

Regional TA posted in MALI

Dr Patrick BASTIAENSEN

ANNUAL REPORT

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**PAN-AFRICAN PROGRAMME
FOR THE CONTROL OF EPIZOOTICS (PACE)**

JANUARY 2006

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The regional technical assistant (RTA), Dr. P. Bastiaensen, is based at the Regional Coordination Unit of PACE in Bamako (Mali), covering seven French-speaking countries (Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Congo, DRC and Niger), as well as Guinea Bissau (Portuguese speaking) and The Gambia and Nigeria (English-speaking). The RTA's contract was initiated on May 30th, 2003 and ends on October 31st, 2006.

With regard to the RTA's activities, a total of 10 missions have been conducted over the last six months (8 regional and 2 international). Technical backstopping missions were conducted in Burkina Faso, Congo, Guinea Bissau, Niger and Nigeria. In Senegal, the two day mission, accompanied by Dr. Bouna DIOP and Dr. Cécile SQUARZONI and later joined by Dr. Emmanuel TAMBI (PACE-PEU economics sub-unit), was intended to reach consensus over the contents of the draft report of the GTZ consultant, Prof. Dr. Cheick LY, hired to assess the financial costs of passive surveillance and relate it to the possible benefits surveillance could bring.

As part of the round of internal evaluation missions, PACE Ghana was visited by a team from the regional coordination during the month of September 2005. PACE Gambia was evaluated during the month of November 2005. An evaluation mission of PACE CAR, scheduled for October 1st, 2005, had to be cancelled because of overbooking of the flight.

In general terms there is a clear tendency towards less mission days and less missions, as imposed by the number of allocated mission days for the extension contract (115 days until October 2005, 124 days as from November 2005), but also because several countries require less and less direct in-country assistance.

In response to the recommendations of the 10th ACM, a draft policy paper on communication has been presented by Dr. Bouna DIOP and the RTA to the PCU in Nairobi (August 2005). Meanwhile, several small articles have been published (Vet. Record and Spore) and a lay-out for poster-sized presentations has been developed by the RTA. The (updated) posters were presented at the 11th Advisory Committee Meeting and thereafter at the 7th AU Conference of Ministers responsible for Animal Resources, Kigali.

One of the main difficulties encountered is the increasing workload of the remaining technical assistants, as the numbers, both in terms of regional TA's and common services TA's decrease for budgetary reasons. Both regional TA's in Bamako now cover 10 countries each. While it is obvious that not all countries require the same intensive support as several years ago, some still do. At the same time, the PACE Coordination has embarked on an ambitious programme of joint internal evaluation missions which require the mobilisation of at least three staff members, thus limiting the number of simultaneous interventions in different countries.

In the course of the last six months only three countries initiated their last programme estimate, out of the 8 which should have: Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, and Niger. The latter has already received the start-up funds. Mauritania and Guinea Bissau are still waiting.

Mali has extended its 4th PE until January 31st, 2006 (rider) and will begin its last PE on February 1st, 2006, providing PE n° 3 will have been de-committed by that date. DRC has submitted a proposal to start a new PE on January 1st, 2006. Nigeria's 4th PE should have been approved on December 30th, 2005 but somehow wasn't. It is unclear when this PE will start, although it is doubtful that PACE Nigeria will benefit from funds before March 2006, if ever. As for the remaining 2 countries, Burkina Faso and Congo it is hoped that their first and last work plan will commence by February 1st, 2006 at the latest.

Over the next six months, the RTA will attempt to visit those countries that require assistance with the drafting and/or re-editing of the rider to their PE of the extension phase. These countries are Senegal and Gambia. Furthermore the RTA will assist Gambia and Nigeria in the preparation of their requests to OIE (application for recognition infection-free status for rinderpest). In Nigeria, a short term assignment will be organised in order to assist Nigeria in collecting the necessary wildlife serum samples for the OIE dossier. In Gambia, the short term assignment of a legal expert is still pending.

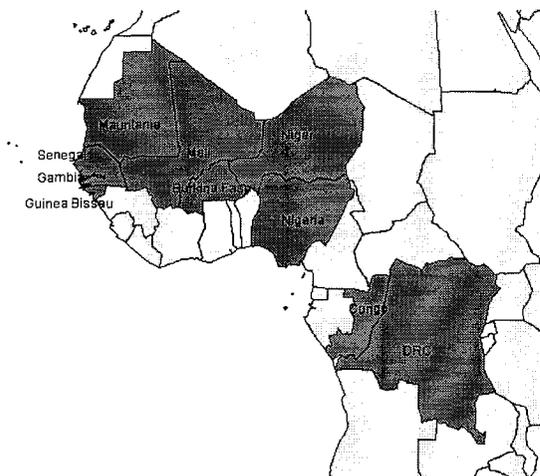
Finally, the RTA will assist countries in the further development of their data-management system, based on ARIS. The RTA, in agreement with the Regional Coordinator will also draft terms of reference for the supply of regional expertise in terms of ARIS implementation. The idea is to give the opportunity to certain PACE data-base managers, familiar with ARIS, to help other PACE countries in implementing the ARIS database. Also, terms of reference will be drafted to complete the internal evaluation missions by external evaluation missions, by hiring external consultants to conduct assignments in selected countries, according to the template used at present by PCU and RCU.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Please refer to the previous reports.

3. INTRODUCTION

The regional technical assistant (RTA) for the West African sahelian currently countries covers 10 countries : **Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. The Gambia** was added to the list as from April 1st, 2004. **Congo** (Brazzaville), Congo (Kinshasa, **DRC**) and **Nigeria** were added to the list as from November 1st, 2005.



The RTA is based at the PACE Regional Coordination Unit in Sotuba (Bamako) in Mali from where assignments are conducted in every of the 9 other countries covered.

The RTA's contract was initiated on May 30th, 2003 and ends on October 31st, 2006. A first final report was submitted at the end of his first contract, on October 31st, 2004.

Over the last six months, the RTA has visited the following countries : **Burkina Faso, Congo, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.** No new field missions were conducted in Mali, but assistance was given with respect to ARIS software implementation. Two attempts were made to visit DRC in July and October 2005, but twice the RTA was forced to abandon the mission, the first time because of a health emergency affecting a colleague on the assignment, the second time because his entry into the country was denied by border police at N'Dili airport.

The executive summaries of the mission reports are presented at the end of this progress report and illustrate the variability of progress made in these countries. One country was visited within the framework of the PACE internal evaluations : Gambia. Exceptionally, an evaluation mission was conducted in **Ghana** too (replacing the Regional Coordinator). Another attempt to conduct a similar evaluation mission in CAR had to be aborted too because of overbooking of the flight (October 2005). The mission to Senegal was conducted within the framework of the STE mission of Prof. Cheick LY with respect to the financial cost-analysis of the national ESS (finalisation of the draft report).

Three countries initiated a new programme estimate (WP+CE) over the last six months : Mauritania, Niger and Guinea Bissau. DRC and Mali are to start up their second year PE by January/February 2006. The first extension WP of Burkina Faso, Congo and Nigeria have still not been approved by their respective local EC delegations.

4. MAIN TASKS PERFORMED DURING THE PERIOD

4.1 Mobilisation

Please refer to the first half year report (2003)

4.2 Inception phase

Please refer to previous reports.

4.3 In-country visits

Over the last six months, the RTA has visited the following countries : Burkina Faso, Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

No new field missions were conducted in Mali, but assistance was given in Bamako with respect to ARIS software implementation. Programme implementation, in our view, remains satisfactory. The same goes for Mauritania, for which it was deemed that technical assistance was not needed during the elapsed period. As for DRC, two consecutive attempts were made to conduct a mission in this country. The first, in July 2005 had to be cut-short (in Brazzaville) because a colleague on this assignment suffered from a serious health emergency. The second attempt ended at N'Dili International Airport (Kinshasa) on October 23rd, 2005 when the RTA was denied entry into the country because no visa had been issued to him before boarding the plane. Please also refer to §.6.



Visiting a private veterinary clinic in Jos (Plateau State), Nigeria. December 2005.

4.3.1. Technical backstopping missions

In **Burkina Faso**, joint efforts by the RTA and the Financial Controller, M. Alex SAELAERT have concentrated on the release of funds for the extension phase. Poor accounting has led to considerable delays in closure of work plans and de-commitment of funds, which led the local ECD to take a firm stand, in demanding the full closure of all work plans (including the last one) and de-commitment of funds, before approving any new work plan. Thanks to a considerable government contribution, activities of the national programme have not suffered too much, EDF funds being earmarked primarily for training sessions. Despite the commitments of all stakeholders and the resignation of the PACE accountant, PACE Burkina Faso is still awaiting the approval of its first (and therefore last) PE of the extension. It is now believed, this PE will start on February 1st, 2006.

Similarly, in **Nigeria**, joint efforts by the RTA and the Financial Controller, M. Alex SAELAERT have concentrated on the release of funds for the extension phase. The project, weaned of EDF funds since October 2004 (!) has still not managed to get approval for the 4th work plan, despite the positive outcome of the financial audit conducted in 2005. The EC delegation does not seem to be in a hurry to get this PE on track. A firm commitment by this delegation to approve the next PE before the closure of OLAS on December 22nd, 2005 was not complied with. These delays are now creating almost insurmountable problems for PACE Nigeria, especially in terms of the OIE pathway for rinderpest, and hence, is endangering the worldwide objective to clear the world of rinderpest by 2010.

In **Congo**, the RTA took advantage of the forced stop-over in Brazzaville (due to the hospitalisation of his colleague, *en route* to DRC) to work on the OIE dossier for (immediate) recognition of Congo as being infection-free from rinderpest. The dossier has been sent to OIE in early August 2005 and according to unconfirmed (but nevertheless reliable) rumours, the dossier has been accepted by the *ad hoc* committee on rinderpest. This paves the way for Congo's official recognition by the upcoming international commission meeting in May 2006 in Paris.

In **Guinea Bissau** too, efforts have concentrated on re-editing last year's dossier, making sure the dossier would adequately respond to OIE's remarks and questions, raised by the *ad hoc* committee. Here too, rumours have it the dossier is accepted. Even though the national strategic plan against CBPP had still not been formally adopted, a self-declaration of provisionally CBPP free country was written, based on a formal prohibition to vaccinate or market henceforth vaccines against CBPP throughout the territory. This step constitutes the entry of Guinea Bissau into the pathway for the declaration of infection free country from CBPP, as recommended by the PACE regional workshop on this subject (Conakry, 2004). During June 2005, PACE Guinea Bissau took delivery of a new computer with the last version of ARIS pre-installed (following a grouped purchase organized by the Data Management Unit in Nairobi). The RTA helped the national coordinator (and manager of the data base) to overcome the few difficulties which prevented him since June 2005 from using the software and in particular to produce SR-3 reports for the OIE and IBAR. In addition, While in Guinea Bissau in August, the RTA tried to transfer the old data of ARIS towards the new computer, unfortunately without success. Finally, the RTA went through the draft WP n° 6, as prepared by the national coordination and re-worked its

content and budget in order to better fulfil the requirements of this last year of implementation, in particular the closure period to be respected, as well as the budget ceiling, which will be probably (awaiting approval by the RAO and the lead-ECD of the technical and budgetary framework document) level around 140.000 EUR, including approximately 50% for investments

Finally, in **Senegal**, the two day mission, accompanied by Dr. Bouna DIOP and Dr. Cécile SQUARZONI and later joined by Dr. Emmanuel TAMBI (PACE-PEU economics sub-unit), was intended to reach consensus over the contents of the draft report of the GTZ consultant, Prof. Dr. Cheick LY, hired to assess the financial costs of passive surveillance and relate it to the possible benefits surveillance could bring. This study was conducted in Mauritania, Benin and Ghana and completed with data from Senegal. The draft copy raised some eyebrows as to the methodology used and some arguably, erratic results with regard to the cost of ES in Ghana in particular. Consensus has been reached with Prof. LY and the draft report has now been sent to GTZ for further dispatching to PACE-PCU.

4.3.2. Internal country evaluations

Third in a row of around 10 countries to be evaluated by the end of the programme, **PACE Ghana** was visited by a team from the regional coordination during the month of September 2005.



