



Parasites in paradise

Dr Emma Hobbs BVSc MSc(IAH)



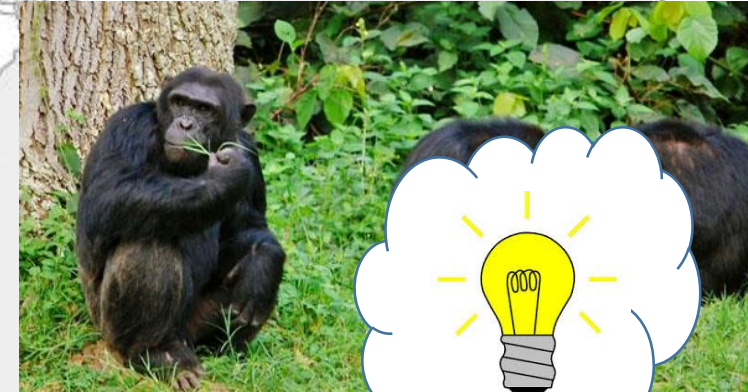
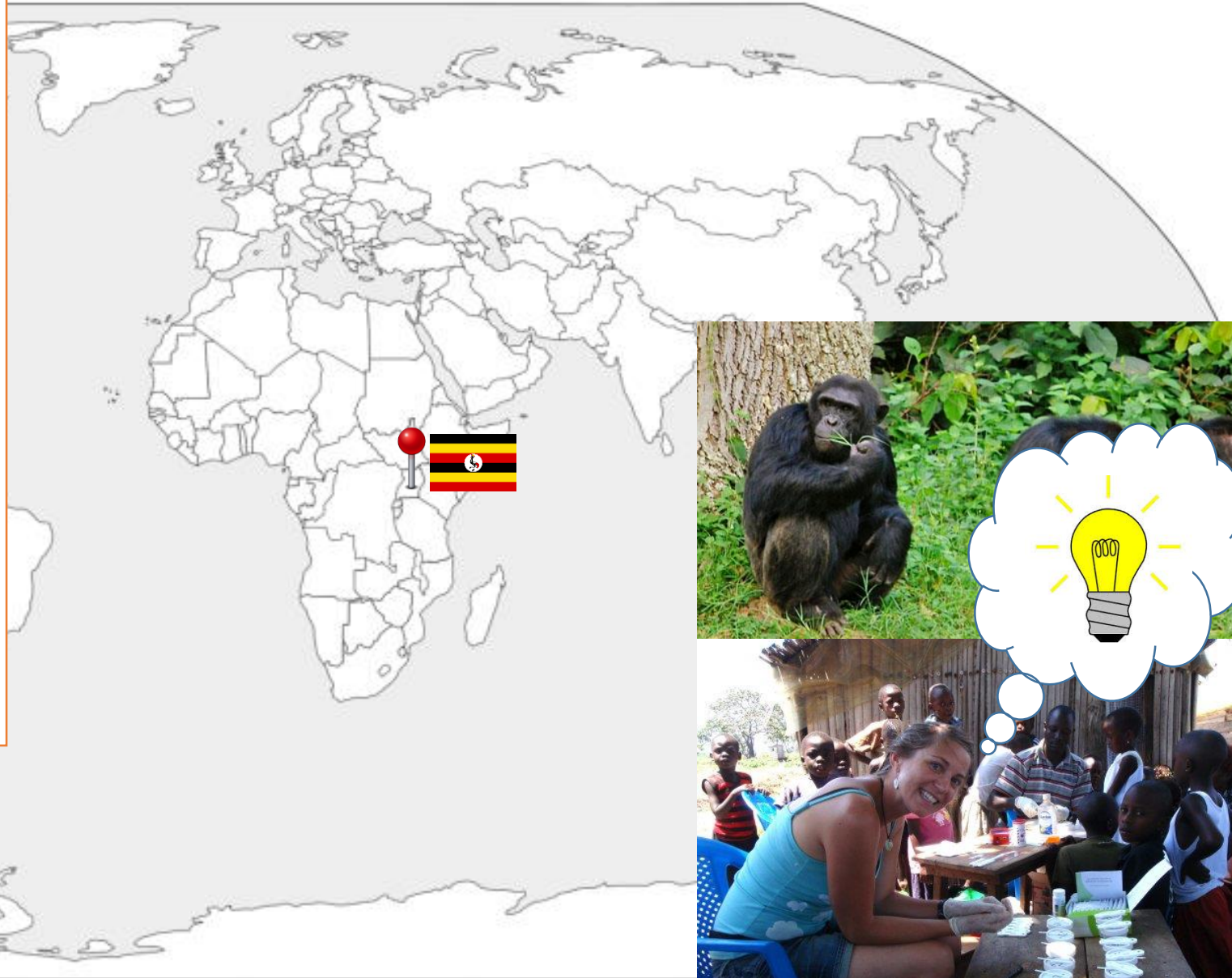
Bachelor of Veterinary Science
Melbourne University, Australia



