

Original: English

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WOA
IN 2022**

(90 SG/1)

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FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

After the severe disruptions in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 crisis, the year 2022 saw work resume at a brisk pace to enable WOAHA to fulfil its commitments to Members and partners. Implementation of the Seventh Strategic Plan, which had begun during a difficult period following the adoption of the Plan at the General Session in May 2021, was stepped up allowing the first significant results to be recorded in 2022. This is the subject of this annual activity report.

While in no way underestimating the work of all the WOAHA teams presented in this report, I would however like to highlight some significant achievements in strengthening the Organisation.

First and foremost, major progress has been made on data governance. You will note the optimisation of WAHIS and the constant improvements made to the new platform since its launch in March 2021, the launch of the ANIMUSE database for monitoring antimicrobial use, as well as the initiation of various other projects, such as the development of a secure online platform for handling dossiers for the official recognition and maintenance of animal disease status and self-declarations of disease freedom. The renovation of the documentation centre has also proved a success, with numerous enquiries being received and over a third of them from outside the Organisation. I should point out that these achievements for the benefit of Members are based on substantive internal work laying the foundations for a more structured data architecture. In 2022, the major achievement, and one that illustrates the soundness of the investments made in recent years in the field of data governance, was the publication of the first annual report of the Observatory, and I am delighted at how well it has been received. More tangible results are expected in 2023, following the creation of a dedicated Department (Data Integration Department).

In terms of scientific expertise, I have paid particular attention to the operational implementation of various strategies, including those relating to aquatic animal health and the Wildlife Health Framework, for which detailed action plans have been finalised to facilitate the monitoring of their implementation. Interesting results have been obtained in numerous other fields, such as antimicrobial resistance, rabies, African swine fever, and monitoring of the avian influenza situation. However, I would particularly like to draw your attention to the review being undertaken of WOAHA's scientific framework (see [section 1.5.5.1](#)). The Council will be kept regularly informed of the progress being made on this topic prior to a more formal presentation to the Assembly.

With regard to the third pillar of the Strategic Plan on responding to Members' needs, and more specifically to the changes made to the PVS Pathway Programme, I invite you to refer to [section 1.3](#) of this Report, and in particular to consult the special issue of *Panorama* devoted to this topic. Now, more than ever, the rigorous development of this Programme and the involvement of Members are crucially important, given that all the negotiations currently underway regarding the elaboration of a future Pandemic Treaty and high-level political declarations on the subject emphasise the need to have health services (including Veterinary Services) that are robust, well-structured and effective. Furthermore, various financial instruments currently being deployed, such as the Financial Intermediary Fund for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (FIF), recently created by the World Bank, refer to the PVS among the criteria for the allocation of financial support.

In terms of partnerships and cooperation with partners to better respond to global challenges, 2022 was a particularly promising year for WOAHA. Thanks to the constant advocacy efforts to raise awareness of our Organisation and its strengths, and thanks to the support of numerous Members echoing our voice, recognition of WOAHA never ceases to grow. The most telling example of this is the strengthening of the Quadripartite (FAO-WOAH-WHO-UNEP), which has established a One Health Joint Plan of Action that was officially presented at the World One Health Congress in Singapore (November 2022). These developments should lead to WOAHA being recognised as an organisation having its place in the architecture of future world health governance.

Lastly, the internal modernisation of WOA – the 5th pillar of the Strategic Plan – was also on the agenda for 2022, and resulted in some significant achievements, including: the establishment of a strengthened procurement process; the improvement of the budgetary process with the establishment of a new basis for the budgetary dialogue with WOA teams; the establishment of an internal control function, relaunching the Internal Audit Committee and management of risks; and a renovated internal communication system with a new Intranet. Issues relating to social and environmental responsibility have also been tackled within a group devoted to gender issues. Particular attention is given to specific issues such as energy saving, regulation of long-distance travel, and waste recycling.

The post-COVID political context is a major opportunity for WOA's missions to be recognised as making important contributions to achieving several UN Sustainable Development Goals, and for the Organisation to be included as a legitimate partner in high-level discussions on global health governance. While not forgetting its fundamental missions to make trade in animals and animal products safer by preventing and controlling animal diseases, the Organisation has rapidly broadened the scope of its action. Along with all my colleagues at WOA, I am committed to ensuring that our action remains coherent and credible, supported by sound internal processes.

I believe the 2022 activity report provides ample testimony of this.

1. OVERVIEW OF TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

1.1. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

1.1.1 Animal health information

Active search activities

WOAH actively tracks disease rumours on the internet using the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources platform (EIOS) and circulates a summary digest to internal and external stakeholders three times a week. This digest plays an important role in drawing attention to new and potentially emerging disease threats, as well as alerting WOAH staff to outbreaks of listed animal diseases. The number of disease rumours detected through EIOS increased by 42% over the previous year to reach 170 000 in 2022. Of these, 1845 were verified and 523 followed up, with clarification being sought from Members, resulting in the submission of 13 immediate notification reports and 22 follow-up reports to WOAH.

Early warning activities

The numbers of immediate notification and follow-up reports submitted to the early warning module of the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) have been steadily increasing since 2019, with submissions in 2022 being almost twice those of 2019 (Fig. 1). One hundred and nineteen Members submitted immediate notification (416) and follow-up (3911) reports providing information on 13 929 outbreaks with start dates in 2022. The three most frequently reported diseases in 2022 were high pathogenicity avian influenza in non-poultry, African swine fever, and high pathogenicity avian influenza in poultry (Fig. 2).

Fig. 1: Trend in submission of immediate notifications and follow-up reports, 2013–2022.

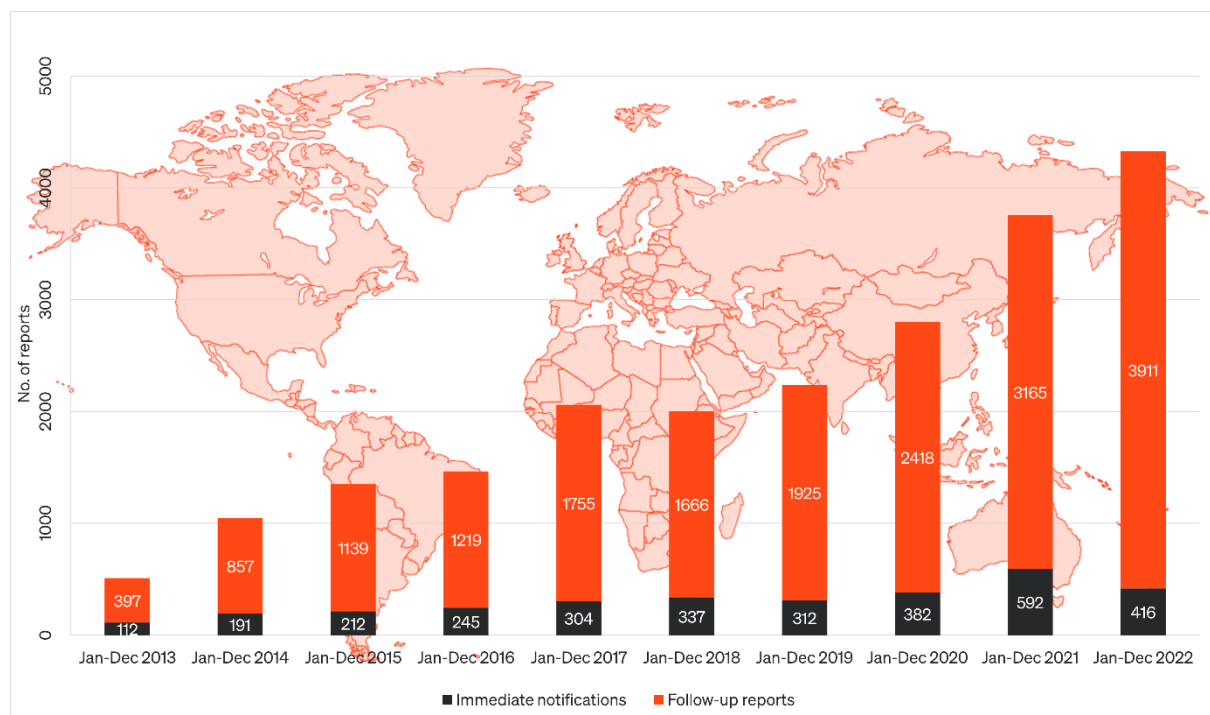
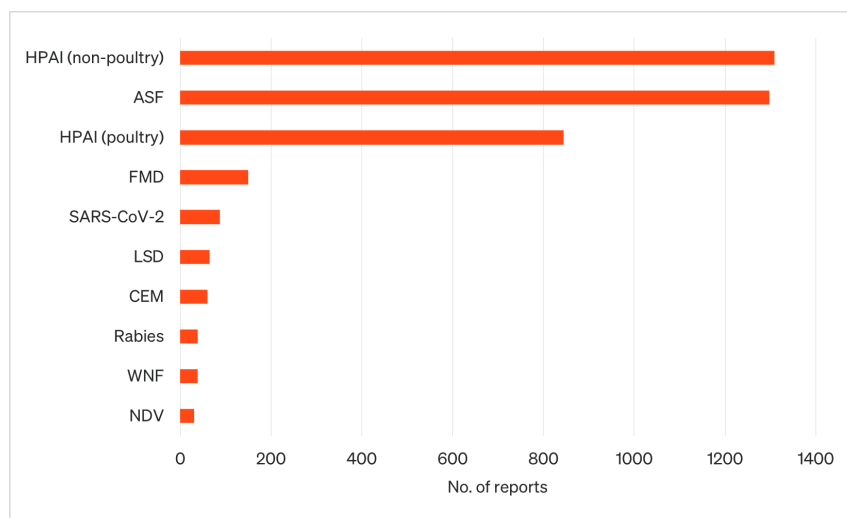


Fig. 2: Top ten diseases reported by immediate notification or follow-up reports in 2022 (ASF: African swine fever; HPAI: high pathogenicity avian influenza; FMD: foot and mouth disease; LSD: lumpy skin disease; CEM: contagious equine metritis; WNF: West Nile fever)



Monitoring activities

In 2022, 543 six-monthly reports (SMRs) from 124 countries were submitted. Of these, 106 related to 2022 (first semester), 282 related to 2021, and the remainder related to 2020 or earlier. More reports were validated than were submitted in 2022, and it is anticipated that the unvalidated SMRs remaining from the surge in submissions experienced after the new six-monthly reporting module came online in mid-2021 will be cleared in early 2023. As the level of submissions of SMRs has not yet returned to level prior to WAHIS redevelopment, an additional focus for 2023 will be to encourage the resumption of regular reporting of SMRs by Members.

Codification activities

The goal of WOA's Codification Project was to create a codification system for the main components of animal health data to form a reference that can be used by other international organisations and relevant stakeholders to improve the collection and sharing of animal health information and facilitate a rapid response to disease outbreaks. In 2022, the electronic codes developed under this project were made available to internal WOA stakeholders, and an internal process for the maintenance of the relevant reference tables is in development. In addition, a scoping exercise for incorporation of these codes into WAHIS was conducted with view to implementation in 2023.

WAHIS Programme activities and support to Members

In 2022, the WAHIS programme continued to deliver against the priorities aligned with the Seventh Strategic Plan to ensure WAHIS maintains its status as the global reference platform for validated official data on animal diseases of epidemiological significance in both domestic species and wildlife. The focus of the programme remains: (1) optimisation and evolutive maintenance of the live platform; (2) continuous improvement (new developments); and (3) partnering with global health actors.

WOAH acknowledges the feedback on WAHIS received from users since the launch of the new platform in March 2021. In 2022, following on from efforts begun after the General Session in 2021, user observation sessions were organised to fully understand user needs and to adapt scoping for an optimised Early Warning module. As a result, in September 2022, WOA went live with the launch of the optimised Early Warning module, which has greatly

simplified and improved reporting, is far more user-friendly, and performs better. Feedback from users since this September launch has been very positive, which encourages WOA to take similar approaches for further optimisation and development efforts. Also in 2022, scoping activity was initiated for the Annual Report module, the optimisation of the Six-Monthly Report module, and the rebranding of the public interface. Work continued on stabilising dashboards and on the overall improvement of system performance. Indicators of the success of these initiatives include the fact that Members were able to use the WAHIS platform to submit an all-time high number of immediate and follow-up reports in 2022, and that these submissions could be validated in a timely manner by the World Animal Health Information and Analysis (WAHIAD) team.

In addition to having a functional tool (the WAHIS platform), it is important to support Members in their use of the tool, and to facilitate data entry. The support provided by WOA to users (via frequently asked questions [FAQs], video tutorials and other means) has been invaluable to promote the use of the platform. The dedicated WAHIS support desk was migrated to a professional tool, making it easier to provide assistance to users, and to monitor the changing support needs and support desk performance.

WOAH delivered a range of collaborative sessions with its Members, the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, and its partners:

- **Quarterly catchups** with staff from WOA's Regional and Sub-Regional Representations ensured adequate Focal Point support.
- **During 2022, six webinars** were delivered to support Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification and national staff in the Middle East and Africa in the use of WAHIS. These sessions were based on the needs expressed by participants via a pre-training questionnaire. To evaluate the impact of these online initiatives as well as to collect user feedback a post training survey was systematically carried out. Additionally, two main indicators were used to better assess the impact for specific groups of participants: immediate notification submission rate in the training environment during the training; percentage of improvement in the responses to an identical questionnaire administered at the beginning of the training session and after its conclusion.
- **Throughout 2022, one-to-one training sessions** via digital channels were delivered to respond to specific Member requests.
- **In September 2022, user observation and acceptance sessions** were conducted prior to the Go Live of the optimised Early Warning module (immediate notifications and follow-up reports) to ensure alignment with user feedback.
- **In November 2022, online feedback sessions** were organised with terrestrial and aquatic Focal Points, with a focus on the new functionalities of the optimised module and the areas in which users faced challenges.
- **In December 2022**, WOA and the European Commission delivered a **training and feedback session** on the use of the European Animal Diseases Information System (ADIS) in preparation of the interconnection of ADIS with WAHIS in 2023. Around 85 participants attended this session, which targeted ADIS and WAHIS Focal Points.

The WAHIS Roadmap for 2023 is currently under revision to align with the priorities of the Organisation.

Use of WAHIS data to support Members

During the 89th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates, WOA presented to its Members a report on the [current animal health situation worldwide](#). In the context of the coronavirus pandemic, the semi-hybrid format of the presentation facilitated virtual and in-person dialogue between WOA and some of its Members.

In 2022, a report on the regional animal health situation was presented at each of two WOA Regional Conferences: the 30th Conference of the WOA Regional Commission for Europe (Catania, Sicily, Italy, 3–7 October 2022) and the 26th Conference of the WOA Regional Commission for the Americas (virtual meeting, 8–9 November 2022).

On numerous occasions throughout the year, Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives were assisted to support their work with Members regarding WAHIS platform data extractions, summarisations, visualisation, and interpretations.

In addition, as an interim measure until the establishment of public interoperability, weekly data extractions of early warning data were made available to users. WOA promoted the use of these extractions with Members and other organisations, emphasising the importance of animal health data to support risk-based decision-making on trade, and in animal and public health management.

Communication on the benefits of WAHIS

In 2022, WOA continued to work on the positioning of WAHIS as the global reference system and a source for the monitoring of the animal disease situation around the world.

To increase its visibility beyond the Organisation's stakeholders, in March 2022 a new communications initiative started, with the latest immediate notifications being shared on a regular basis through Twitter (a key social media platform with more than 250 000 followers). This initiative proved to be of great value to the public, increasing the visibility of WAHIS on social media by 89%, as well as increasing the traffic from social media to the WAHIS platform by 52%. The main diseases covered through this initiative so far are avian influenza, followed by African swine fever (ASF), foot and mouth disease (FMD) and lumpy skin disease (LSD). Tweets following up on the information of disease outbreaks have created great interest among members of the public not previously aware of the existence of WAHIS notifications.

The initiative has become a regular activity for communication on WAHIS and will continue to be implemented in 2023.

1.1.2 Publications

WOA publications disseminate the Organisation's scientific knowledge, information on its international standards, news as well as reports from within the Organisation and on animal health globally.

WOA publications, most of which are open access, include a bi-annual scientific journal (*Scientific and Technical Review*), an online *Bulletin* with three sections, *Codes* and *Manuals*, programme reports, and co-publications with publishing partners, mainly the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Publications are managed by a team of in-house and external publishing professionals, who ensure the quality and timely delivery of the content, with a view to providing Members, readership and stakeholders with convenient and reliable access to scientific information relating to animal health, animal welfare, and veterinary public health.

Table 1: WOA core publications

Title	Purpose	Target Periodicity	Language(s)
<i>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i> <i>Aquatic Animal Health Code</i>	Provides standards for the improvement of animal health, animal welfare, and veterinary public health worldwide	1 per year	English, French, Spanish
<i>Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals</i> <i>Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals</i>	Provides standards on diagnostic tests and vaccines for the prevention and control of animal diseases, contributes to the improvement of animal health, and allows safe trade	1 per year	English, Spanish
<i>WOAH Bulletin Newsletter</i>	Relays news from WOA and its regions, network and partners	8–9 per year	English
<i>WOAH Bulletin The Official</i>	Acts as the institutional voice of WOA	2–3 per year	English, French, Spanish
<i>WOAH Bulletin Panorama</i>	Special Reports on topics of interest to WOA	2–3 per year	English, French, Spanish
<i>Scientific and Technical Review</i>	Provides in-depth scientific exploration of selected themes	2 per year	English, French, Spanish

- *Publication highlights in 2022*

- [*Scientific and Technical Review 41: Safety, regulatory, and environmental issues related to international trade of insects*](#) (J. Mumford and M.M. Quinlan, eds)
- [*The Official 2022-1*](#)
- [*The Official 2022-2*](#)
- [*Newsletter*](#): monthly with two double issues; nine issues published
- 6th WOA [*Annual Report on Antimicrobial Agents Intended for Use in Animals*](#)
- [*SEACFMD Roadmap 2021–2025: South-East Asia, China and Mongolia Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign – WOA Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia*](#)
- Implementation of WOA standards: the [*Observatory Annual Report, 1st Ed., 2022*](#)
- [*Rinderpest and its eradication*](#) (FAO/WOA)
- GF-TADs – 12th Meeting of the Global Steering Committee: [*Activity report, Meeting report, and Recommendations*](#)

- *Upcoming publications highlights in 2023*

- *Review 42: Animal health data management* (S. Reid, ed.)
- *Panorama 2023-1: Capacity building*
- *Panorama 2023-2: Aquatic Animal Health Strategy implementation and aquatic welfare*
- *Panorama 2023-3: Antimicrobial resistance*
- *Overview of the Futures Literacy Laboratory on ‘The Futures of Climate Responses, 2040’*
- *Global Rinderpest Action Plan, 2nd Ed.*
- *WOA Observatory Annual Report, 2nd Ed., 2023*

In 2022 the Publications Unit continued to implement the Publications Strategy to improve the efficiency of its processes and ensure the quality and timeliness of WOAHP publications.

The following strategic action points were implemented in 2022:

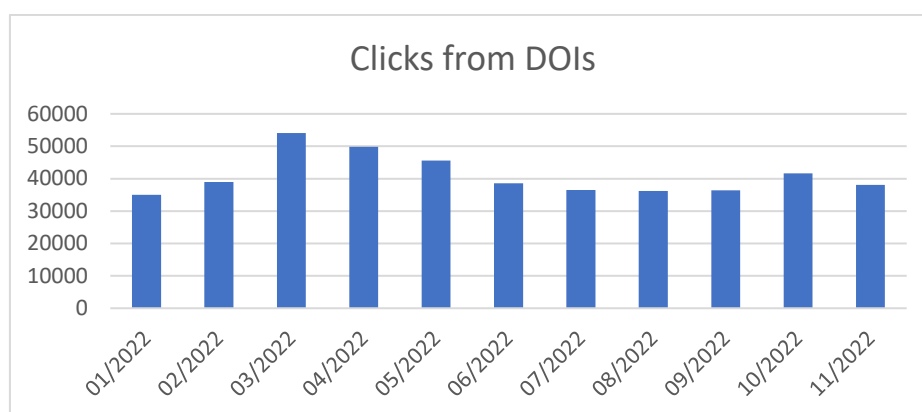
- *Open Access policy online and declared to SHERPA/RoMEO*
- *Pre-prints of articles from the Scientific and Technical Review published online on woah.org*
- *Rebranding of core publications completed*
- *Strengthening of relations with publishing partners (amendment to the Tripartite agreement signed and new Quadripartite agreement under review)*
- *Publishing guidelines and processes available on the Publications SharePoint site*
- *New online bookshop.*

Ongoing action points include collaborating with the Documentation Cell and Communications Department to increase the visibility of WOAHP publications; consolidating existing processes to ensure proper usage organisation-wide; developing a more fluid request and validation processes for publications; and assessment of the team’s training and technology needs.

- *Visibility and accessibility of WOAHP publications*

In line with objectives to increase accessibility to WOAHP content and to reduce the Organisation’s environmental impact, WOAHP core publications are now open access and produced in digital format only. The Organisation’s print publications remain available for purchase on the online bookshop. WOAHP’s publications are promoted in the *Newsletter* once they have been published, and via social media. With a view to enhancing their discoverability, access to WOAHP publications is monitored using Crossref; Fig. 3 outlines their performance in 2022.

Fig. 3: Number of clicks from Crossref digital object identifiers (DOIs) to the WOAHP Documentary Portal



1.1.3 Documentation

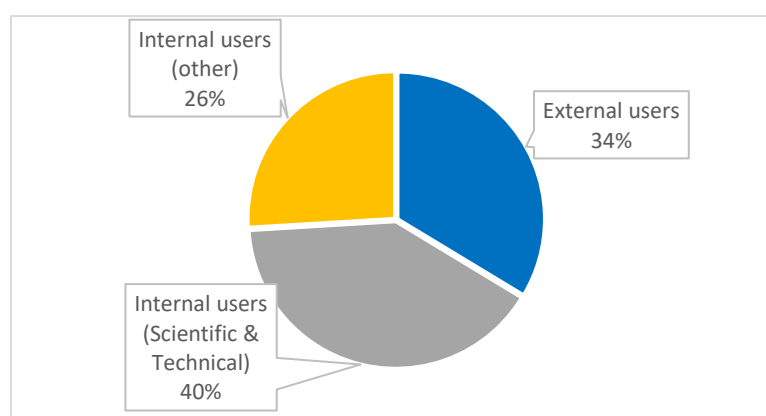
WOAHP collects, organises, and disseminates documents emanating from its own work and activities as well as external information and knowledge related to its activities. Documentation activities are linked to four of the five pillars of the Seventh Strategic Plan: scientific expertise; data governance (especially metadata); responding to Members’ needs; and efficiency and agility.

- WOAH Documentation Centre

The WOAAH Documentation Centre, based at Headquarters, provides staff with external information resources, including books, reports, and journals, for on-site consultation and borrowing, as well as online access to key scientific journals, e-books, and databases. Physical and electronic collections are diversifying to cover topics such as economics, trade, politics, and management, in order to better serve internal audiences and to support change within the Organisation. The full catalogue is available via the Documentary Portal (internal access).

The WOAAH Documentation Centre's resources and expertise provide access to scientific evidence and knowledge, and requests are regularly answered both for internal and external users (Fig. 4). In 2022, 104 documentary searches were performed, of which 30% were comprehensive archive searches and 14% were value-added scientific literature reviews or bibliometric analyses.

Fig. 4: Proportion of requests by category of final user, 2022



- WOAH's Institutional Memory

WOAH organises the sustainable conservation and valorisation of its publications, works and institutional documents within the framework of WOAAH's Institutional Memory.

In 2022, two collections of great importance were digitised: [General Session final reports \(1921-2022\)](#) and the Terrestrial Code Commission Reports (1968-2022). The full history of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* has been traced, and a [new access point to previous editions of the Terrestrial Code](#) is now proposed on the WOAAH website to address Members' needs. This is an important step in preserving key parts of the Organisation's collective memory and in making these records available to the public.

WOAH's Institutional Memory documents are made available mainly via the Documentary Portal and stored in dedicated physical and electronic warehouses. Inventories and synthesis papers are being regularly updated in preparation for the forthcoming centenary of the Organisation.

