AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Coordinating Animal Resources Development and Utilization in Africa

About AU-IBAR

AU-IBAR is a specialized technical office of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE) of the African Union Commission(AUC). AU-IBAR is a continental institution mandated to play a pivotal role in coordinating and supporting the development of Animal Resources (livestock, fisheries and wildlife) as sources of nutrition and food security and to contribute to the wellbeing, economic development and prosperity of the people in the AU-MSs directly and through the relevant functions of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

Within the year 2024, the Vision of AU-IBAR has remained an Africa in which animal resources contribute significantly to integration, prosperity and peace, Its mandate has been to support and coordinate the sustainable development and utilization of animal resources (livestock, fisheries and wildlife) to enhance nutrition and food security and contribute to the wellbeing and prosperity of the people in the Member States of the African Union, whereas its mission has been to provide leadership and integrated support services for the development of animal resources in Africa

AU-IBAR's NICHE AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS

AU-IBAR's principles of engagement comprises: Partnerships, Subsidiarity, Synergy and Complementarity, and Mutual Respect. The institution fills an exclusive and strategic niche by working on the continental, regional and National levels, with the Regional Economic Communities (East African Community, UMA, SADC, COMESA, CENSAD, ECOWAS, IGAD and ECCAS), and the 55 African Union Member States (AU-MSS) as key partners. Other partners include the FAO, WOAH, research and Academic institutions, and development partners among them, the EU, USAID, USDA, Bill and Melinda gates, and GITZ. AU-IBAR's stakeholders and beneficiaries include Chief Veterinary Officers; directors of animal production, directors of economics, trade and marketing, Cooperating Partners, Non-State Actors; Academia, Private Sector; Regional Economic Communities, AU Member states, multi-stakeholder partnerships, Non-Governmental Institutions (NGOs) Youth and Women.

AU-IBAR implements its strategic plan through programs and projects. The strategic objectives are achieved through programmes namely, the enhanced animal production and market access for animals and animal products; Veterinary Governance and animal health systems for the control and eradication of priority diseases strengthened; and Access to inputs, services and markets for animals and animal products.



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List of Acronyms

ANAW	African Network for Animal WElfare
APMD	Africa Pastoral Markets Development (APMD) Platforms
ARDWE	Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment
AU-IBAR	African Union-INterafrican bureau for animal rwsources
AU	African Union
AU-MSs	African Union Member States
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
CAPS	Caribean And Pacific States
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CEN-SAD	The Community of Sahel-Saharan States
EAC	East African Community
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African states
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GITZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and development
HoA	Horn of AFrica
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on developent
ISCTRC	International Scientific Council off Trypanosomiasis
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
MSP	Marine Spatial Planing
NGOs Non	Governmental Organizations
OHADAA	The African One Health Data Alliance Africa
SMP-AH	Standard Methods and Procedures-Animal Health
STC	Scientific Technical Commitee
TADS	Transboundary Animal Diseases
PPR	Peste Des petits Ruminants
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SADC	Southern African Development Authority
STC	Scienific Technical Commitee
UMA	Union Du Maghgreb Arabe
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WAP	World Animal Protection
WHW	World Hores Welfare
WOAH	World Organization for Animal Health
2A2E-V	Association of Veterinary Education Establishments

Acknowledgement

AU-IBAR is pleased to present its Annual Report for 2024, which stands as a testament to our collective endeavours in advancinganimal resources management across Africa. This comprehensive report highlights the concerted efforts made by all stakeholders involved, demonstrating unwavering commitment and expertise, even in the face of challenges. It underscores the crucial roles played by our esteemed staff and stakeholders in realizing AU-IBAR's mandate.

AU-IBAR extends deepest gratitude to our partners, stakeholders, and donors for their invaluable contributions that allow IBAR to serve AU Member States through the Regional Economic communities (RECs), particularly in implementing strategic frameworks like the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA) and the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy (PFRS) for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa. AU-IBAR acknowledge the donors` support to AU- IBAR, namely the European Union (EU), the Bill and Melinda Gates (BMGF), GIZ, USAID and USDA. We appreciate highly our key technical partners AU-PANVAC, FAO, WOAH, ILRI, multistakeholder partnerships, Non-Governmental Institutions (NGOs) and the private sector.



1. Overview

1.1 2024 Highlights of projects/initiatives by region

Table 1: *Highlights of projects/Initiaives per region*

Project/Initiative	Geographical coverage	Donor/Development partner/s
Program 1: Animal Health, Disease Prevention, and Control systems		
Continental PPR eradication Programme	Continental	European Union (EU)
The African Union One Health Data Alliance Africa (OHADAA)	Continental	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) GIZ
Reginal Animal Health Networks	ECOWAS, ECCAS, and Eastern Africa	Member States funds and funds from various AU-IBAR projects
Standard Methods and Procedures in Animal Health (SMP-AH)	Continental	United States Department of Agricullture (USDA)
Animal Welfare	Continental	Brooke action for working animals donkey sanctuary, SPANA, The World Animal Protection (WAP), World Horse Welfare (WHW),
Program 2: Animal Resources Production Systems and Ecosystems Management		
Fisheries Governance Project (Fish Gov 2) Project	Continental	European Union (EU)
Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in African Blue Economy project	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Ghana, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Sudan, Uganda, South Africa and Cote D'Ivoire	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
Support to implementation of African Blue Economy Strategy	UMA, CENSAD, and Egypt	Kingdom of Norway
The Resilience Feed and Fodder (RAFFs) Project	Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe	The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
Programme 3: Access to inputs, Services, and Markets for animal and Animal Products		
Strengthening African Countries' capacities in Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS)	ECOWAS, and ECCAS: Djibouti, Burkina Faso, Cote D'IVOIRE, Chad, DRC, Mali, Nigeria, Egypt, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Uganda, and Zambia	The United States Department of Agriculture
Enhancing the Participation off African Countries in Codex Alimentarius Commission	Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, Senegal, and Zimbabwe	The United States Department of Agriculture
Containing the emergence and spread of Antimicrobial Resitance in Africa (CES-AMR Africa)	Benin, Burundi, Cape verde, Congo Brazaville, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Mal, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sao Tom and Principe, Somalia, South Sudan, TCHAD, The Gambia, Togo, and Zimbabwe	The United States Department of Agriculture

