



## **Transhumance: a week to strengthen Nigeria-Niger and Benin cross-border cooperation**

Under the high patronage of the Honorable ABUBAR ATIKU BAGUDU, Governor of Kebbi State in partnership with the Authorities of the Region of Dosso in Niger and the Department of Alibori in Benin, ECOWAS, CILSS and GIZ are jointly organizing a week dedicated to pastoralism in Kebbi, from 27 September to 2 October 2021.

Located in the northwest of Nigeria, Kebbi State borders Niger (Dosso region) and Benin (Alibori region). Its economy is essentially based on agriculture with a focus on rice production, made possible by the abundance of water on the banks of the Niger River. Mobile livestock is strongly practiced because of its cross-border position with Benin and Niger.

In order to boost the practice of mobile livestock in perfect harmony with agriculture in his State, the Governor has asked ECOWAS to support him in this direction. In response to this request, ECOWAS and its partners are organizing this Pastoralism Week to (i) strengthen cooperation between stakeholders, particularly the Regional Pastoralist Organizations, local transhumance committees and the authorities for better management of animal mobility in the cross-border zone of Kebbi State, Dosso Region and Alibori Region, (ii) raise awareness and train the Magistrates and the Defence and Security Forces (Gendarmerie, Police, Water and Forestry Agents) on: the stakes of pastoralism, the regulatory and legal tools of prevention, management and transformation of conflicts related to the competition for access to natural resources and (iii) boost cross-border cooperation through a high level dialogue between the political and administrative authorities of the KEBBI- DOSSO-ALIBORI border areas.

This week dedicated to pastoralism will feature three main activities:

A sensitization and training session for Magistrates and Defence and Security Agents of the three cross-border areas to strengthen the capacities of judicial and security actors on the West African regulatory system, and the various national legal texts governing the practice of transhumance and natural resource management. This session will be held from 27 to 29 September and will enable participants to learn about the content of the cross-border cooperation agreements signed by the countries involved and how to explicitly integrate the cross-border transhumance dimension into them.

A consultation session of regional and national pastoral organizations that will bring



together representatives of herders' organizations, pastoralists, agricultural producers, as well as local NGOs active in pastoralism and local economic operators. From 29 to 30 September, it will be a question of taking stock of the 2020/2021 pastoral campaign and sharing proven experiences of mechanisms and tools for conflict prevention, management and transformation deployed by the Regional Pastoralist Organizations in the territories.

A high level dialogue session involving the high political authorities of the zone (Governors and Prefect), ECOWAS officials or their representatives (Vice-President, Commissioners, Director of Agriculture and Rural Development), CILSS officials, the Presidents of the National Border Commissions, and the heads of the Regional Pastoralist Organization' networks. It will be an opportunity, from 1st to 2nd October, to boost cooperation in the management of transboundary transhumance with the initialling of the agreement between Kebbi State and Dosso region.

More information on the PEPISAO project:

<https://bit.ly/2Wo7Fz2>

More information on the Africa Union Border Programme:

[https://www.giz.de ' downloads ' giz2014-en](https://www.giz.de 'downloads ' giz2014-en)