ETHIOPIAN SOCIETY OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION
(ESAP)

Proceedings of the Workshop on the
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PASTURE AND RANGELAND
FORUM ETHIOPIA (PARFE)

November, 2013
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## WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

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<td>Dr Daniel Temesgen</td>
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<td>Welcoming address and workshop introduction</td>
<td>Dr. Getachew Gebru ESAP president</td>
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<td>Keynote address</td>
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**Plenary Session: Moderator-Dr. Getnet Assefa, Director, Livestock Research, EIAR**

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<td>10:40–11:18</td>
<td>Presentation: “From Forage Network to Grassland Forum”</td>
<td>Ato Alemayehu Mengistu Forage, Pasture and Rangeland expert; Former FNE Chairperson</td>
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<td>11:49–12:06</td>
<td>Presentation: The draft bylaw of Grassland Forum Ethiopia (GFE)</td>
<td>Ato Tezera Getahun, Executive Director, PFE Dr Daniel Temesgen, PFE/ESAP</td>
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<td>Discussion on the presentations</td>
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<td>Lunch break</td>
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**Plenary Session: Moderator- Beruk Yemane, Ethio-feeds PLC, General Manager**

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INTRODUCTION

Forty one participants gathered in the Hiruy hall, EIAR head quarter, to mark the launching of The Grassland Forum-Ethiopia (Later re-named as the Pasture and Rangeland Forum Ethiopia-PARFE) on April 11, 2012. The workshop participants were from different backgrounds but with one common issue. These included participants from the House of Peoples Representatives, Ministry of Agriculture, FAO-Ethiopia Office, EIAR, Universities, NGOs, and private sectors. This publication is a summary of the workshop deliverables and recommendations.

A workshop report, produced by Mr. Biruk of Haremaya University, was used as an input into the development of this proceeding. The workshop proceeding was put into the current form by Professor Adugna Tolera and Dr. Aster Abebe of Hawassa University, Department of Animal and Range Sciences.

Financial as well as technical support, towards the workshop preparation and conduct provided by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) is greatly acknowledged by the Ethiopian Society of Animal Production.
The Honourable Natural Resources Directorate, Director, Ato Habtu Bezabih, representative of his Excellency Ato Silishi Getahun, State Minster, Ministry of Agriculture, Honourable members of the Parliament, Dr Getnet Assefa, Livestock Research Director, EIAR, Representatives of FAO, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we have reached an era where grasslands have brought in an added value in the face of climate change over and above their role for humans and animals; they will and are contributing towards mitigating global warming by serving as carbon sinks. Although, much work has not been done in Ethiopia in this area, there are some promising initiatives made on soils and forest as Carbon sink. Given that the rangeland could also play a role in sequestering carbon, there is a strong need to explore this possibility. Recent cursory work by Save the Children USA under its USAID supported PLI project show potential of rangelands as carbon sink. The current ongoing effort by the Ethiopian government, which includes the climate resilient green economy and the underpinning in the GTP, highlight the significance of rangelands/grasslands:

- The watershed management program where the key components are afforestation, implementation of soil conservation techniques and rangeland rehabilitation in the form of bush thinning, reseeding and enclosures.
- The projection in the GTP for increasing export earnings from live animal and meat export combined from US$ 125 million in 2009/2010 to US$ 1 billion in 2014/2015 and the trends are largely attributable to extensive mobile pastoral system that is dependent on Rangelands.

Thus, the importance of this workshop and the timeliness of it!

There are on-going efforts and emerging interest to better manage grasslands and reverse deterioration where possible. Along this line there are initiatives by the government, NGOs,
international organizations and bilateral and multilateral agencies. These undoubtedly require concerted efforts and joining hands.

It is on this rationale that the Ethiopian Society of Animal Production (ESAP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) partnered to facilitate this timely workshop.

Your Honor,
Honorable members of the Parliament,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This workshop is yet another example of ESAP’s engagement to serve as an umbrella organization to nurture and wean various professional forums to help exploit the niche in them.

Cognizant of the importance and need to have functional body to move forward the grassland agenda, we are all ready now to put the foundation and begin the journey towards creating a viable forum that will serve as a platform for experience sharing, identifying applicable interventions for scaling-up and as a hub for policy dialogue.

Allow me to thank FAO for its continued partnering with ESAP through the years. It is my earnest belief that the Grassland Forum Ethiopia once established will serve as a long partner to various stakeholders, including the MoA, particularly the Natural Resources Directorate to help realize the objectives it has in the natural resource management, and most particularly in the watershed development program.

Before I end, I would also like to recognize the contribution of one of our senior members of ESAP, Ato Alemayehu, who is sitting with us, for the continued efforts that he has been putting into this exercise and for sharing his insights into building the cornerstone for the establishment of this workshop. Thank you, Ato Alemayehu.

Please allow me to cordially invite the representative of the State-Minister H.E. Ato Seleshi to make the official opening remarks. I Thank You!
WORKSHOP OPENING REMARK

Honorable Ato Habtu Bezabih,

Natural Resource Directorate Director, Ministry of Agriculture; Representing his Excellency Ato Sileshi Getahun, State Minister, Ministry of Agriculture

Honorable Members of the FDRE Parliament and Representatives of Various Organizations, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Grasslands are found throughout all agro-ecologies ranging from the cool temperate Afro-alpine to hot and dry arid habitats. Grasslands are the fundamental and key natural resources with multitude of socio-economic and ecological benefits to the country. The grasslands are habitats for the country’s huge fauna and flora biodiversities. The domestic and wild herbivores, which generate livelihoods and income to the nation and people, depend on grasslands for their nourishment.

The grasslands have ecosystem services and functions that include supportive functions and structures (e.g. nutrient cycling, primary production, pollinator services); regulatory services (CO₂ sequestration, prevention of soil loss, maintenance of soil fertility); provisioning services (plant material and game); and, cultural services (ecotourism, scenery, religious values). Across all agro-ecologies in Ethiopia, grasslands are undergoing downward condition changes and conversion into other forms of land uses. The underlying causes of these threats include weakening of customary institutions, lack of updated databases on grassland resources mismanagement, rapid spread of invasive plant species, severe droughts, and rapid population growth resulting in shifting grasslands into crop agriculture. Most of these causative factors that are threatening development of grasslands in Ethiopia are inter-related. The inadequacy/absence of a platform led by professional society(ies) directly dealing with issues of the grassland; and, lack of consorted efforts of various development actors have exacerbated the deterioration of the grasslands.

As it is indicated in the Government of Ethiopia Policy and Strategy document (GTP and predecessor PASDEP), efforts have been made by Government and various development actors to improve grassland resources like rehabilitating degraded grasslands by area closure, removing invasive species by community mobilization and availing water for livestock in rangelands so that the pastoralists can have more options for feed production enhancement and soil and water conservation. Hence, consideration, by the grassland forum, of the comprehensive aspects of
ecosystem functions and structures is vital. It is imperative, therefore, to establish a leadership of functional body, a vibrant professional society of Ethiopia, focusing on integrated and comprehensive actions largely involving sensitization and mobilization of stakeholders, policy dialogues, mechanisms of sharing information and up-scaling of best practices contributing to protection and restoration of grasslands.

