

Wildlife Health Activities at the World Organisation for Animal Health

Dr Dharmaveer Shetty

Epidemiologist (PhD), Wildlife Biologist (MSc), Veterinarian (BVSC & AH, MPVM)

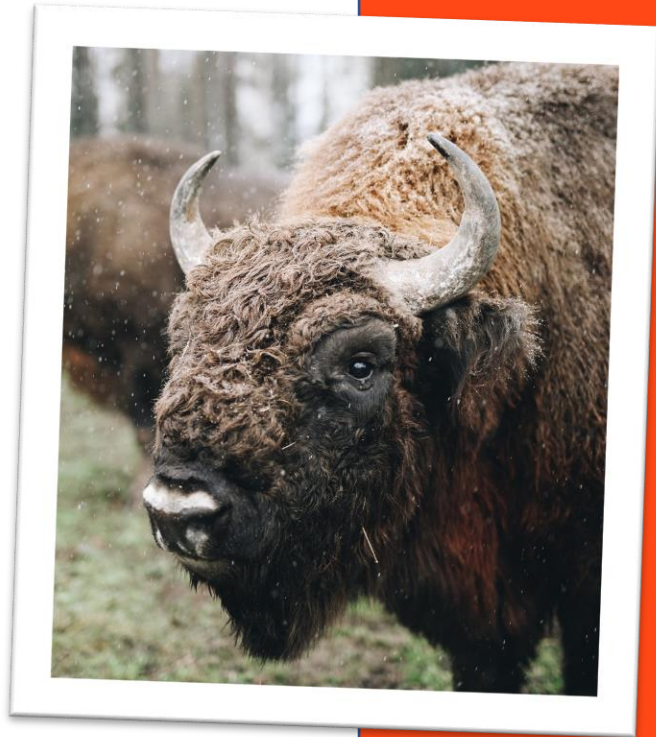
Wildlife Networks Coordinator (for Wildlife Focal Points, Collaborating Centres, and other stakeholders)

Technical Secretariat, WOA's Emerging Diseases Group

World Organisation for Animal Health, HQ, Paris



Dr Dharmaveer Shetty



World Organisation for Animal Health

- Global Wildlife Networks Coordinator
 - National Wildlife Focal Points
 - Wildlife Collaborating Centres
 - Other Stakeholders
- Technical Secretariat, Emerging Diseases Group

Background

- Wildlife Health, One Health, & SciCom
- Epidemiologist (PhD, University of California)
 - Large Carnivore Conservation Program (Tigers, etc)
 - PREDICT Emerging Pandemic Threats Program
- Wildlife Veterinarian (BVSc & AH, KVAFSU)
 - Veterinary Officer: Bandipur Tiger Reserve
 - Veterinary Officer: Mysore Zoological Gardens
- Wildlife Biologist (MSc, NCBS)
 - Researcher: Asiatic Lions at the Gir Wildlife Sanctua
- Scientific Communicator
 - Covid Supersheros



Working Group on
Wildlife



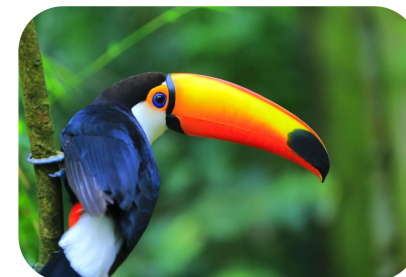
Disease Reporting
System



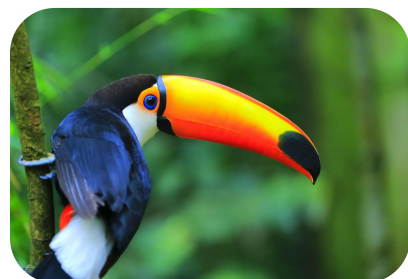
Wildlife Focal
Points



Wildlife Training
Activities



Wildlife Health
Networks



Standards and
Guidelines



Wildlife Health
Reports



Disease Technical
Cards



Scientific
Publications



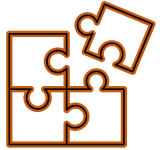
Wildlife Health
Programme

Working Group on Wildlife





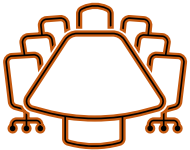
Terms of reference



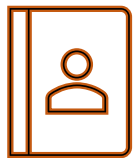
Founded in 1994, this Working Group informs and advises the WOAH on all health problems related to wild animals, whether in the wild or captivity.



This working group is composed of **7 members** who are scientists recognized worldwide for their knowledge in their respective disciplines.



It meets **two times a year** in person and several times during the year by teleconference.



The Working Group **reports to the WOAH Director General** who will transmit the report, or relevant parts of it, to the appropriate Specialist Commissions of WOAH.



Members of the Working Group on Wildlife

7 permanent members, proposed by the WOAHC Council and confirmed by the World Assembly



President
**William B.
Karesh**
(USA)



Member
**Koichi
Murata**
(Japan)



Member
**Markus
Hofmeyr**
(South
Africa)



Member
**Rupert
Woods**
(Australia)



Member
**Marie-Pierre
Ryser-
Degiorgis**
(Switzerland)

In living
tribute to her
memory



Member
**Jonathan
Sleeman**
(USA)



Member
**Marcela
Uhart**
(Argentina)

How is this structure relevant to the Wildlife Focal Point?





