



## **SADC LIVESTOCK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING (LTCM)**

**Gaborone, Botswana, 10 - 12 May, 2011**

### **RECORD**

1.0 The first Livestock Technical Committee (LTC) meeting for 2011 was held in Gaborone, Botswana from 10 to 12 May 2011 at Boipuso Hall, Fairground Holdings. Directors of Veterinary Services and Livestock Services from nine Member States (Angola, DRC, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) attended the meeting which was chaired by Dr. Milton Maseke of Namibia. The Chairpersons of the four Sub-Committees of the LTC also attended the meeting together with representatives of the World Animal Health Organisation (Gaborone), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (Harare and Rome), International Livestock Research Institute (Maputo) and African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (Nairobi and Gaborone).

The meeting was opened by Mrs M. M. Nyirenda, Director of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate of the SADC Secretariat. Mrs Nyirenda emphasised on the need to formulate a new livestock programme for the region, to assist in reducing the region's dependence on imports and in increasing inter and intra regional trade for livestock products. The proceedings of the meeting are recorded below:

### **2.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The Livestock Technical Committee (LTC) considered and adopted the programme (**SADC/LTCM/May, 11/1**) as presented by the FANR Directorate.

### **3.0 Review of Implementation of the Resolutions/Recommendations of the LTC meeting of 03 to 05 November, 2010 (SADC/LTCM/May, 11/3)**

The meeting noted the implementation status of the recommendations of the LTC of November, 2010 most of which have been reported during the present meeting as substantive items.

#### **4.0 Report of the Epidemiology and Informatics Sub-Committee**

The Sub-Committee held its first meeting from 29 to 31 March 2011 in Arusha, Tanzania and made the following resolutions and recommendations

- That a request be sent to the East African Regional Epidemiology Network for a possibility of including an agenda item from the SADC-EIS for their next meeting. The EIS will be represented by either Tanzania or DRC who are members of both networks.
- That countries affected by ASF and those at risk should investigate the epidemio-dynamics of the disease and implement control measures. Furthermore there is a need for these countries to characterize the ASF virus.
- Recommends that PPR be recognized as an important emerging TAD in the SADC region.
- That PPR vaccinations be carried out in all affected member countries and those at risk to create protection zones along the borders with affected countries.
- Recognizing the rapid spread of PPR in Tanzania and DRC, which put at risk countries to the south (Angola, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia),the Sub-Committee appreciated the initiative to have a meeting to develop harmonized control strategy to stop the progress of PPR in the region.
- That all Member States adopt and implement the FMD pathway with commitments.
- That the competent authority on bee diseases and related issues must be defined in each Member State. The region needs to build capacity in diagnosis and reporting diseases of the bees and monitor the import and exports of bees, honey and related products to avoid the spread of diseases like the American foul brood. A workshop is planned for June 2011
- That the competent authority on fish diseases should be clearly defined in each Member State.
- That the region needs to build capacity in surveillance, diagnosis and reporting of fish diseases in natural environment and aquaculture.

4.1 LTC endorsed the recommendations/resolutions of the Sub-Committee and directed the Secretariat to facilitate implementation of the recommendations/resolutions

## **5.0 Veterinary Laboratory and Diagnostics Sub-Committee**

The Sub-Committee met from 14 to 16 March 2011 and made the following resolutions/recommendations to be considered by the LTC:

- Member States use the Prionics NSP kit as the preferred commercial kit for FMD NSP testing while awaiting a SAT-specific NSP kit to be developed and validated.
- The Sub-Committee endorsed the adoption, for routine use, of the SADC harmonized SOPs for Rabies FAT, FMD LPBE AI serology and AI PCR protocols (conventional and real time). There is however a need to repeat the PT for FMD LPBE after the 1st PT was not fully successful.
- The Heads of labs to ensure that all facilities currently involved in culturing Anthrax should comply with relevant OIE requirements.
- ARC-OVI, DRC and Swaziland should write TORs for Rabies WG and submit to the SC for further submission to the LTC for endorsement by end May 2011.
- That CVL Namibia makes a presentation and demonstrate SILAB as an alternative Lab LIMS at the next LTC meeting.
- That the QMS WG submits its business plan for all SADC labs for submission to LTC, for endorsement, before end of May 2011. SADC TADs is expected to fund the proposal.
- Laboratories should ensure that SOPs address issues of biosafety and biosecurity on handling, transportation and processing of infectious biological materials
- That the SADC diagnostic sub-committee members be part of the planning, design and implementation of sponsored regional research projects, e.g. the recent SADC TADs buffalo sampling activities in Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia.
- That detailed proposals for AI PCR PT and for Biosafety and Biosecurity training, with cost included, be submitted for consideration by SADC TADs project by end of April 2011.
- After realizing that the outcome of the FMD LPBE PT was not up to expectations the SC recommended that BVI should assist labs, that still experience problems with the test, through training and provision of common reagents.
- That Angola, DRC, Tanzania and Zambia should have a specific cross border meeting on PPR; this should involve the Veterinary Field Services/Epidemiology Sub-Committee to make it more effective.

