

AU-IBAR PRESENTATION AT THE 32ND EUROPEAN COMMISSION LIVESTOCK
EXPERT COORDINATION MEETING

AFRICAN UNION
Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE PACE PROGRAMME

Pan African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE)

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Abbreviations and Currency Equivalents

AC	Advisory Committee
ACM	Advisory Committee Meeting
AU	African Union
CAH	Community Animal Health
CAHW	Community Animal Health Workers
CAPE	Community based Animal Health and Participatory Epidemiology Unit
CSU	Common Services Unit
DFID	Department for International Development (UK Aid)
EC	European Commission
ECD	Delegation of the European Commission
EDF	European Development Fund
IBAR	Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
FA	Financing Agreement
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NAO	National Authorising Officer
NC	National Coordinator
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
OIE	International Office for Epizootics
PACE	Pan African Control of Epizootic Diseases
PARC	Pan African Rinderpest Campaign
PC	Programme Coordinator
PCU	Programme Coordination Unit
PEU	PACE Epidemiology Unit
RAO	Regional Authorising Officer
RCU	Regional Coordination Unit
RP	Rinderpest
TA	Technical Assistance
ToR	Terms of Reference
VLPU	Veterinary Legislation and Privatisation Unit
WP	Work Plan

Executive Summary

This report details the activities, results and progress of the PACE programme, both during the first and the extension phases. It also makes some suggestions for a way forward, by taking into account the following considerations and assumptions:

- Lessons learnt from JP 15 to PACE,
- The proposed technical priorities linked to the established epidemio-surveillance systems/networks,
- The emerging diseases, especially the current threat of bird flu,
- The assumption that the unused funds for previous projects might be made available for a bridging phase before a new programme is conceived and implemented by AU-IBAR through donor support,
- The financial limitations ,
- The partnership with existing platforms,
- The contribution to AU-IBAR operating costs during the entire period

Although PACE was designed to consolidate the achievements of PARC, that was designed as a regional programme, managed by AU-IBAR in order to achieve the final eradication of rinderpest, it differs from the latter in several aspects: establish epidemio-surveillance networks/systems, build national capacities and control other epizootics. This change in design from vaccination campaign to capacity building programme was to establish AU-IBAR as a Centre of Excellence, co-ordinating authority for regional and continental livestock production, health, and trade.

The programme has supported the implementation of national projects through the guide, supervision and advise of technical expertise provided by Common Services (CS) housed in the AU-IBAR HQ in Nairobi and its Regional Office in Bamako, Mali.

A Mid-Term review (MTR) of the PACE programme, was conducted in October 2002, and concluded that: "...the agreed completion date, October 2004, is no longer realistic and needs to be extended if any results are to be achieved." In response to this conclusion, the seventh biannual meeting of the programme's Advisory Committee recommended that: "... a consultant be appointed as soon as possible to review the recommendations of the MTR report in the light of the comments made by the PACE Coordination Unit (PCU), to design a possible extension of the PP"(PACE Programme).

A two-year extension was agreed with a very limited extra budget (7% of the original budget), and an extra EUR 5 million to cover the costs of the extension of the regional components of the programme. The national components were afforded from the original budget allocated to them in accordance with their global work plans.

The main achievements of PACE can be summarised as follows:

Eradication of RP and control of major epizootics

- Twenty-eight (28) countries have stopped vaccination and declared themselves provisionally free from rinderpest. 16 countries were declared by OIE free from rinderpest disease, while 4 were declared free from infection.

During the year 2005, 11 countries applied for the recognition of freedom from infection and 4 for the disease. These 15 applications are being considered by the OIE.

- 22 countries have an emergency preparedness plan (EPP) for rinderpest approved by the Director of the AU-IBAR and 4 are finalising it.
- Emergency funds and vaccine bank for RP were established.
- Scientific evidence was given that rinderpest is eradicated from southern Sudan.
- A task force (SERECU – Somali Ecosystem Rinderpest Eradication Coordination Unit) to support the process of RP eradication from the Somali ecosystem was established within AU-IBAR.
- The capacity for the surveillance of wildlife diseases has been established in East Africa and there is improved awareness of the methodology in West and Central Africa. In order to sustain these activities and African Wildlife Animal Health experts' group was established and coordinated by AU-IBAR.
- Participatory disease searching (PDS) as a special application of participatory epidemiology method was developed and is successfully being used for the detection of mild RP in the Somali ecosystem.
- Control strategies for CBPP and ASF have been developed in collaboration with PACE member countries.
- Functional epidemio-surveillance systems were established in most of the PACE member countries.
- A network of national and regional reference laboratories were established and MoU signed between AU-IBAR and these reference laboratories.
- Awareness was created among senior decision makers to increase budgetary provisions for the sustainability of the epidemio-surveillance systems. As a result, some countries have already allocated a considerable percentage of their national budget to sustain epidemio-surveillance activities.
- There has been a considerable improvement in disease reporting to both AU-IBAR and OIE from the African countries.
- The Pan African Animal Health Yearbook publication has been revitalized.
- Economic analysis modules, developed under PARC, were adapted to PACE members countries.
- PANVAC, as an African Union vaccine quality control institution, has been established and is now operational.

Capacity building

- An animal resources information system tool has been developed for the African countries and has already been introduced in 28 PACE countries and 13 further AU Member States.
- The AU-IBAR website has been developed and functional.
- National communication strategies have been developed in some countries.
- Training materials were availed and workshops conducted.

Improvement of delivery of veterinary services

- PACE provided assistance in the strengthening of veterinary services of the Member States.
- Veterinary supervised community-based animal health delivery systems were established in remote pastoral areas of Eastern Africa.

- PACE supported the updating and harmonization of veterinary policies and legislations in members countries.

Development of new concepts to promote livestock trade within and outside Africa

- The concept of export zones/systems was developed, which led to the concept of commodity-based trade.
- PACE organized two national and one regional workshops to promote regional and international trade.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF RINDERPEST ERADICATION IN AFRICA 1841-2005

It is believed that rinderpest was first introduced into the African continent in 1841 by cattle imported from Romania in Europe. By 1884, the disease had appeared in Sub Saharan Africa through cattle imported from India. The pandemic that followed killed up to 75% of the cattle and buffalos in Egypt, and over 90% of the indigenous cattle and wildlife in sub Saharan Africa. The disease apparently disappeared from Southern Africa where losses were very severe at the beginning of the 20th century. However, rinderpest remained a major problem in most of tropical Africa until the advent of joint project (JP15).

Joint Project 15 (JP15)

The CCTA called a meeting in 1961 to discuss a mass coordinated vaccination against rinderpest. Vaccination commenced in 1962 under JP15. In 1964 the OAU Scientific Technical Research Commission (STRC/IBAR) took over from CCTA and thereafter became the coordinating agency for rinderpest control in Africa. From 1964 – 1976 therefore, a regional campaign against rinderpest was organized by the OAU/STRC/IBAR. This allowed a campaign to be mounted in three successful phases in 22 African countries; West Africa (1962-1969), Central Africa (1966-1971) and East Africa (1969-1976). The success of this campaign was based on three factors.

- (i) Coordination
- (ii) Excellent vaccines and
- (iii) Adequate funds

(i) Coordination

The support of OAU ensured maximum administrative and technical cooperation of the member states concerned. OAU/IBAR was in charge of the whole operation with respect to time, territory and methodology. The Bureau's most important function was to plan coordinated action between countries.

(ii) Vaccines & Vaccination

A well-dried goat virus vaccine was initially used before the development of the rinderpest tissue culture vaccine. Cattle owners had initially believed in the goat vaccine because it caused a thermal reaction but when a tissue culture vaccine

reduced disease outbreaks it was quickly adapted. More than 70 million head of cattle were vaccinated thrice during this campaign.

(iii) Funds

Funds were made available by: the countries concerned, the European Common Market and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

RESULTS

JP15 was deemed successful because the number of rinderpest outbreaks dropped substantially. At the end of the project it was assumed that rinderpest had been eradicated from Africa. Unfortunately however, pockets of the disease remained in the triangles of Ghana, Mali and Burkina Faso in West Africa; and Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan in East Africa. This resulted in the disease recurring in many parts of Africa by the end of the 70's and beginning of the 80's.

LESSONS LEARNED

- 1) A regionally coordinated campaign with a centralized administrative organ at the fore was effective in reducing rinderpest outbreaks;
- 2) A regional campaign required massive funding
- 3) Use of effective vaccines was paramount
- 4) The project ended prematurely and therefore the battle and not the war against rinderpest was won. Thus, another rinderpest control programme for the continent was put in place.

Pan African Rinderpest Campaign (PARC)

By the end of the 1970s rinderpest had spread quickly from the two foci in West and East Africa to the rest of the continent with the exception of Southern Africa. This became of concern to OAU member states, who instructed OAU to once again start a coordinated campaign against rinderpest at a pan African level. In 1981 OAU decided to launch a pan African campaign and instructed IBAR to organize it. The concept of a coordinated campaign against rinderpest was therefore developed during the early 80s with funding being sought from the European Union. Subsequently, several meetings and seminars were organized by IBAR to formulate the campaign and were attended by the European Economic Community (EEC), Office International Des Epizooties (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Objectives

The main objectives of PARC were the following:

- 1) to eradicate rinderpest from Africa;
- 2) to make national livestock services more financially self-sustaining and effective in the field
- 3) to promote the privatization of animal health services through sanitary mandates and cost sharing recovery systems;
- 4) to cease vaccination against rinderpest where application
- 5) to help safeguard against desertification in order to revitalize the livestock sector in Africa.

Implementation

(a) PARC Co-ordination

It was quickly realized that for the smooth implementation of the project, a Coordination Unit had to be set up at the OAU/IBAR headquarters in Nairobi both for the overall coordination of the project, and for the Eastern African countries. Another Co-ordination Unit was set up in Bamako, Mali for the Western and Central African countries. Also introduced were specialized components of epidemiology, communications, economics, wildlife studies, a Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre, the privatization of veterinary services and cost sharing. The overwhelming political support from the OAU Headquarters and member states assured the success of the campaign.

(b) National Projects

A Coordination Unit was established in each member state. Funds were negotiated for each project on a case-by-case basis. Each country implemented its own projects according to the programs discussed and agreed upon with the Coordination Units in Nairobi and Bamako. These Units supervised implementation and coordinated campaigns at the regional level. Regional Coordination Meetings were held periodically to assess progress and revise strategies as necessary.

(c) Vaccines and Vaccination

(i) Vaccines

Rinderpest tissue culture vaccine was initially produced in Dakar, Senegal and Muguga Kenya, and later, a thermo stable vaccine was produced at the Veterinary Vaccine Production Institute in Gaborone, Botswana. The vaccine used throughout the campaign was quality controlled by the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC).

(ii) Vaccination

By 1985 Rinderpest had spread throughout Sub Saharan Africa and was causing great economic losses, food shortages among pastoral communities and the disease had become a major political issue in some countries. To quench the fire therefore, immediate mass vaccination was carried out in countries most affected without preconditions. These countries were Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria in West African and Ethiopia and Sudan in Eastern Africa. In the remaining countries funds were negotiated on case by case basis and vaccination carried out accordingly.

Strategies for vaccination were reviewed and varied from time to time according to success in the reduction of rinderpest outbreaks.

Where national veterinary services were overstretched or in difficult to access areas alternative delivery systems of animal health services Post vaccination serological surveys carried out at regional and Pan Vac Laboratories confirmed effectiveness of vaccination.

(d) Rinderpest in Wildlife

Rinderpest is a devastating disease for wildlife. The disease kills buffalo, kudu, giraffe and other ungulates. It should be noted that the mild form of the rinderpest virus has circulated in wildlife for a long time. The outbreak of rinderpest in wildlife in National Parks in Kenya at the end of 1994 and beginning of 1995 resulted in immediate vaccination of cattle in adjoining pastoral areas. It should be observed that the disease has not recurred in wildlife in the same National Parks to date.

(e) Disease Search

Finally, disease search was carried out by officers of OAU/IBAR, National Veterinary Services and Community-based animal health workers before declarations of freedom from disease. It should be noted that detection of mild rinderpest in cattle delayed declaration of freedom from rinderpest in countries within the Somali ecosystem.

(f) Funding

The European Union (EU) agreed to fund the program and provided 92.9 million ECU from 1986 to 1999. Additional 5 M ECU were provided by the EU for emergency vaccination of cattle in the pastoral areas following the RP outbreaks in Kenyan National Parks.

In addition, the EU also provided over ECU 30 million of National Indicative funds for the campaign. Other donors involved in this programme were the ODA (United Kingdom) FAO, UNDP, French Co-operation, Japan, Belgium, Germany and Nigeria.

The funds were allocated to two areas: one area supported IBAR's coordination activities and the other area supported negotiated national programmes on a case-by-case basis. In total 35 countries in West, Central and East Africa participated in the PARC Programme.

ACHIEVEMENTS

PARC was concluded in 1999, more than twelve years after it started. Approximately 465.5 million doses of rinderpest vaccine were used in the campaign. Rinderpest was virtually eradicated from West and Central Africa, Egypt and, by and large, East Africa. The majority of countries have already declared complete or provisional freedom from rinderpest to the OIE. Policy reforms and privatization of animal health services have been adapted in 23 out of 35 countries, while the remaining countries have initiated privatization including community animal health based delivery systems. Economic impact assessment of PARC has shown that rinderpest is a disease of major economic importance in the African continent. The eradication of the disease has therefore released funds for other animal health activities in member states.

LESSONS LEARNED

1. Rinderpest is an eradicatable disease;
2. Regional cooperation and coordination are paramount;
3. Political support for eradication processes is important

4. Use of quality vaccines for successful campaigns is critical
5. The epidemiology of the disease must be understood including the disease in wildlife and the role of the mild form of the virus
6. The disease in wildlife is an important factor in the eradication process
7. Efficient and functional laboratory and field veterinary services are key
8. Emergency preparedness is essential to detect disease quickly
9. Availability of funds is important
10. Epidemic-surveillance systems must be readily available
11. Alternative delivery systems of veterinary services including the use of community based animal health workers are critical in pastoral areas of the continent.

Pan-African Programme for the Control of Epizootics - PACE

The PACE Programme was designed to consolidate the achievement of PARC.

The Financing Agreement was signed between the Organisation of African Unity and the European Union on XXXX and the programme started on 1st November 1999 for a duration of 5 years. The PACE programme is a major animal health programme covering 30 sub Saharan African countries. The programme aims at establishing lower-cost national and continental epidemic-surveillance systems for the main animal diseases and creating capacities in member countries.

The overall objective of the programme is to contribute to the goal of reducing poverty and improving livelihoods of rural communities and enhancing food security.

The programme is coordinated by the *Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources* of the African Union (AU-IBAR). Common Services (CS) based in Nairobi, and Regional Co-ordination Units in Bamako (for the West and Central African countries) and Nairobi (for the East African countries) offer technical support to PACE national components.

The PACE programme had experienced delays in the first two years of its implementation, half of the participating countries could not therefore complete more than two years of project activities of their projected five-year programmes. Consequently, the mid-term review held in 2002, the 7th, 8th and 9th Advisory Committee Meetings and the EU external monitoring mission, strongly recommended the extension of the programme for a period of two years.

The Rider to the Financing Agreement was signed on 5th of October 2004 and extended the time limit for execution up to 28 February 2007 and increased the budget ceiling to EUR 77,000,000 from 7th, 8th and 9th EDF resources.

OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PACE PROGRAMME

The specific objectives are to

- i) Strengthen the capability to assess the technical and economic aspects of animal diseases and generate appropriate programmes for their control at national and regional level,

ii) Safeguard animal health in Africa against major animal diseases.

The expected results are to facilitate the sustainable achievement of this dual purpose, by:

1. Reinforcing veterinary epidemiology services (information, diagnostics and follow-up) and control of major animal diseases in the participating countries.
2. Greater privatization of veterinary services, and public/private sector linkage in the field.
3. Eradication of Rinderpest (RP) from Africa; greater control of other epizootic diseases, especially CBPP.
4. Establishing at pan-African level, sustainable co-ordination of national animal health systems and arrangements for tackling epizootic diseases.

OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE EXTENSION PHASE OF THE PACE PROGRAMME

OBJECTIVES

The objectives and activities were clearly focused and build upon the key activities already introduced by the programmes and strategically restricted within the limited funds available for the extension

The overall objective of the programme does not change.

From the original four specific objectives of the PACE programme, the extension proposal is focusing on two main objectives,

- i) the eradication of rinderpest, and control of other epizootic diseases,
- ii) the strengthening of surveillance to support policy development for the control of major epizootics and to gain better access to global livestock markets.

EXPECTED RESULTS

For the extension of the PACE programme, the following results are expected:

1. Progress is made towards the eradication of rinderpest in the Somali ecosystem (Somalia, Northern Kenya, and Southern Ethiopia).
2. Eradication of rinderpest is achieved in other PACE members' countries in accordance with the OIE pathway.
3. The epidemiological services and priority animal diseases control services are strengthened.
4. National policies for economically affordable strategies for the control of priority diseases are developed
5. Strategies are developed for gaining greater access to livestock markets.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF THE RIDER TO THE FINANCING AGREEMENT

The rider to the PACE Financing Agreement has introduced some changes regarding the technical and administrative provisions for implementation. The main alterations are listed below for every of the measures already taken or scheduled in the foreseeable future.

Modalities for use of the Special fund set up for the eradication of rinderpest in the Somali ecosystem

The modalities for the use of the special funds have been defined within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the AU-IBAR and the EC, following broad consultations with the PACE national programme coordinators.

Management of work programmes

Regional component

Prior to the implementation of the extension, a Global strategic plan covering the period of the extension up to February 2007 has been developed.

National components

The rider to the PACE Financing Agreement defined a new procedure for the approval of national work programmes. In this new procedure, the PCU will prepare a technical and budgetary framework document for the National PACE components on the basis of the Global strategic plan.

The technical and budgetary framework contains the major objectives and expected outputs of the extension including the log frames and the indicative budget ceiling for each participating countries.

For the Somali Ecosystem the thrust must be to determine precisely the endemic area of infection.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF PACE

The PACE Programme successfully conducted the following activities:

Monitoring and evaluation of national PACE components

The set of monitoring indicators for the activities which were developed during the first phase of PACE have been revised to take into account the priorities of the extension (See Annex). In addition, a more focused monitoring is being made according to the recommendations of advisory committee meetings, workshops and seminars.

Internal evaluation missions are being conducted in fifteen countries during the extension period.

Support to privatisation and veterinary legislation

The PACE Programme is actively assisting PACE Member States to update and harmonise their legislation to comply with the guidelines of the OIE on the quality of veterinary services.

Member Countries were assisted in enhancing the involvement of the private sector in the delivery of animal health services. The strategic withdrawal of the public sector from private good activities, and the commissioning of suitably licensed private sector personnel and businesses to implement some specified public good tasks.

The major achievement in the remote areas was the strengthening of delivery systems by involving private and public veterinarians and community-based animal health workers (CAHWs).

The epidemio-surveillance capacity was enhanced by the use of the CAHW, private veterinarians and non-governmental organisations. In light of the foregoing, during the extension phase, the following activities are being pursued to strengthen the veterinary service delivery systems, especially in the Somali ecosystem.

Support to the re-organization of veterinary services in line with OIE standards

The Programme is supporting countries to reorganize the veterinary services according to OIE standards and guidelines.

Meetings and workshops

Annual PACE Coordination meeting

Five annual coordination meetings for the PACE national components were organised.

PACE advisory Committee Meeting

Eleven meetings of the PACE Advisory Committee have been conducted.

Conference of the AU Ministers responsible for Animal resources

Two Conferences of Ministers responsible for animal resources in Africa were held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2002) and Kigali, Rwanda (2005).

PACE Policy Committee Meeting

A first Policy Committee Meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2002); a second meeting will be held in 2006. This meeting will be harmonised with other initiatives in animal health in Africa, e.g. the African Livestock (ALIVE) platform, EU Technology Platform on Animal Health and the FAO/OIE Global Framework for the progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF on TADs).

European Commission external monitoring missions

The European Commission undertook regular external monitoring missions with the objective of assessing the progress of PACE at both national and coordination levels.

Liaison with international and regional organisations

Over the last 40 years the collaboration between AU-IBAR and International and Regional Organisations has generated added value to the programme outputs. AU-IBAR continue strengthening these collaborations and partnerships through joint meetings and various consultations with OIE, FAO, ILRI, Alive, FARA, ASARECA.

Follow-up of National PACE programmes

Regular monitoring of national components of the PACE programme continues to be conducted through missions carried out in countries by regional team.

