

**REPORT OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON THE EVALUATION
OF CONTAGIOUS BOVINE PLEUROPNEUMONIA STATUS OF MEMBERS
5 – 7 October 2021**

A virtual meeting of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) Status of Members (hereafter the Group) was held from 5 to 7 October 2021.

1. Opening

Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General for International Standards and Sciences of the OIE, welcomed the Group. She thanked the experts for their availability and contribution to the work of the OIE and extended her appreciation to their institutes and national governments for allowing their participation in this meeting. Dr Arroyo acknowledged the amount of work before, during and that would be done after the *ad hoc* Group meeting in reviewing the dossiers and writing the report. Dr Arroyo thanked the Group for its commitment and support to the OIE in fulfilling the mandates given by Members.

Dr Arroyo highlighted the importance of the quality of the report to be scrutinised by Members before adopting the proposed list of countries free from CBPP. She also encouraged the Group to continue providing detailed feedback to Members with a negative outcome to support them in identifying the main gaps and points for improvement to achieve their desired CBPP free status, as well as providing informative recommendations to those Members with positive outcomes for further improvement in maintenance of their CBPP free status.

Dr Arroyo highlighted the sensitivity and confidentiality of the dossiers received for official recognition and thanked the experts for having signed the updated forms for undertaking of confidentiality. She also mentioned that if any members of the Group had any conflict of interest in the evaluation of a dossier, the expert(s) should withdraw from the discussions and decision making of the particular application.

The experts and the OIE welcomed Dr Lucía Manso-Silvan as a new member of the Group.

2. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of chairperson and rapporteur

The Group was chaired by Dr Flavio Sacchini. Dr Chandapiwa Marobela-Raborokgwe acted as rapporteur, with the support of the OIE Secretariat. The Group endorsed the proposed agenda.

The Terms of reference, agenda and list of participants are presented as Appendices I, II and III, respectively.

3. Evaluation of applications from Members for official recognition of CBPP free status

a) Ecuador

In August 2021, Ecuador submitted a dossier to apply for the official recognition of its CBPP free status based on historical grounds.

The Group requested additional information and received clarifications from Ecuador.

i. Animal disease reporting

The Group acknowledged that Ecuador has a record of regular and prompt animal disease reporting and that CBPP has been a notifiable disease for at least the past ten years according to the Andean Community of Nations legislation and in accordance with Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

ii. Veterinary Services

The Group noted that the relevant legislation was in place and that the Veterinary Services of Ecuador were part of the Phytosanitary and Zoosanitary Regulation and Control Agency and comprised the General coordination of animal health, which has three technical offices, being Office of Animal Health Surveillance, Office of Animal Health Control, and Office of Animal Health Certification.

The Group further noted that CBPP related activities were supervised by the Office of Animal Health surveillance. The Veterinary Services of Territory of the Galapagos Islands (TIG) falls under the responsibility of the Galapagos Biosafety and Quarantine Regulation and Control Agency. The Group noted the close coordination between the Veterinary Services in continental Ecuador and those in the TIG.

The Group noted that Ecuador has in place an Animal Health Information System for notification and reporting of animal health events.

The Group appreciated the comprehensive information provided on demographics of livestock and noted that animal identification was mandatory, and that the animals were identified individually and at a group level at the mainland. Ecuador explained that having these two methods of animal identification in place, together with the issuance of the “Animal Health Certificate of Production and Mobility – Movement”, allows the traceability of such animals to a final destination such as a congregation centre, a farm or a slaughterhouse. The Group took note that the method of identification of animals at TIG was individual, through the placement of an electronic ear tag, in compliance with the requirements implemented at the national level. The traceability and control of bovine movements was undertaken through the issuance of animal health certificates for the movement of animals from farm to farm, and from farm to slaughterhouse/abattoir.

The Group took note of the several control posts in continental Ecuador, as well as on each of the islands in the TIG, where the inspection and monitoring of shipments of products and by-products of animal and plant origin are carried out to reduce the risk of entry of any pathogen.

Whilst the Group noted that an awareness programme was in place for veterinarians and other stakeholders for disease notification, it was not evident whether a regular and sustainable programme targeting CBPP was in place. Therefore, the Group recommended to Ecuador to implement more specific awareness and training activities focusing on CBPP disease recognition and, in particular, on the lesions suggestive of CBPP.