5.1 LTC endorsed the recommendations/resolutions of the Sub-Committee and directed the Secretariat to assist in their implementation

## **6.0 Animal Production, Veld, Marketing and Animal Genetic Resources Sub-Committee**

The Sub-committee met on 09 May 2011 and made the following recommendations/resolutions to be considered by the LTC:

- Member States commit to send as much information as possible to the chairperson using all LIMS Modules
- That the Sub-Committee should submit research proposals in animal production to the LTC for implementation by the newly established Centre for the Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development in Southern Africa (CCARDESA)
- The Sub-Committee should develop proposals to increase livestock marketing and trade in the region
- The Sub-Committee should assist in the promotion of the characterisation, conservation and sustainable use of farm animal genetic resources
- Develop proposals for the conservation and optimum utilisation of animal feed resources to increase livestock production
- Develop means to adapt and/or mitigate the effects of climate change and other disasters on livestock production

6.1 LTC endorsed the resolutions/recommendations of the Sub-Committee and directed the Secretariat to assist in the development of the proposals.

## **7.0 Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety Sub-Committee**

The report of this Sub-Committee was not presented to the LTC as the Chair could not attend the meeting due to the recent outbreak of FMD in Botswana

## **8.0 Outline of a Livestock Development Programme for the Region**

8.1 The PRINT project laid down the foundation for the development and use of the Livestock Information Management System (LIMS), fostered public, private partnerships, supported the Sub-Committees of the LTC and conducted the Value Added Information Management System (VAIMS) and Zoning, Animal Identification and Traceability System (ZAITS) studies.

8.2 The SADC Foot and Mouth Disease Project (SADC FMDP) was implemented in three Member States (Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe) to control FMD and to seek a long term control for the disease for the region so as to increase the volume of trade within and outside the region. The project was instrumental in improving the efficacy of the FMD vaccine as

well as its field application. It created awareness for the necessity to manage transboundary animal diseases (TADs) in the transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs). The project trained veterinary personnel in post vaccination sero-monitoring exercises and launched a research project on FMD.

8.3 The SADC TADs project, presently being implemented, is to strengthen the capacity of veterinary institutions of five Member States in the identification, diagnosis and control of TADs in order to make livestock a more tradable commodity. The project is setting up a regional surveillance network for the control of TADs by organising border harmonisation meetings and by holding joint meetings of the Epidemiology and Vet Lab Sub-Committees. It is undertaking yearly sampling of buffaloes in national parks of the five Member States in order to understand better the topotypes of FMD viruses circulating in the buffalo as well as domestic cattle populations with the objective to improve control of FMD. National Virtual Centres are being set up to improve communications and information sharing between the countries and eventually with all the Member States of the region. SADC TADs project is also working on the details of the Southern African Commission for the Control of TADs (SACCT).

8.4 LTC noted that the PRINT project ended in November, 2009 and the SADC FMD project was closed in November, 2009 as well. The SADC TADs project will end in December, 2012. LTC also noted that there has been some improvement in livestock production from 2004 to 2009 (milk-23%, meat-30% and eggs-14%) in the region. However, SADC Member States are still net importers of livestock and livestock products.

8.5 LTC further noted that the Secretariat has developed the "Outlines of a Livestock Development Programme for the Region" which give an account of the constraints which are still impeding growth in the livestock sector. The document was circulated during the LTC meeting of November, 2010 for members to comment.

