VETERINARY LEGISLATION RELATED ACTIVITIES IN EAC

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EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN SESSION
The East African Community (EAC) is the regional intergovernmental organisation of the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Republic of Uganda, with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The Republic of South Sudan has joined the Community as the 6th Member.
Objective of the Community - Article 5(i)

The objective of the community shall be to develop policies and programmes aimed at widening and deepening cooperation among Partner States political, economic, social and cultural fields, research and technology, defense, security and legal judicial affairs, for their mutual benefit.

Article(2) b

The strengthening and consolidation of cooperation in agreed fields that would raise the standard of living and improve the quality of life of their populations.
Introduction

• The East African Treaty of 1999 which came into force in July 2000, provided for areas of cooperation among the EAC Partner States and gives political impetus to the harmonization process.

• Article 108 on Plant and Animal Diseases Control, outlines that the Partner States shall inter alia adopt common mechanisms to ensure safety, efficacy and potency of agricultural inputs including chemicals, drugs and vaccines.

• The EAC Strategy on Prevention and Control of TADS & and Zoonoses (2010) emphasizes the need for standardized drug regimes in both animal and wildlife Health.

• Chapt.21 (Article118) of the EAC Treaty concerning Human health issues in Partner States covers nine (9) priority health areas, including harmonization of drug policies, drug registration and regulation, procedures and standards;
Introduction

• The East African Community has enormous animal resources that contribute substantially, to the economies of EAC Partner States and livelihood for livestock keepers, especially pastoralists who form a large proportion of the regional population
EAC Livestock Population estimates

- Cattle – 48.6 Million
- Goats - 56.5 Million
- Sheep – 25.2 Million
- Pigs - 5.5 Million
- Camels - 3.7
- Poultry - 124 Million

Sources: EAC Statistics

ARIS: generating information to inform development of evidence-based reports which can inform policy and legislation
EAC Livestock policy
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EAC Livestock policy vision</th>
<th>A vibrant livestock industry contributing significantly to improved living standards of citizens, economic growth and sustainable natural resources management</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EAC Livestock policy goal</td>
<td>Attain an annual growth rate of at least 5.0% with significant livestock contribution to the agricultural GDP surpassing 50% and to reduction of poverty, hunger, unemployment and degradation of natural resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>EAC Livestock policy objective pillars</td>
<td>Secure access to basic production inputs and security to stimulate productive use of livestock assets</td>
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The EAC Strategy on Prevention and Control of TADS & and Zoonoses (2010)

• This is the first East African Community (EAC) strategy on Prevention and Control of animal diseases specifically; Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and Zoonotic Diseases.

• This strategy is prepared as a guiding tool for implementation of regional mandates emanating from the provisions of the Treaty for establishment of the EAC Partner States (PS), comprising of the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania.

• The objective of the Strategy is to safeguard human and animal health, livelihoods of the farming community from outbreaks of TADs through building capacities in the Partner States to be able to establish effective rapid detection and response capacity.

• It also emphasizes the need for standardized drug regimes in both animal and wildlife Health.
EAC Instruments

Treaty Provisions (Cooperation on Disease Control)

- Article 108: Plant and animal Disease Control
- Article 118: Human Health
- Article 116: Wildlife management
- Article 111-114: Cooperation in Environment and Natural Resources (transboundary ecosystems including Fisheries)

(Treaty provisions for joint regional cooperation in transboundary human and animal disease prevention & control in East Africa)

- EAC Strategy on Control and Prevention of Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonosis- calls for “one health approach”
Article: 108 Plant and Animal Disease control

- Harmonise policies, legislation and regulations for enforcement of pests and disease control
- Harmonise and strengthen regulatory institutions
- Harmonise and strengthen zoo-sanitary and phyto-sanitary services inspection and certification
- Establish regional zoo-sanitary and phytosanitary laboratories to deal with diagnosis and identification of pests and diseases
- Adopt common mechanism to ensure safety, efficacy and potency of agricultural inputs including chemicals, drugs and vaccines; and
- Cooperate in surveillance, diagnosis and control strategies of transboundary pests and diseases
ARTICLE 118 – HUMAN HEALTH

(a) Take joint action towards the prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases and to control pandemics and epidemics of communicable and vector-borne diseases, and to co-operate in other public health community campaigns;

