



AFRICAN UNION

**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**

Programme Implementation Report 2013-2014



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AAGRIS	Africa Animal Genetics Resources Information System
AHC	Animal Health Certification
AnGR	Animal Genetic Resources
ARIS	Animal Resource Information System
ASF	African Swine Fever
AUC	African Union Commission
AU-IAPSC	African Union-InterAfrican Phytosanitary Council
AU-PATTEC	African Union-Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
DREA	Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture
ECCAS	Regional Economic Communities
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GHoA	Greater Horn of Africa
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority for Development
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ISCTRC	International Scientific Council for Trypanosomosis Research and Control
LiDeSA	Livestock Development Strategy for Africa
LITs	Livestock Identification and Traceability
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NAPs	National action plans
NEALCO	North Eastern Africa Livestock Council
NLPHs	National Livestock Policy Hubs
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
OIE	World Animal Health Organization
PACA	Programme for Aflatoxin Control in Africa
PANSPSO	Participation of African Nations in SPS Standard-setting Organizations
PROCNADA	Strategic Framework for the Progressive Control of Neglected Animal Diseases
SMP-AH	Standard Methods and Procedures in Animal Health
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards
STSD	Strengthening the Capacity for Controlling Trade Sensitive Diseases
SWIO	South West Indian Ocean
TADs	Transboundary Animal Diseases
TCP	Technical Cooperation Project
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Animal resources play an important role in the economies and food and nutritional security of rural families. These resources, therefore, are some of the key contributors to poverty reduction, sustainable food security and economic development, as well as contributors to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The livestock sector in Africa, is, however, seriously constrained by factors that lead to low productivity and competitiveness, such as animal diseases, poor husbandry practices and low investments. The African Union Commission (AUC), through the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR), which is the specialized technical office for animal resources in the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA), is charged with the responsibility of addressing these constraints. This is being realized through implementation of various interventions which are guided by the AUC Strategic Plan (2014-2017), the DREA Strategic and Operational Plan and the AU-IBAR Strategic Plan, the latter two being translations of the AUC Strategic plan and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) Framework. These interventions are implemented within the framework of four broad and inter-related strategic themes as outlined below. In addition, in the past one year, the AUC, through AU-IBAR, coordinated stakeholder efforts to formulate a livestock development strategy for Africa (LiDeSA), and is currently in the process of formulating a continental livestock development programme with assistance of the European Union and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

2.0 ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER SPECIFIC STRATEGIC THEMES

2.1. Strategic Theme 1: Animal Health, Disease Prevention and Control Systems

The overall objective of this programme is to strengthen veterinary governance and animal health systems for increased productivity, improved food and nutritional security, enhanced food safety and trade, and public health protection. The achievements attained under this programme contributed to strengthening of animal health, diseases prevention and control systems for improved veterinary governance and effective management of animals diseases in Africa; enhanced policy making at national level; promotion of intra, inter-regional and international trade in livestock and livestock products; and strengthening of veterinary public health.

2.1.1 *Animal Health, Disease Prevention and Control Systems for Improved Veterinary Governance and Effective Management of Animal Diseases in Africa Strengthened*

AU-IBAR has within the context of this theme, coordinated and facilitated the formulation and implementation of strategies and programmes for the prevention and control of major Transboundary Diseases (TADs) and zoonoses in livestock, wildlife, bees and fish in Africa, notably the Regional Strategy for the Control of African Swine fever (ASF) and the Strategic Framework for the Progressive Control of Neglected Animal Diseases (SF-PROCNADA). In addition, a joint AUC/FAO Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) has been implemented to address the global threat of Avian Influenza (H7N9). Achievements already made from the cooperation include building the capacities of MS in conducting epidemiological field surveys and data management; value chain analysis and its application in animal health with emphasis on critical central points; virus isolation and characterization; and field sample collection, transport and laboratory diagnosis analysis. Besides, opportunities for collaboration and functional partnerships amongst key epidemiologists and laboratory experts at national and Regional levels has been created.

