

CELEP update

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Reporting on past and ongoing activities

Meeting in Tanzania to set up the Eastern and Southern African Pastoralists Network (ESAPN)

CELEP is a policy lobbying and advocacy network for pastoralists and their organisations and networks, largely focused on Eastern Africa. The lobbying and advocacy work looks at existing policies, programmes and processes and those that are expected and planned by the European Union (EU) and United Nations (UN) agencies. Collaborating with consolidated voices on the ground amongst pastoralists and their institutions helps realise the aims of CELEP as a network.

There is a growing interest in setting up more networks in Eastern and other parts of Africa to increase the number of active players, especially at this critical time when pastoralists' challenges are growing by the day because others are increasingly interested in using the natural resources, including rangeland, that have traditionally been used by pastoralists. Ken Otieno (RECONCILE, Kenya), the regional CELEP Focal Point, represented the network in a meeting in Arusha, Tanzania, convened to set up **the Eastern and Southern Africa Pastoralists Network (ESAPN)**. This meeting was organised by Benjamin Mutambukah (COPACSO, Uganda), who was also appointed as Focal Point of ESAPN (congratulations, Ben!).

The overall objective of this regional meeting was to establish ESAPN as a way of forging a coordinated regional approach that will engage with governments and with regional, continental and global bodies and networks to champion the voices of pastoralists in a changing social, political, and environmental conditions. The representation of CELEP in the workshop was important for two main reasons among others: to understand the roadmap of the ESAPN network opportunities and to identify areas of complementarity between CELEP and ESAPN.



When preparing for participation in the workshop, CELEP had envisaged making a presentation on the global evolution of pastoralist advocacy and overall functioning of CELEP. By participating in this workshop, CELEP as a European network focused on a specific region in Africa sought to help the nascent ESAPN learn and gain some insights from its' perspectives on regional and global dynamics.

The achievement of this mission was partly realised, although the presentation of CELEP's history and functioning could not be made in the plenary for sharing and feedback. However, the opportunity was not entirely missed, as four founding members of the new network are also members of CELEP.

CELEP is a coalition of European members and Eastern African partners. ESAPN's members are Eastern and Southern African pastoralist and supporting organisations. **That makes it different from CELEP.** It was agreed by the CELEP core-group that the ESAPN will be included in the CELEP website as a partner. The Eastern African Focal Point for CELEP will remain RECONCILE, in charge of gathering the information in Eastern Africa and linking up with the European Focal Point at Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgique (VSFB).

LANDac conference

To this conference on Land Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development held on 29–30 June in Utrecht, Netherlands, CELEP submitted two abstracts, one by Edward Loure and one by Ken Otieno. Both were accepted. For financial reasons, CELEP could not fund the participation of either of the speakers. However, the abstract made by Ken was presented by René-Claude Niyonkuru, former Africa coordinator for the International Land Coalition (ILC). The presentation can be found [here](#).

The Ogiek people ruling

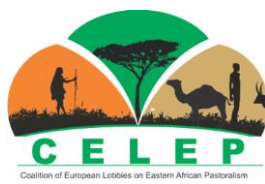
Information on this was shared in the Google Group, also here: <http://minorityrights.org/2017/05/22/african-court-deliver-landmark-judgment-ogiek-community-land-rights-case-kenyan-government/>. One of our members, Minority Rights Group (MRG), has been particularly active on this specific point. This is an interesting case and MRG should be asked for more information and to find out whether and how they might like CELEP to follow up on it. The Ogiek are primarily hunter-gatherers but many of them are also pastoralists.

The coregroup agreed to contact the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and MRG to ask for information as well as the Ogiek Peoples' Development Program (OPDP), which is active within ILC. When the CELEP policy brief on land is updated, the Ogiek case will be included.

For Your Action: if you would like to contribute to updating CELEP policy brief on land, please get in touch with the CELEP Focal Point.

Lobbying European Commission and European Parliament – European Development Days (EDDs)

Koen (VSFB/CELEP Focal Point) attended the EDDs and met the new head of Unit C1 of DEVCO, Leonard Mizzi. A follow-up meeting was organised and interesting options to collaborate more closely with the European Commission are being explored. One of them will be to follow up on the technical note on pastoralism, which CELEP has been advocating for since a long time. This will become more specific in



the months to come and CELEP is pushing for a working session with DG DEVCO at the next CELEP Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Brussels in November 2018.

Regarding the European Parliament, an election observation mission of the EU will be sent to Kenya. The Head of Mission will be Marietje Schaake, a Dutch Member of the European Parliament. CELEP is currently exploring options to be involved in the programme of this mission.

Membership ILC and UNCCD through VSFB

Previously, it was decided to discuss potential membership of CELEP at the AGM in November. However, membership application for ILC closes mid-August. The coregroup therefore agreed that **VSFB will apply for ILC membership representing CELEP**. In November at the AGM, the members will present this decision by the coregroup for full adoption; in the meantime, VSFB – if successful with the membership application – will also represent CELEP in ILC. The coregroup gave the go-ahead **for VSFB to seek accreditation with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on behalf of CELEP** through a similar process.

