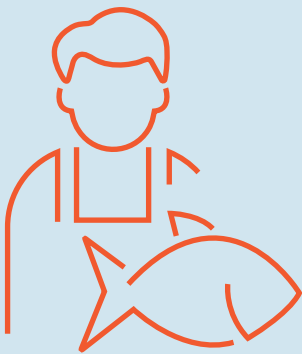


# Fighting antimicrobial resistance

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A guide for **aquatic animal  
producers**

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Imagine a world where infections and diseases in animals, humans and plants cannot be treated. This worst-case scenario could become a reality as some bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites develop resistance to the drugs we use to fight them. Antimicrobial resistance, or AMR, has become one of the most pressing health issues of our time.

**Solutions exist and you have a role to play to address this global threat.**



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE

As an **aquatic animal producer**, you have a key role in preserving the efficacy of antimicrobials worldwide. Whether it be by implementing appropriate disease prevention measures to reduce the need to administer antimicrobials to your animals, or by making sure that, when you do use antimicrobials, you do it responsibly in consultation with your veterinarian/aquatic animal health professional. Furthermore, your actions have an impact on global health, as drug resistant pathogens could spread between animal, human and plant populations.

**Here is what you can do.**



## Implement **good husbandry and biosecurity practices**

Because antimicrobials will never replace proper animal care, you should **be mindful of your animals' health and welfare daily**.

By following good husbandry practices **you can avoid stress in your aquatic animals which lowers their natural defences**. By adopting hygiene procedures and biosecurity principles, **you can prevent the introduction and spread of pathogens** which could place your animals' health and your livelihood at risk.

In this way, you can **reduce the need for antimicrobials**, and thus prevent antimicrobial resistance.

## **Vaccinate your animals**

To reduce the need for antimicrobials and the related costs, **vaccinate your animals**. Vaccines, when available, can provide life-long immunity to your animals for certain diseases.

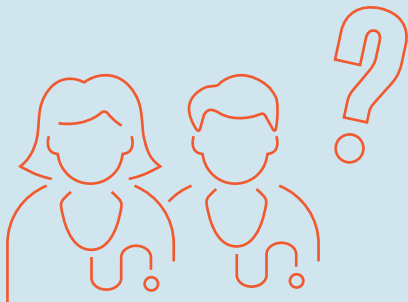


# Did you know?

By implementing good husbandry practices, biosecurity and hygiene measures and vaccination, some aquatic animal producers have significantly decreased antimicrobial use whilst enhancing productivity, safeguarding their livelihoods and boosting local economies.

Simple practices to implement:

- Wear dedicated clothing and footwear
- Use specific equipment for each production site or unit
- Monitor the water quality regularly
- Keep appropriate stock densities and minimise aquatic animal handling
- Remove dead and moribund animals from production units as soon as possible
- Drain, clean and disinfect empty holding units after transferring animals or after each harvest
- Consider implementing fallowing periods at regular intervals



## When should you seek aquatic animal health professional advice?

Sometimes, antimicrobials are necessary. But that is not always the case. If you use antimicrobials when your animals do not really need them, these antimicrobials may no longer work when eventually you will need them. You will not be able to treat diseases in your animals that were previously treatable. This may lead to significant economic losses to your business and affect your livelihood.

Only an aquatic animal health professional can know when it is safe and responsible to treat your animals with antimicrobials, and which antimicrobials to use. For this reason, you should **never medicate by yourself** and never buy antimicrobials or medicated feed from unauthorised sources and retailers. These sources could be counterfeit or, in case of medicated feed, not prepared correctly or kept under sub-optimal conditions. Only use antimicrobials when **prescribed by an aquatic animal health professional**.

If an aquatic animal health professional has prescribed antibiotics for your aquatic animals, make sure to **respect the prescribed dosage, length of treatment and withdrawal period**, even if your animals already seem cured.

