

**COMUNIDADE DOS ESTADOS DA
AFRICA DO OESTE**

**ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
OF WEST AFRICAN STATES**



**COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE
DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE
DE L'OUEST**

ECW/AFC/XIX/--

Original: English

ECOWAS EXPERTS MEETING ON HERDERS-FARMERS CONFLICT

Abuja, 24th to 25th April, 2018

DRAFT REPORT

ECOWAS Commission
Abuja, April, 2018

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Regional Experts Meeting on Herders-Farmers Conflict was held in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria from 24th to 25th April, 2018.

2. The following Member States were represented:

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- Republic of Benin;
- Burkina Faso;
- Republic of Côte d'Ivoire;
- Republic of The Gambia;
- Republic of Ghana;
- Republic of Guinea;
- Republic of Liberia
- Republic of Mali;
- Republic of Niger;
- Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- Republic of Senegal;
- Republic of Sierra Leone;
- Togolese Republic.

3. The following neighbouring countries were also represented:

- Central African Republic;
- Republic of Chad;
- Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

4. The following organisations also participated:

- International Organisation on Migration (IOM);
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- GIZ;
- SWAC/OECD;
- CORET;
- ROPPA;
- RBM;
- World Bank;
- Sponge Analytics;
- Training Centres of Excellence;
- APESSA;
- CILLS;
- EU

- UNOWAS;
 - French Agency for Development;
 - AU-IBAR
 - JM Global Associates
5. ECOWAS Member States, Neighbouring Countries and Organisations absent;
- Cape Verde
 - Guinea Bissau
 - Cameroon
6. The list of participants is attached as an annex to this report.

II. OPENING SESSION

7. In his welcome address, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Nigeria, Dr. M. B. Umar on behalf of the Minister of Interior, General (Rtd) Abdulrahman Danbazu (Ph.D) stated that the sub-region has suffered a colossal loss as a result of the recent escalated clashes between these important sectors of the Sub-region's economy. He added that Nigeria in particular has a very bitter experience of this bad development hence; Nigeria is in the fore-front at finding a lasting solution to this issue of transhumance.

8. On behalf of the President of the ECOWAS Commission Mr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr. Sekou Sangare, expressed profound gratitude to the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to delegates of the meeting. He emphasized the need to work and invest more on the progressive structural transformation of livestock in the region, which today represents a sector generating jobs, income and is strongly involved in the growth of our economies.

9. The Chairman of the Experts meeting, Mr. Pato Pidemnewe, in his address expressed gratitude to the ECOWAS Commission and the Federal Republic of Nigeria for co-hosting the meeting. He informed delegates that the Meeting intends to address Herder-Farmers Conflicts as well as curb the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons at the highest level. He noted that ECOWAS comprises large and small countries of which the large countries have always drawn the small countries together to find solutions to the challenges affecting the sub-region. The Chairman charged participants to ensure that the meeting's expectations are met by proffering relevant strategies and

solutions in containing conflicts and curbing proliferation of Small Arms in the Sub-Region.

10. The full texts of the speeches are annexed to this report.

III. ELECTION OF BUREAU

11. The following Bureau was elected:

- Chair - Togolese Republic
- Rapporteurs - Republic of Benin
- Federal Republic of Nigeria

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAMME

12. The following agenda was adopted after amendments:

A. Opening Ceremony

- Welcome Address by the Representative of Nigeria;
- Statement by Chairperson (Togo);
- Opening Address by the President of the ECOWAS Commission;

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

B. Adoption of Agenda and Work Programme;

C. Election of Bureau;

D. Outcome of the Regional Field Research on the clashes between Herders and Farmers;

E. Status of Implementation of the Protocol on Transhumance;

F. Overview of the implementation of the Protocol of Free Movement of Persons;

G. Implementation of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms as a mitigating factor on the Herders and Farmers Conflict;

H. Presentation on Animal Identification and Management Solutions (AIMS) by Private Sector (Sponge Analytics);

I. Experience sharing from Member States and Actors on the Herders and Farmers Conflict;

- J. Efforts in tackling the Herders and Farmers Conflict in ECOWAS Member States (Mali and Nigeria) and experience sharing from non-ECOWAS Member States (Chad);
- K. Presentation on Herders and Farmers Conflicts by Regional Producers (CORET and ROPPA);
- L. Any Other Business;
- M. Adoption of Report;
- N. Vote of Thanks;
- O. Closing Session.

