

# **Namibia's experience applying for OIE endorsement of its official control programme for dog-mediated rabies**

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Virtual regional training workshop on the OIE procedures for the endorsement of official control programmes with regard to peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and dog-mediated rabies in Africa 4 to 6 May 2022

# Outline

- Strategies implemented to control dog-mediated rabies
- The institutions, services and stakeholders involved and interaction/collaboration between stakeholders;
- How we planned, prepared and collected the required information at national level involving all relevant institutions, services and stakeholders;
- Timeline of events with regards to collection and compilation of the information for answering the questionnaire;
- Challenges faced during the preparation of the dossier.

Basic questions to answer during  
the process

# Strategies implemented to control dog-mediated rabies

## ➤ What made Namibia to submit application?

- Namibia is a member of the OIE
- Own wish to apply for OIE recognition of its official rabies control programme in accordance with Chapter 8.14 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
- Rabies is currently endemic in Namibia with high incidence in the central and northern areas of the country.
- **Namibia has addressed a number of requirements contained in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.**
- In 1997 successfully applied for official OIE recognition of its FMD free zone without vaccination;
- has an official control programme for FMD and CBPP;
- A zone officially free of PPR (2015);
- First in Africa to receive an official recognition of negligible risk status for BSE.

# Strategies implemented to control dog-mediated rabies

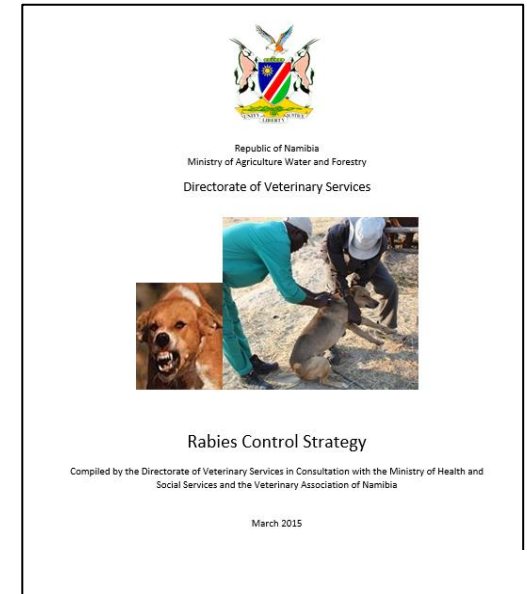
## ❖ Actions taken to address the rabies situation in Namibia


- Namibia has developed a rabies control strategy and was officially launched in March 2015.
- In March 2016, a pilot project was launched and implemented towards Dog-mediated Human Rabies elimination,
- Thereafter, a national project roll-out in 2017
- This national project forms the foundation of the official control programme. The official control programme pertains to the whole country of Namibia.
- 2016 – German's Federal Government assisted Namibia financially to Fight rabies
- OIE entrusted to provide Technical Assistance to the Project

# Legal Framework

➤ **A number of relevant legislation, regulations and directives in relation to rabies control and their relevance. There are mechanisms in place to monitor and ensure compliance with such legislation**

- Animal Health Act (Act 1 of 2011) and its Regulation (Rabies listed a Notifiable disease)
- State controlled disease in dogs and cats
- Public and Environmental Health Act No 1 of 2015 (Annex 12 a)
- National Health Act, 2015 Act No. 2, 2015
- The Medicines And Related Substances Control Act, 2003 (Act No. 13 Of 2003)
- Regulations of the Medicines and Related Substances Act
- Veterinary and Para-veterinary Professions Act 2013 (Act 1 of 201)
- The Animal Protection Act, 1962 (Act 71 Of 1962)
- Ordinance No. 13 of 1967
- Regulations for the Control of Dogs in Municipal Area Promulgated by Government Notice 131 of 1968.
- National Rabies Control Strategy
- Circulars (rules)
- **International Standards- As member state, ratify and make use of them**



  
**GOVERNMENT GAZETTE**  
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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY		
No. 144	ANIMAL HEALTH REGULATIONS: ANIMAL HEALTH ACT, 2011	2013
Under section 32 of the Animal Health Act, 2011 (Act No. 1 of 2011) I -		
(a)	have made the regulations set out in the Schedule; and	
(b)	repeal the Regulations promulgated under the Animal Diseases and Parasites Act, 1956 (Act No. 13 of 1956), and published under RSA GN R. 1531 of 4 October 1963 as amended by Government Notices R. 418 of 26 March 1965; R. 1688 of 29 October 1965; R. 97 of 24 June 1966; R. 702 of 26 April 1968; R. 1116 of 28 June 1968; R. 35 of 17 January 1969; R. 947 of 13 June 1969; R. 1024 of 25 October 1974; R. 1309 of 25 July 1975; R. 2028 of 14 September 1979; R. 1684 of 15 August 1980; AG. 90 of 14 June 1982; AG. 179 of 15 December 1982; No. 22 of 1 February 1986; No. 155 of 15 September 1987 and No. 114 of 30 June 1995.	
J. MUTORWA MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY		
Windhoek, 19 March 2013		


  
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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY		
No. 177		2013
DECLARATION OF RESTRICTED MATERIAL: ANIMAL HEALTH ACT, 2011		
Under subsection (2) of section 1 of the Animal Health Act, 2011 (Act No. 1 of 2011), I -		
(a)	declare that, for the purposes of paragraph (d) of that subsection, animal products and other things set out in the Schedule are restricted material; and	
(b)	repeal Government Notice No. AG. 88 of 14 June 1982.	
J. MUTORWA MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY		
Windhoek, 19 March 2013		

