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World Organisation for Animal Health

# **Rabies Elimination Experiences from Africa and Cross-border collaboration**

SAARC Rabies Webinar

Organized by OIE-Regional Representation for Asia, Tokyo

18-20 May 2020



# Presentation Outline

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**OIE Vaccine Bank and delivery in Africa**

**1**

**Rabies elimination program in Namibia**

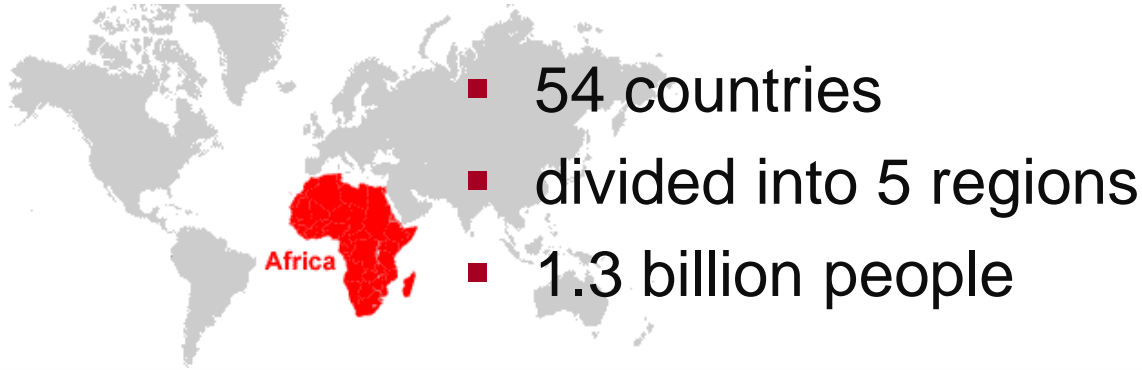
**2**

**Regional and cross-border collaboration**

**3**

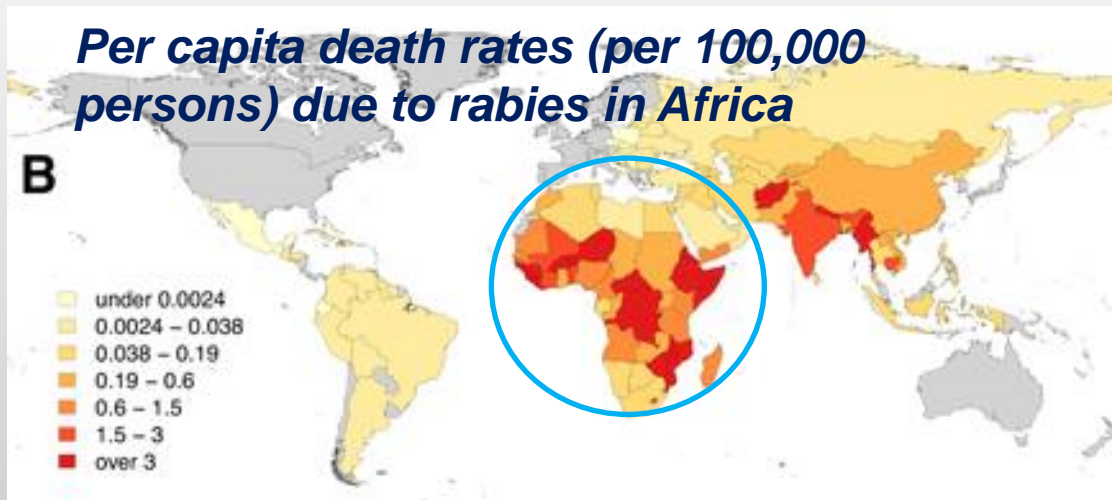


# Rabies in Africa



- Rabies is endemic
- only few island countries are free from rabies
  - 21,476 deaths/year
  - 36.4% of the global estimates
  - 1.34m DALYs lost

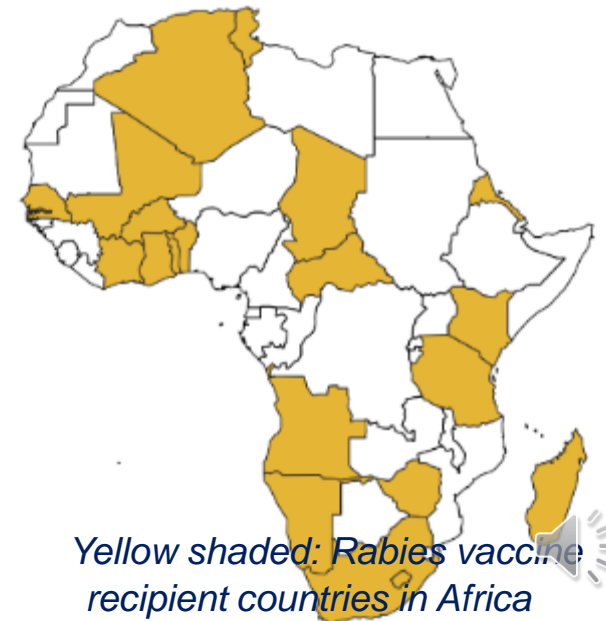
*Per capita death rates (per 100,000 persons) due to rabies in Africa*



