



Organisation  
Mondiale  
de la Santé  
Animale

World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal

Original: English

June 2015

## REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE OIE ANIMAL WELFARE WORKING GROUP

Paris (France), 2–4 June 2015

---

On behalf of Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, Dr Derek Belton, Head of the International Trade Department, welcomed members and participants to the meeting of the Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG).

Dr Abdul Rahman, as Chair of the AWWG, welcomed the Members and started the meeting honouring the memory of Dr Angus Campbell David Bayvel (in memoriam), former Chair of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group and one of the pillars of the work of the OIE in the field of animal welfare, who passed away last April in New Zealand. Dr Rahman led the meeting in a minute of silence as a tribute, to the memory of Dr Bayvel. Dr Rahman also read a poem written by Professor David Mellor for Dr Bayvel's funeral.

The AWWG, upon the suggestion of Dr Andrea Gavinelli, proposed to develop a specific programme during the next OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare to honour the memory of Dr Bayvel.

The list of participants and the adopted agenda are attached as [Annexes I](#) and [II](#).

### Meeting with the Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat

Dr Vallat thanked and congratulated those present on their re-confirmation as members of the AWWG by the World Assembly of Delegates during the 83rd General Session. He welcomed the unanimous adoption of the chapter on animal welfare and production systems in dairy cattle at the General Session. He expressed his disappointment at the rejection of the proposal from the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) to amend the waterbath stunning of poultry (WBS), and confirmed the decision to convene soon a physical *ad hoc* Group with several new members. He also indicated that one of the priority areas of focus for the AWWG should be the next OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, which will be held in Guadalajara (Mexico) from 6 to 8 December 2016. He indicated that thanks to the generous support of the Government of Mexico it will be possible to invite a large number of delegates from developing countries.

The Director General confirmed to the AWWG that Dr Monique Eloit will succeed him as Director General in January 2016, and noted that Dr Eloit has career experience and extensive knowledge in the area of animal welfare.

Dr Vallat also highlighted the upcoming priorities including the ongoing work on the welfare of working horses, and guidelines for veterinary services regarding disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health. He also proposed that the next priority in the development of standards for animal welfare in farm animal production systems should be pig production.

Dr Thiermann highlighted concerns with the proposed revision of text on WBS of poultry and noted that one of the problems with the development of the current text (and the subsequent proposed revision) was the lack of understanding of many Member Countries on how acceptable welfare in stunning of chickens prior to slaughter can be achieved, illustrated by the focus of debate on input electric current parameters to the virtual exclusion of other welfare outcome measures.

## 1. AWWG 13th Meeting Report, agreed Actions, Informal Meeting at GS & Teleconferences

The AWWG noted the report of the previous meeting, as well as the minutes of the teleconferences held during the year.

The approach taken to progress the agreed annual work programme, i.e. regular teleconferences and electronic exchange and regular review of a list of agreed actions, was noted and considered to be very effective.

The OIE Headquarters, through the AWWG Secretariat, would continue to be responsible for the programming of teleconferences and informal meetings, as well as ensuring updates of the work programme.

The Minutes of the Informal Meeting are attached as Annex III.

## 2. OIE 83st General Session 2015 outcomes

- **General Session AWWG Report/Resolutions on Animal Welfare**

The AWWG acknowledged the adoption of the Report of the AWWG and Resolution N° 28, Animal Welfare, and that there were no questions or comments from Member Countries on either document.

- **Preparation of OIE Strategic Plan 2016–2020**

The AWWG noted the adoption by the General Assembly of the 6th OIE Strategic Plan.

Dr Thornber noted the importance of improving communication and transparency which have been part of the core objectives of the OIE since its creation, and noted that this is one of the main objectives in the Strategic Plan.

## 3. Report of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety and Wildlife Diseases

The AWWG noted the reports of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (APFSWG) and of the Working Group on Wildlife during the 83<sup>rd</sup> OIE General Session.

The AWWG discussed the request from a Member Country to start to develop animal welfare standards for reptiles. The AWWG noted that it had previously endorsed a guideline for euthanasia of reptiles developed by experts in Switzerland and that at the time; OIE Headquarters had agreed that this might be useful as a website resource rather than be in the OIE *International Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*.

## 4. Addressing Members Comments

- **Draft Chapter 7.X. on Animal Welfare and Dairy Cattle Production Systems**

The AWWG noted the adoption of the draft chapter during the 83<sup>rd</sup> OIE General Session and congratulated the *ad hoc* group on its work.

Mr Mirabito commented on the discussion about the use of colostrum that a Member Country raised during the discussion prior to the adoption of the chapter, and indicated that the proposed text needed to be updated because there is no obvious scientific justification to keep the actual recommendation.

Prof. Fraser noted in relation to a Member Country comment on the rationale to modify the text on space requirements for housed dairy cattle that the recommendation is based on essential housing design. He explained that in this case the need for space to lie could be understood as an outcome measure which directly impacts on animal behaviour. Dr Gavinelli noted the importance of the participation of the private sector to raise the awareness of this new chapter, and highlighted the involvement of the International Dairy Federation in the commenting process of this chapter.

- **Draft Chapter 7.X. on the Welfare of working equids**

Dr Stuardo informed the meeting that the *ad hoc* Group met the week before the OIE General Session and that the main focus of its work was analysis of Member Countries comments on the draft chapter received for the February meeting of the Code Commission. The reviewed draft chapter included in the *ad hoc* Group report will be considered by the Code Commission at its September meeting.

The Group discussed the draft chapter and proposed some minor changes to the draft chapter modified by the *ad hoc* Group. The review draft chapter will be submitted to the next Code Commission meeting in September.

Dr Mirabito indicated that the draft chapter contains more detailed information than the existing chapters on production animals. In response Dr Stuardo noted that the *ad hoc* Group had eliminated much of the detail in their review, as this was also one of the recurrent comments from Member Countries.

- **Chapter 7.5. on Slaughter of animals**

Dr Stuardo informed the meeting on the work conducted by the virtual *ad hoc* Group of experts. The list of experts appears in [Annex V](#). Dr Stuardo commented that the *ad hoc* Group did not reach consensus on the main topic to be discussed: waterbath stunning (WBS) of poultry. After a final teleconference, in which Dr Thiermann participated, a draft proposal was developed. This proposal was revised further by the Code Commission at their February meeting, and was presented at the 83rd OIE General Session. This proposal was rejected, and the Director General proposed to convene a face to face *ad hoc* group to resolve the outstanding issues.

Dr Thiemann and Dr Bonbon participated in the discussion on this item, and both agreed that this issue should be solved as soon as possible as there are Member Countries and other stakeholders that have important problems if they try to implement the chapter as currently written.

Mr Mirabito indicated that one of the unsolved problems is how to ensure the WBS methods used in poultry do not lower meat quality (blood splashes) or break wings due to severe muscle contraction from the electrical current.

In respect to the mechanical stunning diagrams and pictures in Chapters 7.5. and 7.6, the AWWG recommended deletion of both of the diagrams from both chapters. Prof. Fraser explained that there are a number of figures which show varying positions for the recommended shooting or mechanical stunning and that the important aspect to be considered is the outcome, in terms of achieving unconsciousness.

The AWWG supported the Director General's decision to convene a face to face *ad hoc* group meeting and developed a draft terms of reference for the *ad hoc* group. The Group also proposed that a review of previous work should be conducted in order to identify the main concerns of different stakeholders.

The draft TOR is in [Annex VI](#).

In reviewing the chapter, the AWWG also realised that the gas stunning methods included in point 4 of Article 7.5.7. are still under study. Therefore, the AWWG proposed to conduct an electronic consultation to update this information and propose any modifications needed for consideration at the Code Commission meeting in September.

- **Chapter 7.6. on Killing of animals for disease control purposes**

Dr Stuardo commented that the *ad hoc* Group on the Welfare of Working Equids will develop a draft text to be included in the tables included in Article 7.6.5. for equids.

The AWWG also recommended that the electronic consultation Group, who will work on gas stunning methods in Chapter 7.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*, should also analyse the latest scientific information on the use of gas filled foam to kill poultry, and make further recommendations needed on this subject to the OIE.

- **Chapter 7.10. on Animal welfare and broiler chicken production systems**

The AWWG noted the modification adopted at the 83rd OIE General Session.

- **Chapter 3.2. on Evaluation of Veterinary Services**

The AWWG noted the modification adopted at the 83rd OIE General Session, in order to specifically include animal welfare in this chapter.

- **Chapter 4.7. on Collection and processing of *in vivo* derived embryos from livestock and equids**

Dr Stuardo explained that the Code Commission had referred a Member Country's suggestion to include new text addressing animal welfare requirements for embryo collection to the AWWG for evaluation.

Dr Guyonnet recalled that this area is covered in Chapter 7.9. on Animal welfare and beef cattle production systems, and also in the newly adopted chapter on Animal welfare and dairy cattle production systems.

The AWWG agreed that this is an important topic, but it will be not covered by the draft chapter of working equids. The AAWG recommends that the Member Country could propose a draft text for the Code Commission consideration to include a text in Chapter 4.7.

## 5. **RAWS and the AW Platform for Europe: update from the regions**

Dr Stuardo updated the AWWG on the activities of the different RAWS and the AW Platform for Europe. He highlighted the work conducted on the problem of stray dog population control in the Balkan countries. He indicated that there is a project underway on this subject, in collaboration with the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Europe, which could be replicated in the other OIE Regions.

On the Americas Region, Dr Stuardo informed the meeting that the development of an implementation plan for the RAWS for the OIE Region for the Americas will be discussed at the next OIE Animal Welfare Focal Point Seminar in Bolivia next August.

Dr Aidaros informed the meeting that the OIE Region for the Middle East had decided to develop the issue of rabies and stray dog population control as a Technical Item to be presented in the next Regional Commission meeting. They will include the current work being undertaken in Europe in their consideration of this item.

Dr Thornber informed the meeting that the 10th meeting of the RAWS Coordination Group for AFEO will be take place in Bangkok (Thailand), next July and the main point of discussion will be the sustainability of the RAWS process in the Region.

The AWWG expressed their concern about the lack of progress in developing a RAWS for Africa.

