

# WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2025

This report has been submitted: 2 février 2026 09:58

## LABORATORY INFORMATION

<b>*Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOA Reference Laboratory:</b>	Rift Valley fever
<b>*Address of laboratory:</b>	No. 100 Old Soutpan Road, Onderstepoort, 0110, Gauteng Province, South Africa
<b>*Tel:</b>	+27-12 529 91 17
<b>*E-mail address:</b>	lubisia@arc.agric.za
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.arc.agric.za/">https://www.arc.agric.za/</a>
<b>*Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):</b>	Dr. Baratang Alison Lubisi - Acting Senior Manager Research: Animal Health and Protection
<b>*Name (including Title and Position) of WOA Reference Expert:</b>	Dr. Baratang Alison Lubisi - Research Team Manager: Diagnostic Services
<b>*Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:</b>	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 WOA Manual (Yes/No)	Total number of test performed last year	
		Nationally	Internationally
<b>Indirect diagnostic tests</b>			
Indirect ELISA	Yes	2017	0
IgM Capture ELISA	Yes	2017	0
<b>Direct diagnostic tests</b>			
Real Time RT-PCR	Yes	773	0

## TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

2. Did your laboratory produce or supply imported standard reference reagents officially recognised by WOA?

No

3. Did your laboratory supply standard reference reagents (nonWOAH-approved) and/or other diagnostic reagents to WOA Members?

No

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

Not applicable

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOA Members?

## TOR3: NEW PROCEDURES

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

No

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

## TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

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

No

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

No

## TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

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

No

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

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:

Diagnostic tests were performed. These were used as opportunistic surveillance of the prevalence of Rift valley fever in the country in both domestic ruminants and susceptible wildlife.

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 sent to the attending veterinarians and authorities at the National Department of Agriculture.

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:

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Rostal, M. K., Thompson, P. N., Anyamba, A., Bett, B., Cêtre-Sossah, C., Chevalier, V., Guarido, M., Karesh, W. B., Kemp, A., LaBeaud, A. D., Lubisi, A., Matthews, L., Msimang, V., Njenga, M. K., Ross, N., Tumusiime, D., Wilson, W. C., Weyer, J., Paweska, J. T., & Swanepoel, R. 2025. Rift Valley fever epidemiology: shifting the paradigm and rethinking research priorities. *The Lancet Planetary Health*, 9(9), 101299. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanplh.2025.101299>

Hassan-Kadle, A.A., Osman, A.M., Yusuf, A.A., Shair, M.A., Hassan, O.A., Maluleke, R., Van Schalkwyk, A., Romito, M., Lubisi, A., Ibrahim, A.M., & Vieira, R.F.C. 2025. Rift Valley fever seroprevalence in ruminants in Dhobley town, Lower Juba region, Somalia, in 2021. *Epidemiology and Infection*, 153: e122. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0950268825100599>.

b) International conferences:

c) National conferences:

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 WOAHA 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)	
ISO17025	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 IgG ELISA	South African National Accreditation System (SANAS)
Capture IgM 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 WOAHA standards.

## TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

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

No

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

No

## TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAHA REFERENCE LABORATORIES

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

No

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

Yes

NETWORK/DISEASE	ROLE OF YOUR LABORATORY (PARTICIPANT, ORGANISER, ETC)	NO. PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATING WOAHA REF. LABS
Rift Valley Fever	Organizer	3	CIRAD Campus international de Baillarguet, TA A15/E, 34398 Montpellier Cedex 5

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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?

Yes

Purpose of the proficiency test:	Role of your Reference Laboratory (organiser/ participant)	No. participating Laboratories	Participating WOA Ref. Labs/ organising WOA Ref Lab
Diagnostic Test Harmonisation	Organizer	4	Onderstepoort Veterinary Research, South Africa; CIRAD Campus international de Baillarguet, TA A15/E, 34398 Montpellier Cedex 5

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 <sup>1</sup>	Role of your reference laboratory (organizer/participant)	No. participating laboratories	Name of the test	WOAH Member Countries
Test Method Harmonization	Organizer	2	RT-PCR	SOUTH AFRICA,

## TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

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

No

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

*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 elucidated i.e to maximize the impact of animal health research funding through coordination and cooperation (Dr. Lubisi)*
- ii) WOA 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 RVF (Dr. Lubisi, Ms. Molefe and Ms. Tshabalala)*

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- 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)*

**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*

**Articles reviewed:**

- i). Research paper on Rift valley fever for Acta Veterinaria Eurasia Journal (Dr. Lubisi)*
- ii). Research article for npj Vaccines on Rift valley fever (Dr. Lubisi)*