

# A Review of Legislation on Regulation of the Veterinary Professions in Africa – Southern Africa Results

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World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health

Organisation  
mondiale  
de la santé  
animale

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal

# OBJECTIVES:

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Determine the legal basis for the regulation of the veterinary professions in Africa

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More specifically, to Identify key gaps in legislation relating to VPPs and CAHWs

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Inform national and regional policymakers and legislators of strengths and weaknesses in regulating the veterinary workforce

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Support the ongoing PCTAD, AFD P3V and DTRA projects on veterinary workforce development to enhance recognition and regulation of VPPs.

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Offer suggestions for reform, modernization, and harmonization of legislation

- Review WOAHPVS Pathway reports for discussion of the regulation of the veterinary profession
- Conduct online research of legislation for each country
- Validate each country's legislation through email survey of WOAHP delegates.
- Review each country's legislation according to a list of essential elements for the regulation of the veterinary profession
  - ***Essential elements were generated from the relevant provisions of the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code in collaboration with and according to the priority topics of the WOAHP workforce development programme.***
- Collect country results in excel document to tabulate the findings
- Generate final report of the overall compliance of the region with essential elements
  - ***Individual country assessments remain available to each country for review.***





## Essential elements for the proper regulation of the veterinary professions typically found in legislation regulating the veterinary workforce

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- (1) a definitions section,
- (2) definition of veterinarian,
- (3) definition of veterinary practice, and
- (4) definition of veterinary paraprofessional (VPP);
- (5) authority to create regulations and secondary legislation to implement the primary legislation
- (6) recognition of VPPs in the legislation.
- (7) the prerogatives of veterinarians;
- (8) the prerogatives of VPPs;
- (9) minimum initial educational requirements and competencies for veterinarians;
- (10) minimum initial educational requirements and competencies for VPPs;



## Essential elements for the proper regulation of the veterinary professions typically found in legislation regulating the veterinary workforce

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- (11) continuing educational requirements;
- (12) conditions for recognition of the qualifications for veterinarians; and
- (13) conditions for recognition of the qualifications for VPPs.
- (14) the creation of a VSB;
- (15) authority of the VSB to regulate both veterinarians and VPPs;
- (16) the registration of veterinarians and VPPs; and
- (17) power to take disciplinary action
- (18) defining the functions of the VSB;
- (19) establishing a code of conduct,
- (20) requiring the supervision of VPPs by veterinarians; and
- (21) setting conditions for licensing/registration of veterinarians and VPPs



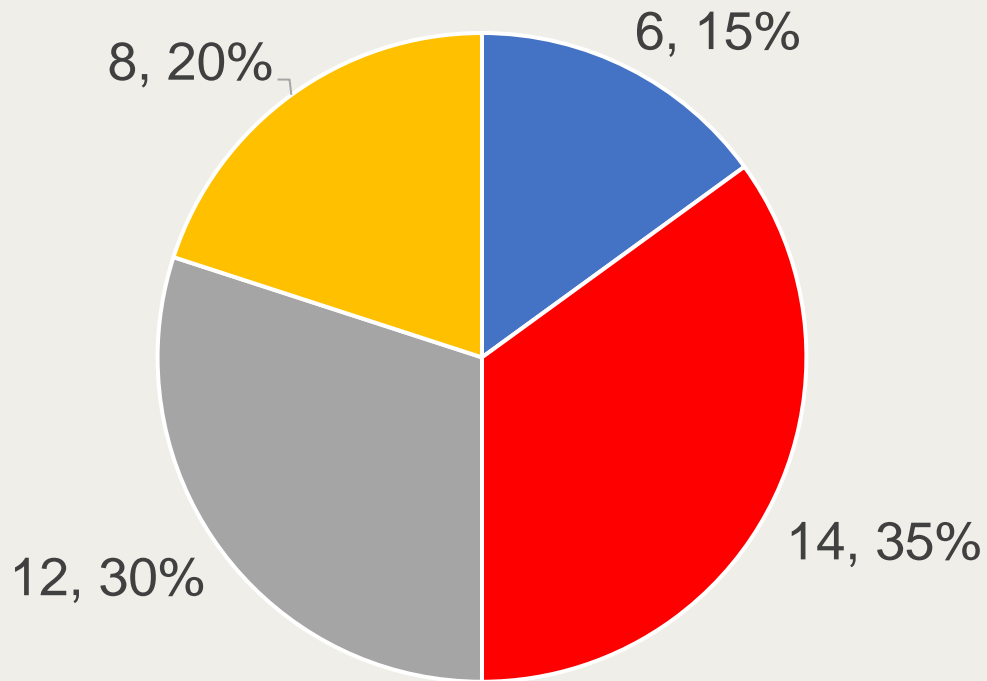
## Sample of essential elements likely found in legislation other than veterinary workforce legislation

- Prescription of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) by veterinarians,
- Requirements for the prescription of VMPs by VPPs,
- VSB to play a role in education (i.e., accreditation/approval of veterinary education establishments and/or qualifications).

