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

12ème réunion du Comité de pilotage régional (CPR12) du GF-TADs Afrique

Final Recommendations	Recommandations finales
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, Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) and Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) and as	**Status of Implémentation**

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;	viii. At the **92nd WOAH General Session (May 2025)**, Members adopted the first international standard specifically addressing ASF vaccines, incorporated into the WOAH Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Chapter 3.9.1). This establishes minimum technical requirements for the production, quality control, safety, and efficacy evaluation of ASF vaccines. WOAH supports the development and use of African swine fever vaccines that meet internationally agreed standards for quality, safety and efficacy. Following the adoption of Chapter 3.9.1 of the WOAH Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals in May 2025, WOAH recommends that only vaccines compliant with these standards be used in the field. Vaccination should form part of an integrated ASF prevention and control strategy and be accompanied by appropriate field evaluation, post-vaccination monitoring, surveillance and biosecurity measures. Africa – Lome declaration
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 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;	

i. That the reduced capacity for delivery of Veterinary Services (VS) 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; ii. Availability of different veterinary training tools for veterinary and veterinary paraprofessionals that are developed by FAO, WOAH and Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE); iii. Expected increase in demand for animal and animal products in the wake of the *Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement* (AfCFTA); iv. 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*	**Status of Implémentation**
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);	a) Update to be provided on the WOAH Council b) Discussion on the regional GF-TADs strategy, 2027 – 2031

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).		
The 12th Regional Steering Committee for Africa *recommends*		**Status of Implémentation**
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, *African Animal Trypanosomiasis* (AAT), High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza and Rabies; 2. *Regional Economic Communities* (RECs) to develop or implement (sub)regional strategies, which are in line with these continental strategies; 3. Member(s) Countries/States to promote the use of compartmentalisation and zoning to prevent TADs and reduce their impact on trade; ~~4. To support the GF-TADs *Partnerships and Financing Panel* (PFP) and interact with the Panel to ensure that the RSC~~	1. AU-IBAR has facilitated the development and endorsement by the AU Executive council and Heads of states for two strategies: • Completed - The Continental Strategy for Sustainable Control & Elimination of Animal Trypanosomiasis in Africa (2026- 2035), and the Pan African Strategy for elimination of dog-mediated rabies in Africa (PASERA) 2026-2035. • Ongoing, The Technical working group for the development of the Continental strategy for CBPP is being established, and the draft will be discussed in the AU CVO meeting May 2027, to be submitted to AU-STC in October 2027. • Not initiated, FMD and HPAI continental strategies are to be considered for 2027. • ASF Regional Strategy Validated by CVOs 2. FMD strategy for Eastern Africa validated – IGAD-ICPALD/EAC, AU-IBAR, FAO, WOAH Updates to be provide by respective RECs on implementation of the priority disease strategies 3. Nigeria has constituted a national committee on compartmentalisation and zoning. The committee is expected to develop the national framework and standard operating procedures (SOPs). The Federal Ministry of Livestock Development is engaging relevant stakeholders to agree on the way forward. Nigeria's FMD risk-based strategic planning also identifies high-risk zones for intensified surveillance, vaccination pilots, improved market biosecurity, border surveillance and animal-movement monitoring. Formal operationalisation of compartmentalisation/zoning is still under development. • Country updates on zoning and compartmentalisation 4. PFP mechanism to be updated by GS 5. Ongoing process: The AU Summit for Animal resources sustainable Transformation, to include Animal and One health among other topics supported by AU-IBAR including the sustainable production, value chains and trade.

