



SADC LIVESTOCK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING (LTCM)

Gaborone, Botswana, 16 November, 2012

Record

The second Livestock Technical Committee (LTC) meeting for 2012 was held in Gaborone, Botswana on 16 November 2012 at the Phakalane Golf Estate. Directors of Veterinary Services and Livestock Services from 10 Member States (Angola, DRC, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Seychelles, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) attended the meeting which was chaired by Ms Bernardette Santana of Angola. Since the current Chair, Mozambique, was not represented, Angola as the outgoing Chair was requested to chair the meeting. The Chairpersons of all the 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 (Gaborone), International Livestock Research Institute (Maputo), the National Emergent Red Meat Producers' Association (NERPO, South Africa), CIRAD, South Africa and AHEAD, Botswana. Representatives of the Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) and the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI), South Africa as well as those of TADs Scientific, South Africa were also in attendance.

The meeting was a short one which took place back to back with the "Scientific Symposium on Foot and Mouth Disease followed by the Workshop on Reconciling Livestock Health and Wildlife Conservation Goals in Southern Africa: Strategies for Sustainable Economic Development" which was held from 13 to 16 November 2012 at the same place. The proceedings of the meeting are recorded below:

1.0 Adoption of the Agenda

The Livestock Technical Committee (LTC) adopted the draft Programme as presented by the FANR Directorate.

2.0 Review of Implementation of the Resolutions/Recommendations of the LTC meeting of 05 to 07 June, 2012 (SADC/LTCM/Jun, 12/3)

LTC noted the implementation status of the decisions of the LTC of June 2012 as detailed by the Secretariat. LTC noted that no progress was registered regarding "Animal Identification and Traceability" and that there was no significant development with regard to the establishment of regional

sustainable mechanisms for the tsetse and trypanosomiasis interventions in the SADC Region. Delegates of Tanzania and Zimbabwe suggested that the Secretariat could try to approach the African Development Bank or AU-IBAR for assistance on this matter.

3.0 Reports of the Sub-Committees

3.1 Animal Production, Range Management, Marketing and Animal Genetic Resources

3.1.1 LTC noted that the Sub-Committee met from 06 to 08 November 2012 in Gaborone under the new Chairmanship of Dr B. Podisi of the Ministry of Agriculture, Botswana and received its report as presented by the Chair.

3.1.2 LTC noted the recommendations of the Sub-Committee which are as follows:

- To get around travel and resources constraints the committee will make more use of virtual meetings to discuss issues.
- The sub-committee has a broad mandate: There could be consideration to split the Sub-committee for balance taking into account the approach of the veterinary sub-committees. However, this decision was deferred for now due to its resource implications and to monitor the current arrangement.
- To have at least 2 - 3 members per country representing animal production extension, livestock marketing, research and training including farm animal genetic resources.
- Member States (MS) should budget for Sub-Committee meetings
- Where possible the SADC secretariat should provide partial assistance to enable participation of MS.
- It is proposed that the responsibility for regional coordination of farm animal genetic resources be moved or assigned to the country that chairs the APVM & AnGR Sub-Committee of the LTC.

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

3.1.4 LTC approved the replacement of "Veld" to "Range Management" in the name of the Sub-Committee.

3.2 Epidemiology and Informatics

3.2.1 LTC noted that the Sub-Committee met on two occasions from 11 to 12 June and then from 14 to 15 June 2012. The second meeting was a joint one with the Veterinary Laboratory and Diagnostics Sub-Committee with Dr S. Mdluli of Swaziland as the new Chair.

3.2.2 LTC received the recommendations of the Sub-Committee as follows:

- Include the SADC harmonised FAT rabies diagnostic protocol in the Regional Rabies Strategy and that MS must use the protocol and decentralize the diagnostic process to ensure compliance to the 48 hour result reporting requirement.
- Only DRC submitted the completed questionnaire on the audit of animal disease surveillance and control programmes by end May 2012. The topic is still under discussion.
- The SADC PPR control and eradication working group has finalized the strategy and will be submitted to the SADC TADs project for publication and subsequent dissemination during the forthcoming international scientific symposium in November 2012
- The publication of the 2011 Animal Health Yearbook be finalized and made available in November 2012.

3.2.3 LTC endorsed the recommendations/resolutions of the sub-Committee and directed the secretariat to facilitate their implementation.