Graduated 2007... now what?

African adventures

- emailed CV to many institutions (“shotgun approach”)
 - response = Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary (Lake Victoria, Uganda)
- One Health field project testing people & chimps for schisto



Masters of Science (International Health)

The University of Edinburgh,
Scotland UK

- 3yr, part time, online
- final year dissertation project =
cysticercosis investigation in
Lao PDR



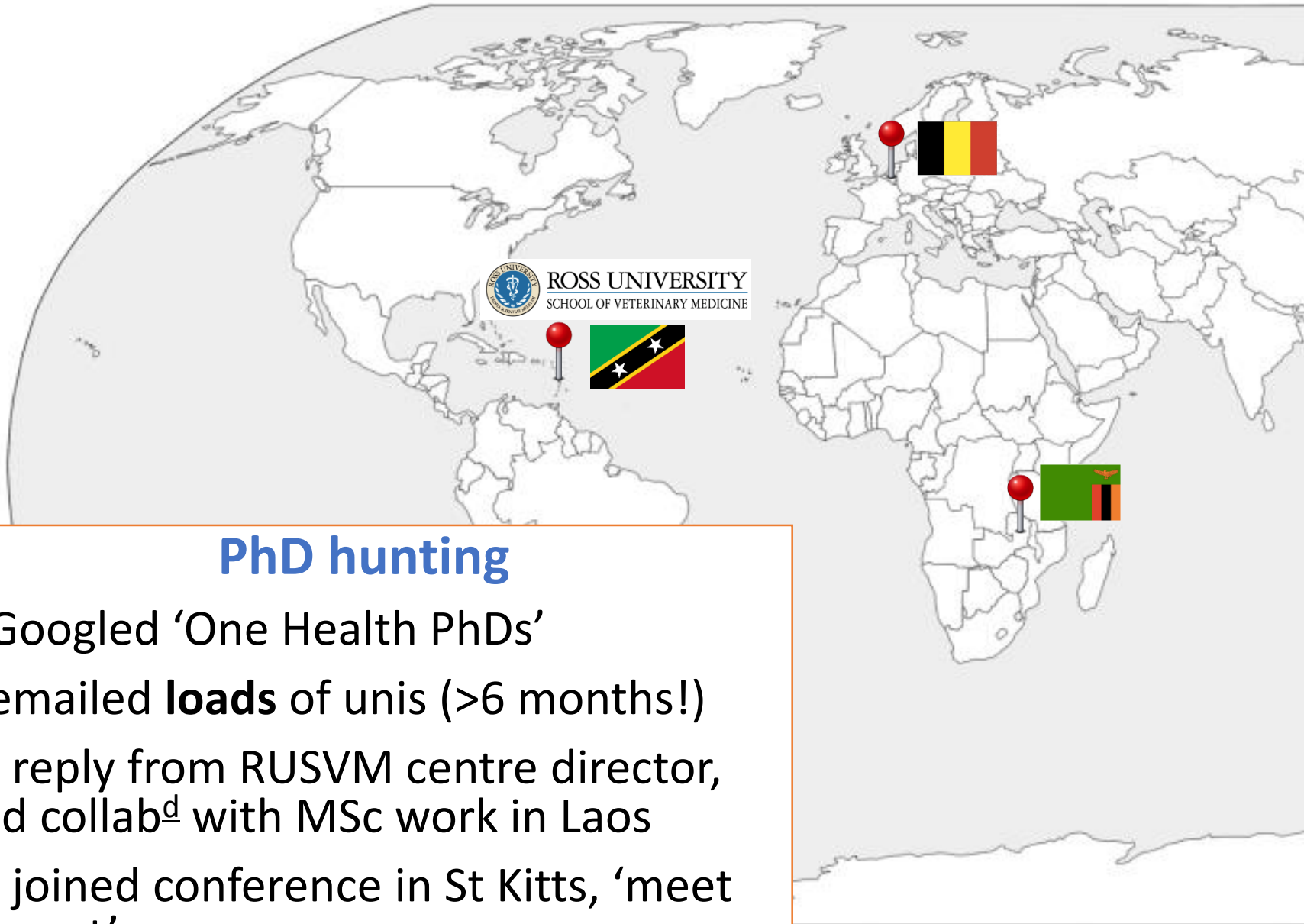
Australian Department of Agriculture

- Vet Officer AQIS (Melbourne)
- Vet Advisor AIP-EID (Indonesia)



Animal Health in Indonesia
Basic Field Epidemiology
Manual





My PhD (2015-2018)