	~~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;	• The internal Concept note has been developed and submitted to H.E commissioner ARBE, who has guided to prepare the working papers with stakeholders to be submitted for the approval of AU STC ARDWE in Oct 2027 • Internal organizing Committee was established, to prepare the draft working document and engage with partners starting from the Q4 2026 6. Session chairs take responsibility (with support f rapporteur) to deliver session recommendations (same format) as per this meeting deliberations
Rinderpest	7. FAO, WOAH and development partners provide support for the renewal and maintenance of the rinderpest vaccine reserves at the AU-PANVAC Rinderpest Holding Facility; 8. The RSC to support the ongoing African Union Commission initiative to complete the destruction or transfer of *Rinderpest Virus Containing Materials* (RVCM), still held in national laboratories, to the AU-PANVAC;	7. AU supported the production of 2 million doses of RBOK vaccine to supplement the reserve au AU-PANVAC, which currently has 4.5 million doses. • FAO and WOAH are undertaking an outbreak modelling study which includes five regional scenarios and will support future decisions regarding the size of the rinderpest vaccine reserves. 8. There has been limited progress in the transfer of rinderpest materials from South Africa to AU-PANVAC. • AU-PANVAC continues to seek support from African Union member states to maintain reserves of rinderpest vaccines within AU-PANVAC. Further updates in session 3
Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD)	9. Strengthen the implementation of the Global FMD Control Strategy through the *Progressive Control Pathway* for FMD (PCP) and implement the recommendations of respective regional roadmaps; 10. AU-PANVAC and *The Pirbright Institute* (TPI) to establish FMDV panels for vaccine validation in all African regions, in addition to Eastern Africa;	9. Nigeria is currently assessed at PCP-FMD Stage 1 and working towards Stage 2. A Risk-Based Strategic Plan/Control Plan has been developed, while revision is being undertaken by the National FMD Control Technical Working Group through stakeholder engagement. The plan is yet to receive FAO/WOAH approval, which is required before it can be implemented as the national programme and used to support progression to Stage 2. • Proposed 2026/2027 activities include policy and legal framework development, active/targeted and passive surveillance, early detection and response, vaccination, awareness, biosecurity, animal-movement control, laboratory support and data analytics. • Reported circulating serotypes include A, O, SAT 1 and SAT 2, with O/EA-3 topotype recently detected. • NVRI has ELISA, PCR and virus-isolation capacity; sample transport and molecular epidemiology remain challenges. Updates to be provided by FMD-WG, RECs, AU-IBAR – Session 3 10. On going discussion with The Pirbright Institute (TPI) – Session 3
Peste des petits ruminants (PPR)	11. That Member(s) Countries/States commit national resources,	

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Commented [MM2R1]: Point 7 - AU supported the production of 2 million doses of RBOK vaccine to supplement the reserve au AU-PANVAC, which currently has 4.5 million doses.
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Point 8 - There has been limited progress in the transfer of rinderpest materials from South Africa to AU-PANVAC.

	complementing the development partners' support to the eradication of PPR from Africa; 12. AU-IBAR, with the support of FAO and WOAH to enhance advocacy for additional investment in the PPR Continental programme for *Sub-Saharan Africa* (SSA) and North Africa;	11. NSPs only partly funded in most countries; this complements EU 8M (PPR 1: Nov 2024 – Nov 2027); establishment of PAPs with representation of AU, RECs, FAO, WOAH, supporting MS • Some governments yet to fund PPR activities. • Nationally funded vaccinations in some countries. • The EU-funded PPR2 is approved with 50 M euros for sub-saharan Africa. • FAO has continued engagement and advocacy with MOA and CVOs of MCs to mobilise domestic investments in PPR eradication and strengthening the animal Health systems in general. • Nigeria has updated/reviewed its PPR National Strategic Plan (NSP) to align it with current epidemiological realities and the global eradication framework, with FMLD, AU-IBAR and stakeholders involved. PPR sero-monitoring has been conducted across 22 states. ELISA results are currently available for the 22 states. Other interventions include the NADIS upgrade for real-time disease reporting; NVRI capacity upgrade to increase vaccine production; a PVS Evaluation with focus on PR eradication; and an AU-IBAR monitoring and evaluation mission on eradication progress. L-PRES has supported solar-powered vaccine storage facilities reported across six states. Procurement of 10 million PPR vaccine doses is planned under L-PRES. In addition, 9 model veterinary hospitals have been built and 11 ambulatory veterinary ambulances procured. Earlier national project reporting also records a completed 40-million-dose solar-powered vaccine storage facility at Sheda, FCT, with additional facilities reported as ongoing. These infrastructure and capacity investments support eradication readiness. 12. Concept note to AfDB, USD 7M awaits decision (CAG, Nov 2026); AU-IBAR leading discussion with different donors and entities to explore extra fund for the PPR Eradication from Africa. • For North Africa, AU requested jointly with UMA the AOAD to support the recruitment of PPR coordinator for North Africa to finalize their updated strategy and lead in coordination with AU-IBAR, the resource mobilization process. • AOAD has confirmed their support and follow up is on the implementation. • FAO with AU-IBAR and WOAH has continued advocacy for resources mobilisations to accelerate achieving the PPR eradication with EU Commission, MSs' permanent representatives in Rome, and MOA. FAO brought the PPR eradication agenda to the ARC 34, the highest FAO African regional policy platform and governing bodies.
African swine fever (ASF)	13. To encourage Member(s) Countries/States to support and implement the Continental Strategy for the Control of *African swine fever* (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	13. SGE IV discussed governance and update provided on regional strategy; • Back-to-back with SGE, a regional workshop on the coordination mechanism, partnership and advocacy for resource mobilisation to implement the regional ASF control strategy" on 15 and 16 October 2025: • Meeting was held to address implementation modalities of the strategy, and particularly its funding; mostly technical discussions – contextualizing the strategy, coordination/cross-border risk management, compensation schemes. • Need to push forward on the business case for investment • Nigeria participated in the 5th Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts (SGE) on African Swine Fever (ASF) and contributed inputs to the Continental ASF Strategy (CASF) Initiative. The country also successfully controlled ASF outbreaks reported in Lagos, Osun and Plateau States