2.1.2 *Support to the Enhancement of Policy Making at the National Level*

In order to enhance policy making at the national level, National Livestock Policy Hubs (NLPHs) were

established and operationalized. The Policy Hubs operate on the principles of inclusiveness, participation and evidence to ensure broad stakeholder participation in policy formulation, review and analysis, in addition to capacity building on policy analysis, formulation and veterinary legislation. Policy advocacy and communication were also undertaken, with the objective of integrating livestock in CAADP. AU-IBAR also worked to improve the livestock-related capacity of regional farmers' organizations in COMESA, IGAD, EAC and SADC through mapping of the producer organizations; understanding the current scope of work and issues being undertaken; understanding the current institutional and governance arrangements in place to support livestock related work; understanding the current livestock value chains and themes related work to increase the role of the regional farmers organization in the internal governance and functions; identifying capacity building requirements needed to support and strengthen their lobbying activities towards livestock related issues to be included in the economic growth, food security and poverty reduction agendas.

Through the project for Reinforcing Animal Health Services in Somalia (RAHS), AU-IBAR provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Livestock Forestry and Range (MLFR) of the Federal Government of Somalia to successfully convene a Somali livestock stakeholders' consultative conference in Mogadishu from 29th March to 1st April 2014. The workshop which brought together about 100 livestock sector stakeholders from Somalia and the diaspora, to discussed and agreed on the way forward for the revitalization of the Somali livestock sector and its institutions.

As a follow-up to this conference, the AU-IBAR also sensitized parliamentarians, Committees on Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, and veterinary professionals representing various public and private sector institutions in Somalia, on the need to support enactment of an existing draft veterinary code. This was achieved in a workshop whose participants also identified the critical steps that the draft veterinary code should follow before enactment. This was the first major milestone towards the enactment of the Veterinary Code in Somalia since the draft Code was developed in 2009.

2.1.3 Promotion of Intra, Inter-regional and International Trade in Livestock and Livestock Products

To promote intra, inter-regional and international trade in livestock and livestock products, AU-IBAR embarked on strengthening the capacity of Members States (MSs) to comply with Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards and to promote competitiveness and facilitate free movement of livestock and livestock products for trade. This was achieved through training veterinary personnel and improving disease control infrastructure, developing cross-sectional survey designs for priority diseases, establishing a coordination mechanism and regional frameworks for the progressive control of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and other small ruminant diseases, developing regional guidelines on Livestock Identification and Traceability (LITs), and Animal Health Certification (AHC).

Countries in the Greater Horn of Africa (GHOA) were supported in harmonizing the differing and sometimes conflicting animal health regulations at regional level, through the development and implementation of regional standard methods and procedures (SMPs) for the prevention and control of a number of trans-boundary diseases (such as Foot and Mouth Disease, PPR and the Rift Valley Fever). Further, IBAR contributed to the enhancement of vaccine production capacity of two laboratories, namely the Kenya Veterinary Vaccine Production Institute (KEVEVAPI) and the National Veterinary Institute (NVI) in Ethiopia was enhanced. Livestock trade was also promoted through bringing together fragmented and weak livestock trade associations to dialogue on trade issues, in the IGAD, EAC, and COMESA. The same was also achieved through support to the North Eastern Africa Livestock Council (NEALCO), a regional

coordination body on livestock trade.

The activities under this strategic theme were achieved with assistance and partnership from the EU and USAID through the Reinforcing Veterinary Governance (VET-GOV), Standard Methods and Procedures in Animal Health (SMP-AH) and the Strengthening the Capacity for Controlling Trade Sensitive Diseases (STSD) projects. The projects were implemented in partnership with the Member States, Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the World Animal Health Organization (OIE), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

2.1.4 Strengthening of Veterinary Public Health

AU-IBAR was involved in strengthening veterinary public health through facilitating and strengthening African countries' compliance to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Standards and participation in the activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) during the formulation of international standards on food safety and animal health. Copies of handbooks on enhanced participation of African countries in standard setting processes and meetings were printed and distributed. As a result, the compliance of African MSs with SPS standards has been improved, formulation and adoption of African common positions on SPS standards at continental and REC levels has been strengthened, and the technical capacity of African countries to draft standards and to develop arguments have also been improved. In addition, data and information on SPS experts in the Animal Resource Information System (ARIS 2) database is regularly updated in order to make the information readily available to Member States and other stakeholders. Member States Governments have increased their support to National SPS committees, created in most MSs with the assistance of AU-IBAR, and this will contribute to future sustainability of their effective participation in meetings of international standard setting organizations. Technical capacities have also been built at regional levels and cascaded down to countries. This has contributed to greater access of Africa's agricultural products to international markets.