- **119 pieces of legislation** collected and reviewed:
  - 52 pieces of primary legislation & 67 pieces of secondary legislation
  - **11 primary and 21 secondary in Southern Africa**
- 50 (93%) of 54 Members in the OIE Africa region responded to the email survey (**100% in Southern Africa**)
- 40 (80%) of 50 responding countries that responded have primary legislation for the regulation of the veterinary profession (**12/13 countries in Southern Africa**)
  - 32 countries (80% of those with legislation) have a specific veterinary practice act. (**all 11 in Southern Africa**)
  - 8 countries (20% of those with legislation) regulate the veterinary profession under a broader act.
  - 18 (45% of those with legislation) have secondary legislation to support the implementation of the primary legislation on the regulation of the profession (**4 in Southern Africa**)
- 24 out of the 50 countries that responded (58%) had at least one relevant draft law in progress at the time of review, **5 of which are in Southern Africa.**
- In Southern Africa region, 12 countries with legislation, **all 12 of which have a veterinary practice act.**

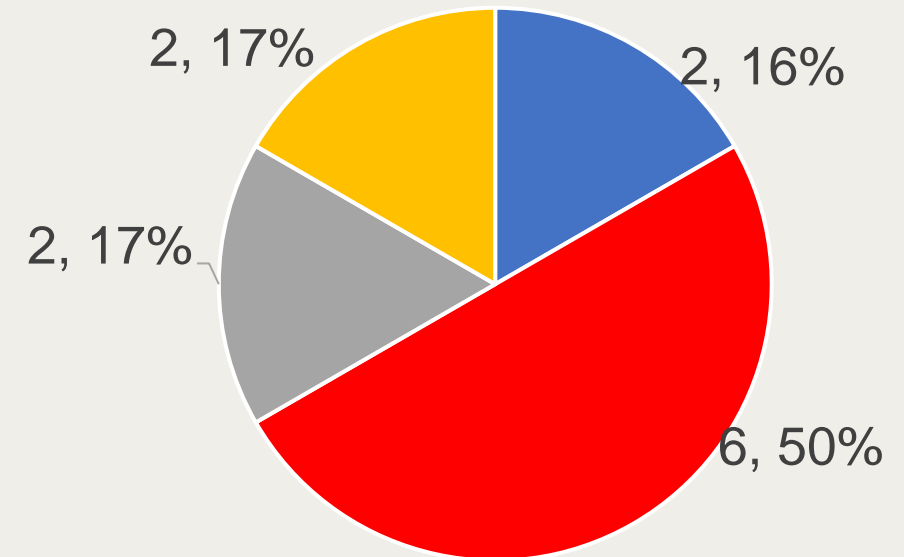
# Essential elements likely found in veterinary practice acts

% of countries with essential elements typically found in legislation regulating the veterinary profession out of the 40 responding countries with legislation



- Countries with 20-21 essential elements
- Countries with 15-19 essential elements
- Countries with 11-14 essential elements
- Countries with 10 or less essential elements

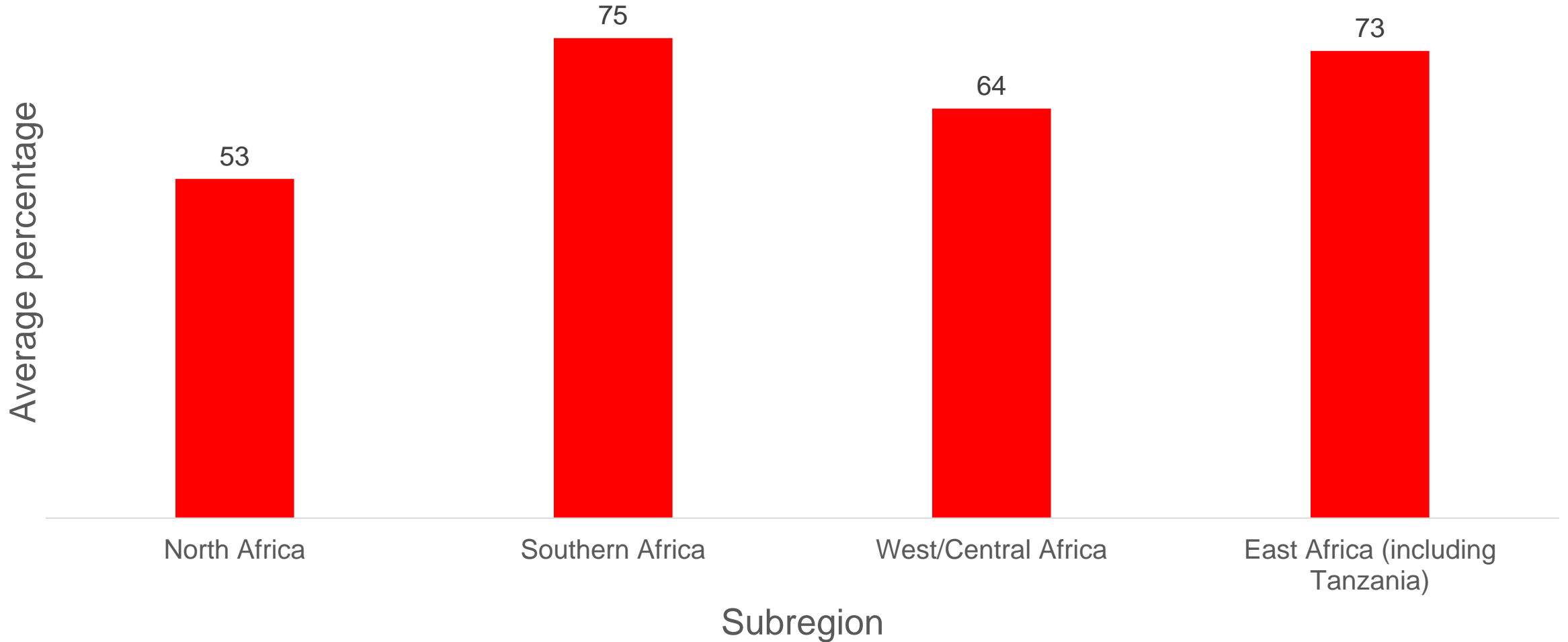
% of countries with essential elements typically found in legislation regulating the veterinary profession out of 12 countries in Southern Africa with legislation