*Hampson et al., 2015, PLOS NTD*

# OIE's engagement towards Rabies Elimination in Africa

- OIE Vaccine Banks (rabies est. 2012)
  - *Supported by EU, Australia, Germany, France, Canada and Japan*
- **22.6 million doses** of rabies vaccine were delivered to 33 countries in Asia and Africa
- **In Africa: 25 countries benefited**
- It played a catalytic role to encourages MS towards rabies elimination program

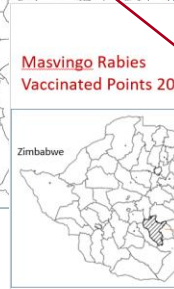
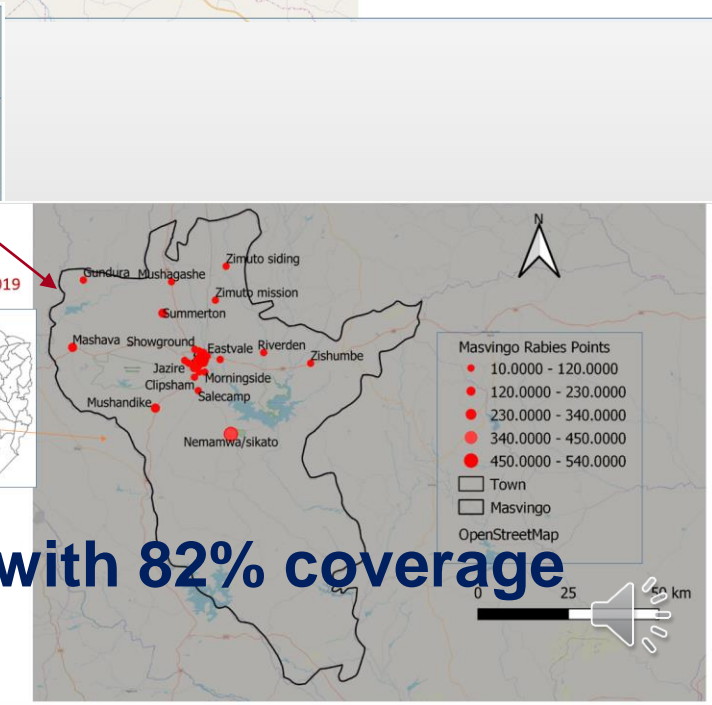
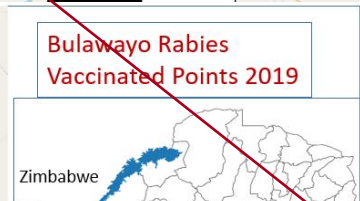
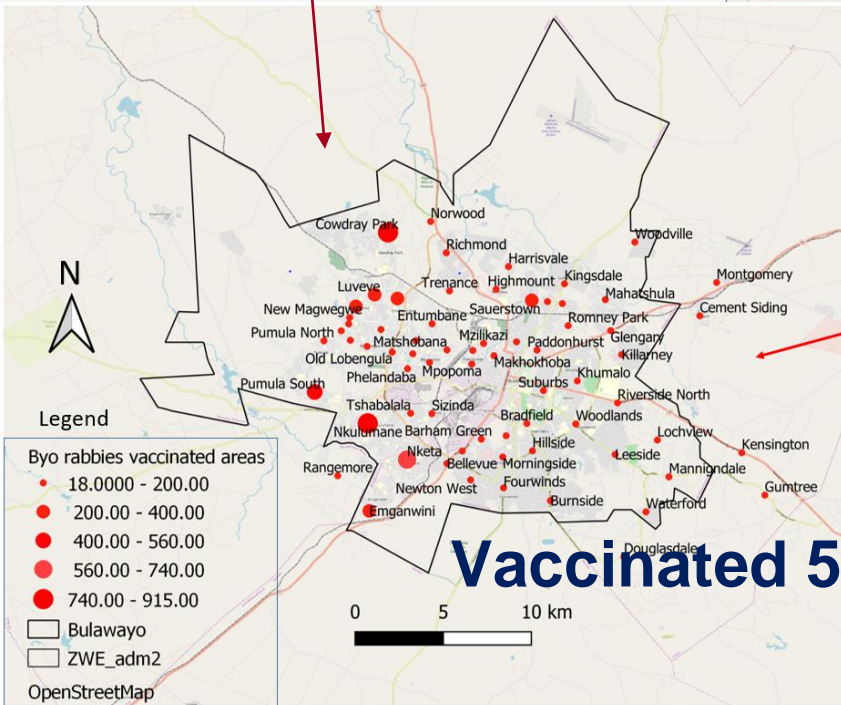
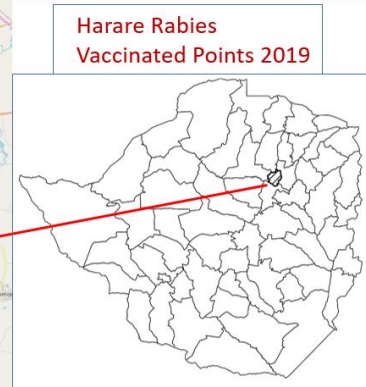
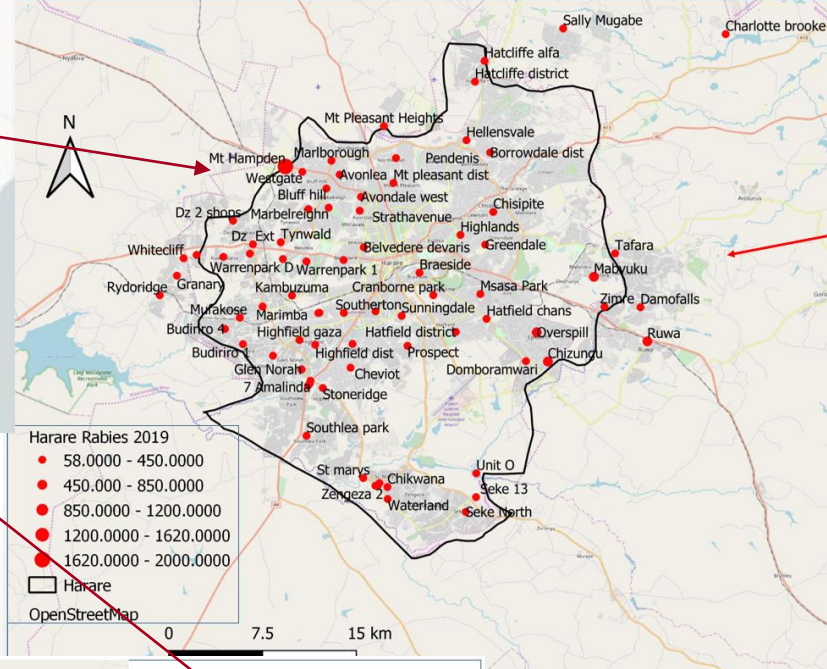
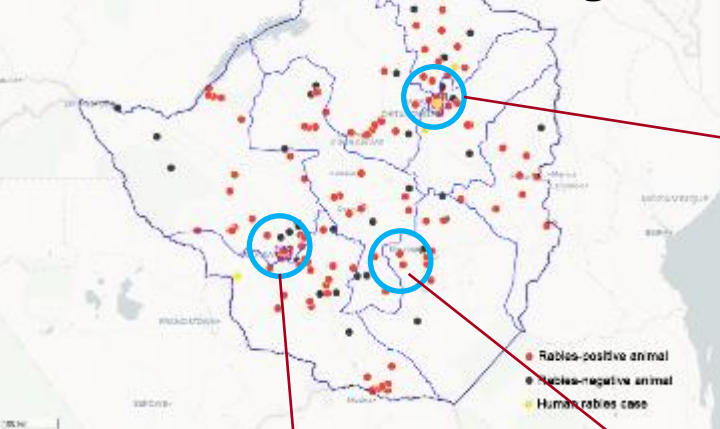