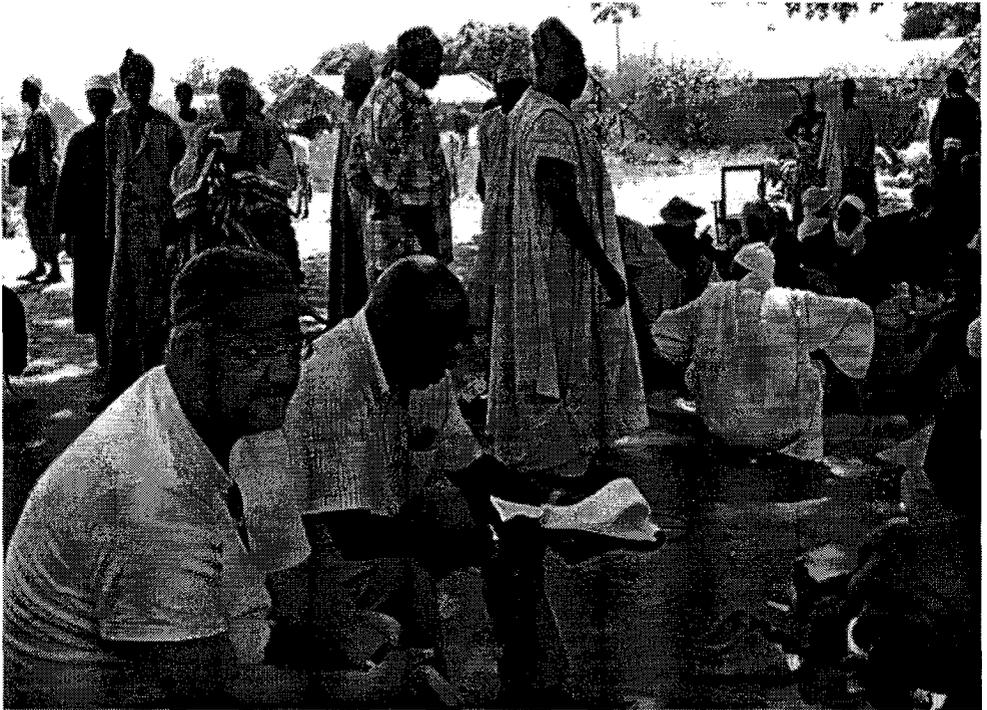
*Discussion with meat inspectors at Kumasi's main abattoir (north-western Ghana).
On the left, Dr. N. DENORMANDIE.*

Just as for the other evaluations (conducted in Guinea Bissau and Niger), the mission went over all aspects of programme implementation, both technical and financial. The RTA took part in this mission (outside his normal group of countries) in replacement of the Regional Coordinator, Dr. Bouna DIOP, who had to desist because of a family-related emergency. A field visit was conducted on September 27th and 28th, covering the areas of Kumasi (Ashanti Region) and Yeji (Brong-Ahafo Region), bordering the Volta Lake. During this trip, interviews were conducted with district veterinary personnel and farmers.

PACE Gambia was evaluated during the month of November 2005. The team was composed of Dr. Bouna DIOP, PACE Regional co-ordinator for Western and Central Africa, Dr. Cecile SQUARZONI, Regional epidemiologist and the RTA. A field visit was conducted on November 23rd and 24th, covering the areas of Western Division, Lower River Division and Central River Division South (see map). During this trip, interviews were conducted with divisional and district veterinary personnel, cattle traders, members of sanitary defence committees and farmers.

An evaluation mission of **PACE CAR**, scheduled for October 1st, 2005, had to be cancelled because of overbooking of the flight. Please also refer to §.6.

This brings the number of evaluations conducted in West and Central Africa to four. Future evaluations are scheduled in Chad, Nigeria, Mali and CAR (so far at least).

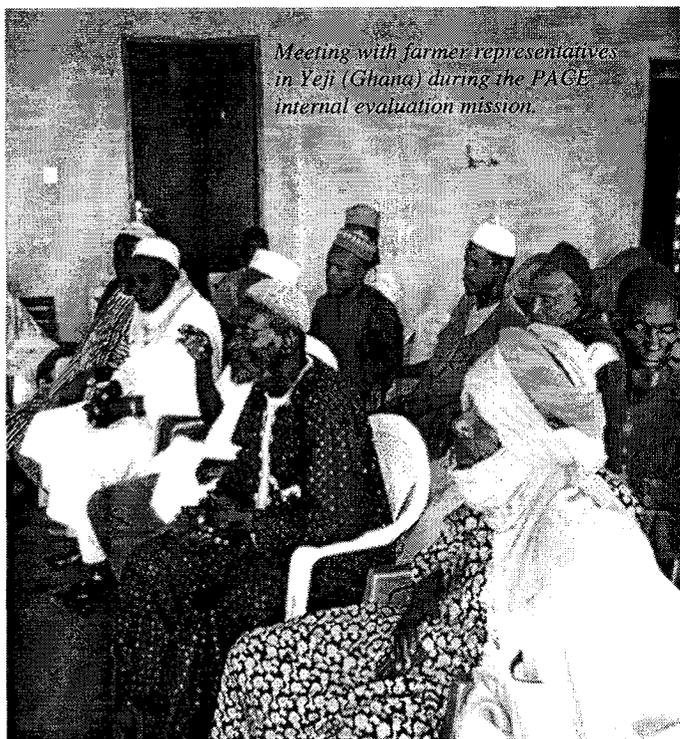


Meeting with cattle farmers, traders and SDC members at a cattle market in Bureng (central Gambia). Seated are Dr. P. BASTIAENSEN (left) and Dr. Bouna DIOP (right).

With regard to the RTA's activities, a total of 10 missions have been conducted over the last six months (8 regional and 2 international).

The current overall number of missions and mission days (since July. 2005) is as follows (averaging 1,7 mission/month) :

| country | missions |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Burkina F. | 1 |
| Congo | 1 |
| DRC | 0 |
| Gambia | 1 |
| Ghana | 1 |
| Guinea B. | 1 |
| Kenya | 1 |
| Mali | <i>resident</i> |
| Mauritania | 0 |
| Niger | 1 |
| Nigeria | 1 |
| Rwanda | 1 |
| Senegal | 1 |
| Total | 10 |



The number of mission days for the present contract (since Nov. 2005, a mere two months) is as follows :

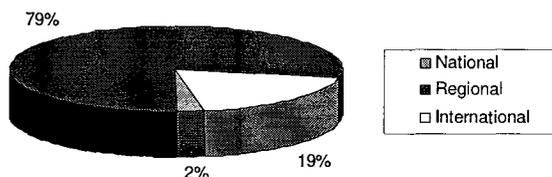
| Missions | Days booked * | Days/provision until 31.12.2005 ** | Total number of days/provision | % until 31.12.2005 |
|---------------|---------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| In-country | 16 | 35 | 140 | 46% |
| In-region | | | | |
| International | 4 | 7 | 26 | 62% |
| Total | 20 | 42 | 166 | 48% |

(*) chargeable nights (**) on the basis of 12 months

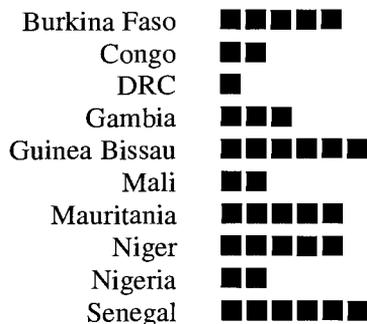
For all three contracts (since May 2003), the situation is as follows :

| Missions | Days booked * |
|---------------|---------------|
| In-country | 8 |
| In-region | 264 |
| International | 63 |
| Total | 335 |

(*) chargeable nights



Number of missions conducted in the ten countries since inception (May 2003) :



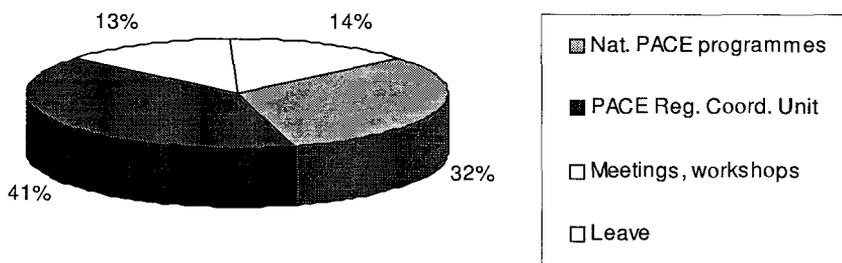
In respect of the reporting period, there is a clear tendency towards less mission days and less missions, as imposed by the number of allocated mission days for the extension contract (115 days until October 2005, 124 days as from November 2005), but also because several countries require less and less direct in-country assistance :

| Missions | Total number of mission days booked | First reporting period (2003) | Second reporting period (2004) | Third reporting period (2004) | Fourth reporting period (2005) | Fifth reporting period (2005) |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| n-country | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| In-region | 264 | 60 | 59 | 60 | 41 | 44 |
| International | 63 | 16 | 16 | 2 | 4 | 25 |
| Total | 335 | 77 | 76 | 68 | 45 | 69 |

The average number of mission days / month for the 2nd semester 2005 is 11,5 days.
The average number of days / regional mission for the 2nd semester 2005 is 5,5 days.

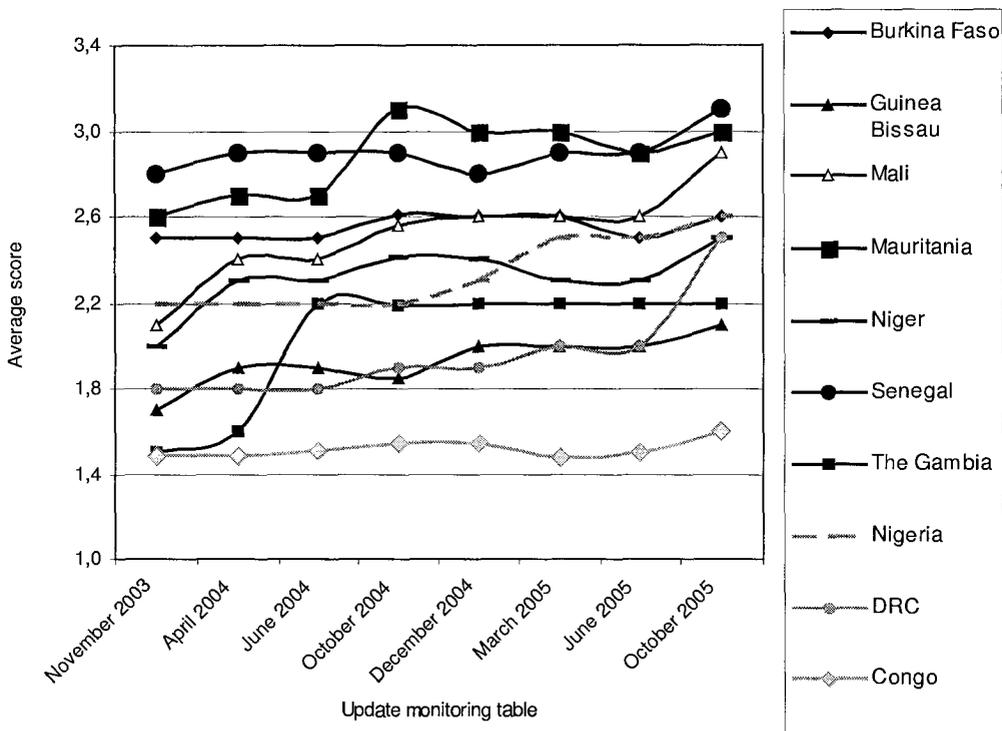
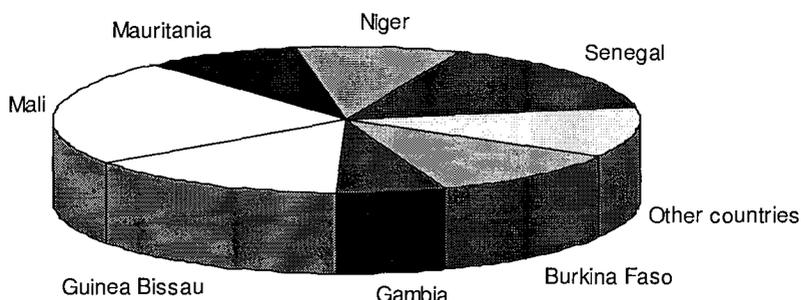
The increase in the overall number of mission days is primarily due to the large number of international travel days : the ACM in Nairobi (Kenya) and the AU-IBAR Ministerial meeting in Kigali (Rwanda).

