Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC)

Promotional Materials

PATTEC

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Turning Decisions Into Actions

PATTEC is the brain child of AU/IBAR and ISCTRC

FITCA and other similar projects are the building blocks for PATTEC

DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUMMIT DECISION ON THE ERADICATION OF TSETSE FLIES FROM AFRICA

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **RECALLS** Decision AHG/Dec.156 (XXXVI) urging Member States to rise collectively to the challenge of eliminating the scourge of tsetse-transmitted diseases from Africa and assigning the Secretary General the task of initiating and coordinating a Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) as well as Decision AHG/Dec.169 (XXXVII) endorsing a Plan of Action prepared by the Secretariat for the implementation of the Pan African tsetse eradication campaign;

3. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION** the establishment of the PATTEC Policy and Mobilisation Committee and **URGES** its members to actively seek ways of guiding and generating support for the PATTEC initiative;

4. **COMMENDS** the efforts of those African countries which had already embarked on tsetse eradication projects and **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the International Atomic Energy Agency for the support and assistance extended to Member States and the Secretariat in the implementation of the PATTEC initiative;

5. **URGES** all affected countries to include tsetse eradication in their national priorities, within their Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers so as to qualify for debt relief mechanisms or other forms of budgetary support to ensure its implementation;

6. **APPEALS** to the international community to lend technical and financial support to the efforts of Member States and the Secretariat in implementing the PATTEC initiative;

7. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to continue reminding all Member States about their individual and collective obligations in the struggle to eliminate the scourge of tsetse-transmitted diseases from Africa, to monitor the progress made in this endeavour and to report on the issue every year;

8. **CALLS UPON** the Secretary General to include a budgetary provision in the Budget of the African Union to cater for the activities of the General Secretariat in coordinating the PATTEC initiative.

87. After the adoption of the above re-oriented budget, the Assistant Secretary General in charge of Community Affairs Department, Amb. L.O. Agubuzu, took the floor to introduce an additional request regarding the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) Projects.

88. Following his presentation, the Advisory Committee approved the provision of US$45,000.00 to cover the months of June and July 2002 for the PATTEC Unit.

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE ERADICATION OF TSE TSE FLY FROM AFRICA (Doc.CM/2193 (LXXIII) - d

Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Secretary General and **COMMENDS** the OAU Secretariat for the steps taken for the eradication of Tse Tse fly;

2. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the International Atomic Energy Agency for the invaluable contribution it rendered to the Secretariat for the implementation of the Summit Decision, by assigning a consultant to assist the General Secretariat to prepare adequately for the launching of the campaign without delay;

3. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in the implementation of the Summit decision particularly the preparation of the "Plan of Action" for the eradication of tse tse fly;

4. **CALLS UPON OAU** Partners, donor agencies and the International Community to respond positively to the request of the OAU Secretary General in his endeavour to mobilize funds for the implementation of the Summit Decision on Tse tse eradication;

5. **URGES** Member States to establish national projects, wherever they do not exist and to support the ongoing national projects in all aspects as their success would encourage other countries to do the same;

6. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to convene the Fourth OAU Seminar on the eradication of the tse tse fly from Africa as part of the declaration of 2001 as the year of launching the campaign for eradication of tse tse fly from the continent;

8. **FINALLY REQUESTS** the Secretary General to submit a report on the progress so far made to the next OAU Summit.

AHG/Dec. 169 (XXXVII)

DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ERADICATION OF TSETSE FLIES IN AFRICA

The Assembly:

1. **RECALLS** Decision AHG/156 (XXXVI) of the 36th Assembly of the Heads of State and Government which urged Member States to rise to the challenge of the campaign for eradication of tsetse flies from the continent of Africa;

2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** with satisfaction that the OAU Secretariat has prepared a Plan of Action for the implementation of the Summit Decision on tsetse flies eradication;

3. **URGES** the OAU Secretariat and the relevant offices in the affected Member States dealing with health, agriculture, livestock production, rural development and poverty reduction to include the objective of the said Plan of Action among their priority programmes for implementation;

4. **APPEALS** to the international community to provide technical, financial and material support and assistance to Member States in their efforts to eradicate tsetse flies.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL FOR ERADICATION OF TSETSE FLIES ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT (CM/2152 (LXXII) ADD.2

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report presented by the Government of Uganda, and **COMMENDS** the efforts undertaken to highlight the problems caused by tsetse flies in Africa;

2. **COMMENDS** those African countries that have initiated the application of Sterile Insect Technology (SIT) for their pioneering effort;

3. **RECOGNIZES** the seriousness of the problem as one of Africa's greatest constraints to socio-economic development severely affecting human and livestock health, limiting land use, causing poverty and perpetuating underdevelopment on the Continent;

4. URGES Member States to act collectively to rise to the challenge of eliminating the problem through concerted efforts in mobilizing the necessary human, financial and material resources required to render Africa tsetse-free within the shortest time possible;

5. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the trans-boundary nature of the problem, **WELCOMES** the establishment of the Pan-African SIT Forum as a mechanism through which sustainable area-wide tsetse eradication can be achieved and **CALLS UPON** the Secretary-General to provide support to the Pan African SIT FORUM;

6. **DECLARES** the year 2001 as the year of the control of tsetse fly, to mark the beginning of renewed efforts in the campaign for the eradication of tsetse flies in Africa;

7. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to undertake all necessary consultations with a view to initiating the campaign from all possible partners and seek their support and cooperation in the implementation of the Pan-African Tsetse Eradication Campaign. The Secretary-General should submit an annual Progress Report to the OAU Summit, through the Current Chairman.

MESSAGE TO THE G8 SUMMIT OF GENOA (Italy) from 20 to 22 July 2001

The 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU):

1. **Concerned** with the high level of under-nutrition in the African Continent;

2. **Taking into consideration** the slow progress towards halving the number of hungry people by the year 2015;

3. Welcomes the establishment of a Trust Fund in FAO to be financed by voluntary contributions, initially for an amount of US$500 million, to serve as a catalyst for accelerating food production and improving access to food in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Low Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) and .Small Island Developing States, and also for the prevention, control and eradication of transboundary pests and diseases of plants and animals;

4. **Considers** that the mobilization of such resources would greatly facilitate the implementation of the agricultural programme of the New African Initiative;

5. **Calls on** the Heads of State and Government of the G8 countries to ensure generous contributions to the Trust Fund and to participate personally in the World Food Summit (WFS) in Rome on 5 to 9 November 2001.

2. Report of the Secretary General on progress made in the Implementation of the Summit Decision on the Eradication of Tsetse Flies from Africa - Doc. CM/2250 (LXXVI)

75. In his presentation of the Report of the Secretary General on: "**The Progress made in the Implementation of Summit Decision AHG/Dec.156 (XXXVI) on the Eradication of Tsetse Flies from Africa**", Ambassador Agubuzu, Assistant Secretary General, Community Affairs Department, listed the activities that have been initiated by some Member States and the Secretariat in pursuit of the objective of rendering Africa tsetse-free.

76. These included the preparation of a Plan of Action for the implementation of the Summit Decision, the launching of the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC), the establishment of a PATTEC Coordination Office at the OAU Secretariat, the inauguration of a PATTEC Policy and Mobilization Committee to oversee the needs and policies of the campaign, the discussions with the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on the establishment of a Regional Centre for Tsetse Eradication in Addis Ababa, the support and consensus generated from the mandated international organizations (notably IAEA, WHO and FAO) on the PATTEC initiative.

77. In the ensuing discussions, delegates welcomed the report and decried the negative effects and impact of tsetse-transmitted diseases on the health and productivity of man and domestic animals, recognizing the problem as a serious constraint to Africa's socio-economic development. The efforts of those countries that have initiated tsetse eradication activities as well as the assistance and cooperation of the international community, in particular the International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Health Organization to Member States and the Secretariat towards achieving the objectives of the PATTEC initiative were commended. The trans-boundary nature of tsetse-transmitted diseases was highlighted and the need for all Member States to act collectively and expeditiously, sharing experiences and creating synergy in the execution of the tsetse eradication campaign was emphasized.

78. The meeting noted the inadvertent omission of a budgetary provision for tsetse eradication activities in the Draft OAU Budget which had been submitted and agreed that an amount of US$270,000.00 - being funding for these activities be included in the OAU Budget.

2. Proposal For Eradication of Tse-Tse Flies on The African Continent - Doc. CM/2152 (LXXII) Add.2

75. The Head of delegation of Uganda introduced the topic by reviewing the negative impact tse-tse flies have on socio-economic development of Africa.

76. He reiterated that tse-tse flies transmit tryponosomiasis in human beings which causes sleeping sickness in people. About 55 million people are at risk of the disease and about 300,000 people are already infected. Tse-tse flies also affect animals hence the loss of meat and milk production in Africa is estimated at US$1.2 billion rising to about US$5.0 billion per year. For reasons mentioned above, therefore, strategies have been proposed for eradication of the flies on a Pan African basis in order to cater for the trans-boundary movement using the Sterile Insect Technology.

