



African Union

Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

**CONTRIBUTION TO
THE REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON
ON ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION**

JANUARY—JUNE 2009

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR) is a specialized technical office of the AUC under the Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA). This document provides a synopsis of the contributions of AU/IBAR, to the overall mandate of the African Union, covering the reporting period.

As a specialized technical organ of the African Union, AU/IBAR has a very diverse portfolio covering all aspects of Animal Resource development on the continent. In accordance with the AU Commission vision and in harmony with the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, AU/IBAR implements its activities through the Regional Economic Communities (REC's) and other relevant institutions in member states. The ultimate goal of poverty alleviation and improving food security especially among the rural poor is driven by AU/IBAR, through six mandates:

1. Control of major trans-boundary animal diseases
2. Capacity development and the improvement of quality assurance of livestock and products of animal origin
3. Improvement of animal genetic and feed resources
4. Enhancement of trade and marketing of livestock and livestock products
5. Development of livestock information and communication technology
6. Harmonization of livestock related policies and the legal framework in member states.

IBAR lead institution for the livestock sub sector of the CAADP.

The six mandates are addressed through three strategic core program thrusts: **Animal Health; Animal Production; Livestock Trade and Marketing**. Besides the routinely activities carried out such as collection and dissemination of animal health, production, trade and marketing information, follow-up/assessment of regional programmes, coordination activities, etc), new developments were recorded in many areas during this reporting period. Ongoing activities are summarized and classified under respective headings as per the template provided from Headquarters. It is noteworthy that the activities cut across all three strategic thrusts units of AU-IBAR and are synergised within the CAADP framework and therefore well aligned to achieving the Millennium development goals.

II. PEACE & SECURITY: Not Applicable

III. REGIONAL INTEGRATION, DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION.

III.1 Not Applicable

III.2. Not Applicable

III.3. Integration and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.

- **The Dryland Livestock Wildlife Environment Project (DLWEIP)**

The DLWEIP is a USD 1 million project funded by GEF/UNEP addressing biodiversity and livestock resources through support of sustainable land management systems at the livestock/wildlife interface. With the main goal of sustainable land management, combating environmental degradation and reviving ecosystem productivity in Kenya and Burkina Faso, it started in 2005 and field activity ended in January 2009. Assessments of Natural resource dynamics, livelihoods, water resource, natural resources based conflicts and markets have created a reach database of information on the arid and semi arid ecosystem. Issues of land use and land policy that need to be addressed for this ecosystem have been documented and have the potential to influence government. The project has documented among other issues, the need to examine the group representatives' act and streamline legislation to accommodate conservancies, discourage individual ownership and land sub-division in ASAL areas in Kenya.

The project has been supporting community members and leaders of conservancies through:

- Developing Community-based resource management plans with zoning of areas devoted to different purposes such as conservation, settlement and grazing;
- Developing Community-based by-laws;
- Awareness raising on sustainable rangelands management and proper grazing systems as a means to enhance community livelihoods;
- Reseeding of degraded land (seed harvesting, storage and record keeping in terms of grass species and number of bags of seeds harvested, time of harvesting, etc.);
- Capacity building in Financial management;

- Understanding root causes of existing conflicts in the project area, developing and implementing conflict resolution mechanisms (such as Conflict Resolution Plans (CRP));
- Bee keeping and poultry production.
- Animal health and production (disease surveillance, breed and feed improvement)

Specific training was also provided to community scouts and guides. The project also supported communities by providing bee hives to their members, and communication materials (radios) to their scouts. About 500 ha of degraded land have also been re-seeded at project sites.

In Burkina Faso the project has supported/ facilitated:

- Training of communities, mainly pastoralists on prevention of conflicts related to the use of natural resources, networking and lobbying;
- Awareness raising for transhumance livestock owners on legislation at national and sub-regional levels in relation to cross border livestock movements;
- Meetings of pastoralists with other key stakeholders including decision-makers from Burkina Faso, Togo and Benin to help monitor issues related to transboundary transhumance between Burkina Faso, Togo and Benin (e.g. negotiation for new international transhumance routes)
- Training of Fulani cattle owners and herders on the Pastoral law of Burkina Faso;
- Support to two community initiatives
- Materialization of 232 transhumance routes
- Facilitation of the elaboration of 228 guidelines for the management of grazing lands and transhumance routes.
- Developing community based management plans
- Plantation of more than 3500 trees to reclaim degraded land.