WOAH DISEASE REPORTING SYSTEM

Official data and Epidemic intelligence activity

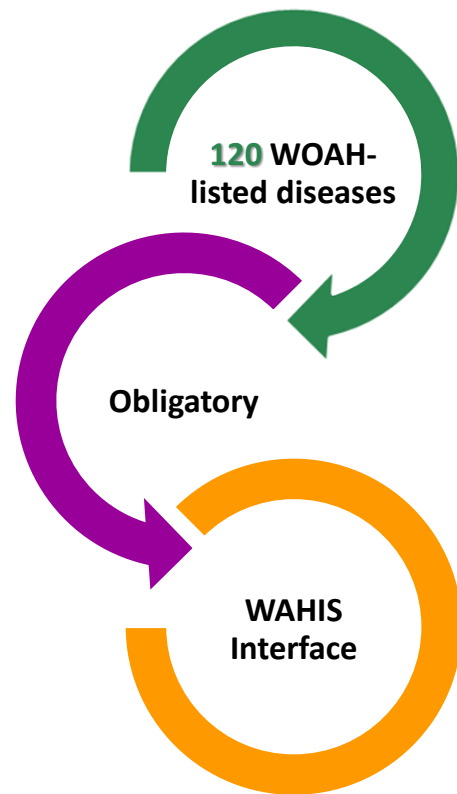


World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

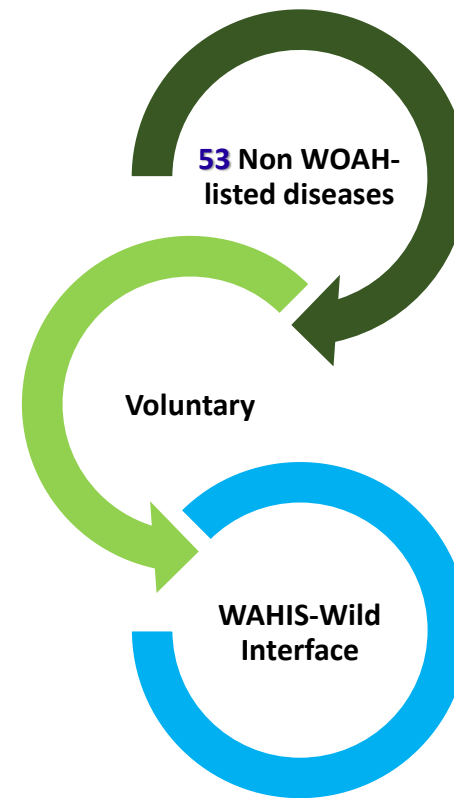


WAHIS and WAHIS-Wild

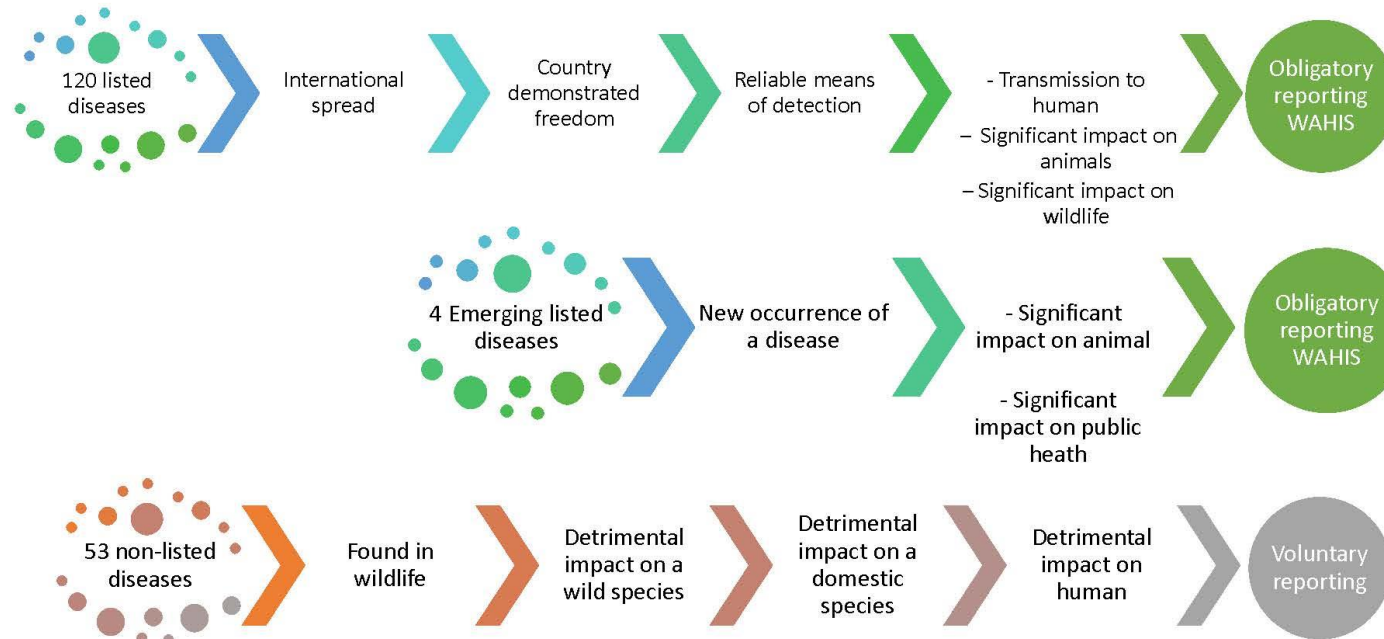
WAHIS



WAHIS-Wild



International reporting of diseases in wild animals: a disease-based system



Mandatory

Average of 1663 reports
in wild species per year

Voluntary

- Average of 60 countries submitting reports per year
- Currently undergoing renovation

- ✓ Geographical scope: **183 Members + 24 territories reporting globally**
- ✓ Time scope: **2005-present**
- ✓ Information on **187 diseases** of terrestrial and aquatic animals (Listed, emerging, non-listed)
- ✓ More than **3,8 million outbreaks** and **7,8 billion cases** recorded in the database, with geographical, temporal, quantitative details and epidemiological information

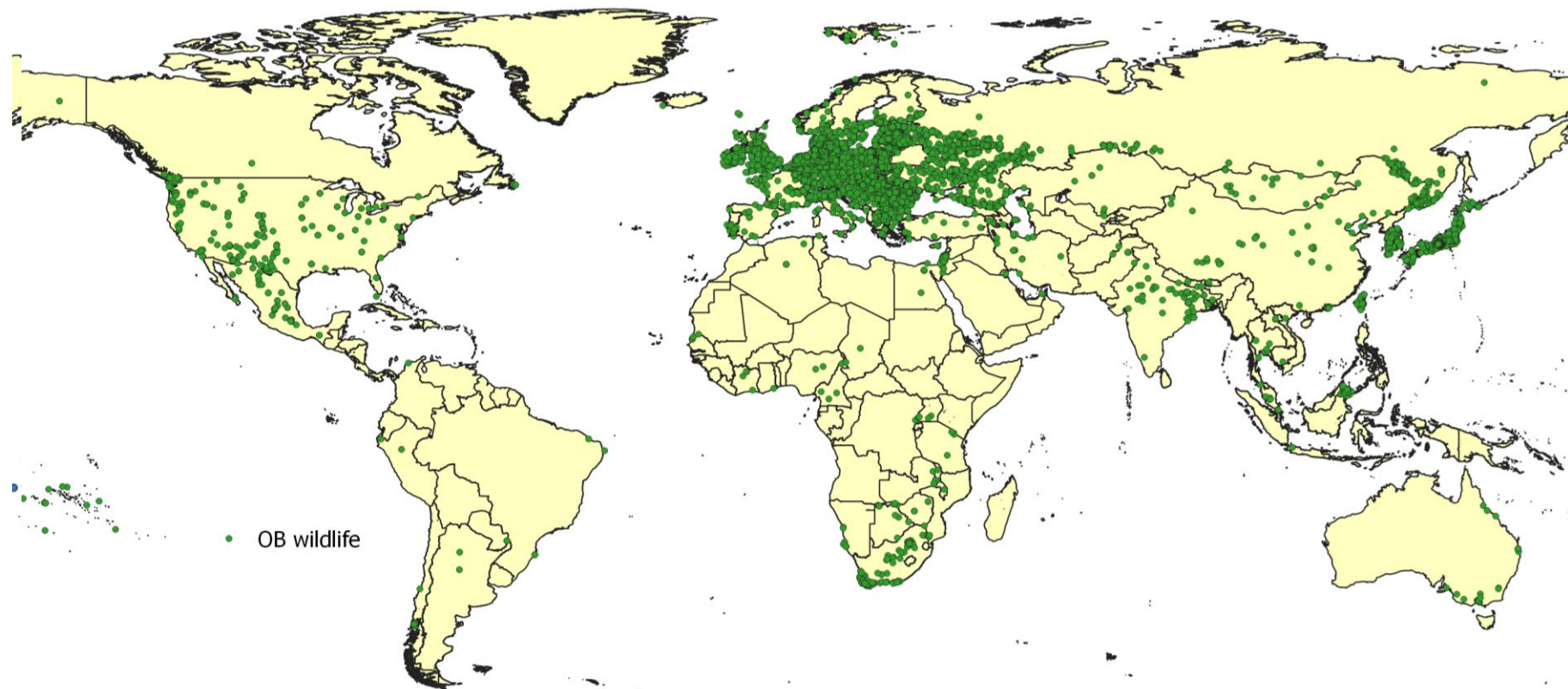


32,716 outbreaks (OB)
(early warning system)

