
An Enhanced Animal Identification and Traceability Information System in Namibia

1st OIE Conference on Animal ID and Traceability – Buenos Aires: 24 March 2009



Geography



Export-dependent Industry

Communal farmers – 66 000 registered farmers

Commercial ranching – 9100 registered farmers

Livestock population

- Cattle - 2.4 million
- Sheep – 2.2 million
- Goats – 2.1 million



Establishments

- 15 400 holdings/establishments
- 136 auction facilities
- 8 export abattoirs
- 31 local authority-licensed abattoirs



Exports - Animal and Animal Products

Exports	2005	2006	2007	2008
Beef Europe (Tons)	10 658	9 135	9 478	9 514
Beef Regional (Tons)	13 112	11 452	9 787	7 873
Lamb Regional (Tons)	14 354	11 232	14 225	12 667
Live Cattle (n)	210 945	172 790	171 163	127 426
Live Sheep (n)	269 135	241 994	189 901	64 688
Live Goats (n)	276 968	293 127	267 996	235 848

Source – Meat Board of Namibia, 2009



EU Exports – small player

Main trade partners	EU imports				Average annual growth
	million Euro		% of total		
	1995	2005	1995	2005	
Extra-EU	1,021	1,440	100%	100%	3.5%
Brazil	247	790	24%	55%	12.3%
Argentina	405	389	40%	27%	-0.4%
Uruguay	72	104	7%	7%	3.8%
Namibia	34	45	3%	3%	2.9%
Australia	30	37	3%	3%	2.0%
Botswana	41	31	4%	2%	-2.7%
New Zealand	14	11	1%	1%	-2.8%
Switzerland	11	9	1%	1%	-2.4%
Canada	0	7	0%	0%	33.1%
Chile	0	6	0%	0%	
Rest	168	14	16%	1%	-22.1%

Source: Eurostat COMEX 20 Septmber 2006



Early Dialogue

- Smallholder farmers ‘do not’ need animal identification – they know animals by name
- Failure to understand the ‘luxury’ of wanting to know source of meat – just need enough
- Passports for cattle – ‘but I do not have one’
- Not demanded by national food safety laws – when its labeled it becomes out of reach!



Key Drivers

Farm Assured Meat Scheme - 1999

- Verification of good agricultural practices
- Verification of claims
- Pre-empt market demands

Market Requirements – EU FVO Report 2003

- Requirements for imports from third countries
- Supporting export certification

Other Uses

- Animal disease surveillance and risk management
- Management of herds and flocks
- Proof of and change of ownership
- Facilitating commercial transactions
- Innovative use in managing loans



A Public-Private Partnership



- **Namibian Government**
 - **Namibian National Farmers Union**
 - **Namibia Agriculture Union**
 - **Meat Board of Namibia**
 - **Farm Assured Namibian Meat Scheme**
-
- **GRN – funding, enforcement**
 - **Veterinary Authority - CA**
 - **NAU and NNFU – ear tags and levies**
 - **Meat Board of Namibia – administer levies**
 - **FAN Meat Scheme – consultative forum**



Stakeholder Consultation

- **Farmer Organisations** – Namibian Agriculture Union (NAU), Namibian National Farmers Union (NNFU), Livestock Producers Organisation (LPO), Livestock Producers Forum (LPF), Emerging Commercial Farmers' Forum (ECFF) and the Namibian Stud Breeders Association (NSBA)
- **Industry Representatives** – Abattoirs Association of Namibia (AAN), Livestock Agents Brokers and Transporters Association (LABTA)
- **Government Departments & Statutory Bodies** – Meat Board of Namibia, Namibian Police, directorates of Agricultural Extension & Research and Training, Surveyor General's Office and MAWF's Law Enforcement Unit

YES - in conformance with OIE guidelines. It was the ONLY way.

