



Control of Epizootics PACE
Regional Coordination Unit for
West and Central Africa
P.o.box 2954 Bamako, Mali

Pan-African programme for the Control of Epizootics



Final report regional technical assistance 2003 - 2006

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gtz

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Disclaimer :

The views and opinions expressed in this Draft Report are those of the consultant and do not necessarily represent the views of the African Union, the European Commission, IBAR, the GTZ or the PACE Programme. These bodies shall not be bound by the opinions and recommendations expressed herein.

The maps presented in this report provide no more than a broad indication of the country's geographical location. They are not designed to represent detail, and they should not be considered an authority on the delimitation of boundaries.

The PACE programme is financed by the European Union



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TERMS OF REFERENCE

Long-term Regional Technical Assistance

According to the Terms of reference outlined in the tender document, the long-term technical assistants (TA) to national projects will be primarily responsible for supporting project implementation by assisting with management and financial administration. Their activities will be conducted in the context of capacity building; thus, they should create opportunities for nationals to gain experience under their supervision and should not substitute for nationals in implementation. Long-term TAs will also have an important role in monitoring and reporting. They will assist the countries to ensure that the PACE national global plan is implemented satisfactorily, making the best possible use of the resources made available and, importantly, will ensure appropriate communication flows between PACE national and the regional co-ordination units, and with the local delegation of the European Commission. The TAs will also provide specific technical expertise.

The major outputs to be ensured by the technical assistants, in conjunction with the national PACE co-ordinator in each country, will include:

1. Standardized reporting and information management systems are effectively transferred by the PACE Common Services and are adopted by National disease surveillance units by the end of 2003.
2. Laboratory diagnostics procedures and performance indicators are in place within 12 months of being agreed at PACE regional co-ordination workshops and during country visits.
3. Performance monitoring of contracts between government veterinary departments and private veterinary contractors has been established, evaluated, appropriately adapted and transferred to the government department.
4. Dossiers, which comply with international standards, are available and support the countries' applications to the OIE¹ for recognition of freedom from rinderpest infection. (These will be derived from data collected in each country following the requirements of the OIE pathway, with support and guidance from the PACE Epidemiological Unit).
5. Reporting to AU/IBAR has been established in the required formats by the end of the second year of implementation of the respective national PACE programme.
6. Project management systems (including M&E²), consistent with the EC's project cycle management-logical framework approach, have been established and transferred to nationals in each country that receives technical assistance, by the end of 2002. (The PACE Programme Co-ordination Unit will provide guidelines for project management).
7. The administration is able to prepare the annual work programmes in the required format, and in a fully participatory manner.

¹ Office International des Epizooties (renamed *World Animal Health Organisation* since 2005)

² Monitoring and Evaluation

Furthermore, terms of reference presented in the document 312 F2.3.1. from AU/IBAR (addressed to the Lead Delegation of the EC³ in Nairobi, 18.03.2003) specify that regional TA's will act as advisors to the PACE national co-ordinators and the EC Delegation in the countries and will be responsible to the monitoring and implementation of the PACE programme in the latter. They will supervise the work of the national PACE programmes and will report to the supervisor, namely the PACE programme co-ordinator.

Specifically, they will :

1. Provide appropriate technical support to national coordinators in the specific field of project management, preparation of work programmes, management of the imprest accounts, Identify priority areas in the identified countries for major support in particular advise on the efficient management of the project's EDF⁴ funds, Project management systems (including M&E), consistent with the EC's project cycle management-logical framework approach, have been established and transferred to nationals in each country that receives technical assistance, by the end of 2004. (The PACE Programme Co-ordination Unit will provide guidelines for project management).
2. Standardized reporting and information management systems are effectively transferred by the PACE Common Services and are adopted by National disease surveillance units by the end of 2004, co-ordinate and harmonize disease surveillance
3. Assist in the establishment and development of functioning national and regional epidemio-surveillance networks within the directorate of veterinary services of the countries, as well as national systems of disease surveillance, disease reporting for rinderpest and other major epizootic diseases
4. Develop, maintain and hand over to national programmes appropriate systems for the disease control, reporting, better delivery of veterinary services in the country. Facilitate and assist in follow-up of implementation of national PACE programmes, performance monitoring of contracts between government veterinary departments and private veterinary contractors has been established, evaluated, appropriately adapted and transferred to the government department.
5. Assist in drafting national, regional economical sound major epizootics diseases control including CBPP⁵, ASF⁶, RVF⁷.
6. Provide immediate advise and assistance to countries in the framework of the PACE programme, particularly in developing a system for livestock movement control based on stock movement permits
7. Provide accurate and appropriate information to the PACE regional coordinator in Bamako and the PEU⁸ in Nairobi and develop links with epidemiological and related animal health components in other projects and with regional and international bodies
8. Assist in the preparation of quarterly, annual, mission and other reports in the PACE programme's approved format (all reports shall be submitted to the PACE Coordination Unit)
9. Write scientific papers, as appropriate to be published through the PACE Programme coordinator and the AU-IBAR

³ European Commission

⁴ European Development Fund

⁵ Contagious Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia

⁶ African Swine Fever

⁷ Rift Valley Fever

⁸ PACE Epidemiology Unit

INTRODUCTION

The regional technical assistant (RTA) for the West African Sahelian countries now covers a cluster of 10 countries : **Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. The Gambia** was added to the list as from April 1st, 2004. **Congo, DRC and Nigeria** were added on November 1st, 2004. He was part of an initial team of three regional technical assistants that covered West and Central Africa, except for Chad, where a national TA had been appointed.

Name	Contract	Contract	Duty Station
Dr. Patrick Bastiaensen	RTA	GTZ-IS	Bamako
Dr. Nicolas Denormandie	RTA	SATEC-Dev.	Bamako
Dr. Hanns-Achim Krebs	RTA	GTZ-IS	Yaoundé
Dr. Andrea Massarelli	TA	GTZ-IS	N'Djaména

As from November 1st, 2004, this same area has been covered by the two remaining regional technical assistants :

Name	Contract	Contract	Duty Station
Dr. Patrick Bastiaensen	RTA	GTZ-IS	Bamako
Dr. Nicolas Denormandie	RTA	SATEC-Dev.	Bamako

The RTA covers an area encompassing 7 million km², a human population of almost 240 million and an estimated 40 million heads of cattle and 130 million small ruminants. The primary development, geographic, demographic, economic and livestock related indicators are presented on the next page. Except for Guinea-Bissau (Portuguese speaking), The Gambia and Nigeria (English-speaking), all countries are (officially) French - speaking.

The RTA is based at the PACE Regional Coordination Unit in Sotuba (Bamako) in Mali from where **438** days (chargeable nights) of country visits have been conducted (including in-country visits in Mali) between June 2003 and October 2006. The RTA's contract was initiated on May 30th, 2003 and ended on October 31st, 2006 (41 man-months)

Over this 41-months period, the RTA has visited every of the ten countries at least twice, most often four or five times, with a maximum of eight (8). The executive summaries of the mission reports are presented at the end of this final report and illustrate the variability of progress made in these countries.

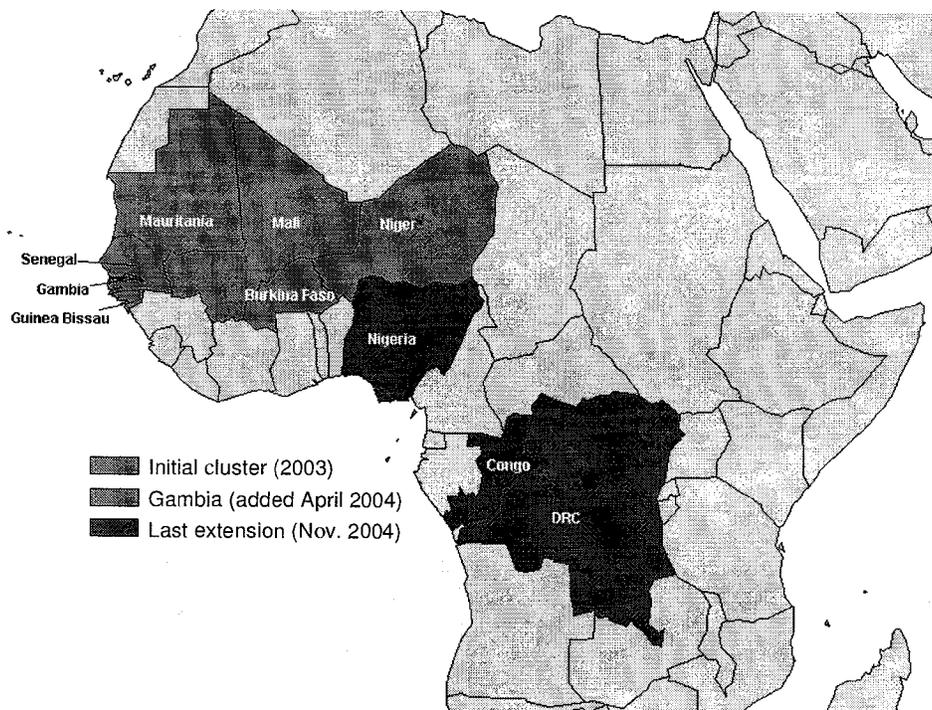


Overseeing cattle crossing the Bani river in Sofara (Mali), 2004

As from 2004 onwards, other countries –outside the geographical area initially scheduled– were conducted by specific request of the Regional Co-ordinator, e.g. Ghana in 2005. On every occasion, prior approval was requested from the GTZ-IS coordination office in Nairobi.

As from 2006 onwards, priorities have shifted towards the preparedness of countries against highly pathogenic avian influenza (commonly referred to as bird flu) and emergency assistance to countries affected by this epizootic (Nigeria first, later on Niger and Burkina Faso).

In parallel, the environment in which the TA conducted his work, has shifted from a rather narrow project-based (PACE-IBAR) approach to a broader inter-agency working environment, with the setup of a *technical platform* to harmonize interventions with regard to highly pathogenic avian influenza (including FAO and OIE), later institutionalized as a *Regional Center for Animal Health* (including donors such as the AfDB and the World Bank-managed Alive platform) for West and Central Africa (June 2006). This has led the RTA to interact with much more technical staff than ever before, while increasingly being asked to perform regional coordination tasks, rather than country-based interventions.



Key to the following tables :

(*) Purchasing Power Parity (World Bank) in USD per annum

(**) UNDP¹¹ : total number of countries listed = 177.

Source : FAO¹² (FAO STAT 2005)

Source : UNDP Human Development Report 2005

Source	FAO	FAO	FAO	FAO	FAO	FAO
Country	Human population (,000)	Area (km2)	Pop. density (n/km2)	Number cattle	Number sheep	Number goats
Burkina Faso	11 856,00	274 000,00	43,27	8 010 158,00	7 009 407,00	10 708 992,00
Congo (DRC)	60 000,00	2 344 000,00	25,60	756 940,00	899 570,00	4 021 920,00
Congo (Rep.)	2 600,00	342 000,00	7,60	115 000,00	99 000,00	295 000,00
Gambia (the)	1 300,00	11 000,00	118,18	330 000,00	148 000,00	270 000,00
Guinea Bissau	1 227,00	36 120,00	33,97	530 000,00	300 000,00	335 000,00
Mali	11 677,00	1 240 190,00	9,42	7 700 000,00	8 370 000,00	12 050 000,00
Mauritania	2 747,00	1 025 520,00	2,68	1 600 000,00	8 850 000,00	5 600 000,00
Niger	11 227,00	1 267 000,00	8,86	2 260 000,00	4 500 000,00	6 900 000,00
Nigeria	127 000,00	924 000,00	137,45	15 200 000,00	23 000 000,00	28 000 000,00
Senegal	9 662,00	196 720,00	49,12	3 070 000,00	4 872 000,00	4 105 000,00
Total	239 296,00	7 660 550,00	31,24	39 572 098,00	58 047 977,00	72 285 912,00

Source	FAO	FAO	FAO	UNDP	UNDP
Country	Number camelids	Number pigs	Poultry numbers	GDP par capita (corrected) *	Human Development Index **
Burkina Faso	15 263,00	2 283 658,00	25 739 000,00	1 174,00	175
Congo (DRC)		959 080,00	19 769 000,00	697,00	167
Congo (Rep.)		46 500,00	2 400 000,00	995,00	142
Gambia (the)		19 000,00	650 000,00	1 859,00	155
Guinea Bissau		370 000,00	1 600 000,00	711,00	172
Mali	472 000,00	68 000,00	31 000 000,00	994,00	174
Mauritania	13 000 000,00		4 200 000,00	1 766,00	152
Niger	420 000,00	39 500,00	25 000 000,00	835,00	177
Nigeria	18 000,00	6 650 000,00	140 000 000,00	1 050,00	158
Senegal	4 100,00	306 000,00	26 959 000,00	1 648,00	157
Total	13 929 363,00	10 741 738,00	277 317 000,00		

¹¹ United Nations Development Programme

¹² Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

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MAIN TASKS PERFORMED 2003-2006

Mobilisation

The TA left for his duty station on Friday, May 30th 2003 and arrived at his duty station on Saturday, May 31st 2003. He took office on Monday, June 2nd, 2003 at 7.30 am.

Due to travel arrangements related to his former country of residence and his former employer, the TA was allowed to take up 2 weeks of leave as from Saturday, June 6th and joined the PACE annual coordination meeting in Arusha (Tanzania) on Monday, June 23rd (travelling from Cape Town to Nairobi on Saturday, June 21st and from Nairobi to Arusha on Sunday, June 22nd). The TA attended the PACE annual coordination meeting in Arusha and thereafter left for Bamako (via Nairobi). He retook office on Tuesday, July 1st 2003.

Inception phase

office

On arrival, the TA has been assigned an office within the Regional Coordination Unit in Bamako. This office was equipped with basic office furniture.

The personal laptop computer of the RTA has been linked to the LAN¹³ of the regional coordination unit within days and the TA was attributed a personal e-mail address : patrick.bastiaensen@pacereg.org



The PACE Regional Coordination in Sotuba (Bamako), Mali. July 2003

¹³ Local area network

A satellite phone (Hughes) and subscription (Thuraya) were received on June 24th, 2003 and were handed in at the GTZ office in Nairobi on October 28th, 2006

In an early stage, the RTA acquired the necessary office equipment, using the office running cost budget allocated to him; were subsequently purchased :

Split air-conditioner 1,5 HP
Laptop Computer Pentium IV 40 Gb HDD¹⁴
Uninterrupted Power Supply
Inkjet printer (colour)
Office phone
Scanner
Water heater
External back-up hard disk 40 Gb HDD

The inconvenience of not having direct access to an external telephone line (only through the switchboard at the secretariat) was solved as from May 2004. All TA's then had direct access to an external telephone line. Entering calls continued to be centralised at the main switchboard (PACE secretariat).

red tape As far as red tape is concerned, the TA was issued a one-year visa within five days of his arrival. Several renewals were granted on several consecutive ordinary passports without a problem. As from 2004, the TA was also issued a German service passport. This passport was renewed once. To the present knowledge of the TA, no other legal requirements have been made to make his stay and his work in Mali possible

transport The TA's transport, a Land Rover Discovery Td5, was received on June 5th, 2003. Until that date, both regional TA's made use of one rented GTZ office vehicle with driver.

Operational phase

mali As far as living and working conditions are concerned, the capital Bamako (and Mali in general) offered all the necessary conditions and services to render the stay of expatriate TA's a pleasant one. Both housing and cost of living are affordable and Bamako, despite it's chaotic and over-crowded appearance, has an excellent security record. Violent (armed) crime is virtually non-existent. The situation north of Timbuktu and Gao is less secure, due to armed salafist militia and gangs who live in the no-mans land between Algeria, Mauritania, Mali and Niger.

Since there is little or no cattle north of the 20° north latitude, there has been hardly any reason for PACE personnel to visit these areas. The northern-most veterinary check point is Kidal, 350 km north of Gao and still reasonably secure.

other The other countries covered by the RTA were in general terms secure, despite the occasional political unrest (e.g. Mauritania and Guinea Bissau) but which never seriously affected the work of the RTA.

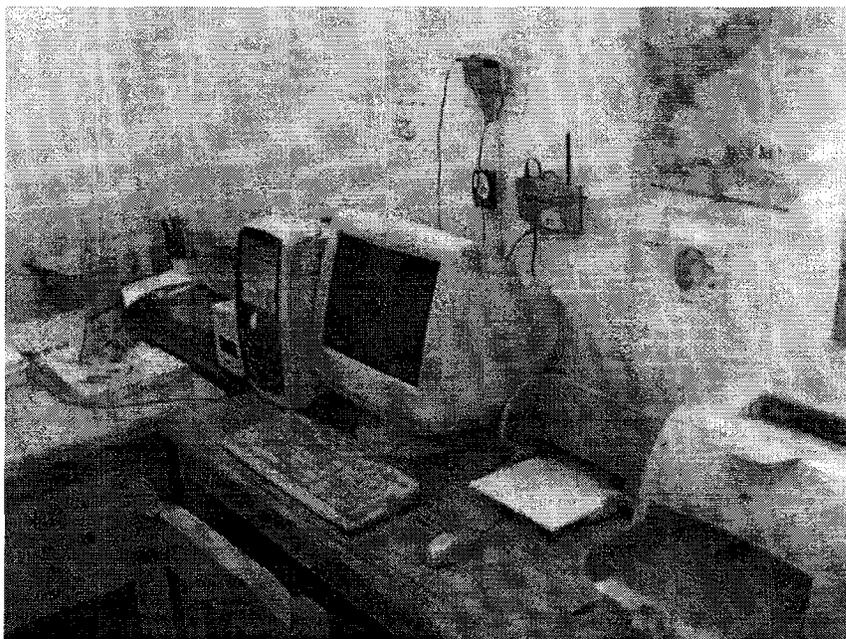
The security-status of countries visited since 2004, in particular DRC (Kinshasa) and Nigeria (Abuja) is more problematic, but since these missions have been conducted

¹⁴ Hard Disk Drive

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exclusively in the two capitals, the necessary precautions were taken by the host-PACE NPC. Both Nigeria and DRC are qualified by the British Foreign Office as areas of extreme risk.

office At a later stage, the RTA acquired additional office equipment, using the office running cost budget allocated to him; were subsequently purchased :

Office furniture (chairs)
Laptop Computer Dell Latitude D510 60 Gb HDD¹⁵
WLAN Wifi access point
LAN router
LAN print server
Paper shredder
Desk calculator



The LAN and WLAN (wifi) print and file server set up at the Regional Coordination.

transport Following a collision with a herd of sheep on the border between Burkina Faso and Niger on March 7th, 2006, the TA lost control of the vehicle and while trying to recover control and regain the tarred road, he then hit a 1 meter high termite-hill with one tire, which flipped the car on its side. There were about two or three flip-overs before the car ended up on its side in the opposite direction. The airbag and the seat belt saved the RTA from any injury. In June 2006, the insurance (ALLIANZ) paid out the sum of 14.124,67 EUR, which is about € 2.000 less than the damage expert had estimated the value of the car at the time of the accident.

The RTA has taken possession of the replacement vehicle, a TOYOTA RAV 4 (petrol) on April 23rd, 2006 (mileage : 82.520 miles) purchased for 9,5 million FCFA or approximately 14.500 EUR.

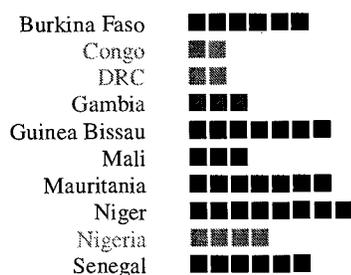
¹⁵ Hard Disk Drive

In-country visits

During the 40 (operational) months of his assignment, the TA has total number of **48** in-country visits (including Ghana) and conducted at least 2 missions in every of the 10 countries covered. Niger was visited 8 times, Guinea Bissau and Mauritania were visited seven times, Senegal and Burkina Faso six times, in-country missions were conducted three times in Mali.

The Gambia (■) was visited for the first time in May 2004, following a re-shuffle of countries between the three RTA for West and Central Africa, as agreed during the CBPP meeting in Conakry (February 2004). This country was visited three times.

Finally, Congo, DRC and Nigeria (■) were added as from November 1st, 2004. Congo and DRC were visited twice, Nigeria, four times.



As an average, every country was visited 1,2 times per year (measured over 40 months). However, when taking into account the time at which the four countries were added, every country was visited **1,6 times per year, that is : every 7 - 8 months.**

Country	2003 ¹⁶	2004	2005	2006 ¹⁷	Total	Months
Burkina Faso	1	2	2	1	6	
Guinea Bissau	1	3	2	1	7	
Mali	1	1	0	1	3	40
Mauritania	2	2	2	1	7	
Niger	1	2	2	3	8	
Senegal	2	2	1	0	5	
The Gambia	0	2	1	0	3	36
Congo	0	1	1	0	2	
DRC	0	1	0	1	2	24
Nigeria	0	1	1	2	4	
Ghana	0	0	1	0	1	
Total	8	17	13	10	48	

¹⁶ 2003 : 6 months only

¹⁷ 2006 : 10 months only

Added to these assignments, the RTA attended a total of **26** conferences and workshops (both external and internal to PACE) where opportunities were created to meet with several, if not all PACE National Programme Coordinators, Unit Heads and/or Directors of Veterinary Services :

Conference – workshop attendance

Country	Venue	2003	2004	2005	2006
Tanzania	03 rd Annual PACE Coordination Meeting	1			
Cameroon	04 th Annual PACE Coordination Meeting		1		
Senegal	05 th Annual PACE Coordination Meeting			1	
Kenya	06 th Annual PACE Coordination Meeting				1
Mali	08 th ACM ¹⁸	1			
Kenya	09 th ACM		1		
Mali	10 th ACM		1		
Kenya	11 th ACM			1	
Mali	12 th ACM				1
Kenya	13 th ACM				1
Belgium	AEEMA Conference (Liège)				1
Rwanda	AU 7 th Ministerial Conference (Kigali)			1	
Senegal	Cross border meeting (St. Louis)	1			
Mali	ECOWAS Meeting on HPAI (Bamako)				1
Mali	FAO Regional TCP inception workshop				1
Mauritania	GTZ workshop on conflict management			1	
South Africa	ISCTRC ¹⁹ Conference (Pretoria)	1			
Gambia	ITC International Conference (Banjul)		1		
France	OIE 74 th General Session (Paris)				1
Senegal	PACE ESS ²⁰ workshop (Dakar)		1		
Guinea	PACE FAO CBPP workshop (Conakry)		1		
Mali	PACE OIE FAO EPP HPAI Meeting				1
Senegal	PACE OIE RVF workshop (Dakar)		1		
Kenya	PACE Team-building workshop + EC			1	
Mali	WAEMU (UEMOA) workshop (drugs)			1	
Niger	WAEMU (UEMOA) workshop (drugs)			1	
Total		4	7	7	8

¹⁸ Advisory Committee Meeting

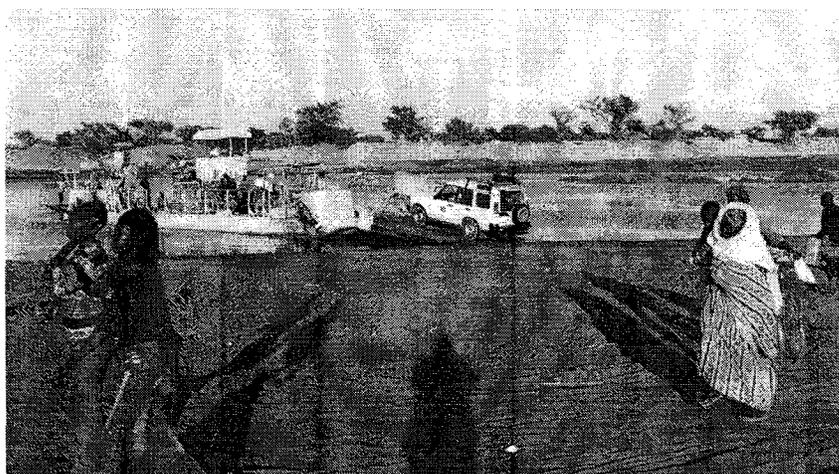
¹⁹ International Scientific Council on Trypanosomosis Research and Control

²⁰ Epidemio-Surveillance System

Every first mission was conducted as a kind of assessment (not evaluation) mission of programme advances in all relevant aspects of programme implementation (both technical and financial). A typical mission would cover the following checklist of topics :

1. Overall set-up of the PACE programme (positions, infrastructure)
2. Financial and administrative management (including software use)
3. Closure of PE²¹ and de-commitment of funds
4. Financial auditing (of PE)
5. Contribution of the government to the ESS –funding (present and future)
6. Progress in acquisition of equipment and services (EDF procedures)
7. Assessment of needs for STE²² (GTZ-pool)
8. Assessment of the ESS (including lab-facilities)
9. Assessment of rinderpest eradication and OIE pathway (sero-surveillance)
10. Assessment of disease preparedness (contingency planning, emergency funding)
11. Assessment of CBPP control (abattoir screening and vaccinations)
12. Assessment of control for other priority diseases
13. Wildlife surveillance
14. Communication
15. Database management (PID implementation and other software, including GIS²³)
16. Veterinary privatisation and legislation, sanitary mandate
17. Disease reporting (internally within the ESS) and externally (to IBAR and OIE), financial reporting (to PCU) and progress reporting (to PACEREG and PCU).

In addition to the meetings with PACE staff, veterinary services staff and other stakeholders (private vets, livestock holders, wildlife services, related projects or programmes), meetings with ECD-officers-in-charge and NAO²⁴-support offices would (almost) always be included.



Crossing the Bani river by ferry (Djenne, central Mali), July 2004

²¹ Programme-estimates

²² Short-term expertise

²³ Geographic Information System

²⁴ National Authorising Officer

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As from the second mission in a country, the assessment would include a review of the recommendations from the first mission. To what degree have these recommendations been implemented ? The recommendations were usually directed to the NPC, but also to the livestock department or veterinary services department, the ECD, the NAO and occasionally the (Regional) Coordination Units (PACE-REG and PCU).

Every mission was concluded by a comprehensive aide-memoire, signed by both the RTA and the NPC before leaving the country. Every aide-memoire contained a work plan for the next 4 to 6 months, identifying deadlines and the specific involvement of the RTA.

After being reviewed and endorsed by the regional coordinator, the aide-memoire would then be presented as a mission report which would be sent to (at least) NPC and ECD in the country, within (as a rule) one month (first by e-mail, later in printed copy by surface mail).

Further missions would focus on specific topics, requiring the attention or the assistance of the RTA in order to progress. Typically, this would encompass the preparation of OIE dossiers for rinderpest, reviewing legislation or helping staff draft performance indicators for the ESS. Once or twice a year, the RTA would also assist in identifying priority actions for the upcoming programme estimate and help draft a work plan and cost estimate, compliant with the EDF rules in force.

As from mid-2004, the Regional Coordination in Bamako began conducting internal country evaluation missions, with extended terms of reference and a three-man team. Were subsequently visited : Guinea Bissau, Niger, Ghana, Gambia, and Mali.

As from mid-2005, HPAI was taken into account in every assignment conducted : to what degree is the ESS taking into account HPAI surveillance ? Has the list of priority epizootics of the ESS been extended to HPAI ? Has an emergency preparedness plan been drafted ? What technical information does the DVS have and how can it be made available to all stakeholders ?

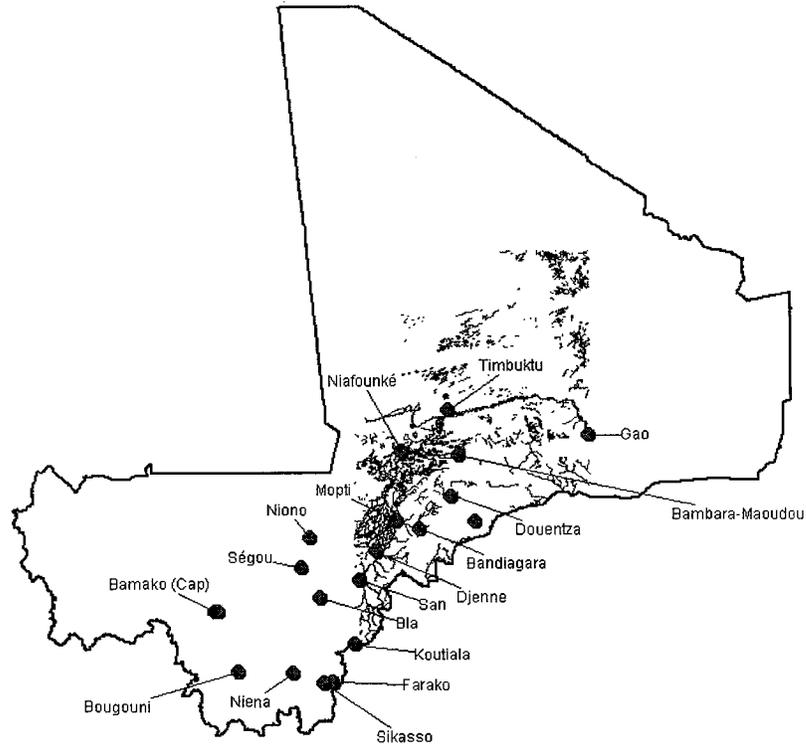
As from February 2006, the usual cycle of country missions was turned upside down by the declaration in several countries covered by the RTA, of highly pathogenic avian influenza (Nigeria, later on Niger and Burkina Faso). These three countries (especially Niger and Nigeria) received extra attention from the RTA during these first weeks of the crisis.

As from June 2006, the RTA renewed with his 'ordinary' country visits, but focussing on the pathway for the administrative and financial closure of the programme by October 31st, 2006. Countries visited within this framework were DRC, Mauritania, Guinea Bissau, Burkina Faso and Niger.

The executive summaries of the mission reports are presented at the end of this final report and illustrate the variability of progress made in these countries.

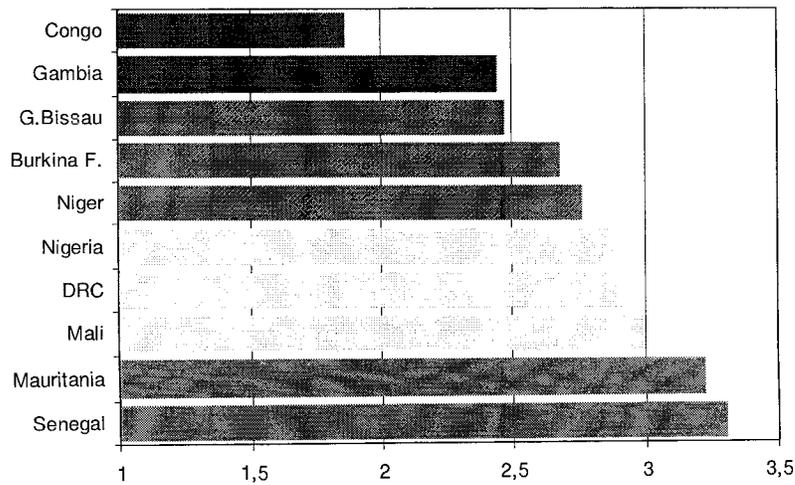
The focus of this report is not to present a full account of programme-implementation. The RTA has contributed to several progress reports by PCU and RCU that present these data in a detailed manner. Furthermore, the annexes to this report contain summaries of all country-missions conducted.

The present chapter will merely present a general overview of programme implementation as the RTA perceived it, completed with the results of monitoring exercises conducted over the last 4 years.



Visits conducted within the country of duty station : Mali (2003 – 2006).

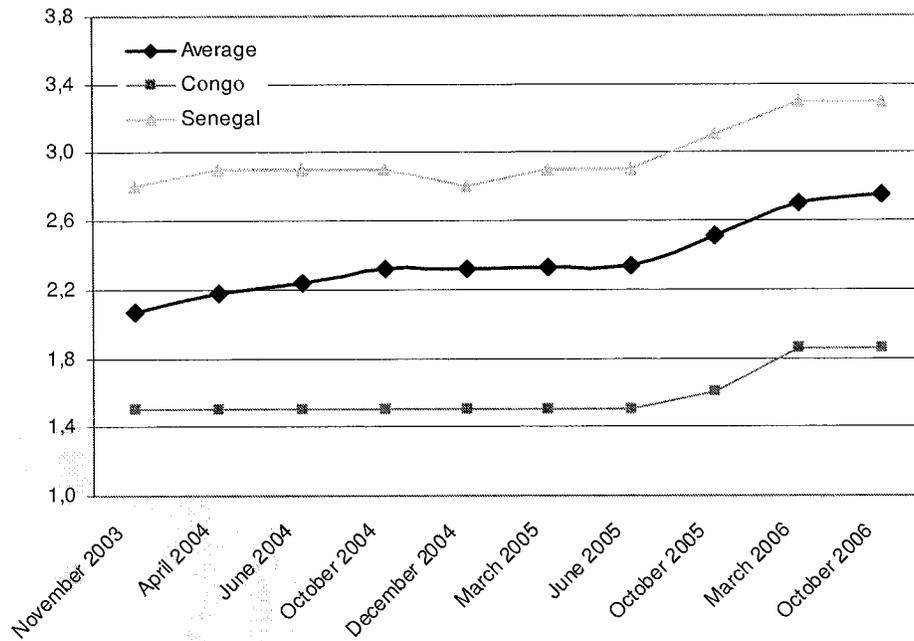
With PACE having come to a closure, one can conclude in broad terms that overall programme implementation has been satisfactory in Senegal, Mali and Mauritania, intermediate in Burkina Faso, DRC, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria and Niger and poor in Congo and The Gambia, as illustrated by the 37 monitoring indicators on the next page.



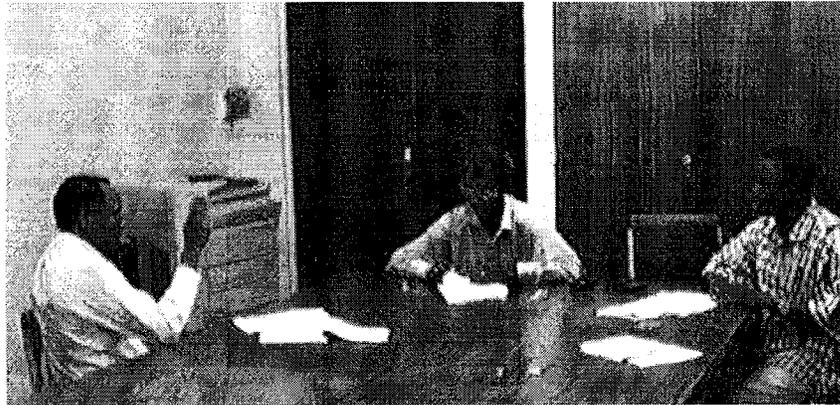
Final scores obtained by the ten countries, based on the 37 monitoring indicators.

As from 2003, 37 monitoring criteria, developed by the PACE Bamako team, were used to monitor programme implementation in these countries. The 37 criteria being equally balanced, this analysis allows for the calculation of a general country-score, which is the average of the score obtained per indicator. The assessment to date (October 2006), using these 37 monitoring criteria²⁵, yields the following result (in order of decreasing total score obtained) :

Country	Objective I							Objective II										Objective III					Total score																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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09	1210	1211	1212	1213	1214	1215	1216	1217	1218	1219	1220	1221	1222	1223	1224	1225	1226	1227	1228	1229	1230	1231	1232	1233	1234	1235	1236	1237	1238	1239	1240	1241	1242	1243	1244	1245	1246	1247	1248	1249	1250	1251	1252	1253	1254	1255	1256	1257	1258	1259	1260	1261	1262	1263	1264	1265	1266	1267	1268	1269	1270	1271	1272	1273	1274	1275	1276	1277	1278	1279	1280	1281	1282	1283	1284	1285	1286	1287	1288	1289	1290	1291	1292	1293	1294	1295	1296	1297	1298	1299	1300	1301	1302	1303	1304	1305	1306	1307	1308	1309	1310	1311	1312	1313	1314	1315	1316	1317	1318	1319	1320	1321	1322	1323	1324	1325	1326	1327	1328	1329	1330	1331	1332	1333	1334	1335	1336	1337	1338	1339	1340	1341	1342	1343	1344	1345	1346	1347	1348	1349	1350	1351	1352	1353	1354	1355	1356	1357	1358	1359	1360	1361	1362	1363	1364	1365	1366	1367	1368	1369	1370	1371	1372	1373	1374	1375	1376	1377	1378	1379	1380	1381	1382	1383	1384	1385	1386	1387	1388	1389	1390	1391	1392	1393	1394	1395	1396	1397	1398	1399	1400	1401	1402	1403	1404	1405	1406	1407	1408	1409	1410	1411	1412	1413	1414	1415	1416	1417	1418	1419	1420	1421	1422	1423	1424	1425	1426	1427	1428	1429	1430	1431	1432	1433	1434	1435	1436	1437	1438	1439	1440	1441	1442	1443	1444	1445	1446	1447	1448	1449	1450	1451



For a while, both RTA's in Bamako were also using a much more detailed list of 100 monitoring criteria, which enabled them to monitor country progress at a different scale. This monitoring framework was automated under MS Excel to convert automatically into the 37 monitoring criteria, used by the PCU.

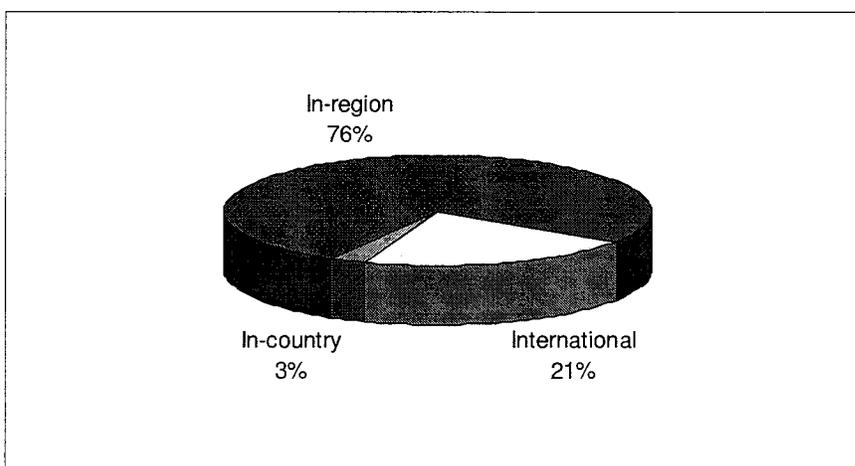


Debating monitoring scores with staff from PACE Burkina Faso and the national ESS central unit (July 2004).

With regard to the RTA's activities, the overall number of mission days has been as follows (over the 40 months period from July 1st 2003 to October 31st 2006) :

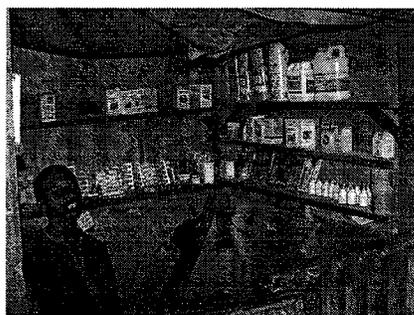
Missions	Days booked ²⁶	Total number of days/provision ²⁷	%
In-country	12	60	20
In-region	332	550	60
International	94	59	159
Total	438	669	65%

This overview does not include the participation of the RTA at the 3rd Annual PACE Coordination Meeting in Arusha (Tanzania) during 6 days (in June 2003).



Furthermore, this overview is based on chargeable nights only. When taking into account the Arusha meeting and the actual number of days spent on assignment, this number should be increased by around 8%, that is : **468** mission days.

Year	Mission days
2003	93
2004	157
2005	119
2006	99
Total	468



Veterinary drugs on sale in Jos (Plateau State, Nigeria) December 2005

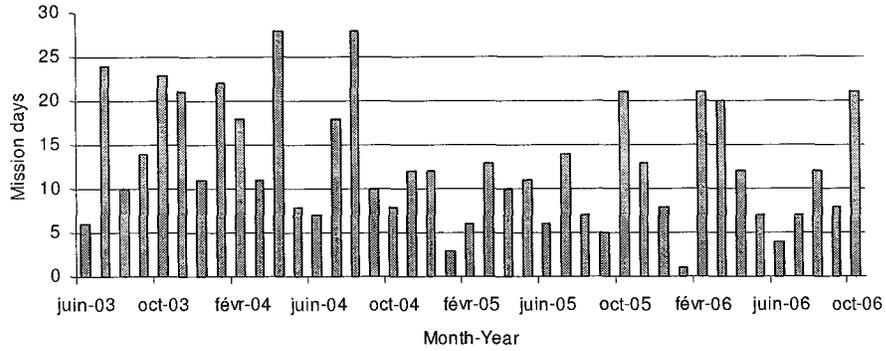
The average number of in-country or regional mission days per months was : **8,6 d/month**.

The average number of days per in-country or regional mission was : **7,2 days/country**.

²⁶ Chargeable nights only.

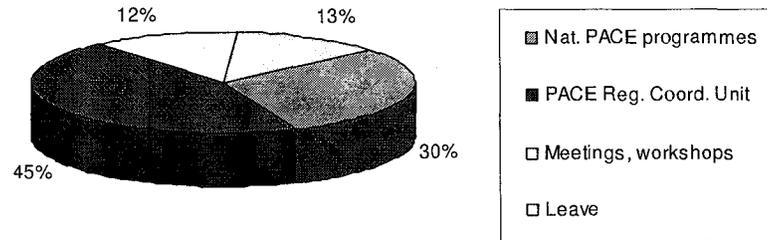
²⁷ First contract : 388 days, second contract : 115 days, third contract : 166 days.

The intensity with which missions were conducted (excluding meetings, workshop and conferences) is presented in the graph below :

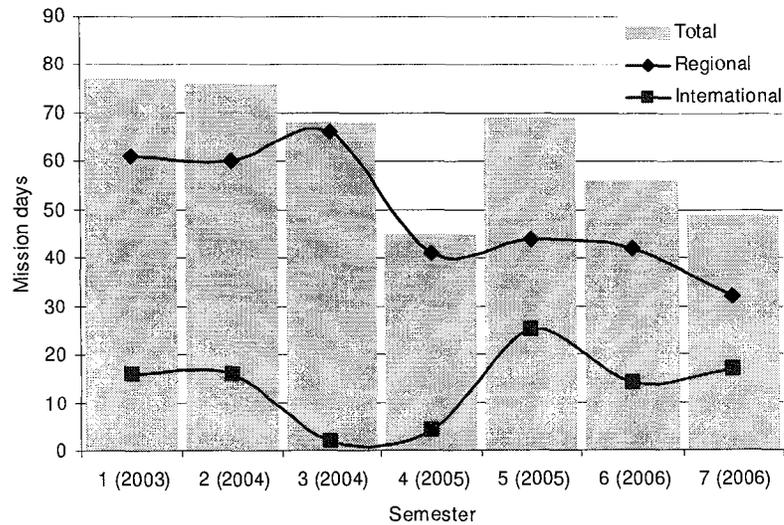


The time-use graph presented next is based on the number of chargeable nights and illustrates the importance of coordination – activities in Bamako (45 %) as compared to the work conducted in the countries with the national PACE programmes (30 %) over a 41 months period (June 2003 – October 2006).

Time-use : June 2003 - October 2006 (41 months)



Presented on a per semester basis, mission days have decreased between 2003 and 2006, as shown in the following graph and table :



It can be seen from the graph above that as from mid 2004, in-country missions have decreased, but that international travels have increased.

Presence in Bamako has increased for around 30 % in 2003 (against 42% for country visits) to 45 % today (against 31 % for country visits). See pie chart on top of this page.

Mission		Reporting period						
Type	Days booked	1 (2003)	2 (2004)	3 (2004)	4 (2005)	5 (2005)	6 (2006)	7 ²⁸ (2006)
In-country	12	1	1	6	0	0	4	0
In-region	332	60	59	60	41	44	38	30
International	94	16	16	2	4	25	14	17
Total	438	77	76	68	45	69	56	47

This issue of coordination activities in Bamako has become a hot topic of debate during the PACE final evaluation mission (June –August 2006). Having seen these figures, the mission's team members, in their first assessment²⁹ had jumped to conclusions stating that : *"...the Regional Technical Assistants are supposed to support the PACE national programmes mostly on veterinary issues and not on the administration of the Regional Co-ordination Unit in Bamako"*

This would suggest that (a) RTA's did not cover administrative issues in the national programmes they visited, and (b) that they did not conduct technical tasks while in Bamako.

Both, as pointed out to the mission team members in late August, are wrong. Not only did the RTA's spend a lot of time dealing with financial and administrative issues within the countries, they also worked on behalf and for the countries while in Bamako, both in technical terms, as in administrative terms.

Regional TA's, per definition, are there to make sure the national programmes move ahead. When the constraints to be lifted are of a technical nature, they will assist. When the constraints are of a financial or administrative nature, they will assist too. Experience has shown that the latter constraints are very often the most frequent ones, and the hardest to resolve, because they imply the cooperation of other stakeholders such as the NAO support offices and the local EC delegations³⁰.

This was finally recognized by the mission, who later³¹ stated that : *"... a lot of technical work is undertaken at coordination office such as:*

- *Analysis of PACE National Work Plans*
- *Provide accurate and appropriate information to the PACE Regional Coordinator and develop links with epidemiological and related animal health components in other projects and with regional and international bodies.*
- *Assist in the preparation of quarterly, annual, mission and other reports in the PACE programme's approved format (all reports shall be submitted to the PACE Coordination unit).*
- *Write scientific papers, as appropriate to be published through the PACE Programme coordinator and the AU-IBAR.*

²⁸ Only 4 months : July – October 2006.

²⁹ FEM Aide Mémoire, 04.08.2006

³⁰ Please also refer to chapter "BACK-UP ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN" in this report.

³¹ FEM Draft final report, 18.08.2006

- Perform other duties that may be assigned by the PACE Programme Co-ordinator that are consistent with the objectives of the programme.

Therefore, these activities are not purely administrative..."



