

PASTORALIST FORUM ETHIOPA (PFE)

**General Activity and Finance Report
(September 2000 to April 2004)**

(General Assembly Meeting, 29 April 2004, Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa)

**April 2004
Addis Ababa**

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1. Introduction

Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE) is a membership local umbrella organization representing collective independent voices of pastoral Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), advocating on behalf of the Ethiopian pastoralists to be better heard by the decision-makers and the public so that concerns of the pastoralists to be addressed in policy processing environment, and culminate pastoral marginalization.

PFE was established in 1998 as a loose network for mere information exchange among pastoral NGOs working on pastoralism and pastoral development issues. The Forum has institutionally been developing after Panos Ethiopia has taken over the responsibility of hosting the Forum and coordinating its activities since 1999. Currently, PFE is in the process of strategizing its institutional independency and building its constituencies.

The goal of PFE is to contribute to the betterment of pastoral livelihoods through policy advocacy and lobby so as to the public policies, plans and development programs progressively reflect and meet the basic demands and concerns of the marginalized poor pastoralists. In this way, PFE believes to manifest: regular inputs into the policy process directly from the pastoralists and pastoral CSOs; narrows the prevailing knowledge gap in policy-makers and public regarding pastoralism and pastoral development; well-developed pastoral CSOs visibly engaged in process of policy-making at different levels; fine tuning its engagement in the country's pastoral development arena; and development of its own organizations and networking by offering a democratic forum for its members.

There was no permanent staff for the Forum until two full-time program officers were hired in September 2000. Since then the Forum has been expanding its deliberations in performing various activities. It is true that PFE is growing to new heights and horizons since recent time despite it is a nascent organization. As the Forum is in process of capacity building, institutional development and growth it took us some time to come up with regular reports and presented to the members since March 2002. However, information flow concerning the status of PFE has been maintained in informal/formal manners among members and partners, especially during various conferences and the pastoralist days.

This consolidated report briefly includes the general status of PFE and progress of activities as well as what have been achieved and challenges encountered during the periods of Sep. 2000 to April 2004. The Finance report is annexed.

2. Major Accomplishments

In this section, institutional building and governance situation of PFE; advocacy and lobby activities; networking and partnership, capacity building activities, and the Japan Social Development Fund/JSDF (World Bank project) will be briefly discussed.

2.1 Institutional building and governance

PFE has transformed through process from being loose network of like-minded pastoral NGOs working in pastoral areas for exchange of information to an Umbrella NGO having more roles and status than the previous one in degree of representing the marginalized pastoralists, and coordination and facilitation roles.

Staffing and office: PFE hired two full-time program officers in September 2000. The officers were hired based on the assumption that PFE need to engage further in process of Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) by developing A Chapter on Pastoralism through consultation of pastoral communities in representative areas. The Forum has still two staffs, but shares support staff from Panos. Two additional staffs will be recruited soon (a program officer and a general secretary) and more staffs are expected to join the Forum before the end of this year. We are in the process of getting a new office which is expected be effected before August 2004. The Forum owns only some furniture and equipment, but additional office materials will be purchased as we move to the new office.

Board of Directors: *Ad hoc* committee of five member organizations governed PFE until the present Board of Directors of seven members was elected by the General Assembly on May 17, 2002. In the election 14 member NGOs representatives were attended. The board has established a Secretariat and has assigned an Executive Director. The board has conducted 12 formal meetings to discuss on various issues. The core elements of the meetings were generating valuable policy direction for the Forum, organizing National Conferences and Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD), and decision-making on PFE registration issues, and so on.

Forum Registration: After several months painstaking struggle to obtain a legal status, the Forum was finally legally registered by Ministry of Justice as local Umbrella NGO (association of associations) with Certificate Number 1125 in August 2003. The Forum's Memorandum of Association reached the members. PFE has followed different strategies of lobby to enhance the registration process. Since the registration, PFE is becoming more visible and recognizable in pastoral advocacy endeavors. Although PFE is working as independent institution, the administration and finance systems fall under Panos system. PFE communicates with various organizations and individuals independently after it gets the legal status.

Bank account: Two bank accounts are opened in the Abyssinia Bank -a special account for the World Bank project (see section2.2.3) and another account for non-WB project.

Other Office and Finance documents: the Forum has got its own stamp and letter headed. Various finance documents such as vouchers are under printing.

Communication: the Forum got post box and waiting to get the Internet and telephone services.

2.2 Project activities, implementation and achievements

Since September 2000, the projects developed and implemented/being implemented by PFE can be categorized into four areas. PRSP related projects; consolidated pastoral advocacy program (pastoral advocacy for sustainable pastoral development in Ethiopia), strategic plan (capacity building), Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF)/World Bank project, and event-oriented activities. The event-oriented activities/project included roundtable on drought and famine in pastoral regions of Ethiopia, and pastoralism and Rio + 10 workshop. For the sake of this report and simplicity we preferred to present the project activities, implementation and achievements as below.

