



World Organisation  
for Animal Health



# Launch of the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory Network for Africa (RAAHLN-AF)

5 – 7 December 2023 Pretoria, South Africa



# WOAH Aquatic Animal Health Strategy

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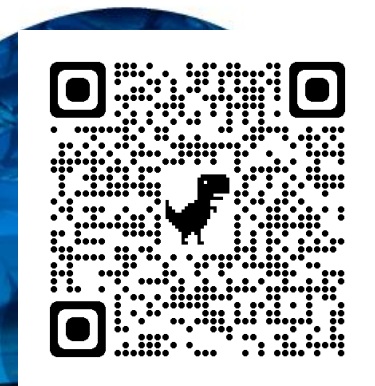
## Aquatic Animal Health Strategy

*This Aquatic Strategy is a call to action to address some of the greatest challenges in managing aquatic animal health and welfare. It identifies and coordinates actions that address the highest-priority common needs and focus resources on activities that will provide enduring impacts*

- Announced at the 4th Global Conference in Chile in April 2019
- Its development was a collaborative effort
- Support and input from the Aquatic Animal Commission and the whole WOAHA Community
- Launched in May 2021

## OIE Aquatic Animal Health Strategy

2021-2025



Improved aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide



## Global Strategy addresses shared challenges and benefits

- Aquatic food animal production increasingly **IMPORTANT** protein around the world
- Aquatic animal disease transmission threats are shared across country boundaries
- Collaborative actions improve detection, containment of aquatic animal pathogens

## THIS STRATEGY PROVIDES A PATH FOR THE WOAH COMMUNITY TO ACT TOGETHER

- Common needs given highest priority
- Actions leading to ongoing impacts
- Optimize utilisation of existing resources, networks, systems

**Ultimate goal:  
improve aquatic animal health worldwide**



## STANDARDS

Scientifically sound WOAHA international standards meet WOAHA Members' needs to manage risks, facilitate safe trade, and improve aquatic animal health and welfare



## CAPACITY BUILDING

WOAHA programmes support strengthening Aquatic Animal Health Services of WOAHA Members

IMPROVING  
AQUATIC ANIMAL  
HEALTH AND WELFARE  
WORLDWIDE



## LEADERSHIP

WOAHA's capacity to provide global aquatic animal health leadership is strengthened



## RESILIENCE

Responses to emerging aquatic animal health issues of regional or global concern are coordinated and timely

- Launch and set-up phase
- Roadmap endorsed
- Project plans developed

Mid-Strategy progress report

AAH Forum

Implementation of activities



Evaluation and next steps

**WE ARE HALFWAY**

## ACTIVITY PROGRESS



9 projects underway and on track

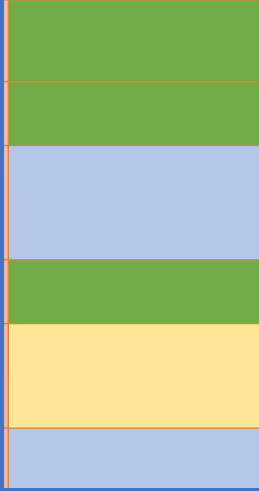


8 projects underway with delays



6 activities not yet commenced





Green = on track  
Blue = not yet commenced  
Gold = commenced but some delays/resourcing constraints







# OBJECTIVE 1 – DEVELOP NEW STANDARDS

- Development of a new chapter on biosecurity for aquaculture establishments  
**COMPLETE AND ADOPTED IN MAY 2021**
- Development of a new chapter on Infection with decapod iridescent virus 1 (DIV1)  
**COMPLETE AND ADOPTED IN MAY 2022**
- Development of a new chapter for infection with Tilapia lake virus  
**COMPLETE AND ADOPTED IN MAY 2023**
- **Development of a new chapter on trade in genetic materials NEARLY COMPLETE**
- **Development of a new chapter on disease outbreak management NEARLY COMPLETE**
- **Development of a new chapter on ornamental aquatic animals ADVANCING WELL**
- **Development of a new chapter on emergency disease preparedness ADVANCING WELL**





## Activity 3.4

### Provide practical AMR guidance

- Develop annex for aquatic animals in List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance
- Refine AMU global data collection for aquatic animals

25 Food-producing animal species covered by the information on antimicrobial quantities

Cattle

Terrestrial food-producing animals

Please indicate which food-producing animals are covered by the data. Multiple selections are

### Aquatic food-producing animals

Database, the following

Food-producing animals including piglets, fattening

Use this option only if you cannot keep and goats in your

It includes turkey, a fowl, pheasant, pigeon, al production, lity including chickens village flocks, s and their crosses.

