

WOAH FMD-free status and Official control programme

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WOAH Headquarters

SEACFMD Epidemiology Network Meeting

13-15 May 2025, Qingdao, P.R.China

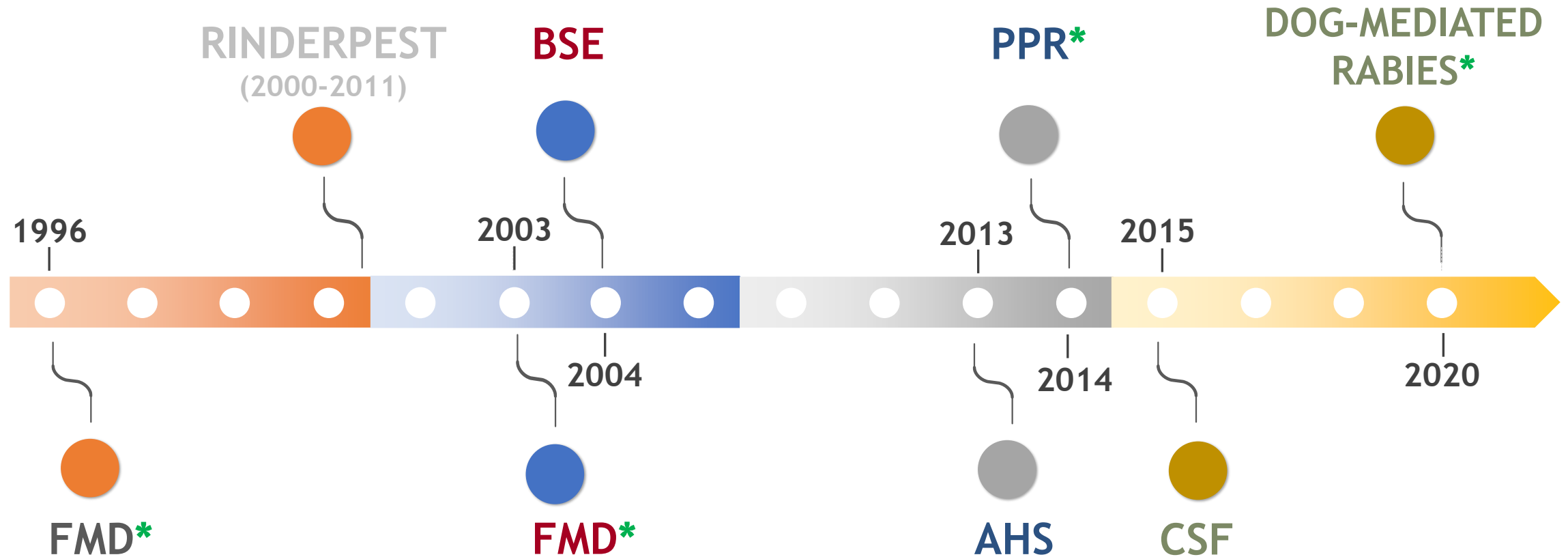


World Organisation
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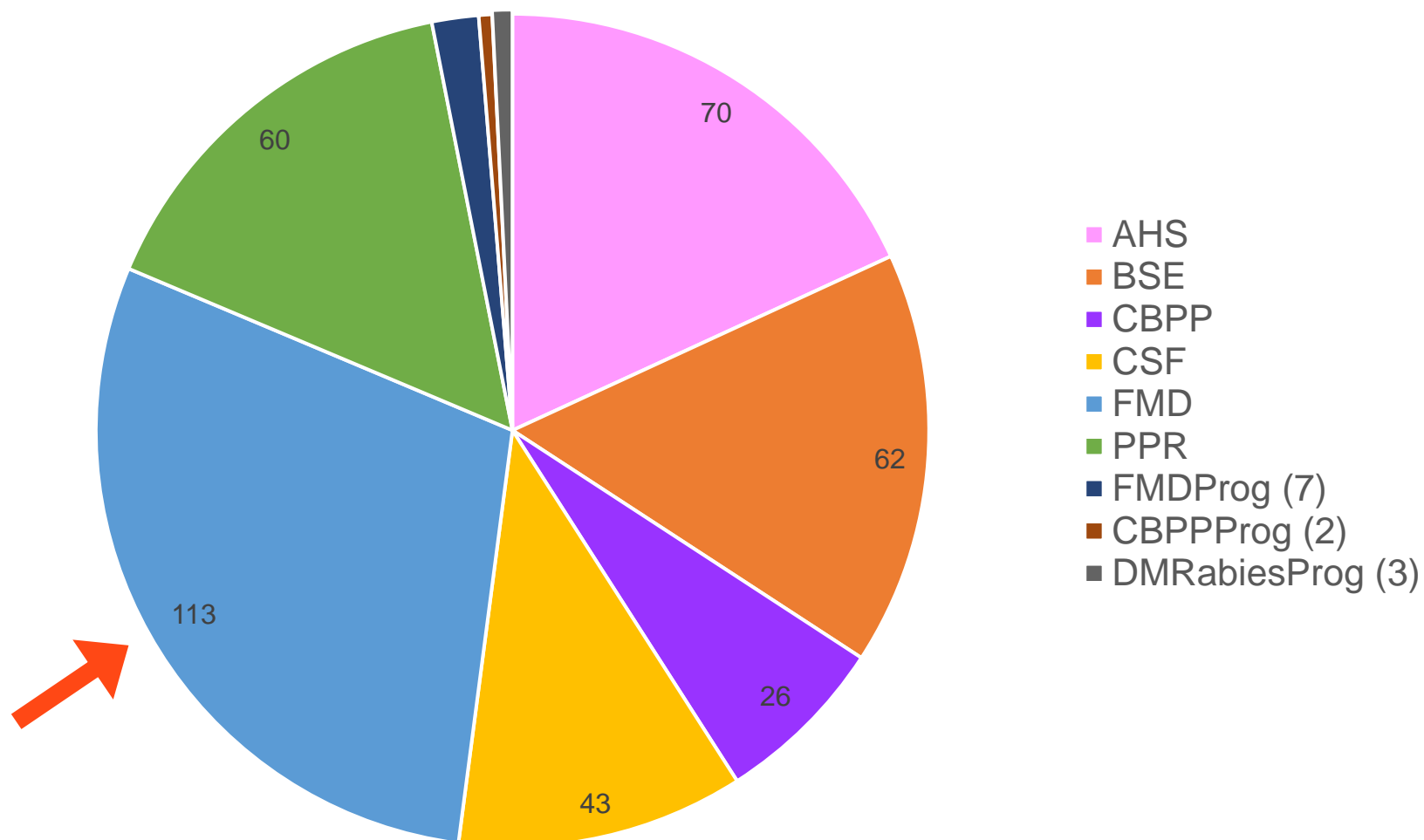
* Endorsement of official control programme