8.6 LTC considered the recommendations of the two groups formed during the meeting of the LTC on Animal Production and Animal Health. The Secretariat will be guided by these recommendations to formulate a livestock development programme for the next five years to be implemented at national level but coordinated by the Secretariat.

**8.7 LTC considered and approved the outlines, with the recommendations of the groups.**

**8.8 LTC directed the Secretariat to package the recommendations in one comprehensive programme, within the next two years, to assist the region to increase livestock production and decrease dependence on imports.**

## **9.0 Livestock Information and Management System (LIMS)**

9.1 LTC noted that there was a slight delay in publishing the 2009 edition of the Animal Health Yearbook. However, the Secretariat has taken appropriate measures to publish the 2010 edition during the second quarter of 2011.

9.2 LTC also noted that a LIMS training was conducted in Nov./Dec 2010 for all Member States in order to familiarise them with the new version of LIMS, with sponsorship of the SADC TADs project. However, during the training it was realised that many Member States have challenges with uploading data in LIMS. The LIMS developers, who were conducting the training, were apprised of the challenges, and the Secretariat is following up with the developers who are addressing these challenges. It is expected that all the issues will be taken care of by the end of June, 2011 so that a fresh training can be organised during the third quarter of 2011 when the new version of LIMS can be proposed to the Member States.

9.3 LTC further noted that Member States are still not providing data on animal production, livestock marketing and trade as well as the other modules of animal health. It is important to have all regional data on livestock in order to formulate policies and strategies in livestock development. Pending the resolving of the issues in LIMS, Member States are requested to send information in excel format to the Secretariat, on time so that consolidated information for the region can be disseminated to them.

9.4 LTC noted that Lesotho and Zambia are providing animal production data in LIMS format. The FAO regional office in Harare has offered to work with LIMS in consolidating livestock data for the region.

9.5 LTC commended Lesotho and Zambia for their efforts in sending animal production data in LIMS format and urged all Member States to participate in the forthcoming LIMS training in order that all livestock information could be sent in LIMS format to the Secretariat.

9.6 LTC urged Member States to designate dedicated personnel for data collection and entry into national and regional LIMS so that data can be sent on time to the Secretariat for analysis and report generation and dissemination.

9.7 LTC further urged Member States to invest in capacity building in data management facilitated by the Secretariat.

## **10.0 The Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) for FMD Control**

10.1 LTC noted that the Progressive Control Pathway for Foot and Mouth Disease (PCP-FMD) has been developed by FAO to assist and facilitate countries where FMD is still endemic to progressively reduce the impact of FMD and the load of FMD virus. FAO organised a workshop in Gaborone,

in March 2011, for countries of the region to familiarise with the PCP tool, which after consultation, has become a joint FAO/OIE tool. The PCP-FMD is expected to form the backbone of the Global FAO/OIE Strategy for the Control of FMD that is under development.

10.2 LTC noted that the Secretariat subscribes to the principles and applications of the PCP-FMD and that the SADC TADs project is following the same principles in its activities which are being implemented in the five participating Member States.

10.3 LTC urged Member States to adopt the principles, stages and standards for the progressive control pathway for FMD control.

## **11.0 Southern African Commission for the Control of TADs (SACCT)**

11.1 LTC noted that the FANR Directorate of the Secretariat is considering the Consultant's report regarding the SACCT. The Livestock Unit has been tasked to propose the operating modalities of the establishment of the SACCT together with its financial sustainability.

11.2 LTC also noted that the Livestock Unit, with the collaboration of the SADC TADs project, has started working on the details of the proposed establishment of the SACCT and its financial sustainability. The Legal Unit of the Secretariat will also be consulted and a full report will be submitted to the FANR Directorate and shared with the LTC members before the LTC meeting of November, 2011.

11.3 LTC directed the Secretariat and the SADC TADs project to report development at the next meeting of the LTC.

## **12.0 Emergency disease fund for the control of TADs**

12.1 LTC noted that at its April 2010 meeting it requested Member States to set up National Emergency Funds for TADs outbreaks. In the meantime the SADC TADs project would work out the modalities for the utilisation of the "Emergency Fund" for which seed money is available in the project and which will serve as a revolving fund to be accessed by Member States.

12.2 LTC also noted that the SADC TADs project fielded a consultancy in February/March 2011, as decided by the LTC in April 2010, to determine the modalities of utilisation of the Emergency Fund. Once the modalities are endorsed by the Bank and the Secretariat, Member States will be informed accordingly. The report of the Consultant has now been made available.

