

Outcomes of the RAAHN-NA workshop

Dr Francesco Valentini
WOAH SRR-NA

Launch of the Regional Aquatic Animal Health laboratory Network for Africa
(5-7 December 2023, Pretoria, South Africa)



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

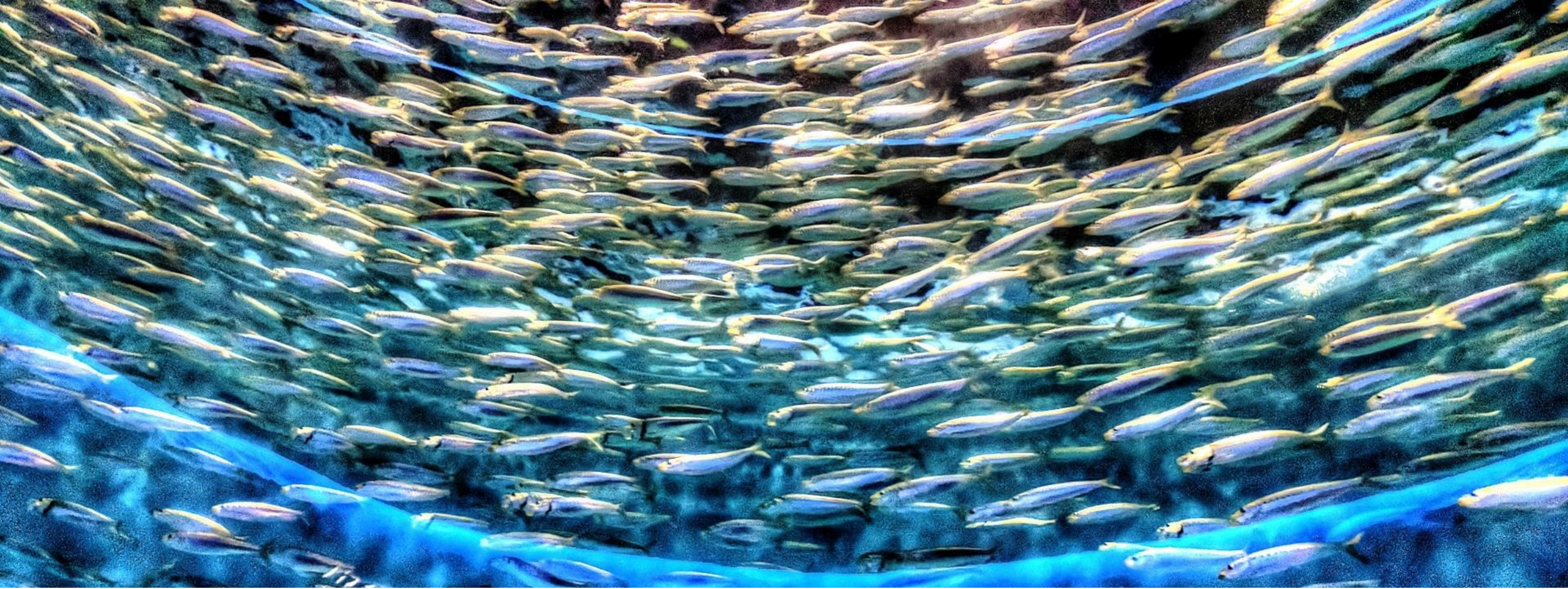
Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

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1. Objectives
2. Brief summary
3. Outcomes
4. First meeting of the TC
5. Next steps





OBJECTIVES



General objectives

Assist in identifying the options for

- establishing
- operationalising

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



To strengthen the implementation of aquatic SPS measures for:

- biosecurity control
- improved market access
- safe intra-regional fish trade

To create a platform where the public sectors and private stakeholders can:

- share information
- network to collectively develop, implement and monitor aquatic animal health strategies coherently.



Specific objectives

1. Situation Analysis

- Create awareness, share experiences and learn lessons
- Review and update existing Regional Aquatic Animal Disease Control Strategies to generate consensus on priorities and objectives

2. Development of Terms of Reference

3. Development of an Institutional framework

4. Draft an inaugural Action Plan

Expected outcomes

- Increased awareness (current status and existing options at national and regional level)
- Sharing experiences → to succeed (benefits and opportunities)

