

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 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2017)