SESSION I: OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION ON THE CONFLICTS BETWEEN HERDERS AND FARMERS IN THE REGION

Item 1: Presentation on the Outcome of the Regional Field Research on the clashes between Herders and Farmers

13. In his presentation on the current situation on the conflicts between Herders and Farmers in the region, Prof Gani Joses Yoroms gave a summary of the report on the field research conducted by the three (3) ECOWAS Centers of Excellence on the herder-farmers conflict in West Africa and its implication on regional security.

14. The presentation noted that West Africa has been experiencing various forms of conflicts, such as civil war, separatist agitation, communal violence associated with ethno-religious competition, indigenous-settler dichotomy, political exclusion, electoral violence and most recently the herder-farmer conflict. The study identified challenges faced by both herders and Farmers, which includes ecological problems which has led to scarcity of land, land tenure system, weak government responses amongst others.

15. It is in view of the potential implications of this phenomenon to regional integration and security in West Africa, and the apparent gap in policy response at various national levels, that a field research was undertaken which covered the entire West African sub-region including its strategic neighbours such as Chad, Central African Republic and Republic of Cameroun.

16. The research which was classified into 3 clusters based on Trans-humans' movement of livestock, covered the western plank Mali and her neighbors, central plank Ghana and her neighbors and finally from the Eastern zone Nigeria and her neighbors

as well as other non ECOWAS member states such as Chad, Central African Republic and Cameroun.

17. The Study adopted both the qualitative and the quantitative research methodology and data were gathered from both Key Informant Interview and Focused Group Discussion from relevant stakeholders as well as desktop research.

18. Some of the recommendations in the study include:

- The urgent need to articulate a clear policy guideline on the development of modern ranches, including its full value chain in member states across the region;
- The urgent need to articulate and implement a public enlightenment, re-orientation and de-radicalization programs for affected communities and trauma victims as part of the post-conflict peace building;
- The inclusion of pastoral and agro-economic program in the curriculum of West Africa training institutions specializing in livestock production;
- The need for the ECOWAS member states to activate the use of transhumance certificate which is very critical for the peaceful co-existence in west Africa;
- ECOWAS member states should establish a National Transhumance Commission in their various countries which should collaborates with the stakeholders in demarcating and regulating the establishments of ranches and grazing reserves where applicable;
- The need for ECOWAS member states to intensify measures to combating desertification and strengthen green walls in order to reduce large-scale movement of pastoralist to areas of farming communities.

SESSION II: ECOWAS INSTRUMENTS RELATING TO THE CONFLICTS BETWEEN HERDERS AND FARMERS

Item 2: Presentation on the Status of Implementation of the Protocol on Transhumance

19. The ECOWAS Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development made a presentation on its mandate and gave an overview of the existing framework for the formulation and implementation of policies.

20. The presentation gave an overview of the ECOWAS livestock strategy comprised of four (4) components aimed at substantially reducing regional imports of animal products through the promotion of livestock systems and animal products value chain.

21. The presentation informed the meeting of pertinent text on transhumance adopted by Heads of State which provides for conditions for movement of animals, supervision of nomadic livestock, arrival of transhumance in the receiving country, as well as, relevant Council regulations which provides for the implementation of the decision.

22. Delegates were also informed that climate change effects, demographic growth and land pressure, security issues, demography, urbanization & demand for livestock products were key sectoral challenges.

23. The presentation made the following recommendations: develop Incentive measures to increase profitability of livestock products for agro-pastoralists and pastoralists; establish a driver for livestock transformation and intensification; strategic reflection on the opportunities and feasibility of the identification of regional livestock; establish funding mechanisms to support the enforcement of regional regulations.

Item 3: Presentation on the implementation of the Protocol of Free Movement of Persons.

24. The ECOWAS Directorate of Free Movement made a presentation on the 1979 flagship Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Goods, Services and Capital, anchored on three cardinal core elements; Right of Entry, Residence and Establishment.

25. The Presentation centered on how the benefits accruable from the texts are impeded by the non-implementation of the provisions of the text. Delegates were informed that over 80% of ECOWAS mobility are intra-regional and it is expedient to put in place adequate measures to mainstream the ECOWAS migration agenda centered on the need for Community Citizens to move and engage in developmental activities in the region.

26. Furthermore, Delegates were taken through a cursory tour on the ECOWAS Common Approach aimed at managing emerging issues namely for, free movement, irregular and regular migration, gender, refugees and asylum & climate change.

