

WOAH and INTERPOL Tackling Animal Agro-Crime

A roadmap towards collaboration
between Veterinary Services and
Law Enforcement



World Organisation
for Animal Health



ENABLING THE WORLD'S POLICE TO MEET
THE CHALLENGES OF FIGHTING
INTERNATIONAL CRIME



196 MEMBER COUNTRIES CONNECTED
THROUGH A SECURE NETWORK



WOAH and INTERPOL Partnership



- WOAHA and INTERPOL working together since 2017. Relationship formalised into an MoU in 2022 to support their respective Memberships regarding **threats posed by agro-crime, agro-terrorism and incidents involving animal or zoonotic pathogens or biotoxins affecting animals**. MoU covers:
 - Sharing of data
 - Reciprocal representation
 - Joint capacity building activities
- Highlights include:
 - Guidance on Countering Disinformation and Misinformation
 - Emergency Management Exchanges
 - Simulation Exercises
 - Guidance on Investigative Interview Technique
 - Agro-Crime Roadmap (upcoming)

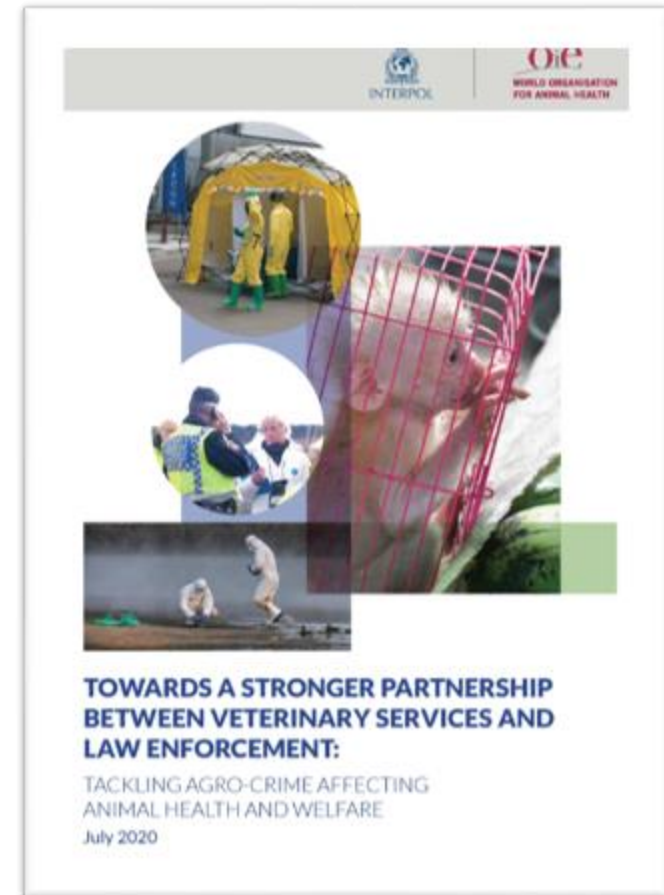
Roadmap origins

From 2018-2023, WOA, FAO and INTERPOL partnered through the joint project “Building Resilience Against Agro-Crime and Agro-Terrorism”

Lesson identified: agro-terrorism was understood but agro-crime not well defined.

Multi-sectoral virtual workshop convened in July 2020 which explored types of agro-crimes, proposed a working definition and identified collaborative actions

Outputs of the workshop used to develop the WOA and INTERPOL Agro-Crime Roadmap.



AGROCRIME

Any offense impacting animals, the inputs used to raise them, or their products that is classified as a crime as per a country's **civil and penal codes**.

Committed for **personal or financial gain**.

AGROTERRORISM

The **intentional release** of biological agents or toxins for the purpose of harming or killing animals with the intent to intimidate or coerce a government or civilian population to further political or social objectives.

To further **political or social objectives**.

Animal agro-crimes



Smuggling



Deliberate release of
pathogens and toxins
(including agro-terrorism)



Non-compliance



Falsified veterinary
products



Poaching & Theft



Illicit wildlife use



Food/feed fraud



Animal cruelty
& abuse

Agro-Crime Roadmap



- **Purpose:** Supports Veterinary Services and Law Enforcement in addressing agro-crimes. Help mobilise resources, expertise and regulatory powers.
- **Key Uses:**
 - **Strategic Planning:** Identify types of agro-crimes and their impacts to design prevention, preparedness, early-warning and response strategies.
 - **Joint Action & Decision-Making:** Guide creation of joint workplans and cooperation agreements.
 - **Collaboration & Dialogue:** Facilitate inter-agency discussions, clarify roles, and establish shared goals.
 - **Threat & Risk Assessment:** Inform evaluations of agro-crime risks and key considerations for the prioritisation of actions.
 - **Capacity Building:** Support joint training and simulation exercises to improve coordination and readiness.
- The roadmap is not prescriptive — adaptable to local, national, or regional contexts based on threats, mandates, and available resources.