31% of all the OB in the
database

ASF and HPAI top
reported diseases

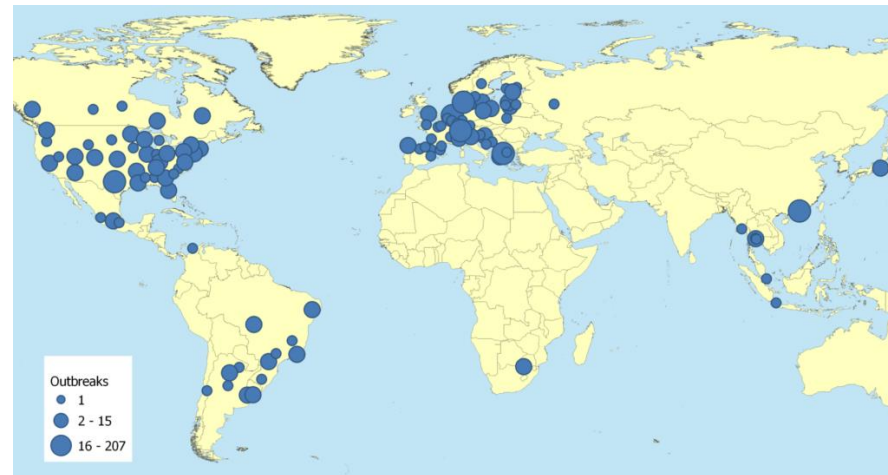
447 species



Disease notification emerging disease

SARS-CoV-2 occurrences in animals (PCR +ve) are reportable to the WOAH as an emerging disease

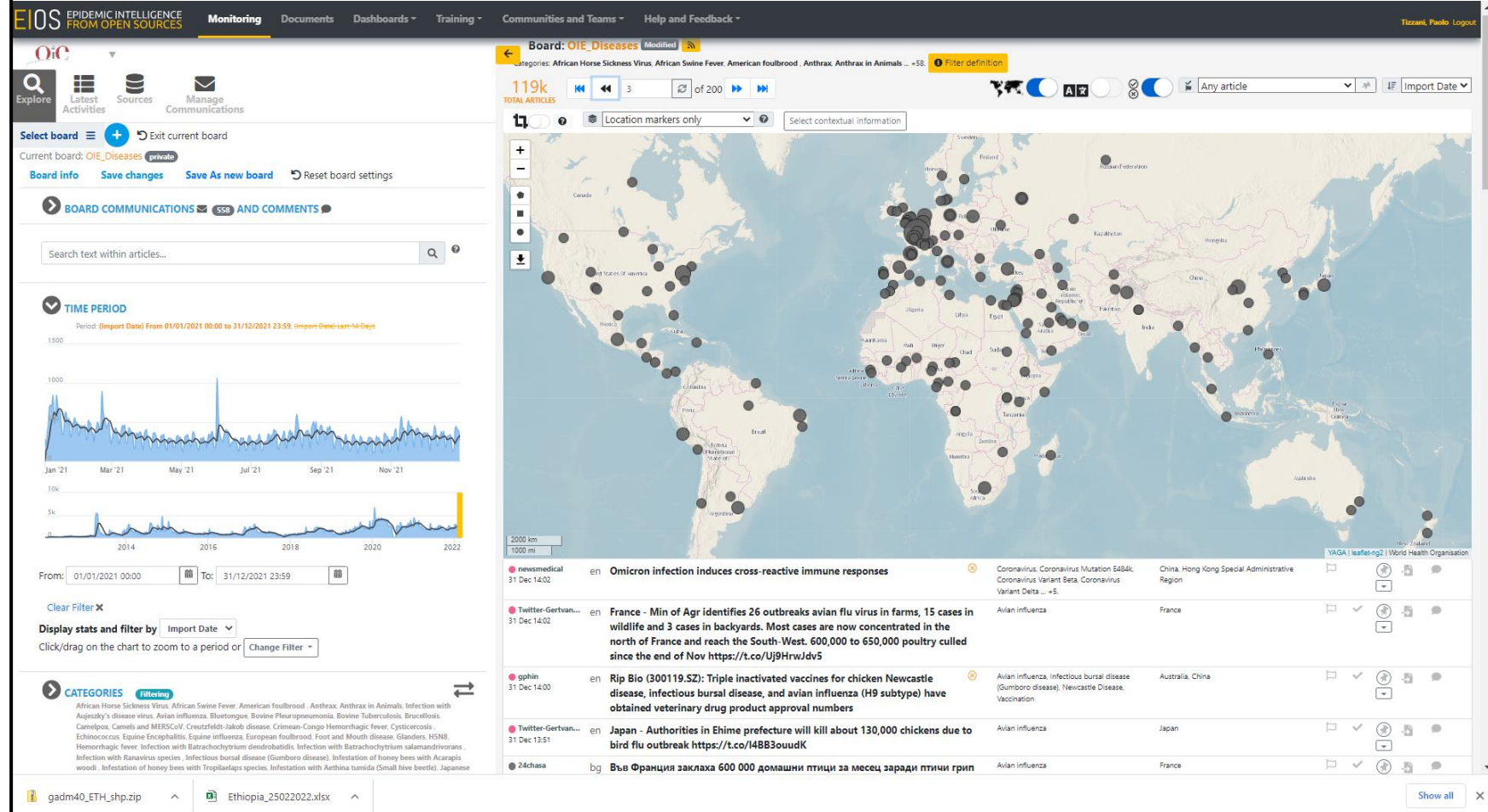
More than thirty countries in the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe have reported the occurrence of the disease, in twenty-three different animal species (cats, dogs, mink, otter, pet ferrets, lions, tigers, pumas, snow leopards, gorillas, white-tailed deer, fishing cat, Binturong, South American coati, spotted hyena, manatees, Eurasian lynx, Canada lynx, hippopotamus, hamster, mule deer, Giant anteater, Black-tailed Marmoset).





Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources

- Daily screening of the web for all WOAHA-listed diseases (120,000 new items screened in 2020)
- Constant communication between WOAHA and Members
- Around 10% of official notifications to WOAHA submitted thanks to active search of rumours



How is this structure relevant to the Wildlife Focal Point?





