**WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2023**

**Activities in 2023**

This report has been submitted: 1 juillet 2024 17:27

### Laboratory Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOAH Reference Laboratory:</th>
<th>Sheep pox and goat pox</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address of laboratory:</td>
<td>No. 100 Old Soutpan Road, Onderstepoort, 0110, Gauteng Province, South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel:</td>
<td>+27-12 529 91 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail address:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:LubisiA@arc.agric.za">LubisiA@arc.agric.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website:</td>
<td><a href="https://www.arc.agric.za/">https://www.arc.agric.za/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):</td>
<td>Dr. Arshad Mather - Acting Senior Manager Research: Animal Health and Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name (including Title and Position) of WOAH Reference Expert:</td>
<td>Dr. Baratang Alison Lubisi - Research Team Manager: Diagnostic Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:</td>
<td>Governmental</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TOR1: DIAGNOSTIC METHODS

1. Did your laboratory perform diagnostic tests for the specified disease/topic for purposes such as disease diagnosis, screening of animals for export, surveillance, etc.? (Not for quality control, proficiency testing or staff training)
   No

### TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

2. Did your laboratory produce or supply imported standard reference reagents officially recognised by WOAH?
   No
3. Did your laboratory supply standard reference reagents (nonWOAH-approved) and/or other diagnostic reagents to WOAH Members?
   No
4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?
   Not applicable
5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOAH Members?
   Not applicable

### TOR3: NEW PROCEDURES

6. Did your laboratory develop new diagnostic methods for the designated pathogen or disease?
   No
7. Did your laboratory validate diagnostic methods according to WOAH Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?
   No
8. Did your laboratory develop new vaccines for the designated pathogen or disease?
   No
9. Did your laboratory validate vaccines according to WOAH Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?
   No

### TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES
10. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other WOAH Members?  
No

11. Did your laboratory provide expert advice in technical consultancies on the request of an WOAH Member?  
No

**TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES**

12. Did your laboratory participate in international scientific studies in collaboration with WOAH Members other than the own?  
Yes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the study</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>PURPOSE OF THE STUDY</th>
<th>PARTNERS (INSTITUTIONS)</th>
<th>WOAH MEMBER COUNTRIES INVOLVED OTHER THAN YOUR COUNTRY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sequence analyses of Capripox viruses</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>Analysis of the genome sequences of capripox viruses</td>
<td>Federal Center for Animal Health (FGBI ARRIAH), Vladimir, Russia</td>
<td>RUSSIA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs* relevant for WOAH?  
No

**TOR6: EPIZOOLOGICAL DATA**

14. Did your Laboratory collect epidemiological data relevant to international disease control?  
Yes

**IF THE ANSWER IS YES, PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE DATA COLLECTED:**

Capripox virus genomes were sequenced and analysed.

15. Did your laboratory disseminate epidemiological data that had been processed and analysed?  
Yes

**IF THE ANSWER IS YES, PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE DATA COLLECTED:**

A peer reviewed scientific article was published.

16. What method of dissemination of information is most often used by your laboratory? (Indicate in the appropriate box the number by category and list the details in the box)

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

1


b) International conferences:  
0

c) National conferences:  
0

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):
**TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING**

17. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other WOAH Members? 
No

**TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE**

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System? 
No

19. Is your quality management system accredited? 
No

20. Does your laboratory maintain a “biorisk management system” for the pathogen and the disease concerned? 
Yes
The laboratory adheres to good laboratory practices and has standard operating procedures (SOPs) and fit for purpose equipment and facilities to ensure biosecurity, biosafety, and biocontainment of pathogens.

**TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS**

21. Did your laboratory organise scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAH? 
No

22. Did your laboratory participate in scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAH? 
No

**TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAH REFERENCE LABORATORIES**

23. Did your laboratory exchange information with other WOAH Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease? 
No

24. Do you network (collaborate or share information) with other WOAH Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen? 
No

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOAH Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen? 
No

26. Did your laboratory collaborate with other WOAH Reference Laboratories for the same disease on scientific research projects for the diagnosis or control of the pathogen of interest? 
No

**TOR11: OTHER INTERLABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING**

27. Did your laboratory organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with laboratories other than WOAH Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen? 
No

**TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS**

28. Did your laboratory place expert consultants at the disposal of WOAH? 
No

29. Additional comments regarding your report: 
Yes
South Africa is free of sheep and goat pox (SGP) and there are no local positive samples for test method validation. The majority of the work done on capripox viruses involves lumpy skin disease. However, in the event of request to diagnose the disease, PCR tests and sequencing can be done.

In mid-2023, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) made funding available for improvement of the laboratory, including implementation of different SGP specific test methods. The laboratory reached out to several international reference laboratories on SGP for collaboration. Project logistics planning and applications for permits to import infectious materials and diagnostic reagents are in progress.
A plea was also made to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) through the WOAH Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa, for veterinary officials and research organisations to collaborate on any of the diseases the ARC-OVR is WAOH Reference Laboratory for.