



**Launch of the  
Regional Aquatic Animal Health  
Network for North Africa  
(RAAHN-NA)**  
**25 – 27 April 2023 Tunis, Tunisia**

**Lancement du Réseau  
Régional de Santé des Animaux  
Aquatiques pour l'Afrique du Nord  
RRSAA-AN**  
**25 – 27 avril 2023 Tunis, Tunisie**



## MEETING REPORT

*Launch of the Regional Aquatic Animal Health  
Network for North Africa (RAAHN-NA)*

**World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)**

Programme Officer SRR-NA: Dr Francesco Valentini, [f.valentini@woah.org](mailto:f.valentini@woah.org)

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## *Executive Summary*

The launch of the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for North Africa (RAAHN-NA) was organised in Tunis (Tunisia) on 25-27 April 2023, by the Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH SRR-NA), in collaboration with the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).

The three-day face-to-face workshop was attended by 34 participants including country representatives of 6 Member States in the region, i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia (from both public and private sector), experts, WOAH staff, AU-IBAR and observers, i.e. the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Sub-regional Office for North Africa (FAO-SNE), the Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA), the Scientific and Technical Office of REMESA (STOR) and the World Veterinary Education in Production Animal Health (WVEPAH).

The general objective of the workshop was to assist North African countries in identifying options for establishing and operationalising the RAAHN-NA as a strategy for strengthening the implementation of aquatic sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures for biosecurity control, improved market access and safe intra-regional fish trade. Through the launch of the RAAHN-NA, WOAH aims -amongst others- to create a platform where the public sectors and private stakeholders can share information and network to collectively develop, implement and monitor aquatic animal health strategies coherently.

The agenda was structured in 4 sessions, each one focused on a specific objective:

- Session 1: Performing a Situation Analysis
- Session 2: Development of RAAHN-NA Terms of Reference (TOR)
- Session 3: Development of RAAHN-NA Institutional Framework
- Session 4: Development of RAAHN-NA Action Plan

The diversity of the interventions enriched the meeting and allowed for a stimulating and fruitful exchange of ideas that led, in conclusion, to the drafting of all the relevant documents to establish and operationalise the RAAHN-NA.

## *Official Opening*

### Opening remarks

The opening remarks were presented by:

- Dr Rachid Bouguedour, Representative, WOAHSRR-NA
- Dr Sana Kacem, Chief Veterinary Officer, General Direction for Veterinary Services (DGSV) Tunisia
- Ms Nelly Isyagi, Fisheries and Aquaculture Trade and Investment Expert, AU-IBAR
- Dr Mohamed Bengoumi, Animal Production and Health Officer, FAO-SNE
- Ms Faouzia Chakiri, Head of Division - Food Safety Department, UMA

### Introduction

Dr Francesco Valentini (Programme Officer, WOAHSRR-NA) gave an introductory speech to present the background, objectives, expected outcomes and an overview of the workshop programme.

### Keynote Presentations

The meeting started with 3 keynote presentations:

- Dr Melanie Allan (Scientific Coordinator AAHS, WOAHSRR HQ) presented an overview of the WOAHSRR first Global Aquatic Animal Health Strategy and how it aims to improve the aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide.
- Dr Kevin Christison (Member Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission - Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) South Africa) presented WOAHSRR Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission's composition, roles and activities, and gave an overview of both the Aquatic Animal Health Code and the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals.
- Ms Nelly Isyagi presented the status of the African fisheries-aquaculture sector and opportunities and threats to its sustainable growth, discussed the importance of biosecurity to safeguard the sector and facilitate access to markets and trade in the region, and provided an overview of the key role that Regional Aquatic Animal Health Networks could play in the current context.



*Group photo of the workshop*

## *Session 1: Performing a Situation Analysis*

### Case Studies

The first part of the first session focused on creating awareness, sharing experiences and learning lessons from existing examples (Asia-Pacific and Middle East) in the implementation of aquatic SPS measures for biosecurity control and safe trade, involvement of stakeholders, and development of institutional TORs and operational frameworks. To do so, three case studies were presented:

- Dr Eduardo Leano (Network of Aquaculture Centres in the Asia-Pacific - NACA) presented the NACA network and gave an overview of its Health and Biosecurity Programme.
- Dr Thitiwan Patanasatienkul (Aquatic Animal Health Officer, WOAHP-Asia and the Pacific) unfortunately couldn't attend in person but shared a recording of a presentation describing the Regional Collaboration Framework on Aquatic Animal Health for Asia and the Pacific.
- Dr Yehia Ghazi (Consultant, WOAHP-ME) gave an overview of the Aquatic Middle East Network (AQMENET) and explained its operation plan.