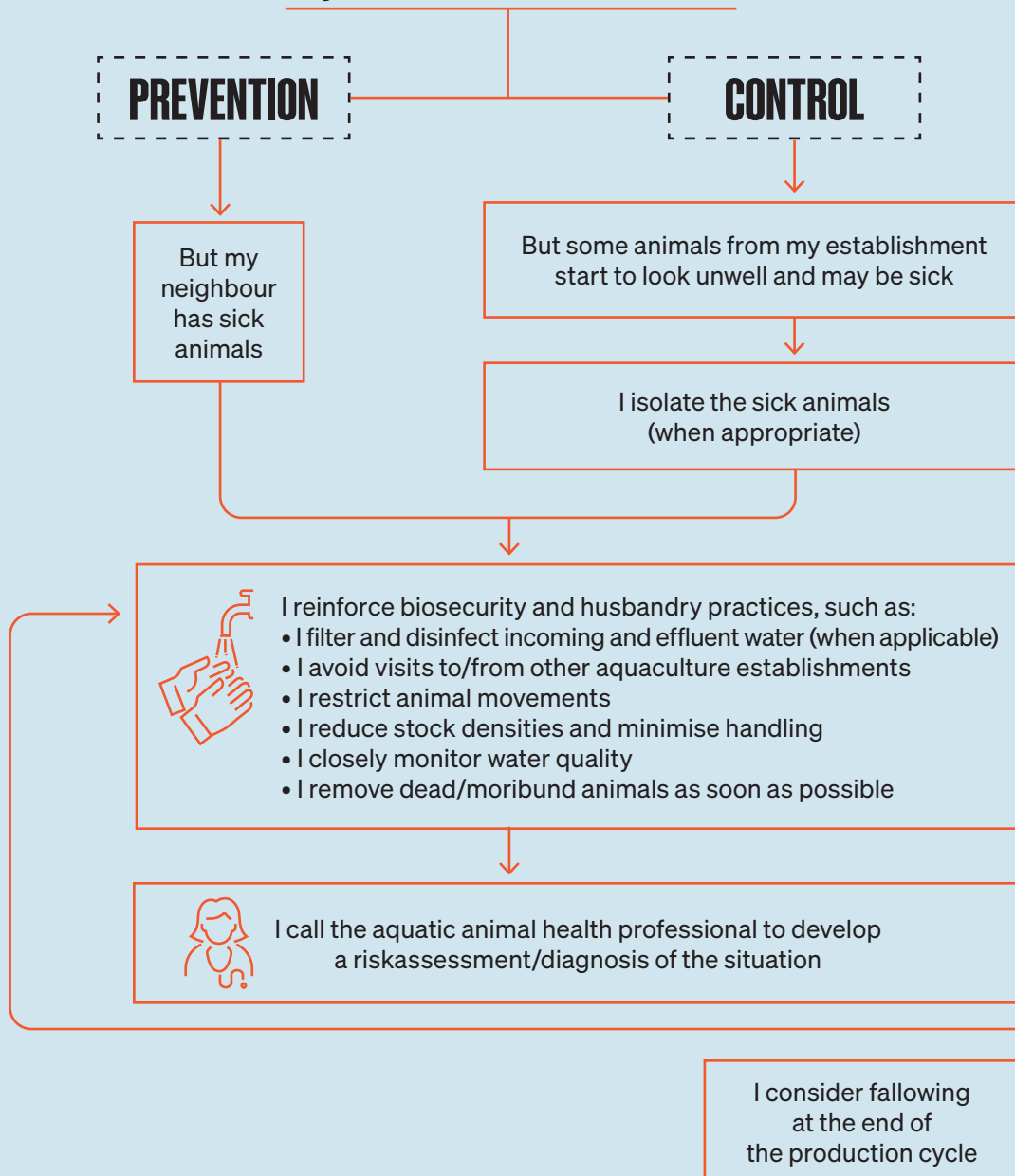
Consult our decision-tree on responsible use in the next pages.

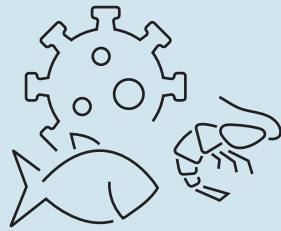
# MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS TO FIGHT AMR

Find out the best decisions you can make to preserve the efficacy of antimicrobials every day.



