



World Organisation  
for Animal Health



# Regional Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance in Aquaculture for English-Speaking African Countries



13 - 15 August 2025  
Harare, Zimbabwe



Funded by  
UK Government



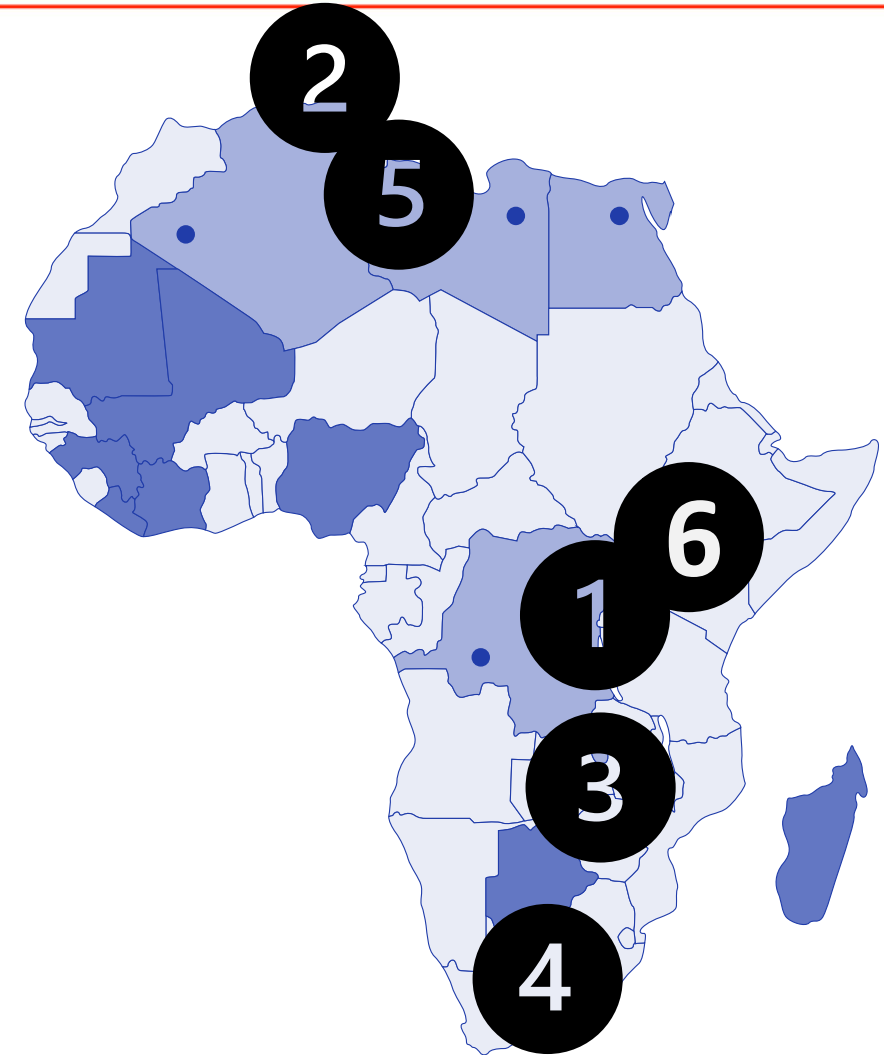
# Regional collaboration on aquatic animal health: Regional aquatic health networks and how these could support work on AMR in aquaculture.





Overview of WOA  
activities conducted  
since April 2023,  
in Africa.

1. Kigali
2. Tunis (1)
3. Lusaka
4. Pretoria
5. Tunis (2)
6. Kampala (with AU-IBAR)



## Focal Points' training (cycle IV)

Kigali, Rwanda  
October 2023

(English) ①

Tunis, Tunisia  
July 2024

(French) ②

The training was held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 2 to 4 October 2023 and was attended by 24 WOAHA Focal Points for aquatic animals from 24 (English-speaking) African countries. Close to 40% of focal points were newly appointed, or were appointed since the 2018 III cycle training in Dar es Salaam.

The preliminary discussions led by the various experts decided to take a horizontal approach to delivering the training content on “standards development” and “standards implementation,” which are tools available from WOAHA to support the implementation and compliance with standards, the global framework provided by the Global Strategy.



The training was held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 8 to 10 July 2024 and was attended by 16 WOAHA Focal Points for aquatic animals from 16 (French-speaking) African countries.

