

Importance of Animal Disease Outbreak Reporting For The International Community

TAFS Conference: “Strengthening FMD control capacity and enhance resilience”

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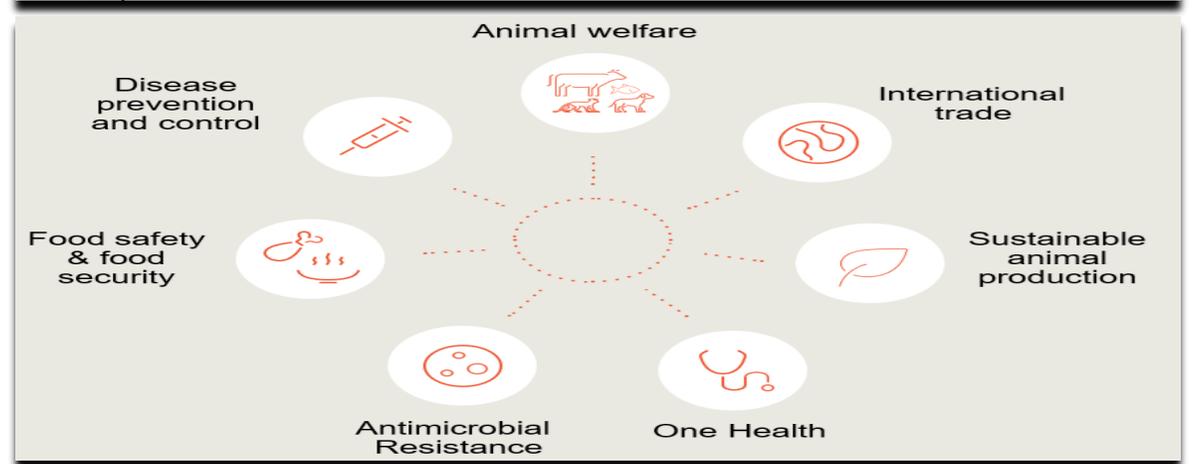
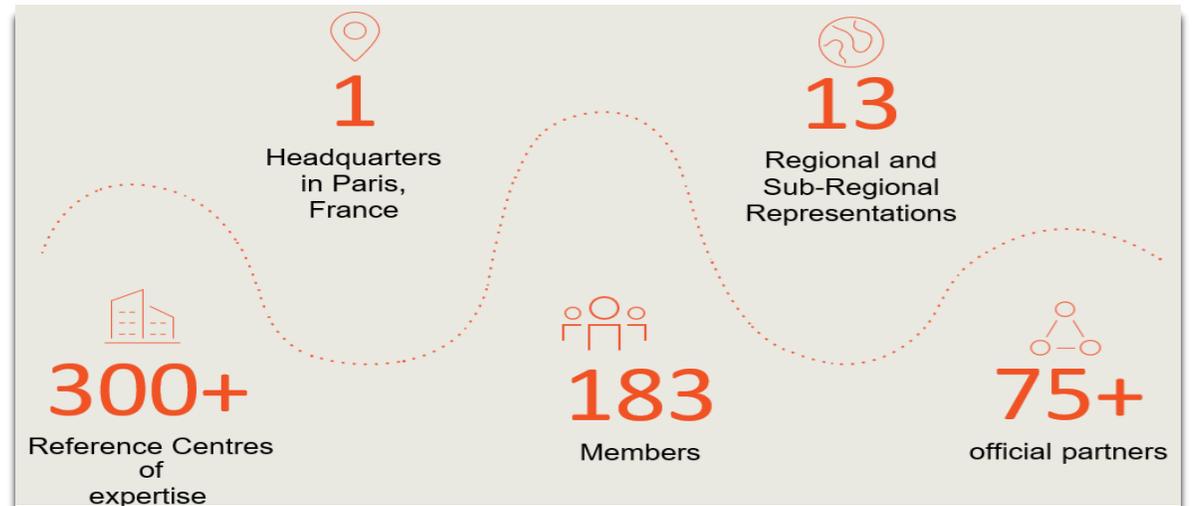


