



African Union

Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

**INTEGRATED REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM
FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF
TRANS-BOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES AND ZOOSES
IN AFRICA
(IRCM)**

Review of capacities of the Regional Economic Communities and Member States towards the formulation of the IRCM

Guidelines

February 2010

Contents

1	Acknowledgments	2
2	List of acronyms	3
3	Introduction	4
4	Background	5
5	Approaches and methodology	8
6	Scope of work	9
7	Conduct of the process	12
8	Products of the process	13
9	Composition of the team	14
10	Annexes	16
	Annex 1: Terms of reference Team Leader	16
	Annex 2: Terms of Reference OIE-certified PVS experts	17
	Annex 3: Terms of Reference Livestock Production/ Bio-security Expert	19
	Annex 4: Terms of Reference Veterinary Epidemiologist/Disease control Expert	21
	Annex 5: Terms of Reference Wildlife Veterinarian/Ecologist	22
	Annex 6: Terms of Reference Human Health Expert	24
	Annex 7: Terms of Reference Communication Expert	25

Acknowledgments

The Guidelines for the “Review of capacities of the Regional Economic Communities and Member States towards the formulation of the IRCM” have been developed within the framework of SPINAP-AHI, a program of AU-IBAR co-funded by the European Union and the African Union Commission. Their financial support is highly appreciated.

The Guidelines were developed by an AU-IBAR task force, with additional technical support provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Regional Office for Africa of the World Health Organization (WHO-AFRO) and the Department of Social Affairs of the African Union Commission (AUC/DSA). Valuable contributions were also provided by the Regional Economic Communities of the African Union (RECs). Their technical support and contributions are acknowledged and valued.

The guidance and encouragement provided by the AU-IBAR Director, Prof Ahmed Elsalwaly, and the Chief Animal Production Officer, Dr Simplice Nouala, during the preparation of the guidelines are highly valued.

I List of acronyms

AEC	African Economic Community
AI	Avian Influenza
AHI	Animal (Avian) and Human Influenza
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUC/DSA	African Union Commission/Department of Social Affairs
AU-IBAR	Africa Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
ECOSOCC	Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union
EID	Emerging Infectious Diseases
ERAD	Emerging and Re-emerging Animal Diseases
ERID	Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GLEWS	Global Early Warning and Response System for Trans-boundary animal Diseases
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
IDSR	Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response
INAP	Integrated National Action Program
IRCM	Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NMTP	National Medium Term Priority Plan
OFFLU	Joint OIE-FAO network of expertise on animal influenza
OIE	World Animal Health Organization
OWOH	One World One Health
PVS	Performance of Veterinary Services
RAHC	Regional Animal Health Center
REC	Regional Economic Community
SG	Secretary General
SPINAP-AHI	Support Program to the Integrated National Action Plans-Animal Human Influenza
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
STCs	Specialized Technical Committees
TADs	Trans-boundary Animal Diseases
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNISIC	UN System Influenza Coordinator
VS	Veterinary Services
WAHIS	World Animal Health Information system
WAHID	World Animal Health Information Database
WHO	World Health Organization

2 Introduction

1. Harmonization and coordination mechanisms at regional level have been recognized as a means to enhance national capacities to prevent and control trans-boundary animal diseases (TADs) and zoonoses. In the context of the African Union (AU), coordination and harmonization mechanisms at the Regional Economic Communities (REC) level are equally important for the facilitation of cross border trade and promotion of regional integration.

2. The African Union recognizes RECs as the building blocks for the economic and political integration within the African continent. As a consequence, AU institutional structures are strategically mandated to work through the RECs in the execution of their mandates. On their part AU Member States are committed to strengthening the RECs and harmonizing their activities along the vision of the creation of an African Common Market, through the steps set out in the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) [Abuja Treaty].

3. To improve the relationship between the African Union Commission (AUC) and RECs, a protocol was recently adopted by the AU, with the following objectives:

- Formalize, consolidate and promote closer co-operation among RECs and between them and the AU through the co-ordination and harmonization of their policies, measures, program and activities in all fields and sectors;
- Establish a framework for co-ordination of the activities of RECs in their contribution to the realization of the objectives of the Constitutive Act of the AU and the Abuja Treaty;
- Strengthen the RECs in accordance with the provision of the Abuja Treaty and decisions of the AU;
- Implement the Sirte Declaration with regard to the acceleration of the integration process and shorten the periods provided for in Article 6 of the Abuja Treaty;
- Set and monitor general and specific benchmarks for the establishment of the African Common Market;
- Establish a framework for linking the operations of the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) and the Sectoral Cluster Committees of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the AU (ECOSOCC) to the operations of the RECs;
- Establish a co-ordination mechanism of regional and continental efforts for the development of common positions by its members in negotiations at the multilateral level;
- Encourage the sharing of experiences in all fields among the RECs and ensure harmonization of their cooperation with potential donors and international financial institutions;
- Ensure that gender is mainstreamed into all the programs and activities within the relationships among the RECs and between the RECs and the AU.

4. The proposed Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism (IRCM) for the prevention and control of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and Zoonoses is therefore in line with the political agenda of the AU for accelerated integration. The IRCM aims at strengthening the capacity of RECs, in terms of prevention and control of TADs and zoonoses, to coordinate and harmonize actions implemented by Member States through capacity building, promotion of inter-sectoral coordination and institutionalization of coordination procedures and practices. The proposed IRCM will initially focus on a limited number of TADs and zoonoses prioritized by the RECs, with the medium term objective of expanding its scope to all other relevant TADs and zoonoses. The IRCM will also be instrumental in promoting the “One World One Health” (OWOH) concept at national, regional and continental levels.

3 Background

5. Recent experiences in addressing Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5NI) and responding to pandemic influenza (H1NI) have confirmed that emerging infectious diseases (EID) pose continuous threats to human life and wellbeing, either because of human and animal morbidity and mortality or indirect impact on food security due to loss of animal food sources and livelihoods.

6. The Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) caused by the avian influenza virus has been responsible for outbreaks in poultry in different parts of the world at different times in the 19th and 20th century. The recent wave of HPAI outbreaks (H5NI) has been the most dramatic, resulting in a massive international and domestic mobilization of financial and technical resources to prevent and control outbreaks. Due to its zoonotic nature, ability to spread rapidly and high impact, among others, HPAI sparked a global pandemic threat that has largely driven its control efforts since 2003. High level resource mobilization events were held to raise funds and articulate technical strategies for prevention and control at country level. These included the following:

- The Geneva International Conference on Avian and Human Influenza (AHI) in November 2005 that led to the preparation and adoption of a joint OIE/FAO/WHO strategy supported by the World Bank and other donors.
- The Beijing (January 2006), Vienna (June 2006), Bamako (December 2006), New Delhi (December 2007) and Sharm El Sheikh (October 2008) and other international conferences that generated donor commitments totalling US\$ 3 billion. – it was proposed to list all the international meetings here

7. The joint intervention strategy unveiled in Geneva was also adopted by the other conferences referred to above, where it was agreed to concentrate the mobilization of the international community on urgent programs and projects with a long-term focus. For Africa, the regional coordination of activities was accorded high priority especially given existing initiatives and the role of the Partnership.