During the meeting, participants were able to share their experiences through group discussions, which were held for the first time to account for the concept of shared water bodies. This gave the participants an opportunity to discuss the consequences of introducing a disease in water bodies shared with neighboring countries, through self-declaration mechanisms. To supplement the discussions, the WOAHA Observatory Annual Report 2022 was used as information source.



## Joint training on antimicrobial resistance and use in aquaculture

Kigali, Rwanda  
October 2023

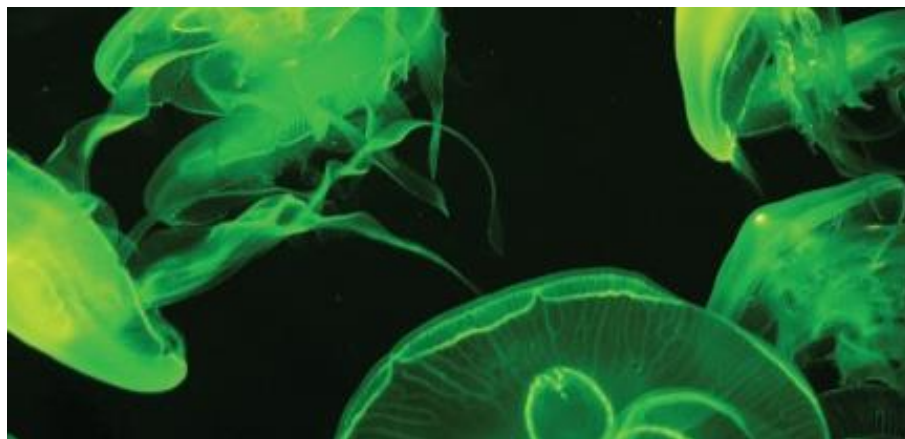
(English) ①

Tunis, Tunisia  
July 2024

(French) ②

The first training was held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 4 – 6 October 2023 and in Tunis, Tunisia, from 10 to 11 July 2024, and was attended by WOAHA National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals and National Focal Points for Veterinary Products/AMR National Contact Points from African countries

The workshops' main objective was to engage with the (a) National focal points for Aquatic Animals and (b) National focal points for Veterinary Products or AMR National contact points, to discuss progress made in incorporating AMR in aquaculture into AMR NAPs while taking stock of the commitments made in the previous meeting(s) in Durban (2019) and Maputo (2022).



Moreover, this meeting was an opportunity to share the advances made by the Quadripartite in addressing AMR in aquaculture, including highlighting AMR in the environment while emphasising the need for proper waste management from aquaculture establishments. Participants engaged in 3 working group session, focusing on:

- Gaps, needs and opportunities related to AMR in aquaculture
- Inclusion of aquaculture in National Action Plans for AMR
- Current situation in member countries
- Prioritisation exercise: for each activity the priority, timeline, funds, stakeholders and capacity needs were defined.





## Establishment of regional aquatic animal health networks for

North Africa  
Tunis, Tunisia

April 2023 ⑤

Southern Africa  
Lusaka, Zambia

July 2023 ③

In April 2023, the Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa of the, in collaboration with the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), organised a workshop to establish and operational a RAAHN in North Africa as a strategy for strengthening the implementation WOAH aquatic standards and improving biosecurity control, market access and safe intra-regional fish trade. The same was repeated in July 2023 for the member countries of the Southern Africa region, essentially the SADC Member States. The former was attended by (all) 6 countries and the latter by 14 (out of 16) countries.



Through the Launch of the *Regional Aquatic Animal Health Networks* (or RAAHN, under FishGov II), IBAR and WOAH aimed –through a subgrant agreement with IBAR- to create an inaugural platform where the public sectors and private stakeholders can share information and network to collectively develop, implement and monitor aquatic animal health strategies coherently.

Whereas WOAH took the lead in facilitating the network in North Africa, it is the SADC Secretariat that took the lead, wishing to embed it into the fold of the *Fisheries Technical Committee* (FTC).





## RAAHN



## Establishment of regional aquatic animal health laboratory network for Africa

Pretoria, South  
Africa

December 2023 **4**

The launch of a third network, the continental laboratory network for the Africa region (RAAHLN-AF), aimed to ease the main technical constraint which is the diagnostic capacity of national laboratories and laboratories with a regional outreach agenda. This justified the support to the establishment of this third network, specifically directed at uniting diagnosticians from WOAHL 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.