# Formal handing over of the OIE donated rabies vaccines to the Agriculture Minister





# Rabies surveillance in dogs and humans



**Vaccinated 58,000 dogs with 82% coverage**



# Rabies Project in Namibia

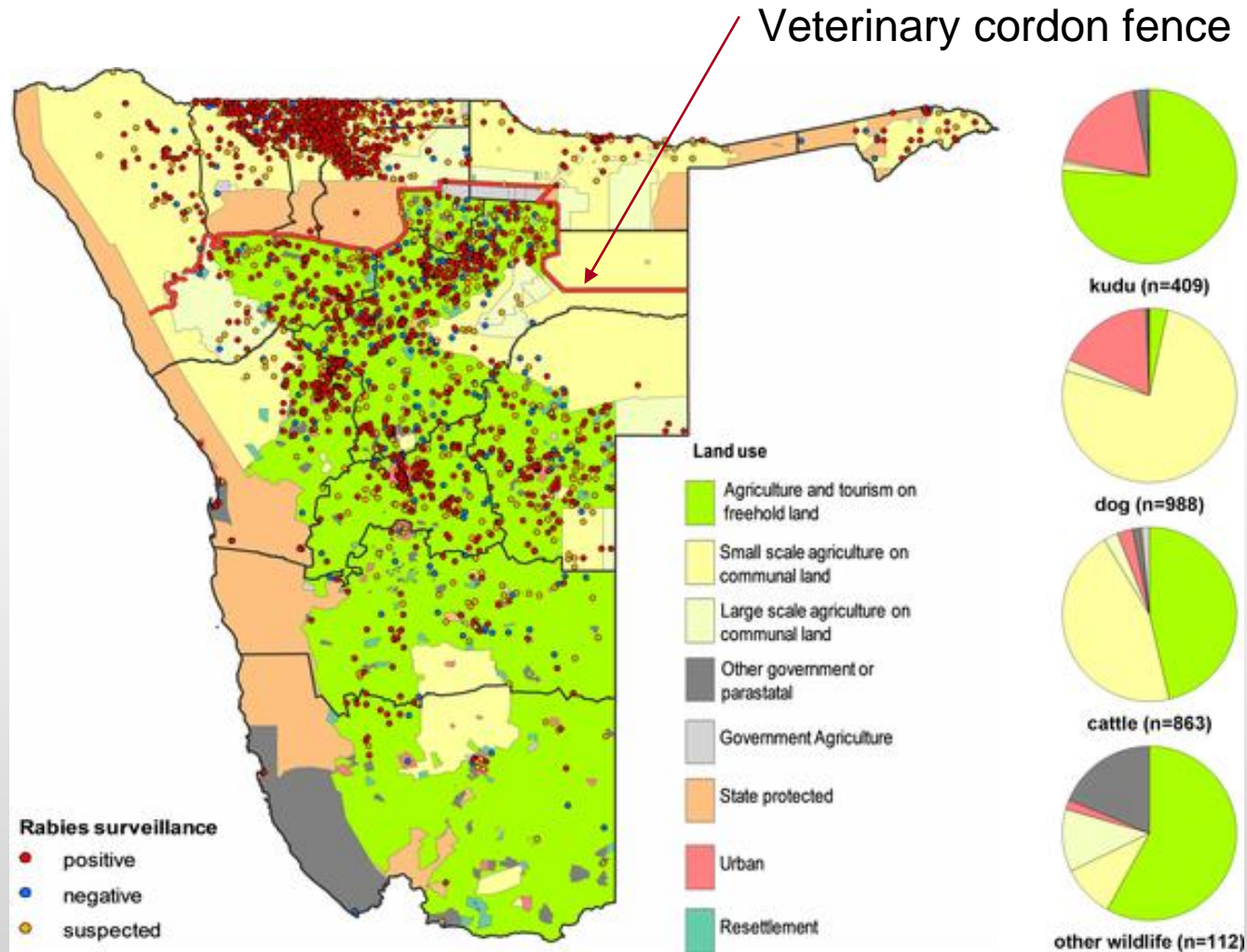


- Area: 825,615 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population: 2.59 million people
- Population density: 2.6 person/ km<sup>2</sup>
- Namibia is ethnically diverse
  - 11 ethnic groups
  - speaking 22 different languages





# Rabies surveillance in animals in Namibia (2011-2017)











# Capacity building: training of the vaccinators





# Rabies Education in Schools



44,000 students in 119 of 137 schools (86.9%)



6,500 rabies leaflets and posters were distributed to schools and public

TV and Radio program





# Mass dog vaccination campaign

- Vaccination campaign conducted during school holidays
- Central point vaccination

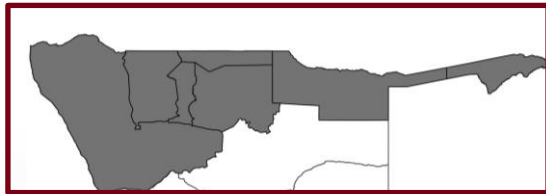






# Rollout of the campaign in all 8 NCA regions (2017-2018)

- Launched on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017



- NCAs – huge area (263,000 km<sup>2</sup>)
- Estimated population - 1.2 million people
- Varying population density – dense to very low
- Spread-out settlements
- Varying infrastructure
- Long distances – West –East: 1500 km
- Namibia-Angola border: 1370 km in

