

Component	Suitable for harmonization?	Further discussion during day 3	Priority	Possible mechanisms?
Livestock identification and traceability system	Yes	Yes		
Common border inspection posts	Yes	Yes		
Dispute resolution mechanism	Yes	Yes		
Standardized induction training & continued education of veterinary inspectors	Yes	Yes		
Harmonized use of language (OIE definitions)	Yes	Yes		
Electronic transfer of permits/certificates	Yes	Yes		
Regional database of authorized inspectors	Yes	Yes		
Mutual recognition of VMP registration	Yes	Yes		
The existence of eradication or control programmes	Yes	Yes		
Laboratory capacity (proficiency testing, shared reference laboratories)	Yes	Yes		
COMESA experience-sharing platform (SPS and CVOs)	Yes	No		COMESA Livestock Policy Hub?
Mechanisms to promote transparency and trust	No	No		
Certification identity card Certificate of authority	Yes	No		Common ID requirements and minimum content, but not harmonized format/design.
Sanitary characterisation of a region – consideration given to disease prevalence of specific diseases or vectors	-	-	-	-

Component						
Livestock Identification and Traceability System	5	5	5	5	5	25
Common border inspection posts	4	3	4	4	4	19
Laboratory capacity (proficiency testing, shared reference laboratories)	3	4				7
Standardized induction training & continued education of veterinary inspectors	2			2	2	6
Experience sharing platform		1	3			4
Dispute resolution mechanism					3	3
Harmonized use of language (OIE definitions)			2		1	3
The existence of eradication or control programmes		2	1			3
Transparency and trust				3		3
Electronic transfer of permits/certificates	1					1
Regional database of authorized inspectors				1		1
Mutual recognition of VMP registration						0

TOPIC 1: LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY SYSTEMS

OBJECTIVE FOR HARMONIZING THIS ELEMENT:

To enable:

- uniform identification of stock
- confirmation of ownership
- traceability of animal origins
- traceability of animal disease
- improve statistical information on animal production activities

to foster cooperation between neighbouring countries and to support safe trade.

COMPONENTS TO BE HARMONIZED:

- Coding system (i.e. which elements should be featured on identification devices).
- Reporting of animal movements (particularly regarding transboundary movements).

CHALLENGES:

- At present challenges arise because different systems are used in different countries, so poses challenges at the borders.
- Wild animals undermine ability to accurately trace disease movement in reality.
- Very expensive to implement – support would be required.
- Current non-existence of animal identification system.

APPROPRIATE LEGAL TOOL:

- COMESA model legislation to serve as a basis for development of harmonized national legislation.
- COMESA guidance document on coding system to be used, based on technical inputs to be developed through appropriate COMESA platform for discussion on veterinary matters.

*Consider whether AU-IBAR would be a more appropriate platform to prescribe such materials.

*Compare to proposals in IGAD for guidance.

TOPIC 2: COMMON BORDER INSPECTION POSTS

OBJECTIVE FOR HARMONIZING THIS ELEMENT:

- Cost savings through sharing of resources, allowing stronger border controls.
- More efficient process (possibly reducing scope for corruption to expedite process).
- Strengthen and streamline controls and promote confidence and trust.
- More coordinated application of standards between different entities involved in border control processes (inspections, processing, etc.).

COMPONENTS TO BE HARMONIZED:

- Principle of equivalence in testing methods.
- Sharing of physical infrastructure (i.e. using a common space).
- Principles of cost sharing (including ownership of buildings).
- Quarantine facilities.
- Harmonize authority/power to undertake inspections, seize livestock/products etc.

CHALLENGES:

- Long borders (lack of amenities, making it challenging to develop more border posts in practice).
- Political will (including generating institutional awareness and willingness).
- Interpersonal dynamics/training and enforcement mechanism to ensure harmonisation works smoothly.
- Initial start-up costs are prohibitive.

APPROPRIATE LEGAL TOOL:

- Raising institutional awareness of benefits of collaboration.
- Implementation of aspects of the COMESA Treaty that promotes bilateral agreements.
- Bilateral agreements between border-sharing countries (e.g. MoUs).

*Explore whether such mechanisms to promote free trade are addressed under the AU and the tripartite agreements of COMESA.