This was achieved through the Participation of African Nations in SPS Standard-setting Organizations (PANSPSO) project, jointly funded by the EU and AUC. In order to further enhance MSs' compliance with animal health and animal welfare standards, the AUC supported and was involved in a study on stakeholders analysis, policy landscaping and political economy for policy making on animal welfare that was carried out in COMESA, EAC, IGAD and SADC. The study was carried out in partnership with the World Animal Protection.

2.2. Strategic Theme 2: Animal Resources Production Systems and Ecosystem Management

The overall objective of this strategic programme is to strengthen animal resource production systems, improve management of animal resources and promote sustainable ecosystem management and institutional collaboration. The achievements under this strategic programme contributed to strengthening of the capacity of countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to sustainably use and conserve African animal genetic resources; fisheries and aquaculture development in Africa; and establishment of sustainable natural resource management systems at the livestock-wildlife-agriculture interface.

2.2.1 Strengthening the Capacity of Countries and Regional Economic Communities to Sustainably Use and Conserve African Animal Genetic Resources

To achieve this, a map of the countries having policies and national action plans (NAPs) on Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR), as well as a map on national and regional livestock breeders associations were developed.

An assessment of AnGR and livestock-related policies and regulations, including the analysis of their status of implementation was carried out. These initiatives will contribute to the formulation and establishment of regional and continent-wide strategic frameworks and cooperation arrangements that will ensure judicious utilization, management and conservation of Africa's animal resources and their ecosystems. This is being carried out through the Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) project with assistance from the EU.

2.2.2 Support to Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Africa

In order to contribute to sustainable fisheries management for socio-economic growth and development, AU-IBAR led the process of formulation of the policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa (PFRSFAA) which was endorsed in the June 2014 Summit of Heads of States and Governments in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. A road map was established for engaging civil society organizations in the policy framework implementation process pertaining specifically to small-scale fisheries development. A fisheries accord for the regional cooperation in the management of shared fisheries resources (tunas) in the South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) was developed. An institutional framework for establishing linkages between regional economic communities (ECCAS) and regional fisheries bodies (COREP) was developed.

AU-IBAR also initiated the creation of a regional partnership platform (The African Fisheries Reform Mechanism) to support the coherence, coordination and implementation of governance reforms that would transform Africa's marine fisheries from current levels of overexploitation towards environmental, economic and social sustainability. A Pan African Strategy for data collection, analysis and dissemination was developed. Lessons and best practices in aquaculture practices from major producer countries in Africa (Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and Uganda, Mozambique, Seychelles, Egypt) and climate change effects in fishing communities were collated, packaged and disseminated. A fisheries governance project to support the implementation of the policy framework was developed and accepted for funding by European Union. Also a Fish trade project to support intra-regional fish trade was jointly developed in partnership with World fish and the NEPAD Agency (NPCA) and funding secured from the European Union.

AU-IBAR also facilitated the establishment of cooperation with the China Freshwater and Aquaculture Institute and the United Nations University, a partnership through which representatives from two AU member states (Malawi and Nigeria) were trained. Efforts are also underway to support the enhancement of awareness and establishment of the status of implementation of international fisheries instruments in AU MSs.

2.2.3 Contribution of Bees to Food Security and Livelihoods Enhanced

To achieve this objective, the Africa Apiculture Platform (AAP) for honey production, bee health and pollination services was launched. This will facilitate collaboration and cooperation with bee value chain stakeholders, share best practices and lessons learnt, facilitate creation of enabling policy framework on the continent, and facilitate increased public and private investment in apiculture. It will also improve honey production, quality, marketing, coordination, advocacy, environment, bee health and pollination services in the African apiculture sector. Additionally, two successful training sessions on diagnostic, sampling and control of bee diseases (one in English and one in French) were organized to strengthen MSs Veterinary Services in relation to bee diseases. Lastly, the inauguration of the bee health reference laboratory in Kenya for training, novel research and biotechnology in honeybee and other pollinators' diseases is also a big achievement for this initiative.