### Member states contributions – public sector

The WOAHP National Focal Point for Aquatic Animals of each country presented their “country profile” (success stories and challenges), highlighting surveillance, monitoring and reporting, opportunities, needs and challenges.

- Algeria - Dr Fatiha Bouguerra
- Egypt - Dr Mohamed Masood Wael Abdelwahab
- Mauritania - Dr Sidi Ould Ould Khelifa
- Morocco - Dr Hassan Moujahid
- Tunisia - Dr Ines Tliba

Unfortunately, the Libyan Focal Point couldn't attend the meeting.

### Member states contributions – private sector

Members of the private sector presented their field of activity (success stories and challenges), sharing existing local experiences and showing the benefits of establishing a national AAH zoo-sanitary plan, and highlighted the current situation, opportunities, needs and challenges in the North African sub-region.

- Dr Nadia Cherif (National Institute for Marine Science and Technologies – INSTM Tunisia):
  - Presented the main outputs from the World Aquaculture Society (WAS) African Chapter and its partners in North Africa and discussed the “Role of Research Institutes in Mapping Knowledge on Prevalence of Fish Diseases and AMR in North Africa Aquaculture”.
  - Gave an overview of “New analytical tools for the quantification of biosecurity measures and risk profiling in North Africa”.
- Mr Mongi Chniter (Deputy Secretary General of PMNAPAA) presented history, realities and perspectives of the Maghreb and North African Platform for Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (PMNAPAA).
- Ms Jawhara Chahbani (AWFISHNET - North African Chapter; Nemo Kantara project Regional Coordinator) gave a presentation on “Women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Tunisia: Africa Women's Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET) and the contribution of the NEMO Kantara project in improving sanitary aspects in the sector”.

- Dr Nadia Makhoulf (Private veterinarian specialised in the aquaculture - CRDA Mahdia) discussed the role of private veterinarians in aquaculture farms.

Sharing experiences:

Members of national and international institutions/organisations shared experiences on the aquatic animal health sector to provide interesting food for thought:

- Ms Manahel Akkari (Junior expert in fisheries and aquaculture, FAO-SNE) gave an overview of the “FAO Support to the Aquaculture Sector in North Africa”.
- Dr Mohamed Naceur Baccar (Director of Animal Health Surveillance, Training and Capacity Building, CNVZ Tunisia) and Dr Hedia Attia El Hili (Director of Surveillance and Evaluation, CNVZ Tunisia) jointly presented the capacity building activities of the Tunisian National Zoo-sanitary Monitoring Center (CNVZ) in the field of farmed fish health.
- Dr Pierre Cadot (Director of WVEPAH) introduced the World Veterinary Education in Production Animal Health (WVEPAH) and presented its “Continuing Education and Certification” courses, also focusing on aquaculture.

The first session included two group discussions:

Group Discussion 1: Challenges/Opportunities/Networking

The first group discussion focused on the review of the status of fishery and aquaculture in the region. In particular, three main topics were addressed:

- Aquatic Animal Health main issues → possible solutions;
- Aquatic Animal Health main opportunities → how to address them;
- Communication and Networking: Reasons to collaborate; How to improve existing networks and to implement new ones.

Participants were divided in 3 groups, each one focusing on one of the above-mentioned topics, and rotated between the three every 15-20 min.

The outcomes were the following:

Main Issues	➔ Possible solutions
Lack of diagnostic capacity at laboratory level	Enhancing existing laboratory facilities
	Establishment of national accredited laboratories
Lack of awareness of the importance of biosecurity + Lack of implementation of biosecurity measures	Continuous training, update universities’ curricula + Applying for twinning projects with reference laboratories
Antimicrobial Use (AMU) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)	Development of regional guidelines for surveillance of AMR and AMU
Emerging diseases	Development of regional guidelines for surveillance and control of emerging diseases
Lack of data collection and field investigations	Establishment of national/regional list of pathogens with economic/sanitary impact
Lack of transboundary controls	



Impact of poor environmental conditions (non-infectious diseases) and climate change	Reducing the cost of inputs (e.g., feed) by developing local hatcheries, feed units, etc. to enable farmers to have more funds to invest in improving their facilities
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<b>Main Opportunities</b>	<b>How to address them</b>
Improving knowledge on animal feed and all its zotechnical consequences (e.g., better productivity)	Sharing knowledge and experience (trainings, webinars, expert forums, networks etc.)
Implementation of WOAHA standards	Interactive work with Aquatic Animal Health Standard Commission
Improving communication and data sharing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Between public and private sector</li> <li>○ Between countries</li> </ul>	Public-Private Partnerships + Implementation and use of networks
Developing a common tool for all North African countries (e.g., on trade requirements)	Identifying common priorities Developing a common Action Plan
Improving research activities	Allocating funds for research

