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PAN-AFRICAN PROGRAMME FOR THE CONTROL OF EPIZOOTICS PROGRAMME PAN-AFRICAIN DE CONTRÔLE DES EPIZOOTIES (PACE)

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PACE PROGRAMME

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I. INTRODUCTION

This report gives an overview on the progress of the PACE programme since the last meeting of the PACE Advisory Committee, which was held in April 2004 in Nairobi (Kenya). The report contains two parts, the first lists the outcome of the activities carried out at the regional level and the second gives an outline of the situation of the national components.

It should be recalled that the Panafrican Programme of Control of Epizooties (PACE) financed within the framework of an agreement signed on August 30, 1999 between the European Union and the African Union aims to contribute to the fight against poverty and to the development of the livestock sector in Africa through the creation of a suitable framework of sanitary security. The total financing of the PACE was 72 million Euro for a 5 years duration period. With the approval of the extension of the Financing Agreement by the European Commission on October 5, 2004, the total budget has increased to 77 million Euro and the execution period extended until the end of February 2007.

The global objective of the programme at the continental level is to contribute to the fight against poverty and the development of the livestock sector in Africa through the creation of a suitable framework of sanitary security.

The two specific objectives of the programme, as withheld for the extension are:

- The strengthening of surveillance to support policy formulation for the control of major epizootics and better access to global livestock markets.
- The eradication of Rinderpest, and control of other epizootic diseases.

II. SITUATION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

At the regional level, the PACE activities are implemented by the PACE Coordination Unit, the Common Services and the Regional Technical Assistants distributed between Nairobi (Kenya) and Bamako (Mali) and all are placed under the supervision of the AU-IBAR Director.

Since the last Advisory Committee, the activities were primarily related to:

- the follow-up of the national components,
- the support to the reinforcement of the epidemiosurveillance networks,
- the support to the eradication of Rinderpest,
- the support to the development of control strategies of the other priority diseases,
- the support to the national laboratories,
- the installation of the PID in the countries and the delivery of training for its use,
- the preparation and the implementation of the PACE extension phase.

II.1. Follow-up of the national components

A regular follow-up of the PACE national components continues to be done through the missions carried out in the countries by the members of the regional team and through the exploitation of progress reports sent by the national coordinators.

An overview of the progress of each national component of the PACE is presented in the 2nd part of the document.

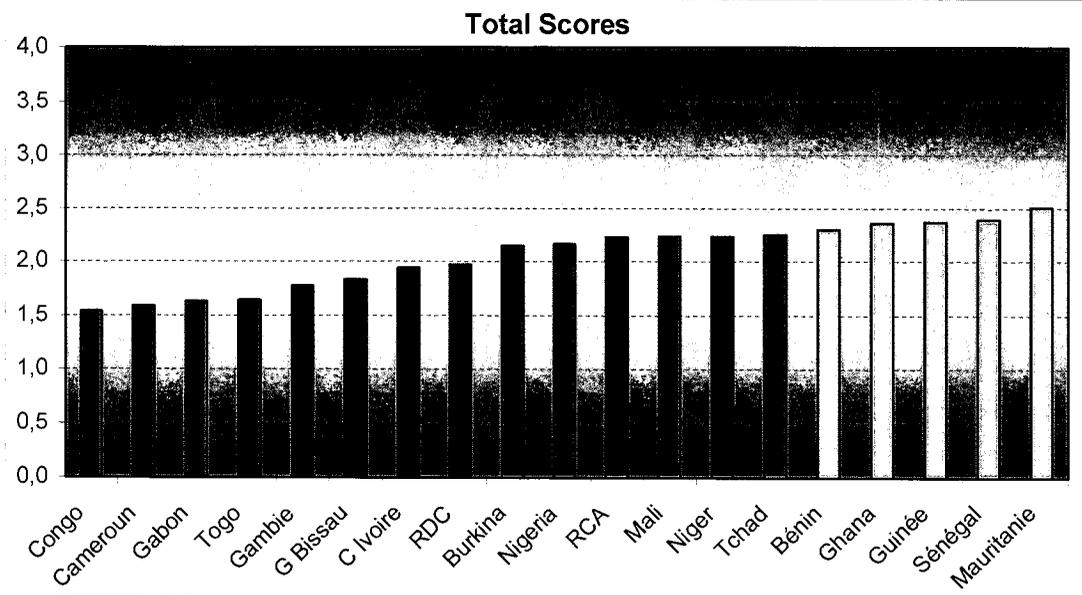
II.2. Reinforcement of the networks of épidémiosurveillance

By now, all the PACE countries have set up an animal diseases surveillance system except for Equatorial Guinea.

However, a thorough evaluation of these systems leads to note that all countries do not have a completely operational system yet i.e.:

- having the supervision authorities (steering committee, technical committee), the animation unit (central unit) and a network of field agents, who visit the livestock and collect zoo-sanitary information.
- having a surveillance system able to detect precisely endemic outbreaks and to send rapid alert to the sanitary authorities.
- producing sanitary information on the animal diseases supervised according to elaborated and validated surveillance protocols.
- ensuring a good internal (veterinary services, laboratories, feedback to livestock owners...) and external (OIE, AU-IBAR, neighbouring countries) sanitary information flow.
- having capacities of analyses by the laboratories (at the national level or through external subcontracts).
- ensuring a good communication with the livestock owners, the private veterinarians and all the stakeholders involved in the animal health issues at national level
- using a computerized data base linked to a Geographical Information System, thus allowing to manage, develop and use the data collected through the surveillance network.

A first evaluation of the national epidemiosurveillance networks carried out in the Western and Central African countries based on 67 criteria shows that 11 countries out of 19 analyzed obtain scores which exceed the average (average on 4).



Graph. Classification of WCA countries (except Equatorial Guinea) by general score

The analysis of the operational needs for the PACE epidemiosurveillance networks of the 19 Western and Central African countries gives the following results:

Set of themes	General Score (4.00)
Strategies & national policies	1.84
Network officialisation, architecture and organisation	1.98
Installation and functionality	2.44
Network Animation (central and regional)	2.30
Data and sanitary information Management	2.23
Laboratories of diagnosis (central and regional)	2.33
Communication and information flow	2.17
Monitoring of activities and performance indicators	1.20
Integration of stakeholders	2.00
Diseases (other epizootics) Surveillance	1.92
Wildlife	1.81

Table 1: Analyze of the operational needs of the epidemiosurveillance networks

The countries taking part in the PACE program were committed to ensure by all means the continuity of the animal diseases surveillance activities after the end of the EDF financing. The challenge is thus to manage to finance through sustainable national resources a proper running of the network activities. In all the countries, the government places at the disposal of the veterinary services an operational budget which is supposed to integrate the funds for the network but in reality they are often very insufficient and currently do not allow to ensure a correct operation of the network structures.

Certain countries have set up counterpart funds which contribute to finance the equipment purchase and to cover part of the project activities. But, the problem of the counterpart funds is that they disappear together with the phasing out of the external financing and consequently cannot guarantee any sustainability.

The work of the persons in charge for the veterinary services must be to sensitize the national political decision makers on the interest and economical benefits for the countries to invest more and durably in animal health in general and in the epidemiosurveillance of animal diseases in particular. The PACE Coordination Unit and furthermore the AU-IBAR will work to help them to carry out this task while taking part in the sensitization of the political authorities on the one hand and by providing them any relevant information being able to be used as a solid argument for a total appropriation of the epidemiosurveillance activities at the end of the programme.

II.3. Rinderpest Eradication

The activities are centred on the assistance to the countries to fulfil the OIE requirements to check the absence of Rinderpest disease and infection.

At the end of February the situation of the countries was as follows:

- 4 countries have their file approved by the OIE Scientific Committee to be recognized as free from Rinderpest infection (Benin, Eritrea, Senegal and Togo) ;
- 12 countries have already the status of country free from Rinderpest disease since May 2003 and 2004 (including the 4 previously mentioned) ;

Guinea Bissau introduced a dossier to request directly the status of country free from Rinderpest infection on historical basis. The OIE response received in at the end of March 2005 is that the file was not approved by the ad hoc group (cf PEU report).

Uganda also introduced a dossier to obtain the status of country free from Rinderpest disease which was also rejected with a request of further information.

Concerning the Somali ecosystem, a draft document was worked out and will be presented for discussions during the Advisory Committee Meeting.

Regarding the preparation of emergency plans, 26 countries sent a project for comments by the epidemiology unit. To date, 18 plans were approved by the Director of the AU-IBAR. The others are in the process of finalization.

Concerning the emergency funds (of an amount of 500.000 Euro) set up within the framework of the Rinderpest eradication, the draft-agreement signed between the European Commission and the OIE expired on October 31, 2004. The PCU proposes a revision of this draft-agreement by taking care that the funds remains available even after the end of the PACE.

The same situation exists concerning the emergency Rinderpest vaccines bank. The draft-agreement established between the AU-IBAR and the BVI (Botswana Veterinary Institute) which was revised in August 2003 allows the production and the conservation of the vaccines for a 36 months duration period.

The wildlife surveillance continued in East Africa. Concerning the Western and Central African countries, because of the low density of the animal population and the insufficiency of the expertise human resource, it was agreed with the countries to adopt an approach based on the ecosystem and to set up a regional team.

II.4. Control of the priority animal diseases other than Rinderpest

For PPCB, following the workshop held in Conakry (Guinea) in February 2004, the countries were committed to implement a new strategy adopted on a consensual basis. In reality, few countries have move forward on the issue because of the delays which occurred in the starting of the extension phase.

For RVF, no evolution was noted in the countries. Only Gambia found a financing from GTZ to develop a research program.

II.5. Support for the national and regional veterinary laboratories

In September-October 2004 the first meeting of the network of the national and reference regional laboratories was held in Accra. The final report of the meeting is available.

II.6. Installation of the PID in the countries and delivery of training for its use

The new version of PID called ARIS was finalized in two languages (French and English). A Portuguese version is under development. It is planned to prepare an Arabic version before October 2006.

The software installation is effective in 27 countries taking part in the PACE but its exploitation level remains to be improved.

This software was adopted by the AU-IBAR as the reference tool for the data management.

II.7. Preparation and implementation of the extension phase

the approval of the Director of the UA-IBAR, PACE Regional Authorizing Officer, and of the Chief of the EC Delegation in Kenya.

Thus, on October 31, 2004, the following documents were approved:

- A Technical and budgetary frame note for the national Work Plans and Cost Estimates
- Riders to the contracts signed between the AU-IBAR and the Consortium GTZ IS - SATEC on the one hand and with CIRAD-Emvt.

Concerning the contract with FAO, it is planned to revise the terms of reference following the departure of the principal epidemiologist. The PCU proposes that the funds remainders on this contract are used by FAO to carry out support missions to the countries and to the PACE coordination.

The technical and budgetary frame note for the national Work Plans and Cost Estimates was sent to all the PACE countries during the first ten days of November 2004. An anticipation work made possible to finalize this file within relatively short times. The frame document has the principal objectives and the results awaited during the PACE extension as well as the logical frameworks and the indicative budgets (ceiling) for each country. The Director of the AU-IBAR, PACE Regional Authorizing Officer, and the Chief of the EC Head Delegation (Kenya) approve this document prepared by the PCU starting from an analysis of the situation of each country.

