

**22nd Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Africa**

Swakopmund, Namibia, 20 to 24 February 2017

- Recommendation No. 1: Pastoralism: opportunities for livestock and challenges for Veterinary Services
- Recommendation No. 2: Unfolding the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in Africa

Recommendation No. 1

**Pastoralism: opportunities for livestock and
challenges for Veterinary Services**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Pastoralism in Africa remains a fundamentally important cultural and socio-economic activity for the continent, particularly in terms of survival of communities, creation of livelihoods, diversification of income, and cultural integrity of socio-ecosystems, but also in terms of food security and sovereignty;
2. Pastoral livestock systems present major strengths and potential benefits in giving governments and their people very real prospects for sustainable development and elaborating sound land use planning policies;
3. These production systems are faced with increasingly greater challenges, including from climate change, which will have to be addressed if we are to avoid that pastoralism and all its potential benefits disappear in the very near future;
4. Access to basic public services, notably targeting public health and animal health (Veterinary Services), is one of the main priorities for pastoralist communities;
5. Movements of animals are one of the essential components of pastoral livestock management practices to ensure resilience to drought, among others;
6. The animal health situation in Africa is characterised by the persistence of major infectious transboundary animal diseases such as Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), and this is having significant repercussions on livestock productivity and, consequently, on the living conditions of human populations;
7. There is a very great disparity in African countries between the contribution that the livestock sector in general, and pastoralism in particular, makes to national Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and the share of the national budget that is allocated to it;
8. The Veterinary Services in African countries have for some thirty years been suffering from chronic and virtually generalised underinvestment, resulting in a very significant reduction in the capacity of these Services;
9. Border controls and the establishment of disease surveillance and control systems have a crucial role to play in limiting the spread of animal diseases; and
10. The demand for animal protein in Africa is set to grow at least as fast as the population, which is expected to double by 2050.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Member Countries' Delegates advocate at the highest level for livestock production and animal health in general, and especially for pastoralism in arid and semi-arid zones, to redress the imbalance between the budget allocated to the livestock sector, including Veterinary Services, and the sector's socio-economic importance;
2. Member Countries be committed to strengthening the capacity and accessibility of Veterinary Services to all livestock populations, including those involved in pastoral systems, as a national priority, including by taking advantage of the OIE PVS Pathway as an independent mechanism based on international standards to prioritise and advocate for improving Veterinary Services with national decision-makers and donors;
3. Member Countries, with the support of the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities, mobilise resources to increase the effectiveness of national border animal health controls and epidemiological surveillance systems and explore regional approaches that would make a significant contribution to controlling the major transboundary animal diseases in Africa, including zoonoses;
4. Member Countries' Veterinary Services sensitise and directly engage their pastoralist communities in the implementation of the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR-GCES) and its Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) (2017-2021), developed jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE);
5. Member Countries strengthen relevant stakeholders' knowledge and awareness of the "One Health" concept and explore ways to develop synergies between animal health and human health systems to improve both human and animal health in pastoralist communities;
6. Member Countries encourage the identification of a centre of excellence in understanding and managing pastoralism, particularly its intersection with animal and veterinary public health, that could eventually be proposed as an OIE Collaborating Centre on Pastoralism in Africa;
7. The Regional Steering Committee of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Africa, once reactivated, consider the inclusion of pastoralism as a priority topic in its Five-Year Action Plan;
8. The OIE organise a multiregional conference on pastoralism in Africa in 2019 in order for countries to share their experiences and explore solutions to address animal health issues of pastoral livestock systems;
9. The OIE consider convening an *ad hoc* group on pastoralism to explore the possibility to develop guidelines on animal and veterinary public health in pastoral systems;

10. The OIE improve the understanding of its Member Countries of the “One Health” approach, including its operational aspects, by providing, to requesting countries, workshops on bridging the World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations (IHR) and the OIE PVS Pathway ; and
 11. The OIE continue to secure proper resourcing of the PVS Pathway in order to provide Member Countries with missions to guide and advocate for strengthening their Veterinary Services in a timely manner.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 24 February 2017)