Country evaluation missions of the national components were conducted in eight countries starting from August 2004 in compliance with 37 performance indicators developed by the programme in line with the four initial thrusts of the programme.

The detailed analysis of the evaluation is contained in annex 2

Animal disease surveillance

Support has continued in order to strengthen the animal disease surveillance systems at country level. All countries have set up a surveillance systems.

The PACE programme has developed guidelines of performance indicators (PI) for the assessment of national epidemio-surveillance systems. Based on these guidelines PACE developed a set of 67 PI to monitor and evaluate the functioning and the efficiency of national epidemio-surveillance systems. Based on the evaluation improvements in the flow of animal health information between the field and the central veterinary administration and from the latter to the OIE and AU-IBAR have been noted.

Two training workshops on epidemiology and risk analysis for Anglophone countries have been conducted respectively in Dakar, Senegal (2003) and Lilongwe, Malawi (2005). another workshop on risk analysis for francophone countries will take place in February 2006 in Dakar, Senegal.

A workshop for the National Authorising Officers and financial decision makers was organised in Addis Ababa in 2004 to create awareness on the need to sustain the national ESS. Afterwards, a study on cost-benefit of ESS was conducted in six countries namely Benin, Ghana, Mauritania, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda. The conclusions of the study showed that there is a positive ratio between costs and benefits linked to ESS.

Rinderpest eradication

Twenty eight PACE member countries have stopped vaccination and entered the OIE pathway, declaring their territories or zones provisionally free from rinderpest. Since May 2005, 16 countries have been declared free from the disease and 4 have been recognised free from the infection.

- *A special attention is being paid to the Somali ecosystem because of the need to clarify whether the virus is still circulating in the area. For this reason IBAR has established a Somali Ecosystem Rinderpest Eradication Coordination Unit (SERECU) to coordinate and harmonise surveillance activities in the area.*

Each country has set up a wildlife diseases surveillance unit integrated within the national ESS. During the consolidated training workshop held in Accra, Ghana in July 2005, an African Wildlife Animal Health experts group (Wildlife Regional Teams) was established with the objective to coordinate and harmonise wildlife and surveillance activities in the Countries.

The national and regional reference laboratories network established during the PARC project were revitalized and as a result 2 annual coordination meetings were held in Accra, Ghana (2004) and Entebbe, Uganda (2005).

Emergency Vaccine Supplies and RP Emergency Funds

Vaccines were purchased from Botswana from the Regional Component budget for about EUR 500,000. The emergency funds amounting to 500,000 Euros provided by the EU and transferred to the OIE account to deal with emergency disease situations has not been utilised to date. The validity of the Agreement for the use of these funds has now been extended to October 2006.

At the end of the Financing Agreement, AU-IBAR will request the EU to accept that the rinderpest emergency funds remain available until the end of the GREP programme for rinderpest accreditation which is expected to last at least until 2010.

Control of other priority diseases

In the context of the current avian flu crisis, HPAI has become one the priority diseases in PACE. AU-IBAR organised an emergency symposium in Nairobi, Kenya (2005) to develop a strategy for the prevention, surveillance and control of HPAI. This strategy was endorsed by the 11th PACE Advisory Committee Meeting, the 5th Alive Executive Committee and the 7th AU Ministerial Conference.

As regards to CBPP, a regional strategy for the control of the disease was developed and then endorsed in Conakry, Guinea (2004).

Following the workshop held in Lome, Togo (2001) PACE developed a strategy for the control of ASF.

For the other priority and emerging animal diseases, e.g. Newcastle disease, RVF, PPR, FMD, countries have been requested to strengthen their overall capability for monitoring, diagnosis and control.

Information management

Improve national and international disease reporting – International disease reporting from African countries has improved during the first phase of PACE. This was both in number of reports received and number of countries reporting to IBAR and the OIE.

Enhance emergency notification of diseases – During the extension phase, reporting to IBAR has been fully implemented for emergency notification of diseases.

An Animal Resources Information System (ARIS) has been developed and improved further and implemented in all PACE member countries .

This software is currently installed in 28 PACE programme participant countries and is regularly used in 20 countries.

The ARIS software exists at AU-IBAR in three languages, French, English and Portuguese.

Training of information management staff at AU-IBAR PACE and national programmes in Oracle, Geographical Information System, Statistics and Risk Analysis/Management has been undertaken.

Data collection and reporting procedures have been harmonized with international organizations

The Pan African Animal Health Yearbook has been revitalised.

DEVELOPED STRATEGIES FOR GAINING GREATER ACCESS TO LIVESTOCK MARKETS

AU-IBAR has developed capacities to understand epidemiological issues associated with trade in livestock and livestock products such as Diseases free zones (DFZs), export zones, export systems and commodity based-trade.

IBAR with the support of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa will undertake new activities in compliance with the WTO-SPS Agreement in conjunction with relevant African sub-regional organisations to promote regional and international trade of livestock and livestock products.

Establishment of disease-free zones and export systems

For purposes of international trade, the OIE Code accepts that specific animal diseases can be eliminated from a zone or zones within an otherwise infected countries, have the opportunity to obtain zonal freedom from Rinderpest, CBPP, FMD and BSE from the OIE for trade purposes. To circumvent the problems involved in establishing disease-free zones, new initiatives will be proposed for implementation at regional and country level by AU-IBAR. The concept of “*export systems*” is being propagated.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Strengthening the human resources

An independent evaluation of the contribution of PACE to AU-IBAR capacity building, including an assessment of staff performance, was undertaken in May 2005. It has determined the choice of staff to be retained in the Coordination and Common Services during the extension of the Programme. This staff will strengthen the capacity of AU-IBAR and thus enable the office to achieve its mandate, in i) coordinating the activities of AU member states in the field of livestock production, health and marketing, ii) collection, collation and dissemination of information in all aspects of livestock production, health and marketing, iii) Initiating, developing and executing projects in animal production, health and marketing, iv) Liaising with appropriate authorities of member states, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), other regional groupings, inter-governmental and international organizations.

Developing IBAR's ICT Capacity

Sustainability of ICT services and products in AU-IBAR has been enhanced by creating long-term local capacity to carry out essential functions, which includes activities such as training, professional advice, financial support, collaborative activities and temporary budget support.

Empowerment of Human Resources: Training and Skills Development

AU-IBAR has organized training and various workshops to improve the skills of its staff.

Integrating ICT into IBAR's Core Functions

AU-IBAR has built capacity, human, financial and physical to collect and process data and disseminate the required information to member states.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL SITUATION

The total Programme cost was budgeted at EUR 72 million of which the National Component was EUR 53.4 million, or 74% of total costs, and the Regional Component EUR 18.6 million or 26% of total costs. During the extension period, the overall budget of the PACE programme was raised to 77 million Euros and is composed as follows: 25.32 million for the regional component and 51.68 million Euros for the national components.

In June 2005, the total amount of commitments under the programme estimates and commitments for countries and the regional component stood at 67.65 million euros. For the national components, total commitments were 46.73 million euros.

OTHER INTERVENTIONS OF THE PACE PROGRAMME

OIE Regional Representation for Africa

The support provided by the PACE programme to the OIE Regional Representation for Africa based in Bamako (Mali) continues. 80,000 euros are planned to be used to finance the operation of this structure during the 2nd year of the extension phase.

Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC)

The activities of the *Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC)* were supported by the PACE programme and the centre is currently fully functional. From January 2006 AU has made available 350,000 USD for the functioning of PANVAC.

CAPE

CAPE was financed in 2000 by DFID as one of the 'Thematic Initiatives' aimed at addressing supra-national, trans-boundary, constraints to development. The CAPE Project funding by DFID terminates in September 2004.

Research

The total budget for research for CBPP and rinderpest was EUR 1.5 million. No research component is included in the extension proposal.

CHALLENGES

Technical Challenges

Sustainability of ESS

The challenge for each PACE member country is to identify alternative ways of funding animal health systems on a sustainable basis. As the PACE program draws near to its closure, the challenge now lies with member countries to increase their budgetary support towards sustaining the epidemio-surveillance systems.

Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility have been a weak point during the implementation of PACE. These need to be corrected in order to build a strong image of the programme.

Administrative and financial

Management Structure

The Programme is large and complex with a Regional PCU, a Central Services Unit comprising some seven units working at a regional level, two regional components (one in East and one in West Africa) supporting 30 national components spread over a very large part of East, Central and West Africa. TA staff were drawn from a number of institutions with different approaches that in some cases were not properly integrated (see later).

Problems in Procedures for Preparation and Approval of Annual Work Programmes

PACE is a regional programme that includes the coordination and planning of PACE national programmes for which the Director of IBAR acts as the Regional Authorising Officer (RAO) of PACE.

There is clearly a need to adapt PACE procedures to the EC's decentralised policy that allocates more responsibility to the local ECD, to simplify the approval procedures of national WPs and to be able to mobilise funds more quickly.

Main problems have been identified as follows:

- Delays due to the consolidation procedure.
- Closure of previous WPs.
- Confusion over changes from concentrated to deconcentrated Procedures.
- Development of a technical and budgetary framework document for the national components
- Problems in Tendering Procedures
- Problems in Financial Planning and Control Procedures

WAY FORWARD

NEEDS FOR AFRICA

Epidemiological surveillance systems/networks for animal diseases

The important role livestock plays in the economic development of African countries is well documented with unanimous agreement that livestock provides food, employment; incomes etc. and fulfils other social cultural needs. It contributes to 12% of national GDP; 35% of agriculture sector. However, TADs are one of the principal causes of low performance of the livestock sector and poor access to international animal markets and animal products for Africa. Beside the direct impact on production, quality livestock products and adherence to international trade recommendations are the pre-requisites for many African producers to export their products and therefore increase their incomes. Therefore, there is need for implementation of control strategies to reduce animal disease risks. There are also the important benefits to food safety and public health. This can be improved through effective disease control and an effective and adequate veterinary service with a functional epidemiological surveillance system (ESS). The later is a good indicator of the efficiency of the veterinary services in a country.

Given the fact that in most African countries the system of husbandry is pastoralist and nomadic and this prevents effective movement control of livestock, and because of the "permeable" National borders in Africa and recognizing that animals within the region are under similar epidemiological conditions and risk of disease, AU-IBAR adapted the concept of a regional approach to the control of transboundary animal diseases.

Wildlife surveillance

The establishment of wildlife health and disease expertise in many African countries has been an output of PACE, and should continue to plug the gap in the capacity of the health sector. The organization of a regional team under AU-IBAR and the

commitment to a continued effort on wildlife disease investigation and monitoring is a major step forward.

Given the fact that wildlife population is considered as sentinel for few diseases (Rinderpest) the integrated in national surveillance systems wildlife component established by PACE program can significantly contributed to the clarification of epidemiological situation in risk zones, and the completion of necessary surveillance system activities for countries progressing along the OIE pathway. Taking into consideration the various wildlife populations in Africa, wildlife disease surveillance should be addressed. This can be done through consolidation of regional teams and working at an ecosystem level, pooling resources and sharing data of a transboundary nature. In line with this, a regional task force called "*African Wildlife Animal Health Expert Group*" (AWAHEG) was formed by PACE to ensure capacity for surveillance and functions for surveillance activities as two field entities; an East and a West-Central African grouping. This approach needs the endorsement of AU-IBAR and member states to function for the future. The principle activities to be carried out by this new established group are:

- Harmonization and strengthening of African Wildlife Health Professionals (Improved protocols, skills, communication, official training modules & licensing for Wildlife capture)
- Ensure the gathering and integration of National data into ARIS database and provide interpretation of wildlife data to International, Regional and National Veterinary and Wildlife Authorities.
- Improve representation and integration of wildlife health issues in livestock and human health sectors

In addition the AWAHEG will assist Member States in surveillance; monitoring and investigation activities, which will be carried out in wild animal populations, in collaboration with Wildlife Authorities. The disease surveillance includes priority diseases identified by countries and emerging diseases, including HPAI.

The sustainability and networking of members of AWAHEG will require the development of mechanisms whereby they are able to function in a regional context. A funding solution proposed is relying initially on PACE regional and national resources as agreed at a workshop held in 2004 in Dakar (Senegal). Beyond PACE activities of the group will depend on integration under the AU-IBAR umbrella. For

this reason wildlife office created under PACE should be maintained in the AU-IBAR structure supported by the established AWHEG.

Establishment of ESS where it is absent

The strategy of PACE is to optimise or, where they are not functional, to help establish effective epidemio-surveillance systems/networks in the 30 countries in which PACE currently operates so as to be able to determine and quantify the occurrence of epizootic diseases effectively. The first priority is to use these networks to assist in the final eradication of rinderpest from what appears to be the last focus of the virus in Africa. At the same time, countries in which rinderpest no longer occurs will be assisted to progress down the OIE Pathway towards recognition of freedom from rinderpest.

Because epidemio-surveillance systems are an integral part of the veterinary services of a country, AU-IBAR projects are currently strengthening veterinary institutions, policies and legislation to ensure complementarity between private and public sectors. To achieve this it is essential to establish or revitalise the conventional existing in country surveillance systems (including laboratory support) necessary for early disease detection.

AU-IBAR will provide guidance and coordinating surveillance activities in the Member States to enable them to strengthen their veterinary services, establish and maintain effective surveillance systems for significant diseases. AU-IBAR will address these key issues that are geographically expanding of surveillance system to those countries, which were not member of PACE program. This will lead to better clarification and management of animal health situation, and meet SPS agreement requirements.

The establishment of effective epidemiological networks in the remaining AU Member States will be enabled by:

- Ensuring that laboratory support is adequate for the diagnostic serological surveillance and epidemio-surveillance programs agreed
- Integration of the surveillance outputs of each network with the Animal Resources Information System (ARIS) developed by PACE
- Updating the database on epidemio-surveillance on wildlife;
- Wildlife training focused on the identified small regional teams for effective epidemio-surveillance to address transboundary disease issues in all Member States.

Strengthening the established ESS

AU-IBAR will assist Member States in developing their own performance indicators enabling optimization of the established ESS.

To ensure that laboratory testing is at an internationally recognized level it will require that they be formally accredited, probably through the ISO system. It is suggested therefore that AU-IBAR hold discussions with SANAS (South African National Accreditation Service) to obtain benefit of SADC experience in this direction or directly with ISO to develop an accreditation strategy.

Sustainability mechanism of ESS

The benefits gained from diseases surveillance is far greater than investment (principle of equimarginal returns) and is more likely to appeal to the imperatives of both African governments and international donors. The future strategy for ensuring sustainability needs to be examined and it is proposed to undertake the following activities:

- Cost-effectiveness of surveillance systems in selected AU Members States
- Potential of animal disease control for contributing to rural economic development

Based on the concept of regional approach for surveillance and control animal diseases, and taking into account epidemiological situation, socio-economic conditions as well as husbandry systems and different the epidemiological zones AU-IBAR introduced the concept of “*export systems*”, which is being propagated whereby disease/infection risk mitigation would apply to a range of diseases and not just freedom from a single disease/infection. In sub-Saharan Africa, different livestock production systems and trade patterns suggest that four sub-regions are practically suitable for the establishment of “*export zones*” for the purposes of promoting regional and international trade in livestock commodities. These are:

- Northern African sub-region Export zone
- West and Central African sub-regional Export Zone
- Eastern African sub-regional Export Zone
- Southern African sub-regional Export Zone

Emergency Preparedness in Animal Health in AU Member States

To limit the spread of newly emerging or re-emerging epizootic diseases, including avian influenza, there is a need to strengthen the capacity of States to develop the necessary tools to rapidly detect their presence and take the appropriate emergency

actions to immediately eliminate the concerned pathogen(s). Immediately eradicating an emerging disease as soon as it occurs will reduce the cost of eradicating it by several logarithms.

AU-IBAR in collaboration with donor communities will raise the necessary financial means in order to implement its control strategy for HPAI. Special attention will be given to this disease during the extension and the post PACE programme. The Emergency funds and the contingencies earmarked in national PACE will be made available for the control of HPAI.

Based on PACE experience it would be essential that countries develop and review their emergency preparedness plans in the event of the introduction of animal disease pathogens and strengthen their disease surveillance activities, quarantine capacity and vaccination services, etc. Consequently, AU-IBAR will assist individual Member States to establish contingency (emergency preparedness) plans for TADs and emerging diseases.

Livestock trade and marketing

In order to address the imperative for rural development in Africa, the possibility of harnessing novel approaches to trade in livestock and livestock products with other regions of the world should be promoted in accordance to the needs of the continent. The experience of the 'Red Sea Livestock Trade Commission' co-ordinated by AU-IBAR's Pastoral Livelihoods Programme funded by USAID, shall be taken into account.

In response to the weak performance of the African livestock sector and the increasing challenges of gaining access to regional and international markets, the AU-IBAR intends to work with RECs, which are considered as the building block of the AU Commission, national governments and market operators (producers, traders, brokers and processors) to promote market-oriented livestock development in Africa.

To improve the incomes and food security status of livestock producers and market operators in Africa by enabling them to have greater access to markets for livestock products the AU-IBAR's strategy aims to build on the strengths of existing livestock

development institutions in Africa including the RECs, by re-orienting their focus towards market-oriented livestock development and developing the information and skills that will enhance the ability of livestock producers and market operators to operate on a more competitive commercial basis. To achieve these objectives the following activities should be undertaken:

1. Produce and disseminate livestock marketing intelligence information including the acquisition and dissemination of SPS-related information so as to promote greater participation of market operators in domestic, regional and international markets for livestock products, and enhance their competitiveness and growth in these markets
2. Assist African countries to set up disease free and export zones to as to meet the SPS requirements for entry into international markets (capacity-building for greater market access)
3. Create awareness among livestock operators about food quality, safety standards and consumer preferences and expectations
4. Strengthen the institutional capacities of African countries and regional economic communities (RECs) so that they can actively and effectively participate in international trade negotiations on behalf of African countries and develop the organizational and management skills of market operators to access regional and international markets for livestock products. This can be achieved by:
 - Enhancing the analytical capacities of AU-IBAR and Regional Economic Communities in Livestock economics and Policy Analyses
 - Assessment of economic and institutional problems and identification of sources and magnitudes of inefficiencies
 - Identification and analyses of sectoral and trade policy constraints and development of policy options to reduce their negative effects
 - Establishment of appropriate framework to co-ordinate livestock trade policies among countries and regional economic communities and to disseminate policy results to decision-makers.

5. Develop appropriate economic incentives and policy framework to promote market access (development the organizational and management skills of market participants for greater market access). By focusing on appropriate economic incentives and a policy framework for market-oriented livestock development, it is expected to contribute to the livestock sector policy formulation and implementation process in Africa. National governments will benefit from this policy and institutional change process as they attempt to incorporate livestock in their national poverty reduction strategy papers.

6. Facilitate livestock products trade in regional and international markets. The trade facilitation services that will be provided to contribute to a greater volume of trade in livestock products through formal marketing channels. This will benefit government revenue collection and increase the contribution of livestock to the Gross Domestic Products of African countries.

Information/communication management systems

AU-IBAR has a vision of serving all its clients as a reference centre for information pertaining the sub-sector. To achieve this objective, its data collection, collation and analysis and information dissemination capacity need to be strengthened in short and long term. Building capacity in hardware, software, communication facilities, systems and methods, finance as well as human resources is not limited to IBAR as institution but also to data sources and intermediate levels.

AU-IBAR will embark on;

- Improve ARIS by designing and developing the 2nd version of the database
- Recruit a Webmaster and enhance the facilities of the Website and regular update
- Improve further surveillance data collection and disease reporting with in countries and to international organizations
- Continue the production and dissemination of information through hard copy publication such as the Pan African Animal Health Yearbook, newsletter and Information resource CD-ROMs
- Improve Internet connectivity and the use of additional facilities (i.e. VoIP, Video Conferencing)
- Corporate image and advocacy on important livestock issues using different communication strategies.
- Diversify the management of information to livestock trade and other areas of animal resources development.

The ultimate goal for IBAR is to respond to information needs of its client. Capacity to achieve this goal needs to be built. This includes acquisition of hardware and software for data mining, integration of information from different source, capacity to

generate concise information for managers and training of staff on modern data collection and analysis methods (risk analysis/management, GIS, communication, knowledge management) . Strengthening of the library and introduction of virtual library, upgrading the database to Web-based for on-line data entry, wider dissemination of information are some of the target areas. Collection of livestock market intelligence, international rules and regulations for livestock export, requirements of importers and dissemination of these to traders and those involved in marketing will be given due attention. Knowledge management, enhancing corporate image and advocacy on important livestock issues will also continue to be strengthened.

