Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism for the Prevention and Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in Africa

Strategic Partnership for Fisheries Investment Fund

ALive

Africa’s participation in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-setting Organisations

Strengthening Climate Change Adaptation Strategies through Improved Management at the Livestock-Wildlife-Environment Interface

Africa Animal Resources Newsletter
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.

EDITORIAL

I am proud to introduce our readers to the First Issue of the new quarterly AU-IBAR Newsletter. The Newsletter also celebrates AU-IBAR’s 60th Anniversary, which was commemorated at the AU-IBAR premises on the 16th January 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Without doubt the most notable achievement of AU-IBAR since its creation is the successful conclusion of its hard fought battle against rinderpest, which was declared eradicated in 2011, making it the first animal disease after smallpox to be eradicated globally.

However, AU-IBAR’s quest to address and take on new challenges in the area of animal resources in Africa are never-ending, of which the contents of this and upcoming newsletters may serve as evidence. These include AU-IBAR’s added mandate to address the fisheries sector on the African continent, the strengthening of Africa’s Regional Economic Communities to more effectively address animal resources issues, the reinforcing of veterinary governance in Africa, and so forth.

This newsletter also calls for contributions from our readers regarding publicly debated issues in the animal resources sector in Africa, which should make this publication truly interactive.

Prof. El-Sawalhy
Director AU-IBAR
TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism for the Prevention and Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in Africa
6 Strengthening Climate Change Adaptation Strategies through Improved Management at the Livestock-Wildlife-Environment Interface
9 Africa’s participation in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-setting Organisations
10 Calendar of Events
11 Did you know?
11 Strategic Partnership for Fisheries Investment Fund
12 ALive
14 Pictorial: AU-IBAR commemorates 60th Anniversary
Africa suffers a heavy burden of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and other infectious diseases transmissible from animals to humans (zoonoses). TADs and zoonoses, including emerging infectious diseases (EID), represent a major constraint to the development of the predominantly rural economy of the African continent.

Animal diseases are estimated to be responsible for not less than 20% of production losses, thus impacting negatively on human health in terms of nutrition and deficiency of protein and micro-nutrients derived from milk, eggs and meat. TADs and zoonoses also present a major barrier to international, regional and domestic trade. With such key impacts on animal productivity, market access and public health, it is essential to take action to sustainably reduce their prevalence to achieve improved returns from Africa’s vast animal resources base. One sustainable approach of realizing this objective is by working through Africa’s institutions in setting priorities and mobilizing resources for action against the most pressing TADs and zoonoses in different countries and regions of the continent.

The threat due to TADs and zoonoses is likely to increase in response to rapid urbanization, intensification of animal production, faster movement of people and livestock commodities across borders and ecosystems, amplified interaction between domestic, wild animals and humans, growing human population and encroachment into new settlements, and the increased commercialization of wildlife, wildlife habitats and consumption of bush meat. Furthermore, global warming and climate change are encouraging the spread of pathogens, pests and invasive species and could increase the range of some diseases.

AU-IBAR is mandated to support and coordinate the development and utilization of animal resources for human wellbeing and economic development through support and empowerment of AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism for the prevention and control of trans-boundary animal diseases and zoonoses in Africa (IRCM) is conceptualized in line with this mandate. It is designed as a business process model for the prioritization and mainstreaming of TADs interventions against them within the institutional structures and decision making processes of the RECs and their member states.

However, the majority of African veterinary services have only medium to low capacity in critical competences, such as disease surveillance, diagnosis and outbreak response. This has serious implications for TADs and zoonoses prevention and control. These gaps are exacerbated by weak coordination and technical infrastructure for wildlife health in most RECs and countries. Although donor supported programs and institutions have in the past tried to establish mechanisms for capacity sharing through establishment of networks of laboratories and disease surveillance systems, these networks remain weak, lack sustainability and do not have clear operational and governance procedures. However, in spite of their weaknesses, networks provide good opportunities to achieve coordinated and collaborative actions on a regional scale and therefore require strengthening. To improve information sharing and disease reporting, efforts have been made by some RECs and MSs to establish information systems. These however have remained
weak to date. Similarly, public health systems in Africa are weak although the demand for health services remains heavy. In addition the performance of existing health systems in Africa remains very poor, as public health structures do not pay much attention to the problem of zoonoses. There is moreover weak coordination and collaboration with animal health systems.

