



Photo 1. The PFE delegates with Raika pastoralist (Idea), Karamojoan pastoralist (Ugada), and Peru indigenous peoples' representatives in front of FAO's Conference

PASTORALIST FORUM ETHIOPIA (PFE)

Report on trip made to Switzerland-Interlaken, 1-7 Sep. 07,
and Spain-Segovia 8-15 Sep.07



Photo 2. Spanish shepherds (a migrating herd) as it crosses the city of Madrid on the royal shepherd road, 16th September 2007.

Introduction

A team of three pastoral delegates led by the Director of PFE, Ato Tezera Getahun, participated in two international conferences in Europe- Interlaken, Switzerland, from 1-7 sep., 07; and in Segovia, Spain, from 8-15 Sep.07. The purposes of the trips were to attend the FAO International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources as well as a pre-Conference, and to attend the WORLD GATHERING OF TRASHUMANT AND NOMADIC PEOPLES, respectively. The main objectives of the team members' trips were to voice plight of the pastoralists to the international community, especially to advocate for the new camel epidemic killing many camels in the pastoral areas; to link up/establish networking and partnership with the world indigenous peoples coming together from across the globe; and to strengthen our solidarity with livestock keepers, learn more about common concerns (the genetic erosion and common property rights) and voice. The international organizations based in Europe, LIFE NETWORK, LEAGUE FOR PASTORAL PEOPLES (LPP), ENDOGENOUS LIVESTOCK DEVELOPEMNT (ELD), and Segovia (Spain) event organizing Committee covered the costs of the PFE delegates.

The Setting

PFE has since the last two years established good relationship with LPP¹ and ELD as part of its interest to link up to the international pastoralist and indigenous peoples' movement. The Forum co-organized with LPP, ELD, ESAP and IBD a workshop on *Managing Animal Genetic Resources in Africa: Strategies, priorities, livestock keepers' rights, and the way forward* that was held in Addis Ababa, 24–25 May 2007. The outcomes of the workshop were used as input to the Interlaken (Swiss) Conference on Animal Genetic Resources.

Although the ELD and LPP have invited PFE (Tezera) to participate in the conference as a continuation of the Addis conference, I preferred to strengthen our voice in the conference by having additional participants from PFE's strategic partners. I consulted three representatives from selected partners if they could participate in the conference(s) and they agreed with me if there was fund to cover their costs.

Basically, the advocacy works PFE include building the capacity of the local and strategic partners though exposing them to the international experiences, and strengthening partnership through identification of areas of collaboration. Following painstaking fundraisingactivities by the organizers, Ato Nura Dida, President Oromia Pastoral Council (OPC), Ato Mohammedsurur Abdella, Coordinator, Afar Pastoralist Development Forum (APDF), and Ato Hirsi Abdulkadir, Board Chairman of Somali Pastoral Development Forum (SPDF) have traveled with me to participate in the conference. Luckily enough, PFE with the support of the organizers of the conferences won fund for the team to participate in the World Gathering on Transhumant and Nomadic Peoples held in Segovia, Spain.



Photo 3. Ato Tezera presenting at ELD's side event in Interlaken

¹ League For Pastoral Peoples is an international NGO based in Germany that provides technical support, advisory services and advocacy for pastoral societies and other small-scale livestock keepers to help them pursue their own vision of development and to stand their ground in the face of unfavorable policy and marketing environments and alienation of their grazing grounds.

Purposes and Summary of Accomplishments

1. Defending Food Sovereignty and Livestock Keepers' Rights

Social Movements /NGOs/CSOs Parallel Event to the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITC-AnGRFA), 1-7 Sep.07, Interlaken ,Switzerland:

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Government of Switzerland were inviting FAO member governments and observers to the Conference, which was similar to the Leipzig Conference on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture that was held in 1996. Formal outcomes of the conference would be the adoption by Government representatives of the first Report on the **State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources**, the adoption of a Global Plan of Action and of the Interlaken Declaration.