(e) Harmonise national health policies and regulations and promote the exchange of information on health issues in order to achieve quality health within the Community;
Specific Objectives

• To strengthen surveillance capacity
• To strengthen diagnosis and laboratory capacity
• To enhance research and development
• To improve information, education and communication
• To enhance prevention and control of transboundary diseases including zoonoses
• To strengthen capacity for containment and case management
• To improve coordination, management and resource mobilization
• To strengthen monitoring and evaluation capacity of EAC
• To develop programmes and projects
• Harmonization of policy, rules and regulations
Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA)

• In the EAC Integration agenda, at the Common Market stage – Free movement of services is provided for. (four freedom and two rights)

• Article 11 of the CMP - On Harmonization and Mutual Recognition of Academic and Professional qualifications
  a) Mutually recognise the academic and professional qualifications granted, experience obtained, requirements met, licences or certifications granted, in the Partner States
  b) Harmonise their curricula, examination, standards, certification and accreditation of educational training institutions
EAC Common Market Protocol

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Trade in services Agenda

Article 16: Free movement of services
The free movement of services shall cover the supply of services;

a) From the territory of a Partner State into the territory of another Partner State

Common Mark  Annex 5 Schedule of Commitment on progressive liberalisation of services – Commitments made in the schedule

MRA – was agreed on. Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda have signed. Burundi is now ready to sign. Tanzania is yet to sign.

The Agreement covers Veterinary surgeons and ParaVeterinarians
Scheme for Educational Equivalence in Veterinary and Animal Health Qualifications

The consolidated report gives ‘A Scheme for Educational Equivalence in Veterinary and Animal Health Qualifications in the EAC- 4 PILLARS

• **Pillar One**: Common procedures for auditing recognised institutions

• **Pillar Two**: The recognition of equivalence between all degrees in veterinary medicine currently offered in the EAC, based on core OIE curriculum standards

• **Pillar Three**: A broad scheme of equivalence for paraprofessional qualifications based on benchmarking of existing courses currently approved in the different Partner States.

• **Pillar Four**: A plan for future convergence of standards in veterinary and animal health education and training within the EAC
Outline of Proposed Minimum Academic Requirements for Veterinary Services MRA

- **Veterinarian**
  - BVM or equivalent which must adhere to the following minimum standards:
    - Curriculum: Core OIE courses essential minimum
    - Credits required: Based on a minimum of 480 credits
    - Entry Requirements: Secondary school certificate (A’ level) or equivalent (e.g. diploma)
    - Duration: 5 years

**Veterinary para-professional Level 1 (degree)**
- Basic Curriculum (to be defined – existing recognised courses grandfathered)
- Credits required: Based on a minimum of 360 credits
- Entry requirements: Secondary school certificate (A’ level) or equivalent
- Duration: A minimum of 3 years
Veterinary para-professional Level 2 (diploma)
• Basic Curriculum (to be defined – existing recognised courses grandfathered)
• Credits required: Based on a minimum of 240 credits
• Entry requirements: Secondary school certificate (A’ level) or equivalent
  (credits required may be adjusted to take into account different entry levels)
• Duration: A minimum of 2 years

Veterinary para-professional Level 3 (certificate)
• Basic Curriculum (to be defined – existing recognised courses grandfathered)
• Credits required: Based on a minimum of 240 credits
• Entry requirements: O’level qualification or equivalent (credits required may be
  adjusted to take into account different entry levels)
• Duration: A minimum of 2 years
## Legislation Governing the Veterinary Profession in the EAC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title of Veterinary Service Act/regulations</th>
<th>Year of enactment</th>
<th>Who is Covered</th>
<th>Compliance with CMP and MRA on trade in services in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>Loi portant regulation de l'exercice de la Profession veterinaire au Burundi, 2011</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Veterinary Surgeons and Para-professionals</td>
<td>Not comply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Veterinary Surgeons and Veterinary Paraprofessionals Act 2011</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Veterinary Specialists, veterinary specialists, veterinary para-professionals</td>
<td>Not compliant (Section 15 and 17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>Law No 56/2013 of 09/08/2013 establishing Rwanda Council of Veterinary Doctors and determining its mission, organization and functioning</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Veterinary surgeons (Doctor). Government veterinary surgeons may register voluntarily</td>
<td>Comply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Veterinary Surgeons Act CAP 277</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>All veterinary surgeons operating in private practice (i.e. government veterinary surgeons)</td>
<td>A need for total review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key issues on Veterinary legislation

• Some Statutory bodies for regulation of veterinary profession in the region need to have more power in recognition of institution offering Veterinary and animal health training programs.