The Group concluded that the Veterinary Services had current knowledge of and authority over the livestock population in the country.

iii. Situation of CBPP in the past 24 months

The Group acknowledged that CBPP has never been reported in the country and therefore, Ecuador was eligible for historical freedom from CBPP as described in Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

iv. Absence of vaccination in the past 24 months

The Group noted that the importation of CBPP vaccine is prohibited by the regulations of the organic law of agricultural health, which prohibits import or use in the country of biological vaccines for exotic diseases, including CBPP, and that vaccination against CBPP had never been carried out in Ecuador.

v. *Surveillance in accordance with Articles 11.5.13. to 11.5.17.*

The Group acknowledged that Ecuador has a passive surveillance and early detection system in place based on field notifications and post-mortem inspections at slaughterhouses/abattoirs.

From the information in the dossier, the Group concluded that a targeted CBPP surveillance system was not in place since the disease had never been reported in the country. While acknowledging that pathogen-specific surveillance was not required in accordance with Article 1.4.6. Point 2. of the *Terrestrial Code*, the Group expressed its concern about the follow-up investigations of CBPP suspect cases that were only based on the epidemiological analysis and did not include any laboratory testing to confirm or exclude CBPP.

The Group noted that the CBPP laboratory diagnosis was not carried out in the country. However, the Group was informed that there was a formal agreement in place with the OIE Reference Laboratory for CBPP in Portugal for sending the samples in case of strong CBPP suspicion. The country has established the guidelines that describe responsibilities, tasks, sampling procedures, sample management, storage and shipping of samples as well as the time frame for reporting results.

vi. *Regulatory measures for the prevention and early detection of CBPP*

The Group was of the opinion that regulatory measures to prevent and control foreign animal diseases in general, including CBPP, were in place. The Group took note of Ecuador's membership in the Andean Community of Nations that has common regulations in relation to reporting, importation, movement and transit of domestic cattle and their products, including genetic material.

The Group noted that Ecuador imported semen from countries not officially recognised free from CBPP by the OIE. Upon the Group's request, Ecuador provided the information on the import conditions/requirements for such a commodity. Nevertheless, the Group underlined that the import conditions should comply with the recommendations of Chapter 11.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Group noted that there was a generic contingency plan in place. The Group emphasized that the particular actions to be taken in case of a CBPP suspect case and a specific CBPP sample collection and procedures for disease diagnosis should be developed. Therefore, the Group recommended to Ecuador to adjust the contingency plan with the more specific actions targeting CBPP. The Group noted that there was no information on CBPP simulation exercises conducted in Ecuador and encouraged the country to organise a simulation exercise to reinforce the CBPP outbreak response plan.

vii. *Compliance with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1.*

The Group found that the content of Ecuador's dossier was compliant with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Conclusion

Considering the information submitted in the dossier and the answers received from Ecuador to the requests for additional information, the Group considered that the application was compliant with the requirements of Chapter 11.5., Article 1.4.6., and with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1., of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Group therefore recommended that Ecuador be recognised as country free from CBPP on historical grounds.

The Group recommended that evidence of the following information be submitted to the OIE when Ecuador reconfirms its CBPP status (also detailed in the relevant sections above):

- Implementation of specific awareness and training activities focusing on CBPP disease recognition at abattoirs, including simulation exercises on CBPP control actions;

- An adjusted contingency plan including the chain of actions specifically targeted to CBPP, from the point of detection of a clinical suspicion, necropsy and submission of samples for laboratory confirmation of disease and differential diagnosis.

b) Mongolia

In August 2021, Mongolia submitted a dossier to apply for the official recognition of its CBPP free status based on historical grounds.

The Group requested additional information and received clarifications from Mongolia.

i. *Animal disease reporting*

The Group acknowledged that Mongolia has a record of regular and prompt animal disease reporting and that CBPP has been a notifiable disease for at least the past 10 years according to national legislation and in accordance with Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

ii. *Veterinary Services*

The Group noted that the new Animal Health Law (AHL) of 2018 together with subsequent Ministerial Decrees and Government resolutions provide the legal framework and ensure that the financial resources fully supported all activities of the Veterinary Services in Mongolia.