- Countries with all but one (95-100%) essential elements:
- Countries with 70-94% of essential elements:
- Countries with 50-69% essential elements:
- Countries with less than 50% essential elements:

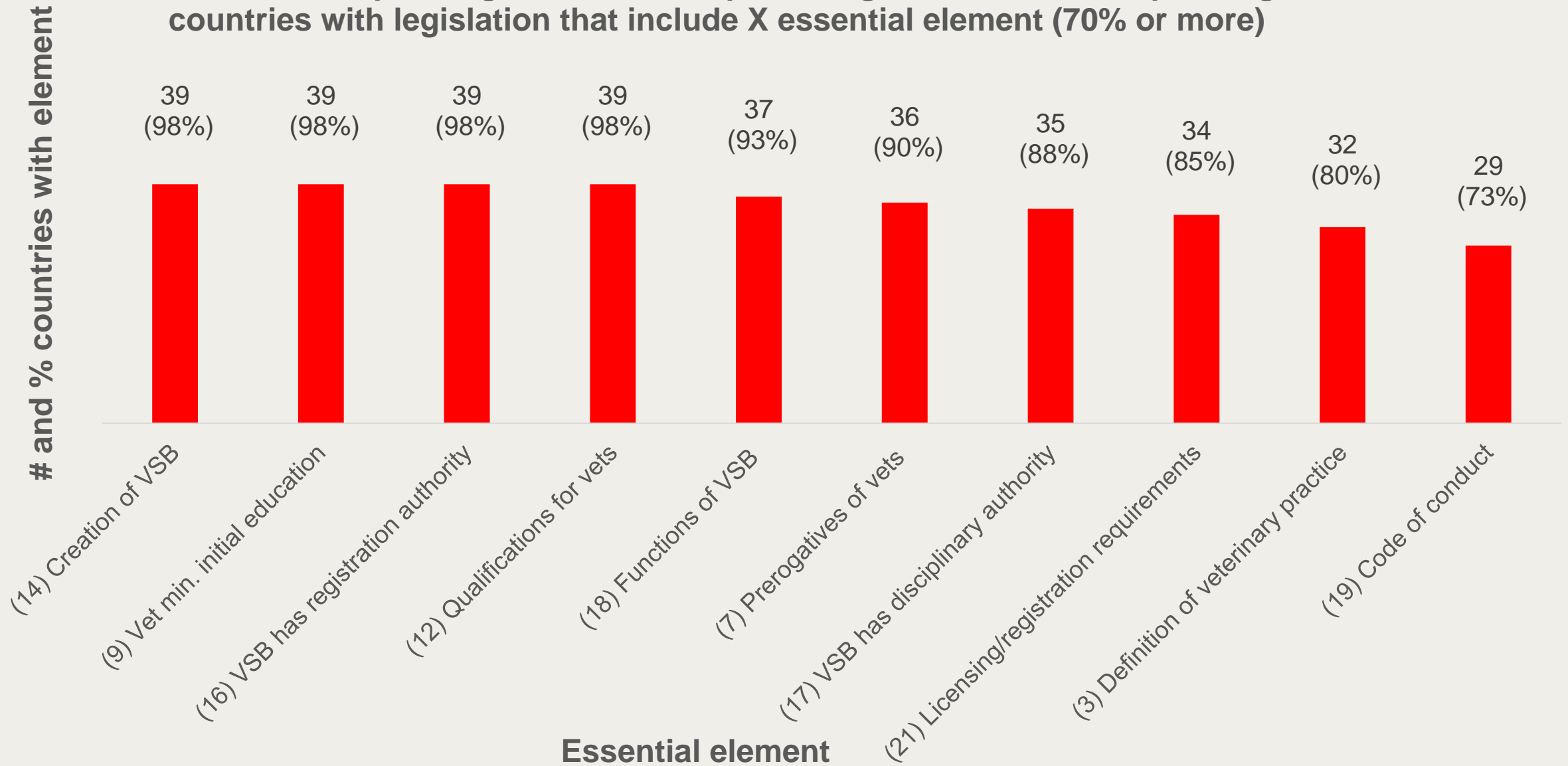


Average % per region of inclusion of the 21 essential element expected to be found in legislation for the veterinary profession