77. This proposal had already been discussed with International Agencies, including the International Atomic Energy Agency which provided the Sterile Insect Technology (SIT).

78. The Ethiopian delegation proposed that the year 2001 as the year for the total eradication of tse-tse flies in Africa to mark the beginning of renewed efforts in the campaign for the eradication of tse-tese flies in Africa. The delegation further suggested that the African Group in New York be mandated to sensitize and mobilize support from the international community for year, during the 55th Session of the General Assembly.

79. After discussions, all delegations supported the proposal and recommended it for adoption during the Council.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

FIFTY-FIFTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
Agenda item 13.17

A55/A/Conf.Paper No.4
15 May 2002

Pan African tsetse and trypanosomiasis eradication campaign

Draft resolution proposed by the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire

The Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on Pan African tsetse and trypanosomiasis eradication campaign;[1]

Acknowledging that pain, suffering and death from trypanosomiasis are a daily threat to more than 60 million people in 37 countries of sub-Saharan Africa, 22 of which are among the least developed countries;

Realizing that trypanosomiasis, which causes an estimated annual loss of US$ 4.5 thousand million, is one of Africa's greatest constraints to socioeconomic development, severely affecting human and livestock health, limiting land use, causing poverty, and perpetuating underdevelopment on the African continent;

Noting that eradication of tsetse flies would significantly contribute to increasing human well-being and productivity of crops and livestock and to reducing rural poverty on the African continent;

Realizing that eradication of tsetse flies, which transmit the disease to both humans and animals, is the only effective, long-term solution to fight the disease;

Recognizing decisions AHG/156 (XXXVI) of 12 July 2000 and AHG/169 (XXXVII) of 11 July 2001 by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to free Africa of tsetse flies, and their endorsement of and commitment to OAU's Plan of Action for the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC);

Aware that the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his report to the United Nations Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2001 acknowledged the problem of trypanosomiasis and called upon all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, and the international community fully to support OAU's Campaign;

Welcoming resolution GC (45)/RES/12 adopted on September 2001 by the Forty-fifth General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, supporting OAU's Campaign and calling

Resolution on PATTEC

Adopted by FAO General Conference

Rome, 13 November 2001

Acknowledging that tsetse flies which affect 37 African countries and cause an estimated annual loss of US$4.5 billion are one of Africa's greatest constraints to socio-economic development, severely affecting human and livestock health, limiting land use, causing poverty and perpetuating underdevelopment on the African continent;

Realizing that elimination of tsetse flies would significantly contribute to increased productivity of crops and livestock and reduce rural poverty on the African continent;

Recognizing decisions AHG/Dec. 156 (XXXVI) of 12 July 2000 and AHG/Dec. 169 (XXVI) of 11 July 2001 by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to free Africa of tsetse flies and their endorsement of and commitment to the OAU's Plan of Action for the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC);

Taking note that the PATTEC was officially launched in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, during the 2nd orientation workshop for the Directors of animal resources and veterinary services on policy and strategy for tsetse eradication, held on 29-30 September 2001;

Noting the recommendations made by the FAO Liaison officers meeting for West and Central Africa, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 29 September 2001, inviting the international community to fully support the PATTEC initiative;

Recalling that the World Food Summit Plan of Action of 1996, adopted in Rome on 13 November 1996, recommended that governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society, and the support of international institutions seek to ensure effective prevention and progressive control of plant and animal pests and disease, including those which are of transboundary nature;

Considering the acknowledgment of the problem by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his recent report to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and the resolution E/2001/L.34 adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2001, calling upon all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and the international community to fully support the Organization of African Unity's Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign;

Acknowledging the resolution GC(45/RES/12, adopted on 21 September 2001 by the 45th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, welcoming the OAU's Plan of Action for the eradication of tsetse flies from Africa and calling upon Member States to provide technical, financial and material support to African States in their efforts to eradicate tsetse flies;

Considering that the 29th FAO Conference in adopting the Resolution 5/97 on the Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis (PAAT) endorsed the objectives and structures for PAAT in recognition of its concern over the considerable adverse impact of trypanosomiasis on agricultural production and human welfare, and for PAAT's potential to contribute to the objectives of the World Food Summit Plan of Action;

Supporting the significant joint efforts undertaken by FAO, IAEA, OAU and WHO through PAAT

Recognizing the important contribution that FAO is making in the fields of pest and disease control and in food and agricultural production;

1. Welcomes the OAU initiative for the progressive control and ultimate eradication of tsetse flies from Africa as an important tool to increase animal and agricultural production in affected countries;

2. Urges affected Member States to include tsetse flies eradication in their Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers;

3. Requests the FAO, in co-operation with Member States and relevant international organizations, to support African Member States in their efforts to effectively combat the human and animal diseases and their vectors, and in particular to support the OAU's initiative of PATTEC;

4. Requests the Director General to report on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution to the Council and the Conference at its thirty-second session.

STRENGTHENING THE AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES RELATED TO NUCLEAR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND APPLICATIONS

Resolution adopted on 21 September 2001 during the tenth plenary meeting

SUPPORT TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY'S PAN AFRICAN TSETSE AND TRYPANOSOMIASIS ERADICATION CAMPAIGN (PATTEC)

The General Conference,

(a) Recalling its previous resolutions on strengthening of the Agency's technical co-operation activities, including resolution GC(44)/RES/24,

(b) Recognizing the significant contribution of the Agency's programmes in addressing basic human needs,

(c) Recognizing that tsetse flies, a transboundary problem affecting 37 African countries and causing an estimated annual loss of US$4.5 billion, are one of Africa's greatest constraints to socio-economic development, severely affecting human and livestock health, limiting land use, causing poverty and perpetuating underdevelopment on the African continent,

(d) Recognizing that elimination of tsetse flies would significantly contribute to increased productivity of crops and livestock and reduce rural poverty on the African continent,

(e) Recognizing the technical and economic feasibility, the environmental friendliness and the indispensability of the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) for creating tsetse-free zones and the results achieved so far in some African countries,

(f) Acknowledging the efforts of the Agency on R&D for tsetse SIT over several years and the support already being provided by the Agency to some African Member States in their efforts to eradicate tsetse flies and the success achieved so far,

(g) Acknowledging also the extrabudgetary resources provided by a number of Member States in support of those efforts,

(h) Noting decisions AHG/Dec. 156(XXXVI) and AHG/Dec. 169(XXXVII) of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to free Africa of tsetse flies and their endorsement of and commitment to the OAU's Plan of Action for the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC),

(i) Noting that PATTEC recognizes the central role to be played by the SIT in the eradication of tsetse flies from Africa,

(j) Noting the acknowledgement of the problem by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his recent report to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and

(k) Conscious of the need for international support for the OAU's initiative aimed at ridding Africa of the tsetse fly problem,

1. Welcomes the OAU's Plan of Action for the eradication of tsetse flies from Africa;

2. Appreciates the efforts being made by the Director General to support the application of the SIT in the eradication of tsetse flies from Africa;

3. Calls upon Member States to provide technical, financial and material support to African States in their efforts to eradicate tsetse flies;

4. Stresses the need for international co-operation to enable African countries to widely utilize the SIT for tsetse fly eradication, wherever possible through the TCDC mechanism;

5. Requests the Agency, in co-operation with Member States and relevant international organizations, to continue supporting African Member States in their efforts to eradicate tsetse flies, and in particular to support the OAU's Plan of Action for the eradication of tsetse flies through utilization of the SIT within available resources; and

6. Requests the Director General to report on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution to the Board of Governors and to the General Conference at its forty-sixth session.

UNITED NATIONS
Economic and Social Council
Substantive session of 2001
Geneva, 2-27 July 2001

Implementation of the Plan of Action for the eradication of tsetse flies from Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the UnitedNations

system in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development,

Taking note with appreciation of the ongoing efforts to fight sleeping sickness, in

particular the programme for the surveillance and control of African trypanosomiasis,

1. *Calls attention* to the seriousness of the tsetse and trypanosomiasis problem and
its increasing significance as a constraint to Africa's sustainable development and the alleviation
of rural poverty;

2. *Takes note* of the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of
the Organization of African Unity to free Africa of tsetse flies;

3. *Welcomes* the Organization of African Unity plan of action for a campaign to
achieve the goal of the Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign
initiative;

4. *Calls upon* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and the international community to fully support this initiative.

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Working Together:
UN Agencies Battle Tsetse ... and Rural Poverty
By Erika Reinhardt, for the *Chronicle*

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A new campaign in Africa to control the deadly tsetse fly, the carrier of sleeping sickness, has been launched by the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The control programme is initially being conducted in the valleys of Ethiopia, the cotton belt in West Africa, and a region in southern Africa, beginning with the Okavango Delta. In Burkina Faso in 2001, OAU inaugurated the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC), based on the successful Zanzibar programme (see box). FAO, WHO and IAEA are supporting the campaign. The United Nations Economic and Social Council has acknowledged that creating tsetse-free zones will be a valuable step towards reducing rural poverty. Under PATTEC, tsetse control is accompanied by thorough land-use planning to guide environmentally responsible use of natural resources in tsetse-free areas.