I would like to thank the Ethiopian Society of Animal Production and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for taking this timely initiative to facilitate the establishment of the Grassland Forum Ethiopia, with the rationale that the existing state of the grassland in Ethiopia is deteriorating due to various factors including mismanagement, rapid spread of invasive plant species, severe drought, rapid population growth and weakness of customary institutions. Most of the causative factors to the mentioned existing situation are inter-related that needs to be addressed through integrated and comprehensive actions. We share the view that such integrated and coordinated actions do require the leadership of functional body that focuses on the sound management of grasslands. This functional body is now launched as the Grassland Forum Ethiopia.

We believe that the Grassland Forum Ethiopia (GFE), as an Ethiopian professional society, will serve as a platform for opening up policy dialogues and transformational advocacy on issues compromising grasslands health and productivity; generate innovative ideas; promote learning and exchange of experiences among professionals in the domain of grasslands, community-based organizations, non-state actors, governmental organs; and harmonizes approaches and modalities of grassland restoration, protection and increased productivity and usage.

I believe that this assembly consisting of various state and non-state actors is capable of contributing towards the realization of the objective set for the Grassland Forum Ethiopia, and that you will also be deliberating on the short and long term vision of this forum in line with the policy directions set forth by the government of Ethiopia. With this brief remark I declare this workshop open.
I THANK YOU!
KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Dr Lemma Gizachew
Livestock Feed and Nutrition Officer, FAO

The Honorable Natural Resources Directorate, Director, Ato Habtu Bezabih,
The President of ESAP, Dr. Getachew Gebru,
Workshop participants.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the Grassland Forum Launching workshop organized by the Ethiopian Society of Animal Production and FAO.

I am making this keynote address not officially representing FAO but rather I am doing it on behalf of the technical group within FAO-Ethiopia who have been pushing hard to have a national body fully dedicated for the good of the Ethiopian grassland ecosystems. However, the issues I am raising here today are in line with FAO’s corporate goal and strategic objectives.

FAO as an UN-Agency mandated in agriculture, supports member countries’ efforts in sound natural resources management and agricultural development programs that geared towards improved food security and living standard. FAO-Ethiopia is particularly committed to support the government of Ethiopia to effectively implement and achieve the national development objectives of the five year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP).

The support to professional societies is among the many initiatives where FAO is currently engaged in Ethiopia. Establishing or strengthening professional societies, which serve as vital focal points for articulating supportive policies, promoting best practices and exchange of information will definitely contribute to the attainment of the GTP. Grassland Forum, which comes to an existence from today, is so vital for the advancement of the livestock sub-sector and the sound management of the grassland ecosystem. Like many other partners, FAO encourages the establishment of the Grassland Forum for a number of good reasons. Amongst these, the most prominent ones are outlined below.

- Grasslands account for over a third of the country’s land cover—the landmasses stretching right from the cool temperate Afro-alpine to hot and dry arid environments. Managed properly, this huge natural resource can help lift millions out of poverty.
• The livestock sub-sector, which contributes over 35% of agricultural GDP of the country and supports the livelihood of livestock keepers, principally depend on grassland forages
• The ever growing livestock feed insecurity. This phenomenon is undermining the livestock productivity and the profitability of market-oriented livestock production. The low productivity of grasslands and the attendant chronic feed shortage, which escalates at times of drought, by depleting the livestock asset, is worsening the food insecurity and the extent of poverty amongst the livestock keeping communities.
• The rapid loss of key grazing resources and the degradation of grasslands due to multitude of causes most notably: the indiscriminate conversion to other form of land uses, invasive species encroachment, and prolonged heavy grazing pressure
• Roles played by grasslands as custodians of the rich plant and animal biodiversity. These habitats harbor a unique wealth of biodiversity that is only found in Ethiopia.
• Environmental services derived from grasslands including the soil and water conservation, eco-tourism, carbon storage, and scenic landscape.
• The isolated and less coordinated grassland restoration initiatives in different parts of the country as well as the concern for very slow progress at times coupled with contradictory approaches

With respect to the establishment of the Grassland Forum, FAO is keen to see such entity to be broad-based and representing all key institutions and stakeholders directly and indirectly engaged in the management and utilization of grasslands in Ethiopia. The organization also wants to see this entity to be proactive and determined to take forward the purpose for which it has been established: protect and restore the health and productivity of grasslands across all agro-ecologies of Ethiopia. In order to allow the Grassland Forum achieve its ultimate goal, FAO will works alongside with Ministry of Agriculture, Higher Learning and Research Institutions, Environmental Protection Authority, Biodiversity Institute, NGOs, the private sector, other pertinent UN agencies and the donor communities.

It is the hope of everyone here that the Grassland Forum to be launched today will serve as a platform to address the most serious challenges facing our grasslands. Some of these challenges include:

• Continued decline in health and productivity of grasslands
• Indiscriminate and unplanned conversion of key grazing resource to unsuitable and inappropriate land use systems
• The weakening of the customary institutions
• Loss of vegetation cover and forage and wildlife biodiversity
• An alarming encroachment of grasslands by alien and native invasive plant species
• Limited exchange of information and sluggish dissemination of best practices
• Underfunding
Given the complexity of problems facing the grasslands are, the tasks of the Grassland Forum will never be simple and easy. Countervailing these problems will require dedicated joint actions. If we all remain committed to the causes of the Grassland Forum, no doubt we will definitely emerge victorious. However, to reach there, the Forum is expected to carry out the following actions in manner that is both consistent and inclusive:

- Provide platform for policy dialogues contributing to the protection and sustainable management of grasslands
- Sensitize and mobilize stakeholders including the general public play proactive role in grassland restoration and protection actions
- Lobby policy makers and donors give due emphasis and support sustainable grassland management initiatives
- Disseminate information on best practices via annual restoration events, workshops, newsletters, etc.
- Facilitate generation and documentation of info on state and distribution of grasslands
- Facilitate the harmonization of grassland restoration approaches and techniques
- Assist in the development of capacity and guidelines vital to measure grassland carbon stocks and incentives put aside to those tangibly contributed to the reduced emission of greenhouse gases similar to REDD
- Serve as info hub for individuals, groups and institutions interested in grasslands research and development as well as marketing of grasslands products

As founding members, we all have the responsibility to contribute our own bits for the successful and effective accomplishment of the above listed and many more core activities. I trust we all work to that direction beginning now and continuing the impetus well into the years to come.

Honorable Ato Habtu,
Mr. Chairman,
Workshop participants,

Finally, I do like to thank ESAP for taking the responsibility of drafting the by-laws of the "would-be" Grassland Forum and organizing this workshop. Without the real professional dedication and hard work from the part of ESAP steering committee, such immensely demanding task could not have been accomplished in a span of just a month’s time. Most FAO’s technical staff members have encouraged me to push the idea of establishing the Grassland Forum. Of all of them, the contribution of Adrian Cullis is most notable. Last but not least, I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to FAO for covering the operation cost of this important undertaking.
I believe, this is the happiest moment for fellow grassland/livestock feed resources professionals who for the last two couple of decades have been advocating for the establishment of a kind of forum or network fully dedicated to the sustainable management of grasslands in Ethiopia. It is indeed a great moment for all of us to see this happen. This forum will be our baby. I am very much confident that we will all continue investing our energy and precious time to bring up the Grassland Forum to the level of bearing fruit.

Thank you!
PLENARY SESSIONS

Plenary sessions were moderated by Dr Getnet Assefa, Director of Livestock Research at Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), and Ato Biruke Yemane, Ethio-feeds PLC.

