



**ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO**

**HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATION ON THE OBSERVATORY OF
MOBILE LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS IN THE SAHEL AND
WEST AFRICA**

**Statement of Conclusions and
Recommendations**

2-4 September, 2021-ABUJA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On the joint initiative of ECOWAS and CILSS, which are implementing the Integrated and Secure Livestock and Pastoralism Project in West Africa (PEPISAO), and the African Union Border Programme supported by GIZ, a high-level meeting on the observatory of mobile livestock systems in West Africa and the Sahel was held in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria from 2 to 4 September 2021.
2. The aim of the meeting was to lay the foundations for an observatory of transhumance (infra and transboundary), in the form of an information system or an information platform on mobile livestock systems in West Africa and the Sahel.

Specifically, it is about:

- a. analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of regional pastoral information systems that produce data and information carried by technical institutions, NGOs and networks of PROs;
- b. defining the orientations to be given to the regional observatory of mobile livestock systems in West Africa and the Sahel;
- c. brainstorming on the potential data and information to be collected to launch a pilot phase of the observatory;
- d. defining precise and simple monitoring indicators to assess the situation of mobile livestock systems according to the data and potential information collected;
- e. defining a roadmap, indicating the actions to be carried out in the coming months and potential sources of funding.

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following organizations

The representatives of ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, Federal Ministry of Agriculture of Nigeria, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, National Boundary Commission of Nigeria, Ministries of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Animal Health and Husbandry of Kebbi State, Regional Animal Health Centre, Sahel and West Africa Club, RBM, APSS, ROPPA, CORET, Mi Yettii Alla, IOM, CARE, GIZ, AFD, FAO and resource persons.

II. OPENING CEREMONY

4. The official opening ceremony was chaired by the Director of Agriculture and Rural Development of ECOWAS, Mr. Alain SY TRAORE. It was marked by six (6) interventions: those of the Representative of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mr. Ibrahim U. Wali; the Deputy Executive Secretary of CILSS, Dr. Paul OUEDRAOGO; the Representative of GIZ, Mr. Bakary SANOU; the Representative of AFD, Mr. Evince YEGBEMEY; the Representative of UEMOA, Mr. Sidy NDIAYE.
5. The speakers welcomed the initiative to set up an observatory of mobile livestock systems in order to contribute to the implementation of the recommendations made by the regulation C/REG.3/01/03 which accompanies the implementation of the decision ADEC/05/10/98, on the one hand, and to improve the orientations and management of policies and strategies that address mobile livestock systems in West Africa and the Sahel. For the stakeholders, the observatory should be considered as a decision support tool to effectively regulate mobile livestock systems.
6. The speakers also noted and appreciated the diversity of national and regional initiatives carried out by technical cooperation institutions, NGOs, RFOs, projects/programmes

and States. However, they deplored the nature of the economic models on which almost all the initiatives are built, which do not guarantee either their scaling up or their sustainability. The initiatives are disappearing with the end of funding, which for the most part comes from projects and external partners. They urged the participants to capitalize on the existing mechanisms and to draw the best lessons to build a robust and sustainable observatory.

III- PROGRESS OF THE WORK

7. The work was carried out in plenary and group sessions and was marked by presentations followed by discussions, from which conclusions and recommendations were drawn.

3-1 Communication from non-state actors and IGOs A total of five (5) papers were presented:

8. The first presentation dealt with the overview of existing information systems on pastoralism in West Africa and the Sahel. It was presented by Mr. Moussa ASSOUMANE, PEPISAO Coordinator at the CILSS Executive Secretariat. The presentation highlighted about fifteen tools and mechanisms that have been developed over the last ten years. However, only about ten of them are currently working more or less well.
9. The second presentation by Mr. Ibrahim OUATTARA, Head of the Burkina Faso RBM Chapter, focused on the Billital Maroobé Network's information monitoring system. The system has several dimensions and relies on grassroots actors: informants and other sentinels. It handles data collected at the corridor level (Benin-Niger and Togo;

Niger and Nigeria), both on animal flows, conflicts, the COVID pandemic and their effects on pastoral populations. The

deployment of this system benefits from the financial and technical support of several partners including GIZ, IOM, ACF, IFAD, etc.

