MADAGASCAR

I.) BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Island of Madagascar covers 587,041 sq km and lies east of Mozambique. Its population is estimated to be around 22.6 million (July 2013), with about 30 percent living in urban areas (2010). Its GDP per capita (PPP) amounts to 1,000 USD. However, 50 percent of the population lived below the poverty line in 2004, which might have even increased due to recent political crisis. Madagascar is ranked according to the Human Development Index of 2013 in 151st place as a low human development country.i ii

Laboratory tests of samples from the years 2005 to 2010 showed that the rabies virus (RABV) is endemic in Madagascar. Additionally, the European Bat Lyssavirus type 1 (EBLV-1) is present and there is a high probability that this is also the case for the Lagos Bat Virus (LBV). Human rabies infection is mostly due to RABV. iii

Rabies is a notifiable disease in Madagascar. Animal and human rabies cases are confirmed via fluorescent antibody test (FAT) at the national authorized laboratory for rabies diagnostic at the Institute Pasteur of Madagascariv.

II.) HUMAN RABIES EPIDEMIOLOGY

Rabies in humans in Madagascar is mostly transmitted through the bite of the domestic dog. According to data submitted to OIE World Animal Health Information System, in 2011, there were 2 confirmed human rabies cases’. From 2005 to 2010 a total of 9 human rabies cases were laboratory confirmedvi.

III.) RABIES VECTORS

In Madagascar, the domestic dog is the main vector of rabies. The dog density in the country is often higher than in many (urban) parts in Africa, leading to a relatively unrestricted and inadequately vaccinated dog population. Within the wild animal population, apart from bats, it is unclear, which animals act as rabies vectors. A fossa (Cryptoprocta ferox) was confirmed infected with a lyssavirus of the species RABV in 2007. Other carnivorous mammals present in Madagascar have not been tested for rabies.vii

In 2011, 22 rabies cases in dogs were reportedviii. In the first half of 2012 two cases of rabies in dogs were reported to the OIE.ix
IV.) RABIES BIOLOGICS AVAILABILITY

In 2011, rabies post-exposure-prophylaxis (PEP) was available in only 26 of the 111 administrative districts of Madagascar.5

V.) OTHER

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