEP submitted an abstract written by Edward Loure in close collaboration with Peter Ken Otieno, Fiona Flintan and Ann Waters-Bayer. The abstract can be found [here](#).

Related to this news on the World Bank conference, CELEP members discussed the waiver granted by the World Bank to the Government of Tanzania, allowing the non-application of Operational Policy 4.10, the safeguard policy designed to ensure that the rights and interests of indigenous peoples are not violated in projects or programmes receiving World Bank funding. The waiver was approved for project funding under the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) investments. More information about this case can be found here <http://www.farmlandgrab.org/26551>.

***For your action:*** CELEP members and partners who are interested in following up on the process related to the waiver, please contact the CELEP Focal Point so that a working group can be formed. Tanzanian grassroots organisations defending pastoralists' rights and the rights of indigenous peoples are most certainly working on this.

## International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2021

At the CELEP annual meeting in London, James Bennett from Coventry University, as the European representative in the International Rangeland Congress Continuing Committee, discussed the possibility for CELEP to promote the proposed International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) and how to go about it. One of the points discussed was the possibility to set up small working groups per country to assure lobbying at the country level, as this is likely to be most effective. All agreed that an IYRP will strengthen international debates and policies on pastoralism. Therefore, the following activities will be executed:

- Develop a joint statement as CELEP, to be used by all members and partners in European and African countries
- Collaborate with ILC, ILRI, IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and WISP (World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism) at global level
- Make an inventory of promising entry points at national level through CELEP members

***For your action:*** If you have interesting contacts or information related to one of these activities regarding the promotion of IYRP and/or if you would like to work on this together with a dedicated group of persons, please contact the CELEP Focal Point.