



World Organisation
for Animal Health



Training of National Focal Points for Aquatic Animal Health (Cycle IV)

2 - 4 October 2023 Kigali, Rwanda





Standard-Setting Process

Mohamed Sirdar

WOAH Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa

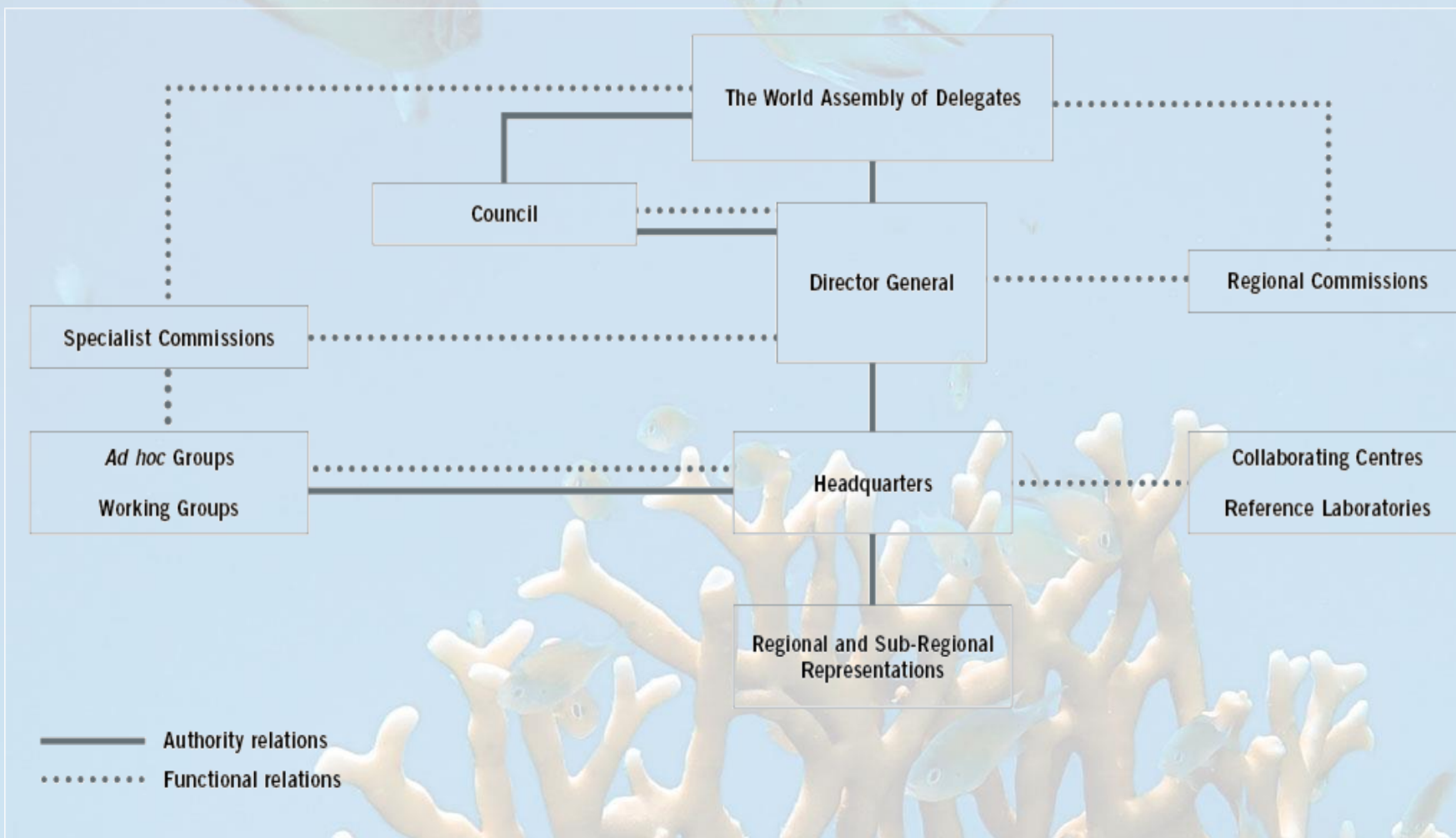
Gaborone, Botswana

World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

- ❑ Formed in 1924 as the *Office International des Epizooties* (OIE) – to fight TADs (Rinderpest)
- ❑ In 2003 became the World Organisation for Animal Health, but retained acronym “OIE”, in 2022 the acronym changed to “WOAH”
- ❑ **Mandate:** sets science-based Standards on Animal Health, Welfare and Veterinary Public Health – to protect international trade in animals and their products
- ❑ Mandate recognised by the WTO SPS Agreement – International Standard Setting Body (ISSB)
- ❑ Currently 183 member countries (represented by their Directors of Veterinary Services – WOAH Delegate)
- ❑ Operates through a network of Regional/Sub-Regional Offices & Reference Centres (Ref Labs Collaborating Centres)



WOAH Governance Structure



World Assembly of WOAAH Delegates

- ❑ Composed of all National Delegates of the WOAAH
- ❑ Convene once a year



FUNCTIONS

- ❑ Makes decisions through the adoption of resolutions
- ❑ Adopts WOAAH Standards published in the WOAAH Codes and Manuals
- ❑ Approves the official disease status of Member Countries and the list of WOAAH Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories

ELECTS

- ❑ Members of the WOAAH Council & Regional Commissions