POST PACE

One year before the final closing date of the Financing Agreement of the Pan-African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE), a question has become recurrent, namely what is the way forward after PACE? This question is primarily put to the AU-IBAR, Regional authorizing officer of the programme, but also to the countries and the various regional and international organizations intervening on livestock development issues in Africa.

The PACE Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) which, is under the supervision of AU-IBAR, has steered the programme since the commencement of the Financing Agreement on November 1, 1999 has conceived a bridging phase which will enable avoid any gap at the closure of the financing agreement - and a new programme.

The analysis of the main results obtained in the implementation of the PACE programme and the review of the challenges facing African veterinary services, lead to suggest an interim period of 15 to 18 months, funded through the left over of various programmes, while a long term proposal will be prepared for funding and implementation over a period of five years. There will be a refocusing of expected results for these proposals. Therefore, key strategic areas for the consolidation of PACE achievements will target three strategic areas:

1. Strengthen the animal health systems in Africa in order to streamline them with OIE standards.
 - 1.1. Strengthen animal disease surveillance and reporting systems,
 - 1.2. Modernize legislation and reorganize veterinary services so as to make them gain ownership over the establishment and enforcement of animal health measures as well as international veterinary certification activities,
 - 1.3. Establish a sustainable animal resources information network in the countries,
 - 1.4. Support national diagnostic laboratories,
 - 1.5. Develop advocacy aimed at mobilizing adequate and sustainable resources for the funding of animal health systems,
 - 1.6. Set up a network of regional epidemiological surveillance taskforces, including laboratories and universities.
2. Broaden the ESS to the whole African continent and extend it to emerging and other priority animal diseases.
 - 2.1. Conclude the eradication of rinderpest in the Somali ecosystem,
 - 2.2. Support the establishment of regional control programmes against CBPP, foot-and-mouth disease, African Swine Fever, etc.,
 - 2.3. Strengthen cooperation among national veterinary services.
3. Promote access to international markets and compliance with of SPS standards.
 - 3.1. Assist with the codification of cattle movement procedures and exchange of livestock products at the intra-African level,
 - 3.2. Develop intra-regional and regional trade opportunities.

Implementation schedule

October 2005	Presentation of the concept note on consolidation of the PACE programme to the 11 th PACE Advisory Committee and to the Executive Committee of Alive.
November 2005	Presentation of the concept note on consolidation of the PACE programme to the Conference of the Ministers in charge of Animal Resources in Kigali.
December 2005	Presentation of the interim project to the 32 nd Coordination meeting of EU Livestock experts, in developing countries
By April 2006	Development of a project document by AU-IBAR in consultation with the Regional Economic Communities and the countries involved.
May 2006	Presentation of the project document for adoption by 12 th & 2 nd PACE Policy Committee
June – October 06	Securing funding
Early 2007	Programme start-up.

Two project proposals for an interim period and a mid/long term intervention have been drafted and are attached as annex 3.

CONCLUSION

Tangible progress is made against expected results, even though all objectives have not been reached yet.

Strengthening of animal epidemiological services

It is undeniable that animal disease surveillance capacities have been reinforced at country level. The PACE programme has assisted in the organization of surveillance systems, in the training and regular retraining of field agents, in defining standard operating procedures and methodologies, in equipping field agents by funding the acquisition of vehicles, motorbikes, cold chain material, laboratory equipment, etc. Regular support continues to be assured through country missions or through thematic workshops aimed at improving the surveillance activities over animal diseases. Countries now have field reporting systems directed towards the central veterinary administration and from the latter to the OIE and AU-IBAR.

In relation with the IAEA, the national veterinary diagnostic laboratories have benefited from diagnostic equipments and training or retraining of staff. All PACE participating countries possess a veterinary laboratory that is functional and equipped (albeit at different levels) for the diagnosis of rinderpest.

Efforts have been made in order to improve the management of animal health information through the development of the PID software (PACE Integrated Database), a second version of which called ARIS (Animal Resources Information System) is currently available. This software enables animal health and production information management which is compatible with international standards. The installation of the software is effective in 28 PACE member countries and is used regularly in 20 countries.

All PACE programme member countries have committed themselves to render the animal disease surveillance activities sustainable by progressively ensuring their funding through national resources, thus relaying EC funding under the PACE programme, or even other donors. One must note however that this commitment has still not been honoured and remains a major challenge to meet in most countries. Although in all countries, governments have made an operating budget presumed to support all epidemiological surveillance activities, available to veterinary services, these budgets remains inadequate and cannot ensure their efficient and sustainable operation. In addition to the regular budget, some countries have set up counterpart-funds that contribute to the purchasing of equipments and cover certain operating expenses of the surveillance system, but such funds are not sustainable and vanish with the end of the external funding.

Strengthening of the privatisation of veterinary services and public/private sector relations and the efficiency of field actions

The basic principles underlying the organization, quality assurance and evaluation of veterinary services as defined in the OIE Health Code for Terrestrial Animals are still not fully applied by PACE member states. The human, material, and financial means available to the majority of veterinary services are not in balance with the missions they are supposed to fulfill. This area remains a challenge.

The PACE programme has supported initiatives aimed at modernizing veterinary legislation at country level by seeing to it that legislation be developed in accordance with OIE standards. Nevertheless, it should also be recognized that the PACE programme addresses this subject with caution as it does not have the authority to decide on the approval and promulgation of legislation pertaining exclusively to the domain of governments.

The PARC programme had made available guarantee funds which had facilitated the access of private veterinarians to bank credit, the goal being to establish a certain medium and long term confidence relationship between the liberal veterinary profession and the banking sector. In PACE's design, this system was no longer maintained. As it turns out however, guarantee funds that had been mobilized under the PARC programme are still in place (operational or dormant) in certain countries and other countries have been able to introduce a guarantee fund in their global plan.

Farmers have been progressively incited to cover the costs of veterinary products (medicines and vaccines) and veterinary services (fees) since the PARC programme. Community-based Animal Health Workers have been trained to play a role in the provision of primary animal healthcare services to farmers. The CAPE unit of the PACE programme has played an active role in this area, mostly in Eastern Africa. In those countries where farmers associations or unions are already operational, the PACE programme has supported initiatives to federate these associations at the national or even sub-regional level.

Rinderpest eradication and the strengthening of control of other epizootic diseases, in particular CBPP

Rinderpest eradication, which is a major objective of the PACE programme, also fits into the global objectives of the GREP (*Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme*) coordinated by the FAO, which attempts to achieve global eradication of rinderpest by the year 2010. Nowadays, rinderpest has almost totally disappeared from the African continent from a clinical standpoint; only the « Somali ecosystem » region in the horn of Africa is supposedly still hosting the virus. 90% of PACE member countries have embarked on the OIE pathway by declaring their territory or part thereof provisionally free of rinderpest. Since 2005, 16 countries have been declared free of rinderpest and 4 countries have been recognized as free from infection. As far as the Somali ecosystem is concerned, a specific strategy has been developed and its implementation will be coordinated by the *Somali Ecosystem Rinderpest Eradication Coordination Unit* (SERECU) under the aegis of AU-IBAR in order to achieve the final eradication of the rinderpest virus.

As far as the other epizootic diseases which are judged priority diseases are concerned, the intervention of the PACE programme has been targeted at improving the epidemiological knowledge thanks to the national epidemiosurveillance networks and at developing control strategies which are more efficient and economically viable.

Contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia has been given considerable attention all along the implementation of the programme. Numerous consultations and workshops organized by the PACE programme helped reach a consensus on control strategies for this disease in February 2004 in Conakry (Guinea). But it must be recognized that

countries have still not adequately implemented these newly adopted control strategies even though the disease remains endemic in many regions of Africa.

Rift Valley Fever and African swine fever have also been tackled by the PACE programme. As far as the Rift Valley Fever is concerned, the PACE programme has strived to support actions developed in countries with FAO assistance. For the other diseases, very few actions have been conducted.

Nevertheless, it must be pointed out that although PACE targets mainly priority epizootic cattle diseases (RP, CBPP, ASF, FMD), it has also targeted other diseases including zoonoses, since the means used to develop national epidemiosurveillance networks help detect any suspected case of disease. This aspect stresses the interest or the indirect (qualitative) advantage of animal epidemiosurveillance in terms of public health in the case of CBPP, where systematic searches at slaughterhouses help "filter out" other diseases, namely zoonoses (tuberculosis, hydatidosis).

Sustainable establishment of a coordination of national animal health systems and of control of epizootics at the pan-African level

Through the implementation of the PARC programme, and later the PACE programme, AU-IBAR has been instrumental in the coordination of the fight against rinderpest in Africa. AU-IBAR has thus gained an experience which will be useful in the implementation of the programme to control other epizootic diseases.

On the other hand, the sustainable coordination of national animal health systems at the pan-African level remains to be built. As a matter of fact, many animal health surveillance systems set up in many countries have common points in terms of their organization and operating mode but there are no formal links between them, needed for genuine coordination and regional control planning. Nevertheless, PACE has facilitated meetings of national veterinary service officials in order to promote exchanges and facilitate better coordination of activities in the face of transboundary diseases.

This somewhat partial achievement shows that PACE has managed to play its role as a structuring programme by helping countries realize investments and adopt operational procedures that are indispensable to the adequate functioning of veterinary services. This does not mean, however, that all countries now possess efficient veterinary services meeting the standards of the *World Animal Health Organization* (OIE). There still remain efforts to be made in order to consolidate the achievements of the PACE programme particularly in the area of animal disease surveillance and reporting of outbreaks in a transparent and regular manner. This requires an increase in the funding allocated to the livestock sector from national budgets but also some donor support.

During the post-PACE period, a particular emphasis will be put on:

- Establishment, where absent, and strengthening epidemio-surveillance systems of animal diseases through notably development of advocacy for national public authorities in order to improve its operation;
- Expanding the ESS to emerging diseases, especially avian influenza.
- Promote trade in livestock and livestock products in Africa.

ANNEX

Monitoring criteria (37)

Objective I : Development of national capacities of analysis and action in epidemiology, animal health, communication et projects' management

I.1. Presence of a functional steering or advisory committee; as well as a technical committee, presence of a functional central unit providing efficient support to the epidemio-surveillance network, regular visits to checkpoints, regular training and technical upgrading of its agents ;

I.2. Existence of a charter (rules manual or manual of instructions) defining the network operation system (internal regulation, rules within the network, bases visits);

I.3. Reliability of sanitary information produced on diseases controlled : protocols of surveillance validated, field data validated in quantity and quality, number and quality of reports provided by surveillance posts (checkpoints) to the network body, number and quality (exploitability) of sample collected and provided by the network posts (checkpoints) to the laborator(y)(ies);

I.4. Broad and rapid internal circulation of sanitary information (veterinary services, laboratories, feedback to breeders/producers...);

I.5. Diagnostic capacity of the laboratories (national laboratory functional or efficient foreign laboratories subcontracted) ;

I.6. Action taken at national level to develop a collaboration between veterinary services and wildlife services, in order to implement wildlife surveillance;

I.7. Presence of a person in charge of communication with a well structured work plan (terms of reference properly linked with the 4 thrusts) and a real integration within the PACE team.

I.8. Efficient promotion and institutional communication from PACE at the level of authorities and partner development organisations. Sufficient level of participative approach within communication to breeders-producers, and to the large public with a sufficient quantity of media supports produced versus needs.

I.9. Availability and variety of communication-tools : rural radios, printers, human resources, financial and material resources.

I.10. Use of a computerized zoo-sanitary data base ;

I.11. Use of a Geographic Information System (mapping of diseases, mapping of location of the network agents) ;

I.12. Presence of expertise in animal health economy ;

I.13. Utilisation of a procedure of administrative and financial management compatible with the rules defined for the projects financially supported by the DEF (software-package PACE, TOMgift, etc) ;

I.14. Frequency and quality of technical and financial reports provided to the Coordination Unit of PACE and of sanitary reports provided to OIE and IBAR and to neighbouring countries ;

I.15. Regular publication of a zoo-sanitary information bulletin with printing and distribution in sufficient quantity to the appropriate targeted persons ;

I.16. Progress made in the financial contributions of the government for epidemiological surveillance activities;

I.17. Gradual extension of the network to the other field agents and integration to other stakeholders into the network (private veterinarians, livestock traders, breeders' associations, CBAHW).

Objective II : Improvement of the accessibility and of the drugs and services distribution to breeders

- II.1. Organisation of animal health services especially its coherence with the OIE's criteria including a role for private actors ;
- II.2. Presence of a private sector to assure animal health services (importation and distribution of drugs and inputs, veterinary services, animal health delivery) ;
- II.3. Existence of legal texts and regulation allowing a proper exercise of veterinary professionals and better sharing of tasks between public and private sector ;
- II.4. Political action to settle and favour the implementation and development of a private veterinary sector by setting prerogatives of private veterinarians versus public sector agents and para-professionals ;
- II.5. Institution of the sanitary mandate and its application's scope (disease surveillance, animal vaccinations, food inspection, prevention and control of diseases) ;
- II.6. Encouragement of a policy enhancing the cost recovery not only for products used (drugs, vaccines), but also for veterinary services (fees) ;
- II.7. Existence, dynamism and impact of veterinary professional organisations especially : Veterinary Board, Veterinary Associations ;
- ii.8. Level of organisation of breeders' associations and of other professionals' bodies and their impact on delivery of veterinary services ;
- II.9. Development of a community based participatory approach with breeders-producers;
- II.10. Regular consultations, meetings or encounters between government veterinary services, private sector and stockholder-organisations;

Objective III : Control of Rinderpest

- III.1. Vaccination stopped against rinderpest at national level and engagement/adhesion to OIE pathway for the status of freedom from rinderpest (provisionally free, free from disease, free from infection) ;
- III.2. Implementation of an efficient clinical surveillance of cattle (active search of stomatitis - enteritis cases);
- III.3. Implementation of an efficient serological surveillance of cattle through serum collection;

III.4. Implementation of an efficient epidemio-surveillance (including both clinical and serological surveillance) system for Rinderpest in wildlife in countries where significant numbers of susceptible species are present;

III.5. Existence of an emergency intervention plan against Rinderpest, adapted to the country conditions, regularly updated and distributed to the various potential actors ;

Objective IV : Control of CBPP and other epizootics

IV.1. Action taken to improve knowledge regarding epidemiological data on animal diseases (spatial and temporal distribution, prevalence, census) ;

IV.2. Existence of validated documents on control strategies for priority animal diseases, including emergency preparedness plans and the establishment of an emergency fund and a stock holders compensation fund;

IV.3. Action taken to improve collaboration between veterinary services and public health services for the control of zoonosis (RVF, rabies) in countries where zoonosis are amongst the priority diseases withheld ;

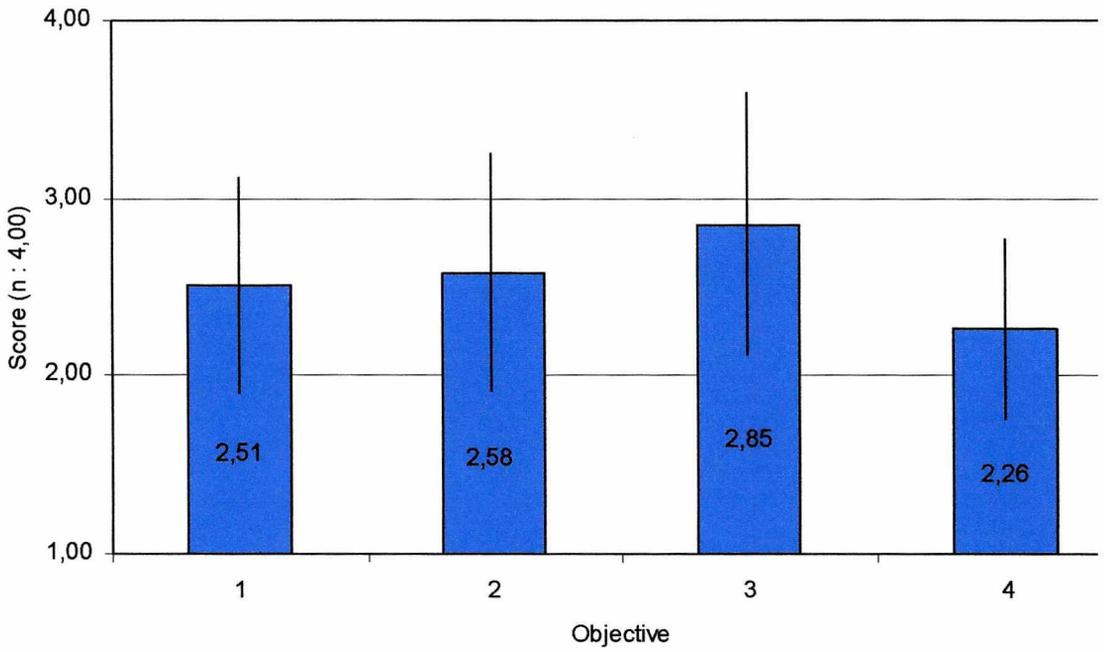
IV.4. Existence of zoo-sanitary agreements with neighbouring countries and the degree to which these agreements have been applied in the field;

IV.5. Existence of animal movement control and traceability measures ([inter]national certificates of transhumance, sanitary laissez passer, branding of cattle, national register, ...)

An overall improvement of country scores, which reach an average of 2.54 out of 4.

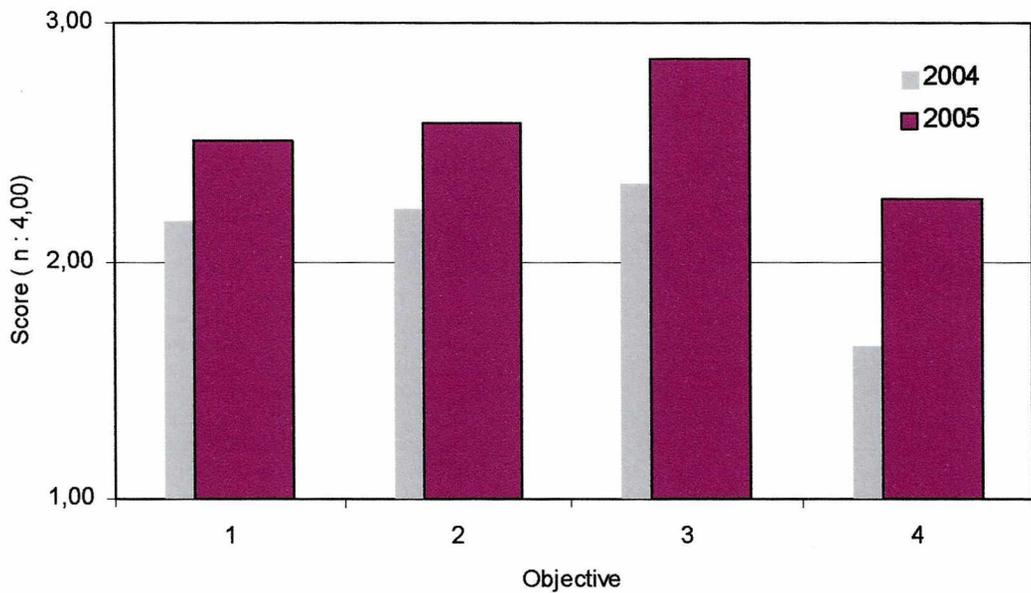
Objective III relative to the eradication of rinderpest scores highest (2.85), followed by objective II: improved provision of veterinary services and medicines to farmers (2.58), then objective I: strengthening of veterinary services surveillance systems (2.51), and finally objective IV: control of other epizootics (2.26). This latter objective has recorded the best progression, certainly because of establishment of ESS's, which now makes possible improved knowledge on the epidemiological data of animal diseases and development of control strategies particularly for CBPP.