8. A multi-institutional and interdisciplinary Task-Force involving staff from the Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources for the Africa Union (AU-IBAR), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) was set up under the auspices of the ALive Partnership to prepare a report on "Avian Influenza Prevention and Control and Human Influenza Pandemic Preparedness in Africa - Assessment of Financial Needs and Gaps" for the Fourth International Conference on Avian Influenza held in Bamako, Mali in December 2006. This report was updated in 2007 for the Fifth International Conference on Avian and Human Influenza held in New Delhi, India, in December 2007. At both Ministerial conferences Africa spoke with one voice and presented its needs. The earmarked programs and projects were required to prioritize animal level interventions, to consider the danger of spread of infection to humans, potential pandemic spread, and the socio-economic impacts for all stakeholders. They were thus dubbed "Integrated National Action Programs" (INAPs).

9. The INAPs were designed to be steered by the countries (via their National Coordination Task Forces or Committees) and prepared with the help of technical experts provided by the international (OIE, FAO, and WHO) and regional technical organizations (AU-IBAR and WHO-AFRO) and the Regional Animal Health Centers (RAHC) in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) based in Bamako, Gaborone and Nairobi.

10. Whether countries had undertaken the rapid assessment or not, it emerged that the INAPs were almost exclusively country plans, missing the cross-border and regional dimensions with regards to coordination arrangements in prevention, preparedness and rapid response. This was highlighted by difficulties encountered in regional coordination during simulation exercises conducted to test regional strategies on HPAI and during real outbreaks between neighboring countries and was also expressed by countries during regional technical coordination workshops organized by the Support Program to Integrated National Action Plan – Avian and Human Influenza (SPINAP-AHI) program.

11. The global situation has been complicated by the recent declaration of pandemic influenza due to the novel A (H1NI) virus. Although largely a human infection, H1NI has been reported from animals, and has sparked new fear of re-assortment with the more pathogenic but less transmissible (among humans) H5NI virus. Presently, H5NI is endemic in Egypt in Africa and in Indonesia in SE Asia and in these countries, both H1NI and H5NI, are circulating simultaneously. The management of outbreaks of these two viruses has been a challenge in African countries partly because of paucity of resources, weak systems and capacities of the public and veterinary health systems, poor coordination between sectors, agencies and countries.

12. An adequate response to the global Avian and Human Influenza (AHI) threat must entail collaboration between partners across sectors, particularly animal and human health, and donors agencies. Such an integrated approach should start with common objectives that bring together the human and animal health sectors to address zoonotic diseases more strategically, prevent the spread of AI among animals, and reduce the risk of a human infection or influenza pandemic.

13. Recent emerging or re-emerging infectious diseases of global public health concern have demonstrated the magnitude of these issues for human and animal health, and stressed the importance of effective partnerships between Veterinary and Human Health Services. The relevant international organizations – namely, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have taken the lead in the preparation of global strategies and guidelines for animal and human health in addressing AHI. The guidelines for the formulation of the IRCM build on these strategies.

14. The prevention and control of AHI and other emerging and re-emerging animal diseases (ERADs), including zoonoses, at their animal source, including wildlife, is therefore a priority.

15. A country's capacity to prevent, detect and control an epidemic of AHI (and other emerging and re-emerging animal diseases and zoonoses) depends essentially on the quality of its Public Health and Veterinary Services and their ability to effectively coordinate preparedness, prevention, surveillance and rapid response mechanisms with neighbouring countries, thus the need for IRCM.

16. The OIE has developed the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool) and the PVS Gap Analysis tools to evaluate veterinary services (VS) and determine the level of investment required to improve their performance. The country PVS reports, incorporating OIE's public standards democratically approved by its Member Countries (see in particular OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Chapters 3.1. and 3.2. and OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code, Chapter 3.1.), shall be used to review veterinary services and/or aquatic animal health services, with a longer-term goal of sustainable capacity-building for veterinary services and/or aquatic animal health services. The existing country PVS Reports, and PVS Gap Analysis documents, if available for Donors and Partners, will be used to identify main areas of support to be addressed at REC level.

17. While support at country level has been significant and HPAI has not spread as initially feared in SSA due to the rapid control of outbreaks in affected countries and increased preparedness, it is now becoming evident that country focused interventions alone cannot fully address rapidly spreading emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (ERIDs), as recently shown by the Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic. Equally evident is the fact that improved inter-sectoral collaboration (Public Health and Veterinary services) and coordination mechanisms at REC level, both within and across the RECs, are urgently needed to prevent and control rapidly spreading infectious animal diseases, including zoonoses.

18. The concept of "One World, One Health" has recently been promoted to reiterate that there are strong linkages between animal diseases and public health. It has long been known that 60% of known human infectious diseases have their source in animals (whether domestic or wild), as do 75% of emerging human diseases. It is also evident that the human population needs a regular diet of protein from milk, eggs or meat, and that a deficiency of these nutritive elements can also be a public health problem. Animal diseases alone are responsible for production losses estimated at 20%. The unprecedented flow of commodities and people gives pathogens of all kinds the opportunity to spread and multiply around the world, and climate change can enable them to extend their range, notably through vectors such as insects colonizing new areas that until a few years ago were too cold for them to survive the winter. The only way to prevent and mitigate the negative effects all these new hazards is to adapt the existing systems of health governance at world, regional and national levels in a harmonized and coordinated manner.

19. A number of international initiatives have been put in place by OIE, WHO and FAO to increase coordination and collaboration, information sharing and early warning systems. The OIE, WHO and FAO (with the support of UNICEF, the UN System Influenza Coordinator [UNSIC] and the World Bank) have prepared a consensus document on global measures needed to coordinate medical and veterinary health policies more effectively, taking into account new requirements to prevent and control zoonoses: "Contributing to One World, One Health¹ - A Strategic Framework for Reducing Risks of Infectious Diseases at the Animal-Human-Ecosystems Interface". This document was presented and adopted by the Ministers of more than 100 countries at a Conference in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in October 2008.

¹ The 'One World, One Health' concept, that establishes a more interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach to preventing epidemic or epizootic disease and for maintaining ecosystem integrity, is a trademark of the Wildlife Conservation Society.

20. AU-IBAR, the technical office of the AU responsible for the improvement of animal resources on the continent, cognizant of the importance of strengthening veterinary services and improving cooperation with the Public Health Sector organized a series of technical meetings² in 2009 to raise awareness with decision makers, technical experts, international and development partners at national, regional and continental level. The importance of strengthening or establishing coordination and harmonization mechanisms at REC and inter-REC levels was reiterated in several fora.

² Addis Ababa meeting on 18-21 August 2009 and Naivasha meeting on 18-21 October 2009.

4 Approaches and methodology

21. In light of the experiences gained through the INAP formulation and the implementation of the SPINAP-AHI and other programs designed to reduce the impact of TADs at continental and regional levels, the AU-IBAR, with the Department of Social Affairs (DSA) of the AUC and the RECs, and in collaboration with relevant international partners (OIE, FAO and WHO), is leading a new initiative to assist RECs and Member Countries in the definition of modalities and approaches to improve harmonization and coordination mechanisms at REC and inter-REC levels, so as to strengthen national and regional capacities to prevent and control ERADs and zoonoses, in Africa.