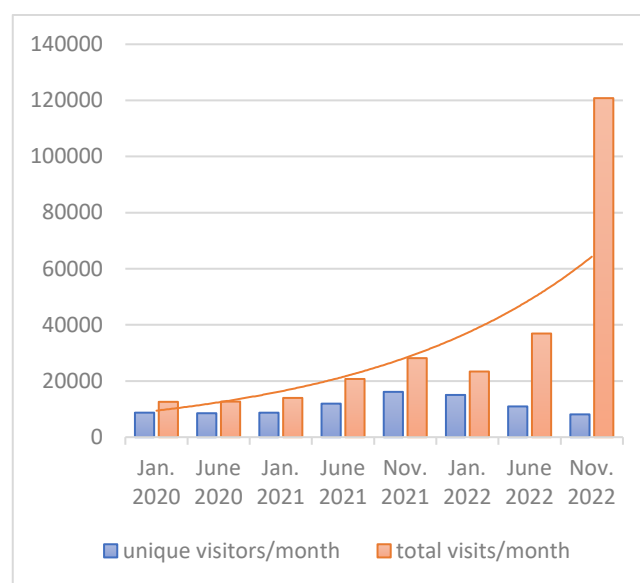
- Documentary Portal

The [Documentary Portal](#), for which a new interface was released in December 2021, is the institutional open archive and knowledge database of publications and works produced by WOAAH. The aim is for the portal to permanently reference this material, promote open access to it, and increase its dissemination, thereby contributing to the scientific and technical influence of the Organisation.

The portal gives access to more than 11 000 documents, including standards and guidelines, reports, books and flagship publications, such as the WOAAH *Scientific and Technical Review*. Eighty-seven percent of these documents are accessible in full text. The home page now includes content recommendations for targeted audiences (e.g. the research community, including veterinary schools and laboratories; Veterinary Services; and partner organisations). It is also now easier to find, filter, download, and share documents.

The Documentary Portal has good usage statistics (Fig. 5), thanks to the referencing of documents on external databases such as MedLine and EBSCO, and links from other websites. A communication item was also published in the [WOAH Newsletter](#) in early 2022 to promote the new interface.

Fig. 5: Documentary Portal: number of unique visitors per month and total visitors per month, 2020–2022



▪ Records management

WOAH is raising awareness among its staff regarding the benefits of good governance of the document lifecycle. In order to secure the documents/records related to the activities of the Organisation, WOAHA has recruited an external consultancy firm to help render archiving processes operational, most notably for legally binding documents. Tools and guidance will be issued to assist WOAHA with the new process. To this end, a new activity dedicated to archives & records management will be created in 2023.

1.1.4 Data governance

Data governance is imperative to implement the digital transformation of WOAHA, recognising the crucial need to improve data management practices as well as the accessibility and visibility of data for Members and other stakeholders.

To achieve the objectives of WOAHA's Seventh Strategic Plan and establish a foundation from which WOAHA can better meet its obligations regarding data, a Data Governance Framework must be implemented. This framework will:

- promote the ownership of data governance as an area of strategic importance;
- increase accountability and efficiency;
- streamline the end-to-end processes and systems for collecting, storing, analysing, disseminating, and using data;

- facilitate consultation with, and feedback from, WOA's technical departments and WOA Regional and Sub-Regional Representations as data-related policies and data principles are being operationalised;
- strengthen trust and ensure coherence with Members in the global sanitary context.

In order to further progress on data governance, WOA consolidated its related workforce in 2022 by establishing a new Department on Data Integration (DID). This department comprises staff previously pertaining to other entities involved in data integration, analysis, and visualisation (the Observatory and Global Burden of Animal Diseases [GBADs] programmes as well as two epidemiological analysts previously in WAHIAD). This new department supports the Organisation's digital transformation from the technical/business perspective, while the Digital Transformation and Information Systems Department (DTIS) (created in 2020) provides the IT expertise. Both DTIS and DID work closely together with the support of some collaborators from other departments through a coordination mechanism – the Data Management Working Group.

In this context, several workstreams were pursued in 2022:

- Some key WOA reference data were identified: WOA Members' names and borders (whose characteristics were not yet aligned across all WOA IT systems and business processes); the Codification Project referencing animal disease names, pathogenic agents, host species (see [section 1.1.1](#)), officially recognised status, commodities, among others. While some of the referential data were well defined at the end of 2022 and ready for use, some are still being consolidated.
- Processes and tools were developed to identify, validate, and share datasets internally and potentially with external stakeholders in the near future. This will reinforce data quality and consistency and it paves the way to more structured data governance.
- Metadata were identified and tested in the WOA Observatory data catalogue. A tool to better manage data catalogues was identified. This tool will be implemented in 2023 and should support the progressive extension of this pilot into the creation of the WOA data catalogue.
- WOA targeted IT architecture was defined based on consultancy work. This will be implemented in 2023 through the deployment of new tools critical to data management, new processes, and roles and responsibilities.

The adopted approach has been to seek incremental progress through proofs of concepts and their gradual consolidation into processes, policies, and practices. WOA's approach was presented at the Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe in 2022 with the understanding that, while a critical area for WOA's development, the structuring of data management is a long-term endeavour that requires sustained efforts over the years to reach the desired degree of maturity.

Today, WOA is convinced of the added value of a robust and fit-for-purpose data management system for Members: better evidence underpins better decision making, and higher quality of data enables finer analyses and transversal findings to improve global animal health.

The data management work plan comprises the following objectives for 2023:

- operationalise and align the management rules for WOA reference data, i.e. a special subset of data that is used for classification throughout the entire Organisation;
- identify the appropriate tool to manage the data catalogue and progressively implement it within the Organisation;
- start to implement and deploy the target IT architecture defined in 2022 based on these inputs from the data-centric architecture project carried out in 2022.

1.1.5 Global Burden of Animal Diseases

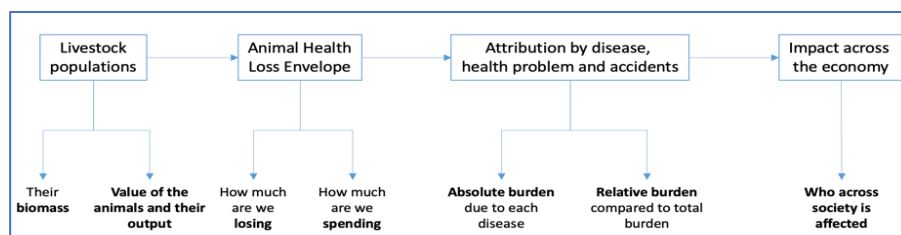
Since the adoption of the Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs) programme at the WOAHA General Session in 2016, WOAHA has continued to support the development of the programme. The GBADs programme, co-led by the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom, is being implemented by a consortium of research institutions and universities that work at the crossroads of public policy, private sector strategy, and academia.

In 2022, several key milestones were met in terms of developing a systematic approach for the assessment of the economic burden of animal diseases, providing estimates of net loss of production, related expenditure, and trade impacts, determining where the burdens occur and to whom, and identifying the causes and risk factors. The GBADs programme team (i) initiated the external validation process of GBADs methodologies; (ii) derived initial burden estimates for the Ethiopia country case study in addition to implementing the first local stakeholders' workshop to present programme outputs thus far; and (iii) expanded and tested prototypes dashboards of the programme's knowledge engine. The knowledge and tools developed by the GBADs programme will benefit WOAHA Members and partners in addition to a range of other animal health providers and livestock owners by improving their ability to make informed decisions on animal health investments.

Whereas work in 2021 focused on the definition of methodology choices, considerable progress was made in 2022 to initiate external expert review of chosen methodologies in order to ensure the scientific robustness of the programme. In July 2022, a Reference Group consisting of subject matter scientists in livestock population modelling, epidemiology, economics, and data science was formed and tasked with assessing GBADs data flows, data sources, and proposed and used applied analytical tools. The programme has provided an [initial response](#) to the recommendations provided by the Reference Group. In addition, [several articles](#) on selected methodologies were published in respected peer-reviewed journals, viewed as one of the indicators of validation within the scientific community. The solicitation and incorporation of external expert feedback will help to ensure that GBADs is flexible enough to account for differences in data availability, diseases of concern, and regional characteristics, while still providing comparable estimates to support decision-makers.

The year 2022 also saw the programme derive initial estimates across the programme's analytical structure (Fig. 6). These included (i) in Ethiopia, a key case study to demonstrate the applicability of methodology choices at the national level, and (ii) a global case study in finishing animals. Initial prototype dashboards illustrate the estimates derived and the attribution by diseases for [biomass and total economic value \(TEV\)](#) and for the [Animal Health Loss Envelope](#) (Username: GBADs. Password: welcometogbads), an estimate capturing the gap in production and resource use due to animal disease and health problem and its attribution. To present the outputs produced thus far, a [stakeholder workshop](#) was successfully conducted in Ethiopia in November 2022 with the objective of exploring and prioritising possible follow-up work to ensure the value of GBADs outputs to Veterinary Services, the private sector, associations, and academia. Other case studies are being implemented simultaneously in Europe and Indonesia, and one is in the pipeline for Senegal, to enable the trialling and refinement of GBADs methods to ensure applicability of the GBADs approach in high income and lower-middle income countries with data of varying quality and volume.

Fig. 6: GBADs analytical structure



Other notable achievements in 2022 include the following:

- the programme secured an additional USD 317 365 from the Fleming Fund to develop a methodology that can be used to define the economic impact of antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance;
- engagement has been enhanced with external audiences on the dissemination of information on GBADs methodologies and informatics, including at the [International Symposium of for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics \(ISVEE\)](#) in August 2022 and the [Livestock Data for Decisions \(LD4D\) Community Meeting](#) in September 2022. The ISVEE focused on interactions with leading animal health scientists and the LD4D meeting focused on interaction with data producers, data users, advocates, and other actors committed to driving informed livestock decision-making on animal health investments. Information on other engagement activities can be found [here](#).

1.2. STANDARD SETTING AND IMPLEMENTATION

1.2.1 Overview of the standard-setting process

Each of the four WOAHA Specialist Commissions, elected in May 2021, met during February 2022 (virtual meeting) and September 2022 (physical meeting). After not having been able to meet in person since February 2020, members appreciated the opportunity to meet face-to-face at WOAHA Headquarters in September 2022. They acknowledged that the quality of the discussions and the effectiveness of the work were improved given that they had more time together without the hindrance of working in different time zones when in a virtual format.

The Performance Management Framework to evaluate the performance of the Specialist Commissions was initiated again in September 2021 following the first meeting of the newly elected Commissions. The Framework includes a series of activities that will be conducted throughout the term (i.e. until May 2024), such as meeting reviews, meetings between Commission members and the Deputy Director General “International Standards and Science”, and self-evaluations of the performance of members and their respective Commissions. The Framework is designed to promote ongoing improvement of the work of members as well as that of each Commission.

The WOAHA Common Secretariat has continued its support to promote good regulatory practices for the WOAHA international standards development and review process. The Common Secretariat has been successful in improving the coordination of the work of the Specialist Commissions, *ad hoc* Groups, and Working Groups, and in strengthening working relationships between Secretariats across departments and among Commissions. Various mechanisms have been put in place to facilitate and coordinate the horizontal management of the work associated with the four Specialist Commissions.

In February 2022, the Common Secretariat continued to conduct a pilot study with the Aquatic Animal Commission to evaluate the potential of an off-the-shelf tool as part of a WOAHA Online Commenting System (OCS). The purpose of the OCS was to manage the

submission of Members' comments on new and revised texts for WOAHA standards, the review process by Specialist Commissions, and the reporting process. The WOAHA Executive Committee considered the outcomes of the pilot study and agreed that, although the tool worked well, the benefits did not justify the ongoing licence costs. Therefore, it was decided not to proceed with the OCS tool, at this time. However, it was agreed that a review would be undertaken to explore lessons learned from the pilot study and implement steps to improve the current processes and system.

Building on the success of the 2021 virtual General Session, the WOAHA Specialist Commissions convened pre-General Session webinars prior to the 2022 hybrid General Session. These webinars provided WOAHA Members and partner organisations with information about the new and revised texts that were to be proposed for adoption. This initiative resulted in active engagement by Members in the lead-up to the General Session. These webinars will continue to be held in future years, irrespective of the modality of the General Session, as an additional mechanism to facilitate the engagement of Members in the standard-setting process.

1.2.2 Activities of the Specialist Commissions and *ad hoc* Groups

The four WOAHA Specialist Commissions are responsible for overseeing a wide range of activities (including the work of many *ad hoc* Groups) and for ensuring that WOAHA international standards (*Aquatic Code*, *Aquatic Manual*, *Terrestrial Code*, and *Terrestrial Manual*) are regularly updated and reflect current scientific evidence.

The Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission oversees the standard-setting work of the *Terrestrial Code*, the Biological Standards Commission oversees the standard-setting work of the *Terrestrial Manual* and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission oversees the standard-setting work of the *Aquatic Code* and the *Aquatic Manual*. The Biological Standards Commission and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, also oversee the work of WOAHA Reference Centres. The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission) oversees WOAHA official recognition of animal health status and provides scientific advice.

To carry out their respective responsibilities, each Commission collaborates closely with other Commissions and with dedicated Secretariat staff from several WOAHA technical departments.

1.2.2.1 Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) held meetings in February and September 2022. The [reports](#) are available online.

At both these meetings, the Code Commission contributed to WOAHA's standard-setting process by considering proposals or requests for the development of new or revised texts for the *Terrestrial Code* and responding to comments received from Members on texts circulated for comment, as well as other matters of relevance. As part of this standard-setting work the Commission also considered relevant *ad hoc* Group reports when revising texts for the *Terrestrial Code*. The Code Commission also liaised with the Scientific Commission, the Biological Standards Commission, and the Aquatic Animals Commission on topics of common interest to ensure alignment of relevant work and for scientific advice, as appropriate.

Highlights of the Commission's work included the adoption by the Assembly of the following new and revised texts in the *Terrestrial Code*:

- revised Glossary definitions ('Competent Authority', 'Veterinary Authority', 'Veterinary Services', 'Free-roaming dog');

- 10 revised chapters for the *Terrestrial Code*, comprising seven partially revised chapters and the comprehensive revision of:
 - Chapter 7.7. *Dog population management*
 - Chapter 8.16. *Infection with rinderpest virus*
 - Chapter 11.10. *Theileriosis*
- publication of the 2022 edition of the *Terrestrial Code*.

1.2.2.2 Biological Standards Commission

The Biological Standards Commission held two meetings in 2022. The [reports](#) are available online.

At both meetings, the Biological Standards Commission:

- contributed to WOA's standard-setting process by overseeing the update of chapters for the *Terrestrial Manual*;
- advised WOA on the appropriate use of diagnostic tests and vaccines;
- evaluated 14 applications for WOA Reference Centre status, 12 changes of experts, and compliance with the Terms of Reference (ToRs) through a review of 282 annual reports of Reference Centre activities in the terrestrial animal domain;
- supervised the WOA register of diagnostic assays;
- liaised with the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission on topics of common interest.

Highlights of the year's activities included the following:

- revision of comments on the 20 draft chapters that had been sent for first-round Member comment in October 2021, and approval of 19 for circulation for second-round comment. The 19 chapters, in addition to the updated glossary, were presented to WOA Members at a pre-General Session webinar organised in April 2022. All 19 went on to be adopted at the 89th General Session in May 2022 and can be found [online](#). At the September 2022 meeting, 15 chapters were approved for first-round comment and were subsequently sent to Members, in October 2022;

The Commission continued to work on the development of a 'validation report' template for tests recommended in the *Terrestrial Manual*. Reference Laboratories would be invited to fill in the 'validation report' template, which would be made available on the WOA website for anyone seeking the validation data available for that particular test. The template will also be used for applicants who wish to have their new tests added to the *Terrestrial Manual*.

1.2.2.3 Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Scientific Commission met by videoconference in February 2022 and in person in September 2022. The [reports](#) are available online.

At both meetings, the Scientific Commission:

- contributed to WOA's standard-setting process by providing scientific input as requested in response to comments received from Members on *Terrestrial Code* chapters, and other matters as they arose;

- for *ad hoc* Groups convened by the Director General under the Commission's supervision, reviewed the ToRs for planned future *ad hoc* Groups and the reports of those already conducted;
- made assessments regarding the official animal health status of Members, and worked on standards related to official status recognition;
- worked on disease control-specific issues, including (but not limited to) the development of case definitions to facilitate notification, and the evaluation of diseases against the listing criteria described in Chapter 1.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*;
- liaised with the Biological Standards Commission and the Code Commission on topics of common interest.

Highlights of the year's activities included the following:

- five *ad hoc* Group reports on the evaluation of a total of 14 applications for official recognition of animal health status and for WOAHP endorsement of official control programmes were reviewed and endorsed. Of the 14 applications, eight achieved official recognition by the Assembly in May 2022;
- 38 annual reconfirmations of 2021 – corresponding to a selection of 10% of the annual reconfirmations for official animal health status – and ten annual reconfirmations for the endorsement of official control programmes were comprehensively assessed;
- the impact assessment related to the revised bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) standards and the list of countries already having an official BSE risk status recognised by WOAHP was completed;
- annual reassessment of existing emerging diseases and support for WOAHP in its development of a standard operating procedure (SOP) for determining whether a disease should be considered as emerging.
- collaboration with the Code Commission on the following:
 - review of Chapters 1.8. and 11.4. on BSE to ensure a common understanding of the main concerns raised by Members, the decisions made on the revised chapter and their impact on official status recognition, as well as on the adapted procedures that will be required;
 - review of the time limit for a containment zone, in Article 4.4.7. of Chapter 4.4. Zoning and compartmentalisation;
 - review of the waiting period after detection of antibodies for the importation of vaccinated dogs in Chapter 8.14. Infection with rabies virus;
 - endorsement of five case definitions for terrestrial animal diseases and identification of areas for improved consistency in the species categorisation in Chapter 1.3.;
 - evaluation of three diseases against the listing criteria of *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.2., and review of guidance for the interpretation of the criteria based on experience gained in the past year.

1.2.2.4 Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Aquatic Animals Commission held meetings in February and September 2022. The [reports](#) are available online.

At both these meetings, the Aquatic Animals Commission contributed to the WOAHP standard-setting process by considering proposals or requests for the development of new or revised texts for the *Aquatic Code* and the *Aquatic Manual* and responding to comments received from Members on texts circulated for comment, as well as other matters as they arose. As part of this standard-setting work the Commission also considered relevant *ad hoc* Group reports when revising relevant texts of the *Aquatic Code*. The Aquatic Animals Commission also liaised with the Biological Standards Commission and the Code Commission on topics of common interest to ensure alignment of relevant work, as appropriate.

Highlights of the Commission's work included the adoption by the Assembly of the following:

Aquatic Code:

- three revised Glossary definitions ('Competent Authority', 'Veterinary Authority', 'Aquatic Animal Health Services');
- the listing of Infection with tilapia lake virus in Chapter 1.3. Diseases listed by the WOAHP
- a new disease-specific Chapter 9.10. Infection with decapod iridescent virus 1;
- thirty-two revised chapters for the *Aquatic Code*, including the following texts that had comprehensive updates:
 - Chapter 1.4. Aquatic animal disease surveillance
 - Articles X.X.3. for all crustacean and fish disease-specific chapters
 - Model Articles X.X.4. to X.X.8. for all disease-specific chapters to address declaration of freedom from [Pathogen X].

Aquatic Manual:

- five revised chapters, including the following chapters that had comprehensive updates:
 - Chapter 2.3.0. General information (diseases of fish)
 - Chapter 2.3.4. Infection with HPR-deleted or HPR0 infectious salmon anaemia virus (updated using the new disease chapter template)
 - Chapter 2.3.6. Infection with koi herpesvirus (updated using the new disease chapter template).

These amendments were published in the 2022 edition of the [Aquatic Code](#) and the [Aquatic Manual](#), respectively.

The Commission, as part of its work regarding WOAHP Reference Centres, evaluated one application for WOAHP Reference Centre status, four changes of experts, and compliance with the ToRs through a review of the 40 annual reports of Reference Centre activities in the aquatic domain.

1.2.2.5 Activities of the Working Groups

1.2.2.5.1 Wildlife

The Working Group on Wildlife (WGWP) held two hybrid meetings in 2022. Both meeting reports are available on the new [WOAHP Wildlife Health page](#).

Following the launch and adoption of the Wildlife Health Framework ([Wildlifehealth_conceptnote.pdf \[woah.org\]](#)) in 2021, WOAHA and the WGW agreed that the Group would play a strategic advisory role, supporting implementation of the framework. Therefore, the WGW decided to organise its discussions and meeting agendas around the work packages described in the framework.

The WGW reviewed several consultant-led studies, which had been commissioned during the year to provide evidence to support the work plan of the wildlife framework. As a result, the WGW made recommendations on how the findings from these studies should inform implementation of the wildlife health framework, as well as WOAHA's overall strategy on wildlife.

1.2.2.5.2 Antimicrobial resistance

The Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (WG AMR), created in 2019 and composed of seven international experts, has continued its working programme. Full reports of the three meetings held during 2022 are [available online](#). Major highlights from the period include:

- The creation and approval of the [Technical Reference Document Listing Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance for Swine](#), which aims to provide additional, species-specific information on antimicrobials available for medical use.
- The approval of the [Technical Reference Document Listing Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance for Aquatic Species](#), developed by the *ad hoc* Group on Technical References for Aquatic Animals, which also included members of the WG AMR.
- The endorsement of a [revised version of Chapter 6.10. on Responsible use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine](#) in the *Terrestrial Code*, the revision having been conducted by a Subgroup of the WG AMR. The revised chapter was subsequently submitted to the Code Commission in September 2022, which endorsed it for distribution among WOAHA Members for feedback during the last quarter of 2022.
- The decision to conduct the update of the Main List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance after the development of specific technical reference documents for bovine species, as well as for cats and dogs. These technical reference documents will be developed by two *ad hoc* groups that will include external experts and members of the WG AMR.
- A 7-year assessment of WOAHA's AMR Strategy, considering that the overall framework is still fit for purpose. The AMR WG Group highlighted areas where actions should be emphasised for potential updates of the Strategy, including data management (from monitoring to surveillance) and antimicrobial stewardship (involving all actors in animal health and welfare).

1.2.3 Guidelines

- Laboratory tests are essential for the diagnosis of ASF and are key to the success of ASF surveillance activities. While the *Terrestrial Manual* describes recognised international standards for ASF diagnosis, there are circumstances in which the timely submission, processing, and testing of samples using the prescribed diagnostic tests are not feasible. To this end, the WOAHA ASF Reference Laboratory Network developed an [overview of point-of-care testing to guide](#) field testing for ASF, allowing rapid diagnosis and response to outbreaks in endemic situations.

In 2022, the Network continued to monitor the emergence of low virulence ASF virus (ASFV) strains and updated the laboratory algorithm manual to guide the detection of these strains.

- Release of two new communication guidelines: [Fighting antimicrobial resistance: A guide for aquatic health professionals](#) and [Fighting antimicrobial resistance: A guide for aquatic animal producers](#).

1.2.4 Status

1.2.4.1 Applications for the official recognition of animal health status

In promoting the safe international trade of commodities through the official recognition of country or zone disease-free status, WOAHA received a total of 12 applications for official recognition of animal health status or endorsement of official disease control programmes in 2022 (Table 2). These dossiers were evaluated during the meetings of the respective *ad hoc* Group for each disease held between October and December 2022, apart from one application for recovery of a suspended classical swine fever (CSF) status which was assessed directly by the Scientific Commission. The applications and evaluation reports of the *ad hoc* Groups were forwarded to the Scientific Commission for evaluation and recommendation to the Assembly for adoption at the 90th General Session in May 2023.

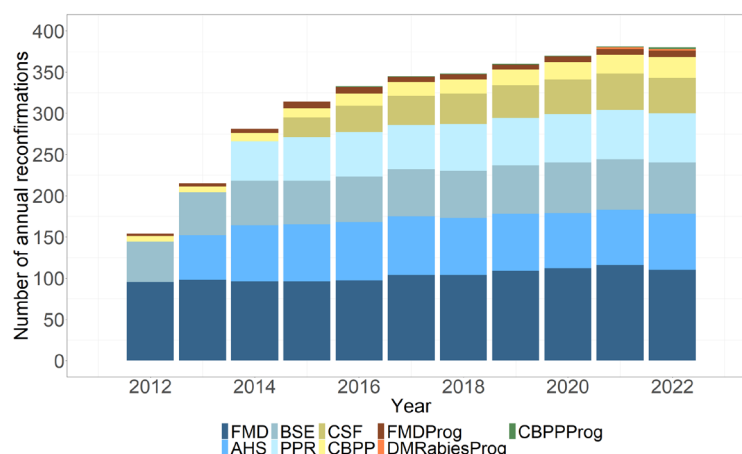
Table 2. Distribution of the applications received in 2022 per disease

Disease and category	No. of applications
Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia	
Country freedom	1
Classical swine fever	
Country freedom	2
Recovery of status after suspension	1
Foot and mouth disease	
Country freedom with vaccination	1
Zonal freedom without vaccination	1
Zonal freedom with vaccination	2
Recovery of status after suspension	2
Peste des petits ruminants	
Country freedom	2
Endorsement of control programme	1
Dog-mediated rabies	
Endorsement of control programme	1
Total	14

1.2.4.2 Annual reconfirmations

In accordance with the *Terrestrial Code* and the SOPs, WOAHA Members that have an officially recognised animal health status or an endorsed official control programme by WOAHA are obliged to reconfirm the maintenance of their official status or endorsement each year during the month of November. As a result of the new statuses and programmes respectively recognised and endorsed by the Assembly every year, since 2015 there has been an average annual increase of 5% in the number of annual reconfirmations submitted by Members. A total of 380 annual reconfirmations were screened by the Status Department in 2022; disease-free status for FMD represented the biggest proportion of reconfirmations, followed by African horse sickness (AHS), bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), and the other diseases to which the procedure applies (see Fig. 7). In 2022, around 70% of annual reconfirmations were submitted before the end of November (official deadline for submission).

