9th Ministerial Conference of Ministers responsible for Animal Resources in Africa will be held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire from 16th to 19th April 2013

What are the policy options to strengthen adaptation of pastoral communities to climate change?

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AU-IBAR organises the 2013 Annual Management Planning and Team Building Retreat

AU-IBAR is modernizing its library
**The Africa Animal Resources Newsletter** is a quarterly publication of the African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), a specialized technical office of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the African Union Commission (AUC). AU-IBAR’s mandate is to support and coordinate the utilization of livestock, fisheries and wildlife as resources for both human wellbeing and economic development in the Member States of the African Union.

**AU-IBAR’s Vision:** An Africa in which animal resources contribute significantly to the reduction of poverty and hunger.

**AU-IBAR’s Mission:** To provide leadership in the development of animal resources for Africa through supporting and empowering AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities.

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**EDITORIAL**

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Third Issue of the AU-IBAR “Africa Animal Resources Newsletter”. May I also take this opportunity to wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2013.

This Issue of the AU-IBAR newsletter will provide you with deeper insights in the effects of climate change on pastoral communities, and how the latter can adapt to changing weather conditions. The newsletter will also introduce our esteemed readers to the Standard Methods and Procedures in Animal Health (SMP-AH) Project, which was launched in March last year, and the progress the Project has made to date.

I am also happy to announce that the 9th bi-annual Ministerial Conference of Ministers responsible for animal resources in Africa was held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire on 16th to 19th April 2013. This newsletter will elaborate further on the issues discussed during and the outcomes of the Conference.

I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage our esteemed readers to share with us their views about this newsletter, be it in regard to its contents and or mode of presentation. This will allow us to keep improving future issues of the newsletter. Kindly send your comments to: newsletter@au-ibar.org

Prof. A. El-Sawalhy
Director AU-IBAR

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The Ninth Conference of Ministers responsible for Animal Resources in Africa was held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire from 16th to 19th April 2013. The conference was organised by the African Union Commission through AU-IBAR.

The theme of the conference was ‘Investing in Livestock to Accelerate Regional Integration and Prosperity in the Context of African Renaissance’. Its main objectives were to review progress made since the last Conference of Ministers held in Entebbe, Uganda from 10th to 14th May 2010, and to consider other contemporary matters related to the development and utilisation of animal resources in Africa.

Issues reported on
During the Conference AU-IBAR reported on the following issues:

- Investing and Financing animal agriculture in Africa
- Creating an enabling environment to support sustained growth in the livestock sector in Africa
- Climate Change and Vulnerability: Opportunities for enhanced investments for long term development of the livestock sector in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs)
- Strategies to unlock the potential of the livestock sector in Africa through enhanced regional cooperation and integration.

Delegates were also updated on the implementation of recommendations of the last conference, i.e.:

- support to countries and RECs in developing their CAADP-Compact and investment plans for the livestock sector under the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP);
- timely collection, analysis and sharing of quality data to guide policy, strategy and investment programmes;
- reviewing of what should be delivered by the public sector and which services should be privatized;
- measures, including investment in infrastructure, value addition and supporting economies of scale by strengthening small-holders farmer organisations to enhance animal resources sector competitiveness;
- strengthening animal resources marketing information systems;
- inter- and intra-regional trade of livestock and livestock products the competitiveness of the livestock sector and propose alternatives for improving intra-African trade and improve competitiveness;
- national and regional coordination mechanisms to harmonize sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) related activities;
- a dedicated desk in support of intra-African trade in animal products through information sharing and on demand facilitation of contacts between commercial partners;
- the quality and timeliness of disease reporting to AU-IBAR, including emergency reporting for AU-IBAR (through the Animal Resources Information System - ARIS) and FAO (through TADInfo) to ensure inter-operability between their respective information systems and connecting them to the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Global Early Warning and Response System for Major Animal Diseases including zoonoses (GLEWS) and Emergency Preparedness Systems (EMPRES) of FAO.
- well-structured livestock governance systems to achieve effective coordination of TADs and zoonosis at the regional level;
- resource mobilization for the progressive control of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and other priority TADs;
- the development and facilitation of the implementation of early warning systems for supporting disease control, stocking/ destocking/animal movement decisions and crop management practices of agro-pastoralists;
- strengthening animal resources marketing information systems;
- finalising the Pastoral Policy Framework as soon as possible to facilitate its implementation by Member States and RECs.
- A number of technical meetings took place before the Conference, such as the 5th PanAfrican Chief Veterinary Officers Meeting on Africa coordinated position on animal health standards on 14th and 15th April.