The Group acknowledged that Mongolia has well-structured Veterinary Services with three levels of veterinary authorities. At national level, the General Authority of Veterinary Services (GAVS) of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry is the Government Implementing Agency in charge of animal disease control, food safety and veterinary public health, as well as international trade of animal and animal products. At the province/municipal level, provincial veterinary service departments cover animal health and food safety issues; and within each soum and district, the state veterinary service unit and private veterinary units are the ones in charge to deliver veterinary support. The Group took note about the five departments under the GAVS authority: Veterinary hygiene and assurance, Animal health protection, Veterinary inspection and risk management, Administration, and Finance and investment. Mongolia informed the Group that the main duties of the GAVS are animal health protection, rapid response measures to animal diseases, ensuring the quality of animal products, prevention of zoonotic diseases, certification of exportations, inspection of animal health, animal movement control, quarantine, and inspection in slaughterhouses.

The Group appreciated the comprehensive information provided on livestock demographics. The Group took note that livestock owners identify an individual animal by signs and marks (ear notches, painting horns of cloven-hoofed animals etc.) and that all livestock owners are responsible for identifying and registering all animals individually in accordance with Article 7 of the AHL. Nevertheless, the Group emphasized that the current livestock identification system poses challenges with tracing animal movements which might affect a rapid and effective control during an outbreak.

The Group took note that the GAVS has developed an information technology called Mongolian animal health information system - MAHIS - which allows monitoring of animal health and food safety, identification of the origin of animals, movement control of livestock and products in the entire country. The Group noted that veterinary certificates for the movement of animals were issued by official veterinarians when the animals cross the borders of the soum or district. The Group was informed that a digital platform to issue veterinary certificates for movement of livestock has been introduced countrywide in December 2019 and it has been fully operational since 1 February 2020.

The Group noted that an OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) evaluation follow-up mission was conducted in 2019 and one of the key findings was the need to accompany the Veterinary Services to check the development of human resources, programmes and management systems of the Veterinary Services. The Group acknowledged that the PVS follow-up mission report clearly demonstrated the significant improvement of Veterinary Services at all levels.

The Group took note that the General Agency for Specialized Inspection is responsible for any export and import controls and implements these through its Export, Import and Border Quarantine Inspection Department. In addition, the Group noted that Mongolia has a risk management strategy for uncontrolled movements of susceptible animals and that most illegal movements are associated with stolen animals. The Group acknowledged that the GAVS was collaborating with the National Police Agency to reduce the number of illegal movements. Nevertheless, the Group regretted that information on the number of susceptible animals moved illegally within the country in the past 24 months was not provided.

The Group noted that a CBPP simulation exercise was conducted in 2019, and that training, and awareness activities related to many transboundary animal diseases (TADs) including CBPP, were carried out between 2018-2020. Nevertheless, the Group considered that Mongolia should target training and awareness campaigns related to CBPP, particularly for recognition of pneumonic lesions suggestive of CBPP at abattoirs.

The Group concluded that the Veterinary Services had current knowledge of and authority over the livestock population in the country.

iii. *Situation of CBPP in the past 24 months*

The Group acknowledged that the last CBPP cases were reported in Mongolia in 1972 and therefore, Mongolia could be eligible for historical freedom from CBPP as described in Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

iv. *Absence of vaccination in the past 24 months*

The Group noted that the last vaccination against CBPP was recorded in 1974. The Group highlighted that, based on the information in the dossier and the additional information submitted by Mongolia, vaccination is not prohibited by law, although Mongolia's CBPP contingency plan (2019) and the prevention strategy (2021) both state that CBPP control will be achieved without the use of vaccines. However, the Group took note that according to the legislation in place, and as confirmed by Mongolia, production of CBPP vaccine and emergency vaccination in case of a CBPP outbreak shall be approved by the central authority. Furthermore, the Group noted that, according to the requirements for live cattle import into Mongolia, it is stated in the CBPP prevention strategy (2021) that animals must originate from a CBPP-free country or zone, which implies that vaccinated animals may no longer be imported.

v. *Surveillance in accordance with Articles 11.5.13. to 11.5.17.*

The Group noted that Mongolia has a passive and active surveillance system at the national level. The passive surveillance system is based on post-mortem inspection at slaughterhouses by trained veterinarians under the Veterinary Authority. The Group took note that between 2019 and 2020, 176 samples were submitted for laboratory testing, from which seven mycoplasma cultures were isolated, but *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp. *mycoides* (*Mmm*) was ruled out by conventional PCR. However, the Group regretted that information on the timeframe for laboratory confirmation of samples from suspect cases was not provided in the dossier. The Group took note that Mongolia's active surveillance system is based on serological surveys, and regretted that these surveillances were not targeted, which would have been much more effective. The Group commended Mongolia for its efforts to demonstrate CBPP absence by the serological surveys conducted. The Group was of the opinion that considering the epidemiological situation of CBPP in the country, strengthening of the abattoir surveillance including differential diagnosis should be paramount.

