

South Asia Wildlife Network (SA-WIN)

SA-WIN=together we will win

Terms of Reference (TOR)

(1stDraft)

Background

South Asia Wildlife Network (SA-WIN) was established in 2021 at Kathmandu, Nepal, to coordinate networking among wildlife health professionals and institutions, epidemiologists and other experts. This will consolidate efforts to make our region up to date in wildlife health surveillance, training and collaboration with the OIE and other relevant organizations for prevention and control of diseases in wild animals in the country through regional cooperation and collaboration. SA-WIN will bring the region together to share wild animal disease information, and work towards harmonization of approaches and regional collaboration for wild animal disease prevention and control. The idea of establishing such a network in South Asia emerged after virtual meetings organized by the OIE in [January](#) and [June](#), 2021.

Regional networking for wildlife health professionals, including epidemiological capacity development, in the South Asia region is necessary to facilitate human resource development and foster national strategic plans on workforce development to understand the real situation and needful action in the countries. Such a network will facilitate and support the workforce development in wildlife health sector – to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from animal health threats and related public health threats in a timely and effective manner.

Vision

SA-WIN Member States (MSs) have sustainable networking and epidemiology capacity to support and assist in the management of wildlife health challenges.

Goals

A holistic and multi-sectoral mechanism is established in SA-WIN MSs to prepare, prevent, detect and respond to animal health and public health threats. This will mitigate the risk and impact of priority wild animal diseases.

Objectives

- To protect wildlife health and improve the prevention and control of wild animal diseases through a sustainable, supportive and informed network.
- To develop individual and institutional capacities including multidisciplinary and intersectoral linkages through a One Health approach.
- To share and exchange success stories among wildlife health professionals and national Veterinary Services of SA-WIN.
- To streamline regional and global initiatives to ensure compliance with relevant national and international standards.
- To facilitate networking opportunities to share updates in initiatives to improve wildlife health, by using multiple communication mechanisms (e.g. list serves, meetings, workshops and seminars).
- To inform policy through disease intelligence services and animal health informatics.

Scope of work

SA-WIN aims to promote capacity building and efficient networking of wildlife, aquatic and terrestrial animal health focal points, CVOs, national veterinary service providers, academic and research institutions within and between the SA-WIN Member States. This will support national Veterinary Services in early detection and rapid response to control regional priority wildlife health threats including zoonoses effectively and efficiently.

Roles and responsibilities-

- SA-WIN as a platform for information sharing (e.g. through face-to-face meetings or virtual meetings such as webinars), identification of regional wildlife health issues and priorities, facilitation and coordination of regional responses and capacity building, and sharing of resources and expertise.
- To facilitate exchange of reliable information on a regular basis among SA-WIN MSs.
- To harness innovation in science and technology in order to improve South Asia's capacity to detect, identify and monitor priority wildlife diseases for better risk management.
- To create synergies to strengthen regional expertise with specific assistance in the wildlife sector for member countries.
- To promote awareness and understanding of wildlife disease epidemiology and other aspects of wildlife health, ensuring science-based decision making for policy support.
- To facilitate strengthening of human resource capacity based on need assessment.

Composition

Types of members

- CVOs and OIE Delegates
- National OIE Focal points of Member countries (8 per country)

- Nominated members from the national veterinary services (2 per MS)
- Nominated members from Academic institutions(4 per MS)
- Nominated members from research institutions (2 per MS)
- Members from vaccine production (1 per MS)
- Members from veterinary diagnostic laboratories (2 per MS)
- SAARC EpiNetForum members
- Ex-officio members representing the SAARC and ASEAN Secretariat
- Invited Members from external development partners
- Representatives from the OIE
- Others as agreed by the group

Structure and Meeting/webinar conducts

- SA-WIN MSs to take ownership in hosting the meetings and to Chair the network.
- Practice of alphabetical rotation of the Chair from each MS for meeting until the next meeting is in place.
- The Chair will be passed to the next hosting country annually in line with the proposed frequency of the meeting of at least once a year.

Resource mobilization

- Initially, the OIE will assist to establish the core arrangements for networking and meetings.
- Once established, MSs will be responsible for resourcing to ensure sustainability of SA-WIN.

Amendment of TOR

Amendment of TOR will be proposed by a team nominated by the CVOs of the South Asia region. This team will submit the necessary amendment in the document to the CVOs of the South Asia region for the endorsement.

Date: 21st January 2022