Note: The COP13 related to the UNCCD in September 2017 in Ordos, China, is different from the COP23 related to the UNFCCC (Framework Convention on Climate Change) in November 2017 in Bonn, where we are trying to get a slot with IWGIA.

International Year on Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) – an update

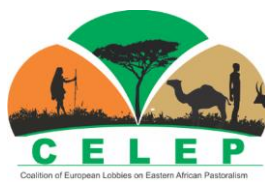
Since last year, several organisations are working together to gain support that an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) be designated by the UN. The mailing list for this initiative now includes hundreds of people. The Steering Committee (SC) to promote the IYRP has 16 members and is chaired by Jim O'Rourke and Maryam Niamir.

Gaining support for IYRP

The group in Kenya involved in preparing for the International Rangeland Congress and International Grassland Congress (IRC/IGC) in 2020 have succeeded in arranging that the Kenyan Government send a draft proposal for an IYRP to the UN for possible adoption at its 73rd Session of the General Assembly after the summer. The Kenyan Resolution to the FAO calling for an IYRP in 2020 will also be presented by the Kenyan Embassy in New York City to the UN for the General Assembly in September. Groups in other countries are asked to support the Kenyan resolution rather than formulating their own one. Amendments to the Kenyan resolution can be made through the normal negotiation channels at the UN. Informal negotiations/advocacy will take place in July and August. Support has reportedly already been gained from UNCCD.

The resolution was based on a draft text prepared by the SC, **which still aims for 2020**, even though it is uncertain whether this will be possible. The SC continues to push for 2020, as this is the year of the joint IGC/IRC, the end of the UNCCD decade and the end of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi targets. The SC recommends that countries express their support for the IYRP via their Foreign Affairs people to the UN General Assembly so as to get the 2020 slot. Going through the FAO process would mean having to wait until 2026. There may be competition from other International Years, if the UN indeed decides to limit to one theme every second year. Last December, the UN Council endorsed draft conference resolutions that 2020 be declared the International Year of Plant Health and 2022 the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture. It has been proposed that 2024 be the International Year of Camelids; the UN is expected to endorse this before the summer break.

Groups in several countries (Argentina, Australia, Ethiopia, Iran, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Norway, Peru, Spain and Tanzania) are working on similar resolutions or getting their Ministries of



Agriculture/Livestock and/or Foreign Affairs to send letters to their UN delegation in New York to endorse the Kenya resolution. The SC encourages people in more countries to contact their Ministries of Agriculture/Livestock and/or Foreign Affairs to send similar letters of endorsement.

The SC is trying to organise side events, booths, presentations, announcements etc at various international meetings in order to promote the IYRP. Attention will be drawn to the IYRP at:

- 52nd Annual Congress of Grassland Society of South Africa (GSSA), 23–28 July 2017: Tony Palmer will publicise IYRP, also via a poster.
- UNCCD COP13, Ordos, China, 4–15 Sept 2017: Types of action may include a Ministerial breakfast (possibly 12 Sept); a side event organised by UN Environment but requested by Kenya on rangelands, pastoralists and biodiversity; a decision text possibly submitted by Kenya or China with the message that “IYRP will help achieve land degradation neutrality”; a press release; and informal chats with country delegations. The SC’s main contact in China is the Inner Mongolia University, through which China’s support for the IYRP will be sought.
- 44th Meeting of Committee on World Food Security (CFS), Rome, Oct 2017: Gregorio, Pastoralist Knowledge Hub (PKH), is working on a side-event proposal focusing on women pastoralists.
- 6th World Reindeer Herders Congress, Sweden, 16–20 Aug 2017: Maryam will try to get a call for IYRP included in the conference declaration.
- FAO animal health meeting, Bangkok, January 2018: Gregorio (PKH) is preparing a side-event proposal.
- The SC was also informed that CELEP and IWGIA are proposing a side event on pastoralism at the UNFCCC (Framework Convention on Climate Change) COP23 in November 2017 in Bonn.

A collection of IYRP background and advocacy documents can be found under <https://globalrangelands.org/international-year-rangelands-and-pastoralists-initiative> and soon these documents will also include a generic PowerPoint for presenting information about the IYRP.

The SC would like to be informed of any activity that people are undertaking at national or international level that would be useful for promoting the IYRP.

Gap analysis

At the UN Environment Assembly conference held in Nairobi in May 2016, a resolution was passed on “Combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands”, calling for increased global awareness about sustainable pastoralism and rangelands. It also called for a global “gap analysis” on issues around pastoralism and rangelands. Abdelkader Bensada from UN Environment is coordinating a Working Group (WG) to identify gaps in information on rangelands and pastoralism. Ann (for CELEP) was invited to join a small group to provide advice on planning and implementing the gap analysis, to link with networks related to pastoralism and to be a sounding board for discussion. The WG has prepared a concept note and is drawing up a list of all databases of information on rangelands and pastoralism, plus details of how to access these databases, including the names of focal points operating them. Ann will send out an email asking CELEP members for relevant information.