Wildlife Focal Points



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

2008: 76th General Session, World Assembly of Delegates, WOAHO/OIE

- The Assembly re-iterated the importance of the Focal Points for Information on Animal Diseases
- In addition, requested nomination of other Focal Points as well:
 - Animal disease notification
 - **WILDLIFE**
 - Aquatic animal diseases
 - Animal welfare
 - Animal production food safety
 - Veterinary products and antimicrobial products
 - Communication
 - Laboratories (added later)

Wildlife Training and Capacity Building



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE



Capacity Building (Training) for WOAH National Wildlife Focal Points

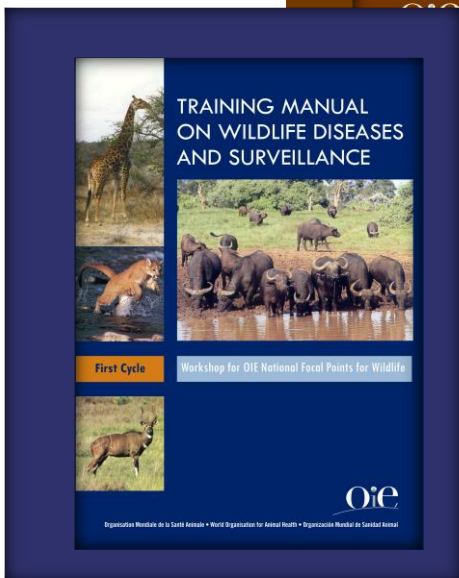
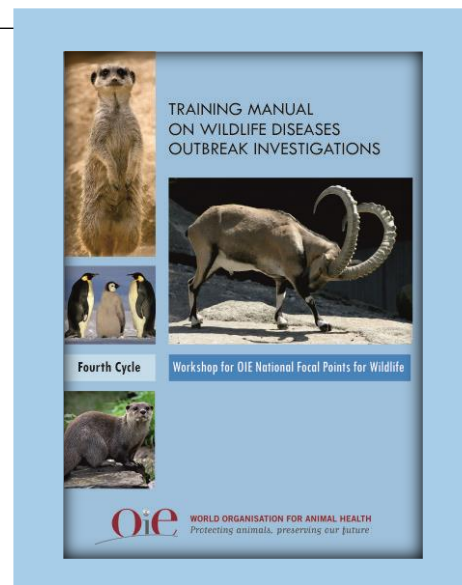
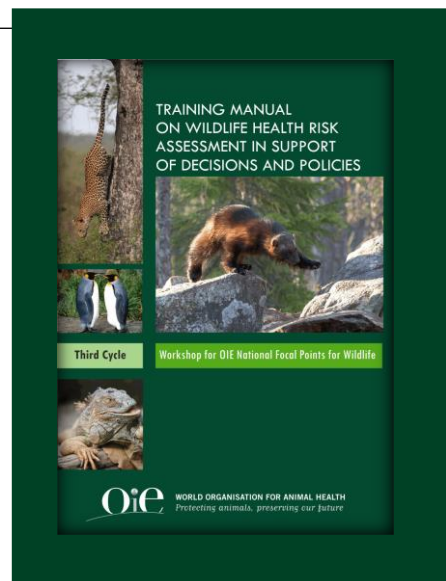
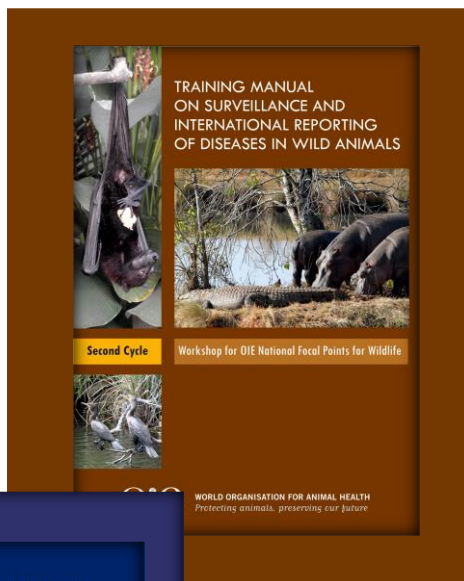
- Training National Leaders (National Focal Points) in Wildlife Health
- Hundreds of National-level Policy Leaders (National Wildlife Focal Points) trained
- During the last 10 years across the globe



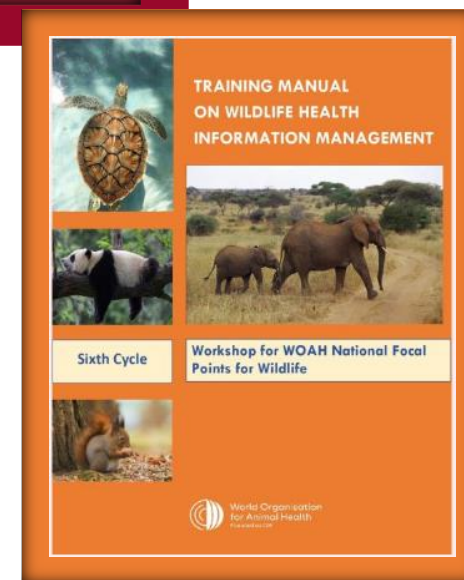
Capacity Building (Training) for the Focal points for Wildlife

- The training is conducted in cycles
- The first cycle was conducted in 2008
- We are currently in the 6th Cycle of the Training Program (2022-2023)
- Each training cycle has focused on a major topic related to wildlife disease surveillance and included the organisation of training per region

across the globe

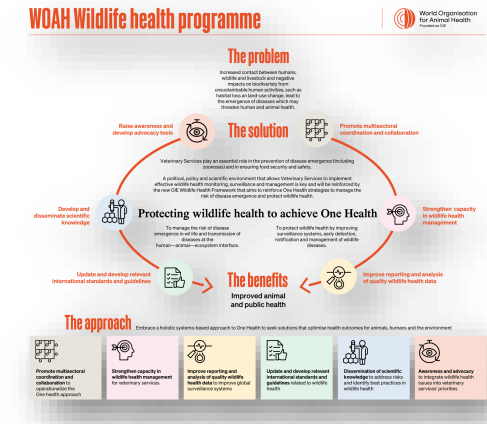


**Training Manuals from
all 6 cycles are available online**



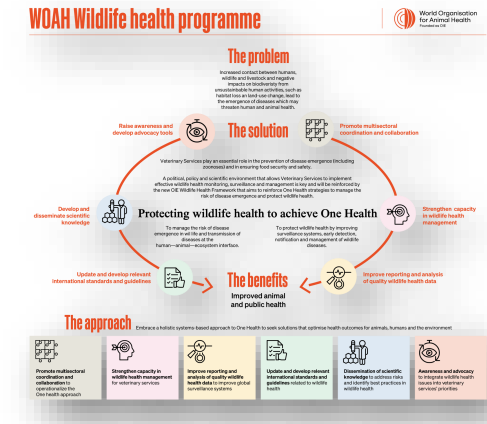
Rôle of the Wildlife Focal Point

- Establish a network of wildlife experts within their country or communicate with existing networks
- Establish and maintain a dialogue with the competent authority for wildlife in their country, and facilitate cooperation and communication amongst several authorities where responsibilities is shared
- Under the authority of the WOAHP Delegate of their country, to support the optimal collection and submission of wildlife disease information to WOAHP
- To act as a contact point with the various departments and offices of WOAHP related to information on wildlife including wildlife diseases



Rôle of the Wildlife Focal Point

- To receive standards, guidelines, and reports from the WOAHP Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, as well as selected reports from the various commissions, working groups, and adhoc groups of WOAHP, should they address discussion points on wildlife or the livestock-wildlife interface and conduct the in-country consultation process with recognised wildlife and animal health experts.
- To prepare comments for the Delegate on each of the relevant meeting reports reflecting the scientific view and position of the individual WOAHP Member and/or the region including comments on the proposals for new WOAHP standards and guidelines related to wildlife.