Time-use : July 2003 - Dec 2005 (30 months)



The time-use graph presented above illustrates the increased importance of coordination – activities in Bamako (41% now as compared to 31% last year June). Time allocated to country visits has decreased from 40% in June 2004 to 32% in December 2005. The number of days used attending meetings and conferences has remained the same. The next graph illustrates the attention given to every of the 10 countries over the last year in terms of mission-days (in the case of Mali, travel was not [always] involved). The Gambia was added to the RTA's list of countries in April 2004, hence the limited number of days worked in this country. (*other countries : DRC, Congo, Nigeria*)

Time-use : national PACE programmes



In terms of the RTA's impact on national programme implementation progress, there is still no strategy or monitoring system in place. One approach is to measure the increase or decrease in performance scores, using the indicators used by the PCU for monitoring purposes (graph above). This approach is debatable since the indicators used have been modified over the last two years (and decreased from 40 to 37). Another reason is that increase in scores given, often reflects a better knowledge of the situation in the country (thanks to the frequent visits), rather than a genuine improvement in performance. Finally, several indicators are beyond the direct control of the PACE programme and henceforth of the RTA's intervention.

After the decrease in country scores in several countries observed around June 2005, most countries are now again 'on the rise', especially DRC and Mali (graph above). Following the evaluation of backstopping missions conducted since October's ACM, both Nigeria and Gambia have seen their scores increase slightly.

4.4 Identification of needs for short term inputs

Following the installation of ARIS on a LAN network in Senegal, it was agreed with the Senegalese data-manager to apply for a STE for the linking of ARIS to the already existing electronic network used in Senegal (Lotus Notes). This mission will be entrusted to the ICT engineer from MEDES who installed the network in 2003, is the most appropriate person for the job. Terms of reference have been approved and work is set to begin in the course of the first quarter of 2006, provided the ICU can supply the necessary source – data to enable the development of the software.

Following the backstopping mission to Nigeria in December, it has been decided to apply for a short term mission with regard to wildlife sero-surveillance for rinderpest:

Terms of reference / short term technical support mission

"Conducting serological surveillance of selected wildlife species through capture/darting, sampling and release of animals in selected national parks for the diagnosis of rinderpest in Nigeria."

Client : PACE Nigeria

Duration: 1 man-month (30 days)

25 days on-site + 2 travel days + 3 days of drafting of the preliminary report.

Submission of the report : the preliminary report will have to be delivered in English within 15 working day after the end of the mission, in four copies , to the following address:

The PACE Coordinator
AU-IBAR – Pan-African programme for the Control of Epizootics
B.P. 30786, Nairobi Kenya

The report will have to contain an 'executive summary' of 4 maximum pages in French.
The report will have to be accompanied by an electronic version on CD-Rom (two copies).

Expected starting date of the mission:

March 1, 2006 and as of reception of necessary clearance for the import of anaesthetic drugs and equipment.

Necessary qualifications:

University degree in veterinary science and/or related field (animal biology, zoology, environmental studies).

Professional experience of 8 years or more.

Thorough knowledge of capture techniques and darting techniques of large wildlife mammals in Africa, with special reference to the savannah belt of West Africa and even-hoofed animals, such as buffaloes, antelopes and warthogs / bush pigs.

Advanced proficiency in English (to understand, speak and write).

Desired qualifications:

3rd cycle diploma in a discipline relevant to the mission.

Proficiency in French (to understand and speak).

Experience in the field of the organisation of wildlife capture operations on the African continent.

Knowledge of the context, namely the organization of the livestock sector and nature conservation in West Africa, and in particular in Nigeria.

Knowledge of international agreements and guidelines with regard to wildlife (IUCN, CITES)

Knowledge of international agreement and guidelines with regard to the import/export of diagnostic samples and bio-hazard.

Experience with PARC/PACE or failing this, affinities with diseases of domestic and wild animals.

Context of the mission:

The present mission is requested by the National Coordination of PACE Nigeria in order to provide the national epidemiologic surveillance network (called NADIS) with the necessary samples to convince the international community, through the World animal health organisation (OIE) certification process, that rinderpest-virus infection is absent from the national territory.

In Nigeria, no national expertise is available to conduct wildlife serology. The use of hunting sera is excluded. The eco-system approach is probably not very reliable, given the lack of data from neighbouring countries and the distance between the major parks within and outside Nigeria. Most national parks in bordering countries (Pendjari, Park W, Zakouma) are not contiguous to parks in Nigeria. As for Cameroon, two parks are : Waza National Park and Tchabal Mbabo (see further). With regard to the latter, both the Cameroon and Nigerian governments have expressed a strong commitment to collaborate in establishing a trans-boundary protected area. While this is a clear-cut case of similar, if not same, eco-systems, unfortunately, no data are available for the sensitive species in these parks, since sero-surveillance in wildlife in Cameroon hasn't started either.

This leaves Nigeria with two (complementary) options to consider :

a) Sero-surveillance of cattle and small ruminants in the vicinity of (or even within) national parks, based on the premise that there cannot be rinderpest in wildlife if there's no rinderpest in livestock. A reasonable number of samples, acquired through cautious and unbiased selection of herds which could have been in contact with wildlife, is probably an important factor in convincing the OIE that the infection in wildlife.

b) Sero-surveillance on darted, sensitive wildlife species. This option is probably the easiest to materialize and the fastest to produce tangible results, provided the consultant can supply the necessary equipment and drugs as part of his service rendering contract.

Ideally, capture/darting-anaesthesia and sampling should take place during the dry season (that is : before the end of June 2006 and preferably before the end of May) and could cover any or several of the following national parks :

- Chingurmi Duguma N.P. (Borno State)
- Kainji Lake N.P. (Kwara State)
- Gashaka Gumti N.P.
- Yankari N.P. (Bauchi State).
- Kamuku National Park (Kaduna State)

Target-species (sensitive to the virus) available in these parks are :

- waterbuck,
- bushbuck
- warthogs
- buffalo

Terms of reference:

During its mission, the selected expert(s) will be expected to provide the following services :

1. To conduct capture and release operations on wildlife species, sensitive to the rinderpest-virus (all even-hoofed animals) using anaesthetic drugs and take bloodsamples.
2. To conduct appropriate processing of the samples (in order to attain at least 30 serum of a variety of animal species) and ensure a continuous cold-chain from sampling to lab-reception in the UK.
3. To provide the necessary information with regard to the animals sampled (species, approximate age, GPS location, etc. ...) on standard forms.
4. To package and forward the samples to the international reference laboratory for rinderpest, in compliance with IATA, EC and OIE rules and regulations.

In addition, the fees of the expert(s) will have to include the provision for the duration of the mission, of the following goods (equipment – temporary - and consumables) :

1. Darting gun
2. Darts and necessary darting equipment
3. Anaesthetics (minimum 100 doses)
4. Cryo-tubes (minimum 200)
5. Transport and insurance (if deemed necessary) of equipment and materials from x to Nigeria and back.
6. Transport and insurance of biological samples to the international reference laboratory for rinderpest (WRLR), IAH in Pirbright (UK).
7. Computer equipment and office stationary (if deemed necessary)

The following goods and services are to be provided for by the client :

1. Temporary import clearance for equipment, materials and drugs
2. Tents and camping equipment (torches, petroleum lights, cooking utensils)
3. Binoculars (2) and GPS (2)
4. GSM cell-phones or walkie talkie radio system (3)
5. Syringes and needles, disinfectants, antibiotics
6. Ropes, knives, machetes,
7. All-terrain vehicles, type pick up + driver and fuel (2)
8. Trackers (2)
9. Guides and rangers (4)
10. Veterinary personnel (2)
11. First aid kit
12. Cool-containers (food), dry ice, liquid nitrogen + containers
13. Fees for trackers, guides and rangers
14. Transport fees (air way bill) Abuja - Pirbright
15. Administrative fees for the clearance of the biological samples.

The sampling, processing, storage and forwarding of the samples is the explicit responsibility of the consultant. The consultant will take no responsibility for deterioration of samples, after having been handed over (and signed for) to the airline carrier, nor of the diagnostic results of the analyses conducted.

If needed, capture equipment (including rifles, nets, etc. ...) can be lent out by PACE Chad, provided the client (PACE Nigeria) can arrange transport (back and forth) and clear customs.

Deliverables :

1. Mission report (hard copy and electronic)
2. Serum samples (min. 30) of 2 ml each.
3. Completed sample forms (min. 30)

4.5 Documents produced (over the last six months)

Mission reports

- Mission report DIOP/BAS/2005/05/NE : Niger, July 2005
- Mission report BAS/2005/02/CG : Congo, July 2005
- Mission report BAS/2005/06/GW : Guinea Bissau, August 2005
- Mission report BAS/2005/05/BF : Burkina Faso, September 2005
- Mission report CSQ/NDN/BAS/2005/01/GH : Ghana, September 2005
- Mission report CSQ/DIOP/BAS/2005/03.GM : Gambia, November 2005
- Mission report BAS/2005/02/NG : Nigeria, December 2005

Discussion papers (B. Diop & P. Bastiaensen)

- PACE communication & outreach policy 2005 - 2006

Technical manuals

- *Manual for community-based animal health workers in west and central Africa*, Mai Lan, author (N. Denormandie and P. Bastiaensen, editors) PACE/AU-IBAR, 2005 (in preparation).

M & E (team work)

- Country programme progress monitoring table (ACM, Nairobi)
- Country programme progress monitoring posters (ACM, Nairobi)
- Progress report countries (ACM, Nairobi)
- Technical and budgetary framework document for year 2 of the extension.

- PACE RCU Bamako work plan n° 6 (January 2006 – February 2007).

Progress reports

- Annual report GTZ to AU/IBAR (January – June 2005) : Annex B
- Monthly update reports GTZ (June – Nov. 2005)
- PACE Regional Office final report (1999-2004) in French
- PACE Regional Office final report (1999-2004) in English

Scientific papers

- Bastiaensen P. , Denormandie N., Squarzone C., Bidjeh K.², Diop B.A., Bessin R.² (0000) "*Eradication planétaire de la peste bovine : la dernière ligne droite*" Tropicultura, approved.

Popular articles (communication)

- Diop B.A. & Bastiaensen P. (2005) "*Achieving full eradication of rinderpest in Africa.*" Vet.Rec. 157: 239-240.
- Bastiaensen P. & Diop B.A. (2005) "*Eradicating rinderpest.*" Spore (CTA) n° 118 (August 2005).

Achieving full eradication of rinderpest in Africa

SIR, – Thanks to a recently approved two-year extension of the Pan-African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE), 30 sub-Saharan countries are to be given the opportunity to get a step closer to achieving international recognition of the absence of rinderpest, thus contributing to the global objective to eradicate rinderpest from the planet by 2010.

Rinderpest or cattle plague has long been the main constraint to livestock production in many parts of the world, including sub-Saharan Africa. Throughout the last century, major mass vaccination campaigns were conducted on the continent, with varying degrees of success. Since 1962, the African States, with the assistance of the European Union (and its predecessors), have been involved in these eradication efforts, initially through the Joint Programme 15. The last major vaccination effort was conducted under PARC (Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign) from 1986 to 1999. The PACE, which started in 1999, is now conducting the last phase of this eradication process, which is the continued surveillance for disease outbreaks and

the recognition by the international community (through the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)) of rinderpest freedom. The ultimate goal, as defined in the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme and coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization, is to achieve global eradication of rinderpest by 2010.

At this stage, 12 of 30 member countries of the PACE (excluding the southern African region) have already been declared disease-free by the OIE. Four more countries have reached the final recognition of an infection-free country (Senegal, Togo, Benin and Eritrea). A further nine West African countries are expected to be declared infection-free by May 2006 (the OIE's next Annual General Session). To achieve this, these countries will have to demonstrate their capacity to control animal diseases nationwide, to conduct thorough epidemiological surveys and to be prepared for any disease emergency that might occur now or in the future.

The only remaining foci of rinderpest in Africa, and probably in the world, are confined to the so-called Somali ecosystem, an area encompassing northern Kenya, south-eastern Ethiopia and south-western Somalia, the last being a war-torn country in which it has become increasingly difficult to implement structural control programmes. Moreover, the dis-

ease has now become less virulent and therefore less obvious to detect, hence, the difficulties encountered in controlling the last few outbreaks. Furthermore, as livestock owners do not suffer as severe consequences of rinderpest as they used to, they are reluctant to report suspected cases.