The contract with the Consortium GTZ IS - SATEC relates to the supply of five Technical Assistants of which 4 intervene at a regional level and 1 is based in Sudan. There is also the supply of an expert for the PANVAC and a provision for short term technical aid missions.

The rider to the contract with CIRAD-Emvt makes possible to continue the activities of the wildlife epidemiologist until October 2006 and of the PANVAC Coordinator until August 2005.

The major event of the starting of the PACE extension phase was the suspension of the financing between November 2004 and February 2005 on the level of the PACE Coordination Unit and common Services in Nairobi. This situation followed upon the decision taken by the ECD in Kenya not to approve a new WP or a rider to the preceding WP (year 5) if suitable solutions were not brought to certain pending issues as well as to some conditions fixed by the Financial Agreement.

The issues in question related to the institutional environment of UA-IBAR thus concerning reponsability of the Commission of African Union and the direct management of the programme (closure of previous xork-programmes, staff situation etc)

The PACE Regional Coordination of Bamako did not know a suspension of financing.

The point on the starting of the phase of extension in the national components is presented in the table hereafter.

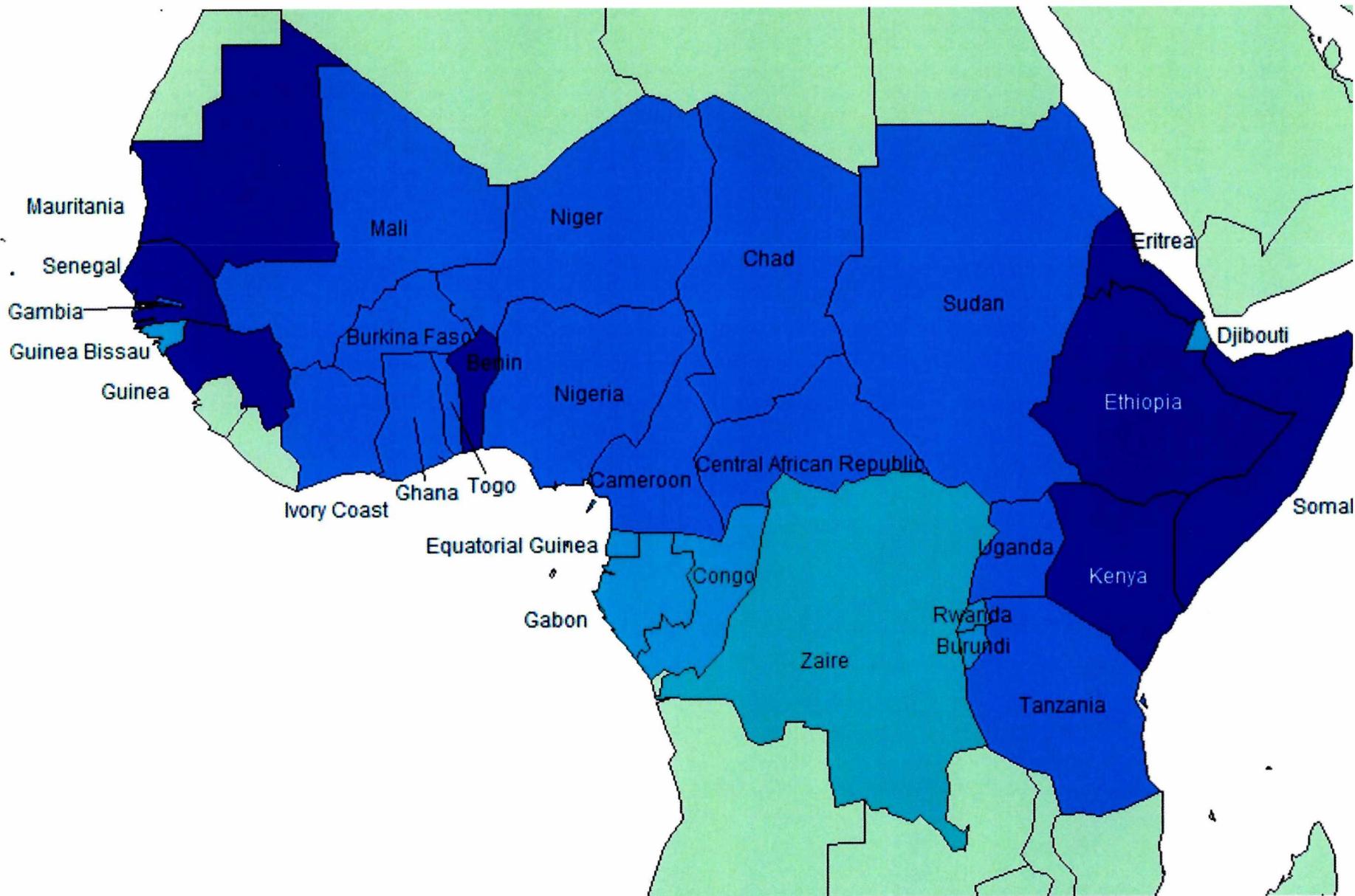
Table 2 : Start-up of the extension phase in PACE national programmes

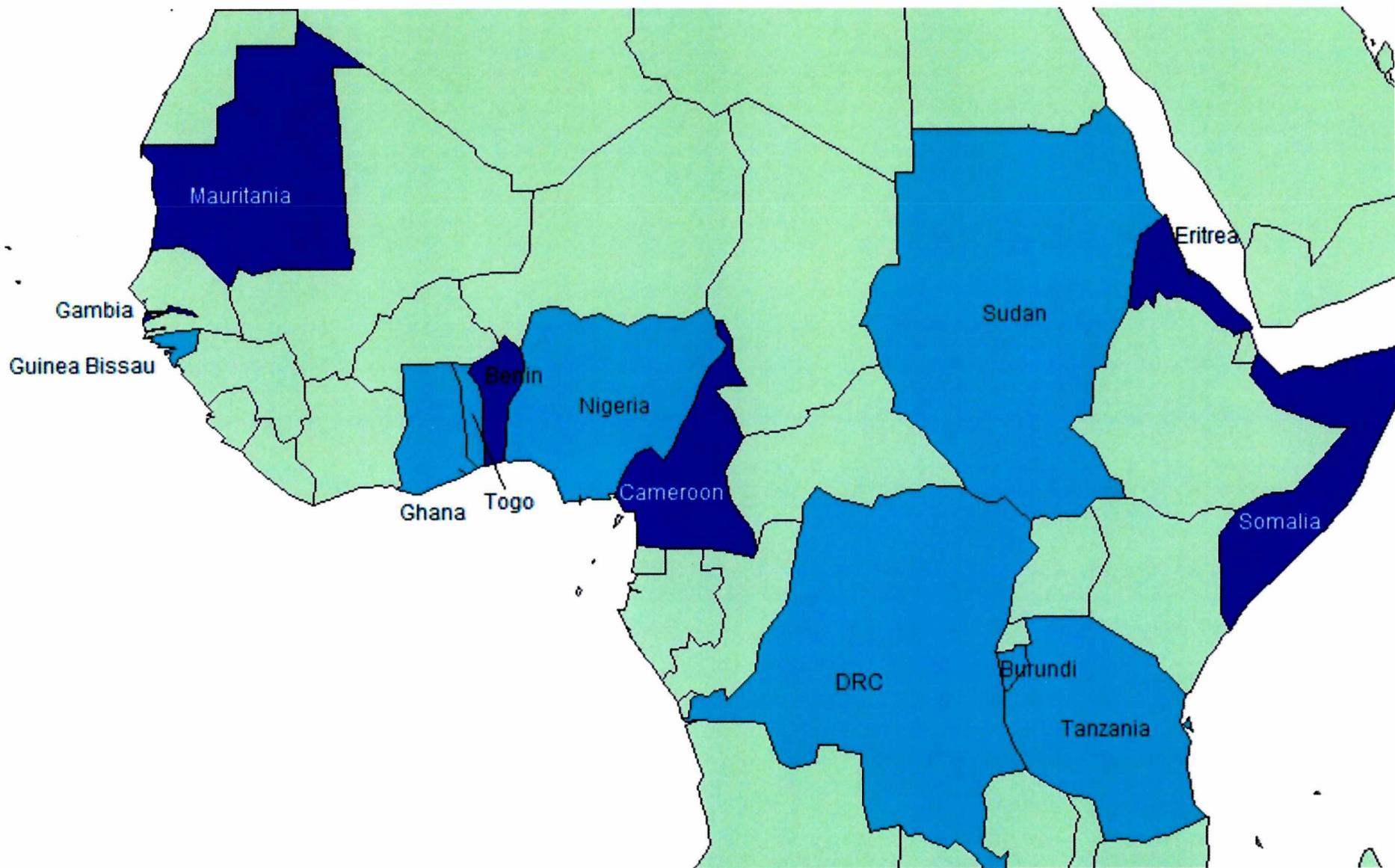
Country	Comments
Benin	WP+CE for the extension signed and funds are available.
Burkina Faso	The Burkina Faso ECD has requested to open a commitment for the extension WP+CE but this has been refused by the ECD in Kenya because of the non-closure of WP 2 and 3. This process is now on track. Furthermore, the ECD awaits the confirmation that the 80 million FCFA budgeted for in the WP as national (government) contribution) have indeed been budgeted for in the 2005 national budget. All this means that there has been no EDF funding since the end of October 2004.
Cameroon	WP+CE for the extension signed and funds are available.
CAR	WP+CE for the extension signed and funds are available.
Congo	WP+CE for the extension not yet approved
Ivory Coast	WP+CE for the extension approved for start-up on March 15 th ; no funds available yet.