Outcomes of the Conference

- The Meeting (54 MSs, RECs and technical and development partners) reaffirmed the leadership role of AU-IBAR in livestock development in Africa.
- The stakeholders (54 MSs, RECs and technical and development partners) agreed on the need for the formulation of a long-term livestock development strategy for the continent that will inform investments in the sector. They mandated the AU and the RECs to lead its formulation, develop a continental programme and coordinate the mobilisation of resources for its implementation. The strategy/programme should have clear performance indicators and a clarification of the roles and responsibilities of all the stakeholders.
- The meeting reaffirmed the need for policy and institutional reforms and the strengthening of coherence in the sector to foster investments, improve human resource capacities and position the livestock sector to better play its role in trade, promoting regional integration and poverty alleviation.

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Pastoralists and agro-pastoralists are among the poorest groups in Africa and therefore among the most vulnerable to the effects of harshening climatic conditions. For poor people, the loss of rangelands and livestock assets due to climate change might lead to a collapse of the family economy and progressive impoverishment with long-term effects on their livelihoods.

Therefore, there is a need of building the adaptive capacity of pastoralists to climate change and variability. Adaptation to this new development challenge requires political will in designing policies that benefit the poor and encourage investment for the reduction of poverty and vulnerability.

AU-IBAR has developed a climate change adaptation strategy for animal resources with the objective of providing guidance and an overarching policy support for the implementation of climate change adaptation in animal production across the continent.

The implementation of measures to adapt to climate change is constrained by policy, institutional and organizational barriers, including the lack of policies and strategies on climate change adaptation, inadequate land policies, weak institutional coordination, limited human and financial capacity to plan and implement climate change adaptation measures, limited climate research and forecasting capacity, weak awareness of the impacts of climate change on development, limited knowledge of technical options to adapt to the impacts of changing climate conditions on livestock and limited access to credit and markets.

To overcome these constraints, AU-IBAR recommends the following actions:

- The design of dynamic research and policy agendas.
- Given the uncertainties surrounding climate change impacts on livestock, policies need to be flexible and reviewed regularly to accommodate new adaptation needs and provide innovative options. Regular policy reviews also prevent that policies become obsolete as environmental and economic conditions change.

To strengthen climate change adaptation through better coordination of actions. Climate change is a growing threat to the development programs of several sectors. To address this challenge, umbrella policies, strategies and action plans should stress the need of identifying synergies and coordinated action among stakeholders in the stages of sector policy formulation, preparation of activity plans, budget allocation and implementation of activities. Coordination among government institutions, research institutes, academia, private sector and NGOs facilitates dialogue and contributes to efficiency in the use of scarce resources through complementary actions and avoidance of overlaps and duplication of efforts.

To advance science and technology for adaptation to climate change. Africa has limited scientific data to adequately understand the impacts of climate change on livestock. Funding is too scarce to monitor all pertinent variables, derive key information and communicate promptly and effectively to all stakeholders. Therefore, there is a need of investment in training scientists, acquisition of research equipment for environment monitoring, climate forecasting and development of mitigation and adaptation technology. To strengthen early warning systems and the link with pastoralists. Pastoralists are likely able to adapt to climate change if they have timely information on the expected onset and cessation of the rainy season, and the likely intensity of expected rains or dry spells. This information can help them choose strategies to protect their livestock, prepare for future climate risks and strengthen their overall adaptive capacity. Therefore, national policies should support:

- investment to increase the density of meteorological stations towards improving climate forecasting capacity at small scale (local level).
- the link between climate forecasting institutions with pastoral communities to ensure that climate information reach needy people on time for better adaptation and preparedness to climate hazards. The mechanisms of dissemination need to go beyond conventional channels such as radio, TV and extension workers to incorporate indigenous channels such as local leaders, community radio using local languages, cultural norms and practices, etc.;
- the development of agro-meteorological bulletins which, apart from providing climate information, provide advice to farmers and livestock holders on the production and management practices suited to the prevailing or forecasted climatic conditions at local level.