22. The IRCM will be steered by RECs in collaboration with Member Countries. Linkages with international and technical partners should be maintained to ensure technical support to RECs and Member Countries. In accordance with the goals set by the international community, the immediate, as well as medium- and long-term needs, must be identified so that RECs' capacities can sustainably be enhanced, particularly in the area of harmonization and coordination (vertical and horizontal) so as to strengthen the capacity of Member Countries in preparedness, prevention and rapid control measures to combat, not only AHI but also the emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, including zoonoses, prioritized at REC level.

23. The proposed IRCM will be formulated based on a review of Member Countries capacities and gaps to effectively prevent and control emerging infectious diseases, consistent with REC sectoral strategies and plans, and anchored on REC institutional frameworks. The country review will initially be carried out through a desk-top analysis of existing documents, such as the INAPs, OIE-PVS and PVS Gap-Analysis reports³, WHO country assessment reports (implementation status of International Health Regulations [IHR 2005], Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response [IDSR] and Health systems), NMTP⁴s and Regional reports, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) reports of beneficiary countries of SPINAP-AHI and other relevant documentation. In case baseline information of countries belonging to a particular REC is not adequate, AU-IBAR may consider gathering missing information through direct dialogue with relevant authorities in, and/or visit the countries concerned. The desk analysis should include the identification of potential activities to be undertaken at REC level so as to maximize synergies among Member Countries and strengthen coordination and harmonization capacities at regional level.

24. At REC level, in addition to the desk review, the appraisal will also be based on direct dialogue with their respective Secretariats/Commission, during which the following will be analyzed:

- Treaties establishing the RECs and other relevant legal instruments
- Institutional arrangements (including relevant committees and sub-committees)
- Strategic plans or programs, both on going and planned
- RECs programs and activities in terms of coordination and harmonization
- REC priorities
- Resources and capacities available
- Gaps and needs
- Inter-REC coordination
- External support available to the REC

³ Availability of these OIE-PVS and PVS Gap Analysis reports is subordinated to a prior agreement of countries.

⁴ National Medium Term Priority Plan

5 Scope of work

25. The desk review and on-site visits shall provide relevant information required for the compilation of the synthesis of Member Countries and RECs situation with regard to the objective of the assignment. In compiling the synthesis of the RECs, the situation of their Member Countries shall be referred to and taken into account. In particular, the following issues, but not exclusively, should be reviewed in the compilation of the REC synthesis reports:

i. The current status of AHI and other ERADs and zoonoses, in the region

- Status of AHI and other ERADs and zoonoses, in terms of the nature and impact of past and present outbreaks
- Level of awareness of stakeholders on potential risks of AHI and other ERADs and zoonoses
- Role of RECs in the prevention and control of TADs and other ERADs and zoonoses

ii. Planning and Coordination

Strategic Plan for AHI and other ERADs and zoonoses

- Existence and quality (technical soundness, consistent with international standards, feasibility) strategic plans to prevent and control AHI and other selected ERADs and zoonoses
- Steps undertaken to develop strategic plans, when not available.
- Institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks supporting strategic plans
- Costing and funding level of strategic plans
- Feasibility of the strategic plan
- Steps undertaken to develop strategic plans

Coordination and harmonization mechanisms at REC level:

- Governance structures of the REC (Institutional arrangements) and coordination mechanisms in the Livestock and Human Health Sectors, including Regional Veterinary (or Regulatory) Committees and/or regional legislation/regulations/ directives or recommendations.
- Regional Strategic Plan for addressing AHI and other, including zoonoses in the region.
- Relationships of RECs with Member States on modalities for harmonizing veterinary legislation, complying with international standards
- Relationships of the REC with other RECs and any mechanisms for cooperation in and coordination of programs.
- Institutions (public and private) involved in existing coordination mechanisms
- Operation modalities of existing coordination mechanisms (ToR, designation of leading institutions, roles and responsibilities)
- Cross-boundary coordination mechanisms
- Coordination mechanisms between Member Countries and RECs.
- Operation modalities of existing coordination mechanism (ToR, designation of leading institutions, roles and responsibilities)
- If coordination mechanisms not available, steps undertaken to establish integrated coordination mechanism at REC level
- Interaction among wildlife departments/services, veterinary and public health services

Capacity development

- Existing capacity for disease control
- Existing or planned capacity development to strengthen coordination mechanisms
- Capacity of RECs to support Member Countries
- Capacity of RECs to administer coordination and harmonization initiatives

Inter REC coordination and institutional frameworks

- Coordination mechanisms between RECs.
- Institutional frameworks supporting inter REC coordination and harmonization mechanisms

iii. Animal Health

Overview of livestock sector and bio-security measures

- The livestock sector (poultry, swine, and ruminants) and its relative importance in terms of livelihoods, production and trade.
- Marketing and distribution channels and potential role in dissemination of TADs and zoonoses.
- Main features of livestock value chains and its stakeholders
- Bio-security measures along the value chains for different livestock production systems
- Sectoral development policies, strategies and plans
- Regulatory frameworks governing the livestock sector
- Bio-security measures along cross-border marketing, import and export systems
- Capacity of REC to undertake risk analysis independently or in partnership with Member Countries
- Sectoral development policies, strategies and plans
- Wildlife health components in animal health services

Migratory birds and wildlife

- Main wild species (potentially involved in TADs or zoonoses), their distribution and habitats,
- Migratory pathways and seasonal movements of wild species involved or potentially involved in zoonoses transmission
- Management of wildlife
- Level of interaction between wildlife species and domestic animals
- Role of wildlife in cross border (within and across RECs) dissemination of zoonoses
- Wildlife contribution to Member States and REC economies

Veterinary services, capacity and preparedness

- Risk analysis and interventions in place to monitor and mitigate risks.
- Capacity of veterinary services to undertake disease surveillance, including wildlife, of AH1 and other selected ERADs and zoonoses
- Interaction among wildlife, veterinary and public health departments/services
- Surveillance, prevention, early detection, diagnostic capacity, and rapid response including Containment and Control Measures
- Funding and human resources in veterinary services
- Contingency/preparedness plans to address AH1 and other selected ERADs and zoonoses
- Disease prevention and control plans and measures
- Disease notification procedures
- Connectivity with an active participation to relevant international platforms, mechanisms and procedures (WAHIS/WAHID⁵)
- Regulatory frameworks governing national animal health / veterinary services
- Veterinary legislation and other regulatory frameworks
- Professional development and training
- Veterinary statutory body
- Role of private sector in animal health service delivery
- Cross border harmonization
- Role of different stakeholders in animal disease prevention and control
- Compensation policies and funds
- Capacities of the REC to support legislative initiatives of Member states Veterinary Services
- Capacity of REC to cooperate and interact in coordination with veterinary services of Member Countries and other RECs
- Intra and inter-REC harmonization and coordination mechanisms
- Mandate of REC for the coordination of animal health related issues
- REC Regulatory frameworks governing animal health delivery services
- Harmonization of veterinary legislation at regional level and compliance with international standards, use of OIE guidelines on veterinary legislation
- Regional epidemio-surveillance networks coordination
- Regional laboratory networks including reference laboratories and accreditation systems coordination
- Regional Animal Disease information sharing and communication mechanisms
- Connectivity of Regional mechanisms with and active participation to relevant international platforms, mechanisms and procedures (WAHIS/WAHID; OFFLU⁶ ; GLEWS⁷)
- Regional Contingency/preparedness plans

iv. Human Health

Surveillance

- Surveillance and early warning systems
- Application of WHO IDSR and IHR (2005)
- Laboratory diagnostic capacity
- Outbreak investigation systems and capacity
- Coordination of outbreak investigation with veterinary services
- Contingency plans
- Regional epidemio-surveillance networks
- Regional laboratory networks, including referral and accreditation systems

