

# Strengthening a regional approach

TAFS Conference

Strengthening FMD control capacity and  
enhance resilience

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# Outlay of presentation

- What is a regional approach/strengthening?
- Why do we need regional strengthening?
- What tools do we have available for regional strengthening?
- Why is there an apparent lack of regional strengthening/support?



# Why a Regional Approach Matters

- FMD remains endemic in parts of Southern Africa
- Wildlife reservoirs sustain SAT serotypes
- Livestock mobility and communal grazing increase exposure
- Regional trade and livelihoods depend on coordinated control

# Epidemiological realities

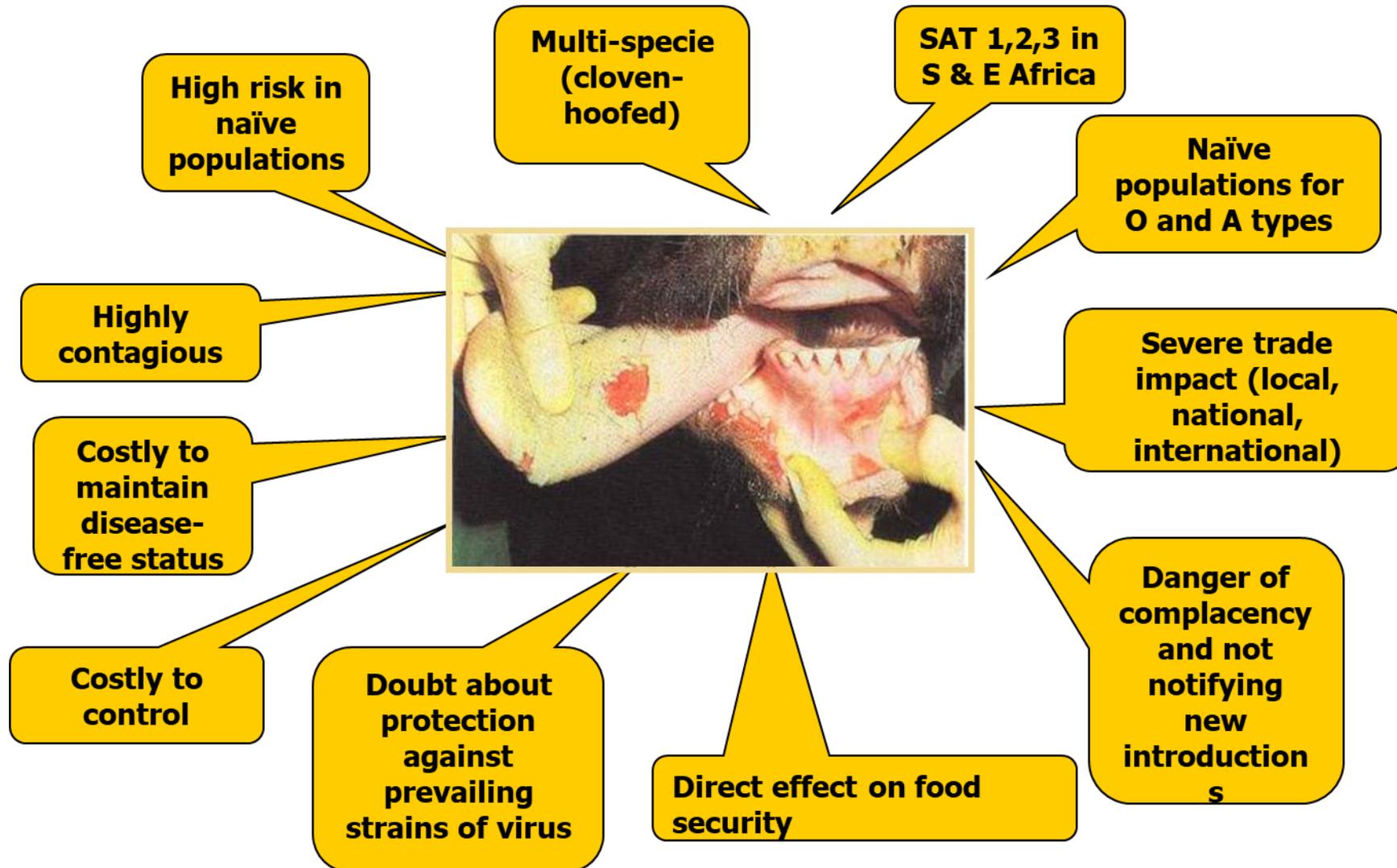
- African buffalo as long term SAT virus reservoir
- Interface zones as persistent high-risk areas
- Transboundary animal movements
- Ruralization of the urban environment
- Climate, land use, and ecological pressures

# Core concepts of the need for regional strengthening

- Strong technical foundation
- Clear wildlife–livestock interface framing
- Balanced socio-economic and ecological integration
- Emphasis on harmonized regional standards
- Forward-looking trade and market access approach
- Regional coordination is essential for sustainable control and trade