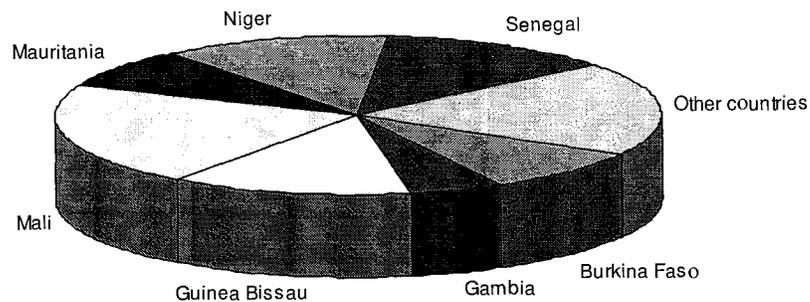
Visit to the veterinary checkpoint of Bani-Bangou with Drs. Abdou Malick Haido (PACE) and Olivier Pinguet (French TA). Niger, November 2003. Photo by P. Ducret.

The next graph illustrates the attention given to every of the ten countries over the 40 months in terms of mission-days (in the case of Mali, travel is not [always] involved).

Meetings, workshops or conferences attended in these countries are not included. Although Mali is well represented in the graph above, it needs to be stressed that this merely reflects the work being conducted in Bamako (mostly). As can be concluded from the table with regard to the (chargeable) mission nights, only 12 days were spent in – country.

The Gambia was added to the RTA's list of countries in April 2004, hence the limited number of days worked in this country. The 'other countries' in which assignments have been conducted are : Ghana, Congo, DRC and Nigeria.

Time-use : national PACE programmes



In terms of the RTA's impact on national programme implementation progress, it needs to be pointed out that no monitoring and evaluation system which could have contributed to this impact assessment, was implemented by PACE management.

The assessment of what the regional technical assistant has contributed to the progress of the national components is therefore left to the regional TA himself, which is of course not an objective way to proceed.

In the beginning, one approach therefore was to measure the degree in which **recommendations made by the RTA had been implemented by the countries' coordination**. The following table presents the number of recommendations made during the previous mission and the number of recommendations which have materialized before or during the following mission :

Missions ³²	Recommendations ³³	Date ³⁴	Compliance ³⁵	Date	%	Average %
Burkina 01	12	Sept. 2003	5	Feb. 2004	42%	
Burkina 02	9	Feb. 2004	2	Aug. 2004	22%	32%
Burkina 05	3	Oct. 2005	1	Sept. 2006	33%	
DRC 01	8	July 2004	5	July 2006	63%	63%
Gambia 01	15	May 2004	6	Nov. 2004	40%	40%
G Bissau 01	8	Aug. 2003	5	Jan. 2004	63%	
G Bissau 02	11	Jan. 2004	7	April 2004	64%	
G Bissau 04	20	Aug. 2004	8	Feb. 2005	40%	58%
G Bissau 05	16	Feb. 2005	9	Aug. 2005	56%	
G Bissau 06	12	Aug. 2005	8	Sept. 2006	67%	
Mali 01	18	Dec. 2003	13	Sept. 2004	72%	72%
Mauritania 01	7	Aug. 2003	5	Dec. 2003	71%	
Mauritania 02	12	Dec. 2003	7	Dec. 2004	58%	61%
Mauritania 04	11	Dec. 2004	6	Aug. 2006	55%	
Niger 01	14	Nov. 03	9	March 2004	64%	
Niger 02	8	March 2004	6	Aug. 2004	75%	64%
Niger 04	40	March 2005	21	Feb. 2006	53%	
Nigeria 01	12	Oct. 2004	6	Dec. 2005	50%	50%
Senegal 01	8	July 2003	5	Oct. 2003	63%	
Senegal 02	8	Oct. 2003	4	April 2004	50%	54%
Senegal 04	6	April 2004	3	May 2005	50%	
Total	258		141		55%	

As can be seen from the table, follow-up on recommendations has been particularly poor in Burkina Faso and Gambia. In contrast, follow-up has been rather good in DRC and Mali. Whether this is indicative of the TA's performance remains an open question. Especially in Burkina Faso and the Gambia, repeated interruptions of funding are

³² Only missions for which recommendations have been listed are taken into account.

³³ Recommendations to the NPC only.

³⁴ Date of the mission.

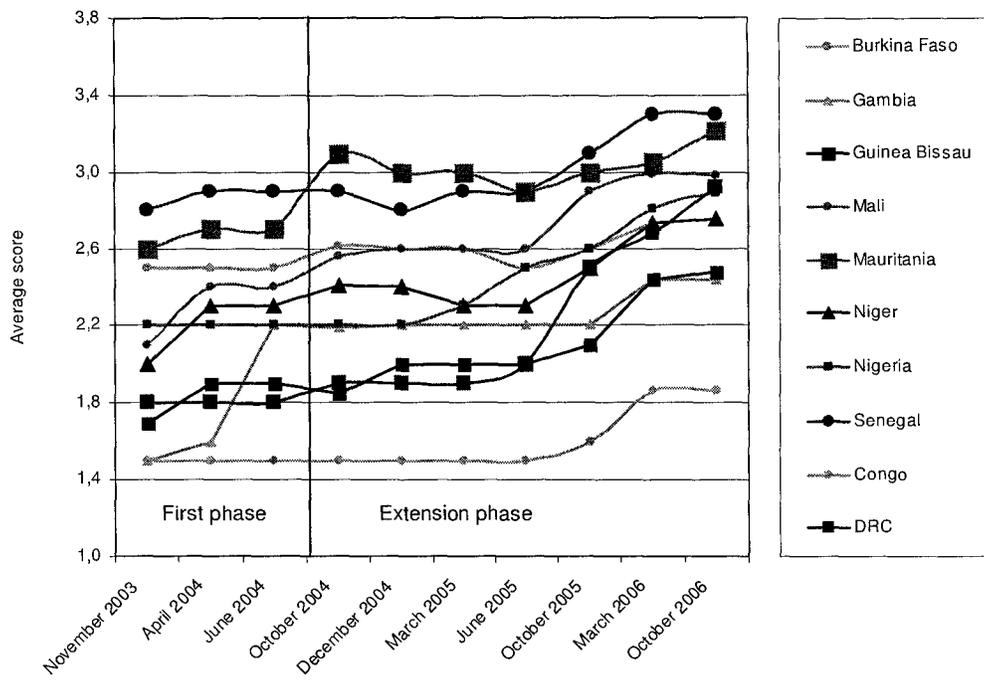
³⁵ Recommendations which should have been realised at the given date (month) only.

typically reasons why several, if not most recommendations have not been complied with.

A later proposal made by the RTA's in Bamako to develop a **short survey questionnaire**, directed towards NPC of the countries aimed at measuring the appreciation (not necessarily the impact) of the national programmes for the TA's was not withheld by the Regional Coordinator.

Another approach has been to measure the increase or decrease in **performance scores, using the indicators** used by the PCU for monitoring purposes. This approach also is debatable since the indicators used have been modified over the years (and decreased from 40 to 37). Another reason is that increase in scores given, often reflects a better knowledge of the situation in the country, rather than a genuine improvement in performance. Finally, several indicators are beyond the direct control of the PACE programme and henceforth of the RTA's intervention.

Whatever the objections to this approach might be, the graph below (which starts at the arrival of the GTZ/SATEC technical assistance) shows a consistent increase (even for the Republic of Congo, largely due to the recognition of freedom from rinderpest in early 2006), with a 'dip' immediately after the onset of the extension phase (delays in approving global plans and programme-estimates) and which lasted for around six months.



Update monitoring table

(Updated October 2006)

The **GTZ internal staff assessment** system has granted the RTA a relatively good score (the so-called *'feedback on competences and performance'*, rated D (min A, max E). The two main goals set for 2006 in this system were presented as follows :

Goal	Indicators and characteristics of goal achievement, circumstances (if relevant)	Achieved by
To achieve that at least 10 countries in West and Central Africa have been the subject of an internal evaluation mission.	To date, six countries have already been visited (in chronological order) : Guinea Bissau, Niger, Ghana, Gambia, Chad and Mali. This is a team – activity, involving the PACE regional coordinator, the regional epidemiologist and the second regional technical assistant. The four remaining countries have not been identified yet, but will certainly include more Central African states.	...the time the final (external) evaluation mission starts (ideally in June or July 2006)
To achieve that the remaining countries in the cluster (Gambia, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria) are also declared free of rinderpest (infection).	The report of the OIE Scientific Committee on Animal Diseases which is usually published in January (2007), will contain the recommendations made to the International Committee General Session in May 2007. In some cases, the results of the analysis of the requests by the OIE ad hoc group of experts on rinderpest which meets in September or October (2006) may indicate which countries will likely be declared free of rinderpest infection.	...September or October 2006

It is now agreed that those objectives or goals will not entirely be met : as far as the first goal is concerned, the programme of internal evaluation missions was severely delayed by the avian influenza situation, leading to a mere 6 countries visited instead of the 10 scheduled by the time the external PACE final evaluation mission started (June 2006).

As for goal 2, it is likely that Gambia and Mauritania and Niger will indeed be able to attain freedom from rinderpest infection by May 2007. As for Nigeria, this is more than doubtful, given the fact that year 1 of the (two-year) sero-surveillance has not yet started.

The most independent assessment to date was finally made by the **PACE Final Evaluation Mission**, which included an assessment of the regional TA's in their checklist of country-visits. Except for Mali, every single of the other NPC's (Senegal, Mauritania and Burkina Faso) complained (in direct or indirect terms) that they had seen too little of 'their' TA.

In their general comments, this led the mission to conclude that : *"... each Regional Technical Assistant has 10 National PACE countries under his responsibility. This number is far too many to allow efficient support to each National PACE country. Five National PACE countries would have allowed the Regional Technical Assistant to provide the accurate support the PACE national countries could expect to get...."*

We couldn't agree more.

The same mission did not seem to consider the RTA as totally obsolete, but instead recommended that : *"... in a next Regional Programme there is a need to increase capacity and human resources in relation to Administration and Finance and a more integrated system in the management of the Regional Technical Assistants...."*

Internal country evaluations

The internal country evaluations have been designed and implemented by the PACE Regional office in Bamako as from August 2004, as a means to complete the various monitoring tools already in place, and move to an in-depth analysis of

Such a mission would typically be conducted by a team of three :

- Regional coordinator
- Regional epidemiologist
- Regional technical assistant (assigned to the country).

In all but one case this scheme was respected. As such, the RTA conducted 5 out of the 6 country evaluations : Guinea Bissau, Niger, Ghana, Gambia and Mali.

First country to be evaluated was **Guinea Bissau**. The evaluation mission visited Guinea Bissau from August 16th to 21st, 2004. This evaluation was requested by the Delegation of the EC in Bissau. The mission consisted of Dr. B.A. DIOP, Regional PACE Co-ordinator for West and Central Africa, Dr. C. SQUARZONI, Regional PACE epidemiologist and Dr. P. BASTIAENSEN, Regional PACE Technical Assistant (in charge of Guinea Bissau). The mission met with H.E. the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (*Ministro de Agricultura e Desenvolvimento Rural*) and with H.E. the Minister of Economy and Finance (*Ministro de Economia e Finanças*). Further meetings were held with the officers-in-charge of PACE, the Livestock Department (DGP), ECD, CAON-FED (EDF NAO support office), the Veterinary Council (ONV) and the BAO bank. A field trip was organized to Bambadinca, Bafata and Gabu which enabled the mission to conduct interviews with field personnel and smallholders.



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

Second country, **PACE Niger** was visited by a team from the regional coordination during the month of March 2005. As for the first evaluation (conducted in Guinea Bissau in 2004), the mission went over all aspects of programme implementation, both technical and financial.

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The evaluation revealed serious shortcomings in the way the NPC handles communication with all layers of the veterinary services and with partner organisations, such as the veterinary lab and the veterinary council. Following the publication of the mission report, a workshop was held which yielded an action plan, now being gradually put in place.

PACE Ghana was visited by a team from the regional coordination during the month of September 2005. Just as for the other evaluations, the mission went over all aspects of programme implementation, both technical and financial. The RTA took part in this mission (outside his normal group of countries) in replacement of the Regional Coordinator, Dr. Bouna DIOP, who had to desist because of a family-related emergency. A field visit was conducted on September 27th and 28th, covering the areas of Kumasi (Ashanti Region) and Yeji (Brong-Ahafo Region), bordering the Volta Lake. During this trip, interviews were conducted with district veterinary personnel and farmers.

A fourth evaluation mission of **PACE CAR**, scheduled for October 1st, 2005, had to be cancelled because of overbooking of the flight.

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

PACE Chad was evaluated during the month of February 2006, but without the RTA.

Finally, the sixth programme, **PACE Mali** was evaluated during the month of April 2006. The team was composed of Dr. Bouna DIOP, PACE Regional co-ordinator for Western and Central Africa, Dr. Cecile SQUARZONI, Regional epidemiologist and the RTA.

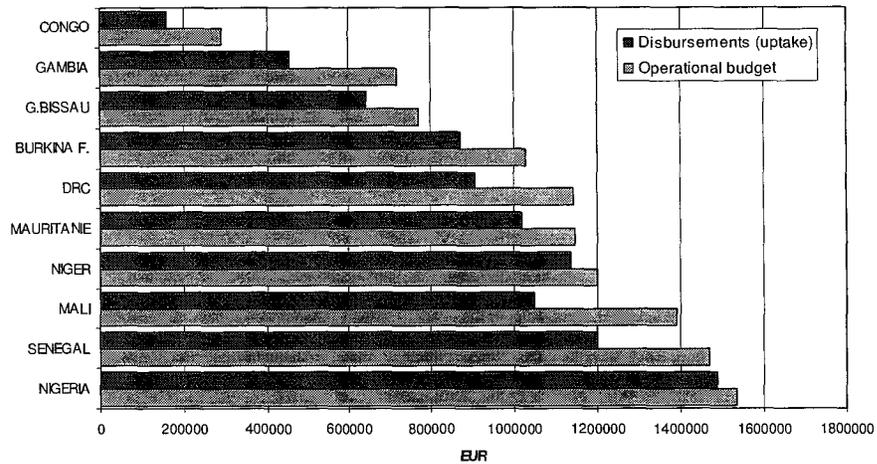
The mission was received by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries. The mission had working sessions with the Director of the National Veterinary Services, the Director of the Veterinary Central Laboratory, the officers in charge of the PACE programme at the Delegation of the European Commission and the Support Unit to the NAO (CONFED), as well as with the PACE National Programme Coordinator and the PACE Unit Heads. A visit was paid to the regions of Ségou, Mopti and Sikasso during which talks were held with the Regional Directors of the Veterinary Services and the Officers of the various veterinary sectors, the agents of the veterinary checkpoints, the representatives of the farmers and the private veterinary surgeons (and their agents).

External country evaluations

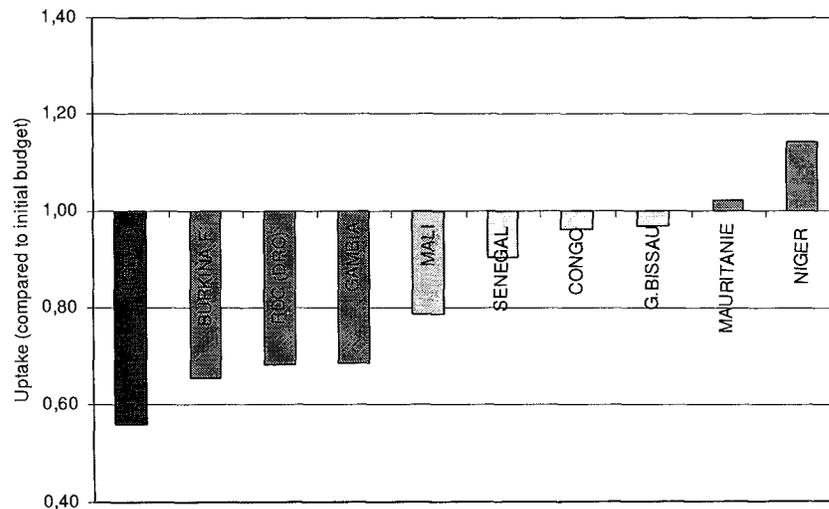
The external evaluation missions have been recommended by the PACE Advisory Committee as a means to strengthen the evaluation framework and contribute to a more independent evaluation of programme progress by experts which are not related to the PACE programme. Terms of reference were drafted by the RTA in February 2006, but were not endorsed until after the PACE final evaluation mission (whereas they were supposed to contribute to the outcome of this mission). It is not known when these missions will start but the countries to be evaluated have already been identified : **Benin, Gabon, Cameroon and Eritrea**. These external evaluation missions will be conducted using the same methodology used so far for the internal evaluation missions, making use of a standardised reporting template and common monitoring indicators.

Financial performances of the PACE member countries

The financial performances of the various national PACE programmes provide additional insight in the efficiency of implementation. The rate of disbursement of EDF funds is indicative of how ECD and NPC work together and manage to efficiently execute the programme-estimate, within the agreed time frame. The following graph presents the overall performance of the 10 programmes in terms of disbursements :



The following graph plots the disbursements (uptake of funds) against the initial indicative national budget, approved in 2000. The drawing rights mechanism applied subsequently is indicative of the performance of the programme (increase or decrease of operational budget) and was approved based on the financial, but also technical performance of the programme, the knowledge of EDF rules and procedures by the NPC and the prospects for take-over of funding by the governments.



As can be seen, only Mauritania and Niger managed to disburse more than their initial budget. Nigeria is the worst case in terms of financial under-performance (less than 60% of the budget spent).

	BURKINA F.	CONGO	GAMBIA	G.BISSAU	MALI	MAURITANIE
Initial indicative budget	1329310	166170	664660	664655	1329310	996985
Provision for audits (-)	15000	8000	10000	8000	10000	10000
Drawing right phase 1	-284405	101989	62004	114268	68904	159841
Drawing right phase 2		30000				
Final operational budget	1029905	290159	716664	770923	1388214	1146826
Commitment PE 1	519040	107000	239000	313000	443331	268966
Commitment PE 2	361000	107100	426700	166000	241000	273000
Commitment PE 3	269000	14100	70000	123000	395393	218000
Commitment PE 4	101000		150513	42155	205000	113000
Commitment PE 5				81100	147000	121220
Commitment PE 6				180000		198575
Uptake PE 1	338999	42331	137772	214021	164520	157025
Uptake PE 2	238888	107004	184390	131476	179615	182366
Uptake PE 3	150320	10822	43988	102180	238300	128227
Uptake PE 4	32587		89931	42146	130075	71987
Uptake PE 5				48486	43870	93343
Uptake PE 6				105512		78822
Decommitment PE 1	180041	64669	101228	98979	278811	111941
Decommitment PE 2	122112	0	242310	34524	61385	90634
Decommitment PE 3	0	0	0	20820	157093	89773
Decommitment PE 4	0		0	9	0	41013
Decommitment PE 5				0	0	0
Decommitment PE 6				0		0
Specific commitment 1					296390	145398
Specific commitment 2						44900
Specific commitment 3	110000		60000			120584
Uptake spec. comm. 1					290690	145398
Uptake spec. comm. 2						40209
Uptake spec. comm. 3	109641		0			120584
Total commitments	1057887	163531	602675	750923	1230825	1170282
Commitments (%)	103%	56%	84%	97%	89%	102%
Total uptake (EUR)	870435	160157	456081	643821	1047070	1017961
Uptake (%)	85%	55%	64%	84%	75%	89%

	NIGER	NIGERIA	RDC (DRC)	SENEGAL	TOTAL
Initial indicative budget	996985	2658620	1329310	1329310	11465315
Provision for audits (-)	15000	20000	10000	17000	123000
Drawing right phase 1	220284	-453849	-176073	154093	-32944
Drawing right phase 2	0	-650000	0	0	-620000
Final operational budget	1202269	1534771	1143237	1466403	10689371
Commitment PE 1	364138	719243	407567	492750	3874036
Commitment PE 2	381821	834000	153755	543621	3487997
Commitment PE 3	168012	436000	408145	416000	2517650
Commitment PE 4	73980	620000	299894	140117	1745659
Commitment PE 5	80469			168000	597788
Commitment PE 6	247700			418000	1044275
Uptake PE 1	268978	199740	315002	360942	2199331
Uptake PE 2	277425	475392	120088	338348	2234991
Uptake PE 3	146175	435185	372660	235713	1863570
Uptake PE 4	69469	144767	99598	114217	794777
Uptake PE 5	75959			68554	330211
Uptake PE 6	187045			73369	444747
Decommitment PE 1	95160	519503	92565	131808	1674705
Decommitment PE 2	104396	358608	33667	205273	1252910
Decommitment PE 3	21838	0	0	180287	469811
Decommitment PE 4	4511	0	0	0	45533
Decommitment PE 5	4509			0	4509
Decommitment PE 6	0			0	0
Specific commitment 1	0	239000	0	12200	692988
Specific commitment 2	99289	0	0	0	144189
Specific commitment 3	14600	0	0	0	305184
Uptake spec. comm. 1	0	232252	0	10940	679280
Uptake spec. comm. 2	98103	0	0	0	138312
Uptake spec. comm. 3	14513	0	0	0	244738
Total commitments	1198329	1970131	1143129	1673320	10962299
Commitments (%)	100%	128%	100%	114%	103%
Total uptake (EUR)	1137674	1487336	907348	1202083	8929960
Uptake (%)	95%	97%	79%	82%	84%

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Identification of needs for short term inputs

Following the discovery of two sero-positive samples for RP³⁶ in warthog (Mauritania) in July 2003, the RTA requested a short term mission to be funded through the GTZ-IS STE pool for the supply of a **wildlife specialist** to investigate the consequences of the discovery for Mauritania's and the neighbouring countries' disease free status. This request was made due to the absence of the regional wildlife PACE expert for West and Central Africa at the time. This proposal was not withheld by PCU and instead, the wildlife expert for east-Africa, Dr. Richard KOCK, conducted a mission to Mauritania between 9 and 12 November 2003. His report is available and was translated in French by the RTA.

In November 2003, the RTA participated in the short term mission of Dr. Guy FREELAND, 'chef de mission' for the GTZ-IS short-term mission to draft the rough outlines of the PACE extension, based on an assessment of the current situation and progress made to date in respect of the targets that were set in the Financing Agreement. Dr. FREELAND visited Bamako (and as such West Africa) for a mere 24 hours, in which PACE staff in Bamako attempted to describe their feelings with regard to the priorities to set for the extension.

*In September 2004, the RTA participated in the short term mission of Dr. Lan MAI, contracted to produce a draft **technical manual** for CAHW³⁷ in West and Central Africa. Both RTA's critically reviewed the draft document, based on a VSF³⁸ guide developed for Sudan, and suggested measures to render the document better adapted to the West-African environment.*

The **economic assessment of epidemiosurveillance networks** and the economics of disease control had repeatedly been mentioned by NPC as needs for short-term input by GTZ-IS. This has been the case in Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and Mauritania. Furthermore, it had been suggested by the Regional Coordinator that it would be useful to fund a case study regarding the economics of ESS in two distinct countries in West and Central Africa, in order to supply scientific and reliable data on the West and Central African situation to the PACE Economics Unit. Terms of reference have been drafted by the RTA and submitted to the PACE Regional Coordinator for approval. The final ToR³⁹ suggested three countries (with operational ESS) in which to conduct the study : Benin (small coastal country, sudanian to humid tropical eco-climatic conditions, dominantly Christian, agro-pastoral livestock systems, presence of tsetse and trypanosomosis, importance of pigs and poultry), Mauritania (big country, Sahelian to sudanian eco-climatic conditions, dominantly Muslim, mainly pastoral livestock systems, no tsetse, importance of small ruminants and camelids) and Ghana (similar to Benin but anglo-saxon approach to veterinary services, with a timid and slow pace of privatization (liberalization) of the veterinary sector). The mission was finally (March – April 2005) conducted by Prof. Dr. Cheick LY of the EISMV in Dakar, who included earlier work on Senegal's ESS in the study. Both Bamako-based RTA's assisted the expert during the in-country phase of the study (Mauritania, in the RTA's case). The mission report was later re-written in a simpler format by the RTA and presented to the 6th PACE Annual Coordination Meeting in Mombasa. It is believed the document should now have been printed in several hundred copies by IBAR for use within the country veterinary services and ministries in charge of livestock and animal health.

³⁶ Rinderpest

³⁷ Community-based Animal Health Worker(s)

³⁸ Vétérinaires Sans Frontières

³⁹ Terms of Reference

Following a mission to the Gambia in November 2004, the RTA drafted ToR for a short term mission to assist PACE **Gambia** in overcoming constraints with regard to the **review of veterinary legislation**. Veterinary privatisation is still embryonic in The Gambia. Only four private veterinary companies (rather than practices) exist today. One of them is GAMVET, a spin off from PARC I that benefited from seed-money to start up business. Shareholders are almost exclusively veterinary public servants. The company has been rather successful in filling the gap for veterinary drug supply in the country. The HQ is located at the DLS in Abuko and field offices are often located within or just outside divisional livestock services, as e.g. in Kerewan. Another important company is AGRO-VET, led by a retired veterinarian and former Director of DLS. This company has been launched without external funding. Both companies liaise with divisional livestock officers and divisional field agents to get their products to the consumer. On the other side of the spectrum there is an unknown number of private veterinary assistants and about 500 CAHW's providing service in the rural areas. A Presidential decree allows public servants to perform remunerated private activities outside working hours. The sanitary mandate does not exist. There exists a Veterinary Council of which almost all veterinarians in the country are member, even if they don't actually perform clinical veterinary services.

Both government and private veterinarians agree that the present legislative framework is outdated and needs revision in order to address issues like disease surveillance, ESS, sanitary mandate and privatisation. Since 2001, the privatisation unit within PACE has therefore focussed on four distinct areas of intervention :

- The revision of the policy and legal framework regarding veterinary practice;
- The revision of the animal health legislation;
- The creation of a legal platform for veterinary drugs registration and
- The creation of a guarantee fund for bankable credits to private vets (meanwhile abandoned)

Virtually nothing of this has materialized to date, despite a study-visit to Guinea (Conakry) in November 2003, which boosted the enthusiasm of those who took part. The general perception is that no in-house capacity is available and these activities should be outsourced to (inter)national short-term consultants.

The short term mission was therefore requested by the PACE National Programme Co-ordination in Banjul, The Gambia in order to assist the programme and the Department of Livestock Services in completing the review of legislation regarding animal health in general and the delivery of veterinary services and drugs in particular. This review has been partially conducted with the approval and publication in May 2000 of the bill on the establishment of a Veterinary Council and the registration of veterinary surgeons. There are however still a number of issues which require an appropriate legislative framework as soon as possible if a anarchic development of the veterinary and animal health sector is to be avoided. These are (a) the provision of veterinary services, both public and private, by veterinary surgeons, animal health assistants and community-based animal health; and (b) the provision of veterinary drugs of good quality with an appropriate delivery system. These issues require the precise delineation of responsibilities and prerogatives between all socio-economic groups that intervene in livestock production in The Gambia and the development of a quality-assurance approach to the import, storage, wholesale and retail of veterinary drugs and inputs in this country.

PACE The Gambia failed to submit the request officially to PACE management and the mission was never implemented.

Following a mission to Nigeria in December 2005, the RTA drafted ToR for a short term mission to assist PACE **Nigeria** in overcoming constraints with regard to the **sero-surveillance of wildlife for rinderpest**. In Nigeria, no national expertise is available to conduct wildlife serology. The use of hunting sera is excluded. The eco-system approach is probably not very reliable, given the lack of data from neighbouring countries and the distance between the major parks within and outside Nigeria. Most national parks in bordering countries (Pendjari, Park W, Zakouma) are not contiguous to parks in Nigeria. As for Cameroon, two parks are : Waza National Park and Tchabal Mbabo (see further). With regard to the latter, both the Cameroon and Nigerian governments have expressed a strong commitment to collaborate in establishing a trans-boundary protected area. While this is a clear-cut case of similar, if not same, eco-systems, unfortunately, no data are available for the sensitive species in these parks, since sero-surveillance in wildlife in Cameroon hasn't started either.

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

- a) Sero-surveillance of cattle and small ruminants in the vicinity of (or even within) national parks, based on the premise that there cannot be rinderpest in wildlife if there's no rinderpest in livestock. A reasonable number of samples, acquired through cautious and unbiased selection of herds which could have been in contact with wildlife, is probably an important factor in convincing the OIE that the infection in wildlife.
- b) Sero-surveillance on darted, sensitive wildlife species. This option is probably the easiest to materialize and the fastest to produce tangible results, provided the consultant can supply the necessary equipment and drugs as part of his service rendering contract.

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

- Chingurmi Duguma N.P. (Borno State), The Chad Basin National Park (CBNP) is composed of several areas or 'sectors' which are geographically remote from one another. The Chingurmi-Duguma Sector is located in the Woloji and Gulumba Districts, south-east of Maiduguri. It lies close to Waza National Park in Cameroon
- Kainji Lake N.P. (Kwara State) Situated 560 km north of Lagos, close to the border with the Republic of Benin. It comprises two sectors (Borgu and Zugurma) which are separated by Kainji Lake, a lake impounded on the Niger river for hydroelectric power generation
- Gashaka Gumti N.P. is the largest of Nigeria's eight National Parks. It is located in the east of the country, against the Cameroon border, north-east of the Obudu Plateau. Part of it is situated on the mountainous Mambilla Plateau and is, therefore, part of a westward extension of the Cameroon mountains; the site is contiguous with Tchabal Mbabo Wildlife Reserve in Cameroon
- Yankari N.P. (Bauchi State). Yankari is located in the east-central part of the country, some 72 km north of the Bauchi-Gombe road at Dindima. The park is bisected by the Gaji river.
- Kamuku National Park (Kaduna State) is located north-west of Kaduna in central-western Nigeria.

Target-species (sensitive to the virus) available in these parks are : waterbuck, bushbuck, warthogs, buffalo.

Given the avian influenza crisis which emerged a few weeks later, PACE Nigeria too failed to submit the request officially to PACE management and the mission was never implemented. It might now be implemented / funded by the FAO (GREP initiative).

In February 2006, the RTA started drafting ToR on behalf of the National Coordination of PACE Senegal in order to provide the national epidemiologic surveillance network (called SNSE) with a **bridging tool**, enabling it to put its electronic decentralized network (based on **Lotus Notes**, installed at a national scale since 2003, before limited to the monitoring of RVF) to good use for the data-entry into PID – **ARIS**, working on an ORACLE platform.

The electronic network LOTUS NOTES was installed for the first time in 2001 within the framework of the Emercase project for the surveillance and study of Rift valley fever. The initial goal of the network was to collect data on RVF suspicions, making it possible to validate the predictive models of appearance and spread of the disease. The initial network consisted of 30 users, today it counts 110 of them throughout Senegal, all the Regional and Departmental Veterinary Inspection Services (IRSV and IDSV) are currently connected.

Let us also note that it were the engineers of the MEDES (Toulouse) which carried out the installation of the Emercase network limited to RVF in the areas at risks as well as the extension of this network to the whole of users at the DIREL and across the other areas of the country. This work consisted in (i) configuring the material (PC, palms pilots and servers), (ii) train the users and (iii) ensure maintenance (remotely and in situ). These engineers therefore perfectly know the intranet network and the needs of the DIREL.

The database *PACE Integrated Database* (PID), renamed meanwhile ARIS or *Animal Resources Information System*, was developed by PACE and IBAR in order to provide to the Member States with a tool enabling them to fulfill the international requirements as regards data management and reporting to neighbouring countries and the international institutions concerned (including IBAR itself). The software was installed in Senegal (SNSE) in 2003, a training was conducted in 2004 and the software was put on LAN network since May 2005.

The integration to which the present short-term mission will have to contribute, aims at binding the network LOTUS NOTES to the bank of data ARIS, so that the acquisition of data required by ARIS can be done at the departmental (IDSV), regional (IRSV) or national level (SNSE, DIREL). This step makes it possible to alleviate the work-charge of human resources available at the central level and will make it possible to integrate human resources at the local level into the ARIS system within the framework of their daily work.

The short-term expertise will have to specify and develop a computer application making it possible to automatically import certain documents (specified below) entered on Lotus Notes in the Oracle PID-ARIS data base. The goal is to avoid double data-entries and to benefit from the existing Lotus Notes data-base (110 users over the territory) to feed the ARIS data base. Thus data entered by the IRSV and IDSV will be imported directly. One can if necessary add a validation by an officer-in-charge in Dakar so that the data are not imported in ARIS unless validated by an appropriate authority at the central level.

The mission was finally successfully conducted in August 2006 by M. Olivier TOURNEBIZE from MEDES (France).

Finally, the RTA drafted ToR on behalf of the Regional Coordination Unit of the PACE for West and Central Africa (Bamako, Mali) in order to complete the ongoing round of internal evaluation missions conducted by the PACEREG management team (regional coordinator, regional epidemiologist and regional technical assistant) since 2004.

These missions cover all aspects of programme implementation, including a comprehensive scoring exercise and attempt to assess possible impacts of the programme (now or in the foreseeable future) through an analysis of the logical framework(s).

The results of these evaluations will constitute a basis for the upcoming final evaluation mission of the overall PACE programme as a regional initiative.

In order to speed up the number of countries, subject to these standardised evaluations, and given the limited in-house human resources, it is suggested to subcontract some of these **country evaluations to external consultants**; thereby also ensuring an genuinely independent assessment of the programmes' progress, as recommended by the 10th PACE advisory committee meeting (Bamako, April 2005).

These external evaluation missions will be conducted using the same methodology used so far for the internal evaluation missions, making use of a standardised reporting template and common monitoring indicators.

It is expected that these mission will be conducted before the end of the year.

*In July 2006, the RTA participated in the **final PACE evaluation mission** led by M. Patrick FUSELIER and accompanied by Dr. Archie HUNTER. They looked at implementation of the programme both at national level (Mali) and regional level (Bamako regional office).*

*In August 2006, the RTA participated (briefly) in the short term mission of M. Dario BERARDI, accompanied by Dr. Baba SOUMARE (CSU - ICU) entrusted with the **technical review of the ARIS software**.*

Documents produced : 2003 - 2006

Mission reports

Mission report BAS/2003/01/SN : Senegal, July 2003
Mission report BAS/2003/01/GW : Guinea Bissau, August 2003
Mission report BAS/2003/01/MR : Mauritania, August 2003
Mission report BAS/2003/01/BF : Burkina Faso, September 2003
Mission report BAS/2003/02/SN : Senegal, October 2003
Mission report BAS/2003/01/NE : Niger, November 2003
Mission report BAS/2003/02/MR : Mauritania, December 2003
Mission report BAS/2003/01/ML : Mali, Sept. – Dec. 2003
Mission report BAS/2004/03/SN : Senegal, April 2004
Mission report BAS/2004/02/GW : Guinea Bissau, January 2004
Mission report BAS/2004/03/GW : Guinea Bissau, April 2004
Mission report BAS/2004/02/BF : Burkina Faso, February 2004

Mission report BAS/2004/02/NE : Niger, March 2004

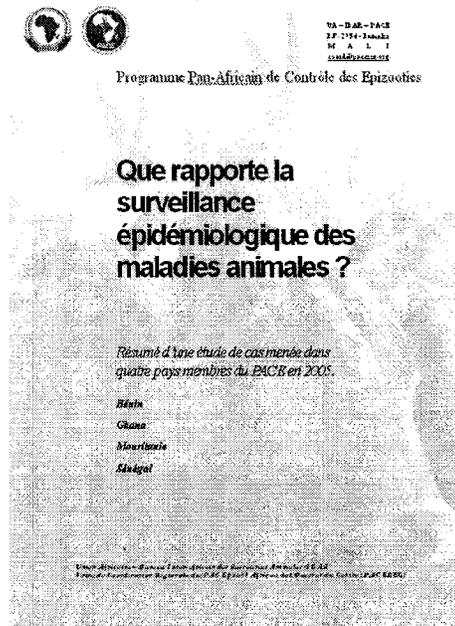
Mission report BAS/2004/03/MR : Mauritania, January 2004
Mission report BAS/2004/01/GM : The Gambia, May 2004
Mission report BAS/2004/01/CG : Congo, July 2004
Mission report BAS/2004/01/DC : DRC, July 2004
Mission report BAS/2004/03/NE : Niger, August 2004
Mission report BAS/2004/03/BF : Burkina Faso, August 2004
Mission report BAS BDP CSQ/2004/04/GW : Guinea Bissau, August 2004
Mission report BAS CSQ/2004/02/ML : Mali, September 2004
Mission report BAS CSQ/2004/01/NG : Nigeria, October 2004
Mission report BAS/2004/02/GM : Gambia, November 2004
Mission report BAS/2004/05/MR : Mauritania, December 2004
Mission report BAS/2004/04/SN : Senegal, December 2004
Mission report BAS/2004/02/ML : Mali, November 2004
Mission report BAS/2005/05/SN : Senegal, April – May 2005
Mission report BAS/2005/06/SN : Senegal, June 2005
Mission report BAS/2005/05/GW : Guinea Bissau, February 2005
Mission report BAS/2005/04/BF : Burkina Faso, January 2005
Mission report BAS/2005/04/NE : Niger, March 2005
Mission report BAS/2005/05/MR : Mauritania, March 2005
Mission report BAS/2005/06/MR : Mauritania, April 2005
Mission report DIOP/BAS/2005/05/NE : Niger, July 2005
Mission report BAS/2005/02/CG : Congo, July 2005
Mission report BAS/2005/06/GW : Guinea Bissau, August 2005
Mission report BAS/2005/05/BF : Burkina Faso, September 2005
Mission report CSQ/NDN/BAS/2005/01/GH : Ghana, September 2005
Mission report CSQ/DIOP/BAS/2005/03.GM : Gambia, November 2005
Mission report BAS/2005/02/NG : Nigeria, December 2005
Mission report DIOP/CSQ/BAS/2006/03/ML : Mali, April 2006
Mission report BAS/2006/03/NG : Nigeria, February – March 2006
Mission report BAS/2006/06/NE : Niger, February 2006
Mission report CSQ/BAS/2006/07/NE : Niger, March 2006
Mission report BAS/2006/02/DC : DRC, July 2006
Mission report BAS/2006/07/MR : Mauritania, August 2006
Mission report BAS/2006/07/GW : Guinea Bissau, September 2006
Mission report BAS/2006/06/BF : Burkina Faso, September 2006
Mission report BAS/2006/08/NE : Niger, October 2006

Technical reports (team work)

*First report regarding Mauritania's RP status
(OIE Scientific Committee) December 2003*
*Second report regarding Mauritania's RP status
(OIE Scientific Committee) Jan. 2004*
ASF Contingency Plan for Guinea Bissau (draft)
HPAI Emergency Preparedness and Action Plan for Nigeria.

Joint mission report FAO/WHO/OIE/IBAR Nigeria (Oct. 2006).

Summary report (in French and English) with regard to the funding of national epidemio-surveillance systems in West-Africa and their benefit / cost ratio in relation to the estimated CBPP situation in four selected countries.

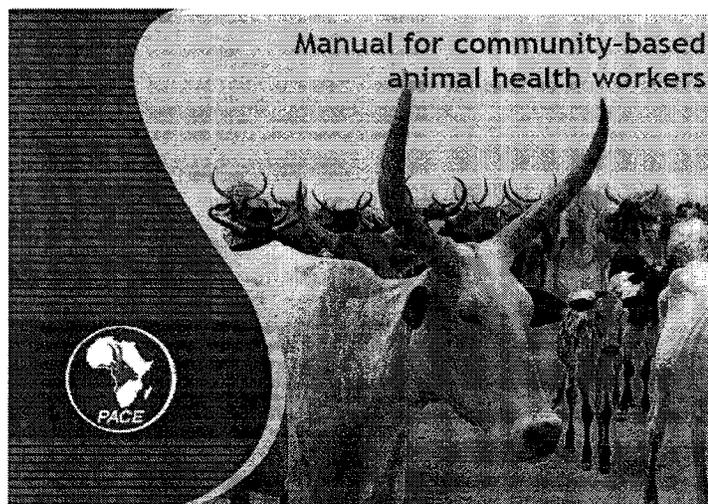


This document is based on the study conducted by Prof. Cheikh LY in Senegal, Mauritania, Benin and Ghana as part of the GTZ-IS short term expertise provided to PACE (in 2005), as well as on the work developed by the PACE Economics Unit on CBPP (Dr. Emmanuel TAMBI). The document is intended to produce a simplified overview of cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness ratios, in order to convince non-technical decision makers and financiers to invest in epidemio-surveillance, from the economic (cost saving) perspective (at least). The document was presented at the 6th annual PACE regional coordination meeting in Mombasa.

Facsimile of cover page

Technical manuals

- *Manual for community-based animal health workers* (in English and French), Mai Lan, author (N. Denormandie and P. Bastiaensen, editors) PACE/AU-IBAR, 2006 (in press).

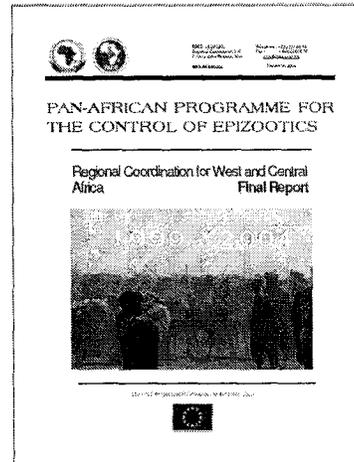


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Progress reports and global work plans

4 half year reports GTZ to AU/IBAR (July 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006) : Annex B
3 annual report GTZ to AU/IBAR (January 2004, 2005 and 2006) : Annex B
40 monthly update reports GTZ (July 2003 – Oct. 2006)
Final Report GTZ-IS assignment as RTA (2003 – 2004), November 2004

Final Report PACEREG West and Central Africa (1999-2004), December 2004
Global work plan PACE extension, December 2004

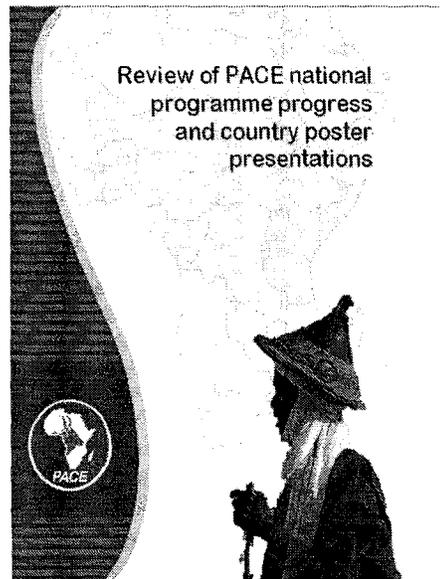


Memorandi of Understanding

Memorandum of Understanding with ECOPAS (Burkina Faso)
Memorandum of Understanding with the BAO⁴⁰ (Guinea Bissau)
Memorandum of Understanding between PACE, DGP and ONV⁴¹ (Guinea Bissau)

M & E (team work)

A comprehensive country progress report, including 30 updated poster presentations (for the 6th annual PACE regional coordination meeting) has been prepared and distributed to the delegates present in Mombasa



Presented for the first time at the last advisory committee meeting as a bilingual document, this document has been reviewed, edited and presented in printed format (one copy in English and another in French) at the annual PACE regional coordination meeting in Mombassa (Kenya).

Facsimile of cover page

⁴⁰ Banco de Africa Ocidental (Guinea Bissau).

⁴¹ Ordem Nacional dos Veterinarios (Guinea Bissau).

Country programme progress monitoring tables (ACM, Annual Coordination Meetings)
Progress report countries (ACM, Annual Coordination Meetings)
Global Strategic Workplan for the extension (ACM)
Progress reports PCU and countries (PACE Annual Coordination Meetings)
PACEREG Banako work plans (programme-estimates).
Country programme progress monitoring posters (ACM, Annual Coordination Meetings)

Scientific papers

Lembrabott O. M., Elmamy B.O., Diarra I., Baba O.M., Bastiaensen P., Bendali F., Diop A.B., Kock R., Tounkara K., Bidjeh K., Thomson G., Fall M. (2005) "Peste bovine : Les limites de la sérologie ? Le cas de la Mauritanie [Rinderpest : The limits of serology ? The case of Mauritania]". *Revue d'Elev. Méd. Vét. Pays Trop.* 58 (3) 117-123.

Bastiaensen P., Denormandie N., Squarzoni C., Bidjeh K., Diop B.A., Bessin R.² (2006) "Eradication planétaire de la peste bovine : la dernière ligne droite" *Tropicultura*, in press.