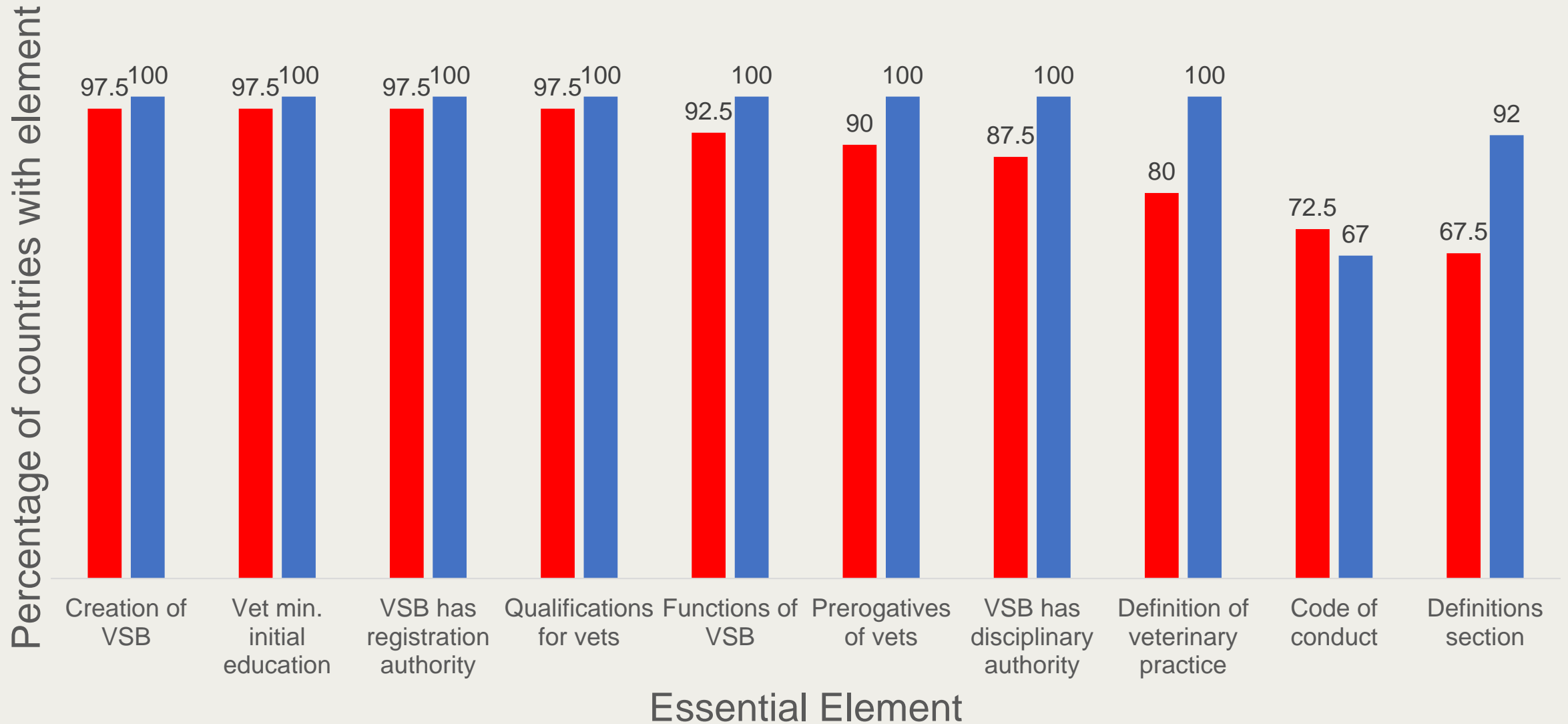


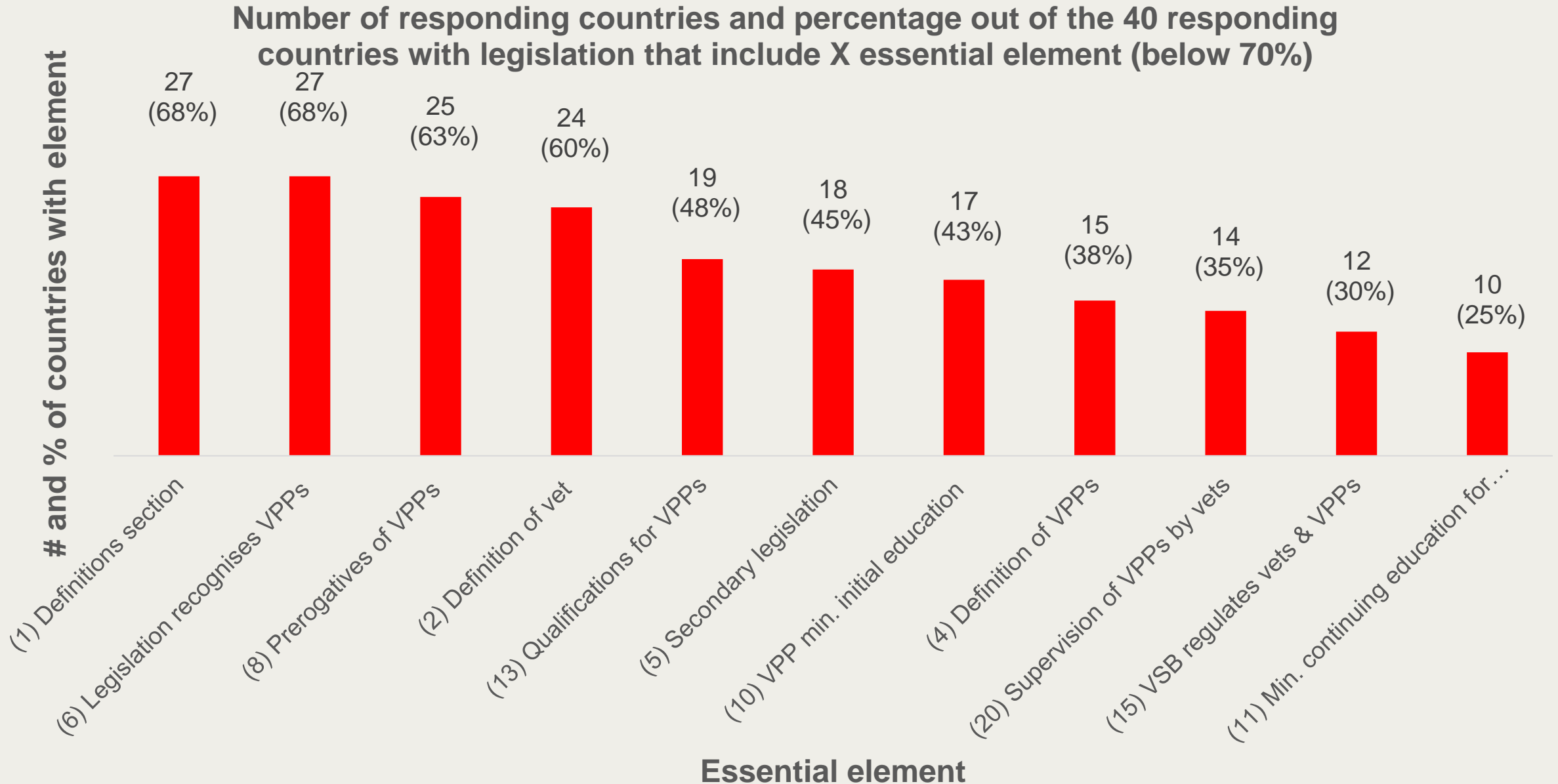
# Essential elements likely found in veterinary practice acts