length



Vice Minister, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany



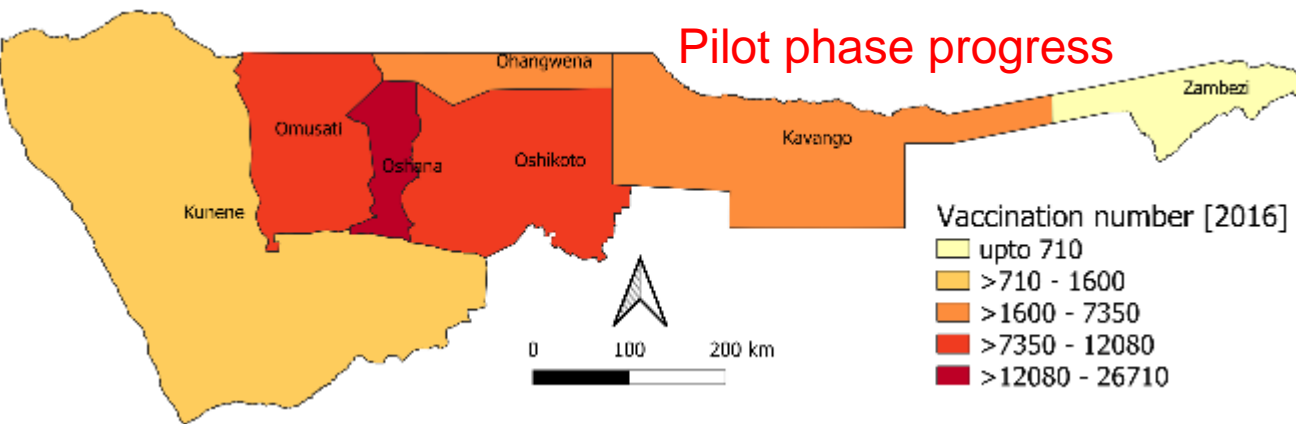
OIE Regional Representative giving opening remarks