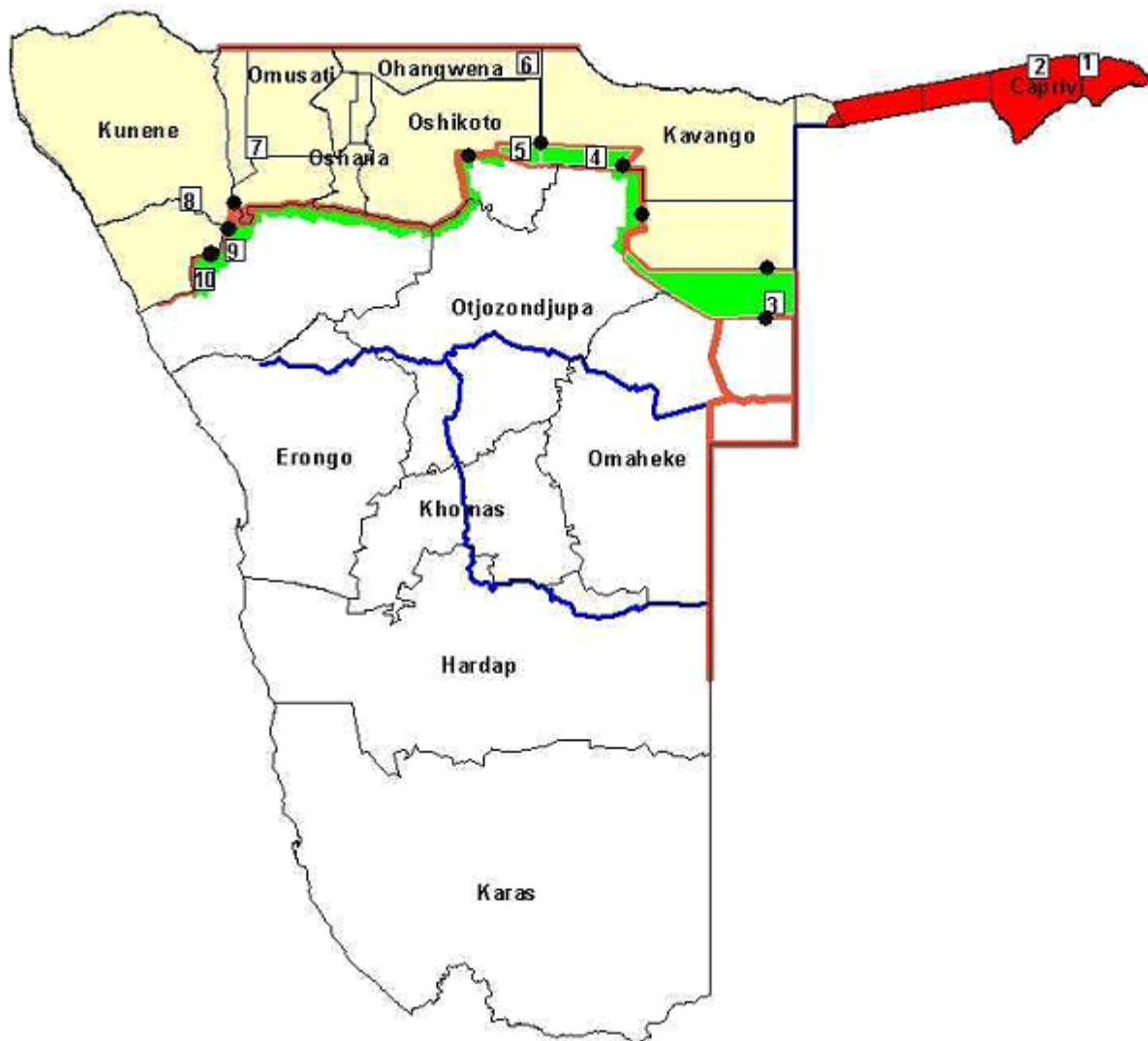


Legal Framework

- Requirements regarding the registration of establishments where cattle, sheep, goats or pigs are kept, identification and registration of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs, animal movement controls, the central database and sanctions
- Ownership - laid down in national legislation by means of the Stock Brands Act 24 of 1995 and its Regulations in GN73 of 2004.
- Traceability - laid down in national legislation by means of the Animal Identification Regulations GN29/2009 in terms of the Animal Diseases and Parasites Act 13 of 1956 as amended
- **YES - in conformance with OIE guidelines. Have recently updated the legislation.....**



Scope – Current and Future



Current Scope

- FMD free zone
- Cattle, sheep & goats
- Stock brands
- Off-farm movements
- Phased implementation

Soon.....