12.3 LTC urged Member States to study the report and to submit comments to the Secretariat by 15 June, 2011 at latest.

12.4 LTC directed the Secretariat and the SADC TADs Project to convene a workshop to discuss the report after receipt of comments from Member States.

### **13.0 Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism for HPAI and other TADs**

13.1 LTC noted that AU-IBAR is proposing an Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism (IRCM) for the prevention and control of TADs and zoonoses with the aim to strengthen the capacity of regional economic communities (RECs) to coordinate and harmonise actions implemented by Member States through capacity building and institutionalisation of coordination procedures and practices. The IRCM will initially focus on a very limited number of TADs and zoonoses (AHI and few emerging and re-emerging zoonoses prioritised by RECs), with the medium term objective of expanding its scope to all TADs and zoonoses. The IRCM will also be instrumental in promoting the “One World One Health” concept at national, regional and continental levels.

13.2 LTC also noted that AU-IBAR will soon start the implementation of other projects such as:

- The Veterinary Governance project
- The Pan African Forum of Livestock Exporting countries
- Vaccines for the Control of Neglected Animal Diseases in Africa.
- Regional project on surveillance of trade sensitive diseases
- Mixed production ecosystems and protected areas in Africa
- Development of better management practices for local fish farming
- Supporting climate change adaptation strategies through improved management at livestock/wildlife environment interface

13.3 LTC further noted that AU-IBAR has already sourced about Euro 50 million for the implementation of the above projects which will be implemented through the regional economic communities (RECs) of continental Africa, and Member States will participate through their respective RECs. AU-IBAR will provide extra financial and human resources to the RECs which will facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the projects.

13.4 The LTC noted and accepted the proposal of strengthening capacity (Finance and human) presented by AU-IBAR

13.5 LTC urged the Secretariat to collaborate with the initiative of AU-IBAR in the development of the IRCM and the other projects.

## **14.0 SADC Farm Animal Genetic Resources (FAnGR)**

14.1 LTC noted that there were no comments from the members on the final report of the SADC/UNDP/FAO project on FAnGR which ended in 2002. The report has been submitted to the Director of FANR, the FAO Regional Office in Harare and FAO, Rome.

14.2 LTC also noted that a phase 2 of the above project was developed based on community based on conservation and sustainable utilisation of FAnGR in the region. This phase needs to be updated in the light of new developments, circulated to the National Coordinators for comments before submission to the LTC for approval, after which the Secretariat can seek funding from donors.

14.3 LTC further noted the presentation of the FAO, Rome on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for FAnGR and the mechanism for funding.

14.4 LTC again noted the necessity to revive the Regional Office and the need for the Secretariat to deploy all efforts to recover documentations and the database developed during the first phase.

14.5 LTC directed the Secretariat to finalise the development of the second phase with the assistance of the FAO Regional Office, Harare, and submit to the LTC for approval after it has been reviewed by the National Coordinators.

14.6 LTC directed the Secretariat and urged Member States to revitalise the network of the National Coordinators to enable to take forward the Secretariat's agenda on FAnGR

14.7 LTC requested the Regional FAO Office, Harare to assist the Secretariat to source funding for a meeting of the National Coordinators.

## **15.0 National Coordinating Committees for SPS and Harmonisation of Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products**

15.1 LTC noted that the guidelines for the development of regulatory frameworks for registration and quality control of livestock protection products and veterinary drugs were presented to the Stakeholders Assembly of the Food Safety project held in Gaborone from 05 to 07 September 2010. The representatives of the LTC at this Assembly approved the guidelines, but decided that the format for presenting them needs to be aligned to that of the Plant Protection format and resubmitted for presentation to the LTC at its November 2010 meeting.

15.2 LTC also noted that the revised guidelines were approved by the LTC at its meeting in November, 2010. These guidelines were presented at the meeting of the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Agriculture held from 14 to 15 April, 2011 in Johannesburg. The meeting decided to

recommend the guidelines for approval by the Ministers of Agriculture and Food Security who are to meet in June, 2011.

15.3 LTC further noted that most of the Member States have completed the process of establishing the National Coordinating Committees for SPS. This will speed up the establishment of the Regional Coordination Committee for SPS which will greatly assist in the implementation of the SPS annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade.