The Group took note that, besides official veterinarians, farmers and other personnel in the livestock industry are involved in surveillance activities and disease reporting. The Group was informed that veterinarians are accredited every five years through the renewal of veterinary licenses and that in order to renew their accreditation, veterinarians are required to attend and pass a continuous professional development course which includes early detection, control and prevention of TADs.

The Group noted that Mongolia has a laboratory network with a State Central Veterinary Laboratory (SCVL) that acts as national reference laboratory for diagnosis and surveillance of infectious diseases of livestock. The SCVL is supported by a laboratory network composed of provincial and municipal laboratories. In addition, the Group took note that the Institute of Veterinary Medicine (IVM) carries out diagnosis and research on animal health related issues such as Mycoplasma infection. The Group acknowledged that laboratory diagnosis of CBPP is done at provincial and municipal veterinary laboratories, IVM and SCVL in Mongolia. The Group noted that according to the regulation for laboratory network, final confirmation of laboratory diagnosis should be done at SCVL; however, according to the information provided, IVM actually conducts laboratory confirmation for CBPP. Based on the information on CBPP diagnostic tests provided in the dossier, the Group was of the opinion that *Mmm* PCR testing procedure should be revised and positive reference material for *Mmm* should be included as positive control. In addition, the Group was concerned about the scope of the accreditation provided by Mongolia and regretted that Mongolia did not show any evidence of participation in CBPP proficiency tests. Therefore, the Group considered that Mongolia should improve the capacity of the confirmatory laboratory for CBPP and participate in proficiency tests for CBPP diagnosis organised by an OIE Reference Laboratory for CBPP.

vi. *Regulatory measures for the prevention and early detection of CBPP*

The Group took note that the Mongolian Veterinary Services work in cooperation with Russia, China and Japan through a constant exchange of animal disease information.

The Group acknowledged and commended Mongolia for its animal health agreement on import control procedures with other countries. The Group took note that there are 13 border ports for import of live breeding animals and appreciated the information provided on penalties for illegal imports of animals and animal products. The Group noted that imported live cattle must originate from countries/zones officially recognised as CBPP free or countries/zones where cases have not been reported in the past 12 months. In addition, the Group took note that all imported animals are subjected to clinical examination at the border port or at the place of destination, and that quarantine and laboratory testing for a number of infectious diseases are implemented.

The Group acknowledged that a contingency plan for CBPP has been included in the veterinary legislation. The Group noted that livestock owners are compensated in case of culling of animals due to disease control policy. In addition, the Group noted that a more recent national preparedness plan for TADs has been drafted and included in the national legislation in 2021. The Group appreciated that such plan clearly outlines the roles, responsibilities, timelines and actions to be undertaken in case of TADs occurrence, including CBPP.

vii. *Compliance with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1.*

The Group agreed that Mongolia's dossier was compliant with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Conclusion

Considering the information submitted in the dossier and the answers received from Mongolia to the requests for additional information, the Group considered that the application was compliant with the requirements of Chapter 11.5., Article 1.4.6., and with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1., of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Group therefore recommended that Mongolia be recognised as country free from CBPP on historical grounds.

The Group recommended that evidence on the following information be submitted to the OIE when Mongolia reconfirms its CBPP status (also detailed in the relevant sections above):

- Improvement of the capacity of the confirmatory laboratory for CBPP diagnosis under Good Laboratory Practices and towards quality assurance, particularly regarding mycoplasma culture and molecular identification, using appropriate positive reference material;

- Participation in proficiency tests for CBPP diagnosis organised by an OIE Reference Laboratory for CBPP;
- Strengthening of abattoir surveillance for lesions suggestive of CBPP and establishing the cause of pneumonic lesions through laboratory investigation;
- Updating the legislation to include a formal prohibition both for the use of vaccines and for the importation of vaccinated animals

4. Evaluation of an application from a Member for the endorsement of official control programme for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

a) Zambia

In August 2021, Zambia submitted a dossier for the endorsement of its official control programme for CBPP.

