



**World Organisation  
for Animal Health**  
**93rd General Session**

**World Assembly**  
Paris, May 18-22, 2026

93 GS/Adm-09  
Original: English  
April 2026

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (WOAH)  
AND  
THE WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION (WDA)**

*[Administrative Document]*



**World Organisation  
for Animal Health**  
Founded as OIE

## Content

<b>1. Fact sheet on the Wildlife Disease Association</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Draft Memorandum of Understanding</b>	<b>5</b>

## **1 – Fact Sheet on the Wildlife Disease Association (WDA)**

**Description:** The Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) is an international scientific society and is regarded as the premier global professional membership-based organisation for wildlife health professionals. It is a non-profit organisation, based in the United States of America, non-governmental association which brings together a multidisciplinary community of veterinarians, biologists, ecologists, researchers, epidemiologists, and other wildlife health professionals from around the world.

**Mission and Objectives:** The WDA promotes healthy wildlife and ecosystems, biodiversity conservation, and environmentally sustainable solutions to One Health challenges.

**Strategic objectives:** Common goals and values that WDA members hold in common are “that the conservation of biological diversity is of benefit and essential to human societies now and in the future”:

- The health of wild animals, humans and domestic animals are interconnected and interdependent within a shared environment ('One Health');
- Wildlife health is a global challenge transcending cultural and political boundaries and demanding international integration and cooperation of the scientific community, stakeholders and society;
- Knowledge of wildlife health is best achieved through rigorous science, recognition of other accumulated forms of knowledge, and open and respectful debate;
- The Association is most effective by being multidisciplinary, diverse, inclusive, fair and equitable;
- Communicating the science of members and values of the Association through advocacy and outreach is integral to achieving its mission;
- The future of the community and accomplishment of their mission depends on the fostering of student and early career learning and professional development;
- The Association should conduct its business according to principles of environmental sustainability.

**Headquarters address:** Leesburg, Florida, USA.

**Foundation:** WDA was established in the USA in 1951. It received U.S. 501(c)(3) status in June 1973.

**Structure:** WDA is governed by a Constitution (adopted in 1959, reviewed last in 2022) and Bylaws and guided by its Mission, Codes of conduct (ethical and scientific) and Charter of Values. It is governed by a member-elected Council. The organisation relies on various committees that report to the Council. It operates through regional and interest-based sections: Africa and Middle East, Asia Pacific, Australasia, European, Latin America, Nordic, and the Wildlife Veterinary Section. It also maintains a professional secretariat with designated roles in executive management, journal editing, and communication. To date, WDA is a member-driven organisation with more than 1,500 members from over 70 countries.

**Activities/ Key Programmes/ Strategic plans/ Achievements:** WDA provides a platform for:

- Knowledge generation and capacity building: dissemination of research training opportunities, online resources for members, continuing education via CE credits, foundational research, grant and research supports;
- Knowledge dissemination and scientific communication: Journal of wildlife disease, quarterly newsletter, weekly mailing list, social media, Scientific conferences (annual international conference and biennial section conference), websites (Global and section), conference proceedings, out-of-print books;
- Networking and collaborations: conference, online forum, student chapters, website;

- Advocacy and awards: student awards, established researchers' award to recognise and encourage outstanding work in the field, communications strategy, knowledge transfer to key stakeholders, promote One Health approaches;
- Diversity and inclusion: open access journal to Members from low- and middle-income countries, travel award to support travel to the annual conference of Members, free access to 217 journals through BioOne for Members;
- Environmental sustainability: assessed in grant attribution and conference organisation, as well as day-to-day operation of the organisation.

A strategic plan and communication strategy were published in 2021 with strategic goals (SG) grouped into four thematic areas: leadership and advocacy, knowledge creation and mobilisation, Membership value and diversity and inclusivity. The Association is recognised by the academic sector, and its peer-reviewed Journal of Wildlife Diseases shows an IF of 1.62 (similar to other wildlife journals).

**Partners and stakeholders:** WDA partners with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and echoes its publications on its website. Several academic institutions hosted conferences, and Colleges of Zoological Medicine are regular partners. The private wildlife (Zoos, Aquariums) and veterinary health sector (pharmaceutical industry) were also involved as sponsors in annual conferences as well as professional Colleges and conservation organisations. Government partners have included agencies such as USGS and USDA.

**Background or previous collaboration with WOA:** WOA and WDA have developed substantial mutual synergies in recent years. WOA staff and National Wildlife Focal Points have contributed to WDA conferences. WOA was a sponsor for the 2022 conference, and WOA's DG provided keynote speeches. WDA has proposed to offer free memberships to WOA wildlife focal points, granting access to the Journal of Wildlife Diseases and facilitating scientific engagement. WOA has written article for WDA regional chapters and an informative page for the global WDA website. WOA and WDA hold monthly meetings to plan, develop and take the collaboration forward.