Table 2: *Measuring results against indicators*

	Serial #	Indicator	Measuring Unit	Baseline Value	Target Value	Actual Value
Outcome level						
Enhanced animal production and market access for animals and animal products	1.	Growth rate of animal resources value added	Percentage	4.2	4.5	3.5
Output level						
Innovative Animal Production Systems and Value Chain Approaches for Improved Livelihoods, Productivity and Agribusiness Promoted	2.	MSs supported to develop or upgrade, and implement Action Plans for emergency response to feed and fodder shortages	Number	0	4	6
	3.	Policy frameworks or options and investment data frameworks especially for pastoralists for better Feed &Fodder outcomes reviewed	Number	0	2	3
	4.	MSs supported to establish/upgrade Feed & Fodder data management infrastructure, integrated platform and multi-stakeholder ecosystems	Number	0	4	6
	5.	Viable models for enhanced production / access to Feed & Fodder identified and supported through strategic partnerships for coordinated action to address Feed & Fodder shortages	Number	0	2	3
	6.	Women and youth business proposals able to access tailored finance, insurance and incubation programs to enhance access to Feed & Fodder	Number	0	10	6
Intra-African Trade in Animals and Animal Products promoted in the context of AfCFTA protocols	7.	African Common Positions on priority animal health standards presented to the WOAH for adoption	Number	15	30	35
	8.	African Common Positions on food safety standards presented to Codex Alimentarius standards for adoption	Number	20	30	38

	Serial #	Indicator	Measuring Unit	Baseline Value	Target Value	Actual Value
	9.	MSs capacities built to enhance implementation of sanitary measures	Number	10	20	22
Sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development enhanced	10.	RECs supported to align regional fisheries and aquaculture polices and strategies with the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS)	Number	3	5	6
	11.	MSs supported to align their national fisheries and aquaculture policies/ strategies with the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture	Number	5	15	14
	12.	Knowledge products on African fisheries and aquaculture developed	Number	4	8	9
	13.	African Common Positions on fisheries and aquaculture presented for adoption at relevant global and continental fora	Number	4	6	7
Conservation of fishery resources and their ecosystems enhanced in the context of African Blue Economy	14.	MSs supported to effectively participate in regional and global initiatives related to aquatic biodiversity and environmental regimes (ABNJ, CITES, COP meeting relating to CC, BRS, etc.)	Number	0	5	6
	15.	Enforceable Regulatory frameworks for effective and sustainable regional MCS systems developed	Number	0	2	2
	16.	Frameworks for establishing national, regional and transboundary aquatic systems	Number	0	2	2
	17.	Mechanisms for minimizing the negative impacts of Africa Blue Economy Strategy Thematic Areas on aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems developed	Number	0	1	1

	Serial #	Indicator	Measuring Unit	Baseline Value	Target Value	Actual Value
Veterinary Governance and Animal Health systems for the control and eradication of priority diseases strengthened	18.	Countries declared PPR free in accordance with WOAH Standards	Number	5	10	7
	19.	PPR eradication strategies and actions operationalised at regional and Continental Levels	Number	0	6	1
	20.	Functional PPR eradication coordination and governance mechanisms (disaggregated by (continental and regional levels)	Number	0	5	0
	21.	Framework to guide development and ultilisation of the donkey in Africa with a special focus on animal welfare	Number	0	1	0
	22.	Governance meeting of the ISCTRC	Number	0	1	0
	23.	MSs supported to enhance technical capacities	Number	0	10	2
	24.	PPR eradication programmes supported and implemented by regional and continental bodies	Number	0	5	2
One Health governance and Management in Africa enhanced	25.	AU-IBAR One Health Digital Platform operationalized	Number	0	1	1
	26.	National One Health Digital Platforms operationalized	Number	0	2	0
	27.	E-training portal for OH competencies and assessment operationalized	Number	0	1	0
The capacity of AU-IBAR to deliver on its mandate strengthened		Quality of project support services offered to AU-IBAR projects	Qualitative	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent

2. Summary of Key Achievements

Below is a summary of key achievements under the various projects within the year

Table 3: *Summary of key achievements within the year*

	Result Areas	Highlights of AU-IBAR 2024 Interventions
1.	Formulation of policies, strategies, and guidelines	• Assisted 10 AU Member States to adopt and domesticate global instruments to enhance biodiversity conservation and environmental management • Conducted a stock-taking exercise on the implementation of the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDESA) and commenced implementing the recommendations • Conducted a stocktaking exercise to establish the status of animal welfare in Africa • Finalization of the regional PPR Eradication strategy for North and Central Africa • Validated the Regional Strategy for the Control of African Swine Fever • Initiated the development of the Continental Strategy for the Progressive Control and Eradication of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) from Africa • Drafted the AU interagency One Health zoonotic disease strategy (2024-2029) • 3 RECs and 9 MSs supported to align their regional and national fisheries and aquaculture policies and strategies with the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS)
2.	Transboundary Ecosystem Management	• Several transboundary aquatic ecosystem management processes, including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) between Congo and DR Congo and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in Northern Mozambique Channel and Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Systems (MCS) were undertaken for enhanced marine ecosystem protection and compliance with fisheries management measures in Africa
3.	The Post-Malabo Strategy and Action Plan	• Participated in the CAADP Post Malabo Processes to ensure adequate inclusion of animal resources in the Post Malabo Strategy and Action Plan
4.	Initiated relevant programmes and projects	• Implementation of the Pan African Programme for the Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030 commenced • The establishment of Pan African PPR Coordination Unit (PACUP) was established within AU-IBAR

	Result Areas	Highlights of AU-IBAR 2024 Interventions
5.	Africa Common Positions	• Trained MSs in negotiation skills for effective participation in various fora where Common Positions are discussed • Established common positions on Codex food safety issues of interest to Africa and supported compliance with Codex standards • Supported the establishment of African Common Positions on Animal Health for presentation to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) Conference • African Common positions on fisheries standards were developed and presented to the FAO Sub-Committee on Fisheries (COFI), and endorsed for improved access to markets for animals, and animal products
6.	Strengthening evidence-based decision-making in the Animal Resources Sector	• Six African Institutions of Higher learning were assessed and designated as African Union Centres of Excellence for training in fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management • The network of Centres of Excellence (COEs) for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development was operationalized • Africa Women in Animal Resources Farming & Agribusiness Network (AWARFA-N) in Cameroon was supported to identify and designate a center of excellence for feed and fodder technologies training • Indicators for the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) were developed for effective measurement of results
7.	Data, information & Content Management	• Animal Resources Information System (ARIS) was upgraded • Piloted the Africa Fisheries and Aquaculture Data Management System (AFADATA) in 6 countries • National feed balance assessments facilitated in 6 target countries. • AU-IBAR Website upgraded for ease of navigation • Report on the Assessment/ Scoping Study on the effect and impact of the recent and ongoing crises on the African feed and fodder systems and linkages to the availability of animal sourced foods produced and disseminated • Operationalized the AU One Health Platform
8	Knowledge products produced and disseminated to address stakeholder needs for better animal resources development	• 52 key publications and videos produced and disseminated • Working groups and technical committees were convened to validate the knowledge products
9.	Advocacy for animal resources development.	• Advocating for coordinated PPR Eradication efforts in Africa continued • Donkey preservation & animal welfare continued
10.	Technical support to AU-MSs, RECs, and networks/	• The African Women in Animal Resources Farming and Agribusiness Network (AWARFA-N) was established or strengthened in all six countries • Implementing standardized methods and procedures for animal health management across AU-MSs • Strengthening capacities of African Union Seed Centres of Excellence continued • Strengthening of regional animal health centres • Strengthening the capacities of select AU-MSs in monitoring, control, and surveillance systems continued • Empowering Women in Fish Value Addition continued • Empowered the Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF to develop their Draft Strategic Plan;