<b>Reasons to collaborate</b>
Improved advocacy and communication
To share experience, competence and expertise in laboratory, national strategies, training and curricula
To know the health status of all countries in the region
To exchange health data and identify major problems
Better management of health problems for sustainable resource use
More effective responses to disease emergencies
To limit the risk of emergencies
Synergise and combine efforts
Transboundary surveillance to facilitate trade
Harmonization of procedures and regulations and practices (technical, legal, business)
Align with international standards
<b>How to improve existing networks and to implement new ones</b>
Including new elements in existing networks - updating
Having clear objectives and benefits
Identifying a coordinator (to ensure follow-up and progress)
Defining clear roles and responsibilities
Resource mobilisation
Development of an action plan which identifies priorities (according to available resources)
Developing timelines and budget for each project/activity
Collaborating within the country – Involvement of all relevant stakeholders

Group Discussion 2: GAP and SWOT analysis

The second group discussion aimed to perform a GAP and SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis of the status quo in the region. Participants were divided in 3 groups, with no rotation, and were asked to discuss what has been done well and where did they see gaps on 6 main topics (2 topics /each group):

- Implementation of WOAHS Standards and Disease reporting;
- Laboratory capacity and diagnostics;
- Public-Private Partnerships;
- Surveillance and Preparedness & Response for emerging diseases;
- Information sharing and Networking;
- Biosecurity.

At the end, a participant from each group reported the outcomes during a Plenary Discussion.

After the discussion, the final outcomes were the following:

<b>Implementation of WOAHS Standards and Disease reporting</b>	
<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Weaknesses</i>
...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Many small-holder farms with lack of funds and technical capacity</li> </ul>
<i>Opportunities</i>	<i>Threats</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Trainings/continuous education</li> <li>○ Information sharing</li> <li>○ Networking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Notification costs not feasible for small sector</li> <li>○ Unattainable standards for certain sectors</li> </ul>

<b>Laboratory capacity and diagnostics</b>	
<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Weaknesses</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Existing laboratories with adequate competences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lack of accredited laboratories</li> <li>○ Poor laboratory facilities/infrastructure</li> <li>○ Limited diagnostic offer (accredited tests) and sub-regional level</li> <li>○ No regional/national disease lists</li> <li>○ No regional network of labs</li> </ul>
<i>Opportunities</i>	<i>Threats</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Twinning projects with reference laboratories</li> <li>○ Networking</li> <li>○ Trainings and knowledge sharing</li> <li>○ Allocating funds to improve facilities and infrastructure</li> <li>○ Investing in increasing the diagnostic offer (accredited tests) - according to field needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cost of sending samples</li> <li>○ Laboratory timing not compatible with field requirements (delayed response)</li> <li>○ Lack of awareness on sampling procedures and use of tools</li> </ul>



<b>Public-Private Partnerships</b>	
<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Weaknesses</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Growing aquaculture production</li> <li>○ Political will</li> <li>○ Good structure in countries</li> <li>○ Growing investment from private sector in aquaculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lack of uniform standards across all the countries and within countries (e.g., Mediterranean areas better than Red Sea and continental)</li> <li>○ Inadequate qualified human resources with right level of competence/experience</li> <li>○ Importation of inputs (e.g., seed, feeds, medicines, additives, etc)</li> </ul>
<i>Opportunities</i>	<i>Threats</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve existing strategies or implement new regional/national networks</li> <li>○ Partnerships development</li> <li>○ Offering low-cost protein (affordable, bio-safe and allowing traceability)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Some aquaculture realities do not respect environment</li> <li>○ Consumers prefer marine rather than farmed (aquaculture) fish products</li> </ul>

<b>Surveillance and Preparedness &amp; Response for emerging diseases</b>	
<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Weaknesses</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Existing laboratories with adequate competences</li> <li>○ Existing legal procedures</li> <li>○ Existing surveillance plans assist early detection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Guidelines and laws not present/adequate in some countries</li> <li>○ Local and regional value chains not well covered/supported in SPS measures</li> </ul>
<i>Opportunities</i>	<i>Threats</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased capacity for trade/export</li> <li>○ Improving traceability in trades</li> <li>○ Using existing networks to get in touch with all relevant stakeholders (producers, professionals, traders, etc)</li> <li>○ Improving the representativity of specialised institutions at local level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Artisanal products</li> <li>○ Emerging diseases from imported fingerlings/seed from infected countries</li> <li>○ Climate change, pollution</li> <li>○ Poor management and implementation of water quality measures</li> </ul>

