

# Member experience on Implementing Border inspection and Animal quarantine [Fiji/ South Pacific Islands]

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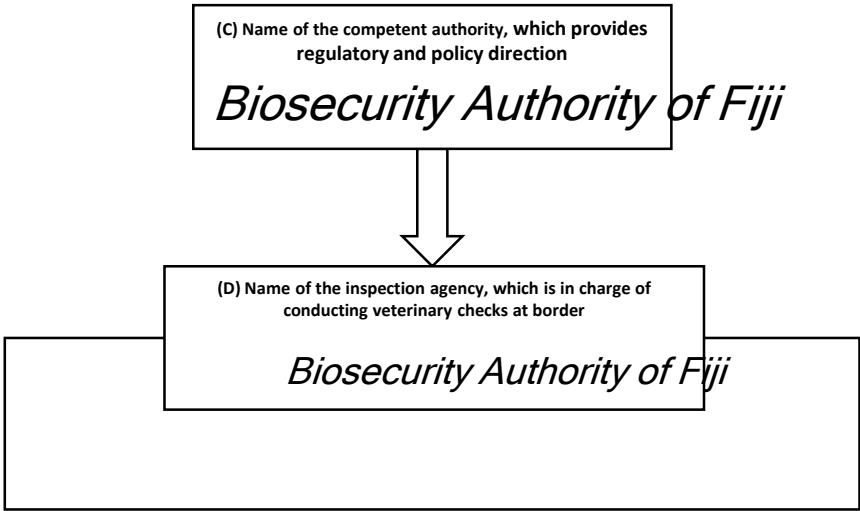
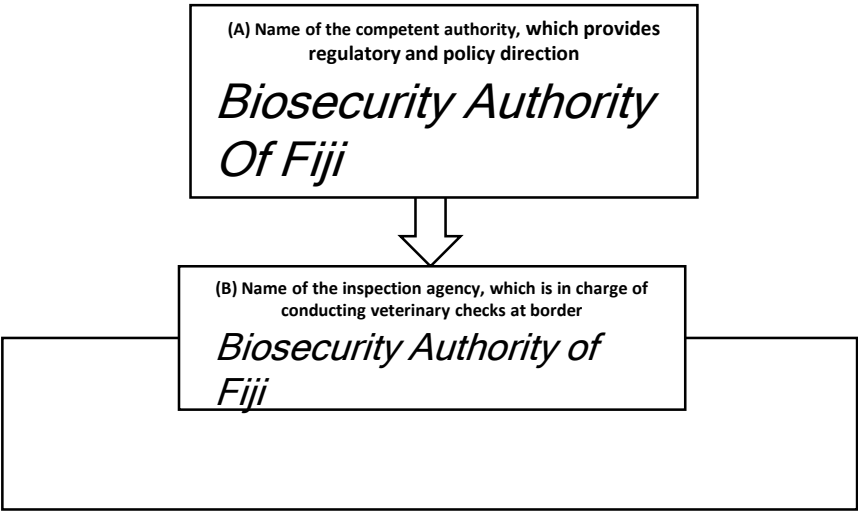
Biosecurity Officer/Permit Officer







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# Overview of Organisational Structure

# Organisational Structure for Veterinary Inspection at the Border Post



	Commodity	Document Check	Quarantine Isolation	Clinical Examination	Serological Test	Pathogen Detection (e.g. PCR)	Other Tests(e.g. visual, chemical)	Responsible Authority
	Livestock (e.g. cattle, pigs)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BAF
	Companion animals (e.g. dogs, cats)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BAF
	Products of animal origin (e.g. meat, eggs)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BAF
	Animal generic materials (e.g. semen, embryo)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BAF
	Aquatic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	BAF
	Passenger luggage	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	BAF/Customs/Immigration

# Current Situation and Key Issues

- Top 3 Animals with the highest import volume:
  - I. Day Old Chicks
  - II. Companion Animals (Cats & Dogs)
  - III. Live Shrimp
  
- Top 3 Animal Products with the highest import volume:
  - I. Lamb Meat
  - II. Chicken Meat
  - III. Pork/Beef
  
- Commodity with significant change in import volume in recent years:
  - I. Dairy Products – Increased significantly due to high consumption demand

