

# ***Enhanced Partnerships among Animal, Human, and Ecosystem Health Sectors in New Zealand: Recommendations toward a Convergent Path***



- *Nomoco*

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# Outline



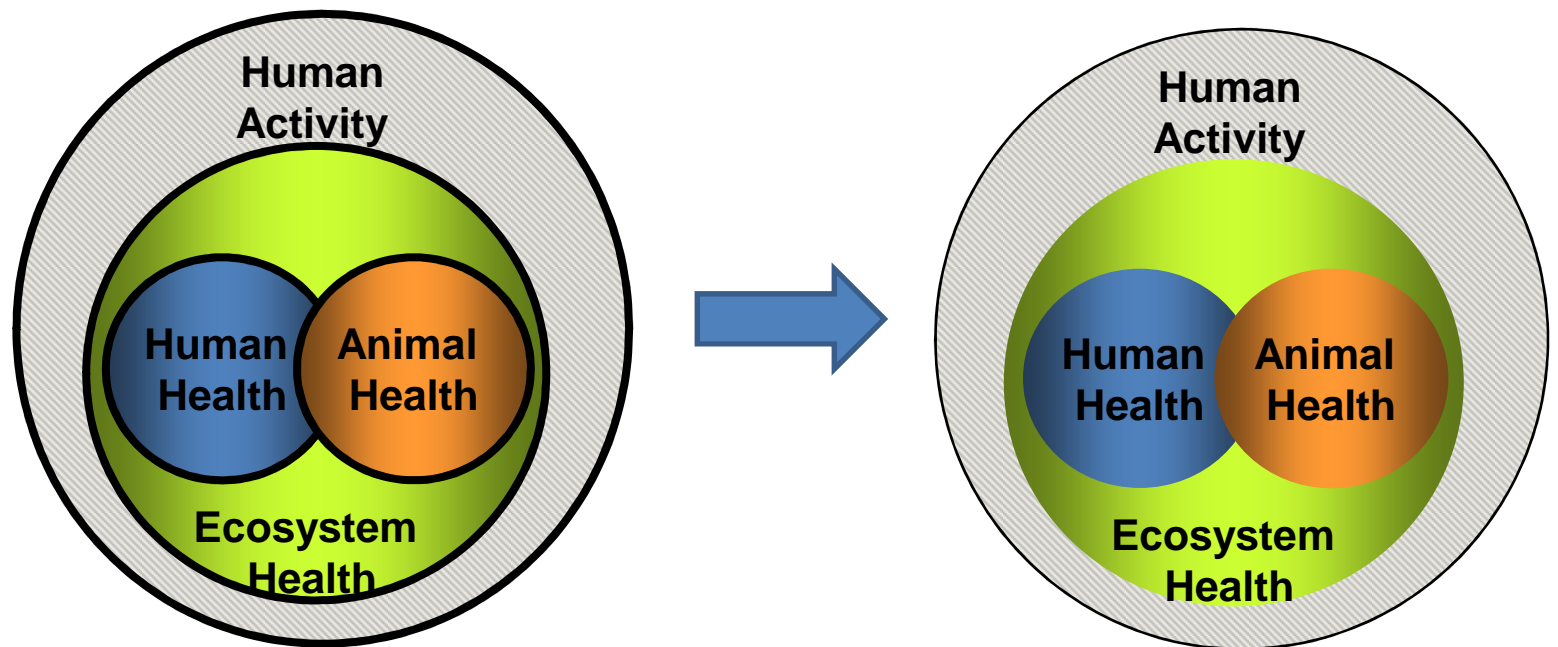
- New Zealand
- Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, Biosecurity (MAFBNZ)
- Project Goal & Methods
- Themes
- Transdisciplinary Health Success in NZ
- Recommendations toward a Convergent Path
- Barriers

# New Zealand & MAFBNZ



# Project Goal

Improved interface between human, animal, and ecosystem health sectors that encompasses multiple levels including public policy, research, community, and education



# Project Methods

## Conduct interviews:

- Evaluate need for improved coordination
- Study past successes & existing coordination
- Understand roles & responsibilities
- Identify barriers & opportunities



# Project Methods

## Interviews: Who did I meet with?

- Policy-makers
- Policy-executors
- Researchers
- Educators
- Community members
- Industry members
- Members of professional orgs.