Scientific oral presentations

Squarzoni C., Bendali F., Denormandie N., Bastiaensen P., Diop A.B. (2005) "Les réseaux d'épidémiologie-surveillance dans les pays d'Afrique de l'ouest : architecture et état des lieux de leur fonctionnement en 2004". *Journées de l'Association pour l'Etude de l'Epidémiologie des Maladies Animales (AEEMA), Paris, France (19-20 mai 2005).*

Scientific poster presentations

Squarzoni C., Bastiaensen P., Denormandie N., Planté C., Seck B., (2006) "Grippe aviaire en Afrique subsaharienne : un premier bilan". *Journées de l'Association pour l'Etude de l'Epidémiologie des Maladies Animales (AEEMA), in collaboration with AESA, Sart-Tilman, Liège, Belgium (May 18-19, 2006). See reprint on next page.*

Squarzoni C., Planté C., Denormandie N., Seck B., Bastiaensen P. (2006) "Grippe aviaire en Afrique occidentale : leçons à tirer de la gestion des premiers foyers". *Journées de l'Association des Epidémiologistes de Terrain (EPITER), Vichy, France (November 10-11, 2006). See reprint on next page.*

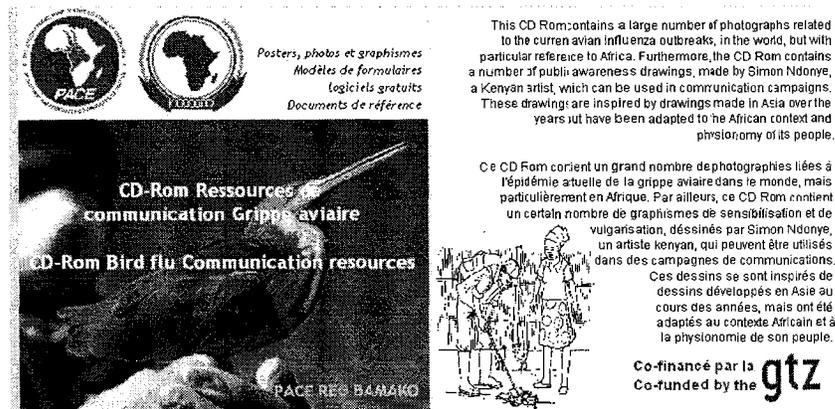
Popular articles (communication)

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

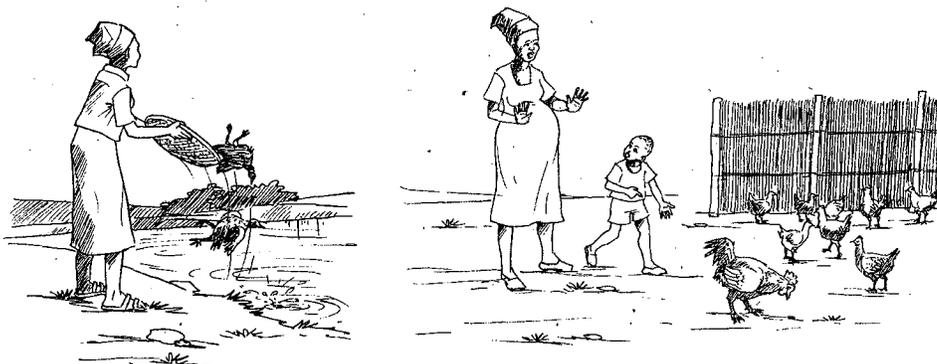
Bastiaensen P. & Diop B.A. (2005) "Eradicating rinderpest." *Spore (CTA) n° 118 August 2005).*

CD-Roms

Production of a CD-Rom containing extension and public awareness tools with regard to **highly pathogenic avian influenza** in Africa. This CD Rom contains a large number of photographs related to the current avian influenza outbreaks, in the world, but with particular reference to Africa. Furthermore, the CD Rom contains a number of public awareness drawings, made by Simon NDONYE, a Kenyan artist, which can be used in communication campaigns. These drawings are inspired by drawings made in Asia over the years but have been adapted to the African context and physiognomy of its people. The CD-Rom mentions the contribution of the GTZ, which funded the designs by Mr. Simon NDONYE. The first version of the CD-Rom was distributed to the delegates of PACE member countries at the OIE general session in Paris (May). The second version was distributed at the 6th annual PACE regional coordination meeting in Mombasa (June 2006).



Facsimile of CD booklet



Two drawings appealing for caution : not to throw dead birds in rivers or ponds (left) and not to let pregnant women and small children near poultry (right)

Grippe aviaire en Afrique sub-saharienne : un premier bilan.

SQUARZONI Cecile ¹, BASTIAENSEN P.X.M. ¹, PLANTE Caroline ², DENORMANDIE N. ¹, SECK B. ³

¹ Direction Régionale pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre du PACE (Programme Pan-Africain de Contrôle des Epizooties),

² Représentation Nationale de l'OIE pour l'Afrique (Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale)

³ Coordonnateur Régional du programme FAO/TC/RAF/3016 de prévention et alerte précoce de l'influenza aviaire

Centre régional de santé animale OIE - FAO - UA/IBAR - PACE

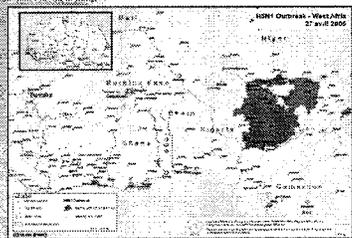
Patte de recherche de Sorbus, Boite postale 2954, Bamako (Mali).



Localisation et caractéristiques épidémiologiques des foyers

L'Afrique sub-saharienne suit un parcours qui semble favoriser les pays limitrophes (à partir du Nigeria), probablement de porcs ou de volailles par transport routier. Cette thèse est appuyée par les zones urbaines des grandes villes qui ont vu la transmission par l'immigration de migrants.

Il serait aussi lié à une importation de porcs d'un jour ou deux de Turquie ou de Chine, excepté ceux de l'immigration électorale à l'occasion des élections dans ces deux pays et des flux commerciaux.



L'apparition au cours du mois de janvier 2006, de fortes mortalités dans une ferme avicole de poulets dans le village de Jaji, dans l'état de Kaduna au nord du Nigeria, a marqué depuis le 7 février 2006 (date de confirmation du diagnostic par l'OMS) le début de la crise de la grippe aviaire hautement pathogène de type asiatique (H5N1). Le début de la crise de la grippe aviaire en Afrique, suivie par l'Égypte (15.02), le Niger (20.02), le Cameroun (12.03), le Burkina Faso (04.04), le Soudan (19.04) et la Côte d'Ivoire (25.04). L'épidémiologie suggère l'existence d'une circulation moderne et villageoise dans un grand nombre de pays en Afrique de l'Ouest et du centre, où plusieurs milliers d'éleveurs professionnels ou de subsistance, sont exposés au risque de cette maladie animale et zoonose. Ces premiers mois de crise, suivis de près par les équipes d'experts du centre régional de santé animale OIE - FAO - IBAR/PAACE, ont permis de dégager des conclusions préliminaires sur le comportement du virus dans la région sub-saharienne de l'Afrique et aussi sur les principales entraves identifiées à la bonne exécution des mesures de contrôle de cette épidémie chez la volaille.

Introduction

La grippe aviaire hautement pathogène de type asiatique (H5N1) a été confirmée en Afrique en février 2006, dans l'état de Kaduna au nord du Nigeria, à Jaji. Le début de la crise de la grippe aviaire en Afrique, suivie par l'Égypte (15.02), le Niger (20.02), le Cameroun (12.03), le Burkina Faso (04.04), le Soudan (19.04) et la Côte d'Ivoire (25.04). L'épidémiologie suggère l'existence d'une circulation moderne et villageoise dans un grand nombre de pays en Afrique de l'Ouest et du centre, où plusieurs milliers d'éleveurs professionnels ou de subsistance, sont exposés au risque de cette maladie animale et zoonose. Ces premiers mois de crise, suivis de près par les équipes d'experts du centre régional de santé animale OIE - FAO - IBAR/PAACE, ont permis de dégager des conclusions préliminaires sur le comportement du virus dans la région sub-saharienne de l'Afrique et aussi sur les principales entraves identifiées à la bonne exécution des mesures de contrôle de cette épidémie chez la volaille.

Mise en œuvre des mesures de police sanitaire

La mise en œuvre des mesures de police sanitaire a été difficile dans de nombreux pays de la région sub-saharienne. Les principales entraves identifiées sont : le manque de moyens matériels et financiers, le manque de personnel qualifié, le manque de coordination entre les différents acteurs impliqués, le manque de communication et de sensibilisation de la population, le manque de données épidémiologiques et de surveillance, le manque de capacités de diagnostic et de laboratoire, le manque de capacités de gestion de crise, le manque de capacités de gestion de crise, le manque de capacités de gestion de crise.

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Pays	Date de début	Date de fin	Nombre de cas	Évolution de la crise	État de santé animale
Nigeria	15/02/06	20/02/06	39	Épizootie de type H5N1, H5N2, H5N3, H5N4, H5N5, H5N6, H5N7, H5N8, H5N9, H5N10, H5N11, H5N12, H5N13, H5N14, H5N15, H5N16, H5N17, H5N18, H5N19, H5N20, H5N21, H5N22, H5N23, H5N24, H5N25, H5N26, H5N27, H5N28, H5N29, H5N30, H5N31, H5N32, H5N33, H5N34, H5N35, H5N36, H5N37, H5N38, H5N39, H5N40, H5N41, H5N42, H5N43, H5N44, H5N45, H5N46, H5N47, H5N48, H5N49, H5N50, H5N51, H5N52, H5N53, H5N54, H5N55, H5N56, H5N57, H5N58, H5N59, H5N60, H5N61, H5N62, H5N63, H5N64, H5N65, H5N66, H5N67, H5N68, H5N69, H5N70, H5N71, H5N72, H5N73, H5N74, H5N75, H5N76, H5N77, H5N78, H5N79, H5N80, H5N81, H5N82, H5N83, H5N84, H5N85, H5N86, H5N87, H5N88, H5N89, H5N90, H5N91, H5N92, H5N93, H5N94, H5N95, H5N96, H5N97, H5N98, H5N99, H5N100	Stable
Niger	20/02/06	25/02/06	1	Épizootie de type H5N1, H5N2, H5N3, H5N4, H5N5, H5N6, H5N7, H5N8, H5N9, H5N10, H5N11, H5N12, H5N13, H5N14, H5N15, H5N16, H5N17, H5N18, H5N19, H5N20, H5N21, H5N22, H5N23, H5N24, H5N25, H5N26, H5N27, H5N28, H5N29, H5N30, H5N31, H5N32, H5N33, H5N34, H5N35, H5N36, H5N37, H5N38, H5N39, H5N40, H5N41, H5N42, H5N43, H5N44, H5N45, H5N46, H5N47, H5N48, H5N49, H5N50, H5N51, H5N52, H5N53, H5N54, H5N55, H5N56, H5N57, H5N58, H5N59, H5N60, H5N61, H5N62, H5N63, H5N64, H5N65, H5N66, H5N67, H5N68, H5N69, H5N70, H5N71, H5N72, H5N73, H5N74, H5N75, H5N76, H5N77, H5N78, H5N79, H5N80, H5N81, H5N82, H5N83, H5N84, H5N85, H5N86, H5N87, H5N88, H5N89, H5N90, H5N91, H5N92, H5N93, H5N94, H5N95, H5N96, H5N97, H5N98, H5N99, H5N100	Stable
Cameroun	12/03/06	15/03/06	58	Épizootie de type H5N1, H5N2, H5N3, H5N4, H5N5, H5N6, H5N7, H5N8, H5N9, H5N10, H5N11, H5N12, H5N13, H5N14, H5N15, H5N16, H5N17, H5N18, H5N19, H5N20, H5N21, H5N22, H5N23, H5N24, H5N25, H5N26, H5N27, H5N28, H5N29, H5N30, H5N31, H5N32, H5N33, H5N34, H5N35, H5N36, H5N37, H5N38, H5N39, H5N40, H5N41, H5N42, H5N43, H5N44, H5N45, H5N46, H5N47, H5N48, H5N49, H5N50, H5N51, H5N52, H5N53, H5N54, H5N55, H5N56, H5N57, H5N58, H5N59, H5N60, H5N61, H5N62, H5N63, H5N64, H5N65, H5N66, H5N67, H5N68, H5N69, H5N70, H5N71, H5N72, H5N73, H5N74, H5N75, H5N76, H5N77, H5N78, H5N79, H5N80, H5N81, H5N82, H5N83, H5N84, H5N85, H5N86, H5N87, H5N88, H5N89, H5N90, H5N91, H5N92, H5N93, H5N94, H5N95, H5N96, H5N97, H5N98, H5N99, H5N100	Stable
Burkina Faso	04/04/06	08/04/06	25	Épizootie de type H5N1, H5N2, H5N3, H5N4, H5N5, H5N6, H5N7, H5N8, H5N9, H5N10, H5N11, H5N12, H5N13, H5N14, H5N15, H5N16, H5N17, H5N18, H5N19, H5N20, H5N21, H5N22, H5N23, H5N24, H5N25, H5N26, H5N27, H5N28, H5N29, H5N30, H5N31, H5N32, H5N33, H5N34, H5N35, H5N36, H5N37, H5N38, H5N39, H5N40, H5N41, H5N42, H5N43, H5N44, H5N45, H5N46, H5N47, H5N48, H5N49, H5N50, H5N51, H5N52, H5N53, H5N54, H5N55, H5N56, H5N57, H5N58, H5N59, H5N60, H5N61, H5N62, H5N63, H5N64, H5N65, H5N66, H5N67, H5N68, H5N69, H5N70, H5N71, H5N72, H5N73, H5N74, H5N75, H5N76, H5N77, H5N78, H5N79, H5N80, H5N81, H5N82, H5N83, H5N84, H5N85, H5N86, H5N87, H5N88, H5N89, H5N90, H5N91, H5N92, H5N93, H5N94, H5N95, H5N96, H5N97, H5N98, H5N99, H5N100	Stable
Égypte	15/02/06	20/02/06	25	Épizootie de type H5N1, H5N2, H5N3, H5N4, H5N5, H5N6, H5N7, H5N8, H5N9, H5N10, H5N11, H5N12, H5N13, H5N14, H5N15, H5N16, H5N17, H5N18, H5N19, H5N20, H5N21, H5N22, H5N23, H5N24, H5N25, H5N26, H5N27, H5N28, H5N29, H5N30, H5N31, H5N32, H5N33, H5N34, H5N35, H5N36, H5N37, H5N38, H5N39, H5N40, H5N41, H5N42, H5N43, H5N44, H5N45, H5N46, H5N47, H5N48, H5N49, H5N50, H5N51, H5N52, H5N53, H5N54, H5N55, H5N56, H5N57, H5N58, H5N59, H5N60, H5N61, H5N62, H5N63, H5N64, H5N65, H5N66, H5N67, H5N68, H5N69, H5N70, H5N71, H5N72, H5N73, H5N74, H5N75, H5N76, H5N77, H5N78, H5N79, H5N80, H5N81, H5N82, H5N83, H5N84, H5N85, H5N86, H5N87, H5N88, H5N89, H5N90, H5N91, H5N92, H5N93, H5N94, H5N95, H5N96, H5N97, H5N98, H5N99, H5N100	Stable
Soudan	19/04/06	25/04/06	26	Épizootie de type H5N1, H5N2, H5N3, H5N4, H5N5, H5N6, H5N7, H5N8, H5N9, H5N10, H5N11, H5N12, H5N13, H5N14, H5N15, H5N16, H5N17, H5N18, H5N19, H5N20, H5N21, H5N22, H5N23, H5N24, H5N25, H5N26, H5N27, H5N28, H5N29, H5N30, H5N31, H5N32, H5N33, H5N34, H5N35, H5N36, H5N37, H5N38, H5N39, H5N40, H5N41, H5N42, H5N43, H5N44, H5N45, H5N46, H5N47, H5N48, H5N49, H5N50, H5N51, H5N52, H5N53, H5N54, H5N55, H5N56, H5N57, H5N58, H5N59, H5N60, H5N61, H5N62, H5N63, H5N64, H5N65, H5N66, H5N67, H5N68, H5N69, H5N70, H5N71, H5N72, H5N73, H5N74, H5N75, H5N76, H5N77, H5N78, H5N79, H5N80, H5N81, H5N82, H5N83, H5N84, H5N85, H5N86, H5N87, H5N88, H5N89, H5N90, H5N91, H5N92, H5N93, H5N94, H5N95, H5N96, H5N97, H5N98, H5N99, H5N100	Stable
Côte d'Ivoire	25/04/06	30/04/06	26	Épizootie de type H5N1, H5N2, H5N3, H5N4, H5N5, H5N6, H5N7, H5N8, H5N9, H5N10, H5N11, H5N12, H5N13, H5N14, H5N15, H5N16, H5N17, H5N18, H5N19, H5N20, H5N21, H5N22, H5N23, H5N24, H5N25, H5N26, H5N27, H5N28, H5N29, H5N30, H5N31, H5N32, H5N33, H5N34, H5N35, H5N36, H5N37, H5N38, H5N39, H5N40, H5N41, H5N42, H5N43, H5N44, H5N45, H5N46, H5N47, H5N48, H5N49, H5N50, H5N51, H5N52, H5N53, H5N54, H5N55, H5N56, H5N57, H5N58, H5N59, H5N60, H5N61, H5N62, H5N63, H5N64, H5N65, H5N66, H5N67, H5N68, H5N69, H5N70, H5N71, H5N72, H5N73, H5N74, H5N75, H5N76, H5N77, H5N78, H5N79, H5N80, H5N81, H5N82, H5N83, H5N84, H5N85, H5N86, H5N87, H5N88, H5N89, H5N90, H5N91, H5N92, H5N93, H5N94, H5N95, H5N96, H5N97, H5N98, H5N99, H5N100	Stable

La mise en œuvre des mesures de police sanitaire a été difficile dans de nombreux pays de la région sub-saharienne. Les principales entraves identifiées sont : le manque de moyens matériels et financiers, le manque de personnel qualifié, le manque de coordination entre les différents acteurs impliqués, le manque de communication et de sensibilisation de la population, le manque de données épidémiologiques et de surveillance, le manque de capacités de diagnostic et de laboratoire, le manque de capacités de gestion de crise, le manque de capacités de gestion de crise, le manque de capacités de gestion de crise.

La mise en œuvre des mesures de police sanitaire a été difficile dans de nombreux pays de la région sub-saharienne. Les principales entraves identifiées sont : le manque de moyens matériels et financiers, le manque de personnel qualifié, le manque de coordination entre les différents acteurs impliqués, le manque de communication et de sensibilisation de la population, le manque de données épidémiologiques et de surveillance, le manque de capacités de diagnostic et de laboratoire, le manque de capacités de gestion de crise, le manque de capacités de gestion de crise, le manque de capacités de gestion de crise.

Conclusions

La connaissance des animaux et les mouvements de volailles vivantes semblent avoir joué un rôle non négligeable dans l'introduction de la maladie sur le continent et sa diffusion entre pays, notamment à la faveur des mouvements illégaux. A contrario, la diminution de la mortalité et la multiplication des foyers dans les pays limitrophes ne permettent pas suivre le même schéma d'un côté, mis à part les cas du Nigeria et de l'Égypte (pays à fortes concentrations de populations humaines et avicoles). Le rôle de l'influenza dans la dissémination de la grippe aviaire n'est pas clair, jusqu'à présent, mais en tout cas, malgré les prévisions réalisées par le CIRAD dans le cadre du TC/RAF/3016 de la FAO (plus de 3.500 serons sur oiseaux sauvages dans le pays, dont 6 en Afrique de l'Ouest), il reste néanmoins évident, notamment pour les cas de Côte d'Ivoire, que les contacts domestiques et zoologiques au nord du Cameroun, beaucoup d'incertitudes et de questions restent en suspens sur l'origine de la grippe aviaire en Afrique et sur le comportement du virus en zones urbaines (notamment les populations, soustraites à de très fortes températures et à une hygiène très faible). Les missions d'appui (centre régional de santé animale OIE/FAO/IBAR/PAACE) à la gestion de crise de la grippe aviaire réalisées dans ces premiers pays touchés, ont permis d'identifier quelles étaient les principales entraves à la bonne exécution des mesures de contrôle et d'assainissement sur le terrain de la maladie chez la volaille. L'insuffisance structurelle de ressources humaines, de moyens financiers et opérationnels des autorités vétérinaires pénalisent en effet la rapidité des interventions sur le terrain. Cependant, les mesures d'interdiction de mouvements de volailles et la forte chute de consommation de volailles, due à la zoonose méditerranéenne ont considérablement réduit les flux de produits avicoles dans les pays infectés et ont permis pour l'instant d'éviter une large diffusion de la grippe aviaire à l'intérieur des pays, tant que le Niger, le Burkina et le Cameroun. Le foyers confirmés officiellement en Côte d'Ivoire (vols), dans la banlieue de Abidjan et à son sous-jacinaire, sera à suivre avec intérêt, compte tenu de la forte concentration de volailles dans la zone et dans le pays et semble confirmer l'hypothèse établie de dissémination entre les pays par des voies commerciales non contrôlées.

Références

1. FAO/WHO/UNEP (2005) - Guide d'évaluation de la propagation de la grippe aviaire hautement pathogène de type asiatique (H5N1) dans les zones urbaines et rurales. FAO, Rome.

2. FAO/WHO/UNEP (2005) - Guide d'évaluation de la propagation de la grippe aviaire hautement pathogène de type asiatique (H5N1) dans les zones urbaines et rurales. FAO, Rome.

3. FAO/WHO/UNEP (2005) - Guide d'évaluation de la propagation de la grippe aviaire hautement pathogène de type asiatique (H5N1) dans les zones urbaines et rurales. FAO, Rome.

Qualité des plans d'urgence nationale

La mise en œuvre des mesures de police sanitaire a été difficile dans de nombreux pays de la région sub-saharienne. Les principales entraves identifiées sont : le manque de moyens matériels et financiers, le manque de personnel qualifié, le manque de coordination entre les différents acteurs impliqués, le manque de communication et de sensibilisation de la population, le manque de données épidémiologiques et de surveillance, le manque de capacités de diagnostic et de laboratoire, le manque de capacités de gestion de crise, le manque de capacités de gestion de crise, le manque de capacités de gestion de crise.

Contraintes institutionnelles

La mise en œuvre des mesures de police sanitaire a été difficile dans de nombreux pays de la région sub-saharienne. Les principales entraves identifiées sont : le manque de moyens matériels et financiers, le manque de personnel qualifié, le manque de coordination entre les différents acteurs impliqués, le manque de communication et de sensibilisation de la population, le manque de données épidémiologiques et de surveillance, le manque de capacités de diagnostic et de laboratoire, le manque de capacités de gestion de crise, le manque de capacités de gestion de crise, le manque de capacités de gestion de crise.

Remerciements

Les auteurs remercient étroitement les cadres du PACE et de l'IBAR à Nairobi : Dr. René Beslin, Bishaj Kabibaj, André Massarini, Karim Tourkare et Modou Traoré, ainsi que Wilfried Hartwig à Yamoussoukro (PACE/COTE) et Alexandre Camin à Montpellier (FAO/IBAR).

PACE www.au-ibar.org
Pan African programme for the Control of Epizootics

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Miscellaneous documents and reports

*Upon request of the local EC delegation in Bamako, finalisation of the **envelope-B** financing proposal to the EDF for emergency aid to the Republic of **Mali** to face the current avian influenza crisis.*

The RTA has contributed to the finalisation of a request for funding of emergency actions to face the menace of an avian influenza outbreak in Mali. The amount earmarked, approximately 2,000,000 €, will be used foremost for the establishment of a farmer compensation scheme. Funds will also be used to establish a vaccine bank and the necessary strengthening of field intervention capacities.

Upon request of the local EC delegation in Bamako, drafting of a memo regarding the current avian influenza situation in Mali (for the second donor pledging conference on avian influenza in Vienna – June 2006)

*Upon request of the local EC delegation in Bamako, review of the TRANSTEC – BDPA report on the **development strategies for the livestock sector** in Mali, to be funded under the 10th EDF (as from 2008)*

*Upon request of the local EC delegation in Bamako, review of the proposal from the EC Brussels to fund the **4th International Avian Influenza Conference in Bamako** (December 2006).*

De-mobilisation phase

The TA left for his home ward travel on October 31st, 2006 (from Nairobi, after having attended the 13th Advisory Committee Meeting). Because of time constraints and because the RTA will return to Bamako shortly under a GTZ short term contract with IBAR, most of the hand-over and de-mobilisation activities and protocols have been postponed to next month.

This includes the hand-over of vehicles, equipment, reports, archives, accounting, electronic files, closure of the accounts, etc...

Assistance in terms of countries' disease status for rinderpest

From the 10 countries covered by the RTA, five have managed to attain recognition of infection free status in May 2006 (OIE) : **Burkina Faso, Congo, DRC, Guinea Bissau (second attempt) and Mali. Senegal** had already been declared free of rinderpest in 2005, bringing the total to six.

Of the four remaining countries, **Gambia, Mauritania, Niger** and Nigeria, the latter is probably the least advanced. In **Nigeria**, except for clinical surveillance, little progress has been made towards attaining the status of rinderpest free country. In 2005, the financial burdens of PACE have made any significant sero-surveillance campaign impossible; since 2006 a new PE has been approved but has been completely overhauled to cater for the needs in terms of avian influenza control.

The joint FAO/WHO/OIE/IBAR fact finding (team leader : Dr. Peter ROEDER, FAO GREP Coordinator) in October 2006, was the last opportunity to discuss this issue with the relevant staff in Abuja. The proposal has been made to re-test the samples from the sero-surveillance campaign conducted in 2003 – 2004 (which yielded a lot of false positive at the time) and to re-test positive cases in Pirbright or Montpellier. If these tests yield good results (no genuine positives), one more sero-surveillance campaign in cattle should be sufficient to submit a dossier to OIE. As for wildlife, it has been recommended to limit sero-surveillance to cattle populations adjacent to national parks (sentinel), in order to pick up possible infection in wildlife.

The situation and prospects of the 4 remaining countries are therefore as follows :

Country	Present status	Request	H ⁴²	Comments
Gambia	Provisionally free	Infection free	●	By May 2007
Mauritania	Disease free	Infection free		By May 2007
Niger	Disease free	Infection free		By May 2007
Nigeria	Disease free	Infection free		By May 2008

MR [Follow-up on Mauritania's disease status for rinderpest]

The first mission was requested by the Regional Coordinator in order to investigate the recent discovery of two serum samples from warthogs, hunted in the south of the country, bordering the Senegal – river, which revealed (strong) antibody presence against rinderpest, using the recommended c-ELISA⁴³. The two samples were part of a set of 32 (28 were analysed) samples of warthog serum, collected between January and March 2003. The results produced by Nouakchott's veterinary lab were confirmed by Dakar, Abidjan and WRLR⁴⁴ Pirbright. The CVO⁴⁵ of Mauritania has informed the OIE and neighbouring countries of the situation as from July 17th onwards. The last declaration was made on August 21st, confirming the results at Pirbright. The mission was conducted between August 17th and 20th, 2003.

At the time, a thorough investigation had yielded no clear explanation as to why the warthog samples tested positive, but had the advantage to exclude certain options and to agree on the follow-up procedures with the stakeholders. The conclusion was therefore : *'there is evidence of antibody presence in warthogs, more than twenty years after the last recognized outbreak in Mauritania. The results are genuine, the protocols have been respected, errors have been made, but are in no way serious enough to put a shadow of*

⁴² Historical absence of disease and infection, as well as vaccination.

⁴³ Enzym Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay

⁴⁴ World Reference Laboratory for Rinderpest

⁴⁵ Chief Veterinary Officer

doubt on these results. Fraud cannot be excluded, but is highly unlikely'. The RTA also concluded that : 'As far as Mauritania's sanitary status is concerned, there is no reason for alarm. In the presence of a well-functioning surveillance network and in the absence of clinical cases, Mauritania's disease-free status should not be menaced by the discovery of serological evidence of RP.' Unfortunately, the OIE decided otherwise and suspended Mauritania's disease free status at the beginning of September 2003.

Thereafter began the process of gathering the necessary information to prove the absence of disease to OIE. Measures were implemented based on Dr. Fatah BENDALI's mission in October 2003 and the recommendations of the cross-border meeting with Senegal and Mali, that same month. Later that year, a wildlife mission was conducted by Dr. Richard KOCK (PEU).

A first report was drafted with the help of the RTA and submitted to OIE in December 2003 but was not considered sufficiently convincing by OIE's Scientific Committee to recommend OIE to declare Mauritania again disease free.

A second report to OIE was drafted jointly by the REMEMA board members and the RTA in January 2004. The document was based on the first document submitted to OIE, but presenting new data on cattle and warthog sero-prevalence, confirming the absence of antibodies against RP. New discussion topics (based on a paper prepared by Drs. G. THOMSON and R. KOCK) had been included in order to conclusively recognise the freedom of (at least) rinderpest disease in Mauritania and to request that the OIE Scientific Committee recommends that Mauritania regains its former disease status. This report was sent to OIE on January 31st, 2004.



Warthog mandibula found near Rosso (southern Mauritania), with dentition indicating elevated age.
Photo by R. Kock.

As a result, OIE's Scientific Committee recommended to the OIE Bureau that Mauritania regains its disease free status. The General Session of the International Committee of the OIE, in its 72nd Annual Session (May 2004) has re-instated the disease-free status of Mauritania (resolution XXII).

Since this date, Mauritania has attempted to speed up its compliance with OIE guidelines. With regard to clinical surveillance of rinderpest in ruminants, the following suspicions have been registered :

Diseases suspected	Suspicious reported	Confirmed outbreaks
FMD	30	3
RVF	81	14
Rinderpest (S-E)	11	0
CBPP	104	25
PPR	72	35
Rabies	44	25
Total	342	102

It arises from the table that the surveillance of animal diseases through the REMEMA enabled the detection of several outbreaks of diseases connected the bovine S-E complex (35 outbreaks of PPR and 3 outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease). Furthermore, 11 suspicions of rinderpest were diagnosed as being cases of BVD, IBR and even coccidiosis.

Within the framework of the active serological surveillance of cattle for rinderpest, the results obtained are as follows:

Year 1

Epidemiological units	Sera collected	Positives	P
306	4,816	14	0.3%

The positive sera were tested with c-ELISA against PPR and 4 of the 14 sera yielded a PI beyond 50 and were consequently regarded as positive with respect to PPR. For the others, missions were dispatched in the four *wilaya* in order to carry out investigations on the origin of the sero-conversion. These investigations concluded that the investigators had made errors of appreciation of the ages of the animals and that 4 animals were in fact 7 years old and the others were one year old, which is outside the age bracket recommended by the REMEMA for sampling (2 to 4 years). It is thus extremely probable that they were animals having been vaccinated (vaccination was officially stopped in 1998, but there are few doubts that residual stocks were used until 1999, thus 5 years ago in 2004).

Year 2

Epidemiological units	Sera collected	Positives	P
292	3,713	18	0.5%

Here also, positive sera were (re)tested with c-ELISA PPR and three of these sera were strongly positive and three others slightly positive for PPR. For the other sera, all the errors were errors of age determination, made by one team only (the margin of error was 3 years for adult animals).

The RTA had recommended that (at least) these samples be sent to the laboratory of the CIRAD-EMVT in Montpellier where it is possible to carry out sequencing to differentiate the antibodies of vaccine origin (RBOK) from natural antibodies. This was not done.

The sero-surveillance of wildlife was compiled from the samples taken up to 2003 (including those of "the incident" of the 2 seropositive warthogs), supplemented by 13 samples taken in 2004. Overall, 64 warthog sera were collected during the hunting seasons of 2001 up to 2005, amongst which 14 were not exploitable.

Except for the 2 positive sera in the 2003-set, all others were negative with respect to rinderpest. However, these sera revealed a sero-positivity with respect to certain diseases such as PPR, RVF and trypanosomosis.

In conclusion, the dossier submitted to OIE seems coherent, with satisfactory tests of internal quality assurance, even if one would have expected some false positives, because of the sensitivity of the c-ELISA test which is not 100%. In our opinion, nothing should prevent the Scientific Commission from recommending the recognition of Mauritania as infection-free country in May 2007 (next General Session of the International Committee of OIE in Paris).

Assistance in terms of countries' disease status for HPAI



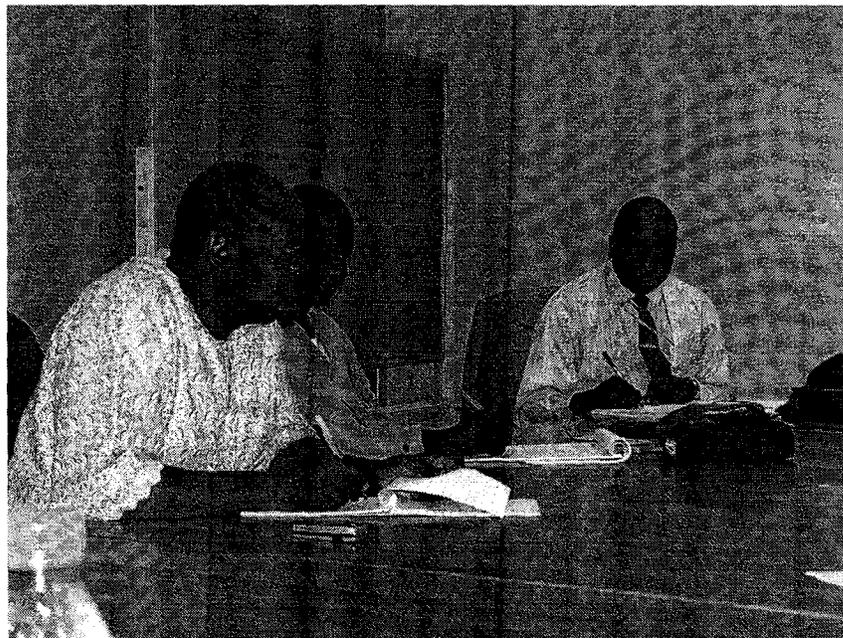
At this stage, this can hardly be qualified as *'back-up activity'* anymore, given the time and resources allocated to this epizootic.

Indeed, most of the activities of the RTA today are related in some way or another to the numerous spin-offs this epizootic has created since its introduction on the African continent in February 2006. It is not the purpose of this report to review the events related to bird flu in Africa, but rather to highlight the role the RTA has been able to play in terms of assistance to this disease. Since the spread of avian influenza began from Asia towards Eastern and Southern Europe, and as it became more and more accepted that migrating birds could be implicated in the transmission of the disease, technical assistants have been giving more attention to avian influenza, from the African perspective. First of all, all documented reports, newsletters and publications on the subject have been centralized in order to provide the TA's themselves with sufficient technical information.

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

The inception workshop of the FAO regional TCP on avian influenza prevention in West Africa (Bamako, January 23 – 26, 2006) has been the (first) opportunity to assess how well PACE member countries had responded to this global threat.

The activities of the RTA have really been kick-started on February 7th, 2006 when **Nigeria** officially confirmed its first case of avian influenza. The RTA was then conducting a mission in Niger, which would later turn out to be the next in line to be affected by bird flu.



Working session of the international taskforce at the UN House in Abuja (left to right : Dr. William AMANFU, FAO team leader, Dr. Boubacar SECK, FAO/TCP regional coordinator for West Africa, Dr. Demoela MAJASAN, FAO Nigeria Programme Officer).

As soon as the RTA got back from his assignment in Niger (where he laid the basis for a short term increase in PACE Niger's budget to cope with the menace of HPAI in neighbouring Nigeria), he flew to Abuja on February 12th, where he was joined by the PACE Financial Controller and later on also by the PACE Main Epidemiologist and the Laboratory Expert. While the latter three experts had to shorten their stay in Nigeria due to other engagements, the RTA stayed on until March 3rd, 2006; in order to regain Niamey (Niger), where meanwhile bird flu had also been declared. He conducted a mission in Niger, together with the PACE Regional Epidemiologist, from March 5th to 15th, 2006. In the process, the RTA had a severe car accident on the way to Niger, the vehicle has been declared a write-off and he was flown back to Bamako, luckily enough without any physical damage.

In Nigeria, the RTA's involvement can be summarized under the following headings:

- Participation in the meetings of the technical international taskforce on animal avian influenza, under the presidency of FAO/OIE (UN House);
- Participation in the coordination meetings of the technical international taskforces with the donor agencies, under the presidency of the WHO (UN House);
- Participation in the daily briefing meetings from the inter-ministerial committee with the donor representatives and international taskforce members (Crisis command centre);
- Participation in the national steering committee on avian influenza (Crisis command centre);
- Participation in meetings of the international taskforce on animal avian influenza with the PACE National Programme Coordinator (head of the epidemiological investigation task force) and the Director of the FDLPCS on technical issues (PACE Coordination office);
- Participation in the meeting of the European Commissioner for health and consumer protection with the international taskforce members (UN House);
- Daily briefings to the Ambassador, Head of Delegation of the European Commission in Nigeria, and the EC Rural Development Advisor.(EC delegation);
- Drafting of '*standard operating procedures*' (SOP) for avian influenza outbreak control, as well as a 'case definition' form and several other forms (vaccination, compensation,...);
- Design of an assessment of vaccination needs according to infected/disease-free States;
- Design of extension messages and poster templates;
- Design of a template website for the FDLPCS;
- Drafting of a policy orientation document on possible strategic poultry vaccination against avian influenza in Nigeria;
- Review and compilation of a '*Comprehensive emergency preparedness and action plan against highly pathogenic avian influenza in Nigeria*'.

Over the near-to three weeks the RTA spent in Nigeria, he met with most stakeholders in this process, both national and international, such as the various resident representatives of the UN system in Nigeria (WHO, FAO, UNICEF) and their staff, the EU, French and American Embassy staff, World Bank and AfDB representatives, and technical experts from WHO, FAO, OIE, CDC, USAID, USDA, APHIS and the French veterinary and public health services.

In Niger, the RTA's involvement was more focussed on the liaison with the EC and other EU member countries in order to mobilize funds for HPAI control, mainly because Niger was already better prepared (technically) than was Nigeria at the time of its first outbreak. Most technical framework documents and plans had already been drafted and approved by the time the RTA arrived in Niger.



Sunday-morning working session with the international task-force at the PACE Nigeria office (left : Dr. Gashash AHMED, PACE and right : Dr. Cheryl FRENCH, APHIS-USDA).

In the weeks that followed, the RTA, with his freshly gained experience in bird flu control and emergency preparedness, assisted in the **development of various support tools to HPAI** emergency preparedness, funding, knowledge sharing, awareness raising and communication.

These documents are (teamwork IBAR - PACE – OIE – FAO) :

- Communication kit for the development of poster materials
- Kit of avian influenza related forms for animal health personnel
- Brochure on avian influenza (pathology, epidemiology, diagnosis, control)
- Disease cards on avian influenza
- Guidelines : "HPAI : 10 actions to prepare in emergency crisis management"
- Pricelists of HPAI control and disinfection equipment, materials and reagents
- Template HPAI emergency preparedness and contingency budgets

Furthermore, a chapter on avian influenza was added to the –meanwhile (in)famous- *Manual for Community-based Animal health Workers in West and Central Africa* (a work in progress....). After having been scrutinized by staff from AEEMA, CIRAD, WB, OIE and FAO, the bi-lingual document is now finally complete (200 pages exactly), and has been separated in two one-language versions of the manual. Printing is expected to commence soon, provided the funding-gap can be closed (FAO, OIE and FC have already committed funds).

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Three follow-up missions were conducted in September and October 2006 to Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Niger. In **Nigeria**, the mission was requested and spear-headed by the FAO, who led an FAO/OIE/IBAR fact mission to Nigeria to assess the current epidemiological situation in the country and formulate recommendations on the way forward, including possible changes in control/eradication strategies. The RTA took part in this mission (from October 3rd – 12th) as representative of AU-IBAR. FAO was represented by Dr. Peter ROEDER and OIE by Dr. Walter MASIGA. The outcome of this mission is presented in the annexes as report 04/NG of the RTA.

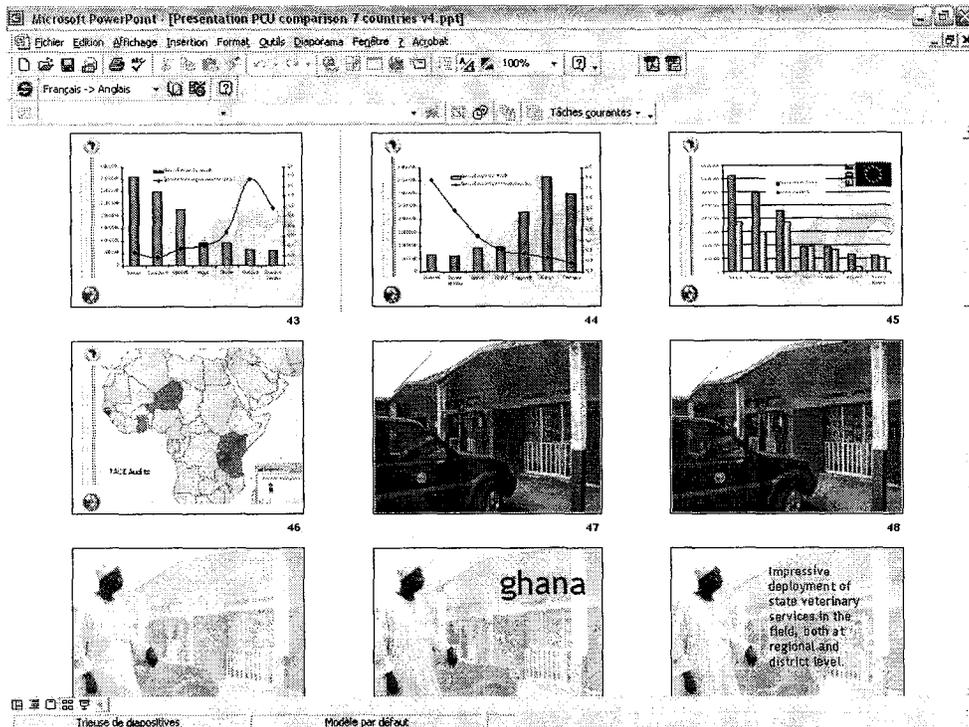


Necropsy of poultry, suspected of avian influenza in Magaria village (Niger), February 2006 (Picture : LABOCEL, Niamey).

The missions to **Burkina Faso** (19 – 21 September 2006) and **Niger** (18 – 20 October 2006) enabled the RTA to take stock of the epidemiological situation and of advances made in terms of fundraising for the mid to long term actions of the veterinary services to maintain their current influenza freedom (as from June 2006) as well as to sensitize the veterinary authorities on the need to engage in a surveillance protocol, aimed at (re)gaining official recognition of HPAI freedom from OIE. The report summaries are presented in annex as reports BF/06 and NE/08 of the RTA.

Presentation of PACE member countries' internal monitoring.

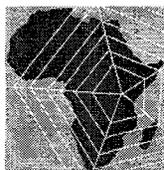
In order to strengthen the country-based assessment of PACE as a whole, both Bamako RTA's and the Main TA presented an overview of the results of the first internal evaluation missions conducted in 7 countries to the **11th Advisory Committee**. In a very visual style, often map based, results were presented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



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

Six months later, the second batch of internal evaluation missions conducted in 4 more countries was presented to the **12th Advisory Committee**. The RTA presented the results for Gambia, Mali, Chad and Ethiopia and compared those with earlier results for Guinea Bissau, Niger, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania.

ARIS (PID) implementation in PACE member countries



Following the training by Dr. Berhanu BEDANE (DMU, now renamed ICU) in November 2003 on PID installation, use and troubleshooting, both RTA's started to implement PID (later renamed ARIS, *Animal Resource Information System*) in their respective countries as from December 2003. Usually, this meant installing and training staff for the first time. In several cases, there was need to re-install PID and/or to provide additional training. In almost all cases,

PC's had to be completely reformatted in order to achieve the required platform (Windows 2000 Pro in most cases). By the beginning of 2006, 9 countries had been visited at least once with regard to ARIS, either for installation and training or/and for follow-up and problem-solving. In Nigeria, there was no need for (regional) technical assistance, as the national (French) technical assistant was proficient in ARIS-use (Dr. Yann MICHAUX) and as Dr. Berhanu BEDANE travelled to Nigeria himself to provide technical support.

Country	Site	(re) Installation	Training	Follow-up
Mauritania	CNERV ⁴⁶	X	X	X
	DIREL ⁴⁷	X	X	X
Burkina Faso	LNE ⁴⁸	X	X	X
Niger	PACE	X	X	X
Guinea Bissau	PACE DGP ⁴⁹	X	X	X
Mali	DNAMR ⁵⁰	X	X	X
Senegal	SNSE		X	X
The Gambia	PACE	X	X	
Congo-Brazzaville	PACE			X
DRC	PACE	X	X	X



Training PACE/DSA staff member Dr. AbdoulMalick Haido on the use of PID in Niger. March 2004. Photo by O. Seydou.

⁴⁶ Centre National de l'Elevage et de la Recherche Vétérinaire

⁴⁷ Direction de l'Elevage

⁴⁸ Laboratoire National d'Elevage

⁴⁹ Direcção Geral de Pecuaria

⁵⁰ Direction Nationale d'Appui au Monde Rural

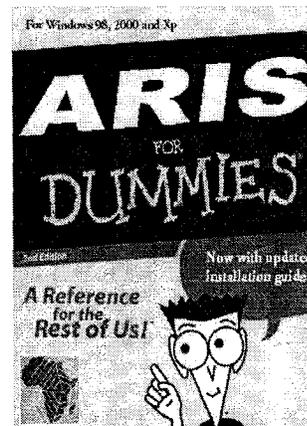
As part of the preliminary work for the development of ARIS version 2, the RTA contributed to a comprehensive list of shortcomings, incoherencies, bugs and problems to be reviewed and conducted the translation of the *PACE Integrated Database* word set into Portuguese : he translated about 3,000 keywords and 200 dialog box messages used in PID (ARIS) into Portuguese.

This would have allowed the next version of PID – ARIS to more reliable and to be launched in three languages.

This hasn't happened so far, partly due to financial constraints at the beginning of the extension phase and partly due to the departure of the Head of Unit, Dr. Berhanu BEDANE to the PRINT project in Southern Africa.

These factors have led to a standstill in the development of ARIS and the technical support given to member countries. This led e.g. to considerable delays in conducting the short term mission by M. Olivier TOURNEBIZE in Senegal on the establishment of an IT - bridge between the DIREL's intranet network – based on Lotus Notes- and ARIS. In other countries, ARIS use came to a standstill altogether.

The only countries where ARIS use is deemed minimal but nevertheless promising are Nigeria, DRC and Guinea Bissau. These three countries also manage to generate their monthly reports to IBAR through ARIS; unfortunately, the current OIE passive surveillance reporting system (half-yearly) is incompatible with ARIS.



The implementation (*operation*) of ARIS at this point can be summarized as follows :

Country	Installed	Operation	Reporting
Burkina Faso	•	••	
Congo	(•)	<i>PC was stolen</i>	
DRC	•	•••	•
Gambia	•	•	
Guinea Bissau	•	••••	•
Mali	•	•••	
Mauritania	•	••	<i>Used for animal production data only</i>
Niger	•	(••)	<i>The only Db-manager left for another project</i>
Nigeria	•	•••	•
Senegal	•	•••	

Dr. BEDANE's successor in IBAR, Dr. Baba SOUMARE, agreed to the organisation of a thorough review of ARIS and the usefulness to continue its development, given the numerous constraints and complaints reported by in-country users (including the RTA's), especially with regard to the ORACLE platform.

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The review was conducted during the month of September 2006 by M. Dario BERARDI, who visited Bamako from September 6th to 9th, accompanied by Dr. Baba SOUMARE. The comments of the consultant, as presented in its mission report (October 2006), entirely reflect the discussions the RTA had with him and lead to conclusions which are in line with the RTA's experiences after almost 4 years of PID and later ARIS use :

DMU decided to develop the software under ORACLE. Initially it appears that the idea was to use open-source software, thus avoiding license expenditures and up-grade problems and backward compatibility. However, in the end, ORACLE seemed to be the best option because it could ensure reliability, local technical assistance (one of the main constraints to using open source software) and enough power for ARIS requirements in terms of number of records to manage.

