



Contents

Review of CELEP action plan	1
(EU) Lobbying	1
COVID-19 response	1
EU-Africa strategy	2
Pastoralism and conflict	2
International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists (IYRP)	3
Breakfast meeting on pastoralism for the German Parliament on 30 September	4
Update on CELEP's involvement in Participatory Rangelands Management (PRM) project	4
CELEP events	5
Pastoralist film festival and Pastoralist Days in East Africa	5
Webinars	5
CELEP organisational development	5
CELEP activity report 2019	5
New partner: Center for Research and Development in Drylands, Kenya	5
CELEP evaluation ongoing	5

Review of CELEP action plan

During a CELEP core-group meeting in April, it was decided to review the action plan in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions related to (international) travelling. The reviewed action plan was discussed and approved by the CELEP core-group and can be found [online](#). Some activities were postponed to next year while, for others, possibilities were developed to do them online.

(EU) Lobbying

COVID-19 response

In May 2020, CELEP published a [statement](#) about the EU response to the COVID-19 crisis in pastoralist areas, drawing specific attention to the situation of pastoralists in Eastern Africa in terms of coping with the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequences of the measures that are/were taken to deal with it. This statement was shared with lobbying targets and CELEP members and partners. The European Parliament – CELEP's main lobbying target – has not positioned itself yet on this document and [no rapporteur has been appointed so far](#). However, to follow up on this, CELEP posed a written question to the Parliament in July, linking the COVID-19 situation to the locust crisis. The answers that CELEP received from the Commission include that the Commission “*earmarked EUR 51 million (EUR 41 million*



from humanitarian funds and EUR 10 million from development funds) to address the locust scourge and its negative impact on food security in the Great Horn of Africa through mitigation measures, food aid and livelihood support". The Commission stated further that it will undertake actions that take into account the constraints linked to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact on food security and nutrition, and it will address movement restrictions that may disrupt supply chains. The Commission works with the African Union in the framework of the [AU-FAO Task Force on the impact of COVID-19](#) on food security and nutrition in Africa to develop actions to address the current crisis. In addition, the Commission answered that it is developing "funding measures to ensure their livelihoods, such as providing cash; subsidised fodder and supplementary feed in areas where desert locusts have had a large-scale impact on grassland; and quality raw materials that can help farmers optimise harvests. Examples are the livestock recovery packages in Somalia or the agricultural resumption packages in Ethiopia". CELEP will continue following this up with the Parliament. In addition to the lobbying work on COVID, there is a post on the CELEP website that includes all recent publications and references about COVID-19 and pastoralism in Eastern Africa. See <http://www.celep.info/repercussions-of-covid-19-for-pastoralists-in-eastern-africa/>.

EU-Africa strategy

In April, CELEP published a statement on the proposed EU-Africa strategy, which will define the strategy taken by the EU regarding Africa for the years to come. See the statement [here](#). The aim of the statement was to highlight some issues that were not or were insufficiently taken into account in the joint position of the Commission and the EU Council. In doing so, CELEP wishes to influence the positioning of the EU Parliament, which is drafting a report on this. Issues highlighted by CELEP included omission to take hunger, food security and nutrition into account; a very restrictive definition of sustainability; and lack of references to pastoralism and rangelands. Prior to publication of the Parliament's positioning, CELEP took action and informed the Parliament, which included some of the references in its [draft report on the EU-Africa strategy](#). In addition, CELEP managed to influence some of the opinions that were published by the different parliamentary committees including [the AGRI Committee](#), which explicitly copied one of the suggested amendments made by CELEP: "(..)Regrets the lack of recognition of the strategic importance of rangelands, which cover about 43% of the African land surface and are therefore important carbon sinks; calls on the Commission to develop, together with local communities and local stakeholders, a strategy to optimise this potential through sustainable grazing management such as by pastoralists(...). The final report will be discussed in plenary on 23 November. The final strategy will be presented at an Africa-EU summit next year, which was supposed to take place this year but was postponed because of COVID.