Gambia	the NAO and the ECD without consolidation by the regional bodies (PACE and ECD Kenya). In January 2005, the NAO for the Gambia has requested the RAO to approve a posteriori this work plan; this has now been approved.
Ghana	WP+CE 4 has been extended until February 2005. The extension-WP ought to start by March 1 st , 2005.
Guinea	WP+CE for the extension signed
Guinea Bissau	WP+CE for the extension signed
Equat Guinea	The ECD in Gabon is now in favour of re-starting activities, which –as recommended by the ACM- are to be limited to the compliance with the OIE pathway for rinderpest. The NAO for Equatorial Guinea has given a positive response to the requirements listed by IBAR for this renewed launch of activities. In March 2005, the RTA and the Regional epidemiologist have conducted a mission to Eq. Guinea in order to help draft the WP+CE.
Mali	WP+CE for the extension signed and funds are available.
Mauritania	WP+CE for the extension signed and funds are available.
Niger	WP+CE for the extension signed and funds are available.
Nigeria	WP+CE 4 (extension) has been approved by the ECD but endorsement is delayed by the closure of WP+CE 2 and the authorisations needed from the Ministry of Finance to open a bank account for WP-4.
Senegal	A rider to the 4th WP+CE had been approved, extending the WP until January 31 st , 2005. However, funds have never been made available, following a disagreement between the Animal Husbandry Ministry and the ECD over the appointment of a new NPC. An agreement has finally been reached in February 2005. The start-up of the extension-WP is now expected for April 1 st .
Togo	WP+CE for the extension signed but funds not yet available
DRC	WP+CE for the extension signed and funds are available.
Chad	The ECD has decided not to sign any new WP, nor to approve an extension to the existing WP, as long as the problems related to the closure of previous WP are not solved. According to the latest information, this process would now seem to reach a satisfying solution, raising hopes that a new WP will eventually be approved.
Burundi	DP précédents clôturés et les documents pour la phase d'extension (PG et DP1) introduits dans le circuit d'approbation (la DCE Burundi n'est pas encore déconcentrée).
Djibouti	Funding and activities have come to a standstill, due to the inadequate closure of previous WP. The rider to the previous WP has not been accepted by the ECD in Ethiopia. The Global work plan and WP+CE for year 1 of the extension have been drafted and are ready for approval.
Eritrea	A rider has extended the WP-4 until May 31 st , 2005. WP 1 and 2 have been closed, closure of WP 3 and 4 is on track. Activities continue and the extension phase is expected to begin before the end of the present rider.
Ethiopia	WP+CE for the extension signed and funds are available.
Kenya	Funding and activities have come to a standstill, due to the inadequate closure of previous WP.
Uganda	All previous WP, except WP-4 are closed. PACE Uganda has just submitted it's Global work plan and WP+CE for year 1 of the extension to the ECD for approval. Activities in the area of animal health are nevertheless conducted, thanks to funding through STABEX, scheduled to last for 3 years.
Rwanda	Funding and activities have come to a standstill, due to the inadequate closure of previous WP. Furthermore, the programme continued to use remaining funds from previous WP to ensure it's operation. A financial audit was conducted in February 2005.
Somalia	All previous WP have been closed. A rider without financial incidence has been approved and extends WP-4 until March 31 st , 2005. As from April 1 st , 2005 and for a duration of 30 months, activities will be entrusted to a consortium of NGO's, contracted as a result of a bidding procedure.
Sudan	Activities are conducted without interruption, thanks to the pre-financing by GTZ and subsequent accounting with the EC. The programme in south-Sudan has been extended without financial increase until April 30 th , 2005, awaiting the signature of the extension document (until June 2005).
Tanzania	WP+CE for the extension signed and funds are available.

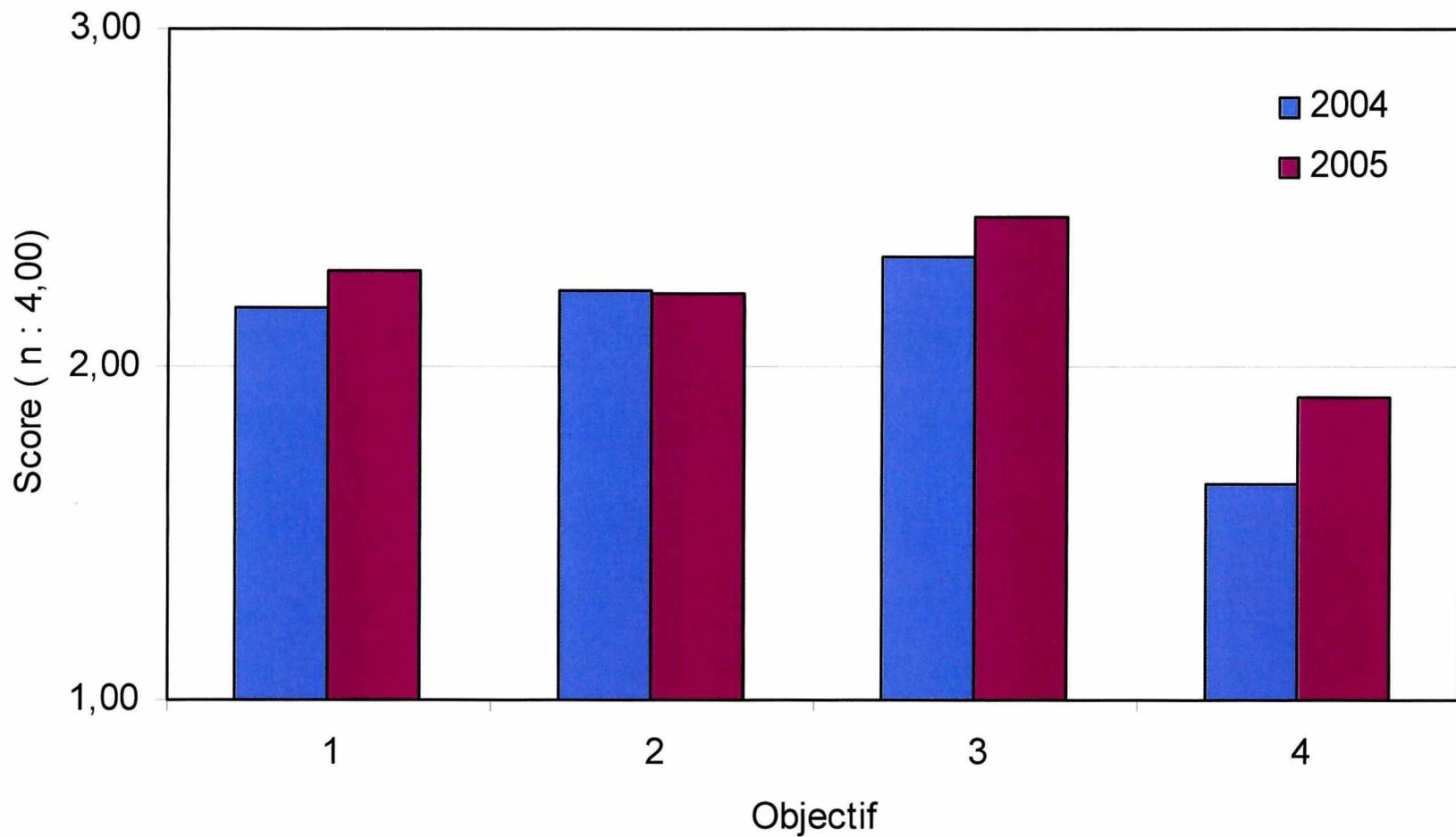
III. OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION OF THE NATIONAL COMPONENTS

An monitoring update of the national PACE components based on the 37 follow-up indicators referring to the four objectives, is presented in the following tables.

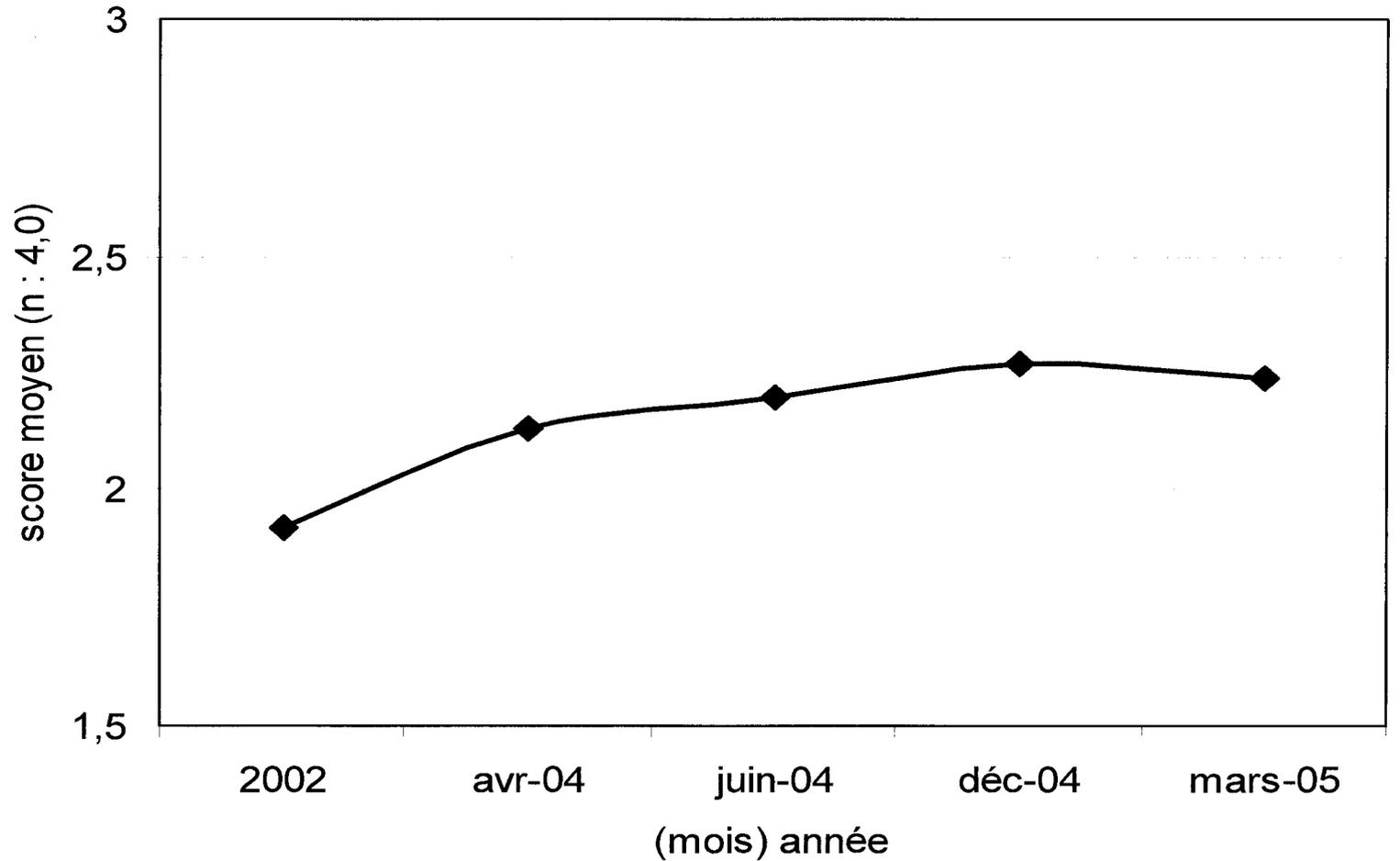




Evolution des scores pour les objectifs (2004 - 2005)



Evolution avancement pays PACE (30)



WERTERN AFRICA

The WP1 of extension or WP5 was signed by the local ECD on December 28, 2004 but the funds are not mobilized yet. It covers the period of December 28, 2004 to December 27, 2005 and represents a total amount of 119.798.406 FCFA (182.631 Euro) including 66.214.490 FCFA (100.943 Euro) financed by the EDF and 53.583.916 FCFA (81.688 Euro) by the government of Benin.

The epidemiosurveillance network (RESUREP) set up was gradually reinforced. It comprises 36 stations (36 agents out of the 106 administrative agents) whose agents are rather well equipped (motor bike, refrigerator, cool box, sampling equipment). The other administrative agents also act as relay agents. All the investments planned were carried out and the legal texts related to the creation and operation of the RESUREP were updated. The performance indicators of the network were elaborated during a workshop organized in November 2004 and will have to be introduced soon into the system. The priority diseases registered in the decree related to the creation and running of the network are: RP, CBPP, PPR, ASF, FMD, ND, and Rabies. On sanitary level, one notes a resurgence of the African Swine Fever.