- ❑ Members of the WOAAH Specialist Commissions
- ❑ Director General

👉 **1 Member = 1 vote**

WOAH Council

- ❑ Represents the World Assembly of Delegates
- ❑ Members elected by WOAHD Delegates
- ❑ Term of 3 years

Dr. Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez

Presidente de la Asamblea mundial de los Delegados

📍 PARAGUAY

About 

Dr. Mark Schipp

Past President of the Council/Chief Veterinary Officer

📍 AUSTRALIA

About 

Dr. Susana Pombo

Vice President of the Council – Director General

📍 PORTUGAL

About 

Dr. Fajer Sabah Al Salloom

Member of the Council; Director of Animal Health, Animal Wealth Resources

📍 BAHRAIN

About 

Dr. Roland Xolani Dlamini

Member of the Council – Director

📍 ESWATINI

About 

Dr. Wilmer José Juarez Juarez

Member of the Council

📍 NICARAGUA

About 

Dr. Konstantin Savenkov

Member of the Council – Deputy Head

📍 RUSSIA

Dr. Him Hoo Yap

Member of the Council – Chief Veterinary Officer Director General

📍 SINGAPORE

Dr. Komla Batassé Batawui

Membre du Conseil, Conseiller spécial du ministre chargé de l'élevage

📍 TOGO

FUNCTIONS

- ❑ Examines the technical and administrative documents prepared by the Director General and submitted to each Member Country prior to the World Assembly of Delegates
- ❑ Approves WOAHD provisional budget and monitors its implementation
- ❑ Represents the World Assembly of Delegates between General Sessions

Director General

- Dr Monique ELOIT
- Elected in May 2015 by the World Assembly of national Delegates and currently serving the 2nd term
- 1st woman elected to this position