2.2.1 Advocacy and lobby

Some projects have been developed focusing on pastoral advocacy and lobby. PFE believes that the root causes of pastoral policy hurdle in the country is a function of the presence of all-rounded marginalization, and the prevailing knowledge gap regarding pastoralism and pastoral development, which in turn, governed mainly by existing age-old misconception and myths towards pastoralists and pastoralism. Since its establishment, PFE has advocated for better pastoral policy environment for the pastoralists through contributing to narrow the knowledge gap in pastoralism and pastoral development and culminating the effects of marginalization. The activities/projects are discussed briefly according to their chronological order of implementation. The activities described starting from point (v) below are incorporated in the three-years pastoral advocacy program.

i. Inclusion of a Pastoral Chapter into Ethiopia's PRSP

- Introduction

In the Autumn 2000, the Federal Government of Ethiopia issued its Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. Understandably, as consultation at the [I] PRSP phase was not mandatory, the [I] PRSP was not comprehensive enough to incorporate sectors crucial to questions of poverty and poverty reduction such as pastoral communities was not incorporated. Cognizant of this, the Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE) was prompted to start the process through which pastoralist voices be heard, as we believed firmly that a poverty reduction strategy document by definition needed to incorporate the voices of the poorest of the poor. The process that the PFE followed was organizing a two-days national conference on pastoral development that looked at poverty reduction strategy and pastoral development. The conference was organized in May 2001 in Addis Ababa attended by practically all the stakeholders in the PRSP process. The conference was the first of its kind on the PRSP in the country. At the conference, it was decided that the PFE takes the consultation process to pastoral communities and come up with a proposed chapter on pastoralism and PRSP. Therefore, the Forum developed a project on *Inclusion of a Pastoral Chapter into Ethiopia's PRSP*. The project is completed.

- Objective

- To launch three workshops in Awash, Awasa, and Gambella to promote participatory consultation by pastoral communities themselves on issues of poverty and poverty reduction strategy;
- To prepare a chapter on pastoralism for the full PRSP on the basis of the proceedings of the three workshops;
- To advocate and lobby for the inclusion of this chapter in the final PRSP; and,
- To identify and develop ways on how PFE will actively advance the concerns of pastoralists for the coming three years on poverty reduction issues.

- **Implementation and Achievements**

Three consultation workshops were undertaken. At the consultation workshops, representatives of pastoralist communities themselves defined what poverty meant to them and articulated their expectations from a national poverty alleviation process. The workshops were conducted in Gambella for the Nuer community; in Awassa for pastoral communities from Borena and Southern Ethiopia; and in Awash for Somali, Afar and Kereyu communities. In these consultations, regional governments and NGOs also took part. 65.7% (total participants 102) of the participants were representatives of pastoral communities while the rest were from regional governments and NGOs. Female participants accounted for 20% of the total. The pastoral issues in relation to PRSP and the overview of PRSP were consecutively reported in print media especially in Tomar Newspaper (Panos page).

- The ultimate objective of this particular project is fulfilled. The final PRSP document of the government released recently has incorporated a six-page chapter on pastoralism and pastoral poverty reduction strategy. In terms of strategy the government paper has by and large incorporated the essentials from the Pastoral Poverty Reduction Strategy Chapter that we proposed. Needless to say that the Interim PRSP produced by the government a year ago did not even have a chapter on pastoralism and it mentioned pastoralism in passing as a complex phenomenon difficult to understand
- Pastoral poverty was diagnosed, discussed, possible alleviation strategies were forwarded by the pastoralists themselves through the consultation workshops that we organized and the pastoralists were given chance to know about PRSP
- A Chapter on Pastoralism (a document on pastoral PRSP) was produced, discussed, finalized and submitted to the PRSP Secretariat at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development by PFE
- A proposal on pastoral development policy recommendations was produced and was submitted to the Ministry of Federal Affairs, Pastoralist Area Development Department
- Pastoral development is considered as a sector (for first time in the country's history) in the national document, i.e., PRSP (Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy Program/SDPRP)
- The understanding between the government and PFE to work together is improving. Forum members were invited to attend the Federal PRSP Consultation Conference and the Board chair of PFE was invited to chair the Plenary Session on Pastoralism and Environment.
- The relationship among the Forum members has been improved since there is more communication avenue to discuss on various issues of the Forum.
- PFE has developed a three years program on *pastoral advocacy* partly based on the findings of the consultation workshops

ii. *The Role of Media in Ethiopian PRSP*

- **Introduction**

The Federal Government of Ethiopia undertook consultations at three levels with the poor, at the Woreda level, at regional level and at the Federal level for preparation of the final PRSP. The NGOs gave more emphasis to the poor with which they work with. The new approach gave opportunity to the poor to tell their poverty and reducing strategies and the role of media in reflecting the process; all contribute highly to the outcome of the PRSP process. This project was designed to review the predisposition to the process, the process in terms of content and

method, and the media coverage when PRSP consultations took place in the country. The result obtained from Ethiopian part was reported to Panos London in order to be published with cases from other countries (Uganda and Lesotho). The result was published in to book under a title *Reducing Poverty: Is the World Bank's strategy working?*

- Objectives

The overall objective of this project was to prepare a report on the process of PRSP and the role of media in engaging the public in the PRSP in the country as a whole. Specific objectives were to:

- assess the knowledge and perception of GOs and NGOs officials in the PRSP
- assess the Journalist and editors knowledge and perception of PRSP
- identify the role of Journalists in engaging the public in the PRSP

- Implementation and Achievements

In this project the major activities were data collection on the PRSP process and report writing, and conducting a training workshop for media people. The information was collected based on the general guidelines sent from Panos-London. PFE staffs administered the interview and reviewing documents to gather the required data. The staffs quoted speeches and sayings of the poor to give an insight into the content of these consultations and as the same time interviewed different editors and journalists on their knowledge, perception and engagement in the PRSP in general and Pastoral PRSP in particular. Much of the opinions and view of representative actors, and the findings of the PFE consultations on PRSP were considered and incorporated in the publication.