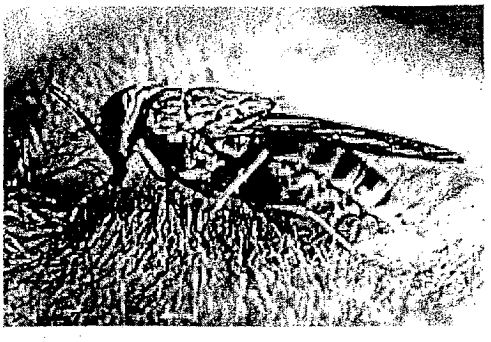


Photo: WHO/TDR/Fisher

The island of Zanzibar in the United Republic of Tanzania was declared free of the tsetse in 1997, after the use of conventional methods to reduce its numbers and the release of hundreds of thousands of infertile male flies into the wild. This breakthrough was achieved using the sterile insect technique (SIT), in combination with applying insecticide to the backs of cattle and setting insecticide traps to reduce the tsetse population. The sterile male flies are introduced into the breeding population of a

The tsetse infests 37 sub-Saharan African countries, including 32 of the 42 most heavily indebted poor countries in the world. Much of the tsetse-infested areas where the land is suitable for mixed farming lies uncultivated, while the tsetse-free areas face collapse from overuse. Out of a population of 260 million people in this area, 60 million are at risk from sleeping sickness. In some parts of Africa, such as in the war-torn Democratic Republic of the Congo, renewed outbreaks are killing more people than any other communicable disease, including HIV/AIDS, says the World Health Organization. Only 3 million to 4 million of those at risk are being screened, and the total number of cases may be as high as 500,000. In the absence of effective

and the males after birth are exposed to a short burst of gamma radiation from a cobalt-60 source, which is strong enough to inhibit the fertility of the sperm. They are then released into the atmosphere from a specially outfitted plane over the target area. SIT, in conjunction with other control methods, can establish fly-free areas without the need for further control, according to Peter Salema, Deputy Director of the Vienna-based joint Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. SIT has been successful in controlling the Mediterranean fruit fly, the melon fly and in the eradication of the New World Screwworm.

per cent - die before they can ever be diagnosed", says WHO.

The tsetse fly - carrier of the trypanosome parasite - has been spreading sleeping sickness and killing 3 million livestock each year, turning much of Africa's fertile landscape into an uninhabited area.

Usually, less than 5 per cent of the flies carry the parasite, yet even small numbers are known to be efficient vectors. They become the host for the parasite after feeding on the blood of an infected mammal. The parasite takes 12 to 21 days before it can enter a new host. It attacks the blood and nervous system, causing sleeping sickness in humans and nagana in livestock. The economic impact of sleeping sickness is significant due to the dramatic reduction in the labour force and the resulting decrease in economic productivity, and because it can reduce cattle production by 20 to 40 per cent. The United Kingdom's Department for International Development has estimated that the tsetse flies' annual cost to agriculture in Africa totals $4.5 billion.

According to experts, in the absence of the tsetse fly, there would be more even distribution of livestock and a marked shift to more productive breeds. Although efforts are under way to promote the use of cattle breeds that are less susceptible to nagana, only low productive native breeds, which are being maintained by drugs to which trypanosome parasites are becoming resistant, can survive in tsetse-infested regions. With many breeds of cattle, when infected, cows abort much of the time and bulls become infertile and their growth is stunted. Because of the tsetse, horses and other beasts of burden are conspicuously absent from the African tsetse fly regions. A UN-commissioned study in Zimbabwe found that farmers who were able to use animal traction generated 25 to 45 per cent more income per unit of land and 140 to 143 per cent more per unit of labour than farmers who cultivated by hand.

Scientists have been unable to develop a vaccine and drugs for humans or cattle that can prevent the onset of sleeping sickness, and the drugs available to treat it are highly toxic or difficult to administer. Major pharmaceutical companies and United States foundations are committing funds to assist WHO in combating this disease and the PATTEC public partners have recently been invited by a pharmaceutical company to identify their needs to fight the tsetse fly and nagana.

Links:
Speech announcing launch of PATTEC campaign
FAO: Fighting tsetse -- a scourge to African farmers

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Working Together

By Erika Reinhardt, for the *Chronicle*

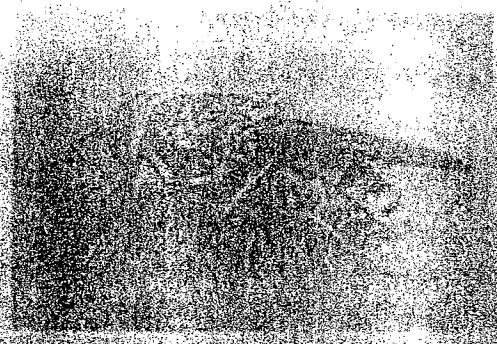


Photo: WHO/TDR/Maher

Big push against sleeping sickness



Sleeping sickness is a big killer in rural Africa

From Our Own

By West Africa correspondent Mark Doyle

Scientists from around the world have begun a five-day meeting in the West African state of Burkina Faso seeking to tackle a disease believed to claim 100,000 African lives every year.

Popularly known as sleeping sickness, and officially as African Trypanosomiasis, the disease is carried by the tsetse fly.

We need over $30m every year for the next five to 10 years to eliminate the disease in Africa

WHO's Dr Jean Jannin

About 60 million people living in tsetse-fly endemic areas of west and central Africa are at risk, as are cattle and horses.

The meeting will launch an Africa-wide campaign to eliminate sleeping sickness, aided by donations from international drug companies.

Silent killer

Sleeping sickness first came to international attention when colonial explorers like Livingstone and Stanley noticed that their horses could not survive in parts of Africa.

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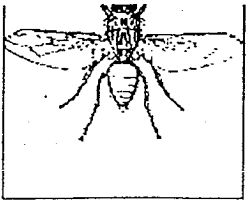
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tsetse fly for a long time before that, and are still dying today.



The disease is spread by the tsetse fly

Sleeping sickness has been dubbed The Silent Killer because its victims are mostly from rural populations where medical screening is rare and cause of death often goes unrecorded.

The meeting in Burkina Faso, which over 300 scientists and other delegates are expected to attend, will launch an Africa-wide campaign to eradicate the tsetse fly under the political umbrella of the African Union, previously known as the Organisation of African Unity.

The campaign has received a boost, in the form of free drugs donated by the pharmaceutical giant Aventis. But scientists say free drugs are not enough.

They want a mass medical screening to wipe out the tsetse fly once and for all, and they hope that this week's meeting will boost financial commitments to such an operation.

Dr Jean Jannin, head of the Sleeping Sickness department at the UN's World Health Organisation (WHO) told the BBC: "At a rough estimate I'd say we need over $30m every year for the next five to 10 years to eliminate the disease in Africa".

Rural screening

But its not just a question of money, Dr Jannin stressed: "We need the political will to organise a massive programme of screening in the field, so we're very pleased the African Union is on board".

According to WHO estimates, about half a million people in sub-Saharan Africa are currently infected by African Trypanosomiasis - but

If left untreated, the disease, which causes severe drowsiness, cripples the central nervous system - by which point it is almost always fatal.

The tsetse fly that kills people in west and central Africa has also made cattle or horse rearing impossible on some parts of the continent. The fly is endemic in 36 countries.

In many of these countries - such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Conakry and Liberia - armed conflict has exacerbated the spread of the disease and made effective medical screening impossible.

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The Lancet; London; Vol 359, p. 686, Feb 23, 2002; Nita Bhalla

Abstract:
The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) launched a new campaign to control the tsetse fly, the vector for trypanosomiasis, on Feb 19 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the OAU plans to release millions of sterilised male flies across 37 African countries, in the hope that by mating with healthy female flies and displacing fertile male flies the fly population will be reduced, which in turn will reduce the number of people and livestock infected each year.

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) launched a new campaign to control the tsetse fly, the vector for trypanosomiasis, on Feb 19 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the OAU plans to release millions of sterilised male flies across 37 African countries, in the hope that by mating with healthy female flies and displacing fertile male flies the fly population will be reduced, which in turn will reduce the number of people and livestock infected each year.

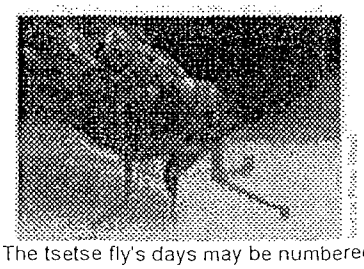
"The impact of the fly is difficult to exaggerate", says John Kabayo, regional coordinator of the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) in Addis Ababa, "it is no accident that the concentration of much of the world's most acute poverty is in regions of sub-Saharan Africa infected with it".