The decision to use ORACLE seems today to be the most controversial issue about ARIS across all PACE countries and even among the technicians of the PACE programme. ORACLE is high demanding in terms of hardware requirements and difficult to install;. It also requires post-installation maintenance and excessive training to be mastered.

*We do believe, based on our knowledge of existing IT and database management capacities in the public sector of African countries, that **ORACLE is not yet a good choice for most of public institutions in Africa, especially if sustainability is a key element. It is not, of course, an issue of technical capacity, since there is no doubt that ORACLE is one of the best (if not the best) Data Base Management System (DBMS) that is available today. It is not even an issue of the initial cost and annual license. The problem with ORACLE for African institutions are the high recurrent costs in terms of human resources that are required to operate the system.***

Today institutions using ORACLE are hiring one or more persons as ORACLE administrators and one or more persons as ORACLE developers. It's very difficult for an Africa institution, with small needs in terms of database and with permanent budget restrictions, to be able to hire two or more persons solely for managing ORACLE.

*As a matter of fact, ORACLE is a good solution for those institutions that need several information systems: their needs can all be answered by ORACLE and, hence, it makes sense and it is cost-effective to invest on it. On the contrary, if what is needed is just one information system, then the use of ORACLE make sense only for those information systems that need to manage millions of records and for which security is of utmost importance . This maybe the case for ARIS at AU/IBAR level, where data coming from all countries in Africa should be stored in the same database . It does not seem the case at country level and, of course, it **does not make any sense at sub-national level.***

(...)

From the point of view of database capacity (that is the maximum number of records one database is able to process)...(the)... four countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Mali and Senegal) could have been using ACCESS without any problem. The only limit of ACCESS is file size, which cannot exceed 2 Gbytes (though for ease of use, it should not exceed 1.4 Gbytes): there is no limit to the number of records. Just to give an idea of file size: Tanzania ACCESS database, which has been storing national data for 5 years, has a size of 1.5 Mbytes.

(...)

We believe that, presently, ARIS is not sustainable at country level. It may be sustainable at regional level if some actions are taken (see next session on the recommendations), but definitely not at country level. With a very poor global IT infrastructure (it's not just an issue of PC, but you also need to take into account the quality of electricity power supply; the quality of the network; the quality of the environment: dust, humidity, temperature ...), African countries willing to base their information system on ORACLE platform will need to invest heavily on human resources: they will need people with skills in ORACLE administration. In fact, due to the global IT infrastructure, we should expect a very high PC turn-over, which will require moving software and data from one PC to another. However, ORACLE expertise is very expensive, which, coupled with annual fees for the license, makes sustainability of ORACLE based systems very unlikely.

In summary, we can say that ARIS concept is quite good but its efficacy, so far, is very poor. First of all, we need to have a functional release of ARIS (it's somehow unfortunate that after 4 years we are not yet working with a functional release...). But even with a functional release, the efficacy of ARIS will be, somehow, reduced by its lack of flexibility and lack of sustainability.

(...)

The new release of ARIS should build on the modules that have been developed so far but it should be based on a complete different platform.

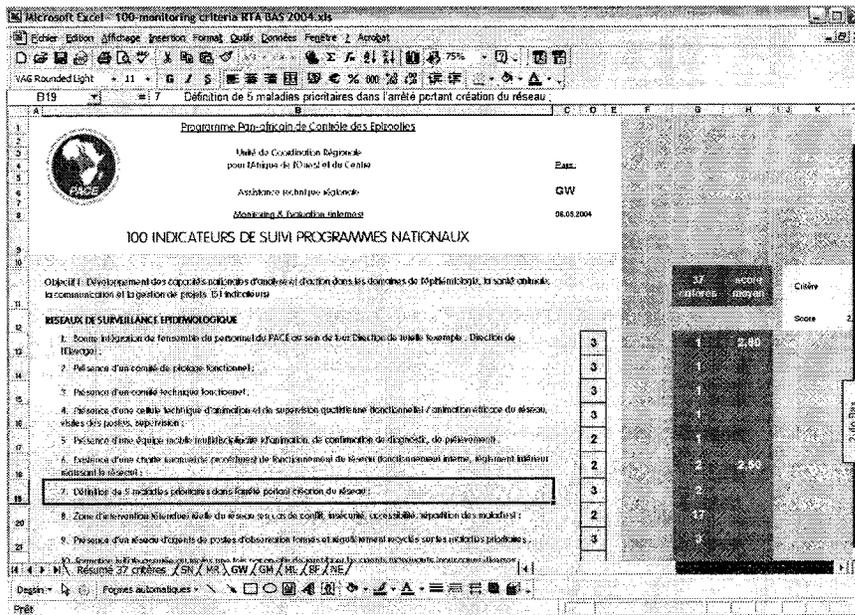
(...)

The new ARIS should be a collection of stand-alone modules that share the same platform. This will facilitate a modular implementation strategy giving much more control on the fund disbursement. Also, this will give the possibility to add new modules as need presents. (...)

(extracts from the ARIS technical review conducted by M. Dario BERARDI, Sept 2006).

Further tuning of the M & E system for national components.

As from the 6th ACM (April 2002), several indicators had been presented in order to assess progress made in implementing national PACE programmes. These indicators, meanwhile considered insufficient to analyse PACE operational programmes in their consolidation phase (the initial indicators being mainly oriented on the starting phase of activities) were reviewed by the two RTA's as from mid-2003 in terms of content and quantity in order to reflect the consolidation aspects of operations. A draft proposal (using 40 criteria) was presented at the 8th ACM (November 2003).



Screen-capture of the spreadsheet used for monitoring country progress using 100 indicators (in French).

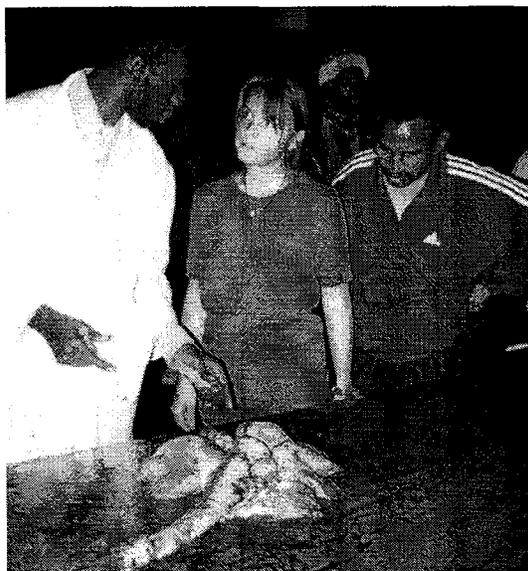
Following discussions with other GTZ TA's and PCU and CSU⁵¹ staff members (especially from the PEU) the list was further reduced to 37 monitoring criteria. This new set of criteria and the country-assessment were presented at the 9th ACM (April 2004, Nairobi) and endorsed by their members. The graphic presentation uses 4 classes and uses a colour code which facilitates intuitive interpretation. The 37 criteria being equally balanced, this analysis allows to calculate a general country-score, which is the average of the score for each of the 37 criteria. This set of criteria is entirely compatible with (and additional to) the monitoring framework used by the E.C., which focuses mainly on programme design and implementation at project-management level, using 5 distinct monitoring criteria, being relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. The set of 37 monitoring criteria presented in this document are mostly related to 'impact' and 'sustainability' of activities, but exceed the programme implementation level.

Both RTA's in Bamako are also using a much more detailed list of 100 monitoring criteria, which enable them to monitor country progress at a different scale (French only). This monitoring framework has been automated under MS Excel to convert automatically into the 37 monitoring criteria, used by the PCU (see screen-capture on previous page). Data are updated on a 6-months basis.

⁵¹ Common Services Unit

Coaching of trainees

The RTA has coordinated a two-week study visit to PACE-REG by Ms. **Julia RAUCH**, graduation-year veterinary student at Onderstepoort Veterinary Faculty (University of Pretoria, RSA). Her study-visit allowed her to understand the set-up and goals of the PACE programme at continental level, to study the different aspects of its implementation (in terms of technical fields of expertise and in terms of geographical approaches) and experienced the implementation of the programme at country-level, through visits with the PACE Mali team. Ms. RAUCH had the opportunity to work with all experts present in Bamako (PACE and OIE) and visited several sites of interest in Mali (lab, abattoir, private vets, etc.). This visit was approved by the Regional Coordinator.



*Night-time visit to the Bamako Abattoir
(from left to right : Dr. Diarra, Ms. Rauch and Dr. Diall)*

A second trainee was welcomed in May 2004.

Dr. **Serge Tcheunten NZIENTCHEUNG** is a post-graduate student of the Veterinary Faculty of Toulouse (France), conducting a study on the performance-indicators for epidemiological surveillance systems. His stay ended in August 2004 and his thesis (CEAV - *Certificat d'Etudes Approfondies Vétérinaires en Epidémiosurveillance et en Pathologie Animale en Régions Chaudes*) was published in September 2004.

(Tele) Communications

Over the past 40 months, a large variety of communication links and tools have been established in order for the RTA to conduct his regional task.

The RTA has established professional links with :

National PACE coordinators of the countries covered, directors of livestock or veterinary services departments, heads of national veterinary labs, national PACE staff, field personnel, lab technicians, private veterinarians.

AU/IBAR : Regular exchanges with the PACE coordinator and the Main TA, with the financial controller and with the Common Services (initially privatisation and legislation, communication, epidemiology, wildlife, data-management; these days mostly epidemiology and information-communication)

National EU Delegations : Regular contacts with the rural development advisers and officers- in- charge of PACE.

NAO : Regular contacts with the NAO-EDF support offices.

OIE : Regular contacts with the Regional Director (Bamako office), other OIE staff in Bamako (within the framework of the Regional Center for Animal Health.) and in Paris.

FAO : Close collaboration with FAO staff in charge of avian influenza (in Rome and in Bamako, within the framework of the Regional Center for Animal Health.

Since May 2006, the RTA is also associated to Bloomberg TV as scientific advisor for issues related to bird flu in Africa.

Bloomberg.com

The RTA is also a regular contributor to the ProMED network/news group (ISID).



Furthermore, he has been regularly informed of ongoing events in the area of tropical animal health and production through various information networks / discussion groups :

*ProMED,
EMPRES-L,
OIE-list,
LEAD-L,
PAAT-L,
Tryplink.*

The RTA has frequently liaised with :

Partner organizations / programmes such as :

*ECOPAS (Parc W) – Burkina Faso,
Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF) – Mali,
Regional reference labs – LNERV Senegal (mostly),
International reference labs – CIRAD France, Montpellier (mostly),
USDA-APHIS (Dakar – Senegal)
EISMV (Dakar – Senegal)*

*GTZ-IS Nairobi, Addis Ababa and Eschborn staff,
GTZ Bamako staff,
GTZ-IS PACE national and regional T.A.s*

In terms of hardware, the following means of communication were used :

Fixed telephone access (through switchboard) :	+ 223 - 224.60.53
Telefax :	+ 223 - 224.05.78
Cellphones :	+ 223 - 647.49.63
	+ 223 - 676.43.02
	(Senegal) + 221 - 561.52.61
Home phone :	+ 223 - 221.77.70
Satellite phone (Thuraya) :	+ 88 (216) 43.33.82.27

LAN 10/100 network (and domain : pacereg.org) for broadband internet and e-mail access.

Since 2005, the LAN is not only accessible through cable wiring, but also wireless (WLAN) through the Wi-fi technology. The antenna (access point) has been purchased through the TA's GTZ office budget.



The Bamako-based server provides for both web-based (remote) mail access and PC based mail-access, using **Outlook Express**.

E-mail : patrick.bastiaensen@pacereg.org

The RTA is also linked to the GTZ server (both internet and intranet) and benefits from an e-mail account which can be accessed through the web-based **Outlook Web Access** (owa) and through pop-server applications such as **Outlook Express**

E-mail : patrick.bastiaensen@gtz.de

For a while, during 2004 and 2005, all technical assistance staff members in Bamako (including the regional coordinator), N'Djaména and Yaoundé, were linked up with the instant messaging (IM) system, using **MSN Messenger**. This system allows for real-time e-mail messaging, file transfer, webcam image transfer and video-conferencing.



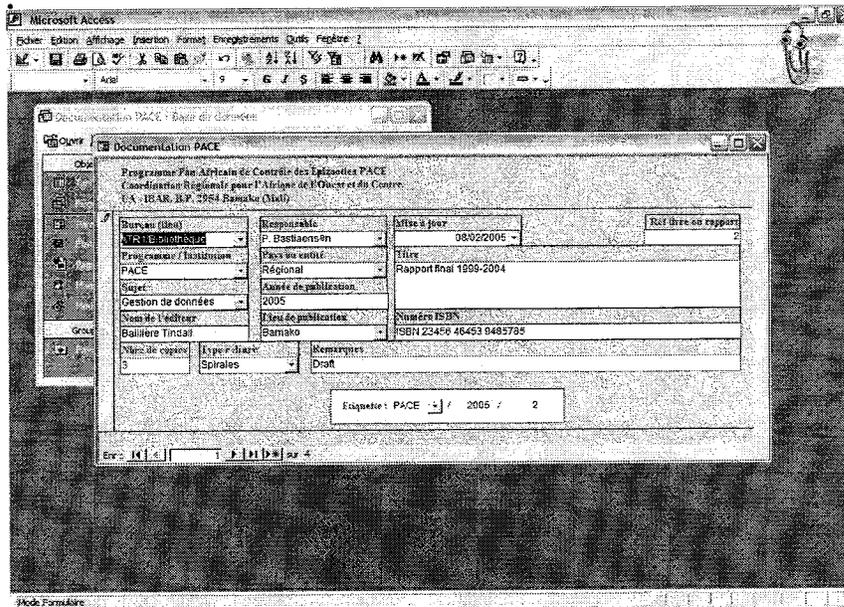
Since 2005, most TA's are linked by the IM and VOIP system called **SKYPE** : < bastiaensen >



Electronic office management (Bamako)

Microsoft ACCESS based inventory system for documents, books and reports.

By request of the Regional Coordinator, the RTA has designed a small Access-based database for the inventory of the documents held by the Regional Coordination since 1988 (PARC and PACE). The secretary has been instructed on the use of the database. Data-entry by the PACE secretariat is ongoing. To date, 1,025 documents have been electronically archived.



It is unclear to which extent the document management system which is being developed in Nairobi (AU-IBAR/PACE, through a GTZ-IS short-term mission, ongoing) has taken this Access-database and its compatibility into account. If it hasn't been taken into account, chances are that Nairobi staff will have to re-enter several hundreds of documents again.

Installation of a server for the electronic archives of PACEREG

In 2004, and as suggested by the RTA, the Regional Coordination had acquired a back-up server which has enabled the RTA to automate data-back up procedures for all staff at PACEREG and the OIE Regional Office (11 users). All data are transferred to the server at least three times a week. Furthermore, the RTA has overhauled the file and printer sharing protocols and has started compiling the electronic archives of PACE and PARC on the same server.

This system has again been overhauled in September 2006 to cater for the increasing number of users and hard disk space required, including FAO and AfDB-IBAR staff. A second HDD (250 Gb) was installed and the automated back-up protocols reviewed/updated.

Purchases of ICT equipment

The RTA is regularly called upon to contribute to the opening and scrutiny of proposals for the supply of computer and communication equipment, both for PACE, and for the Regional OIE office for Africa.

Institutional communication

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

As a first step, a one-page contribution dealing with PACE and the rinderpest eradication efforts (see *facsimile* on previous page), has been submitted to CTA's main (bi-monthly)

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

In brief •

Cogon grass – public enemy n°1

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

Responsible fishing in the Indian ocean

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

Eradicating rinderpest

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

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



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

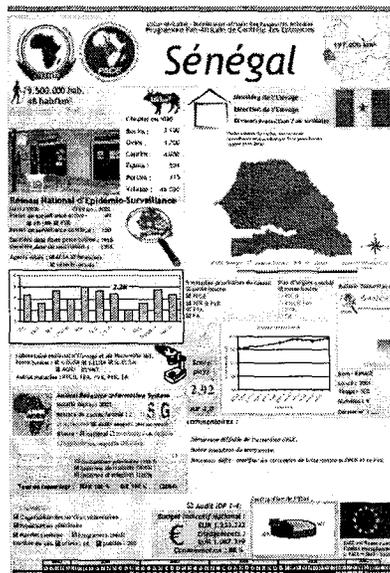
The goal of the rinderpest programme is complete eradication before the 2010 deadline. OIE sees current progress in tackling this disease as particularly

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

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

A similar article was published as a short communication in the British veterinary journal 'Veterinary Record' in September 2005 (see article on next page).

In a further attempt to comply with one of the main recommendations of the 10th ACM (Bamako, March 2005) and in order to render the country presentations and assessments more visual and comparable, a lay-out for poster-sized presentations has been developed by the RTA. The posters provide a one-stop overview of key data of every country, its livestock statistics and data related to the implementation of PACE actions: ESS, veterinary privatisation, etc... Finally, the posters also present minimal financial data. The posters were presented at the 5th Annual Coordination Meeting, Dakar, and every country representative took a copy home.



Facsimile of Senegal's country poster (2005)

Achieving full eradication of rinderpest in Africa

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

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

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

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

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

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

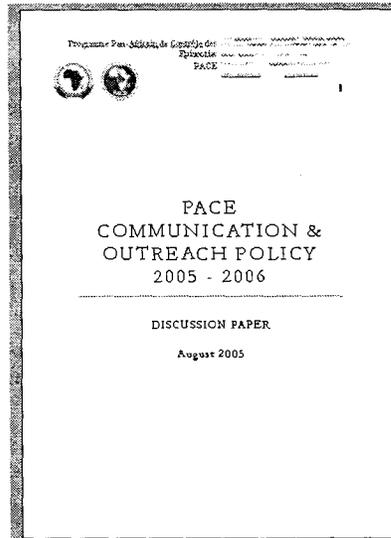
With the prospect of eradicating rinderpest from the African continent, several countries are now seriously investigating the possibilities of developing regional and international trade in livestock and livestock products, in particular meat, hides and dairy products.

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

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

B. A. Dlop, P. Bastiaensen, PACE
Regional Coordination Unit for West and
Central Africa, AU/IBAR, PO Box 2954,
Bamako, Mali

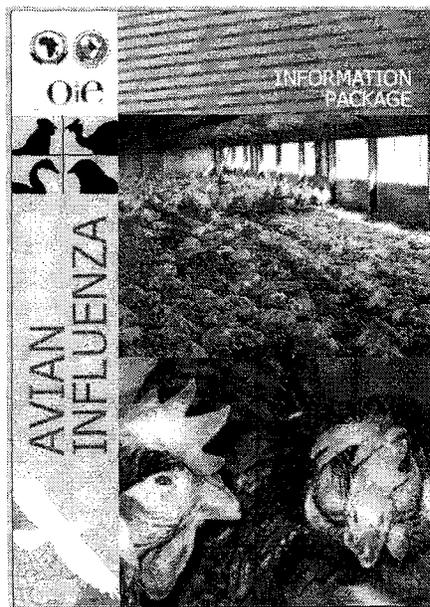
The (updated) posters were presented at the 11th Advisory Committee Meeting, at the 7th AU Conference of Ministers responsible for Animal Resources, Kigali and at the 6th Annual Coordination Meeting, Mombasa. Copies on A₄ and A₂ formats are available at PACE HQ in Nairobi (PCU) and in Bamako (RCU).



In response on the recommendations of the 10th ACM, a draft policy paper on communication has been presented by Dr. Bouna A. DIOP and the RTA to the PCU in Nairobi (August 2005). No official feed-back has been received to date, but rumour has it that the action plan is considered too ambitious and too expensive (an estimated 135.000 €). The short-term GTZ-IS mission on communication policies (M. Micheal LENNERTZ) would not have been informed of this document, if it weren't for the RTA who handed him a copy in August 2006.

Despite promising contacts with two French-language magazines : *Jeune Afrique - l'Intelligent*, (around 10.000 copies weekly) and *Afrique Agriculture* (around 1.000 copies monthly), no further publications were approved by PCU.

Communication efforts have been tremendously intensified during the first semester of 2006, obviously (again) because of the need for information regarding **highly pathogenic avian influenza**. Not only PACEREG staff, but also the staff of OIE and FAO, both in Bamako and at their respective headquarters (Paris and Rome), have contributed to a fairly impressive number of communication tools, both generated at regional level, and (subsequently) at national level (both infected and non-infected countries).



Technical guidelines for avian influenza were developed within days of the announcement of the first outbreak in Nigeria and were posted on the OIE website, while also being send electronically to PACE member countries. Unfortunately, the attempts of the IBAR office in Nairobi to produce a high-profile document with these technical guidelines has not materialized yet (see cover page facsimile on the left), despite of the intensive technical support provided by the RTA and the OIE TA to improve and translate the document. In fact, the documents have never made it to the printer for reasons unknown to the TA's.

Cover page of the IBAR & OIE info-brochure.

PACEREG did not wait for IBAR to take action and has produced a fair number of useful communication guidelines and tools (including budgeting and pricing), which have been sent to PACE member countries in West and Central Africa, both through e-mail, and later on CD-rom support (as mentioned on page 46).

This support has led a number of countries to develop their own communication tools, using templates and graphics developed by PACEREG (with the financial assistance of GTZ, through the RTA's operating budgets). An example is shown on the next page (poster made in Cote d'Ivoire).

The documents produced with regard to HPAI communication are :

- Kit of 424 photographs
- Kit of 28 graphic designs (extension drawings)
- Kit video footage (12 files)
- Kit of templates for the production of posters and leaflets
- Examples from communication materials already produced

Beyond the scope of HPAI, the regional office in Bamako has also put more efforts into the **presentation of documents**, starting of course with the poster-size country-presentations, but also in other documents produced since. These efforts have been acknowledged on various occasions by EC-staff and advisory committee members, who feel PACE now has an improved communication policy (although far from sufficient).

As from July 2006, a mid-term technical assistance has been hired under the GTZ pool of experts to help PACE and IBAR streamline its communication policies towards the end of the programme (Mr. Michael LENNERTZ, communication expert). The draft policy paper on communication, presented by Dr. Bouna A. DIOP and the RTA to the PCU in Nairobi (August 2005) might be made available to this expert by the RTA in August 2006.

No further information has been received with regard to the outcome of this mission since. The expert also failed to conduct his planned visit to the Bamako office.



Participation in international meetings

2003

The TA has participated in the *third annual PACE coordination meeting*, which was held at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) in Arusha (Tanzania) from Monday, June 23rd to Thursday, June 26th, 2003. Participants were the national PACE coordinators, national PACE staff, national animal health officers, staff and technical assistants of PACE PCU, RCU and Common Services, representatives of donor agencies, international organisations and NGO's as well as GTZ IS staff, SATEC staff and the 9 national and regional TA's under the GTZ/SATEC services contract.

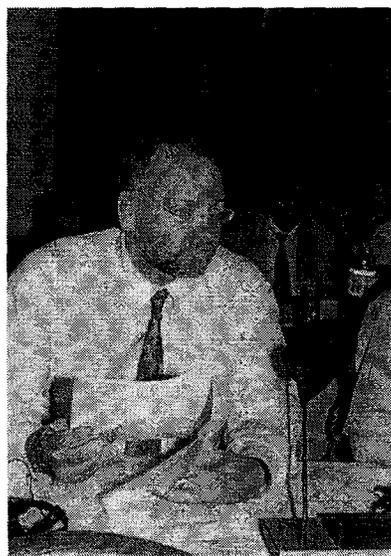


Attending the cross-border meeting of veterinary services of Senegal, Mali and Mauritania (St. Louis, Senegal – Oct. 2003)

The RTA has attended the *27th International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC)*, organized by AU/STRC in Pretoria (South Africa) from September 29th to October 3rd, 2003.

The RTA co-organised and attended the first *cross-border meeting* between the veterinary services of Senegal, Mauritania and Mali. The meeting took place in St. Louis-du-Sénégal, on the border with Mauritania on October 21st and 22nd, 2003. The meeting was attended by representatives of state veterinary services, national parks, national and regional veterinary labs, PACE national programmes, PACE regional coordination, PEU, OIE, IAEA and the private sector (veterinary council of Senegal).

The RTA co-organised and attended the *8th Advisory Committee Meeting* in Bamako (November 4 – 6th, 2003), followed by the workshop on the harmonisation of epidemiology and control strategies, jointly organised by the PEU and GTZ-IS/SATEC (November 7 – 8th, 2003).



Attending the regional workshop on CBPP control (Conakry, Guinea – February 2004)

2004

The RTA has attended the *Regional PACE workshop on Rift Valley Fever control and early warning systems* in Senegal, The Gambia, Mauritania, Mali and Chad (Hotel Savana, Dakar, Senegal, January 20 – 22nd, 2004). The RTA thereafter contributed to the drafting (and the translation) of the report.

The RTA attended the *Regional PACE workshop on CBPP control* (Hotel Mariador-Méridien, Conakry, Guinea, February 25 – 27th, 2004). The RTA thereafter contributed to the drafting (and the translation) of the report.

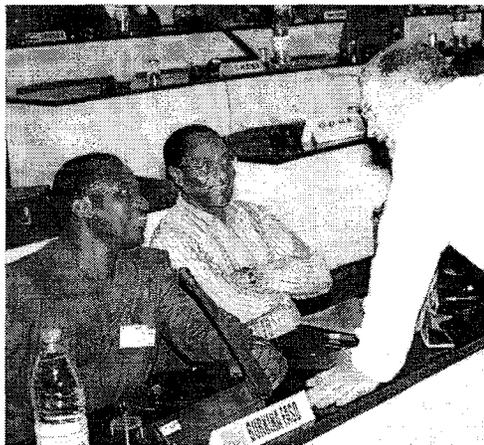
Two separate formal satellite meetings were organised with the three RTA's present at the CBPP meeting :

A first meeting was intended to streamline procedures for planning and reporting between RTA's and PEU staff, especially since the arrival of a new TA (French Cooperation) for the PEU (West & Central Africa, based in Bamako), Dr. Cécile SQUARZONI (end of February 2004).

A second meeting was organized between the Bamako team and Dr. Hanns-Achim KREBS to discuss a swap of countries ; the Regional Coordinator has launched this idea in order to relieve Dr. KREBS of some of his countries (given the attention needed for the start up of PACE Cameroon). It was agreed that : Dr. N. DENORMANDIE will swap Congo-Brazzaville with Ghana and the RTA will add The Gambia to his list of countries. This swap has been implemented as from April 1st, 2004.

The RTA attended the **9th Advisory Committee Meeting** in Nairobi, Kenya (IBAR, April 5 – 7th, 2004).

The RTA also attended the **4th annual PACE coordination meeting** (Palais des Congrès, Yaounde, Cameroon, June 22nd – 26th, 2004). During the meeting, both Bamako RTA's were entrusted with the secretariat (and translation of documents) for the technical presentations and discussions that followed and were furthermore invited to help the country-representatives on the improvement of their logical frameworks (small workgroups). The RTA thereafter contributed to the drafting (and the translation) of the final report.



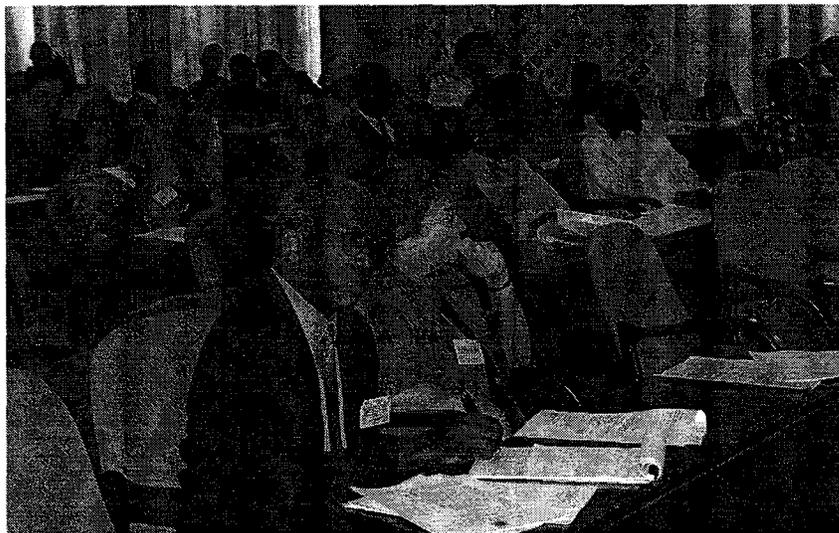
Finally, the RTA attended the **PACE-PEU workshop on optimisation of the epidemio-surveillance networks** (through the introduction of performance indicators), which was held at the Conference Room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dakar (Senegal) from August 23rd – 26th, 2004.

Discussion with the delegates from Burkina Faso during the PACE-PEU workshop in Dakar, August 2004.

The RTA attended the **International Conference and 20th Anniversary Celebration of the International Trypanotolerance Center** in Kerr Serign, Banjul from November 8th to 12th, 2004. The theme of the four day conference was "Animal Agriculture in West and Central Africa and its contribution to livelihoods, poverty alleviation, food security and environmental sustainability - Achievements in the past 25 years, challenges ahead and the way forward". This conference was held at the Kairaba Hotel in Serrekunda, Banjul. The fifth and last day, the 20th Anniversary Celebration was held at ITC in Kerr Serign, in the presence of the Vice-President of the Republic of the Gambia.

The conference was organized in partnership with CIRDES in Bobo-Dioulasso and CTA in Wageningen; the latter also contributed financially to the Conference, as did the European Commission. Invited were representatives of the two research institutes, representatives of national agricultural research systems (NARS) and national veterinary or livestock services as well as ILRI, ICRISAT, CIRAD, EFSA, FARA, CORAF, EISMV, PACE, CTA, ECOWAS, UEMOA, the contributing Universities in Germany, Belgium and the UK as well as the donor community, especially World Bank and EC (D6). Three Ministers of Agriculture and/or Animal Husbandry attended the meeting : Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Senegal.

2005 The RTA attended the *UEMOA meeting on quality-control of veterinary drugs* in the region (Bamako Conference Center, Bamako, Mali, February 22-25th, 2005). Due to delays of flights on the way back to Bamako, the RTA has been able to attend only part of this UEMOA-OIE conference. The meeting was attended by veterinary services of the UEMOA countries, as well by private veterinarians, livestock farmers' associations and pharmaceutical companies, amongst which LAPROVET, CEVA and Merial.



Participants at the UEMOA – OIE Conference (Bamako Conference Center).

The RTA co-organized and attended the *10th PACE Advisory Committee Meeting* (Hotel Kempinsky – El Farouk, Bamako, Mali, March 29 – 31st, 2005). The advisory committee, in its final recommendations praised the country-based approach which was presented by the Regional Coordinator for West and Central Africa and furthermore recommended that ways be found to extend some of the GTZ TA's until the end of the programme.

The RTA (and the Regional Co-ordinator) attended a training *workshop on 'conflict management within the framework of natural resources management and national parks management'*, organized by the GTZ in Nouakchott, Mauritania from April 11 – 14th, 2005. The cost of this training was borne by the RTA's own office budget. Due to delays of flights, the RTA arrived at Nouakchott on April 11th and had thus to miss the first two days of the workshop. The RTA and the Reg. Co-ordinator took advantage from their stay in Mauritania to pay a visit to the Livestock Department and the PACE Mauritania programme. They were welcomed by the Director of the Livestock Department, as well as the Director of the CNERV.



Participants to the GTZ workshop on conflict management (Nouakchott, Mauritania).

The group of participants for this training was made up in majority by representatives of two conservation projects in Mauritania, as well as the representative of a GTZ nature conservation programme in DRC and of course the two representatives of PACE.

Although the main attention related to the conflicts related to the protected areas and the national parks, the aspect 'livestock' nevertheless retained much attention, if not because of the frequent intrusions of the farmers (transhumants) in these protected areas. Indeed, pastoralists, with farmers, hunters, loggers and charcoal-producers, represent the main interlocutors of the persons in charge of the national parks and protected areas. The same goes for the conflicts between farmers (sedentary) and livestock owners (whether sedentary or transhumant).



The RTA attended the **PACE – ECD teambuilding workshop** held in Aberdare Country Club (Nyeri, Kenya) between May 10th and 12th, 2005.

Finally, he co-organized and attended the **5th PACE annual coordination meeting** which was held at the Hotel Méridien-Président in Ngor, Dakar (Sénégal) between June 28th and July 1st, 2005.

During the opening ceremony of the Annual Coordination Meeting

The RTA attended the UEMOA (*Economic and Monetary West-African Union*) conference in Niamey, Niger (July 2005), together with Dr. Bouna DIOP, Dr. Modibo TRAORE (IBAR) and Dr. Samba SIDIBE (OIE).

Theme of the conference was the validation of a *regional legislation on quality-control and registration of veterinary drugs* in UEMOA member states. The RTA took advantage of his stay in Niamey to address the problems with PACE Niger's ARIS software. The HDD was taken back to Bamako for further analysis (please also refer to § 5.4.).

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



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

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



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

While the Conference –in our view – was not all that interesting from the technical perspective, it was nevertheless an excellent opportunity to meet new and old stakeholders in the international or regional livestock business. Furthermore, several recommendations made by the Ministers are of paramount importance to the pursuit of certain activities and programmes, amongst which of course, PACE itself.

2006 The RTA attended the inception workshop of the FAO/TCP/RAF/3016 on *Emergency assistance for early detection and prevention of Avian Influenza in the region of West Africa*, from January 23 – 26th, 2006 in Bamako (Grand Hotel). Most West-African countries were represented at the meeting, and so were Congo, Cameroon and CAR. Organisations represented were OIE, PACE, CIRAD, UEMOA, UICN, ARIOPE, CIRDES, EISMV, Wetlands International, UNICEF and the IZSVe world reference lab for HPAI in Venice, Italy.

The project is headed by the UEMOA and the regional coordination has been installed at the PACE and OIE office in Sotuba, Bamako. Dr. Boubacar SECK, former head of PANVAC, has been appointed Regional Co-ordinator for this TCP.



Participants attending the inception workshop of the FAO TCP on early detection and prevention of avian influenza in West Africa (Grand Hotel Conference Room, Bamako).

The RTA attended the ECOWAS member countries (+ Mauritania) technical experts' meeting on the *Coordination, prevention and response mechanisms against Avian Influenza in West Africa*, from March 16th – 17th, 2006 in Bamako (Hotel Nord-Sud), immediately followed by the FAO/OIE/AU-IBAR/PACE workshop on the *Harmonisation of emergency preparedness plans* against HPAI from March 18th – 19th, 2006 in Bamako (same venue).

The RTA co-organized and attended the **12th Advisory Committee Meeting** at the Kempinsky Hotel in Bamako (Mali) from 15 – 19 April, 2006. The meeting was attended by representatives of the OIE, the FAO, the CIRAD, the IAH, the EC and the World Bank.

Four PACE national programme coordinators were invited to present their views on PACE programme progress (Mali, Gambia, Nigeria, Burundi). Committee members were presented with the 30 PACE posters on programme progress (in A4 format).

The RTA was entrusted with the presentation of the progress made in the internal evaluations of PACE national programmes since the last ACM, and with a Power Point presentation on the internal evaluation by PACE teams, of the next batch of four PACE member countries: Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, and Mali (refer to § 5.5). This presentation yielded quite some positive response from the ACM members.

The RTA attended the joint scientific meeting (*Journées épidémiologiques*) of the AEEMA (*Association pour l'Etude de l'Epidémiologie des Maladies Animales*) and the AESA in Sart-Tilman, Liège (Belgium) from May 18th-19th, 2006. This yearly conference enables most French-speaking epidemiologists in animal health to meet during two days around a central theme, which this year was (obviously) avian influenza. The PACE programme presented a poster regarding the current status of avian influenza in sub-Saharan Africa, that is : excluding the Egypt-case (not a PACE member country). A facsimile of the poster is reproduced in on page 46.

Thereafter, the RTA attended the **74th General Session of the International Committee of the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE)** in Paris (France) from May 21st – 25th, 2006.

On June 9th, the RTA attended the closing ceremony of the **3rd Annual PACE Coordination Meeting of the National and Regional Laboratories Collaborative Network** (Hotel Kempinsky, Bamako, Mali) on behalf of the PACE Regional Coordinator for West and Central Africa (on assignment).



*Coffee break during the annual PACE coordination meeting in Mombasa.
From left to right : the PACE Nat. Coordinator from Nigeria (Dr. Gashash Ahmed), the PACE Nat. Coordinator from DRC (Dr. Damien Nguba Kasongo) and the Director Animal Health of Niger (Dr. Seini Aboubacar). Picture by Cécile Squarzoni.*

He also attended the **6th Annual PACE Regional Coordination Meeting** (Mombasa, Kenya) from June 26th – 30th, 2006. This yearly conference was held at the Sun 'n Sand Hotel in Mombassa, uniting 24 member countries and most PACE PCU and CSU staff, as well as representatives of PANVAC, CTTBD, FAO, USDA - APHIS, GTZ, VSF-Be and ILRI.

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The RTA also had the opportunity to exchange views with the 3 members of the ongoing PACE final evaluation mission : Patrick FUSILIER, Archie HUNTER and Anthony WILSMORE.



Discussion with the delegate from Guinea Bissau, Dr. Bernardo Cassamá during the 6th PACE Annual Coordination meeting in Mombasa, Kenya, June 2006.

The RTA contributed –*teamwork, as always*- to this meeting through :

- a) the report on the progress of national PACE programmes (country resumes with poster presentations, in English and French, A4 size);
- b) the poster presentations (in national languages only, A2 size);
- c) the report on the benefit cost analysis of epidemio-surveillance systems in 4 selected countries in West Africa (in English and French, A4 size);
- d) the CD-Rom with the bilingual version of the PACE manual for community-based animal health workers;
- e) the CD-Rom with communication and extension materials with regard to avian influenza (in English and French);
- f) the presentation of the final report on the benefit cost analysis of epidemio-surveillance systems in 4 selected countries in West Africa (in English).

Finally, he attended 2nd *general assembly of the ALIVE platform* and subsequently the 13th *Advisory Committee Meeting* at the Norfolk Hotel in Nairobi (Kenya) from October 25th to 27th, 2006.

The RTA contributed –*teamwork, as always*- to this meeting through :

- a) the report on the progress of national PACE programmes (country resumes, in English and French, A4 size);
- b) the poster presentation (in French only) on lessons learnt from crisis management of avian influenza outbreaks in western Africa (including Cameroon).

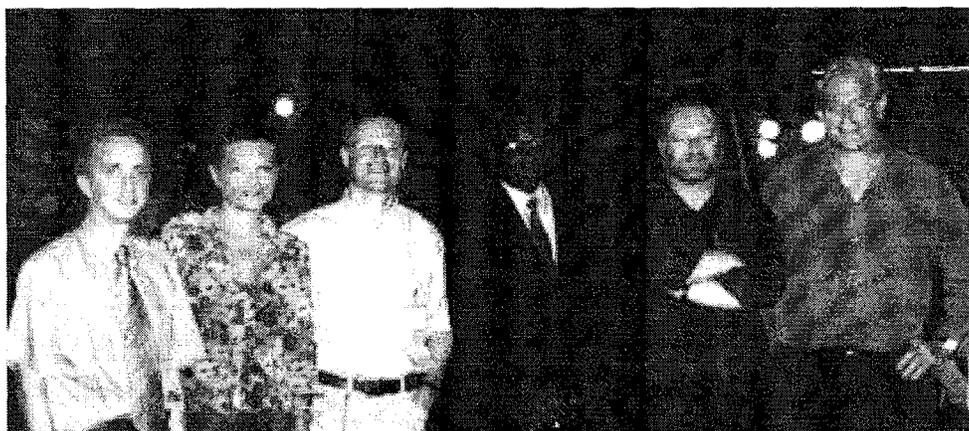
Team building

The team in Bamako started out as a 100% PACE team (except for the OIE resident representative for Africa, housed in the same compound) :

The PACEREG Staff situation on June 1st, 2003 was as follows :

Name	Position	Contract
Dr. Bouna A. DIOP	Regional Coordinator	IBAR
Dr. Fatah BENDALI	Regional Epidemiologist	CIRAD
M. Daniel GREGOIRE	Regional Communication	AGRER
Dr. Nicolas DENORMANDIE	Regional TA	SATEC-Développement
Dr. Patrick BASTIAENSEN	Regional TA	GTZ-IS

In February 2004, the team welcomed the new French TA (*Coopération Française*), Dr. Cécile SQUARZONI in (late) replacement of Dr. Antoine MAILLARD as Regional Epidemiologist (PEU). Around the same time (February 28th, 2004), we unfortunately had to separate from M. Daniel GREGOIRE, PACE Chief Communication Officer, whose contract was not renewed (AGRER). Dr. Fatah BENDALI's contract (CIRAD) came to an end on October 31st, 2004.



*The PACE Bamako team at the Regional CBPP workshop in Conakry (February 2004).
From left to right : Drs. Bendali, Squarzeni, Denormandie, Diop, Bastiaensen and Grégoire.*

The PACEREG Staff situation between March 1st, 2004 and October 31st, 2006 therefore remained as follows :

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

The TA has participated in the joint AU-IBAR/PACE/GTZ IS-SATEC team building workshop, which was held at the Impala Hotel Conference Room in Arusha (Tanzania) on Friday, June 27th and Saturday, June 28th, 2003. Participants were the national coordinators, staff and technical assistants of PACE PCU and Common Services, as well as GTZ IS staff, SATEC staff and the 9 national and regional TA's under the GTZ/SATEC services contract. The workshop was organised by GTZ-IS and SATEC with the financial support of AU-IBAR/PACE.

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A separate meeting between GTZ-IS and SATEC staff and their technical assistants was held on Saturday evening, June 28th, 2003 in order to clarify, suggest and approve procedures for day to day operation of the TA's and their liaison with national, regional and leading GTZ offices and staff. GTZ-IS Management Staff present at this meeting were Mrs. Carola VON MORSTEIN, Mrs. Helga SCHOLL and M. Francis CHABARI.

Following the 8th ACM in Bamako in October 2003, a separate meeting between the GTZ-IS administrator, M. Francis CHABARI and the technical assistants was held on Sunday, November 9th in order to clarify, discuss and review procedures for day to day operation of the (R)TA's and their liaison with national, regional and leading GTZ offices and staff. This meeting was the opportunity to meet and welcome two new TA's, Dr. Hanns-Achim KREBS (RTA, based in Yaoundé) and Dr. Philippe LEPPERRE (TA, based in Dar es Salaam).

During the 4th Annual PACE Coordination Meeting in Yaoundé in June 2004, a separate meeting between the GTZ-IS administrator, M. Francis CHABARI and the technical assistants was held on Friday, June 25th in order to clarify, discuss and review procedures for day to day operation of the (R)TA's and their liaison with national, regional and leading GTZ offices and staff.

On October 7th, 2004, all GTZ *regional* technical advisors met in Bamako (Mali) for the GTZ staff talks, which represent the GTZ's internal monitoring and staff appraisal system. The staff talks were conducted by M. Francis CHABARI from the GTZ-IS office in Nairobi.

Nearly all national TA positions within the GTZ-IS/SATEC team were discontinued as from November 1st, 2004 (except for Sudan and Chad). The four national TA's for Eastern Africa were replaced by one Regional TA for Eastern Africa, initially by Dr. Andrea MASSARELLI, later by Dr. Philippe LEPPERRE.

As the number of regional TA's further decreased to a mere 4 (the contracts for the TA's based in Yaoundé, Cameroon and N'Djaména, Chad, were discontinued as from November 1st, 2005), meetings were increasingly informal, held whenever the circumstances required it and when there was an opportunity to meet (e.g. during the ACM's). Dr. Andrea MASSARELLI was appointed *Main technical assistant* in September 2005 (EC contract); he was replaced as Regional TA for Eastern Africa by Dr. Philippe LEPPERRE in January 2006. The latter left the programme on October 5th, 2006.

Decrease in technical assistance in support to 30 national programmes :

31 Oct. 2003	■■■■■■■■■■
31 Oct. 2004	■■■■■■■
31 Oct. 2005	■■■■■
31 Oct. 2006	■■■

Meanwhile, the technical platform IBAR – OIE – FAO, now baptized "**REGIONAL CENTER FOR ANIMAL HEALTH**" and officially launched by OIE on June 24th, 2006, is gradually taking shape, with the arrival of several new experts on account of OIE and FAO, as presented in the following table :

Name	Position		Contract
Dr. Samba A. SIDIBE	Regional representative	OIE	OIE
Dr. Caroline PLANTE *	Technical assistant	OIE	Coop. Française
Dr. Abdoulaye B. NIANG	Consultant	OIE	OIE
Dr. Boubacar M. SECK	Regional coordinator	TCP/RAF	FAO
Dr. Frédéric POUDEVIGNE	Regional coordinator	ECTAD	FAO
Dr. Zacharie COMPAORE	AfDB Liaison TA	IBAR	IBAR - AfDB
[expected Nov. 2006]	Avian influenza expert	IBAR	Chinese Coop.
[expected Nov. 2006]	Avian influenza expert	IBAR	Chinese Coop.

(*) Left for the OIE liaison office in Brussels on October 15th, 2006.

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MAIN DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The initial contract of the RTA for 18 months, was extended on various occasions, so that he ended up working for PACE for 41 months. It is thus with a certain degree of hindsight and based on hands-on experience that the following comments were made.

Although at the beginning of his assignment, the RTA was more than sceptical about the regional approach to technical assistance, this approach turned out to have a positive influence on programme implementation in the countries covered, thereby cautiously avoiding too much of interference with (or substitution of) the national PACE staff. This approach to programme implementation is no doubt slower and requires more '*trial and error*' than the classic approach using closely involved national technical assistants, but has the merit of genuinely empowering national staff through 'remote control' assistance.

Despite the relatively elevated cost of technical assistance, as provisioned on the national budgets, the attitude of national PACE coordinators and veterinary services staff alike, has been very positive. In every single of the countries visited, the RTA has managed to draw the lines of his intervention (what can he do, what can't he do) and this has been accepted. The major difficulty has been to combine both technical assistance to the countries and monitoring of progress made in order to inform the regional coordination bodies. This too has finally been accepted by national staff, despite the sometimes very critical and unconditional messages contained in the back-to-office reports, which –as mentioned before- were almost always negotiated and eventually endorsed by the NPC before leaving the country.

