



# Training of National Focal Points for Aquatic Animal Health (Cycle IV)

2 - 4 October 2023 Kigali, Rwanda





# The Regional Aquatic Animal Health Networks (RAAHN) and the concept of regional service laboratories (RAAHLN)

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A sub-grant agreement (contract) was signed with AU-IBAR in late 2022 to implement WOAHA led activities on behalf of the FishGov II Project, funded by the European Commission



The contract amounts to EUR 160,000 over 12 months and aims to launch three networks, two of which are sub-regional, and one is regional, i.e. continental

- Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for **North Africa**
- Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for **Southern Africa**
- Regional Aquatic Animal Health **Laboratory Network for Africa**

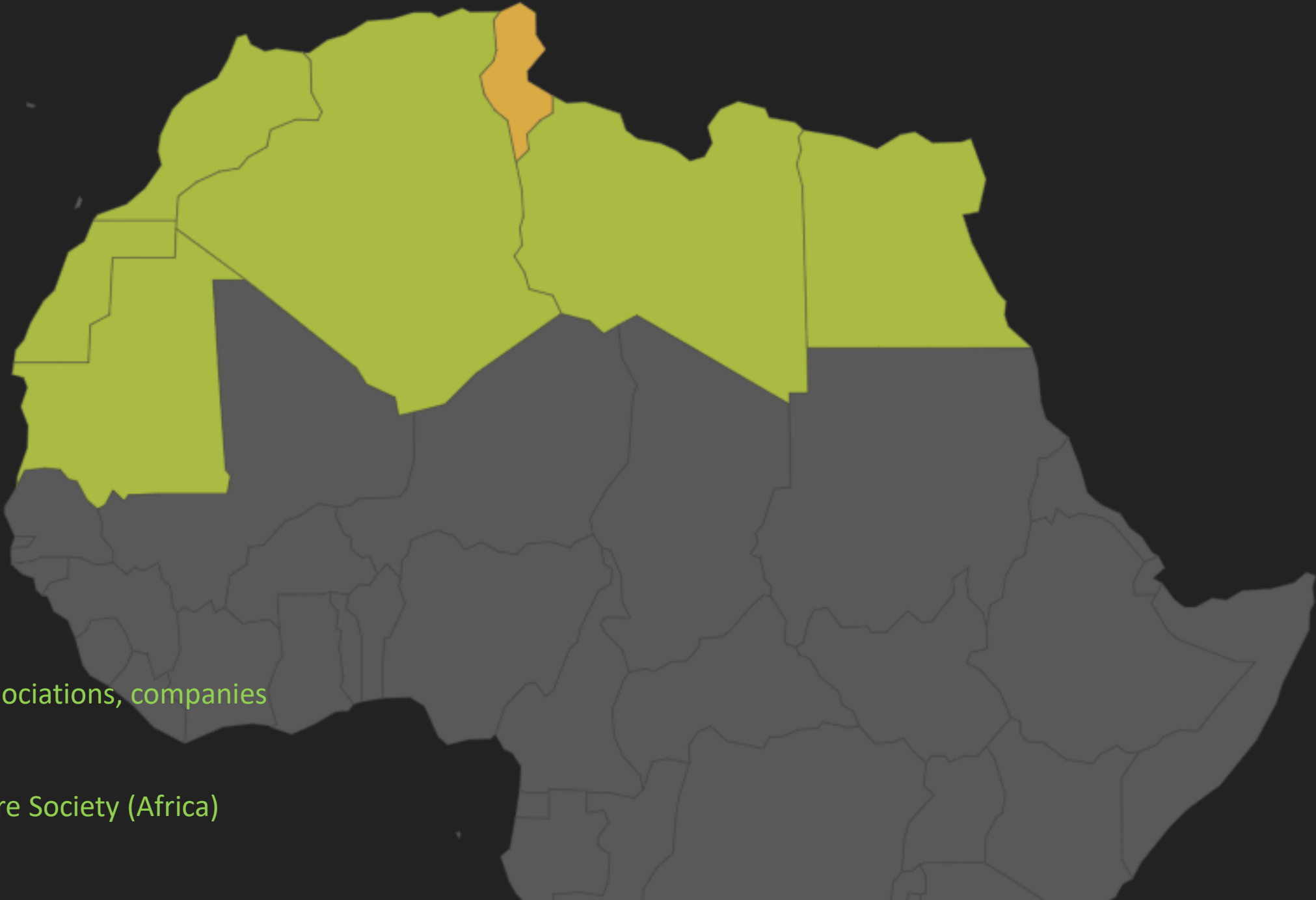
Realising that a phased approach, aimed at learning from small experiences and upscaling over the next few years to a truly continental network-of-networks, the proposal is to support the establishment of two sub-regional aquatic animal health networks, one for North Africa, and one for Southern Africa, arguably the two sub-regions with the best developed aquaculture sectors (including Egypt) and prospects for high impact of the implementation of such coordination networks. In addition, the main technical constraint which is recurrently raised is the diagnostic capacity of national laboratories and laboratories with a regional outreach agenda. This justifies the support to the establishment of a third network, specifically directed at uniting diagnosticians from Reference Laboratories (and Collaborating Centres) with a limited number of interested countries and diagnostic facilities in Africa, with a view – again – of scaling up its range at a later stage.

- Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for North Africa (RAAHN-NA)
- Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for Southern Africa
- Regional Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory Network for Africa

25 – 27 April 2023      Tunis

5 Member States of the *Union du Maghreb Arabe*  
(UMA) + Republic of Egypt





- AU-IBAR
- AWFISHNET
- CNVZ (Tunisia)
- FAO (SFN)
- NACA
- Private sector associations, companies
- STOR REMESA
- UMA
- World Aquaculture Society (Africa)
- WVEPAH

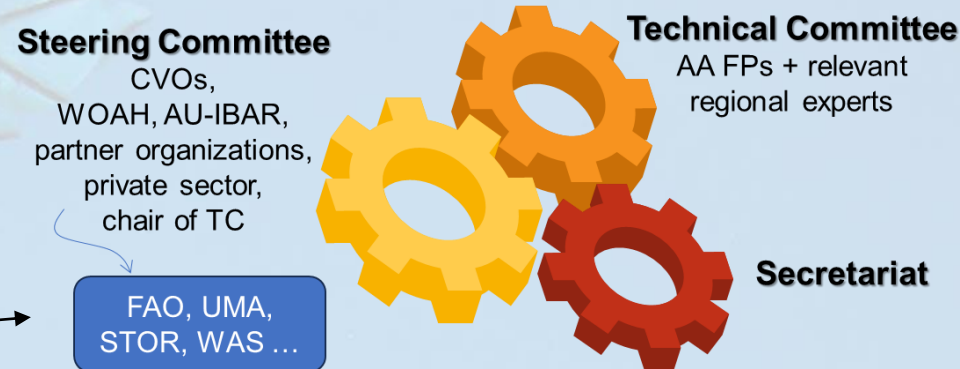


34 participants (public and private sector)  
Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia



▪ Situation Analysis

- Challenges/Opportunities/Networking
- SWOT (Implementation of WOAHA Standards and Disease reporting / Laboratory capacity and diagnostics / Public-Private Partnerships / Surveillance for emerging diseases / Preparedness and response for emerging diseases / Information sharing and networking / Biosecurity)



▪ Development of the RAAHN-NA ToR

▪ Discussion of an institutional framework proposal to be reviewed and approved by the SC, with the support of the TC

▪ Development and implementation of an Action Plan for the next 3 years

- 7 priority topics:
  - AMR and AMU
  - Research and development
  - Collaboration and knowledge sharing
  - Disease surveillance
  - Emergency preparedness and response
  - Biosecurity
  - Laboratory capacity and disease diagnosis