27. Finally the presentation informed on the challenges, solutions and progress made with the support of International Partners.

Item 4: Presentation on the Implementation of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms as a mitigating factor on the Herders and Farmers Conflict.

28. In its presentation, the ECOWAS Directorate of Peace-Keeping and Regional Security identified the Sources of Arms Proliferation in the region including imported arms, Local Artisanal Production, Licit and Illicit sources. It cited the consequences of arms proliferation including prevalence of armed conflicts as exemplified in the Mano River Union, Guinea Bissau and Mali to name but a few where guns and weapons circulate in the region. Other consequences identified include Armed rebellion exemplified in the Casamance region, North of Niger and Mali.

29. To address the issues of the effects of the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), the meeting was informed that ECOWAS formulated the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons to: Prevent and combat excessive accumulation of SALW in the region; Consolidate the gains of the Moratorium and its Code of Conduct; Promote trust between Member States through concerted and transparent action on control of SALW; Build institutional and operational mechanism of ECOWAS and the Member States; and Promote exchange of information and cooperation among Member States.

30. In respect to the institutional and operational mechanism put in place to implement the provisions of the Conventions, the establishment of the National Commissions on the Control of Small Arms and creation of the ECOWAS Small Arms Division amongst others. On the domestication and harmonization of regional and national legal framework, each Member State is to adopt legislative and other necessary measures to establish as criminal offence in the following case: any activity carried out in violation of the Convention and any activity in violation of an arms embargo amongst others.

31. The presentation made the following recommendations: ECOWAS Member States to revise and adopt appropriate regulatory framework; Operationalization of the National Commissions on Small Arms in ECOWAS Member States; Enhancement of Cross border patrols and cooperation between Member States and between ECOWAS and ECCAS.

OUTCOME OF DELIBERATIONS OF SESSIONS I & II

32. Following the various presentations made, delegates expressed their appreciation for the quality and content of information. The meeting urged all Member States to undertake all necessary measures to ensure that the Herder-Farmer Conflict menace is addressed. The following recommendations were therefore made:-

- The need to employ modern ICT tools (i.e ground radar technology, animal chips) to track movements of humans and animals in the sub-region. The meeting also noted the need to update extant protocols to take cognizance of modern ICT tools in combating present challenges.
- The need for member states to enforce the ECOWAS Transhumance protocols along the identified corridors and ECOWAS should monitor the implementation of the protocol.
- Member states should enforce the implementation of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons.
- The need to strengthen Cross Border Cooperations (CBC) within ECOWAS Member states and contiguous borders.
- Prioritize sustainable development and transformation of the livestock sector as well as capacity enhancement of relevant authorities to respond efficiently to conflicts.
- Develop a Communication Strategy that highlights good practices, encourages conflict prevention and deemphasizes stigmatization of particular sections of the population.
- The need to strengthen Local Government Governance and Traditional Institutions as first interface of citizens in the rural areas with the State.
- Develop shared Cross Border infrastructure such as water points, delivery of veterinary services, Transhumance observatory etc on the identified Transhumance corridors.
- Establish and strengthen local Conflict Prevention Mechanisms to address Herders-Farmer Disputes
- Invest in research and development of Initiatives related to the provision of water facilities along Transhumance Corridors.

SESSION III: PLENARY SESSIONS

The meeting broke out into two (2) working groups to discuss the following thematic areas and come up with concrete recommendations to address the Herders-Farmers Conflicts.

- Regulatory framework;
- Security and Local governance within the countries;
- Livestock transformation Actions.

After lengthy deliberations, the following recommendations were made:-

ON REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

1. Audit the non-implementation of the existing Regulatory frameworks relating to transhumance and the control of proliferation of small arms;
2. Review and update the existing regional regulatory frameworks relating to the transhumance and the international transhumance certificate taking into consideration the current realities;
3. Harmonize and implement national legislations in compliance with the community laws on transhumance and small arms control.
4. Review and development of the existing transhumance routes.