The **IPC** (as agreed by FAO) with the strong support of LIFE Network, LPP and SWISSAID that was established a Steering Committee for the Forum facilitated "**Livestock Diversity Forum²: Defending Food Sovereignty and Livestock Keepers' Rights**". The forum was took place in **parallel** with the First International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food And Agriculture organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Interlaken from 1-7 September.

Invited representatives of livestock keepers' communities, social movements and civil society organizations met in the parallel. Acknowledging the fact that it was impossible to maintain livestock genetic diversity without their active participation, the FAO Conference organizers had agreed to admit them to the FAO Conference as observers, and to include a bridging dialogue of two hours between our Forum and the Conference. Also, space was provided in the FAO Conference agenda for an opening statement by the Forum and the presentation of the Forum's final declaration.

In this conference, **representatives of 30 organizations of pastoralists, indigenous peoples, smallholder farmers and NGOs from 26 countries in both the North and the South** came together. The main activities were three: holding presentations, discussions, and debates on right for movement, rights for cultural and group identity, state of genetic resources, etc; preparing a Declaration to be presented in the FAO conference and disseminated to wider users; and organizing a dialogue to FAO representatives. The modality of discussion varied as the organizers have been holding sub-events at times.

The PFE delegates have performed the followings:

1. Participated in three consecutive days' discussions and debates of participants of the parallel event and shared ours while learning a lot from others
2. Presented the Status of Ethiopian Pastoralists and raised policy issues that the international community need to address. In addition, raised the issue of camel in which this important pastoral asset need special consideration
3. Showed posters: the posters depicting camel disease and the need to special attention for pastoralist share to livestock and livestock related sales. The Posters were also displayed in the FAO Conference Center to convey the key messages to the international community and participants from different background

² "Livestock Diversity Forum" is an autonomous and self-organized space which aims at debating Livestock Keepers' Rights and production models in the context of Food Sovereignty, as well as the role of national and international policies and FAO's engagement.

4. Took part in drafting the Interlaken Livestock Diversity Forum's Declaration, and disseminated to PFE member organizations and partners.

*".....We are committed to fighting for our lands, territories and grazing pastures, our migratory routes, including transboundary routes. We will build alliances with other social movements with similar aims and continue to build international solidarity. We will fight for the rights of livestock keepers which include the right to land, water, **veterinary and other services**, culture, education and training, access to local markets, access to information and decision making that are all essential for truly sustainable livestock production systems. We are committed to finding ways of sharing access to land and other resources with pastoralists, indigenous peoples, small farmers and other food producers according to equitable, but controlled, access...."*

".....States should recognize the customary laws, territories, traditions, customs and institutions of local communities and indigenous peoples, which constitute the recognition of the self-determination and autonomy of these peoples. Governments should accept and guarantee collective rights and community control over natural resources, including communal grazing lands and migration routes, water, and livestock breeds. Governments should engage in creating legally binding international instruments which would oblige States to guarantee the full respect of these rights....." (See full declaration attached)

5. Presented a paper on Camels in Ethiopia at a Glance: A brief presentation made in the side event organized by Endogenous Livestock Development under the theme Endogenous Livestock Development: Supporting poor livestock keepers (See attached)
6. Hold discussions with different groups coming to the conference: We learned more that the issues of pastoralists in Ethiopia is almost similar with others except those groups from Latin America and Europe, in which land issues are not serious problem.
7. Hold a discussion with FAO senior official on camel disease and he said FAO will follow the issue. He promised he would consult PFE on the issue.
8. Participated and contributed in the dialogue between the representatives of Livestock Diversity Forum and FAO delegates
9. Visited the Swiss transhumant livestock system that is practiced in the Swiss Alps (chain of steppe mountains as high as altitude of 4,500m). The transhumant system is Government highly subsidized business. The migration is vertical depending on the season (in winter the animals move to low altitude and confined in fence while return to high altitude during falls and summer).



