



World Organisation for Animal Health



GF-TADs for Africa

12th Steering Committee

Mbabane, Eswatini (hybrid)

11 – 13 March 2025

#GFTADsAfrica

Minutes and recommendations





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Session 1: Welcoming remarks

The opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Huyam Salih, the Director of AU-IBAR, also in her capacity as President of the *Regional Steering Committee* (RSC) of the GF-TADs for Africa, Dr. Mohammed Shamsuddin, the Vice-President of the RSC of the <u>GF-TADs for Africa</u>, representing FAO, Dr. Roland Dlamini, the Vice-President of the RSC of the GF-TADs for Africa, representing WOAH as CVO and WOAH Delegate of the Kingdom of Eswatini and Member of the WOAH Council, while the Minister of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Eswatini, Hon. Mandla Tshawuka, graced the occasion as chief guest and opened the meeting.

The WOAH delegate Roland Dlamini provided a brief about the Regional Steering Committee and its importance for Eswatini to have prioritized and been privileged to host. He invited the guest speaker, who was the Minister of Eswatini to grace the occasion. The Hon. Minister mentioned that the Kingdom of Eswatini is vigilant on *Transboundary Animal Diseases* (TADs) and is recognized by WOAH as free from some of the priority TAD diseases, namely *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR), *Foot-and-mouth disease* (FMD) and *Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia* (CBPP), without vaccination. The Minister emphasised the importance of continental free trade in Africa calling upon countries not to utilise punitive measures that restrict trade between African Member(s) Countries/States. He requested the Experts to provide solutions to ensure conditions are favourable to support safe trade while at the same time avoiding punitive measures. He acknowledged that the request sounds far-fetched but they as policy makers would look up to Experts for support. The Minister acknowledged the presence of the representative of the Agriculture Committee of the national Parliament.

The President of GF-TADs Africa in her remarks reiterated the importance of GF-TADs Africa as a robust coordination mechanism for TADs and zoonoses. She reflected on the lessons learned from the establishment of African Union *Centres of Excellence* (CoE) on aquatic and fisheries resources, for consideration of the same approach for TADs.



Group Photo: Front Row L-R: Karim Tounkara (WOAH), Roland Dlamini (CVO, WOAH Delegate Eswatini and Vice-President GF-TADs Africa), Rose Ademun (CVO, WOAH Delegate Uganda), Huyam Salih (GF-TADs President), Hon Mandla Tshawuka (Minister of Agriculture, Eswatini), Mohammed Shamsuddin (Vice-President GF-TADs Africa/FAO), Hon Bonginkosi Dlamini, (Chairperson of the Agriculture Portfolio Committee in the Eswatini Parliament, House of Assembly, Senator Fezeka Dlamini, (Chairperson of the Agriculture Portfolio Committee in the Eswatini Parliament, House of Senate), Baratang Lubisi (OVRI), standing is Columba Vakuru (CVO, WOAH Delegate Nigeria and member of Regional Core Group, Africa). Picture © communication (MoA Eswatini) 2025

The Chair indicated that engagement of value chain actors, fostering partnerships with different partners to mobilise resources and expertise to strengthen TADs control efforts should be the clarion call to unite and foster stronger and strategic partnerships as Africa's resilience will soon be tested.

The full speech is available here : <u>12th Regional Steering Committee meeting of GF-TADs for Africa</u>

In his remarks, the Vice-President, Dr. Mohammed Shamsuddin, reminded the audience that the GF-TADs collaboration is a multi-lateral platform among key partners in Africa; partners that have the common mandate to prevent, control and eradicate transboundary animal diseases which are not only causing devastating impacts on animal and public health but also impeding the achievement of food and nutrition security on the continent. He stated that GF-TADs helps connect AU-IBAR, FAO and WOAH with AU-PANVAC, the regional economic communities, and regional reference laboratories to assist the private sector, development partners, and African Member(s) States nations in preventing and controlling TADs. He reminded the meeting that FAO has continually responded to calls by Member(s) Countries/States in the region and responded through resource mobilisation, capacity enhancement, provisions of tools and technical assistance for the prevention and control of diseases, sustainable livestock transformation, AMR mitigation and the operationalisation of One Health in the agrifood systems. He also invited members to the regional conference on sustainable livestock transformation and the celebration of the *International Year of Camelids* in Nairobi in the first week of June 2025. The Conference is being organised jointly by FAO and AU-IBAR in collaboration with the RECs and partners.

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Session 2: Governance aspects

The GF-TADs for Africa's Regional Secretariat, represented by Karim Tounkara (WOAH) delivered a presentation on the <u>Minutes and recommendations of the 11th Meeting of the Regional Steering</u> <u>Committee for Africa</u> (June 2022), which was held in Nairobi in hybrid format. Dr Tounkara reminded the meeting of the 7 sessions covered and attendance which that was composed of 55 participants (23 online), 12 of 18 of them being voting members.

With respect to the Governance aspects, the 11th meeting passed amendments of ToRs which included: an addition of one representative of the *African Association of Veterinary Statutory Bodies* as a voting Member, one Member of the WOAH Council, from Africa Region (non-voting), deletion of one Member of the Regional Specialised Organisations, RSOs (ECOWAS RAHC) redundant as ECOWAS is already listed as a voting member and the addition of one representative of ECCAS (again, through the RAHC). The 7 sessions covered: Review of recommendations, Reporting of GF TAD global disease control and eradication initiatives, on Rinderpest, PPR, FMD, ASF (first meeting of Standing Group of Experts (SGE) on ASF), Sustainable laboratory programme and the GLLP; Regional Laboratory and Epidemiology Network; CBPP; Emerging issues related to High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) and African Horse Sickness (AHS), Strengthening of Veterinary Services, Role of Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE), Feedback from private sector and stakeholders. The state of play of the 23 recommendations of the 11th meeting were presented by Viola Chemis (WOAH), details of which are available in Annex 1. The report demonstrated effort in some components with the need for continued investment to realise control of TADs and priority diseases.

A presentation of the recommendations of the 14th Global Steering Committee and gaps related to decisions and advocacy to support animal health was delivered by Madhur Dhingra on behalf of the GF-TADs Management Committee. The <u>Recommendations of the 14th Meeting of the Global Steering</u> <u>Committee</u> reflected areas of improvement which include: governance improvements and extension of GF-TADs strategy, strengthening disease control frameworks and national veterinary services, enhanced coordination with stakeholders including farmers and producers private sector, improving partnerships and resource mobilisation aligned with FAO and WOAH strategic goals and the need for disease control to be holistic and system-based, not by single disease at one time.

The report demonstrated progress but also the persistent capacity gaps (vaccine availability; need for strong governance, partnerships and resources, regional contexts and priorities, socioeconomic factors). For the region, the presentation highlighted some challenges: related with production systems difficulties where there is pastoralism, vector borne diseases, FMD and ASF which are still endemic, the need for enhanced regional and subregional surveillance, risk assessment, cross border coordination policies on vaccination, vaccines and diagnostics needs strong leadership and participation that need to be tailored.

The meeting approved amendments to the RSC Terms of Reference and to the Terms of Reference of SGE ASF and the SGE CBPP as follows:

- a) The re-election of the Director of AU-IBAR as President of the RSC (Dr Huyam Salih);
- b) The re-appointment of the FAO Regional Senior Animal Health and Production Officer as Vice-President of the RSC (Dr Mohammed Shamsuddin);
- c) The re-appointment of the Member of the WOAH Council as Vice-President of the RSC (Dr Roland X. Dlamini);
- d) The extension of the Regional Strategy of the GF-TADs for Africa to the end of 2026, in order to align with the Global Strategy (extended to the end of 2026);
- e) Composition of the Membership of the SGE for ASF to include Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, South Africa, Togo and Uganda;
- f) Composition of the Representatives of the WOAH and FAO Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centers, as well as selected national/regional laboratories to the SGE for ASF to include: Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre of the African Union (AU-PANVAC) Debre-Zeit-Ethiopia, National Veterinary Research Institute, Vom-Nigeria, Animal Health Institute (AHI), Sebeta-Ethiopia, Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory (BNVL), Sebele-Botswana, Onderstepoort Veterinary Research (OVRI), Pretoria-South Africa and Institut Sénégalais *de Recherches Agricoles - Laboratoire National de l'Elevage et de Recherches Vétérinaires* (ISRA-LNERV), Dakar-Senegal;
- g) Reference of OIE changed to WOAH;
- Membership of the CBPP SGE to include: AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, Regional Economic Communities (COMESA Secretariat, ECCAS-RAHC, ECOWAS-RAHC, IGAD-ICPALD, and SADC-LTC), FAO and WOAH regional representations, ILRI, the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture and other regional organisations active in the field of animal disease control strategies;
- Membership of the CBPP SGE to include experts from WOAH and FAO reference laboratories, as well as selected national/regional laboratories: the Animal Health Institute (AHI) Sebeta – Ethiopia, the National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI), Vom - Nigeria, the Botswana

National Veterinary Laboratory (BNVL) Gaborone - Botswana and the *Laboratoire Central Vétérinaire* (LCV) Bamako – Mali.

The meeting mandated the Regional Secretariat to engage the preparation of the next Regional Strategic Plan (2027 – 2031) of the GF-TADs for Africa.

In addition, the meeting was informed of the new country representation following the elections of the regional bureau and the council at the 91st General Session in May 2024. The representation includes:

- Dr. Roland Xolani Dlamini, Member of the Council, WOAH Delegate, CVO Eswatini
- Dr Mbargou Lô, Member of the Council, WOAH Delegate, CVO Senegal
- Dr. Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela, President of the Regional Commission for Africa, WOAH Delegate, CVO - Congo (Dem. Rep. of the)
- Dr. Abderrahman El Abrak, Vice President of the Regional Commission for Africa, WOAH Delegate, CVO - Morocco
- Dr. Anna Rose Ademun Okurut, Vice President of the Regional Commission for Africa, WOAH Delegate, CVO - Uganda
- Dr. Columba Teru Vakuru, Secretary General of the Regional Commission for Africa, WOAH Delegate, CVO - Nigeria

Partnerships and Financing Panel (PFP) of the GF-TADs

Updates on the activities of the *Partnerships and Financing Panel* (PFP) of the GF-TADs were provided by Bouda Ahmadi of the GF-TADs Global Secretariat (FAO). He presented the PFP mission, composition and objectives of the team, highlighted PFP key contributions, as advisory feedback reports provided to the GF-TADs Management Committee on the PPR GEP II and III Blueprint and on the HPAI Global Strategy (2024-2033). He gave an overview of the three PFP work streams i.e. (a) stakeholder mapping and partnerships; (b) communication and advocacy; and (c) funding and financing (mapping potential sources and developing strategies) and requested Member(s) Countries/States feedback on regional engagement.



Session 3: Reporting on GF-TADs global disease control and (post) eradication initiatives

Rinderpest post-eradication activities

The presentation by Henry Wamwayi, as a member of the *Joint Advisory Committee* (JAC), provided an overview of the FAO and WOAH mandates in the Rinderpest post-eradication era, updates on the progress in sequestration and destruction of *Rinderpest Virus Containing Materials* (RVCM), an overview of the Rinderpest *Joint Advisory Committee's* (JAC) achievements from 2012 to 2024 and the second phase of the post-eradication era and objectives for the three years of the Rinderpest JAC mandate. He also presented the recommendations of the 47th and 48th GF-TADs Management Committee meetings to the Rinderpest JAC and the *Rinderpest Holding Facilities* (RHF) Forum. The meeting recommended JAC to progress with the destruction of category-A materials including consideration of capacity building activities to mitigate all risks.