Average score per objective (October 2005)



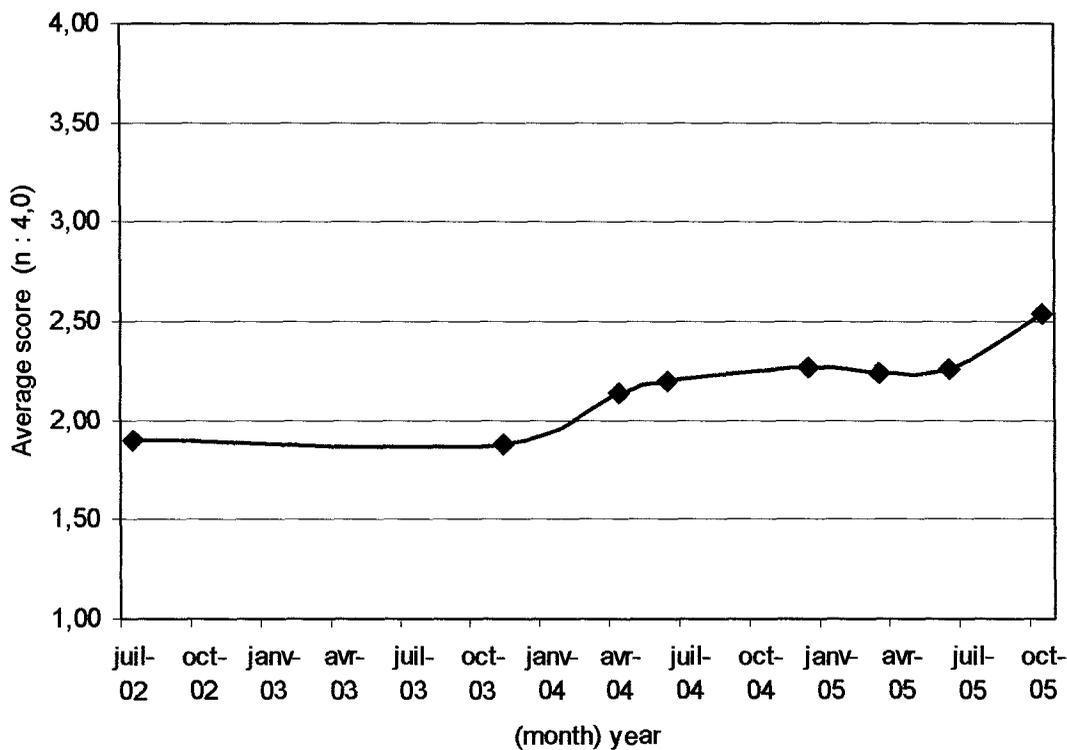
Graph 1. Scores per objective (average and standard deviation) in October 2005

Evolution of scores per objective (April 2004 - October 2005)



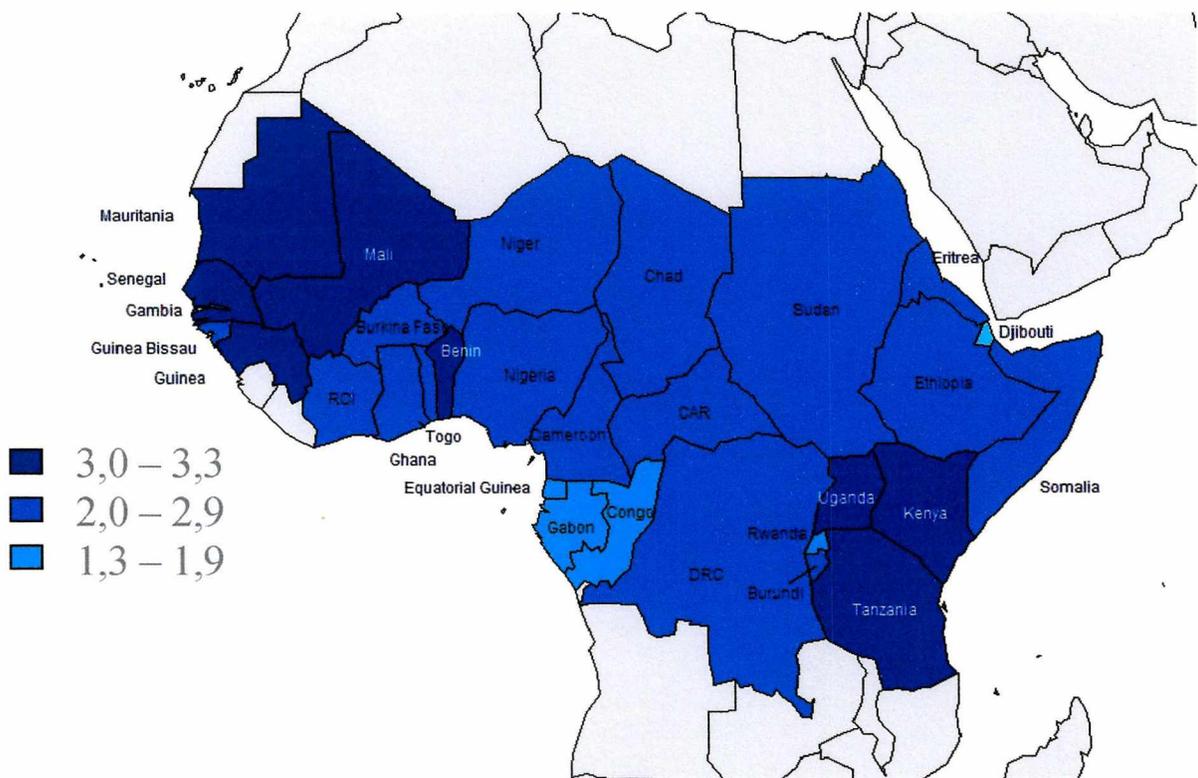
Graph 2. Evolution of scores per objective (April 2004 – October 2005)

Progress made by PACE member countries (30)



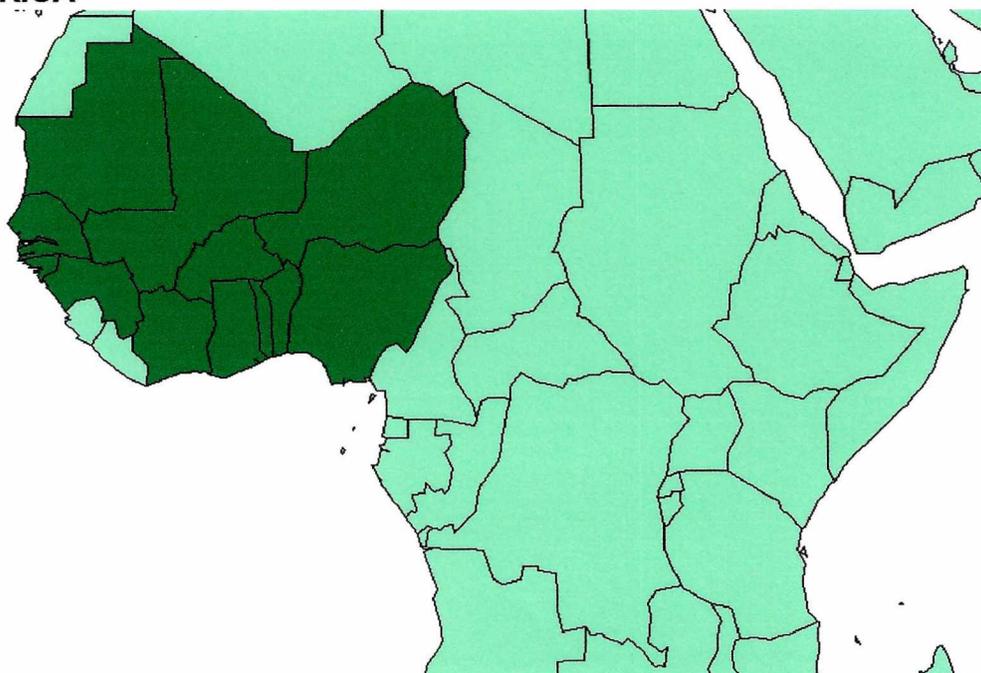
Graph 3. Progress made by the 30 PACE member countries between 2002 and October 2005.

Present score : 2,54.

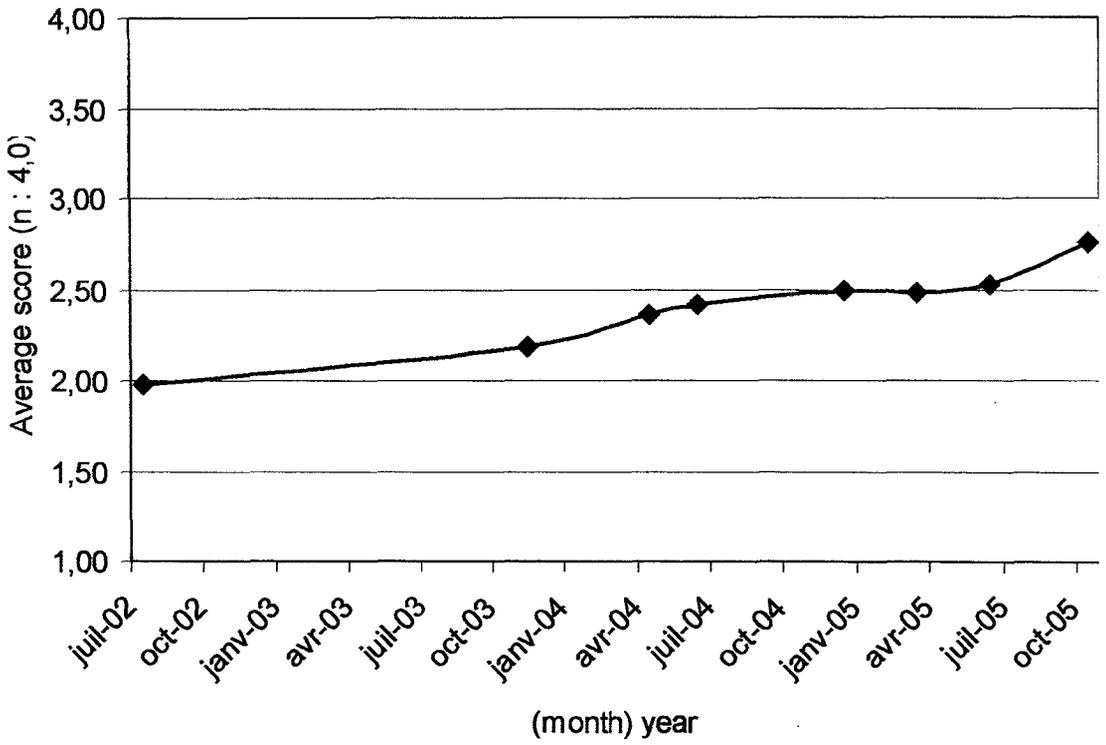


Map 1. Average scores obtained by PACE member countries in October 2005.

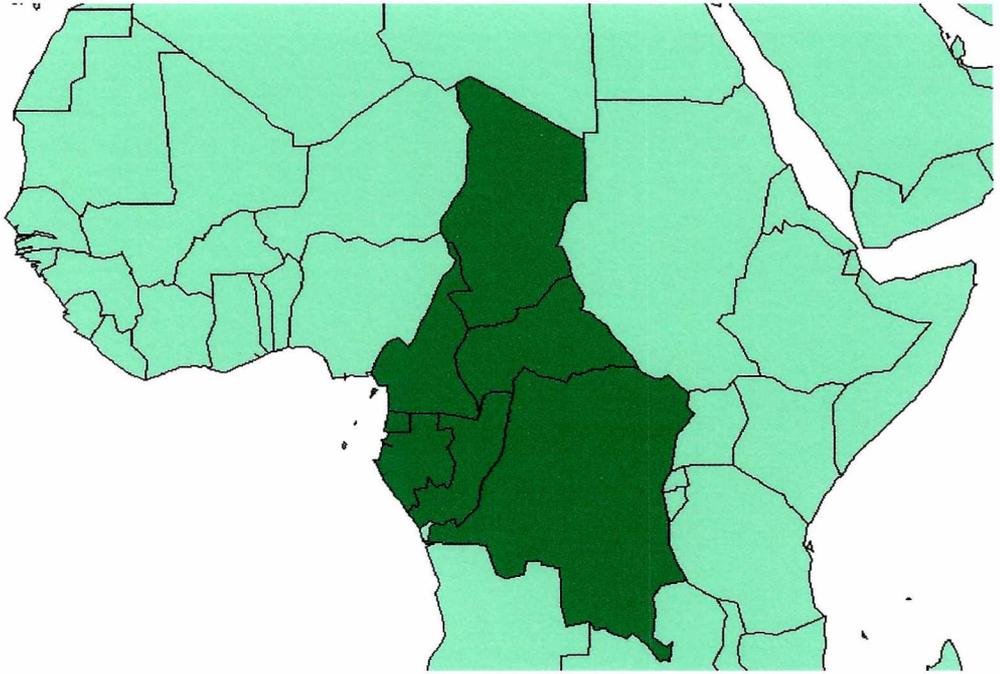
WESTERN AFRICA



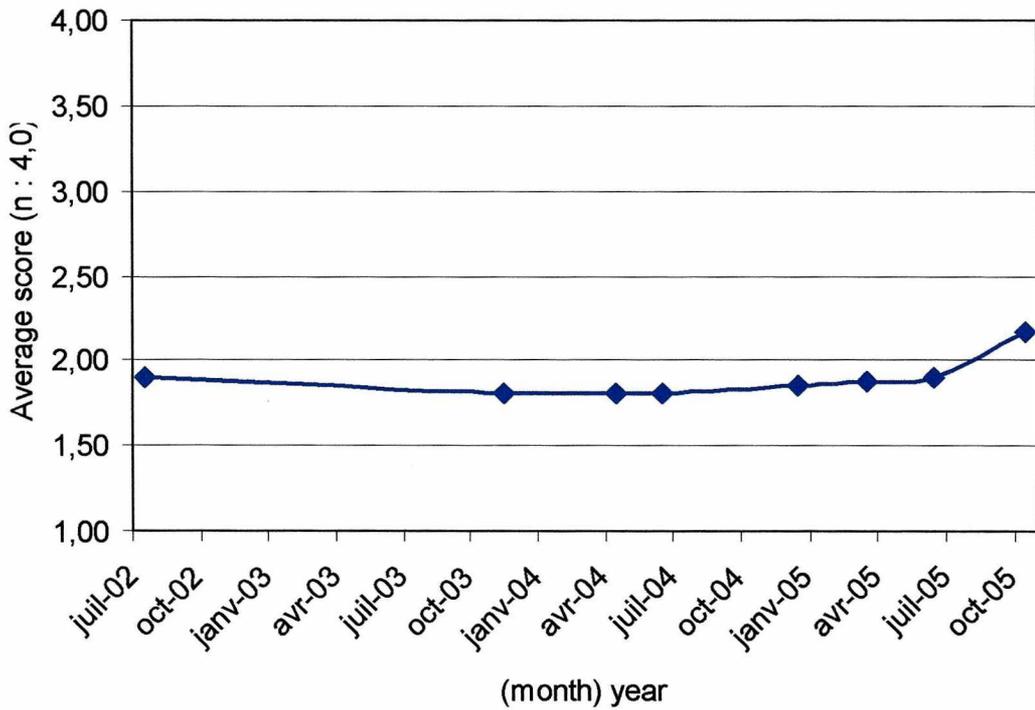
Progress made by countries in West Africa (13).



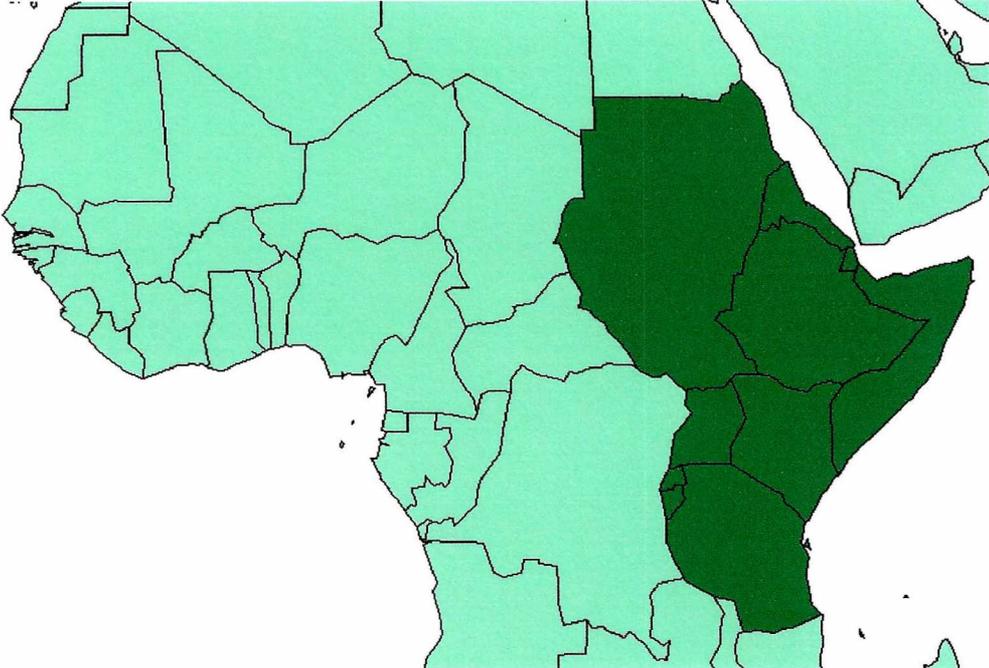
CENTRAL AFRICA



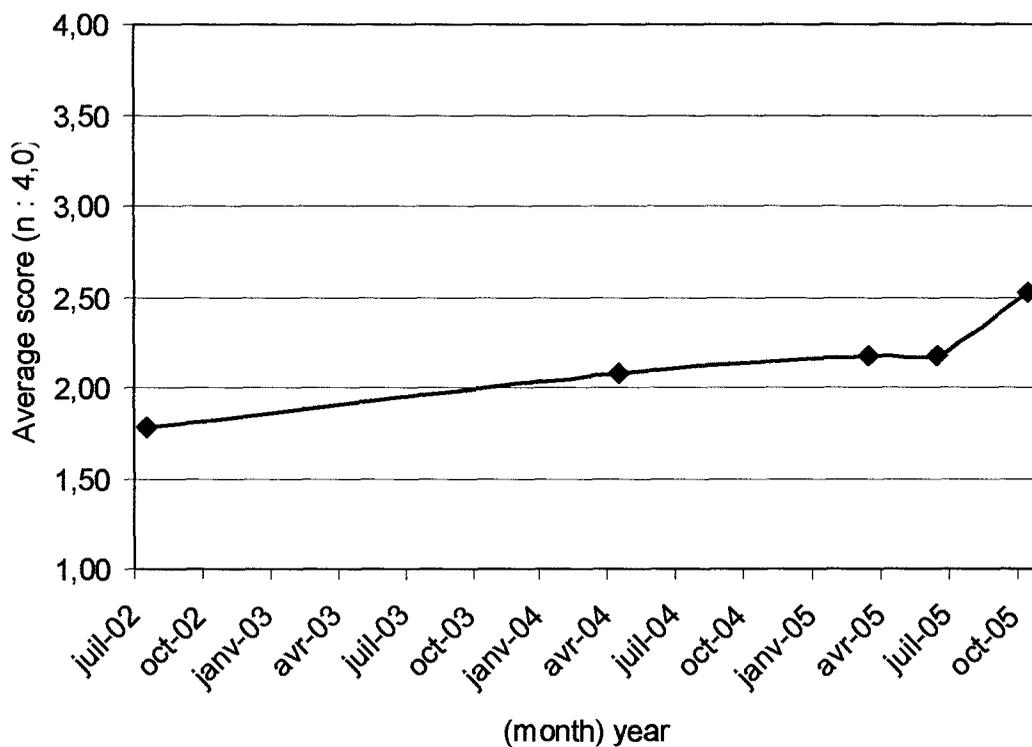
Progress made by countries in Central Africa (7)



EASTERN AFRICA



Progress made by countries in East Africa (10)



Acknowledgements

The AU-IBAR would like to acknowledge the long assistance provided by the European Commission to the African continent in the field of Livestock Development in Africa.

The AU-IBAR would like to acknowledge the long assistance provided by the European Commission to the African continent in the field of Livestock Development in Africa.

PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR A TRANSITIONAL PHASE BRIDGING FROM PACE TO A MID/LONG TERM INTERVENTION

1. Justification

The PACE programme will come to an end in October 2006 as far as activities in the beneficiary Countries are concerned, while the Financing Agreement will end in February 2007, without a further extension.

As pointed out during the 11th meeting of PACE Advisory Committee (AC) and during the 7th Conference of African Ministers responsible for Livestock, all the objectives planned during the PACE programme may be difficult to achieve despite significant progress made under the PACE Programme especially during the past two years.

It is anticipated that the effective control of major animal diseases will remain an important issue in Africa. There is a general consensus on the fact that the current international situation regarding highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), the ability of the causal agent to spread to all continents including Africa as well as its potential to cause a human pandemic should be a reason for deep concern not only to the international scientific community but also to all Governments, Regional and International Organisations and Donors. Africa is considered to be among the least prepared continents to face outbreaks of avian influenza. This concept was reiterated during the Ministers' Conference in Kigali.

The Conference, after recognizing the success achieved in the field of rinderpest eradication in Africa and underlining that the continent is about to get rid of this disease in the near future thereby allowing the complete eradication of the disease from the planet, requested AU/IBAR to speed up the implementation of planned activities within the framework of the Somali Ecosystem Rinderpest Eradication Unit (SERECU) and to prepare a post-PACE programme and seek funding for the final eradication of rinderpest from the African continent. In the meantime, the Conference invited those African countries that have not yet embarked on the OIE pathway for eradication of rinderpest to do so.