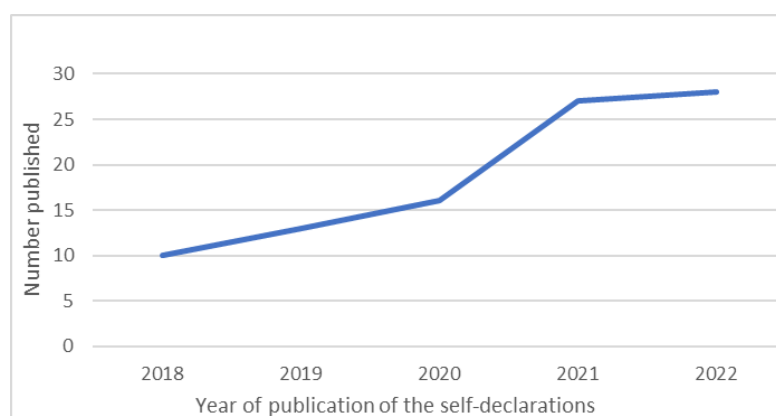
Fig. 7: Number of annual reconfirmations by disease showing an increasing annual trend, 2012–2022



1.2.4.3 Self-declarations

In addition to the procedure for official recognition of animal health status, WOA Members can self-declare their country, or a zone or a compartment within their territory, as free from any listed disease. All self-declarations relating to diseases for which no official recognition procedure exists are published on the WOA website to enhance visibility among the international community. In recent years, Members have continued to show interest in benefiting from this free-of-charge service to publish their self-declarations on the dedicated WOA webpage, with more than 60 self-declaration dossiers having been submitted for the past two years (33 dossiers in 2022) (see Fig. 8). In 2022, HPAI continued to be the most frequent disease for which WOA Members wished to self-declare their freedom (23 dossiers), followed by rabies (2/33) and aquatic diseases (2/33). The most requests for publication of self-declarations were from the Europe Region (73%). Processing the increasing number of self-declarations being submitted for publication requires resources and places significant budgetary demands on WOA. There is increasing awareness and recognition of the value of this procedure among Members, as demonstrated by the high attendance at three webinars organised on the topic in three different regions in 2022.

Fig. 8: Number of self-declarations of Members published, 2018–2022



1.2.4.4 Development of the Status Management Platform

In 2022, WOAHA initiated a call for tenders for a project to develop an online platform to serve as a secure centralised system to archive, track, search, and submit all dossiers related to the official recognition and maintenance of animal health status, and self-declarations of disease freedom. This is in line with the strategic objectives of the Seventh Strategic Plan by optimising data governance through digital transformation and modernising internal processes and tools for efficient and robust business management. The objective of this platform is to facilitate the exchange between WOAHA and its Members as well as to provide easy but secure access to their respective documents and reports in relation to the procedures for official recognition and maintenance of animal health status, and self-declarations of disease freedom, and to allow sharing of guidance related to these procedures.

1.2.5 Observatory

In September 2022, the Observatory team was consolidated with the arrival of two scientific officers and was incorporated into a newly created department (the Data Integration Department), reporting to the Deputy Directorate General “International Standards and Science”. The Data Integration Department also contains the GBADs programme and epidemiological analysis teams. This highlights the transversal role that the Observatory plays in the digitalisation of the Organisation in general and in data integration in particular.

The year 2022 saw the implementation of the WOAHA Observatory, after four years of design and pilot phases. Its major achievement has been **the publication of the [first Annual Report of the Observatory](#)**.

The 2022 Annual Report was developed using the lessons learnt throughout the pilot phase of the Observatory, particularly the feedback received from the [ASF prototype](#).

The 2022 Annual Report is composed of:

- a written report, which contains 12 sections (Box X), that can be read independently and follows a consistent structure (Box Y);
- 12 interactive dashboards (one per section);
- 12 executive summaries (one per section).

In addition, an indicator matrix and a data catalogue have also been made available. All information is available [here](#).

Box X: General structure of the 1st annual report of the Observatory: 12 specific sections

1. Governance and performance of Veterinary Services
2. Veterinary Services' workforce and resources
3. World Trade Organization (WTO) notifications
4. Disease detection, surveillance and diagnosis
5. Transparency of Veterinary Services
6. Self-declarations of animal health status
7. Movement control inside countries/territories and precautions at borders
8. Zoning and compartmentalisation
9. Emergency preparedness
10. Antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance
11. Implementation of the One Health approach
12. Animal welfare

Box Y: Internal structure of each of the sections of the 1st annual report of the Observatory

- a. Introduction, providing context and the WOAHA standards relevant to the topic
- b. Proposed standard monitoring indicators
- c. Data, data sources and the advantages and limitations of the standard monitoring data used
- d. Descriptive analysis of each indicator
- e. Conclusions and recommendations for improvement

- This annual report identifies gaps, as well as processes or services that WOAAH could improve to better answer its Members’ needs. Recommendations are made on data collection and management processes, on WOAAH’s services to its Members, as well as – when relevant – on ways our Members can improve the implementation of WOAAH standards. WOAAH will follow-up on these recommendations in the coming years.
- This report will be discussed during regional webinars to be organised in 2023 with the support of WOAAH Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. During these webinars, representatives of WOAAH Members will be invited to share their views on the report and on the Observatory.
- To support its work, an expert and a consultation group were set up. This group contributed to ensuring the work of the Observatory was backed up by subject matter experts and Members were included in the ongoing activities of the programme.

In 2022, several events and activities of the Observatory supported WOAAH communications related to the Organisation’s standard-setting role:

- The hosting and co-organisation of the 2022 annual event of the [Partnership of international organisations for effective rulemaking](#) (IOs partnership) managed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This increased the visibility of WOAAH and its Observatory amongst other international organisations.
- Material developed to communicate on success stories on the benefits provided by the implementation of WOAAH standards, in collaboration with several WOAAH Departments (Standards Department, Status Department, Communication Department):
 - WOAAH standards’ contribution to boosting trade in [Namibia](#);
 - FMD and zoning in [Brazil](#);
 - BSE control in the [United Kingdom](#).
- Importance of laboratory standards for daily laboratory activities in Côte d’Ivoire and in the Philippines (for aquatic animal diseases).
- Twelve factsheets illustrating the key messages of the twelve sections of the first Annual Report published by the Observatory, each in English and translated into French and Spanish.
- The different tools developed in the framework of the launch of the Observatory Annual Report will be widely disseminated over the coming months through a powerful outreach strategy.

1.2.6 Foresight

WOAH has continued to work with colleagues at OECD and the United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to further enhance knowledge and practical application of foresight methods and futures thinking throughout the Organisation (consult the WOAAH *Bulletin* article on the [Futures Literacy Laboratory 2](#) and the report of the [first Futures Literacy Laboratory](#)). WOAAH will conclude the work on Futures Literacy early in 2023 with a masterclass on the theory, the practice and the outputs of the Futures Literacy Laboratories.

A project with the WOAAH Collaborating Centre in Teramo (Epidemiology, modelling, and surveillance at the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Abruzzo e del Molise) and with colleagues at NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration, United States of America) on a forecasting methodology entitled, “Defining Ecoregions and Prototyping an EO-based Vector-borne Disease Surveillance System for North Africa (PROVNA)” was launched in 2022. Using data from remote sensing and earth observation along with historical entomological data, a static map (using annual average of climatic and

environmental variables) of ecoregions in North Africa, together with monthly/seasonal (using monthly/seasonal aggregation of climatic and environmental variables) ecoregion maps of specific areas of interest, will be produced to help and guide the Veterinary Services in future surveillance activities in the Maghreb region.

1.3. CAPACITY BUILDING

Sustainable capacity building is seen as one of the most important activities in the WOA Seventh Strategic Plan (2021-2025) for improved animal health and welfare worldwide to support global goals. Among the transversal functions of WOA, different kinds of capacity-building initiatives support Members in reducing inequalities in the capacities and resources of national Veterinary Services with the aim of improving the effectiveness and sustainability of global animal health and welfare and contributing to stronger global health governance. The Performance of Veterinary Services ([PVS Pathway](#)) provides institutional and country-tailored services for Veterinary Authorities and other Competent Authorities, while the [Training Platform](#) delivers learner-centred opportunities for individuals. The two initiatives, combined and mutually supportive, guarantee a simultaneous top-down and bottom-up competency-oriented approach. Twinning projects empower Members by sharing expertise in specific thematic areas. Along with these structured initiatives, WOA is agile in responding to emerging needs and strengthening capabilities under Quadripartite commitments and in the One Health Framework. A special issue of WOA *Panorama* on the subject of capacity building has been published.

1.3.1 PVS Pathway

- *PVS Pathway Information System*

Gradual digitalisation of the full PVS Pathway cycle over several years is planned. The aim is to develop more accessible databases, report repositories and PVS data analyses and dashboards for Members and stakeholders, and to improve mission management and reporting. The PVS Pathway Information System will provide a platform for increased access, use and sharing of all the different PVS Pathway data, including PVS Evaluations, PVS Gap Analyses and other PVS Pathway activities. A PVS Expert Management System is also envisioned under this initiative to support the renewal and management of the pool of PVS Experts in a transparent and structured manner.

The **PVS Evaluation System** is the first building block of the PVS Pathway Information System. The database will include dashboards enabling easier extraction of information from PVS Evaluations/Follow-up missions and basic data visualisation and analysis. The first phase of the project will put in place the necessary IT infrastructure for the PVS Pathway Information System, creating a one-stop PVS Pathway portal that includes a document repository, a search tool, and a login-interface for various accessibility levels. The use of cognitive services for the analysis of qualitative data will be explored.

- *PVS 2022 in a snapshot*

In 2022, the **PVS Pathway Programme** supported 76 WOA Members with 53 PVS activities. In addition to face-to-face (F2F) delivery, new modalities and methodologies such as blended orientations (combining eLearning and F2F and/or eLearning and virtual sessions) and Evaluation missions (combining remote and F2F components), were piloted successfully for improved delivery.



■ *What's new in PVS?*

An *ad hoc* Group has developed a **PVS Evaluation with African Swine Fever Specific Content** methodology, which is expected to be piloted in 2023. Furthermore, a PPP component has been incorporated into the PVS Baseline Documents and Manual (Volume 2), and a document entitled “Guiding Principles for consideration of PPP in a PVS Evaluation mission” has been developed for the PVS teams to use during the mission.

The PVS Gap Analysis approach and its link to Strategic Planning methodology are currently under revision to allow for remote delivery, to incorporate a greater focus on national priorities, and to facilitate more active involvement of the country's economic and financial authorities.

After successful remote mission implementation in 2021, a new hybrid modality was developed for the [PVS Sustainable Laboratories missions](#).

Enhancement of the PVS Sustainable Laboratories Mission Toolbox to improve the outputs and outcomes of missions and the impact of recommendations continued. Enhanced mission methodology and delivery included enhanced data collection procedures, roles, support, meetings, mission GANTT chart, communications, agendas, and slide decks, all tested and edited according to lessons learnt during pilot missions. Finally, mission Manuals for countries and Experts are under development and planned for training, translation, and release in 2023.

In 2019, WOA launched a Veterinary Workforce Development (**WFD**) **Programme** to help Members foster a positive enabling environment for a workforce that is fit-for-purpose to meet current and future challenges. In 2022, the main focus was on the piloting and refinement of workforce development approaches. The WFD Programme includes a package of support for countries to assess their veterinary workforce needs, plan accordingly, and implement appropriate activities. A [video on WFD targeting the Asia-Pacific region](#) was produced for decision makers, veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) to consider the value of workforce development.

The WFD Programme includes Sub-regional Workforce Development Workshops, National Workforce Development workshops with country plans, and pilot VPP Curriculum Support missions.

The sub-regional and national workshops invite Members to initiate reflection on workforce planning and on fostering an enabling environment for the integration of all veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals. Partnership engagement has allowed the strengthening of links with stakeholders across the Veterinary Services, including, among others, the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD), Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International (VSF International), and the Africa Veterinary Technicians Association. Close cooperation within WOAHP regional offices continues, with multi-site involvement to support country engagement and piloting, along with building a wider pool of international and regional VPP experts.

Veterinary workforce development activities continued to be supported by, among others, the French Development Agency, the United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. A two-year project to review global training approaches for community-based animal health workers (CAHWs) and **develop CAHW competency and training guidelines** was launched (funded by BHA/USAID¹), in partnership with VSF International. This project will follow a similar approach to the development of WOAHP's Competency and Curriculum Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals by undertaking an analysis of existing CAHWs' training and implementation models worldwide and their related curricular requirements for animal health and production.

In the ongoing PPP2.0 initiative, PPP has been incorporated into PVS Evaluation Missions (Terrestrial and Aquatic), while PPP targeted support is being shaped to build Members' partnership capacities in identifying the opportunities of PPP, if and when necessary, to tackle specific challenges in the veterinary domain; identifying the right partners on their own; implementing partnerships and monitoring progress with PPP evaluation tools. This initiative is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

To support these areas, WOAHP has launched an open access [PPP Database](#), which allows interested stakeholders to explore opportunities in diverse areas of animal health, welfare, emergency preparedness, AMR, and One Health.

1.3.2 Twinning Projects

▪ Laboratory Twinning

As of December 2022, 73 projects were completed, 29 projects were underway, and 3 projects on hold. Of the completed projects, 11 institutions were designated as WOAHP Reference Laboratories and four as WOAHP Collaborating Centres

An evaluation of the Laboratory Twinning Programme has been launched. Its main objective is to understand the long-term impact of laboratory twinning projects for candidates and the sustainability of the outcomes that accrued during the projects. Present and past participants in the Programme will be involved in the evaluation in 2023 through a survey, interviews, and a feedback workshop. During this workshop, the preliminary results will be presented. The outputs of the evaluation are expected to be a tool to monitor and evaluate ongoing laboratory capacity-building projects and a set of recommendations to improve the Programme. A paper reviewing the implementation of the WOAHP Laboratory Twinning Programme in the past 16 years was published in *Frontiers in Veterinary Science* ([Marrana et al., 2022](#)).

For details on rabies Twinning projects, please see section [1.4.1.3](#)

¹ BHA/USAID: Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance/United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

▪ *Veterinary Education Establishment (VEE) Twinning*

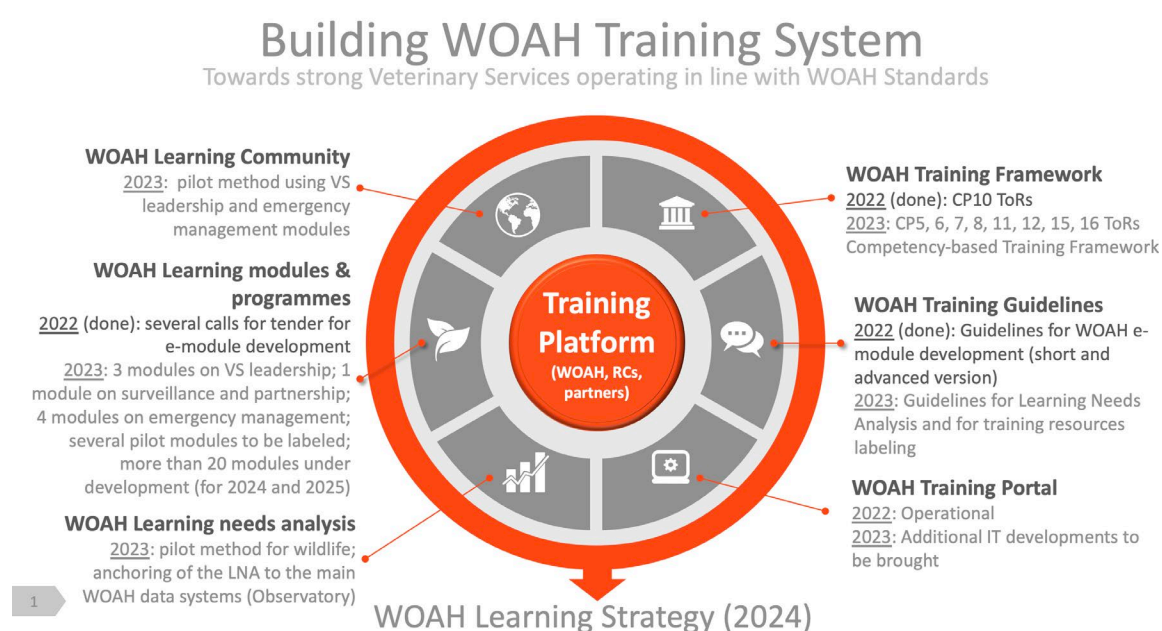
Three **VEE Twinning Projects** were active during the year: 1) University of Minnesota, United States of America, and the Samarkand Veterinary Institute, Uzbekistan; 2) University of Calgary, Canada, and the Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, India; and 3) VetAgroSup France and the École Inter États des Sciences et de la Médecine Vétérinaires, Senegal.

One VEE Twinning project, involving Ohio State University (OSU), United States of America, and the University of Gondar (UoG), Ethiopia, was successfully completed and is especially noteworthy in terms of its impact. While the initial Twinning activity involved only OSU and UoG, discussions with the Ministry of Science and Higher Education in Ethiopia over the course of the Twinning project resulted in a Ministerial decision that the curriculum reforms developed during the project would be adopted and implemented in all 13 veterinary faculties in Ethiopia. In addition, the curriculum assessment tools developed during this Twinning project are now being applied at VEEs in South-East Asia by OSU in cooperation with the WOAHS Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia. These VEEs belong to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Veterinary Statutory Body Network and the objective of the curriculum reviews is to engage in curriculum reform to achieve regional accreditation for these VEEs, which will help ensure harmonisation across ASEAN Member States and facilitate the mobility of veterinarians within the region. Thus, WOAHS's initial investment in the OSU/UoG Twinning project continues to pay ample dividends in improved veterinary education well beyond the original project.

1.3.3 Platform for the Training of Veterinary Services

Building the WOAHS Training System is a vast initiative that was launched in 2018 with the medium- to long-term ambition that training become a comprehensive transversal function anchored to WOAHS's complex knowledge and data systems. It first requires developing or reinforcing its constitutive 'pillars', such as the WOAHS Competency-based Training Framework, the WOAHS Training Portal and its online catalogue, and the WOAHS Training Guidelines (see Fig. 9). Learning needs' assessments will also have to be implemented to ensure robust and fit-for-purpose Training Programmes adapted to Members' needs and aligned with WOAHS Standards and Guidelines.

Fig. 9: State of play of the development of the pillars of the WOAHS Training System



Training opportunities will be offered to Members as early as 2023, in the three official languages, through the WOAHP training portal, the main source to access information and courses. Three eLearning modules on Leadership in Veterinary Services have been developed and will be available to help Delegates and other Veterinary Service leaders at different levels of responsibilities successfully play their crucial role in various arenas, whether technical, financial, or political, both in peace time and crisis time. Other eModules, on emergency management, wildlife surveillance and trade, outbreak investigation (English), PPP and surveillance (English), will follow. AMR, Trade, Animal welfare, and African swine fever eModules have been scoped and a call for tender to recruit quality service providers has been launched. A robust communication strategy will accompany the release of the online resources, with a view to progressively building the WOAHP learning community, mainly populated by members of the veterinary and public health workforce, including those belonging to One Health systems. The aim is for this training to become an integral component of the PVS Workforce Development Programme.

In the framework of a Quadripartite project, a Competency Framework for One Health Field Epidemiology was developed and validated by an international Technical Advisory Group, while complementary guidelines on curriculum development, learning evaluation and certification, mentorship, and continuing education were produced and partially submitted for validation. This guidance will help to ensure that countries' field epidemiology training programme graduates have the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to implement the One Health approach.

1.3.4 Other capacity-building activities

1.3.4.1 Sustainable Laboratories Programme

It had become well recognised that many diagnostic laboratories around the world faced challenges with sustainability, which undermined their safety and performance. Problems were due to a multitude of factors around management, infrastructure, supply chain, and budget.

For a decade, with financial support from Global Affairs Canada, WOAHP had been working with partners, including Chatham House, the UK International Biosecurity Programme, and WHO to seek solutions to improve laboratory sustainability. In 2022 several milestones were reached:

The Biosafety Research Roadmap – after meeting regularly for 2 years the WOAHP Technical Working Group delivered nine scientific papers to support the implementation of evidence-based laboratory biological risk management. An updated review of laboratory-acquired infections and laboratory escapes provided insights into the causes of laboratory accidents and called for an international reporting system which is free from blame. Such a system would provide evidence to support improvements in laboratory safety and security. The group also drafted a series of pathogen-specific papers highlighting gaps in the current evidence base needed to support biological risk management for each of those pathogens. The papers explored the existing evidence to support commonly used biosafety measures for each pathogen. The papers are due to be published in peer-reviewed journals in 2023. In addition, drawing on these scientific papers, WOAHP, WHO and Chatham House will draft a policy paper to highlight the key policy issues which need to be addressed.

WOAHP, in partnership with Global Affairs Canada, had also been exploring the potential of finding practical solutions to improve laboratory sustainability through a Grand Challenge. Since this would be a hugely ambitious and complex project, WOAHP decided to first commission a feasibility study to test the use of the Grand Challenge approach. WOAHP partnered with a specialist, Grand Challenges Canada, for the feasibility study. A decision on whether to launch a full Grand Challenge will be made after delivery of the feasibility study report in June 2023.

A new [WOAH Sustainable Laboratories webpage](#) was launched, which shared data (through [data dashboards](#)) from a global survey on the status of laboratory equipment, and from a cohort analysis of PVS Laboratory Mission data. The WOAHEquipment Management Sustainability Survey dashboard and data story featured key indicators and take-home messages. The PVS Sustainable Laboratories Missions Cohort dashboard and data story on outcomes for health systems and sustainable laboratory networks was also published on the same webpage. A marketing campaign was launched to promote the webpages and maximise their reach among specific target audiences. The pages were also promoted via social media on World Sustainability Day and throughout the Biosecurity and Biosafety month. A peer-reviewed manuscript highlighting results of the survey was accepted by *Emerging Infectious Diseases* as an online report, with publication projected for April 2023. The results were also presented at the Global Health Security Conference in Singapore in June 2022 and to the G7 Global Partnership Africa BIO Signature Initiative: Working Group 1 (Biosafety and Biosecurity) in September 2022. WOAHHas also been reviewing and integrating the economic advice contracted in the form of an investment needs advocacy paper developed by agricultural economists into the Sustainable Laboratories Mission Country and Expert Manuals, and developing a webpage dedicated to showcasing this work alongside the data dashboards and insights.

1.4. GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS

1.4.1 One Health

1.4.1.1 *Strategic global context*

The most significant One Health initiative in the past year for the Quadripartite Collaboration for OH, which consists of four partner organisations – FAO, WOAHH, UNEP, and WHO – is the development of the global [One Health Joint Plan of Action](#) (OH JPA). The Plan of Action is intended to guide countries and partners to work together on One Health at all levels. Two launch and advocacy [events](#) were organised for different audiences. The first one took place at the World Health Summit in Berlin, Germany, in October 2022 and the second, high level advocacy event took place at the OH Congress held in Singapore in November 2022.

The plan sets out operational objectives, which include: providing a framework for collective and coordinated action to mainstream the One Health approach at all levels; providing upstream policy and legislative advice and technical assistance to help set national targets and priorities; and promoting multinational, multi-sector, multidisciplinary collaboration, learning and exchange of knowledge, solutions and technologies. It also fosters the values of cooperation and shared responsibility, multisectoral action and partnership, gender equity, and inclusiveness.

The OH JPA adopts One Health with a broader perspective integrating a system-based approach to support the health of humans, animals, plants, and the environment. It has six Action Tracks: (i) Enhancing One Health capacities to strengthen health systems; (ii) Reducing risks from emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics and pandemics; (iii) Controlling and eliminating endemic and neglected zoonotic and vector-borne diseases; (iv) Strengthening the assessment, management and communication of food safety risks; (v) Curbing the silent pandemic of antimicrobial resistance; and (vi) Integrating the environment into One Health. Each action track consists of a set of actions with specific activities with deliverables, and a timeline.