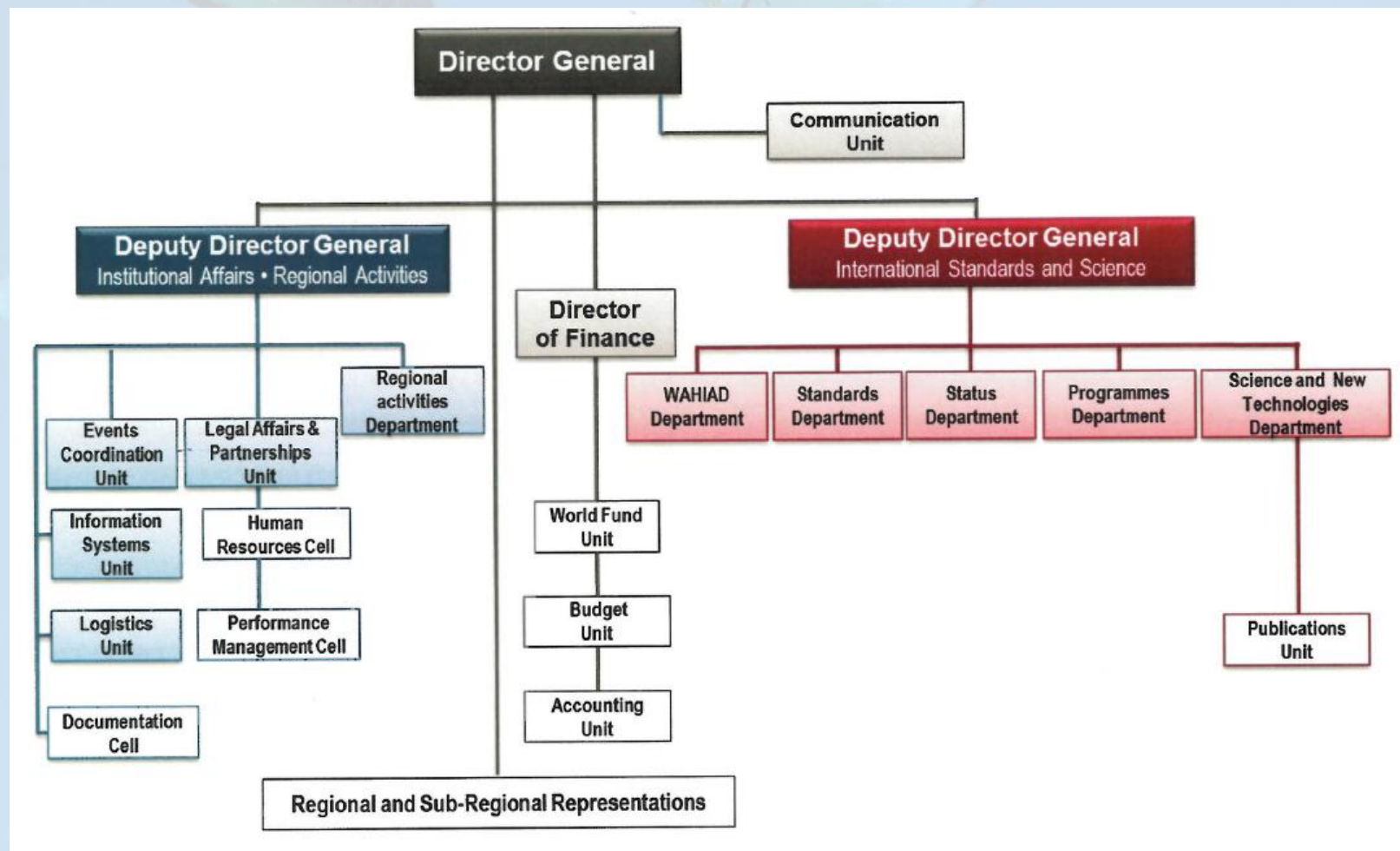


FUNCTIONS

- Implementation of WOAH Strategic Plan
- 7th Strategic Plan 2021-2026



WOAH HQ: Director General



WOAH Specialist Commissions

☐ Elected by the World Assembly of national Delegates

☐ 3 years term

Dr. Cristóbal Zepeda

President, SCAD Specialist Commission;
Regional Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean

📍 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dr. Trevor Drew

Vice President, SCAD Specialist Commission

📍 AUSTRALIA

Dr. Kris De Clercq

Vice President, SCAD Specialist Commission

📍 BELGIUM

Dr. Silvia Bellini

Staff Director, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna

📍 ITALY

Dr. Misheck Mulumba

Senior Manager Research, Agricultural Research Council

📍 SOUTH AFRICA

Dr. Baptiste Dungu

Veterinary Specialist, Afrivet Business Management

📍 SOUTH AFRICA



FUNCTIONS

- ☐ Terrestrial Animal Health Standard Commission
Code Commission
- ☐ Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases
Scientific Commission
- ☐ Aquatic Animal Health Standard Commission
Aquatic Animal Commission
- ☐ Biological Standard Commission
Laboratories Commission