Notwithstanding the results achieved in the improvement of epidemic surveillance services, the importance of the Veterinary Services and their role in the early detection and rapid response to outbreaks of major transboundary animal diseases should be enhanced. It is therefore necessary to provide these services with adequate skills and resources in order to enable them to comply with OIE international standards on quality of Veterinary Services and disease surveillance and control methods. This will assist countries in protecting animal and human health (including food safety) and also to boost animal production and improve market access to alleviate poverty in Africa.

Last, the Conference of Ministers in Kigali recognised i) The good results achieved by the PACE programme in the implementation and re-enforcement of surveillance systems and the need to ensure their sustainability; ii) The results of cost-benefit studies undertaken, especially within the framework of PACE, which show that

investments in surveillance activities are insignificant compared to the costs of having to control the disease in case of an outbreak; iii) The need to extend the epidemio-surveillance to all African Countries and to maintain coordination of animal disease activities at regional level; iv) The foreseen end of the PACE financing agreement, and v) The inadequate allocation of resources to the livestock sector in many African Countries; and therefore:

- Invites governments of African countries to avail adequate financial resources to veterinary services and in particular epidemio-surveillance networks through subsequent budgetary allocations and using additional sources of funding which are generated from livestock sector activities.
- Appeals to the European Union as well as other development partners to mobilize new resources to consolidate the PACE programme achievements and extend the epidemio-surveillance network to those countries where it does not exist. In line with this, the Conference of Ministers invites the Commission of the African Union to organise in the near future a round table of donors.
- Invites governments to allocate to the livestock sector a minimum of 30% of the 10% of budgetary allocations to agriculture in conformity with the decision of the Heads of State of July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique.

1.1 Strategic Framework

The proposed programme fits in the EC Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, and can be considered as a contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The livestock sector has been identified as one of the key sectors to be supported and/or strengthened during the 10th EDF, at both national and regional level.

The important role livestock plays in the economic development of African countries is well documented with unanimous agreements that livestock provides among others food, employment, incomes and fulfils further social and cultural needs. However, animal diseases are one of the principal causes of low performance of the livestock sector and poor access to international animal markets and animal products for Africa.

The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) is one of the specialised technical offices of the African Union (AU) under the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA). The new mandate of IBAR recognizes that animal resources have to significantly contribute to increased incomes and food security in rural Africa and emphasizes the need for IBAR to work through the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other relevant institutions in member states. With the reorganization of AU, IBAR has to align itself to the vision of the AU and the mandate of DREA.

The Animal Resource Development Strategy of IBAR outlines common and shared vision, mission, core functions, strategies and activities that clearly demonstrate organization's steps towards alignment with the AU vision. To contribute to the vision of

AU the institution shall focus on six mandates including 1) control of major transboundary animal diseases, 2) improvement of animal genetic and feed resources, 3) enhancement of trade and marketing of livestock and livestock products, 4) development of livestock information and communication technology, 5) improvement of quality assurance of livestock and products of animal origin, and 6) harmonization of livestock related policies and the legal framework in member states.

In the context of globalisation and according to the OIE standards, the development of epidemio-surveillance networks or the revitalisation of conventional epidemio-surveillance systems has become a priority for veterinary services in countries, which would like to take part in the international trade of animals and animal products.

1.2 Lesson Learnt

TAKE FROM THE M/L TERM PROJECT

1.3 Complementary Actions

GF-TAD, PRINT, RATES, LTC, Livestock Development initiatives of the ADB, SPS project proposal, IGAD based SPS, TCP FAO against AI.

1.4 Coordination of Donors

NEPAD, ALIVE, ADB projects; Summon of OIE, FAO, ADB

The proposed programme will be coherent with the NEPAD and ALIVE initiatives with whom it will actively interact and coordinate. Indeed, while NEPAD is approaching livestock as a major component of the CAADP II.....

The AU-IBAR will take the ALIVE Governance between mid 2006 when the IBAR Director will start chairing the Executive Committee, and 2007, when the ALIVE Secretariat will be transferred from the World Bank to the AU-IBAR after the end of the first phase of the initiative and an evaluation of the hosting capacities of the institution.

2. National or Regional Context

2.1 Socio and Economic Situation

Livestock sector in Africa, contribution to rural economy CAADP II Document

2.2 Development Policy of the Beneficiary Countries

IBAR Strategy, from SAHLTA

The NEPAD partnership for African Development drafted a Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Plan (CAADP) that identified four long-term pillars, two of which are directly related with the issues taken into account by the present proposal:

- a) improving rural infrastructure and trade related capabilities for improved market access, and
- b) increasing food supply and reducing hunger.

The above document represents a concrete policy guideline and the proposed programme is fully complying with the animal resources related objectives of CAADP.

During the 7th Conference of African Ministers responsible for Livestock in Kigali, the AU/IBAR strategic plan for 2005-2007 was adopted and the Conference requested that issues related to production and trade must be taken into account.

According to the AU vision of the sector policy, IBAR shall focus on six mandates, namely:

- 1) Control of major transboundary animal diseases,
- 2) Improvement of animal genetic and feed resources,
- 3) Enhancement of trade and marketing of livestock and livestock products,
- 4) Development of livestock information and communication technology,
- 5) Improvement of quality assurance of livestock and products of animal origin, and
- 6) Harmonization of livestock related policies and the legal framework in member states.

Moreover, AU-IBAR is developing an effective continental strategy for animal health. This strategy includes increasing the capacity of regional organizations, governments and private animal health providers in the development of public-private sector partnerships in the delivery of animal health services and control of transboundary animal diseases. This strategy is coherent with FAO based GFTAD initiative.

In collaboration with its partners, AU-IBAR will address the technical barriers to markets and trade in animal and animal products. This will be done through assisting RECs and member states to regain domestic markets for African traders and protect African markets from injurious foreign genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and dumping of animal products. As the AU centre of excellence for animal resources issues, AU-IBAR will act as the repository of trade and market information to enable key players to make informed decisions.

The proposed programme is in line with the IBAR vision and will greatly contribute to its achievement.

Further actors are currently involved in livestock development in Africa through multi donors initiatives such as the ALIVE platform, where IBAR will play a major role (see paragraph 1.4). Among others, the ALIVE initiative aims at i) promoting and strengthening the collaboration between key actors in the African continent, harmonising existing approaches and developing a common vision on pastoralism in Africa; ii) building capacity and sharing experiences at sub-regional level in order to address institutional, technical and organisational gaps, and iii) providing analytical support and operational assistance at national level to support countries to attain sustainable economic development in view to reducing poverty and fulfil the

prescriptions contained in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP). The proposed intervention is coherent with this strategy.

2.3 Sector context

How the sector is organised, role of veterinary services, prompt reaction capacity facing the introduction of new and exotic diseases. The achievements of the PACE Programme Broader sector approach from SAHLTA and CAADP II document

3. Description

The document presented hereafter is a preliminary working draft, subject to several changes, amendments and corrections following the discussions with the potential partners and a suitable external consultancy for the formulation in case of a "principle agreement" on the intervention.

3.1 Objectives

The overall objective of the programme will be the contribution to the reduction of poverty among African rural communities.

The purposes of the programme are:

- Finalise the eradication of RP in Africa with special emphasis on the Somali Ecosystem
- Strengthen the ESN and extend/adapt them to Northern and Southern Africa
- Coordinate and target animal diseases control towards emerging diseases, especially Avian Influenza
- Enhance the capacity of African Countries to accede to regional and International markets for livestock and livestock products

3.2 Expected Results and Main Activities

3.2.1 RESULTS

- 1 All African Countries are embarked on the OIE pathway
- 2 Confirmed absence of RP infection in the Somali Ecosystem
- 3 ESN are strengthened and comply with the technical performance indicators developed during the PACE Programme
- 4 Member Countries establish proper financial schemes to assure the sustainability of ESN
- 5 The PACE ESN model is shared with Northern and Southern African Countries and extended/adopted accordingly
- 6 Countries adopt proper control measures against emerging diseases
- 7 A task force able to cope with the threat of AI is established in each Country
- 8 A PanAfrican Livestock Trade Committee (PAFLEC) is established and functioning

- 9 Guidelines and patterns for the creation of pilot export systems are identified and shared with the Countries for their implementation
- 10 The sub-regional livestock trade is enhanced
- 11 African Countries' capacity to cope with WTO's SPS and TBT standards are enhanced through the RECs

3.2.2 ACTIVITIES

- 1.1 Prepare OIE dossiers
- 1.2 Submit the dossiers to the OIE for approval

- 2.1 Continue with the RP surveillance on both cattle and wildlife
- 2.2 Organise regular technical meetings among the interested parties and
- 2.3 Liaise with other normative and technical organisations like OIE, FAO/GREP, and World Reference Laboratories and communicate with RECs and donor organisations
- 2.4 Implement policy initiatives identified by SERECU to eradicate Rinderpest.

- 3.1 Evaluation of National ESN
- 3.2 Upgrade the ESN according to the result of the evaluation

- 4.1 Identify the cost of ESN at National level
- 4.2 Carry out a cost benefit analysis of ESN
- 4.3 Sensitise the National Governments for funding the ESN

- 5.1 Evaluation of the ESN model in S and N African Countries
- 5.2 Analysis of the results of the ESN evaluation
- 5.3 Implement practical measures to harmonise national ESN with PACE ESN

- 6.1 Carry out an epidemiological survey on potential emerging diseases
- 6.2 Draft a diseases control strategy towards emerging diseases

- 7.1 Identify the necessary physical and human resources
- 7.2 Organise specific training sessions
- 7.2 Provide the task force with adequate resources
- 7.4 Assure the integration of the task force to the existing networks and ongoing activities

- 8.1 Organisation of a workshop to establish PAFLEC
- 8.2 Advocate for assuring adequate functioning of PAFLEC

- 9.1 Develop patterns and guidelines for the establishment of export systems
- 9.2 Identify the best options for export systems within the Regions
- 9.3 Draft concrete proposals for the establishment of export systems

- 10.1 Involve PAFLEC and RECs in the creation of a favourable trade environment
- 10.2 Organise sub-regional harmonisation meetings

- 11.1 Identify and appoint an expert for SPS and TBT matters in each REC
- 11.2 Organise specific training to enhance the skills of selected experts on SPS agreements
- 11.3 Organise a global consultation among RECs.

3.3 Stakeholders

The stakeholders of the proposed intervention are the African Governments participating to the programme.

The target group will be the National Veterinary Services of each Country member of the programme.

The final beneficiaries will be the livestock sector operators, including livestock owners, private sector operators, butchers, traders and the rural communities as a whole.

Ministries responsible for the livestock sector will be the project partners, with the Directorate for Veterinary Services playing a major role in the implementation of the programme at National level.

3.4 Risks and Hypothesis

3.5 Preconditions

3.6 Crosscutting issues

Gender, Environment, social and post conflict crisis,

4 Options for the implementation

The present proposal is aimed at settling and consolidate the results achieved by the PACE programme, finalising some pending issues -such as giving evidence of the absence of RP virus circulation in the Somali Ecosystem- and paving the way for the formulation, negotiation and implementation of a wider mid/long term programme covering the whole African continent.

Therefore, the options chosen for the implementation are focused on this evolving and transitory situation.

4.1 Methods of implementation from SAHLTA

Whilst Africa has a relatively strong and comparative advantage to benefit from the new perspectives on diseases surveillance and control, it tends to be much weaker in translating new concepts into applicable measures and systems, which can be used, at continental and international level, in operational and practical situations. This weakness needs to be overcome. The proposed programme will consider disease control, information sharing and trade needs to ensure breakthrough and innovation in the

development of African livestock industry. This will involve tackling the main disease affecting livestock development and new methodologies and systems. The proposed programme will be in line with the vision of the AU-IBAR, as reported in chapter 1 of the present document.

As the PACE program draws near to its closure, the challenge now lies with increasing national budgetary support towards sustaining the epidemio-surveillance systems as well as influencing trade through SPS agreements and establishing a sound, reliable and transparent Animal resources information networks.

This requires a *Harmonisation and coordination of regional initiatives to overcome the lack of harmonization and networking* in order to make African countries more proactive in influencing and complying with the trade-related SPS measures for greater access to regional and international markets.

The African Union's Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) will work with RECs and AU member countries to address some of the trade-related SPS measures that help to improve the safety and quality of livestock commodities, in order to alleviate some of the impediments to trade and to facilitate access to regional and international markets.

A programme Steering Committee gathering the AU Commission for Rural Economy and Agriculture, the EU AIDCO Office, other partners such as the OIE, NEPAD, ALIVE, FAO and the AU-IBAR as secretariat, will be created to guide the policy and survey on the major activities of the programme.

AU-IBAR will be the owner (*maître d'ouvrage*) of the intervention. Within IBAR, a light Programme Management Unit in charge of the overall technical and financial coordination of the programme will be established. This PMU will only have a broad coordination role, collating, organising and processing both technical and financial information to be then spread to the interested parties and fed-back to the RECs for diffusion to the programme participating Countries.

Six Regional Economic Communities – Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale (CEMAC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of Western Africa States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), South African Development Community (SADC) and Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA)- will be the key actors of the programme, acting as intermediate implementing bodies and veiling on the coordination of the intervention at sub-regional level and the daily execution of the projects in the member Countries.

4.2 Budget and workplan

Approx 10 MEUR for a period of 18 months; source of funding: INTRA-ACP funds and balance of previous 9th EDF programmes (FITCA, PACE)

A detailed workplan will be identified by the consultants recruited for the formulation of the programme

4.3 Procedures

Insert English standard statement

4.4 Monitoring of implementation

A Programme Steering Committee will be established and will be responsible for the broad orientation of the programme and the fine tune of policy and strategy issues. Representatives of the AU/IBAR, the donor, the RECs and eventually some member Countries will be invited to the steering committee's meetings.

A continuous monitoring using a logical framework based approach will be established, carried out by the management unit.

Periodical activity and financial reports will be issued every 6 months, addressed to the AU/IBAR and the donor.

4.5 Evaluation and audit

A mid term review and a final evaluations are foreseen during the duration of the programme.

Audits will be carried out every six months as a routine measure, through an external auditing firm.

Annexes

ANNEX 1 – Abstract of Recommendations from the 11th PACE Advisory Committee Meeting and Resolutions adopted by the 7th Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Livestock

Recommendation 1 from the 11th PACE Advisory Committee Meeting

1. Future of the PACE Programme

The AC notes that the extension phase of the PACE Programme will come to an end in about a year's time and is concerned that all the objectives of PACE may be difficult to achieve despite significant progress made under the PACE Programme especially during the past two years. It is anticipated that the effective control of major animal diseases will remain an important issue in Africa. However, the AC believes that the current international situation regarding highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), the ability of the causal agent to spread to all continents including Africa as well as its potential to cause a human pandemic should be a cause of deep concern not only to the international scientific community but also to all Governments, Regional and International Organisations and Donors. The AC also takes into consideration that Africa is one of the least prepared of all continents to face outbreaks of avian influenza.

In this context, the AC recognises the significant importance to Africa of the Meeting of Ministers responsible for livestock to be held in Kigali, Rwanda in October/November 2005 and recommends that AU/IBAR submit a strong persuasive document to the Ministers detailing firm recommendations on the continent-wide initiatives consolidating and enhancing the achievements of PACE. The document will be drafted with the support of AC members and will outline the importance of the Veterinary Services in their role in the early detection and rapid response to outbreaks of major transboundary animal diseases and the necessity to provide these services with adequate resources in order to enable them to comply with OIE international standards on quality of Veterinary Services and disease surveillance and control methods. This will assist countries in protecting animal and human health (including food safety) and also to boost animal production and improve market access to alleviate poverty in Africa. The recommendation should also mention that the current initiatives such as Alive and the joint FAO/OIE Framework for the Progressive control of transboundary animal diseases (GF-TADs) will be essential to support Africa in the control of animal diseases. In this context, the PACE programme will play a key role in the implementation of technical projects for which urgent additional funding is required to ensure sustainability of current achievements and future emergency actions. The progress report to ministers by the Director of AU/IBAR will include conclusions already adopted during various meetings particularly the symposium on HPAI organised by AU/IBAR in September 2005, the meeting of the 5th Executive Committee of Alive and the conclusions of OIE Regional Commission meeting in Khartoum, Sudan. The outcome of the Kigali meeting will be communicated by AU/IBAR during the WHO/FAO/OIE/World Bank Conference on avian flu in Geneva, Switzerland to be held from 7 to 9 November 2005. This will also be urgently communicated to the European Commission.

Resolutions adopted by the 7th Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Livestock

1. Resolution on rinderpest eradication

Recognizing the success achieved in the field of rinderpest eradication in Africa and convinced that the continent is about to get rid of this disease in the near future thereby allowing the complete eradication from the planet of a disaster, which caused considerable economic losses,

The Conference of Ministers

- Requests AU/IBAR to speed up the implementation of planned activities within the framework of the Somali Ecosystem Rinderpest Eradication Unit (SERECU) and to prepare a post-PACE programme and look for its funding for the final eradication of rinderpest from the African continent.
- Invites those African countries that have not yet embarked on the DIE pathway for eradication of rinderpest to do so.

3. Resolution on coordination and harmonization of livestock development programmes

Considering,

- . The mission of AU/IBAR within the framework of the strategic plan of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the Commission of the African Union
- The mandate assigned to NEPAD by the African Heads of State and Government for agriculture development in Africa and taking into account the guidelines contained the CMDP II document
- The importance of the role of the Regional Economic Communities and research institutions in the implementation of coherent regional integration policy.

The conference:

- Adopts the CAADPII document
- Notes the efforts made by AU/IBAR and NEPAD in coordinating their programmes, and invites them to strengthen their collaboration in view of elaborating an harmonized strategic document for livestock development in Africa taking into account the research aspects
- Requests AU/IBAR to harmonize its activities with those of the Regional Economic Communities and those of research institutions within the framework of the implementation of the different programmes.