The plan is guided by a Theory of Change, which was developed in collaboration with the [OH High Level Expert Panel](#) (OHHLEP).

Following the launch, the Quadripartite embarked on developing the implementation guide of the JPA to provide practical advice to countries to develop, adapt, and enhance national One Health implementation plans with clear roles and responsibilities for stakeholder groups at all levels.

A costing of the JPA was done by the Quadripartite led by its resource mobilisation task force. The exercise provides global figures with expectation of development of country-specific needs and asks. It is estimated that 3.7Billion USD is needed to implement the JPA, with the following costing assumptions:

- The indicative costs provided consider the four organisations' costs for 5 years in 10 to 12 countries per year.
- Costing based on activities and partially on costs of some existing tools.
- The costs include:
 - i. Global and regional public goods – the global cost of delivering the evidence, guidance, tools, and policy frameworks applicable at all levels.
 - ii. Country delivery – building a flexible envelop for country-level support, whereby the Quadripartite support package will be designed and costed to meet country-specific needs, based on a thorough Quadripartite One Health diagnostic assessment.

The Budget will be adjusted to include the country-specific needs, on finalisation of the implementation plan and specific country plans.

Next steps include outreach and advocacy activities to mobilise resources for support of OH JPA. These include:

- Information sessions with the respective Quadripartite governing bodies.
- Engaging the OH Group of Friends.
- Support for specific resource mobilisation on identified priority countries and activities.
- Quadripartite joint proposals development for funding.

Efforts are made to **empower and strengthen Regional Coordination Mechanisms** to drive the development of pilot projects of JPA implementation in full consultation with countries. Regional workshops are being planned for 2023 to discuss implementation and country engagement.

▪ G7 and G20 platforms

WOAH participated in two technical meetings organised by the G7, one on Collaborative Surveillance and the other on Public Health Emergency Workforce, in October 2022.

The meeting on Collaborative Surveillance was an opportunity to highlight the need to consider the One Health approach in collaborative surveillance and to highlight some key WOAHA activities. The need for better integration of One Health surveillance (including animals and ecosystems) in public health agencies was emphasised. WOAHA stressed that One Health activities were currently being carried out through tripartite and quadripartite coordination and would be expanded through the proposed Quadripartite framework for a One Health Intelligence Scoping Study. The importance of WOAHA standards, the PVS Pathway, WOAHA Reference Centres networks, and the network of WOAHA Focal Points for Disease Notification was emphasised in the breakout session.

The WOAAH has actively participated in preparatory meetings of the G20 Health Working Groups and the meetings bringing together G20 Finance and Health Ministers under the Indonesia Presidency and has provided inputs to the **outcome document of the G20 Health Ministers' Action to Strengthen Global Health Architecture** and also contributed to the development of the **G20 Lombok One Health Policy Brief, which was mentioned in the [Leaders Declaration](#)**.

The outcome of the meeting is summarised in the [Chair's Summary](#).

During the meeting, WOAAH interventions underscored the [critical role that Veterinary Services play in the global health system](#) and the need for their appropriate and sustainable financing.

WOAH is an active member of the G20 Joint Finance and Health Task Force and will continue to advocate for animal health and Veterinary Services' crucial role in One Health through this forum.

As is the case in the negotiations on the pandemic instrument, the FIF (Financial Intermediate Fund) merely recognises that investments at the country level align with One Health principles. At the G20 Task Force meetings, WOAAH has issued the following messages as the leading international organisation for animal health and zoonoses:

- We appeal to the FIF's principle of inclusiveness, and request that WOAAH be considered as:
 - a Member of the Advisory Panel,
 - an implementing entity,
 - a source of scientific and technical expertise to advise on animal/wildlife/zoonotic implications for Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPR).

The World Bank Board approved the establishment of the FIF on 30 June 2022, and WOAAH invited its Members in their discussions with the World Bank or their Finance Ministers to advocate that One Health, national Veterinary Services, and WOAAH feature more prominently in the FIF.

▪ *[Pandemic instrument/treaty](#)*

The WOAAH continues to engage actively with the [Intergovernmental Negotiating Body](#) (INB) through participating in all sessions, public hearings, and the informed consultation on One Health, to ensure that due consideration is given to the concerns of the animal health sector in pandemic treaty negotiations and to the important role that Veterinary Services and animal health management, including that of wildlife, play in pandemic prevention and preparedness. WOAAH is also seeking to be involved in drafting and negotiating the treaty so that the voices of its Members and stakeholders are well reflected and not only consulted subsequently. If an agreement is reached, the treaty is expected to be signed in May 2024.

Regular briefing notes were sent to all 182 WOAAH Delegates to provide information on the treaty and to encourage Delegates to mobilise their respective ministers and other relevant ministers involved in the treaty's negotiations, mainly those representing Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs.

WOAH Members adopted [Resolution No. 29/2022](#) on "Contribution of the World Organisation for Animal Health and its Members to the negotiations related to an international instrument for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response".

In this regard, WOAAH is assigned the role of the focal point for the Group of Friends by the Quadripartite, and in this capacity WOAAH collaborated with Australia and France, the co-chairs of the group, to organise several meetings with the Quadripartite ahead of or following the INB sessions to discuss the documents issued by the INB and to align statements and advocacy on One Health.

During the INB sessions, WOAAH delivered statements and key messages to be amplified at the national, regional, and global levels and shared with members and partners, such as the following:

- WOAAH advocates for a specific role for the Quadripartite in the ‘design phase’ of the instrument and that specific shared governance arrangements be established among the four organisations to enable the implementation of the new instrument;
- WOAAH advocate that any measures related to prevention should be clearly distinct from measures related to preparedness to respond;
- One Health approach should be the foundation of the instrument and should also be integrated into each pillar of the instrument: prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery;
- Implementing the One Health Joint plan of Action developed by the Quadripartite is both crucial and urgent to address health concerns at the human-animal-plant-environment interface, while promoting health for all holistically in the long term.

▪ *Quadripartite collaboration at regional and sub-regional levels*

The WOAAH Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East, and Europe are involved in supporting the Quadripartite activities through the establishment of regional coordination mechanisms. With this coordination in place, joint work plans are being discussed and activities carried out throughout the year to reinforce One Health approaches.

1.4.1.2 Antimicrobial resistance

Following the adoption of [Resolution No. 26](#), by the General Assembly during the 83rd General Session in May 2015, WOAAH has continued its diverse set of actions to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and promote responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals.

WOAH has also worked on **strengthening knowledge around AMR through surveillance**. The [sixth Annual Report on Antimicrobial Agents Intended for Use in Animals](#) was sent to all Members and key stakeholders on 19 May 2022. A [factsheet](#) was produced to introduce the main outcomes, which in brief show:

- A participation of 155 Members (85%) with a focused analysis of 2018 data, which represent an estimated 72% of the world’s domestic animal biomass.
- An analysis of trends from 2016 to 2018, signalling a reduction of 27% in antimicrobial use (expressed as mg/kg of biomass) across 72 participating countries, representing 65% of the global animal biomass. This downward trend was seen across all WOAAH regions, and confirms the trend already reported in the fifth report, and includes the use of antimicrobials critical to human health, which also declined during the analysed period.
- That the use of antimicrobials for growth promotion is no longer a practice in 69% of participants. As a reminder, growth promotion is not a veterinary medical use of antimicrobials, and should be phased out in the absence of risk analysis.

- That 35 participants out of 126 (28%) make their national reports publicly available, the vast majority of these participants (30 out of 35; 86%) being from the European region. This trend has not changed over the last few years, which should serve as a reminder to all our Members that the publication of these data is of paramount importance to ensure transparency and to allow the establishment of effective surveillance programmes based on risk assessments.

On 21 September 2022, the Animal Antimicrobial Use (ANIMUSE) Global Database was launched for Members, kicking off the eighth round of data collection worldwide. Created over the last two years, and conceived thanks to feedback from Members with oversight from the AMR WG and a specific Technical Advisory Group, this new online system presents a customised tool enabling participants to report and analyse data with autonomy and confidentiality. With more than 200 participants from at least 65 different countries attending the introductory webinar [available online](#), a task team was established to provide Members with the necessary support to connect and start reporting data into ANIMUSE. Two months after the launch, 114 Members had successfully connected to ANIMUSE, with 22 having successfully submitted their dossiers for the 8th round of antimicrobial use (AMU) data collection using ANIMUSE, and the count keeps increasing. To facilitate local support and gather user feedback, a helpdesk system has been developed in-house and integrated within ANIMUSE. The helpdesk provides workflow guidance to resolve ANIMUSE issues. The developed suite of tutorial videos for the Data Questionnaire, Calculation Module, and Data Visualisation are being delivered through ANIMUSE workshops targeted to national Focal Points for Veterinary Products. Further details are provided below.

ANIMUSE data (global and regional levels only) will eventually be integrated into the Quadripartite Integrated System for Surveillance on Antimicrobial Resistance and Use. The Interagency Platform development is almost completed. Data upload and public launch will likely happen during the second semester of 2023.

The development of means to collect data at farm level, initiated in 2021, continued in 2022. In addition to the development of WOA/FAO regional guidelines for monitoring AMU at the farm level for the Asia and the Pacific region, currently in its final drafting phase, an inventory of national field level projects has been initiated to identify and record existing AMU field level data reporting activities. Preliminary findings unsurprisingly demonstrate the lack of harmonisation on methodologies used for field level qualitative and quantitative data collection. These projects are generally conducted by Veterinary Services, research institutes, universities, even though some commercial livestock enterprises also collect data. This field level data inventory has the potential to inform and support national authorities (focal points and Delegates), complementing their existing imports and sales data capture. The inventory draws on multiple sources at national level, including engagement with the Fleming Fund service provider Mott MacDonald, researchers, and other stakeholders.

Efforts in strengthening surveillance have also been deployed on resuming activities around setting a **global alert system for substandard and falsified (SF) veterinary products**. The first pilot project phase, initiated by the end of 2021 and aimed at understanding the situation at local level, has been completed and included 14 WOA/FAO Members, representing different regions. All of them have an authority for the registration and authorisation of veterinary products, and all but one have an authority for the surveillance of the quality of veterinary products. Very few Members had engaged in cooperation or coordination with another country to manage an incident of a suspected SF veterinary product (three Members), or a traceability system in place (four Members), which suggests that these are areas that could be targeted for capacity building. During this pilot phase, eight participating Members submitted Immediate Notification Forms to WOA/FAO,

and four other participating members confirmed they were not aware of any incidents. By the end of 2022, 38 incidents, i.e. the discovery of (a) substandard or falsified veterinary product(s) at one time and place, have been reported, involving a total of 59 products. The veterinary products reported in these incidents were mainly found at distributor level (31 products), or in retail stores unauthorised (nine products) or authorised (11 products) for the sale of veterinary products. Other sites of discovery at a minor extent included border control and at manufacturers. The main reasons identified for suspicion were as follows: during routine inspections or surveillance (35 products); unusual packaging appearance (15 products); and recall of these products from the marketing authorisation holders and/or the National Authorities. WOAAH is currently deploying a second phase of this pilot experience, targeting the participation of a total of 40 Members, in order to also collect the technical specifications required for the development of a fit-for-purpose digital platform for the veterinary domain, similar to the one successfully used by WHO in the human health domain.

Work has progressed to implement **WOAH's AMR work plan in aquaculture**, in alignment with the [Aquatic Animal Health Strategy 2021–2025](#). These include, among others:

- The release of a [Technical Reference Document Listing Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance for Aquatic Species](#), as already mentioned in section 1.2.2.5.2 of this report. This includes an updated list of 26 antibiotics authorised for use in fish and crustacean aquaculture (in at least one country), a list of 23 major bacterial diseases for fish and five for crustaceans, and a table with the 12 classes/sub-classes of antibiotics used to treat fish diseases and four for crustacean diseases.
- The implementation of a **more detailed questionnaire** for antimicrobial use data collection, with the sub-categorisation of aquatic food-producing animals and the inclusion of ornamental fish within non-food producing animal species, in the ANIMUSE questionnaire for the 7th round of data collection. As many as 62 of the 80 participants reporting information on aquatic animals used the more detailed format, still not all providing differentiated quantitative data for aquatic animal species. More detailed analyses are to come with the launch of the 7th ANIMUSE report during 2023.
- Drafting of a technical guidance document to monitor antimicrobial use at farm level in aquatic animals. Given the interest in AMU data collection at field level in aquaculture, a project aimed at supporting Members in this area was initiated in the period June to September 2022 **and will continue in 2023**.

During 2022, multiple **capacity-building training activities for national Focal Points** were proposed to Members thanks to close collaborations between WOAAH Headquarters and the Regional and Sub-Regional offices, as well as with relevant partners.

Following almost 10 years of experience and six cycles of capacity-building training for Focal Points for Veterinary Products, it was decided to take a step back to review and strengthen WOAAH's approach to these training programmes, with a view to better fit the heterogeneity of needs across regions. A series of internal brainstorming sessions in collaboration with our regional colleagues have been conducted to identify and map core training needs by region. In parallel, inventory work has also been carried out, to identify services provided to focal points over the same time period at the global or regional level. With all these elements under final analysis, more customised and complementary training programmes will be built for 2023, following an outcome-driven approach.

WOAH has continued its substantial work as a core member of the **Quadripartite on AMR**, reinforcing our position on the delivery of the Global Action Plan on AMR, within the One Health spectrum, in collaboration with our partners: FAO, UNEP and WHO. Major highlights of joint activities in 2022 are listed below:

- Continued implementation of a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Global Action Plan, initially published in June 2019, including the [6th cycle of the annual survey, known as the Tripartite Country Self-Assessment Survey \(TrACSS\)](#), facilitated by WOA for the participation of its Members in this process where necessary.
- Support to the Global Leaders Group in the development of numerous information notes, and in particular the one led by WOA led on [animal health and welfare, available online since November 2022](#).
- Strong contribution to the drafting of a two-year [strategic framework for collaboration on antimicrobial resistance](#). Underpinned by the Global Action Plan on AMR, and launched in early 2022, this strategic framework has, as its overall goal, to preserve antimicrobial efficacy and ensure sustainable and equitable access to antimicrobials for responsible and prudent use in humans, animals, and plants, and thereby help to reduce the development and spread of AMR. Translated to a regional level, it is contributing to the development of a regional Quadripartite AMR strategy for Africa, which will provide guidance to Members for developing and revising their AMR national action plans (AMR-NAPs).
- Agreement on the Terms of Reference and Operating Rules for a [Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform](#), a constituency-based body, facilitated and managed by the Quadripartite, with diverse representation (e.g. governments, private sector, and civil society, representing human, animal, plant, and environment health, as well as agriculture and food and feed production). Launched in November 2022, its mission is to drive the development of a shared global vision on AMR, push for action to curb its spread, and enable the production of knowledge on AMR.
- Continued development of AMR-Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) funded projects, at national or global level. In addition to leading a project in Kenya, and as well as the monitoring and evaluation of the Global Action Plan, WOA has provided major contributions leading to milestones such as:
 - the production of the first batch ([20 000 doses of theileriosis vaccine](#)) in efforts to minimise the use of oxytetracycline in cattle in rural communities in Zimbabwe;
 - the coaching of national authorities for the successful approval of a new project in Madagascar;
 - the deployment of a tool to analyse relevant legislation for AMR in Morocco;
 - the organisation of a talk show on control of AMR from an industrial perspective, as a milestone towards the establishment of a sustainable public-private partnership in Indonesia;
 - the translation and dissemination of communication materials in local languages (i.e., videos focusing on the responsible and prudent use of antibiotics in [poultry](#) and [fish farms](#) in Cambodia, in the Khmer language with English subtitles, [10 leaflets and posters](#) focusing on the responsible use of antimicrobials by farmers, pharmacists, pharmaceutical companies, clinicians, and competent authorities, in English and Khmer, and a whole set of educational materials in the Tajik language;
 - the development of documents mapping the roles and responsibilities of the Quadripartite organisations related to AMR in the environment, etc.

- Additionally, joint communication tools were developed to further promote the project, notably FAQs and an updated flyer.
- Strong contribution to the preparation of the Third High-Level Ministerial Conference on AMR (Oman, November 2022), leading to the signing by 39 countries of the Muscat Manifesto. This document sets specific numerical targets for antimicrobial use in the human and animal sectors for the first time and paves the way to inspire political commitments at the forthcoming UN General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Meeting on AMR in 2024.
- Establishment of a Quadripartite working group on AMR awareness to develop a long-term joint communication strategy. This working group organised a global consultation in June and July to develop a common approach, language and messaging for joint AMR awareness across the One Health spectrum. Additionally, World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW 2022) was celebrated on the theme “Preventing antimicrobial resistance together”. The joint Trello board has been updated with new resources to support national communications, including a campaign guide and several social media cards.

In relation to the WOAHA Strategy on AMR and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials’ strategic pillar on the **improvement of awareness and understanding** across all concerned stakeholders, the Organisation initiated in 2022 a process to overhaul the overall narrative on AMR, considering that our activities have greatly expanded in recent years, and these changes needed to be reflected within updated materials and messages. As a baseline for this work, a series of interviews were conducted with staff (WOAH Headquarters and Regional Offices) as well as with several Delegates. Based on the outcomes, two communication streams were defined with the objective of:

- continuing to empower our specialist audiences (animal health professionals, feed suppliers, pharmaceutical industry, and farmers) for an optimised use of antimicrobials;
- improving awareness and understanding of AMR amongst broader audiences (decision-makers, concerned citizens, including animal product consumers, animal/pet owners, as well as children/youth).

As a result, the [web portal on AMR](#) was improved, to better address the audiences identified and to ease their access to relevant information. Almost 30 000 users visited it during WAAW 2022. WOAHA has also developed key targeted messages and a comprehensive [toolkit](#), providing more educational and concrete content.

All the aforementioned activities and achievements are the fruit of a close collaboration between all WOAHA Regional and Sub-Regional Representations (RR/SRR) and the Headquarters. Regular exchanges between Headquarters and the RR/SRR occur through a digital platform, as well as through coordination meetings held every six weeks. For further and more detailed information about RR/SRR activities, Members are invited to visit their respective websites: [Africa](#), the [Americas](#), [Asia and the Pacific](#), [Europe](#) and the [Middle East](#)

1.4.1.3 Rabies

WOAH plays a key role in supporting its Members in implementing rabies control and prevention activities, in line with Zero by 30: the Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030 (Zero by 30).

WOAH activities are coordinated by the Technical Rabies Network, an internal coordination mechanism which helps to connect and align the rabies-related activities of Headquarters and the Regional and Sub-regional Representations.

- WOAH rabies vaccine bank

The WOA vaccine bank provides WOA Members with access to high quality dog rabies vaccines at a fixed low cost, thereby acting as a catalyst for the implementation of mass dog vaccination programmes, a critical pillar of effective rabies control strategies. In 2022, a total of 963 400 vaccine doses were delivered to 11 countries in Africa and Asia (Africa: Benin, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Togo, and Zambia; Asia: Indonesia). An updated [infographic](#) has been developed to explain the mechanism of the rabies vaccine bank.

- Support for the development of regional and national control programmes for the elimination of dog-mediated rabies

With the support of WOA, national strategic plans were completed and nationally validated by Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone in 2022. WOA is also supporting the ongoing development of national strategic plans in Botswana, Burundi, Cambodia, Lesotho, Sri Lanka, Togo, and Uganda.

In collaboration with the Quadripartite and ASEAN, WOA is providing support for the updating of the ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy (ARES).

WOA endorsement of official control programmes for dog-mediated rabies offers Members the opportunity to gain international recognition of the commitment and progress being made, while improving access to expertise and resources to support implementation. WOA developed a [brochure](#) highlighting the process for Members to follow to submit their dossier for endorsement and has provided an overview of this process in multiple webinars, including focused virtual training in the Africa region.

- Technical support for the implementation of national control programmes for the elimination of dog-mediated rabies

WOA has provided technical in-country support for the implementation of national control programmes for dog-mediated rabies elimination, including the following: support for mass dog vaccination (MDV) campaigns, rabies awareness training, and training of vaccinators and animal health technicians in Angola and Namibia; support for enhancing diagnostic capacity and initiating dog population census methodologies in Eritrea; development of a dog population management pilot project in Guinea; training of trainers for MDV campaigns in India; support for MDV campaigns and pilot implementation of oral rabies vaccination (ORV) of dogs in Indonesia; facilitating a virtual workshop on ORV of dogs in the Asia-Pacific Region to enhance awareness of ORV principles and explore possibilities for piloting ORV if dogs in several Asia-Pacific countries; support for rabies data collection in the Balkans; and provision of guidance to European countries affected by increased dog movement due to the ongoing emergency situation. In Cameroon, the Rabies Control and Elimination (RACE) project was launched in 2022 with the goal of supporting the country's official rabies elimination programme. Currently, the RACE project partners, field implementing agencies, and national project governing partners have been identified and the recruitment of key project staff at national level is ongoing. For 2023, a dog census, enhanced human and animal rabies surveillance, and mass dog vaccinations are being planned.

■ *Advocacy and communication*

In 2022, WOAHA collaborated closely with stakeholders to leverage the communication and advocacy efforts associated with [World Rabies Day](#), on the theme of ‘One Health, Zero Death’. WOAHA worked jointly with the Quadripartite on digital communications and supported the activities of the United Against Rabies (UAR) Forum during World Rabies Day 2022. Communications materials were developed, such as an informative [infographic](#), a [poster](#), and the [WOAHA vaccine bank infographic](#). Outreach campaigns were implemented on several occasions throughout the year to better disseminate the tools through WOAHA’s social media channels.

At regional level, WOAHA supported several countries in Africa and Asia with conducting awareness and advocacy activities during World Rabies Day 2022. WOAHA conducted an Africa Rabies webinar, in collaboration with other partners, entitled ‘One Health: Building momentum to zero human deaths from rabies in Africa by 2030’, to promote tools and resources available to support countries with their rabies control and elimination efforts. A webinar in the Middle East, entitled ‘Towards enhanced rabies control’, was aimed at enhancing Members’ understanding of rabies and rabies-related WOAHA standards. WOAHA provided technical and financial support to Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka to enhance awareness on rabies, primarily targeting school children and the general public. A total of 17 625 students in 97 schools were reached during World Rabies Day. Regional stories from the Asia-Pacific region on how countries had used a One Health approach to address rabies during the past two years were also collected, and are available [here](#).

■ *Rabies diagnostic support*

The WOAHA Rabies Reference Laboratory Network (RABLAB) consists of 12 WOAHA Reference Laboratories, which support Members through the promotion of standardised and harmonised laboratory techniques (in line with the WOAHA *Terrestrial Manual*), the improvement of routine rabies diagnosis and testing, and the provision of support for rabies surveillance, reporting, and data dissemination. Ongoing activities include interlaboratory support to ensure the production and availability of a WOAHA reference serum standard and provision of guidance on the use of lateral flow devices and rapid diagnostic testing for surveillance.

During the reporting period, four virtual meetings were held, and the first in-person meeting of the network took place at WOAHA Headquarters in December 2022. For the first time, this took place in collaboration with the WHO Collaborating Centres meeting, to promote cross-sectoral One Health collaboration between human health and animal health rabies experts.

The WOAHA Twinning Project between ANSES (France) and the Animal Health Research Institute (Chinese Taipei) was successfully completed in 2022. Rabies twinning projects are still in progress between Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute (South Africa) and the National Center for Animal Health Diagnosis and Investigation (Ethiopia), between ANSES (France) and Institut Pasteur (Tunisia), between FLI (Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Germany) and the Central Veterinary Laboratory (Namibia), and between the Animal and Plant Health Agency (United Kingdom) and the Central Veterinary Laboratory (Sierra Leone).

RABLAB members are supporting the establishment of a Southern Africa Rabies Laboratory Network and South Asia Rabies Laboratory Network to improve regional diagnostic and surveillance capacity. RABLAB members also contribute to ongoing capacity through virtual training and workshops.

- Technical support to improve understanding of animal welfare and rabies

WOAH is providing technical support for updating the Self-Assessment and Monitoring Platform on WOA standards (SAM 2.0 tool). In 2014, free-roaming dog population control was identified as a priority topic for the WOA Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe. To date, eleven Balkan and eight West Eurasian countries have agreed on a shared vision: to reach full compliance, respectively by 2025 and 2030, with *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 7.7 on dog population management and Chapter 8.14 on rabies, which will allow WOA Members to become completely self-sufficient in progressively monitoring and self-assessing the level of compliance with WOA standards on dog population management. This action is fully aligned with 'Zero by 30'.

- United Against Rabies Forum: Implementing 'Zero by 30'

The United Against Rabies Forum, hosted by WOA and led by FAO, WHO, and WOA, now includes more than 50 members. This network was launched in 2020 to implement the objectives set out in 'Zero by 30'.

