



International  
Scientific Council  
for Trypanosomiasis  
Research and Control

**ISCTRC**



AFRICAN UNION  
**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU  
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**

PROVIDING LEADERSHIP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL RESOURCES FOR AFRICA

## About AU-IBAR

The African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU- IBAR) is a specialized technical office of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the African Union Commission (AUC). AU-IBAR's mandate is to support and coordinate the utilization of livestock, fisheries and wildlife as resources for both human wellbeing and economic development in the Member States of the African Union (AU). AU-IBAR is at the forefront of reducing the impact of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses on livelihoods and public health in Africa. The prevention, control and eradication of the diseases is achieved through specific networks, platforms and projects within the framework of the Malabo commitments/Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme.

## Rationale

Trypanosomiasis severely affects human and livestock health, limits land use thus causing poverty and perpetuating underdevelopment on the continent. The impact of the disease extends over 38 countries and an estimated 10 million sq. km (a third of the continent) of land area. The International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC) was established in the 60s on the realization that the removal of tsetse and trypanosomiasis required an international organization that would serve as a vehicle of cooperation and implementation



across national, regional and continental barriers. ISCTRC is a statutory council of the African Union with the secretariat at AU-IBAR and is managed by an Executive Committee. It has continued to act as a platform for knowledge sharing and information dissemination on trypanosomiasis research and control.

## Membership of the Council

Membership of the council is drawn from Member States, representatives of international organizations and institutions working in the field of tsetse and trypanosomiasis, institutes in Africa engaged in tsetse and trypanosomiasis, representatives of regional and multilateral projects in Africa, funding and development agencies, members from other countries (as observers) where research on trypanosomiasis or related subjects is being carried out.

## Membership of the Executive Committee

The ISCTRC is managed by an Executive Committee whose membership comprises of 2 members from each of the four

- 60 (2014) million people at risk, 2,804 cases in 2015, less than 2,000 annual deaths.
- Over 10 million sq km in 38 countries are affected by African trypanosomiasis.
- 50 million cattle at risk; 35 million trypanocide doses used and 3 million deaths annually.
- Agricultural production loss due to trypanosomiasis is estimated at US\$ 5 billion per year.

regions: western, central, eastern and southern Africa; others are the Director of AU-IBAR, representatives of FAO, IAEA, WHO, ICIPE, ILRI, CIRDES, PAAT and PATTEC. The committee meets annually to organize the biennial scientific conference in addition to carrying out the Council's functions.

## Activities of ISCTRC

- Exchange and disseminate information through meetings and publications
- Support capacity building efforts on tsetse and trypanosomiasis research and control
- Provide scientific and technical support to African countries
- Promote and encourage regional programmes
- Support integration of socio-economics and land use in tsetse and trypanosomiasis control activities
- Identify knowledge gaps to increase capacity of experts on tsetse and trypanosomiasis research and control.
- Create awareness for demand-driven research.

## Key milestones of ISCTRC

- **Regular Scientific conferences since 1949:** To promote information sharing on tsetse, human and animal trypanosomiasis problem, review control strategies and recommend appropriate approaches in research and control.
- **1949:** Permanent Commission for Technical Cooperation in Africa south of the Sahara (CCTA) created by international organisations for research and control of trypanosomiasis held its first meeting in London, UK.
- **1965:** OAU (now AU) Heads of State took over the

Commission for Technical Cooperation in Africa (CCTA) and was transformed into ISCTRC to be funded by Member States.

- **1999:** ISCTRC Executive Committee recommendation to Member States and international organisations to consider trypanosomiasis as an emergency contributed to the establishment of PATTEC.
- **1999:** European Union funded regional five-year Farming In Tsetse Controlled Areas (FITCA) project. Launched and implemented by AU-IBAR in 5 countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania.
- **2001:** PATTEC launched during the 26th ISCTRC conference in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.
- **2007:** The ISCTRC Executive Committee recommends all necessary efforts to strengthen International Trypanotolerance Centre (ITC) in the Gambia.



## Trypanosomiasis – a neglected disease

Trypanosomiasis affects human and animal health resulting in death if not treated and reducing livestock and overall agricultural productivity. Policy makers in many countries still do not consider trypanosomiasis control a priority. ISCTRC has created awareness to initiate campaign against the disease in Africa since 1949.

**Goal** To improve the welfare of rural communities through coordinated research and control of trypanosomiasis

**Objective** To ensure co-operation between Member States in research and control of human and animal African trypanosomiasis

## Core functions

- Stimulate the progress, coordination and encouragement of research on trypanosomiasis control in Africa.
- Disseminate information and create awareness at national and regional level through biennial scientific meetings and proceedings.
- Collaborate with international organizations and NGOs mandated to control trypanosomiasis.

**38 African countries** Geographical coverage.

**Rural livestock farmers** Beneficiaries in 38 African Member States affected by tsetse and trypanosomiasis.

## Partners

- **Sleeping sickness:** World Health Organisation (WHO)
- **Animal trypanosomiasis:** Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- **Promoting sterile insect technique for eradication of tsetse:** International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- **Tsetse eradication campaign:** Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC)
- **Advocacy:** Programme Against Africa Trypanosomiasis (PAAT)
- **Livestock research:** International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- **Insect science research:** International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)
- **Trypanosomiasis research:** Centre International de Recherche-Développement sur l'Elevage en Zone Subhumide (CIRDES)
- **Trypanotolerance research:** International Trypanosomiasis Centre (ITC)

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