The WOA National Wildlife Focal Point (WFP) network is an important component of the bigger WOA Wildlife Network

The WFP contributes to the WOA Wildlife Effort

The WFP can also tap into the various other components of the WOA Wildlife Network, including its available expertise and tools



Wildlife Networks



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE



Wildlife Networks



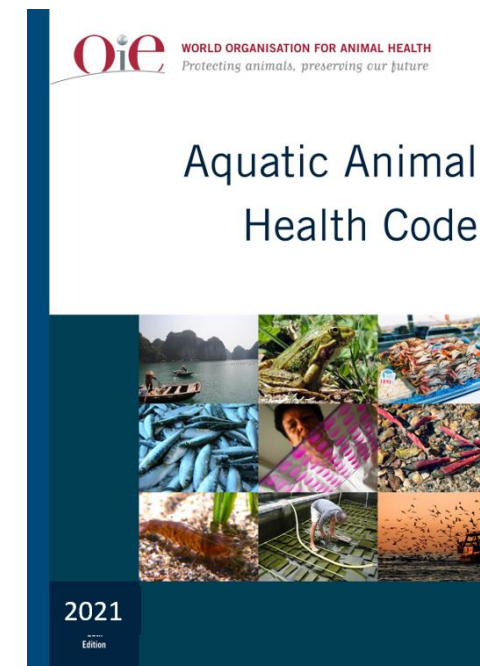
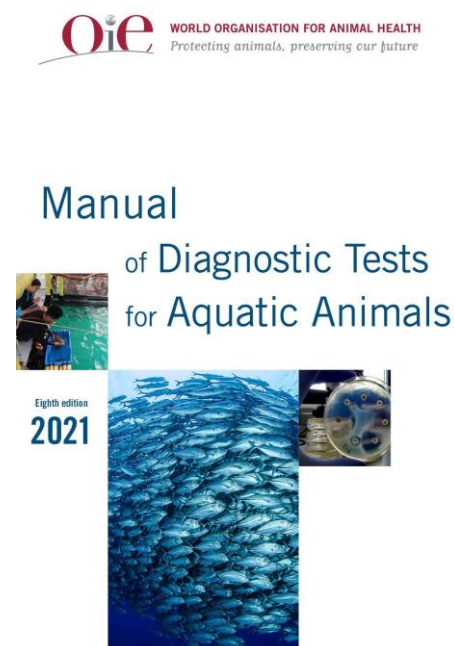
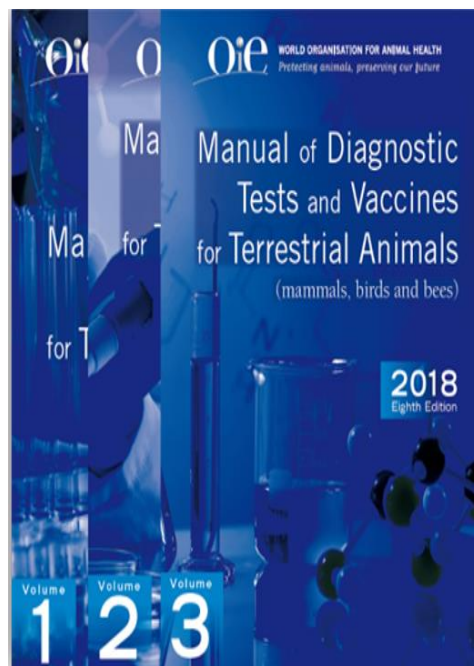
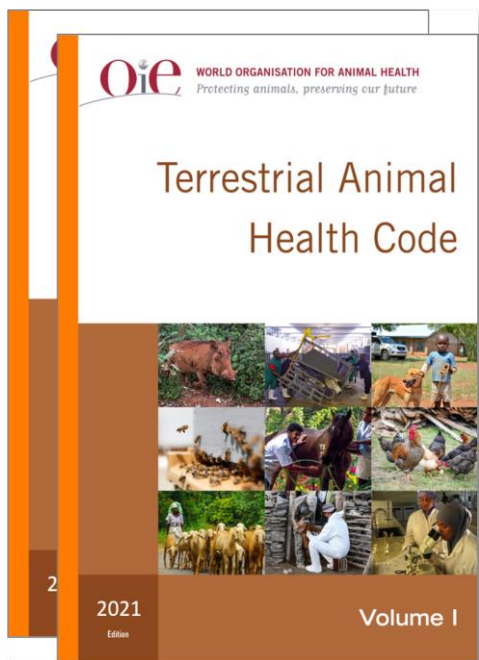
How is this structure relevant to the Wildlife Focal Point?



Standards and Guidelines



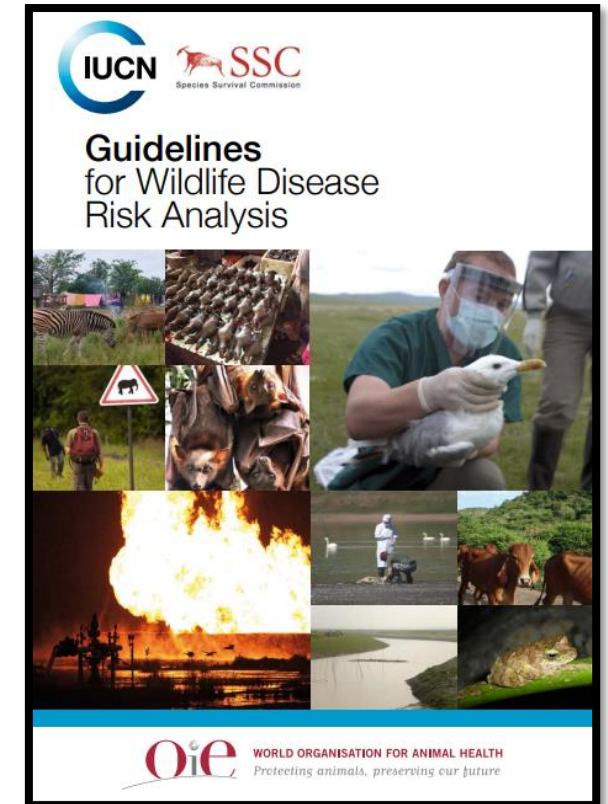
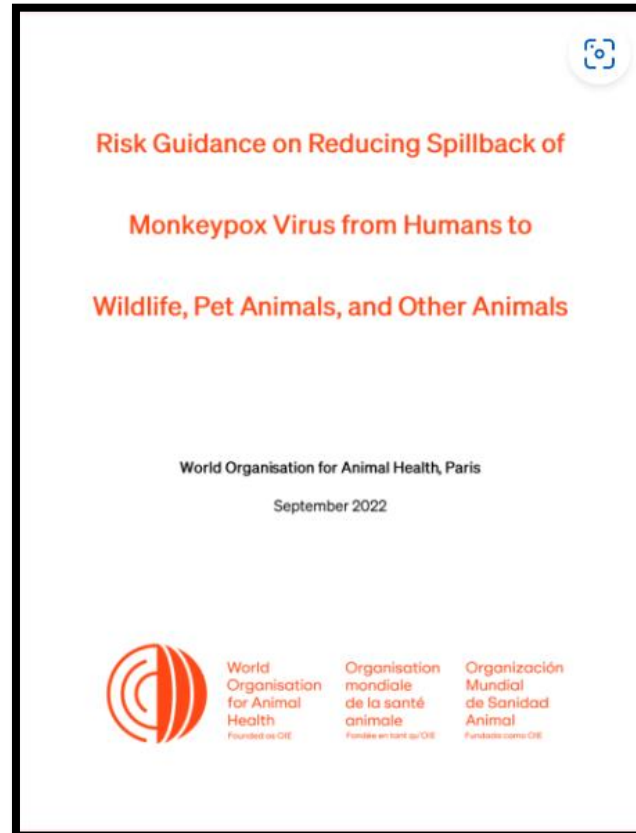
WOAH Standards