Recognized as "free from Rinderpest disease" by OIE since May 2003, the country carried out serological investigations in 2003 and 2004 respectively collecting 3312 and 2107 serums of bovine. 79% and 97% of these serums were analysed at the laboratory of Parakou with a seroprevalence of 0.15% attributed to the false positive results. The clinical monitoring did not reveal any outbreak of Rinderpest. The monitoring of fauna continued during the year 2004 and 22 serums of hunting were collected and analyzed. In 2005, 37 serums were collected during the recent period of hunting but were not analyzed yet. The request submitted to OIE to ask for the status of country "free from Rinderpest infection" was examined favourably by the Scientific Commission of OIE in January 2005 which recommended its approval by the international committee of OIE during its General Session in May 2005.

The zoosanitary data base software PID/ARIS is regularly exploited (272 recordings since December 2003). Since July 2004, the monthly animal diseases report forms - which are always distributed in triplicate to allow any disease traceability - are based on the PID /ARIS software requests in order to avoid any data entry error. The reporting to OIE and to AU-IBAR is correct.

There are approximately 50 authorized private veterinarians of which 35 in activity but their implication in the RESUREP is not well defined. The exercise of the sanitary mandate remains to be endorsed and officially applied. A project of decree was prepared but it is not signed. For the moment, vaccinations are done in an informal way: the administration grants 10 FCFA per vaccine dose to the private veterinarians who take part in the vaccination campaigns in collaboration with 68 private technicians. Neither the project of creation of guarantee funds with a commercial bank nor the one to constitute a credit fund managed by the Council of the veterinary surgeons Order could succeed. The reasons are that, on one hand, the 36 million FCFA envisaged was considered to be insufficient by the banks to constitute guarantee funds, and that on the other hand, the ECD did not deliver an favourable opinion to the use of EDF funds for credit operations.

A work of amendment of the veterinary legislation is in hand: a decree project on the sanitary policy was elaborated in October 2003 to replace the order 72-31 of the 27th of September 1972 related to the regulation of the sanitary policy of the animals and the inspection of the foodstuffs of animal origin. The signature of the decrees of application of the decree n° 2001- 370 linked to the creation, attribution and operation of the national funds of control of epizootics (Fonds National de Lutte contre les Epizooties) is in progress.

The zoosanitary news bulletin "La clochette" was published 2 times in 2003 but only once in 2004 (1st quarter) because of the departure in retirement of the person in charge for the communication. The country remains regular in the sending of its reports to the PACE Regional Coordination.

The country is selected to be visited within the framework of a short term consultation entrusted to GTZ and which is intended to evaluate the financing of the epidemiological surveillance networks set up with the PACE support and the prospects for funding by national resources, in particular the

Since the WP3 (2003), the government contributes to the financing of the PACE activities for an annual amount of 50 million FCFA.

Two financial audits were carried out in 2004. The first related to the WP1 and to the first half of the year of the WP2. The second audit carried out in August - September 2004 covered the expenditure of the second six-month period of the WP2 until the 4th month of the WP4.

PACE Burkina Faso is still in the process of initiating its 5th work plan (for year 1 of the extension), delayed due to inadequate closure of WP 2. By February 2005, the situation had been sorted out and the ECD had requested the delegation in Kenya to open a commitment for WP 5. This request however has been suspended until an agreement is reached regarding one non-eligible expense, which would enable to complete the reimbursements of the advances paid during WP 2. Furthermore, the ECD has requested a written commitment from the Ministry of Finance and Budget of Burkina Faso regarding the 80 million FCFA supposedly earmarked for support to PACE in the 2005 budget.

The PACE national coordination is deprived of funds for its operation since October 2004.

Despite these difficulties, the ESS (RESUREP) remains operational, especially with regard to the active surveillance for rinderpest (and to a lesser degree : control of CBPP). Passive surveillance is being (well) conducted in the country, but the information flow is not integrated in the ESS flow chart and consequently unavailable for data-entry into PID.

With regard to the OIE pathway, Burkina Faso has confirmed its disease-free status with the OIE. Sero-surveillance in cattle (for year 2 of the procedure) has commenced in September 2004. The country ought to be able to submit a request in time for it to be declared infection-free by May 2006.

In August 2004, African swine fever was suspected in Kadiogo province (in the center of the country); laboratory analyses which followed confirmed the disease. It was established that the genome of the virus, as identified by PCR was 99 % similar to that of the virus isolated in this country in 2003 in the from Komienga province. The appropriate sanitary police measures were taken.

The PID (ARIS) software has been installed on a new PC and data have been transferred. Furthermore, staff were further trained and forms reviewed in order to render them compatible with the database requirements. Additional data have been entered, particularly with regard to the veterinary services module and active surveillance. With regard to the situation of the data-manager (contract), proposals have been made to improve his working conditions for the duration of the extension phase.

The dossier with regard to the technical and financial audits of the CTA/P2 unit for veterinary privatisation has not shown any advance for over a year.

The financial audit has not been conducted yet.

The WP of the 1st year of extension corresponding to the 3rd WP has been approved in the course of March 2005 but the funds have not been released yet. This WP has a budget of 320.000.000 FCFA (487.837 Euro) including 160.000.000 FCFA (243.918 Euro) for the EDF financing and of 160.000.000 FCFA (243.918 Euro) for the counterpart of Cote d'Ivoire.

The execution of the program remains always disturbed by the events, which affected the country since September 2002. In 2004, out of the 19 regions existing in the country, 12 remain accessible to the governmental veterinary services. In theory, the network comprises 32 epidemiological surveillance stations including 20 under the responsibility of the 12 private veterinarians (that is 63%), and 12 managed by the agents of the administration. 200 agents and stockbreeders were trained. 32 station agents and 6 laboratory technicians were trained or recycled.

The country is recognized free from Rinderpest disease by OIE since May 2004. A new sampling protocol was carried out in 2004 in the non-occupied zone (305 breedings). Serums collections are in progress. An emergency plan was worked out and approved by the AU/IBAR/PACE. The monitoring of wild fauna is not carried out.

FAO initiated a Technical Co-operation Project named "Emergency Rehabilitation of the veterinary services in the north of the Ivory Coast" which envisages to support the organization of vaccination campaigns against CBPP and PPR to be carried out by the private veterinary surgeons who will be supported for this purpose. It aims also the reactivation of the animal diseases surveillance network in particular through the recycling of the private veterinary agents, the training of the stockbreeders and the improvement of the capacities of diagnosis of certain laboratories.

The data concerning the passive epidemiological surveillance are currently entered in a regular way in the PID/ARIS software installed in January 2004.

The country counts 12 private veterinarians of which 9 were given a credit within the framework of the PARC between 1995 and 1998 but the system of credit does not function any more since 1998 because of the unpaid ones. Measurements planned to clear up the situation are still not applied. Sanitary mandates are attributed to the rural veterinarians since 1995 for vaccinations against CBPP and PPR. These contracts are widened with the epidemicsurveillance task. A study on the distribution of the veterinary medicinal products, which was to take place in November 2004, was deferred to a later date because of the last events.

There is still no zoosanitary news bulletin. Since October 2004, a new service of zoosanitary information was created within the Management of the Veterinary Services and of Quality, for which the person in charge is the chief of the PACE communication section.

The financial counterpart granted by the government of Cote d'Ivoire for PACE was 40.000.000 FCFA in 2001, 50.000.000 FCFA in 2002 and 80.260.000 FCFA in 2003 instead of the 160.000.000 annual FCFA envisaged in the PACE global plan. For 2004, the 80.000.000 FCFA committed could not be mobilized. For the year 2005, 160.000.000 FCFA are again registered with the budget. No audit was carried out yet.



PACE The Gambia has not been able to commence its 4th work plan yet because the local ECD demands that as a prerequisite, the situation of the 3rd WP be clarified. Indeed, this 3rd work plan was initiated in February 2004 without applying the usual consolidation through the regional bodies and request to open a commitment at ECD Kenya level. In January 2005, the NAO of the Gambia wrote a letter to the RAO and Director of AU-IBAR, requesting that this WP be now 'recognized' at regional level. This step resulted in positive taken being taken, raising hopes that WP 4 could be approved by the end of March 2005.

With respect to the PACE national coordination management, a new NPC was formally appointed in September 2004, following the departure of the first NPC in June 2004. Delays are noted in the acquisition of equipment and budgetary execution is relatively weak. The instability of the national currency, the Gambian Dalasi, as compared to foreign currencies, hasn't helped either. Nevertheless, over the past six months, the Gambian Dalasi has managed to keep a steady rate against the Euro (36 : 1). No contribution on behalf of the Government exists to date, but is scheduled to take place as from January 2005 (for around 28.000 EUR p.a.).

The ESS which was created in 2003 is reasonably functional, despite the reduced number of surveillance agents (20). Weaknesses are encountered at the central unit's level, with regard to both logistic and human resources. PID/ARIS had been installed since 2002 but had never been used. A new installation on two new PC's, accompanied by training of staff will be conducted in April 2005.

In May 2004, The Gambia submitted a request to become member of the OIE, thus paving the way for the recognition of The Gambia as rinderpest-free (disease and infection) by May 2006. This declaration will be based on the historical absence of both rinderpest and rinderpest-vaccination in the

with lab-analysis lacking behind. The upcoming hunting season will have to be put to profit to collect the necessary wildlife samples.

Communication with farmers and more particularly sanitary defence committees remains excellent. On the other hand, institutional communication and reporting to OIE and IBAR, as well as PACE coordinating bodies remains very weak and will have to improve significantly.

An outbreak of Rift Valley Fever was declared by the end of 2002. The country participated in the Regional Workshop on RVF (Dakar, January 2004) and will soon adopt its national strategy paper. A joint research protocol with ITC (*International Trypanotolerance Centre*) on RVF and brucellosis control in small ruminants has just been initiated and will contribute to meet the recommendations of the Dakar workshop.

Privatisation of veterinary services is still embryonic and is limited to a privatised import-facility (GAMVET) and a limited number of clinics/pharmacies in the capital. A credit programme (warranty fund) was budgeted, but was finally not withheld by the ECD. A revision of veterinary legislation has been initiated to provide for an incentive environment for private veterinary practice.

The PACE Ghana did not start yet its 5th WP (WP1 of the extension period). A rider had made possible to extend the 4th WP for 4 months (from November 1, 2004 to February 28, 2005). The opening of the 5th WP is subordinated to the closure of the WP1 and WP2 in OLAS. Then this closure depends on the Bank of Ghana, which is long in converting into Euros the remainders in Cedis from these 2 WPs. Aware that the closure of the WP3 and WP4 follows its course, the Head of Finance and Contract Section of the Ghana ECD supported by the PACE Finance Manager made a request towards the Head of Finance and Contract Section of the Kenya lead ECD to grant the creation of an individual commitment.

The ESS is functional. More than 300 technical field agents spread over the entire territory (329 observation posts in 138 districts) are involved in active clinical surveillance. The 329 posts are grouped under 33 clusters equipped with sampling material and ensuring data collection and compilation. Two (2) diagnostic laboratories (Accra and Pong-Tamale) are used for confirmation of outbreaks from the field.

The country has been recognized as free from Rinderpest disease according to the OIE pathway since May 2003. Clinical and serological surveillance are made. In 2004, the laboratory collected 4,766 sera (4,982 in 2003). The sero-surveillance activities and the results were used to support the dossier to be submitted to OIE for the declaration for Rinderpest infection free status.