Presentation Layout

- **Background Information on WOA**H
- **Disease Outbreak Reporting**
- **A Case in Point: Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)**
- **WOAH Tools (*Zoning, Compartmentalisation, Containment Zone and Protection Zone ...*)**
- **Conclusion**



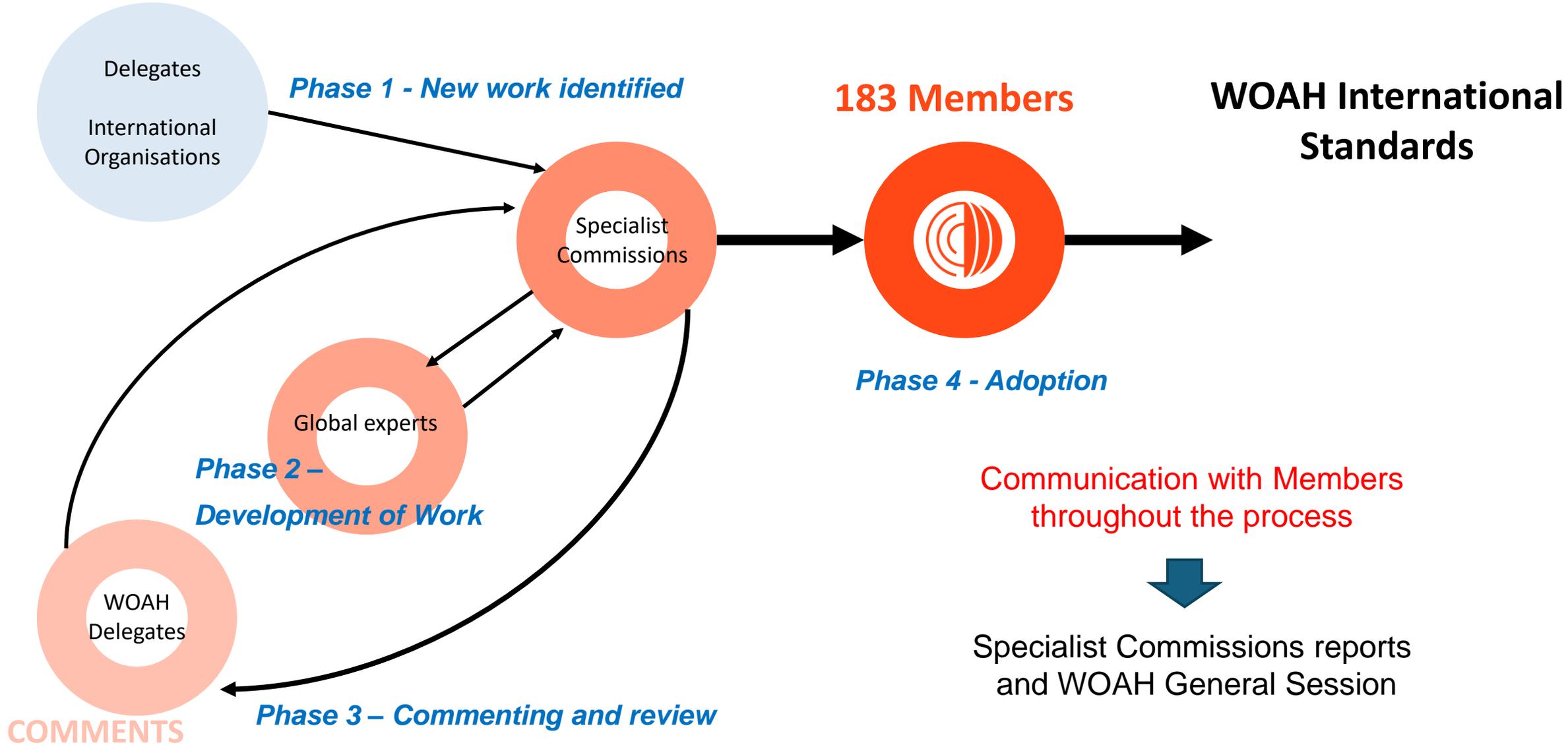
Background Information on World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)