Recommendation No. 2

**Unfolding the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of
peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in Africa**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. The region of Africa accounts for 32% of the global population of small ruminants (sheep and goats);
2. The transboundary spread of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in Africa over the past decade continues to cause a severe animal health impact and heavy economic losses in infected countries, and poses a threat to countries historically free from PPR and potentially to wild ruminant populations;
3. The Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR-GCES) and its Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP) (2017-2021), developed jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), in collaboration with key partners, provide the framework, approach, tools and provisions for investment needed to meet the challenge of global PPR eradication;
4. The eradication of PPR by 2030 will contribute significantly to food security, poverty reduction, enhanced resilience of smallholder farmers and herders especially, the creation of animal production opportunities and the economic development of countries where the small ruminant sector is important;
5. The PPR-GCES and PPR-GEP combine three core synergistic components:
 - a progressive, step-wise approach to PPR control leading to eradication;
 - strengthening of Veterinary Services;
 - control of other priority small ruminant diseases.
6. The FAO and the OIE, under the auspices of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), have established the PPR Global Secretariat which is responsible for the overall coordination of the PPR-GCES and PPR-GEP's implementation;
7. The successful implementation of the PPR-GCES and PPR-GEP, particularly in Africa, requires:
 - political will and ongoing commitment at continental, regional and national levels;
 - a coordinated and harmonised regional and sub-regional approach that takes into consideration all national and regional specificities;
 - strengthening of the activities of regional laboratory networks and regional epidemiology networks, which are considered to be key fora for information exchange, the transfer of knowledge, technology and skills at regional and national level, and the harmonisation of national strategic plans;
 - ongoing support to countries for the implementation of planned activities;
 - the engagement and involvement of all stakeholders and all actors in the small ruminant sector at all levels – national, regional and continental.

8. The OIE provides Member Countries with international standards, support programmes for strengthening Veterinary Services including the OIE PVS Pathway, procedures for the endorsement of official national PPR control programmes and for official recognition of PPR free status, and the voluntary supply of high quality vaccine via OIE global and regional vaccine bank arrangements;
9. The PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT) is the established process to formally identify a country's PPR stage and plan for its progression towards PPR eradication, and it has clear provision for OIE PVS Evaluation report results to be formally integrated into every PMAT process;
10. The OIE is developing and piloting OIE PVS Pathway missions which, while continuing to evaluate the whole national animal health system and veterinary domain, will also be supplemented by a specific focus and content on national PPR eradication, with pilot missions taking place in the Europe and Asia, the Far East and Oceania in the first half of 2017; and
11. Early official notification of animal health events to the OIE through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) is essential to improve the transparency, efficiency and speed with which global animal health information is disseminated.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Member Countries take full ownership of the PPR-GCES and PPR-GEP by ensuring that their Veterinary Services have the required authority, capacity and resources to implement the related activities;
2. Member Countries, that are not free of the disease, appoint a dedicated PPR national coordinator, establish a PPR national committee, develop a PPR national strategic plan specifying the required resources , and actively participate to all the activities supporting the implementation of the PPR-GCES and PPR-GEP;
3. Member Countries agree that their existing OIE PVS Pathway reports, where available and not outdated, should be utilised to assist in national PPR eradication evaluation and planning, as aligned with the PPR-GEP component relating to strengthening Veterinary Services, and as formally linked to the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT);
4. Member Countries take advantage of the OIE PVS Pathway for strengthening their Veterinary Services by requesting OIE PVS Pathway missions, including considering the new availability of PVS Pathway missions with specific PPR content, which will continue to be developed and refined subsequent to initial piloting in the first half of 2017;
5. Member Countries submit their dossier for endorsement of official control programme and free status as relevant to their stage of progression;

6. The African Union- through the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)- and Regional Economic Communities continue their work to align their existing strategies and/or programmes for the control and eradication of PPR with the PPR-GCES approach and with PPR-GEP activities, particularly the use of PMAT and the OIE PVS Pathway;
 7. The AU-IBAR, the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), Regional Economic Communities, and development partners:
 - support the performance of regional roadmap activities and the implementation of regional strategies;
 - support countries in adopting a harmonised and coordinated regional vision when preparing national PPR plans and implementing national activities planned to achieve PPR eradication;
 - continue to strengthen regional epidemiology networks and regional laboratory networks and their role in the exchange of information and expertise on the surveillance, diagnosis and control of transboundary animal diseases, including in wildlife;
 - assist countries and regions in developing communication and awareness strategies to consolidate an effective public-private partnership and secure the effective involvement of all livestock sector actors in the implementation of national and regional strategies to control and eradicate PPR;
 - support countries in the production and/or use of PPR vaccines that meet OIE standards.
 8. The OIE and FAO reactivate the GF-TADs for Africa by proposing a new governance leading to an active participation of all interested parties to be adopted during the 10th meeting of the Regional Steering Committee to be held in 2017;
 9. The OIE continue to support Member Countries in strengthening their Veterinary Services through the OIE PVS Pathway and develop, refine and offer PPR dedicated content as part of PVS Pathway missions in Africa;
 10. The OIE continue to maintain the OIE Regional PPR Vaccine Bank for interested countries with an ongoing or sudden demand for external sources of readily available high quality PPR vaccine;
 11. The OIE staff its Representations in Africa with PPR dedicated officers; and
 12. The OIE organise training seminars to support Member Countries to:
 - prepare their application for endorsement of their official control programme for PPR or for official recognition of PPR free status;
 - comply with their obligation to submit quality animal disease notifications and information.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 24 February 2017)