PLENARY SESSION I: Chaired by Dr. Getnet Asseffa

Dr Getnet appreciated the ESAP executive committee and all other partners in taking this important and timely initiative to establish the Forum. He mentioned that the three speeches i.e. the welcome address, the workshop opening speech and the keynote address have clearly shown the importance of establishing Grassland Forum. However, he pointed out certain points which may have direct or indirect implication on grasslands of Ethiopia and were not emphasized sufficiently in the speeches. The points were:

- The rapid increase in human population in Ethiopia is important to the use of grassland from the cooler highlands to the low, hot arid and semiarid areas. Especially in the highlands, the rapidly increasing human population and family numbers is creating additional demand for land, which is mostly directed to any remaining grazing lands as most of the cropping land is already occupied thereby increasing pressure on the grassland.
- Agricultural development plan of the government, in which one of the focuses is the expansion of irrigation, especially small scale irrigation. Most of the irrigation areas are the grazing land in the highlands of Ethiopia. Of course this plan is very important to secure the food security in the country but at the same time we have to see also very efficient land use management thinking about the crop-livestock mixed production system, since we cannot leave out the livestock.
- Additionally you can also consider that most of the constructions (road constructions) and site of damping excavated soil are mostly grasslands. This is creating a lot of problems on the grassland that subsequently affects the availability of feed and the productivity of livestock.
- Finally the climate changes seen in the country starting from the highlands to arid and semiarid areas.

With this remark Dr Getnet called for collaborative action in the management of grasslands and that establishment of the Grassland Forum Ethiopia is timely and relevant particularly in areas where livestock production is dominant and also in the crop-livestock integrated systems. He
invited Ato Alemayehu Mengistu to present the historical background and experiences from Forage Network Ethiopia (FNE) under the title "From Forage Network to Grassland Forum".

Group discussion underway
1. INTRODUCTION

Networks can be defined as associations of organisations and individuals with common interests. They can be large – involving many or small organisations and individuals formally organised or casual with common concerns, interests, philosophy of the members.

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Networks have become popular even recently. Plucknet and Smith (1984) trace the beginnings of agricultural networks and in the USA the first formal agricultural networks appeared in the 1920s.

The first multinational forage germplasm screening trial was initiated in the 1950s with the International Stem Rust Nursery. The network involved 150 researchers in 40 countries in testing wheat germplasm for resistance to wheat stem rust.

3. INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

3.1 The Australian-South East Asian and Pacific Forage Research Network:
- The network was started in 1984
- Funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)
- Started in response to increased interest in pasture and forage production in the region.
- Activities like research, training, meeting, workshops and seminar were financed well and contributed to the improvement of the network.

3.2 The CIAT Intentional Tropical Pasture Network (RIEPT)
- The network was established in 1979.
- Funded by CIAT and IDRC.
• CIAT has acted as a catalyst with national research institutions in the formation of research network on tropical pastures and forage crops for livestock production in tropical America

3.3 International/Regional Working Groups on National Grazing Resources

• Network was started in 1977
• Funded by FAO
• Network includes South America, Caribbean, Mediterranean regions; the Himalayan Highlands, Malaysia and highlands of Andes.
• Research on biological nitrogen fixation dynamics in natural grasslands, ecological surveys, large scale grazing trials and control of weed grasses were undertaken to solve local environmental problems.

4. AFRICAN NETWORKS

4.1. The Forage Network in Ethiopia (FNE)

• The network was established in 1980.
• Initially it included the Ministry of Agriculture, IAR, ARDU and ILCA.
• Later it included higher learning institutions and a wide range of Ethiopian government and non-government organisations and farmers. Researchers from other African countries like Djibouti, Somalia and a few from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda joined the network.
• Sponsored by ILCA, MoA and IAR.
• Run by the Chairman, Secretary and Editors of NFE newsletter and advisory body from the different organisations.

Objectives:

• To conduct and promote joint forage research and development at a national level.
• It aims to achieve this by increasing communications between scientists interested in forage at all levels and encourage testing, seed production and extension of promising forage germplasm.
Activities:

• Network activities were planned by a steering committee comprised of elected officers and representatives of all participating groups.

• The annual general meeting was one of the most important network activities in designing multi-locational trials, namely (i) natural grassland inventory; (ii) initial adaptation trials; (iii) replicated yield trials; and (iv) mixed sward trials.

• The network provided training workshops and seminars by inviting national and international scientists and experts.

• Another activity was the field trips which provided the opportunity for members to view each other’s work and visit development areas.

• The FNE newsletter was published four times a year. It contained minutes of FNE meetings, local and FNE forage news and other network news, design and results of FNE multi-locational trials, articles and advisory notes on the production and utilisation of forage species.

Outputs:

• The annual general meeting provided a forum for the election of officers, presentation of the multi-locational research and development results and designing of new trials on research stations and on-farm sites. Talks were also given on various forage related topics.

• The FNE newsletter proved to be popular. It created a great deal of interest in FNE both in Ethiopia and abroad, and had a wide readership amongst research and extension workers.

• The network did much to create a positive attitude in government circles, to encourage better coordination of research, training and extension efforts with very small financial inputs, and to provide a local medium for publication of ideas and results.

• FNE’s success has initiated the establishment of the Pasture Network of Eastern and Southern Africa (PANESA) and other similar sister networks in and outside the country.

4.2 The Pasture Network of Eastern and Southern Africa (PANESA)

• The network was established in 1984

• It includes 14 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa

• Funded by ILCA and IDRC
• Run by representatives from the 14 countries, headed by a Chairperson, Secretary and Editor of the PANESA newsletter.

• PANESA was another African network which was broad in its goals and membership and contributed a lot in promoting tropical and sub-tropical pasture and forage research and development in Eastern and Southern regions of Africa.

Inputs from FNE to GFE

• Studies
  - Pasture and Rangeland plant and germplasm collection
  - Pasture and Rangeland ecological studies
  - Pasture and Rangeland improvement research
  - Pasture and Rangeland development extension
  - Capacity building on Pasture and Rangeland research, training and extension

• Publications
  - Pasture and Rangeland improvement and development projects
  - Pasture and Rangeland research and development reports
  - Pasture and Rangeland development extension manuals
  - Journals, books, newsletters, thesis etc.

• Others
  - Videos and films on Pasture and Rangeland improvement
  - Maps:
    - Grass cover of Ethiopia
    - Regional grassland maps of Ethiopia

Website: FAO/COUNTRY PASTURE PROFILES OF ETHIOPIA

• Involved Originations
  CADU, ARDU, EPID, IAR, ILCA, SF, HU, AU, MoA, Etc...

Grassland Forum
Networks were valuable tools that assisted in the research and development of forage undertaken in Ethiopia. The experience and lesson learned from International, Regional and National networks will assist/guide the establishment of the new one: i.e. the Grassland Forum Ethiopia.

Message
The present-day role of grasslands should be valued from the agricultural, animal production and environmental protection point of view because grasslands provide ecosystem services and functions like:

- Food, forage and bio fuel
- Gum and incense
- Biodiversity
- Carbon storage
- Tourism and recreation

All professionals and other stakeholders are expected to work in line with the above mentioned points to sustain the Grassland Forum Ethiopia.