## **2 – Draft Memorandum of Understanding**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH AND THE WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION</b></p>
---

WHEREAS, the World Organisation for Animal Health, whose statutory name is *Office International des Epizooties*, (hereinafter "WOAH") is an intergovernmental organisation recognised by the World Trade Organization as a reference organisation for international standards concerning the sanitary safety of international trade of animals and products of animal origin and zoonoses, and is in charge of improving animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare worldwide, as well as transparency of the global animal disease situation;

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) is an international scientific society of wildlife professionals, biologists, ecologists, epidemiologists, research scientists, veterinarians, and other individuals involved with wildlife health, conservation, and related disciplines, whose mission is to promote healthy wildlife and ecosystems, biodiversity conservation, and environmentally sustainable solutions to One Health challenges through research, management, education, communication, and collaboration;

WHEREAS, WDA and WOAH (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party") share common objectives and wish to collaborate to further their common goals and objectives within their respective mandates and governing rules and regulations;

WHEREAS, the Parties have accumulated a breadth of experience in policy development and implementation in various contexts, and have developed significant know-how and practices within their own areas of expertise;

WHEREAS, WOAH has extensive experience in animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare, and is able to combine intellectual and technical support, and to engage in capacity building and technical assistance on those topics;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the specific methods and character of the activities of each of the Parties as determined by their statutory objectives, their mandates and the provisions of the relevant international instruments;

RECOGNISING the need to develop and strengthen their cooperation in order to benefit from complementarities while avoiding unnecessary duplication and overlapping; and

CONSIDERING THAT, the Parties wish to formalise a basis on which they will explore the opportunities for cooperation and collaboration on matters of common interest, and to render their respective activities more effective.

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties have agreed to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "MoU"):

ARTICLE 1  
**PURPOSE OF THE MOU**

The purpose of this MoU is to establish a framework for cooperation between the Parties, within their respective competencies and subject to their respective rules and regulations, to enable the Parties to pursue more effectively their common interests and objectives.

ARTICLE 2  
**AREAS OF COOPERATION**

When appropriate, the Parties shall exchange views on relevant policy issues within their respective competence and shall consult regularly with each other on matters of common interest, such as wildlife and ecosystem health, wildlife welfare and One Health, with a view to achieving their objectives and coordinating their positions and activities. This will include the following illustrative list of topics and activities of mutual interest:

- Expertise and consultation on risks, impacts, surveillance, diagnostics, reporting and mitigation of threats (infectious or non-infectious) affecting wildlife health and at the human-animal-environmental interface as described in the One Health framework, whilst considering the conservation of wildlife and ecosystems, as well as animal welfare.
- Provide expertise and recommendations regarding listed diseases, including recommendations for changes to respective WOAH disease lists.
- Information sharing between WDA and WOAH on wildlife health matters.
- Enhancing wildlife health system capacity to undertake effective planning and monitoring, in line with a One Health approach.
- Facilitate access by WDA to expertise networks from WOAH, in particular the WOAH WildNet collaborating centre network on wildlife health.
- Facilitate WOAH Members' and WOAH's access to expertise from WDA, facilitate access to WDA's expertise by WOAH and its Members, including, upon WDA's approbation, by utilising the WDA emergency fund to support expert interventions in low and lower-middle and upper-income countries when critical situations arise in wildlife health.
- Facilitate WDA membership for WOAH Focal Points (particularly access to the Journal of Wildlife Diseases and the Global Voice).
- When applicable, coordinate advocacy on wildlife health and include wildlife health in relevant high-level agendas.

Other areas of cooperation or activities may be identified and jointly agreed upon by the Parties during the implementation of this MoU.

Within the context defined above, meetings will be encouraged and convened on an ad hoc basis as deemed necessary by the Parties to address priority matters of common interest, discuss technical and operational issues and review progress of work undertaken by the Parties related to further the objectives of this MoU.

ARTICLE 3  
**MODALITIES OF COOPERATION**

1. **Exchange of information and documents.** Subject to their respective internal regulations regarding the safeguarding of confidential information, the Parties will, as necessary and appropriate, exchange information and documents concerning matters of common interest. Such information shall be used by the Parties solely for the purposes of their collaboration.
2. **Technical cooperation.** The Parties shall, in the interest of their respective activities, seek each other's expertise and observations to optimise the effects of such activities. Should the activities of the Parties in fields of common interest so dictate, either Party may request the cooperation of the other whenever the latter Party is in a position to help develop the former's activities. The Parties shall endeavour, insofar as possible and in compliance with their constituent instruments and the decisions of their competent bodies, to respond favourably to such requests for cooperation in accordance with procedures and arrangements to be mutually agreed upon.
3. **Reciprocal representation.** The Parties will extend to each other invitations for participation in all meetings, seminars and conferences during which matters of common interest are to be discussed and where observers are allowed.
4. **Personnel arrangements.** Subject to their relevant internal regulations, WOA and WDA may examine the possibility of organising staff exchange programs or making other arrangements to strengthen their knowledge network, especially by including each other's staff in formal or informal staff development initiatives.