During the reporting period, the [United Against Rabies Forum website](#) was launched, providing a central platform for stakeholders to access rabies tools and resources. A virtual webinar on '[Tackling Rabies and Dog Population Management: the Role of Local Authorities](#)' took place in October 2022, and the first United Against Rabies newsletter was disseminated to more than 1700 stakeholders in November 2022, highlighting key outputs and resources of the network.

Key achievements of the network include the following: the development of a [national strategic plan template](#); a document providing guidance and definitions on the [minimum data elements](#) required for effective surveillance; an evaluation process for tools, with a [repository](#) that guides stakeholders in selecting the most suitable tool for their needs; and several [case studies](#) highlighting the catalytic role that partners can play in rabies elimination, with the aim of inspiring other stakeholders to contribute to and invest in rabies control.

An in-person United Against Rabies meeting took place at WOA Headquarters on 14-16 December 2022, bringing together the United Against Rabies Steering Group and leads of each specific Working Group activity. This meeting focused on identifying challenges and blocking points for the network, identifying ways in which to overcome these, and proposing a revision to the governance, mode of operation, and priority areas of the Forum for 2023. A meeting report outlining the activities of 2022 and the proposed work plan of the Forum for 2023 will be published on the United Against Rabies Forum website in 2023.

1.4.1.4 Zoonotic influenza

WOAH continued to coordinate the WOA/FAO Network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU), while also hosting the OFFLU Secretariat and maintaining the [OFFLU website](#).

In 2022, there was a significant increase in the number of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks worldwide affecting poultry and wild bird populations. The HPAI epidemic, with H5N1 as the predominant subtype, began in late 2021 and spread throughout the year affecting more than 73 countries and territories. During 2022, Europe and the Americas faced the largest HPAI epidemic ever recorded.

In response to these outbreaks, OFFLU experts were mobilised to share epidemiological and experimental data, as well as the diagnostic protocols needed to inform surveillance and control policies, and to build technical partnerships with national laboratories. They also participated in the [Scientific Task Force statement](#) on avian influenza and wild birds. The report of the Steering and Executive Committee meeting is available [online](#).

The following are examples of technical documents developed to support national surveillance and control efforts:

- [Avian influenza H3N8 technical statement](#)
- [Update of avian influenza events in wild birds](#)
- [Avian influenza global situation update](#)
- [Update of equine influenza vaccine recommendations for 2022 based on surveillance and outbreak data](#)
- [Avian influenza and wildlife. Risk management for people working with wild birds](#)

The WOAHA avian influenza scientific network continued to deliver concrete outputs that contribute to the mitigation of risks posed by zoonotic animal influenza viruses to public and animal health. Notable achievements are presented in the following paragraphs.

The WOAHA scientific network, FAO, and WHO are in regular communication to share public health and animal health data so that risk assessments are continually updated on issues related to the animal–human interface, including the publication of a [joint risk assessment on emerging zoonotic avian influenza viruses](#) and pandemic preparedness.

The network participated in the February and September 2022 WHO Vaccine Composition Meetings and provided a total of 1676 H5, H7, and H9 avian influenza virus sequences isolated in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Oceania and the Americas. In addition, 858 H1 and H3 swine influenza virus sequences were contributed. Antigenic data were generated by the haemagglutination inhibition assay using WHO Collaborating Centre and OFFLU ferret-origin reagents. The [reports](#) are available online.

In January 2022, OFFLU experts updated the cleavage site document that provides information regarding amino acid sequences at the influenza A cleavage site and assists in the differentiation of low and high pathogenicity avian influenza A viruses through molecular analyses. This information is referred to in the avian influenza chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual* and is available [online](#).

The OFFLU proficiency testing panel for the year 2022 was received by WOAHA/FAO Reference Centres and was designed to assess the capability of the laboratories to detect and characterise isolates of avian influenza. The round was coordinated by the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) and conducted under their ISO 17043 accreditation.

OFFLU has embarked on a project called [avian influenza matching \(AIM\)](#) for characterisation of circulating avian influenza viruses in different regions to support poultry vaccination. Annual reports will be published to provide up-to-date information to the animal health sector, governments, and poultry vaccine manufacturers on the antigenic characteristics of circulating avian influenza viruses and including comparisons with vaccine antigens. This information will facilitate selection of appropriate vaccines for poultry and updating of poultry vaccine antigens in places where vaccines are being used.

WOAH continues to monitor the notification of the occurrence of avian influenza through WAHIS and generates [reports](#) that provide an update of the avian influenza situation at both global and regional levels. The documents briefly present the key risks driving current events – how the strains are interacting with hosts (both wild birds and poultry, and sometimes humans) and the environment (seasonality, livestock husbandry systems, ecosystems) – and how the events may evolve in the months ahead. The production frequency of these situation reports is largely driven by the number and severity of notifications for avian influenza received in WAHIS.

WOAH has developed several videos with experts to raise awareness on avian influenza and address key questions. These videos are available [here](#) and were disseminated across social media channels throughout the year. Articles were also written on the topic and shared online:

- [Influenzas with zoonotic potential: the contribution of the animal health sector for pandemic preparedness](#)
- [Egg prices on the rise: the effects of animal diseases](#)

In view of the significant changes observed in the epidemiology of HPAI viruses in recent years, WOAHA collaborated with FAO through the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) mechanism and established the HPAI task force to initiate the revision of the global strategy for prevention and control of HPAI, which was last updated in October 2008.

1.4.1.5 Tuberculosis

In recognition that the present international standard bovine tuberculin (ISBT) was becoming depleted, WOAHA convened an *ad hoc* Group to develop a new, replacement ISBT. In 2022, the *ad hoc* Group met virtually on a regular basis to discuss the results of the several ISBT guinea pig sensitisation trials with live *Mycobacterium bovis* conducted in two different laboratories during the year. The lower-than-expected potency estimated in the tuberculin candidate required further studies, including the evaluation of a possible degradation of the current ISBT and the evaluation of its precipitation (aggregation) using a particle analyser.

The *ad hoc* Group and the Biological Standards Commission were informed that stocks of the present international standard avian tuberculin (ISAT) were depleted. During 2023, WOAHA will work with the *ad hoc* Group and the Commission to identify an ISAT replacement.

WOAH met regularly with FAO and WHO to coordinate activities linked to the implementation of the [Roadmap for zoonotic tuberculosis](#). The roadmap identifies 10 priorities for action and is centred on a One Health approach. It recognises the interdependence of human and animal health sectors to address the major health and economic impacts of this disease. In addition, it articulates clear immediate actions that all stakeholders can take to address this issue across different sectors and disciplines and defines milestones for the short and medium term. WOAHA is supporting the FAO and WHO to conduct a survey to assess the implementation of the Roadmap in Asia and Africa, and to identify the successes and challenges in implementation of the Roadmap. This survey will assist in developing a five-year action plan for 15 African countries and identify best practices in operationalisation of One Health for addressing zoonotic tuberculosis. This survey also contributes to the implementation of the One Health Joint Plan of Action 2022-2026 work plan.

Additionally, WOAHA has continued the work of identifying alternative strategies for the control and elimination of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex infection in livestock. WOAHA will advance this effort in 2023.

1.4.1.6 Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

WOAH has maintained regular communications with counterparts from other relevant organisations for the exchange of information on human–animal interface cases. The [report](#) of the Global technical meeting on MERS-CoV and other emerging zoonotic coronaviruses, held in November 2021, was finalised and published in 2022.

- *Response to events of importance at the human–animal interface*

During the same period that human Mpox (monkeypox) cases were reported in increasing numbers outside of the usual geographic range (leading to the declaration by WHO of a Public Health Event of International Concern), there were several reported cases of human to animal transmission of Mpox in these newly affected regions. To address risks of Mpox at the human–animal interface, WOAHA rapidly convened an informal expert group to advise on research priorities, surveillance, and risk management. WOAHA disseminated this information and advice to Members through a dedicated [Mpox portal](#). WOAHA Members were also encouraged to report the occurrence of Mpox in animals to WOAHA as per Article 1.1.5. of the *Terrestrial Code* and a case of Mpox in swine was reported by Democratic Republic of the Congo in December 2022.

WOAH continued to support Members by disseminating information on the occurrence of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in animals (SARS-CoV-2 was reportable to WOAHA as an emerging disease). With the support of the *ad hoc* Group on COVID-19 at the human–animal interface, WOAHA developed and disseminated guidance through the [COVID-19 portal](#), including [guidance](#) on monitoring SARS-CoV-2 in animals. As WHO and WOAHA moved from a reactive phase with respect to COVID-19 to address the longer-term situation, WOAHA began to explore options for a more permanent structure that could monitor and advise on emerging disease risks.

1.4.1.7 Wildlife health

During 2020-2021, WOAHA developed and adopted a wildlife strategy, ‘the Wildlife Health Framework’. A communications strategy to expand WOAHA’s visibility on wildlife health is also under development and will be launched in 2023.

During 2022, WOAHA moved towards the operationalisation of the Wildlife Health Framework and several studies were commissioned to inform the related work plan. The studies included an assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for addressing wildlife health issues through WOAHA standards, and the PVS Pathway and its veterinary legislation programme. The findings will be used to refine and prioritise activities in the Wildlife Health Framework work plan and inform WOAHA’s overall wildlife strategy.

Thanks to the support of an *ad hoc* group, guidance to reduce the risk of disease spill-over through wildlife trade and along the wildlife supply chain was developed and will be published in 2023.

Various options for a new fit-for-purpose reporting system, to replace WAHIS-wild (which had been decommissioned in 2018), were thoroughly explored through needs assessment and stakeholder consultation. A temporary system called WAHIS-wild beta had been developed in 2022, enabling Members to continue to report non-listed diseases in wildlife to WOAHA. To support longer term development of the new wildlife disease reporting system, a review of historic events affecting wildlife species whose conservation status was threatened was also commissioned in 2022.

In 2022, WOAHA actively strengthened existing external partnerships and developed new ones at global and regional levels (including with UNEP, CIC², CITES³, IUCN⁴, WWF⁵ and WCS⁶). Partnership engagement is key to optimising synergies and contributing to achieving the Wildlife Health Framework goals. In this context, WOAHA participated, for the first time, in the High-level segment of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – COP15.

To educate and appeal to external publics, the [wildlife health portal](#) on the global website was revitalised, leading to an increase of views and use. The portal now houses content for both technical and public audiences. Additionally, several successful communications campaigns were launched throughout the year, including for World Wildlife Day.

Under the [EBO-SURSY Project](#), the implementation of in-person activities has resumed, after two years of the pandemic. Outputs in targeted countries have included a [radio campaign](#) to raise awareness of zoonotic disease risks in Guinea and Democratic Republic of the Congo; [several training actions and workshops](#) covering multiple themes such as intersectoral collaboration through National Bridging workshops; protocols for surveillance of viral haemorrhagic fevers in wildlife; and, a serious game ‘ALERT’, designed to raise awareness about One Health surveillance systems in wildlife. [Scientific investigations](#) are ongoing and the results are regularly [published](#) in peer-reviewed journals. More detailed information on the range of activities can be found on the [EBO-SURSY webpage](#).

1.4.2 Transboundary animal diseases

1.4.2.1 Strategic global context

The Global Framework for The Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) is a mechanism that was established between FAO and WOAHA in 2004 at global and regional levels with their main technical and resource partners to coordinate efforts for the control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs), focusing on priority diseases but also considering cross-cutting activities.

▪ [GF-TADs at global level](#)

The GF-TADs Management Committee is the decision-making body of GF-TADs and is co-chaired by FAO and WOAHA. The Management Committee is guided by the Global Steering Committee (GSC), gathering public and private sector stakeholders from all regions. The Global Secretariat, led by the FAO Global coordinator and supported by the WOAHA regional coordinator and the FAO global facilitator, supports the Management Committee in organising all GF-TADs global level activities that are not covered by disease groups and coordinates with disease groups as well as with GF-TADs’ actors at regional level. In 2022, five Management Committee meetings took place and discussed pertinent issues relating to coordination.

² CIC: International Council for Game and Wildlife conservation

³ CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

⁴ IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature

⁵ WWF: World Wildlife Fund

⁶ WCS: Wildlife Conservation Society

Since the end of 2021, GF-TADs has been following a [GF-TADs Strategy for 2021-2025](#) organised around three main objectives:

- Establish strategies for priority TADs at the sub-regional, regional and global levels.
- Develop and maintain capacities to prevent and control TADs.
- Improve the sustainability of strategies to control priority TADs through multi-disciplinary partnerships.

Details of the main activities, outcomes, and outputs of GF-TADs at the global level are published on its website: gf-tads.org.

▪ *GF-TADs at regional levels*

The GF-TADs Regional Steering Committees (RSCs), under the leadership of their respective chairs, coordinate the main stakeholders of the five regions to support the global and regional priority TADs activities. The RSCs are supported by GF-TADs Regional Secretariats, each led by the relevant WOAHP Regional Representation with support from FAO GF-TADs regional contact points.

GF-TADs activities in the respective regions continue to be carried out on the priority diseases. The GF-TADs regional mechanisms are progressively gaining momentum. In 2022, RSC meetings were held in the following regions: Africa, the Americas, Europe, and Middle East. An RSC meeting for the Asia-Pacific region is planned for February 2023. These are supported by the standing groups of experts (SGEs) established for priority diseases.

Stakeholder engagement through active communication has enhanced coordination and allowed a better response to Members needs, such as in the Americas on the ASF situation and in the Asia-Pacific region, where WOAHP is supporting Members with the development and revision of three sub-regional animal health strategies. The regional GF-TADs activities are presented in a dedicated section of the WOAHP regional websites and organised by priority TADs.

Table 3: Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meetings and the respective priority TADs addressed

Region	Priority TADs	Latest RSC meeting
Africa	FMD, PPR, ASF, CBPP, and Rift Valley fever (RVF)	June 2022
Americas	FMD, ASF, CSF, avian influenza and screwworm	Sept. 2022
Asia-Pacific	South-East Asia: FMD, avian influenza, swine diseases (ASF, CSF, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, porcine epidemic diarrhoea), rabies South Asia: FMD, avian influenza, PPR, rabies Pacific: TADs (ASF present in Papua New Guinea) East Asia: FMD, avian influenza, PPR, swine diseases (ASF, CSF, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, porcine epidemic diarrhoea), rabies	July 2020
Europe	FMD, ASF, PPR, LSD, rabies and avian influenza	Oct. 2022
Middle East	FMD, PPR, RVF and brucellosis	June 2022

1.4.2.2 *African swine fever*

African swine fever remains a priority disease for WOAHP, which continues to support Members in their efforts against the disease.

WOAH has established an internal coordination group as a mechanism to facilitate the communication of updates and sharing of experiences and lessons learnt between Headquarters and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives. Three meetings were held in 2022.

■ *Advocacy and communication*

Over the past year, WOAHA has continued to develop, revise, and disseminate ASF communication materials for a wide range of stakeholders, such as the press, policymakers, veterinarians, pig farmers, and travellers. Materials have also been developed in collaboration with key partners, such as FAO, INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization (WCO), and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). These materials can be found [online](#).

Outreach campaigns have been implemented on several occasions throughout the year to better disseminate the tools via social media channels.

■ *Strengthening laboratory diagnostics for ASF*

WOAH Headquarters continues to work closely with its [network](#) of seven ASF Reference Laboratories to harmonise, standardise, validate, and make available ASF diagnostic assays; to provide expertise and training for WOAHA and its Members in relation to ASF diagnosis, surveillance, and control; and to collect, analyse, and disseminate epidemiological information on the global occurrence of ASF and the genetic characterisation of ASF virus.

The WOAHA ASF Reference Laboratories network was launched in 2021 to facilitate collaboration among WOAHA Reference Laboratories and with national laboratories that are actively involved in efforts to control or eradicate the disease. During the reporting period, four meetings were held to exchange scientific and technical expertise on significant ASF outbreaks, diagnosis, and control measures. In addition, the ASF Reference Laboratories Network has been exploring ways to establish an open access information sharing platform for ASF virus genome sequence data, as well as developing training programmes to assist countries at risk and providing proficiency testing participation for a number of countries.

■ *Guidelines on vaccine development for ASF*

As ASF vaccines have continued to be in the development pipeline, with candidates being trialled in 2022, WOAHA, in collaboration with partners, is developing guidelines on the manufacture of safe and effective vaccines for ASF. These guidelines will serve to guide national authorities in the registration process for ASF vaccines as well as being a precursor for a standard in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

■ *ASF notification and situation reports*

WOAH continues to monitor notifications of the occurrence of ASF through WAHIS and generates reports providing an update of the ASF situation at both global and regional levels. Situation reports for ASF are published every two weeks and are available [online](#). The reports cover the updates on ASF occurrences in the preceding two weeks, other significant updates and key recommendations to Members.

■ *Technical support for the implementation of the regional and national strategies for the prevention and control of ASF*

WOAH Regional and Sub-Regional Representations co-organised or participated in several virtual national and regional ASF meetings and workshops in 2022, including the following:

- [Regional Training on import risk analysis for African swine fever](#) (French-speaking African Members)
- WOAHP Regional Laboratory Expert Network Meeting on African Swine Fever (Asia and the Pacific region)
- Regional webinar on WOAHP standards, trade and African swine fever (Americas region)
- Virtual training on a range of topics, including risk analysis, emergency actions, and compensation policies, in collaboration with regional partners (Americas region)

Regarding the development of tools, the WOAHP Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia published a report on [African swine fever in wild pigs in the Asia and the Pacific Region](#), which reviewed current knowledge of the ecology, distribution and role in swine disease epidemiology of wild pigs in the region. The report also makes recommendations on ways to manage populations of wild pigs, their interface with domestic pigs, and other actions that will contribute to the prevention and control of ASF in Asia and the Pacific.

▪ *[GF-TADs initiative for the global control of ASF](#)*

WOAHP continued to implement activities under the GF-TADs initiative for the global control of ASF (Global Initiative), in collaboration with FAO and other technical partners. Launched in July 2020, the [Global Initiative seeks to achieve the global control of ASF](#).

Between July 2022 and June 2023, WOAHP served as Chair of the GF-TADs Working Group for African swine fever control, which comprised six members from the headquarters and regional offices of WOAHP and FAO. The group is tasked with the coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of the implementation of the Global Initiative, as well as the development and support of ASF control strategies at global and regional levels. In 2022, the [second annual report](#) of the Global Initiative was published, highlighting its progress and showcasing some of the activities achieved in 2021 in support of the initiative's three objectives.

Integral to the implementation of the Global Initiative are the activities of the regional Standing Groups of Experts on ASF (SGE-ASF), aimed at strengthening regional dialogue, cooperation, and coordination in ASF prevention and control. WOAHP continues to support the activities of the SGE-ASF for Europe, Asia, and the Americas, including the organisation of meetings and facilitating technical exchanges and capacity-building activities. At the inaugural SGE meeting for [Africa](#), held in March 2022, the region discussed key challenges in ASF control and identified priorities for subsequent meetings, including the understanding of production features and value chains in Africa, strengthening biosecurity along the value chain, and enhancing surveillance and diagnostic capabilities for ASF control.

1.4.2.3 Foot and mouth disease

The GF-TADs Global FMD Control Strategy was endorsed in 2012 for a 15-year period with the goal of reducing or eliminating FMD virus circulation by 2027. Thanks to the financial support of development partners, WOAHP is collaborating with FAO, and with support from EuFMD, to strengthen the capacities of Members and non-Members, to implement the Global Strategy using the Progressive Control Pathway for Foot and Mouth Disease (PCP-FMD) tool. The PCP-FMD tool facilitates development of national control plans. In order to strengthen the Veterinary Services' capacity to control FMD, the PCP-FMD recognises the importance of, and embraces, WOAHP's PVS and Gap Analysis tools, and has identified critical competencies that, when implemented, will strengthen the

capacities to implement control measures, including for other TADs. Therefore, WOAHA will continue to provide targeted support to Members through the PVS pathway, including laboratory twinning projects on FMD, and national strategic planning to improve the development of national TADs control plans. National plans are a priority to support national advocacy, resource mobilisation, and policy support. The provision of PCP-FMD tools, technical advice, and support, including through the PCP-FMD Support Officer programme, has had a strong focus on Members that are currently in PCP-FMD stages 0 to 2, where either FMD risk is not controlled (S0), risk factors have been identified (S1), or the impact of FMD is reduced in targeted sectors or areas (S2).

The spread and establishment of certain FMD serotypes in new areas and formerly free countries or zones, such as in southern Africa, north Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe, continue to be a concern, and Members need support to control the spread of these exotic serotypes, strengthen preventive measures, and ensure that free countries and zones maintain their animal health status. Notification of FMD through WAHIS is critical to ensure preparedness and will encourage sample shipment for advanced diagnosis and effective control, which is a challenge. WOAHA will continue to work with its Reference Laboratories and partners to support Members on diagnostics, and to develop awareness and biosecurity materials on FMD.

Assessments conducted during regional roadmap meetings have demonstrated that a majority of Members in East, Central and West Africa are still in PCP-FMD stages 0 to 2, in contrast to other regions, such as Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East, West Eurasia, and Southern Africa. In 2022, one Member had its FMD zonal status recognised (with vaccination), and another Member had its official control programme endorsed. This contrasts with 2021, when six zonal statuses from three different Members were recognised. During 2022, three Members' had their FMD free status suspended by WOAHA due to FMD outbreaks. This shows the increasing risk of FMD spread.

Members of the South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease (SEACFMD) campaign continue to be active in implementing the SEACFMD Roadmap 2021–2025 and the activities are monitored through a newly developed M&E Framework with a portal as a resource of information for stakeholders.

WOAHA will build on the outcomes of the external review of the Global FMD Control Strategy that was started in July 2022, to tailor interventions and activities at global and regional levels and to support Members with meeting the goal of the strategy by 2027. The review is also taking into account other evaluations, such as the evaluation of the SEACFMD Campaign (1997-2020) that was carried out in 2022. The outcomes of the review are expected to contribute to the updating of work plans and enable the Global Coordination Committee on FMD (GCC-FMD) to target critical areas going forward.

WOAHA has developed six new digital communication materials to raise awareness among key stakeholders, such as traders, veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals, and farming communities. The materials can be found [here](#). They provide practical recommendations and guidance for preventing the spread of FMD from one animal to another.

1.4.2.4 *Peste des petits ruminants*

In 2022, WOAHA and FAO continued their collaboration under the GF-TADs umbrella for the implementation of the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy ([PPR GCES](#)), supporting all partners involved in the different regions.

A joint FAO/WOAH Core Expert Team reviewed the experiences from the first five-year PPR Global Eradication Programme (GEP) and completed formulation of its second and third phases (2022–2030) to eradication, referred to as the “GEP Blueprint”. The revision took into consideration the lessons learnt during the first phase of the PPR GEP, provided solutions for the major gaps identified and strategies to address them, and priority activities to be undertaken in the GEP Blueprint, which was launched in November 2022. Following the launch of the GEP Blueprint, work was started with partners in Africa to align the Pan-African PPR strategy with the GEP Blueprint.

Regional/epizone meetings provided opportunities to support Members in their PPR control activities and to assess and document Members’ progression along the four-stage process towards PPR eradication. Three PVS missions with a PPR-specific component were conducted in 2022, for Cameroon (including rabies), Sierra Leone, and Côte d’Ivoire. The PVS reports link to the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT) as it provides objective field verification of PMAT staging with targeted recommendations that feed into the National Strategic Plans (NSPs). WOAHO will continue to support Members with the elaboration of their PPR control and eradication plans and provide training on WOAHO procedures for applying for official recognition of PPR free status.

Consultations at the global level were also organised during the fifth PPR Global Research and Expertise Network meeting, held in December 2022. The meeting proposed priority research interventions to support the implementation of the GEP Blueprint.

To further refine the revised PMAT, the tool was presented to the Members for consultation in various regions and epizones as well as during the stakeholder workshop for the presentation and review of the revised PMAT. The work on the revised PMAT has been finalised and discussions are underway with WOAHO’s Capacity-Building Department and FAO’s Virtual Learning Centres for the development of a tutorial to support its utilisation by target Members and partners.

The WOAHO Reference Laboratory Network for PPR held its [second workshop](#) in December 2022. The workshop discussed the activities and purposes of the network and how it could be improved to benefit all members. The network’s secretariat is managed by the three WOAHO Reference Laboratories (CIRAD, The Pirbright Institute, and China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center) has a dedicated [website](#) and produced the [first newsletter](#) in September 2022. The network’s membership is composed of 21 laboratories and is open to all laboratories actively engaged in PPR diagnostics.

The Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project (PRAPS) continued to provide technical support to its beneficiary Members in the Sahel. All the programming models of the national strategic plans for the control and eradication of PPR were updated in the PRAPS beneficiary Members as part of the restructuring of PRAPS-2 and its results framework. The PRAPS-2 Members have adopted good vaccination practices, as measured by composite intermediate indicators including, among others, sero-monitoring, quality control of vaccines from the field, purchase of Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC)-certified vaccines, sensitisation, and supervision. All PRAPS beneficiary Members have new updated simulation models on which the PRAPS-2 results framework has been aligned for the period 2022 to 2027. It is expected that a good vaccination/immunity rate will be achieved, including through the adoption of multi-annual sero-monitoring protocols and a data analysis tool for vaccination campaigns against PPR and CBPP.

WOAH has developed several communication materials to raise awareness among its Members, veterinarians and paraprofessionals, and concerned citizens, by informing them about the disease and promoting the use of vaccines against its spread. These materials notably include infographics on diagnosis, vaccination, and the [WOAH vaccine bank mechanism](#).

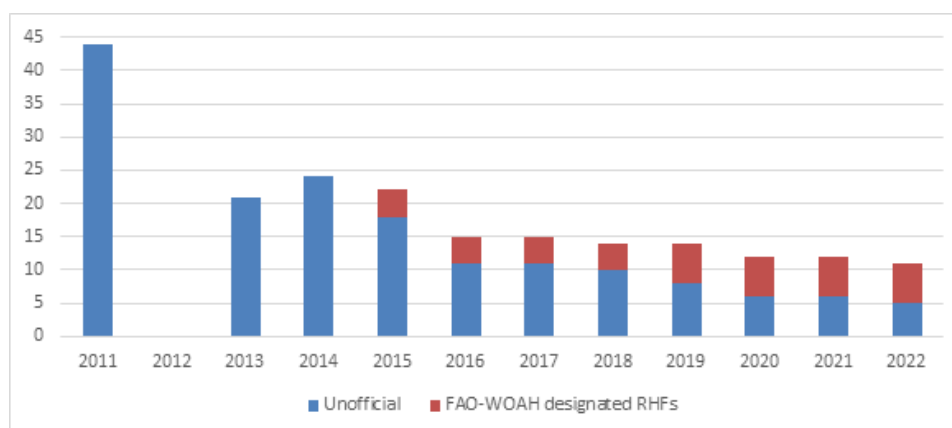
In 2022, in collaboration with FAO, the Organisation published [Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Eradication Programme II & III: Overview of the plan of action](#).

1.4.2.5 *Rinderpest Post-eradication*

In June 2022, the 11th anniversary of the declaration of global rinderpest freedom was celebrated. The continuous advocacy efforts made jointly by FAO and WOAHO have resulted in a significant reduction in global rinderpest stocks over the past 11 years. Figure 10 shows that whereas 44 WOAHO Members held rinderpest virus-containing materials (RVCM) in 2013, only 11 WOAHO Members held RVCM as of 2022. In 2022, Vietnam destroyed its rinderpest virus holdings with the assistance of FAO and WOAHO. Of the 11 remaining countries, six were countries where FAO-WOAHO-designated Rinderpest Holding Facilities were located. A risk assessment commissioned by WOAHO regarding rinderpest re-emergence 10 years after eradication was published in 2022 (Kim *et al.*, no date; Budke *et al.*, 2022). The assessment found that the risk of rinderpest re-introduction had decreased compared to the previous estimation in 2012 but still had a high level of uncertainty. The risk of re-introduction could be further reduced by continuing the efforts to relocate and destroy virus stocks, to limit their use, and to restrict the production and storage of vaccine stocks. The risk assessment project concluded that even with such measures, the maximum risk is unlikely to become negligible, and ensuring commensurate response preparedness therefore remained important.

To further strengthen the governance of rinderpest post-eradication activities, GF-TADS has been engaged to play an oversight function.

Fig. 10: Number of WOAHO Members known to hold rinderpest virus-containing material



1.4.2.6 *Registration of diagnostic kits*

Since the adoption of Resolution No. XXIX at the 71st General Session in 2003, the WOAHO Secretariat for Registration of Diagnostic Kits (SRDK) has continued to pursue its regular activities on the validation and certification of diagnostic kits for infectious animal diseases, with the aim of providing Members with an informed and unbiased source of information about diagnostic kits. The register currently comprises 13 different diagnostic kits with capability for 10 different terrestrial and aquatic WOAHO-listed diseases, in contrast to the 117 different diseases currently listed by WOAHO. Furthermore, the WOAHO-registered test kits reflect a minor representation of the commercial tests available globally. For these main reasons,

the SRDK carried out a selective consultation work with different internal and external stakeholders, resulting in the identification of some leads to increase the value of WOA's role in the diagnostic space (i.e., ensuring minimal quality validation especially in low-regulatory capacity settings, facilitating the recognition process of certified kits in settings with regulatory capabilities, and catalysing dialogue among actors to enable regulatory harmonisation of diagnostic kits). Summarized in an internal concept note, all these leads will be further explored during 2023.

1.4.3 Animal welfare strategy

The WOA's Global Animal Welfare Strategy, adopted by the Assembly in 2017, continues to provide guidance for WOA's activities in the field of animal welfare. The work programme for 2022–2023 includes nine activities under the four strategic pillars of the Strategy, as developed below.

Detailed information about WOA's animal welfare activities is available [online](#).

- *Development of animal welfare chapters for the Terrestrial Code*

The *ad hoc* Group on the revision of Chapter 7.5. Slaughter of animals and Chapter 7.6. Killing of animals for disease control purposes met on two occasions to consider Member comments received on a revised draft Chapter 7.5. and to progress work on the revision of Chapter 7.6. For more details, refer to the [reports](#) of the Code Commission available online.

Work commenced on the drafting of guidance documents to support Members in the implementation of recommendations in Chapters 7.2. Transport of animals by sea and Chapter 7.3. Transport of animals by land, in collaboration with WOA's Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres.

WOA continued its collaboration with the International Air Transport Association (IATA), an international organisation having a cooperation agreement with WOA, to explore ways to collaborate on the revision of Chapter 7.4. Transport of animals by air, given the critical role of IATA in transporting animals by air.

- *Implementation of animal welfare standards and policies*

Regional Animal Welfare Strategies in three WOA's Regions, namely the Americas, the Middle East and the Asia, the Far East and Oceania, began the process of reviewing their respective Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS). This included reviewing its contents, updating the actions plans, and reviewing the composition of their governance bodies.

The RAWS for Europe, which is implemented through the WOA's Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, organised one regional and one multi-regional 'whole journey scenario' workshop focused on transport routes in Europe and the Middle East to support Members in improving animal welfare and ensuring compliance with Chapters 7.2. and 7.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

- *Capacity-building and education-related activities*

In collaboration with the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW) and the WOA's Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis: the David Bayvel Consortium in the Asia, Far East and Pacific Region, WOA's Headquarters, together with the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, coordinated the development of a Training of Trainers project in South-East Asia for the implementation of *Terrestrial Code* Chapters 7.13. Animal welfare and pig production systems and 7.6. Killing of animals for disease control purposes. This project also included the development of e-learning modules for animal welfare in pig production systems aligned with recommendations in Chapters 7.13. and 7.6. and the development of a Public-Private Partnership Tool in relation to pig production systems.

A concept note for the establishment of a new Animal Welfare Network for all relevant WOAHA Collaborating Centres was developed and work will continue in the coming years. The objectives of this network are: to develop better collaboration and coordination between the animal welfare Collaborating Centres; to support WOAHA from a global perspective; to contribute to the development and review of WOAHA animal welfare standards and provide support for their implementation; and to enable gaps to be filled in the scientific expertise of Collaborating Centres in the different regions.

A new mechanism to strengthen engagement with WOAHA national Focal Points for Animal Welfare was developed and implemented with the convening of two “Information Flash Meetings”, in April and November 2022. The objective of these webinars was to provide Focal Points with relevant information about standard-setting work on animal welfare undertaken during the February and September meetings of the Code Commission. A significant number of these Focal Points attended these webinars and appreciated this initiative.

- *Animal Welfare Global Forum*

The fourth [WOAHA Animal Welfare Global Forum](#) was held virtually in October 2022 and brought together representatives from the global animal welfare community to discuss the year’s chosen topic for the Forum: “Animal Welfare Economics”. Approximately 100 participants, including national Focal Points, international organisations having cooperation agreements with WOAHA, WOAHA Delegates and experts, connected to the event during the plenary session and breakout group sessions.

The Forum provided a platform to discuss the costs and benefits of implementing animal welfare policies, and methods to evaluate policies that may impact animal welfare and productivity. This event was convened in collaboration with the GBADs project, which is also working to identify empirical evidence to include animal welfare in the animal health envelope in GBADs analytical structure.

- *Advocacy and Communication*

Some of the communications tools have been overhauled, to reiterate the importance of implementing WOAHA’s standards and guidelines on animal welfare (see the dedicated [infographic](#)). Some communications were made on the occasion of World Donkey Day across WOAHA’s different channels.

1.4.4 Aquatic Animal Health Strategy

The first [WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Strategy](#) (AAHS) was launched in 2021 at the 88th General Session. The AAHS is a four-year strategy (2021–2025) which aims to improve aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide, thereby contributing to sustainable economic growth, poverty alleviation and food security, and supporting the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Strategy addresses the highest priority needs in aquatic animal health and focuses resources on activities that will provide enduring impacts. Through 23 activities, the AAHS is guiding actions to strengthen four areas: Standards, Capacity building, Resilience, and Leadership.

Since the launch of the Strategy, the internal strategy committee has established a governance structure; furthermore, project leads have been appointed and project plans developed for each activity. To 31 December 2022, 14 of the 23 activities have commenced, with many of the remaining activities scheduled to commence in 2023. Highlights and achievements for 2022 included:

▪ Identifying barriers to strengthen the Aquatic Animal Health Services of Members

A survey of WOA national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals was conducted to identify barriers to implementation of standards, transparency in disease reporting, and utilisation of the WOA PVS Pathway. Once the responses have been analysed, the next step will be to develop activities to address the findings and, in doing so, more effectively engage the WOA community.

▪ Regional networks for aquatic animal health to collaborate on matters of common interest

Aquatic animal health networks are being established in the Middle East (AQMENET), the Americas, and Africa, to assist Members with operationalising the AAHS to meet regional needs and strengthening collaboration to achieve a stronger global aquatic animal health system. The networks aim to support the development of Member's aquaculture sectors, through the prevention, early detection, and control of aquatic animal diseases. This follows the success of the Regional Collaboration Framework on Aquatic Animal Health in Asia and the Pacific created in 2019.

A number of regional projects are already contributing to the objectives and outcome identified in the AAHS, including:

- the development of an aquatic animal health surveillance strategy in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru;
 - [the collection and evaluation of existing guidelines and awareness materials on aquaculture biosecurity for small-scale farms in the Asia-Pacific Region](#);
 - [a project to collect material causing acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease \(AHPND\) and AHPND-like disease from the Asia-Pacific Region](#), evaluate existing test methods, and support the Aquatic Animals Commission's work on re-evaluating the definition of AHPND.
- Development of new and revision of existing WOA standards for aquatic animal health that address Members' needs

The Aquatic Animals Commission has supported the standard-setting process through the development and revision of WOA standards in the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* (see [section 1.2.2.4](#) for further details of this activity).

▪ Developing tools that support Members to manage the threat of AMR in the aquatic sector

A [Technical reference document listing antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance for aquatic species](#) was developed to complement the List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance.

The WOA ANIMUSE Global Database has been updated to include the sub-categorisation of aquatic animals, based on economically important groups of fish, crustaceans, and ornamental fish as a category of non-food producing animals. This will ensure collection of more refined AMU data for aquatic animals.

Additional information regarding the AAHS and other WOA aquatic animal health activities is available through the [Aquatic Animals Portal](#) on the WOA website.

1.4.5 Emergency management and preparedness

In 2022, WOA further strengthened its ability to support Members with preparing and responding to emergencies, whilst integrating emergency management into its core business. With the financial support of the Weapons Threat Reduction Program of Global Affairs Canada, WOA, FAO and INTERPOL continued to implement a joint project aimed at

building resilience against agro-crime and agro-terrorism. This project has been fostering cooperation between Law Enforcement Services and Veterinary Services at the animal health and security interface through expert groups, training workshops and simulation exercises.

In support of the project, WOAHA developed a [dedicated webpage](#) to describe the threats, while also highlighting interagency cooperation and the need for intersectoral collaborations in the face of agro-crime and agro-terrorism. An overarching web [page](#) was also published to address the importance of preparedness for emergencies.

In 2022, an [academic study assessing global vulnerabilities for agro-terrorism](#) was commissioned by WOAHA and undertaken by the WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Biological Threat Reduction. The study created and published details of a model that was tested using WOAHA data and data from other public sources to assess the risk of agro-terrorism.

In June 2022, WOAHA, in partnership with INTERPOL, delivered a workshop to explore disinformation and misinformation in animal health emergencies and commenced the development of guidelines that could be used by Veterinary Services and Law Enforcement Services to prevent, recognise, and tackle disinformation and misinformation.

WOAHA, in partnership with FAO, INTERPOL, EuFMD and the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases, continued to plan for an international agro-terrorism simulation exercise (“Exercise Phoenix”) due to be held in February 2023. The exercise will include players from North Africa, the Middle East, and South-East Asia, as well as WOAHA, FAO and INTERPOL. Activities of the project were planned to conclude with a WOAHA-hosted Global Conference on Emergency Management, to be held in Paris, France, on 3-5 April 2023, which would promote a multisectoral multi-hazard approach to the management of animal health emergencies.

WOAHA has continued to be a voice in the global dialogue on biological threat reduction through participation in meetings of the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (the [Global Partnership](#)), the Global Health Security Conference, and the Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention 9th Review Conference. WOAHA also formalised its relationship with INTERPOL through the signing of a cooperation agreement in March 2022.

With the financial support of the Weapons Threat Reduction Program of Global Affairs Canada, WOAHA has also embarked upon a new project to fortify institutional resilience against biological threats. This project is a key follow-up to the Technical Item “World Organisation for Animal Health, Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services engagement in global, regional and national emergency management systems”, presented at the 89th General Session. It is designed to address gaps identified during the COVID After Action Review by building an incident management system to support the response to international sanitary crises. Additionally, this project will enable WOAHA to support its Members, especially those in Africa, with building their emergency management capacity. This directly supports WOAHA’s continued contribution to the Africa Signature Initiative of the Global Partnership.

1.5. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

1.5.1 Scientific networks

1.5.5.1 WOAHA Science System

WOAHA’s science system has been functioning and evolving since WOAHA’s inception as the OIE in 1924. Governance of different aspects of the system is documented in WOAHA’s Basic Texts. These Texts broadly define WOAHA’s structure and procedures, including how Specialist Commissions, Working Groups, *ad hoc* Groups, and various experts function to help the Organisation to fulfil its mandates. However, to enhance confidence in WOAHA’s processes related to its core mandates, increase the associated understanding of Members

and other external stakeholders, and for business continuity within WOA, it is important that the science system be documented. This effort will serve as a basis for WOA to review the functioning of its science system to make sure its processes and procedures are fit-for-purpose, aligned with best practices, and optimised to support WOA's missions.

The specific objectives of the project are to: describe the structure and functioning of WOA's science system; consider its performance against WOA's strategic priorities; and identify opportunities for enhancement or improved alignment with the Seventh Strategic Plan. The first step (Phase 1) of this effort has been completed and included the examination of the science systems of several similar organisations and interviews of WOA internal stakeholders. The outcomes of Phase 1 have been drafted in a report for internal use for the time being. The second step (Phase 2) has been initiated and will complete the remaining interviews of external stakeholders. The third step (Phase 3) will consist of workshops to explore issues identified during the interviews as being inconsistent or unclear, to ensure that an accurate description of the science system is captured in the report. This work will serve as a reference document for an overarching initiative of the external review of the overall WOA Basic Texts undertaken by the Directorate General.

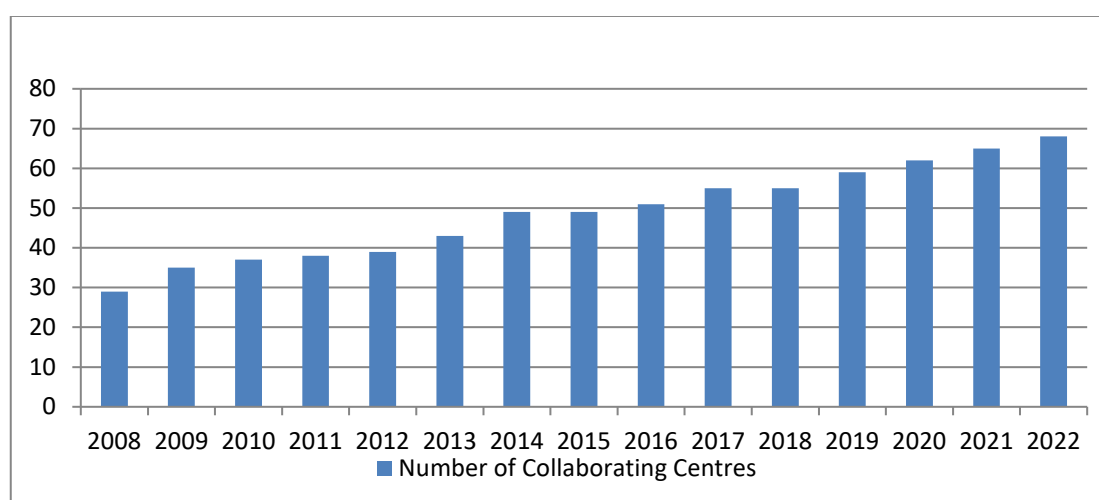
1.5.1.2 Collaborating Centres

In 2022, two Collaborating Centres were designated by the Assembly, bringing the total number of WOA Collaborating Centres to 68 (Fig. 11).

The following new WOA Collaborating Centres were approved:

- *Antimicrobial Stewardship in Aquaculture*, Laboratory of Veterinary Pharmacology (FARMAVET) and Laboratory of Food Safety (LIA) and Center for Research and Innovation in Aquaculture (CRIA), University of Chile, Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Region Metropolitana, Chile;
- *Camel Diseases*, Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority, Mohammed Bin Zayed City, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Fig. 11: Number of Collaborating Centres



The [list of WOA Collaborating Centres](#) is available online.

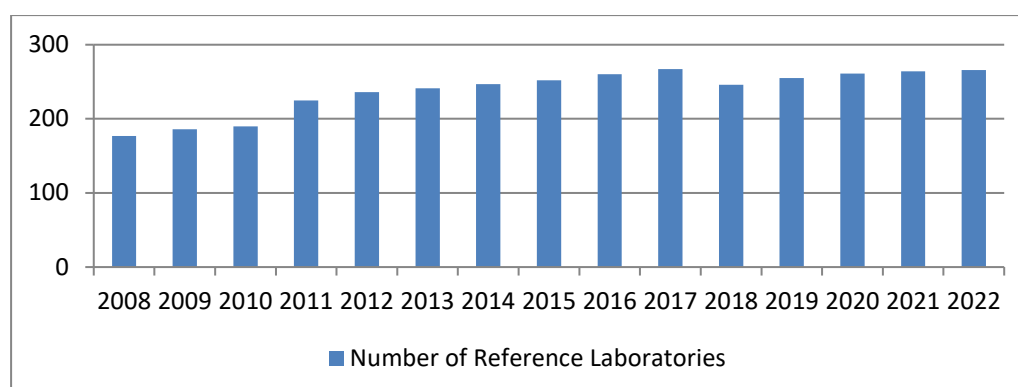
1.5.1.3 Reference Laboratories

In 2022, nine new applications for WOA Reference Laboratory status were adopted and seven Reference Laboratories withdrew from the list. This brought the total number of WOA Reference Laboratories to 266 (Fig. 12).

The following new WOA Reference Laboratories were approved:

- African swine fever, National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada;
- African swine fever, USDA, APHIS, VS, NVSL, Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Plum Island Animal Disease Center, Greenport, New York, United States of America;
- Avian mycoplasmosis (*Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *M. synoviae*), Avian Medicine Laboratory, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Buttapietra Verona, Italy;
- Bovine tuberculosis, National Veterinary Services Laboratories, USDA, APHIS, VS, Ames, Iowa, United States of America;
- Chronic wasting disease, National Veterinary Services Laboratories, USDA, APHIS, VS, Ames, Iowa, United States of America;
- New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*), Panama–United States Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm, Panama, Panama;
- Paratuberculosis, National Reference Centre for Paratuberculosis, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell’Emilia Romagna, Gariga di Podenzano, Piacenza, Italy;
- Rift Valley fever, Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), Campus international de Baillarguet, Montpellier, France;
- Decapod iridescent virus 1, Aquatic Medicine Laboratory, Biology Division of Animal Health Research Institute (AHRI), Council of Agriculture, Chinese Taipei.

Fig. 12: Number of Reference Laboratories



Note: In 2011, WOA Headquarters adopted a new way of counting Reference Laboratories. Previously, laboratories designated for a number of related diseases were counted as one laboratory; since 2011, each laboratory has been designated individually for a single disease and this partly accounts for the apparent large increase between 2010 and 2011.

The [list of WOA Reference Laboratories](#) is available online.

1.5.1.4 STAR-IDAZ IRC

The International Research Consortium for Animal Health (STAR-IDAZ IRC) has continued to play a leading role in global research coordination. In October 2022, the new Secretariat (SIRCAH2) was created and will support the consortium until April 2026. WOAHA remains actively involved in STAR-IDAZ IRC as a member of the Executive Committee and continues to co-host SIRCAH2, the scientific secretariat. WOAHA continues to provide scientific support to the network and its different working groups. In addition, WOAHA will lead the project work package dedicated to advocacy and international engagement aimed at increasing Members' engagement in STAR-IDAZ IRC.

In 2022, STAR-IDAZ IRC, facilitated networking among 29 partners and supported the activities of regional networks activities with the participation of research organisations from more than 50 countries around the globe, organising 12 online meetings and one physical meeting. These included three meetings of the Executive Committee and nine of the STAR-IDAZ regional networks (three for Africa, one for the Middle East, two for the Americas, two for Asia and Australasia, and two for Europe). These meetings allow research funders and programme owners to discuss research priorities for animal health, ongoing research projects, and joint actions. STAR-IDAZ welcomes additional funders and programme owners to the network.

Moreover, the Scientific Committee met twice, to discuss the activities and the results of the active working groups, which engage international experts, including WOAHA Reference Centres.

Currently, working group activities are focusing on enhancing networking among leading experts across the globe to carry out gap analyses, develop research roadmaps, and identify research priorities on the following agreed issues: animal influenza, coronaviruses, alternatives to antibiotics, ASF, FMD, bovine tuberculosis, mycoplasmas, vector-borne diseases, emerging issues, vaccinology, and One Health.

The latest publications released by STAR-IDAZ IRC include:

- [Map Existing Initiatives in Working Group Fields](#)
- [Research Roadmap Development for Alternatives to Antibiotics](#)
- [2022 African Swine Fever Virus Research Review](#)
- [ASF virus report summary & roadmaps](#)
- [Global Veterinary Vaccinology Research and Innovation Landscape Survey Report](#).

1.5.2 Other networks

▪ REMESA

The WOAHA Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa provides the co-secretariat of the Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA) and has facilitated the establishment of the operational Scientific and Technical Office of REMESA (STOR) based at Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia, Palermo, Italy. STOR is responsible for supporting the development and implementation of technical projects and activities. The STOR work plan for 2023 was developed and presented at the 25th REMESA meeting in December 2022. Vaccination against HPAI, animal welfare during transport, and the importance of animal health in a One Health approach regarding the negotiation of the future pandemic treaty were the key issues discussed. WOAHA will continue to follow up the implementation of the REMESA (STOR) work plan in collaboration with the REMESA co-secretariat.

- AQMENET

WOAH's Aquatic Middle East Network (AQMENET) was officially launched in Saudi Arabia in November 2022. In 2023, the network will set its strategic direction with the first meeting of the Steering Committee and will develop its work plan with the support of a technical committee. AQMENET is an important mechanism, aligned with WOA's Aquatic Animal Health Strategy, that will support the development of the region's aquaculture industry by providing state-of-the-art knowledge on aquatic animal disease prevention, early detection and control, diagnostics, surveillance, and AMR/AMU.

- CAMENET

The 4th meeting of Camel Middle East Network (CAMENET) Steering committee was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in November 2022. The Steering Committee was relaunched and adopted its updated concept note, the main thrust of which was to revitalise the work of this strategic network in the Middle East. The network will, among other actions, follow up the recommendations of the WOA *ad hoc* Group for camel diseases, including developing tests and vaccines and building a network of laboratories for diseases of camelids to better understand and control these diseases while taking into consideration global market trends and the demand for live camels and their products and subsequent risks of TADs and zoonotic camelid diseases. As the hosting institute, the new WOA Collaborating Centre for Camel Diseases – the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) laboratory – will be pivotal for the management of CAMENET and the support provided to WOA Members.

