

Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE)

Final Report on The Six Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD)

Project Agreement No.

Submitted to

I. Introduction

The Department for International Development (DfID) is a partner for Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE). DfID has been kindly supporting the Forum to meet its organizational vision and mission. The Forum works for rights of the pastoralists, and development of pastoral friendly policy/strategies at national, regional/sub-regional, and international levels. Representing the pastoralists and its member pastoral NGOs, the Forum works advocacy by targeting decision-makers and the public. The Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD), and the National Conferences on Pastoral Development are the main advocacy *toolkits* of the Forum.

In December 2003, PFE approached DfID to grant fund for two of its projects, namely *the Sixth Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD) Celebration, and Third National Conference on Pastoral Development* projects. In practice, both projects were complimentary in reflecting synergic messages promoting pastoralism and pastoral development. Cognizant with timeliness of addressing plight of the pastoralist in Ethiopia, DfID was keen in funding both projects. The present report focuses on the recently completed **Six Ethiopian Pastoralist Day Project**.

The leading message of the Day was *Land use Rights for Sustainable Pastoral Development* and was celebrated in Yabello Zone in *Diida Tuyura* Pastoral Village by more than 3500 peoples. The officials and celebrants were representing various pastoral communities, government, CSOs, donors, research institutes and universities, international community, ambassadors, etc. The actual celebration was preceded by panel discussion exclusively organized by the pastoralists themselves. The resolution of the day is composed of points in which the request for the formation of pastoral elders' councils and recognition of Ethiopian Pastoralist Day are among few.

The present report briefly depicts planned vs. accomplished physical and financial activities, and achievements gained from the project.

II. Background

EPD, a unique process in African pastoral history, has been celebrated consecutively for five years since 1999. The outcomes of these subsequent deliberations are encouraging in raising of pastoralists' profile and protecting their rights. The encouraging steps taken so far by the government during the last few years include formation and/or reformulation of pastoral institutions at the federal and the regional levels to constitute pastoral elements. Emergence of Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee in the Parliament of the Federal Government, and Pastoral Development Department in the Ministry of Federal Affairs, and pastoral institutional reforms in the pastoral regions to accommodate pastoralism need to be mentioned.

In spite of a slow move by decision-makers to listen to the pastoralists and address their plight, the momentum of interest in favouring pastoralists and pastoralism from different actors in the country should keep on. Nevertheless, the advocacy process to put pastoralism in the contexts- both nationally in internationally- it deserves is uphill struggle. For instance, the following questions need to be asked; what are the functions and capacity of these institutions addressing plights of the pastoralists? Are the pastoralists participated in the process of the formation and reformulation of the institutions comparing to the institution that the pastoralists have been wished to see? what has happened to their resolutions for the last five Pastoralist Day? What are the impacts of the previous EPDs? In addition, key pastoral problems like land use rights have not yet been addressed. It was under the above premises that the 6th EPD was celebrated.

The overall objectives of Day were to create a common platform for pastoralists and partners'/friends' of the pastoralists that enable them to reflect their collective visions on pastoral development, voice out plights and advocate for the betterment of pastoral livelihood; and to share experiences, cultures, and living environments. Whereas, 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; influence decision-makers to favor pastoralists interests; facilitate experience sharing among pastoral groups and partners from different regions; encourage advocacy work on issues of development of pastoralist areas/livelihoods; and, raise fund for drought affected citizens.

III. Organizing and managing the Day's activities

The 6th EPD celebration was designed and executed with full participation of key the stakeholders. At the Federal level, PFE on behalf of the pastoralists took a leading role in organizing and coordinating the overall activities of the day. The Forum delegated one of its members, Action For the Development, a local NGO, to take part in the planning and implementation of activities at the grassroots level. The hosting region, Oromiya Regional Government, delegated the Oromiya Pastoral Development Commission (OPDC) to co-lead the day with the Forum.

A main committee composed of five members was established at the federal level and lead the coordination and management of the day. Two members each from PFE and the OPDC and a person from the donor side had constituted a main committee, which have been responsible for the overall planning, execution, and reporting of the whole activities of the day. There were sub-committees under the main committee. The committees undertook different meetings in coordination with the main committee.

IV. Planned activities and accomplishments

Selection and invitation of the celebrants and guest of honor

The Six Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD) was celebrated on *January 25th 2004 in Borena Zone in Yabello Woreda in Dida Tuyura pastoral village*. The motto of the year was *Land use rights for sustainable pastoral development*. This message was reflected in the promotional materials and on media. Thousands of celebrants coming from the different corners of the country and guests from Britain, Kenya and Tanzania were attended the event. A maximum safety was in place during transporting the pastoralists from their localities. PFE managed the mobilization of the pastoral communities and media peoples as well as most of NGOs. The total celebrants were estimated to be more than 3,500 peoples.