	ASF) before granting any authorization for its use or distribution;	14. A joint declaration IBAR/PANVAC/WOAH/FAO on the use of vaccines against African swine fever (ASF) in Africa following the Lomé meeting October 2025 published • NVRI vaccine-production capacity is being upgraded. The country will ensure that new vaccines are evaluated through AU-PANVAC against WOAH standards before authorization.
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 and control of CBPP, diagnostic test methods and kits, 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;	15. The Technical working group for the development of the Continental strategy for CBPP is being established, and the draft will be discussed in the AU CVO meeting May 2027, to be submitted to AU STC in October 2027. • Bilateral discussions ongoing with parters to support countries develop national control plans 16. Capacity building activities facilitated by WOAH • WOAH Procedures for official status recognition, endorsement of official control programmes and their maintenance with regard to Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), April 2026, Lusaka, Zambia • A ToT programme based on enhanced slaughterhouse surveillance and reporting has been initiated by WOAH & CBPP Reference IZS-Teramo. • The first Cohort Training for Training of trainers conducted in April 2026, involving 14 African countries, Nairobi • Trainers' manual published • Reporting guidelines published • Next SGE, Nov 2026, to discuss diagnostics FAO GPP TAD, the new initiative to respond to TADs focuses on strengthening sustainable animal health delivery systems capacities in countries leveraging their existing programmes. This has supported by various AH enhancement projects, including the PF projects in over 25 countries in SS Africa. Nigeria: CBPP vaccination figures have improved but remain insufficient to achieve herd immunity. LPRES project supported 23.5 million vaccine doses distribution against several priority animal diseases, including CBPP, and also supported vaccination campaigns in multiple states. On AMR, national data are now available on antimicrobial imports for animal use and indicate a substantial decline over time. However, data on antimicrobial use for treatment and its contribution to AMR risk remain inadequate. An assessment of antimicrobial use and resistance in the animal health sector is still needed.
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	17. Since the Launch of the Rift Valley Fever Decision Support Tool in November 2025, operational experience was shared in Kenya, Tanzania and Madagascar, while Senegal, Mauritania, The Gambia, Mali and Niger were preparing to use it for data exchange, targeted surveillance and vaccination planning. • Session 4 updates - plenary 18. Session 4 updates - plenary