Pastoralism and conflict

So far, CELEP has been targeting pastoralism in EU policies from a food security and agriculture perspective. This is the primary way that the EU considers pastoralism. However, pastoralism also becomes increasingly relevant within an EU focus on conflict and, more specifically, regarding the nexus (relation) between development/humanitarian interventions and security. Within that perspective, [a report](#) was drawn up recently in the European Parliament, focusing specifically on security in the Horn and in the Sahel. For CELEP, this was a good occasion to connect with some Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and to draw attention to the need to honour the value and importance of pastoralism in holistic approaches to security in the Sahel and in the Horn. CELEP members have capacity and experience on this particular issue, including [a recent publication by IIED on "Farmer-herder conflict"](#) by Saverio Krätli and Camilla Toulmin. That is why CELEP decided to inform several



members of the European Parliament on the importance and value of pastoralism prior to their vote on the report. Camilla Toulmin joined this briefing and presented the paper developed by IIED, Delina Goxho – independent security analyst for the Open Society Foundation – joined to give more background to what the EU is doing in the Sahel in terms of military interventions, whilst Gilles Vias – regional director for VSF-Belgium – gave more information on what a pastoralist approach towards security could/should entail, relating the whole issue to the recent coup in Mali. Several MEPs and assistants joined the call, which provided new opportunities for CELEP lobbying. These included Maria Arena (BE, Socialist group), Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana (GE, Greens) and Alviina Alametsa (FL, Greens). You can find a report of the briefing [here](#).

International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)

CELEP has been very much involved in the campaign to have an IYRP declared by the United Nations (UN), as proposed by the Government of Mongolia. CELEP's involvement in the IYRP International Support Group (ISG) has been coordinated by Ann Waters-Bayer, who represents Agrecol in the CELEP core group. A major step forward in the lobbying effort was taken during the online meeting of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at the end of September 2020. During this meeting, in which CELEP took part as observer, the Mongolian Government presented its proposal to declare 2026 as a year to promote rangelands and pastoralists through awareness-raising and other activities. The COAG endorsed the Mongolian proposal with no objections. It will now go on to the FAO Council meeting in December 2020 and the FAO Conference in July 2021, to be recommended for official designation of an IYRP by the UN General Assembly, expected in September/October 2021.

In a united global effort, numerous national governments, research and teaching institutes, and – above all – civil society organisations, including associations of pastoralists, sent support letters and logos for the “online booth” set up especially for the virtual COAG meeting (www.iyrp.info), with a great deal of input from CELEP (particularly VSF and Agrecol). By the time the Mongolian proposal was discussed in the meeting, more than 150 organisations from all continents had expressed support. The Yolda Initiative, a Turkish NGO, organised a massive social-media campaign aimed at the COAG delegates. CELEP took part in this campaign, specifically addressing EU representatives. This led the German ambassador at FAO – representing the EU Council, as Germany has the EU presidency until the end of this year – to explicitly support the proposal for an IYRP. His tweet was as follows: *“As EU and member states we acknowledge that rangelands and pastoralism have a great potential to contribute to SDG 1, 2 and 15. We therefore agree to the submission of the related draft resolution to the FAO Council, requesting the consideration of declaring 2026 as IYRP”*.

CELEP will follow up on these various entry points to reinforce its lobbying in favour of pastoralism in Eastern Africa.

Reporting on the COAG

On 1 October 2020, H.E. Jambaldorj Tserendorj, the Mongolian Ambassador to the FAO, spoke to the COAG. He presented pastoralism as a source of livelihood for millions of people and as one of the most sustainable food production systems on the planet, which safeguards ecosystems and biodiversity. He called for the COAG to endorse an IYRP so as to increase global awareness of the importance of the



rangelands and pastoralists for global food security and ecosystem services. He thanked pastoralist organisations worldwide for their support for this proposal. During the COAG, numerous speakers from other countries underlined the importance of the Mongolian initiative to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contribute to the current UN Decade of Family Farming (2019–28) and the upcoming UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–30).

The COAG acknowledged the important role of rangelands and pastoralists in contributing to national economies and supporting livelihoods and food security for millions of people, as well as providing ecosystem services, particularly in dryland and mountainous areas. It further acknowledged the potential of rangelands and pastoralism to contribute significantly to the SDGs. It recognised the numerous challenges faced by pastoralists and rangelands, such as the impact of climate change. It requested FAO to mainstream its work on rangeland and pastoralism to ensure these are considered systematically in its technical and policy programmes. The COAG also acknowledged the broad support of Member Countries; international, national and local civil society organisations; United Nations organisations; and international institutions to the Mongolian Government's proposal for an IYRP.