	Result Areas	Highlights of AU-IBAR 2024 Interventions
11	Multi-stakeholder initiatives (e.g. learning, collaboration & knowledge sharing).	• Collaborative Efforts and Funding Commitments on PPR Eradication • Project Technical and Steering Committees • High-level coordination Meetings with RECs, MSs, Chief Veterinary Officers, and other Stakeholders convened • Established Multi-stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) in the Animal Resources Sector, which have demonstrated ownership in organization of the sector and in attracting investment.
12	Animal resources investments catalysed (approximately) can be linked to AU-IBAR's interventions	• MSs developed viable feed and fodder financing models, through which they raised resources for feed and fodder investments; these modes can be replicated across the continent • Somalia, Nigeria and Kenya MSPs were supported to conduct Investment Seminars • + 400, 000 000 facilitated through inter alia "Deal rooms" (interactions between anima resources value chain actors)

2.1 Programme 1: Animal health, Disease prevention and control systems

2.1.1 Continental eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and control of other priority small ruminant diseases

Within the period, progress towards eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and control of priority small ruminant diseases was made through formulation of a preparatory phase of the Pan Africa Program for the Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and the Control of other Priority Small Ruminant diseases. There was mobilization of 8M Euro from the European Union (EU) through a Multi-partner agreement, with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).

The PPR eradication programme for Africa is being coordinated under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADS. Key collaborators for the implementation of the program include AU-IBAR, the African Union - Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU PANVAC), FAO, WOAH, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) , Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and Africa Union member states (AU-MSs). Additionally, a dedicated Pan African PPR Eradication Secretariat, domiciled at AU-IBAR, to plan, coordinate and harmonize implementation efforts, including the building of national and regional capacities, for the eradication of PPR in Africa has been established. A PPR eradication roadmap for West Africa was developed and the Regional PPR strategy for North Africa was reviewed and updated in line with the global and continental eradication strategy.



Mainstreaming and advocacy for PPR eradication, prevention, and control of other transboundary animal diseases (TADs) was further supported through advocacy by AU-IBAR for inclusion of animal health issues in the Memorandum on animal resources for the Post-Malabo CAADP Agenda;

2.1.2 Continental and regional harmonization and coordination for prevention and control of TADs

Continental and regional harmonization and coordination for prevention and control of TADs was enhanced through support and participation in Regional Animal Health Network meetings for UMA, ECCAS and ECOWAS, and two Inter-REC Coordination meetings held in Casablanca, Morocco and Nairobi, Kenya.

Contribution to further progress for the prevention and control of TADS was achieved through the validation of the regional strategy for the control of African Swine Fever for Africa; initiated the development of the continental strategy for the progressive control and eradication of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) from Africa; introduced Standard Methods and Procedures in Animal Health (SMP-AH) approach in west and central Africa and undertook a survey on SMP-AH implementation in the greater Horn of Africa.

2.1.3 Coordination of One Health Initiatives

To enhance coordination among the AU Commission agencies working in the One Health domain, the African Union One Health Coordination Group on zoonotic diseases was already established in 2022, in collaboration with Africa CDC and AU-IBAR as joint secretariats, continued to receive technical support from AU-IBAR within the year. This collaborative effort has resulted in the development of an African Union One Health Zoonotic Disease Prevention and Control Strategy, aimed at guiding AU-MSs in effectively addressing zoonotic diseases related challenges through a One Health lens. AU-IBAR also continued advocacy campaigns and collaborative efforts on rabies elimination by 2030.

AU-IBAR has taken significant strides towards advancing digital One Health governance and management across AU-MSs. On February 2024, the 44th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of Africa Heads of State endorsed the Report of the 5th African Union Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (EX.CL/1471(XLIV) which comprised of the African Union Digital One Health Information Policy (OH-IP) and associated One Health Information Architecture (OH-IA) framework which confers the action to AU-IBAR to undertake several actions including the " development and operationalization of the African Union Digital One Health Platform (AU-DOHP) that promotes data integration, exchange and harmonization. The Foundational elements of the African Union One Health information architecture (Figure1 have guided the development of the African Union Digital One Health platform.

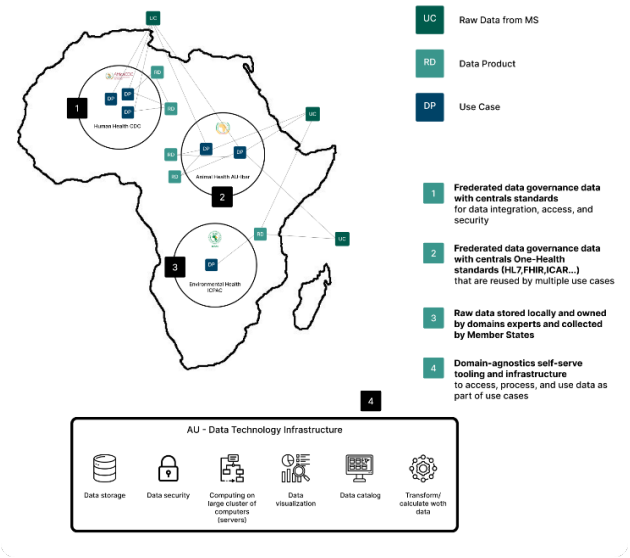


Figure 1: *Foundational elements of the AU Digital One Health Information Architect*

Within the year, an African Union Digital One Health Platform (AU-DOHP) was developed based on data mesh architecture and a OH feedback mechanism following an assessment of National One Health digital platforms including in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya and Zambia. The African Union Digital One health platform features three main modules namely the (i) **Data hub** – supports data sharing, analytics and visualization (ii) **Training and Knowledge hub** which captures action on building capacity on digital One Health Curriculum and (iii) **Decision support Situation room** that offers evidence based interventions to policy makers to assist in targeted investments and resources allocation.