# Crush pen cattle vaccination points

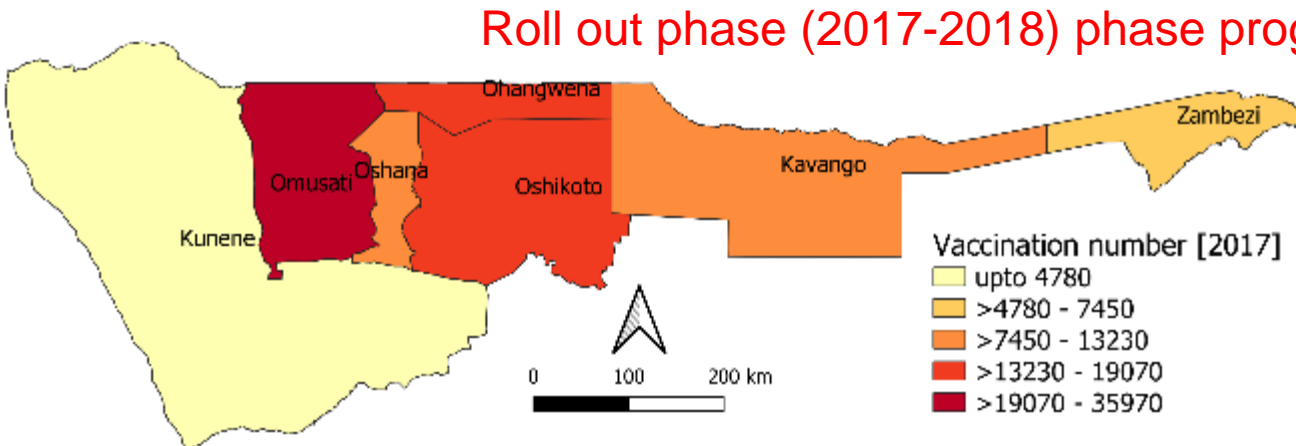






Dog and cat vaccination

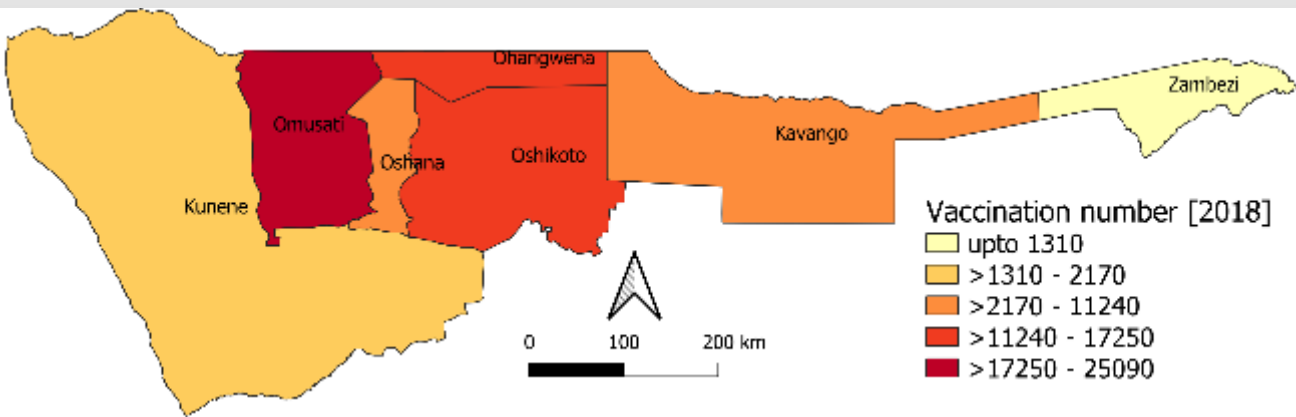
■ 2016: **62,213**



Dog and cat vaccination

■ 2017: **110,352**

**Estimated vaccination coverage: 69% (40-87%)**



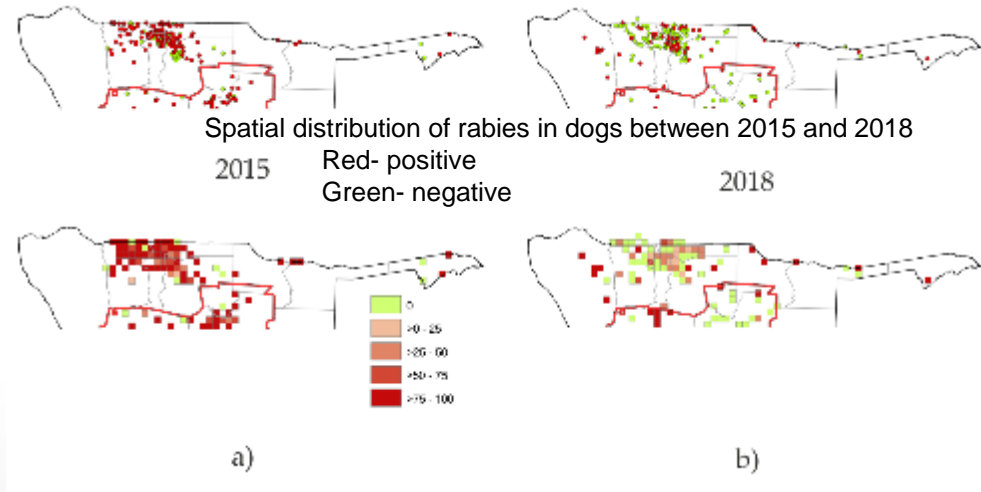
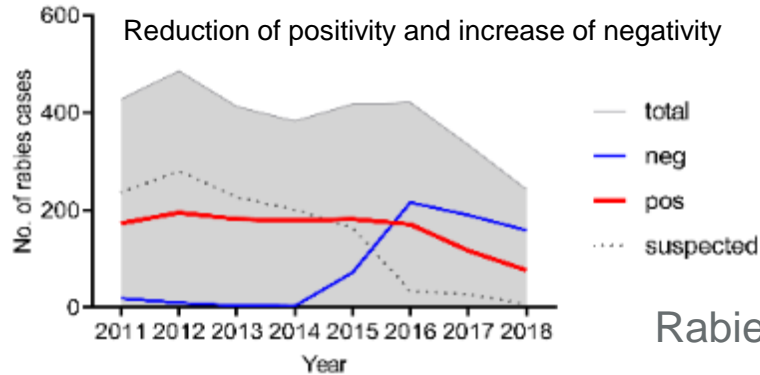
Dog and cat vaccination