<b>Information sharing and Networking</b>	
<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Weaknesses</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Availability/presence of research centres and veterinary schools in the sub-region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Absence of platforms for data sharing, communication at national and regional level</li> <li>○ Few research &amp; development collaboration projects</li> <li>○ Lack of resources dedicated to AAH</li> <li>○ Absence of reference/accredited laboratories</li> </ul>

<i>Opportunities</i>	<i>Threats</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assistance of international organizations</li> <li>○ International cooperation (twinning, etc)</li> <li>○ Improving collaboration with international reference laboratories</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fragmented market access and trade</li> </ul>

<b>Biosecurity</b>	
<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Weaknesses</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presence of national institutes for health certification</li> <li>○ Presence of sanitary and zoo-sanitary surveillance plans</li> <li>○ Health certificates are needed for import/export</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Un-harmonized legislation and biosecurity national plans</li> <li>○ Absence of dedicated quarantine facilities</li> </ul>
<i>Opportunities</i>	<i>Threats</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Better use of existing international standards (e.g., Aquatic Animal Health Code and the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals)</li> <li>○ Other success stories related to AAH (sharing experience)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Introduction of transboundary aquatic animal diseases</li> <li>○ Fragmented market access and trade</li> </ul>

## *Session 2: Development of RAAHN-NA Terms of Reference*

### Group Discussion 3: Terms of Reference

The second session was dedicated to interactive activities in which participants, divided in 3 groups, exchanged ideas and worked together to draft the Terms of Reference of the RAAHN-NA, starting from a provided template. All groups were asked to focus on the following suggested topics:

- Objectives
- Membership and Governance
- Communication (both internal and external)
- Resource mobilisation

At the end, a speaker from each group reported the outcomes during a Plenary Discussion.

WOAH collected all the discussion points and drafted the TOR of the RAAHN-NA, which will be first circulated among all workshop participants for approval and then submitted to the Steering Committee (at its first meeting) for official validation.

For further details and information on the outcomes of this group discussion, please see the Draft TOR of the RAAHN-NA.

### *Session 3: Development of RAAHN-NA Institutional Framework*

#### Group Discussion 4: Institutional Framework

The third session was dedicated to interactive activities in which participants, divided in 3 groups, were asked to draft the statute of the RAAHN-NA within existing regional institutional frameworks, adapting the Asia-Pacific and Middle East experience to the North African context.

Each group will focus on different sections of the Draft Institutional Framework provided:

- Location of the Secretariat
- Status and composition of the network
- Meetings (Organisation, Quorum, Decision process)
- Relationships with other networks
- Coordinating and collaborating for the development of joint programs
- Resource Mobilisation (Funds, Human resources, Diagnostic facilities)
- Communication and dissemination

At the end, a speaker from each group reported the outcomes during a *Plenary Discussion*.

The plenary discussion was very lively and animated, and it was not always possible to reach common points of agreement. Therefore, participants agreed that the Draft Institutional Framework of the RAAHN-NA should not be included in the proceeding of the workshop.

WOAH collected all the discussion points and will present them, as part of the Secretariat, at the first meeting of the Steering Committee, which will then be in charge of drafting and approving the Institutional framework, taking into account the advice of the Technical Committee.

The need to develop a legal framework, absent for the Regional Collaboration Framework on Aquatic Animal Health in Asia and the Pacific (AP-Net Aqua) and the Aquatic Middle East Network (AQMENET) was discussed. The SC will be responsible for deliberating on this at its first meeting, taking into account the advice of the Technical Committee. Should it be deemed necessary, AU-IBAR offered its legal expertise to later collaborate with the network committees to develop the legal framework of the RAAHN-NA.

## *Session 4: Development of RAAHN-NA Action Plan*

### Group Discussion 5: Action Plan

The fourth session was dedicated to interactive activities in which participants, divided in 3 groups, prioritised actions with indicative timelines (differentiating “near future - 12 months” and “long term - 3 years” tasks) and resource requirements to facilitate the institutionalization and operationalization of the RAAHN-NA.

Each group was assigned two/three of the seven priority topics identified during the Situation Analysis session:

1. Antimicrobial Use (AMU) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
2. Research and development
3. Collaboration and knowledge sharing
4. Surveillance and preparedness
5. Emergency preparedness and response
6. Biosecurity
7. Laboratory capacity and disease diagnosis

At the end, a speaker from each group reported the outcomes during a Plenary Discussion.

WOAH collected all the discussion points and drafted the Action Plan of the RAAHN-NA, which will be first circulated among all workshop participants for approval and then submitted to the Technical Committee (at its first meeting) for completion and approval. Once finalised, the Technical Committee will then present it to the Steering Committee for official validation.