At country level, the most problematic country remains the **Republic of Congo**, where very poor institutional capacity (both in terms of human resources and institutional strength) are to be blamed for an unsuccessful implementation of the PACE programme which was suspended *de facto* at the end of the first phase and never managed to restart.

In countries such as the **Gambia** and **Guinea Bissau**, programme implementation has been as satisfactory as one would expect, given the very weak institutional capacity of the veterinary services and/or the livestock department, as well –in regard of Guinea Bissau especially- as a very unfavourable socio-economic and political environment. In the Gambia, the ECD and the NAO offices are to blame for much of the implementation delays and outright errors committed.

In these two countries, the main shortcoming is the inability of the respective governments to assume financial responsibility for the epidemio-surveillance programmes and systems that have been set up with PACE support.

The same goes for the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, which PACE programme started with 2 years of delay but was rather well implemented, regardless of the virtual absence of government veterinary services in several parts of the country. This is to a certain extent due to an active EC delegation in Kinshasa and the absence of a formally appointed NAO. The main killer-assumption here is also the lack of foreseeable investments by the government to sustain the epidemio-surveillance of animal diseases, in particular in the east of the country, where most livestock farming is practised.

The programme in **Burkina Faso** has been well implemented and most expected technical outputs have been attained; unfortunately, the programme has been cut short by poor financial management of EDF funds and the inability of the national programme coordination to address the problem. A significant government contribution has prevented a collapse of animal disease surveillance in this country and has been instrumental in consolidating actions that were initiated under PACE and with EDF funds, such as e.g. the OIE pathway for rinderpest which was completed in May 2006.

In **Niger**, financial management and efficiency of the PACE programme has been excellent, primarily due to the services of a private accounting cabinet and the pro-active follow-up by both NAO and ECD offices. This led to a very high spending efficiency rate of programme-estimates and a national indicative budget (EDF) which was raised on two separate occasions. Unfortunately, a very weakened public veterinary service, combined with an authoritative and by all means old-fashioned management style of the NPC, led to fair, but not really satisfying technical results, and by no means an genuine strengthening of the veterinary services, as represented by the DSA.

In **Nigeria**, programme implementation has been unsatisfactory, despite the presence of both national and regional technical assistance. The country has been endowed with one of the highest EDF contributions within the PACE programme but failed to efficiently consume this budget, leading to a decrease of their national indicative budget by more than a million euros. While the NPC can be pointed at for part of this inefficiency, it should also be stressed that the input of the NAO office has been close to non-existent and that the EC delegation has not been very forthcoming either. It has taken an avian influenza epidemic of unprecedented scale to incite the ECD in Abuja to loosen its grip on the first programme estimate of the extension phase and to work with (not against) the national authorities to put a stop to the spread of this disease. That they have done this with efficiency and skill, is to their credit at a time when the epidemic in Nigeria might not have been fully controlled but at least has not taken the endemic proportions one would have expected.

Finally, countries such as **Senegal**, Mauritania and Mali have by all means and criteria, been rather well implemented, both technically and financially. Although **Mauritania** has not been able to obtain declaration by OIE of freedom of rinderpest infection yet, it has proven to be an efficient and trustworthy player in the regional setting of animal disease control, following its voluntary declaration of suspected serological cases of rinderpest in warthogs in 2003. As for **Mali**, programme implementation has been problematic in the beginning, lacking both managerial and technical vision, but has improved tremendously over the last three years, not least by the simultaneous active development of a livestock policy by the government, turned tangible by the creation of a dedicated Ministry and a National Department of Veterinary Services. The fact remains that Mali should have benefited from more EDF support, in order to adequately cover the needs of its huge territory and its animal population.

The fact that neither Sierra Leone, nor **Liberia** have been taken on board during the last years of the PACE programme, is certainly a missed opportunity as far as the RTA is concerned. At least **Sierra Leone**, by way of its Minister of Animal Resources had repeatedly requested both formally and informally, for his country to be taken into account, if not at least in terms of exchange of information and participation in regional workshops and meetings. A few thousand Euros could easily have been freed to cater for these needs, and could possibly have had an important impact on the regional integration of Sierra Leone and Liberia within the West-African veterinary services. Another personal deception has been the fact that not all countries have managed to attain freedom of **rinderpest-infection**. While this is expected to be a formality for countries such as Gambia, Mauritania and Niger (which have already submitted their dossiers), Nigeria will definitely not meet the May 2007 deadline. A more intensive, qualitative and quantitative technical assistance on-site during 2003 and part of 2004 could have helped the Nigerian authorities a long way in achieving not only freedom from disease, but possibly from infection.



"Counting sheep" (Douentza, northern Mali, July 2004). Picture by C. Squarzoni.

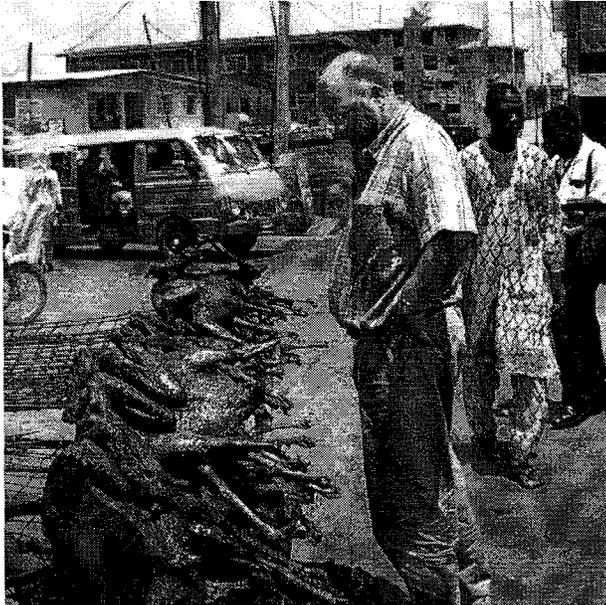
At regional level, no particular problems have been encountered. For several years, the Bamako Regional Coordination has provided a stimulating and open-minded environment in which to work, with the main advantage that experiences, comments and doubts could be shared with other TA's and the Regional Coordinator. This has always been a major advantage in comparison with national TA's. One must however recognize that since the beginning of the year, and possibly the beginning of the avian influenza crisis, tensions between the Regional Coordinator and his staff have arisen, which were never really ironed out, despite the attempts of the RTA and several other colleagues to do so and to be forthcoming. There is hardly any doubt that the increased workload, stress and pressure that the avian influenza crisis brought upon all of us, had made its victims and it can only be hoped that as more staff arrive in Bamako, personal relationships will revert to the one we knew in the first years of the programme and which has always been considered one of the reasons why the Bamako office managed to perform as well as it did. The fact that the regional technical assistants have spent more time than expected on issues of regional coordination is discussed in the previous chapter. Ideally, the Regional Coordination in Bamako should have benefited from a technical advisor, with similar terms of reference as the main technical advisor in Nairobi.

This should be kept in mind when assessing the work of the regional TA's : the work done in terms of support to the Regional Coordination Office can be assessed as a back-up activity in positive terms, but cannot be used as a basic criterion for the overall assessment of the expert.

Another (critical) note: the **secretarial services** have not been up to standards. Despite the presence of two secretaries and one administrative clerk, most of the secretarial work has been done by the TA's, including writing minutes of meetings and other basically simple administrative tasks. Knowledge of office equipment and office software is by all standards fairly limited. Very often, even visa applications or mailings had to be handled by the TA's themselves (or by the support services of the GTZ office in Bamako). One of the major drawbacks in Bamako is that none of the administrative staff speak, read or write English, which has forced the TA's to spend a lot of time (too much time) on translations from English to French and vice versa. One would expect a higher level input

of (or demands from) secretarial staff in an international and multi-lingual environment such as PACE.

Any future setup of the **regional center for animal health** should rely on an unbiased assessment of personnel needs, well beyond the narrow scope of simply identifying veterinary expertise, secretaries and accountants. As the information society progresses rapidly, the skills required to effectively manage an operation of this size change very rapidly too. It would therefore seem appropriate to look at other skills when recruiting. In our view, at least a highly qualified multi-lingual administrative assistant (preferably recruited at regional level) is required, and if possible also a highly qualified accountant or financial manager, both thoroughly at ease within an IT networking environment and professional customized software. Furthermore, the services of a systems-manager/database administrator and an archivist/librarian should be sought, whether on permanent basis or service-rendering basis. Both skills should be combined to set up a workable electronic document management system and possibly even a small but regularly updated website, where most of these documents are available, either for staff or the broad public.



Given the expected travel requirements of most international or regional staff, travel logistics too will have to be managed much more seriously and professionally (visa applications, airport transfers, ticketing services, etc...). Expected needs for storage of emergency intervention equipment and handling of cargo (e.g. biological materials) too may require the recruitment of a full time logistician (and small delivery van or pick-up vehicle).

*Looking at broiled chicken on a market in Lagos (October 2006).
Picture by Peter Roeder (FAO).*

In terms of IT communication, one will also have to address the issue of the internet-domain, currently **pacereg.org**, which will eventually become obsolete. One solution is to extend the IBAR domain to attribute **au-ibar.org** addresses to all staff in Bamako, whether AU, FAO or OIE; or to change the current domain name to a specific new domain, such as e.g. **crsa.org** or **crsa-aoc.org** (*centre regional de santé animale – Afrique de l'ouest et du centre*), provided similar domains will be set up in the other regions of Africa (SADC, IGAD, UMA,...).

At continental level, by which we mean the coordination of activities between the Nairobi PCU and CSU and the Bamako RCU and CSU, a lot leaves to be desired. More often than not, the regional coordination unit in Bamako has been kept poorly informed of activities decided, prepared, conducted or otherwise in Nairobi. While everyone agrees that the geographical gap has been a huge challenge to overcome, too little –in our view– has been done to make use of modern communication and information technologies to overcome this gap. The reasonably fluid exchanges between e.g. members of the PEU and even the GTZ appointed TA's is hard proof that such coordination is possible.

This lack of coordination underlines a more profound shortcoming, which is the coordination of the PACE programme in general, on which several reports have been written and numerous recommendations have been made, and which could have been better adapted to the scale of the programme.

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As far as the services provided by GTZ International Services is concerned, it is our firm belief that the company has been more than able to live up to the challenges, set by a complex programme such as PACE. The ease with which the RTA's have been able to organize their work in Bamako and their assignments abroad, the flexibility of GTZ-IS management, and the tremendous and efficient support provided by the GTZ office in Bamako for acquisitions, travels, customs and visa-arrangements, airport transfers, maintenance of vehicles, accounting, mailing, and so forth has been instrumental in providing a conducive environment for the technical assistants to work in. The only regret one has, is that GTZ-IS does not seem to have withheld livestock development or animal health in its corporate development strategy for the near future, and this despite the wealth of experience gained by its experts, if not alone during the past avian influenza crisis.

In conclusion, it is now generally accepted that the PACE programme has by all means been a successful programme and the RTA is grateful to have been part of such an ambitious and prestigious enterprise. The experiences gained over the last 3.5 years will enable him to conduct future assignments with much more technical, but also social skills. For this, he thanks PACE, AU- IBAR, GTZ-IS and all the colleagues in Bamako, in Nairobi and in the member countries with whom he's had the pleasure to work.

ANNEXES

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Final report	In word format
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	In html format
Documents	Back to office reports
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	PACE country progress reports
	PACE country progress monitoring
	PACE country poster presentations
	PACE REG progress reports
	Miscellaneous
Picture library	Country pictures
	Meetings, workshops and conferences
	Logos
	Newsletter
	Maps

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Annex 1. Latest update reports (October 2006)

BURKINA FASO

Within days of the completion of the current phase of the PACE programme, PACE-Burkina Faso is *de facto* a programme for which the financing is entirely assured by the Government since 2004. The contribution of the EDF stopped at the end of the PE n° 4 (at the end of October 2004, end also of the first phase of the PACE). Since then, the difficulties encountered by the National Coordination to have its accounts approved, prevented the re-starting of the European support within the framework of the PACE extension (2004 – 2006).

In spite of the financial problems encountered by the programme, no financial audit (EC) took place until now.

None of the PACE regional missions dispatched to Ouagadougou (BASTIAENSEN, SAELAERT, DIOP and BESSIN) since the end of 2004, have been able to save-guard the programme and allow a renewal of the activities financed by the EDF. Beyond the fact that the suspension of the funding has certainly had negative effects on the implementation of the programme, it also created a distrust and a confidence crisis between the donor (EC) and the host (MRA), which exceeds the narrow financial framework of the PACE. If this issue does not lead to a satisfactory solution in the weeks which follow, one can hardly expect a new national or regional programme for support to the veterinary services to start up in Burkina Faso in the near future (e.g. within the framework of the 10th EDF). Also let us recall that without imminent closure of PACE Burkina Faso, even PACE itself (30 national components and various regional components) is at risk of not being closed by February 28, 2007, at the end of the Financing Agreement.

In spite of these financial difficulties, PACE Burkina Faso continues to implement its programme, thanks to a considerable input from the Government (80 millions de FCFA pour 2006). This contribution represents an amount of approximately 122.000 Euro. The economic and financial survey on the sustainability of the epidemiological surveillance systems (conducted by Prof Dr. Cheick LY in 2005), in 4 countries of the sub-region (Mauritania, Senegal, Ghana and Benin) have enabled PACE to distill indicators which are applicable in other countries of the same region. Thus, according to extrapolations computed during the last mission of RTA, the cost of maintaining RESUREP in its current form (without taking into account the wages), amounts to 950.000 Euro per annum (by adopting the most modest approach, by km²), that is to say approximately FCFA 600 million per annum. This leads to two conclusions to know: (a) that the current government budget accounts for only 13% of the amount considered necessary; and (b) that the national indicative budget allocated on EDF funds by the PACE was without any doubt insufficient to meet the real needs of the ESS. None of the 4 PE's carried out exceeded 225 million FCFA.

The ESS (RESUREP) remains operational, as the bird flu crisis has shown. Passive surveillance is (well) conducted in the country, but information flow is not integrated into RESUREP's organizational chart and consequently not available for data-entry into the ARIS software, as the PACE final evaluation mission has well pointed out, while on visit in Burkina Faso in July 2006.

As far as the OIE pathway for rinderpest is concerned, Burkina Faso has been declared free from infection in May 2006, as recommended by the OIE Scientific Committee.

Since April 4, 2006, the country has become officially the 5th African State and the 4th PACE member country infected by highly pathogenic avian influenza virus.



On February 15, 2006, the Government adopted its "*National Prevention and Response Plan against Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Burkina Faso*". This plan is under the administrative management of the Ministry of Animal Resources (MRA). It covers a time-span of two years. The total amount of the budget as per April 15th, 2006, is FCFA 5,681,362,500.

The first outbreak in Burkina Faso appeared in an inn called "Pharaon" located in Gampela, in the suburbs of Ouagadougou and was reported to OIE on April 3, 2006. Since, two other outbreaks were declared: Bobo-Dioulasso (in the province of Houet) and Tenado (in the province of Sanguié). At this stage, none of the outbreaks are still active and sanitary measures were entirely carried out. No vaccination was implemented. For the first two cases, these measures were officially discontinued by ministerial decree (since August 2006), for Tenado this is not done yet.

With the lifting of sanitary measures and the absence of new outbreaks, Burkina Faso should now plan to re-enter the pathway for recognition of its status as a notifiable avian influenza free country, by preparing a comprehensive dossier for OIE.

The financial audit of the CTAP2 Unit for veterinary privatization has led to the dismantling of this unit, inherited from the PARC programme.

CONGO

Congo never implemented the extension phase, given the concerns of the local EC delegation in Brazzaville with regard to the capacity of the PACE NPC to manage the EDF funds, according to the donor's guidelines. Several outstanding PE's are still being dealt with.

Since the completion of the PE 3 at the end of October 2004, no funding has been made available and the programme has therefore *de facto* been suspended to date.

This is very unfortunate as PACE Congo has been one of these programme to which one would have liked to allocate more funds, because of the limited resources available in the country (for livestock, at least) and the potential to have a significant impact on animal health, without a lot of or heavy investments.

Indeed, PACE-Congo managed to implement epidemio-surveillance activities and deploy a relatively functional surveillance network for animal diseases. Ten (10) surveillance check points (out of the 15 initially planned) were equipped, in particular at the level of the specific epidemiologic risk areas (massive entry of slaughter-animals, intended for the Brazzaville slaughter-house). A team from the central coordination unit ensures the coordination of the activities (training and supervision of the field agents, sensitisation of partners/farmers).

The country totals 10 private veterinary surgeons primarily directed to canine customers or working as advisors for sub-urban operations (only one private vets operates in the rural areas). An association of veterinary surgeons exists but the Veterinary Council is still not created. At this stage, the private vets are not formally integrated into the network. However, there are specific collaborations in certain areas of the country. The drafting of legislation and regulations regarding veterinary pharmaceuticals and the veterinary profession is ongoing.

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The communication component remains very weak in terms of budget allocations, and therefore in the results achieved. Nevertheless, four animal health bulletins (BIRCE) have been published.

With regard to the OIE pathway, Congo's dossier, requesting recognition of freedom of rinderpest on historical basis (historical absence of the disease) has been accepted by the OIE ad hoc Group of Experts on rinderpest and been recommended to the Scientific Commission on animal diseases for endorsement. Congo has therefore been declared infection – free in May 2006, during OIE's General Session of the International Committee.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

PACE DRC has just finished its 2nd programme-estimate of the extension phase (corresponding to PE n° 4) with a budget of approximately 300.000 Euro. A no-cost administrative rider to this last PE has been signed on June 23, 2006, in order to allocate funds for the strengthening of surveillance for bird flu in the country (sampling material, expenses for missions, surveillance, expenses for the forwarding of samples, laboratory equipment, PPE, training, etc...) for a total amount of 104.134 Euro, which is more than one third of this PE.

The programme has been suffering from the disciplinary suspension of the National Programme Coordinator and imprest account holder (and therefore from the suspension EDF funding) between February and May 2006, when the decision was lifted. The reasons for this suspension are related to the use of governmental funds for the fight against foot-and-mouth disease in the east of the country, and did not have anything to do with funds from PACE. It is important to stress that the National Programme Coordinator was entirely rehabilitated and cleared of any suspicion in this affair and that he continues to benefit from the confidence of the ECD and the PACE Regional Coordination. The Director of the DPSA, Dr. LEMBA MABELA which had undergone the same sanction, was nevertheless replaced by Ir Tryphon KILEK K KILEH. This poses a problem for the representation of DRC to OIE, as well as reporting to OIE and IBAR, since the new Director is not a veterinarian, but an agronomist. The Minister in charge should thus without delay designate a new OIE delegate (CVO).

While it has been confirmed that the ESS, *Réseau National d'Epidémiologie-Surveillance* (RENES) is operational, at least considering the means which are available within the framework of PACE, it is also quite obvious that a number of 29 surveillance agents is utterly insufficient to cover a territory like that of DRC (2,3 million km²), even if the ESS tries to mitigate this problem by the identification of liaison agents (about hundred) which send sanitary information to the PACE surveillance agents. The ESS is well-coached thanks to its dynamic central coordination unit. An ACCESS-based data base was used before the installation of ARIS in July 2004. A set of performance indicators are already being used to assess the operation of the network.

In spite of the deterioration of public services over the last decennia's, the ESS still partly relies on public veterinary services, at the provincial level, districts and territories; this is especially the case in the east of the country, much more affected by the war, but also harbouring the vast majority of cattle.

In other parts of the country, surveillance is ensured by private actors, working for NGO's, development projects or Christian missions, or by public veterinary agents, which lost their links (because of the circumstances) with their hierarchic structure (e.g. at the provincial level). Almost everywhere, the latter lack the means to ensure the role which was entrusted to them, although in several cases their territory covers the size of countries such as France or Germany.

'Paper' reporting within the network is practically exemplary, exceeding well 80% (470 reports/year delivered, around 85% of reporting rate). The system of 'no report = no money' is certainly part of the success, but it also reflects a genuine devotion which is tangible when one talks to field agents. The PACE programme is after all the only 'livestock'-oriented programme in the country and hence benefits from a certain notoriety and prestige.

In addition, the PACE programme regional offices in Goma and Lubumbashi all have an e-mail address and are in frequent contact with the national programme coordination; close to all surveillance agents seem to have cell-phones and manage to report emergencies to Kinshasa, even in the furthest outskirts of the Republic, thanks to an excellent coverage of the cellular network in the country.

The number of samples collected and forwarded within the framework of passive surveillance of the five priority diseases of the network (rinderpest, CBPP, foot-and-mouth disease, PPR and ASF) arguably remains modest, but reflects at the same time the relatively exceptional zoo-sanitary situation of DRC: absence of rinderpest, CBPP and PPR, rather epizootic foot-and-mouth disease, and endemic ASF). The recent outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in the east of the country, as well as the majority of the ASF outbreaks, were detected by RENES agents, were reported and were completed by diagnostic tests by the Kinshasa-based laboratory (LABOVETKIN), in some cases confirmed by foreign laboratories (Onderstepoort – Pretoria; Bingerville – Abidjan).

The Veterinary Laboratory of Kinshasa (LABOVETKIN) represents the scientific wing of the programme and is also improving. In addition to the modest PACE contribution for equipment and training of staff from the department of virology, the LABOVETKIN has just started a profound rehabilitation of the laboratory, including the overhaul of the various laboratories and their equipment; this is funded by the World Bank, awaited since 2002. This rehabilitation will allow also the construction of a water tower and an incinerator.

DRC has managed to obtain the status of rinderpest infection free country, during the last general session of OIE in Paris in May 2006. Although this recognition was obtained based on the historical absence of the disease in DRC, the quality of the work presented as regards clinical surveillance and sero-surveillance of cattle and wildlife, most certainly contributed to the dossier being considered sufficiently credible by the Scientific Commission.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) threatens DRC in two ways: firstly, DRC shares a border with Sudan, country infected since April 19, 2006 (in domestic poultry); secondly, DRC is located on the migration pathway that connects the north of Russia and western Asia to East Africa (including DRC) and receives of important populations of migratory birds during several months of the year.

Pursuant to the recommendations of the various international and African technical institutions, such as the FAO, OIE and IBAR (which are now joined in a technical platform, based in Bamako for matters relating to Central and West Africa), PACE DRC has endeavoured to make RENES the center-piece of any epidemiological surveillance system on animal diseases, and is ready to carry out the surveillance of the bird flu, at the level of domestic birds, but also in wild birds, in collaboration with the ICCN which forms an integral part of the RENES. However, the upcoming end of the PACE programme and the absence of a prospect for a take-over by the state, poses a serious problem in terms of viability of the RENES and represents a danger in terms of tracking-down avian influenza in animal populations.

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In conclusion, even if the start-up of the programme has been laborious and that its implementation is rather atypical, the results today are undeniable, except with regard to the strengthening of the institutions which appears on top of the list of the objectives of the PACE. Admittedly, staff benefited from training, a data-base was installed, laboratory equipments were provided; however, in spite of these tangible results, the DPSA still does not appear as having sufficient institutional capacities to be able to continue by its own the surveillance of animal diseases throughout the territory, especially considering the lack of road-infrastructure which seems to exist between the central level and the provincial and local levels.

This poor institutional capacity is also translated in terms of sustainability of the RENES. In the current state of affairs, the donor community clearly favours financial support mechanisms directly aimed at civil society, thus circumventing any government and public services interference, regarded as widely corrupted. For a programme such as PACE, which aims to increase strengthening of the institutions, this constituted a challenge. Through links with non-governmental structures of any kind, even 'orphan' public veterinary services at the level of certain provinces and districts, PACE certainly managed to set up a workable animal diseases surveillance system, modest, but which generates extremely useful information for those who want or need to understand the sanitary situation of the country. That this ESS is credible has just been recognized by the OIE which, based on the precise information provided by PACE (through the DPSA) declared the DRC rinderpest-free.

On the other hand, this pragmatic implementation approach did not really contribute to institutional strengthening. Indeed, PACE-DRC, with the limited means it had, substituted itself to the public veterinary services at field level and hence benefits of much prestige, not at least thanks to the payment of almost all operational means of the agents affiliated to the ESS (equipment, material, means of transport, allowances, missions, routing intra-country of taking away), thus of those of the laboratories (equipment, material, reagents, allowances, missions, forwarding of samples extra-country).

This unilateral and disproportionate dependence on PACE does not contribute either to the sustainability of activities in terms of recovery by the government of its attributions and responsibilities. At present, and in relation with the rather interventionist policy of the international agencies (UN) and the donors, this aspect does not seem to receive much attention : sustainability at this stage is definitely not on the agenda yet.

This means that the risk of a collapse of RENES after the closure of the PACE is real. In a context of widespread bird flu in Africa, this is very alarming.

GAMBIA

PACE The Gambia ended its 4th work plan (year 1 of the extension) on May 31st, 2006. The attempts of the NPC to have a rider to this programme-estimate approved in order to cover the costs of further implementation until October 31st, 2006 were met with indifference by both ECD and NAO office in Banjul, thereby exceeding the date of the ongoing PE. Attempts to approve *in extremis* a 5th PE to cover the remaining weeks and expenses suffered to same destiny, the request for opening of a new commitment being submitted to the lead EC Delegation no sooner than September 14th; the latter, understandably, rejected the request.

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

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

The ESS which was created in 2003 is reasonably functional, despite the reduced number of surveillance agents (20).

Animal disease surveillance (conducted in selected villages and sites) targets 9 priority diseases and makes it possible to achieve a fair coverage of the territory.

Main point of concern remains the ability of Gambia's government to sustain epidemio-surveillance through adequate funding.

The Gambia became member of the OIE in May 2004, thus paving the way for the recognition of The Gambia as rinderpest-free (disease and infection). This declaration is based on the historical absence of both rinderpest and rinderpest-vaccination in the country, as well as on its exceptional geographic location, its only neighbour country being Senegal which is recognized as infection free. It is now expected that the Gambia will be recognized infection free of rinderpest in May 2007.

In the mean time, the feeling is that Gambia should enter the OIE pathway for CBPP too.

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 remained very weak throughout the project.

GUINEA BISSAU

PACE Guinea Bissau is presently conducting the last few days of its 6th and last programme estimate. The signature of this PE took place on December 8, 2005 and enabled the start-up of the activities as from January 2006 (therefore with two to three months of delay). The amount of this PE is 117 million FCFA or 179.059 Euro on EDF funds and 19 million FCFA or 28.798 Euro on governmental funds (that is : 14% of the total budget). Commitments at present account for 101% of the primary commitment budget (indicative budget of 770.923 Euro). PE's 1 to 4 are entirely closed and de-committed. The actual expenditure rate is currently approximately 87 % of the EDF indicative budget.

Three important acquisitions were budgeted for in the last PE, in agreement with the recommendations of the 5th PACE Annual Coordination Meeting (Dakar, June 2005) and with the technical and budgetary framework document of September 2005. FCFA 62,1 million (approximately 95.000 Euro) were budgeted on imprest for the realization of a borehole and the acquisition of a generator (power generating unit) for the laboratory, as well as the purchase of 4 additional motorcycles, in order to increase the number of active surveillance posts from 10 to 14.

The financial audit still did not take place, although this responsibility now rests to the local delegation of the EC (amendment 4.2., page 4 of the Rider to the PACE Financing Agreement).

With the approval of a new organic law for the Ministry in charge (now called Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) the Livestock Directorate-General was recreated in May 2006 and is operational since June 2006 with the progressive implementation of its flow chart, to begin with : the appointment of the PACE National Coordinator as Director-General (*Direcção Geral da Pecuaria*). This reorganization represents the return to the situation before 2005, which was deemed in agreement with the recommendations of the OIE (quality of veterinary services).

At the end of this programme, it is commonly accepted that the PACE programme in Guinea Bissau is a programme well carried out, well integrated into the national veterinary services, and played a pivotal role by standing firm amidst extremely difficult socio-political and economic circumstances. A rapid assessment of the logical frameworks however demonstrates that in terms of expected results, the appreciation is very mitigated : very few expected outputs will have been attained at the end of this programme, although the most important ones will have materialized (establishment of an operational ESS, but not yet sustainable, and obtaining the status of rinderpest free country). The liberalization of the veterinary services did not take place, partially for lack of human resources (the country does not have enough veterinary surgeons) and in addition by the absence of a credible, reliable banking sector.

Since 2003, the emphasis had switched to activities which were thought to be genuine worries to the farmers (definitely not rinderpest or CBPP). It was foreseen to develop actions on ASF, PPR and Newcastle disease. To date, certain actions and achievements exist in these areas, but not thanks to PACE, but rather thanks to other (emergency) projects, generally of short duration, which assisted in the fight against certain diseases (FAO TCP programmes against ASF, anthrax and food security, as well as programmes which were supported by other donors like the AfDB).

With regard to the threat of avian influenza, the country tries this to prepare itself for a possible introduction of the disease, especially by supposing that this threat will come from migratory birds, which is not necessarily the most probable scenario. It is shown that PACE, RENAVE, and the DGP took up their responsibilities when it comes to implementing surveillance measures. However, the activities are rather poorly documented (EPP, protocols, forms, etc...) and deserve more attention (more operational details).

The upcoming end of PACE poses a serious problem for this national component. Whereas the technical advances of the programme made during 6 last years were rather important, the transfer of the financial responsibility to the Bissau-guinean Government remains extremely weak, even non-existent.

Knowing the socio-economic situation of the country and the budgetary constraints of its government, there is no prospect for any take-over of responsibility for the costs of the ESS in the near future. The prospects for survival of the RENAVE are thus very poor, but not without hope. Indeed the *Strategic Framework for Poverty Reduction 2005 – 2008* grants a lot of attention to the production of short-cycle species as a means to combat poverty. Accordingly, diseases-control of these species is earmarked as an important activity to be financed. Nevertheless, at this stage, the funding of the SFPR is assured only for 50 million USD (out of the 427 needed). The most tangible supports today are rather erratic and often of a region-based or sector-based nature : the National Plan for the Prevention and Control of HPAI will, if the government manages to secure funds, give a place of choice to the RENAVE for the monitoring and the diagnosis of HPAI. In support in this Plan, Guinea Bissau should be able to profit from the 500.000 USD promised by the AfDB, as well as part of 30 million Euro earmarked by the EC for the ACP countries. It is also recommended to requested an emergency stock of vaccines, through IBAR. In addition, the ongoing TCP/FAO on anthrax has provided a considerable support to the surveillance system and the vaccination efforts in the southernmost areas of the country. In spite of these prospects for specific supports, which are often related to the circumstances (sanitary emergencies, ASF, anthrax), whereas the RENAVE is supposed to eliminate or minimize the impact of these diseases, the Directorate-General for Animal Husbandry would thus deserve its own dedicated institutional support programme, in line of what the PACE has been able to achieve (with limited financial means) as a structuring programme. All new initiatives in this direction will however have to be conditioned to prior approval by the National Assembly, of the various legal bills, aimed at establishing a modern and comprehensive legal framework, without which new investments are unjustifiable.

MALI

PACE Mali has just ended its 5th and last programme estimate, having benefited from FCFA 176 million (269,000 Euro), including FCFA 96 million (147,000 Euro) funded by the EDF and FCFA 80 million (122,000 Euro) by the Government.

The overall implementation of PACE, both in operational technical terms and in terms of project management, remains generally satisfactory, as confirmed by a PACE internal evaluation mission (early April 2006). In its (preliminary) conclusions, the mission states that the programme has been correctly implemented. Nevertheless, too much emphasis seems to have been put unilaterally on rinderpest eradication, while the quite limited financial means allocated to the programme by PACE and the institutional reform of the Ministry-in-charge, have adversely affected programme implementation as a whole. Even though institutional reform with the creation of a *Ministry of Animal husbandry and Fisheries* and a *National Department of Veterinary Services* has been carried out, the new structure lacks means, particularly financial and logistical means, to fulfill the roles which have been entrusted to it.

A sound management of human resources (public and private), particularly because of the important number of private veterinarians who are accredited (124) and intervene in health care delivery, the prophylactic campaigns, and –recently– the serological surveillance system for rinderpest, is strongly recommended in order to strengthen the country's veterinary system.

The small scale experiment for the serological surveillance of rinderpest by private vets, demonstrates that this extension of the health accreditation system may lead to sound technical results, while helping the involvement of private veterinarians in active surveillance and - in general – in the health care system.

As far as the OIE pathway for rinderpest is concerned, Mali has been declared free of infection in May 2006.

As far as CBPP is concerned, the strategy applied for several years now (mass vaccination of cattle throughout the country targeting a 80% coverage) does not seem to go anywhere, the coverage rate oscillating between 50 and 70%, while a certain fatigue may be observed among farmers, set apart the 'liberalization of the price of vaccination' (beyond the ceiling set by the Government) in some regions, which is carried out by accredited private veterinarians (sanitary mandate).

The evaluation mission has become aware of the existing unrest in the veterinary liberal profession, because of the high number of 'private veterinarians' (estimated at over 600 by the Veterinary Council of Mali) and the disloyal competition on the part of wholesalers and the so-called "*bana-bana's*" (ambulant, unqualified and un-licensed vendors). Certain private vets detaining a sanitary mandate even go as far as stating that they live off their sanitary mandate only, thus moving towards a kind of state-subsidized 'private' practice.

At present, Mali is still untouched by avian influenza, no animal case, nor human, has been declared so far, and no suspicions have been reported. Last suspicion dates from February (in Kayes, in the west of the country) and proved to be a case of Newcastle disease.

The emergency preparedness plan to counter avian influenza (approved by the Council of Ministers on January 18th, 2006 for an estimated budget of 862 million FCFA, that is approximately 1,3 million Euro) is now operational.

Within the framework of the 10th EDF (NIP Mali), the European Commission will finance an ambitious livestock development programme (which amounts to 13 million Euro) in which four thrusts are envisaged: livestock census, support to the DNSV, support to the LCV and continuation of the epidemiological surveillance through... PACE.

A bill on livestock production (animal husbandry code) was promulgated in 2005. The provisions relating to the animal health services it contains are in adequacy with the quality standards as recommended by the OIE.

The programme has never been audited.

At the end of the programme, one can state with confidence that PACE Mauritania is a programme well carried out, well integrated into the national veterinary services and that may be proud to have concluded a large number of planned activities and reached the majority of the expected outputs (provided the country will indeed be declared free of rinderpest infection in May 2007).

NIGER

PACE Niger finishes its 6th and last PE on October 31, 2006. The initial budget of 104.650.272 FCFA (159.538 Euro), financed for 63.710.272 FCFA (97.126 Euro) by the EDF and 40.940.000 FCFA (62.413 Euro) by the Government was increased after the discovery in Magaria-village of the first outbreaks of avian influenza. Apart from a rider without financial incidence, a second rider made it possible to increase the EDF envelope by 247.500 Euro, thus making it possible to deal with the most urgent short-term needs for contingency of the aforementioned epizooty.



Overall, Niger suffered from three outbreaks, characterized by a slow spread which resulted, together with a simultaneous collapse of the consumption of poultry products and the stop of trade, in the confinement of the infection in a few districts and –until proven otherwise- the successful eradication of the disease. Indeed, no new cases of avian influenza have been announced in Niger since June 1, 2006. Three outbreaks were declared in the district of Magaria (Zinder province): *Magaria*, *Gallawa Riga* and *Dan Bardé* in February 2006. A fourth case was declared on June 2nd in *Boko May Gao* in the district of Madaroumfa (Maradi province).

Stamping out was conducted in Magaria on April 9, 10 and 11. An operation without precedent in Niger, where nearly 200 km² of the territory were fine combed to ensure that more no poultry could be at the origin of resurgence of the epizootic. Nearly 15 000 heads of poultry were killed and compensation was paid out to more than 1 500 families. The same operations were repeated in the district of Madaroumfa a few months later (at the beginning of June).

With regard to rinderpest, PACE Niger supported the development of a new dossier, requesting recognition of the OIE status of infection free country for rinderpest.

An organisational and financial audit of the PACE Niger national component was carried out at the end of the PE year 4 (2004). All the PE (except the one ongoing) are closed and de-committed.

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NIGERIA

Nigeria is in the process of closing its first and only programme-estimate of the extension phase (PE n° 5). It is only in February 2006 that the local EC delegation accepted to approve the said work plan, not entirely coincidental with the outbreak of avian influenza in Kaduna State and the pressing need for funds to face the first needs in terms of control. The initial 5th PE was immediately amended in order to raise the funds needed to combat avian influenza in the short term. From the initial 299,000 Euro committed on behalf of the EDF, the PE now represents a commitment of 620,000 Euro. Other EC-related funds (emergency funds envelope B) have been made available following the highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks in Nigeria.



As the first sub-saharan country to be affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza, Nigeria has also been the one country suffering the biggest economic losses of any of the countries affected on the continent. A joint FAO/OIE/IBAR fact finding mission was conducted at the beginning of October 2006 in order to assess the current situation and suggest possible changes in mid term and long term strategies. In its final report, the mission members (where IBAR was represented by one of the PACE TA's) stressed that the Nigerian Government had done a good job tackling the outbreaks, despite some of the errors and misconceptions observed by the mission during its field trips to Lagos State and Plateau State.

In Nigeria, to date, 44 Local Government Areas (LGA's) in 15 states (including the FCT) have suffered outbreaks at some point. Today, only 2 outbreak areas are considered as (potentially) active : Lagos and Ogun (adjacent) and Taraba State. In total, 498 outbreaks have been reported, of which 122 have been formally confirmed as being H5N1. In the affected farms, totalling approx. 900,000 birds, approx. 500,000 died (55%) and approx. 400,000 were culled .

In the other areas, no further outbreaks have occurred following control and eradication operations. In terms of human H5N1, no human cases have been reported to date, despite active surveillance carried out.

The main constraints at this stage of the crisis, where no further outbreaks have occurred in most of the States, is on the one hand, the lack of funding for the mid-term and long-term actions, despite the commitments made by the donor community (USD 62 millions), and on the other hand the wide-spread vaccination that is conducted in the country, in particular in industrial and large scale farms.

Another major constraint and source of delays is the issue of compensation. While the principle of compensation had been accepted in 2005, the precise modalities for these payments had not been sufficiently clarified, leading to extended negotiations with the representatives of the sector (*Poultry Association of Nigeria, PAN*) on the amounts that were to be paid and the ways in which to get these funds to the affected farmers. These delays left numerous farmers poorly compensated, because by the time the decision to cull would be taken, most poultry would already have died from the infection, leaving little to be compensated for.

The joint World Bank and FGoN compensation fund has paid out ₦ 107 million (USD 850,000 approx.) so far to 720 affected farmers in 14 States for the culling of around 400,000 birds. This amount represents the announced FGoN contribution to the compensation fund. The worst-hit State being Kano City were 58 urban farmers were paid out around ₦ 35 million (USD 280,000) for 140,000 birds that had been culled. 758 farmers in 9 States are still awaiting pay-out for an estimated 180,000 birds culled recently (estimated at ₦ 51 million or USD 400,000 approx). These funds ought to come from the World Bank Credit for relief and economic recovery (USD 6 million).

Both the GREP Coordinator (FAO) and the PACE (IBAR) Representative have also been looking into the options for Nigeria to finalise the OIE pathway for recognition of rinderpest freedom. At this stage, Nigeria is regarded disease free, but not infection free.

For the foreseeable future, the activities of the *Nigerian Animal Disease (Surveillance and) Information System* (NADIS) is secured through a joint FAO/EU funded project, estimated at 522,000 Euro (about ₦ 84 million), and expected to last six months between September 2006 and March 2007. The project will facilitate an in-depth study on the incidence, spread and impact of the disease in the country in close collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. Currently, cases of avian influenza are only found if farmers report suspected cases to vet services (passive surveillance). It is believed that results of the survey will be useful in understanding the spread and control of avian influenza in the West African sub region, although great care will have to be taken of the interpretation of these results amidst widespread anarchic vaccination practises.

SENEGAL

Senegal has just started a last rider to the PE n° 5 (year 2 of the extension) which should have been completed at the end of March 2006. The PE n° 5 will now end on October 31, 2006. The PE for year 1 (corresponding to the initial PE n° 5) of PACE Senegal had been approved in April 2005 and the funds mobilized in June 2005.

Since 2003, the government has accompanied the EDF funding of PACE by allocating funds under its investment budget. For the PE underway, FCFA 150 million or 228,000 Euro are budgeted.

Within the framework of the emergency preparedness planning, a mission of the PACE Regional Coordination as organised to provide support to the PACE national coordination and the veterinary services department to carry out the evaluation of the surveillance setup vis-a-vis avian influenza, following its spread to the African continent, in particular in West Africa since its appearance in Nigeria in February 2006. The Government of Senegal quickly took a certain number of preventive legal measures and earmarked 500 million FCFA for the preparation of the crisis. The CONAGA (*National Committee of Prevention and Control of Avian Influenza*) was created in this context, to implement the national EPP and to make appropriate use of the funds already available for the control of avian influenza in Senegal. The main conclusions of this mission are that, while at the central level, all the crisis management tools are in place, the tangible effects in the field are not very visible apart from the constitution of regional and municipal committees and the information received by the media relays. The strengthening of the means (financial and material) of intervention of the agents (both Livestock and Environment) remains a priority, in particular their requirements in terms of training and information with respect to avian influenza. The field agents must be trained, informed and be equipped as soon as possible within the framework of the strengthening of the national surveillance network, and this, before any introduction of the disease on its territory. The national emergency preparedness plan, which covers the priority areas of intervention (communication, animal health, human health and environment) and the allowance of 500 million FCFA by the government before the appearance of the disease are undeniable assets. However, the implementation of this plan poses logistic, technical and financial problems, given the insufficiency of means of the Ministries involved and the absence of a true mobilization of the usual donor-agencies to date. The training of field agents of the surveillance network and a real time simulation exercise are planned for November, in collaboration with PACE/IBAR, the AfDB, FAO and EISMV.

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Since May 2005, Senegal is considered rinderpest infection free by the OIE.

As far as other priority diseases are concerned, CBPP was given particular attention in the course of a re-launching workshop organized in May 2005. It was decided to stop vaccinations against this disease and to embark – in the medium term – on the OIE pathway for recognition of Senegal as CBPP - free.

Unfortunately, little if any consensus agreement was reached on vaccination against Rift-Valley-Fever, as recommended by the PACE-FAO-OIE workshop held in January 2004 in Dakar.

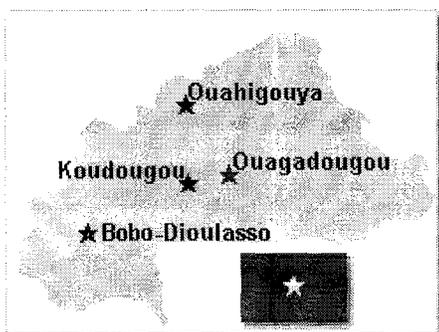
During the month of August 2006, a short-term technical assistance mission (GTZ-IS/SATEC) enabled for the first time to establish a data-bridge between the intranet system of the DIREL (based on the Lotus Notes platform) and the data management system ARIS (based on the Oracle platform). This bridge will enable data-entry into ARIS on passive surveillance from the terminals located at the level of the Regional Inspections, linked to the DIREL intranet.

The second and last financial audit has not been initiated yet. A financial and technical audit of PE's 1 to 4 was carried out in the course of the months of May and June 2005.

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Annex 2. Summaries of back to office reports

BURKINA FASO



2003/01/BF

The regional technical assistant has concluded a 12-day mission to PACE Burkina Faso (September 2nd – 13th, 2003). The PACE Coordination is a very light structure, consisting of the NPC and office personnel, including one assistant-accountant (not an accountant). The four thrusts of the PACE programme are executed by four existing structures and their senior officers : the Director-General of Veterinary Services for thrust 1, the Chief of the Veterinary Inspection Service for thrust 2, the Director of Animal Health for thrust 3 and the Chief of the Epidemiology Service for thrust 4. Institutions, alien to the Livestock

Directorate-General are also associated, e.g. other donor projects (PNDSA, PAPME), a bank (BACB), the veterinary council, the association of private vets, the CTA/P₂ project, etc. Cross-theme units are : database management, wildlife and communication. Especially the latter three units suffer from lack of human resources. The accountancy needs to be added to this list as well.

PACE Burkina Faso has started its third WP in May 2003. Commitments to date represent 86% of the national indicative budget (1,3 million €). Actual expenses (31 July 2003) represent a mere 50% of the nat. indicative budget. The contribution from the Government of Burkina Faso represents 8% of the WP-3 budget (15 million FCFA or 23.000 €). It will be raised to 84 million FCFA (or 128.000 €) next year. Previous work plans 1 and 2 have not been de-committed yet. Following the reply of the PCU to questions raised by the ECD, the financial audit will be initiated shortly. The accountancy at present, although not suffering from any particular problems with the ECD, is considered to be insufficient to 'survive' an audit without damage. PACE is now coping with its third assistant-accountant (in 2,5 years of existence), data are poorly managed, the PACE accountancy software has been installed but is not used, one encounters problems finding specific invoices or bank statements.

Human resources constraints related to the database management unit appear to have found a solution and the database being developed at present looks promising. Unfortunately, it is not clear, when and how the PID (PACE) will be installed and how it will be integrating existing data.

All aspects of the OIE pathway and clarification of the rinderpest situation, are well underway : the RESUREP epidemio-surveillance network is well established and benefits from the extensive PARC experience, the network is well embedded within the livestock services through the Epidemiology Service (SE) of the Animal Health Directorate (DSA). Burkina Faso obtained disease-free status in May 2003, the serological survey for 2003 has already been concluded (almost 10.000 samples collected in 314 herds), 30% of samples have been processed so far and are negative for RP. Furthermore, 69 samples have been collected from warthogs, buffaloes and antelopes in hunting areas and in the Nazinga (wildlife) ranch since 2002. Most of these samples have been processed and are negative for RP. For the next year, a memorandum of understanding will be signed with the ECOPAS regional programme (EDF funding) which manages the cross-border national

Due to time constraints, little to no attention was given to the other topics scheduled in the terms of reference. Furthermore, as the financial audit of the CTA/P2 unit (Technical Support Unit for Veterinary Privatisation, phase II) is still ongoing and the report of the technical audit by VPLU (PACE-CSU) was not available, little extra information could be gathered regarding the implementation of the veterinary services thrust.

