



World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health  
Founded as OIE

Organisation  
mondiale  
de la santé  
animale  
Fondée en tant qu'OIE

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal  
Fundada como OIE

# WOAH tools supporting transparency in Global and regional animal health situation

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**Workshop to Strengthen Capacities of Veterinary Services to Facilitate Safer International Trade  
12 to 14 December 2023 Bangkok, Thailand**



# Presentation covers

- Animal Health information
- Official recognition of animal health status by WOAHA
- Self-declaration of animal health status
- The PVS Pathway, also a tool for transparency and information sharing
- How can these tools support achieving safe, fair, predictable and sustainable international trade



# Animal Health information



# Notification obligations for WOAHA Members

## Chapter 1.1. of WOAHA Codes (in terms of Articles 5, 9 and 10 of the Organic Statutes of WOAHA)

- ✓ Member Countries shall make available to other Member Countries, through WOAHA (...) **information necessary to minimise the spread of important animal diseases**, and their **pathogenic agents(...)**.
  - Immediate notification (within 24hs) of listed and emerging diseases
  - Follow up reports to immediate notifications to provide information on the evolution of the event
  - six-monthly reports on the absence or presence and evolution of listed diseases, infections or infestations and information of epidemiological significance to other Member Countries
- ✓ Member Countries shall provide **information on the measures taken to prevent the spread of diseases**. Information shall include **biosecurity** and **sanitary measures**, including restrictions applied to the movement of animals, animal products, biological products and others...
- ✓ Member Countries are encouraged to provide WOAHA with other important animal health information.
- ✓ WOAHA Headquarters shall communicate by email or through the **interface of WAHIS** to Veterinary Authorities all notifications received.



# World Animal Health information System - WAHIS

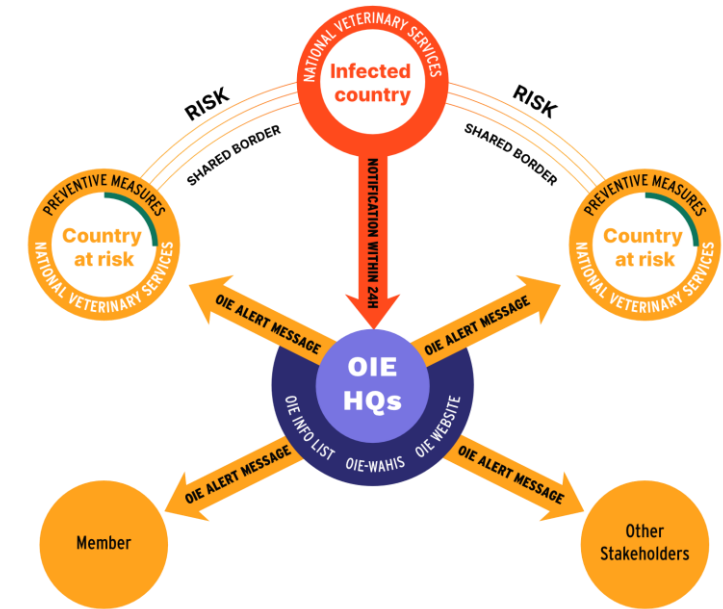
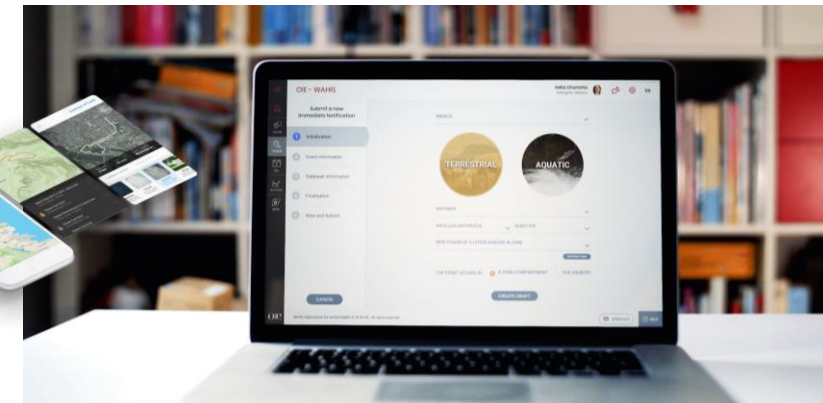
An online system that processes data on animal diseases in real-time and informs the international community. Based on **official notifications** by WOAAH Member countries

