



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Veterinærinstituttet
Norwegian Veterinary Institute

Fish-Vet Dialogue: Exploring Collaboration on Managing Health of Aquatic Organisms

Country Presentation: Zambia

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Administration of various elements of the country's aquatic health/biosecurity system

The following aspects of AAH/biosecurity are managed by the specified government departments:

- **Import risk analysis**
 - Department of Veterinary Services (DVS). Activities are anchored on the Animal Health Act number 27 of 2010 and OIE regulations
- **Export health certification of aquatic commodities**
 - DVS. The international Health Certificate is issued by a Veterinarian who is registered by the Veterinary Council of Zambia
- **Disease surveillance, monitoring and reporting (including reporting flow/mechanism from local levels to national level)**
 - Carried out by the DVS and Department of Fisheries (DoF) and laboratory testing at University of Zambia with financial support from institutions such as WorldFish.
 - Camp officers are required to report to District Veterinary and Fisheries Officers who in turn should report to their Provincial heads and these would carry the process forward by reporting to their Directors. Through the National Livestock Information and Epidemiology Center (NALEIC), a report gets sent to the OIE via the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)

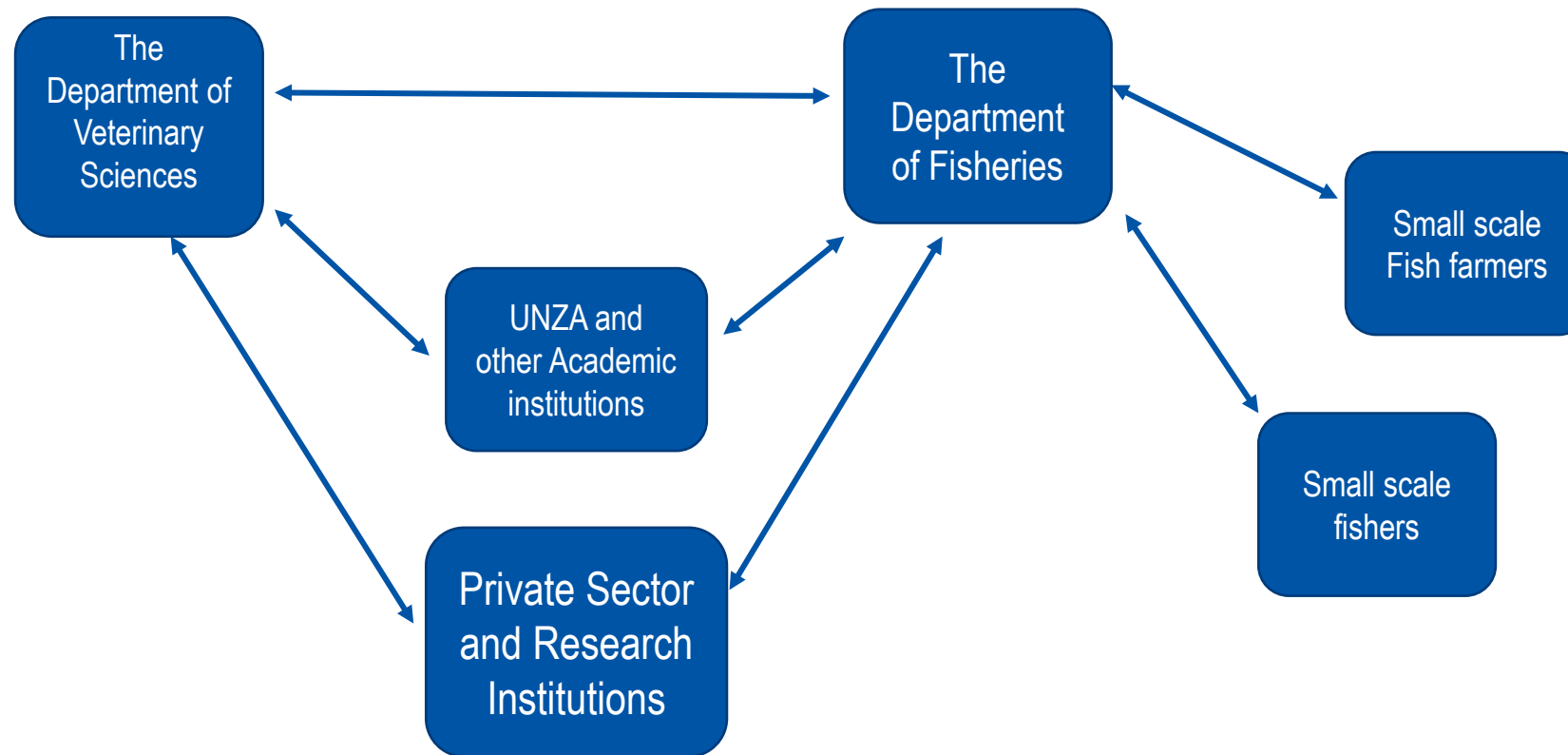
Administration continued

- **Emergency disease response**
 - The country has Emergency disease response plans. Further under the DVS, Zambia has an Animal Disease Control Fund account specific for use in Emergency disease outbreaks. However, the account is inadequately funded
- **Farm biosecurity**
 - Regulation of the aquaculture activities with respect to the health of aquatic organisms/biosecurity is governed by the Fisheries Act no. 22 Of 2011 and the Animal Health Act no.27 of 2010. Though both acts have the mandate, the competent authority is the DVS

Administration continued

- **Food safety of aquatic commodities (including drug/chemical residues)**
 - The principle Act for food safety is the Food Safety Act no.7 of 2019. With regard to foods of animal origin, the Animal Health no. 27 of 2010 is responsible for food safety and assurance. The provisions of the act are implemented in conjunction with the Food Safety and Fisheries Acts. The DoF is responsible for quality assessment of the fish
- **Animal welfare**
 - The Fisheries act general provisions are to ensure the welfare of fish stocks/population. For instance, fish in the wild are protected from human activities that threaten the healthy growth of the fish population in order to allow for sustainable fishery resource exploitation. Provisions on mesh size regulation, protected breeding areas and fishing ban, as a short term moratorium, are associated with the concerns of aquatic animal (fish) welfare. The Animal Health Act also has provisions for ensuring the welfare of both aquatic and terrestrial animals.