The presentation by the *African Union Pan-African Veterinary Vaccines Centre* (AU-PANVAC), as presented by Charles Bodjo as its Director, provided an overview of AU-PANVAC activities in support of the Africa region, as a RHF category A and B facility. He elaborated on the current Rinderpest continental vaccine reserve, which is the largest in the world (2.5 million doses) and was proven to be of good quality, despite being up for renewal. He informed the meeting of the production of 2 million additional doses of Rinderpest vaccines (in case of emergency needs), which is being produced by the *National Veterinary Institute* (NVI) of Ethiopia, using the Rinderpest vaccine seeds of the AU-PANVAC repository. The production has been programmed in response to the 2015 CVO's meeting's recommendation to replace the old (continental) stock by a new (global) stock, for use in case of an emergency. The meeting recommended that partners discuss how to raise additional funds for vaccine production and stock maintenance. Recognising the political efforts and advocacy required to support the transfer of the remaining Rinderpest materials in the last African country, the meeting acknowledge the African Union's initiative in this regard and support the ongoing discussion between the African Union and the Republic of South Africa.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) progressive control

This session was guided by two presentations on progress made in terms of the availability of FMD vaccines in Eastern Africa, delivered by Nina Henning, on behalf of Badi Maulidi, both from the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed), and followed by updates from AU-PANVAC, delivered by Charles Bodjo. The presentation by GALVmed provided an overview and updates on the Ag-Results FMD Vaccine Challenge Project which is fostering the development of high-quality and regionally relevant vaccines, discussed the promotion of harmonised market authorisations of regionally relevant FMD vaccines through capacity building of regulatory authorities, promotion of public-private partnerships (PPP) to increase vaccination coverage in the region and challenges in the FMD vaccine value chain. The meeting requested that FMD vaccine manufacturers be enjoined in the Ag-Results FMD Vaccine Challenge Project competition. The presentation by AU-PANVAC covered WOAH requirements for vaccine quality control (QC), gave an overview of AU-PANVAC capacity building for FMD Vaccine QC and the development of characterised FMD Virus Panels for Africa based on the experience of the East Africa Region FMD Virus Panel, and discussed the perspectives for the other African regions with regards to establishing FMD Virus Panel for all sub-regions. The African Union stressed the importance of harmonising vaccine authorisation procedures.

The (global) <u>FMD Working Group</u> (FMD-WG), as represented by its co-chair Melissa McLaws (FAO), provided an update on the risks and progress along the *Progressive Control Pathway* (PCP) for FMD. The representative provided an overview of the FMD global status, risks, key points of the <u>FMD Control Strategy (2012-2027</u>), global headline events between 2023-2024, discussed impacts and benefits of FMD control, progress along the PCP-FMD in the Africa region (2022-2024) and the roadmap platforms, objectives and meetings. She also presented the current gaps and challenges which include: persistent lack of investment and consistent commitment for FMD control; gaps in virological surveillance; limited use of vaccines and limited assessment of vaccine and vaccination effectiveness; worrying transboundary spread of specific lineages into new areas and surges of outbreaks, e.g. Serotype O/EA2 in pool 6 (in Southern Africa), O/EA-3 and SAT-2 (in North Africa).

The meeting noted that FMD requires global investment considering the new incursions in Europe with the representative of COMESA, Yoseph Mamo, recommending a kind of "global wallet". The meeting noted the need for a risk assessment for serotype C (which hasn't been reported since 2004) and the best possible regional structure to promote TADs control and regional progression in reaching PCP-FMD stages 4 and 5. The representatives of AU recommended new approaches such as promotion of PPPs, the importance of harmonising vaccine authorisation procedures (not only for FMD) whereas the CVOs/Delegates of Zimbabwe and Eswatini reminded the meeting that compartmentalisation and zoning tools are available and encouraged all Member(s) Countries/States to use them to prevent and reduce FMD impact on regional and international trade. The outputs of using these tools as reiterated by the CVO and Delegate of Zambia will demonstrate the economic benefits of disease control, build the business case to convince decision-makers to invest in FMD and other TADs control.

Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) eradication

The presentation by Huyam Salih, the Director AU-IBAR, highlighted the fact that PPR Eradication has been prioritised in the 2025 <u>CAADP Kampala Declaration</u>, recently adopted by African Union Heads of States, and provided an overview of the objectives and expected outcomes of the <u>Pan African Programme for the Eradication of PPR 2023-2027</u>, insights into the EU funded PPR Eradication programme for Africa, i.e. the first phase (EUR 8 million) and the second phase (EUR 90 million), as well as the establishment of the <u>Pan African PPR Secretariat</u> (PAPS). On behalf of the (global) PPR Secretariat Simon Kihu presented the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR GCES), provided an overview of the <u>PPR Global Eradication Programme</u> (PPR GEP) Phase II and III Blueprint (2022 – 2030), stressing the strategic focus and the epi-systems approach, the <u>PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool</u> (PMAT), discussed how to "use" the PPR Regional Roadmaps and the global status, the PPR mitigation plan, and the way forward.

The presentations generated a lot of discussion about the role of wildlife in the maintenance of PPR, the operationalisation of the Pan African Strategy, reflection on local factors such as religious activities (pilgrimage, festivals) affecting animal movement, their routes and movement patterns, coupled with the seasonality, insecurity, conflict zones that affect disease spread. Member(s) Countries/States were encouraged to consider as well as economic incentives for private veterinarians to support government Veterinary Services in vaccination activities, as is the case in Morocco and intensify resource mobilisation efforts for sustainable financing of PPR eradication.

The CVO and Delegate of Nigeria, Columba Vakuru presented its national PPR eradication efforts, highlighting the major risk factors for PPR eradication, the critical control areas as their way forward which include: provision of access to affordable and good quality vaccines, to contrast circulation of *sub-standard and falsified veterinary products* (SFVP), promote cross-border collaboration and harmonize national action plans targeting at least 75% synchronised, biannual vaccination coverage of the nation's small ruminants' population, update risk maps, socioeconomic impact assessments, cost-benefit analyses and use them for advocacy, resource mobilisation to trigger political will and promote PPPs.

African Swine Fever (ASF) control

The session started with updates on progress made in terms of the <u>Global Initiative (GI) on</u> <u>ASF Control</u> by Andriy Rozstalnyy (FAO) on behalf of the joint FAO-WOAH ASF Working Group. He provided an overview of the ASF situation globally, the ASF GI, governance institutions, potential control scenarios as discussed by regions during the last *Global Coordination Committee* (GCC) on the sidelines of the 91st WOAH General Session (2024), i.e. facing a deteriorating situation, accepting to live with the disease, or targeting elimination. Also presented were the recommendations from the 2023 Global consultation which included: human drivers of ASF spread, surveillance, diagnostics, control measures, biosecurity, socioeconomics, zoning and compartmentalisation. He mentioned the forthcoming events that include the GARA Scientific Meeting scheduled for 28 - 30 April 2025 in Rome, Italy, and a global online course on management of ASF using *geographical positioning systems* (GIS), to be launched by FAO on 13 May 2025.

A brief MentiMeter[™] session was conducted to gather the perspectives of the Africa region on the ASF GI. The feedback shows that the GI has been useful in fostering partnerships and stakeholder collaboration, advocacy and putting ASF back on the global agenda, facilitating information sharing, regional collaboration and capacity building. Some of the weaknesses mentioned were related to resource limitations, uneven distribution, not enough actionlinked with no clear goal (either eradication or control), technical limitations related to vaccine innovations and dependence on each Member Country/State's commitments. The main recommendation in view of the development of the next GI or strategy was to enhance resource mobilisation, provide clarity on mid- and long-term milestones, provide a better connection with regional priorities, focus on technologies such as vaccine development, strengthen partner commitments, regional coordination and strategies.

An update on the <u>ASF Continental Control Strategy</u> was provided by Hiver Boussini (AU-IBAR). The strategy recognises that pigs are strategically important for the continent's food and nutritional security but that the sector faces diverse challenges including heath constraints amongst which ASF is the major challenge, and the second-most widespread disease in Sub-Saharan Africa. The challenges impeding the prevention and control of ASF include underreporting, managing backyard production systems, uncontrolled slaughter, high mobility of pigs and its products, and poor biosecurity. The ASF Continental Control Strategy was published in 2017 and revised in 2023. Its key principles are evidence-based action, valuechain approach and participatory engagement. It was endorsed in May 2024 during the 16th Pan-African CVO meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya. His presentation mentioned more appropriate countermeasures, such as the modified stamping-out model, as well as an appeal to support projects on ASF control and the establishment of the ASF Research Alliance for Africa. He informed the meeting that AU-IBAR has signed a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with FAO's Regional Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) on ASF containment. AU-IBAR also strongly emphasises the need for harmonisation of border control measures and advocacy for resource mobilisation and partnerships to support the implementation of the Strategy and its related programmes. This should guide country specific strategies and action plans.

The presentation on the fourth meeting of the Standing Group of Experts (SGE) for ASF that was held online in October 2024 and tackled the topic of outbreak management was provided by Viola Chemis (WOAH) on behalf of the GF-TADs Africa Regional Secretariat. She provided the background to the launch of the SGE in March 2022. Since inception, the SGE had held a series of meeting covering the topics of value chain, biosecurity, surveillance and - lastly outbreak management. SGE-4 discussed the negative effects of total stamping out, advocated for partial/selective culling/modified stamping-out, along with support for control efforts to enhance early detection and reporting of ASF to minimize impact during outbreaks. The meeting also discussed information sharing among Member(s) Countries/States and capacity building to strengthen Veterinary Services. The meeting recognised the limitations that come with implementation of (farmers) compensation, which is not practical or practiced in most Member(s) Countries/States and the need to promote alternative market-related compensation measures to support restocking and assist in rebuilding livelihoods, e.g. with stockpiles of feeds and/or training packages during and post-recovery. The presentation highlighted the importance of risk communication to manage public perceptions and build trust amongst stakeholders to enhance cooperation and implementation of control measures in case of outbreaks.

The country-presentation on ASF control was delivered by Leana Janse van Rensburg of the Republic of South Africa. The presentation provided an overview of the history of ASF in South Africa, aspects of the legislation supporting ASF control by Veterinary Services and stakeholders, dynamics of changing ASF epidemiology over time, from previous predominantly sylvatic cycles to more common domestic cycles, which appears to be due to shifts in pig husbandry practices. She also mentioned the existence of the national ASF Working Group that was launched in 2019 to discuss and provide strategic guidance on ASF control. The Republic of South Africa has an ASF outbreak contingency plan. The control efforts consider a broad/holistic approach that focuses on long-term change of farming practices emphasising the critical role of pig owners as part of the problem, but also part of the solution.

The three presentations generated discussions about the availability of vaccines for the control of ASF. All experts present clarified that the one available vaccine provides protection against genotype 2 only, does not offer cross protection, and is not suitable for use in Africa where there are many genotypes circulating. Application of biosecurity and biosafety measures remains the most effective tool to prevent ASF, recognising the difficulty to control free ranging pigs, manage tick vectors and promote compensation mechanisms among other incentives. The meeting was reminded that WOAH emphasises the importance of use of high-quality, thoroughly tested ASF vaccines to ensure safety and efficacy.

ASF : WOAH warns Veterinary Authorities and pig industry of risk from use of sub-standard vaccines

While recent advancements in the development of modified live vaccines offer hope for the future, it is crucial that -in the African context- only fully validated and regulatory-approved vaccines that effectively protect against circulating ASF virus strains are used. In line with its mandate, AU-PANVAC remains available to assist in evaluating any ASF vaccine intended for use in Africa to prevent the distribution of substandard vaccines, and provides continuous updates and guidance on the availability of quality vaccines.