Number of responding countries and percentage out of the 40 responding countries with legislation that include X essential element (70% or more)



### Southern Africa Results (blue) vs. Global Results (orange) (part 1)



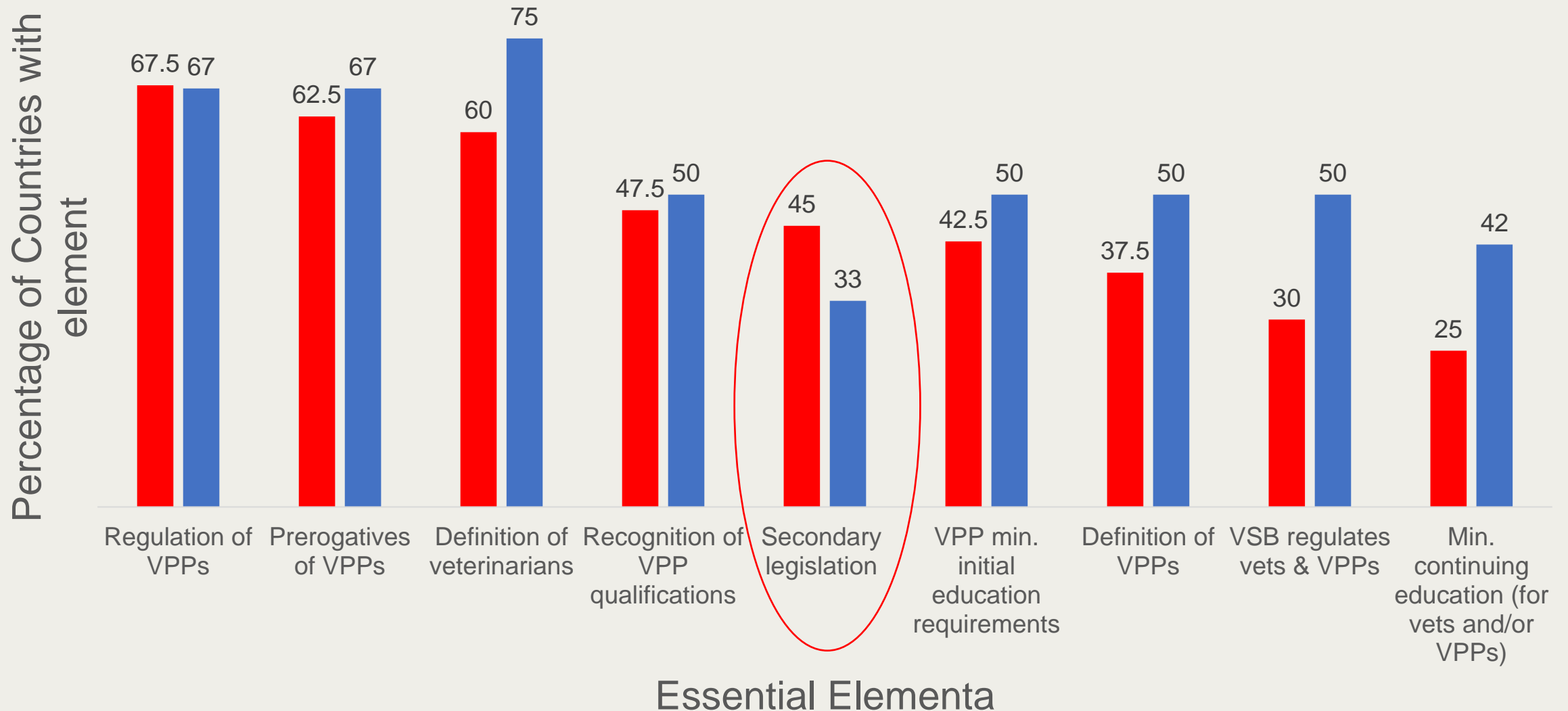




# Essential elements likely found in veterinary practice acts:

## Southern Africa results vs. Global results

Global Results (orange) vs. Southern Africa Results (Blue)

