



Organization World Organization  
Mandata de la Santé de l'Animal Health de l'Animal  
Animale

## Objectives and update on the work of the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases

Training Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife  
16 – 19 March, Arusha, Tanzania

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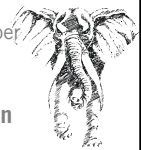
## PERSPECTIVE AND ROLE OF THE O.I.E

- OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES, THE O.I.E. RECOGNISED THE DIVERSE BI-DIRECTIONAL CHALLENGES POSED BY INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN WILDLIFE AND LIVESTOCK.
- O.I.E RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF WILDLIFE IN MAINTENANCE, TRANSMISSION AND PROPAGATION OF CERTAIN ANIMAL AND ZOO NOTIC DISEASES, AND THAT THIS ASPECT HAD BEEN NEGLECTED IN THE PAST



## Past and current Working Groups on Wildlife (1)

- 1992 → Agreement that the OIE should expand activities to the field of wildlife
  - First disease questionnaire sent to OIE Member Countries
- 1993 → First meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Wildlife Diseases
  - Major objective : «identify wildlife diseases of concern to Member Countries that should be considered for reporting to the OIE»



## Past and current Working Groups on Wildlife (3)

« Worldwide increased interest in wildlife and resulting movement of wild animals over long distances for sporting, conservation, exhibition and wildlife farming purposes have resulted in increasing disease spread, which will continue if Veterinary Services do not increase their awareness of and activity in prevention and control. Improvement in standardisation of diagnostic techniques and vaccines for use in wild animals is indicated, as is harmonisation of animal movement regulation.»

Meeting report 1993



## Past and current Working Groups on Wildlife (2)

- 1994 → Second meeting
  - Request that the *ad hoc* Group on Wildlife Diseases be recognised as a full permanent Working Group of the OIE
- Since 1995 → meeting of the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases once a year
  - Reported annually at the General Assembly of Delegates of the OIE
  - In 2002, the Wildlife Disease Working Group was accorded full permanent Status by the O.I.E.



### INITIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON WILDLIFE DISEASES

- TO IMPROVE THE GLOBAL REPORTING OF SIGNIFICANT WILDLIFE –RELATED DISEASE EVENTS.
- FOR THE FIRST 15 YEARS THIS WAS CARRIED OUT BY MEANS OF CIRCULATING WILDLIFE DISEASE QUESTIONAIRES, WHICH WERE COLLATED INTO REGIONAL REPORTS.
- MORE RECENTLY, ELECTRONIC REPORTING IS BEING PHASED IN (WAHIS).
- TO DEVELOP A LIST OF WILDLIFE DISEASE AND SPECIES REFERRAL SPECIALISTS
- TO IDENTIFY REFERENCE LABORATORIES FOR IMPORTANT WILDLIFE RELATED DISEASES
- TO DEVELOP WILDLIFE RELATED DEFINITIONS FOR O.I.E.



### In addition :

THE WILDLIFE DISEASE WORKING GROUP ALSO PRODUCED A NUMBER OF KEY PUBLICATIONS FOR O.I.E, PERTAINING TO :

- WILDLIFE DISEASES : DETECTION, DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT
- EMERGING ZOOSES
- NECROPSY TECHNIQUES FOR WILDLIFE
- REQUIREMENTS FOR QUARANTINE AND TRANSLOCATION OF WILDLIFE



### Current Composition of the Wildlife Disease Working Group (4)

**2009: seven permanent members, proposed by the Council of the OIE and confirmed by the Assembly**

- Dr William B. Karesh (USA) (President)
- Dr Marc Artois (France)
- Dr Roy Bengis (South Africa)
- Dr John Fisher (USA)
- Dr F.A. Leighton (Canada)
- Dr Torsten Mörner (Sweden)
- Dr Yasuhiro Yoshikawa (Japan)



### Current Objectives and Terms of Reference (1)

1. Maintain a global perspective and foresight on wildlife health and disease issues of importance to the OIE.
2. Assist the OIE in incorporating wildlife issues into OIE Standards, as appropriate.
3. Assist OIE Members to build or improve their capacity to meet OIE standards and obligations with respect of diseases in wild animals.



