

CELEP Update

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1. Past activities

Tropentag on 16–18 September in Berlin, Germany

1. A photo exhibit was printed and displayed in Berlin (see [here](#)). It is for the time being in the office of the Focal Point in Brussels and will be used for future showcasing in Brussels-based EU institutions. It is very likely that in 2016 the exhibit will be displayed at the European Parliament.
2. Next to the photo exhibit, a lunch meeting was organised with interested stakeholders. The idea of the conference was to introduce CELEP, present the *Valuing Variability* book by IIED and present a review of a recent IIED paper entitled “Research methods appropriate for pastoralism in drylands: a review”. The latter was presented by Dr Wolfgang Bayer, who is representing Agrecol in CELEP. In total, about 20 people participated in the lunch meeting, composed of people from GIS, the Max Planck Institute, Welthungerhilfe, FAO and VSF-Germany. Some members of the CELEP google group also took part. Pictures of the event and the presentation on CELEP can be downloaded [here](#).
3. At the same time, there was a poster session on pastoralism during the Tropentag. The abstracts for the posters can be found [here](#).

Meeting between Commission (DG DEVCO) and members of European Parliament on 22 September in European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

1. The objective of the meeting was to prepare the members of the European Parliament for their upcoming visit to Uganda. The minutes of the meeting between the European Commission and the European Parliament can be found [here](#). Some important points of the meeting were:
 - a. The presentation of the Commission focused on linking pastoralism with **security** and **resilience**.
 - b. **A Trust Fund** will be created to tackle **the root causes of the migration crisis** in Europe. According to the Commission, pastoralist areas are particularly concerned since many refugees are coming from these areas. Linking up pastoralism to international migration therefore seems a good entry point for advocacy. It must be noted, however, that the focus on migration often limits policies to humanitarian approaches, which is a narrow scope for pastoralism. However, CELEP can make observations and recommendations.
 - c. **The technical note on pastoralism** which CELEP is pushing forward at the European level is no longer in the pipeline for 2015. CELEP will look for opportunities to lobby EU institutions to push forward this important reference document. A specific entry point is the European Parliament.
 - d. A reader on pastoralism in Uganda was finalised and published on the CELEP website: <http://www.celep.info/celep-organised-visit-of-meps-to-uganda/>

Presentation of book *Valuing Variability* by Saverio Krätli on 23 September at Infopoint of European Commission in Brussels, Belgium

CELEP decided to facilitate a Brussels book launch of the IIED book *Valuing Variability* since it focuses amongst other things on pastoralism as a positive way to deal with climate variability in the drylands. Earlier, CELEP had also presented the book in Berlin. The session was opened by Bernard Rey, deputy head of DEVCO Unit C1, focusing on food security and rural development. This was followed by a brief presentation of CELEP by the CELEP Focal Point – more or less the same presentation as was made previously at the Tropentag conference – and continued with the book presentation by Saverio Krätli. The discussion afterwards focused on the set-up of CELEP, the book, etc. The representatives from the Commission concluded that there is a need for more practical, hands-on recommendations to make sure they can be included in their programmes. Some of the questions raised during the presentations, as well as the presentation on *Valuing Variability* and the participant list can be found [here](#). In total, about 40 participants attended this meeting.

Fact-finding mission of Norbert Neuser and Maria Heubuch to Uganda, 19–23 October

On 19–23 October, CELEP hosted the visit of two members of the European Parliament (MEPs) for a fact-finding mission to Uganda. The objective of the mission was to raise awareness on pastoralism in Eastern Africa at the EU level and locally. Thanks to this mission, a constructive collaboration was established with these two members of the European Parliament and specific entry points to include pastoralism in the work of the European Parliament were identified. These entry points will be developed more in detail during the upcoming annual meeting.

The fact-finding mission was composed of two main parts, one in Kampala and one in the Northern region of Karamoja. In Kampala, a briefing was organised aiming to raise awareness on pastoralism amongst development actors and CSOs based in Nairobi as well as with representatives of European embassies and the European Commission. The briefing was funded by DanChurchAid and organised by COPACSO, the CELEP Eastern African partner for Uganda. The programme for this briefing as well as the presentations of all of the participants can be found [here](#).