For African Region noting the concerns from the AWWG on lack of progress in Africa, Dr Molomo commended efforts by the AU-IBAR that have included animal welfare as one of the key result areas in its Strategic Plan 2014–2017. African Union – Inter African Bureau of Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) in close collaboration with key stakeholders will spearhead the development of a continental animal welfare strategy in support “Universal declaration on animal welfare” and the OIE chapter on AW standards but taking into account African context. The key priority areas are: Coordination of AW initiatives by the establishment of an Animal Welfare Platform/Secretariat, awareness creation and communication, support the inclusion of AW in policies and legislation reform and harmonization, capacity building of AU MS and RECs for the understanding, teaching, application and monitoring compliance with AW. The work schedule for the activities will initiate from July 2015 that include stakeholders consultative meeting for the establishment of African Platform of Animal Welfare (APAW) in September 2015.

## 6. Global Animal Welfare Strategy

Prof. Fraser commented on the draft document prepared and presented to the Code Commission meeting at their last meeting. The proposed document is presented in [Annex VII](#).

Dr Belton explained that the Code Commission had a positive view on the proposal and they gave no specific comments. He noted that the next step would be to present it to the new OIE Council, who we expect will decide on how to present this document to Member Countries.

Dr Rahman thanked Prof. Fraser and the AWWG members who collaborated with him in the development of this document.

## 7. Fourth OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, Guadalajara, Mexico

Dr Stuardo confirmed the final decision of the OIE to hold the next OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare in Guadalajara (Mexico) from the 6th to 8th December 2016.

The Group discussed the importance of being involved in the development of the scientific programme, through participation in the Scientific and Steering Committees for the Conference.

In the discussion of possible formats for the Conference, Dr Gavinelli suggested that parallel sessions could be an interesting possibility, and could attract a greater variety of participants beyond the Veterinary Services of Member Countries.

Dr Aidaros proposed that special attention be given to the time available for discussion after oral presentations, which in the past has often been insufficient to establish good outcomes through discussion. The Group also discussed the possibility of using prepared written questions for efficient use of the time for discussion and to avoid lengthy comments or statements.

The group discussed and proposed some general topics for OIE's consideration of the Guadalajara programme and overall theme of the conference. The Group identified the following topics as potential titles for sessions:

1. Improving animal welfare in developing countries.
2. Partnership for progress.
3. New technologies for capacity building.
4. One world, one health and one welfare.

The AWWG considered that the first proposal could be developed through different case studies. The AWWG consider that the second theme includes all possible ways in which stakeholders find a common understanding on how to progress the implementation of OIE animal welfare standards, including animal welfare as good business practice. The use of new technologies session should focus on how they can support the implementation of the standards. Finally the AWWG considered using the last title as a concept to illustrate how OIE animal welfare standards can help to achieve different goals beyond animal welfare. These could include better productivity, better health outcomes, better management control, better prosperity for owners (working animals) and better disaster management.

It was agreed to conduct an AWWG Teleconference on the 31st August 2015 to follow up the development of the scientific programme for the conference.

## 8. OIE Collaborating Centres (CC)

Prof. Fraser suggested that the OIE reconsider its rule that there can be only one AWCC per region, especially in cases where different potential CCs in the same region have very distinct areas of expertise. He noted for example that a strong group in Sweden proposed becoming a CC several years ago, and that the AWWG recommended acceptance because its expertise (in laboratory and farm animals) is entirely different from the expertise at Teramo. However, under the current rules, the Swedish group can be recognized only in collaboration with Teramo, and efforts extending over several years have not led to this being finalized.

The joint meeting with the four existing OIE AWCC was held via Skype. Participants included the AWWG Members, Dr Stella Huertas from Uruguay, representing the OIE AWCC of the Americas Region on Animal Welfare and Livestock Production Systems, Dr Lida Anestidou, representing the OIE AWCC of the Americas Region on Laboratory Animal Welfare and Science and Dr Kate Littin, representing the OIE AWCC of the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region on Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis.

Mrs Barbara Alessandrini, representing the OIE AWCC for the European Region on Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare, attended the meeting in person for this session.

Dr Littin, representing all the OIE AWCC, summarised the proposal to establish and maintain an Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre Network, according to the OIE's requirements, and indicated that the main objective of this initiative is to facilitate better collaboration and coordination between the animal welfare collaborating centres, and to support the OIE better, from a global perspective. She also mentioned that the OIE AWCC, have identified several other opportunities and benefits of such a Network, which were detailed in the proposal.

Despite some communication problems, the AWWG clearly understood from the other OIE AWCC representative, their willingness to develop this initiative.

The proposal for the establishment of this Network is presented in Annex VIII

Prof. Fraser recognised that the project is a good and positive initiative and sees no impediment to support it, especially if this could enable inclusion of other centres with important expertise on animal welfare around the world.

The annual activities Reports 2014/2015 sent by the CC as part of their responsibilities are available at the OIE website: <http://www.oie.int/en/our-scientific-expertise/collaborating-centres/annual-reports/>.

#### 9. **Ad hoc Group on Disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health**

Dr Stuardo informed the meeting that the *ad hoc* Group met at OIE Headquarters on 27–29 January 2015, with Dr Gary Vroegindewey as chair. Dr Stuardo indicated that the *ad hoc* Group finalised the draft Guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health (Guidelines for National Veterinary Services) and this document was included in the Part B of the Report of the Code Commission meeting of February 2015. Dr Stuardo also mentioned that the *ad hoc* Group drew up a proposed strategy to facilitate the use of the guidelines by Veterinary Services and their relevant partners. Finally he noted that if a final meeting of the *ad hoc* Group were required it could be held after the September 2015 meeting of the Code Commission.

The Report of the *ad hoc* Group on Disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health is attached as Annex IX

#### 10. **Animal welfare and trade**

Dr Belton updated the Group on a new document written by Dr Sarah Kahn, OIE Consultant, on “the implications of the WTO Panel Report on the EU Measures prohibiting the importation and marketing of seal products”. Dr Belton confirmed that a summary document will be published in the next OIE *Bulletin* and Dr Kahn's complete paper will be posted on the OIE website.

Dr Gavinelli commented on the recent Court of Justice of the European Union case that will have international implications, and also could have some trade implications. Dr Gavinelli explained that the decision in this case means that EU animal welfare rules for transport apply to animals leaving the EU through to their destination. More information on the judgment of this case can be found at:

<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?jsessionid=9ea7d0f130de388c1c952b1c481695efafd585d37f41.e34KaxiLc3eQc40LaxqMbN4ObxuQe0?text=&docid=163872&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=lst&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=416930>

Dr Thornber highlighted the Australian requirement for live animal exports requiring licensed exporters to ensure that livestock are treated in accordance with the OIE standards from selection and transport in Australia to slaughter in the destination country. Details can be found at:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/live-animals/livestock/information-exporters-industry/escas/admin-practice-statement>

## 11. ISO/TC 34/WG 16 on Animal Welfare

Dr Guyonnet informed the meeting on the ISO process (TC34/WG16), designed to develop a technical specification document geared towards demonstrating the proper implementation of OIE animal welfare standards through the food production chain. The AWWG is well represented in this ISO process with three of its members also part of the ISO WG 16 drafting group, the small group of experts in charge of writing the ISO technical specification. The ISO document, animal welfare management system, is divided into four main sections: 1) identification of any gaps vs. the OIE standards; 2) designing an animal welfare plan; 3) Monitoring the implementation of the plan; 4) Evaluating the performance of the plan and review of the plan as needed.

He indicated that the main issues at this stage are: 1) the scope of the document – i.e whether it should apply only to OIE animal welfare chapters or whether it may also be used also to demonstrate the implementation of other public / private standards (where the OIE has not yet published a species-specific chapter); 2) the Annex on animal welfare thresholds for animal-based measures.

Finally he indicated that following the completion of the draft version by mid-July, the document will be circulated to the working group (~ 140 experts, +40 countries) for comments (3 months, up to mid-October). A face-to-face working group meeting will take place in Paris in December 2015 and it is anticipated that the document, if accepted by the working group, will then be put for a vote at the technical committee level (TC34) in early January (79 participating countries, 56 observing countries).

Dr Belton reminded the Group that while OIE supports this initiative, it can only be an observer in the process.

## 12. Implementing OIE animal welfare standards

- **Progress on the toolbox for implementing OIE slaughter standards**

Dr Thornber commented that as the future of the AWIN Science Hub project is in doubt owing to a lack of funding, the proposal to use it as a repository of information and toolbox for the implementation of OIE animal welfare standards is also stalled.

Dr Stuardo commented that the idea had been to use the Science Hub as a repository for all the references used to develop the OIE animal welfare chapters and to add further relevant references that could help Veterinary Services when developing their own national legislation based on OIE standards. This information could also be useful for the dissemination of the animal-based measurable criteria which are sometimes difficult to find and understand. Therefore the utility of such a tool would be based on the validity of the information posted on it.

Dr Gavinelli commented that whatever tool is used as a repository of scientific and technical information, two critical aspects should be considered: the maintenance of the system and validation of the information held.

As there is no clear answer to the future of the AWIN Science Hub, the AWWG recommended seeking the support of the OIE animal welfare Collaborating Centres, especially if the idea to develop a Network is approved by the OIE.

- **Improved Animal Welfare Programme (IAWP)**

Dr Stuardo updated the AWWG on this programme which started in 2012 with funds provided by the Australian Government. It was designed to train trainers to improve implementation of OIE standards on transport and slaughter. Dr Stuardo indicated that the last training session was held in the Republic of Georgia, and included some selected Russian speaking countries as well as Georgia. He also indicated that although this training programme has been very well received in all countries in which it has been held, no further funds for the continuation of this programme beyond mid 2015 had been found, and therefore no further training is planned. The AWWG encouraged the OIE to explore all funding options to enable continuation of this programme.

The group acknowledged the excellent work done by Dr Kolesar, Grudnik and Villarreal in conducting this successful initiative, and the Group congratulated them.

Note: The Director General will visit Australia at the end of June and will discuss opportunities to continue this work.

- **AWIN Science Hub feedback**

Prof. Fraser recalled that one of the objectives of this project was to develop, integrate and disseminate animal-based welfare indicators with an emphasis on pain assessment and pain recognition. It developed new indicators and hosted an Animal Welfare Science Hub to gather and share available information through the website at: <http://www.animal-welfare-indicators.net/site/>

Dr Stuardo confirmed that the project officially finished in April 2015 and that the absence of any more funds precludes further action.