Breakfast meeting on pastoralism for the German Parliament on 30 September

As part of CELEP's efforts to lobby the EU and its member states in favour of pastoralism in Eastern Africa, MISEREOR – which has given extensive support to CELEP over many years and developed a pastoral development orientation framework for Ethiopia last year – held a breakfast meeting on pastoralism with Members of the German Parliament (MPs). The meeting was organised by MISEREOR's representative in Berlin, and CELEP members in Germany helped to prepare it. It was held on 30 September with the parliamentarian group that focuses on Eastern Africa. Four German MPs joined: Anita Schäfer (Christian Democrats) as head of the parliamentarian group, Gabi Weber (Social Democrats), Anne-Marie Schreiber (Left party) and Kordula Schulz-Asche (Greens). Abdulkadir Noor from Partnership for Pastoralist Development Association (PAPDA), Ethiopia, was the keynote speaker. See his presentation [here](#). Saverio Krätli, author of the above-mentioned framework, helped to prepare and also joined the meeting. Sabine Dorlöchter-Sulser from MISEREOR introduced Abdulkadir and facilitated the discussion.

Update on CELEP's involvement in Participatory Rangelands Management (PRM) project

As reported previously, CELEP is involved in a project that focuses on PRM in Kenya and Tanzania with RECONCILE as CELEP regional focal point, Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and VSF representing CELEP as EU focal point. CELEP is responsible for the advocacy component of the project. Its main task in this regard is to develop a film that captures what PRM is, how it works, how it is implemented in Kenya and Tanzania, and how it adds to overall tenure security for pastoralists and improved rangeland management. This process is ongoing and has been delayed a bit. However, a first output was completed recently: a short film explaining the PRM approach; see the film [here](#). Information on the PRM project and approach can be found on [the RECONCILE website](#) and on the [website of the International Land Coalition's Rangelands Initiative](#).



CELEP events

Pastoralist film festival and Pastoralist Days in East Africa

Because of the current COVID situation, events are suspended. Events were planned in particular with respect to the pastoralist film festival and the Pastoralist Days in East Africa. Several screenings of the film festival planned in 2020 have been postponed to 2021. The film festival website is still active www.pastoralistfilmfestival.com Some of the films from this site, as well as video clips made during CELEP's Annual General Meeting in 2019 have been posted on the IYRP online booth (www.iyrp.info).

Webinars

Together with the review of the action plan after the outbreak of the pandemic, the CELEP core group decided to reorient some of its planned activities and offer a series of webinars on topics relevant for the members and partners. The webinars kicked off with a session on "Understanding pastoralism – framing the argument for advocacy", which was hosted by MISEREOR. A report on this webinar will be published on the CELEP website soon. The next webinars are announced on the CELEP website <http://www.celep.info/webinars/>. Some of the webinars are combined with lobbying efforts and will be combined also with publications. Registration can be done online either for the entire series of webinars or for particular webinars.

CELEP organisational development

CELEP activity report 2019

The CELEP report on activities of the Coalition in the year 2019 was published in April and is structured according to the action plan that was drawn up by the European member organisations and Eastern African partner organisations in the Annual General Meeting in 2018. It covers activities related to communication (CELEP website, film festival website and Google group), knowledge management (publications, training in advocacy, workshop on research in pastoral systems) and lobbying and advocacy (interaction with the European Parliament and Commission, participation in numerous conferences and meetings in Europe and Africa, lobbying for an IYRP). The 17-page report can be found [here](#).

New partner: Center for Research and Development in Drylands, Kenya

In April, a new partner joined CELEP: the Center for Research and Development in Drylands (CRDD) based in Marsabit in northern Kenya. CRDD (<https://crdd-kenya.org/>) works with a pool of professionals from the region to develop and implement research and development that contribute to sustainable livelihoods for communities living in the drylands. CRDD promotes evidence-based approaches to address the complex situations in dryland development, with emphasis on integration of knowledge from academic and local communities to co-develop and implement innovations with close community and stakeholder involvement. Current areas of geographical focus of CRDD are Marsabit and Isiolo Counties. More information can be found in the Eastern African partners section on the CELEP website (<http://www.celep.info/eastern-african-partners/>).



CELEP evaluation ongoing

CELEP recruited a consultant to conduct an external evaluation of CELEP to evaluate according to classic evaluation criteria including what impact CELEP has had in terms of advocacy and lobbying, evaluating also CELEP's communication tools and the CELEP operational model. The conclusions of this evaluation will be presented at the CELEP Annual General Meeting scheduled for November 2020, and follow-up actions will be identified to make sure that CELEP is as efficient as it can be with the available resources.