Prevention, Containment and Control Measures

- Capacity of health institutions, structures and systems

⁵ OIE World Animal Health Information System / Database (WAHIS/WAHID)

⁶ Joint OIE-FAO network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU)

⁷ Global Early Warning System (GLEWS)

- Pandemic control and prevention measures
- Public and private sector cooperation
- Drug and vaccine availability
- Capacity of REC to cooperate and interact with public health services of Member Countries and other REC
- Contingency/preparedness plans
- Epidemic and Pandemic preparedness and response plans
- Pandemic prevention and control plans
- Disease information sharing and communication mechanisms

Health system capacity and preparedness

- Legal and ethical frameworks and coherence with IHR
- Policies and regulatory frameworks for prevention and control measures of pandemics
- Contingency plans
- Intra and inter-REC harmonization and coordination mechanisms
- Mandate of REC in public health related issues
- Regulatory frameworks governing public health services
- Capacity of RECs to support Member Countries in public health delivery systems

v. Communication

Public awareness campaigns

- Awareness campaigns (target groups, quality of strategies/plans, impact)
- Communication plan for preparedness and response to AHI and other ERADs and zoonoses
- Functionality of communication networks, including the involvement of the NGO sector
- Coordination mechanisms for communication and awareness campaigns

Technical capacities in communication

- Technical capacities in communication
- Availability of regional capacities to provide technical assistance to national communication systems

Mass media environment

- Type and coverage of mass media

vi. Inventory of Development / International Partners Activities

- Inventory of past, present and planned external assistance to public health and veterinary services
- Coordination mechanism between development partners and international institutions involved in the prevention and control of AHI and other selected ERADs and zoonoses.
- Coordination mechanism between development partners and regional institutions

6 Conduct of the process

26. **The Sensitization and Planning Phase [Phase I].** Formal initiation of the process will begin with a communication to the Secretaries General (SGs) or Executive Secretaries (ESs) of RECs, informing them that AU-IBAR, in collaboration with the AUC Department of Social Affairs and in partnership with relevant international institutions (OIE, FAO and WHO) intends to launch a new initiative aimed at strengthening the capacity of RECs to facilitate the coordination and harmonization mechanism for the prevention and control of AHI and other ERADs and zoonoses (as identified and prioritized by each REC). The SGs or ESs will be invited to endorse the general approach and identify a liaison person within the Secretariat. The sensitization and planning phase will be completed at a workshop to be organized by AU-IBAR.

27. **The Desk Review Phase (Phase II).** Will begin with the collation and analysis of relevant documents such as country reports (OIE-PVS, PVS Gap Analysis⁸, INAP, M&E reports of SPINAP, NMTP⁹, FAO Country Poultry Sector Review, WHO country appraisal reports and other studies) in order to identify the main constraints hindering effective prevention and control measures of AHI and other ERADs and zoonoses, at country level. For each REC the desk review will analyze country information as well as REC information. The desk review will be followed by the identification of national constraints that could be addressed at REC level. The review phase will be followed by the compilation of country profiles and an interim report providing an overview of the status of different countries belonging to the particular REC and identifying main issues to be addressed at the REC level to strengthen coordination and harmonization mechanisms. The contents of the report will be subjected to a continuous process of validation through dialogue with international partners.

28. **The On-Site Assessment Phase [Phase III].** Technical experts will visit the RECs and conduct further validation and updating of country and REC information gathered in Phase II. This will be followed by a review of coordination and harmonization mechanisms vis-à-vis sectoral strategies, plans and priority activities elaborated by RECs to support the livestock sector. Ongoing and planned initiatives addressing livestock development, animal and public health, control of TADs, ERADs and zoonoses will also be reviewed. At the end of this phase, an interim analytical report will be compiled which will include recommendations on the IRCM.

29. **The Validation Phase [Phase IV].** The interim REC analytical reports will be validated through the following:

- i. Technical Peer Review
- ii. Clearance by international and technical partners
- iii. Review and clearance at REC level

30. **The IRCM Formulation Phase [Phase V].** After the validation of the analytical report, an IRCM will be jointly developed by a team composed of AU-IBAR, FAO, WHO, OIE and REC experts in each REC. The proposed IRCM will aim at strengthening or establishing institutionalized coordination and harmonization mechanisms required for effective support to Member Countries for preparedness, prevention, early detection and rapid response, and linkages between RECs through resource mobilization, capacity building and legislative review and alignment. It will be anchored on existing institutional and regulatory frameworks governing coordination, financing and harmonization goals of RECs. A costed plan to implement the IRCM will also be developed for an initial period of three years.

31. **The Adoption Phase [Phase VI].** The draft IRCM and its implementation plan will be presented to RECs' governance structures for review and adoption.

⁸ When available for Donors and Partners

⁹ National Medium Term Program

7 Products of the process

32. For each REC, the following documents will be compiled:
- A synthesis of the information from the Desk Review of countries
 - A synthesis of the information from the Desk Review and on-site assessment of the REC
 - A REC analytical Report with recommendations on the nature, structure, modalities, roles of stakeholders and expected outcomes of the IRCM.
 - A proposed IRCM
 - A costed implementation plan for the proposed IRCM.