The actual field visit took place in and around Moroto, Uganda. The MEPs took a flight from Kampala to Kabong in the Karamoja area of Uganda, where a local team of KOPEIN, DADO and VSF-Belgium representatives awaited to them to show them the challenges and opportunities related to pastoralism in the area. During a two-day visit, the MEPs gained clear insights into assets of pastoralism – such as the sustainable way of managing land and its significant contribution to food security – and, at the same time, had an introduction on the challenges faced by pastoralists – such as climate change, land issues and conflict.

On the first day, there was a visit to a cattle market to gain insights into the economic importance of pastoralism in northern Uganda. There was also a meeting with Turkana immigrants from Kenya to discuss cross-border issues such as conflicts related to pasture and water access. On the second day, the delegation went very early to a kraal to witness morning rituals involving milking and drinking milk mixed with blood. The delegation was then invited to another kraal and welcomed by singers and dancers to participate in a traditional “akkriket” ceremony. In the evening, the field visit concluded with a stakeholder dinner meeting with local Moroto-based representatives of both development partners and international organisations. Exchanges took place on food security, land issues and private investment in the Ugandan drylands. The next day, the delegation travelled back to Kampala and met with the head of political affairs of the EU. This exchange focused more on the Ugandan and East African political situation regarding EU diplomacy and to a lesser extent on pastoralist-related issues. There was, however, a clear affirmation that the EU is interested in pastoralism in Karamoja.

Below are some links to the media output of the MEP mission. The entire mission was also filmed by a camera crew and the shots will be compiled into a video that will be used for lobbying purposes.

Newspaper:

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/674868-hunger-forces-karimojong-to-sell-animals.html>

<http://epaper.newvision.co.ug/Details.aspx?edorsup=Main&queryed=9&querypage=11&boxid=218178&id=559946&uid=2634&dat=10/25/2015>

<http://epaper.newvision.co.ug/Details.aspx?edorsup=Main&queryed=9&querypage=36&boxid=220256&id=560805&uid=2634&dat=10/27/2015>

Television:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yb2gxn3K070>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSDmQjKZqc8>

Participation in meeting of partners of Pastoralist Knowledge Hub on 29–30 October at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

CELEP had been contacted to be a partner of the FAO initiative to create a [Pastoralist Knowledge Hub](#). This initiative aims to “bring together pastoralists and the main actors working with them to join forces and create the synergies for dialogue and pastoralist development”. The Hub’s work is based on three pillars: building a knowledge repository on pastoralism, developing a forum for pastoralist networks and fostering alliances among key partners engaged in the improvement of pastoralist livelihoods, their environments and economies.

The meeting organised in Rome was a first meeting with partners to present the Hub and its partners and to try to define some common grounds to assure engagement for pastoralist development. Several representatives of partner organisations attended the meeting either physically or virtually. These partners included WAMIP, VSF-International, LPP, IFAD, the European Commission, IUCN-WISP, UNEP, CIRAD, ILRI, the Mountain Partnership, the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL), African Livestock Futures and UNESCO. During the meeting of two half day, each partner presented itself and its agenda regarding pastoralism. The Focal Point gave a presentation of CELEP.

The opening speeches were interesting, as they focused amongst other things on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As this will be the development agenda for the coming years, CELEP will definitely also develop activities along the lines of the SDGs. A partnership document was also presented at the meeting, which should be discussed among CELEP members and partners to define future engagement of CELEP in the Pastoralist Hub. The Pastoralist Hub could be a strategic ally for CELEP in achieving its objectives. One of the possibilities that was discussed was collaboration in holding an international year on pastoralism in 2018. There is also a strong interest of the Hub in the activities of CELEP regarding its advocacy and communication work.

The opening speeches, as well as description of the roles of the partners of the Pastoralist Hub, can be downloaded [here](#). The involvement in and collaboration with the Hub will be discussed at the CELEP annual meeting.

Extensive Livestock Expo – Herding for the Markets, 4–6 November, Nairobi, Kenya / SDC workshop, 9–13 November, Isiolo, Kenya

As agreed upon, a series of photographs was printed and displayed during the Extensive Livestock Expo in Kenya. This was coordinated by RECONCILE and AgriProFocus, who was part of the organising committee. Two CELEP core-group members gave presentations during the conference parallel to the expo: Dr Wolfgang Bayer on pastoral risk management and Dr Ann Waters-Bayer on pastoral products and food safety. In the following week, they also gave presentations on pastoralism in sub-Saharan Africa and on the CELEP network to participants in the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) workshop in Isiolo, northern Kenya, on capitalising experiences in pastoralist development.