Background Information - Standard Setting process

TOPIC

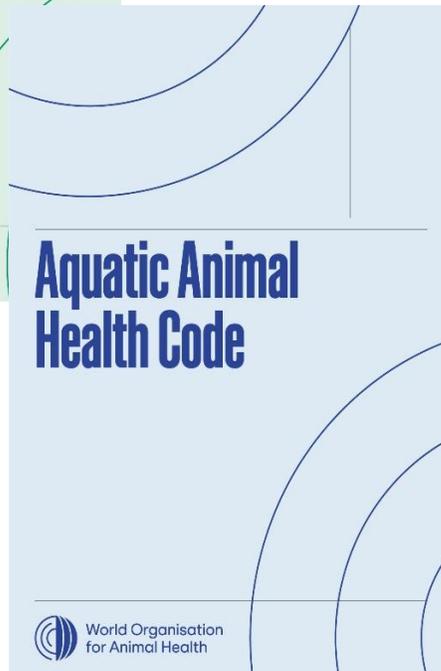
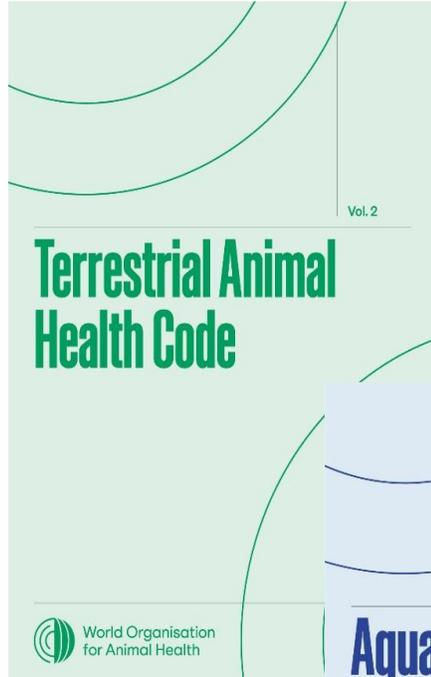


Detailed process available on WOAH Website

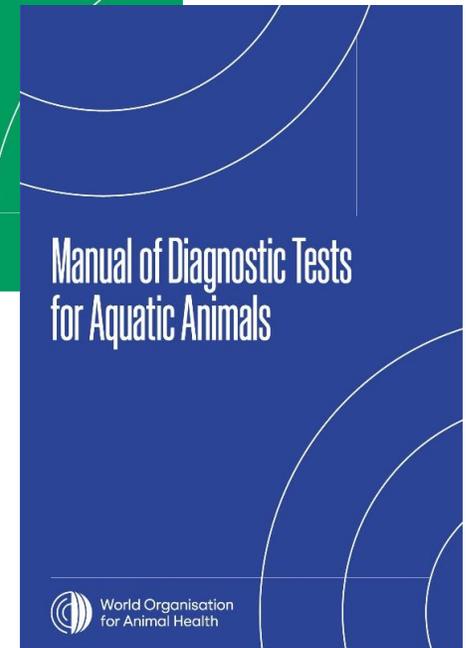
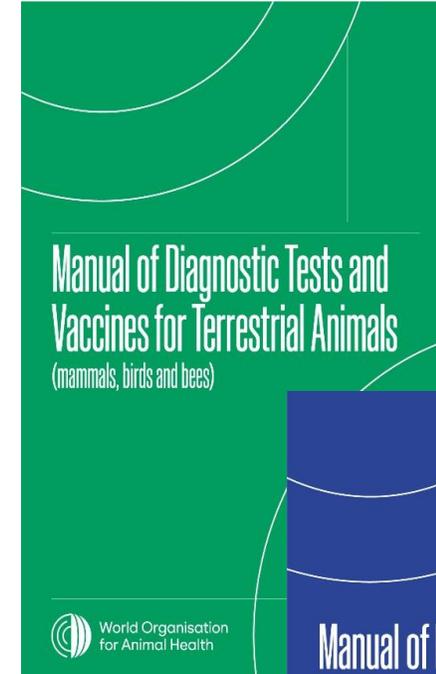


