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**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL  
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OIE  
IN 2019-2020**

**(88 SG/1)**

*Note: Due to the postponement of the 88th General Session, initially scheduled for May 2020, the Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2019 was not presented. The present document 88 SG/1 is therefore a summary of the activities carried out in 2019 and 2020.*

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# I. SUMMARY OF THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

## 1. ORGANISATION AND GENERAL POLICY – SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2019-2020

The activities carried out by the OIE in 2019 and 2020 stemmed from the annual work programmes of the Director General, programmes that were in line with the general framework laid down in the **Sixth Strategic Plan** for the period 2016-2020, adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE (the Assembly) at the General Session in May 2015.

Details of the activities carried out and duly monitored through a roadmap are presented in this document (88 SG/1) for each of the main areas of intervention. Over and above the statutory activities of elaborating or revising sanitary standards and disseminating information on the animal health situation in Members, it is worth highlighting:

- The implementation of major control strategies for animal diseases. In addition to actions targeting foot and mouth disease (FMD) and rabies, work continued on implementing the global eradication programme for peste des petits ruminants (PPR). Furthermore, African swine fever (ASF) was the subject of a global initiative in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and ASF was added to the list of priority diseases of the FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) platform, which devoted several meetings of experts to the disease;
- The creation of the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (FAO-World Health Organization [WHO]-OIE-United Nations Development Programme [UNDP]) on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to be used for the implementation of Tripartite (FAO-OIE-WHO) AMR priorities, the launch of the One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, which will harness the leadership and influence of world-renowned figures to catalyse global attention and action to preserve antimicrobial medicines and avert the disastrous consequences of antimicrobial resistance, and the initiation of the activities of an OIE AMR Working Group as provided for in Resolution No. 14 adopted by the Assembly at the General Session in May 2019;
- The publication of a Tripartite guide on zoonoses and the launch of an FAO-OIE-WHO taskforce to develop research on Rift Valley fever (RVF);
- The continued work with key partners in the field of biological threat reduction, with the launch of an OIE-INTERPOL-FAO group to strengthen resilience against agro-terrorism;
- The organisation of 50 PVS Pathway missions (including 6 with PPR-specific content), three sub-regional training workshops on using the PVS Pathway, three national PVS strategic planning workshops, 12 International Health Regulations (IHR)–Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) National Bridging Workshops, and participation in nine IHR Joint External Evaluation missions (JEE missions). In 2020, the OIE undertook the evaluation of the PVS Pathway with the support of an independent consulting firm. The results of the evaluation, which have been shared with Members and partners, will drive the evolution of this flagship programme for the coming years;
- The continued development of the OIE’s World Animal Health Information System (OIE-WAHIS), to be launched in 2021 after several meetings of a key users’ committee, the deployment of an e-learning platform and the organisation of training courses in the regions. In parallel, a think tank on codification in the field of animal health data was set up;
- The finalisation of the study carried out by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on the future Observatory on the implementation of OIE standards, as well as frequent interaction on the subject with the OIE’s partners, its Members and the OIE Council, enabling the outlines of the Observatory to be more clearly defined. In 2020, the pilot phase was launched and the 2020 Technical Item on “Required competencies of Veterinary Services in the context of international trade: opportunities and challenges” served as the first prototype for the pilot phase;

- The implementation of Resolution No. 11 of May 2015 on evaluating the performance of the OIE Specialist Commissions, with a comprehensive report to be presented to the OIE Council during its meeting in March 2021;
- The launch of the new regional websites as well as the dissemination of numerous publications in an electronic format, including via the OIE’s social media sites, which saw their number of followers increase by over 30%. The renovation of the OIE website was initiated in 2020 with the objective of launching a modern new version in March 2021;
- The publication of guidelines and the launch of an online training module on public–private partnerships (PPPs) in the veterinary field;
- The publication of guidelines on the training of veterinary paraprofessionals, as well as the launch of the platform for the training of Veterinary Services, aimed at creating a network of all the OIE Collaborating Centres working in this field;
- In terms of statutory activities, the organisation of the 87th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE, held in Paris, France, from 26 to 31 May 2019, bringing together 129 delegations of OIE Members, 51 international organisations or institutions and 21 high-level representatives of governments. In 2020, in view of the global COVID-19 situation, the OIE Council decided to postpone the 88th General Session of the Assembly. An Adapted Procedure was implemented so that certain resolutions deemed crucial for both the activities of the Members and for the institutional functioning of the Organisation could be adopted;
- The holding of a global conference on aquatic animal health (Santiago, Chile, from 2 to 4 April 2019), five Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions: the 23rd Conference for the Africa Region (Hammamet, Tunisia, from 25 February to 1 March 2019), the 31st Conference for the Asia, the Far East and Oceania Region (Sendai, Japan, from 2 to 6 September 2019), the 15th Conference for the Middle East Region (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 10 to 14 November 2019), the 25th Conference for the Americas (virtual – 22 and 23 September 2020), the 29th Conference for Europe (virtual – 9 and 10 November 2020), and a conference entitled “One Health for the Mediterranean Region in the Age of Big Data” (Cagliari, Italy, from 30 September to 2 October 2019);
- The organisation in April 2019 of the second OIE Animal Welfare Forum, on the theme of animal transport;
- At an administrative level, the OIE continued the deployment of the IT Systems Master Plan and prioritisation of IT projects, the finalisation of the classification of posts, and the extension of the annual staff appraisal interview to include staff at the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations;
- At an institutional level, in addition to the agreements that were finalised with several partner organisations, the OIE was added by the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) to the list of international organisations eligible for official development assistance (ODA), which will make the OIE even more attractive to donors. The OIE participated in the work of the G7, held in France, as well as in the work of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture, hosted by Germany (in 2019 and 2020), thereby opening the way for its participation in the future International Digital Council for Food and Agriculture to be hosted by FAO. The OIE also participated in the third edition of the Paris Peace Forum (held virtually in November 2020), where the establishment of a One Health High Level Expert Council was officially announced. This initiative will be launched in 2021 under the Tripartite, which will be joined by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
- The COVID-19 crisis forced the OIE to adapt quickly, not only to the new working context, but also to the technical challenges of responding to an unprecedented pandemic most likely originating from an animal reservoir. The various ways in which the Organisation successfully responded to this challenging situation are described elsewhere in this report.

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## II. ACTIVITIES OF THE HEADQUARTERS

### 1. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

#### 1.1. ACTIVITIES OF THE STATUTORY BODIES

The Headquarters is responsible for the smooth running of the Organisation's statutory bodies, namely the World Assembly of Delegates, the Council and the Regional Commissions, and the organisation of conferences on specific topics.

The Headquarters is also responsible for the smooth running of the Specialist Commissions, Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups (see Chapter III).

#### World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly)

The 87th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE was held in Paris, France, from 26 to 31 May 2019. It was chaired by Dr Mark Schipp (Australia), President of the Assembly. One hundred and twenty-nine (129) delegations from OIE Members and three (3) observer countries were represented. Representatives of fifty-one (51) international or regional organisations, institutions and federations and twenty-one (21) high-level representatives of governments also attended the General Session.

During the General Session, Dr Monique Eloit, Director General of the OIE, presented a progress report on implementation of the OIE's Sixth Strategic Plan for the period 2016–2020 and on the associated roadmap.

In June 2019, the Resolutions of the 87th General Session and the Final Report were sent to the Governments of all OIE Members, in accordance with Article 47 of the General Rules.

The first Technical Item, entitled "How external factors (e.g. climate change, conflicts, socio-economics, trading patterns) will impact Veterinary Services, and the adaptations required", was presented by Dr Jimmy Smith of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) at a session chaired by Dr Majid Al Qassimi, member of the OIE Council.

The second Technical Item, entitled "Global situation relating to African swine fever", was presented jointly by Dr Budimir Plavšić of the OIE and Dr Andriy Rozstalnyy of FAO, at a session chaired by Dr Christianne Brusckke, member of the OIE Council.

Lastly, after adopting the technical and administrative resolutions, the World Assembly of Delegates held partial elections to elect the following: two members of the Council; a Vice-President and the Secretary General of the Regional Commission for the Americas; the President, a Vice-President and the Secretary General of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania; a Vice-President and the Secretary General of the Regional Commission for Europe; and a Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East.

In view of the health context and after consultation with the Council and Delegates, the 88th General Session – originally scheduled for 24 to 29 May 2020 – was postponed to 2021 and replaced by an "Adapted Procedure". The latter consisted of an electronic written consultation of Delegates that took place in two stages in May 2020, the first stage to obtain their approval of the procedure itself, and, this having been confirmed, a second stage which enabled the adoption of the main administrative and budgetary decisions necessary for the Organisation to continue to function. The resolutions concerning animal disease status, those relating to the designation of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and those relating to the approval of diagnostic kits for inclusion on the OIE Register were adopted in the same way. The election of the Director General, however, was postponed to the following General Session and the mandate of the current Director General was extended accordingly.

Various technical presentations that were to have taken place during the General Session, including the presentation on the world animal health situation and Technical Item 1, entitled “Required competencies of Veterinary Services in the context of international trade: Opportunities and challenges” were published online in the form of lectures and videos accessible to all Members.

## **Council**

In 2019, the Council met three times at the OIE Headquarters in Paris: from 19 to 21 February, from 23 to 24 May and from 24 to 26 September.

The Council regularly examined the points falling within its terms of reference and notably worked on monitoring implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan, reviewing the Budget and progress on priority projects as well as preparing the next General Session of the Assembly.

The Council decided to award honorary distinctions to three recipients in 2019: Dr Trevor Drew (Australia) received the Gold Medal and Dr Max François Millien (Haiti), Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan Ali (Sudan) and Dr Lonnie King (United States of America) each received the Meritorious Award. The award winners were presented with their medals at the Opening Ceremony of the 87th General Session.

In 2020, the Council met face-to-face on one occasion, at OIE Headquarters from 25 to 27 February 2020, a session at which it was able to interview the candidates for the post of Director General; then, due to the public health context, the Council met on several occasions in extraordinary session and by videoconference on 6 March, 3 April, 5 May, 3 June, 1 October and 10 December 2020. This allowed the Council to closely monitor the operational decisions and arrangements that ensured the sustainable operation of the OIE in spite of a constantly evolving public health context.

The Council regularly examined the points falling within its terms of reference and notably worked on developing the Seventh Strategic Plan, reviewing the budget and progress on priority projects and preparing the Adapted Procedure that replaced the 2020 General Session. The Council also prepared the 88th General Session of the Assembly for 2021, and approved its being held in virtual mode due to the exceptional circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, as permitted by the OIE Basic Texts, and in particular Article 39 of the General Rules. For the same reasons, it also approved the virtual format for the two Regional Conferences organised in 2020.

The Council also awarded the OIE Gold Medal to Dr Gideon Brückner (South Africa) and the Meritorious Award to Dr Lo Chu-Fang (Chinese Taipei), Dr Jean-Luc Angot (France) and Dr Muhammad Afzal (Pakistan), though an official award ceremony could not be held in 2020.

## **Regional Commissions**

In addition to the meetings held by each of the five Regional Commissions during the General Session of the Assembly in May 2019, five Regional Conferences were held in 2019 and 2020:

- The 23rd Conference for the Africa Region was held in Hammamet, Tunisia, from 25 February to 1 March 2019 and was chaired by Dr Honoré Robert N’Lemba Mabela, Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A total of 124 participants, comprising OIE Delegates and/or representatives of 39 Members in the Region and high-level representatives of nine regional and international organisations, attended the Conference;
- The 31st Conference for the Asia, the Far East and Oceania Region was held in Sendai, Japan, from 2 to 6 September 2019 and was chaired by Dr Norio Kumagai, Delegate of Japan. A total of 96 participants, comprising OIE Delegates and/or representatives of 22 Members in the Region and high-level representatives of seven regional and international organisations, attended the Conference;
- The 15th Conference for the Middle East Region was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 10 to 14 November 2019 and was chaired by Dr Elias Ibrahim, Delegate

of Lebanon. A total of 81 participants, comprising OIE Delegates and/or representatives of 11 Members in the Region and high-level representatives of seven regional and international organisations, attended the Conference.

- The 25th Conference for the Americas Region, which was to have been held in Cusco, Peru, was the first OIE Regional Conference that had to be organised virtually in view of the public health context. It took the form of three videoconferences on 22 and 23 September 2020 and was chaired by Dr Mark Trotman, Delegate of Barbados. A total of 226 participants, including OIE Delegates and/or representatives of 30 Members in the Region and high-level representatives of 16 regional and international organisations, participated in the Conference.
- The 29th Conference for the Europe Region, which was to have been held in Catania, Italy, was also organised virtually in view of the public health context. It took place in the form of three videoconferences on 9 and 10 November 2020 and was chaired by Dr Maris Balodis, Delegate of Latvia. A total of 140 participants, including OIE Delegates and/or representatives of 53 Members of the Region and high-level representatives of 12 regional and international organisations, participated in the Conference.

## **1.2. RELATIONS WITH MEMBERS**

Regular contacts were maintained with Embassies as well as with the Ministers and high-level delegations of Members visiting Paris. The Director General or the Regional Representatives, the President of the Assembly or the Presidents of the OIE Regional Commissions were received at the highest political level in numerous Members. These visits were unfortunately less frequent or had to be interrupted from March 2020 onwards due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The agreement on the privileges and immunities of the OIE, signed in December 2019 with Japan, the host country of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, having been ratified by the Japanese Parliament in June 2020, was the subject of intensive, high-level diplomatic exchanges until its entry into force in September 2020.

Calls for financial contributions were sent out, as were reminders to those countries in arrears, while taking into account the various situations of Members in this respect. In 2019, one Member decided to move to a higher contribution category, while four Members contributed in extraordinary category A.

In 2020, one Member decided to move to a lower contribution category, while four Members contributed in extraordinary category A.

## **1.3. AGREEMENTS**

In accordance with Resolutions adopted by the Assembly at the 86th General Session, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the East African Community (EAC), and an MoU with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) were signed in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

## **1.4. LEGAL AFFAIRS**

The Legal Affairs Unit plays an important role in ensuring the legal framework of the Organisation's operations. It advises the Office of the Director General and all Departments/Units on a wide range of operational and governance matters, primarily in connection with complex contracts, litigation, procurement and relationships with Members and partners. This Unit also provides legal advice on issues relating to the Organisation's basic texts, privileges and immunities, and other institutional matters.

In June 2019, the Legal Affairs Unit made a significant contribution to the legal arrangements for the Multi-Partner Trust Fund launched by the OIE, WHO and FAO, which was one of the major events of 2019. The Unit also advised the OIE on the drafting of the technical and financial MoU signed last November with the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority to support the

activities of the new Sub-Regional Representation, and on the agreement with Japan regarding the privileges and immunities of the OIE, which was signed in December 2019 and was ratified by the Japanese Parliament in June 2020.

#### **Achievements in 2020**

- ✓ Contribution to the establishment of a written procedure (the 2020 Adapted Procedure) aimed at ensuring a sound legal framework for the adoption of certain resolutions by Members in May 2020 in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Coordination of the design and implementation of the OIE Data Protection Framework, including promoting awareness of new personal data protection policies.
- ✓ Contribution to the arrangements leading to the entry into force of the Agreement regarding Privileges and Immunities of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RRAP), aimed at providing the OIE RRAP with the necessary privileges and immunities and facilitating its activities in Japan.

### **1.5. INTERNAL CONTROL AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

In line with the various efforts made in recent years, the OIE has continued to develop initiatives to improve both its operational and organisational performance. In 2019 and 2020, the emphasis was placed on consolidating the results achieved on various priority topics, such as the substantive work undertaken on skills management and the development of a policy on salaries. As part of the support for risk management, incident monitoring was strengthened, with work focusing on improving and strengthening compliance with procedures. In addition, a strategic reflection was undertaken to prepare the OIE's Seventh Strategic Plan and its implementation roadmap.

#### **Preparation of the Seventh Strategic Plan**

Preparation of the Seventh Strategic Plan centred on three major principles: transparency of the process, inclusion of stakeholders and a strategic and operational combined approach.

With the methodological support of PricewaterhouseCoopers, the OIE undertook preparatory work focused on the participation of its Members, partners and staff. In the first quarter of 2019, a number of workshops with the participation of representatives of Headquarters and the regions, as well as a working session with the Council in February, helped to guide the strategic reflection. Based on these preliminary elements, a consultation open to all the OIE's stakeholders was made accessible online, in which over 800 respondents participated. Aimed at OIE Delegates and Focal Points, as well as the experts of Specialist Commissions, *ad hoc* Groups and Working Groups and Reference Centres, along with the Organisation's institutional partners, the consultation gave all interested parties an opportunity to share their opinions and expectations. The results of the consultation were presented to the Council and discussed at the meetings of the Regional Commissions during the General Session in 2019 and served to identify the broad orientations of the Strategic Plan as well as specific subjects that needed to be taken into account. The Conferences of the Regional Commissions also provided the opportunity to gather Members' views throughout the process.

In parallel, the OIE undertook an organisational diagnosis to analyse its capacity to respond to the objectives of emerging strategic priorities, by identifying available resources and areas needing to be strengthened. Synthesising the result of consultations and this analysis, the Strategic Plan presented to the Council in September 2019 and February 2020 thus sought to propose a work programme that would be both ambitious and realistic. Structuring work was undertaken with the teams at Headquarters and in the regional offices to translate the forthcoming strategy into organisational roadmaps for the Organisation and its teams, to enable Members to monitor its implementation more effectively. The digital strategy of the Organisation, intrinsically linked to its strategic challenges, was defined in 2020 and the transformation this required was initiated.

## **Strengthening of internal control**

Following on from the work done in 2018, efforts were maintained to implement the action plans for priority risks and the continuous analysis of processes. Monitoring the register of incidents served to check the effectiveness of the action plans and identify emerging risks. The 2018/2020 audit plan continued to be implemented, targeting both the internal processes of the Organisation and its activities, at Headquarters and in the regions.

After two years of corrective measures, tangible results were achieved for more than 60% of the action plans to address priority risks. The structuring work included the following:

- In-depth work to secure the information systems helped to ensure that the infrastructure and networks complied with good professional practice and with the standards expected of an international organisation;
- The security of the Headquarters premises was strengthened, by means of a new access control system and video surveillance of the premises;
- An in-depth analysis of personal data management was made throughout the Organisation: a Data Protection Officer was nominated and a management policy was made available, supported by action plans targeting its implementation across different processes of the Organisation.

## **Development of the evaluation of programmes**

Development of the evaluation of the activities of the Organisation was also continued, aimed at providing support for decision making and optimising the deployment of resources. The evaluation of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe was thus finalised and its report presented to the governance bodies, enabling a reflection to take place in advance of the preparation of the future three-year action plan. The external evaluation of the PVS Pathway Programme was also carried out in order to confirm the relevance of the orientations taken by the evolution of the programme, following the Think Tank Forum conducted in 2017. The report's recommendations will contribute to the continuous evolution of the PVS Programme under the next strategic cycle. The evaluation function will be further developed as part of the process of improving the framework for monitoring the performance of the Organisation, to support the Seventh Strategic Plan.

### **1.6. HUMAN RESOURCES**

At 31 December 2020, the Organisation had 219 staff members, 66% working at Headquarters and 34% in the Regional or Sub-Regional Representations. Sixty-nine nationalities were represented among OIE staff, 50 at Headquarters and 33 in the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. Fifty-five percent of OIE staff members were women: in 2020, women represented 63% of the staff working at Headquarters and 39% of the staff working in the regions. The average age of Headquarters staff members was 43 years (with 8% under the age of 30 years, 68% between 30 and 50 years and 24% over the age of 50 years) and the average length of service (excluding staff on secondment) was 6 years, as in 2019 and 2018.

In 2020, 60% of staff members were funded by the OIE Regular Budget, 32% were funded by the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund and 8% were directly funded by Members within the framework of secondment arrangements.

In 2020, five staff members changed Department or moved between a Representation and Headquarters and 30 new staff members were recruited, 20 (67%) at Headquarters and 10 (33%) within the Regions. Fifty-three percent of the OIE's new staff members were recruited to fill newly created positions (new positions represented 45% of Headquarters' recruitments and 70% of the recruitments in the Regions), whereas 47% were recruited to replace outgoing colleagues (replacements represented 55% of Headquarters' recruitments and 30% of the recruitments in the Regions). Out of the 16 new positions created, nine were created within the framework of projects financed by the World Fund, and seven were created to strengthen existing teams at Headquarters or in the Regions to support the development of their activity.

In January 2020, the Headquarters' organisational structure was reviewed and adjusted to be better aligned with the ambitions of the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan as well as to facilitate the digitalisation, synergies and evolution of OIE services.

The work of adjusting the job descriptions of existing positions and establishing the terms of reference for each newly created position continued throughout the reporting period. In this context, the partnership with the International Service for Remunerations and Pensions (ISRP) hosted by the OECD, in progress since October 2018, has enabled the OIE to benefit from support in overhauling its policy on remunerations. In 2020, the OIE's Human Resources (HR) unit initiated contacts with the Compensation and Benefits Unit of the OECD (ISRP) to set up a monitoring system for changes in the cost of living in OIE regions and also attended, in November, the Second International Service for Remunerations and Pensions Associated Organizations Global Conference dedicated to the evolution of careers, scales of remunerations and pensions.

Due to COVID-19 and the context of full-time teleworking, fewer training sessions were delivered in 2020 than in previous years. To continue to accompany the evolution of the Organisation and the capacity-building efforts, language courses were maintained, and a few technical and digital skills courses were implemented, such as video conference management.

The process of annual appraisal interviews and reports was continued in the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and a new system of mid-year reviews for the staff of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations was introduced in July 2020.

To adapt OIE working conditions to the exceptional public health situation that was experienced worldwide in 2020, the OIE Directorate and the HR unit defined and implemented in all OIE offices a COVID-19 protocol, which was communicated to all staff. The document described all the measures set by the Directorate to safeguard OIE employees' health and ensure their safety (social distancing measures, cleaning procedures and good practices, shared office organisation, restrictions on meeting room and cafeteria use, facilitated use of staggered hours, adjustment of the teleworking framework to exceptional conditions, protocol to be followed in the event of "suspected cases" or "contact cases", COVID referent, etc.).

In September 2020, a teleworking and right to disconnect charter was launched to formally introduce teleworking as a way of working at the OIE and to establish a clear and shared framework for this practice. The charter was defined after consultation with OIE staff representatives and management. The launch of the charter was managed through various communication media, including video conference sessions. A set of tools was created and implemented to facilitate the appropriation of teleworking (website, guides, leaflet, etc.).

To foster internal communication at the OIE and facilitate the understanding and visibility of HR projects and decisions, a monthly HR newsletter addressed to all staff was launched in July 2020. To reinforce external HR communication, strengthen the visibility of the OIE as an employer of choice and facilitate the OIE recruitment process, a career page was created on LinkedIn in September 2020.

## **1.7. OIE INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

In 2020, the Digital Transformation and Information Systems (DTIS) Department continued the work initiated in 2018 as part of the implementation of the IT Systems Master Plan, in addition to the Department's routine user support and assistance activities. It also worked on the definition of the OIE's digital transformation strategy, in line with the Seventh Strategic Plan.

### **Day-to-day activities**

The automation of a number of tasks and processes since 2018 has halved the number of requests for routine assistance (arrival of new members of staff, organisation of events and meetings, etc.). This reduction in requests has made it possible to cope with a large number of requests at constant staffing levels and to provide assistance to employees located in the regions; it has also freed up the team's time to devote to project activities.

Problems due to the obsolescence of technologies used in existing applications (WAHIS, OIE website,

TIGER for contact management, etc.) remain and have had a strong impact on their availability and security throughout the year: tactical actions were undertaken in 2019 and 2020 to enable their continued operation but there is an increasing need to replace them.

### **IT Systems Master Plan and IT projects**

Alongside the management of day-to-day business, the DTIS Department has over the past two years focused on continuing the concrete implementation of the IT Systems Master Plan with its partner, the firm Constellation:

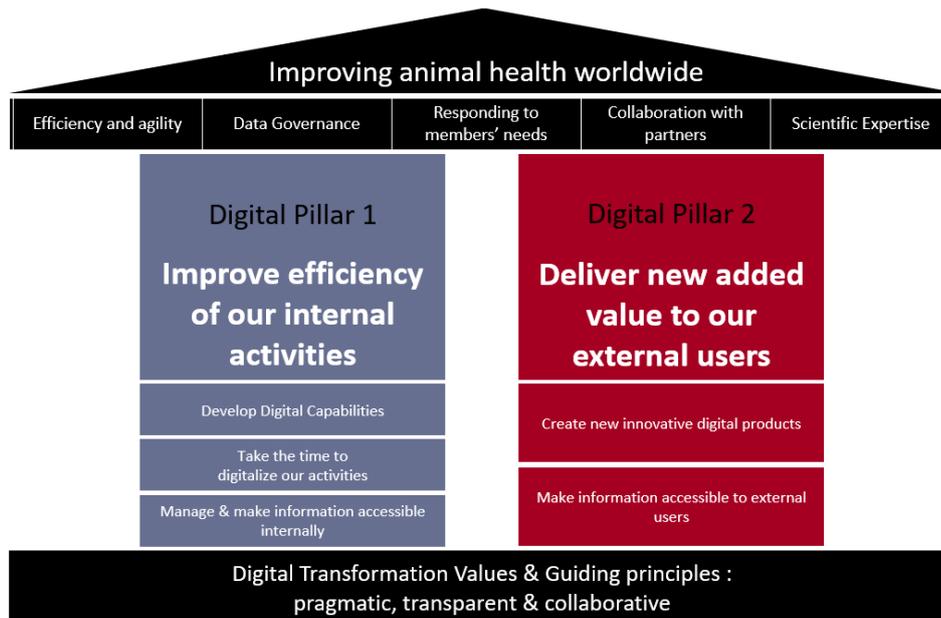
- the security policy has been defined and its implementation has covered more than 70% of the risks identified in 2017;
- the adoption of robust virtual meeting technologies (Zoom, Teams) and secure access to the documents needed by OIE staff to carry out their daily tasks has enabled all staff to continue working remotely during lockdowns;
- the deployment of a uniform master on staff members' workstations has allowed the Organisation to implement the security features recommended by the French National Cybersecurity Agency (ANSII: Agence nationale de la sécurité des systèmes d'information): data encryption, multi-factor authentication and web flow filtering;
- staff members now have access to a portal containing all the IT resources and information they need for their activity: incident reports, requests for assistance or software, as well as project submissions.

A significant effort has been made on the change management aspects with the launch of a continuous training initiative using examples and short tutorials (called the User Experience Programme), combined with more traditional training on office automation aspects and an information system security awareness session.

The DTIS Department has also been heavily involved in the design and development phases of the OIE-WAHIS project, which is scheduled to go live in the first quarter of 2021. In 2020, the team also managed about 20 other projects (AMU [antimicrobial use], E-Learning Platform, etc.). The technologies used in these project have been deployed in such a way as to become OIE Information System standards.

### **Digital transformation strategy**

The OIE's digital transformation strategy was defined in 2020: it is based on two pillars, broken down into five objectives, each of which should lead to the implementation of the OIE's Seventh Strategic Plan, as shown in the figure below.



The OIE will focus on two strategic objectives for 2021:

- use digital tools, methods and mindset to support and improve internal activities and ease the work of OIE staff, in particular when it comes to data collection and storage (PVS, AMU, among others) or missing core assets (working CRM [Constituent Relationship Management] system, HRIS [human resource information system], finance);
- use digital tools, methods and mindset to unleash the full potential of existing and new products and deliver more added value to OIE Members and partners.

In order to support the implementation of this strategy, the DTIS team has been strengthened with skills in data management, IT architecture and project portfolio management.

The main objectives for the year 2021 are:

- finalisation of the IT Systems Master Plan (deployment in Regional and Sub-Regional Representations postponed due to the COVID-19 situation);
- implementation of tools to manage and share OIE data repositories;
- removal of obsolete applications to achieve a good level of security.

### 1.8. COORDINATION OF EVENTS

Meetings, conferences and training seminars organised by the OIE in 2019 and 2020 are presented in detail in Section 9 (Support for the Planning and Organisation of Regional and Global Events).

In the context of the 87th General Session, which took place in May 2019, five side events, 270 bilateral meetings and six thematic kiosks were organised. Also, during the week of the General Session, two receptions were kindly hosted by Bolivia and Uzbekistan, respectively.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the OIE Council, in coordination with the Director General, decided to cancel the 88th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE, initially scheduled from 24 to 29 May 2020, and postpone it to 2021. However, as some decisions could not be postponed to 2021, the Council decided to submit for the consideration of the 182 OIE Delegates an Adapted Procedure allowing the adoption of some key resolutions by electronic means.

In 2019, the “OIE Travel” team, part of the Events Coordination Unit at OIE Headquarters, managed 2 741 missions and issued 3 132 travel tickets (compared to 2 293 missions and 3 159 travel tickets in 2018) for missions conducted by OIE staff, experts participating in meetings of OIE *ad hoc* Groups,

Working Groups and Specialist Commissions, and experts conducting missions on behalf of the OIE, notably within the framework of the PVS Pathway, as well as managing the travel arrangements for speakers and participants in OIE seminars, workshops and conferences. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the missions had to be cancelled and most of the in-person meetings had to be replaced by virtual events. As a result, the “OIE Travel” team issued a total of 550 travel tickets during the first quarter of 2020 (i.e. before the lockdown in France) but only 139 tickets from the start of the lockdown until the end of the year.

### **1.9. GENERAL SERVICES AND PRINTING**

The General Services Unit provides permanent support for the Headquarters’ teams to ensure the smooth running of activities. In addition to preparing rooms and managing certain types of equipment, the Unit is also responsible for the following: reception; maintenance and property management for the two Headquarters’ buildings; monitoring of insurance cover (excluding staff health insurance); management of mail and supplies; facilitation of visa applications; and the inventory.

In 2019, the General Services Unit managed EUR 626 987 in supplier invoicing, including over 700 estimates and 348 invoices. The Unit arranged the rental of 12 rooms and provided support for the organisation of 1 024 meetings at OIE Headquarters (this compares to 804 meetings organised in 2018, and represents an increase of 27.36%). Following a transfer of tasks from the Events Coordination Unit with regard to inventory management and the facilitation of visa applications, the General Services Unit handled EUR 19 000 in orders for office supplies and EUR 30 000 in orders relating to cocktails organised at the Headquarters, as well as facilitating 40 visa application dossiers and 11 requests for assistance with the delivery of visas for experts from other countries in liaison with French Embassies.

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the Unit, just as the rest of the Organisation, had to respond to new challenges, and change the way it worked and interacted, often dealing with last-minute requests.

As a result of the sanitary measures and in order to equip the Headquarters with the necessary products, the General Services Unit handled EUR 22 600 in orders for masks, hydroalcoholic gel and specific cleaning products and EUR 13 893.71 in orders relating to office furniture for staff required to work remotely.

The Unit also manages a printing workshop, which is now equipped with digital printing equipment enabling orders to be handled very quickly. In 2020, the workshop managed the printing of 7 669 documents and 6 521 copies for a total of 559 646 pages, compared to 2019, when 29 006 documents and 51 000 copies for a total of 2 002 954 pages were printed.

#### **Annual output of the printing workshop at OIE Headquarters: 2013 to 2020**

	Years							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
No. of pages	2 733 261	1 799 863	1 958 075	1 877 905	1 422 371	1 316 947	2 022 954	559 646
No. of copies	15 216	11 255	20 660	20 840	16 949	29 023	51 000	6 521

### **1.10. DOCUMENTATION**

#### **Documentary resources and services**

The Documentation Cell manages a documentary collection in paper and electronic format of several thousand books, reports, conference proceedings, scientific articles and journals produced by the OIE, or relating to the activities of the OIE. The emphasis is placed on electronic access to documents via the documentary portal <https://doc.oie.int>, which proved very useful during the lockdown periods in

2020.

The Documentation Cell regularly answers documentation requests from staff at the OIE Headquarters and Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, as well as from Delegates, experts and OIE partners. As of 1 December 2020, 104 documentary searches had been carried out during the year (supply of documents, bibliographical research, searches for archived documents). This compares with 118 documentary searches carried out in 2019.

The Documentation Cell disseminates scientific information relating to OIE activities to staff in the form of the circulation of several scientific journals (a process that became electronic in 2020), and scientific and technical reviews in an electronic format on 12 topics, including AMR; several important animal diseases (rabies, African swine fever [ASF], classical swine fever, peste des petits ruminants [PPR], foot and mouth disease [FMD], African horse sickness, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, bovine spongiform encephalopathy and glanders); Governance and the partnership strategy of international organisations; and “e-Animal Health”. During 2019, five reviews were made available to the general public. By 1 December 2020, these reviews had reached a total audience of more than 1 000 subscribers, compared to 250 subscribers at the end of 2019.

### **The documentary portal (<https://doc.oie.int>)**

The OIE documentary portal provides access to everything published by the Organisation since its creation (*Bulletin*, *Review*, thematic works, conference reports, etc.), the documents of General Sessions and Conferences of Regional Commissions (resolutions, recommendations, final reports, etc.), the scientific and standard-setting work of the OIE (*Codes*, *Manuals*, guidelines, reports of the Specialist Commissions, Working Groups, *ad hoc* Groups, etc.). The library catalogue and external documents relating to the activities of the OIE are also recorded in the database.

The portal provides access to more than 18 000 records, approximately half of which are available to the general public; 52% of the records are documents issued by the OIE, and 48% are available in full text versions. The portal currently has an average of 7 000 unique visitors per month (1 200 in 2019).

### **OIE memory and archives**

The Documentation Cell is responsible for managing the OIE’s memory and archives and ensuring the conservation and organisation of documents recording the activities and work of the OIE since its creation.

An inventory of documents in paper and electronic format, their location and their archival method is underway for the “Institutional Memory” documents (agreements, memorandums and decisions, Members’ accession dossiers, Council documents, administrative reports of the Director General, etc.). Official documents have been digitised and the aim is now to give OIE staff user-friendly access (via the documentary portal), to index entries and even the full text of all important OIE documents.

## Optimising the online profile and visibility of OIE publications

Since mid-2015, the Documentation Cell has been working to improve the online visibility of the OIE's publications and works, including the articles published in the *Scientific and Technical Review* (the *Review*). To this end, a DOI (digital object identifier) has been assigned to every article in the *Review* and some of the articles in the *Bulletin*, to ensure more accurate citation and better availability of the full text of articles online. Full open access is provided for all articles of the *Review* via the OIE Documentary Portal and they are now fully recorded in the PubMed Scientific database.

### Documentation Cell – Achievements in 2019-2020

- ✓ Switch to electronic format for circulation of scientific journals: *Nature*, *La Dépêche Vétérinaire*, *The Economist*, *Courrier International* etc., with a new internal audience reached
- ✓ External Scientific and Technical “Watches” exceeded the threshold of 1000 cumulated subscribers
- ✓ OIE Documentary Portal exceeded the threshold of 7000 unique visitors per month
- ✓ Full Open Access and referencing for the articles of the *Scientific and Technical Review* (since 1982)
- ✓ Relevant advances made in terms of “OIE Memory” archiving, including the finalisation of the digitisation of official agreements and the securing of their physical access

## 1.11. COMMUNICATION

Through its mandate, the OIE plays a unique role in animal health and a major role in food safety, animal welfare and biodiversity protection.

The values promoted by the OIE are those of an organisation whose work is based on the most up-to-date scientific knowledge: transparency, consensus, solidarity and impartiality are thus the pillars of the Organisation's work.

Methods of communication have evolved considerably and the challenges of managing the content and the dissemination of information have grown enormously, as have their political and societal impact. To communicate more effectively on the values and activities of the OIE, and following on from the adoption of the communication strategic plan in 2013 and the adoption of the OIE's Sixth Strategic Plan for the period 2016–2020, which has as its second strategic objective “Establishing trust through transparency and communication”, the main operations carried out by the Communication Department in 2019 and 2020 focused on thematic communications, as an adjunct to the regular institutional activities, and are detailed below.

### 1.11.1. Institutional communication

#### 1.11.1.1. Internal and external communication tools:

Updating of the OIE General Presentation (S, M, L and XL size Word documents, PowerPoint documents, pamphlet);

Updating of the layout of the OIE PowerPoint template;

Updating of the list of contact persons in international and regional organisations with which the OIE has an agreement and the Communication Department's list of institutional contacts;

Updating of the OIE's photographic database;

Production of the 2020 and 2021 greetings cards;

Creation of institutional (and thematic) slides to promote the OIE's communication tools at various regional events;

Creation of new infographics and brochures:

- “Be a pioneer in the eradication of peste des petits ruminants”
- New diagram of the PVS Pathway
- Updated version of the infographic on OIE animal welfare standards
- The OIE Platform: Training Veterinary Services worldwide
- Facilitation of the international movement of competition horses

#### 1.11.1.2. Institutional documentation:

Preparation of the OIE Annual Report (communication version) in three languages:

- Annual Report 2018: Presented via a dedicated webpage ([www.oie.int/report2018](http://www.oie.int/report2018)) accompanied by a 36-page brochure, five thematic videos and visiting cards with links to the website for OIE staff members. A six-month dissemination strategy was put in place to boost the document's dissemination to a wide range of audiences;
- Annual Report 2019: Presented via a dedicated webpage ([www.report2019oie.fr/en/](http://www.report2019oie.fr/en/)) accompanied by a 40-page brochure, two videos and three interviews of members of the OIE network, including countries' representatives. A one-month digital campaign was implemented to launch and disseminate the report amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Monitoring of the production and stocks of the range of prestige gifts and promotional items;

Management of the dispatching of communication material to the regions and for conferences organised by the OIE or its partners.

#### 1.11.1.3. Video production on institutional communication:

Production of institutional films on:

1. the 2018 and 2019 Annual Reports
2. the 87th General Session: 32 films, interviews and animations
3. 2020 World Assembly of OIE Delegates (Adapted Procedure): 29 video presentations, with subtitles in several languages, of the OIE Specialist Commissions, Working Groups and technical departments

Production and/or editing of several videos on specific events:

1. Director General's introduction to the 2018 Annual Report
2. A dozen videos in 2019 and 7 in 2020 for Directorate representation at various international events

3. 1 video of the Director General for the OIE Delegates Training 2020, in the three languages
4. 13 videos for the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

#### 1.11.1.4. Contributions to OIE publications

Monitoring of and contributing to the OIE *Bulletin* in its new format, in collaboration with the Publications Unit. The new digital version of the *Bulletin* can be accessed at [www.oiebulletin.com](http://www.oiebulletin.com). It is in three parts:

- The *Official*, published three times a year and compiling the latest institutional information;
- *Panorama*, published three times a year, each issue on a specific theme, to give the OIE network a comprehensive overview of relevant scientific information and recent activities in the field;
- *OIE News*, a monthly newsletter with articles on the latest news of the OIE network.

Contribution to the choice of graphic design for the covers of various publications.

Social media posts on articles featured in monthly issues of the OIE *Bulletin*.

#### 1.11.1.5. Contributions to external publications

Editorial entitled “Animal diseases know no borders”, in *SciTech Europa*;

Blog by Dr Eloit on “Healthy fish, healthy food”, in the Economist Group’s World Ocean Initiative;

Contribution to and launch of a report on the recommendations of the UN Ad hoc Interagency Coordinating Group on Antimicrobial Resistance: “No time to wait: Securing the future from drug-resistant infections”;

Contribution to the launch of the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund;

Contribution to the bimonthly bulletin of the Guinean One Health Platform;

Articles entitled “Farmers are an integral part of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in the veterinary domain”, “Climate Change – an added complexity to addressing health risks” and “Supporting animal health systems in times of COVID-19: OIE’s response”, in the World Farmers’ Organisation magazine;

Tribunes by Dr Eloit on “African swine fever threatens an entire production system in South-East Asia” and “Can a One Health approach avert the next pandemic?”, in the iD4D blog coordinated by the Agence Française de Développement; article entitled “Peste porcina africana, una amenaza mundial”, in *Revista PorciNews Latam*.

#### 1.11.1.6. New institutional communication strategy

Conduct of an evaluation of the OIE’s presence in the press and on social media over the past one to five years with the support of the firm Global Health Strategies: a report with recommendations to strengthen the OIE’s leadership in global animal health through communications was delivered;

Development of a communication vision paper to cover essential parts of a new communication approach designed for the OIE to expand the reach, competitiveness and impact of its work;

Launch of a re-branding exercise by the end of 2020 that will be implemented during 2021 to develop and position a new OIE brand, narrative and visual identity;

Launch of a project to implement digital monitoring and listening activities during 2021, with the support of the firm Research for Purpose, that will provide insights and evidence to reinforce the OIE leadership.

## **1.11.2. Capacity building and strengthening of the communication network**

### **1.11.2.1. Network of national Focal Points for Communication**

#### Animation activities

- The Yammer platform for Focal Points continued to be used in 2019 and 2020 as a way of facilitating the exchange of information and best practices;
- The Focal Points were consulted prior to and after the development of several communication tools, such as those on African swine fever (ASF), to evaluate the relevance and impact of the messages and concept;
- A series of thematic newsletters were disseminated to Focal Points to share communication tools prior to specific opportunities, such as World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW);
- Stories and posts to highlight global, regional and country efforts were produced with the support of the Focal Points and disseminated via the OIE's communication channels, such as a video highlighting country celebrations during WAAW;
- Several virtual meetings were organised in coordination with the OIE Regional Representations for the Americas and for Asia and the Pacific to facilitate the exchange of communication experiences among Focal Points.

#### Capacity-building activities

- An electronic course on the OIE training platform, comprising three modules, was developed to help Focal Points prepare for seminars or webinars. This online training will continue to be used for the benefit of new Focal Points appointed in the interval between seminars.
- A regional seminar was held in Budva, Montenegro, for European national Focal Points for Communication in November 2019, enabling 35 participants from various countries to receive training. The training programme used had been updated to take into account the needs expressed by countries in a survey conducted in June 2019. Two experts, from WHO and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), respectively, were invited to take part in the training of Focal Points on rumour management, creation of messages and use of social media. A new interactive platform was used to facilitate the sessions.
- A 3-day webinar for Communication Focal Points in the Americas with a focus on ASF was held in place of the Regional Seminar scheduled to be held in Colombia in July 2020, which was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions. The programme

was completely adapted to a virtual format. Two experts from the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) made presentations on the subject of improving communication by Focal Points during a crisis and the management of rumours.

- Two capacity-building webinars were organised, one on rabies and how to engage influencers and communication efforts and the other on antimicrobial resistance communication and influencing behaviour change. More than 500 members of the OIE network enrolled to participate in these webinars, which were held in the OIE's three official languages. The recordings were published on the OIE YouTube channel and disseminated in OIE News, the OIE's monthly newsletter.

#### 1.11.2.2. Students' network

Communication aimed at veterinary students was continued through the "OIE Junior Ambassador" project, launched in September 2018, in partnership with the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA). More than one hundred ambassadors from various countries in the five OIE regions were designated to disseminate the OIE's key messages, especially within the framework of the communication campaigns on antimicrobial resistance and on rinderpest, but also to disseminate the "Rabies ends here" and "ASF kills pigs" campaigns and to participate in World Veterinary Day. These campaigns were presented to them through more than 10 virtual sessions conducted by the Communication Department and OIE technical staff to explain the various tools at their disposal. The students showed many good initiatives and expressed their enthusiasm in the ambassadors' Facebook group. The OIE and the various campaigns were also presented at the ISVA Congress and annual Symposium, and an article entitled "African swine fever: protecting domestic and wild pigs against a deadly pig disease" was published in *IVSA Journal* in April 2019. Some videos were produced in 2020 to highlight the partnership between the OIE and IVSA and to share the efforts of the ambassador winners to raise awareness on antimicrobial resistance.

In November 2020, the IVSA hosted its First Global AMR Youth Summit, supported through the participation of staff from the OIE. The event welcomed 3 500 students in the human, animal and plant health and pharmacy fields representing 127 countries.

#### 1.11.2.3. Network of Regional Communication Correspondents (RCCs)

Strengthening of the network of RCCs continued, with at least one correspondent being designated by each of the Regional Representations.

The RCCs were trained by the Communication Department:

- Web-based training was provided in January 2019: new communication guides for regional activities, available on the extranet, were presented.
- Training during the meeting of Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives in October 2019: tools to communicate on and increase the visibility of the OIE at various regional events, their involvement in dissemination efforts, the OIE Junior Ambassador project and the communication plan for the launch of the renovated regional websites were presented and discussed with them.
- Webinars for the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in 2020: basics of using digital tools, such as uploading and editing on YouTube and developing a campaign on the OIE's topics on social

media.

During various events (World Rabies Day, WAAW, etc.) RCCs were given access to specially designed communication tools for use and dissemination at regional level. Several articles on activities developed for the regions and on the experiences of various countries were prepared with the regions and disseminated in *OIE News*.

Lastly, various communication activities were undertaken to enhance the visibility of the Regional Conferences for Africa (February 2019), Asia, the Far East and Oceania (September 2019), the Middle East (November 2019), the Americas (virtual format, September 2020) and Europe (virtual format, November 2020): press release, activities on social media and/or articles for *OIE News*.

### **1.11.3. Communication on specific topics**

#### **1.11.3.1. Communication on animal diseases**

##### **- “Animal diseases” portal on the website [www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int)**

Regular updating of the OIE animal diseases portal ([www.oie.int/animal\\_diseases](http://www.oie.int/animal_diseases)), accessible from the home page of the OIE global website and providing access, via a single portal, to information on OIE-listed diseases and several other diseases of interest, notably emerging diseases; digital conversion of existing disease pages, with the creation of a dedicated web page and easy access to all the relevant tools. The content of certain disease pages was updated: ASF and tuberculosis in particular.

##### **- Rabies**

A new OIE campaign, entitled “Rabies ends here”, was launched in advance of World Rabies Day 2019, on the theme “Rabies: vaccinate to eliminate”. This campaign targets dog owners and seeks to arouse a feeling of pride in people who vaccinate their dogs, thereby encouraging the vaccination of dogs against rabies. Numerous communication tools, including posters, a video, vaccination certificates, social media masks, accompanied by guides on how to deploy the campaign at national level, were made available to Members in six languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Mandarin and Arabic. A digital campaign was also developed and enabled 2.5 million people to be reached in 2019 via social media through the creation of a specific hashtag (#rabiesendshere).

The following items were updated: the rabies portal, frequently asked questions (FAQs) on rabies and the interactive infographic on rabies.

In 2019, a major effort was made to disseminate tools to the OIE network, notably via the Yammer platform with national Focal Points for Communication, as well as to veterinary students, who actively participated in the deployment of the campaign. In 2020, a digital strategy was implemented to engage influencers in the dissemination of the messages and tools through social media channels.

In addition, the work of communication within the framework of “United Against Rabies” collaboration continued with regular meetings. The OIE coordinated communication on the launch in 2019 of the first annual progress report of the Global Strategic Plan against rabies, including the development of a joint press release. The OIE also collaborated by means of communications around the launch of the new United Against Rabies Forum in 2020, including a dedicated virtual event, website and joint press release.

##### **- Peste des petits ruminants**

The Communication Department took part in the monthly meetings of the OIE internal group on PPR. A new infographic, entitled “Be a pioneer in the eradication of peste des petits ruminants” was developed in 2019.

## **- Rinderpest**

With the financial support of the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Threat Reduction Program, Global Affairs Canada, and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) at the United States Department of Defense, a strategy and a comprehensive communication plan were developed with the aim of trying to keep the world free from rinderpest by ensuring that the memory of this disease remains alive. The many communication tools (leaflets, videos, PowerPoint presentations, “serious game”, etc.) subsequently developed have been packaged ready for downloading from the website at [www.rinderpestvigilance.com](http://www.rinderpestvigilance.com).

In 2019, the DTRA provided additional funding to allow the dissemination of the campaign to be stepped up, and a member of staff to be in charge of communication on the subject was recruited to join the OIE communication team.

An evaluation of the needs of various target groups (veterinary paraprofessionals, laboratories, OIE Members, veterinary education establishments, veterinary students) was launched at the end of 2019 with the aim of optimising the dissemination of existing tools to these groups and potentially developing some additional tools.

The second edition of the “rinderpest serious game” challenge (revamped version) was launched in January 2020. Active communication on this new challenge was done, including the implementation of a digital marketing strategy. Over 12 300 participants from 121 countries took up the 2nd OIE Rinderpest Challenge between 15 January and 12 February 2020, a 10-fold increase in participants compared to the first edition held in 2018.

A co-branding agreement was signed with FAO to co-publish a series of capacity development and awareness-raising materials related to rinderpest eradication, including fact sheets, promotional brochures and leaflets, videos and e-learning courses.

## **- African swine fever**

An awareness campaign, entitled “ASF kills pigs”, with tools for the personnel of commercial pig farms, other pig producers, hunters, travellers, transport authorities and staff at control points, was created in 2019 and widely disseminated. These tools have been used by over 60 countries and have been translated into more than 10 different languages.

Additional tools particularly targeted at travellers and airline and airport staff were launched on the occasion of the Lunar New Year 2020. Thanks to a collaboration established with the International Air Transport Association (IATA), an OIE partner, a webinar was held to train Asian airlines on the campaign and encourage them to disseminate the tools.

Furthermore, a range of institutional communication actions on regional and global activities were implemented, some of them in coordination with FAO, such as the launch of the GF-TADs initiative for the global control of ASF, which was led by the OIE and included a joint press release.

The Communication Department took part in various meetings at regional level to disseminate information on the awareness campaign.

## **- EBO-SURSY project**

In 2018 and 2019, with the financial support of the European Union, the OIE developed a set of communication tools in the form of a teaching kit, available in both digital and printed format, for dissemination in the 10 West and Central African countries involved in the project. The aim is to enable the Veterinary Services and other actors involved in the “One Health” approach to strengthen their knowledge of the five zoonoses covered

by the project, and to raise communities' awareness of the risks associated with these diseases and the means to protect themselves. The teaching kit comprises fact sheets on the four haemorrhagic fevers, four posters, a pack of quiz cards on diseases of animal origin, a radio spot and the script of a play, all aimed at disseminating the prevention messages. An additional surveillance "serious game" was developed, in the form of collaborative learning targeted at local communities living in close proximity to wildlife. In 2019 and 2020, the arrangements for disseminating these tools, with priority being given to two pilot countries (Guinea and Democratic Republic of the Congo), were in the process of being defined, with a view to their implementation in 2021.

The EBO-SURSY website was integrated into the OIE Africa Regional website, and updated according to current project objectives. New success stories and country stories were shared through the website and social media channels.

#### **- Sustainable laboratory biosafety and biosecurity project**

Tools designed to maximise the visibility of this new OIE project were prepared, notably including the creation of a visual identity, the production of a fact sheet in three languages, as well as an infographic on an initiative aimed at mobilising resources for the launch of an Open Innovation competition. An agency was contracted to produce a 'motion design' video describing the project's mission; the video will be finished and shared in 2021.

A communication strategy for this project was developed to guide future communication activities during the three years of project implementation.

#### **- Regional and inter-institutional project to build resilience against agro-terrorism and agro-crime involving animals**

The OIE has developed a communication strategy (in association with FAO and INTERPOL) for this new joint project along with an associated fact sheet.

##### **1.11.3.2. Communication campaign "We need you to handle antimicrobials with care"**

Since 2017, with the financial support of the Fleming Fund, a strategy and a communication plan have been developed and implemented with the aim of promoting responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in animals, and fostering awareness of OIE international standards relating to antimicrobial resistance.

The results of the communication campaign carried out in connection with World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2019 were analysed at the beginning of 2020 to inform the development of the fourth year of the campaign. This analysis showed a strong engagement on the part of OIE Members, which was again the case in 2020 with the dissemination of the digital tools made available on the online repository [www.oie-antimicrobial.com](http://www.oie-antimicrobial.com) to support countries and regional offices with their communication efforts. The global branding of the week was expanded to include all antimicrobials and retitled "World Antimicrobial Awareness Week".

In parallel with this campaign, the Communication Department also maintains close relations with its counterparts at FAO and WHO to establish a Tripartite communication strategy and tools, a presence on social media with the necessary multimedia tools, the dissemination of key messages and communication tools to OIE Representations and Delegates, as well as Tripartite media relations. A three-day Global Consultative Meeting was hosted by the Tripartite to renew popular and political awareness of the AMR issue and welcomed 100 high-level multi-sectoral participants working at global, regional or country level.

The final draft of the OIE behaviour change guide was sent for review to OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, behaviour change experts and selected OIE

Headquarters staff for final comments. This guide will provide training resources for the Veterinary Services and their partners.

#### 1.11.3.3. Global Laboratory Leadership Programme (GLLP)

Assistance with the development of the GLLP Competency framework in collaboration with the OIE Programmes Department.

#### 1.11.3.4. Communication campaign on the renovation of WAHIS

Throughout the year, the Communication Department supported and collaborated with the project team by developing a specific communication strategy for the launch of the new OIE-WAHIS platform and developed various tools dedicated to the launch, such as promotional videos, infographics, email templates and website banners. The Communication Department also coordinated communication activities with the different OIE Regional Representations.

Numerous change management activities were carried out, with the creation of seven infographics and two videos designed to help users master the new interface.

#### 1.11.3.5. Aquatic animals

Creation of a web portal on the OIE website to disseminate information on institutional activities relating to aquatic animals; development of communication tools within the framework of the campaign entitled “The benefits of aquatic animals are infinite: keep them healthy”, which was launched on the occasion of the Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health, held in 2019.

A communication component for the AMR in Aquatic Animals: Workstream Proposal has been contributed by the Communication Department.

#### 1.11.3.6. Animal welfare

Creation of language notes with regard to reptiles farmed for their skins, meat and other products, within the framework of the adoption of a standard on the subject in May 2019.

Complete renovation of the Animal Welfare portal, to make the information more accessible.

#### 1.11.3.7. Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)

Development of a communication plan to increase the visibility of e-learning on PPPs launched in May 2019. In this context, various communication tools were developed:

Article published in the September 2019 issue of *OIE News*;

Renovation of the brochure on PPPs;

Development of a promotional video in collaboration with the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD).

#### 1.11.3.8. OIE Observatory

Development of a communication plan for the launch of the report on the OECD study and the roadmap.

#### 1.11.3.9. Zoonoses

The OIE coordinated the communication plan relating to the *Tripartite Guide to Addressing Zoonotic Diseases in Countries*, developed jointly with FAO and WHO. The activities implemented included the preparation of a joint press release and emailing campaigns for the network at the time of the launch, the creation of various communication tools and the use of social media to disseminate the *Guide* at every opportunity. In 2020, online training on the *Guide* as well as an Operational Tool on Joint Risk Assessment were launched and disseminated to the OIE network.

#### 1.11.3.10. COVID-19

The Communication Department played an active role in the OIE Incident Management System and was responsible for implementing the following communication activities in response to COVID-19:

Collection and identification of communication needs:

- Regular monitoring of the information circulating in the press and social media channels to identify and address communication needs and concerns;
- Sharing of this information with relevant OIE staff and the Directorate.

Development and implementation of a communication plan:

- Participation in the regular updates on the OIE Q&A on COVID-19 and animals;
- Creation of an OIE web portal on COVID-19, gathering all relevant information produced and/or curated by OIE staff;
- Creation of key messages and production of six video interviews to disseminate guidelines from the OIE expert groups and details of their activities, for use in different media, such as the OIE website and social media channels;
- Publication and dissemination of country stories to highlight the One Health collaboration at national level during the pandemic;
- Dissemination of a special issue on COVID-19 of *OIE News*, the OIE's monthly newsletter;
- Coordination of joint communication initiatives with key partners, including WHO, FAO, UNEP, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), World Veterinary Association (WVA);
- Regular dissemination of messages related to COVID-19 and animals through the OIE's social media channels and website;
- Development of communication and social media guidelines for OIE staff to ensure consistency in OIE messages across all channels;
- Participation in calls with national Focal Points for Communication to share and promote the OIE messages.

Management of press relations:

Management of all enquiries from the media, with 95 enquiries related to COVID-19, representing 55% of all the inquiries received during 2020;

Management of interviews, including preparation of talking points and media packs;

Publication of the following statements, declarations and press releases:

- Maintaining efforts to fight animal diseases in times of COVID-19
- COVID-19: Our Time to Act on Wild Animal Wet Markets – Joint letter signed by the OIE Director General and OIE President
- Responding to the COVID-19 crisis: the contribution of the veterinary profession
- COVID-19 and veterinary activities designated as essential – OIE/WVA joint statement
- Wildlife Trade and Emerging Zoonotic Diseases – Wildlife Working Group Statement
- Press release: OIE statement on COVID-19 and mink (12/11/2020)
- OIE *Bulletin* “Overcoming the impact of COVID-19 on animal welfare: COVID-19 Thematic Platform on Animal Welfare”

#### **1.11.4. Event communication**

Event communication activities comprise: graphic research and creation of logos and the graphics style sheets for events, creation of all types of support material on request, development of dedicated websites, management of social networks with development of the necessary multimedia tools, media relations, management of dispatching of communication documentation, video and photo production, etc.

##### **1.11.4.1. Main events**

#### **Participation in the 2019 Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in Berlin, Germany:**

In 2019, participation of the Deputy Director General “Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities” in a Panel of Experts and at the Conference of Agriculture Ministers, with the relevant communication materials. See associated press release [here](#).

#### **Participation in the 2020 Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in Berlin, Germany:**

In 2020, participation of the Director General in a High Level Conference on African swine fever and of the Deputy Director General “Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities” in the Digital Council, with the relevant communication materials.

#### **OIE Photo Competition: “Animal welfare beyond the cliché”:**

The 2019 edition was another resounding success. To present this competition in a new light and to continue to propose an ever more inspiring and modern event, various innovations were made, such as having a jury composed of three veterinarians who are also photographers. Fifteen tutorial videos in which they shared their technical skills were published on the Photo Competition website and on social media, namely

Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and LinkedIn. The videos received more than 10 700 views and 65 200 comments (YouTube, LinkedIn, Twitter). A Facebook campaign reached nearly a million people, and the competition website registered a strong growth in the number of visitors, increasing from 2 639 views in 2018 to 77 072 views in 2019.

### **87th General Session:**

Complete overhaul of the concept for the Opening Ceremony, which was animated interactively by the Head of the Communication Department with the participation of the President and the Director General, on the theme of the impacts of the OIE's work on animals, animal health professionals, families and the public at large.

Three specially created films highlighted in particular key world statistics on animal population, production and health.

### **2020 Adapted Procedure:**

Implementation of communication activities to disseminate the outcomes of the Adapted Procedure put in place due to the postponement of the 88th General Session. A webpage was created on the OIE website to make all relevant information available and video presentations of the OIE's activities in 2020 were published on the YouTube channels. Six news items and a series of social media messages were disseminated to highlight relevant topics.

### **Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health:**

Creation of logos and the graphics style sheet for the event, creation of all the requested support material, including for the decoration of the conference hall, management of social media with development of the necessary multimedia tools, media relations, management of dispatching of communication documentation, infographic, video and photo production, production and dissemination of two press releases, three case studies and an editorial statement by the Director General.

Press coverage was extensive, with more than 70 articles on the event, including in international, regional or national general publications in four regions (Americas, Asia, Europe and Africa) as well as specialist trade journals.

### **Miscellaneous**

Various 'world day' events throughout the year, including World Rabies Day, Antimicrobial Resistance Week, World Animal Day, World Veterinary Day, etc.

Management of social networks, with development of the necessary multimedia tools, dispatching of key messages and communication tools to OIE Representations, Delegates and national Focal Points for Communication, as well as to veterinary students; media relations and production of specific communication tools, where appropriate.

#### **1.11.4.2. Meetings held at OIE Headquarters**

Presentation on OIE communication activities during a visit by veterinary students from the National School of Veterinary Services (ENSV), France;

Presentation on OIE activities given at thematic seminars;

Presentation on OIE communication activities given at the meeting of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives.

### 1.11.5. Media relations

The OIE's media relations work included support for the dissemination of all the communication activities detailed above.

#### 1.11.5.1. Monitoring

Daily monitoring of the media;

Weekly updating of contact information in the database of journalists;

Twice weekly production of the press review, in the form of a newsletter sent by email to the Headquarters and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations.

#### 1.11.5.2. Relations

A prompt response to all enquiries from the media, with 113 enquiries during 2019 and around 170 enquiries during 2020;

Management of interviews, including preparation of talking points and press packs.

#### 1.11.5.3. Specific productions

Press releases (18 in 2019 and 13 in 2020) issued in the three languages and sent simultaneously by email to journalists on the OIE's regularly updated media mailing list;

General Session News bulletins were published and disseminated:

- Nine during the General Session in May 2019
- Six during the 2020 Adapted Procedure;

Several *OIE News* issues on specific topics;

Written statements to the media on the global ASF situation, the welfare of donkeys and COVID-19.

### 1.11.6. Digital Communication activities (OIE institutional websites and social media channels)

#### 1.11.6.1. Renovation of the OIE website

In February 2020, the Communication Department in collaboration with the Digital Transformation and Information Systems Department started work on renovating the [www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int) website. The project has four main objectives:

1. To reflect the 5 goals of the Seventh Strategic Plan
2. To be part of and in line with the new OIE Communication Strategy
3. To integrate the website with the IT Master Plan and link its components to the OIE's digital transformation
4. To improve and facilitate an agile procedure to contribute to the OIE website.

Activities implemented:

Collection and identification of needs

- 29 interviews and 7 workshops with representatives of all OIE Departments/Units;
- Analysis of interconnection between the OIE website and different OIE web platforms (OIE-WAHIS, Alexandrie);
- Benchmark analysis of 14 websites of different international organisations and NGOs;
- Risk, search engine optimisation, user experience and use of personal data analysis.

#### Selection of service provider

- Launch of a call for tender with 5 different service providers;
- Selection of Be API as service provider for the renovation of the OIE website.

#### Drafting of technical and functional specifications

- Restructuring of website content;
- Establishment of a new design concept, new website functionalities, new technology and new hosting.

#### Development and testing

- First version of the backend.

The project will continue in 2021. A first version of the website will be delivered in April 2021; a second version will be delivered in June 2021.