Session 4: Reporting on GF-TADs for Africa regional priority diseases and topics

Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

The topic on CBPP was started off with a panel discussion moderated by Moetapele Letshwenyo (WOAH) and which included Loic Comtet (<u>Innovative Diagnostics</u>), Charles Bodjo (<u>AU-PANVAC</u>), Mamadou Niang (FAO), Neo Mapitse (WOAH) and Huyam Salih (<u>AU-IBAR</u>). The discussion highlighted the low reporting-rates of CBPP and other transboundary diseases, resulting in the suggestion to promote abattoir surveillance, support Member(s) Countries/States with affordable ELISA kits to confirm CBPP infection and promote reporting.

Based on lessons from COVID-19 diagnostics, there is the expectation that there could be a market for low-cost rapid test kits. However, for CBPP the demand appears to be low, hence it would be costly to maintain such a product in the catalogue. The price per unit, rather than USD 1 or 2, may then end up costing USD 12-15, i.e. expensive for a disease that affects smallholder farmers mostly, with little prospects for cost recovery. Molecular techniques (PCR) are of course also available. As it stands now, the CBPP diagnostic market size is limited to about 0.01% of global turnover so doesn't justify major investments. Regardless, one still needs to work on diagnostic kits to ensure that production is maintained, and that distribution of such kits is available at reasonable price. The panellists emphasised the importance of PPP to harness and improve access for diagnostic tools. The meeting was also informed of the Reference Laboratories and ERFAN networks that provide for exchanges of information, networking opportunities, capacity building (inter-laboratory comparisons, proficiency testing), sharing of materials, support for advanced diagnosis, transportation and shipment of samples and reagents. The private company Innovation Diagnostics (I-D), in collaboration with CIRAD, have produced a Blocking ELISA (for antibody-detection) that is now available in readyto-use format and can be shipped to countries tomorrow. This classic type of ELISA is easy to implement. The company is also implementing a training programme for the African region, with a focus to build PPPs and support laboratory capacity building on important transboundary diseases.

Participants were nonetheless also reminded that the conventional methods of diagnosis (clinical and post-mortem examination, including abattoir inspections) remain low-cost, reasonably effective methods that are strongly aligned with the delivery of Veterinary Services.

The meeting noted that CBPP vaccines are not perfect, but good enough and participants were reminded that the current CBPP vaccines were already used alongside Rinderpest vaccines during the (later) Rinderpest eradication phase.

AU-PANVAC supports vaccine production through the provision of vaccine seed and by supporting QC. Before engaging in procurement, Member(s) Countries/States are advised to check that a certificate from AU-PANVAC is available on the website for the vaccine batches in use : <u>https://aupanvac.org/certified-vaccines-batches/</u>

The meeting also noted that there are lots of gaps governing the use of antimicrobials in the region. Principles on when, where and how to promote the use of antimicrobials need to be guided by best practice, monitoring of antibiotic use and enabling legislation. The reality is the difficulty to enforce regulations on anti-microbial use. Whilst it is agreed that the formation of *sequestrae* is part of the normal healing process of the disease, it is also agreed that the proper enforcement of antimicrobial use is difficult to enforce in many Member(s) Countries/States.

The meeting was reminded by the African Union delegation that a CBPP Continental Strategy will be developed with participation of stakeholders, before proceeding though the usual AU procedures for validation. A cost-effective action plan will be embedded within the said Strategy, considering who will pay for vaccination (cycling of budgets), integrating regional coordination, international cooperation and resource mobilisation.

A presentation on the outcomes of the second meeting of Standing Group of Experts (SGE) for CBPP held in July 2024 in Lusaka, Zambia, was provided by the CVO and Delegate of Zambia, Charles Maseka. He highlighted the importance of collaboration in CBPP control guided by national strategies that are in turn guided by a good understanding of the epidemiology of CBPP, zoning to ensure appropriate control approaches in different zones/sections of the country and for Member(s) Countries/States to determine if they aim for (progressive) control or outright *eradication* of CBPP. The SGE-2 tackled the topic of *Strategies* and decisively concluded on the need for national strategies on the one end and a continental strategy under the leadership of AU on the other. The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were not in favour of developing sub-regional strategies but recognise that they play a critical role in facilitating collaborations between their Member States towards coordination and cooperation for CBPP control, enabling agreements on cross-border activities, harmonised surveillance and control programmes, common funded programmes, monitoring of progress, and facilitating consultations. While an international control or eradication strategy is currently unlikely to be supported or adopted, international coordination remains of paramount importance and should ideally be done under the GF-TADs mechanism, enabling coordinated support and information exchange. This will also enable the necessary linkages with what is happening in other regions, and with other partners, showing an interest in the recognition of freedom of CBPP disease / infection.

Rift valley fever (RVF)

The topic started with a presentation by Bernard Bett (ILRI) on understanding transmission thresholds for endemic and epidemic RVF. He informed the meeting of ILRI's ongoing work to validate a new rapid test kit, developed by ID-Vet, to be used following cases of abortion. The presentation disclosed that the level of prevalence in sheep and goats was about 20% while cattle have higher prevalence; the latter could be attributed to movement patterns whereby cattle travel longer distances. There was also seroconversion in humans, though much less. The expert noted that the models developed for RVF predictions rely on data submitted via WAHIS, therefore the better the submitted reports become, the more informative the models will be for countries.

The efforts by FAO were presented by Fredrick Kivaria, entitled "Ahead of the curve: anticipating RVF outbreaks through forecasting- a strategy for early warning, timely response and mitigation in the Africa region". The presentation showed the geographical distribution and persistence mechanisms for RVF virus (RVFV) in Africa, the approach and tools in use to promote early warning, the action framework that supports risk management and the latest alerts published jointly with IGAD. He also shared case studies from national initiatives, some of which are using the RVF *Decision Support Tool* (DST). The presentation led to questions about the threshold to consider an infection or an outbreak and about antibody levels after vaccination. It was explained that in practice, populations with sero-serosurveillance (IgG) levels of less than 70%, should be vaccinated. Where a large population is protected it can't trigger an outbreak.

The country-presentation on RVF focused on the Central African Republic (CAR) and was delivered by Marcel Boka (FAO) who presented the ongoing investigation, conducted following reports by the Ministry of Health in January 2025, of an RVF outbreak in the *prefecture* (district) of Lim Pendé. One human case was confirmed by the national reference laboratory. Field investigations were conducted in the affected area (Ngaoundaye) following a One Health approach. Of the 59 human blood samples collected, 54 tested negative and one tested positive. The Department of Veterinary Services had reported suspected cases of RVF before the January 2025 outbreak occurred, and throughout 2024 (involving 16 abortions and mortalities of 34 young animals). Field visits to nine villages covering 14 herds (cattle and small ruminants) led to 64 blood samples being collected. The results showed two positive cases for IgM in cattle in Balikoko, located 2 km away from Ngaoundaye, an area which borders Cameroon and Chad. Countermeasures were put in place by the hospital of Ngaoundaye, coupled with awareness raising among community leaders on preventive measures, consumption of bush meat or deceased animals, and the notification of suspected cases to authorities.

The meeting acknowledged that the full picture of RVF absence, presence and distribution is still not fully understood, despite several field studies, country level data, forecasts and vector surveillance. Whereas international guidelines for surveillance are available (<u>Rift Valley fever</u> <u>surveillance - FAO</u>) more needs to be done to encourage Member(s) Countries/States to

conduct sero-surveillance through a multi-sectoral (One Health) approach and share data to improve understanding of disease presence.

Anthropogenic factors—such as community knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding RVF, land use changes including agricultural expansion and irrigation schemes, livestock movement patterns, and settlement in flood-prone areas—all play a pivotal role in shaping the epidemiology of RVF in endemic regions. These factors should be systematically integrated into the design and implementation of prevention and control strategies to enhance their effectiveness and sustainability.

The meeting was also informed that WOAH has developed a risk model for RVF in North Africa (called PROVNA), which is currently in phase 2 and adopts the 'ecoregion' model. The approach may soon be implemented in other region/subregions.

The meeting discouraged duplication of tools, given the scarcity of resources and donor fatigue. The need to update legal frameworks considering climatic changes was also highlighted. Finally, the different ways in which regional and international organisations cover the continent and divide it into sub-regions, should not prevent North Africa from always being included in the development of regional strategies for transboundary animal disease surveillance and control.

The representative of the WOAH Reference Laboratory for RVF, Alison Lubisi (OVRI, South Africa), appealed for a fresh look at the epidemiology of the disease, and shift away from the focus on 'classic' inter-epidemic periods, the focus on occupational hazards and the focus on animal – human transmission as the primary transmission driver.



Session 5: Emerging Issues, requiring attention of the GF-TADs for Africa RSC

High pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI)

The session started with a presentation by Madhur Dhingra (FAO) on the revision of the *Highly pathogenic avian influenza* (HPAI) Global Strategy, available for download here:

<u>https://rr-africa.woah.org/app/uploads/2025/02/cd3840en.pdf</u> and the Brief (summary) here : <u>Global strategy for the prevention and control of high pathogenic avian influenza (2024–2033)</u>

The presentation provided updates on the changing ecology and epidemiology of HPAI strains, as a result of which there was a pressing need to update the Global Strategy. She highlighted the vision, goal and objectives of the revised Global Strategy for HPAI Prevention and Control

(2024–2033), gave an overview of FAO's global and regional support for HPAI prevention and control, including the collaboration with WOAH in the framework of OFFLU and discussed the next steps for the implementation of the Global Strategy. The proposal for these next steps include strengthening biosecurity measures, uptaking of vaccination, enhancing surveillance systems, promoting sustainable poultry production, cross-sectoral collaboration and enhancing public and private stakeholder engagement, including PPPs. It was proposed that FAO and WOAH should drive a regional engagement and consultation effort to operationalise the Strategy.

The country-presentation on HPAI was delivered by Rose Ademun, the CVO and Delegate of Uganda. She provided an overview of the HPAI situation in Uganda, describing the country's response to the January 2017 HPAI outbreaks. The activities at the time included surveillance and outbreak investigations, combined with laboratory confirmation, movement control, enforcement of biosecurity, communication and coordination leading to the declaration of freedom of the disease later that same year. The current activities being conducted include passive and risk-based active surveillance and restricted importation from high-risk countries. Dr Ademun emphasized the need for concerted efforts at national level, multi-country and multi-sectoral collaboration, as well as the importance of maintaining a high level of support from international partners and promoting transparency, communication and information-sharing.

The French Ministry of Agriculture, represented by Olivier Debaere (Crisis Director HPAI/ASF, France) highlighted the reasons that led France to consider a complementary control tool, vaccination, in addition to biosecurity, culling and zoning. From France's experience, HPAI not only poses a direct zoonotic risk, but also leads to the distress of farmers, exhaustion of Veterinary Services' personnel, further exacerbated by the societal non-acceptance of mass killings and an excessive burden on public finances. Between 2015 to 2023, the country spent EUR 1.6 billion to control HPAI the 'conventional way'.

Once the country was ready to change its strategy, Dr. Debaere then described the five main challenges faced by France when defining a HPAI vaccination strategy and action plan, such as the availability of effective DIVA¹ vaccines and the required guiding principles of the vaccination strategy and aspects of field implementation of the vaccination campaign, but also the handling of the international trade consequences and the communication and extension needs.

The French Ministry of Agriculture purchased 141 million doses of vaccines for the 2023-2024 campaign, targeting two consecutive vaccination rounds. As a result of this procurement, 61.57 million ducks belonging to 2,317 establishments were vaccinated in the latter half of 2023 and the first half of 2024. The campaign was supported by simultaneous passive surveillance performed by farmers and technicians, active surveillance performed by the national Veterinary Services, both of which lead to zero detection of virological positivity (post-vaccination monitoring). The total budget was estimated at EUR 100 million, of which

¹ Differentiating infected from vaccinated animals

85% was funded by Government. The negative trade consequences were considerably cushioned by Resolution nr. 28, adopted at the 90th WOAH General Session in May 2023². The communication and governance included a campaign monitoring committee, working groups, and the use of data recording systems. In conclusion it was stressed that the expected number of outbreaks in 2023 - 2024 without vaccination (n=487) could have been significantly higher than the actual number of observed cases (n=10), indicating a 95.9% reduction attributable to vaccination.