With the prospect of eradicating rinderpest from the African continent, several countries are now seriously investigating the possibilities of developing regional and international trade in livestock and livestock products, in particular meat, hides and dairy products.

The PACE and the actions it implements at the level of the government veterinary services are of paramount importance, in that it is the very first time that a large number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa (except for countries such as Botswana and South Africa) have attempted and succeeded in complying with international standards in the field of animal health. Viewed as such, the efforts undertaken to declare their countries free of rinderpest are perceived as an excellent way to learn and develop surveillance systems and compliance with international standards that will be useful for similar procedures in the future, for example, for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia or foot-and-mouth disease. Moreover, the

The Veterinary Record, August 20, 2005

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costs of these surveillance systems are increasingly being borne by the governments, which now understand the benefits of early disease detection and reaction as compared to the costly burden of disease control.

B. A. Diop, P. Bastiaansen, PACE
Regional Coordination Unit for West and
Central Africa, ARSIBAR, PO Box 2954,
Bamako, Mali

and loose housing. The majority of cases seemed to be in the brown Swiss breed. The type of husbandry did not seem to make any difference. We corrected nearly all torsions manually, without rolling the cow. This could be hard labour and I know of a vet dislocating his shoulder while correcting a torsion. A study investigating the genetic parameters and environmental influences on the incidence of uterine torsion in dairy cattle (Kruze 2004) might be of interest to colleagues.

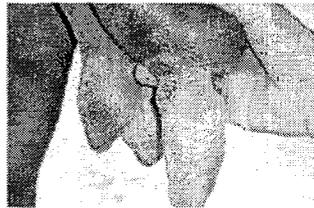


FIG 1: Tenacious

Diop B.A. & Bastiaansen P. (2005) "Achieving full eradication of rinderpest in Africa." *Vet.Rec.* 157: 239-240.

5.1 Communication

Institutional communication, named as one of the weaknesses of PACE management by consecutive monitoring mission and the advisory committee meeting, has now become the focus of attention by the Regional Coordination in Bamako.

As a first step, a one-page contribution dealing with PACE and the rinderpest eradication efforts (see copy on this page), has been submitted to CTA's main (bi-monthly) publication : Spore. This magazine is dispatched free of charge to numerous professionals in the agricultural sector in the ACP countries and is available in French, English and Portuguese. The article has been published in Spore's August 2005 issue.

In brief •

Cogon grass – public enemy n°1

■ According to a recent study carried out by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) station in Benin, farmers consider cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*) to be the most damaging weed for their crop. In places where it thrives, yields are reduced by up to 80% for all food and forage crops and even for trees such as palms. Cogon grass depletes vegetables of light and nutrients and damages tubers by piercing them with its rhizomes. It spreads very quickly – in some cases, it can grow up to 40 tpa. Simple hoeing is an ineffective approach to eradication of this weed which can grow back from a fragment of just 2 mm. In a bid to tackle this invasive species, the IITA is planning to use biological control and has selected six species of pathogenic fungi which are natural enemies of the *Imperata*.

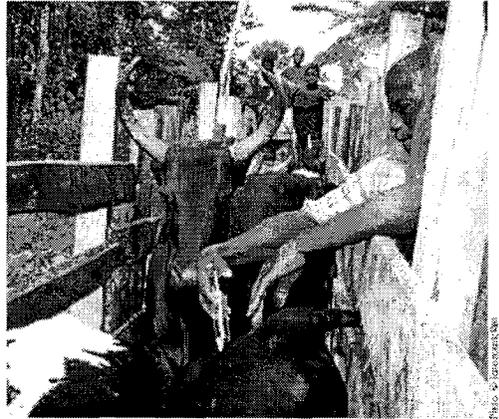
Responsible fishing in the Indian ocean

■ The recently launched South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) aims to promote responsible fishing and the development of sustainable fisheries in the region. In the western section of the Indian Ocean, 75% of fishery resources are currently being fished at their maximum yield. The other 25% are over-exploited and require better management. The new commission's first task

Eradicating rinderpest

■ Following the complete eradication of smallpox in 1979, rinderpest looks set to become the second disease in history to be wiped off the face of the Earth. Although it does not directly attack humans, its devastating effect on livestock is responsible for high malnutrition and mortality rates in people living in several countries of the South.

In Africa, the Pan-African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE) is heading a network to combat and monitor the disease. To date, 12 of the 30 member countries have already been declared 'free of rinderpest infection'. This is the top level of animal health certification offered by PACE. It comes into force 3 years after a country has declared itself to be "provisionally free of rinderpest", provided that international controls, carried out under the auspices of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), have not revealed any fresh cases in the meantime. This stage of certification is given when animals have neither been vaccinated, nor contracted the disease for a period of 3 years. After a further period of at least



1 year, a country that respects the strictest standards for rinderpest may be given the highest grade of certification available from PACE: "freedom from rinderpest infection". Five countries were due to be declared rinderpest free during the course of 2005.

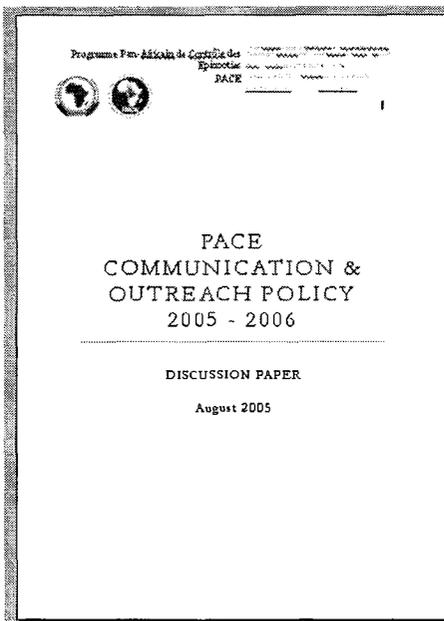
The goal of the rinderpest programme is complete eradication before the 2010 deadline. OIE sees current progress in tackling this disease as particularly

encouraging since it marks the first time that a significant number of sub-Saharan African countries have been able to collectively satisfy international animal health standards. Eradicating the disease will not just enable these countries to feed their people. It will also put them in a position to access regional and international markets for animal products such as meat, hides and dairy products.

Bastiaensen P. & Diop B.A. (2005) "Eradicating rinderpest," Spore (CTA) n° 118 (August 2005).

A similar article was published as a short communication in the British veterinary journal 'Veterinary Record' in September 2005 (please refer to previous page).

In a further attempt to comply with one of the main recommendations of the 10th ACM (Bamako, March 2005) and in order to render the country presentations and assessments more visual and comparable, a lay-out for poster-sized presentations has been developed by the RTA. The posters provide a one-stop overview of key data of



every country, its livestock statistics and data related to the implementation of PACE actions: ESS, veterinary privatisation, etc... Finally, the posters also present minimal financial data. The (updated) posters were presented at the 11th Advisory Committee Meeting and thereafter at the 7th AU Conference of Ministers responsible for Animal Resources, Kigali. Copies on A₄ and A₂ formats are available at PACE HQ in Nairobi (PCU) and in Bamako (RCU).

In response on the recommendations of the 10th ACM, a draft policy paper on communication has been presented by Dr. Bouna DIOP and the RTA to the PCU in Nairobi (August 2005). No official feed-back has been received to date, but rumour has it that the action plan is considered too ambitious and too expensive (an estimated 135.000 €).

5.2. Assistance in terms of countries' disease status with regard to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

Since the spread of avian influenza began from Asia towards Eastern and Southern Europe, and as it became more and more accepted that migrating birds could be implicated in the transmission of the disease, technical assistants have been giving more attention to avian influenza, from the African perspective. First of all, all documented reports, newsletters and publications on the subject have been centralized in order to provide the TA's themselves with sufficient technical information.

Thereafter, avian influenza rapidly became a standard topic of discussion during evaluation and technical backstopping missions. National veterinary services and PACE co-ordinations have been incited to take HPAI seriously and start working on emergency preparedness plans, in agreement with public health and nature conservation services.

The upcoming inception workshop of the FAO regional TCP on avian influenza prevention in West Africa will be an opportunity to assess how well PACE member countries have responded to this global threat.

5.3. Assistance in terms of countries' disease status with regard to rinderpest

The only country covered by the RTA which managed to attain infection free status so far is Senegal (May 2005). Six other countries have applied for infection free status this year in order to be declared free of rinderpest in May 2006 : Burkina Faso, Congo, Guinea Bissau (second attempt), Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.

The situation and prospects of the 10 countries are as follows :

| Country | Present status | Request | H ² | Comments |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Burkina Faso | Disease free | Infection free | | By May 2006 |
| Congo | None | Infection free | • | By May 2006 |
| DRC | Provisionally free | Infection free | • | By May 2007 |
| Gambia | Provisionally free | Infection free | • | By May 2007 |
| Guinea Bissau | None | Infection free | • | By May 2006 |
| Mali | Disease free | Infection free | | By May 2006 |
| Mauritania | Disease free | Infection free | | By May 2006 |
| Niger | Disease free | Infection free | | By May 2006 |
| Nigeria | Disease free | Infection free | | By May 2007 |
| Senegal | Infection free | - | | - |

In **DRC**, a dossier has been prepared which requests immediate recognition of the country as being infection-free on historical basis. Indeed, according to the draft dossier, the Democratic Republic of Congo did not suffer from rinderpest since 1961, the year when the last case was reported in Ubangui in the north of the country. Given the threat of the disease which prevailed in the neighbouring countries, annual vaccination campaigns were organized in the eastern provinces (North-South Kivu and Ituri) from 1987 to 1990. After this, no further vaccination campaigns were organized in the country and no case of disease has been reported since.

Arguably, the dossier is not very 'strong' : years of civil war make a poor case when demonstrating that government veterinary services have conducted surveillance throughout the territory. Time-wise, the dossier is likely to be submitted too late for this year's round of approval, and could therefore be transferred to next year's round (September – October 2006) with an official recognition by May 2007.

In **Gambia**, an EPP for rinderpest was drafted and sent to PEU for comments. The PEU's comments were taken into account. The document is now finalized but awaits validation within the framework of the '*National disaster management plan*'. The Gambia is eligible to be declared immediately free from rinderpest-infection, based on the historical absence of the disease, the infection and vaccination against rinderpest.

If the reporting-rate continues to improve, if the reports are filed directly to the central coordination unit and if the central unit manages to process this information rapidly (thanks to ARIS), there is no doubt that OIE will recognise this surveillance system as valid, especially given the geographic particularity of the country (surrounded by Senegal, which is already an infection free country).

With regard to (active) sero-surveillance (handled by the sero-surveillance unit of PACE at the laboratory), about 5.000 samples have been sampled to date in around 200 randomly selected villages (epidemiological units). The first batch of samples has

² Historical absence of disease and infection, as well as vaccination.

been tested using the c-ELISA which yielded an apparent prevalence of 2,4 % (very likely false positive, but no attempts was made to seek confirmation from either of the reference labs). The last batch (around 1,500 samples) was tested using the I-ELISA and yielded –as could be expected- a much higher number of positives (171 or 12.2%). Processing of these samples has now been suspended due to problems with the water distiller and purification system at ITC, where the tests are carried out (because the central veterinary lab does not possess a reliable ELISA reader anymore).

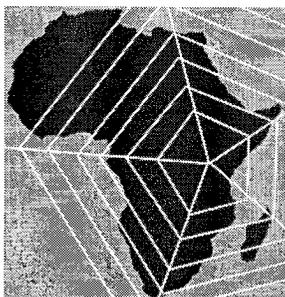
In **Nigeria**, except for clinical surveillance, little progress has been made towards attaining the status of rinderpest free country. The financial burdens of PACE have made any significant sero-surveillance campaign impossible; moreover, the NVRI is out of c-ELISA kits for the serological diagnosis of rinderpest. They however still possess the necessary reagents to conduct AGID (antigen detection).

In livestock, sampling will have to be conducted according to the GREP (OIE/FAO/IAEA) guidelines, meaning at least 10,000 samples per year, during two years. Given the experience of PACE and veterinary services in the past (several thousands of samples have already been sampled in past years), one should not expect any major technical or logistical problems.

In wildlife however, no national expertise is available to conduct wildlife serology. It has been suggested to consider setting up a short term mission by a professional wildlife specialist, within the framework of the short-term expertise to be supplied by the GTZ consortium. This option is probably the easiest to materialize and the fastest to produce tangible results, provided the consultant can supply the necessary equipment and drugs as part of his service rendering contract. Ideally, capture/darting-anaesthesia and sampling should take place during the dry season (that is : before the end of June 2006 and preferably before the end of May).