Challenges to collaboration



Aims, priorities and resources: Different visions, agendas and understanding of the threat



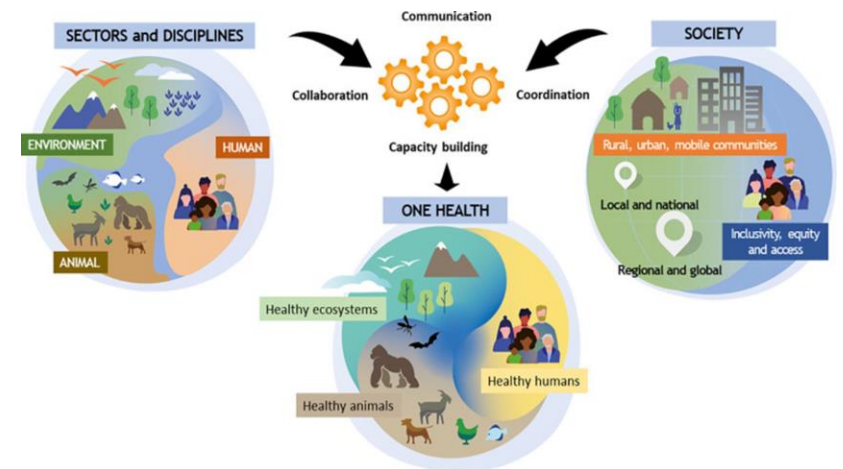
Lack of shared understanding: Different skillsets, terminology, legal frameworks. Veterinary Services may not recognise a crime scene and Law enforcement may not perceive a health threat.



Collaborative framework: Often no protocols or guidance in place setting out collaboration. concerns about overstepping authority may hold back joint work.



Legal framework: Close cooperation and participation of other services in criminal investigation may be limited by legal texts.



Actions for stronger partnership between Veterinary Services and Law Enforcement

- Establishing the foundation for partnership

1 **Mutual understanding**
Trust, mutual understanding
Formalised intersectoral relationships

2 **Advocacy**
Sustained political commitment
Public awareness

3 **Regulatory harmonisation**
Harmonised and coherent legal framework to enable interagency collaboration (prevention, investigation & prosecution of agro-crime)

- Strengthening collaboration

4 **Awareness and understanding of roles and responsibilities**
Understanding of each other's roles, responsibilities and operational needs
SOPs for interagency collaboration

5 **Information and intelligence sharing**
Strengthened collection, analysis and sharing of information and intell

6 **Joint capacity building**
Personnel capabilities to detect and respond to agro-crime
Trust and relationship building

- Coordinated response

7 **Joint threat assessment**
Mechanism for conducting cross-sectoral threat assessments of agro-crime to guide joint response planning and operations

8 **Joint response**
Coordinated and real-time joint response and operations to investigate and respond to agro-crime incidents

9 **Joint communication**
Coordinated, coherent and timely communication on agro-crime risks and response actions

For each, we specify objectives, actions, case study, summary of actions, outputs and outcome

Benefits of collaboration



- **Improved understanding of agro-crime risks and threats** through multiple perspectives and shared intelligence
- **More effective prevention** by addressing the root causes of criminal behaviour
- **Expanded reach and impact** by leveraging complementary strengths and networks
- **Better coordination of investigations**, avoiding conflicts between epidemiological and enforcement actions
- **Stronger responses** by applying diverse crime prevention and response models
- **Increased public trust** through clear, consistent, and harmonised communication



WOAH and INTERPOL Tackling Agro-Crime : Strategic Planning for Veterinary Services and Law Enforcement workshop (November 2025)

- 9 African Partner countries (Algeria, Congo (Rep), Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Madagascar, Namibia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe) - 50 participants from across Veterinary Services and Law Enforcement.
- Roadmap used to raise awareness of different types of agro-crime and concrete collaboration actions.
- Countries worked on their own national roadmaps and prioritised 3 agro-crimes to focus on
- Participants consult national colleagues on their draft roadmaps and shared back to WOAH and INTERPOL for review





Zimbabwe Charts Unified Strategy to Combat Rising Agro-Crime Threats

Today, Permanent Secretary, Professor Dr. Secretary Professor Dr. Obert Jiri, delivered a compelling keynote address that set the strategic tone for the **Tackling Agro-Crime: Strategic Planning Workshop for Veterinary Services and Law Enforcement** in Harare. He underscored Zimbabwe's pride in hosting this critical gathering with partners such as WOA and INTERPOL at a time when transnational agricultural crimes threaten regional stability and food security.