Number and Proportion of Official recognised animal health status by WOA

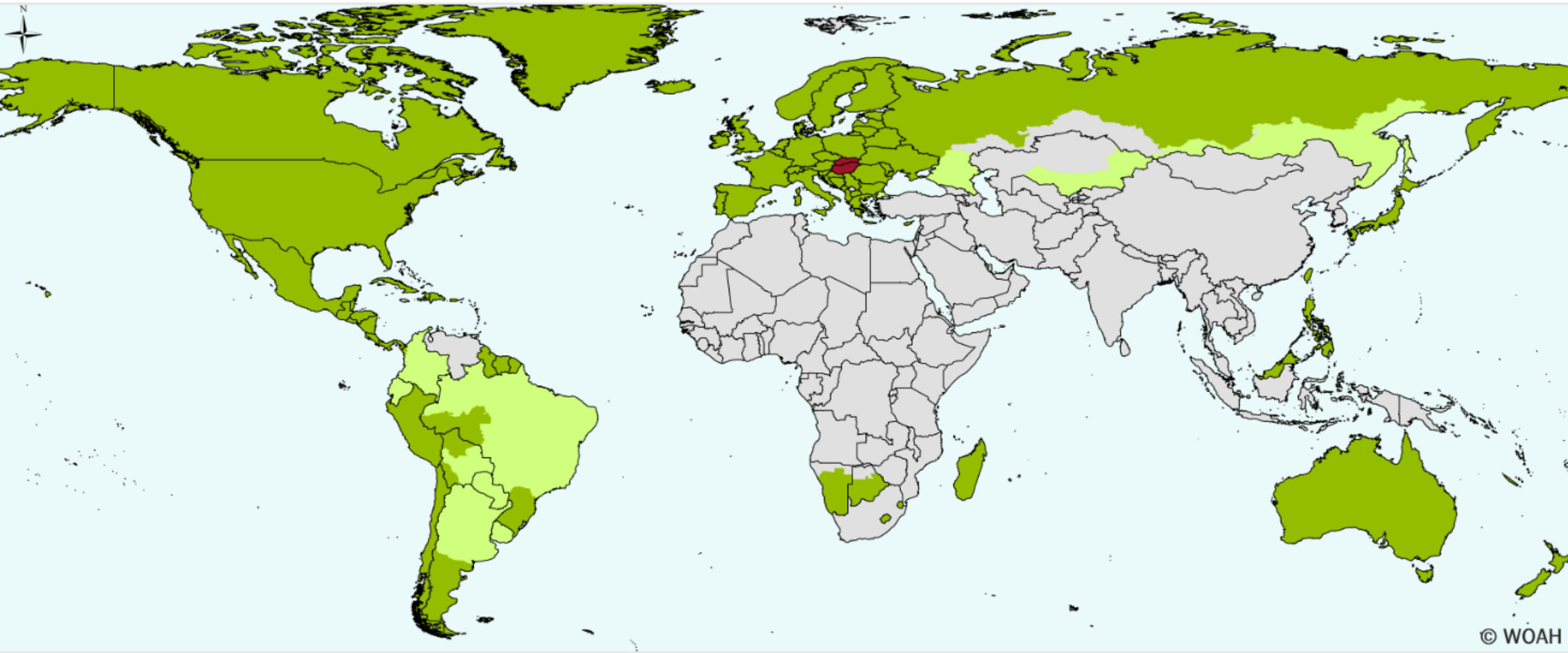
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Number of annual reconfirmations by disease (2023), n=386