AU/IBAR has prepared a proper exit strategy for the project to ensure sustainability of achievements and organized workshops in both countries to for dissemination of best practices and lessons learnt,

- **Supporting the vulnerable: Increasing the adaptive capacity of agro-pastoralists to climatic change in West and Southern Africa using a Trans- disciplinary research approach**

The project is funded by BMZ and jointly implemented by ILRI, IIMA in Mozambique and IER in Mali. IBAR is in charged of the component dealing with Policy entry points for supporting the implementation of priority adaptation options in agro-pastoral systems identified and discussed with key policymakers has completed Stock taking to assess country commitment and institutional capacity to implement climate change adaptation strategies and the analysis of key actors and their linkages as well as the interactions between policies and actors to identify policy, institutional and organizational entry points and evaluate institutional capacity and partnership links that support innovative climate change adaptation strategies.

- **Livestock for Livelihoods: Strengthening Climate Change Adaptation Strategies through Improved Management at the Livestock-Wildlife-Environment Interface**

Funded by the EC for 3.5 years (2009-2012) with a total cost of € 4.8 Million, the present project scales up the experiences gained through the implementation of a pilot initiative - 'Dryland Livestock Wildlife Environment Interface Project (DLWEIP)' in Kenya and Burkina Faso. The main strategy is to improve Natural Resources and livestock management practices in African arid and semi-arid ecologies in response to increased risks and vulnerability from Climate Change.

The capacity building activities will ensure community participation and enhancement of community negotiation skills, empowering of communities in the management of resources at the interface. Training of women in alternative livelihoods means and support to women groups will broaden their economic base and enhance their participation in the management of natural resources by ensuring equitable benefit sharing, resource distribution and utilization, and enhancing livelihood security.

The project will be implemented in four transboundary ecosystems covering 12 countries (Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Niger, Benin, Senegal, Mali, Guinea, Kenya, Uganda, and Sudan)

III.4 Not Applicable

III.5. Integration and Development of Production Capacities.

- **Support Program for Integrated National Action Plans (SPINAP)**

Since its resurgence in south East Asia about 6 years ago and subsequent spread into Africa and Europe, Avian Influenza (bird flu) has become an important priority for AU/IBAR. Since the disease infects both birds (domestic and wild) and humans causing serious disease and death, AU/IBAR has spearheaded a continental effort to prevent spread and control bird flu through multiple channels. A major thrust has been aggressive resource mobilization and capacity building of African countries in preparedness for early detection and rapid response to avian influenza outbreaks. These efforts have yielded positive results and now AU/IBAR is in the process of executing the €22.6M SPINAP program targeting all 47 Africa ACP member countries. The program seeks to provide financial and technical support to enable these countries to establish and strengthen their national emergency preparedness and response plans. To date, all the 47 countries have submitted their funding applications to AU/IBAR. On its part, AU/IBAR has reviewed all the applications and approved funding to 46 all of them. They have all received the first tranche of their grants (\$9.4 million). A comprehensive system of programme governance, capacity building of national implementing teams, monitoring and evaluation system, and audit systems have been established. Implementation at national level is progressing well and some countries have already started requesting for second tranche funds after successfully expending their first tranches.

- **Somali Ecosystem Rinderpest Eradication and Control Unit (SERECU)**

SERECU II is presumably the last in a series of projects spanning over four decades dedicated to the eradication of rinderpest from Africa. The project is funded by the EU to the tune of €4 million and runs between May 2008 and April 2010. The project focuses on proving the absence of rinderpest, achieving OIE accreditation of disease freedom for the individual countries concerned and safeguarding against resurgence.

