

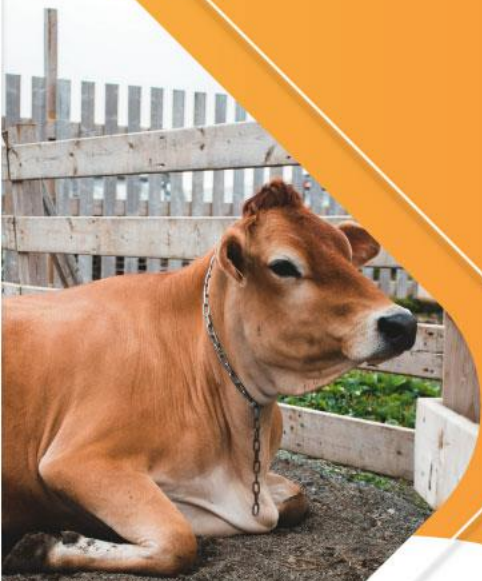


World Organisation
for Animal Health



Regional Training Seminar for WOAH National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories (cycle III)

8 - 10 July 2025, Gaborone, Botswana



Co-funded by
the European Union



Counter Proliferation
& Arms Control Centre

History of the training and terms of reference

Patrick Bastiaensen
Regional Programme Officer
WOAH, Nairobi, Kenya

National focal points' training in Africa

The training of (then) OIE national subject matter focal points in Africa started in 2009, for « animal disease notification » (Terrestrial and Aquatic, Lilongwe, 2009) [picture], followed shortly after by « veterinary products » (Johannesburg, 2010) and « aquatic animal diseases » (Windhoek, 2010).

By 2016, six categories of Focal Points (FP) had benefited from one or several training rounds (cycles) :

- Animal Diseases Notification
- Animal Production Food Safety
- Animal Welfare
- Aquatic Animal Disease
- Veterinary Products
- Wildlife



National focal points' training in Africa (cont'd)

Two new categories were approved by the World Assembly of Delegates in 2013 :

- Veterinary Communication
- Veterinary Laboratories

Cycle I training courses took place in Mombasa in mid-2016 [picture] and – for « veterinary laboratories » – in Harare in late 2016.



National focal points' training in Africa (cont'd)

Two new categories were approved by the World Assembly of Delegates in 2015 :

- Veterinary Communication
- Veterinary Laboratories

Cycle I training courses took place in Mombasa in mid-2016 and – for « veterinary laboratories » – in Harare in late 2016 [picture].

The second cycle training for Focal Points for « veterinary laboratories » took place in Tunis in 2018.



Cycle I. Harare Pan-African (FR, EN) 2016

- **Laboratories' role in outbreak investigation, risk analysis, disease surveillance and international trade**
- **The OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial & Aquatic Animals* : Tools for Focal Points**

Cycle I. Harare Pan-African (FR, EN) 2016

- **Laboratories' role in outbreak investigation, risk analysis, disease surveillance and international trade**
- **The OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial & Aquatic Animals* : Tools for Focal Points**
 - OIE Manuals' structure
 - Mechanisms of standard adoption and the *Biological Standards Commission*, BSC
 - Transport of specimens of animal origin
 - Principles and methods of validation of diagnostic assays for infectious diseases
 - Biosafety and biosecurity: Standard for managing biological risk in the veterinary laboratory and animal facilities
 - Activities of the *Association of National Biosafety Agencies in Africa*, ANBAA
 - Biological threat reduction and laboratories in the African setting
 - Quality management