To improve advocacy and awareness on climate change and variability. Climate change is a new threat to development. Therefore, there is generally limited understanding and awareness of this challenge by different stakeholders and decision-makers. This indicates the need of policy support for capacity building, advocacy, communication and research on climate change related issues at government institutions of all relevant sectors, the parliament, private sector, local communities and civil society organizations to meet long term goals.

To build knowledge on technical options to strengthen the adaptive capacity of pastoralists to climate change. Decision makers should formulate policies that (i) support the implementation of good rangeland management practices (e.g. rotational grazing, control of stocking rates), (ii) the allocation of resources (land, water, fertilizers and funds) for the production and conservation of fodder crops, (iii) the supplementation of animals with feeds of high nutrient concentration and crop by-products and (iv) the selection and rearing of animal breeds tolerant to heat, drought and diseases. To improve the technical capacity of pastoral and agropastoral communities in water management strategies. Water scarcity is the main constraint to pastoral and agro-pastoral development in the ASALs. Policies should support the improvement of financial capacity and technical know-how of pastoralists in water management strategies, rainwater harvesting, extraction of groundwater (e.g. borehole drilling) for livestock drinking or production of fodder crops. To enhance adaptation through access to credit, insurance, market and value chain, and livelihood diversification. To enhance the productivity of pastoralists under climate change, national governments have to put in place mechanisms of credit services for acquisition of equipment essential for water development, fodder production and conservation and develop marketing infrastructures. There is a need of investment in the training and building awareness of pastoralists on locally available complementary options for livelihood that may not be affected by extreme droughts. These other sources of income may allow pastoralists to save money that can be used for livestock feed supplementation in the event of severe droughts. To adopt land tenure systems that protect pastoralists. Most pastoralists use communal lands for livestock grazing. The open access to rangeland resources does not encourage good range management practices and the production of fodder crops. Additionally, communal rangelands are frequently invaded by other land users. Land tenure policies should support some form of exclusive use of land by associations of small livestock holders to build ownership, protect rangelands from invasion and prevent range degradation due to overgrazing.

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Rangeland resources are continually being depleted and degraded

Wildlife is an integral part of the ecosystem

Africa Animal Resources Newsletter, Issue 3, May 2013
Rinderpest has been eradicated, but does it still exist?

In June 2011, global freedom from Rinderpest was declared but is the virus really consigned forever to the history books? We have to consider that the high surveillance standards, attained under the Pan African programme for the control of Epizootics (PACE) may not have been maintained over the past 2 years. Moreover livestock disease surveillance systems in Africa still remain weak. One of the major goals of the Rinderpest campaign was to establish a surveillance mechanism that would enable timely control of emerging infectious diseases (EID) that affect animal and human populations.

Constant changes in the ecosystem such as population growth, economic development, climate change and the movement of people and goods are reshaping disease threats and require the world to adapt in preventing, detecting and responding to new disease risks.

Although several years have now elapsed since the cessation of Rinderpest vaccination in Africa, most cattle populations on the continent are still susceptible to the disease. In some locations a small percentage of the cattle population was seropositive for “Peste des Petits Ruminants” (PPR) and immune to Rinderpest. This information shows that other morbillivirus do not enter cattle and could offer an evolutionary pathway to new morbillivirus pathogens of cattle. The risk above is very low but the consequences of such an event would be significant. Therefore a science-based strategy has to be put into place to mitigate the risk of a re-emergence of Rinderpest.

A joint report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Expert Committee on Rinderpest eradication identified the presence of live pathogenic virus in many national and regional laboratories as the major threat for Rinderpest re-emergence. Factors that increase the chances of exposure include poorly controlled laboratories, accidental (bio-terrorism) or willful release of materials from the laboratory and unsupervised use of virus containing materials, especially if cattle populations exist close to the labs that handle Rinderpest pathological specimens.