- **Animal Welfare and Veterinary Legislation**

Dr Stuardo informed the meeting that several experts who participated in the training session for the OIE Veterinary Legislation Programme were also interested in the OIE animal welfare activities and had expressed their willingness to contribute to specific related work on animal welfare regulatory activities.

### 13. Other business

- **OIE Website update**

The AWWG noted its support for updating of the animal welfare section of the OIE Website, and its keenness to contribute relevant information if required. The AWWG acknowledged the proposal from Dr Sarah Kahn and also recommended that more exhaustive work should be done to synchronise the OIE website and social media content on animal welfare.

Dr Stuardo informed the AWWG about the release of the new infographic on animal welfare prepared by the OIE Communication Unit. The AWWG noted the infographic as a good tool for the dissemination of the OIE animal welfare activities.

At the request of the AWWG Mrs Marina Domingo-Monsonis, Chargée de mission at the Communication Unit, joined the meeting on the last day to explain the social media tools that the OIE uses for communication purposes.

- **EU funded project on transport “Transport guide”**

Mr Mirabito briefly presented to the AWWG a new project on transport. This project named ‘Transport Guides’ intends to collect and collate best practices implemented in Europe and elsewhere for welfare during transport, then further develop practical material and guidelines for dissemination through a network of European stakeholders. A consortium of partners from nine European countries is involved in this project which will take place over the next three years.



- **Animal Welfare Focal Point Seminars and agenda for OIE meetings**

Dr Stuardo reported that two seminars for the OIE Focal Points for Animal Welfare were scheduled for the year 2015. The first is to be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) from 3 to 5 August 2015, the second is scheduled for September in the OIE Region for Europe (location to be confirmed).

- **Information on other meetings**

The AWWG shared information on relevant future meetings and activities that members of the Group will participate in.

#### **14. Work programme 2015–2016**

Members reviewed and updated the current AWWG work programme through to June 2016. The updated work programme will be provided to the September 2015 meeting of the Code Commission.

#### **15. Dates of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next full meeting of the AWWG will be held on 31 May–2 June 2016.

A Working Group teleconference is scheduled for the 31st August 2015 to discuss planning for the next OIE Global Animal Welfare Conference in December 2016.

---

.../Annexes



**MEETING OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE****Paris, 2–4 June 2014****List of participants****MEMBERS OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP**

---

**Dr Abdul Rahman (Chair)**

President  
Commonwealth Veterinary Association  
123 7th Main Road 4th Block Jayanagar  
INDIA  
Mobile: +919844066352  
Tel.: +91 80 26635210  
shireencva@gmail.com

**Prof. Hassan Aidaros**

Professor of Hygiene and Preventive  
Medicine. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine  
Banha Univ.  
5 Mossadak st  
12311 Dokki  
Cairo  
EGYPT  
Tel.: +2012 22 18 51 66  
haidaros@aol.com

**Prof. David Fraser**

Professor  
Animal Welfare Program  
Faculty of Land and Food Systems  
University of British Columbia  
2357 Main Mall-Suite 248  
Vancouver V6T 1Z4  
CANADA  
Tel.: +1 604 822 2040  
dfraser@mail.ubc.ca

**Dr Andrea Gavinelli**

Head of Unit  
European Commission  
Directorate General Health and Consumers  
Unit D5 – Animal Welfare,  
Rue Froissart 101 – 6/168  
1040 Brussels  
BELGIUM  
Tel.: +32 2 2966426  
Fax: +32 2 2979573  
Andrea.Gavinelli@ec.europa.eu

**Dr Peter Thornber**

President, Australia New Zealand College  
of Veterinary Scientists (Welfare)  
20 Rapanea Street  
Rivett, Canberra ACT 2611  
AUSTRALIA  
Tel.: +61 2 62 88 06 71  
thornber@grapevine.com.au  
**(also represented World Animal  
Protection)**

**Dr Jacques Servièrè**

International Meat Secretariat  
5 rue Lespagnol  
75020 Paris  
FRANCE  
jacques.serviere@agroparistech.fr

**Dr Marosi Molomo**

Director of Livestock Services  
Department of Livestock Services  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security  
Private Bag A82  
Maseru 100  
LESOTHO  
Tel.: +266 22 324843(Dir)/ 22 312318  
Fax:+266 22 311500  
Mobile: +266 62 000922/ 58 881922  
molomomarosi@gmail.com

**OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

---

**Dr Vincent Guyonnet**

International Egg Commission  
89 Charterhouse Street  
London, EC1M 6HR  
UNITED KINGDOM  
Tel.: +44-(0)20 7490 3493  
vincent@internationalegg.com

**Mr Luc Mirabito**

Chef de projet "Bien-être animal"  
International Dairy Federation  
Institut de l'Elevage  
149 rue de Bercy  
75013 Paris  
FRANCE  
Tel.: +33 1 40 04 52 35  
luc.mirabito@idele.fr

Annex I (contd)

**TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION**

---

**Dr Etienne Bonbon**

President of the Code Commission  
Scientific Counsellor  
EU Delegation to the International  
Organisations in Paris  
12, avenue d'Eylau  
75116 Paris  
FRANCE  
Tel.: +33 1 44 05 31 68  
etienne.bonbon@eeas.europa.eu  
e.bonbon@oie.int

**OIE HEADQUARTERS**

---

**Dr Bernard Vallat**

Director General  
12, rue de Prony  
75017 Paris  
OIE  
oie.int@oie.int

**Dr Derek Belton**

Head  
International Trade Department  
d.belton@oie.int

**Dr Leopoldo Stuardo**

Chargé de mission  
International Trade Department  
l.stuardo@oie.int

**MEETING OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE****Paris, 2–4 June 2015**

---

**Agenda****TUESDAY 2nd June**

09:30 Introduction and priorities / Dr Vallat

09:45 In Memory to Angus Campbell David Bayvel / All

10:00 Administrative arrangements / Dr Belton

10:00 1. AWWG 13th Meeting Report, agreed Actions, Informal Meeting at General Session &amp; Teleconferences

10:45 2. OIE General Session 2015 Outcomes

- General Session AWWG Report/ Resolutions on Animal Welfare
- OIE Strategic Plan 2016–2020

11:30–11:45 Break

11:45 3. Report of the Working Groups on Food Safety and Wildlife Diseases

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00 4. Addressing Members comments:

- Draft Chapter 7.X. on Animal welfare and dairy cattle production systems
- Draft Chapter 7.X. on Welfare of working equids
- Chapters 7.5. on Slaughter of animals and 7.6. on Killing of animals for disease control purposes

16:00–16:15 Break

- Chapter 7.10. on Broiler chicken production systems
- Chapter 7.1. on Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare
- Chapter 3.2. on Evaluation of Veterinary Services
- Chapter 4.7. on Collection and processing of *in vivo* derived embryos from livestock and equids

17:00 5. RAWs and European Platform for Animal Welfare update

**WEDNESDAY 3th June**

9:30 6. Global Animal Welfare Strategy

10:30 7. Fourth OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, Guadalajara (Mexico) (30 November–2 December 2016)

13:00–14:00 Lunch

Annex II (contd)

- 14:00 8. Joint session with Collaborating Centres
- i) Preliminary results of the on line survey on dog population management implemented in the Balkan Countries (Barbara Alessandrini)
  - ii) Australia/New Zealand Collaborating Centre, OIE Cooperation Project with University Putra in Malaysia
  - iii) Annual Reports from Collaborating Centres (All)
  - iv) Network proposal of AW Collaborating Centres (Kate Littin)
- 15:00 9. OIE *ad hoc* Group on Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Relation to Animal Health and Welfare and Veterinary Public Health
- 16:00–16:15 Break
- 16:15 10. Animal welfare and trade
- Update on the OIE document on the WTO Panel Report on the ‘EU Measures prohibiting the importation and marketing of seal products’.
- 17:00 11. Update on the ISO/TC 34/WG 16 on Animal Welfare
- 19:00 Official dinner
- THURSDAY 4th June**
- 09:30 12. Implementing OIE AW standards
- Progress on toolbox for implementing slaughter welfare standards (P. Thornber)
  - Improved Animal Welfare Programme (IAWP)
  - AWIN Science Hub update
  - Guidelines on animal welfare legislation development
- 10:00 13. Other Business
- Animal welfare chapters edition
  - Animal welfare future chapters (Priorities)
  - Animal Welfare Focal Point Seminars and agenda for OIE meetings
- 11:30–11:45 Break
- 11:45 Other Business (contd)
- OIE website animal welfare update
  - EU funded project on transport (‘Transport guide’) (Luc Mirabito)
  - Information on other meetings
- 13:00–14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 14. Work programme 2015–2016
- 16:00–16:15 Break
- 16:15 Meeting report
- 17:00 Next meeting
-

<b>MINUTES</b>	
<b>OIE ANIMAL WELFARE WORKING GROUP TELECONFERENCE</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 03 February 2015
<b>Time:</b>	08:00 (Paris time)
<b>Attendees:</b>	Sira Abdul Rahman (Chair), David Bayvel, Andrea Gavinelli, Hassan Aidaros, David Fraser, Luc Mirabito, Jacques Servi�re, Derek Belton, Leopoldo Stuardo

***Agenda Item 1: Meeting Apologies, Objective, Duration, Agenda Review:***

Dr Rahman welcomed participants and the draft agenda was agreed. Dr Rahman noted the difficulty of scheduling teleconferences in a convenient time zone for all participants, and gratefully acknowledged the participation of the Members. It was not possible to get in contact with Dr Molomo and Dr Thornber due to technical difficulties. An apology was received from Dr Guyonnet as he is recovering from health problems.

***Agenda Item 2: Development of global OIE animal welfare strategy***

Dr Fraser led the discussion on this point, and he proposed that members send him any final comments on the latest draft within the next day, that he will incorporate into the document for consideration by the Code Commission in their February meeting.

Dr Gavinelli indicated that it is important to highlight the importance of veterinary education in a broader sense, covering the responsibility of all the persons which have a relation with animals.

***Agenda Item 3: Facilitating implementation of OIE AW Standards***

AWIN Project

Dr Stuardo informed members that a meeting was held on the 26th January with Dr Zanella to discuss the potential involvement of the OIE in the continuation of this project. The result of this meeting was a letter from the Director General of the OIE to Dr Zanella expressing the will to participate in this initiative, providing external funds are available to adapt and advance the project.

Mr Mirabito asked about the criteria that were used to choose this network, AWIN, to conduct this kind of collaboration and how it compared with others like the WQ project. Dr Fraser explained that the Science Hub of the AWIN project fits perfectly as a source of validated information to support the implementation of OIE Animal Welfare Standards.