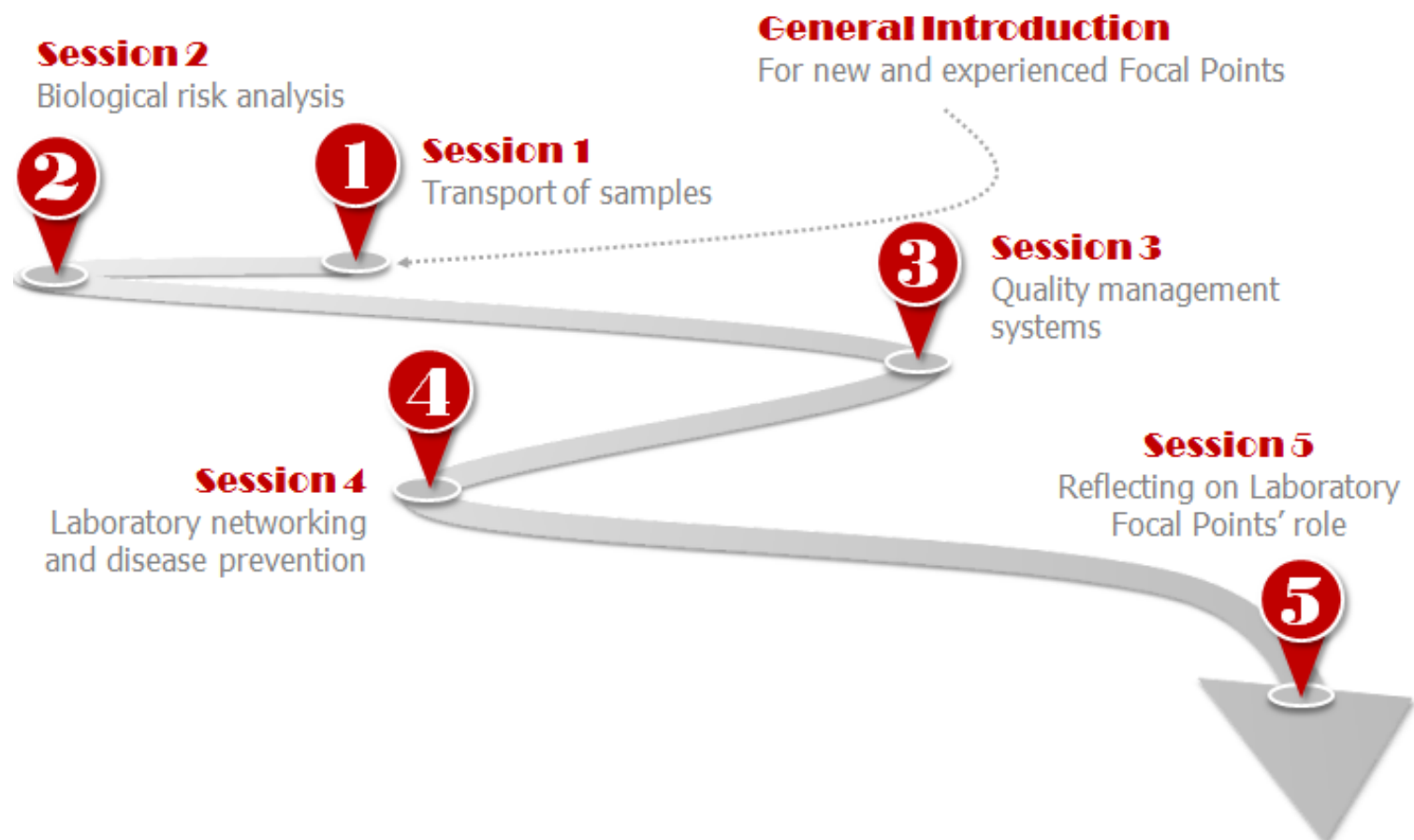
Cycle I. Harare Pan-African (FR, EN) 2016

- **Laboratories' role in outbreak investigation, risk analysis, disease surveillance and international trade**
- **The OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial & Aquatic Animals* : Tools for Focal Points**
 - ^
- **Engaging in the OIE Standard setting process**
- **Sustainable National Laboratory Networks**
- **Mapping of National Laboratory Capacity** (including the FAO Laboratory Mapping Tool)
- **OIE Laboratory Capacity Building Activities and Laboratory Networking** (including Twinning)

Cycle II. Tunis Pan-African (FR, EN) 2018



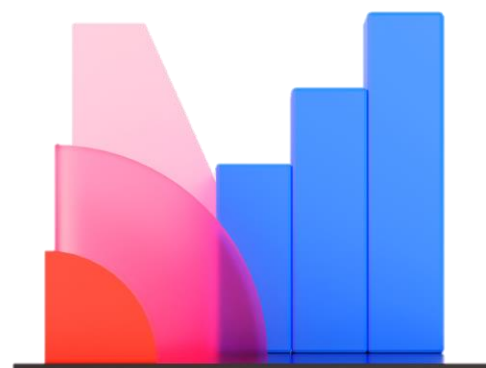
[Picture] Prof. Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann (Cote d'Ivoire)
President of the Biological Standards Commission © OIE, 2018