**PASTURE AND RANGELAND PROFILE OF ETHIOPIA**

Pasture and Rangeland Cover of Ethiopia

- The pasture and Rangeland region of Ethiopia is most extensive in the western, southern and south-eastern semi-arid lowlands. On the more humid side, open grassland and grassland with some trees are common. In the drier parts, patches of bush are common and the proportion of grass is low.

**Area and Productivity:**

- For high potential cereal/livestock zones (HPC/LZ) of savannah Grassland and humid temperate pasture was 2 and 2.5 tons ha/year respectively.

- For both low potential/cereal livestock zone (LPC/LZ) and for high potential perennial/livestock zone (HPP/LZ) pasture (savannah grassland) was 1.0 and 2 tons DM/ha/year respectively.

**Species Composition**

- Areas above 3,000 meters
  The commonest grasses are species of *Poa, Festuca, Agrostis*. Of perennial legumes, the most important are the deep-rooted *Trifolium burchellianum* (var. oblongum and subsp. johnstonii), *Trifolium acaule* and *Trifolium tembense* is the most significant, but occurs only in the lower range. The shrubs, *Erica arborea* and *Hypericum revolutum* are common.
Geographic Projection (left side)

**Vegetation Map of Ethiopia**

- **Areas from 2,000 to 3,000 meters**
  The commonest grasses are species of *Andropogon, Cynodon* and *Pennisetum*. Legumes are prolific in this zone; the commonest perennials are *Trifolium semipilosum*. Of the browse species *Erythrina* is common.

- **Areas from 1,500 to 2,000 meters**
  The commonest grasses are *Chloris pycnothrix, Cenchrus ciliaris, Hyparrhenia* spp., *Setaria spachelata, Paspalum* spp., *Cynodon dactylon, Pennisetum plicatulum, Eleusine floccifolia, Eragrostis* spp., *Cymbopogon* and *Andropogon* spp. Perennial legumes include *Neonotonia wightii, Indigofera* spp., *Desmodium* spp... Of the browse species, *Albizia* is common and *Sesbania* is prolific on wet lake margins.

- **Areas Between 1,500 to 500 meters**
  Common grasses include *Chloris pycnothrix, Hyparrhenia anthistiriodes, Setaria acromelaena, Aristida kenyensis, Cynodon dactylon, Panicum atrosanguineum, Microchloa kunthii, Hyparrhenia dregeana, Cenchrus ciliaris, Heteropogon* sp., *Pennisetum* spp. and *Bothriochloa insculpata* - Of the legumes *Neonotonia wightii* and the less valuable *Indigofera spicata* are common. Browse species are dominated by *Acacia etbaica, Acacia nilotica* subsp. leiocarpa, *Acacia tortilis, Acacia seyal* var. seyal, *Euclea schimperi, Grewia tembensis, G. bicolor, Balanites* spp., *Cadaba farinosa* and *Capparis tomentosa*. 
Conditions and Trends of Grassland
In the highlands plant growth is slow due to low temperature. The high stocking density and intensity of cultivation is out of proportion to the carrying capacity. In the lowlands, short growing season suit only fast maturing plants; limited rainfall and recurrent drought, shrub invasion and overgrazing are major features of lowland grasslands. Overgrazing and seasonal feed shortage are evident in the country. Many studies have indicated, the Grasslands (except protected areas) of the country are in poor to very poor condition and will deteriorate further unless there is immediate action.
Questions and comments

Question 1: Why do we need to move from Forage Network Ethiopia to Grassland Forum Ethiopia? Is FNE still active? If FNE is still active, how would we link the two networks?

Ato Alemayehu: There is no FNE now. It has been dissolved for the past 10 years for various reasons, but we have laid down some ground. Many of the current professionals are the output of the network. Additionally the forage network gave a ground for the establishment of the Fourth Livestock Development Project (FLDP), which was a big project in the Ministry of Agriculture funded by the World Bank. During the time of FNE, the objectives were emphasizing mainly on local and introduced forage and to a lesser extent on natural pasture and rangelands which is a
niche approach at that time to start with. Generally, it was not a holistic approach. And unless you have a multi-sector approach, it is very difficult to get aid either from abroad or from local institutions. Now, after many years the grassland forum has to be established with the help of FAO and ESAP and it is has to be broadened. The grassland forum Ethiopia is a broad concept which will include cultivated crops, pastures as well as rangelands; it also covers agriculture, value chain, climate change and environment. It also encompasses a variety of agro ecological conditions from semi-arid to sub-humid and afro-alpine highlands.

**Question and Comment 2:** I appreciate the presentation and the information provided from long years back to the recent one. The question is, how much was the attachment of FNE to the rangeland? Because, in many previous works, I have seen many studies which were focusing on improved forages and related to the natural grassland in the highland areas but not much on rangelands.

**Ato Alemayehu:** This question is forwarded to make things easier and make clear to people. After FNE was established, the initiation came from FNE office and ILCA; it was the time for germplasm collection and biodiversity conservation. Ethiopia is rich in biodiversity owning a number of topical grasses and legumes, some of which were licensed to other countries. By that time, FNE together with ILCA and MoA were in high gear for the collection and conservation of the germplasm from grasslands and rangelands. Because of that we were in a position to get finance, ideas and knowledge, so we started with the easiest, the forages. But during those times we did not ignore the rangeland even though we were focussing on the grasslands in the highland. Many field trips were made to the rangelands in Borena, Jijiga and Afar. Additionally in collaboration with ILCA and FLDP of MoA, FNE funded and supported graduate students on rangelands, bush encroachment, calf rearing, and range nutrition and economics in the rangeland areas.

**Question 3:** What is the expected relationship of the forum with the local government institutions at cutting age level? The forum is important with large grassland coverage, but currently there is a limited resource, number of animals is increasing and overgrazing is high. What is the way forward for the future?

**Ato Alemayehu:** FNE was working with local government including region, zones, Woredas and farmers with the assistance provided by FLDP. For the way forward, the lessons learned from FNE are many. Ethiopia is rich in grassland biodiversity, not only in the biodiversity of *tef* and *barley*. But it is also a centre of biodiversity for many wild races of acacias, grasses and legumes. The origin of some of the common legume species in the world including white clover and grasses such as *Chloris gayana* are in the highlands of Ethiopia but through exploration they were licensed in the name of other countries. Therefore, FNE was so energetic to collect the germplasm and to keep it in a gene bank. That was why, with the help of FAO, the establishment of the Institute of Biodiversity Conservation became a reality. So the way forward is that, we as
professionals of grassland should not follow the monolistic approach. We have to come to the green development, the climate change, environment protection, food and food security, the millennium development goal, animal value chains and so on. Generally, we have to follow a holistic approach.

**Question 4:** I appreciated the presentation and the lessons we got from Ato Alemayehu. From the long experiences you have, I want you to give us your feeling on the status we are in now in relation to livestock research endeavor compared to the previous research and development activities. Are we on the right track or are we going down compared to the previous effort we have been involved in?

**Ato Aelamayehu:** Previously when we were working on research, things were so coordinated. For example in the case of Chilalo Agricultural Development Unit (CADU), in Kulumsa Research Center, the grassland research, animal research, veterinary research, extension research and crop research were implemented in an all in one approach. If you want to distribute heifers to a farmer, it was in the form of package. It should come with the land, the forages, the health and the farmer has to multiply his own crossbreds on contractual basis. Research at that time was in Kulumsa, Bako, Melka Werer, Debrezeit and Holeta and used to have a network. Every three months there was exchange of information among all the researches. The extension part was handled by EPID and CADU. Whatever is done by the Extension should be verified on station in the different research centers. By that time the main deficiency was shortage of trained manpower. Therefore, my suggestion is that we the professionals need to have devotion and attitudinal change. Animal, grassland and rangeland research should be holistic. It is an opportunity to have ESAP and the grassland forum together and furthermore the presence of members of the Pastoral Standing Committee of the House of Peoples Representatives amongst us is another opportunity, which can be used as an entry point for policy engagement. The committee can be a bridge between our society and the government.

