World Organisation for Animal Health

Baratang Alison Lubisi - - SOUTH_AFRICA

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2025

This report has been submitted: 2 février 2026 01:20

LABORATORY INFORMATION

***Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOAH Reference Laboratory:**	African horse sickness
***Address of laboratory:**	No. 100 Old Soutpan Road, Onderstepoort, 0110, Gauteng Province, South Africa
***Tel:**	+27-12 529 9338
***E-mail address:**	lubisia@arc.agric.za
Website:	https://www.arc.agric.za/
***Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):**	Dr. Baratang Alison Lubisi - Acting Senior Manager Research: Animal Health and Protection
***Name (including Title and Position) of WOAH Reference Expert:**	Dr. Baratang Alison Lubisi - Research Team Manager: Diagnostic Services
***Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:**	Governmental

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)

Yes

Diagnostic Test	Indicated in WOAH Manual (Yes/No)	Total number of test performed last year	
Indirect diagnostic tests		Nationally	Internationally
Indirect ELISA	Yes	165	14
Direct diagnostic tests		Nationally	Internationally
Real Time RT-PCR	Yes	340	38

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?

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?

Yes

Name of the new test or diagnostic method developed	Description and References (Publication, website, etc.)
Real Time RT-PCR	Morales, J., Ruano, M.J., Tena-Tomas, C., van Schalkwyk, A., Loundras, E.-A., Valero-Lorenzo, M., Lopez-Herranz, A., Romito, M., Batten, C., Villalba, R. & Agüero, M. 2025. Modification and Validation of a Reference Real-Time RT-PCR Method for the Detection of a New African Horse Sickness Virus Variant. Microorganisms 2025, 13, 2684. https://doi.org/10.3390/microorganisms13122684

8. Did your laboratory develop new vaccines for the designated pathogen or disease?

9. Did your laboratory validate vaccines according to WOAH Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

10. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other WOAH Members?

Yes

Name of WOAH Member Country seeking assistance	Date	Which diagnostic test used	No. samples received for provision of diagnostic support	No. samples received for provision of confirmatory diagnoses
ERITREA	2025-01-07	Indirect ELISA	14	0
NAMIBIA	2025-01-23	Real Time RT-PCR	0	21
NAMIBIA	2025-01-27	Real Time RT-PCR	0	1
NAMIBIA	2025-01-28	Real Time RT-PCR	0	1
NAMIBIA	2025-02-05	Real Time RT-PCR	0	2
NAMIBIA	2025-05-13	Real Time RT-PCR	0	1
NAMIBIA	2025-06-19	Real Time RT-PCR	0	2
NAMIBIA	2025-09-26	Real Time RT-PCR	0	3
ZIMBABWE	2025-03-04	Real Time RT-PCR	0	1
ZAMBIA	2025-09-03	Real Time RT-PCR	0	1
MOZAMBIQUE	2025-05-22	Real Time RT-PCR	0	1
MOZAMBIQUE	2025-06-25	Real Time RT-PCR	0	1

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

Title of the study	Duration	Purpose of the study	Partners (Institutions)	WOAH Member Countries involved other than your country
Modification and Validation of a Reference Real-Time RT-PCR Method for the Detection of a New African Horse Sickness Virus Variant	2 years	Optimization and validation of a WOAH listed AHS Reference Real Time RT-PCR Method for the Detection of a New African Horse Sickness Virus Variant	The Pirbright Institute, Woking GU24 0NF, UK	UNITED KINGDOM
Modification and Validation of a Reference Real-Time RT-PCR Method for the Detection of a New African Horse Sickness Virus Variant	2 years	Optimization and validation of a WOAH listed AHS Reference Real Time RT-PCR Method for the Detection of a New African Horse Sickness Virus Variant	Laboratorio Central de Veterinaria, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 28110 Algete, Spain	SPAIN
Modification and Validation of a Reference Real-Time RT-PCR Method for the Detection of a New African Horse Sickness Virus	2 years	Optimization and validation of a WOAH listed AHS Reference Real Time RT-PCR Method for the Detection of a New African Horse	Tecnologías y Servicios Agrarios, S.A. (TRAGSATEC), 28037 Madrid, Spain	SPAIN

Variant		Sickness Virus Variant		

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:
Opportunistic disease surveillance was carried out using data generated from tests performed for diagnostic, movement and import/export facilitation.

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:
Diagnostic data.