ON THE SECURITY & LOCAL GOVERNANCE

1. Encourage and strengthen local communities and bilateral dialogue mechanisms for a peaceful and secured trans-border transhumance including the establishment of bi-lateral agreements between member states on Transhumance;
2. Strengthen Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) within ECOWAS Member States Security Services and ECOWAS neighboring countries for intelligence sharing, collaboration, corporation and synergy;
3. Review and update of national legislations in line with the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, including the control of the local manufacture / fabrication (blacksmiths) and the civilian possession of arms;
4. Establish and strengthen the inter-state transhumance committees to better secure transhumance;
5. Promote community dialogue and strengthen traditional conflict prevention mechanisms to revolve herders-farmer's disputes;
6. Reinforce the Regional and National Early Warning and Response system and indicators on Transhumance;
7. Strengthen the role and participation of women and youth as peace builders for community development;
8. Strengthen the capacity of the justice systems to actively dispense justice in order to prevent self-protection with arms

ON THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR TRANSFORMATION

1. Strengthen and evaluate monitoring system of transhumance through establishment of a regional policy with the use of ICT surveillance for tracking, identification, movement's control cattle rustling prevention and diseases control of livestock's within member's states.
2. Identify, develop, formulate and implement invocative projects / programs policies, strategies addressing the current and future challenges in the livestock sector taking into account all aspects of livestock (pasture, water, feed, housing, sanitation, environment, youth employment, health facility, resting point and other

ancillary services). In that effect, mobilize the necessary funding to implement relevant regional projects such as PRIDEC, PEPISAO, PACBAO and PREDIP.

3. Identify and seek support of technical and financial partners to support member countries in the livestock sector.

ON SENSITIZATION / COMMUNICATION

1. Develop a Communication strategy that highlights good practices, encourages conflict prevention and deemphasizes stigmatization of particular sections of the population (Advocacy, Sensitization, Media engagement, etc.)
2. Sensitize the relevant stakeholders and disseminate the regulations and frameworks on transhumance.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item 5: Presentation on Animal Identification and Management Solutions (AIMS) by Private Sector (Sponge Analytics)

33. This presentation aimed at introducing to ECOWAS and other stakeholders a solution to the problem of transhumance that is based on the application of technology for animal identification and management.

34. The Animal Identification and Management solution is envisioned to support existing or prospective solutions related to the confinement or monitoring of movement of livestock and herders within spaces and periods. The solution could be used in the realization of other sub-national solutions like Cattle Colonies/Grazing Reserves/Ranching in Nigeria, the Senegal- Mauritania solution, the Sierra Leone Cattle Settlement model etc. The core benefits of the solutions are;

- Promotion and sustenance of regional peace, security, stability and development in West Africa through the Modernization of the ECOWAS Transhumance certificate;
- Creating synergy between markets in member states especially along the ECOWAS Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) Zones and the largest livestock market in sub Saharan Africa;
- Ability to verify and authenticate ownership of recovered animals in the event of rustling thereby resolving conflicts;
- Ability to rapidly trace-back in the event of a disease outbreak such as: early detection, quick response & surveillance.

Item 6: Presentation on Herders and Farmers Conflicts by Regional Producers (CORET and ROPPA).

35. CORET, APSS, ROPPA and RBM presented a common view on the issues related to transhumance and Herder-Farmer Conflict in the Sub-region. They identified the three false perceptions that raise tension and conflicts amongst Herders-Farmers namely:

- Any conflict that occurs in the rural area is between and Herders and Farmers.
- Possession of light arms in rural area is not restricted to only Herders
- Community conflicts are not only between Herders and Farmers but are also being fueled by other actors.

36. An analysis of Transhumance in the region was carried out and the came up with the following:

- Due to diminishing grazing lands and corridors to farming and other developments mobility has to be adopted;
- Climate change impact that lead to drought and poor crop harvest has forced herders to move.

Item 10: Adoption of Report

This report was adopted following amendments.

Item 11: Closing Session

The Chairperson of the meeting Mr. Pato Pidemnewe in his closing remarks, thanked delegates sincerely for their contributions and the Commission for their meticulous and concise presentation of the documents for deliberations. Thereafter he declared the Meeting of the Experts on Herders-Farmers Conflict closed, and wished all participants safe journey back to their respective destinations.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 25TH DAY OF APRIL, 2018

Dr. Pato Pidemnewe

FOR: THE MEETING

**COMUNIDADE DOS ES-
TADOS DA
AFRICA DO OESTE**

**ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
OF WEST AFRICAN
STATES**



**COMMUNAUTE
ECONOMIQUE DES
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VOTE OF THANKS

The ECOWAS Experts Meeting in Abuja from 24th – 25th April, 2018, express their profound gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and to the Government and people of Nigeria for the warm and brotherly welcome extended to them and for the excellent facilities placed at their disposal to ensure the successful conduct of their deliberations.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 25TH DAY OF APRIL, 2018

THE MEETING