Dr. Ingo Ernst

President, Aquatic Animals Commission;
Director Aquatic Pest and Health Policy

📍 AUSTRALIA

Dra. Alicia Gallardo Lagno

Vice-President, Aquatic Animals Commission; Senior Adviser FARMAVET

📍 CHILE

Dr. Fiona Geoghegan

Vice-President, Aquatic Animals Commission; Legislative Officer

📍 IRELAND

Dr Espen Rimstad

Professor in virology

📍 NORWAY

Dr. Hong Liu

Deputy Director

📍 PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Dr. Kevin William Christison

Specialist Scientist

📍 SOUTH AFRICA

WOAH Regional Commissions

- ❑ *Addresses specific local issues*

FUNCTIONS

- ❑ *Can be fully considered as regional institutions*
- ❑ *Board composed of 4 Delegates elected for a 3-year term of office by the World Assembly*
- ❑ *Regional Commission Conferences every 2 years in one of the countries of the region*
- ❑ *Recommendations submitted to the World Assembly for approval and implementation by the Director General*
- ❑ *Meet annually during the World Assembly*



CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF)

Dr Honoré N'Lemba Mabela

President



NAMIBIA

Dr Albertina Shilongo (she/her)

Vice-President



SENEGAL

Dr Mbargou Lô

Vice-President



UGANDA

**Dr Anna-Rose Ademun-Okurut
(she/her)**

Secretary General



25th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa

Date: 20 - 24 February 2023
Time: 08:00am
Venue: Gaborone International Convention Center (GICC),
Gaborone, Botswana



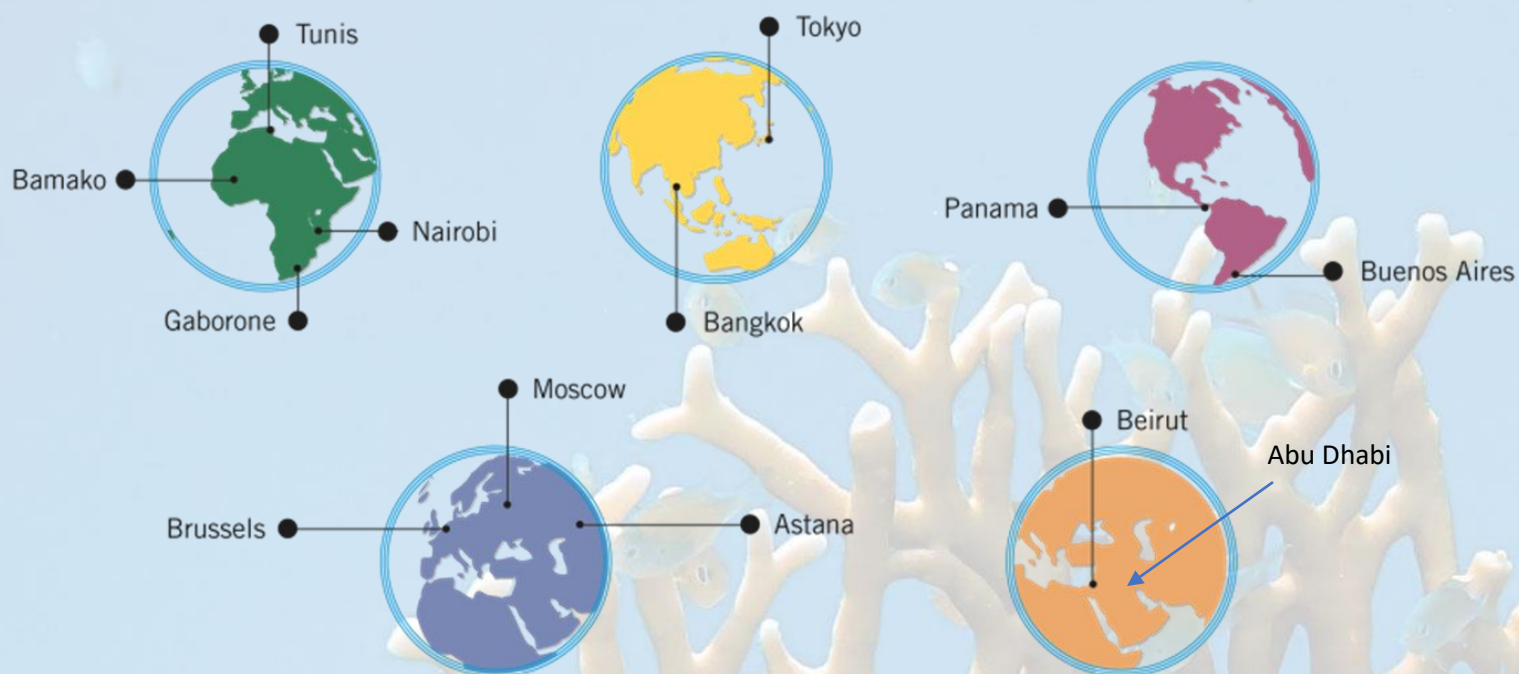
Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