The Group requested additional information and received clarifications from Zambia.

i. *Animal disease reporting*

The Group noted that CBPP is a notifiable disease per legislation and that Zambia has a record of CBPP outbreaks occurrence.

ii. *Capacity of the Veterinary Services to control CBPP*

The Group noted that the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) is responsible for animal health, welfare and veterinary public health. The Group acknowledged that Zambia has a well-structured DVS with the offices at provincial, and district levels. The DVS undertakes the responsibility to conduct different CBPP related activities such as active and passive surveillance in the infected and high-risk zones, vaccinations in the infected and protection zones with vaccinations, in addition to movement controls, testing and slaughter, sensitisation and awareness creation, stakeholder involvement and community participation.

From the dossier, the Group was informed that the slaughterhouses were supervised by the DVS. Clinical surveillance is conducted at farm level, abattoirs and slaughter slabs all over the country and post-mortem inspections are conducted on all carcasses to check for pathognomonic lesions. However, the Group noted that data on abattoir surveillance provided with the dossier only refers to CBPP infected provinces while no information was displayed for the other provinces, particularly for “CBPP free zones”. The Group considered that CBPP surveillance activity of the control program should cover the entire country and encouraged Zambia to provide evidence that these activities are also carried out in the “CBPP free zones”.

The Group took note of a tailored capacity building programme targeting different stakeholders from the national to the field level.

The Group noted that Zambia reported the information on notification of disease outbreaks and the measures taken to prevent the spread of diseases, which might include quarantine measures and restrictions applied to the movement of animals, animal products and biological products.

iii. *Applicability of the official control programme for CBPP to the entire territory*

The official control programme is applicable to the whole territory of Zambia while following a zonal approach for CBPP control.

iv. *The detailed plan of the programme to control and eventually eradicate CBPP in the country or zone*

The Group noted that Zambia is demarcated into five epidemiological zones (infected zone, protection zone with vaccination, protection zone without vaccination, high surveillance zone and free zone) based on the level of risk of CBPP. The Group took note of the control measures implemented in each of the zones depending on the epidemiological situation of CBPP. These measures include mass vaccination,

clinical and serological surveillance, movement control, slaughter of infected herds, regular and timely reporting, and abattoir and slaughter-slab monitoring of cattle. The Group noted that cattle in the different epidemiological zones are identified by a unique brand (different for each zone) in addition to owner brand. Zambia informed that in order to enhance the cattle identification and registration system, the DVS has been piloting a web-based system since 2017. The main goal of this system would be to identify cattle at individual level and enhance their traceability. The Group also noted that according to the timeline and performance indicators provided with the dossier, the national rollout of the electronic system will be completed within 5 years starting from year 2 to 5 of the control program.

The Group took note that currently cattle are only allowed to move with veterinary permission from the free zone, high surveillance zone, and protection zone without vaccination, and that movement of cattle from the infected and protection zones with vaccination are not allowed into the other zones. The Group noted that Zambia plans to progressively achieve disease freedom status by 2026. The high surveillance zones will progress to free zones, the protection zone without vaccination to high surveillance zones, the protection zone with vaccination to protection zone without vaccination and finally the infected zones will progress to protection zones with vaccination. Upon request, Zambia provided an updated five-year workplan compiling the different performance indicators to show how the planned activities would be strengthened year by year to achieve the desired goal. The Group considered the submitted workplan as ambitious and questioned whether it will reach its full implementation over the five-year period. Zambia indicated that the funds for the first year of implementation had been secured through the Enhanced Smallholder Livestock Investment Programme funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development. From the second year to year five, funds from the Animal Disease Control Fund will be used for implementation with the remaining gaps to be funded by the Central treasury.

v. *Epidemiology of CBPP in the country*

The Group took note that the first recorded outbreak of CBPP in Zambia was in 1915 in the Western Province. This was followed by another outbreak in 1969 which was eradicated in 1973. A third outbreak was recorded in 1997. The infected zone includes parts of Western Province that borders Angola and Muchinga and Northern Provinces that border Tanzania. CBPP is endemic in areas of Western Province that borders Angola. From the dossier, the Group was informed that the disease was spread by husbandry practices such as transhumance, communal grazing and watering and some customary practices that promote congregation of animals from different areas. Regarding the situation in Northern and Muchinga Provinces, the Group was informed that normally, cattle are moved from some neighbouring countries into Zambia for sale, which precipitates outbreaks of CBPP in the locality where these animals are destined. The low cattle density in these provinces results in slow spread of the disease and usually does not affect larger areas. The epidemiological risk levels have been identified similar to those of the Western Province. Zambia informed the Group that most of the CBPP outbreaks experienced in the North-Western Province are extensions of the disease from the Western Province.

