



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
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**Summary of Activities of the Working  
Group on Wildlife for 2025**

Presented by the Chair of the Working Group, Dr William Karesh

*[Technical Working Document 93GS/Tech-03/En]*



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# Summary of Activities of the Working Group on Wildlife for 2025

The Chair of the Working Group on Wildlife, Dr William Karesh, presented an overview of the activities of the Working Group since the previous General Session and the outcomes of the annual meetings of the Working Group held from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

The Working Group fulfilled its role in continuing to review key outcomes of the wildlife health programme, to provide technical guidance on selected topics, and to guide on future strategy and programming.

## Wildlife Health Strategy (2026–2030)

The Working Group contributed to the development of the Wildlife Health Strategy (2026–2030), recommending in particular that the One Health concept be integrated into its impact statement, and also advising aligning the strategy's outcomes with the objectives of the WOA 8<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan.

## Review of the Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Wildlife

The Working Group reviewed and discussed an updated version of its Terms of reference. The final and agreed version is available on the [Working Group dedicated webpage](#).

## Collaboration with International Partners

The Working Group was informed about continuing and new collaboration and their outcomes with the network of Collaborating Centres working on wildlife health, the network of National Focal Points for Wildlife, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Wildlife Diseases Association (WDA), the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and made when relevant recommendations, suggestions or comments for their fruitful implementation. The Working Group was also informed that WOA applied for and was selected as the new secretariat of the International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade.

## Next Generation Wildlife Disease Reporting System

The Working Group supported the development of the Next Generation World Animal Health Information System platform (now called WildEpi) and highlighted that the platform would fill a critical gap in global animal health monitoring.

## Collaboration with WOA Department, Specialist Commission and Working Group

The Working Group continued to collaborate with the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission and contributed to their working plan, when relevant, in providing expertise on wildlife and in commenting draft chapters with a wildlife health perspective.

The Working Group had a discussion with the WOA AMR Department to explore how the global availability of Veterinary Medicinal Products could be increased for wildlife animals.

## High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in Wildlife

The Working Group discussed the current high pathogenicity avian influenza situation in wildlife worldwide, in particular in Antarctica and the southern hemisphere, and the surveillance activities and data collected by WOA on this region. The Working Group provided a [brief statement on the current situation in wildlife](#) which was released by WOA and suggested reviewing existing WOA documents related to HPAI management in wildlife.

## **Toxic Threats in Wildlife**

The Working Group agreed to develop a draft fact sheet to raise awareness among veterinarians and Veterinary Services about the impact of Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) used in livestock on vulture populations worldwide with the aim to release it by the first semester of 2026. A statement regarding the health and environmental impacts of lead ammunition use in hunting was also planned for release in the first semester of 2026.

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