Given all these considerations, it is doubtful that Nigeria will be able to submit a two-year sero-surveillance report by –say- August 2007, which would enable the country to be declared infection-free in May 2008. May 2009 is probably a more realistic goal. This unfortunately means that Nigeria (with Cameroon and CAR) will be amongst the last countries in the PACE region to be declared infection free (long after PACE will have ceased to exist).

5.4. ARIS / PACE integrated database (PID) implementation



The implementation process of ARIS / PID in PACE member countries still encounters numerous problems. The main problems are related to the weak institutional capacity to handle complex databases such as ARIS, the lack of streamlined disease reporting, compatible with ARIS requirements and the inability of ARIS to safeguard data in a user-friendly manner. The long-awaited version 2 of ARIS, which is supposed to iron out most of the bugs of version 1 has not been finalised yet.

The situation as far as installation and training is concerned is the following :

| Country | Site | Number PC | Installation | Regions | Training |
|---------------|----------|-----------|--------------|---------|----------|
| Burkina Faso | LNE | 1 | Standalone | | • |
| Congo | DGE | 1 | --stolen-- | | • |
| DRC | PACE | 3 | Standalone | | • |
| Gambia | PACE | 4 | Standalone | | • |
| Guinea Bissau | PACE DGP | 2 | Standalone | | • |
| Mali | DNSV | 1 | Standalone | | • |
| Mauritania | CNERV | 1 | Standalone | | |
| | DIREL | 1 | Standalone | | • |
| Niger | PACE | 1 | Standalone | | • |
| Nigeria | PACE | 8 | Standalone | • | • |
| Senegal | SNSE | 3 | LAN | | • |

In Gambia, the RTA has re-installed the ARIS software on four separate computers, immediately following the November evaluation mission. Minimal training was provided to 6 staff members during one day.

In Niger, ARIS broke down after an attempt to install an update of Norton Antivirus. While in Niger for the UEMOA conference (July 2005) the RTA took a look at the problem and attempted to re-install ARIS, but failed. The HDD was taken back to Bamako for further analysis. Finally, data could be recovered and ARIS reinstalled, after which the HDD was sent back to Niamey. According to the data-manager, the software is now performing well.

In Nigeria, despite huge efforts in training staff (central and zonal) and providing the necessary hardware, data-transmission and integration into the national database are still cumbersome. In fact, the central database is now down, due to a hardware failure. In December 2005, the RTA attempted to reinstall and safeguard existing data, but failed to do so. Given the size and the importance of this system in Nigeria, it is suggested that the officer-in-charge of data-management and ARIS at IBAR (PACE PEU) be sent to Abuja to sort out these problems and secure the data, that are likely to be lost if nothing is done soon.

In Mali, PACE is making use of a new PC, with ARIS pre-installed (supplied by the DMU in Nairobi), but with incomplete transfer of data from the previous ARIS-PC. ARIS compatible disease reporting forms have been introduced.

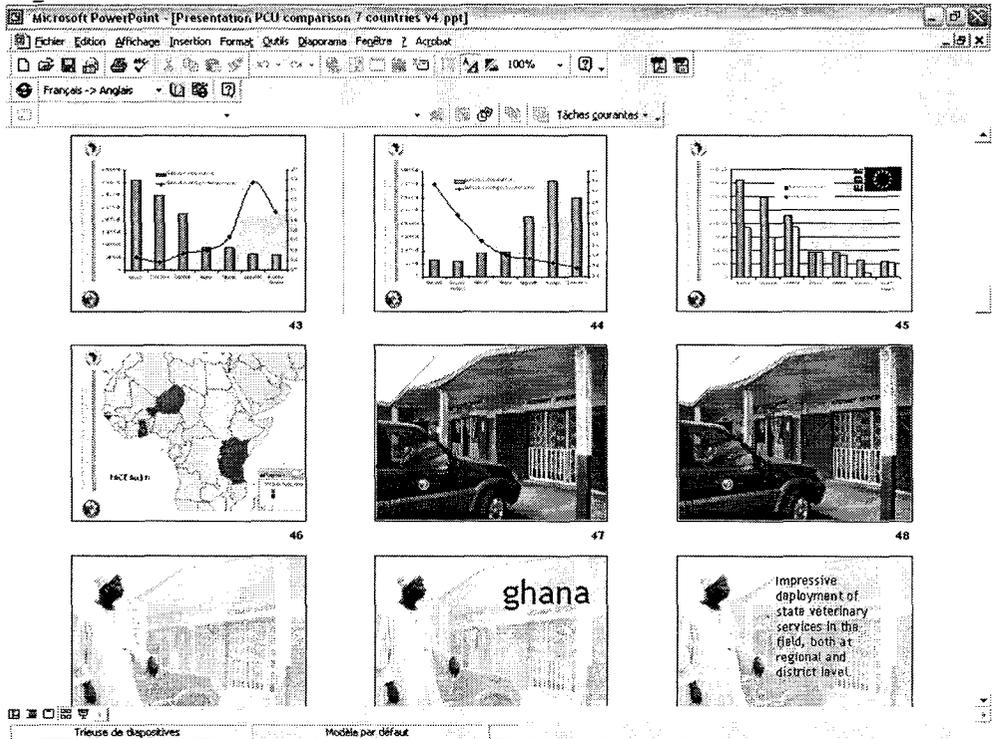
In Guinea Bissau, data-management through ARIS has reached a stage, where it became possible to produce SR-3 reports (sent to OIE and IBAR since February 2005). ARIS compatible disease reporting forms have been introduced. The programme is making use of a new PC, with ARIS pre-installed (supplied by the DMU in Nairobi), but had to start configuration anew, given the fact that it is impossible to transfer data from one PC to another.

The implementation (operation) of ARIS / PID can therefore be summarized as follows :

| Country | Installed | Operation | Reporting |
|---------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| Burkina Faso | ● | ●● | |
| Congo | (●) | <i>PC stolen</i> | |
| DRC | ● | ● | |
| Gambia | ● | ● | |
| Guinea Bissau | ● | ●●●● | ● |
| Mali | ● | ●●● | |
| Mauritania | ● | ●● | |
| Niger | ● | ●● | |
| Nigeria | ● | (●●●) | |
| Senegal | ● | ●● | |

5.5. PACE member countries' internal monitoring missions

In order to strengthen the country-based assessment of PACE as a whole, both Bamako RTA's and the MTA presented an overview of the results of the first internal evaluation missions conducted in 7 countries to the 11th Advisory Committee. In a very visual style, often map based, results were presented for Guinea Bissau, Niger, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania.

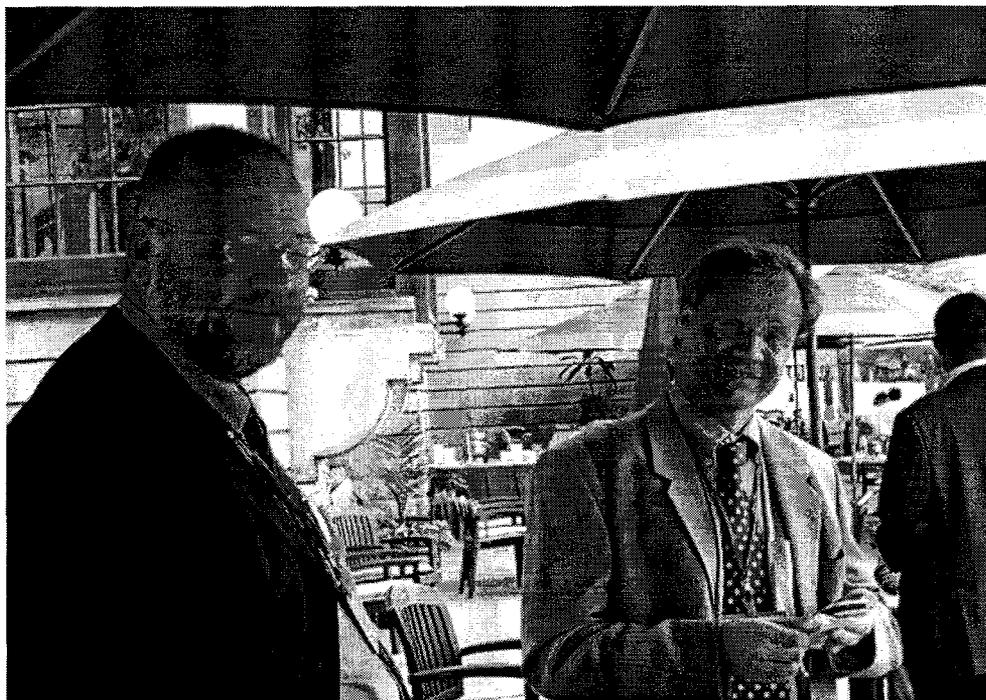


Screen-cap of part of the Power Point presentation made to the Advisory Committee in Nairobi (Kenya), October 2005.

5.6. Participation in international meetings

The RTA attended the UEMOA (*Economic and Monetary West-African Union*) conference in Niamey, Niger (July 2005), together with Dr. Bouna DIOP, Dr. Modibo TRAORE (IBAR) and Dr. Samba SIDIBE (OIE). Theme of the conference was the validation of a regional legislation on quality-control and registration of veterinary drugs in UEMOA member states. The RTA took advantage of his stay in Niamey to address the problems with PACE Niger's ARIS software. The HDD was taken back to Bamako for further analysis (please also refer to § 5.4.).

The RTA attended the 11th Advisory Committee Meeting at the Windsor Hotel in Nairobi (Kenya). For the first time, Committee members were presented with the 30 PACE posters on programme progress and with a Power Point presentation on the internal evaluation by PACE teams, of seven PACE member countries (refer to § 5.5).



Both Bamako-based RTA's taking a break from the Advisory Committee Meeting, Nairobi (Kenya), October 2005.

Thereafter the RTA attended the 7th AU Conference of Ministers in charge of Animal Resources at the Intercontinental Hotel in Kigali (Rwanda). Theme of the 3-yearly Conference was : the finalization of the eradication of the cattle plague and the control of the other transborder diseases for the promotion of the trade of the cattle and the reduction of poverty in Africa.

While the Conference –in our view – was not all that interesting from the technical perspective, it was nevertheless an excellent opportunity to meet new and old stakeholders in the international or regional livestock business. Furthermore, several

recommendations made by the Ministers are of paramount importance to the pursuit of certain activities and programmes, amongst which of course, PACE itself.



The RTA in good Congolese company : left, Dr. Damien Nguba Kasongo (NPC PACE DRC) and right, Dr. Valentin Okombo-Ngassaki (NPC PACE Congo). Kigali (Rwanda), November 2005.

Please refer to the main report for further general information.

5.7. Team building

As far as the team at the Regional Coordination Unit in Bamako is concerned, the working relations between the four remaining senior staff members (including Dr. Bouna DIOP) remain excellent. The joint evaluation missions, conducted since 2004 have done much to improve mutual understanding and appreciation between team members, as they require genuine team-work and team-spirit.

The PACEREG Staff situation on December 31st, 2005 is as follows :

| Name | Position | Contract |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Dr. Bouna A. DIOP | Regional Coordinator | IBAR |
| Dr. Cécile SQUARZONI | Regional Epidemiologist | Cooperation Française |
| Dr. Nicolas DENORMANDIE | Regional TA | SATEC-Développement |
| Dr. Patrick BASTIAENSEN | Regional TA | GTZ-IS |

Working relations with the PCU too have considerably improved since the appointed of a new Director of IBAR, a new main TA and a new Financial Controller. This was clearly visible during the last Advisory Committee Meeting, held in Nairobi in October 2005. Please refer to the main report for further information.

6. MAIN DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

One of the main difficulties encountered is the increasing workload of the remaining technical assistants, as the numbers, both in terms of regional TA's and common services TA's decrease for budgetary reasons. The last slimming down occurred on November 1st, 2006 with the departure of the Regional TA for Central Africa (based in Yaounde) and the Wildlife Expert (based in Nairobi).

Both regional TA's in Bamako now cover 10 countries each. While it is obvious that not all countries require the same intensive support as several years ago, some still do (usually the smaller countries, with insufficient institutional capacity or limited human resources, e.g. Equatorial Guinea, Congo, Togo, Gambia etc...).