2.2.4 Support to Establishment of Sustainable Natural Resource Management Systems at the Livestock-Wildlife-Agriculture Interface

AU-IBAR facilitated the creation of sustainable livelihood options for some targeted communities through the signing of documents and various agreements (management plans, management guidelines, etc. . .). The establishment of functional peace building and conflict resolution committees, coupled with building capacity of the members of these committees in monitoring and evaluation of natural resources represented also a key achievement. The project has contributed to local political agreements in some countries (Burkina Faso, Senegal, Guinea, Mali, Chad), while the process is underway in others (Benin). Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded lands was done through reforestation, conservation (delimitation of land by community members) and negotiation. On all the intervention sites, over more than 150,000 hectares of land have been rehabilitated involving the effective participation of the communities and the technical services. Also, in response to increased risk and vulnerability from climate change, natural resources and livestock management practices at the interface of protected areas animal production systems “climate resilient” and alternative livelihoods were provided to vulnerable groups with the introduction and/or promotion of several innovations in the intervention sites. In total, more than 10 alternative livelihoods have been promoted, including vegetable production , raising local poultry , improved poultry, small ruminants and pigs, tree planting, non-timber forest product (gum Arabic, wood feed), forage production, dairy processing units, mills, beekeeping, sheep fattening. Women were the main beneficiaries of these innovations, which helped them, diversify their sources of income. AU-IBAR also developed and published its climate change adaptation-mitigation strategy for animal resources. In addition, concept notes on Climate Change and Animal Resources in Africa were formulated in line with the AU-IBAR Climate Change Adaptation-Mitigation Strategy for Animal Resources. The position paper on climate change and animal resources was also written.

2.3. Strategic Theme 3: Access to inputs, services and markets for animal and animal products

The overall objective of this Strategic Program is to facilitate increased access to inputs, services and markets for animals and animal products. The achievements under this strategic programme contributed to capacity development for strategic analysis, and monitoring and evaluation of animal resources investments, performance and opportunities.

2.3.1 Support To Capacity Development for Strategic Analysis and Monitoring and Evaluation of Animal Resources Investments Performance and Opportunities

To provide support and capacity development for strategic analysis and monitoring and evaluation of animal resources investments performance and opportunities, a draft framework for the monitoring of investments and performance of the livestock sector in Africa has been reviewed, refined and key indicators needed for monitoring investments in the livestock sector developed in consultation with the experts on socio-economics, monitoring and evaluation and animal sciences from different countries and institutions across Africa. This framework will contribute to the development and adoption of appropriate technologies aimed at improving value addition and reducing post-harvest losses, and the formulation of policy frameworks or advocacy for policy options that promote and encourage value addition.

An excel module of data capture and analysis to operationalize the use of the livestock investments monitoring performance frame work has been prepared and personnel from MSs trained on it use.

2.4 Strategic Theme 4: Animal Resources Information and Knowledge Management

The overall objective of this strategic programme is to improve the creation, dissemination and utilization of knowledge for effective animal resource development. The achievements under this strategic programme contributed to improved knowledge management of RECs and MSs in animal resources to facilitate informed and timely decision-making; development of policies and institutional capacities for improved utilization of animal resources in Africa facilitated; and gathering, processing and sharing of animal resources knowledge.

2.4.1 Knowledge Management in Animal Resources to Facilitate Informed and Timely Decision-Making Improved

AU-IBAR has continued to build its capacity and that of the MS and RECs to collect, collate and analyze data, information and knowledge on animal resources in a timely and reliable manner. This is aimed at supporting planning and decision making. This was achieved through rolling out of ARIS in 41 AU MSs as at end of 2014 through training and supply of computer equipment. This has contributed to the strengthening of data and information management systems, tools and technologies and knowledge sharing in MSs. Besides, AU-IBAR also provided support to AUC sister organizations, African Union-InterAfrican Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC) and the Programme for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) project to enhance their capacities for data management.

