



World Organisation
for Animal Health



WEBINAR 2 - Session 8

Observatory Thematic study on zoning and update on the Global Forum on Zoning

Nairobi, Kenya

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MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE
AND LIVESTOCK
DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF KENYA



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Use, challenges and impact of zoning by WOAAH Members in relation to Avian influenza, African swine fever, and Foot and mouth disease

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Agenda

1. The WOAHO Observatory
2. Why this thematic study on zoning?
3. Scope and methodology (Parts 1 and 2)
4. Use of zoning, and why Members use it
5. Key findings (Parts 1 and 2)
6. Recommendations to WOAHO and to Members

The WOAH Observatory

Mandate, objectives, and outputs



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The WOAHObservatory

1. Mandate: established in 2018 (WOAH Resolution N°36) to track how Members put WOAHO standards into practice
2. Objectives: identify implementation challenges, support Members, recognise good practice, improve WOAHO standards and services
3. Monitoring Reports: five-yearly, systematic overview of standards implementation worldwide
4. Thematic Studies: in-depth dives on a priority topic — the first is dedicated to zoning and compartmentalisation

Use, challenges and impact of zoning

Observatory thematic study, Parts 1 & 2 · 2018–2022

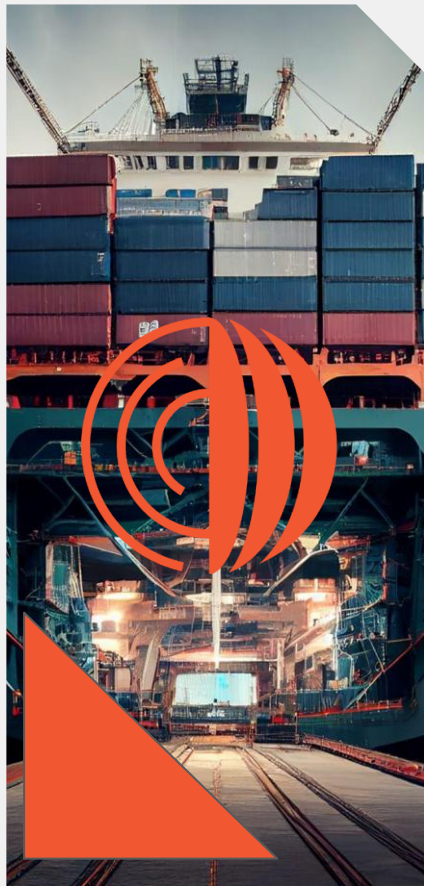


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Why this thematic study?



Prior Observatory monitoring:

- the Observatory's 2022 report found limited, inconsistent use of zoning/compartmentalisation, and limited Veterinary Service capacity in this area

A gap in the evidence:

- the drivers of bilateral zone acceptance by trading partners were, at the time, scarcely covered in the scientific literature

Documented economic relevance:

- modelling by Hafi et al. (2022) estimated that zoning can reduce producer revenue losses by USD 3–9 billion during a disease outbreak

Purpose of this study:

- describe current practice and identify statistical drivers of trading-partner acceptance—informing the ongoing development of a new Terrestrial Code chapter on zoning implementation