	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)	19. 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; 20. That FAO and WOAH launch regional engagement and consultation to operationalise the HPAI Global strategy (fostering *"Local solutions to Global issues");*	19. FAO in collaboration with AU-PANVAC and Gorilla Doctors supported 32 countries (some countries overlaps) via two workshops to enhance their capacities on IATA compliance on sampling and samples transport, biosecurity, biosafety and wildlife and emerging diseases surveillance. Nigeria have developed Biosecurity guidelines and SOPs for poultry and aquaculture. An FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is ongoing in Nigeria to support short-term HPAI prevention and control interventions, including stakeholder engagement, surveillance, risk communication and capacity building. Previous national project reporting also records wild-bird surveillance training for frontline One Health officers in Kano and Adamawa, as well as FAO-supported HPAI risk-assessment training. Sustained farmer training on practical biosecurity measures remains important. Session 5 – plenary 20. Session 5 – panel discussion
Lumpy skin disease (LSD)	21. 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; 22. Member(s) Countries/States, with the support of AU-IBAR, FAO and WOAH to invest in capacity building and knowledge transfer, promoting integrated surveillance, multiparametric testing and syndromic surveillance activities, and to exploit the support of reference laboratories; 23. AU-PANVAC, the FAO-IAEA Joint Division on nuclear technologies in food and agriculture, reference laboratories and vaccine producers to	21. Contribution to alerts and awareness campaigns • Awareness campaigns promoting effective vaccination content • VLC Course: FAO online course on lumpy skin disease accredited by the South African Veterinary Council • Regional technical meeting for dissemination of experiences – Europe, Asia – WOAH • FAO supported 27 countries in SS Africa through 54 Farmers' Fiend Schools to increase vaccine use, improve farm biosecurity and reduce AM uses. • Farmer Field School and livestock-extension activities occurred in several states of Nigeria, covering good animal husbandry practices and other livestock-management topics, alongside support for vaccination campaigns. 22. Capacity building through in-person and online course, regional workshops; • IAEA, WOAH Reference labs and international experts, FAO – diagnostic capacity and technology transfer, vaccine evaluation, diagnostic standardisation, outbreak investigation • TZG OT (Tripartite Zoonotic Guide Operational Tool) - MCM (Multisectoral Coordination Mechanism) workshop in South Sudan, and uses of MCM in Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria for developing the One Health investment plans (and TADs?) • In Nigeria, NADIS (animal health information system) has been developed and is already being deployed, with some states reporting through the platform already. There was capacity strengthening for federal epidemiology officers in R, border surveillance and certification, also in PPR sero-monitoring across 22 states;

	assess LSD vaccine quality and efficacy towards a harmonised application of homologous vaccines throughout Africa;	and laboratory and surveillance capacity support. For AMR, a network of sentinel and reference laboratories for surveillance in the animal health sector has been established. Sustained surveillance is required to understand resistance patterns among indicator organisms across One Health sectors. Further evidence is needed on the extent of operational multiparametric and syndromic surveillance. 23. With the technical support of the Animal Production and Health Laboratory of the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre in Austria, a study was conducted employing next-generation sequencing and high-fidelity long-read technologies to characterize the RVF Smithburn and LSD Neethling vaccine seeds in the AU-PANVAC repository to demonstrate their suitability for use and to establish a baseline for future testing and quality. • Sequence data analysis confirmed that both the RVF and LSD vaccine seed viruses were genetically homogenous and confirmed to be free from bacterial contaminants. • These data showed the high quality of these vaccine seeds in the AU-PANVAC repository. • AU-PANVAC and the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre in Austria initiated a manuscript entitled "Genomic Characterization of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) Vaccine Seeds from the AU-PANVAC Repository" submitted for consideration for publication in the WOAH Scientific and Technical Review special issue on the theme Vaccines in Action
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;	24. Done
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;	25. The AU CoEs for TADs control in Livestock, was integrated as a component under the first phase project of the Integrated Regional Livestock Value Chains (IRLVC) programme 2026-2035. • The implementation is awaiting the contractual process with Gates Foundation for the planned period Nov 2026-Oct 2029.
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	26. AU-IBAR contributed to the 2A2E-V Conference on Veterinary Education 2026. • AU-IBAR discussed with University of Melbourn early 2026 and connected them with 2A2EV • Recently AU-IBAR discussed with Institutes of Freie University of Berlin, to support connection with 2A2EV for supporting updating curriculums, CPD and joint programmes. 27. Nigeria, working with FAO and with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Propcom+ and other partners, trained 124 veterinary paraprofessionals through three accredited Livestock Training Institutes. The Veterinary Council of Nigeria certified the curriculum and training. • FAO VPP project was implemented in 3 African countries: Uganda, Nigeria and South Africa. • Over 400 VPPs were trained and capacitated on private VPP practices MS updates, session 7 – plenary

	paraprofessionals needed to respond to TADs surveillance and other field activities.	