■ 2018: **81,663**

*Rauna et al., 2020, Trop Vet Med*



# Impact of dog vaccination on rabies incidence in animals and in humans

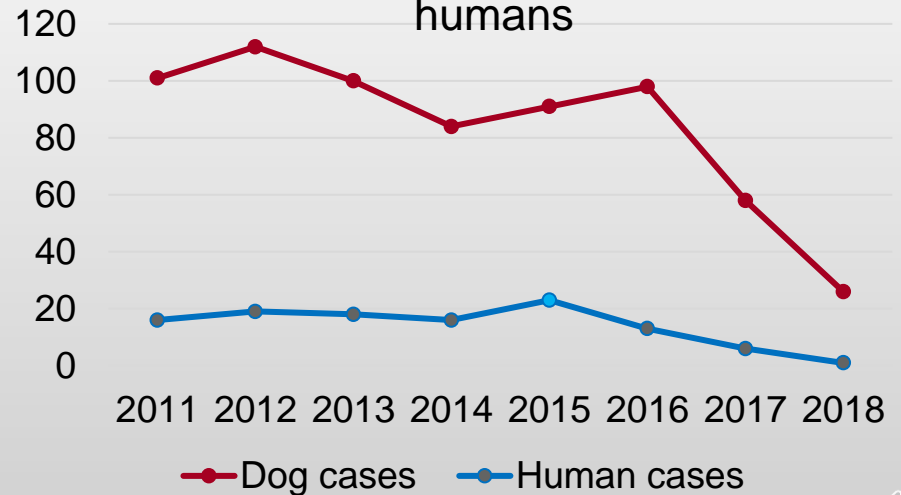


Rabies surveillance in dogs

## Dog and cat vaccination

- 2016: 62,213
- 2017: 110,352
- 2018: 81,663
- Vaccination coverage: 69% (40-87%)

## Rabies incidence in dogs and humans



Rauna et al., 2020, Trop Vet Med

# Important elements of rabies elimination program


1. Legal framework – national control plan
2. Political support and commitment
3. Leadership – national committee, coordinators
4. Public and stakeholder sensitization, commitment and engagement - rabies is a public good
5. Inter-sectoral collaboration – One health
6. Training/ capacity building
7. Resource –both human and materials
8. Good advocacy plan
9. International support
10. Logistic arrangement
11. Proper planning
12. Surveillance system
13. Monitoring and evaluation





RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Ecology and epidemiology of rabies in humans, domestic animals and wildlife in Namibia, 2011-2017

Emmanuel H. Hikufe<sup>1</sup>, Conrad M. Freuling<sup>2</sup>\*, Rauna Athingo<sup>3</sup>, Albertina Shilongo<sup>1</sup>, Emmy-Else Ndevaetela<sup>4</sup>, Maria Helao<sup>4</sup>, Mathews Shiindi<sup>4</sup>, Rainer Hassel<sup>5</sup>, Alec Bishi<sup>5</sup>, Siegfried Khaiseb<sup>6</sup>, Juliet Kabajani<sup>6</sup>, Jolandie van der Westhuizen<sup>6</sup>, Gregorio Torres<sup>7</sup>, Andrea Britton<sup>8</sup>, Moetapele Letshwenyo<sup>8</sup>, Karin Schwabenbauer<sup>9</sup>, Thomas C. Mettenleiter<sup>2</sup>, Nicolai Denzin<sup>10</sup>, Susanne Amler<sup>10</sup>, Franz J. Conraths<sup>10</sup>, Thomas Müller<sup>2</sup>, Adrianatus Maseke<sup>1</sup>







*Tropical Medicine and  
Infectious Disease*



Article

## Fighting Dog-Mediated Rabies in Namibia—Implementation of a Rabies Elimination Program in the Northern Communal Areas

Rauna Athingo<sup>1,†</sup>, Tenzin Tenzin<sup>2,†</sup>, Albertina Shilongo<sup>3</sup>, Emmanuel Hikufe<sup>3</sup>, Kenneth K. Shoombe<sup>1</sup>, Siegfried Khaiseb<sup>4</sup>, Jolandie van der Westhuizen<sup>4</sup>, Moetapele Letshwenyo<sup>2</sup>, Gregorio Torres<sup>5</sup>, Thomas C. Mettenleiter<sup>6</sup>, Conrad M. Freuling<sup>6</sup> and Thomas Müller<sup>6,\*</sup>