At the same time, the PACE Coordination has embarked on an ambitious programme of joint internal evaluation missions which require the mobilisation of at least three staff members, thus limiting the number of simultaneous interventions in different countries.

Moreover, the increasing focus of PCU and Advisory Committee on the progress made at country level, rather than at regional level, has put quite some pressure on regional TA's to continuously produce updates of country data and conduct fairly complex analysis, aimed at summarising and quantifying overall country-progress. This is added to the already considerable time and effort dedicated to regional coordination tasks at the regional coordination office in Bamako.

As PACE draws to a close, missions conducted are increasingly aimed at collecting information for the final evaluation of the PACE programme (the internal evaluation missions). A lot of missions are nevertheless still operational, meaning that they serve a practical purpose : assisting countries wherever it is necessary, in whatever area. In practice, this means assisting in areas such as the OIE pathway for rinderpest, ARIS implementation and programme management in terms of drafting and approval of work plans and cost estimates.

With regard to the OIE pathway in which all ten countries are now engaged, it is our personal belief that Burkina Faso, Congo, Guinea Bissau, and Mali stand a good chance of being granted infection-free status by May 2006. As for Mauritania, it remains doubtful that the two sero-surveillance campaigns will be concluded in time for the country to be declared infection-free in 2006 (in which case the country would have managed to save one year). Gambia, DRC and Niger could be declared infection-free in May 2007, while Nigeria might have to wait until 2008.

In terms of ARIS implementation, most work conducted had to do with troubleshooting and re-installation of software, as has been the case in Mali, Gambia, Nigeria and Niger. The centralized supply of ARIS pre-installed computers by the ICU in Nairobi would have been a good step forward, were it not that transfer of data from existing computers to the new computers has been impossible to achieve, leaving certain countries with less (or none at all) data than before they received the new computer-equipment.

In the course of the last six months only three countries initiated their last programme estimate, out of the 8 which should have: Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, and Niger. The latter has already received the start-up funds. Mauritania and Guinea Bissau are still waiting.

Mali has extended its 4th PE until January 31st, 2006 (rider) and will begin its last PE on February 1st, 2006, providing PE n° 3 will have been de-committed by that date.

DRC has submitted a proposal to start a new PE on January 1st, 2006.

Nigeria's 4th PE should have been approved on December 30th, 2005 but somehow wasn't. It is unclear when this PE will start, although it is doubtful that PACE Nigeria will benefit from funds before March 2006, if ever.

As for the remaining 2 countries, Burkina Faso and Congo it is hoped that their first and last work plan will commence by February 1st, 2006 at the latest.

| Country | PE n° | Began | Ends | EDF funding |
|---------------|-------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Burkina Faso | 5 | Expected Feb.1 st , 2006 | Oct. 31 st , 2006 | * € 150.000 |
| Congo | 4 | Expected Feb.1 st , 2006 | Oct. 31 st , 2006 | * € 130.000 |
| DRC | 4 | Expected Jan.1 st , 2006 | Oct. 31 st , 2006 | ** € 299.000 |
| Guinea Bissau | 6 | November 1 st , 2005 | Oct. 31 st , 2006 | € 173.000 |
| Mali | 5 | Expected Feb.1 st , 2006 | Oct. 31 st , 2006 | * € 213.000 |
| Mauritania | 6 | November 1 st , 2005 | Oct. 31 st , 2006 | ** € 200.000 |
| Niger | 6 | November 1 st , 2005 | Oct. 31 st , 2006 | € 99.000 |
| Nigeria | 4 | Expected ? | Oct. 31 st , 2006 | * € 299.000 |
| Senegal | 5 | April 1 st , 2005 | March 31 st , 2006 | € 168.000 |
| The Gambia | 4 | June 1 st , 2005 | May 31 st , 2006 | € 140.000 |

(*) estimate, awaiting the final approval of the WP+CE (**) estimate, awaiting entry into OLAS

The previous paragraph is a sad example of how increasingly difficult it has become to conduct a programme estimate for an EDF programme. Delays for the approval of PE and thereafter for the mobilisation of funds are becoming ridiculous, in comparison to the overall length of a PE (18 month maximum, for this last year, mostly 6 to 9 months). Reasons for these delays vary from the usual bureaucratic approach at EC delegations, over occasional disinterest in helping a regional programme such as PACE, to plain obstruction of approvals as fully admitted by the EC delegation in Burkina Faso and still denied by the EC delegation in Nigeria. In both cases, PACE sent the RTA and the Financial Controller to the country to negotiate an exit out of the dead end street, commitments were made by EC officials, but seem to have been forgotten or buried as soon as the team left the country again.

In terms of logistics, the GTZ vehicle under the RTA's responsibility (3389 B IT) has suffered extensive damage to the engine following a malfunction of the turbo charger (on July 17th, on the way back from the assignment in Niger). The car has been provisionally repaired in Sikasso, 350 km east of Bamako (turbocharger replaced) and taken back to Bamako on July 19th. For near to 5 months, the RTA had to arrange for

substitution transport, either the vehicle of Dr. N. DENORMANDIE (when away on assignment) or a vehicle supplied by the GTZ office in Bamako. On one occasion, a vehicle had to be rented for approximately one week. The engine has now been entirely overhauled and things as back to normal since early December 2005. All costs have been borne under the GTZ provisions for car maintenance and had no financial incidence on the PACE budget.

In terms of travel, several problems were encountered during the last six months.

The mission, scheduled to be conducted in DRC between the ACM (Nairobi) and the Kigali Ministerial meeting, was cut short at NDili airport (Kinshasa) where the RTA was denied access to the country for lack of entry visa, despite bearing a valid GTZ service passport and an AU-IBAR mission order. He returned to Nairobi on the same flight he came with (the same day). Regardless of the loss of money (ticket) and time (personal), this incident also raises questions as to the value of official passports and mission orders in countries such as DRC. A complaint has been sent to PACE-IBAR (Dr. René Bessin, copied on the next page) who promised that this matter would be taken up with the DRC Ambassador in Kenya. Similarly, it would be recommendable that GTZ too (which authority has somehow been denied) take steps to avoid such random treatment in the future.

The evaluation mission, scheduled to be conducted in CAR at the beginning of the month of October 2005 had to be cancelled, due to overbooking of the Cameroon Airlines flight to Douala. Not only was this overbooking discovered while the three-person team was already on the stairs boarding the plane, it has not withheld Cameroon Airlines either to leave Bamako without returning the checked-in luggage to the unfortunate passengers who were left behind (this by the way is against air traffic safety rules). This has led both RTA's to reflect on the way to conduct regional and international missions in the future. For several reasons, most of them linked to the limited choice of regional flights to certain destinations, but also in order to be emphatic with other team members, who do have a limited travel budget, both RTA's have increasingly been extending the limits of what should be 'safe travel', using airline carriers of poor reputation, spending hours and days waiting for planes who never arrive etc.... The crash of a Bellview airliner in Abuja on October 22nd, was a welcome reminder of what airline transport in Africa is about. This company is frequently used (because almost unavoidable) by PACE staff travelling from Lagos to Abuja. Both RTA's have therefore decided to avoid the use of unreliable airline companies in the future, even if it means travelling through Europe to reach destination. This has already been the case for the recent assignment to Nigeria, for which travel was conducted through Amsterdam.



Nairobi, October 24th, 2005.

Dr. René Bessin,
PACE Programme Coordinator
AU-IBAR, Nairobi

Dear René,

Please allow me to clarify the circumstances of my unfortunate travel to Kinshasa (DRC) on October 23rd, 2005.

While initiating a technical assistance assignment in support of PACE DRC, I was denied access to the DRC territory on arrival at N'Ndjili International Airport (Kinshasa), based on the fact that I had not applied for a visa beforehand (in Nairobi, supposedly). A *procès verbal* was drafted, for which I counter-signed and I was accompanied back to the Kenya Airways plane, which took me back to Nairobi, using the return flight voucher, scheduled for October 29th, 2005.

I strongly object to this kind of conduct given the following considerations :

- a) I was allowed to board the plane on departure in Nairobi, when presenting my passport and mission order.
- b) I presented myself in Kinshasa with a valid German Official Passport (Service passport).
- c) I presented myself with a mission order under the heading of the African Union, duly filled-out, sealed and signed by the regional coordinator in Bamako.
- d) The PACE coordination for DRC should have been in possession of a copy of my passport, sent to them in preparation of the previous (cancelled) mission of July 2005.
- e) The last time I conducted a mission in DRC, I entered Kinshasa (from Brazzaville, over the river) using the same kind of mission order, but a personal Belgian ordinary passport.
- f) I made it very clear to immigration officials that my travel had begun in Mali, where no DRC embassy is available.

Given these considerations, I leave it to your appreciation to take the required steps in order to avoid such unfortunate events in the future.

Best regards,

P. Bastiaensen,
Regional Technical Advisor PACE

CC. Modibo Traore (IBAR)
CC. Andrea Massarelli (PACE CPU)
CC. Bouna Diop (PACE REG)
CC. Francis Chabari (GTZ-IS)

In annex : *procès-verbal de refoulement*, mission order, copies of the service passport, boarding passes.

7. PLANNING FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

7.1 Main tasks

Over the next six months, the RTA will attempt to visit those countries that require assistance with the drafting and/or re-editing of the rider to their PE of the extension phase. These countries are Senegal and Gambia :

Gambia

Will submit a rider to programme-estimate n° 4 which started on June 1st, 2005. The rider therefore will cover the interval 1 June, 2006 - 31 Oct. 2006 (5 months of which 3 for closure operations). This rider will be submitted as soon as WP 3 has been de-committed, thus allowing for an increase of the WP 4 budget. This increase will serve to cover operational costs and closure operations (estimated around 55.000 EUR) and purchase several lots of equipment (estimated at around 45.000 EUR), amongst which mainly laboratory and ICT equipment

Senegal

Will submit a rider to programme-estimate n° 5 which started on April 1st, 2005. The rider therefore will cover the interval 1 April, 2006 – 30 Sept. 2006 (the maximum of 18 months of which 3 for closure operations). This rider will be submitted as soon as WP 4 has been de-committed, thus allowing for an increase of the WP 5 budget by approximately 130.000 EUR.

Furthermore the RTA will assist Gambia and Nigeria in the preparation of their requests to OIE (application for recognition infection-free status for rinderpest). In Nigeria, a short term assignment will be organised in order to assist Nigeria in collecting the necessary wildlife serum samples for the OIE dossier. In Gambia, the short term assignment of a legal expert is still pending.

Both RTA's will attempt to finalize the *Manual for community-based animal health workers in west and central Africa* in the course of February 2006.

Finally, the RTA will assist countries in the further development of their data-management system, based on ARIS. This includes the development of PID-compliant disease reporting forms and improved safeguarding of data entered. The RTA, in agreement with the Regional Coordinator will also draft terms of reference for the supply of regional expertise in terms of ARIS implementation. The idea is to give the opportunity to certain PACE data-base managers, familiar with ARIS, to help other PACE countries in implementing the ARIS database.

At regional level, it is still scheduled to produce a CD-Rom on veterinary legislation and guidelines (sub-region, EC, US, WTO, OIE, FAO,...), as well as a CD-Rom compiling extension material (posters, leaflets, manuals, videos, etc...).

Terms of reference will be drafted to complete the internal evaluation missions by external evaluation missions, by hiring external consultants to conduct assignments in selected countries, according to the template used at present by PCU and RCU.

If approved by PCU, extra attention will be given to the outreach policy, as recommended by the ACM. To do so, the RTA's work will focus on developing messages for high-visibility means of communication. Furthermore, even more attention will be granted to presentations of country progress, especially in view of the upcoming 12th Advisory Committee Meeting (April 2006, Bamako).

7.2 Summary plan of in-country visits

In-country visits have been planned until the end of April 2006.

| Month → | January | | | | February | | | | March | | | | April | | | |
|------------------|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|
| Week → | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| PACE programme : | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Burkina Faso | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | |
| Congo | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| DRC | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Gambia | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Guinea Bissau | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | |
| Mali | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | |
| Mauritania | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Niger | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | |
| Nigeria | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Senegal | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | |

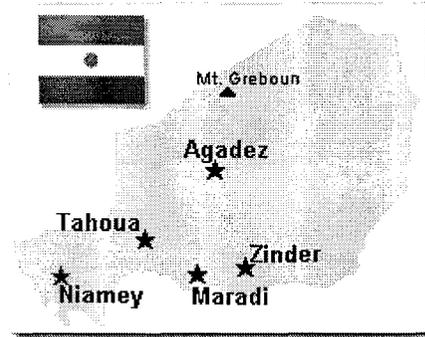
As far as meetings are concerned, one regional meeting is planned for the month of January 2005 : Inception workshop FAO/TCP/RAF/3016 : Emergency assistance for early detection and prevention of avian influenza in West Africa (January 23rd – 26th, 2006, Bamako, Mali).