• The legal requirement for retention of registration in countries of origin provides a possibility of multiple registration leading to inconvenience in practice

• Some legislations in the EAC Partner States have provisions for category of veterinary specialist which has not been addressed in the audit report

• There is no mechanism for operationalization of the MRA of veterinary professionals- Creation of MCC- Mutual Coordination Committee

• It was noted the Republic of Uganda veterinary laws are of 1958.
• Partner States’ veterinary legislation are either outdated or not in tandem with the EAC Common Market Protocol
THE EQUIVALENCE ISSUE

Qualification in home Partner State

Registration in home Partner State

Eligibility to register in another Partner State

Registration in another Partner State = undertakings
Mutual Recognition Procedures (MRP)

MRP is the concept of Harmonised Registration of Veterinary Vaccines in the EAC

MRP: a harmonised registration system for veterinary vaccines in which all participating countries agree to the same dossier structure, dossier requirements and dossier assessment standards.”

• a harmonised system for registration of veterinary medicines will required the support of EAC to empower the Partner Sates to establish a harmonised system.

• In order Operationalize the harmonized registration system:
  • Legislation
  • Terms of Reference for the TWGs( Technical experts)-with TORs
  • Establishment of support groups similar to those set up by EAC-MRH (CGMR)- Regulatory Authorities with TOR
  • Possible recruitment of additional staff to administer the process
Mutual Recognition – the Concept

- Within a group of countries like EAC, Mutual Recognition is the authorisation of a medicinal product issued by one of the countries in that group being recognised and accepted by the other countries without repeating the assessment of the registration dossier.
Technical Documents

1. Dossier structure
2. Application Form
3. SPC* & Labelling Templates for IVPs**
4. Technical Guidelines
5. SOPs

* Summary of Product Characteristics
** Immunological Veterinary Products
SPS Protocol

- SPS Sanitary Measures – Mammals, Birds and Bees
- SPS Sanitary Measures for Fish and Fishery measures
SPS Protocol and Measures

The objectives of this Protocol are to-

• promote trade in food and agricultural commodities within the Community and between the Community and other trading partners;

• promote within the Community, the implementation of the principles on harmonisation, equivalence, regionalisation, transparency and risk assessment in the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures;

• strengthen cooperation and coordination of sanitary and phytosanitary measures and activities at national and regional level, based on common understanding and application within the Community; and

• enhance the sanitary and phytosanitary status through science based approach in the Community.
Article 5 Animal Health

The Partner States undertake to cooperate in matters of animal health.

1. For purposes of paragraph 1, the Partner States shall -
   a) provide notification of the existence of animal diseases through prompt and transparent sharing of information on trade-sensitive diseases as well as identification of infected zones;
   b) harmonise the inspection, certification and approval of establishments, hatcheries, breeding centres, abattoirs, dairies, animal products, and feedstuff;
   c) develop a framework for the design and management of animal quarantine stations;
   d) standardize sanitary documents including import permits and veterinary certificates;
   e) harmonise systems for registration, identification and traceability of animals and animal products;
   f) harmonise control of veterinary drugs; and
   g) harmonise animal welfare measures.

• SPS Sanitary Measures – Mammals, Birds and Bees
• SPS Sanitary Measures for Fish and Fishery measures
EAC Studies and Reports Relating Veterinary Legislation

Regional Studies

• Veterinary Services Report in EAC: A report prepared to facilitate the MRA Negotiations for veterinary Professionals
• Report of the Audit Institutions offering Animal Health Programmes
• On going studies (Policy and Regulatory environment for the regulation of veterinary medicines and IVP)- VETGOV; Policy and regulatory environment for implementation facilitating MRP for harmonized registration of IVPs

National VETGOV Studies

• Policy and veterinary legislation
  (In Kenya Yes, TZ Yes/No, Uganda Yes, Rwanda Yes, Burundi ?
• OIE Vet Legislation Missions in EAC Partner States and outcomes
A prosperous, competitive, secure and politically united East Africa

Thank You! Asante! Merci , Gracias
EAC HQs ARUSHA, TANZANIA

Thank you!!!