

DECLARATION DE N'DJAMENA



ÉLEVAGE PASTORAL

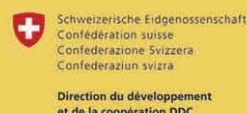
Une contribution durable
au **développement** et à la **sécurité**
des espaces **saharo-sahéliens**

Colloque régional
Conférence Ministérielle

27 - 29 mai 2013



SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA **Club** DU SAHEL ET DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST



Direction du développement
et de la coopération DDC

Plateforme Pastorale Tchadienne

**N'DJAMENA DECLARATION
ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF PASTORAL LIVESTOCK
TO THE SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT
OF THE SAHARO-SAHELIAN AREAS**

N'Djamena – 29 May 2013

Original version: French

Expanding from Mauritania to Somalia, in the vast Saharo-Sahelian region and in parts of North Africa, the only activity that can overcome the harsh conditions is transhumant livestock herding. The herders' capacity to adapt to their surroundings has always been a precious asset, allowing them to support their families and supply meat to their own country as well as to southern and northern neighbouring countries.

Livestock herders are a source of great wealth to the countries they live in, making significant contributions to GDP, fiscal resources and exports. Pastoralist-herders have developed a lifestyle and specific skills that enable them to adapt to the Saharo-Sahelian environment and to keep this area alive. The Saharo-Sahelian countries draw huge benefits from the livestock sector, which acts as a powerful lever for regional economic integration by means of generating and flourishing trade.

However, the pastoral communities' capacities for resilience are put to the test by recurrent climatic shocks and the subsequent environmental, economic, social and political consequences. Furthermore, a new threat began to plague these communities in the past decade. The areas in which they live and earn their livelihoods are affected by chronic and fast-shifting, cross-border insecurity. Illicit trafficking is feeding and being fed by many mafia-like and terrorist groups, destabilising the entire region, causing concern in the wider world and threatening to transform the Sahel and the Sahara into a vast no-go area.

And yet, pastoralism remains a powerful tool of occupying and reviving these territories. Indeed, pastoralists' mobility ensures a regular presence in unpopulated areas and serves to limit the growth of an uncontrolled "No Man's Land".

To address this threat, the President of the Republic of Chad, His Excellency Idriss Déby Itno, decided to bring together representatives from a number of African countries, including the Ministers responsible for livestock and security, representatives from socio-professional and intergovernmental organisations, sectoral experts and development partners in N'Djamena on 27 to 29 May 2013, to consider how pastoral livestock could contribute to the development and security of the Saharo-Sahelian areas. The following declaration was adopted by the Ministers' at the end of the symposium:

- CONSIDERING that the future of the Saharo-Sahelian areas is inconceivable without pastoral livestock herding and the irreplaceable role it plays in economic and social development, as well as environmental and land management.
- CONSIDERING that this livelihood relies on the mobility of herds and families and their access to water and vast pastures at yearly varying locations, dependent on seasonal climatic variations.
- CONSIDERING that mobility must be negotiated with other groups, particularly the people in the southern zones where herds find resources in the dry season.
- CONSIDERING that cohabitation, cultural exchange and mutual tolerance among the herders themselves and between the herders and other social groups, are crucial values for the future.

- CONSIDERING the political determination of the region's Highest Authorities to find the most appropriate solutions for sustainable development and the eradication of insecurity in the Saharo-Sahelian areas.

THE PARTICIPANTS AFFIRM THE FOLLOWING CONVICTIONS:

- Livestock activity goes hand in hand with security. States and pastoralists must work together. In the Saharo-Sahelian areas where security is greatly endangered, the relationship between herd mobility and security works both ways. As pastoral livestock and trade constitute one of the main legal and peaceful activities in the areas concerned, they form a crucial line of defence against insecurity across the region.
- The response to growing demand for animal products requires both the promotion of transhumant livestock pastoralism and the search for effective interaction with the various forms of sedentary livestock farming, developing in agricultural areas and around towns.
- Mobility requires unhindered free movement of herds and animal products across national borders.
- The know-how of pastoral communities must be sustained while adopting technical developments in livestock management (e.g. animal feed and health) and in other fields (e.g. transport, telephony, finance). Information and training are therefore essential for pastoralists.
- The men and women who work in the transhumant livestock sector must be given equal access to basic services (e.g. education, health, water, nutrition), to justice and to representation at each level of government and administration.

On this basis, the N'Djamena regional symposium invites states in the region and development partners to:

- Put the pastoral livestock sector at the heart of stabilisation and development strategies for the Saharo-Sahelian areas in the short-, medium- and long-term.
- Establish and implement proactive and coherent policies to improve governance, strengthen resilience and enhance the economic and social viability of activity systems in the Saharo-Sahelian areas.

Consequently, the symposium puts forward the following recommendations:

IMPROVING GOVERNANCE

Public policies will be made more effective by involving pastoral communities more closely in the mechanisms of local, national and international governance, based on the principle of subsidiarity. The following lines of action should be adopted:

- Strengthening inclusive decentralisation policies which fully involve nomadic and sedentary communities in the governance of land and public life;
- Give livestock the place it deserves in spatial planning and regional development;
- Establish and implement concerted and transparent taxation mechanisms for livestock marketing sectors (fair taxation and government budget reinvestment equal to the challenges posed);
- Develop the professional, social and societal activities specific to young people and women pastoralists in the Saharo-Sahelian areas by creating socially and economically acceptable jobs while facilitating access to education and healthcare services;
- Foster the creation and development of legitimate pastoral organisations which can participate in good governance and in the defence of pastoralists' rights and interests (men and women), in better dissemination and enforcement of legislation on the sustainable management of resources and pastoral land as well as the recognition of their specific nature;
- Reinforce interstate co-operation with a view to facilitating cross-border movements and regional trade;
- Encourage the development of an international partnership by setting up a multi-institutional and multi-actor platform for the monitoring of and advocacy for pastoralism;
- Draw from the lessons learned in project design and management in order to create more effective project arrangements, better adapted to the pastoral context.

STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF PASTORAL COMMUNITIES

Policies will invest in the prevention of climatic, political, economic and social risks, and in the protection of pastoral mobility, while also:

- Securing mobility and pastoral areas and improving access to natural resources (water, pastures). This can be done by means of negotiating legally binding social agreements, which help pastoralists adapt to climate change and foster biodiversity conservation;
- Developing structural support measures to promote resilience and help rebuild the pastoral economy by means of targeted emergency support, the structural production of cattle feed, protecting the gene pool of local breeds, post-crisis restocking of herds and strengthening essential animal health services;

- Conducting high-level discussions among public authorities, development partners and users on the financing and maintenance of pastoral water infrastructure, in order to sustain existing resources;
- Securing cross-border trade, abolishing illegal levies and reducing the risks of theft and predatory practices at border crossings;
- Testing social and livestock insurance systems while integrating livestock risks into the Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM);
- Intensifying dialogue between applied research and pastoral organisations with a view to improving knowledge of the dynamics, productivity and profitability of pastoral livestock systems;
- Enhancing the exchange of knowledge and maintaining policy coherence between the countries of the Saharan, Sahelian and Sudanian areas.

ENHANCING THE ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PASTORAL LIVESTOCK SECTOR

Policies will be aimed at:

- Encouraging the promotion of animal products to help create jobs for young people, women pastoralists and local communities;
- Better co-ordinating, planning and securing of transhumance routes and cattle trading routes, particularly by improving market infrastructure;
- Encouraging private investment in producing and distributing cattle feed, processing animal products (particularly dairy products) and supplying zotechnical and veterinary inputs;
- Strengthening the skills of professional livestock bodies in the management of cattle markets (trading, protecting rights, monitoring market management and local taxation);
- Adopting and applying external trade measures, including common external tariffs, fostering the development of regional sectors to compete against imports from the world market;
- Facilitating the use of modern communication technology (transport, telephony, Internet) and access to banking services; exploring the options to achieve full network coverage of the national territories;
- Implementing permanent technical-economic monitoring measures for the main types of livestock, involving research bodies and universities, with a view to strengthening scientific knowledge of pastoral stockbreeding.

ENHANCING THE SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMUNITIES IN THE SAHARO-SAHELIAN AREAS

Policies will aim to:

- Improve pastoralists' access to human and animal public health services by promoting innovations integrating these two services;
- Intensify the research for innovations in public policies for basic education and vocational training for young people in the Saharo-Sahelian areas;
- Strengthen inter-community links through policies for governance, culture and the management of shared resources;
- Reinforce the capacities of civil society to participate in drafting, implementing and monitoring public policies.

The participants underlined the need to continue reflection and dialogue on the future of the Saharo-Sahelian areas, whose stability and development largely dictate the future of West, Central, East and North Africa. They stressed that the sustainable development of pastoral areas and the resilience of pastoralists in dealing with chronic food insecurity must be at the heart of long-term strategies addressing the issues at stake. They must be supported by more integrated public policies, co-ordinated at the regional level, in order to be more attuned to transnational realities and, consequently, to be more effective.

THE N'DJAMENA REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM calls upon the Sahelian, West African, Central African, North African and international communities to unite in a spirit of peace, tolerance and sharing, in order to promote peace and sustainable development for the Saharo-Sahelian areas. Only by supporting pastoralism, can regional stability be maintained.

More specifically, they invite:

- The host country of the symposium, the Republic of Chad, through its Highest Authorities – in particular the President of the Republic, Head of State, His Excellency Idriss Déby Itno – to convey this message to the appropriate bodies, regional institutions, partner countries and forthcoming international conferences, particularly the conference on security in the Sahel to be held in Paris in December 2013;
- Pastoralists' organisations and associations to pursue and strengthen their structuring at the national, sub-regional and regional levels with a view to improving the design, implementation and monitoring of public policies. They are also invited to reinforce the quality of services they provide for their members and, as a result, build a stronger local base;
- Regional organisations to formulate a long-term regional stability and development strategy for the Saharo-Sahelian areas based on an in-depth

dialogue with all stakeholders, including all actors with an interest in pastoralism;

- The ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS member states to engage in the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR) – Sahel and West and Central Africa, to conduct inclusive national discussions on resilience and the benefits pastoralism can bring for peace and security. On these grounds, they are invited to adopt national “resilience” priorities in line with country strategies and policies and government budgetary commitments for investment in resilience;
- The technical and financial partners of AGIR to offer harmonised and aligned support for the implementation of national “resilience” priorities, as a complement to state budgets;
- The ECCAS, CEMAC and the AMU member states to take part in the formulation of similar resilience initiatives. The international community is invited to support them in this process;
- The African Union (AU) member states to commit to implementation of the NEPAD Rural Futures Programme;
- The Sahel and West Africa Club to continue to lead discussions on the future of the Saharo-Sahelian areas and to foster dialogue among West, Central and North Africa.

THE REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Déclaration de N'Djamena
Adoptée le 29 mai 2013 à N'Djamena



SAHEL AND
WEST AFRICA



DU SAHEL ET DE
L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST



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Direction du développement
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