#### 1.11.6.2. Monitoring of OIE institutional websites and other sites

Permanent collaboration with the Digital Transformation and Information Systems Department and other Departments on updating the OIE institutional website and improving its functionality and editorial line;

Monitoring the websites of the main partners and international institutions;

Developing and implementing specific websites for particular themes, activities and events (General Session, global conferences, communication campaigns, etc.);

Finalisation and follow-up of the project to overhaul and place on line, in collaboration with the firm ADELIOM and the OIE's Digital Transformation and Information Systems Department, the websites for the five OIE Regions, with a shared platform.

- The new websites provide more targeted information on topics specific to each region along with easier access to news and events.
- Twelve staff members from the regions received training in website management and administration in October 2019 at the annual meeting of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives (6 staff members on site and 6 by electronic link).
- Four of the five regional websites were officially launched on 21 November 2019. Communication on the launch was aimed at regular users. A separate communication campaign to attract new users will be carried out at a later date.

- The Communication Department and the Digital Transformation and Information Systems Department supported the 5 Regional Representations on issues regarding the new websites after they had gone live.
- The Middle East website was launched on 3 April 2020. The website is available in English and Arabic.

#### 1.11.6.3. Production on the OIE institutional website

Management of the homepage and design of the OIE website;

Creation of a web portal on COVID-19;

Launch of a portal on scientific data on the research activities of scientific partner institutions involved in the EBO-SURSY Project coordinated by the OIE;

Migration and integration of the EBO-SURSY Project website into the website of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa;

Renovation of the ‘Solidarity’ section, including the whole of the section on the PVS Pathway and the role of the Veterinary Services;

Total renovation of the portals on animal welfare and food safety;

Updating of the portals on rabies, the antimicrobial use database and the OIE-WAHIS project.

#### 1.11.6.4. Social media

Regular feeds to the OIE’s Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn accounts;

Regular updating of the YouTube and Flickr accounts;

Development of the OIE’s strategy for Instagram, in addition to its existing social media channels, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Analysis and regular monitoring of statistics on social media site visits, for the institutional site and the events site (Google Analytics), with a marked progression in the audience figures for social media:

##### 1. **Facebook:**

###### **In 2019:**

A 32.8% increase in the number of page followers (44 870 at the start of December 2019, compared to 33 774 followers at the start of December 2018);



**In 2020:**

A 22.6% increase in the number of page followers (55 028 at the start of December 2020, compared to 44 870 followers at the start of December 2019);



**2. Twitter:**

**In 2019:** a 28% increase in the number of followers (14 081 followers at the start of November 2019, compared to 10 989 followers at the start of December 2018).

**In 2020:** a 35.6% increase in the number of followers (20 516 followers in December 2020, compared to 15 134 followers in December 2019).

**3. LinkedIn:**

**In 2019:** a 99.5% increase in the number of followers (20 745 followers at the start of November 2019, compared to 10 402 followers at the start of December 2018).

**In 2020:** a 73% increase in the number of followers (37 215 followers in December 2020, compared to 21 513 followers in December 2019).

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2019

- Renovation of communication on events, notably for the Opening Ceremony of the 87th General Session and for the Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health.
- Total renovation of the regional websites, based on a shared platform.
- Strengthening of the Department's network of communication contacts, targeting groups such as national Focal Points for Communication, regional communication correspondents and veterinary students.
- Implementation of numerous communication campaigns on specific topics, including, among others, African swine fever, rabies, rinderpest and antimicrobial resistance.
- Overhaul of the training programme of capacity building for national Veterinary Services, on the occasion of the first seminar in Europe for the new cycle of training (2019-2020), which welcomed nearly 40 participants from 35 different countries.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2020

Communications around COVID-19, which notably contributed to an increase in the OIE's visibility in social media and the press.

Launch of the project for the total renovation of the OIE website.

Development of a communication vision paper to cover essential parts of a new communication approach designed to enable the OIE to expand the reach, competitiveness and impact of its work.

## 2. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### 2.1. ACCOUNTING AND BUDGETARY MANAGEMENT

Financial management for the years 2019 and 2020 is described in documents 88 SG/4 (OIE Financial Report for the 93rd Financial Year, 1 January – 31 December 2019) and 88 SG/4 (OIE Financial Report for the 94th Financial Year, 1 January – 31 December 2020), respectively. The consequences of the COVID-19 sanitary crisis in 2020 for the accounting and budgetary management are explained in that document.

The collection of statutory contributions confirmed a stable rate of recovery in 2019 and also in 2020 that was comparable to that of previous years. A stable rate of recovery of statutory contributions is an important factor in maintaining a balanced budget.

Resolution No. 15 adopted in May 2018 ('Taking an annual price index into account when calculating the annual contributions') was implemented to calculate the level of contributions for 2019, 2020 and 2021. This mechanism means that Members can now anticipate further ahead the change in the level of statutory contributions.

In both 2019 and 2020, four Members contributed in extraordinary category A (1.2 M€ for 2019 and 1.18 M€ for 2020 in additional income for the Regular Budget). These extraordinary category contributions are welcome as they make it possible to support a policy of investment in modern information technology systems and continued renovation work on the OIE Headquarters buildings.

In 2020, one Member changed from contribution category 2 to contribution category 6, resulting in a significant decrease of income (147 K€).

Administrative and financial management was again characterised by an ever-increasing quantity of new technical tasks and additional secretarial, accounting and budget monitoring work related to the regular growth in activities, both at Headquarters and in the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. In 2020, despite a temporary slowdown in OIE activities (cancellation of face-to-face meetings and workshops), the OIE's teams had to contend with a heavy workload because of the need to implement new processes during lockdowns and the associated teleworking.

In 2019, the former Financial Directorate, in association with the Organisation's principal bank, put in place a secure electronic procedure for managing bank transfers (resulting in less paper, greater security and reduced bank fees). The year 2019 also saw the introduction of training for accounts staff of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in the use of the accounting software application used at OIE Headquarters (facilitation of accounting at regional level performed by the regional offices). In 2020, the continuity of implementation of these projects was delayed. The projects will continue in 2021.

In 2020, the Accounting Unit and the Budget Unit, under the supervision of the Director of Administration, managed the Regular Budget, the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (the World Fund) account, and the accounts of the 13 Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, the Pension Fund and the Allowance Fund for the staff of OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and Offices.

A special focus on OIE-WAHIS and the OIE's investments (current works and investments and IT investments) is provided in document 88 SG/4.

To date, the initial phase of OIE-WAHIS investment (2017-2020) has been financed exclusively by voluntary contributions collected through the World Fund and managed within the framework of the Regular Budget (management and monitoring of investment amortisation); the expenses of the OIE-WAHIS project recorded during the year are exactly offset by an internal subsidy of an equivalent amount (i.e. no impact on the financial result for the year).

In 2019, the OECD officially included the OIE on the list known as 'Annexe 2' of international organisations eligible for official development assistance – ODA – (OECD List of ODA-Eligible International Organisations), with an ODA coefficient of 61%.

As such, it has been agreed that this 61% coefficient will apply to core contributions to the OIE Regular Budget, for reporting these as multilateral ODA.

It was further agreed that this 61% coefficient could be applied to voluntary contributions to the OIE World Fund that are not earmarked for a specific country or region, in order to report an estimated share that will benefit countries on the Development Assistance Committee (DAC)'s List of ODA Recipients as bilateral ODA.

In addition, contributions to the OIE World Fund can be reported in full as bilateral ODA if they are earmarked for countries on the DAC's List of ODA Recipients.

## **2.2. FUNCTIONING OF THE WORLD ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE FUND**

The OIE World Fund was established for the purpose of implementing "projects of international public utility relating to the control of animal diseases, including those affecting humans, and the promotion of animal welfare and animal production food safety".

In 2019 and 2020, the World Fund received financial contributions from: Argentina, Australia, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Colombia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the World Bank, the International Horse Sports Confederation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Pew Charitable Trusts and the European Union, along with other, miscellaneous contributions. Contributions totalled EUR 19 457 366.53 in 2019 and EUR 21 640 587.61 in 2020; these years are respectively ranked as the fourth and third best years of income received since the creation of the World Fund in 2004.

The 2019 and 2020 financial statements for the World Fund are presented in document 88 SG/4 (OIE Financial Report for the 93rd Financial Year, 1 January – 31 December 2019) and 88 SG/4 (OIE Financial Report for the 94th Financial Year, 1 January – 31 December 2020), respectively; information related to estimated income in 2021 is presented in document 88 SG/5 (2021 Budget).

The Engagement and Investment Department (E&ID), which manages the World Fund, is placed under the direct responsibility of the Director General. As of 31 December 2020, the E&ID comprised a Head of Department and five Resource Mobilisation and Grant Managers. An accountant is responsible for monitoring, on a full-time basis, transactions related to the World Fund.

The functioning of the World Fund is supervised and controlled by two committees, which meet on an annual basis:

### **The Management Committee**

The Management Committee held its 13th meeting at OIE Headquarters on 22 May 2019. The World Fund Accounts in EUR and USD (Income and Expenses) for the Financial Year ended 31 December 2018 and indicative values for estimated World Fund income in 2019 in EUR were presented to the Council representatives on this Committee (President of the World Assembly of Delegates, Immediate Past President and two members of the Management Committee). They were approved at this meeting of the Management Committee, prior to their submission to the Council for endorsement and subsequent submission to the Assembly for adoption (see 87/SG/4 and 87/SG/5, respectively).

The 14th meeting of the Management Committee planned to take place in May 2020 was cancelled. Nevertheless, the World Fund Accounts in EUR and USD (Income and Expenses) for the Financial Year ended 31 December 2019 and indicative values for estimated World Fund income in 2020 in EUR were submitted electronically to the Council for endorsement and subsequent submission to the Assembly for adoption (see documents 88 SG/4 [OIE Financial Report for the 93rd Financial Year, 1 January – 31 December 2019] and 88 SG/5 [2020 Budget], respectively).

### **The Advisory Committee**

The Advisory Committee held its 14th meeting at OIE Headquarters on 12 December 2019 and its 15th meeting on 15 December 2020, organised as a virtual meeting. The Advisory Committee, currently chaired by Dr Martine Dubuc, former Delegate of Canada to the OIE, provides a unique platform to promote dialogue with the main donors and international organisations concerned with animal health and welfare to provide advice and feedback on OIE investment opportunities. From 2021 and for a period of five years, the Advisory Committee will be chaired by Dr Hans Wyss, Delegate of Switzerland to the OIE.

## ***2.3. PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE WORLD FUND IN 2019 AND 2020 WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SIXTH STRATEGIC PLAN***

The World Fund is an essential tool for collecting the voluntary contributions needed to supplement the OIE's funding from Members' statutory contributions. In 2019 and 2020, the World Fund was mobilised to finance the following themes, in line with the OIE Strategic Plan for the period 2016-2020:

### **Strategic Objective 1 – Securing animal health and welfare**

#### **Observatory on the implementation of OIE standards**

In May 2018, the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE adopted Resolution No. 36 recommending that the OIE develop an Observatory to monitor the implementation of OIE standards. Thanks to a contribution from the United Kingdom, the OIE was able to determine the design of the Observatory, in collaboration with the OECD. In 2019 and 2020, the OIE received contributions from, Australia, Canada, Paraguay, Spain and the United States of America. Contributions in the form of human resources were received from Argentina and France to support the Observatory.

#### **African swine fever control**

During the 87th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE (May 2019), a global initiative for the control of African swine fever (ASF) was launched. This initiative is based on the FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) mechanism. In 2019 and 2020, Australia, the People's Republic of China, Colombia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, the United States of America and the European Union provided support for this initiative.

### **Rabies control**

With the establishment in 2020 of the “United Against Rabies” Forum (WHO, FAO, OIE and many other stakeholders), and the implementation of the global strategic plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies (“Zero by 30”), this zoonotic disease remains an important investment priority for the OIE. In 2019-2020, the OIE was able to count on the support received from Australia, Germany, Italy, France, Japan and the European Union for rabies activities.

### **PPR control**

The goal of worldwide eradication of PPR by 2030 remains a priority challenge and the OIE is continuing to mobilise its partners with a view to additional investments in this field. Italy, Germany, the United States of America, the European Union and the World Bank have already responded favourably, and they contributed to the World Fund on this topic in 2019-2020.

### **Foot and mouth disease (FMD) control**

In line with the Global FMD Strategy published in 2012 and developed within GF-TADs, the OIE is continuing to deploy several of the FMD control activities thanks to the commitment of donors, in particular Australia, Brazil, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Colombia, Italy, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, the United States of America and the European Union.

### **Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) control**

With the creation of the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund dedicated to the control of AMR by the Tripartite (WHO, FAO, OIE), signed in August 2019, AMR control gained new momentum. This Fund, managed through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), is a major step towards increasing investments, whether public or private, and strengthening the joint efforts of the three major actors in AMR control. This Fund will serve to finance the activities set up by the Tripartite. Thanks to this joint Trust Fund, donors will benefit from greater synergy between the actions carried out and a high level of transparency in the management and use of their funds. In 2019, the members of the Tripartite worked together on setting up this Trust Fund and developing a fundraising strategy. The Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom have already contributed to the Fund, paving the way for additional donors to make a commitment in 2021. Within the framework of its Tripartite collaboration, the OIE has also been able to contribute to global AMR control activities thanks to the support of Australia, Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Union.

### **Aquatic animals**

The year 2019 saw the organisation of an OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health entitled “Collaboration, sustainability: our future”, including a session on the management of diseases and antimicrobial resistance. The Conference received financial contributions from Chile, the People's Republic of China, the European Union, Japan, Norway and private donors. The development of a work plan on aquatic animals and antimicrobial resistance was also initiated thanks to support from Norway.

### **OIE vaccine banks**

The three OIE vaccine banks active in 2019 and 2020 (FMD, rabies and PPR) directly support the OIE's actions within the framework of global animal disease control and eradication programmes. In 2019-2020, OIE vaccine banks facilitated the delivery of 1 480 000 doses of FMD vaccine, 4 184 000 doses of rabies vaccine and 15 100 000 doses of PPR vaccine. The donors that contributed to the financing of vaccines for OIE Members in 2019-2020 were as follows: Australia, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand and the European Union. In addition, the World Bank, FAO, WHO and the NGO Four Paws purchased vaccines through this mechanism within the framework of projects

they were implementing in various beneficiary countries.

### **Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs)**

Since the adoption of Resolution No. 35 in 2016, the OIE has supported the development of GBADs, a consortium of organisations and universities led by the University of Liverpool that work at the crossroads of public policy, private sector strategy and academia. GBADs will create information on the economic burden of livestock and aquaculture diseases to achieve evidence-based decision-making. In 2020, GBADs officially commenced its phase II (2020-22) with financial support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the European Union. Additional financial support will be sought to build upon and expand the programme's reach.

### **Wildlife health management systems**

The majority of recent emerging infectious diseases have wildlife origins. The OIE is strengthening its efforts to anticipate, reduce and manage the risk of spillover events of pathogens between wildlife, domestic animals and humans at the human–animal–ecosystem interface. In 2020, the OIE received a first financial contribution from Australia and WHO to support its work in the field of wildlife health management systems.

Other topics received significant support from OIE donors, including **animal welfare** (France, Ireland, Switzerland, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals [RSPCA], International Fund for Animal Welfare [IFAW], International Coalition for Working Equids, Four Paws and the European Union), **biological threat reduction** activities (Canada, France, United Kingdom, United States of America), **epidemiological surveillance** and the **control of emerging zoonoses** (World Bank, United States of America, European Union), and **equine activities** (International Horse Sports Confederation [IHSC]).

### **Strategic Objective 2 – Establishing trust through transparency and communication**

#### **Renovation of WAHIS (OIE-WAHIS)**

The renovation of WAHIS – launched in 2017 and one of the most important investments in the history of the OIE – received significant support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the People's Republic of China, Germany, the United States of America and Switzerland in 2019-2020, in addition to the contributions previously collected and presented, notably from Canada, France, Japan, Mexico, the People's Republic of China, Russia, the United Kingdom, the European Union and the Maris Llorens Foundation.

### **Strategic Objective 3 – Ensuring the capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services**

#### **Public–private partnerships (PPPs) in the veterinary domain**

Thanks to a contribution from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the OIE was able to engage more actively in recognising PPPs in the animal health sector. PPPs come in various guises and offer a large potential for increasing the number of partners, and the synergies and resources of the Veterinary Services. In 2019, guidelines were established for PPPs in the veterinary domain to give OIE Members a framework for establishing, developing and supervising PPPs in the veterinary field. These guidelines are the subject of the publication “OIE PPP Handbook” ([www.oie.int/ppphandbook](http://www.oie.int/ppphandbook)), two online training modules on PPPs and their application to TADs control (<https://training.oie.int/course/index.php?categoryid=57>), and several regional workshops aimed at disseminating good practices on setting up high impact, sustainable PPPs in the veterinary domain. In connection with the concept of PPP, a feasibility study was launched in 2019 with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), based in Nairobi, Kenya, under the name of “Better Enforcement of Standards for Safer Trade” (BESST) and is due to study possibilities for future OIE actions in East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Renewed funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation was approved in 2020 to extend support on PPP for another 3 years in 2021-2023 and allow full integration into the OIE PVS Pathway.

#### **The Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway and associated activities**

For over 10 years, the World Fund has been financing the implementation of the PVS Pathway,

whenever OIE Members have requested an evaluation in this context.

In 2019 and 2020, the OIE World Fund continued to support the implementation of OIE PVS Pathway missions, workshops and training seminars, activities recommended as a result of this exercise (twinning projects between laboratories and between veterinary education establishments) as well as implementation of the One Health approach (IHR/PVS workshops, Joint External Evaluations [JEE]).

This approach, aimed at long-term capacity building, is supported by numerous World Fund donors. In 2019-2020, contributions from the following donors helped to finance the PVS Pathway: Australia, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Uzbekistan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the World Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the European Union.

As of 31 December 2020, a total of 115 active contracts were being managed by the World Fund Unit, 44 of which were signed in 2019 and 2020. The contracts signed in 2019-2020 represent a total of EUR 36 707 710.65 allocated to the implementation of OIE missions and priorities.

### **3. ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION**

In 2019 and 2020, the work of the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department (the Department) was conducted in accordance with Strategic Objective No. 2 of the OIE's Sixth Strategic Plan, namely establishing trust through transparency and communication, by continuing to implement the three main elements of the roadmap: transparency of animal health information, valorisation of animal health data through conferences and the continued development of the world animal health information system, OIE-WAHIS – due to be launched in 2021 – to enable future challenges to be met.

#### **3.1. TRANSPARENCY OF ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION**

##### **3.1.1. Notification of animal health information**

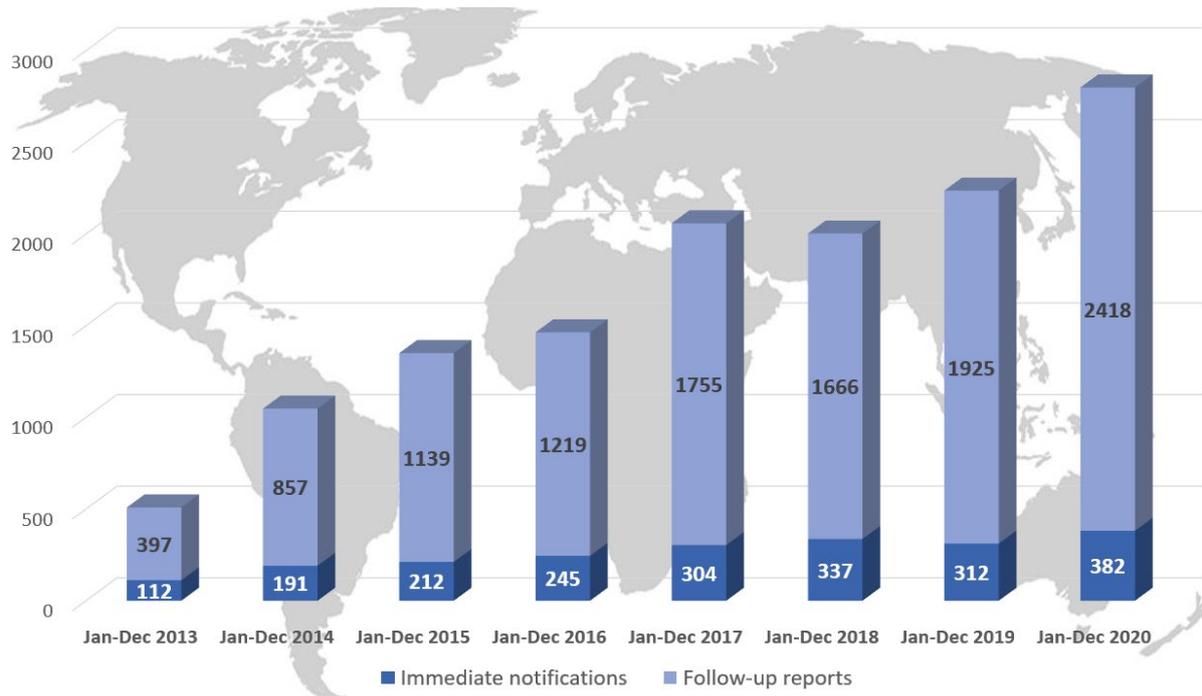
Notification of animal health information forms the core of the Department's work. This activity has two main components, namely the early warning system comprising immediate notifications and the epidemiological monitoring system compiling information on OIE-listed diseases, which totalled 117 in 2019 and 2020.

###### **3.1.1.1 Early warning system**

###### **Early warning: Quantitative data**

In 2019, a total of 2 237 reports from 118 countries relating to 61 different diseases were published. In 2020, a total of 2 800 reports from 112 countries relating to 72 diseases were published. As shown in the figure below, this confirms the upward trend observed over the past eight years (Fig. 1).

**Fig. 1: Progression in the number of immediate notifications and follow-up reports between 2013 and 31 December 2020**

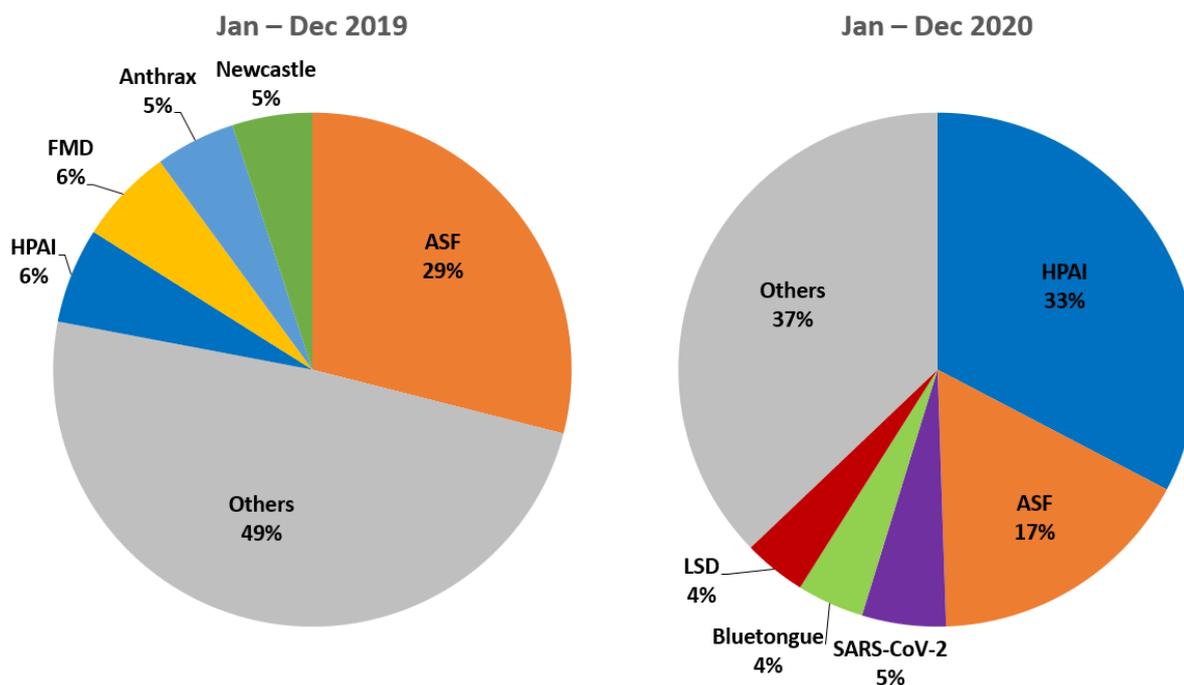


### Distribution of diseases

In 2019 and 2020, two diseases accounted for a far higher number of reports than the others, namely African swine fever (ASF; 1 108 reports in 2019 and 1 384 reports in 2020) and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI; 217 reports in 2019 and 504 reports in 2020), all affected species combined.

On analysing the immediate notifications received (Fig. 2), it was observed that half of the notifications received in 2019 related to five diseases. ASF accounted for 29% of all immediate notifications, followed by HPAI and foot and mouth disease (FMD) (6% each), and anthrax and Newcastle disease (5% each). However, in 2020, HPAI accounted for 33% of the reports received, followed by ASF (17%), SARS-CoV-2 (5%), bluetongue (4%) and lumpy skin disease (4%)

**Fig. 2: Proportion of immediate notifications submitted in 2019 and in 2020, by disease: the five diseases most frequently notified and ‘other diseases’**



In 2019, the increase in the number of reports on ASF led the Department to prepare and publish two types of reports:

- A bimonthly report on the ASF situation worldwide, published since October 2018 on the OIE website <https://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/information-on-aquatic-and-terrestrial-animal-diseases/african-swine-fever/reports-on-asf/>
- A report on the ASF situation in Asia published weekly from January 2019 and bimonthly since June 2020 on the website of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific <https://rr-asia.oie.int/en/projects/asf/situational-updates-of-asf-in-asia-and-the-pacific/>

This activity continued in 2020.

In 2020, the Department also continued to issue a weekly internal report presenting a summary of the immediate notifications and follow-up reports received during the previous week. This report was shared with the staff of the Headquarters and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations on request.

At 31 December 2020, it was noted that the increase observed over the past eight years in the number of immediate notifications and follow-up reports submitted by Members via WAHIS had continued.

Furthermore, half of all immediate notifications received in 2019 had concerned only five diseases, with ASF alone accounting for 29% of all the immediate notifications published. In 2020, ASF and HPAI (poultry and wild birds included) represented half of the notifications.

### 3.1.1.2. Monitoring system

By 31 December 2019, a total of 937 six-monthly or annual reports had been received during the year; 256 were six-monthly reports (terrestrial or aquatic) for the first semester 2019, while

the remaining 681 were six-monthly or annual reports relating to the years between 2005 and 2018.

In 2020, to facilitate preparations for the launch of the OIE-WAHIS platform, and in particular the migration of data to the new platform and tests on the migrated data, Members were informed of the deadline for sending all their outstanding reports, namely 15 June 2020. It was emphasised that the priority was to send any outstanding six-monthly reports, as these were the ones that corresponded to the launch of the first version of the OIE-WAHIS platform. Regarding aquatic and terrestrial six-monthly reports for the year 2020, Members were requested not to send their reports until after the launch of the OIE-WAHIS platform.

- Within the framework of the OIE-WAHIS project, Members were requested at the end of June 2019 to send any outstanding reports no later than 30 September 2019. During this period, 156 countries submitted their two reports for the first semester 2019 or at very least their terrestrial or aquatic report. In 2020, also within the framework of the OIE-WAHIS project, Members were requested to send their reports for the year 2019 no later than 15 June 2020. For the first and second semesters of 2019, 115 Members sent their terrestrial reports and 87 Members sent their aquatic reports. A total of 77 Members sent all four six-monthly reports for 2019.
- During these past two years, 168 Members submitted at least one aquatic or terrestrial report for the year 2019. Both six-monthly reports for 2019 were submitted by 115 Members for the terrestrial reports and by 87 Members for the aquatic reports. A total of 77 Members submitted all four six-monthly reports for 2019.

### 3.1.2. Active search for non-official information

In 2019, the activity relating to the active search for non-official animal health information underwent restructuring to make it more efficient and improve the benefit/cost ratio. In particular, OIE-listed diseases were assessed against certain criteria in order to prioritise rumour tracking and thus reduce the time spent by the whole team on this activity. Furthermore, the process of automating the activity, begun in 2018, was completed and most of the search for information on outbreaks was transferred to two automatic search platforms: the Australian government's IBIS (International Biosecurity Intelligence System) platform and the EIOS (Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources) platform (joint project with WHO and other partners). Lastly, at a technical meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, in April 2019, the process of integrating the Tripartite collaboration on early warning (GLEWS: Global Early Warning System) in EIOS was launched. This integration should make Tripartite collaboration more effective.

In 2020, the active search for non-official animal health information activity was transferred entirely to the EIOS platform. By 31 December 2020, the platform had enabled more than 80 000 items of information to be relayed throughout the world via media channels. The EIOS platform was also used to prepare a daily compilation of all the information being followed up, which was disseminated to the Headquarters and all the regional offices as well as to strategic partners. This helped to further increase the effectiveness of the activity and the OIE's internal and external collaboration. The EIOS platform also made it possible to monitor in real time all the information on the COVID-19 crisis and the occurrence of infection with this coronavirus in animals. Each week, a summary of the main official and unofficial reports on the occurrence of COVID-19 is communicated to the OIE Incident Coordination System, which coordinates all COVID-19-related activities.

By 31 December 2019, the active search activity had resulted in 51 immediate notifications being received from countries, corresponding to 18.2% of all the immediate notifications submitted during the year. By 31 December 2020, the active search activity had resulted in 39 immediate notifications being received from countries, corresponding to 10.2% of all the immediate notifications submitted during the year. These are very important results as they indicate the significant impact of this activity in improving the transparency and responsiveness of Members.

### **3.1.3. Presentations made at regional and global conferences**

#### **3.1.3.1. Conferences of the five Regional Commissions held in 2019 and 2020**

In 2019 and 2020, the Department presented analyses of the animal health situation at five Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions: the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (February 2019), the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (September 2019), the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (November 2019), the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (September 2020) and the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Conference for Europe (November 2020). At each of these five Conferences, the Department presented an evaluation of the Region's performance in terms of disease notification based on a set of indicators, a detailed analysis of specific diseases of crucial importance in the region, and a progress report on the OIE-WAHIS project.

#### **3.1.3.2. 87th General Session of the OIE in 2019 and Adapted Procedure in 2020**

In May 2019 and 2020, at each of these events the Department delivered a presentation to all Members on the animal health situation worldwide, with an analysis of events and trends. These presentations included an analysis of indicators relating to notification by Members, an analysis of the situation regarding several OIE-listed diseases and emerging diseases and, lastly, a progress report on the development of the new OIE-WAHIS platform.

#### **3.1.3.3. Conference “One Health for the Mediterranean Region in the Age of Big Data” 2019**

The conference was held in Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy, from 30 September to 2 October 2019, and was organised by the OIE with the cooperation of the Italian government through the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Policy, the 10 'Istituti Zooprofilattici Sperimentali' and in particular the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sardegna. The Conference was organised to share the experience of experts in the Mediterranean region in applying big data to One Health. On behalf of the OIE, the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department delivered a presentation entitled “New OIE-WAHIS, perspective for informed decisions: a West Nile fever scenario”. The presentation emphasised the features of the new platform, OIE-WAHIS, stating that it would facilitate the preparation of reports and improve the use and interpretation of the official information collected, with a long-term vision that would make it an essential tool for animal health data. OIE Delegates, Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification and One Health representatives from 20 Mediterranean countries attended the Conference, as well as representatives of various institutes in Italy and the Italian government. This Conference fulfilled its objectives by addressing the issue of big data and the response to the One Health challenges threatening world health security, with particular emphasis on the Mediterranean region, and by providing an opportunity to exchange and share information with numerous experts on changes in animal production systems, climate change and geo-spatial data, with the prospect of transforming the exponential growth in data

into intelligence-driven information that will facilitate decision making and the resulting actions.

#### **3.1.3.4. GeoVet scientific conference in 2019**

The Department took part in the GeoVet Conference on spatial epidemiology, held at the University of California, Davis, United States of America (October 2019) and delivered an oral presentation entitled: “WAHIS, the unique source of official worldwide animal health information, is becoming OIE-WAHIS, a new digital platform” and actively participated in two discussion groups. GeoVet is held every three years on the subject of veterinary spatial epidemiology. In 2019, the main theme was “Novel spatio-temporal approaches in the era of Big Data”.

In 2019 and 2020, the Department contributed to the OIE’s transparency and scientific information missions by presenting information on changes in the animal health situation at various regional and global conferences. The Department communicated to OIE Members, thereby informing regional and global discussions on the management of major animal health events, and, more generally, to the global scientific community, which has shown a keen interest in the modernisation of WAHIS.

### **3.2. *OIE-WAHIS AND RELATED PROJECTS***

#### **3.2.1. Development achievements in 2019 and 2020, and projections for 2021**

##### **System development underway**

In 2019, development of the OIE-WAHIS project continued with the implementation of a number of activities, ranging from the definition of general and detailed specifications to the development of various components of the system.

In March 2019, Sopra Steria Group (SSG), the IT development firm contracted by the OIE, alerted the OIE-WAHIS Steering Committee and Operational Committee that, due to increased complexity, delivery would be delayed. The OIE and SSG had both acknowledged at the start of the project initiation stage that the complexity of the expected project deliverables had been underestimated, leading not only to a delay in delivery, but also to the need to review the financial aspects of the project. As a direct consequence of the problems identified in spring 2019, the OIE and SSG re-examined the contract and an amendment to the contract was drawn up. Simultaneously, the OIE strengthened the governance of the project: the mechanisms for examining and monitoring the key performance indicators were strengthened and the quality assurance plan was examined in depth to ensure that the governance of the project and the quality assurance mechanisms were fit for purpose.

The delay to the project gave rise to a change in strategy with the decision to launch OIE-WAHIS in two versions:

- Version 1 will comprise the application configuration, immediate notifications and follow-up reports, user management, homepage and online support, management of reports, the alert application, dashboards, the public interface, life cycle, interoperability, six-monthly reports, the geographic information system (GIS) and mapping.
- Version 2 will comprise the annual report, the annual report for non-OIE-listed diseases occurring in wildlife, the local report module, the ‘wildlife’ public interface and user statistics.

For Version 1, development of the different components of the system began in April 2019 and is being carried out progressively in five sub-versions. Leading up to the launch of Version 1, associated change management activities are already underway (mobilisation of users, preparation of training and communication activities).

Unfortunately, due to further development delays on the part of the service provider in correcting the many bugs and limitations, which was moreover not helped by the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, the launch of Version 1 was first postponed on several occasions and is now

planned for 2021.

An estimated delivery date for Version 2 is not yet available. Indeed, the service provider did not provide details of subsequent planning at the latest meeting of the Steering Committee, held in November 2020.

The service provider progressively delivered the entire scope of Version 1 in 2020 and the Department's members of staff were fully engaged in conducting tests throughout the year.

The OIE-WAHIS priorities in 2020 were as follows:

- Correction of bugs and limitations to be in a position to launch a platform;
- Changeover of production activities to enable the launch to take place, including end-user acceptance tests and a trial run prior to launch;
- Setting up of an assistance cell within the Department to provide the necessary end-user support after the platform goes online.

The OIE continues to make strict demands on the service provider regarding deadlines and the quality of deliverables; clear expectations in terms of requirements were established right from the start of the OIE-WAHIS project, so as to have a platform that combines all of the required functionalities.

### **Mobilisation of end-users and creation of the Key Users Committee**

The OIE set up a Key Users Committee to launch the mobilisation of end users on 17 October 2019. The aim was to include as quickly as possible selected end users in the project (from among existing users in the different regions), to give them the opportunity to assimilate the newly developed components of the system. Meetings of the Key Users Committee were organised in the form of webinars, each with 80 users. During these meetings the aim was to present to the members of the Committee the new disease notification processes, collect ideas on assimilating the new OIE-WAHIS (communication, training, etc.) and share members' feedback following the presentation of the new interface.

In 2020, four supplementary meetings of key users were organised to present users progressively with the entire scope of OIE-WAHIS as features became available. A further meeting was organised on 2 July 2020. The meeting focused on the analysis of the results of the previous training sessions, an exchange of views on the future strategy for training and a progress report on the development of OIE-WAHIS up until its launch.

In setting up Key User Committees, the overall aim was not only to keep selected national Focal Points and key users informed on OIE-WAHIS developments, but also to gain their support in promoting this new platform.

The involvement of staff members of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in training was more clearly defined, the aim being to make sure that the staff selected are able to play an integral part in the training network and so ensure it provides the necessary basic support once the platform is launched.

### **Communication campaign on the new OIE-WAHIS**

The communication strategy was reconsidered by the team in charge of change management and the OIE Communication Department in order to develop and implement a vast communication and awareness campaign so as to manage the transition and users' expectations and describe how to use the new OIE-WAHIS.

In September 2019, the OIE finalised the change management communication plan targeted at users notifying diseases and at users consulting the information. The communication plan relating to the launch and wider publicity of OIE-WAHIS will be finalised shortly.

In 2020, due to the delay in the launch of Version 1, the communication strategy for the launch was reviewed and finalised. Communication material on the transition from WAHIS to OIE-WAHIS is currently being prepared for OIE staff as well as for all users notifying or consulting information, with a view to the launch of version 1 of OIE-WAHIS.

Within the framework of the communication strategy, the pages of the OIE website will be updated to reflect the launch of OIE-WAHIS and the related changes. This work began in the

second half of 2020 with the modification of pages, in readiness for publication when the new platform is launched.

### **OIE-WAHIS Strategic Advisory Committee**

The 3rd Meeting of the OIE-WAHIS Strategic Advisory Committee was held at OIE Headquarters on 11 December 2019 and was chaired by the Director General of the OIE. The meeting provided an opportunity to inform the members of the Committee regarding the forthcoming Seventh Strategic Plan (2021–2025), in which data governance is an important element and one that concerns OIE-WAHIS directly. The members of the Committee were informed of the significant progress that had been made with the project since the previous year. The Committee discussed OIE-WAHIS in the context of global digital governance as well as the OIE's approach regarding its policy on data protection and interconnectivity, and finished by considering the strategy for the forthcoming launch of OIE-WAHIS. The 4th Meeting of the Strategic Advisory Committee is due to be held in 2021, following the launch of OIE-WAHIS, to discuss the future strategic development of OIE-WAHIS.

### **3.2.2. Training of WAHIS/OIE-WAHIS users**

#### **Training of new Delegates**

In May 2019, the Department took part in the information seminar for recently appointed OIE Delegates organised by the Regional Activities Department. The Delegates of 35 countries attended the seminar, which focused on their roles and responsibilities in notifying animal disease information to the OIE.

#### **E-learning**

Access to e-learning and assistance with using the existing WAHIS system was provided throughout the year for newly appointed national Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE. Furthermore, in 2019, the Department worked on the development of the new e-learning platform for OIE-WAHIS. Development of the platform included several major courses to give Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE the necessary information to be able to use the new OIE-WAHIS system, thereby preparing them for the regional workshops that were due to take place in 2020.

In 2020, this new e-learning platform was launched in English, French and Spanish versions. The platform includes the following six courses: Test your knowledge; General introduction to the OIE; Immediate notifications; Follow-up reports; Access and use of the online e-learning platform; Online e-learning satisfaction survey.

The new online e-learning platform was a precondition that Focal Points were required to complete before taking part in face-to-face and remote training sessions.

Three face-to-face regional training events were organised for Focal Points for Disease Notification to the OIE for the Africa and the Middle East Regions, the Europe Region and the Americas Region, respectively in February 2020. The event for the Asia region had to be cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic and was replaced by five sessions of interactive webinars held in July 2020.

A meeting of OIE-WAHIS key users was also held in July 2020 to maintain the commitment of Focal Points and key users and to consolidate the training.

Supplementary online e-learning exercises for Focal Points were developed between April and October 2020 to enable them to practice and consolidate their knowledge of OIE-WAHIS while awaiting the launch.

An average of over 83% of participants improved their knowledge of OIE-WAHIS. All the participants also had the opportunity to discover the new, more intuitive functionalities and submit reports in a purpose-built OIE-WAHIS training environment which was regularly tested and updated throughout the year. Almost all (>90%) of the Focal Points for Disease Notification to the OIE were successfully trained.

### **3.2.3. ADIS**

The work in progress on the development of the European Union's Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) project continued in 2019 with a view to its interconnection with the OIE-WAHIS platform still being developed. The Department continued to hold twice monthly meetings so that both sides could monitor the project in collaboration. The European Commission (EC) Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), provided a roadmap for ADIS and announced the potential launch of that platform in the first quarter of 2021, namely after the launch of OIE-WAHIS, contrary to the initial plans for a joint launch. The Department shared with DG SANTE the detailed functional specifications relating to immediate notifications and follow-up reports and to interoperability concerning the requirements for immediate notifications. The application programming interfaces (APIs) for OIE-WAHIS were developed and were delivered on 31 October 2019 for testing.

On 18 December 2019, the European Commission organised a webinar for ADIS users, during which the latest advances were presented and the future interconnection with OIE-WAHIS was discussed.

In 2020, the development of the ADIS project continued with a view to launching the platform on 21 April 2021. When this first phase is launched, only the part of ADIS that will be aligned with European Union Regulation 2016/429 (legislation on transmissible animal diseases) will be launched. Interconnection with OIE-WAHIS will be made available in a subsequent phase, in June/July 2021.

In 2020, the Department continued to hold twice monthly meetings so that both sides could monitor the project in collaboration. A workshop along the lines of a webinar was organised by DG SANTE on 23 June to present the system and some of its available functionalities to key users; the feedback from countries involved in these tests was generally favourable.

The OIE was invited to take part in the discussions on the progress of the ADIS project and the deployment strategy at a meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAAF) – Animal Health and Welfare Section, which was held online on 19 November 2020.

### **3.2.4. Codification project**

In 2019, the Department launched a project to develop an internationally recognised system of codification, aimed at improving the collection and sharing of animal health information in a harmonised and standardised manner.

The first action of the project was to organise, at OIE Headquarters, a meeting of a Think Tank composed of 22 experts and representatives of existing health information systems in various regions and organisations specialised in health terminology and data codification (National Institute for Agricultural Research, France [INRA], Royal Veterinary College, United Kingdom [RVC], WHO, United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business [UN/CEFACT], NOMED, LOINC, United States National Library of Medicine [NLM], National Food Safety and Quality Service [SENASA] Argentina, Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia, etc.). The main objectives and conclusions of the meeting were: i) to explore existing terminologies and ontologies in the field of veterinary science and data on public health; ii) to

discuss suitable methodologies for developing animal health data codes, by identifying best practice; iii) to define the main animal health sectors to be taken into account for codification purposes; iv) to explore the links between existing health information systems and interoperability requirements; and v) to draft the key points for guidelines and standards relating to the codification of animal health data. The meeting ended with a consensus on several proposals regarding methodology, notably the importance of using the available resources of the OIE, and definition of the terms of reference of the consulting firm to be selected. The Think Tank recommended prioritising three main concepts: the names of animal diseases, the causal agent (pathogen) and the host (species). Other recommendations regarding the development approach for the codification system and the type of expertise required were also put forward.

In 2020, the contract to develop the codification system and its guidelines was awarded to a consulting firm (Phylum). The contract was signed in July 2020. The guidelines are currently being drafted and will be presented to an *ad hoc* Group of experts for review and validation in January 2021. The *ad hoc* Group on Codification is composed of suitably trained technical or IT experts, representatives of international organisations (WHO, FAO, European Commission, etc.), end users, stakeholders (for the purposes of interoperability) as well as Regional Representations.

All of the project's planned activities have continued to be developed, in full compliance with the planning schedule. A codification proposal for diseases, species and hosts is already available and will be presented to the *ad hoc* Group in January 2021.

## 4. OIE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

### 4.1. DEVELOPMENT

The OIE publishes four sets of international standards, the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*), the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (*Terrestrial Manual*), the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (*Aquatic Code*) and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* (*Aquatic Manual*).

The Standards Department provides the Secretariat for revisions of the *Terrestrial Code*, which are overseen by the Terrestrial Animal Standards Commission (Code Commission) and revisions of the *Aquatic Code*, which are overseen by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission). The Science Department provides the Secretariat for revisions of the *Aquatic Manual*, which are overseen by the Aquatic Animals Commission, revisions of the *Terrestrial Manual*, which are overseen by the Biological Standards Commission, as well as for the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission), which provides scientific information to support the development of new or revised standards in the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Secretariats support the work of these Commissions by preparing and disseminating working documents, finalising and publishing the reports and completing any follow-up actions arising from meetings. The Secretariats also support the work of any relevant *ad hoc* Groups that Commissions may request to be convened to undertake work to develop or revise standards.

The Standards Department is also responsible for the Common Secretariat, a mechanism to strengthen coordination of activities across the four Specialist Commissions. The Secretariats for all Specialist Commissions meet regularly to share information and develop best practices for providing Secretariat support to the Commissions and associated *ad hoc* Groups.

### OIE Global Animal Welfare Forum

The second OIE Global Animal Welfare Forum was held in April 2019 at OIE Headquarters. The theme 'Animal transport: a shared responsibility' provided a forum for an open and transparent exchange of ideas, experiences and knowledge on the welfare of animals during transport by land, sea or air and proposals to improve the implementation of relevant OIE international standards. The

Forum was attended by 40 participants representing OIE Members, international organisations, industry, NGOs and civil society. The third OIE Global Animal Welfare Forum, planned for 2020, was postponed due to the pandemic and will be held in 2021 as a virtual event.

### **OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health**

The fourth Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health was held in Santiago, Chile, in April 2019, on the theme of ‘Collaboration, sustainability: our future’. The key objectives of the Conference were to encourage and support Members and the OIE to improve aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide in response to the rapid development of the aquaculture industry and the high occurrence of emerging diseases. The Conference focused specifically on managing transboundary and emerging diseases, biosecurity in aquaculture, advances in disease management and improving implementation of OIE international standards. At the end of the Conference, the OIE Director General, Dr Monique Eloit, made a commitment to develop the first OIE Aquatic Animal Health Strategy.

### **OIE Aquatic Animal Health Strategy**

The development of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Strategy (2021–2025) was led by the OIE with the support of the OIE Aquatic Animals Commission. It recognises the growing importance of aquatic animal health and the need for a strategic approach to its management worldwide. The Strategy supports the Seventh OIE Strategic Plan and is in line with the mandate of the OIE. The draft version of the Strategy was developed taking into account feedback from the OIE on priority activities. The Aquatic Animal Health Strategy will be launched in 2021.

## **4.2. RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

### **WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

In its capacity as an Observer to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee), the OIE participated in the 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th and 79th regular meetings of the SPS Committee, as well as the Thematic Session on Equivalence and the SPS Committee information-sharing session on COVID-19. The OIE also participated in the 2019 Advanced Course on the SPS Agreement. The WTO hosted a side event to launch two OIE publications: the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review* Vol 39(1) “Ensuring safe trade in animals and animal products” and the OIE Technical Item 2020 on “Required competences of Veterinary Services for international trade: opportunities and challenges”.

### **WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility**

In its capacity as a founding partner of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), the OIE participated in meetings of the STDF Policy Committee and the STDF Working Group in 2019 and 2020 as well as in several workshops in 2019 on the development of a new strategy for the STDF for 2020 and beyond.

The OIE managed the STDF-funded project “Development of a framework to facilitate e-veterinary certification for international trade on the basis of a single window system”, a project being implemented by the OIE on behalf of the five applicant countries: Cambodia, Nigeria, Paraguay, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. This project was aimed at assisting developing countries by facilitating their understanding and potential use of e-veterinary certification, to enable them to better engage in international trade of animals and animal products. The final report was published in June 2020 on the OIE website at: <https://www.oie.int/en/standard-setting/overview/electronic-veterinary-certification/>

The OIE also participated in the SPS Electronic Certification Advisory Committee (ECAC), a forum established under the auspices of the STDF, to bring together the organisations interested in SPS e-certification and share information and experiences.

### **Codex Alimentarius Commission**

The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission regularly participate in each other’s standard-

setting activities to ensure an integrated approach to standard setting for the entire food chain.

In 2019 and 2020, the OIE contributed to the following Codex Committees and working groups: 31st Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (2019); 42nd and 43rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (2019 and 2020); 51st Session of the Codex Committee on Food and Hygiene (2019); Electronic working group on the development of Codex guidance for paperless electronic certification; Electronic working group on the development of Codex guidelines for the control of shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* in beef meat, leaf greens, raw milk and cheese produced from raw milk, and sprouts; *Ad hoc* Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (2019 and 2020); and the Electronic working group on the revision of the Code of Practice to minimise and contain antimicrobial resistance.

### **World Customs Organisation**

The OIE participated in relevant meetings of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) Permanent Technical Committee in order to strengthen cross-border collaboration between the WCO and SPS agencies at international and national levels.

### **4.3. OBSERVATORY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF OIE STANDARDS**

On the basis of Resolution No. 36 adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 86th General Session in 2017, the OIE is designing an Observatory to monitor the implementation of its international standards.

In July 2018, the OIE entered into a specific collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to explore potential solutions for the design of the OIE Observatory. Given its expertise in international regulatory cooperation, the OECD carried out a study providing an analysis of key features of OIE standards, as well as a review of the existing sources of information in relation to their implementation. The final report of the [OECD study](#) was published in February 2020.

The OIE considered the OECD recommendations for the development of the next phase of the project, with the preparation of a roadmap to make the OIE Observatory operational. The deployment of the roadmap started in 2020 with the launch of a pilot phase.

The objective of the pilot phase was to test different aspects of the development of the OIE Observatory, such as the methodological approach, data collection and data analysis, by developing specific studies called “prototypes”.

In 2020, the OIE Technical Item on [“Required competencies of Veterinary Services in the context of international trade: opportunities and challenges”](#) served as the first prototype for the pilot phase of the OIE Observatory.

The engagement of OIE Members and key stakeholders is essential to ensure the success of this project. This engagement is taking place at different levels:

- The strategic role of the OIE Council in the governance of the project. At its February 2020 meeting, the OIE Council endorsed the roadmap of the OIE Observatory.
- Communication to all OIE Members. During the 87th General Session, in 2019, a side event was held, with the participation of the OECD, to communicate about the design process of the OIE Observatory. The Director General also provided an update on the OIE Observatory project to OIE Delegates in November 2019. In 2020, the OIE Observatory was discussed as a specific agenda item of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.
- Technical support provided by the Reference Group, through consultations during the design phase of the project and the pilot phase. The Reference Group is composed of representatives of OIE Members, Regional Economic Communities and partner International Organisations.
- Communication in international fora. The OIE Observatory project was presented in March 2019 at the 31st Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles, and in April 2019 and September 2020 at the Annual Meetings of the Partnership of

International Organisations for effective international rulemaking, spearheaded by the OECD.

Public communication: communication materials have been developed, including a new [Brochure](#) to present the OIE Observatory and a revised version of the [dedicated webpage](#).

## 5. PUBLICATIONS

In late 2019/early 2020, a study was undertaken on the functioning of the Publications Unit with a view to modernising and optimising the production of the OIE's scientific publications, taking into account the future requirements of the Organisation.

The general aims of this study were to:

- evaluate the current state of the Publications Unit in order to analyse its capacities and challenges;
- develop a publications strategy in order to define a framework for the future of OIE publications;
- put forward recommendations on the future of the Unit, by drawing up a final report that will present recommendations on:
  1. the publications' production process to be developed;
  2. the internal and external capacities required by the Unit to carry out this process, which the OIE Directorate will examine and refine.

On 22 June 2020, the recommendations of this study were presented to the OIE Executive Committee, which endorsed the Publications Strategy and decided as follows:

- The main recommendations of the study were approved, namely open access, hosting of multiple article versions, better alignment of themes with the strategic objectives of the OIE, termination of the plurithematic issue of the *Scientific and Technical Review* (the *Review*), acquisition of new technologies and training, staffing structure, consultation of stakeholders and focus of the Online Bookshop on marketing.
- This Strategy will allow a greater focus on publications dedicated to priority themes of the Organisation, its Members and stakeholders.

\*\*\*\*\*

In 2019 and 2020, publications related to international standards, the *Review* and the *Bulletin* were the priority. Improvements to the way information on OIE publications is disseminated continued to be made, with the support of the Documentation Cell, the Communication Department and the Digital Transformation and Information Systems Department.

### 5.1. PUBLICATION OF WORKS

#### 5.1.1. International standards (published in 2019)

- *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, Twenty-eighth Edition, 2019, published in English, French, Spanish and Russian; available on the OIE websites.
- *Aquatic Animal Health Code*, Twenty-second Edition, 2019, published in English, French and Spanish; available on the OIE website.
- *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (3 volumes), 2018, published in English; available on the OIE website.

Due to the postponement of the 88th General Session, originally scheduled to take place in May 2020, no new or revised OIE international standards were adopted in 2020. Consequently, no new editions of the international standards were published in 2020.

### **5.1.2. Serial publications**

#### ***OIE Scientific and Technical Review***

##### **Published in 2019 and 2020:**

Three issues of the *Review* were published in 2019 (vol. 38) and two in 2020 (vol. 39):

- Volume **38** (1): Successes and remaining challenges within the One Health framework (Coordinators: Casey Barton Behravesh & Julie Sinclair);
- Volume **38** (2): The role of aquatic animal health in food security (Coordinators: Ingo Ernst & Ed Peeler);
- Volume **38** (3): Plurithematic issue.
- Volume **39** (1): Ensuring safe trade in animals and animal products (Coordinators: Christiane Wolff & Anneke Hamilton);
- Volume **39** (2): Disaster prevention and preparedness (Coordinator: Gary A. Vroegindewey);

Volume **39** (3): Plurithematic issue – As per the Executive Committee’s decision on 22 June 2020, only articles intended for publication in this issue that were already in the pipeline at that date will be processed. These articles are published online incrementally and once all have been finalised, the last plurithematic issue of the *Review* will be published.

All *Review* articles are published in English. Any written in French or Spanish are published in the original language as well as in English. Each article includes a summary in the OIE’s three official languages. As of 2020, articles are available freely online through open access. Issues can be bought on demand from the Online Bookshop on the OIE website. The reduction in the number of copies printed continued, thanks to the possibility of printing in-house (only the covers being printed externally).

##### **In preparation in 2019 and 2020:**

In 2019, preparation of the three issues of Volume 39 of the *Review* (see details above) took place.

In 2019 and/or 2020, preparation also began on the following thematic issues for 2021-2022:

- Volume **40** (1), April 2021: Diagnostic validation science: a key element for effective detection and control of infectious animal diseases (Coordinators: Axel Colling & Ian Gardner);
- Volume **40** (2), August 2021: Veterinary Services in a changing world: climate change and other external factors (Coordinators: Delia Grace Randolph, Hu Suk Lee and Jimmy Smith);
- Volume **41** (1), April 2022: Safety, regulatory, and environmental issues related to breeding and international trade of insects (theme and coordinator to be confirmed).

## **The Bulletin: Official, Panorama and OIE News**

The *Bulletin* was changed to a fully online publication in 2018, based on WordPress.

- **OIE News:** published in English. Nine issues were released in 2019, including three double issues, in May–June, July–August and November–December; and 11 in 2020, including a Special Edition on COVID-19. This newsletter relays news from the OIE and its regions, network and partners. It also includes self-declarations by Members, articles, news of upcoming events, new publications and resources, as well as useful tools, and job advertisements. Its readership has been increasing, with more than 6 100 subscribers at the end of 2019 and 6 445 as of November 2020.
- **Panorama:** A thematic comprehensive compilation of resources, including articles, opinions, success stories and publications on a given theme. *Panorama* reflects the strategies and activities undertaken by the OIE in its main areas of work as well as by its network. Three issues in 2019 and two in 2020:
  - 2019–1: Controlling bovine tuberculosis: a One Health challenge
  - 2019–2: Facilitation of international movement of competition horses
  - 2019–3: Public–Private Partnerships and perspectives in the veterinary domain
  - 2020–1: African swine fever – Responding to the global threat
  - 2020–2: Emergency preparedness and resilience [provisional title]

For 2021, work has started on a new issue: 2021–1: Launch of the Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs) programme [provisional title].

**The Official** – Two issues per year, in 2019 and 2020. As the institutional voice of the OIE, this publication describes the progress made with the OIE’s flagship programmes and activities. It provides an overview of all official acts endorsed by the OIE and its Members: Resolutions, expert reports and official recognition of disease status, etc.

### **OIE In-house Times**

In response to the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, the Director General requested the *OIE News* team to create an internal newsletter to disseminate relevant information to staff working from home and to maintain morale and a sense of community. Sixteen issues of *OIE In-house Times* were published in 2020, starting in March.

### **5.1.3. Other publications and meeting reports**

#### **Published in 2019:**

- Technical Series No. 12: Brucellosis in the Mediterranean Countries: History, Prevalence, Distribution, Current Situation and Attempts and Surveillance and Control (English, French and Spanish)
- Volumes 1 and 2 of the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme Manual for Experts (French)
- OIE Technical Standards for Manufacturing and Quality Control of Veterinary Vaccines (English, French and Spanish)
- Guidelines for Responsible Conduct in Veterinary Research (English, French and Spanish)

- OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (English and French)
- African Swine Fever in Wild Boar – Ecology and Biosecurity (FAO/OIE/EC – English)

**Published in 2020:**

- OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services – 7th Edition (Spanish)
- OIE Standards, Guidelines and Resolutions on Antimicrobial Resistance, 2nd Edition (English, French and Spanish)
- Exploring Innovative Approaches to Improving Sustainable Management of Animal Health Emergencies Workshop Report (English)
- Guidelines for Simulation Exercises (English)
- African Horse Sickness: OIE Guidelines on Preparedness and Implementation of Emergency Vaccination in the Asian Region (OIE Bangkok – English)

**Co-publications (with the OIE as the lead publisher):**

- Global Control of African Swine Fever: A GF-TADs Initiative. 2020-2025 (OIE/FAO – English, French, Spanish, Chinese and Russian)
- Atlas of Camel Pathology (OIE/ADAFSA – English)

**Co-publications (with the OIE not as the lead publisher):**

- Global Rinderpest Action Plan (FAO/OIE – Arabic and Chinese)
- Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccination and Post-vaccination Monitoring (FAO/OIE – French and Arabic)
- Technical Brief on Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Wastewater Management to Prevent Infections and Reduce the Spread of Antimicrobial Resistance (WHO/FAO/OIE – English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian)
- African Swine Fever in Wild Boar – Ecology and Biosecurity (FAO/OIE/EC – Spanish, Korean and Lithuanian)
- International Instruments on the Use of Antimicrobials across the Human, Animal and Plant Sectors (WHO/FAO/OIE – English, French and Spanish)

**In preparation in 2020:**

The following publications were already in preparation at the end of 2020:

- Guidelines for Simulation Exercises (French and Spanish)
- African Swine Fever Compartmentalisation Guidelines (English, French and Spanish)
- Wildlife Health Survey Report (English)

- Towards a Stronger Partnership between Veterinary Services and Law Enforcement: Tackling Agro-Crime Affecting Animal Health and Welfare (English)

**Co-publications (OIE is the lead publisher):**

- Rinderpest and Its Eradication (Coordinators: Williams Taylor, Paul Gibbs, Proteus Atang and Santanu Bandyopadhyay) (OIE/FAO – English)
- Joint Risk Assessment Operational Tool (JRA OT) (OIE/FAO/WHO – English)
- Guidelines for the Control and Prevention of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in Wildlife Populations (OIE/FAO – English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Arabic)

**Co-publications (OIE is not the lead publisher):**

- Monitoring Global Progress on Antimicrobial Resistance: Tripartite annual country self-assessment survey (TrACSS) 2019-2020 Global Analysis Report (WHO/FAO/OIE – English)
- Annex 3 to the Tripartite Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework for the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (WHO/FAO/OIE – English)
- International Instruments on the Use of Antimicrobials across the Human, Animal and Plant Sectors (WHO/FAO/OIE – Russian)

**5.1.4. Other publications, available only online on the OIE website**

Technical Items presented to the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE and to Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions are now placed directly online to make them more easily accessible to all interested parties.

**5.2. OTHER MATTERS: THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW**

**5.2.1. Renewal of the Advisory Editorial Board and the Scientific and Technical Committee of the *Scientific and Technical Review* in 2019, updated following the elections at the General Session in 2019**

The role of the Advisory Editorial Board is to advise the Editor-in-Chief on continuous improvement of the *Review's* quality. The Board is also involved in selecting future topics for the thematic issues of the *Review* and choosing the coordinators. The current composition of the Board is as follows:

- Members of the OIE Council: Dr Mark Schipp, President of the World Assembly of Delegates (Australia); Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Immediate Past President (South Africa); Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez, Vice-President (Paraguay); Dr Nimia Lissette Gómez Rodríguez (Dominican Republic); Dr Christianne Brusckke (The Netherlands); Dr Nilokay Vlasov (Russia); Dr Majid Al Qassimi (United Arab Emirates); Dr Komla Batassé Batawui (Togo) and Dr Him Hoo Yap (Singapore).
- Presidents of the OIE Regional Commissions: Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela (Africa); Dr Mark Trotman (Americas); Dr Norio Kumagai (Asia, the Far East and Oceania); Dr Ulrich Herzog (Europe) and Dr Elias Ibrahim (Middle East).

The Scientific and Technical Committee puts forward proposals for topics for future thematic issues of the *Review* and the names of suitable experts to be in charge of editorial coordination. The current composition of the Committee, placed under the supervision of Dr Matthew Stone, OIE Deputy Director General “International Standards and Science”, is as follows:

- Presidents of the Specialist Commissions and the Chair of the Working Group on Wildlife: Dr Ingo Ernst, Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Australia); Dr Etienne Bonbon, Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (France); Dr Cristóbal Zepeda, Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (United States of America); Prof. Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann, Biological Standards Commission (Côte d’Ivoire); Dr William B. Karesh, Working Group on Wildlife (United States of America).
- An independent expert: Prof. Claude Saegerman (Belgium).

### **5.2.2. Selection of topics for August 2022 and beyond**

The topics for 2021 and up to and including April 2022 have already been selected (see Point 5.1.2.). The choice of subsequent topics is pending due to the restructuring of the process of choosing a theme linked to conferences or strategic objectives of the OIE. An editorial cycle has been proposed and is under review by the OIE Directorate.

## **5.3. PROMOTION OF PUBLICATIONS**

In 2019, the OIE continued to promote its publications at major national and international scientific events through the use of portable stands and with the help of OIE staff and outside personnel. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent travel bans, such activities could not be undertaken in 2020.