- WOAH/FAO Reference Laboratory Network for FMD

The purpose of the WOA/FAO Reference Laboratory Network for FMD is to make available accurate and timely data to support global surveillance and control of FMD through, among others, understanding global FMD virus distribution and patterns in order to identify threats and make vaccine recommendations, improving the quality of laboratory tests, and building capability in support of regional FMD control programmes.

The Network, in accordance with the mandate given to it in the Global FMD Control Strategy, supports all the FMD regional roadmap meetings by providing information on vaccine matching and selection, proficiency testing schemes, and samples shipment. Updates to the WOA Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases are provided annually. The Network meets once a year and, at its December 2022 meeting, it expressed concern that fewer FMD diagnostic samples were being submitted to Reference Laboratories, noting that this was having adverse effects on vaccine research and development, among others.

1.5.3 Technical partnerships

- **Asia Pacific Cities Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT)**

In 2022, WOA started a new collaboration with the Asia Pacific Cities Alliance for Health and Development (APCAT) with the aim of better involving and engaging the provincial level in WOA activities. This is particularly relevant for rabies. The multisectoral partnership in One Health rabies prevention, organised in Bali, Indonesia, on 7 July 2022, was an initial, key step in this new approach, building on collaboration with local authorities.

- **Codex Alimentarius Commission**

WOA and the Codex Alimentarius Commission regularly participate in each other's standard-setting activities, as relevant, to ensure an integrated approach to standard setting for the entire food chain. In 2022, WOA contributed to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, including several electronic working groups.

- **European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD)**

WOAH continues to collaborate with the EuFMD on support to Members in implementation of the Global FMD Control strategy and relevant training using the roadmap approach. WOA's observer status in the EuFMD Executive Committee places the Organisation in a position to make recommendations on the EuFMD work programme with a view to improving its impact and ensuring that Members needs are supported. In 2022, the collaboration was strengthened by utilising the PCP-FMD Support Officer (PSO) system to support Members in developing their national strategic plans and Members will continue to benefit from the shared strengths of WOA's technical expertise and EuFMD's e-learning platforms (Virtual Learning Centres).

- **International Horse Sports Confederation**

WOAH is engaged in a public-private partnership through an agreement with the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC) to support the safe international movement of sports horses for competitions. Several activities are carried out and coordinated under this partnership to support the update of relevant standards and to increase communication and awareness. In 2022, three WOA-IHSC technical committee meetings were conducted to follow up on the progress made on projects related to equine diseases (i.e., AHS and equine herpesvirus vaccines and glanders tests. Experts from WOA Reference Laboratories for surra, dourine, and glanders were also invited to attend the technical committee meetings to discuss diagnostic capabilities, and the challenges and potential solutions to further promote proficiency tests between national laboratories and WOA Reference Laboratories.

Furthermore, WOA facilitated meetings between IHSC representatives and the WOA Regional Representations for the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East and the Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa to follow up on the implementation of the joint WOA-IHSC regional roadmap activities and on the tools developed to facilitate international movements of sport horses: the high health, high performance (HHP) framework and the equine disease free zone (EDFZ) approach (e.g., EDFZ established for the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, People's Republic of China).

Moreover, two consultancies under the WOA-IHSC cooperation agreement were launched for a regional project in the Americas for developing a common protocol to facilitate intraregional movement of competition horses and implementing a health certificate based on the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Lastly, a consultancy project managed by the WOA Regional Representation in Tokyo, Japan, was also launched to support equine activities in the Asia and the Pacific Region. This project will contribute to the activities of this partnership for the facilitation of intraregional movements of competition horses and the development of a regional coordination mechanism among Members and other stakeholders for equine disease emergency preparedness and response.

- **World Customs Organization**

WOAH monitored relevant meetings of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in order to ensure cross-border collaboration between the WCO and sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting agencies at international and national levels. WOA also collaborated with WCO as part of its project on falsified and substandard veterinary medicinal products.

▪ **WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

In its capacity as an international organisation having observer status for meetings of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee), WOAHA participated in the 82nd, 83rd, and 84th regular meetings of the SPS Committee in 2022, as well as an SPS Transparency Champions Course in September 2022. WOAHA also participated in several of the thematic groups of the work programme of the SPS Declaration for the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference.

In its capacity as a founding partner of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), WOAHA participated in two STDF Working Group meetings in 2022, as well as a number of webinar events convened by the STDF. WOAHA also participated in the STDF Electronic Certification Advisory Committee and the STDF Public-Private Partnerships Practitioner Group in 2022.

2. OVERVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

2.1. INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE

2.1.1 Activities of the statutory bodies

2.1.1.1 *World Assembly of Delegates*

The 89th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) was held from 23 to 26 May 2022 in a semi-hybrid format. Key figures and outcomes, including the [Final Report](#), are available on the WOA website.

The decision to hold the General Session mainly virtually was taken by the WOA Council in coordination with the Director General in light of the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic at the time. This decision was facilitated by [Resolution No. 10](#) adopted by the Assembly at the 88th General Session. Consequently, while most of the participants attended remotely, the members of the WOA Council, the Presidents of the WOA Specialist Commissions, and the Presidents of the WOA Regional Commissions were invited to participate in person.

Building on the experience gained with the fully virtual General Session of 2021, the time allocated to each plenary session was optimised by sharing as much information as possible with WOA Members ahead of the General Session. A series of pre-General Session Information Webinars were held during the week beginning 11 April 2022 to inform WOA Members about the new and revised texts that would be proposed for adoption. During the period from 2 to 13 May 2022, WOA Delegates were invited to submit comments or positions on some of the General Session working documents and to indicate, in advance, their wish to take the floor during the General Session. Delegates were invited to do so through a dedicated page for Delegates on the General Session website. All comments posted during this period were made available to all Delegates ahead of the plenary sessions.

As was the case in 2021, WOA Delegates were invited to adopt some administrative and technical resolutions in advance of the General Session, from 16 to 23 May. A remote voting system was deployed to allow Delegates to securely cast their votes electronically and the results were divulged during relevant plenary sessions.

From 23 to 26 May, Delegates of 151 Members participated in the General Session, 11 of whom attended in person. Several Guests of Honour also participated in the Opening Session through pre-recorded video statements or live speech.

In addition to the reports of the Specialist Commissions and the adoption or revision of 70 international standards, Dr Matthew Stone (New Zealand) presented the Technical Item, which led to the adoption of a resolution providing the Organisation and its Members with guidance for addressing animal health-related emergency management at global, regional, and national level.

Among others, the General Session included technical and administrative sessions during which:

- the 2023 WOA Regular Budget, including a 15% increase of statutory contributions, was adopted by the Assembly;

- a resolution, recognising the importance of Veterinary Services, and more broadly the animal health sectors, in the development of the One Health international instrument for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response under development with WHO, was adopted;
- the Assembly approved the signing of a cooperation agreement with UNEP;
- the Assembly took note of the new graphical charter of the official logo of the Organisation, and of the common acronym ‘WOAH’;
- partial elections for filling vacancies on the Council and on some of the Regional Commissions were organised through a dedicated and secure remote electronic voting system overseen by an independent legal expert.

The semi-hybrid format of the General Session gave the Organisation an opportunity to gain experience in using this new modality to hold institutional meetings of such importance. The lessons learnt will serve to inform decisions for future institutional events.

2.1.1.2 Council

Under the Presidency of Dr Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay), the Council met three times in 2022: from 8 to 10 March (virtual meeting), from 19 to 20 May (face-to-face in Paris), and remotely again from 27 to 29 September. The September meeting was the opportunity to welcome Dr Fajer Al Salloom (Bahrain), who had been elected as the member representing the Middle East Region during the partial elections held at the 89th General Session. The position of member representing the Americas Region has been vacant since the September meeting and will be filled during the elections to take place during the 90th General Session, in May 2023.

During the March meeting, the Council supported the preparation of the semi-hybrid 89th General Session (2022), approved its agenda and administrative and technical working documents, and approved the modalities and practical arrangements designed to ensure its smooth running. Thanks to a thorough consultation with all the Regional Commissions in January 2022, the Council supported the proposal by the Director General for a 15% increase in Members’ statutory contributions.

At the meeting in May, the Council collaborated with the Director General on finalising the organisation of the General Session.

The September meeting focussed on WOAHA structuring initiatives, such as the Observatory, as well as on the implementation of the Seventh Strategic Plan for 2021–2025. Despite the adoption of the increase in statutory contributions, the sustainable financing of the regular budget was thoroughly discussed during this meeting. With a view to enhancing transparency, the Council approved the proposal by the Director General to publish the full minutes of Council meetings on the Delegates Portal.

WOAH regularly invited its Council members to engage with Members at regional level. In addition to participating in important events organised in their respective regions, in most cases remotely, the members of the Council were regularly in contact with the Delegates in their respective regions to prepare for and report on meetings of the Council and to consult them on relevant issues, notably on the occasion of Regional Core Group (RCG) meetings. These informal consultative meetings support WOAHA’s strategy implementation.

More information regarding the activities of the WOAHA Council can be found in document 90 SG/14.

2.1.1.3 Regional Commissions

The five WOAHA Regional Commissions are represented by their respective Bureaux, which are institutional elected bodies and key actors in the work of the Organisation. The Bureaux of the Regional Commissions act as a bridge between WOAHA and the Members of their respective regions. They exercise an advisory role by ensuring that regional needs are well communicated to and addressed by the Organisation. Details of their role and internal rules are available in their [terms of reference](#).

Regional Commissions meet every two years in a Conference format to discuss topics of regional interest. The year 2022 marked the resumption of face-to-face Regional Conferences with the successful organisation of the 30th Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe, in Palermo, Italy. The 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas was, however, organised virtually following a decision of the Regional Commission due to the sensitive situation in the Region at the time of the preparatory activities.

The two Conferences had an excellent level of attendance, with a total of 153 participants, comprising WOAHA Delegates and representatives of 40 Members of the Region and senior officers from 12 regional and international organisations participating face to face in the Europe Conference, and 113 participants from 29 Members and 13 regional and international organisations participating virtually in the Americas Conference.

Both Regional Conferences had a rich content agenda which prompted discussions among the participants, which, in the case of the Regional Commission for Europe allowed the development of two recommendations that will be presented to the World Assembly for adoption (Recommendation No. 1 on “long distance transport of live animals: WOAHA’s standards and best practices including societal perception and communication aspects”, and Recommendation No. 2 on HPAI and vaccination). In the case of the Regional Commission for the Americas, in view of its virtual format, no recommendations were developed; however, the Region had the opportunity to discuss, among others, the key role of the Bureau when it comes to acting as a bridge between WOAHA and the Members of the Americas. The Final Reports of the Conferences are available on the respective regional websites ([Europe](#) and [Americas](#)).

Lastly, in 2022, WOAHA also organised the meetings of the Regional Commissions during the 89th General Session, as is the case every year. These meetings, organised in a virtual format, provided an excellent opportunity for the Commissions to discuss internal issues, such as nominations for partial elections, selection of technical items, and activities planning, among others.

2.1.2 Activities of the Regional Core Groups

To better facilitate communication within the region and to better support the work of the Regional Commission, a Regional Core Group (RCG) was initially established as a mechanism of communication by the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, where proposals to formalise regional communication started in 2011. The Regional Commission for Europe subsequently adapted its own internal communication process (initially named Regional Task Force) with a similar approach and renamed it RCG in 2017. In a region, the RCG is composed primarily of the four members of a Regional Commission Bureau and the member(s) of the Council representing that region (in some regions, the RCG also includes additional observers).

In 2018, WOAHA developed guidelines based on the internal rules and operational processes of the RCGs of Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Europe. These guidelines served as a reference for Africa to start implementing the same communication mechanism in 2018, while the Middle East established its RCG in 2021 and the Americas Region, which had been

managing its internal communication in a similar way, officialised it as an RCG during its Regional Conference in 2022, in order to harmonise the concept in all the regions.

The main task of the RCG is to better link and coordinate the work of the Bureau, the Council, and WOA (at regional and Headquarters levels) in order to better address regional needs and facilitate regional inputs to the work of the Organisation.

Since the establishment of this mechanism, an improvement in intra-regional communication with the formalisation of the internal communication between the Members of the Bureau and the regional members of the Council has been noted. Members have become more actively involved in the development of the agendas for the meetings of their respective Regional Commission. Member engagement ensures that the topics included in the agendas are in line with regional needs and expectations. This mechanism also facilitates the prioritisation of activities to better support the work of the Regional Commission in alignment with WOA's Seventh Strategic Plan and regional needs, including facilitating the implementation of global strategies at regional level by making them better adapted to regional specificities. The Asia and the Pacific Region has even developed a regional work plan framework to better guide the work of the Regional Commission and its active participation in WOA activities. Moreover, the RCG has become a space for dialogue that enables Regional Commissions to prepare their participation in key events such as the General Session; facilitates discussions about topics of regional interest, including decisions taken at regional level, and the submission of proposals, requests, or feedback to WOA. The RCG also helps to strengthen relations among the regions, including with the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and WOA Headquarters, which ensures better coordinated and more inclusive work. It has also facilitated the dialogue within regions regarding the WOA standard-setting process and thereby sensitised Members of each region to participate more actively.

2.1.3 Relations with Members

The possibility of gradually resuming travel and the organisation of in-person meetings provided the opportunity for several meetings with Embassies as well as with Ministers and high-level delegations of Members visiting Paris.

In addition to the Conferences of the Regional Commissions, including the one for Europe held in Sardinia (Italy), the Director General visited the United Arab Emirates on the occasion of the World Veterinary Association (WVA) Annual Congress, Saudi Arabia for the launch of the AQMENET network, and Oman to participate in a ministerial meeting on antimicrobial resistance. She also travelled to Singapore for the opening of the 7th World One Health Congress, and to Australia to meet with high-level authorities and WOA's partners. Finally, she travelled to Canada at the end of the year on the occasion of COP15 on the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and also held high level meetings with governmental authorities. For their part, the Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives met with Members of their respective regions at events they organised in various countries.

Calls for Member's statutory financial contributions were sent out, as were reminders to those countries in arrears, while taking into account the various situations of Members in this respect. In 2022, one Member chose to contribute in contribution category 3 instead of category 1, and another Member was withdrawn from the list of least developed countries established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Four Members contributed in category A in 2022.

2.1.4 Agreements

The Organisation entered into Memoranda of Understanding respectively with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the UNEP.

In addition, the partner Organisations of the Tripartite and UNEP amended the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding, entered into in 2018, to include UNEP as an equal partner in Quadripartite cooperation.

2.2. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

2.2.1 Human Resources

In 2022, efforts were made to improve the implementation of a human resources policy based on efficiency, equity, and diversity, with the objective of ensuring the quality workforce needed for the proper deployment of the Organisation's activities.

▪ Workforce

In September 2022, the Human Resources Unit, in collaboration with the Budget Unit, initiated a process to anticipate the Organisation's workforce requirements for the years 2023 and 2024.

As of 31 December 2022, the Organisation had 255 staff members, of whom 165 (65%) were working at Headquarters and 90 (35%) in the Regional or Sub-Regional Representations. Seventy-three nationalities were represented among WOAHA staff, 56 at Headquarters and 35 in the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. Women made up a slight majority of WOAHA's overall staff, representing 55% in total; 75% of female staff were working at Headquarters and 25% were working in the Regions. To promote equity within the Organisation a Gender Equity Plan has been implemented with the help of the Gender Task Force.

Regarding the source of funding of staff, the situation at 31 December 2022 was as follows: 49% of staff members were financed by the WOAHA General Budget, 42% by the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (the World Fund) and 9% were financed directly by Members through secondment agreements.

Between 31 December 2021 and 31 December 2022, the number of WOAHA staff thus increased from 230 to 255. The number of staff financed by the Regular Budget decreased slightly, from 126 in 2021 to 125 in 2022. In 2022, 55 recruitments were made. The staff turnover rate for the year was thus 18.47%.

Meetings with Staff Representatives were regularly scheduled for information and consultation on several issues: progress with the implementation of the new policy on regional health insurance; adaptation of the 'work from home' policy and energy-saving measures; impact of inflation and wage review, etc.

▪ Talent management

To further enhance the quality of WOAHA's workforce, capacity-building activities were provided in the following fields:

- Strengthening managerial skills (a pilot scheme involving 50% of the Heads of Department was launched);
- Improvement of organisational skills;
- Due to our multicultural nature: strengthening knowledge of WOAHA's three official languages;
- Diplomatic and institutional skills: workshop for WOAHA Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives (October 2022).

- *Quality of work life*

In 2022, with the aim of reducing psychosocial risks, WOAAH offered free counselling support and referral to any employee in need of emotional support through a portal provided by an external service provider.

A medical care access policy for the staff of WOAAH Representations staff has been implemented since 1 May 2022. This policy aims to ensure that all staff members are affiliated to a health insurance scheme and have access to health care, with the Organisation covering a percentage of the related expenses, a benefit that had previously only been available to Headquarters staff.

As recommended by the External Auditor, an actuarial study was undertaken for both the Headquarters' and Representations' staff pension funds.- A call for proposals was drafted and published at the end of 2022, and three service providers submitted a proposal. The study was carried out in first quarter of 2023 (conclusions not known at the time of writing this report).

2.2.2 Gender

While WOAAH's Seventh Strategic Plan identifies gender as a 'value' of the Organisation, WOAAH does not yet have a strategy in place to transform this value into policy and practice. To increase its commitment to considering the role of gender across its operations and programmes, WOAAH launched a Gender Task Force (GTF) in October 2021. The GTF's goal is to oversee the development of a WOAAH strategy on gender for incorporation into the next strategic planning cycle. Ultimately, the GTF aims to create a shift in awareness and focus on the relevance of gender in WOAAH's mandate and accompany its implementation in WOAAH's work beyond 2025, including in policies, planning, and practice. While the GTF is focused on the role of gender in WOAAH's projects, programmes, and support to Members, it also maintains a link with the WOAAH Human Resources Unit to ensure coherence in terms of policies related to WOAAH staff (e.g. Gender Equity Plan).

The GTF is made up of 25 WOAAH staff members, comprising 16 (64%) from Headquarters and nine (36%) from Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. GTF members volunteered to participate in the group based on their interest in the topic and a commitment on the part of Management to support staff members' involvement. The GTF is composed of 17 female (68%) and eight male (32%) staff members. The group holds plenary meetings on a quarterly basis while the various workstreams meet more regularly to plan and coordinate thematic activities. The GTF has received in-kind support from several external experts and seeks to build on experiences and insights available through its network of resource and technical partners.

Initial activities of the GTF in 2022 included (i) identifying the current status of interest and knowledge related to gender issues amongst WOAAH staff and programmes via an all-staff survey, (ii) development of a work plan orienting the GTF's work around seven objectives, (iii) building awareness through various communications, (iv) mapping gender-related initiatives of other, similar organisations, and (v) identifying staff training needs. WOAAH also launched several dedicated calls for consultancies related to different themes (gender in animal health emergencies; gender analysis in South-East Asia; gender analysis in West Africa), which are expected to bring new insights in 2023.

In the coming year, the GTF will launch more proactive consultations with Members related to gender, roll out training opportunities for staff, review gender and data integration, and share insights from the activities underway.

2.2.3 General Services

WOAH provides permanent support for the Headquarters' teams to ensure the smooth running of activities through the following: ensuring safe and secure working conditions for all WOAHA agents; maintenance and property management for the two Headquarters' buildings; monitoring of insurance coverage (excluding staff health insurance); management of mail and supplies; facilitation of visa applications; physical archiving and digitalisation; and creating and updating the WOAHA inventory (in line with a recommendation by the External Auditor).

Following the implementation of 'work from home' policies and the continuous growth of the WOAHA workforce, the Organisation had had to respond to a new challenge, namely the reorganisation and optimisation of workspaces. To that end, Headquarters' Departments and Units have been relocated to rationalise the use of office space and allow better interaction between the teams based on their field of activities. Two new meeting rooms have been created as well as 10 virtual meeting booths.

WOAH is following up a real estate project evaluation and has been working on a valuation study of the WOAHA's property assets thanks to earmarked funds allocated by France as host country for the Headquarters of the Organisation.

The Organisation is also working on establishing a common normative reference framework in terms of safety and security for the Headquarters and regional and sub-regional offices. Safety and security procedures in the event of an office having to operate in a degraded climate were elaborated and shared with the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, which included safety and security training and first aid training, the first of which was carried out in Bamako, Mali.

In view of the energy crisis, a plan for reducing the cost of energy (electricity and fuel) for wintertime was put in place in December 2022 and is expected to remain in place until the end of March 2023.

2.2.4 Information systems

In 2022, WOAHA engaged in setting up its data-centric architecture, delivered some key projects linked to the digital transformation of the Organisation, and maintained a high level of support and training for its staff.

A major effort was undertaken to improve the prioritisation and planning of IT projects in the light of the Seventh Strategic Plan, with the optimisation of the IT portfolio project management process.

WOAH has delivered two main projects as part of the digital transformation programme: ANIMUSE and the new CRM (Customer Relationship Management system) allowing stakeholders' access to WOAHA applications to be centralised with a single identification and password. In addition, the Delegate and GFTAD's portals have been developed and delivered. Lastly, improvements have been made to the features of the initial notification and follow-up reports in WAHIS and to the system's public interface. These IT innovations have enhanced both the technical and administrative activities between WOAHA and its Members.

WOAH is currently working transversally to define its IT project delivery model (including the IT project management methodology, new roles to support needs definition, project development and roll out); the deployment is planned for completion by the end of 2023.

In addition, some technical projects were delivered to support:

- the new branding of the Organisation;
- the need to build comprehensive dashboards (deployment of the Power BI platform, used for example to develop the Observatory annual report).

WOAH's IT security systems are also now under full control, with no major incident reported in 2022.

2.2.5 Coordination of events

While continuing the changes initiated in 2020 and 2021 to adapt to the health context and deliver events in a fully virtual or hybrid mode, the Events Coordination Unit, which includes an "events" and a "travel" cell, has resumed support for the organisation of face-to-face events, using an approach that is nonetheless different from that which existed before the pandemic.

Indeed, based on the fact that virtual events still represent more than half of the events organised by WOAAH and that most events are organised at regional level, the decision was taken to rely even more heavily on the regional and sub-regional offices, which now have greater autonomy in this respect. This has made it possible to maintain a wide range of institutional, technical, and capacity-building events to meet the needs of Members in all regions.

The 89th General Session was successfully held from 23 to 26 May 2022, and was for the first time in a hybrid format. The experience thus gained means that the Organisation now has a full range of expertise from fully face-to-face to fully virtual events. The feedback from the 89th General Session has led the Organisation to favour an entirely face-to-face and webcast format for future General Sessions and the recruitment of an external service provider specialised in events coordination, and having the capacity to integrate the various functions necessary for the smooth running of this type of high-level event (registration management system, technical control, provision of temporary staff, logistical support for the reception and accommodation of participants, etc.).

With regard to the travel cell, 2022 saw an increase in activity, with the number of journeys managed rising to almost 1000, compared to the annual figure of 2600 before the start of the pandemic. Discussions are underway to optimise the size of the team, introduce competitive bidding among travel agencies and to select those offering the best value for money in order to manage travel costs as effectively as possible.

2.2.6 Communication

WOAH reached the end of its second year of implementing the new internal communication vision, progressing on or completing all of the key areas. The work accomplished represents a significant overhaul of the communication work at the Organisation.

Progress on WOAAH's growth and interaction with audiences has been substantial. Indeed, 2022 saw a year of successfully engaging audiences through the development and dissemination of tailored materials on priority topics such as AMR, rabies, avian influenza, and others, serving both technical and non-technical audiences with fact sheets, infographics, videos and other visual campaign materials. Through state-of-the-art digital outreach strategies, the campaigns and content pieces were made equally available for printing, and delivered across digital platforms, as well as to the media. For instance, the Organisation's avian influenza work and data were featured in over 40 articles, including global prestigious outlets such as The Daily Telegraph, The Guardian, and the New York Times – a first in the Organisation's history, which has suffered from a lack of media recognition and coverage, as outlined in a 2019 media analysis.

WOAH's capacity to reach new audiences was further enhanced in 2022 through continued (and significant) growth of social media accounts. For instance, the Twitter account increased its followers from 18 000 to 250 000, boosting the Organisation's footprint over the last two years. In addition, new Twitter accounts have been created in each region, and the Director General's Twitter account continues to enjoy steady growth, reaching peers and experts both within and beyond WOA's network. The Members' Twitter channel remains an important outlet for more technical information shared with Delegates and other technical audiences. WOA has recently been receiving close to a quarter of "share of voice" on animal health online coverage compared with its peers, including FAO, UNEP, and WHO.