TOR

Proposal framework

Priority tasks

Consensus and the way forward for establishing a RAAHN in North Africa

Workshop proceedings



BRIEF SUMMARY



**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

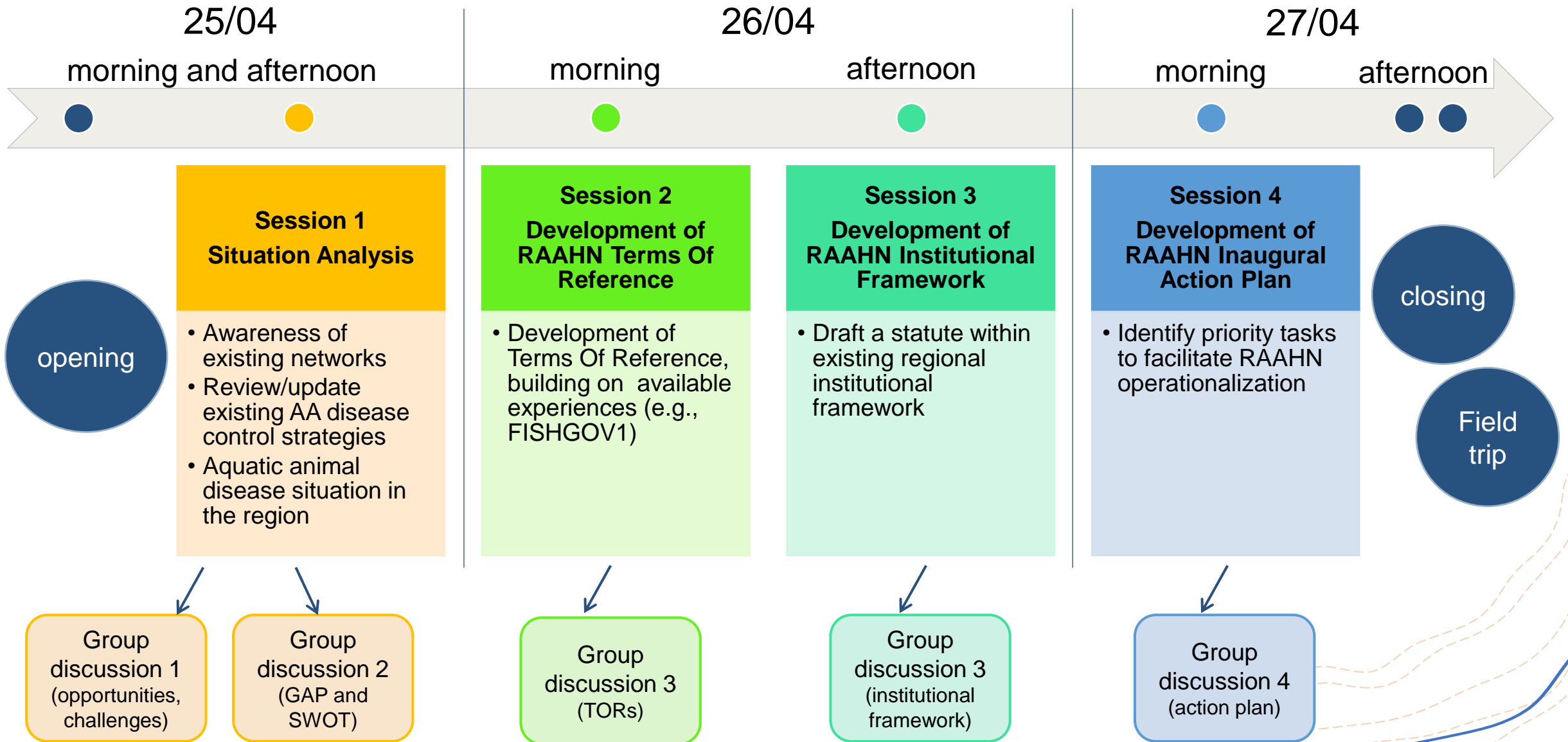


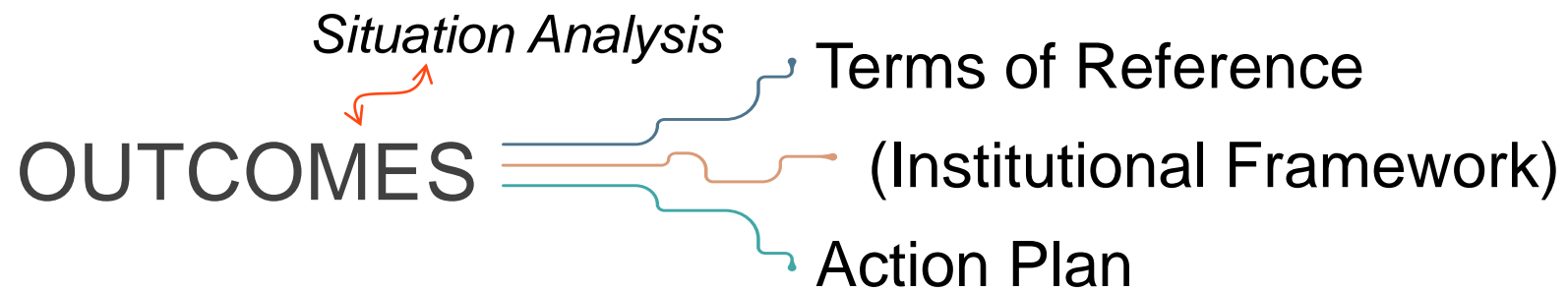


34 participants
(public and private sector)

Algeria, Egypt, Libya,
Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia









Review the status of aquaculture the region to improve the implementation of aquatic SPS measures

3 groups – rotation between three topics
(15-20 min each)

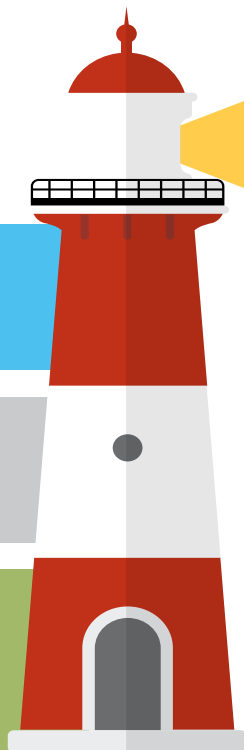
AAH issues



AAH opportunities



Communication and
Networking (stakeholders)



Main issues → possible solutions

Main opportunities → how to address them

Reasons to collaborate →
how to improve existing /
implement new networks



SWOT analysis of the status quo in the regions

What has been done well ? Where do you see gaps ?