WOAH Members' official FMD status map

Last update April 2025

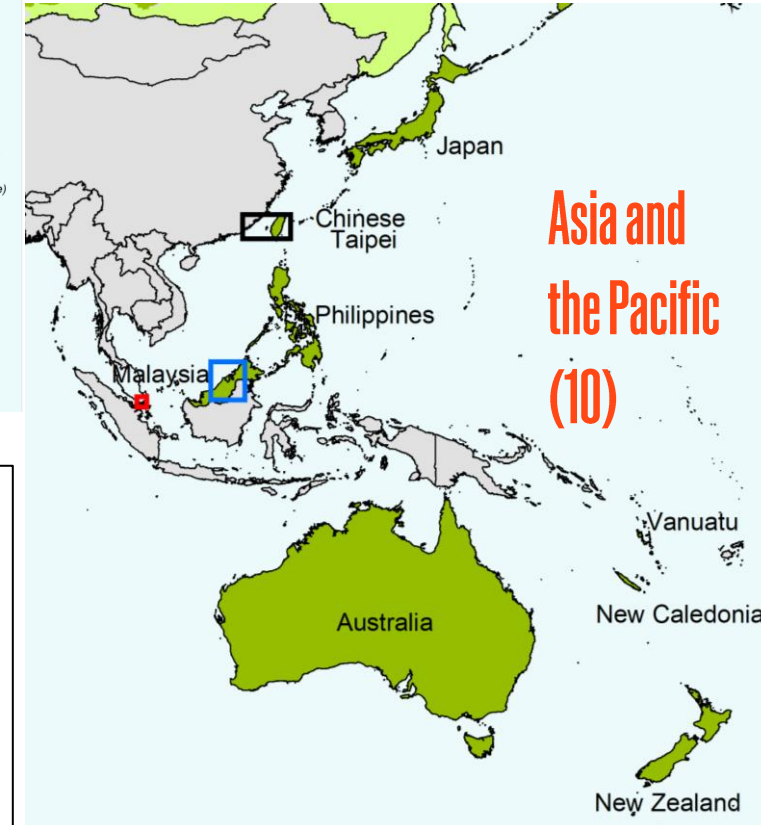
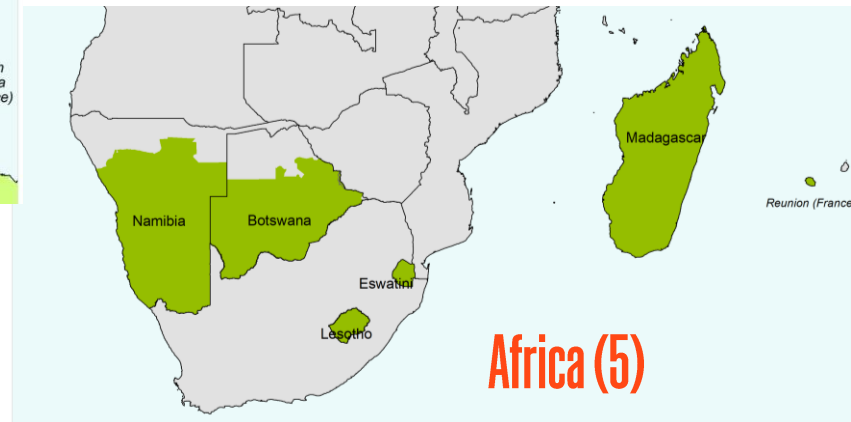
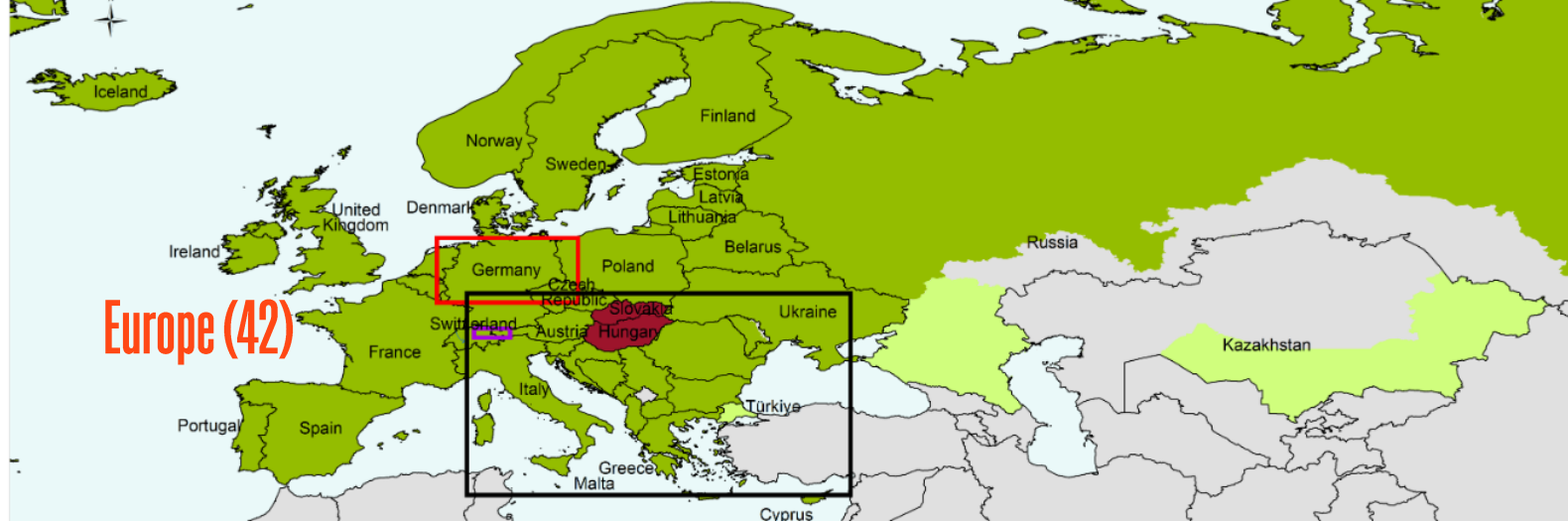
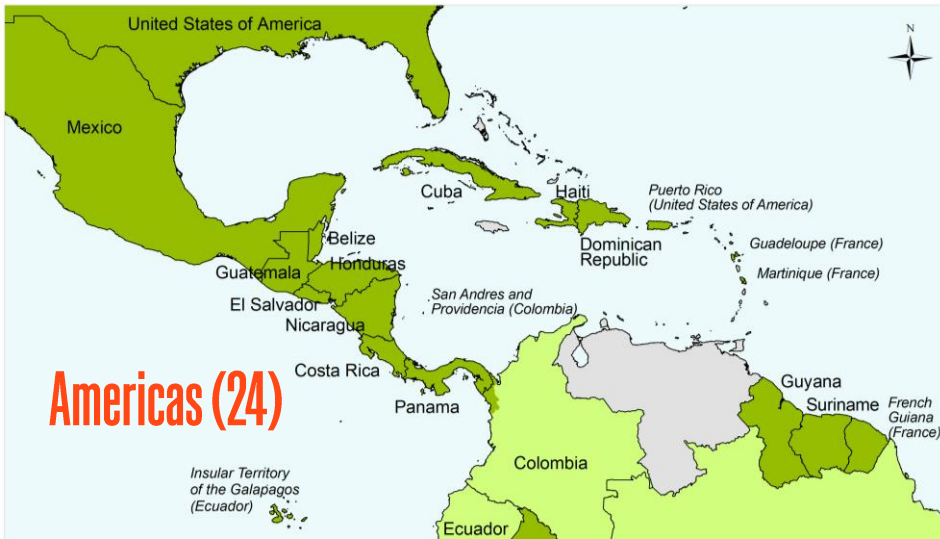


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-  Members and zones recognised as free from FMD without vaccination
-  Members and zones recognised as free from FMD with vaccination

-  Suspension of FMD free status
-  Countries and zones without an official status for FMD

Regional FMD-free status maps



Members having FMD-free status (81 = 68 + 13)

Americas: 24 (19+5 Members having 22 zones)

Europe: 42 (38+4 Members having 12 zones); 1 endorsed programme

Asia and the Pacific: 10 (8+2 Members having 3 zones); 2 endorsed programmes

Africa: 5 (3+2 Members having 7 zones); 3 endorsed programmes



Successful recognition & maintenance of Official Status & endorsed programmes



Certificate

FMD



Foot and mouth disease status of Cattleland

This is to certify that, following a recommendation of the WOAHP Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, the World Assembly of Delegates of WOAHP approved on 30 May 2024 the proposal that Cattleland be recognised by WOAHP as a country free from foot and mouth disease (FMD) where vaccination is not practised in accordance with the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (2023).