- When generally reviewed, the role of media has been very little in engaging the public in the PRSP. Both visual and print media picked up the issue of Poverty Reduction mainly because it was a timely and hot event not because it is an issue worth to follow up. Some reasons are listed to that effect. First, in the government media, departments working on development are not established, secondly events are covered based on the invitations and the staff assigned arbitrarily on availability and convenience, not a single staff attend and follow-up a certain issue.
- There were also some weaknesses from the part of the civil society in engaging media in to their activities. Media is not considered as part of the developmental activities. There was no enough flow of information and training given for Journalists and Editors from the part of the PRSP actors. Factors contributing to such ineffectiveness have been stated in this report and some recommendations were made as to how to put on force to increase the role of media.
- Some 400 copies of this book were distributed to various institutions and individuals. This helped PFE to continue its engagement further in PRSP process in the country.
- PRSP awareness was raised among partners by comparing the situations of the process from different countries
- However, it was learned that PFE and/or other CSOs should increase their engagement in the process of PRSP

iii. Pastoralism and Rio + 10-World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

- Introduction

In September 2002, ten years after Rio, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The purposes of WSSD included: to review what had been accomplished since 1992; identify areas where further efforts would be needed; identify new challenges and opportunities; review political commitment; and support sustainable development. The Federal Government of Ethiopia had ratified Agenda 21 and is now in the process of evaluating the progress of Rio + 10 in the country. Some NGOs had also shown their interest in participating in such a process. However, Ethiopian pastoralists, despite being considered in various UN conventions, nobody seemed to look into what had been done vis-à-vis principle 26 of the Agenda with relevance to pastoralists in Ethiopia. Thus, the public and a majority of development practitioners as well as the decision-makers in the country have failed to reckon the marginalization of pastoralists in this discourse.

- Objective

As a result, the workshop on Pastoralism and Rio + 10-World Summit on Sustainable Development was prepared with the following objectives:

- brief the participants about the concerns of pastoralists included in Agenda 21; and,
- deliberate recommendations regarding pastoralism in the WSSD and draw expectations as well.

- Implementation and Achievements

In order to awaken decision-makers and the public regarding the position of pastoralism in Rio + 10, a half-day workshop was organized in the Ghion Hotel on August 1st, 2002 and was attended by over 40 participants coming from NGOs, donors, government institutions, media, and academics. Three papers were presented on selected themes for discussion and debate in the workshop. These were an overview of Agenda 21 and Rio Declaration Principles; Agenda 21 in relation to Pastoralism; and Achievement/performance of Ethiopian Government on WSSD with regard to Pastoralism.

- The most important point that came out during the workshop was that the Government stated to develop a report nine years after the signing of the Rio Declaration.
- Awareness was raised that the Government should have given consideration for pastoralism in the report and a recommendation was made to reflect the plight of the pastoralists in the Summit as they are part of the world's indigenous populations.
- Documents/presented paper circulated among stakeholders.

iv. Roundtable on Drought and Famine in Pastoral Regions of Ethiopia

- Introduction

Ethiopia is being hit by a major drought and famine for the third time in three decades, not to speak of the bi-annual crises as a result of food shortages. The huge question is now what beyond humanitarian relief? Can the country go on holding out its begging bowl forever? Now, the disaster has also greatly affected pastoral regions. Can we go beyond entertaining relief concepts and go to the roots of the problem? Doubts about pastoralism, misguided public policy and 'area development interventions' have become the major predicaments of pastoralism and pastoral development in Ethiopia. It is precisely such notions that put the entire pastoral system at risk. Policy-makers do not make it easy for pastoralists to acquire new technologies that are fit to their physical and social environment.

Pastoralists are too marginalized to be in a position to challenge such notions on pastoralism and their knowledge system. It is largely held that pastoralists have little information to comprehend their own issues but are simply following the wind blowing from the paternalistic conception of development. Far from being true, this is indeed a reflection of bias and prejudice too. It is precisely the policy-makers who failed to provide assurance for the pastoral ecosystem and social system. This should hardly be surprising owing to the fact that the knowledge gap is wide and deep. It was under this premise that *Roundtable on Drought and Famine in Pastoral Regions of Ethiopia* project was designed and executed. This project is completed.

- Objective
 - To situate the issue of drought and the impending famine in pastoral regions in its proper context;
 - To reflect on the causes of the crisis caused by the drought and identify solutions;
 - To provide the forum for pastoralists themselves and enable them speak out for themselves and make known their perception about the whole crisis and proposed solutions;
 - To create synergy among stakeholders of pastoral development towards a strategy to prevent a crisis of such magnitude; and,
 - To come up with general policy recommendations both to solve the current crisis and prevent future ones.