Lastly, in the area of health communication, RECs are only involved in a limited way in developing and coordinating communication strategies, or in promoting health communication. There are efforts in some RECs to establish communication networks within and between them and others but these are not founded on national level capacities/networks and are, therefore unlikely to be effective. Communication as a tool for supporting TADs and zoonoses control and prevention campaigns is gaining recognition by relevant institutions in the MS, including national veterinary services. However, the main challenge continues to be the heavy dependence on external resources and lack of established institutional and human resource capacity to sustain it.

The IRCM initiative seeks to improve the coordination among stakeholders involved in the management of TADs and zoonoses in Africa, and aims to establish critical competences in the departments responsible for their prevention and control. It has a strong regional thrust to ensure support for inter-country coordination besides addressing capacity gaps at country level, and support to the regional integration agenda spearheaded by RECs. Strengthening of capacities for preparedness, prevention and control of TADs and zoonoses at local, national, regional and continental levels is therefore an important issue for various stakeholders with an interest in supporting agricultural, public health, overall development and poverty alleviation in Africa.

AU-IBAR has taken cognizance of this need in initiating actions to address the situation and accorded high priority to “reducing the impact of TADs and zoonoses on livelihoods and public health in Africa” as a key strategic issue in its strategic plan 2010-2014. Likewise the Directorate for Social Affairs of the African Union Commission, also responsible for public health, seeks to build an effective, African driven response to reduce the burden of disease and disability, through strengthened health systems, scaled-up health interventions, inter sectoral action and empowered communities in its African Health Strategy (2008-13). In crafting the IRCM initiative, the African Union seeks to catalyze the management of TADs and zoonoses in Africa in line with these strategies, and by facilitating the involvement of a broad range of stakeholders in the implementation of a continental agenda for capacity building and improved governance of public health services at the human-animal-ecosystem interface. This strategic approach has been developed in close collaboration with the RECs and is tailored to support the African Integration Initiative for which RECs are the building blocks. It is also closely aligned to the comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program framework (CAADP), the vision and framework of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), the global One Health strategic framework and brings on board specialized international organizations namely the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO), with mandates in animal and human health.

Additionally, the IRCM has taken on board lessons learned from the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) programs in Africa and globally, as well as other programs implemented by AU-IBAR and others in Africa. It seeks to address gaps in Africa’s animal and public health systems to improve their effectiveness in the management of TADs and zoonoses. This will be achieved through a multi-agency multi-pronged approach that enhances the core competences of the responsible systems, enhances coordination among sectors and actors, and improves

“Sub-Saharan Africa carries 24% of the global burden of disease while having only 3% of the world’s health workers”
collaboration and resource sharing among stakeholders and partners. From an institutional perspective, the IRCM provides a roadmap for the realization of the objectives of AU-IBAR strategic Program (1) concerned with “Reducing the Impact of trans-boundary Animal Diseases and zoonoses on livelihoods and public health in Africa”.

Strengthening Climate Change Adaptation Strategies through Improved Management at the Livestock-Wildlife-Environment Interface

The project “Livestock for Livelihoods: Strengthening Climate Change Adaptation Strategies through Improved Management at the Livestock-Wildlife-Environment Interface” (L4LP) aims at strengthening livestock-based livelihoods and improving food and environmental securities in arid and semi-arid lands through improved natural resources and livestock management practices in response to increased risks and vulnerability from climate change.

L4LP, in addition, seeks to develop ways of strengthening the adaptive capacities of the livestock-dependent communities, providing livelihood alternatives and less conflictive solutions. L4LP also initiates dialogues at national and regional levels to promote upgrading. L4LP is implemented by a consortium consisting of four Regional Economic Communities (RECs): the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). At the regional level, the project partners are the RECs. The RECs, through their technical units, coordinate and facilitate the implementation and have the primary responsibility for seeking the full participation of all regional stakeholders in the planning and implementation stages of the project. To ensure sustainability and ownership, the project is being implemented in close collaboration with state actors. Issues to be addressed fall within the ministries of Livestock of the 12 countries involved in the project (Senegal, Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Niger, Benin, Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda). The implementing partners conducting the activities in the fields are: the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Vétérinaires sans Frontières Belgium (VSF-Belgium), the Association pour la Promotion du développement de l’Elevage au Sahel et en Savane (APESS), the Central African Economic Commission for Livestock, Meat and Fisheries Resources (CEBEVIRHA).