In 1999, 45 000 cases were reported but the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that the number of people affected is ten times greater. Experts say that the economic implications of trypanosomiasis are also devastating. The UK government's department for international development has estimated that US$4.5 billion of agriculture are lost in Africa each year because of the tsetse fly.

"The disease claims tens of thousands of human lives and millions of livestock every year. The tsetse fly still wreaks havoc over ten million square km of Africa's best pasture and agriculture ... condemning the wretched communities in its wake to poor health and causing massive economic losses", Kabayo told The Lancet.

The OAU initiative will use the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) which was successfully used by the government of Tanzania, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), to eradicate sleeping sickness on the the Tanzanian island of Zanzibar in 1997. Kabayo says that as a result milk production tripled, local beef production doubled, and the number of farmers who fertilised their crops with manure multiplied five fold on the tiny east African island.

Impressed by the results of the Zanzibar project, Ethiopia embarked on it's own eradication campaign 3 years ago. 175 000 square km of Ethiopia's most fertile land in the south-western regions of Baro, Gimbe, and the Omo Valley are infested by the tsetse fly.



The tsetse fly's days may be numbered

The Ethiopian project is funded solely by the government and will cost US$43 million, with technical support from the IAEA. Assefa Mebrate, project coordinator at the Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission said that Ethiopia was the first to start the project. "We embarked on the project in 1999 and we have already started breeding the sterile males. We plan to release ten million sterile males into the wild starting from next year", he told The Lancet.

Mebrate predicts that the first results will be witnessed in 2 years, when farmers can once again plough on fertile pastures which have been out of use for decades. "For total eradication in Ethiopia, we expect that it will take 15 years", he adds.

"US$4.5 billion of agriculture are lost in Africa each year because of the tsetse fly"

Although there have been many attempts to eradicate the fly, scientists have been unable to develop a vaccine for humans or cattle because once in the bloodstream, trypanosomes are able to change their outer protein coat into at least 1000 variants. Drugs that prevent the onset of sleeping sickness and those available to treat it are highly toxic or difficult to administer.

The SIT project will breed tsetse flies in special centres and sterilise young male flies by exposing them to a short burst of gamma radiation from a cobalt-60 source. Experts say the radiation is strong enough to inhibit the fertility of the fly's sperm, but does not otherwise affect the fly's health. The sterilised flies will then be released from a plane over the target area.

Human African trypanosomiasis, known as sleeping sickness, is a vector-borne parasitic disease. The trypanosoma parasite are protozoa transmitted to humans by tsetse flies, which, in Africa, are found in vegetation by rivers and lakes and in forests. Another human form of trypanosomiasis (human American trypanosomiasis) occurs in the Americas and is known as Chagas disease.

There are two distinct forms of sleeping sickness. In central and west Africa the flies carry the gambiense strain and in southern and east Africa the rhodesiense trypanosome is the main parasite. Rhodesiense causes an acute brain infection, which emerges after a few weeks whereas in gambiense the parasite can multiply in the blood and lymph systems undetected for months or years.

The OAU initiative is a huge undertaking. In the Zanzibar project eight million sterile male flies were released-alongside applying insecticide to the backs of cattle and setting insecticide-impregnated fly traps. Experts estimate that 20-40 million sterile male flies must be released per square kilometre to eradicate the fly population in Ethiopia.

However, John McDermott, an epidemiologist from the International Institute for Livestock Research (ILRI) in Nairobi warns that eradication of the fly is a complex issue. "The effectiveness of SIT working alone is questionable. It has to be a supplementary to aerial spraying of pesticides and it works only if an infested region can be isolated and when there are only a few species of the tsetse fly. The Zanzibar project worked because it was on an island and there

was only one species of fly to deal with," McDermott told The Lancet.

McDermott added that eradication failed in other African countries like Nigeria and mainland Tanzania in the 1980s, because the infested areas could not be isolated. The huge costs of using SIT that the 37 affected countries-32 of which are among the 42 most heavily indebted poor countries in the world-may have to endure is also a concern, he said.

However, other countries, which fall into the tsetse belt, have also started their own projects. Botswana, Tanzania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Kenya, and Uganda are breeding flies and identifying areas which need to be targeted. The OAU's PATTEC taskforce now plans to help other African countries set up their own eradication programmes.

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New drive to root out deadly fly



Sleeping sickness affects 500,000 people a year

From Our Own

By the BBC's Ania Lichtarowicz

A new campaign to control the deadly tsetse fly in Africa is being launched with the help of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

It is planning to flood areas with sterile male flies in the hope that they will reduce the size of the population.

It hopes the scheme will eventually lead to the eradication of sleeping sickness across Africa.

The tsetse fly spreads sleeping sickness, which affects 500,000 people each year in sub-Saharan Africa, killing 80% of those who catch it.

We could see an end to sleeping sickness in Africa

Peter Salema, IAEA

This also has huge economic implications; more than $4bn is lost every year because of it and about three million cattle die.

Sleeping sickness is caused by a parasite called trypanosome which is carried by the tiny fly.

Once in the blood stream it attacks the blood and nervous system.

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becoming an even bigger health problem.

Fertile males elbowed out

Together with the Organisation of African Unity, the International Atomic Energy Agency scientists plan to introduce sterile male flies to affected areas.

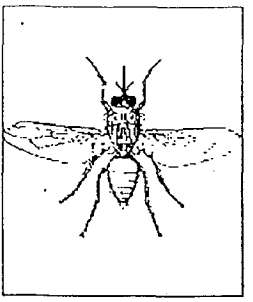
The flies are sterilised after being exposed to a short burst of gamma radiation in the laboratory.

They are released into the wild to compete with other males for female attention.

They mate with some females, which then will not produce any young and therefore the population should get smaller.

A similar programme successfully eradicated the fly from Zanzibar.

According to John Kabayo, the co-ordinator of the African Tsetse Eradication Campaign, the impact of the fly is difficult to exaggerate.



Sleeping sickness is a big killer in parts of rural Africa

He says it is no accident that the concentration of much of the world's most acute poverty is in areas of sub-Saharan Africa affected by sleeping sickness.

But he is confident that this campaign will help control the disease.

Peter Salema from the IAEA believes its impact could be more significant.

He said: "We are confident we can eradicate the fly using this technique.

The campaign will target isolated areas, such as Botswana and the South Rift Valley in Ethiopa, and eventually spread outwards across the whole of Africa.

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Tsetse fly irradiation plan begins in Ethiopia

12:30 20 May 02

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Ethiopia has begun its ambitious plan to become the first country in the world to eradicate the tsetse fly. The fly carries a parasite that causes sleeping sickness, Africa's ancient scourge, and makes a quarter of the continent unfit for cattle.

The Ethiopian plan, unveiled in Addis Ababa on Sunday by its architect, government entomologist Assefa Mebrate, is to kill off the fly using the controversial sterile insect technique.

This involves breeding hundreds of millions of male flies, sterilising them with gamma radiation and releasing them into the bush from low-flying aircraft. Tsetse fly females breed only once, so if the male is sterile the population collapses.

The foundations for what will be the continent's largest insect rearing centre, at Kaliti, south of Addis, are now being dug. Its director, Solomon Mekonnen, says: "Within two years the centre will be producing two million flies a week."

The Ethiopian project is the first phase of a strategy backed by the Organisation for African Unity to eliminate the fly from the whole of the continent, which was launched in February with its main technical advisers, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

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Physiology and Ecology in Nairobi, Kenya, told **New Scientist** in March: "We think it is a crazy idea. There are so many tsetse that you are bound to miss a few. The populations will regenerate and you are back to square one."

Wipe out

The Ethiopian project will begin in 25,000 square kilometres of sparcely-farmed bush in the country's southern rift valley. Here conventional baited traps have already cut the fly population by 95 per cent around some villages. This has allowed farmers to start buying cattle for the first time since 1992, when tsetse extended its grip on the area.

The next step is to wipe out the remaining five per cent of flies by crowding out fertile males with irradiated sterile males. The first releases could begin within six months, says project leader Musie Kiflom.

With five species of tsetse in Ethiopia, each of which must be individually targeted, it could cost $200 million. "But we hope that in 10 years we will have eradicated the flies right to our borders," said Assefa.

In Ethiopia, the trypanosome parasite does not cause sleeping sickness but it brings disease and death to cattle in much of the country's lowland. Cattle are the country's main source of meat, milk and traction of farmland.

"Right now, two thirds of our people are living on one-third of the land, and the biggest reason is the tsetse fly in the lowlands," said the chairman of the country's Science and Technology Commission, Mulugeta Amha.

Fred Pearce, Addis Ababa

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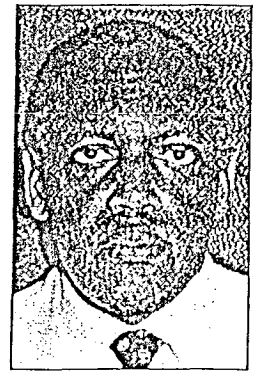
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OAU in war against tsetse fly

AT THE FRONTLINE: Kabayo



By Vision Reporter

THE Organisation for African Unity (OAU) has declared 'war' on the tsetse fly whose devastating effect in the continent causes a loss of up to US $1.2b in milk and beef production yearly.