Concerning wild fauna, a refreshing course in wildlife epidemicsurveillance was organized in 2004 in the national park of Mole. That was a sequel to the training courses already organized in 2002 in Accra, in the Shai reserve and in Mole national park. PACE Ghana has procured equipment for the monitoring of fauna (anaesthetic arrow gun and accessories, binoculars and GPS).

The PID/ARIS Software had been installed since July 2003. The data base software TAD Info is also used and the major part of the field data are entered and analyzed in a regular way in the 2 software. Unfortunately in December 2004, the 2 computers - laptop and desktop - of the epidemiology unit office on which this software was installed were stolen but the back up discs were recovered. In March 2005, the RTA reinstalled the PID/ARIS software on a new computer (compatible to the PID/ARIS criteria) of the epidemiology unit. Moreover the person in charge for this unit has a solid experience in Geographical Information System which would facilitate the PACE action visibility and the presentation of a proper argument for the network sustainability.

The country counts 19 private veterinary surgeons whose 18 have an urban oriented activity but follow suburban or short cycle animal husbandries and 1 single private vet works only in rural areas. The political willingness exists to advocate a gradual withdrawal of public clinics and to re-focus on the statutory mission of public health. A Livestock Development Project financed by AfDB is intended to support the start-up of more rural private vets thanks to grants. An assessment of vet drugs accessibility to breeders has been conducted in 2003 revealing that the majority of the sale points of

rural radios). Regularity in the transmission of quarterly activity reports remains to be improved. A zoonosanitary bulletin is still awaited.

During the WP & CE year 4, the financial government contribution to PACE activities was 821,250,000 Cedis (75,000 Euros) excluding the salaries of civil servants. During the extension period, it will be necessary to assure a higher contribution of the government as far as the maintenance of the epidemiosurveillance network is concerned in order to take the relay when the EDF funds from PACE will phase out. A short-term consultancy is planned for March 2005 to carry out a socio economical expertise in cost/benefit analysis of the epidemiological network.

An emergency and compensatory fund (for controlling outbreaks) lodged at the Ministry of Finance is generated from the border taxes, which rose significantly with the recent events affecting La Cote d'Ivoire. An amount of over one billion Cedis (100,000 Euros) was paid as compensation to pig farmers in 2004 from this fund to control African Swine Fever (ASF). It is worth mentioning that controlling ASF outbreaks require a lot of funding-most of which is the government's contribution. The reappearance of the disease in 2005 led the epidemiology unit to multiply the meetings of sensitizing security agents, lorry drivers, and pig breeders on the devastator effects of the vagrancy or of the clandestine movements of these animals.

An audit was carried out in February 2004 for WP1 and 2 and in August 2004 for WP3.

The National component PACE Guinea has not yet started its WP1 of the extension phase (or WP5). The document however was prepared since November 2004 but had to go through several modifications in order to take into account the new presentation template. Its total amount is 534.797.630 GNF (or 160.230 Euro) including 384.027.878 GNF (or 115.058 Euro) financed by the EDF. The Guinean government contributes normally for 150.769.752 GNF (or 45.172 Euro). According to last received information's, this WP will be able to start in at the beginning of April 2005.

This program, which was carried out normally so far, started to encounter difficulties with the WP4. This WP, which had been prepared to start in November 2003, was finally approved by the local ECD only in March 2004; and the advance payment was done in April 2004.

The departure in March 2004 of the National Director of Breeding (recruited by FAO) also generated a period of jobs reshuffling, which contributed to slow down the activities. The former Deputy manager of Breeding and national Coordinator of the PACE, who took over temporarily the duties of the head of the National Direction of Breeding for 9 months, was confirmed in December 2004. He cumulates then 2 positions. It also should be noted that between July and October 2004, the payments of the EDF for the benefit of the Guinean government were suspended because of debts non recovered in due time.

The epidemiosurveillance network called REMAGUI is functional and comprises 31 stations in charge of active surveillance, selected out of the 340 public veterinary stations existing. 10 private veterinarians are integrated into the epidemiosurveillance network and benefit from monitoring mandates (in RP active surveillance). 25 other veterinarians are in phase of integration within the network for continuous monitoring of the diseases (passive surveillance). The network evaluation carried out in February 2004 had confirmed a good organization of the network, the training and recycling of the agents and a solid cohesion between the various partners (official agents, private operators and stockbreeders - especially well organised and represented -) but it remains weak points with regard to the passive surveillance of diseases other than Rinderpest and to the activity of the Veterinary Central Laboratory of Diagnosis. For 2 years, the latter has received to analyse only the serums for the search for bovipestic antibodies. In 2004, 1.800 serums of bovines and 400 of small ruminants were collected and analysed. All the results are negative. The country is recognized by OIE as free from Rinderpest disease since May 2003.

The wild fauna network (43 agents including 35 forest agents and 8 veterinary agents) is not very operational. The 35 forest agents of the network practically did not undertake activities in 2004, occupied solving their problem of integration in the public sector. However, 40 serums of wild fauna were collected and analysed.

conceived to fight against cattle robbery) and earmarkings are used to avoid any transport on foot between the infected and free zones. Moreover, the private veterinarians are given vaccination sanitary mandates for the fight against CBPP. This strategy seems to give good results because the prevalence of the disease dropped.

The PID/ARIS software, reinstalled in March 2004 by the RTA, is utilized in a regular way with the entering of passive and active monitoring data, but the computers used have insufficient capacities for an optimal exploitation of the software. The new WP(5) recommends the purchase of a sufficiently powerful computer, which will be reserved for this use only.

The programme of credit towards the private veterinarians (26 beneficiaries to date out of 43 private vets since 2002) continues with a refunding rate considered to be satisfactory. Approximately 12.000 auxiliaries trained among the stockbreeders exist in Guinea and ensure primary health care. A few hundreds of them are employed by veterinarians.

The communication section regarded as a model knows a certain deceleration. The publication of the epidemiological news bulletin of the REMAGUI remains irregular. A certain irregularity is also noted in the transmission of the quarterly reports of activities and of the zoosanitary reports to OIE and to AU/IBAR.

As far as the PACE financial contribution of the Guinean government is concerned, 96 million GNF were perceived for the year 2003. An amount of 100 million GNF was entered with the 2004 budget but this amount was actually not mobilized. This point remains a challenge to take up in the perspective of sustaining the network activities.

No audit was carried out.

Guinea Bissau

PACE Guinea Bissau is still awaiting the arrival of the start-up advance of its 5th WP, committing around 53.168.600 FCFA (81.055 Euro) for year 1 of the extension, exclusively on EDF funds. The reorganization of the Delegation of the EC as decentralized (de-concentrated) delegation, initiated in August 2004 has led to delays in the approval of the various stages towards implementation of this first extension WP.

The Ministry for Agriculture and the Rural Development which ensures the supervision of the PACE has been re-organised. This led to the disappearance of the Directorate-General of Animal Husbandry (DGP), reduced to a Division of Support to Animal Husbandry within the Directorate-General of Support to Agro-pastoral Productions. This reform introduces a decentralization of the agricultural services with the creation of Regional Directorates at the same hierarchical level as the Directorate-Generals. For livestock matters, this leads unfortunately to a fragmentation of field staff which will have henceforth to be part of a heterogeneous system, supervised by structures which do not necessarily have the necessary competences as regards livestock and even less animal health. This is unfortunately a step in the wrong direction, when measured against OIE's guidelines on quality standards for veterinary services.

PACE Guinea Bissau has been subjected to an evaluation-mission conducted in August 2004 by a team of the PACE Regional Coordination (Bamako). Tangible results exist in the field of the strengthening of epidemiological monitoring capacities with the installation of a network made up of 10 equipped agents, the rehabilitated veterinary national laboratory, entirely equipped to carry out ELISA analyses for RP, staff training etc.. Moreover, the country became member of OIE and has entered the pathway to be recognized free from rinderpest. A sero-surveillance campaign on cattle and fauna was carried out, followed by the development and forwarding to OIE of a document, requesting the immediate recognition of the country as infection free from RP on historical bases. A reply has been received from the OIE at the end of March, indicating that the document needs to be revised in order to be accepted for the upcoming meeting of the Scientific Committee in October 2005.

The dossier on the installation of guarantee funds in support of veterinary privatisation, negotiated with the only commercial bank of the country (BAO) is still not finalized. An alternative is considered which

committee made up of representatives of the Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development, PACE (during its existence), DCE and NAO. Eligibility criteria will be defined.

PID ARIS is installed but is not used as expected. The departure of the national epidemiologist, responsible for the data base, in September 2004 did not improve the situation in this regard.

The country is regular in its administrative and financial reporting to PACE and is very regular in its reporting to OIE and IBAR. PACE has not been audited yet.

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PACE Mali initiated its 4th WP in December 2004, committing 233.915.574 FCFA (356.602 EURO) funded by the EDF for 133.915.574 FCFA (204.153 EURO) and the Government for 100.000.000 FCFA (152.449 EURO).

Overall implementation of PACE, both in operational terms as in terms of project management has improved a great deal over the last year.

The national EPIVET network (ESS) became more operational after the acquisition and the distribution of the remaining equipment including 27 motor cycles to the agents of the sanitary check points. The active surveillance campaign of the cattle plague mobilizes some 115 veterinary agents of the public sector and 106 private veterinary surgeons with a sanitary mandate which were trained to support this work. In 2004, 6.579 sera (692 in 2003) were collected in cattle and the analyses conducted by the central veterinary laboratory of Bamako revealed no positive cases. Monitoring of fauna is being conducted and allowed for the collection of 37 sera (of which 31 through hunting and 6 through capture). The country, which had been declared free of disease in May 2003, should be able to submit a dossier to be declared free of infection in May 2006.

The implementation of the thrust 'improvement of the services to the farmers', previously suspended by the local ECD and re-started during the WP-3, has enabled to initiate some actions in connection with the Veterinary Council : recycling of private veterinary surgeons with a sanitary mandate for their implication in the EPIVET-ESS, the census of the veterinary practices installed in the country, visits and sensitisation of private veterinary practitioners with regard to the veterinary legislation.

The communication activities are carried out normally. The newsletter is published regularly.

A Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries has been created since May 2004. A Director for the new National Veterinary Services Department has just been appointed.

Since 2003, the government contributes to the PACE funding by allocating funds within the framework of its investment budget. Thus 138 million FCFA were allocated and spent in 2003. For the 2004 budget, the amount was 101 million FCFA spent to a total of 75%.

The programme has not been audited yet.

2004-2005 Annual Report of the PACE Regional Office for West and Central Africa

PACE Mauritania initiated its 5th WP+CE in December 2004, committing 57.536.830 UM (approx. 178.000 EURO) funded for 39.154.165 UM (121.000 EURO) by the EDF and for 18.382.665 UM (567.000 EURO) by the Mauritanian government.

Overall programme implementation remains satisfactory, although the reporting rate could be improved.

In May 2004, the country regained its statute of disease free country for rinderpest after the veterinary services ensured a good management of the crisis created by the discovery of two sero-positive samples for RP in warthog. The sero-surveillance for rinderpest (infection) is well underway and

The Livestock Department is now entirely independent from the former Agriculture and Livestock Department. The Department has moved to new premises and a new flow chart is gradually implemented. A further recruitment of at least 10 veterinary staff is scheduled for 2005.