3.2.4 LTC noted that the PPR Control and Eradication Strategy as well as the 2011 Animal Health Yearbook were distributed during the meeting.

3.3 Veterinary Laboratory and Diagnostics Sub-Committee

3.3.1 LTC noted that the Sub-Committee was not able to meet physically, due to lack of sponsorship, after the joint meeting with the Epidemiology Sub-Committee on 14 and 15 June 2012. However, virtual consultations with the Sub-Committee members have been on-going.

3.3.2 The resolution of the Sub-Committee as submitted by the Chair is as follows:

- The SC did not meet in order to agree on concrete resolutions and recommendations. FMD diagnostic reagents and antigens which need to be supplied by BVI is still a challenge besides numerous requests by Member States. The SC is therefore requesting the LTC to assist resolving this recurrent problem with BVI as our regional supplier of FMD reagents and antigens.

3.3.3 LTC endorsed the recommendations/resolutions of the sub-Committee and directed the secretariat to facilitate their implementation.

3.4 Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety Sub-Committee

3.4.1 LTC noted that the Sub-Committee was unable to meet as the new Chair, Dr A. Haygaimo of Tanzania could not call a meeting before November 2012 due to his busy schedule. He, however, assured that the Sub-Committee will meet, even virtually, before the LTC meets in April 2013.

3.4.2 No report was submitted by the Sub-committee to the LTC

3.4.3 LTC advised the new Chair of the Sub-Committee to kindly implement the decisions taken during its meeting held in June 2012.

4.0 Outline of a Livestock Development Programme for the Region

4.1 LTC noted that based on the “Outlines of a Livestock Development Programme for the Region” the Secretariat has developed a proposal “Improving Livelihoods and Food Security among Livestock Keepers through Sustainable Utilisation and Conservation of Farm Animal Genetic Resources in the Southern African Region”. The emphasis of the project is on community based conservation and utilisation of farm animal genetic resources.

4.2 LTC also noted that the Secretariat, with the collaboration of the Regional Animal Health Centre, Gaborone, has prepared a concept note on “Promotion of Regional Trade in Livestock and Livestock Products through Strengthened Animal Health Controls in the SADC Region”. The LTC was also informed that the Secretariat is preparing proposals on small ruminants production, value chain and marketing to increase the food security situation in the region.

4.3 LTC further noted that the proposals on animal genetic resources and livestock trade were submitted to members of LTC during the present meeting. The proposal on small ruminants would be submitted by mail to the members of the LTC within two weeks.

4.4 LTC noted that the Secretariat will appoint a team of consultants, funded by the SADC TADs project, to work out detailed project proposals for submission to donors for funding.

4.5 LTC urged members of the LTC to send their comments on the projects to the Secretariat by end of December 2012.

4.6 LTC directed the secretariat to package all the proposals so that they can be submitted to donors for funding and after they have been cleared by the Secretariat.

5.0 Southern African Commission for the Control of TADs (SACCT)

5.1 LTC recalled that at its meeting of November 2011, it directed the Secretariat to work out the financial sustainability of the SACCT and to propose mechanisms for its establishment.

5.2 LTC also noted that the Secretariat has worked out the financial sustainability of the SACCT with the collaboration of the SADC TADs project. It appears that establishing the SACCT and running it for a period of 12 years with a very lean staff (Technical Assistant and Secretary) will cost an estimated USD12 million, and that a dedicated project is needed to work out the details.

5.3 LTC directed the Secretariat and the SADC TADs project to finalise all the details with regard to the establishment of the SACCT and the Emergency Fund and discuss the same with the FANR Directorate

6.0 Regional and International Trade in livestock and livestock Products

6.1 LTC noted that the Secretariat, in collaboration with the SADC TADs project, the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Animal and Human Health for the Environment And Development (AHEAD) Programme, organised a “Scientific Symposium on Foot and Mouth Disease followed by a workshop on Reconciling Livestock Health and Wildlife Conservation Goals in Southern Africa: Strategies for Sustainable Economic Development” from 13 to 16 November 2012 in Gaborone, Botswana. The symposium and the workshop were attended by 86 participants from the livestock and wildlife sectors of SADC Member States, international organisations, regional institutions and the private sector. The symposium and the workshop was opened by Mr Edison Wotho, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Botswana who was representing the Hon. Minister of Agriculture. Dr S.Osofsky of AHEAD and Mrs M. Nyirenda, Director, Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate of the SADC Secretariat also gave opening remarks.