This recognition is based on the documentation submitted to WOAHP by Cattleland. Cattleland has the obligation to notify WOAHP immediately if there is any change in the epidemiological situation relating to FMD in Cattleland and to confirm annually that the epidemiological situation has remained unchanged, according to the requirements of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.



Paris, 30 May 2024



Official recognition of animal health status

Objectives & Benefits include:



- Demonstration of compliance with WOAH international standards
- Guarantees to trading partners
- Facilitate safe trade of animals and their products
- Increase of economic potentialities and access to regional and international markets
- Demonstration of the quality of Veterinary Services
- Documented and updated evidence on the disease-free situation
- Objectives of the Global Strategies (FMD, PPR and dog-mediated rabies)



WOAH endorsement of disease control programmes

Objectives & Benefits include:

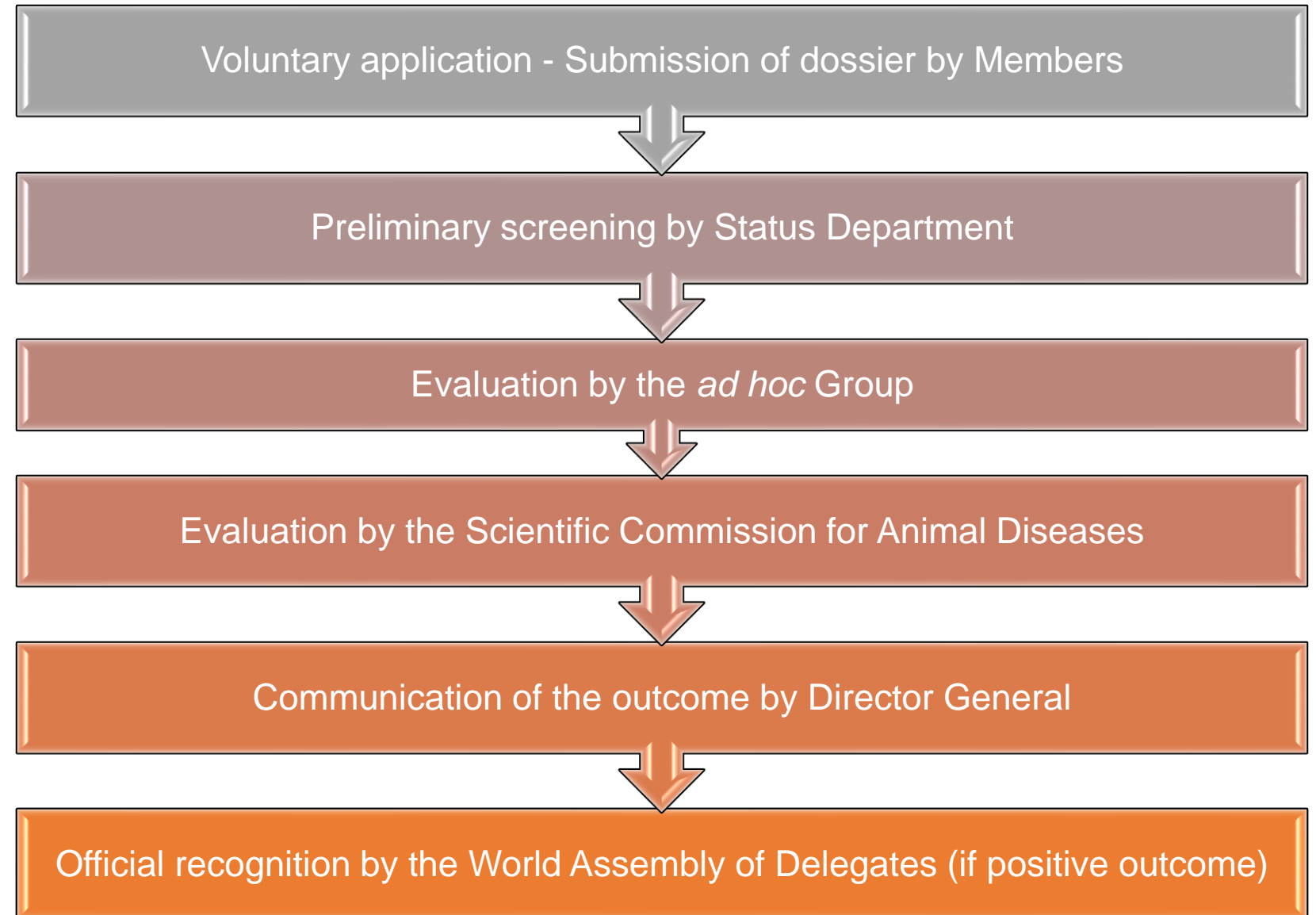
- To progressively improve the disease situation and eventually attain official recognition of animal health status
- Wider access to international expertise and capacity-building activities
- Visibility for facilitation and access to international funding
- Increased engagement of governments in disease control and elimination
- Opportunities for stronger coordination in disease control and elimination at regional level

- Compliance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*.
- Complete – relevant to template **Questionnaire** in the *Terrestrial Code* (also on WOAH website) – **documented evidence**
- 50 pages + appendices (cross-referenced) + executive summary
- Digitalised map if relevant (free zone)
- Proof of payment – fee
- Contact details of technical staff