Background Information - International Standards

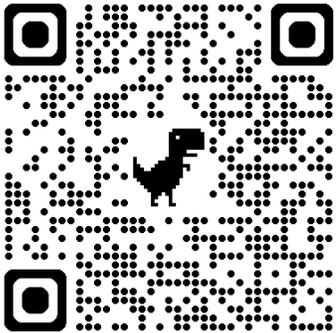
Codes



Manuals



Access standards here:





ANIMAL DISEASE OUTBREAK REPORTING

CHAPTER 1.1. NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES AND PROVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION



CHAPTER 1.1. NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES AND PROVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

- Animal diseases reporting is a **legal obligation** for member countries to ensure that the global community is aware of the sanitary situation.
- **Article.1.1.1:** Animal disease occurrence notifications/reporting to WOAH are made by the Veterinary Authority and shall be regarded as having been sent by the country concerned.
- **Article.1.1.2:** Member Countries shall make available to other Member Countries, through WOAH, whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread of important *animal* diseases, and their pathogenic agents, and to assist in achieving better worldwide control of these diseases.
- To achieve this, Member Countries shall comply with the notification requirements specified in **Articles 1.1.3. and 1.1.4.**



CHAPTER 1.1. NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES AND PROVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

- **Article.1.1.3:** *Veterinary Authorities* shall send WOAHA, an **immediate notification for a listed disease (or an emerging disease)**, through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) within 24 hours, of any of the following events:
 - **first occurrence** of a listed disease in a country, a zone or a compartment;
 - **recurrence of an eradicated listed disease** in a country, a zone or a compartment following the final report that declared the event ended;
 - **first occurrence of a new strain of a pathogenic agent** of a listed disease in a country, a zone or a compartment;
 - **recurrence of an eradicated strain of a pathogenic agent** of a listed disease in a country, a zone or a compartment following the final report that declared the event ended;
 - **a sudden and unexpected change in the distribution or increase** in incidence or virulence of, or morbidity or mortality caused by, the pathogenic agent of a listed disease present within a country, a zone or a compartment;
 - **occurrence of a listed disease in an unusual host species.**



CHAPTER 1.1. NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES AND PROVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

- **weekly** reports subsequent to a notification , to provide further information on the evolution of the event, until the disease has been eradicated or the situation is stable to be reported in a six-monthly;
- **six-monthly** reports on the absence or presence and evolution of listed diseases and information of epidemiological significance to other Member Countries;
- **annual** reports concerning any other information of significance to other Member Countries.



CHAPTER 1.1. NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES AND PROVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Article.1.1.4: Veterinary Authorities shall send a notification through WAHIS or by fax or email, when an emerging disease has been detected in a country, a zone or a compartment;

Article.1.1.5: Although Member Countries are only required to notify listed diseases and emerging diseases, they are encouraged to provide WOAHA with other important *animal* health information.



IMPORTANCE OF OUTBREAK REPORTING TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY



IMPORTANCE OF OUTBREAK REPORTING TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY:

Protection of International Trade:

- It ensures the safety of international trade in animals and animal products
- By providing accurate data on the animal health situation, member countries can maintain trust with trading partners.

Early Detection and Prevention of Pandemics:

- Prompt reporting enables the global community to identify, track, and control disease outbreaks before they cross borders and turn into epidemics or pandemics.
- **Stopping Spread at Source:** Reporting allows international bodies like the WOAH to detect threats early and activate response networks such as the Global Framework for Transboundary Animal Disease (GF-TADs) to contain outbreaks before they become pandemics.
- **Safeguarding Food Security and Economies:** timely reporting and rapidly controlling diseases prevents the immense economic losses associated with production declines, animal deaths, and trade restrictions, thus protecting global food supply chains.