- Implementation and Achievements

The project had two major activities: conducting a roundtable and documentation/publishing the proceedings. The documentation activity included sub-activities like video production and photographing, and organizing, publishing, and distribution of the proceedings. The roundtable was held from Dec. 23 to 24, 2002 in the Global Hotel in Addis Ababa. The total participants were 69 of which 14 were females. The participants were pastoralists from Somali, Afar, Oromiya, and Southern Regions; representatives of government and non-government organizations; research center; University; bilateral and multilateral donor organizations; government and private media; and private consultants. The arrangement and organization of the roundtable followed principles of full participation and friendly discussion among the participants until the end. Most of the presentations were in English and Amharic but concomitantly translated for the pastoralists to their languages. The roundtable was composed of a welcoming speech, six paper presentations on key pastoral issues, views of the pastoralists, discussions on each theme, and group works on selected topics followed by general discussions and recommendations.

The presentations and the themes on drought and famine addressed the issue of pastoral development and challenges that hold back pastoral development. The topics/themes for the roundtable were selected by the representatives of member NGOs based on the existing situation and issues needed for advocacy. The papers were *The Magnitude of Famine: Past and Present*; *Immediate Causes for the Famine: The Drought Dimension*; *The Structural Causes for the Famine in Pastoralist Areas: The Macro Economic Policy Dimension*; *Pastoral Drought Management Recommendations*; *EPaRDA's Experience on the Peacemaking Process in South Omo Zone of SNNPR*. In addition, elder pastoralists have presented on *Magnitude and Causes for the Famine: The Pastoralists' Perceptions*, and *The Impact of Traditional and Modern Institutions on the Life of Pastoralists*. The proceedings of the roundtable were published to 1,200 copies. The proceedings are under distribution.

v. **Ethiopian Pastoralists Day (EPD)**

• Introduction

Ethiopian Pastoralists Day (EPD), a unique process in the African pastoral history, has recently been emerged for the purpose of pastoral advocacy and to serve a common platform for the integrity of Ethiopian pastoral communities. EPD and the National Conferences on Pastoral Development in Ethiopian organized on annual basis by PFE constitute the Forum's pastoral advocacy toolkits.

Since the 1st EPD commemoration on January 25th, 1999, it has been celebrated every year at different levels. PCAE has managed and supported the overall activities of the first three celebrations. Recently, in order to take the EPD into a new horizon and heights of success, PCAE has passed on the responsibility of organizing and management EPD to Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia. PFE organized the 4th, the 5th, and the 6th EPD in Afar, SNNP, and Oromiya National regional States in 2002, 2003, and 2004, respectively.

• Objective

The overall objectives of EPD are to create a common platform for pastoralists and partners'/friends' of pastoralists that enable them to make their collective voices on pastoral development, voice out plights and advocate for the betterment of pastoral livelihood; and to share experiences, cultures, and living environments. The specific objectives were to:

- raise awareness of the public, NGOs, and government institutions that pastoralism is a viable way of life and pastoral production system is a production system;
- make collective voice to influence decision-makers to favor pastoralists interests;
- facilitate experience sharing among pastoral groups and partners from different regions; and,
- encourage advocacy work on issues of development of pastoralist areas/livelihoods

• Implementation and Achievement

The activities of EPD in every year have similarities in their contents and modalities of implementation. The major activities were selection of participants, mobilization of pastoral representatives from all pastoral regions; selection of actual site for the celebration; preparation of campaign materials; execution of the event and resolution of the day; and, documenting the event. In addition, panel discussions have been conducted on selected themes. In each case there were organizing committees at federal and local levels. Each EPD had its own motto that go with the existing situation and pass messages for the decision-makers and the public.

All the three EPDs can be summary as follow.

Pastoralist Day	Region	Locality	Estimated celebrants	Mottos/Themes
Fourth EPD	Afar	Dubti (Asayita)	1,500	<i>Poverty reduction strategy and pastoral development</i>
Fifth EPD	SNNP	Turmi (Hammer)	1,200	<i>Pastoralism and sustainable development</i>
Sixth EPD	Oromiya	Didtuyura (Yabello)	2,700	<i>Land use rights for sustainable pastoral development</i>

- Contributed with other advocacy activities to pastoralists better heard by the decision-makers and public
- Raised awareness at different levels to eliminate the prevailing misconceptions and myths towards pastoralists and pastoralism
- Increased the solidarity of pastoral communities through experience and cultural sharing
- Pioneered and enhanced the recognition of pastoral plight at the regional level
- Improved the relationship among pastoralists, government institutions, donors, NGOs, and key individuals
- Resolutions came out in each EPD and distributed

Fourth EPD:

- Ethiopian Pastoralists Day should be recognized by the government and commemorated every year on January 25;
- Pastoralists Elders Group (PEG) should be established at federal level;
- attention should be given for inclusion of Pastoralists Poverty Reduction Strategies in the full-fledged National PRSP;
- establishment of Pastoral Institution at federal level;
- attention should be given for pastoralists development and extension packages;
- there should be great attention to the livestock marketing opportunity both at local and abroad; and,
- possibility of using pastoral livestock resources as collateral for bank loan.