In general, the project has undertaken actions and delivered outputs in line with the ambitious plans and the high expectations of the beneficiaries. The project consists of four components. Component 1 deals with the establishment of sustainable natural resource management systems at the livestock-wildlife-agriculture interface. This component focuses on creating conducive policy and institutional environments that facilitate climate change adaptation strategies at the livestock-wildlife-environment interface with reduced incidence of natural resources based conflicts. The strong policy and institutional orientation increases the likelihood of scaling up natural resources community-based M&E framework into regional and national natural resources management strategies. Component 2 contains...
a set of activities aiming at rehabilitating degraded lands through participatory community-based actions. This component builds on the Community Base Natural Resources Management developed in component 1 and focuses on rehabilitation and restoration of degraded land. Support is provided to communities to embrace rehabilitation and restoration activities from physical, technical, socioeconomic and cultural perspectives. ‘Climate-Proof’ livestock production systems and alternative means of livelihood provided to pastoral and agro-pastoral production systems in targeted ASAL areas is the focus of component 3. This component focuses on improving livestock production and marketing and on providing alternative livelihoods. This involves interventions to increase economic diversification and alternative livelihoods for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. It also involves increasing income from traditional herding of animals, through the reduction of the current constraints to livestock production, such as disease control, feeding and marketing. Component 4 contains interventions that aim at enhancing awareness and information sharing of best practices on sustainable natural resources management practices in response to increasing risks and vulnerability from climate change at the livestock-wildlife interface. This component fosters exchange of experiences and comparative learning at a regional level through dissemination of best practices and exchange visits.

Desk studies were carried out to review existing national/regional policy and strategy documents, development priorities, and budget allocations to identify policy and institutional barriers as well as policy opportunities and promising institutions that are needed to create an environment that supports climate change adaptation strategies. Analysis of key actors and their linkages as well as the interactions between policies and actors were carried out to identify policy, institutional and organizational entry points and policy dialogue involving key stakeholders.

Stocking exercises for the development of CBNRM plans were initiated. The crucial role of local communities was established and the organisation of a sustainable management of natural resources was highlighted. Identification of best management practices at the interface livestock-wildlife-
environment with the view to effectively facilitate the sharing of best practices within and between communities was done. L4LP has facilitated the establishment of several peace-building and conflict resolution committees in the conflict prone border areas. These committees have been trained in negotiation, reconciliation and conflict management skills. The project was involved in the 38th anniversary commemoration of the Lokiriama Peace Accord in the Karamajong Cluster held on the International Peace Day on 21 September 2011. Peace meetings were also conducted on the Kenya-Uganda-South Sudan border and grazing management Committees were established or strengthened by the communities and Grazing Plans were developed. The plans spell out the zonation to help prevent overgrazing by livestock.

Training is an important component of L4LP, as it promotes alternative livelihoods that are not dependent on climatic conditions. Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) have been trained on proper use of veterinary medicine and disease management, while women’s groups have been trained in basic business skills. Marketing and village community banking (VICOBA) skills have also been imparted to the women’s groups to enhance sustainability of community income.

The project is now fully operational. However, a number of strategic and tactical challenges need to be addressed and dealt with in order to keep the momentum, to continue to meet the expectations of all beneficiaries and stakeholders as well as to provide for sustainability of the processes and results.