For further details and information on the outcomes of this group discussion, please refer to the Draft Action Plan of the RAAHN-NA.

## Official Closure

### Recommendations/Next steps

- WOAAH, in collaboration with AU-IBAR, will draft the proceedings (Meeting Report, Draft Terms of Reference, Draft Action Plan) of the workshop and will circulate them for approval.
- Member countries will have 3 weeks to review/approve the proceedings.
- After the approval, the first meeting of the Steering Committee and Technical Committee will be convened, depending on the availability of members. The Secretariat will be in charge of coordinating the meetings and the agenda shall include the following talking points:
  - Official approval of the Draft Terms of Reference of the RAAHN-NA;
  - Completion and official approval of the Draft Action Plan of the RAAHN-NA;
  - Development of the Institutional Framework of the RAAHN-NA.
- Should it be deemed necessary by the Steering Committee, AU-IBAR will provide its legal expertise to collaborate with the network committees to develop the legal framework of the RAAHN-NA.

### Closing remarks

In conclusion, Dr Rachid Bouguedour, Dr Melanie Allan and Dr Nelly Isyagi made the final remarks, highlighting the key role that the RAAHN-NA might play for the fishery-aquaculture sector of the North-African sub-region and advocating for the commitment of Member Countries to actively involve both public and private stakeholders, with the aim of ensuring the sustainability and usefulness of the network.

### Field Trip

At the end of the workshop, the host country organised a field visit to a carp hatchery of the Centre Technique d'Aquaculture (CTA) Boumhal, Ben Arous, Tunis. It was an opportunity for the CTA staff to showcase their research projects on Aquaponics [*a form of aquaculture in which the waste produced by fish or other water animals provides food for the water plants, and the plants keep the water clean – Cambridge Dictionary*].



## *Annexes*

1. Annex 1: Agenda
2. Annex 2: List of participants

All presentations of the workshop are available at the following links:

EN: <https://rr-africa.woah.org/en/news/launch-of-the-regional-aquatic-animal-health-network-north-africa/>

FR: <https://rr-africa.woah.org/fr/news/lancement-du-reseau-regional-de-sante-des-animaux-aquatiques-pour-lafrique-du-nord-rrsaa-an/>

# Launch of the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for North Africa (RAAHN-NA)

25 – 27 April 2023 Tunis, Tunisia

# Lancement du Réseau Régional de Santé des Animaux Aquatiques pour l'Afrique du Nord RRSAA-AN

25 – 27 avril 2023 Tunis, Tunisie



## AGENDA

### DAY 1 - Tuesday 25 April 2023

<b>8:00-9:00</b>	Registration of participants		
<b>OFFICIAL OPENING</b>			
<b>9:00-9:30</b>	Opening remarks	Rachid Bouguedour Sana Kacem Nelly Isyagi Mohamed Bengoumi Faouzia Chakiri	WOAH SRR-NA DGSV Tunisia AU-IBAR FAO-SNE UMA
<b>9:30-9:40</b>	Background and objectives of the workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What do we want to achieve?</li> <li>What do we need to do to get there?</li> </ul>	Francesco Valentini	WOAH SRR-NA
<b>9:40-10:00</b>	Icebreaker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-introduction</li> <li>What are your expectations of the workshop?</li> </ul>	<i>all participants</i>	
<b>10:00-11:15</b>	<p><u>Keynote Presentations:</u></p> <p>Fisheries-Aquaculture industry status and opportunities for stakeholder participation in implementation of aquatic SPS measures to safeguard the sector and facilitate access to markets and trade in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Strategy (20 min)</li> </ul>	Melanie Allan	WOAH HQ