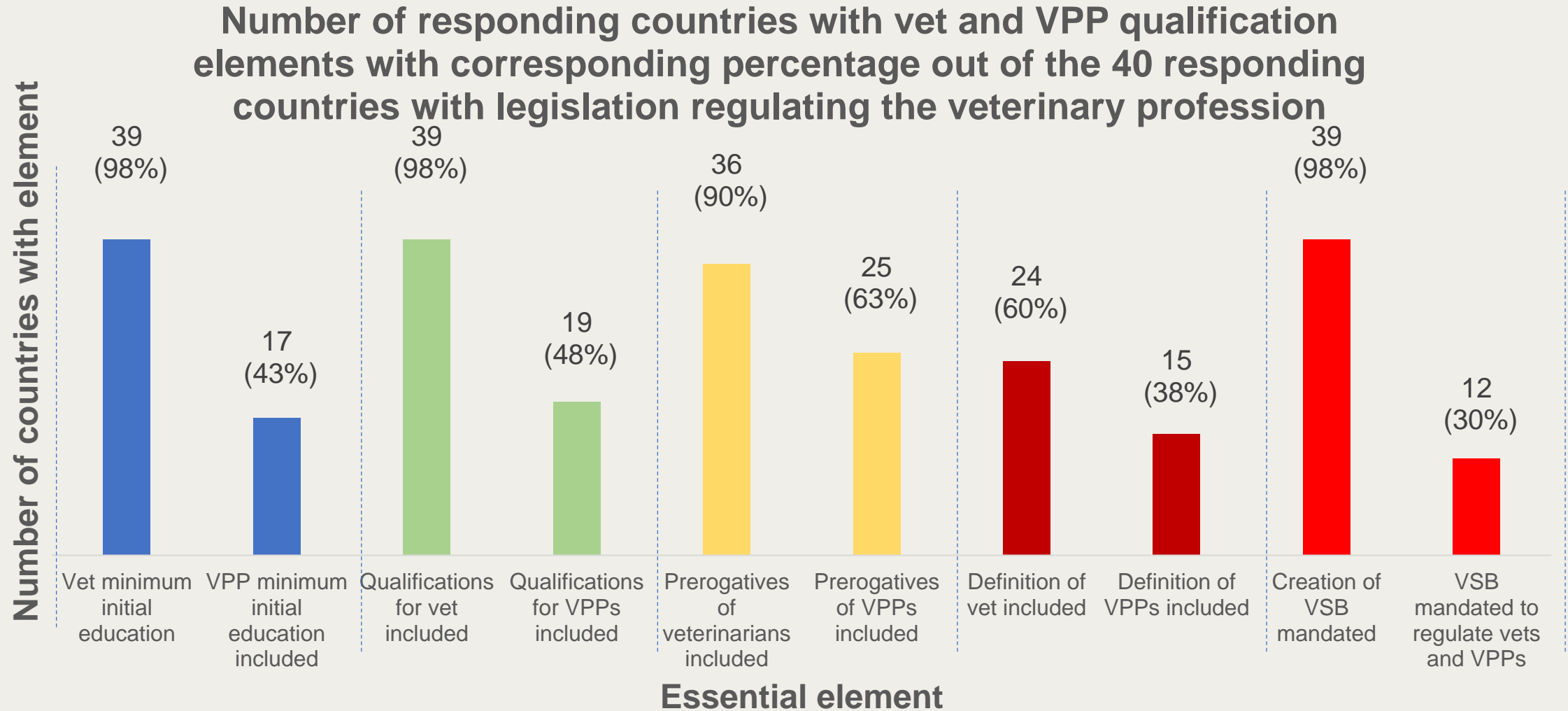


45% of countries enacted secondary legislation, and only 33% of countries in Southern Africa enacted secondary legislation.

- This is important for ensuring the implementation of many essential elements
  - For example, **72.5% of countries** have a legal basis for the establishment of a code of conduct, but only **38% of these countries** enacted the code of conduct in practice.
  - In contrast, of the **39 countries** with a legal basis for the creation of a VSB, **36 (92.3%) countries** created a VSB in practice.



