

Animal Health Digest

Message from the Director

The African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) is a specialized technical office of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the African Union Commission. It is mandated to support and coordinate the utilization of livestock, fisheries and wildlife as resources for human well being and economic development in the Member States of the Africa Union. AU-IBAR is also the lead institution for mainstreaming livestock in the various national and regional Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) compacts and investment plans.

AU-IBAR's Strategic Plan for 2010 to 2014 which was endorsed by the African Ministers responsible for Animal Resources during their 8th conference held in Entebbe, Uganda from 13th – 14th May 2010 has identified paucity of data and information as one of the limiting factors responsible for poor investment in livestock in Africa. The importance

of transparency in disease reporting and the generation of reliable data to support policy and attract investment cannot be over-emphasized.

Information on animal health is also a necessary prerequisite to monitor animal disease situation and is perhaps the most important component in planning for the control and eradication of animal diseases as well as in the promotion of trade in animals and animal products.

It is for this reason that AU-IBAR placed a big emphasis on information and knowledge management which is the 5th Programme in its Strategic Plan. Under this Programme, the Animal Resources Information System version number two (ARIS-2) has been revamped and would be used to generate and disseminate reliable animal resources data and information across the continent.



Prof Ahmed El-sawalhy

AU-IBAR has also increased and modernized its capacity in knowledge management and information systems and dissemination services to meet the needs of Member States of the AU, trading partners and the general public.

This Quarterly Digest is one of such efforts. We hope you will find it useful.

Preface to the First Edition

One of the major objectives of the African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) is to collect, process and disseminate animal resources information across African Union Member States (MS). The Bureau, with active participation of member countries, has successfully fulfilled this objective over the span of its over 60 years of existence. AU-IBAR produces the Pan-African Animal Health Year book (PAHYB) annually that is widely distributed globally.

AU-IBAR in line with its knowledge management objective, is further enhancing disease management and information sharing with the development of the Animal Resources Information System (ARIS-2) which will soon be rolled out to all Member States of the African Union to enable them improve their capacity in animal resources data management. The ultimate aim is to make the MS, the Regional Eco-

nommic Communities (RECs) and AU-IBAR the primary and most reliable sources of Animal Resources data across the continent of Africa.

In order to improve the level of preparedness and risk mitigation measures, AU-IBAR has started compiling and disseminating weekly disease outbreak alert messages and a quarterly Animal Health Digest in addition to the regular PAHYB that is published at the end of each year. The first edition of the Animal Health Digest is hereby published providing readers with the disease situation within the continent for the first quarter of the year 2012. The primary source of the data is from the AU Member States.

This edition also introduces readers to the primary vehicle that AU-IBAR will use to collect data from MS i.e. the Animal Resources Information System (ARIS-2)

Enjoy reading it!!!

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Monthly disease reports were received from only 9 countries within the first quarter of 2012 namely, Algeria, Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Nigeria, Somalia and Sudan. Four (4) of these countries submitted complete reports for the quarter, three (3) reported for two (2) months, while one (1) submitted reports for only one month.

A total of 950 records were submitted by the 9 reporting countries (see summary details in Table 1 below)

Country	Total Outbreaks	No. of Animals Susceptible	Sum of Cases	Sum of Deaths	Sum of Slaughtered.	Sum of Destroyed
Algeria	20	2522	123	14	28	46
Botswana	55	2345	181	104	0	0
Ghana	341	106176	9170	1291	83	8
Kenya	346	3148	1113	105	0	0
Lesotho	17	9350	129	103	200	0
Namibia	77	5624	291	92	119	0
Nigeria	61	11057	1024	372	264	4
Somalia	125	27488	1472	172	79	0
Sudan	16	35019	1809	383	14	0
Grand Total	1058	202729	15312	2636	787	58

Overall., a total of 1058 outbreaks were reported with 49 diseases and/or conditions involved. The most frequently reported disease is Theileriosis (East Coats Fever) with 177 outbreaks followed by Mange (129), Trypanosomosis (110) and Peste des Petits Ruminants - PPR (105). In terms of loses, a total of 2636 animals died, while 787 were slaughtered and 58 destroyed as control measure due to these outbreaks. Thus the total number of animals lost over the first quarter was 3471.

