



Presentation on challenges to managing FMD in the Red Zone of Namibia

Albertina Shilongo
Chief Veterinary Officer
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Presentation outline

1. Mandate of the Directorate of Veterinary Services
2. Structure
3. Legislation
4. FMD control zones
5. Challenges to managing FMD in the Red zone

DVS Mandate

- The mandate of the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) is to maintain and promote optimal animal health, production and reproduction and to assure safe and orderly marketing of animal and animal products through animal disease control, import & export control, veterinary surveillance, epidemiology and extension, diagnostic services and veterinary public health services.

DVS Mandate

- DVS is under MAWLR, the Competent Authority responsible for:
 - animal health in the country.
 - DVS comprises of 6 divisions which are responsible for:
 1. Animal Disease Control (north & south) x 2
 2. Veterinary Public Health
 3. Epidemiology, Import and Export Control, Medicine Control, Traceability and Advisory Service
 4. Diagnostic Services and Research

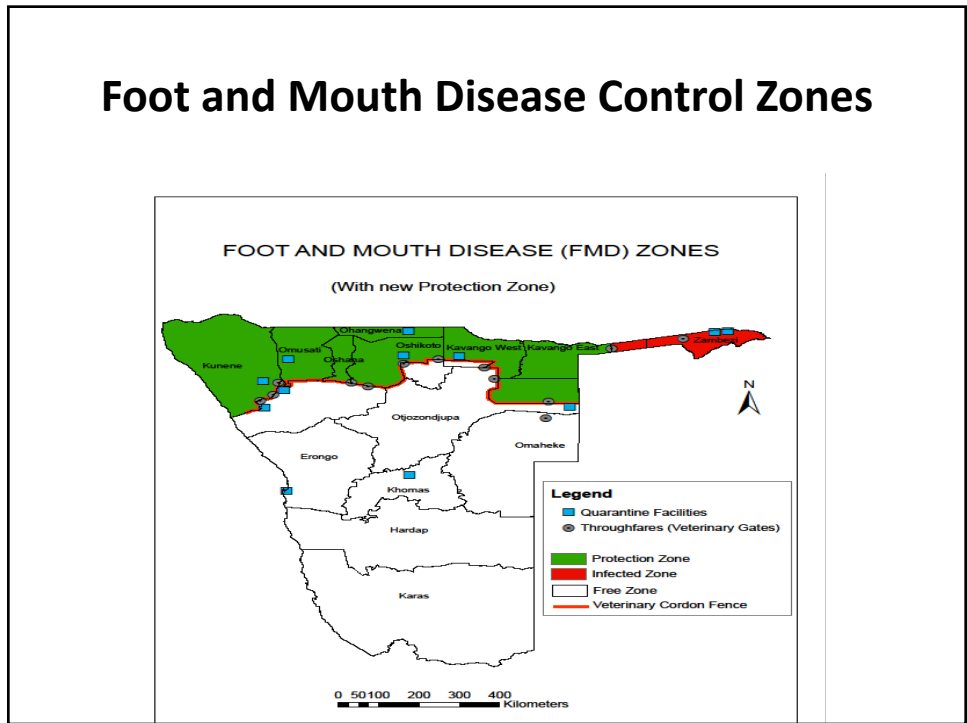
Human Resources

- Establishment: 1,173
- Posts currently filled: 834 (4 veterinarians and 9 AHTs in the infected zone).
- Vacant posts: 339
- Vacant posts to be filled over the next 3 years
- Priority is to fill professional and technical posts