Photo 4. FAO Conference. Interlaken

2. World Gathering on Transhumant and Nomadic Peoples, Segovia, Spain, 8th15th sep.07

The World Gathering of Nomadic and Transhumant Pastoralists will take place in La Granja, Segovia (Spain) from 8th to 15th September 2007. About 300 pastoral representatives and other actors from 40 different countries were gathering to exchange information and experiences and to debate different solutions to the problems faced by nomadic and transhumant herders around the world. The gathering was aimed also at contributing to the establishment of strong and representative organizations and networks that would be capable of raising the attention to issues relevant to pastoralists and defending their needs before politicians and international institutions, within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Segovia Gathering was planned to coincide with the traditional transhumance of Spanish shepherds passing through Madrid the 16th September 2007. The participants from all over the world had chance to accompany a migrating herd as it crosses the city of Madrid on the royal shepherd road. This event was followed by a Shepherds' Fest in la Casa del Campo, where there were exhibits of local livestock breeds and pastoral cultures from around the world.

In this gathering, the PFE delegates joined other ten Ethiopian delegates coming from Ethiopia to take part in the event. This gave the team to work together and deliberate the interest of the group they were representing-pastoralists, small farmers, and other indigenous groups.

The aims of the Gathering were in main:

- i. To provide the space for dialogue between pastoralists from around the world*
- ii. To foster dialogue between pastoralists and other actors and influence policies at the global, regional and national levels*
- iii. To interact with and learn from Spanish and European transhumance and extensive pastoral systems*

The PFE delegates have performed the followings:

1. Attended traditional transhumance of Spanish shepherds passing through Madrid and a Shepherds' Fest in la Casa del Campo, where there were exhibits of local livestock breeds and pastoral cultures from around the world.



Photo 5. Pastoral fist, they are proud of their identity and the Spain Government has recognized them

2. Participated and contributed in the five consecutive days discussions and debates



Photo 6. The Ethiopian Delegates at the gathering

3. Produce a vision, strategies and programs that might fit the interest of the Ethiopian groups



Photo 7. A representative of the Ethiopian group presenting our vision in 2025: To see pastoralists are informed and empowered to exercise their rights and dignity

4. The pastoralist plight presented in front on the Minister of Spain ministry of Agriculture



Photo 10: "Give attention to camel's disease", a message from a pastoralist to the Spain Officials

4. A PFE Delegate (Tezera) was elected to take part in drafting the Segovia Pastoral Declaration with representatives from Asia, America, Africa, and Europe, which is an important outcome of the Gathering

Provision #14 of the Declaration....*PROVIDE adequate and appropriate veterinary services, assuring that relevant animal diseases are promptly addressed for prophylaxis and treatment, as well as in action-research, including the current outbreak of the unknown camel disease in Eastern Africa— which threatens affecting other regions of the globe, and the spread of sleeping sickness due to the tsetse fly...*This part is specially pushed by PFE (See full Declaration annexed).



Photo 11. A team of 12 from the North and the South Synthesizing and drafting the Declaration based on subsequent discussion and debates held by the participants

Conclusions

- i. It was a successful team combination and the advocacy mission was accomplished as planned in which the interests of the Ethiopian pastoralist have been reflected and included in the international platforms
- ii. It was a good opportunity to learn about different pastoral groups' problems and success story. the fact that the Segovia gathering was to be held in Spain allowed the participants to observe the historical importance of various **Iberian pastoral cultures first-hand, as well as the legislation that protects the more than 400,000 hectares of Spanish shepherd roads/corridors with a total length of 125,000 kilometers since the 13th century**, guaranteeing the movements of mobile herds across the entire country since then.
- iii. Two important Declarations- WILDERSWIL DECLARATION ON LIVESTOCK DIVERSITY, Wilderswil, Switzerland, 6 September 2007; and Segovia Declaration of Nomadic and Transhumant Pastoralists, La Granja, Segovia, Spain, 14 September 2007, is millstone as far as the rights of the marginalized and disadvantaged group is concerned
- iv. PFE increased its image as well as the pastoralists and showed its capacity to advocate at the international level
- v. It was really a good opportunity to the PFE delegates to build their capacity through exposing themselves in the international platforms
- vi. In the future, PFE should be encourag more participation of strategic partners to participate in the international conferences

Annex 1. Tezera's presentation in Interlaken, Swiss, in ELD side event