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (20 min)</li> <li>➤ “Strengthening the Capacity for Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity Control in Africa” (20 min)</li> </ul> <p>Question time (15 min)</p>	Kevin Christison  Nelly Isyagi	AAHSC  AU-IBAR
<b>11:15-11:45</b>	<i>Coffee Break and Group Photo</i>		
<b>SESSION 1: Situation Analysis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness of existing networks</li> <li>• Review/update existing AA disease control strategies</li> <li>• Aquatic animal disease situation in the region</li> </ul>			
<b>11:45-12:45</b>	<u>Case Studies:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ NACA experience (20 min)</li> <li>➤ WOAHA Tokyo experience (20 min - recorded)</li> </ul> <p>Overview of the Asia-Pacific fisheries-aquaculture industry status, aquatic health concerns and objectives for aquatic SPS and market access, the stakeholders, institutional TORs and operational frameworks</p>	Eduardo Leano  Thitiwan Patanasatienkul	NACA  WOAHA Asia and the Pacific
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ AQMENET operation plan (20 min)</li> </ul>	Yehia Ghazi	WOAHA RR-ME
<b>12:45-13:00</b>	<u>Sharing experiences:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ “FAO Support to the Aquaculture Sector in North Africa”</li> </ul>	Manahel Akkari	FAO-SNE
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
<b>14:00-14:15</b>	<u>Main outputs from the World Aquaculture Society (WAS) African Chapter and its partners in North Africa:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ “Role Of Research Institutes in Mapping Knowledge on Prevalence Of Fish Diseases and AMR in North Africa Aquaculture”</li> </ul>	Nadia Cherif	INSTM, WAS African Chapter
<b>14:15-14:30</b>	<u>Member states contributions:</u> <p>Sharing of existing local experience and show benefits from establishment of AAH zoo sanitary national plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ “The Maghreb and North African Platform for Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture: history, realities and perspectives”</li> </ul>	Mongi Chniter	PMNAPAA
<b>14:30-16:20</b>	<u>Member states contributions:</u> <p>The National Focal Point of Aquaculture of each country presents their “country profile” (success stories and challenges): surveillance, monitoring and reporting, opportunities, needs and challenges (15-20 min each)</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Algeria</li> <li>➤ Egypt</li> <li>➤ Mauritania</li> <li>➤ Morocco</li> <li>➤ Tunisia</li> </ul>	<p>Fatiha Bouguerra</p> <p>Mohamed Masood Wael Abdelwahab</p> <p>Sidi Ould Ould Khelifa</p> <p>Hassan Moujahid</p> <p>Ines Tliba</p>	<p>Aquaculture FP of Algeria</p> <p>Aquaculture FP of Egypt</p> <p>Aquaculture FP of Mauritania</p> <p>Aquaculture FP of Morocco</p> <p>Aquaculture FP of Tunisia</p>
<b>16:20-16:45</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
<b>16:45-17:30</b>	<p><u>Group discussion 1:</u></p> <p>Review of the status of aquaculture, aquatic animal health issues and opportunities for regional collaboration and stakeholder networking to improve implementation of aquatic SPS measures within the region (Reference to shared background documents)</p> <p>3 groups – rotation between three topics (15 min each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aquatic animal health issues</li> <li>• Aquatic animal health opportunities</li> <li>• Regional collaboration and stakeholder networking</li> </ul>		<p>WOAH, AU-IBAR, NACA, AAHSC facilitators</p>
<b>17:30-17:45</b>	<p><u>Sharing experiences:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ “Capacity building in the field of farmed fish health”</li> </ul>	<p>Mohamed Naceur Baccar and Hedia Attia El Hili</p>	<p>CNVZ</p>
<b>17:45-18:45</b>	<p><u>Group discussion 2:</u></p> <p>GAP and SWOT analysis of the status quo in the regions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What has been done well</li> <li>• Where do they see gaps</li> </ul> <p>3 groups - no rotation, 2 topics per group (45min) + Report back (15 min)</p> <p>Suggested topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implementation of WOAHS Standards and disease reporting</li> <li>2. Laboratory capacity and diagnostics</li> <li>3. Public-private partnerships</li> <li>4. Surveillance for emerging diseases; Preparedness and response for emerging diseases</li> <li>5. Information sharing and networking</li> <li>6. Biosecurity</li> </ol>		<p>WOAH, AU-IBAR, NACA, AAHSC facilitators</p>
<b>After 19:30</b>	<i>Welcome dinner</i>		