The bill on animal husbandry (*Code de l'Elevage*) has been approved and is to a large extent in line with international standards as promoted by the OIE.

The PID software has been installed and staff trained. However, the REMEMA central unit has chosen not to use the PID ARIS software and to continue working with their in-house Access-based software package. Nevertheless, the Livestock Department itself has shown a keen interest in using PID ARIS for their own data-management; thus the software package has been installed at the Animal Health Service in March 2005. Several officers of the Department have been trained on the use of this software.

Other issues which deserve more attention are the visibility of the Livestock Department and of the donor (EC), the impact-measurement of communication (radio mostly) on target audiences and compliance with the recommendations of the Dakar – workshop on Rift Valley Fever (January 2004). Reporting to PACE, AU-IBAR and OIE deserves to be increased. It is also regrettable that PACE Mauritania has not been present at the Arusha and Yaounde PACE Annual Coordination Meetings.

The main organizer of the ESS and officer in charge of the data base was recently appointed Director of the CNERV (National Livestock and Veterinary Research Centre). Adjustments in order to guarantee a continuation of the activities are awaited.

The country was visited during the month of March 2005 by the consultant recruited within the framework of the missions short term of the GTZ for a study intended to assess the financing of the epidemiological surveillance systems set up with the support of the PACE and the prospects for their sustainability through the national resources in particular the governmental budgets. Two other countries will be included in this study in April 2005: Benin and Ghana.

The programme has not been audited yet.

PACE Niger started its 5th WP+CE in December 2004, with a commitment of 91.423.620 FCFA (139.374 EURO) financed for 52.783.620 FCFA (80.468 EURO) by the EDF and 38.640.000 FCFA (58.906 EURO) by the government.

A mission of the PACE Regional Coordination conducted an evaluation of the of the national component in March 2005.

The general surveillance of animal diseases is carried out by the services of the Ministry of Animal Resources through the Regional and District Departments for Animal Resources which ensure the supervision of the field agents. For the surveillance of rinderpest, a specific network of 32 surveillance check points is set up, mainly along the east-west axis covering the transhumance and livestock areas. The network is not well coached and managed.

The reporting rate by the surveillance agents has dropped considerably compared to the two last years (199 reports out of 384 expected for 2004 against 345 reports in 2002 and 2003). The wildlife network whose activities were almost in parallel with those of the cattle network is now better integrated. In spite of a misunderstanding between PACE and ECOPAS, the network nevertheless managed to gather a minimal number of 6 sera in 2004 and this number will certainly be improved with the strengthening of collaboration with traditional hunters. The serological surveillance campaigns in cattle (year 1 and year 2 of the OIE pathway) were entirely carried out between 2003 and 2004. On the whole, 4.027 sera were analysed for the 1st campaign. For the second, 4.157 sera were sampled, but analysis was not possible yet, for lack of an ELISA diagnosis kit. No sampling was carried out on small ruminants, nor in risk areas.

CBPP is on the rise in the country. It prevails in various parts of the country and particularly the areas

At the level of the Animal Health Department (DSA), the 'classic' reporting system of based on reporting from the veterinary posts and from the DPRA and DRRRA leads to regular reporting of the sanitary situation to OIE and IBAR. However, PID software, installed since the beginning of 2004 at the central coordination unit (epidemiology unit), is not readily used yet.

The central veterinary laboratory located in Niamey carries out the diagnosis of animal diseases, in particular serologic investigations within the framework of the surveillance for rinderpest, and produces vaccines (against CBPP, PPR, anthrax, black-quarter and pasteurellosis - HS).

The current organization of the DSA and the human, material and financial means on which it relies are in no way adequate to meet the tasks it is supposed to fulfil. Moreover, this Department does not exert a direct authority over the field agents in charge of surveillance of animal diseases since these are governed by the Regional Departments for Animal Resources.

The performances of the programme are strongly weakened by the lack of coaching and the weakness of the communication between the various actors implied in the implementation of PACE.

An organisational and financial audit of the national component PACE Niger was carried out at the end of WP-4.

During the extension period, the national component PACE Niger has been working on the following activities:

Nigeria started its first work plan and cost estimate for the extension period, as scheduled in November 2004 but the funds are not available yet. The government envisaged a counterpart-contribution to the financing of the PACE but the mobilization of these funds too is awaited.

Following the change of national coordinator, several changes in staff took place at the level of the various states. Henceforth, the activity of the agents and the executives is followed continuously thanks to the analysis of the monthly reports sent over the internet. Moreover, evaluation missions are carried out regularly in the field. In general, 5 training sessions made it possible to train 170 field agents covering the whole of the national territory. Three laboratories were equipped to carry out the analyses but only one functions for the moment (*Jos*), the two others await the arrival of the analysis kits of to start operations. All the laboratory agents were trained on quality-control and the implementation of ELISA-based analyses. The surveillance network functions and several hundreds of suspicions were carried out with samples being taken away to the laboratory. The various veterinary officers in charge of the various states followed a training with regard to the OIE procedures, following which the clinical monitoring campaign for cattle plague was carried out in August 2004 according to the rules adopted by OIE. A dossier requesting the recognition of the disease-free status of the country for rinderpest was sent to OIE. A data-processing network using the ARIS software was installed throughout the country. The whole of the officers in charge were trained on the use of the new software. The totality of the data relating to the infrastructures, the veterinary surgeons and the medical data is now entered regularly on computer and sent to Abuja by internet. To increase the system's effectiveness, forms were created for the states and the slaughter-houses in order to allow a direct data entry of the data on computer.

With regard to wildlife, following the training of national parks' rangers conducted in the previous years, new training-sessions will be developed this year for the rangers.

The bill of law on the regularization of the veterinary practice has been finalized was submitted to the government for final clearance. A project of decree on the registration of the veterinary establishments by the governments of the States was also elaborated. A new committee was created to update the existing bills of law on diseases control, the control of veterinary drugs etc. This committee already met twice. Discussions were engaged with the Deans of the Faculties of Veterinary Medicine for the review of the training schemes for veterinary surgeons. A program has already been suggested and accepted by the Veterinary Council of Nigeria (VCN). An agreement was established in July 2004 with the Agricultural Development Bank on the implementation of a credit system for private veterinary surgeons. Taking into account the delay in obtaining the funds the activity did not start yet. Meetings were organized with the various participants to inform them of the procedures they have to follow to be able to benefit from these funds.

play in epidemiological surveillance. A data base containing data on all private veterinary practices/surgeons in the country was compiled.

Seven news letters of PACE Nigeria were already published and distributed in more than 5000 copies throughout the country. Posters, intended to sensitise the stockholders on the notifiable diseases were designed and distributed to the veterinary surgeons, the ministries and the veterinary pharmacies. Radio broadcasts were aired from three major radio stations based in Ibadan, Enugu and Calabar.

PACE Senegal's national component did not start its phase of extension yet. The implementation of the programme has been hampered after the resignation of the national programme coordinator in September 2004. The replacement appointed by the administration and proposed to the ECD did not receive the approval of the latter. This situation continued until the end of February 2005 when the ECD finally chose to approve the appointment. Consequently, during this period, funds were not mobilized although a rider was already signed to extend the period of validity of the completed WP-4 (October 31 2004) for another three months. At present, the process of redrafting and approval of WP+CE n° 5 has been re-launched for an estimated start on April 1, 2005.

Fortunately, this situation did not influence the activities of the epidemiological surveillance network too much since its main actors (field personnel and central coordination unit) belong to the Livestock Department.

Senegal is regarded by OIE as disease free from rinderpest since May 2003 and the country continued to implement the OIE procedure for the recognition of infection free country for rinderpest. The emergency preparedness plan for rinderpest has been revised and updated. A dossier was submitted to OIE, which was given a favourable recommendation by the OIE Scientific Commission in January 2005. The Commission recommended its approval by the OIE International Committee of the which will meet in May 2005.

With regard to other priority animal diseases, and RVF in particular, little or no advance has been made since the Dakar workshop.

In the course of the month of May 2004, two staff members of the SNSE have been trained in the use of the *PACE Integrated Database*. The software has been customised in order to take into account the specificities of Senegal (organisation of the national territory, flowchart of the ministry in charge of livestock, etc...).

Since 2003, the government contributes to the PACE funding by allocating funds within the framework of its investment budget. For the upcoming WP+CE a contribution of 155 million FCFA or 236.000 Euro are earmarked.

The programme has not been audited yet.

The WP of the 1st year of extension of PACE Togo (corresponding to the WP4) is not financed yet. Although finalized since mid-November 2004, the procedure of engagement of the WP and mobilization of funds was delayed owing to the fact that the ECD of Togo had to refer to that of Ghana of which it is attached administratively since November 2004. The extension WP was finally signed with effect from November 1 but the funds are not yet mobilised. The total budget of the WP4 is of 151.946.756 FCFA (231.641 Euro) including 84.401.756 FCFA (128.669 Euro) to finance by the EDF and 67.545.000 FCFA (102.972 Euro) by the Togolese government.

It should be announced that with the completion of its 3rd WP in April 2004, the PACE Togo program could not start a new WP because primarily of the difficulties occurred in the process of designation of a new national Coordinator after the resignation of the precedent (in order not to cumulate it with the post of Director of the Breeding and Fishing). It is in September 2004 that a consensus could be done

The epidemiosurveillance network (REMATO) composed of 50 observation posts (whose 30 correspond to the 30 prefectorial stations) is functional. A re-motivation of the field team (50 agents) was carried out through the contact made by the new Coordinator accompanied by the Chiefs of the Communication and Epidemiological surveillance sections. In same optics a recycling course of the observation posts agents was organized from 19 to October 21, 2004.

Recognized free from Rinderpest disease since May 2003, the country regularly led its serologic investigations. The equipment of the veterinary laboratory of Lome was completed with the acquisition in April 2004 of a new reader ELISA, a Rinderpest diagnosis kit and of a desktop computer. A mission of the expert in laboratory of the PACE in October 2004 helped with the analysis of the 4222 serums collected. The country submitted to OIE its dossier for obtaining the status of country free from Rinderpest infection; in January 2005, the Scientific Commission of OIE examined this request favourably and recommended its approval by the International Committee of OIE in May 2005.

The software PID/ARIS is installed and the users trained but its exploitation is still weak.

The 26 veterinarians installed into private practice and forming the rural veterinarians Group continue their activities but their integration in the REMATO is not yet effective. A decree related to the sanitary mandate is in the course of validation but the mandate of vaccination is somehow applied in the field. The law creating the National Order of the veterinary surgeons was voted in August 2004, which allowed a separation with the doctors and dentists previously gathered until there in the same Order. The steps aiming at constituting guarantee funds to help with the financing of the private veterinary surgeons progressed. The BTCI (Banque Togolaise de Commerce et d'Industrie or Togolese Bank of Trade and Industry) agreed to place the guarantee funds. A protocol of agreement on the methods of management of this fund (30.000.000 FCFA) is already worked out and submitted to the ECD for approval.

The communication section remains very weak and no zoosanitary bulletin is still published.

The program was the subject of one accounting and organisational audit in May 2003.