6.2 LTC noted the recommendations of the workshop which are reproduced below:

“Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Southern African Development Community hereby:

Recommends the adoption of commodity-based trade and other non-geographic approaches such as compartmentalization for foot and mouth disease control as additional regional standards for the livestock and wildlife sectors, where applicable;

Recommends to Member States that they utilize commodity-based trade and other non-geographic approaches as needed to bolster trade, first and foremost, within the region itself, and with other African partners;

Recommends that Member States identify and address their needs to implement non-geographic approaches in terms of institutional, infrastructural, and human capacity;

Recommends that SADC work together with the OIE, FAO and other international organisations to formalize the implementation of guidelines needed for certification, auditing and thus wider international acceptance of appropriately prepared livestock-derived commodities by potential importing countries within the SADC region and around the world. This needs to be done in partnership with the private sector and with national veterinary services, the latter having both official responsibility and expertise critical for safe and successful deployment of any animal disease control strategies;

Recommends that SADC Member States and their appropriate government agencies responsible for livestock agriculture, veterinary services, and wildlife conservation and production work together and in partnership with the private sector and civil society organisations to promulgate context-appropriate approaches to transboundary animal disease management and wildlife utilisation policies that mitigate conflicts at the wildlife / livestock interface.

Recommends that Member States seize upon the socioeconomic as well as conservation opportunities offered by SADC's collective vision for transfrontier conservation areas as facilitated by strategic alignment and realignment of selected veterinary cordon fences, while simultaneously expanding access to regional and international markets for animals and animal-derived products via adoption of the above-described enlightened and practical disease control policies and practices."

6.3 LTC also noted that the above recommendations were adopted by the participants at the workshop. However, the LTC members discussed them again as Swaziland had a few concerns. After discussions it was noted that the concerns of Swaziland have been taken on board, especially as the recommendations are not mandatory, but Member States can always be guided by them.

6.4 LTC further noted that recent reports and publications show that:

- The region should focus on building the national herds
- There should be improvements in off-takes and production costs to be competitive
- Commodity-Based Trade approach makes sense as a route to safe trade
- Countries should concentrate on areas which constrain trade facilitation such as poor infrastructure, non-tariff barriers, cumbersome border procedures etc.
- All MS are required to report disease outbreaks to the OIE and SADC.
- MS should encourage trade in livestock and livestock products between countries of the region and should agree on compliance with standards on bilateral basis.

6.5 LTC adopted the above recommendations and urged Member States to be guided by them in trade in livestock and livestock products.

7.0 Livestock Information Management System (LIMS)

7.1 LTC noted that the Animal Health Yearbook for 2011 has now been published and despatched to the Member States. Preparations to publish the 2012 edition are now underway, but there are still a few Member States whose data for the last quarter of 2012 are yet to be received in order to finalise the Yearbook.

7.2 LTC also noted that nine Member States are now reporting in LIMS format and the challenges faced by the others are being addressed.

7.3 LTC recalled that at its meeting of November 2011, it was informed that LIMS would be hosted on another platform (MySQL) for it to accommodate a larger volume of data. The LIMS upgrade is under way and will be completed by December 2012. The SADC TADs project will bear the cost for this upgrade.

7.4 LTC urged Member States to continue providing livestock data to the regional LIMS on a timely basis so as to generate the required reports on time and which can assist them to take appropriate actions

7.5 LTC urged all MS to send data in all modules in LIMS format and to follow the LIMS guidelines

9.0 Closed Session of the LTC

9.1 The LTC went into a closed session with the members and the Chairs of the Sub-Committees.

9.2 South Africa had proposed that the agenda of the November 2012 meeting of the LTC should include:

- Bio-security considerations for fish and bee diseases
- Inter-territorial movement of dogs (South Africa to provide documentations)
- Animal welfare standards

South Africa did not attend the LTC and did not send information on the above items. The Secretariat was tasked to contact South Africa and to request for the necessary information so that the items can be included in the agenda of the April 2013 meeting of the LTC. Member States were requested to propose agenda items for the next meeting **six weeks before** for circulation by the Secretariat.

10.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting has been fixed for 23 to 25 April 2013.