

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2025

This report has been submitted: 1 février 2026 23:40

LABORATORY INFORMATION

*Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOAH Reference Laboratory:	Bluetongue
*Address of laboratory:	
*Tel:	+27-12 529 91338
*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	
		Nationally	Internationally
Indirect diagnostic tests			
Competition ELISA	Yes	537	0
Serotyping	Yes	36	0
Direct diagnostic tests			
Real Time RT-PCR	Yes	679	1
Virus Isolation	Yes	2	0

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?

No

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOAH Members?

TOR3: NEW PROCEDURES

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6. Did your laboratory develop new diagnostic methods for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

7. Did your laboratory validate diagnostic methods according to WOAHS Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

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

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

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

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

Yes

Name of WOAHS 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
BOTSWANA	2025-03-18	Real Time RT-PCR	0	1

11. Did your laboratory provide expert advice in technical consultancies on the request of an WOAHS Member?

No

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

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

No

13. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs* relevant for WOAHS?

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 undertaken through diagnostic and movement or export facilitation testing of domestic (bovine, caprine and ovine) and wildlife (blue wildebeests, (impala, nyala, and water buffalo).

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 reports were generated and sent to the attending veterinarian and regulatory authorities. One manuscript was published as well.

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

Mlingo, T.A., O'Kennedy, M.M., Matsiela, M., Nkomo, N., Coetzee, P., Rametse, T., Mutowembwa, P., Heath, L. & Mokoena, N. 2025. Safety and Efficacy of Plant-Produced Trivalent Virus-Like Particle Vaccine Candidate Against Bluetongue Disease. *Plant Biotechnology Journal* 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pbi.70316>.

b) International conferences:

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1

Dr K Labuschagne. Gave an oral presentation on 15 September 2025 at the 5th International Congress on Parasites of Wildlife & 53rd Annual PARSA Conference held on 14-18 September 2025, Skukuza, Kruger National Park, South Africa on "Biting midges (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae: Culicoides) in South Africa: status and research".

c) National conferences:

1

Dr K Labuschagne. Gave an oral presentation on 15 September 2025 at the 5th International Congress on Parasites of Wildlife & 53rd Annual PARSA Conference held on 14-18 September 2025, Skukuza, Kruger National Park, South Africa on "Biting midges (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae: Culicoides) in South Africa: status and research".

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):

1

Dr M Romito. Interview by Grootplaas (KykNET, 144) on "Bluetongue" aired on 12 May 2025. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzUMcqpeDWg>

TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

17. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other WOA Members?

Yes

a) Technical visit : 0

b) Seminars : 0

c) Hands-on training courses: 1

d) Internships (>1 month) 0

Type of technical training provided (a, b, c or d)	Country of origin of the expert(s) provided with training	No. participants from the corresponding country
D	TANZANIA	3

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
Competition ELISA	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 WOA standards.

TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

21. Did your laboratory organise scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOA?

No

22. Did your laboratory participate in scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOA?

No

TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOA REFERENCE LABORATORIES

23. Did your laboratory exchange information with other WOA Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease?

No

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

Yes

NETWORK/DISEASE	ROLE OF YOUR LABORATORY (PARTICIPANT, ORGANISER, ETC)	NO. PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATING WOA REF. LABS
Bluetongue	Organizer	3	Contact was made with WOA Reference Laboratories In the United Kingdom, Australia and Italy for expression of interest in participation in an interlaboratory comparison exercise. The samples will be sent in early 2026 at OVR's expense.

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

No

The laboratory participates in the annual proficiency test scheme organized by the EU Reference Laboratory for Bluetongue, where other WOA Reference Laboratories also participate.

26. Did your laboratory collaborate with other WOA 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 WOA Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

Yes

Purpose for inter-laboratory test comparisons ¹	Role of your reference laboratory (organizer/participant)	No. participating laboratories	Name of the test	WOAH Member Countries
Test method harmonization	Participant	48	ELISA	FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, POLAND, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, THE NETHERLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM,
Test method harmonization	Participant	48	PCR	AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, SOUTH AFRICA, THE NETHERLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM,

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

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

No

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

There were no requests for:

- i) Training from other WOA member countries*
- ii) Expert consultations*
- iii) Organizing meetings on behalf of WOA*
- 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 WOA 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*

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elucidated i.e to maximize the impact of animal health research funding through coordination and cooperation (Dr. Lubisi)

ii) WOAHP 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)

vi) Red Meat Industry Services (RMIS) - contributed to the 64th RMRD SA meeting of the Planning Committee (R&D) cattle and small stock, as convenor for Programme Working Group 4 (Dr van Kleef)

vii) World Organization for Animal Health - attended a workshop on zoning and regionalization for control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) (Dr. Lubisi)

viii). 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).

ix) 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 (HCAAT) framework among AU member states (Dr. Rotherham and Ms. Johnston)

x) Commercial company - received diagnostic kits for validation purposes, including those for BT (Dr. Lubisi, Ms. Molefe and Ms. Tshabalala)

xi). University of Pretoria and stakeholders - review of the University of Pretoria's faculty of Veterinary Science (Dr. Lubisi)

xii) FAO - FAO Reference Centre Annual dialogue, where stakeholders discussed successes and future improvements (Dr. Lubisi)

In addition, researchers reviewed scientific articles for journals and provided training for local people e.g Dr BA Lubisi reviewed an article on Bluetongue for Veterinary World Journal

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