A One Health communication lens has been consistently applied on WOA's main priorities and critical issues when appropriate. As a result, during some weeks, the Organisation has dominated the One Health digital communication voice versus its peers and partners such as FAO, WHO, and UNEP. Significant time and production effort was invested in the coordination of Quadripartite communication activities, liaising closely with internal teams and partners.

While simultaneously handling all topical communication work, the rebranding was implemented consistently, timely and successfully for all large components. Extremely comprehensive branding guidelines were created, and workshops and many dedicated meetings were held at global and regional level ahead of and after the General Session. Global and regional websites, social media channels and communication materials were revamped for the official launch. An extensive rebranding campaign was initiated, reaching diverse audience segments. The Communication Department ensured that the new brand narrative was reflected across topics and that content types were diversified from launch date onwards.

Effort has been invested in the continued overhaul of the website's content to accelerate its upgrade and consistency.

A new web editorial project to support the development of consistent, user-friendly content and reflect the new brand narrative was launched in 2022. It will also allow for the development of a new web editorial strategy and editorial guidelines.

To match the increased communication needs created by the rebranding within the Organisation, a transversal effort was undertaken to finalise a framework contract with eight service providers to facilitate the procurement of communication production and products.

Finally, planning ahead of the Organisation's 100th anniversary emerged as a priority to pursue in 2023. A working group has been set up to develop an inclusive strategic approach for this centenary campaign and series of events.

2.2.7 Legal Affairs

The Legal Affairs Unit plays an important role in ensuring the legal framework of the Organisation's operations and advises the Office of the Director General and all departments/units on a wide range of operational and governance matters, primarily in connection with complex contracts, litigation, procurement, and relationship with Members and partners. Legal advice is also provided on issues relating to the Organisation's Basic Texts, privileges and immunities, and other institutional matters. For instance, the diplomatic agreement with the United Arab Emirates Authorities concerning the WOA Representation established in Abu Dhabi has been the subject of several exchanges with a view to its finalisation; the agreement should be signed in 2023.

Among the key events in 2022, the Legal Affairs Unit contributed to several key matters, ranging from the management of the legal aspects of the rebranding exercise to the finalisation of the documentation allowing the launch of the AMR Partnership Platform. In particular, the Organisation was positively evaluated in 2022 for three new pillars in the context of the EU Pillar Assessment, one of which was a pillar on the protection of personal data and for which the Legal Affairs Unit played a very active role.

2.2.8 Performance Management and Internal control

In 2022, WOAHA made further progress on putting in place approaches leading to the overall improvement of its performance and the implementation of risk control initiatives at both operational and organisational levels (harmonised reporting, automated/streamlined processes, risk identification and mitigation, and internal communication).

2.2.8.1. Performance management

In 2022, the Organisation enhanced the overall modalities of reporting and follow-up of the Seventh Strategic Plan at both Headquarters and Regional level. This resulted in more precise prioritisation and reporting of key activities, taking into account the “whole of the Organisation” nature of the Strategic Plan. More information on the approaches to the implementation of the Strategic Plan is available in section 3 below.

▪ Internal control

In 2022, the internal control system was relaunched and strengthened:

- Updating of the risk map with a reassessment of the risks in collaboration with the teams concerned;
- Relaunch of the Audit Committee in June 2022, with new members to extend its coverage to all the main processes of the Organisation;
- Identification of six priority risks and development and monitoring of action plans to control each of these priority risks with the relevant risk holder;
- Implementation of an incident reporting and management system;
- Implementation of the recommendations of the external audit on information transparency carried out in 2021 at the request of the European Commission (exclusion from access to funding, publication of information on recipients and other information, and protection of personal data), which in 2022 included:
 - the acquisition by WOAHA of a tool to verify bidders (international database) to ensure their integrity; and
 - the implementation of an annual training and knowledge check on data protection for all staff.

▪ Change management and internal communication

To ensure better support for the various teams and put in place all the conditions necessary to improve performance and risk management, internal communication mechanisms and a professional change management approach were initiated.

In order to strengthen the internal control environment and improve the knowledge of the various teams on the rules and procedures in place, a new Intranet portal accessible to staff at Headquarters and in the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations was developed. This has helped to strengthen the working community, reinforce internal communication within Headquarters and between Headquarters and the regional offices, facilitate searches for documents and streamline the dissemination of information.

▪ Professionalising change management

To support the transformations within WOAHA and as part of the implementation of the Seventh Strategic Plan, a workshop led by an external service provider was organised in 2022 to improve the way change is perceived and managed, by presenting techniques and advice that will be progressively integrated into WOAHA working methods.

▪ *Digital transformation for performance and risk management*

Digitalisation goes beyond the various IT tools made available to Members (WAHIS, ANIMUSE, etc.). In 2022, the performance of WOAHA has been improved thanks to the automation of some processes, leading to a more agile and efficient Organisation. For example, a new process was automated for the internal validation workflow of the working documents for the General Session, thereby improving the quality of the reports provided to the Members.

In parallel, since April 2022, WOAHA has been provided with an electronic signature tool (Adobe Sign) in order to strengthen security on digitised regulatory documents, starting with contracts for amounts exceeding €100 000.

2.2.8.2 Regional and Sub-Regional Representation business model

Following the publication of the two key documents regarding: 1) the clarification of the Terms of Reference of the WOAHA Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, and 2) the Terms of Reference of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives, work relating to the revision of the business model of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations continued in 2022, to put in place the best conditions for the regional offices to better execute their work. In this connection, a special working groups session during the Annual Meeting of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives reviewed their activities to improve their strategic planning with a view to ensuring that WOAHA responds to Members needs and to the Organisation's mission and objectives. In addition, Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives received training on institutional and diplomatic skills (first cycle), to help them to fulfil their roles and responsibilities effectively.

Finally, to address one of the main risks identified by the audit committee put in place following the two internal audits that took place in 2019 in the regions, namely the issue of regional and sub-regional offices' non-compliance with the administrative rules of the Organisation, and as part of the revision of the business model, WOAHA started work on revising the manual of procedures of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. In 2022, this work began by mapping the existing procedures, so as to identify where potential new procedures were needed and where existing procedures needed to be updated.

2.3. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

2.3.1 Budget and financial management

In 2022, in collaboration with the Council, WOAHA undertook a budgetary dialogue with its Members to increase transparency and understanding of its budget and financial management. This process included disseminating a note "Request to increase statutory contributions for a sustainable and balanced Regular Budget" to all Members in January and organising meetings with WOAHA Regional Core Groups to explain the Organisation's budgetary stress and emphasise the efforts being made to maintain budgetary discipline, and to address questions. In parallel, WOAHA significantly revised the reporting structure of all its financial documents (89 SG/4 Financial Report; 89 SG/5 2022 Budget; 89 SG/6 2023 Programme of Work, Budget Estimates and Proposed Contributions Scale). The principal changes include:

- establishing key financial performance indicators (Regular Budget and World Fund);
- providing greater granularity and more detailed explanation of the use of funds received;
- revising WOAHA's budgetary structure (as of 2023) to align with the reporting structure of the SG/1 report;
- developing a costed Programme of Work integrating all sources of income.

These measures will enable WOAAH and its Members to better track, monitor, and report on consolidated financial performance and trends and to demonstrate value for money by matching Member priorities and financial needs.

2.3.2 Budget funding and implementation in 2022

WOAH makes use of all sources of funds provided through Members' statutory contributions, voluntary contributions from Members and other resource partners, and additional sources of revenue in order to implement the work programme and the Seventh Strategic Plan.

In 2022, the Organisation's budgetary framework comprised three components, each using a specific budgetary structure: Regular Budget, World Animal Health and Welfare Fund Estimates, and Regional and Sub-Regional Representations' Estimates. WOAAH's financial performance in 2022 is summarised in Table 4. A detailed description of the Organisation's financial performance for the year, using the established indicators, is provided in document 90/SG/4.

Table 4: 2022 Financial performance overview

	Approved budget / Estimated budget	Actual Income	Actual expenditure	Funding distribution (%)
Regular Budget (RB)	18.48 M€	17.94 M€	17.84 M€	40%
World Fund (WF)	14.96 M€	24.44 M€	24.44 M€	55%
Regional and Sub-Regional Representations (funding from RB and WF excluded)	2,77 M€	2.19 M€	1.80 M€	5%

▪ Regular Budget

The Regular Budget principally comprises statutory contributions from Members to fund the work programme. These funds are the most flexible and predictable source of funding for the Organisation as they are the "dues" that Members pay. As they are fully flexible, statutory contributions can also finance enabling functions of the Organisation, usually not funded by resource partners.

In 2022, the recovery rate of statutory contributions and arrears was lower than in previous years (90% in 2022 versus 96% in 2021 and 92% in 2020).

Four Members contributed under Extraordinary Category A in 2022, but no Extraordinary Category B contributions were received. Extraordinary contributions provide an important funding margin, helping to minimise dependency on voluntary contributions, and allowing resources to be assigned and aligned with the Organisation's activities and strategic plans.

As of 31 December 2022, total Regular Budget income of 17.94 M€ exceeded total expenditure of 17.84 M€, resulting in a positive balance of 105 K€.

▪ World Animal Health and Welfare Fund

The World Fund is a multi-donor trust fund through which the Organisation collects voluntary contributions by entering into grant agreements with Members (in addition to their statutory contributions) as well as grants from international organisations, philanthropic foundations, the private sector, and other sources.

In 2022, WOAAH received 30.06 M€ voluntary contributions through the World Fund, a record year in terms of income received. This was complemented by 25 new grants signed for a total value of 25.56 M€. Total expenditure amounted to 24.4 M€, signalling a positive return to activity implementation and delivery.

In line with the Basic Texts, the Director General is assisted in managing the World Fund by a Management Committee and an Advisory Committee, which meet annually.

The 15th Meeting of the Management Committee was held at WOAHA Headquarters on 19 May 2022. Chaired by the WOAHA Past President, meeting participants included a member of the Council, the Director General and relevant WOAHA staff. The meeting discussed the World Fund's financial performance, WOAHA's financial sustainability, and approved the submission of the World Fund accounts included in the documents 89 SG/4 and 89 SG/5 to the Council for endorsement and subsequent adoption by the World Assembly (see 89 SG/4 and 89 SG/5, respectively).

The 17th Meeting of the Advisory Committee was held on 26 January 2023 and was chaired by Dr Hans Wyss, Delegate of Switzerland to WOAHA. The meeting updated resources partners on the World Fund's financial performance and outlined critical priorities for the future requiring investment.

2.3.3 2023 and 2024 Budget planning and implementation

In 2022, WOAHA put in place a structured internal budgetary process to develop the following documents: 90 SG/5 2023 Budget and 90 SG/6 2024 Programme of Work, Budget Estimates and Proposed Contributions Scale. The revised presentation is designed to provide the World Assembly with a more comprehensive understanding of Organisation's budget for financial years 2023 and 2024 and their associated work plan and facilitate the adoption of financial resolutions.

The budgetary process was guided by an internal note outlining strategic and budgetary orientations as well as instructions and a timeframe for developing a costed work programme as per the revised Budgetary Chapters in Resolution No. 6 adopted by the World Assembly during the 89th General Session.

The budget planning process was structured with the following objectives in mind: to improve internal understanding of the Organisation's financial situation, including limitations of the Regular Budget and increasing dependence on the World Fund; to enhance planning and coordination across WOAHA's teams; to establish a structured decision-making process for financial commitments; to position budgetary monitoring and reporting as a key element of management control and performance management dialogue; and, to ensure that financial reports submitted to Members are both thorough and on time.

In 2022, WOAHA also worked on improving a financial tool that to enable the Organisation to track and monitor its consolidated budget in real time.

2.3.4 Resource mobilisation

WOAHA's work programme and Strategic Plans can only be implemented thanks to its Members and resource partners who finance and support the Organisation in leading global efforts to improve animal health and welfare, thereby ensuring a better future for all.

Members have endorsed WOAHA beyond their annual commitment by increasing their voluntary contributions through the World Fund alongside other resource partners. Each year, voluntary contributions change, reflecting renewed and emerging needs and objectives. For the past three years, WOAHA has continued to surpass resource mobilisation expectations, reflecting an unprecedented corporate effort, an increasing interest in WOAHA's work and role, and continued donor confidence. In 2022, 25.3 M€ in voluntary contributions was mobilised for current and future work, an increase of 14 percent compared to the average during the Sixth Strategic Plan (2016–2020).

WOAH thanks its resource partners for their investments and support. The list below recognises all investors having an active grant with WOAHA in 2022 (in alphabetical order):

- **Members:** *Australia, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Colombia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Mexico, the Netherlands (through the AMR-MPTF), New Zealand, Spain, Sweden (through the AMR-MPTF), Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America.*
- **International Organisations:** *European Union, World Bank Group, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.*
- **Philanthropic foundations/private sector associations/non-governmental organisations:** *Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Donkey Sanctuary, Four Paws, Galvmed, International Coalition for Working Equids, International Horse Sports Confederation, Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, St Jude's Hospital.*

2.3.5 Procurement

WOAH's procurement activity facilitates the implementation of the Organisation's strategy with operational objectives and frameworks, while contributing to the financial optimisation of activities and their overall efficiency in compliance with the rules and regulations in force. A Legal Procurement Senior Officer was recruited in October 2022, bringing the number of full-time procurement staff to two persons.

The following were launched and managed in 2022:

- 69 projects (contracts and amendments); 41 of them were signed for a total amount of M€ 2,07 (8 contracts signed with no maximum amount);
- 3 calls for tender, 1 competitive dialogue, 1 negotiated procedure, 19 consultations of suppliers, 40 calls for expressions of interest, 2 contracts without prior procedure (for less significant amounts or very specific needs) and 3 amendments.

In 2022, WOAHA's rules of procurement continued to become more widely known within the Organisation and were better implemented by the prescribing Departments, thanks to the continuous updating of WOAHA's internal Procurement Portal (available in WOAHA's three official languages, including template documents). Two new procedures were implemented in order to fit the needs of the Organisation (Negotiated procedure and Competitive dialogue).

With the vast majority of WOAHA's procurement consultations being published online, the Organisation has gained transparency and visibility with tenderers.

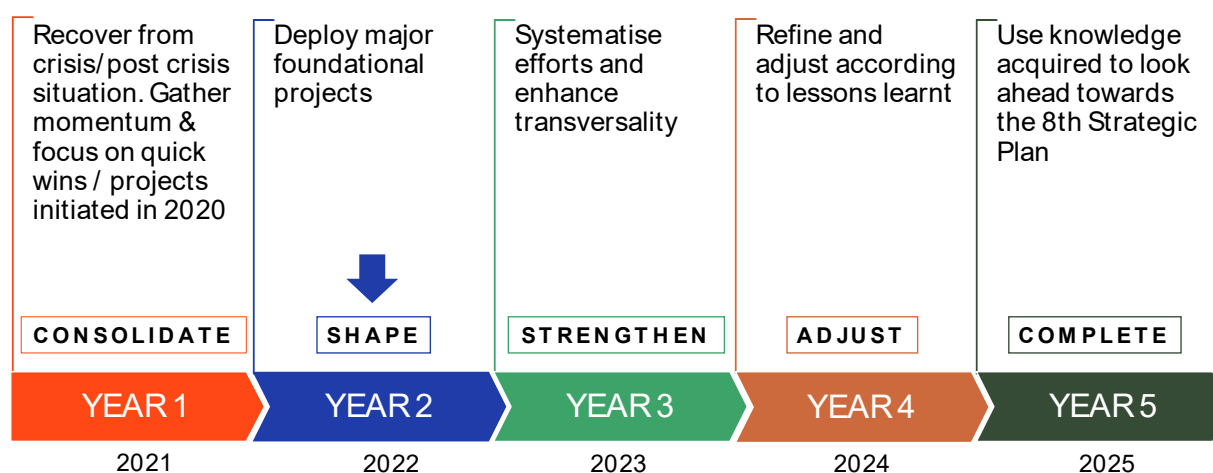
In consideration of the increased number of procurement activities and to expedite such activities, WOAHA will strengthen the related workforce in 2023.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SEVENTH STRATEGIC PLAN IN 2022

3.1. INTRODUCTION

The Seventh Strategic Plan (7SP) was adopted by the Members at the 88th General Session. The Strategic Plan sets objectives to modernise the Organisation, enable it to better deliver on its mandate and structure its work for the period 2021–2025. In continuity with yearly intentions identified in 2021 (see Fig. 13), the year 2022 (“Shape”) was focused on enhancing the fundamentals of the Organisation, with an emphasis on improving service to Members.

Fig. 13: Yearly intentions for the Seventh Strategic Plan



3.2 Main achievements

Three main achievements emerge out of 2022.

A **better international political positioning**, which has been built upon 2021 achievements. This allowed for WOA’s voice to be heard and remain relevant in the major international forums, such as the [G7 and G20 platforms](#). WOA was also a major contributor in the setting up of Quadripartite work, and in the constitution of the One Health Group of Friends. Overall, this has provided a better place for the voice of WOA, for the promotion of its work (standards, status, animal health and welfare) and highlights the added value of veterinary expertise in the governance of global health.

Beyond a high level of involvement in One Health-related initiatives, WOA demonstrated its commitment to **enhancing the delivery on animal health mandated activities**. In this regard, significant progress has been made in the operational implementation of major projects and programmes such as the delivery of the [Observatory](#) prototype and first annual reports, the [Wildlife Health Framework](#) action plan and completion of first related projects, and progress on global strategies for transboundary animal diseases.

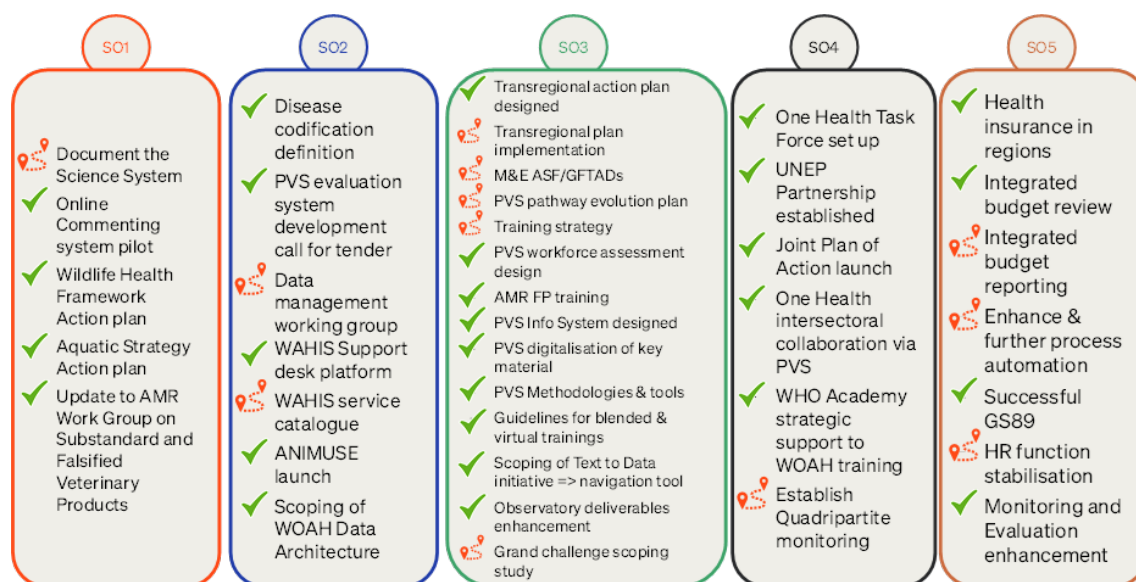
Finally, the organisational **shift to digitalisation** has been firmly advanced to provide trustable and critical information for Members. To that end, major milestones were reached with the [launch of ANIMUSE](#) and improved [initial notification and follow-up reports](#) and related modules in [WAHIS](#). Foundational projects such as the PVS Database and the [Status Platform](#) were successfully launched, resulting in significant follow-up and development work in 2023.

3.3 Initiatives by Strategic Objectives and Commitments

Beyond these three major achievements, all five strategic objectives received significant attention. While 2021 saw over 30 Strategic Plan-related initiatives completed, 2022 delivered a similar number.

In 2021, the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of WOA (89SG1) highlighted that some of the planned initiatives had not yet been completed during the first year. This Report also announced a series of projects planned for 2022. Figure 14 tracks these commitments, of which 70% are completed (indicated by the ✓ icon) and 30% are in progress (indicated by the 📍 icon). The latter correspond to projects that have proven to require more effort, due to their cross-cutting nature, or changes in context, need and/or scope. They are all currently being implemented, some within a broader, more high-profile umbrella (see next section on High-Profile initiatives). Details on the accomplishments related to these initiatives are cross-referenced to the relevant sections of this report.

Fig. 14: Progress and achievements on activities from 2021 & 2022



3.4 Evolution of the reporting system and prioritisation of strategic actions

The Strategic Plan is monitored through a structured reporting process with regular review of priorities and flexible management of the Organisation's diverse areas of activity and change initiatives designed to enhance the overall performance of the Organisation.

In 2022, the internal reporting framework for the 7SP has been improved in two major ways: the identification of High-Profile Initiatives (HPIs) and a greater consideration of the regional contributions to the implementation of the Plan through the establishment of transregional initiatives.

3.4.1 High-Profile Initiatives (HPIs)

The internal feedback from Year 1 of the implementation of the Strategic Plan has shown that some critical areas of activity, deemed necessary for reaching the Seventh Strategic Plan objectives, required more sustained attention. Considering this lesson learnt, some activities were identified as “High-Profile Initiatives” (HPIs) and given a higher level of attention in terms of follow-up and reporting. HPIs are defined as one or a group of related activities identified and prioritised by the WOA Executive Management as necessary to ensure

progress on the accomplishment of the Seventh Strategic Plan. Activities identified as HPIs should be clearly defined, have a clear target and related deliverables that can be completed within a reporting year.

This prioritisation mechanism allowed WOAAH to:

- Clearly identify organisational priorities transversally;
- Align the work of the teams and to better coordinate cross-functional cooperation;
- Further reinforce the auditability of WOAAH's activities through better processes and reinforced risk management.

The HPIs for 2022 targeted the following topics:

- Definition of the [Aquatic Strategy work plan](#);
- Definition of the Wildlife Health Framework action plan;
- Scoping of a standards navigation tool that would digitalise and facilitate access to and use of the WOAAH standards (former Text to Data);
- Development of the knowledge and practical application of [Foresight](#) methods;
- Consolidation of the Observatory and delivery of the first annual report;
- Documentation of the [WOAH Science System](#);
- Pilot for an Online Commenting tool;
- Scoping of the data-centric architecture and preparation of the [Data Governance](#) framework of the organisation;
- Support for the establishment of the Quadripartite;
- Gradual digitalisation of the PVS Pathway initiated through the launch of the PVS Evaluation system database.

Moreover, because internal processes are key in improving the Organisation, some support areas were also identified as HPIs in 2022:

- Enhancement of [procurement processes](#);
- Strengthening of [Human Resources](#) management;
- Enhancement of budget and financial management and planning;
- Support for digital transformation through process automation;
- [Support for ongoing organisational change by utilising internal communications and best practices](#).

After one year, the analysis of HPIs, as a pilot mechanism, provided evidence of clear progress with a satisfactory rate of achievement of the targets set at the beginning of the year (with an average rate of progress of over 60%). This result is encouraging given the complex nature of the tasks concerned, and the increasing interconnection between WOAAH's activities.

3.4.2 Transregional Initiatives (TRIs)

The implementation of the Strategic Plan would not be possible without a strong and active involvement of the Regions. Since the inception of the Plan, the Regional and Sub-regional Representations have been closely involved in several initiatives supporting the implementation of the Plan. Building on the revision of the [Regional and Sub-Regional Representations business model](#), specific attention was given in 2022 to developing projects aimed at better coordinating work between the Regions and, more specifically, at ensuring the implementation of the Strategic Plan's objectives on major aspects of WOAAH's regional activity. Five initiatives have therefore been developed for and by the Regions. These are described below.

- TRI 1: *WOAH Targeted Collaboration Programme*, seeks to support Delegates with tailored advice, identifying small steps that can help them in enhancing their participation in WOAH activities.
- TRI 2: *Optimising coordination of the Reference Centres' network*, seeks to improve knowledge and understanding of the Reference Centres' activities to streamline and better support Members.
- TRI 3: *Harmonisation of the approach to a Quadripartite Secretariat*, seeks to facilitate the work of the Quadripartite by identifying and supporting best practices.
- TRI 4: *Harmonisation of the Regional Core Group (RCG) concept*, seeks to streamline the mechanism and enhance the communication and coordination amongst relevant players of the RCGs.
- TRI 5: *Harmonisation of the GF-TADs Secretariat processes at regional level*, seeks to document and improve on key processes for GF-TADs activities.

Implementation has already begun on the five initiatives. They are included in the overall reporting framework of the Strategic Plan.