Sixth EPD

- Ethiopian Pastoralists Day should be recognized and put in to the national calendar;
- Establishment of a Pastoral Institution at federal level;
- Pastoralists Elders Councils (PEC) should be established at different levels;
- There should be great attention to the livestock marketing opportunity both at local and abroad;
- Possibility of using pastoral livestock resources as collateral for bank loan and,
- PFE, Pastoralist Affairs Standing Committee (PASC), and the Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA) should organize the 7th EPD
- A committee of three members PASC- chair, MoFA/Pastoralist Area Development Department (PADD) member, and PFE secretary) has already been established to boost the resolutions made by the pastoralists and present the resolutions directly to the decision-makers including the Federal Parliament.

vi. Preparation of Pastoral Development Policy Recommendations Document

- Introduction

Pastoralists in Ethiopia like in the other African countries have continuously suffered from a long history of political, economical, and socio-cultural marginalization. The pastoralists' problems have been exacerbated by the recurrent and complex natural calamities such as drought, flood, disease etc. Due to both artificial and natural calamities, the pastoralists have emerged as the poorest of the poor. Today, the Federal Government of Ethiopia gives considerable attention reducing pastoral problems. The major policy changes so far include the constitutional right of pastoralists not to be displaced from their own land, and power decentralization to the Regions. The government has recently established Pastoralist Area Development Department (PADD)

under the Ministry of Federal Affairs, and has assigned a Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee in the Parliament. In addition, a conference on Pastoral Area Development was launched for the first time in last April 2002. Because of the initiatives of the government to reformulate federal policy on pastoralism and the need to support such changes, Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE) thus proposes an alternative document on pastoral development policy.

In various Forum's and its partners initiatives, many pastoral development and policy issues were reviewed, discussed and suggestions were made on the pastoral development policy gaps. On the basis of these suggestions the *Pastoral Development Policy Recommendations* document was developed and submitted to the Ministry of Federal Affairs in June 2002.

- Objectives

The overall goal of the proposed policy recommendation is the attainment of pastoral friendly policies for sustainable pastoral development. The specific objectives include:

- improving pastoral policy constraints and hence contributing to the betterment of pastoral livelihoods.
- introduction of pastoral policymaking advisory bodies in the country; and,
- establishing participatory culture towards pastoral policy designing processes.

- Implementation and Achievement

The basic information to develop this policy recommendation document emanated from what have been identified in various fora. The policy recommendations document include recognition of pastoralism as a way of life and pastoral livestock production as a production system; recognition and support of the pastoral traditional systems; promotion and assurance of the representation and participation of pastoralists in decision-making processes (political, economical, socio-cultural) that affect their lives and livelihoods; developing pastoral land use systems including tenure security and management practices in harmony with the indigenous communal land use systems; considering livestock as collateral to access for credits; developing community-based disaster management systems; development of community based economic and social services; promoting and strengthening access to livestock marketing; and, development of people demoted out of the pastoral system, and segments of society embedded on the pastoral system.

The document has strategies to effect the implementation of the policy after it has been discussed among the stakeholders. The main thing is the pastoral policy should be developed according to the existing condition of the given pastoral area be it at federal or at the regional levels. Thus, at the federal level the establishment of Pastoral Policy Forum that discusses, debates and come up with non-binding recommendations on macro-economic issues, while those councils at the regional levels have to discuss on the micro-economic issues. The composition of the stakeholders has been suggested in the document.

The document was sent to the Ministry of Federal Affairs and made a copy to the pastoral regional governments and different stakeholders. However, Except the Dire Dawa City Government no response has been come to PFE so far. A team from PFE had visited Dire Dawa Council and made discussion how to go about it. We are planning to change our strategy in that PFE can take the lead role in the establishment of both the Pastoral policy Forum at Federal level and Pastoral Councils at the Regional level.

vii. *Third National Conference on Pastoral Development in Ethiopia*

- Introduction

PFE organizes a National Conference annually. The two national conferences organized by the Forum have brought the main challenges and opportunities of pastoral development in Ethiopia in to the attention of many. It also shed light on what issues poverty reduction strategy should involve. These national conferences are meant to continue and facilitate the culture of debate and discussion among those working on development, particularly on pastoralism and pastoral development. Therefore, it goes without saying that the third national conference would advance on the last conferences with a better focus and depth. In line with this, PFE maintains that the underlying issue of development is its sustainability. Therefore, the Forum considers the sustainability of pastoral development as a very important issue.

The issue of sustainable development covers quite a range of issues among which some stand out more important in a specific context. Famine has been one of the disasters that have greatly affected pastoral regions. Good experience has been gained from the roundtable, which was organized by the Forum and held in December 2002, in identifying the root causes, however the issue has partly been entertained in relation to sustainable development and how it is affecting sustainable development. The third national conference looked into capital accumulation, livestock marketing mechanisms, and some major barriers like micro-finance, which are related to sustainable pastoral development. The conference proceedings is under publication.

- Objectives

The overall objective is to contribute to the efforts being made by various actors to sustain pastoral development in the country, while the specific objectives are to:

- Contribute towards the process of pastoral development strategy;
- Enhance debate on the multiplicity and complexity of factors that hinder pastoral development and came up with recommendations to reduce their effects; and,
- Provide participants with timely and important issues around sustainable pastoral development.

- Implementation and Achievement

The conference was held from Dec. 23-24, 2003. The participants of the conference were 109 representing government institutions, pastoralists, donors, embassies, universities, research organizations, regional rural development office, financial institutions, and bankers. The paper presented were pastoral development policies/strategies; livestock marketing and pastoralism, micro-finance and pastoralism; pastoral accumulation; drought and famine in pastoral regions; and pastoralism and international instruments. The distribution of the proceedings will be effected as soon as the publication is over.

viii. *Establishment of Pastoralists Information and Documentation Center*

- Introduction

As it has been mentioned above, there is a knowledge gap regarding pastoralism and pastoral development issues. In order to narrow this gap it is imperative to establish pastoralist information and documentation center and open for public, journalist, academics, and so on. Actually, the proposed center is a component of the three-year pastoral advocacy program and is under establishment. The center will have website and a quarterly Newsletter to reach a wider stakeholders/users.

