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Third Regional Work Plan Framework 2021-2025

Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific



PREPARED BY

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFEO: Asia. the Far East and Oceania AMR: antimicrobial resistance AMU: antimicrobial use ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations GF-TADs: Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases **KPIs: Key Performance Indicators** NACA: Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific NAP: National Action Plan NFP: National Focal Point **PVS:** Performance of Veterinary Services RC: Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific **RCG: Regional Core Group** RRAP: Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific **RWPF: Regional Work Plan Framework** SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation SPC: Pacific Community SPS: sanitary and phytosanitary SPS Agreement: WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures SPS Committee: WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures SRR-SEA: Sub-Regional Representation for South East Asia TADs: transboundary animal diseases WAHIS: World Animal Health Information System WHO: World Health Organization WOAH: World Organisation for Animal Health (founded as OIE) WTO: World Trade Organization

Chapter 1. Introduction and Purpose



1.1 Background

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE)

Since 1990, WOAH has implemented a strategic planning cycle for its five-year work programme. The WOAH Seventh Strategic Plan, adopted by the World Assembly of WOAH Delegates at the 88th General Session, covers the period from 2021 to 2025. The Seventh Strategic Plan leverages the Organisation's experience and expertise, with the support of its network of Reference Centres, to foster the necessary changes and provide leadership in global animal health governance so that Members' Veterinary Services will be better equipped to anticipate and respond to new expectations.

The mission of WOAH is to foster global commitment to improve animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide. This is done by fostering scientific excellence, independence, transparency, solidarity and partnership in an environment that delivers good governance and sets an example for proficient regulatory practices.

WOAH is committed to preserve a future where safe trade, public health, food security and sustainable socio-economic growth that support livelihoods are improved. With this, the vision for WOAH, as set out in the Seventh Strategic Plan, is to provide leadership in global animal health governance.

Vision

Providing leadership in global animal health governance for improved animal health and welfare worldwide to support global goals



The Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific

WOAH Regional Commissions are bodies established to further the objectives of WOAH in their respective regions of the world. The main role of the Regional Commissions is policy development and assistance to their respective Members.

A WOAH Regional Commission is made up of the Delegates of all WOAH Members in the Region. Each Regional Commission is led by a Bureau composed of Delegates elected by the World Assembly of Delegates of WOAH following a proposal from the Regional Commission. The Bureau comprises a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Secretary General. The Bureau is engaged in discussing and deciding the work programmes, strategies, policies, activities and recommendations of the Commission and the Resolutions of the World Assembly of Delegates. The Regional Commission is supported by the WOAH Regional and Sub-Regional Representations for the Region.

The WOAH Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific* established a Regional Core Group (RCG) to strengthen communication and improve engagement within the Region and encourage regional participation in WOAH activities, including implementation of the WOAH Strategic Plan. By supporting the Regional Work Plan Framework, Members of the Asia and the Pacific Region have made a commitment to contribute to the achievement of the objectives defined in the WOAH Strategic Plan.

The RCG is composed of the members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission and the regional members of the WOAH Council, as well as up to four WOAH Delegates from the Region, selected at a meeting of the Regional Commission.

Annex 1 provides further details on organisational matters within the Asia and the Pacific Region.

* The Commission for the region was originally established as the "Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania", or the RC AFEO. The name was formally changed to the "Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific" during the 90th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates. This was to harmonise the name of the Commission with the name of the WOAH Regional Representation.



1.2 Purpose of the Regional Work Plan Framework

Since 2011, the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific has developed Regional Work Plan Frameworks (RWPFs), firstly to guide prioritisation of activities within the Region and allow Members to make a commitment to contribute to the achievement of the objectives defined in the WOAH Strategic Plan and secondly, to support the active involvement and compliance of Members with WOAH activities in general. The RWPF also provides clear information on the Region's needs so that WOAH can be properly informed in order to respond appropriately.

The First Regional Work Plan Framework, for the period 2011-2015, was prepared in accordance with the WOAH Fifth Strategic Plan and was adopted at the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission in 2011. The Second Regional Work Plan Framework, for the period 2016-2020, was adopted at the 83rd General Session of the WOAH in May 2015 to ensure continuing alignment with regional priorities and the WOAH Sixth Strategic Plan.

The Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific agreed at its biennial Conference in 2021 to develop the Third Regional Work Plan Framework, for the period 2021-2025, to set out priorities and activities to fulfil elements of the WOAH Seventh Strategic Plan, meet regional needs and measure progress through Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Members should continue with their own activities, which are aligned with the Seventh Strategic Plan.

The RWPF is intended to bring Regional Commission Members closer together by providing a framework for them to work together to achieve commonly agreed objectives and will be reviewed regularly and adjusted as necessary in light of new developments and lessons learned.



Chapter 2. Key Regional Objectives and Related Activities

1. The following considerations form the basis of the Regional Work Plan Framework:

- improving animal health and welfare is the core mandate of WOAH;
- WOAH is recognised as the international organisation that assists national Veterinary Services to improve animal health and welfare;
- the vision for WOAH set out in its Seventh Strategic Plan (2021-2025) is to provide leadership in global animal health governance, in line with its remit to protect animals and thereby preserve a future where safe and fair trade, public health, global food security and safety and sustainable socio-economic growth that support livelihoods are improved;
- working in partnerships with stakeholders, such as One Health partners, private sector enterprises and professional bodies is crucially important.

Key regional objectives	Related activities
Safe and fair trade	a. Enhance animal disease reporting b. Enhance the application of WOAH standards and guidelines to facilitate trade, while safeguarding Regional Commission (RC) Members' animal health status
Public health	a. Contribute to the Global Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) b. Contribute to the Wildlife Health Framework
Global food security and safety	a. Contribute to regional initiatives to control TADs in the context of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs)
Sustainable socio-economic development	a. Monitor and evaluate the performance of Veterinary Services b. Improve the capacity of veterinary laboratories c. Build capacity for preparedness and resilience
Cross-cutting area	a. Strengthen the network of WOAH Reference Centres and other relevant institutes

2. A number of key regional objectives and related activities have been identified as a priority for the Asia and Pacfic Region. These are:

While there are many possible regional objectives that could be chosen, five key regional objectives were selected along with nine related priority regional activities. It is acknowledged that it is more effective to have fewer objectives where real progress can be made through targeted measures, than a large number of objectives that result in less focused effort. Measurement metrics to determine improvements also need to be practical and readily available. Several of the regional objectives focus on Members' obligations with regard to WOAH standards and guidelines, to allow for improvements to be assessed.

3. WOAH Delegates are expected to maintain adequate communication with the RCG, the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RRAP) and the Sub-Regional Representation for South East Asia (SRR-SEA) and provide them with relevant information, if requested, so that evaluation of the implementation of the RWPF may be conducted.

4. Evaluation of the implementation of the RWPF will be conducted by the RRAP in collaboration with WOAH Headquarters, the SRR-SEA and other relevant organisations and reported to the Regional Commission at its biennial Conference.

5. The RWPF is acknowledged as a living document, and regional objectives can be amended or expanded prior to 2025 should Regional Commission Members identify the need to do so.



Chapter 3. Activities for Achievement of Key Regional Objectives

3.1 Safe and fair trade

a. Enhance animal disease reporting

Regional Commission Members will continue to improve disease notification, including notification of diseases of aquatic animals and wildlife, so that the first indications of significant disease events in the territory of a Member are notified to WOAH within the timeframes specified in WOAH standards.

Specific activities of Regional Commission (RC) Members	 Timely reporting and follow-up reports supplied to WOAH via the World Animal Health Information System (WOAH-WAHIS) platform. Targeted WOAH training programmes for National Focal Points (NFPs) and familiarisation of Delegates to support disease reporting, for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases in domestic animals and wildlife. Encourage consideration and if appropriate the development of bilateral or sub-regional arrangements to enhance animal disease reporting.
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	 Timely submission of immediate notifications/follow-up reports. Regional submission rate of terrestrial and aquatic six-monthly reports and annual reports.
Reference materials	 WOAH WAHIS-Wild public interface. Regional Aquatic Animal Disease Report on the WOAH regional website.

b. Enhance the application of WOAH standards and guidelines to facilitate trade, while safeguarding Regional Commission Members' animal health status

Regional Commission Members will continue to enhance implementation of WOAH standards and guidelines to facilitate trade whilst preventing the spread of disease.