However, the OIE did co-host its first virtual launch at an OIE-World Trade Organization (WTO) side event on international trade in animals and animal products at the WTO informal committee meeting on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures. The side event was held on 4 November 2020 to promote the launch of two OIE publications – *Scientific and Technical Review*, Vol. 39 (1) ‘Ensuring safe trade in animals and animal products’ and OIE Technical Item 2020 on “Required competences of Veterinary Services for international trade”. This virtual event was followed by both OIE and WTO delegates, staff and partner organisations across the globe.

OIE publications continue to be promoted in *OIE News* once they have been published and via social media by the Communication Department.

A complete overhaul of the Online Bookshop is scheduled to take place in 2021 as per the Publications Strategy and the OIE’s digital transformation.

### **5.3.1. OIE Online Bookshop**

To respond to the demands for greater interoperability between open access and pay for access, the OIE Online Bookshop is currently being revamped. The publications on sale continue to be regularly updated in the Online Bookshop on the OIE website. The Bookshop’s homepage provides information on new releases and forthcoming publications.

### **5.3.2. Publicity**

- *OIE News*, issued monthly, highlights the latest OIE publications, as well as the many online resources.
- Social media announcements on new releases.

- An advertisement for the OIE Online Bookshop and the latest issues of the *Review* is inserted into each new issue of the *Review*.

### 5.3.3. Stands

The OIE Headquarters, with the support of its regional offices, has presented its publications at a number of national or international scientific events (see table below), with the aim of promoting OIE publications and, more generally, the activities of the Organisation. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the OIE was not able to present its publications at national or international scientific events in 2020.

#### List of OIE stands in 2019

Dates (2019)	Event	Venue
25 Feb. – 1 March	Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa	Hammamet, Tunisia
13-15 March	VIV Asia	Bangkok, Thailand
2-4 April	OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health	Santiago, Chile
26-31 May	OIE General Session	Paris, France
19-22 June	WAVLD, OIE Seminar	Chiang Mai, Thailand
7-12 July	CAC42 Codex Alimentarius	Geneva, Switzerland
2-6 Aug.	AVMA Convention	Washington DC, USA
2-6 Sept.	Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania	Sendai, Japan
30 Sept. – 2 Oct.	Conference 'One Health for the Mediterranean Region in the Age of Big Data'	Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy
10-14 Nov.	Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East	Dubai, UAE

### Sales

Net revenue from the sale of OIE publications for the year up to 31 December 2019 totalled EUR **37 255.85**, representing a slight increase on the previous year. Net revenue for OIE publications as at November 2020 totalled EUR **15 043.24** and was heavily impacted by the pandemic.

The best-selling publications in each year were as follows:

#### 2019

- *Scientific and Technical Review* Vol. 38 (1), 2019 – Successes and remaining challenges within the One Health framework
- *Scientific and Technical Review* Vol. 38 (2), 2018 – The role of aquatic animal health in food security
- *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*

2020

- *Scientific and Technical Review* Vol 39 (1), 2020 – Ensuring safe trade in animals and animal products
- *Scientific and Technical Review* Vol. 39 (2), 2020 – Disaster prevention and preparedness

## 6. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

### 6.1. SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL MEETINGS

During the period January 2019 to December 2020, the Science Department provided the Secretariat for the meetings of the Biological Standards Commission, for the meetings of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission) in coordination with the Status Department, and for the meetings of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission in coordination with the Standards Department.

The Science Department also serves as Secretariat for numerous *ad hoc* Groups convened in support of the aforementioned Specialist Commissions. In line with the implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan (2016–2020), efforts were made to ensure the objectivity and transparency of the decisions made by the Commissions. In addition, horizontal coordination of the agendas and coordination of the integrated work programme between the Specialist Commissions was undertaken.

The Science Department actively supported and contributed to the technical meetings and workshops organised by the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. It also represented the OIE at several scientific meetings organised by various national and international organisations, in line with the roadmap of the Department.

### 6.2. OIE REFERENCE CENTRES

#### 6.2.1. Collaborating Centres

In 2019, there were five Collaborating Centres proposed for adoption by the Assembly, one of which concerned a change in the title and mandate of an existing Centre. In 2020, two Centres were proposed for adoption, bringing the total number of OIE Collaborating Centres to 62.

The following new OIE Collaborating Centres were designated in 2019:

- *Detection and Identification in Humans of Emerging Animal Pathogens and Development of Tools for their Diagnoses*, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France;
- *Health of Marine Mammals*, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Piemonte Liguria e Valle d'Aosta (IZSPLVA), Italian National Reference Centre for Diagnostic Activities in Stranded Marine Mammals (C.Re.Di.Ma.), Torino, Italy

University Research Institute of Animal Health and Food Safety (IUSA-ULPGC), University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC), Atlantic Center for Cetacean Research (ACCR), Arucas Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain;

- *Animal Welfare*, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale" (IZSAM), Teramo, Italy

Swedish Centre for Animal Welfare (SCAW), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden;

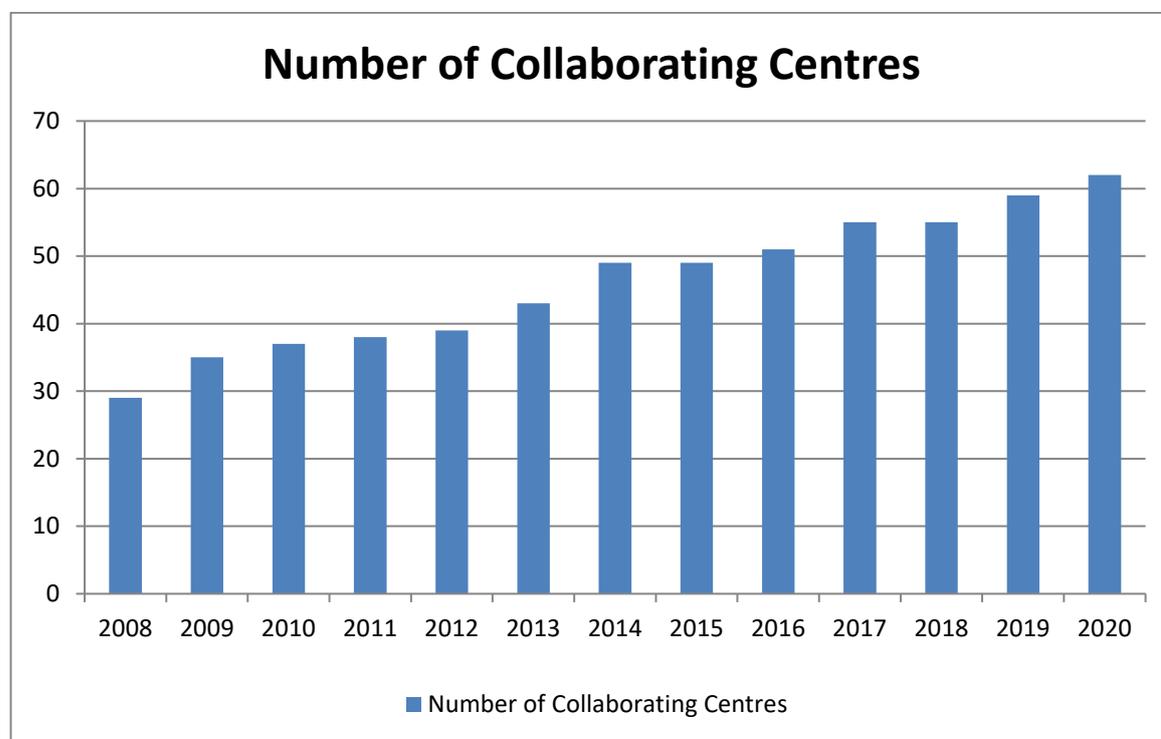
- *Risk Analysis and Modelling*, The Royal Veterinary College (RVC), Royal College Street, London, United Kingdom

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey, United Kingdom;

- *Emerging Aquatic Animal Diseases*, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (CEFAS), The Nothe, Weymouth, Dorset, United Kingdom.

The following new OIE Collaborating Centres were designated in 2020:

- *Continuing Education and Veterinary Capacity Building*, Centre National de Veille Zoosanitaire (CNVZ), Tunis, Tunisia;
- *Quality Management Systems*, Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority, Mohammed Bin Zayed City, Capital Mall, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.



## 6.2.2. Reference Laboratories

In 2019, seven new applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status were accepted, and two Reference Laboratories that had been suspended following implementation of the *Procedures for the designation of OIE Reference Laboratories* were reinstated as they had achieved accreditation to ISO 17025 or equivalent quality management system. In 2020, 13 new OIE Reference Laboratories were adopted, one was reinstated following achievement of ISO 17025 accreditation, and eight requested to withdraw from the list. This brought the total number of OIE Reference Laboratories to 261.

The following new OIE Reference Laboratories were designated in 2019:

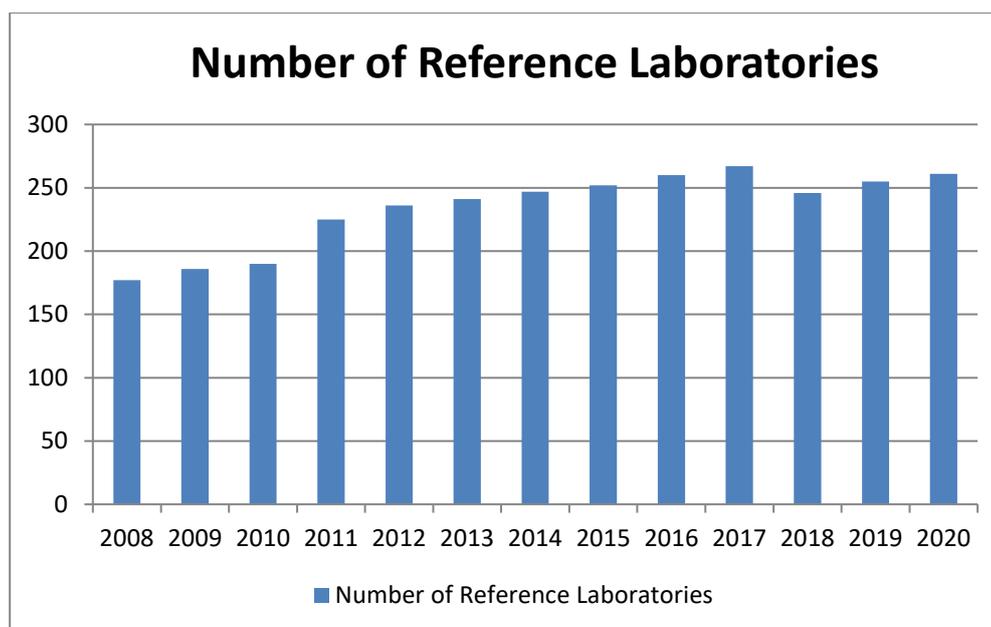
- *Brucellosis* (*Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis*), National Reference Laboratory for Animal Brucellosis (NRLAB), China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control (IVDC), Beijing, China (People’s Rep. of);

- *Cysticercosis*, Helminthosis Laboratory, Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Lanzhou, Gansu Province, China (People's Rep. of);
- *Glanders*, Anses Maisons-Alfort, Animal Health Laboratory, Bacterial Zoonoses Unit, Maisons-Alfort, France;
- *Equine infectious anaemia*, Division for the Diagnosis of Viral Diseases and Leptospirosis, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Regioni Lazio e Toscana (IZSLT), Rome, Italy;
- *Rabies*, National Reference Laboratory for Rabies, Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health, Bucharest, Romania;
- *Avian mycoplasmosis* (*Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *M. synoviae*), Pendik Veterinary Control Institute, İstanbul, Turkey;
- *Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia*, Pendik Veterinary Control Institute, İstanbul, Turkey.

The following new OIE Reference Laboratories were designated in 2020:

- *African swine fever*, CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness, Geelong, Victoria, Australia;
- *Classical swine fever*, CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness, Geelong, Victoria, Australia;
- *Foot and mouth disease*, National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada;
- *Dourine*, Anses Normandy, Laboratory for Animal Health, Dozulé, France;
- *Rabies*, OIE Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory, Department of Microbiology, Veterinary College, Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Hebbal, Bangalore, India;
- *Highly pathogenic avian influenza and low pathogenic avian influenza*, Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Rural Affairs, Gyeongsangbuk-do, Korea (Rep. of);
- *Brucellosis* (*Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. canis*), Central Veterinary Research Laboratory, Dubai, United Arab Emirates;
- *Middle East respiratory syndrome*, Central Veterinary Research Laboratory, Dubai, United Arab Emirates;
- *Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease*, Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory, School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, United States of America;
- *Hepatobacter penaei* (*necrotising hepatopancreatitis*), Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory, School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, United States of America;

- *Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis*, Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory, School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, United States of America;
- *Rinderpest*, Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, USDA, APHIS, VS, NVSL, Plum Island Animal Disease Center, Greenport, New York, United States of America;
- *White spot syndrome virus*, Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory, School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, United States of America.



\*In 2011, the Headquarters adopted a new way of counting Reference Laboratories: previously, laboratories designated for a number of related diseases were counted as one laboratory; since 2011, each laboratory is designated individually for a single disease and this partly accounts for the apparent large increase between 2010 and 2011.

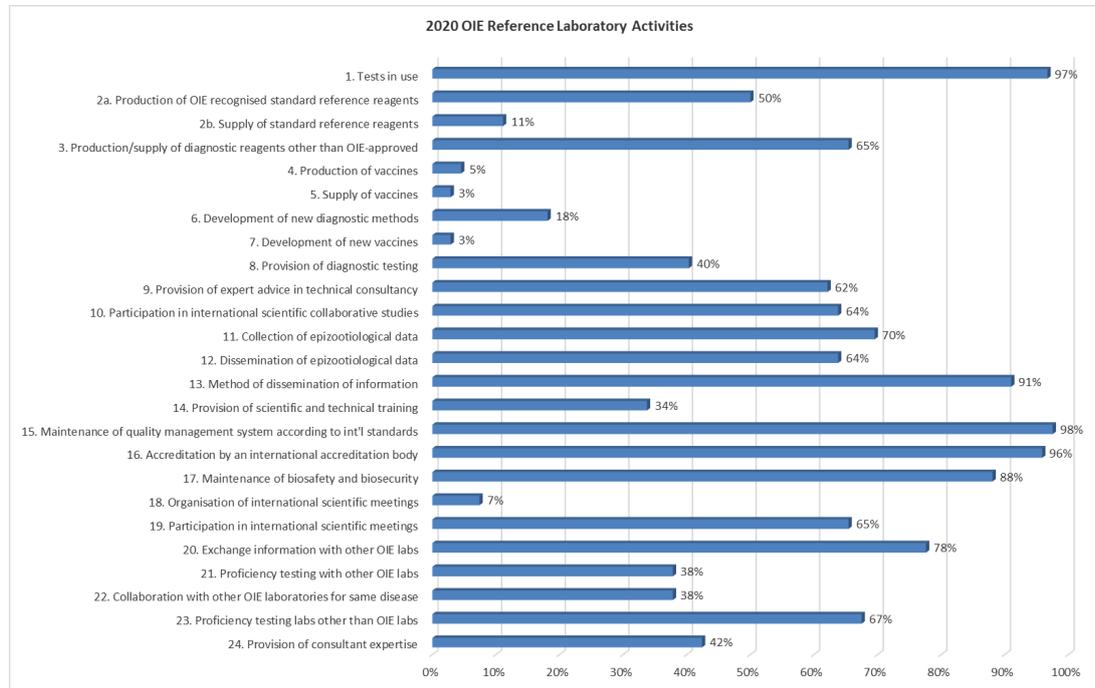
Several OIE Reference Laboratories notified, through the OIE Delegate of the Member concerned, changes in their designated disease expert. In each case the relevant Specialist Commission reviewed the curriculum vitae of the new expert to ensure that he/she had the appropriate expertise. The names were circulated to Members in the Commission reports. In accordance with Resolution No. 34 adopted by the Assembly at the 81st General Session in 2013, newly designated experts are recommended by the relevant Specialist Commission and approved by the Council on behalf of the Assembly and the list on the OIE website is updated accordingly.

The following figure illustrates the variety of activities carried out by the laboratories for the benefit of the international community. The figures are based on the annual reports received in 2019. (Figures for 2020 will be available in February/March 2021) Annual reports of the OIE Reference Centres can be found at:

<http://www.oie.int/en/scientific-expertise/reference-laboratories/annual-reports/>

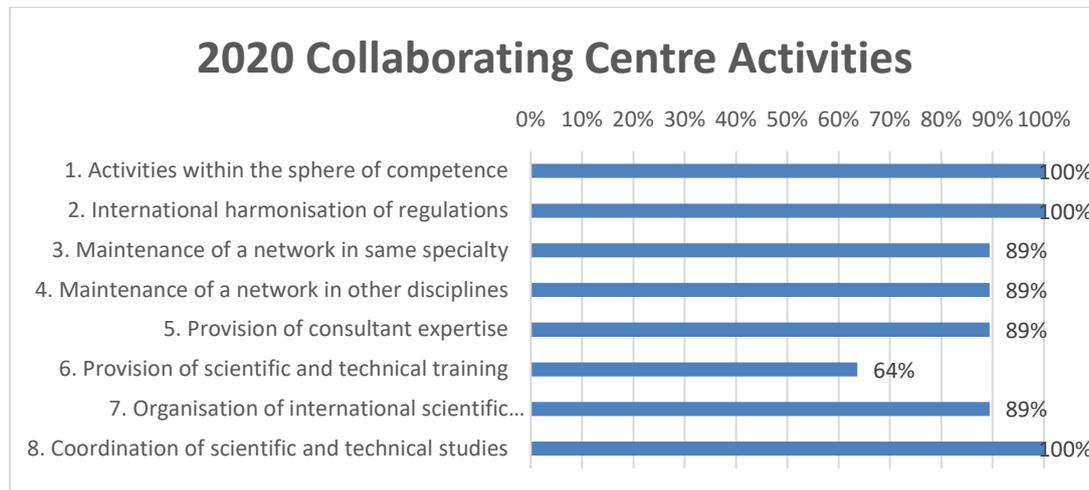
**Figure 3 : Reference Laboratories**

**Graph 1: Activities of the OIE Reference Laboratories**



**Figure 4 : Collaborating Centres**

**Graph 2: Activities of the OIE Collaborating Centres**



**6.2.3. OFFLU**



In 2019 and 2020, the OIE continued to coordinate the OIE/FAO Network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU), host the OFFLU Secretariat and maintain the OFFLU website. OFFLU continued to engage experts from the avian, swine and equine influenza fields to provide technical advice, training and veterinary expertise to OIE Members in the prevention, diagnosis, surveillance and control of animal influenza.

OFFLU technical activities continued to deliver concrete outputs that contribute to the mitigation of the risks posed by animal influenza viruses to public health and animal health. Notable achievements in 2019 and 2020 included the following:

- OFFLU participated in the February and September 2019 and 2020 WHO Vaccine Composition Meetings and made available 177 and 319 avian influenza virus sequences (177 sequences in 2019 and 319 in 2020) for recent outbreaks of H5, H7 and H9 events in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. Additionally, sequence data of global swine influenza virus H1 and H3 subtypes were also shared. This information was used by WHO to update the list of human vaccine virus candidates for the purpose of pandemic preparedness.
- OFFLU experts updated a guidance document that provides information regarding amino acid sequences at the influenza A cleavage sites for assistance in differentiation of low pathogenicity and high pathogenicity AI viruses through molecular analyses and this information has been referred to in the avian influenza chapter of the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)*.
- In February 2019, OFFLU swine influenza experts met at the OIE Headquarters and shared surveillance data and research updates on the circulating swine influenza viruses in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.
- The expert panel on equine influenza surveillance met at the OIE Headquarters in April 2019 and 2020 and updated the vaccine recommendations for equine influenza based on the reported outbreaks in the previous 12 months.
- OFFLU experts participated in the revision of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* and *Terrestrial Manual* chapters on avian influenza.

The Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL), Geelong, Australia, coordinated the OFFLU proficiency testing exercise among the OIE Reference Centres, with the aim of improving the network's ability to detect avian influenza viruses that may be encountered globally. All information about OFFLU technical activities, meetings, partnerships and guidance can be found on the network's website (<http://www.offlu.net>).

### **6.3. ACTIVITIES FOCUSING ON SPECIFIC THEMES OR DISEASES**

#### **6.3.1. Global Initiative for the control of African swine fever**

The GF-TADs Global Initiative for the Control of African Swine Fever (ASF) was officially launched on 20 July 2020, in response to the request made at the 87th OIE General Session as defined in Resolution No. 33.

The Global Initiative (2020-2025) was developed jointly by the OIE and FAO and is based on a theory of change that was translated into a logic framework, describing the outputs, outcomes and indicators that have been identified for each of the following three strategic objectives:

- Improve the capability of countries to control (prevent, respond to, eradicate) ASF using OIE international standards and best practices that are based on the latest science.
- Establish an effective coordination and cooperation framework for the global control of ASF.
- Facilitate business continuity ensuring safe production and trade to protect food systems. .

The accompanying operational plan lists the specific activities to be implemented under GF-TADs by the OIE, FAO or by our other partners and will be updated periodically.

The Global Initiative builds on the lessons learned from past and existing global animal disease control and eradication strategies under GF-TADs, and identifies the key factors for the successful global control of ASF, namely a disease intelligence framework, effective risk communication, operational and technical capability and sustainable resources.

The GF-TADs website page on ASF<sup>1</sup> provides relevant information and links to the Global Initiative, including the document, the logic framework and the operational plan.

The GF-TADs Working Group for African swine fever control (ASF WG) was appointed by the GF-TADs Management Committee. Its terms of reference (ToR) include the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Global Initiative. The ASF WG will also contribute to the development and support of ASF control strategies at the global and regional level. It includes six members from the headquarters and regional offices of the OIE and FAO and is chaired on a rotational basis, with the OIE chairing the first year. The ASF WG conducts meetings on a monthly basis and regularly reports to the GF-TADs Management Committee.

A regional Standing Group of Experts on ASF (SGE-ASF), aimed at strengthening regional dialogue, cooperation and coordination, has been established in each of the following regions: Europe, Asia and the Americas. Regular meetings are held throughout the year. Good progress is being made for the creation of a similar coordination mechanism in Africa. The SGE-ASF mechanism is playing a key role in the success of the Global Initiative.

### **6.3.2. Rabies**

The OIE, as part of the Tripartite (FAO/OIE/WHO), considers the elimination of dog-mediated rabies a priority and a model for the implementation of the 'One Health' concept. The OIE promotes mass dog vaccination and responsible dog ownership as cost-effective interventions to sustainably break the transmission cycle of the disease from animals to humans.

In 2019, the United Against Rabies (UAR) collaboration (i.e. the Tripartite plus the Global Alliance for Rabies Control [GARC]) published its first annual progress report<sup>2</sup>. This report describes the progress made since the launch of the Global Strategic Plan to End Human Deaths from Dog-mediated Rabies by 2030.

By promoting mass dog vaccination with high quality vaccines, the OIE rabies vaccine bank has continued to support OIE Members' efforts to control and eliminate dog-mediated human rabies. During 2019, over 2 million doses of rabies vaccines were delivered to 12 countries (Eritrea, Namibia, Lesotho, Indonesia, Zimbabwe, Tunisia, Malaysia, Madagascar, Kenya, Algeria, Angola and Mali). In 2020, almost 2 million doses of rabies vaccines were delivered to seven countries (Liberia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, Philippines, Togo and Tunisia).

The OIE has carried out several communication and awareness-raising activities targeting professionals working in the animal and public health sectors, as well as similar activities directed at the general public. In addition to the ongoing maintenance and updating of the OIE rabies web portal, the OIE promoted and joined the international community in the celebration of World Rabies Day on 28 September in both 2019 and 2020. In 2019 the theme was Rabies: Vaccinate to Eliminate' and in 2020 'End Rabies: Collaborate, Vaccinate'.

The OIE co-organised or participated in several national and regional rabies meetings in 2019: Rabies Control & Surveillance workshop (Morocco); 11th Workshop for Rabies (Romania); Rabies Risk Assessment (Indonesia); Enhancing Progress Towards Rabies Elimination 'Zero by 30' in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Region (Nepal); in-

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gf-tads.org/asf/the-global-initiative-for-the-control-of-asf/en/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Media\\_Center/docs/pdf/Rabies\\_portal/Zeroby30annualreportfinal.pdf](https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Media_Center/docs/pdf/Rabies_portal/Zeroby30annualreportfinal.pdf)

country Hands-on Laboratory training (Philippines and Malaysia); Standing Group of Experts for Europe (Belgium), 12th meeting of the Partners for Rabies Prevention (United Kingdom), etc. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions, the OIE co-organised and participated in several virtual national and regional rabies meetings.

The OIE provided specific technical in-country support for the implementation of national dog-mediated rabies elimination projects in several countries in Africa and Asia. In addition, the rabies twinning projects continued successfully in Chinese Taipei, India, Namibia, Peru, and Tunisia. These projects also served as showcases to stimulate regional cooperation.

To support the Veterinary Services of rabies-endemic countries in their efforts to eliminate rabies, and with the support of PVS and rabies experts, a methodology for conducting PVS rabies-specific content missions was finalised in 2019 and is already available for use by interested OIE Members.

During 2019 and 2020, internal OIE rabies coordination mechanisms were in place. The OIE Technical Rabies Network (TRN) is a mechanism that aims to coordinate OIE activities on rabies between Headquarters' departments in collaboration with Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives working on rabies projects in their respective regions. During the reporting period, 11 meetings chaired by the OIE Deputy Director General "International Standards and Science" were held and they served to improve information sharing within the TRN by regularly updating participants on all the initiatives being carried out by the OIE on rabies, with a view to avoiding overlap and seeking complementarity.

The OIE, in collaboration with FAO and WHO, hosted a high-level virtual stakeholder meeting<sup>3</sup> in 2020 in preparation for the implementation of phase 2 of the Global Strategic Plan to End Human Deaths from Dog-mediated Rabies by 2030. During the meeting, the Directors General of the OIE, FAO and WHO announced the creation of the UAR Forum, an inclusive network of rabies stakeholders that expands on, and replaces, the UAR collaboration. UAR Forum Working Groups will identify and progress priority areas that contribute to implementation of the objectives of the Global Strategic Plan 'Zero by 30'.

### **6.3.3. Foot and mouth disease**

In 2019 and 2020, the OIE, with FAO and technical partners such as EuFMD and the development partners, continued to implement FMD control activities and also provide assistance to Members on the implementation of their national and regional FMD control strategies as a contribution towards the Global FMD control strategy and, in particular, in application of the recommendations of the Second Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease Control, held in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2012. This strategy was prepared and is being implemented under GF-TADs.

The number of OIE Members participating in the Progressive Control Pathway for FMD (PCP-FMD) increased from 79 in 2019 to 80 in 2020. The progression of Members along the PCP-FMD was monitored through evaluations made during the regional roadmap meetings, which were face-to-face in 2019 but had to be virtual in 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Three virtual meetings of Regional Advisory Groups (RAGs) were convened for West Eurasia, East Africa and Southern Africa, respectively, to accept national control plans for Members to advance along the PCP-FMD stages, and to receive updates on regional FMD virus circulation, on activities, on the impact of COVID-19 and on future regional priorities. In general, regional progress in 2020 was slower than had initially been projected. Members also discussed how their FMD control activities had been impacted at various levels by the COVID-19 restrictions.

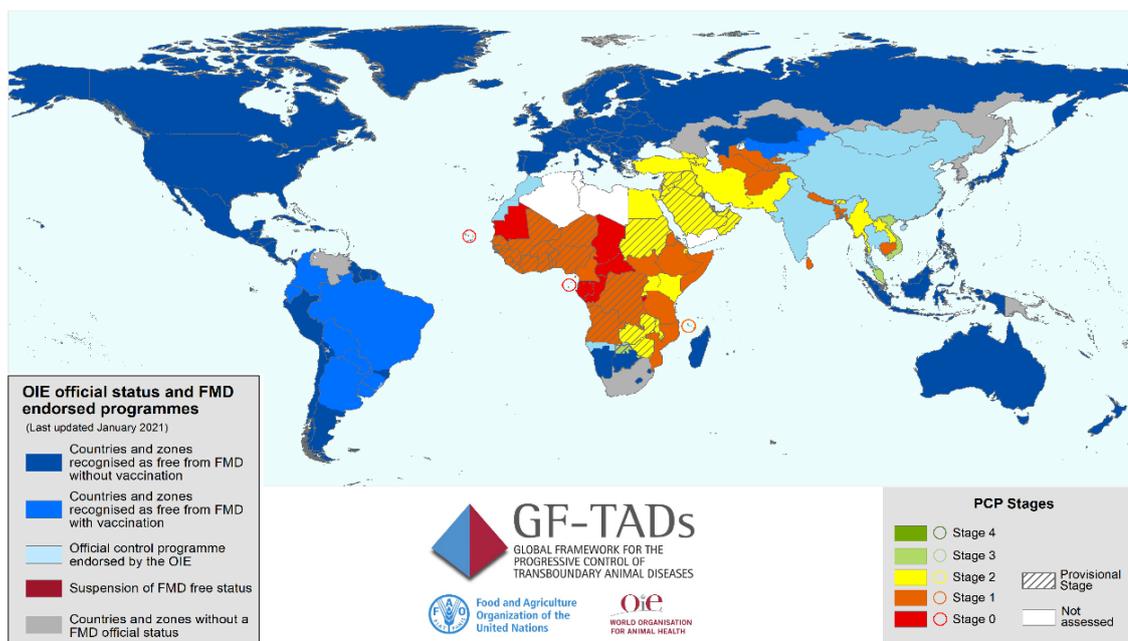
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<sup>3</sup> <https://uarforum.org/>

Two face-to-face Regional GF-TADs FMD roadmap meetings were held for Members in West Eurasia FMD virus pool 3 and for West Africa FMD virus pool 5 in 2019 and one virtual roadmap meeting for southern Africa was held in November 2020. Each participating Member's FMD situation, progress made towards the control of FMD, challenges and needs were discussed. The Members' progression foreseen until 2025 was mapped to create a specific roadmap for each region. Member assessments have been facilitated by updates to the Self-Assessment Tool. Members are increasingly using this tool, which produces outputs such as the level of implementation of the various components immediately on completion of a country's self-assessment. The PCP-FMD guidelines were updated to align them with the latest edition of the OIE PVS Tool (OIE PVS Tool for evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services, 7th edition, 2019).

Figure 5 shows FMD status, Members with an OIE-endorsed official FMD control programme and the PCP-FMD stages (0-3) of Members in 2020. During the reporting period, some Members advanced to stages 1 and 2, whereas some remained at stage 0 (red) of the PCP-FMD, as shown in the figure.

**Fig. 5: Official FMD status and PCP-FMD stages of OIE Members, January 2021**



The first FMD Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks Meeting for the Middle East was held in Egypt in November 2019 with the goal of strengthening Members' surveillance, diagnosis and control capacities. The region's epidemiology and laboratory networks were established along with biannual work plans that addressed the regional needs for 2020-2021. The need for serious engagement in capacity developments for the implementation of control strategies in support of the Middle East FMD roadmap was highlighted.

In response to the recent introduction of new serotypes of FMD (O and A) further south in the southern Africa sub-region, the OIE along with FAO and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) jointly convened a meeting on emerging serotypes of FMD in the region in 2019. OIE Reference Laboratories in the sub-region, the EuFMD and the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) were among the partners that attended the meeting. The meeting underscored the increasing incidence of FMD in the sub-region, and in particular the emergence of serotypes O and A, which are traditionally not known to occur in southern Africa. The same concern was shared in the virtual FMD roadmap meeting for Members in the sub-region, held in November 2020.

Recommendations were issued for affected and at-risk countries, as well as regional recommendations and recommendations directed at international organisations to address this situation fully.

A workshop was convened in December 2019 between the members of the FMD Working Group and international experts to review and update PCP documents, guidance documents for strategic planning to improve the application of the PCP-FMD and develop a system to facilitate the process of reviewing country plans. Processes were agreed and templates were updated, including the PCP Support Officer (PSO) system and fine-tuning of the PCP-FMD country self-assessment tool.

A one-year project regarding recognitions, suspensions and recoveries of FMD-free status in Members was started in July 2019 thanks to a funding contribution by Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC). The outputs of this project will help to better understand the factors that contribute to a fast and sustained recovery of FMD-free status, and might support the revision of OIE standards for the recognition and recovery of an official FMD free status. A project report and guideline recommendations based on findings were expected to be finalised by the end of 2020.

### **6.3.4. Peste des petits ruminants**

In 2019 and 2020, the OIE with FAO and other partners, including Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AU-IBAR (African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources), continued to implement activities in line with the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR GCES) and according to the PPR Global Control and Eradication Programme (PPR GEP).

Two workshops on the OIE procedures for the official recognition of PPR free status and endorsement of official national control programmes for PPR were held for countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia in April 2019 and for countries in Africa in June 2019. The workshops targeted countries that had implemented control and eradication programmes and could thus indicate some progress along the stepwise approach of the PPR Global Strategy, as well as countries that had never reported the disease. An infographic was developed to present the link between the PPR Strategy and OIE procedures for official recognition of PPR free status.

PVS follow-up missions with a PPR-specific content were conducted in 2019 in six countries, namely Nigeria, Chad, Burundi, Liberia, Iran and Mongolia.

Furthermore, the OIE/FAO joint PPR Secretariat implemented activities according to the PPR GEP to develop guidelines and provide technical assistance to countries. In March 2019, a meeting on 'Controlling PPR at the livestock/wildlife interface' was held in Rome, Italy, and in April 2019, the third PPR vaccine producers meeting took place in Amman, Jordan. In November 2019, the second meeting of the PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (GREN) was held in Nairobi, Kenya. Among the items presented at this meeting were the draft 'Guidelines for the prevention of PPR in wildlife populations' – an ongoing project undertaken by the OIE Working Group on Wildlife and GREN – and the newly adopted PPR Chapter 3.7.9. of the OIE *Terrestrial Manual*.

The third PPR Advisory Committee Meeting took place on 16 and 17 July 2019 at the AU-IBAR headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

In addition, in 2019, the second PPR roadmap meetings were organised for three regions, namely the Arab Maghreb Union, ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) and the SADC, and, in parallel, the third round was launched with the organisation of the meeting for the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. During these meetings, progress was reported by several countries, moving from stage 1 (assessment stage) to stage 2 (control stage), stage 3 (eradication stage) or even stage 4 (post-eradication stage) of the Strategy's stepwise approach (Figure 6). However, concerns were raised that some countries were vaccinating ineffectively without first conducting an epidemiological assessment to map

the disease, identify the target populations most in need of vaccination and vaccinate them to the levels necessary to establish protective herd immunity. In this regard, achieving better coordination between neighbouring countries has also been identified as a major challenge.

To address the need for targeted PPR vaccination strategies, informed by an epidemiological assessment, a workshop on “Epidemiological assessment and vaccination management in the Lake Chad epi-zone” was piloted in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in December 2019. The aim of this workshop was to realise a thorough PPR epidemiological analysis of this geographical zone in order to set up shared control measures among the countries of the region.

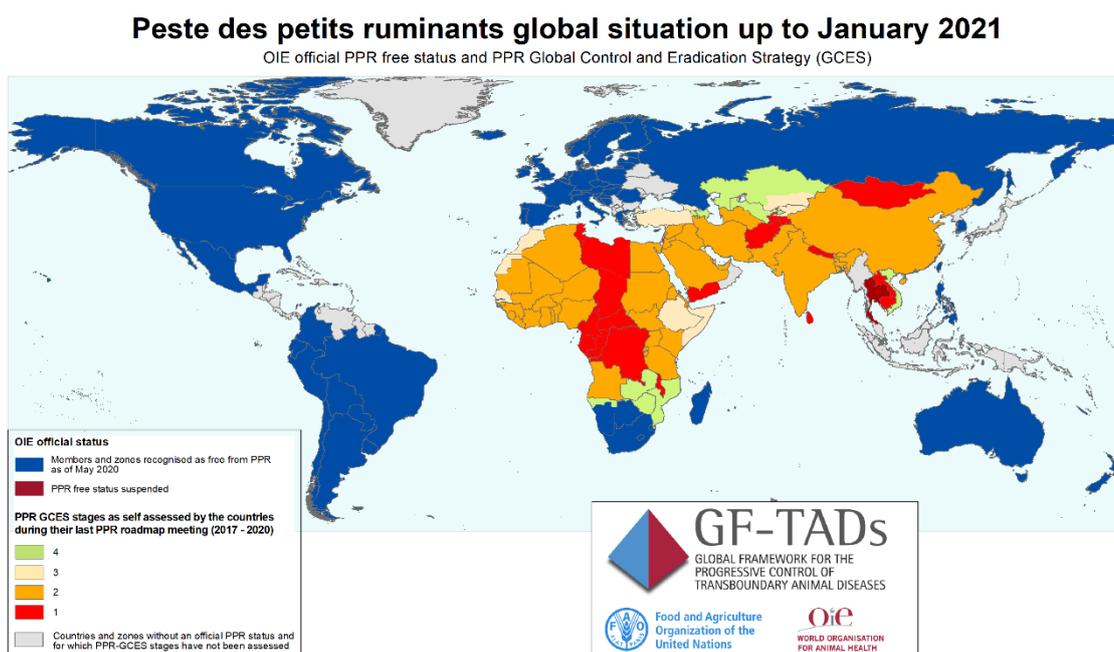
In 2020, the OIE’s and FAO’s work in this field focused on the in-depth review process of the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT). In this regard, a joint OIE/FAO team of five experts was formed to undertake the revision, which was initially planned to be carried out through country missions and workshops with country representatives. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this approach was not feasible. As an alternative, the OIE/FAO expert team developed a questionnaire which was sent to 93 PPR infected or at-risk Members to obtain details of their experience of using the tool. More than 60 Members provided their feedback, based on which the revised tool is currently being drafted and is expected to be finalised at the beginning of 2021.

Moreover, due to the COVID-19 global situation, the fourth PPR Advisory Committee meeting and the third PPR GREN meeting were organised virtually, from 29 June to 2 July 2020 and from 9 to 12 November 2020 respectively. During the GREN meeting, which was attended by more than 120 participants, the four GREN thematic groups (Atypical hosts, Wildlife, Socio-economic and Vaccination strategies) provided updates on research outputs in their respective areas of expertise and produced recommendations for consideration during the upcoming revision of the implementation of the PPR GCES for the development of the next phase of the PPR GEP.

Finally, the OIE developed various communication tools on PPR within the framework of the 2019 OIE Activity Report, as follows:

- i) Infographic: The OIE responds to global challenges
- ii) Video: PPR: an illustration of the OIE’s contribution to addressing global challenges
- iii) Video: The OIE’s action in 3 regional projects
- iv) Interview with the Delegate of Nigeria: The PVS Pathway reports: tools for advocacy
- v) Interview with the Delegate of Kenya: Public-Private Partnership for the benefit of livestock vaccination

**Fig. 6: PPR global situation in 2019 and 2020**



### 6.3.5. Official disease status recognition

#### 6.3.5.1. Applications for official recognition of disease status and for endorsement of official control programmes

The OIE received 22 applications in 2019 and 20 applications in 2020 for official recognition of disease status or endorsement of official disease control programmes (Table 1). These dossiers were first evaluated by the *ad hoc* Groups responsible for evaluating the disease status of Members for the disease in question, before being examined by the Scientific Commission with a view to their submission, where appropriate, to the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE for adoption under the 2020 Adapted Procedure or at the 88th General Session in May 2021.

Under the 2020 Adapted Procedure, dog-mediated rabies was added to the OIE procedure for endorsement of official control programmes in line with Chapter 8.14. of the *Terrestrial Code*. The first *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of Official Control Programmes for Dog-mediated Rabies of Members for OIE Endorsement met virtually in November–December 2020, to examine applications submitted by two Members for endorsement of their official control programmes for dog-mediated rabies. The first list of Members having an OIE endorsed official control programme for dog-mediated rabies will be presented for adoption at the General Session in May 2021.

**Table 1: Distribution of the applications received in 2019 and 2020, by disease**

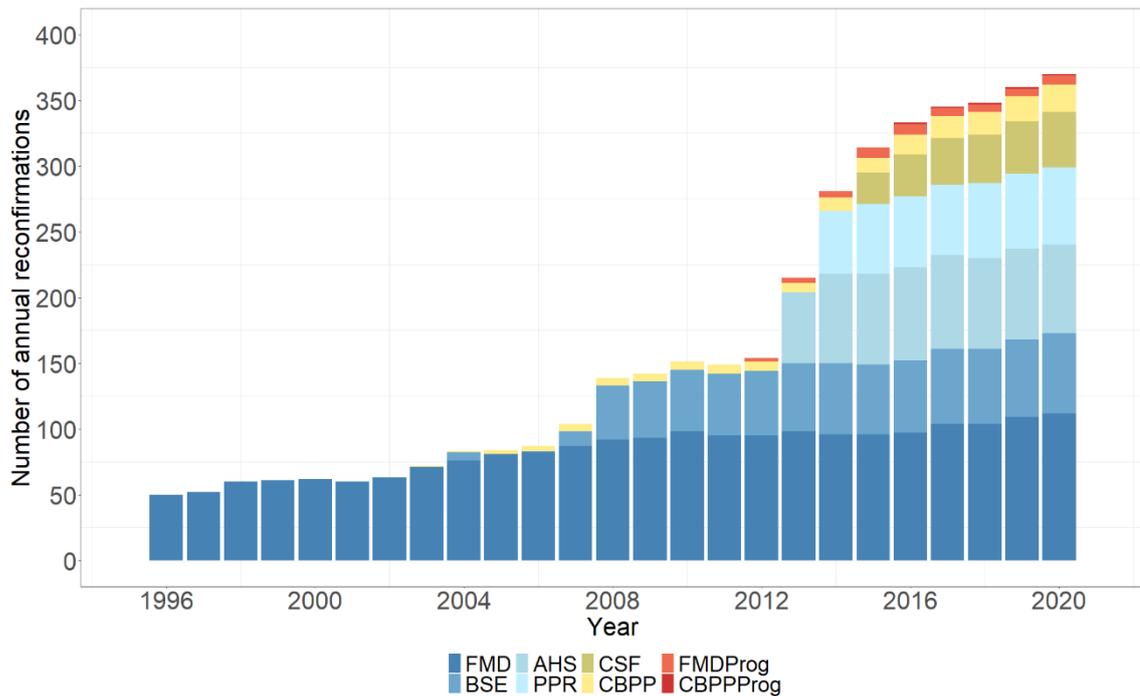
Disease and category	No. of applications - 2019	No. of applications – 2020
<b>AHS</b>		
No applications		
<b>BSE</b>		
Country Negligible risk	1	2
Zone Negligible risk	1	0
<b>CBPP</b>		

Country freedom	3	2
Endorsement of control programme	1	0
<b>CSF</b>		
Country freedom	6	3
Zonal freedom	1	2
<b>FMD</b>		
Country freedom without vaccination	1	1
Zonal freedom without vaccination	1	5
Zonal freedom with vaccination	2	5
Endorsement of control programme	1	2
<b>PPR</b>		
Country freedom	2	2
Recovery of suspended status	1	0
Endorsement of control programme	1	1
<b>Rabies (dog-mediated)</b>		
Endorsement of control programme	NA	2
<b>Total</b>	22	20

#### 6.3.5.2. Annual reconfirmations

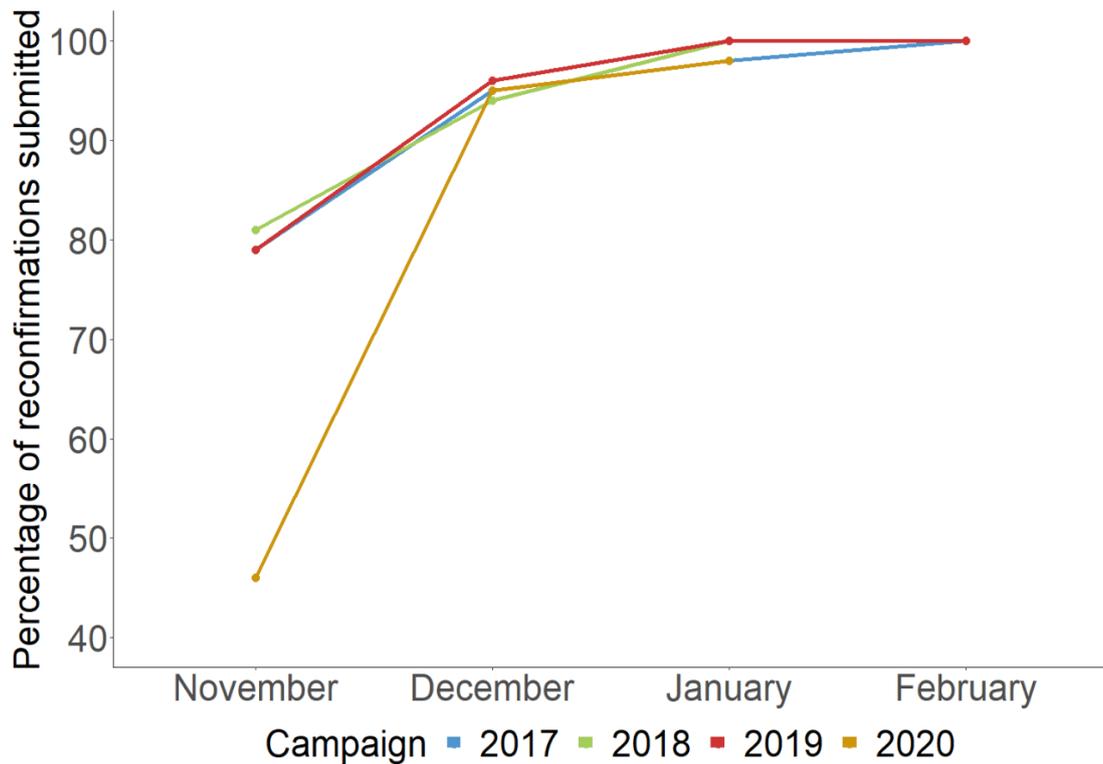
In accordance with the *Terrestrial Code* and the relevant standard operating procedures (SOPs), the 101 OIE Members with an officially recognised disease status or whose official control programme has been endorsed by the OIE should send an annual reconfirmation to maintain their 360 (in 2019) and 370 (in 2020) official status/endorsed control programmes (Fig. 7).

**Fig. 7: Number of annual reconfirmations received by the OIE (1996 to 2020)**



To facilitate the annual reconfirmation procedure for Members, an online system was launched in November 2015. Furthermore, to guide Delegates through this online annual reconfirmation process, the OIE developed a tutorial in the three official languages of the OIE explaining the process in a stepwise manner. In 2019, 96.4% of Members used the online annual reconfirmation system; the remaining 3.6% asked the OIE for technical support with entering the information online. Furthermore, as shown in Figure 8, over 79% of Members' annual reconfirmations were submitted before the end of November in the reconfirmation campaigns from 2017 to 2019 whereas only 46% were submitted by the end of November in 2020 (November being in each case the designated submission month). The distributed denial-of-service attack experienced during November 2020 contributed to this significant drop in submissions of annual reconfirmations.

**Fig. 8: Percentage of annual reconfirmations submitted by the end of each month: comparison between the years 2017 to 2020 (as of 20 January 2021).**



#### 6.3.5.3. Workshops

As a continuation of the second cycle of workshops that started in 2018, three workshops were conducted in the following OIE Regions in 2019 or 2020:

- Europe (mainly Eastern Europe and Central Asia): training on the preparation of application dossiers for OIE recognition of disease status and OIE endorsement of national official control programmes with regard to PPR, and FMD, and training on the submission of reconfirmations for maintenance of official FMD free status;
- Africa (for targeted countries): training on the preparation of application dossiers for OIE endorsement of national official control programmes with regard to PPR;
- Middle East: training on OIE standards and the procedure to facilitate international movements of competition horses, preparation of application dossiers for OIE recognition of AHS free status and submission of reconfirmations for its maintenance, self-declaration of equine disease free zones (EDFZ), and the high health, high performance (HHP) framework.

In 2020, to continue the OIE’s second cycle of training activities, a sub-regional workshop was held in Europe (mainly for countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia) on OIE standards and procedures to facilitate the international movements of (competition) horses and to improve capacity building of OIE Members for the official recognition of AHS disease free status. To support the training for new OIE Delegates, an e-learning module was developed focusing on the procedures relating to the granting, suspension, withdrawal and recovery of official disease status. The module, which was uploaded into the OIE Training Platform, is composed of sections covering each of the above themes.

The main objective of the e-learning module is to help Members improve their understanding of the complete process of official disease status recognition, the procedures for applying for official recognition of disease status, the preparation of application dossiers and their evaluation, and the importance of official recognition of disease status. The module comprises presentations, short quizzes and relevant documents for each section.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, two workshops that were originally intended to be held in Europe and in the Americas in 2020 were successfully carried out as webinars. Both workshops comprised a self-learning induction course accessible on the OIE Training Platform. The first webinar focused on the maintenance of officially recognised disease status and targeted OIE Members in Europe. The second one was designed to provide training for OIE Members of the Americas Region on how to comply with the *Terrestrial Code* requirements and procedures for the recovery of FMD free status and zoning, including the establishment of a containment zone.

### 6.3.6. Publication of self-declarations of disease freedom

In 2019, 25 self-declarations were submitted to the OIE for publication; in 2020, 23 were submitted. All self-declarations published on the dedicated webpage were also announced in *OIE News* to bring them to the attention of OIE Members.

**Fig. 9: Number of self-declarations submitted to the OIE for publication, by disease: comparison between 2019 and 2020**

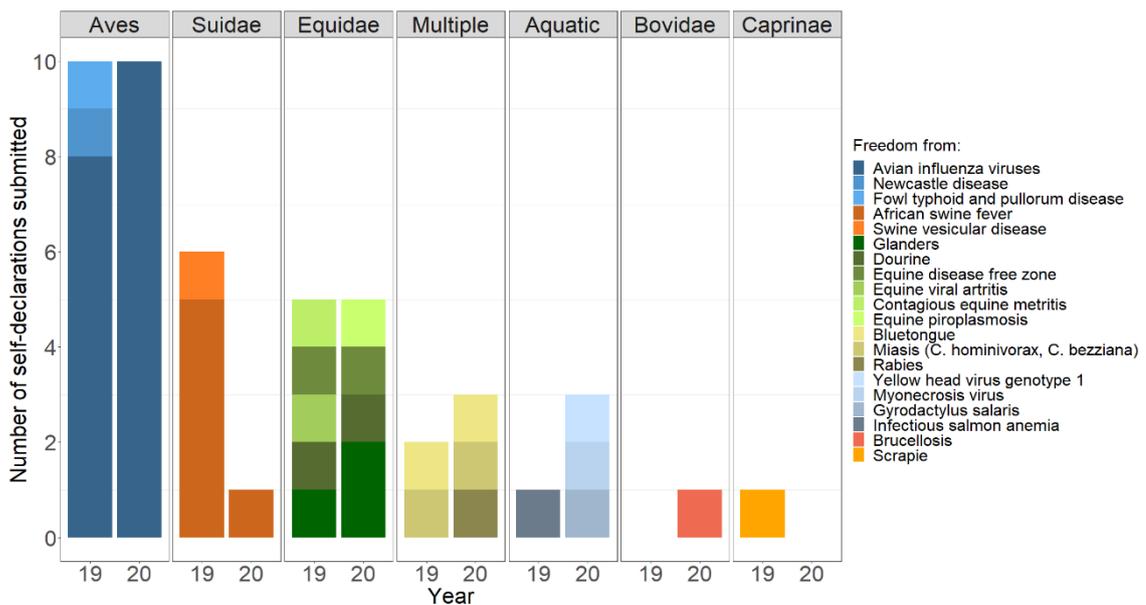


Figure 9 shows the breakdown by animal categories of the 48 self-declaration publications that published on the OIE website in 2019 and 2020. Each week, the state of self-declaration publications (active/not active) is reviewed according to the animal health situation of OIE Members as reported through WAHIS.

The visibility of self-declarations and the SOP, according to the number of page visits, is presented in Table 2. Since May 2019, the Guidelines on the establishment, management, and self-declaration to the OIE of an Equine Disease-Free Zone (EDFZ) have been available online.

**Table 2: Number of internet user visits to self-declaration related webpages in 2019 and in 2020** (Source: oiewebstats, © 2020 Google, 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019 and

Language	Self-declaration		Archives		Standard operating procedure		EDFZ Guidelines	
	2019	2 020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
English	9 022	15 211	1 319	101	555	508	174	226
Spanish	4 119	3 780	316	20	159	123	NA	NA
French	1 637	1 496	108	24	89	44	NA	NA
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14 778</b>	<b>20 487</b>	<b>1 743</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>

01/01/2020 to 31/12/2020)

### 6.3.7. Secretariat of the STAR-IDAZ International Research Consortium on animal health

The OIE has co-hosted the scientific secretariat of the Global Strategic Alliances for the Coordination of Research of Major Infections Diseases of Animals and Zoonosis (STAR-IDAZ) International Research Consortium on animal health (IRC) since 2016. The goal of this initiative is to coordinate research programmes at international level and contribute to new and improved animal health strategies for priority diseases, infections or horizontal issues.

Every year, the STAR-IDAZ IRC Executive Committee identifies diseases, infections or horizontal issues on which activities should be focused, and for which geographically balanced working groups (WGs) of experts need to be established to perform gap analyses and draft research roadmaps. In 2020, the selected priorities included ASF, antimicrobial resistance and the development of innovative alternatives to antibiotics, bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis, coronaviruses, diagnostic technologies, FMD, helminthiasis, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, vaccinology and vector-borne diseases.

The OIE, through the STAR-IDAZ IRC secretariat, supports the WGs by performing gap analyses and drafting research roadmaps to be used to guide future research on these selected topics. A WG on antimicrobial resistance and the development of innovative alternatives to antibiotics was established in December 2019 and, in 2020, started working on the identification of research gaps on the topic, focusing in particular on the use of phages, on mechanisms of immunomodulation and on the influence of the microbiome in maintaining animal health. Research roadmaps for the development of diagnostics, vaccines and disease control strategies for ASF, bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis, FMD, and helminthiasis are available on the STAR-IDAZ IRC website<sup>4</sup>.

The secretariat mapped existing international initiatives to accelerate research and boost collaboration within the animal health sector and drafted an overview of the latest discoveries on priority animal diseases. This information was summarised in a report published on the STAR-IDAZ IRC website.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.star-idaz.net/>

As coronaviruses are one of the priorities of the STAR-IDAZ IRC, the secretariat initiated a data collection exercise among the Consortium's members to map current research efforts, as well as to identify topics for potential transnational collaboration. In parallel, the secretariat is working on the establishment of a Global Coronavirus Research Alliance, to be tasked with identifying research gaps and ensuring networking across the One Health spectrum on this topic. The Alliance will be launched in 2021.

In 2020, the secretariat co-organised and participated in five virtual meetings of the STAR-IDAZ Regional Networks, one for Africa and the Middle East, one for the Americas, one for Asia and Australasia and two for Europe. The aim of the meetings was to map research activities and common priorities and to improve collaboration on animal health research in the respective regions.

### **6.3.8. Kick-off meeting of the OIE Virtual Biobank project**

The kick-off meeting of the project was held at the OIE Headquarters from 15 to 17 October 2019. The expert group reviewed the IT solution proposed by IZSLER (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna "Bruno Ubertini"), namely the OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Biologicals Biobank and partner organisation of the OIE for the implementation of the project.

The expert group also evaluated the next steps for implementation and provided expert advice on technical matters, such as the system architecture and the minimum set of metadata to be associated with biobank materials, and strategies to initiate, promote and sustain sharing of biobank materials among laboratories and across countries.

### **6.3.9. Roadmap for zoonotic tuberculosis**

The roadmap for addressing zoonotic tuberculosis (zoonotic TB) was jointly launched by WHO, the OIE, FAO and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) at the 48th Union World Conference on Lung Health, held in Guadalajara in 2017. The roadmap is framed within UN Sustainable Development Goal 3, which refers to global health challenges, including ending the current epidemic of TB in humans by 2030, and the elimination of zoonotic TB infection in humans must be included if this target is to be achieved.

The roadmap sets out 10 priorities, including the improvement of animal health in low-resource settings, where most of the disease burden in humans is found. In 2020, the OIE organised an *ad hoc* Group meeting to formulate recommendations on strategies to control tuberculosis in livestock (other than the test and kill approach) that can be implemented in economically disadvantaged rural areas. This activity is conducted jointly with WHO and FAO and is reflected in the Tripartite work plan for zoonotic TB, which also includes the development of international standards and guidelines for the control of zoonotic TB.

## **6.4. PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

### **6.4.1. Collaboration with the International Horse Sports Confederation**

The OIE is engaged in a public-private partnership with the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC) to support safe international movements of sports horses for competitions. A number of activities are carried out and coordinated under this partnership to support the update of relevant standards and to increase communication and awareness. Three scientific studies on the improvement of tests and vaccines for three major equine diseases (African horse sickness, glanders and equine influenza) were conducted during the period 2019–2020.

In view of the challenges regarding diagnostic assays for glanders, a study was commissioned to review serological tests for glanders in horses and was conducted by the OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The high health, high performance (HHP) framework and the equine disease-free zone (EDFZ) approach represent two important tools developed to facilitate international movements of sport horses. In 2019, the guidelines for the implementation of EDFZs were published on the OIE website. An infographic on movement of horses was designed and published in 2020 in the three OIE official languages and in printable and web versions.

Three regional workshops were conducted in Hong Kong (SAR-PRC), Morocco and Russia in 2019 to strengthen regional capacities in support of safe international movements of competition horses. The workshops were targeted at countries engaged in international equestrian competitions or races. Regional roadmaps were developed and adopted by each region. An OIE capacity-building seminar was carried out in Azerbaijan on the implementation of OIE standards for the facilitation of international movements of competition horses in Europe and Central Asia.

Following the reoccurrence in early 2020 of African horse sickness in South East Asia, coordinated efforts were made between the OIE and the IHSC to build capacities to help control the disease and limit its spread. The OIE and IHSC contributed to the development of awareness/information material and training activities for veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals.

In addition, the OIE coordinated two electronic consultations with subject matter experts to undertake a comprehensive review of the equine piroplasmiasis and contagious equine metritis chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* as per the recommendations issued by the OIE Specialist Commissions at their February 2019 meetings. The revised draft chapters were presented to the Specialist Commissions and were sent to OIE Members for a first round of comments in November 2020.

In view of the success of the activities conducted under the OIE-IHSC partnership, a new collaboration agreement for the period 2020–2024 was signed in January 2020.

#### 6.4.2. Collaboration with EuFMD



The OIE and the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD) provided support to the GF-TADs FMD Working Group towards the implementation of the Global FMD control strategy. Various Progressive Control Pathway for FMD (PCP-FMD) tools have been developed under this collaboration to support the FMD Working Group and OIE Members. With the assistance of the EuFMD, the PCP-FMD Self-Assessment Tool was updated and a PCP-FMD document management tool was developed. These tools will facilitate the submission, revision and communication of national plans between the Regional Advisory Groups (RAGs), the GF-TADs FMD Working Group and the Veterinary Services. In 2020, the development and establishment of a Virtual Learning Centre (VLC) in Southern Africa by the EuFMD, in coordination with regional GF-TADs partners, including the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa, provided a platform to successfully host and deliver the virtual Regional FMD roadmap.

More tools and e-learning modules are envisaged, to be developed under the umbrella of GF-TADs to advance the global strategies.

The EuFMD provided technical assistance to develop an online introductory course on the typology of public–private partnerships (PPPs) and their key success factors, which was used in two regional workshops, held in Ethiopia and Tunisia in August and September 2019,

respectively. In 2020, the OIE continued collaboration with EuFMD's virtual courses covering PPPs on FMD and other FAST<sup>5</sup> diseases.

The OIE participated in an EuFMD-organised PCP-FMD Support Officers (PSOs) training workshop in Ghana in March 2019. PSOs were assigned to OIE Members in Africa, West Eurasia and the Middle East to assist the Veterinary Services in preparing their national control plans.

Acknowledging the EuFMD's strong involvement in the implementation of the Global FMD control strategy, the OIE continued to work closely with the EuFMD. In 2019, the OIE hosted the 98th EuFMD Executive Committee at the OIE Headquarters and participated in other EuFMD meetings, including the EuFMD General Assembly, the Open Sessions and the virtual extraordinary session.

## **7. PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE**

In January 2020, following a reorganisation of the OIE Headquarters, the Preparedness and Resilience Department was established. Its launch was timely considering the numerous complex long-term challenges facing animal health, and the events which would unfold in 2020.

The Department developed a mission statement which states its purpose as *'promoting the role of Veterinary Services in global health by supporting them to prepare for, adapt to, withstand, recover, and advance from critical events in a dynamic environment, and providing technical support to the OIE for institutional emergency management and incident coordination.'*

The Preparedness and Resilience Department supports the OIE's core work programme through a coherent set of activities and by working with key stakeholders. The Department supports the OIE's emergency management system, promotes wildlife health management as an integral component of One Health strategies and works to improve the sustainability of laboratories. It works in close collaboration with other Departments across the OIE, and with the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, OIE Members and key external stakeholders.

### **7.1. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

#### **7.1.1. Support to internal crisis management**

##### **COVID-19 Incident Management System**

The early response to the COVID-19 emergency at the OIE was coordinated by the Preparedness and Resilience Department. As the situation evolved from a regional to a global problem and the investigations around the role of animals progressed, the OIE established an Incident Management System, with the command and control of the Internal Coordination Group resting with the Deputy Director General "International Standards and Science" (see the OIE COVID-19 Incident Management Approach mechanism below). The idea was to have a whole-of-OIE approach to the crisis and for the different Departments and teams to share information, coordinate activities and define next steps together. The Internal Coordination Group met weekly for a formal update from each workstream, although informal updates were shared continuously.