***IAWP***

Dr Stuardo informed members about the successful release of the OIE IAWP DVD, and noted the number of requests for copies and incorporation of the DVD footage in the website of several organisations.

***Agenda Item 4: Update Work Programme***

Dr Stuardo updated the Members on the Work Programme 2014/2015. He mentioned the activities of the *ad hoc* Groups during 2015, and that their reports will be shared with the Code Commission in their February meeting. Dr Stuardo also mentioned that from Member Countries comments on the draft Chapters on Animal Welfare and Dairy Cattle Production Systems and on the Welfare of Working Equids would be analysed at the next Code Commission meeting and at the *ad hoc* Group on the Welfare of Working Equids scheduled for May.

Annex III (contd)

Dr Stuardo commented that the work of the electronic consultation Group for Chapters 7.5. and 7.6. had been difficult and proposed to discuss the utility of this kind of Group at the next OIE AWWG meeting in May.

Dr Fraser requested information on the state of play of the analysis of the WTO panel report on the 'EU Measures prohibiting the importation and marketing of seal products', which was decided to be developed by OIE Headquarters. Dr Belton indicated that this document has been drafted and it will be considered at the next Code Commission meeting and at the next meeting of the OIE AWWG.

Dr Fraser also requested information on the discussion between the Swedish Agriculture University and the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale" to extend the scope of OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre activity in Europe. Dr Stuardo advised that no further information had been received since the communication between the Swedish Delegate and the Italian Delegate.

***Agenda Item 5: Private Standards Update: ISO***

Dr Stuardo updated the Members on the last documents received by the ISO Secretariat, containing the Working Group comments on the proposed Draft Outline, and advised that a meeting will be held on the Friday immediately before the 83rd OIE General Session to analyse these comments.

Mr Mirabito advised that a new draft will be prepared by the Drafting Group and will be presented for further comments.

***Agenda Item 6: Third Global Conference for OIE Reference Centres, October 2014–Report from animal welfare session***

Dr Stuardo briefly informed members about the outcomes of the special session on animal welfare held during the Conference, chaired by Dr Kate Littin, AW Focal Point from New Zealand. During this Session AW CCs agreed to present a proposal to the OIE to establish a network to collaborate more closely.

***Agenda Item 7: AW Focal Point Seminars updates***

Dr Stuardo informed Members that there are four AW Focal point training seminars planned for 2015: two in the African Region (one for English speaking countries and another one for French speaking countries), one in Europe, and one in the Americas. The last two are waiting final confirmation.

Dr Gavinelli advised that the European Union, through the BTSF programme will conduct two training seminars in the African Region and one in the Americas Region, and that it is important to coordinate these activities. Also he recalled that it is important to highlight the importance of the AWWG members in these regional activities.

***Agenda Item 8: RAWS and EU Platform updates***

Dr Stuardo informed members about the RAWS Coordination meetings planned for this year. He highlighted that the AFEO RAWS CG meeting to be held in Malaysia will discuss how the RAWS secretariat of this Region will function in the future.

Dr Aidaros noted that it could be very useful to use the training activities in the African Region to advance the discussion and development of the RAWS of the African Region, the only region still to develop their own Strategy.

***Agenda Item 9: OIE Global Conference Programme – consider development of the framework at June 2015 meeting***

Dr Stuardo informed members that following receipt of a new offer of a Member Country to organise and financially support the Conference, the Director General is asking the Chilean government if they can match the financial conditions of the new offer, in order to improve the whole Conference package. If that is not possible for the Chilean Government, the venue of the Conference will change. Dr Stuardo also confirmed that independent of this decision, the work of the scientific programme will start at the next OIE AWWG meeting in June.



***Agenda Item 10: Date of informal meeting at GS (TBC – AWWG 14 is the week after)***

Dr Stuardo proposed to the Group that no AWWG informal meeting be held during the GS, as the OIE AWWG meeting will be held the following week. This proposal was accepted.

***Agenda Item 11: Other Business***

Dr Rahman updated members on the Animal Welfare Session that is included in the next Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference of the CVA in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia). Dr Rahman informed also that arrangements were also made for hosting the RAWS meeting during the Conference.

---



**MEMBERSHIP OIE ELECTRONIC CONSULTATION AD HOC GROUP ON  
OIE TERRESTRIAL CODE CHAPTERS 7.5. AND 7.6.**

**Mr Luc Mirabito (Chair of the Group)**

International Dairy Federation  
Institut de l'Elevage  
149 rue de Bercy  
75013 Paris  
FRANCE  
luc.mirabito@inst-elevage.asso.fr

**Prof. Dr. Zulkifli idrus**

Department of Animal Science  
Faculty of Agriculture  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
43400 UPM Serdang, Selangor  
MALAYSIA  
zulkifli@agri.upm.edu.my

**Dr Mohan Raj**

Senior Research Fellow  
Division of Farm Animal Science  
School of Clinical Veterinary Science  
University of Bristol, Langford BS40 5DU  
UNITED KINGDOM  
M.Raj@bristol.ac.uk

**Dr Sullivan Pereira Alves**

Technical Advisor  
Association of Brazilian Animal Proteins (ABPA)  
BRAZIL  
Sullivan.alves@abpa-br.org

**Dr E (Bert) Lambooj**

Animal Sciences Group (ASG)  
Wageningen UR Livestock Research  
THE NETHERLANDS  
bert.lambooj@wur.nl

**Dr Antonio Velarde**

Senior scientist  
Director of Animal welfare subprogram  
IRTA  
ESPAÑA  
antonio.velarde@irta.cat



### Terms of Reference

#### **OIE *ad hoc* Group on Slaughter of animals - Water Bath Stunning (WBS) methods for poultry**

1. Identify the main risks in terms of poor welfare during the process of slaughtering broilers from the capture process at farm to the unloading at slaughterhouse, including data on lesions and mortality and proposed outcome-based measures to reflect poultry welfare at slaughter. Measures may include % dead on unloading, % broken wings, % birds that miss the cutter, any birds that are alive when they enter the scald-tank.
  2. Consider retaining the tables of electrical current in the Code, but develop appropriate text to contextualize the numbers, perhaps noting that these are values that have been shown to be most reliable at achieving an appropriate EEG response, but noting that effectiveness of current depends on several risk factors (e.g. equipment, line speed and the nature of the electrical contact between the line and the birds).
  3. To consider a decision making process whereby (1) achieving the outcome targets is the preferred measure of compliance with the standard, but (2) conforming to the specified electrical current strength can be used where it is not feasible to use outcome-based measures. Regarding the use of outcome, provide the WG with advice on sampling and range of acceptable value, in a routine process, to warrant that welfare is ensured as far as possible.
-



## **World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Global Animal Welfare Strategy**

**[Document prepared by the AWWG - Draft of February 5 2015]**

### **Introduction**

Animal welfare is a shared responsibility between governments, communities, the people who own, care for and use animals, animal welfare organisations, educational institutions, veterinarians and scientists. Mutual recognition and constructive engagement among parties are necessary to achieve sustained improvements to animal welfare.

As an international organisation with a 90-year history and 180 member countries, the OIE has a long-established role in setting global standards for animal health, in dissemination of information, in helping countries to develop state veterinary services, and in fostering international cooperation. Since 2001 these and other activities have enabled the OIE to make a unique global leadership contribution to advancing animal welfare, at the request of its member countries.

The OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy has been created to provide continuing direction and coordination of the organisation's actions in this important field.

### **Vision**

The OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy was created with the following vision:

A world where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and advanced, simultaneously with the pursuit of animal health, human well-being and socio-economic development.

### **Elements**

The OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy is based on the following four elements:

- Development of animal welfare standards
- Capacity building and education
- Communication with governments, organizations and the public
- Implementation of animal welfare standards and policies

#### *1. Development of animal welfare standards*

- The OIE develops global animal welfare standards that are drafted by international experts based on relevant scientific research and practical experience, and reviewed by member countries and key international stakeholders to ensure global applicability. Wherever possible, standards are based on achieving good animal welfare outcomes rather than prescribing design criteria.
- The OIE cooperates with relevant specialist organizations in setting mutually recognized standards.

#### *2. Capacity building and education*

- The OIE helps member countries to strengthen their state veterinary services to ensure capacity to implement animal welfare standards.
- It conducts training activities for country delegates and National Animal Welfare Focal points.
- It develops and disseminates materials for animal welfare training and capacity building directed at all those who have responsibility for animals.
- It supports the inclusion of animal welfare in curricula for veterinarians, veterinary para-professionals and students of animal agriculture.

Annex VI (contd)*3. Communication with governments, organizations and the public*

- The OIE develops communication programmes to provide accurate, accessible and timely information on animal welfare to governments, the agri-food sector, veterinarians and other professionals including farmers.
- It communicates with governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to foster awareness of the OIE animal welfare standards.
- It makes information available to the general public to improve awareness of animal welfare issues and developments.

*4. Implementation of animal welfare standards and policies*

- The OIE supports member countries in policy development and governance related to animal welfare through advice, policy research and policy analysis.
- It makes recommendations to member countries on the inclusion of animal welfare in national legislation and on implementing animal welfare standards.
- It works with relevant international organizations to ensure that private (including commercial) animal welfare standards are consistent with OIE standards.

**Methods***1. Animal Welfare Working Group*

The Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG) of the OIE is appointed by the Director General and typically consists of a member from each OIE region together with a member from the global animal welfare movement and the global animal-source food sector. Members are chosen to provide a wide range of scientific and practical expertise on animal welfare together with regional perspectives.

The AWWG:

- recommends priorities for additional standards, educational programmes, and other activities;
- provides overall guidance on the content of OIE standards, publications, conferences and other activities related to animal welfare;
- recommends when draft standards are ready for consideration by member countries;
- helps to identify sources of expertise for *ad hoc* groups, educational programmes and other activities;
- reviews the performance of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and Collaborating Centres;
- identifies new scientific knowledge relevant to OIE activities and seeks independent scientific advice as necessary;
- reviews and updates this Global Strategy as needed.

*2. Ad hoc Groups*

Tasks requiring specialised expertise, especially the drafting of standards, are typically undertaken by *ad hoc* groups assembled for the specific purposes. *Ad hoc* groups related to animal welfare are appointed by the Director General with advice from the AWWG.