TOPIC 3: LABORATORY CAPACITY

OBJECTIVE FOR HARMONIZING THIS ELEMENT:

- Cost savings through shared resources
- Standardization of tests that are undertaken between countries
- Promote consistency and performance in laboratories through ring testing/quality control
- Possible development of movable labs

COMPONENTS TO BE HARMONIZED:

- Standardising procedures and personnel training for taking samples
- Standardising procedures for transporting samples (especially navigating border controls)
- Achievement of biosafety standards (possibly through designation of COMESA (or AU-IBAR?)-approved transporters)
- Prescribe minimum training standards/qualifications for laboratory staff

CHALLENGES:

- Political will
- Time and cost transporting samples
- Delay in getting test results
- Diversity of testing kits and methods
- Biosafety

APPROPRIATE LEGAL TOOL:

- Follow OIE standards
- Mechanism/authorising body to identify reference laboratories through AU-IBAR/COMESA/other appropriate platform
- Mechanism/authorising body to confirm suitability, competency and confirmation of laboratories to be designated as reference laboratories through AU-IBAR/ISO/OIE/COMESA/other appropriate platform. This should be for COMESA to bring to AU-IBAR.

TOPIC 4: STANDARDIZED INDUCTION TRAINING & CONTINUED EDUCATION TO SUPPORT SAFE AND EFFECTIVE TRADE

OBJECTIVE FOR HARMONIZING THIS ELEMENT:

- To support the compliance of COMESA member countries with day one competencies for veterinarians and, when appropriate, day one competencies for veterinary paraprofessionals.
- Ensuring competence regarding key qualities/skills/knowledge necessary to facilitate trade (including risk analysis and epidemiology).
- Identifying needs for continuing education based on new technological or procedural developments.
- Creating a platform/mechanism to deliver this continuing education.
- Ensuring protection of persons working in the veterinary domain.

COMPONENTS TO BE HARMONIZED:

- Harmonised curricula for training of veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals (especially risk analysis, epidemiology).
- Continuing education requirements for veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals.

CHALLENGES:

- Achieving common standards across different curricula.
- To get faculties to accept their role of producing veterinary practitioners, not academics.

APPROPRIATE LEGAL TOOL:

- Developing appropriate platform/mechanism to deliver this continuing education.
- To be enforced by national veterinary statutory bodies, by defining requisite continuing education requirements.
- AU-IBAR or other appropriate platform to deliver training workshops for veterinary faculties, VSBs and government veterinary services, to ensure compliance with OIE day one competencies.

TOPIC 5: EXPERIENCE SHARING PLATFORM

OBJECTIVE FOR HARMONIZING THIS ELEMENT:

To develop a platform for sharing of knowledge, challenges and successes to further improvement of animal disease status and safe trade in the COMESA region.

COMPONENTS TO BE INCLUDED:

Potential agenda items include:

- Current problems Member States are facing that they feel is constraining their ability to trade (e.g. achievement of above-mentioned areas for harmonization, implementation of “one window border posts”, disease outbreaks, etc.).
- Areas/issues requiring a harmonized/regional approach.

CHALLENGES:

- Getting input and data to support and develop agenda points.
- Duplication within the RECs.