Two components:

- an **early warning** system to inform the international community “alert messages” on relevant epidemiological events
- a **monitoring** system to monitor Listed diseases (presence or absence) over time

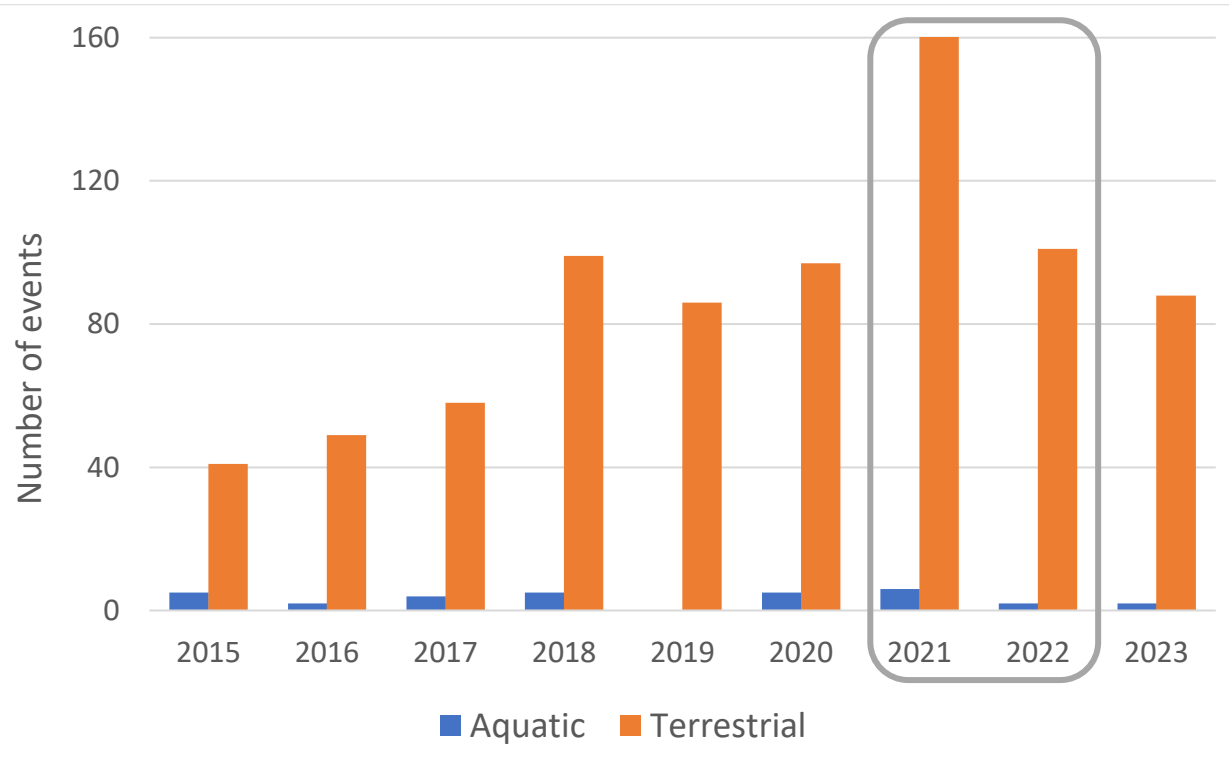
Also, **active search** for non-official animal health information and seek of validation by national Delegates.

