

Vacancy Announcement

Regional GF-TADs officer– America OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America

Duration: 36 months

Positioning and reporting

Under the Authority of the OIE Director General under the coordination of the OIE Regional Representative of the Americas and the direct supervision of the OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Panama and in close collaboration with OIE Headquarters and its international project partners at regional level.

Context

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is an intergovernmental organisation recognised by the World Trade Organization as the reference Organisation for intergovernmental 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. The OIE maintains permanent relations with nearly 75 international and regional Organisations and has 13 regional offices around the globe.

GF-TADs is a joint initiative of FAO and OIE, to achieve the prevention, detection and control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and in particular to address their original and global dimensions. The initiative combines the strengths of both international organizations to achieve agreed common objectives. GF-TADs is a facilitating mechanism which will endeavour to empower regional alliances in the fight against transboundary animal diseases (TADs), to provide for capacity building and to assist in establishing programmes for the specific control of certain TADs based on regional priorities.

ASF is an OIE-listed disease and thus must be reported to the OIE through its World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS). Historically, ASF outbreaks have been reported in Africa and parts of Europe, South America, and the Caribbean. More recently, since 2007, the disease has been reported in multiple countries across Africa, Asia and Europe. The disease was reported for the first time in China in August 2018 and, since then, has rapidly spread throughout Asia in 2019. The disease has not been reported in the Americas in recent years; however, given the global epidemiological situation and the commercial ties and the free movement of people from the affected regions, the OIE recommends strengthening Veterinary Services' capacity in the Americas region both to prevent disease spread and to ensure that its Members are ready to respond should an outbreak occur.

Building upon the lessons learned in other regions, namely Europe and Asia, and on the outcomes of the ASF Forum, a Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever (SGE-ASF) for the Americas was created under the umbrella of the GF-TADs during the 10th Meeting of the GF-TADs Steering Committee of the Americas held in Panama in September 2019.

Given the importance of ASF in relation to animal health and its pronounced implications on international trade as well as its unprecedented spread in multiple regions, the OIE aims to support its Members in the Americas region by supporting the GF-TADs Standing Group of Experts on ASF for the Americas in order to foster effective regional and inter-sectoral coordination.

Job description

The Regional GF-TADs officer will support the SGE-ASF and ensuring alignment and consistency with the GF-TADs Initiative for the Global Control of ASF (2020-2025). He/she will be in charge of preparing the background and working documents, drafting meeting reports, supporting the identification of experts to participate in SGE-ASF meetings, communicate with countries and relevant stakeholders, follow-up of recommendations and actions of SGE-ASF meetings, share regional information and feedback with other regional SGE-ASF secretariats and to the global initiative through M&E.

The Regional GF-TADs officer contributes to the OIE's work to improve intersectoral collaboration and national capacity by participating in the implementation of related OIE ASF sub-regional activities in the Americas. He/she is responsible for providing technical support to the countries of the sub-region and contributing to the management of activities related to the implementation of ASF activities under GF-TADs regional strategy. The Regional GF-TADs officer also supports other OIE GF-TADs initiatives pertaining to regional coordination of activities, including on, but not limited to, rabies, Foot and mouth Disease, Classical Swine Fever, etc. In addition, he/she contributes to the promotion of these activities in the region and ensures stakeholder outreach and engagement.

Responsibilities and activities

Ensure the delivery of technical support activities

- Monitor and support, as required, the development and operationalisation of ASF GF-TADs activities in collaboration with partners at regional and national levels, as applicable,
- Support the development and implementation of capacity-building training and education modules/programmes to address identified priority gaps for the control and eradication of ASF and other GF-TADs diseases,
- Participate in the establishment of the selection criteria and the selection of candidates for capacity training,
- Assist in organising and delivering workshops (distant or physical),
- Participate in the development of training programmes to advocate for government support of capacity needs,
- Contribute to the follow up of the recommendations from SGE at regional and national levels and the annual programme review of measurable outcomes, recommendations, and follow-up activities established for ASF,
- Support capacity development of selected OIE Members in the region with focus on ASF and other GF-TADs identified or emerging diseases, including the support to the development and implementation, including monitoring and evaluation.

Contribute to the coordination of GF-TADs regional strategies

- Maintain regular communication with the GF-TADs ASF Working Group, the Regional Representation in America and OIE Headquarters project colleagues regarding the implementation and progress of the activities,
- Assess the implementation of activities and make recommendations to inform decision-making and best practices,
- Organise, coordinate and/or participate in conferences, technical meetings and workshops related to the projects he/she is involved in,
- Coordinate specific activities and deliverables in a timely fashion to ensure that the projects deliver outputs on time and within scope;
- Participate in coordination of GF-TADs ASF activities between different regions in link with the GF-TADs ASF WG and the GF-TADs Global Secretariat.

Contribute to communication and stakeholder engagement

- Share, collaborate and ensure the involvement of key animal health sector stakeholders in the regional ASF strategy,
- Represent the OIE at external meetings as relevant,
- Act as an OIE technical contact point for ASF in the region and ensure liaison with relevant OIE regional and headquarters colleagues, and OIE Collaborating Centres for training and education,
- Participate in the preparation of background documents and periodic progress reports.

Provide general support to the work of the Sub-regional Representation

- Contribute to the drafting of relevant documents, articles, website content and other technical and communication information materials to promote engagement in, and implementation of GF-TADs relevant activities,
- Assist the Sub-Regional Representative in managing the day-to-day technical issues in the sub-region, including following up member countries on required information, conducting country visits, among others,
- Carry out other related activities as assigned by the Director General or the OIE Sub-Regional Representative.

Qualifications and experience

- Graduate degree in Veterinary Science, veterinary public health, public administration or equivalent
- At least 10 years of professional experience, in project coordination at a national or regional level
- Work experience in an international context
- Experience in the Americas

Requirements

Technical skills

- Expertise in project coordination and successful implementation
- Knowledge of OIE international standards and guidelines
- Knowledge of key technical and scientific issues relating to animal diseases
- Proficiency in the use of the Microsoft Office suite
- Perfect command of English, written and spoken
- Excellent command of Spanish, written and spoken
- Excellent writing and presentation skills

Interpersonal skills

- Proven ability to work in a multidisciplinary and multicultural team and environment, as well as to work effectively and flexibly with counterparts in external organisations
- Good organisational understanding, including the ability to set priorities and work on tight deadlines
- Ability to identify key information, conduct critical analyses, and synthesise logical proposals or advice
- Situational intelligence and excellent communication skills, including advocacy, on sensitive topics
- Proactive attitude and information sharing to prevent situations and seize opportunities that may be useful to the OIE
- Ability to make presentations, lead groups, and contribute to the facilitation of trainings
- Strong work ethic, and ability to motivate enthusiasm and participation from key stakeholders

Working conditions

Based in Panama, this post involves long hours in a seated position working at a computer. Regular regional travel in the Americas, as well as some international travel, are to be expected.

General information

The OIE places high value on a multicultural and positive work environment.

This is a full-time position at the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America (Panama, Panama).

If you are interested in the position, please complete your application online by **16th February 2021** at the latest by clicking on the link below.

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