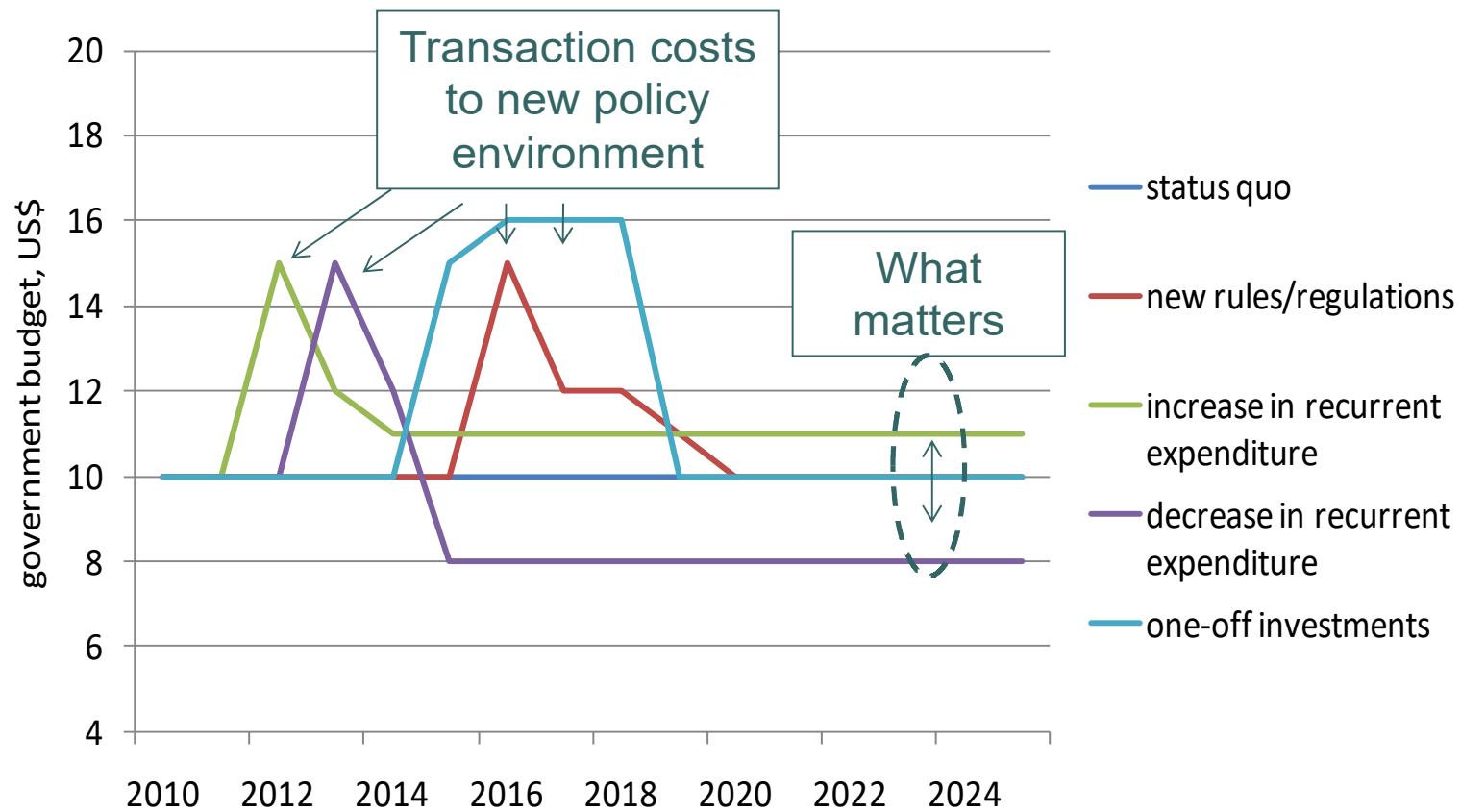
APPROPRIATE LEGAL TOOL:

- Side-events to be developed at annual COMESA SPS meetings to facilitate discussion solely amongst CVOs countries – COMESA to serve as secretariat and to develop an agenda for such meetings, based on input from CVOs.
- Linked to the above, COMESA should extend national focal points for SPS issues to include not only Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but also CVOs.
- Development of an information pack to share outcomes of CVO meetings (e.g. through the COMESA website).