- Implementation and achievement

As per the project proposal, various books and publications on different subject matters were collected both through purchasing and donation. The other activity of the center is pastoral video production, which is under process. An expert from London (contracted by Oxfam GB) has shot video during the 6th Ethiopian Pastoralist Day that will be edited and used for advocacy purpose. Brochure was prepared for the Forum and distributed in many occasions in order to familiarize the Forum and its activities.

2.2.2 Capacity building

i. Strategic plan and advocacy strategy development

- Introduction

PFE is working by strategizing its approaches to address the plight of pastoralists through advocacy and lobby. However, PFE lacks clear and written vision and mission statements; lacks short, medium, long-term objectives, and monitoring and evaluation system; lacks advocacy and lobby strategy so that works in unfocused issues of advocacy, defined policy position and levels of advocacy (national, regional, and international levels) etc. In this sense, the advocacy works of the Forum seem not well organized and its direction is not well defined, which limit the achievement of the required results. Thus, to strengthen PFE to broaden and maximize its achievements, a project proposal entitled *Development of Pastoral Policy advocacy and Lobby Strategy (Strategic Plan 2004-2006)* was designed. The project is under implementation.

- Objectives

The general objective of the project is to develop a strategic plan and management document, which aims at pastoral development advocacy and lobby strategy, to be used by PFE as a guide to its strategic direction and focus. Whereas, the specific objectives of the project are to:

- evaluate overall status of PFE in all aspects (capacity, situation, management, etc);
- articulate and develop PFE position on major pastoral development issues;
- have detailed analysis of the major pastoral issues and come up with possible alternatives; and,
- develop advocacy and lobby strategy that are pertinent to the issues/alternatives along with the strategic plan documents.

- Implementation and achievement

Two documents are to be prepared in this project-strategic plan, and advocacy and lobby strategy. A consultant was hired to document the strategic plan and the draft document has been submitted to the Forum. The final document will be ready for use after the member NGOs and partners discussed on it. A consultant for the advocacy strategy is not yet found.

ii. Experience sharing visit for PFE Board Members in Kenya

- Introduction

Community in the plights of pastoralists and a growing movement of pastoral affiliated civil society organizations (CSOs) in eastern Africa have triggered the need to network and share experiences among different actors as to maximize their efforts towards improving the livelihood of the pastoralists. Most pastoralists share common cultural, political and socio-economic features in the region. These common features leverage that pastoralism and pastoral development issues have become the regional concern of the day. Due to the fact that pastoral communities are diversified in their nature, presence of specific issues in a country level is undeniable. In this sense governments and/or non-government sectors in the region may have

different approaches or strategies or perception in general towards addressing issues of pastoralism and pastoral development.

The forum has board members, which is the governing body of the Forum. The board is responsible in developing the overall policy direction of the organization. The Forum as it is a nascent organization; the board need to share experiences from neighboring countries with better experience in pastoral development. In this case, Kenya has remarkable reputation and experience in addressing the plights of pastoralists, especially in organizing pastoral CSOs, working in partnership and in areas of capacity building. As a result, this project was designed and implemented.

- Objectives

The overall objective of the visit is to build the capacity of the governing body of the Forum through experience sharing and to identify potential partnership engagement between the two countries for future pastoral development endeavors. The specific objectives of the visit were to:

- Share experience on pastoral and pastoral related development approaches and strategies measure the Forum's pace and advancement in identifying fundamental issues and mechanisms of addressing the issues;
- Identify potential areas of future collaborations and partnership between the Forum and its counterpart (s) in Kenya;
- Identify common concern and ground to facilitate pastoral development issues in the national PRSP of the two countries; and,
- Promote the establishment of the Inter-Regional Pastoral Civil Society Organizations Forum/network.

- Implementation and achievement

Six board members and the Director of the Forum went to Kenya and made an official visit from 19-24 April 2004. The team met various level officials who are responsible for pastoral development in Kenya and discussed on various issues. The team also went to Isiolo and held discussion with pastoral community. The experiences obtained from the visit were useful. The CSOs in Kenya are found very vibrant and actively participated in the process of reviewing the Kenyan Constitution. Here, CSO especially the Kenyan Livestock Marketing Councils (KLMC) and Friends of Nomads are worth mentioning. The later advocates for the inclusion of pastoral issues in the revised constitution. The future collaboration can be designed in two ways. Firstly, collaboration with Kenyan CSOs through Oxfam GB who is currently working at the regional level, secondly, collaboration in strengthening and institutionalizing the East Africa Indigenous Peoples Forum and East African Inter-parliamentary Groups, where PFE is a member. The experience-sharing visit will continue in the future.

iii. Parliamentarian capacity enhancement

- Introduction

Eastern African Inter-parliamentary Group was established in Kampala (Uganda) in April 2003 by representatives of parliamentary from Ethiopia, Kenya, Somaliland, Tanzania, and Uganda. Civil Society Organization was selected from each of these countries in which PFE is a member. The main purpose of the Group is to promote pastoral development in the Region. In the first year, Ethiopia took the mandate of coordinating the Steering Committee of the Group, which has a role to facilitate the development of the functional strategy of the Group.