Zambia described the illegal movements of susceptible animals from some neighbouring countries as sources and routes of the disease introduction. While acknowledging the information on risk assessment made and cross-border coordination with some of the neighbouring countries, the Group considered that this risk assessment of CBPP incursions should be referring to all bordering countries and that the country should enhance a cross-border collaboration and put in place stronger control measures to reduce the risk of such disease introduction.

vi. *CBPP surveillance*

The Group noted that a CBPP surveillance system in the country is under the responsibility of the DVS. The Group acknowledged that a procedure was in place for the rapid collection of information, collection and transportation of samples from suspect cases of CBPP to the Central Veterinary Research Institute (CVRI) for rapid diagnoses. Suspect cases of CBPP are reported to the District Veterinary Officer within 24 hours and they are investigated immediately. The Group took note that

where suspicion cannot be resolved by epidemiological and clinical investigation, samples are taken and submitted to CVRI. Zambia described that a CBPP suspicion is raised following any cattle showing signs of coughing, pain and difficulty in breathing, inactivity, sudden death, high morbidity within a short period of time, high mortality in naïve populations or identification of gross lesions on post-mortem examination that are consistent to those described for the disease in the National Animal Disease Control Standard Operating Procedures.

The Group took note that the procedure to notify the authorities is well-described in the same standard operating procedures for animal disease control. The Group took note of the following surveillance methodologies in place: i) clinical surveillance, ii) abattoir/slaughter slab surveillance for lesions suggestive of CBPP, iii) isolation by cultural techniques and identification by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), iv) serological techniques such as the Complement Fixation Test (CFT) and Competitive Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (c-ELISA).

The Group noted that the information provided on conducted surveillance activities were related mainly to some of the provinces belonging either to the infected or protection zones. Data from surveillance activities in the free zones were not presented in the dossier. The Group was of the opinion that the overall information related to the surveillance activities in the entire country, would give a more comprehensive picture of the current epidemiological situation.

vii. *Diagnostic capability and procedure*

The Group noted that the CVRI in Lusaka is the only laboratory responsible for CBPP diagnosis and confirmation in Zambia. Zambia informed the Group that serological (CFT and c-ELISA) and isolation and identification of *Mmm* by a PCR test are conducted.

Zambia informed the Group that the CVRI has implemented a quality management system according to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard and the CBPP tests (cELISA and CFT) are accredited by the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services. In addition, the Group noted that the CVRI has satisfactorily participated in proficiency testing and/or inter-laboratory comparisons organised by the Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory (PCR and CFT) and CIRAD-France (cELISA).

viii. *Vaccination*

The Group noted that Zambia's control programme employs a strategy of mass vaccination in designated areas (CBPP infected zone and CBPP protection zone with vaccination) using the attenuated strain T1/44. The mass vaccination campaigns are conducted once a year, preceded with public awareness activities carried out through sensitisation meetings, kraal visits, meetings with influential community leaders and public notices. Zambia informed that the Department vaccination coverage between 2017 and 2020 had been between 87-95% of the target population.

The Group appreciated that the DVS had increased allocation of resources to vaccination campaigns to ensure sustained delivery of adequate vaccines, vaccination equipment, and logistical support.

From the information provided in the dossier, it was not clear to the Group how the vaccinated animals were to be identified. In response to the Group's request, Zambia informed the Group that all animals in the vaccination areas were identified through the brand marks allocated to the specific area and recorded during vaccination under the particular CBPP vaccination form. These records are used in subsequent vaccinations to identify the particular animals. The Group expressed its concern about the absence of a system that provides evidence and traceability of each vaccination received by individual animals over the years. The Group encouraged Zambia to implement the electronic system for cattle individual identification and registration at national level where several information for each animal, including CBPP annual vaccinations received, are recorded into the system. In the

meantime, Zambia is encouraged to explore alternative methods as means to identify animals receiving CBPP annual vaccination avoiding further branding.

ix. *Emergency preparedness and response plan*

The Group took note that the emergency response plan in case of a CBPP outbreak was described in the dossier. Nevertheless, the Group was of the opinion that a more detailed contingency plan taking into consideration the CBPP epidemiology in each zone should be developed by Zambia. Upon the Group's request, Zambia provided its CBPP contingency plan that describes the actions taken in response to a CBPP outbreak according to each epidemiological zone. However, the Group was of the opinion that the contingency plan should be updated with all the fragmented information in the different documentation provided by Zambia.