L4LP is funded by the European Union to the tune of 4.8 million Euros and runs until July 2013. L4LP is implemented in four geographical areas: the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Parks Complex (Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger), the Karamajong Cluster (Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan), the area around Lake Chad (Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad) and the Niokoloko Complex (Senegal, Guinea, and Mali).
Africa’s participation in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-setting Organisations

Background
Globalisation incessantly expands the volume of international trade. It is the force behind the endless opening of new transport routes, including those for agricultural products. With it comes an increased risk of spreading diseases and pests. The pressing need for harmonisation of sanitary measures is demonstrated by the dramatic consequences of insufficient protection. For example in 2001, an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the UK brought economic losses of more than €10m. With this hindsight, the World Trade Organization (WTO) mandates the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) to establish Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) standards. However, the involvement of African institutions in the activities of these standard-setting organisations has been low. The majority cannot avail qualified personnel and lack other capacities to contribute in a gainful way, exacerbated by an ineffectiveness to reach common positions on SPS issues. These circumstances have caused Africa to merely be on the receiving end with little influence over the formulation processes of emerging standards which impact immensely on her economy.

What is PAN-SPSO?
In order to address these challenges, AU-IBAR in 2008 initiated the Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-setting Organisations (PAN-SPSO) Project. The Project aimed at assisting AU Member States (MS) with the enhancement of the organisational set-up for more effective representation in international standard-setting organisations (ISSOs). The programme facilitated communication among African institutions through workshops and electronic channels with the aim to identify common interests and policies. National institutions received training and technical assistance to strengthen their technical capacity and ability to effectively contribute to the process of standard setting. In addition, latest SPS data and information on existing and emerging standards, research results and relevant scientific information were collected and disseminated. The Project concluded its first phase in December 2011, which was followed by PAN-SPSO Phase 2 in January 2012. This Phase will run until December 2014.

PAN-SPSO Phase 2
The aim of the second phase of PAN-SPSO is to improve the contribution of animal resources to food security and safety, economic growth and wealth creation in Africa and to protect plant health and plant resources and facilitate inter- and intra-African trade in contribution to healthy African agriculture. More specifically, PAN-SPSO Phase 2 aims to strengthen and sustain more effective participation of African countries in the activities of the OIE, IPPC and Codex Alimentarius Commission during the formulation of international standards on animal (terrestrial and aquatic) and plant health, and food safety.

Supplementary objectives include 1) to ensure smooth flow of African agricultural international trade; 2) to strengthen and sustain the more effective participation of African countries in the activities of the WTO SPS committee; 3) to support publicity/dissemination of established standards among a broad range of stakeholders; 4) to improve national/regional coordination/information sharing on SPS matters; and 5) to encourage strengthening of compliance to established standards within African countries.

Expected Results
Expected outcomes of PAN-SPSO Phase 2 include the enhancement and making available of relevant information related to animal health, plant health and food safety standards to key stakeholders in African countries.
This includes the establishment and reinforcement of consultation and coordination mechanisms for building common positions on sanitary and phytosanitary issues at the national, regional and continental levels. The Project also aims to strengthen the technical capacity of African countries to develop standards and science-based arguments, and to ensure that relevant public and private stakeholders participate in standard setting processes through the establishment or reinforcement of inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms (SPS committees). Finally PAN-SPSO aims to sensitise decision makers on the necessity of adequate involvement and investment of countries in the standard setting process through strong advocacy mechanisms.

The project is funded by the European Union through the “Aid for Trade” facility.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**July – October 2012**