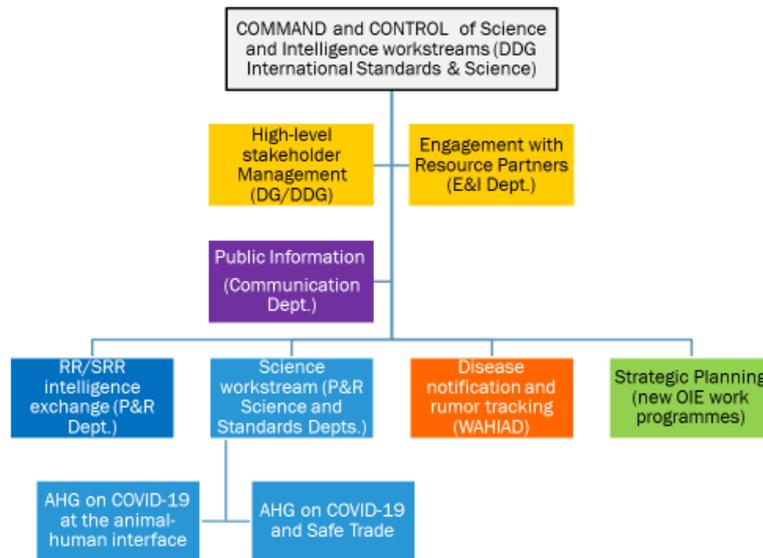
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<sup>5</sup> FAST: Foot-and-mouth and Similar Transboundary Animal Diseases

As part of its work plan, the Department will develop a set of SOPs for triggering and establishing the internal Incident Management System and accounting for lessons identified in the after-action review.

**Figure 10 : OIE COVID-19 Incident Management Approach Mechanism**

### OIE COVID-19 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT APPROACH



List of Specific Abbreviations :

E&I Dept : Engagement and Investment Department ;  
 P&R Dept : Preparedness and Resilience Department ;  
 AHG : *Ad Hoc* Group

#### 7.1.2. After-action review (institutional response to COVID-19)

The Preparedness and Resilience Department recommended, initiated and guided an (interim) after-action review to identify lessons from the institutional response to COVID-19 from January to August 2020 in order to improve preparedness for future events (including anticipated recurrences of COVID-19 in the winter of 2020/2021). The Preparedness and Resilience Department developed the terms of reference for the review and convened a team.

The review, which took place during the European summer months, was broad, encompassing technical, logistical and managerial elements of the response and adaptation to COVID-19. It involved consulting Headquarters staff, Regional Representatives, external stakeholders, OIE Council members and OIE Delegates. The report was submitted to the Director General in October 2020 and provided valuable feedback which was considered when developing and implementing policies for recurrences of COVID-19 in November 2020.

It should be highlighted that this was an ‘interim’ after-action review because the pandemic would likely continue to impact on the business of the OIE through 2021 (and potentially 2022).

#### 7.1.3. Supporting OIE Members’ emergency management capability and response

##### *OIE Guidelines for Simulation Exercises*

The OIE published [Guidelines for Simulation Exercises](#), a set of good practices for Veterinary Services in preparing, delivering and learning from simulation exercises. These guidelines aim

to be scalable and adaptable to all contexts and promote an “all-hazards” approach to emergency preparedness. The guidelines were developed with the support of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Emergencies and in collaboration with WHO and FAO. The publication of these guidelines was supported by the Weapons Threat Reduction Programme of Global Affairs Canada.

### **Exploring innovations to improving sustainable management of animal health emergencies**

The OIE published a report from the [OIE workshop](#) on “Exploring innovations to improving sustainable management of animal health emergencies”. This workshop, held in November 2019, brought together an interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral group of experts to share innovative tools, models and approaches that could support sustainable management of emergencies by Veterinary Services. The experts agreed that “one size does not fit all” and approaches must be tailored to specific country situations and risks. A multi-sectoral and whole-of-society approach is essential for emergencies and for resource mobilisation. Networking between OIE Members supports resilience and capacity building, such as through sharing personnel and resources, participating in multi-country simulation exercises and sharing expertise in the field of research and development. The OIE will continue to explore the approaches shared by the experts in future guidance and capacity-building efforts.

### **EMC-AH missions**

The OIE was formerly a partner in EMC-AH’s predecessor, the Crisis Management Centre for Animal Health (CMC-AH). Although the OIE is no longer a partner, it is an assiduous participant in the FAO Emergency Management Centre for Animal Health (EMC-AH) weekly Incident Coordination Group (ICG) calls, which aim to share operational information about disease events.

In 2020, these calls covered ASF, Rift Valley fever, lumpy skin disease and COVID-19. Since 2006, OIE experts have taken part in numerous CMC or EMC country missions. In 2019, the OIE supported the participation of experts in EMC-AH ASF missions to Myanmar (February), Vietnam (March), Cambodia (May), Laos (June), and Papua New Guinea (October).

In 2020, the OIE joined an FAO-OIE-WHO mission to Mauritania related to Rift Valley fever control and mitigation.

In 2019 and 2020, the OIE also participated in the EMC-AH Steering Committee meetings as well as in technical working groups to revise FAO’s Guide on Good Emergency Management Practices: The Essentials (GEMP). Through its Collaborating Centre on Biological Threat Reduction, the OIE also contributed to the Technical Working Group on Emergency Operations Centres.

### **COVID-19**

The OIE was fully mobilised and worked with its network of experts to support its Members in responding to this One Health crisis by taking a multi-sectoral approach. Key actions taken included:

- Participation in the WHO International Health Regulations Committee as adviser.
- Mobilisation of expert groups to share the latest scientific evidence on SARS-CoV-2 and animals and develop risk-based guidance, including:
  - Considerations for sampling, testing, and reporting of SARS-CoV-2 in animals
  - Guidelines for Veterinary Laboratory Support to the Public Health Response to COVID-19

- Guidance for Working with Free-Ranging Wild Mammals in the Era of the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Guidance on Working with Farmed Animals of Species Susceptible to Infection with SARS-CoV-2
- Considerations on the application of COVID-19-related sanitary measures for international trade
- Development of the [COVID-19 Portal](#) on the OIE website, including a Questions and Answers page, media resources, list of events in animals reported to the OIE by Members and links to the relevant web pages of partner organisations
- Sharing success stories from OIE Members.

#### **7.1.4. Partnerships**

##### **OIE Collaborating Centre Network for Veterinary Emergencies “EmVetNet”**

The Preparedness and Resilience Department has a strong link with the [OIE Collaborating Centre Network for Veterinary Emergencies](#) “EmVetNet”, composed of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Abruzzo e del Molise ‘Giuseppe Caporale’ (IZSAM), the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases at Texas A&M University, United States of America, and the Centro Nacional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (CENSA) in Mayabeque, Cuba. IZSAM acts as the Secretariat for this Network and in 2020 initiated the COVID-19 Thematic Platform on Animal Welfare, which included the EmVetNet Collaborating Centres, animal welfare organisations, veterinary associations and universities. The Network researched and categorised animal welfare issues in light of COVID-19 and indicated it would be publishing its findings, with solutions, on its [website](#).

In 2019, EmVetNet was mobilised in response to Hurricane Dorian to offer technical support to the Bahamas. In 2020, the Network also offered support to Lebanon in response to the Beirut Port explosion. The Network is currently mapping out the skills and expertise it can offer in the event of a request from an OIE Member for assistance for emergency and disaster management.

##### **INTERPOL**

With the ongoing collaboration between the OIE and INTERPOL’s Bioterrorism Prevention Unit through the “Building Resilience Against Agro-Crime and Agro-Terrorism” Project (further information in section 7.1.4.), the OIE and INTERPOL have been working on the formalisation of their relationship through a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The OIE Director General visited INTERPOL Headquarters in Lyon, France, in October 2020 to engage in high-level discussions on the MoU with Mr Stephen Kavanagh, Executive Director of Police Services, and representatives from different INTERPOL departments that were most relevant to the activities of the OIE. Priority areas for collaboration in the MoU would include information sharing, data analysis, incident response, exchange of expertise and joint capacity-building. The MoU would be presented for review and approval by the OIE Council and then shared for endorsement by OIE Delegates during a future OIE General Session.

##### **Tripartite**

The OIE continues to work closely with WHO and FAO (collectively known as the ‘Tripartite’) in managing health events and emergencies at the human–animal interface. In 2020 this included:

- an OIE Headquarters staff member participating as an adviser in the COVID-19 International Health Regulations Emergency Committee;

- the OIE advising on the workstream ‘Animal and environmental research on the virus origin, and management measures at the human–animal interface’ for the WHO Coordinated Global Research Roadmap on COVID-19;
- The OIE reaching out to FAO and WHO to involve their experts in all technical meetings of the ‘COVID-19 at the human–animal interface ad hoc group’ and in the drafting of guidance;
- The OIE being an active partner in Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) meetings and sharing important insights and information from the animal health sector;
- Expert support to Tripartite investigations and response missions (e.g., RVF);
- Support (OIE Headquarters staff and OIE Collaborating Centre) to the WHO-led mission, held in close collaboration with China (People’s Rep. of), to better understand the origins of SARS-CoV-2;
- Inviting WHO and FAO to contribute to the development of guidance on simulation exercises;
- Development of learning materials for the Global Laboratory Leadership Programme (GLLP) (see section 7.3.6).

### **7.1.5. Rinderpest post eradication**

#### **Rinderpest update**

In 2011, by adopting Resolution No. 18 at the 79th General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE declared that the world was free from rinderpest virus infection in animals. The Delegates also undertook to destroy the remaining stocks of rinderpest virus (RPV)-containing materials (RVCM) or ensure their safe storage in a minimum number of high-containment facilities approved by FAO and the OIE, known as Rinderpest Holding Facilities (RHF). RHF are responsible for guaranteeing the security of the remaining virus samples, effectively preventing the reoccurrence of the disease. In the case of those designated as RHF for vaccines, they are to contribute to the emergency manufacture and deployment of vaccines if required. The aforementioned Resolution entrusted a set of oversight functions to FAO and the OIE. This included the establishment of a Joint Advisory Committee (established in 2012) to provide advice on technical matters relating to rinderpest post eradication activities, in particular the assessment of research proposals involving the manipulation of RVCM, and the assessment of applications from institutes wishing to become RHF. At this point in time, it is paramount that countries that have not yet done so proceed with destroying remaining RVCM or sequestering them in one of the designated RHF. Also, considering that the remaining source of the virus is in laboratories and designated RHF, the latter should be aware of the great responsibility their status entails.

In 2019, two additional institutes were designated as RHF through OIE Resolution No. 23: the China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control and CIRAD, France). At the same time, the five RHF that had been designated in 2015 had their mandates extended for another three-year period through Resolution No. 24. In 2019, the annual survey for OIE Members to report on the status of rinderpest virus stocks in their country was done for the last time. Since 2019, the OIE has been focusing its advocacy efforts on countries still holding RVCM. By December 2020 there were six countries holding RVCM outside RHF: India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, South Africa and Vietnam. The Republic of Korea destroyed its RVCM holdings in May 2020.

The “Sequence and Destroy” projects that were on-going in two RHF were concluded, after more than four thousand vials of RVCM had been destroyed. These projects involved sequencing the virus prior to its destruction.

The FAO/OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) met via video/teleconference in December 2019 and December 2020. The JAC discussed pending applications for RHF status,

research proposals submitted by RHF's and the advocacy efforts undertaken during the 2nd meeting of the FAO-OIE RHF Network, held in Tokyo, Japan, on 14-15 November 2019. Reports of the FAO/OIE Rinderpest JAC are posted on the OIE website (<http://www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/rinderpest/cooperation>). The FAO-OIE Rinderpest Secretariat has continued its work, under GF-TADs, to improve preparedness for any rinderpest re-occurrence through the development of a global vaccine reserve, maintenance of diagnostic capacity and continued advocacy.

The financial support of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA; United States Department of Defense) to rinderpest post-eradication activities was renewed for an additional period of 2 years in September 2020. This grant will support the post rinderpest eradication roadmap through the organisation of monitoring & evaluation missions, meetings of the FAO-OIE Rinderpest JAC and of the Rinderpest Holding Facility Network. A review of the progress made on sequestration and destruction over the last 10 years will also be funded by this grant. This review will inform a risk assessment of rinderpest re-introduction 10 years after its eradication, which the OIE will commission a consultant to perform, following a call for proposals.

With financial support from DTRA and Global Affairs Canada, the OIE developed and launched a communications campaign in 2017-2018 aimed at (1) reminding field veterinarians, students and laboratory technicians of the clinical signs of rinderpest; and (2) advocating for the sequestration and destruction of the remaining RVC held outside approved RHF's. The deployment of the OIE Rinderpest campaign in 2019 was efficient and well received amongst targeted audiences, in particular veterinary students, according to the feedback received. The Rinderpest campaign toolkit and the "serious game" were presented to veterinary students on several occasions with the aim of increasing awareness of the historical importance of rinderpest and promoting key campaign messages within their universities. Every opportunity was taken to engage with participants during events (congresses and symposia), including the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA) meetings held in Republic of Korea and Croatia. Following the success of the 2019 edition, in 2020 the OIE launched another global challenge for students from all over the world to compete in playing "The rinderpest vigilance serious game", an interactive video game.

The *Terrestrial Code* chapter on rinderpest was the subject of a revision by an *ad hoc* Group in March 2020, in order to make clear and accessible the process for recovery of freedom following a rinderpest outbreak and to improve some of the definitions used.

The FAO-OIE Rinderpest JAC met virtually on the 8 December 2020. Although there was only one meeting of the JAC during the year, the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Secretariat contacted the JAC on several occasions to provide updates and to request it to review applications for research using RVC.

In 2020 the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Secretariat received applications for testing archived sera for the presence of anti-rinderpest virus antibodies, and for a cross-reactivity of neutralising antibodies raised against LA-AKO and RBOK vaccines. An FAO rinderpest vaccine seed bank was established at CIRAD, France, for global use.

With regard to the destruction of RVC held outside approved RHF's, Republic of Korea notified the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Secretariat of the destruction of their stocks in March 2020. In December 2020, there were six countries holding RVC outside approved RHF's. During the reporting period, no progress could be made on applications from institutes to become approved RHF's because travel restrictions would have prevented a physical inspection. New funding awarded to the OIE will sustain continued implementation of rinderpest post-eradication activities. This will support OIE staff and the implementation of monitoring and evaluation missions, the activities of an RHF Network and JAC meetings, as well as the provision of IT support for the Rinderpest Virus Tracking System. This grant will also allow for the commissioning of a risk assessment on the reintroduction of rinderpest – 10 years after the declaration of its eradication – and the establishment of an Eradicable Disease Forum. The Eradicable Disease Forum will be an open conversation on current efforts to eradicate human

and animal diseases, such as peste de petits ruminants (PPR) and polio, and past experience with diseases such as smallpox and rinderpest, and will inform discussions on possible future eradication programmes (e.g. measles). Finally, joint communications with FAO on the 10-year anniversary of the declaration of rinderpest eradication were being prepared.

#### **7.1.6. Biothreat reduction**

##### **OIE-FAO-INTERPOL “Building Resilience Against Agro-Crime and Agro-Terrorism” Project**

In 2019, thanks to the support of the Weapons Threat Reduction Programme of Global Affairs Canada, the OIE, in partnership with INTERPOL and FAO, jointly commenced the implementation of the “Building Resilience Against Agro-Crime and Agro-Terrorism” Project. This project aims to build multi-sectoral capacity to respond to animal health emergencies arising from agro-crime and agro-terrorism, whilst fostering collaboration and cooperation between Veterinary Services and law enforcement. While the Project is focusing its activities on North Africa, South East Asia and the Middle East, the outputs of the Project would be relevant to all OIE Members. The Project consists of four phases:

- 1) An assessment phase to understand the gaps in emergency preparedness and response to agro-crime and agro-terrorism
- 2) A preparation phase to develop fit-for-purpose tools, guidance, trainings, and exercises based on the evidence base obtained in the assessment phase
- 3) A training and exercising phase to implement workshops on basic and advanced principles in emergency management complemented by simulation exercises
- 4) A coordination and communication phase to develop communications material advocating for sustainable investment in emergency management and to take an all-hazards approach when preparing for emergencies. Outputs of the Project would also be showcased through various events of the OIE and its Network.

In April 2019, a project coordinator was recruited to the OIE Headquarters to support the project’s implementation and governance established through the formation of a project oversight committee. The OIE commissioned two research studies that included a cost-benefit analysis of investing in emergency management conducted by the University of Liverpool, (United Kingdom) and a global vulnerability assessment for agro-crime and agro-terrorism conducted by the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases (IIAD) (United States of America), the OIE’s Collaborating Centre for Biological Threat Reduction. These studies were completed in 2020 and both institutions are developing papers due for publication in 2021 in the journal *Transboundary and Emerging Diseases*. The outputs of these papers would inform the rest of the project but also inform biothreat reduction policies and capacity building and advocate for sustainable investment in emergency management. As documented in section 7.1.3, in November 2019 through the workshop the OIE was also able to explore models and approaches that could support the sustainable management of animal health emergencies.

In 2020, the OIE published the *OIE Guidelines for Simulation Exercises*, which would be piloted during the project. These Guidelines were developed by the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Emergencies, which also included representation from FAO and INTERPOL. The OIE also contributed to the development of FAO’s Surveillance Evaluation Tool Biothreat Module that would be piloted in the Project’s target regions.

The OIE and INTERPOL jointly hosted a virtual workshop on agro-crime in July 2020 with the purpose of bringing together the law enforcement and veterinary sectors to share experiences of dealing with agro-crime, identify challenges to cooperation between these two sectors and recommend solutions to the challenges. The [workshop report](#) was published on the OIE website and the outputs would support the development of a roadmap that can be used to guide collaboration and cooperation between the law enforcement and veterinary sectors. This

roadmap would gather lessons identified through the project and success stories from OIE Members to refine its content with the aim of publishing a final version by the end of the project.

The OIE, with support from INTERPOL, is also facilitating a pilot emergency management exchange programme to link two OIE Members together to exchange emergency management personnel, including from law enforcement, to share knowledge, experience and ideas to build capacity for emergency management and promote networking between OIE Members and the law enforcement and veterinary sectors. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 the planning and implementation of the exchanges was delayed, with emergency management experts in participating countries currently engaged in the response to the pandemic. The OIE continued to facilitate virtual discussions in 2020 between the partnered countries with the hope of having the physical implementation of the exchanges take place in 2021/2022.

Lastly, the OIE has been coordinating with EuFMD and IIAD in the development of an international simulation exercise that would assess the response of law enforcement and Veterinary Services to an agro-terrorism event that could affect global food security and trade. This exercise would be held in 2022 and would involve the participation of OIE Members in the target regions of the Project as well as the OIE, FAO and INTERPOL.

### **G7 Global Partnership Against Weapons of Mass Destruction (‘the Global Partnership’)**

The OIE shares a mutual interest with the Global Partnership in reducing risks from the accidental or deliberate release of animal pathogens. The OIE’s work on strengthening Veterinary Services’ capacities to prevent, detect and respond to animal disease events meets the objectives of the Global Partnership since the same mechanisms for surveillance and response to natural disease outbreaks are relevant for unnatural events. Through Global Affairs Canada’s contribution to the Global Partnership, support has been provided to the OIE’s work on building resilience to agro-terrorism and agro-crime, and on sustainable laboratories. The OIE continues to participate in the Global Partnership Biosecurity Sub-Working Group and in 2020 participated in discussions on development of ‘signature initiatives’ to rally the Global Partnership around common goals.

### **Biological Emergency Management Framework (‘BEMF’)**

The OIE participated in the development of the BEMF led by the Implementation Support Unit for the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC-ISU), a framework with the purpose of supporting the operationalisation of [Article VII](#) of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), which refers to the assistance provided to a State exposed to a breach of the BWC. The BEMF describes the roles and responsibilities of the various intergovernmental organisations (including the OIE) that could be involved in the response to such a request for assistance. The BEMF also details the coordination and communication mechanisms between organisations to ensure harmonisation of response activities. The OIE participated in a virtual simulation exercise organised by the BWC-ISU in October 2020 to test the connections and emergency communications between organisations as described in the BEMF. The outputs of this exercise informed the final draft of the BEMF, due to be completed in December 2020.

### **Partnerships and collaboration with other organisations**

The OIE continued to engage in consultation with its partners on various projects and meetings relating to biological threat reduction, including those listed below. The OIE was represented and supported activities and projects from other stakeholders at numerous meetings, including the following:

- WHO First Health Security Interface Technical Advisory Group Meeting, Amman, Jordan;
- The OIE supported INTERPOL in a biosafety and biosecurity training course, Conakry, Guinea;

- Active participation in the meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) (Geneva, Switzerland), in accordance with OIE's status as observer to the BWC;
- The OIE is actively engaged in a BWC project led by the Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU) on Article VII of the Convention. The main output expected from this cooperation is a Biological Emergency Management Framework (BEMF), describing the roles of all relevant stakeholders in the event of a breach of the Convention, i.e. the use of biological weapons of mass destruction against a Member State or Member States. In 2019, the OIE participated in a stakeholder meeting and in a table top exercise (both in Geneva) as well as in a global table top exercise (held remotely);
- The BWC-ISU started activities on preparedness to respond to the deliberate use of biological weapons, funded by the government of Japan. The OIE supported three workshops, in Bangkok (Thailand), Issyk Kul (Kyrgyzstan), and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), respectively, with presentations and subject matter expertise;
- The OIE supports the United Nations Secretary General's Mechanism (UNSGM) on the Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical or Biological Weapons by providing subject matter expertise and actively participating in workshops: e.g. on UNSGM laboratories (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia);
- The OIE has, since 2013, been formally registered as an assistance provider to the UN Security Council Committee established under Resolution 1540 (2004). In this role, the OIE responded to four formal requests from UN Member States (Iraq, Mexico, Malawi and Togo) and supported four regional training sessions held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Bridgetown (Barbados), Xiamen (People's Republic of China), and Bogotá (Colombia), respectively; the OIE provided subject matter expertise and acted as facilitator;
- The OIE continues its active engagement in the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA), and especially in action package 3: Biosafety and biosecurity; it took part in monthly conference calls and commented on documents;
- Presentation of the OIE's efforts in the field of biological threat reduction at international meetings (the 43rd World Congress of Military Medicine, held in Basel, Switzerland; the EU Centres of Excellence on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation – Biosafety Association of Central Asia and the Caucasus (BACAC) conference “BACAC: Bridging the Gaps”, held in Tashkent (Uzbekistan); and the meeting of the “Emerging Leaders in Biosecurity Initiative (ELBI) fellowship program”, held in Geneva (Switzerland).

### **Efforts to raise awareness and strengthen implementation: development of tools**

In response to a recommendation from the 2nd OIE Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction, the OIE convened an *ad hoc* Group in 2019 to develop OIE guidance on this subject. While there is ample information on research involving human health, there is hardly any guidance on the dual-use potential of research in veterinary settings. The group discussed existing guidance and drafted Guidelines with the focus on animal health. The Guidelines are published in English, French and Spanish and are available on the OIE website.



## **7.2. WILDLIFE HEALTH MANAGEMENT**

### **7.2.1. Concept note on a wildlife health management framework**

The OIE's mandate is to improve animal health worldwide. This cannot be achieved without fully integrating wildlife health into the OIE's overall strategy.

As an integral component of the global environment, wildlife is essential for the long-term preservation of animal and human health and wellbeing, and to the integrity of ecosystems. The sustainable use of wildlife also plays an important role at local and national level in supporting livelihoods. Imbalances in ecosystems brought about by human population growth and competition for resources are becoming a major threat to society, leading to landscape change, natural habitat fragmentation, disturbance of wildlife populations and eventually triggering the emergence of new pathogens or re-emerging diseases that can be harmful to people and their domestic animals, but also to wild animals themselves.

In response to an evolving landscape, the OIE has been developing a framework aimed at preserving wildlife health, while embracing a One Health approach.

### **7.2.2. Concept note overview – content, process, consultation**

The Wildlife Health Framework is a proposal for an ambitious work programme for the OIE to better address wildlife-health-related issues, including emerging diseases, spillovers at the animal–human–ecosystem interface and wildlife diseases. The approach focuses on collaboration with OIE Members and working in partnership with international agencies, including the Tripartite (FAO, OIE, WHO), and other relevant stakeholders, with the aim of complementing and enhancing one another's expertise and competencies. The Framework aims to promote and assert the central role that Veterinary Services have in implementing One Health approaches at the national level while addressing wildlife health in a holistic way.

The OIE Wildlife Health Framework is consistent with the mandate of the OIE and is closely aligned with the objectives of its Sixth and Seventh Strategic Plans, including the following: collaboration with multisectoral partners; responding to Members' needs; scientific expertise; and data governance. It proposes to use and refine the existing OIE tools and activities and to build on lessons learned from nearly 100 years of working at the human–animal–ecosystem interface across 182 Members.

The elaboration of the first version of the OIE Wildlife Health Framework (see overview below) has been an iterative process, resulting in a collaborative document that involved the contributions of staff from OIE Headquarters and the regional offices, the Members of the OIE Wildlife Working Group (WWG) and a few international partners, and integrates the views and expectations of OIE Members (collected through a survey and two webinars). A second phase of contributions will involve OIE partners and key stakeholders involved in wildlife health, trade and conservation, before its finalisation.

**Figure 11 : The OIE Wildlife Health Framework**



### 7.2.3. Webinars – content and outcomes

Two webinars (covering all time zones) were organised in October 2020 to present the results of the survey submitted to OIE Members in June 2020 to collect their views on wildlife health management. The aim of the webinars was to:

- describe the importance of wildlife health in the context of One Health (presented by Members of the OIE Wildlife Working Group);
- share the findings of the survey sent to OIE Members to explore the role of Veterinary Services in wildlife health management (presented by OIE Headquarters);
- Actively encourage open discussion on the role of the OIE (at global and regional level) and Veterinary Services (at national level) in preserving wildlife health (facilitated discussion amongst participants).

The webinars were attended by more than 360 persons (Delegates, Focal Points for Wildlife, OIE partners and OIE staff members) and generated considerable interest as well as numerous questions in the Q&A session.

When asked, 231 (99.57%) of the 233 respondents agreed that the OIE's mandate included "promoting wildlife health".

When participants were each asked to indicate which three of the six work packages of the OIE Wildlife Health Framework they considered were a top priority for the OIE in addressing animal health, the six work packages were ranked in the following order of priority: 1. Develop guidelines, standards and risk reduction strategies; 2. Promote multisectoral coordination and collaboration; 3. Improve quality, collection, reporting and analysis of wildlife disease data; 4. Strengthen capacity in wildlife health management; 5. Promote advocacy awareness raising and communication; 6. Develop and disseminate scientific knowledge.

Finally, participants were asked to provide three key words describing how the OIE can play a leadership role in wildlife health. Standards, collaboration and guidelines were the words most frequently mentioned.

The webinar material, recording, Q&A and poll results are available [here](#).

#### **7.2.4. EBO-SURSY**

The OIE, the Institut Pasteur, CIRAD and the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) have, since 2017, been engaged in a Project Consortium to deliver the EBO-SURSY Project. Funded by the EU, the Project aims to increase capacity and surveillance for Ebola virus disease and other haemorrhagic fevers in wildlife in 10 African countries, using a One Health approach. Although the Project had initially been planned to last five years, the EU granted the OIE an additional two years in 2020, to consolidate current activities and explore coronavirus dynamics at the human–animal–ecosystem interface. The expertise brought by these four organisations and their local partners covers human, animal and ecological health, thus embracing the One Health approach that the Project aims to promote. The range of competencies featured by the Consortium provides an opportunity to study the dynamics of viruses and zoonotic diseases from the molecular to the ecosystem level, offering a unique and holistic perspective for the surveillance of viral haemorrhagic fevers at the human-animal-ecosystem interface.

The project has three main objectives: 1. Building institutional and One Health capacity through teaching and training; 2. Contributing to increasing community awareness of zoonotic diseases; 3. Reinforcing zoonotic disease surveillance protocols through field investigations and improved diagnostic assays.

The main outputs of the Project in 2019 were (i) the production of a scientific database, available on the Project website, to collect Project data (wildlife, livestock sampling, training, etc.); (ii) a 12-day training course on the "One Health approach to reinforce capacity of surveillance for haemorrhagic fevers at the interface of wildlife/domestic animals/humans/environment", organised in Guinea; training was provided by the six research units involved in the project, local partners and the OIE and benefitted 26 participants from various backgrounds and from nine countries; (iii) the dissemination of the communication tools produced by the OIE, and by CIRAD and the IRD teams in three different countries in the local communities in which they were working, to raise awareness of risks related to zoonoses; (iv) the development, in collaboration with the OIE and CIRAD, of a methodology to facilitate three participatory regional workshops that aim to engage four categories of OIE national Focal Points (Communication, Wildlife, Disease Notification, Veterinary Laboratories) and OIE Delegates from 15 countries, in the development of a protocol of surveillance in wildlife; (v) the participation of CIRAD experts in two seminars for OIE Focal Points for Wildlife, for English- and French-speaking African countries, respectively, to facilitate a session on a community-based approach to surveillance.

In 2020, most 'field' activities (animal samplings, ecological studies, workshops) were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and were rescheduled for 2021. The main outputs of the collaboration in 2020 were (i) the development of a 'serious game' to better engage stakeholders (Veterinary Services, local communities, Wildlife Services, etc.) in community-based surveillance in wildlife, in partnership with Bioviva, CIRAD and IRD; (ii) the organisation of the second regional workshop (West Africa) to establish a protocol of surveillance in wildlife for haemorrhagic fevers. The workshop engaged four categories of OIE national Focal Points (Communication, Wildlife, Disease Notification, Veterinary Laboratories) and OIE Delegates from four countries and was jointly facilitated by CIRAD and OIE staff; (iii) the development of a concept note to organise follow-up national workshops to finalise and validate the draft of the protocol of surveillance in wildlife with other sectors; (iv) the design and planning of a scientific symposium to share and discuss the Project's scientific results with the Project's stakeholders; and (v) several publications consultable on the Project [website](#).

### **7.3. SUSTAINABLE LABORATORY SYSTEMS INITIATIVES**

The OIE is working to further develop its sustainable laboratory systems initiatives, with the generous support of Global Affairs Canada. The main areas of work address sustainable laboratory biosafety and biosecurity and resource sustainability, situated around five key activities. The OIE implemented the following activities in 2019 and 2020 to improve the sustainability of laboratories and OIE Members' compliance with international standards.

#### **7.3.1. Development of the evidence base on laboratory sustainability to inform advocacy**

Financial sustainability underpins the safety, security and performance of laboratories within a laboratory system. An adequate operating budget is needed to maintain biosafety and biosecurity as well as the other core functions and services of each laboratory. Trends observed by PVS Laboratory Experts indicate systematic overinvestment in direct costs, systematic underinvestment in indirect costs, and little to no investment in management systems (biological risk management, quality management, equipment management, competency retention, etc.). These dynamics lay the groundwork for insecure, unsafe and unsustainable laboratories and laboratory systems.

In continuation of the OIE's work on the development of an evidence base on laboratory sustainability and to inform advocacy and communication arguments on investment needs for sustainable laboratory systems, the OIE began analysing PVS Pathway data related to laboratory systems in 2020. Indicators and benchmarks to better describe and understand laboratory sustainability and particularly resource sustainability are under development and this work will continue in 2021. This will lead to the development of a body of work on the investment needs for sustainable laboratory systems underpinned by a descriptive analysis of factors that challenge the financial sustainability of laboratory systems.

Economists are also studying the sustainability of laboratories to provide more resources for OIE Members on the value of laboratories to advocate for support and investment, to assess laboratory sustainability through economic and development indicators and to develop a position paper on investment needs for sustainable laboratories.

The University of Liverpool and the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases will assess the fitness for purpose of the current suite of OIE laboratory mission tools. A narrative will be drafted on the benefit streams relevant to different clients as well as background on economic tools that can be used to demonstrate the value of the laboratory services and advocate for continued financial support. Next, indicators to demonstrate sustainability, calculated on the basis of previous PVS mission data, will be proposed. These indicators will not only focus on economic metrics but also those that demonstrate laboratory development. Then, a review will be carried out to determine which economic analysis and sustainability assessment tools can be used on the existing data to identify gaps, so that such analyses can be done with future missions. These components will be combined into a paper on investment needs for sustainable laboratories.

### 7.3.2. Sustainable Laboratories tools

The data analysis to build the evidence base on laboratory sustainability is also critically important to the enhancement of the PVS Sustainable Laboratories Tool, since the database development is the foundation for the development of more effective and efficient collaboration, data collection, analysis and visualisation for increased impact of PVS Sustainable Laboratory Missions.

Streamlining and enhancement of the PVS Sustainable Laboratories Tool, 2nd Edition, as well as the development of an assessment tool for laboratory sustainability for all Members, continued in 2019 and 2020. Improved tools were developed and were piloted on two PVS Sustainable Laboratory Missions in 2019. The methodology, approach and documentation for a 'virtual' mission approach to the PVS Sustainable Laboratories tools were developed in 2020 and are planned to be piloted in 2021.

The *ad hoc* Group on Sustainable Laboratories, convened in October 2019 and April, May and December 2020, proposed the following: the development of new documentation and multimedia for Members; the continued enhancement of existing tools for evaluating laboratory sustainability; increased access to data, analysis and insight for Members; and further web-based coordination mechanisms to ensure the success of laboratory sustainability advocacy and technical expertise.

### 7.3.3. Biosafety Research Road Map

The OIE, WHO and Chatham House collaborated on a Biosafety Research Roadmap to improve the sustainable implementation of laboratory biological risk management, particularly in low-resource settings. The work involves assessing the current evidence base required for implementation of laboratory biological risk management with an aim to provide better access to evidence, identify research and capability gaps that need to be filled and provide recommendations on how an evidence-based approach can support biosafety and biosecurity in low-resource settings.

The objectives of the Biosafety Research Roadmap project support the application of laboratory biological risk management and improve laboratory sustainability by providing an evidence base for biosafety measures (including engineering controls) and evidence-based biosafety options for low-resource settings. This will inform strategic decisions on global health security and investments in laboratory systems.

Specifically, the project aims to: 1) perform a gap analysis of the current evidence base to inform laboratory biological risk management for selected pathogens and procedures; 2) highlight research priorities to fill identified gaps; 3) develop and communicate solutions to improve the application of evidence-based laboratory biological risk management (particularly for low-resource settings).

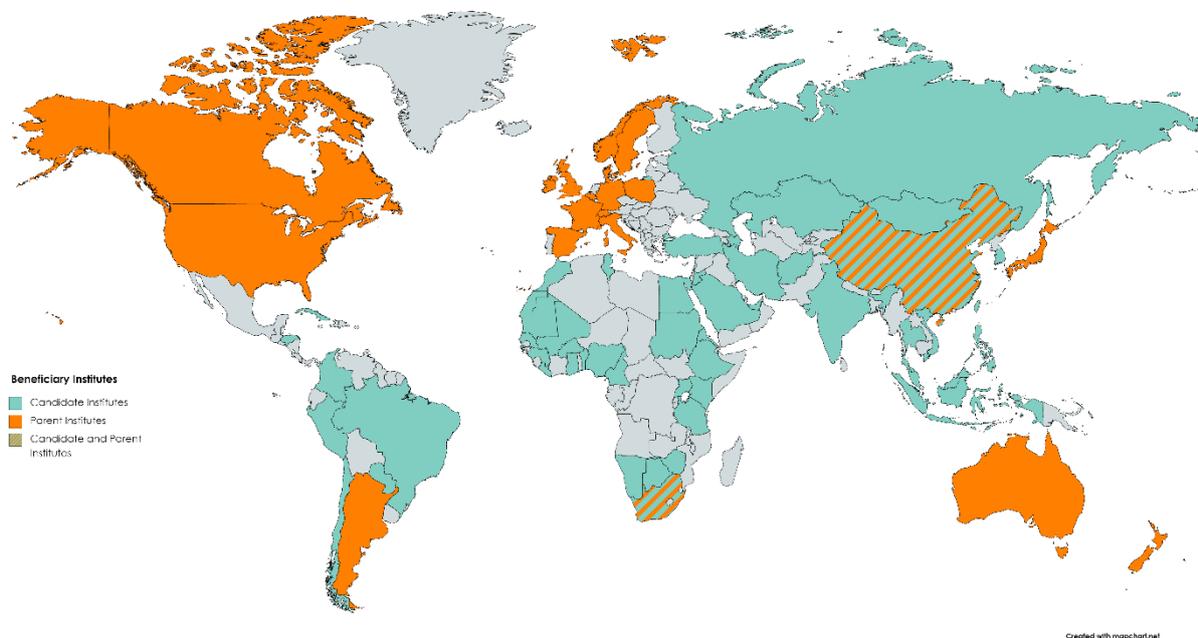
In 2020, a Technical Working Group was formed, comprising 10 biosafety experts from the public health and animal health sectors, to develop the Biosafety Research Roadmap with the support of a consultant. The final report is due to be delivered in the first quarter of 2021. Chatham House will then host a wider consultation on the report.

### 7.3.4. Laboratory Twinning Projects ([the list](#))

For almost 15 years, the OIE Laboratory Twinning programme has been building diagnostic capacity and expertise for animal diseases and other areas of interest, in various countries/regions, with the objective of providing a more even and equitable geographical distribution of technical knowledge and diagnostic capacity. The Laboratory Twinning programme has been lauded as a great success. It is widely recognised as the OIE's flagship programme on laboratory capacity building and networking.

As of 31 December 2020, 64 twinning projects had been completed, and 28 projects were underway.

As of 31 December 2020, 14 candidate laboratories had been designated as an OIE Reference Centre following completion of a project.



The laboratory twinning webpage can be accessed at <http://www.oie.int/en/support-to-oie-members/laboratory-twinning/>

A comprehensive review of the OIE Laboratory Twinning programme, including individual experiences and the development of indicators of success, is expected to be initiated in 2021.

### 7.3.5. Grand Challenge

Challenges to laboratory sustainability are both technological and organisational, encompassing building design and construction, as well as operational issues (including equipment maintenance and availability of reagents and other consumables; maintaining staff skills and competencies; and policy challenges, including inadequate operating budget and lack of political support). Specific technological challenges include interruptions to power supply; lack of, or inadequate access controls; inability to dispose safely of dangerous waste; and poorly maintained or dysfunctional equipment (lack of access to spare parts or skilled engineers for certification or maintenance).

Some of these problems have been exacerbated by the construction of facilities that are expensive to operate and difficult to maintain in low-resource environments. The provision of equipment that requires highly skilled persons for its certification, maintenance and operation has also contributed to the sustainability problem.

Individual problems interact with each other and multiply to create significant challenges to running the overall system. Solving one or two of these problems alone will not be enough to bring breakthrough solutions to the current system. Therefore, a Grand Challenge is needed to provide truly transformative holistic solutions.

The OIE has been working with a consultant ('Nine Sigma') to explore options and to define an approach to a Grand Challenge. This has also involved consulting with multiple partners, including investors from the international development and security sectors, technical experts

and end users. The OIE has developed an ‘approach’ and a ‘policy brief’ and is in the process of engaging a management consultant to design and run the Grand Challenge.

### **7.3.6. Laboratory systems workforce development**

Historically, the OIE has provided workforce development opportunities to national Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories in the form of regional seminars. OIE Regional Seminars for National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania Region, the Europe Region and the Americas Region were held in 2019.



To enhance and extend the OIE’s training offering for laboratory systems leaders, the OIE partnered with WHO to found the [Global Laboratory Leadership Programme](#) (GLLP), in collaboration with the United States [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), the [Association of Public Health Laboratories](#) (APHL), the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#) (ECDC) and FAO.

The GLLP Partnership will enable the OIE to provide a more comprehensive laboratory systems workforce development offering to Veterinary Services’ stakeholders and to expand access for Veterinary Services’ staff. The GLLP will complement existing face-to-face training and provide access to virtual training through the OIE’s Training Portal. The GLLP aims to promote a One Health approach to laboratory systems management and leadership.

The GLLP’s [Laboratory Leaders Competency Framework was published in 2019](#). In 2020, to support the application of the [Framework](#), the OIE mobilised the expertise of more than 40 OIE experts, representing all five OIE Regions and from several OIE Reference Centres, the OIE Biological Standards Commission, and an OIE partner, the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (WAVLD). These experts supported the development of the GLLP Learning Package materials, comprising three Sections (Laboratory Management, Laboratory Leadership and Laboratory Systems), nine units and 42 modules. All these materials have a strong One Health focus. The modules cover a range of topics, including the following: laboratory surveillance; outbreak investigation; emergency preparedness, response and recovery; biosafety and biosecurity; shipment of dangerous goods; laboratory systems; leadership; communication; and management. The GLLP Learning Package materials will be available in 2021. Materials include instructor’s guides, participant’s guides, slide decks, a programme implementation guide and a mentoring guide in both face-to-face and virtual learning formats, targeted at health laboratory system management and leadership.

## **8. ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND VETERINARY PRODUCTS**

### **8.1. ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)**

#### **8.1.1. Working Group on AMR**

In October 2018 a new Department on AMR and Veterinary Products was created at OIE Headquarters. In recognition of the importance of AMR for OIE Members, a specific Working Group was established by the OIE Director General, following Resolution No. 14 adopted at the 87th OIE General Session in May 2019. The Working Group provides advice and guides the OIE’s AMR-related activities. Further details are described in section [III.2.2](#).

#### **8.1.2. Antimicrobial use data collection**

The OIE system of global data collection on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals (AMU in animals) was created in 2015 in line with the Global Action Plan on AMR (GAP), endorsed by the Membership of OIE, FAO and WHO, respectively.

An increase in the number of countries providing details of antimicrobial quantities was noted in submissions to the fourth round of data collection for the OIE Global Database, as described in the fourth annual report, which was published in February 2020 ([https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our\\_scientific\\_expertise/docs/pdf/AMR/A\\_Fourth\\_Annual\\_Report\\_AMR.pdf](https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our_scientific_expertise/docs/pdf/AMR/A_Fourth_Annual_Report_AMR.pdf)). A total of 152 (84%) OIE Members and one OIE non-member participated during the fourth round of data collection, with 118 (77%) of the responding countries reporting quantities of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals; eight of these countries reported antimicrobial quantities for the first time. For the fourth OIE report, the animal biomass was calculated for the 92 countries that provided data for 2016 in all rounds of data collection. The results of this analysis were published on the OIE website in early 2020.

A further increase in the number of countries providing details of antimicrobial quantities was noted in submissions to the fifth round of data collection for the OIE Global Database. A total of 156 (86%) OIE Members, one non-contiguous territory and three OIE non-members participated during the fifth round, with 133 (83%) of the responding countries reporting quantities of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals; 14 of these countries reported antimicrobial quantities for the first time. For the fifth OIE report, the animal biomass will be calculated for the 102 countries that provided data for 2017 in all rounds of data collection. The results of this analysis will be published on the OIE website in early 2021.

For the sixth round of data collection, the template was sent to OIE Members and participating OIE non-members in mid-September 2020.

In line with Recommendation No. 4 issued by the Second OIE Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance and Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Animals “Putting Standards into Practice” (Marrakesh, Morocco, 29-31 October 2018), which stated that the current OIE Global Database should be converted from a spreadsheet format to a database system, the OIE AMU IT project officially kicked-off on 18 June 2020. The AMU Team is working with an IT provider to develop the AMU System. At this stage, the AMU Team has concluded the requirements gathering workshop phase. As part of the change management strategy, the AMU Team has already begun gathering information on countries’ needs through a series of regional workshops and online questionnaires. The development phase began on 19 October 2020. An Agile Software Development Methodology has been adopted, which implies that the system will be developed in a series of iterations or sprints. The Agile method allows the AMU Team to work closely with the developers to prioritise and adapt the AMU System to the needs of countries.

In 2020, in view of the COVID-19 situation, the OIE conducted workshops, in webinar format, fully dedicated to the OIE Global Database on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals, which were organised for the Asia, the Far East and Oceania Region (31 March to 2 April 2020), the Americas Region (27-29 October 2020), French-speaking countries in the Africa Region (26-27 November 2020) and the Middle East Region and English-speaking countries in the Africa Region (7 December 2020). After the success in 2019 of a tool to automatically calculate kilograms of active ingredients, which was presented to countries in the Americas and Africa, these webinars presented the second version of the tool. The countries acknowledged the features included in the second version, which provides graphs and tables that can be used at national level so that countries can analyse their own data, thus contributing to their National Action Plans. The webinars also covered the countries’ requirements for the future OIE AMU System and introduced the OIE methodology for calculating animal biomass.

In the last quarter of 2019, the OIE piloted a project on refinement of the OIE Animal Biomass methodology, which resulted in obtaining detailed data on animal populations in five South American countries. The preliminary results of this pilot project were presented to the countries concerned during the webinar for the Americas Region (27-29 October 2020) dedicated to data collection, which was also attended by the national Focal Points for Disease Notification in charge of reporting animal population data to WAHIS. This has helped to raise awareness of the Animal Biomass denominator and enhance the definition of WAHIS data in the long term, thus enabling more detailed analysis of the AMU data.

To provide a detailed description of the methodologies used in the preparation of the OIE AMU annual report, the Department's AMU team wrote and published a peer-reviewed paper, mentioned in the publications section.

During the reporting period, the OIE participated in many events, conferences and meetings on AMR at a global and regional level, often in collaboration with WHO and FAO or private-sector partner organisations.

In December 2019, a third scientific symposium on alternatives to antibiotics (ATA) was organised by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, with the support of the OIE.

### **8.1.3. Tripartite AMR activities**

The OIE was represented in the United Nations Interagency Coordination Group (IACG) on AMR, formed following the high-level dialogue on AMR held at the UN Headquarters in New York, United States of America, in September 2016, on the occasion of the High-Level meeting of the UN General Assembly on this topic. The group delivered its report to the UN Secretary General in April 2019. The OIE supported the group by allocating an OIE staff member in Paris to work in the IACG Secretariat.

As a follow up, a Tripartite Joint Secretariat (TJS) was set up, hosted by WHO, with a full-time liaison officer representing the OIE and contributing to the work. To fund the Tripartite Work Programme and implement the recommendations arising from UN General Assembly in September 2019, a Multi-partner Trust Fund (MPTF) on AMR was established and the OIE has been further contributing to these Tripartite activities by providing additional expert resources when deemed necessary.

During 2020, the TJS, overseen by the Tripartite senior management, worked on coordinating the implementation of the UN General Assembly recommendations on global governance. The first of the recommended structures, the One Health Global Leaders Group on AMR, was announced in November 2020.

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework for the Global Action Plan on AMR (GAP M&E Framework) developed by the Tripartite was published in August 2019. In 2020, the M&E Framework was piloted prior to its launch in six countries. In June 2020, detailed indicator reference sheets to accompany the M&E Framework were finalised and published. A successful bid to the MPTF, led by the OIE, was secured in November 2020. This grant will support the delivery of the GAP M&E Framework, strengthen M&E capability within the OIE and has a provision to provide direct M&E Technical Assistance to five Members.

The OIE, FAO and WHO worked on the concept of a global Tripartite Integrated Surveillance System (TISSA) platform that would help to monitor antimicrobial consumption/use (AMC/AMU) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) over time in humans, animals, plants and the environment.

TISSA is one of the projects that will be funded by the MPTF and is expected to start in January 2021.

### **8.1.4. Aquaculture and AMR**

An Aquaculture AMR Expert, funded by a voluntary contribution to the OIE by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), joined the OIE's AMR and Veterinary Products Department. The aim is to assist Members' efforts to control AMR in aquaculture, as recommended at both the 2nd Global Conference on AMR and Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Animals and the 4th OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health. A work plan to enhance the OIE's engagement in addressing AMR issues related to aquaculture was finalised in October 2020.

This detailed work plan, which contains a theory of change, was developed in consultation with the relevant Departments, Units and Secretariats at OIE Headquarters and with relevant staff at OIE Regional Representations. It was also shared with the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission and presented to the Working Group on AMR. It includes 10 activities with their respective outputs, which lead to three outcomes in line with the objectives of the OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials and the forthcoming OIE Aquatic Animal Health Strategy.

Preliminary work is being carried out on the formation of a network of experts on AMR in aquaculture, the development of an annex for aquatic animals for the OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance, and the refinement of the OIE Template for AMU data collection with respect to aquatic animals.

Technical exchanges related to AMR/AMU in aquaculture have been conducted with external organisations involved in accreditation for aquaculture based on standards relating to AMR.

## **8.2. VETERINARY PRODUCTS**

### **8.2.1. Training seminars for national Focal Points for Veterinary Products**

The 6th Cycle of seminars for national Focal Points for Veterinary Products has been completed in the Africa Region (for English-speaking countries in July 2019 and French-speaking countries in October 2019) and in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania Region (in January 2020). In line with the 'One Health' concept, FAO and WHO are regularly invited to participate in these activities. The 6th cycle of seminars for the Middle East Region (December 2020) and the Europe Region (February 2021) are being organised using a webinar format with a focus on key topics including quality of veterinary products (substandard and falsified veterinary products and pharmacovigilance) and antiparasitic resistance, and to facilitate the data collection for the 6th round of the OIE data collection on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals.

The 6th Cycle of seminars for Focal Points for Veterinary Products has provided an opportunity to update and discuss key issues such as:

- Elaboration of harmonisation/convergence of regional registration/authorisation systems for veterinary medicinal products (VMPs), and updates on VICH (International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products) and VICH Outreach Forum related activities.
- Pharmacovigilance and practical guidance on how to set up a pharmacovigilance system for VMPs: a manual has been prepared in collaboration with HealthforAnimals and will be finalised in 2021, after having sought the views of the Focal Points for Veterinary Products from all regions within the framework of the 6th cycle of training seminars.
- Substandard and falsified veterinary products: feedback is being sought from Focal Points regarding the OIE's proposed creation of an information and alert system for substandard and falsified veterinary products, the challenges Members face in tackling these products, and what systems may already exist to address the problem.

### **8.2.2. International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH)**

The VICH Outreach Forum meets regularly, following each VICH Steering Committee meeting. In 2019, meetings were held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 23 February to 1 March 2019 (37th Steering Committee meeting, 11th Outreach Forum meeting and VICH 6th Public Conference) and in Tokyo, Japan, on 18-21 November 2019 (38th Steering Committee meeting and 12th Outreach Forum meeting). The 6th VICH Public Conference, organised every four years, took place for the first time on the African continent and was held on 27-28 February 2019, on the theme "Unlocking Africa's Potential". A summary report with the different

guidelines and concept papers was disseminated to all Delegates and Focal Points in 2020. The Biological Standards Commission was informed about the relevant guidelines and concept papers. The latest VICH Steering Committee and VICH Outreach Forum meetings were held electronically (18-21 November 2020 and 17 November 2020, respectively). Significant OIE comments were provided to the VICH Steering Committee on the next 5-year VICH Strategy document, adopted during this meeting.

In 2019, the OIE Publications Unit published an e-book entitled *OIE Technical Standards for Manufacturing and Quality Control of Veterinary Vaccines*. It is also available as a printed book in paperback format in the three OIE official languages (<http://web.oie.int/boutique/index.php>). The book is a compilation of selected vaccine-related chapters from the OIE *Terrestrial Manual* and *Terrestrial Code*. It is intended to serve as a readily accessible technical resource for vaccine manufacturers and regulatory officials, to advance global awareness and implementation of the established science-based standards for the quality, safety and efficacy of veterinary vaccines, with the ultimate objective of maximising the quality and availability of the veterinary vaccines required for prevention and control of animal diseases.

### 8.2.3. Diagnostic Kits

Regarding the register of diagnostic kits validated and certified by the OIE:

- By resolution of the Assembly, under the 2020 Adapted Procedure, the registration of one kit (BOVIGAM® *Mycobacterium bovis* Gamma interferon test kit for cattle) was renewed, two new kits (*Salmonella* Abortusovis Test and VetMAX™ African Swine Fever Virus Detection Kit) were adopted for inclusion in the OIE Register, and the registration of one kit (Check&Trace *Salmonella*) was amended.
- The OIE Secretariat for Registration of Diagnostic Kits (OIE SRDK) collaborated with experts from OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories to prepare a paper outlining the OIE diagnostic kit registration procedure ('Validation, certification and registration of veterinary diagnostic test kits by the OIE Secretariat for Registration of Diagnostic Kits') for publication in the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review* in 2021.

### 8.2.4. Antiparasitic resistance

As the outcome of the 4th and 5th Cycles of training seminars, and based on a Concept Note endorsed by the OIE Director General, an OIE Electronic Expert Group on Antiparasitic Resistance was set up with selected representatives from all regions with the objective to prepare a draft document on 'Responsible and prudent use of antiparasitics' for publication in summer 2021. The proposed duration of this Group is two years.

In 2020, the OIE Electronic Expert Group on Antiparasitic Resistance developed a questionnaire on antiparasitic resistance in collaboration with OIE Headquarters. The main aim of this questionnaire is to obtain global information for a document on prudent and responsible use of antiparasitics (with a focus on anthelmintics). The outcome of the questionnaire conducted in the Africa Region was published in *OIE News* in September 2020. A similar article on the questionnaire conducted in the Middle East Region was due to be published in November 2020, and it is planned to conduct the questionnaire in the Europe Region in early 2021.

## 9. SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

### 9.1. SUPPORT FOR THE ORGANISATION OF CONFERENCES OF OIE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

In 2019, the Regional Activities Department, in collaboration with the relevant Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, coordinated the organisation of three Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions:

**The 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa** was held in Hammamet (Tunisia) from 25 February to 1 March 2019. A total of 124 participants, comprising OIE Delegates and/or representatives of 39 Members of the region and senior officers from nine regional and international organisations, attended the Conference. In addition, representatives of the private sector as well as private veterinary organisations from the region and from the host country were present. Among the topics discussed at the Conference were the preparation of the Seventh Strategic Plan and the main challenges faced by the OIE. The region provided its vision regarding the key topics that should be considered when developing the next Strategic Plan. The Regional Commission also adopted two recommendations relating to the Technical Items of the Conference, namely Technical Item 1 on “Veterinary paraprofessionals: their governance and role in improving animal health and welfare in Africa” and Technical Item 2 on “PVS Pathway as an advocacy tool for increased investment in Veterinary Services in Africa”.

On Monday, 25 February 2019, before the start of the Conference, a workshop on the “Valuable Participation and Performance of Veterinary Paraprofessionals in Africa” was held to facilitate regional discussions concerning veterinary paraprofessionals and their key role in supporting Veterinary Services in the region, in line with Technical Item 1 of the Conference.

**The 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania** was held in Sendai, Japan, from 2 to 6 September 2019. A total of 96 participants, including OIE Delegates and/or representatives from 22 Members of the region and senior officers from seven regional and international organisations, attended the Conference. In addition, representatives of the private sector as well as private veterinary organisations from the region and from the host country were present. The Members of the region had the opportunity to listen to a keynote presentation by Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Director General, and Dr Mark Schipp, President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, regarding the role of the OIE in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the work the OIE is doing to ensure the development and improvement of collaborative partnerships. Participants also had the opportunity to see how by supporting stronger national Veterinary Services the OIE contributes to the SDGs. This presentation was an excellent opportunity to discuss the future of the OIE and the main challenges faced. During the Conference there was also a panel discussion regarding the OIE’s PVS Pathway and its technical and financial partners, which included representatives of several partner organisations as well as potential future OIE partners. This panel discussion stimulated active discussions among participants, allowing the region to conclude that, among other things, commitment from national governments is required to ensure that donor-funded projects are successful and thereby encourage future investment. The Regional Commission also adopted two recommendations related to the Technical Items of the Conference, namely Technical Item 1 on “Zoonosis and food safety – improving collaboration between animal and public health professionals to achieve a better outcome” and Technical Item 2 on “Strengthening the cooperation on African Swine Fever prevention and control in the Asia-Pacific region”.

**The 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East** was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 10 to 14 November 2019. A total of 81 participants, comprising OIE Delegates and/or representatives of 11 Members and senior officers from seven regional and international organisations, attended the Conference. In addition, representatives of the private sector as well as private veterinary organisations from the region and from the host country were present. During the Conference, the OIE Director General, and H.E. the Director General of the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) signed an agreement with provisions for the operationalisation of the programme of activities of the future OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi. This new office will mainly support the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Yemen in the implementation of OIE activities, including in the implementation of the Better

Enforcement of Standards for Safer Trade (BESST) project. The Conference was also an excellent opportunity to discuss the future of the OIE and the main challenges faced. The Director General of the OIE also explained to participants how by supporting stronger national Veterinary Services the OIE contributes to the SDGs. Finally, the Regional Commission adopted a recommendation relating to the Technical Item of the Conference, namely “Public–Private Partnerships (PPP) for efficient sustainable animal health systems and Veterinary Services”.

The day before the start of the Conferences in Sendai and Abu Dhabi, an “Interactive workshop on the role of OIE Delegates in OIE Standards” was held in order to strengthen the community of leaders in the respective regions through an understanding of the value of engaging in the standard-setting process and through participant-initiated discussions related to standards development and implementation.

In 2020, two Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions were organised by the Regional Activities Department, in collaboration with the relevant Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, as follows:

**The 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas** was initially planned to take place from 21 to 25 September 2020, in Cusco, Peru. However, due to the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the OIE Council, following its extraordinary meeting held in June 2020, decided to adapt it to a virtual format. Thus, the Conference was held on 22 and 23 September 2020 by videoconference (via Zoom). A total of 226 participants, comprising OIE Delegates and/or representatives of 30 Members of the region and senior officers from 16 regional and international organisations, attended the Conference. In addition, representatives of the private sector as well as private veterinary organisations from the region attended as observers. The agenda was very rich with a content divided into three sessions. Session 1 related to the impacts and lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic; this session included a presentation by the OIE Director General regarding the challenges on the Seventh Strategic Plan as well as the adaptation of the OIE to the new working conditions, and an intervention from the President of the Regional Commission on the adaptation of the Commission’s activities due to the pandemic. Additionally, five previously selected countries, had the opportunity to share lessons learned by their Veterinary Services during the pandemic, including reflections on best practices. This session was brought to a close with two key topics to address a response to future pandemics: firstly, a presentation on the OIE strategy to reduce risk and future disease spillover events, which focused mainly on the importance of wildlife health management, the key issues and challenges for Veterinary Services in this field, as well as the emerging directions and priorities for the OIE; and, secondly, a presentation on the Tripartite agreement which explained and illustrated how the Tripartite FAO-OIE-WHO Agreement can engage Veterinary Services at regional and country levels. Session 2 focused on four main topics: GF-TADs, including a presentation of regional projects on classical swine fever and avian influenza; AMR and its impact on trade; the OIE Strategy for Aquatic Animal Health; and progress with the implementation of the new OIE-WAHIS, as well as a summary of the disease situation in the region. Finally, Session 3 consisted of an internal informative session and discussions within the Regional Commission on topics such as the selection of Technical Items and the venue for the following Regional Conference as well as the elections to be held at the OIE General Session in 2021.

Due to the reduced agenda (two days of 3 hours each), the traditional two Technical Items, which are normally presented and discussed, followed by the elaboration of recommendations to be adopted by the Regional Commission and subsequent presentation to the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE for endorsement, were not included on the agenda. Thus, no recommendations were developed. However, a short report with the main conclusions from the region on the different topics discussed during the virtual Conference was drafted.

The format of the Conference included short presentations by the speakers (5/10 minutes) followed by a group exercise (some in breakout room sessions and others in plenary session). To allow participants to be prepared for the group activities and considering the short time available for presentations in the plenary sessions, a complete working document, including longer, more detailed presentations pre-recorded by speakers were shared in advance with participants along with some reports and PowerPoint presentations. Due to time constraints (a natural constraint of virtual meetings) and considering the large number of participants, interventions in the working groups were limited to

Delegates or their representatives, representatives of international and regional organisations and OIE staff, with the other participants merely observing. Interventions in the plenary sessions were limited to speakers but the use of chat was open to all participants.

Despite this being a first experience for the OIE in organising an institutional meeting in a virtual format, the result was very positive, and the Conference was a success. The OIE's expectations were met, mainly by keeping to the official institutional format of the conference regardless of the virtual format, so as to ensure active participation and engagement (mainly of Delegates) during the two days.

**The 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe** was initially planned to take place from 9 to 13 November 2020, in Catania, Italy. However, as in the case of the Regional Conference for the Americas, because of the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the OIE Council, following its extraordinary meeting held in June 2020, decided to adapt it to a virtual format. Thus, the Conference was held on 9 and 10 November, at 9:00 a.m. (Paris time), by videoconference (via Zoom).

A total of 140 participants, comprising OIE Delegates and/or representatives of 53 Members of the region and senior officers from 12 regional and international organisations attended the Conference. The agenda was very rich with content divided into three sessions. Session 1 related to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lessons learned. This session included a presentation by the OIE Director General regarding the challenges with regard to the Seventh Strategic Plan as well as the adaptation of the OIE to the new working conditions, and an intervention from the President of the Regional Commission on the role of the OIE Regional Commissions in emergency situations. Additionally, three previously selected countries had the opportunity to share the lessons learned by their Veterinary Services during the pandemic, including reflections on the very specific situations they faced during the crisis. Then, the Regional Representatives of WHO, FAO and the OIE shared their experiences regarding the new opportunities for collaboration between partners to better support their members. This session also included a presentation on the OIE wildlife health framework to inform participants about the importance of wildlife health management, the key issues and challenges for Veterinary Services in this field as well as the emerging directions and priorities for the OIE, and a presentation regarding infection with SARS-COV-2 in animals to inform participants about the latest epidemiological observations and research. Session 2 focused on four main topics: a summary of the disease situation in the Region and progress with implementation of the new OIE-WAHIS; a brief overview of the implementation of the current AMR action plans in the region and the preparation of future plans, including details about the implementation of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Project for AMR in Tajikistan; an update on the OIE Observatory Project; and an overview of GF-TADs activities during the past two years, with particular emphasis on the implementation of the current action plan, including the coordination mechanism for the Standing Groups of Experts for ASF, LSD and rabies. Session 3 (closed session for Delegates only) consisted of an internal informative session and discussions within the Regional Commission on topics such as the selection of the Technical Items and venue for the following Regional Conference, the elections to be held in 2021 as well as the adoption of ToR for the Regional Core Group, the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, and the National Contact Point on Long-Distance Transportation. Finally, Dr Lecchini Pierdavide, OIE Delegate of Italy, presented the Regional Commission with an application from the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Regioni Lazio e Toscana "M. Aleandri" in Rome, to be considered as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Good Beekeeping Management Practices and Biosecurity Measures in the Apiculture Sector. He provided a brief review of the proposed centre and its activities and indicated that full details had already been shared with Delegates by email through the OIE. The proposal was unanimously approved by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

Due to the reduced agenda (two days of 3 hours each) the traditional two Technical Items were not included in the agenda. Thus, no recommendations were developed. However, a short report with the main conclusions from the region on the different topics discussed during the virtual Conference was drafted.