3 groups - no rotation (30min) + Report back (15 min)

Group 1

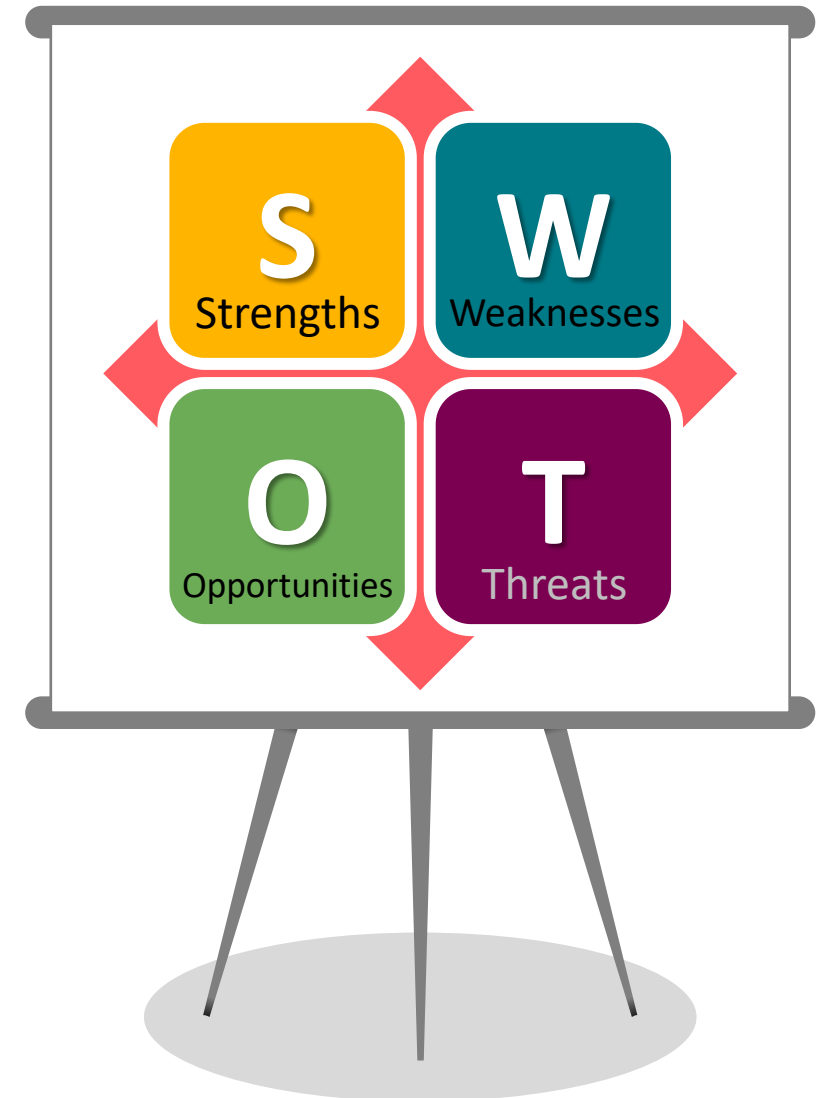
- Implementation of WOAHA Standards and Disease reporting
- Laboratory capacity and diagnostics

Group 2

- Public-Private Partnerships
- Surveillance for emerging diseases; Preparedness and response for emerging diseases

Group 3

- Information sharing and networking
- Biosecurity





Where can you find these info?

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
Scientific Coordinator Aquatic Animal Health Strategy: Dr Melanie Allan, m.allan@woah.org
Representative SRR-NA: Dr Rachid Bouguedour, r.bouguedour@woah.org

RAPPORT DE REUNION

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

Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale (OMSA)
Chargé de programme RSR-AN : Dr Francesco Valentini, f.valentini@woah.org
Coordonnatrice Scientifique de la Stratégie pour la Santé des Animaux Aquatiques : Dre Melanie Allan, m.allan@woah.org
Représentant RSR-AN : Dr Rachid Bouguedour, r.bouguedour@woah.org



Terms of Reference (1)

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE REGIONAL AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH NETWORK

NORTH AFRICA

- ▶ Overview
- ▶ Background
- ▶ **Objectives**
- ▶ Membership and Governance
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Resource mobilisation

Specific objectives

1. identify **diseases** of national and regional **priority**.
2. **prevention, early detection, and control** of aquatic animal diseases ↔ sustainable growth
3. disease **management, surveillance** and control strategies and animal **welfare** ↔ harmonisation + international standards.
4. strengthen **biosecurity**
5. promote **harmonisation** of legislation and regulations
6. **preparedness and response** capacity and capability
7. standardisation of **diagnostic methods**
8. promote **research, epidemiology** and **pathology**.
9. **sharing** disease information
10. promote **trade**
11. prudent **AMU + AMR** surveillance
12. facilitate **collaboration** between WOAHA Reference Centers and national and
13. **coordination** with other relevant networks
14. **communicate** and **advocate**
15. identify **resources**.



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Steering Committee

CVOs,
WOAH, AU-IBAR,
partner organizations,
Chair of TC



FAO, UMA,
STOR, WAS ...

