Dr Gaston FunesHead, Regional Activities Department,
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Dr Funes was born in Santa Fe, Argentina. He received his degree in Veterinary Medicin at the Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Facultad de Agronomía y Veterinaria (FAVE), Esperanza, Santa Fe, Argentina.

Dr Funes joined the Argentinean Veterinary Services (SENASA) first as Chief of a Local Office in charge of the field implementation of National Animal Health Programmes, then he worked as Assistant of Field General Coordination, Risk Assessment Coordinator, Assistant of Epidemiology Direction, Adviser of the National Director of Animal Health and from October 2003 to June 2006 as Director of Epidemiology.

Dr Funes integrated and participated in several National and Regional Committees, representing the Argentinean Veterinary Services, dealing with the planning, implementation and monitoring of different national and regional projects of animal health in the region of MERCOSUR. He also participated and assisted in many regional and international missions related to negotiation of sanitary measures regarding international trade of animals and products.

In June 2006 Dr Funes joined the OIE as Deputy Head of the Regional Activities Department through an international open competition. He is member of the OIE Ad Hoc Group on evaluation of Veterinary Services.

In February 2008 he became Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, area in charge to assist and coordinate the work of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations aimed mainly to support Veterinary Services of OIE Members through capacity building activities.