IMPORTANCE OF OUTBREAK REPORTING TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY:

- **Activating Global Resources:** Formal reporting may trigger the release of emergency funds from the contingency funds.
- **Coordination of Global Response:** Reports submitted to WAHIS are used to inform other international organizations and countries, facilitating a coordinated and evidence-based response to emerging threats.
- **Scientific and Strategic Decision Making:** Data on outbreaks, help researchers and policy-makers understand disease dynamics, develop vaccines, and formulate control measures.
- **Mitigation of Biological Threats:** Whether outbreaks are natural, accidental, or deliberate, timely reporting helps to quickly engage response mechanisms, reducing the impact of potential biological disasters.





FMD SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA – A CASE IN POINT

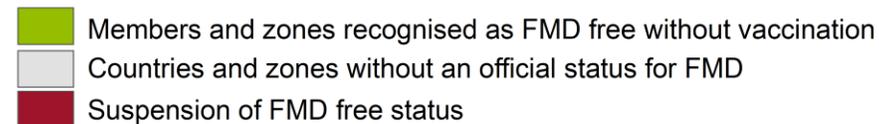
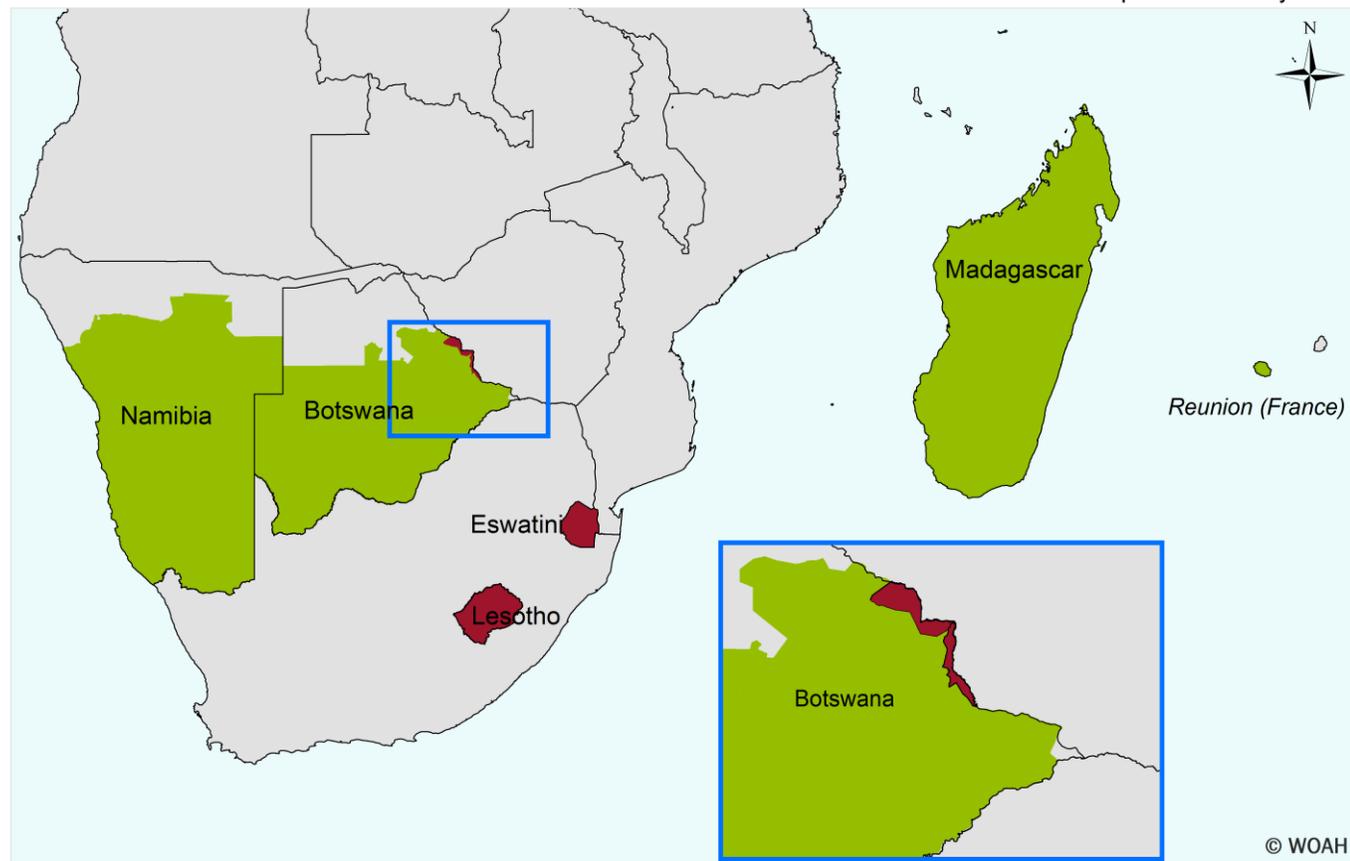
SOUTHERN AFRICA: OIE Member Countries' official FMD status map