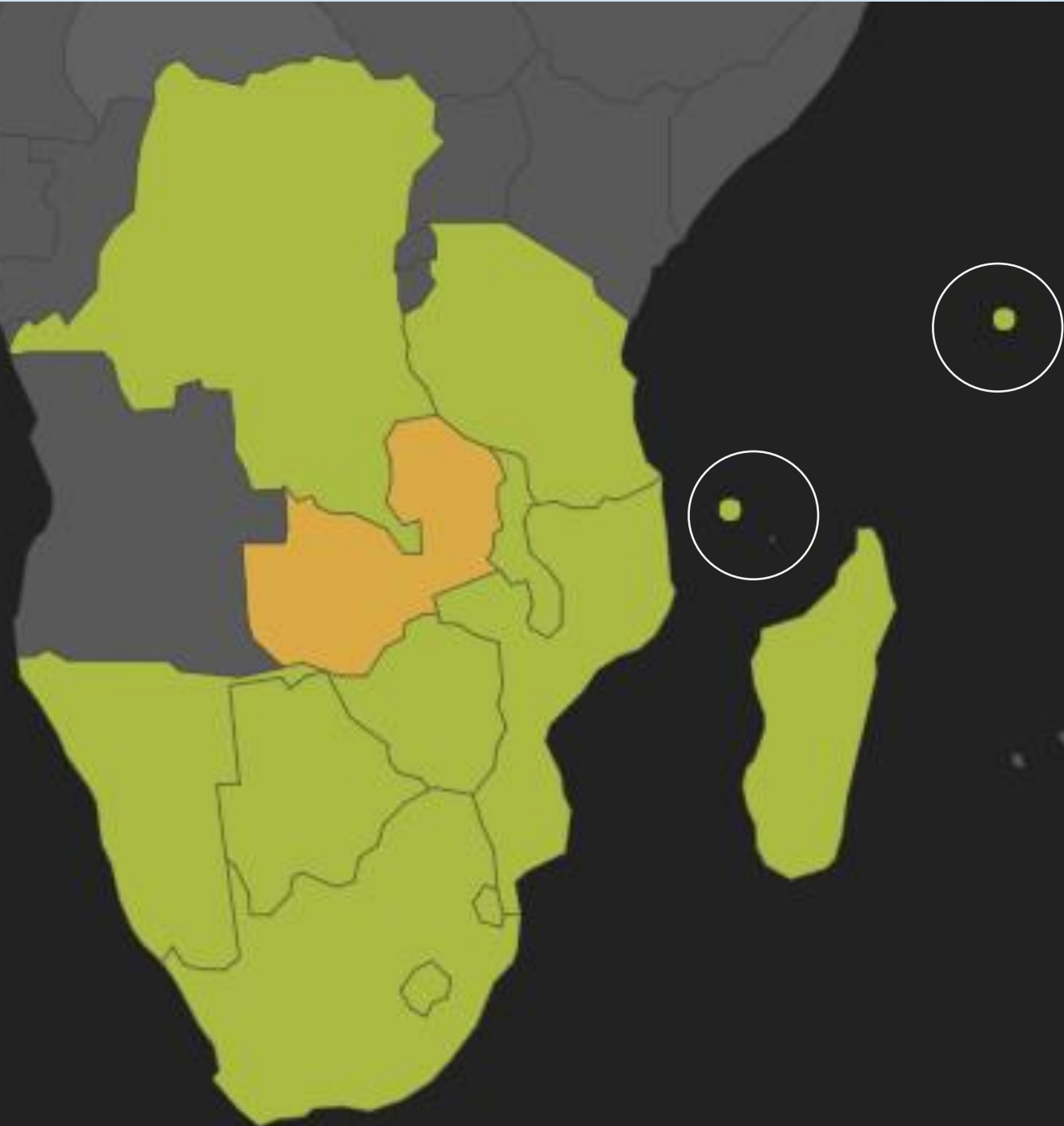
Disease surveillance				
Sub-topic	Activity	Priority	Timeframe	Funds
Harmonisation of surveillance and control strategies	To make an inventory of each country's surveillance strategies/ legislation	High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/>	Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term <input type="checkbox"/>	National <input type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/>
	To assess existing surveillance strategies in each member country	High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/>	Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term <input type="checkbox"/>	National <input type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/>
	To compare the surveillance strategies (according to the objectives) and to identify differences/similarities as well gaps and areas of improvements/best practices	High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/>	Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term <input type="checkbox"/>	National <input type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/>
	To develop a harmonised disease surveillance strategy for the RAAHN-NA, defining and clarifying its purpose and objectives	High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/>	Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term <input type="checkbox"/>	National <input type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/>

- Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for North Africa
- Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for Southern Africa (RAAHN-SA)
- Regional Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory Network for Africa

25 – 27 July 2023      Lusaka

16 Member States of the Southern African  
Development Community

- AU-IBAR
- AWFISHNET
- FAO (SFS)
- NACA
- Private sector associations, companies
- SADC Secretariat
- University of Botswana
- University of Pretoria
- Sokoine University of Agriculture
- World Aquaculture Society (Africa)
- World Fish
- WVEPAH





# Main outcomes

- A consensus by Member countries and endorsement by SADC Secretariat to integrate RAAHN-SA within SADC structures (SADC Technical Committee on Fisheries (FTC)).
- Development of the RAAHN-SA ToR.
- Discussion of an institutional frame proposal that will be adapted to the SADC Fisheries Institutional Framework.
- Development of an implementation action plan for the next 3 years.
- Selection/election of an interim steering committee to finalise the launch of the network, assist with documentation and integration of the Network within SADC structures.



