

Exercise Phoenix

An international agro-terrorism simulation exercise



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WOAH

Background



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

- FAO, INTERPOL and WOAH were partners in the project 'Building sustainable global resilience against animal health emergencies caused by agro-terrorism and agro-crime'
- Project was supported by the Global Affairs Canada's Weapons Threat Reduction Program
- 4-year project supported a series of expert groups, horizon scanning and training workshops and the WOAH Global Conference on Emergency Management
- Exercise Phoenix was the culmination of the project's capacity building activities

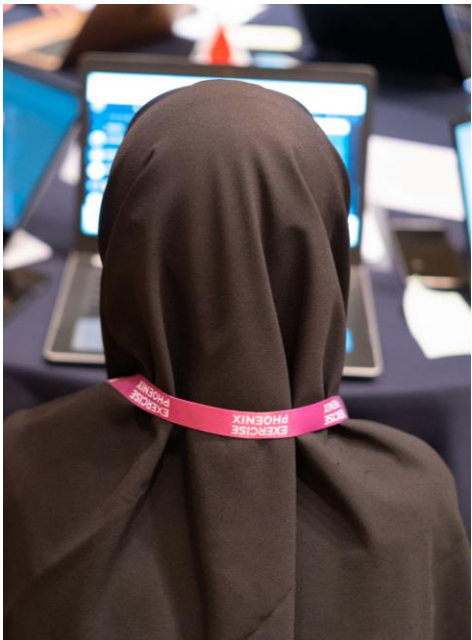
Exercise Phoenix

Exercise Phoenix (February 2023) was an international discussion exercise (TTX)

Comprising

- **Three** 4 – day face-to-face **regional exercises** involving the Veterinary Services and Law Enforcement agencies of **12 countries**
 - held concurrently across three time zones
 - Delivered in three languages (English and French, and translated on-site into Arabic)
 - And 10 days later
- A one-day **discussion exercise** for international organisations
- 180+ participants, observers and exercise staff

Planned and delivered during a global pandemic.



Aim and objectives

Aim: to improve the preparedness and coordination of national and regional Veterinary Services, Law Enforcement agencies, and international organisations to work together in response to an agro-terrorism incident

Objectives:

- To **raise awareness** of, and **confirm** triggers of suspicion of, an agro-terrorism act at national and regional level.
- To **discuss** initial joint response to suspicion and the initial response measures put in place when detecting an agro-terrorism event.
- To **practice** collaboration and cooperation between Law Enforcement and Veterinary Services at the national and regional level.
- To **discuss** information sharing at national, regional and international level in response to this threat
- To **explore** the roles of selected national, regional, and international entities in dealing with an international agro-terrorism incident.



Exercise planning and writing

Exercise planning team

Organisation
EuFMD (lead)
FAO Emergency Management Center
Institute of Infectious Animal Diseases (IIAD) (Texas A&M University)
INTERPOL
World Organisation for Animal Health

Exercise Plan, Risk Register, Facilitator and Player Guides, Briefings and Situation Updates

Evaluation
Independent lead evaluators appointed by WOA
Vet services & law enforcement evaluators

Scenario writing team

Veterinary Services injects	Law Enforcement injects
EuFMD	Australian Federal Police
FAO - EMC	Federal Bureau of Investigation (USA)
IIAD, Texas, USA	INTERPOL
National Veterinary Institute, Sweden (Chair)	Nigeria Police
WOAH	Portugal Army
	Service départemental-métropolitain d'incendie et de secours France

Scenario and injects

Exercise scenario

- Intentional release of a biological agent affecting animal health and food security
 - Tailored to country/region
- Regional exercises focused on cooperation between Law Enforcement and Veterinary Services in joint investigation and response
- National Veterinary Services and Law Enforcement players received different information
- International exercise scenario commenced with situation at end of regional exercises

EXERCISE ONLY

Control No.: O-578/02-2023

Date of publication: 16 February 2023

Last update on: 16 February 2023

IMMINENT THREAT



Veterinarians wearing personal protective overalls from the Ministry of Agriculture were seen yesterday on the farm. A cordon is in place preventing movements of people and animals. Reports have emerged of dead animals being seen on the farm.

Meanwhile panic is spreading across the region. Ali Khalil, a farmer in a neighbouring village said "I don't know what is happening but everyone here is worried. We have heard of cattle dying on other farms in the area. We are waiting on advice from the Government on what we need to do."

Farmers in the area have also been trying to move cattle quickly with few restrictions being put in place.

EXERCISE ONLY

Test Report - Final

Lab Reference: N-23-997

Report Date: 14/02/2023

Report Number: N-23-997



Date Received:	13/02/2023	Country of Origin*:	Indonesia
Date Tests Completed:	14/02/2023		
Tests Requested* and Method Followed:			
Analysis		Method	
Rinderpest Virus Real Time PCR - Primary Assay		NVR-SOP-13	

Sample Number	Animal ID*	Sampling Date*	RPV RT-PCR	Final Result
N-23-997-1	302 Blood	12/02/2023	POS	POS
Other Detail*: Bovine, Blood				





Definitions and Triggers

- Definitions of Agro-crime and agroterrorism not universally agreed (*'no law, no crime'*)
- Continue to raise awareness of agro-crime and agro-terrorism triggers for suspicion

Information exchange

- Involves risk to individuals/agencies/countries
- Requires trust +/- formal arrangements

Collaboration

- Understanding of roles, responsibilities helps build trust between agencies
- Activities to promote collaboration
- Review/develop documented arrangements between agencies (including international organisations)
- Benefits of regional collaboration

Existing crisis/emergency management **structures** are applicable to agro-terrorism

- Continue to promote inclusion of veterinary services in national emergency management arrangements
- Develop operating plans/procedures specific to biological threats

International organisations

- Progress issues related to
 - Constraints to information-sharing
 - Coordination of agency response

Conclusions

- Exercise Phoenix achieved its aim and objectives
- Opportunities to improve preparation for responding to agrocrime and agroterrorism
- Value of multi-agency exercises

Acknowledgements

Fanny Ewann (INTERPOL)
Adrien Sivignon
(INTERPOL)
Kathy Gibson (EuFMD)
Pamela Hullinger (EuFMD)
Fabrizio Rosso (EuFMD)
Camilla Caraccio (WOAH)
Frederic Poudevigne (FAO-
EMC)
Jimmy Tickel (IIAD)

Exercise Phoenix was supported by the Global Affairs Canada's Weapons Threat Reduction Program

Thank you

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for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



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