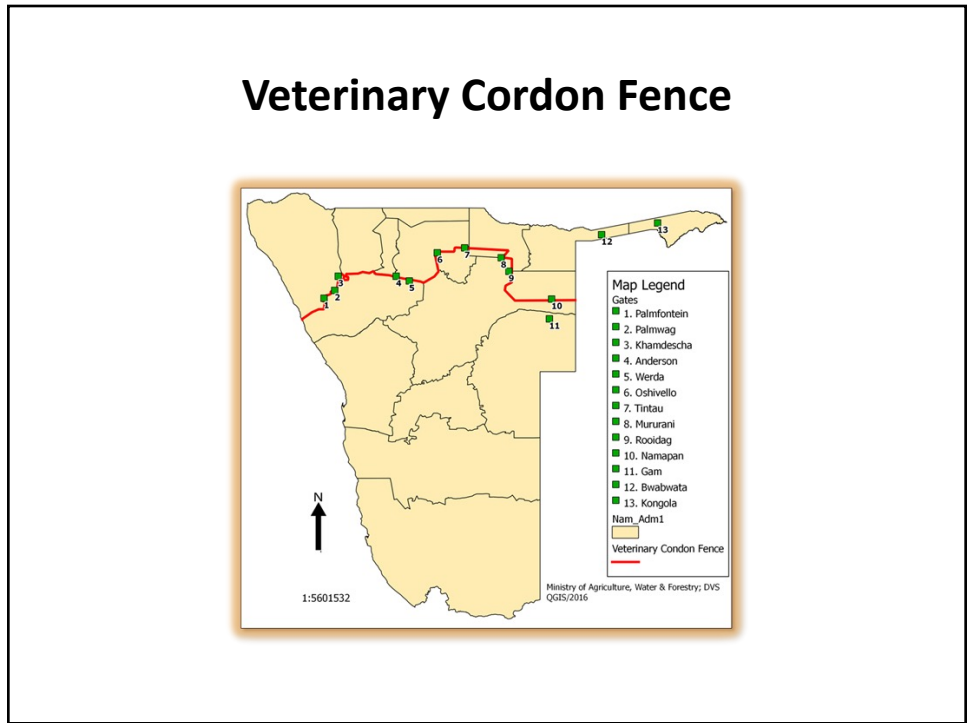
Legislation

- Animal Health Act, 2011 (Act No 1 of 2011)
- The Prevention of Undesirable Residues in Meat Act, 1991 (Act No 21 of 1991),
- The Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, 2003 (Act No 13 of 2003),
- The Stock Brands Act, (Act No 24 of 1995)
- Animal Welfare Act, 1962 (Act 71 of 1962).
- Veterinary and Para-veterinary Professions Act, 2013 (Act No 1 of 2013)
- Namibia adopt trading partner legislation where required to access their markets (e.g. RSA, China, EU,