The format of the Conference included short presentations from the speakers followed by a group exercise mainly in the plenary sessions.

The Conference was a success, was considered interesting by all participants and allowed all the Members of the Regional Commission to gather together for the first time in a Regional Conference.

## **9.2. SUPPORT FOR THE PLANNING AND ORGANISATION OF REGIONAL AND GLOBAL EVENTS**

In 2019, the Events Coordination Unit organised the following global and multiregional meetings:

	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Venue</b>
1	2-4 April 2019	4th Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health	Santiago, Chile
2	30 September - 2 October 2019	Conference on "One Health for the Mediterranean Region in the Age of Big Data"	Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy

The regular programme of information and training for new OIE Delegates and national Focal Points continued in all regions in 2019 and 2020. Numerous seminars were organised under the coordination of the Events Coordination Unit, in collaboration with the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and other Headquarters' Departments and Units.

The programme includes national Focal Points for eight topics: animal disease notification to the OIE; aquatic animals; wildlife; animal welfare; animal production food safety; veterinary products; communication; and veterinary laboratories.

In 2019 and the first quarter of 2020, the Events Coordination Unit helped to organise the following in-person seminars and workshops for Focal Points.

	<b>Region</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Venue</b>
1	AFR	26-28 March 2019	Regional Seminar for OIE national Focal Points for Wildlife of French-speaking African countries (5th Cycle)	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
2	ASI	17-18 June 2019	Regional Seminar for OIE national Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories	Chiang Mai, Thailand
3	EUR	18-20 June 2019	Regional Training Seminar for OIE national Focal Points for Animal Welfare	The Hague, The Netherlands
4	AFR	9-11 July 2019	Regional Training Seminar for OIE national Focal Points for Veterinary Products of English-speaking African countries (6th Cycle)	Addis Ababa and Debre-Zeit, Ethiopia
5	EUR	28-30 August 2019	Regional Seminar for OIE national Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories	Kiev, Ukraine
6	AME	3-6 September 2019	Regional Seminar for OIE national Focal Points for Animal Welfare	Belém do Pará, Brazil
7	AFR	9-11 October 2019	Regional Seminar for OIE national Focal Points for Veterinary Products (6th cycle)	Lomé, Togo
8	ASI	11-14 November 2019	Regional Workshop for OIE Focal Points for Animal Welfare in the Asia and the Pacific Region	Bali, Indonesia
9	EUR	19-21 November 2019	Regional Seminar for OIE national Focal Points for Communication	Budva, Montenegro
10	ASI	14-16 January 2020	Regional Seminar for OIE national Focal Points for Veterinary Products (6th Cycle)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

11	AME	17-19 February 2020	OIE Regional Workshop on the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) for national Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE in the Americas	Panama City, Panama
12	AFR	24-26 February 2020	Regional Training on WAHIS for national Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE, in Africa and the Middle East	Tunis, Tunisia
13	EUR	26-28 February 2020	Regional training workshop on the new OIE-WAHIS and the European ADIS for national Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE in Europe	Paris, France

In 2019 and in the first quarter of 2020, the Events Coordination Unit, in collaboration with Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and other Headquarters' Departments and Units, also coordinated the organisation of various other regional and sub-regional meetings, as listed below:

	<b>Region</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Venue</b>
1	ASI	15-16 January 2019	OIE Regional Workshop on Animal Feed Safety	Tokyo, Japan
2	ASI	19-20 February 2019	IHSC-OIE Regional Workshop in support of Temporary International Movement of Competition Horses	Hong Kong (S.A.R. P.R. China)
3	EUR	4-6 March 2019	8th FMD Roadmap: West Eurasia	Shiraz, Iran
4	ASI	7 March 2019	OIE Sub-Regional Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Related Research and Information	Bangkok, Thailand
5	ASI	6-8 March 2019	Risk Assessment Workshop on rabies	Bali, Indonesia
6	ASI	12-13 March 2019	Regional Meeting for OIE Reference Centres	Tokyo, Japan
7	ASI	9-11 April 2019	8th Asia-Pacific Tripartite multisectoral meeting	Bangkok, Thailand
8	EUR	16-18 April 2019	Official recognition/programme for PPR Central Asia and Eastern Europe Maintenance of officially recognised status (FMD)	Almaty, Kazakhstan
9	ASI	23-25 April 2019	14th Meeting of the Upper Mekong Working Group on FMD, zoning and animal movement management	Xishuangbanna, China (People's Rep. of)
10	ME/AFR	24 April 2019	Facilitation of the movement of high-performance horses for international competitions (for selected countries of FEI Group VII – Middle East, North Africa)	Rabat, Morocco
11	EUR	29-30 April 2019	OIE Regional Commission for Europe – Regional Core Group	Madrid, Spain
12	EUR	15-16 May 2019	12th Meeting of the Steering Group of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe	Lyon, France

13	AFR	11-13 June 2019	Regional training workshop on the OIE procedure for the official status recognition and endorsement of national official control programmes with regard to PPR for targeted African countries	Nairobi, Kenya
14	ME	13-15 June 2019	Regional Seminar on the OIE standards and procedure to facilitate international movements of (competition) horses	Beirut, Lebanon
15	ASI	25-27 June 2019	22nd SEACFMD National Coordinators Meeting (held back to back with the 3rd East Asia Contact persons meeting [managed by the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific])	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
16	AFR	9-11 July 2019	Regional Workshop on “OIE standards: facilitating safe international trade”	Cotonou, Benin
17	ASI	30-31 July 2019	2nd Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever for Asia	Tokyo, Japan
18	AFR	21-22 August 2019	Regional Training Workshop on Public–Private Partnerships in the Veterinary Domain, for English-speaking African countries	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
19	AFR	4-6 September 2019	GF-TADs 2nd Regional FMD Roadmap Meeting for West Africa	Dakar, Senegal
20	AFR	11-12 September 2019	Regional Training Workshop on Public–Private Partnerships in the Veterinary Domain, for French-speaking African countries	Tunis, Tunisia
21	EUR	24-26 September 2019	Third OIE Regional Workshop on stray dog population management for West Eurasia countries, (SDWE3)	Tbilisi, Georgia
22	AFR/EU/ME	30 September - 2 October 2019	Conference on “One Health for the Mediterranean Region in the Age of Big Data”	Cagliari, Italy
23	ASI	2-4 October 2019	Meeting of the OIE Regional Expert Group for Diseases of poultry in the Asia and the Pacific region	Sapporo, Japan
24	ASI	17-18 October 2019	Regional Training Workshop on Public–Private Partnerships in the Veterinary Domain	Kathmandu, Nepal
25	EUR	28-30 October 2019	2nd OIE Regional Workshop on the Role of Veterinary Services in Animal Welfare in Natural Disasters for Balkan countries	Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina
26	AFR	29-31 October 2019	OIE Sub-Regional Workshop on the database of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals in Eastern and Southern Africa	Mombasa, Kenya
27	ASI	30-31 October 2019	Regional workshop on swine disease diagnosis	Beijing, China (People’s Rep. of)

28	ASI	4-6 November 2019	12th SEACFMD LabNet Meeting + Regional Training on FMD Sample Packaging and Transport	Pakchong, Thailand
29	ASI	14-15 November 2019	2nd FAO-OIE Rinderpest Holding Facility Network Meeting	Tokyo, Japan
30	EUR	22 November 2019	OIE-IHSC Regional workshop in support of temporary international movement of competition horses	Moscow, Russia
31	AFR	26-28 November 2019	Sub-Regional Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance in Aquaculture	Durban, South Africa
32	ASI	26-28 November 2019	OIE Workshop on PPP in the veterinary domain for South East Asia and the Private Sector Consultative Committee for the SEACFMD Campaign	Bangkok, Thailand
33	ASI	26-28 November 2019	3rd meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever for Asia & 4th Regional Workshop on Swine Disease Control in Asia	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
34	ASI	20-21 November 2019	1st meeting of the ad hoc Steering Committee of the OIE Regional Collaboration Framework on Aquatic Animal Health in Asia-Pacific	Bangkok, Thailand
35	AME	2-6 December 2019	1st Joint Regional Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories and Swine Disease Epidemiologists: "African swine fever - Preparing for surveillance and control"	Mexico City, Mexico
36	EUR	2-3 December 2019	10th meeting of the Regional Core Group (RCG10) of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe	London, United Kingdom
37	AFR	9 - 13 December 2019	Sub-Regional Workshop for OIE national Focal Points on surveillance protocols for viral haemorrhagic fevers in wildlife	Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo
38	ASI	26-27 February 2020	Regional Workshop for the International Networking of ASF Research in Asia	Tokyo, Japan
39	AFR	9-13 March 2020	Sub-Regional Workshop for OIE national Focal Points on surveillance protocols for viral haemorrhagic diseases	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
40	ASI	17-20 March 2020	Training of Trainers in outbreak investigation and response management	Luang Prabang, Laos

The COVID-19 crisis brought a new set of challenges to organising events. To overcome the physical barriers imposed by the pandemic, regional activities planned between the end of March and December 2020 were cancelled, postponed or adapted to a virtual format, the latter being organised either by the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations or in collaboration with Departments and Units at OIE Headquarters, as follows:

	Region	Dates	Title	Format
1	ASI	7 April 2020	3rd meeting for SEA national Focal Points for Communication	Videoconference
2	AME	19,24,26, and 28 August 2020	Training for national Focal Points for Communication, with focus on ASF	Videoconference

3	AME	27-29 October 2020	Workshop for national Focal Points for Veterinary Products	Videoconference
4	ASI	26 March 2020	ASF awareness workshop for the Pacific	Videoconference
5	ASI	31 March 2020	OIE Regional Workshop on the database on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals in Asia and the Pacific - D1 - AMU Data collection templates and calculations	Videoconference
6	ASI	Between 10 April and 13 May 2020	AHS Webinars	Videoconference
7	ASI	21 April 2020	4th meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever for Asia	Videoconference
8	EUR	21 April 2020	11th meeting of the Regional Core group for Europe	Videoconference
9	ASI	21-23 July 2020 and 28-29 October 2020	OIE webinar on OIE-WAHIS training (Session 1)	Videoconference
10	ASI	20 August 2020	Regional Virtual Meeting on Decapod Iridescent Virus 1 (DIV1)	Videoconference
11	EUR	24 September 2020	Regional Advisory Group for FMD West Eurasia Roadmap	Videoconference
12	EUR	9 October 2020	Workshop on rabies for Central Asia countries related to World Rabies Day	Videoconference
13	ME	13 October 2020	Webinar – One Health approach, Food Safety and Sustainable Food Systems	Videoconference
14	ASI	3-4 November 2020	Regional virtual training on swine disease laboratory diagnosis	Videoconference
15	ME	17 November 2020	8th Meeting of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee	Videoconference
16	ME	7-9 December 2020	Regional Webinar for OIE national Focal Points for Veterinary Products (6th Cycle)	Videoconference
17	ASI	15 December 2020	25th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia, China and Mongolia	Videoconference

Lastly, it should be noted that the Events Coordination Unit also helped to organise the following in-person and online meetings planned by the OIE Headquarters:

	Dates	Title
1	11-12 April 2019	Second OIE Global Animal Welfare Forum
2	26-27 November 2019	OIE workshop on “Approaches to improving sustainable management of animal health emergencies”
3	21-22 January 2020	13th meeting of the Steering Group of the OIE Platform on animal welfare for Europe (SG13)
4	7 July 2020	OIE briefing to Delegates on COVID-19 activities (online)
5	28-30 July 2020	OIE and INTERPOL Online Workshop on Agro-Crime
6	20-21 October 2020	Wildlife health: challenges and actions for the OIE (online)
7	4 November 2020	WTO-OIE side event to the WTO SPS informal committee (online)
8	15-17 December 2020	The Impact of COVID-19 on Veterinary Laboratories: Challenges, Opportunities and Innovations (online)

### 9.3. PUBLICATIONS

In 2019, the Regional Activities Department edited the proceedings of the Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, the Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, the Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, and the Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, which were held in Punta Cana

(Dominican Republic) in November 2018, Hammamet (Tunisia) in February 2019, Sendai (Japan) in September 2019 and Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) in November 2019, respectively. The Regional Activities Department led the publication of the 7th Edition of the OIE PVS Tool. Also in 2019, the Regional Activities Department contributed to the new OIE *Bulletin* publication *OIE News*.

In 2020, the Regional Activities Department contributed to *OIE News*.

#### **9.4. SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES OF REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL REPRESENTATIONS**

In 2019 and 2020, the Regional Activities Department continued its work aimed at supporting the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations (RR/SRR). This included: 1) supporting them in the follow-up of their activities; 2) coordinating the Annual Meeting of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, including changing the format and dynamic of such meetings in order to make them more effective and adapted to the needs of the regions, as well as specific training sessions to help the regional staff to better accomplish their daily work; 3) mobilising the resources of the technical Departments at OIE Headquarters, when necessary, to support and guide the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in improving the capacity of Members to achieve compliance with OIE standards; 4) organising the annual extended OIE Management Committee meeting; and 5) supporting the official procedures for the establishment of new regional offices.

Starting in 2020, thanks to the re-structuring of the former Regional Activities Department into two Departments allowing the newly created Capacity Building Department to take the lead in all the activities related to the PVS Pathway and trainings, the Regional Activities Department was able to focus more on support for the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. The year 2020 was a year of new projects but also of great challenges for this Department due to the launching of new activities, especially in the context of COVID-19. Permanent contacts were maintained with the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations through regular teleconferences.

The Department started the reflection process and development of the RR/SRR business model under the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan. This reflection included brainstorming activities with the RR/SRR and the Headquarters. Work was also done in collaboration with the RR/SRR to develop a new planning process (to be in place for 2021 and including short clear guidelines) in order to have more harmonised planning, with a global overview of all the activities carried out by the Organisation in the different regions and therefore have a more strategic vision.

Support was provided to the new Sub-Regional Representatives in Abu Dhabi, Brussels and Panama through an inception seminar to fully prepare them for the start of their respective activities. Support was also provided to the Moscow office in the finalisation of some internal procedures within the host country to ensure the proper functioning of the office.

Finally, the Department started work with the Performance and Change Management Unit to support the regions in the development of the Regional Roadmaps.

The **2019 Annual Extended OIE Management Committee meeting** took place on 20 and 21 March 2019 and provided an excellent opportunity to inform the Representatives of the outcomes of the meeting of the OIE Council, held in February 2019, and to discuss the organisation of the 87th General Session, including the meetings of the Regional Commissions during the General Session and the bilateral meetings to be organised during the week, as well as key issues regarding the daily work of the Representations and the coordination of activities with the OIE Headquarters. The meeting agenda covered two working days. In the afternoon of the first day of the meeting, working group activity was organised with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in order to actively include the Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives in the development of the Seventh Strategic Plan and in the identification of strategic themes through the OIE SWOT (“Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats”) analysis. The Representatives also had the opportunity to listen to and discuss details about the OIE training system, its current strengths and weaknesses and options for its modernisation.

The **2020 Annual Extended OIE Management Committee meeting** took place on 12 and

13 March 2020 at the OIE Headquarters. The agenda of the meeting was divided into three Sections covering the three Strategic Objectives of the Sixth Strategic Plan. A specific timeslot was dedicated to discussions about the 88th General Session and the different options for organising the Session, based on global developments with regard to the COVID-19 situation at that time. A closed session on GF-TADs regional strategies was also held, allowing for a meeting between the Regional Secretariats and the Global Secretariat. A discussion took place on climate change and how the OIE should respond, highlighting the need to focus and reflect on the work programme to be put in place on this topic and to define the criteria the Organisation needed to take into account.

Prior to the meeting, an introductory Seminar for New OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives, organised by the Department, was held on 9 and 10 March 2020.

The **2019 Annual Meeting of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations** took place from 22 to 25 October 2019. It was the occasion for the Regional Activities Department to continue its efforts to ensure a better articulation of activities between the Representations and the technical Departments in implementing the strategic objectives of the Sixth Strategic Plan. The meeting allowed the regions and the OIE Headquarters to have a preliminary overview of the work done during the year in preparation for the Annual Report. The first day was planned as a plenary session with presentations and discussions on the activities currently being carried out by the OIE under each Strategic Objective and Cross Cutting Area of the OIE's Strategic Plan. On the second day, the OIE Director General provided the regions and the Headquarters with a progress report on preparations for the Seventh Strategic Plan, including the first modifications to the OIE's organisational chart, to be implemented at the beginning of 2020, to pave the way for the next Strategic Plan. The last two days were dedicated to specific training sessions, which provided the regional staff with new tools designed to help them better accomplish their work. Additionally, bilateral meetings were organised to give the Regional Representations the opportunity for in-depth discussions about their regional needs with the different Departments/Units as well as with the General Directorate.

The **2020 Annual Meeting of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations** was successfully organised in a virtual format from 20 to 22 October 2020. A highly interactive and comprehensive agenda was developed, allowing discussion and interaction on the development of the business model as well as an opportunity to discuss the future follow up of activities and work dynamics under the new circumstances.

The Regional Activities Department supported the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in the Middle East and Africa with organising meetings for planning the implementation of the Better Enforcement of Standards for Safer Trade (BESST) proposal for a joint Horn of Africa–Arabian Peninsula initiative to grow sustainable safe trade in livestock and livestock products.

The Regional Activities Department also supported the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations with activities relating to the FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs).

In 2019, the Regional Activities Department, in collaboration with the Deputy Director General “Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities”, the Performance and Change Management Cell and the Status Department, played an active role in the GF-TADs Management Committee.

The GF-TADs Management Committee held two meetings and one teleconference to take actions for the implementation of the GF-TADs Third External Evaluation's Action Plan and the recommendations adopted by the 10th Meeting of the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee, that had been held in October 2018. The main outcomes were the revision of the terms of reference of the governance bodies of GF-TADs at global level and the strengthening of coordination capacity. As a follow-up to the recommendations of the GF-TADs External Evaluation, in November 2019 the Regional Activities Department welcomed a new member of staff to be responsible for GF-TADs Regional Coordination, as part of the GF-TADs Global Secretariat. In line with Resolution No. 33, adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE in May 2019 at the 87th General Session, an initiative on ASF has been undertaken and the disease has been included in the GF-TADs' global priorities.

The 2020 saw an increase in the activity of the GF-TADs Global Secretariat and the meetings of the Management Committee became more frequent, with the use of a virtual format. A total of eight Management Committee meetings were organised in 2020, with the following outcomes: revision of the terms of reference of GF-TADs governing bodies at regional level; standard operating procedures on labelling; coordination of the Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA, United States of America) Grant; development of a GF-TADs Working Group for ASF; regular participation in the Working Group on FMD and support to the Working Group on ASF; strengthened interactions with the Regional Steering Committees and Regional Secretariats; development and updating of the GF-TADs website and GF-TADs sections of the OIE's regional websites; organisation of the 11th Meeting of the Global Steering Committee in November 2020; and preparation of a revised strategy for GF-TADs for 2021-2025.

In terms of regional coordination, since November 2019 the Regional Coordinator of the Global Secretariat has ensured a linkage between the Management Committee and the Regional Secretariat by i) systematically sharing the agenda of the Management Committee meeting to provide opportunities for the region to raise issues or seek clarification on specific points; and ii) by providing systematic feedback from the Management Committee meeting and informing the Management Committee of GF-TADs activities in the regions.

Physical meetings with the Regional Steering Committees could not take place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and opportunities for developing contacts with regional stakeholders have been very limited in that respect. However, the Global Secretariat had the opportunity to attend and participate in virtual meetings organised by the Regional Secretariats, such as those of Regional Steering Committees, as well as more technical meetings, such as the Standing Group of Experts, which could not otherwise have been envisaged due to travel costs and which proved to be very useful for a clearer understanding of the regional dynamics.

More efforts are needed in the future to further improve the level of interactions between the regions and the Management Committee and between the regions and the global disease-specific groups for a better ownership of activities at regional level and to increase the support that can be provided by the FAO and the OIE Headquarters to address regional disease priorities.

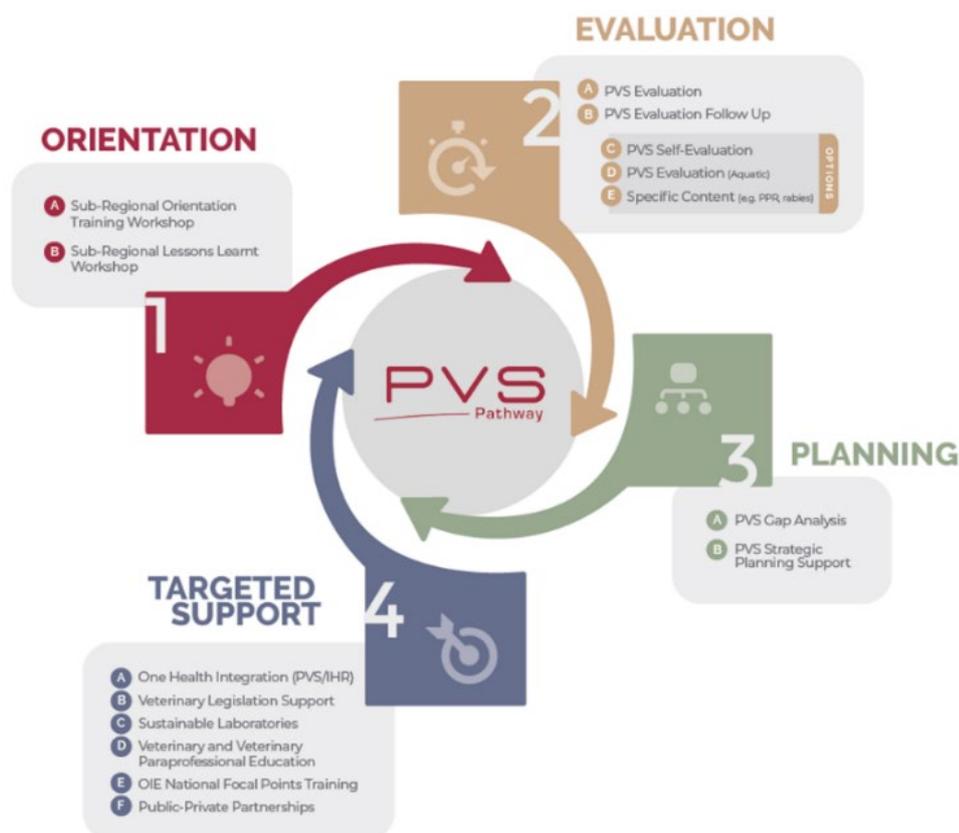
#### ***9.5. DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIFIC EXTERNAL COLLABORATIVE ACTIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS***

The Regional Activities Department maintains a network of contacts with various international, regional and sub-regional organisations that have an agreement with the OIE, the aim being to promote exchanges and collaboration between these organisations and the OIE on animal health and welfare projects.

In this connection, the Department helps to coordinate the participation of Regional and Sub-Regional Representation staff in meetings organised by the various international and regional organisations in their respective regions.

#### ***9.6. OIE PVS PATHWAY***

The OIE Capacity-Building Department (CBD) was created in January 2020 to support activities related to the OIE PVS Pathway and the development of training for OIE Members. The CBD has been helping OIE Members to strengthen the capacity and sustainability of their Veterinary Services, including through new options for enabling Members' engagement in the PVS Pathway, as shown in the following diagram:



### **PVS Pathway missions, workshops and developmental work organised in 2019-2020:**

Under the new options proposed to Members, thanks to the evolution of the PVS Pathway, the CBD has supported the following activities:

*Sub-Regional PVS Pathway Orientation Training Workshops:* three events were organised in 2019:

- PVS Pathway Orientation Training Workshop for South Asia, 12-15 February 2019, in Paro, Bhutan;
- PVS Pathway Orientation Training Workshop for Eurasia, 8-11 October 2019, in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan;
- PVS Pathway Orientation Training Workshop for South-East Asia, 10-13 December 2019, in Bangkok, Thailand.

Following the development, in 2018, of the methodology for undertaking PVS Evaluation or Follow-up missions with *Specific content*, six PVS Evaluation Follow-Up missions with PPR Specific content were conducted in 2019, in Chad, Nigeria, Burundi, Liberia, Mongolia and Iran.

Concerning the option to *integrate the PVS Pathway missions' results in strategic planning cycles*, two PVS Strategic Planning Workshops were implemented, in Malaysia (January 2020) and Nigeria (March 2020); and two additional workshops were requested, by Kyrgyzstan and Mali. The methodology has been refined to allow for such workshops to be undertaken not only following the results of a PVS Gap Analysis, but also after a PVS Evaluation Follow-Up mission (e.g. Nigeria).

Concerning the connection between the PVS Pathway and the WHO International Health Regulations (IHR) Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, two activities can be highlighted:

IHR/PVS National Bridging Workshops (NBWs): The CBD is actively collaborating with WHO to identify target countries, improve tools, train regional facilitators, plan and deliver NBWs, and ensure early involvement of both the Ministry of Health and the Ministry responsible for animal health. A total of 11 NBWs were conducted in 2019 (3 in Africa, 1 in the Americas, 5 in Europe and 2 in Asia)

and one in 2020 (Mali), using a stable and highly interactive methodology with excellent cross-sectoral feedback received from national participants. Regional OIE and WHO staff from all the regions have been trained in the NBW methodology, and the Africa and Europe regions are now running workshops independently. A series of workshops were planned in Africa and South-East Asia in 2020, but their implementation has been severely delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the request of donors, the OIE and WHO are exploring ways to support country-ownership of the “Roadmaps for improved collaboration” produced during NBWs, and their implementation. The following new NBW-related activities are envisioned: 1) analysis of NBW reports and JEE/PVS data; 2) supporting countries in the implementation of the NBW Roadmap activities and monitoring progress; 3) adjusting the NBW methodology to include a rabies focus. Finally, the methodology for undertaking NBWs at sub-national level will also be explored. A discussion to develop a blended methodology for NBWs has just been started with WHO.

WHO Joint External Evaluations (JEE): The OIE Regional Activities Department facilitated the participation of PVS Pathway experts in nine JEE in 2019, bringing additional expertise on a range of topics, including food safety, AMR, zoonotic diseases, legislation and reporting. The OIE also contributed to the review of the current JEE process to explore possible options for adapting the methodology and process in order to facilitate implementation of Round 2 of the JEE missions by WHO. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no JEE were organised in 2020.

In addition to the follow-up activities for the evolution of the PVS Pathway, the programme continued its regular activities in 2019:

- Considerable progress was achieved in terms of the engagement of the few remaining OIE Members that had not yet interacted with the OIE through a PVS Pathway Evaluation mission. An OIE PVS Evaluation mission took place in the Republic of the Congo in January 2019 and in Chinese Taipei in April 2019. A new request for the OIE PVS Evaluation mission was received from Moldova. An OIE PVS Pathway Evaluation of the Aquatic Animal Health Services took place in Colombia in February 2019 and in Peru in March 2019; a new request to evaluate the Aquatic Animal Health Services was received from Indonesia.
- OIE Members are increasingly asking for PVS Evaluation Follow-Up missions, to obtain updated information on their performance and evaluate the progress made in relevant areas regarding the objectives set following the PVS Gap Analysis mission. OIE PVS Evaluation Follow-Up missions took place in Nigeria (PPR-content, January 2019), Chad (PPR-content, January 2019), Togo (January 2019), Niger (February 2019), Kenya (2nd Follow-Up mission, February 2019), Burundi (PPR-content, March 2019), Botswana (May 2019), Rwanda (July 2019), Mauritania (July, 2019), Liberia (PPR-content, August 2019), Mongolia (PPR-content, September 2019), Iran (PPR-content, October 2019) and Guinea (November 2019). New requests were received from Belarus for an OIE PVS Evaluation Follow-Up mission, from Azerbaijan, Bolivia and Côte d'Ivoire for a 2nd Follow-Up mission, and from Mozambique for an PVS Evaluation Follow-Up mission (Aquatic).
- OIE PVS Gap Analysis missions took place in Guinea-Bissau (June 2019), Pakistan (June 2019) and Papua New Guinea (August 2019); New requests were received from Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kenya and Turkmenistan.
- OIE PVS Pathway Laboratory missions took place in Senegal (September 2019) and Uzbekistan (November 2019). A PVS Sustainable Laboratories mission adopting a remote format will take place in 2021.

#### Developments:

An expert meeting had been organised by the OIE to develop the methodology for PVS Evaluations/Follow-up with specific content on rabies in November 2018. The methodology was finalised in 2019, but the pilot had to be postponed. The development of a methodology to allow specific content on ASF is also being initiated.

- In view of the COVID-19 context and the evolving societal needs globally, in 2020 the CBD initiated the development of new approaches and methodologies to support a remote format for various PVS Pathway missions (PVS Laboratory, PVS Gap Analysis, Veterinary Legislation); additional PVS Pathway missions will be considered in 2021.
- *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and PVS Tools: major updates to Chapters 3.1. and 3.2. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* on Quality of Veterinary Services were proposed via an OIE *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Services in July 2019. The revised chapters were circulated for comments from Members twice, firstly in the report of the meeting of the Code Commission in September 2019 and secondly in the report of its February 2020 meeting.

In November 2019, the OIE convened an *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of Aquatic Animal Health Services to update the *PVS Tool: Aquatic*. The aim was to harmonise the *PVS Tool: Aquatic* with the 2019 changes made to its terrestrial equivalent (PVS Tool), notably by including a critical competency on AMR. The updated tool for Aquatic Animal Health Services is being edited and will be a useful instrument for the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Strategy currently being developed.

### **PVS Pathway External Evaluation**

Following a first review of the PVS Pathway's successes and gaps during the PVS Pathway Think Tank forum of 2017, the OIE contracted an independent consulting firm in June 2020 to undertake a comprehensive external evaluation of the programme. This assessment will help the OIE to maximise the many potentials of the PVS Pathway, as well as to address the identified priorities and evolving needs of OIE Members. The evaluation addressed the following key questions: *How relevant is the PVS Pathway to the needs of Members and how effective is its design and implementation? What are the PVS Pathway short-, medium- and long-term impacts? How appropriate is the recent PVS Pathway evolution for improving the programme and are there alternatives for improvement?* Based on interviews with 40 key stakeholders as well as a background documentation review, the assessment captures the spectrum of stakeholder perspectives regarding the PVS Pathway, its successes, shortcomings, and includes recommendations to ensure the programme remains relevant and leverages its full potential.

Finally, the results of the External Evaluation will support the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the PVS Pathway – a way to systematically track progress, address weaknesses and document and achieve a greater impact. The outcomes of this undertaking were due to be finalised by the end of 2020 or early 2021 and key results shared with Members and stakeholders.

In July 2019, the Regional Activities Department (now the CBD) started a mapping of the PVS on the WHO Strategic Partnership for International Health Regulations and Health Security (SPH) portal. Information from 50 OIE Members was posted on the portal, along with the publicly available PVS Pathway mission reports. This work is being continued by the CBD in 2020/2021 and the mapping will be finalised once WHO's new portal is ready to go on line.

### **Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP)**

VLSP Veterinary Legislation Identification missions took place in Philippines (pilot OIE/FAO mission with a specific focus on AMR in June 2019 (for further details, see below), Uzbekistan (July 2019) and Eritrea (December 2019). In 2020, due to the COVID-19 situation, no VLSP Veterinary Legislation Identification missions were implemented. A virtual format for VLSP missions is being designed and will be piloted in 2021.

VLSP Agreement Preparatory Phases were finalised in 2019 for Botswana and Laos. The Preparatory Phase of a VLSP Agreement with Uzbekistan started in October 2020. VLSP Agreements were finalised for Bhutan and Mauritius (January 2019), Guinea (February 2019), Chad (August 2019), Cambodia (September 2019), Zimbabwe (February 2020) and Mozambique (June 2020). VLSP Agreements are on-going in Botswana and Zimbabwe (the initial Agreement was renewed for one year in August 2020), with remote support only, due to the COVID-19 situation.

### Developments:

- In the context of the OIE/FAO/WHO Tripartite collaboration on mitigation of AMR the OIE:
  - Developed a new pilot module aimed at assessing, in depth, a country's AMR-relevant legislation in the veterinary domain, based on the recommendations of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*. The FAO, with inputs from the OIE and the financial support of the Fleming Fund (United Kingdom aid programme), has developed the *Methodology to analyse AMR-relevant legislation in the food and agriculture sector*.
  - Participated in FAO Regional Workshops on legislation relevant to AMR (Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Thailand).
  - Organised the above-mentioned joint OIE/FAO Veterinary Legislation Identification mission with specific content on AMR legislation (Philippines, June 2019).
  - In the same context, answering the calls from countries, the international community and national stakeholders, FAO, WHO and OIE (VLSP) developed a proposal presenting a 2-year project for the development and piloting of a *Tripartite One Health Assessment Tool for AMR-relevant Legislation*. This proposal was approved by the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) for funding in October 2020. This Tool is intended to provide guidance for countries on the legal aspects that must be considered to address AMR in national legislation across all One Health sectors, and to support countries to identify their legal gaps and options for legal reform. It will be based on the above-mentioned FAO *Methodology* and the OIE VLSP AMR pilot module and will incorporate the human health aspects. Once developed, the Tool will be piloted through national missions/workshops and multi-country workshops, before being published.
- In addition, at the request of the Code Commission, the Coordinator of the VLSP provided detailed responses to Members' comments on the revised *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 3.4. on Veterinary Legislation with a view to its being presented at the next General Session of the Assembly for approval and adoption.

### **PVS Pathway Reports Operational Database**

The OIE has nearly 400 PVS Pathway mission reports from nearly 140 countries. There is large potential to undertake collective analyses of these reports to gain a greater understanding of the performance and needs of animal health systems at national, regional and global levels. However, PVS data are currently difficult to access, as no structured or user-friendly database exists.

The PVS Pathway Reports Operational Database project, brought forward in late 2018, aimed at addressing this very relevant issue, has been revisited to ensure that its scope and objectives would align with the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan.

In the long-term, the OIE is envisioning extensive digitalisation of PVS Pathway activities, thus providing a modern platform for increased efficiency in the access, use and sharing of PVS Pathway data, as well as in the programme's processes. The PVS Pathway Reports Operational Database will be the first building block of this new system. The needs' assessment and design phase to finalise the action plan and ensure it will meet its full potential, started in late 2020.

### **State of play at 1 January 2021, for the various types of mission**

<b>1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020</b>	<b>New requests</b>	<b>Requests since the start of the programme</b>	<b>Missions implemented in 2019/2020</b>	<b>Missions implemented since the start of the programme (with PVS experts)</b>	<b>Reports sub- mitted to Members in 2019/ 2020</b>
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<b>PVS Evaluation missions</b>	1	142	2	137	2
<b>PVS Evaluation missions (aquatic) (#)</b>	2	21	2	14	2
<b>PVS Gap Analysis missions (^)</b>	4	125	3	101	3
<b>Strategic Planning Workshops</b>	4	5	2	3	3
<b>Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (*)</b>					
• Identification missions	5	77	3	67	4
• Missions within the framework of an Agreement (preparatory phase and implementation phase)	2	25	2	36	6
<b>PVS Pathway Laboratory missions</b>	2	20	2	16	2
<b>PVS Evaluation Follow-Up missions</b>	4	79	13	65	13
<b>Joint External Evaluation missions (with PVS expert participation)</b>	-	-	9	44	-
<b>IHR/PVS National Bridging Workshops</b>	-	-	12	32	-

- (#) Missions to evaluate the performance of Aquatic Animal Health Services. The figures also include PVS Evaluation (aquatic) Follow-Up missions.
- (^) The figures include Gap Analysis missions, as well as updates, and also those for aquatic animals.
- (\*) The Veterinary Legislation Support Programme includes 2 types of missions: Veterinary Legislation Identification missions and missions within the framework of a Veterinary Legislation Agreement between the OIE and a Member. The purpose of a Legislation Identification mission is to examine the legislation of a Member with respect to Chapter 3.4. “Veterinary legislation” of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. Legislation Agreements are divided into two phases (with distance work and optional missions): a preparatory phase, an indispensable precondition for the signing of an Agreement, and an implementation phase, after the Agreement has been signed. The latter phase enables Members to benefit from assistance in terms of methodological support to facilitate the modernisation of their national veterinary legislation.

#### **Activities on veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs)**

In 2019, the staff of the Regional Activities Department (now the CBD) provide support to the *ad hoc* Group on VPPs. Following the release of the OIE Competency Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals in May 2018 at the General Session, the *ad hoc* Group finalised the OIE

Curricula Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals, which were distributed at the General Session in May 2019. Special seminars were held back to back with the Conferences of the OIE Regional Commissions for the Americas and Africa, respectively, to inform regional staff about the use of these Guidelines to strengthen the training and performance of VPPs.

In addition, three projects focusing on the training and utilisation of VPPs in the national Veterinary Services were developed and funded over the course of 2019 and 2020. The first, entitled “Professionalisation of veterinary paraprofessionals”, funded by the French Development Agency (AFD), began in late 2020 as a pilot project in Senegal and Togo. Implementation of the second project, entitled “OIE Strengthening of Veterinary Paraprofessional (VPP) Competencies” and funded by the United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), also began in 2019 with planning underway for a Sub-Regional Workshop for Central Asia and Eastern Europe and another for South-East and South Asia. The workshops are focused on veterinary workforce development and raising awareness about the enabling environment necessary for successful integration of VPPs into the national Veterinary Services. Georgia was identified as a target country for a national workshop on integration of VPPs into the national veterinary workforce. The workshop will be followed by the development of a work plan for creating an enabling environment in the country and the provision of OIE support over the subsequent year to realise the priorities identified by the workshop in the areas of legislation, regulation, training, human resource planning and/or field implementation of VPP activities. A third project, entitled “Prevention and Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases for the benefit of smallholder farmers” has been funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It focuses on the training of VPPs in Africa to effectively participate in national PPR control and eradication programmes being conducted under the OIE FAO PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy. Country selection for project implementation is currently underway.

#### **Activities on veterinary education**

In 2019, the Regional Activities Department (now the CBD) assumed the technical oversight of the OIE Veterinary Education Twinning Programme and the Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) Twinning Programme, with ongoing administrative and financial management being conducted by the Engagement and Investment Department. During the period 2019–2020, four Veterinary Education Twinning Projects were fully completed. Another five projects reached their end date but have requested no-cost extensions to complete additional work or are in the process of completing final reporting requirements. At the end of 2020, there were eight Veterinary Education Twinning Projects active, including two new project(s) approved in 2020. In addition, several inquiries for new Twinning projects have been received but none has yet reached the approval stage. A special issue of the *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education* was published in August 2020 dedicated to the OIE Veterinary Education Establishment Twinning Programme and other OIE-related activities on veterinary education. In addition, one VSB Twinning Project was completed, and an inquiry was received from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in the United Kingdom to engage a partner for a VSB Twinning project in 2020. The outcome is pending.

### **9.7. SUPPORT FOR TRAINING OF VETERINARY SERVICES**

In 2019/2020, the OIE pushed forward the renovation of its training system within the framework of the OIE Platform for the Training of the Veterinary Services, managed by the Capacity-Building Department.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a strong momentum for the digitalisation of OIE training as residential training courses were all cancelled in 2020. This situation has been considered as an opportunity to rethink the training approach, to optimise learning effectiveness and optimise the use of resources.

The results achieved in the period 2019–2020 are reported below:

- Operationalisation of the OIE Training Portal, the e-learning functionality of which was used for virtual training events in 2020.

- Development of the Competence-based Training Framework, now structured around 14 Competence Packages that together extensively cover the OIE standards and guidelines; a methodology is currently being piloted to develop the Terms of Reference of the Competence Packages that will specify the required competencies of Veterinary Services and the learning objectives to develop or maintain those competencies across three sequential training levels ('day 1', 'day 2' and 'expert' levels). A special "level" is dedicated to Delegates. The 2020 Technical Item on "Required competencies of Veterinary Services in the context of international trade: opportunities and challenges" has allowed innovative approaches to be explored to develop the Competence Package on Trade.
- OIE Training Guidelines for the elaboration of quality e-modules, with the support of the OIE Collaborating Centres for Training and Education; the guidelines will be used by the OIE to develop its e-modules but will also be accessible on the OIE Training Portal, for those Members or stakeholders willing to develop their own quality training modules. Additional guidelines on learning needs' assessment, delivery of residential and virtual training, and training impact assessment will be produced to ensure that the whole 'training cycle' is addressed.
- Development of 10 e-modules on the OIE, PPPs, and communication; in the next years, it is tentatively proposed to develop at least 15 e-modules per year. The modules related to the Competence Packages on 'Quality and management of Veterinary Services' and 'Trade of animals and animal products' will be the first to be produced.
- Development of a 'training partnership' with WHO, to ensure that institutional, technical and operational linkages are established between the WHO Academy and the OIE Training Platform, to rapidly deliver One Health training programmes. A task force was launched in October 2020, with the purpose of establishing the basis of the collaboration, developing an action plan and implementing training initiatives. A Tripartite project on "Strengthening capabilities for Epidemiology and Biosurveillance" started in November 2020 with the purpose of developing Tripartite-endorsed standardised competencies for applied epidemiology for the public health, animal health and One Health sectors. The project will also produce guidance regarding methods for testing or ensuring trainees' comprehension of the competencies as well as systems for the tracking and certification of training in the framework of continuing education and mentoring programmes.

Planning of the revision of the methodologies used to address PVS-related training initiatives to adapt them to virtual and blended formats started in late 2020. The OIE "PVS Pathway Orientation Stage Training Workshop" Guidelines will be the first ones to be reviewed in early 2021 by a newly appointed dedicated team.

## 10. PARTNERSHIPS

In recognition of the importance of partnerships for the OIE to fulfil its missions and in accordance with priorities identified for the Seventh Strategic Plan, the OIE formed an OIE Partnership Taskforce in early 2020. The Taskforce has developed the OIE Partnership and Institutional Strategy, as well as guidance for OIE colleagues to develop impactful and sustainable partnerships via a set of OIE Partnership Guidelines. Both documents will be presented to the OIE Council in 2021 and released subsequently.

Meanwhile several partnerships were progressed in 2019 and 2020 as mentioned in previous sections of this report, most notably Section 4.4., 6.5. and 7.5.

### III. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSIONS AND GROUPS

#### 1. SPECIALIST COMMISSIONS

For more details about the reports of the four Specialist Commissions please refer to following link <https://www.oie.int/en/standard-setting/overview/introduction-to-specialist-commissions> and to the report of their activities made at the [2019 General Session](#).

##### 1.1. TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION ('CODE COMMISSION')

###### 1.1.1. Meetings of the Code Commission in 2019

The Code Commission met at OIE Headquarters from 19 to 28 February 2019 to consider Member comments received on texts circulated in its September 2018 meeting report, as well as the work of the *ad hoc* Group on revision of Chapter 7.5. Slaughter of animals and Chapter 7.6. Killing for disease control purposes.

At its February 2019 meeting, the Code Commission proposed two new and nine revised chapters for adoption at the 87th General Session and circulated 14 new or revised chapters for comment.

At the 87th General Session in May 2019, the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE adopted two new chapters and nine revised chapters, which were included in the 2019 edition (28th edition) of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*.

The Code Commission met at OIE Headquarters from 10 to 19 September 2019 to consider Member comments received on texts circulated in its February 2019 meeting report. The Commission also considered comments provided by other Specialist Commissions and interventions made by OIE Delegates at the 87th General Session.

The Code Commission also reviewed the *ad hoc* Group reports on: (1) Revision of Chapter 7.7. Stray dog population control; (2) avian influenza; (3) Veterinary Services; and (4) revision of Chapter 7.5. Slaughter of animals and Chapter 7.6. Killing of animals for disease control purposes.

The Code Commission circulated 21 new or revised chapters for Member comments in its September 2019 report.

###### 1.1.2. Meetings of the Code Commission in 2020

The Code Commission met at OIE Headquarters from 4 to 13 February 2020 to consider Member comments on its September 2019 meeting report, as well as the work of the *ad hoc* Group on revision of Chapter 7.7. Stray dog population control.

In view of the postponement of the OIE 88th General Session to May 2021, no new or revised texts were proposed for adoption in 2020.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Code Commission met electronically from 1 to 10 September 2020 to consider Member comments received on texts circulated in its February 2020 report, as well as the work of the *ad hoc* Groups on the revision of Chapter 7.7. Stray dog population control, Rinderpest and BSE risk assessment and surveillance.

In addition to the texts that had been identified for adoption in its February 2020 meeting report, the Code Commission proposed nine additional texts for adoption at the OIE 88th General Session in May 2021. The Code Commission also circulated 11 new or revised texts for comments.

## 1.2. BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

The Biological Standards Commission met twice in 2019, from 12 to 15 February and from 17 to 20 September, and met twice in 2020, from 11 to 14 February and from 15 to 18 September (virtual meeting). All four meetings were chaired by the President of the Commission, Prof. Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann. The Commission addressed the following issues:

- Examination of applications for OIE Reference Centre status;
- Examination of annual reports of Reference Centre activities for 2018 and 2019;
- Implementation of the adopted SOPs for the approval and maintenance of OIE Reference Laboratory status: in-depth review of all annual reports for activities in 2018 and 2019;
- Implementation of the adopted SOPs for the approval and maintenance of OIE Collaborating Centre status; mapping the existing Centres against the list of main focus areas and specialities;
- Finalisation of the procedures for the establishment and maintenance of OIE Reference Centre networks; launch of OIE Reference Laboratory networks for African swine fever, PPR and rabies;
- Review of the OIE Collaborating Centres' 5-year work plans (2020-2024);
- Review of dossiers for laboratory twinning projects;
- Review of international standardisation programmes for diagnostic tests;
- *OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)*:
  - Eleven updated chapters were adopted by the Assembly at the General Session in May 2019. They were added to the online versions of the *Terrestrial Manual* (English and Spanish). Twenty-six chapters were sent for second-round comment in March 2020; their proposal for adoption was postponed to the General Session in May 2021 and they were opened for one additional round of comments.
  - Fifteen revised chapters were approved for circulation to Members for first-round comment in October 2020. The draft chapters can be downloaded from a hyperlink included in the report of the September meeting, available on the Delegates' website and the Commission's page on the OIE website.

A printed version on the 8th Edition of the *Terrestrial Manual*, in English, was published in early 2019.

- A diagnostic reagent for trichinellosis produced and supplied by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (Italy), OIE Reference Laboratory for Trichinellosis, was added to the list of OIE-approved International Standard Reagents;
- One new kit was added to the OIE Register (Enferplex Bovine TB Antibody Test, Enfer Scientific ULC) and the registrations of two kits (Newcastle Disease Virus Antibody Test Kit, BioChek UK Ltd and TeSeE™ Western Blot, Bio-Rad Laboratories) were renewed at the General Session in May 2019;
- Two new kits were added to the OIE Register (*Salmonella* Abortusovis Test, DIATHEVA s.r.l. and VetMAX™ African Swine Fever Virus Detection Kit, Thermo

Fisher Scientific LSI S.A.S.), the registration of one kit (BOVIGAM® *Mycobacterium bovis* Gamma interferon test kit for cattle, Thermo Fisher Scientific Prionics AG) was renewed, and the OIE validation of certification and fitness for purpose of one kit (Check&Trace Salmonella, Check-Points B.V.) was amended. These changes were adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE under the Adapted Procedure in May 2020;

- At the September 2019 meeting of the Commission, the OIE Secretariat for Registration of Diagnostic Kits submitted a proposal to modify the procedures for communicating information about new kits, to enable the supporting validation data to be made available to Delegates when new kits are being proposed for registration. The Commission approved the proposal.
- Review of the reports of the meetings of the *ad hoc* Groups on Sustainable Laboratories, on MERS-CoV, and on Replacement of the International Standard Bovine Tuberculin (ISBT) and revision of the OIE *Terrestrial Manual* Chapter 3.4.6. Bovine tuberculosis;
- Under the auspices of the Biological Standards Commission, a kick-off meeting of the OIE Virtual Biobank Project was held from 15 to 17 October 2019. The Group discussed the IT solution for the OIE Virtual Biobank proposed by Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell’Emilia Romagna “Bruno Ubertini” (IZSLER), the OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Biologicals Biobank, and reviewed the metadata schema to be associated with biobank materials. The Group proposed to conduct an electronic consultation with the network of OIE Reference Centres to ensure an inclusive and participative revision of the metadata schema. Following an electronic consultation on the metadata schema, the team leading the virtual biobank project undertook to reduce the number of mandatory fields as much as possible and find the ideal trade-off between the effort for data entry and enhancing data completeness by the end of this 4-year project.

A 1-day OIE Seminar was held during the 19th World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (WAVLD) Symposium in Chiang Mai, Thailand in June 2019. The Seminar was on two topics: the morning session was on “Laboratory Quality Management Systems: The Costs and Benefits of Quality” and the afternoon session was on “Biobanking and Reference Materials”. The OIE Virtual Biobank project was presented for the first time during the afternoon session. A presentation entitled “African Swine Fever: Setting standard laboratory diagnostics and laboratory networking in Asia” was also included in the programme. Response to the event and to the OIE’s engagement and involvement throughout the Symposium was positive from the WAVLD Executive Board, as well as from conference participants.

### **1.3. SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR ANIMAL DISEASES (‘SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION’)**

The Scientific Commission, chaired by its President, Dr Cristóbal Zepeda, met twice in 2019, from 18 to 22 February and from 9 to 13 September, and twice in 2020, from 3 to 7 February and from 7 to 11 September (virtual). The Commission addressed the following issues:

- Revision of the *Terrestrial Code* chapters, including Member comments on the Glossary and on the following draft chapters: Diseases, infections and infestations listed by the OIE; Animal health surveillance; Procedures for self-declaration and official recognition by the OIE; Official control of listed and emerging diseases; Infection with foot and mouth disease virus; Infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex; Infection with rabies virus; Infection with Rift Valley fever virus; Infection with rinderpest virus; Infection with animal trypanosomes of African origin; Infection with avian influenza viruses; Equine influenza; Contagious equine metritis; Equine piroplasmiasis; Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus; Infection with African swine fever virus; and Infection with classical swine fever.

- Examination of the evaluations on official disease status and endorsement of official control programmes. For African horse sickness (AHS), one dossier was evaluated for the maintenance of AHS status. For bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk status, five dossiers were evaluated: two for country and one for zone negligible risk status and two for country controlled risk status. For contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), six dossiers were evaluated for country freedom and one for the endorsement of countries' official control programme for CBPP. For foot and mouth disease (FMD), 12 dossiers were evaluated: one for country freedom without vaccination, four for zonal freedom without vaccination, three for zonal freedom with vaccination, three for the endorsement of countries' official control programme for FMD and one for maintenance of an endorsed official control programme. For classical swine fever (CSF), nine dossiers were evaluated for country freedom and two for zonal freedom. For peste des petits ruminants (PPR), three dossiers were evaluated for country freedom and one for the endorsement of a countries' official control programme for PPR. Six applications were assessed for recovery of status and one for establishment of a containment zone.
- At each February meeting, in 2019 and 2020: comprehensive review of 36 annual reconfirmations, corresponding to a selection of 10% of the annual reconfirmations due from Members recognised as having an official disease status, as well as the seven annual reconfirmations for the endorsement of national official control programmes; review of the report of the annual reconfirmation assessments by the Status Department, including the nine annual reconfirmations to which the OIE drew the attention of the Scientific Commission; and selection of 10% of annual reconfirmations to be comprehensively reviewed in the forthcoming annual reconfirmation campaign.
- Review of the outcome of an expert mission conducted for the maintenance of a PPR free status, a CSF free status and an OIE-endorsed official control programme for FMD, and for recovery of an FMD free status. Planning of other missions to be conducted to ensure long-term maintenance of official status was reviewed and prioritised, but alternative options to replace the field missions that could not be undertaken due to the COVID-19 pandemic were also discussed.
- Harmonisation of the requirements for disease-free status recognition and maintenance in the relevant disease-specific chapters (i.e. diseases for which the OIE has a mechanism for officially recognising the status of a country or zone).
- Examination of two applications for recognition as OIE Collaborating Centres.
- Review of the meeting reports of 24 *ad hoc* Groups and three Working Group (i.e., meetings held under the auspices of the Commission or shared with the Commission for information):

Area of work	Topic (number of meetings)	
	2019	2020
Evaluation of official disease status and endorsement of official control programmes	FMD (1), BSE (1), CBPP (1), AHS (1), PPR (1), CSF (1)	FMD (1), BSE (1), CBPP (1), AHS (0), PPR (1), CSF (1) Rabies: drafting of the questionnaire for OIE endorsement of official control programmes for dog-mediated rabies (1)
Revision of <i>Terrestrial Code</i> chapters	Animal trypanosomes of African origin (1), BSE (3)	BSE (1) FMD-electronic consultation related to Chapter 8.8. regarding importation of fresh meat from infected

		areas (1)
Wildlife	Working Group on Wildlife (1)	Working Group on Wildlife (1)
Antimicrobial resistance		Working Group on antimicrobial resistance (1)
Others	Antimicrobial use (AMU) global database and update of standards (1) MERS-CoV (1)	Guidance for ASF compartmentalisation (1) COVID-19 and safe trade in animals and animal products (3)

Other areas of discussion:

- Involvement of members of the Scientific Commission in relevant *ad hoc* Groups, Working Groups, and related meetings relevant to OIE activities;
- The Presidents and First Vice-Presidents of the Scientific Commission and Code Commission held a technical working group meeting at the margins of the two Commission meetings with the objective to discuss the amendments of *Terrestrial Code* Article 4.4.6. on ‘Protection zone’ to allow and encourage Members to implement enhanced preventive measures to protect their sanitary status in response to an increased risk of disease incursion, while minimising the impact on their status and consequently on trade;
- The Global Control Strategy for FMD, the Global Control and Eradication Strategy for PPR, the Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030, and the Global Control Initiative for ASF;
- Liaison with other Specialist Commissions, in particular with the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and the Biological Standards Commission;
- Discussion on disease-specific issues: update on the FMD Reference Laboratory network and the FMD global situation; update on the development of guidelines on compartmentalisation for ASF; development of a standard operation procedure to guide decisions relating to the listing or delisting of pathogenic agents; guiding document for application of the criteria for listing terrestrial animal diseases; progress of the work on case definitions for listed diseases; zoonotic potential of hepatitis B in gibbons; heat treatment to inactivate CSF, ASF and FMD viruses in swill; risk of lumpy skin disease (LSD) vaccine-like strain transmission; spread of LSD in Asia; prion disease in dromedary camels; vaccination of animals of high conservation value; seasonal freedom; role of carriers in the epidemiology of ASF and use of pen-side tests for ASF; inactivation of ASF virus in porcine casings; and OIE response to COVID-19;
- Evaluation of the following pathogens against the listing criteria of *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.2.: animal trypanosomes of African origin; avian influenza; chronic wasting disease; MERS-CoV; *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*; porcine epidemic diarrhoea; *Theileria lestoquardi*, *T. luwenshuni*, *T. uilenbergi* and *T. orientalis*.

#### **1.4. AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION (‘AQUATIC ANIMALS COMMISSION’)**

##### **1.4.1. Meetings of the Aquatic Animals Commission in 2019**

The Aquatic Animals Commission met from 7 to 14 February and from 25 September to 2 October 2019 at OIE Headquarters to consider Member comments received on texts circulated

in its September 2018 and February 2019 meeting reports, respectively. The Commission also reviewed the meeting reports of the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Fish Species to Infection with OIE-listed diseases and the *ad hoc* Group on Tilapia Lake Virus.

At its February 2019 meeting, the Aquatic Animals Commission proposed nine revised chapters and one revised Glossary definition for the *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)* and four revised chapters for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (Aquatic Manual)* for adoption at the 87th General Session. The Commission also circulated one new and three revised chapters for the *Aquatic Code* and one new and one revised chapter for the *Aquatic Manual* for comments. The Commission reviewed annual reports of Reference Centre activities in 2018 and one twinning project proposal.

At the 87th General Session in May 2019, the Assembly adopted nine revised chapters and one revised Glossary definition for inclusion in the 2019 edition (22nd Edition) of the *Aquatic Code*. The Assembly also adopted four revised chapters for inclusion in the online version of the *Aquatic Manual*.

At its September 2019 meeting, the Commission circulated one new and six revised chapters and one revised Glossary definition for the *Aquatic Code*, and one new and three revised chapters for the *Aquatic Manual*, for comments.

#### **1.4.2. Meetings of the Aquatic Animals Commission in 2020**

The Aquatic Animals Commission met from 19 to 26 February 2020 at OIE Headquarters to consider Member comments received on texts circulated in its September 2019 meeting report. It reviewed the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Mollusc Species to Infection with OIE-listed Diseases. The Commission also evaluated applications for OIE Reference Centre experts, annual reports from the OIE Reference Laboratories and 5-year work plans for some OIE Collaborating Centres.

At its February 2020 meeting, the Commission proposed five revised chapters and two revised Glossary definitions for the *Aquatic Code* and four revised chapters for the *Aquatic Manual*, for adoption at the 88th General Session in 2020. The Commission circulated for comment one revised Glossary definition, one revised chapter and a model article on declaration of disease freedom for the *Aquatic Code*, and two revised chapters for the *Aquatic Manual*.

However, owing to the postponement of the OIE 88th General Session to May 2021, no new or revised texts could be proposed for adoption in 2020.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Aquatic Animals Commission met electronically from 26 August and 2 September 2020 to consider Member comments received on texts circulated in its February 2020 report. The Commission circulated for comment one new *Aquatic Code* chapter, six revised chapters and four revised Glossary definitions, and six revised *Aquatic Manual* chapters.

## **2. ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUPS**

### **2.1. WORKING GROUP ON WILDLIFE**

The OIE Working Group on Wildlife, chaired by Dr William B. Karesh, met at OIE Headquarters from 10 to 13 March 2020.

During the meeting, the Working Group developed a high-level Statement on Wildlife Trade and Emerging Zoonoses which formed the basis for further advocacy and balanced discussions on the development of strategies to reduce the risk of future spill-over events.

Since January 2020, the Working Group had also been supporting the OIE in its response to COVID-19. The President of the Working Group chaired the OIE advisory group on COVID-19 (which was

later designated as an OIE *ad hoc* Group on COVID-19 at the Human–Animal Interface). This group led discussions on investigating the animal source of SARS-CoV-2 and on setting research priorities to better understand the potential role of animals and to reduce risks of future spill-over events.

To ensure that the Working Group optimises its contribution to the OIE’s core mission, its Terms of Reference had been updated in 2018. The Working Group addressed an agenda formulated around these Terms of Reference.

The Working Group provided replies to the different requests from the Specialist Commissions.

To support the OIE’s core mission of transparency, and to improve comprehensive reporting of quality data about wildlife disease, the Working Group had developed technical disease cards for 26 wildlife diseases and had strengthened the criteria for listing diseases of wildlife reportable to the OIE through WAHIS. In addition, the Working Group provided comprehensive information on emerging and noteworthy wildlife issues and disease occurrences worldwide. This is a unique source of information on emerging health issues in wildlife which allows the international community to develop and refine disease management strategies for both livestock and wildlife, and at the human–animal–ecosystems interface. The information also supports strategies to monitor and protect biodiversity.

The Working Group continued to provide technical input to the implementation of priority global disease control strategies where wildlife is relevant: PPR, ASF, Rabies, Highly pathogenic avian influenza, Zoonotic tuberculosis, and FMD; this included the development of guidelines for the control and prevention of PPR in wildlife populations, which is essential for supporting PPR eradication.

Finally, the Working Group agreed on shared priorities for the upcoming year and planned the date of its next meeting in December 2020.

The Working Group met virtually, owing to the exceptional circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, from 1 to 4 December 2020.

To support the OIE’s core mission of transparency, and to improve comprehensive reporting of quality data about wildlife disease, the Working Group recommended that the OIE should do more to support Members in managing health events in wildlife. This should include strengthening wildlife surveillance at national level and facilitating the rapid transport of wildlife diagnostic specimens to laboratories for confirmatory testing and characterisation. The Working Group also contributed to a paper on “Reporting of diseases in wildlife, Recommended actions for improvements”.

At each annual meeting, the Working Group compiles comprehensive global information on emerging and noteworthy wildlife issues and disease occurrences. This is a unique source of information on emerging health issues in wildlife, which allows the international community to develop and refine disease management strategies for both livestock and wildlife, and at the human-animal-ecosystems interface. The information also supports strategies to monitor and protect biodiversity. To ensure this information has maximum impact the OIE should ensure that this resource is visible and well communicated to stakeholders.

To support the OIE’s core mission of Promotion of Veterinary Services, the Working Group proposed actions to strengthen the wildlife component of the OIE PVS Tool, and to improve the functionality of the network of OIE national Focal Points for Wildlife.

The Working Group contributed to the Concept Note for an OIE Wildlife Health Framework. This is a proposal to better integrate wildlife health into One Health strategies through action and partnership. The Working Group made recommendations to support implementation, resource mobilisation, and stakeholder engagement on this Concept Note.

Finally, the Working Group agreed on shared priorities for the upcoming year and planned the date of its next meetings, to be held virtually in June 2021 and at OIE Headquarters in December 2021.

## **2.2. WORKING GROUP ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE**

The OIE Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance met for the first time from 1 to 3 October 2019 at OIE Headquarters. The Working Group's aim is to provide guidance and establish priorities to assist with the implementation of the OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials, and the Recommendations of the 2nd OIE Global Conference on AMR and Prudent use of Antimicrobials, as outlined in the Working Group's Terms of Reference, which were reviewed during the meeting. The Working Group will also build on the work accomplished by the previous OIE *ad hoc* Group on AMR.

The main points discussed at this first meeting were:

- OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance in Animals, and its subdivision into animal species, starting with poultry. Several members of the Group expressed interest in being part of an *ad hoc* Group to be created to work on this task;
- OIE Antimicrobial Use database: current stage and future development;
- The Group supported the creation of a technical reference Group with the participation of several members to assist the OIE regarding development of the database and its transition phase from a spreadsheet to an IT-based reporting system.

The Group defined its Work Programme and established the first-year priorities of work.