In February 2006 the RTA will attend the OIE - AU/IBAR - FAO Regional Seminar on animal health policies, the evaluation of veterinary services and the role of livestock breeders in the surveillance of animal diseases. February 13th – 15th, 2006, N'Djamena, Chad.

The 11th PACE Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled from April 27th – 29th, 2006 in Bamako (Mali), while the General Session of the OIE International Committee will take place from May 22nd – 26th, 2006 in Paris (France).



2005/05/NE

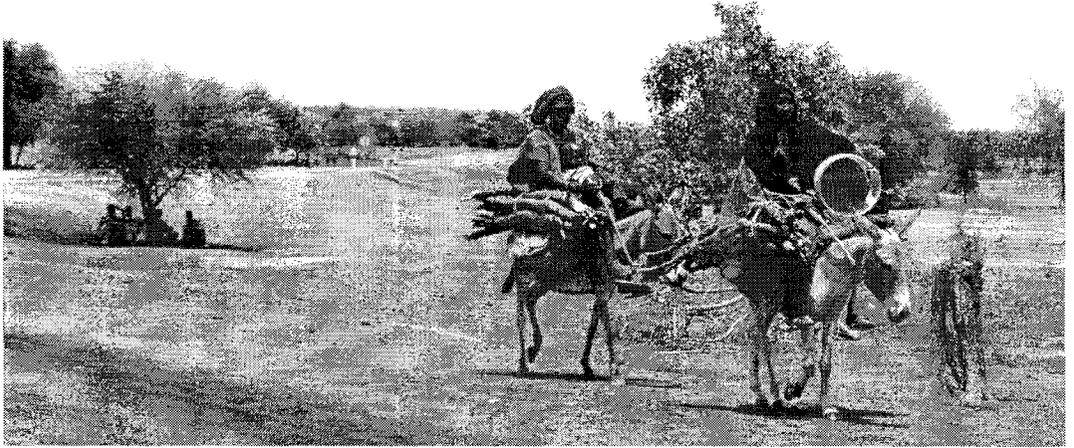


From the 8th to the 15th of July, 2005, a mission of the PACE Regional Coordination went to Niger to take part in the Regional Workshop on harmonisation of veterinary drugs legislation in the Member States of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA). The mission consisted of Dr. Bouna A. DIOP, PACE Regional Coordinator and Dr. Patrick BASTIAENSEN, regional technical assistant.

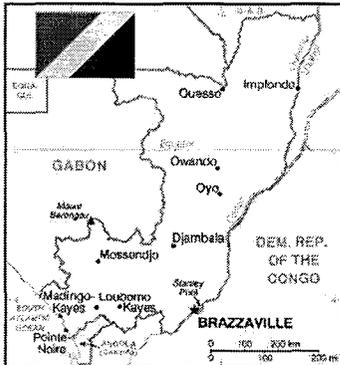
In margin of the workshop, the PACE Regional Coordinator accompanied the Director of AU-IBAR when received in audience by the Minister of Animal Resources of Niger. During this meeting which was conducted in the presence of the Secretary-General of the MRA, the Director of Animal Health and the PACE Niger National Programme Coordinator, viewpoints were exchanged on the situation of livestock in Niger, on the PACE programme and

the next meeting of the Ministers in charge of the Animal Resources of the African Union scheduled in October 2005 in Kigali (Rwanda).

In addition, the regional technical assistant took advantage from his stay in Niamey to provide support to the central coordination unit of the Niger ESS, confronted with a problem of exploitation of the ARIS software. Given the fact that the ARIS software, as well as the operating system, Windows 2000 Pro, had been tampered with, making it impossible to repair ARIS on the spot without losing already introduced data, the option was withheld to take the HDD back to Bamako, for a re-installation of software (Oracle and ARIS).



2005/02/CG



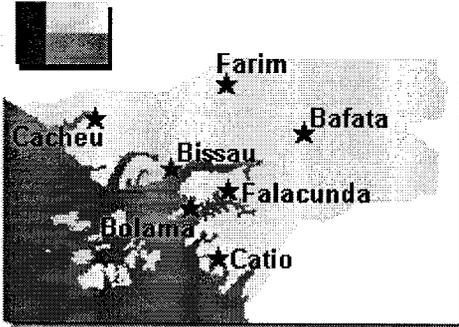
The regional technical assistant has concluded a four-day mission to PACE Congo during the month of July 2005. This mission was improvised, as it turned out to be impossible to continue travel to Kinshasa (PACE DRC), as scheduled. The RTA used the available time to work on the request to OIE regarding the recognition of Congo's status with respect to rinderpest. The draft version has been finalized during the mission and will be forwarded to PEU Nairobi for endorsement.

It is our belief that despite numerous shortcomings of the ESS, the dossier should be receivable by the OIE ad hoc committee on rinderpest. Weak points remain the lack of proper reporting to OIE (especially between 1996 and 2000), the lack of information on wildlife clinical surveillance and the unknown disease status of neighbouring Angola (non PACE member country) and to a certain extent also Gabon (PACE member country).

2005/06/GW

The regional technical assistant has concluded a five-day mission to PACE Guinea Bissau during the month of August 2005. The mission was meant to deal with matters in the following areas :

- a) the OIE pathway with regard to rinderpest : the review of the document presented to OIE in October 2004 and considered to be not-receivable by the rinderpest ad hoc committee.
- b) the OIE pathway with regard to CBPP : the national strategic plan.
- c) initiatives taken with regard to the control of ND, PPR and ASF
- d) the establishment of ARIS data management and reporting to OIE and IBAR.
- e) the re-organisation/strengthening of the ESS, including the redeployment of the agents.
- f) the installation of a guarantee funds in support to veterinary privatisation
- g) the preparation of the next work plan (November 2005 – October 2006).



At the time of the start of the mission, PACE-Guinea Bissau was still awaiting the advance for WP n° 5. The payment order was finally emitted on August 8 (after the WP 2 and WP 3 finally appeared as being closed and de-committed in OLAS). The imprest account was credited on August 17, therefore during the mission itself.

The dossier regarding rinderpest which was prepared in August 2004 and sent to OIE in October 2004, was re-examined during the mission, in order to answer to the comments of the OIE (letter DS/KS.30.086 of March 15, 2005).

The national strategic plan against CBPP has still not been formally adopted, in spite of the fact that the draft is available since 1,5 year. Notwithstanding this delay, a self-declaration of provisionally CBPP free country was written, based on a formal prohibition to vaccinate or market henceforth vaccines against CBPP throughout the territory. This step constitutes the entry of Guinea Bissau into the pathway for the declaration of infection free country from CBPP, as recommended by the PACE regional workshop on this subject (Conakry, 2004). The fees payable to the OIE to enter this pathway were budgeted for in te WP n° 5, but could not be transferred until now. Meanwhile, the anthrax epizootic of May 2005, shook up the priorities in matters of animal disease, meaning that Guinea Bissau will limit itself to the self-declaration for CBPP, but that it will not go further in the pathway, even if the general surveillance principles are obviously not abandoned.

The national strategic plan against CBPP has still not been formally adopted, in spite of the fact that the draft is

During June 2005, PACE Guinea Bissau took delivery of a new computer with the last version of ARIS pre-installed (following a grouped purchase organized by the Data Management Unit in Nairobi). This expenditure will be booked on WP n° 5 of PACE Guinea Bissau. The RTA helped the national coordinator (and manager of the data base) to overcome the few difficulties which prevented him since June 2005 from using the software and in particular to produce SR-3 reports for the OIE and IBAR. In addition, The RTA tried to transfer the old data of ARIS towards the new computer, unfortunately without success. However, the technical assistant brought back and sent to Nairobi, all the export files which could be generated on the old computer (and the old PID-ARIS) so that the Unit in Nairobi can introduce the data directly at the level of the continental data base.

It will surprise no one that the ESS did not show a great deal of activity during the last months. In the absence of regular payments of allowances and fuel, the agents of the ESS were not very present in the field, this in spite of the adopted widening of the ESS to four other areas and the inclusion of the other veterinary agents in the reporting system.

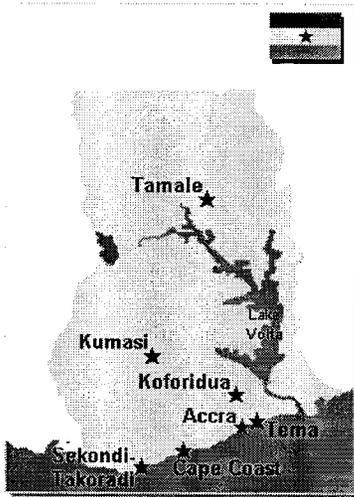
However, one can't deny that the ESS proved reliable and efficient during the May 2005 anthrax-outbreak which appeared in the Oio-region. Very quickly, the central coordination unit of the ESS could circumscribe the outbreak, establish a collaboration with the public health services (because several human mortalities were reported) and organize ring vaccination of the cattle in the disaster area.

The RTA was able to analyse the draft WP n° 6, as prepared by the national coordination and re-worked its content and budget in order to better fulfil the requirements of this last year of implementation, in particular the closure period to be respected, as well as the budget ceiling, which will be probably (awaiting approval by the RAO and the lead-ECD of the technical and budgetary framework document) level around 140.000 EUR, including approximately 50% for investments. In the case of Guinea Bissau, what matters is above all to ensure the supply of water (borehole) and electricity (generator) to the laboratory, but as well to provide a motor cycle to each of the 4 new ESS agents.

In conclusion, PACE Guinea Bissau shows little progress since the two last missions of August 2004 and February 2005 : primarily (but not exclusively) due to the prolonged gaps in the financing of the programme, which rests mainly on EDF financing. With the arrival of the start-up fund of WP n° 5, the programme has less than 3 months to try to carry out the 12-programme approved in the work plan. It is obvious that this will not be easy, which is why several activities were already referred to the next WP.

If the programme aims to achieve a minimum of results from here to the end of October 2006 (end of the operational phase of the programme), financial and administrative management will have to be exemplary from now on. This concerns not only the national coordination, but also the support services to the NAO and the officers in charge at the EC delegation in Bissau.

2005/01/GH



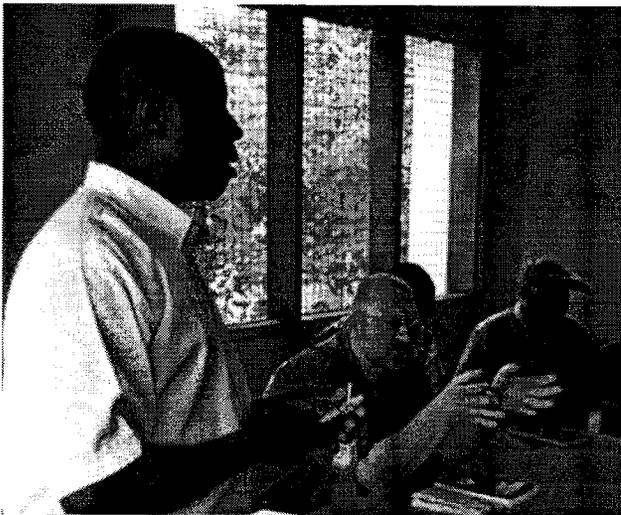
A mission from the Regional Coordination Office of the *Pan-African programme for the Control of Epizootics* (PACE) for West and Central Africa, conducted an internal assessment of progress made by the national programme PACE Ghana, between September 25th and 30th, 2005. The team was composed of Dr. Patrick BASTIAENSEN, regional technical assistant, acting on behalf of the Regional co-ordinator who had to desist days before the mission commenced, Dr. Cécile SQUARZONI, Regional epidemiologist and Dr. Nicolas DENORMANDIE, Regional technical assistant, in charge of assistance to PACE Ghana since 2004.

A field visit was conducted on September 27th and 28th, covering the areas of Kumasi (Ashanti Region) and Yeji (Brong-Ahafo Region), bordering the Volta Lake. During this trip, interviews were conducted with district veterinary personnel and farmers.