CENTRAL AFRICA

REMOBILISATION ET RESTRUCTURATION DE LA SURVEILLANCE EPIDEMIOLOGIQUE

Cameroon started its extension phase Work Plan in November 2004. The total budget is 632.660.000 Fcfa (964.484 Euro) financed for 382.660.000 Fcfa (583.361 Euro) by the EDF and 250.000.000 Fcfa (381.123 Euro) by the government.

This WP corresponds in fact to the second year of the PACE implementation. It should be recalled that this country is the last to mobilize the PACE financing which intervened only in December 2003. Nevertheless, the execution of the 1st Work Plan until the end of October 2004 allowed the acquisition of the vehicles and the equipments, and the start of the activities related to the epidemiological surveillance. Two missions of the PACE Epidemiology Unit were carried out to help with the structuring of the network and trainings were organized for the agents of the 20 epidemiosurveillance stations. These agents are supervised in the field by the 10 chiefs of regional units which are in fact the chiefs of the provincial services of the veterinary services.

The chiefs of the regional units and the agents of the observation posts were trained in September and October 2004 at Garoua. Four agents of the LANAVET (Veterinary National Laboratory) were implied in the delivery of this training session. At the same time was carried out the distribution of the motor bikes towards the observation posts, of the cold chain material and the forms for the field epidemiologic investigations. Following this training and the equipment delivery to the agents, the work of the epidemiosurveillance network in Cameroon starts to be operational.

The country has already, through the technical services of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries, a rather dense system of supervision and support service to livestock owners and

Rinderpest is not declared any more since 1986 and vaccinations against this disease ceased in 1999. The country declared itself temporarily free from Rinderpest but did not follow the procedure completely to be recognized free from Rinderpest disease. This work started with the mobilization of PACE funds.

The presence of several parks and reserves of fauna justifies the installation of a specific unit in charge of the fauna surveillance based at Garoua, in the north of the country.

The PID Software is installed but doesn't benefit yet from a regular exploitation.

Between November and December 2004, the PACE Cameroon has been the focus of a monitoring mission of the European Commission.

OPERATIONAL PHASES OF THE PACE CENTRAL AFRICA REPUBLIC

The WP year 1 of the extension phase of PACE Central Africa Republic (corresponding to the WP5) was signed by the local ECD on December 31, 2004 and the national coordination has mobilized funds by the end of February 2005.

The mobilization of this financing is a true relief for the national component PACE Central Africa Republic which, since the end of the 3rd WP in April 2004, received funds to function only during the period August to October 2004 within the framework of a temporary WP (WP4) that the ECD approved on July 31, 2004. The WP4 not having been prepared within the necessary times, had not been consolidated at the regional level and the amendment worked out to prolong this WP4 was never approved by the ECD because tardily submitted.

In spite of this situation, PACE CAR contributed to the creation of an epidemiological surveillance network of the animal diseases composed of 42 administrative agents (out of 110) + 37 relay agents formed relatively well but whose means of operation are very limited. Nevertheless, this network can rely on the stockbreeders organized in Groups of Pastoral Interests (200 GIPs) with the support of the FNEC (Fédération Nationale des Eleveurs Centrafricains or National Federation of the Central African Stockbreeders). Between August and October 2004, support missions of the central unit to the areas were carried out. During the year 2004, 126 management/activity reports (out of 222 awaited) were recorded coming from the 4 areas of the country (Western, Centre, North and East) that is to say a % of realization of 57%. Vaccination against Rinderpest is stopped on all the national territory since December 2003 and the country is committed to follow the OIE pathway for recognition of freedom from Rinderpest disease.

Since its plundering occurred with the events of March 2003, the veterinary central laboratory of Bangui (LACEVET) is not able any more to carry out analyses. The 4th WP allowed the purchase and fixing of scum rods to all the windows of the ANDE (Agence Nationale de Développement de l'Élevage) offices and in particular of the laboratory as well as of regional offices and laboratories. The safety conditions are now available so that the rider planned for the 5th WP to ensure the purchase of laboratory material can be carried out as of now.

The first phase of serosurveillance started in the western area in October 2004 and forecasts the collection of 3.000 samples. But this operation is somehow disturbed by the insecurity in certain areas (road bandits) and the departures in transhumance.

On the level of the monitoring of wild fauna, an important event was the mortalities observed on hippopotamuses and buffaloes in May 2004 in the northern area in the National park of Manovo Gounda-Saint-Flower (Bamingui). An ECOFAC-PACE joint mission carried out thanks to the logistic support of the ECOFAC and of the Pasteur Institute of Bangui made it possible to collect information from the inhabitants, groupings of fishermen and especially to carry out samples of blood and bodies. Suspect water was also taken. The former PACE epidemiologist of wild fauna who was on mission in Chad also went on the spot. The conclusion of these two investigations was that no sign, which can be related to Rinderpest, was observed. Suspicion was rather oriented towards the bacterial diseases or a poisoning of water by insecticides. Nevertheless, samples were dispatched to CIRAD-Emvt for

Guinea during the 9th PACE Advisory Committee Meeting held in April 2004 in Nairobi; this one recommended the continuation of the program with a minimal financing to make possible that the country follows the OIE pathway in order to be declared free from Rinderpest.

In December 2004, a PACE regional Coordination mission went to Gabon to discuss with the local ECD the situation of the Equatorial Guinea. A gentlemen's agreement was reached for a revival of the program provided that changes in management are made:

- Installation of a joint administration of the EDF imprest by the PACE National Coordinator and by the services of the National Authorizing Officer of the EDF in Equatorial Guinea.
- Revision of the logical frame in order to target the appliance of the OIE pathway, so that the country is recognized free from Rinderpest.
- More regular follow-up of the program execution by the PACE Regional Technical Assistant based in Yaounde (Cameroon) and in charge of 5 countries of Central Africa.
- Finalization by the financial services of the ECD Gabon of the WP1 expenditure accounting operations.

Following this mission, the Director of the AU-IBAR, PACE Regional Authorizing Officer, informed by letter dated December 23, 2004 the National Authorizing Officer of the EDF in Equatorial Guinea on the requested changes. The latter accepted it in a letter reached on February 18, 2005. In the beginning of March 2005, the Regional Technical Assistant and the epidemiologist of Bamako went to Equatorial Guinea to help with the preparation of the year 1 extension Work Plan.

The national component of the PACE DRC started its year 1 extension phase Work Plan (or 3rd WP) in January 2004 with a budget of 459.653 Euro. The 2nd WP initially fixed from November 1, 2003 to October 31, 2004 was prolonged two months until December 31, 2004.

In spite of a late starting, the program was launched with two years and half of delay, the national coordination could set up an epidemiosurveillance network in 5 provinces of the South, Centre and West of the country (Bas Congo, Bandundu, Kasai Occidental, Kasai Oriental and Katanga), with 14 mobile agents, 13 slaughter-house inspectors of and at least 30 wildlife surveillance agent.

The network benefits from a good animation thanks to its dynamic central unit. A data base under ACCESS was used before the PID installation in July 2004. The performance indicators are already introduced to evaluate the network operation.

The country started to follow the OIE procedure by declaring the Western and Center part of its territory temporarily free from Rinderpest.

After the buffaloes capture operation carried out in the park of Garamba and which allowed the collection of 36 samples tested negative to Rinderpest, no more activities were done concerning wild fauna apart from the clinical monitoring pursued in the parks of Garamba, Virunga, Upemba and Kundelungu.

The country has a veterinary laboratory whose capacities are limited by the outdated equipment.

One 2nd edition of the training manual for the agents of the national epidemiosurveillance network was published. Two issues of the RENES-INFOS have been published.

The security situation in the country knew some improvements which make possible to consider an extension of the epidemiosurveillance activities in the Eastern part of the country. Two missions were already carried out by the National Coordinator and the Regional Technical Assistant to identify the actions to be developed in the field.

The development of the texts proposals relating to the Order of the Veterinary surgeons, the Code of ethics, the sanitary Mandate was pursued. The document concerning the creation of the Order is finalized and transmitted to the authorities for approval.

Chad finalised its 3rd WP on October 31st 2004. The EC Delegation (ECD) in the Country decided to wait for the closure of WP1 and WP2 before entering into the extension phase. All financial statements relevant to WP1 and WP2 have been sent to the NAO and the ECD for closure. WP is already closed, while for WP2 the recovery order is in progress, following the approval of the last financial statement. Regarding WP3, all commitments have been paid, financial statements introduced and under the approval of the ECD.

It has to be mentioned that from November 1st 2003 till October 31st 2004 the Resident Technical Assistant has carried out the coordination of the project in collaboration with a national homologue. After the departure of the Technical Assistant at the end of October 2004, coordination responsibilities were handed over to the Head of the Animal Health Division, who was the former national homologue. A Technical Assistant contracted by the French Cooperation, who is at the same time the advisor of the Director of Veterinary Services, supports him.

Even if EC funds are temporarily frozen, some activities referred to the OIE pathway on rinderpest still go on under national funds. The results of the sero-surveillance campaign against rinderpest are not yet available.

The global plan as well as the WP&CE for the first year of extension have been drafted, discussed, amended and are ready for introduction in the approval circuit.

Eastern Africa

Burundi

PACE Burundi officially closed WP1 and WP2. The NAO and the EC Delegation (ECD) have approved the documents for the extension phase. The WP for the first year of the extension is due to start by the end of March 2005.

Beyond a technical point of view the project is facing some major constraints due to the difficult socio-economic situation. The epidemio-surveillance system is weakened by the administrative dualism among the two General Directorate responsible for the field services. Moreover, the permeability of borders with neighbouring countries represents an additional risk to the introduction and/or re-introduction of livestock infectious diseases.

Burundi is slowly progressing on the OIE rinderpest pathway. No clinical cases have been reported since 1934, while vaccination stopped in 1994. Taking into consideration these assumptions, the Country could directly apply for the Status "Country free from rinderpest – infection" on an historical basis. The sero-surveillance campaign started only in 2 districts; the veterinary laboratory is not able to analyse the sample taken for rinderpest that will be sent to regional reference laboratory of Muguga. The emergency plan for rinderpest outbreaks has been drafted and sent to the PACE epidemiology unit for comments.

Following the devolution process of the EC Delegations (ECD), all management and financial control activities regarding PACE Djibouti are centralised at the ECD Ethiopia. The above process encompasses a certain delay in analysing and approving both financial and technical dossiers, which are sent by PACE Djibouti through the Regional Office of EC in Djibouti.

PACE Djibouti is virtually stopped since May 1st 2004 as the rider extending the WP3 till October 31st 2004 has not been approved by the ECD Ethiopia, even if PACE Djibouti and the EC Regional Office sent the relevant document in due time. WP1, WP2 and WP3 are not closed, and then the balance is

have been commented and amended by the PCU, but that cannot be signed due to the delay in closing the former WP.

Rinderpest is not reported in the Country for the last 20 years; Djibouti did not vaccinate since 1995. However, the Country is not progressing on the OIE pathway in spite of the favourable situation that could allow the issuing of the status "free from rinderpest – disease" on an historic basis. Djibouti declared itself provisionally free from the disease. Both the emergency plan and the application document for rinderpest are under preparation.

Thanks to the PACE Programme, Djibouti became member of the OIE. Monthly zoo-sanitary reports are not regularly issued and sent to the relevant technical authorities. PID/ARIS is not installed, its installation is foreseen during the first year of extension.