Another factor to consider is that there has been speculation that vaccine strains pose a risk of reversion to virulence as they were not cloned at the time of their development. Therefore, a vaccine could be composed of viruses of varying pathogenicity where viruses with very low pathogenicity, selected by the attenuation process, predominate.

It has been proposed that if a vaccine is subjected to improper storage or mishandled, such an opportunity may arise. The obvious strategy is to destroy all Rinderpest viruses and virus-containing materials and to hold Rinderpest vaccines and vaccine seeds in a well-secured centre in Africa.

So, in actuality Rinderpest still exists but no longer in wild or domesticated animals but in high bio-containment facilities in some 20 countries worldwide. We shouldn’t allow the word “eradicated” to lull us into a false sense of security but neither is there a need for alarmism,” says Juan Lubroth, the FAO’s Chief Veterinary Officer and Chief of FAO’s Animal Health Service. Re-emergence is a real threat, therefore AU-IBAR has to be vigilant, and that means keeping some Rinderpest samples in the lab in case the “cattle disease” makes an appearance again so that vaccines can be produced from the viruses kept in the lab.

* The above information has been sourced from the FAO website and the AU-IBAR “Post Rinderpest Eradication Strategy”

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AU-IBAR organises the 2013 Annual Management Planning and Team Building Retreat

As the African Union is becoming increasingly committed to proper and timely planning and execution of activities, AU-IBAR organised a retreat from 7th to 11th January 2013, to discuss and finalise the 2013 Annual Management Plan (AMP) 2013. The event, which included team building exercises, took place at the scenic Lake Naivasha Country Club in Naivasha, Kenya.

AU-IBAR is halfway the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2010-2014, and the retreat offered an opportune moment to discuss the Mid Term Review of the Strategic Plan, carried out by an external consultant in 2012. It was agreed that a more in-depth analysis of the review is required before the document can be officially endorsed.

The AU-IBAR Annual Management Plan (AMP) 2012 was reviewed as a means of verifying that all key result areas for the year 2012 were met. The key result areas in turn determine the extent to which AU-IBAR has made progress towards the fulfilment of the six strategic programmes outlined in the Strategic Plan 2010-2014. The general conclusion was that, apart from a few challenges, we are on our way to the successful implementation of the Strategic Plan within the given timeframe. A review was also conducted for the 2012 AU-IBAR programme budget.

The AU-IBAR 2012 Calendar of Events was also reviewed, and it was concluded that better inter-Unit planning is required. This resulted in a planning exercise during the month of January 2013, of which a detailed AU-IBAR quarterly Calendar of Events is the current result. The quarterly Calendar of Events will also be used to update the electronic Calendar of Events shared on the AU-IBAR intranet.

Considerable time was spent on discussions about the guidelines for the formulation of the AU-IBAR 2013 Annual Management Plan and the actual formulation of the Plan. This has resulted in a more practical and workable document, and is expected to result in improved management, monitoring and evaluation of all AU-IBAR activities during the year 2013. Following this exercise, the guidelines for AU-IBAR 2013 budget formulation were discussed and agreed upon.

The last day of the retreat was spent on presentations and discussions about AU-IBAR staffing and procurement issues, so as to create better understanding among AU-IBAR staff of HR and procurement matters.

The retreat also allowed AU-IBAR staff to get to know one another better at a personal level through team building exercises, of which a visit to the Hell’s Gate National Park in Naivasha was the most notable. Apart from sharing good laughs during the tour, staff were confronted with sometimes challenging descends and climbs where partnering and assisting one another were badly needed!

