



Partnership Update N° 6 – December 2008

Program Manager's Note The virtual EC12 is ongoing. On behalf of the Secretariat, I would like to thank all EC Members, particularly those who have already sent and encourage those who have not - to send their feedback on the documents at their earliest convenience but not later than January 16, 2009. Based on your suggestions, the Secretariat will draft virtual EC12 Resolutions and finalize all 11 documents, and send them to you. With your comments and suggestions, the Secretariat expects to finalize the EC12 Resolutions and send them to you before EC13 and GA4, which are scheduled in March 2009. Incidentally, this has been an important topic in the orientation given by the Secretariat to Dr. Ahmed El-Sawahly and Dr. Germain Bobo on December 1- 5, 2008. More important than the logistics involved in the organization of EC13 and GA4 is the issue of funding. I would like to use this **Note** to call upon current and potential donors of the Platform to be pro-active in every possible way in raising funds to finance these two important meetings. The transfer of the Secretariat will take place during GA4; it is very important that the event be a complete success. As always, your contributions for the next **Update** would be well received at secretariat@alive-online.org.

Virtual EC 12–Nov 24, 2008–Jan 16, 2009

Eleven documents are scheduled for review, with your feedback expected at the end of the two-week review period allotted for each batch of three or four documents. Your collaboration and support in sending your comments and suggestions to the Secretariat at the appointed date would help the process of finalizing the documents.

In addition to this task, the Secretariat would draft EC 12 Resolutions, based on your suggestions and inputs. Please send your suggestions for the draft Resolutions by January 16, 2009. The Secretariat will send you the entire draft by January 23, with an approval date on your part by January 30.

Branch Office Staff Orientation on the Transfer of the Secretariat

On December 1 – 5, 2008, Dr. Ahmed El-Sawahly, Acting EC Chairman and Acting Director of AU-IBAR and Dr. Germain Bobo, Branch Office Coordinator held working sessions with the Secretariat staff in Washington, D.C. that focused on (i) Secretariat roles and responsibilities in promoting the Partnership; (ii) operation and maintenance of the ALive website; (iii) administrative and budgetary issues; (iv) communication with EC members and governance; and (v) the organization of EC13 and GA4. The week-long sessions had been productive and successful in so far as the goals were concerned. Details on the products and accomplishments of

the sessions may be found in the Aide Memoire, which would be shared with EC members and posted on the ALive website.

HPAI Regional Program

The AHI regional activities for the period October to December 2008 focused on:

- *Submission of two draft reports to the virtual EC12 meeting for EC members' suggestions, validation, and approval, namely: (i) ALive Branding Mechanism for Research Proposals and (ii) AHI Regional Communication Strategy.*

- *Elaboration of the feasibility study report for establishing Socioeconomics and Biodiversity Networks (SEBN).* Subsequent to the completion of three sub-regional workshops on the establishment of SEBN in SSA in Kenya, Mali and Botswana, the SEBN team convened a final meeting in Rome on December 1-5, 2008 to (i) synthesize the three sub-regional workshops and (ii) write up the draft report of the feasibility study. The draft report would be submitted to the Champion, J. Domenech, and ALive Program Manager, F. Le Gall, for review and approval, prior to its presentation to Executive Committee members during EC13.

- *Completion of the Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks field missions.* The Epidemiology team completed its field missions in Kenya, Botswana, Uganda, Ethiopia, Mali, Tanzania, South Africa, and Republic of Congo, and the Laboratory team in Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania, Botswana, and Mali from October 14, 2008 to December 5, 2008. A meeting in Rome

is scheduled on December 16-20, 2008 for writing the reports. It is anticipated that the final reports of the two studies will be reviewed during EC13.

- *Organization of the joint Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks feasibility study validation workshops.* Preparation of the validation workshops for the Epidemiology and the Laboratory Networks studies is ongoing with the support of AU-IBAR and FAO. The two workshops are expected to take place in Nairobi on February 23-25, 2009.

AHI National Program

The Status Report on the INAP work program has been included in the list of documents for review during the virtual EC12. Per EC members' comments, the report has been updated (as of December 15, 2008). The summary statistics of the AHI national program stands: 19 completed Rapid Assessment missions; 4 Rapid Assessment missions under preparation; 15 completed INAPs; and 4 INAPs in progress. The Secretariat will provide assistance to RA missions and INAP production to all Government requests for ALive technical assistance received by December 31, 2008.

The Secretariat wishes you and your family a safe and nice holiday! Special note of Congratulations to Dr. Lawrence Tawah on his new Portfolio Management position at the AfDB.

