

ECTAD NEWS

Eastern Africa



Helping to Rid Eastern Africa of Transboundary Animal Diseases & Zoonoses

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Message From the FAO Representative in Kenya

Dear All,

I wish to extend my appreciation to the ECTAD team in Eastern Africa for having decided to institute such an important vehicle for information sharing. This will go a long way in providing vital information on the evolving livestock disease situation in the region and FAO's response in helping Member States solve these problems. As you are all aware, livestock production is an important livelihood activity in the region.

As a regional FAO Unit based in Kenya, FAO Representation in Kenya is pleased with the collaboration ECTAD team has been giving to the country in livestock sector.

I am hopeful this collaboration will continue in One FAO spirit.



Castro P. Camarada
FAO Representative in Kenya

From the Desk of ECTAD Regional Manager a.i

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

We have the honour to present to you this inaugural issue of ECTAD News—Eastern Africa, which as ECTAD team in Nairobi, we hope will serve as a platform for sharing about our activities in the region.

We at ECTAD Eastern Africa Office are convinced that the challenges facing the region on animal health and production require concerted efforts by all in a spirit of collaboration, while at the same time remaining faithful to the responsibilities entrusted to us by the Organization and the needs of the Member States. This collaborative spirit has been the driving force in the recent activities conducted jointly with other FAO units, international and regional partners and national authorities in the region. Through this platform, we hope that it will enhance the dialogue and encourage a spirit of sharing as we work together to ensure that the region is rid of the menacing myriad of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and other zoonoses.



Bouna Diop
ECTAD Reg. Manager a.i

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ECTAD Holds Workshop for Regional Strategy

ECTAD Eastern Africa (EA) organized an internal stakeholder retreat to formulate the Regional Strategy for Eastern Africa from 23rd to 25th of May 2010. The workshop took place at Nairobi Safari Park Hotel, and was attended by representatives from SFE, FAO Kenya, FAO Somalia, REOA, Programming Unit (FAO HQ) and ECTAD EA team participated in this retreat.

As one of his last major undertaking in the region before leaving for ECTAD North Africa (Tunis), Bruno Minjauw facilitated the workshop.

ECTAD Regional Manager *ad interim*, Bouna Diop stressed the need for ECTAD EA to develop a regional strategy that will guide

the elaboration of programs and projects to meet the needs of the countries in the region in prevention and control of TADs and zoonoses.

Other presentations were made by Francesca Ambrosini from ECTAD Programming Unit (HQ), and FAO livestock experts from FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE), Regional Emergency office for Africa (REOA), FAO Kenya and FAO Somalia.

The Workshop report was instrumental in helping the Regional team formulate the Strategy, which is an ongoing exercise for all ECTAD regional units worldwide. This feeds into the Global Programme being elaborated by ECTAD following multi-agency approach of "One Health" concept. Further assistance



Participants at the Workshop on Regional ECTAD Strategy Formulation

in the process was received from a Consultant, Andrea Massarelli in fine-tuning the draft. The strategy will soon be shared with all partners.

Meet the ECTAD Eastern Africa Team!



Dr. Bouna Diop is the interim ECTAD Regional Manager for Eastern Africa. He was appointed to this position in January 2010 following the retirement of Dr William Amanfu. He is responsible for the overall activities of ECTAD in the region as the team leader.



Mr Dominic Otieno Omolo is the ECTAD Regional Communications Officer. He is also the FAO Communications expert in the AU IBAR led IRCM missions in Africa.



Mr Alex Nyarko-Badohu is the Operations Coordinator. He is responsible for project implementation, operations and finances.



Dr. Joseph Litamoi is a Veterinary Epidemiologist. His main activities include surveillance programmes for the early detection, prevention and control of HPAI and other TADs, including epidemiological, diagnostic laboratory and wildlife surveillance

Dr. Kristina Osbjer is an Associate Professional Officer (APO). She is involved in the epidemiological surveillance for the early detection, prevention and control of HPAI.



Ms. Rose Kibanya is the project and administrative assistant



Dr. Tabitha Kimani works on socio-economic, livestock production and biodiversity issues at ECTAD Eastern Africa.



Mr. John Njuguna is the Logistician/ senior driver of ECTAD Eastern Africa.

Dr. Samuel Oyieke Okuthe is an Epidemiologist. His work involves assisting in the preparation and formulation of concept notes, proposals and technical policy briefs on HPAI and emerging TADs, project implementation and coordination.

ECTAD EA is also grateful to Mr Michael Ngongi who was handling operations issues

ECTAD EA Conducts a Cross Border HPAI Outbreak Simulation Exercise in Busia Kenya/Uganda

A two day HPAI cross-border field simulation exercise was conducted in Busia from 29 – 30 March 2010.

The exercise was organized by ECTAD Eastern Africa in collaboration with East African Community. It was attended by representatives of the EAC Secretariat, all EAC partner States national ministries responsible for both animal and human health, EAC Affairs, poultry farmers, WHO, CDC, representatives of security institutions, representatives of national disaster operation centres, wildlife authorities, local authorities, immigration and customs officers and staff from ECTAD Regional Bureau in Nairobi.