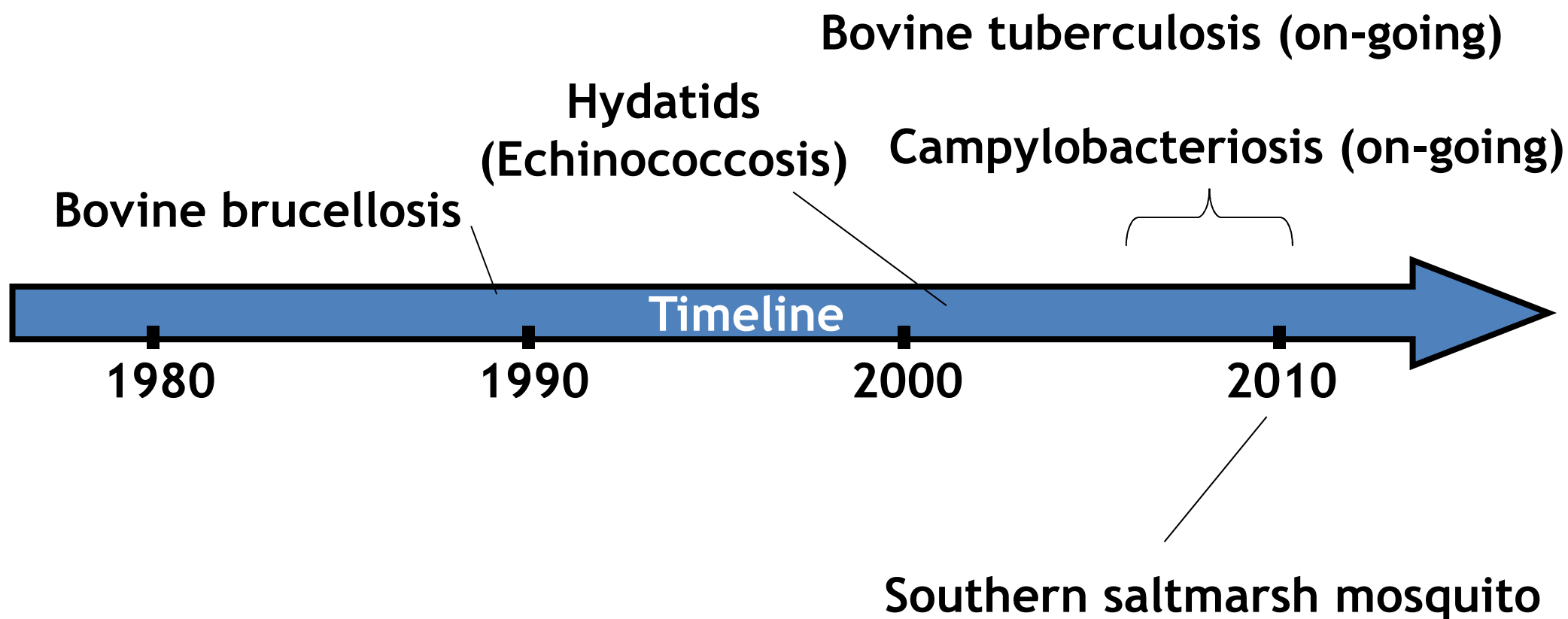


# Emergent Themes

- New Zealand expert consensus indicates a need for greater transdisciplinary coordination
- Professionals are keen to engage their transdisciplinary counterparts
- Skilled transdisciplinary leadership is crucial
- Requires dual top-down, bottom-up approach
- Ecosystem health importance must be mainstreamed



