



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



CENTRE FOR
BIOSECURITY AND
BIOPREPAREDNESS

Overcoming BTWC implementation challenges

Case: the Danish-Kenyan Biosecurity Partnership

Agenda

- 08:30** Coffee, croissants
- 08:45** Welcome remarks
- 08:50** Presentation by Government of Kenya, represented by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National BWC Authority (NACOSTI)
- 09:05** Presentation by Centre for Biosecurity and Biopreparedness, Denmark
- 09:20** Open discussion
- 09:45** Final remarks



National Implementation of the BWC

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Science, Technology and
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Side Event at the Meeting of Experts for the BWC
13th August, 2018



Outline

- Background to the Side Event;
- Importance of National Implementation of the BWC to Kenya;
- Role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Role of the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation;
- Multi-Agency Approach to National Implementation of BWC in Kenya;
- Progress on the Biosciences Bill;
- Lessons Learnt;
- Way-Forward;

Background to the Side Event

- Organized within a partnership between the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) of Kenya and the Center for Biosafety and Biopreparedness (CBB) of Denmark in support of national implementation of the BWC;
- The side event seeks to:
 - Share results of the Kenya-Denmark partnership;
 - Highlight challenges;
 - Present best practices and approaches to create coherence;
 - Present policy framework, infrastructure and implementation support activities;
 - Use Kenya's implementation of the BWC as a case study, to explore how third countries and international partners can contribute to effective implementation;

Importance of National Implementation of BWC



- Kenya signed the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in 1972 and ahead of the Convention entering into force in 1975;
- Kenya Acceded to the Convention in 1976 less than one year after entering into force;
- **Way before Terrorism became a real threat to Kenya's National Security;**
- A 2015 Biosecurity Survey revealed that:
 - Laboratories in Kenya store up to 16 dangerous pathogens;
 - Half of these labs did not keep an updated inventory;
 - Physical Containment (locked doors) was weak;
 - Reported loss of pathogenic material;
- Overcome potential threat from hostile groups in the East Africa region;
- Obtain Assistance from International Organizations and other State Parties in the event of:
 - intentional or accidental release of Biotoxins;
 - Natural epidemics of infectious diseases
- Opportunity for collaborations with other State Parties and International Organizations in dual-use of Microorganisms;



Roles of the MoFA and NACOSTI

MoFA:

- Directorate of Multilateral Affairs at Capital;
- Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the UN Office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland;
- Lead diplomatic efforts in establishing collaborations and partnerships;
- Coordinates the strategy to mitigate chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risks for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540;

NACOSTI:

- State Agency established by the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013;
- The Successor to the National Council for Science and Technology (NCST) that was established by the Science and Technology Act (now repealed) Cap 250 laws of Kenya;
- Mandate – to **regulate** and **assure quality** in the science, technology and innovation sector and **advise** the Government in related matters;
- National Focal Point for BWC;
- Coordinates national implementation of the Convention;
- Hosts the Inter-Agency BWC implementation Committee;

Multi-Agency Approach to National Implementation of BWC



Agencies:

- The Kenya Medical Research Institute;
- The Directorate of Veterinary Services;
- The Government Chemist;
- The National Intelligence Service;
- The Ministry of Health;
- Representation of Universities;
- State Law Office;
- National Biosafety Authority;
- National Counter Terrorism Center;
- Department of Defense;

Overall Strategy: The activities of these agencies are coordinated by NACOSTI through a Committee with membership drawn from the agencies;

Multi-Agency Approach to National Implementation of BWC



Emerging role of Universities:

- Universities have been identified as key players in the awareness creation and training for Biosecurity;
- The Commission for University Education (CUE) has become a key partner in coordinating Universities for BWC implementation activities;
- Biosecurity awareness workshops have been conducted for eight (8) universities and a workshop for Vice Chancellors and Directors of Research in selected universities was organized within a partnership between NACOSTI, CUE and CBB;
- An article on the consideration of Biosecurity has been incorporated into the CUE Guidelines for University Programmes accreditation;
- <https://www.nation.co.ke/oped/opinion/Universities-have-role-to-enhance-biosecurity/440808-4536490-ckn1dlz/index.html>

Multi-Agency Approach to National Implementation of BWC



Research Regulatory Framework:

- The National Bioethics Committee has been re-structured to become the Scientific Research and Ethics Review Committee to oversee the whole spectrum of Research Ethics (ST& I Act, 2013);
- The Committee has undergone training with support from the Kenya National Commission for the UNESCO and works closely with Institutional Research Ethics Committees;
- A component of Biosafety and Biosecurity is part of their programme of work;
- A review of the ST&I Regulations for Research Registration, Accreditation and Quality Assurance has been initiated;