2. Ongoing activities

Pilot project on Participatory Rangeland Management in Tanzania and Uganda

Some time ago, a pilot project on participatory rangeland management in Tanzania and Kenya was submitted by the MEP Norbert Neuser to the European Parliament on behalf of CELEP. This project had to go through many stages but was finally approved by both the Development Committee and the Budget Committee of the European Parliament. It has taken a lot of lobby work to get it approved in Parliament and by the Commission, which also expresses its opinion on the project. Thanks to swift reactions from RECONCILE and Cordaid, the project is now waiting final approval in the European Parliament at the end of the month. This final approval is after the total budget for all pilot projects was significantly reduced following negotiations between the Parliament and the Council. The amount of money available for the pilot project submitted by CELEP is expected to be € 350,000–500,000 instead of the € 1,500,000 available. However, this is still unsure and will become clear in early 2016. At the Annual Meeting, this should be discussed as, once contacted by the Commission, CELEP will need to develop a full proposal for the submitted pilot project. Link to the pilot project [here](#).

Participation in a call for proposals for NUFFIC

CELEP was asked by MDF – responsible for facilitating this year's annual meeting – to be part of a project proposal developed by a consortium to support the "Eastern Africa Land Administration Network" (EALAN). The aim of the project is capacity development of EALAN. The specific outcome at the end of the project should be that the Network will have the academic, professional and organisational capacity to develop, implement and maintain gender-sensitive curricula, trainings and (comparative) research on: 1. Land administration, 2. Land governance and policies, and 3. Access to land for women and vulnerable groups. As it is unclear at this stage whether this project fits entirely within the scope and objectives of CELEP, it was agreed that, for now, RECONCILE would be part of the

project proposal and that – if needed – CELEP will be involved in a later stage. A summary of the project proposal can be found [here](#).

Committee on Food Security High Level Panel of Experts report on livestock

Due to time constraints and the overlap with the MEP mission to Uganda, it was very difficult to develop a separate CELEP reaction to the report (<http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/news-archive/detail/en/c/335100/>). However, it would be interesting to find out what reactions were submitted by CELEP members and partners. Therefore, partners and members are kindly requested to share this input with the Focal Point. This report and the CFS meeting next year will be discussed during the annual meeting.

3. Planned activities

CELEP Annual Meeting

The agenda and the list of participants can be downloaded [here](#).

The CELEP Annual Meeting will be held on 25–27 November at the Headquarters of Cordaid in The Hague, The Netherlands. The meeting is hosted by AgriProfocus (www.agriprofocus.com), which is in charge of logistical details and facilitation of the meeting. The meeting will be opened with a session on pastoralism in the presence of Dutch decision-makers in order to raise awareness on pastoralism in Dutch development policy discussions. The session will be hosted by Camilla Toulmin, former director of IIED, one of the CELEP partners. The programme of the second and the third day can be accessed through the link. After the annual meeting, partners and members that are not able to participate will be asked to also engage in the workplan for 2016 which will be the result of the annual meeting.

Activities related to the Annual Meeting

- On 28/11 in the evening, a public event is organised in Ghent, Belgium, to raise awareness on pastoralism in relation to climate change. This is not an advocacy event as such but presents an opportunity to raise the issue of pastoralism in Belgium for a broader audience. The Eastern African partners attending the annual meeting in The Hague are invited to take part in this event.
- On 29/11, a massive climate march is planned in Paris related to the COP21. Buses are leaving from Belgium to Paris and the Eastern African partners attending the annual meeting are invited to participate in the march. VSF-Belgium staff will accompany them. Due to the recent terrorist attacks in Paris, however, the entire climate march might be annulled.
- On 1/12, a hearing will be organised in the European Parliament on the “New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition” (<https://new-alliance.org/>). This can become a specific entry point for CELEP advocacy activities and therefore represents a clear opportunity for engagement on pastoralism in East Africa. The Eastern African partners participating in the Annual Meeting will be invited to take part in this hearing.
- On 1/12 as well, there will be a short debriefing with MEP Maria Heubuch to follow-up on the MEP mission. Another meeting will also be organised with MEP Norbert Neuser; this is however yet to be confirmed.