

# **Status of development of animal identification, traceability and recording systems in different commodity chains (beef, dairy, small ruminants) in Namibia**

**Symposium on Animal identification and recording(AIR) systems for traceability and livestock development in sub- saharan Africa**

**14-16 April 2014**

**Pretoria, South Africa**

**Milton Maseke**

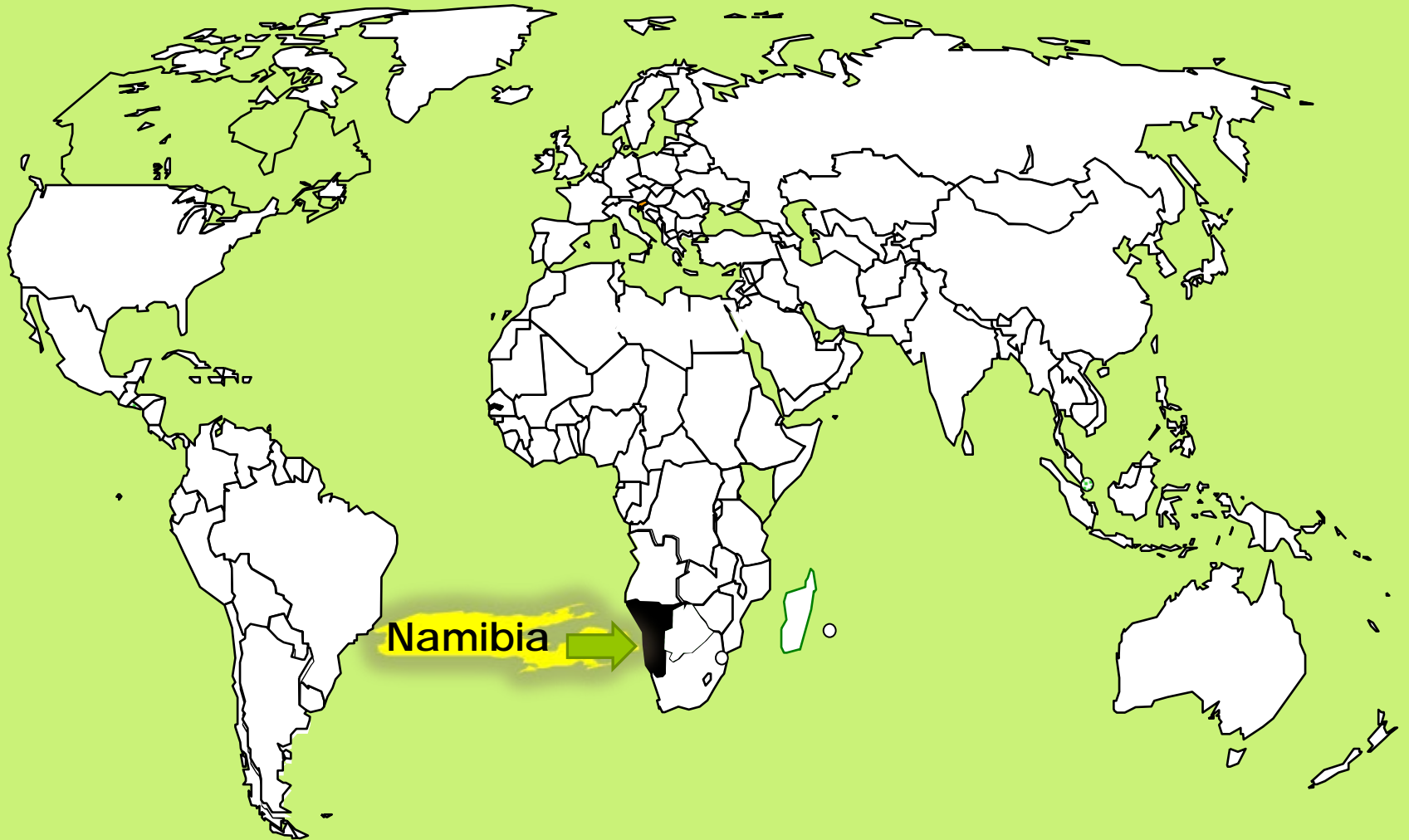


Republic of Namibia



Directorate of Veterinary Services

# Geography



# Production & Marketing

- Livestock Population
  - 4.0 million herd of cattle – Beef predominantly
  - 6.0 million sheep – Mostly Dorper
  - 3.2 million goats – Mostly crossbreeds
- Meat Exports
  - Export 80% of meat
  - ~ **9380 t beef - EU**
  - ~ **303130kg Beef - RSA**
  - ~ **9197363kg Lamb - RSA**
  - ~ **490t lamb - Norway**
- Live Exports - RSA
  - 100211 cattle – RSA
  - 157141 sheep – RSA
  - 163565 goats - RSA