The WG plans to hold a **stakeholder workshop**, maybe in late October, to present the findings of a pilot analysis of data gaps and accessibility, to find ways to improve the sampling methods and data sources, and to finalise the questionnaires for collecting additional information from stakeholders. They would like to invite pastoralists, scientists, civil society and government officials from all continents but have limited funding.

Rangelands & pastoralism terminology

Some years ago, the Society for Range Management (SRM), IGC and IRC brought out an “International terminology on grazing lands and grazing animals” and set up a web-based glossary (<https://globalrangelands.org/glossary/P?term=>). The terminology is fairly technical and Western-oriented. For students and practitioners working in range management and pastoralist development, some social scientists in the IYRP SC thought that more “people” terms, i.e. about social, economic, institutional and policy aspects, should be included. While one subgroup is revising the existing Global Rangelands (technical) glossary, another “social” subgroup coordinated by Dana Kelly (University of Queensland, Australia, and Chair of the IRC Continuing Committee) is building up a glossary of “people” terms. A core team (including Ann) and an advisory group is being set up to make this glossary, which will hopefully be ready in time for the IYRP.

Preparing for the IYRP

The SC is currently discussing a proposal for structuring the IYRP, with different themes for each of the 12 months of the year. The listing of 12 monthly themes during the IYRP (diversity, making rangelands secure, services & resources, climate change, conservation & tourism, use of soil & water, sustainable production & consumption, wildlife, indigenous knowledge & culture, women, youth, sustainable technologies) is meant as a starting point for countries to customise. Communication experts (e.g. from ILRI) will help with more “media-savvy” wording to address policymakers and the general public, as the current list is more like scientists talking to scientists. Key messages will be formulated for each month. Then the IYRP flyer will be revised to incorporate the themes. Once the SC has agreed on the document with 12 monthly themes, it will be shared with the larger network and especially the views of pastoralists/ranchers will be sought.

It was also suggested to use the year (and the many themes, conferences etc. in it) to develop a “manifesto”/plan-of-action statement as an outcome. Drafting this statement may be started at the IGC/IRC 2020 in Nairobi. Also the results and recommendations of the UNEP gap analysis on pastoralism could be included.

For Your Action: if you organise an activity that can be an occasion to promote the IYRP, please get in touch with Ann Waters-Bayer – waters-bayer@web.be

Note on the New Alliance

Terra Nuova is still working on this issue, using the data on the New Alliance/SAGCOT issues from Thembi’s and Ebe’s analysis (journalists who did research on this topic on behalf of CELEP). The output will be a sort of brief/case study updating about what is happening on the ground, with a human rights (particularly pastoralist-focus) approach. Deadline is the end of July. **There will also be a CELEP publication on this.**

Future activities

Planning meeting Participatory Range Management (PRM)

A meeting will be organised for ILC and RECONCILE to define how CELEP can be involved in managing the pilot project on PRM in Tanzania and Kenya for which CELEP lobbied the EU. As CELEP will handle the lobbying/advocacy work, its involvement will be quite extensive and a budget is included for these activities. The meeting will allow ILC and RECONCILE to finetune activities and prepare for discussing them at the CELEP AGM in November.

CELEP AM + related activities on 7–10 November in Brussels

- Draft agenda

7 November: European Parliament (EP)	AM	free
	PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing in the EP on dairy development in pastoralist production systems in Africa • Visit to the EP and Parliamentarium (Museum of the EP) for all the participants
8 November: CELEP AGM (Funkey Hotel)	AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundtable discussion with members and partners on ongoing activities • Reporting on past activities
	PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical discussions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The pilot project on Participatory Rangeland Management ○ The EU technical note on pastoralism (tbc) + presentation/discussion at the Infopoint of the European Commission on pastoralism and conflict
9 November: CELEP AGM (Funkey Hotel)	AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining future lobbying activities
	PM	
10 November: optional workshop on how to obtain EU funding (Funkey Hotel)	AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall setup of the EU funding for development cooperation
	PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on a specific case – Concept Note for the EU

- A more detailed agenda will be shared early October.
- As shared before, CELEP is working closely with IWGIA to propose a side event at the UNFCCC COP23 in Bonn at the pavilion of indigenous peoples. The exact date will be defined at a later stage but it will be after the AGM.

For Your Action:

- If you would like to join the annual meeting, please [register here](#). We are looking forward to seeing you there.
- If you would like to propose agenda topics for the annual meeting, please get in touch with Koen: k.vantroos@vsf-belgium.org

Possible new members and partners

ACORD, Assistants Mission for Africa (AMA - <https://www.cordaid.org/en/partners/assistance-mission-for-africa-ama/>) and Kaalmo Relief and Development (KRD) Somalia are interested in joining CELEP. The Focal Point will follow up on this. A membership form will also be designed to facilitate membership applications.