5. Resolution on the sustainability of funding of epidemio-surveillance systems

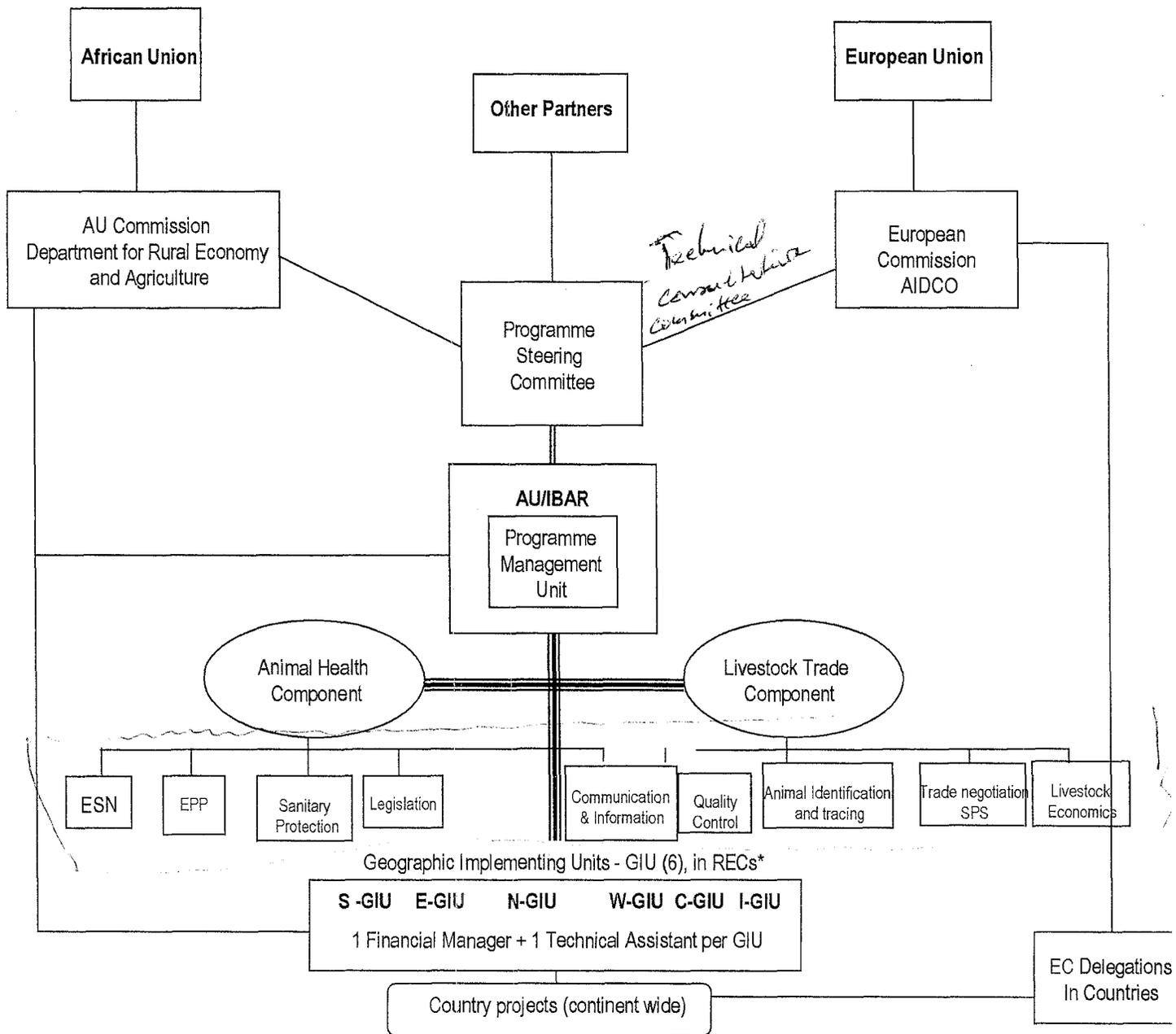
Considering:

- The good results achieved by the PACE programme in the implementation and re-enforcement of surveillance systems and the need to ensure their sustainability,
- The results of cost-benefit studies undertaken, especially within the framework of PACE, which show that investments in surveillance activities are insignificant compared to the costs of having to control the disease in case of an outbreak,
- The need to extend the epidemio-surveillance to all African Countries and to maintain coordination of animal disease activities at regional level,
- The foreseen end of the PACE financial agreement,
- The inadequate allocation of resources to the livestock sector in many African Countries,

The Conference of Ministers

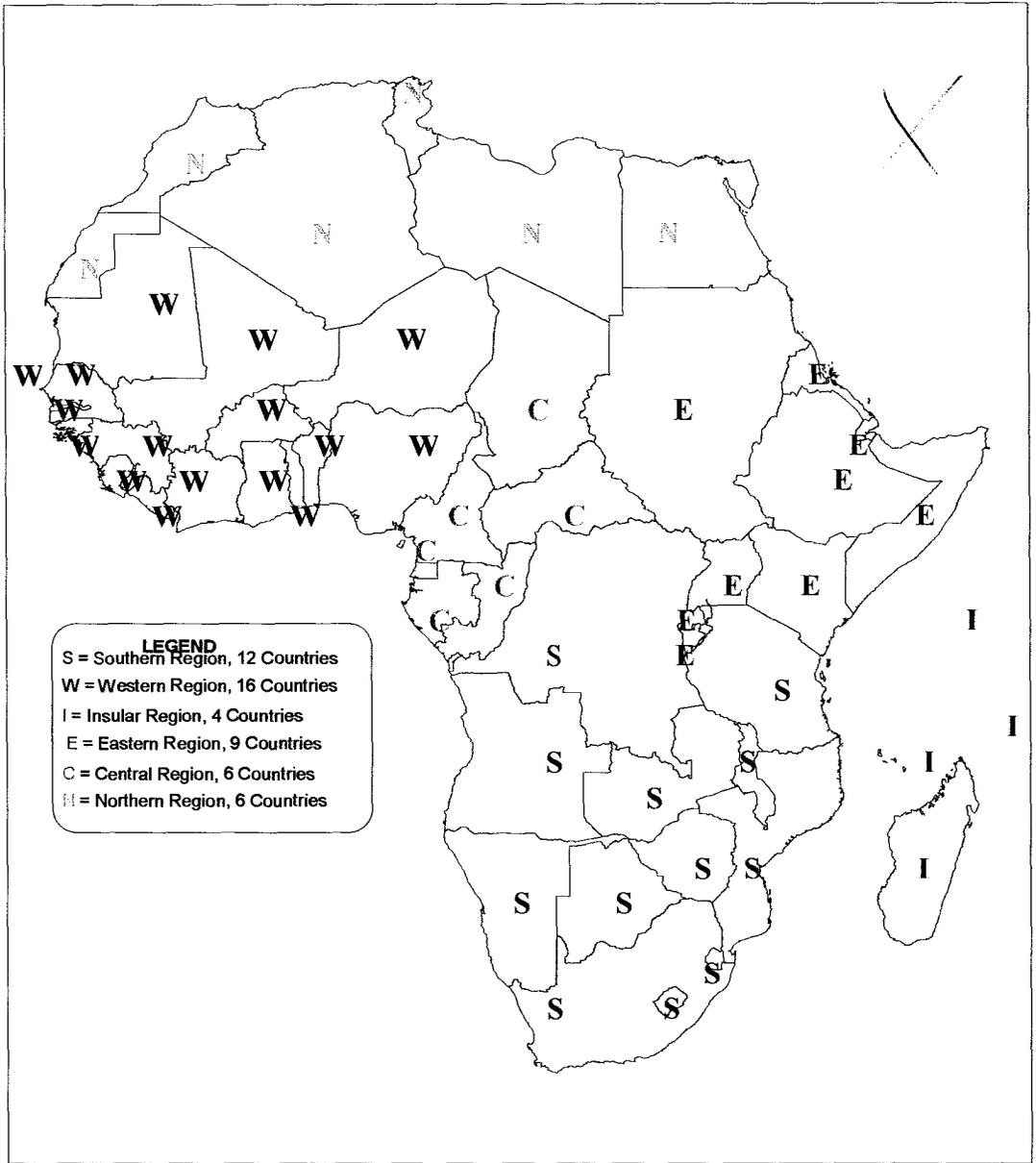
- Invites governments of African countries to avail adequate financial resources to veterinary services and in particular epidemio-surveillance networks through subsequent budgetary allocations and using additional sources of funding which are generated from livestock sector activities.
- Appeals to the European Union as well as other development partners to mobilize new resources to consolidate the PACE programme achievements and extend the epidemio-surveillance network to those countries there it does not exist. In line with this, the Conference of Ministers invites the Commission of the African Union to organise in the near future a round table of donors.
- Invites governments to allocate to the livestock sector a minimum of 30% of the 10% of budgetary allocations to agriculture in conformity with the decision of the Heads of State of July 2003 in Maputo.

ANNEXE 2: PROGRAMME ORGANISATION



*S-GIU= Southern GIU; E- GIU= Eastern GIU; N- GIU= Northern GIU; W- GIU=Western GIU; C- GIU= Central GIU; I- GIU=Insular GIU

Annexe 3. Distribution of Countries in Regions according to RECs



Southern Region	Western Region	Insular Region	Eastern Region	Central Region	Northern Region
Angola	Benin	Comoros	Burundi	Cameroon	Algeria
Botswana	Burkina Faso	Madagascar	Djibouti	CAR	Egypt
DRC	Cape Verde	Mauritius	Entrea	Chad	Libya
Lesotho	Cote d'ivoire	Seychelles	Ethiopia	Congo	Morocco
Malawi	Gambia		Kenya	Equatorial Guinea	Tunisia
Mozambique	Ghana		Rwanda	Gabon	Saharawi
Namibia	Guinea		Somalia		
South Africa	Guinea Bissau		Sudan		
Swaziland	Liberia		Uganda		
Tanzania	Mali				
Zambia	Mauritania				
Zimbabwe	Niger				
	Nigeria				
	Senegal				
	Sierra leone				
	Togo				

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK TABLE

	INTERVENTION LOGIC	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	VERIFICATION SOURCES	ASSUMPTIONS
OVERALL OBJECTIVE	Contribute to the reduction of poverty among African rural communities			
PROJECT PURPOSE	Finalise the eradication of RP from the Somali Ecosystem and assist other AU Member States to progress along the OIE pathway			
	Strengthen the existing ESN/S and revitalise/expand them to Northern and Southern African Countries			
	Coordinate and target animal diseases control towards emerging diseases, especially Avian Influenza			
	Enhance the capacity of African Countries to participate in the negotiation of SPS and TBT agreements through the RECs			
RESULTS	R1 All African Countries are embarked on the OIE pathway			
	R2 Confirmed absence of RP infection in the Somali Ecosystem			
	R3 ESN are strengthened and expanded to other national priority diseases			
	R4 Proper financial schemes assuring the sustainability of ESN established in Member Countries			
	R5 The PACE ESN model extended/adapted to Northern and Southern African Countries			
	R6 Control strategies for emerging diseases developed and adopted			
	R7 A task force able to cope with the threat of AI is established in each Country			
	R8 A PanAfrican Forum for Livestock Exporting Countries (PAFLEC) established and functioning			
	R9 Guidelines for the creation of pilot export zones/systems identified and shared with countries			
	R10 Sub-regional livestock trade promoted			
	R11 African Countries' capacity to cope with WTO's SPS and TBT standards enhanced through the RECs			
ACTIVITIES			MEANS	COSTS
R1 All African Countries are embarked on the OIE pathway				
1.1	Assist countries in the preparation of the OIE dossiers			
R2 Confirmed absence of RP infection in the Somali Ecosystem				
2.1	Continue with the RP surveillance on both cattle and wildlife populations			
2.2	Organise regular technical meetings with all stakeholders to analyse the results of surveillance activities			

2.4	In absence of infection assist the concerned countries to prepare a dossier for recognition of freedom from infection according to the new RP chapter of the OIE code
2.5	Liase with other normative and technical organisations like OIE, FAO/GREP, and World Reference Laboratories and communicate with RECs and donor organisations
R3 ESN are strengthened and expanded to other national priority diseases	
3.1	Assist post-conflict countries (Sierra Leone, Liberia and Somalia) in the revitalisation of veterinary services
3.2	Assessment of the current status of National ESN
3.3	Upgrade the ESN according to the results of the assessment
R4 Proper financial schemes assuring the sustainability of ESN established in Member Countries	
4.1	Identify the cost of ESN at National level
4.2	Undertake cost benefit analysis of ESN
4.3	Sensitise National Governments to fund the ESN
R5 The PACE ESN model extended/adapted to Northern and Southern African Countries	
5.1	Assess the existing ESN in S and N African Countries
5.2	Analysis of the results of the ESN assessment
5.3	Harmonise national ESN to comply with the PACE experience
R6 Control strategies for emerging diseases developed and adopted	
6.1	Carry out an epidemiological survey of HPAI
6.2	Draft disease control strategy towards emerging diseases
6.3	Assist countries in developing emergency plan for priority animal diseases
R7 A task force able to cope with the threat of AI is established in each Country	
7.1	Identify the necessary physical and human resources
	Establish a task forces at national and continental levels
7.2	Provide the task force with adequate resources
7.3	Assure the integration of the task force to the existing ESN
7.4	Organise training workshops
R8 A PanAfrican Forum for Livestock Exporting Countries (PAFLEC) established and functioning	
8.1	Organise a workshop to establish PAFLEC
8.2	Advocate for assuring adequate resources for PAFLEC
R9 Guidelines for the creation of pilot export zones/systems identified and shared with countries	
9.1	Develop guidelines for the establishment of export zones/systems
9.2	Identify the best options for export systems within the Regions
9.3	Draft concrete proposals for the establishment of export systems
9.4	Undertake feasibility studies for marketing of livestock and livestock products
R10 Sub-regional livestock trade promoted	
10.1	Involve PAFLEC and RECs in the creation of a favourable trade environment
10.2	Organise sub-regional trade harmonisation meetings
R11 African Countries' capacity to cope with WTO's SPS and TBT standards enhanced through the RECs	
11.1	Identify and appoint an expert for SPS and TBT matters in each REC
11.2	Organise specific training to enhance the skills of selected experts on SPS agreements
11.3	Organise a global consultation among REC



IDENTIFICATION FICHE
(PROPOSAL FOR FORMULATION)

GUIDANCE FOR COMPLETION

PROJECT APPROACH

SECTION A

I –Basic Data

1. Title **Strengthening Animal Health and Livestock Trade in Africa (SAHLTA)**
2. Beneficiary Country/Region **African Continent, Countries Members of 6 RECs**
3. DAC/code and name
4. Task Manager
5. EC Delegation or AIDCO unit **AIDCO E6 (?) Sub Regional Programmes**

II –Links with programming

6. Reference programming documents: **Cotonou agreement; 10th EDF; sectoral documents (PRSP, Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper); 7th Conference of Ministers of Livestock in Kigali and 11th PACE Advisory Committee Meeting, xxx??OIE Regional Commission for Africa, 5th Executive Committee of Alive**
Cooperation strategy document signed on **XXXXXX**.
7. l'action aborde-t-elle un domaine de concentration (la région prioritaire) du document de programmation ? **Non** si tel est le cas, quel domaine de concentration (région prioritaire) Northern and Southern Africa in the widening of epidemiosurveillance of transboundary animal and emerging diseases.
8. programme d'action ou plan de financement national annuel
_____ (non applicable to ALA/ACP) _____

III –Finance and implementation data

9. Total budget foreseen for the intervention **€ 100 M**
10. EC contribution foreseen in PIN/PIR **€ 100 M**
11. Proposed EC contribution at this stage¹ **€ 100 M**
12. If the amount at points 10 and 11 are different, please explain why
13. Contribution of the beneficiary €_ Contributions from National Govt
14. Contributions from other donors €_ To be defined

¹ An interim phase lasting 12 to 18 months will be proposed to fill the vacuum between PACE and the proposed programme and to properly formulate the new proposal; funds for the interim phase will hopefully come from Intra-ACP remaining funds.

15. Legal basis **10th EDF**
 16. Source of funding **10th EDF and Intra-ACP funds**
 17. maître d'ouvrage ² **AU/IBAR – Regional Authorising Officer**
 18. Organisation of the implementation

Intermediate implementing parties: 6 Regional Economic Communities

~~(CEMAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC, UMA);~~

Direct implementing parties: National Ministries responsible for livestock;

Beneficiaries: Veterinary Services, livestock sector operators

IV – Calendrier indicatif

October 2005	Presentation of the concept note on consolidation of the PACE programme to the 11 th PACE Advisory Committee and to the Executive Committee of Alive.
November 2005	Presentation of the concept note on consolidation of the PACE programme to the Conference of the Ministers in charge of Animal Resources in Kigali.
December 2005	Presentation of the provisional PIF to the 32 nd ELIDEV in Brussels.
By April 2006	Development of a project document by AU-IBAR in consultation with the Regional Economic Communities and the countries involved.
June – October 06	Securing funding
March 2007	Programme start-up (Interim phase).
March 2008	Programme start-up (continent-wide intervention).

²² L'autorité signant les contrats sur les travaux, les services ou les approvisionnements.

SECTION B RATIONALE FOR THE ACTION

1. Coherence with the programming document and justification

The proposed programme fits in the EC Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, and can be considered as a contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The livestock sector has been identified as one of the key sectors to be supported and/or strengthened during the 10th EDF, at both national and regional level.

The important role livestock plays in the economic development of African countries is well documented with unanimous agreements that livestock provides among others food, employment, incomes and fulfils further social and cultural needs. In 1999, livestock were estimated to account for 53% of the agricultural capital stock in sub-Saharan Africa, with land accounting for a further 42%¹. Livestock significantly contribute to agricultural GDP, and it is estimated that livestock-derived food items (meat, milk and eggs) alone contributed around 30% to agriculture GDP in 2003. This estimate does not include non-food livestock products such as draught power and manure, which enhance productivity of crop production, nor does it take into account intangible livestock contributions to rural communities through risk mitigation and wealth accumulation. However, animal diseases are one of the principal causes of low performance of the livestock sector and poor access to international animal markets and animal products for Africa.

The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) is one of the specialised technical offices of the African Union (AU) under the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA). The new mandate of IBAR recognizes that animal resources have to significantly contribute to increased incomes and food security in rural Africa and emphasizes the need for IBAR to work through the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other relevant institutions in member states. With the reorganization of AU / IBAR has to align itself to the vision of the AU and the mandate of DREA.

The Animal Resource Development Strategy of IBAR outlines common and shared vision, mission, core functions, strategies and activities that clearly demonstrate organization's steps towards alignment with the AU vision. To contribute to the vision of AU the institution shall focus on six mandates including 1) control of major transboundary animal diseases, 2) improvement of animal genetic and feed resources, 3) enhancement of trade and marketing of livestock and livestock products, 4) development of livestock information and communication technology, 5) improvement of quality assurance of livestock and products of animal origin, and 6) harmonization of livestock related policies and the legal framework in member states.

In the context of globalisation and according to the OIE standards, the development of epidemio-surveillance networks or the revitalisation of conventional epidemio-surveillance systems has become a priority for veterinary services in countries, which would like to take part in the international trade of animals and animal products.

Furthermore, the need for implementing a mid/long term intervention in the livestock sector in Africa, aimed at consolidating the results achieved through the PACE Programme, has been recommended during the 11th meeting of the PACE Advisory

Committee in Nairobi and during the 7th Conference of African Ministers responsible for Livestock in Kigali (Abstract of recommendations in annex 1)

The proposed programme will be coherent with the NEPAD and ALIVE initiatives with whom it will actively interact and coordinate. Indeed, while NEPAD is approaching livestock as a major component of the CAADP II the AU-IBAR will take the ALIVE Governance between mid 2006 when the IBAR Director will start chairing the Executive Committee, and 2007, when the ALIVE Secretariat will be transferred from the World Bank to the AU-IBAR after the end of the first phase of the initiative and an evaluation of the hosting capacities of the institution.

2. Lessons learnt

The Pan African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE) is funded under a Financing Agreement signed in August 1999 between the European Union and the Organization of African Unity (now African Union). The Financing Agreement which went into force on November 1st, 1999, should be completed on 31st October 2004, but was extended until February 2007 by a rider signed on October 5, 2004. Since November 1, 2004, the PACE has moved into its extension phase.

The overall objective of the programme remains the same, i.e., contributing to poverty alleviation and development of the African livestock sector through the creation of an appropriate health security framework.

The extension phase has selected two of the four specific initial objectives as priority objectives:

A Revoir

- Building national and regional technical and economic assessment capacities for animal diseases and generation of appropriate programs for their control,
- Securing animal health in Africa against other major epizootics.

The overall budget of the PACE programme which was funded by the European Development Fund was 72 million Euros; it was raised to 77 million Euros, 67% of that amount allocated to activities conducted by the national components.

The programme, which was initially planned to cover 32 Sub-Saharan African countries (except Southern Africa and Madagascar), finally involved 30 countries of East, West and Central Africa; Liberia and Sierra Leone could not benefit from the funding because of the European embargo.

Western Africa

Benin	Burkina Faso	Cote d'Ivoire	Gambia	Ghana
Guinea	Guinea Bissau	Mali	Mauritania	Niger
Nigeria	Senegal	Togo		

Central Africa

Cameroon	Congo	Gabon	Equatorial Guinea	DRC
CAR	Chad			

Burundi	Djibouti	Eritrea	Ethiopia	Kenya
Uganda	Rwanda	Somalia	Sudan	Tanzania

Overall, PACE is implemented in order to contribute to poverty alleviation and development of the African livestock sector through the establishment of an appropriate sanitary security framework.

Specifically, its aims are as follows:

- Building national and regional capacities of technical and economic assessment of animal diseases and generating appropriate programmes for controlling them;
- Securing animal health in Africa against the major epizootics.

Four results are expected from the intervention of the PACE programmes :

- Strengthening, in each participating country, animal epidemiology services (information, diagnostics and follow-up) and services for the control of major diseases,
- Strengthening the privatization of veterinary services and public/private sector linkage in this field,
- Eradicating rinderpest from Africa and strengthening the control of other epizootic diseases, in particular CBPP,
- Setting up a sustainable system at pan-African level to coordinate national animal health systems and the fight against epizootic diseases.

Even though there has been a refocusing of expected results for the PACE extension phase, which started in November 2004, the priorities being rinderpest eradication and the strengthening of animal epidemiological services, the fact remains however that for completeness sake, the lessons to be drawn cover the entire PACE period.

Strengthening of animal epidemiological services

It is undeniable that animal disease surveillance capacities have been reinforced at country level. The PACE programme has assisted in the organization of surveillance systems, in the training and regular retraining of field agents, in defining standard operating procedures and methodologies, in equipping field agents by funding the acquisition of vehicles, motorbikes, cold chain material, laboratory equipment, etc. Regular support continues to be assured through country missions or through thematic workshops aimed at improving the surveillance activities over animal diseases. Countries now have field reporting systems directed towards the central veterinary administration and from the latter to the OIE and AU-IBAR.

