



Twenty-first conference of heads of states

Decision A/DEC.5/10/98 Relating to the regulations on Transhumance between ECOWAS Member States

Abuja, 31st October 1998

DECISION A/DEC.5/10/98 RELATING TO THE REGULATION ON TRANSHUMANCE BETWEEN ECOWAS MEMBER STATES

THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATES,

MINDFUL of Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Revised Treaty on the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) establishing the conference of Heads of States and defining its composition and functions;

MINDFUL of Article 25 of the Treaty relating to cooperation between Member States to ensure agricultural development and to achieve food security;

CONVINCED that the development of livestock breeding is an integral part of any food security policy;

AWARE that livestock breeding in Member States is faced with numerous technical, climatic, legal and socio-economic constraints;

CONVINCED also that, given the current situation of the resources available in ECOWAS Member States, transhumance is essential for safeguarding and increasing agricultural production;

AWARE that transhumance is however, a source of health, social, environmental, economic and political problems;

DESIRING to enhance the environment for livestock breeding in Member States and to formulate, for that purpose, a harmonious regulation on transhumance within the Community;

ON THE RECOMMENDATION of the 43rd Session of the Council of Ministers held in Abuja from 23rd to 28th October, 1998;

DECIDES

CHAPTER I DEFINITIONS

Article 1

This Decision sets out the main principles of the rules governing transhumance within ECOWAS Member States.

Article 2

For the purpose of this Decision:

- “*transhumance between States*” means the seasonal movement between Member States of herds leaving their usual grazing areas in search of water and pasture;
- “*quarantine*” means the act to placing animals entering a particular region under veterinary observation with a view to determining their state of health;
- “*stray animals*” means animals that are allowed to move around freely or in parks without the supervision of a herdsman. Also included in this category are animals grazing in national parks or game reserves, even when they are under the supervision of a herdsman.

CHAPTER II OBJECT AND SCOPE

Article 3

All animals of the bovine, caprine, cameline, equine plus asinine species shall be allowed free passage across the borders of all Member States, under the conditions set out in this Decision.

Article 4

This Decision shall not apply to animals that are taken from one country to another to be sold or animals not referred to in Article 3 above.

CHAPTER III CONDITIONS FOR MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS

Article 5

All transhumance livestock shall be allowed free passage across points of entry into and departure from each country on the condition that; they have the ECOWAS International Transhumance Certificate, a sample of which is annexed to this Regulation.

The aims of the certificate are:

- to enable authorities to monitor the herds before they leave the country of origin;
- to protect the health of local herds;
- to make it possible to inform the host communities of the arrival of transhumance animals.

The certificate contains details on the composition of the herd, the vaccinations given, the itinerary of the herds, the border posts to be crossed, and the final destination. It is issued by the livestock department and initiated by the local administrative authorities in the country of origin.

Article 6

The official document defined in Article 5 above shall be verified and counter-signed by the competent authorities at the entry and exit points in the host country.

Article 7

Transhumance herds shall follow the routes defined by Member States in accordance with the itinerary indicated on the ECOWAS International Transhumance Certificate.

Article 8

There shall be no crossing of borders during the night.

Article 9

Without prejudice to the sanctions provided for in the laws of the country concerned, herds not covered by a certificate shall be placed under quarantine and the costs borne by the owners.

CHAPTER IV SUPERVISION OF NOMADIC LIVESTOCK

Article 10

Transhumance livestock must be under constant guard, both while on the move and during grazing.

Article 11

The herd must be guarded by sufficient number of herdsmen during migration. The number of herdsmen is determined by the number of heads of cattle. There must be a minimum of one herdsman of every fifty head of cattle. In all cases, transhumant herds must be accompanied by a minimum of two herdsmen.

Article 12

Herdsmen must be in possession of identify papers duly issued by the competent authorities in their countries of origin. They must be able upon demand, to show proof of the identity and permanent residence of the owner (s) of the herd. Herdsmen must be a least 18 years old.

Article 13

Stray animals will be apprehended by the relevant authorities and impounded without prejudice to the application of sanctions against their owner or herdsmen, as provided for by laws applicable in cases of stray animals in the Member State concerned.