Technical Committee

AA FPs + relevant
regional experts



Secretariat

- SC and TC will meet at least once every 6 months
- A record of the meeting will be kept by the Secretariat
- The network may report on its discussion to other stakeholders if it deems it necessary
- External communication will occur through a dedicated webpage managed by the Secretariat

- The network shall mobilise financial and technical resources internally and externally to achieve its objectives
- Funding: grants/donors for specific projects



Action Plan + Priority Activities



DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE
of the REGIONAL AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH NETWORK
for NORTH AFRICA (RAAHN-NA)

Overview

These terms of reference formally recognise the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network in North Africa (RAAHN-NA) and set out the objectives, membership, structure and functions of the network.

Background

Effective collaboration on aquatic animal health is essential for the sustainability of aquaculture and wild fisheries. Strengthening and harmonising national and regional policies, legislation, regulatory and monitoring regimes is a priority given the transboundary nature of North Africa's aquatic resources.

All stakeholders across the fisheries-aquaculture value chain have a role to play in the control of aquatic animal diseases associated with the production and trade of aquatic animals. This requires a functional system linking and coordinating aquatic animal producers, traders, researchers, fishery resource and animal health managers at national and regional level in North Africa.

The RAAHN-NA will initially focus on building a framework of actors with the aim of mitigating the threats to aquatic animal production arising from aquatic animal diseases.

The establishment of this network takes into consideration the:

- need to improve region, country and farm level biosecurity to reduce the risk for disease occurrence and spread.
- need for better training of veterinary services and aquatic animal health professionals to better support the aquaculture industry.
- increasing demand for aquatic animals and their products and the importance of aquatic animal production in strengthening food security in North Africa.
- increased risks of spreading diseases due to international trade in aquatic animals and aquatic animal products.
- need to improve the knowledge and diagnostic capacities (in terms of both resources/facilities and technical skills) within the region to better prevent, detect and control aquatic animal diseases.
- need to encourage Delegates to participate in the discussion and commenting process of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission reports.

It is anticipated that the implementation of this network will result in:

- improved collaboration and sharing of information amongst the members.
- closer working relationships with sector reference institutions.
- improved technical capacity and management of aquatic animal health in the region.
- a greater understanding of the application of standards required to reach and maintain a health status that is compatible with inter-regional and international trade in aquatic animals and their

PROJET DES TERMES DES REFERENCE
du RÉSEAU RÉGIONAL de SANTÉ DES ANIMAUX AQUATIQUES
pour L'AFRIQUE du NORD (RRSAA-AN)

Aperçu

Ces termes de référence reconnaissent officiellement le Réseau Régional de Santé des Animaux Aquatiques pour l'Afrique du Nord (RRSAA-AN) et définissent les objectifs, la composition, la structure et les fonctions du réseau.

Contexte

Une collaboration efficace en matière de santé des animaux aquatiques est essentielle à la durabilité de l'aquaculture et de la pêche sauvage. Le renforcement et l'harmonisation des politiques nationales et régionales, de la législation, de la réglementation et des régimes de surveillance est une priorité compte tenu de la nature transfrontière des ressources aquatiques de l'Afrique du Nord.

Toutes les parties prenantes de la chaîne de valeur des pêches et de l'aquaculture ont un rôle à jouer dans la lutte contre les maladies des animaux aquatiques associées à la production et au commerce des animaux aquatiques. Cela nécessite un système fonctionnel reliant et coordonnant les producteurs d'animaux aquatiques, les négociants, les chercheurs scientifiques, les gestionnaires des ressources de la pêche et aquaculture et de la santé animale aux niveaux national et régional en Afrique du Nord.

Dans un premier temps, le RRSAA-AN se concentrera sur la mise en place d'un cadre d'acteurs visant à atténuer les menaces que les maladies des animaux aquatiques font peser sur la production d'animaux aquatiques.

La mise en place de ce réseau prend en considération :

- nécessité d'améliorer la biosécurité au niveau de la région, du pays et de l'exploitation agricole afin de réduire le risque d'apparition et de propagation de la maladie.
- nécessité d'une meilleure formation des services vétérinaires et des professionnels de la santé des animaux aquatiques afin de mieux soutenir l'industrie aquacole.
- l'augmentation de la demande d'animaux aquatiques et de leurs produits et l'importance de la production d'animaux aquatiques pour renforcer la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique du Nord.
- risques accrus de propagation de maladies en raison du commerce international des animaux aquatiques et de leurs produits.
- nécessité d'améliorer les connaissances et les capacités de diagnostic (en termes de ressources/installations et de compétences techniques) dans la région afin de mieux prévenir, détecter et contrôler les maladies des animaux aquatiques.
- nécessité d'encourager les délégués à participer au processus de discussion et de commentaire des rapports de la Commission des normes sanitaires pour les animaux aquatiques.