- jointly enrolled = RUSVM (St Kitts), ITM & UGent (Belgium)
- field work = Zambia

PhD hunting

- Googled 'One Health PhDs'
- emailed **loads** of unis (>6 months!)
- reply from RUSVM centre director, had collab^d with MSc work in Laos
- joined conference in St Kitts, 'meet & greet'...



CYSTISTOP project (2015 – 2020)

“*T. solium* elimination vs control: what is the best way forward for sub-Saharan Africa?”

Aims to evaluate:

- achievable?
- cost-effective?
- locally acceptable?

Multi-faceted project

- interventions
- data collection: biomedical & socioeconomic
- education



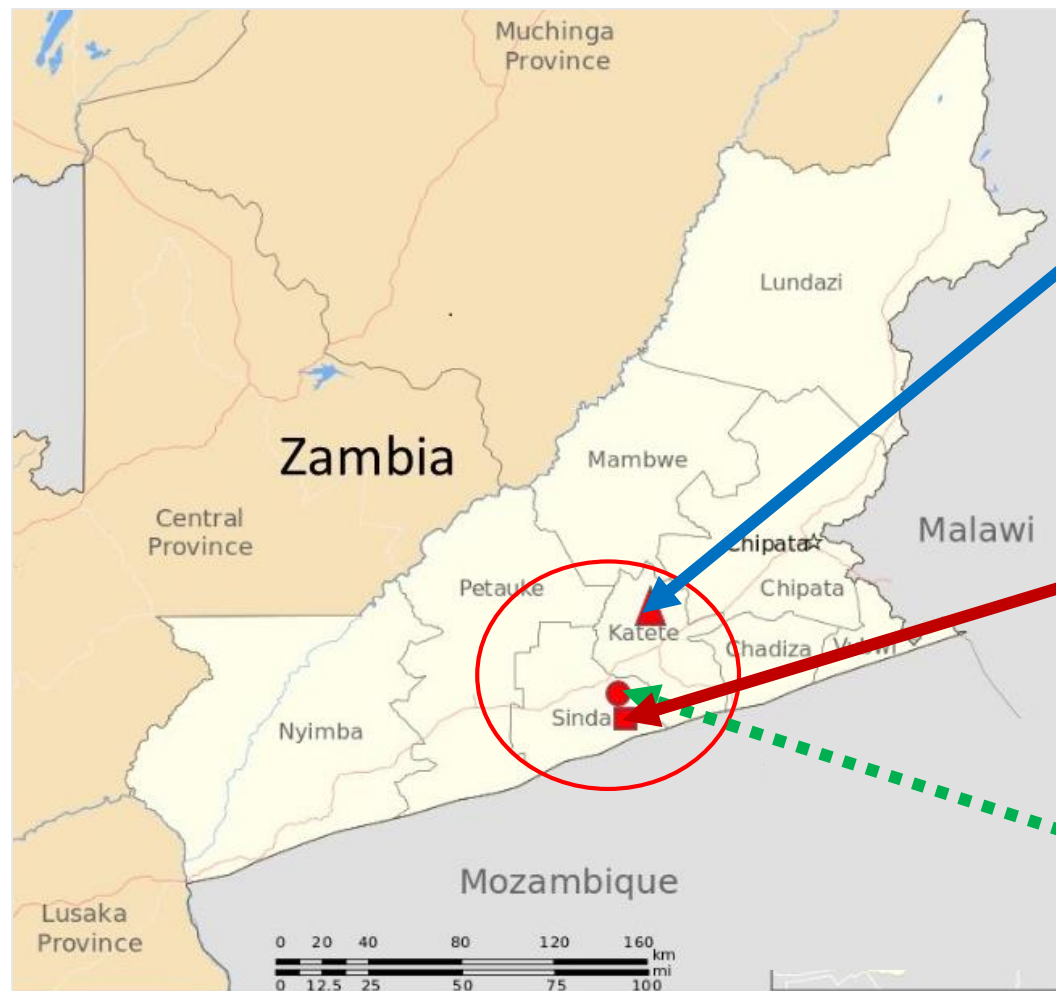
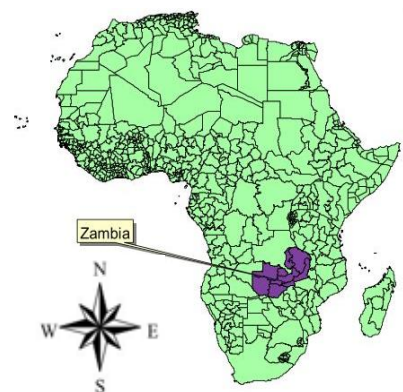
**INSTITUTE
OF TROPICAL
MEDICINE**
ANTWERP



