What are the recent policy developments on pastoralism?

In Ethiopia, pastoralists are represented in the Federal Parliament and Regional Councils; power is being decentralized to Woreda to ensure democracy at grassroots level; there are different programs directed to develop the pastoralists; there is increasing interest from the government and non-state actors to work with pastoralists etc. The other encouraging steps taken by the government during the last few years include, establishments of Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) in the Federal Parliament, and the Ministerial Board, and Ministry of Federal Affairs at the federal level, and establishments of pastoral commissions and/or formulation of pastoral institutions at the regional levels. The Government has recognized and endorsed officially the EPD as a national day to be commemorated every year on Tir 17th (25th / 26th January).

What are the key pastoralists' resolutions on subsequent EPDs that need more attention?

- establishment of Pastoral Institution at the federal level in the capacity of either a Ministry or a Commission;
- develop and implement land use plan suitable to pastoralists;
- facilitate and support the establishment of Pastoral Councils;
- promote acceptance of livestock as a collateral for bank loan; and,
- special attention to enhance social services

The livestock resources are bases for pastoral economy and livelihood and have great potential for the national economy

10th Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD)
Tir 17, 2000 (26th Jan 2008)
Adama/Nazereth

Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia

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What is the Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD)?

The Ethiopian Pastoralists Day (EPD) is a multifaceted advocacy instrument and a common platform for the pastoralists and their partners to converge their collective voice to better heard, to enhance and build pastoral solidarity, and to share cumulated experiences, cultures, living customs and environment. EPD as a process has been celebrated since 1999.

What drives EPD?

EPD once started assuming that level of national importance will indeed continue for a long time to come as the final recognition of pastoralists and Pastoralism is attainable in the foreseeable future.

In 1996, Pastoralists Concern Association Ethiopia (PCAE), a local NGO, organized a conference on pastoral development in Ethiopia in Filtu town in Liben Zone, Somali Region. During that conference the Somali and the Borena elder pastoralists insisted in the establishment of a common forum for sharing their experiences, attitudes, views and voice out their plights and to be heard by decision-makers. It was then decided to celebrate a pastoralist day. This inspiration of the elders had been recognized and taken up by PCAE and few others. The EPD was marked January 25th. However, following to the recognition of the EPD as national day by the federal government in 2006 (8th EPD), it is marked 17th Tir (25th/26th Jan)

First initiators of EPD, Filtu area, Somali Region

How it is organized?

Since the first commemoration on 25th Jan 1999, EPD has been celebrated every year using different venues. PCAE had managed and supported overall activities of the first three celebrations. Since 2002, in order to take the EPD into new horizons and heights the pastoral communities, Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE), a local umbrella NGO, the Government, and House of Peoples' Representatives Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee have jointly organized and facilitated the event at different avenues. That is, the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, ,and 9th EPDs in the National Regional Sates of the Afar, the SNNP, the Oromia, in the Dire Dawa City Government, and Addis Ababa, respectively.

The strategic shift in institutional arrangement in organizing and facilitating the EPD has helped the social activists to flag the pastoral agenda up and influence decision-makers at various levels so as to take up the plight of the pastoralists as the national development agenda.

Who are the celebrants?

The principal celebrants of EPD are the pastoralists drawn from different corners of the country. Federal and regional government officials, CSOs/NGOs, donors, academia, researchers, traders, etc. Guest participants from neighboring countries and the North have been participating in EPD.

An elder Borana pastoralist speaking in the panel discussion exclusively organized for pastoralist drawn from different regions, 6th EPD, 24th Jan, 2004 , Yabello,

What messages have been issued during the last nine EPDs?

1. *Recognition of Pastoralism as a viable way of life and mode of production system.* **1st EPD, 1999, Filtu, Somali region.**
2. **Pastoralist oriented development interventions, 2nd EPD, 2000, Filtu, Somali region.**
3. *Food Security for Pastoralists.* **3rd EPD, 2001, Jijiga, Somali region.**
4. *Poverty reduction strategy and pastoral development.* **4th EPD, Dubti, 2002, Afar region.**
5. *Pastoralism and sustainable development.* **5th EPD, 2003, Turmi, SNNP region.**
6. *Land use rights for sustainable pastoral development.* **6th EPD, 2004, Yabello, Oromia region.**
7. *Good governance for Sustainable pastoral development.* **7th EPD, 2005, Dire Dawa.**
8. *Good Governance for Pastoral Development and Poverty Eradication.* **8th EPD, 2006, Addis Ababa.**
9. *More Commitment for Good Governance and Sustainable Pastoralist Development in the New Ethiopian Millennium.* **9th EPD, 2007, Addis Ababa.**

Government Official addressing the 9th EPD in the House of Peoples' Representatives Assembly Hall

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