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

Morales, J., Ruano, M.J., Tena-Tomas, C., van Schalkwyk, A., Loundras, E.-A., Valero-Lorenzo, M., Lopez-Herranz, A., Romito, M., Batten, C., Villalba, R. & Agüero, M. 2025. Modification and Validation of a Reference Real-Time RT-PCR Method for the Detection of a New African Horse Sickness Virus Variant. Microorganisms 2025, 13, 2684. https://doi.org/10.3390/microorganisms13122684

b) International conferences:

1

Ms. T. Tshabalala gave an oral presentation at the 22nd Annual SASVEPM Congress held on 20-22 August 2025 at the ANEW Resort, Whiteriver, Mpumalanga, South Africa, titled "Evaluation of flinders technology associates (FTA) cards for detection and serotyping of African horse sickness virus antibodies"

c) National conferences:

1

Ms. T Tshabalala presented a poster titled "Evaluation of flinders technology associates (FTA) cards for detection and serotyping of African horse sickness virus antibodies" at Tshwane University of Technology Faculty of Science Research, In Symposium, 21eaching And Learning Symposium, 21 - 23 October 2025

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?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
South African National Accreditation System (SANAS)	Schedule of Accreditation - Facility Number V0001	SANAS Certificate - 2025 to 2027.pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
Indirect ELISA	South African National Accreditation System (SANAS)
Real Time RT-PCR	South African National Accreditation System (SANAS)

20. Does your laboratory maintain a "biorisk management system" for the pathogen and the disease concerned?

Yes

Biorisk is managed through following guidelines and provisions of the ISO 35001:2019 and WOAH standards

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?

Yes

24. Are you a member of a network of WOAH Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

Yes

NETWORK/DISEASE	ROLE OF YOUR LABORATORY (PARTICIPANT, ORGANISER, ETC)	NO. PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATING WOAH REF. LABS
African horse sickness	Participant	3	The Pirbright Institute, UK; Laboratorio Central de Sanidad Animal, Spain

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOAH Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

Yes

Purpose of the proficiency test:	Role of your Reference Laboratory (organiser/ participant)	No. participating Laboratories	Participating WOAH Ref. Labs/ organising WOAH Ref Lab
Test method harmonization - Serological	Participant	20+	The Pirbright Institute, United Kingdom; Laboratorio Central de Sanidad Animal, Spain
Test method harmonization Molecular	Participant	20+	The Pirbright Institute, United Kingdom; Laboratorio Central de Sanidad Animal, Spain

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?

Yes

Title of the project or contract	Scope	Name(s) of relevant WOAH Reference Laboratories
Modification and Validation of a Reference Real-Time RT-PCR Method for the Detection of a New African Horse Sickness Virus Variant	Modification and validation of a reference real time RT-PCR test	The Pirbright Institute, United Kingdom; Laboratorio Central de Sanidad Animal, Spain

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 during the past 2 years?

No

No.

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

28. Did your laboratory place expert consultants at the disposal of WOAH?

No

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

There were no requests for:
i) Training from other WOAH member countries
ii) Expert consultations
iii) Organizing meetings on behalf of WOAH
iv) Reference materials

Stakeholder Engagements:
Personnel attended meetings and engaged stakeholders on various animal health, welfare and control matters to keep abreast with latest trends and identify areas of collaboration with counterparts and organizations from other WOAH member states e.g
i) The STAR IDAZ International Research Consortium (IRC) of research funders and programme owners - introductory meeting where the aim of the organization was elucidated i.e to maximize the impact of animal health research funding through coordination and cooperation (Dr. Lubisi)
ii) WOAH Wildlife Health Workshop - discussed wildlife challenges with regards to disease monitoring and control (Dr. Lubisi)
iii) National Department of Agriculture (NDA), University of the Free State (UFS), University of Pretoria (UP), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - discussed and drafted proposal for center of excellence on One Health with specific reference to Animal Health (Drs Rotherham, Mather, Liebenberg and van Kleef)
iv) World Veterinary Association: One Health Working Group - discussions of the association's current areas of focus (Dr. Lubisi)
v) International Alliance for Biological Standardization (IABS) Veterinary Committee - Meeting attended (Dr. van Schalkwyk)
vii World Organization for Animal Health - attended a workshop on zoning and regionalization for control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) (Dr. Lubisi)
vii). Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) - launch of the framework for early warning of animal health threats. Discussed the Introduction to the core objectives and foundational structure of the framework (Dr. Chitray).
viii) African Society for Laboratory Medicine, National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), World Health Organization (WHO), Department of Health DoH), and Department of Agriculture (DoA) - worked on the domestication of the Africa Centre for Disease Control (Africa CDC) High Consequence Agents and Toxins (HCAT) framework among AU member states (Dr. Rotherham and Ms. Johnston)
ix) Commercial company - received diagnostic kits for validation purposes, including those for BT (Dr. Lubisi, Ms. Molefe and Ms. Tshabalala)
x). University of Pretoria and stakeholders - review of the University of Pretoria's faculty of Veterinary Science (Dr. Lubisi)
xi) FAO - FAO Reference Centre Annual dialogue, where stakeholders discussed successes and future improvements (Dr. Lubisi)

Training:
Mr. Brandt and Ms. Johnston trained 29 people on "Basic Introduction to Biorisk Management" from 25-29 August 2025 at North West University, Mahikeng, North West, South Africa