

## VETERINARY STATUTORY BODIES IN THE SADC REGION

### CURRENT CHALLENGES AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

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## The Veterinary Council of Namibia



### The Veterinary Council of Namibia

- Established 6 years before Namibia gained independence.
- The Veterinary and Para-veterinary Professions Proclamation, AG 14 of 1984
- And Regulations
- Replacing South African legislation:
- Veterinary Act 13, 1933 & Veterinary Amendment Acts 49/1963, 19/1972, 20/1974.

### The Veterinary Council of Namibia

- Constitution of Council:
- Two veterinarians elected by all veterinarians registered and resident in Namibia
- One veterinarian appointed by the Veterinary Association of Namibia
- The Chief Veterinary Officer of the Directorate of Veterinary Services
- One government veterinarian appointed by
- One person with legal knowledge appointed by the Minister of Justice.

### The Veterinary Council of Namibia

- Terms of Office of Council: 3 years
- Functions and duties of Council:
  1. Registration of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals
  2. Registration of veterinary facilities
  3. Examinations for registration and specify education and training qualifications
  4. Control over the practicing of veterinary and para-veterinary professionals.

### The Veterinary Council of Namibia

#### Council Examinations


- Held once a year in February
- Panel of examiners consists of practicing namibian veterinarians and external examiners from foreign (SADC) veterinary faculties.
- Written session
- Practical session
- Oral session



The Veterinary Council of Namibia

New Legislation

- **Veterinary and Para-veterinary Professions Bill, 2009**



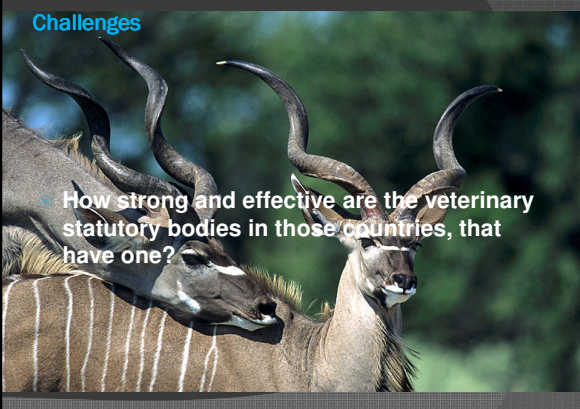
Challenges

- Not all countries belonging to SADC have their own veterinary council / board or any legislation in place governing the veterinary profession.
- Not all countries belonging to SADC have professional organizations like veterinary associations.



Challenges

- How strong and effective are the veterinary statutory bodies in those countries, that have one?



Challenges

- How well supported are these bodies by:
  1. **Government veterinary services?**
  2. **The relevant ministry - minister under which they resort?**
  3. **The politicians in general?**
  4. **Their own veterinary profession?**




Challenges

- Funding  
Is it sufficient? Where does it come from?
- Independence / autonomy  
Are the bodies able to function independently and without interference?



Challenges

- Registration Criteria
  - A country without a veterinary faculty has to rely on foreign universities to train its citizens.
  - It may also be more or less dependent on foreign veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals to fill all the existing posts.
  - Veterinary councils in these countries face serious challenges regarding the evaluation and acceptance of qualifications for the registration of these veterinary professionals





**Challenges**

- Regional consultation and co-operation between veterinary statutory bodies in the SADC region



- With some exceptions, this is non-existent!!!!!!!

**Future Prospects**

- What do we need / want?


1. An effective, independent widely accepted and respected veterinary statutory body in each SADC member country.
2. Formal co-operation and consultation between these bodies.
3. A regional system of guidelines or recommendations for the registration of veterinary professionals, which is appropriate and fair.



**Conclusion**

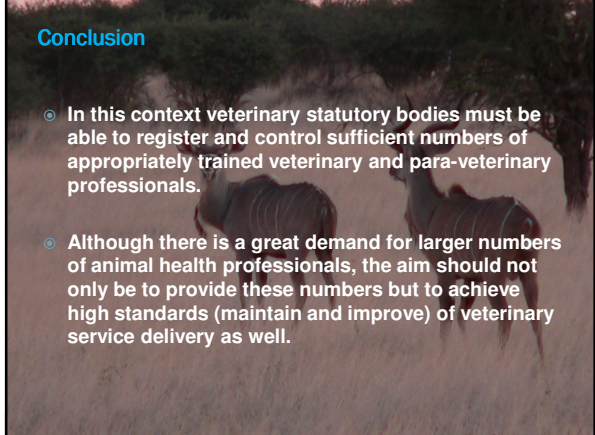
What do we ultimately want to achieve as "SADC Veterinarians"?

- Address and solve local and regional (transboundary) animal disease problems to maintain the health of our national herds.
- Address animal welfare issues
- Companion Animal health
- Veterinary public health / food safety
- Training and research



**Conclusion**

- In this context veterinary statutory bodies must be able to register and control sufficient numbers of appropriately trained veterinary and para-veterinary professionals.
- Although there is a great demand for larger numbers of animal health professionals, the aim should not only be to provide these numbers but to achieve high standards (maintain and improve) of veterinary service delivery as well.



**Thank you**