**DAY 2 - Wednesday 26 April 2023**

<b>9:00-9:15</b>	<p>Summary and commentary of the first day's group discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group discussion 1 (20-25 min)</li> <li>• Group discussion 2 (20-25 min)</li> </ul>	Francesco Valentini	WOAH SRR-NA
<b>9:15-9:45</b>	<p><u>Member states contributions:</u></p> <p>Sharing of existing local experience and show benefits from establishment of AAH zoo sanitary national plan. (15 min each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ “New analytical tools for the quantification of biosecurity measures and risk profiling in North Africa”</li> <li>➤ “Women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Tunisia: AWFISHNET network and the contribution of the NEMO Kantara project in improving sanitary aspects in the sector”</li> </ul>	<p>Nadia Cherif</p> <p>Jawhara Chahbani</p>	<p>INSTM, WAS African Chapter</p> <p>AWFISHNET, NEMO Kantara</p>
<b>9:45-10:00</b>	<p><u>Member states contributions:</u></p> <p>Members of the private sector present their field of activity (success stories and challenges): current situation, opportunities, needs and challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Tunisia</li> </ul>	Nadia Makhoulouf	CRDA Mahdia, Tunisia
<b>10:00-10:30</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
<b>SESSION 2: Development of RAAHN Terms Of Reference</b>			
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	Plenary presentation of the draft Terms of Reference for the RAAHN		WOAH/AU-IBAR
<b>11:00-12:30</b>	<p><u>Group discussion 3:</u></p> <p>Development of RAAHN Terms Of Reference</p> <p>3 groups - no rotation, each group will focus on the Draft Terms Of Reference provided (60 min) + report back (30 min)</p> <p>Suggested topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Objectives</li> <li>2. Membership and Governance</li> <li>3. Communication (both internal and external)</li> <li>4. Resource mobilisation</li> </ol> <p>[Both background documents and a template will be provided]</p>		WOAH, AU-IBAR, NACA, AAHSC facilitators
<b>12:30-12:45</b>	<p><u>Sharing experiences:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ “WVEPAH - Continuing Education and Certification”</li> </ul>	Pierre Cadot	WVEPAH
<b>12:45-13:40</b>	<i>Lunch break</i>		
<b>13:45-14:30</b>	<p><u>Plenary discussion:</u></p> <p>Validation/approval of all the points of the Terms Of Reference</p>		<p><i>all participants</i></p> <p>WOAH, AU-IBAR, NACA, AAHSC facilitators</p>

<b>SESSION 3: Development of RAAHN Institutional Framework</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft a statute within existing regional institutional framework</li> </ul>		
<b>14:30-15:00</b>	Plenary presentation of the draft Institutional Framework for the RAAHN	WOAH/AU-IBAR
<b>15:00-16:00</b>	<p><u>Group discussion 4:</u></p> <p>Review and drafting/recommending up-dates of existing institutional RAAHN frameworks, adapting the ME and Asia experience to the North African context.</p> <p>3 groups - no rotation, each group will focus on different sections of the Draft Institutional Framework</p> <p>[Both background documents and a template will be provided]</p>	WOAH, AU-IBAR, NACA, AAHSC facilitators
<b>16:00-16:30</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
<b>16:30-17:15</b>	<p>Report back of Group discussion 4</p> <p><u>Plenary discussion:</u></p> <p>Validation/approval of all the points of the Institutional Framework</p>	<p><i>all participants</i></p> <p>WOAH, AU-IBAR, NACA, AAHSC facilitators</p>
<b>17:15-17:30</b>	Closing remarks of the second day	WOAH, AU-IBAR

### DAY 3 - Thursday 27 April 2023

<b>SESSION 4: Development of RAAHN Inaugural Action Plan</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify priority tasks to facilitate RAAHN operationalization</li> </ul>		
<b>9:00-9:30</b>	Plenary presentation of the draft Action Plan for the RAAHN How to generate a roadmap	WOAH, AU-IBAR
<b>9:30-11:00</b>	<p><u>Group Discussion 5:</u></p> <p>Prioritizing actions with indicative timelines and resource requirements to facilitate the institutionalization and operationalization of RAAHN into the REC and animal health (SPS) infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Near future (12 months) priorities</li> <li>• Long term (3 years) priorities</li> </ul> <p>3 groups - no rotation, each group will focus on two or three key-topics of the Draft Action Plan (1 h) + report back (30 min)</p> <p>Suggested topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. AMU &amp; AMR</li> <li>2. Research and development</li> <li>3. Collaboration and knowledge sharing</li> <li>4. Surveillance and preparedness</li> <li>5. Emergency preparedness and response</li> <li>6. Biosecurity</li> <li>7. Laboratory capacity and disease diagnosis</li> </ol> <p>[Both background documents and a template will be provided]</p>	WOAH, AU-IBAR, NACA, AAHSC facilitators
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
<b>11:30-12:30</b>	<p><u>Plenary discussion:</u></p> <p>Validation/approval of all the points of the Regional Action Plan</p>	<p><i>all participants</i></p> <p>WOAH, AU-IBAR, NACA, AAHSC facilitators</p>



<b>OFFICIAL CLOSURE</b>		
<b>12:30-13:00</b>	List of recommendations – bullet points Closing remarks	<i>all participants</i> WOAH, AU-IBAR
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<i>Lunch break</i>	
<b>FIELD TRIP</b>		
<b>14:00-17:00</b>	Visit of a Tunisian Fish farm: Carp hatchery - Centre Technique d'Aquaculture (CTA) Boumhal Ben Arous, Tunis	Host country

