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THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

**BILLS SUPPLEMENT**

**No. 1**

**1st January, 2021.**

*to the East African Community Gazette No. 1 of 1st January, 2021.*

Printed by the Uganda Printing and Publishing Corporation, Entebbe by Order of the East African Community.

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THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY LIVESTOCK BILL, 2021

**MEMORANDUM**

The object of this Bill is to provide for coordinated identification, characterization, mapping and enumeration of livestock within the Community; to strengthen the detection, prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases and zoonotic diseases; to regulate cross-border movement of livestock; to provide for conservation and promotion of indigenous livestock; to promote and enhance the livelihoods of pastoralists; to provide for the establishment of a Community Livestock Fund and to provide for related matters.

The Bill is anchored on the cooperation of the Partner States in livestock as enshrined in Articles 105, 107 and 108 of the Treaty and expounded by the Council through several policies including the EAC Livestock Policy, 2014, the EAC Regional Strategy on Prevention and Control of Transboundary Animal and Zoonotic Diseases and the EAC Plan of Action for Enhancing Resilience of Pastoralists in the Drylands of EAC, 2015-2020.

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The Bill also recognises the order given by the Summit of EAC Heads of State requiring Partner States to enhance the capacities of the pastoralists in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands to facilitate them to cope with climate change and variability impacts.

The Bill builds on the national efforts made by the Partner States to mitigate and address the challenges faced by pastoralists and their livestock within their territories and seeks to establish measures to harmonise and standardize systems for identification and characterization of livestock, surveillance of livestock and wildlife in order to detect, prevent and control transboundary diseases and zoonotic diseases and establish and enhance early warning systems to ensure rapid detection and control of disease outbreaks within the Community.

HON. DR. ODOK WODA JEREMIAH  
*Member*  
*East African Legislative Assembly*

*East African Community Livestock Bill, 2021*

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THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY  
LIVESTOCK BILL, 2021

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

*Clause*

PART I—PRELIMINARY

1. Short title
2. Interpretation

PART II—IDENTIFICATION AND MAPPING OF LIVESTOCK

3. Identification, characterization and mapping of livestock
4. Enumeration of livestock

PART III—TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT OF LIVESTOCK

5. Transboundary movement of livestock

PART IV—PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY  
ANIMAL AND ZOOBOTIC DISEASES

6. Detection, prevention and control of Transboundary Animal Diseases.
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8. Vaccination of livestock
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10. Community Animal Genetic Resource Bank

PART VI—SUPPORTING PASTORALISM

11. Monitoring pastoral ecosystems.
12. Measures to prevent and combat rustling.

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*Clause*

13. Resource Centre on Pastoralism
14. National Livestock Disaster Response Fund
15. Mobile health and school systems
16. Community Livestock Fund
17. Insurance of livestock
18. Public awareness
19. Regulations

A Bill for an Act

ENTITLED

**THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY LIVESTOCK  
ACT, 2021**

**An Act of the Community to provide for coordinated identification, characterization, mapping and enumeration of livestock within the Community; to strengthen the detection, prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases and zoonotic diseases; to regulate cross-border movement of livestock; to provide for conservation and promotion of indigenous livestock; to promote and enhance the livelihoods of pastoralists; to provide for the establishment of a Community Livestock Fund and to provide for related matters.**

ENACTED by the East African Community and assented to by the Heads of State.

PART I – PRELIMINARY

1. This Act may be cited as the East African Community Livestock Act, 2021. Short title.
  
2. In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires – Interpre-  
tation.  
“Community” means the East African Community established by Article 2 of the Treaty;

“livestock” means domestic farm animals raised for food, income or other livelihood benefit;

“mark” means making or placing a mark on any livestock by means of tattooing or micro chipping, or any other mark recognised and determined by the Council as mark for livestock;

“Pastoralism” means a production system involving seasonal movement of livestock in search of water and pasture in which the owners of the livestock depend solely on livestock and livestock products for sustenance;

“Resource Centre” means the Community Resource Centre on Pastoralism established under section 13;

“rustling” means the stealing or planning, organising, attempting, aiding or abetting the stealing of livestock by any person from one country or community to another;

“Secretariat” means the Secretariat of the Community established by Article 9 of the Treaty;

“Transboundary Animal Disease” means any disease that can easily be spread from one Partner State to another that may reach epidemic proportions and the control or containment of which requires cooperation between countries;

“Treaty” means the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community.