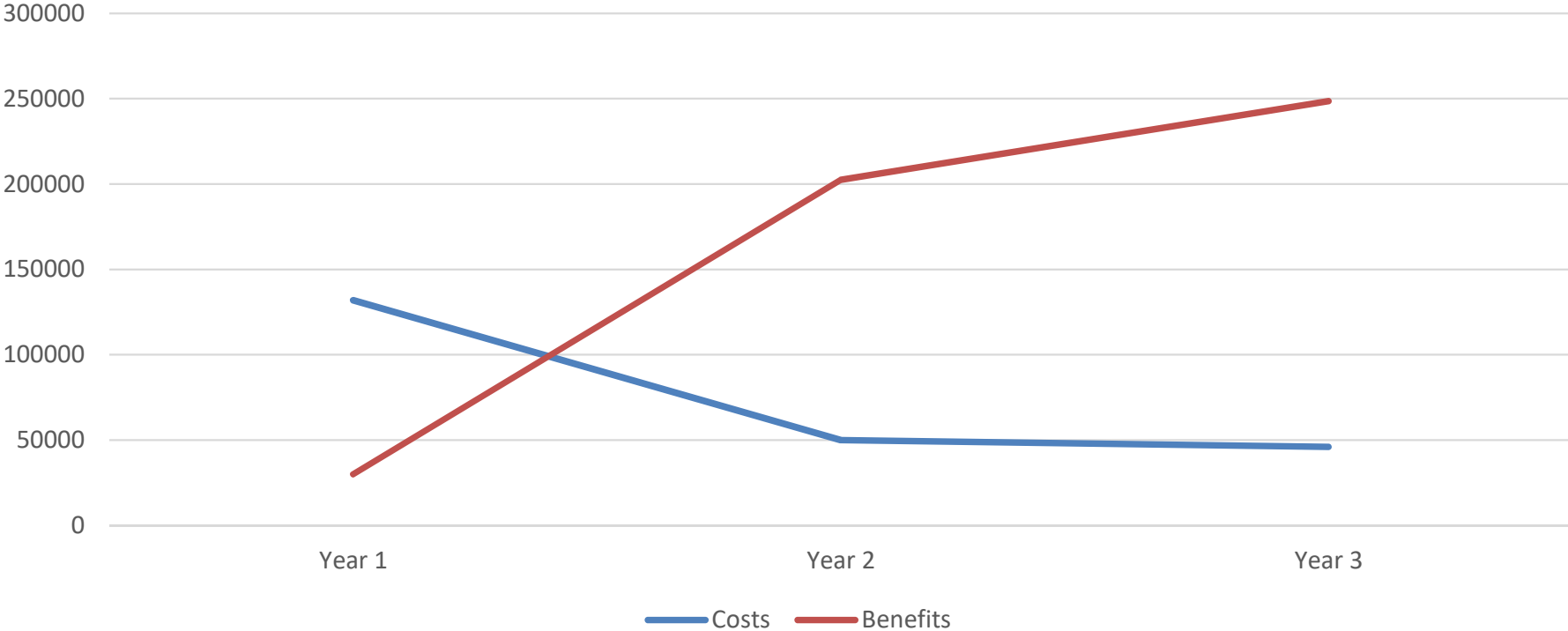
Standardized training and CPD	Common border posts
COMESA Veterinary committee	Customs/revenue authorities
VSB	Government entity responsible for border facilities
VEE	Law enforcement authorities
Professional Associations	Veterinary service
Individual Professionals	Livestock keepers and traders
Government agencies	Local government agencies
Livestock Keepers	Transport operators
Traders	
Non-state actors (e.g. Marketing councils)	

Component	Actor	Role	Benefit	Cost
Standardized training and CPD	Veterinary statutory body	Review curriculum		Consultants Meetings Communications
	Veterinary statutory body	Enforcing standards	Increased revenue from inspection	Conducting inspection Disciplinary action
	Veterinary educational establishments	Customize curriculum	Increased revenue	Meeting/retreat costs Compliance costs (new staff, training staff, training materials)
	Professional Associations	Offer CPD for members	Increased revenue	Materials and personnel Communication costs
	Professional Associations	Sensitisation to new requirements		Fees for training Foregone opportunity costs
	Individual Professionals	Comply with mandatory training		Fees for training
	Government agencies	Dissemination of new standards to NGOs, Livestock keepers, etc).	Taxes from increased trade	Dissemination media
	Livestock Keepers		Better access to market Greater value for their products	
	Traders		Increased trade	
Common border posts	Customs/revenue authorities		Ease of communication and doing business.	
	Government entity responsible for border facilities	Build new consolidated border posts.	Potential reduced cost due to consolidation of facilities	
	Law enforcement authorities		Reduced communication and movement costs. Increased transparency and reduced opportunity for corruption.	
	Veterinary service	Inspection to ensure adequate operation.	Reduced communication and movement costs.	Cost of undertaking inspections.
	Veterinary service	Use of shared resources (computers, internet, phone).	Cost savings through reduced expenditure Increased trust	Interpersonal challenges in sharing resources.
	Livestock keepers and traders	Required to transmit goods through new consolidated border posts.	Reduced cost to livestock keepers who are close to the border	Potential added cost for livestock keepers who live far from new border posts.
	Local government agencies	Sensitization of livestock owners and traders, to make them aware of new situation.		Communication costs
	Transport operators	Required to transmit goods through new consolidated border posts.	Increased trade for transportation of animals	Increased compliance costs for transportation of goods and services.

Costs of implementing regulation- budgets



Cost/benefit analysis



Impact by actor