In addition, Design thinking guidelines for the African Union Digital One Health Platform and a data code book have been developed.

The AU-OHDAA project also aims to promote digital learning through the development of a digital learning platform that will offer knowledge, skills and competences in various digital areas. The focus will be in building competencies and capacities on Digital One Health. The Draft DOH curriculum features

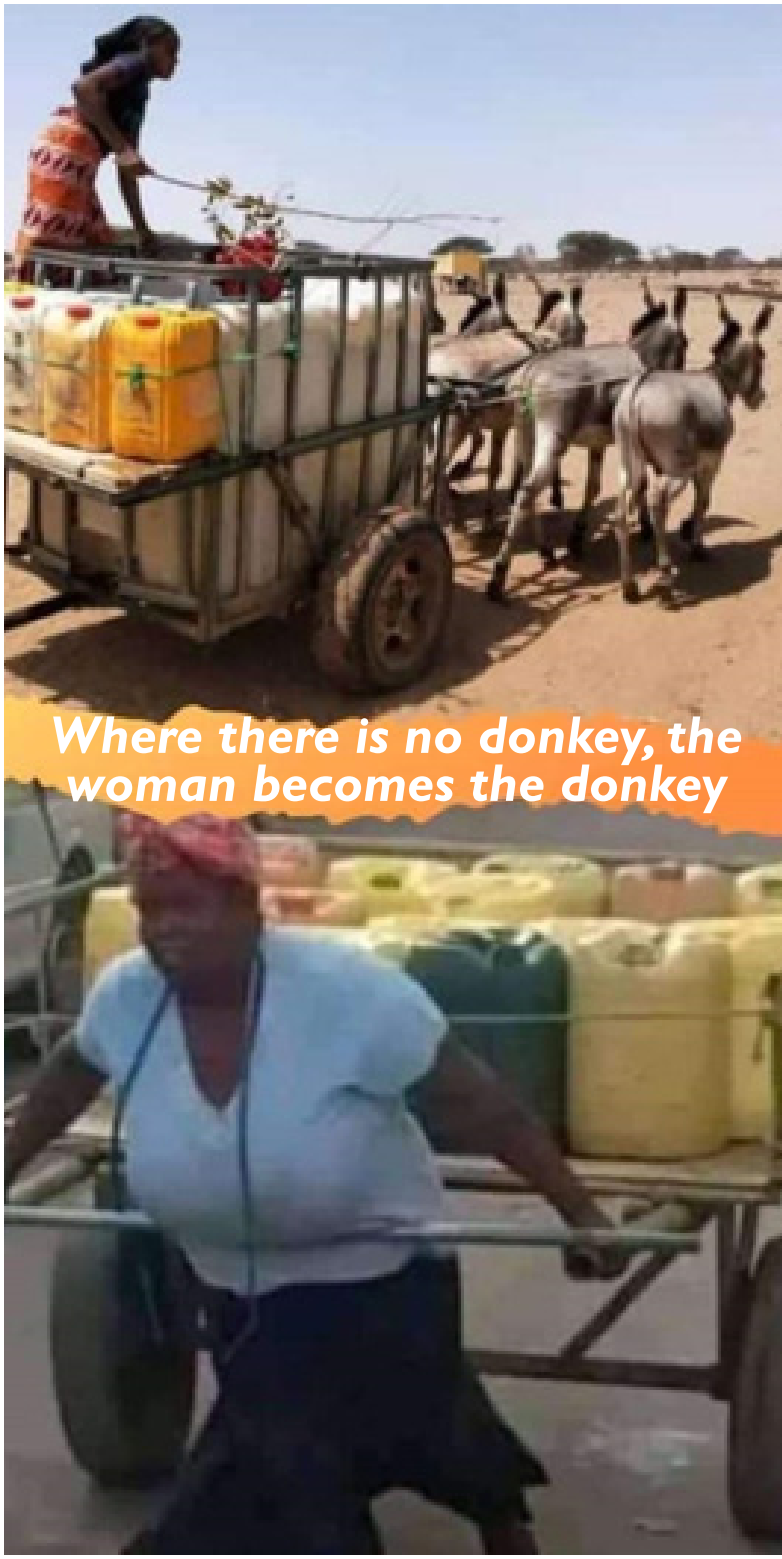
I. Basic One Health Principles
II. Digital One Health Core competencies
III. One Health Policy formulation
IV. One Health Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)
V. One Health Community awareness and engagement



Participants of the 2nd Technical Workshop on the Development of the African Union Digital One Health Platform Prototype was held on the 26th – 28th February 2024 at Lake Naivasha Resort, Naivasha, Kenya

2.1.4 Support to animal welfare

Enhanced knowledge on animal welfare in Africa and coordination of animal welfare in the continent was achieved through a stocktaking exercise on the status of animal welfare in Africa, which was informed by the animal welfare strategy for Africa (AWSA). The Africa Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW) Secretariat was also strengthened to lead and coordinate the effective implementation of AWSA. A meeting of the APAW-Coordination committee was convened as well. Within the year, the APAW secretariat was also strengthened by the secondment of an animal welfare expert to AU-IBAR. Animal welfare partnerships were consolidated, and AU-IBAR continued collaboration with partners on animal welfare, among the partners being the Donkey Sanctuary, SPANA, the World Animal Protection (WAP), Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW), World Horse Welfare (WHW), and the Brooke Action for Working Animals. The collaborative efforts between AU-IBAR and the animal welfare organizations have produced significant outcomes in the preservation of donkey populations and raising awareness of animal welfare in general, in line with the recommendations of the 5th Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture Rural Development Water and Environment (ARDWE). Advocacy campaigns that were conducted in Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda and Zimbabwe have sensitized key stakeholders to the critical need for donkey conservation, particularly in light of threats posed by the expanding trade in donkey skins. As a result of these campaigns, stakeholders have collaborated to produce a report titled "Donkeys in Africa now and in the future," which received endorsement from the 5th STC. The road map towards the development of the Pan African Donkey species Preservation strategy and action plan has been agreed on by partners. Moreover, six (6) MSs namely Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda committed to support the preservation of the donkey and to implement related initiatives.