2004/03/BF

The regional technical assistant has concluded a one week mission to PACE Burkina Faso (August 8th – 13th, 2004). The mission was conducted in order to review the degree in which recommendations from the last mission were executed, to assist in the draft 5th WP+CE and to assist in various matters related to the ESS and PID implementation and the OIE pathway (sero-surveillance).

With regard to the recommendations of the last mission (February 2004), very few recommendations have been taken into account : the closure and de-commitment of previous WP have not been operated due to delays in the approval of the imprest expenditures; this again is linked to the poor performance of the accounting clerk of PACE Burkina Faso. Measures have been suggested by the NPC and the RTA to resolve this problem for the duration of the extension phase.

The WP+CE for year 1 of the extension has been reviewed and discussed with DGSV and will very likely be approved without problem by the signatories at ECD and NAO. By October 2004, PACE Burkina Faso will have a balance of approx. 275.000 EUR. No extra funds have been granted through the 'drawing rights' mechanism.

The PID (ARIS) software has been installed on a new PC and data have been transferred. Furthermore, 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.

PACE programme implementation with regard to the ESS is satisfactory, especially with regard to the active surveillance for rinderpest (and to a lesser degree : control of CBPP). Passive surveillance however, remains excluded from the ESS (RESUREP). Passive surveillance is being 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, it is very unlikely that Burkina Faso will be able to meet the deadlines in order for the country to be declared free of rinderpest infection May 2005. Sero-surveillance in cattle will only commence in September 2004.

The dossier with regard to the technical and financial audits of the CTA/P2 unit for veterinary privatisation has not moved an inch since last year's review of activities.

The joint assessment of the 100 monitoring criteria, used by the RTA, have yielded a score of 2,55 / 4,00.

2005/04/BF

The regional technical assistant has concluded a three day mission to PACE Burkina Faso (January 22nd to 25th, 2005). The mission was conducted in order to assist the NPC in overcoming difficulties for the approval of the new (5th) work plan. The approval of this work plan has been delayed because of the non-closure of previous work plans, mainly WP+CE 2 and 3. WP n° 2 is now closed and WP n° 3 will be closed as soon as the remaining replenishment, requested since April 2004, will have been received. A consensus has been reached on the content of the 5th WP and seven copies had already been submitted to the NAO's DG.COOP by January 25th. It is therefore permitted to assume that the new WP will begin on February 1st, 2005 as scheduled.

2005/05/BF

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

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The start-up problems are mainly related to the non-closure of the previous WP's (WP 2 and WP 3); this is in turn due poor accounting practices, both in terms of its presentation and its doubtful veracity. The mission could note that indeed, the expenditure memos presented to the NAO for processing are unacceptable. The ECD is astonished by the lack of reactivity of the Ministry of Animal Resources, for which PACE is its principal programme, despite the fact that PACE has been suspended for close to 10 months. It is necessary to assess whether it is useful that the EDF continues to support PACE, given the fact that the objectives seem to be attained and that the Government contribution seems to enable a normal operation of the epidemio-surveillance system.

2006/06/BF

A mission of the PACE Regional Coordination Unit in Bamako visited Burkina Faso from September 19 to 21, 2006 in order to provide technical assistance to the PACE national component. This mission was carried out by Dr. P. BA STIAENSEN

The main objective of this last mission was to give its support for the process of de-commitment and PACE programme closure in Burkina. In addition, the mission enabled to establish a last report on the state of progress of the technical activities of PACE Burkina Faso on August 31, 2006 and to assess the possibilities that the country regain its status of avian influenza free country in the coming months.

Within weeks of the completion of the current phase of the PACE programme, PACE-Burkina Faso is *de facto* a programme for which the financing is entirely assured by the Government since 2004. The contribution of the EDF stopped at the end of the PE n° 4 (at the end of October 2004, end also of the first phase of the PACE). Since then, the difficulties encountered by the National Coordination to have its accounts approved, prevented the re-starting of the European support within the framework of the PACE extension (2004 – 2006).

According to the financial statements in annex to the last circular of the PACE Regional Authorising Officer (Director of IBAR) on September 13, 2006, PACE Burkina Faso –with regard to EDF funds- entirely closed and de-committed PE's n° 1 and 2. PE's n° 3 and 4 are still not closed, nor de-committed, in spite of the fact that they were completed in April 2004, respectively October 2004.

The RTA discussed the principles of the programme closure, such as adopted during the PACE Annual Co-ordinating Meeting in Mombasa in June 2006 with the National Coordinator, the officer in charge at the DG.COOP (NAO) and the Director General of Veterinary Services. He also informed them of the contents of the letter that the Director of IBAR (RAO) addressed to his national counterparts (ref. 637 of September 13, 2006) in order to request their collaboration for the rapid closure of the national programmes, while insisting on the great responsibility which rests on the NAO support services.

In the specific case of Burkina Faso, no more expenditures have been made since November 2004. The allowances and wages, including for National Coordination staff, are already taken over the government. The challenge thus consists in closing the outstanding PE's before October 31, 2006. This process has so far been the subject of much correspondence, without however leading to tangible results. For close to 2,5 years, expenditure-memos have been sent back and forth between the PACE, the DG.COOP and the ECD, without getting any closer to a solution. It is obvious that the National Coordination is not able to provide any more information or justifications than those which it already gave in the past. If this has not been possible in two years, there is no reason to suggest that this will be done in the days which follow.

In spite of the financial problems encountered by the programme, no financial audit took place until now. The RTA reiterated that this responsibility now rests with the local EC delegation.

As the circular letter of the RAO points out, the PACE Regional Coordination has provisions to pay these audits (if those cannot be charged to national funding sources within the ECD). To this end, a request for opening of a specific commitment must be send

to the Lead-EC Delegation in Nairobi. A financial audit at this stage would be very useful to accelerate the process of programme closure.

Since the beginning of the year, Burkina Faso, like some other countries in the region, has been hit by bird flu. The first outbreak in Burkina Faso appeared in an inn called "Pharaon" located in Gampela, in the suburbs of Ouagadougou and was reported to OIE on April 3, 2006. Since, two other outbreaks were declared: Bobo-Dioulasso (in the province of Houet) and Tenado (in the province of Sanguié). At this stage, none of the outbreaks are still active and sanitary measures were entirely carried out. No vaccination was implemented. For the first two cases, these measures were officially discontinued by ministerial decree (since August 2006), for Tenado this is not done yet.

With the lifting of sanitary measures and the absence of new outbreaks, Burkina Faso should now plan to re-enter the pathway for recognition of its status as a notifiable avian influenza free country, by preparing a comprehensive dossier for OIE.

In conclusion, this mission ends in a minor key. Just as the previous PACE regional support missions over the last months, it was not possible to find an immediate and satisfactory solution to the programme suspension, partly due to the lack of interlocutors available (in particular at the level of the ECD). At best, the protagonists in this crisis promised to do what is necessary to lift this blockade by October 31, 2006.

None of the PACE regional missions dispatched to Ouagadougou (BASTIAENSEN, SAELAERT, DIOP and BESSIN) since the end of 2004, have been able to safeguard the programme and allow a renewal of the activities financed by the EDF. Beyond the fact that the suspension of the funding has certainly had negative effects on the implementation of the programme, it also created a distrust and a confidence crisis between the donor (EC) and the host (MRA), which exceeds the narrow financial framework of the PACE. If this issue does not lead to a satisfactory solution in the weeks which follow, one can hardly expect a new national or regional programme for support to the veterinary services to start up in Burkina Faso in the near future (e.g. within the framework of the 10th EDF). Also let us recall that without imminent closure of PACE Burkina Faso, even PACE itself (30 national components and various regional components) is at risk of not being closed by February 28, 2007, at the end of the Financing Agreement.

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CONGO



2004/01/CG

The regional technical assistant has concluded a three-day mission to PACE Congo during the month of July 2004. This mission was requested by the Regional Coordinator in order to follow-up on the implementation of PID (now renamed ARIS), installed during the month of February 2004 y Dr. N. DENORMANDIE. This mission was combined with a similar mission in the DRC (Kinshasa) and was combined with a mission of PACE's regional epidemiologist, Dr. C. SQUARZONI.

During two days, the RTA assisted the PACE epidemiologist and the wildlife officer in the data-entry for the different modules, both static (veterinary services, animal resources) and dynamic (passive surveillance at this stage). PID is installed on one standalone PC. Data from the ESS have been received since January-February

2004 (the network was only launched in December 2003, following the training of surveillance officers).

Thanks to a limited number of administrative layers, a limited number of field personnel and the relatively recent activity of the network, most data regarding 2004 were entered during the mission.

Based on the ease with which it was possible to enter data using the forms used by the ESS, one can conclude that these forms are already fairly well adapted to PID requirements and would only need some minor changes to be entirely compatible.

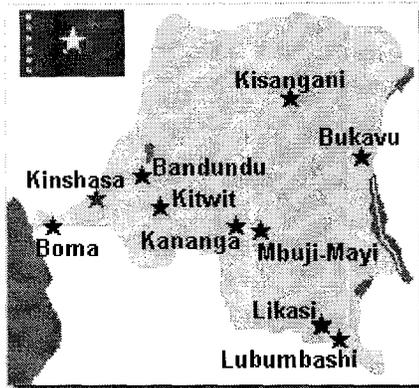
Lacking however is geo-referencing. PACE Congo does not possess a single map of the country and attempts to contact other government services to obtain an electronic list of villages and their geographical reference have failed so far. The RTA has insisted that this matter receive the full attention of the DVS and -if necessary- of the Minister in charge.

2005/02/CG

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

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

DRC



2004/01/DC

The regional technical assistant has concluded a five-day mission to PACE DRC during the month of July 2004. This mission was requested by the Regional Coordinator in order to install the PID software (now renamed ARIS) in DRC (Kinshasa). This mission was combined with a similar mission in the Congo (Brazzaville) and was combined with a mission of PACE's regional epidemiologist, Dr. C. SQUARZONI.

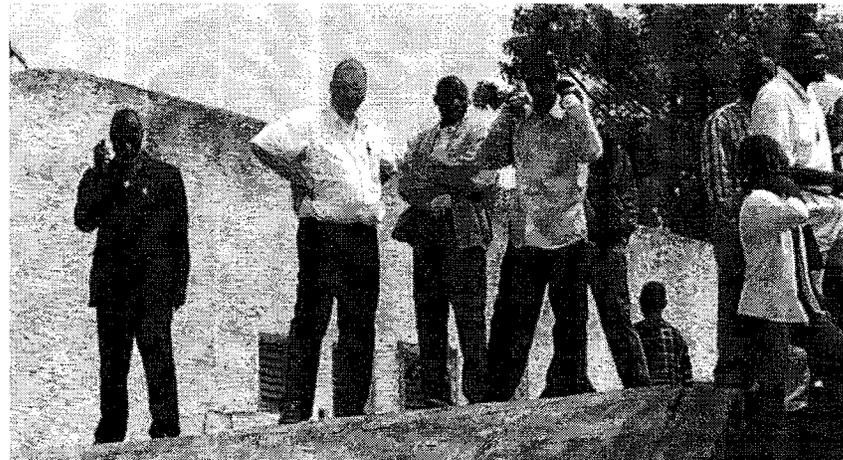
The software was installed on 3 separate standalone PC's, belonging to the DVS, the veterinary lab and the PACE coordination. All three PC's are equipped with a Genuine Intel Pentium IV processor. After two days of installing, three more days were used to customize the software and to train staff on its use. Three staff members took part in this training :

the PACE epidemiologist and database manager (DPSA), the PACE wildlife officer (ICCN) and the PACE diagnostic officer (LaboVet).

The PID installed on the DPSA (DVS) PC is now considered the national database for reference.

Several problems were encountered during the installation and peruse of the software and were notified to the PACE – DMU. Also, the RAM memory available (130 Mb) has turned out to be too limited. It has been recommended to upgrade to 258 Mb (+ 128 Mb).

Whereas human resources, financial resources and computing facilities are now satisfactory, the main challenge will be to collect the required (and reliable) data on animal health and production for the country.



*Waiting to cross the Congo river between Brazzaville and Kinshasa (July 2004)
Photo by C. Squarzoni.*

2006/02/DC

A mission of the PACE Regional Coordination Unit in Bamako visited the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from July 2nd to 8th, 2006, in order to provide technical assistance to the national Congolese programme of the *Pan-African programme for the Control of Epizootics* (PACE). This mission was carried out by Dr. P. BASTIAENSEN, regional technical assistant.

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The mission took place within days of historical elections, the first free and democratic presidential and legislative elections, since 45 years. These elections are part of a road-map which will have to lead – together with the demilitarization of the country and the re-conversion of the armed forces, both rebel and loyalist forces - to a return to democracy and lasting peace in the months which follow.

Since it started in 2003 the PACE-RDC has conducted 4 programme – estimates. The 4th and last programme estimate (approved since the 1^{ier} January 2006) represents an amount of € 299.894 on imprest (EDF). The technical and budgetary framework document for year 2 of the extension (approved on September 19, 2005) had allocated a budgetary ceiling of € 300.000. To this amount, one must add the contribution of the Government for an amount of FC 126 million, that is : approximately 76% of the total funding (using an exchange rate of FC 550 per Euro. This contribution however has to be regarded as a provision, which so far has never materialized.

An administrative rider without financial incidence for this last PE, signed on June 23, 2006, enables PACE to re-allocate funds for strengthening the surveillance of bird flu.

Even if the start-up of the programme has been quite an endeavour and that its implementation is rather atypical, the results today are undeniable, except with regard to the strengthening of the institutions which is one of the core objectives of PACE. This weak institutional capacity is affecting the prospects for a sustainable funding of the RENES (national ESS). In the current state of affairs, the donor-community clearly support funding mechanisms aimed at strengthening civil society directly, usually circumventing

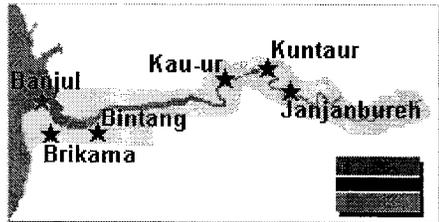


the interference of the government and the public services. For a programme such as PACE, which core objective is precisely the strengthening of the institutions, this constitutes a challenge. The fact that this programme nevertheless managed to carry out a major part of these objectives, deserves our appreciation. This has also been recognized by OIE which, based on the precise information provided by the PACE (through the DPSA) declared the RDC free of rinderpest.

Group photo of farmers, counsellors and PACE staff in the Mampu concession.

The current situation with respect to bird flu and the lack of prospects for the future funding of the RENES, are cause for concern. The mission therefore tried to identify possible solutions, making it possible to continue the activities of the RENES and to consolidate the assets of PACE, through new funding mechanisms, preferably from the donor having contributed to the success of PACE, the European Commission. Until such renewed support materializes, PACE has no other choice than to only carry out the dismantling of its structures, in order to comply with the procedures for the closure of the programme by October 31st, 2006.

GAMBIA



2004/01/GM

A mission of the Regional Co-ordination Unit of PACE in Bamako has visited The Gambia from May 2nd to May 7th, 2004, in order to supply a technical assistance to the national component for The Gambia of the Pan-African programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE). This assignment has been conducted by Dr. P. BASTIAENSEN, Regional technical assistant for the Sahel countries.

This mission is the first mission by a regional technical assistant from PACE. The technical assistance to PACE member countries has been entrusted to the GTZ-IS/SATEC-Development consortium since the beginning of 2003. The appointed TA (based in Yaounde, Cameroon since mid-2003), did not manage to visit The Gambia due to logistical and time-constraints. A reshuffle of the geographical areas covered by the three RTA's for West and Central Africa, has now permitted to include The Gambia in the cluster of countries, usually referred to as 'Sahel-countries'.

This first mission was conducted amidst a controversy over the financial situation of PACE The Gambia, particularly with regard to the commitments of the second work plan and the approval of the third work plan, both of which have been endorsed (by Brussels) without the involvement of the EC Lead-Delegation for PACE (Nairobi), nor the PACE Co-ordination unit (PCU, Nairobi), nor the Regional Authorising Officer (IBAR, Nairobi).

Until now the prevailing opinion about programme implementation in The Gambia, based on the reporting (or lack thereof) received from the PACE programme in this country, was far from positive. The mission conducted by the RTA has now provided evidence that several PACE activities are rather well implemented and that several targets set by the PACE programme will very likely be met by October 2004, end of the (present) phase of PACE, if some constraints can be lifted.

PACE The Gambia needs foremost to improve its reporting to PCU, IBAR (and soon OIE), whereas monitoring by PCU-bodies (including regional technical assistance) should be intensified in order to produce reliable data on programme implementation in this country.

Furthermore there is an urgent need to speed up procedures. A bureaucratic approach to decision making, both at PACE/DLS level and at NAO/DCE level, is slowing down the implementation of important actions like the legislative review and the credit programme for private vets. If these activities are not at least on track by October 31st, 2004, chances are that they will not be withheld for the extension phase that will focus on activities already initiated and likely to be concluded in the two year extension period.

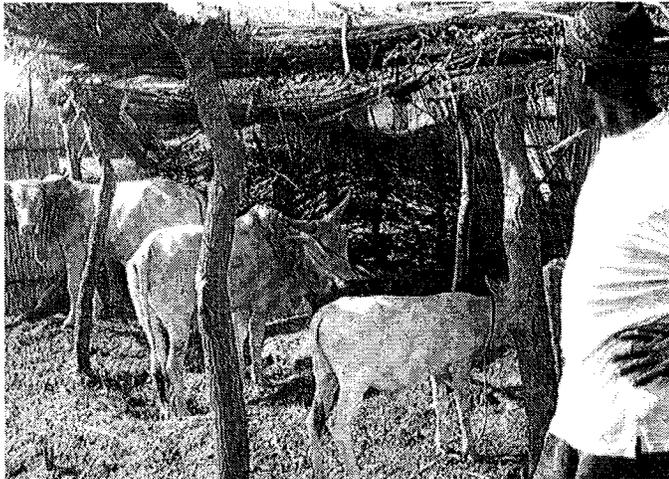
The results of the discussions held with all stakeholders (except the ECD) involved in the controversy over the approval of WP n° 2 and n° 3 budgets indicate that although several decisions taken in the past are (and will be) subject to debate, the situation is not dramatic and could be corrected within weeks if all work plan n° 2 expenses are approved and if this work plan can be rapidly closed and de-committed. Only then is it conceivable that funds be made available for a two-year programme extension of PACE (if approved).

The situation encountered is a situation of over-commitment, for which the NPC cannot be held responsible. Expenses to date are in line with those in other PACE member countries.

Although the financial situation has now been clarified, the fact remains that PACE-PCU, EC Lead Delegation and RAO (AU-IBAR) have been completely by-passed on four separate occasions. Not only were commitments approved and launched without the consent of the regional authorising bodies of PACE, but these bodies were repeatedly left in the dark on what had been approved and committed in The Gambia.

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In all PACE member countries, a MoU has been signed between the NAO and the RAO for the delegation of powers, before the approval of the first work plan. This must have been the case in The Gambia too. The standard MoU used stipulates in article 5 of the



Special Conditions that "...the authority responsible for carrying out the PACE programme is the Director of OAU/IBAR. The Regional Authorising Officer is responsible for authorizing commitments, as endorsed by the National Authorising Officer and the Delegation of the European Commission in ... [the country]...".

In the (likely) event of an extension of PACE towards 2006, procedures for the approval of work plans will have to be agreed upon, at least between EC offices in Banjul, Nairobi and Brussels.

Visiting a farmer and CAHW close to the border with Senegal. May 2004.

Another important constraint is related to the way the NAO's ECSU interferes in the technical day-to-day management of the PACE programme and the activities it tries to implement. In the particular case of the privatisation component, consensus reached by the technical steering committee (instituted with the help of PACE) has been overruled by the NAO's ECSU on technical grounds. This is highly unusual and creates the impression that the veterinary privatisation process is being guided (or obstructed) by the higher authorities. The NAO is generally instructed to oversee compliance of activities with the Financing Agreement, the Global Plan and the Work Plan in force and it not expected to perform micro-management of the national PACE programme or interfere in technical issues for which, by definition, it does not have the required competence.

By maintaining the present N.I.B. at 615.116 EUR and supposing the extension period of two years will require an EDF contribution not exceeding 150.000 EUR (for 24 months),

sufficient funds could be available by Oct. 31st, 2004 to conduct this extension, without additional funding. If the revolving fund/guarantee fund (60.000 EUR) is made operational by Oct. 2004, an increase of the N.I.B. might be necessary (estimate of + 25.000 EUR).

2003/02/GM

A mission of the Regional Co-ordination Unit of PACE in Bamako has visited The Gambia from November 8th to 18th, 2004, in order to supply a technical assistance to the national component for The Gambia of the Pan-African programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE) and to attend the Conference on "Animal Agriculture in West and Central Africa and its contribution to livelihoods, poverty alleviation, food security and environmental sustainability - Achievements in the past 25 years, challenges ahead and the way forward", organized by the International Trypanotolerance Centre (ITC) and held at the Kairaba Hotel in Kololi, Banjul from November 8th to 12th

This second mission was conducted whilst the first NPC has resigned (since June 2004) and the second NPC has taken up his position in September 2004, following the approval of the ECD, the NAO and the PACE Regional Coordination Office.

Following this second mission, the RTA still believes that several PACE activities are rather well implemented and that several targets set by the PACE programme will very likely be met by the end of PACE (now postponed to October 2006). It is e.g. very likely

that The Gambia will be declared infection-free from rinderpest by May 2006, thereby achieving one of the main outputs of the PACE programme.

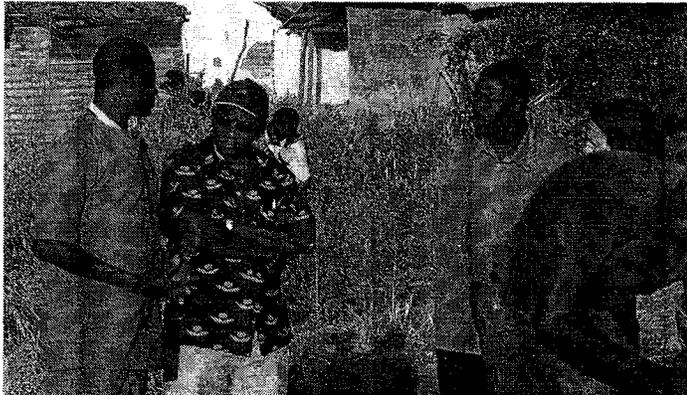
But the constraints too, have remained the same : lack of reporting to PACE, IBAR and OIE and appalling slow decision-making, by the NPC but also by the ECD and the ECSU. The resignation in June 2004 of the first NPC, intervened following serious disagreements with DLS and ECSU and has not made things easier either for the newly appointed NPC.

All this has led to a virtual standstill of activities, with the exception of extension/communication activities and the operation of the ESS, including the sero-surveillance activities for rinderpest-eradication purposes. Most activities and especially acquisitions of goods and services have not materialized (e.g. purchases of PC's, generator, ELISA kits, ELISA reader) to date.

Furthermore, the inheritance of the peculiar procedure followed for the approval of work plan n° 3 in February 2004, is now backfiring as work plan n° 2 has to be closed and de-committed urgently for work plan n° 4 to be approved. This leads to a situation whereby it is virtually impossible to commence this work plan now; hence it will commence at the earliest in January of February 2005. It is therefore strongly recommended that all stakeholders (including ECD and ECSU) assist the NPC of PACE in extending the activities for at least another 3 months, through a rider to the recently terminated 3rd work plan. Only so is it conceivable that a minimal number of activities initiated may be completed.

2005/03/GM

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



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

Discussion with a veterinary health inspector (2005).

The current organization of the DLS with the existence of a chain of command between the central level and the field is an asset, which should be maintained. This being said, the organization still requires improvements related to the documentation of the standard operating procedures on the implementation and the management of zoo-sanitary measures, the updating of the veterinary legislation and the introduction of a notification system for medical events to OIE and neighbouring countries.

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

Field agents should be supplied with sampling material and benefit from training in terms of sampling techniques.

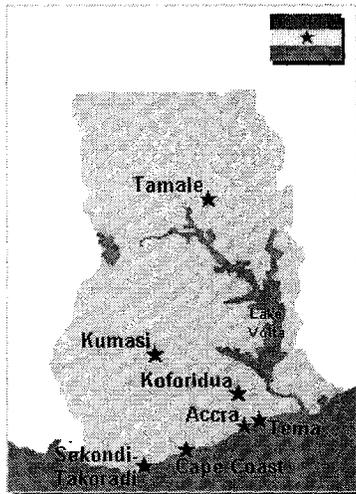
All this must be implemented as soon as possible in order to finalize the request to be submitted to OIE so that Gambia can be recognized infection free of rinderpest in the near future.

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

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

GHANA

2005/01/GH



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

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

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

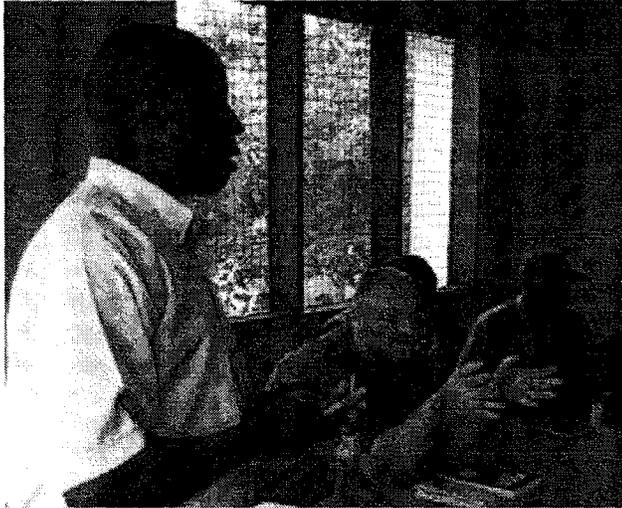
This also explains the existence of the 33 clusters and of the 20 technical officers selected as "trainers of trainers". This is a legitimate way to decentralise and entrust higher responsibility to a limited number of staff for an efficient ESS with appropriate repartition of tasks. It is interesting to note that this corresponds to the inverse tendency of what occurs in the "French speaking" neighbouring countries, which evolve towards an extended number of stakeholders who gradually join the initial pool of selected actors and who act as relay agents. At the end of the day, both systems do join up by moving (albeit using an opposite approach or direction) towards a balanced number of stakeholders, taking into consideration the need of decentralised staff for early outbreak detection on the one hand and the need to limit numbers in order to ensure an "active", "motivated" and sustainable management "team".

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

Although the official policy clearly shows a willingness to privatise veterinary services, the PACE programme will certainly not be remembered for the actions it has implemented to materialize this privatisation. While the mission acknowledges that a credit or warranty fund programme (as requested by the Ghanaian veterinary services) would certainly have contributed to speed up this privatisation wave, the fact remains that little has been done to encourage young veterinarians to establish themselves in rural private practice (most urban private vets are in fact retired public veterinary officers). This is not a matter of money or funds, but foremost of (concertation) between public and private veterinary

operators on how to respect one another's (attributions) and revenues.

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



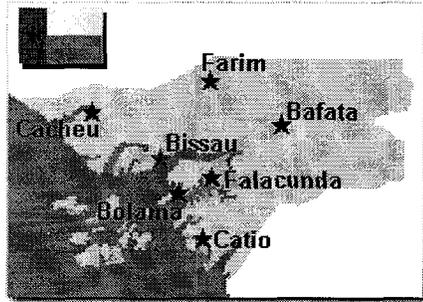
Discussion with farmers in Jeji (2005).

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

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

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GUINEA BISSAU



2003/01/GW

The regional technical assistant has concluded a one week mission to PACE Guinea Bissau early August 2003. This mission took place while PACE Guinea Bissau prepares to initiate its 3rd WP, approved since May, but still not operational, due to delays in transfer of funds. Commitments at present represent about 90 % of the national indicative budget (664.655 €) while actual expenses are situated at about 50%. Talks were held with both ECD and NAO in order to hasten de-commitment of remaining funds of WP n° 1 and n° 2 as well as with regard to the bidding procedure for the

financial audit (WP 1 and 2). These visits coincided with the arrival of two letters from PCU-Nairobi with regard to these same two issues. As from year 4 onwards, the government ought to contribute towards the management of the epidemio-surveillance network (22,7 million FCFA per year). In the present circumstances (absence of constitutional assembly) it has been impossible to introduce this cost in the government budget or to put it to vote. If the upcoming elections lead to a new government, the national contribution could be inserted into the 2004 budget. Financial management so far is satisfactory. The accountant has been made available by the Livestock Directorate-General and seems to master EDF procedures. Due to the absence –so far- of Government contributions and of proper revenues, accounting is still fairly simple and is indeed updated on a daily basis. According to the accountant, the PACE accountancy software – “*although old-fashioned*” - is sufficient for the present needs of PACE.

With regard to the communication unit, almost all recommendations left by the last visit from Daniel GREGOIRE in August 2002, have been implemented.

A rinderpest contingency plan was submitted for approval to the epidemiology unit in Nairobi in march 2003. No reply has been received since. Strangely enough this plan was drafted in French, thus giving the impression that the plan's sole objective would be to fulfil OIE requirements. A rapid analysis of the draft document shows that it will most probably be acceptable when it comes to OIE approval. A meeting with the members of the epidemio surveillance posts (veterinary agents) revealed several problems related to border and movement control of cattle imported from Guinea and Senegal. A cross-border meeting including Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry and Senegal would appear to be useful. Serological screening for rinderpest will commence shortly. The lab is now fully equipped and a ten-day training session by Dr. Joseph SARR of LNERV was conducted at the end of July. 400 samples randomly collected over the last few months were screened during this training and revealed 8% positives. It is regrettable that no further investigation into these positive samples was undertaken. Serological screening within the wildlife population has been impossible so far. Partner institutions identified during PARC (before the war) and the beginning of PACE (after the war) are non existing today. The technical assistant therefore recommends a joint mission by the regional technical assistant and the wildlife unit in order to adopt an appropriate strategy which will allow to attain the required number of blood samples.

In conclusion, PACE implementation suffers from the prevailing political and economic situation in the country. Activities, which PACE is capable of implementing within its radius of control are generally well implemented, though improvements are possible. Problems appear whenever activities need involvement of private or public partners. Veterinary services are still 100% government-run and suffer of very poor working conditions, leaving livestock owners disappointed as to their impact. Furthermore, the fact that Guinea Bissau has never known rinderpest (since 1967), nor PPCB (although this still has to be confirmed), is likely to create a credibility problem : is PACE not distancing itself from the genuine priorities of Bissau-Guinean livestock : PPR, pasteurellosis, anthrax, blackleg, Newcastle disease and African swine fever ? Moreover, PACE is presently the only programme supporting livestock development in this country. Therefore, stakeholders' hopes are raised very high. Finally, PACE Guinea Bissau should try harder to contribute to the improvement of delivery of veterinary services and drugs (and vaccines !) to livestock owners (based on cost-recovery), whether through privatisation or through other channels.

The improvement of vaccination cover is the only way in which PACE can hope to have a genuine impact on animal production in this country. A better sanitary status with OIE won't. At present, the only reasonable solution would be to support a small centralized veterinary pharmacy (wholesale), without pushing the installation of private practitioners in rural areas. The state-owned veterinary clinic was recently (December 2002) 'privatised' in that six government vets now run the clinic and especially the pharmacy at their own expense and for their own benefit. It is important to underline that this informal structure (their legal status has not been approved yet) is presently the only one able assure timely delivery of veterinary drugs and vaccines to veterinary posts and subsequently livestock owners all over the country. So far, the clinic has received no financial support. To the extend that this clinic manages to consolidate itself legally and can present proof of sound financial management and reasonable profits, the technical assistance recommends that – in principle- this initiative should be eligible for the upcoming credit programme. Remains to be seen whether the 16% interest rate will not prove to be prohibitive.

2004/02/GW

The regional technical assistant has concluded a one week mission to PACE Guinea Bissau during the month of January (13 – 19th). This mission took place while the country is governed by a broad transitory government, installed after the military overthrow of the former President in September 2003. Parliamentary elections are scheduled for March 2004; the interim President will stay on until February 2005. The political changes in the country do not appear to have influenced the PACE programme implementation. Although the general economic situation remains dramatic, the PACE programme continues to progress as good as it possibly can, given the circumstances. This is largely due to the authority and involvement of the NPC.

Considerable advances have been made (since the last visit in August 2003) with regard to the membership of Guinea Bissau to the OIE, the diagnostic capacities of the national veterinary lab and sero-surveillance for rinderpest in livestock. Delays are still observed in terms of surveillance of rinderpest in wildlife and with regard to veterinary privatisation.



Meeting with the 10 surveillance officers of the ES-network in Guinea Bissau (+ NPC and staff) Aug 2003

The mission has focused on the follow-up of recommendations made in August 2003 and has tried to contribute to a solution for the agreement between the only commercial bank in the country (BAO) and the Veterinary Council, which will manage the warranty fund for credits to private practitioners, worth 20.000 EUR. Proposals have been made which should be acceptable for both the BAO and the Veterinary Council. Furthermore, the RTA has sent a draft agreement to Guinea Bissau, based on the agreement in Senegal (PARC). If approved by all parties, credits could be made available as soon as April this year.

Several visits were conducted to game lodges in the vicinity of Bissau, which could contribute to the collection of the few sera of warthogs and other ungulates, necessary for the proof that rinderpest is absent in wildlife. In one case, we could obtain the full collaboration from the management and we are confident that the necessary sera will be available before the end of the hunting season.

The ECD has insisted on the fact that PACE Guinea Bissau should extend its activities to those diseases that are relevant to livestock owners in the country. Newcastle disease and ASF are, in agreement with the RTA and the NPC, considered as priority diseases in that respect. Activities conducted by PACE should be complementary to those conducted by other initiatives, e.g. the ASF TCP (FAO), which focuses mainly on lab diagnostic facilities. During the mission, several documents were drafted which are likely to contribute to better actions in these areas.

In terms of financial management, it has been noted that although de-commitment of WP n° 1 was requested by the ECD on May 8th, 2003, the de-committed funds still did not appear in the January 15th, 2004 OLAS account statement. This de-commitment is essential to the approval of the next work plan.

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2004/03/GW

The regional technical assistant has concluded a one week mission to PACE Guinea Bissau during the month of April. This mission was conducted in order to review progress made since the last mission (January 2004), to (re)install PID and conduct training of senior staff and finally contribute to an agreement between PACE, DVS, Veterinary Council and the BAO bank on the implementation of the credit facility for (future) private vets. As for the recommendations of the last mission, little progress has been noted. Several reasons are mentioned by PACE staff : the delays in replenishment of the imprest account (due to internal problems at the NAO's level) and the political situation related to the general elections held on March 23rd, 2004. Sampling for rinderpest-serology has stagnated, no initiatives have been taken with regard to ASF or Newcastle Disease, the agreement between PACE, DGP (DVS), the Veterinary Council and the only commercial bank in Guinea Bissau, the BAO, still hasn't been signed.

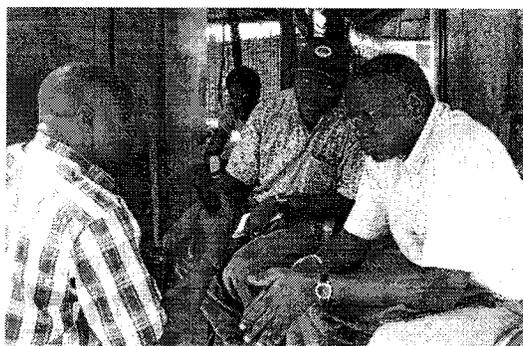
Most of the weeks work was used re-installing PID on a PC purchased weeks earlier for that purpose. Due to software problems, this installation took about two days to be concluded, after which two more days were used to train both the NPC and the epidemiologist of the use of this software.

As for the agreement with regard to the credit facility, little advance was made during the mission. A small committee (NPC, President of the Veterinary Council and the RTA) reviewed the provisional documents, while taking into account the comments made by the EC delegation.

In conclusion, programme progress at this stage is slowing down. Hopefully, a stable political environment will soon enable the PACE programme to improve the rapidity with which it implements new activities. If not, there is little chance that these activities will be withheld in the extension phase of PACE.

2004/04/GW

An evaluation mission visited Guinea Bissau from August 16th to 21st in order to assess the PACE programme. This evaluation was requested by the Delegation of the EC in



Dr. Bouna A. Diop being interviewed for the local rural radio station. Behind him, the PACE NPC, Dr. Bernardo Cassamá (Bambadinca, G.Bissau, Aug. 2004). Photo by C. Squarzoni

Bissau. The mission consisted of Dr. B.A. DIOP, Regional PACE Co-ordinator for West and Central Africa, Dr. C. SQUARZONI, Regional PACE epidemiologist and Dr. P. BASTIAENSEN, Regional PACE Technical Assistant (in charge of Guinea Bissau). The mission met with H.E. the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (*Ministro de Agricultura e Desenvolvimento Rural*) and with H.E. the Minister of Economy and Finance (*Ministro de Economia e Finanças*). Further meetings were held with the officers-in-charge of PACE, the Livestock Department (DGP), ECD, CAON-FED (EDF NAO support office), the Veterinary Council (ONV) and the BAO bank. A field trip was organized to Bambadinca, Bafata and Gabu which enabled the mission to conduct interviews with field personnel and smallholders.

The mission assessed progress made by the programme in the following areas :

- Operation of the national ESS for animal diseases, named RENAVE (architecture, coaching, management and information flow,...) and measures taken to ensure the sustainability of the network.
- Progress in rinderpest eradication (OIE pathway)
- Strategies developed and implemented to control CBPP and other priority epizootics

- Initiatives taken to support the reorganisation of the veterinary services according to OIE guidelines
- The degree in which recommendations from PACE workshops have been applied
- The institutional integration of PACE and its relations with other entities of the DGP
- Administrative and financial management procedures applied
- The visibility of PACE actions.

The mission furthermore made recommendations aimed at improving programme implementation, analysed progress made along the lines of the logical framework and conducted a monitoring exercise based on 100 indicators. This exercise, showing overall progress in PACE activities and beyond, yielded an average score of 2,03 / 4,00.

The main recommendations of the mission are :

- Review the constitution of the network's management bodies : steering committee, technical committee and central coordination unit
- Review the distribution of field agents nation-wide in order to improve the national coverage of the network
- Conduct a census of cattle and other livestock, based on the field agent's routine visits.
- Improve the integration of the RENAVE within the structure of the DGP, define the job description for each agent and staff member and develop a 'manual of procedures' with performance indicators, thus improving the monitoring and coaching of the ESS by the central coordination unit.
- Acquire 2 more gas-fueled fridges for the 2 regional offices of Gabu and Bafata.
- Improve the system of sanitary information (forms, compatible with PID) and enlarge the information gathering to other field agents who are not yet inserted into RENAVE
- Initiate the data-entry for general livestock and veterinary services data into PID-ARIS
- Improve the diagnostic capacity of the national lab in selected areas (PPR, bacteriology and quality-assurance)
- Initiate a strategy aimed at ensuring the funds to further finance RENAVE beyond 2006, using the results that will be obtained in studies conducted in Ghana, Mauritania and Bénin.
- Finalize the document to be forwarded to OIE, requesting the recognition of the country as free from rinderpest, while pursuing sero-surveillance in cattle and wildlife.
- Enter the OIE pathway for the recognition of the country as free from CBPP
- Improve the lab-capacities with regard to PPR, initiate a pilot-vaccination campaign and draft an emergency preparedness plan
- Improve the collaboration with the FAO/TCP programme for the control of ASF and draft a contingency plan
- Improve the lab-capacities with regard to Newcastle disease, study the spatial and temporal distribution of the disease, initiate a pilot-vaccination campaign and improve the supply of vaccines in order to enable a full nation-wide yearly vaccination campaign.
- Update the veterinary legislation and render it compatible with OIE standards
- Upgrade the financial contribution of the Government for the operation and equipment of the veterinary services
- Support the installation of private vets
- Enlist more veterinary staff (vets and technicians) to strengthen operations in the field
- Pursue negotiations with the BAO to activate the warranty fund; if this turns out to be impossible, transform the fund into a direct credit fund, to be managed jointly by the ONV and the DGP. Priority should be given to the establishment in Bissau of an import-wholesale cabinet for veterinary drug and related products.

In conclusion, the mission feels that despite a difficult context, the PACE programme in Guinea Bissau has managed to obtain tangible results in the area of strengthening epidemic-surveillance (with the implementation of an ESS), the rehabilitation of the national veterinary lab-facilities, training of staff and acquisition of equipment, even if only partially

or cattle plague had been finalized with the RTA. The document, supplemented by the last results of the analyses on wild fauna (realized in Dakar) was finally sent a first time to the OIE on October 18 and a second time on November 8, 2004.

The document is based on the template recommended by OIE and asserts the infection free status of country with regard to cattle plague on the basis of the historical absence of the disease/infection and of vaccination against the disease. The Scientific Commission of OIE met from the 13th to the 19th of January 2005 and forwarded their recommendations to the International Committee (which will meet in May 2005) regarding several PACE countries (of which Senegal), but not on Guinea Bissau. It would thus seem that none of the two documents arrived at OIE, in spite them being mailed by DHL.

The ASF programme encounters serious problems for the serologic diagnosis, using the ELISA kit developed and provided by LNERV (ISRA) of Dakar-Hann. According to some, poor quality distilled water, used for the tests would be at the origin of the problem.

However, it turns out that the Regional Workshop of the Collaborative Network of National Laboratories of the IBAR, held in Accra (Ghana) in August 2004, had clearly recommended to refrain from the use of this kit

The RTA, together with the National Coordinator, has initiated data-entry into PID/ARIS of data available, mainly at the level of the passive surveillance (continuous). Thus, a first sanitary report, in line with the OIE template could be generated for January 2005. It is now necessary to enter the other months, while supplementing the data known as 'static' regarding the veterinary infrastructures and human resources. In addition, monthly sanitary surveillance forms were reviewed in order to make them compatible with the requirements of the software (clinical field surveillance and clinical slaughter-house surveillance).

In spite of the negotiations conducted by the evaluation mission with the BAO in August 2004 and the submittal thereafter of the documents requested by this same bank, the Board of Directors does not seem to have taken any decision, favourable, nor unfavourable. In agreement with the orientations provided by the evaluation mission, the RTA has therefore moved to the execution of the alternative plan which consists in granting credits directly, through the Veterinary Council (OMV). The framework documents drafted since 2003, were thus re-examined by the RTA (and translated into Portuguese).

In conclusion, PACE Guinea Bissau shows little progress since the last mission. The structural shortages of financial means which strike the programme since May 2004 do not allow a rigorous implementation of planned activities. The delays accumulated by the ECD for the approval of the last WP+CE are worrisome. Other countries in the region facing similar conditions have already received their initial advance since December 2004. These delays also reflects on the overall effectiveness: if a WP is signed by the ECD with several months of delays, this has consequences for the timeliness of actions implemented; the same goes for the budgetary management, which is of the utmost importance in this last year of implementation (because unused funds will not be de-committed in time to benefit the national indicative budget).

2005/06/GW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2006/07/GW

A mission of the PACE Regional Coordination Unit in Bamako visited Guinea Bissau from August 31st until September 6th, 2006, in order to provide a technical assistance to the PACE national component. The mission worked in close cooperation with PACE staff and staff from the DGP and the LCDV. The main objective of this last mission was to support the process of the PACE programme closure. The RTA discussed with the national coordinator, the desk officers of the ECD and the NAO Support Unit (CAON), the principles of the programme closure, such as adopted during the PACE Annual Coordinating Meeting in Mombasa in June 2006. He also informed them of the (provisional) contents of the letter that the Director of IBAR (RAO) will be sending soon to his national counterparts in order to request their collaboration for the rapid closure of the national programmes. In this respect, the financial audit still did not take place. The RTA reiterated that this responsibility is now part of the tasks entrusted to the (de-concentrated) local delegations of the EC (amendment 4.2., page 4 of the Rider to the PACE Financing Agreement).

In addition, the mission enabled the RTA to establish a last update on the advances made by PACE Guinea Bissau and to assess the preparedness of the country for a possible introduction of avian influenza.

With the approval of a new organic law for the Ministry in charge (now called Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) the Livestock Directorate-General was recreated in May 2006 and is operational since June 2006 with the progressive implementation of its flow chart, to begin with : the appointment of the PACE National Coordinator as Director-General (Direcção Geral da Pecuária). This reorganization represents the return to the situation before 2005, which was deemed in agreement with the recommendations of the OIE (quality of veterinary services). Given the socio-economic situation of the country and the budgetary constraints of its government, there is no prospect for the latter to assume financial responsibility for the costs of epidemio-surveillance in the near future.

The country was recently recognized as free from rinderpest (infection) by the the OIE (last General Session of the International Committee in Paris, May 2006) and thus achieved one of its main goal, while contributing to the efforts of the international community to eradicate this disease by 2010.

At the end of this last mission, the opinion that the PACE Regional Coordination has always had with regard to this national programme, is confirmed : the PACE programme in Guinea Bissau is a programme well carried out, well integrated into the national veterinary services, and played a pivotal role by standing firm amidst extremely difficult socio-political and economic circumstances. A rapid assessment of the logical frameworks however demonstrates that in terms of expected results, the appreciation is very mitigated : very few expected outputs will have been attained at the end of this programme, although the most important ones will have materialized (establishment of an operational ESS, but not yet sustainable, and obtaining the status of rinderpest free country). The liberalization of the veterinary services did not take place, partially for lack of human resources (the country does not have enough veterinary surgeons) and in addition by the absence of a credible, reliable banking sector.

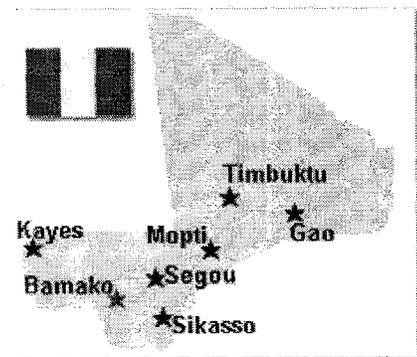
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Since 2003, the emphasis had switched to activities which were thought to be genuine worries to the farmers (definitely not rinderpest or CBPP). It was foreseen to develop actions on ASF, PPR and Newcastle disease. To date, certain actions and achievements exist in these areas, but not thanks to PACE, but rather thanks to other (emergency) projects, generally of short duration, which assisted in the fight against certain diseases (FAO TCP programmes against ASF, anthrax and food security, as well as programmes which were supported by other donors like the AfDB).

