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37E CONFÉRENCE DU CONSEIL SCIENTIFIQUE INTERNATIONAL POUR LA RECHERCHE ET LE CONTROLE SUR LA TRYPANOSOMIASE (CSIRCT)
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TITLE: Coordinated management of AAT: The Continental Strategy

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Subtitle: Introduction

- In Africa, animal resources form the backbone of livelihoods for the majority of rural communities.
- Over one-third of the continent's population—approximately 470 million people—depend directly on livestock.
- Up to 70% of the rural poor rely partially on livestock for income, nutrition, and resilience.
- Livestock contributes an average of 24.9% to agricultural value added, with at least 10% of Member States reporting that the sector accounts for 50–73% of their Agricultural Gross Domestic Product (AGDP).
- Tsetse and trypanosomiasis occur in thirty-eight (38).

Subtitle: Introduction

- Fifty (50) million cattle are at risk of trypanosomiasis, resulting in an annual death toll of 3 million.

- The direct loses from reduced meat and milk production, treatment costs, and vector control is estimated at $1.2 billion annually.

- The impact of AAT in Africa is massive with economic losses in production of meat, milk, reproduction and traction through morbidity and mortality estimated at more than US$4.5 billion annually.

- AAT is transmitted by tsetse flies, Glossina spp. (biological vectors) and other non-tsetse vector (mechanical vectors)

Subtitle: Introduction

- Challenges hindering the control and elimination of African Animal Trypanosomiasis (AAT) include:

  - Inadequate coordination and collaboration,
  - poor cross-sectoral integration, limited technical and institutional capacity, gaps in research and innovation,
  - insufficient and unsustainable funding,
  - weak community involvement and engagement,
  - restricted access to diagnostic tools and quality drugs,
  - climate change, and
  - growing resistance to trypanocidal drugs and insecticides.

Subtitle: Introduction

- While achievements have been made for the control and eradication of T&T as declared by Heads of state and Government at AU Summit in Lomé Togo in July 2000 (Decision AGH/Dec.156-XXXVI) such as reduction in Human African trypanosomiasis (HAT) cases,

- the 35th ISCTRC Conference held in Abuja Nigeria in 2021 and the 36th Conference held in 2023 in Mombasa Kenya noted with concern the slow progress towards achieving the objectives of T&T control and eradication.

- A sense of urgency was therefore expressed in tackling the problem to safeguard the gains made on the road to elimination and eventual eradication of T&T constraint.

Subtitle: Introduction

- Currently there are various efforts aimed at controlling animal trypanosomosis in the continent;
- However, the efforts are fragmented without clear coordination mechanisms and a clear continental vision and goals;
- Need for a continental strategy for AAT to inform coordination mechanisms and to address the capacity gaps identified earlier

Subtitle: Introduction

- the Continental Strategy for Sustainable Control and Elimination of Animal Trypanosomiasis in Africa (2026–2035) will;
  - promote awareness, advocacy, and strategic communication on trypanosomiasis and its vectors;
  - foster multi-sectoral collaboration;
  - strengthen institutional and technical capacities for sustainable control and elimination;
  - advance research, innovation, and knowledge transfer;
  - enhance community involvement in vector control and health education;
  - and embrace data-driven One Health technologies

Subtitle: The Process

- The development of the Continental Strategy for the Sustainable Control and Elimination of Animal Trypanosomiasis in Africa (2026–2035) was guided by a highly consultative process.

- It engaged representatives from African Union Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), technical partners, and other key stakeholders who contributed their expertise in identifying core challenges and proposing actionable solutions to support the strategy's goals.