Specific activities of RC Members	 Follow WOAH standards for trade in animals and animal products in accordance with WTO SPS Agreement requirements. Where deviations are made from a WOAH standard this is shown to be underpinned by a risk assessment. Share experience and advice on the application of WOAH standards being used for trade with other RC Members. Improve the transparency of border control measures taken between Members
KPIs	 Region-specific outputs of the WOAH Observatory project. Minutes of the meetings of the WTO SPS Committee. Minutes of specific WTO trade dispute meetings. WTO notifications completed accurately and completely. Compliance with the WTO SPS Agreement and Trade Facilitation Agreement (if WTO Members) with respect to border control.
Reference materials	 <u>WOAH Observatory.</u> <u>WOAH PVS Evaluation and Follow-up reports.</u> PVS Pathway data in the PVS Pathway Information system (development currently being initiated). <u>WTO notifications.</u>

3.2 Public health

a. Contribute to the Global Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

Regional Commission Members will actively contribute to global efforts on combating AMR.

Specific activities of RC Members	 Develop and implement a National Action Plan (NAP) on AMR. Provide quantitative antimicrobial use (AMU) data to the WOAH global database on AMU in terrestrial and aquatic animals. Implement WOAH guidelines for the responsible and prudent use of antibiotics. Where appropriate, promote research into alternative medicines and their use if therapeutically efficacious.
KPIs	 Tripartite AMR Country Self-Assessment Survey (TrACSS), or Number of RC Members that have confirmed to the RRAP they have a fit-for-purpose NAP and are implementing it. WOAH Headquarters report(s) on RC Members that have confirmed they have submitted all relevant AMU data.
Reference materials	 <u>Global Action Plan on AMR</u>. TrACSS. <u>The WOAH Strategy on AMR and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials.</u> Aquatic Animal Health Strategy (Objective 3 Resilience, Activity 3.4). Annual AMU Reports.

b. Contribute to the Wildlife Health Framework

Regional Commission Members will actively contribute to the implementation of the WOAH Wildlife Health Framework.

Specific activities of RC Members	 Provide accurate reports to WAHIS-Wild to share information on the disease situation in wildlife. Encourage NFPs to actively contribute to WOAH wildlife-related activities, including relevant tasks assigned to them by WOAH Specialist Commissions and the WOAH Wildlife Working Group. Support the integration of competencies required for surveillance in wildlife in veterinary postgraduate training. Form a network of wildlife specialists for the Region.
KPIs	 Regional submission rate to WAHIS-Wild by RC Members. Establishment of a network of wildlife specialists/experts from each of the sub-regions (i.e. East Asia, South Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific).
Reference materials	• WOAH Wildlife Health Framework.

3.3 Global food security and safety

a. Contribute to regional initiatives to control TADs in the context of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs)

Regional Commission Members will continue to contribute to GF-TADs and other initiatives to control the spread of transboundary animal diseases within the Region.

Specific activities of RC Members	 Contribute to the development and implementation of the Regional GF-TADs strategy and action plan. As relevant, participate in the Regional and Sub-regional campaign, projects and meetings under the umbrella of the Global and Regional GF-TADs.
KPIs	 Publication of the Regional GF-TADs strategy and action plan. Existing WOAH tools and data, such as the number of Members that, for specific diseases, have WOAH-recognised disease-free status, WOAH endorsed official disease control programmes, or self-declared disease status.
Reference materials	 <u>GF-TADs global website.</u> Global GF-TADs strategy and Regional GF-TADs strategy.

3.4 Sustainable socio-economic development

a. Monitor and evaluate the performance of Veterinary Services

Regional Commission Members will continue to strive for enhanced performance of their Veterinary Services, acknowledging the importance of the role and responsibilities of the Veterinary Services as a global public good.