With regard to the threat of avian influenza, the country tries this to prepare itself for a possible introduction of the disease, especially by supposing that this threat will come from migratory birds, which is not necessarily the most probable scenario. It is shown that PACE, RENAVE, and the DGP took up their responsibilities when it comes to implementing surveillance measures. However, the activities are rather poorly documented (EPP, protocols, forms, etc...) and deserve more attention (more operational details).

The major problem of this programme remains the very unfavourable socio-economic context in which this structural development programme has had to evolve. A population which is extremely impoverished by years of political and military turmoil, an economy in ruins, de-motivated, badly paid and lethargic public servants (the problems related to the start-up of the LCDV are representative of this phenomenon) and (internal and external) brain drain. Therefore, the fact that the PACE programme could reach some of its objectives and that it could contribute in an undeniable way to the institutional strengthening of the veterinary services and the livestock services in general deserves our appreciation.

MALI



2003/01/ML

Although no formal travel is involved, it has been suggested by the RTA to produce a "mission-report" to PACE Mali in an attempt to overcome difficulties with the ECD in the follow-up of the programme and avoid an organisational audit by the ECD. There has been – ever since the end of PARC- a profound lack of trust and collaboration between PACE-Mali and the ECD in Bamako, and this for several (often justified) reasons. The objective of the report would be to inform the ECD of advances made in programme implementation and especially to try to highlight the positive aspects of what is done in Mali, the negative aspects having been covered extensively by the mid-term review mission. If

this attempt fails, programme implementation is believed to remain slow or even degrade.

A field trip to the Sikasso region (accompanied by PACE Mali staff, M. Francis CHABARI, GTZ-IS and M. Bounafou SANOGO, ECD-Mali) was conducted on November 10-11th, 2003. This trip to the south-eastern part of Mali (see map on left side), allowed us to meet several private veterinary practitioners (a lot of whom are actually not vets) and to witness a blood-sampling operation in the village of Farako. The mission was most useful in several respects : it allowed for a better understanding of what private veterinary practice actually means in Mali and contributed to a better and more informal communication between the Livestock Director (supervising the sero-surveillance operations on site) and the ECD controller (which accompanied us).

In the conclusions of the report, it is stated that the PACE Mali programme remains problematic, but that numerous improvements have been made, both in terms of financial management and technical achievements. PACE Mali is one of the few countries which managed to get its WP approved in October 2003. Furthermore, the thrust n° 2 (privatisation of veterinary services) has now been officially launched, after having been blocked by the ECD for three years. Database management and communication are improving steadily and the OIE procedures are well on their way. All major acquisitions have now materialized which will allow for a better performance by field personnel and the central veterinary lab.

2004/02/ML

A first follow-up report was elaborated in January 2004, covering the period from July 2003 to December 2003. This second report was compiled following several field visits, encounters and meetings carried out between January and August 2004. This report is completed with respect to the epidemiologic aspects, by the observations made by Dr. C SQUARZONI, technical assistant for Central and West Africa (Common Services Unit, PEU) based on several visits and missions carried out during the last six-month period (June and July 2004).

With the onset of the sero-surveillance campaign for cattle and wildlife, Mali entered the last straight line towards obtaining the status of country free of cattle plague. This status could be obtained by May 2006.

In addition, the implication of the veterinary mandarines in the national ESS is (finally) starting. A lot of effort will however still have to be made before arriving at a realistic (financial) agreement,



Bleeding cattle for rinderpest serology in Farako, south-east Mali, November 2003.

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acceptable for the private vets, and which does not depend (exclusively) on financing by PACE (EDF). The central coordination unit of EPIVET will have to show much more initiatives if this system is to be operational before the second séro-monitoring campaign for cattle plague.

Following the various field missions, the epidemiologist and the regional technical assistant of the regional coordination noted a functional network deployed in Mali, with an important implication of the agents. The surveillance system is in place and functional, even if particular points in terms of methodology (ex: passive surveillance), increased integration of partners and agents (slaughter-houses and veterinary surgeons) and the communication aspects must be strengthened.

The operation of the central coordination unit (CCU) and the peruse of the epidemiologic data must also be improved and the use in routine of competences of the Veterinary Central Laboratory must be potentiated.

Other assignments are envisaged in the other areas of the country in order to continue the epidemiologic support started near network EPIVET Mali. The principal recommendations worked out in this report/ratio will be useful for the functionality of this system of épidémiomonitoring in order to make it perennial and optimize its operation (capacities of reactivity, of diagnoses in the event of medical urgency), jointly with the installation of IP.

In conclusion, the execution of the PACE programme, at the level of its National Coordination, as well as at the level of the official institutions which PACE supports, improved considerably since the last follow-up report of January 2004. Unfortunately, these improvements materialize very slowly : it is the case for the execution of the séro-surveillance campaign, as for the activity 'renewal of the veterinary council constitutive bodies' and the implication of the private vets in EPIVET. The prospect of a prolongation of PACE until 2006 should therefore not lead to a diminishment of the work-rhythm observed these last months, if PACE Mali wants to achieve the goals that it has fixed within the new logical framework.

Administrative and financial management also improved; this is also recognized by the DCE. Unfortunately, the organisational constraints at the level of the CONFED still delay certain activities. This can be improved only if the national coordinator (and imprist account holder) actively and regularly defends his dossiers at the level of CONFED.

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2006/03/ML

From April 3rd to 11th, 2006, a mission of the PACE Regional Coordination Unit for West and Central Africa went to Mali to assess progress of the national PACE component in this country. The mission was made up of Dr. Bouna A. DIOP, PACE Regional Coordinator, Dr. Patrick BASTIAENSEN, PACE regional technical assistant and Dr. Cécile SQUARZONI, PACE regional epidemiologist.

During its stay in Mali, the mission was received by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries. The mission had working sessions with the National Director of the Veterinary Services, the Director of the Veterinary Central Laboratory, the officers in charge of the PACE programme at the EC Delegation and the EDF Coordination Unit (CONFED), as well as the PACE National Programme Coordinator and the heads of units. A visit was conducted in the regions of Ségou, Mopti and Sikasso during which interviews were conducted with the Regional Directors of the Veterinary Services and the Heads of the veterinary sectors, the agents of the veterinary checkpoints, the representatives of the farmers and private veterinary surgeons (and their agents).

The overall implementation of PACE, in terms of operational and technical achievement, as well as in terms of project management, remains overall satisfactory, as confirmed by this internal PACE evaluation mission. The mission affirms that the programme has been correctly implemented. Nevertheless, too much emphasis was laid unilaterally on the eradication of rinderpest, and the limited financial means allocated to the programme by the PACE and the institutional reforms of the Ministry, have had a negative impact on the programme as a whole.

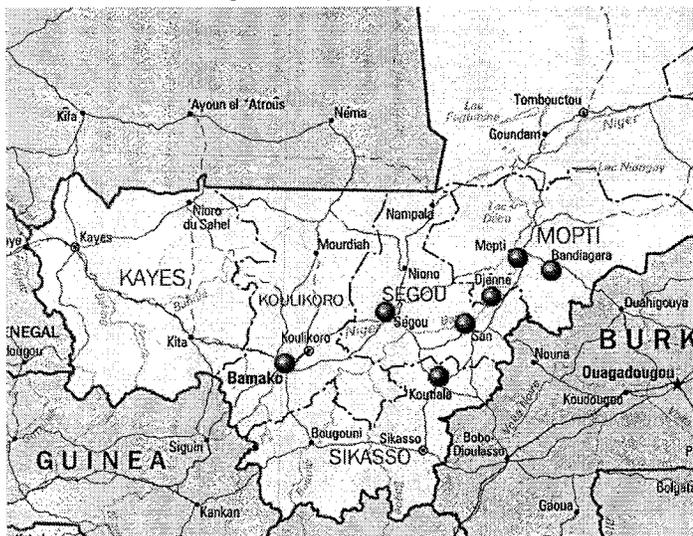
Although the institutional reform with the creation of a Ministry for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, and a National Department of Veterinary Services were carried out, the new structure lacks means, especially financial and logistic means to assume the roles that were entrusted to these structures. An improved management of human resources (public and private), especially because of the significant number of private veterinary surgeons (124) who play a role in the animal health delivery system, disease prevention, and recently, serological surveillance of rinderpest, is strongly recommended in order to increase veterinary availability in the country.

The small scale experiment carried out for the serological surveillance of rinderpest, tends to show that this widening of the animal health accreditation can lead to good technical results, while supporting the involvement of the private veterinary surgeons in active surveillance and health delivery in general.

With regard to the OIE pathway for rinderpest, it is very likely that Mali will be declared free of infection in May 2006, as was recommended by OIE's Scientific Commission in January 2006.

With regard to CBPP, the strategy applied for several years now (a mass vaccination of cattle throughout the territory with as an objective to cover at least 80% of the population)

does not seem to improve, the coverage rate oscillating around 50%, whereas a certain fatigue is noticeable amongst farmers, without mentioning the price 'libéralisation' of vaccination (beyond the ceiling fixed by the state) in certain areas, where vaccination is carried out by private veterinary surgeons.



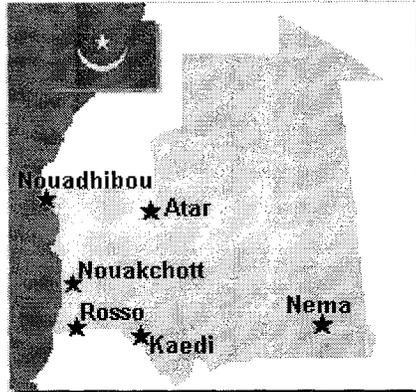
Sites visités au cours de la mission.

This mission enabled the team to become aware of the grunge which exists within the liberal veterinary profession, because of the high number of "private veterinary surgeons" (estimated at more than 600 by the ODVM) and the unfair competition on behalf of wholesalers and 'bana-banas' (informal vendors). Certain vets affirm that they survive off their sanitary mandate only (health accreditation), thus becoming fully dependent upon the public veterinary services.

At present, Mali is still free of avian influenza, not one animal, nor human case has been declared so far, and no suspicions have been reported recently. The last suspicion dates to February (in Kayes, in the west of the country) and proved to be a case of Newcastle disease. Serological surveys carried out by CIRAD in February into 692 aquatic/wild bird species (of which some are migratory birds) within the framework of the TCP/FAO/RAF/3016 programme on the prevention of avian influenza, did not detect serologic traces of H5N1 virus. The HPAI emergency preparedness plan (approved by the Council of Ministers on January 18th for an estimated budget of 862 million FCFA, or approximately 1,3 million Euro) is now operational.

However, during the field mission in April 2006, many insufficiencies were still noted at the level of the local structures, entrusted (through sanitary defence committees at district and municipality levels) with the surveillance of HPAI. The deficiencies were especially felt in terms of information: no technical guidelines, no reporting forms, no extension materials for farmers and the public in general; but also in terms of material conditions: lack of fuel, sample tubes, PPE's etc... In addition, a need for training on the recognition of the disease and the personal protection measures has become apparent.

MAURITANIA



2003/01/MR

The regional technical assistant has concluded a 3-day mission to PACE Mauritania (August 17th – 20st, 2003). This mission was requested by the Regional Coordinator in order to investigate the recent discovery of two serum samples from warthogs, hunted in the south of the country, bordering the Senegal – river, which revealed (strong) antibody presence against rinderpest, using the recommended c-ELISA. The two samples were part of a set of 32 (28 were analysed) samples of warthog serum, collected between January and March 2003. The results produced by Nouakchott's veterinary lab were confirmed by Dakar, Abidjan and WRLR Pirbright. The CVO of Mauritania has informed the OIE and neighbouring countries of the situation as from July 17th onwards. The last declaration so far, was made on August 21st,

confirming the results at Pirbright.

The history of RP in Mauritania in a nutshell : the last confirmed outbreak of rinderpest in this country dates back to 1983 (Assaba county, south Mauritania), the last suspected outbreak from 1985 (Guidimacha county, south Mauritania). The country stopped vaccinating against cattle plague in 1998 and declared itself provisionally free from rinderpest that same year. Mauritania was declared free of disease, May this year. Warthogs are concentrated along the border with Senegal (foremost) and Mali (less). The Senegal river represents a natural barrier against warthog movement. This is not the case for cattle, which cross the river at the Diama dam, in the south west of the country. The Mauritania – Mali border is in majority uncontrollable. The warthogs found seropositive were shot on two different sites along the Senegal river : Nkheila (N'Khaila) and Gouer (Guere), close to Keur Massène (Keur Macèn) and Saint Louis (Sénégal). This is an area of authorised hunting (subject to purchase of licence), adjacent to the Diawling National Park, a world-renowned bird sanctuary.

The REMEMA, Mauritania's épidémiologie surveillance network, took immediate measures to organise bleeding of cattle in the vicinity of the sites where the warthogs had been hunted down. 86 samples were collected, but have not been analysed yet. Furthermore, they enhanced nationwide surveillance for (clinical) cases.

The investigations conducted by the regional TA included visits to the veterinary lab, to the veterinary post, to the area where the warthogs had been hunted, a thorough investigation of sampling forms and laboratory results and numerous interviews with all those involved. Having made these investigations of "quality assurance", the conclusion still stands : there is evidence of antibody presence in warthogs, more than twenty years after the last recognized outbreak in Mauritania. The results are genuine, the protocols have been respected, errors have been made, but are in no way serious enough to put a shadow of doubt on these results. Fraud cannot be excluded, but is highly unlikely.

The question remains : is this the tip of the iceberg, with more discoveries to follow in Senegal and Mali (none of these countries have produced results on wildlife surveillance yet) or is it merely a last witness of the last RP epidemic of 1985 ? In both cases, the virus would have had to circulate within a sylvatic cycle for years, not manifesting itself clinically in warthogs and not transmitting itself clinically to cattle. Whether there has been seroconversion in cattle is still to be confirmed. Information to date is too scarce to give a firm answer to these questions. The regional TA has therefore recommended the following

- a) organise a technical back-up mission from the PACE wildlife unit (soon)
- b) organise a cross-border meeting including Senegal and Mali (later)
- c) analyse ASAP all samples collected from cattle in the area.
- d) identify 100 adult sentinel bovines for a three-year surveillance in the two areas.
- e) improve the quality of sampling forms for wildlife, including data of the hunters and trackers.

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- f) initiate, as from November 15th onwards, a renewed sampling of warthogs in the area, collecting not only serum samples but also full-blood samples (on filter paper). Furthermore request a raise in the number of licenced hunting of warthogs (presently 40 units) for the hunting season 2003-2004.

As far as Mauritania's sanitary status is concerned, there is no reason for alarm. In the presence of a well-functioning surveillance network and in the absence of clinical cases, Mauritania's disease-free status should not be menaced by the discovery of serological evidence of RP. It merely delays the process of being declared an infection free country, at least for a year; that is : if no further positive cases are found.

2003/02/MR

The regional technical assistant has concluded a one week-day mission to PACE Mauritania (December 7th – 15th, 2003). This mission was the second mission of the RTA, the first one having been related to the discovery of seropositive samples for RP in warthogs (August 2003). This mission was planned to cover all aspects of PACE implementation, except those related to wildlife and sero-surveillance which have been covered extensively over the past months. Nevertheless, the reply received from OIE on December 9th regarding the report submitted by Mauritania to the Scientific Committee on December 1st required some attention. The RTA therefore attended a special meeting of the Technical Committee of Mauritania's REMEMA epidemio-surveillance network in order to deal with the proposals made by OIE's Scientific Committee (and the suggestions made by one of it's members). It has been agreed that is of paramount importance to complete sero-surveillance of cattle in risk-area 'A' (refer to the map on page 12). There are still 1.800 animals to be bled. Furthermore, qualitative and quantitative data on disease surveillance in cattle will be compiled, based on active and passive disease surveillance reports from field personnel. Sampling of warthogs, shot by commercial hunters, is ongoing and ought to yield the required 30 samples by January 31st, which is the deadline set by OIE to submit a progress report. Finally, this report will have to present reliable data on the population at risk (both for cattle and for warthogs). Attempts have been made to overcome shortage of ELISA diagnostic tests at CNERV level, by requesting help from OIE and / or neighbouring labs and by requesting ECD to approve an accelerated purchase procedure (direct bidding).

Other technical subjects were discussed : the approach towards CBPP, RVF and FMD control, the contingency plan for RP and the approach used for emergency funding.

Both the data management and the communication units were visited and recommendations made. For the first, it would appear that reinstalling PID because of computer failure will be necessary. Meanwhile the existing Access-based database is performing well, but could use some improvements. Furthermore, it is essential that more than one person should be instructed to deal with both databases. A request will be made by REMEMA for the RTA to re-install PID and attempt a transfer of data from the present database to PID. In terms of communication, activities are well developed; to such an extent that it becomes worthwhile to start investigating it's impact at livestock holders' level. For this, performance criteria will have to be defined. Furthermore, there is room for a better visibility of both PACE and EU on equipment and vehicles purchased through the EDF financing agreement and on official documents and manuals produced with the support of PACE/EU.

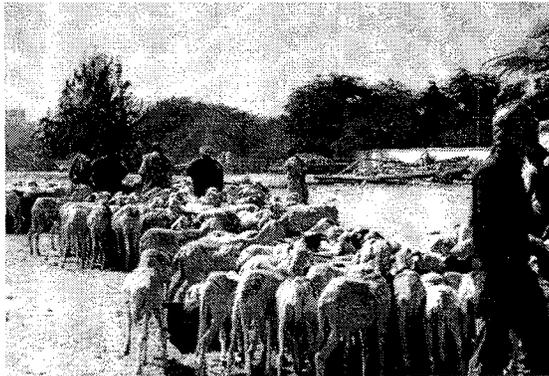
As far as veterinary privatisation and legislation is concerned, PACE's influence on events is very limited. Nevertheless, veterinary privatisation is ongoing and the involvement of private vets is increasing. 10 private vets have been granted a sanitary mandate and cover about 50% of vaccinations for CBPP in the country. The present veterinary legislation is outdated and a proposal of law has been submitted to the ministerial council for approval and transfer to the national assembly. The RTA recommended to prepare cautiously future decrees in order to avoid losing control over the privatisation process. The bill, as it is drafted now, contains indeed several articles which are likely to create problems and conflicts of interests if they are not corrected by stringent additional decrees.

In terms of office and financial management, there are hardly any complaints. Priorities are the de-commitment of work plans 1 and 2 and the contracting of a financial audit for work plans 1 and 2. PACE Mauritania has presently committed 103 % of its national indicative budget (996.995 €), but has spent about 67 %. It is generally felt that the national budget (EDF) is insufficient to reach year 5 (in case PACE is extended to 2006) and Mauritania will therefore attempt to request drawing rights, in accordance with existing guidelines, presented at the 2002 advisory committee meeting.

In conclusion, PACE programme implementation in Mauritania is most satisfactory. The programme is well on its way to achieve full realisation of the PACE programme objectives. The epidemio-surveillance networks' ambitions however, reach further and include not only early warning, but also early reaction and the means to conduct control operations for a broad scale of diseases. Mauritania's veterinary services and the REMEMA are therefore looking for other opportunities to finance these aspects. PACE's misleading name ("control of epizootics") is perceived as a disadvantage when applying for additional funding with EU or elsewhere, since the programme claims to control epizootics but does not really deliver.

2004/03/MR

The regional technical assistant has concluded a three-day mission to PACE Mauritania (January 25th – 28th, 2004) in order to supply technical assistance in three distinct areas : (a) re-installing the PID database (due to a computer failure) at the CNERV lab (REMEMA); (b) preparing the next work-plan (n° 4), due April 31st, 2004 and (c) preparing the technical report to OIE on the rinderpest situation in Mauritania (due January 31st, 2004).



Sheep for sale on Nouakchott's cattle market , days before the Tabaski holy day.

With regard to the first point, both Oracle 8i and the PID were installed successfully, after having reformatted the PC and installed the most appropriate operating system, being Windows 2000. Most of the configuration modules have been covered, the remaining ones need the full cooperation of the REMEMA board members (personnel, abattoirs, etc...).

With regard to the next work plan, the various options were discussed with the NPC (extension of the present work plan for another 6 months, a new 6 months work plan or a new one or two-year work plan) and the PCU financial controller was contacted by phone to update financial information on available funds (OLAS account statements). It was agreed that the

next work plan (if that would be the choice) should be substantially reduced as compared to the previous one and that government participation should be included as budgeted.

With regard to the last topic, a second report (the first was presented in Dec. 2003) to OIE was drafted jointly by the REMEMA board members and the RTA. The document is based on the first document submitted to OIE, but presenting new data on cattle and warthog seroprevalence, confirming the absence of antibodies against RP. New discussion topics (based on a paper prepared by Drs. G. THOMSON and R. KOCK) have been included in order to conclusively recognise the freedom of (at least) rinderpest disease in Mauritania and to request that the OIE Scientific Committee recommends that Mauritania regains its former disease status.

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2004/04/MR

The regional technical assistant has concluded a 6 days mission to PACE Mauritania (December 11 – 16th, 2004). This mission focused on the degree in which recommendations from the previous missions (December 2003 and January 2004) were taken into account, the advances made in data management (PID – ARIS) and progress made along the OIE pathway (serology for rinderpest).

As far as the PACE programme is concerned, the national coordination is awaiting approval of its 5th WP+CE, worth 124.000 EUR (EDF contribution), along with a government contribution of 55.000 EUR; the latter is now enlisted on the regular budget of the Livestock Department, whereas it was enlisted on the public investment programme in previous years. This greatly enhances the chances of continued support to the REMEMA network after PACE ends in 2006. The Livestock Department is now entirely independent from the former Agriculture and Livestock Department. The Department is moving to new premises this month 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 by Parliament and endorsed by the President. In our view, the bill has improved a great deal in comparison to the draft version which was scrutinized in December 2003 and is to a large extent in line with international standards as promoted by the OIE.

The REMEMA central unit has chosen not to peruse the PID ARIS software and to continue working with their on in-house Access-based software package. Nevertheless, the Livestock Department has shown a keen interest in managing data through PID ARIS at their level since this software package allows to address important issues such as censuses, import and exporting data, public and private veterinary practitioners etc... It has been agreed that the RTA will install the package when visiting Mauritania in February 2005, along with the short-term mission on the financial requirements of the REMEMA network.

Sero-surveillance for rinderpest is well underway but will have speed-up if the country wants to meet the September 2005 deadline for the submittal of their request to OIE (request to be declared officially infection free from rinderpest after two consecutive years of negative serology). The network itself seems to operate well, although the reporting rate has dropped significantly over the last year. This issue will need to be tackled by the central unit in order to avoid gaps in the information flow.

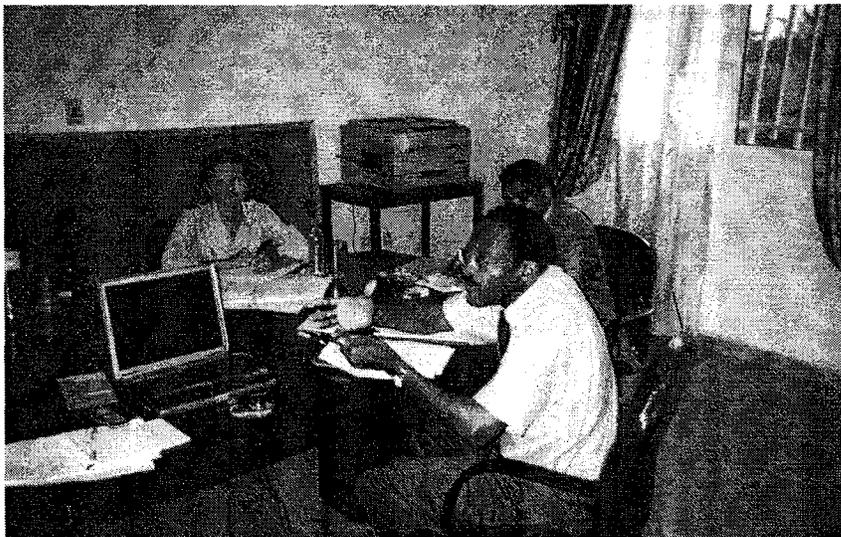
Other issues which deserve more attention are the visibility of the Livestock Department and of the donor (EC), the impact-measurement of communication (radio mostly) on target audiences and compliance with the recommendations of the Dakar – workshop on Rift Valley Fever (January 2004). An assessment of programme progress based on 100 indicators, yielded a score of 3,18 : 4,00, which is the highest score obtained so far by any PACE member country.

2005/05/MR

The PACE regional technical assistant and the regional epidemiologist have concluded a 4-day mission to PACE Mauritania (March 20 – 24th, 2005). This mission was intended to offer assistance to Prof. Cheick LY, conducting the short-term mission with regard to the funding of epidemio-surveillance system. Prof. Cheick LY was recruited under the GTZ-IS short-term expertise pool and was assisted by a trainee from the EISMV, M. Brice LAFIA. Mauritania was the first of three countries to be visited within the framework of this contract, the latter two being Benin and Ghana.

The regional epidemiologist assisted the consultant in the analysis of epidemiological data available at the REMEMA's central unit and database (CNERV) in order to assess disease occurrence in the country. A field mission was conducted in the Trarza region (Keur-Massene).

The regional technical assistant installed the ARIS software at the newly occupied Livestock Department and trained 3 staff members and one trainee on it's use.



Discussions held at the Livestock Department in Nouakchott. Center : Prof. Cheick LY.

2005/06/MR

A mission of the PACE Regional Coordination Unit in Bamako sejournd in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania from March 10th to 15th, 2005, in order to take part in the GTZ workshop on conflict management of and to ensure the follow-up of the national component of PACE Mauritania. This mission was carried out by Dr. Bouna DIOP, Regional coordinator and Dr. Patrick BASTIAENSEN, Regional technical assistant for the sahelian countries. During its stay in Mauritania the mission met the Director of Livestock Services, the national programme coordinator of PACE Mauritania, the Director of the CNERV as well as the other persons implied in the execution of the PACE programme. The mission wishes to thank the GTZ in Nouakchott for the organization of the workshop and Mrs. Karola BLOCK, who conducted the training.

The objective of the training workshop on the management of conflicts was :

- a) to provide the participants with tools and methods suitable for the analysis and the strategic interventions in conflicts situations;
- b) to develop their personal competences to facilitate their intervention in the management of conflicts.

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The meeting with the officers of the DIREL, REMEMA, CNERV and PACE made it possible to discuss the progress of the programme in Mauritania, to inform the officers of new initiatives taken at the level of the Regional Coordination and to approach the possibility of organizing the next PACE annual coordination meeting in Mauritania.



Dr. Bouna DIOP receiving the course-certificate at the end of the training-course.

2006/07/MR

A mission of the PACE Regional Coordination Unit in Bamako conducted an assignment in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania from August 24 to 29th, 2006, in order to provide technical assistance to the national PACE component. This mission was carried out by Dr. P. BASTIAENSEN, regional technical assistant.

This mission was the seventh and last mission carried out in Mauritania within the framework of the services agreement for technical assistance to the PACE national components, entrusted to the GTZ-IS/SATEC consortium.

The principal objective of this last mission of the RCU was to give its support to the process of de-commitment and closure of the PACE programme in Mauritania.

In addition, a last progress report on the state of progress of the technical activities of PACE Mauritania on July 31, 2006 has been established. The mission also assessed the preparedness of the country to a possible introduction of bird flu (influenza).

With regard to privatisation and legislation, there were no new facts to record, except to react to the (erroneous) conclusions of the final evaluation mission (July 2006) which stipulated that : *"...the elaboration of the existing legislation to include the working practices of veterinarians, including private veterinarians, has been done but not yet adopted (the recent military Junta has complicated this). The elaboration was done by staff in the Central Unit without any TA input from PACE...."*

It needs to be stressed that the bill on animal husbandry (Law n° 2004/024) was indeed signed on July 13, 2004 and then promulgated, therefore well before the change of government. In addition, the technical assistance had already (back to office report, December 2003), formulated several criticisms, which related especially to the poor attention given to the definition of prerogatives of veterinary surgeons, as compared to the other professional categories.

At the end of this last mission, the opinion that the PACE Regional Coordination Unit has had related to this national programme for a few years, is again confirmed: PACE Mauritania is a programme well carried out, well integrated into the national veterinary services and can be proud to have concluded a large number of planned activities and to have reached the majority of the expected outputs (provided the country will indeed be declared free of rinderpest infection in May 2007).

The change that occurred at the level of the National Coordination (appointment of a new National Programme Coordinator, following the departure of the former Coordinator), does not seem to have had negative consequences, contrary to the conclusions of the PACE final evaluation mission which visited the country in July 2006. If there are delays to be noted in the start-up of last the programme -estimate, these delays are entirely due to the delays of the ECD, as the dates of signature of the aforesaid DP testifies.

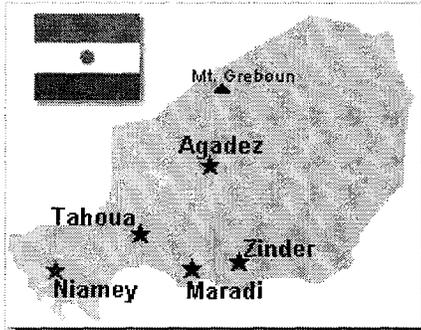


*Public awareness programme on highly pathogenic avian influenza in Béligué (2006)
Picture by Sidi Bouna EL GAOUAD (PACE Communication Officer).*

With regard to the threat of bird flu (avian influenza), the country tries to be prepared for a possible introduction of the disease, especially supposing that this threat will come from migratory birds, which is not necessarily the most probable scenario. It is shown that the REMEMA, as well as the DIREL took up their responsibilities in the implementation of surveillance measures, however these actions are poorly documented (emergency preparedness plan, surveillance protocols, forms, etc...) and deserve more attention (more details). The National Emergency Preparedness Plan worked out by the two Ministries involved has been scrutinized during the mission on the basis of an analysis framework worked out by the PEU and confirms the first impression that the Plan lacks relevance and operational strength.

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NIGER



2003/01/NE

The regional technical assistant has concluded a one week mission to PACE Niger (November 17th - 24th, 2003). This mission has turned out to be too short. It was reduced to one week thinking that the presence of a French TA would facilitate and accelerate the transfer of information. As it turned out, the French TA (partially made available to the PACE in Niger through a mission-order from the DCE, the French Cooperation and the Government of Niger) had never really been associated to PACE activities, until this mission took place. Therefore it took more time than scheduled to get acquainted with all aspects of the programme. This

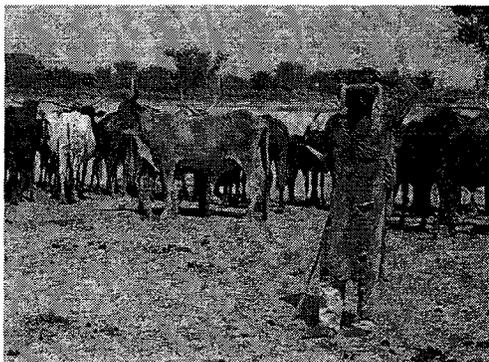
report is therefore rather incomplete in some respects, e.g. the organisation of livestock holders in Niger or the state of veterinary privatisation.

Nevertheless, the number of problems alone encountered in the different aspects of PACE's implementation which we did manage to cover in-depth justified a longer mission. Indeed, PACE Niger encounters a relatively large number of problems. The set-up of the PACE coordination as a lightweight coordination with only the NPC, one accountant and few office support personnel, and well integrated in the government veterinary services, is obviously a plus, but seriously hampers the technical efficiency and dynamism of its actions. All major PACE thrusts have been distributed among senior government officials, including the Director of animal health (DSA), which takes care of the institutional strengthening aspects. Other PACE 'components' are RP-control, CBPP-control and other epizootics, enhanced veterinary services and drug delivery, communication and wildlife. The latter two are typical examples of a non-efficient, inappropriate set-up.

Very positive aspects are the financial management (sub-contracted to a private accountancy company) and the performance of the national veterinary laboratory.

The *rinderpest control* component and the ESS seem operational, except for the wildlife-aspect. Now that the network commences to produce some encouraging results, it needs to be avoided that the already very reduced number of agents (32 for a country of 1,27 million km²) fail to operate properly because of missing spare parts, cool-boxes or even forms. It is also very worrisome that not one single blood sample (whether livestock or wildlife) has been collected to date, despite the deadline (for sero-surveillance year 1) being December 31st.

The '*enhanced veterinary services and drug delivery*' component has done a quite impressive job in terms of legislation. However, the bill on veterinary practice which is currently being investigated for its submittal to parliament, needs to be revised and especially harmonized with international guidelines as presented by the OIE, but also by regional agreements such as ECOWAS of which Niger is a member.



Cattle owner in Bani-Bangou (Niger) Photo by P. Ducret.

Generally speaking, it is time for the PACE officials in charge to get out of their air-conditioned offices again and back into the bush, back to their agents and the livestock keepers. If not, it is very doubtful that PACE Niger will have had any impact on animal health at the end of its mandate (whether in 2004 or in 2006). In management terms, PACE needs to move away from very centralised, hierarchical decision making towards a more participatory, consensual approach, thus avoiding work plans and budgets which reflect the interests of those who draft them. The next work plan (n° 4) will definitively have to reflect this new management policy.

2004/02/NE

The regional technical assistant has concluded a one week mission to PACE Niger (March 1st – 8th, 2004). The mission was intended to install, configure and train staff on PID, contribute to the draft work plan and to review progress made since the last mission.

The RTA has reviewed the degree in which recommendations of the last mission (November 2003) have been followed-up and has contributed to the improvement of the draft work plan (n° 4), insisting on a decrease in EDF contributions, especially since the Government contribution to the operational costs of the ESS remains weak.

The PACE Integrated Database has been installed, but with great difficulties and using up much more time than expected. As a consequence, training of the officer-in-charge of database management was conducted over the weekend. The PID is now installed on a separate Windows 2000 Pro partition on a Pentium IV PC (with Windows Xp on the main partition). Given the poor performance of this brand-less PC clone, it has been recommended to at least purchase a second (quality) HDD for future transfer.

As far as epidemio-surveillance is concerned, little attention was given to activities in the field, given that a PEU mission would be conducted from March 11th – 17th, 2003 in order to assess the national ESS.

Nevertheless, it has been noted that the network has managed to round up year 1 of sero-surveillance in cattle in only three months, thanks to the approval by the ECD of a budgetary revision (recommended by the RTA) which made the necessary funds available. Although not all samples have arrived at the central veterinary lab yet, all 314 epidemiological units have been visited and animals sampled. Sample analysis is being delayed by shortage of ELISA reagents, but this will be solved soon, as IAEA support is believed to be available shortly.

Unfortunately, the wildlife surveillance still hasn't started, despite numerous recommendations made during the latest mission of the RTA in November 2003. While there is still time to initiate a collaboration with commercial and traditional hunters before the end of this hunting season, it has also been recommended to put an end to this separate wildlife network, which is very costly and has not proven to produce any significant results. The RTA recommended that –in case PACE is extended- a temporary network would be set up for the duration of the hunting season (not more than 4 months a year), using qualified human resources available. This performance oriented set-up might produce better results than institutionalising a separate network.

The communication-unit has managed to negotiate and consolidate three services rendering contracts with three regional and federal stockholders-associations to conduct extension and awareness campaigns amongst their members. Although these contracts are rather expensive for the services rendered, they are also believed to be a contribution to the strengthening of the associations and to the involvement of stockholders in surveillance activities. Three more contracts (with three other regional associations) are budgeted in the upcoming work plan. It is recommended that before any such contracts are signed in the extension phase of PACE, a full impact-study be conducted in order to measure the level of awareness amongst livestock holders, which have benefited from these extension services.

In conclusion, a fair progress has been made by PACE Niger since the last mission, most recommendations have been followed up and the sero-surveillance conducted in domestic animals is a very positive development and so is the publication of the first network newsletter (January 2004). Improvements are still necessary in terms of reporting to the ECD and PCU.

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2004/03/NE

The regional technical assistant has concluded a one week mission to PACE Niger (August 3rd – 8th, 2004). The mission was conducted in order to review the degree in which recommendations from the last mission were executed, to assist in the draft 5th WP+CE and to assist in various matters related to the ESS and PID implementation and the OIE pathway (sero-surveillance).

With regard to the recommendations of the last mission (March 2004), most recommendations have been taken into account, the most important one being the abolishment of the separate wildlife unit and the commencement of the wildlife sero-surveillance. Despite a misunderstanding risen between PACE and ECOPAS, the ESS managed to collect a minimal number of 6 sera for year 1. For year 2, the collaboration with traditional hunters will be improved, leading to a higher number of samples (as from November 2004 onwards).

In cattle, year 1 of sero-surveillance has been concluded and year 2 was initiated in August 2004. The RTA has made some remarks on the procedure used by the ESS, which is based on IAEA guidelines, but which may not be compatible with OIE guidelines, since they are based on an expected prevalence of 20% for RP.

The WP+CE for year 1 of the extension has been reviewed and discussed with DSA, ECD and NAO and will very likely be approved without problem by the signatories. By October 2004, PACE Niger will have a balance of approx. 55.000 EUR. An additional 115.000 EUR have been granted through the 'drawing rights' mechanism, leaving an approx 170.000 EUR for the two year extension. The WP for year 1 represents an amount of 80.000 EUR (EDF contribution) and 59.000 EUR (Government contribution, 42%).

PACE programme implementation with regard to the ESS is satisfactory, with increasing numbers of samples reaching the lab. The latter has also received a considerable amount of equipment and materials, amongst which the long-awaited c-ELISA H kit for RP. The forms used by the ESS have been improved and rendered compatible with PID/ARIS (refer to annex).

Despite the efforts undertaken by PACE to reduce the delays in the OIE pathway, it is very unlikely that Niger will be able to meet the deadlines in order for the country to be declared free of rinderpest infection May 2005.

In conclusion, PACE programme implementation, both technically and financially is very much improving, despite the fact (or thanks to the fact) that the core-team is more and more reduced in human resources. The joint assessment of the 100 monitoring criteria, used by the RTA, have yielded a score of 2,4 / 4,0.

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2005/05/NE

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

In margin of the workshop, the PACE Regional Coordinator accompanied the Director of AU-IBAR when received in audience by the Minister of Animal Resources of Niger. During this meeting which was conducted in the presence of the Secretary-General of the MRA, the Director of Animal Health and the PACE Niger National Programme Coordinator, viewpoints were exchanged on the situation of livestock in Niger, on the PACE programme and the next meeting of the Ministers in charge of the Animal Resources of the African Union scheduled in October 2005 in Kigali (Rwanda).

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

2006/06/NE

A mission of the PACE Regional Coordination Unit in Bamako visited Niger from February 6 to 10, 2006, in order to provide technical assistance to the PACE national component. This mission was carried out by Dr. P. BASTIAENSEN, regional technical assistant for the sahelian countries.

The mission took place at the exact time that Niger had been informed that OIE's Scientific Commission had recommended not to honour the request for the country to be recognized as free of rinderpest infection. This means that Niger would not be declared free of this disease during the upcoming OIE Summit in May 2006, but at best in May 2007.

A meeting of the technical experts of PACE and DSA, including the LABOCEL, which was held on Thursday, February 9th enabled the TA to inform them of the problem at hand. The consensus which emerged some is to redo the sero-surveillance in Zinder province and to improve the presentation of the next request, while avoiding presenting too much details. To this end, an increase in the EDF budget will be required, with the help of a rider to PE n° 6.

In addition, during the mission, OIE announced the confirmation by the international reference laboratory for Newcastle disease and avian influenza (ISZ Padova, Venice, Italy) of an outbreak of HPAI in Kaduna State in Nigeria.

This news, highly worrying for Niger, forced the mission to take into account the requirements in terms of surveillance and control of this disease, in the rider to PE n° 6 which he was to submit to the NAO and the ECD for approval.

A meeting with the Council of the *National Council of Veterinary surgeons of Niger* (ONVN), on February 8th, made it possible to re-focus on the organization of the first *Study Days for Veterinary surgeons of Niger* (topic: CBPP), which funding had not been withheld in PE n° 6.

The mission in Niger made it possible to raise, discuss and resolve several issues pertaining to the sero-surveillance of rinderpest, data-management, the relationship with the national veterinary council, the execution of the ongoing programme-estimate, as well as

the proposal for a rider with financial incidence to face the threat of avian influenza coming from Nigeria.

While the programme of the current PE appears to be not very ambitious and gives the impression that PACE is de-committing itself as of now of all activities of the national veterinary services, this rider will allow at least to overcome certain financial constraints; it remains to be seen whether the will exists to re-vigour this programme to assist the country in the fight against avian influenza, whether exotic, epizootic or enzootic.

2006/07/NE

A mission of the PACE Regional Coordination Unit in Bamako visited Niger from March 1st – 15th, 2006, in order to provide technical support to the PACE national component in the current context of the epidemic of avian influenza in the country. This mission was carried out by Dr. P. BASTIAENSEN, regional technical assistant for the Sahel countries and Dr. C SQUARZONI, regional epidemiologist for western and central Africa. This assignment was carried out in collaboration (mainly) with Dr. Boubacar SECK, regional coordinator of the FAO TCP/3016 for West and Central Africa, as well as Dr. Arnaud LE MENACH of EMPRES (FAO), in particular during the field visits and for the development of the donor matrix.

The mission was mobilized following the declaration, on February 27th, of *highly pathogenic avian influenza* (HPAI) of type H₅N₁ on Niger's national territory (emergency notification to OIE on February 28th, 2006). The mission was organized to assist the Niger authorities in improving the organisation of control measures against the epizootic and in particular :

1. To provide technical information on the disease and its management: supply technical guidelines, developed in collaboration with OIE.
2. To activate the surveillance of poultry and avifauna in the field: assess measures already implemented or decided to propose possible improvements.
3. To scrutinize the emergency preparedness and action plan : assess the coherence of the plan already elaborated, as compared to the strategy defined at the regional level and of the strategies of bordering countries, whether infected or free of HPAI to date.
4. To urgently establish a needs assessment in terms of emergency funding, in particular through the review of the ongoing PACE Niger PE.
5. To support the local authorities in the design of dossiers and funding requests for the mobilization of other UE and/or other donor-based funds.

The mission in Niger enabled the TA's to provide support in terms of management (epidemiological, as well as logistics) of the AI crisis, and also in terms of raising additional funds coming from the European Union, and to strengthen the coordination of ongoing or scheduled actions at various levels. Likewise, an assessment of the current measures already implemented, in particular at field level, was carried out.

All the observers present in Niger agree in recognising that Niger does not possess the necessary resources (human, logistic, and financial) to manage this crisis on its own, but also insist on the delays, particularly with regard to the mobilization of emergency funds promised by the international assistance.

There are at present commitments on behalf of the European Commission, the French Co-operation, the Belgian Co-operation, the AfDB, the World Bank and the American Co-operation (the United States), as well as from the specialized agencies of the United Nations : the UNDP, FAO and WHO to begin with.

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While the presentation by the Government of a national emergency plan, covering the four priority areas of intervention (animal health, public health, communication and environment) is an undeniable asset, the implementation of the plan poses many problems of a logistic and financial nature.

Certain negative experiences at the time of the food crisis in 2005 account for the hesitation of certain donors to get involved in a new emergency plan, in particular when asked to channel funds through certain governmental structures. All this occurs in a context of increasing tension between the Government of Niger and the bilateral and multilateral donors on the new orientations of the national development policy framework.

In addition, the permanent crisis coordination unit with its 7 designated members takes a very long time in being set up and makes any attempt at coordination of the international assistance very difficult, that is between the various sectors (national departments and international technical agencies), the various levels (national, regional and departmental) and the various donor-agencies.

At the level of PACE Niger, it is important to insist on the part which the surveillance network can play in the management of the AI crisis. Unfortunately, the National Programme Coordination does not show signs of great dynamism so far. The provisions made in the framework of the PE 6 in progress (FCFA 7,2 million) and the additional funds generated by the rider n° 1 (FCFA 96 million), will require serious and sustained efforts of the National Coordination if these funds are actually to be spent and used appropriately, and this before –until decided otherwise - the end of July 2006.

2006/08/NE

A mission of the PACE Regional Coordination Unit in Bamako visited Niger from October 18 to 20th, 2006 in order to provide technical assistance to the PACE national component. This mission was carried out by Dr. P. BA STIAENSEN

The main objective of this last mission was to give its support for the process of de-commitment and PACE programme closure in Niger. In addition, the mission enabled to establish a last report on the state of progress of the technical activities of PACE Niger on October 20th, 2006 and to assess the possibilities that the country regain its status of avian influenza free country in the coming months.

The RTA discussed the principles of the programme closure, such as adopted during the PACE Annual Co-ordinating Meeting in Mombasa in June 2006 with the National Coordinator, the officer in charge at the CUE (NAO) and the Director of Animal Health (DSA). He also informed them of the contents of the letter that the Director of IBAR (RAO) addressed to his national counterparts (ref. 637 of September 13, 2006) in order to request their collaboration for the rapid closure of the national programmes, while insisting on the great responsibility which rests on the NAO support services.

Within days of the completion of the current phase of the PACE programme, PACE-Niger is almost closed, except for one expense, for which the RTA has recommended to proceed with payment right away, without awaiting the end of the month. Programme-estimates 1 to 5 have been closed and de-committed. A second financial is expected to start on October 29th and will cover PE 5 and 6. A letter for the recovery of around 21 million FCFA non-eligible expenses (following the first audit's report) is expected to be sent to the NAO soon.

The theoretical contribution of the Niger Government began during year 2 of the programme execution (the PE n° 2, in progress in 2002) with a contribution of 9 million FCFA (or 13.500 EUR). It should have represented 129 million FCFA (or 196.659 EUR) for the duration of the programme. In reality, these commitments never materialized, except in year 3 (for 50% of the commitment).

According to extrapolations carried out during the mission (based mainly on the Mauritanian model of Prof. Dr. Cheick LY's estimates), the maintenance of the ESS in its current form (without taking into account the wages), amounts to 280.000 EUR per annum (by adopting the most modest approach, by km²), that is approximately 180 million FCFA per annum.

