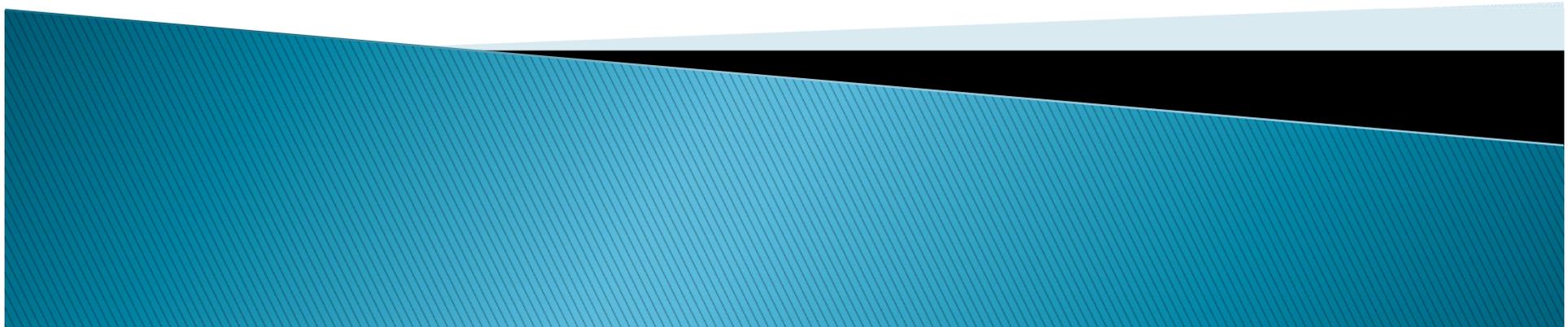


OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme: actions and perspectives – a Uganda case study

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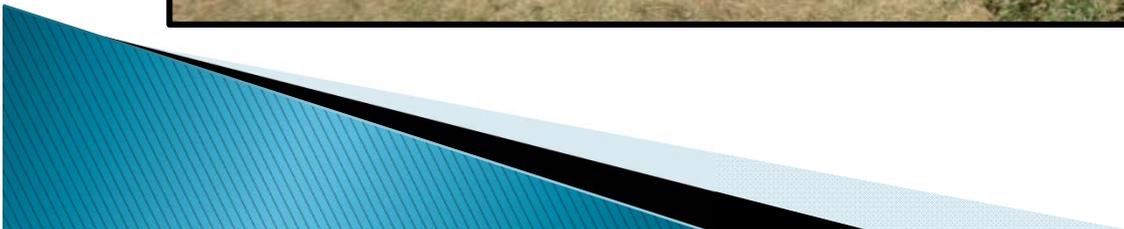
Introduction



Uganda lies in
East Africa
directly along
the equator



Ankole cattle in Uganda rangelands



Background

- ▶ Uganda suffered three decades of civil strife starting from mid 1970s. During that time veterinary services were severely weakened and there was no attention to veterinary legislation at all.
- ▶ Following improved governance and the return to peace, Uganda took advantage of the opportunities presented by the OIE PVS Pathway programme to revive the veterinary services.
- ▶ Accordingly support was requested from OIE.



Background cont'd

The OIE has conducted the following PVS Pathway activities with Uganda:

- ▶ PVS Evaluation mission in 2007,
- ▶ Veterinary legislation identification mission in 2010.
- ▶ PVS Gap analysis mission in 2011.
- ▶ Veterinary legislation Agreement Preparatory Phase mission completed in 2012
- ▶ Veterinary legislation Agreement signed in 2013
- ▶ OIE laboratory twinning project between the Pirbright Institute (UK) and National Animal Disease Diagnostics and Epidemiology Centre (NADDEC, Uganda from October 2010 to July 2013



Ongoing PVS Pathway Activities

- ▶ VLSP Veterinary Legislation Agreement now in collaboration with AU-IBAR through VET-GOV
- ▶ Uganda recently requested a PVS laboratory mission
- ▶ A second laboratory twinning project between National Veterinary Institute (Sweden) and NADDEC to increase the diagnostic capacity in the laboratory and in the field for ASF commenced on January 2014 and will conclude in April 2017.



The OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme in Uganda

During the VLSP Identification Mission of 2010, shortcomings were identified in the following four areas of legislation:

- ▶ Food safety and animal welfare at slaughter
- ▶ Animal health and disease control
- ▶ **Control of the veterinary profession**
- ▶ Control of veterinary products (medicines and vaccines)



The Control of the veterinary profession legislation

- ▶ The mission team reviewed the Veterinary Surgeons Act of 1958 and the proposed draft Veterinary and Para-veterinary Practitioners Bill, which was intended to replace the former.
- ▶ The mission identified the existing inadequacies in both of them and proposed modifications prior to submission to Parliament.



Regional perspective

Around the same time, Kenya was adopting a new Veterinary Surgeons and Veterinary Para-Professionals Act (2011) and Uganda saw an opportunity, not only to review our own existing draft Bill but to harmonize it with the Kenyan Act.



