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**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION: PATTEC**

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### **Background**

The decision [(AHG/Dec. 156 (XXXVI)] adopted by the African Heads of State and Government in Lome, Togo in July 2000, to embark on a Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC), arose from the urgent need to stem the ravages of trypanosomiasis, a devastating disease transmitted by tsetse flies, which severely afflicts man and domestic animals. Trypanosomiasis causes death, debility and diminished productivity, limits land utilisation and constitutes a major constraint to Africa's socio-economic development in 37 countries of tropical and sub-tropical Africa. The tsetse and trypanosomiasis problem has been widely acknowledged to be rapidly deteriorating, with sleeping sickness and nagana undergoing a worrying period of re-emergence, having reportedly reached unprecedented levels of incidence, all against a background of limited effectiveness of available drugs and a general lack of intervention action against the disease. The decision to embark on the PATTEC initiative, aimed at eliminating the disease from Africa once and for all, not only underscored the seriousness and significance, which African Governments attach to the tsetse and trypanosomiasis problem, but it also defined their readiness and willingness to assume the primary responsibility of implementing the objectives of the decision.

Within the framework of this decision, the Commission was charged with the task of initiating and coordinating the activities of the campaign, mandated to remind member states about their individual and collective obligations to the objectives of the PATTEC initiative and required to report to the Summit every year on the progress made. Within the PATTEC initiative, the Commission seeks to mobilise new forms of organisation, achieve new levels of commitment and institute new approaches to ensure that effective action is engaged and sustained to accomplish the desired objective of ridding the continent of the scourge of tsetse and trypanosomiasis. This will be pursued through mobilizing and organizing the human and financial resources required to accelerate the activities against trypanosomiasis, with emphasis on the strategic importance of the ownership, leadership and direct involvement of African governments. The multinational nature of the tsetse and trypanosomiasis eradication campaign is inherent in the trans-boundary nature of the tsetse and trypanosomiasis problem, which in turn calls for maximum inter-state co-operation and coordination in implementing PATTEC. The implementation of the PATTEC initiative will therefore invoke concepts of multi-national cooperation, including execution of joint projects, sharing resources in facilities, expertise, etc between countries to avoid duplication and problems of economies of scale, while enhancing co-operation and maximising strength from synergy.



**4.2 Activities undertaken by the Commission in the implementation of the PATTEC initiative**

In the context of its assignment in the implementation of the PATTEC Initiative, the Commission has been involved in coordinating the activities of the campaign, increasing awareness about the purposes of the PATTEC initiative, mobilizing the commitment and support necessary to initiate and sustain effective action, reminding member states about their obligations to the campaign, promoting cooperation among affected countries and developing the capacity and expertise required to meet the challenges of the campaign. In this connection the following have been accomplished:

<b>Time line</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome/Impact</b>
July 2000 Summit, Togo	Decision to embark on the PATTEC initiative adopted [AHG/Dec.156 (XXXVI)].	Significance of trypanosomiasis recognized and political support commitment and actions to address the problem realised
December 2000	Task Force of African experts was commissioned to formulate a Plan of Action to guide the process of implementing the objectives of the PATTEC initiative.	A Plan of Action for the implementation of the PATTEC initiative was formulated
July 2001, Summit, Zambia	Plan of Action duly endorsed by the Summit [AHG/Dec. 169 (XXXVII)]	Plan of Action referred to relevant offices in the affected member states for implementation
August – October 2001	Consensus in support of the Plan of Action and its implementation from member states and from the mandated international organizations was sought	Consensus and support for the implementation of the PATTEC Plan of Action obtained from affected members, UN ECOSOC, IAEA, FAO and WHO
October 2001	PATTEC Initiative officially launched at a ceremony in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	Year 2001 marked as the Year of the Tsetse Fly, to mark the beginning of renewed efforts to address the problem of trypanosomiasis
February 2002	PATTEC Coordination Office established at the Commission	Office to assist the Commission in its role and mandate to mobilize, organize and coordinate the activities of the tsetse and trypanosomiasis eradication campaign
March 2002	PATTEC Policy and Mobilisation Committee (PMC) inaugurated	PMC to serve as a body charged with the task of overseeing and guiding the activities of the campaign on behalf of the Commission and the Member States