The mission has the feeling that the integration of all civil servants (134 veterinary professional officers, 89 sub professional officers, and 587 technical officers) in the epidemio-surveillance network leads to a huge number of people involved, having its advantages (better epidemiological coverage) and disadvantages (possible weakness in the chain of command, risk of diluting the action).

This also explains the existence of the 33 clusters and of the 20 technical officers selected as "trainers of trainers". This is a legitimate way to decentralise and entrust higher responsibility to a limited number of staff for an efficient ESS with appropriate repartition of tasks. It is interesting to note that this corresponds to the inverse tendency of what occurs in the "French speaking" neighbouring countries, which evolve towards an extended number of stakeholders who gradually join the initial pool of selected actors and who act as relay agents.

At the end of the day, both systems do join up by moving (albeit using an opposite approach or direction) towards a balanced number of stakeholders, taking into consideration the need of decentralised staff for early outbreak detection on the one hand and the need to limit numbers in order to ensure an "active", "motivated" and sustainable management "team".



While this impressive set-up of the surveillance system at field level supposedly yields as equally much intelligence, this flow is clearly not well managed at the central, nor at the regional level at this stage, leading to a loss of valuable information and a lack of feedback to the farmers.

Although the official policy clearly shows a willingness to privatise veterinary services, the PACE programme will certainly not be remembered for the actions it has implemented to materialize this privatisation. While the mission acknowledges that a credit or warranty fund programme (as requested by the Ghanaian veterinary services) would certainly have contributed to speed up this privatisation wave, the fact remains that little has been done to encourage young veterinarians to establish themselves in rural private practice (most

urban private vets are in fact retired public veterinary officers). This is not a matter of money or funds, but foremost of (concertation) between public and private veterinary operators on how to respect one another's (attributions) and revenues.

This observation translates the unbalance figure between public (150) and private (17) vets. This fact is related to the standby applied regarding texts of law focusing sanitary mandate or political measure to withdraw some rural public clinic in order to support the establishment of private ones through loans. The government appropriation with regard to the installation of Private Veterinarians or with the improvement of liberal exercise is still awaited since it could multiply the epidemiosurveillance network capacity.

The mission regrets the weaknesses of the communication unit and the lack of tools developed under it (didactic documents, posters). The most obvious fact remains in the absence of any zoosanitary bulletin by now. This media, which could be sponsored by private labs in the near future and after the end of PACE, represents a powerful information sharing tool for all stakeholders in animal health. It is not only a display of the PACE programme but it can also boost all components of the programme if shared properly between public vets, SPO and (S)TO, private vets, wholesalers, decision makers, donors, and of course farmer representatives. Therefore the mission urges the PACE team to concretise this long awaited tool and ensure its sustainability after PACE.

As the monitoring indicators mathematically demonstrate, this is an average PACE programme, yielding a satisfying score (above average of 2,50), which will very likely achieve most of the expected outputs, mentioned in the initial logframe, and most certainly in the revised logframe for the extension. One result which will certainly not materialize is the availability of private veterinary services (as we understand it, in line with OIE standards) in rural farming areas.

2005/05/BF

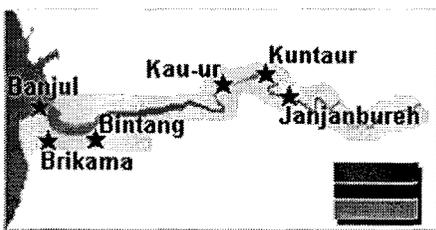


The regional technical assistant has concluded a two-day mission to PACE Burkina Faso during the month of October 2005. He was accompanied by the PACE Financial Controller, M. Alex SAELAERT. The mission was intended to assess the precise causes of the financial problems PACE Burkina Faso is facing and to assist in lifting some of the constraints.

The start-up problems are mainly related to the non-closure of the previous WP's (WP 2 and WP 3); this is in turn due poor accounting practices, both in terms of its presentation and its doubtful veracity. The mission could note that indeed, the expenditure memos presented to the NAO for processing are unacceptable. The ECD is astonished by the lack of reactivity of the Ministry of Animal Resources, for which PACE is its principal programme, despite the fact that PACE has been

suspended for close to 10 months. It is necessary to assess whether it is useful that the EDF continues to support PACE, given the fact that the objectives seem to be attained and that the Government contribution seems to enable a normal operation of the epidemio-surveillance system.

2005/03/GM



A mission from the Regional Coordination Office of the *Pan-African programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE)* for West and Central Africa, conducted an internal assessment of progress made by the national programme PACE Gambia, between November 21st and 26th, 2005. The team was composed of Dr. Bouna DIOP, Regional co-ordinator, Dr. Cécile SQUARZONI, Regional epidemiologist and Dr. Patrick BASTIAENSEN, Regional technical assistant, in charge of assistance to PACE Gambia since 2004.

In spite of the various problems encountered in its implementation, and in particular the (ir)regular availability of funding, this national programme in the Gambia appears to be well on track again today. The national coordination team shows great motivation and dynamism in the steering of the activities. The commitment of field agents is tangible and so is the involvement of farmers, who, organized within the framework of sanitary defence committees, feel concerned.

The current organization of the DLS with the existence of a chain of command between the central level and the field is an asset, which should be maintained. This being said, the organization still requires improvements related to the documentation of the standard operating procedures on the implementation and the management of zoo-

sanitary measures, the updating of the veterinary legislation and the introduction of a notification system for medical events to OIE and neighbouring countries.

The animal disease surveillance system (conducted in selected villages and sites) and targeting 9 priority diseases makes it possible to achieve a fair coverage of the territory. However, it is necessary to redefine and extend the surveillance tasks to all field agents and to regularly update the list of the diseases according to today's priorities (e.g. HPAI). Field agents should be supplied with sampling material and benefit from training in terms of sampling techniques.

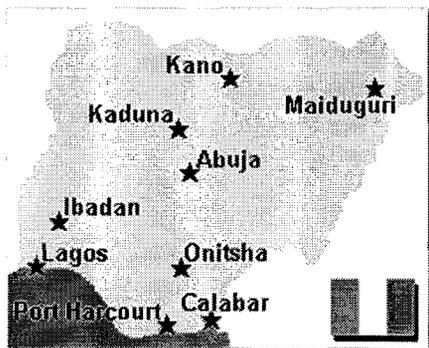


All this must be implemented as soon as possible in order to finalize the request to be submitted to OIE so that Gambia can be recognized infection free of rinderpest in the near future.

In the mean time, the mission would encourage the Gambia to enter the OIE pathway for CBPP too.

With regard to the future, the mission raises deep concern over the ability of Gambia's government to sustain epidemic-surveillance through adequate funding.

2005/02/NG



A mission of the Regional Co-ordination Unit of PACE in Bamako has visited Nigeria from December 1st to 8th, 2005, in order to supply a technical assistance to the national component for Nigeria of the Pan-African programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE) This assignment has been conducted by Dr. P. BASTIAENSEN, Regional technical assistant. He was joined by the Financial Controller of the PACE Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) in Nairobi, M. Alex SAELAERT on December 5th, 2005.

The RTA conducted a field mission to Plateau State (Jos area) on December 2nd and 3rd, 2005 while also visiting the NVRI in Vom (Plateau State). He met with laboratory senior staff, the PACE zonal coordination officer, the State Director of Veterinary Services, NADIS surveillance agents (field and abattoir) and private veterinary surgeons.

This mission is the second mission by a regional technical assistant from PACE. The technical assistance to PACE member countries has been entrusted to the GTZ-IS/SATEC-Development consortium since the beginning of 2003. A reshuffle of the geographical areas covered by the two remaining RTA's for West and Central Africa, operated in November 2005, has now enabled PACE to include Nigeria in the cluster of countries, covered by Dr. P. BASTIAENSEN. The first mission to Nigeria was conducted in October 2004 (together with the PACE regional epidemiologist). This mission was conducted in order to assist Nigeria's veterinary services with the preparation of a dossier to be submitted to OIE for the recognition of Nigeria as disease free country for rinderpest, as well as to assess the capacities of the national ESS (NADIS) to conduct nation-wide surveillance, control its borders and react to an epizootic outbreak

The present mission has been scheduled at a time when the PACE Nigeria programme is still hampered by financial constraints to the approval of the first programme-estimate of the extension phase. As a full-time national TA is already provided for by the French Cooperation (Dr. Yann MICHAUX), the mission focused on the monitoring (follow-up) of activities in Nigeria and attempted to assist in lifting the financial constraints which prevent the start-up of the the PACE Nigeria extension phase, as far as EDF funding is concerned.

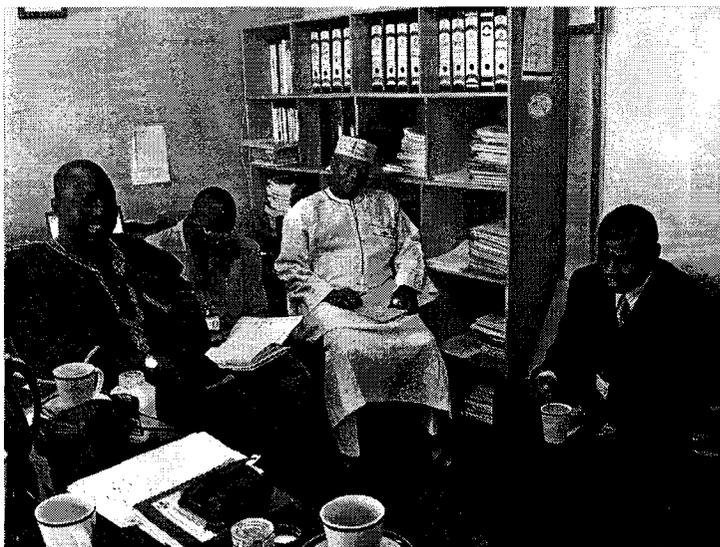
In conclusion, today, PACE Nigeria is by all means a more than average programme. When assessing programme implementation today, it is obvious that all major thrusts of the programme have been initiated and

are well underway (if not already concluded). The ESS is operational and is far better organized and designed than in numerous other countries. The amount of data and samples generated by the field teams is impressive. Communication towards surveillance agents, farmers and other stakeholders should be satisfactory, provided the momentum can be maintained.

Given the political organization of Nigeria as a federal union, with 38 fairly autonomous states, it is our belief that what could be done in terms of legislative review, has been done. The rest is now up to the decision-makers of the country (whether at federal or state level).

What makes PACE Nigeria an under-performing programme, is the precious time that was wasted during the first years of implementation (before a new NPC was appointed) and the repeated gaps in EDF funding (the present gap has now exceeded one full year). If it would not have been for the presence of the new programme coordinator and his dynamic national technical assistant, programme implementation would not have reached the present level.

As pointed out in the report, technical constraints are related to the data-management of the NADIS at central level, both in terms of manpower and computing tools; and the disappointing performance of the NVRI laboratory.



The latter is likely to create problems once the sampling for rinderpest-serology will have begun.

Less stringent, but nevertheless a constraint, is the limited implication of private veterinary surgeons in epidemio-surveillance, especially with regard to the poultry industry and the current menace of avian influenza. The recently approved loan scheme for private veterinary practice could very well be the much-needed lever to open up epidemiological surveillance to private vets. Health accreditation (sanitary mandate) to conduct compulsory vaccinations is another lever, for which the foundation is laid down in the draft legislation developed by PACE.

Despite the efforts made by the mission to negotiate a rapid approval of the programme estimate n° 4 before the closure of OLAS on December 23rd, 2005 and the commitments of the EC delegation to do the utmost to speed up approval, fact is that the programme estimate has not been approved before Christmas recess.

At the time this report is published, the 4th work plan has been approved by the regional authorising bodies (IBAR and lead EC delegation), but, as most of the EC staff in Nigeria are on leave, the PE has not been signed yet. Moreover, due to the closure of the OLAS accounting system until the end of January 2006, there's little chance that EDF funds will be available before March 2006, which leaves PACE Nigeria with only 6 months of operation (until July 31st), followed by 3 months of administrative and financial closure.

Luckily enough, the FGoN has just disbursed ₦ 15.68 million (approx. € 100,000) which will enable the programme to ensure at least some of its priorities, one which is no doubt the sero-surveillance for rinderpest. The accumulated delays in this regard will most certainly prevent Nigeria from attaining rinderpest freedom (infection) before 2009. Coping with such a tremendous task in the absence of PACE (funding) will be a major challenge to NADIS and the FDPCLS.