Food-producing animals: use this al food-producing n 25 (e.g. cattle, pig- ard, etc.) were included in microbial quantities.

Food-producing animals (aquaculture) etc. on, trout, etc. etc. e: marine shrimp/prawn.

Food-producing animals option only if all aquatic listed in question 25 (e.g. salmonidae, Crustaceans - c.) were included in the obial quantities.

Food-producing animals 'Other' is selected in Question 25, please clarify the other species that are raised for food production covered by the data.

Non food-producing animals ta. Multiple selections are

Fish - Cyprinidae

Fish - Salmonidae

Fish - Cichlidae

Fish - Siluriformes

Fish - Marine

Fish - Undefined

Crustaceans - Penaeidae

Canines

Felines

Equidae

Ornamental Fish

Other

Clarification food-produ is 'Other co

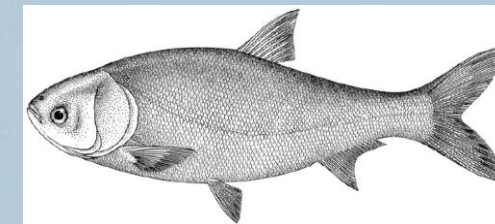
Baseli

27 Non food-p antimicrobi

Clarification food-produ Question 27

## Activities supported at Regional level

- 2.1 – Support the implementation of standards
- 2.2 – Increase the use of the PVS Pathway Aquatic
- 2.3 – Develop public-private partnerships
- 2.6 – Support WOAHA Delegates and Focal Points
- 2.8 – Support small-scale aquaculture
- 3.3 – Collaborative emergency response
- 4.3 – Strengthen, support and more fully utilise WOAHA scientific networks
- 4.5 – Identify the highest-priority research needs



## Standards

- Review the scientific basis of existing aquatic animal welfare standards (1.3)
- Increase the accessibility of Standards (1.6)

## Capacity Building

## Resilience

## Leadership

the WOAH community (Activity 4.5)

# Aquatic Health challenges

- **Sustainability of any training or longer term initiatives**
  - resources vary with program, many are temporary
  - Transitory nature of WOAHA key networks complicates capacity building function in aquatics
    - Same in terrestrial?
    - Aquatic animal health is low internal priority for many countries
- **Lack of aquatic Reference Centres recognized**
  - lack of engagement in gov-based (diagnostic or research) and academic institution
  - Reference Centres based at academic institutions receive little benefit thru WOAHA-recognition
  - No cost-recovery for time commitments
  - Ref Centres do not talk to each other as much as they should
- **new generations of aquatic health specialists miss the opportunity to learn and understand the mission of WOAHA**

# WOAH Reference Centre Network (more on this in CC discussion)

- **expand, strengthen, support and more fully utilise the WOAHA scientific networks of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres designated for aquatic animal health (AAH) topics (4.3)**
- **These networks of experts are core resources that ensure a strong scientific basis for the development and revision of WOAHA international standards**
  - **as well as providing support to WOAHA Members to ensure prevention, early detection and control of aquatic animal diseases.**

# Support for advancing the knowledge base of disease standards [proposed]

- training support grants for Focal Points
  - enable focal points to access funds to participate in training (offered outside of WOAHA) that improves their ability to implement WOAHA aquatic animal health standards
- WOAHA global aquatic animal health scholarships
  - scholarships to engage WOAHA Reference Centres as lead
  - include training opportunities for postgraduate students associated with WOAHA experts
- Competitive grants to Reference Centres to pursue an applied research project addressing gaps in the WOAHA AAH Code / Manual

# Thank you

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