



AFRICAN UNION

**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU  
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**

## ***Inception meeting of the Standard Methods and Procedures in Animal Health Project (SMP-AH)***

*Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,  
27<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> August 2012*

***Final Communiqué***



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



## **INTRODUCTION**

The launching and the inception of the SMP-AH Project was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 27 – 30 August 2012 and was opened by H.E. Madame Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, the Commissioner of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission, in the presence of representatives of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Director of AU-IBAR.

The Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs), heads of epidemiology units, diagnostic laboratories, quarantine stations and other senior veterinary officers of the IGAD Member States and Tanzania, and representatives of African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and representatives of national and regional private sector attended the meeting.

The participants observed a minute of silence in memory of the late Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia the late H. E. Meles Zenawi and expressed their deep condolence to the government and people of Ethiopia.

The minute of silence was also observed in the memory of Dr Boubacar Seck, former regional manager of ECTAD, Bamako, and also in memory of the CVO of Zimbabwe, Dr Stuart Hargreaves.

SMP-AH is a four-year project funded by USAID to develop and facilitate a harmonized and coordinated risk management for trade-related transboundary animal diseases in the IGAD Member States and Tanzania with the following expected results:

1. Framework for surveillance and control of trade-related animal diseases established;
2. Laboratory testing procedures harmonized for the priority diseases in the IGAD region;
3. Standard procedures for regional quarantine stations established;
4. Technical and coordination capacity of MS and IGAD Secretariat enhanced.

During the plenary and working group sessions, the following topics were deliberated:

- Regional coordination and harmonization of animal disease management.
- Animal health situation in the IGAD region.
- Animal health initiatives in the IGAD region.
- Livestock trade and OIE sanitary standards.
- Disease management tools.
- Purpose, result areas and major activities of the proposed SMP-AH.
- Implementation management modalities.

Following fruitful discussions held and considering:

1. The critical role of livestock to food security, poverty alleviation and economy of countries in the IGAD region and Tanzania.
  2. That the demand for livestock and livestock products within the region and the Middle East is on the increase presenting enormous opportunities for livestock trade.
  3. That trade-related transboundary animal diseases (TADs) impact heavily on the efficiency of livestock production and access to livestock markets.
  4. That the trade-related TADs are a shared concern that requires a coordinated and harmonised approach.
  5. That the IGAD Member States have adopted in 2009 a Regional Policy Framework on Animal Health in the
-

Context of Trade and Vulnerability.

6. The importance of partnerships for effective management of the disease.

The meeting agreed on the following:

**1. *The Standard Methods and Procedures (SMP) approach.***

It is an approach which can add value to existing efforts aimed at disease surveillance and control activities in the Member States and progress towards a coordinated and harmonized management of trade-related TADs.

**2. *Countries' commitment***

Country representatives of the eight IGAD Member States and Tanzania expressed their gratitude to USAID, AU-IBAR and IGAD for developing and funding the SMP-AH project. They also expressed strong commitment to achieve the project objectives.

**3. *SMP-AH results and activities***

The participants have endorsed the revised activities of the project. Regarding the support to IGAD Centre for Pastoral and Livestock Development (ICPALD), the participants, taking into consideration the need for epidemiological and socioeconomic support to help achieve the objectives of the project, recommended that an epidemiologist with a strong socioeconomic background be recruited.

**4. *Implementation arrangement***

The overall coordination for the SMP-AH project will be shouldered by AU-IBAR and IGAD. In each participating country coordination of the project will be under the overall responsibility of the chief veterinary officer (CVO). A national work plan will be developed through a consultative process and taking into consideration the ongoing initiatives. Relevant partners (AU-PANVAC, ILRI, FAO, OIE...) will be involved in the implementation of this project.

***VOTE OF THANKS***

The participants of the SMP-AH meeting thank the Ethiopian Government and the AUC for hosting and facilitating the workshop.

They also thank the AU-IBAR for organizing such an important and timely gathering.

The participants also convey a special gratitude to USAID for the financial and technical support.

---





African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources  
(AU-IBAR)

Kenindia Business Park  
Museum Hill, Westlands Road  
PO Box 30786  
00100 Nairobi

Kenya

Tel: +254 (20) 3674 000

Fax: +254 (20) 3674 341 / 3674 342

Email: [ibar.office@au-ibar.org](mailto:ibar.office@au-ibar.org)

Website: [www.au-ibar.org](http://www.au-ibar.org)