The moderator of the session, Dr. Getnet, summarized the discussion indicating the opportunities and challenges. He emphasized the importance of involving the local institutions and local administration units for any type of extension or development work. And there are a lot of opportunities for example the expansion of small scale irrigations which can be used to cultivate forages when needed as in Jigija, Gode and some Afar areas; even crop production under irrigation is an opportunity providing crop residues as feed for animals. He also mentioned that there are lots of challenges including the climate change, the land use plan, communal type of grazing and the poor management of farmers and pastoralists. He emphasized that we need to use any available opportunities.
This session was meant to discuss issues pertaining to the naming of the forum, the draft bylaws and also election of the steering committee. Ato Biruk Yemane, General Manager, Ethio-feeds PLC, invited the participants to bring forward their ideas, comments and questions based on the following three points below:

i. Any changes/ issues of concern in the draft bylaw

ii. Any suggestions on the name of the forum

iii. The way forward

Following this brief remark, Ato Biruk invited Dr. Daniel to present the by-laws.
MORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION FOR PASTURE AND RANGELAND FORUM ETHIOPIA (PaRFE)

By Alemayehu Mengistu, Tesera Getahun and Daniel Temesgen

After a brief introduction, Dr. Daniel highlighted the need for clear structure as well as elaborate memorandum of association for the forum to be established under the terms and conditions stated herein this bylaw. The following sections focus on the detailed Memorandum of Association (MoA). It was this MoA that was discussed by the general assembly.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be Pasture and Rangeland Forum Ethiopia (PaRFE)

ARTICLE II

Address of the forum

1. The Forum shall have its head office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and shall, as appropriate, have branch offices, subsidiaries and chapters in other parts of Ethiopia
2. The address of the Head Office of the Forum shall be the following:

Pasture and Rangeland Forum Ethiopia
C/o Ethiopian Society of Animal Production
P. O. Box: 62863
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel.: +251115547498
E-mail: esapeth@yahoo.com
Web site: http://www.esap-ethiopia.org

ARTICLE III

Definitions and Gender Reference

Unless the context provides otherwise, in these Articles: Forum means Pasture and Rangeland Forum Ethiopia.

General Assembly and Executive Committee Means the General Assembly of the Forum in which its members are present and the Executive Committee constituted of members to be
elected by the General Assembly of the Forum.

Branches /Chapters means branches of the Forum as the Executive Committee may, subject to the approval of the General Assembly, establish from time to time.

Secretariat Means the Secretariat of the Forum established in accordance with the provisions of these Articles of the Forum.

Save provisions to contrary, expressions set out in these Articles of the Forum in the male gender shall also apply to the female gender.

ARTICLE IV

Purpose

Grassland is an important natural resource in Ethiopia. Pasture and Rangeland Forum Ethiopia (PaRFE) is a national forum that advocates for Grassland matters including policies and strategies to be mainstreamed in national development to promote improved Grassland management and production. It is the strategic goal of the newly formed Pasture and Rangeland Forum Ethiopia (PaRFE) to develop and elaborate a national, regional and district level advocacy strategy to progress and encourage better usage of Grassland so as to define appropriate and flexible strategies of response and programs on Grassland development to pursue and enhance awareness and better understanding of Grasslands through research, education and extension.

Section A

Objective of the Forum

The Forum is a non-profit making, non-political and non-religious professional organization established with a view to advancing the objectives outlined hereunder:

1. Serve as platform for policy dialogues on issues compromising grassland management in national development and promote improved Grassland Management

2. Provide scientific and market based information for land managers, scientists, development practitioners, private sector and policy makers in support of sustainable Grassland management

3. Facilitating the exchange of experience among professionals, communities, community-based organizations, non-governmental and governmental organizations; and harmonize the grassland restoration approaches.
4. Promote grassland management as a means to adapt to and mitigate the impact of global climate change.

5. To promote professional contacts between Ethiopian professionals and liaise with national and international forums.

6. Raising awareness about the environmental, cultural, historical and social values of grasslands: to the main target stakeholders the general public, government authorities, NGOs/CSOs and private sector.

7. To maintain professional quality, academic standards, relevance, ensure the interests of members with regard to professional enrichment and provide maximum services to the community at large.

ARTICLE V

Membership and Eligibility

Section A

Membership Classes

Members: Members include founding members and those under this bylaw get acceptance by the General assembly of the forum.

There shall be three classes of membership:
   i. Individual membership
   ii. Institutional membership and
   iii. Honorary membership.

Section B

Qualification of Members

Individual members shall consist of those individuals
   i. Who shall accept and commit to the mission and goal of the Forum
   ii. Who fully accept, abide to the articles of this bylaw and decisions made by the general assembly
   iii. Person, having attained the age of 18, who fulfills the requirements set shall become a member, thereof, upon filing the necessary application to this effect to the Executive
iv. Who is committed to regularly pay the determined membership fee in time 
v. Who, by law, is not denied the right to participate in such activity 
vi. Any additional requirements for individual membership as may be imposed by the General assembly from time to time.

Institutional Membership

i. Institutional membership is open to all institutions within and outside the country that accept and commit to the goal and objectives of the forum.
ii. Who is committed to regularly pay the determined membership fee in time

Honorary Members

i. These shall be individuals or institutions who have made distinguished contributions to promoting the objectives of the Forum  
ii. They shall be non-voting members 
iii. It is also not mandatory for the honorary member to membership fee except when they are willing to pay.
iv. The Executive committee may nominate and General Assembly designate these individuals/institutions who qualify under the foregoing categories as honorary members, using criteria of the Executive Committee may develop.

Section C

Members Rights and Duties

Member’s Right

1. All Forum members have equal right matters that pertain to the Forum.
2. Membership is personal to the individual or the institution concerned and as such is not subject to transfer or assignment to third parties.
3. Any of the members of the Forum has the right to be involved in the activities which serve to the fulfilment of the mission of the Forum
4. To elect and to be elected to its offices and to get access to information pertaining the Forum
5. To attend the General Assembly meeting; give opinion and casting vote
6. The right to complain to the Executive Committee
Section D

Membership Fee and Other Payments

1. The amount and period of the payments shall be decided by the General Assembly of the Forum
2. Any member who fails to pay in time shall be penalized based on the decision of the General Assembly
3. Dissolution or winding up or deregistration of an institutional member

Section E

Termination of Membership

Any one of the following condition shall have the effect of terminating the membership:

1. The death of an individual member
2. Written resignation of a member duly submitted to the executive committee
3. Dismissal from membership by court of law or relevant organ of the Forum due to an act wrong doings or violation of the provision of this article of the Forum

ARTICLE VI

Organization of the Forum

The Forum shall have the following organs:

