



AFRICAN UNION

INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES

Animal Health Strategy for Africa (AHSA) 2019-2035

Introduction

Africa's animal resources comprise livestock, aquatic animals and wildlife, and contributes significantly to Africa's societal needs and welfare through agriculture, food and non-food products, including tourism, and other environmental services. On average, livestock alone contributes approximately 35% of the national agricultural GDP¹. Other animal industry resources such as, aquaculture, apiculture, vermiculture and non-conventional micro-livestock farming like rabbit rearing, remain underexploited.

Given this, any efforts to reduce food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty must focus on the animal resource sector, at the same time addressing the status of animal health and welfare, which poses challenges that affect the productivity, growth and sustainability of the sector. For instance, majority of the 117 OIE listed diseases, infections and infestations in 2018, are endemic in Africa². In addition, there is a high prevalence of OIE non-listed diseases³ that impact negatively on the productivity and welfare of animals, their resilience to climate change, and pose public health impacts to the human population on the continent. In economic terms, animal diseases have major impacts through direct loss of animals, high cost of treatment, lowered productivity and market disruptions. According to the 2016 FAO Report on economic analysis of animal diseases, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) alone causes over USD 2 billion losses to African farmers annually⁴. Implementation of effective strategies for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases is necessary to avoid such losses.

¹ FAO (2002). *Cattle and small ruminant production systems in Sub-Saharan Africa, Systemic review*

² http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Countryinformation/Animalsituation

³ <http://www.au-ibar.org/pan-african-animal-resources-yearbook>

⁴ FAO Animal Production and Health Guidelines 18: Economic Analysis of Animal Diseases

Context and Rationale for the Animal Health Strategy for Africa

Africa's animal health service delivery systems are generally weak, and the majority of the African veterinary services assessed have medium to low capacity in the critical competences⁵. This results in among other things massive losses in animal production, and inability to meet set market standards for animals and animal products.

Poor animal health remains a major obstacle to the competitiveness of animal resource value chains especially considering the risks of transmitting Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and zoonotic diseases. The animal disease burden in Africa is responsible for annual losses of over US\$4 billion in Sub-Saharan Africa alone, equivalent to 25% of the total value of livestock production in the continent (AU- IBAR, 2010). Reducing disease incidences and their associated risks is therefore among the key priorities to be addressed.

The diversity within Africa's animal resources sector and the wide array of institutions, stakeholders, and markets creates challenges and opportunities for the governance of the sector which impacts on animal health service delivery. In addition, there are varying capacities and governance structures and different policy, legal and regulatory environments in member states to address some of these challenges. However, the application of evidence-based knowledge to ameliorate them has not been adequately harnessed and utilized. Similarly, the enormous potential of the private sector, women and youth in animal resources development as well as smart partnerships for addressing complex challenges is not fully harnessed.

⁵ <http://www.au-ibar.org/component/download/viewdownload/53-progress-reports/1172-20130508-evt-20130418-19-abidjanprogress-report-ircm-en>

The Animal Health Strategy for Africa (AHSA), a response to this need aims to:

- Address the challenges that impact negatively on animal health service delivery in the African continent. It is aligned to the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA)⁶.
- Harmonise delivery of animal health services in the continent with relevant global, continental and regional strategies and frameworks, therefore serving as an overarching strategy to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of animal health interventions in the continent.
- Address the challenges affecting delivery of animal health service in a harmonized way within the context of the One-Health approach which is a collaborative, multi- sectoral, and trans-disciplinary, enhancing the well-being and interconnectedness of all animals, people, plants and their shared environment.

The AHSA is expected to:

- Contribute to achieving the aspirations of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, and the Feed Africa Strategy, all which recognize the pivotal role of agriculture in transforming Africa's economy.
- Contribute to the objectives of the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA), Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA), the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture (PFRS), African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation on Wild Flora and Fauna, and the Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa.

The implementation of AHSA will lead to:

- Improved capacity to anticipate and mitigate the negative impacts of animal diseases, zoonosis, climate change, and disasters for healthy and productive animal populations.
- Improved engagement of all value chain actors taking into account gender and youth inclusion in animal resource development for enhanced economic development and social welfare.



The Strategy

Goal

The goal of this strategy is to contribute to improved animal and public health, food safety, food and nutrition security, improved livelihoods, protection of the environment and sustainable economic growth in Africa.

Vision and Mission

Vision: Healthy and productive animal populations that enhance the economic development and social welfare of Africa.

Mission: To deliver an innovative, harmonised and sustainable Animal Health System for Africa, that meets global standards.

⁶ <http://www.au-ibar.org/component/download/viewdownload/77-sd/2832-sd-20161020-lidesa-principal-document-en>

Strategic Approach

The strategic approach will encompass the following:

- Advocating for significant public and private sector investments and stakeholder participation;
- Enabling policy, legislative, regulatory, and institutional environment for private sector investment and public-private partnership;
- Promoting inter-sectoral and multidisciplinary approaches such as One-Health Approach to address the interconnectedness of human, animal, and ecosystem health;
- Promoting the development and application of technologies that leverage science and innovation for the improvement of animal health systems;
- Enhancing capacities for information and knowledge management to support evidence-based planning and practices;
- Promoting innovative market orientation within the context of a safe environment for animal and human health;
- Promoting risk-based interventions based on inclusive prioritisation and stakeholder engagements;
- Expanding the participation of other actors in animal health services delivery in the context of One Health across the value chains.