2.1.5 Support to Association of Veterinary Education Establishments (2A2E-V);

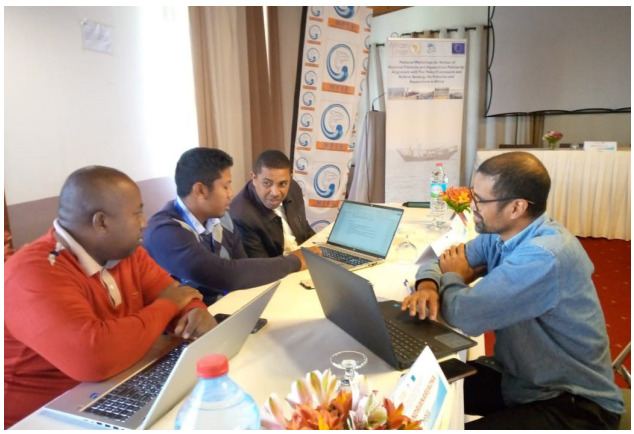
Within the year, AU-IBAR continued to support workforce development for veterinary personnel through support for the convening of the General Assembly of the Africa Association of Veterinary Education Establishments (2A2E-V);

2.2 Program 2: Animal Resources Production Systems and Ecosystems Management

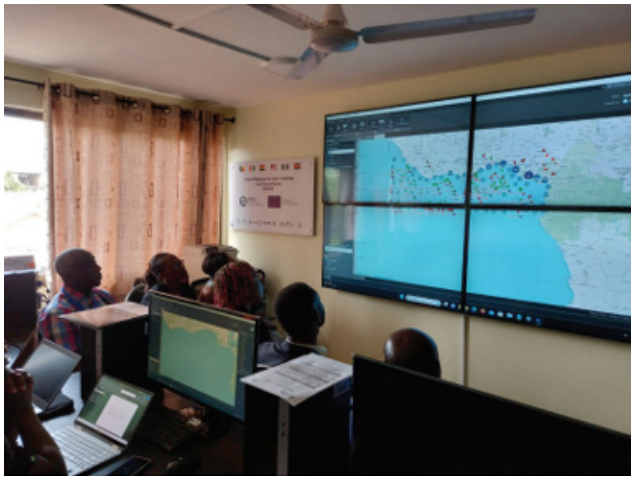
2.2.1 Fisheries, aquaculture, and aquatic biodiversity development and conservation

Among the key achievements under the programme area were: Raising the profile of Animal Resources in the CAADP framework by their inclusion in the draft Kampala Declaration and CAADP 2026-2035 Strategy and Action Plan that were endorsed by the STC-ARDWE ; the endorsement of six African Institutions by STC-ARDWE as AU centers of excellence for training and research in fisheries, aquaculture, aquatic biodiversity conservation and ecosystems management; Presentation of and support to articulation of several African Common Positions on animal health, food safety standards, fisheries and aquaculture to relevant fora (World Organization for Animal Health – Animal Health, Codex – Food Safety; FAO Committee of Fisheries – COFI – Fisheries; Ministerial Conference for Organizations of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States (OCPs:) and endorsed for improved access to markets for animals and animal products; capacity building and putting in place several frameworks for l transboundary aquatic ecosystem management including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs); Marine Spatial Planning (MSP; capacity building on effective Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Systems (MCS) for combating illegal fishing and enhanced marine ecosystem protection and compliance with fisheries management measures in Africa .

Within the year also, several RECs and MSs were also supported to review their regional and national policies for realistic fisheries and aquaculture policy development, plans and regulations, aligning them with relevant continental and global instruments among them, the African Blue economy, policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems. Knowledge products on African Fisheries and aquaculture were developed and MSs supported to effectively participate in regional and global initiatives related to aquatic biodiversity and environmental regimes CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and Flora), ABNJ (Area beyond National Jurisdiction), Committee parties (COP) and Biannual reports (BRs). Frameworks for establishing National, Regional, and transboundary aquatic systems were developed, and enforceable regulatory frameworks for effective and sustainable regional MCs systems were developed. Also, mechanisms for minimizing the negative impacts of the African Blue Economy strategy thematic area on aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems were developed.

Support to Madagascar to develop realistic fisheries and aquaculture policy: Stakeholder's consultation




Training of MSs and Environmental personnel from six AU member states (Benin, Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, Togo, Nigeria, and Ghana) on electronic monitoring systems to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing.

2.2.2 Support to enhancement of Resilience in African Feed and Fodder sector

Within the period, AU-IBAR's initiative, with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on 'Evidence-Driven Short-Term Solutions to Enhance Resilience in African Feed and Fodder Systems' Selected beneficiary MSs (Nigeria, Kenya, Cameroon, Zimbabwe and Somalia) were supported to develop/upgrade and implement action plans for emergency response to feed and fodder shortages. Also, policy frameworks/options and investments data frameworks, especially for pastoralists for better feed and fodder outcomes where reviewed, and MSs supported to establish/ upgrade feed and fodder data management infrastructure. Integrated platform and multi-stakeholder platforms were also initiated with project support. Viable models for enhanced production/access to feed and fodder were identified and supported through strategic partnerships for coordinated actions to address feed and fodder shortages. AU-IBAR aims to duplicate these models across the continent. The program also supported women and youth to develop business proposals that are able to access tailored finance, insurance, and incubation programs that enhance access to feed and fodder.



Within the year, the implementation of the African Pastoral Markets Development (APMD) Platform was commenced. The project aims to enhance the livelihoods of pastoral communities by improving livestock market systems through policy, data, and private sector integration. The Data, Policy, and Private Sector Involvement Pillars were activated through technical stocktaking workshops in Kenya (Horn of Africa Lighthouse Country) and Nigeria (Sahel Lighthouse Country).

2.2.3 Support to African Pastoral Markets Development (APMD) Platform.

Within the year, a baseline assessment of the Pastoral Livestock Sector in the Horn of Africa (HoA) and Sahel Regions was initiated, which is has provided critical insights that have significantly influenced the implementation and operationalization of the African Pastoral Markets Development (APMD) Platform.
By assessing the current status of pastoral livestock marketing chains, policy environments, and functional data ecosystems in Kenya, Nigeria, and the Eight Outreach countries, the study is identifying key gaps, challenges, and opportunities for market integration and sector transformation.

The program emphasizes stakeholder engagement, gender and youth inclusion, and sustainable practices ensure equitable and climate-resilient development.



2.3 Programme 3: Access to Inputs, Services and Markets for Animal and Animal Products

2.3.1. Strengthening Africa's Engagement in Global Animal Health Standards

An expert meeting on animal health was convened, during which eight African Common Positions on priority animal health standards were presented to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) for adoption. This milestone represents a significant step toward aligning regional priorities with global standards, and hence ensuring Africa's voice is effectively incorporated in international animal health standards.