The Working Group on AMR held two meetings in 2020, both conducted in an online format.

Meeting on 7-9 April 2020: the Group discussed and was informed about topics of global interest and about progress with the different OIE work streams, including, for example, an update on AMU data collection and progress on the development of the IT database.

The Group focused its attention on the subdivision of the OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance into the different animal species, and in particular the related work on poultry.

Meeting on 13-15 October 2020: the meeting followed a similar format. The Group was updated on the following topics:

- Multi-partner Trust Fund (MPTF) proposals
- One Health UN Leaders Group on AMR
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework for the Global Action Plan (GAP) on AMR
- Codex Task Force on AMR (TFAMR)
- Update on OIE work on aquaculture
- Ongoing work on antiparasitics
- Substandard and falsified veterinary medicinal products
- AMU database

A substantial part of the meeting was dedicated to the revision of the OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance. The Group was updated on progress with the preparation of the "Technical Reference Document Listing Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance for Poultry", which is now in its final draft, ready to be considered by the relevant OIE bodies. The methodology used in the preparation of this document will now be adapted to conduct a similar exercise for aquatic animals and subsequently for swine and bovine species. In this manner, the pathway to have Appendices of the main List dedicated to each category of animal species is clearly outlined, following therefore one of the recommendations resulting from the Second OIE Global Conference on AMR.

### 3. ACTIVITIES OF AD HOC GROUPS

#### 3.1. AD HOC GROUP ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance met from 16 to 18 January 2019. At this final meeting, the major achievements of the *ad hoc* Group were acknowledged. Topics discussed during this meeting included:

- Second OIE Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance – Putting Standards into Practice: Recommendations;
- Future development of the OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance;
- OIE AMU database:
  - a) conversion from the spreadsheet format to a database system;
  - b) presentation of the third OIE Annual Report on Antimicrobial Agents Intended for Use in Animals: Better Understanding of the Global Situation.

Since the final meeting of the *ad hoc* Group, its activities have been assumed by the Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance.”

#### 3.2. AD HOC GROUP ON MIDDLE EAST RESPIRATORY SYNDROME CORONAVIRUS (MERS-CoV)

The *ad hoc* Group on MERS-CoV was convened from 22 to 24 January 2019 to draft a new chapter for the OIE *Terrestrial Manual* that would set laboratory standards and provide validated internationally agreed procedures to be used for MERS-CoV confirmatory diagnosis in animals. The newly drafted Chapter was sent for first and second-round comments in October 2019 and March 2020, respectively; as its proposal for adoption was postponed to the General Session in May 2021, it was opened for one additional round of comments.

The Group also assessed MERS-CoV against the listing criteria described in Chapter 1.2. of the *Terrestrial Code* for inclusion in the OIE list of diseases and recommended that MERS-CoV infection in dromedary camels<sup>6</sup> should be considered for inclusion as an OIE-listed disease.

Finally, the Group reviewed and amended the case definition for reporting MERS-CoV infection in dromedary camels to OIE.

#### 3.3. AD HOC GROUP ON ANIMAL AFRICAN TRYPANOSOMES

The second meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Animal African Trypanosomes was convened from 15 to 17 January 2019. The objective of the Group was to finalise the draft chapter of the *Terrestrial Code* on ‘Infection with animal trypanosomes of African origin’, taking into consideration the feedback provided by the Scientific Commission and the OIE Working Group on Wildlife on the outline and content proposed during the first meeting of the *ad hoc* Group, held in March 2018.

The Group advised that the *Terrestrial Code* should provide recommendations on animal trypanosomoses in three different disease-specific chapters: i) Infection with animal trypanosomoses of African origin including several host and pathogen species; ii) Infection with *T. evansi* including several host species; and iii) Infection with *T. equiperdum* in equids.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.oie.int/en/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/mers-cov/>

The Group also assessed the different animal trypanosomes of African origin against the listing criteria of Chapter 1.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Group noted that *Trypanosoma vivax*, *T. congolense*, *T. simiae*, *T. brucei*, *T. evansi* and *T. equiperdum* match the listing criteria while *T. godfreyi* does not.

#### **3.4. AD HOC GROUP ON VETERINARY PARAPROFESSIONALS**

The *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Paraprofessionals, which was established in November 2016, completed its work in 2019. After producing the OIE Competency Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals for distribution at the 86th General Session in May 2018, the *ad hoc* Group focused its efforts on completing the OIE Curricula Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals, which were distributed to Delegates at the 87th General Session in May 2019. The documents provide guidance relative to veterinary paraprofessionals working in three distinct areas, namely animal health, veterinary public health and laboratory diagnostics. Both sets of guidelines are now available on the OIE website in English, French and Spanish.

#### **3.5. AD HOC GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE AND LAYING HEN PRODUCTION SYSTEMS**

The *ad hoc* Group on Animal Welfare and Laying Hen Production Systems met in April 2019 to review comments received on the draft Chapter 7.Z. “Animal welfare and laying hen production systems” that had been circulated for Member comments in the Code Commission’s September 2018 meeting report.

The *ad hoc* Group considered the very large number of comments received often expressing opposing positions with respect to some of the proposed recommendations and amended the text as appropriate. The revised chapter was considered by the Code Commission at its September 2019 meeting and recirculated for comments. The revised chapter was to be proposed for adoption at the May 2020 General Session. However, due to the postponement of the 88th General Session, the revised text was circulated for an additional round of comments in the Code Commission’s February 2020 meeting report. At its September 2020 meeting, the Code Commission considered comments received. The revised chapter was circulated in the Code Commission’s September 2020 report.

#### **3.6. AD HOC GROUP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA**

The *ad hoc* Group on Avian Influenza held its third meeting in June 2019 to review Member comments received on the revised draft chapter that had been circulated in the Code Commission’s September 2018 meeting report. The *ad hoc* Group undertook an assessment of H5 and H7 low pathogenicity avian influenza against the listing criteria in Chapter 1.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Code Commission and the Scientific Commission considered the report of the *ad hoc* Group at their September 2019 meetings. The revised Chapter 10.4. Infection with avian influenza viruses was recirculated for comments in the Code Commission’s September 2019 report. The revised chapter was to be proposed for adoption at the May 2020 General Session. However, due to the postponement of the 88th General Session, the revised text was circulated for an additional round of comments in the Code Commission’s February 2020 meeting report. At its September 2020 meeting, the Code Commission considered comments received. The revised chapter was circulated in the Code Commission’s September 2020 report.

#### **3.7. AD HOC GROUP ON REVISION OF CHAPTER 7.5. SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS AND CHAPTER 7.6. KILLING OF ANIMALS FOR DISEASE CONTROL PURPOSES**

The *ad hoc* Group met in June 2019 and five times virtually during 2020—to consider comments received on the revised draft Chapter 7.5. and to develop new articles on animals arriving in crates to the slaughterhouse. The *ad hoc* Group report will be considered by the Code Commission at its February 2021 meeting.

#### **3.8. AD HOC GROUP ON VETERINARY SERVICES**

The *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Services met in July 2019 to undertake a complete revision and restructuring of Chapters 3.1. and 3.2. of the *Terrestrial Code* given that these chapters had not been reviewed for over 10 years.

The report of the *ad hoc* Group was considered by the Code Commission during its September 2019 meeting and the draft revised chapters have been circulated three times for comments, first in the report of the Code Commission of September 2019, then in the report of February 2020 and finally in the report of September 2020.

### **3.9. AD HOC GROUP ON VETERINARY EMERGENCIES**

The first meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Emergencies was held in July 2020. This Group was convened to: 1) draft high-level guidance on simulation exercises for Veterinary Services; 2) develop scenarios for regional simulation exercises taking place in the target regions of the OIE-FAO-INTERPOL “Building Resilience Against Agro-Crime and Agro-Terrorism” Project.

The purpose of the high-level simulation exercise guidance is to provide Veterinary Services with good practices in planning, delivering and learning from exercises whilst taking an all-hazards approach. The Group was able to agree a template with a list of proposed content which would require further refinement by the OIE Secretariat before being presented to the Group again at a later meeting. Acknowledging the importance of exercises at the regional level, the Group developed template scenarios for the regional simulation exercises (taking place in North Africa, the Middle East and South East Asia) as part of the project described above. These exercises will have a focus on agro-crime or agro-terrorism affecting animal health and welfare and requiring cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the Veterinary Services. The template scenarios were given to FAO, which would lead the delivery of regional exercises as part of the project. The scenarios will be refined and adapted to local contexts.

The second meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Emergencies was held in February 2020. The Group was convened to 1) review the draft of the high-level *OIE Guidelines for Simulation Exercises*, and 2) to integrate emergency and disaster management into the existing OIE framework for recommendations on veterinary graduate education (to inform day one and advanced core competencies) and post graduate education.

The Group reviewed and provided comment on the draft of the high-level *OIE Guidelines for Simulation Exercises* considering the purpose of the document was to optimise the use of simulation exercises in capacity building for emergency preparedness using an all-hazards approach. The Guidelines were further refined post meeting through electronic consultation with the Group and have been distributed through the OIE network and published on the [OIE website](#).

The Group also reviewed the *OIE recommendations on the Competencies of graduating veterinarians (Day 1 graduates) to assure National Veterinary Services of quality* and agreed that emergency and disaster management were lacking from the current recommendations. The Group was able to provide suggestions on how to ensure the inclusion of emergency and disaster management in this framework and also developed a list of associated skills required by a veterinarian (including at the graduate and post-graduate levels) to fulfil a veterinarian’s key societal role in emergency and disaster management. The OIE would review the feedback from the Group and determine how to integrate this into current initiatives of the OIE including the OIE Training Platform.

### **3.10. AD HOC GROUP ON RABIES**

The amended *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 8.14. on rabies adopted in 2019 included a specific article on an OIE-endorsed official control programme for dog-mediated rabies. The procedure for the endorsement by the OIE of an official national control programme allows countries to progressively improve their dog-mediated rabies situation and eventually be able to self-declare freedom from the infection in the dog population.

To help countries apply for endorsement of their national control programme, the *ad hoc* Group on Rabies was convened from 8 to 10 October 2019 to elaborate a questionnaire to guide countries in preparing their dossier.

The Group was also tasked with the review of a discussion paper on the state of play and strategic challenges of dog oral vaccination. The Group also reviewed the provisions for importation of dogs from rabies infected countries or zones, in particular with regard to the likelihood that vaccinated

animals with positive antibody titres are incubating the disease and thus pose a risk to importing countries.

### **3.11. AD HOC GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE LABORATORIES**

The purpose of the meetings of the *ad hoc* Group on Sustainable Laboratories in October 2019 and April, May and December 2020 was to review the existing PVS Sustainable Laboratories Tool to determine how it can be streamlined and enhanced, and its data analysed.

The *ad hoc* Group agreed with the Members and PVS Laboratory experts surveyed that: 1) the core approach used in the PVS Sustainable Laboratories mission adds value for Members and should be maintained; 2) the PVS Sustainable Laboratories Tool contributes to a better understanding of the dynamics leading to financial sustainability and efficient resource management at the laboratory level; and 3) that small improvements could be made in order to have significantly more impact with Members and Partners.

Major points of discussion included: perspectives of PVS Laboratory experts and Members on the tools and mission; key audiences – OIE Members, PVS Laboratory Experts, and Partners – for the PVS Sustainable Laboratories work; transforming the mission report into a narrative cost–benefit analysis format to better highlight the benefits of sustainable investment in laboratories; additional tools to add value to the existing PVS Sustainable Laboratories method; data collection improvements and analysis opportunities.

As main outcomes, the Group: 1) finalised the streamlined mission report outline for review by the economist team to examine impact from an economic perspective and highlight commercial and societal benefits in addition to costs; 2) reviewed the accuracy and completion analysis of the Supply Tool variables; 3) sorted and ranked the existing Supply Tool (data collection tool) variables for further development of the timeline and tools needing to be developed for data collection; 4) convened subcommittees to examine specific areas of the model and evaluate unit costs and values; 5) established the existence of a need for a focus on training, especially pre-mission for those who fill out the Supply Tool, on the data needed, and how to collect it; and 6) discussed the first outcomes of the economic expertise on investing in sustainable laboratory biosafety and biosecurity.

### **3.12. AD HOC GROUP ON THE REVISION OF CHAPTER 7.7. STRAY DOG POPULATION CONTROL**

The first meeting of this *ad hoc* Group was held at OIE Headquarters in 2019 to review current recommendations that addressed the monitoring and evaluation of stray dog control schemes and responsible dog ownership and to discuss additional recommendations that could support the global strategic plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030. The *ad hoc* Group met again virtually on 11 occasions during 2020 to finalise the revision of the chapter.

### **3.13. AD HOC GROUP FOR REPLACEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BOVINE TUBERCULIN**

An *ad hoc* Group operating under the OIE Biological Standards Commission coordinated a project to replace the depleted inventories of the current International Standard Bovine Tuberculin (ISBT), which was established in 1986. The project involved evaluation and calibration of two candidate tuberculin in comparison with the current international standard. The validation was carried out in three phases, namely: (i) an initial selection of tuberculin candidates based on an examination of manufacturers' documentation and test results; (ii) a Preliminary Evaluation (PE) conducted in two OIE Reference Laboratories for Bovine Tuberculosis using a small 'test fill'; and (iii) a larger scale International Collaborative Study (ICS) that used a larger 'final fill' to test potency in guinea pigs and fitness for purpose in cattle. The initial selection of tuberculin candidates, preparation of a 'test fill' of each candidate tuberculin, and PE were conducted in 2017 and 2018, while the ICS was conducted in 2019.

The *ad hoc* Group met online in July and December 2020 to arrange to conduct supplementary testing on the most promising candidate, which includes further evaluation of potency and stability using *M. bovis* challenge isolates.

The protocol for the supplementary testing was developed and agreed by the *ad hoc* Group in December 2020, and testing commenced at GELAB-SENASA (Buenos Aires, Argentina; OIE Reference Laboratory for Bovine Tuberculosis).

If the results are satisfactory and the *ad hoc* Group's report is endorsed by the Biological Standards Commission, the report will be submitted to the OIE Delegates for their consideration. After adoption by OIE Delegates, the new 'ISBT-2' would then be deposited in the National Institute for Biological Standards and Controls (NIBSC; United Kingdom), where it would be made available for distribution to national regulatory agencies and tuberculin manufacturers for use in standardising national references, and quality control of commercially manufactured tuberculin.

### **3.14. AD HOC GROUP ON THE OIE PVS TOOL: AQUATIC**

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on the *PVS Tool: Aquatic* met in November 2019 to review the existing OIE *PVS Tool: Aquatic* and develop a second edition. The *ad hoc* Group also provided recommendations on how to stimulate greater use of the PVS Pathway in the aquatic animal sector.

The members of the OIE *ad hoc* Group have finalised the second edition (2020) of the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Aquatic Animal Health Services (OIE *PVS Tool: Aquatic*) and the document is under editorial revision (English version). The second edition of the OIE *PVS Tool: Aquatic* reflects updates made to the 7th Edition of the OIE PVS Tool, when relevant to the aquatic animal health sector. Key aquatic animal health challenges such as management of antimicrobial resistance have been taken into account, as well as the specificities of the industry.

### **3.15. AD HOC GROUP ON SUSCEPTIBILITY OF FISH SPECIES TO INFECTION WITH OIE-LISTED DISEASES**

The *ad hoc* Group worked electronically during 2019 to undertake assessments of infection with viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus (VHSV) against the criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection, as presented in Chapter 1.5. of the *Aquatic Code*.

The Aquatic Animals Commission considered the assessments undertaken by the *ad hoc* Group and proposed revised lists of species susceptible to infection with VHSV in Chapter 10.9. in the *Aquatic Code* and Chapter 2.3.10. in the *Aquatic Manual*. The revised chapters were circulated for comments in the Commission's September 2019 report.

### **3.16. AD HOC GROUP ON SUSCEPTIBILITY OF MOLLUSC SPECIES TO INFECTION WITH OIE-LISTED DISEASES**

The *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Mollusc Species to Infection with OIE Listed Diseases met in January 2020 at OIE Headquarters and electronically in June 2020 to undertake assessments of infection with *Bonamia ostrea* against the criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection, as presented in Chapter 1.5. of the *Aquatic Code*.

The Aquatic Animals Commission, at its September 2020 meeting, reviewed the report of the *ad hoc* Group and agreed to amend the list of susceptible species in Chapter 11.3. Infection with *Bonamia ostreae* in the *Aquatic Code* and Chapter 2.4.3. Infection with *Bonamia ostreae* in the *Aquatic Manual* in line with recommendations made by the *ad hoc* Group. The revised chapters were circulated for comments in the Commission's September 2020 report.

### **3.17. AD HOC GROUP ON TILAPIA LAKE VIRUS (ELECTRONIC)**

The *ad hoc* Group on Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) met electronically during 2019 and provided progress reports to the Aquatic Animals Commission in February and September 2019 regarding its work on the development of a robust and reliable diagnostic test for TiLV.

The Commission reviewed the *ad hoc* Group's reports and agreed that there was insufficient evidence to recommend the listing of TiLV. The Commission, at its September 2020 meeting acknowledged that this work would be delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and requested the *ad hoc* Group to continue its work and to report back to the Commission in February 2021.

### **3.18. AD HOC GROUP ON COMPARTMENTALISATION FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER**

The *ad hoc* Group on Compartmentalisation for ASF held a meeting in March 2020 to contribute to the development of practical guidelines on compartmentalisation for ASF, which would incorporate the general principles outlined in the *Terrestrial Code* and also provide specific guidance for the application and validation of compartmentalisation.

Following the meeting, the *ad hoc* Group continued to contribute to the development of the guidelines and to align its members' views through electronic consultations. Upon completion the guidelines will be made publicly available.

### **3.19. AD HOC TECHNICAL REFERENCE GROUP ON POULTRY**

This *ad hoc* Group was created with the specific task of developing the “Technical Reference Document Listing Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance for Poultry”, an appendix to the OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance. This task was one of the recommendations that came out of the Second OIE Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents, Putting Standards into Practice, held in Marrakesh (Morocco), from 29 to 31 October 2018. The members of the *ad hoc* Group were also members of the OIE AMR Working Group. They conducted this task, in consultation with external experts on poultry and with related institutions with which the OIE has a cooperation agreement. Due to the COVID-19 situation, all the work was developed in remote format. A final draft of the “Technical Reference Document Listing Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance for Poultry” was presented, discussed and finalised during the October 2020 meeting of the AMR Working Group. The methodology developed and used to establish this poultry technical reference document will now be adapted for the drafting of equivalent documents for aquatic animal species, swine and bovine species.

### **3.20. AD HOC GROUP ON COVID-19 AND SAFE TRADE IN ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS**

The *ad hoc* Group on COVID-19 and Safe Trade in Animals and Animal Products met online on 9 April 2020 to monitor scientific knowledge and relevant risk assessments developed by stakeholders on the risks to human and animal health associated with COVID-19 and international trade in animals and animal products.

The OIE Secretariat has also electronically consulted the *ad hoc* Group on several occasions. The main objective of these consultations was to obtain the Group's opinion on the risks to human and animal health associated with international trade in animals, and to review some of the COVID-19-related documents produced by the OIE.

### **3.21. AD HOC GROUP ON RINDERPEST**

The *ad hoc* Group on Rinderpest met electronically from 24 to 26 March 2020. The Group was convened to revise Chapter 8.16. of the *Terrestrial Code*. The chapter had last been revised in 2013 following the declaration of rinderpest eradication in 2011. However, concerns were raised during the development of the Global Rinderpest Action Plan that the provisions of the current chapter were not inclusive of countries that had a vaccinate-to-live policy. Subsequent discussions with the Code Commission, the Scientific Commission and the FAO-OIE Joint Advisory Committee for Rinderpest (JAC) highlighted further gaps in the chapter, which led to its review.

The Group changed the structure of the chapter, creating two sections after the General provisions. The first section is relevant during global freedom, while the second section is relevant in the event of re-emergence of rinderpest. The Group reviewed the definitions of “case” and “suspected case” and deemed necessary the creation of a definition for “potential case”. The articles for free country, infected country, free zone, containment zone and infected zone were also revised. The Group drafted a new article on safe commodities and trade provisions in the event of re-emergence of rinderpest. It should be noted, however, that the purpose of the chapter is to encourage re-eradication of the disease in the shortest time possible, rather than allow for trade in presence of the disease. Finally, the provisions for recovery of freedom were revised to ensure that timelines for recovery of country freedom and global freedom are compatible. Provisions on surveillance were left in the chapter,

although the means to perform surveillance with non-infectious diagnostic materials are not available in the post-eradication era.

The draft chapter has been considered by the Code Commission and subsequently circulated for Members' comments.

### **3.22. AD HOC GROUP ON COVID-19 AT THE HUMAN–ANIMAL INTERFACE**

The *ad hoc* Group on COVID-19 at the Human–Animal Interface was established in April 2020 based on the membership of the Informal Advisory Group on COVID-19 and Animals, which had been meeting regularly via Zoom since January 2020. This Group, which is chaired by the Chair of the OIE Working Group on Wildlife, has a core membership of world-leading scientists and researchers, initially convened to advise on the role of animals in the emergence of COVID-19, and a rotational membership that is invited to the meetings on a need-basis depending on the topic of focus.

In February 2020, the Group represented the OIE at the WHO R&D Blueprint meeting and assisted with the development of its Objective 5. Subsequently, the Group, through the establishment of dedicated sub-working-groups, supported the OIE in the development of guidance for Members' Veterinary Services covering: Laboratory support to public health response, Sampling, testing and reporting infection with SARS-CoV-2 in animals, and Working with farmed animals of species susceptible to infection with SARS-CoV-2. Furthermore, a sub-working-group contributed to the development of the OIE Technical Factsheet on Infection of animals with SARS-CoV-2.

The Group will continue to meet electronically for as long as is deemed necessary in order to advise the OIE on investigations into the possible role of animals as a reservoir of SARS-CoV-2 and in zoonotic transmission, to share relevant scientific information and opinion on COVID-19 at the human–animal–ecosystems interface, and to advise on knowledge gaps and associated animal-related research priorities.

### **3.23. AD HOC GROUP ON WILDLIFE TRADE GUIDELINES (NOT YET OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED)**

An *ad hoc* Group on Wildlife Trade Guidelines is scheduled to be set up and launched in 2021. Before the *ad hoc* Group is set up, a consultant will be selected to support the Group by carrying out a comprehensive literature review (scientific and other relevant literature) to identify high risk pathways and interactions along the wildlife trade value chain.

### **3.24. AD HOC GROUP ON ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES FOR THE CONTROL AND ELIMINATION OF MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS COMPLEX INFECTION IN LIVESTOCK**

The *ad hoc* Group met online on 29 September 2020 to discuss and propose strategies other than 'test and slaughter' that can be used to prevent, control or eradicate TB in livestock. The goal of these strategies is to reduce (and eventually eliminate) the disease burden of zoonotic tuberculosis (zTB) in humans in rural settings where slaughter of livestock is neither economically feasible nor culturally or socially acceptable.

The reduction and eventual elimination of TB in livestock in low-resource settings is the objective of the Roadmap for zTB, which was developed in partnership with WHO and FAO.

The *ad hoc* Group plans to elicit expert opinion on TB control strategies by means of interviews and focus groups with external experts other than *ad hoc* Group members.

The *ad hoc* Group also agreed to assess the quality and strength of the scientific evidence of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis sensu stricto* infection in livestock and potential for zoonosis, zoonanthroponosis, or both, to support the Scientific Commission's opinion on whether *M. tuberculosis* should continue to be considered as a component of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex for the purpose of the *Terrestrial Code*.

### **3.25. AD HOC GROUP ON THE EVALUATION OF OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMMES FOR DOG-MEDIATED RABIES OF MEMBERS FOR OIE ENDORSEMENT**

The first *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of Official Control Programmes for Dog-mediated Rabies of Members for OIE endorsement met virtually in November–December 2020, to examine applications submitted by two Members for endorsement of their official control programmes for dog-mediated rabies. The first list of Members having an OIE-endorsed official control programme for dog-mediated rabies will be presented for adoption at the General Session in May 2021.

### **3.26. AD HOC GROUP ON BSE RISK ASSESSMENT AND SURVEILLANCE**

In May 2017, the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE indicated that priority should be given to the revision of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on BSE (Chapter 11.4.). In March 2019, a fourth *ad hoc* Group meeting was held to finalise the work that had been done by the previous three *ad hoc* Groups to comprehensively revise the provisions for the official recognition and maintenance of BSE risk status. These *ad hoc* Groups strived to propose fully risk-based provisions for the categorisation of BSE risk status. After being endorsed by both the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission in September 2019, the proposed revised Chapter 11.4. was sent to Members for comment. In June 2020, the joint *ad hoc* Group on BSE Risk Assessment and Surveillance was convened to address the comments from Members on Chapter 11.4. and to refine draft revised Chapter 1.8. to ensure alignment with Chapter 11.4. The revision of the BSE chapters is progressing; the updated revised chapters were sent for Member comments in September 2020.

## IV. ACTIVITIES OF THE OIE REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL REPRESENTATIONS

To ensure the implementation of OIE activities around the world and optimise the work of the Organisation by ensuring a direct follow-up by region/sub-region, the OIE has established Regional and Sub-Regional Representations (RR/SRR) worldwide. Each Representation has been created by Resolution of the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE following a proposal by the Director General endorsed by the Regional Commission concerned and on the advice of the Council.

The OIE currently has 13 Regional and Sub-Regional Representations around the world whose activities are aligned with the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan (2016-2020). The most recent Representation created is the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi, which formally started its activities on 1 August 2020 following the signing, on 10 November 2019, on the occasion of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, of an agreement between the OIE and the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) with provisions for the operationalisation of the programme of activities of the Representation.

This report summarises the activities carried out in each region during 2019 and 2020. Activities are reported in one table per Region, with a breakdown by strategic objectives and cross-cutting areas of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan.

### 1. AFRICA REGION

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: SECURING ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE BY APPROPRIATE RISK MANAGEMENT	
<b>Standard setting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members were reminded and encouraged, during meetings and bilateral encounters, to engage in the OIE standard-setting process, comment on official reports and coordinate and collate inputs to the standard-setting process from their stakeholders, including Veterinary Educational Establishments (VEEs) and Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSBs) and the private sector.</li> <li>• Strong emphasis was placed on the principle of safe trade facilitation at two workshops on trade in safe commodities (Commodity Based Trade [CBT]) that took place in Southern Africa.</li> <li>• Delivery of information on OIE standards during various regional events, such as Focal Point training sessions and regional seminars and workshops – for example, presentations on OIE standards and guidelines relevant to veterinary medicinal products as well as an update on VICH (International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products) during a workshop organised by AU-PANVAC (African Union Pan-African Veterinary Vaccines Centre) in November 2019 on harmonisation of standards for assessment of veterinary vaccine manufacturing facilities and registration of vaccines in Africa. Information was also delivered during coordination meetings, such as the regional Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) networks (SADC Livestock Technical Committee [LTC], Eastern Africa Regional Animal Health Network [EA-RAHN, etc.) and regional laboratory or epidemiology networks (Eastern Africa Regional Epidemiology Network [EAREN], RESOLAB, SADC Epidemiology and Informatics, and the Laboratory Sub-committees), among others.</li> </ul>

- Provision of technical support to Delegates, upon request, on the interpretation of OIE standards as well as to ensure a better engagement in the standard-setting process, including official visits to Eritrea and Tanzania (both in 2019) to identify issues of concern in these two countries. Due to the COVID-19 situation, no official visits to Members were conducted in 2020; however, when requested, or whenever the opportunity arose, advisory information was provided.
- Improvement of coordination and communication with Members, thanks to the development of the new regional website, where the current edition of OIE standards can be accessed. The roll-out of video-conferencing tools after the emergence of COVID-19 has increased the exchanges with Members.
- Support provided in a purely advisory capacity to the annual meeting of the Region's CVOs, convened by AU-IBAR (African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources) to build a common position for Africa prior to the annual General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE in May 2019. No such CVO meeting was held in 2020; however, support was provided to Members individually whenever needed (i.e., explanation of the process, follow up on the forms for voting, etc.).
- Promotion of OIE tools during the implementation of project activities and visits to the beneficiary OIE Members of the following projects: Regional Support to Pastoralism in the Sahel (PRAPS), Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement (REDISSE) and Capacity building and surveillance for viral haemorrhagic fevers (EBO-SURSY) projects, the Namibia rabies project and the project on anti-microbial resistance (AMR), which covers most OIE Members in Africa.
- Organisation, in collaboration with the OIE Standards Department, of a regional workshop on 'OIE International Standards – Facilitating safe international trade', held in Benin (2019).
- Support to Members (Kenya in particular) on the preparation of a proposal (STDF/PPG/707) to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) aimed at improving sanitary standards for Kenyan cattle and beef exports (2019).
- Completion of the development of the 'Better enforcement of standards for safer trade in livestock and livestock products across the Red Sea: feasibility study for a joint Horn of Africa Arabian Peninsula initiative' (published) and project proposal, and presentation to Delegates of Members in the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula (2020).
- Facilitation of discussions on issues related to trade (e.g. movements of cattle and horses as well as domestic carnivores between North Africa and Europe) and animal health and welfare topics for the Mediterranean basin during the REMESA (Mediterranean Animal Health Network) Joint Permanent Committee meetings held in 2019, in Egypt and Cyprus, as well as in 2020 through the virtual meetings under the Co-presidency of Algeria and Greece.
- Organisation of a side meeting, on the margins of the 87th OIE General Session (2019), between EU representatives and the CVOs of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, in particular on the difficulties encountered by North African countries in moving horses to Europe

	<p>despite the countries' disease free status for African horse sickness (AHS) having been officially recognised by the OIE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection and analysis of selected information within the framework of Mediterranean trade of animals and animal products (presented at the REMESA Joint Permanent Committee Meeting in Cyprus in December 2019), thanks to the work of an Italian intern hosted by the Tunis office.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Official disease status recognition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of technical advice to Members with regard to disease free status, such as the provision of advice to Rwanda, in collaboration with the Status Department, on the OIE's Standard Operating Procedure for official recognition of FMD disease free status, in response to the request made by the Delegate of Rwanda with regard to the development of an FMD compartment in the country; provision of further support in the development of an FMD free compartment in Rwanda in 2020.</li> <li>• Members were regularly reminded of the benefits of engaging in the procedure for OIE endorsement of disease control programmes and recognition of disease status during training sessions, meetings, etc. In this regard, several new rabies elimination initiatives, supported by the OIE, were started. These included the provision being made for Members to apply for OIE endorsement of the dog-mediated rabies official control programme – Namibia became the first country in Africa to submit a rabies plan for evaluation. Botswana attained FMD free status in another zone, Lesotho attained a peste des petits ruminants (PPR) free status and two other Members submitted application dossiers for official recognition of PPR free status and FMD free status. In North Africa, Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia confirmed their free status for AHS in 2019 and 2020, and Morocco confirmed its OIE-endorsed official control programme for FMD.</li> <li>• Organisation, in June 2019, in collaboration with the OIE Status Department and AU-IBAR, of a training session on the OIE Procedure for official recognition of PPR free status for selected OIE Members in advanced stages of the PPR Global Eradication Programme (GEP), which was held in Nairobi, Kenya.</li> <li>• Cooperation with the OIE Status Department to ensure the follow-up of the submission of annual reconfirmations of official status/endorsed control programmes by Members, including regular communication with Delegates, particularly in the period close to the deadline for submitting files. In 2020, the OIE offices in Tunis and Gaborone supported the OIE Status Department in the screening of annual reconfirmation forms.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Disease control and eradication</b></p>	<p><b>Foot and mouth disease</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of the Second West Africa FMD Roadmap Meeting, held in Dakar (Senegal) in September 2019.</li> <li>• Numerous interactions with the new GALVmed project on the availability of FMD vaccines in East Africa (AgResults Project), which includes close cooperation with the OIE in the development of a public-private partnership (PPP) model for the sector, based on the relevant OIE guidelines.</li> <li>• Active participation in the 2019 workshop on “Post-Vaccination Monitoring for North Africa”, organised by the European Commission for the Control of FMD (EuFMD) in Tunisia, with the objective of better understanding the correct approaches to post-vaccination monitoring and improving the capacity to define</li> </ul>

		<p>relevant vaccine attributes when purchasing FMD vaccines (including the private sector). In 2020, within the framework of REMESA, the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa participated in the EuFMD meeting held in Marrakesh (Morocco) for the REMESA sub-networks on epidemiology (REPIVET) and laboratories (RELABSA) for North Africa, in support of the REMESA action plan, with the objective of improving surveillance and early detection of 'FAST' Diseases (Foot-and-mouth and Similar Transboundary Animal Diseases) in North Africa.</p>
	<p><b>Highly pathogenic avian influenza</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in a table-top simulation exercise on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) organised by Benin in March 2019.</li> <li>• The Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa, together with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Southern Africa Office in Pretoria (South Africa), co-organised an HPAI training exercise for laboratory personnel; this was the third such training exercise, which is hailed as an excellent example of sub-regional cooperation. The primary objective was to standardise and strengthen the ability of Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) countries to diagnose the disease, thereby contributing to effective surveillance, prevention, and control of the disease, and ultimately improve disease reporting (transparency and communication) and contribute to the capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Rabies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mali and Tunisia signed in 2019 a joint commitment (Ministry of Health and Ministry of Livestock) for combating rabies in line with the "Zero by 30" Global Strategic Plan developed by the OIE, FAO, WHO and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC).</li> <li>• The OIE is committed to global eradication of dog-mediated rabies and consequently there are several initiatives/activities in Africa in this regard.</li> <li>• Holding of several supporting missions in Southern Africa in the framework of the work being carried out with Namibia and the SADC aimed at the elimination of dog-mediated rabies. As part of the Namibia rabies project, there is a Laboratory Twinning project between the Namibia Central Veterinary Laboratory and the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI) (Germany), an OIE Reference Laboratory for rabies.</li> <li>• Furthermore, the Namibia rabies project has been extended to Angola. This was kickstarted with the donation of rabies vaccines to Angola – officially handed over (combined with a country visit) in February 2020 by OIE staff.</li> <li>• In 2019 and early 2020, rabies vaccines were donated to Algeria, Angola, Eritrea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria, Namibia, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe and the necessary technical support on rabies and vaccination was delivered. Also, technical support was provided to Lesotho, Namibia, and Swaziland on rabies control. In most cases these vaccines were immediately used, but subsequent vaccination campaigns were interrupted due to COVID-19.</li> <li>• Provision of technical support to Members (chiefly to Mali) in 2019 and 2020 on the development of their national programmes for the control of rabies.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of an OIE Regional Seminar on Rabies in North Africa, with a view to moving towards effective rabies elimination strategies in the sub-region (July 2019, Tunis).</li> <li>• Facilitation of the celebration of the World Rabies Day (28 September 2019) and the organisation of a World Rabies Day webinar for Africa (in 2020) and one dedicated to North Africa.</li> <li>• Consultancy to help Kenya upscale its current national rabies elimination programme for the next 5 years (grant proposal).</li> <li>• Consultancy to avail regional consultants to four selected OIE Members in Eastern Africa to assist national authorities in developing a national rabies strategic plan (Burundi, Eritrea, Rwanda, Uganda) starting in December 2020.</li> <li>• In 2020, the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa, in consultation with the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels and in collaboration with the Enhancing Research for Africa Network (ERFAN), prepared and submitted to North African OIE Members a questionnaire to conduct a survey on stray dog management in the sub-region.</li> <li>• Within the framework of REMESA, the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa organised, on 10 November 2020, a regional meeting for North Africa to determine the state of play of activities, create synergies and propose new projects likely to have an impact on the ground.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Peste des petits ruminants</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of the Second PPR Roadmap Meeting, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in 2019. Similarly, a Second Roadmap Meeting for Southern Africa was held in Lusaka, Zambia.</li> <li>• Participation (and co-hosting) of the 2nd meeting of the PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (PPR GREN II), organised by FAO, AU-IBAR, and the OIE and hosted by ILRI (November 2019, Nairobi, Kenya).</li> <li>• Participation in the online launching of the PPR eradication campaign in Southern Sudan (23 June 2020).</li> <li>• Participation in the 8th PPR Roadmap Meeting for Eastern Africa, convened by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and FAO (online, 21 October 2020).</li> <li>• Participation (virtual) in the 3rd meeting of the PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (PPR GREN III), organised by FAO and the OIE, held in November 2020 under the auspices of GF-TADs.</li> <li>• Organisation, in collaboration with the PPR Global Secretariat, of the 2nd Meeting on the PPR Roadmap for North Africa, to update and review the steps for the control and eradication of PPR in the Maghreb region, using a coordinated regional approach involving the relevant stakeholders from each country.</li> <li>• Participation in the PPR Internal Coordination Group meetings.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Swine diseases</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the Regional Coordination Meeting on African Swine Fever (ASF) organised by FAO and held in Accra (Ghana) in October 2019.</li> <li>• Establishment, in 2020, under the auspices of AU-IBAR, with financial support from the FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Disease (FAO-ECTAD), of a continental</li> </ul>

		<p>taskforce, including OIE staff and OIE-designated experts, to review the 2017 African Union ASF Continental Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the (virtual) conference of the Global ASF Research Alliance (GARA) in August 2020 as well as in the Eastern Africa ASF Technical Working Group with FAO-ECTAD (2020).</li> </ul>
	<b>RVF</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2019, provision of technical support and participation, at the request of the East African Community (EAC), in the Kenya – Tanzania cross-border field simulation exercise for the control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) with zoonotic potential, using mutated RVF virus (RVFV) as a scenario.</li> <li>• In December 2020, the first OIE Regional meeting on Vector-borne diseases in North Africa was organised by the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa and was attended by experts from several partners and OIE Reference Centres (EuFMD, IAEA, EFSA, ERFAN, CIRAD, CNVZ). The purpose of the meeting was to develop a harmonised control strategy in the Sub-region.</li> <li>• Participation in preparatory meetings for the deployment of a joint OIE/FAO/WHO mission to Mauritania.</li> <li>• In 2020, provision of technical support in the preparation, at the request of the East African Community (EAC), of the South Sudan – Uganda cross-border field simulation exercise for the control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) with zoonotic potential, using a mutated RVFV as a scenario.</li> <li>• Involvement in various mechanisms at international (EMC, ICC) and regional levels for support following RVF outbreaks in Mauritania.</li> <li>• OIE (Headquarters and regional offices) involvement in the RVF R&amp;D Blueprint (WHO), launched in November 2019 (FAO, Rome, Italy).</li> </ul>
<b>AMR</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of support to Members in the region for the collection of antimicrobial use (AMU) data collection for the Global AMU database for reporting to the OIE.</li> <li>• Participation in the development of AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) project concept notes and proposal writing and submission for Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal, Sudan and Zimbabwe.</li> <li>• Involvement in follow-up with OIE Members to encourage the Veterinary Services to work with their counterparts in the Ministry of Health in compiling information for the fourth Tripartite AMR Country Self-Assessment Survey (TrACSS).</li> <li>• Participation in the establishment of the African Interagency Coordination Group (AICG) for continental coordination and collaboration on antimicrobial resistance (AMR).</li> <li>• Involvement in the development of the AMR advocacy and communication strategy for Africa in collaboration with Tripartite partners and Africa Union agencies (AU Commission AMR Taskforce).</li> <li>• Participation in the Eastern Africa Technical Advisory Group on AMR surveillance convened by FAO in September 2020.</li> <li>• Participation in the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) consultative conference organised by the WHO, OIE and FAO</li> </ul>

	<p>headquarters in May 2020 to enhance the impact of WAAW as a platform for AMR awareness-raising.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of country support for AMR National Action Plans (NAP) implementation.</li> <li>• Organisation of the first (November 2019) and second (November 2020) WAAW Africa together with Regional Tripartite partners and African Union agencies.</li> <li>• Participation in the virtual Fleming Fund Delivery partners event held in October 2020.</li> <li>• Participation in the launch of the One Health Research Education and Outreach Centre in Africa (OHRECA), held at ILRI on 22 October 2020.</li> <li>• Preparation of WAAW under the Regional Tripartite FAO-OIE-WHO Secretariat established at continental level.</li> <li>• Participation in the Validation Workshop for the African Union Framework for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Control and the 1st International One Health Forum organised by the One Health Platform and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.</li> <li>• Organisation of the OIE Sub-Regional workshop on the use of antimicrobial agents in aquaculture, held in Durban, South Africa, in November 2019.</li> <li>• Organisation of the OIE Sub-Regional Workshop on the database of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals in eastern and southern Africa, held in Mombasa, Kenya, in October 2019.</li> <li>• Sensitisation of Members in the region in 2019 and assistance to help them progress with their AMR national action plans. As a result, Tunisia signed its joint national action plan (Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture) to fight AMR, and Lesotho and Zambia received support in this respect. In 2020, Morocco and Libya had their national action plans signed. The OIE Office in Tunis, participated in the Webinar organised by FAO (on 24 November 2020) for North African countries in the framework of WAAW 2020, entitled “FAO’s Progressive Approach to Antimicrobial Resistance Management (FAO-PMP-AMR)”.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Animal welfare</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members were encouraged to promote animal welfare in their daily activities and contribute to the development of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategies.</li> <li>• Support to the preparatory virtual meeting for the launch of a sub-regional network on animal welfare for Eastern Africa, under the Regional Animal Health Network (RAHN-EA) (OIE, AU-IBAR).</li> <li>• Participation in the second meeting of the OIE Animal Welfare Forum (on animal transport), as well as in several other events, such as the 3rd (2019) and 4th (2020) Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC), the virtual board meetings of the African Small Companion Animal Network (AFSCAN) of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA), the 3rd International Conference on Dog Population Management (ICAM International, 2019), and a meeting with World Animal Protection’s Global Campaign Manager – Animals in Farming to discuss AMR work in pigs and possibilities for enhancing standards for commercial pig production in the East Africa region.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitation of the interaction between Tunisia and Italy in 2019 to build a proposal on a Twinning project on Animal Welfare, which came to fruition and was presented during the 2nd Enhancing Research for Africa Network (ERFAN) regional meeting, held in Tunis in November 2019, with a view to its submission to the OIE.</li> </ul>
<b>SARS-CoV2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Regional Representations and regional staff contributed to the white paper “Promote wildlife health worldwide” and the theory of change of the Organisation’s involvement in the COVID-19 crisis, and future similar events, by mapping out how the OIE could exploit its vast resources for the management of wildlife (both wild and farmed) and spill-overs at the wildlife–livestock–human interface.</li> <li>• All Regional Representations and regional staff also contributed to the white paper “Prepare for, Prevent &amp; Build Resilience against Health Crises”, aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of the OIE to face another crisis of this nature in the future (OIE Engagement and Investment Department and World Fund).</li> </ul>
<b>One Health Tripartite</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in regional FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite meetings and in the preparation of a regional Tripartite work plan.</li> <li>• In January 2020, the OIE office in Tunis (Tunisia) organised and participated in the WHO-OIE-FAO Joint Risk Assessment in North Africa for zoonotic diseases, held in Tunis, and based on the Joint Operational Tool of Risk Assessment at the Human–Animal–Environment Interface under the Tripartite Zoonoses Guide.</li> <li>• Participation in the First AU/WHO/FAO International Conference on Food Safety, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2019).</li> <li>• Participation in 1st International One Health Forum, organised by the One Health Platform and Africa Centres for Disease Control and prevention (November 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia).</li> <li>• Participation in the launch of the One Health Research Education and Outreach Centre in Africa (OHRECA), which took place at ILRI on 22 October 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring the cooperation of Delegates, RECs and regional and international organisations dealing with public and animal health issues.</li> <li>• Availability of a very limited number of experts proficient in analysing texts proposed for inclusion in the OIE <i>Codes</i> and <i>Manuals</i>.</li> <li>• The OIE’s (Headquarters and regional) involvement in the RVF R&amp;D Blueprint (WHO) initiated in late 2019 was not pursued in 2020, as priority was given to the blueprint for COVID-19.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: ESTABLISHING TRUST THROUGH TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNICATION</b>	
<b>International disease transparency and reporting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members were constantly encouraged to use WAHIS (World Animal Health Information System), as a result of which an increase of 10% in the number of immediate notifications was noted during the year 2019.</li> <li>• In 2020, the OIE office in Tunis organised a Regional Workshop on the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (OIE-WAHIS) for national Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE in Africa and the Middle East, which was held in Tunis (Tunisia) from 24 to 26 February.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members were regularly issued with advice, support, or reminders, through messages, or on-site visits and at meetings, in liaison with the OIE Headquarters, regarding disease reporting, including their obligation to report suspected disease outbreaks in a timely fashion, and were encouraged to do so using WAHIS.</li> <li>• Support to the OIE Headquarters on rumour tracking, e.g., during FMD outbreaks in the southern part and RVF outbreaks in the eastern part of the continent.</li> <li>• Support, at the request of the OIE Headquarters, to follow up on bird deaths in a country of the region.</li> <li>• Support to OIE Headquarters in following up the mass deaths of elephants (later confirmed as <i>Cyanobacteria</i> poisoning and <i>Pasteurella multocida</i> in two different countries), as well as mass deaths of fish (later confirmed as epizootic ulcerative syndrome [EUS]).</li> <li>• Sharing of information within REMESA concerning the detection of a new prion disease in camels. In 2020, a project proposal was prepared aimed at assessing the prevalence of this new disease in North Africa.</li> <li>• Holding of a meeting in Southern Africa on AMR in aquaculture and reporting of animal diseases, including for aquatic animals, a category suffering from considerable under-reporting.</li> <li>• Publication of a paper, in conjunction with the Namibia Directorate of Veterinary Services and the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), on rabies control in Namibia; preparation of another paper on vaccination campaigns and the use of data loggers in Namibia.</li> <li>• In broader terms of ‘transparency’, OIE Delegates were regularly encouraged to make their PVS Pathway reports public. As a result, in 2020, Algeria, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Mali, Mauritania, Tunisia and Zimbabwe agreed to their PVS Pathway reports being shared with partners and donors, or even being published on the OIE website.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Animal health communication</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nomination of a Regional Communication Correspondent for each office.</li> <li>• Launch of the new regional website in November 2019 (in English) and in February 2020 (in French). In-house training of OIE regional staff on submission of information on the OIE regional website (Nairobi, 4-6 March).</li> <li>• Dissemination of information on OIE-related activities by means of flyers, posters and dissemination of OIE communication products at all events (e.g., World Rabies Day; World Veterinary Day; World Antibiotics Awareness Week; FAO-WHO-AU First International Conference on Food Safety, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), as well as during visits to embassies and government departments.</li> <li>• Reproduction of the PRAPS Animal Health Personnel Manual in English (500 copies) and dispatching to selected English-speaking OIE Members.</li> <li>• Translation into seven languages and reproduction (30 000 copies) of the PPR technical factsheet extracted from the PRAPS Animal Health Personnel Manual and dispatching to selected OIE Members in the Eastern Africa region.</li> </ul>

<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existence of continental and (sub)regional information systems which overlap with WAHIS.</li> <li>• Need to increase Members' disease reporting transparency.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: ENSURING THE CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF VETERINARY SERVICES</b>	
<b>Strengthening Veterinary Services through the OIE PVS Pathway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion, among Members, of the use and benefits of the PVS Pathway and its new options.</li> <li>• Provision of relevant information to PVS Pathway mission teams and support in the preparation of the missions (by March, when the COVID-19 situation led to border closures, only one PVS Pathway mission had been undertaken in 2020, namely a Strategic Planning Workshop in Nigeria). In the course of 2019 missions were conducted in Botswana, Burundi, Chad, Eritrea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda and Senegal).</li> <li>• Monitoring of Members' progress with the implementation of recommendations after a PVS Pathway Evaluation (Botswana, Eritrea, and Tanzania).</li> <li>• Participation in South Africa in the national PVS orientation training for self-evaluations.</li> <li>• Participation in Joint External Evaluation (JEE) missions in Congo (Rep. of the) and Gabon, and in National Bridging Workshops (NBW) in Benin and Niger.</li> <li>• Participation of OIE regional staff in the appraisal of the OIE PPP monitoring and evaluation framework, developed through a sub-grant by OIE and CIRAD.</li> <li>• Participation of OIE regional staff in the expert consultation by PVS experts on the integration of PPP considerations in PVS Pathway missions and targeted support missions.</li> <li>• Participation of OIE regional staff in the external evaluation of the PVS Pathway by Cathexis Consultants (Canada) and the subsequent development – through interactive webinars – of the theory of change (ToC) of the PVS Pathway, including a monitoring and evaluation framework.</li> <li>• Provision of names of potential PVS Pathway experts to be considered by the OIE Headquarters when adding to the pool of experts.</li> </ul>
<b>Strengthening Veterinary Services other than through the OIE PVS Pathway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and organisation of sub-regional and regional capacity-building seminars, mainly for the following groups of OIE Focal Points: Animal Disease Notification; Aquatic Animals; Communication; Laboratories; Veterinary Products; and Wildlife.</li> <li>• Launch of the Twinning projects funded by REDISSE projects involving laboratories in Cameroon, Guinea, Mali and Senegal, and a Veterinary Education Twinning Agreement between the veterinary schools EISMV (Ecole Inter-Etats de Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires, Dakar, Senegal) and ENVL (National Veterinary School in Lyon, France).</li> <li>• Launch of the Twinning projects funded by EBO-SURSY REDISSE projects involving laboratories in Liberia and New Zealand; a Twinning project involving laboratories in Benin and Mauritania has been initiated by a REDISSE project.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The process towards a proposed Twinning project between the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI/ARC, South Africa) and the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) (target disease: RVF) initiated in 2019, was halted as KEMRI became the main laboratory facility for COVID-19 testing in Kenya in early 2020.</li> <li>• The Twinning project between the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) and the Veterinary Council of Tanzania (VCT) came to a close in January 2020 (initiated in April 2018).</li> <li>• Exploring possibilities for future OIE initiatives on veterinary paraprofessionals (second continental conference in 2022) with the Chair of the African Veterinary Technicians Association (AVTA) as part of the activities conducted under the various VPP-focused projects (funded by BMZ, DTRA and AFD) in Africa.</li> <li>• Proposal for a Twinning project between Onderstepoort, Veterinary Institute (OVI/ARC; South Africa) and the National Animal Health Diagnostic and Investigation Center (NAHDIC, Ethiopia) was developed for implementation from January 2021 to December 2022.</li> <li>• Participation in the final meeting of the OIE Twinning project between the Institut de la Recherche Vétérinaire de Tunisie (IRVT, Tunisia) and the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSve, Italy) on viral encephalopathy and retinopathy.</li> <li>• In 2020, the OIE Twinning project on animal welfare between Italy and Tunisia was approved by the OIE.</li> <li>• In 2020, pre-kickoff meeting for the OIE Twinning project on rabies between France (Anses-Nancy) and Tunisia (Pasteur Institute).</li> <li>• Participation in a thesis defence and graduation ceremony in Malawi (LUANAR University), where the OIE guidelines on curricula were presented.</li> <li>• Participation in two of the six meetings of the Botswana VSB launching the initiative to start the regulation of veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs).</li> <li>• Exploring possibilities for future OIE initiatives on veterinary paraprofessionals (inter-regional symposium) with the Chair of the African Veterinary Technicians Association (AVTA).</li> <li>• Co-organisation of the 2nd ERFAN (Enhancing Research for Africa Network) Meeting for North Africa, held in Tunis, Tunisia, with North African countries along with Senegal.</li> <li>• Organisation of the Regional Training Workshop on Public–Private Partnerships (PPP) in the Veterinary Domain (two seminars, one for selected English-speaking participants and the other for selected French-speaking participants from Africa) in 2019 by the OIE office in Tunis.</li> <li>• Closing webinar of the EU-funded Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries (SVSDC) project in December 2019 and launch of the “lessons learned” report.</li> </ul>
<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring the implementation of PVS Pathway mission recommendations by the Members concerned.</li> </ul>

### **Cross-cutting area A: scientific excellence**

- All regional offices are committed to promoting scientific excellence in the region. By the end of the 2019 there were 15 centres of excellence on the continent, corresponding to 10 Reference Laboratories (one of which is currently suspended) and five Collaborating Centres, all of which continued to be fully supported by the relevant Representations. The latest addition is the Centre National de Veille Zoosanitaire (CNVZ) of Tunisia, recognised in May 2020 as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Continuing Education and Capacity Building in the Veterinary Domain.
- AU-PANVAC - Debre Zeit, (Ethiopia) was maintained as an FAO/OIE Holding facility for rinderpest virus containing material.
- The Regional Representation played a leading role in the establishment of the Africa Region Tripartite OIE-FAO-WHO Secretariat, including participation in the following: the press conference organised by the West Africa Health Organisation (WAHO) for the annual celebration of One Health in Togo; the FAO-WHO First International Conference on Food Safety, held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in 2019; the REDISSE Annual Steering Committee meeting, held in Togo; and the EISMV Annual Steering Committee Meeting. The OIE chaired the Africa Region Tripartite OIE-FAO-WHO Secretariat in 2020.
- Good collaboration was maintained with the Tripartite partners within the One Health framework to tackle AMR and rabies issues in Southern Africa, including links with the environment sector, the relevant REC (i.e., SADC), and others (especially with regard to AMR). This included the holding of regular meetings and participation in joint workshops, mainly in the framework of One Health (rabies, AMR and tuberculosis), as well as discussions about potential future collaboration.
- Provision of technical advice, in collaboration with the OIE Headquarters, which is involved in the Joint Risk Assessment (JRA) project along with FAO, to the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) on Rift Valley fever in North Africa and to the MediLabSecure project to facilitate the establishment of contacts with Sahel countries.
- Encouragement given to Delegates to actively participate in the national One Health platforms being established in Africa.
- Participation in the WHO One Health Consultation Meeting and contribution to the 1st International One Health Forum.
- Participation in the Global Agenda on Sustainable Livestock (GASL) Regional MSP Conference: 'Africa 1', organised by ILRI (September 2020).
- Participation in the launch of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - ILRI Report on "Preventing the next pandemic: zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission" on the occasion of World Zoonoses Day (UN Secretary-General Daily Press Briefing (July 2020).
- North African countries benefited from the Rift Valley fever online course organised and sponsored by ERFAN in collaboration with the OIE, held from 23 to 26 November 2020, with experts from the University of Pretoria, Onderstepoort Veterinary Research (ARC-OVR) and Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise (Teramo, Italy).
- In July 2020, the OIE office in Tunis participated as a Reviewer of the SET bio-threat module in the framework of the joint OIE-FAO-INTERPOL project "Building resilience against agro-terrorism and agro-crime", targeting, among others, North Africa.
- On 28 September 2020 (World Rabies Day), the Italian Ministry of Health, through IZS Venezia and in collaboration with the OIE/FAO REMESA Joint Secretariat, organised an online round table to discuss with REMESA countries' representatives.
- The OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa actively participated on 6 November 2020 in a meeting on bluetongue organised by the Tunisian Central Veterinary Authority.
- The OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa actively participated in a webinar dedicated to RVF on 13 November 2020. The objective was to discuss the current RVF epidemiological situation in the sub-region, and especially in Mauritania, Libya and Sudan, in relation to the risk of introducing the disease in Tunisia and more generally in the "small Maghreb" (i.e., Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia).

**Cross-cutting area B: diversity, inclusion, engagement, transparency**

- Promotion of the engagement and participation of Members under the principles of transparency and inclusiveness, including ensuring a regional balance when it comes to the representativeness of the Region (proposal of candidates to the Bureau of the Regional Commission and selection of members for the Regional Core Group [RCG]).
- Support to the OIE Headquarters in 2019 in identifying possible candidates for a future *Ad hoc* Group on the revision of Chapter 7.7. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

**Cross-cutting area C: governance**

- Close contacts were maintained with the RCG, including the organisation of regular teleconferences and face-to-face meetings to facilitate the follow-up of activities to be implemented. These activities included, for example, preparations for the 87th General Session and preparations for the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, which was held in Hammamet (Tunisia) in March 2019.
- Close contacts were maintained with OIE Delegates, including the organisation of regular teleconferences in the run-up to the decision to postpone and then cancel the 88th General Session in 2020.
- Work started on preparations for the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, which was due to be held by videoconference.
- Close contacts were maintained between the OIE's regional offices in Africa, mainly through physical (2019) and electronic (2020) meetings, in order to ensure coordination and cooperation regarding activities in the region and to avoid duplication of work. Since early 2020, the use of office tools such as Zoom, Teams, OneDrive and SmartSheet is now well embedded in the daily work.
- Inter-regional collaboration took place with other OIE Regional/Sub-Regional Representations, including participation in a session pertaining to the 'Better enforcement of standards for safer trade' (BESST) Initiative, held within the framework of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates) and in the Side Event of the 7th Session of Tokyo International Cooperation on African Development (TICAD7) "Fighting against zoonosis in Africa" in 2019.
- Maintenance of good relations and collaboration with partners such as AU-IBAR, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), EU, FAO, Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI), SADC, USDA, WAHO, WHO, World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB) (Drafting of Livestock Development Strategy), IGAD (ICPALD), EAC, ILRI and ICIPE, and the RECs. Since December 2019, engagement with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and exploring avenues for a formalised relationship (cooperation agreement, exchange of letters or MoU).
- Coordination of work within the framework of the continental Tripartite Secretariat (FAO-OIE-WHO), including sharing of work plans in order to better collaborate and coordinate the activities and, whenever possible, implement joint activities.
- The Region continued to face difficulties in assuring the resumption of GF-TADs Secretariat activities. In that respect, a preparatory meeting for the relaunch of GF-TADs for Africa was organised during the 87th General Session and the Representations continued to engage with FAO and AU-IBAR. With the FAO Regional Office for Africa (FAO RAF) in October 2020, an attempt was made to agree on a Strategic Plan (2021-2025) and terms of reference for the Regional Steering Committee (RSC).
- The GF-TADs regional website went live in April 2020.
- Participation in the EISMV Annual Steering Committee Meeting held in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) in 2019.
- Participation in the Kenya Women Veterinary Association (KWVA) Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) Animal Welfare meeting and the formation of the Eastern Africa Women's Veterinary Association (EAWVA).

- Organisation of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly of REEV-Med (network of veterinary education establishments in the Mediterranean region), held in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2019.
- Maintenance of good relations, including regular participation in national events, with the host countries of OIE Representations in Africa, namely Botswana, Kenya, Mali and Tunisia. Advocacy actions among Members as well as among current and potential donors from the region, including encouragement to provide seconded staff to support the work of the OIE Representations.
- OIE Regional Representatives and staff engage with various stakeholders and partners through membership, often in the capacity of observer, of the governance bodies, steering committees, advisory committees or boards of directors (African Small Companion Animal Network (AFSCAN), GALVmed, EISMV, DP One Health Indian Ocean, etc.).