### 3. *Collaborating Centres*

The OIE has designated a small number of Collaborating Centres on Animal Welfare which provide specific services and expertise to the Animal Welfare Working Group, OIE Headquarters, Regional Commissions and member countries. Collaborating Centres normally provide expertise on one or more designated topics such as certain types of animals (e.g., laboratory animals), specific activities (e.g., transport, slaughter) or other topics (e.g., animal welfare education).

### 4. *National Animal Welfare Focal Points*

The OIE, with the support of its member countries, has established National Animal Welfare Focal Points. These individuals, working through the official delegate of their country and according to agreed terms of reference:

- communicate with in-country animal welfare experts,
- communicate with the country's Competent Authority(ies) for animal welfare,
- communicate with relevant national non-governmental organisations,
- receive and share relevant information with the OIE, with stakeholders in their own countries and OIE region, and with other National Animal Welfare Focal Points,
- conduct in-country consultation on animal welfare issues and texts, and
- facilitate the implementation of animal welfare standards and training.

They may also have roles relating to their Regional Animal Welfare Strategy.

### 5. *Regional Animal Welfare Strategies*

The OIE, with the support of its Regional Commissions, is developing Regional Animal Welfare Strategies. These are intended to further and apply this Global Strategy within the context of their specific region. They:

- promote understanding and awareness of animal welfare in the region through communication, education and training;
- guide member countries in implementing animal welfare standards, and harmonise implementation across the region;
- provide a forum for developing animal welfare policies and activities appropriate to the Region;
- facilitate cooperation among member countries and other organisations in promoting animal welfare in the region;
- facilitate the inclusion of animal welfare in veterinary and animal science curricula in the region;
- ensure that new knowledge and developments in animal welfare are broadly communicated in the region;
- identify possible research and development needs and priorities.



## **Paper to OIE Animal Welfare Working Group meeting 2-4 June 2015**

### **Proposal to establish and maintain an OIE Network of Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres**

**Dr Kate Littin, OIE National Animal Welfare Focal Point, New Zealand representing New Zealand/Australia OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis.**

#### **Purpose**

This paper is on behalf of all OIE animal welfare collaborating centres. We are seeking comment and agreement from the AWWG to establish an OIE Network of Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres.

#### **Background**

The four OIE collaborating centres participated in an animal welfare session at the Third Global Conference for OIE Reference Centres in 2014.

At that session, it was clear that each collaborating centre has identified and is working on significant regional animal welfare priorities. The three general animal welfare centres (Americas, Australia-New Zealand and Europe/Italy) have strong connections with their respective OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategies (the Platform in Europe). There are no significant gaps in animal welfare science expertise or in the coverage of animal welfare issues: between them, the centres have expertise, or can access expertise, related to existing animal welfare standards in the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Animal Health Codes* (slaughter, transport, specific species, laboratory animals), as well as topics on the Animal Welfare Working Group's work programme (e.g. working animals).

They concluded that there were gaps in their regional coverage (Middle East and Africa) rather than in the content (or potential content) of their work. Accessing funding for work to support the OIE also continued to be a challenge. Finally, while the OIE is encouraging a regional focus for collaborating centres, they considered that it is important to ensure a global perspective is not lost.

The OIE asks collaborating centres and reference laboratories to establish networks between centres with the same speciality. At the animal welfare session, the centres considered that the establishment of a network for the animal welfare collaborating centres would have a number of benefits for the OIE and for the centres themselves.

#### **Proposal**

We therefore propose to establish and maintain an Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre Network, according to the OIE's requirements.

#### **Opportunities and benefits**

The intention is to facilitate better collaboration and coordination between the animal welfare collaborating centres, and to support the OIE better, from a global perspective. We believe this will ensure that the collaborating centres can represent a global perspective, while working individually to support their own regions.

Support for the OIE includes not only support in the development, review and implementation of animal welfare standards, but also support for the Animal Welfare Working Group in other ways outside of standards development.

While collaborating centres can each do this in isolation, we consider that a formal Network would enable us to work better together, communicate better amongst the various partners, identify gaps in expertise and work that affect the development and implementation of the global and regional OIE animal welfare strategies, and better identify and access funding for work to support the OIE.

Annex VII (contd)

Specifically, we see opportunities and benefits including:

- To identify gaps in global coverage and scientific support for the development, review and implementation of OIE standards and regional animal welfare strategies
- To focus coordinated efforts where there is not an existing collaborating centre (currently Africa and the Middle East)
- To identify actions or projects in OIE regional animal welfare strategies (Platform in Europe) where each collaborating centre can contribute (add value) or lead
- To identify funding, and strengthen the case for funding, for research and projects that support OIE animal welfare goals
- To better identify areas of collaboration in existing and future work by partners in collaborating centres
- To better identify gaps in expertise amongst partners and in existing and future work by partners in collaborating centres
- To better identify and access external research partners to support existing and future work by collaborating centres
- To provide a mechanism to manage more frequent liaison and information sharing between the collaborating centres
- To provide a single point of contact between the OIE and collaborating centres for global animal welfare issues
- To provide an ongoing pool of expertise for *ad hoc* groups, OIE *Scientific and Technical Review Series* articles and special issues, OIE discussion papers, and other special projects
- To link with relevant global scientific and veterinary professional associations as appropriate (e.g. International Society for Applied Ethology)
- To enhance knowledge of the OIE and OIE standards within the scientific community, with benefits including better engagement during the standards development process (e.g. country comments)
- To facilitate twinning/coordination projects with external partners (e.g. Queensland / Putra coordination project in the NZ/Australia collaborating centre).

**Process / next steps**

If the AWWG agrees to this proposal, the centres will hold a web meeting by the end of September (to take account of summer holidays) to determine first steps to establish the Network. We will extend an invitation to the OIE to attend this meeting if required. We would report back to the AWWG after the meeting. The Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre Network would develop a terms of reference to share with the AWWG and it would be bound by the OIE's requirements, described at <http://www.oie.int/en/our-scientific-expertise/collaborating-centres/reference-centre-networks/> and including:

- Forming a secretariat to liaise with OIE *Headquarters*, and to hold responsibility for coordination, leadership and accountability. Secretariat may be rotated amongst partners.
- Provision of an annual report, cross-referenced in individual partner annual reports.
- OIE to be invited to meetings, and meeting reports to be supplied to OIE *Headquarters*.

**REPORT OF THE SECOND *AD HOC* GROUP ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT  
AND RISK REDUCTION IN RELATION TO ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE  
AND VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Paris, 27–29 January 2015**

---

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Relation to Animal Health and Welfare and Veterinary Public Health (the *ad hoc* Group) met at OIE Headquarters on 27–29 January 2015. Dr Gary Vroegindewey chaired the meeting.

**1. Welcome and introduction**

The members of the *ad hoc* Group and other participants at the meeting are listed at [Annex I](#). The adopted Agenda is provided as [Annex II](#).

On behalf of Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, the Head of the International Trade Department, Dr Derek Belton, welcomed all members and thanked them for their commitment to working with the OIE on this important topic. He reminded the Members of the *ad hoc* Group that, in principle, the disaster risk reduction guidelines that they are developing are intended for publication on the OIE website, but in the future they could also become a chapter of the OIE *Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes*, as discussed during the previous meeting. An extract from the relevant section of the September 2014 report of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission) is presented in [Annex V](#).

Dr Thiermann, President of the Code Commission, also thanked the *ad hoc* Group for their work and noted that, regardless of the final placement of these guidelines, they should be very concise, and avoid replication of more detailed information already available in well-known reference sources.

Dr Belton indicated to the *ad hoc* Group that, in the first instance, the OIE intends to develop guidelines for use by the Veterinary Services of Member Countries and that these guidelines will take account of the existing global guidelines and standards on this topic.

An extract from the relevant section of the report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Animal Welfare Working Group is presented in [Annex IV](#).

**2. Objectives of the meeting**

Dr Vroegindewey stated that the *ad hoc* Group should focus on drafting guidelines for use by Veterinary Services. Dr Thierman emphasised that they should be concise and leave most of the more detailed and technical items for the annexes.

Dr Ankers noted that, as the document will focus on the activities of Veterinary Services, it will not be necessary to include detailed information on activities of other stakeholders in disaster situations.

Dr Dalla Villa indicated that one of the advantages of these guidelines is that they will enhance a common understanding of the terminology to be used among National Veterinary Services and with other stakeholders.

Annex VIII (contd)

Dr Percedo highlighted how important it is that Veterinary Services should engage with animal owners, producers, animal industry representatives, slaughterhouses, laboratories, pharmaceutical industries and others. They are the people and organisations that will have to implement measures and activities for disaster reduction and they also have a key role in the response phase.

**3. Terms of Reference**

The *ad hoc* Group reviewed the Terms of Reference that had been adopted at the first meeting and confirmed them, but noted that to complete the work mentioned under point number 3, more work should be done at the regional level to detect gaps and needs.

The adopted Terms of Reference are shown in Annex III.

**4. Discussion of working documents and other relevant documents**

The *ad hoc* Group analysed the documents sent by the different Members of the group and assessed each one in order to decide if it should be included as a reference tool in the guidelines.

The list of the working documents is provided as Annex VI.

**5. Development of draft guidelines**

The *ad hoc* Group drafted Guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health (Guidelines for National Veterinary Services) and developed guiding principles for the OIE as it engages with this new area of work. The draft guidelines are shown in Annex VII.

**6. Proposed strategy for the use of the guidelines and future work**

The *ad hoc* Group drew up a proposed strategy to facilitate the use of the guidelines by Veterinary Services and their relevant partners.

The activities and elements included in the strategy are shown in Annex VIII.

**7. Review and finalise report of meeting**

The *ad hoc* Group discussed and agreed on further work needed to complete the meeting report.

**8. Next meeting**

It was proposed that, if required, a final meeting should be held after the September 2015 meeting of the Code Commission.