Kassanda South MP, John Dr. Kabayo, who is the co-ordinator for the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) told a summit of experts in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso recently that the elimination of the flies would break the vicious circle of poverty and diminished productivity in Africa's rural areas.

The summit noted that the eradication of the fly was technically feasible, economically justifiable and politically desirable and called on governments to make tsetse eradication the initial objective of rural development policies and programmes.

"We have the technology to attract and catch the tse tse fly," Kabayo said.

"We have the technology to repel and completely disorganise the fly, to locate it in its habitat with surgical precision and to kill it many times over. We even have the technology to cause birth control and other specific effects that will mess up the reproductive system of the insect," he added.

The tsetse fly is a vector for sleeping sickness in human beings and a similar devastating disease called nagana in domestic animals.

The fly is found in 37 African countries including Uganda.

Periodic outbreak of sleeping sickness and nagana in the past centuries wiped out entire communities and domestic animals.

Despite various attempts to eradicate the flies, Kabayo said tsetse fly related diseases still claim tens of thousands of human lives and millions of livestock yearly and threatens over 60 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The summit noted that, to achieve the objectives of the campaign, African countries need to be resolute and use the same energy and coherence as was used under the auspices of the OAU to fight for human rights and political liberation.

"There is confidence that once the threat of tse tse-transmitted diseases has finally been eliminated, development efforts aimed at fighting poverty will bear fruit," they observed.

Africa loses over 3 million domestic animals annually to causes directly traceable to tsetse-transmitted diseases.

The losses could be worth $4.5b every year, if the losses in opportunities traceable to the effects of the fly are considered.

The estimate does not include the cost of the effect of the disease on human health and productivity.

During the OAU summit in Lome, Togo in July 2000, African Heads of States passed a resolution to eradicate the flies.

The OAU Secretary General was given the responsibility to initiate and co-ordinate PATTEC.

The year 2001 was subsequently declared the year of tsetse control to mark the beginning of renewed efforts to get rid of the fly once and for all.

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Four international organizations call for united battle against Tsetse Fly diseases

ADDIS ABABA/GENEVA/ROME/VIENNA, 7 June 2002 Four international organizations today called for more widespread application of integrated pest management principles to help combat the tsetse fly and trypanosomiasis, commonly known as sleeping sickness in humans and Nagana in livestock.

The proposed intervention strategy brings together many different technologies and duly protects the environment. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the World Health Organization (WHO) made the appeal in a report released on their web sites today.

Known to entomologists and to veterinary and medical experts as "area-wide integrated pest management," it is essentially a comprehensive approach, linking agricultural practices and tsetse fly intervention, in areas with mixed livestock and crop farming where there is strong potential for sustainable agricultural development. The approach brings together all active tsetse control technologies, including the use of sterile flies to ultimately eliminate the tsetse population and the diseases they carry.

Tsetse-transmitted trypanosomiasis is a disease unique to Africa. The disease is found in 37 sub-Saharan countries and threatens 50 million people and 48 million cattle.

According to the joint report, "An estimated 500,000 people, the majority of whom may die due to lack of treatment, are already infected with sleeping sickness." Nagana, or African Animal Trypanosomiasis, has a severe impact on African agriculture with annual losses in cattle production alone valued at as much as $1.2 billion.

The disease influences where people decide to live, how they manage their livestock and the intensity of agriculture, the report says. "The combined effects result in changes in land use and impact on the environment and they affect human welfare and increase the vulnerability of agricultural activity."

In tsetse-infested areas of sub-Saharan Africa, the report says that half the population suffers from food insecurity. In sub-Saharan Africa, about 85 percent of the poor are located in rural areas and more than 80 percent of the population depends on agricultural production for their livelihood.

The report was produced at a two-day workshop held 2-3 May 2002 at the Rome Headquarters of FAO to harmonize the activities of the four international organizations as they relate to the Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis (PAAT) and the Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaigns (PATTEC). The workshop assessed two specific tsetse and trypanosomiasis intervention projects, one in Ethiopia and

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INTERVIEW:
Solomon Haile Mariam



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At the end of the 26th ISCTRC meeting, held 1-5th October 2001 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, PATTEC was officially launched. But what exactly is PATTEC? ICPTV editor Keith Sones interviewed Solomon Haile Mariam, Chief Livestock Projects Officer at OAU-IBAR, to find out.

What does PATTEC stand for and how did it come about?
PATTEC stands for the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign. At the Golden Jubilee, 50th anniversary meeting at Mombasa in 1999, the council of the ISCTRC in their 'Mombasa declaration' warned members states that the situation with regard to sleeping sickness and animal trypanosomiasis 'is considered an emergency' and urged that 'Member States give highest priority ranking to African trypanosomosis in their development programmes.' In July of 2000 the tsetse and trypanosomosis problem was discussed by African Heads of State and Government at the OAU Summit in Lome. The summit passed a decision advocating the eradication of tsetse flies from the continent of Africa. The objective of tsetse eradication was made the collective responsibility of African countries and the Secretary General of the OAU was entrusted with the responsibility of initiating and leading a pan-African tsetse eradication campaign. To this end, the PATTEC Task Force was published in June 2001. An SIT Forum was established during a special meeting attended by 12 African states in June 2000 at the OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa to promote the use of SIT technology in African countries. The Forum has its own constitution and chairman and the OAU is the patron. The Heads of States endorsed the Action Plan in July 2001 and called upon African countries to include tsetse and trypanosomosis in their national development plans and the year 2001 was declared 'the year of the control of tsetse fly'. Kofi Annan appealed for support for the Heads of State declaration at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) meeting in July 2001. Finally, PATTEC was officially launched by the Prime Minister of Burkina Faso, His Excellency Ernest Paramanga Youli, representing the President, at a ceremony held at the end of the recent 26th ISCTRC meeting on the 5th October 2001in Ougadougou.

Didn't it used to be PATEC? Why was the name changed to PATTEC?
Although the long-term goal is eradication of tsetse and hence trypanosomosis, we should not overlook the role of treatment of animals, trypanotolerance and surveillance and treatment of human sleeping sickness cases. The second T, for trypanosomosis, reflects the importance of these other approaches as we slowly move towards the ultimate goal.

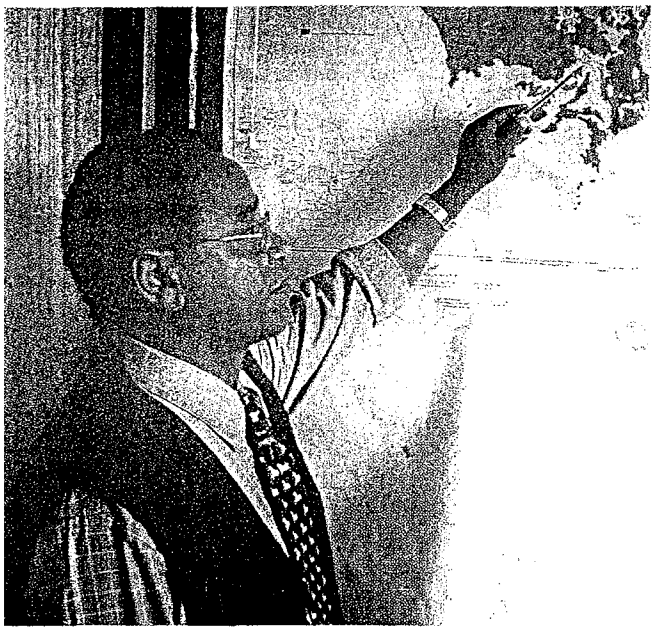
The focus on eradication and the perceived emphasis on SIT has already provoked some controversy. Is PATTEC concerned only with SIT?
SIT is the most cost-effective and environmentally friendly technology which is currently available to achieve the goal of tsetse eradication. If a better technology becomes available then the PATTEC strategy will be amended to accommodate that technology. SIT may appear to be an expensive option because of the need for initial capital investment, for example in rearing facilities. But it is the best choice of the available technologies to achieve eradication of tsetse. However PATTEC will use a combination of the most appropriate technologies in any given situation and this issue is still open for discussion.

community we need a comprehensive project document. At present we only have the Plan of Action, which doesn't go into detail. At this stage many donors have expressed goodwill in relation to our goal. Our strategy for fund raising requires, firstly that we develop a project document for PATTEC, secondly that we recruit regional patrons to act as advocates for PATTEC and thirdly that we establish a board of influential politicians and donor community representatives. We will then send high-level OAU delegations to approach donors and financial institutions to raise the funds we require. Meanwhile we are arranging for a small fund to allow this strategy to be implemented. However, we don't anticipate all funding will come from donors. The cost-sharing principle will be paramount. Countries will develop their own strategic plans on a regional scale and contribute towards the costs of these control operations. Debt relief funding is a promising channel whereby debts are being written off against poverty reduction programmes. We need to sell the idea that tsetse and trypanosomosis control is a powerful poverty eradication tool. The African Millenium Initiative that emerged from the Lusaka Heads of States meeting, with its focus on poverty eradication, is also significant. The Initiative's Agricultural Subcommittee is currently working on the details but tsetse eradication could be used as an entry point. The Millenium Initiative has been endorsed by the G8 countries. IAEA has committed $30 million over a 10 year period to support the application of SIT for tsetse eradication and the FAO Food Summit, held on 12th November 2001, included consideration of PATTEC. A resolution from the Summit endorses the OAU Heads of State Declaration and calls upon FAO to give full support to member countries and the OAU regarding PATTEC and also urges the DG of FAO to report on the progress of implementation to the annual summits each year.