A meeting of the Technical Working Group on AAT Continental Strategy, 18-19 December 2023, Naivasha, Kenya

Subtitle: Guiding principles

- Integration of AAT activities: AAT problem should be tackled within the broader context of Sustainable Rural Development, Food and Nutrional Security as well as Poverty Reduction;

- One Health: AAT, HAT, Tsetse and non-tsetse insects transmitting the two diseases in human and animal should be tackled within the broader context of One Health;

- With reference to the implementation of the PATTEC Initiative, to achieve the control and elimination of AAT, it is a necessity to tackle the issue of the vectors, which is the tsetse fly and other biting insects

Subtitle: Guiding principles

- Evidence based decision making: Intervention be based on assessment of the presence of the vectors, AAT problem, distribution, mapping, socio-economic effects, lessons learned, changing landscape and best practices;

- Promote Partnerships and Collaboration: Partnerships, synergies and collaborations for AAT and the vectors be promoted at the national, regional and international levels;

- Time bound roadmaps: Identify clear targets and milestones, towards achieving the control and elimination/eradication objectives;

- Sustainability of AAT interventions: Strengthen AAT governance, community engagement, institutional strengthening, capacity building, allocation of resources and advocacy for short, medium- and long-term objectives.

Subtitle: Guiding principles

- Funding: is an important pillar that should be under the management of the PATTEC Programme Office and/or the AU-IBAR Office. Limited budgets is the threat to the implementation of the strategy under consideration;

- Reinforcing collaborations with the UN agencies (IAEA, FAO, WHO, UNEP…) and various Foundations and Organizations working on the subject including the BGMF, FIND, GALVMED, ICIPE, ILRI among others is an absolute necessity;

- Promote Partnerships and Collaboration: Partnerships, synergies and collaborations for AAT be promoted at the national, regional and international levels.

Subtitle: Justification for developing the AAT Continental Strategy

- Investment in the control and elimination of trypanosomiasis will unlock great potential in rural communities of Africa leading to the growth of the agro-based industries and other downstream industries.

- However, several declarations, commitments and decisions in support of a tsetse-free Africa made in the past at various African Union (AU) Summits on Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) meetings and by International Organizations, have not achieved effective control and elimination of AAT to date.

- It is against this background that the AAT Continental Strategy developed will guide the continent in decisively dealing with the burden of tsetse and trypanosomiasis.

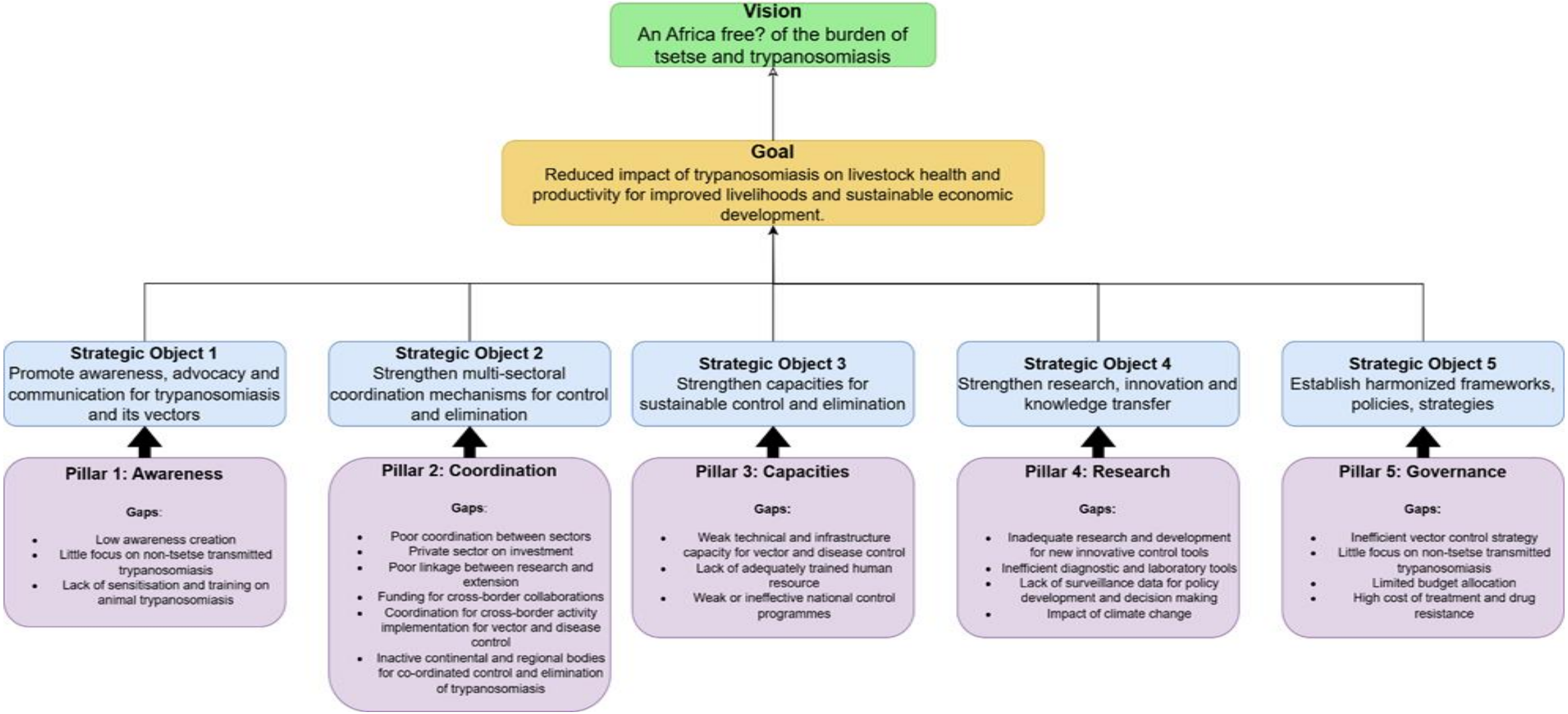
Subtitle: Current scenario in the control and elimination of AAT