### Objectives and Terms of Reference of The Wildlife Disease Working Group (2)

4. Assist the OIE to receive, record, and interpret information on wildlife disease occurrence from official sources through WAHIS, and to maintain an international network to provide information on wildlife disease occurrences from non-official sources.
5. Advise the OIE on risks, surveillance, responses and management with respect to disease issues associated with wildlife.



### Objectives and Terms of Reference (3)

6. Address specific issues brought to the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases by the OIE.
7. Assist the OIE to communicate and disseminate information about wildlife disease issues, and represent OIE as requested.
8. Assist the OIE in incorporating wildlife appropriately in its educational and scientific programmes and publications.



### Objectives and Terms of Reference (4)

9. Assist the OIE in supporting the activities of Collaborating Centres on wildlife diseases.
10. The Working Group on Wildlife Diseases now reports to the Scientific Commission of OIE.



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### Objectives and Terms of Reference (5)

Major themes:

- Code and Manual review and development
- Engagement with OIE staff and *ad hoc* Groups
- Assist OIE with thematic meetings
- **Training focal points and building wildlife health capacity**
- Represent OIE at meetings or conferences as requested



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### Specific tasks of the Working Group on Wildlife diseases related to the training of focal points (1)

#### OIE Mission:

- Reinforcement of the capacity of Member Countries to improve the surveillance and notification of wildlife diseases.
- Training focal points to improve networking and information gathering from other wildlife professionals
- Help to increase the number of focal points responsible for assisting each Delegate in this task.



OIE

### Specific tasks of the Working Group on Wildlife diseases related to the training of focal points (2)

#### Three Key Tasks of focal points :

- First, to identify and provide notification of wildlife diseases having an impact on human health and on domestic animal health, and, progressively, diseases that are a threat to wildlife conservation.
- Second, to ensure transparency in the world animal health situation by improving the reporting system and the standards used for disease surveillance.
- Finally, to contribute to improved knowledge by collecting and sharing information and highlighting needs to be met.



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### Specific tasks of the Working Group on Wildlife diseases related to the training of focal points (3)

- Assist the OIE in harmonising the contents of the training course and guaranteeing an adequate initial level of knowledge
- With the help of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Training in Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Health and Management, - to train and assist focal points to set up a worldwide animal health and wildlife disease monitoring network

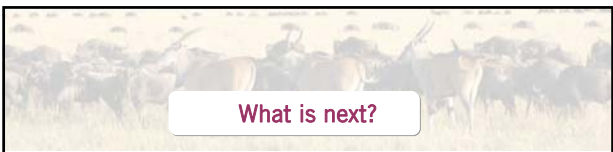


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### IMPORTANT FUTURE OBJECTIVES

- TO MAKE O.I.E. MEMBER COUNTRIES AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF WILDLIFE GLOBALLY IN THE FIELDS OF CONSERVATION, TOURISM, ANIMAL HEALTH AND EMERGING DISEASES.
- TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING OF WILDLIFE "FOCAL POINTS" FOR EACH MEMBER COUNTRY.
- TO IMPROVE SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING OF DISEASES IN WILDLIFE.
- TO IMPROVE GLOBAL WILDLIFE DISEASE REPORTING
- TO INVESTIGATE OR VALIDATE CURRENT DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TESTS FOR WILDLIFE
- TO ASSES THE EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF CURRENT COMMERCIAL VACCINES IN WILDLIFE.

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What is next?

- Next meeting of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases:  
October, 2010
- Planned International Conference on Wildlife in 2011 in  
Paris

*Thank you for your attention*

*Merci beaucoup*

*Thank You*

*Gracias*



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