In relation with the IAEA, the national veterinary diagnostic laboratories have benefited from diagnostic equipments and training or retraining of staff. All PACE participating countries possess a veterinary laboratory that is functional and equipped (albeit at different levels) for the diagnosis of rinderpest, except 6 (Burundi, Congo, Gabon, CAR, Rwanda, and Somalia).

Efforts have been made in order to improve the management of animal health information through the development of the PID software (PACE Integrated Database), a second version of which called ARIS (Animal Resources Information System) is currently available. This software enables animal health and production information management that is compatible with international standards. The installation of the software is effective in 28 PACE member countries and is used regularly in 20 countries.

All PACE programme member countries have committed themselves to render the animal disease surveillance activities sustainable by progressively ensuring their funding through national resources, thus relaying EC funding under the PACE programme, or even other donors. One must note however that this commitment has still not been honoured and remains a major challenge to meet in most countries. Although in all countries, governments have made an operating budget presumed to support all epidemiological surveillance activities, available to veterinary services, these budgets remains inadequate and cannot ensure their efficient and sustainable operation. In addition to the regular budget, some countries have set up counterpart-funds that contribute to the purchasing of equipments and cover certain operating expenses of the surveillance system, but such funds are not sustainable and vanish with the end of the external funding.

Strengthening of the privatisation of veterinary services and public/private sector relations and the efficiency of field actions

The basic principles underlying the organization, quality assurance and evaluation of veterinary services as defined in the OIE *Health Code for Terrestrial Animals* are still not fully applied by PACE member states. The human, material, and financial means available to the majority of veterinary services are not in balance with the missions they are supposed to fulfill. This area remains a challenge.

The PACE programme has supported initiatives aimed at modernizing veterinary legislation at country level by seeing to it that legislation be developed in accordance with OIE standards. Nevertheless, it should also be recognized that the PACE programme addresses this subject with caution as it does not have the authority to decide on the approval and promulgation of legislation pertaining exclusively to the domain of governments.

The PARC programme had funded guarantee funds that had facilitated the access of private veterinarians to bank credit, the goal being to establish a certain medium and long-term confidence relationship between the liberal veterinary profession and the banking sector. In PACE's design, this system was no longer maintained. As it turns out however, guarantee funds that had been mobilized under the PARC programme are still in place (operational or dormant) in certain countries and other countries (such as Benin, Guinea Bissau, and Togo) have nevertheless been able to introduce a guarantee fund in their global plan.

Farmers have been progressively incited to cover the costs of veterinary products (medicines and vaccines) and veterinary services (fees) since the PARC programme. Community-based Animal Health Workers have been trained to play a role in the provision of primary animal healthcare services to farmers. The CAPE unit of the PACE programme has played an active role in this area, mostly in Eastern Africa. In those countries where farmers associations or unions are already operational, the PACE programme has supported initiatives to federate these associations at the national or even sub-regional level.

Rinderpest eradication and the strengthening of control of other epizootic diseases, in particular CBPP

Rinderpest eradication, which is a major objective of the PACE programme, also fits into the global objectives of the GREP (*Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme*) coordinated by the FAO, which attempts to achieve global eradication of rinderpest by the year 2010. Nowadays, rinderpest has almost totally disappeared from the African continent from a clinical standpoint; only the « Somali ecosystem » region in the horn of Africa is supposedly still hosting the virus. 90% of PACE member countries have embarked on the OIE pathway by declaring their territory or part thereof provisionally free of rinderpest. Since 2005, 16 countries have been declared free of rinderpest and 4 countries have been recognized as free from infection. As far as the Somali ecosystem

is concerned, a region which encompasses North-eastern Kenya, Southern Somalia and the 5th Region of Ethiopia, a specific strategy has been developed and its implementation will be coordinated by the *Somali Ecosystem Rinderpest Eradication Coordination Unit* (SERECU) under the aegis of AU-IBAR in order to achieve the final eradication of the rinderpest virus.

As far as the other epizootic diseases which are judged priority diseases are concerned, the intervention of the PACE programme has been targeted at improving the epidemiological knowledge thanks to the national epidemiosurveillance networks and at developing control strategies which are more efficient and economically viable.

Contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia has been given considerable attention all along the implementation of the programme. Numerous consultations and workshops organized by the PACE programme under FAO sponsorship helped reach a consensus on control strategies for this disease in February 2004 in Conakry (Guinea). But it must be recognized that countries have still not adequately implemented these newly adopted control strategies even though the disease remains endemic in many regions of Africa.

Rift Valley Fever and African swine fever have also been tackled by the PACE programme. As far as the Rift Valley Fever is concerned, the PACE programme has strived to support actions developed in countries with FAO assistance. For the other diseases, very few actions have been conducted.

Nevertheless, it must be pointed out that although PACE targets mainly priority epizootic cattle diseases (RP, CBPP, ASF, FMD), it has also targeted other diseases including zoonoses, since the means used to develop national epidemiosurveillance networks help detect any suspected case of disease. This aspect stresses the interest or the indirect (qualitative) advantage of animal epidemiosurveillance in terms of public health in the case of CBPP, where systematic searches at slaughterhouses help "filter out" other diseases, namely zoonoses (tuberculosis, hydatidosis).

Sustainable establishment of a coordination of national animal health systems and of control of epizootics at the pan-African level

Through the implementation of the PARC programme, and later the PACE programme, AU-IBAR has been instrumental in the coordination of the fight against rinderpest in Africa. AU-IBAR has thus gained an experience that will be useful in the implementation of the programme to control other epizootic diseases.

On the other hand, the sustainable coordination of national animal health systems at the pan-African level remains to be built. As a matter of fact, many animal health surveillance systems set up in many countries have common points in terms of their organization and operating mode but there are no formal links between them, needed for genuine coordination and regional control planning. Nevertheless, PACE has facilitated meetings of national veterinary service officials in order to promote exchanges and facilitate better coordination of activities in the face of transboundary diseases.

This somewhat partial achievement shows that PACE has managed to play its role as a structuring project by helping countries realize investments and adopt operational procedures that are indispensable to the adequate functioning of veterinary services. This does not mean, however, that all countries now possess efficient veterinary services meeting the standards of the *World Animal Health Organization* (OIE). There still remain efforts to be made in order to consolidate the achievements of the PACE programme particularly in the area of animal disease surveillance and reporting of outbreaks in a transparent and regular manner. This requires an increase in the funding allocated to the livestock sector from national budgets but also some donor support.

The PACE Programme was conceived and started in 1999, when the de-concentration process in the European Commission was not yet effective. The programme was therefore heavily centralised and all decisions and execution patterns for both technical

and financial matters passed through the EC Delegation in Kenya, who plaid the role of leading Delegation and main counterpart of the implementing agency. At present, 2005, all EC Delegations in the African continent are fully de-committed and the management of development projects is totally de-centralised. The just mentioned transition provoke some major delays in the releasing of funds and closure of opened commitments, as well as in the identification of management responsibilities within the EC system.

The technical and financial framework of the proposed programme, should carefully designed in order to overcome the past mistakes and to avoid unnecessary bureaucratic and financial delays.

The previous regional and Pan-African interventions in the animal health sector, were designed with a scarce flexibility to be adapted to the changing diseases' scenario. Indeed, thanks to the efforts made in the past and to the capacity of implementation of each individual Country –which is nevertheless very variable, due to several reasons not always linked to the livestock sector- African Countries are currently facing different priorities in terms of major diseases to control and eradicate. The proposed programme will take into great consideration the different state of the art of member Countries in the animal health sector.

3. Overarching objectives and crosscutting issues

Development/crosscutting objectives	Directly targeted objective	Significant indirect impact
Poverty reduction	X	
Good Governance		
Democracy, Human rights		
Integration in world economy	X	
Environment		X
Gender		X
Conflict resolution/Peace building		X

4. Assessment of the sector policy

The NEPAD partnership for African Development drafted a Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Plan (CAADP) that identified four long-term pillars, two of which are directly related with the issues taken into account by the present proposal:

- a) improving rural infrastructure and trade related capabilities for improved market access, and
- b) increasing food supply and reducing hunger.

The above document represents a concrete policy guideline and the proposed programme is fully complying with the animal resources related objectives of CAADP.

During the 7th Conference of African Ministers responsible for Livestock in Kigali, the Conference adopted the AU/IBAR strategic plan for 2005-2007 and requested that issues related to production and trade be taken into account.

According to the AU vision of the sector policy, IBAR shall focus on six mandates, namely:

- 1) Control of major transboundary animal diseases,
- 2) Improvement of animal genetic and feed resources,
- 3) Enhancement of trade and marketing of livestock and livestock products,

- 4) Development of livestock information and communication technology,
- 5) Improvement of quality assurance of livestock and products of animal origin, and
- 6) Harmonization of livestock related policies and the legal framework in member states.

Moreover, AU-IBAR is developing an effective continental strategy for animal health. This strategy includes increasing the capacity of regional organizations, governments and private animal health providers in the development of public-private sector partnerships in the delivery of animal health services and control of transboundary animal diseases. This strategy is coherent with FAO based GFTAD initiative.

In collaboration with its partners, AU-IBAR will address the technical barriers to markets and trade in animal and animal products. This will be done through assisting RECs and member states to regain domestic markets for African traders and protect African markets from injurious foreign genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and dumping of animal products. As the AU centre of excellence for animal resources issues, AU-IBAR will act as the repository of trade and market information to enable key players to make informed decisions.

The proposed programme is in line with the IBAR vision and will greatly contribute to its achievement.

Further actors are currently involved in livestock development in Africa through multi donors initiatives such as the ALIVE platform, where IBAR will play a major role (see chapter 1). Among others, the ALIVE initiative aims at i) promoting and strengthening the collaboration between key actors in the African continent, harmonising existing approaches and developing a common vision on pastoralism in Africa; ii) building capacity and sharing experiences at sub-regional level in order to address institutional, technical and organisational gaps, and iii) providing analytical support and operational assistance at national level to support countries to attain sustainable economic development in view to reducing poverty and fulfil the prescriptions contained in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP). The proposed intervention is coherent with this strategy.

5. Added value of the Community intervention

In the last 40 years the European Union has been supporting the fight against animal diseases in Africa, achieving impressive, tangible and definitive results, investing a considerable amount of human, physical and financial resources. A tremendous improvement of the quality and structure of veterinary services has been attained. Nevertheless, there is still the need to improve those services, in order to create the pre-requisite for making African livestock and livestock products competitive on the regional and international markets. Efficient and reliable veterinary services and a better known sanitary situation in the whole of Africa will represent an advantage for European Countries having commercial relationship with African Countries.

The proposed intervention as a whole will contribute to the harmonisation of the technical and trade procedures between different Countries and inside each Regional Economic Community and will contribute to improve the performance and importance of the livestock sector in the continent. The fact that proposed programme will be place under the coordination of the AU-IBAR and will actively interact with the main donor

funded initiatives (NEPAD, ALIVE) and Programmes (CAADP, PRINT, RATES, FAO/TCP on Avian Influenza and further emerging diseases, among others) at continental and regional level, is boosting the importance of the objectives foreseen and the results expected. AU-IBAR will strengthen its institutional capacity and relation with the OIE, becoming the main proactive partner of this Institution in the African Continent.

As a counterpart to the donor financial contribution, to the AU-IBAR coordination effort and to the RECs management activities, the National Governments will be requested to contribute making available the necessary staff for the execution of the National Projects and allocating the necessary funds covering the operational costs of epidemiology-surveillance systems out of their regular budget. This pre-condition will constitute an important starting point for the effective sustainability of national surveillance systems, and the creation of an efficient diseases response mechanism.

Moreover, both the target group and the final beneficiaries will be actively involved in the diseases surveillance systems, through the ordinary government run surveillance activities and those based upon the intervention of the communities, including the private sector, through a participatory diseases search methodology.

The proposed programme will enhance the transboundary cooperation for the control and eradication of notifiable and emerging diseases, thanks to its structure relying on the RECs. These will operate as technical surveyors guaranteeing the harmonisation of border practices and the coherence of technical choices on the control and eradication of animal diseases among neighbouring Countries.

6. Initial stakeholders analysis

A detailed stakeholders analysis will be conducted during the formulation phase.

At present it can be assumed that the stakeholders are the African Governments participating to the proposed programme.

The target group will be the National Veterinary Services of each Country participating to the programme.

The final beneficiaries will be the livestock sector operators, including livestock owners, private sector operators, butchers, traders and the rural communities as a whole.

Ministries responsible for the livestock sector will be the project partners, with the Directorate for Veterinary Services playing a major role in the implementation of the programme at National level.

7. Initial problems analysis

A detailed problems analysis will be conducted during the formulation phase.

8. Objectives and strategy analysis

A detailed objectives and strategy analysis will be conducted during the formulation phase.

9. Assessment of technical assistance requirements and institutional and capacity issues.

A detailed assessment of the needs in term of Technical Assistance and institutional strengthening will be conducted during the formulation phase.

From now, we can state that in order to assure the smoothest and successful implementation of the programme, it would be wise to foresee the deployment of external TA at 3 different levels:

- ✓ AU-IBAR, for institutional strengthening, policy development and advise for early reaction to diseases outbreaks;
- ✓ 6 RECs involved in the Programme –namely CEMAC, COMESA, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC and UMA, for the coordination, advise and overall management of national programmes (1 external technical advisor and 1 external finance manager per REC plus their local respective counterparts). It has to be noted that the European Union is funding a livestock project (PRINT) in the SADC Countries: negotiation with the coordination of PRINT on the optimisation of the use and inputs of TA will be carried out during the formulation phase.
- ✓ Country level, for the daily management of the intervention in those Countries where this need is expressed or where TA can be made available –even on a part time basis- through other donors (i.e. French Cooperation, Italian Cooperation, British Cooperation, German Cooperation).

The proposed programme will also count upon the permanent technical staff of AU-IBAR that will be strengthened and completed in the meantime. In principle, IBAR will staff the technical and financial units foreseen in the programme's organigramme, namely:

- Epidemio-Surveillance Networks' coordination unit;
- Sanitary Protection Unit;
- Emergency Preparedness and Early Warning Unit;
- Legislation Unit;
- Animal Health Economics Unit;
- Communication and Information Unit;
- Animal Identification and Tracing Unit;
- Trade Negotiation / SPS Unit.

10. Assessment of the financial and economic sustainability of the action

A detailed financial and economic sustainability analysis will be conducted during the formulation phase.

11. Assessment of the performance monitoring

A detailed performance monitoring analysis will be conducted during the formulation phase.

SECTION C
OPTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION,
AND FOR THE ORGANISATION OF THE FORMULATION PHASE

12. Options for the implementation of the project

Whilst Africa has a relatively strong and comparative advantage to benefit from the new perspectives on diseases surveillance and control, it tends to be much weaker in translating new concepts into applicable measures and systems, which can be used, at continental and international level, in operational and practical situations. This weakness needs to be overcome. The proposed programme will consider disease control, information sharing and trade needs to ensure breakthrough and innovation in the development of African livestock industry. This will involve tackling the main disease affecting livestock development and new methodologies and systems. The proposed programme will be in line with the vision of the AU-IBAR, as reported in chapter 1 of the present document.

As the PACE program draws near to its closure, the challenge now lies with increasing national budgetary support towards sustaining the epidemio-surveillance systems as well as influencing trade through SPS agreements and establishing a sound, reliable and transparent Animal resources information networks.

This requires an harmonisation and coordination of regional initiatives to overcome the lack of harmonization and net-working in order to make African countries more proactive in influencing and complying with the trade-related SPS measures for greater access to regional and international markets.

The African Union's Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) will work with RECs and AU member countries to address some of the trade-related SPS measures that help to improve the safety and quality of livestock commodities, in order to alleviate some of the impediments to trade and to facilitate access to regional and international markets.

A programme Steering Committee gathering the AU Commission for Rural Economy and Agriculture, the EU AIDCO Office, other partners such as the OIE, NEPAD, ALIVE, FAO and the AU-IBAR as secretariat, will be created to guide the policy and survey on the major activities of the programme.

AU-IBAR will be the owner (*maître d'ouvrage*) of the intervention. Within IBAR, a Programme Management Unit in charge of the overall technical and financial coordination of the programme will be established. This PMU will only have a broad coordination role, collating, organising and processing both technical and financial information to be then spread to the interested parties and fed-back to the RECs for diffusion to the programme participating Countries.

Six Geographic areas of intervention are proposed, based mainly on some of the existing Regional Economic Communities – Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale (CEMAC), Communauté de l'Océan Indien (COI), Economic Community of Western Africa States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), South African Development Community (SADC) and Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA)-. For practical reasons, some countries are proposed to be included in a group of countries belonging to a different REC, but lying in the same geographic area. The 6 Geographic Implementing Units (GIU) will be the key actors of the programme, acting as intermediate implementing bodies and veiling on the

coordination of the intervention at sub-regional level and the daily execution of the projects in the member Countries. They will be based in the respective REC.

A tentative organigramme of the programme is reported in annex 2, while the list of proposed programme member Countries, ordered per geographic area is shown as annex 3.

The proposed programme will have an initial duration of 5 years and will cover all the 54 African Countries, relying on the 6 above-mentioned GIU. A tentative gross budget of 100 M EUR will be requested.

The specific results that ought to be achieved during the programme life to promote livestock trade include the following:

1. Epidemio-surveillance networks in Africa are harmonised, strengthened and sustainable;
2. Trade and marketing of livestock and livestock products promoted
3. Animal Resources information System (ARIS) for disease and animal resources intelligence to improve trade established.

12.1. Epidemio-surveillance networks in Africa are harmonised, strengthen and sustainable

Increasingly, importing countries require exporting countries to operate effective surveillance systems as the basis of trade. Effective epidemio-surveillance systems that are capable of identifying and quickly addressing animal health constraints is a requirement of the OIE Pathway for the verification of freedom from disease.

Countries that have put in place effective epidemio-surveillance systems that are capable of detecting trans-boundary animal diseases if they are present are awarded disease- infection-free status by the OIE for the purposes of international trade. The effectiveness of the surveillance system is now more important than ever considering the risk for the introduction and recrudescence of emerging and "exotic" diseases.

A fundamental requirement for adequately controlling or eradicating livestock diseases and thereby gaining access to export markets is, for each country in the region, to possess an adequate veterinary service.

The main activities foreseen to achieve the result are the following:

- 1.1. Strengthen animal disease surveillance and reporting systems.
- 1.2. Modernize legislation and reorganize veterinary services so as to make them gain ownership over the establishment and enforcement of animal health measures as well as international veterinary certification activities.
- 1.3. Support national diagnostic laboratories.
- 1.4. Develop advocacy aimed at mobilizing adequate and sustainable resources for the funding of animal health systems.
- 1.5. Set up a network of regional epidemiological surveillance taskforces, including laboratories and universities.
- 1.6. Support the establishment of regional control programmes against animal epizootics, with special emphasis on emerging diseases.
- 1.7. Strengthen cooperation among national veterinary services.

12.2. Promote trade and marketing of livestock and livestock products

For purposes of international trade, the OIE Code accepts that specific animal diseases can be eliminated from a zone or zones within an otherwise infected countries, have the opportunity to obtain zonal freedom from Rinderpest, CBPP, FMD and BSE from the OIE for trade purposes. Since African countries harbour many trans-boundary animal diseases at any one time, establishing a disease-free zone for each disease can be quite expensive and logistically difficult. This requirement is not possible for many African countries that do not have the financial and appropriate human resources.

To circumvent the problems involved in establishing disease-free zones, new initiatives will be proposed for implementation at regional and country level by AU-IBAR. The concept of "*export systems*" is being propagated whereby the objective is to minimise the risk of disease/infection instead of freed a geographic area from a single disease/infection. The export systems represent the first step towards disease freedom. To establish an export system there would be the need –apart from technical and sanitary pre-conditions- for political will, available markets, involvement of all the sector operators and supportive national and regional policies.

The Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR) is mandated by AU member states to facilitate the coordination and harmonisation of strategies, policies in the livestock sub-sector, in Africa and consequently has the responsibility to provide continental leadership in the integration, co-ordination and establishment of close co-operative relationships with Africa's Regional Economic Communities and Organizations (RECs/REOs). This will involve the establishment of AU-IBAR delegations in each REC, and the start of a process of reflection and dialogue with the RECs on their role, capacity and ability to deliver on standardized regional integration programmes.

There are many constraints to trade in livestock commodities from Africa but the most intractable of these is the need to fulfil the sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures put in place by the World Trade Organization (WTO) to protect human and animal health and safety. SPS measures have stood in the way of increasing trade in livestock commodities from Africa as new rules and regulations are being put in place in the markets of developed countries, making it difficult for producers in Africa and other developing countries to comply.