Strategic Objectives and Key Strategies

This strategy provides a framework for managing the challenges related to animal health in Africa. African Union Member States will address these challenges through six strategic objectives.

Strategic Objective 1: Strengthen animal health policy and institutional frameworks

The current animal health policies and strategies do not sufficiently address emerging issues in the sector. They have become obsolete in several member states. There are also disparities in policies between member states, reflecting incoherence in their formulation and implementation.

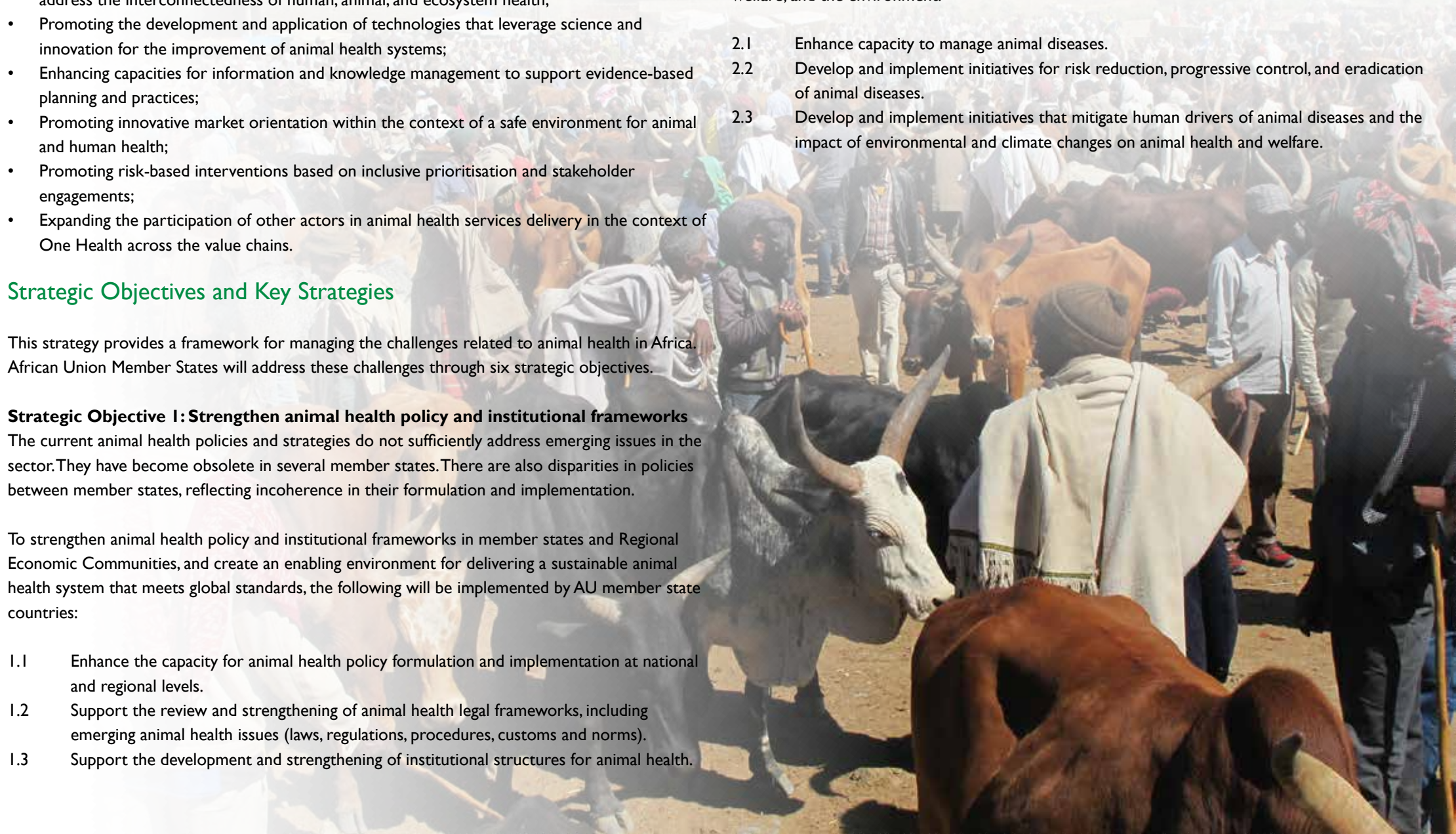
To strengthen animal health policy and institutional frameworks in member states and Regional Economic Communities, and create an enabling environment for delivering a sustainable animal health system that meets global standards, the following will be implemented by AU member state countries:

- 1.1 Enhance the capacity for animal health policy formulation and implementation at national and regional levels.
- 1.2 Support the review and strengthening of animal health legal frameworks, including emerging animal health issues (laws, regulations, procedures, customs and norms).
- 1.3 Support the development and strengthening of institutional structures for animal health.