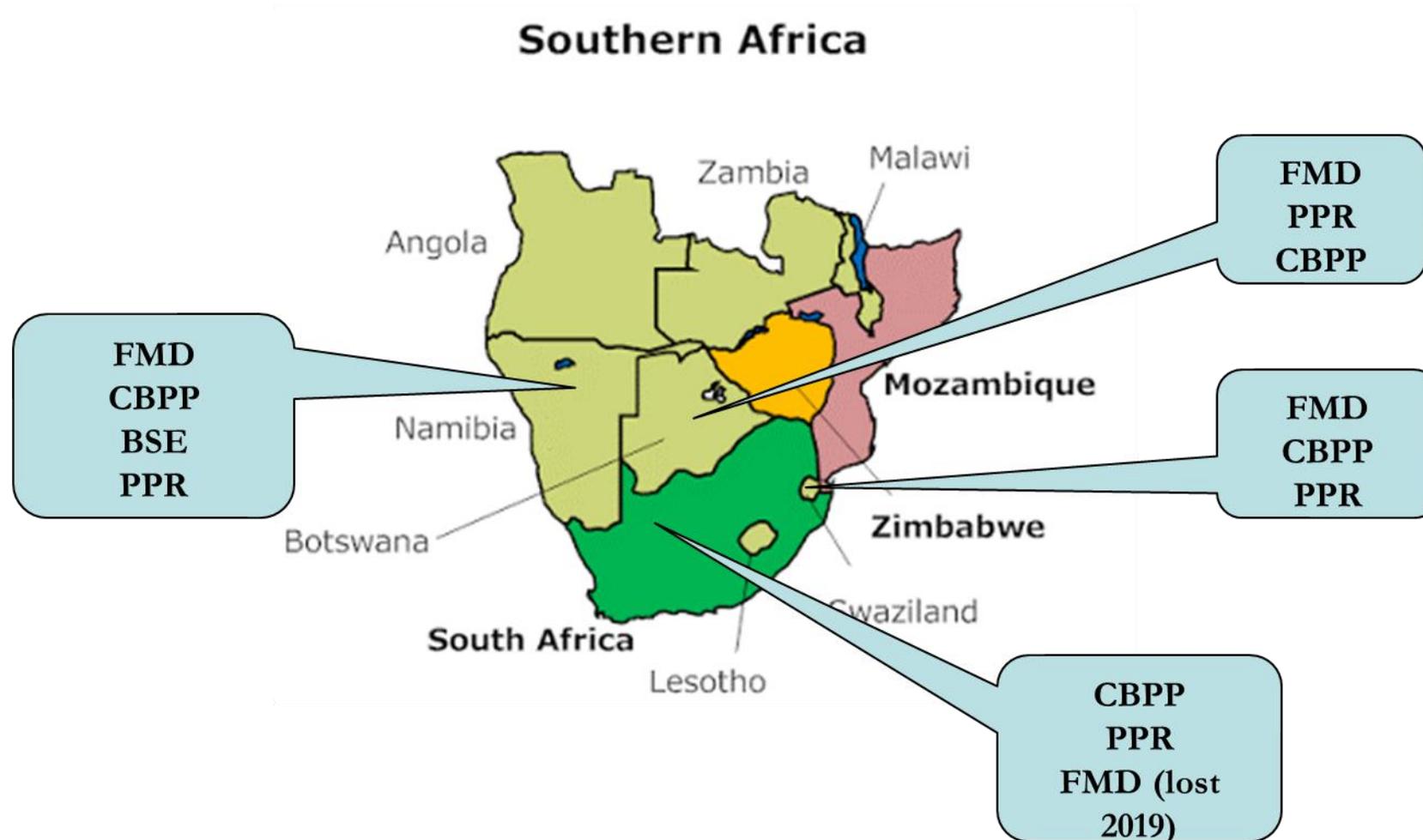


# Impact of persistent FMD outbreaks on the region



# WOAH official disease freedom in southern Africa

## The need for a regional approach to help to protect each others status



# What do we already have to enhance a regional approach?



World Organisation  
for Animal Health



**AFRICAN UNION**  
**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU**  
**FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**



# Why do we need to have a strong regional approach?

- Alignment with WOAHA, SADC, and continental frameworks
- Coordinated outbreak response
- Early warning and response
- Shared epidemiological intelligence
- Risk-based trade enabling safe exports from infected zones
- Reduced reliance on fencing
- Clear risk-pathway prioritization
- Regional cost-benefit framing
- Governance accountability mechanisms

# Why is the current regional approach not working well?

- Tortoise approach – pull our heads in and do not communicate with each other
- Lack of transparency – do not openly or timely share information or perceived risks
- What is the best for me rather than: *“How can I help to protect my neighbour to continue with trade”*



# Current challenges for strengthening a regional approach

- Fragmented national strategies
- Inconsistent surveillance capacity
- Variable vaccination coverage
- Infrastructure gaps (fencing, labs, cold chain)
- Limited cross border coordination

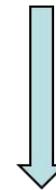


# Regional Harmonisation

- Alignment with WOAHA standards
- Strengthening SADC FMD Roadmap implementation
- Shared outbreak response protocols
- Cross border coordination mechanisms
- Regional epidemiological intelligence sharing

# What can a strengthened regional approach do for the region?

- Improve disease control
- Support livelihoods
- Enable safe trade
- Build long-term resilience



*Thank you very much!*