WOAH Regional & Sub-Regional (SRR) Representations

- Under the direct authority of the Director General Collaborate closely with Regional Commissions

FUNCTIONS

- Represents the organisation and the Director General in the region or sub-region.
- Implement WOAHS strategic plan at regional or sub-regional level



WOAH Ad hoc and Working Groups

- Internationally renowned experts from the Reference Centres and collaborating Centres
- Advise on current issues or provide recommendations to the relevant Specialist Commissions

Status evaluation on dog mediated rabies

Surra and Dourine

Susceptibility of crustaceans species to WOAHA listed diseases

Susceptibility of fish species to infection with WOAHA listed diseases

Susceptibility of mollusc species to infection with WOAHA listed diseases

Sustainable laboratories

Functions of Working Groups

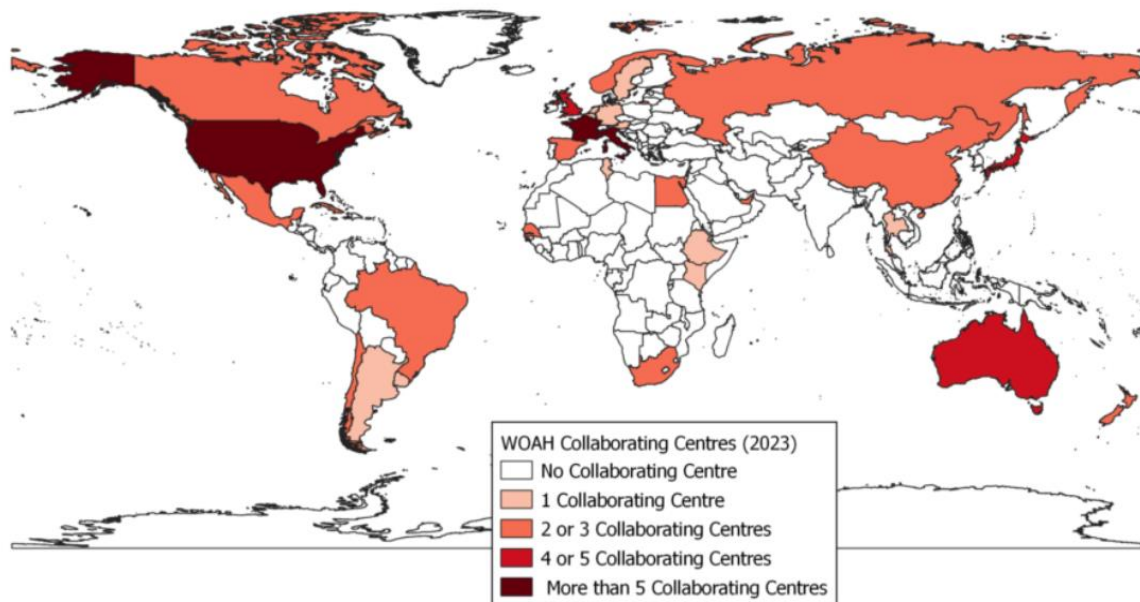
- Appointed by the World Assembly of Delegates
- Permanent
- Regularly updates progress made in the field of expertise: Animal welfare, Food safety, Wildlife..etc