Specific activities of RC Members	 Where relevant, engagement with the WOAH Veterinary Legislation Support Programme. Where appropriate, utilisation of the WOAH Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway or the PVS self-assessment tool. Implementation of recommendations of PVS Pathway missions or self-assessments.
KPIs	 Number of RC Members that have assessed the need for PVS assessment and requested various PVS Pathway missions (PVS Evaluation/Follow-up, or PVS Gap Analysis missions and Strategic planning). Number of RC Members that have assessed the need for and conducted PVS self-assessment or utilised other assessment tools.
Reference materials	 <u>Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services, 2019.</u> <u>Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Aquatic Animal Health Services, 2021.</u>

b. Improve the capacity of veterinary laboratories

Regional Commission Members will improve the capacity of veterinary laboratories, taking advantage of WOAH's scientific network and relevant WOAH tools and programmes, including the Sustainable Laboratories Initiative to improve laboratory biosafety and biosecurity.

Specific activities of RC Members

KPIs	 Number of WOAH Reference Centres in the Region participating in Laboratory Twinning projects, PVS Laboratory missions and laboratory proficiency testing.
Reference Materials	 <u>PVS Sustainable Laboratory Support.</u> <u>Dedicated site for WOAH Reference Centres in the regional WOAH website.</u>

c. Build capacity for preparedness and resilience

Regional Commission Members will encourage capacity building and resilience at regional, national and sub-national levels to prepare and effectively respond to animal health and veterinary public health emergencies, such as the emergence or re-emergence of infectious diseases and other zoosanitary threats in the Region.

Specific activities of RC Members	 Encourage the development of fit-for-purpose Emergency Management Plans. Build detection and surveillance capacity for emerging and re-emerging diseases, with the support of, or in collaboration with, the WOAH Reference Centres. Conduct joint risk assessment, epidemiological investigation, risk communication, and simulation exercises for emerging diseases, with multi-sector involvement. Share emergency disease response plans on-line. Encourage the use of the One Health approach for control of TADs and emerging zoonotic diseases.
KPIs	 Number of Members' simulation exercises in the Region notified to WOAH. Number of response plans shared on Members' websites
Reference materials	 <u>Dedicated site on emergency management on the WOAH global website.</u> <u>Emergency Management Centre - Animal Health (EMC-AH).</u>

3.5 Cross-cutting area

a. Strengthen the network of WOAH Reference Centres and other relevant institutes

Regional Commission Members will promote the strengthening of the regional network on specific topics of regional interest amongst WOAH Reference Centres and other relevant institutes or experts in the Region, and will encourage the sharing and dissemination of their knowledge for the benefit of the Members.

Specific activities of RC Members	 Where relevant, encourage institutes or experts of RC Members to participate in and contribute to regional networks on relevant topics. Where relevant, encourage, support and facilitate the WOAH Reference Centres to organise workshops, training sessions or research projects in collaboration with regional networks that address the capacity-building and research needs of the Region. Where relevant, promote sharing of pathogenic agents of TADs in the Region as a reference for potency evaluation of animal vaccines available in the Region. Where relevant, encourage laboratories to provide or obtain reference materials for emerging infectious diseases.
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KPIs	 Number of relevant meetings/workshops or training sessions organised by WOAH Reference Centres. Quantity of reference materials provided.
Reference Materials	 <u>Dedicated site for WOAH Reference Centres in Asia and the Pacific on the WOAH regional website.</u> Regional Expert Group for Avian Diseases in Asia and the Pacific. <u>Laboratory Network on Animal Feed Safety in Asia and the Pacific.</u>



ANNEX 1

1. Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Regional Commission Members

The WOAH Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific has 36 Members.

The following 31 WOAH Members are primarily Members of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific:

Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Dem. People's Rep. of), Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, Vietnam.

Five other WOAH Members, which are primarily Members of other Regional Commissions, are also Members of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific and may participate in the activities of the RWPF if they so wish. These WOAH Members are: Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Russia and United States of America.

Regional Commission Tasks

According to the terms of reference and internal rules of the WOAH Regional Commissions, their tasks are:

1.1 To hold Regional Conferences to:

- examine within a regional framework issues relating to animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety;
- produce recommendations to be submitted for approval to the World Assembly of Delegates of the WOAH and implemented, after adoption, by the Director-General and/or the Regional Representations.

1.2 To propose adaptations of WOAH decisions, programmes, strategies, policies and activities to the conditions and needs of the Regions and, where appropriate, Sub-regions.



1.3 To contribute to strengthening the capacities of the Veterinary Services of the Members of each Region.

1.4 To contribute to the harmonisation of sanitary regulations relating to trade in animals and animal products between the Members of each Region.