Multi-Agency Approach to National Implementation of BWC



CBRN and UNSCR 1540:

- The Government Chemist is the National Focal Point for the CBRN;
- Implementing the European Union CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence initiative launched in 2010;
- Initiative is funded by the European Commission and implemented by UNICRI and the Joint Research Center of the European Commission;
- The initiative facilitates regional cooperation to enhance CBRN capabilities, as well as promote the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540;
- Under the initiative, partner countries (Kenya, Gabon and Uganda) are in the process of completing National Action Plans for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation;



Multi-Agency Approach to National Implementation of BWC

Kenya-USA Partnership:

- Kenya is collaborating with the USA in the area of threat reduction in biological engagement programs through the following Agencies:
 - Ministry of Health;
 - Directorate of Veterinary Services;
 - Kenya Medical Research Institute;
 - Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service;
 - Kenya Ports Authority;

Progress on the Biosciences Bill



Importance of the Bill:

- To provide legal framework for prosecuting crime related to Biological threat;
- To provide an institutional framework to prevent and respond to Biological threats

Timelines for presentation to Parliament:

- Policy need to be published;
- Broader Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Viz-a-viz a Biosciences Policy;
- Requirement for stakeholder engagement and public participation;
- Sufficient sensitization of Parliament and relevant Ministry leadership has been done;

IG decries weak bio-security laws

Benard Gitau · May 15, 2018

2,702 1 minute read



Benard Gitau @benagtau

Inspector General of Police Joseph Boinnet has expressed concerns over the inefficient and weak biosecurity laws in the country. He said the country is not immune to bio-terrorism which remains a national security threat.

"Globally, in this era, we are not immune to bio-terrorism but our national security team remains alert to deter and intercept such threat," he said.

Country to have
Biosecurity Laws

[http://epaper.peopledaily.co.ke/?iid=159381&startpage=page0000012 - folio=12](http://epaper.peopledaily.co.ke/?iid=159381&startpage=page0000012-folio=12)



Lessons Learnt

- The Multi-Agency approach requires effective coordination focused on a single Agency;
- Changes in government after elections or reshuffles affect the pace of policy and bill development;
- Existing legal, regulatory and institutional framework related to biosafety, laboratory safety and occupational safety presents a hinderance to the development of a framework for biosecurity;
- Universities have a role to play in enhancing biosecurity;
- To address these, focus need to be on NACOSTI as the entry point for national engagements on all matters of BWC;

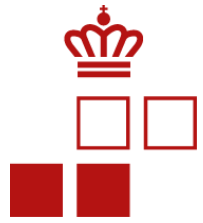
What has worked?

- A single Agency push (MACOSTI working with key stakeholders) achieved the enactment of the Biosafety Act, 2009 to regulate activities involving genetically modified organisms (GMOs) amid great controversy;

Conclusion



- A comprehensive and multifaceted approach is required. Close cooperation between the security, scientific, public health and agricultural sectors, industry, academia and civil society is required and needs to take place at the national, regional and international levels