Last update August 2016



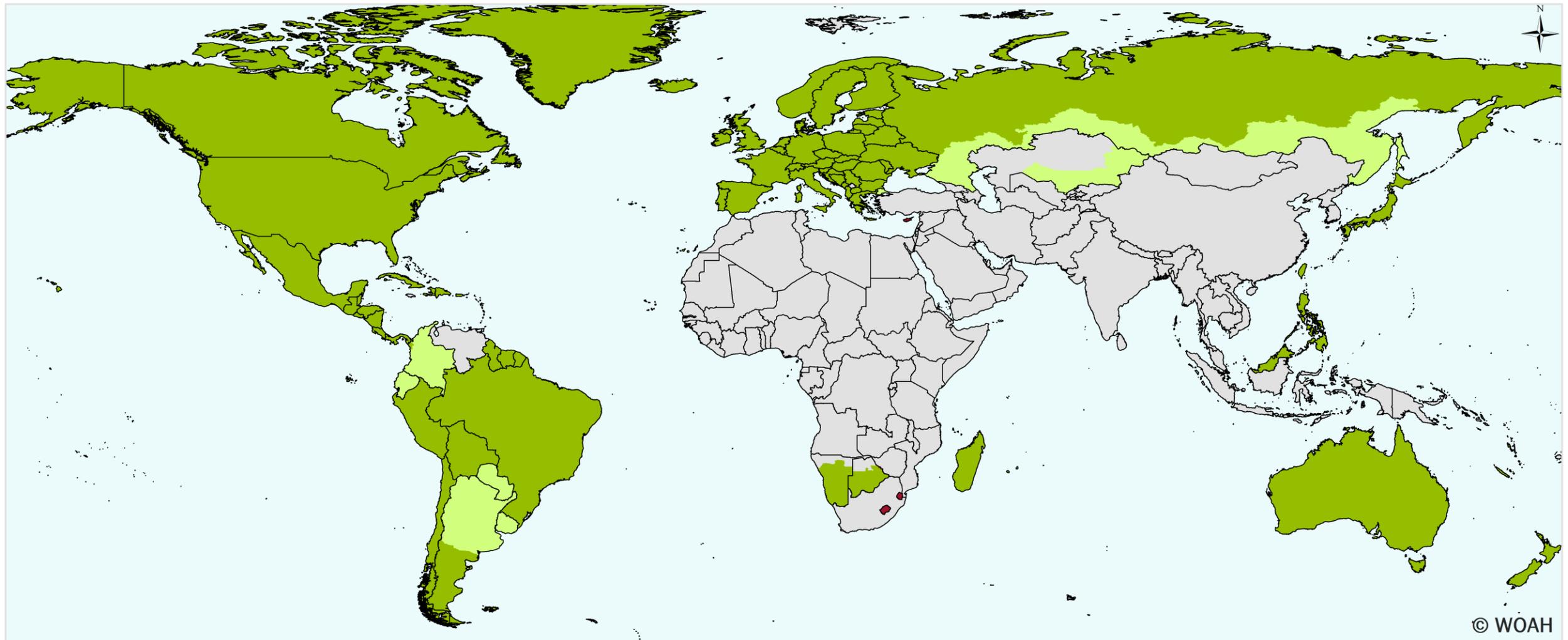
SOUTHERN AFRICA: WOAAH Members' official FMD status map

Last update February 2026



WOAH Members' official FMD status map

Last update February 2026



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-  Members and zones recognised as free from FMD without vaccination
-  Members and zones recognised as free from FMD with vaccination

-  Suspension of FMD free status
-  Countries and zones without an official status for FMD



WOAH TOOLS TO HELP MANAGE FMD



ZONES AND COMPARTMENTS

Article.4.4.3

Principles for defining and establishing a zone or compartment

The following principles apply when Member Countries define a *zone* or a *compartment*.