10. The third presentation focused on the status of implementation of the information platform on pastoral infrastructures. Presented by Mr. Salifou MAHAMADOU, Agropastoralist Expert of PREDIP, the information platform on infrastructures is being developed. It is a dynamic cartography representing the areas of intervention of projects and programmes and pastoral infrastructures. It will eventually provide a synoptic view of functional agropastoral infrastructures in the eight countries covered by PREDIP.
11. The fourth presentation dealt with the status of implementation of the Regional Pastoral Information System (SRIP). It was made by Mr. Boubacar BARRY, Expert in extension and information systems at CRA/CILSS. The Regional Pastoral Information Service, component 1 of the PREDIP, is being developed and will eventually become a federating tool for initiatives on natural resource management and a documentary collection on pastoralism in West Africa and the Sahel. It consists of a geoportal and a digital library.
12. The fifth and last presentation dealt with the grid of indicators and data likely to feed the observatory. Presented by the head of the CILSS Management Support and Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, Mr. Hamidou TIENDREBEOGO, the grid is organized around seven main areas: Economy, Social, Infrastructure, Animal flows, Natural resources, Animal health, and Politics, on the one hand, and on the other hand, in sub-areas that allow for the refinement of the scale and nature of the data to be mobilized in order to feed the potential products of the observatory.

13. In addition to the presentations, a panel was organized around the issue of the validity and architecture of the observatory. The panel was moderated by experts on pastoralism, namely Mr. Philippe ZOUNGRANA, Coordinator of the CILSS Regional Support

Programme for Natural Resource Management and Climate Change; Mr. Sidy NDIAYE, Head of the Animal Production Division at UEMOA; Dr. Ahmed UMAR AMBORSA, Director of Animal Production Services in Kebbi State (Nigeria); Dr. Maty BA DIAO, expert in food security, livestock and pastoralism. The panelists gave orientations on the architecture, notably the organizational and institutional form that the observatory should take, as well as on its mode of operation to ensure its sustainability.

14. These discussions and orientations were further developed during the group work on the organisational and institutional architecture of the observatory on the one hand, and the grid of indicators and data to be collected on the other.

IV- MAIN POINTS OF DISCUSSION

15. The main points of discussion were:
 - The sustainability of currently functioning information systems initiatives. Participants expressed concern about the sustainability of the instrument being considered for implementation
 - Insufficient data on a number of aspects that attract the attention of policy makers and analysts: conflicts and their resolution;
 - The poor consideration of farmers' needs in the initiatives under development, which clearly highlights the insufficient integration / consideration of land issues by the systems and mechanisms currently in operation.

- The incompleteness of existing systems both thematically and spatially. The systems, with the exception of some deployed by the CRA on natural resources, are very fragmented;
- The scale of the future observatory and the spatial and temporal resolution of the data

V- MAIN CONCLUSIONS

16. The main conclusions drawn from the three exchanges are as follows:

- All stakeholders and partners agree on the need to set up an observatory of mobile livestock systems to take into account the regional context and the evolution of national policies aimed at transforming pastoralism;
- The participants agreed to make the observatory of mobile livestock systems in West Africa and the Sahel a governance instrument and a decision-making tool;
- The setting up of the observatory does not call into question the existence of information tools and devices on pastoralism that are functional or in the process of being set up by projects, NGOs, RPOs, States;
- The observatory is designed as a framework for federating and enhancing all initiatives capable of providing data and information to improve the governance of mobile breeding systems;
- The political anchoring of the observatory will be under the supervision of ECOWAS and UEMOA and the technical coordination by CILSS in perfect harmony with the bearers of the initiatives (PROs, NGOs, technical partners, and States);
- The observatory of mobile livestock systems is envisaged as a mechanism for analysis and multi-stakeholder coordination of initiatives for the production of quality information to aid decision- making.

VI- RECOMMENDATIONS

17. The participants recommend that the establishment of this observatory be based on the following principles:

- The establishment of a viable economic model based on sovereign financing;

- The coherence of the various existing and operational tools and devices;
- Building alliances between technical and political institutions to promote sustainable schemes,
- Further reflection on the mechanisms for data collection and the indicators to be reported.

VII- ROADMAP

	Action to be taken	Manager	Institutions and partners to involve	Period/timeframe/du e date
1	Workshop Report	CILSS		15/09/21
2	Elaboration of the conceptual note for the operationalization of the observatory	ECOWAS	UEMOA/CILSS /GIZ	20/09/21
3	Validation of the concept note and the indicator grid	ECOWAS	UEMOA/CILSS /GIZ	15/10/21
4	Organisation of the first meeting of the observatory	ECOWAS	UEMOA/CILSS	February/March 2022
5	Finalization of the matrix of collection indicators Development of a data collection guide	CILSS	ECOWAS/UE MOA, RBM, APSS, CORET, MIYETTI ALLAH, ROPPA, NGOs, etc	20/11/21

Done in Abuja, this 4th day of September 2021

**Dr Sibiri
Jean
ZOUNDI**

The
President