During the period under review, significant achievements have been made/ are expected and include:

- Kenya presented its disease freedom dossier to the OIE for consideration and is expected to be officially recognized free of rinderpest at the 77th OIE General Session of the International Committee in May 2009
- Somalia completed the random survey and testing of the samples collected thereof and is now preparing its dossier for submission to the OIE in order to be recognized free of rinderpest

- The 6th Cross-border technical harmonisation meeting was held back to back with the second SERECU II Steering committee meeting
- Through the project, IBAR is documenting the history of rinderpest eradication on the continent, specifically highlighting the special role of African Union, IBAR and the donor
- A communication strategy focusing on the final eradication of rinderpest and the post eradication phase has been developed and is being disseminated
- Draft programme estimate 2 has been prepared and is under review by the Steering Committee and the donor
- Laboratory and field sampling equipment and materials procured through the project have been distributed to the three concerned countries
- Motor vehicles procured under the project are expected anytime soon and will be distributed to the countries before the end of June 2009.
- Wildlife serum samples collected in Kenya late last year and analyzed at Kabete and Muguga have been dispatched to CIRAD France for cross-checking

North Eastern Pastoral Development Program (NEPDP)

The NEPDP is a USAID USD 2 million funded program in Northern Kenya which commenced in Feb 2005, this program was to have ended in August 2008 but has been given a no cost extension until April 2009. The NEPDP program seeks ways of increasing household incomes of pastoralists by addressing three key constraints to pastoralist's access to markets; **poor access to animal health services** along the market chain, **weak capacity** of pastoral associations to provide services and advocate for pastoralists and **lack of access to financial and non financial services**. The program has through targeted intervention on these constraints achieved tangible benefits and learned useful lessons on pastoralist programming. Through the provision of mobile laboratories and facilitating linkages between private and public sector animal health services providers at the grassroots, disease reporting and response to outbreaks has improved significantly.

Ongoing capacity building of local pastoral institutions through skills development and operational support has also greatly improved their representation and participation in policy dialogue, as well as their access to support services. Within the reporting period, 100 traders have benefited from loans ranging from US\$ 1250 to US\$ 5000. The project is currently running on a no-cost extension up to 3rd October 2009 to enable it to be evaluated to show the impact of trade on livestock and livestock products on the beneficiaries.

- **Harmonization of livestock interventions in Somalia and development of the regional status of Sheikh Technical Veterinary School and Reference Centre (STVS) in the Horn of Africa**

Sheikh Technical Veterinary School and Reference Centre (STVS) is a unique regional school addressing training needs, especially the need to ensure quality control of the Somali livestock industry and adherence to international trade rules, in livestock health and production for the Somali Ecosystem. The project is supported by European Commission and Danish Embassy in Nairobi through the Region of Origin Programme (RoOP). The project has gone through two phases and now it is on its third phase beginning April 2008 and AU-IBAR participates as patron and Chair to the Steering Committee.

AU-IBAR will continue supporting the School as a Patron and provide assistance to Terra Nuova in the finalisation of the STVS trust deed that will enable registration of the school in one of the regional countries thus giving it a regional status.

During the reporting period, a partnership framework between AU-IBAR and Terra Nuova (TNEA) has been finalized, through the signing of two agreements between AU-IBAR and Terra Nuova Eastern Africa. Under the agreement framework, AU-IBAR will oversee the development of the STVS Reference Center. In addition, AU/IBAR and TNEA will ensure that the livestock development initiatives are better integrated and coordinated with regional and Pan-African sectoral programmes. Under this framework, a Technical Adviser AU/IBAR-TNEA has been recruited who will be in charge of coordinating the activities.

Pipeline Activities:

Two projects are currently developed under the EC one billion Euro Food Facility, establish in 2008 to cope with the current food crisis:

Livestock Intervention to Mitigate Food Crisis in Somalia.

This € 4 M has already been pre-approved by the EC and the final project document submitted. The implementation period will be two years, starting August 2009. The Project will aim at mitigating the effects of soaring food prices on the livelihoods of Somali pastoralists. The Animal health component will include vaccination campaigns against PPR, CCPP and sheep pox, as well as provision of veterinary services. The marketing component will allow rehabilitating livestock marketing infrastructures to facilitate exports of Livestock.

Provision of vaccines for neglected diseases

The total budget of this project amounts to € 26.4 M. It will be implemented in partnership with GALVMED, an international NGO specialized in the field of veterinary medicines, CIRAD, a French research institute, and PANVAC.

The project aims at providing vaccines against neglected diseases (Newcastle, CPPP, CBPP, PPR, RVF), by assisting African laboratories to produce these vaccines, and supporting their marketing and distribution on the Continent.