- Whole country
- Including pigs
- On-farm tagging
- Registration



Registers: Establishments ► Keepers ► Livestock

Establishments

- **District level** – maintenance of register of holdings – both manual in the farm register (phasing out) and computerised (NamLITS database)
- **Central level** –Animal iD & Traceability Office: maintains register of holdings and other establishments in the NamLITS database

Registration of Keepers

- **District level** – notification of keeping of stock on a holding to the state veterinarian – manual and computerised (NamLITS database)
- **Central level** – registration of stock brands as mandated by the Stock Brands Act 24 of 1995. Computerised database that interfaces the NamLITS database

Livestock registers

- **Farm Level** – Manual livestock registers maintained by livestock keepers
- **District and Central Level** – manual livestock register and notification of the NamLITS database



Animal Group iD – Ownership

Herd Identification

- Branding
- Herd Identification
- From 6 months of age
- Ensures batch traceability



Group Identification

- Option 1 - Ear Tattoo Flock ID
- Option 2 - Group ID tag
- From 3 months of age
- Ensures batch traceability



Individual Animal iD - Cattle

Visual tags

- Certification
- machine readability
 - Linear 128 Barcode
 - 2-D Barcode

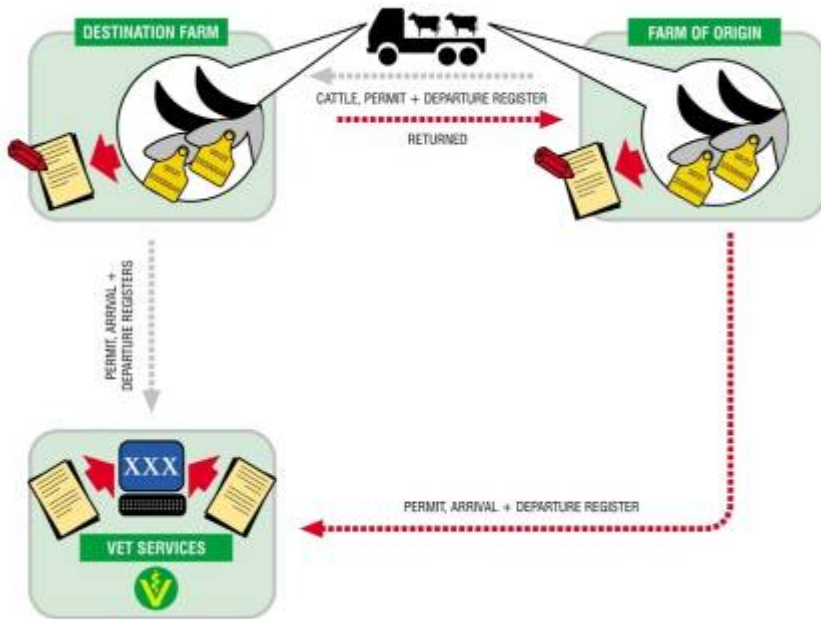


Combo - Visual + RFID tag

- Double tagging
- FDX-B
- ICAR certification



Movement Control and Notification



Permit in	Permit out



Permit No S0231695

VETERINARY SERVICES PERMIT TO MOVE ANIMALS

In terms of Animal Diseases and Parasites Act 1936(Act 13 of 1936), as amended and subject to the conditions specified below, permission is hereby granted to-