The Standard Methods and Procedures in Animal Health (SMP-AH) Project

In March 2012 AU-IBAR signed an agreement with the United States Agency for International Development East Africa Regional Office (USAID/EA), in which the latter committed to contributing USD 7,750,000 for the implementation of the Standard Methods and Procedures in Animal Health (SMP-AH) Project. The Project will last until September 2016 and is jointly coordinated by AU-IBAR and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The Project is jointly implemented with nine countries in the greater Horn of Africa (GHoA), i.e. Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, together with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

Introduction

The IGAD region is made up of arid and semi-arid lands dominated by huge livestock resources of about 336 million ruminants. Livestock production and trade play a key role in supporting livelihoods, food security and economic growth in the region. The livestock sectors in the different countries in the region face common challenges with trade related transboundary animal diseases (TADs) posing a major challenge to livestock production and trade. In order to integrate regional markets, there is a move by IGAD for regional economic integration with the eventual aim to create free trade areas. For livestock this would require free movement of livestock across borders. However, sanitary concerns created by transboundary animal diseases remain a major challenge. The impact of the TADs is not only aggravated by differing animal health regulations amongst the countries and uncoordinated disease surveillance and control programs, but also by recurrent livestock trade bans by importing countries. Therefore better coordination and harmonisation of animal health requirements and disease control programmes will allow pastoralists and traders to engage in safe and profitable trade in regionally integrated livestock markets.

Cognizant of the fact that the livelihoods, food security and economic growth of the pastoral areas of the Greater Horn of Africa (GHoA) can be enhanced by improving access to regional livestock markets, the SMP-AH Project, within the framework of the Feed the Future Initiative (a US Government 5-year strategy that addresses key regional challenges in the GHoA), aims to support coordinated and harmonised regulations and animal health programmes to secure safe and stabilized trade to contribute to safe and stable livelihoods along the livestock value chain in the region. The project aims to do this through regional coordination and harmonisation of disease...
Health (OIE), and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). They discussed the TADs situation in the region, contributed to project development, identified respective roles and responsibilities and made recommendations on the way forward as reflected in the final communiqué of the meeting. Details of final communiqué can be found on the following link of the AU-IBAR website: http://www.au-ibar.org/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&id=69&Itemid=527&Itemid=48

The workshop also identified trade-related TADs that deserve priority in the region, and where SMP-AH interventions will be required.

From 22nd - 25th October 2012, the SMP-AH Project supported a coordination meeting of a pool of experts on epidemiology and laboratory from the participating countries in Kampala, Uganda, with the aim to consult the heads of epidemiology and laboratories on harmonisation of disease surveillance, control and laboratory testing procedures at the regional level. The experts discussed harmonisation of disease surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory-testing procedures, gaps and needs in disease control and defined the roadmap for the technical working group responsible for the development of Standard Methods and Procedures (SMPs) for each of the 9 priority diseases. The final communiqué for the meeting can be found on the following link of the AU-IBAR website: http://www.au-ibar.org/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&id=69&Itemid=522&Itemid=48

Livestock trade is based on trust based on transparency on the disease situation in a country. SMP-AH is therefore supporting the rolling out of the Animal Resources Information System (ARIS) for the management of animal resources information, dissemination and sharing in the region. From 3rd-7th September 2012, 14 national and regional ARIS administrators from Djibouti, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia and the IGAD Secretariat were trained in Djibouti in animal resources information management. The knowledge acquired is expected to support countries to manage and share disease information in the region, as well as train others in animal resources information management. On 20th and 21st November 2012, 20 staff, 15 drawn from the Kenyan’s Department of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Livestock Development and 5 from AU-IBAR, came together for training at AU-IBAR in Nairobi, Kenya. The participants were trained on how to access and log into ARIS, manage their account settings, perform the entire data entry cycle, share data hierarchically upwards with other stakeholders, generate reports using ARIS to assist in decision making and use forums for discussions.

The initial assessment of needs and gaps of the veterinary services in terms of surveillance, disease prevention and control and laboratory capacity has been carried out. The information so far gathered will form the basis for capacity building. The assessment report will be available on the SMP-AH portal of the AU-IBAR website soon.

A Technical Working Group (TWG), comprising of technical experts on disease control, epidemiology and laboratory diagnosis from, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, with support from IGAD, FAO, OIE, ILRI and the African Union Pan-African Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), is developing SMPs for the priority diseases and the draft SMP for Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) is ready. The SMP defines how each of the nine priority diseases will be addressed and therefore provides consistency and uniformity in disease prevention and control, thus creating harmonisation of disease control in the region.