CHAPTER V ARRIVAL OF TRANSHUMANT LIVESTOCK IN THE HOST COUNTRY

Article 14

Each host country shall fix the period during which migrating livestock may enter into and depart from its territory, and inform the other States accordingly.

Article 15

Each State shall define the areas where transhumant animal may be stocked and shall determine the maximum, capacity of each zone thus identified. The accompanying herdsman must pen up his herd in the zone of which he is directed by officials, at the point of entry.

Article 16

Herdsmen accompanying transhumant livestock and who are legally admitted into the host country shall be given protection by the authorities and their fundamental rights shall be guaranteed by the judicial institutions of the host country. In return, such herdsmen shall observe all laws and regulations of the host country, particularly those concerning the conservation of forest reserves and forest resources and the management of watering points and pastoral land.

Article 17

Any dispute between farmers and nomadic herdsmen shall first be judged by an arbitration commission on the basis of information gathered by the said Commission.

Article 18

This commission shall be composed of representative of the herdsmen, farmers, livestock officers and agricultural officers, officials from the ministries of Forest and Water Resources and local political and administrative authorities.

Article 19

In the event that an amicable settlement is not reached, the dispute may be resolved in the law courts in conformity with the rules governing settlement of contentious issues.

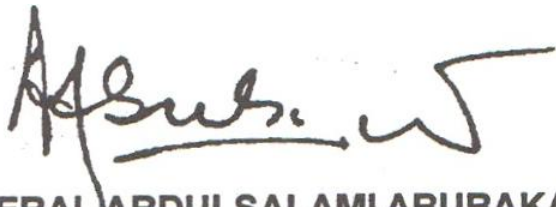
CHAPTER VI PUBLICATION AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

Article 20

This Decision shall be published by the Executive Secretariat in the Official Journal of the Community within thirty days of signature by the Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government.

It shall also be published by each Member State in its National Gazette within the same time-frame.

**DONE AT ABUJA,
THIS 31ST DAY OF OCTOBER, 1998**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abubakar', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**H.E. GENERAL ABDULSALAMI ABUBAKAR
CHAIRMAN,
FOR THE AUTHORITY.**

ANNEX



**Communauté Economique des
Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest**



**Economic Community of
West African States**

Country/Pays _____

**CERTIFICATE INTERNATIONAL DE TRANSHUMANCE DE LA CEDEAO
ECOWAS INTERNATIONAL TRANSHUMANCE CERTIFICATE**

**DECISION DES CHEFS D'ETAT ET DE GOUVERNEMENT No. A/DEC.5/10/98 DU 31 Oct. 1998
DECISION OF HEADS OF STATES AND GOVERNMENTS No. A/DEC. 5/10/98 of 31 Oct. 1998**

**NUMERO DE CERTIFICATE
CERTIFICATE NUMBER**



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Page 2 Abréviations/Abbreviations

ABREVIATIONS
ABBREVIATIONS

CODES DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LES PAYS
UNITED NATIONS CODE FOR THE COUNTRIES

		PAYS/COUNTRY	CODE
Taureau/Bull	TA/BU	Benin	204
Bœuf/Ox	BF/OX	Burkina Faso	854
Taurillon/Steer	TL/ST	Cabo Verde	132
Vache/Cow	VA/CA	COTE D'IVOIRE	384
Génisse/Heifer	GE/HE	GAMBIA	270
Veau/Male Calf	VE/MC	GHANA	288
Velle/Female Calf	VL/FC	GUINEE	324
Ovin/Ovine	OV/OV	GUINEE BISSAU	624
Caprin/Caprine	CAP/CAP	LIBERIA	430
Equin/Equine	EQ/EQ	MALI	466
Asin/Asine	AS/AS	MAURITANIE	478
Camelin/Cameline	CAM/CAM	NIGER	562
		NIGERIA	566
		SENEGAL	686
		SIERRA LEONE	694
		TOGO	768