# Main outcomes



## RAAHN-SA Interim Steering Committee

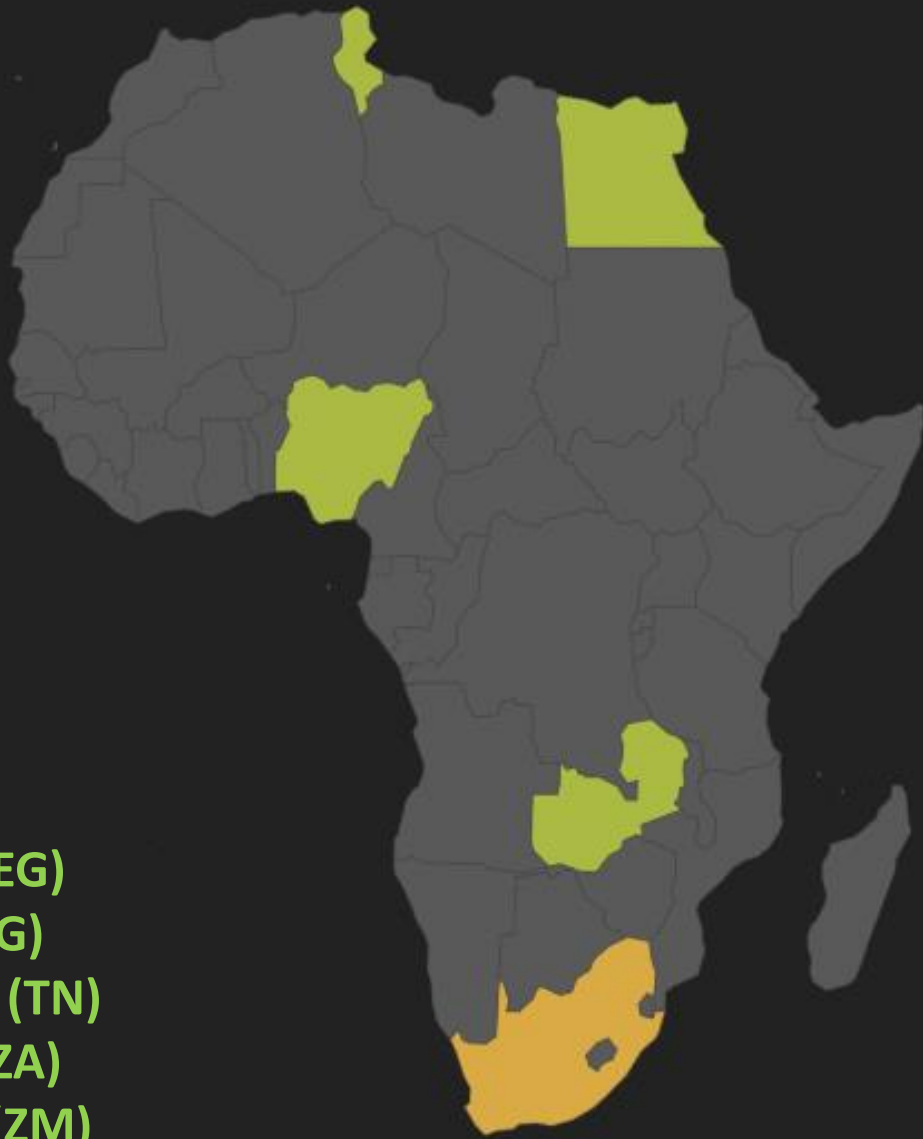
- Eswatini,
- Madagascar,
- Mozambique,
- South Africa,
- Zambia,
- World Fish,
- Private sector representative,
- Representative of academia
- AU-IBAR (observer),
- WOAH (observer)

- Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for North Africa
- Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for Southern Africa
- Regional Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory Network for Africa (RAAHLN)

# 5 – 7 December 2023

## Onderstepoort, Pretoria

Selected national reference laboratories and international reference laboratories (RL) and collaborating centres (CC)



- CLAR (EG)
- NFL (NG)
- NIMST (TN)
- OVRI (ZA)
- UNZA (ZM)

- AU-IBAR
- FAO (FI)
- NACA
- Private sector
  
- **CSIRO (Australia)**
- **CEFAS (UK)**
- **Arizona State (US)**
  
- **UPEI (Canada)**
  
- and selected laboratory networks (IAEA, US-CDC, Africa-CDC,...)



- <https://rr-africa.woah.org/en/news/launch-of-the-regional-aquatic-animal-health-network-north-africa/>
- <https://rr-africa.woah.org/en/news/launch-of-the-regional-aquatic-animal-health-network-southern-africa/>
- <https://rr-africa.woah.org/en/events/launch-of-the-regional-aquatic-animal-health-laboratory-network-for-africa/>