1.5 To increase the contribution of livestock to national economies and participate in poverty alleviation through international trade.

1.6 To give an advisory opinion on the headquarters of the Regional Representation and, where appropriate, that of Sub-regional Representations, and on the work programmes of the Regional Representations and their sub-regional offices.

1.7 To examine applications from Members of the Region relating to the creation of new OIE Reference Centres and report their findings to the Director General.

2. Regional Core Group (RCG) of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific

2.1 RCG objectives

The RCG is a communication and coordination mechanism established by the Regional Commission to enhance the communication and coordination amongst the Regional Commission Members and WOAH Headquarters, the RRAP and the SRR-SEA, to better address regional needs, facilitate regional inputs to the work of WOAH and to better support the work of the Regional Commission Members.

2.2 RCG composition and Chair

The RCG is composed of the members of the Regional Commission Bureau (President, two Vice-Presidents and Secretary General) and the regional members of the WOAH Council, who are elected at the WOAH General Session, as well as up to four WOAH Delegates from the Region selected by the Regional Commission at a WOAH Regional Commission meeting.

The President of the Regional Commission chairs the RCG. In the event of his/her absence, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the Regional Commission serves as the Chair. The RRAP serves as the Secretariat for the RCG.

Where an RCG member resigns/retires, the new Delegate replacing the aforementioned RCG member may, subject to Bureau member approval, be invited into the RCG as an ad hoc member until the next Regional Commission meeting.

2.3 RCG meeting frequency and quorum

The RCG convenes a meeting at least twice a year.

A quorum for the RCG comprises at least half of the WOAH-elected members of the RCG as well as at least half of all the RCG members.

2.4 RCG responsibilities

The RCG is responsible for:

- Organising physical or virtual meetings at least twice a year and when needed (with the support of the RCG Secretariat).
- Informing the Regional Commission Members, through the RCG Secretariat, of relevant OIE issues, news and upcoming events, to stimulate active participation of Members.
- Dissemination of information on the activities undertaken at the regional level. The information is disseminated in co-operation with the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives using the OIE Regional website and other information channels.
- Helping to develop a regional work plan framework (RWPF) for Regional Commission endorsement that incorporates simple performance measuring tools, and proposing revisions to this RWPF when appropriate or necessary.
- Advocating and promoting the implementation of the RWPF.
- Evaluating the implementation of the RWPF and reporting to the Regional Commission biennially (with the support of the RCG Secretariat).

3. Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RRAP) and Sub-Regional Representation for South East Asia (SRR-SEA)

3.1 RRAP and SRR-SEA responsibilities

WOAH Representations (Regional Representations [RRs] and Sub-Regional Representations [SRRs]) are established to provide regionally adapted services to WOAH Members. The guiding strategy for the RRs and SRRs is the WOAH Seventh Strategic Plan 2021-2025, which sets out the mission and vision for WOAH.

The RRAP and the SRR-SEA are responsible for:

- Supporting the Regional Commission Members to implement their activities in alignment with WOAH's mission and strategy and in response to requests from Regional Commission Members.
- Preparing the annual plan of activities based on WOAH's vision, strategy and its Members' needs and sharing this with Regional Commission Members well in advance to allow time for their feedback or inputs.
- Actioning matters specified in Chapter 3 of the Regional Work Plan Framework (Chapter 3. Activities for Achievement of Key Regional Objectives) as appropriate.

It should be noted that the Terms of Reference for WOAH Regional and Sub-Regional Representations are currently under review.

3.2 Coordination and responsibility sharing between the RRAP and the SRR-SEA

The RRAP and the SRR-SEA closely cooperate and coordinate in implementing their respective activities and joint activities.

The RRAP is responsible for activities and issues relating to the Region as a whole.

For activities and matters relating to the Sub-Region, or to single or multiple Members:

• the RRAP is responsible for the following WOAH Members:

Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Iran, Japan, Korea (Dem. People's Rep. of), Korea (Rep. of), Maldives, Micronesia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu; and the following Regional Commission Members that are primarily Members of another Regional Commission, namely Afghanistan, Iraq, Russia and United States of America, when requested by the Members or if needed.

• the SRR-SEA is responsible for the following WOAH Members:

Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

