



Regional strategy for RVF control in SADC

A proposal

FAO – OIE – AU IBAR
RAHC

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Background



- Regional Animal Health Centres were set up in Africa since 2007, primarily in response to the incursion of HPAI in Africa
- The RAHC combines the expertise of OIE, FAO as international organisations with their specific mandates (standard setting / technical expertise and implementation) with the continental organisation AU-IBAR, providing policy guidance
- The mandate of the RAHC is first and foremost to support the SADC region in the fight against major TADs



**Good Farming Practices
Guidelines and Strategies**

Good Farming Practices & Strategies

**Animal Health Standards and
Guidelines setting and Adoption**

Standards and Guidelines Setting

Expertise on Animal Health

Expertise

**Animal Disease Information
and Intelligence**

Official Disease Information

Disease Tracking

Disease intelligence

Animal Health Publications

Technical and Scientific Publications

**Capacity Building Programmes
on Animal Health on
standards and guidelines
implementation**

Global

Regional

National

**Development programmes on
Animal Health**

Global

Regional

National

**Expertise for Development
Programmes on Animal Health**

Expertise for Development Programmes on Animal Health

Background



- RVF, a zoonosis and a TAD, therefore falls squarely into the mandate of the RAHC
- Given the threat of further expansion of RVF in the SADC region, the organisations represented in RAHC have organised this workshop and have developed a project framework
- This proposal, presented hereafter, will be further developed taking the outcome of this workshop and its recommendations into consideration

Introduction



- RVF is a zoonosis, caused by a virus of the Bunavirides family
- RVF appears in epizootic waves with inter-epizootic “silent” periods in between – makes it difficult to control
- Continental distribution:
 - West Africa: Senegal – Gambia – Mauretania cluster
 - East Africa: Kenya — Somalia - Sudan

RVF in Southern Africa



- Affected countries in the last three years
 - Madagascar (1979, 1990/1) 2008
 - Swaziland: 2008
 - South Africa: 2008
 - Mayotte: 2008
 - Tanzania: 2006/7
- Alerts during period of floods for
 - Namibia

Observations



- Disease often first recognised in human
 - ⇒ need for turn around towards first recognition in animals
- Outbreak control in most countries (e.g. Kenya, Madagascar) was delayed because risk factors were not recognised in a timely manner, hence decision and strategies to control the disease were taken too late..
 - ⇒ a well documented contingency/emergency plan for RVF was lacking



- In order to better prepare Veterinary Services of affected and non-affected countries in the SADC region, the following *regional project framework* is presented and proposed for your adoption:

Development of a regional RVF control strategy in SADC

Objectives



- To capacitate Veterinary Services in SADC MS in early detection and diagnosis of RVF
- To determine the best approaches to prevention and control for SADC countries at different risk levels



- Proposed framework consists of
 - 5 outputs with activities
 - 3 additional research based results to be taken up by interested collaborators (not limited)
- It is proposed that
 - the organisations in the RAHC assist SADC in the coordination of this project
 - RAHC will assure that SADC livestock structures (LTC, SCs, SACCT, LIMS) will be fully involved/ informed for sustainability

Expected results / proposed activities



1. Risk levels of SADC MS determined

- Categorise 15 MS into different risk groups through risk assessment
- Describe the clusters of countries and determine levels of risk
- Design surveillance system for the different clusters based on environmental zonation
- Design early warning system for each cluster within the Southern African region



2. SADC region is better prepared for rapid diagnosis of RVF, early warning and risk communication
 - Strengthen capacity of the existing Reference Laboratory (OVI) and identify a second laboratory with the capacity to provide the region with diagnostic services (twinning as an option)
 - Setting up of a regional early warning system hub
 - RAHC/SADC to assume role of coordination and dissemination of information/EW



3. Capacity building program for different clusters developed

- Target groups for capacity building:
 - Laboratory personnel (biosecurity, diagnosis)
 - Veterinary field personnel (surveillance, biosecurity)
 - Risk groups (abattoir workers, meat inspectors, vendors)
 - Policy makers
- Training program tailored to the needs of the different risk clusters



4. Improved vaccine availability and use promoted

- Analyse the opportunities and constraints associated with the available vaccines
- Develop guidelines for optimised use of vaccine in the different risk clusters



5. Regional control strategy for SADC developed

- Develop Regional strategy with different chapters for risk clusters
- Link the strategy with those for other TADs presently being developed (SACCT)
- Foster collaboration between PH and AH towards guidelines for integrated control
- Assist countries to transform regional strategy into national emergency preparedness plans and benefit from HPAI experience in developing regional and national Preparedness Plans

Proposed additional research based results



A. New vaccines developed

- Vaccine developers and manufactures are encouraged to field-test vaccine candidates using the project structure



B. Improved understanding of vector distribution and ecology

- Entomological research to increase knowledge base on vectors, their distribution and ecology in the SADC MS



C. Improved understanding of the role of wildlife as a reservoir for RVF

- SADC region is abundant with wildlife with the capacity to act as a virus reservoir

The way forward



- Scientific Committee of this conference to assist in finalising this proposal by integrating the recommendations of this Workshop
- Expression of interest by research partners and industry for the proposed additional results
- Submission of proposal to donors

Thank you for your attention