1. The extent of a *zone* and its geographical limits should be established by the *Veterinary Authority* on the basis of natural, artificial or legal boundaries, and made public through official channels.
2. The factors defining a *compartment* should be established by the *Veterinary Authority* on the basis of relevant criteria such as management and husbandry practices related to *biosecurity*, and communicated to the relevant operators through official channels.
3. *Animals* and *herds* or *flocks* belonging to *subpopulations* of *zones* or *compartments* should be recognisable as such through a clear epidemiological separation from other *animals* and all factors presenting a *risk*. The measures taken to ensure the identification of the *subpopulation* and to establish and maintain its health status through a *biosecurity plan* should be documented in detail. These measures should be appropriate to the particular circumstances, and depend on the epidemiology of the disease, environmental factors, the health status of *animals* in adjacent areas, applicable *biosecurity* (including movement controls, use of natural, artificial or legal boundaries, spatial separation of *animals*, control of fomites, and commercial management and husbandry practices), and



PROTECTION ZONE

Article.4.4.6

Protection zone

A *protection zone* may be established to preserve the *animal health status* of an *animal population* in a free country or a *free zone* by preventing the introduction of a pathogenic agent of a specific *infection* or *infestation* from neighbouring countries or *zones* of different *animal health status*.

A *protection zone* may be established as a temporary measure in response to an increased *risk* of disease. In such *case*, it may be maintained up to 24 months.

The *protection zone* can be established within or outside a *free zone* or within a free country. Based on the results of a *risk assessment*, more than one *protection zone* may be established.

Biosecurity and *sanitary measures* should be implemented in the *protection zone* on the basis of the *animal* management systems, the epidemiology of the disease under consideration and the epidemiological situation prevailing in the neighbouring infected countries or *zones*.

In addition to the general considerations in Article 4.4.2. and the principles in Article 4.4.3., these measures should include intensified movement control, *animal identification* and *animal traceability* to ensure that *animals* in the *protection zone* are clearly distinguishable from other *populations*. *Vaccination* of susceptible *animals* in accordance with Chapter 4.18. may also be applied.



CONTAINMENT ZONE

Article.4.4.7

Containment zone

1. In the event of *outbreaks* in a country or *zone* previously free from a disease, a *containment zone*, which includes all epidemiologically linked *outbreaks*, may be established to minimise the impact on the rest of the country or *zone*.
2. A *containment zone* is an *infected zone* that should be managed in such a way that *commodities* for *international trade* can be shown to have originated from either inside or outside the *containment zone*.
3. *Establishment* of a *containment zone* should be based on a rapid response, prepared in a contingency plan, that includes:
 - appropriate control of movement of *animals* and other *commodities* upon declaration of suspicion of the specified disease;
 - epidemiological investigation (trace-back, trace-forward) after confirmation of *infection* or *infestation*, demonstrating that the *outbreaks* are epidemiologically related and all are contained within the defined boundaries of the *containment zone*;
 - a *stamping-out policy* or another effective emergency control strategy aimed at eradicating the disease;
 - *animal identification* of the susceptible *population* within the *containment zone*, enabling its recognition as belonging to the *containment zone*;
 - increased passive and targeted *surveillance* in accordance with Chapter 1.4. in the rest of the country or *zone*, demonstrating no occurrence of *infection* or *infestation*;



CONCLUSION

- Foot-and-mouth disease remains one of the most stubborn barriers to livestock productivity and trade in Southern Africa.
- Its persistence demands not just stronger veterinary systems, but coordinated regional action, smarter surveillance, and sustained investment.
- Without this, the region will continue to shoulder avoidable economic losses.
- WOAHA stands with VS and Industry to control FMD

Thank you

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