The RSC Africa Membership was invited to learn from the French experience, adapting measures considering its regional context (describing it as *"global issues, local solutions"*).

Lumpy skin disease (LSD)

The session was conducted through a panel discussion moderated by Livio Heath (OVRI) with panellists composed of Antonette Van Schalkwyk (OVRI, WOAH Reference Laboratory for LSD), Andriy Rozstalnyy (FAO) and Charles Lamien (FAO-IAEA). It was noted that LSD had a devastating economic impact in (South-East) Asia. The discussion provided an overview of the LSD global status, the occurrence in the Africa region over the years, the emerging issue of recombinant strains and what can be done in the African context. The experiences gained in the Balkans and Russia showcased the successful implementation of surveillance efforts, culling of infected animals and vaccination campaigns. Important factors to consider were the timing and coverage of susceptible species in the vaccination campaigns, movement controls and vector control. On the African continent however, it appears that most African countries have been reluctant to vaccinate.

The panel then focused on the vaccines used in Africa and discussed the opportunity of using small ruminants' pox vaccines, as currently done in North Africa. The aspects of differential diagnosis (example of Tunisia), quality control of vaccines, vaccine stewardship, use of rapid tests to monitor vaccination, capacity building and knowledge transfer (especially of field staff), awareness and advocacy, as well as cost-benefit analyses, could be advanced with the support – in terms of advocacy – of the GF-TADs mechanism. Large-scale validation is needed for some available ELISA tests. The role of wildlife is still unclear.

The meeting recommended combining the simultaneous diagnosis of multiple diseases using multiparametric testing. The meeting called upon Member(s) Countries/States to make as much use of the available support provided by the Refere Laboratories as possible.

 $^{^2}$ "The Assembly recommends that (...) 10. Members respect and implement the adopted WOAH standards and recognise compliant use of vaccination without negative consequences on trade, when the vaccination programme is supported by vaccination monitoring and disease surveillance systems that can demonstrate the effectiveness of vaccination and absence of infection"

African Horse Sickness (AHS)

The session started with a presentation delivered by Nobalanda Mokoena of <u>Onderstepoort</u> <u>Biological Products</u> (OBP), South Africa on the past vaccine production shortages, which led African horse sickness (AHS) to land on the agenda of the 11th Regional Steering Committee in June 2022. She gave an overview of OBP's product portfolio, elaborated on the AHS vaccine, and shared recommendations for use and limitations/concerns. Some of the concerns are related to its DIVA capabilities, the vaccine can't be used during outbreaks and is intended for use in endemic regions only. She confirmed that OBP indeed faced and still faces some production challenges due to ageing infrastructure, non-functional freeze dryers, power outages and inconsistent municipal water supply but have meanwhile completed the procurement of two new freeze dryers, which by the end of the year should double capacity to 94,000 units per week in addition to the installation of alternative power and water sources. She also noted the challenge OBP faces in validating AHS laboratory assays. In conclusion, she recommended to involve manufacturers in early stages of development of procurement plans and consider the "limiting" regulatory framework in some countries.

On behalf of the WOAH Reference Laboratory for AHS at Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute (OVRI), South Africa, Baratang Alison Lubisi reminded participants of the definition of "validation", the purposes of testing and the impact that their results have on decisions affecting food safety and security (livestock), and trade. She emphasized that OVRI follows the WOAH diagnostic test validation pathway from the WOAH Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals. Her presentation highlighted the challenges experienced with validating the tissue culture-based diagnostic methods (virus isolation and seroneutralisation), while it is easier to use assays such as antibody ELISA and PCR, due to the AHS infection cycle and humoral immune responses of the host. She discussed the challenges posed by serotyping using neutralization methods (expensive, labour intensive and time consuming among others). In conclusion, the presentation recommended early sample submission, encouraged African Member(s) Countries/States to actively participate in interlaboratory comparison (ILC) exercises for all tests, whereby national reference laboratories take turns in providing test panels and Member(s) Countries/States with one or few AHSV serotypes circulating (endemic/sporadic) are requested to share serum samples for serotype specific validation of the neutralization test.

The country-presentation on AHS was delivered by Roland Dlamini, the CVO and Delegate of Eswatini. He gave an overview of the legal framework in Eswatini, presented the national Veterinary Services systems and programmes which include dipping, livestock identification and traceability that support movement controls, active and passive surveillance, vaccination against scheduled diseases, import and export controls and ambulatory and clinic-based services. He described horse keeping and horse farming in the Kingdom, provided data on the susceptible population (approximately 800 horses and +10,000 donkeys), presented details on the AHS outbreaks reported since 1993 (serotypes 2,3,4,5 and 7) and provided an overview of the control measures that have been implemented, namely quarantine in case of outbreak, vaccination, stabling horses at night and vector control. He highlighted that unfortunately the eradication of the disease is not considered a priority in the country because of the relatively

low economic and social incentives, the use of the live attenuated vaccine and constant transboundary exposure during sporting events.

The discussion brought up the issue of the role of wildlife (zebras, subgenus *Hippotigris*) and the lack of vaccine production capacity which according to OBP is mostly due to a lack of predictable uptake of vaccines (in relation to the season/timing of the vaccination campaigns).

OVRI clarified that the ELISA and PCR tests for AHS *are* validated, but that the challenges lie in the validation of the tissue culture-based diagnostic methods (virus isolation and sero-neutralisation).

The meeting noted that AHS in not an emerging disease but was included in the agenda of the RSC-11 meeting due to the lack of vaccine availability and accessibility experienced worldwide. Following the OBP presentation, the meeting agreed that the matter should be put to rest and the issue considered "resolved".



Session 6. Reporting on GF-TADs for Africa networking frameworks

Continental laboratory networks

The presentation on the <u>Veterinary Laboratory Network (VETLAB Network)</u> was delivered by Charles Euloge Lamien (Joint Division FAO-IAEA). He highlighted the origins of the VETLAB Network, its activities based on lessons learnt from the Rinderpest Laboratory Network established in 1998. The said Network is currently supporting 33 laboratories. Among the activities are support to national veterinary laboratories for capacity building of laboratory experts, support to the provision of reagents, enhancing quality-assurance systems, advancing pathogen detection techniques, information sharing, fostering regional collaboration on emerging threats, collaborative research and support to partnerships. In terms of priority diseases, the focus of activities is PPR, LSD, ASF and HPAI.

The Network was requested to consider supporting veterinary teaching hospitals and developing an Africa laboratory network. The Network is already providing support to *Regional Animal Health Networks* (RAHNs) which include the various laboratory and epidemiology networks³.

 $^{^3}$ Examples are : EAREN, EARLN (Eastern Africa), ResoLab, ResEpi (West and Central Africa) and the SADC Laboratory and Epidemiology sub-committees (Southern Africa).

The updates on these regional laboratory and epidemiology networks were provided by Pious Makaya, CVO and Delegate of Zimbabwe, and Chair of the Laboratory Diagnostic Sub-Committee of SADC's *Livestock Technical Committee* (LTC) for Southern Africa, and Dereje Wakjira, as Director of ICPALD/IGAD on behalf of the *Eastern Africa Regional Epidemiology Network* (EAREN) for Eastern Africa.

The presentation by SADC elaborated the environment by which SADC's Veterinary Laboratory Diagnostic Sub-Committee Network operates, the diagnostic capacities of the laboratories involved, ongoing initiatives in support of laboratories by the network, accreditations conducted by the network laboratories (SADCAS and ISO 17025) and the harmonisation of animal disease diagnostic methods in SADC countries. As explained by Dereje Wakjira, the *Regional Animal Health Network* (RAHN) focuses on ten priority diseases. The presentation also provided an update on the IGAD-MENA (for: Middle East and North Africa) annual meetings on trade of live animals and cross-border disease surveillance and control, including vaccination.

The meeting noted the need to establish epidemiology and laboratory regional reference centres in RECs, advocate for increased financial contributions from Member(s) Countries/States to support the activities of the regional networks and the importance of identifying critical WOAH laboratory twinning projects. Laboratories in the various networks were encouraged to join the WOAH/<u>ERFAN</u> initiative.

In its comments, the African Union announced that it was proposing to establish centres of excellence for regional animal disease diagnostics, and to operationalise these centres of excellence for regional animal disease epidemiology and investigation.

The EAREN which has struggled to convene its meetings in the last few years, was encouraged to take advantage of virtual mode to convene regular meetings.



Session 7. Strengthening VS, role of the Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) and Education Establishments (VEE), feedback from the private sector / stakeholders

Strengthening capacities of Veterinary Services

The presentation on 'FAO Tools and programmes' was delivered by Mohammed Shamsuddin. He highlighted the concept of regional support laboratories. The presentation illustrated FAO's laboratory support programmes in Africa which involve transformation of laboratory infrastructure, training guided by the FAO Laboratory Assessment Tool, among other actions. The result has been (more) rapid detection of TADs and priority zoonotic diseases (including enhanced forecasting), intra-laboratory and extra-regional networking, multi-sectoral collaboration, development of different curriculum, and the enabling of traceability of samples using Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS). The Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model calculator or GLEAM-i is used to assess greenhouse gas emission from livestock (30% could be reduced by improving management). The other tools mentioned were the Feed Balance Sheet which is a tool for use of resources and enhancing resilience in tropical grazing livestock. The Livestock Sector Investment and Policy Toolkit (LSIPT) is a toolkit to advocate for increased investment at national level. Among the challenges, one shall recall the of samples tested in veterinary laboratories, inadequate or lack of qualified workforce (epidemiologists, laboratory personnel), weak capacity in laboratory maintenance, calibration, reagent supply, absence of data sharing mechanisms, underfunding and donor dependency, all of which are contributing to under-reporting.

The topic on 'WOAH Tools and programmes' was dedicated to the <u>launch of the PVS</u> <u>Information System (PVS-IS)</u> and was delivered by Jennifer Lasley (WOAH). The presentation showed that the PVS-IS is based on Code provisions related to the assessment of the quality of Veterinary Services. The Africa region leads in conducting PVS-type missions (43% of all PVS activities). Of these, 92% of WOAH Members have re-engaged in the PVS pathway since 2016, conducting either an *Evaluation* and/or *Targeted Support* mission, which are the most popular activities. On average, Member(s) Countries/States in the Africa region have demonstrated minimal capacity in 30% of PVS Critical Competencies, according to their most recent PVS Evaluation, compared to 43% globally. Ever since the majority of countries engaged in the PVS Pathway in 2008, the mean PVS achievement has stayed stable over time (31% to 30%). The achievement ranged from 0% to 91% achievement in the region whereas the target is to reach minimal capacity in 100% of PVS Critical Competencies. This implies there is work to be done, investments are needed to boost performance and build capacity of the Veterinary Services. Using the PVS-IS tool, WOAH's *Capacity-Building Department* (CBD) is using *artificial intelligence* (AI) to compare PVS recommendations with recommendations generated from GF-TADs meetings. The results from the use of the top recommendations using qualitative text analysis revealed that out of 1,700+ recommendations, the most common identified recommendations were to improve infrastructure and resources of Veterinary Services, improve access to veterinary medicines, training of *veterinary paraprofessionals* (VPP), support veterinary training and education, increase veterinarians in numbers, and strengthen the technical and institutional capacities of Veterinary Services. Chronic gaps and weaknesses will remain part of the Veterinary Services unless these recommendations are addressed. The presentation also mentioned <u>WOAH's Community-based Animal Health Workers'</u> (CAHWs) initiative whose objective it is to strengthen the enabling environment for CAHWs through development of competency and curricula guidelines. The most recent activity was the WOAH <u>Africa Continental Conference on Veterinary Workforce Development</u> held in Nairobi in November 2024, held with the support of FAO, WHO, the African Union and many other partners.