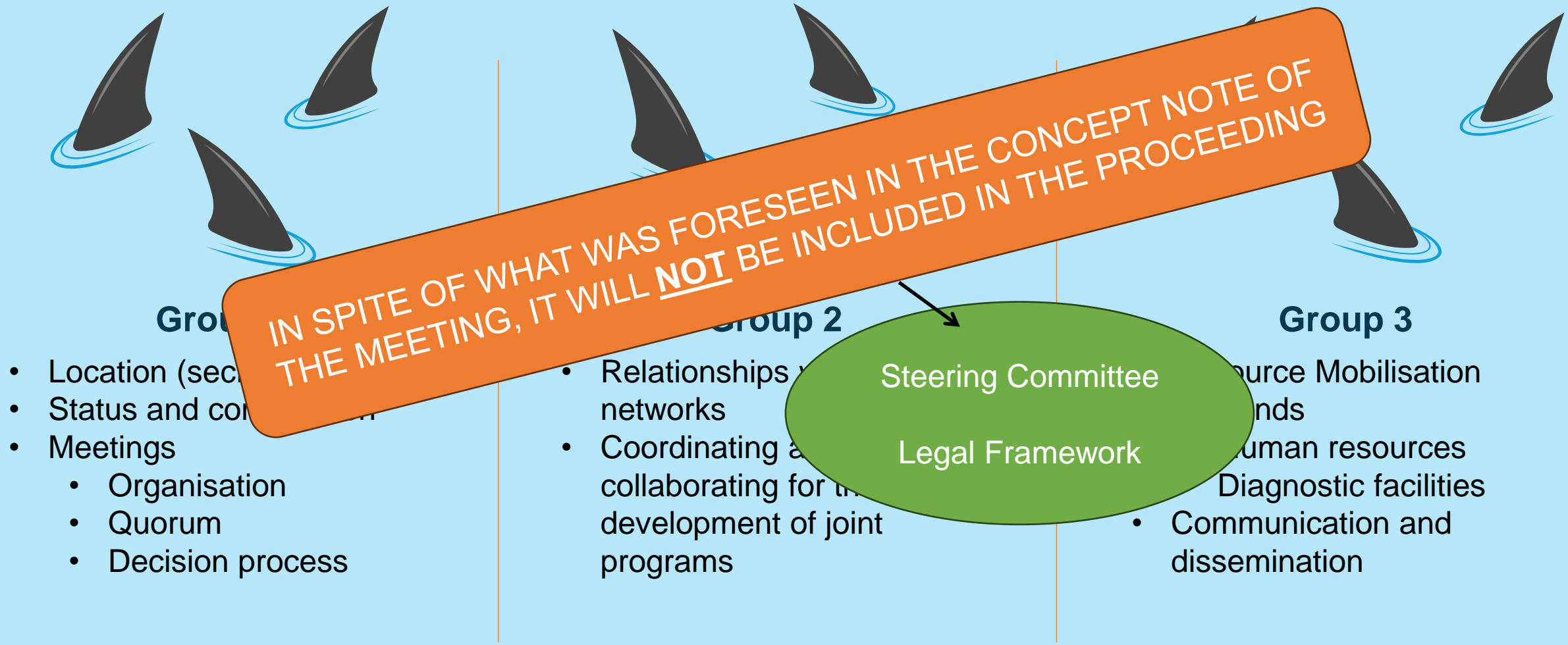
Il est prévu que la mise en œuvre de ce réseau se traduira par :

- l'amélioration de la collaboration et échange d'information entre les membres.

Where can you find these info?



3 groups - no rotation (1h) + report back (30 min)





Where can you find these info?

MEETING REPORT

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

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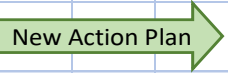
Lancement du Réseau Régional de Santé des Animaux Aquatiques pour l'Afrique du Nord (RRSAA-AN)

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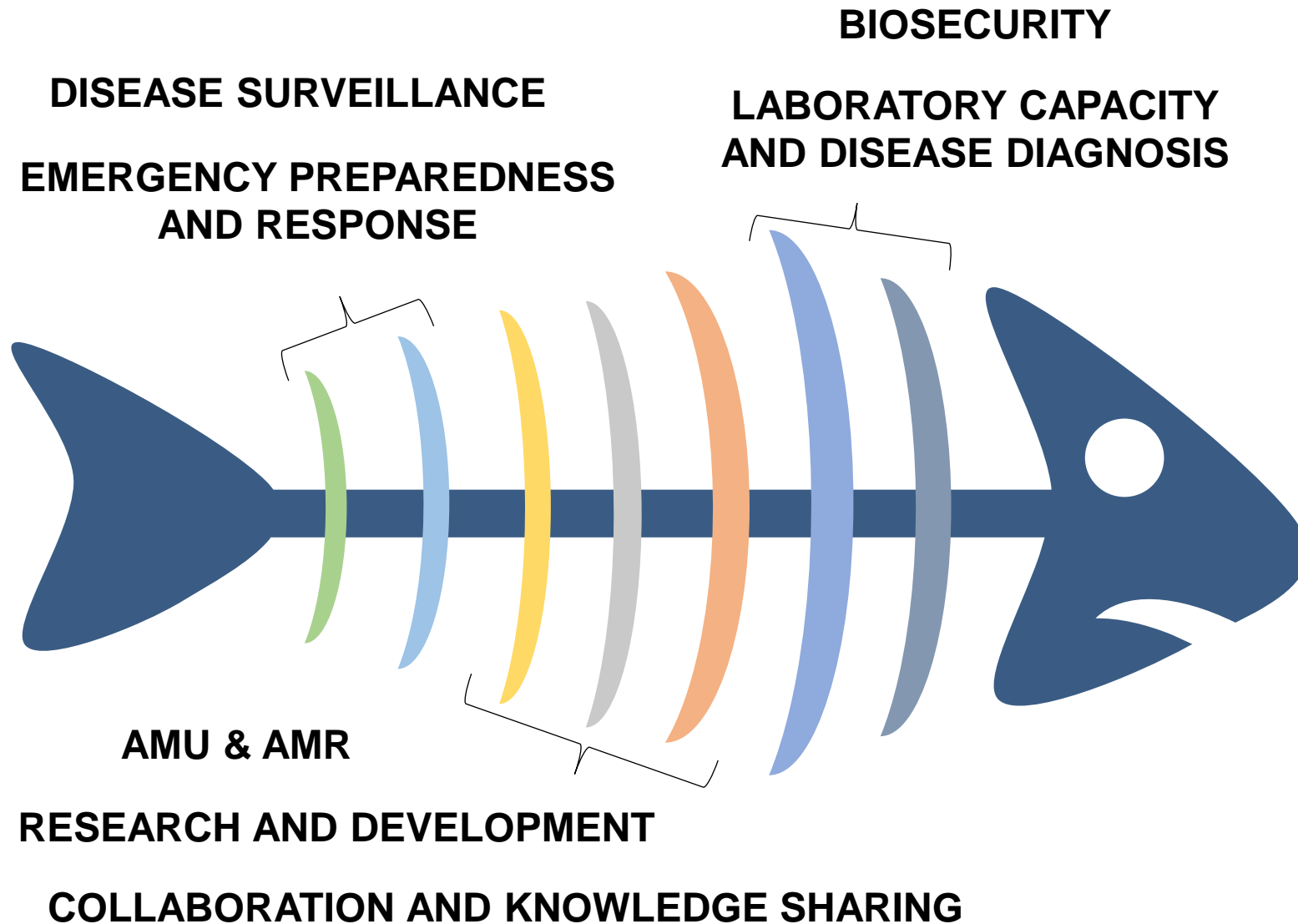