Functions of Ad hoc Groups

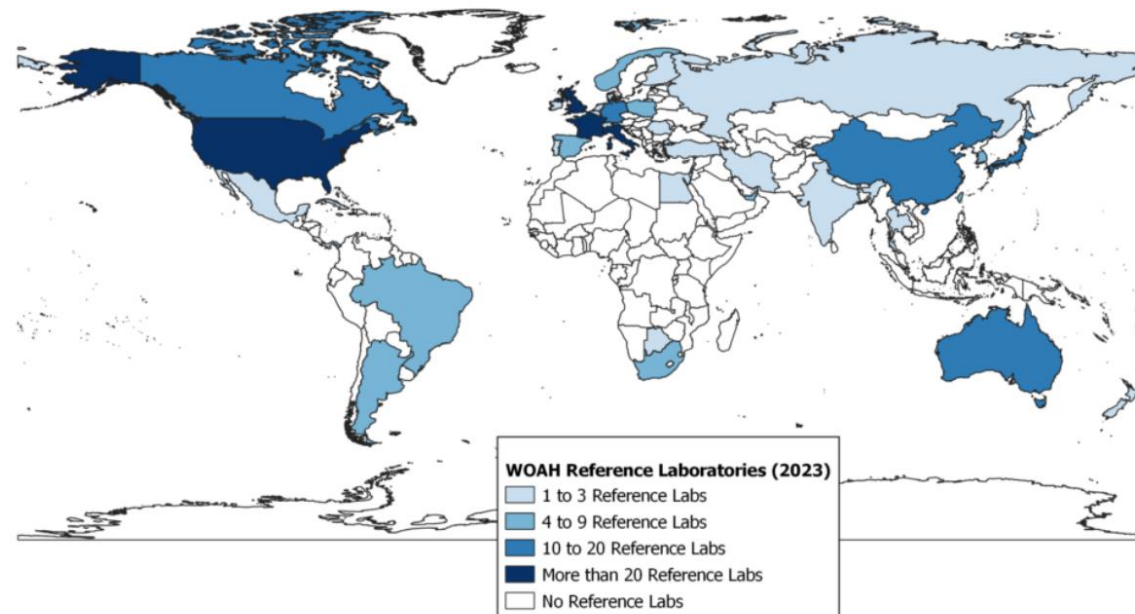
- Appointed by the Director General
- Punctual
- Prepare recommendations on specific topics: MERS-CoV, Porcine epidemic diarrhoea, Foot-and-mouth disease...etc

WOAH Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres

World distribution of WOAH Collaborating Centres



World Distribution of WOAH Reference Laboratories



WOAH Delegates and Focal Points

- ❑ *WOAH Delegates are usually Directors of Veterinary Services in Member countries and appointed by the respective Ministry (Minister).*
- ❑ *Delegates represent WOAHA within the Country*
- ❑ *WOAH Focal Points are appointed by the Delegate*
- ❑ *WOAH recognize 8 focal points within each member country*

Functions of National Focal Points

- ❑ *Assist the Delegate to Comment on draft standards proposed by the WOAHA*
- ❑ *Prepare and implement appropriate legislation*
- ❑ *Technical contact points with WOAHA regional offices and headquarters Under the authority of the Delegate*
- ❑ *Information exchange and international networking*