Role of the Veterinary Statutory Bodies

An update on the *African Association of Veterinary Statutory Bodies* (A2VSB) was provided by its President, Florence Kasirye (Registrar, Uganda Veterinary Board, UVB). She reported that the A2VSB was established with the support of AU-IBAR with participants from 43 countries. The first meeting was held in Cairo, Egypt in 2018, where a constitution was agreed on. Some VSBs still don't have a secretariat. There are financing constraints for VSBs. Other constraints seem to be linked to the reluctance of younger colleagues to join VSBs and the language barriers (hence the need to translate the A2VSB constitution to 4 languages (including Arabic, French, Portuguese). Language is an issue affecting the convening of meetings (as they need support for translation).

Currently, AU-IBAR is providing secretariat services to the A2VSB. The Members have participated in several African regional meetings, several Pan-African CVO meetings and 'One Health' related meetings.

The term of office of the inaugural Executive Committee has expired and there is a need to organise a General Assembly (AGM) to constitute a new team.

The meeting encouraged VEEs and VSBs to work collaboratively.

Role of the Veterinary Education Establishments

An update from the *African Association of Veterinary Education Establishments* (A2V2-E) was provided by its President, Noursaid Tligui (Dean, IAV Mohammed VI, Morocco). The presentation stated that of the 55 AU Member States, 26 have veterinary schools, colleges or faculties (north and eastern Africa boasting the highest numbers, each with 23 VEEs). The last General Assembly was held on 27 November 2024 (on the sidelines of the above-mentioned <u>Africa Continental Conference on Veterinary Workforce Development</u>), leading to the adoption of several resolutions and the election of a new Executive Committee. The objectives of the A2V2-E include information sharing, establishing African veterinary academic standards for accreditation, harmonisation of the veterinary curriculum in Africa, and build capacity among educators in African VEEs, among others. The next meeting will be held in Rabat, Morocco in March 2026.

Feedback from the private sector/stakeholders

This topic was presented by Zuberi Bihangamanywa on behalf of the Pan-African Farmers Organisation (PAFO). The PAFO Secretariat is based in Kigali, Rwanda and consists of a membership composed of organisations across the sub-regions i.e. EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA, SACAU and UMNAGRI⁴. The EAFF represents smallholder farmers belonging to 24 national farmers' organisations across 12 countries in Eastern Africa. PROPAC has a membership of 10 member organisations from 10 countries in Central Africa. ROPPA has a membership of 14member organisations from 14 countries in West Africa. SACAU has a membership of 19 member organisations from 11 countries in Southern Africa. UMNAGRI has a membership of 6 member organisations from 6 countries in Northern Africa. Their mission is to represent the interests of African farmers and promote the development of African agriculture. The role of the over-arching PAFO is advocacy and policy influence, capacity building, representation and empowerment, facilitation of access to resources, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, improve market access and trade, fostering collaboration and networking and advocating for social protection. PAFO's collaboration with international and regional organisations helps it to support advancement in animal health and production. The general assembly will be held later in 2025, likely in Senegal. PAFO also engages in several projects to support members initiatives, e.g. AGRA (AGRA - Sustainably Growing Africa's Food Systems) including youth and women, with FAO support, etc.

⁴ EAFF : East African Farmers Federation,

PROPAC : Plateforme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale,

ROPPA : Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest,

SACAU : Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions,

UMNAGRI : Union Maghrébine et Nord Africaine des Agriculteurs.



Session 8. Final deliberations, recommendations, next meeting, closing

Meeting recommendations

The meeting agreed on the following considerations, endorsements and recommendations:

Considering

- i. The priority diseases defined in the GF-TADs for Africa's 5-year Regional Strategy (2021 2025); namely *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR), *Foot and mouth disease* (FMD), *Rift valley fever* (RVF), *African swine fever* (ASF) and *Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia* (CBPP);
- ii. The need to improve surveillance systems in order to address the gaps in the epidemiological knowledge of these prioritised diseases in Africa;
- iii. The strengthening of GF-TADs Regional Steering Committees in line with the recommendations of the 14th Global Steering Committee. This includes continued collaboration with national veterinary services, private sector actors, development partners, VEE and VSB and as a key enabler to improve animal health and welfare, promote sustainable livestock sectors through effective disease prevention and control;
- iv. Existing functional Working/Advisory Groups and Standing Groups of Experts on Rinderpest, FMD, PPR, ASF and CBPP, under the GF-TADs mechanism;
- v. The 2011 declaration of rinderpest eradication at global level, the ongoing post-eradication phase and the establishment of the FAO/WOAH Rinderpest *Joint Advisory Committee* (JAC), and the need to maintain the world free from Rinderpest;
- vi. Ongoing activities and progress made on *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR) control by AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, FAO, WOAH, *Regional Economic Communities* (RECs) and other partners, the *Pan-African Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) *Control and Eradication Programme* (2022-2026), the establishment of the *Pan-African PPR Secretariat* (PAPS) and the ongoing EU-funded Project for the continental eradication of PPR;
- vii. That the Rinderpest vaccine reserve located at AU-PANVAC is the largest currently available in the world;
- viii. That no WOAH international standards currently exist governing the quality of vaccines against ASF;
- ix. The ongoing spread of *High pathogenicity avian influenza* (HPAI) virus and the changes in epidemiology patterns, including for other emerging diseases;
- x. The resumption of production, in sufficient quantities of *African horse sickness* (AHS) vaccines by *Onderstepoort Biological Products* (OBP) in South Africa;
- xi. The need for financial partners to have an appropriate coordination mechanism and strong basis to justify the investment being made in the animal health sector;

- xii. That the reduced capacity for delivery of Veterinary Services, including by veterinary laboratories, and the need to strengthen its governance across the African continent is crucial for animal health, food safety, public health and wellbeing, as well as food security, while ensuring safer trade in animals and animal products in Africa;
- xiii. Availability of different veterinary training tools for veterinary and veterinary paraprofessionals that are developed by FAO, WOAH and *veterinary education establishments* (VEE);
- xiv. Expected increase in demand for animal and animal products in the wake of the *Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement* (AfCFTA);
- xv. The need to action the pending recommendations of the GF-TADs for Africa 11th Regional Steering Committee meetings,

The 12th Regional Steering Committee for Africa endorses :

- a. The amendments to the ToRs of the SGE ASF and the SGE CBPP;
- b. The re-election of the Director of AU-IBAR as President of the RSC (Dr Huyam Salih);
- c. The re-appointment of the FAO Regional Senior Animal Health and Production Officer as Vice-President of the RSC (Dr Mohammed Shamsuddin);
- d. The re-appointment of the Member of the WOAH Council as Vice-President of the RSC (Dr Roland X. Dlamini);
- e. The extension of the Regional Strategy of the GF-TADs for Africa to the end of 2026, in order to align with the Global Strategy (extended to the end of 2026);
- f. The mandate of the Regional Secretariat to engage the preparation of the next Regional Strategic Plan (2027 2031), and

The 12th Regional Steering Committee for Africa recommends :
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General recommendations	1. AU-IBAR to initiate, coordinate the development, and facilitate the endorsement of continental strategies for the (remaining) GF-TADs for Africa priority transboundary animal diseases (TADs), as well as zoonoses : FMD, CBPP, <i>African Animal Trypanosomiasis</i> (AAT), High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza and Rabies;
	 Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to develop or implement (sub)regional strategies, which are in line with these continental strategies;
	 Member(s) Countries/States to promote the use of compartmentalisation and zoning to prevent TADs and reduce their impact on trade;
	 To support the GF-TADs Partnerships and Financing Panel (PFP) and interact with the Panel to ensure that the RSC for Africa's needs and inputs are taken into account;
	 5. AU-IBAR to lead the advocacy for an Animal Health Summit for Africa; 6. In future meetings, session chairs, with the support of the rapporteur team should deliver at most two recommendations after each session, to improve the efficiency in developing these recommendations;

Rinderpest	 FAO, WOAH and development partners provide support for the renewal and maintenance of the rinderpest vaccine reserves at the AU-PANVAC Rinderpest Holding Facility; The RSC to support the ongoing African Union Commission initiative to complete the destruction or transfer of <i>Rinderpest Virus Containing Materials</i> (RVCM), still held in national laboratories, to the AU-PANVAC; 	
Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD)	 Strengthen the implementation of the Global FMD Control Strategy through the <i>Progressive Control Pathway</i> for FMD (PCP) and implement the recommendations of respective regional roadmaps; AU-PANVAC and <i>The Pirbright Institute</i> (TPI) to establish FMDV panels for vaccine validation in all African regions, in addition to Eastern Africa; 	
Peste des petits ruminants (PPR)	 That Member(s) Countries/States commit national resources, complementing the development partners' support to the eradication of PPR from Africa, in line with the global eradication efforts (GEP II, III); AU-IBAR, with the support of FAO and WOAH to enhance advocacy for additional investment in the PPR Continental programme for <i>Sub-Saharan</i> <i>Africa</i> (SSA) and North Africa; 	
African swine fever (ASF)	 13. To encourage Member(s) Countries/States to support and implement the Continental Strategy for the Control of <i>African swine fever</i> (ASF) as per the guidance and with the support of the SGE; 14. To encourage Member(s) Countries/States to ensure appropriate evaluation of any new vaccine through AU-PANVAC, based on WOAH standards (currently not available for ASF) before granting any authorization for its use or distribution; 	
Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)	 15. AU-IBAR to lead the development of a Continental CBPP Control Strategy as per the guidance and with the support of the SGE CBPP, whilst Member(s) Countries/States develop national CBPP strategies, not neglecting the fundamental aspect of slaughterhouse surveillance. The development and implementation of these strategies shall be supported by FAO, WOAH, RECs, researchers, reference laboratories and other partners; 16. That Member(s) Countries/States increase investments to improve vaccination, surveillance, diagnosis and control of CBPP, and the impact of the use of antimicrobials for treatment, including the risks of development of antimicrobial resistance, as per guidance and support of the SGE CBPP; 	
Rift valley fever (RVF)	 17. To encourage Member(s) Countries/States to ensure transparent and early notification of RVF in animals, and ensure enhanced surveillance and rapid response; 18. For the RSC to organize a regional technical consultation on RVF to inform and address knowledge gaps and provide guidelines for harmonised surveillance and control activities, avoiding duplication of available tools, maximising the use of available (human and economic) resources and promoting a multi-sectoral approach; 	

High pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI)	 To encourage Member(s) Countries/States to raise awareness, enhance biosecurity measures, assess levels of preparedness and strengthen surveillance, including in wild birds, for early detection, reporting and rapid response; That FAO and WOAH launch regional engagement and consultation to operationalise the HPAI Global strategy (fostering <i>"Local solutions to Global issues");</i>
Lumpy skin disease (LSD)	 Member(s) Countries/States, with the support of AU-IBAR, FAO and WOAH to promote communication and awareness, sensitising farmers on the positive impact of vaccination, through cost-benefit analysis and the experience of other regions; Member(s) Countries/States, with the support of AU-IBAR, FAO and WOAH to invest in capacity building and knowledge transfer on LSD, promoting integrated surveillance, multiparametric testing and syndromic surveillance activities, and to exploit the support of reference laboratories; AU-PANVAC, the FAO-IAEA Joint Division on nuclear technologies in food and agriculture, reference laboratories and vaccine producers to assess LSD vaccine quality and efficacy towards a harmonised application of homologous vaccines throughout Africa;
African Horse Sickness (AHS)	24. That AHS be removed from the list of emerging issues, requiring the attention of the GF-TADs for Africa RSC;
Africa Networking Initiatives	25. AU-IBAR and AU-PANVAC to establish Centres of Excellence for priority TADs, recognising existing networks and initiatives on the continent;
VEE and VSB	 26. AU-IBAR to continue supporting the African Association of Veterinary Education Establishments (2A2E-V) and the African Association for Veterinary Statutory Bodies (2AVSB) by ensuring the sustainability of funding and the alignments of programmes with WOAH veterinary competencies guidelines; 27. Member(s) Countries/States to utilise the veterinary paraprofessional training tools developed by FAO, WOAH and Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) in order to bridge the shortage of veterinary and veterinary paraprofessionals needed to respond to TADs surveillance and other field activities.