The epidemio-surveillance network was set-up, its technical agents trained. A veterinary laboratory was also set up, two lab technicians trained overseas and a senior external laboratory expert recruited through ADB funds for the starting up of diagnostic activities.

Eritrea

The Pace project is running smoothly in the Country. WP1 was closed in February 2005; WP2 and WP3 are due to be closed in March 2005. WP4 was extended till April 30th 2005 in order to allow the closure of former WP. The documents for the extension period are drafted and commented.

The epidemio-surveillance network is established and is working. Information on animal health is efficiently and timely collected and circulated between the field and the central services. The Country is drafting a veterinary privatisation policy. Eritrea sends regularly the monthly zoo-sanitary reports to the relevant authorities.

The Country got the status "free from rinderpest – disease" in 2004. By the end of 2004 the Country applied for the status "free from rinderpest – infection". The application received a favourable advice from the OIE scientific commission and will be recognised free from infection during the forthcoming OIE session in May 2005.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia has started on November 01, 2003 its 4th WP & CE. Mobilisation of funds from the WP & CE year 3 has been considerably delayed due to the delays in closure of previous WP. At present, WP n° 1 and 2 are closed and the remaining funds were de-committed.

The country has an operational ESS. An application for recognition of country free from Rinderpest on a zonal basis is being prepared.

A comprehensive document for rationalizing veterinary service delivery (authorisation of private veterinarians to carry out clinical acts and integration of these vets into disease surveillance = sanitary mandate) including drafts for necessary regulatory measures was presented in May 2003, but has not received any positive reaction.

A guideline for the training of CBAHW was compiled and accepted by the majority of organisations training CBAHW (NGO, governmental services). Training of trainers was carried out and these trainers were certified. CBAHW trained by these trainers will consequently be certified as well

Investments such as the acquisition of vehicles (scheduled since WP n° 1) have still not been materialised, a recent tender only received two valid offers which were however far above the earmarked budget

PACE Ethiopia is suffering from the departure of its senior staff (Rinderpest epidemiology, planning and economics, emergency preparedness and communication). Candidates had been interviewed however it is doubtful if they can fully assume their tasks before the end of the scheduled project life (Oct 31, 2004)

PACE Kenya has initiated its 3rd WP & CE in November 2003 and funds were made available as from January 2004. Kenya's second year funding was delayed by 6 months; furthermore the vehicles and motorbikes are still not procured, in year 1 due to the objections made to tender dossier, in year 2 because of lengthy tender procedures.

Kenya's epidemio-surveillance is working very well (12 teams trained and working in the field using PE & PDS methods for detection of RP). The EPP is close to acceptance by PEU (CSU).

Kenya carried out a socio-economic impact study on CBPP in slaughterhouses and with livestock owners in ASAL areas. Kenya has developed a CBPP control strategy with re-zonation of the country.

Kenya's communication unit has produced a flip chart guide for disease control education of semi-literate audience, a brochure on diagnostic of CBPP in English and Swahili. It has carried out a knowledge, attitude and practise study in 6 districts in the ASAL areas of Kenya and the information gained is used for message -, poster and radio programmes development in year 3 (now). In year 1 12 vernacular radio programmes for livestock owners have been produced and aired. Several stakeholder workshops have been held to get feed-back on message delivery from the field.

Under the privatisation thrust stakeholder awareness workshops have been held in each year, in year 3 already 2 where private veterinarians, private animal health service providers, CBAHWs, AHAs, agrovets, NGOs, trader associations and breeder associations have been invited to bring everybody on board esp. in the forth coming RP vaccinations. Village Disease control committees have been formed or re-activated to assist in livestock movement control and infrastructure rehabilitation (treatment crushes, holding areas at markets).

In November and December the department of veterinary services has vaccinated 141,000 cattle in the RP outbreak area at the Somalia border.

PACE-Kenya has carried-out wildlife disease surveillance in Meru-National Park (2001, 2002 and 2003), in Tsava National Park (2003), the project has a memorandum of understanding with the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS), where funds for surveillance are budgeted for in each of the 3 years. Work is carried out in conjunction with the Regional Wildlife Epidemiologist.

PACE-Kenya does its own serology for RP (c-ELISA) and for CBPP at Kabete Vetlabs and has established a serum data bank

PACE-Kenya has a MoU with the Kenya Veterinary Board (KVB) on legal review of veterinary legislation and with the Kenya Veterinary Association Privatisation Scheme (KVAPS) on privatisation issues like business skills training for private vets and establishing of ""model viable veterinary practice units in ASAL areas, for both bodies funds are budgeted for in year 2 AWP and for KVAPS in year 3.

PID is installed and is functioning very well. To improve the performance of the PID PACE-Kenya has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Central Bureau of Statistics to digitalize the whole country up to sub-location level, work started in year 2 and continues in year 3.

PACE-Kenya holds regular technical coordination meetings with PACE-Somalia, either bilateral or with participation of PACE PCU PEU.



The country has been implementing its 3rd WP & CE since the month of May 2003. A EU monitoring report dated November 2003 has concluded that PACE Uganda has been making satisfactory progress. The animal disease surveillance system has been significantly improved and reporting under passive surveillance (in the districts) has reached a performance score of 0.78 for 2003.

The veterinary diagnostic laboratory is currently able to conduct the tests recommended by the Rinderpest network (detection of antibodies and antigens). In addition, the diagnosis of foot-and-

The privatisation programme of the UVA (Uganda Veterinary Association) has not been a great success. Public sector veterinarians continue to carry out most veterinary care in livestock areas; besides, the Government's policy of employing a veterinarian for each sub-county administrative unit does not promote the installation of veterinarians in liberal practice.



PACE Rwanda is stopped since November 1st 2003.

WP1 was closed and the remaining funds de-committed. WP2 –that lasted 24 months, ending on October 31st 2003 is not yet closed. A further extension of WP2 till January 31st 2004 was not approved by the NAO. WP3 was approved by all parties, a commitment opened by the EC, but PACE Rwanda never asked for funds as they continued spending the funds remaining on the WP2 account. The above situation is not allowing the approval and starting of the extension phase and needs urgent clarifications.

The fact that the PACE coordination used the funds of WP2 after the official end of its duration, represents an important mismanagement according to the EC procedures. The NAO and the ECD launched an audit for identifying the actual mismanagement.

No clinical cases of rinderpest have been reported since 1932, while vaccination stopped more than 12 years ago. Taking into consideration these assumptions, the Country could directly apply for the Status "Country free from rinderpest – infection" on an historical basis. However, very little action is taken up to now on this sense. Thanks to the PACE Programme, Rwanda became member of the OIE. Monthly zoo-sanitary reports are not regularly issued and sent to the relevant technical authorities.

The structure and performance of the national epidemio-surveillance system is not well settled nor satisfactory.

Somalia

WP I and II were closed and the money left de-committed. Closure and decommitment of WP III is pending final confirmation of a related recovery by Commission Headquarters. A no cost extension of the 4th WP&CE was approved, extending the execution of the WP to the 31st of March 2005.

From the 1st April 2005 the activities will continue through a new contract signed under the 9th EDF, following a call for proposal awarded to a consortium of NGOs operating under the overall responsibility of Terra Nova NGO. The contract will last 30 months, till September 2007.

A new Government settled in October 2004, with encouraging results and promising perspectives. The success of the new Government could positively change the scenario, including livestock related activities.

At present, Somalia in the absence of a functioning national veterinary service is not in a position to make any declaration on the RP status to OIE. However, surveys recently concluded in SL and PL suggest the absence of virus circulation in these areas. This could provide a basis for declaring provisional freedom from disease on a zonal bases for Somaliland and Puntland, No final decisions can be taken on the RP status in Southern and Central Somalia until ongoing surveillance activities are completed.

All former WP were closed and the money left de-committed. A no cost addendum to the 4th WP&CE was approved, extending the execution of the WP to the 31st of March 2005. From the 1st April 2005 the activities will continue through a new contract signed under the 9th EDF, following a call for proposal awarded to a consortium of NGOs operating under the overall responsibility of Terra Nova NGO. The contract will last 30 months, till September 2007.

At present, Somalia cannot proceed on the OIE pathway for rinderpest, due to lack of confirmed data on the sero-prevalence of the disease in the territory as a whole. It is therefore suitable to take into consideration the possibility that Somaliland and Puntland declare themselves free from rinderpest disease, after thorough serological studies are carried out and results processed.

Sudan

In Sudan, the PACE programme is conducted through two sub-programmes (northern- and southern). In both areas the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) provides through the UN's Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) important support for food security, agriculture and animal health, including activities towards rinderpest eradication. Furthermore, some NGOs working in the framework of FAO-OLS Livestock Programme carry out complementary animal health activities, particularly in transitional areas.

In Southern Sudan, programme implementation is coordinated by an international NGO (VSF Belgium) and seems to progress normally. The contract signed with this NGO defined the duration of the first WP as being 24 months. This programme ended on the 31st of October 2003. A four-month extension until February 2004 has been approved.

The PACE Northern Sudan sub-project has started in February 2003 at the Department of Animal Health & Epizootic Diseases (AH&EDC) in Karthoum/Soba, Federal Ministry of Animal Resources & Fisheries (FMAR&F). The PACE programme is implemented in (23) federal states through existing governmental veterinary structures. A Project Management Unit (PMU) supports the overall project implementation and administers the EDF funds.

The Northern Sudan sub-project has made good progress during it's first year of project implementation. Effective management structures (PMU, Technical Committee, Steering Committee, task forces) and good communication channels with all relevant partners (FMAR&F, EC-Delegation, FAO-OLS, southern sub-project, AU/IBAR, etc.) have been established. Counterparts are highly dedicated to the programme.

During the first implementation year, the existing disease surveillance network has been strengthened; a DMEU was formed and supported, the PACE Integrated Database (PID) has been introduced at the AH&EDC Department to be linked-up step-wise with the epidemiology units at states level; and the Participatory Disease Search (PDS) approach will be applied country-wide through establishment of regional PDS expert teams.

The Sudan OIE self-declaration of provisional freedom of Rinderpest on a zonal basis was up-dated in August 2003, and the project is preparing in collaboration with the southern sub-project and the PEU PACE Nairobi the OIE country dossier for application of freedom of Rinderpest disease on zonal basis (deadline of submission to OIE: February 2005).

Furthermore, the project has provided equipment and logistic support for disease surveillance activities, emergency preparedness and improvement of laboratory diagnosis, and several national workshops and in-country training courses on relevant issues (CBPP control, delivery of CAH services, PID, PDS, economical impact assessment of animal diseases, etc.) were conducted. In November 2003, 21 new PACE vehicles procured by AU/IBAR for diseases surveillance activities arrived at the AH&EDC Department in Khartoum/ Soba.

PACE Tanzania has initiated it's 3rd WP & CE in November 2003 and funds have been made available as from January 2004. The country has an operational ESS. Scheduled investments have been realised. A veterinary privatisation policy is presently being implemented. Computerised data management is being installed. The veterinary councils mandate is being revised and a number of new laws have been passed.

The country is almost ready to request declaration of freedom from Rinderpest disease. Reporting is regular. CBPP control is still behind, but may improve after PACE gives new guidelines.