

**REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SECURING AGRO-PASTORAL LAND TENURE AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION IN CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA**

N'Djamena - 25 November 2021

N'DJAMENA DECLARATION

Referring to the recommendations of the Ndjama Declaration of May 2013, which highlighted the willingness of governments to act to adapt the management of agro-pastoral land to major factors of change. Two recommendations are fully in line with the current reflection:

1. "Give livestock farming its rightful place in territorial planning and in economic and financial development plans; implement legislation recognising the specificities of access to and shared management of pastoral resources";
2. "Secure mobility and pastoral land tenure and improve access to water, through the negotiation of legalised social agreements allowing pastoralists to adapt to climate".

Thus, in view of these challenges, at the initiative of the Ministry in charge of Livestock with the support of Chad's sectoral ministries, experts from the areas covered by ECCAS, ECOWAS and CILSS, socio-professional agricultural and livestock organizations, civil society and development partners met in N'Djamena from November 23 to 25, 2021 to reflect on policies for securing agro-pastoral land tenure in West and Central Africa.

At the end of the symposium, the participants adopted the following Declaration:

CONSIDERING THAT:

- pastoral crises with their forms of violence in the region are rooted in the competitive and conflictual management of agropastoral resources in the region, amplified by strong demographic and livestock growth and the effects of climate change;
- the decay of social links between communities, the growing phenomenon of internally and inter-country displaced persons, the loss of influence and roles of traditional chieftaincies as well as the reconversion and creation of new vocations (agropastoralists);
- the significant increase in the loss of human life and economic losses due to the conflictual management of agro-pastoral areas is a serious threat to the search for social cohesion, stability and peace as well as to development efforts in general;
- the exclusion of pastoralists and agropastoralists from the conventional social systems (education, health, various investments in structured livestock development), the low participation in consultation forums, as well as the lack of appropriation and understanding of regulations and laws;
- the environmental dimension and, more broadly, the sustainability dimension (SDG) are taken into account in all investments in livestock and other sectors, as well as in the effective protection of protected areas and spaces;

- the mechanisms for anticipating, mitigating, and adapting to climate change provide a solid argument in favour of this type of livestock farming with a low environmental footprint; an argument that must nevertheless be specified in terms of good environmental practices (land use planning, pastoral load, limiting bush fires, etc.).

RECOGNISING THAT:

- agricultural and pastoral activities are by nature complementary, and that this complementarity should be particularly strengthened today in view of the challenges of agro-ecology, adaptation to climate change, food security and territorial security;
- complementarities between rural communities engaged in agricultural and pastoral activities require a shared use of land and the different production systems must have regulated access to natural resources;
- individual and collective use rights and locally negotiated social agreements are a way forward to ensure shared use, respect for the law and representation of actors at different levels, regarding the sustainable use of land and natural resources;
- securing land for agro-pastoral activities requires multi-stakeholder and multi-level governance;
- the land issue is at the heart of the challenges and issues of access to the right to food and therefore requires the development of coordinated land policies and regulations that include the securing of agro-pastoral land, which must be a priority for States;
- regulated herd mobility, whatever its extent, remains a necessity and a viable alternative for the optimal management of Sahelian and West and Central African agro-pastoral areas in the face of growing pressure on agricultural land and protected areas and the exacerbation of climatic uncertainties;
- this mobility must be organised and negotiated between all users of the space and natural resources of the territories;
- cohabitation and mutual tolerance between herders and farmers, and between the latter and other users of natural resources, is now an imperative in view of demographic, settlement and urbanisation trends, and more broadly of the social, economic and environmental trends;
- the political will and commitment of the High Authorities of the two sub-regions to provide strong and appropriate responses to the current situation marked by a deterioration of the social network is increasingly evident and pressing;
- corruption and abuse of authority hamper the efforts of governments and other actors in the area of good governance, and remain real challenges that put a strain on social peace in rural areas;
- the increased involvement of traditional authorities and responsible and legitimate territorial actors is an asset in participatory spatial planning and in preventing land grabbing.