Codes and Manuals are available online

<https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/>

WOAH Guidelines

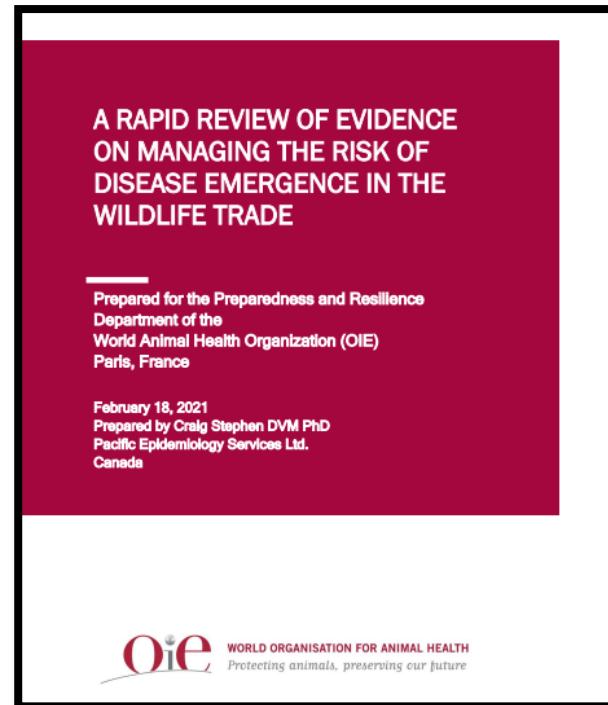


WOAH Guidelines are available online

WILDLIFE HEALTH REPORTS



WOAH REPORTS



WOAH Reports are available online

Scientific Publications



WOAH Scientific Publications (available online)

Peer-reviewed research using WOAHLife health reference data

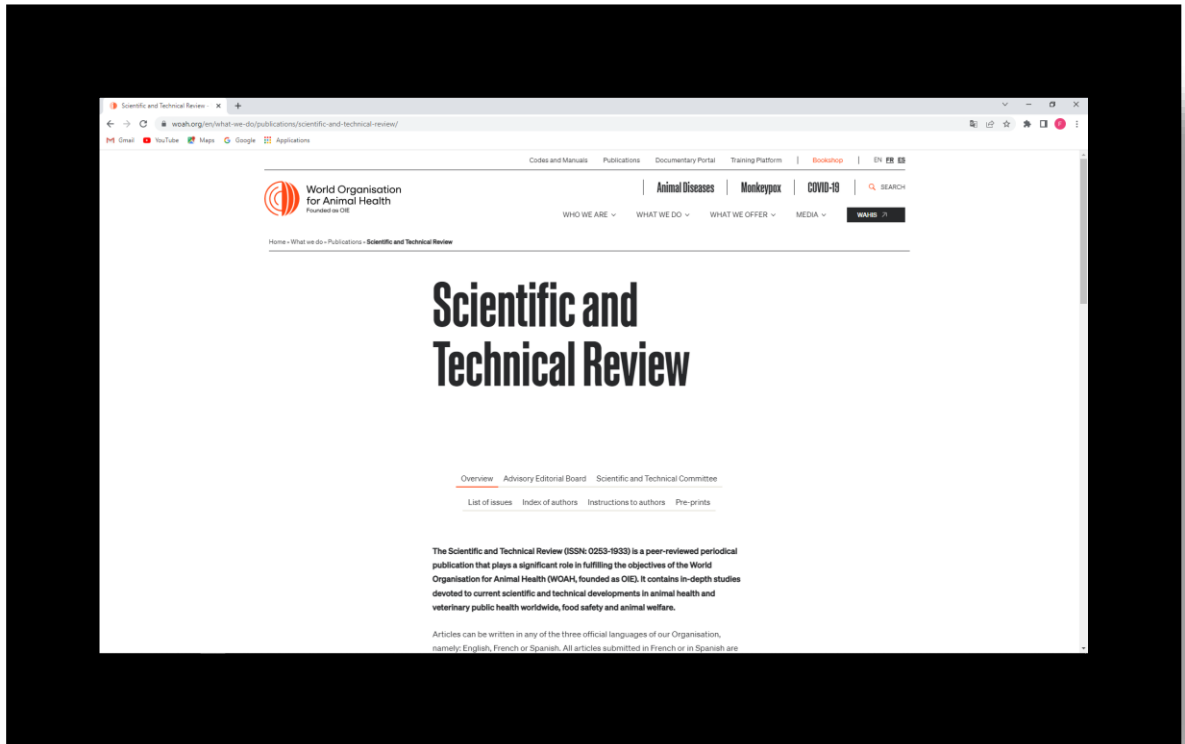
Smith et al (2017) – Wildlife hosts for WOAHLife-Listed diseases: considerations regarding global wildlife trade and host-pathogen relationships. *Veterinary Medicine and Science*, 3(2), 71-81

Machalaba et al (2021) Wildlife conservation status and disease trends: 10 years of reports from the Worldwide Monitoring System for Wild Animal Diseases. *Sci Tech Rev*.

Jiia B et al (2020) Validation of laboratory tests for infectious diseases in wild mammals: review and recommendations. *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation*.

Jebara B et al (2016) WAHIS-Wild and its interface: the WOAHLife worldwide monitoring system for wild animal diseases. *Vet Ital* 52 (2016): 91-100.

Fanelli et al (2022) Sensitivity of an international notification system for wildlife diseases: A case study using the OIE-WAHIS data on tularemia. *Zoonoses and Public Health*.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Scientific and Technical Review journal. The page features the WOAHLife logo and navigation menus for 'Animal Diseases', 'Monkeypox', and 'COVID-19'. The main heading is 'Scientific and Technical Review'. Below the heading, there are links for 'Overview', 'Advisory Editorial Board', and 'Scientific and Technical Committee'. A brief description of the journal is provided, stating it is a peer-reviewed periodical publication that plays a significant role in fulfilling the objectives of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAHLife, founded as OIE). It contains in-depth studies devoted to current scientific and technical developments in animal health and veterinary public health worldwide, food safety and animal welfare. The page also mentions that articles can be written in any of the three official languages of the Organisation, namely: English, French or Spanish.



Wildlife Technical Disease Cards



WOAH Technical Disease Cards (available online)

Supporting members to identify, manage and report non-WOAH-listed diseases affecting wild animals.