# Veterinarian vs. VPP essential elements – Global results



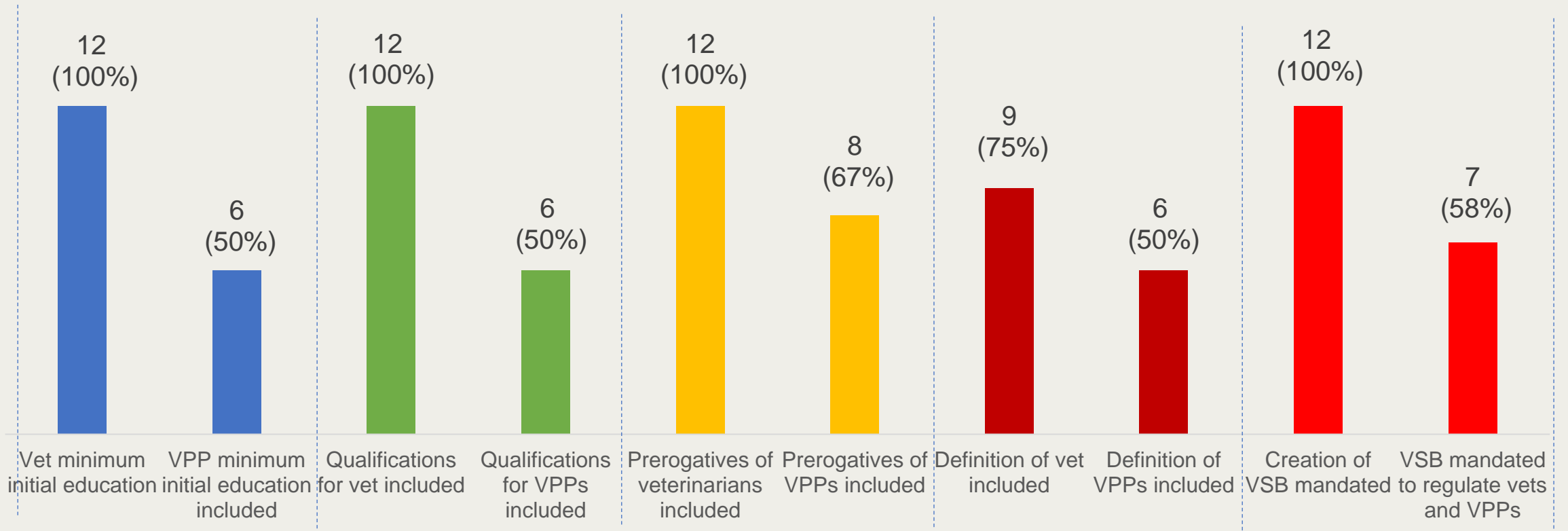
**Of note:** Due to ambiguities in the definition of veterinary medicine, these percentages could be much lower or higher depending on the interpretation of the terms used in the text, particularly for the prerogatives and qualifications of VPPs, underscoring why clarity in definitions is so important (discussed on slide 19).



# Veterinarian vs. VPP essential elements – Southern Africa results

Comparison of number of responding countries with vet and VPP qualification elements with corresponding percentage out of the 40 responding countries with legislation regulating the veterinary profession – Southern Africa Results