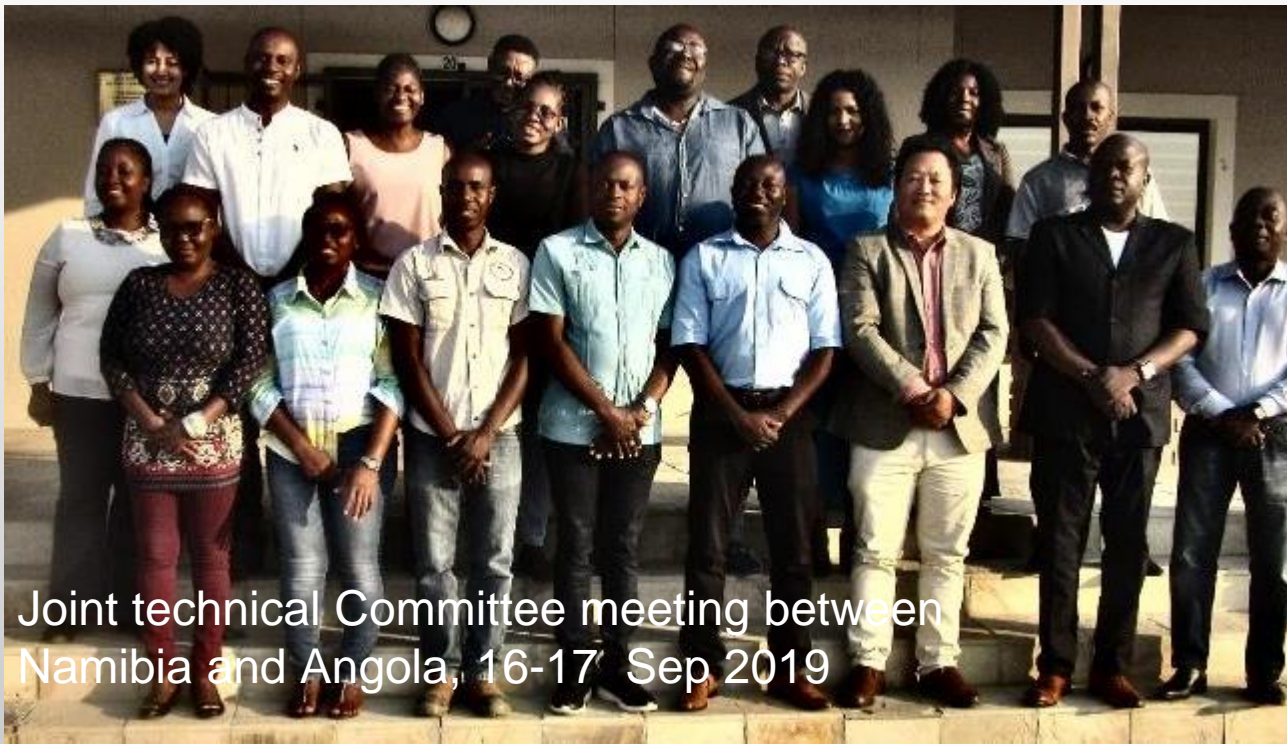






# Cross-border collaboration

- Organized joint technical committee meeting between the veterinary services of Namibia and Angola in 2019
- Developed rabies elimination cation plan for Southern Angola and cross-border plan





**OIE donates 140,000 doses of rabies vaccine to Angola to implement MDV in southern Angola**

**Technical discussion on rabies elimination plan between OIE and Angola**

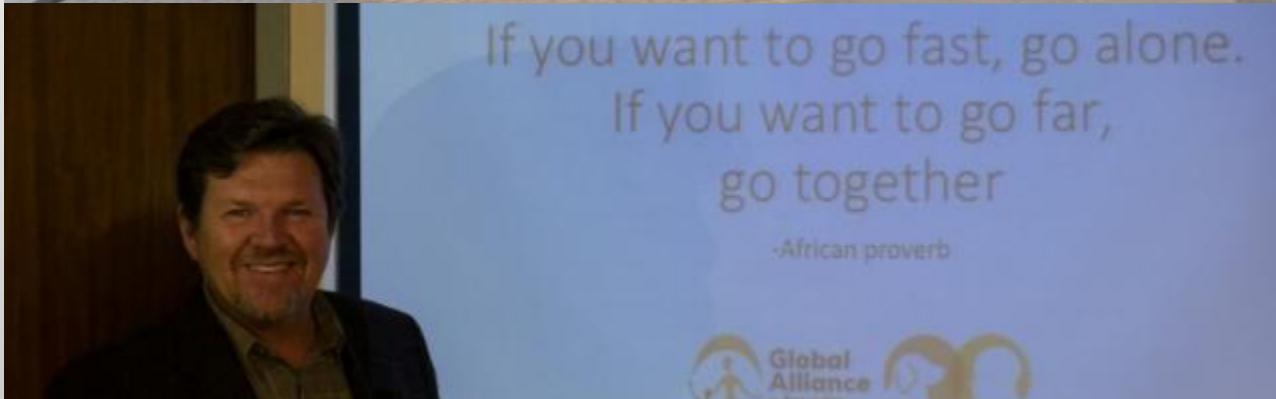




# Regional collaboration

## ■ Pan-African Rabies Control Network (PARACON)

- The Pan-African Rabies Control Network (PARACON) was established by GARC in 2014, merging existing networks and uniting scientific expertise with planning and practical support to help countries to progress towards elimination.



# Rabies Regional Seminar/Workshops



North Africa 24-25 July 2019



East Africa 7-9 Feb 2017



Southern Africa 10-11 April 2018

SADC region reaffirms its commitment to eliminate dog-mediated rabies by 2030



West Africa





# Capacity building

(Technical Support to Developing Rabies Implementation Plans and Rabies laboratory diagnostic training/twinning programme)

**Multi-sectoral consultative meeting to develop national rabies elimination plan, 25-26 Sep 2019, Eswatini**



**Joint Technical Committee Meeting to validate AMR & rabies elimination framework in SADC region, 10-12 Nov 2019**



# Thank you for your attention



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