INVITE

on these bases, the States of the two sub-regions and their partners, professional organizations, intergovernmental organisations and technical and financial partners, to define and implement voluntarist and coherent agro-pastoral land management policies essential to equitable and sustainable economic development, socio-ecological viability and peace.

The lines of action for the different stakeholders should be as follows:

To the States:

- develop and/or revise their land policy by developing approaches that combine legality and legitimacy, giving priority to negotiated law and strengthening responsible governance;
- define innovative and effective legal arrangements for future interventions on national and/or external budgets, based on the lessons learned from previous experiences, and more particularly ensure the integration of the various thematic codes within a rural code able to take into account the complexity of spatial interactions from the territorial level upwards, and temporal interactions;
- guarantee a broad, inclusive and informed participation of users in the elaboration of these policies through the organisation of bottom-up multi-stakeholder consultations (from local to national) with the assurance of respecting international agreements such as the SDGs and the agreements on climate change);
- guarantee the involvement of pastoralists in the management of protected areas and their peripheries, within the framework of participatory documents and bodies for territorial development and planning. Only a participatory approach to the management of protected areas that integrates pastoralism in terms of zoning and practices can reconcile development and biodiversity conservation;
- review and adapt the status of common lands (grazing areas, herd resting places, transhumance routes, watering places, saline lands) for a better respect of the right of access to common resources, and revive the rules of grazing through negotiation and agreements between farmers and herders;
- grant a substantial budget to the various departments involved in pastoral development (livestock, land use planning, agriculture, environment, hydraulics) to ensure equitable and sustainable territorial viability through the implementation of land security guidelines;
- promote cross-border coherence of regulations and administrative tools to regulate and facilitate the movement of livestock and livestock products in order to promote regional trade in local surpluses and their export to world markets;
- develop a sustainable funding mechanism for local and cross-border bodies of responsible governance to ensure their full autonomy and functionality;
- ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the implementation of the renewed texts.

To the Decentralized territorial authorities, municipalities and regions:

- elaborate and implement a land development strategy for their territory in connection with what is being done in neighbouring communities and at the regional level, preserving common resource areas and the concerted management of agro-pastoral land around co-developed territory projects;
- apply at their level the framework regulations on land and resources it supports and the modes of governance of agro-pastoral land developed at regional and national level;
- recognize mobile livestock as an effective form of adapted production in their economic development plan;
- develop in a participatory way the pastoral areas of their territory within the framework of territory projects co-developed between all the actors, deciding in a concerted way on the implementation of pastoral infrastructures with a responsible management;
- encourage the establishment of decentralised local mechanisms and institutions as close as possible to the users, and trained and equipped local managers to ensure local monitoring of the proper application of the texts and to promote mediation between users;
- invest in training and tools for these responsible governance bodies so that they are able to fulfil their missions as soon as they are established;
- establish inclusive local bodies for consultation, mediation and conflict management involving civil, religious and traditional authorities and all the actors concerned;
- promote cross-border exchanges between the governance bodies of the neighbouring communities concerned by the management of transhumance.

To the Agro-pastoral and civil society organizations:

- build strong coalitions (at all levels: local, regional, national) with other actors (parliamentarians, associations of local elected officials, etc.) and/or strengthen existing coalitions, in order to influence national policies on securing agro-pastoral land, crop-livestock integration, and agroecology;
- encourage the establishment of functional accountability mechanisms for agropastoral land tenure;
- inform farmers and livestock breeders and ensure their effective representation in decentralised management and local mediation bodies;
- set up information and advocacy mechanisms for farmers and herders to reinforce the proper application of the land tenure regulations that have been put in place;
- innovate in information mechanisms for users and local governance actors based on an understanding of the practice of rural and agro-pastoral law applied to local contexts;
- strengthen inter-community ties through improved legal practice and fair arbitration of disputes based on negotiation between the parties;
- strengthen the paralegal profession in this sense, as well as the acquisition of lawyers who can provide recourse to professional organisations and train magistrates in agro-pastoral, land, and environmental issues.