ROSS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



CYSTISTOP- interventions



ELIMINATION STUDY ARM

→ 4 monthly intervals, 6 times

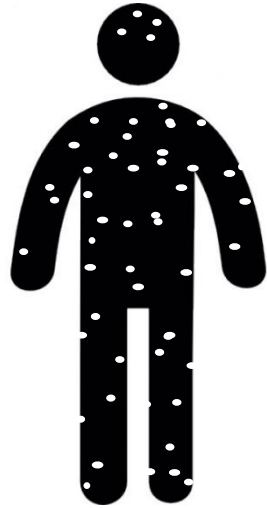
CONTROL STUDY ARM

→ 12 monthly intervals, 2 times

NEG. CONTROL STUDY ARM

(no targeted interventions)

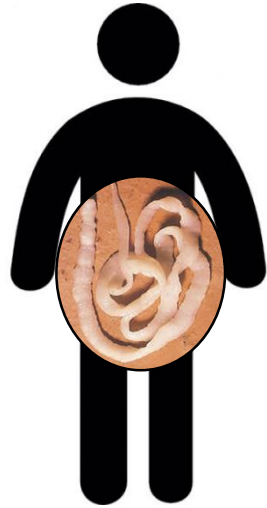
CYSTISTOP- samples & testing



Human
cysticercosis
(HCC)



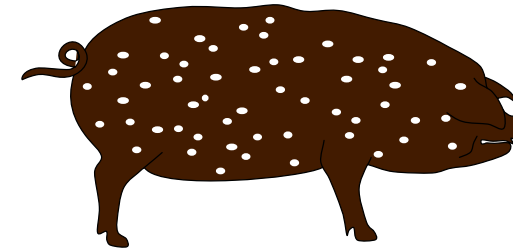
Serum AgELISA



Taeniasis
(TS)



Copro AgELISA



Porcine
cysticercosis (PCC)



Serum
AgELISA



Tongue
palpation



Carcass
dissection

CYSTISTOP- education & social sciences



Education: village-level



Education: school-based



Questionnaires & FGDs

Where to from here...



- final Zambia visits (Nov'17 & Jan'18)
- due to submit thesis next year (May '18)
- applied for IOHC Fellowship, Canada (Jun'18)
- ???!



There is only one world. Find your area of interest & put yourself out there! Don't be afraid to try new things.

→ Network, volunteer, join societies, attend conferences & summer schools...



**Be PATIENT and PERSISTENT.
Good luck!!**

A scenic view of a coastline with yellow cliffs, a sandy beach, and the ocean under a cloudy sky. The cliffs are layered and show signs of erosion. The ocean is a deep blue-green with white foam from the waves. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. In the foreground, there are green bushes and some bare, dark trees.

“The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page.”

Thanks for your
attention :)

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