



Best Practice in Biodiversity Recovery and Public Health Interventions to Prevent Future Epidemics and Pandemics (BEPREP) Workshop

Applied Preparedness: From Safe Sampling to Data-Driven Decision

Dates: 7–11 December 2026 (5 days)

Location: Zanzibar Animal Health Research Center (ZAHRC),
Unguja, Zanzibar

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/BEPREP-WS>



Registration deadline: 15 September 2026

*The workshop is restricted to **15 participants** (early to mid-career level).*

Registration fee: None. The workshop is free of charge*.

**Travel, accommodation, and per diem costs are to be borne by the participant.*

The program prioritises foundational understanding, practical applicability, and progressive skill-building in the molecular detection of pathogens at the wildlife–livestock–human interface. We apply a training-of-trainers approach and combine theory and practice in modern One Health surveillance.



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Day 1 — Foundations: Biosafety, Biosecurity & Context

Learning Objective (LO): Establish baseline knowledge and a shared language. Participants understand safe working environments and associated risks.

Morning

- Opening, expectations, pre-assessment
- Introduction to BEPREP & One Health context
- Biosafety and biosecurity fundamentals and lab safety levels (BSL1–4)
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), waste management
- Common challenges in low-resource settings

Afternoon

- Biosecurity principles
- Dual-use awareness
- Responsible handling & reporting
- Participants' Case studies (regional outbreaks)

Practical session:

- Introduction to the ZAHRC laboratory
- Risk identification in a mock lab setup



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Day 2 — Sampling & Surveillance (Core Practical Day)

Learning Objective (LO): Build correct field and sample-handling practices, and develop a basic understanding of Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) and Nucleic Acid Amplification Technology (NAAT).

Morning

- Sampling best practices
- Types of samples (clinical, environmental, animal)
- Avoiding contamination
- Sample labelling, storage & transport (cold chain realities)
- Surveillance systems, passive vs active surveillance

Afternoon (wet lab session):

- ELISA (using commercial kits)

Day 3 — Introduction to Primer Design and Bioinformatics (High Priority, Simplified)

Learning Objective (LO): Demystify primer design and bioinformatics and enable basic usage. Participants gain confidence using NAAT basic tools and interpreting results.

Morning (wet lab session):

- Nucleic acid (NA) extraction



Afternoon

- How to setup an inhouse (RT)-qPCR/classic PCR incl. primer design and practical exercises
- What is bioinformatics? (no prior coding assumed)
- Types of data (ELISA, PCR, sequencing, metadata)
- Data quality basics



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Tabletop exercises:

- Using simple tools (web-based platforms and open-source software preferred)
- Sanger sequence analysis, data visualization and pathogen identification
- Interpreting outputs for decision-making

Day 4 — Diagnostics & Integration (PCR + Systems Thinking)

Learning Objective (LO): Develop practical skills in molecular diagnosis.

Morning

- Recap and practical intro to (RT-)qPCR/PCR
- What it does and when to use it
- Limitations and practical solutions in low-resource settings
- High-throughput sequencing

Afternoon (wet lab session)

- NAATs (qPCR/PCR)

Day 5 — Risk Analysis & Decision-Making

Learning Objective (LO): Translate data into action.



Morning

- Risk analysis fundamentals
- Metagenomics

Afternoon

- ONT Technology incl. basic practical exercises

Evening

- WS Dinner and certificate ceremony

**** The programme may be subject to changes. ****



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Code of Conduct

All participants are expected to:

- *Treat everyone with respect, professionalism, and courtesy.*
- *Foster an inclusive, welcoming, and collaborative environment.*
- *Value diverse perspectives, cultures, and experiences.*
- *Engage constructively and allow others equal opportunity to contribute.*
- *Avoid discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or inappropriate behaviour of any kind.*
- *Respect confidentiality and intellectual contributions shared during the workshop.*
- *Follow local laws, venue rules, and health and safety requirements.*
- *Raise concerns promptly with workshop organisers if issues arise.*

By participating, you agree to uphold these principles and contribute to a productive and positive workshop experience.

Terms and Conditions of Participation

By registering for and attending the BEPREP WP4 Workshop, participants agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. Eligibility and selection

- *The workshop is strictly limited to 15 early-to-mid-career professionals working in veterinary medicine, public health, biology, nature conservation or related fields.*
- *Admission is based on professional relevance, commitment to the One Health approach, and the ability to actively participate in all five days. Selection is at the sole discretion of the workshop organizers. The latter will pay attention to gender and regional balance.*
- *Registration is not confirmed until an official acceptance email is received from the organizers.*

2. Registration and Fees

- *Participation in this workshop is free of charge. Travel, accommodation, and per diem costs are to be borne by the participant.*
- *Registration closes on 15 September 2026. Late applications will only be considered if spots remain available.*
- *Cancellation Policy:*
 - *Cancellations must be submitted in writing to the organizers.*
 - *We may charge a fee of €100 for any attendance that is either unexcused or not cancelled in advance.*
 - *In the event of force majeure (e.g., natural disasters, pandemics, travel bans), the organizers reserve the right to postpone or cancel the workshop. In such cases, no compensation for non-refundable travel costs will be provided.*

3. Attendance and Commitment

- *Full participation is expected to facility the intensive, hands-on nature of the curriculum (wet labs, field simulations).*
- *The working language of the workshop is English. Participants must possess sufficient proficiency to engage in technical discussions and practical exercises.*

4. Safety, Biosafety, and Biosecurity

- *All participants must strictly adhere to the biosafety and biosecurity protocols outlined in Day 1 and the standard operating procedures (SOPs) of the Zanzibar Animal Health Research Center (ZAHRC).*
- *Participants are required to wear appropriate PPE during all wet lab sessions. Failure to comply with safety instructions will result in immediate removal from the laboratory area.*
- *Participants must declare any health conditions or allergies that may affect their participation in field or lab activities.*

5. Intellectual Property and Data Privacy

- *Personal data collected during registration will be processed in accordance with applicable data protection laws (including GDPR where applicable) and used solely for workshop administration and follow-up networking.*
- *Participants agree to keep sensitive information regarding ongoing regional outbreaks or unpublished research data shared during case studies confidential.*

6. Liability and Insurance



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- *Participants are responsible for obtaining their own travel, medical, and liability insurance for the duration of the trip.*
- *Liability Waiver: The organizers, ZAHRC, FLI and the BEPREP consortium shall not be held liable for any personal injury, illness, loss of personal property, or travel delays occurring during the workshop period, except in cases of gross negligence.*
- *Any violation of the Code of Conduct or local laws may result in immediate expulsion from the workshop without refund or further support.*

7. Photography and Media

- *Participants grant the organizers the right to use photographs, videos, or audio recordings taken during the workshop for promotional and reporting purposes (e.g., project websites, newsletters, social media).*
- *Participants may opt out of being photographed by notifying the organizers in writing prior to the event.*



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