<https://wahis.woah.org>



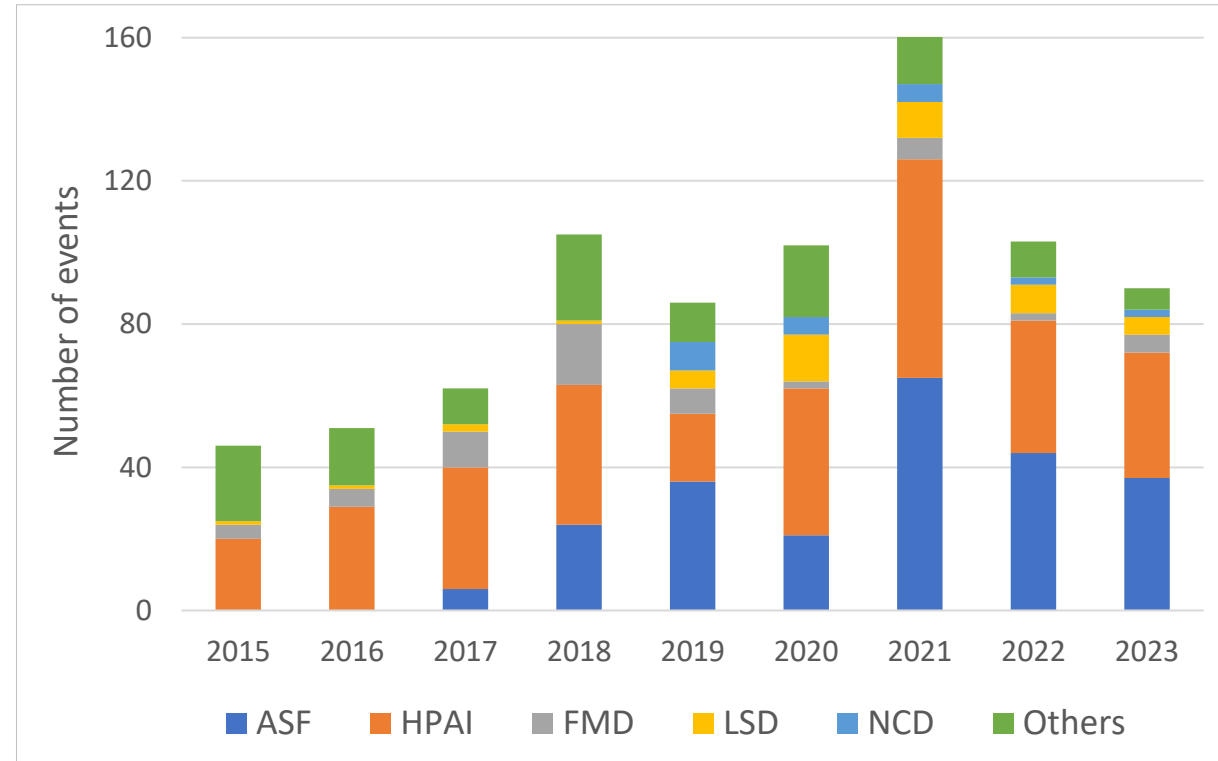
# Early warning module: immediate notifications and follow-up reports

## Evolution of the number of events notified to WOAAH from Asia-Pacific



High number of IN in 2021-2022 mostly due to the spread of HPAI and ASF in the region

## Asia-Pacific most-notified diseases



11 aquatic disease events reported by 6 countries since 2021 : White spot syndrome, Perkinsus olsenii (Inf. with), Tilapia lake virus (Inf. with), Ranavirus (Inf. with), Infectious haematopoietic necrosis, Koi herpesvirus (Inf. with), Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis and Macrobrachium rosenbergii nodavirus (Inf. with)

# Early warning module: immediate notifications and follow-up reports

Article 1.1.3.

