World Organisation for Animal Health

WDA Wildlife Disease Association Founded in 1951

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**
**BETWEEN**
**THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH**
**AND**
**THE WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION**

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 req uest 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, WOAH 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 WOAH and its staff.

ARTICLE 11
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. This MoU will enter into force upon signature by the Director General of WOAH 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.

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)

21st May 2026

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

21/5/2026