---

.../ Appendices

**OIE AD HOC GROUP ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RISK REDUCTION IN RELATION TO  
ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE AND VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH  
Paris, 27–29 January 2015**

**List of participants**

**MEMBERS OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP**

---

**Dr Gary Vroegindewey (chair)**

Director, One Health Program  
Assistant Professor of Veterinary Medicine  
Lincoln Memorial University  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Tel.: +1 423 869 7132  
gary.vroegindewey@LMU.net.edu

**Dr Philippe Ankers**

Livestock Production Systems Branch -  
FAO  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Rome 00153  
ITALY  
Tel.: +39 06 570 56214  
philippe.ankers@fao.org

**Dr Ian Dacre**

Senior Veterinary Advisor Asia-Pacific  
World Protection Animal  
7th Floor, Olympia Thai Plaza  
444 Ratchadaphisek Road, Samsenok  
Huay Kwang, Bangkok 10310  
THAILAND  
Tel.: +662 513 0475  
iandacre@worldanimalprotection.org

**Dr Paolo Dalla Villa**

European Commission  
Directorate -General for Health and  
Consumers  
Animal Welfare  
BELGIUM  
Tel.: + 32 (0) 2 29 87 629  
Paolo-Felice.Dalla-Villa@ec.europa.eu

**Dr Shiro Inukai**

Director for Risk Management  
Livestock Industry Department  
Agriculture and Production Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and  
Fisheries  
JAPON  
shiro\_inukai@nm.maff.go.jp

**Dr Maurice K. Kiboye**

Programme coordinator/  
Veterinarians without Borders Germany  
Piedmont Plaza  
671 Ngong Road  
P.O.Box 25653-00603  
Nairobi  
KENYA  
mkiboye@yahoo.com

**Dr María Irian Percedo Abreu**

Investigadora Titular  
Dirección Salud y Producción Animal  
Centro Nacional de Sanidad Agropecuaria  
(CENSA)  
OIE Collaborating Center on Disaster Risk  
Reduction in Animal Health  
Mayabeque, CUBA  
Tel.: 047-849136 849134  
percedo@censa.edu.cu

**OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

---

**Dr Alejandro Thiermann**

President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission  
a.thiermann@oie.int

**OIE HEADQUARTERS**

---

**Dr Bernard Vallat**

Director General  
12, rue de Prony  
75017 Paris  
FRANCE  
Tel.: 33 - (0)1 44 15 18 88  
Fax: 33 - (0)1 42 67 09 87  
oie@oie.int

**Dr Derek Belton**

Head  
International Trade Department  
d.belton@oie.int

**Dr Leopoldo Stuardo**

Chargé de mission  
International Trade Department  
l.stuardo@oie.int





**OIE AD HOC GROUP ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RISK REDUCTION IN RELATION TO  
ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE AND VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Paris, 27–29 January 2015**

---

**Agenda**

- 1) Welcome and introduction – Dr Derek Belton
  - 2) Review of the Report of the *ad hoc* Group on Animal welfare and disaster management, April 2014
  - 3) Discussion of working documents and other relevant documents provided by the *ad hoc* Group Members
  - 4) Development of draft text for consideration by the AWWG and the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
  - 5) Programme for further work after this meeting
  - 6) Review and finalise report of meeting
-



**OIE AD HOC GROUP ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RISK REDUCTION IN RELATION TO  
ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE AND VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Paris, 27–29 January 2015**

---

**Terms of Reference**

- To develop OIE Guiding Principles on disasters management and risk reduction with respect to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health taking account of all aspects of the Disaster Cycle and existing guidelines and standards (e.g. LEGS and OIE *Terrestrial Code*);
- to advise strategies for supporting Veterinary Services in OIE Member Countries to undertake disaster management and risk reduction;
- to identify any significant gaps in existing guidelines and standards available to Veterinary Services on disaster management and risk reduction with respect to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health and to develop guidelines addressing those gaps;
- to advise how disaster management and risk reduction with respect to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health should be addressed in OIE veterinary education recommendations;
- to make recommendations on how the OIE can strengthen linkages with key international stakeholders in the field of disaster management and risk reduction with respect to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health.



**EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE OIE ANIMAL  
WELFARE WORKING GROUP**

**Paris (France), 24–26 June 2014**

---

**8. *Ad hoc* Group on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction in relation to Animal Health and Welfare and Veterinary Public Health**

Dr Stuardo informed that the *ad hoc* Group had its first meeting from 15–17 April 2014. The meeting was chaired by Dr Gary Vroegindewey, the *ad hoc* Group discussed extensively the problems of dealing with disasters within the framework of the paper prepared by Dr Sarah Kahn, and agreed with the approach of developing a set of guidelines for OIE Member Countries for publication on the OIE website. Dr Stuardo also advised that the group agreed that the guidelines will focus on strategic, organisational and operational issues rather than technical issues, and cover animal health, welfare and veterinary public health. A second meeting of the *ad hoc* Group is proposed for the fourth quarter of 2014.

---



**EXTRACT FROM REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE  
TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION  
Paris, 9–18 September 2014**

---

**c) Report of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Relation to Animal Health and Welfare and Veterinary Public Health**

The Code Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* group meeting held on 15–17 April 2014. The Code Commission noted that though having developed a draft guideline document on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health, the *ad hoc* group considered that more work needs to be done before circulating the draft document for Member Countries' comments.

The report of the meeting of the *ad hoc* group is attached as Annex XXV for Member Country information.

---





Annex VIII (contd)Annex VI

**SECOND MEETING OF THE OIE *AD HOC* GROUP ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT  
AND RISK REDUCTION IN RELATION TO ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE  
AND VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Paris, 27–29 January 2015**

---

**List of documents**

- Item 1. Provisional list of participants and list of documents
  - Item 2. Draft agenda
  - Item 3. Terms of Reference
  - Item 4. Report of the *ad hoc* Group on Animal welfare and disaster management April 2014
  - Item 5. Guiding Principles for the OIE for disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health
  - Item 6. Guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health (Guidelines for National Veterinary Services)
  - Item 7. Extract of the Report of the Meeting of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
  - Item 8. Glossary of the Common Agricultural Policy (update of 2014)
  - Item 9. LEGS flyer
  - Item 10. UNHCR Livestock Keeping and Animal Husbandry in Refugee and Returnee Situations
  - Item 11. Extract from the final report of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (A/CONF.206/6)
  - Item 12. Good Emergency Management Practices GEMP FAO
  - Item 13. Good Emergency Management Practice–The Essentials
  - Item 14. Appendix XI (Shiro Inukai)–Report of the *ad hoc* Group on Animal welfare and disaster management, April 2014
  - Item 15. Definitions (Shiro Inukai)–Guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health (Guidelines for National Veterinary Services) 2014
  - Item 16. World Disasters Report 2013, Focus on technology and the future of humanitarian action
  - Item 17. 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
  - Item 18. New Zealand’s National Security System
-



**DRAFT GUIDELINES ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RISK REDUCTION IN RELATION TO  
ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE AND VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH  
(GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has developed these guidelines for disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health with the goal of strengthening the capacity of Veterinary Services in Member Countries.

Recent disaster events highlight the need to bring all components of disaster management together in cohesive response plans at both national and international levels using a multidisciplinary approach to achieve optimal efficiency and effectiveness.

The OIE guidelines use an all-hazards approach to the management of natural and man-made and technological disasters and suggest that a wide range of stakeholders from both government and society take action, adapting their interventions to meet local and regional needs.

They advocate the integration of disaster management and risk reduction measures relevant to national Veterinary Services into broader resilience and disaster management and response networks and policies, i.e. those that promote the health and welfare of animals, safeguard human and environmental health and assist Member Countries to restore and enhance economic and societal conditions in the aftermath of a disaster.

**1.1. SCOPE**

These guidelines reflect the need for Veterinary Services to implement disaster management and disaster risk reduction measures with the objective of protecting animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health during disaster events in their respective countries.

The document is aligned with OIE standards for Veterinary Services and animal welfare.

These guidelines provide a framework that veterinary professionals can use to develop processes and procedures for managing the veterinary sector's actions to reduce the adverse consequences of disasters. They outline guiding principles and the roles that Veterinary Services play in reducing the impact of disasters in all phases of the Disaster Management Cycle (DMC). They also highlight the importance of intra- and inter-institutional coordination and emphasise that the mandate of Veterinary Services falls within the larger national legal framework.

These guidelines complement existing technical and legal instruments for disaster management, both those at international and regional levels and those adopted in each Member Country, all of which specify the mandate of relevant actors in disaster situations. They are meant to be applied in conjunction with these existing tools.

The document does not prescribe how Veterinary Services should act, but leaves it to each OIE Member Country to adapt to local needs based on their context. It identifies inter-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approaches as essential principles in disaster management and stresses that the plans of Veterinary Services should be included in the National Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Plans.

**1.2. DEFINITIONS**

There are many variations of definitions in the field of disaster management and risk reduction. The *ad hoc* Group of experts formed by the OIE to draft these guidelines has selected the following working definitions with the intent of following as closely as possible standard international definitions. Additional definitions on specific topics are included within the text of the guidelines. Individual countries and organisations may have different variations that they are required to use.

Annex VIII (contd)Annex VII (contd)*Disaster*

means ‘a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources’. (UNISDR, 2015)

*Hazard*

In these guidelines the UNISDR definition of hazard is used which means ‘a dangerous phenomenon, substance, human activity or condition that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage’.

*Technological/Man-made disaster*

means ‘a hazard originating from technological or industrial conditions or caused by man, including complex emergencies, conflicts, famine, displaced populations, industrial accidents and transport accidents. These are events that are caused by humans and occur in or close to human settlements. This can include environmental degradation, pollution and accidents’. (IFRC, 2015)

*Natural hazard*

means ‘the naturally occurring physical phenomena caused either by rapid or slow onset events which can be geophysical (earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis and volcanic activity), hydrological (avalanches and floods), climatological (extreme temperatures, drought and wildfires), meteorological (cyclones and storms/wave surges) or biological (disease epidemics and insect/animal plagues)’. (IFRC, 2015)

*Resilience*

means ‘the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions. It is determined by the degree to which the community has the necessary resources and is capable of organising itself both prior to and during times of need’. (UNISDR, 2015).

**2. THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT CYCLE**

The objectives for Veterinary Services in disaster management are to protect animal health and welfare, safeguard human and environmental health and assist Member Countries in restoring and enhancing economic and societal conditions.

Various disaster management models are available to provide a framework to develop disaster management programmes, actions, and activities. A simple, commonly used DMC model has been selected in order to illustrate the phases of disaster that must be addressed.

The DMC phases include: mitigation and prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. Disaster management programmes often focus on response, but effective disaster management includes activities in all four phases.