Foot and Mouth Disease Control Zones



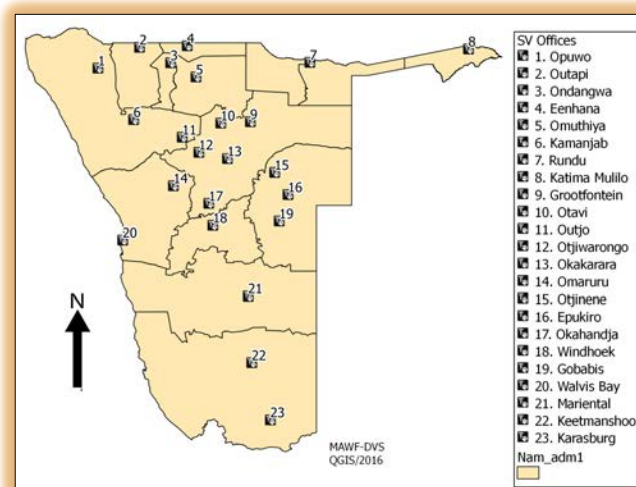
Veterinary Cordon Fence



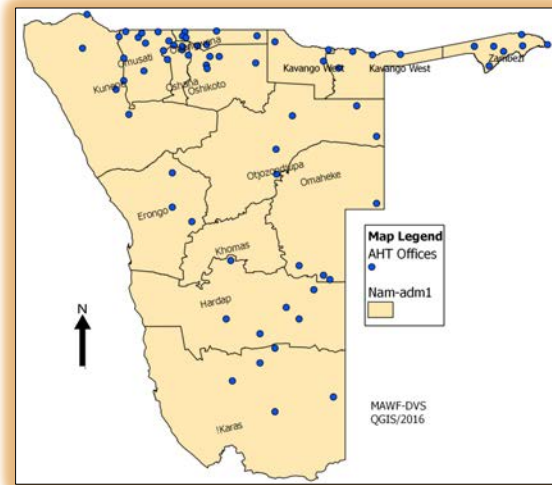
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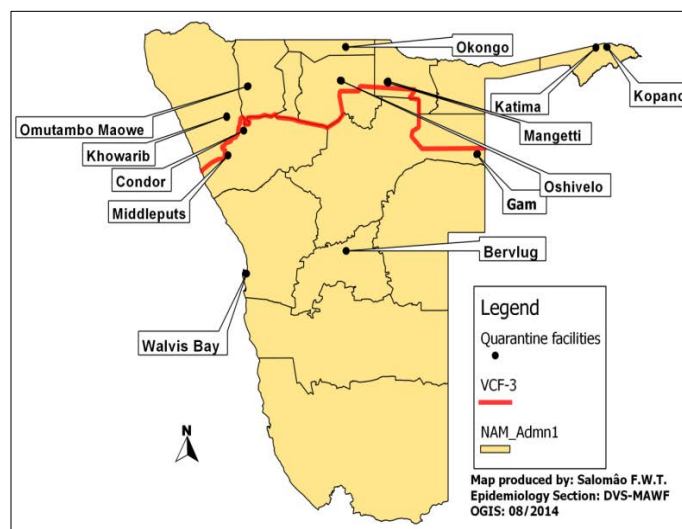
Infrastructure – State Vet Offices



Infrastructure – Animal Health Technician Offices



Infrastructure – Quarantine Stations



Major challenges to managing FMD in Infected Zone

- Presence of resident African buffaloes which are known to be carriers of FMD virus SAT 1,2 & 3 causing frequent FMD outbreaks in Zambezi region (2017 @Musese, 2019 @Sigwe and 2021 @ Kasenu)
- Direct contact between livestock and cloven hooved wild animals at water points/river and grazing areas
- Illegal cross border movement of cattle resulted in introduction of new FMD serotype O in Zambezi region in 2021.
- Cattle movement in search of grassing, theft across the border.

Challenges

- Difficult to access the flood plain areas – leading to delay in outbreak investigations and collection of samples to confirm the disease
- Long distances for transporting samples to Windhoek delays obtaining results on time
- Insufficient budget for procurement of required vaccines, eartags and other resources for vaccination campaigns.
- FMD vaccine is very expensive (vaccinate 230 000 cattle 2-3 times per year out of which 30 000 cattle in Mukwe and 200 000 cattle in Zambezi region)
- Shortage of transport for vaccination campaigns

Challenges

- Reduction in community outreach and awareness campaign activities
- Lack of animal handling facilities (crushpens) in the flood plain areas and most crushpens are in poor conditions.
- Farmers travel long distances using oxen for access to basic services e.g. going to a clinic, contributing to the spread of FMD in case of outbreaks
- Buffalo movement from Bwabwata National Park to livestock areas (Mukwe constituency in Kavango east region)

Challenges

- Movement restriction of livestock result in loss of income and shortage of meat in the region.
- Destruction of quarantine facilities by veldfire, elephants and vandalism
- Lack of harmonized strategies for the control of FMD in neighbouring countries due to priorities

Wayforward

- CBT is the solution for the Infected zone
- There is a need for production of cheaper FMD vaccine with long lasting immunity.
- Maintenance of quarantine facilities.
- Strengthen regional capacity in TADs control for improvement of animal health.
- Need for improved coordination and harmonized implementation of strategies for FMD control between neighbouring countries,
- Need for investments in the implementation animal health activities (development partners)

THANK YOU