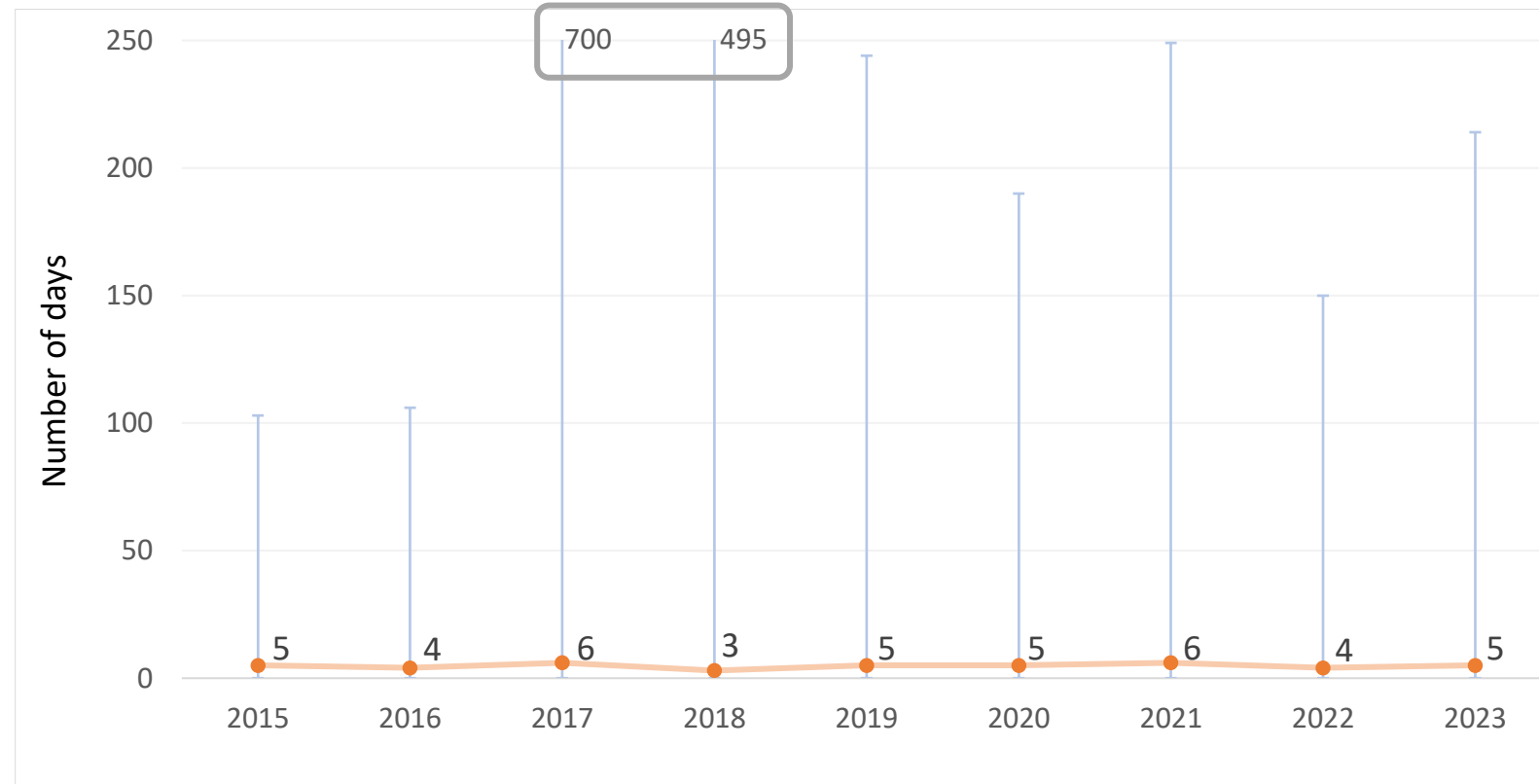
*Veterinary Authorities* shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the *Headquarters*:

1. in accordance with relevant provisions in the disease-specific chapters, *notification*, through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) or by fax or email **within 24 hours** of any of the following events:

**In the period 2015 to 2023 :**

Median IN submission time after disease confirmation = 5 days

**Median time between disease confirmation and notification to WOA**





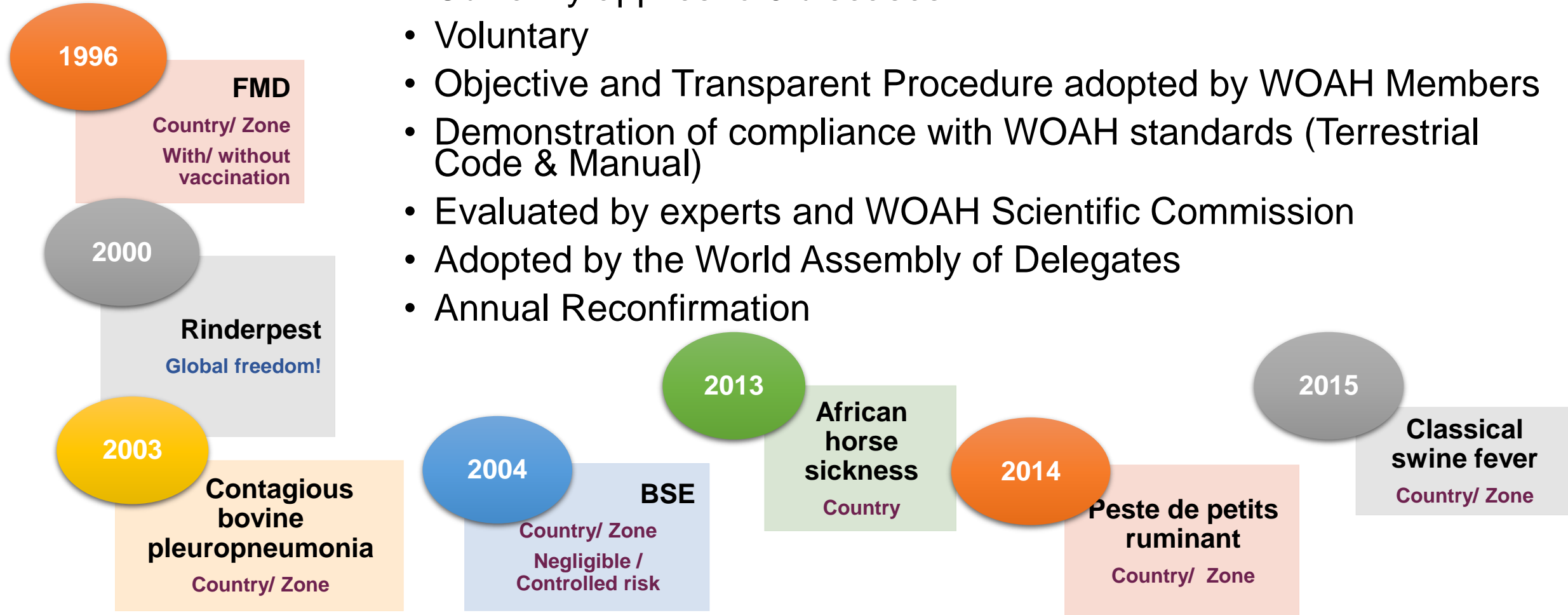
# Official recognition of animal health status by WOAAH