Dates and venue / format of 2025 meetings of SGEs, RMMs and RSC13

The proposal for the fifth Standing Group of Experts (SGE) on ASF covering the topic on vaccines and vaccination was proposed to be held face-to-face (hybrid mode), tentative in June. However, there was a clash with a vaccine meeting by organized by AU-PANVAC, thus possible new dates to be identified and communicated.

The proposal for the third Standing Group of Experts (SGE) on CBPP handling the topic on surveillance, was proposed to be held, online on 5 - 7 May 2025

The 13th Regional Steering Committee meeting for GF-TADs for Africa was proposed for 11 - 13 November 2025, as a face-to-face (hybrid) with the venue to be communicated later. However, it was foreseen as too soon, and the alternative preferred schedule was the first half of February or first week of March 2026; tentatively Morocco or Senegal (to be communicated during the Pan-African CVO meeting in May 2025).

Closing Remarks

The closing remarks were provided in brief by Huyam Salih, the AU-IBAR director, who thanked the secretariat, interpreters, all session chairs, rapporteurs, all participants for their active participation. She challenged all participants to make progress so the next meeting can demonstrate progress in control of TADs and priority initiatives for the region. She also expressed wholehearted gratitude to Eswatini for accepting to host, the hospitality and all efforts to make the meeting a success.



Annex 1: Review of the status of implementation of the Recommendations of the 11th meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC-11) of the GF-TADs for Africa

Recommendations with short-term priority (A) were expected to be implemented by the time the next RSC took place.

Торіс	Recommendation	Implementer(s)	Implementation
General	 To accelerate the efforts for resource mobilisation and the political will for cross-border coordination, harmonisation and synchronisation of activities for TADs control in the region; 	RSC (including RECs)	A meeting (European Commission) on resource mobilisation for PPR continental eradication held in Brussels was held that led to the first tranche USD 8 M received for PPR eradication), Programme launched at the sidelines of the WOAH Regional Commission no. 26 in Addis Ababa. Two Consultants were recruited: David Mwangi (former EU), Andrea Masarelli (Former EU), and there was a Kampala Declaration that was endorsed by Head of States in February 2025, on prioritizing eradication of PPR in Africa.
			Contribution via the Pandemic Fund through FAO for Sub-Saharan Africa related to animal health (equivalent to 90m USD)
			The updates of the RECs i.e. ECOWAS, ECCAS, UEMOA, IGAD expected at the 12th meeting of the RSC
	 To develop a tool for landscaping and mapping of donors, projects, programmes, stakeholders and budgets that can assist GF-TADs partners, Member(s) Countries/States and RECs in resource mobilisation and harmonisation of animal health and TADs activities within the continent; 	☆ AU-IBAR (FAO, WOAH)	AU-IBAR reported they were close to finalizing the landscaping and donor mapping tool. This should be available soon with updates to be provided at the 12th meeting of the RSC
	3. To support the established GF-TADs <i>Partnerships and Financing Panel</i> (PFP) and interact with the Panel to ensure that the RSC for Africa's needs and inputs are taken into account;	RSC	The PFP has started work. The panel provided recommendations during review of the PPR GEP II. Some of the recommendations pertain to the role of the regions. The PFP established two workstreams on Stakeholder Mapping & Partnerships, and another on Advocacy for Resource Mobilisation at the National Level. Further updates to be provided at the 12th meeting of the RSC
FMD	4. Strengthen the implementation of the Global FMD Control Strategy through the <i>Progressive Control Pathway</i> for FMD (PCP-FMD) and implement the outcomes of respective regional roadmaps ;	MC and RECs	There has been increased participation of some additional African institutions in the FMD GCC as from January 2023 (AU-IBAR, ECOWAS, ECCAS, IGAD, SADC,). A number of PSOs were fielded to support several countries (Somalia, Liberia, Gambia, Niger, South Sudan) There have been Eu-FMD trainings organized on FMD-PCP

			Central African Regional RoadMap was held in September 2022. Western Africa Regional RoadMap was held in December 2023 (virtual format). Since RSC11, 8 countries in Africa have progressed from PCP-FMD Stage 0 to 1, & 2 from PCP-FMD Stage 1 to 2 Joint FMD Regional RoadMap was held in September 2024 for Eastern and Southern Africa sub- regions with updated roadmaps There is a taskforce in place to develop Western and Eastern Africa strategies (involving the RECs, AU-IBAR/FAO)
	5. To provides support for the harmonization of market authorisations for FMD vaccines in Africa and the development of <i>public-private partnership</i> (PPP) frameworks to address challenges in the FMD vaccine access, value chain, including encouraging research and development of cost-effective vaccines.	RSC	 PANVAC recently concluded a twinning project supported by WOAH, with TPI, on quality control, with emphasis on local, regional strains. Training of PANVAC staff was conducted and specific antigen strain panels developed. AU-PANVAC undertaking inter-lab testing with WRL-Pirbright using East Africa Panel to support QC; Future vision for other sub-regions Refer to presentation by GALVmed Ag-Results Project to be provided at the 12th meeting of the RSC
PPR	6. To continue supporting Member(s) Countries/States on PPR eradication at continental, regional and national levels through the implementation of the PPR GEP II (including its Blueprint and Roadmaps) aligned with the 2 nd phase of the Pan-African <i>Peste des petits ruminants</i> (PPR) Control and Eradication Programme (2022-2026);	AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, FAO, WOAH and other partners	 Technical support missions by AU-IBAR/AU-PANVAC fielded to São Tomé & Principe and Cabo Verde (training of laboratory staff, testing samples for the demonstration of absence of PPR); Future support to be provided Madagascar & Seychelles. The AU-IBAR Brussels meeting (European Commission) on resource mobilisation for PPR continental eradication yielded the first tranche of USD 8 M grant (that was signed). Consultants recruited to support WOAH twinning programme concluded between Senegal (LNERV, ISRA) and France (CIRAD) AU-PANVAC assisted Botswana and Lesotho to test some of their panel sera at PANVAC; PANVAC concluded a project/study on PPR thermotolerant vaccines, to submit report to WOAH BSC Support to the development of NSP is continuing in S/Sudan, Ethiopia, Burundi (with FAO support) Following the launch of GEP II (short document) efforts to orient Member(s) Countries/States on the new Blueprint, with IGAD first (May 2023) and then ECOWAS (June 2024), UMA development of Regional strategy, ECCAS regional meeting (Feb 2025) Several PMAT-related capacity-building efforts underway

	 To encourage Member(s) Countries/States to strengthen their Veterinary Services capacities through the PVS Pathway, especially by requesting, where relevant, the PPR specific PVS Evaluation mission, and taking ownership of the outcomes in order to improve the good governance of their Veterinary Services and to ease access to funding both internally and externally using round tables with donors, while facilitating full access of PVS related information to GF-TADs partners (WOAH lead, AU-IBAR, FAO); 	WOAH, AU-IBAR, FAO	 FAO deliveries of PPR ELISA kits to 13 countries, and estimate 29 M doses of PPR vaccines to different countries. WOAH support to countries through PC-TAD project for vaccine delivery, ELISA kits and cold chain in Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Zambia & PVS support WOAH support for surveillance through BMZ OHRT (Namibia, Cameroon) and PRAPs activities FAO recruitment of 5 international consultants in charge of regions and one to assist SADC countries to prepare dossier for freedom. 14 national consultants recruited to update the national strategic plans and support implementation FAO jointly with IAEA provided capacity building in laboratory and technology transfer as well as proficiency testing. Letter of agreement between FAO and AU-IBAR as well as CEBEVIRHA to implement PPR activities Guidelines prepared on mainstreaming PPR into the agricultural sector, communication strategy, annex wildlife, episystem, vaccination among others, some are yet to be finalized and published FAO Awarding through the World Food Forum Transformative Research Challenge, Msc/PhD students (\$10,000) to collect data on research needs identified by GREN A resolution on PPR eradication adopted at the FAO: regional conference for Africa. PPR-specific WOAH PVS missions conducted in Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone, Zambia. (plan for Ethiopia before the end of June) Gabon has applied to FAO to support the country to strengthen it VS capacity (post-HPAI challenges), linked to possible PVS mission
ASF	8. To encourage Member(s) Countries/States to support and implement the Global Control of <i>African swine fever</i> (ASF) initiative;	RSC, AU-IBAR, WOAH, FAO	Finalisation of the revised Africa ASF regional control strategy, which was validated in Mombasa in March 2023 and adopted in 2024 during CVO Meeting (Nairobi), in the presence of SGE members Updates to be provided during the presentation at the 12th meeting of the RSC

	9. To support the <i>Standing Group of Experts</i> (SGE) on <i>African swine fever</i> (ASF) with emphasis on advocacy, awareness creation, risk communication, biosecurity and information sharing;	☆ MC, RSC, AU-IBAR, WOAH, FAO	The Standing Group of Experts (SGE) III was held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, from 1 – 3 August 2023 and SGE IV was held via online format from 15 -17 October 2024 Refer to the online report and updates to be provided during the presentation at the 12th meeting of the RSC
	10. To encourage Member(s) Countries/States to ensure appropriate evaluation of any new vaccine through AU- PANVAC before granting authorisation for its use or distribution;	AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC	AU-PANVAC is ready to test and validate batches. There was a meeting in July 2023 on harmonisation of vaccine registration in general, with specific reference to PPR, of which the recommendations were endorsed during AU summit in February 2024. There are plans to translate approved document as AU guidelines for PPR vaccine registration in Dares salaam Tanzania in the 3 rd week of June 2025
СВРР	11. To provide more guidance on the surveillance and control of CBPP, improved vaccines, diagnostic test methods and kits, and the impact of the use of antimicrobials for treatment, including the risks of development of antimicrobial resistance.	☆ SGE CBPP	The first SGE on Strategy was held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 9 – 11 July 2024 Refer to updates to be provided during the presentation at the 12th meeting of the RSC and the report available in the GF-TADs website, and presentation of the technical item 1 during WOAH Regional Commission meeting no 26 for Africa CBPP new diagnostics will be available soon, a project by IDEXX & AU-PANVAC
Rinderpest	12. To finalize the post-Rinderpest eradication contingency plan for Africa;	☆ AU-IBAR	The contingency plan was finalized in June 2023 AU-PANVAC supporting NVI-Ethiopia to produce new RinderPest (RP) vaccine stock, a process already approved by the RP secretariat Refer to updates provided during the presentation at the 12th meeting of the RSC
	13. To support the Rinderpest post eradication activities, by developing Rinderpest contingency plans aligned to the Continental Contingency plan once finalised and implement the <i>Global Rinderpest Action Plan</i> (GRAP) to enhance their readiness;	MC	To use the 12 th RSC meeting to raise awareness
	 To send rinderpest containing materials to AU-PANVAC for safe sequestration as requested by the Heads of States of AU; 	MCs in collaboration with AU-PANVAC	Discussions with the Republic of South Africa ongoing Network of Rinderpest Holding Facilities meeting held online in February 2025, next meeting planned in Rome (April 2025) Refer to updates provided during the presentation at the 12th meeting of the RSC