1. General Assembly
2. Executive Committee
3. Secretariat
4. Auditor
5. Branches

1. The General Assembly

1.1 Powers and Functions

a. The General Assembly, which shall be composed of all members, is the highest policy and decision-making organ in all matters that pertain to the Forum.
b. Without limitation to the generalities of the provisions of (a), here of, the General Assembly
shall have the following specific powers and functions.

i. Determine the policy direction of the Forum
ii. Elect the officers of the Forum
iii. Appoint the Auditor of the Forum
iv. Upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee or of its own motion, establish branches and chapters of the Forum and issue the terms of reference thereon
v. Upon the recommendations of the Executive Committee, appoint the editorial board of the Journal of the Forum
vi. Receive, deliberate upon and approve the annual reports of the Executive Committee
vii. Receive, deliberate upon and approve the audited annual financial reports of the Forum
viii. Deliberate upon and approve the annual budget of the Forum to be submitted to it by the Executive Committee
ix. Consider and approve the program of the Forum
x. Bestow honorary membership on deserving individuals and organizations upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee
xi. Make amendments to or alterations on these Articles of the Forum
xii. Decide on the liquidation and winding up of the Forum in accordance with the law
xiii. Perform other functions, which, under these Articles of the Forum or under other resolutions, do not fall in the domain of activities of other organs of the Forum
xiv. Delegate some of its powers to the Executive Committee provided such powers do not call for authorization by an extra ordinary meeting of the General Assembly

1.2. Meetings of the General Assembly

i. The General Assembly shall meet at least once a year
ii. Meetings of the General Assembly may be called by the Executive Committee or at the written request of at least ten percent (10%) of full members who have paid their membership fees in full.
iii. The Executive Committee shall inform the time, venue and agenda items of the meeting to all members a minimum of ten days ahead of the date fixed for the meeting.
iv. Thirty Five percent (35%) of full members who have fully paid their membership contributions shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, a second meeting of the General Assembly shall be called where deliberations and decisions are to be made by members attending the meeting unless the agenda item is of such a nature that it requires the presence of an absolute majority for its consideration.
v. Subject to the provisions of Articles 13 and 14 hereof, decisions of the General
Assembly shall be made by simple majority. In the event of tie, the chairperson of the meeting of the General Assembly shall have a casting vote.

vi. Elections to all offices of the Forum shall be conducted by secret ballots and administered by an election committee of three members designated for this purpose by the General Assembly.

2. The Executive Committee

i. The Executive Committee, which shall be constituted by and accountable to the General Assembly, is responsible for the management of the activities of the Forum.

ii. The Executive Committee is composed of the President, the Vice President, and the Treasurer, Secretary General, Auditor as well as the Editor-in-Chief of the Forum's journal and two other members to be elected by the General Assembly. The Head of the Secretariat shall also be its non-voting member.

iii. The term of office of elected members of the Executive Committee shall be three years. They may be re-elected for a maximum of one more successive term. In the event of a vacancy in the Executive Committee other than for the office of the President, the Executive Committee may fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the General Assembly.

Meetings of the Executive Committee:

i. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once every quarter. Extraordinary meetings may be called by the President or any four of its members.

ii. The presence of fifty percent plus one of the voting members shall constitute a quorum and all decisions are to be made by a vote of simple majority. In the event of a tie, the chairman shall have a casting vote.

iii. In the absence of a quorum, a second meeting of the Executive Committee shall be called. If there is no quorum in the second meeting a written notice shall be made to all members to attend a third meeting informing them that deliberations and decisions are to be made by those members attending the meeting.

iv. No remunerations are due to members of the Executive Committee acting in this capacity.

Powers and responsibilities of the Executive Committee

i. Draw up the annual report of the Forum for approval by the General Assembly

ii. Draw up the Forum’s annual program of activities as well as its short and long term plans for consideration by the General Assembly

iii. Draw up the annual budget of the Forum for eventual endorsement by the General
iv. Approve the editorial policy of the Forum and appoint members of the Editorial Board
v. Ensure the observance and implementation of directives and resolutions of the General Assembly by all organs and personnel of the Forum
vi. Be responsible for initiation and formulation of policies to be considered and adopted by the General Assembly
vii. Devise ways and means of generating revenues to fund the various activities of the Forum
viii. Establish branches/chapters of the Forum both within and outside Ethiopia and issue their operational guidelines
ix. Appoint Head of the Secretariat, directors and chief executive officers of the secretariat and issue their terms of reference
x. Establish any committee that it deems is necessary for the conduct of the Forum’s activities
xi. Recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of honorary members of the Forum
xii. Recommend to the General Assembly termination of membership of anyone who fails to pay his/her membership fees for a period of more than two consecutive years
xiii. Grant the President power to conclude contracts on behalf of the Forum
xiv. Issue personnel manuals that govern employees of the Forum
xv. Adopt its own rules of procedure
xvi. Perform such other functions as may be entrusted to it by the General Assembly

3. The Secretariat

The Secretariat is the standing organ of the Executive Committee responsible for the day-to-day activities of the Forum. It shall be headed by a Chief Executive Officer appointed by and accountable to the Executive Committee. It shall have the required personnel.

Without limitation to the above generalities, hereof, the Secretariat shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

i. It shall conduct the business of the Secretariat in line with directives to be issued by the Executive Committee
ii. It shall maintain an up-to-date roster of all members of the Forum
iii. It shall draw up and keep minutes of all meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee
iv. It shall draw up its operating manuals for approval by the Executive Committee
v. It shall maintain the bank accounts of the Forum jointly operated by the President and other Executive Committee member to be designated by the Executive Committee
vi. It shall publicize the objectives, programs and activities of the Forum
vii. It shall draw up its plan of activities for approval by the Executive Committee
viii. It shall administer the property and finance of the Forum in accordance with accepted principles of financial management
ix. It shall prepare the agenda of meetings of the Executive Committee
x. It shall discharge such other duties as are entrusted to it by the Executive Committee

4. Auditor

The Auditor shall have the following powers and functions:

a. Monitor the financial and property administration of the Forum
b. Prepare the internal audit report in accordance with the standards acceptable in Ethiopia and submit to the General Assembly

5. Branches

Branches of the Forum are offices which the Executive Committee may establish within and outside Ethiopia with a view to further the objectives of the Forum and discharging the duties and functions of the Executive Committee and those of the Secretariat.

i. The Terms of Reference (TOR) on the basis of which branches may carry out their duties shall be issued by the Executive Committee. But they may draw up their own internal rules of procedure for approval by the Executive Committee.
ii. Branches are responsible, on behalf of the Forum, for undertaking such activities, which will promote the objectives of the Forum in the regions or countries in which they are based.
iii. The day-to-day activities of branches are headed by an officer appointed by the Executive Committee.
iv. Funds raised by Branches shall be used in a manner proposed by them and approved by the Executive Committee.
v. Branches shall be accountable to the Executive Committee, to which they will submit an annual plan and a report on their operation

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ARTICLE VII

Officers of the Forum

1. The President

The President shall be elected by the General Assembly and is the principal officer of the Forum. He shall preside over all meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee and shall have a casting vote in such meetings where there is a tie.