As part of ongoing AU/IBAR visibility and contribution to Science, the December 2008 and March 2009 editions of the Bulletin of Animal Health and Production was produced and dispatched to institutions world-wide. The Pan African Year Book with information on the disease situation on the continent for the year 2007 has also been produced and dispatched; the 2008 edition is under preparation

- **International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis and Control (ISCTRC)**

The International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis was established in 1949 and handed to African Union in 1965 to address the problem in 36 countries to improve human health and livestock production with a view to improving food security and welfare of rural communities. The perfection of the ISCTRC biennial conference is reflected in the 30th meeting coinciding with its commemoration of its 60th Anniversary. Having contributed to reduction of sleeping sickness epidemics in the continent, the Council continues to promote research with support of international and national organizations in addition to working closely with national Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) programmes to promote and facilitate its programme. Through courtesy of Government of Uganda, the 34th Executive Committee and the 30th Scientific Conference of the Council will be held in Entebbe, Uganda on 20th and 21st-25th September 2009 respectively. Over 300 participants and 100 scientific papers are expected in addition to side meetings that discuss review the strategies for addressing the problem based on the achievements observed over the last two years.

The Secretariat has made a call for abstracts. The Scientific Committee has been established to review the abstracts for the next conference, develop the programme and brainstorm on highlights of the 60th Anniversary.

- **Early Detection, Reporting & Surveillance of Avian Influenza in Africa (EDRSAIA)**

A \$ 4.4 million USAID funded project with ILRI as the main implementer has been initiated in July 2008 with a projected end date of September 2009. EDRSAIA is a joint collaborative project between AU-IBAR and ILRI. The project addresses capacity building at National, Sub regional and Continental levels, for a risk based approach to targeting surveillance resources to enable a rapid response to HPAI outbreaks. The project also seeks to improve HPAI disease surveillance, reporting capacity and coordination in 15 countries spread across East (4 countries), West (7 countries) and Southern Africa (4 countries).

Although a relatively new project, it has managed to report a good number of achievements that include: Staff employment, signing of Partnership agreements, Surveillance assessment for East and West African countries. A training course on participatory Disease Surveillance for Decision makers has been held in Nigeria. The project addressed capacity building of target countries for early detection and reporting of HPAI by conducting series of trainings on Participatory Disease Surveillance (PDS), in Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Cote D'Ivoire, Community Reporting Trainings in Tanzania, Benin, Togo, and Refresher PDS Trainings in Nigeria. Risk-based approaches to resources targeting (such as surveillance resources or disease control resources) allow decisions to be made on the basis of the impact and likelihood rather than fear of disease. Therefore, the project produced the first generation of risk mapping products for introductions and spread of HPAI in Africa and distributed to the 15 project target countries. These risk maps will be refined with additional data and the final version of the maps will be produced and made available to users.

- **African Development Bank Emergency Relief Support to combat HPAI Project**

The main objectives of AfDB Fund is to build Capacity for each beneficiary country to control and prevent AHI through implementation of different activities: (1) Early diagnosis of disease outbreaks; (2) Preparedness for rapid response in the case of an outbreak; and (3) Technical Assistance for Training Regional Experts and for the Application of the Control Strategies. The overall budget is **US\$ 7.0 M** funded by the African Development Bank and managed by two Executing Agencies: **AU/IBAR** (US\$ 4.1m) and **WHO** (US\$ 2.4m), while Egypt has opted for a self management of its fund amounting US\$ 0.5M.

Kenya has been granted 0.5 M for the same program which will be managed by WHO for the Human Health component and AU-IBAR for the Animal health component. AU-IBAR and the

Government of Kenya have signed an agreement that has been submitted to AfDB.

The African Development Bank has completed the disbursement of US\$ 6.5 M (the Kenyan grant is not yet received) and AU-IBAR has initiated the disbursement of the second tranche, to 6 countries for the second phase of activities,

The project will probably need an extension to June 2010 instead of 2009 as previously planned.

III.6. Integration and Trade Capacity building.