During the Post PACE consolidation programme, AU-IBAR will facilitate the process on how African countries can influence and comply with the WTO SPS measures so as to increase trade in livestock commodities through sound, realistic measures in order to overcome the practical problems faced by African countries in fulfilling the requirements; and the actions required to comply with the trade-related SPS measures for livestock commodities.

In sub-Saharan Africa, different livestock production systems and trade patterns suggest that three sub-regions are practically suitable for the establishment of "*export systems*" for the purposes of promoting regional and international trade in livestock commodities. These are:

12.2.1. West and Central African sub-regional Export System

In this sub-region, the extensive livestock production systems of the Sahel countries cater for the regional markets of coastal West and Central African countries. Exports consist mostly of live animals exported mainly by Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad to Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria and Senegal. Meat exports from these regions, are insignificant. Cattle are the main exports, accounting for over 90% of the total cattle exported in the Continent. Exports of sheep and goats are also important and account for about 40% of the continent's exports of the same.

Export zones that promote cattle and small ruminant production would be most appropriate in the Sahelian areas of West and Central Africa towards the coastal West African countries and to North Africa. The exact location of an export zone will depend upon national objectives. However, it does appear that export zones for cattle production would be most appropriate in Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali. Export zones for small ruminant production would be suitable in Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Eastern part of Chad and Mauritania.

12.2.2. Eastern African sub-regional Export System

In this sub-region, a combination of extensive and semi-intensive production systems mainly target regional markets and international markets in the Middle East. Very small quantities of meat are exported, mainly by Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan.

The principal exports consist of sheep and goats exported mainly from Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia. Excluding Somalia, the region exported about 1.8 million sheep and goats in 2003, representing 43% of the total exports of sheep and goats. A regional export zone established either in Ethiopia, Sudan or Kenya would improve sheep, goat and cattle production and facilitate regional and international market for the region.

12.2.3. Southern African sub-regional Export System

In this sub-region, a combination of semi-intensive and intensive production systems, mainly target regional markets and the international markets in Europe. The focus is on meat exports. In 2003 the region exported about 92,000 metric tonnes of meat, representing over 90% of the continent's exports of meat. Namibia, Botswana and South Africa together account for 88% of the regional meat exports. More than 80% of the meat exported is beef. Namibia alone exported 49,882 metric tonnes (66%) of beef in 2003, followed by Botswana with 12,322 metric tonnes (16%). South Africa and Zimbabwe each exported 6,000 metric tonnes. Exports zones that promote semi-intensive or intensive cattle production would enhance beef trade in this region.

How African countries can influence and comply with the WTO SPS measures so as to increase trade in livestock commodities? The SPS measures formulate standards for an examination of the international requirements for trade in livestock commodities as well as the requirements; and the actions required to comply with the trade-related SPS measures for livestock commodities.

Main activities to achieve the above result are:

- 2.1. Assist with the codification of cattle movement procedures and exchange of livestock products at the intra-African level,
- 2.2. Develop intra-regional, regional and international trade opportunities.

12.3. Establishment of Animal Resources information Network (ARIN) for disease and animal resources intelligence to improve trade

As main component of Animal Resources Information Network, IBAR makes use of ARIS. This is a multi-user, multi-level, multi-lingual and integrated database for the storage transfer and analysis of animal health, production and marketing data. The software is actively used for monitoring the eradication of rinderpest and strengthening of surveillance capacity of national veterinary services in African countries. The database, is an effort to fill the gap created by the lack of information management tool in member states and at IBAR.

This valuable information resource would help for decision-making, planning and monitoring implemented activities. Providing reliable information in time and securing market access will contribute building credibility and trust among trading partners.

Cognizant of the key role information plays in developing the livestock sub-sector, the Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR) maintained the collection, collation and analysis of animal resources data and sharing information and knowledge as one of its main core functions. Getting reliable and continues access to international livestock and livestock products market, requires, among others, provision of scientifically sound and credible surveillance information.

For Africa to compete with other regions and get sufficient market penetration, capacities of gathering and sharing information is of paramount importance. The role information plays in animal resources development is not limited to facilitate market access. Several researchers indicated that lack or shortage of information on animal resources in Africa is an obstacle for conducting studies to shade light on major problems of the sub-sector and propose solutions.

Activities:

- 3.1 Establish a sustainable animal resources information network in the countries, under the guidance of the IBAR relevant unit

13. Workplan and calendar for the formulation phase

October 2005	Presentation of the concept note on consolidation of the PACE programme to the 11 th PACE Advisory Committee and to the Executive Committee of Alive.
November 2005	Presentation of the concept note on consolidation of the PACE programme to the Conference of the Ministers in charge of Animal Resources in Kigali.
December 2006 By April 2006	Presentation of the provisional PIF to the 32 nd ELIDEV in Brussels. Development of a project document by AU-IBAR in consultation with the Regional Economic Communities and the countries involved.
June – October 06	Securing funding
Early 2007	Programme start-up.

The PACE programme will contribute to the formulation of the draft project proposal, making available a qualified experts' team through the GTZ Short-Term consultancy facility foreseen in the service contract between the PACE Programme and the consortium GTZ/SATEC.

Gross budget breakdown for 5 years:

ITEM	EUR
Overall coordination at AU-IBAR, including the mobilisation of the emergency task force and of the backstopping expertise	8 M
Intermediate coordination at Geographical level:	
Southern Region	3 M
Eastern region	4 M
Western region	6 M
Central region	3 M
Insular region	3 M
Northern region	3 M
Implementation at Country level	70 M
Total	100 M

7. PAN AFRICAN ACTION PLAN FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF AVIAN INFLUENZA: SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERMS

7.1. Background and justification

The Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources (IBAR) as a technical specialized office of the Africa Union (AU) has the mandate to (i) co-ordinate the control and eventual eradication of epizootics, (ii) promote livestock development and (iii) co-ordinate and harmonize national livestock policies aiming at creating an enabling environment for a healthy livestock population and therefore an export market. In line with this IBAR gave top priority to the control of the major transboundary animal diseases, such as Rinderpest, Contagious Bovine Pleuro-pneumonia (CBPP), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), African Swine Fever (ASF), *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR) and Newcastle Disease. These diseases were highlighted by the majority of the African countries as the top diseases that were hampering livestock development and hence restricting incomes for both small and large-scale producers. Strategies for controlling these diseases were developed and are being implemented at national level with the coordination support from AU-IBAR at the regional and continental levels.

In the current context of globalisation, among the major zoonotic diseases threatening African continent a due attention should be made to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) as this disease causes high mortality among poultry population which is the biggest source of income in rural areas.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been recognised as a highly lethal generalized viral disease of poultry. Disease outbreaks occur most frequently in domestic fowl and turkeys. It causes high mortality among poultry population, which is the biggest source of income for poorest people living in rural areas. It has disastrous effects on poultry industry through its impact on international trade and domestic consumption of poultry products and a potential for a pandemic of human influenza including death of people.

The current outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, which began in South – East Asia in mid-2003, are the largest and most severe on record. Never before in the history of this disease have so many countries been simultaneously affected, resulting in the loss of so many birds.

It is believed that the control of the current disease outbreak in poultry is expected to take several years. This is confirmed by the occurrence of the disease in eastern part of Europe in 2005 with deaths of wild birds from highly pathogenic H5N1. From April to June 2005 more than 6000 migratory birds have been reported to have die due to H5N1 infection at the Qinghai Lake Nature Reserve in Qinghai Province, China. This is a concern because many of these birds are migratory and travel over long distances across international borders. The influenza viruses are easily spread by fomites and survive and spread well in water. Furthermore, certain species of ducks are able to carry influenza viruses without exhibiting any clinical symptoms of disease. It is also important to note that the findings in Qinghai Lake-China, suggest that H5N1 viruses could possibly be transmitted between migratory birds. The new outbreaks of HPAI in poultry and wild birds in Russia, Kazakhstan, Western China and Mongolia may indicate that migratory birds probably act as carriers for the transport of HPAI over longer distances.

The widespread persistence of H5N1 in poultry poses two main risks for human health. The first is the risk of direct infection when the virus passes (especially H5N1) from poultry to humans, resulting in very severe disease and deaths in humans. A second risk; of greater concern; is that the virus if given enough opportunities will change (mutation or re-assortment) into a form that is highly infectious for humans and spread easily from person to person.

Once a fully contagious virus emerges its global spread is considered inevitable. Given the speed and volume of international air travel today, the virus could spread rapidly, possible reaching all continents in less than 3 months. Three pandemics occurred in the previous century: "Spanish influenza" in 1918, "Asian influenza" in 1957 and Hong Kong influenza in 1968. The 1918 pandemic killed an estimated 40-50 million people worldwide. That pandemic was exceptional, is considered one of the deadliest disease events in the human history. Subsequent pandemics were much milder, with an estimated 2 million deaths in 1957 and 1 million deaths in 1968.

Scientists believe that pandemic influenza will happen but when it will occur remains unknown. Supplies of vaccines and antiviral drugs the two most important interventions for reducing illness and deaths during a pandemic will be inadequate in all countries at the start of a pandemic and for many months

thereafter. On present trends many developing countries including most of African countries will have no access to vaccines throughout the duration of a pandemic. According to WHO a relative conservative estimate – from 2 million to 7.4 million deaths would be recorded.

In the particular case of Africa the poultry production and marketing systems bring close contact between human being and birds. This increases the risk of transmission of the virus from birds to humans creating appropriate conditions for the occurrence of pandemic influenza.

Taking into consideration that the mechanism of a rapid and vast dissemination of the disease both nationally and internationally is not yet understood, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health and the World Bank organized a meeting on avian influenza and human pandemic in Geneva from 7th to 9th November 2005 with the participation of AU-IBAR and few African countries.

The Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources in conformity with its mandate is assisting the continent for the prevention and control of the HPAI virus as recommended by the 7th Conference of Ministers responsible for animal resources held in Kigali, Rwanda In November 2005 for the short, medium and long terms.

7.2. Activities for the short term

7.2.1. Emergency preparedness for HPAI

The activities foreseen in the short term will aim mainly at the understanding of the epidemiological situation of the continent with regard to HPAI and the prevention of the introduction of the virus into the continent.

- Create awareness among all stakeholders;
- Update the HPAI epidemiological situation in Africa;
- Elaborate national and regional emergency preparedness plans (EPP);
- Preparation of African Experts in rapid containment of HPAI;
- Establish vaccines stock and emergency funds at AU-IBAR level.

7.2.1.1. Create awareness among all stakeholders

The activities foreseen to create awareness, sensitisation and popularisation among all the stakeholders especially the rural population allowing early recognition of HPAI would be the preparation of set of information in most spoken languages in Africa on the clinical signs of the disease in close collaboration with RECs, OIE Regional representation, FAO, WHO and AU Member States: Video tapes on management of outbreaks in affected countries, posters, leaflets, radio etc.

The information package will be sent to all AU Member States for the immediate use in the countries.

7.2.1.2. Update the HPAI epidemiological situation in Africa

Surveillance activities will be undertaken to clarify situation in countries at high risk, which reported to OIE and AU-IBAR, cases of Newcastle disease. Few countries from each of the 5 regions of Africa will undertake disease investigation using mainly serological methods. These are: Mali, Mauritania and Senegal in Western Africa, Central African Republic and Chad in Central Africa; Djibouti, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya Uganda and Tanzania in Eastern Africa, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and Morocco in Northern Africa and South Africa, Malawi and Zimbabwe in Southern Africa. It is expected to send 300 sera (out of which 60 are from wild birds) from each of the above-mentioned countries.

The protocol for the full disease investigation to follow will be in accordance to AU-IBAR established guidelines.

7.2.1.3. Elaborate national and regional emergency preparedness plans (EPP)
In order to assist AU Member States in the preparation of national EPP AU-IBAR will organise in partnership with the regional OIE bureau 5 Trainings of Trainers (TOT) workshops to prepare field and laboratory personnel in investigating the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and prepare countries emergency preparedness plan for the disease according to the internationally accepted guidelines. The initial workshops will be held in Nairobi (Kenya) for Eastern and Southern Africa, in Bamako (Mali) for Western and Central Africa and in Tunis (Tunisia) for Northern Africa. Two additional training workshops will be organised to update veterinary services in the field of surveillance of wild birds, which might play a role in the epidemiology of HPAI.

Another workshop will be organised by AU-IBAR in Nairobi (Kenya) to elaborate the regional emergency preparedness plan for the prevention and control of the disease. Experts from OIE, FAO, WHO, RECs and from affected countries (1 person per country) such as China, Thailand and Vietnam will be invited to attend the workshop and share their experience in the control of HPAI. In addition, a budgetary provision will be made for technical backstopping to be undertaken to countries in need. Additional assistance will be provided to countries on request through technical backstopping missions by the AU-IBAR staff to finalise their EPP.

7.2.1.4. Preparation of African Experts in rapid containment of HPAI.

Transfer of skills, experience and knowledge on rapid containment of the disease will be undertaken. AU-IBAR will organise 3 scientific study tours, for African experts from AU-IBAR and high-risk countries (2 per country), to following affected countries: China, Vietnam and Thailand. The main objective of the tours would be to learn practically the methods of rapid containment of HPAI. After the scientific tours the experts would assist countries where the outbreaks will occur.

7.2.1.5. Establish vaccines stock at AU-IBAR level

As many countries in Africa in response to eventual HPAI outbreaks would probably use vaccination, AU-IBAR will constitute an emergency vaccine stock (5.000.000 doses) using the strain H5N2.

A financial provision will be made available to AU Pan-African Vaccine centre (PANVAC) to strengthen its capacity for quality control of HPAI vaccine before delivering to countries.

7.2.1.6. Establish emergency funds at AU-IBAR level

As the stamping out strategy would be the recommended strategy even if most of African countries have not adequate financial resources to cover the compensation costs AU-IBAR will make provision for emergency funds to cover partially the cost of the eventual destruction of poultry. AU-IBAR will also make a budgetary provision for shipment of samples from the AU Member States and the cost of laboratory diagnosis in the OIE reference laboratories for timely identification of eventual outbreaks.

7.2.1.7. Emergency training in monitoring and surveillance of HPAI in wild birds

Although African animal health professionals are fully trained in domestic animal health, they lack the additional expertise required dealing with disease control in wild birds. Hence there is an urgent need to train animal health professional in the monitoring, diagnosis and control of emerging diseases and particular avian influenza in all migratory birds, especially migratory waterfowl, currently migrating to Africa. Given the above-mentioned fact, AU-IBAR should undertake an emergency training operation in collaboration with the training Institutes, which have the required expertise and experience. This emergency training operation of African veterinarians in the monitoring and surveillance of HPAI in wild birds will assist the 53 AU Member States in building their capacity and strengthen them to undertake a monitoring and surveillance of wild birds in order to clarify the epidemiological picture of the disease in participating African countries. The training will be conducted for a period of three

months and will take place at two sub regional centres, namely Arusha, Tanzania and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

The training activities will be carried out at (a) international, (b) regional, and (c) national levels.

7.3. Activities for the medium term

7.3.1. Disease surveillance for HPAI

The activities for the medium term will be focussed mainly on carrying out HPAI surveillance to demonstrate freedom from the disease and infection according to OIE rules and principles.

Depending on the status of epidemiosurveillance systems all the Member States will be divided purposively into 4 batches. They therefore will prepare their Medium term action plans.

7.3.1.1. Strengthening the established surveillance systems under PACE programme

Strengthening the existing surveillance systems by:

Extending surveillance to major animal diseases, including avian influenza

Surveillance of HPAI in domestic and wild birds

Passive surveillance individual flocks, birds markets, borders etc

- Create awareness
- Prompt reporting to AU-IBAR task force in case of suspicion
- Reporting of all surveillance activities to AU-IBAR on monthly basis
- Definition of suspicion (Increased mortality, reduced feed and water consumption, presence of clinical signs of a respiratory disease or a drop in egg production etc)

Active surveillance

- Random surveillance (clinical and serology with virological methods for positive case for all species)
- Targeted surveillance (clinical, virological and serological) for all species

Surveillance of HPAI in wild birds

Passive surveillance

- Create awareness among rural population, Hunters, Rangers etc
- Prompt reporting
- Definition of suspicion (Increased mortality, reduced feed and water consumption, presence of clinical signs of a respiratory disease or a drop in egg production etc)

Active surveillance

- Targeted surveillance using serological and virological methods in migratory routes, period and final destination
- Reporting of all surveillance activities to AU-IBAR on monthly basis

7.3.1.2. Establishment of surveillance systems where it is absent.

Organisation of epidemio-surveillance network for surveillance of major animal diseases, including highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Surveillance of domestic birds

Passive surveillance in individual flocks, birds markets, borders etc

- Create awareness among rural population
- Prompt reporting
- Definition of suspicion: Increased mortality, reduced feed and water consumption, presence of clinical signs of a respiratory disease or a drop in egg production.

Active surveillance

- Random surveillance (appropriate accuracy):
- Clinical (on species exhibiting signs i.e. chickens) and serology with virological methods for + case for all species
- Targeted clinical, virological and serological surveillance in all species

Surveillance in wild birds

Passive surveillance

- Create awareness among rural population, Hunters, Rangers etc
- Prompt reporting

- Definition of suspicion (Increased mortality, reduced feed and water consumption, presence of clinical signs of a respiratory disease or a drop in egg production etc).

Active surveillance

- Targeted surveillance using serological and virological methods in migratory routes, period and final destination
- Reporting of all surveillance activities to AU-IBAR on monthly basis

7.31.3. Revitalisation of the existing formal epidemio-surveillance network

Surveillance of HPAI in domestic birds

Passive surveillance in individual flocks, birds markets, borders etc

- Create awareness among rural population, Hunters, Rangers etc
- Prompt reporting
- Definition of suspicion (Increased mortality, reduced feed and water consumption, presence of clinical signs of a respiratory disease or a drop in egg production etc)

Active surveillance

Random surveillance (appropriate accuracy)

Clinical (on species exhibiting signs i.e. chickens) and serology with virological methods for + case for all species

Targeted surveillance (in domestic birds Clinical, virological and serological for all species)

Surveillance of wild (migratory) birds

Passive surveillance

- Create awareness among rural population, hunters, rangers etc
- Prompt reporting
- Definition of suspicion (Increased mortality, reduced feed and water consumption, presence of clinical signs of a respiratory disease or a drop in egg production etc).

Active surveillance

- Targeted surveillance in migratory routes, identification of period and final destination using serological and virological methods
- Reporting of all surveillance activities to AU-IBAR on monthly basis
- Harmonization of the systems

7.3.1.4. Establishment of ESS in countries coming from civil unrest (Sierra Leone, Liberia and Somalia)

The starting point will be the reorganisation of Veterinary Services and establishment of epidemio-surveillance system for major animal diseases, including HPAI

Surveillance of HPAI in domestic birds

Passive surveillance in individual flocks, birds markets, borders etc

- Create awareness among rural population, hunters, rangers etc
- Prompt reporting
- Definition of suspicion (Increased mortality, reduced feed and water consumption, presence of clinical signs of a respiratory disease or a drop in egg production)

Active surveillance

- Random surveillance (clinical, serological with virological methods for positive case for all species)
- Targeted surveillance (clinical, virological and serological for all species)

Surveillance of HPAI in wild (migratory) birds

Passive surveillance

- Create awareness among rural population, hunters, rangers etc
- Prompt reporting
- Definition of suspicion (Increased mortality, reduced feed and water consumption, presence of clinical signs of a respiratory disease or a drop in egg production).

Active surveillance

- Targeted surveillance using serology and virological methods in migratory route, identification of period and final destination
- Reporting of all surveillance activities to AU-IBAR on monthly basis
- Harmonization

7.4. Activities for the long term

The activities for the long term will aim at maintaining the freedom status of countries from HPAI infection according to the OIE rules and principles. They will be integrated into the daily activities of veterinary services of AU Member States and comprised of clinical and targeted serological surveillance. This can be done through passive, active and status of (clinical and serological) surveillance undertaken on annual basis.

7.4.1. Research component

AU-IBAR will liaise with research Institutes, such as OVI (Pretoria, South Africa), ILRI, CDC (Nairobi, Kenya) etc to undertake research activities in the following fields of vaccines development of vaccines using the local isolated strains and diagnostic tools, and their field validation. The developed diagnostic tools should differentiate Newcastle from HPAI.

In close collaboration with National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARS) AU-IBAR will undertake socio-economic, impact assessment and risk analysis of HPAI in selected Member States.

Finally AU-IBAR will undertake surveillance activities of migratory birds in high risks using GIS in order to locate and define the density of wilds birds. This can be done in collaboration with ILRI.