## My animals are not sick





# My animals are sick

## TREATMENT



I call an aquatic animal health professional

After examining my animals and performing lab tests, the aquatic animal health professional makes a diagnosis and discusses the treatment options with me

Non-antimicrobial options or alternatives to antimicrobials are applicable

Antimicrobials, such as antibiotics, are needed. I get a prescription



I buy the antimicrobials or medicated feed from an authorised source and do not ask my neighbour for them

I follow the instructions provided by the aquatic animal health professional on dosage, frequency of dosing and duration of treatment. I comply with the withdrawal period to protect consumers and my family

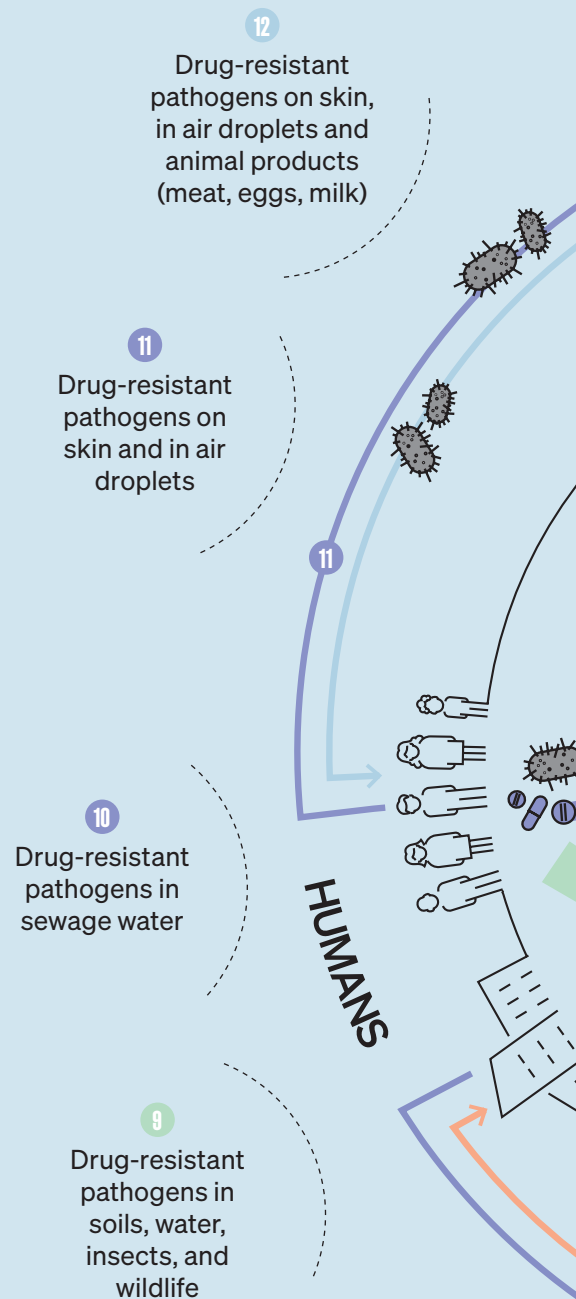


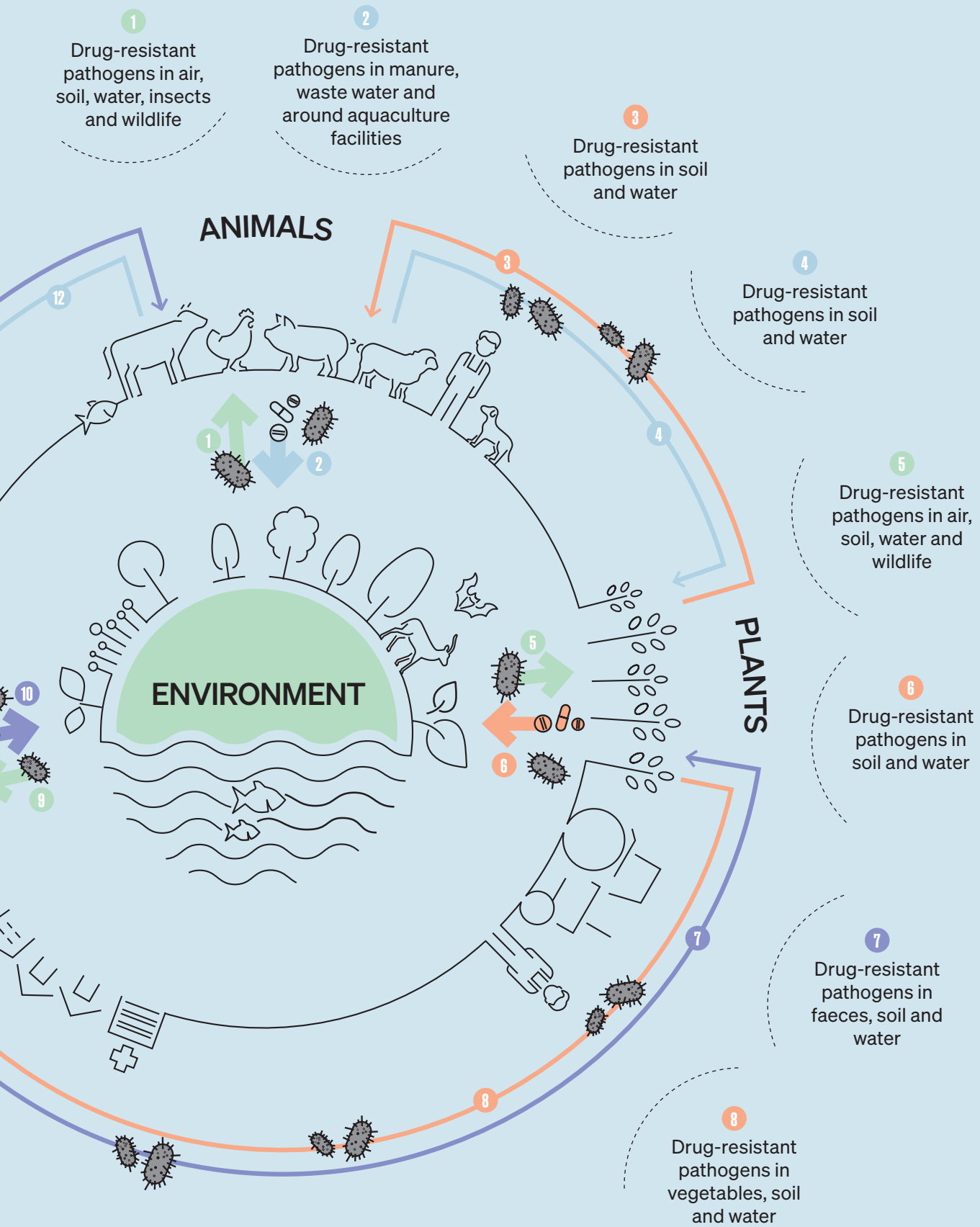
I keep records of what I have done/used and the animal(s) treated

I store or dispose of unused antimicrobials or medicated feed according to the manufacturer indications, and do not reuse them without the supervision of an aquatic animal health professional

# YOUR ROLE IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF ONE HEALTH

Did you know that the way you use antimicrobials in your aquaculture establishment can affect animal health, but also human health, plant health and the environment? In a world where everything is interconnected, your decisions have the power to help curb AMR, thus to impact positively on everyone's health.







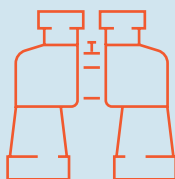
## **BROWSE**

[our portal on AMR for information  
on the responsible use of antimicrobials](#)



## **DISCOVER**

[our Global Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and  
the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Animals](#)  
and [our Aquatic Animal Health Strategy](#)



## **HELP MONITOR**

[antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance trends  
in animal populations in your country](#)

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**Use antimicrobials with care.**

Because animal health is our health, it's everyone's health.

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