Furthermore, the 16th Pan-African Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs)/WOAH Delegates meeting was successfully organized to prepare for the 91st General Session of WOAH. This initiative ensured that African interests were strategically represented and coordinated in global discussions on animal health policies. Additionally, two Africa-U.S. Dialogues on WOAH Standards provided a dedicated platform for exchanging positions on key standards. These dialogues fostered mutual understanding and strengthened cooperation in advancing Africa's animal health priorities. Collectively, these efforts have significantly enhanced Africa's engagement and alignment with global animal health standards.



2.3.2. *Advancing Africa's Influence in Global Food Safety Standards*

A total of 40 African Common Positions on food safety standards were successfully presented to the Codex Alimentarius for adoption, achieving the annual target. These standards covered critical areas, including food hygiene, contaminants in food, pesticide residues, food additives, methods of analysis and sampling, and nutrition and foods for special dietary uses. This accomplishment underscores Africa's commitment to enhancing global food safety governance.

Additionally, the 2024 Pan-African National Codex Contact Point Officers meeting was convened, during which 20 African positions were endorsed by member states, reinforcing a unified regional approach to Codex deliberations. Strengthening inter-regional cooperation, five Codex colloquiums were organized between Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the United States. These engagements facilitated the exchange of regional positions and promoted Africa's active participation in shaping global food safety standards.

2.3.3. *Enhancing Capacity in Food Safety and Animal Health Standards*

Significant strides were made in strengthening Africa's capacity to implement global food safety and animal health standards. In collaboration with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), draft guidelines for engaging the informal food sector were developed, laying the groundwork for enhanced support within this crucial sector. Furthermore, a strategic partnership with the WOAH Secretariat led to the successful organization of training sessions on WOAH standards implementation, which benefited representatives from 44 African Union Member States. This initiative enhanced national capacities to meet international animal health standards. In complementing these efforts, Codex work management training was conducted for representatives from Eswatini and Mauritania, equipping them with the necessary knowledge to navigate and implement Codex food safety standards effectively.



2.3.4. Strengthening Regional and Continental Coordination on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Two virtual AMRSNET forums were organized to strengthen regional coordination on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The first forum, held from 5 to 7 February 2024, engaged 30 participants from French-speaking countries in the ECOWAS, EAC, and UMA regions. A second forum, conducted from 5 to 7 March 2024, engaged 50 participants from English-speaking AU member states, further promoting regional collaboration and knowledge-sharing on AMR issues.

Additionally, targeted training on antimicrobial stewardship was delivered to representatives from 10 AU Member States, equipping them with essential skills to promote responsible antimicrobial use. Collaboration with Africa CDC also led to the development of the African narrative on AMR, which was presented at the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AMR in September 2024. This report articulated Africa's priorities and challenges in addressing AMR, ensuring that the continent's needs were prominently represented at the global level. These initiatives collectively reinforced regional and continental efforts to combat AMR through coordination, capacity-building, and advocacy.

2.3.5. Advocacy and Awareness on Food Safety and AMR

In collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Programme (WFP), and CCAFRICA, the 2024 edition of World Food Safety Day was successfully hosted on 12 June 2024 under the theme "Prepare for the Unknown." This global advocacy platform raised awareness about emerging food safety challenges and emphasized proactive measures to mitigate food safety risks worldwide. To further highlight Africa's food safety challenges and opportunities, an op-ed on food safety in the continent's informal food sector was published in June 2024. The article, accessible at *https://www.africa.com/its-time-for-africa-to-embrace-informal-agrifood-markets/*, underscored the importance of improving food safety standards in informal markets and encouraged actionable strategies to enhance food security. A high-level political event was organized during the 2024 Africa World Antimicrobial Awareness Campaign in Yaoundé, Cameroon. This event served as a platform to advocate for increased investments in implementing National AMR Action Plans, reinforcing political commitment to tackling AMR across the continent.

The initiatives outlined in this report demonstrate Africa's continued progress in strengthening animal health governance, food safety standards, and antimicrobial resistance strategies. Through strategic collaborations, capacity-building programs, and high-level policy engagements, Africa has significantly enhanced its alignment with global standards while advancing regional priorities. Moving forward, sustained investments, coordinated efforts, and stronger partnerships will be essential to furthering these achievements and ensuring Africa's continued influence in global food safety and animal health governance.

African common positions on fisheries and aquaculture were presented for adaptation at the relevant global and continental levels, and within the period, MSs capacities were built to enhance the implementation of sanitary measures.

3. Knowledge, Learning, Networking and Collaboration

AU-IBAR continued to promote knowledge and learning through several stakeholder engagement processes. These came in different forms such as conferences, workshops, training sessions, and validations meetings for publications on various topics related to animal resources development. These efforts facilitated collaboration, information sharing, and capacity building. By facilitating consensus-building and promoting the exchange of ideas, AU-IBAR has significantly contributed to the advancement of sustainable practices within the sector.