Name

Address

To move with/to transport

From farm/place No in the district of

From Stockbrand Business Name

To farm/place No in the district of

To Stockbrand Business Name

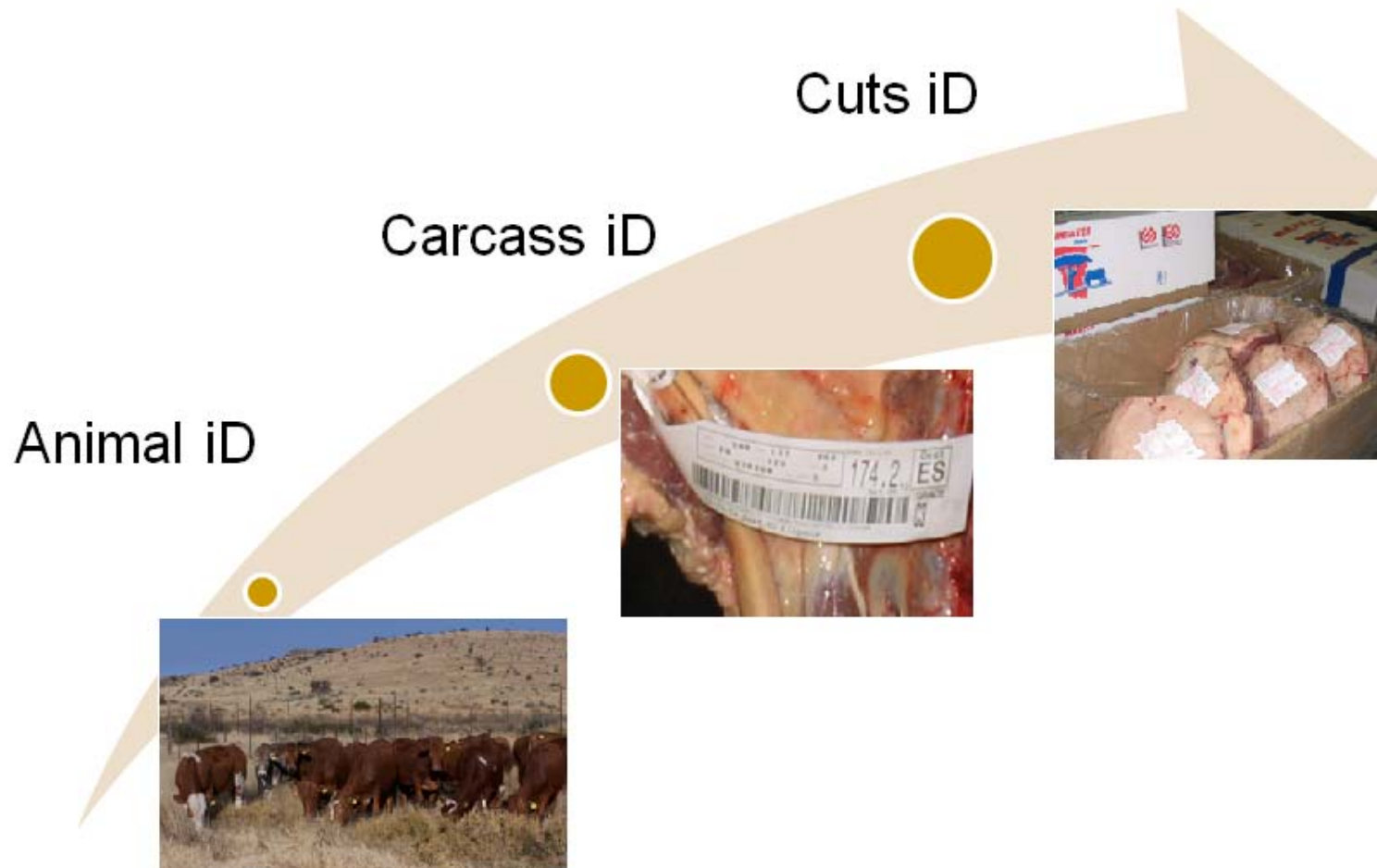
Directorate of Veterinary Services Inventory Register – Cattle with Official Ear Tags

Enter ALL tagged cattle on your farm or any other holding under your control. The original must be submitted to the state veterinary office within 21 days of tagging the animals. You may retain a copy for your records. Knowingly supplying false information is an offence for which a monetary penalty may be levied.

FAN Meat No.				Farm Name:				Inventory Date:			
Ear tag number TOP	Ear tag number BOTTOM	Sex (Female – F) (Male – M)		Breed	Ear tag number TOP	Ear tag number BOTTOM	Sex (Female – F) (Male – M)		Breed		
		F	M				F	M			
		F	M				F	M			
		F	M				F	M			



Export Abattoirs



Central Database

Functionality

- Establishments register
- Keepers register
- Livestock register
- Record of events
- Movement notification
- Movement control
- EDI - auctions & abattoirs
- Enquiries & reports
- Evolving.....



NAMLITS ONLINE
ENTER HERE



Network

- Central database
- 38 remote locations
- Internet connectivity
- Growing and evolving.....



Costs and Funding



◀ Investment

- Database development
- Hardware & Software
- Training
- et cetera

~US\$1.01 million

Operational ▶

- Database maintenance
- Hardware maintenance
- Software licences
- Database upgrades
- Ear tags

et cetera

~US\$0.83 million/year



This is work in progress.....

Key Challenges

- Differing levels of producers
- Food safety for citizenry
- Compliance costs vs other priorities
- Timeliness of data entry – EDI, website
- Transcription errors – eID tags and EDI
- Meeting market demands
- Promote utilization to secure funding arrangements
- National performance standards

Standards

- International standards and guidelines welcome
- Low participation from developing countries – limited to voting



Thank you for your attention!



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