The exercise was carried out in an integrated farm in the Busia area of Uganda. The scenario was that massive deaths of wild birds had been reported along the river near a mixed farm with fish farming, agro-forestry, horticulture and mass local poultry production. This farm was

the perceived source of HPAI virus. Unfortunately by the time the disease was reported it had already spread to the neighbouring Kenya through cross border trade in poultry and their products and had also crossed over to humans; two cases of human disease in poultry traders had been reported in the Busia, Kenya poultry market. The suspected human victims were rushed to Matayo's Health Centre in Busia Kenya for treatment.

Closely related issues of compensation, outbreak communication and Behaviour Change Communications (BCC) in the HPAI contingency plans were also gauged by the field simulation exercise which was facilitated by FAO Consultant Dr. Cheikh Sadibou Fall.

The activity was undertaken with funds received from the European Union. Similarly Table Top simulation exercises were conducted in Kigali (18-19 June), Kenya and Mwanza, Tanzania.



ECTAD Promoting Networks in the Region

Rwanda: ECTAD EA recently facilitated a regional Epidemiology Networks meeting (EAREN).

Dar-es-Salaam: A regional meeting on Laboratory Networks took place from 12–14 July 2010 attended by all regional countries except (North) Sudan. The meeting helped to develop work plans for activities to be implemented in 1 year. The meeting was under the newly launched EARLN.



ECTAD Participating in IRCM

In light of the experiences gained through the Integrated national Action Plans on Avian Influenza (INAP) formulation and other programs designed to reduce the impact of TADs at continental and regional levels, the African Union's AU-IBAR, in collaboration with FAO, OIE and WHO, is leading a new initiative to assist Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and countries in the definition of modalities and approaches to improve harmonization and coordination mechanisms to strengthen national and regional capacities to prevent and control TADs and zoonoses in Africa. The Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism (IRCM) will also be instrumental in promoting the "One Health" - (OH) concept at national, regional and continental levels.

FAO/ECTAD is represented in the process by a Communication expert (Dominic Omolo) and a Livestock specialist (Peter Msoffe). The mission team has already visited 6 RECs in a process to end in late October 2010.

Our Main Partner Organizations



OUR DONORS

- USA (USAID)
- European Union
- Canada (CIDA)
- United Kingdom (DFID)
- Sweden (SIDA)

ECTAD'S MISSION & MANDATE

ECTAD was established in 2004 to strengthen FAO's capacity to respond to the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) crisis in a coordinated, more efficient and structured manner, under the leadership of the FAO Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO). Its mandate was recently reviewed by the DG whereby he established the Food Chain Crisis Management Framework; under which ECTAD operates.

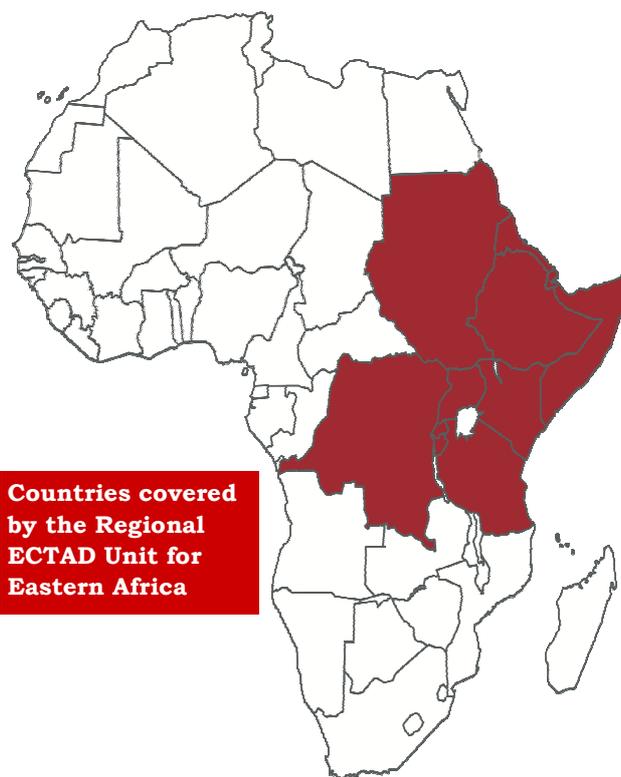
Since its inception, the scope of ECTAD's activities has gone beyond that of HPAI crisis to include the prevention and control of other major transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and zoonoses.

ECTAD combines a wealth of technical expertise and operational capacity in a holistic approach to animal health crises, drawing experts from FAO's Animal Health and the Emergency Operations divisions.

In 2007, a regional ECTAD Unit was established in Nairobi, Kenya to assist countries in the region consisting of: Burundi, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The Unit is headed by a Regional Manager, who is assisted by a team of experts in epidemiology, laboratory, communication, socio-economics, operations, production and bio-security.

The Unit was established in the inter-agency platform of the Regional Animal Health Centres, involving strong partnership with the African Union's Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). Other partners collaborating with the Unit include EAC, IGAD, UNICEF, WHO, ILRI and other FAO units in the countries covered.



**Countries covered
by the Regional
ECTAD Unit for
Eastern Africa**

Upcoming Events in the Region

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- **Regional CVOs Meeting: Zanzibar (TZ) 30 Aug – 7 Sept.**
- **Assesment of Lab & Epi Expertise in Burundi & Tanzania, August**
- **Joint Epidemiology & Laboratory Networks Meeting, Djibouti 20-24 Sept.**

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