

ANNEX 5

BORDER PROJECTS

**PROJECT FOR THE ERADICATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN THE
SOUTHERN CONE MACROREGION**

PLAN OF ACTION 2003-2009

PROJECT FOR ERADICATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN THE SOUTHERN CONE MACROREGION

1 – BACKGROUND AND SITUATION DIAGNOSIS

PHEFA has the objective of eradicating Foot-and-Mouth Disease from the American Continent by the year 2009. The strategy of the hemisphere program has been established since 1988, based on the division into regions of the Continent realized as to the characterization of the disease. The Plan of Action defined 3 macro regions of South America, Cuenca del Plata – Southern cone, the Andes and the Amazon- Brazil Amazon, foreseeing the development in 3 programmed phases, with the objective of gradually reaching consistent results for the following periods: First 1989-1994; Second 1995-2000 and Third 2001-2009.

The Plan of Action in the Southern Cone subregion established and registered important advances during the first two phases by means of a focus of regional strategy in the River Plate Basin Agreement. Already in the last two years of the Second Phase 1998-2000, the countries of the subregion, with an extremely favorable sanitary situation – without registries of Foot-and-mouth Disease for more than four years- and the unilateral management of each year by one member with the consequential obtaining of international recognition by O.I.E. of being free of the disease with and without vaccination – significantly modified the former scenario, causing a weakening of the supranational and regional instances of coordination. In some countries the absence of policies to maintain and give incentive to the public-private structure created in the 1990s for vaccination plans was very notorious, bringing as a consequence the deterioration of the system of veterinary services, necessary to reach and consolidate the eradication of Foot-and-mouth Disease, with special reference to the local systems.

In this new scenario, the deterioration of resources allotted to the programs and the lack of an active participation of the actors of the private sector, made the development of adequate prevention policies impossible, in a micro region of a high density of cattle raising dominated by extensive production, which moreover modified the interregional commercial exchange, by price differentials that were obtained by its product, the countries as a consequence of the internationally recognized different sanitary states, which thus favored the informal commerce of animals on the borders of the subregion, and at the same time a weakening of the inspection systems.

Taking into account the high degree of dependence on epidemiology of the countries of the subregion among themselves, forming several productive common ecosystems in more than one country but with different degrees of risk of Foot-and-mouth Disease, considering that a large part of its effective cattle was left without vaccine protection and that in this process there was an international recognition that the sanitary status was not the same in the zone – within countries – areas historically characterized as a differential risk, the lack of transparency in the management of information, was a determining factor in this new scenario for the recurrence and rapid regional diffusion of Foot-and-mouth Disease.

Another aspect that is present in this new regional scenario – in whose economies the exportation of food had a strong impact– are the sanitary demands that the extraregional markets are imposing each year on each one of the countries to maintain its condition as exporter, always with a clear technical justification, making required efforts and resources as necessary for the compliance with goals of eradication. The absence of a conception of regional sanitary integration was also present, bringing as a consequence that each country separately negotiates, instead of as a regional block that assumes the same sanitation criteria aspects, coordinated by PANAFTOSA as a continental organ of reference.

In general the structure of the official sanitary services of the macro region must be strengthened in human and material resources, taking into account the goal of continental eradication of Foot-and-mouth Disease and the sustaining of this condition in the future.

II- PROBLEMS, CRITICAL POINTS AND RESTRICTIONS

One of the aspects of greatest incidence for the execution of the project is how it relates with the weakening that was experienced by the supranational processes of coordination, follow-up and evaluation of the Regional Project, became more evident as the national programs improved and approached the phase of eradication. The National Programs conducted – with few exceptions – the applications of recognition of the country and the free zone before the OIE, regardless of the technical processes of the Southern Cone – River Plate Basin. In addition to this process, - except for the case of Uruguay-, its situation was not evaluated by international missions representing the O.I.E., upon its inclusion in the list of countries/free zones.