## 2. AMERICAS REGION

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: SECURING ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE BY APPROPRIATE RISK MANAGEMENT	
<b>Standard setting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination and organisation of meetings to support Members in their active participation in the OIE standard-setting process. Such meetings were also used by the Regional Commission as a good opportunity to reach a regional consensus. One of the meetings was organised prior to the 2019 General Session. Similar meetings were also organised in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in April and October 2019. These meetings were organised with the same frequency, but virtually, during 2020.</li> <li>• Organisation of meetings with the Delegates in order to discuss and present the OIE 2020 Adapted Procedure decided by the OIE Council for the adoption of some key resolutions for the continuation of activities of the Members and for the institutional functioning of the organisation (following the postponement of the 88th General Session due to the COVID-19 pandemic).</li> <li>• Follow-up with OIE Delegates and their national Focal Points as well as other regional stakeholders regarding the availability of the reports of the Specialist Commissions and deadlines for the submission of comments.</li> <li>• Facilitation of contact between Members and the regional members of the Specialist Commissions, when required.</li> <li>• Private sector stakeholders were encouraged to participate in the standard-setting process.</li> </ul>

<b>Official disease status recognition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation with the OIE Status Department to ensure the follow-up of the submission of annual reconfirmations of official status/endorsed control programmes by Members.</li> <li>• Support in pre-assessing annual reconfirmations and supporting documents, in collaboration with the OIE Headquarters.</li> <li>• Development in 2020 of a webinar on the official recognition by the OIE of animal disease status, focusing on the maintenance, reconfirmation, suspension and recovery of FMD status.</li> </ul>	
<b>Disease control and eradication</b>	<b>Foot and mouth disease</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the 46th and 47th Ordinary Meetings of the South American Commission for the fight against Foot and Mouth Disease (COSALFA) in 2019 and 2020, respectively.</li> <li>• Support to Members through the follow-up of the epidemiological situation and the required actions to achieve the eradication of the disease in the region.</li> </ul>
	<b>Rabies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the OIE Technical Rabies Network.</li> <li>• Support to regional and national initiatives, including the communications campaigns organised by Members.</li> <li>• Participation in events related to World Rabies Day.</li> </ul>
	<b>Swine diseases</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination of actions at regional level, within the framework of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee, designed to help Members prevent the introduction of African swine fever (ASF), which is currently absent throughout the Americas region.</li> <li>• Creation of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever (SGE-ASF) in the Americas in 2019, under GF-TADs.</li> <li>• Support for the organisation of the first meeting of the SGE-ASF, held in Bogotá, Colombia, in December 2019, in order to forge closer cooperation among Members to address prevention, preparedness and response in a collaborative and harmonised manner across the Americas.</li> <li>• Organisation of the second, virtual meeting of the SGE-ASF in June 2020, focusing on the risk factors for the introduction of ASF into the Americas region.</li> <li>• Creation of the Standing Group of Experts on Classical Swine Fever (SGE-CSF) in the Americas in 2020, under GF-TADs.</li> <li>• Organisation of the Regional Workshop for OIE Focal Points for Laboratories and Epidemiologists: “African Swine Fever: Preparing for surveillance and control”, held in Mexico City, Mexico, in December 2019.</li> </ul>
	<b>Highly pathogenic avian influenza</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of a Standing Group of Experts on Avian Influenza (SGE-AI) in the Americas in 2020, under GF-TADs.</li> </ul>

<p><b>AMR</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in regional FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite electronic meetings held monthly, as well as physical meetings, involving regional stakeholders, including Regional Organisations, producers' associations in the field of poultry, swine and dairy production, and the animal feed and veterinary medicines industry.</li> <li>• Diffusion of information on OIE activities related to AMR in order to raise awareness among Members in the region.</li> <li>• Provision of training on antimicrobial usage national data collection, as well as specific training on the calculation of animal biomass in order to calculate antimicrobial usage more accurately and provide a better indicator of the impact of antimicrobials in the production chain.</li> <li>• Support for the development of National Action Plans by Members, in collaboration with the Tripartite partners.</li> <li>• Participation and support, with the Tripartite partners, for the development and implementation of activities within the framework of the European Union project "Working together to fight antimicrobial resistance", focusing on capacity-building activities in previously selected countries. Activities included developing situation analysis and a series of webinars for the beneficiary countries.</li> <li>• Support was provided to Peru, in collaboration with the Tripartite partners, for the development of a draft Project and plan of activities for the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF).</li> <li>• Participation in the stakeholder consultation meeting to prepare World Antimicrobial Awareness Week with the authorities of Costa Rica (videoconference).</li> <li>• Participation in a communication campaign for World Antimicrobial Awareness Week.</li> <li>• Support for the activities of the Americas Committee on Veterinary Medicines (CAMEVET), which reach relevant stakeholders with an important role in risk-reduction measures related to AMR.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Animal welfare</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of a regional seminar, held in Brazil in 2019, for OIE national Focal Points for Animal Welfare, to discuss the need to develop an implementation plan for the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy, with the aim of increasing the momentum of animal welfare activities in the region. Participants in the seminar included OIE Collaborating Centres and other relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>• Raising awareness of animal welfare and its implications during meetings with the private sector, including the Latin American Poultry Association (ALA) and the Pan-American Dairy Federation (FEPALE).</li> </ul>
<p><b>CHALLENGES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the COVID-19 pandemic, communication with Members and all stakeholders in the region was maintained, providing, among others, accurate and</li> </ul>

	<p>detailed information on the role of wildlife and domestic animals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging Members to sensitise high-level authorities regarding the need to ensure the Veterinary Services have the appropriate level of financial and human resources.</li> <li>• Ensuring the active participation of Members in the OIE standard-setting process.</li> <li>• Encouraging Members to take ownership of the PVS Pathway Evaluation results and to take advantage of the new options available in the PVS Pathway.</li> <li>• Ensuring greater interaction with relevant stakeholders, including through public–private partnerships, and a better involvement of the animal production sector as well as academia and relevant professional associations.</li> <li>• Maintaining interaction with key international and regional organisations.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: ESTABLISHING TRUST THROUGH TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNICATION</b>	
<b>International disease transparency and reporting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of a topic on transparency and animal disease notification in several meetings, including those with diverse stakeholders and relevant national authorities.</li> <li>• Dissemination of information and communication material from the OIE Headquarters relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, including actions carried out by the OIE, newly available knowledge, notifications of cases in domestic animals and the role of wildlife.</li> <li>• Follow-up and support to Members, in liaison with the OIE Headquarters, in the event of delays or problems in the provision of information on diseases.</li> <li>• Participation in the Key Users Committee for the new OIE-WAHIS Platform.</li> <li>• Organisation of the Workshop for OIE national Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification on the use of the new OIE-WAHIS, held in Mexico City, Mexico, in February 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>Animal health communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of the new regional website in November 2019 in liaison with the OIE Headquarters.</li> <li>• Provision of useful information on animal diseases and related activities in the region to Members via the regional website.</li> <li>• Participation in regional campaigns regarding World Veterinary Day, World Rabies Day and World Antibiotic Awareness Week.</li> <li>• Development of specific communication material and media coverage for regional workshops.</li> </ul> <p>Regular meetings with the national Focal Points for Communication, organised in a network structure, and focusing on specific campaigns, such as those on ASF and AMR.</p>

<p><b>CHALLENGES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge and a particular issue for the OIE. The Regional Representation has maximised efforts to ensure that Members have access to the most up-to-date science-based information provided by the OIE Headquarters.</li> <li>• Encouraging Members to provide relevant and timely information to the OIE in the case of disease notification.</li> <li>• Identifying stakeholders and arousing their interest in using WAHIS data in supporting the new OIE-WAHIS Platform.</li> <li>• Involving relevant stakeholders, such as regional organisations and producers' associations, as well as academia and Veterinary Statutory Bodies, in the extension of OIE activities and in relevant regional communication campaigns.</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: ENSURING THE CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF VETERINARY SERVICES</b></p>	
<p><b>Strengthening Veterinary Services through the OIE PVS Pathway</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion, among Members, of the use and the benefits of the PVS Pathway and its new options.</li> <li>• Provision of relevant information to PVS mission teams as well as participation in the closing meeting of several PVS Evaluation and Gap Analysis missions conducted in the region.</li> <li>• Support to the regional project regarding the OIE PVS Pathway Evaluation of the Aquatic Animal Health Services in Members of the Andean Community, with missions in Colombia and Peru.</li> <li>• Interaction with Members to follow-up on the recommendation of the reports.</li> <li>• Participation in the WHO/OIE National Bridging Workshop on the International Health Regulations (IHR) and the OIE PVS Pathway, held in Belize in 2019, under the One Health concept.</li> <li>• Support to the WHO Joint External Evaluations (JEE) carried out in Haiti and Argentina in 2019.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strengthening Veterinary Services other than through the OIE PVS Pathway</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for the development and organisation of regional and global seminars including workshops for national Focal Points for Veterinary Products, Animal Welfare and Laboratories, as well as the 4th Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health in 2019.</li> <li>• Support for the activities of the Pan American Association of Veterinary Sciences (PANVET), focusing on the promotion of the OIE guidelines on Veterinary Education Establishments and Veterinary Statutory Bodies, and including the role of veterinary paraprofessionals as a relevant new topic with common goals.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CHALLENGES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining the momentum and commitment of Members to take ownership of the OIE PVS Pathway. Involving regional organisations through the establishment of regional cooperation projects has</li> </ul>

	<p>proven to be an effective strategy to engage Members in the PVS Pathway. The possibility of creating national PVS Pathway follow-up teams has been raised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of financial resources to ensure the organisation of regional and global events in the Region.</li> </ul>
<b>Cross-cutting area A: scientific excellence</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The COVID-19 pandemic posed a challenge for the OIE in its role as the international reference organisation for animal health and the delivery of science-based information on the key role of animals and animal health, especially in public health but also in terms of safe trade.</li> <li>• Actions aimed at cooperation with National Veterinary Laboratories in order to guarantee that they support COVID-19 diagnosis in human samples in a proper way, when necessary, were carried out in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO).</li> <li>• Following this collaborative approach, coordination meetings between Laboratories were organised, analytical methodologies for human samples developed by PAHO/WHO were made available, and resource availability surveys were conducted in order to reallocate the work of COVID-19 testing.</li> <li>• Work was carried out in close collaboration with FAO and WHO within the framework of the Tripartite, mainly on topics relating to AMR.</li> <li>• Promotion, among Members, of the activities and services offered by the OIE Reference Centres, including fostering contacts with experts and supporting the development and use of e-learning materials developed by the Collaborating Centres involved in Veterinary Services' training.</li> </ul>	
<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to the particular circumstances linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been closer collaboration between different national agencies and stakeholders. This implies the challenge of implementing innovative strategies to ensure better and more sustainable collaboration.</li> <li>• Improvement of activities related to the control of rabies and other zoonotic diseases conducted within the framework of the Tripartite agreement.</li> <li>• Increasing the links between Members and OIE Reference Centres in the Region.</li> </ul>
<b>Cross-cutting area B: diversity, inclusion, engagement, transparency</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of the engagement and participation of Members under the principles of transparency and inclusiveness, including ensuring a regional balance when it comes to the representativeness of the Region (proposal of candidates to the Bureau of the Regional Commission and selection of members for the RCG).</li> </ul>	
<b>Cross-cutting area C: governance</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close collaboration with the members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission and with the regional members of the Council, including the organisation of physical and electronic meetings to coordinate, among others, the OIE Adapted Procedure for the adoption of resolutions in 2020 and the organisation of the Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, held virtually.</li> <li>• Organisation of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas in September 2020, in virtual format, and involving other Regional Representations.</li> <li>• Close contact between the two regional offices, including management of the participation of the staff of both offices in meetings and events, in order to ensure coordination and cooperation in the activities in the region and to avoid duplication of work.</li> <li>• Inter-regional collaboration with other OIE Regional/Sub-Regional Representations, in particular with the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific and the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels on the subject of African swine fever.</li> </ul>	

- Identification of topics of potential interest for inter-regional collaboration, such as intercontinental aquatic transport of live animals and its animal welfare implications.
- Coordination with the regional Tripartite on One Health-related issues, including the holding of regular meetings.
- Continued provision of the Permanent Secretariat for the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee.
- Organisation of the 11th and 12th regular meetings of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for the Americas, in virtual format.
- Participation in the meetings of the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee, and in the revision of its Global Strategy.
- Review of the Terms of Reference of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee in collaboration with FAO and stakeholders, as well as definition of priority diseases and the action plan for the coming years.
- Strong collaboration with international partner organisations such as the Southern Cone Standing Veterinary Committee (CVP), the Andean Community (CAN), the Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET), including the organisation of coordination meetings to identify common objectives and develop work agendas. Common agendas include topics such as collaboration on animal disease prevention, diagnosis and eradication campaigns, collaboration regarding the implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway at regional level, antimicrobial resistance and communication campaigns.
- Development of activities focused on standards and trade facilitation in collaboration with the World Trade Organization and the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), including a workshop that enabled contacts to be made with National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFC) in 2019.
- Development of activities involving the American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), including regular meetings to discuss and reach a regional consensus on the OIE standards under revision.
- Promotion of cooperation with the animal production private sector, such as with the Latin American Poultry Association (ALA), the Ibero-American Pork producers (OIPORC) and the Pan-American Dairy Federation (FEPALE), including the signing of agreements involving joint activities to cover topics such as: prevention of the introduction and spread of ASF; antimicrobial resistance; and animal welfare.
- Participation in the annual meeting of PANVET to discuss various topics, such as opportunities for collaboration, and to define potential areas of work.
- Participation in different events organised by national Veterinary Education Establishments and Veterinary Statutory Bodies in the region in order to raise the visibility of the OIE in the academic and veterinary professional sectors.
- Support for the activities of the Americas Committee on Veterinary Medicines (CAMEVET), involving the national Focal Points for Veterinary Products as well as the veterinary medicines industry in the Americas. This Committee holds annual seminars allowing contacts to be made with the pharmaceutical and biologicals industry.
- Maintenance of good relations, including regular participation in national events, with Argentina and Panama, the host countries for the OIE's regional offices.
- Advocacy actions among Members as well as current and potential donors in the region, including encouragement to provide seconded staff, either on-site or remote, to support the work of the Representations.

**CHALLENGES**

- Need for Members to understand the rights and responsibilities of the members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission and the regional members of the Council.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of effective new agreements with relevant partners and the reinforcement of existing agreements.</li> </ul>
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### 3. ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA REGION

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: SECURING ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE BY APPROPRIATE RISK MANAGEMENT	
<b>Standard setting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouragement of Members to participate in the development of international standards and guidelines as well as in the OIE's decision-making process.</li> <li>• Organisation of regional teleconferences and face-to-face meetings to explain and sensitise Delegates and OIE Focal Points on major issues arising from the reports of the meetings of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission.</li> <li>• In accordance with the Coordination Procedure for Developing Regional Positions for the OIE General Session, the Regional Commission discussed and agreed on several regional positions to be presented in the plenary session of the OIE General Session on behalf of the Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.</li> <li>• Support for the organisation of an "Interactive workshop on the role of OIE Delegates in OIE Standards", which was held back-to-back with the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.</li> </ul>
<b>Official disease status recognition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation with the Status Department to ensure the follow-up of the submission of annual reconfirmations of official status/endorsed control programmes by Members.</li> <li>• Support in pre-assessing annual reconfirmations and supportive documents in collaboration with the OIE Headquarters.</li> <li>• Participation as speaker in the training organised by the Status Department to share experience gained in pre-assessing the annual reconfirmations.</li> </ul>
<b>Disease control and eradication</b>	<b>Foot and mouth disease</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalisation of the new Terms of Reference of the South East Asia and China FMD Campaign (SEACFMD) Steering Committee and subsidiary bodies.</li> <li>• Development of the SEACFMD Roadmap for the period 2021–2025.</li> <li>• Organisation of the 25th SEACFMD Sub-Commission and 22nd and 23rd National Coordinator's meetings to promote safe cross-border animal movements and to discuss priority actions to improve FMD surveillance and control and the pillar components for the new Phase-6 of Roadmap 2021-2025.</li> <li>• Conduct of virtual training on FMD modelling for</li> </ul>

		<p>SEACFMD members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation, in collaboration with FAO, of the following: 1st and 2nd Meetings of the Regional Expert Group (REG) for FMD to harmonise and standardise FMD serological and molecular diagnosis among SEACFMD members; and 12th Meeting on SEACFMD Laboratory Networking to follow up on the Network's implementation of the recommendations made during the 11th LabNet Meeting, specifically on the use of a molecular diagnostic technique (PCR) for FMD diagnosis to complement the existing ELISA-based assay established in the Region.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Highly pathogenic avian influenza</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of the Regional Expert Group Meeting on Diseases of Poultry in the Asia and the Pacific Region, held in 2019 in collaboration with Hokkaido University (Japan) and the OIE Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza, as a result of which it was proposed to create a regional network in Asia and the Pacific under the FAO/OIE GF-TADs mechanism for poultry diseases, with experts from OIE Members and led by the relevant OIE Reference Laboratories in the Region with the support of the Regional Representation.</li> <li>• Organisation of the virtual GF-TADs Regional Expert Group Meeting on Diseases of poultry in Asia and the Pacific in collaboration with Hokkaido University, OIE Reference Laboratories for Avian Influenza and FAO to follow-up on the recommendations of previous meeting and find a way to create a regional platform for discussion on current and future issues on poultry diseases in the Region. Support to some Members to help them join the proficiency testing programme for avian and swine influenza viruses conducted by the Australian Animal Health Laboratory with the support of FAO in 2019 and 2020.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Rabies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2019, organisation of a workshop on Rabies Risk Assessment for island countries in South East Asia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea, which enabled the risk pathways of cross-border and inter-island spread of rabies and the risk factors involved to be identified.</li> <li>• Organisation of a South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) rabies workshop in June 2019 in collaboration with the regional Tripartite partners (FAO and WHO), the SAARC Secretariat and GARC, which allowed the identification of gaps as well as the activities and support needed for progress to be made towards the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies by 2030.</li> <li>• In 2019, organisation of in-country Stepwise Approach Towards Rabies Elimination (SARE) Workshops in five of the seven rabies-endemic Members in the Region (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka), to identify the status of rabies elimination and develop national work plans towards achieving the goal of elimination by 2030.</li> <li>• Organisation of the SAARC rabies webinar in May 2020 as a follow-up to the Tripartite SAARC rabies workshop</li> </ul>

		<p>held in June 2019 in Nepal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of a Virtual Training Series on Rabies Diagnosis for the SAARC Region, in collaboration with the Reference Laboratory for rabies in the Region in 2020, and in response to the need to enhance Members' surveillance capabilities, which was raised in the tripartite SAARC rabies workshop and the SAARC rabies webinar.</li> <li>• Coordination of a Technical Consultation on Oral Rabies Vaccines for Sri Lanka in response to its request after rabies cases were reported in jackals, dogs, cattle and humans in one province in Sri Lanka in 2020.</li> <li>• Creation of a library of Members' action plans for rabies control and elimination and Members' success stories for the regional website in 2020.</li> <li>• Organisation, jointly with the Tripartite and partners, of a rabies webinar on World Rabies Day (WRD) and promotion of the webinar amongst the Members, in 2019 and 2020.</li> <li>• ASEAN and Tripartite consultation to prepare the review of the ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy (ARES).</li> <li>• At national level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting capacity building for rabies diagnosis;</li> <li>- Facilitation of Tripartite missions to assess rabies preparedness;</li> <li>- Participation in One Health workshops;</li> <li>- Rapid assessment of preparedness status for rabies;</li> <li>- Provision of funds and technical support to improve rabies awareness activities in several Members during World Rabies Day.</li> <li>- Conducting seminars to promote OIE guidelines on self-declaration of rabies free zones and endorsement of National Rabies Programmes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>Peste des petits ruminants</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination with FAO and the global PPR Secretariat to keep Members informed on plans for PPR eradication.</li> <li>• Encouragement of Members to develop and implement relevant measures to prevent the introduction of PPR and put in place an early warning system.</li> <li>• Promotion of the importance of considering a prevention and preparedness strategy in South East Asia.</li> <li>• Support given to some Members with preparing sub-regional activities related to PPR prevention and preparedness.</li> <li>• Facilitation of contacts between an OIE Collaborating Centre and some Asian countries in a project related to PPR modelling.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Swine diseases</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of detailed information regarding ASF outbreaks and ASF prevention and control on the OIE regional website, including the summary of disease reports submitted by Members in the region as well as a series of relevant webinars on technical topics.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of the Standing Group of Experts on ASF (SGE-ASF) for Asia in April 2019, in China (People’s Rep. of), with the aim of building and strengthening regional expertise, exchanging knowledge and supporting the Region in prevention, early detection, control and other activities relating to ASF. The 2nd meeting of the SGE-ASF was held in 2019 to develop recommendations on biosecurity and border control. A 3rd meeting was also held in 2019, with the technical topic ‘risk communication and socio-economic impacts of ASF’. A virtual meeting was organised in 2020 to discuss outbreak management and wild boars.</li> <li>• Organisation in 2019 of an OIE Sub-Regional Workshop on Emergency preparedness, held in Thailand, to identify and strengthen/develop technical capacities that would enable countries to be better prepared for veterinary emergencies.</li> <li>• Organisation of a hands-on training session on ASF virus diagnosis, jointly with the China Animal Health Epidemiology Centre (CAHEC), and organisation of a regional workshop on swine disease diagnosis, in collaboration with the China Animal Disease Control Centre (CADC), in 2019.</li> <li>• Organisation, in 2019, in New Caledonia and in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), of a GF-TADs workshop on prevention and preparedness for infectious diseases for SPC members.</li> <li>• Virtual Training on Swine Disease Laboratory Diagnosis, in collaboration with the CADC as a follow-up to the previous hands-on training, in 2020.</li> <li>• Organisation, in 2020, of the Regional Workshop for the International Networking of African Swine Fever Research in Asia, in collaboration with the National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH), Japan, to identify research needs and technical gaps for the control of ASF, to share information on ASF research and to facilitate future collaboration between ASF researchers in Asia.</li> <li>• Organisation of ASF sub-regional coordination meetings.</li> <li>• Organisation of a series of 11 dedicated webinars that will facilitate a sub-regional ASF risk assessment study to be conducted in 2021.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Aquatic animal diseases</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of a Regional virtual meeting on decapod iridescent virus 1 (DIV1) in 2020, in response to the first outbreak of DIV1 in Chinese Taipei and to share information on the DIV1 current situation, impacts, risk management measures and early detection.</li> <li>• Organisation of a 2nd virtual meeting of the Regional Framework on Aquatic Animal Health in 2020. Agreement was reached on a Concept Note.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Other emerging diseases</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compilation and provision of critical information in response to the first outbreak of African horse sickness</li> </ul>

		<p>(AHS) in the region, including the organisation of a series of webinars on AHS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of awareness material targeting local veterinarians as well as animal health workers.</li> <li>• Development of guidelines on preparedness and implementation of emergency vaccination in the Asian region. Organisation, in 2020, of several virtual consultation and coordination meetings for AHS to update Member's activities, share possible supports from OIE and Reference Laboratories for AHS.</li> <li>• Organisation of a webinar series on lumpy skin disease (LSD) following the first outbreak of LSD in Chinese Taipei.</li> <li>• Contact with the European Union (EU) enquiring about the possibility for Chinese Taipei to buy LSD vaccine, which finally was donated by the EU.</li> <li>• Coordination of LSD laboratory support with OIE LSD RL in Pirbright and the EU LSD RL in Brussels, for Members who requested it.</li> <li>• Facilitation of LSD technical support to Nepal</li> <li>• Coordination and provision of financial support to have LSD online training adapted for the Asia and the Pacific Region, with FAO and EUFMD, to be delivered in January 2021.</li> <li>• Development of awareness material on LSD.</li> <li>• Facilitation of a Vietnam–LSD expert bilateral discussion.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Other zoonoses</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of the 8th Asia-Pacific Workshop on Multi-Sectoral Collaboration at the Animal-Human-Ecosystems Interface, held in April 2019, to provide an update on emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases and other public health threats and to review progress made and challenges encountered in terms of multi-sectoral coordination at regional and national levels.</li> <li>• Continued efforts to advocate, through the regional Tripartite, for high-level commitment to One Health within their organisations and with Members. In July 2020, the secretariat for the Asia-Pacific Tripartite moved to the OIE.</li> <li>• Development of advocacy materials/policy briefs that Members can adapt to their national needs to engage policy makers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>AMR</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of seminars on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) for Veterinary Educational Establishments (VEEs) and livestock industries, including supporting the translation and printing of awareness materials in national languages in 2019 and 2020.</li> <li>• Organisation of national workshops on 'Monitoring of the Quantities and Usage Patterns of Antimicrobial Agents Used in Animals' in 2019 and 2020.</li> </ul>

- Revision, jointly with FAO, of the implementation status of national action plans on AMR in 2019 and 2020.
- Participation and presentation of the OIE's activities on antimicrobial resistance/antimicrobial use (AMR/AMU) in numerous AMR meetings organised by the Tripartite partners and Members in the Region.
- Organisation, in 2019, of the 2nd FAO-OIE Coordination Meeting of leading AMR institutions in Asia and the Pacific to discuss how the collaboration can be further strengthened and advanced, and to plan for its 2020-2025 Roadmap.
- Organisation, in 2019, jointly with the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP), of the consultation meeting for the development of guidelines on AMU surveillance to be used at the farm-level to ultimately support the input of quality and complete data into the OIE global database. This was followed by continued bilateral discussion with FAO to develop the guidelines in 2020.
- Organisation of the Virtual meeting to review implementation of action plans on combatting AMR in animal sectors within East Asia Members in 2020. Following a proposal raised at the meeting, a library of good practices and success stories on AMR/AMU was created on the regional website.
- Organisation, in 2020, of the regional webinar on communication skills for AMR, which had been identified as a technical challenge in the previous virtual meeting (on AMR in East Asia) and were aimed at supporting preparations for World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) 2020.
- Participation and support to Members in events organised at national level in the framework of WAAW, in November 2019 and 2020, to raise awareness of AMR. The OIE Strategy on AMR and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials and the "WE NEED YOU" communication campaign were highlighted and the visibility of the OIE and its role and activities with regard to AMR in the Region was improved in 2019 and 2020. Organisation of the webinar on the database on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals for the Asia-Pacific Region jointly with OIE Headquarters in 2020. Launch of the new regional Tripartite plus UNEP awareness videos on AMR in July 2020.
- Organisation of a webinar on AMU in aquatic animals, a webinar on AMU in companion animals, and Organisation of a Regional Tripartite webinar "United to preserve antimicrobials" across the Asia-Pacific Region in collaboration with FAO, WHO and UNEP to celebrate WAAW in the Region in 2020.
- Support was provided for the translation of AMR toolkits, such as leaflets, into several national languages to raise awareness on AMR and the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents among the relevant stakeholders.

	<p>These translated materials were uploaded onto the OIE regional website in 2019 and 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A process was started to develop FAO/OIE joint guidelines for farm/field level AMU data collection to be used in the Asia-Pacific Region in 2020.</li> <li>• Creation of a library of Members' action plans for AMR to facilitate information exchange and monitor progress on the regional website.</li> <li>• Involvement in the development of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) projects for Indonesia and Cambodia jointly with FAO and WHO in 2020, which have now been approved for implementation in 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Animal welfare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation in 2019 of a Regional Training Seminar for OIE national Focal Points for Animal Welfare to update Focal Points on the OIE's global welfare strategy and relevant chapters in the OIE <i>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i>, to discuss the implementation of OIE standards relating to animal welfare and the regional strategy, and to review the animal welfare priorities for the Region, as well as the current regional strategy.</li> <li>• The Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) Advisory Group was convened to undertake further discussions on the strategy in 2019.</li> <li>• In 2020, release of the RAWS newsletter on equines, which emphasises the importance of Veterinary Services working with owners for the welfare and health of equines.</li> </ul>
<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The significant change in the priorities of the Veterinary Services due to the introduction and spread of ASF in the region since August 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need for better coordination between donors and key players to avoid duplication of projects, whether ongoing or still to be launched in the Region, mainly with regard to ASF. The FAO/OIE Standing Group of Experts for ASF in Asia, established under the Regional GF-TADs, should take a leading role, and try to make the most efficient use of limited resources in the fight against this disastrous disease.</li> <li>- National efforts to combat other major TADs seem to be somewhat dampened in some cases, including FMD, PPR, CSF, avian influenza and emerging LSD and AHS. This is also where the Regional GF-TADs has an important role to play, in close collaboration with the Global GF-TADs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Regional Collaboration Framework for Aquatic Animal Health in Asia, launched in 2019, involving regional partners (FAO, NACA, SEAFDEC), OIE Reference Centres and OIE national Focal Points. Several concrete projects will be initiated under this Framework, which should ensure alignment with the upcoming OIE Global Strategy on Aquatic Animal Health.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The operationalisation of the Regional Tripartite Coordination Group.</li> </ul> <p>The Representations are working on the Regional Work Plan, particularly with regard to AMR and rabies. As many donors and players are involved, leadership on the part of the Tripartite is critically important.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of face-to-face activities, numerous virtual activities, including webinars, virtual training and facilitation of Members' information sharing, were conducted in 2020 to continue to fulfil the OIE's responsibilities.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: ESTABLISHING TRUST THROUGH TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNICATION</b>	
<b>International disease transparency and reporting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouragement of Members to improve animal disease reporting in the Region.</li> <li>• Follow-up with Members having pending or delayed reporting to WAHIS or regarding the annual collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents for animals, in collaboration with the relevant team at OIE Headquarters.</li> <li>• Follow-up with Members on reporting of FMD outbreaks to the WAHIS Regional Core for South East Asia (ARAHIS), as well as on the submission of samples to the OIE Reference Laboratories for FMD.</li> <li>• Organisation of the Webinar on the new OIE-WAHIS for Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification, in collaboration with the relevant team at OIE Headquarters in 2020. Follow-up with Members.</li> </ul>
<b>Animal health communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of the new regional website in November 2019 in liaison with the OIE Headquarters.</li> <li>• Provision of useful information on animal diseases and related activities in the Region to Members via the regional website, including for diseases recently emerged in the region.</li> <li>• Organisation of three teleconferences with national Focal Points for Communication to facilitate the use of ASF communication material, to present and share the most recent information on African horse sickness (AHS) and COVID-19 and to raise awareness about emerging diseases.</li> <li>• Support for the translation/adjustment to the local context and printing of material on ASF and AMR by Members.</li> <li>• Coverage of the topic of risk communication was provided by a webinar and a Standing Group of Experts.</li> <li>• Organisation of several courtesy calls and bilateral meetings with politicians and high-level officials from China (People's Rep. of) and Japan in the context of the merging of the visits of the OIE Director General and the OIE Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities to these countries in 2019.</li> <li>• Support with technical advice and access to OIE communication materials for the SPC to adapt for members of the Pacific Community.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of the OIE Regional Newsletter for Asia and the Pacific in 2020, to share key updates regarding the activities in the region and to facilitate information exchange among Members and Reference Centres.</li> <li>• Organisation of the webinar on AMR to address communication skills intended to support activities during World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) 2020.</li> <li>• Development of AHS awareness material for local veterinarians and community animal health workers and LSD material for Veterinary Services.</li> </ul>
<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of the new regional website to ensure that it remains useful and attractive.</li> <li>• Enhancing compliance and appropriate actions to be taken by OIE Delegates and relevant national Focal Points with respect to their disease reporting obligations, including improving the quality of the information reported.</li> <li>• Strong interest and great expectations shown by regional stakeholders regarding OIE-WAHIS interconnectivity with regional Cores (NACA QAAD, ARAHIS).</li> <li>• Requests from Members and Reference Centres in several fields to establish a platform for information sharing and discussion.</li> <li>• Being innovative to maintain links with our Members and the quality of work during the COVID-19 pandemic, without creating fatigue.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: ENSURING THE CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF VETERINARY SERVICES</b>	
<b>Strengthening Veterinary Services through the OIE PVS Pathway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation (in 2019) and follow-up (in 2020) of several PVS Pathway Orientation Training Workshops in the region.</li> <li>• Provision of relevant information to PVS mission teams and participation in the closing meeting of several PVS Evaluations and Gap Analysis missions conducted in the Region.</li> <li>• Development of a database to collect all PVS and PVS Follow-Up mission reports; use of the database to assess capacity-building needs for a specific project to be implemented in South-East Asia. Reviews of reports were also conducted for the remaining region to identify regional and sub-regional capacity development needs.</li> <li>• Organisation of a PVS Pathway Strategic Planning Workshop in Malaysia, in 2020.</li> <li>• Five OIE Laboratory Twinning Projects involving at least one regional Member are ongoing: project on emerging infectious diseases (pigs) between Australia and Vietnam; project on rabies between France and Chinese Taipei; project on infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis and white spot disease between China (People's Rep of) and Indonesia; project on viral haemorrhagic fevers between New Zealand and Liberia, and project on wildlife diseases between the United States of America and Thailand. A project on rabies between the United Kingdom and the United States of America and India was completed in 2019, and the Indian laboratory was designated as an OIE Reference Laboratory for Rabies in 2020.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two VEE Twinning projects involving at least one regional Member are on-going: University of Tokyo (Japan), Royal University of Agriculture (Cambodia), University of Calgary (Canada), Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (India).</li> <li>• Development of a work plan to clarify and improve collaboration between the OIE Headquarters and the regional offices on PVS-related activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strengthening Veterinary Services other than through the OIE PVS Pathway</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2019, organisation of seminars for national Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories and Animal Welfare to update the current situation with regard to these two topics at global and regional level.</li> <li>• In 2020, organisation of seminars for national Focal Points for Veterinary Products to provide them with information on rights, commitments, and responsibilities and a more in-depth understanding of key issues such as AMR.</li> <li>• Organisation of workshops to present and promote public-private partnership in the veterinary domain.</li> <li>• Organisation, in collaboration with the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc. and the Veterinary Council of Thailand, of a 'Workshop on the Roles of Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) on Veterinary Paraprofessionals (VPPs) in ASEAN', and provision of support to the ASEAN Veterinary Statutory Body Network Annual Meeting.</li> <li>• Contribution to the Workshop on the Accreditation of Veterinary Schools in Thailand under the VSB Twinning project, and participation in the 'Workshop of CBRN Coordination Assessment for the ASEAN Region', organised by the Torrens Resilience Institute of Flinders University, Australia, in 2019.</li> <li>• Support to the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools, to strengthen networking among veterinary schools in the region.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CHALLENGES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring better collaboration between the OIE Headquarters and the regional offices to improve the coordination of PVS Pathway related activities in the region.</li> <li>• Providing more guidance for the establishment of OIE Laboratory and Education Twinning programmes under self-funding arrangements.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cross-cutting area A: scientific excellence</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of the 2nd Regional Meeting for OIE Reference Centres in the Asia and the Pacific Region, at which selected experts on ruminant and swine diseases were invited to identify possible mechanisms to strengthen cooperation between OIE Reference Centres, to exchange knowledge, reference materials and expertise for the benefit of OIE Members. Similar meetings were also held for avian diseases and aquatic animal diseases in 2019.</li> <li>• A platform to share information and activities of regional Reference Centres was established on the regional website.</li> <li>• Development of a strategy to identify and strengthen regional expertise and to create a pool of experts.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Cross-cutting area B: diversity, inclusion, engagement, transparency</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of several experts from the Region to participate in OIE <i>ad hoc</i> groups or workshops.</li> </ul>	

- Creation of a database of national experts to be potentially involved in regional activities, regional experts whose regional involvement still needed to be strengthened and regional experts ready to attend international events.
- Revision of the Terms of Reference of the SEACFMD bodies, including a participative and inclusive method to develop the next SEACFMD Roadmap so as to better engage the Members involved.

### **Cross-cutting area C: governance**

- Close contact with the Regional Core Group during preparations for the 87th OIE General Session and the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, including the organisation of physical meetings during both these events in 2019.
- Support for the decision of the Council to cancel the 2020 OIE General Session and approve the 2020 Adapted Procedure to adopt key resolutions.
- Close contact between the OIE offices in the Region, including the management of the participation of staff from both offices in meetings and events, in order to ensure coordination and cooperation in the activities in the Region and to avoid duplication of work. Since April 2020, weekly staff meetings are organised virtually in each office. A virtual joint staff meeting between the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific and the Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia is organised monthly. Virtual working spaces to effectively manage the work of the two offices have been constructed and maintained; these include MS Teams and Smartsheet.
- Inter-regional collaboration with other OIE Regional/Sub-Regional Representations on several occasions, namely with the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels and the Regional Representation for the Americas on ASF; with the sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa on AMR, with the support of the Fleming Fund; with the Regional Representation for Africa for a side event at the 7th Session of the Tokyo International Conference for Africa Development (TICAD7); with the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels on LSD; and with the Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa on vector-borne diseases.
- Provision of the Permanent Secretariat for the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific.
- Organisation of the Sub-Regional Meeting of GF-TADs for SAARC Member States and the 5th Sub-Regional Meeting of GF-TADs for SPC (Secretariat of the Pacific Community) countries, in 2019.
- Collaboration with East Asian Members on a range of diseases and topics and launch of technical working groups to improve coordination.
- In 2019, organisation of the 3rd East Asia Contact Person's Meeting combined with the 22nd Meeting of the OIE SEACFMD National Coordinators to discuss how to continue to improve collaboration and coordination among Members and to propose future activities and a work plan on priority issues, collaboration on capacity-building activities in the region and future training opportunities.
- Adaptation of the SEACFMD governance mechanism and organisation of virtual meetings to facilitate the discussions, updating, technical information sharing and decision-making.
- Organisation, in 2020, of the 11th virtual meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs, where the ToR of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific were discussed. The ToR were agreed after the meeting.
- Organisation, in 2020, of the 2nd virtual meeting of the East Asia CVO Forum, which represents the geographic subregion corresponding to the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee, to review and prioritise its activities, discuss East Asia representation and input to the regional GF-TADs.
- Organisation of a virtual East Asia Contact Person's Meeting on Wildlife in 2020, following the 2nd Meeting of the East Asia CVOs Forum which highlighted the importance of understanding the role wildlife play in animal and zoonotic diseases.
- Contact and cooperation with sub-regional partners, such as ASEAN, SAARC and SPC, which operate as Regional Specialised Organisations (RSOs) on various occasions and are important

<p>contact points for timely information sharing and sub-regional coordination and very knowledgeable regarding issues specific to their respective sub-regions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions took place on the revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of the ASEAN Members and the OIE on technical cooperation.</li> <li>• Coordination with the regional Tripartite on One Health-related issues, including holding regular meetings (face-to-face and/or teleconference whenever applicable).</li> <li>• Steps were taken to identify potential areas of collaboration with the Asian Development Bank.</li> <li>• Facilitation of the signing of a Letter of Intent between the OIE and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to promote mutual collaboration and technical exchanges. Regular meeting with JICA to explore collaborative activities.</li> <li>• Support to the existing VEE networks, such as the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS), as well as creation of a VSB network.</li> <li>• Several Twinning Projects involving VSBs and VEEs are ongoing in the region.</li> <li>• Start of engagement with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) to explore opportunities for joint activities both in the region and globally.</li> <li>• Delivery of lectures to students from several universities in the Region to improve the OIE's visibility. The topics included "Activities of International Organisations related to animal health," "Veterinary Public Health targets, policies and strategy at global level", and "OIE Networking and International Reporting".</li> <li>• Interaction with the private sector to improve the visibility of the OIE and its role and activities included inviting private sector representatives to OIE-related activities in the region, as well as attending activities organised by them.</li> <li>• Maintenance of good relations with Japan and Thailand, the host countries of the regional offices. The Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific frequently communicates with Japan to coordinate activities with the support of the Japanese Government Trust Fund (JTF) and maintain human, physical and financial contributions from the Government of Japan, also including consultations regarding the diplomatic status of the Regional Representation. The Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia regularly meets with the Thailand Department of Livestock Development to discuss the diplomatic status of the Representation as well as to collaborate on various OIE activities.</li> </ul>	
<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening the relationship with the OIE Reference Centres in the region, including consultations on their future activities and how they can contribute to OIE activities.</li> <li>• Strengthening partnerships with Regional Development Banks as well as with Regional Economic Communities.</li> </ul>

#### 4. EUROPE REGION

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: SECURING ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE BY APPROPRIATE RISK MANAGEMENT	
<b>Standard setting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication with several Delegates, during the General Session (in 2019) as well as during regional events and at meetings, to improve their understanding of the standard-setting process and encourage them to be more actively involved in it.</li> <li>• Awareness-raising and provision of information, for the benefit of Delegates, Focal Points, senior national officials and OIE experts, regarding the OIE standard-setting process and the importance of actively participating in it as well as the structure of the OIE <i>Codes</i> and <i>Manuals</i>, during OIE events such as national Focal Point</li> </ul>

	<p>Seminars and at bilateral meetings (e.g., Georgia, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Russia and Ukraine), including the dissemination of related information (videos, brochures).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of this topic during events organised by other international organisations and partners (e.g., WHO seminars, IHR/PVS National Bridging Workshops, a joint workshop with the International Horse Sports Confederation [IHSC]) as well as during meetings with high level authorities from different Members (e.g., Kazakhstan, Russia, Serbia and Tajikistan).</li> <li>• Translation into Russian of relevant documents (e.g., SOP's, PVS Tool and the PPR Pathway tool) and development of several infographics to facilitate proper analysis and adoption of measures in line with OIE standards.</li> <li>• Support to Members regarding the implementation of standards, or their usage in the negotiation process (e.g., informal mediation process on bovine commodities between some Eurasian Economic Union [EEU] member countries, where all parties worked together to identify a solution in accordance with the relevant OIE standards).</li> <li>• Encouragement of private sector stakeholders to participate in the standard-setting process (e.g., the Kazakhstan association for poultry in collaboration with the national Veterinary Services commented on the impact of the OIE standards on animal welfare on the poultry industry in the country, which was further shared with the Regional Core Group [RCG] for Europe).</li> <li>• Provision of support to Members through collaboration and coordination with other stakeholders on matters of mutual interest (e.g., Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation [CAREC], with the aim of facilitating regional activities on the control of animal diseases and to ensure that these activities will be aligned with the OIE standards).</li> <li>• Improvement of coordination and communication with Members, including provision of details of the recent changes to the OIE's <i>Codes</i> and <i>Manuals</i> via the new regional website.</li> <li>• The RCG has become a very effective mechanism to facilitate communication among the Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and thus facilitate the Region's participation in the standard-setting process, including the support provided by the regional Members of the OIE Specialist Commissions in the RCG discussion on this matter.</li> <li>• In 2020, the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations maintained permanent contact with and follow-up of Members through emails and virtual meetings to encourage them to comment on the reports of the Specialist Commissions.</li> <li>• Publication of the Russian version of the OIE <i>Codes</i> (2019 Edition) on the OIE regional website to give wider access to Russian-speaking Members and stakeholders to the updated OIE standards, as well as to encourage them to be involved in the standard-setting process.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Official disease status recognition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation with the Status Department to ensure the follow-up of the submission of annual reconfirmations of official status/endorsed control programmes by Members, including regular communication with Delegates and their respective Focal Points, particularly in the period close to the deadline for submitting files.</li> <li>• Support in pre-assessing annual reconfirmations and supporting documents in collaboration with the OIE Headquarters.</li> <li>• Participation, in collaboration with the staff of the Status Department, in the kiosk presented during 87th General Session for the promotion of official status recognition. Members were encouraged to visit the kiosk to learn about procedures and collect practical information.</li> <li>• Delivery of communications at meetings, seminars, and bilateral encounters regarding the importance of Members' applying for official disease status recognition. This resulted in increased engagement by Members, including the submission of new applications as well as the starting of activities by some Members with a view to applying for disease status recognition in the future.</li> <li>• Organisation of capacity-building activities to support Members mainly on FMD and PPR status recognition.</li> <li>• Regular communication was maintained during 2020 to provide support to Members and to improve their engagement and was stepped up during the period immediately prior to submission of files to the Status Department. New applications either from Members applying for the first time or applying for new diseases were received.</li> <li>• Publication, in English and Russian, of the OIE SOPs for official recognition of disease status on the OIE regional website.</li> <li>• Coordination, through EU-funded project for Balkan countries, of joint activities related to OIE official status recognition, including training in the preparation of documentation for submission of applications to the OIE.</li> <li>• Organisation, in March 2020, of the OIE regional training seminar on "OIE Standards and procedure to facilitate international movements of (competition) horses". This included training on recognition and maintenance of African horse sickness official status, self-declaration of Equine Disease-Free Zones (EDFZ), and the High Health High Performance (HHP) framework.</li> <li>• Organisation, in September 2020, of an OIE training seminar on 'Maintenance of officially recognised disease status'. This virtual seminar was combined with an online training module that provided participants from 35 countries with information on the OIE requirements, standards and procedures related to the maintenance of officially recognised disease status.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Disease control and eradication</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of the Secretariat for the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Europe as well as the Secretariat for the Standing Groups of Experts for ASF, lumpy skin disease (LSD) and rabies, respectively.</li> <li>• In 2020, organisation of the 9th Meeting of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Europe, and meetings of the Standing Group of Experts (ASF, LSD and rabies).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All activities planned for 2020 regarding the SGE-ASF were implemented (except for a field mission). The SGE-LSD scheduled to take place in Israel in 2020 was postponed to 2021.</li> <li>• Improvement of the Governing mechanism thanks to the adoption, in 2020, of new Terms of Reference for the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Europe as well as the proposal of a new action plan for Europe, and a priority list of TADs.</li> <li>• Organisation, notably in 2019, of several meetings on ASF with regular participation of Delegates/CVOs, animal health officers and technical experts from Members, OIE Reference Laboratories and partner organisations, including on one occasion the participation of the OIE Director General, the EU Commissioner for Health and the Ministers of Balkan countries/territories.</li> <li>• Active development of a document repository for ASF, LSD and rabies; direct communication and sharing of documents and best practices with Members.</li> <li>• Facilitation of the development of a list of experts and technical networks for priority diseases, including rabies, ASF and LSD, in order to support Members and make expertise available when needed.</li> <li>• Organisation of FMD and PPR roadmap meetings to promote the global approach of the GF-TADs framework in the control and elimination of these diseases. During the PPR roadmap meeting, one session was dedicated to the practical use of the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT), which had been translated into Russian for this event.</li> <li>• In 2020, the meetings of the GF-TADs Working Group on FMD and the Regional Advisory Group were organised virtually.</li> <li>• Organisation (virtually in 2020) of the FMD Regional Advisory Group as a part of the responsibilities within the FMD Regional Roadmap for West Eurasia, under the GF-TADs umbrella.</li> <li>• Participation in seminars and meetings organised by partner organisations (Asian Development Bank [ADB], FAO, Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA], Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO], EU, Eurasian Economic Union [EEU], EuFMD) at which OIE staff made presentations or interventions on topics that included OIE standards, best practices to control diseases and vaccine banks.</li> <li>• In 2019, in collaboration with the European Commission, a joint country mission was carried out in Serbia in August to provide assessment and recommendations for ASF control measures.</li> <li>• Organisation of three ASF expert missions under the GF-TADs framework, in Belgium, Bulgaria and Serbia, also in 2019.</li> <li>• In 2020, two ASF meetings were organised virtually with a high level of participation, including colleagues from the Americas Region.</li> <li>• An ASF mission in Slovakia, scheduled for 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 restrictions; Czech Republic can be cited as a huge success story as the country is no longer affected by ASF.</li> <li>• Participation in a round table during the 4th symposium organised by Sciencano (scientific agency of the Belgium authorities), in May</li> </ul>
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	<p>2019, regarding “animal health – Fighting (re)emerging infectious diseases, a transboundary approach: focus on African swine fever.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouragement of Members to implement OIE standards, guidelines, and recommendations to achieve the rabies global strategic goals (“Zero by 2030”), and to use OIE tools (endorsement of national control programme for dog-mediated rabies).</li> <li>• In 2020, organisation of a videoconference in the Russian Federation, under the Tripartite-Plus umbrella, during World Rabies Day and in collaboration with national competent authorities.</li> <li>• The OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central Asia, in collaboration with the FAO regional office for Europe and Central Asia, established the Central Asian Animal Health Network (CAAHN) to offer a framework for building strong technical capacity, competency, leadership and a critical mass of regionally networked specialists in veterinary medicine, epidemiology, surveillance and diagnosis. The initial driver of the network is brucellosis, which is a high priority for all OIE Members in Central Asia.</li> <li>• Participation in an EU-funded project: “Action on Animal Disease Eradication in the Western Balkans”, for joint actions related to priority diseases in beneficiary countries (ASF, CSF, rabies), including the participation of OIE technical experts from OIE Headquarters in training sessions (status recognition), and the involvement of OIE Representatives in seminars, workshops and the Steering Committee (as observers).</li> </ul>
<p><b>AMR/ One Health</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members were encouraged to submit data on their use of antibiotics.</li> <li>• In 2019, participation in events relating to AMR in the Region, such as the following: the “AMR and zoonosis” section of the International Veterinary Congress “One World - One Health”, held in Russia; the launch of the AMR National Plan for Uzbekistan; the AMR meeting for Central Asia organised by the WHO office in Tashkent, Uzbekistan; and the meeting on the AMR Progressive Pathway for the region organised by FAO and held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.</li> <li>• Organisation of meetings with high-level authorities, such as the meeting of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, dedicated to World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW), held in Russia, and organised jointly with the WHO and FAO national offices and national competent authorities (in 2019).</li> <li>• Facilitation of Tripartite cooperation in activities relating to AMR, including the organisation of activities during WAAW and collaboration with FAO in activities related to the improvement of laboratory capacities for AMR control.</li> <li>• Organisation of One Health capacity-building activities, under the AMR MPTF project, to support priority actions for combatting antimicrobial resistance in Tajikistan (2020).</li> <li>• Participation in a seminar on AMR, held at the EU Parliament, as part of the One Health European Joint Programme, in which the OIE participates as stakeholder (2020).</li> <li>• In 2020, organisation of meetings dedicated to WAAW, in Russia and Kazakhstan, jointly with the WHO and FAO country offices and national competent authorities as well as other stakeholders.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration with the Turkey Tripartite Working Group in the Antibiotic Awareness Week Symposium and participation in the Joint Meeting of the Tripartite Working Group, where the OIE's initiatives and activities on AMR were presented (2020).</li> <li>• Organisation, in 2020, of a WAAW Webinar on Action and Partnership on AMR to ensure a One Health approach in Europe and Central Asia.</li> <li>• Publication of a regional statement regarding WAAW 2020 on the regional website.</li> <li>• Participation in a summer school for young researchers organised with academic institutions (University of Parma, Catholic University of Piacenza). This included a presentation on One Health and submission of an abstract.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Animal welfare</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The OIE Animal Welfare Platform completed the implementation of its Second Action Plan (2016-2019), with continuous financial contributions from the EU (major donor), France, Ireland, Italy, Switzerland, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the Four Paws, and with in-kind support from Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise (IZSAM) and the countries kindly hosting the events. The main activities in 2019 and 2020 included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional Stray Dog Roadmap for West Eurasia – review of the national and regional situation regarding stray dog populations, including the control of dog-mediated rabies, review of the progress since 2017 and the remaining challenges. Three newly invited countries (Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine) joined the Regional Roadmap.</li> <li>- Pilot project on animal welfare in natural disasters for Balkan countries – review of drafts and ways to address the main challenges in developing and implementing national Veterinary Services' contingency plans for animal welfare in a flooding scenario.</li> <li>- A survey on the welfare of working equids in eight West Eurasian countries and the needs of individual countries regarding working equids, with a view to developing the next action plan of the Platform.</li> <li>- Support for the implementation of the Middle East Animal Welfare Action Plan, with a technical contribution to the activities on the transport of animals.</li> <li>- An external evaluation of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe to examine the Platform's relevance, effectiveness and efficiency and its contribution to the implementation of the first and second Action Plans.</li> <li>- Development of the draft third Action Plan, for the period 2020–2022.</li> <li>- Annual consultation meeting with stakeholders, aimed at continuing to ensure coordination, dialogue and collaboration on priority activities on animal welfare in Europe.</li> <li>- Organisation, in 2020, of the 14th and 15th meetings of the Steering Group.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of the Terms of References for the Platform itself, and definition of the Terms of Reference for the national contact points on animal transportation.</li> <li>• Regular communication with Members, and particularly with their national Focal Points.</li> <li>• Meetings with different stakeholders (e.g., during the OIE General Session in 2019, meeting with animal welfare NGOs interested in promoting the improvement of welfare of working equids in Central Asia).</li> <li>• Regular communication with Members to ensure participation of national Focal Points in the events organised by the OIE in Europe.</li> <li>• Regular contact with the Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare (e.g., by attending the work of the EmVetNet “COVID-19 Thematic Platform on Animal Welfare”).</li> </ul>
<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring the involvement of all Members of the Region in the standard-setting process as well as in the identification of experts.</li> <li>• Weak involvement of stakeholders in some countries.</li> <li>• Limited opportunities for capacity building on AMR topics, especially with regard to laboratories and surveillance.</li> <li>• Lack of specific OIE technical assistance projects in the Region to promote OIE activities.</li> <li>• Different approaches in the implementation of disease eradication strategies at sub-regional level.</li> <li>• Lack of funding for some countries.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: ESTABLISHING TRUST THROUGH TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNICATION</b>	
<b>International disease transparency and reporting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion, during OIE events, of the importance of ensuring transparency in notification, including the benefits it provides for all Members.</li> <li>• Support to the OIE Headquarters on rumour tracking, including regular official requests to Delegates and/or Focal Points for clarification or confirmation of rumours.</li> <li>• Support to the OIE Headquarters, when needed, to ensure the follow-up of Members regarding the submission of information through WAHIS.</li> <li>• Promotion, during OIE events, of the new OIE-WAHIS Platform.</li> <li>• Encouragement of Veterinary Faculty students to use the WAHIS interface in day-to-day learning.</li> <li>• Support to Members, including sharing of OIE guidelines, Q&amp;A, and collected information on SARS-CoV-2 surveillance and monitoring as well as promoting discussions among Members regarding the experience gained by the Veterinary Services in managing the disease.</li> <li>• Permanent contact with the European Commission regarding integration and interoperability between the Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS) and OIE-WAHIS.</li> <li>• Organisation, from 26 to 28 February 2020, of a Regional Training Workshop on the new OIE World Animal Health Information</li> </ul>

	System (OIE-WAHIS) and the European Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) for OIE national Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification.
<b>Animal health communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nomination of a Regional Communication Correspondent for each OIE office.</li> <li>• Dissemination of information on OIE-related activities at various events, including posters, videos and other visibility materials targeted at Delegates, Focal Points, veterinarians, stakeholders, etc.</li> <li>• Translation of documents, presentations and relevant messages into Russian to ensure proper delivery of the information in relevant countries.</li> <li>• Dissemination of the OIE awareness campaign on ASF using the GF-TADs for Europe platform. Several European countries translated the material for their own requirements at national level, particularly in a large Balkan sub-region.</li> <li>• Provision of support regarding the request of Russia to participate in video awareness material related to rabies, in collaboration with the Tripartite partners in the country.</li> <li>• Inclusion of OIE Reference Centres in the new website, including updated details of the contact points for each Centre. Information on their activities as Reference Centres is in most cases available on the website.</li> <li>• Launch, in 2020, of the new Regional website, in English and Russian, offering an excellent channel to share communication material within the region, including material provided by the Collaborating Centres. The availability of the website in Russian has increased the involvement and commitment of Russian-speaking OIE Members in the OIE's activities.</li> <li>• To increase the OIE's visibility, OIE Representatives provided a series of interviews and articles to the Russian professional magazine and to some internet sites including the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation. Several scientific articles were published, including one on implementation of the One Health approach in veterinary education.</li> <li>• Participation in the OIE Communication webinar: Engaging digital influencers in social media (29 July 2020).</li> <li>• Thanks to the contribution of some Members, OIE key material was translated into Russian (e.g., the Russian Federation translated several documents regarding COVID-19 and laboratories, as well as the OIE Communication Handbook).</li> </ul>
<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need to strengthen the collaboration with OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres to better support Members through capacity building.</li> <li>• The need to increase the OIE's visibility.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: ENSURING THE CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF VETERINARY SERVICES</b>	
<b>Strengthening Veterinary Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of the OIE PVS Pathway during all OIE events (seminars, workshops, meetings) as well as during several meetings with Members' high-level authorities.</li> </ul>

<p><b>through the OIE PVS Pathway</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in IHR-PVS National Bridging Workshops (NBWs) (Armenia, Moldova, North Macedonia and Serbia, in 2019).</li> <li>• Promotion of the PVS Pathway in support to Members after NBWs, thanks to which a country requested its first PVS Pathway Mission.</li> <li>• Organisation of a PVS Pathway Orientation Training Workshop for Eurasia, in 2019, to better support Members through the new options proposed, thanks to the evolution of the PVS Pathway.</li> <li>• Participation, in 2019, in the Joint OIE-EU expert working group on the OIE PVS Pathway and EU Member State country profile systems, in order to identify a suitable mechanism for the integration of certain elements of the OIE PVS Pathway into the EU country profile system.</li> <li>• Assurance of regular and effective communication with the OIE Headquarters to exchange relevant information, including feedback from Members regarding their experiences and concerns with the PVS Pathway in order to facilitate a proper understanding and appropriate follow-up actions.</li> <li>• In 2020, due to the COVID-19-related movement restrictions, several PVS Pathway missions were postponed. Discussions are in place to provide support remotely.</li> <li>• Launch, in 2020, of the “OIE Strengthening Veterinary Paraprofessional (VPP) Competencies” (DTRA-VPPs) project in Central Asia. Some activities have already been implemented, including an Awareness Raising Workshop on Veterinary Workforce and VPPs, held virtually.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strengthening Veterinary Services other than through the OIE PVS Pathway</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of seminars for national Focal Points for Animal Welfare, Laboratories and Communication to update them on the current situation regarding their respective topics at global and regional level.</li> <li>• Several Twinning Projects are ongoing or are planned, such as: the Twinning Project between Kazakhstan and OIE Reference Laboratories in the United Kingdom, Poland and Italy; a Veterinary Education Twinning project between the national VEE in Samarkand (Uzbekistan) and the University of Minnesota, (United States of America); Kyrgyzstan has signed an agreement with the University of Barcelona (Spain) to conduct a Twinning project (in the process of approval); a potential Twinning Project between the Veterinary Academy of Vitebsk (Belarus) and Italy is under discussion.</li> <li>• In 2020, organisation of virtual seminars for OIE national Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification).</li> <li>• Inclusion and presentation of the OIE e-learning platform in the regional website to provide users with easy access to updated training material on OIE-WAHIS and animal disease notification principles, as well as to encourage OIE Focal Points to participate in training.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CHALLENGES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The overlap between the OIE PVS Pathway tool and new tools developed by partners (mainly by FAO).</li> <li>• Limited financial resources, especially for Twinning Projects.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cross-cutting area A: scientific excellence</b></p>	

- Promotion of the participation of the national Veterinary Services in all meetings related to the One Health concept.
- Participation in meetings and activities under the One Health concept at regional or national level.
- Close collaboration with partners such as WHO and FAO, including, among others, the proposal to expand the FAO Echinococcosis network initiative to cover brucellosis, and the active participation of both WHO and FAO regional Directors in the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, highlighting the strong commitment of both organisations together with the OIE under the “One Health Approach”.
- Organisation of regular conference calls with FAO and WHO regional offices to manage properly all the activities, to avoid any duplications and to better encourage OIE Members to be actively involved in One Health activities.
- Participation, in 2019, in five IHR-PVS NBWs, in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, North Macedonia and Serbia, which provided the opportunity to bring the Veterinary Services and the Public Health Services together under the One Health concept. These workshops will be closely followed up, in collaboration with WHO, to ensure that the momentum is maintained.
- Strong collaboration with the FAO regional office in Budapest (Hungary) in the context of regional GF-TADs activities.
- The Standing Group of Experts on ASF (SGE-ASF) for Europe maintains a list of the Region’s GF-TADs experts on ASF. The last update of the list was approved at SGE ASF12, held in Prague (Czech Republic) in March 2019. The e-depository webpage of the SGE-ASF includes or provides links to a wealth of expertise on ASF that Members can access.
- Participation of representatives of OIE Reference Laboratories at the latest meetings of the SGEs on ASF (Sofia, Bulgaria, September 2019) and LSD (Athens, Greece, October 2019).
- Support for Members to get in contact with OIE Reference Laboratories regarding proficiency tests, evaluating commercial kits, genome sequencing, etc.
- A Tripartite mechanism for coordination on zoonotic diseases and AMR in Europe, at the human–animal–ecosystem interface, was proposed in cooperation with WHO Europe and FAO Europe/Central Asia, for the implementation of policies and decisions by the Global Tripartite Secretariat. The three parties agreed, and the mechanism should be fully operational in 2021, ideally with the participation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The idea was launched during WAAW (Nov 2020) with the support of many participants, including several OIE Delegates.
- Guidance in the submission of proposals by potential OIE Collaboration Centres.
- Communication with OIE Delegates and OIE Focal Points to ensure a clear understanding of the new process for the election of members of the four OIE Specialist Commissions.

#### **Cross-cutting area B: diversity, inclusion, engagement, transparency**

- Expansion of contacts with national experts and identification of relevant topics for implementation of future activities in the Region (e.g., capacity building).
- Promotion of the engagement and participation of Members under the principles of transparency and inclusiveness, including ensuring a regional balance when it comes to the representativeness of the region (proposal of candidates to the Bureau of the Regional Commission and selection of members for the RCG).
- Identification of several experts from the Region to participate in OIE *ad hoc* groups or workshops.

#### **Cross-cutting area C: governance**

- Close contact with the RCG, including the organisation of regular teleconferences and face-to-face meetings to facilitate the follow-up of activities to be implemented as well as to organise the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, which was held (virtually) on 9 and 10 November 2020. During 2020, meetings with the RCG were maintained virtually to ensure smooth communication in the Region.