The Group noted that a legal basis for a compensation policy was in place. From the dossier, the Group was informed that the DVS had negotiated with slaughterhouses to ensure that farmers are paid the market value (within 48 hours after slaughter) of the CBPP affected carcasses in the infected zones. The Group commended Zambia on establishing a public-private partnership in the slaughter of infected or exposed cattle to complete the cycle of the compensation system with regard to CBPP control.

x. *Compliance with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.3.*

The Group agreed that Zambia's dossier was compliant with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Conclusion

Considering the information submitted in the dossier and the answers received from Zambia to the questions raised, the Group considered that the application was compliant with the requirements of Chapter 11.5. and with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Group therefore recommended that Zambia's official control programme for CBPP be proposed for endorsement.

The Group recommended that evidence on the following information be submitted to the OIE when Zambia reconfirms its official control programme for CBPP (also detailed in the relevant sections above):

- Progress made in the implementation of the individual animal identification and registration system at the national level, alternative to branding marks that allow the veterinary services to record and retrieve information on any practice done (i.e., CBPP annual vaccination) at the animal level;
- An adjusted contingency plan so that it clearly describes the actions taken according to each epidemiological context, from detection of a clinical suspicion, immediate diagnosis by agent isolation and confirmation, to implementation of control measures, including compensation;
- Reinforcement of the coordination, collaboration and information-sharing activities with other countries and zones in the same region or ecosystem.
- Surveillance data from (i) surveillance zone without vaccination and (ii) the free zones should be included in the reports.

5. Adoption of report

The Group reviewed the draft report and agreed to circulate it electronically for comments before the final adoption. Upon circulation, the Group agreed that the report captured the discussions.

.../Appendices

Appendix I

**VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON THE EVALUATION
OF CONTAGIOUS BOVINE PLEUROPNEUMONIA (CBPP) STATUS OF MEMBERS
5 – 7 October 2021**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

The purpose of the *ad hoc* Group (the Group) on contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) status of Members is expected to evaluate applications for official recognitions of CBPP free status and for endorsement of their official control programme of CBPP.

Background

In accordance with the OIE standard operating procedure (SOP) for official recognition of animal health status and for the endorsement of official control programmes, OIE Members can be officially recognised as country/zone free from CBPP or to have their official control programme endorsed by the OIE through the adoption of a resolution by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates at the General Session in May every year. A Member wishing to be recognised as free from CBPP or to have its official control programme for CBPP endorsed by the OIE should submit the required information to prove evidence that they comply with all the requirements specified in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* for CBPP. The assessment of the compliance with OIE standards of OIE Members' applications is conducted by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission) based on the recommendations formulated by a relevant *ad hoc* Group. The *ad hoc* Groups are convened under the authority of and report to the OIE Director General.

Specific issues to be addressed

The Group will screen and evaluate in detail three applications from Members to assess compliance of the Members with the requirements specified for CBPP in the *Terrestrial Code*. Based on those evaluations, the Group will provide recommendations to the Scientific Commission that will meet in February next year.

Prerequisites

Ad hoc Group members should:

- Sign the OIE Undertaking on Confidentiality of information (if not done before)
- Complete the Declaration of Interest Form;
- Understand that the membership of the Group may be retained between its meetings to ensure continuity of the work.

Actions to deliverBefore the meeting

Upon reception of an application from a Member, the Status Department (SD) conducts a preliminary screening to check the conformity of the dossier (structure of the dossier in accordance with the SOP and with the relevant questionnaire, main sections of the questionnaire, regular notification to the OIE, payment of the fee, PVS report, etc.). If an information gap is identified, the SD requests additional information to the Member.

As the OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) reports are bound by the OIE rules on confidentiality of information, the SD and experts will consider for the evaluation the available PVS reports if not obsolete (no more than 5 years) or confidential.

The SD will send the working documents to the *ad hoc* Group, including the dossiers received from applicants, at least one month before the virtual meeting (i.e., **5 September 2021**).

The experts can request support from the SD at any time.

The SD suggests the nomination of a Chair and Rapporteur for the Group's consideration.