ARTICLE 4  
**IMPLEMENTATION**

1. The Parties may, if necessary, enter into additional arrangements for the implementation of this MoU. The terms of such arrangements would be subject to the provisions of this MoU.
2. Any Annex to this MoU will be considered an integral part of this MoU.

ARTICLE 5  
**FINANCIAL ASPECTS**

1. Nothing in this MoU shall give rise to financial obligations upon either Party.
2. To the extent any activity may give rise to financial obligations, a separate agreement shall be concluded subject to the Parties' respective internal rules and policies, prior to such activity being undertaken.

ARTICLE 6  
**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

1. The Parties recognise the importance of protecting and respecting intellectual property rights. This MoU does not grant the right to use any work created outside the framework of this MoU, of which one Party is the author or holds the intellectual property rights.

2. All intellectual property rights in materials developed jointly by the Parties will be jointly owned by the Parties. Intellectual property rights in any material made available by the Parties to be used to carry out the activities shall remain with the originating Party.

3. The Parties will mutually agree on preparation and issuance of any publications pertaining to joint activities arising from this MoU. If a Party (the "Publishing Party") prepares and issues publication on its own which refers to joint activities involving both Parties, the other Party shall be given the opportunity to comment on the content before publication and the Parties will agree on any further amendment to the text. The intellectual property right to the publication shall remain with the Publishing Party. The intellectual property right of any contribution made to the publication by the other Party (the "Contributing Party") will be retained by the Contributing Party who hereby grants to the Publishing Party a worldwide, non-exclusive, sub-licensable, royalty-free license to use such copyright for purposes of publication.

4. Collaboration of the Parties shall be duly acknowledged in any publication resulting from this MoU, unless a Party notifies that it does not wish to be associated with the publication. The wording of the acknowledgement shall be agreed between the Parties.

#### ARTICLE 7 **CONFIDENTIALITY**

1. The Parties may disclose to the public this MoU and information with respect to activities carried out under this MoU in accordance with the Parties' relevant policies.

2. Any sharing of confidential information between the Parties will be subject to their respective policies and procedures relating to the disclosure of confidential information. Each Party will take any action to protect confidential and/or classified information of the other Party.

#### ARTICLE 8 **USE OF THE PARTIES' NAMES AND EMBLEMS**

Except as provided in any subsequent agreement, neither Party shall use the other Party's name, acronym and/or emblem, without the prior written consent of that other Party.

#### ARTICLE 9 **LIABILITY**

Each Party shall be solely responsible for the manner in which it or its personnel carries out its part of the collaborative activities under this MoU and/or any subsequent agreement. Thus, neither Party shall be responsible for any loss, accident, damage or injury suffered or caused by the other Party, or that other Party's employees, consultants or sub-contractors, in connection with, or as a result of, the collaborative activities under this MoU and/or any subsequent agreement, unless such loss, accident, damage or injury suffered by one Party results from gross negligence or wilful misconduct of the other Party.

ARTICLE 10  
**PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES**

Nothing in or relating to this Agreement shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of WOAAH and its staff.

ARTICLE 11  
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. This MoU will enter into force upon signature by the Director General of WOAAH and the President of WDA.
2. The Parties shall endeavour to keep track of progress made in activities jointly agreed to, and to regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of this MoU.
3. This MoU shall have an initial four-year term, which may be renewed in writing by mutual consent of the Parties. Each Party may suggest revisions to this MoU prior to each renewal date or at any other appropriate time in order to update the content of this MoU.
4. This MoU may be amended by mutual consent expressed in writing.
5. Either Party may also terminate this MoU by giving six months' notice to the other Party.
6. Termination will not affect the implementation of ongoing activities, which have been decided by the Parties prior to the date of termination, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties in writing. The obligations enshrined in Articles 6-10 do not lapse upon expiry, termination of or withdrawal from this MoU.
7. Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of the provisions of this MoU shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation between the Parties.

[The Parties agree that this MoU will be concluded electronically via email exchange of scanned signed copies and that the signed copies exchanged in this manner shall be treated as originals.]

Or

[IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health and the President of the Wildlife Disease Association have signed the present MoU in duplicate, in English, on the dates appearing under their respective signatures.]

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Emmanuelle Soubeyran**  
Director General  
World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Richard Kock**  
President  
Wildlife Disease Association (WDA)