8 Composition of the team

33. The Team will be composed of:

- The **AU-IBAR Team leader** shall provide overall leadership of the team and shall be responsible for liaison, through AU-IBAR, with the REC Secretariats and the international and technical partners. The Team leader shall also be responsible for initiating all communications and follow-up regarding the preparation and conduct of the assignment, the debriefing sessions and compilation of documents. The Team Leader will specifically review institutional arrangements and regulatory and policy frameworks (See Annex 1 for detailed TOR).
- The **OIE-certified PVS experts** will be responsible for the review of Veterinary Services, laboratory networks and possibly veterinary education systems if relevant/available in the considered REC, using the OIE PVS and PVS Gap Analysis reports. OIE-certified experts will review veterinary services and/or aquatic animal health services, with a longer-term goal of sustainable capacity-building for veterinary services and/or aquatic animal health services at regional level. The OIE-certified experts will use the existing country PVS Reports, and PVS Gap Analysis documents, if available for Donors and Partners, as well as INAP reports to identify main areas of support to be addressed at REC level. The OIE Experts will also be involved in the discussion pertaining to the harmonization of Veterinary legislation (See Annex 2 for detailed TOR).
- The **FAO Livestock Production/Bio-security Expert** will review and analyze livestock matters (animal production, trade and bio-security measures). Livestock issues will include, in particular, those associated with livestock production, as well as all other upstream and downstream links in the livestock production chain (feeding, processing, and marketing of domestic animals) that also need to be studied from the technical and socio-economic standpoints. Aspects of animal health, including those directly implemented by sector professionals, such as bio-security measures in breeding stock and livestock markets, will also be analysed. The FAO Livestock expert will review available reports to identify main areas of support to be addressed at REC level. The livestock expert will also review Regional strategies, policies and plans supporting livestock development and assist in the formulation of the IRCM to strengthen harmonization and coordination mechanisms. (See Annex 3 for detailed TOR).
- The **AU-IBAR veterinary epidemiologist/disease control expert** will assess, in close collaboration with the FAO Livestock and OIE PVS experts, the country's existing surveillance system, diagnostic, prevention and control capacities in the context of AH1 and other ERADs and zoonoses in compliance with the national and regional guidelines and identify main areas of support to be addressed at REC level. The veterinary epidemiologist will also review Regional strategies, policies and plans supporting epidemics and laboratory networks at regional level and assist in the formulation of the IRCM to strengthen harmonization and coordination mechanisms (See Annex 4 for detailed TOR).
- The **AU-IBAR Wildlife Veterinarian/Ecologist** will work closely with the AU-IBAR Veterinary Epidemiologist, the FAO Livestock expert, the OIE certified PVS Expert and the WHO Human Health Expert, to review the contribution of wildlife in the epidemiology of AH1 and other ERADs and zoonoses; assess existing wildlife disease surveillance capacities at national level and networks at regional level; assess existing national wildlife health management strategies and their linkages with RECs, the AUC and with international biodiversity and natural resource management agencies such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The Wildlife Epidemiologist/ecologist will review available reports to identify main areas of support to be addressed at REC level. The wildlife expert will also review Regional strategies, policies and plans supporting control program of wildlife related diseases and zoonoses and assist in the formulation of the IRCM to strengthen harmonization and coordination mechanisms. (See Annex 5 for detailed TOR)
- The **WHO Human Health expert** will address issues related to the region's human health system capacity to respond to and control a human influenza outbreak and issues related to AH1 and other emerging and re-emerging zoonoses. In particular, the expert will analyze and make recommendations on the region's surveillance program including early warning system, prevention and control measures, and health system capacity and preparedness in relation to AH1 and potential pandemic. The WHO Public health expert will review available reports to identify main areas of support to be addressed at REC level. The human health expert will also review Regional strategies, policies and plans supporting public health development and assist in the formulation of the IRCM to strengthen harmonization and coordination mechanisms. (See Annex 6 for detailed TOR).
- The **FAO Communication Expert** will assess the level of public awareness and communications strategies related to AH1 prevention and control and other selected ERADs and zoonoses. The FAO communications expert shall focus on the public's existing levels of knowledge, whether the region has an effective communica-

tions strategy in place, assess the technical capacities (communication, competencies and leadership), the level of media and NGO involvement, and how the country's communications infrastructure and networks could be mobilized towards social mobilization and public awareness campaign in relation to the region's AHI and other ERADs and zoonoses, program. The FAO communication expert will review available reports to identify main areas of support to be addressed at REC level. The communication expert will also review Regional strategies, policies and plans supporting regional communication capacity development and assist in the formulation of IRCM to strengthen communication mechanisms. (See Annex 7 for detailed TOR).

- The **AU-IBAR financial analyst and Monitoring and Evaluation expert**, working closely with the Team Leader, will assist in the preparation of the implementation Plans (Financial and M&E components) for Regional support activities on the basis of the review and recommendations done by the technical experts.

Additional experts may be mobilized by the AU-IBAR and the international and technical partners in the course of the process in case of specific needs.

9 Annexes

Annex I: Terms of reference Team Leader

Background

The purpose of the assignment is to conduct a review of the RECs and their Member States with regard to the prevention, preparedness and control of AHI and other ERADs and zoonoses, as prioritized by them, and formulate recommendations for the enhancement of their capacities, where required. The review and recommendations will be used for the development of the IRCM with the aim of strengthening or establishing institutionalized coordination and harmonization mechanisms and linkages among the RECs and between them and the AU-IBAR. This will be achieved through resource mobilization, capacity building and legislative review and alignment, required for effective support to Member Countries so as to enhance their preparedness, prevention, early detection and rapid response capacities. The IRCM will be anchored on existing institutional and regulatory frameworks governing coordination and harmonization at REC level.

The review will be carried out by a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency team composed of technical experts in the areas of animal health (including wildlife), human health, communications, as well as an institutional analyst, who will work closely with the REC Secretariats and the Member Countries in drawing up the IRCM on the basis of the review and recommendations resulting there-from.

These TORs are addressed specifically to the Team Leader, who shall, among other duties, be responsible for the preparation, coordination, and conduct of the assignment, including (i) desk work on country information; (ii) desk work on REC information, (iii) “on-site assessments” and (iv) “Formulation Phase”.

1. Objectives of the assignment

- Ensure the timely and effective accomplishment of various assignments of the team
- Ensure quality delivery of the desired outputs from the team
- Ensure quality delivery of the specific technical outputs
- Review relationships and legal frameworks existing between the RECs and its Member States that are of importance to the development of the IRCM.
- Review the institutional frameworks, functional relationships and legal frameworks governing the relationship between the REC and the AUC, including AU-IBAR, that are of importance for the development of the IRCM

2. Required services

- The AU-IBAR Team leader shall be responsible for liaising, under the supervision of the Director of AU-IBAR, with the REC Secretariats and the international and technical partners, with regard to all communications and follow-up concerning the preparation and conduct of the assignment, including briefings, debriefing sessions, and circulation of documents.

Team management:

- Maintain leadership and ensure a good coordination among the team members.
- Arrange meetings and coordination of the technical experts working on this assignment, and lead the assignment.
- Receive and convey promptly the documents and other information provided to AU-IBAR to the technical experts for the assignment.
- Facilitate, with the other experts, the desk review of national and REC documents and the compilation of country and REC information and disseminate draft reports to the relevant parties for review and comments.
- Consolidate the team members' contributions and work closely, in close relation with AU-IBAR and international Partners with the REC Secretariats to ensure ownership of the products delivered by the other technical experts.

Assignment tasks:

- Ensure adequate preparation of the “on-site assessments”: (i) proposing dates to RECs; (ii) providing Teams ToRs; (iii) draft documents; (iv) inform relevant experts, etc.
- Ensure that scheduled meetings between technical experts and REC authorities take place, and lead the meeting discussions, when appropriate.
- The mission leader will compile and circulate all drafted and final documents to concerned parties, will compile and consolidate comments received from the team members and/or from international and technical partners.

Prepare an analytical report (including “Component 1” (analysis of country information) and “Component 2” (analysis of REC information)) towards the creation of a comprehensive and effective coordination strategy, which will be used for the development of the IRCM and the preparation of the corresponding financing plan.