A new Africa Animal Genetics Resources Information System (AAGRIS) is also being developed to enhance knowledge sharing and preservation of animal genetic resources on the continent. Similarly the capacities of MSs in data management on fisheries and aquaculture, and bee health is being enhanced.

In addition, relevant books and publications were procured to support experts with scientific knowledge. To support decision making, a training of trainers session on the livestock sector and policy investment tool kit was conducted within the framework of the ALive Platform. AU-IBAR supported access to and exchange of information, technologies and innovations on issues that will enhance resilience, control of animal diseases, promote livestock production, wildlife management, fisheries development and trade and marketing. These initiatives contributed to enhanced decision-making capabilities of RECs and AU-MSs.

2.4.2 Promotion of Information Sharing and Dissemination on Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis (T&T) Research and Control Activities

To promote information sharing and dissemination on Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis (T&T) research and control activities, AU-IBAR published the 126th Volume of the International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC) proceedings and the book of abstracts and held the 38th and 39th ISCTRC Executive Committee meetings.

AU-IBAR in partnership with African Union-Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC) held the 32nd International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC) Conference in Khartoum Sudan as from 8th to 12th September 2013. The ISCTRC platform has contributed greatly to the improvement of the welfare of rural communities through coordinated research and control activities of human and animal African Trypanosomiasis.

2.4.3 Animal Resources Knowledge Gathered, Processed and Shared

The AU-IBAR Pan African Animal Resources Year Book 2013 edition was finalized and published, and data for the 2014 edition is being analyzed. The Bulletin of Animal Health and Production in Africa has also been published and disseminated.

2.4.4 Facilitation of the Development of Policies and Institutional Capacities for Improved Utilization of Animal Resources in Africa

AU-IBAR has also put mechanisms in place to enhance the capacity for policy analysis, review/formulation and institutional development in MSs and RECs. Pastoral policies in AU African MSs and the status of pastoral policy formulation in Africa were presented to key stakeholders. Data and information requirements for the proposed Pastoral Database has also been developed, presented and adopted by stakeholders leading to the enrichment and validation of the Pastoral Investment Framework.

3.0 CHALLENGES

3.1 Delays in Signing Memorandum of Understanding

Delays in signing memorandum of understanding with key implementing partners has led to the delay in the implementation of some project activities. This has been the case with the signing of MOU with some RECs, in particular UMA.

3.2 Financial Constraints

Challenges encountered included:

- Insufficient funds to support full scale implementation of some of the programme and REC planned activities
- Delayed staff recruitment process
- Total lack of funds to implement some activities.
- Direct financing of the country activities which has been logistically time consuming. This also requires high input of human resources to travel to participating countries. This delays implementation of activities at country levels and has been compounded by insecurity in some countries such as central and southern Sudan.

3.3 Delays in Publication of the Animal Health Year Book

Some MSs delayed in submitting their disease reports to AU-IBAR and this has caused delays in the annual publication of the Pan African Animal Health Year Books.

3.4 Ebola Outbreak in West Africa

There were delays related to restriction of movement to and from some of the West African countries due to the threat of Ebola. This was compounded by inadequate implementation capacities of some MSs.

4.0 CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

Despite the few challenges cited above a great deal of work was carried out and significant achievements during the period under review. This was due to the team work, dedication and commitment by AU-IBAR staff and the support from the AUC, DREA, partners, RECS and MSs. The institution has continued to receive the same support from partners and it sees the year 2015 being more fruitful. Besides the interventions and projects that have been going on, AU-IBAR takes pride in the diversity of the new partners coming on board, as well as the new projects and interventions that have taken off this year. Among these is the project for enhancing livestock trade in Somalia (ESOLT), approved for funding by the EU, to specifically support public and private value chain actors in Somalia to improve access to markets for Somali livestock and livestock products. Of critical importance for the future of Africa's livestock sector will be the initiation of implementation of the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA) through the continental livestock programme, which is currently under formulation.



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