In circumstances where disease free areas or zones are not yet established or they are not visible, quarantines stations provide an alternative option to guarantee disease control in the region. A Technical Working Group for epidemiology, laboratory-testing procedures, human capacity building and veterinary quarantines through supporting capacity building of veterinary quarantine experts to Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) control in Africa (VSPA), held in Mombasa, Kenya, from 13th – 15th November 2012 and the seminar on ‘Vaccine Standards and Pilot Approach to Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) control in Africa (VSPA), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 11th and 12th February 2013.

Synergy and collaboration with other USAID funded project has also been initiated. A meeting, with the objective of promoting a common agenda across actors (USAID and partners) and to identify a common resilience learning agenda, was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 11th and 12th February 2013.

A Technical Working Group for veterinary quarantine experts to develop SMPs for the livestock quarantines in the Greater Horn of Africa is planned to take place from 12th-14th March 2013 in Berbera, Somalia, as well as
The library is in the process of modifying its library. The AU-IBAR library was established with the objective of collating, analyzing and making available in a timely manner, reliable and up-to-date data, information and knowledge on animal resources to support planning and decision making. A considerable amount of data and information has been generated in AU-IBAR over the years through various projects and activities. These need to be collated, processed and made accessible to AU-IBAR’s clients. The library supports AU-IBAR’s staff and other end-users seeking to design, implement and facilitate interventions by ensuring access to information. The AU-IBAR library collection is composed of books, periodicals and multimedia resources.

The Library Assistants are working to digitize the library collection and process the documents into the INMAGIC system by providing bibliographic details that analyse each item in the collection. The metadata will ensure that users of the system can use relevant results and at the same time save time in searching for information. The digital library will make available to online users the information resources stored by AU-IBAR, the Member States (MSs), by the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and by AU-IBAR’s partners.

The digital library will also cut down on the costs of distributing publications. The AU-IBAR library will ultimately be fully digitized; there will be a processed and organized collection that eases retrieval and an online catalogue will be operational. The library has also established the so-called Current Awareness Service (CAS) through which AU-IBAR staff regularly receive updates on new additions to the library.

Below are some pictures showing the transformation that has taken place in the AU-IBAR library to date.

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AU-IBAR is modernizing its library

On-going digitization programme

The library is in the process of digitizing the collection and capture of the meta-data into the so-called INMAGIC library system. INMAGIC is a software to manage information to make it more accessible online. To accomplish this task the library has engaged two Library Assistants, supervised by the library’s Documentalist.

AU-IBAR library before

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Below are some pictures showing the transformation that has taken place in the AU-IBAR library to date.