Linkages Between DoF and DVS as well as Engagement with Private Sector and Academic Institutions



Shared actions between departments in addressing issues relevant to managing diseases of aquatic organisms

Following the first outbreak of EUS on the Zambezi River (2006/2007)

- An emergency investigation team was convened comprising experts from UNZA, DVS and DoF
 - Financial resources were provided by the Min. of Fisheries and Livestock through DoF.
- The team established that the main predisposing environmental factors associated with that EUS outbreak reported was the acidification of ground water during drought years and eventual contamination of surface water during the floods of 2006/2007
- The Water Affairs Department played the crucial role of providing flood records

Shared actions between departments in addressing issues relevant to managing diseases of aquatic organisms

Positive outcomes

- FAO provided resources for:
 - Further disease surveillance and documentation
 - Capacity building of field officers on:
 - Disease identification, sample collection, preservation and submission
- Further, FAO strengthened capacity of UNZA laboratory to diagnose EUS in the Zambezi River basin which covers Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi
- OIE provided information on standards in EUS diagnosis

Strengths and weaknesses of the various systems elements, and what aspects could be improved

- Existing collaboration among the government departments (DVS and DoF), University of Zambia and other institutions such as WorldFish enables smooth-running of surveillance activities and even led to formulation of the National AAH Strategy
- On movement of live animals: DVS, DoF and the Department of Fisheries and Livestock Marketing (DFLM) collaborate very well. However, the process seems lengthy for the customer because they have to travel some distance from one department to another. The team would be more efficient if this could be done under one roof at the international border entry as well as within the country for local movements

Strengths and Weaknesses Continued

- Absence of AAH functional unit in the ministry: Create one
- Inadequate human and financial resources: Train more staff in AAH and write project proposals
- Conflicting/overlapping roles of the laws and regulations in disease management between the DoF and DVS need to be addressed
- Lack of a national pathogen list: a system for establishing and updating a national pathogen list will be developed
- In-country reporting system is paper based so the process takes long and in some cases, data could even get lost. There is a need to upgrade to an electronic system

Strengths and Weaknesses Continued

On sanitary certification for export

- The competent authority for issuing sanitary certification for export is the DVS. The Ministry of Health is responsible for export health clearance with respect to food
 - The limitation is logistical because clients have to move from one office to another. E-certification would make it easier.



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Thank you for your time

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