- Gather as much information as possible on the existing functional relations, legal frameworks, relevant Committees or Sub-Committees in place for each REC, between RECs and their Member States, among RECs and RECs and the African Union Commission institutions.
- Gather as much information as possible from AU-IBAR, international Partners and REC relevant staff on their requirements and suggestions for developing the IRCM both at intra- and inter-regional levels.
- Evaluation of the status and effectiveness of ongoing coordination activities, procedures and systems in place in the RECs and possible initiatives from international organizations, at sub-regional level, including by REC Member states, , NGOs, the private sector, etc.
- Contribute to the Analytical Report as regards the institutional arrangements of the RECs and their relationships with their national authorities of their respective countries
- Ensure presentation of the reports to the relevant REC Secretariats at the end of the “on-site assessment”.
- Develop recommendations to address the weaknesses and capacities and possible response strategies to strengthen them.
- Inventory of the contributions of donor, development, international or technical partners to support the REC’s capacity building efforts The review should include possible institutional assessments already undertaken previously (or ongoing).
- Compile a draft proposal for the implementation of the IRCM, as a basis for discussion with REC Secretariat.

3. Required outputs

Contribution to the compilation of the following documents:

- a) Analysis and synthesis of the information from the Desk Review of country information
- b) Analysis and synthesis of the information from the Desk Review and on-site assessment of the REC
- c) REC Analytical Reports with recommendations on the IRCM
- d) A proposed IRCM
- e) An implementation plan for the proposed IRCM

Annex 2: Terms of Reference OIE-certified PVS experts

Background

The purpose of the assignment is to conduct a review of the RECs and their Member States with regard to the prevention, preparedness and control of AH1 and other ERADs and zoonoses, as prioritized by them, and formulate recommendations for the enhancement of their capacities, where required. The review and recommendations will be used for the development of the IRCM with the aim of strengthening or establishing institutionalized coordination and harmonization mechanisms and linkages among the RECs and between and the AU-IBAR. This will be achieved through resource mobilization, capacity building and legislative review and alignment, required for effective support to Member Countries so as to enhance their preparedness, prevention, early detection and rapid response capacities. The IRCM will be anchored on existing institutional and regulatory frameworks governing coordination and harmonization at REC level.

The review will be carried out by a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency team composed of technical experts in the areas of animal health (including wildlife), human health, communications, as well as an institutional analyst, who will work closely with the REC Secretariats and the Member Countries in drawing up the IRCM on the basis of the review and recommendations resulting there-from.

These TOR are addressed specifically to the OIE-certified experts, who shall be responsible for Veterinary Services with respect to the risk management of AH1 and other ERADs and zoonoses. The OIE Experts will also be involved in the discussion pertaining to the harmonization of Veterinary legislation with international standards at country and at REC levels. It provides a detailed description of the objectives and expected outputs of the Assessment with regard to Veterinary Services (i.e. National Veterinary Services including the private sector, Veterinary laboratory services and veterinary education).

1. Objectives of the assignment

- Review the status of Veterinary services of REC Member Countries
- Enhancing, modernizing and harmonization of veterinary legislation in accordance with international standards in close collaboration with countries and RECs.

2. Required services

- Collect and collate information on the status of Veterinary Services in the Member states of RECs in close relation with AU-IBAR and international Partners.
- Review documents and information conveyed by OIE on performance of veterinary services and other relevant documents provided by AU-IBAR, international Partners, the national authorities and RECs and contribute to the compilation of documents.
- Study any additional documents provided by RECs and Member Countries and by international Partners.
- Formulate precise and quantified technical recommendations for enhancing REC coordination and harmonization capacity in the field and Laboratory Veterinary Services in respect to AHI and other ERADs and zoonoses.
- Formulate recommendations on enhancing the effectiveness of Veterinary Training programs to address AHI and ERADs and zoonoses.
- Liaise with the livestock production/bio-security expert, the veterinary epidemiologist, the human health expert, the communications expert, the wildlife expert and the veterinary epidemiologist/disease control expert to ensure validity of approaches recommended and coherence of the proposed veterinary services interventions with the related interventions recommended by the other experts.
- Compile an inventory of the contributions of donors or international or development partners to support the country's capacity building efforts on veterinary services.
- Ensure that the assessment is accurately conveyed by the Team Leader in the IRCM plan. To this end, provide a list of comments and revisions, if necessary on the draft version of the report.

3. Required outputs

Contribution to the compilation of the following documents:

- a) Analysis and synthesis of the information from the Desk Review of country information
- b) Analysis and synthesis of the information from the Desk Review and on-site assessment of the REC
- c) REC Analytical Reports with recommendations on the IRCM
- d) A proposed IRCM
- e) An implementation plan for the proposed IRCM

Annex 3: Terms of Reference Livestock Production/ Bio-security Expert

Background

The purpose of the assignment is to conduct a review of the RECs and their Member States with regard to the prevention, preparedness and control of AHI and other ERADs and zoonoses, as prioritized by them, and formulate recommendations for the enhancement of their capacities, where required. The review and recommendations will be used for the development of the IRCM with the aim of strengthening or establishing institutionalized coordination and harmonization mechanisms and linkages among the RECs between them and the AU-IBAR. This will be achieved through resource mobilization, capacity building and legislative review and alignment, required for effective support to Member Countries so as to enhance their preparedness, prevention, early detection and rapid response capacities. The IRCM will be anchored on existing institutional and regulatory frameworks governing coordination and harmonization at REC level.

The review will be carried out by a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency team composed of technical experts in the areas of animal health (including wildlife), human health, communications, as well as an institutional analyst, who will work closely with the REC Secretariats and the Member Countries in drawing up the IRCM on the basis of the review and recommendations resulting there-from.

These TOR are addressed specifically to the livestock, trade and marketing and bio-security specialist, who shall be responsible for livestock, and animal health issues other than Veterinary Services. It provides a detailed description of the objectives and anticipated products of the Assessment with regard to livestock (i.e. animal health and animal production systems).

1. Objectives of the assignment

- Collect and collate data on livestock production and trade available at the regional level, review livestock reports and all relevant livestock studies as well as all relevant literature on livestock production in the region.
- Analyze, from technical and socio-economic standpoints the components of the livestock production systems within the region and classify on the production components at-risk and risky farming practices.
- Identify stakeholders in the livestock sector relevant to Biosecurity, trade and marketing in the region
- Identify areas of improvement in livestock husbandry and human health practices on Biosecurity, trade and marketing.
- Identify areas of possible bio-security risks for AHI and selected ERADs and zoonoses.