# WOAH Official Disease Status Recognition

- Currently applies to 6 diseases
- Voluntary
- Objective and Transparent Procedure adopted by WOAHA Members
- Demonstration of compliance with WOAHA standards (Terrestrial Code & Manual)
- Evaluated by experts and WOAHA Scientific Commission
- Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates
- Annual Reconfirmation





# The procedure

Voluntary application - Submission of dossier by Members



Preliminary screening by WOAH Status Department



Evaluation by the *ad hoc* Group of experts



Evaluation by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

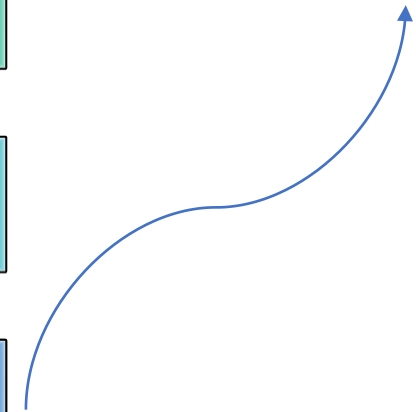


Communication of the outcome by Director General



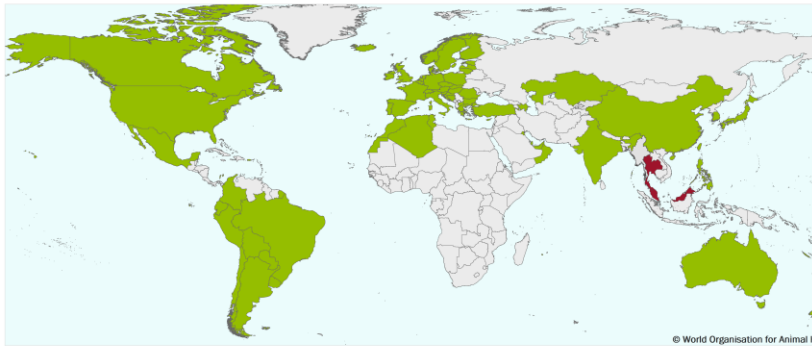
Official recognition (adoption) by the World Assembly of Delegates

**MANDATORY**  
**Annual**  
**Reconfirmation of**  
**Official status**



### WOAH Members' official African horse sickness status map

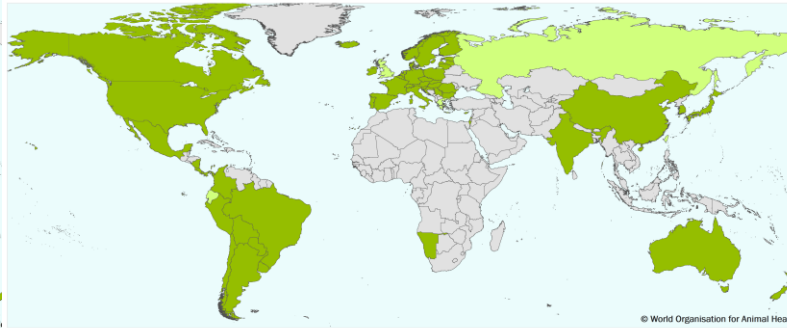
Last update May 2022



- Members recognised as free from AHS
- Suspension of AHS free status
- Countries without an official status for AHS