Two parliamentarians and the Director of PFE attended the workshop in March 2004 organized by Panos Kampala with the purpose of discussing the progress of the Group and discuss on the recent development of the PRSP in each countries.

Many papers were presented and discussed. Hon. Ato Kibre Jimmera, vice chair of PASC presented the progress of the Group's Steering Committee, while Tezera on the behalf of PFE presented a paper on the progress of PRSP in relation to pastoralism.

2.2.3 Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF)/World Bank project)

- Introduction

The World Bank/GoE/IFAD jointly initiated the *Pastoral Community Development Project (PCDP)* in 2001. The development objectives of PCDP are: *to provide capacity building and establish effective models of public service delivery, investment, and disaster management in pastoral areas that address communities' priority needs and reduce their vulnerability.* Since 2001, the initiators of the project have organized various consultation workshops, where stakeholders shared experiences and views that enriched the project. The project follows a human-centered approach that fits their lifestyles and hence brings changes by enabling pastoral communities in Ethiopia to decide on and implement their own projects. PCDP is coordinated by Ministry of Federal Affairs (at the Federal level) and by Pastoral Development Coordination Departments (reporting to the Rural Development Bureau at Regional level). In September 2003, PCDP was officially launched and is becoming operational in Afar and Somali Regions, and the pastoral Zones of SNNPR and Oromiya.

Given the challenges ahead in the implementation of the PCDP, the Ministry of Federal Affairs and the World Bank consider civil society organizations/NGOs as key partners. However, it was in the early phase of PCDP preparation that became evident that the government of Ethiopia has no policy to use public funds to finance these NGOs. As such, the JSDF appeared to offer an opportune way to satisfying the participation of NGOs in the execution of PCDP. Therefore, in order to channel good experiences and to commensurate the pastoral NGOs' participation in the project and hence ensure the success of PCDP, the World Bank has secured a fund grant amount of \$ 1.96 million (~17 million Eth. Birr) from the Japan Government. The grant has a lifespan of four years starting from January 2004 and it will be spent only on activities that are directly related to PCDP. Micro-projects implemented by the communities through the PCDP and the grant activities are expected to raise rural incomes, reduce vulnerability to drought, and increase access of poor rural communities to a variety of social and economic services. PFE is given the mandate for coordinating and managing this grant.

- Implementation and achievement

PFE has accomplished only pre-implementation activities. The Bank has signed the legal agreement of the project, and the counter signatories are MOFED and PFE. The achievements so far made in the project are:

- Preparation of the implementation modality of the project
- Preparation of the activity and financial plans for four years (2004-7)
- Special Bank Account has been opened in commercial Bank
- A day workshop to understand PCDP (government owned) that the JSDF supports was conducted for the NGOs
- Continues communication between the Bank and PFE is being made to get updated information to each other

3. Networking, partnership building, and media

Network

PFE networks at various levels. The purpose of the networking is to share information and build alliance. PFE's networks at the national level include member NGOs, CRDA, PRSP Task Force (Poverty Action Network/Ethiopia) at the status of Steering Committee member, Promotion of Farmers Innovation and Experience in Ethiopia (PROFIEET), and Civil Society Organizations Capacity Building Directorate under Ministry of Capacity Building (in the capacity of member of the Steering Committee) while at the regional level member of the Eastern Africa Inter-parliamentary Group, East African Indigenous Peoples Forum, networking with AU/IBAR . The international networking of PFE includes Minority Right Groups International (MRGI).

As part of the networking activity, the major documents, although the distribution modality seems sporadic, distributed to various institutions and individuals by PFE are listed below.

1. Proceedings of the National Conference on Pastoral Development in Ethiopia
2. Proceedings of the Second National Conference on Pastoral Development in Ethiopia
3. Proceedings of the Roundtable on Drought and Famine in Pastoral Regions of Ethiopia
4. *A Book on Reducing Poverty: Is the World Bank's strategy working?*
5. A document on Inclusion of a Pastoral Chapter into Ethiopia's PRSP
6. Pastoral Development Policy Recommendations Document
7. ILO declaration on indigenous peoples and minorities
8. A study document on Local-level socio-institutional issues and capacity building in pastoral community development
9. Magazines on Nomadic peoples
10. Various volumes of MRGI publications
11. MRGI e-bulletin

Partnership

Formal partnership agreement is only made with MRGI to collaborate on Minority Rights activities. However, there is a good partnership spirit with PSAC, PADD under Ministry of Federal Affairs, Pastoral Regions, DFID, CORD AID, Small arm Control and so on.

A briefing session was arranged for the PASC in end of May 2003. Among the activities of the Forum, conducting periodical briefing workshops on the plights of pastoralists for the pastoral parliamentarian and the international communities are the most important one. The Forum recently approached Parliamentarian Pastoralist Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) to establish partnership and to work together. This committee is the highest body responsible for pastoral affairs in the country.

In order to facilitate the process of partnership, the Forum organized an introductory meeting for the PPASC. The meeting was held for half a day on Wednesday 27 May 2003 at the Global Hotel.