*Mitigation* means ‘the lessening or limitation of the adverse impacts of hazards and related disasters’. (UNISDR, 2015)

*Prevention* means ‘any action aimed at reducing risks or mitigating adverse consequences of a disaster for people, the environment and property, including cultural heritage’. (EU Civil Protection Mechanism, 2013)

*Preparedness* means ‘a state of readiness and capability of human and material means, structures, communities and organisations enabling them to ensure an effective rapid response to a disaster, obtained as a result of action taken in advance’. (EU Civil Protection Mechanism, 2013)

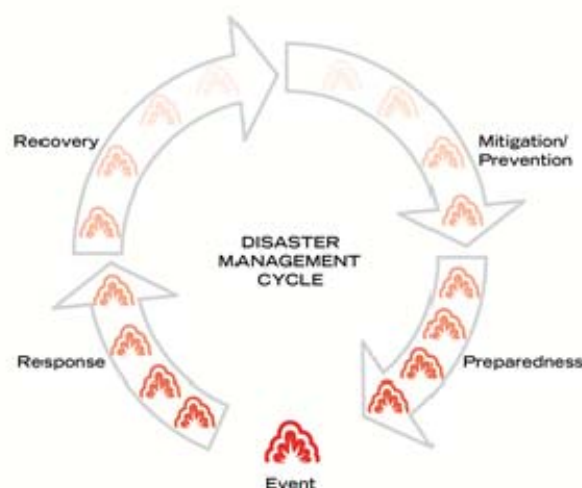
*Response* means ‘the provision of emergency services and public assistance during or immediately after a disaster in order to save lives, reduce health impacts, ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected’. (UNISDR, 2015)

Annex VIII (contd)

Annex VII (contd)

*Recovery* means ‘the restoration, and improvement where appropriate, of facilities, livelihoods and living conditions of disaster-affected communities, including efforts to reduce disaster risk factors’. (UNISDR, 2015)

The Disaster Management Cycle is shown below.



**Figure 1. Phases of the Disaster Management Cycle**

The four phases of the DMC are used as a framework to plan and organise the processes, policies and procedures involved in disaster management, including disaster risk reduction. The phases are not always distinct, but flow into one another in a continuous cycle. In a specific disaster event, different agencies may be in different phases of the DMC. Using this common framework will assist Veterinary Services to align their activities with other governmental and non-governmental actors.

There are certain elements that should always be considered as they are common to all four phases of the DMC. These include: legislation and regulatory authority, budgeting and resourcing, internal and external communications (processes and infrastructure), training and education, information technology and knowledge management, and integration and coordination with other agencies, organisations and stakeholders.

## **2.1. MITIGATION AND PREVENTION**

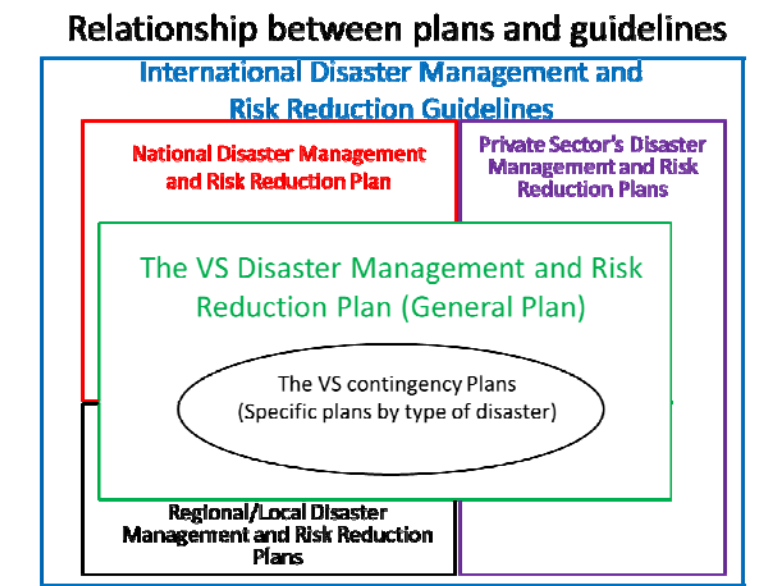
Mitigation and prevention activities occur prior to disaster events and they incorporate lessons learned from the response and recovery phases of previous disasters.

Most countries already have a National Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Plan which has been developed at central level and which explains the roles and responsibilities of all government and non-government services in the case of disasters. Veterinary Services should be involved in the preparation or review of these National Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Plans. Veterinary Services should involve all internal units in the preparation and review of the plan and consider the roles and responsibilities of actors such as farmers, animal owners, pharmaceutical industries, the food industry, feed producers, traders, slaughterhouses, laboratories, transportation and border control authorities, national governments, intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organisations and private voluntary associations.

Veterinary Services should establish their own National Veterinary Service Disaster and Risk Reduction Plan.

Annex VIII (contd)Annex VII

Figure 2 illustrates how Veterinary Services Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Plans are nested within international and national guidelines and plans and how they are linked to private-sector plans.



**Figure 2. Relationship of Multi-sectoral Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Plans and Guidelines**

The National Veterinary Services Disaster and Risk Reduction Plan, which should be developed during the mitigation and prevention phase, should cover all four phases of the DMC. The plan will include the following chapters:

#### **2.1.1. Veterinary Services and Other Stakeholders: Roles, Responsibilities, Cooperation and Collaboration**

Central Government typically plays the lead role in preparing for and responding to disasters. The roles and responsibilities of the Veterinary Services should be clearly laid out and mechanisms for interaction with other Services and Ministries should be described.

The Veterinary Services will play a leadership role in advising the authorities on animal health, welfare and veterinary public health in disaster situations. The Veterinary Services should provide sufficient and appropriate input to ensure policies governing support for animals in disaster situations are effective.

The involvement of private veterinarians in all phases of the disaster management cycle is important as a primary link for producers and other animal owners. The roles and responsibilities of private veterinarians, livestock owners, producers, and other animal owners should also be described in the plan and, where relevant, they should receive appropriate training from Veterinary Services or other appropriate entities. Veterinary Services should support the development of disaster management plans by advising other actors as appropriate.

Annex VIII (contd)

Annex VII (contd)

### **2.1.2. Legal Framework, Legislation**

The plan should follow existing international frameworks where appropriate, such as the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015 (HFA) and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction of the United Nations (UNISDR). The plan should be harmonised with the national legislation for disaster management and make provision for interaction between official and private institutions and organisations. Veterinary Services should include their mitigation and prevention activities in national and regional plans and harmonise them with those of other sectors and the government. When Veterinary Services lack established legal authority for action in disaster situations, specific requirements should be identified and new legislation developed to address the gaps.

### **2.1.3. Communication and Public Awareness**

A clear communication strategy is central to the plan. The strategy should involve communication at all levels from government level to the general public. Prior agreements on communication responsibilities are essential to avoid any conflicting information. Communication should focus on transparency, listening, and responding, and will aim to build trust and distribute appropriate messages in a timely manner.

Communication is a two-way process, so communication tools, technologies, procedures and templates should be available for communication between central units and the field operational level, including field-based veterinarians, animal owners, and the general public. Communication should take into consideration the social and cultural aspects of content delivery to maximise effectiveness.

Public awareness campaigns in the mitigation and prevention phase help to maintain vigilance against disaster risks and improve the self-preparedness of animal owners. Making animal owners aware of their options in the case of disaster is a vital part of efficient disaster cycle management.

### **2.1.4. Risk Analyses**

Risk analysis means the overall cross-sectoral process of hazard identification, risk assessment, risk management and risk communication undertaken at national or appropriate sub-national level. Conducting a risk analysis prior to a disaster will enable stakeholders to prioritise investments for disaster risk-reduction activities and facilitate the decision process within the whole disaster management cycle. The risk analysis should include hazard identification and hazard mapping, risk assessment, vulnerability analysis, capacity analysis, risk evaluation, and risk communication.

### **2.1.5. Structure of Veterinary Services**

The structure of Veterinary Services varies from one country to another and risks will vary from one region to another within the country. The plan should address regional specificities and address whether or not capacities are available for response within regions.

Response to disasters requires the ability to make quick evidence-based decisions and to convert those decisions into clear orders which can be conveyed down a very clear chain of command to those who are charged with the responsibility to carry them out. This requires the Veterinary Services in a country to be part of a well-defined command structure or line management system, at least for the duration of the emergency. This command system may differ from the structure in place for routine work and should be described in the National Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Plan.

All key staff in both central and decentralised offices should have a detailed job description defining their roles and responsibilities during all phases of the DMC, including mitigation and prevention.

### **2.1.6. Human Resources**

Different skills will be required during all phases of the DMC. It is important to provide on-the-job training, invest in early warning activities, and to provide for increasing the capacity of Veterinary Services for emergency responses.

Annex VIII (contd)Annex VII (contd)**2.1.7. Financing**

Finances should be available without delay during the preparedness and response phases. Budgeting for interventions and identifying sources of funding in advance will allow for rapid action. Budgets should include both contingency funds and funds for ongoing risk-reduction activities (such as education/training, biosecurity, surveillance activities, maintenance of early warning systems)

**2.1.8. Early Warning Systems, Surveillance Systems**

Veterinary Services have the duty and responsibility to ensure that disease surveillance and livestock-related information is integrated into early warning systems and they should be actively engaged in their development. Veterinary Services need to engage with other governmental agencies so that any warning information regarding all types of hazards can be received and effectively disseminated.

**2.1.9. Contingency Plans and Standard Operating Procedures**

Contingency planning means a management process that analyses specific potential events or emerging situations that might threaten society or the environment and establishes arrangements in advance to enable timely, effective and appropriate responses to such events and situations. (EU Civil Protection Mechanism, 2013)

Veterinary Services should develop contingency plans for each type of event identified during risk assessment exercises using an all-hazards approach. The plans should cover natural disasters (e.g. flooding, hurricanes, wind storms, drought, earthquakes, extreme cold, volcano eruptions, transboundary epizootics and pandemics) and man-made technological disasters (e.g. chemical release, radiologic accidents, oil spills, explosions, conflict and bioterrorism). Contingency plans cover sets of activities carried out as part of the response and recovery phases of the DMC. They comprise both long-term measures and measures implemented in the immediate aftermath of the disaster. There should be contingency plans for responding to animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health needs during natural and man-made disasters, including disease outbreaks. These contingency plans will be specific to each type of event: a flood, for example, will require a different contingency plan from a disease outbreak. Moreover, different disease types may require different contingency plans.