The President shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

i. He shall ensure proper implementation of these Articles of the Forum, resolutions and directives of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee by all organs and personnel of the Forum

ii. He shall present draft policies, recommendations and programs of action drawn up by the Executive Committee for consideration and approval by the General Assembly

iii. He shall present reports of the Executive Committee to the General Assembly

iv. He shall closely follow up the activities of the Secretariat

v. He shall represent the Forum to third parties

vi. Upon the authorization of the Executive Committee, he shall conclude contracts with third parties on behalf of the Forum

vii. Subject to prior approval by the Executive Committee, he shall sign contracts for the purchase and/or sale of properties on behalf of the Forum

viii. He shall perform other functions as may be entrusted to him by the General Assembly and the Executive Committee

ix. The President shall be accountable to the General Assembly and the Executive Committee in matters that pertain to their respective powers and responsibilities

2. The Vice President

i. The Vice President shall assist the President in the performance of his duties

ii. The Vice President shall act on behalf of the president in the event the latter is unable to fulfil his responsibilities

iii. The Vice President shall perform any other duties that may be assigned to him by the President

3. The Secretary General

The secretary general shall have the following powers and functions:
i. Shall document minutes of the executive committee and the General Assembly
ii. Shall handle all correspondences in accordance with the directives of the executive committee
iii. Shall be in charge of the forum's seal, documents and archives
iv. Shall replace and assume the functions of the president and vice president in their absence
v. Shall attend and tackle affairs relating to the Forum.

4. The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial matters of the Forum

i. Shall be in charge of the finance; finance associated documents and archives of the Forum
ii. Shall collect money from members of the Forum, donors by providing appropriate receipt
iii. Shall keep a stipulated amount of money to be decided by the executive committee in the form of petty cash for operation expenditure
iv. Shall withdraw money from bank only for the Forum's operation in accordance with proper voucher based accounts procedure duly signed by the President and the accounts officer
v. Shall present an authentic and honest document covering receipt and expense statement whenever requested by the Executive Committee and the General Assembly.

5. Editor in Chief

i. Shall be responsible for all publications of the Forum Chairs the Editorial Board
ii. He shall draw up the editorial policy of the Forum for approval by the Executive Committee
iii. Shall see the development of the Forum's literature resources and encourage members and others to contribute manuscripts.

ARTICLE VIII

Publications of the Forum

1. The Forum shall publish The Annual Journal of Grassland Forum Ethiopia (JGFE); Annual Report and Grassland newsletter
2. The Forum shall also publish other publications (books, occasional papers, monographs, etc.) by its own and through its subsidiaries.
ARTICLE IX

Source of Finance, Financial Administration and Budget Year

1. The income of the Forum shall be made up of collections from registration and membership fees, sales of publications, donations, and transfers from subsidiaries and revenues from activities that will be used further to the objectives of the Forum.
2. The Forum will keep separate banks of accounts for income generating activities.
3. The finance of the Forum, its branches and subsidiaries shall be administered in strict compliance of accepted principles and rules of financial management.
4. The financial records of the secretariat and subsidiaries shall be open for auditing. Detail procedures shall be outlined in operational manuals.
5. An external auditor, appointed by the General Assembly, shall audit the financial records of the Forum.
6. The fiscal year of the Forum shall commence on 1st of July and come to an end on the 30th of June of the coming year.

ARTICLE X

Dissolution of the Forum

1. The Forum may be dissolved by a three-fourth vote of the full members of the Forum in an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly in which at least two-thirds of full members who have paid their contributions are present.
2. In the event of dissolution, all residue assets of the Forum shall be donated to institutions agreed upon by the members.

ARTICLE XI

Amendments to the Bylaw

1. Amendments to these Articles of the Forum shall be made by a majority vote of full and fee paying members in an extraordinary meeting in which at least two thirds of full members are present.
2. Proposals for constitutional amendment may be made by any twenty members of the Forum or by the Executive Committee. Such proposal must be made in writing and circulated among members of the Forum at least one month before the convening of the General Assembly.
ARTICLE XII

Effective Date

These Articles of the Forum shall come into force as of the June, 2012

Comments and suggestions

Comment 1: Article I is not representing the existing potential of the resources of the country. So it was suggested the name to be changed to “Pasture and Rangeland Forum Ethiopia”. This represents all the highland and lowland areas. Other participants also supported the suggested name and explained the benefits of the new naming as follows:

- The name for the forum should be applicable both locally and internationally. The term grassland has a limited scope as compared to Pasture and Rangeland.
- Grassland will also limit the mix of professionals in the forum. Pasture and rangeland can invite various professionals like ecologists, natural resource professionals and other interested groups.
- Rangeland is part of the development plan of the government, therefore, it attracts the attention of the government.
- Its attractiveness for fund raising helps to lobby with policy makers. It will accommodate everything as a natural resource base for animal feed and livestock production.

Comment 2: A definition of the GFE, in the definition part of the MoA, is needed to avoid misunderstanding on the naming. The GFE can be defined in a way to include grass, range and pasture crops- cultivated and natural.

Comment 3: As a professional let us be accommodating and amend the name so that it comprises all the lowland and highland and even crops. Change name to Pasture and Rangeland would be appropriate.

After the discussions, the participants reached an agreement to change the name from “Grassland Forum Ethiopia” (GFE) to “Pasture and Rangeland Forum Ethiopia” (PARFE). It was suggested that in the bylaw, the preamble, objective and purpose including relevant articles and sub articles in the term “Grassland” should be replaced by “Pasture and Rangeland”.

Further discussion continued on how the Forum will function in the future and comments were forwarded:

Comment 4: It was suggested that a bylaw is needed for the development of an independent entity. Since, the forum in going to be under ESAP, the relationship of two entities can be guided by a terms of reference.
Comment 5: What are the commonalities and complementarily of ESAP and this forum? There should be clear terms of reference drafted and agreeing on what the relationship between ESAP and the forum would be. This is important to avoid conflict of interest; in order to obtain the license at later stage; and in order to have a clear mandate of the forum. In addition, if there are other organizations besides ESAP who have similar objectives and missions, the relationship of the forum with these entities should be clearly defined.

Comment 6: From The Ethiopian Veterinary Association (EVA)'s experience it is good to have Pasture and Rangeland Forum Ethiopia as a development wing (unit or department) of ESAP with clear terms of references rather than registering it with the Ministry of Justice as a new society. For example in the case of EVA, there are various forums and networks under it that are considered as departments under EVA. These forums are led by different competent directors, and this in turn improved the capacity of EVA, as a Society. Additionally, PARFE can enjoy the legality and already developed institutional structure of ESAP. Moreover, if it is a unit of ESAP, there is no point to have a separate executive committee. The Executive committee of ESAP can be the steering committee for the forum. The already reputable journal of ESAP could serve same purpose for the forum, and if a need arises it is possible to have a separate newsletter or bulletin for the forum.

Comment 7 and question: Recommendation was given that the forum stay within ESAP to be nurtured under the umbrella of ESAP, until it organically becomes an independent entity. This might take few years from now. Therefore, we may not need to spend time discussing about an independent forum now. However, the bylaw discussed and approved can be used when the time comes.

Comment 8 and response: Dr. Getachew Gebru, ESAP president, arguing the necessity of the bylaw, he recommended that it is always good to leave open room and we can’t confine everything in a box because a lot of things could emerge in a course of time. The core group established by ESAP EC also decided that in a short term plan it is advisable to keep it under the umbrella of ESAP. But the bylaw could be used when the forum has the power to stand by itself. Having a sub-committee working very closely with the executive committee of ESAP, will help to have a collective action, collective voice and collective power of different professionals as in the case of EVA. It will also make the forum easier for funding agencies. Therefore, let us keep ourselves open and not confine it. The details of the terms of reference can be given as an assignment to the core group comprising of: Dr. Lemma, Ato Alemayehu Mengistu, Dr. Abule Ebro, Dr. Solomon Mengistu, Prof. Adugna Tolera, and ESAP president.