At the end of the meeting, how the two institutions can work together and possible areas of collaboration were highlighted. The specific areas of collaborations and frameworks of the collaboration however need to be set out. Some of the points raised were:

- Information and experience sharing
- Public debate on important issues
- Forum to influence policy formulation
- Capacity building through training

Finally, the participants agreed on to work together. The procedural matters were left to future discussion but all participants agreed to have a discussion forum once in every month.

Media

PFE representatives gave interviews on the issues of pastoral development and pastoralism in Radio, newspaper, on ETV, and magazines. Some of these interviews were made in relation to specific occasions. The interviews helped as background information, and policy issues to be addressed by decision-makers and contributed to the awareness raising activity of the Forum for the public.

Others

Training on advocacy and right based issues for the PFE staffs were given at the national, regional, and international levels by various institutions. The concerns of pastoralist were also reflected at different fora. The following papers presented by Tezera can be as example:

- Ethiopia Country Paper: Gains made through the PRSP Process: the Pastoral Perspectives.** A note presented in a Workshop on Eastern African Pastoralist Inter-Parliamentary Group, 15-16 March 2004, Kampala, Uganda
- Pastoralists' Concerns in Ethiopia.** A note presented on the Training Seminar on International Minority Rights and Advocacy, Geneva, Switzerland, 23rd Feb. – 5th March 2004. And, in a conference organized by MRGI and CORDAID in The Hague (Holland) on EU Country Policy: Migration, Education and Development. March 4, 2004.
- Pastoral Development Issues and Policy Recommendations in Ethiopia: A Discussion Note.** A paper presented in a workshop on Human Security of Minorities: Improving development and security through protection of minority rights. Dublin, Ireland, 27 Nov. 2003)

4. Challenges and opportunities

The following are the major challenges the Forum is being encountered:

Challenges

- Too limited staff so that high workload since the whole works are managed by the Director and the assistance program officers (two program officers had worked for two years)
- Lack of institutional independency due to recent legal status of the Forum
- Shortage of communication facilities such as Internet
- Treat of fund crises
- Possibility of hijacking the agenda of pastoral CSOs by the government
- Lack of transportation and inadequate office facility
- Frequent change of donor policy
- Lack of institutional focus

Opportunities

- Presence of committed board members and member organizations
- Intensification of pastoral policy advocacy at various levels
- Government, Multi-and bi-lateral institutions attention towards pastoral development is increasing

5. Success story and impact of PFE

- ✓ PFE is one of a few recognized NGO working in the status of Umbrella NGO
- ✓ The recognition and visibility of PFE is increasing at all levels. This can be justified by the fact that many letter of invitations send to PFE by name and address to attend specific workshops/conferences, and request for advise; senior government official at Parliamentary and the Ministry level, and donors start to thrust PFE as a focal organization in pastoral advocacy endeavor. The WB recently selected PFE to coordinate JSDF amount to more than Birr 16 million
- ✓ The pastoralists' confidence has been increased in that they accepted PFE to take up their concerns and get into the attention of decision-makers
- ✓ Although advocacy impact appeared slow to be detected, we believe that we have contributed for the change in attitude towards pastoralism
- ✓ PFE's has definitely contributed and being contributing, at least, for the formation and reformulation of the pastoral institutions both at the federal and regional level
- ✓ The pastoralists and local institutions has been empowered in the capacity to talk for themselves (evidenced in the panel discussion organized for the pastoralists during the 6th EPD)
- ✓ The Federal Government starts to give attention for the pastoralist. For the first time a pastoral development workshop conducted in 2001. A Chapter on Pastoralism partially included in PRSP and significance of pastoralism start to get attention. The development activities run by GO and NGO in pastoral region has relatively increased although the core problems of pastoralists have not yet been reduced-eg. Famine.

6. FINANCE REPORT

PANOS LIMITED ASSOCIATION - PASTORALIST FORUM ETHIOPIA STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER

	Total	2003	2002	2001
Income:				
i. Accord - Ethiopia	36,000	36,000	-	-
ii. Cordaid	556,948	386,887	93,380	76,681
iii. DFID - Addis	397,945	296,095	-	101,850
iv. Minority Rights Group International	144,034	-	138,179	5,856
v. Oxfam - GB	23,680	-	-	23,680
vi. Oxfam Canada	143,600	32,400	111,200	-
vii. Panos - London	78,297	-	78,297	-
viii. Pastoralists Concern Association of Ethiopia (Pcae)	37,040	-	-	37,040
ix. Trocare	29,397	29,397	-	-
Total Income	1,446,942	780,780	421,055	245,107
Expenditure:				
Staff Salaries	217,613	89,948	96,464	31,201
Office Equipment	36,561	31,163	-	5,398
Consultancy - Freelance Staff Recharges	81,237	28,199	23,040	29,998
Travel & Transportation	17,339	3,908	5,461	7,970
Documentation	42,974	18,630	-	24,344
Stationery	11,425	-	4,478	6,947
Meeting & Conference	136,755	23,763	56,933	56,059
Project Communication	8,657	2,035	5,822	800
Utilities	2,332	-	272	2,060
Bank Service Charge	860	-	860	-
Monitoring & Evaluation	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	555,753	197,646	193,330	164,777
Excess of Income over Expenditure	891,189	583,134	227,725	80,330
Fund Balance Brought Forward	-	308,055	80,330	-
Fund Balance Carried Forward	891,189	891,189	308,055	80,330