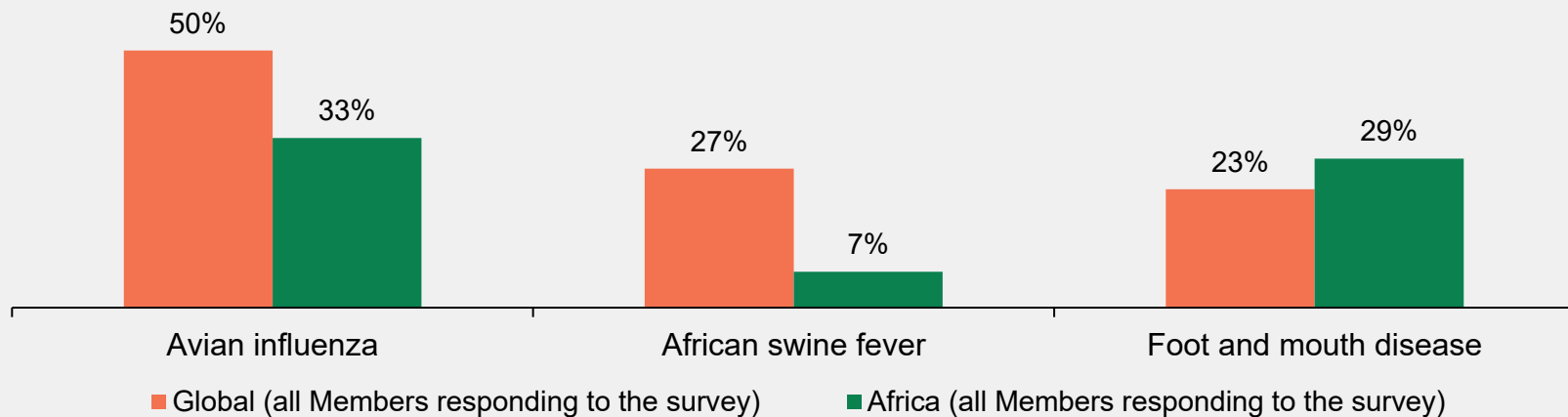


Scope and methodology

1. Scope: zoning for 3 diseases — avian influenza, African swine fever, foot and mouth disease, 2018–2022
2. Method — Part 1 (2023); : survey to Veterinary Services in English, French and Spanish
3. Response rate 60%/50%/56% global (AI/ASF/FMD). 40%/26%/40% Africa (AI/ASF/FMD).
4. Method — Part 2 (2024): statistical analysis of 78 Member-disease records combining survey, WAHIS, PVS, Status official recognition, self-declaration and UN Comtrade data



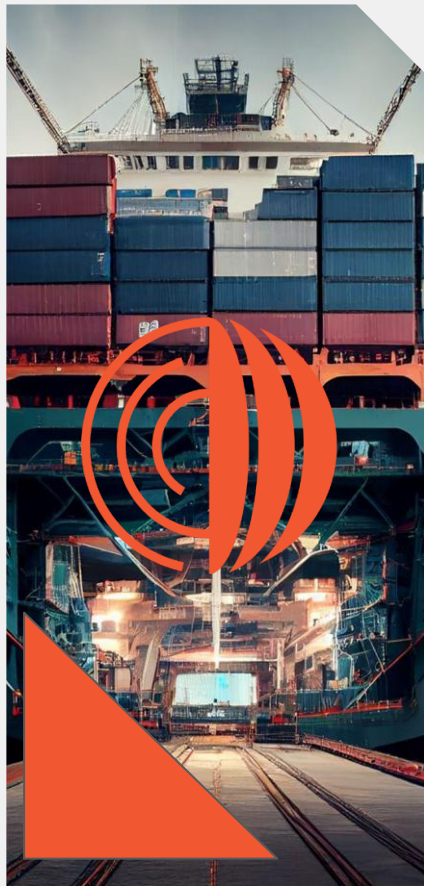
Use of zoning: global and Africa



% of Members who answered each disease's questionnaire and reported having established and practically implemented zones, 2018–2022.



Why Members use zoning, and its benefits



Top reason — outbreak response:

- 92%/94%/82% of Members (AI/ASF/FMD) used zoning mainly to respond to an outbreak in their own country

Benefit — disease control:

- 81%/84%/91% of Members rated zoning highly beneficial for controlling AI/ASF/FMD

Reasons #2–3 — securing trade:

- 73%/65%/78% used zoning to secure trade of animal products,
- 73%/68%/71% to secure trade of live animals — trade is central to why Members use zoning

Benefit — trade (exporter view):

- zone acceptance increased export volumes in 73% of cases for officially recognised FMD-free zones, and maintained or grew exports in 55–65% of cases for AI and ASF



Top 5 challenges to zoning

1. Level of staffing of Veterinary Services
2. Enforcement of biosecurity requirements
3. Laboratory diagnosis
4. Animal identification, traceability and domestic movement control
5. Political support



Part 2 results: what statistically drives zone acceptance by trade partners



Increases zone acceptance:

- official WOAHA zone status, clearly defined zone boundaries, separated animal populations, and biosecurity/surveillance measures in place

Also increases acceptance:

- zoning legislation aligned with WOAHA standards, and animal/animal-product identification systems in place

Reduces zone acceptance:

- difficulties with certification, traceability, technical independence of Veterinary Services, or risk analysis capacity

Confirms Part 1's perception data:

- transparency and trust in the certification system were rated the top drivers by both exporters and importers, and are now confirmed statistically



Recommendations to WOAH

1. Advocate for adequate Veterinary Services staffing and resources
2. Support development of cost–benefit analysis capacity in Veterinary Services
3. Advocate proper use of WOAH standards for trade; support national legislation alignment
4. Support Members' transparency tools — WAHIS reporting, official recognition, self-declaration, PVSIS data-sharing
5. Organise an inter-regional forum for Members to share practical zoning experience
6. Explore a further thematic study on certification systems



Recommendations to Members

1. Ensure prerequisites are in place: surveillance, ID & traceability, biosecurity, contingency plans
2. Integrate WOHAT zoning standards fully into legislation and practice; seek public–private partnerships
3. Assess resources and perform a cost–benefit analysis before establishing zones
4. Invest in robust certification systems and transparency to build trust with trading partners
5. Establish bilateral procedures with trading partners early; promote acceptance via WTO SPS reporting
6. Raise challenges at WOHAT forums and seek capacity-building support