The details of number of the animals affected, cases, deaths etc for some of the major diseases reported within the quarter are provided in table 2 below:

Table 2:- Outbreak data for selected diseases

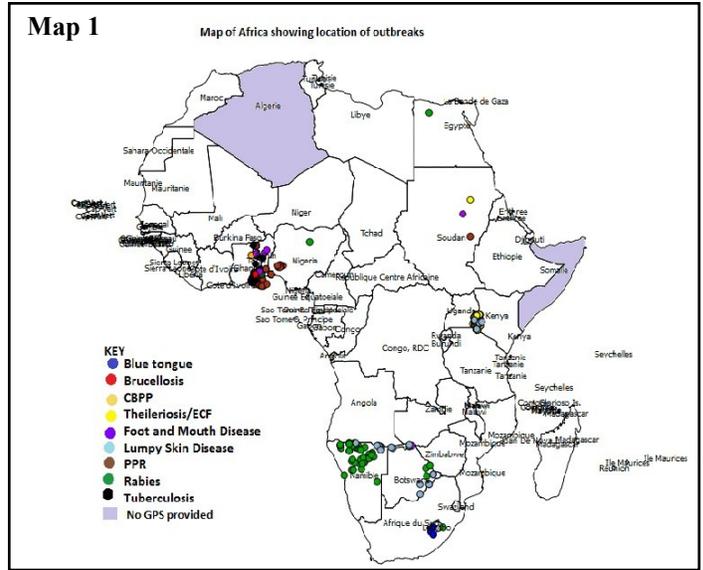
Disease	Total Outbreaks	Total Number of Animals			Morbidity rate	Mortality rate	Case fatality rate
		Susceptible*	Cases	Deaths			
African Horse Sickness	1	50	3	1	6	2	33.3
Anthrax	10	8252	52	46	0.63	0.55	88.5
Blue tongue	4	143	6	5	4.2	3.5	83.3
Brucellosis	6	224	25	0	11.2	0	0
Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia	13	1893	74	11	3.9	0.58	14.9
Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia	24	2971	300	54	10.1	1.8	18
Foot and Mouth Disease	14	10163	550	23	5.4	.23	4.2
Haemorrhagic Septicaemia	1	9	1	1	11.1	11.1	100
Infectious Bursal Disease (Gumboro)	10	19005	2576	633	13.6	3.3	24.6
Lumpy Skin Disease	25	1692	136	1	8	0.06	0.74
Newcastle Disease	38	80911	5577	763	6.9	0.94	13.7
Peste des Petits Ruminants	108	49129	2678	488	5.45	0.99	18.2
Rabies	81	5032	170	91	3.38	1.8	53.53
Sheep Pox and Goat Pox	13	3821	340	40	8.9	1	11.8
Theileriosis (East Coast fever)	177	1243	264	15	21.24	1.21	5.68
Tuberculosis	21	554	57	0	10.29	0	0
Varroosis of Honey Bess	1	20	20	0	100	0	0

* The calculated rates are based on the estimated number of susceptible animals at outbreak locations/epidemiological units which might not be very accurate

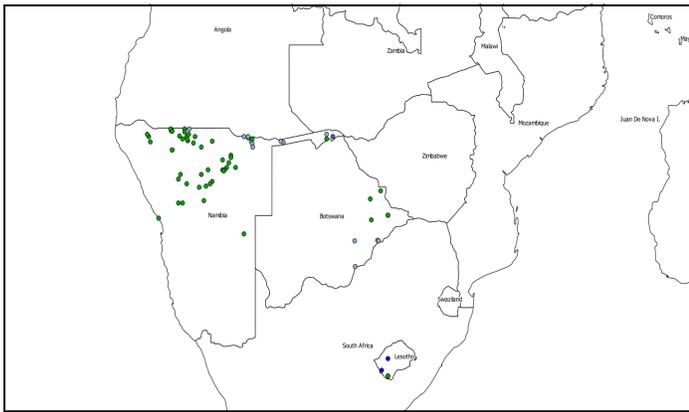
Spatial distribution of disease outbreaks in Africa

Although not all the locations where outbreaks occurred had georeference data, available information indicated that there were many outbreaks of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) around the coastal southwestern part of Ghana (Map 1), while high numbers of Rabies outbreaks were reported from the central and northern parts of Namibia as well as in the Western part of Botswana (Map 2). Many of the Rabies cases in Botswana were in the desert region and involved a significant number of wild species of animals.