# Good Practices in Border Inspection and Quarantine

## 1. Successful Approaches and Innovations

- **Risk-Based Inspection Systems:** Fiji has adopted a risk-based approach at its borders, prioritizing inspection based on the origin of goods, history of non-compliance, and commodity type. This has improved resource allocation and reduced inspection delays.
- **Digital Certification Systems:** The integration of electronic Phytosanitary (ePhyto) certificates has streamlined plant health documentation, minimized fraud, and facilitated faster clearance. ***(BAF is eager to have similar digital certification system for Animal and Animal Products)***
- **One-Health Collaboration:** Coordination between the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF), Ministry of Health, and Customs has enabled comprehensive checks, especially for zoonotic disease risks.

## 2. Lessons Learned

- **Improved Efficiency:** Automating documentation and using handheld inspection devices improved throughput and reduced backlog, especially at Nadi International Airport and Suva Port.
- **Better Disease Detection:** Training border staff in early detection of pests and animal diseases, combined with rapid laboratory diagnostics, has led to timely quarantine interventions.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Outreach programs at airports and on social media have increased public compliance with declaration requirements.

## 3. Replicable Models for Other Countries/Territories

- **Integrated Border Management System:** Fiji's model of combining customs, health, and biosecurity data in a shared platform has potential for replication in small island nations.
- **Community Engagement Model:** Involving communities in reporting suspicious pests and illegal imports has extended surveillance capacity and is suitable for rural and island regions.

# Challenges and risks identified

## 1. Resource Limitations

- **Limited trained staff:** Fiji faces a shortage of qualified quarantine and veterinary officers at key entry points like airports and seaports.
- **Lack of proper inspection facilities:** Some remote ports and airports lack designated quarantine or inspection infrastructure for animals.
- **Inadequate equipment and outdated systems:** Manual processes and limited access to digital tools reduce inspection efficiency.

## 2. Risk of Transboundary Animal Diseases

- **Proximity to other island nations:** Close regional trade and travel increase the risk of disease introduction, such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease or Avian Influenza.
- **Unregulated cross-border animal movement:** Traditional or cultural exchanges involving animals are not always subject to formal inspections.
- **Climate change impacts:** Shifts in wildlife behavior and migration patterns (e.g., seabirds, bats) may introduce new disease risks.

## 3. Informal or Illegal Movement

- **Unofficial points of entry:** Fiji's numerous islands and remote coastal areas allow for movement of animals/products without quarantine checks.
- **Smuggling and non-compliance:** There have been instances of live animals and meat products being brought in without declaration. (eg: fishing vessel and sailing yachts)
- **Lack of public awareness:** Some communities are unaware of the importance of quarantine rules, leading to accidental breaches.

# Collaboration with other agencies

## 1. Purpose of Collaboration

- To strengthen border biosecurity through coordinated inspections, data sharing, and rapid response to disease or smuggling threats.
- To ensure a comprehensive approach to monitoring animal and animal product movement into Fiji.

## 2. Key Partners

- Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) – Lead agency for quarantine and inspection.
- Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS) – Manages import declarations and cargo inspections.
- Ministry of Health and Medical Services – Collaborates on zoonotic disease monitoring.
- Fiji Police Force and Fiji Immigration Department – Supports enforcement and investigation of illegal movements.
- Ministry of Agriculture – Provides veterinary expertise and disease surveillance support.
- Pacific Community (SPC) – Offers regional technical assistance and training.

## 3. Examples of Joint Activities

- Joint training sessions on inspection protocols and animal disease awareness.
- Coordinated responses to high-risk imports or detected biosecurity breaches.
- Shared intelligence and risk assessments on potential transboundary disease threats.
- Simulation exercises for emergency response to animal disease outbreaks at ports.

## 4. Benefits

- Improved efficiency in clearing goods and animals with fewer delays.
- Enhanced detection of illegal imports and undeclared animal products.
- Faster response to biosecurity threats and disease outbreaks.
- Stronger public trust in Fiji's border and quarantine systems.

# Thank you

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## COLLABORATION OF AGENCIES PROTECTING FIJI'S BORDER AGAINST

 PEST •  SMOGGING 