16-17 July  | GF-TADs 7th Steering Committee Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya
17-18 July  | ALive Executive Committee, Nairobi, Kenya
19 July     | ALive General Assembly, Nairobi, Kenya
19-20 July  | One Health Training in ECCAS, Libreville, Gabon
24-26 July  | Regional training of trainers on SPS EAC, Arusha, Tanzania
5-11 August | Training of ARIS Administrators in RECs and MS, Libreville, Gabon
6-10 August | Review, finalisation and validation of TADs and zoonoses in ECCAS, Libreville, Gabon
13-15 August| SMP Inception Workshop (Official Launch) Workshop, Addis Ababa
22-24 August| Regional workshop on the establishment of integrated regional coordination, Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire
3-6 September| Continental Workshop: Develop adapt and test policy formulation tools and guidelines, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
4-5 September| Workshop to validate trade related regional priority diseases in IGAD region, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
5-6 September| Launch of Pan African Forum for Livestock exporting Countries (PAFLEC), Arusha, Tanzania
10-30 September| VET-GOV Benchmarking workshop, Djibouti
11-14 September| Regional training of National Epidemiology officers, Abuja, Nigeria
17-19 September| ISCTR Technical Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya
18-21 September| Regional training of National Epidemiology officers in 15 Anglophone countries, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
20-21 September| Inception workshop for guidelines for monitoring livestock investment and performance, Arusha, Tanzania
24-26 September| ISCTR Technical Meeting to review T&T status in 38 member states, Nairobi, Kenya
24-26 September| Animal Genetic Resources Project inception workshop, Nairobi, Kenya
1-5 October  | Training workshops on policy, strategy and legislative processes for Anglophone countries, Gaborone, Botswana
3-5 October  | Meeting to share information on Epidemia-surveillance on Trade related disease in IGAD, Djibouti
8-9 October  | Validation workshop on policy options to facilitate compliance to SPS measures, Nairobi, Kenya
15-17 October| Livestock for Livelihoods partners and steering committee meeting, Nairobi, Kenya
22-26 October| Training workshops on policy, strategy and legislative processes for Francophone countries, Dakar, Senegal
24-26 October| Continental and Regional Workshops on Establishment of IRCMs, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
26-27 October| ISCTR Executive Committee Meeting, Khartoum, Sudan
**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FISHERIES**

- Total marine capture fish production in Africa is 4.8 million tonnes contributing 6.1% to the global total of 78.6 million tonnes
- Total inland capture fish production in Africa is 2.6 million tonnes contributing 22.9% to the global total of 11.2 million tonnes
- Total aquaculture production in Africa is 1.3 million tonnes contributing 2.2% to the global total of 59.9 million tonnes and that Asia continent contributes nearly 90% to the world total

- For some 200 million people – about 30% of the Africa continent’s population - fish is the main source of animal protein
- There are about 4 million fishers in Africa representing 7.2% of the world total of 55 million
- Fisheries provide a direct source of livelihoods to over 10 million Africans and indirectly to over 50 million people in inland waters
- The total values of fish import and export to and from Africa are US$ 3.31 and US$ 7.81 billion dollars respectively contributing to 3.32% and 8.14% total international import and export trade in fish and fish products. Fish trade contribute to about US$11 billion dollars to African economies every year

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**Strategic Partnership for Fisheries Investment Fund (SPFIF)**

**Introduction**

The Strategic Partnership for Sustainable Fisheries Investment Fund (SPFIF) is an initiative of the Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) of Sub-Saharan Africa and aims to promote sustainable management of fisheries resources in the LMEs towards achieving sustainable fisheries and poverty reduction targets set by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002. This was in response to the observation that the fisheries of the Sub-Africa LMEs (that is the Guinea Current, the Canary Current, the Agulhas and Somali Currents and the Benguela Current) are threatened from pervasive destruction of critical habitats of fish stocks and also over-fishing of valuable fish resources. The situation is also compounded by absence of coordination mechanism in the governance of the sector. The project started in November 2005 with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The initiative is in two parts i) the investment fund to co-finance innovative projects in coastal African countries aimed at implementing the reforms needed to advance towards sustainability in selected fisheries and (ii) a strategic partnership led by the African Union to help support the exchange and dissemination of lessons learned from the projects co-financed by the investment fund, as well as to enhance implementation of these investments in general. The executing agency is the World Bank with AU-IBAR being the implementing agency. The
Welcome to ALive

ALive is a platform of organizations, regional and international institutions, civil society, donors, research, academic and training institutions and other stakeholders involved in livestock development in Africa. Its overall objective is to improve the livestock sector's contribution to poverty alleviation and sustainable economic growth on the continent and to contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa.

ALive rapidly became autonomous by gaining support and approval from the key actors of the livestock sector. ALive is nowadays a voluntary, shared and renowned initiative. It was initially hosted at the World Bank offices in Washington, and transferred to AU-IBAR in March 2009.

The transfer of the Secretariat to AU-IBAR offered an opportunity to take stock of the lessons learnt during the previous Platform's institutional setting and implementation and to revise its strategy. The revised strategy is expected to provide a greater

The major achievements of the SPFIF initiative include the following:

a. Catalyzed funding for country projects by the GEF Council and the World Bank from seven African countries to the tune of US$ 27 million in 2009-2011 (Senegal, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cape Verde, Ghana, Guinea Bissau and Kenya) and for four countries to the tune of US$ 22.5 million for 2012-2015 (Comoros, Mauritania, Mozambique and Tanzania) to enhance sustainable management of their coastal fisheries resources for increased contribution to socio-economic growth.