- The current uncoordinated control and elimination efforts of AAT at different progressive control pathway stages across the continent, poses a serious threat to re-emergency of AAT if there is no unity of purpose in tackling the problem.

- This strategy aligns well with the Animal Health Strategy for Africa, under the AU-IBAR.

- With a well-structured Continental Strategy receiving support from African Governments, International Organizations and Development Partners in the fight against trypanosomiasis, the Vision of An Africa Free of the Burden of Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis is highly achievable.

Strategic Framework



The Continental Strategy for Sustainable Control & Elimination of Animal Trypanosomiasis in Africa (2026- 2035)

Vision: An Africa free of the burden of tsetse and trypanosomiasis

Mission: To drive progressive control and elimination of animal trypanosomiasis and its vectors for health, production and productivity as well as economic prosperity

Goal: To reduced impact of trypanosomiasis on livestock health, production and productivity for improved livelihoods, poverty reduction and sustainable economic development in Africa.

Subtitle: Strategic Objectives

The goal of the strategy is to be realized through five Strategic Objectives:

S.O.1. Promote community engagement, Awareness, Advocacy, and Communication for Trypanosomiasis and Its Vectors

S.O.2. Strengthen multi-sectoral coordination mechansms at national, regional and continental levels for control and elimination of trypanosomiasis and its vectors

S.O.3. Strengthen capacities at all level for sustainable control and elimination of trypanosomiasis

S.O. 4. Promote Research, Innovation, and Knowledge Transfer

S.O. 5. Create an enabling environment for multisectoral, harmonised and coordinated AAT, Vector control and elimination

Subtitle: Strategies and specific actions

S.O. 1. Promote community engagement, Awareness, Advocacy, and Communication for Trypanosomiasis and Its Vectors

1.Support community engagement, advocacy and public awareness on trypanosomiasis and its vectors, socioeconomic impacts, available technologies and best practice for control and elimination for tsetse and trypanosomiasis.