GANTT Establishment and Operationalisation Timeline

ACTIVITY		MONTHS											
		3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36
SETTING UP	Approval of the meeting proceedings	█											
	To set the date and hold the first meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) and Technical Committee (TC)	█	█										
	Official approval of the Draft Terms of Reference of the RAAHN-NA by the SC	█	█										
	Completion of the Draft Action Plan of the RAAHN-NA by the TC	█	█										
	Official approval of the Draft Action Plan of the RAAHN-NA by the SC		█										
	Development of the Institutional Framework of the RAAHN-NA	█	█	█									
SITUATION ANALYSIS	To perform a detailed Situation Analysis according to the "Identified Topics and Activities" of the Action Plan			█	█	█	█	█	█				
	Development of a Situation Analysis Regional Report by the TC							█	█				
	To review the Action Plan according to Situation Analysis Regional Report by the TC								█	█			
	Approval of the updated Action Plan by the SC												█
RESOURCE MOBILISATION	Multi-stakeholders' consultation			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
	Involve partners for the implementation of priority actions			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Other activities	According to the "Identified Topics and Activities" of the Action Plan			✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕



... to be determined



Prioritizing actions with indicative timelines and resource requirements to facilitate the institutionalization and operationalization of the RAAHN-NA:

Near future (12 months)
Long term (3 years)

3 groups - no rotation (1 h)
+ report back (30 min)

7 priority topics



This kind of table was developed for each priority topic

Disease surveillance		Priority	Timeframe	Funds
Sub-topic	Activity	High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/>	Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term <input type="checkbox"/>	National <input type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/>
Harmonisation of surveillance and control strategies	To make an inventory of each country's surveillance strategies/legislation	High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/>	Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term <input type="checkbox"/>	National <input type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/>
	To assess existing surveillance strategies in each member country	High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/>	Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term <input type="checkbox"/>	National <input type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/>
	To compare the surveillance strategies (according to the objectives) and to identify differences/similarities as well gaps and areas of improvements/best practices	High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/>	Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term <input type="checkbox"/>	National <input type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/>
	To develop a harmonised disease surveillance strategy for the RAAHN-NA, defining and clarifying its purpose and objectives	High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/>	Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term <input type="checkbox"/>	National <input type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/>



DRAFT ACTION PLAN
for the REGIONAL AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH NETWORK
for NORTH AFRICA (RAAHN-NA)

Background and objectives

A workshop for the "Launch of the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for North Africa" (RAAHN-NA), was held in Tunis (Tunisia) from 25-27 April 2023.

The main objective of the RAAHN-NA is to promote and support sustainable aquatic animal production by increasing and sharing knowledge on aquatic animal disease prevention, diagnostics, surveillance, early detection and control, and other related aspects.

Establishment and Operationalisation of the network

In accordance with what was discussed and approved during the above-mentioned workshop, the following GANTT was developed to define a timeline of the administrative and financial aspects to put in place to establish and operationalise the RAAHN-NA.

PROJET DE PLAN D'ACTION
du RÉSEAU RÉGIONAL de SANTÉ DES ANIMAUX AQUATIQUES
pour L'AFRIQUE du NORD (RRSAA-AN)

Contexte et objectifs

Un atelier pour le « Lancement du Réseau Régional de Santé des Animaux Aquatiques pour l'Afrique du Nord » (RRSAA-AN), s'est tenu à Tunis (Tunisie) du 25 au 27 avril 2023.

L'objectif principal du RRSAA-AN est de promouvoir et de soutenir la production durable d'animaux aquatiques en améliorant et en partageant les connaissances sur la prévention, le diagnostic, la surveillance, la détection précoce et la lutte contre les maladies des animaux aquatiques, et sur d'autres aspects connexes.

Mise en place et opérationnalisation du réseau

Conformément à ce qui a été discuté et approuvé au cours de l'atelier susmentionné, le GANTT suivant a été élaboré pour définir un calendrier des aspects administratifs et financiers à mettre en place pour établir et opérationnaliser le RRSAA-AN.