### WOAH Members' official BSE risk status map

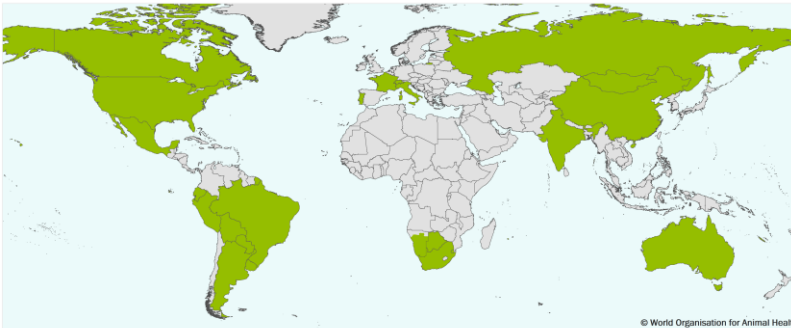
Last update May 2022



- Members and zones recognised as having a negligible BSE risk status
- Members and zones recognised as having a controlled BSE risk status
- Countries and zones without an official BSE risk status

### WOAH Members' official CBPP status map

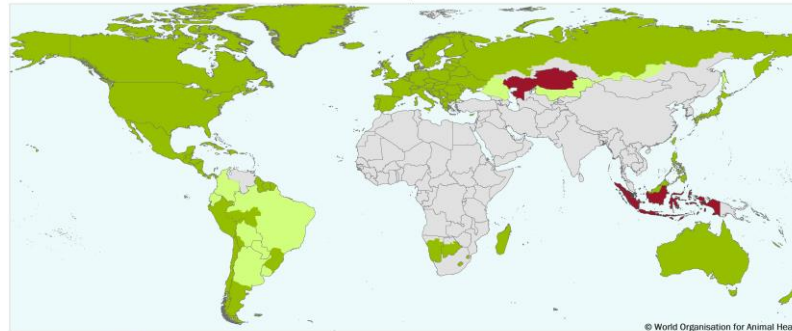
Last update May 2022



- Members and zone recognised as free from CBPP
- Countries and zone without an official status for CBPP

### WOAH Members' official FMD status map

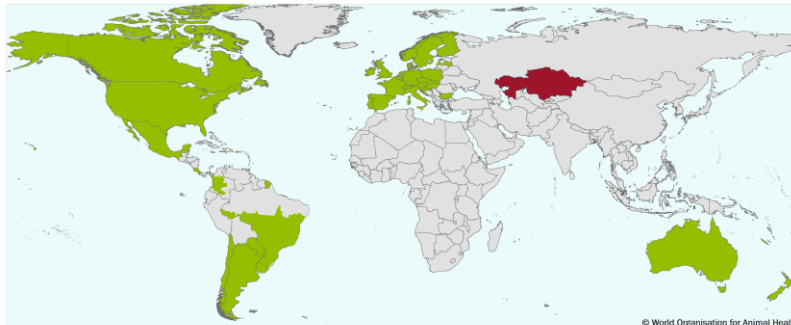
Last update September 2022



- Members and zones recognised as free from FMD without vaccination
- Members and zones recognised as free from FMD with vaccination
- Countries and zones without an official status for FMD
- Suspension of FMD free status

### WOAH Members' official classical swine fever status map

Last update June 2022



- Members and zones recognised as free from CSF
- Countries and zones without an official status for CSF
- Suspension of CSF free status

### WOAH Members' official peste des petits ruminants status map

Last update May 2022



- Members and zone recognised as free from PPR
- Countries and zone without an official status for PPR

All free status can be consulted online [www.woah.org/official-status](http://www.woah.org/official-status)