GLOBAL FORUM ON ZONING

December 2025

Joyce Bowling-Heyward, DVM, MS
Chargee de Mission, Standards Department

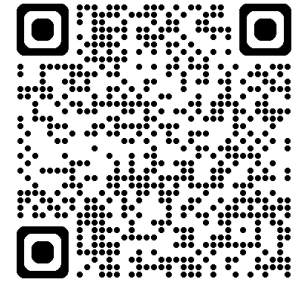


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GLOBAL FORUM ON ZONING



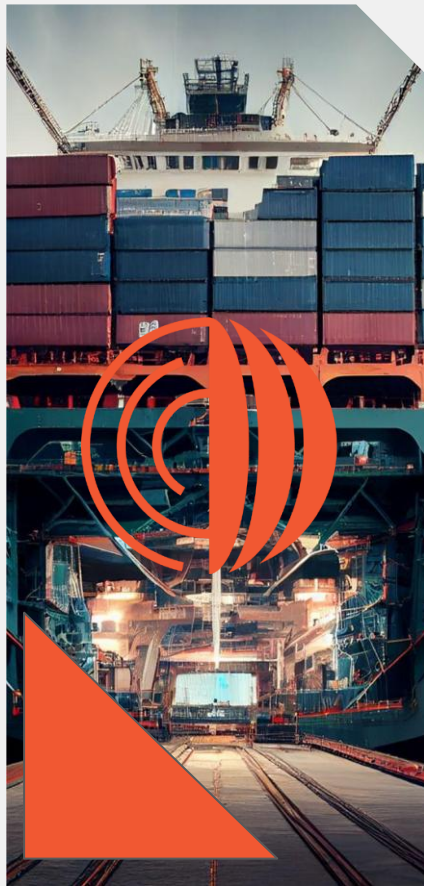
Background



1. Hosting a zoning forum was one of the recommendations to come from the Observatory Thematic Report on zoning
2. The Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission had received requests from Members to update the zoning chapters of the code to provide better clarity on implementation of zoning



GLOBAL FORUM ON ZONING



Where and when:

- The zoning forum took place 8-9 December 2025 in Paris at WOAHA Headquarters

Director General opening remarks:

- Zoning is important for effective disease control and business continuity.
- While zoning is widely recognised as an effective risk management tool, implementation among members is uneven and there are challenges in trading partner engagement, and recognition of zones among trading partners.

Who:

- 71 representatives for 53 countries, along with partners from the private sector and international organisations

Goals of forum:

- Provide guidance for the AHG on zoning updating the Terrestrial Code chapter on zoning (chapter 4.4,) and creating a new chapter on implementation of zoning.
- Members can learn from experiences of others how to better implement zones for disease control and trade continuity.



FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WOAAH MEMBERS

1. Recognise that zoning entails significant costs and resource requirements; however, when well designed and implemented, the benefits for disease control and trade are substantial. Develop and maintain rapid emergency response plans and secure sustainable funding mechanisms to facilitate swift establishment and operation of zones during crises.



2. Prioritise the development of quality Veterinary Services, ensuring that all staff involved in zoning implementation have clear roles, are well trained, adequately resourced, and equipped with the necessary tools to implement zoning plans effectively.



3. Invest in core surveillance and diagnostic capacities as prerequisites for zoning, including both active and passive surveillance systems to establish and justify zone boundaries, robust laboratory capacity with backup plans, reliable animal identification and traceability systems, and effective movement controls within and between zones.



FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WOAAH MEMBERS

4. Leverage vaccination as a tool for limiting disease spread and reducing the use of depopulation where appropriate and integrate vaccination strategies into broader zoning plans.



5. Strengthen public–private partnerships to improve effectiveness of zoning through shared funding, provision of resources, development of communication plans, and joint engagement with producers and industry stakeholders.

6. Integrate zoning into national animal health policies and legislation, ensuring clear mandates, chains of command and coordination between central and sub-national authorities, and commitment to transparent communication with stakeholders and trading partners, as well as prompt disease notification.





FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WOA



1. Continue revision of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on zoning, taking into account Member experiences and challenges shared during the forum, to clarify concepts, simplify terminology and improve usability of standards for different disease scenarios.
2. Enhance and promote use of WOA tools, particularly official status recognition and self-declaration mechanisms, which facilitate international acceptance of zones and support trade.
3. Develop and disseminate practical implementation guidance, templates, checklists and training materials on zoning, including preparation of applications for official disease-free status recognition (protection zones, containment zones, free zones) and use of innovative communication tools such as Geozone.
4. Maintain close collaboration with the WTO and support coherent application of zoning and regionalisation principles across the SPS framework and bilateral trade negotiations.



FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

1. Support Members through targeted technical assistance and capacity-building on legislative frameworks, quality of Veterinary Services, surveillance infrastructure, laboratory capacity, data management systems and communication tools for effective zoning.
2. Support the development of functional public–private partnerships that integrate funding mechanisms, resource sharing and coordinated communication strategies to strengthen zoning implementation and stakeholder compliance.
3. Engage in continued dialogue with Members and WOAHA to build trust in zonal approaches through transparency, sharing of trade-related experiences, and support for recognition of WOAHA-endorsed zones at multilateral and bilateral levels.



Thank You

The Observatory's thematic study- Use, challenges and impact of zoning

Global Forum on Zoning - WOA - World Organisation for Animal Health

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