To the Intergovernmental organizations, in particular ECCAS, ECOWAS, UEMOA, and CILSS:

- support States in their initiatives to evaluate and develop innovative land and rural policies, and to ensure the coherence of sectoral policies;
- promote and support the formulation and implementation of cross-border cooperation projects and programmes on agropastoral land governance;
- support the efforts of the States and IGOs concerned in implementing pilot operations in the field of responsible local governance (territorial development plans; communal-local development plans; territorial pacts, charters, local conventions);
- support the States and IGOs concerned in the scaling up of good practices of participatory, inclusive, and sustainable governance of agro-pastoral land.
- encourage and support States in the establishment of efficient accountability mechanisms for the governance of agropastoral land;
- establish operational mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the application by States of community rules on the governance of shared natural resources and pastoralism, as well as for capitalising and sharing good practices (platforms, observatories of agropastoral land policies).

To the Technical and financial partners:

- support States in their initiatives to evaluate and develop innovative land and rural policies, and to ensure the coherence of sectoral policies;
- support the efforts of concerned States and IGOs in implementing pilot projects in the field of responsible local governance (territorial development plans; communal-local development plans; territorial pacts, charters, local conventions);
- accompany the concerned States and IGOs in the scaling up of good practices of participatory, inclusive, and sustainable governance of agro-pastoral land.

Lastly, the participants stressed the need to continue the reflection on the equitable and sustainable securing of agro-pastoral land in order to achieve effective public policies. To this end, they asked the IGOs (ECOWAS, ECCAS, and CILSS) to continue leading this dialogue with the support of the stakeholders of this regional symposium, including the technical and financial partners.

The participants of the symposium

National and sub-regional ministerial public institutions

1. The Minister of Livestock and Animal Production of Chad
2. The Minister in charge of Livestock of Niger
3. H.E. The Executive Secretary of CILSS, represented by Mrs Edwige Yaro Botoni, Burkina Faso
4. ECOWAS DARD, Mr Alain Sy Traoré, Nigeria
5. Mr Haroun Moussa, Secretary General of the Ministry of Livestock and Animal Production, (MEPA), Chad
6. Ministry of Livestock and Production, Dr Mbaindingatoloum Molélé Fidèle, Chad
7. ECCAS, Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security - Focal point on "Pastoralism and Transborder Transhumance" in Central Africa, transhumance focal point, Mr Tordeg Medard Oyal, Gabon
8. ECOWAS, Assistant to the Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources of the ECOWAS Commission, Mr Pierre Kamano, Nigeria
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14. Interim National Coordinator PRAPS-BF, Mr Rimouaogodo Hamado Ouefdraogo, Burkina Faso
15. Ministry of Land Management, Housing Development and Urbanism, Mr Mbaïnarem Kouladjé, Chad
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23. Ministry of Livestock and Animal Health, Dr Etienne Abdallah Nguertoum, CAR
24. Dr Marie Noëlle Mbaïkoa, CAR
25. Ministry of Urbanism, Land Reform, Town and Habitat, Mr Max Yakara, CAR
26. Mr Ruffin Mewan, RCA
27. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Francophonie and Central Africans Abroad, Mr Nodjitoloum Bruno, CAR

28. Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fisheries, Mr Nestor Waliwa, CAR
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34. ACDA, Mr Achille Bakamba, CAR
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40. Honorable, National Assembly CAR, Mr Yandocka Ephrem Dominique, Central African Republic
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186. INADES, Mr Ivère Togueyam, Chad
187. Inter-réseaux Développement, Mrs Marie Hur, Burkina Faso
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