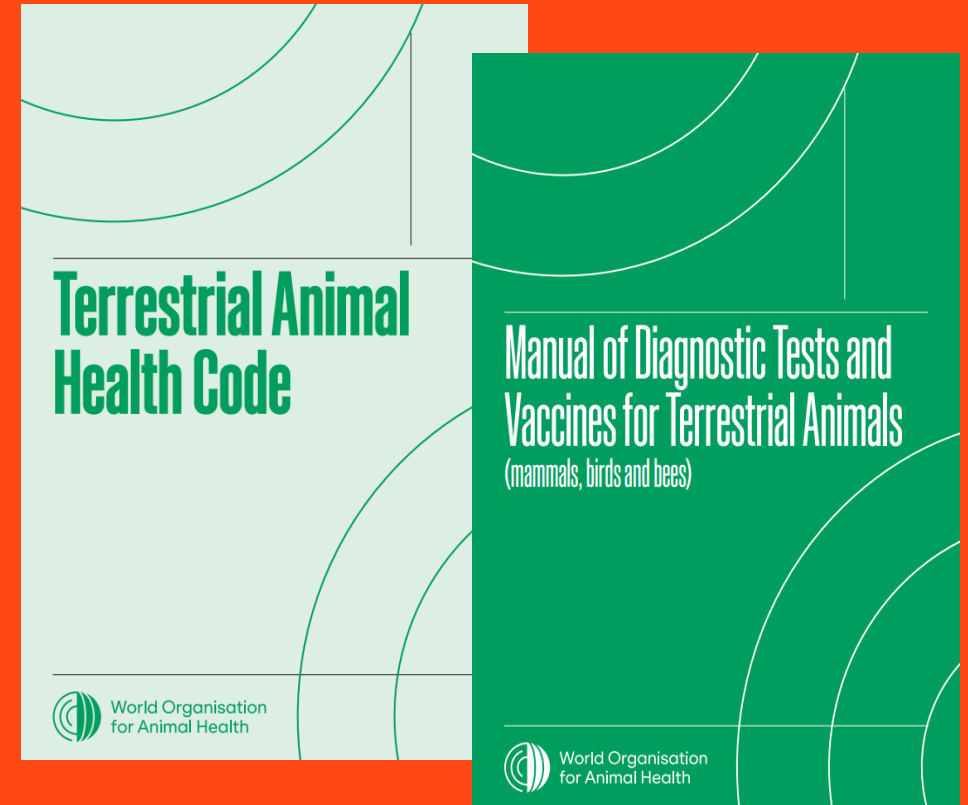


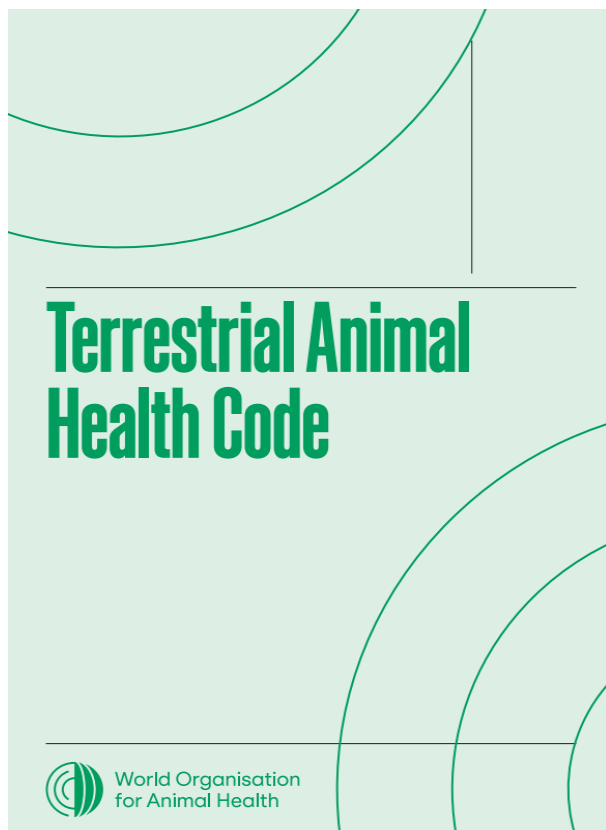
Demonstrate by **EVIDENCE**





Terrestrial Animal Health Code requirements on FMD





Article	Topic/provision
8.8.1.	General provisions, including case definition
8.8.2	Safe commodities
8.8.3 to 8.8.11	Articles related to status: FMD-free country (without & with vaccination) /zone/compartment/ Protection zone / Containment zone / Recovery of free status
8.8.12. to 8.8.33.	Recommendations for importation of commodities from <ul style="list-style-type: none">- FMD-free countries, zones, or compartments- FMD-infected countries or zones
8.8.34 to 8.8.41.	FMD virus inactivation
8.8.42.	Requirements for endorsement of an official FMD control programme
8.8.43. to 8.8.45.	FMD surveillance: General principles, Methods, Use and interpretation of serological tests



OLD vs NEW

	Version 2023 (last update in 2015)	Version 2024
FMD-free without vaccination	Article 8.8.2.	Article 8.8.3.
FMD-free with vaccination	Article 8.8.3.	Article 8.8.4.
Transition of vaccination status in FMD-free country/zone	-	Article 8.8.5.
Containment zone within an FMD-free country or zone	Article 8.8.6.	Article 8.8.10.
Recovery of free status	Article 8.8.7.	Article 8.8.11.
Endorsement of an official control programme for FMD	Article 8.8.39.	Article 8.8.42.



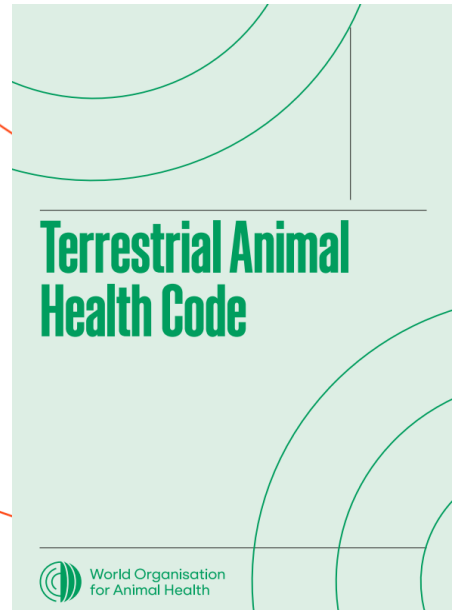
Horizontal Chapters

- Disease notification (1.1.) compliance with WAHIS
- Animal health surveillance (1.4.) surveillance
- Import risk analysis (2.1.)
- Evaluation of Veterinary Services (3.2.) quality of the Veterinary Services
- Veterinary legislation (3.4.) quality of the Veterinary Services
- Import/export procedures (5)
- Obligations related to certification (5.1.)