Where can you find these info?



First Meeting of The Technical Committee of the RAAHN-NA



REGIONAL AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH NETWORK for NORTH AFRICA (RAAHN-NA)

First Meeting of the Technical Committee

21/11/2023, 10-13 CET, online

10:00-10:10	Welcome of Participants	WOAH SRR-NA
10:10-10:20	Approval of the Agenda Introduction to the first Meeting of the Technical Committee	WOAH SRR-NA
10:20-11:15	Terms of Reference of the RAAHN-NA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Membership and Governance – reminder of what we agreed upon in April.• Designation of the Technical Committee members<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ WOAH Aquatic Animal Focal Points○ Relevant regional experts• Call for Action – Steering Committee	WOAH SRR-NA All – facilitated by the RAAHN-NA secretariat
15 minutes	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:30-12:30	Action Plan of the RAAHN-NA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reminder of what we did in April.• Establishment and Operationalisation of the network<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Situation Analysis – draft proposal for the SC○ Working Groups• Proposed Topics and Activities<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Completion of the work programmes for the 7 priority topics	WOAH SRR-NA All – facilitated by the RAAHN-NA secretariat
12:30-12:45	Institutional framework of the RAAHN-NA - updates	AU-IBAR
12:45-13:00	Recommendations and Next Steps Conclusions	All – facilitated by the RAAHN-NA secretariat WOAH SRR-NA

Agenda of the meeting

Members of the Technical Committee include *WOAH Aquatic Animal Focal Points* and other *relevant regional experts* with the capacity to drive and meet the technical objectives of the network. The Chair of the TC will rotate between the Focal Points of member countries on an annual basis. The first chair to start the rotation will be appointed by the SC.

ID	COUNTRY / ORGANISATION	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	STATUS / POSITION IN RELATION TO THE WOAHA
1	Algeria	Fatiha	Bouguerra	Aquaculture Focal Point
2	Egypt	Mohamed Masood	Wael Abdelwahab	Aquaculture Focal Point
3	Libya	Ali	Fituri	Aquaculture Focal Point
4	Mauritania	Sidi	Ould Ould Khelifa	Aquaculture Focal Point
5	Morocco	Hassan	Moujahid	Aquaculture Focal Point
6	Tunisia	Amal	Cherif	Aquaculture Focal Point
7		Regional expert
8		Regional expert
9		Regional expert

we must identify the 3 regional experts



Secretariat + 6 AA FPs to meet, assess the candidates and appoint the three experts by the end of 2023

Francesco Valentini
sta organizzando

SC meeting poll //
Sondage réunion CC:

3 ore

First meeting (online)
of the Steering
Committee //
Première réunion (en
ligne) du Comité de
Coordination

Seleziona i tuoi orari preferiti

Ti faremo sapere quando l'organizzatore sceglierà l'orario migliore

Tunisia, Tunis (GMT+1)

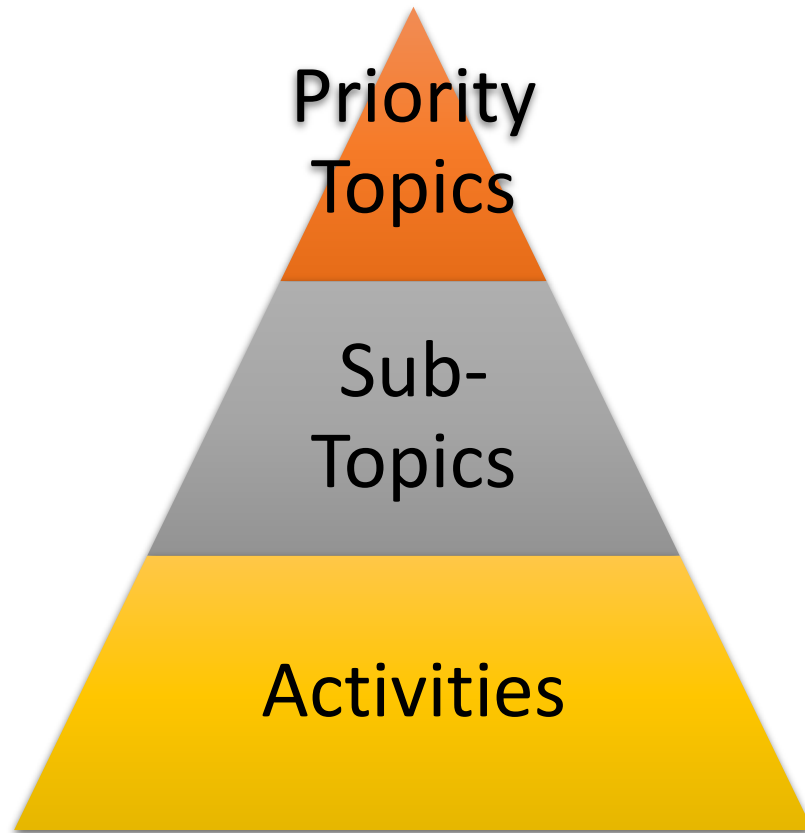
Ordina per	LUN	LUN	VEN
Data Più popolare	2	2	6
	OTT	OTT	OTT
	09:00	14:00	09:00
	12:00	17:00	12:00

the poll was reopened 3 times
No CVOs have ever replied

Given the low number of responses, it has unfortunately been impossible to identify the date of the SC meeting.