- Revision, in 2019, of the Terms of Reference of the RCG to make sure they are in line with the OIE's Basic Texts and clearly define the role of the RCG as a mechanism to facilitate communication within the Region.
- Close contact between the regional offices in the Region to ensure coordination and cooperation for the activities in the Region and avoid duplication of work.
- Inter-regional collaboration with other OIE Regional/Sub-Regional Representations on several occasions, namely with the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Representation for the Americas in the context of the launch of the SGE ASF in Asia and in the Americas, inspired by the initiatives taken in Europe. The Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels also provided significant technical support to the Regional Representation for the Middle East for the implementation of animal welfare activities in that Region, and to the Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa regarding countries' self-assessment of their stray dog and dog mediated rabies situation.
- The new IT tools and platforms put in place due to the COVID-19 crisis allowed staff from all the regional offices to attend events from other regions, including the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, and the LSD Regional Steering Committee meeting in Asia, among others. Also, the Representatives had the opportunity to be involved as facilitators in meetings organised by other regions, which is an excellent opportunity to strengthen interregional cooperation and learn from other colleagues.
- Provision of the Permanent Secretariat for the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Europe.
- Coordination with the regional Tripartite on One Health-related issues including holding regular meetings (face-to-face and/or teleconference whenever applicable).
- Facilitation in view of a potential new cooperation agreement with the Islamic Organisation for Food Safety (IOFS).
- Assurance of a permanent dialogue/collaboration with the European Commission on topics such as GF-TADs activities and the animal welfare platform.
- Maintenance of good relations with Russia, Kazakhstan and Belgium, the host countries of the regional offices, including participation of the OIE in national events and visits to the authorities of those countries.
- Appropriate support was provided to the Financial Directorate at the OIE Headquarters for the mapping of funded activities (e.g. animal welfare) and the best possible use of the funds provided by some donor countries to the World Fund (in 2019).
- Regular communication with several stakeholders (Federation of Veterinarians of Europe [FVE], European Livestock and Meat Trades Union [UECBV]) and the private sector, including the pharmaceutical sector, to share the latest news and projects, and to engage with them, in particular on AMR topics.
- Regular communication with other partner organisations, such as the EEC, including developing high-level understanding and agreement to cooperate on topics of mutual interest. A meeting was organised, in 2020, at the EEC with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member countries on trade facilitation and the OIE standard-setting process; the meeting also included topics on animal identification and traceability.
- Close contact with the Asian Development Bank as a potential partner to establish projects, in collaboration with other regional partners, under One Health, or activities relating to GF-TADs or trade topics.
- Active participation in national meetings regarding COVID-19 measures, such as the "Public Health Advisory Group for COVID-19 in Kazakhstan", as well as events organised by WHO country offices.
- Assurance of regular participation of relevant NGOs in the meetings of the Steering Group of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of a broader stakeholders' meeting (once a year) to provide an update on Animal Welfare Platform activities.</li> <li>• Collaboration with the food industry and livestock sector, including encouraging the Veterinary Services to implement joint programmes and improve collaboration with stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of human resources in some offices. Members have been made aware of the benefits of seconding staff to the different regional offices, not only to support the work of the Organisation but also to take advantage of the training that seconded staff receive, which will enable them to make a significant contribution when they return to the Veterinary Services.</li> </ul>

## 5. MIDDLE EAST REGION

<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: SECURING ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE BY APPROPRIATE RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	
<b>Standard setting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouragement given to Members to participate in the development of international standards and guidelines as well as in the OIE's decision-making process.</li> <li>• Sensitisation of, and delivery of information to, Delegates and Focal Points regarding the OIE standard-setting process and the importance of actively participating in it, including the importance of coordinating the different comments to be submitted during the General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE.</li> <li>• Constant reminders given to all relevant stakeholders, during meetings, seminars and official speeches, on the importance of considering the OIE's international standards when developing national regulatory documents.</li> <li>• Exploring mechanisms for facilitating Members' engagement in the process of developing and updating standards.</li> <li>• Translation of relevant reports, documents, and concept notes into Arabic to assist Delegates with the preparation of comments.</li> <li>• Organisation of capacity-building activities to support Members in the standard-setting process, such as the Seminar on OIE standards entitled "Facilitating International movement of competition horses with identification of the obligations of the Veterinary Services, the sport federations and customs", held in 2019.</li> <li>• Virtual meeting of the "BESST" initiative in which the main objective is to comply with OIE standards to ensure safe trade.</li> <li>• Support for the organisation of an "Interactive workshop on the role of OIE Delegates in OIE Standards", which was held back-to-back with the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East in November 2019, and virtually in May 2020.</li> <li>• Active participation in the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) training webinar on risk analysis, during which the use of relevant OIE <i>Code</i> chapters and the PVS Pathway were promoted.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance of national legislations with OIE standards.</li> </ul>
<b>Official disease status recognition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of Members' engagement in the OIE procedure for official disease status recognition. Support to countries for self-declaration of disease freedom, such as Kuwait for glanders, and Oman for ASF and CCBP.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support in pre-assessing annual reconfirmations and supporting documents in collaboration with the OIE Headquarters.</li> <li>• Organisation of capacity-building activities to support Members mainly on AHS status recognition, and the establishment of Equine Disease-Free Zones for High Health, High Performance horses (in 2019).</li> </ul>
<b>Disease control and eradication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing cooperation and harmonisation of strategies between the Members of the Middle East Region, especially with regard to control programmes for priority diseases, such as FMD, PPR and rabies.</li> <li>• Participation in the OIE/FAO 1st Middle East FMD Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks Meeting (2019).</li> <li>• Encouragement and assistance to Members to advance along the Progressive Control Pathway for Foot and Mouth Disease (PCP-FMD).</li> <li>• Participation in seminars and meetings organised by partners, such as the AOAD: 3rd Meeting of the Arab Steering Committee of the National Program for Combating Transboundary Animal Diseases in the Arab Region (2019).</li> <li>• Support to Members on the identification of regional experts/networks for vector-borne diseases, with a special focus on RVF and LSD.</li> <li>• Follow-up of activities in the region regarding MERS Coronavirus (MERS-CoV), including support to experts attending relevant meetings.</li> <li>• Under the auspices of the co-presidency of Egypt and Cyprus, the Joint OIE and FAO secretariat (based in Tunis, Tunisia) organised, in 2019, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture of Egypt, the 18th meeting of the REMESA Joint Permanent Committee, to provide an update on the epidemiological situation in the Mediterranean region for some specific diseases considered to be priorities for the network, such as FMD, PPR, rabies and avian influenza. Additional information was provided on bluetongue, LSD and MERS-CoV.</li> <li>• Also, in 2020, organisation of the 7th and 8th virtual meetings of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee to promote the global approach of the GF-TADs framework for the control and eradication of diseases.</li> <li>• Participation in the FMD and FAST Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks Meetings organised by EuFMD.</li> <li>• Encouragement and assistance to Members to progress along the PPR eradication pathway using the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT).</li> <li>• Participation in PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (GREN) seminars.</li> <li>• Follow-up of activities in the region regarding the impact of COVID-19 and assistance in providing advice as per the <i>OIE News</i> alert.</li> <li>• Participation in the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID) Conference on Aquaculture, including a presentation on the aquaculture activities carried out in the Region (i.e., AQMENET proposal).</li> </ul>
<b>AMR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diffusion of information on the OIE's activities related to AMR in order to raise awareness among Members in the Region.</li> <li>• Attendance at the AMR seminar organised in Cairo (Egypt) and active participation in World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) with WHO (Egypt and Lebanon).</li> <li>• Support for the development of National Action Plans by Members, in collaboration with the Tripartite partners.</li> <li>• Organisation of a Workshop for OIE national Focal Points for Veterinary Products, including pharmacovigilance.</li> </ul>

<b>Animal welfare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of opportunities to support Members in the implementation of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy.</li> <li>• Development and organisation, with the support of the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, of three ‘train the trainers’ sessions on animal welfare during transport by land and by sea, with the aim of supporting the implementation of the OIE’s animal welfare standards (2018-2019).</li> <li>• Organisation of a seminar on animal welfare in transport (“Whole Journey Scenario”) with the support of relevant European Union (EU) agencies (2019).</li> <li>• Support to Members (mainly Jordan, Lebanon, and United Arab Emirates) on the development of national strategies on animal welfare in compliance with OIE standards.</li> </ul>
<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linguistic difficulties: the need to ensure that key documents are accessible in Arabic, to facilitate Members’ understanding of these texts.</li> <li>• Members of the Region need to be made aware of the importance of moving to a higher contribution category in order to better support the implementation of activities at regional level. So far, there has been a significant lack of financial resources.</li> <li>• The sensitive political context adversely affects the implementation of activities at regional level and the active participation of Members in regional activities.</li> <li>• There is a need to promote the active participation of stakeholders in the standard-setting process and in other OIE activities through public–private partnerships.</li> <li>• The COVID-19 situation has restricted the organisation of physical meetings; nevertheless, more attendance in virtual meetings has been noted.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: ESTABLISHING TRUST THROUGH TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNICATION</b>	
<b>International disease transparency and reporting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of the topic of transparency and animal disease notification in several meetings, including those with diverse stakeholders and relevant National Authorities, as well as promotion of WAHIS through videos and presentations.</li> <li>• Provision of technical advice to Members on disease reporting.</li> <li>• Follow-up and support to Members, in liaison with the OIE Headquarters, in the event of delays or problems in the provision of information.</li> <li>• Participation in the Key Users Committee for the new OIE-WAHIS Platform.</li> <li>• Promotion of the importance of disease notification at meetings with Veterinary Education Establishments, which, among the various benefits, has helped to improve collaboration within the region (e.g., an Arab Veterinary Institutes Committee was established to promote transparent reporting and information sharing).</li> <li>• In the event of unofficial information being obtained from different sources about disease outbreaks not officially notified by the Members concerned (e.g., rumours), an official request was sent to the relevant Delegates and/or Focal Points for clarification or confirmation.</li> </ul>
<b>Animal health communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renovation and updating, in liaison with the OIE Headquarters, in two languages (English and Arabic), of the new Regional website, with new information thus being made available to Members through the collection, production and dissemination of communication material on both global and regional activities.</li> <li>• Initiation of a regional Communication Focal Point network, with the development of a list of regional contacts to improve dissemination of information on the various veterinary topics, and to raise the OIE’s visibility within the Region.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation of meetings with other international and regional organisations to coordinate joint activities (e.g., OIE and FAO regional offices, OIE, FAO and EuFMD, the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East and the OIE Regional Representation for Africa with AOAD).</li> </ul>
<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need to raise Members' awareness of the importance and benefits of notifying the OIE of animal diseases, including reporting information on endemic diseases.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: ENSURING THE CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF VETERINARY SERVICES</b>	
<b>Strengthening Veterinary Services through the OIE PVS Pathway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent promotion, among Members, of the use and benefits of the PVS Pathway and its new options.</li> <li>• Exploring and developing opportunities within the Region, in liaison with the Capacity-Building Department, for making progress on PVS-IHR collaboration with WHO and interested Members.</li> </ul>
<b>Strengthening Veterinary Services other than through the OIE PVS Pathway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for the development and organisation of regional and global seminars, including workshops for national Focal Points for Animal Welfare and for Wildlife.</li> <li>• Promotion of the OIE Twinning Programme among Members. Four Twinning Projects are in progress: Epidemiology and Risk Assessment (Saudi Arabia – Teramo, Italy), FMD (Saudi Arabia – Brescia, Italy), PPR (Kuwait – CIRAD, France), AI laboratory (Lebanon – United Kingdom).</li> <li>• Promotion of OIE guidelines and other documentation on VEEs, VSBs and veterinary paraprofessionals.</li> </ul>
<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absence of VSBs in the Region</li> <li>• Since the majority of the PVS Pathway reports have become outdated, reassessment is needed.</li> <li>• Lack of resources.</li> </ul>
<b>Cross-cutting area A: scientific excellence</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting the capacities and capabilities of regional laboratories and coordinating their activities, including the development of a network to facilitate communication.</li> <li>• Assistance with the accreditation of a new OIE collaborating Centre for Quality Management in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates).</li> <li>• Support for the recognition of a regional OIE Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis and MERS-CoV.</li> <li>• Promotion of scientific excellence in the region through the support of initiatives such as CAMENET (camel diseases laboratory network) and AQMENET (aquatic Middle East network) and the various Twinning projects.</li> <li>• Encouraging regional researchers to publish studies in the OIE <i>Bulletin</i>.</li> <li>• Participation in the Agro-crime and Agro-terrorism meeting (2020).</li> </ul>	
<b>Cross-cutting area B: diversity, inclusion, engagement, transparency</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of the engagement and participation of Members under the principles of transparency and inclusiveness, including ensuring a regional balance when it comes to the representativeness of the Region (proposal of candidates to the Bureau of the Regional Commission and selection of members for the Regional Core Group (RCG)).</li> </ul>	
<b>Cross-cutting area C: governance</b>	

- Close collaboration with the members of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East as well as the regional members of the OIE Council, for example to coordinate the organisation of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, which took place in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) in November 2019.
- Inter-regional collaboration with other OIE Regional/Sub-Regional Representations mainly concerned the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, regarding animal welfare issues and REMESA, and the Sub-Regional Representations for North Africa and for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa, to organise joint Focal Point Seminars on Wildlife, WAHIS and Animal Welfare, and to organise the REMESA meeting.
- Participation in several meetings along with colleagues from the Africa offices and the OIE Headquarters to discuss the feasibility study of the “Better enforcement of standards for safer trade (BESST)” Initiative.
- Coordination with the regional Tripartite on One Health-related issues.
- Strong collaboration with regional partner organisations, such as the AOAD, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Islamic Development Bank, including discussions on the possible updating of existing agreements or the signing of new cooperation agreements to increase efforts aimed at the implementation of projects of mutual interest.
- Maintenance of good relations, including regular participation in national events, with Lebanon, the host country of the Regional Representation.
- Advocacy actions among Members as well as with current and potential donors from the region, including encouraging Members to provide staff on secondment to support the work of the Regional Representation.
- Assistance with the establishment of the new Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) for the GCC countries and Yemen, with close harmonisation in the planning of future activities.
- Election of a new board for the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for the Middle East, with new terms of reference and a new strategic plan (2020-2024) and an operational plan for 2021-2022.
- Participation, with the OIE Deputy Director General for Insituational Affairs and Regional Activities, in the G20 meeting on Food Safety.

<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clearer understanding by Delegates of the rights and responsibilities of the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission and the regional members of the Council.</li> <li>• Establishment of effective new agreements with relevant partners and reinforcement of the existing agreements.</li> <li>• Encouraging Members to provide staff on secondment to work at the Regional office.</li> </ul>
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## **V. IMPLEMENTATION OF OIE RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. RESOLUTIONS OF THE 87TH GENERAL SESSION**

The full text of Resolutions and Recommendations can be consulted on the OIE website: <https://www.oie.int/en/about-us/key-texts/resolutions-and-recommendations/resolutions-adopted-by-the-world-assembly-of-delegates-of-the-oie/>

#### **RESOLUTION No. 5**

##### **Modification of the 2019 budget**

The revised 2019 budget, adopted by this Resolution No. 5, was implemented. The corresponding financial report and information on budget implementation was presented in document 88 SG/4 (OIE Financial Report for the 93rd Financial Year, 1 January – 31 December 2019) in May 2020.

#### **RESOLUTION No. 6**

##### **OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 94th Financial Year (1 January to 31 December 2020)**

The initial 2020 budget, adopted by this Resolution No. 6, was implemented. The revised 2020 budget was presented for adoption in May 2020, through document 88 SG/5 (2020 Budget) and a corresponding new resolution.

#### **RESOLUTION No. 7**

##### **Financial contributions from OIE Members for 2020**

The financial contributions from OIE Members for 2020 were called for in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution No. 7. Information on income and the corresponding rates of recovery (both with and without arrears of statutory contributions) will be presented in the OIE Financial Report for the 94th Financial Year (1 January – 31 December 2020), document 88 SG/4, in May 2021.

#### **RESOLUTION No. 8**

##### **Planned Work Programme for 2019-2020**

The activities foreseen in the Programme were implemented in accordance with the recommendations of the Assembly and were the subject of regular reports to the Council to complement the annual report of the Director General being presented at the 88th General Session in May 2021.

## **RESOLUTION No. 9**

### **Renewal of the appointment of the External Auditor**

The appointment of the External Auditor was duly renewed, for the purpose of auditing the accounts for the 93rd Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2019).

## **RESOLUTION No. 10**

### **Creation of an OIE Sub-Regional Representation**

A technical and financial agreement was signed on 11 November 2019 with the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADFSA), the body hosting the SRR, regarding the putting in place of budgets and staffing. A Representative was selected and took up office in 2020. The necessary steps with a view to signing an agreement with the Government of the United Arab Emirates on the privileges and immunities of the SRR and its staff were initiated with the support of the Delegate.

## **RESOLUTION No. 11**

### **Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the East Africa Community (EAC)**

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by both parties on 2 September 2019 and published on the OIE website.

## **RESOLUTION No. 12**

### **Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

The Memorandum of Understanding is going through the clearance process on ASEAN's side.

## **RESOLUTION No. 13**

### **Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)**

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by both parties on 6 January 2020 and published on the OIE website.

## RESOLUTION No. 14

### OIE's Engagement in the One Health Global Effort to Control Antimicrobial Resistance

The Tripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR has been established and the OIE liaison officer nominated. The Secretariat has commenced work in line with the recommendations made in the above Resolution. A One Health Global Leaders Group was launched in November 2020, the OIE Director General being a member of the Group. The Tripartite AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund has been established and it received financial contributions from The Netherlands and Sweden in 2019. A permanent Working Group on AMR has been established and it held its first meeting in October 2019 followed by two meetings in 2020. The OIE Annual Report on Antimicrobial Agents intended for Use in Animals was published for the 5th time in February 2020.

## RESOLUTION No. 15

### Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members

This Resolution has been published online, as have the updated maps of foot and mouth disease (FMD) free countries and zones. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information.

The *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members met in November 2019 to examine:

- the application submitted by a Member for official recognition of the country status as FMD free where vaccination is not practised;
- the application submitted by a Member for official recognition of a zonal status as FMD free where vaccination is not practised;
- the applications submitted by two Members for official recognition of their status as having FMD free zones where vaccination is practised.

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Status Department also evaluated the maintenance of previously recognised status (annual reconfirmations, recovery and suspension of status of a Member following the introduction of FMD in a zone previously recognised as FMD free).

One mission was conducted to verify the compliance of a Member with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* for a country having an officially recognised FMD free zone.

## RESOLUTION No. 16

### Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Members

This Resolution has been published online. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information.

The *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members met in November 2019, to examine an application submitted by a Member for endorsement of its official control programme for FMD.

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Status Department also evaluated the maintenance of OIE-endorsed official control programmes (annual reconfirmations).

One mission was also conducted to verify the compliance of a Member with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* for a country having an OIE-endorsed official control programme.

## RESOLUTION No. 17

### Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members

This Resolution has been published online, as have the updated maps of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia free countries and zones. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information.

The *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) Status of Members met in November 2019 and examined the applications submitted by three Members for recognition of their CBPP free status.

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Status Department evaluated the maintenance of previously recognised CBPP free status (annual reconfirmations).

## RESOLUTION No. 18

### Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Members

This Resolution has been published online. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information.

The *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) Status of Members met in November 2019 and examined an application submitted by a Member for endorsement of its official control programmes for CBPP.

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Status Department evaluated the maintenance of OIE-endorsed official control programmes for CBPP (annual reconfirmation).

## RESOLUTION No. 19

### Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members

This Resolution has been published online. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information.

The *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) risk status of Members met in September 2019 and examined:

- one application submitted by a Member for recognition of its status as a country with negligible BSE risk;
- one application submitted by a Member for official recognition of its zone with negligible BSE risk.

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Status Department also evaluated the maintenance of previously recognised BSE risk status (annual reconfirmations).

## RESOLUTION No. 20

### Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Members

This Resolution has been published online. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information.

The OIE did not receive any applications for official recognition of AHS free status.

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Status Department also evaluated the maintenance of previously recognised status (annual reconfirmations).

## RESOLUTION No. 21

### Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Members

This Resolution has been published online. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information.

The *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of the Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Status of Members met in December 2019 and examined applications submitted by two Members for recognition of their PPR free status.

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Status Department also evaluated the maintenance of previously recognised status (annual reconfirmations).

One mission was also conducted to verify the compliance of a Member with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* for maintenance of PPR free status.

## RESOLUTION No. 22

### Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members

This Resolution has been published online, as have the updated maps of classical swine fever free countries and zones. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information.

The *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of the Classical Swine Fever (CSF) Status of Members met in October 2019 and examined:

- the applications submitted by six Members for official recognition of their status as CSF free countries;
- the application submitted by one Member for official recognition of the status of a CSF free zone.

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Status Department also evaluated the maintenance of previously recognised status (annual reconfirmations).

## RESOLUTION No. 23

### Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material to Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest

Implemented – the designation was communicated to the facilities concerned. The joint designation with FAO is underway.

## RESOLUTION No. 24

### Extension to the Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material to Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest

Implemented – the extension to the designation was communicated to the facilities concerned. The joint extension with FAO is underway.

## RESOLUTION No. 25

### Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

The *Aquatic Animal Health Code* was revised to incorporate all the adopted amendments. The 2019 edition of the *Aquatic Code* was published in the three official OIE languages and is available in hard copy or on the OIE web site.

## **RESOLUTION No. 26**

### **Amendments to the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals***

The four revised chapters of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* that were adopted have been added to the web version of the *Aquatic Manual* (English and Spanish).

## **RESOLUTION No. 27**

### **Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code***

The *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* was revised to incorporate all the adopted amendments. The 2019 edition of the *Terrestrial Code* was published in the three official OIE languages and placed on the OIE web site. Unofficial versions were also translated into Russian.

## **RESOLUTION No. 28**

### **Amendments to the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals***

The 11 chapters of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* that were adopted have been added to the web version of the *Terrestrial Manual* (English and Spanish).

## **RESOLUTION N° 29**

### **Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases**

The seven new Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases have been informed of their designations and their contact details have been added to the online List of OIE Reference Laboratories.

## **RESOLUTION No. 30**

### **Designation of OIE Collaborating Centres**

The five new Collaborating Centres have been informed of their designations and their contact details have been added to the online List of OIE Collaborating Centres.

## **RESOLUTION No. 31**

### **Register of diagnostic kits validated and certified by the OIE**

The registrations for two kits (Newcastle Disease Virus Antibody Test Kit and TeSeE Western Blot) were renewed, and one new kit (Enferplex Bovine TB Antibody Test) was adopted for inclusion in the OIE Register at the General Session in May 2019. The manufacturers were notified by official letter that the registration of the Newcastle Disease Virus Antibody Test Kit and that of the TeSeE Western Blot kit had been renewed for a period of five years, and that the Enferplex Bovine TB Antibody Test had been registered.

## **RESOLUTION No. 32**

### **How external factors (e.g. Climate change, conflicts, socio-economics, trading patterns) will impact Veterinary Services and the adaptations required**

The OIE is working in collaboration with the International Livestock Research Institute to conduct an in-depth analysis of the data collected through the questionnaire submitted to Members. The results will help to shape and tailor future OIE actions related to the subject of Technical Item 1, including climate change, social and behavioural change (e.g. the role of insects for livelihoods and livestock and trade implications). Increasing the capacity of the OIE in systematic approaches to looking beyond current predictions, such as foresight, would help identify and evaluate the impact of critical issues as well as potential implications for global animal health policies in the future.

## **RESOLUTION No. 33**

### **Global Control of African Swine Fever**

The GF-TADs initiative for the global control of ASF was jointly drafted by the OIE and FAO, and was jointly launched on 20 July 2020. A joint call for action webinar was held jointly by the OIE and FAO to promote the global initiative (26-30 October 2020) among Members and partners. Standing Groups of Experts (SGEs) on ASF have now been expanded to 3 regions, the most recent being the SGE for the Americas, which was established in September 2019. With the support of the OIE, the most recent meetings of the SGEs-ASF of Europe, Asia and the Americas were held virtually on 23 November, 21 April and 16 June, respectively. Specific guidelines on compartmentalisation for ASF are in development and, when completed, will be made publicly available. Work is ongoing to facilitate financial and technical support with potential development agencies and technical partners, such as the World Bank, IATA and IMS. Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute has been identified as the lead laboratory for the OIE ASF Reference Laboratory network and the goals and objectives of the network were accepted by the Biological Standards Commission in September 2020.

## **2. RESOLUTIONS OF THE 2020 ADAPTED PROCEDURE**

The full text of Resolutions and Recommendations can be consulted on the OIE website:  
<http://www.oie.int/en/about-us/key-texts/resolutions-and-recommendations/>

### **RESOLUTION No. 2**

#### **Modification of the 2020 Budget**

The revised 2020 Budget, adopted by this Resolution No. 2, was implemented. The corresponding financial report and information on budget implementation will be presented in document 88 SG/4 (OIE Financial Report for the 94th Financial Year, 1 January – 31 December 2020) in May 2021.

### **RESOLUTION No. 3**

#### **OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 95th Financial Year (1 January to 31 December 2021)**

The initial 2021 budget, adopted by this Resolution No. 3, has been implemented. The revised 2021 budget will be presented for adoption in May 2021, through document 88 SG/5 (2021 Budget) and a corresponding new resolution.

### **RESOLUTION No. 4**

#### **Financial contributions from OIE Members for 2021**

The financial contributions from OIE Members for 2021 were called for in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution No. 4. Information on income and the corresponding rates of recovery (both with and without arrears of statutory contributions) will be presented in the OIE Financial Report for the 95th Financial Year (1 January – 31 December 2021), document 89 SG/4, in May 2022.

### **RESOLUTION No. 5**

#### **Renewal of the appointment of the External Auditor**

The appointment of the External Auditor was duly renewed, for the purpose of auditing the accounts for the 94th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2020).

### **RESOLUTION No. 7**

#### **Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members**

This Resolution has been published online, as have the updated maps of foot and mouth disease (FMD) free countries and zones. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information.

The *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members met virtually in October–November 2020 to examine:

- the application submitted by a Member for official recognition of the country status as FMD free where vaccination is not practised;
- the applications submitted by three Members for official recognition of a zonal status as FMD free where vaccination is not practised;
- the applications submitted by two Members for official recognition of the zonal status as FMD free zone where vaccination is practised.

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Status Department also evaluated the maintenance of previously recognised status (annual reconfirmations, recovery and suspension of status of a Member following the introduction of FMD in a zone previously recognised as FMD free).

### **RESOLUTION No. 8**

#### **Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Members**

This Resolution has been published online. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information.

The *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members met virtually in October–November 2020, to examine applications submitted by two Members for endorsement of their official control programmes for FMD.

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Status Department also evaluated the maintenance of OIE-endorsed official control programmes (annual reconfirmations).

### **RESOLUTION No. 9**

#### **Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members**

This Resolution has been published online, as have the updated maps of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia free countries and zones. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information.

The *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members met virtually in October 2020 and examined applications submitted by two Members for recognition of their contagious bovine pleuropneumonia free status.

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Status Department evaluated the maintenance of previously recognised CBPP free status (annual reconfirmations).

### **RESOLUTION No. 10**

#### **Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Members**

This Resolution has been published online. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information.

The *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) Status of Members met virtually in October 2020. There were no applications submitted by Members for endorsement of their official control programmes for CBPP.

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Status Department evaluated the maintenance of OIE-endorsed official control programmes for CBPP (annual reconfirmation).

#### **RESOLUTION No. 11**

##### **Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members**

This Resolution has been published online. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information.

The *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Risk Status of Members met virtually in September 2020 and examined applications submitted by two Members for recognition of their status as countries with negligible BSE risk.

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Status Department also evaluated the maintenance of previously recognised BSE risk status (annual reconfirmations).

#### **RESOLUTION No. 12**

##### **Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Members**

This Resolution has been published online. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information.

This year, the OIE has not received any applications for official recognition of AHS free status.

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Status Department also evaluated the maintenance of previously recognised status (annual reconfirmations).

#### **RESOLUTION No. 13**

##### **Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Members**

This Resolution has been published online. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information.

The *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of the Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Status of Members met virtually in October 2020 and examined:

- the applications submitted by two Members for recognition of their PPR free status;
- the application submitted by a Member for endorsement of its official control programme for PPR.

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Status Department also evaluated the maintenance of previously recognised status (annual reconfirmations).

#### **RESOLUTION No. 14**

##### **Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members**

This Resolution has been published online, as have the updated maps of classical swine fever free countries and zones. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information.

The *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of the Classical Swine Fever (CSF) Status of Members met virtually in December 2020 and examined:

- the applications submitted by three Members for official recognition of their status as CSF free countries;
- the application submitted by one Member for official recognition of the status of CSF free zone;
- the application submitted by a Member for re-zoning of a zone already recognised as CSF free.

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Status Department also evaluated the maintenance of previously recognised status (annual reconfirmations).

One mission was also conducted to verify the compliance of a Member with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* for maintenance of CSF free status.

### **RESOLUTION No. 15**

#### **Procedures for Members for the official recognition and maintenance of animal health status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and for the endorsement of official control programmes**

This Resolution has been published online. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information.

This Resolution describes the procedures that Members should follow to achieve the official recognition and maintenance of animal health status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and for the endorsement of official control programmes. The update of this Resolution included the endorsement by the OIE of an official control programme for dog-mediated rabies, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The first *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of Official Control Programme for Dog-mediated Rabies of Members for OIE Endorsement met virtually in November–December 2020, to examine applications submitted by two Members for endorsement of their official control programmes for dog-mediated rabies. The first list of Members having an OIE endorsed official control programme for dog-mediated rabies will be adopted at the General Session in May 2021.

### **RESOLUTION No. 16**

#### **Costs to be covered by Members applying for the official recognition of animal health status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and the endorsement of official control programmes**

This Resolution has been published online. The OIE *Bulletin* has also published this information. This Resolution determines a financial participation of Members in the cost of official recognition and endorsement procedures. This updated Resolution includes the cost related to the applications of Members for OIE endorsement of their official control programme for dog-mediated rabies.

## **RESOLUTION No. 17**

### **Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for aquatic animal diseases**

The four new Reference Laboratories for aquatic animal diseases have been informed of their designations and their contact details have been added to the online List of OIE Reference Laboratories.

## **RESOLUTION No. 18**

### **Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases**

The nine new Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases have been informed of their designations and their contact details have been added to the online List of OIE Reference Laboratories.

## **RESOLUTION No. 19**

### **Designation of OIE Collaborating Centres**

The two new Collaborating Centres have been informed of their designations and their contact details have been added to the online List of OIE Collaborating Centres.

## **RESOLUTION No. 20**

### **Register of diagnostic kits validated and certified by the OIE**

The registration for one kit (BOVIGAM® *Mycobacterium bovis* Gamma interferon test kit for cattle) was renewed, two new kits (*Salmonella* Abortusovis Test and VetMAX™ African Swine Fever Virus Detection Kit) were adopted for inclusion in the OIE Register, and the certified registration of one kit (Check&Trace *Salmonella*) was amended. The Resolution was adopted electronically by the Assembly.

The manufacturers were notified by official letter that the registration of BOVIGAM® *Mycobacterium bovis* Gamma interferon test kit for cattle had been renewed for a period of five years, that the *Salmonella* Abortusovis Test and VetMAX™ African Swine Fever Virus Detection Kit had been registered, and that the registration of Check&Trace *Salmonella* had been amended to note the shortened test protocol.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS OF CONFERENCES OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

28TH CONFERENCE OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
Tbilisi, Georgia, 17 to 21 September 2018

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#### Recommendation No. 1

#### **Application of biosecurity in different production systems at individual, country and regional levels**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Biosecurity represents a key measure contributing to the prevention and control of all diseases of livestock and animal welfare, with private sector benefits at both the individual and commercial farming level, as well as public sector benefits at individual and collective, national and regional levels;
2. The current edition of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* has provisions only for *Biosecurity procedures in poultry production* (Chapter 6.5) and the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* has no provision on biosecurity;
3. Although non-commercial farms may be a dead end in terms of disease spread, backyard units can contribute to spread of diseases.

And considering that, based on the response to the questionnaire provided to the Delegates of the Regional Commission for Europe in preparation of this technical item:

4. The vast majority of the responding countries have a legal basis for the implementation of livestock biosecurity and have biosecurity plans that are enforced;
5. Biosecurity plans in the region mainly cover commercial poultry and pig farms and these have been strengthened in response to the recent epidemics of avian influenza and African swine fever;
6. The priority diseases that biosecurity requirements and plans cover are avian influenza, African swine fever, salmonellosis, tuberculosis, and aquatic animal diseases, among others;
7. Biosecurity plans in aquaculture appear to be of a high level where they exist;
8. Disease control tools such as vaccination, minimising contact at the wildlife interface, disease surveillance in both wildlife and at-risk domestic populations, and culling of wild animals are means enabling prevention, early detection, and reduced spread of diseases between wild and domestic animals;
9. The level of control of biosecurity, as a means to reduce the use of antimicrobial agents, is variable in the Region;
10. Farmers and hunters are the stakeholders with whom collaboration has most frequently been established to implement or improve biosecurity;
11. Awareness campaigns and capacity building activities are relevant tools for promoting the implementation of biosecurity at individual and collective, country and regional levels; and

12. Insufficient budget, difficulty in maintaining biosecurity over time, lack of human resources, and limited expertise are the main factors adversely affecting the ability of Veterinary Services and industry working together to apply biosecurity.

#### THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

##### RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Member Countries' Veterinary Authorities advocate with their animal production industries, including small commercial farms, for increasing awareness for and investment in biosecurity;
2. Member Countries' Veterinary Authorities consider establishing a unit or function to support the field implementation of biosecurity, when relevant;
3. Member Countries' Veterinary Authorities encourage the establishment of a Collaborating Centre on biosecurity in the Region, which could provide support to and coordinate capacity-building activities on biosecurity to Member Countries;
4. Member Countries' Veterinary Authorities, in close collaboration with private sector, assess and share lessons learned and best practices on biosecurity, including activities targeting aquatic animals;
5. Member Countries' Veterinary Authorities, in close collaboration with animal production industries, provide guidance to farmers regarding biosecurity and animal disease prevention and control, including in relation to good husbandry practices and vaccination, with a view to reduce the need for the use of antimicrobial agents, thus contributing to the prevention of antimicrobial resistance;
6. The Standing Group of Experts on ASF under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), supported by the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, pursue the activities undertaken, especially in relation to biosecurity in commercial and non-commercial farms, and in hunting grounds; the guidelines developed be largely publicised through appropriate channels and use, as appropriate, as background for other diseases;
7. The OIE develop further guidance on biosecurity aligned with the relevant sections of both *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes* and consider the development of templates for biosecurity planning in collaboration with relevant partners;
8. The OIE include greater reference to biosecurity in the development of the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the PVS Tool (terrestrial and aquatic);
9. The OIE collect and publish on the regional website examples of best practices in biosecurity; and
10. The OIE and its Member Countries, when developing communication materials and engaging dialogue with the industrial sector, consider the contribution of the relevant expertise needed to address the socio-cultural and socio-economical aspects of biosecurity.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 21 September 2018)

The Standing Group of Experts on ASF under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) in Europe has pursued its activities relating to biosecurity. All information has been shared on the GF-TADs regional website (on the former website as well as on the new OIE regional website). Additionally, information on biosecurity best practices on by OIE Members has been shared through the OIE regional website.

In 2019, the Handbook on African swine fever in wild boar ecology and biosecurity during hunting, previously available in a non-official version, was officially published under GF-TADs and is now available on the OIE website. Furthermore, the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission has included the development of a new chapter on biosecurity for the *Terrestrial Code* in its work programme.

In terms of communication-related activities, communication tools on ASF developed by countries from the region are available on the OIE regional website for Europe (depository on ASF). Some of these tools highlight best practices in biosecurity.

An ASF workshop on biosecurity for the Europe Region, originally planned for 2020 but postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions, will be organised in 2021 in collaboration with the EU.

Furthermore, communication tools have been provided to European countries (Delegates and Focal Points for Communication). The campaign was presented at several events in the region, such as: GF-TADs meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on ASF; Seminar for Regional Focal Points for Communication; and the Europe Regional Core Group Meeting.

The Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission is developing a new draft chapter on Biosecurity for Aquaculture Establishments (Chapter 4.X.) for the *Aquatic Code*. It has been circulated four times for Member comments in the Aquatic Animals Commission's reports and will be proposed for adoption at the 88th General Session, in May 2021. The Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission has the development of a new chapter on biosecurity in its work plan.

To help Members and their Veterinary Services to address evolving challenges and priorities in animal health and veterinary public health, some critical competencies were modified in the 7th Edition of the OIE PVS Tool. The new edition of the Tool (terrestrial) also improves the coverage of issues related to laboratory biosafety and biosecurity. A similar approach is being undertaken for the update of the PVS Tool for the Evaluation of Aquatic Animal Health Services.

The OIE has also developed a comprehensive communication campaign on ASF that includes an infographic dedicated to biosecurity measures. The full campaign is available in English, Spanish, French, Russian and Chinese.

According to the latest survey conducted by the Communication Department in April 2019, 76% of European respondents are using the communication tools. The campaign was translated/adapted by countries into more than 10 languages worldwide (including Slovakian, Croatian, Portuguese, Bulgarian and Romanian).

The second phase of the campaign is currently under development. New tools will be jointly developed with FAO in 2021 to address the biosecurity aspects of the disease.

Lastly, general messages to highlight the importance of implementing biosecurity measures were disseminated in the OIE social media throughout 2020.

Recommendation No. 2

**Importance of the prescription of antimicrobial agents and control of their distribution (with a possible e-tracking system) by the Veterinary Services for a proper implementation of the antimicrobial resistance strategy**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a serious threat to human health, animal health and welfare, plant health, and also to the environment and food security throughout the world and cannot be successfully tackled without multi-sectoral cooperation;
2. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO) are working closely together with the Codex Alimentarius Commission to ensure the development and implementation of global strategies and measures designed to restrict the development and spread of AMR, and contribute to the fulfilment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
3. The Tripartite (FAO/OIE/WHO) alliance has recently been strengthened through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with a strong focus on tackling AMR;
4. Modern advances in information technology have led to the development of e-tracking systems that can be used to monitor the entire chain of antimicrobial agents' circulation;
5. The OIE provides its Member Countries with standards, assistance and leadership with regard to their policies on strengthening and harmonising their surveillance systems on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals and it supports their efforts to implement science-based international standards;
6. OIE Member Countries need to share their experience and work together to address the problem of combating AMR and promote the prudent use of antimicrobials in human and veterinary medicine; and
7. The OIE is organising the "Second Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance – *Putting Standards into Practice*", to be held in Marrakesh (Morocco) from 29 to 31 October 2018.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Member Countries strengthen their national legislation with the aim of implementing the OIE Strategy on AMR and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials, adopted in the form of Resolution No. 36 by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates at the 84th General Session of the OIE in 2016;
2. Member Countries develop, approve and implement national action plans for AMR in human and veterinary medicine under the "One Health" approach, taking into account multi-sectoral and multinational experience and aligned with the Global Action Plan developed by WHO and formally endorsed by OIE and FAO;

3. Member Countries' Veterinary Authorities, in collaboration with other relevant Competent Authorities, foster awareness and understanding of the problem of AMR, strengthen knowledge and ensure, as much as possible, surveillance of all steps of antimicrobial use, including their manufacture, distribution, storage and application and the disposal of unused antimicrobials;
4. Member Countries' Veterinary Services follow the recommendations in the OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance, in particular regarding restrictions on the use of fluoroquinolones, third and fourth generation cephalosporins and colistin, and refrain the use of antimicrobial agents of critical importance as growth promoters in absence of risk assessment;
5. Member Countries' Veterinary Authorities promote a strong collaboration between veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals, and farmers in order to implement the principles of good animal health/husbandry practices, including biosecurity, to reduce the need for antimicrobials and take steps to ensure that, when their use is unavoidable, they are used in a responsible and prudent manner in accordance with relevant international standards, including Chapter 6.10 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and Chapter 6.2 of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*;
6. Member Countries' Veterinary Authorities implement the principles of good distribution practice to improve the monitoring of amounts of antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products (AVMPs) sold at national level, using, wherever possible, an e-tracking system or other forms of data collection in accordance with the requirements of the European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption (ESVAC) and the OIE Annual Report on Antimicrobial Agents Intended for Use in Animals;
7. Member Countries' Veterinary Authorities pursue the implementation of a veterinary prescription-only based distribution system for antimicrobials, including those intended for use in both food-producing animals and companion animals, so as to improve or maximise as far as possible the traceability of antimicrobial distribution;
8. OIE Delegates nominate their national Focal Point for Veterinary Products if they have not already done so, encourage their Focal Point's active participation in OIE capacity-building activities, and take advantage of their expertise to support the implementation of national AMR-related activities in collaboration with all interested parties;
9. Member Countries take advantage of the upcoming OIE Global Conference to update their knowledge and, in preparation for the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan, to contribute to the future work of the OIE on AMR;
10. The OIE collect and publish, on the OIE regional website, examples of AMR-related best practices, particularly on the use of e-tracking systems, and highlighting the consequences of overuse and misuse of antimicrobial agents;
11. The OIE, in the development of the model curricula for veterinary paraprofessionals, ensure that the role of veterinary paraprofessionals in the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents, be well addressed; and
12. In future activities undertaken under the PVS Pathway, the OIE provide its Member Countries with tools and capacity-building activities with a greater focus on AMR.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 21 September 2018)

The OIE is working to convert the current OIE Antimicrobial Use (AMU) database from Excel to an interactive IT system that will help Members to better understand their situation and measure its trends. The system will be integrated with a Business Intelligence tool that will allow easier and accurate data analysis and reporting, thus allowing Members to raise awareness and make informed decisions. In the future phases of development, the AMU database will be linked to the WAHIS animal population database to enable automatic calculation of the OIE animal biomass denominator, thereby allowing direct analysis of the AMU data. The OIE regional websites will have a link to the future AMU system.

In the OIE Competency Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals published in May 2018, two competencies relating to the handling of veterinary medicinal products were identified that specifically address the issue of antimicrobial resistance. Subsequently, the OIE Curricula Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals were published in May 2019. They were designed for the purpose of developing curricula that would deliver the competencies identified in the OIE Competency Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals. The Curricula document includes a course on Microbiology with a course unit on Principles of Microbiology in which one of the specific learning outcomes is to “demonstrate an awareness of commonly used antibiotics and the principles of antibiotic resistance”.

An OIE PVS Pathway Orientation Training Workshop, targeting Russian-speaking Members in Europe and Central Asia, was organised by the OIE in Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan), in October 2019, using the newly developed 7th Edition of the PVS Tool, which contains new Critical Competencies on antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial use. Thirty-four (34) participants from 12 countries attended the four-day training.

The OIE published four country stories on the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials, and the implementation of alternative best practices. Topics covered the aquatic and terrestrial animal sectors, highlighting the countries Madagascar, Norway, Cambodia and Uruguay.

The OIE, in collaboration with FAO and WHO, is scaling up efforts to support country implementation of National Action Plans through the AMR Multi-partner Trust Fund. The strategic, inter-sectoral, multi-stakeholder initiative leverages the Tripartite’s technical expertise to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs by implementing using a One Health approach.

The OIE has started implementation of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)-funded multiregional “OIE Strengthening Veterinary Paraprofessional Competencies Project”, and the first workshop in the Europe region was carried out in collaboration with the Veterinary Authority of Georgia in December 2020. Among other activities, prudent use of antimicrobials and use of OIE standards and guidelines will be promoted during implementation of the project in other countries in the region.

Recommendation:

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. The Veterinary Authorities (commonly referred as Official Veterinary Services) were originally established to ensure the control and, where possible, eradication, of specific diseases (rinderpest as from the late 19th century and, in the Americas, foot and mouth disease);
2. As emerging issues present a threat to animal, human and environmental health, this initial vision must now be broadened to respond to complex global health, political, sociocultural, technological and diversity-related situations;
3. The Veterinary Services need the necessary financial or human resources to meet these new demands properly. That makes it necessary to innovate and find the best way to tailor animal health and food safety management, at primary production level, to each country's individual circumstances;
4. One of the main missions of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is the promotion of Veterinary Services to improve their legal framework and resources, with the primary aim of establishing quality Veterinary Services, as defined in the Chapter 3.1 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* which provides details on the provisions relating to the quality of the Veterinary Services and their fundamental principles of quality;
5. The OIE has a proven record of supporting the strengthening of Veterinary Services and, since the establishment of its flagship programme, the OIE PVS Pathway, it has continued to affirm that for the Veterinary Services to fulfil their mission and generate a global public good, they require sustainable investment;
6. The PVS Pathway missions conducted over the past decade have shown that Veterinary Services are chronically under-resourced in many countries, leading to sub-optimal organisation and staffing of Veterinary Services, thereby jeopardising animal health and welfare nationally, regionally and globally, with consequences on public health;
7. According to the definition of *Veterinary Services* in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, the provision of veterinary services involves a variety of governmental and non-governmental organisations, ranging from the *Veterinary Authority* to authorized private veterinary care providers (veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals or aquatic animal health professionals) and also including various types of private sector organisations;
8. The Veterinary Services, as per defined by the OIE, play a significant role in delivering public good and achieving several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), including: ending poverty, ending hunger and ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all;
9. The private sector, including producers and industry, plays a very important role in partnership with the Veterinary Authority, as it provides them with support to enable them to fulfil their mandate more effectively; and that, in addition;

10. Private veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals can also play a key role in partnership with the Veterinary Authority, either as individuals or working as part of a veterinary service company, or in a production, or supply company;
11. The OIE PVS Evaluation contains a section where countries evaluate performance with respect to their Veterinary Authority's relationship with the private sector;
12. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) and consideration and appreciation of the work of private veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals as well as other private sector partners are an intrinsic part of modern public administration, and that they exist both in the region and across the world, provide an animal health management vision that focuses on improved effectiveness and efficiency (better use of resources) and can be tailored to countries' individual circumstances;
13. Countries in the region are interested in strengthening collaboration between the public and private sectors, including through PPPs, as demonstrated by the high number of responses from the region to a global survey conducted by the OIE in 2017 and also by the adoption of Resolution no. 39 regarding "*Public-Private Partnerships: expectations of private sector partners for international animal health and livestock sector development programmes and the implications for the OIE*" by the OIE Member Countries at the 85th General Session in May 2017;
14. In several countries in the region, public-private interaction has been key in implementing disease prevention, control, and eradication programmes and achieving countries' current animal health status;
15. Collaboration with the private sector on matters relating to the Veterinary Authority may differ in nature, scope and outreach. It may cover animal health, animal welfare, food safety at primary production level, trade or related areas. It may be established for one or more species, one or more diseases or hazards of interest to public health, or one or more territories within a country;
16. The analysis of the answers<sup>7</sup> from countries in the region to a global survey conducted by the OIE in 2017 as part of its *Public-Private Progress* initiative, highlights that:
  - the principal reason for most countries in the region to establish PPPs in the first place was to control or eradicate foot and mouth disease. However, in recent years, PPP initiatives have increasingly been established in other areas, such as poultry and swine health, and bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis control;
  - most PPP initiatives identified in the region were largely driven by the private sector, with a focus on exports;
  - the experience was assessed as good to excellent in terms of impact, although no mention was made of it having been subject to a formal evaluation;
  - most of the PPP proposals have been on-going for several years and aspired to become permanent, demonstrating their sustainability.

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<sup>7</sup> Analysis done by the author of the Technical Item 1 to complete the work done to developing his report.

17. The OIE has done a large amount of work over the past months to design a better tailored PVS Pathway more aligned with the national and regional needs;
18. The OIE is in favour of the development of impactful PPPs in the veterinary domain in order to strengthen national Veterinary Services in a sustainable manner.

#### THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

##### RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The OIE Delegates raise the awareness of decision makers about the key role played by the Veterinary Services and the importance of providing them with sufficient financial and human resources to guarantee that their performance is sound (in compliance with OIE standards) and sustainable;
2. Member Countries support the OIE work in advocating to resource partners to invest in the OIE PVS Pathway;

##### THAT THE VETERINARY AUTHORITIES OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES:

3. Work to build their capacity, including the application of concepts of economics of animal health, enabling them to prioritise activities according to their economic and social impact, and to design efficient intervention strategies that help them to identify sources of public and private funding;
4. Consider the participation of veterinarians or veterinary paraprofessionals in activities deemed relevant by the Veterinary Authority in order to generate greater benefits;
5. Consider the principles of economics to define and share responsibilities between the public and private sectors, as well as financing and delivery mechanisms;
6. Support the establishment of impactful and sustainable PPPs in the veterinary domain, based on the guidelines for PPPs to be developed by the OIE in 2019 for use by both the public and private sectors, while always complying with the responsibilities of the Veterinary Authority;
7. Establish formal, representative and ongoing platform of dialogue with private sector organisations, including veterinary associations and veterinary paraprofessionals, producer associations and private companies, to define a strategy of collaboration with the private sector, including PPP initiatives, that is geared to the challenges faced and the situation in each country;

##### AND THAT THE OIE:

8. Help Delegates, via the development of advocacy material, to sensitize decision makers on the value of sustainable Veterinary Services and the potential benefits of collaborating with the private sector to improve the quality and sustainability of their activities;
9. Lead a practical training programme for its Member Countries for the development and implementation of sustainable PPPs, using the guidelines under development by the OIE;

10. Maintain an up-to-date database, containing PPP experiences, in a format that makes it easy to disseminate to serve as a motivation for other countries;
11. Support the development of methodologies and tools for the technical and socioeconomic evaluation of collaborative initiatives with the private sector, to complement the guidelines for PPPs to be published in 2019; and
12. Support, together with the Veterinary Authorities, the development and implementation of new technologies either through PPPs or through agreements with private providers, universities and technology centres, all with the aim of strengthening the Veterinary Services.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 23 November 2018)

The OIE continues to advocate for financing from resource partners to enable the implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway.

The OIE PPP Handbook, released at the 87th OIE General Session (May 2019), has been given to all Delegates (and is available on the OIE website) as a tool to advocate on the benefits and impact of PPPs to strengthen Veterinary Services.

Four workshops were organised in Africa and Asia in 2019, their regional coverage being due to the focus of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation funding. The format can easily be replicated for the Americas Region, provided funding is available. A project funded by the European Union and implemented in collaboration with PAHO, FAO and the OIE will build the capacities of beneficiary countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay) to better address AMR through a One Health approach, including through the use of PPPs. This project may provide the opportunity for additional PPP meetings in the region in 2021 or 2022.

Further work is starting in 2021 on an interactive global PPP database, thanks to renewed funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for a further 3-year period (2021-2023). Several activities are also planned to integrate PPPs within the PVS Pathway and develop PPP Targeted Support missions for Members that request it.

A PhD thesis is in progress (2018-2021) at CIRAD (France) to evaluate the PPP process and the socio-economic impact of PPPs; one case study is in the Americas region (Paraguay).

An issue of OIE *Panorama* on “Public-Private Partnerships and perspectives in the veterinary domain” was published. It included 25 articles written by key opinion leaders on how PPPs can have a major impact in animal health and production systems.

Recommendation No. 1

**Veterinary paraprofessionals:  
their governance and role in improving animal health and welfare in Africa**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. In many Member Countries, particularly those without enough numbers of veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) are called upon to provide a wide range of activities and services in the areas of animal health, veterinary public health and laboratory diagnosis and their participation can be essential to the performance of the National Veterinary Services;
2. The OIE recognises the important role that VPPs can play within strong National Veterinary Services and commits to a better definition of the role of veterinary paraprofessionals, including their education and training;
3. The OIE had developed the Competency Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals for three tracks of VPPs, namely Animal Health, Veterinary Public Health and Laboratory Diagnosis and is currently working on the publication of model curricula for the same three categories;
4. Chapter 3.4 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* indicates that a Member Country's veterinary legislation should provide a basis for the regulation of veterinarians and VPPs and suggests the creation of a regulatory entity, the veterinary statutory body (VSB), to carry out that regulation;
5. The OIE PVS Tool for the evaluation of Veterinary Services contains Critical Competencies for assessing Member Countries' performance with respect to VPPs;
6. The OIE is providing support to its Member Countries to explore, plan and implement Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the delivery of Veterinary Services and will soon publish guidelines for Public- Private Partnerships in the Veterinary Domain (the "OIE PPP Handbook") to provide practical advice to its Member Countries and relevant private sector stakeholders, including VPPs;
7. The outcomes of the OIE Regional Conference on the role of veterinary paraprofessionals in Africa held in Pretoria in 2015, in collaboration with the African Veterinary Technicians Association (AVTA) and GALVmed catalysed the work of the OIE on VPPs;

And considering that, based on the responses to the questionnaire provided to the Delegates of the Regional Commission for Africa in preparation of this Technical Item:

8. Countries indicated that the role fulfilled by VPPs is either "very important" or "important", and as such, they make an important contribution towards veterinary service delivery in Africa;

9. Countries identified disease prevention, surveillance and control and eradication as the most important contributions made by VPPs;
10. VPPs experience numerous challenges including, but not limited to, lack of job opportunities, lack of resources, lack of formal recognition and lack of training;
11. VPPs are present in both the private and public sector, with the animal health category being the most widely recognised VPP group within both sectors;
12. On average, more than enough VPP training facilities are available in Member Countries and the duration of the formal training they provide differs widely between countries ranging from 6 to 36 months according to the country's specific needs and availability of resources;
13. Most of the activities carried out by VPPs are done under the supervision of a veterinarian;
14. Most of the countries indicated that VPPs are regulated, but less than half of them are regulated by a Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB);
15. VSBs are mostly involved in assessing the curriculum, while they are involved to a lesser extent in setting exit examinations, continuous professional development activities and the placement of students for internships;
16. The majority of the Member Countries do not allow VPPs from other countries to work within their country; and
17. The majority of Member Countries indicated the presence of Community-based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) usually trained for less than a month with no regulatory oversight of their work.

#### THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

##### RECOMMENDS THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES:

1. Actively use the OIE Competency Guidelines and the OIE Curricula Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals as advocacy documents to engage a dialogue with educational authorities and training institutions in order to stimulate the development and/or upgrading of VPPs education;
2. Undertake human resource needs assessments to determine the number and types of VPPs needed to fulfil the responsibilities of the Veterinary Services and use the OIE Competency and Curricula documents to help define the job responsibilities and relevant training required for additional VPPs;
3. Establish a Veterinary Statutory Body or make sure, whenever possible, existing VSBs' mandates include recognising the different categories of VPPs, identifying their prerogatives and activities and defining their training requirements for licensure or registration;
4. Take advantage of the PVS Pathway mission reports and implement the recommendations related to VPPs and VSBs;

5. Request the undertaking of an OIE Veterinary Legislation Agreement with a focus on VSB-related legal reform when relevant;

AND THAT THE OIE:

6. Continue to provide support to Member Countries through the PVS Pathway, especially through the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme;
7. Organise sub-regional workshops for creating an enabling environment for the effective identification of human resource needs for VPPs in the VS as well as their training and utilisation;
8. Provide access to experts for undertaking curriculum review and reform efforts with VPP training institutions;
9. Through its work on public-private partnerships and the development of the OIE PPP Handbook, work with Member Countries and VPP associations to facilitate the use of private sector VPPs and veterinarians to fulfil the responsibilities and obligations of the VS with regard to animal health and welfare, veterinary public health and laboratory diagnosis; and
10. Undertake a partnership with the *École inter-États des sciences et médecine vétérinaires* of Dakar, and any other relevant institutions, aiming at developing quality VPP training activities in Africa.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 1 March 2019)

In Africa, within the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), there are currently three remote Veterinary Legislation Identification missions (1st VLSP stage) being planned and two active Veterinary Legislation Agreements (2nd VLSP stage). In addition, a review of recent PVS Pathway reports has been conducted to identify gaps observed in veterinary legislation. Based on the gaps identified, some African countries were invited by the OIE to request a VLSP Identification mission and two countries have already sent an official request for such mission. The OIE was awarded a grant by the DTRA (Defense Threat Reduction Agency, United States Department of Agriculture) in 2019 to initiate a series of sub-regional workshops to raise awareness of the value of integrating VPPs into national veterinary workforces and to review the various factors contributing to the development of an enabling environment that will allow such integration to successfully occur. The first three sub-regional workshops will be in Eastern Europe/Central Asia, South/South-East Asia, and a sub-region of Africa that has yet to be determined. National level activities will also be organised, starting in Central Asia, to support veterinary workforce development and VPP competency development. The first national-level activities for this project will start in Georgia.

Through the same DTRA grant, opportunities for curricula reviews at national VPP training institutions by VPP curricula experts will be made available.

A project with the French Development Agency (AFD) was approved in 2019 and officially launched in September 2020 to initiate the development of an institutional and socioeconomic environment that supports the appropriate training and integration of VPPs into the national workforce in Senegal and Togo. Partnering with the EISMV, and utilising the OIE guidelines on VPP Competencies and VPP curricula, the project will work closely with four VPP training institutions as well as with other national stakeholders.

A third project, on veterinary workforce and VPPs, is supported by BMZ (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) and was launched in late 2019. The project focuses on East Africa and aims to develop a veterinary paraprofessional workforce that is trained and equipped to provide frontline veterinary services to rural smallholders to control PPR in their small ruminants. The project will select at least two priority countries in Eastern/Southern Africa and also include transversal activities in the region. Links between these three projects will be made through the development of joint tools, including new PVS Pathway targeted support activities related to veterinary workforce development, through regional meetings and the sharing of updates and lessons learned amongst the staff and networks involved.

The OIE is pursuing funding by resource partners to continue supporting the implementation of the above recommendations. This will enable, among others, continued implementation of the VLSP, the organisation of sub-regional workshops relating to VPPs, and undertaking curriculum review and reform efforts with VPP training institutions. Collaboration with numerous partners and stakeholders is envisaged, including the École inter-États des sciences et médecine vétérinaires of Dakar.

Recommendation No. 2

**The PVS Pathway as an advocacy tool for increased investment  
in Veterinary Services in Africa**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Livestock performance, incorporating animal health, has a major impact on economies and livelihoods in Africa given the high contribution of livestock production to agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) and the high contribution of agricultural GDP to national GDP, particularly in the poorer countries of Africa;
2. A combination of a focus on cropping, institutional weaknesses and failed historical approaches has resulted in chronic under-resourcing of the livestock and Veterinary Services sectors during the 70's and 80's, especially in proportion to their influence on economies and livelihoods, from both national governments and international donors;
3. Multi-lateral African government initiatives such as the Maputo Declaration on agriculture and food security expenditure (Maputo, 2003), the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods (Malabo, 2014), the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa 2015-2035 – LiDeSA (2015), are attempting to reverse this by promoting solidarity in increasing African government investments in agriculture and livestock respectively, and that one of the four strategic objectives of LiDeSA is to enhance animal health and increase production, productivity and resilience of livestock production systems;
4. Some key OIE resource partners are also attempting to boost support to the livestock sector, citing its indispensable and growing role in agricultural and rural development, income generation, food security and nutrition, public health, national and international trade, and the environment;
5. Livestock contributes directly to 8 of the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and indirectly to all 17;
6. There is also a growing awareness of the major role animal health and production can play, particularly in its pastoral dimension, in the prevention and mitigation of organised crime in certain parts of Africa;
7. The market for livestock products in Africa is growing rapidly with, for example, annual per capita consumption of meat and milk expected to approximately double by 2050; with the population expected to also double over this period, demand could quadruple; and
8. The livestock sector faces high economic impact diseases continuing to devastate livestock populations across Africa, with many of these diseases also posing public health risks as zoonoses.

## THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

### RECOMMENDS THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES:

1. Actively engage with the evolved PVS Pathway and take ownership of its outputs as a means to advocate for both increased and better targeted resourcing of animal health and veterinary public health as a key contribution to livestock sector development in Africa;
2. Use the messaging as provided in the PVS Pathway Advocacy One Pager and detailed in the PVS Pathway Business Case, to advocate for resourcing to strengthen Veterinary Services and therefore the livestock sector within their governments, particularly at Ministerial levels;
3. Advocate for stronger Veterinary Services by using integration of PVS Pathway findings and recommendations as a way to promote their strategic planning and funding proposals within the agricultural sector;
4. Use PVS Pathway mission report findings and recommendations in dialogue with relevant technical and financial partners to increase and better target support available to strengthen Veterinary Services and the livestock sector based on national needs and development strategies;
5. Utilise the PVS Pathway to also support advocacy and investment targeting animal health issues affecting species other than livestock such as aquatic animals, companion animals (e.g. rabies), wildlife and bees;
6. Consider an update via requesting a PVS Evaluation Follow Up where any existing PVS Evaluation report is greater than five years old, or where significant changes to the Veterinary Services have occurred;
7. Tailor PVS Pathway engagement based on governance or technical needs via the new opportunities presented by PVS Pathway evolution; including options to receive training, conduct PVS Self-evaluation, supplement PVS Evaluation missions with specific content on PPR or rabies, and receive PVS Pathway Strategic Planning support to integrate findings in a national strategic plan to strengthen Veterinary Services;
8. Consider engaging in established PVS Pathway targeted support in One Health, veterinary legislation and veterinary laboratories, and newer forms of targeted support in veterinary and veterinary paraprofessional education and public-private partnerships;
9. Make their existing and future PVS Pathway reports publicly available, or, at a minimum, available to official OIE technical and financial partners, given their usefulness in guiding the provision of development support;

### AND THAT RELEVANT TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PARTNERS:

10. Strengthen and formalise the value and use PVS Pathway outputs to inform the design of, investment in, and monitoring of relevant development strategies and projects, and financial and technical support, to strengthen Veterinary Services and the livestock sector in Africa, in close partnership with the OIE and Member Countries concerned;

AND THAT THE OIE:

11. Continue to advocate at the global level on the importance of Veterinary Services and investing in the livestock sector, including by refining messages, and accessing and providing robust supporting data and reports;
12. Continue to provide support to Member Countries through the PVS Pathway, especially the support to integrate findings and recommendations within national strategic plans as a mechanism to enhance country ownership and sustainability, and increase investment; and
13. Continue to advocate and coordinate with other relevant international, regional and national technical and financial partners, to collaborate in the implementation and use of the PVS Pathway, based on complementary institutional mandates and relative strengths.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 1 March 2019)

The OIE continues to advocate for financing from resource partners to enable the implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway. Dialogue with regional and global development banks is also being pursued to advocate for the importance of animal health, the role of national Veterinary Services and the value of PVS Pathway outputs to inform the development of future investments.

The OIE continues to provide support to its Members through the PVS Pathway. To that end, PVS Pathway training workshops were organised in South Africa, in June 2018, and in Senegal, in July 2018, focusing on building countries' capacity by means of the PVS Pathway, and in particular on the PVS Evaluation/Follow-Up approach. Following the OIE Follow-Up Evaluation mission implemented in Nigeria (January 2019), the OIE received a request from Nigeria to implement a Strategic Planning Workshop, a new activity under the evolved PVS Pathway. The Strategic Planning Workshop in Nigeria took place in March 2020 following the results of a PVS Evaluation Follow-Up mission. The goal of this Workshop was to gain broader and higher level political and financial support for implementation, develop a wider strategic and functional analysis and embed the PVS Evaluation Follow-Up report recommendations into a national Veterinary Services strategic planning process owned by the Veterinary Services. A new request for a Strategic Planning Workshop was received from Mali (2020) to follow the PVS Gap Analysis mission and to support the incorporation of PVS Pathway inputs within a national strategic planning cycle at the animal health, livestock, agricultural, and health security sector level.

The OIE PVS Evaluation Follow-Up mission in Kenya (February 2019) prompted the country to request an OIE PVS Gap Analysis mission in order to determine priority goals, strategic activities and investments necessary to achieve the advancement objectives to meet the national targets.

The second OIE PVS Evaluation Follow-Up mission with PPR Specific Content was requested by Côte d'Ivoire to evaluate the performance of the Veterinary Services with regard to OIE international standards on to the quality of these services, as well as to identify progress made in all areas falling within their competence, with an additional supplementary focus on their capacity with respect to PPR.

An OIE PVS Sustainable Laboratories mission took place in Senegal in 2019 with the objectives to evaluate Veterinary Services' need for laboratory analyses, to evaluate the availability and cost of these analyses, to provide decision makers with information to allocate appropriate resources to the National Veterinary Laboratory Network, and to make strategic decisions to support accurate and timely diagnosis, while ensuring the sustainability of the laboratory network. PVS Sustainable Laboratories support was requested in 2019 by Liberia and will be implemented in March-April 2021 to test an entirely virtual format of the mission with the aim of determining the resources needed by the national veterinary laboratory network and to evaluate the pertinence of its structure and its viability in the national context in order to present the range of elements needed for strategic decision making by the Veterinary Services, including on budgetary and financial issues.

An OIE PVS Gap Analysis mission took place in Guinea-Bissau in June 2019. The purpose of this mission was to facilitate the definition of the country's Veterinary Services' priorities and strategic actions for the next five years in terms of their compliance with OIE international standards.

The OIE continually advocates and coordinates with partners in order to collaborate on the implementation and use of the PVS Pathway. In that respect, representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other partner organisations have always been invited to participate in OIE PVS Pathway trainings and missions.

Additionally, during the period 2019–2020, the OIE participated in six Joint External Evaluations and three National Bridging Workshops in Africa in close collaboration with the World Health Organization.

The PVS Pathway Reports Operational Database project, brought forward in late 2018, was subsequently revisited in 2020 to ensure that its scope and objectives would align with the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan, and the first phase is due to be initiated in 2021. This database will provide a structured repository for PVS data, supporting collective analysis of reports, to gain a greater understanding of the performance and needs of animal health systems at national, regional and global levels.

*Note: The recommendations of the Conferences of the OIE Regional Commissions held since 1 June 2019 (namely, the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania that took place in Sendai, Japan, from 2 to 6 September 2019, and the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 10 to 14 November 2019) were not endorsed by the World Assembly in 2020. There is consequently no follow-up to these recommendations to report on this year.*