A. Create and convene a network of relevant actors to catalyse advocacy and awareness on T&T, problem its impacts and elimination

B. Publish and disseminate information on technologies and best practices

C. Support the mobilization of Partners, communities and Governments to undertake control and elimination campaigns

D. Produce an advocacy document on the benefits of funding cross-border projects on AAT

E. Promote community co-creation and implementation of AAT and vector control and elimination interventions

Subtitle: Strategies and specific actions

S.O.2. Strengthen multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms at national, regional and continental levels for control and elimination of trypanosomiasis and its vectors

2. Develop and implement cross-border programmes and projects for AAT

A. Promote Public Private and community Partnership and collaborations

B. Promote community participation by beneficiaries in each country,

C. promote a management plan for transhumant animals

D. Create isolation barriers

Subtitle: Strategies and specific actions

S.O. 3. Strengthen capacities at all level for sustainable control and elimination of trypanosomiasis

1.Assess the status of AAT prevention and control activities at national, regional and continental levels

A. Determine the baselines for AAT and vector control
B. Harmonize the AAT and Vector control and elimination indicators

2.Enhance surveillance capacities for animal trypanosomiasis and the biological and mechanical vectors

A. Strengthen the human capacity for disease and vector surveillance
B. Mainstream data drive technologies to enhance integrated vector and disease surveillance
C. Establish robust databases/information system (e.g. atlases) on tsetse and AAT to guide evidence-based decision making
D. Set up a continental information and surveillance system on Animal and Human Trypanosomiases Disease & socio-economic burden
E. Predicting the effect of climate change on African trypanosomiasis: integrating epidemiology with parasite and vector biology https://doi.org/10.1098/rsif.2011.0654
F. Harmonize policies/strategies, protocols and guidelines for integrated vector and disease surveillance

Subtitle: Strategies and specific actions

S.O. 3. Strengthen capacities at all level for sustainable control and elimination of trypanosomiasis

3. Enhance laboratory capacities for diagnosis, residue testing, trypanocide resistance

A. Strengthen the human capacity for laboratory diagnosis and testing

B. Strengthen the laboratory diagnostic and testing facilities

C. Harmonise the standard operating Procedures (SoPs)

D. Establish twinning programmes laboratory capacity strengthening

Subtitle: Strategies and specific actions

S.O. 4. Promote Research, Innovation, and Knowledge Transfer

1. **Promote translational and operational research**

   A. promote research on use of trypanocides and chemoresistance

   B. Bridge gaps between research and extension services to ensure rapid knowledge transfer and implementation of innovative control strategies

   C. Promote research into the role of mechanical vectors in maintain trypanosome transmission in the absence of tsetse flies

   D. Promote socio-economic studies to provide evidence off the impact of AAT on rural development to inform regional and national programmes

   E. Enhance knowledge of climate change, AAT and Vectors

2. **Promote research for development of new trypanocides diagnostic and surveillance tools**

   A. Promote public/private partnerships for the development and upscaling of technologies and innovations

   B. Promote local production of control and elimination tools

Subtitle: Strategies and specific actions

S.O. 5. Create an enabling environment for multisectoral, harmonised and coordinated AAT, Vector control and elimination

1. **Harmonize evidence-based Policies, and Strategies for the control and elimination of AAT and its vectors**

   A. Align regional and National policies to the continental AAT strategy

2. **Mainstream AAT prevention, control and elimination in RAIP/NAIPs and Rural development strategies and policies**

Subtitle: Action Plans

Intervention areas

- Implementation of the strategy will be based on a national, regional and continental action plans to lead to expected outcomes

- Activities will be aligned to the specific actions indicated above

Subtitle: Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

- This will include key indicators

Subtitle: **Governance of the Strategy**

- Governance/Institutional roles and responsibilities to be aligned with regional and National strategies and Frameworks

- Resource mobilization

- Coordination of the implementation of the strategy

- Collaboration with international agencies and partners working on T&T

Thank you | Merci | شكراً لك | Obrigado | Gracias | Asante

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