- **Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-setting Organizations (PAN-SPSO)**

The project costing €3.86m has started the inception phase in May 2008. With the support of REC's, the ACP Secretariat authorizes AU/IBAR to implement this project which aims to reduce poverty and enhance food security in Africa through better access to international trade and markets. It will also facilitate the effective participation of member states during the activities of formulating international standards in food safety and animal and plant health. The project has conducted its first steering committee. The participation from invited organizations was impressive. A number of important recommendations was taken, of which it was decided to give more attention for building the capacity of RECs. The draft MoU and contract between IBAR and the concerned RECs has approved by RECs and will be vetted shortly by the legal counsel of the AU. Most of involved RECs have submitted their first annual work plans for approval by the project management. The first Africa's coordinated position on draft animal health standards will be established during a Pan-Africa meeting to be attended by CVOs from the 47 ACP African Countries. Assessment questionnaires were developed and sent out to RECs and member states, as well ISSOs.

The project covers aspects of CAADP pillar 2 and 3.

- **Somali Livestock Certification Project (SOLICEP)**

The Somali Livestock Certification Project, co-funded by the European Union and AU/IBAR for a total valued of Euro 3.1 million, seeks to improve the export performance of the livestock sector in the Somali eco-system through enhanced capacity of Somali public and private institutions; the development of an animal health certification system that is suitable

for mobile livestock husbandry and internationally accredited; and the strengthening of regional cooperation among countries of the Somali eco-system and between trading partners. The intervention is designed for an initial period of 30 months, starting in February 2008, and will be implemented in partnership with Somali Veterinary Authorities, Terra Nuova and FAO. Animal Health Harmonization activities at Horn of Africa level will be coordinated by the IGAD Secretariat.

During this reporting period, several activities and milestones have been achieved. The 2nd steering committee meeting was held in Djibouti (IGAD Secretariat 12 February 2009). MoUs with the Somaliland Ministry of Livestock, Puntland Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Environment and the Ministry of Livestock, Forestry and Range of the Transitional Federal Government were signed in October and December 2008 and March 2009 respectively. SOLICEP was officially launched in Somaliland in November 2008 with a press conference attended by representatives of Parliament, Ministries of Livestock and Interior, Chamber of Commerce and FAO. In March 2009, OIE officially agreed to undertake a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) assessment in Somalia and Somaliland. At the end of March 2009, a Workshop on Trade and Trans-boundary diseases in the Horn of Africa was held in Kenya. This workshop was organized in collaboration with USDA, USAID and COMESA and had a regional representation of chief veterinary officers from six African nations, participants from Saudi Arabia, Oman and Yemen, as well as livestock traders, government and private veterinarians, representatives from FAO, OIE, COMESA, NGOs and donor agencies. Discussions included safe trade export protocols and management interventions to support trade within the horn and to the Middle East.

III.7. Not Applicable

III.8. Partnership and Relations with the World.

- **Multi-institutional collaborations**

This is still an ongoing activity as almost all of IBAR's programs and projects are in partnership alliances of one form or another. These range from Technical partners (mainly FAO and OIE) and also financial partners (EU, USAID, GTZ, etc.). With more recognition of AU-IBAR and its mandate as expressed to the continental and global organizations, it is a slow but gradual process of getting partners to recognize IBAR and to aspire to partner and collaborate on livestock related activities and programs which are being implemented on the

continent. In this regard capacity building within IBAR and forward anticipation of current trends within the livestock industry are essential and need more support in terms of resources.

- **French technical support to IBAR**

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been supporting IBAR since 2006 by seconding a senior technical assistant and providing its operational budget. A memorandum of understanding has been signed between IBAR and the French Embassy in Kenya in January 2009 to formalize this partnership.

- **The ALive Partnership**

The Partnership for Livestock Development, Poverty Alleviation, and Sustainable Growth in Africa (**ALive**) was initiated in 2004 with the aim of improving the livestock sector's contribution to poverty alleviation and sustainable economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). In its operational guidelines ALive supports NEPAD/CAADP and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is financed by a Multi-donor trust fund which is housed in the World Bank, Washington DC and will be closed on June, 30th 2009

The initiative is unique in its approach as a multi-stakeholder platform linking, under a single umbrella, a wide range of actors engaged in the livestock sector including civil society, international organizations (AU-IBAR, FAO, OIE, and World Bank), AU Members States, donors community (EC, French Cooperation, AfDB, GTZ, USaid, Italian Cooperation, and others), research organizations involved in livestock sector in Africa(FARA, EIMVS, CIRAD, IHA) and Regional Economic Communities .