**Feuillet Carbonises en couleur, Blanc, Rose, Jaune, Bleu
Carbonised Sheets in White, Pink, Yellow, Blue colours**



Pays _____ Certificat International de Transhumance No. _____
Country (en vertu de la décision A/DEC.5/10/98 du 31 Oct. 1998)
International Transhumance Certificate No.
(Issued in accordance with decision A/DEC.5/10/98 of 31 Oct. 1998)

Propriétaire du troupeau : Nom _____ Prénoms _____ Adresse permanent _____
Owner of herd : Name Forename Permanent address

Origine du troupeau _____
Origin of herd

Date et lieu de départ _____ Destination finale _____
Date and point of departure Final destination

Itinéraire prévue/Proposed itinerary _____

Composition du troupeau/ Composition of herd

TA/ BU	BF/ OX	TL/ ST	VA/ CA	GE/ HE	VE/ MC	VL/ FC	OV/ OV	OV/ OV	CAP/ CAP	CAP/ CAP	EQ/ EQ	EQ/ EQ	AS/ AS	AS/ AS	CAM/ CAM	CAM/ CAM
							M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F

Protection medicale/Vaccinations

Vaccination	Peste Bovine/ Rinderpest	Péripleumonie Contagieuse Bovine/Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia	Pasteurellose/ Pasteurellosis	Charbon Symptomatique/ Blackleg	Charbon Bacteridien/Anthrax
Date et lieu de vaccination / Vaccination date and place					

Délivré le/Issued on _____ A/At _____ Vise le/ Seen on _____ A/At _____

Nom et Prénoms/Name & Forename _____ Nom et Prénoms/Name & Forename _____

Signature et cachet/Signature and stamp _____ Signature et cachet/Signature & stamp _____

PAGE 4 INFORMATIONS GENERALES/ GENERAL INFORMATION

INSTRUCTIONS POUR L'UTILISATION DU CERTIFICAT INTERNATIONAL DE TRANSHUMANCE USE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSHUMANCE CERTIFICATE

1. Le présent certificat est délivré en quatre (4) feuillets sur carnet spécial de dimension 24.5 cm x 15 CM. Les quatre feuillets sont de couleurs différents ; blanc, rose, jaune et bleu.
This certificate is issued in the form of a special booklet containing four sheets 24.5 cm X 15 cm ; White, pink, yellow and blue.
2. Chaque année, au départ en transhumance, le berger se rend au poste d'élevage de sa localité pour l'établissement de ce document.
Each year before departure, the herdsman shall obtain this certificate from the livestock control post of his locality.
3. Le certificat est établi par le poste d'élevage du lieu de départ.
The certificate is issued by the livestock control at the point of departure.
4. Il est ensuite visé par l'autorité administrative locale.
It is then initialed by the local administrative authority.
5. Le première Feuille (blanc) reste avec les pages de garde et est remis au berger qui doit le présenter à toute réquisition.
The first page (white) shall not be detached from the cover pages and is to be handed over to the herdsman who shall produce it on demand.
6. The deuxième Feuille (rose) reste avec les pages de garde jusqu'au poste d'élevage de destination finale.
The second copy (pink) remains in the booklet up to the livestock post at the final destination.
7. The troisième Feuille (jaune) est adressé par le poste d'élevage qui a établi le certificat à sa direction nationale d'élevage par voie hiérarchique.
The third page (yellow) shall be sent by the certificate issuing office to the national office of livestock through the official channel.
8. Le quatrième Feuille (bleu) constitue la souche et reste auprès du poste ayant établi le certificat.
The fourth page (blue) is the counterfoil and shall be kept by the issuing office.
9. La numération utilise le code administratif en vigueur dans chaque pays membre de la CEDEAO.
The certificate numbering utilises the country code of ECOWAS Member State.
10. Les rapports annuels faisant mention des mouvements de départ et de retour de la transhumance devront être adressés au Secrétariat Exécutif de la CEDEAO, 60 Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Asokoro District, P.M.B. 401, Abuja, Nigeria.
Annual reports containing data on the movement numbers of livestock departing on and returning from transhumance should be forwarded to the Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS, 60 Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Asokoro District, P.M.B. 401, Abuja, Nigeria.



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