# Launch of the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for North Africa (RAAHN-NA)

25 – 27 April 2023 Tunis, Tunisia

# Lancement du Réseau Régional de Santé des Animaux Aquatiques pour l'Afrique du Nord RRSAA-AN

25 – 27 avril 2023 Tunis, Tunisie



## List of Participants

ID	COUNTRY/ORGANISATION	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	STATUS / POSITION IN RELATION TO THE WOA
1	Algeria	Mohamed	Zenikhri	Sous directeur de la santé et du bien être animal
2	Algeria	Fatiha	Bouguerra	Aquaculture Focal Point
3	Egypt	Mohamed Masood	Wael Abdelwahab	Aquaculture Focal Point
4	Mauritania	Mohamed	Ebabeck	Directeur adjoint des Services Vétérinaires
5	Mauritania	Sidi	Ould Ould Khlifa	Aquaculture Focal Point
6	Morocco	Hassan	Moujahid	Aquaculture Focal Point
7	Morocco	Ikbal	Benabbes	médecin vétérinaire au SV de Dakhla
8	Tunisia	Sana	Kacem	Delegate/CVO
9	Tunisia	Ines	Tliba	Aquaculture Focal Point
10	Tunisia	Amal	Cherif	DGSV aquaculture Tunisia
11	Tunisia	Mohamed	Chaabouni	DGSV aquaculture Tunisia - sub-director in charge of food hygiene
12	Tunisia	Aida	Tlatli	Chargée de la gestion de l'IRVT Directeur d'Hygiène, Qualité et Sécurité des Aliments Responsable Management Qualité Institut de la Recherche Vétérinaire de Tunisie

13	AU-IBAR	Nelly	Isyagi	Fisheries and Aquaculture Trade and Investment Expert
14	UMA	Faouzia	Chakiri	Chef de division à la Direction de la Sécurité Alimentaire
15	FAO-SNE	Mohammed	Bengoumi	Animal Production and Health Officer
16	FAO-SNE	Nadia	Brik	Junior professional officer
17	FAO-SNE	Manahel	Akkari	Expert junior spécialiste en pêche et aquaculture
18	STOR REMESA	Cristina	Casalone	STOR REMESA Scientific Director, IZS Sicily
19	Private Sector	Nadia	Cherif	Fish and Crustacean Viral Disease Aquaculture Laboratory - National Institute for Marine Sciences and Technologies World Aquaculture Society, African Chapter - North Africa region
20	Private Sector	Mongi	Chniter	Deputy General Secretary, Pan-African Platform of NSAs in Fisheries and Aquaculture (AFRIFISH-Net) - North African Chapter Deputy Secretary General of the Maghreb and North African Platform for Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (PMNAPAA)
21	Private Sector	Jawhara	Chahbani	Africa Women's Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET) - North Africa Chapter; Nemo Kantara project Regional Coordinator
22	Private Sector	Nadia	Makhlouf	Vétérinaire privée spécialiste du secteur aquacole au CRDA Mahdia
23	World Veterinary Education in Production Animal Health (WVEPAH)	Pierre	Cadot	Director of WVEPAH
24	University of Tripoli	Ehab	Al Sharif	Professor in the Department of Poultry & Fish Disease, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tripoli
25	Centre National de Veille Zoo sanitaire de Tunis (CNVZ)	Hedia	Attia El Hili	Directrice de la surveillance et de l'évaluation Centre National de Veille Zoo sanitaire de Tunis (CNVZ)
26	Centre National de Veille Zoo sanitaire de Tunis (CNVZ)	Mohamed Naceur	Baccar	Médecin vétérinaire inspecteur général Directeur de la veille zoo sanitaire de la formation et du développement des compétences Centre National de Veille Zoo sanitaire de Tunis (CNVZ)

27	Centre Technique d'Aquaculture (CTA)	Foued	Mestiri	Director of the Centre Technique d'Aquaculture - Station de pisciculture continentale, Boumhell, Ben Arous
28	Centre Technique d'Aquaculture (CTA)	Mohamed	Hammami	Centre Technique d'Aquaculture - Station de pisciculture continentale, Boumhell, Ben Arous
29	Centre Technique d'Aquaculture (CTA)	Mehdi	Soula	Centre Technique d'Aquaculture - Station de pisciculture continentale, Boumhell, Ben Arous
30	WOAH staff	Melanie	Allan	Scientific Coordinator AAHS - Regional Activities Department
31	WOAH staff	Ghazi	Yehia	Consultant - WOAHR-RE (Past Representative of WOAHR-RE)
32	WOAH expert	Kevin	Christison	Member Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), South Africa
33	WOAH expert	Eduardo	Leano	NACA, Bangkok
34	WOAH Staff	Rachid	Bouguedour	Representative – WOAHR-NA
35	WOAH Staff	Francesco	Valentini	Programme Officer – WOAHR-NA
36	WOAH Staff	Mohamed	Ben Daya	Logistic Assistant – WOAHR-NA