please sensitise your CVOs !!
without the Steering Committee this network, as it is defined and structured, cannot function



- The participants were reminded by the difference between
 - *Priority Topics* = the seven priority topics that were identified during the workshop (please consult the draft Action Plan of the RAAHN-NA)
 - *Sub-Topics* = sub-areas identified within the priority topics
 - *Activities* = actions to be performed for each Sub-topics to accomplish the goals of the RAAHN-NA
- During the meeting the participants agreed that it would be better to **prioritize the actions**, to ensure the sustainability, durability and effectiveness of the network in the first phase.
 - To this end it has been decided to identify **3 priority activities** to start the work of the network (within the priority topics and sub-topics that have already been identified)
 - The TC committee will be in charge of the prioritization exercise during its first internal meeting
- Several participants highlighted the importance of ensuring that the RAAHN-NA Action Plan is in line with the [International Standards](#) (e.g., WOH Standards on biosecurity)
- All the network's members were highly encouraged to [share information](#) on Aquatic Animal Health activities within the network, to ensure that all the stakeholders are aware on relevant events.



NEXT STEPS



Publication of the proceedings

end of June

Member countries' review of the draft TORs and AP

3 weeks after

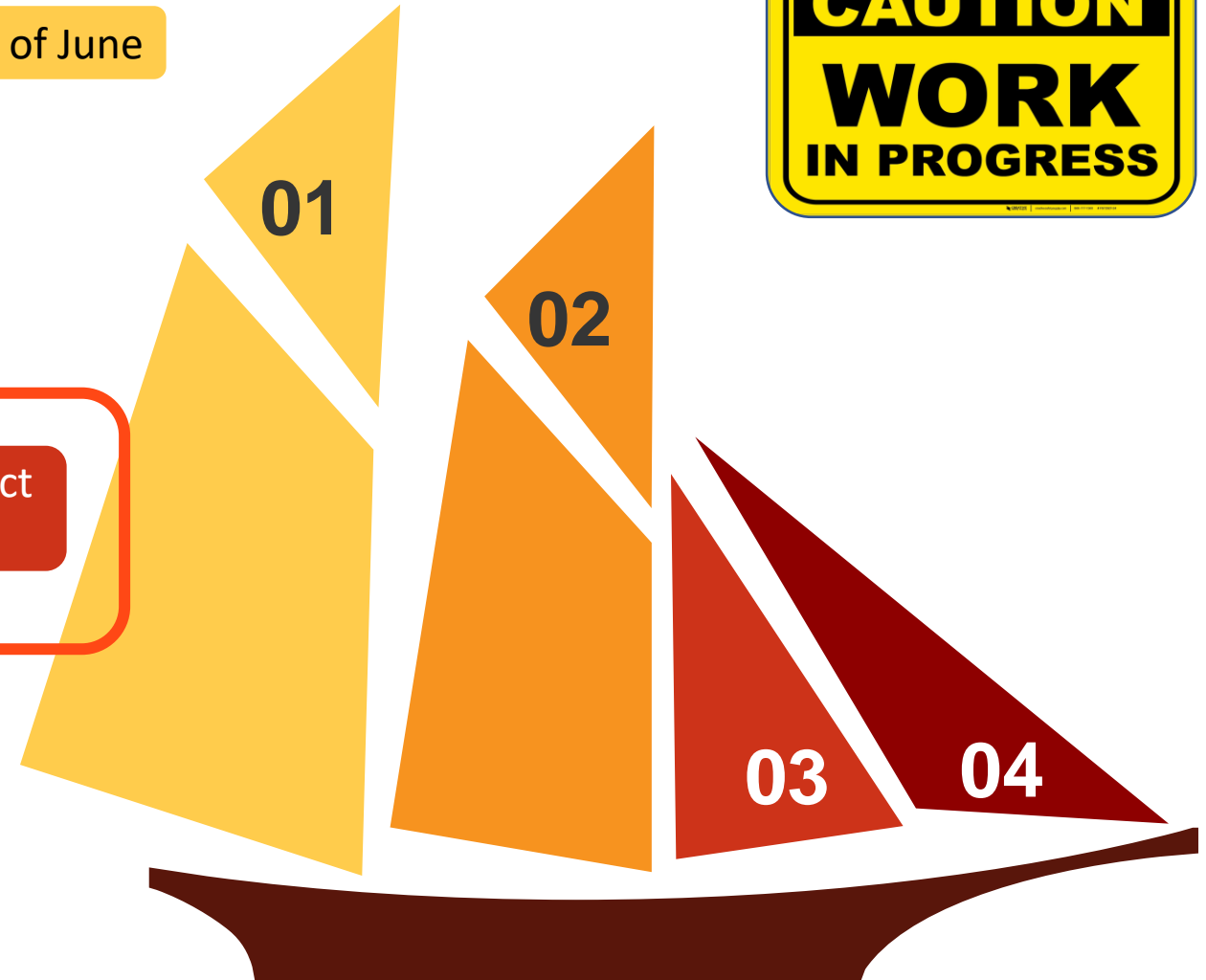
First meeting of the network

- Official approval of draft TOR and AP
- Definition of the Institutional Framework

Sept-Oct 2023

Development of the legal framework

Oct-Nov 2023



Thank you

Francesco Valentini

*Chargé de Programme
Programme Officer
Comisionado de Programa*

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