The third meeting, commissioned by AU-IBAR was hosted by the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa (ARC) and its Onderstepoort Veterinary research Institute (OVI) from 5 – 7 December 2023, and brought together four existing accredited WOAHL Reference Laboratories, for diseases, relevant for the Africa region and located in : Australia <sup>(CSIRO)</sup>, Norway <sup>(NVI)</sup>, United Kingdom <sup>(CEFAS)</sup> and the United States <sup>(University of Arizona)</sup>. Six (6) National Reference Laboratories with demonstrated experience in the diagnosis of one or more aquatic diseases and the interest to play a regional role as regional service labs: Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia and Zambia.







## RAAHLN

- Australia (CSIRO),
- Norway (NVI),
- United Kingdom (CEFAS),
- United States (University of Arizona).



## First steering committee meeting of the regional aquatic animal health network for Southern Africa

Kampala, Uganda  
June 2025 **6**



Taking advantage of the World Aquaculture "Safari" Conference, held in Uganda, from 20 – 25 June 2025, AU-IBAR hosted a string of side-meetings, one of which was the joint Steering Committee Meeting of the RAAHNs for North and for Southern Africa.

Since only Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia were represented from North Africa, the meeting could not make any binding commitments, Algeria, Egypt and Libya being absent. For Southern Africa, a quorum was reached and the report of the 2023 inaugural meeting in Lusaka, Zambia was adopted.

The meeting, in general, recommended that prudent AMU, AMR and vaccination as an alternative to the use of antimicrobials be better highlighted in these two reports.





## First steering committee meeting of the regional aquatic animal health network for Southern Africa

Kampala, Uganda  
June 2025 **6**



Regarding the **RAAHN-NA**, the minutes note that “RAAHN-NA participants agreed that the inaugural action plan reflected what was discussed during the launch and that the activities prioritised then, are still pertinent.

It was however noted that inaugural action plan had not adequately addressed growing challenges associated with **controlling aquatic/aquaculture AMR** and the development, use of aquatic animal vaccines with the region and invasive species”



The first steering committee meeting of the **RAAHN-SA** “...validated the inaugural action plan subject to inclusion of aspects noted in 6.1 (ii) above and 6.3 below, notably (...) The **prevention and control of aquaculture AMR**; and: The development and use of aquatic animal vaccines (...)”



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More generally, the minutes further note under Prevention and control of antimicrobial resistance “...the lack of approved and/or registered therapeutic molecules for use in aquatic animals in most countries. Several countries rely on formulations used for terrestrial animal medicine. Legal frameworks (national and regional) need to be developed based on research and outcomes of national surveillance. Given their mandates, the **RECs have a pivotal role in promoting the establishment of aquatic AMU/AMR surveillance programmes among AU-Member States which should in turn become a role for the RAAHNs once they are operationalised.** Therefore, an inaugural activity on assessing the prospects for establishing regional and/national aquaculture and aquatic AMU/AMR surveillance programmes is recommended...” and also recommend to “...promote and integrate the establishment of **aquaculture AMU/AMR surveillance in National Action Plans for AMR** and the consequent reporting of aquaculture/aquatic AMR through to the continental and the global established systems animal health reporting (i.e. ARIS, WAHIS and GLASS)...”







# Regional collaboration on aquatic animal health: Regional aquatic health networks and how these could support work on AMR in aquaculture.



## How RAAHNs could support work on AMR in aquaculture

### Terms of reference of the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Networks (2)

The establishment and operationalization of *Regional Aquatic Animal Health Networks* (RAAHNs) within RECs as a strategy for strengthening the implementation of aquatic SPS measures for **biosecurity control, improved market access and safe intra-regional fish trade**. The action will create a platform where the sectors public and private stakeholders can share information and network to collectively develop, implement and monitor aquatic animal health strategies coherently.

### Terms of reference of the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory Network

The establishment of a *Regional Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory Network* would facilitate the development of **regional aquatic animal disease control and surveillance programmes, zonation for biosecurity control**, establishment of **quarantines and health certification, quality assurance** and certification of local and regional fisheries and aquaculture **value-chains, aquatic environmental monitoring** and an improvement of aquatic animal **welfare**. Productivity, profitability and robustness of the sector would consequently be positively impacted.

**Hence, whereas the focus of none of these three networks is on specific diseases or issues, such as AMR, the above-mentioned focus on biosecurity and trade, with the active involvement of the private sector, could leverage efforts by other networks to highlight and ensure the inclusion of AMU and AMR in its work.**





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# Thank you

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