# **Animal Identification and Recording Systems**

**A. Namibian Livestock Identification and Traceability system (NamLITS)**

**B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme**

**C. Namibia Stud Breeders Association (NSBA) Stud Book & Breedplan Performance Recording System**

# **Implementation History**

- A. NamLITS – built on a long-existing (late 1960s) animal movement control system. Enhancement started October 2005 extended to rest of the country October 2013.**
- B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme – started in the early 1960s as the only official/national recording scheme**
- C. NSBA Stud Book and Breedplan – founded in 1992 to manage the registration of pedigree animals. Took over most of the registration in 2000 and started with Breedplan in early 2006**

# **Purposes of the Identification and Recording Systems**

- A. NamLITS – compliance with EU requirements and animal disease risk management.  
Validate the Farm Assured Namibian Meat Scheme (FAN Meat Scheme)**
- B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme  
– improve productivity of the national beef herd through genetic improvement**
- C. NSBA, Stud Book and Breedplan –  
registration of pedigree animals and genetic evaluation – cattle, sheep, goats and horses**

# **Legal Framework**

## **A. NamLITS**

- Animal Health Act No 1 of 2011, Stock brand Act 24 of 1995, Animal Identification Regulations No 29 of 2009.**

## **B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme**

- Stud Breeders Association regulations 2004**

## **C. NSBA Stud Book and Breedplan**

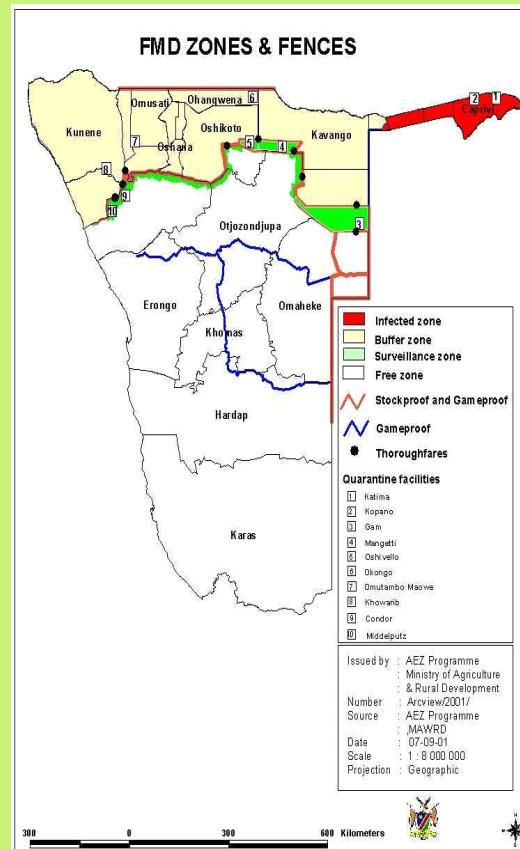
- Stud Breeders Association regulations 2004**

# **Coverage of the systems**

- A. NamLITS – national mandatory program.  
Currently implemented in the FMD-free zone. To be extended to the rest of the country soon.**
- B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme –  
national but limited to stud animals. Only 27 breeders, 8 breeds only. Coverage is currently very poor. Not compulsory**
- C. NSBA Stud Book and Breedplan – national but  
limited to stud animals. Coverage is currently in commercial ranching areas. Not compulsory**



## Geographic Coverage



# **Organisational Set-up**

- A. NamLITS – Jointly managed by the Directorate of Veterinary Services and the Meat Board.  
Overseen by government and industry (FAN Meat Scheme)**
- B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme –  
run by a Performance Recording Section of the  
Ministry of Agriculture**
- C. NSBA Stud Book and Breedplan – run by the  
NSBA, an association made up of 28 breeders’  
societies**

# Identification – Ownership

## Cattle Identification

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



# Identification – Ownership

## Small Stock Identification

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



# Cattle Identification – Traceability



# How does the system work?

## Key Components

- On-farm Identification
- Tagging at crush pens
- Movement permit
- Movement Registers
- Reporting Movements
- Recordkeeping
- Central Database