The sanitary situation and international recognition attained, favored the increase of cattle exports and the access to world markets, given the favorable conditions that it offered the international market, with respect to demand and prices, to which it strongly conditioned aspects related to transparency, truth and the opportunity of the process of diffusion and exchange of information to detect and identify beforehand an emergency situation, which avoided a larger impact. This also brought as a consequence a brief maintenance –at very short term – of markets of excellence and commercial profitability, which led to a loss of high economic impact as well as a loss of credibility of the regional sanitary situation, because of the external markets as well as the cattle raising community, involved in the process of eradication.

To prevent a recurrence, the advances that had taken place with eradication and its consolidation must take place with a real regional strategy and with the commitment of all of the countries to move ahead with the Technical Cooperation of PANAFTOSA, which according to the demands of the regional and subregional instances will realize the follow-up of this process, auditing with technicians the execution of programs in the subregion with the objective of giving it a mark of transparency required for the union of the countries, as well as an objective mechanism to evaluate the results obtained and propose necessary adjustments to comply with the goals. In addition, there must exist a prior agreement in the technical means of the Southern cone – River Plate Basin, where before initiating the process of any degree of recognition of the country of a free zone within the subregion, the same must be analyzed first in this respect, before being submitted to other locations.

III - TARGET

To contribute to the development of subregional cattle raising and its entry in the international market, and to the strengthening of the Veterinary Services System to prevent other exotic diseases in the subregion of a similar economic impact, such as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).

IV- PURPOSE

Eradicate Foot-and-mouth Disease from the Southern cone macro region and maintain this condition by means of the functioning of a solid Veterinary Services System.

V- STRATEGIES

The strategies to reach the purpose of the Southern cone PHEFA are the following:

- Regionalize the Southern cone macro region, with the establishment of strategies and differentiated actions in the different productive ecosystems according to their characterization of risk, in a manner that reflects the epidemiology studies, productive and commercial exchanges that have occurred since 1988, with the goal of unifying these strategies and actions in areas bordering the Southern Cone, as well as their articulation in other PHEFA macro region areas, with which there exists a relationship of epidemiology studies.
- Strengthening of regional coordination at the decision making levels, in such a manner as to assure the sustainability of the process of eradication and prevention of the reappearance of the disease, based on the regional technical lineaments in the modifications of the regional strategy, and that which grants an adequate institutional seal for the development of a Southern Cone plan of Action, giving the necessary guaranties to the process of eradication and prevention of the disease, tending towards the consolidation of a regional sanitary block that strengthens the interregional sanitary situation and defends its achievements before extraregional countries' organisms.
- Promote the development of the local systems of veterinary services, with a greater participation of the private sector and the strengthening of the local units of the official veterinary services.
- Develop programs of training and perfection of all human resources involved in the programs of Foot-and-mouth Disease.

VI – PROGRAMMED COMPONENTS

6.1 Adequate macro region strategy. Epidemiology studies regionalized.

Problem

- Different realities in relation to the risk of Foot-and-mouth Disease in the macro region.
- Different degrees of progress as to the control/eradication of the disease in the regions that compose the macro region.
- Insufficient development of the border subprojects, with the purpose of integrating the strategies and actions foreseen by PHEFA for all of the bordering areas of the Southern cone and also with the other PHEFA macro regions, with which there exists an epidemiological relationship.

-

Expected results

Regrouping in the region related to the Characterization of current Risk and adoption of differentiated sanitary strategies, with the goal of mitigating the risk of reappearance of the agent in areas which achieved its eradication and of the elimination in a progressive and consistent manner of the virus in primary endemic areas, parallel to the equipping and consolidation of the systems of prevention and surveillance.

Development of border subprojects in all of the neighboring areas of the Southern Cone.

Incorporation of the departments of Tarija, Chuquisaca and Santa Cruz of Bolivia into the Southern cone macro region.

Articulation of the execution of projects of the departments of Beni and Pando of the Amazon subproject, with those of the Southern Cone- Cuenca del Plata.