The recent ICPTV workshop, held in Ouagadougou just ahead of the ISCTRC meeting and launch of PATTEC, was concerned with environmental aspects of tsetse and trypanosomosis control. What is PATTEC's policy and strategy as regards environmental

ssessments wherever tsetse eradication ; being considered. PATTEC will have a trong environmental monitoring omponent. And of course SIT is being mphasised precisely because it is the ıost environmentally friendly technolo- y currently available.

Iow is PATTEC going to be run? Vho is the implementing organisation?
'ATTEC is an OAU initiative and will e implemented under the guidance of a 'ATTEC coordination office within)AU. This office is currently at the OAU eadquarters in Addis Ababa, which was ppropriate during the initial political hase. But now we are moving towards ıe implementation phase there is a trong will to move the coordinator's



ffice to OAU/IBAR here in Nairobi. It hoped that PATTEC will have strong nd active partners from FAO, IAEA nd WHO who will act as technical dvisors to facilitate the management nd implementation of the programme. ATTEC will also use the advisory apacity of the PAAT 'family'. To this end 'e are discussing how to harmonise ıture cooperation between PATTEC nd PAAT and by March 2002 we should ave finalised how we will harmonise ıese two sister organisations.

Vhat activities have already begun or re in the pipeline? Who is funding ıese activities?
he strategy for PATTEC, which has cotton belt the initial focus will be in Burkina Faso and Mali. For the Rift Valley it will be south-western Ethiopia and for the Great Lakes and Southern Africa it will be Lambwe Valley, Kenya, Buvuma Island, Uganda, Mafia Island, Tanzania and the Okovango Delta and its environs, Botswana. Some of these activities have already started, with local funding and some seed money provided by IAEA to establish insectaries for rearing of flies for SIT. In Ethiopia the Government have invested $6-7 million. In Botswana the Government has provided all the funding, to the tune of $3-4 million, to clear tsetse from around 7,000 square kilometres although eventually about twice this area will be cleared at an estimated cost of $270 per square kilometre. PAAT supports this regional strategy and currently an electronic conference is underway between FAO, IAEA, WHO, PAAT and PATTEC to fine-tune the action plan in this respect. There are also opportunities for bilateral grants and loans from the international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, ADB and IMF, which would be handled at a country-by-country level.

WHO have recently made significant progress in public-private sector partnerships to secure supplies of drugs to treat Human African Trypanosomosis. Do you foresee a role for the private sector in PATTEC?
The private sector already plays a highly significant role, for example in the supply of trypanocidal drugs. At the recent 26th ISCTRC meeting in Ouagadougou representatives of the private sector put forward a recommendation (see page 28) to the meeting advocating a greater role for the private sector within both PAAT and PATTEC and this initiative is most welcome. Looking beyond drug supply, even tsetse control can be sub-contracted by governments to the private sector example utilising private sector animal health providers in tsetse control activities and I envisage a similar approach in PATTEC. Of course the community also has a major role to play in tsetse and trypanosomosis control.

Do you regard the ultimate goal - continent-wide tsetse eradication - attainable and in what time-frame? Do you expect to see the last tsetse killed during your life-time?
The vision is for a continent free of tsetse but that is far in the future. I don't expect to see the last tsetse killed - but I hope that we could be rid of tsetse, perhaps within the next 100 years - although it is difficult to put an accurate timescale. But we have to start somewhere, even if this is on a small-scale. We need to raise the level of awareness regarding tsetse and trypanosomosis, and the impact they have on poverty and food insecurity. If we can increase the level of awareness to that currently experienced for HIV/AIDS then the programme will take off and the goal will be achieved.

What will be your personal role in PATTEC?
Within OAU/IBAR my function as Chief Livestock Projects Officer is to play a proactive roll in the identification, formulation, appraisal, supervision and monitoring of regional IBAR projects. In the past, under PARC, eradication of rinderpest served to bring together 37 African countries working in harmony towards a common goal. I am now convinced that tsetse and trypanosomosis eradication can serve as the next vehicle for bringing African countries together, which is of course the role of OAU. OAU/IBAR's primary role is to rally the troops to the PATTEC cause. We are also the home of the ISCTRC secretariat and our role is also to implement the recommendations of the ISCTRC. For more than 50 years the ISCTRC has called for concerted action against tsetse and trypanosomosis. Now is the time for that concerted action to begin in earnest.

What would you like the people reading this interview to do?
We need everyone involved in tsetse and trypanosomosis research and control to participate actively through offering

nternational news

Africa declares war on its invisible scourg

Ambitious plan to nd centuries of)overty by killing ff the tsetse fly

mes Meek
ar Lake Abaya, Ethiopia

One evening last week a small column of white, four wheel drive cars passed through the villages of the Great Rift Valley in southern Ethiopia, a chocolate smell of long-dry earth wet- l by the early rains.

To the local people coming home from eir fields of banana, teff and sugar cane, nust have looked like one more foreign l agency on the move. But the vehicles re Ethiopian, and the man with the atest responsibility on board was andan: John Kabayo.

t is not a small thing he wants. Starting re, in six months' time, Mr Kabayo pes to see the beginning of the truction of an animal which has held ica back since the Bronze Age.

he endeavour is so ambitious and so interintuitive that at first hearing it is d to comprehend: the extermination n entire, common insect species, the se fly, by poison, deceit and the release m aircraft of billions of radiation- rilised insects. The cost and timescale unknowable, but they certainly exceed lions of pounds and several decades.

Is not only the money and the time. e job requires perfect coordination ween a cold war-era nuclear agency in nna, sceptical donor countries - tain is among the project's opponents nd 36 African nations, all of them r, all struggling with other serious ill- ses such as HIV and malaria, and e in a state of armed conflict.

he difficulties, and the numbers, are rendous. So too is the cost to Africans



Cattle farmers in the part of Ethiopia's Great Rift Valley which is outside the vast area affected by the tsetse fly can make their living free from the peril which the insect brings Photograph: Klaus

ried by the tsetse fly:
in humans, nagana in

s is less well known in
ı malaria is because it
countryside, not cities
s not figure on tourists'
ophylactics. It infects
and 500,000 Africans
iot treated, it is fatal.
iand people die of the

rd treatment for late-
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nous that it kills up to
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ig we're going to finish
we're saying is that we
ling," said Mr Kabayo,
the Pan-African Tsetse
sis Eradication Cam-
the Organisation of
not acceptable that we
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us 100 years, we are go-

ng sickness, tsetse has
more devastating ef-
it carries weakens and
s essential quintet of
imals — cattle, sheep,
ses — meaning that for
s African farmers in a
centre of the continent
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ng draught animals to
fertilise fields, which
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that has made its mark
as much as tsetse fly,"
.t's so subtle and invis-
et in the news. But this
crop and livestock pro-
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e what it has meant for
you have to walk every-
that all farm work has
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s, tsetse flies feed on
ling, they can transmit
asites called trypano-
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area, Pattee's plan is to reduce tsetse numbers by the use of millions of targets: cheap, simple rectangles of black and blue cloth stretched on stakes which fool the flies into thinking they are animals. As soon as they descend on the cloth to bite, the insects are killed by a dose of poison. At the same time, cattle in project areas will have an anti-tsetse insecticide painted on them.

Once tsetse populations are reduced to 5% or less of their previous size, aircraft will release millions of male flies which have had their sperm damaged by radiation. Females will mate with the irradiated males — who will outnumber the fertile males — and conceive, but will not produce offspring. After months of such bombardment, the population should dwindle to zero.

The insects themselves are not radioactive. The technique has already been used to eradicate the screwworm fly from the southern US, Mexico and central America as far south as the Panama Canal. It also eradicated tsetse flies from Zanzibar, off the coast of Tanzania, in 1997.

Irradiated

On the outskirts of Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, the scaffolding is going up over a new tsetse fly breeding facility. Inside the existing, smaller centre, racks hold hundreds of garden sieve-like drums of insects, which feed off shallow trays of cow's blood overlaid with a porous membrane.

Once sexed and graded, the flies are sent in chilled flasks to be irradiated in a lead drum containing cobalt-60, the material used for cancer radiotherapy.