# New Zealand's Transdisciplinary Health Success



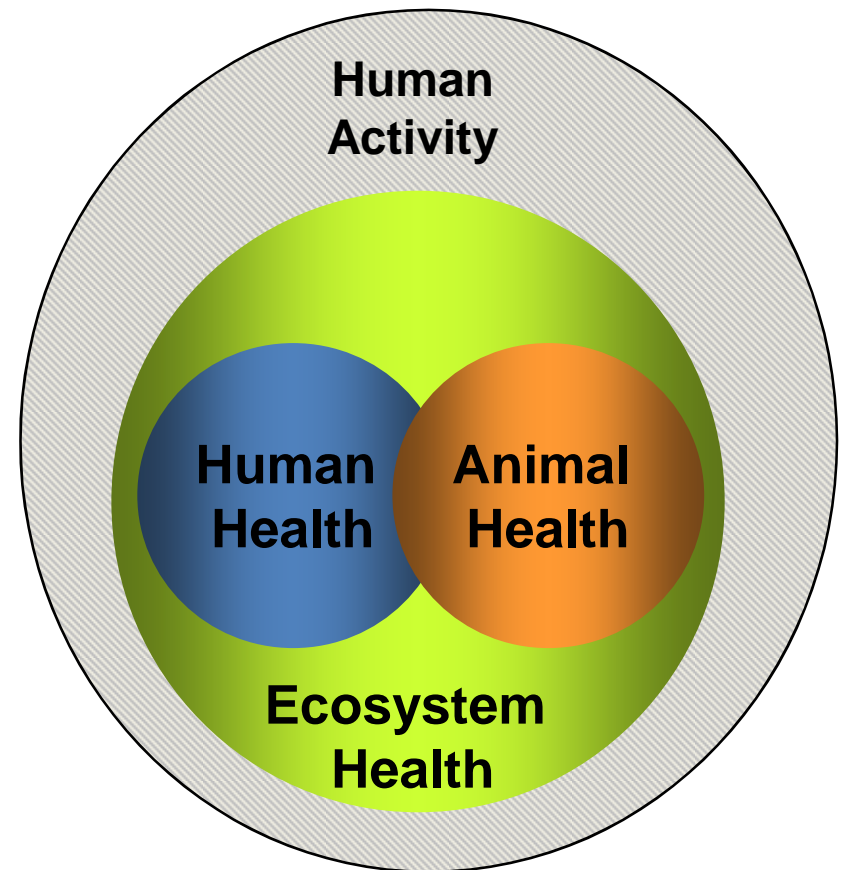
# Factors Contributing to Shared Health Threats

- Human demographics and behaviour
- Technology and industry
- Economic development and land use
- International travel and commerce
- Breakdown of public health measures
- Ecologic and environmental
- Microbial adaptation and change



# Recommendations toward a Convergent Path

- Community
- Education
- Research
- Policy



# Recommendations - Community

- **Strengthen links between community practitioners**
- **Incorporate interdisciplinary approach into daily practice**
- **Engage community members in integrated, reciprocal communication**



# Recommendations - Education

- **Generate transdisciplinary leaders\***
- **Teach integrated courses to students and professionals**
- **Provide interdisciplinary scholarship and mentoring opportunities**

\*Marcus et al (2006), *Meta-Leadership*



# Recommendations - Research

- Establish zoonotic disease research steering committee
- Fund collaborative projects
- Coordinate interdisciplinary research



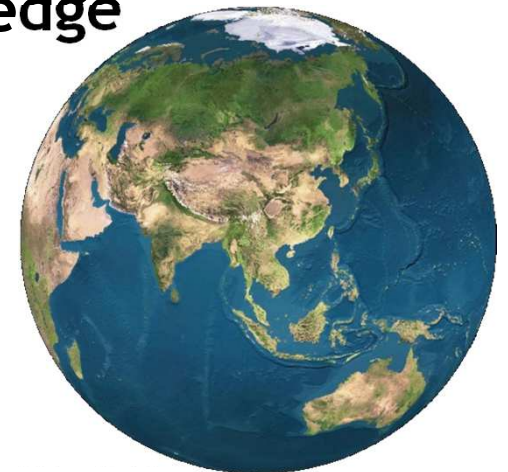
# Recommendations - Policy

- Establish high-level interagency governance group to lead joint, collectively executed strategy and actions
- Conduct cost analysis of integrated transdisciplinary approach
- Strengthen international ties
- Mainstream ecosystem health



# Barriers

- Awareness of links and value of other disciplines; getting beyond “patch-protection”
- Common diagnostic platforms and tools for monitoring, detecting and analysing health threats
- Evaluation of consequences of changes in climate and land use
- Routine information-sharing mechanisms and capacity
- Legislative impediments
- High personnel turnover/loss of institutional knowledge
- Unclear understanding of roles and responsibilities
- Inconsistent jargon across disciplines



# Barriers (continued)

- Divergent interests between industry and public health, animal welfare, ecosystem health and economic health, etc.
- Relationships between government agencies and academic research
- Ability to communicate science to inform policy
- Public perceptions of risks. Community attitudes can alter health threat control efforts
- Lack of mandated support for transdisciplinary groups
- Policy tendency toward reactive, retrospective response, rather than proactive, preventative action
- Need for integration of (long term) health outcomes into environmental and agricultural discussions



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**Building Bridges to Protect Health: Enhanced  
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# Questions?