Table 1: GEF funding for country investment projects in 2009-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>GEF (million US$)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Verde</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea Bissau</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: GEF funding for country investment projects 2012-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>GEF (million US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comoros</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. Established a database on core group of fisheries experts and institutions.

c. Contributed to good governance of the fisheries sector by dissemination of lessons learnt and best practices through publications of newsletters and the African Fisheries Partnership Digest.

d. Initiated discussions and consultations on the establishment of coordination mechanism in African fisheries at continental and global levels. Series of discussions on the mechanism were held with stakeholders during RACC sessions and stakeholders consultation meetings. At the global level, consultations were held during the 2011 FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) meeting in Rome, Italy.
sense to Alive’s purpose, increase focus and value addition to national, regional and continental programs within the framework of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) and ensure that it is fully complementary to the strategy and programs of the African Union.

The unique feature of Alive platform is its capacity to bring together the international community of stakeholders in African livestock, wildlife and environment through a powerful collaboration of institutions and individuals that can best add value to African livestock development. Alive has entered a new phase in which it could benefit from synergies and value addition within AU-IBAR and closer integration with the CAADP. This will be ensured by the General Assembly of Alive which is chaired by the African Union’s Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture. The unity with AU-IBAR is expressed through the shared vision of “An Africa in which animal resources contribute significantly to sustainable economic growth, reduction of poverty and hunger for the present and future generations.”

The unique position and composition of the Alive platform enables it to play a specific and critical role in African livestock development that no other institution can fulfil, which is “to provide a platform for facilitating discussion, advocacy for resource mobilization, advancing policy advice and accessing global knowledge for stakeholders in African animal agriculture and environment to add value to national and regional actions, and programs in advancing the CAADP Livestock sub-sector agenda.”

The main functions of the platform are firstly to improve decision making by fostering debate and interaction among stakeholders at a global level for identifying trends and emerging issues in animal agriculture, human and livestock health, wildlife and the environment, secondly to raise awareness and access to knowledge by enabling end-users to access knowledge when and in the form they need it, thirdly to facilitate better policy making by catalysing and providing support for policy analysis and provide policy guidance, and lastly to support evidence-based advocacy for more investment in livestock development by informing public and private opinion on investment opportunities in animal agriculture.
The Director of AU-IBAR Prof. El-Sawalhy receives the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the AUC, H.E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime.

The Minister for Livestock Development, Kenya, Hon. Dr. Mohamed Abdi Kuti (right) is received by the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the AUC, H.E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime.

The Director of AU-IBAR Prof. El-Sawalhy welcomes Madam Francesca Mosca, Director of E-DEVCO of the European Commission.

The Director of AU-IBAR Prof. El-Sawalhy receives Mr. Hugo Pierrel, Representative of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

AU-IBAR Director Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy delivers welcoming remarks.

The Minister for Livestock Development, Kenya, Hon. Dr. Mohamed Abdi Kuti, delivering his speech.
The Commissioner of REA and the Director of AU-IBAR posing with the ex-Directors of AU-IBAR, Drs. Musiime, Masiga and Atang.

The Commissioner of REA and the Director of AU-IBAR posing with Representives of the European Union and the ACP Secretariat.

The Commissioner of REA and the Director of AU-IBAR posing with the AU-IBAR Partners.

The Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the AUC, H.E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime (right) and Madam Francesca Mosca, Director of E-DEVCO of the European Commission (left) proudly posing, holding the AU-IBAR 60th Anniversary commemorative plaque.

Male AU-IBAR staff and invitees dancing to the tunes of Kayamba Africa.

Time for the ladies to dance to the tunes of Kayamba Africa.
The Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the AUC H.E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime and the Minister for Livestock Development, Kenya, Hon. Dr. Mohamed Abdi Kuti, posing next to the commemorative statue, Nairobi, Kenya, 16 January 2012