How can the Wildlife Focal
Point maximize these
resources?



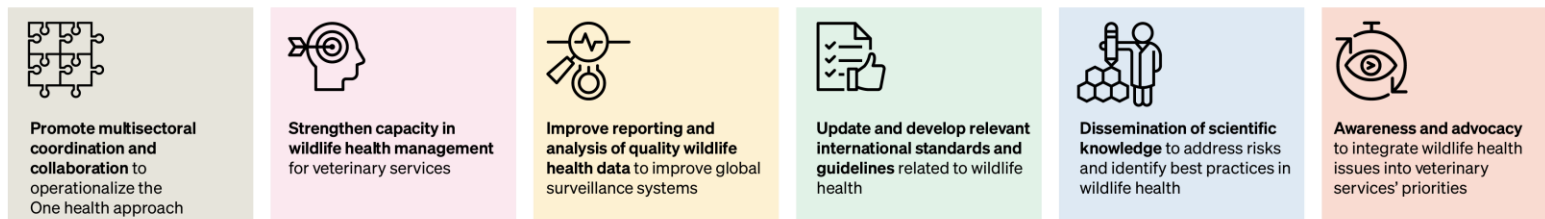


WOAH Wildlife Health Programme



The approach

Embrace a holistic systems-based approach to One Health to seek solutions that optimise health outcomes for animals, humans and the environment



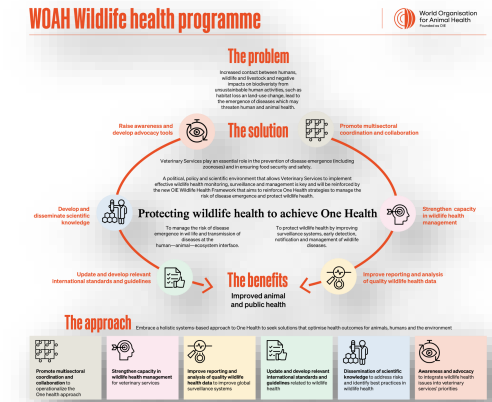
Wildlife Health Programme (WHP)

WOAH's Mandate:

To improve animal health worldwide

Overall Goal of the Wildlife Health Programme

Protecting wildlife health to achieve One Health



Wildlife Health Programme

Defining the PROBLEM

Increased contact between humans, wildlife, and livestock; along with the negative impacts on biodiversity from unsustainable human activities, such as habitat loss and land-use change, lead to the emergence of diseases which may threaten human and animal health.”

Offering a SOLUTION

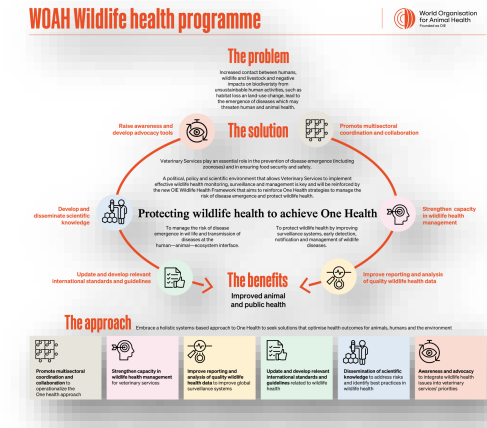
- Veterinary services play an essential role in the prevention of disease emergence and in ensuring food security/safety.
- WHP proposes a political, policy, and scientific environment that allows veterinary services to implement effective wildlife health monitoring, surveillance, and management.
- The Wildlife Health Program (WHP) reinforces One Health strategies to manage the risk of disease emergence and protect wildlife health.
- Thus, the **National Wildlife Focal Point** plays an important role in implementing the solution offered by the WHP.



Objectives

Wildlife Health Programme (WHP)

- The WHP will assist WOAH members in managing the risk of
 - disease emergence in wildlife
 - Transmission of diseases at the human-animal-ecosystem interface
- The WHP will assist WOAH members in protecting wildlife health by
 - Improving surveillance systems
 - Ensuring early detection, notification, and management of wildlife diseases
- Since the WOAH member country or territory is represented by the delegate, who is aided by the **National Wildlife Focal Point** in matters related to wildlife health, your role is critical to ensuring the success of the Wildlife Health Programme, as well as improving wildlife health in your country, region, and the world.

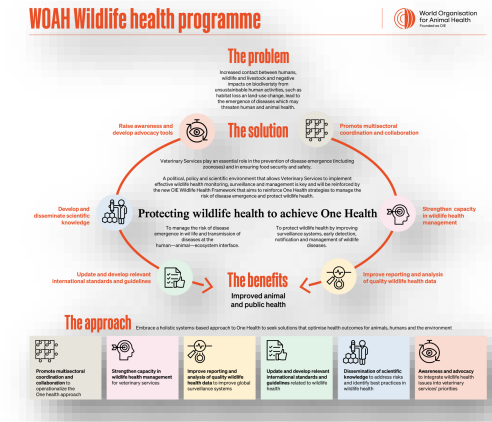


APPROACH

Wildlife Health Programme (WHP)

The Wildlife Health Programme embraces a holistic, systems-based approach to One Health that seeks solutions that optimize the health outcomes for animals, humans, and the environment.

A six-pronged approach is used to implement the Wildlife Health Programme.



Approach 1: Promote Multisectoral Coordination and Collaboration to operationalize the One Health Approach



- Build and promote Wildlife Networks around the globe
 - Development of a WOAHA Wildlife Networks Strategy
 - Enhance the WOAHA **Wildlife Focal Point Network** at the global and regional levels
 - Develop the WOAHA Collaborating Centre and Reference Center Network
 - Create new networks or enhance connections with existing networks at various scales
- Sign Agreements and Partnerships: CBD, IUCN, UNEP, CIC, CITES, etc.
- Pursue partnership opportunities: WDA, WCS, WWF, etc.
- Contribute to other initiatives: CPW, N4H, JPA, PREZODE, etc.
- Create strategies for networks, partnerships, public-private partnerships, etc.

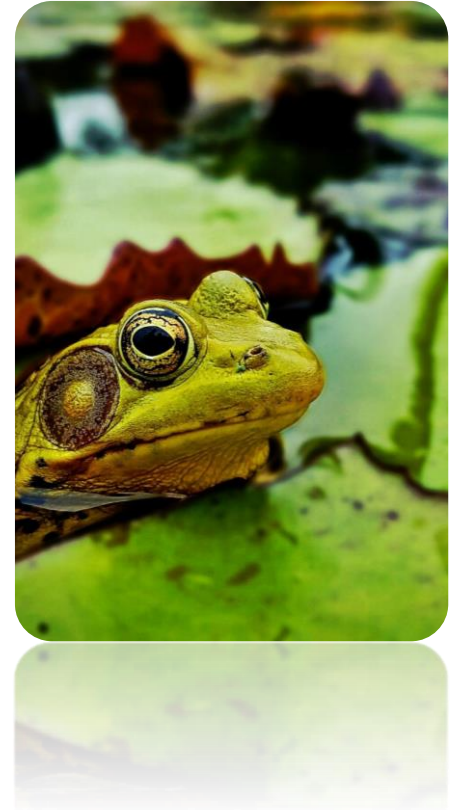
Approach 2: Strengthen capacity in wildlife health management for veterinary services