AU-IBAR library after

AU-IBAR library before

AU-IBAR library after

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
March – April 2013

4-8 March VET-GOV National Livestock Stakeholders Policy Workshop, Maputo, Mozambique
5-8 March VET-GOV National Livestock Stakeholders Policy Workshop, Conakry, Guinea
6-8 March LAL Partners meeting for the preparation of the workshop on transhumance, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
7-9 March Value Chain Experts meeting, Arusha, Tanzania
9-10 March Fisheries: Inception/Planning meeting on aquaculture industry assessment, Lilongwe, Malawi
11-15 March VET-GOV National Livestock Stakeholders Policy Workshops, Djibouti, Windhoek, Namibia, Monrovia, Liberia, Antananarivo, Madagascar
11-13 March ARIS National Training, Djibouti
11-14 March ARIS National Training, Kampala, Uganda
11-14 March Fisheries: Write workshop on finalising the Zero Draft Pan Africa Policy Framework, Johannesburg, South Africa
11-15 March ARIS National Training, Juba, South Sudan
12-14 March SMP-AH Technical working group meeting (Quarantine), Berbera, Somaliland
14-18 March IRCM Implementation planning for COMESA, Lusaka, Zambia
15-17 March Fisheries: Inception/Planning meeting on climate change studies on adaptation and coping strategy in fisheries, Lilongwe, Malawi
18-20 March Coping with drought & Climate Change: pre-inception field visits to selected sites in IGAD, Djibouti
18-21 March ARIS National training, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
18-22 March VET-GOV National Livestock Stakeholders Policy Workshop, Mbabane, Swaziland
22-24 March LALP Continental Exchange visit for Parliamentarians on transhumance, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
23 March Alive: inception meeting with consultants in charge of the data analysis for the Cost Benefit Analysis of Rinderpest eradication in Africa, Arusha, Tanzania
24-26 March Kick-off meeting Animal Genetic Resources project (AnGR), Arusha, Tanzania
24-27 March VET-GOV National Livestock Stakeholders Policy Workshop, Khartoum, Sudan
25-26 March PANSPO Animal Health Experts meeting, Arusha, Tanzania
25-28 March LAL Technical workshop on Transhumance, NRM and conflict, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
25-29 March VET-GOV National Livestock Stakeholders Policy Workshops, Luanda, Angola, Abudja, Nigeria, Kinshasa, DRC
26-27 March LAL Partners meeting, Moroto, Uganda
26-28 March Fisheries: Inception/Planning meeting on fish trade policy harmonization, Kampala, Uganda
27-29 March PANSPO Codex Experts meeting, Arusha, Tanzania
27-29 March Kick-off meeting Bee Health project, Freetown, Liberia
3-5 April PANSPO - Food Safety Authority, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
8-15 April Disease prioritization training for SAC, Mashi, Tanzania
10-12 April Fisheries meeting: Inaugural meeting of AFRM Advisory council, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
14-15 April VET-GOV Continental WS (EN/FR) on policy tools and guidelines, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
14-15 April Bee Health Project Inception Workshop, Naivasha, Kenya
14-19 April 9th Ministerial Conference plus preparatory technical meetings, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
15-16 April Continental CVOs meeting prior to Ministerial Meeting, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
16-17 April Fisheries coordination meeting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
24-26 April SMP-AH Technical Working group meeting (surveillance and disease control), Arusha, Tanzania
28-30 April Genetic Project Inception Workshop, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
28-30 April Genetic Project Inception Workshop, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
28-30 April ARIS National training, Somalia
28-30 April STSD Project Launch workshop, Entebbe, Uganda
29-30 April Livestock Identification and Traceability Systems Continental Validation workshop, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

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A study tour to the United States from 22nd March - 8th April 2013 for the Chief Veterinary Officers and senior veterinary staff from the SMP-AH participating countries, to learn how the US manages transboundary animal diseases. Knowledge acquired from the tour will support adaptation and implementation of the SMP approach to the GHoA context.
DID YOU KNOW?

African animal husbandry decisions are highly dependent on climate because they determine the selection of species, the net income per animal and the number of animals.

The increase of temperature causes the net revenue for all animals to fall, notably for beef cattle. A 2.5°C warming will result in an estimated 32% loss in expected income for farmers and a 5°C warming in an estimated 70% loss in expected net income. Increased precipitation by 15% will result in an estimated 1% loss of expected net income.

Small livestock farms tend to be more diversified, relying on cattle, goats and chickens whereas large farms tend to specialize in dairy or beef cattle. A warming of 2.5°C would mean an expected drop of income for small farms by some 13%, as small farms shift away from dairy cattle and chickens to goats and sheep. A 15% decrease in precipitation is expected to increase small livestock farm incomes by 6%. Large farmers’ incomes are expected to fall by 26% with a 2.5°C warming and 67% with a 5°C warming, but a 15% decrease in precipitation is expected to increase the farmers’ income by 2%.

Atmospheric Oceanic General Circulation Models (AOGCMs) predict that climate change will cause beef cattle and chicken to decrease in Africa and sheep and goats to increase. The models predict an average loss of 22% ($8 to $23 billion) in net income from livestock by 2020. These damages increase to 31% ($9 to $24 billion) by 2060, and to 54% ($25 to 40 billion) by 2100.

*The above figures are approximates sourced from The Centre of Environmental Economics and Policy for Africa*