Other remarkable flash points were the high number of Theileriosis (East coast fever) outbreaks around the Lake Victoria region in Kenya near the border with Uganda and Tanzania (Map 3); and PPR around the south western part of Nigeria (Map 1) as well as Bluetongue in Lesotho (Map 2)



Map 2: - Location of outbreaks in Southern Africa



Map 3:- Location of outbreaks in East Africa

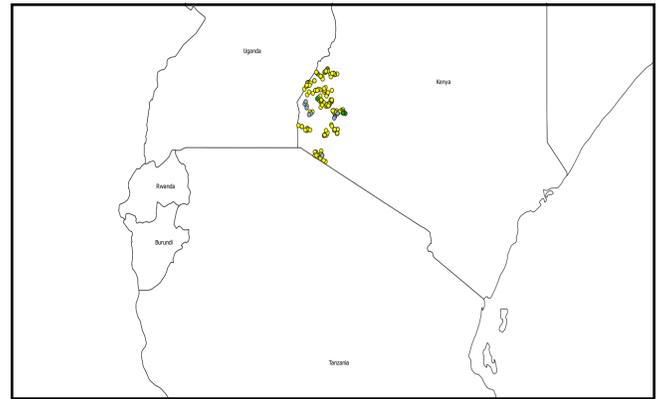
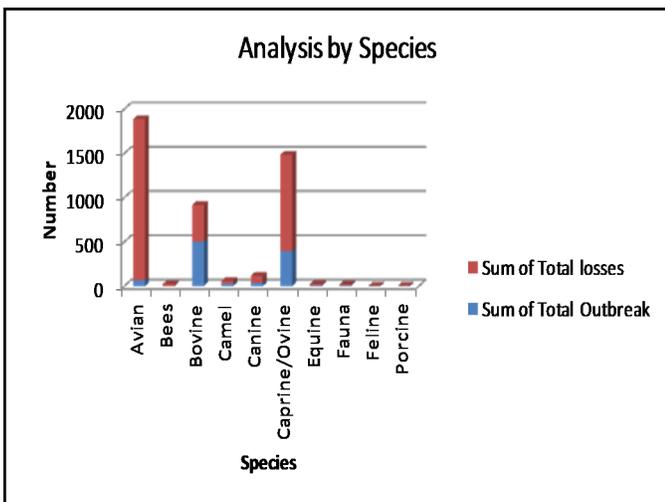
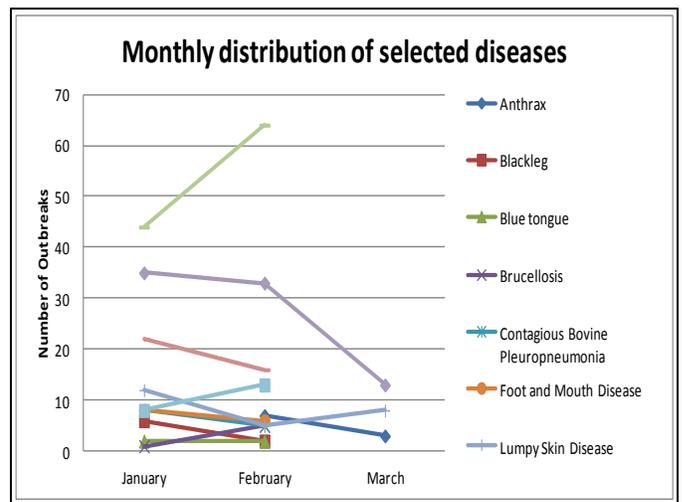


Figure 1:- Disease outbreaks and total losses by species



Available data showed that the highest number of outbreaks occurred in the Bovine species followed by the combined Caprine/Ovine species, while the highest loss (death, slaughter and destruction) was in the Avian species.

Figure 2:- Temporal distribution of outbreaks of selected diseases



There was a mixed pattern in the occurrence of outbreaks during the 1st quarter of 2012, with Blue tongue and CBPP increasing, Brucellosis declining while occurrence of the other diseases remained fairly stable.