Definition of the following epidemic regions in the Southern Cone Project:

Region 1	Argentina, mesopotamic provinces, and the south of Santa Fe, Buenos Aires, La Pampa, Córdoba, Brazil – Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina , and all of Uruguay
Region 2	state of Paraná and the Eastern region of Paraguay, articulated with the Southeast (Planalto) of the state of MS
Region 3	(Chaco Húmedo o Central) The Eastern region of Paraguay – excluding the departments Boquerón and Alto Paraguay – and the provinces of Chaco and Formosa, the north of Santa Fe and Santiago del Estero, of Argentina
Region 4	(chaqueño ecosystem). Provinces of Salta, Jujuy, and Tucumán of Argentina, the departments Alto Paraguay and Boquerón of Paraguay, the chaqueña zone of the departments of Tarija, Chuquisaca and Santa Cruz.
Region 5	Amazon ecosystem: rest of the department of Santa Cruz, articulated with those of Beni Pando of Bolivia and with the Brazilian states of Mato Grosso, Rondonia, Acre and Mato Grosso do Sul of the Amazon macro region.
Region 6	Andes ecosystem – patagónico: Chile and the Andes provinces and patagónicas of Argentina, articulated with the Departments, altiplánicos of Bolivia and the southern area of Peru

Evaluation indicators

- Joint microregional studies of the Characterization of Risk, integrated plans of action
- Serum epidemiology investigations realized in areas without a clinical registry of the disease.
- Annual evaluations of the activities of the border subprojects.

Verification sources

Documents: Minutes of Risk Characterization workshops, minutes of microregional meetings. Minutes and resolutions of COHEFA, COSALFA and the Committee of Cuenca del Plata Agreement.

Hypotheses

There must exist political will – not only in declarations – of the government authorities and active participation of the cattle raising organizations of the member countries, to move on with definite strategies.

For the execution of the programs, there must exist available human, material and financial resources.

Activities

- Endorse officially the Southern Cone Plan of Action, in the Cuenca del Plata Agreement Committee, COSALFA and COHEFA.
- Develop the subprojects of the borders foreseen in the Cuenca del Plata Project
- Define with precision the geographical limits in function of risk for each one of the regions identified
- Implement differential strategies by region, by means of actions foreseen in the respective annual programs

6.2 Veterinary services structure

Problem

Flaws in the structure of official veterinary services to reach the eradication of Foot-and-mouth Disease according to the continental goal and sustain the prevention phase.

Lack of active participation of the Private Sector in the programs.

Purpose

Strengthen the structure of veterinary services to reach the eradication of Foot-and-mouth Disease by 2009 and sustain its prevention.

Expected results

The structure of the Veterinary Services System must be strengthened in the Southern Cone, reaching the goal of eradication and consolidation of the reappearance of Foot-and-mouth Disease.

The Official Services in the countries must be adequately equipped and capable to reach the goals.

The Private Sector is integrated institutionally and actively participates in the border subprojects of the macro region.

Activities

- Train the Public and private actors in the Foot-and-mouth Disease programs.

- Audit and annually evaluate the programs in the countries, providing adequate strategies and sanitary structures that are required according to the goals and purposes of the Plan of Action.
- Program and execute annually a Program of joint activities on all borders of the macro region.

Evaluation indicators

- Situation of the programs. Actions that are being executed.
- Infrastructure of the official services
- Participation of the Private Sector in the Veterinary Services Systems
- Financing the programs
- Annual program of activities of Project C. del Plata

Verification sources

- Auditing bulletins
- Minutes of zones/regions meetings
- Bulletins of Cuenca del Plata Project

Hypotheses

If there is adequate and consolidated structure of the Foot-and-mouth Disease Programs

There exists active participation of the Private Sector in the Veterinary Services Systems and that the same are institutionalized at local levels.

6.3 Immunization

Problem

Lack of coordination of the cycles of vaccination in areas of common epidemics; harmony in the formulation of the vaccines; virus strains to be included (define the situation with respect to virus C); assure the opportune providing of vaccines in the countries that import biological ones; standardize the official controls of the quality of the vaccines of the countries with reference to PANAFTOSA; assure effective and transparent mechanisms for the existence of an antigens bank for the countries and zones that have stopped vaccination.

Coverage of insufficient vaccination in quantity and opportunity to modify the endemic condition of Foot-and-mouth Disease in areas of pre-commercial cattle raising.

Inconsistencies in the vaccination verification systems.

