

## MOZAMBIQUE'S PUBLIC SECTOR PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIE AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS

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Aims/Objectives: to present Mozambique's perspectives and experiences (positive and negative) on the implementation of OIE standards for aquatic animal health.

Discussion / Conclusions: Mozambique is a member of the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) since 1949. According to the OIE standards for animal health in general and for aquatic animals in particular, the country has to adhere to the objectives of the organization, by complying with the regulations on disease communication and transparency.

In Mozambique the Veterinary Authority is under the Ministry of Agriculture and the Competent Authority for aquatic animal health is under the Ministry of Fisheries. In addition within this Ministry there are different institutions dealing with specific subjects of aquatic animals. Although this arrangement may bring some benefits due to specialisation on specific matters, some challenges arise in the relationships and coordination between veterinary and fisheries authorities.

The demand for improved coordination is even higher for Mozambique as an exporter of aquatic animal products, as reporting on some diseases is a requirement to access markets with strict sanitary regulations such as the European Union.

To fulfil market requirements, since the introduction by the OIE of the Focal Point for Aquatic Animals, some improvements have been observed as there was clarification of the role of each one involved in the disease communication procedures. As an example, capacity building for the Aquatic Animal Focal Points was delivered on the use of OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) in the Southern African Region (SADC). Newly approved legislation in Mozambique covers animal welfare and includes aquatic animals under the regulation for aquatic animals inspection and compulsory disease reporting to the Competent Authorities.

One critical issue for capacity building is strengthening capabilities for identification of aquatic animal diseases, monitoring and control to prevent their dissemination, as well as improvement of the basic laboratory infrastructure. This is important to ensure good administrative organization and financial capacity of the Competent Authority. With the objective of strengthening capacity, Mozambique recently applied for an Evaluation of Aquatic Health Services using OIE PVS Tool.

Keywords: OIE – aquatic animals – Competent Authority