# **ID and Recording Operations**

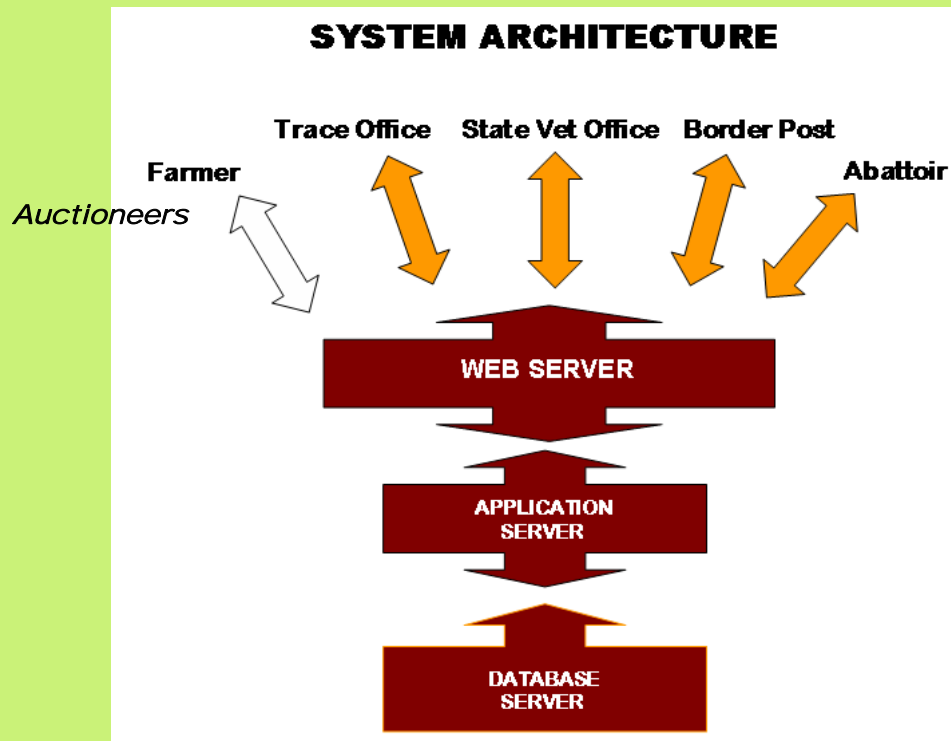
- A. NamLITS – ID done by keepers. Paper-based recording of events by keepers – movements, births, deaths, stray, theft etc. Abattoirs and auction report electronically. Records captured onto central database by Vet Services. NamLITS online – [www.namlits.com](http://www.namlits.com) issue permits , view herds, query tags, reports 40/90 day residency e.t.c**

# **ID and Recording Operations**

- B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme – ID done by keepers. Paper-based recording of events by keepers – registration, births notification, performance etc. Records captured onto central database by Performance Recording section**
- C. NSBA Stud Book and Breedplan – ID done by keepers. Paper-based recording of events by keepers – registration, births notification, performance etc. Limited records transmitted electronically. Records captured onto central database by NSBA**



# NamLITS<sup>®</sup> NETWORK



# **Funding Framework**

**A. NamLITS – ID equipment and devices bought by keepers except in NCA. Recording costs borne by keepers and markets. Database funded through levies and government recurrent budget. Central distribution of tags south of a VCF.**

**B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme – ID equipment and devices bought by keepers. Recording costs borne by keepers. Database funded through government recurrent budget. This is regarded as a ‘free’ service**

**C. NSBA Stud Book and Breedplan – ID equipment and devices bought by breeders. Recording costs borne by breeders. Breeders pay annual subscription membership fees, fee for services such as registration and fee per animal recorded**

# **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- A. NamLITS – done internally on a quarterly basis.  
Exposed to EC FVO inspections after every 2  
years. Ad-hoc inspection by countries intending  
to trade with Namibia.**
- B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme –  
Currently no evaluation system exists**
- C. NSBA Stud Book and Breedplan – Currently no  
evaluation system exists**

# **Progress Assessment**

- A. NamLITS – significant progress made recognised by the EC FVO**
- B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme – reduced capacity resulted in breeders opting to go it alone**
- C. NSBA Stud Book and Breedplan – the implementation and support from breeders has been generally very successful. Program is well-run using standard commercial practice**

# Challenges

## A. NamLITS

- **High operating costs**
- **Timeliness of reporting events**
- **Technical field support**
- **Transcription errors**
- **Legal framework**
- **Inadequate extension**
- **Monitoring & evaluation**

# Challenges

## **B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme –**

- **Lack publicity**
- **Human resources**
- **Funding**

## **C. NSBA Stud Book and Breedplan –**

- **Funding**
- **Publicity**

**THANK YOU!!**