Shortcomings in the Control of the Veterinary Profession

The most important gaps identified in the existing and proposed legislation related to:

- ▶ the lack of a suitable definition for veterinary medicine;
- ▶ the lack of reference to veterinary para-professionals, their training, credentialing, responsibilities and supervision
- ▶ the focus on private practitioners with little mention of veterinarians in public service;



Shortcomings, cont'd

The draft Veterinary and Para-veterinary Bill, did not provide authority for the VSB to:

- ▶ establish continuing education (continuous professional development) requirements for re-registration of veterinary surgeons or
- ▶ to recognize, register and regulate veterinary para-professionals.
- ▶ This included the failure to recognize, and thereby control, community animal health workers (CAHWs), that are common and active in certain areas of Uganda



Shortcomings, cont'd

The bill does not provide for authority for the VSB to set;

- ▶ minimum qualifications (competences) for day-one veterinarians and veterinary para-professional and test them as a basis for registration or licensure
- ▶ Minimum standards for various training institutions to ensure a quality curriculum and training
- ▶ Therefore the single veterinary school in Uganda is self regulated and is implicitly the bench mark for veterinary standards in the country.



Shortcomings cont'd

- ▶ The bill referred to 'continuous professional development' but it was not defined. In the absence of a definition, determining what constitutes valid continuous professional development was arbitrary.
- ▶ The above point to a lack of clear registration criteria e.g., explicit standards are lacking.
- ▶ There are no supportive regulations to the existing law – the Veterinary Surgeons Act– which affects its implementation and enforcement.



Conclusions and recommendations

- ▶ For these reasons, among others, Uganda's current and proposed legislation did not meet the international standards for regulation of the veterinary professions as set forth by the OIE in Chapter 3.4 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
- ▶ The OIE Team recommended that the Veterinary and Para-veterinary Bill be thoroughly reviewed and revised to ensure that the concerns are fully addressed.



Benefits of the VLSP identification mission

- ▶ The recommendations of the mission report helped Uganda VS to identify and prioritize areas for legislation reform.
 - ▶ Chapter 3.4 on veterinary legislation provided a valuable frame of reference for Uganda to identify shortfalls in its existing veterinary legislation.
 - ▶ The mission raised awareness of the importance of having legal experts involved with veterinarians in the preparation of veterinary legislation.
 - ▶ In the case of the Veterinary and Para-veterinary Bill, serious shortcomings were identified and as a result, a decision was made to revise the bill before bringing it to Parliament. As such, a lot of time and effort was saved by not moving forward with a Bill that had little chance of passage.
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Veterinary Legislation Agreement

- ▶ Uganda's positive experience with the VLSP identification mission inspired the country to seek further assistance for legislation reform by requesting an OIE veterinary legislation Agreement
- ▶ A preparatory phase mission was conducted in October of 2011
- ▶ The formal Agreement to initiate the implementation phase was signed in February of 2013.



Preparatory phase of OIE Agreement

- ▶ The preparatory phase was very valuable for organising the work to be conducted during the implementation phase of the Agreement:
 - The strategic objectives of the legislation reform were defined;
 - The specific legislation reform activities to be undertaken were defined;
 - The administrative and operational arrangements to be adopted by the beneficiary were defined;
 - The composition of the Legislation Working Group and its functions were established;
 - The schedule of work was set; and
 - A description of the benchmarks for monitoring progress was made



With regard to regulation of the veterinary professions, strategic objectives agreed on were:

- ▶ **Objective 1** To review and revise the Veterinary & Para-Veterinary Practitioners Bill with the goal of enactment in order to ensure that the Uganda Veterinary Board has the necessary powers & authorities to meet international standards for a Veterinary Statutory Body.
 - ▶ **Objective 2** To harmonize the Uganda veterinary & para-veterinary practitioners bill with the Kenya's new Veterinary Surgeons & Veterinary Para-Professionals Act (2011)
 - ▶ **Objective 3** Determine necessary training programmes to guarantee sound and efficient veterinary service delivery & advise the relevant Ministries accordingly.
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Priority Activity of the Agreement

- ▶ The priority is to finalize the existing Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Practitioners Bill to upgrade the current version to empower the VSB to register veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals, and set standards for their training, regulation and control, so that responsibilities can be reliably delegated to them.



Current status of the Agreement

- ▶ OIE veterinary legislation implementation phase mission was recently conducted in December 2014.
- ▶ The Veterinary professions and para-professions bill is in the final stages of revision.
- ▶ Restructured working groups are currently conducting literature review and identifying gaps in Uganda's secondary veterinary legislation to identify needs for drafting new regulations
- ▶ The officer legally responsible for supporting legal reforms has been engaged and is providing guidance on the procedures and content.



Conclusions

- ▶ Uganda has partaken of a wide range of OIE activities
 - PVS evaluation mission
 - PVS gap analysis mission
 - Veterinary legislation identification mission
 - Veterinary legislation Agreement Preparatory Phase mission
 - Veterinary legislation Agreement Implementation Phase mission
 - ▶ These activities have been extremely useful in deepening VS's understanding of the principles of drafting quality veterinary legislation, identifying shortcomings in existing legislation & initiating suitable reforms necessary for development of the livestock sector & the effective function of the VS.
 - ▶ There has been an awakening in the country to the importance of international standards in animal health services delivery.
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Compliments

- ▶ Uganda compliments the OIE for supporting the consultancy services to the present point and is dedicated to complete the exercise.
- ▶ Uganda also thanks OIE for the care she has given to Africa. Currently African CVOs proudly mention that they are CVOs and National OIE delegates at various fora.
- ▶ Thank you Dr Barnard Vallat and your team



THANKS FOR LISTENING !



“Young Uganda pastoralists”