Digest:

The Animal Resources Information System (ARIS-2)

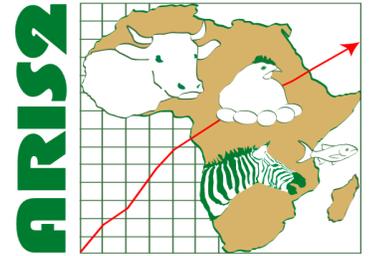
The importance of regular, timely and accurate sanitary information has continued to evolve over the years. Traditionally, countries collect animal health data to assess the status of “selected” animal diseases within their territories, as an early warning system to identify emerging threats, to meet international obligation on disease reporting as well as for effective prevention and control and/or eradication and demonstration of freedom from diseases. The use of accurate animal health data and information has gradually evolved to become an essential tool for planning, policy formulation and legislation, promotion of trade, and for advocacy to attract and promote investment and resource allocation to the livestock sub-sector for development purposes. Accurate and reliable data is also essential for research and training purposes.

For this to be achieved, an effective and reliable Information system is essential. However, despite its importance many African countries do not have a reliable system in place, and where present, it does not always meet the needs of users’ adequately. It is for this reason that AU-IBAR, within the scope of its mandate and in order to promote the culture of timely reporting by Member States initially developed the first version of the ARIS initially known as the PACE Integrated Database (PID) in 2000 to facilitate animal health information sharing.

Under the auspices of the AU-IBAR Strategic Plan for 2010 – 2014, a second version of the system, known as ARIS 2, has been developed for use by MS and the RECs to enhance the gathering, analysis and dissemination of data on animal resources in a sustainable manner. Thus IBAR’s key role of providing advisory services, promotion of policy and advocacy, capacity enhancement and development of programmes on matters related to the development and use of animal resources in Africa shall also be given a boost.

The overall objective of ARIS-2 is to enhance the information and knowledge management capacity of AU-IBAR, MS & RECs to prevent and swiftly respond to disease emergencies and to properly plan interventions in animal production, marketing and trade as well as to attract investment into the sub-sector. This objective emanated from the needs assessment of MS carried out in 2010 and is a key component of the Knowledge Management (KM) strategy of AU-IBAR for the period 2010 to 2014.

Major features of the ARIS-2:- ARIS-2 is web-based and was built on a cost effective, open source software. The system is flexible and customisable to country and user needs. In general ARIS-2 is simple to work with, multilingual and user friendly, and will allow users to generate, validate, store, analyze and submit different types of data on animal resources online, thus providing real-time information while en-



Animal Resources Information System

hancing the collaboration along succeeding administrative levels in MS, the RECs, and at the continental level. The system is also adaptable for use off-line where internet is not readily available. In this context, ARIS will serve as a database and a reporting tool for users at different administrative levels and promotes the concept of data ownership by MS. The system is highly secure with scalable user access rights

Modules: - ARIS 2 has an expandable modular design. The scope of modules developed so far cover 5 core areas – Animal Health, Animal Production, Fisheries & Aquaculture, Trade & Marketing and Capacity. The system also has a “Forum” feature that facilitates discussion between users aimed at improving the capability of countries to collaborate and fully participate in activities of international standard setting bodies (i.e. OIE, CAC, IPPC and WTO).

As there are other information systems being used by countries (WAHIS, TAD-Info, LIMS, and other national databases), ARIS-2 is interoperable with these systems in order to avoid duplication of efforts and facilitate safe on-line exchange of data and information.

Titbits - Memorable events

AU-IBAR celebrates its 60th Anniversary
On January 16, 2012, AU-IBAR celebrated its 60 years of existence and the eradication of Rinderpest in Africa. The occasion which was attended by Ministers and other dignitaries from African Union Member States and international partners, showcased the important milestones that AU-IBAR has achieved in the last six decades on the continent since its inception in 1951. A commemorative plaque was unveiled to mark the occasion by the by the AUC Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture and the Kenyan Minister for Livestock Development.



H.E. Rhoda Tumusiime, Commissioner AU-DREA and Dr Mohammed Kuti, Minister for Livestock Development, Kenya unveiling the commemorative plaque during the occasion

Re-inforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa (VET-GOV) project launched:-

The VET-GOV project was officially launched on January 16, 2012. The 5 year project which is jointly funded by the European Union and the African Union Commission to the tune of EUR 35million seeks to improve delivery of veterinary services through enhancing the capacities of Veterinary services of member states, and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

Implementation activities have started with regional meetings of stakeholders.