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PART II—IDENTIFICATION AND MAPPING OF LIVESTOCK

3. (1) All livestock in the Community shall be appropriately identified, marked, characterised and mapped. Identifi-  
cation,  
characteri-  
zation and  
mapping of  
livestock.
- (2) The Council shall on the recommendation of the relevant Sectoral Council determine the identification marks which shall be applied to all livestock in the Community.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1) each Partner State shall ensure that all livestock in their territory is appropriated identified as required by this section and can be traced.

4. (1) Each Partner State shall regularly conduct national census of livestock resources within the national boundaries of that Partner State. Enumeration  
of livestock

(2) The Council shall on recommendation of the relevant Sectoral Council issue common guidelines and standard operating procedures for enumeration of livestock.

PART III—TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT OF LIVESTOCK

5. (1) The Council shall establish a mechanism to facilitate transboundary movement of livestock including— Trans-  
boundary  
movement of  
livestock
- (a) designating specific livestock movement routes or border crossing points;
  - (b) regulating the sale of livestock by pastoralists during cross-border movement;
  - (c) security measures for the livestock, pastoralists and the host communities;

- (d) provision of veterinary services to livestock during transhumance;
- (e) measures to prevent degradation of the environment by livestock and the pastoralist communities;
- (f) measures for seizing, confiscating, and forfeiting to a Partner State, all livestock, relocated or moved across borders without or in contravention of licenses, permits, or written authority issued by the Partner State of origin.

(2) Each Partner State shall establish measures to prevent informal cross border movement of livestock.

(3) For the purposes of this section, Partner States may cooperate to jointly monitor and enforce measures to prevent informal cross-border movement of livestock.

PART IV—PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY  
ANIMAL AND ZOOBOTIC DISEASES

Detection,  
prevention  
and control  
of Trans-  
boundary  
Animal  
Diseases.

**6.** (1) The Council shall on the recommendation of the relevant Sectoral Council, issue directives on the measures for detection, prevention, control and containment of transboundary animal diseases and other infectious animal and zoonotic diseases in the Community.

(2) The measures referred to in subsection (1) shall include—

- (a) a Community Preparedness and Response Plan on the basis of which every Partner State shall develop and adopt a national Preparedness and Response Plan;



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PART V—LIVESTOCK BREEDING AND MULTIPLICATION

Communi-  
nity Animal  
Genetic  
Resource  
Bank.

**10.** (1) The Community shall establish a regional animal genetic resource bank.

(2) The resource bank shall be a Community resource centre for livestock development through the conservation and promotion of livestock genetic resources.

(3) The Council shall by regulations, specify the mechanisms for—

- (a) sourcing of genetic material from livestock, artificial insemination institutions and livestock breeding centres in the Partner States and other locations approved by the Council;
- (b) handling of livestock genetic material including quality control, transportation, import and export measures;
- (c) accessing genetic material from the resource bank;
- (d) promoting and conserving indigenous livestock.

PART VI—SUPPORTING PASTORALISM

Monitoring  
pastoral  
ecosystems.

**11.** (1) The Secretariat shall coordinate the relevant agencies of the Partner States to continuously monitor the ecosystems used by pastoral communities in order to prevent and mitigate the effects of drought and other adverse effects on pastoralists and reduce the vulnerability of pastoralists.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the Secretariat shall establish—

- (a) livestock based early warning systems to monitor arid and semi-arid lands and ecosystems used by pastoral communities; and

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- (b) promote measures for building resilience in pastoral communities against droughts and other climate shocks.

**12.** (1) The Council shall establish mechanisms for preventing, combating and protecting pastoral communities from rustling and related activities. Measures to prevent and combat rustling.