Animal diseases notification – Since 2007

Animal production food safety – Since 2008

Wildlife - Since 2008

Animal welfare – Since 2008

Aquatic animal disease – Since 2008

Communications – Since 2010

Veterinary products – Since 2008

Veterinary Laboratories – Since 2012



WOAH International Standards

The Terrestrial Animal Health Code

First published in 1968, provides standards for the improvement of terrestrial animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide. These standards should be used by Veterinary Services to set up measures for the early detection, reporting and control of pathogenic agents, including zoonotic agents, and preventing their spread. Implementation of the recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code* protects animal health and welfare and ensures the safety of international trade in animals and animal products.

The Aquatic Animal Health Code

Introduced in 1995, provides standards for the improvement of aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide. These standards should be used by Aquatic Animal Health Services to set up measures for the prevention, early detection, reporting and control of pathogenic agents in aquatic animals (amphibians, crustaceans, fish and molluscs). Implementation of the recommendations in the *Aquatic Code* ensures the safety of international trade in aquatic animals and aquatic animal products.

The Manual of Diagnostic Tests and vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

First published in 1989, provides a standardised approach to the diagnosis of the diseases listed in the *Terrestrial Code*, to contribute to the improvement of animal health worldwide, and to facilitate health certification for trade in animals and animal products. It also provides internationally agreed diagnostic laboratory methods and requirements for the production and control of vaccines and other biological products.

The Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

First published in 1995, provides a standardised approach to the diagnosis of the diseases listed in the *Aquatic Code*, to contribute to the improvement of aquatic animal health worldwide and to facilitate health certification for trade in aquatic animals and aquatic animal products. A new edition is published every 4 years but any updated or new chapters adopted by the World Assembly in between publications are made available on the online version.



WOAH International Standards Setting Process



Adoption of new Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare Standards in the 90th General Assembly (2023)

Adoption of new Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare Standards Close

The President of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, Dr Ingo Ernst (Australia), in his presentation highlighted all the activities conducted by the Commission over the year and provided an overview of the Code texts proposed for adoption. Many of these were related to changes in taxonomy of, or newly identified susceptible species to some of the already published standards in chapters 9.3, 9.4., 9.5., 10.9, 11.3 and 11.4.

- Chapter 9.3 Infection with *Hepatobacter penaei* (Necrotising hepatopancreatitis)
- Chapter 9.4. Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus
- Chapter 9.5. Infection with infectious myonecrosis virus
- Chapter 10.9. Infection with spring viraemia of carp virus
- Chapter 11.3. Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*
- Chapter 11.4. Infection with *Marteilia refringens*

In May 2022, a new disease (infection with Tilapia lake virus or TiLV) was listed according to the criteria of Chapter 1.3 of the Aquatic Code. This year, the corresponding Code chapter presented for adoption, but was opposed by the European Union, as represented by the WOAHA Delegate from Finland, as well as Norway. It was eventually approved on the condition that the contentious articles would be labelled "under study".

For the Aquatic Manual, a more comprehensive review (case definitions, advanced diagnostic techniques) has been undertaken of the following chapters/diseases, all of which were

- Chapter 2.2.1. Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease
- Chapter 2.2.3. Infection with *Hepatobacter penaei* (necrotising hepatopancreatitis)
- Chapter 2.2.4. Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus
- Chapter 2.2.5. Infection with infectious myonecrosis virus
- Chapter 2.2.7. Infection with Taura syndrome virus
- Chapter 2.2.8. Infection with white spot syndrome virus

Calendar of the upcoming Specialist Commission meetings

Commissions*	February 2023	September 2023	February 2024
Terrestrial Code Commission	7-17	5-14	6-16
Biological Standards Commission	6-10	4-8	5-9
Scientific Commission	13-17	11-15	12-16
Aquatic Animals Commission	15-22	13-20	14-21

Conclusion

The only pathway for adoption of a new or revised standard is by approval of the World Assembly of Delegates at the annual General Session in May. The newly adopted standards, then, enter into force.