The suspension of mass vaccination in the different countries before the reappearance of the disease, as such was not regionally coordinated, the situation in the border zones of the countries with different sanitary statuses was not analyzed.

Purpose

Assure adequate vaccine coverage – at a level and opportunity – related to the characterization of epidemics of each region, based on verification measures that provide trustworthy information, and utilizing vaccines of quality controlled according to the standards of PANAFTOSA.

Expected results

- To count on mechanisms that assure the availability of vaccines, with quality, opportunity and required volume, in the vaccination programs of the countries.
- To assure coverage of adequate vaccination related to the epidemic characterization of each region.
- To technically fix the stoppages of mass vaccination that has occurred in the macro region.

Activities

Establishment of a data bank at PANAFTOSA as to the availability of vaccines in the macro region that are adjusted to the required standards of quality, and maintain such updated.

Assure the strategic reserve of an Antigens/Vaccines Bank for emergency use.

Coordination of the schemes of vaccination by region.

Establish the conditions required for the stoppage of mass vaccination.

Evaluation indicators

- Verification sources
- Resolutions of the C. del Plata Agreement Committee
- COSALFA resolutions.

6.4 Prevention policies

Problem

Absence/insufficiency of prevention policies that sustain the eradication of the disease in the macro region.

Lack of adequate inspection systems for the phase of free of the disease.

Lack of active participation of the community in inspection.

Purpose

Avoid the spread of the agent from areas of presence to areas where the disease has been eliminated and those where there is no virus activity

Count on in all of the region homogeneous mechanisms of inspection for the Differential Diagnosis and Early Detection of clinical infection/disease

Expected results

To achieve the elimination of virus activity in the countries and/or zones of the macro region, with sustainable technical evidence of its absence.

To achieve the active participation of the Private Sector in the Epidemic Inspection, at local levels.

To guaranty regional policies of prevention of reappearance of diseases of high impact in the Southern cone.

Activities

Coordination of activities of official services and the private sector that participate in the management of animal health, in all border zones of the macro region.

Training and structuring of the Inspection Systems for free areas.

Establishment of Sanitary Barriers at the level of the macro region and coordinated in border zones.

Diffusion and promotion of the eradication and prevention of the disease, in the mass media.

Harmonization of the importation policies of animals, products and subproducts in the macro region.

Evaluation indicators

Serum epidemiology investigations

Registries of Prevention of Suspicion

Registries of activities in Sanitary barriers

Integrated Animal Health Commissions functioning at local levels

Verification sources

Auditing bulletins

Minutes of technical regional meetings

6.5 Foci prevention and contingency plan

Problem

Inadequate procedures of Prevention to Suspect/Foci of Foot-and-mouth Disease
Absence/insufficiency of Contingency Plans.

Purpose

Harmonize the definitions and procedures of prevention of suspect/foci of Foot-and-mouth Disease and the Contingency Plans

Expected results

Prevention of Suspect/Foci of Foot-and-mouth Disease must be uniform in the macro region

The Differential Diagnosis in the suspect of the disease must be uniform.

To count on the Sanitary Emergency Systems and functional Contingency Plans that are structured in the entire macro region.

To achieve the early detection of all suspects of the disease by Veterinary Services Systems

To achieve the diagnosis of 100% of all suspects of the disease.

Activities

Revise the River Plate Basin manual and adapt it to the different epidemic situations.

Training activities in the countries with less development in their Veterinary Services System.

Technical cooperation for the formulation of Contingency Plans.

Evaluation indicators

Registries of Attention of Suspect/Foci

Contingency Plans

Verification sources

Auditing bulletins

Minutes of regional technical meetings

6.6 Proper institutional structure

Problem

- Absence of an institutional standard in the region for the harmonic and sustainable development of the Southern cone Plan of Action, which gives transparency and the necessary guaranties to the process of eradication and prevention of the disease.
- Absence of a regional sanitary block that strengthens the interregional sanitary situation and defends its achievements against organisms from extraregional countries.

Purpose

Promote the installation of a Permanent Veterinary Committee on a regional basis, which makes consolidation viable and the strengthening of the regional instances for the eradication of the Foot-and-mouth disease.

Strengthen the current situations of coordination in the macro region.