Ethiopia, a poor country landlocked by equally poor countries, is spending £11m of its own money on the first phase of tsetse eradication near Arba Minch, together with £14m of aid from abroad.

The transfer of nuclear technology to Ethiopia is being mediated by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Flying over Arba Minch on an IAEA-organised trip to the continent, it was possible to see something of the Ethiopians' misfortune. On the hilltops, above the 1,600-metre cut-off point where it is too cool for the tsetse to survive, the farms cluster in their thousands, tiny plots of marginal land wedged into every available space, even at the head of steep gullies, each farm having to support a large family. Below 1,600 metres, in the tsetse zone, the farms are fewer, and sweeps of fertile land lie uncultivated.

More than 23,000 sq miles of Ethiopia's southern nationalities region — an area almost the size of Scotland — has tsetse, and until the recent control efforts began, the insect was on the increase.

In the small community of Lante, farmers gathered in the shade of three old warka trees and described how they were only now beginning to recover from the tsetse's ravages in the 1990s.

"When I was rich I had 50 cattle. Forty died. Now I have six," said Berza Bassa, who has eight children, two wives, and 1.5 hectares of land. "We lost our draught oxen. We lost our milking cows. After that we were poor."

But opponents of the tsetse programme have powerful arguments on their side. They say that traps and targets, combined with drugs, can make the disease so manageable that the expense of the sterile insect technique is unjustified.

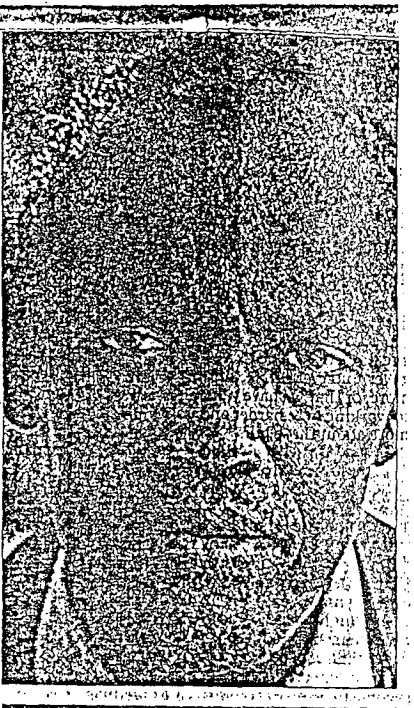
They say that there is too much chaos in Africa to enable the cooperation that will be needed to stop tsetse-free areas being re-invaded. They say that the continent's game parks survive only because the tsetse keeps farmers' livestock out.

Most of all, there is just too much tsetse out there — an infested area the equivalent of 37 Britains. Each sub-species of tsetse needs its own sterile insect programme, and some countries, such as Kenya and Tanzania, have five sub-species.

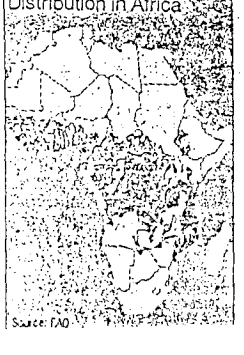
Britain gives millions towards tsetse control and research, but does not believe that eradication could happen. "It will not be possible to eradicate flies from the continent," Clare Short, the development minister, said earlier this year.

With a secretariat of two in the OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Mr Kabayo has had little power so far to exert pressure on African governments to live up to the declarations they made when Pattee was set up, or travel the world lobbying donors.

There's nothing that has made its mark on this continent as much as the tsetse fly ... it has meant that you have to walk everywhere on foot, and all farmwork has to be done by hand.
John Kabayo



Distribution in Africa





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Ministers resolve on Tsetse flies

By Nathan Etengu

Agriculture ministers from six eastern Africa countries have resolved to eradicate tsetse flies in the region.

The ministers who concluded a one-week workshop at the Farm View Hotel (Busia) Kenya at the weekend resolved that tsetse flies be eradicated to boost animal husbandry and development in the region.

The meeting, sponsored by the European Union and attended by 120 delegates, resolved to use the "sterile" method to eradicate the vector insects.

Under the method, female tsetse flies are injected with some substances so that their eggs do not hatch.

State minister for animal industry Dr. Fabius Byaruhanga led the Uganda delegation.

The Kenya delegation was led by the agriculture minister Dr. Bodana Gonaya.

The European Union regional co-ordinator for Africa, Mr. Polizar, and Dr. D.J. Musime of the OAU Secretariat, also attended the meeting.

The meeting, chaired by Gonaya from Kenya, noted with concern that the tsetse fly was responsible for the under-development in the member countries.

Ends

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PRESS RELEASE

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OAU INITIATES A PAN AFRICAN TSETSE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN.

NO. 80/2001

The office of the OAU Secretary General has announced the plans and arrangements being made by the OAU Secretariat to initiate the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC).

During the OAU Summit, which was held in Lome, Togo in July 2000, the OAU Heads of State and Government passed a Decision urging African countries to embark on a concerted action to eradicate tsetse flies from Africa. The OAU Secretary General was entrusted with the task of initiating and co-ordinating the campaign.

In December 2000 the Secretary General commissioned a Task Force of experts from different African countries to design a Plan of Action for the implementation of the Decision by the Heads of State and Government. The proposed plan recognises the trans-boundary nature of the tsetse and trypanosomosis problem and advocates an area-wide approach, targeting individual zones of isolated tsetse infestations at a time and employing tsetse suppression methods integrated with the Sterile Insect Technique. This approach was used in the successful 3-year campaign against tsetse flies on Zanzibar Island, where tsetse eradication was achieved and declared in September 1997.

Tsetse fly infestations on mainland Africa occur in zones or isolated pockets, whose boundaries are set by physical and ecological factors. If the entire tsetse population from each isolated pocket of infestation is eliminated and no possibility of re-invasion from neighbouring pockets of infestation exists, Africa's entire tsetse belt can ultimately be eradicated through a systematic creation of tsetse-free zones.

The Secretary General has announced the appointment of Dr John Kabayo, a scientist working for the International Atomic Energy Agency, who has been seconded to the OAU by his organisation to assist the OAU Secretariat in organising the campaign. A PATTEC Co-ordination Office has now been established at the OAU General Headquarters in Addis Ababa to provide a base for the campaign.

The Plan of Action is being circulated to OAU Member States, and will be presented at the Summit of the OAU Heads of State and Government, scheduled to take place in Lusaka in July. The Secretary General plans to seek the support and co-operation of all the affected countries, donor countries and international organisations.

Cosmetic could cure sleeping sickness

Background



Sleeping sickness is potentially deadly

By the BBC's Fiona Werge

A cure for sleeping sickness, one of the most devastating diseases in sub-Saharan Africa, may soon be available cheaply thanks to its current role as a facial cosmetic.

An American cosmetics company, which uses the drug eflornithine as a remedy against facial hair, has agreed to produce a clinical version.

The number of people who need drugs and alternative drugs is growing

Jean Jannin, World Health Organisation

Eflorithine has long been understood to work effectively against sleeping sickness, a disease which invades the central nervous system and is always fatal if left untreated.

Production of the drug ended two years ago after early hopes that it could be used to fight cancer came to nothing.



Tsetse fly traps are used to combat sleeping sickness

Another company, started making it as an ingredient in a face cream, used as a remedy against facial hair.

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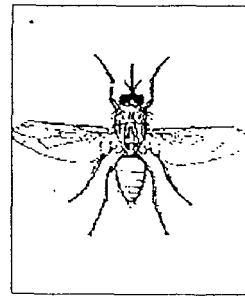
Links to more Health stories are at the foot of the page.

Now the World Health Organisation is close to an agreement with the cosmetics firm to make an injectable form of the drug.

The deal would mean the company supplying it free of charge for the next three years and in enough quantity to provide treatment across Africa.

For Jean Jannin, from the World Health Organisation, cheap supply of the drug comes as a major breakthrough.

"We are facing a very high epidemic in the first half of the century. The number of people who need drugs and alternative drugs is growing", he says.



Tsetese flies spread the disease

"And we are now struggling to improve our control capacities in the field and we hope that more and more people could benefit of this drug."

The shortage of the drug has meant an alternative arsenic compound has had to be used which kills many of the patients its supposed to treat.

Now aid agencies hope that in the long term, companies will continue to provide the drug cheaply enough to make it affordable and provide a final answer to the problem of one of the world's worst diseases.

