A staged, progressive control pathway for tsetse-transmitted African animal trypanosomosis

**Stage 1** (Figure 1). A regular step-wise progression is the rule (i.e. from Stage N to Stage N + 1) but fast-tracking is possible in specific circumstances.

**Methodology/Results**

The PCP for AAT is structured along five stages and a pre-entry level, i.e. "below Stage 1" (Figure 1). A regular step-wise progression is the rule (i.e. from Stage N to Stage N + 1) but fast-tracking is possible in specific circumstances.

In order to move from one stage to the next, the set goals for the ongoing stage must have been achieved, and a plan for the following stage must be prepared. Independent validation is required. Key requirements for a country to enter the PCP (i.e. to move to "Stage 1") include political and financial commitment for the progressive control of AAT, and the existence of a functioning Specialized National Structure having core capacities and mandate to deal with tsetse and AAT. In Stage 1, affected countries have to develop technical capacities, and gain a sufficient understanding of AAT distribution, risk and impact for an evidence-based planning of subsequent activities; pilot field interventions are also conducted. Larger scale field activities are implemented in Stage 2 and beyond, within the priority areas identified in Stage 1. Stage 2 aims at a sustainable, economically-profitable reduction of the AAT burden, and the intervention strategy hinges on the integrated management of AAT (a community/farmer based approach).

The focus of the PCP’s final stages (3 to 5) is to create sustainable AAT-free areas. Stage 3 is completed when AAT transmission is interrupted. In Stage 4, some control measures are maintained, while in Stage 5 the elimination of AAT must be sustainable in the absence of interventions.

**Conclusions**

The PCP for AAT provides affected countries and stakeholders with a rational tool to plan and implement stepwise AAT control campaigns. The main goal of this PCP is to help lift the burden of AAT, and to achieve this goal, the support of all stakeholders, including resource partners, will be crucial. In particular, funding AAT-endemic countries through the early stages of the PCP will be critical before the benefits of more advanced PCP stages can be fully reaped.

Importantly, the PCP enables to better position interventions against tsetse and AAT in the broader context of poverty reduction, hunger eradication and increased resilience of vulnerable and marginalized rural communities. These are some of the major strategic objectives of FAO and included in the Sustainable Development Goals.

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**Reference**