Since the first General Assembly (GA1) and the Fourth Executive Committee (EC4) held in Paris in May 2005, the principle of the progressive transfer of the ALive governance to the African Union was endorsed. Subsequently, EC11 held in Rome in April 2008, adopted the creation of a Branch Office of the Secretariat at AU-IBAR in Nairobi (Kenya), and the transfer of the ALive Secretariat from the World Bank to an African institution. AU/IBAR was designated to host the secretariat in Sharm El Sheik in Egypt during a meeting of key members of the Executive Committee. This was followed by a preparatory mission to the World Bank (Washington D.C) by AU/IBAR in December 2008.

The Secretariat transfer was materialized during the Fourth General Assembly under the chairpersonship of H.E the Commissioner of Rural Economy and Agriculture of African Union Commission. The new Executive Committee Chairperson elected is from the European Commission Aidco, while the Director of AU-IBAR is the new Program Manager.

ALive second triennial Action plan (TAP2) currently under preparation by the new secretariat at IBAR should be in alignment with the Comprehensive Africa agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

The next executive committee meeting (EC14) is scheduled in October 2009 in Gaborone Botswana.

- **Regional Animal Health Desks**

In order to effect better “hands on” implementation of Livestock development activities on the African continent and also to be closer to countries and Regional Economic Communities, AU/IBAR has established, under SPINAP, Regional Animal Health Desks in Mali, Gaborone, and Nairobi. Another desk will be established in Tunisia in due course. The desks in Nairobi and Mali have commenced operationalization since last year.

These desks work in collaboration with Technical counterparts from the OIE and FAO in order to harmonize strategies for the monitoring of Avian Influenza as a first step, and later on for other diseases within the region. This collaboration between the three organizations takes into account the mandates and inherent experience of each institution and respective capacities to carry out interventions.

During this reporting period, the Regional Animal Health Desks have been involved in a number of activities, including:

- 1- The implementation on SPINAP at the regional level;
- 2- The coordination of other animal health activities with other development partners;
- 3- Participate and represent IBAR in regional activities and workshops;
- 4- Review proposals for SPINAP fund and provide technical and implantation support to member countries in the execution of avian influenza combating and preparedness programs.
- 5- The implementation of the ADB-funded Project in West Africa

It is due to the commitment and direct involvement of these desks that a series of progressive activities and integration with regional and animal authorities are being realized.

IV. SHARED VALUES: Not Applicable

V. STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONS.

AU-NEPAD: CAADP Livestock Component

As the leading AU mandated institution for the livestock development in Africa, IBAR has been collaborating earnestly with AU-NEPAD on the formulation and implementation of the Livestock component of the CAADP document. This has resulted in the production of a document on *"Key Issues in the Livestock Sub-Sector for Inclusion in the CAADP Pillar Frameworks"* which will serve to mainstream the livestock sub-sector in the national and regional compacts. IBAR intends to assist countries and RECs during the roundtable processes leading to the development of Regional compacts. IBAR has participated to the last CAADP PPI meeting and to the CAADP MDTF workshop and meeting it is anticipated that through this collaboration and with more committed support, there will be a much better strengthening of the AU institutions of IBAR and NEPAD in order to achieve the objectives stated in the CAADP process.

Relationship with RECs

Concerning the relationship with the RECs, this still remains a big problem area for AU-IBAR and one which requires more strategic focus. The RECs are the implementing blocks for our activities and as such are considered the main stakeholders that can push the IBAR mandate within the countries they represent. Within the reporting period, a lot of effort has been put into improving the relationship with RECs in the development of the new AU-IBAR strategic plan. Initial efforts have been through the PANSPSO project which is being directly implemented by the RECs. A more harmonised and synergised action plan involving the RECs with support from the highest level (AUC) down to the implementation level needs to be revisited and become a key element in future activities.

VI. CONCLUSION

The reporting period January – June 2009 has been very important for IBAR with the transfer of the ALive secretariat to AU/IBAR and the renewed commitment of donor partners

especially to continue their support through the funding of two new projects. The M&E system in IBAR which is aligned to the AUC's monitoring system, AMERT has contributed to keep all scheduled activities on track. For more efficiency IBAR has recruited 3 more professionals who will assist in ongoing project implementation. The confirmation of Dr. Ahmed Elsawalhy as the Director of AU/IBAR with effect from 1st May 2009 will strengthen the role of IBAR as AUC leading institution for livestock development in the continent.