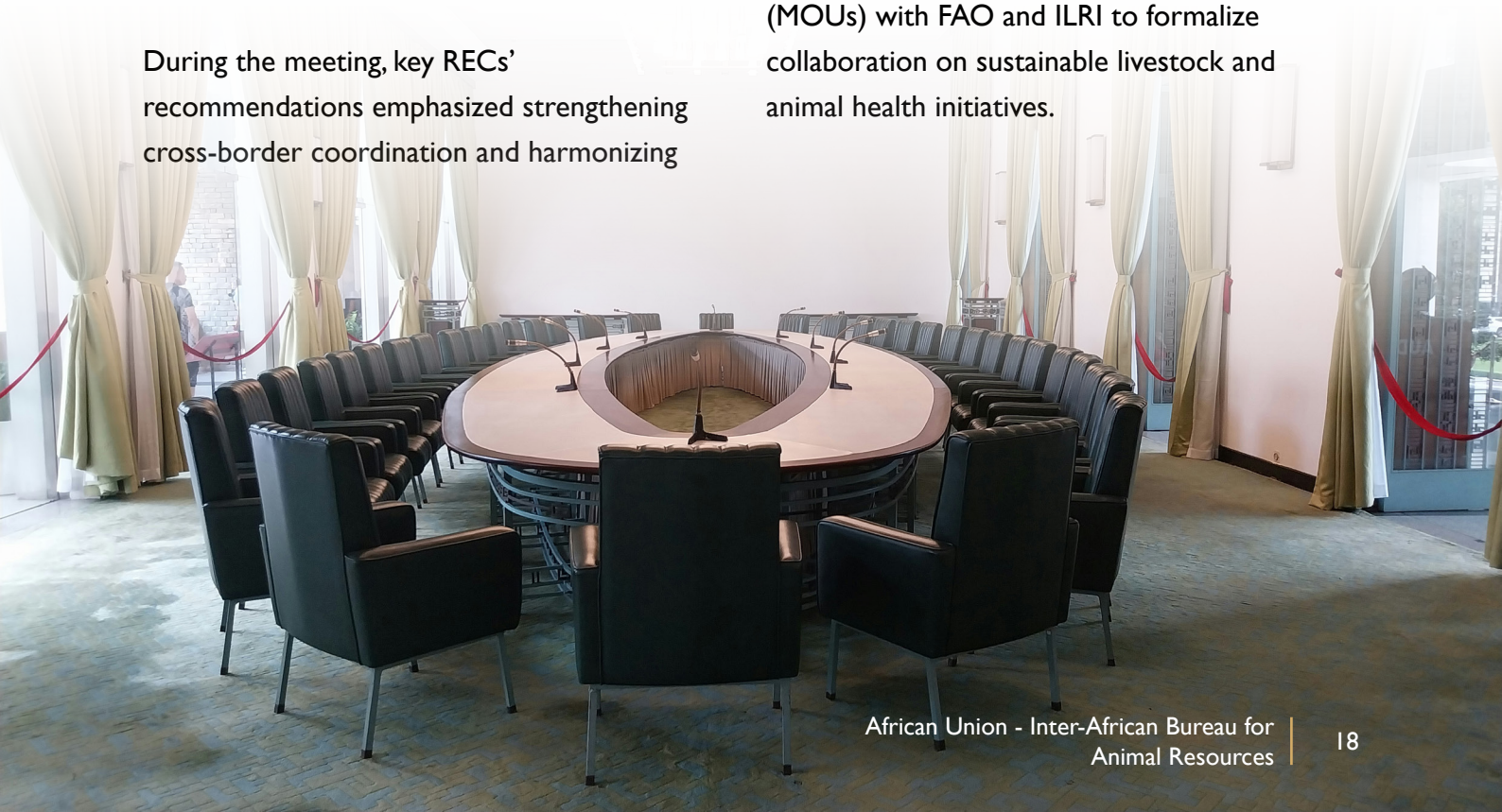


4. The Inaugural High-Level Coordination Meetings

Within the year, AU-IBAR held its second high-level coordination meeting with regional, national authorities and partners, whose theme was '*harmonized and collaborative approach for developing animal resources in Africa*'. Key partner recommendations focused on strengthening collaboration and capacity-building initiatives. These included partnerships between AU-IBAR and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on feed inventory activities in Nigeria, project development for sustainable vaccine production and distribution, and technical assistance for implementing National Livestock Master Plans to boost productivity and market integration. Specific actions were proposed, such as supporting Libya in livestock market development, prioritizing disease control in Liberia, and enhancing animal genetic resources across the continent. A strong emphasis was placed on fortifying the veterinary workforce and building collaborative frameworks to drive these efforts forward.

During the meeting, key RECs' recommendations emphasized strengthening cross-border coordination and harmonizing policies on disease surveillance, livestock management, and trade to enhance regional preparedness and response. The RECs also emphasized the need for capacity building, women and youth employment initiatives, and fostering private sector involvement to boost sustainable development in animal resources and agriculture.

To implement these recommendations and address identified challenges, several forward-looking actions were agreed upon. Partners highlighted the importance of clear communication of institutional strategic objectives to ensure alignment and role clarity. Collaborative frameworks were emphasized to promote cohesive implementation of activities under thematic areas. Resource mobilization events were identified as a key step, with joint concept notes to be developed for securing funding. Additionally, AU-IBAR committed to finalizing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with FAO and ILRI to formalize collaboration on sustainable livestock and animal health initiatives.





5. Data, Information and Content Management

Within the year, significant changes have been made across AU-IBAR's IT infrastructure and services, aligning them with the AU-IBAR strategies. Currently, there is an ongoing upgrade of IT infrastructure, to manage larger workloads and enhance data management across multiple projects. Notably, efforts have been made to ensure better service availability through the implementation of a failover cluster, simplifying operations and benefiting various systems, messaging, and web hosting. Other achievements included development of the Africa Fisheries and aquaculture Data management system, and fostering Online Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing.

There are also improvements made on the repository management which has enabled AU-IBAR to successfully and effectively mange publications and other information outputs through the utilization of DSpace, a digital repository system. This platform facilitated digital organization, storage, and dissemination of research outputs, reports, and other relevant documents and multimedia. Through DSpace, AU-IBAR centralized its resource management process, allowing for efficient access to resources and ensuring that valuable knowledge is readily available to stakeholders at: *http://repository.au-ibar.org/*.

6. Communications and Visibility:

Concerning communications and visibility, the AU-IBAR website has been continually upgraded over the period. As a result, the website has undergone a comprehensive redesign, focusing on improving user experience, navigation, and content organization. AU-IBAR has also engaged in aggressive media engagement. AU-BAR has also focused on enhancing media capacity in reporting on animal resources, providing journalists with skills to cover topics within its programs, namely, animal health, production, economics, trade, and marketing.



7. The Capacity of AU-IABR to Deliver on its Mandate Strenghened

The mandate of AU-IBAR is to support and coordinate the sustainable development and utilization of animal resources to enhance nutrition, food security, and contribute to the well-being and prosperity of the people in the Member States of the African Union. The organization has Strategic plan with a well-defined Vision and Mission that provide strategic direction towards achieving its mandate. Most of the achievements in the course of implementing the strategic plan are set out in the first six outputs of this report. The office has well-established governance structures and processes that support decision-making, accountability, and compliance with relevant regulations and policies as evidenced by external assessments, such the USAID, and EU that has awarded the office the EU 9-pillar assessment certification. The office has also consistently attained satisfactory audit evaluation reports, both by AU Internal Audit and Funding Partners; together, these have made it easier for funding partners to entrust the office with project funding that run more than 97% of AU-IBAR Programme funding. Whereas the use of project funds is reflected in the first six outputs of this report, this section focuses on elements of operational efficiency that deal with the effective use of resources for supporting the office to deliver on its mandate. These include the use of finances to support IT, personnel, maintenance of equipment, utilities, and other general operating costs as detailed per activities below

8. AU-IBAR Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Within the year, the AU-IBAR strategic plan for 2024-2028 was formulated in collaboration with key partners and stakeholders.