Comment 9: We already agreed in the core group session that the forum should be kept under the umbrella of ESAP for the time being, but with clear mandate, responsibility, and office periods. The most important thing is identifying people that can run this forum.
Comment 10: Preparation of the TOR and selecting steering committee is good, but in this room we mainly have rangeland professionals and there are many more aspects to the rangeland concept. Therefore, in the steering committee, we need to have representation of other organizations and professionals since they can also influence the writing of the terms of reference.

Comment 11: Dr Getachew indicated that the core group was not meant to lead the forum, but it will assist ESAP in the technicalities of moving forward. And the general assembly is expected to elect individuals, which may also be part of the members of the core group to lead the forum.

Election of steering committee members: Finally it was agreed to work on the bylaw and terms of reference while the forum remains under the umbrella of ESAP for some time. It was also agreed to have independent steering committee rather than an executive committee. Ato Biruk Yemane, the Moderator of the session, facilitated the election of the steering committee considering the idea of representation of different organizations and calling for more criteria to consider electing a member. Accordingly, the following criteria were forwarded:

- Professional diversity in the committee
- Individuals who are committed and are willing to participate preferably volunteers
- Individuals from different streams including NGOs, government institutions, policy makers and private sector

It was also suggested to consider the members of the core group to be members of the sub-committee. This was accepted because the core group members set by ESAP have engaged in the initial effort for the realization of the forum. Besides, it was noted that there is diversity in profession among the core group, and they have shown higher commitment thus far.

Finally a committee consisting seven individuals was formed, and two individuals were also identified as advisors to the ESAP.

MEMBERS of the ESAP sub-committee on PARFE:
- Dr. Lemma Gizachew
- Dr. Abule Ebro
- Prof. Adugna Tolera
- Dr. Solomon Mengistu
- Ato Tezera Getahun
- Mr. Ben Irwin
- ESAP/Dr. Getachew Gebru

As advisors:
- Ato Alemayehu Mengistu
- Ato Beruk Yemane
The following suggested activities were put forward by the General Assembly to be accomplished in the coming 3-6 months:

- Finalizing the bylaw
- Create awareness among different actors and institutions on the creation of the forum through posters indicating the vision, missions and objectives of the forum.
- Developing thematic area for a workshop
- Launching workshop
- Developing checklist of relevant institutions and individuals in a multi-disciplinary way
- Developing linkages with national, regional and international organizations
- Developing proposals and raising funds from potential partners

**Comment 12:** The basic issues include finalizing the bylaw, awareness creation on the establishment of the forum, thematic area development, developing a checklist for potential partners and raising funds from potential partners. Additional tasks also include the possibility of establishing networks with similar and related forums around the world for experience sharing and scaling up.

**Comment 13:** There is a need of including the local and international forums in a broader sense than animal production and rangeland. It was also indicated that Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) is dealing with rangeland, and it is an opportunity to use PSNP as entry point to pasture and rangeland rehabilitation.

**Comment 14:** The moderator suggested that the MDG, FAO and UNDP are potential opportunities to make engagement with, and also stated the presence of many opportunities, including engagement with the Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA). The forum can explore a potential for collaboration with ATA in its livestock development program.

**Comment 15 and request:** Dr Getachew, strengthening the idea of engagement with the government, stated that ESAP has benefited from the participation of various institutions and individuals from the government line ministries, and particularly the pastoral affairs standing committee members of the FDRE parliament. He pointed out that there are opportunities for ESAP to play a role in capacity building.

**Response:** Hon. Ato Awoke responding to Dr Getachew’s request stated that the pastoral standing committee is established specifically to follow up issues affecting the pastoral communities, and he therefore sees opportunities to partner with ESAP. He also emphasized that at the beginning he was having a doubt about the naming of the forum and that it was very appropriate to make the name change to Pasture and Rangeland Forum, which can address all the areas in the society including the pastoral areas. He stated that the pastoral standing committee is always ready to assist in any matter that involves livestock. Even if public hearing is needed, he asserted that the Committee is capable of making that happen.
BRIEF REMARKS

I have worked two terms under ESAP as a vice president and I think ESAP will grow to be an umbrella for diverse initiatives in animal production. ESAP is envisioned to bring small but diverse initiatives together, and support these and let each grow. It is my hope, from now onwards, that ESAP will stay as an umbrella and will work on bigger assignments, other than the routine works.

It is not only important to establish institutions, it may be easy to establish institutions, but the most important and difficult point is to be able to do the things the institutions is aimed to provide. I think the forum will be an institution with great vision and that can make great contribution in the development of Ethiopia. And, I, as a professional and as a representative of PFE will try to make that happen. And I wish the forum be an independent entity with the contribution from professionals with in the steering committee and other members. Therefore, by increasing the number of our members and strengthening our power, we can make big contributions in policy dialogues and can make use of all the opportunities.

Thank you very much!
Dr. Getachew Gebru, ESAP president, made the following brief acknowledging remarks before inviting Honorable MP Ato Awoke for closing remark. He expressed big thanks to FAO and asked the FAO representatives attending the workshop to extend the vote of thanks to FAO. Dr Getachew also highly appreciated the professional contributions of Adrian Cullis and Gijs Van’t Klooster into the discussions, and requested for their continued partnership.

Dr Getachew stated that during this workshop a roadmap, which shows the expected outputs and deliverables, has been set. Accordingly the forum will be kept under the umbrella of ESAP, for the time being, with the anticipation that ESAP will give required technical and institutional support for PARFE to grow and become an independent entity. ESAP now has taken the responsibility to take the forum further together with the newly elected steering committee. Dr Getachew also expressed his appreciation for the contribution of Ato Tezera Getahun, Executive Director of Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE), in the development of the by-law representing the Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE) together with Ato Alemayehu. Finally Dr Getachew expressed his thanks to the members of the ESAP executive committee for their active participation and unlimited efforts to stage a successful workshop. He also thanked the honorary members of the parliament for taking their time to participate in this workshop, as well as for their keen interest in pastoral and livestock related issues and active participation in many various instances. He then invited Honorable MP Ato Awoke to make the short closing remark.
CLOSING REMARKS

By Honorable Ato Awoke Aike
(Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee, FDRE House of Peoples Representative)

We appreciate the invitation to this remarkable event. All the issues raised were very interesting and relevant addressing the current status of Pasture and Rangeland in the country. We, on our behalf, will present the general consensus of the workshop to the Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee.

All the works/activities in the country are the responsibility of all the institutions including the government and civil societies which includes this forum. And finally the contributions and efforts made are to address the lower society. In order to address the problems of the lower society not only the government but also the contribution of civil societies is very important. Therefore, this particular initiative is a good indicator of civil participation in the development of the society.

If you look into the Ethiopian rangeland, it is at a crucial stage and calling for attention. And the government is working towards its development. It is very important to work together in a coordinated manner to change the current situation in the lowlands and highlands of Ethiopia. Therefore, the Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee is always ready to assist and willing to work with the forum to meet its objectives. The newly elected committee should also play a role in facilitating and presenting the situations to other members and potential partners.

I now announce this workshop officially closed.

THANK YOU.
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