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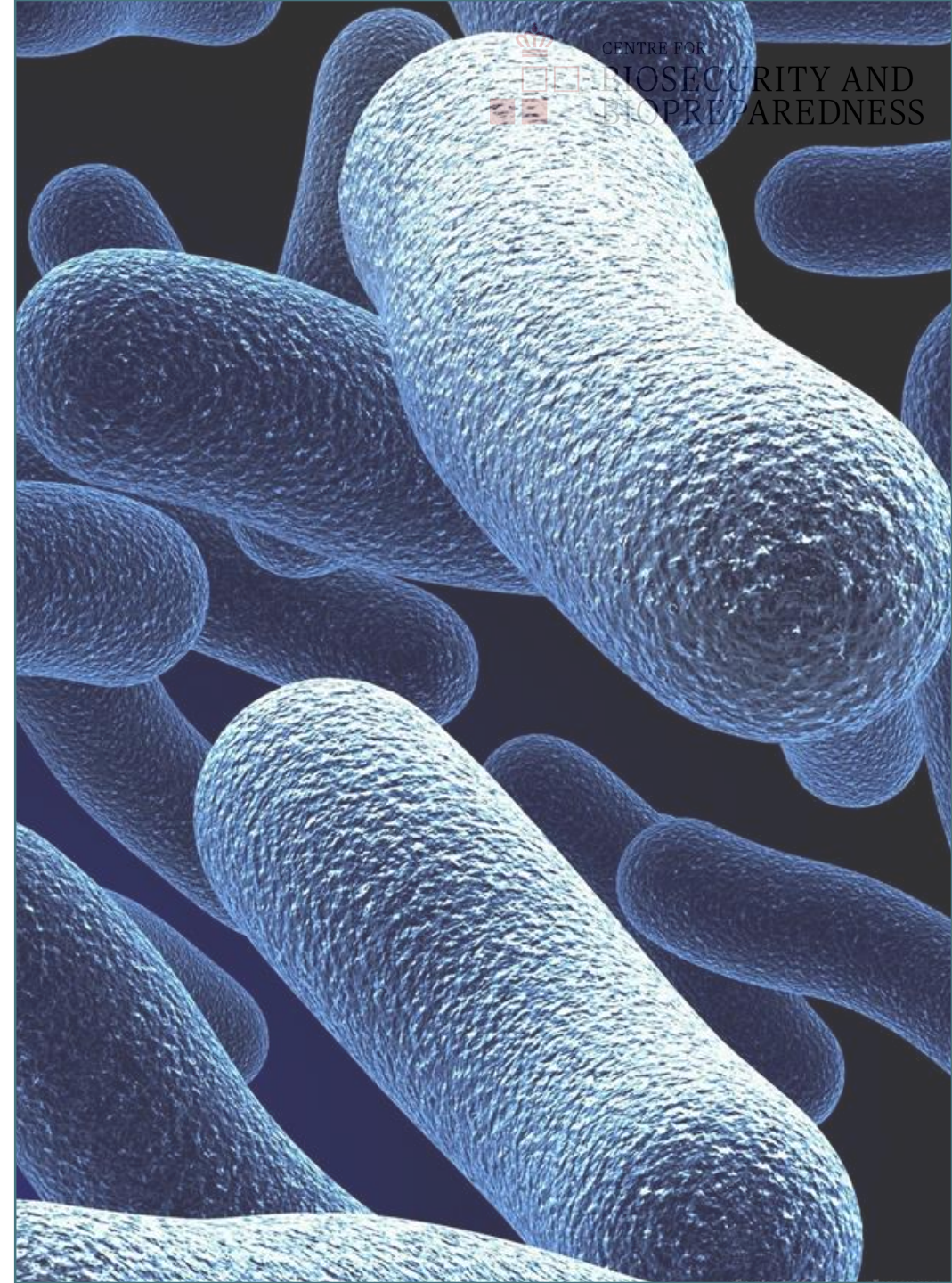
The Danish-Kenyan Biosecurity Partnership

Johan Frederik Mau, Programme Manager
Andrea Lærke Rasmussen, Programme Associate



Content

1. The Danish approach to biosecurity
2. The Danish-Kenyan partnership
 -  Biosecurity legislation
 -  Responsible science
 -  Biosecurity agency
 -  Bio-preparedness
3. Addressing challenges
4. Discussion

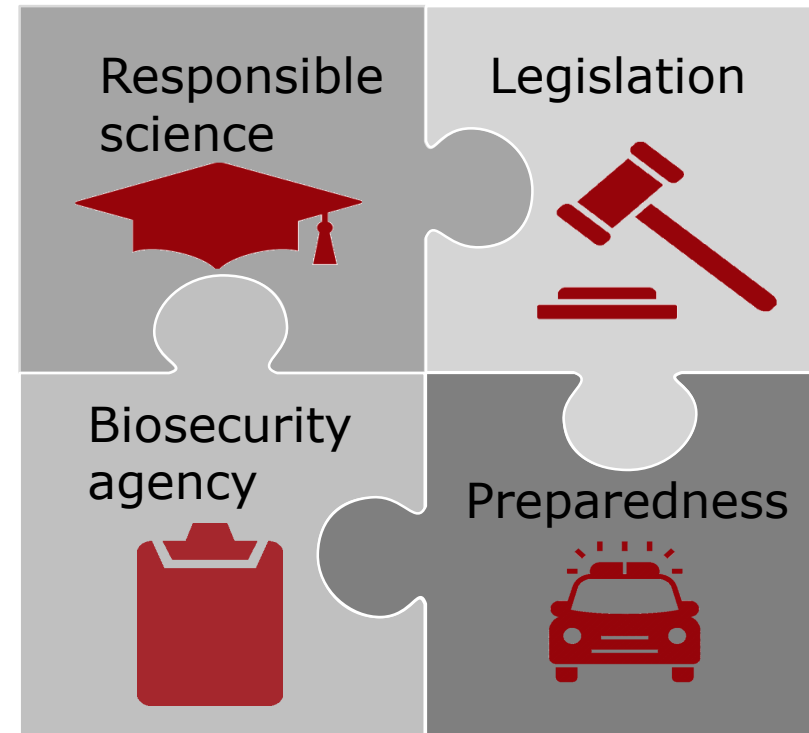


The Danish approach to biosecurity

Lean biosecurity model

- One law
- One agency, responsible for preventing and responding to biological incidents