- Training Seminars for **Wildlife Focal Points** in every region of the globe
- Wildlife Health in WOAHP Pathway for Veterinary Services (PVS)
- Terms of Reference for Day 1 Curriculum (competencies of graduating veterinarians)
- Learning Needs Assessment
- E-modules on wildlife trade and wildlife surveillance
- Capacity building in Africa through the EBO-SURSY project



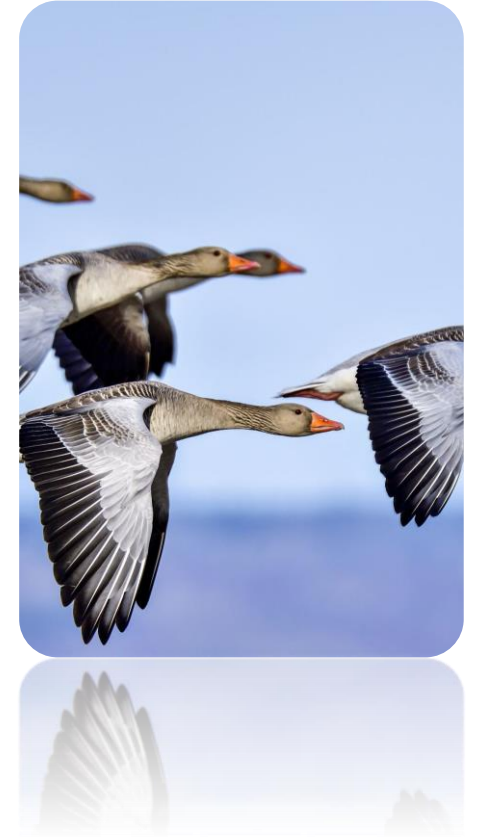
Approach 3: Improve reporting and analysis of quality wildlife health data to improve global surveillance systems

- Updated Terms of Reference for the National **Wildlife Focal Points**
- Identify and consult key stakeholders
- Setup project governance and structure
- Standard Operating Procedure to evaluate system sensitivity for selected diseases
- Temporary WOAHA non-listed disease notification system – beta version being piloted
- Set up new wildlife notification system with a long term vision



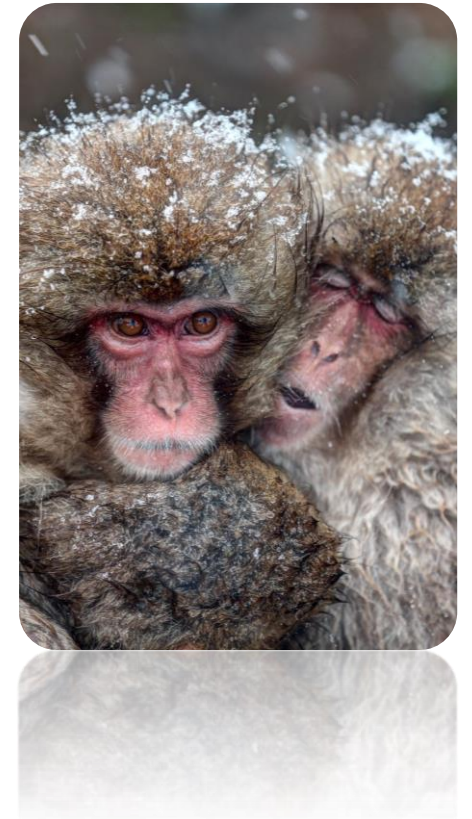
Approach 4: Update and develop relevant international standards and guidelines related to wildlife health

- Risk Guidelines on Spillback of mpox (monkeypox) virus from humans to animals
- Risk Guidelines on Avian Influenza in people working with wildlife
- Risk Guidelines on wildlife trade
- Review of existing standards and guidelines
- Review of Wildlife Health legislation at the national level
- New chapter on surveillance



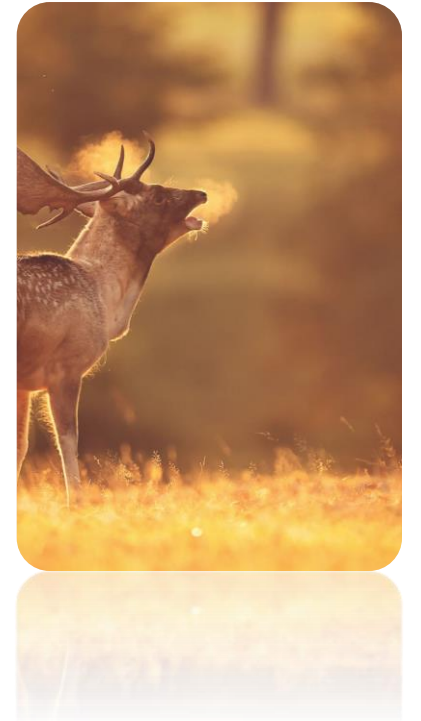
Approach 5: Dissemination of scientific knowledge to address risks and identify best practices in wildlife health

- Take stock of high-risk interactions and best practices for safe wildlife trade and sustainable use of wildlife
- Review of wildlife diseases threatening wild species populations
- Support of graduate students through EBO-SURSY
- Scientific communication through conferences and publications
- Research collaborations



Approach 6: Awareness and advocacy to integrate wildlife health issues into veterinary services' priorities

- Trends in social media analysis report
- Wildlife Health Programme infographics
- EBO-SURSY project radio campaign
- EBO-SURSY project ALERT wildlife surveillance knowledge-based board game
- Communication implementation plan
- Development of new communication campaigns and tools
- Dissemination of new communication tools and campaigns
- World Wildlife Day activities



How is this Wildlife Health Programme relevant to the Wildlife Focal Point?



WOAH Wildlife health programme



The problem

Increased contact between humans, wildlife and livestock and negative impacts on biodiversity from unsustainable human activities, such as habitat loss and land-use change, lead to the emergence of diseases which may threaten human and animal health.

The solution

Veterinary Services play an essential role in the prevention of disease emergence (including zoonoses) and in ensuring food security and safety.

A political, policy and scientific environment that allows Veterinary Services to implement effective wildlife health monitoring, surveillance and management is key and will be reinforced by the new OIE Wildlife Health Framework that aims to reinforce One Health strategies to manage the risk of disease emergence and protect wildlife health.

Protecting wildlife health to achieve One Health

To manage the risk of disease emergence in wildlife and transmission of diseases at the human—animal—ecosystem interface.

To protect wildlife health by improving surveillance systems, early detection, notification and management of wildlife diseases.

The benefits

Improved animal and public health

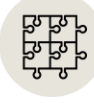
The approach

Embrace a holistic systems-based approach to One Health to seek solutions that optimise health outcomes for animals, humans and the environment

Raise awareness and develop advocacy tools



Promote multisectoral coordination and collaboration



Develop and disseminate scientific knowledge



Strengthen capacity in wildlife health management



Update and develop relevant international standards and guidelines



Improve reporting and analysis of quality wildlife health data



You are integral to the WOAH Wildlife Health Programme



Thank you

12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France
T. +33 (0)1 44 15 19 49
F. +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87

woah@woah.int
www.woah.org

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