15.4 LTC directed FANR Directorate of the Secretariat to submit the guidelines to Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food Security for approval as regional guidelines for the regulation of registration of veterinary drugs and medicine for the SADC region.

## **16.0 Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP)**

16.1 LTC noted that the FANR Directorate continues to develop the Regional Agricultural Policy which is presently in its second phase. This will involve coming up with the RAP Policy Statement after undertaking four studies on the following:

- Production, Productivity and Competitiveness
- Infrastructure, Trade and Markets
- Vulnerability to Food Security Risks and Social Factors
- Finance, Investments and Institutional Issues

16.2 LTC also noted that the preliminary reports of the studies were presented to the RAP Working Group at a workshop held in Gaborone in the first week of April, 2011. Members of the Working Group and staff of the FANR Directorate commented on the reports. The comments will be included in the final draft of the reports which will be presented at the Policy Seminar to be held on 10 and 11 May, 2011.

16.3 LTC was updated on the study on Production, Productivity and Competitiveness by the Consultant who undertook the study. In the livestock sector, priorities for policy development include:

- Research and development
- Transboundary pests and diseases
- Land
- Climate change
- Agricultural inputs
- Water resources
- Management of genetic resources
- Information systems
- Public, private partnerships
- Public sector investments

16.4 LTC noted that the priorities of the livestock sector have been taken on board by the RAP and urged Member States to participate fully in the consultation process for the RAP

## **17.0 Regional and International Trade in Livestock and Livestock Products**

17.1 LTC noted that as per its directive the SADC Secretariat presented the following issues in trade in livestock and livestock products to the OIE Regional Commission for Africa during the OIE 78<sup>th</sup> General Session in May, 2010:

- **The necessity for extremely costly and logistically difficult surveillance to be conducted when a satisfactory risk assessment has shown that the risk of BSE being present in a country is negligible (e.g. through the use of the Geographical BSE Risk (GBR) assessment method)**
- **Commodity based trade should not be promoted as an alternative to application of rigorous disease control strategies such as fencing, vaccinations, movement control, etc., but rather as a possible entry point for communities and industry in endemic areas with competent surveillance systems into the export market**

17.2 LTC took note of the report of the BSE Study commissioned by the Food Safety project. Member States were to give their comments on the recommendations of the study, but no comments were received.

17.3 LTC also noted that the study has recommended that LTC considers making a proposal to the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases through the OIE Africa Commission for:

- Awarding greater weight to enforcement and auditing of feed bans and less to surveillance (together with up-dated guidelines for the former), and
- Introduction of more practical surveillance standards that are realistic for countries where extensive cattle production systems predominate.

The study has also recommended that the Sub-Committee on Epidemiology and Informatics could develop proposals with regard to the second recommendation.

17.4 LTC urged Member States to increase inter-regional trade in livestock and livestock products, and agree on compliance with norms and standards on a bilateral basis

17.5 LTC directed the Secretariat to take the above recommendation to the OIE through the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

## 18.0 Priorities for Livestock Research in the Region

18.1 LTC noted that there is very little research and uptake of technology in livestock issues, especially regarding animal production, in the region and recommends that Member States participate in ILRI's Key Global Livestock Agenda Issues, which are:

- Market value chains to enhance access to market for smallholder farmers
- Intensification of mixed crop livestock production systems
- Vulnerability and sustainability in pastoral systems
- Facing the challenges of emerging diseases in the changing livestock systems
- Understanding climate change at global and continental level in order to better support livestock based adaptation to the impacts

18.2 LTC also noted that climate change will impact on livestock with regard to feeds, heat stress, water availability, diseases and livestock systems. On the other hand livestock seems to be contributing to global warming, methane production and rangeland degradation. Responses to climate change can be by adaptation and mitigation:

### Adaptation to Climate Change

- Consider adaptation as risk management
- Internalization of climate change into policies
- Consider climate change scenarios in research programmes (along with other drivers of change)

### Mitigation

- Improve crop and grazing land management to increase carbon storage
- Improve rice cultivation techniques and livestock and manure management to reduce methane emissions
- Improve nitrogen fertilizer application techniques
- Improve productivity per animal

18.3 LTC urged Member States, and in particular, directed the Animal Production, Veld, Marketing and Animal Genetic Resources Sub-Committee, to come up with research projects in the above fields in order to assist the region to increase livestock production and marketing.