9. Progress made towards implementation of the AU-IBAR - decisions approved by the STC in 2023

Table 4: *Progress made towards implementation of the AU-IBAR decisions*

NO	Activity/project	Progress of implementation of the decision
1	The implementation of the Pan African Programme for the eradication of Peste de Petits Ruminants and Control of other priority diseases (2023-2027)	**On Track**. Within the period, progress towards eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and control of priority small ruminant diseases was made. The formulation of a preparatory phase of the Pan Africa Program for the Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and the Control of other Priority Small Ruminant diseases was done. A total of 8M Euro was mobilized from the European Union (EU) through a Multi-partner agreement, with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO,) and World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). (See annual report)
2	The execution of the 'Donkey in Africa Now and in the Future' Initiative aimed at preserving the donkey species on the continents	**On Track**. The road map towards the development of the Pan African Donkey species Preservation strategy and action plan has been agreed on by partners. Moreover, six (6) MSs namely Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda committed to support the preservation of the donkey and to implement related initiatives.
3	Development of the African Union Digital One Health Information policy Associated One Health Information Architected, Framework to enhance digitalized governance and management System	**On Track**. Within the year, an African Union Digital One Health Platform (AU-DOHP) was developed based on data mesh architecture and an OH feedback mechanism following an assessment of National One Health digital platforms, done in several countries among them, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya and Zambia
4	Preparedness efforts in African countries to eliminate rabies by 2030	**On Track**. AU-IBAR continued advocacy campaigns and collaborative efforts on rabies elimination by 2030.
Progress in Implementation of Decisions under animal production		
5	Operationalization of the Pan-African Civil Society Organizations in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (AFRIFISH)	**On track**. A general assembly/ meeting for Awfishnet was organized; Supported participation of the Bureau members of the of Fishnet to participate in Pre-Scale Small-scale fisheries (SSF) Summit Dar Es Salaam to develop common position on small-scale fisheries at the 26th session of FAO- COFI meeting in Rome The rationalized platforms were trained on relevant AU policy and related documents (Frameworks, Strategies, Action Plans etc.) on fisheries, aquaculture and blue economy

NO	Activity/project	Progress of implementation of the decision
6	Enhancement of Aquatic Animal health and biosecurity Measures	**On track**. Frameworks for establishing National, Regional, and transboundary aquatic systems were developed, and enforceable regulatory frameworks for effective and sustainable regional MCs systems were developed. Also, mechanisms for minimizing the negative impacts of the African Blue Economy strategy thematic area on aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems were developed.
7	Support provided to six (6) AU-MSs in developing National Blue Economy strategies coherent with the African Blue Economy Strategy	**On track**. 11 AU member states supported: Liberia; Madagascar, Lesotho, Angola, CAR; Libya; Tanzania; Nigeria; Botswana; Cameroon; Zimbabwe
8	Establishment and operationalization of the Pan African Pastoral Markets Development (APMD) platform	**On Track**. Within the year, a baseline assessment of the Pastoral Livestock Sector in the Horn of Africa (HoA) and Sahel Regions was initiated, which provided critical insights that have significantly influenced the implementation and operationalization of the African Pastoral Markets Development (APMD) Platform. By assessing the current status of pastoral livestock marketing chains, policy environments, and functional data ecosystems in Kenya, Nigeria, and the Eight Outreach countries, the study identified key gaps, challenges, and opportunities for market integration and sector transformation.
9	Implementation of mechanisms to enhance the effective role and participation of AU-MSs in regional, continental, and global aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management-related forums or regimes	**On track**. Representative of Seychelles and Tunisia to participate in UN Review Conference of UN Fish Stocks Agreement in 2024 in New York; AU-IBAR helped to articulate and sensitize AU Member states at the Basel meeting in Geneva on aquatic biodiversity and environmental management AU-IBAR also coordinated African Common positions for AU member states on key fisheries, aquaculture, and related issues during the 36th session of FAO COFI meeting.
10	Promotion of public-private partnerships (PPSs) in Fisheries and aquaculture through a guide for development and implementing sustainable models.	**On track.** A sensitization and enhancing the active role and participation of AU-MSs in regional, continental, and global forums related to aquatic biodiversity conservation and environmental management. An awareness workshop was organized among stakeholders, including high-level personnel from the finance departments, and development and planning, trade and industry etc on enhancing PPP in fisheries and aquaculture sector done
11	Operationalization of the continental strategy for mainstreaming gender in Aquatic biodiversity strategy conservation and environmental management	Three-member states have been supported to develop gender sensitive strategies for conservation of aquatic biodiversity and environmental management: Cameroon, Egypt, and Cote D'Ivoire
12	Strengthening regional cooperation on the management of transboundary aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity	**On track**. The Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo were supported to develop a harmonized strategy for the management of transboundary marine ecosystems shared in the Atlantic Ocean The Republic of Gabon and the Republic of Congo were supported to develop a roadmap for cooperation on joint governance of transboundary marine protected areas shared in the Atlantic Ocean AU-IBAR collaborated with WWF to support Madagascar, Comoros, Mozambique, and Tanzania to develop a roadmap for cooperative management of transboundary marine spatial planning in the Northern Mozambique channel in the Indian Ocean

13	Development of harmonized minimum terms and conditions for fisheries and access in AU-MSs	Initial steps have been to support AU member states to develop harmonized fisheries and aquaculture policies through alignment with the AU framework, PFRS. This is a significant step towards facilitating the development of harmonized minimum terms and conditions for access into fisheries in AU member states. The following coastal states have been supported: In this respect, Madagascar and Liberia have been supported as coastal states
14	Operationalization of the strategy for rational management of African inland fisheries	A policy Note on cage culture techniques in inland waters has been developed with key actionable policy messages Knowledge product developed on a framework for harmonized strategy for management of transboundary freshwater ecosystems (Case study – Lake Victoria)
15	Strengthening the institutional capacity of the aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF) to promote coherent and sustainable aquaculture development	**ON track**. The Governance framework and Rule of procedure for ANAF have been developed. The Draft strategic plans have been developed and validated by ANAF members. 2nd ANAF Executive Committee Meeting has been conducted, and ANAF participated in AFRAQ24, and presented during the FAO-World bank side event in Hammamet, Tunisia
16	Implementation of urgent actions to address feed shortages and prevent future feed-related disasters	**On track**. Selected beneficiary MSs (Nigeria, Kenya, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, and Somalia) were supported to develop/upgrade and implement action plans for emergency response to feed and fodder shortages. Also, policy frameworks/options and investments data frameworks, especially for pastoralists for better feed and fodder outcomes where reviewed, and MSs supported to establish/upgrade feed and fodder data management infrastructure

10. Key Challenges Encountered within the Year

A key challenge to implementation of activities was attributed to insufficient financial and human resources at AUC and RECs levels". This affected the operations and delayed delivery on agreed time. Other challenges included insufficient capacity at RECs, delays in recruitment of staff by the AUC and delays in implementation of some planned activities challenges due to challenges beyond AU-IBAR control.

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