Roadmap next steps

Our agro-crime priorities and why

- Priority 1
- Priority 2
- Priority 3

Our collaboration outcomes and what success looks like

- Outcomes
- Indicators

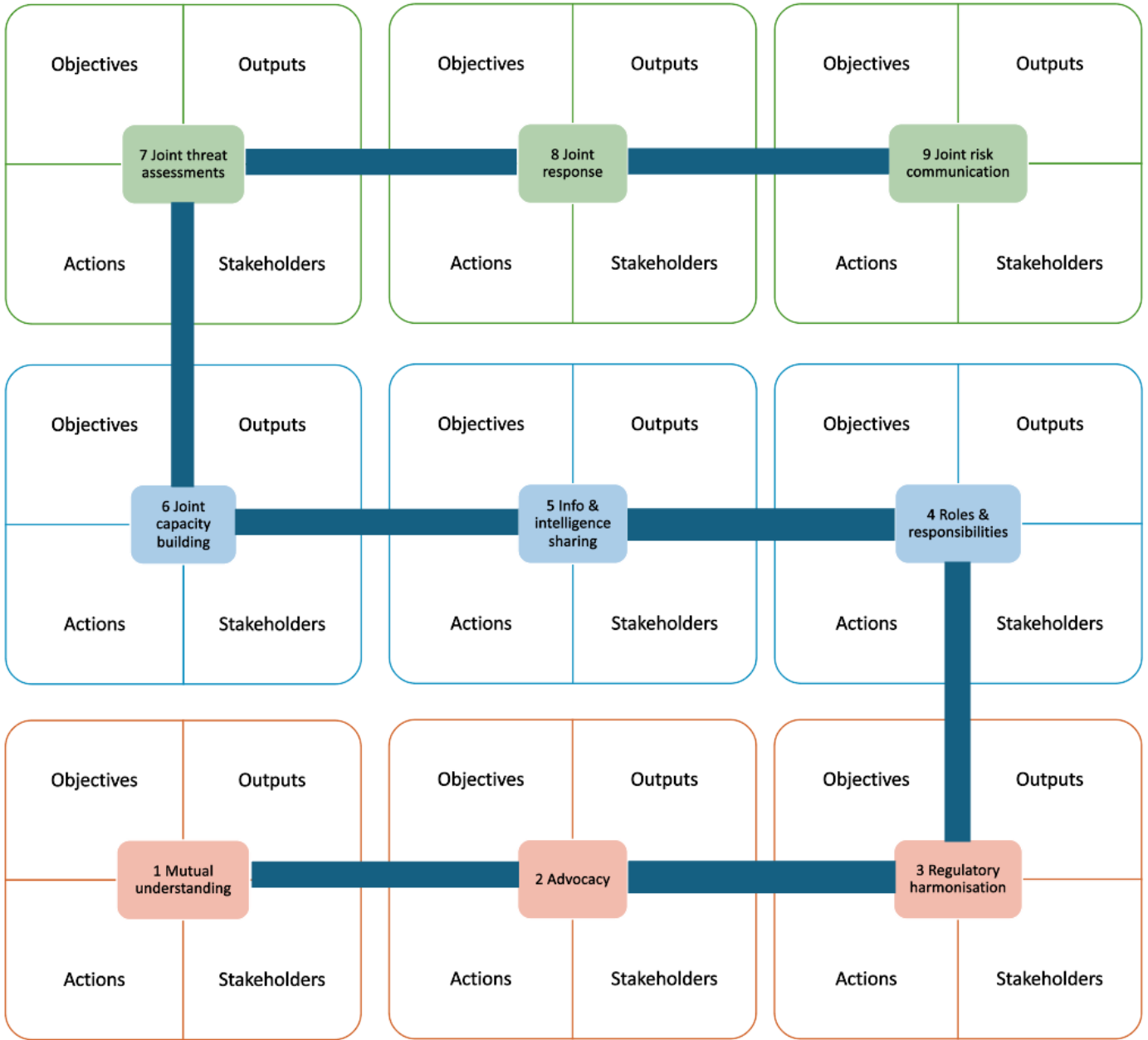
Actions to build buy-in

Action	Action	Action	Action
Who	Who	Who	Who

Coordinated response

Strengthened collaboration

Foundation for partnership





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www.interpol.int

[Crimes >> Terrorism >> Bioterrorism]



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