Number of countries with element

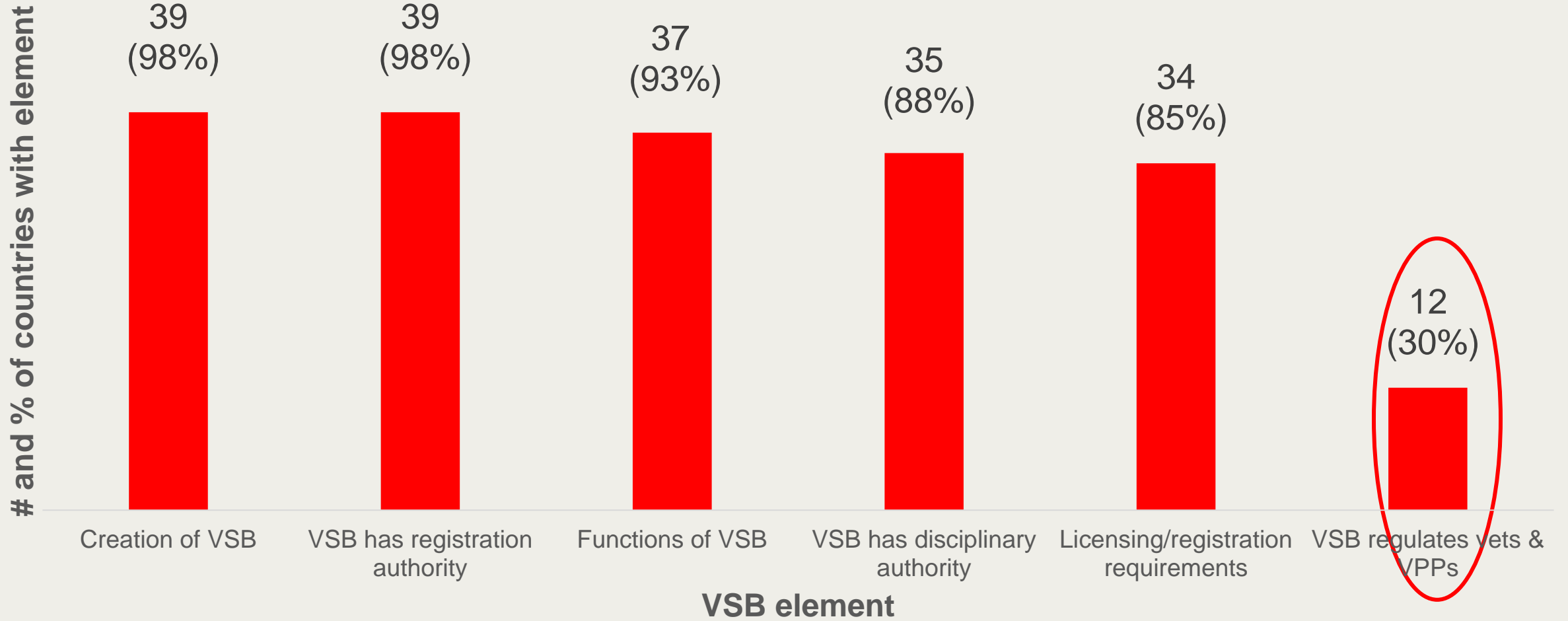


Essential element



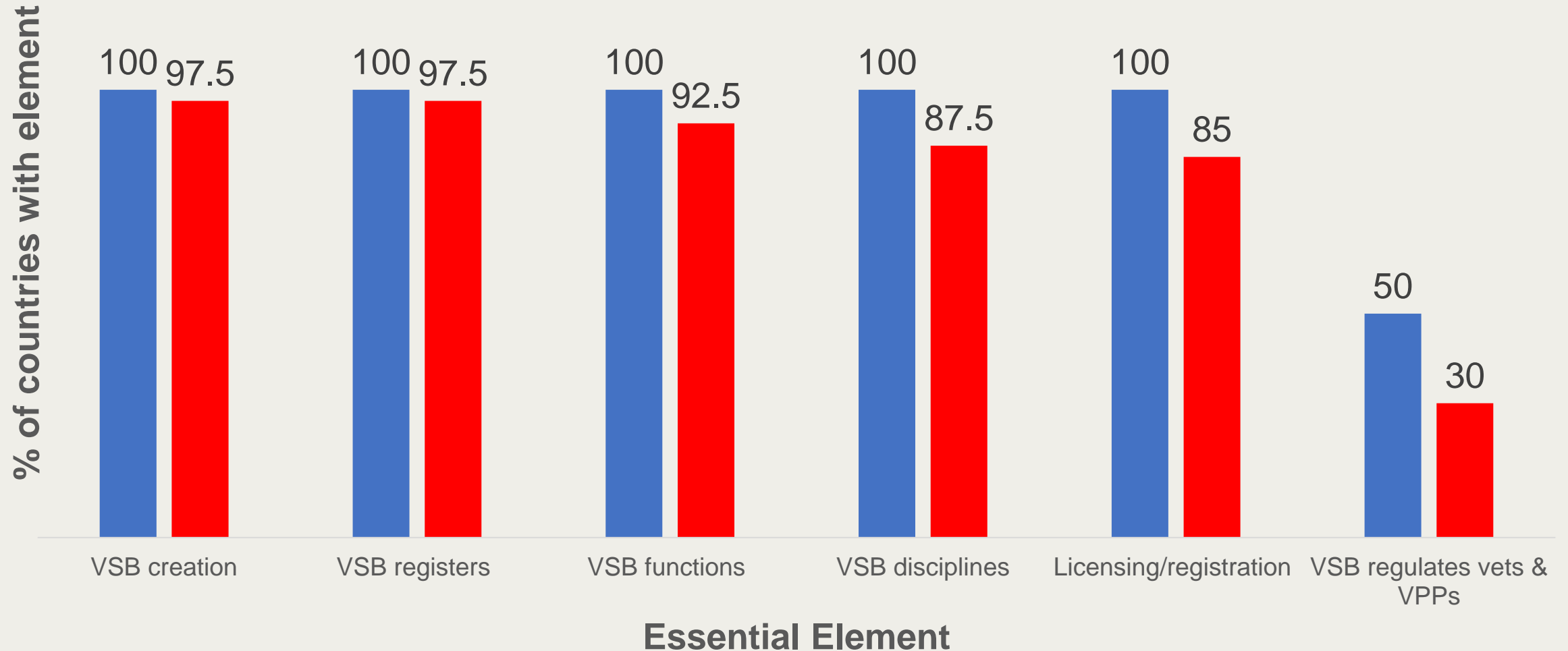
- According to a survey conducted by the Regional Core Group (RCG) for Africa in 2018 , 81% of the responding countries in West/Central Africa, **58% in Southern Africa**, 57% in East Africa reported that they use CAHWs in practice (no countries in North Africa reportedly use CAHWs).
- However, two of the 40 countries (5%) with legislation for the veterinary profession mention CAHWs: one country in East Africa and one country in West Africa – **none in Southern Africa**.
  - **Note:** *It is possible (though unverified in this study) that some countries may contain provisions for CAHWs in legislation other than a practice act.*
  - Countries could also implicitly include CAHWs within the provisions relating to VPPs, thus reemphasizing the importance of definitions in providing legal clarity.

Number and percentage of countries (out of 40 countries with legislation) with legislation that contains a legal basis for the listed VSB element





VSB elements - Southern Africa results out of 12 countries with legislation (blue) vs. Global results out of 40 countries with legislation (orange)





- Duplicated provisions
- Leaving elements to secondary legislation without enacting any secondary legislation
- Defining a term and using a different term
  - *For example:* defining “veterinary surgery”, but then using the term “veterinary medicine” throughout the text.
- Mentioning veterinarians and VPPs together
- Ambiguous definition of veterinary practice
  - **Crucially, the above two trends have the effect of creating no legal distinction between the two professions.**





- VPPs are underrepresented and underregulated in legislation compared to veterinarians.
  - Notably, most countries currently lack a legal basis for the national VSB to regulate VPPs
- Countries could benefit from
  - increased efforts to clarify, define, and consistently utilise essential terms.
  - creation of secondary legislation
  - more regularly reviews of legislation to ensure legal clarity.
- **Legal clarity is particularly important for:**
  - Ensuring an effective legal basis for addressing key issues,
  - Facilitating implementation of the laws, thereby enhancing the efficacy of legislation

# Thank you

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