The DSA recently submitted a new request for recognition of its infection free status from rinderpest to OIE. This dossier is in fact a rather short letter which provides brief replies to criticisms formulated by the OIE committee in 2005 and which presents the results of counter-analyses conducted by the CIRAD (omitted at the time of the last request to OIE in 2005) and which show beyond reasonable doubt that the positive cases in cattle are due to PPR, and not rinderpest. For wildlife, the analyses of the CIRAD confirm the results of LABOCEL-Niamey (c-ELISA 100% negative).



Stamping out operations in Magaria (April 2006). Picture courtesy of MRA/DSA (Niger).

Since the beginning of the year, Niger, alike some other countries in the region, has been hit by bird flu. The first outbreak in Niger appeared in the village of Magaria, close to the border with Nigeria and the Maïgatar outbreak. Overall, Niger suffered three outbreaks, characterized by a slow evolution which allowed, combined with a simultaneous collapse of the consumption of poultry products and the consequent collapse of trade, to confine the infection to a few districts and –until proven otherwise- to eradicate HPAI successfully. Indeed, no more new case of influenza have been reported in Niger since June 1, 2006. With the lifting of sanitary measures and the absence of new outbreaks, Niger should now plan to re-enter the pathway for recognition of its status as a notifiable avian influenza free country, by preparing a comprehensive dossier for OIE.

Out of the 12 billion FCFA budgeted for in the national emergency plan for the prevention and control of avian influenza in Niger, from February 2006 to February 2007, 9,4 billion is budgeted for the Animal Health Unit. For this Unit, already 1,6 billion FCFA could be committed, mainly by FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, the French Co-operation, Nigeria, the European Commission (delegation and CUE), PLAN Niger, the World Bank, USAID and the AfDB. The mobilization of the funds of the latter (185 million FCFA) is awaited impatiently, after the signature by the Government of Niger, of a MoU with UA-IBAR.

Overall, 388 million FCFA (590.000 EUR) have been disbursed to date, mainly by the French Co-operation (partly by their PSEAU programme), the European Commission (through the CUE and PACE), PLAN, Nigeria, UNICEF, UNDP and FAO.

This last mission of the technical assistant finishes nevertheless on a rather negative note.

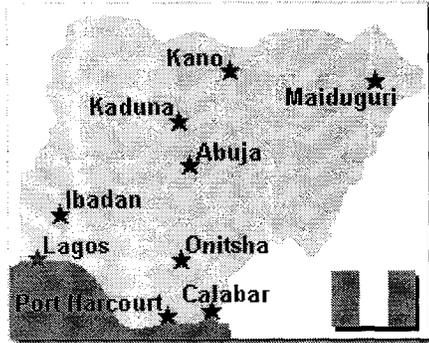
The PACE programme in Niger has by all means been a programme with an exemplary financial management, unfortunately, administrative and technical management left much to be desired, in spite of the efforts made by the PACE Regional Coordination to increase the indicative budget.

Certain important objectives were not reached, even if one can suppose that the country will be declared infection-free from rinderpest next year.

Two structural problems appear to us as paramount : an insufficiency (in quality and quantity) of human resources, and insufficient financial commitments on behalf of the Government. The latter did not get involved in PACE, neither in the fight against avian influenza. It seems therefore appropriate to join in with the Director Animal Health, who thanks the international community for the efforts made to help in the management of this crisis, which ended with a positive outcome, that is : the eradication of the disease.

At the end of this last mission, the regional technical assistant wishes to cordially thank the whole PACE team, as well as DSA and LABOCEL staff for the excellent working relationship over the last 3 years.

NIGERIA



2004/01/NG

A mission of the Regional Co-ordination Unit of PACE in Bamako has visited The Federal Republic of Nigeria from October 12th to 16th, 2004, in order to supply a technical assistance to the national component for Nigeria of the Pan-African programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE). This assignment has been conducted by Dr. P. BASTIAENSEN, Regional technical assistant for the Sahel countries and Dr. C. SQUARZONI, Regional epidemiologist (PEU).

This mission was requested by both the Regional and the National Programme Co-ordinators in order to assist Nigeria's veterinary services with the preparation of a dossier to be submitted to OIE for the recognition of

Nigeria as disease free country for rinderpest.

Nigeria's first dossier, submitted in 2003 (without prior endorsement by PACE's PEU service), had been rejected by OIE's ad hoc Committee on rinderpest and thereafter by OIE's Scientific Committee.

After having reviewed the initial document submitted in 2003, it is obvious that OIE's decision to reject it was by all means justified. The ESS for Nigeria, NADIS, has only started functioning in 2004. Therefore ideally, the dossier ought to be submitted only in 2005 (after two years of clinical surveillance). However, both political pressure and time constraints (PACE is ending in 2006) have forced the PACE NPC to accelerate the whole process, while being aware that not all requirements have been fully met.

In particular the 2003 active and passive surveillance has been poorly executed and the TA's have had to come up with creative solutions to be able to present a minimal number of data on this year 1 of clinical surveillance for rinderpest.

The 2004 campaign (year 2) has been implemented with a lot more preparation and professionalism and has led to a lot more and better results, both in passive and in active surveillance. The way this second campaign has been handled should not pose any problem to OIE.

Another weak point is the surveillance of wildlife, for which hardly any data are available, except for the capture campaign conducted by Dr. B. CHARDONNET in February 2003 and which yielded a mere 8 (serological) results on buffaloes and kobs.

At present, the problems faced are mostly related to the start-up of the network, with insufficient reporting returns from the field and logistical problems at the NVRI lab, causing considerable delays in diagnosis. Both problems could be overcome within weeks, thus enabling Nigeria to improve its network's reporting rate nation-wide and producing additional data on stomatitis-enteritis cases encountered.

Despite these shortcomings, the technical assistants are confident that the document, if improved over the next two months as indicated in the recommendations hereunder, will be acceptable to OIE, in which case Nigeria could be declared disease-free by May 2005.

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2005/02/NG

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

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

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

The present mission has been scheduled at a time when the PACE Nigeria programme is still hampered by financial constraints to the approval of the first programme-estimate of



the extension phase. As a full-time national TA is already provided for by the French Cooperation (Dr. Yann MICHAUX), the mission focused on the monitoring (follow-up) of activities in Nigeria and attempted to assist in lifting the financial constraints which prevent the start-up of the the PACE Nigeria extension phase, as far as EDF funding is concerned.

Briefing with laboratory staff and PACE epidemiologist at the NVRI in Vom (Jos) Plateau State.

In conclusion, today, PACE Nigeria is by all means a more than average programme. When assessing programme implementation today, it is obvious that all major thrusts of the programme have been initiated and are well underway (if not already concluded). The ESS is operational and is far better organized and designed than in numerous other countries. The amount of data and samples generated by the field teams is impressive. Communication towards surveillance agents, farmers and other stakeholders should be satisfactory, provided the momentum can be maintained.

Given the political organization of Nigeria as a federal union, with 38 fairly autonomous states, it is our believe that what could be done in terms of legislative review, has been

done. The rest is now up to the decision-makers of the country (whether at federal or state level).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

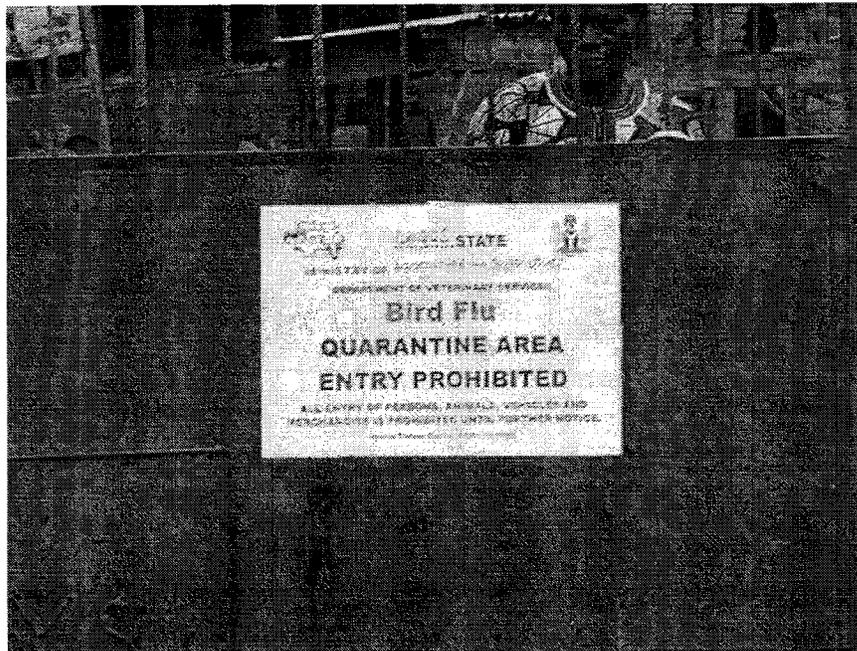
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2006/03/NG

A mission of the Regional Co-ordination Unit of PACE in Bamako has visited Nigeria from February 12th to March 2nd, 2006, in order to supply a technical assistance to the national component for Nigeria of the Pan-African programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE). This assignment has been conducted by Dr. P. BASTIAENSEN, Regional technical assistant. He was joined by the Financial Controller of the PACE Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) in Nairobi, M. Alex SAELAERT from February 12th to 16th, 2006 and by Drs. Karim TOUNKARA and Bidjeh KEBKIBA of the PACE-PEU from February 12th to 14th and 17th respectively.

This mission was organized on very short notice to provide immediate and emergency assistance to the Nigerian authorities in the fight against highly pathogenic avian influenza. The mission worked in close collaboration with PACE National Co-ordination staff, as well as staff from the Federal Department of Livestock and Pest Control Services (FDLPCS), the EC delegation and the international taskforces, under leadership of the WHO (overall) and FAO (for animal health issues).

With hindsight, the first outbreak of HPAI on the African continent has led to a mobilisation of resources from all over the world of an unprecedented scale. While the public health services might have been accustomed to this kind of emergency operations (particularly because of the past polio epidemic in the north), national veterinary have been quite surprised and overwhelmed by the international attention given to the outbreak, sometimes because of a genuine interest to assist Nigeria in this crisis, sometimes arguably in order to collect data in order to better safeguard one's own interests.



Quarantined farm in Lagos state (Ayedoto settlement) Picture courtesy of PACE Nigeria.

Dealing with all these international attention and resources (human, rather than financial in the beginning) has been a major challenge for the FDLPCS, not only because of understaffing, but also because information gathering and dissemination was escaping its control. It has taken all stakeholders several days to streamline interventions and reach an agreement on a code of conduct, compatible with the vision of the FDLPCS and the Federal Ministry.

After having spent four weeks in Nigeria, the feeling is that the international task force has been able to contribute significantly to the decision taking process and has certainly given an important technical incentive to donor-funding in the short, medium and long term. Unfortunately, emergency assistance, by its nature, is restricted in time, and as new outbreaks elsewhere occurred, international staff left the country. The management of the crisis at this stage is now being entirely conducted by Federal staff and in-country UN staff.

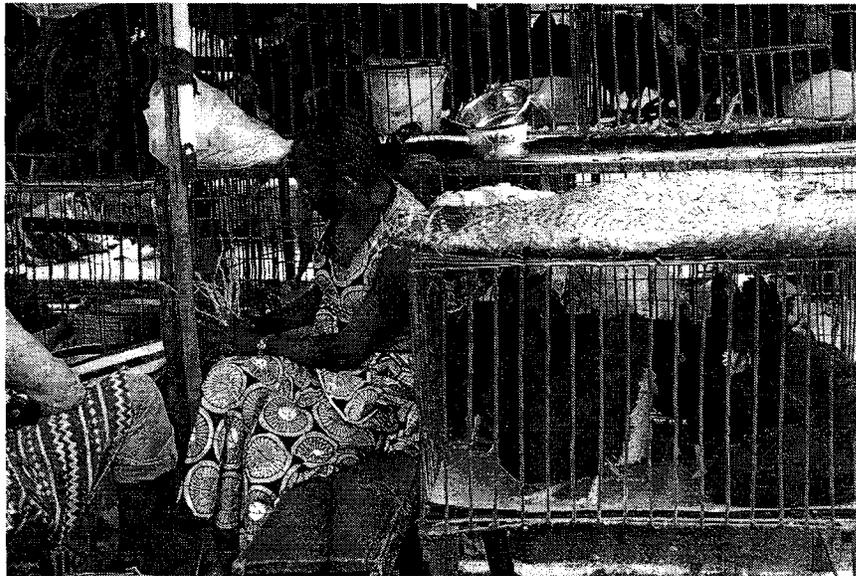
The position of the FDLPCS on vaccination remains unchanged. The FDLPCS has presented a comprehensive position paper on the issue, which if not shared by everyone, is certainly well thought through and present arguments in favour of stamping out which – within the Nigerian setting- are certainly worth defending.

Given the context of this assignment and the numerous recommendations left by the consecutive technical assessment missions, funded by the international community (both technical and donor) we feel there is no need to direct even more recommendations to an already overloaded programme; moreover, the only binding recommendations in this field, are those formulated by the FAO-OIE-IBAR tripod and the guidelines of the national comprehensive emergency preparedness and action plan, as adopted by the FDLPCS.

2006/04/NG

A joint FAO/OIE/WHO/IBAR fact finding mission visited Nigeria from October 3rd to 12th, 2006. The mission (without the appointed WHO expert) consisted of Dr. Peter ROEDER, FAO Animal Health Officer and team leader, Dr. Walter MASIGA, representing OIE and the RTA, representing IBAR. They were joined by the national FAO AI coordinator, Prof. Dr. Timothy OBI.

As the continuing spread of infection raised concerns over the future evolution of HPAI in the region, it had been decided to field a joint (FAO/WHO/OIE/AU-IBAR) fact-finding mission to work with the Nigerian authorities to evaluate the status of HPAI infection in Nigeria and prospects for enhancing control of the poultry disease and safeguarding the human population from infection.



Marketing poultry in Lagos (Nigeria). Picture courtesy of Peter Roeder (FAO).

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It would appear that the official reporting system has not captured all outbreaks of avian influenza in terms of infected premises although it seems that the detection of infected foci has been more efficient. While aggressively pursuing surveillance and control in the commercial sector the veterinary services need to match this with strengthening surveillance systems to increase the coverage of smallholder production and free-range village systems.

The eradication efforts in Nigeria are today centred on two types of intensive poultry rearing : the specialised large scale farms (intensive, industrial system, specialized breeds), and the so-called back-yard farms (poultry raised in cages or pens, often dual purpose of fattening, mixed breeds). A third type, the traditional type of extensive rearing of poultry (always dual purpose, local breeds) through scavenging/free range around dwellings, has been somewhat neglected, although it is recognized that this kind of husbandry (where poultry often share part of the house with their tenants during the night) represent a high risk of animal-to-human transmission. When it became obvious that both Federal and State veterinary Services lacked the logistic means to adequately cover (investigate) this sector (of which no-one can estimate the nation-wide importance), it was suggested that this labour-intensive task would be shared with the public health services (supported by the WHO-based *Polio Eradication Initiative*). This approach does not seem to have been implemented, and deserves to be re-assessed as an important sub-component of future surveillance and active disease search efforts.

A positive development nevertheless is that the Government will integrate the existing PACE structure (NADIS management and coordination) in the 'Epidemiology Unit' of the FDLPCS and has approved a 5-year post-operational plan, which will enable NADIS to pursue its work in the foreseeable future.

Delays in payment of compensation mitigate seriously against implementation of surveillance and control programmes. The disease has had and still is having a dramatic effect on the livelihoods of small holder farmers not to mention the serious economic losses in the industrial production sector.

Control teams would operate as now except that the payment of compensation must take place at the time of culling. Several stakeholders have pointed out that the compensation grid should be reviewed, as the ₦ 250 paid per chicken is deemed sufficient for local breeds, but hardly for improved breed – layers, for which compensation should be raised to anything in between ₦ 400 and 500.

In the specific case of Nigeria, an inescapable conclusion is that vaccination has been used widely outside official guidance and policy.

The fact that vaccination of poultry against avian influenza has been widespread throughout the country, as again confirmed by the present mission, is far from being a new issue. The matter was discussed during the *UN System and Development Partners Meeting on Avian Influenza* on August 30th, where it was stated that: "... it was learned that companies who are importing those vaccines have received their permit from NAFDAC; the agency will be invited in the meeting next week to clarify the opinion on the issue since the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is authorized to issue those licence to importers of veterinary products..." , and also that : "...the random vaccination which is going on currently is not appropriate as the official position from the Government is not to use vaccines; there is therefore the necessity from the Government to clarify its position once more regarding vaccines but also compensation...". The mission entirely agrees with this recommendation and would urge that steps be taken to resolve the NAFDAC issue and regularise the importation of HPAI vaccines.

It is also recognized that vaccination is often poorly conducted, using (mostly) quality heterologous inactivated vaccines, but vaccinating only once instead of twice (with three weeks interval).

In that it can be applied to day-old chicks prior to their release from hatcheries, the recombinant pox virus vaccine could offer a useful adjunct to other control measures in infected areas, especially for the protection of broilers. Only a single dose is required, it is inexpensive and immune responses are directed only against the haemagglutinin of the AI virus. While not needed for widespread use at the moment its potential for use in infected states should be reviewed. For example, vaccination might become necessary for use

within Lagos State if the current ongoing epizootic does not yield to the current control policy.

The disjunct between Federal, State and local veterinary services with no direct line of command undoubtedly constrains effective control of epizootic transboundary animal diseases. It is fortunate that professional linkages do serve to some degree to provide a platform for coordination. The linkages need to be strengthened considerably. Considerable strengthening of a partnership between federal and state veterinary services is needed with both engaging with private veterinarians in disease control.

It seems that little resource strengthening has occurred at State and Local government level.

The emergency preparedness plan presented in January 2006 by the FDLPCS, did not withstand the realities of crisis management once the outbreaks in Kaduna State started. The international task force on animal health (FAO/OIE/IBAR/USDA/CDC) present in Nigeria at the time, reviewed the EPP entirely, not only to update it with regard to the situation the country was facing, but also in order to add the necessary standard operating procedures (SOP) needed to guide the interventions of disease investigation teams, depopulation and decontamination teams, as well as compensation-procedures. Today, this same EPP (with minor adjustments) is still in force and would deserve to be reviewed again in view of the evolution of the disease in Nigeria and the world, and based on the experience gained over the last 8 months.

Unfortunately, this document, of good quality, has never been printed and distributed to more than a handful of key-collaborators at the federal level and at state level, despite the agreement that 1,000 copies of this document would be printed and distributed, funded by the PACE programme. This leads today to a situation whereby several key stakeholders lack in-depth knowledge of their precise role in the rapid alert / rapid response scheme. One of these stakeholders is the private veterinary profession, as represented (but not exclusively) by the NVMA.

The private veterinary profession, very much involved in the poultry sector, could play a key role in the early detection of AI cases; the NVMA is very much aware of its ethical responsibility, and the obligation of its members to declare any suspicion, but lacks information and guidelines (including standardized suspicion reporting forms and sample collection forms) to be effective; the issue of ownership of declarations (between the Federal veterinary services and the State veterinary services) affects local private veterinarians too. Finally, private veterinarians at this stage were not endowed with the minimal bio-security and sampling materials to conduct investigations in a safe manner themselves.

In terms of preparedness for upcoming outbreaks, there is reason for concern too. As noted during the mission's field visits, and apart for the diagnostic capacity at NVRI, the lack of preparedness in terms of logistics and operational funding remains sub-optimal : there is still a crucial lack of fuel (checks), disinfectants, back- and motor-sprayers, motorcycles, vehicles etc, as well as pre-agreements with local contractors for the provision of civil works such as the transport of carcasses and the digging of burial pits. Most of these acquisitions are now on track but while probably be delivered well after the most urgent phase of this crisis.

While the notion of 'disease case definition' seems to be acquired, there is often a margin as to its interpretation and consequences. As noted above, the use of rapid detection tests for A-type influenza could contribute to improved and rapid decision-taking on whether to cull or not.

Compared to the commitments made during the Beijing pledging conference and particularly in Nigeria, during the first weeks of the crisis, it is discouraging to note how few of these commitments have materialized to date. According to data provided by the UN-system, USD 62 million have been pledged to date, of which less than USD 28 million have indeed been disbursed (a total of US\$ 34 million has just been approved last week by the World Bank, of which 10 million is ear-marked for the animal health component). The visits in the interior of the country have confirmed our impression that local stakeholders (State Veterinary services, laboratories and farmers) have seen very little support arrive since February. Arguably, they have benefited from the training and information sessions organized in various parts of the country, and have received the necessary PPE and related biosecurity materials, as well as back-sprayers

and disinfectants. Thus, assistance provided has been primarily in terms of input supplies – PPE, diagnostics, training etc. – rather than in assisting to correct the infrastructural and operational deficits which to some degree have constrained effective action. The short-term focus of most assistance is also a constraint to developing a systematic and cohesive control programme.

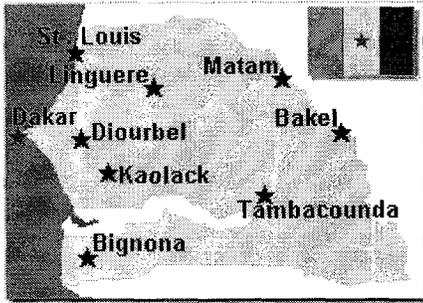


*Visiting Ayedoto farm in Lagos State, completely emptied after an HPAI outbreak
(picture by Peter Roeder / FAO, 2006)*

The evidence available suggests that the first phase of HPAI control in Nigeria has met with considerable success; endemicity has not been established and the elimination of infection can possibly be contemplated. In addition to the concerted efforts of Federal and Zonal Veterinary Services complemented by the actions of private service providers, the epidemiological factors outlined above have facilitated progress. However, it must be appreciated that this proximate analysis is subjective, not supported by hard surveillance data and requires confirmation. Deficits in the reporting system need urgently to be addressed, relating in particular to smallholder producers and free-range urban, peri-urban and village poultry. Should previously undisclosed infection in these sectors be widespread then control strategies will need to be redefined. However, strategically it is valid on available evidence to proceed on the understanding outlined here.

With the benefit of experience gained in the first phase one should now consider refining control policy and embarking on a second one year phase of control to achieve elimination of infection and safeguard against re-introduction. A third phase would follow in which accreditation of freedom is the target.

SENEGAL



2003/01/SN

The regional technical assistant has concluded a two week mission to PACE Senegal during the month of July. This mission took place while PACE Senegal prepares to initiate its 4th WP. Financial commitments at present represent about 107% of the national indicative budget, due to the fact that none of the remaining funds of the previous WP were de-committed. The actual level of expenses is about 80% of the NIB. Even if the next WP will be more modest due to the significant contribution of the Senegalese government to the National Epidemio-Surveillance

System (186 million FCFA), the fact remains that PACE Senegal benefited from the drawing rights, before these were properly defined. There is therefore an urgent need to de-commit WP's 1 and 2 if one wants to avoid a refusal by the ECD to approve WP n° 4.

At the technical level, the Epidemio-Surveillance Bureau and the Prophylaxis Bureau, make use of two distinct but compatible networks and databases: TAD info (EMPRES/FAO) and EMERCARE (CNES Télémédecine), the latter introduced for the surveillance of RVF in the northern part of the country. PID will be installed shortly. Through talks with central and regional animal health officials, the need for a new cross-border meeting has been evident, This meeting should include at least Senegal, Mauritania and Mali.

Serological screening of rinderpest has not begun yet, despite the analysis of 1.545 samples collected in 2001 (cattle, 0,5 % positives). Senegal aims at freedom of infection status by 2005, therefore at submitting the request to OIE by November 2004. This allows theoretically for two consecutive years of disease and serological surveillance of rinderpest (2003 and 2004). If collaboration with LNERV improves, this scenario should be realized without a problem. As far as wildlife screening is concerned, talks with officials of *Eaux et des Forêts* and *Parcs Nationaux*, reconfirmed their firm willingness to participate in this activity. The primary problem remains the availability of appropriate equipment. Bidding documents will have to be drafted in the coming weeks.

Due to a recovery rate of about 85% of credits approved to private partitioners during PARC, the PARC warranty-fund is still very much intact and represents about 200.000 €. Since the start of PACE efforts to transfer this fund from PARC to PACE have been in vain. First because the cover rate had to be reduced from the initial 80% to 50%, thereafter because it seemed impossible to transfer funds from PARC (EDF 5 and 6) to PACE (EDF 7 and 8). Efforts are now underway to transfer the funds to an independent structure (still to be identified), other than PACE, which ends next year.

In conclusion, the performance of PACE Senegal is very satisfactory, both at the management level and at the technical level. The updating of WP 3 accountancy on TOMGIFT software is however very urgent. At this stage, it is important not to degrade to an 'administrative' routine of satisfying basic reporting and donor requirements. It is of paramount importance to revue regularly the operational efficacy of the tools implemented until now. The revue of the contingency plan for rinderpest and the drafting of similar plans for other priority-diseases appear to be priorities. Moreover, we think that –given the satisfactory implementation of PACE activities to date- the programme could be more ambitious, defining new goals and objectives. The eradication of African horse sickness should be examined, given its huge importance for the livestock-agriculture complex. African swine fever as well, from an epidemiological perspective, could be controlled and would have a considerable impact on poverty reduction.

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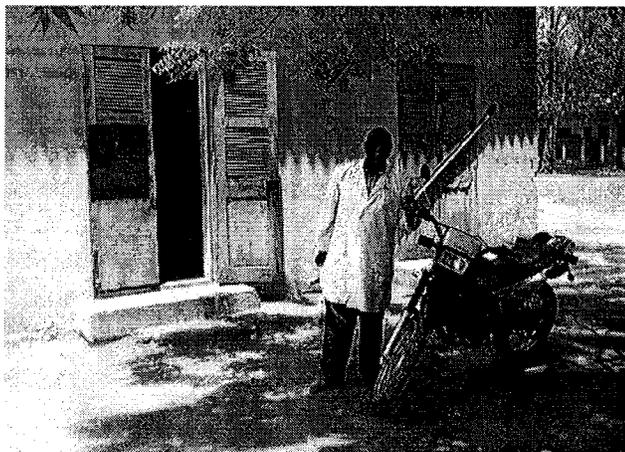
2003/02/SN

The regional technical assistant has concluded a one week mission to PACE Senegal during the month of October (6 – 10th). This mission took place in order (a) to evaluate advances made since the last mission (July 2003) and (b) to prepare the upcoming cross-border meeting between the veterinary services of Senegal, Mali and Mauritania (scheduled October 21-22, 2003).

Most of the week's work has been used to overcome the last obstacles to the approval of the 4th work plan by the ECD. Before the RTA left Senegal, an agreement had been reached with the ECD and the work plan had already been signed by the national PACE coordinator (NPC), the NAO and the Minister of Animal Husbandry. Since closing-procedures of funds from WP n° 2 seemed to be delayed in Brussels, it was not sure whether it would be possible for the EC Delegate to sign the 4th work plan.

Without taking into account the de-commitment of WP n° 1, commitments amount to EUR 1,7 millions (WP 1-4), or 133 % of the national indicative budget (EDF funding). Expenses to date represent a mere EUR 825.000, or 62 % of the budget.

The audit of WP's 1 and 2 (and 3 ?) will be financed by the ECD through the FCT fund. It is not expected that these funds will be made available before the end of the year.



Visiting a veterinary checkpoint in south-east Senegal (August 2003)

Accountancy on the EC-approved TOM GIFT software installed recently, is still not updated (for WP n° 3). Expenses for July, August and September are still to be introduced into the system.

Several studies will be initiated during the upcoming WP 4 : one is a study on cattle movement which was scheduled for WP 3 but which has now been transferred to WP 4. Two other studies will cover the epidemiology of ASF (African Swine Fever) and AHS (African Horse Sickness) in line with the RTA's recommendations in July 2003.

The PID software has now been installed, but is not used (yet) since doubts remain on the compatibility with the existing TAD-Info software. Both the NPC and the SNSE (national épidémiosurveillance network) are now subscribed to EMPRES-L, OIE-List and ProMED.

Outputs from the communication-unit have improved a great deal since the last visit. Posters and several other support-materials have been printed. The unit benefits from a very dynamic trainee in communication-sciences for the next three months.

With regard to veterinary privatisation, it has been agreed with the NAO's support team, that a broad meeting would be organised before the end of November to establish a feasible scenario for the transfer of PARC III funds (warranty fund) to a sustainable and competent body.

Towards the end of the mission, both NPC and RTA travelled to St. Louis to inspect hotel and conference facilities and to discuss several financial and logistical aspect with the authorities involved in the meeting, as well as hotel management.

2004/03/SN

The regional technical assistant has concluded a one week mission to PACE Senegal during the month of April 2004. This mission took place in order (a) to evaluate advances made since the last mission (October 2003) and (b) to train ESS staff in Dakar on the use of PID.

Most recommendations of the last mission have been implemented, those which were not yet implemented were implemented during the RTA's visit or are in progress (e.g. the installation of a set of institutional and personalised e-mail addresses for PACE staff).

The RTA conducted a three-day training course on PID (now ARIS) with the two staff members of the SNSE, in charge of database management. The matter of transferring data from TAD-Info to PID/ARIS has also been discussed. All TAD-info data files have been sent to Nairobi for processing in the appropriate ORACLE-format for uploading in ARIS.

The RTA further contributed to the improvement of the EPP for rinderpest, mostly by adding annexes with detailed operation procedures and additional maps and tables, which ought to render this EPP fully operational.

Year one of sero-surveillance has almost been concluded (48 villages left), with so far no positive cases for rinderpest, in cattle (2317), nor in small ruminants (145), nor in wildlife (35 samples).

While conducting the analysis of data presented on year 1 of sero-surveillance for rinderpest, the RTA came across some problems, for which the help of the PEU will have to be called-in. The problem is related to the sampling protocol, which –in our view- is not in line with OIE guidelines and yields an insufficient number of samples nation-wide. As a matter of fact, the SNSE selects 314 villages from a set of about 13.000 villages, but does not apply the village as an epidemiological unit when it comes to selecting eligible animals for bleeding. Instead of taking into account all animals in the selected village, only one herd is selected and therein only a representative sample of animals is bled (10 in average). The RTA calls upon PEU to contact SNSE staff in Senegal to clarify this matter, before any damage is done to the upcoming request to OIE (infection free status).

Thereafter, the RTA helped SNSE staff conduct the random selection of 314 villages for year 2 of sero-surveillance (see map on page 9).

In conclusion, PACE progresses as expected, management remains of very good standard. Several constraints related to ESS have now been lifted (EPP and ARIS implementation). The matter of sampling procedures for sero-surveillance will have to be addressed by PEU as soon as possible.

2004/04/SN (*confidential*)

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2005/05/SN

The PACE regional coordinator for West and Central Africa and the regional technical assistant have conducted a mission to Sénégal, between April 26th and May 6th, 2005. The mission was conducted in order to assess the consequences of the standstill of the programme since October 2004 and to assist the programme in its renewed start-up, now that most conditions for a renewed financing of the programme by the EDF, have been met. A new PACE national programme coordinator has been appointed and the 5th WP and CE was approved days before the mission was initiated. A field mission was conducted to the Kaolack region, accompanied by the NPC and the ECD programme-officer. Furthermore, the ARIS software package has now been installed on the Livestock Department's LAN server, allowing access through three client PC's (at this stage).

The consequences of the virtual standstill of the programme (in terms of EDF funding and delayed government contributions) have been particularly negative for the ESS's operation, not in the least because of the numerous personnel-changes which took place over the last months. Reporting and forwarding of samples came to a standstill, despite the supply of means of transport (and other means) by the PSAOP World Bank programme. This is particularly worrisome in view of the upcoming 'weaning' of the programme and the prospects for the sustainability of the SNSE network. Government authorities seem aware of this problem and are doing the utmost to adjust their policy in this regard.

Despite the fact that Senegal has managed to be declared free of rinderpest infection by the OIE (to be confirmed by the upcoming OIE General Session), no new initiatives have been taken to date to address the recommendations of the two PACE regional workshops on the other priority diseases (RVF, Dakar, Jan. 2004 and CBPP, Conakry, Feb. 2004) while specific recommendations had been made towards Senegal (review of vaccination strategy mostly). The same goes very much for the recommended interventions towards the control of ASF and AHS.

In terms of veterinary legislation and the recovery of the PARC III warranty fund for private veterinarians, little advance has been noted. However, the upcoming financial audit of the PACE programme (WP 1 to 4) will include an audit of this warranty fund too; this is a precondition (for the EC) to hand over this fund to any local authority (in principle : the veterinary council).

The mission stresses the need to find a solution for the one month (February 2005) which is not covered, neither by the 4th, nor the 5th WP+CE. A joint solution (EC and Government) will have to be encountered in order to address the needs of those who have continued to work throughout this difficult period.

In conclusion, the national PACE programme in Senegal seems well on track to re-launch its own activities and those of the ESS (SNSE). A formal workshop will be held in June 2005.

Annex 3. Time-use spread-sheet

Phase 1

Month, year Day :	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
May 2003																															Contract						
June 2003	Inception PACE Bamako										3° PACE Annual Coord. Meeting																										
July 2003							PACE MALI											PACE SENEGAL							PACE GUINEA BISSAU												
August 2003							PACE MALI											PACE MR																			
September 2003						PACE BURKINA FASO																															
October 2003		ISCTRC				PACE SENEGAL							PACE MALI							CBM Saint Louis, SN													PID (1)				
November 2003			PM	8° ACM B'ko			EPID.	GTZ	PACE MALI									PACE NIGER																			
December 2003				ST Freeland			PACE MAURITANIA																														
January 2004				PACE MALI												PACE GUINEA BISSAU						Workshop RVF Dakar		PID MAURITANIA													
Februari 2004								PACE MALI										PACE BF + PID						Workshop CBPP Conakry													
March 2004				PACE NIGER + PID															MALI																		
April 2004		PID (2)		9° ACM N'bi														PACE G.BISSAU + PID						PACE SENEGAL													
May 2004				PACE GAMBIA															PACE MALI																		
June 2004																					4° PACE Annual Coord. Meeting																
July 2004														PACE MALI										DRC (PID) CONGO													
August 2004				PACE NIGER & PACE BURKINA FASO													PACE GUINEA BISSAU						Workshop PEU Dakar														
September 2004				PACE MALI										PACE MALI																							
October 2004				MALI			GTZ						PACE NIGERIA																					Contract closure			

Phase 2 (extension)

Month, year Day :	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
November 2004																															
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Key to the previous tables :

ISCTRC : 27th meeting of the International Scientific Council on Trypanosomosis Research and Control (ISCTRC).
AEEMA : Association pour l'Etude de l'Epidémiologie des Maladies Animales
CBM : Cross-Border Meeting Sénégal - Mauritania - Mali
PID : PACE Integrated Database (→ ARIS)
PID : Training of trainers course for GTZ TA's in installation, setup and maintenance of the PID software.
EPID. : Meeting of regional TA with TA's from the Epidemiology Unit of PACE (Bamako)
ACM : Advisory Committee Meeting
PM : Preparatory Meeting PCU - Common Services - GTZ [greyed cells = weekends]
ACM : Advisory Committee Meeting
AU : African Union A : Alive (general assembly)

ST Freeland : Participation Mission Extension PACE (Guy Freeland) ST
C.Ly : Participation Mission Economic Analysis ESS (Cheikh Ly)
ITC : International Trypanotolerance Center
ARIS : Animal Resource Information System
PID Mauritania : PID re-installation and implementation.
PID Burkina : PID installation and implementation.
PID Niger : PID installation and implementation.
GTZ : Meeting GTZ-IS - SATEC staff TA's (staff assessment)
PCU : Programme Coordination Unit (PACE)
(HP)AI : (Highly Pathogenic) Avian Influenza

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Annex 4. Short presentation of the PACEREG experts 2003 - 2006

Name and position	Employer	Picture
<p>Dr. Bouna A. Diop, PACE Regional Coordinator for West and Central Africa</p>		
<p>AU-IBAR</p>		
<p>Dr. Zacharie Compaoré PACE Technical Assistant for management of AfDB funds for avian influenza control</p>		
<p>Mr. Daniel Grégoire, PACE Communication officer (CoU)</p>		
<p>Mr. Daniel Grégoire, PACE Communication officer (CoU)</p>		
<p>Dr. Cécile Squarzoni, PACE Regional epidemiologist (PEU)</p>		
<p>Dr. Fatah Bendali, PACE Regional epidemiologist (PEU)</p>		
<p>Dr. Fatah Bendali, PACE Regional epidemiologist (PEU)</p>		
<p>Dr. N. Denormandie, PACE Regional Technical Assistant West Africa</p>		
<p>Dr. Hanns-Achim Krebs, PACE Regional Technical Assistant Central Africa</p>		
<p>Dr. Hanns-Achim Krebs, PACE Regional Technical Assistant Central Africa</p>		

Dr. P.X.M. Bastiaensen,
**PACE Regional Technical
Assistant
West Africa**

gtz



Dr. Andrea Massarelli,
**PACE National Technical Assistant
and PACE Chad National
Programme Coordinator**

gtz



Dr. Samba A. Sidibe
**OIE Regional Representative
Africa**

Oie



Dr. Caroline Planté
OIE Desk Officer

Oie



Dr. Abdoulaye Bouna Niang
OIE Consultant for PVS Assessment

Oie



Dr. Boubacar M. Seck
**Regional Coordinator
TCP/RAF/3016 Programme**



Dr. Frédéric Poudevigne
**Regional Coordinator
FAO/ECTAD**



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Annex 5. List of abbreviations

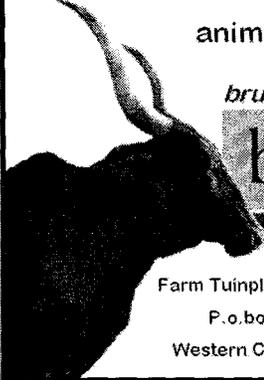
ACP	Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific (Cotonou agreements, EDF)
AEEMA	Association pour l'Etude de l'Epidémiologie des Maladies Animales
AI	Avian Influenza
AIDCO	Europe Aid Cooperation Office (CE)
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA)
ARIS	Animal Resource Information System (PID)
ASF	African Swine Fever
ASP	Active Surveillance Post (or check-Point)
AU	African Union
CAHW	Community-based Animal Health Worker
CAPE	Community-based Animal health and Participatory Epidemiology (PACE)
CAR	Central African Republic
CBPP	Contagious Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia
CCU	Central Coordination Unit (of an ESS)
CDC	Centres for Disease Control
CEMAC	Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale
CF	Coopération Française
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIRAD	Centre International de Recherche Agricole pour le Développement (France)
CIRDES	Centre International de Recherche – Développement sur l'Elevage en zone Subhumide
CNERV	Centre National d'Elevage et de la Recherche Vétérinaire
CORAF	Conférence des Responsables de Recherche Agronomique Africains
CoU	Communication Unit
CSU	Common Services Unit
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DfID	Department for International Development (UK)
DMU	Data Management Unit (PACE)
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DVS	Department of Veterinary Services
EA	East Africa
EC(D)	European Commission (Delegation)
ECC	European Community Commission (EC)
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EcU	Economics Unit (PACE)
EDF	European Development Fund (EC)
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority (EC)
EMPRES	Emergency Prevention System for Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (FAO)
EPP	Emergency Preparedness Plan (Contingency Plan)
ESS	Epidemiology-Surveillance System (RES)
EU	European Union
EUR	Euro (€)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCFA	Franc CFA
FEM	PACE Final Evaluation Mission (2006)
FITCA	Farming In Tsetse Controlled Areas (IBAR)
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
GIS	Geographic Information System
GREP	Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme

GTZ	Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAH	Institute for Animal Health (WRLR) Pirbright, UK
IBAR	Bureau Inter-africain des Ressources Animales (UA)
ICU	Information and Communication Unit (PACE)
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development (WB)
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
ISRA	Institut Sénégalais de la Recherche Agronomique
Alive	African Livestock (WB)
GF-TAD	Global Forum for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
PATTEC	Pan-African Tse-tse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign
ITC	International Trypano-tolerance Center (Gambie)
JP-15	Joint Project 15 (PC-15)
LABOCEL	Laboratoire Central d'Elevage
LANADA	Laboratoire Nationale d'Appui au Développement Agricole, Côte d'Ivoire
LCV	Laboratoire Central Vétérinaire
LNERV	Laboratoire National de l'Elevage et de la Recherche Vétérinaire (ISRA)
LPAI	Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza
MTA	Main Technical Assistant
MTR	PACE Mid Term Review (2002)
NAI	Notifiable Avian Influenza
NAO	National Authorising Officer (ON)
ND	Newcastle Disease
NIB	National Indicative Budget (PACE)
NPC	National Programme Coordination / Co-ordinator (PACE)
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
OIE	Office International des Epizooties (< 2004)
OIE	World Animal Health Organisation (> 2004)
OLAS	Online Accounting System (CE)
PACE	Pan-African Programme for the Control of Epizootics
PACE-REG	PACE Regional Coordination Unit, Bamako
PARC	Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign
PCU	Programme Coordination Unit (PACE)
PE	Programme Estimate (WP+CE)
PEU	PACE Epidemiology Unit (Unité d'Epidémiologie du PACE)
PI	Performance Indicator(s) (of an ESS)
PID	PACE Integrated Database (Base de données intégrée du PACE)
PPE	Personal Protection Equipment
PPR	Peste des Petits Ruminants
PROCORDEL	Programme Coordonné de Recherche sur l'Elevage (EU)
RALEA	Regional Action for Livestock production in Eastern Africa (IBAR)
RAO	Regional Authorising Officer EDF (Ordonnateur Régional FED)
RCI	République de Côte d'Ivoire
RCU	Regional Coordination Unit (PACE)
RP	Rinderpest
RPV	Rinderpest virus
RTA	Regional Technical Assistant
RVF	Rift Valley Fever

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SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDC	Sanitary Defence Committee
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary
TA	(national) Technical Assistant
TAD	Trans-boundary Animal Disease(s)
TLU	Tropical Livestock Unit
ToR	Terms of Reference
UCP	Unité de Coordination du Programme PACE
UEMOA	Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest-Africaine
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VLU	Veterinary Livestock Unit
VPLU	Veterinary Privatisation and Legislation Unit
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WCA	West and Central Africa
WHO	World Health Organisation
WP + CE	Work Plan and Cost Estimate (EDF)
WP	Work Plan
WRLR	World Reference Laboratory for Rinderpest (IAH)
WTO	World Trade Organisation



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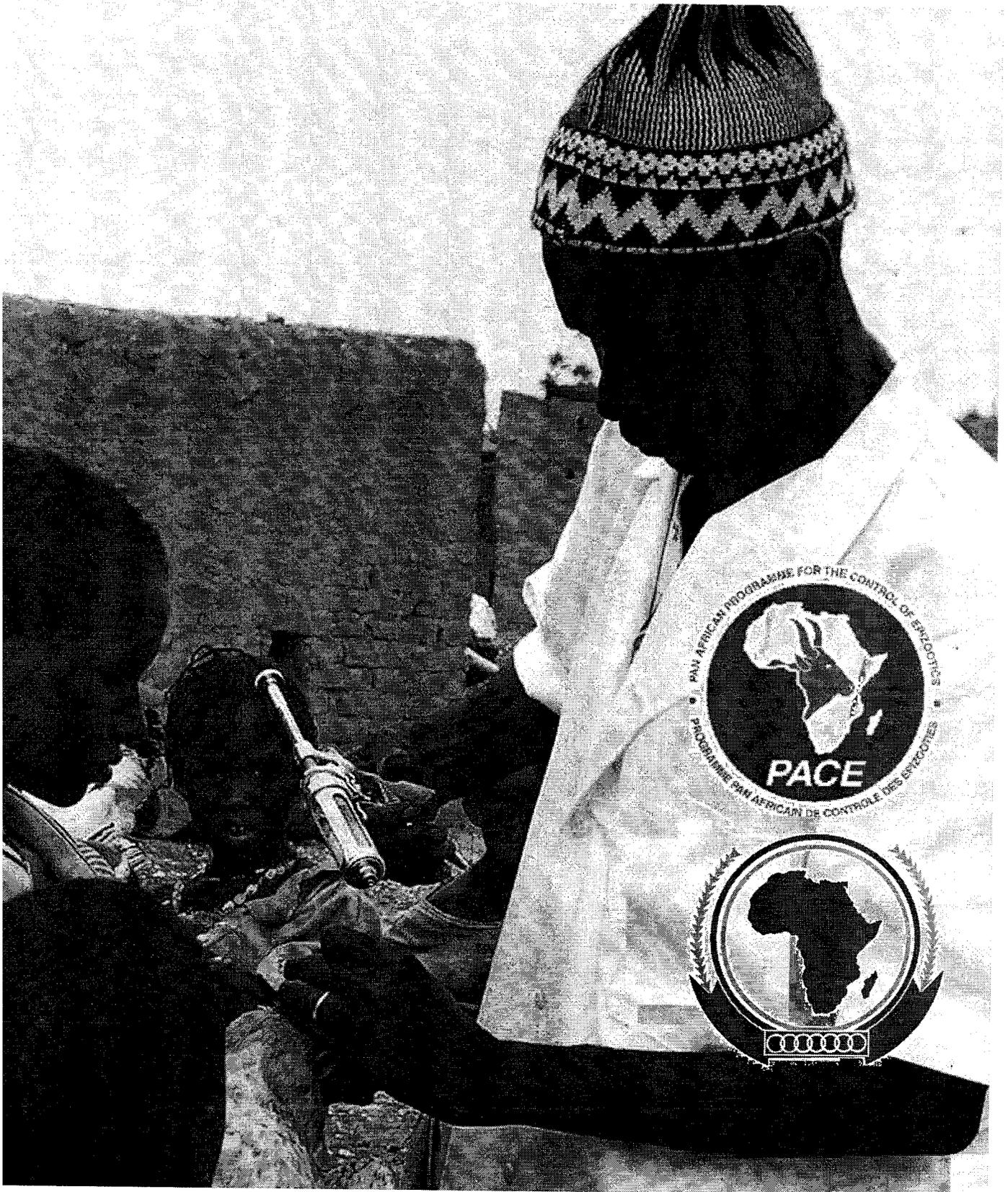
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