2. Required services

- Collect and collate information on the situation in the region, especially the FAO reports, REC reports and any other available data.
- Review documents and information conveyed by AU-IBAR, RECs and other sources.
- Contact, if necessary, REC officials directly for any additional information.
- Verify the existence of regional coordination mechanisms for biosecurity, trade and marketing with the view of controlling AHI and selected ERADs and zoonoses.
- Identify potential risk points along the value chains for AHI and selected ERADs and zoonoses entry in the region, spread within the region (REC) or between regions (RECs).
- Provision of an overview of marketing system and processing industries including description of the situation of the biosecurity with regard to AHI and selected ERADs and zoonoses at the regional level.
- Collect information or make assessments of the potential impacts of AHI and selected ERADs and zoonoses on livestock and human health.
- Assess the regional capacity to conduct social and economic impact assessment on AHI and selected ERADs and zoonoses.
- Collaborate closely with the team leader and other members of the mission team on cross cutting issues.
- Overview policy and regulatory frameworks and protocols in place for the regional coordination mechanism for AHI and selected ERADs and zoonoses.
- Assess and propose an effective regional early warning system, and ensure compatibility.
- Provide an inventory of the contributions of donors or international or development partners to support the regional capacity building efforts on animal health
- Assess the livestock information and traceability (LIDS) at regional and country level
- Assess livestock information system and its inter-operability

3. Required outputs

Contribution to the compilation of the following documents:

- a) Analysis and synthesis of the information from the Desk Review of country information

- b) Analysis and synthesis of the information from the Desk Review and on-site assessment of the REC
- c) REC Analytical Reports with recommendations on the IRCM.
- d) A proposed IRCM
- e) An implementation plan for the proposed IRCM

Annex 4: Terms of Reference Veterinary Epidemiologist/Disease control Expert

Background

The purpose of the assignment is to conduct a review of the RECs and their Member States with regard to the prevention, preparedness and control of AHI and other ERADs and zoonoses, as prioritized by them, and formulate recommendations for the enhancement of their capacities, where required. The review and recommendations will be used for the development of the IRCM with the aim of strengthening or establishing institutionalized coordination and harmonization mechanisms and linkages among the RECs and between them and the AU-IBAR. This will be achieved through resource mobilization, capacity building and legislative review and alignment, required for effective support to Member Countries so as to enhance their preparedness, prevention, early detection and rapid response capacities. The IRCM will be anchored on existing institutional and regulatory frameworks governing coordination and harmonization at REC level.

The review will be carried out by a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency team composed of technical experts in the areas of animal health (including wildlife), human health, communications, as well as an institutional analyst, who will work closely with the REC Secretariats and the Member Countries in drawing up the IRCM on the basis of the review and recommendations resulting there-from.

These TORs address specifically the tasks that will be performed by the AU-IBAR veterinary epidemiologist/animal health expert.

1. Objectives of the assignment

- Assess, in the context of AHI and selected ERADs and zoonoses, threats, the functioning of the surveillance system in place, the existence and efficiency of an early warning system, including the protocols put in place at national and regional levels for the early detection of suspected cases.
- Assess the capacities to implement a regionally based prevention, rapid response and control system of AHI and other selected ERADs and zoonoses.
- Assess the capacities to implement sanitary control measures such as quarantine, containment, zoning, control of movements, stamping-out and disposal, disinfection of premises, and vaccination feasibility.
- Propose ways of reinforcement of the country's veterinary services to prevent and control outbreaks of AHI and other selected ERADs and zoonoses.

2. Required services

- Review all documents and gather all information provided by the countries, as well as outputs and recommendations of other AU-IBAR missions
- Conduct an analysis of the capacities of RECs and Member States for the prevention, preparedness and rapid response to AHI and other ERADs and zoonoses.
- Review existing policy and regulatory frameworks for all the sanitary measures proposed in the national action plan to control outbreaks of major TADs.
- List the main diagnosed livestock diseases, assess the expertise available to carry out epidemiological analysis and the capacity of the diagnostic laboratories;
- Assess disease management tools available to Member States and RECs with the view to identifying capacities and gaps for rapid response to epidemic crisis
- Assess the existing surveillance and laboratory coordination mechanisms at national, regional, and inter-regional levels
- In case of existence of any sub-regional or regional organization(s) strategies for prevention and control of major TADs, assess the compliance of the national strategy with the sub-regional strategy.
- Summarize, in close collaboration with the FAO and OIE experts, the capacities of the animal health system vis à vis HPAI.
- Assess the diagnostic capacities of national laboratories and regional reference laboratories.

3. Required outputs

Contribution to the compilation of the following documents:

- a) Analysis and synthesis of the information from the Desk Review of country information
- b) Analysis and synthesis of the information from the Desk Review and on-site assessment of the REC
- c) REC Analytical Reports with recommendations on the IRCM.
- d) A proposed IRCM
- e) An implementation plan for the proposed IRCM

Annex 5: Terms of Reference Wildlife Veterinarian/Ecologist

Background

The purpose of the assignment is to conduct a review of the RECs and their Member States with regard to the prevention, preparedness and control of AHI and other ERADs and zoonoses, as prioritized by them, and formulate recommendations for the enhancement of their capacities, where required. The review and recommendations will be used for the development of the IRCM with the aim of strengthening or establishing institutionalized coordination and harmonization mechanisms and linkages among the RECs and between and the AU-IBAR. This will be achieved through resource mobilization, capacity building and legislative review and alignment, required for effective support to Member Countries so as to enhance their preparedness, prevention, early detection and rapid response capacities. The IRCM will be anchored on existing institutional and regulatory frameworks governing coordination and harmonization at REC level.

The review will be carried out by a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency team composed of technical experts in the areas of animal health (including wildlife), human health, communications, as well as an institutional analyst, who will work closely with the REC Secretariats and the Member Countries in drawing up the IRCM on the basis of the review and recommendations resulting there-from.

This TOR is addressed to the wildlife specialist, who shall be responsible for assessing the contribution of wildlife in the epidemiology of AHI and other emerging/re-emerging animal diseases, including zoonotic diseases as well as for taking stock of existing capacities and networks for wildlife disease surveillance. The expert will work closely with the animal health, livestock production/bio-security, human health and communications experts to ensure that the assessment takes the inter-sectoral approach that is necessary in addressing AHI and selected ERADs and zoonoses.

1. Objectives of the assignment

- Take inventory of the wildlife species that are susceptible to avian influenza and other emerging/ re-emerging zoonoses. This will entail: listing the key susceptible wildlife species and indicating their distribution and relative abundance in the region; and listing the main wildlife habitats in the region including, among others, the resting spots for wild birds and wildlife conservation areas.
- Determine the areas, with regard to capacity on wildlife, that need to be strengthened to enable the region respond effectively to AHI and selected ERADs and zoonoses.
- Propose an action program for the development of regional capacity to coordinate/support and implement wildlife disease surveillance and management, focusing on AHI and other ERADs and zoonoses.

2. Required services

- Assess the extent to which animal health strategies at regional level integrate wildlife and determine the constraints faced in addressing wildlife aspects.
- Assess existing wildlife health/disease management strategies and their linkages with the RECs and other biodiversity conservation/ natural resource management programs and organizations such as International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- Identify areas of possible improvement (with regard to wildlife aspects of animal health) in the coordination and implementation of prevention and control plan(s)/ strategies for AHI and selected ERADs and zoonoses.
- Indicate the main migratory pathways and seasons for wild birds and other susceptible wildlife species in the region
- Indicate the level of interaction between susceptible wildlife, bridging species and livestock, and in particular between wild birds and poultry in the region (proximity of wild bird habitats to poultry production and urban population centers).
- Assess the capacity of the Member Countries to undertake disease surveillance in wildlife and the regional networks that exists to optimize use of the capacity.
- Review literature on the role of wildlife in the epidemiology of AHI and selected ERADs and zoonoses.
- Review literature on the distribution of important susceptible wildlife species in the various regions of the African continent.
- Collect and collate information on the regional organization of animal health services with particular emphasis on capacity to help member States to address wildlife disease surveillance, respond to AHI and selected ERADs and zoonoses outbreak at the wildlife-livestock-human interface.
- Review reports of wildlife conservation organizations in the region such as those of IUCN and national wildlife conservation authorities to gain a better understanding of existing wildlife health strategies/initiatives/mechanisms/ programs and institutional working arrangements.