Strategic Objective 2: Reduce disease risks and impacts on animals

Animal diseases have considerable impacts on animal production, public health, environment, marketing and trade, thereby adversely affecting livelihoods and the contribution of animal resources to economic development. In many African countries, measures to address the challenges caused by these diseases are often inadequate. Compounding this situation are inadequacies in early warning systems and preparedness. The following will be implemented to improve detection and assessment of disease risks and their impacts on animal resources, public welfare, and the environment:

- 2.1 Enhance capacity to manage animal diseases.
- 2.2 Develop and implement initiatives for risk reduction, progressive control, and eradication of animal diseases.
- 2.3 Develop and implement initiatives that mitigate human drivers of animal diseases and the impact of environmental and climate changes on animal health and welfare.



Strategic Objective 3: Strengthen animal health interventions to address current, emerging and re-emerging issues of public health concern

The global appreciation of the role of animal health in human wellbeing, and public health is increasingly contributing to the growing calls for animal, human and environmental health disciplines and sectors to work collaboratively through the One-Health approach to address health challenges at the animal-human environment interfaces more effectively. Hence the need for animal and human health practitioners as well as environmentalists/ ecologists to work under the “One Health” approach to control zoonotic diseases, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, and other shared health conditions. The strategic interventions will be aligned to the global One Health frameworks as follows:

- 3.1 Promote the One-Health Approach.
- 3.2 Support the development, domestication and implementation of continental, regional and national initiatives on antimicrobial use (AMU) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in line with global frameworks. This strategy aims to strengthen human and institutional capacities for preventing, managing and mitigating the occurrence, effects and impacts of AMR.
- 3.3 Enhance capacities and initiatives to prevent, detect and control zoonoses, emerging and re-emerging diseases.
- 3.4 Strengthen safety control systems for animal feeds and foods of animal origin.
- 3.5 Support the enhancement and enforcement of environmental hygiene standards for animal industry operations.



Strategic Objective 4: Improve access to inputs, markets and trade in animal resources

Production of animal resources in Africa is also constrained by inadequate access to inputs such as forage, feed, drugs, vaccines, technology, extension and advisory services. African states also struggle to access regional and international markets due partly to their inability to meet market requirements, poor infrastructure, and low competitiveness of their animal commodities. The uptake of research and technology in the value chains will make animal commodities from African countries more responsive to regional and international trade. In order to mitigate these challenges, the following interventions will be implemented by African Union Member States:

- 4.1 Improve access to quality inputs and services along the value chains.
- 4.2 Improve trade and marketing of animals and animal products
- 4.3 Improve harmonisation and linkages amongst Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) authorities and other stakeholders.

Strategic Objective 5: Strengthen Science, Innovation, Research and Knowledge Management

The current animal production patterns in Africa will not cope with the projected protein requirements of the population. Innovative means of production will be necessary to cater for increase in the demand for animal resources and attain self-sufficiency. Science, innovation, research, and knowledge will have to grow concurrently with the population and animal health demands in a sustainable manner. These activities fall within the context of the Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa-2024 (STISA-2024), with a specific focus on animal resources. African countries will implement the following activities:

- 5.1 Develop appropriate information systems to facilitate knowledge sharing and evidence-based decision making.
- 5.2 Improve capacities, and the linkages between research and end-users.
- 5.3 Develop models to attract private sector investments in animal health research and innovation.
- 5.4 Improve awareness, advocacy and communication along the animal health value Chain.
- 5.5 Promote human resource development and sustainability in animal health, science and research.

Strategic Objective 6: Enhance partnerships, coordination, investment and resourcing of the animal health sector

There are many actors in the animal health sector in Africa. However, the different actors tend to operate in isolation in the different animal production value chains. There is therefore a need to develop and promote effective multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships to support animal health service delivery systems.

This strategic objective therefore aims to strengthen stakeholder mobilisation, engagement and partnerships that foster effective collaboration between stakeholders to enhance animal health and productivity; ensure the ownership of responsibilities and joint monitoring and evaluation of interventions that are aligned with national, regional and continental priorities. The following interventions will be implemented to achieve this:

- 6.1 Support smart partnerships, coordination and collaborative formulation and implementation of frameworks for the delivery of animal health programmes.
- 6.2 Identify investment and funding priorities and mobilise resources for Implementation.

Coordination, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

The AHSA 2019 – 2035 Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation framework provides an integrated set of principles, practices and standards. The framework comprises:

- The Theory of Change and Results Chain;
- Key actors involved in the strategy implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation, including their responsibilities; and
- Critical success factors.

The Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation Framework is in line with the Agenda 2063 Ten-Year Implementation cycles.

Ensuring that the Animal Health Strategy for Africa's vision, mission, goal, strategic objectives, and associated targets is realized requires that effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation arrangements at the national, regional, and continental levels are in place.



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