Site selection and logistics arrangement

The hosting region, Oromiya Regional government, selected the celebration site. The site has good representation of the pastoral community.

Preparation of promotion materials

A total of 500 quality T-shirts; 1000 posters; and 1000 brochures were prepared reflecting the message of the Day and plights of the pastoralists.

Selection of topics for panel discussion and press conference

The panel discussion had two phases; a panel held two weeks from the actual celebration day by the CSOs, media, and government representatives while the second panel was organized exclusively for the pastoralists and was held just a day before the celebration. In the first panel land use rights in pastoral context; drought and famine issues; and institutional issues were discussed. From the panel discussion, the by-law of the Constitutional Provision No. 40:5 to be developed soon; the need for a pastoral institution with better power to be discussed further; it was mentioned that the root cause of drought and famine in pastoral regions is related to the age-old marginalization and lack of appropriate policy that has strong linkage with climatic factors.

A One-day panel discussions organized exclusively for the pastoralist focused on economic, social, cultural, and political issues and fruitful resolutions were come out underlining on the need for formation of pastoral elders councils; recognition of EPD as a national day etc.

Executing the event (25th Jan.2004)

The celebrants reached to the site on time. The guest of honor, H.E. Ato Junedin Sado, president of Oromiya Region, addressed opening of the ceremony of the day. In his speech he said that pastoralists need more attention both in policy and development aspects. He added his government would do all the best to develop pastoralists. The ceremony of the day encompassed with various cultural shows including horse raiding, displaying different costumes, songs from different Oromo tribes; cultural houses and ornaments showing the richness of the pastoral culture; and speeches by the representatives of pastoralists from each region and Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia and resolutions of the day forwarded.

The pastoralist representatives from Somali, Afar, Oromo, and S.Omo presented a trophy of EPD jointly to the representatives of the Ministry of Federal affairs, and symbolic present telling THEY NEED RECOGNITION to the Government Official, H.E. Ato Junedin Sado. Following the pastoralists' presents, cultural awards were issued to the government representatives, Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia, and Pastoralist Concern Association Ethiopia (Pcae), local NGO and initiator of the event. NGOs exhibition was another event visited by H.E. Ato Junedin and senior government officials and the pastoralists. The celebrants were entertained by local musical band.

The media covered the whole event in different languages aiming to enhance sense of ownership of the pastoralists to EPD, to reach those who were unable to attend the event and to transfer the message of the day. Next day (26th Jan. 2004) the celebrants visited on-going development activities and cultural heritages of the Borena pastoral community, cultural watering points of the mid 19th century.

Video production and photographing

The event was documented in photos and in video. The photos and videos will be used as a tool to transfer the issues of pastoralists to targeted groups. The video is being edited to be used for advocacy.

Fund raising

It was learnt that fund raising was difficult to manage along with the Day's objectives so that the committee decided to drop this activity.

V. Outcomes/effects of the Day

The 6th EPD was celebrated with various activities including the exhibition and a field trip. The message of *the day land use rights for sustainable pastoral development* was transmitted and the pastoralists were empowered to speak out their voices and shared experiences among themselves and with partners. This was justified by the pastoralists' speech during the celebration ceremony. The partnerships among the pastoralists and different government and non-government actors have been strengthened because the actors were working together to realize the event.

The resolutions of the day were:

- 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,
- Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE), Pastoralist Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) in the Federal Parliament, and the Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA) should organize the 7th EPD

For the first time, the resolutions of the EPD reached to the Federal Parliament after the Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee had endorsed it. The resolutions were dispatched to all Standing Committees in the Federal Parliament, Houses of Representatives and Federation, various ministries, Authority/Commission, and Regional Governments. In addition, copies of the statement were reached to various NGOs.

The impact of the Day has definitely contributed to incremental changes in terms of narrowing the knowledge gaps and misconceptions towards pastoralism and pastoralists so that raise profiles of the pastoral communities. In addition, as EPD is meant to serve as advocacy toolkits it has added values to the overall advocacy works of PFE and its partners, and contributes to strengthening of pastoral solidarity. The Federal Government is persuaded for the first time to celebrate the Day at the federal level. PFE initiated impact assessment on EPD and is on the way to develop a Pastoral Video focusing on the 6th EPD. The video will be used for the advocacy purpose targeting the policy-makers.