FMD-specific: Chapter 8.8.

Recently adopted in May 2024!!

- General provisions, case definition
- Safe commodities
- Criteria for disease status: country, zone or compartment
- Provisions for import of commodities
- FMD surveillance
- Endorsment of control programme





Article 8.8.3 : FMD free country or zone where vaccination is not practised

A country or zone may be considered free from FMD where vaccination is not practised when:

1. have a record of regular and prompt animal disease reporting;
2. no infection with FMDV;
3. the Veterinary Authority has current knowledge of, and authority over, all herds of domestic and captive wild susceptible animals in the country or zone;
4. the Veterinary Authority has current knowledge of the distribution and habitat of wild and feral susceptible animals in the country or zone;
5. appropriate surveillance has been implemented in accordance with:
 - a. Article 1.4.6. where historical freedom can be demonstrated; or
 - b. Articles 8.8.43. to 8.8.45. where historical freedom cannot be demonstrated, which includes the detection of clinical signs of FMD and demonstrates:
 - i. no infection with FMDV in unvaccinated animals;
 - ii. no transmission of FMDV in previously vaccinated animals;
6. measures to prevent the introduction of the infection have been in place; importations or movements of commodities into the country or zone (between zones within same country)
7. vaccination against FMD is prohibited and the prohibition has been effectively implemented and supervised

Demonstrate by  **EVIDENCE**





Article 8.8.4 : FMD free country or zone where vaccination is practised



A country or zone may be considered free from FMD where vaccination is practised when:

1. have a record of regular and prompt animal disease reporting;
2. no infection with FMDV; no transmission of FMDV
3. the Veterinary Authority has current knowledge of, and authority over, all herds of domestic and captive wild susceptible animals in the country or zone;
4. the Veterinary Authority has current knowledge of the distribution and habitat of wild and feral susceptible animals in the country or zone;
5. compulsory systematic vaccination in the target population has been carried out to achieve adequate vaccination coverage and population immunity; based on the epidemiology of FMD in the country or zone, the target population should be defined in accordance with Chapter 4.18.;
6. vaccination has been carried out following appropriate vaccine strain selection;
7. measures to prevent the introduction of the infection have been in place; importations or movements of commodities into the country or zone (between zones within same country)
8. for the **past 24 months** appropriate surveillance has been implemented in accordance with Articles 8.8.43. to 8.8.45.

Demonstrate by EVIDENCE





Article 8.8.42 : WOAHA endorsed official control programme for FMD

Overall objective: Members to progressively improve their situation and eventually attain FMD free status. The official control programme should be **applicable to the entire country**.

1. **Epidemiology of FMD**
 - i. Highlight current knowledge and gaps
 - ii. Main livestock production systems and movement patterns of susceptible animals and their products within and into the country
2. **FMD surveillance & diagnostic capabilities** – diagnostic capacity and procedures, regular submission of samples to a laboratory according to the Terrestrial Manual provisions.
3. **FMD vaccination** – compulsory vaccination in the target population, vaccination campaign information (vaccination coverage, vaccines used and matching with field FMDV strain, timeline for cessation of vaccination)
4. **Prevention & rapid detection of all outbreaks**
5. **Emergency preparedness and response** plan in case of FMD outbreaks
6. **Work plan & timelines**
7. **Performance indicators** assessing the effectiveness
8. **Monitoring, evaluation and review** of the official control programme to demonstrate the effectiveness.



Chapter 1.11 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

FMD free country/zone status

1. Introduction
2. Veterinary system
3. FMD eradication
4. FMD diagnosis
5. FMD surveillance
6. FMD prevention
7. Control measures and contingency planning
8. Recovery of free status



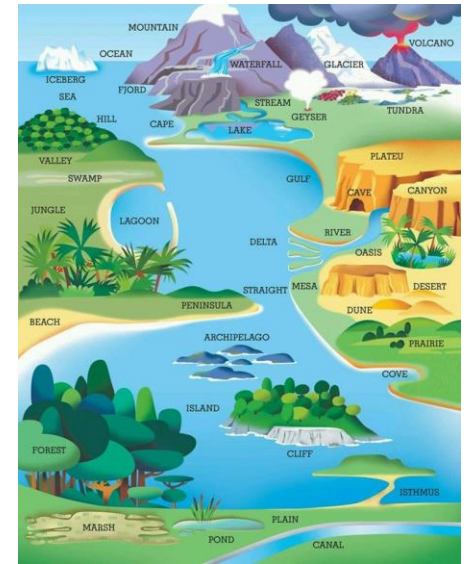
FMD control programme

1. Introduction
2. Veterinary system
3. Official control programme for FMD submitted for WOAHA endorsement
 - a) Epidemiology
 - b) FMD surveillance
 - c) FMD diagnosis
 - d) Strategies
 - e) FMD prevention
 - f) Work plan and timelines of the control programme
 - g) Performance indicators and timeline.
 - h) Assessment of the evolution of the official control programme
 - i) Funding for the control programme and annual budgets
4. Control measures and emergency response



1. Introduction

- Geographical features / factors
 - relevant to introduction of infection and spread of FMDV;
 - Countries sharing common borders, boundaries of country/zone;
 - Digitalised, geo-referenced map (For zonal approach)
- If the endorsed plan is gradually implemented to specific parts of the country, the boundaries of the zone(s) should be clearly defined
- Livestock industry including wildlife demographics and slaughterhouses/abattoirs, markets, animal gatherings...



Documented evidence on the capacity of Veterinary Services

- **Legislation:**

- all relevant veterinary legislation, regulations, etc., in relation to FMD;

- **Veterinary Services:**

- compliance with Chapters 1.1., 3.2. and 3.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*;

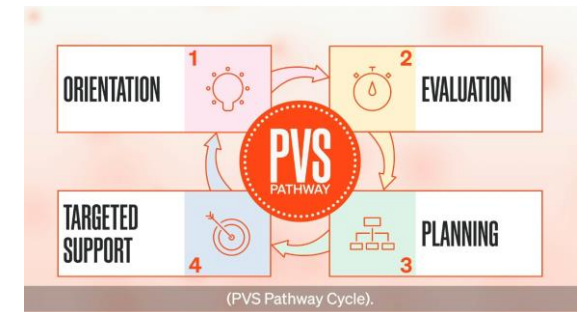
- **PVS pathway:**

- PVS evaluation and follow-up steps

- **Role of farmers, industry and other relevant groups**

- Training and awareness programmes on FMD

- **Animal identification, registration, traceability and movement control**



History of FMD:

- First/last detection and origin, with emphasis on **recent years**;
- If never occurred, indicate if the application is based on historical freedom.