The experts are expected to:

- Be familiar with Chapters [1.10](#) and [11.5](#) of the *Terrestrial Code* relative to CBPP;
- Evaluate and study in detail all dossiers provided by the OIE;
- Take into account any other information available in the public domain that is considered pertinent for the evaluation of the dossiers;
- Summarise the dossiers according to Chapter 1.10 requirements by completing the summary tables provided by the SD;
- Draft questions to the applicant Members whenever the evaluation of the dossiers identifies incomplete or unclear information;
- Submit to the SD the completed summary tables for each application together with possible questions at least 10 days before the virtual meeting (i.e., **24 September 2021**);

The SD will compile the summary tables and the questions to be forwarded to the applicant Members before the virtual meeting. The SD will forward to experts all subsequent information and material provided by a Member prior to the virtual meeting.

During the meeting

- Agree on the appointment of the Chair and Rapporteur of the meeting (the Chair will lead the discussion and the Rapporteur will ensure that the report reflects the discussion and captures the detailed assessment of the dossiers);
- Mention any potential conflict of interest and, if relevant, withdraw him/herself from the discussion;
- Contribute to the discussions;
- Contribute to drafting the report.

If during the virtual meeting the Group decides that additional information should be requested to the applicant Members before an informed conclusion can be drawn, the SD forwards the additional information to the Group at a later date. The Chair is responsible for coordinating the finalisation of the assessment and for ensuring that the views of all Group members are taken into consideration.

Should the Group not be able to complete its Terms of Reference during this meeting, experts' contributions will be solicited after the meeting, including by virtual meeting if needed.

After the meeting

The SD will circulate the draft report after the virtual meeting is over. Experts are expected to contribute to the finalisation of the report within the following week.

The SD will circulate the final version of the report to the Group once endorsed by the Scientific Commission and is published online.

Deliverables

A detailed report to recommend to the Scientific Commission whether the Member should be (or should not be) recognised with an official CBPP free status or have its official control programme endorsed by the OIE. The report should indicate any information gaps or specific areas that should be addressed in the future by the Member regardless of the final recommendation to the Scientific Commission.

Reporting / timeline

The OIE will circulate the draft report no more than seven days after the virtual meeting (no later than 15 October 2021) and the Group will finalise its report within the following week (deadline: 22 October 2021).

Appendix II

**VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON THE EVALUATION
OF CONTAGIOUS BOVINE PLEUROPNEUMONIA (CBPP) STATUS OF MEMBERS**

5 – 7 October 2021

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of chairperson and rapporteur
3. Evaluation of applications from Members for official recognition of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) free status
 - Ecuador
 - Mongolia
4. Evaluation of an application from a Member for the endorsement of official control programme for CBPP
 - Zambia
5. Adoption of the report

Appendix III

**OIE AD HOC GROUP ON THE EVALUATION
OF CONTAGIOUS BOVINE PLEUROPNEUMONIA (CBPP) STATUS OF MEMBERS
5 – 7 October 2021**

—
List of participants

MEMBERS

Dr Ahmed el Idrissi
Imb. Bouarfa 9
Residence Assabah
CYM 10050 Rabat
MOROCCO

Dr William Amanfu
P. O. Box AC 201
Arts Center
Accra
GHANA

Dr Chandapiwa Marobela-Raborokgwe
Head of Lab (Deputy Director)
Chandapiwa Marobela-Raborokgwe
Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory
Private Bag 0035
Gaborone
BOTSWANA

Dr Flavio Sacchini
Immunology and Serology Department
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise
Via Campo Boario
64100 Teramo
ITALY

Dr Lucía Manso-Silván
CIRAD Département BIOS
UMR CIRAD-INRAe ASTRE :
"Animal, Santé, Territoires, Risques, Ecosystèmes"
Campus International de Baillarguet
TA A-117/E
34398 Montpellier Cedex 5
FRANCE

Dr Marcelo Fernandes Camargos
Ministério da Agricultura Pecuária e Abastecimento, Laboratório
Federal de Defesa Agropecuária de Minas Gerais
Av. Rômulo Joviano, s/n Caixa Postal 50
Centro
33600000 - Pedro Leopoldo
MG - Brasil - Caixa-Postal: 50
BRAZIL

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION

Dr Misheck Mulumba
Senior Manager Research
Agricultural Research Council Onderstepoort
Private Bag X05
Onderstepoort t 0110
Pretoria
SOUTH AFRICA

OIE HEADQUARTERS

Dr Montserrat Arroyo
Deputy Director General
oe@oie.int

Dr Neo Mpitse
Head of Status Department
disease.status@oie.int

Dr Aurelio Cabezas
Disease Status Officer
Status Department
disease.status@oie.int

Dr Marija Popovic
Disease Status Officer
Status Department
disease.status@oie.int