A culture of safety and quality is created and nurtured

Cycle III. Gaborone English only 2025

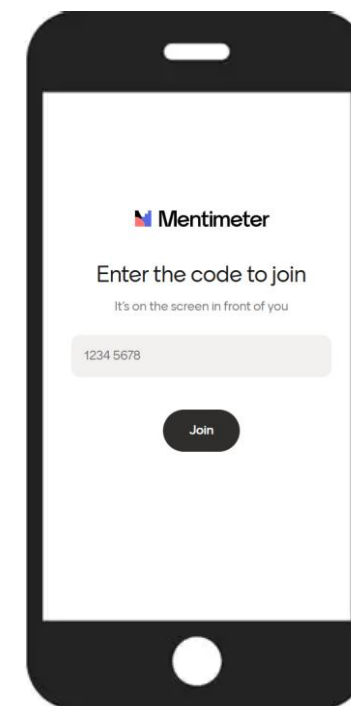
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History of the training and terms of reference

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Regional Programme Officer
WOAH, Nairobi, Kenya

Terms of Reference

As detailed in the final report of the 76th General Session of the World Assembly of National Delegates in May 2008, the responsibilities of all focal points are under the authority of the OIE (WOAH) Delegate. Any information transmitted to the OIE (WOAH) from the different focal points needs to be transmitted under the designated authority of the OIE (WOAH) Delegate. This practice would equally apply if focal points are located in other Departments or Ministries not under jurisdiction of the Veterinary Authority, as from a legal perspective the OIE (WOAH) considers the official OIE (WOAH) Delegate to be the unique representative of the country.

<https://rr-africa.woah.org/app/uploads/2019/10/laboratories.pdf>



Terms of Reference



<https://rr-africa.woah.org/app/uploads/2019/10/laboratories.pdf>



Terms of Reference

1. to establish a network of experts in the country on veterinary laboratory issues and/or to communicate with existing networks;
2. to establish and maintain a dialogue with the **Competent Authority for veterinary laboratories** in the country, including facilitating cooperation and communication among several authorities where responsibility for veterinary laboratories is shared. This would also incorporate facilitating cooperation and communication with **Competent Authorities of other National Laboratories, including those in other government Ministries**. Keep updated on the legislation and activities of the **National Veterinary Laboratories** to verify that they are in conformity with the standards and guidelines of OIE (**WOAH**) ;
3. to serve as focal point for the OIE (**WOAH**) in topics related to the National Veterinary Laboratories, including contributing to determining the training and other capacity building needs for the National Veterinary Laboratories in the country;
4. to compile responses to requests for information required by the OIE (**WOAH**) in coordination with National Veterinary Laboratories that provide specific competence in the subject of consultation;



Terms of Reference

5. if prompted, to organize consultations with recognized experts in the area of veterinary laboratories in the country on OIE (WOAH) draft standards and/or guidelines and country proposals to the OIE (WOAH) of new standards;

6. to prepare comments for the Delegate on all relevant OIE (WOAH) draft standards and/or guidelines and country proposals of new standards to the OIE, reflecting the points of view and the scientific positions of the OIE (WOAH) Member Country or the region;

7. to maintain contact with the other OIE (WOAH) national focal points for veterinary laboratories that belong to regional networks and with experts of OIE (WOAH) Reference Laboratories present in the Region;

8. to collaborate with OIE (WOAH) Reference Centres worldwide;

9. to prepare proposals for participation of **National Veterinary Laboratories** in the OIE (WOAH) Laboratory Twinning Programme when relevant.



Who can be a Laboratory Focal Point ?

Key considerations :

« National Veterinary Laboratories », i.e. the national reference laboratory system in the country, accountable to the CVO / Delegate (**National Veterinary Authority**)