Expected results

To achieve the creation and regular functioning of a Permanent Veterinary Committee in the Southern Cone.

To conform to and strengthen a regional sanitary block.

To strengthen regional coordination.

Activities

To impose in regional politics at the highest levels the formation of a Permanent Veterinary Committee.

6.7 Laboratories diagnosis

Problem

Inequality and lack of standardization of the techniques for the Diagnostic Differential of Diseases performed by the Laboratories of the macro region.

Not all countries have conditions for the Emergency Diagnosis of Foot-and-mouth disease.

Purpose

Strengthen the activities of the Diagnosis of diseases and the serum epidemiology investigation of the programs of Foot-and-mouth disease in the region.

Expected results

To implement and standardize the techniques of Differential Diagnosis of bladder diseases recommended by PANAFTOSA in all laboratories in the region.

All countries have conditions of Biological Security for the Emergency Diagnosis of Foot-and-mouth disease.

To implement and standardize the techniques for the detection of virus activity recommended by PANAFTOSA in all Laboratories of the Region.

Activities

Training courses of Laboratory Techniques at PANAFTOSA.

Periodic sending of samples to the PANAFTOSA Reference Laboratory.

Evaluation Indicators

Auditing cycles of the Foot-and-mouth disease programs of the region.

Quality control performed by the PANAFTOSA Reference Laboratory.

Verification sources

Auditing bulletins of the Foot-and-mouth disease programs in the region.

Quality Control Bulletins realized by the PANAFTOSA Reference Laboratory.

VII – PROGRAMMING OF THE REACHING OF GOALS

Assuming compliance with the actions foreseen in each one of the Programmed Components and that the expected results are obtained, one can foresee annually the achievement of partial goals related to the situation of each one of the identified regions, thus gradually building a solid path for the eradication of the disease in the macro region.

One can thus observe in the chart to follow the annual expected evolution of the goals by region, related to the expected results with the implementation of the strategy of the Plan of Action.

Taking into account the extension, productive characteristics and risk levels at its epidemic borders with other regions, one can predict the achievement of consistent results in region 1, an evolution differentiated in two zones: zone 1, composed of Mesopotamia Argentina, Provinces of Entre Rios, Corrientes and Misiones, the states of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina of Brazil, and all of the territory of Uruguay; and zone 2, integrated by the Provinces of Buenos Aires, Santa Fe, La Pampa and Córdoba.

Another with such success is Region 6, which has these effects of the risk zones differentiated: 1 composed of regions I, II and III of Chile, the Provinces of Jujuy, Catamarca, La Rioja, San Juan, Mendoza and San Luis of Argentina, and the same in zone 2, composed of the remaining regions of Chile and the provinces of Neuquén, Rio Negro, Chubut, Santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego of Argentina.

VIII – EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The characteristics of the proposed Plan of Action, the critical necessity of opportune follow-up of the situation of the macro region and the periodic evaluation of the activities that must be executed in the development of the strategy of eradication makes this an essential programmed component for the success of the Plan.

The proposed mechanisms for this item are centered on the follow-up of programmed activities of the Plan of Action, by the Technical group and the River Plate Basin Agreement Committee and the annual bulletins of the auditing cycles, of the regional programs coordinated by PANAFTOSA. These auditings in the future must be a priority to the verification in the region of compliance with the activities foreseen in the Plan of Action, and its bulletins and recommendations must be jointly analyzed, within the region, with the goal of assuring a harmonic development of the process of the eradication of the disease in the entire macro region and the transparency required to minimize the risks of failure.

IX - TECHNICAL COOPERATION

PANAFTOSA as a continental reference organ will be who supplies the technical Cooperation required in the Plan of Action, with the support of other regional and international entities that develop cooperation in Animal Health. This Cooperation is essentially necessary in the initial phase of the adoption of a new strategy of regions, with special reference to the implementation and follow-up of the border subprojects that must be developed in the macro region.