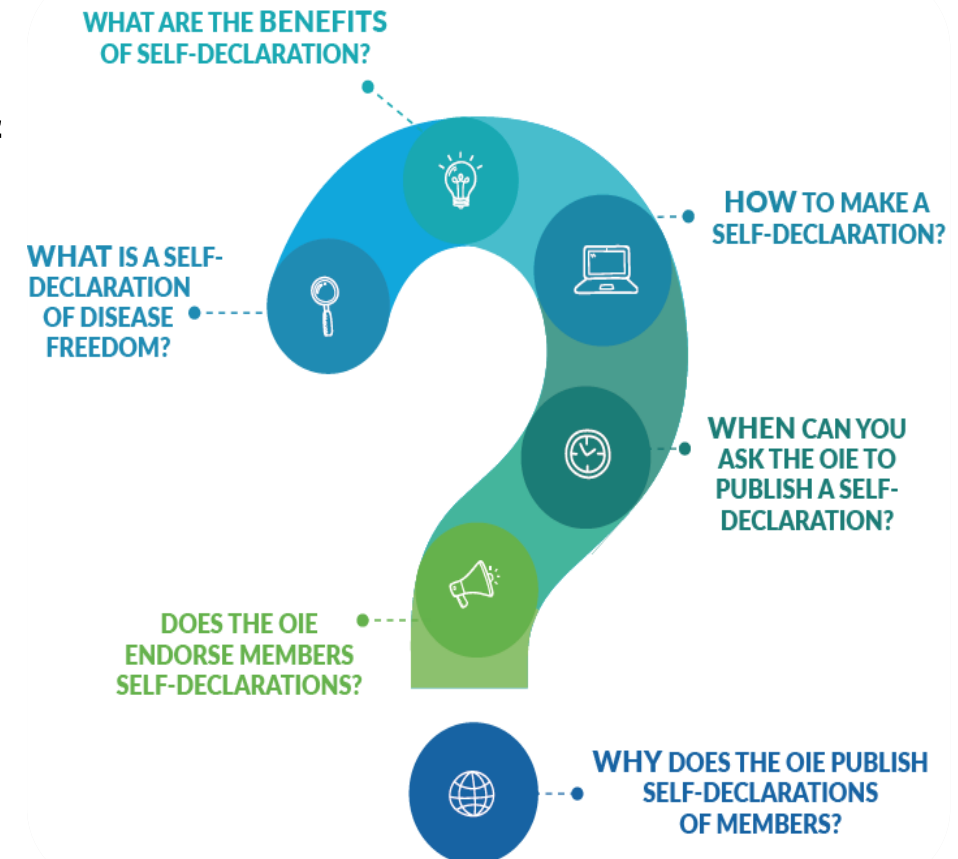
# Self-declaration of animal health status

# Self-declaration of animal health status

A **self-declaration of disease freedom** is a documented statement from the Delegate of the Member and it is entirely under his/her responsibility.

- Documented **compliance** with the provisions of **Article 1.6.3.** and with **disease-specific articles** of the *Terrestrial Code*
- Following the **Standard Operating Procedure** on the publication of self-declarations

*Out of 145 'active' self-declarations of disease freedom, 20 are for zones and 13 for compartments [may include more than one]*





## WOAH Official recognition vs Self declaration

# Free from disease? Spread the news worldwide!



**Demonstrate transparency**  
**Increase economic potentialities of the livestock sector**  
**Access to regional and international markets**  
**Demonstrate quality of Veterinary Services**  
**Promote animal and public health**

**ORGANISE YOUR DOSSIER AND APPLY FOR**

### Official disease status

Science-based, democratic and impartial decision process



For **6** terrestrial animal diseases

- > African horse sickness
- > Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
- > Classical swine fever
- > Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
- > Foot and mouth disease
- > Peste des petits ruminants

### Self-declaration

Under the responsibility of Member Countries



For other diseases of aquatic and terrestrial animals

## Animal Health Status

- Protect animal and human health
- Facilitate trade
- Guarantees to trading partners
  - ✓ **Documented and updated evidence** on the disease-free situation
  - ✓ **Veterinary Services** meet baseline requirements concerning disease control, prevention and early detection