Strategy:

- how FMD was controlled and eradicated (e.g. slaughter policy, zoning, vaccination, movement control, etc.);
- actions implemented to **prevent future outbreaks** of FMD.



FMD control strategies in the country or any zones:

- Animal movement, types of vaccines, antibiotic treatments, measures to reduce number of outbreaks

Early warning system and surveillance in place:

- FMD suspicion
 - criteria and Procedure to notify (by whom and to whom)
 - Incentives, penalties, compensation system
- Clinical surveillance
 - Criteria for targeted surveillance, No. of animals examined
 - Monitoring performance of surveillance; indicators
 - Follow-up actions taken on all suspicious and positive results



NO SUSPICIONS? ➡ Raise awareness!





Disease specific surveillance is in place

➤ Serological surveillance

- **Objectives** of the survey (e.g., detecting infection, prevalence estimation, population immunity, etc.)
- Survey **design**:
 - Reference population (by species and area)
 - Strategy for survey: e.g., one stage or two stages, design prevalence, level of confidence, diagnostic tests used, laboratory test sensitivity and specificity, description of follow-up of serological findings
- **Results** (when, where and how many samples were actually taken, description of the interpretation of laboratory results in the context of the epidemiological situation, PVM studies)

No sero-positive reactors?

- ✓ **Testing protocols**
- ✓ **Validation data** to support the claims for the sensitivity and specificity of the assays used

a. **FMD laboratory diagnostic in the country:**

- Overview of the FMD-approved laboratories in the country;
- Test capability and the types of tests undertaken, isolation and identification
- Quality assurance (Good Laboratory Practice, ISO, etc.);
- Details of performance in **inter-laboratory** validation tests;
- Handling of live pathogenic agent;
- List of the tests carried out by each laboratory.

b. **Diagnostic outside the country:**

- names of the laboratories and arrangements in place;
- logistics for shipment of samples and the time frame for reporting results.



Measures in place for prevention of introduction and spread of the disease

- Coordination and collaboration with other countries;
- Protection zones in place;
- Awareness campaign on FMD transmission mechanisms;
- Import control procedures:
 - Management structure, staffing levels and resources;
 - Information on countries, zones or compartments of origin;
 - Statistics on imports of susceptible animals/products
 - Regulations, procedures, type and frequency of checks
 - Actions taken on illegal import detection



Veterinary Certificate For Domestic & International Airline Travel
This document contains the information that is required by most airlines. It should be signed by your veterinarian 30 days or less prior to travel. Certification of this form is NOT required.
(Please print and fill in completely on form per animal)

Owner or Custodian of the pet animal		
Name:		
Address:		
City:		
Phone number (Country):	International No.	
Date of Travel:		
Type of animal information		
Species:	Sex:	Color or Mark:
Breed:	Country of birth:	
Microchip No. (Animal ID number)		
By my signature below I certify that the animal is healthy enough to travel.		
By my signature below I certify that the animal shows no evidence of disease communicable to humans.		
Animal's vaccination status of the animal:		
Date of last vaccination against rabies:		
Rabies Vaccination will expire on:		
Rabies vaccination must have taken place at least 21 days prior to travel and not more than 360 days prior to travel unless the three year vaccine was administered.		
Signed: Veterinarian Signature		
Date:		
Place:		
This signature allows movement of a companion animal by air to the State/Province in which the pet animal currently resides.		
NOTES: During the travel process an accreditation certificate may be required by the airline.		
Veterinarian Stamp or Name and Address:		





- Procedures regarding suspected or confirmed cases;
- Information on any simulation exercise for FMD;
- Various steps taken in the event of suspected case or FMD outbreak:
 - Quarantine measures;
 - Sampling and testing procedures used to ID & confirm;
 - Actions taken to control the disease situation;
 - Control and/or eradication procedures;
 - Procedures used to confirm successful control;
 - Compensation;
 - control efforts at critical risk control points.





Official control programme submitted for endorsement

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- Detailed plan of the measures for the control and eventual eradication of FMD:
 - Expected status to be achieved according to a timeline;
 - Performance indicators and timeline;
 - Assessment of the evolution of the official control programme since the first date of implementation;
 - Description of funding & annual budgets for duration.