SOUTHERN CONE MACROREGION

Expected annual evolution by region

REGION	YEARS					1 Hypotheses	2 Expected results
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007-2009		
Reg. 1 Zone 1	Free FA C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA S/V	Free FA S/V	The structure of Veterinary Services is adequate and the Prevention and Inspection activities are strengthened. The subprojects of the borders Argentina-Brazil, Argentina-Uruguay and Brazil-Uruguay have been developed.	The absence of infection has been demonstrated.
Reg. 1 Zone 2	Free FA C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA S/V	Free FA S/V		
Reg. 2 State of Parana, Brazil	Free FA C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA S/V	Free FA S/V	The structure of Veterinary Services is adequate and the Prevention and Inspection activities are strengthened. The subprojects of the borders Eastern Reg.-Paraguay and Parana-Brazil, articulated with Mato Grosso do Sul have been developed.	The absence of infection has been demonstrated.
Reg. 2 Eastern Zone of Paraguay	Without FA Clinical C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA S/V	Free FA S/V		
Reg. 3 Prov. Formosa, Chaco and Santiago del Estero	Without FA Clinical C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA S/V	The structure of Veterinary Services is adequate and the Prevention and Inspection activities are strengthened. The subproject of the border Argentina-Paraguay has been developed.	The absence of infection has been demonstrated.
Reg. 3 Departments Pte. Hayes and Neembucu, Paraguay	Without FA Clinical C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA S/V	The structure of Veterinary Services is adequate and the Prevention and Inspection activities are strengthened. The subproject of the border Argentina-Paraguay has been developed.	The absence of infection has been demonstrated.
Reg. 4 Chaqueña Zone of Bolivia and the Dep. Tarija, Chuquisaca and Santa Cruz	Without FA Clinical C/V	Without FA Clinical C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA S/V	The structure of Veterinary Services is adequate and the Prevention and Inspection activities are strengthened. The subproject of the border Argentina-Bolivia-Paraguay has been developed.	The absence of infection has been demonstrated.

Reg. 4 Prov. Salta, Jujuy and Tucuman, Argentina	Without FA Clinical C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA S/V	Free FA S/V	The structure of Veterinary Services is adequate and the Prevention and Inspection activities are strengthened. The subprojects of the border Argentina-Paraguay have been developed.	The absence of infection has been demonstrated.
Reg. 4 Dep. Boquerón and Alto Paraguay	Without FA Clinical C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA S/V	Free FA S/V	The structure of Veterinary Services is adequate and the Prevention and Inspection activities are strengthened. The subprojects of the border Argentina-Paraguay have been developed.	The absence of infection has been demonstrated.
Reg. 5 Dep. of Santa Cruz (except chaqueña zone), articulated with Bebi and Pando of Bolivia and the states of Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul and Rondonia of Brazil	With FA Clinical C/V	Without FA Clinical c/V	Without FA Clinical C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA C/V	The structure of Veterinary Services is adequate and the Prevention and Inspection activities are strengthened. The subproject of the border Bolivia-Brazil has been developed.	Since the first year high vaccination coverage has been obtained. In the first three years the endemic condition of the region has been modified.
Reg. 6 Zone 1, I, II and III Reg. of Chile, Prov. Of Jujuy, Catamarca, La Rioja, San Juan, Mendoza and San Luis of Argentina, articulated with the altiplánica zone of the Dep. of Tarija and Potosi of Bolivia	With FA Clinical C/V C/V Chile Free FA S/V	Free FA C/V Chile Free FA S/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA S/V	Free FA S/V	The structure of Veterinary Services is adequate and the Prevention and Inspection activities are strengthened. The subprojects of the border Argentina-Bolivia-Chile has continued to develop and strengthened	The absence of infection has been demonstrated.
Reg. 6 Zone 2 Remaining regions of Chile, and the provinces of Neuquén, Rio Negro, Chubut, Santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego of Argentina	Free FA C/V South of the 42 nd degree long. Of Argentina and Chile Free FA S/V	Free FA C/V South of the 42 nd degree long. Of Argentina and Chile Free FA C/V	Free FA C/V	Free FA S/V	Free FA S/V	The structure of Veterinary Services is adequate and the Prevention and Inspection activities are strengthened. The subproject of the border Argentina-Chile has continued to develop and strengthened.	The absence of infection has been demonstrated.