RVF	15. To commit to strengthen collaboration with other partners (Quadripartite) under the framework of One Health; and to encourage Member(s) Countries/States to ensure transparent and early notification of <i>Rift valley fever</i> (RVF) in animals, enhanced surveillance and rapid response;	AU-IBAR, Quadripartite	Reporting of RVF in Burundi (anecdotal) FAO has supported the veterinary services of the Central African Republic to respond to the outbreak of RVF AU-PANVAC supported Republic of South Africa with RVF vaccine seed (sequencing), also compared with commercial vaccine There is no bridge between quadripartite and GF-TADs as yet (most detection by health services) Refer to updates provided during the presentation at the 12th meeting of the RSC
HPAI	 To raise awareness, enhance biosecurity measures, assess levels of preparedness and strengthen surveillance including wild birds for early detection, reporting and rapid response; 	☆ MC	To use the 12 th RSC meeting to raise awareness
	17. To review and update the Regional Contingency Plan against HPAI for West and Central Africa:	☆ AU-IBAR	No updates provided
	18. To continue to address HPAI as a regional, re-emerging priority in upcoming meetings;	RSC	Refer to the discussions of the of the 12 th meeting of the RSC
AHS	19. To undertake mapping of existing AHS vaccine producers and needs assessment for vaccines and encourage vaccine manufacturers to ensure vaccine availability (matching the relevant circulating serotypes) for Member(s) Countries/States;	☆ AU-PANVAC, AU- IBAR, WOAH	Refer to the discussions of the of the 12 th meeting of the RSC
RECs	20. To strengthen the ongoing collaborative relationship between AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, FAO, WOAH and <i>Regional</i> <i>Economic Communities</i> (REC) in the implementation of TADs control programmes to ensure sustainability of programmes and activities;	AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, FAO, WOAH, REC Secretariats	 RECs recognize GF-TADs as a suitable platform for cooperation: Example: inter-agency coordination meetings FAO WOAH IBAR PANVAC Example: regional coordination on continental PPR eradication: Inter-REC meeting held in 2024 in Casablanca Morocco (month) and December in Nairobi, Kenya, both PPR focused; ECCAS Stakeholder Forum on PPR Eradication Program held in Feb 2025 in Libreville Gabon FAO in collaboration with ECOWAS organised a regional workshop on the prevention and control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in in Accra, Ghana, from May 30 to June 2, 2024. Participants from 15 ECOWAS countries, along with representatives from selected Central, East, and Southern African countries attended the workshop.

			In 2023, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) Commission provided financial support of approximately US\$200,000 to four of its Member States (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau and Togo) to update their national strategic plans on PPR To roll out Standard Methods and Procedures for animal health (SMP-AH) of 10 priority TADs and quarantine; a <i>training of trainers</i> (ToT) of 17 officers (one female) from Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia was conducted for 5 days by IGAD-ICPALD. The training enhances compliance to SPS measures through harmonization of animal disease prevention, surveillance, diagnostic and control/eradication procedures for sustainable livestock export trade.
	21. To better anchor, institutionalize, operationalize the existing regional animal health, laboratory and epidemiology networks and harmonise their activities with <i>Regional Economic Communities</i> (REC) systems for sustainable funding and effective continuity;	Regional networks, AU- IBAR, REC Secretariats	The 12 th EA-RAHN meeting was held virtually in 2022, due to COVID-19 movement control restriction. It was attended by 55 participants from EAC and IGAD Member States, FAO, WOAH, AU-IBAR, AgResults, GALVmed, IGAD, and GALVmed. EA-RAHN network meetings are labelled GF-TADs, though unfortunately had to be cancelled 2023 & 2024 ECOWAS Animal Health Meeting held in Cabo Verde (PANVAC, IBAR, FAO, WOAH) To enhance information sharing on trade sensitive diseases between IGAD Member States, IGAD facilitated signature of information sharing protocol between Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda (Karamoja cluster) by CVOs of the of the 4 countries. To strengthen collaboration and cooperation on TADs and zoonoses control and eradication, IGAD convened Multi-sectoral One Health platform for coordination, prevention and control of zoonotic diseases between Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia which documented the most important zoonotic diseases within the cluster and proposed further collaboration modalities IGAD facilitated updating of a joint surveillance and livestock vaccination calendar for Dikhil and Karamoja clusters in a regional meeting
VEE, VSB	22. To encourage Member(s) Countries/States to utilise the veterinary paraprofessional training tools developed by FAO, WOAH and VEE in order to bridge the gap of shortage of veterinary and veterinary paraprofessionals needed to respond to TADs surveillance and other field activities;	RSC	Member(s) Countries/States utilising the tools include Zambia, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Kenya, Togo, Senegal, DRC, South Africa, Uganda and Nigeria Sub-Regional awareness raising efforts were conducted for SADC, in Arusha FAO has supported veterinary paraprofessional's capacity building in technical delivery, entrepreneurship development and engagements with the registered veterinarians' associations and veterinary statutory bodies in Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda.

 To continue supporting the African Association of Veterinary Education Establishments (2A2V-E) by ensuring the sustainability of funding and the alignments of programmes with WOAH veterinary competencies guidelines; 	A Continental Workforce Development Conference was held in Nairobi in November 2024, at the sidelines was an annual meeting of the 2A2V-E. There is anticipated possible support from the BMGF to continue supporting this initiative. Pan-African University held a student mentorship on vaccine production and shipment of biological material
To continue the implementation of pending recommendations of the RSC-9 and RSC-10.	

Annex 2: Agenda of the 12th meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC12) of the GF-TADs for Africa, as implemented (with <u>additions</u> and deletions)





World Organisation for Animal Health Founded as OIE



12th Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC12) of the GF-TADs for Africa

Mbabane, Eswatini (GMT+2)

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Bureau for the meeting

- AU : President (AU-IBAR) Huyam Salih
 FAO : Vice President (RAF) Mohammed Shamsuddin
- WOAH : Vice President (WOAH Council Member) Roland Dlamini

Tuesday 11 March 2025			
08:00 - 09:00	Arrival and registration of participants and briefing		
Session 1. Welc	oming remarks	~∑₀	
09:00 – 09.20	 African Union Food and Agriculture Organisation World Organisation for Animal Health 	Huyam Salih Mohammed Shamsuddin Roland Dlamini	
09:20 – 09:40	Opening address by the Minister of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Eswatini	Hon. Mandla Tshawuka	
09:40 – 10:10	Break and group photograph		
10:10 – 10:20	Adoption of the agenda	Huyam Salih (AU, RSC President)	

Session 2. Governance aspects			
10:20 – 10:30	Overview of the recommendations of the 14 th Global Steering Committee (GSC) May 2024	Madhur Dhingra (MC, FAO), Neo Mapitse (MC, WOAH)	
10:30 – 10:50	Overview of the minutes and the recommendations of the 11 th RSC (June 2022) and their level of implementation	Karim Tounkara and Viola Chemis (WOAH, Regional Secretariat)	
10:50 – 11:00	Proposed amendments to the RSC Terms of Reference and to the Terms of Reference of SGEs	P. Bastiaensen (WOAH)	
11:00 – 11:10	New country representation following the elections of the regional bureau and the council at the 91 st General Session in 2024 (Morocco, Nigeria, new members).	Karim Tounkara (WOAH, Regional Secretariat)	
11:10 – 11:20	Renewal of the Presidency and Vice- Presidency of the RSC (tenure ended October 2024).	Huyam Salih (AU, RSC President)	

Session 3. Reporting on GF-TADs global disease control and (post) eradication initiatives				
11:20 – 12:00	 Rinderpest post-eradication activities Joint Advisory Committee work plan: updates Vaccine bank - Maintaining Africa free from Rinderpest 	Henry Wamwayi (JAC) Charles Bodjo (PANVAC)		
12:00 – 12:30	Discussion			
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch			
13:30 – 14:10	 Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) control Updates on progress made in terms of the availability of FMD vaccines in Eastern Africa (GALVmed) and Africa at large (PANVAC) Update on FMD risks, progress along the PCP-FMD and the role of (sub)regional strategies 	Badi Maulidi (GALVmed) Charles Bodjo (PANVAC) Melissa McLaws (FAO, FMD WG)		
14:10 – 14:30	Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) control Country presentation: Morocco 	Abderrahman El-Abrak (Delegate)		
14:30 – 15:00	Discussion			
15:00 – 15:40	 Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) eradication Pan-African PPR programme Global overview of PPR GEP 	Huyam Salih (AU- IBAR) Simon Kihu (WOAH), Felix Njeumi (FAO) (PPR Secretariat)		
15:40 – 16:10	Break			
16:10 – 16:30	 Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) eradication Country presentation: Nigeria Country cluster presentation: PRAPS 	Columba Vakuru (Delegate) Idriss Oumar Al-Farouk (WOAH)		
16:30 – 16:50	Updates on the <i>Partnerships and Financing Panel</i> (PFP) of the GF-TADs	Bouda Ahmadi (FAO, GS)		
16:50 – 17:30	Discussion (and end of livestream broadcast)			

17:30 – 18:00	Closed meeting of the writing team (moderators, facilitators and rapporteurs) from AU, FAO and WOAH	
Wednesday 12 I	March 2025	
08:00 - 09:00	Arrival and registration of participants and brief	ing
Session 3. Repo initiatives (cont'o	orting on GF-TADs global disease control and (po d)	ost) eradication
09:00 – 10:00	 African Swine Fever (ASF) control Continental Strategy – recent endorsement (May 2024) Updates on progress made in terms of the Global Initiative on ASF Control Outcomes of the 4th meeting of the SGE for ASF (October 2024) held online 	Hiver Boussini (AU- IBAR) Andriy Rozstalnyy (Co- chair of ASF WG, FAO) Viola Chemis (ASF WG, WOAH)
10:00 – 10:20	 African Swine Fever (ASF) control Country presentation: SGE Member South Africa 	Leana Janse Van Rens-burg (Western Cape VS)
10:20 – 10:50	Discussion	
10:50 – 11:20	Break	

Session 4. Reporting on GF-TADs for Africa regional priority diseases and topics				
11:20 – 12:00	Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) Panel discussion 	Loïc Comtet (I-D) <u>Huyam Salih (IBAR)</u> Charles Bodjo (PANVAC) Mamadou Niang (FAO) Neo Mapitse (WOAH)		
12:00 – 12:20	 Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) Outcomes of the 2nd meeting of the SGE for CBPP (July 2024) held in Lusaka, Zambia 	Charles Chinyemba Maseka (Zambia Delegate)		
12:20 – 12:40	Discussion			
12:40 – 13:40	Lunch			
13:40 – 14:20	 Rift valley fever (RVF) Understanding transmission thresholds for endemic and epidemic RVF Ahead of the curve: anticipating RVF outbreaks through forecasting- a strategy for early warning, timely response and mitigation in the Africa region 	Bernard Bett (ILRI) Fredrick Kivaria (FAO)		
14:20 – 14:40	Rift valley fever (RVF)Country presentation: Central African Republic	Marcel Boka (FAO)		
14:40 – 15:00	Discussion			

Session 5. Emerging issues, requiring the attention of the GF-TADs RSC			
15:00 – 15:40	High pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI)Revision of the HPAI Global Strategy	Madhur Dhingra (MC, FAO)	
15:40 – 16:40	 High pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) Country presentation : Uganda Country presentation : France (vaccination) 	Anne Rose Ademun (Delegate) Olivier Debaere (DGAL)	
16:40 – 17:00	Break		
17:00 – 17:30	Discussion (and end of livestream broadcast)		
17:30 – 18:00	Closed meeting of the writing team (moderators, facilitators and rapporteurs) from AU, FAO and WOAH		