Maintenance of already granted official status / endorsed control programme

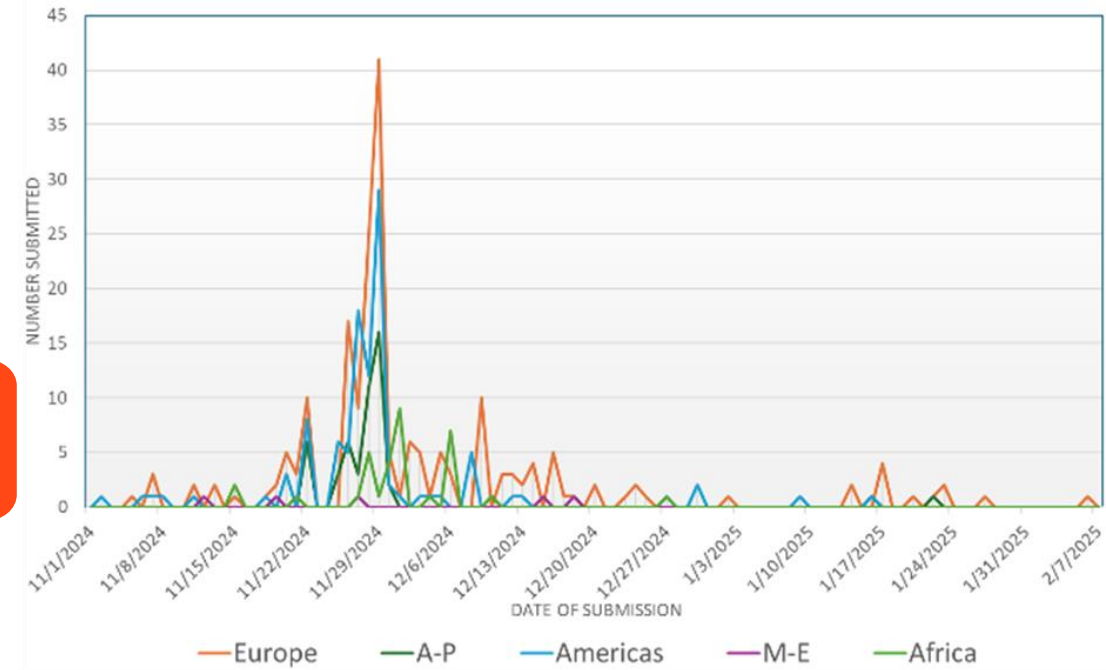
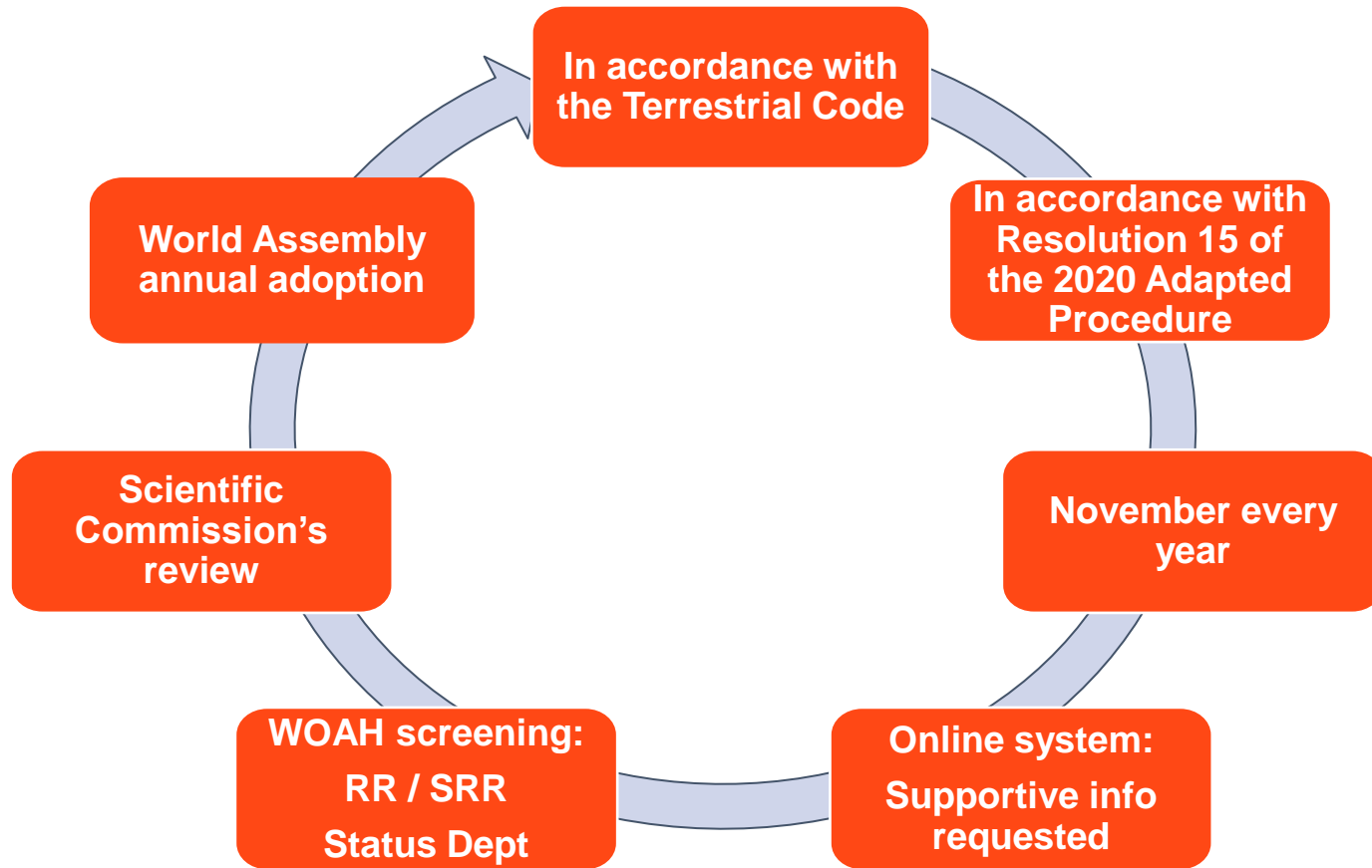


Maintenance...

as important as recognition !!!



Annual Reconfirmation of official status/endorsed programmes 30



Trends of the submission of the annual reconfirmation forms by Members



The procedure: Submission of an application

WOAH calendar meetings:

- Cycle from a General Session to the following one
- Letter from the DG after each General Session announcing dates of the AHG
- Deadline to submit dossier: 2 months before the meeting of the AHG

Tentative dates of official status evaluation *ad hoc* Groups

Disease	Dates	Deadline for submission
FMD	7-9 October 2025	8 August 2025
Dog-mediated rabies	14-16 October	15 August 2025
AHS	21-23 October 2025	22 August 2025
FMD	28-30 October 2025	29 August 2025
PPR	4-6 November 2025	5 September 2025
BSE	18-20 November 2025	19 September 2025
CSF	25-27 November 2025	26 September 2025



For more information

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Codes and Manuals

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World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded in 1924

Animal Diseases

Avian Influenza

91st General Session

Q SEARCH

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WHAT WE DO ▾

WHAT WE OFFER ▾

OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY ▾

MEDIA ▾

WAHIS ↗

Inicio » What we do » Animal Health and Welfare » **Official Disease Status**



Official Disease Status

Since 1998, the World Organisation for Animal Health has the mandate from the WTO to officially recognise disease-free areas of countries for trade purposes. The procedure for the official recognition of animal health status by WOAH is voluntary and applies currently to six diseases

Please visit our dedicated webpage: www.woah.org/official-status

Contact us: Disease.status@woah.org

Thank you. Merci

Official status page: www.woah.org/official-status
For more information please contact: disease.status@woah.org
Terrestrial Code and Manual:
www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/

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