Links to more Health stories

In This Section GO

MINUTES OF THE 27th ISCTRC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

OUAGADOUGOU 29 SEPTEMBER 2001

MINUTES OF THE ISCTRC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
OUGADOUGOU 29 SEPTEMBER 2001

The meeting started at 9.00 a.m. with a welcome address by the Acting Director of OAU/IBAR Dr. J.T. Musiime. He re-affirmed the commitment of OAU/IBAR to ensuring the implementation of recommendations emanating from the Executive Committee of the ISCTRC. He recalled the evolution of the Lusaka declaration on the PATTEC and appealed to members for their advice and support to making the declaration operational. He stated that although the task that lay ahead was enormous, with determination and commitment of Member States, it was surmountable.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee on his part thanked the house for the support he has received since he was given the mantle of power, to steer the affairs of the Committee. He asserted that the conceptualisation of PATTEC and the high profile attention it has received from African Governments is a milestone in the history of the ISCTRC. In his view, attention should now be focused on the initiation of tsetse eradication projects, by groups of countries with the support of the ISCTRC and PAAT. He expressed his appreciation to the National Organising Committee of Burkina Faso, for the able manner in which they have handled arrangements for the 26TH ISCTRC meeting .

Dr. solomon Haile Mariam suggested that since reports of International Organizations had been presented at the various Satellite meetings, items related to them be deleted from the agenda. This proposal was accepted by the house.

The minutes of the last meeting was adopted after Prof. Peter Holmes drew the attention of the house to a paragraph which did not accurately reflect his views on vaccine research in trypanosomiasis control. He clarified that the idea of having vaccine research going parallel with PATTEC would be a desirable one.

Dr. Muslime decried the slow progress in the development of the West African trypanosomiasis control Programme. He remarked that although the proposal has had the backing of at least 7 African countries, it had not received any attention. He attributed this state of flux to the indirect effects of restructuring at the EU Commission in Brussels. He appealed to PAAT to lend its support to the search for funding for the West Africa Programme.

In response to the reference to PAAT, Prof. Holmes re-affirmed the preparedness of PAAT to assist, whenever possible, in the development of projects. The house recommended that the latest proposal prepared by OAU/IBAR be sent to the PAAT Secretariat. He however advised that clarification be sought on the Mali/Burkina project and how it fits into the overall West African Programme .

Dr Solomon was requested by the house to send the current document on West Africa from OAU/IBAR to the PAAT Secretariat and to circulate it to all stake holders

Dr. Cattand urged OAU/IBAR to be the driving force in the search for funds for West Africa, by interacting more with the EU commission. He explained that although countries may wish to have projects, they often lacked the means and know-how on soliciting for funds from donors. Dr. Rafaële Mattioli advised that the proposal be reviewed to make it more comprehensive. He indicated that because the documents are scrutinised by many desk officers with different interests and backgrounds at the EU, the chances of a proposal receiving support are diminished if it lacked information in some aspects, for example on the environment.

Prof. Felix Boa expressed concern that sleeping sickness was completely absent from the West African proposal. He again emphasised the importance of human health as the driving force behind agricultural production and poverty alleviation.

A recommendation was made in relation to the West African Programme (Recommendation attached).

Dr. Solomon Halle Mariam briefed the house on the activities of the OAU Secretariat. He explained that the Mombassa proceedings took almost a year to produce because of delays in the submission of full texts of papers presented. He highlighted the outputs of the Secretariat which included the production of an Action Plan for PATTEC, translated into Arabic, English and French by the OAU-commissioned task force, the creation of the PATTEC Co-ordination office in Addis Ababa and the formation of the SIT forum. He intimated that OAU/IBAR is very encouraged by the response of scientists across the world to ISCTRC meetings. He commended the efforts of the Acting Director of OAU/IBAR Dr. Musilme for ensuring that ISCTRC activities are funded, despite the current budgetary constraints. He expressed his appreciation to PAAT for the dissemination of information on the 26th ISCTRC meeting through the PAAT Link. Another output of the ISCTRC, he mentioned, was the convening of the biennial meetings of the Directors of Animal Resources, which now precede the main ISCTRC meetings. According to Dr Solomon, this arrangement has created greater awareness on trypanosomiasis control and increased the desire of African countries to have area-wide interventions. He indicated that Directors of Animal Resources have now recognised the role of liaison officers as focal points in tsetse and trypanosomiasis control and have expressed the willingness to support them financially to attend meetings.

Dr. Rafaële Mattioli in response to Dr. Solomon's presentation reminded the house that since the 1980s, the FAO has always advocated a multidisciplinary approach to rural development in tsetse-infested areas and will continue to support collaborative ventures.

Dr. Issa Sidibé briefed the house on preparations for the 26th ISCTRC meeting. The National Organising Committee, according to him, was put in place by the Government of Burkina Faso, with support coming specifically from the Ministries of Health, Education and Animal Resources. He informed the house that Dr. Solomon visited Burkina in May to monitor progress. Several participants asked for hotel booking which the Organising Committee handled very well. Apart from a few cases of flight problems, he confirmed that everything had proceeded as expected.

Dr. Solomon congratulated the National Committee and Dr. Sidibé for the tireless manner in which they have worked towards ensuring the success of the 26th ISCTRC meeting. The house discussed problems related to visas and recommended that OAU/IBAR works out a strategy to eliminate visa-related impediments to travelling for future ISCTRC meetings.

The house discussed various aspects of the impending ISCTRC meeting. Dr. Solomon expressed his wish to have all presenters submit full texts of their papers to reporters. He informed the house of the perennial frustration he suffers when trying to collect full texts of papers after ISCTRC meetings. A recommendation was made to address this problem (recommendation attached).

Dr. Solomon raised three main issues for discussion, namely : a re-examination of the responsibilities of the ISCTRC Executive Committee, expanding membership of the ISCTRC Executive Committee and the selection of a venue for the 27th ISCTRC meeting.

Dr. Musiime reiterated the cost-effectiveness of holding ISCTRC Executive Committee meetings concurrently with meetings of other groups such as PAG and ICPTV. The house recommended that satellite meetings be encouraged (recommendation attached). Dr. Odiit Martin sought clarification on the status of persons on the Committee who are affiliated to PAAT and PATTEC by virtue of the organisations they represent. Dr. Musiime explained that these ex-officio members were selected based on their experience and personal qualities and that views they expressed were not necessarily those of the Organisations or Institutions they work for. He indicated that expansion of the membership of the Executive Committee was welcome by OAU/IBAR as long as it did not constrain the budget of OAU/IBAR. Prof. Holmes agreed with this sentiment but stressed the need to distinguish between the rights of members and observers especially in matters related to decision making by the Committee. Dr. Cattand supported this view and advised that this was necessary if the independence of the Committee was to be maintained.

The house recommended that the statutes of the ISCTRC Executive Committee be re-visited to ascertain the implications of expanding membership (recommendation attached).

Dr. Musiime explained that according to the criteria used for selection of host countries for ISCTRC meetings, it was evident that the next meeting was to be held in East Africa. He informed the house that so far only one country, the Democratic Republic of Congo, had formally applied to OAU/IBAR to host the 27th ISCTRC meeting. In the absence of any other request, therefore, Dr. Musiime proposed that this request be accepted and investigations carried out on DRC's capacity and suitability as a host country for the 27th ISCTRC meeting. This proposal was unanimously accepted. On the timing of the 27th ISCTRC meeting, it was proposed that tentatively, it should be held between the 3rd week of September and the first week of October 2003.

The Chairman of the ISCTRC Executive Committee thanked members for their cooperation and wished the house a happy stay in Burkina Faso.

A motion was moved for the closure of the meeting by Martin Odiit and was seconded by Dr Mahama. The meeting ended at 3.00 pm.

Recommendations of the ISCTRC Executive Committee meeting, Ouagadougou, 29 September 2001

ON THE WEST AFRICAN TSETSE AND TRYPANOSOMIASIS CONTROL PROGRAMME

- Acknowledging the importance of initiating a Regional Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Programme for the West African Sub region

- Noting with concern the lack of progress in the search for funding for a West African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Control Programme

and

- Recognising the significance of human health as a pre-requisite to poverty alleviation and rural development

The meeting recommends to the OAU/IBAR and PAAT

To revise the current document on the West African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Control Programme to encompass strategies (including the control of sleeping sickness) for poverty reduction and rural development. The meeting also recommends that the revised document be circulated to a wider audience of donors and stakeholders.

ON PROCEEDINGS OF ISCTRC MEETINGS

Noting with concern the perennial delays in the publishing of the proceedings of ISCTRC meetings,

The meeting recommends to the OAU/IBAR to set up a committee that will investigate the problem and propose solutions to the Executive Committee.

ON EXPANDING MEMBERSHIP OF THE ISCTRC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Recognising the importance of the ISCTRC Executive Committee meetings in the management of the ISCTRC

and

- Noting with appreciation the increasing number of partners interested in participating in meetings of the ISCTRC Executive Committee

The meeting recommends that the Statutes of the ISCTRC executive committee be re-examined and reviewed, if possible, to accommodate new members while ensuring that the independence of the Committee is not compromised.

ON VENUES FOR ISCTRCEXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Noting with appreciation the cost-effectiveness of holding satellite meetings,

The meeting recommends that OAU/IBAR endeavours to plan future ISCTRC Executive Committee meetings in consultation with other organisations and groups to ensure that satellite meetings are sustained.

27th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO: 30 SEPTEMBER 2001

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