The process of developing a contingency plan provides valuable learning that helps successful implementation of the plan when a disaster occurs. It involves organising a team representing relevant authorities and stakeholders, identifying critical resources and functions, and establishing a plan for recovery beyond response (see under Preparedness).

To ensure the quality of the contingency plans, Veterinary services should develop standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for interventions that regularly recur during the preparedness and response phases.

The mitigation and prevention phase includes much more than just contingency plans. Mitigation and prevention requires ongoing capacity development, continuous monitoring and surveillance, and regular updating of risk analyses and risk reduction activities.

All activities included in the Veterinary Services Disaster and Risk Reduction Plan should be periodically reviewed and updated.

**2.2. PREPAREDNESS**

The preparedness phase often begins when warning of an impending disaster is received. Veterinary Services should get ready to activate their relevant contingency plans so that they are prepared for the foreseeable consequences as the disaster progresses. The implementation of contingency plans requires flexibility and adjustments according to the magnitude and circumstances of the disaster.



Annex VIII (contd)

Annex VII (contd)

Relevant contingency plans should be put together by the Veterinary Authority in conjunction with representatives from the national and local governments, non-governmental organisations and relevant private-sector stakeholders. The contingency plans will include:

- Details of the types of disaster covered by the plan
- Systems for rapid assessment and situation awareness
- Legislation
- Established chain of command system
- Plans for coordination with other relevant governmental agencies, inter-governmental agencies, NGOs and private sector
- Finance arrangements (including compensation policy)
- Human resource plan
- Communication plan & public awareness measures
- Established sustainable continuity plan & recovery plan

During the preparedness phase, Veterinary Services will switch to emergency mode and start implementing the relevant command system, as described in the Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Plan, to maximise the response capacity and use early warning systems to communicate with relevant parties. Early in the preparedness phase the Veterinary Services will review the availability of human and financial resources as well as tailor the communication strategy to the specific disaster event.

## **2.3. RESPONSE**

### **2.3.1. Implementation of National Veterinary Services' Contingency Plans**

Impact assessment and situation awareness are the first steps to be taken following the activation of any contingency plan. The impact of the disaster on the Veterinary Services themselves and their capacity to implement the plan should be assessed. Veterinary Services need to prioritise activities in conjunction with key stakeholders. They must remain flexible and undertake appropriate action after an assessment of the impact on the health and welfare of animals, human safety and the environment. If there is no specific contingency plan for the type of disaster that is taking place, Veterinary Services should take a step-by-step approach to decision-making and refer to the contents described in the mitigation and prevention and preparedness phases of the contingency plans they have developed for generic guidance.

### **2.3.2. Governance**

Each contingency plan (developed in the mitigation/prevention phase) will determine governance and the chain of command. Cooperation and coordination with stakeholders under clear lines of responsibility will be important to expand the capacity of Veterinary Services. Adaptability, efficiency, and continuity of support are critical to effective response.

### **2.3.3. Legislation activity**

Contingency plans will be based on existing legislation that will enable immediate action. Emergency management ordinances and specific regulations may be issued when required.

### **2.3.4. Communication**

Appropriate communication is critical for good governance, knowledge management and contingency planning. Veterinary Services should have detailed internal and external communication plans within their contingency plans.

Annex VIII (contd)Annex VII (contd)**2.3.5. Gap Analysis**

Following an assessment of the impact of the disaster on the Veterinary Services themselves, a gap analysis should be carried out to identify Veterinary Services needs. All relevant stakeholders must be included so that all significant issues are identified and addressed. Gap analysis should also take into account what will be required during the recovery phase and consider whether some earlier risk mitigation actions could avoid some of those recovery needs.

**2.4. RECOVERY****2.4.1. Recovery Plan**

Following gap analysis during the response phase, a recovery plan should be developed in order to detail human and material resource requirements, and the related budget. After identifying gaps within Veterinary Services, and after further consultation with key stakeholders, Veterinary Services should evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of their response to the disaster. The development of a recovery plan should include opportunities to '*build back better*' (i.e. provide greater resilience) and should be multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary where applicable. The plan should include monitoring and evaluation.

**2.4.2. Governance**

In the recovery phase, consideration should also be given as to how the Veterinary Services will continue to undertake their ongoing operations or 'business as usual'. This may require areas of governance to be reconsidered dependent upon current resources, and may even require changes to some aspects of legislation.

**2.4.3. Communication**

High-quality communication is necessary to keep all relevant stakeholders aware of developments. Failures in communication may result in stakeholders not giving input to vital areas of recovery and reconstruction, and may result in a lack of adequate resourcing and funding to ensure a successful recovery phase. The most significant stakeholders to be considered throughout both the response and recovery phases are the affected community. Community engagement will increase buy-in and speed up recovery from the disaster.

**2.4.4. Gap Analysis**

The recovery plan should identify the most probable recovery needs of the disaster and these should inform subsequent contingency plans. Veterinary Services should consider the different needs of both rural and urban communities, which are likely to include support for managing the consequences of livestock and production losses, companion animal displacement, and infrastructure loss. Veterinary Services should also consider how severely their buildings and facilities have been impacted and plan for their replacement during the recovery phase. These plans should take into account lag times for construction materials to be available and for key services, such as water and electricity supplies, to be reconnected.

Monitoring and evaluating the successes and failures of the recovery plan will identify both resource and process gaps. Like gap analysis from the response phase, gap analysis of the recovery phase may also identify areas for improvement in the mitigation phase.

Annex VIII (contd)

Annex VII (contd)

## **2.5. TOPICS RELEVANT TO ALL DMC PHASES**

### **2.5.1. Legislative framework**

The National Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Plan should be supported by effective legislation at each level of government. Member Countries are encouraged to follow the OIE standards on veterinary legislation as described in Chapter 3.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*. It is recommended that Veterinary Services review and analyse current legislation and engage in developing appropriate legislation to support animal health, animal welfare, and veterinary public health activities in disasters within the framework of disaster management and disaster risk reduction contingency plans.

### **2.5.2. Communications**

Effective communication is essential throughout the DMC. There must be effective communication both within the Veterinary Services and between Veterinary Services and other stakeholders, i.e. other government departments, non-government stakeholders and the public. Veterinary Services should consider developing pre-scripted communications that can be modified for use in the preparedness and response phases. Veterinary Services are encouraged to incorporate disaster management communications in accordance with Chapter 3.3 'Communication' of the *Terrestrial Code*.

### **2.5.3. Training and Education**

Training and education are necessary to prepare Veterinary Services to execute their responsibilities during disasters. Technical training is essential, and should be supplemented with training on organisational and operational aspects of disaster management, including inter-agency (inter-ministry) and inter-sectoral collaboration. Disaster management training should be included in veterinary education and in training courses for private-sector stakeholders.

### **2.5.4. Information Technology and Knowledge Management**

Information technology and knowledge management capacity should be developed in order to maintain awareness of the activities of Veterinary Services and to facilitate information sharing with other government and non-government stakeholders throughout the DMC.

### **2.5.5. Integration and Coordination**

For nearly all disasters, Veterinary Service disaster programmes will have to be incorporated into higher-level governmental frameworks for national disaster response. In addition, Veterinary Services should establish programmes and processes to coordinate their activities with non-governmental and public stakeholders.

## **2.6. CONCLUSION**

Disaster Management and Disaster Risk Reduction programmes should be dynamic and in a continual process of development as hazards, technologies, legislation and standards evolve. Applying internationally accepted guidelines and standards adopted by national and regional authorities will allow Veterinary Service to provide efficient and effective programmes. Critical to success will be risk analysis; planning; training; resource allocation; integration and coordination with government; cooperation with private-sector and non-governmental stakeholders; and disaster simulation exercises. Prioritising risk reduction is vital to avoiding or successfully responding to future disasters.

Annex VIII (contd)Annex VII (contd)**3. DISASTER MANAGEMENT TOOLBOX OF RESOURCES****International Guidelines and Standards**

- The LEGS Project. 2014. Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards, 2nd edition. Practical Action Publishing, Rugby, UK.
- FAO. 2011. Good Emergency Management Practices: The Essentials. Edited by Nick Honhold, Ian Douglas, William Geering, Arnon Shimshoni and Juan Lubroth. FAO Animal Production and Health Manual No.11. Rome
- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/1037>
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Response and Contingency Planning Guide: <http://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/40825/1220900-CPG%202012-EN-LR.pdf>  
2007CH-1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

**Additional Resources**

- United National High Commissioner for Refugees  
Livestock Keeping and Animal Husbandry in Refugee and Returnee Situations  
Environment, Technical Support Section, UNHCR Geneva and IUCN, 2005
- United States Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA Online training  
<http://training.fema.gov/is/nims.aspx>

**References**

1. UNISDR. 2015. United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction –<http://www.unisdr.org>
2. IFRC. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies –<http://www.ifrc.org/en/>
3. EU Civil Protection Mechanism. Decision No. 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism Text with EEA relevance.

**Proposed strategy for the use of the Guidelines and future work**

- a) Incorporate Guideline elements where appropriate into the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*
  - b) Incorporate Guidelines into the PVS programme
  - c) Convene a Global Conference on Animals in Disasters
  - d) Identify and engage strategic partners in Disaster Management/Disaster Risk Reduction activities
  - e) Market the Guidelines through presentations in appropriate venues
  - f) Consider incorporating animal health and welfare, veterinary public health and bioterrorism into the OIE Day One competency curriculum
  - g) Publish a Disaster Management/Disaster Risk Reduction issue of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review*
  - h) Support the creation of a Disaster Management/Disaster Risk Reduction OIE Collaborating Centre in each OIE region
  - i) Survey OIE regions on current status of authorities and capabilities in Disaster Management/Disaster Risk Reduction
  - j) Incorporate Disaster Management/Disaster Risk Reduction into Focal Point training
  - k) Develop and maintain a web-based reference resource for Disaster Management/Disaster Risk Reduction
-

---

**© World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), 2015**

This document has been prepared by specialists convened by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Pending adoption by the World Assembly of Delegates, the views expressed herein can only be construed as those of these specialists.

All OIE publications are protected by international copyright law. Extracts may be copied, reproduced, translated, adapted or published in journals, documents, books, electronic media and any other medium destined for the public, for information, educational or commercial purposes, provided prior written permission has been granted by the OIE.

The designations and denominations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the OIE concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.

The views expressed in signed articles are solely the responsibility of the authors. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by the OIE in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.