



STRATEGIC GUIDELINE DOCUMENT

Results of the 2nd International Conference on transborder Transhumance

Nexus: transhumance, protected areas and natural resources,
development, peace and security

On

The need to orientate and support the regional dynamics of
transborder transhumance through a better understanding of the
issues of peace and security at stake, the conservation of biodiversity
and the fight against climate change.

Resulting from our meeting in Yaounde (Cameroon) from July 10 to 12, 2023, during the second International Conference of Ministers on transborder Transhumance; Nexus: transhumance, protected areas and natural resources, sustainable development, peace and security, with the joint support of the Facilitation of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Commission of Central African Forests (COMIFAC), and the Government of the Republic of Cameroon, under the Very High Patronage of His Excellency, Mr PAUL BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon and Head of State, the meeting participants hereby:

Reaffirm their permanent commitment to working for sustainable economic development for the well-being of the population of the central Sahel region of the Lake Chad Basin and the forest and savanah regions extending to the north of the Congo Basin, in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Highlight the will of the States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) as well as CAR, DRC, Sudan and South Sudan, to work together to sustainably manage transboundary transhumance as well as biodiversity;

Acknowledge that the underlying socio-cultural aspects of the regional dynamics of transhumance can potentially undermine the prospects for peace, security and biodiversity conservation;

Note the progress made in the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration adopted in 2019, at the end of the 1st International Conference on Transborder Transhumance in the ECCAS region;

Consider that enhanced collaboration in transborder landscapes used for transhumance will help states achieve sustainable transhumance management;

Desire to make significant contributions to sustainable management in order to improve and protect the lives, livelihoods and rights of pastoral populations without harming the environment or affecting peace and security, as well as the systems and cultures of indigenous and local communities.

However, since the Ndjamena declaration of January 2019, the actions taken have not reversed the trends:

1. Of climate change, which aggravates the aridity of an increasingly significant portion of the main grazing areas in the Sahel regions due to transitional transhumance dynamics towards the South;
2. Of the increase in financial investments in livestock by local economic actors other than the herders, which contributes to the growth in size and number of transhumant herds;
3. Of the persistence of waves of instability caused by terrorists in many areas of the sub-region, which contribute to the continuance and increase in arms trafficking supplied by the illegal exploitation of natural resources (including large fauna), particularly within the dynamics of transhumance of which some are found infested by parasites and threatened in their legitimate foundations;
4. Of the dynamics of transhumance between the Sahel and the northern part of equatorial Africa that is likely to undermine development prospects, peace and security, and the conservation of biodiversity in some regions where they are not sufficiently taken care of at the moment.

The participants hereby agree to provide the following strategic orientations in order to stop this negative cycle and implement joint actions for a peaceful transhumance:

1. Develop/revive transborder cooperation agreements;
2. Set-up transborder platforms for the management of the agreements;
3. Develop prevention frameworks for management and conflict resolution at the transborder level;
4. Develop socio-economic and technical infrastructures in transhumance regions;
5. Set up multi-year investment plans in view of ameliorating transhumance;
6. Set-up plans for the fight against poaching and natural resource crimes in transborder regions;
7. Involve traditional rulers in order to take into consideration local realities, customs and traditions relating to transhumance;
8. Develop alert and zoonosis prevention systems;
9. Develop tools fit for observation of peaceful transhumance determinants;

10. Develop and implement a strategy to mobilise financial resources and develop appropriate government frameworks.

Request:

1. To countries concerned with transhumance, to organise a Heads of States conference on transborder transhumance;
2. To the Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), in collaboration with the technical and financial partners, to support the implementation of country investment plans presented at the current conference.
3. To the CCRS, CBLT, CILSS, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD and CAFC to facilitate investment in: sylvo-agro pastoral infrastructure, the management, securing and enhancement of pastoral areas and livestock tracks, restoring the ecosystems' functionality in the countries from the Sahel to the equatorial regions of the Congo Basin forest.

Yaounde, July 12, 2023