or

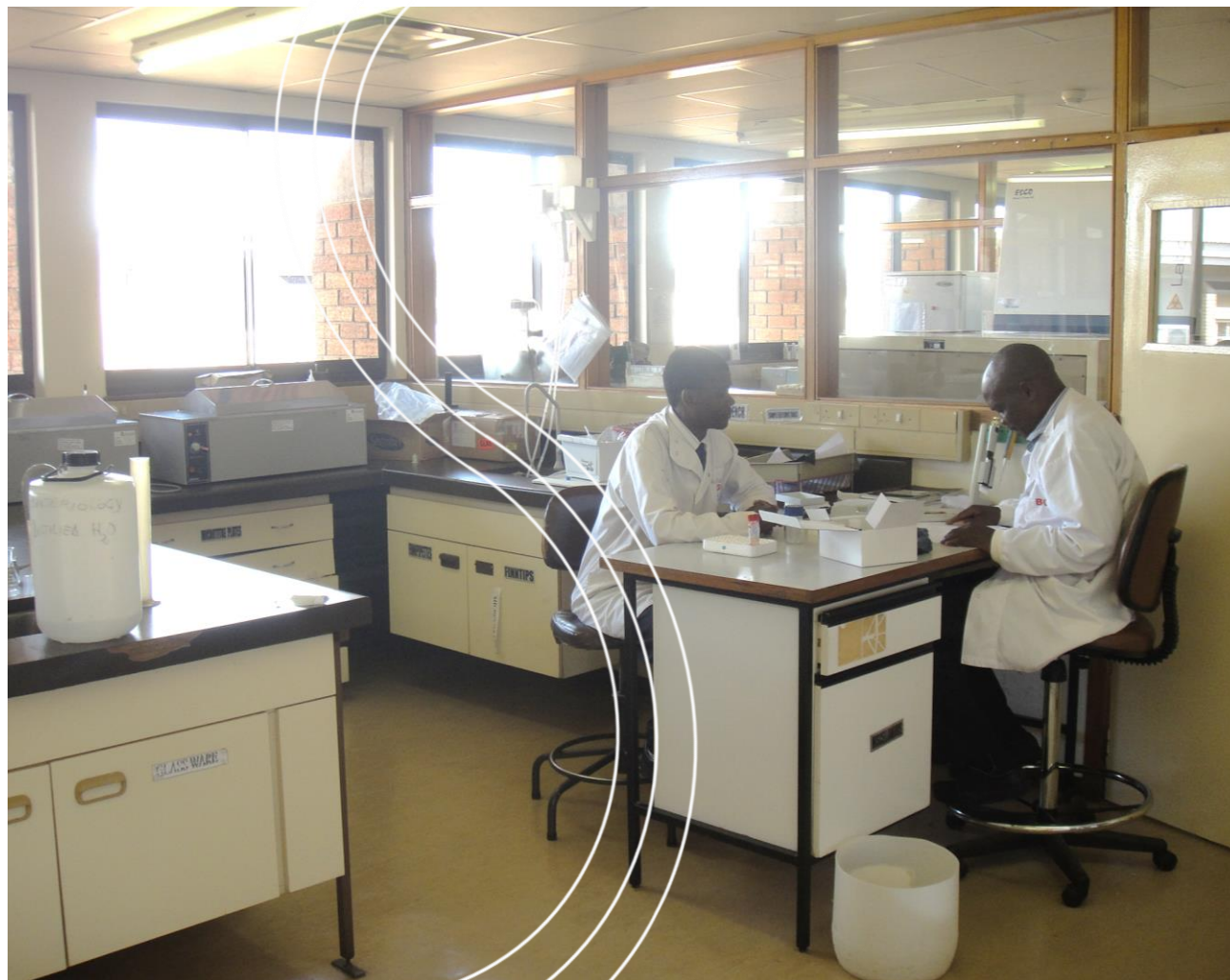
A « **National Competent Authority** » for veterinary laboratories, within other entities, e.g. research institutions, academic institutions, parastatals, other ministries (*usually not private laboratories*).



Who can be a Laboratory Focal Point ?

Your typical Focal Point either has managerial responsibilities for the laboratory (system) at senior directorate level, deals with (internal) quality-assurance (QA) and/or biosecurity / biosafety, or heads a section dealing with WOAHL-listed diseases (usually virology, or serology).

The decision is always that of the WOAHL Delegate



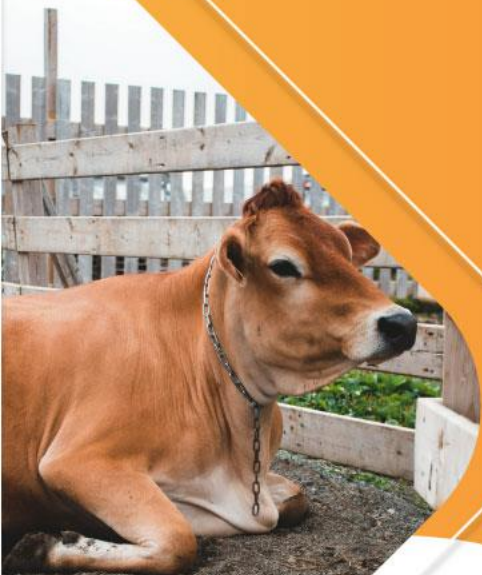


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