Thursday 13 March 2025				
08:00 - 09:00	Arrival and registration of participants and briefing			
Session 6. Repo	Session 6. Reporting on GF-TADs for Africa networking frameworks			
09:00 – 09:20	Continental laboratory networksVETLAB Network	Charles Lamien (FAO- IAEA)		
09:20 – 10:00	 Regional laboratory and epidemiology networks SADC LTC - LSC (Southern Africa) IGAD EAREN (Eastern Africa) 	Pious Makaya (Chair, Zimbabwe) Kassahun Amssalu (ag. Chair, Ethiopia) <u>Dereje Wakjira</u> <u>(ICPALD, IGAD)</u>		

Session 5. Emerging issues, requiring the attention of the GF-TADs RSC (continued)			
10:00 – 10:40	Lumpy skin disease (LSD) Panel discussion 	Charles Lamien (FAO- IAEA) A. Van Schalkwyk (OVRI) <u>Andriy Rozstalnyy</u> <u>(FAO)</u>	
10:40 – 11:10	Break		
11:10 – 11:30	Lumpy skin disease (LSD) ● Country presentation : Congo (Dem Rep)	Honoré N'Lemba Mabela (Delegate)	
11:30 – 11:50	Discussion		
11:50 – 12:30	 African Horse Sickness (AHS) Vaccine production shortages and solutions Challenges validating AHS laboratory assays 	Nobalanda Mokoena (OBP) Baratang A. Lubisi (OVRI)	
12:30 – 12:50	African Horse Sickness (AHS)Country presentation : Eswatini	Roland Dlamini (Delegate)	
12:50 – 13:10	Discussion		
13:10 – 14:10	Lunch		

Session 7. Strengthening of VS, role of the Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) and Education Establishments (VEE), feedback from the private sector / stakeholders				
14:10 – 14:30	 Strengthening capacities of veterinary services : FAO Tools and programmes : Regional support laboratories' concept 		Moh. Shamsuddin (FAO)	
14:30 – 14:50	 Strengthening capacities of veterinary services : WOAH Tools and programmes : launch of the PVS Information System 		Jennifer Lasley (WOAH)	
14:50 – 15:10	 Role of the Veterinary Statutory Bodies Update from the African Association for Veterinary Statutory Bodies 		Florence Kasirye (UVB)	
15:10 – 15:30	 Role of the Veterinary Education Establishments Update from the African Association for Veterinary Education Establishments 		Noursaid Tligui (IAV Moh.VI)	
15:30 – 15:50	 Feedback from the private sector / stakeholders Update from the <i>Pan-African Farmers</i> <i>Organisation</i> (PAFO) 		Zuberi Bihangamanywa (PAFO)	
15:50 – 16:10	Discussion			
16:10 – 16:50	Prolonged break Closed meeting of th (moderators, facilitation from AU, FAO and V		tors and rapporteurs)	

Session 8. Final deliberations, recommendations, next meeting, closing			
16:50 – 17:00	Presentation of the draft recommendations	Karim Tounkara (WOAH)	
17:00 – 17:40	Discussion (adoption will follow in two weeks)		
17:40 – 17:50	Dates and venue / format of 2025 meetings of SGEs, RMMs and RSC13	Moh. Shamsuddin (FAO)	
17:50 – 18:00	Closing statement by the RSC Chair	Huyam Salih (AU)	
18:00	End of online broadcast		

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Annex 3. List of participants (in light blue colour : online attendance)

Title	First name	Middle name(s)	SURNAME	Position	Department / Division	Institution	City or town	Country
Dr	Anna Rose	OKURUT -	ADEMUN	Commissioner Animal Health/Chief Veterinary Officer	DAH	MAAIF	Entebbe	Uganda
Dra	Veronica	Roxana	AGUILAR	GF-TAD Regional Project Officer for the Americas	Sub-Regional Representation for Central America and the Caribbean	WOAH	Panama	Panama
Dr	Bouda	Vosough	AHMADI	Coordinator of the global secretariat of the GF-TADs	NSAH	FAO	Rome	Italy
Dr	Patrick	Xavier	BASTIAENSEN	Programme Officer	Sub - Regional Representation for Eastern Africa	WOAH	Nairobi	Kenya
Dr	Charles		BEBAY	Regional Manager, Eastern and Southern Africa	ECTAD	FAO	Nairobi	Kenya
Dr	Bernard	Kiprono	BETT	Team Leader	Health	ILRI	Nairobi	Kenya
Dr	Cyprien		BIAOU	Livestock Development Officer	Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa	FAO	Libreville	Gabon
Mr.	Zuberi	BIHANGA	MANYWA	Policy Officer	Policy	PAFO	Kigali	Rwanda
Dr	Charles	Sanne	BODJO	Director	AU-PANVAC	AU	Bishoftu	Ethiopia
Dr	Marcel	Ohoukou	ВОКА	ECTAD	FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF)	FAO	Accra	Ghana
Dr	Hiver		BOUSSINI	Senior Animal Health Officer	AU-IBAR	AU	Nairobi	Kenya
Dr	Patchili		BOUZABO	Coordonnateur (CRSA-AC)	Centre Régional de Santé Animale pour l'Afrique centrale	CEEAC (ECCAS)	Ndjamena	Tchad

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Dr	Anné		CALITZ	Business Development Manager Sub-Saharan Africa	Innovative Diagnostics	I-D	Grabels	France
Dr	Loïc		COMTET	Livestock R&D and Product Range Manager	Innovative Diagnostics	I-D	Grabels	France
Dr	Viola	Jelagat	CHEMIS	Regional Programme Coordinator	Regional Activities Department	WOAH	Nairobi	Kenya
Dr	Olivier	Elie	DEBAERE	Directeur de crise	Direction générale de l'alimentation (DGAL)	Ministère de l'Agriculture	Paris	France
Dr	Madhur	Saharan	DHINGRA	Head of Emergency Prevention System for Animal Health	Animal Production and Health Division	FAO	Rome	Italy
Dr	Roland	Xolani	DLAMINI		Veterinary and Livestock Department	Ministry of Agriculture	Mbabane	Eswatini
Dr	Patrick	Mduduzi	DLAMINI		Veterinary and Livestock Department	Ministry of Agriculture	Mbabane	Eswatini
Dr	Alexandre		FEDIAEVSKY	Interim Head	PRD	WOAH	Paris	France
Dr	Lionel	Ahonaffon	GBAGUIDI	Animal Health and Production Officer	Subregional Office for West Africa	FAO	Dakar	Senegal
Dr	Livio	Edward	HEATH	Research Team Manager	Onderstepoort Veterinary Research	Agricultural Research Council	Pretoria	S/Africa
Mrs.	Jean (Nina)	Dalrymple	HENNING	Team Lead	AgResults FMD Vaccine Challenge Project	GALVmed	Nairobi	Kenya
Dr	Myriam		ISPA	Programme Officer	PRD	WOAH	Paris	France
Dr	Leana	JANSE - VAN	RENSBURG	State Veterinarian: Animal Health	Veterinary Services	Western Cape Department of Agriculture	George	S/Africa
Dr	Florence		KASIRYE	Registrar	Uganda Veterinary Board	2AVSB	Kampala	Uganda

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Dr	Simon	Mwangi	KIHU	Programme Officer	Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa	WOAH	Nairobi	Kenya
Dr	Fredrick	Mathias	KIVARIA	Épidémiologiste régional	ECTAD	FAO	Nairobi	Kenya
Dr	Charles	Euloge	LAMIEN	Technical Officer	Joint FAO/IAEA Centre	IAEA	Vienna	Austria
Ms.	Jennifer	Nicole	LASLEY	Senior Programme Coordinator	CBD	WOAH	Paris	France
Dr	Moetapele		LETSHWENYO	Sub Regional Representative	Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa	WOAH	Gaborone	Botswana
Dr	Mbargou		LO	Directeur des Services vétérinaires	Direction des Services vétérinaires	MASAE	Dakar	Sénégal
Dr	Baratang	Alison	LUBISI	Acting Senior Manager Researcher: Animal Health and Protection	Onderstepoort Veterinary Research	Agricultural Research Council	Pretoria	S/Africa
Dr	Pious	Vengesai	ΜΑΚΑΥΑ	Chief Director Veterinarian	Veterinary Services	Ministry of Agriculture	Harare	Zimbabwe
Dr	Yoseph	Shiferaw	MAMO	Senior Fisheries and Livestock Officer	Industry and Agriculture Division	COMESA	Lusaka	Zambia
Dr	Neo	Joel	MAPITSE	Sub-Regional Representative	Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa	WOAH	Nairobi	Kenya
Dr	Charles	Chinyemba	MASEKA	Ag. Director	Department of Veterinary Services	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock	Lusaka	Zambia
Dr	Melissa		MCLAWS	FAO Co-chair of FMD working group	NSAH	FAO	Ottawa	Canada
Dr	Sihle		MDLULI		Veterinary and Livestock Department	Ministry of Agriculture	Mbabane	Eswatini
Dr	Nobalanda	Betty	MOKOENA	Chief Scientific Officer	Research and Development	Onderstepoort Biological Products	Pretoria	S/Africa

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Dr	Ricarda		MONDRY	SFE Livestock Development Officer	Subregional Office for Eastern Africa	FAO	Addis Ababa	Ethiopia
Dr	Thembi		NDLANGAMAND	•	Veterinary and Livestock Department	Ministry of Agriculture	Mbabane	Eswatini
Dr	Mamadou		NIANG		Regional Office for Africa (RAF)	FAO		
Mr.	Badi	Maulidi	OMAR	Senior Manager - Buyer Relations Lead	Research and Development	GALVmed/AgResults	Nairobi	Kenya
Ms.	Claudia		PITTIGLIO	Disease ecology and risk modelling expert	NSAH	FAO	Rome	Italy
Dr	Andriy		ROZSTALNYY	Co-Chair of the ASF WG	NSAH	FAO	Rome	Italy
Dr	Huyam	Elamin	SALIH	Director	AU-IBAR	AU	Nairobi	Kenya
Dr	Mohammed		SHAMSUDDIN	Senior Animal Production and Health Officer	Regional Office for Africa (RAF)	FAO	Accra	Ghana
Dr	Minhahoué		TCHOUTCHOU	Chef de Division Santé animale et santé publique vétérinaire	Direction des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques	UEMOA	Ouagadougou	Burkina Faso
Ms.	Nomsa		THEKISO	Administration Assistant	Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa	WOAH	Gaborone	Botswana
Prof.	Noursaid		TLIGUI	Dean	Mohammed VI Veterinary School	2A2E-V	Rabat	Morocco
Dr	Karim		TOUNKARA	Regional Representative for Africa	Regional Representation for Africa	WOAH	Bamako	Mali
Dr	Columba	Teru	VAKURU	Chief Veterinary Officer	Veterinary and Pest Control Services	Federal Ministry of Livestock Development	Abuja	Nigeria

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D.,	F rances			Dragman officer	Cub Decience	WOALL	Turcia	Turisia
Dr	Francesco		VALENTINI	Programme Officer	Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa	WOAH	Tunis	Tunisia
Dr	Antoinette	VAN	SCHALKWYK	Senior Researcher	Onderstepoort Veterinary Research	Agricultural Research Council	Pretoria	S/Africa
Dr	Dereje		WAKJIRA	Director	ICPALD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)	Nairobi	Kenya
Dr	Henry	Matukho	WAMWAYI	Member	FAO/WOAH	Rinderpest JAC	Nairobi	Kenya
Dr	Abebe		WOLDE	ECTAD	Regional Office for Africa (RAF)	FAO	Accra	Ghana





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