April December 2002	- Consultation with member states and relevant partners, including ADB on the implementation of the PATTEC Plan of Action	Increased awareness; in response to a request from the Commission, many countries developed their national strategies, Plan of Action and proposals for the implementation of the PATTEC initiative
October 2002 – April 2003	Assisted several countries to develop national plans and strategies on the implementation of the PATTEC initiative in the affected countries	Assisted countries include: Rwanda, Ethiopia, Mali, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Kenya and Tanzania
January December 2003	- Several regional and inter-state meetings of high level experts and senior government policy officials in charge of tsetse & trypanosomiasis control to discuss plans and strategies and consider the modalities of cooperation in executing tsetse and trypanosomiasis eradication projects were held for various groups of different countries, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ ECOWAS countries (April 2003)</li> <li>❑ Ethiopia – Sudan (April 2003)</li> <li>❑ Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe (May 2003)</li> <li>❑ COMESA (June 2003)</li> <li>❑ ADB (August 2003)</li> <li>❑ South Africa and Mozambique (September 2003)</li> </ul>	Consultations to discuss possibilities for cooperation in the implementation of PATTEC
March – June 2003	Conducted a training course on the application of GIS in planning and execution of tsetse eradication projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ March 2003 (For participants from West African countries)</li> <li>❑ June 2003 (For participants from East and Southern Africa)</li> </ul>	Information and knowledge required in the planning of tsetse eradication projects and guidance in the exploitation of tsetse-free land acquired.
January December 2003	- Developed several training manuals and publicity and public information materials with themes on PATTEC for publication	The manuals will provide guidance to training personnel
January December 2004	- In collaboration with the ADB, undertook a project identification, preparation and appraisal of a framework for providing support to countries engaged in the implementation of PATTEC	Sought and obtained the support of the African Development Bank in the development of a framework for providing financial assistance to countries involved in the process of tsetse and trypanosomiasis eradication.
April 2004	Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Latin	The joint charity Foundation (the Trypanosomiasis

	American Network for Research and Control of Triatominae (ECLAT) with which the PATTEC Coordination Office registered a joint charity Foundation	Vector Research and Control, TVRC) is registered in the USA as a 501(c) (3) organization eligible to receive tax-deductible grants.
May 2004	Sought the support of the WHO in the preparation and dissemination of publicity and public information on themes of PATTEC and its concerns	Obtained US\$45,000, from WHO in support of work on the preparation of publicity and public information materials on PATTEC
September 2004	Sought the support of the US State Department in the development of procedures for ensuring that the process and consequence of implementing PATTEC is compliant with good environmental practices	Obtained US\$250,000, from the U.S State Department in form of a contract to the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) to develop procedures for ensuring that tsetse eradication and its consequences comply
December 2004	Received approval by the African Development Fund (ADF) to fund a multinational project for the creation of tsetse-free areas in 6 countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali and Uganda), including a soft loan of US\$67 million and a grant of US\$4.9 million.	This project is a part that forms the first phase of a wider programme coordinated by the Commission within the PATTEC initiative, which will ultimately cover all the 37 countries affected by trypanosomiasis.

**Way Forward**

- a) There is need to remind all countries in general, and countries that have not yet engaged action especially, to respond to the tsetse eradication campaign and to include the obligation to eliminate this scourge from all countries among national development priorities, including the national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers,
- b) The Commission has initiated a resource mobilization initiative in collaboration with the African Development Bank to develop a sustainable mechanism through which countries engaged in the process of eradicating tsetse-transmitted diseases can be supported. In this connection, the relevant offices in the affected countries are encouraged to contact the PATTEC Coordination Office for further information,
- c) The African Development Bank should be thanked for its much-appreciated support to member states and the Commission in financing the implementation of the PATTEC initiative,
- d) A donor's conference should be specially convened for the mobilization of resources for PATTEC,
- e) The PATTEC Initiative should be adopted as one of Africa's rallying points for accelerating the continent's socio-economic development. Not only are tsetse flies found in Africa (and no where else in the world), but they also spread sleeping sickness, whose elimination could euphemistically be equated with waking up the continent; and in reality this would be highly apt, since tsetse-transmitted diseases actually constitute a severe constraint to Africa's socio-economic development.

**Full Report**

Further details on the activities of the Commission in the implementation of the PATTEC initiative can be found in the full report contained in a booklet entitled: *Progress in the Implementation of the decision to eradicate tsetse and trypanosomiasis from Africa*, which is available from the Commission.



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