(2) The mechanisms established by the Council under this section shall include—

- (a) identification, labelling and tagging of livestock;
- (b) encouraging pastoral communities to maintain an inventory of livestock in their possession;
- (c) promoting the use of appropriate technologies to identify, track and trace livestock;
- (d) promoting collaboration and joint patrols of pastoral and livestock communities and surveillance of livestock by the communities and law enforcement agencies;
- (e) clear channels for reporting rustling and other suspicious activities;
- (f) cross-border coordination of surveillance, tracking, tracing and recovery of stolen livestock.

**13.** (1) The Secretariat shall establish and maintain a Community Resource Centre on Pastoralism. Regional Resource Centre on Pastoralism.

(2) The Resource Centre shall be a repository for information relating to pastoralism in the Community.

(3) The Secretary General may require a national institution or agency to provide specific information relating to pastoralism for inclusion in the Resource Centre.

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- (b) guidelines and standard operating procedures for surveillance and detection of animal diseases;
- (c) guidelines and standard operating procedures for prevention and control of infection including biosafety and biosecurity measures which shall be followed by regional and national agencies and institutions;
- (d) stockpiling of immunological and pharmaceutical veterinary products for prevention and control of animal diseases and emergency disease outbreaks.

7. (1) The Secretariat shall coordinate the harmonisation and standardisation of systems for surveillance of livestock and wildlife in order to detect, prevent and control transboundary diseases and zoonotic diseases. Surveillance.

(2) Partner States agencies and institutions shall cooperate in the development and implementation of measures to prevent and control transboundary animal diseases and may conduct joint programmes aimed at monitoring and surveillance of livestock and wildlife existing or moving through their territory.

8. The Secretariat shall coordinate Partner States to plan and implement joint vaccination programmes for priority transboundary animal diseases along common borders. Vaccination of livestock.

9. (1) Each Partner State shall through the ministry responsible for livestock report to the Secretariat any outbreak of animal disease within its territory. Control of animal and zoonotic disease outbreaks

(2) The Council shall issue guidelines and procedures for reporting outbreaks of transboundary animal or zoonotic diseases to the Secretariat.

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National Livestock Disaster Response Fund.

**14.** (1) Each Partner State shall establish and maintain a national Livestock Disaster Response Fund.

(2) The Fund shall be used to assist pastoralists in that Partner State to deal with calamities caused by drought, floods, transboundary animal diseases or other animal disease outbreaks and to enhance resilience of pastoralists in the drylands situated in that Partner State.

Mobile health and school systems.

**15.** (1) Each Partner State shall ensure that the pastoral communities within their territory have access to basic education and health facilities during transhumance.

(2) In order to promote access to basic health and education, A Partner State may establish mobile health or education services to specific pastoral communities within their territory.

Community Livestock Fund.

**16.** (1) The Council shall in accordance with the Financial Rules and Regulations establish a Community Livestock Fund.

(2) The Fund shall be utilised to—

- (a) facilitate regional and national institutions conducting livestock, wildlife and primate research;
- (b) facilitate detection, prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases and zoonotic diseases;
- (c) coordinate and strengthen national animal health institutions and epidemiological units;

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- (d) establish and support regional and joint national programmes aimed at assisting and enhancing the lives of pastoralists in the Community including—
  - (i) access points to water and forage areas; and
  - (ii) identification and management of strategic grazing reserves.

**17.** Every Partner State shall promote the insurance of livestock resources in order to enhance the resilience of livestock keeping communities. Insurance of livestock.

**18.** (1) The Community shall develop and implement appropriate common public awareness strategies on livestock and the dangers of transboundary and zoonotic diseases which shall be mainstreamed in the major languages used in each Partner State. Public awareness.  
Regulations.

(2) The Secretary General shall ensure that a participatory and collaborative all-inclusive approach is adopted in developing public awareness programmes, including the participation of pastoral communities, farmers, veterinary experts, youth, the private sector, civil society, academia, non-governmental organizations, the media, traditional and community leaders.

(3) Specific sensitisation programmes shall be developed to target pastoral communities, border communities, law enforcement officers, cultural and community leaders and other specific groups keeping livestock within the Community.

(4) Public awareness programmes developed under this section shall include programmes on identification, characterization, mapping and enumeration of livestock and

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measures established by the Council to detect, prevent and control transboundary animal diseases and zoonotic diseases.

Regulations. **19.** The Council may make Regulations to better carry into effect the provisions of this Act.