18.4 LTC directed the Epidemiology and Vet. Lab. Sub-Committees to develop research proposals in emerging animal diseases

## 19.0 79<sup>th</sup> OIE General Session-Issues for the Region

19.1 LTC noted that the concept of "Common Position of African Delegates at the General Sessions of the OIE" co-ordinated by the African Union-Interafrican Bureau of Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) is a most

commendable one, and is gradually assisting the countries of the Continent to get involved in very important decisions making during the General Sessions. The following issues, which are of strategic and trade related importance to the region, are currently being discussed by the OIE, and for which AU-IBAR is coordinating to adopt common position for Africa:

- Diseases in wildlife and domestic animals
- Veterinary legislation
- Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability
- Zoning and compartmentalisation
- Application of compartmentalisation
- FMD free compartment in the FMD chapter
- The private sector's point of view on the use of public and private standards, amongst others.

19.2 LTC commended AU-IBAR to coordinate the common positions for Africa at the OIE General Sessions and is convinced that provide opportunities for Member States to increase trade in livestock products.

19.3 LTC urged Member States to fully support the coordinating efforts of AU-IBAR in adopting a common position at the OIE General Session on issues which will help in regional livestock development.

## **20.0 Exit Strategy for the SADC TADs Project**

20.1 LTC noted that the SADC TADs project is being implemented in five Member States (Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia) of the region which have weak veterinary institutions and which are more likely to be prone to outbreaks of TADs. The project is implemented in the countries with coordination ensured by a regional project implementation unit based at the Secretariat.

20.2 LTC noted that a mid-term review of the project conducted by the African Development Bank in October, 2010 concluded that the project was on course, despite its late start. The project will be able to complete almost all the planned activities by December 2012 when it is expected to close. Although the level of disbursement (USD8.0 million out of 21.6 million) appeared to be low in October 2010, the future planned activities will absorb most of the available funds. The Bank has observed that impacts of the project in terms of capacity building, public awareness and rehabilitation of institutions are apparent in the participating Member States. The Bank has recommended that the Secretariat needs to develop an exit strategy to ensure that activities of the project can be absorbed in the regular programmes of the Member States.

20.3 LTC also noted that the project has undertaken the following:

- Established TADs surveillance network through border harmonisation meetings on a regular basis

- Yearly sampling of buffaloes and domestic cattle to determine the topotypes of the FMD viruses circulating in wild life and domestic animals for an effective control programme. Zimbabwe has been included in the buffalo sampling exercise.
- Established national virtual centres involving all stakeholders in order to better control TADs and facilitate communications
- Rehabilitated, equipped and provided consumables to veterinary laboratories to facilitate disease surveillance
- Provided trainings to veterinary personnel and farmers in the identification, diagnosis and control of TADs
- Supported the meetings of the Epidemiology and Informatics and Veterinary Laboratories and Diagnostics Sub-Committees and their joint meetings
- Assisted the FANR Directorate in the formulation of policies and strategies for the long term control of TADs
- Assisted the region in the operationalisation of the emergency disease fund for the control of TADs

20.4 LTC further noted that most of the above activities form part of the regular attributes of the Veterinary Departments of the Member States, and they need to be integrated in the regular programmes of the countries.

20.5 LTC urged the five Member States participating in the SADC TADs project to integrate the activities of the project into their regular programmes and to allocate the necessary resources to continue to implement the activities.

20.6 LTC commended the Secretariat (SADC TADs project) to provide the region with the possibility to increase knowledge about the circulating FMD viruses in wildlife and domestic cattle. This will greatly assist the region in developing a long term control for TADs, especially FMD.

20.7 LTC urged all Member States to allocate resources for annual sampling of buffaloes and cattle beyond the life of the project.

## **21.0 Animal welfare**

21.1 LTC noted the ongoing work of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa on the development of a regional animal welfare strategy for the region (SARAWS). I

21.2 LTC commended the OIE for this important initiative and requested that the OIE pursues consultations with national and regional stakeholders and submits a draft SADC strategy for adoption at the LTC meeting of April 2012 .

## **22.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting has been fixed for 03 to 05 November, 2011 after consultations with the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Gaborone