- Review documents and information within AU-IBAR, RECs, FAO, CIRAD and other sources on previous and current wildlife disease surveillance networks at REC level.
- Conduct assessment of existing capacities and institutional arrangements.
- Give an account of the role of wildlife in the epidemiology of AHI and selected ERADs and zoonoses in the various regions and how it is addressed in the regional animal health strategies.
- Summarize the capacities of the REC to support the prevention and control of outbreaks of AHI and selected ERADs and zoonoses with potential epidemiological links to wildlife.
- Give an account of the regional capacities, networks and linkages for wildlife disease surveillance and the extent to which they are anchored to the RECs or other relevant departments of the AUC.
- Propose steps that need to be undertaken to strengthen regional capacity to address animal health matters with adequate integration wildlife aspects and enhanced inter-sectoral collaboration between the livestock and wildlife conservation sectors.

3. Required outputs

Contribution to the compilation of the following documents:

- a) Analysis and synthesis of the information from the Desk Review of country information
- b) Analysis and synthesis of the information from the Desk Review and on-site assessment of the REC
- c) REC Analytical Reports with recommendations on the IRCM.
- d) A proposed IRCM
- e) An implementation plan for the proposed IRCM

Annex 6: Terms of Reference Human Health Expert

Background

The purpose of the assignment is to conduct a review of the RECs and their Member States with regard to the prevention, preparedness and control of AHI and other ERADs and zoonoses, as prioritized by them, and formulate recommendations for the enhancement of their capacities, where required. The review and recommendations will be used for the development of the IRCM with the aim of strengthening or establishing institutionalized coordination and harmonization mechanisms and linkages among the RECs and between them and the AU-IBAR. This will be achieved through resource mobilization, capacity building and legislative review and alignment, required for effective support to Member Countries so as to enhance their preparedness, prevention, early detection and rapid response capacities. The IRCM will be anchored on existing institutional and regulatory frameworks governing coordination and harmonization at REC level.

The review will be carried out by a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency team composed of technical experts in the areas of animal health (including wildlife), human health, communication, as well as an institutional analyst, who will work closely with the REC Secretariats and the Member Countries in drawing up the IRCM on the basis of the review and recommendations resulting there-from.

This TOR is for specifically to the human health expert, an experienced senior medical epidemiologist certified by WHO who shall be responsible for the assessment of current capacity in terms of epidemiological surveillance, IHR (2005), laboratory capacity, health system response and regional coordination. The human health expert will work in close collaboration with multidisciplinary team (animal health and communications experts).

1. Objectives

- Assess the REC's Member Countries current health system capacity and determine the areas that need to be strengthened that will allow the REC to effectively support the response to a potential human influenza outbreak originating from AHI or other ERADs and zoonoses.
- Assess the mechanism in place for early detection and of a suspected case of AHI and other emerging and re-emerging through national public health and regional reference laboratories.
- Assess the mechanism for rapid response to the outbreaks of AHI and other emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases, including zoonotic diseases.
- Identify areas of possible strengthening in the implementation of prevention and control plan of AHI and other emerging and re-emerging animal diseases, including zoonotic diseases.

2. Required services

- Collect information on the situation in the REC public health organization particularly its capacity to help its member States to timely respond to an AHI and other emerging and re-emerging animal diseases, including zoonoses outbreaks.
- Review reports of WHO, UNICEF and other organization dealing with health issues in the region,
- Review documents and information available AUC (IBAR, DSA), RECs and other sources.
- Contact REC public health desk officials directly for any additional information required for the planning of the mission.
- Verify the accuracy of the information contained in the documents by conducting person to person interviews with responsible officials in the health ministry and visiting hospital, clinic, and laboratory facilities.
- Conduct field visits, as needed, to define the procedures and activities for the implementation of AHI and other emerging and re-emerging animal diseases, including zoonoses.
- Verify the coherence between public health interventions on emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases issues at regional level as recommended by the WHO, OIE, the FAO, and the AUC.
- Provide an inventory of the contributions of donors or international or development partners to support the regional capacity building efforts on human health

3. Required outputs

Contribution to the compilation of the following documents:

- a) Analysis and synthesis of the information from the Desk Review of country information
- b) Analysis and synthesis of the information from the Desk Review and on-site assessment of the REC
- c) REC Analytical Reports with recommendations on the IRCM.
- d) A proposed IRCM
- e) An implementation plan for the proposed IRCM

Annex 7: Terms of Reference Communication Expert

Background

The purpose of the assignment is to conduct a review of the RECs and their Member States with regard to the prevention, preparedness and control of AHI and other ERADs and zoonoses, as prioritized by them, and formulate recommendations for the enhancement of their capacities, where required. The review and recommendations will be used for the development of the IRCM with the aim of strengthening or establishing institutionalized coordination and harmonization mechanisms and linkages among the RECs and between them and the AU-IBAR. This will be achieved through resource mobilization, capacity building and legislative review and alignment, required for effective support to Member Countries so as to enhance their preparedness, prevention, early detection and rapid response capacities. The IRCM will be anchored on existing institutional and regulatory frameworks governing coordination and harmonization at REC level.

The review will be carried out by a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency team composed of technical experts in the areas of animal health (including wildlife), human health, communications, as well as an institutional analyst, who will work closely with the REC Secretariats and the Member Countries in drawing up the IRCM on the basis of the review and recommendations resulting there-from.

This TOR is addressed specifically to the communication expert, who shall be responsible for the assessment of current capacity in terms of communication and coordination thereof, at national and REC level. The communication expert will work in close collaboration with the human and animal health experts, as an adequate response to the AHI and selected ERADs and zoonoses threat must entail collaboration between partners across sectors.

1. Objectives of the assignment

- Review strengths and weaknesses of the communications strategies and capacities at country level.
- Review strengths and weaknesses of the communications strategies and capacities at RECs level.
- Propose an action program towards the creation of a comprehensive and effective communication, coordination and capacity strengthening strategy for each REC.
- Identify possible action for facilitating inter-REC communication.

2. Required services

- Collect and collate information on the existing communication plans, infrastructure, particularly in relation to capacities to prevent and respond to AHI and selected ERADs and zoonoses outbreak and its complementarity with national plans.
- Identify the existence of communication strategies at REC level
- Review the existing regional TAD/Zoonoses Response Plan and analysis of its strengths, weaknesses and gaps in relation to a relevant regional communications strategy.
- Evaluate the status and effectiveness of ongoing communication activities, if any, including initiatives by REC Member states, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector.
- Inventory of the contributions of donors or international or development partners to support the Member States and REC capacity building efforts on communications.
- Develop recommendations to address these weaknesses and strengthen the regional communications strategy.

3. Required outputs

Contribution to the compilation of the following documents:

- a) Analysis and synthesis of the information from the Desk Review of country information
- b) Analysis and synthesis of the information from the Desk Review and on-site assessment of the REC
- c) REC Analytical Reports with recommendations on the IRCM.
- d) A proposed IRCM
- e) An implementation plan for the proposed IRCM