# Collaborating institutions, services and stakeholders

- DVS management from Animal Disease Control, Epidemiology and Diagnostics and Research Divisions
- Lead team for rabies control strategy implementation (coordination level)
- Technical assistance of the University of Namibia, School of Veterinary Medicine

  
Republic of Namibia  
Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry

  
Directorate of Veterinary Services

Application for endorsement by the OIE of an official control programme  
for dog-mediated rabies

2 October 2020

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Compiled with technical assistance of the  
University of Namibia, School of Veterinary Medicine

Approval and Submission Notice  
Report of Namibia applying for endorsement by the OIE of an official control programme  
for dog-mediated rabies under Chapter 8.14 of the Terrestrial Code

# The Process (Planning, Preparation and information collection) at national level

- The team led by the CVO (OIE delegate)
- CVO identified relevant people and institution
- Contacted via email and shared terms of references and relevant documents (e.g. policy brief and Namibia rabies operational plan 2020)
- **information needed to be included:**
  - Introduction (background information)
  - Governance of the national control programme for dog-mediated rabies
  - Current status and control of dog-mediated rabies
  - Work plan, timelines and budget of the official control programme for dog-mediated rabies for the next five years (Meeting with DVS)



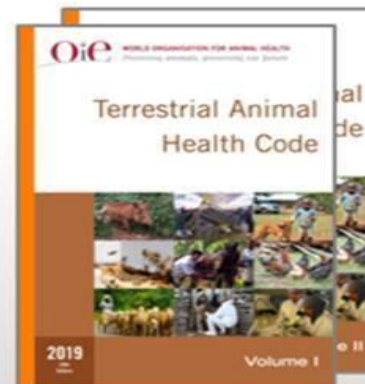
# The process...

- Template questionnaire to draft the application
- It has four (4) headings and sub-headings in the questionnaire
- We follow the questionnaire **Application for endorsement by the OIE of an official control programme for dog-mediated rabies** .
- We accessed the application **SOP** on the OIE website.
- submission requirements expected are:
  - the questionnaire responses
  - the official control programme for dog-mediated rabies and its annexes
  - other admin documents such as proof of payment
- The SOP provided adequate information that enabled us as member to follow the procedure.

## Submission of an application

### The dossier:

- Compliance with the *Terrestrial Code*
- Complete the questionnaire – Chapters 1.7 to 1.12. + Rabies Questionnaire after May 2020
- 50 pages + appendices (properly cross-referenced) + executive summary
- Digitalised map if relevant (zoning approach)
- Proof of payment
- Contact details of technical staff



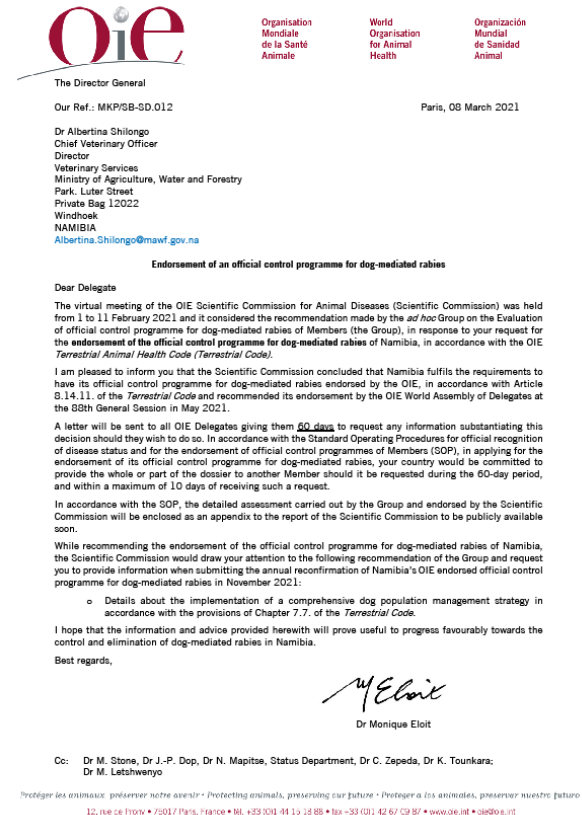
# Timeline of events

❖ How much time does it takes to prepare the dossier and submit?

Events	Timeline
Making a decision and express the intent to OIE	August 2020
Official letter to OIE Delegate regarding application for the endorsement of an official control programme for rabies	August 2020
Gather a team and group of experts to prepare the dossier document	August 2020
collection and compilation of the information for answering the questionnaire	August 2020 to November 2020 (four Months)
Submission of an application for official control program	October 2020
Clarifications of questions from OIE before dossier submission to Scientific commission	About One Month
The endorsement of the official control programme for dog-mediated rabies of Namibia, in accordance with the OIE <i>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i> by the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission)	March 2021
Official recognition announced at the 88 <sup>th</sup> General Session of the OIE Assembly of Delegates as a Member	May 2021

# Challenges during dossier preparation

- Postponement to the application
- Delay in the preparation process due to COVID-19 pandemic
- Difficult to smoothly coordinate some of the activities since the beginning of the pandemic
- Organising and conducting all meetings virtually as we had to comply with existing COVID-19 protocol and guidelines



# How have we addressed the questions from the OIE experts?

- Identified the secretariat to handle all correspondence including the questions
- The secretariat compiled responses
- Shared responses with dossier team members for their inputs and comments
- Secretariat reviewed the comments, inputs and do final collation
- The CVO called the virtual meeting to discuss the final document before submission to the **OIE Status Department**

# THANK YOU!



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Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry



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