



**16th Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for Africa**
Khartoum (Sudan) 7-10 February 2005

Recommendation No. 1: Organisation and management of transhumance in Africa

Recommendation No. 2: The implications of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for the livestock sector in Africa

Recommendation No. 3: Animal health and production policies and implementation mechanisms in Africa

Recommendation No. 1

Organisation and management of transhumance in Africa

CONSIDERING THAT

Transhumance is a very important pastoral management method that is practised in many African countries,

It often provides the most relevant system to manage natural pastoral resources,

It is a cultural, social and economic basis of many pastoral African communities representing large populations,

There is a need to exchange information in this field among the countries,

In some instances, there is dire lack of regulations and legislation on transhumance,

Transhumance is a source of social conflicts that often has dramatic consequences,

Transhumance can carry epidemiological risks and diverse resulting losses,

Recommendation No. 1 of the Regional Conference of Maputo in 2003 relating to the importance of livestock identification and movement control to the promotion of animal disease control and facilitation of trade,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA RECOMMENDS THAT

- A. THE ORGANISATIONS AND NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS IN CHARGE OF LIVESTOCK IN OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION MEMBER COUNTRIES
 1. Take advantage of current initiatives, such as the ALive Platform and the GF-TADs Programme, for the development of animal production and the control of animal diseases and zoonoses.
 2. Identify, whenever possible, grazing zones and transhumance corridors, as well as their appropriate development, in a more precise and operational manner.
 3. Boost epidemiological surveillance and tools for the control of the major diseases associated with transhumance (foot and mouth disease, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, PPR, animal trypanosomoses, anthrax, etc.).
 4. Take into account the sustainability of pastoral natural resources managed within pastoral systems linked with transhumance.
 5. Implement mechanisms for the supervision of animal movement linked with transhumance practices.
 6. Make use of the supportive specialised framework of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the AU-IBAR to develop capacity-building in Member Countries and transfer of knowledge among African countries for the development of animal production and animal health actions.

7. Strengthen cooperation between sub-regional organisations (ECOWAS, CEBEVIRHA, SADC, IGAD, AMU, etc.) in order to limit the negative effects of transhumance.

B. GOVERNMENTS OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES

1. Allocate as a priority adequate public resources for developing livestock production and controlling animal diseases, in compliance with the decision of the Heads of States taken in Maputo (i.e. 10% of the national investment budgets allocated to agriculture).
2. Draw up, harmonise and implement sub-regional agreements and directives and national laws and regulations adapted to transhumance practices.
3. Strengthen the capacities of the sub-regional organisations for setting up sub-regional observatories for collecting and processing the information required to organise and manage transhumance.
4. Strengthen national and regional devices for preventing and managing conflict arising from transhumance.

C. THE OIE

Provide Member Countries with standards and guidelines on livestock identification and traceability taking into account the economic and practical constraints to be faced by Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa.

Recommendation No. 2

**The implications of genetically modified organisms (GMOs)
for the livestock sector in Africa**

CONSIDERING THAT

A range of strategies is required in agriculture to adequately address the growing need for increased food security, quality of nutrition and poverty reduction,

Livestock production requires substantial development to keep pace with the growing demand for increased food production,

Several advances have been made in recent years in the field of biotechnology and many applications, including genetically modified organisms, are relevant to livestock production,

The potential for the application of biotechnology, including genetic modification, in disease management and livestock production is gaining increasing recognition,

There is need for policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks in Member Countries to facilitate the exploitation of such new technology, taking into account potential risks to human, animal and environmental health, and consumer concerns,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries review or develop national policies, legislation and guidelines in compliance with international standards for the safe application of biotechnology, including genetically modified organisms, in the livestock sector.
2. Member Countries, in relation with industry, engage in general awareness and educational initiatives on biotechnology, in particular genetically modified organisms.
3. Member Countries develop, improve, acquire and/or maintain the necessary institutional and technical capacity, and infrastructure, to optimally utilise the value of available biotechnologies (including genetically modified organisms) in the livestock sector.
4. The OIE assist Member Countries in these efforts within its mandates.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 10 February 2005)

Recommendation No. 3

**Animal health and production policies and implementation mechanisms
in Africa**

CONSIDERING THAT

The Cairo Declaration and four Recommendations adopted during the Africa-Middle East Conference on the Implementation of Animal Health Standards: the Quest for Solutions, which was held in Cairo (Egypt) from 11 to 13 October 2004,

The mandate of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, composed of the Delegates of Member Countries nominated by their respective governments having submitted valid and legal adhesion documents to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE),

The legal status of the recommendations adopted by the OIE Regional Commissions, which are subsequently submitted for validation to the General Session of Delegates of OIE Member Countries (OIE International Committee composed of 167 Member Countries on 31 December 2004),

The mandate of the African Union (AU) and the Interafrican Bureau of Animal Resources (IBAR),

The mandate of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa, adopted by the OIE International Committee during its 69th General Session,

The respective mandates of Sub-Regional and International Organisations, such as the FAO, dealing with livestock development in Africa,

The necessity for the Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to progressively adhere to the SPS agreement of the WTO in order to have better access to inter-regional and international trade in animals and their products, in particular with regard to the quality of their Veterinary Services,

The positive impact of public health and poverty alleviation linked to the regional and national implementation of public investment programmes aimed at controlling animal diseases, including zoonoses,

The necessity to harmonise the animal health and production policies and to improve and strengthen the regional implementation mechanisms,

The recent development in international initiatives aimed at promoting the animal health and production policies in Africa, such as the ALive Platform (African Livestock), GF-TADs (Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) and STDF (Standards for Trade Development Facility),

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Mechanisms associating closely the OIE Regional Commission for Africa via the elected Representatives, the African Union, the Sub-Regional Institutions of economic integration (ECOWAS, IGAD, CEBEVIRHA, SADC, AMU ...), the OIE Regional Representation for Africa, the FAO and the donors be set up to implement efficiently the ALive, GF-TADs and STDF programmes as soon as they are operational.
2. The AU-IBAR plays a major role in the governance of the said mechanisms, in particular on the level of the Regional Steering Committees of these initiatives, in association with other concerned Regional Organisations in Africa.
3. The permanent Secretariat of the ALive Platform currently conducted by the World Bank in Washington be transferred to Africa, to give support to joint implementation by the AU-IBAR and the OIE Regional Representation for Africa.
4. Donor meetings be organised on a regular basis under the joint aegis of the OIE, AU-IBAR and the FAO in order to mobilise the multi-donor fiduciary funds of ALive and GF-TADs.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 10 February 2005)