This is the basis of Denmark's approach to biosecurity in Kenya



The Danish-Kenyan partnership

BWC focal point in Denmark:

CBB - Centre for Biosecurity and Biopreparedness

- Expertise in biosecurity and biopreparedness
- Developing legal framework, agency and capacity building

BWC focal point in Kenya:

NACOSTI - National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation

- Responsible for biosecurity in Kenya,
- Drafting the Kenyan Bioscience Bill





Biosecurity legislation

- Kenyan inter-ministerial working group drafted biosecurity legislation
- Dialogue with ministries, parliamentarians, stakeholders
- Expectation: Bill in parliament before November 2018

2016

2017

2018





Responsible science

- Kenyan partners selected 8 leading life-science universities
- Training and awareness raising workshops
- Integration of biosecurity in universities

2017

2018



Further partnership activities



Biosecurity agency



Bio-preparedness



2018

2019

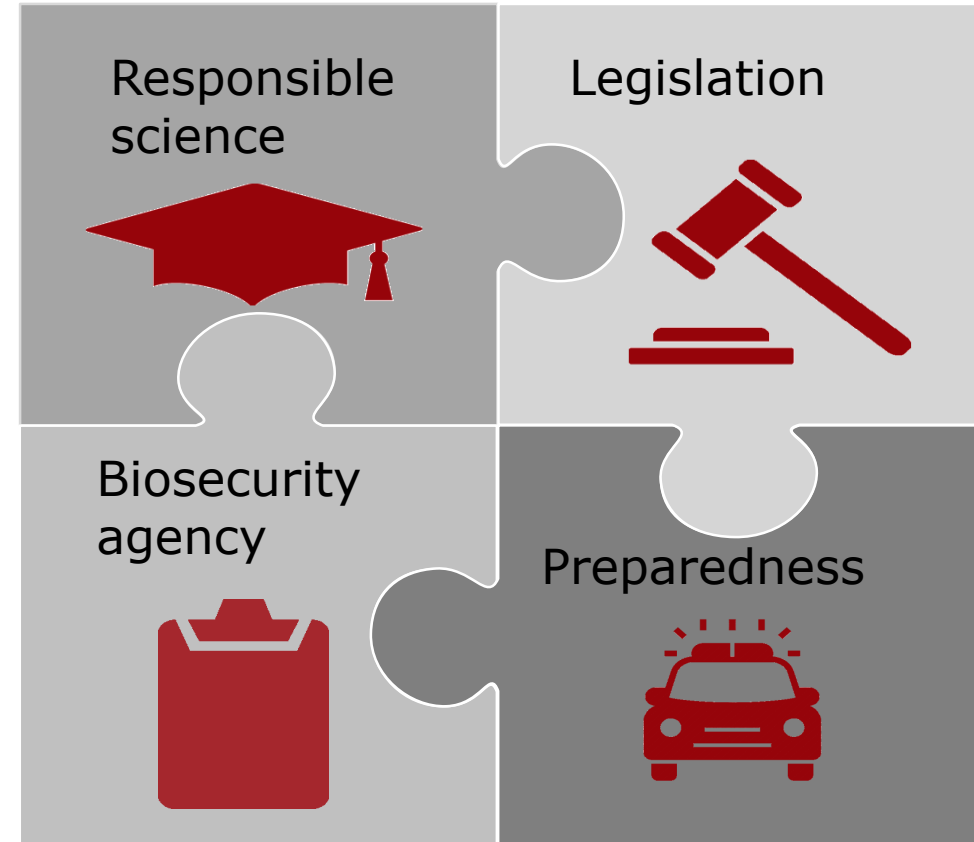
Challenges



- Biosecurity rarely gets a lot of political attention
- Biosecurity requires inter-agency coordination, which is difficult
- Political instability can stall progress
- Biosecurity often described using Western examples

Addressing challenges

- Anchor partnership at the top
- Bring your local embassy
- Work bottom-up and top-down
- Engagements should be based on reciprocity
- Use local examples
- "Overbook" activities



Discussion

What are your experiences with challenges and best practices in BWC implementation in third countries?

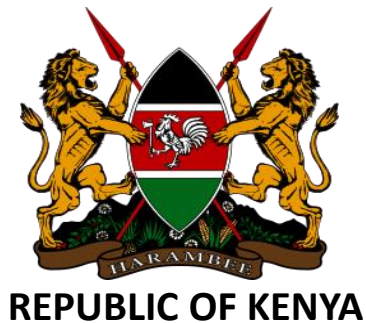
How can international partners and policy frameworks help ensure a uniform approach to BWC implementation?



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Thank you

CBB biosecurity materials are available at www.biosecurity.dk



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