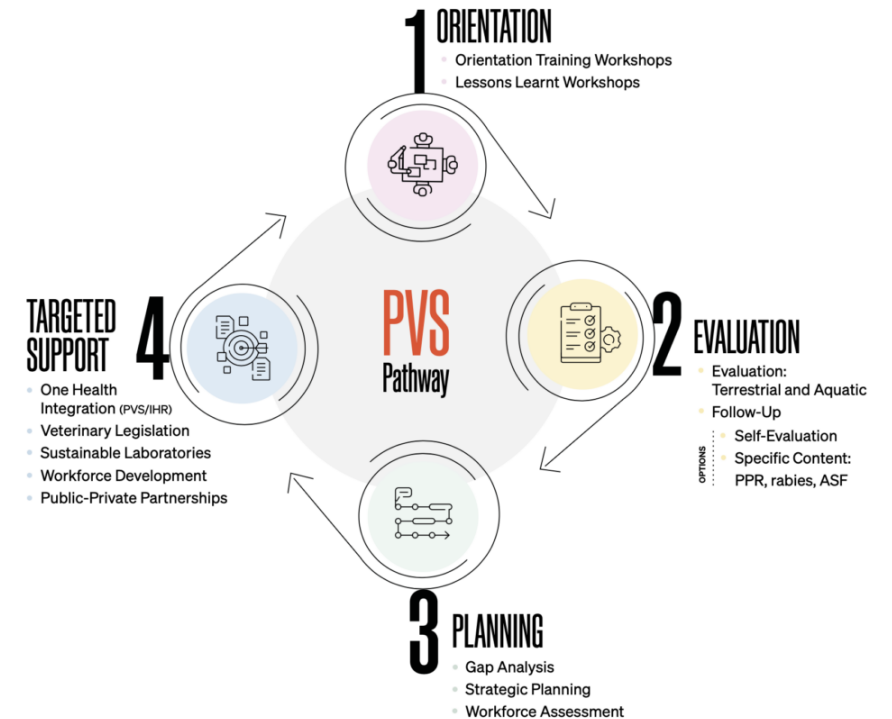


**The PVS Pathway, also a tool for  
transparency and information  
sharing**



# The PVS Pathway

- WOAHA Tool for the Evaluation of the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS Tool) – Based on WOAHA Standards
- The PVS Tool provides a thorough, benchmarked methodology for the consistent, comprehensive evaluation of Veterinary Services.
- Based on this tool, WOAHA has developed the PVS Pathway, a capacity-building programme for the sustainable improvement of national Veterinary Services.
- The PVS Pathway empowers national Veterinary Services by providing them with a comprehensive understanding of their strengths and weaknesses.
- It provides a useful and robust external perspective that analyses the structure, functioning and performance of a country's Veterinary Services, highlights strengths and identifies gaps and opportunities for improvements.



Along this process, several reports are provided to the countries involved, and some of these countries make their reports public on the WOAHA website





# The PVS Pathway reports

## PVS Evaluation

- assesses the extent to which a country's Veterinary Services comply with WOAH standards.
- countries are assigned a level of advancement (1-5) for 45 Critical Competencies
- description of strengths and weaknesses, accompanied by evidence and recommendations.

## Veterinary Legislation

- a detailed analysis of the current state of veterinary legislation in a country.
- presented in an easily understood manner based on its alignment with relevant WOAH standards, and especially with Chapter 3.4. of the Terrestrial Code

## PVS Gap Analysis

- to determine priority goals, strategies, activities and a build an estimate of the investments required
- report intended as an advocacy tool for applying for financial support
- provides valuable information, as a complement to a PVS Evaluation report, to understand the priorities and strategies planned by a country

By making these reports available to trading partners or publicly on the WOAH website, countries show transparency, facilitate information exchanges and improve understanding by using a common framework based on international standards.



This directly results in more fluid negotiations aimed at opening up international markets



**How can these tools support  
achieving safe, fair, predictable  
and sustainable international  
trade**



# Key points

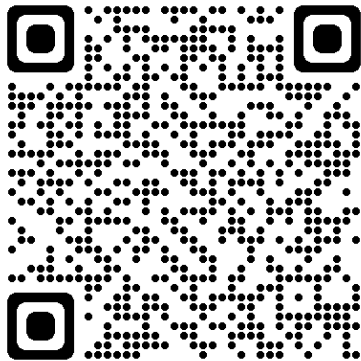
- Information is essential to prevent and manage the risks of disease spread
- WOAH has several global mechanisms and tools in place for Members to share information on their animal health situation and national systems which are based on WOAH Standards and supported by its Membership
- Using the available WOAH tools simplifies communications
- Using global and public tools shows transparency and inspires trust
- Available WOAH tools cover critical elements for the consideration of / demonstration to potential trading partners
- Making good use of public and validated information avoids the frequent misuse of resources, in both importing and exporting countries, spent in the exchange of endless questionnaires or visits, aimed only at gathering information that could be easily obtained from these publicly available sources.
- WOAH tools include historic data, showing consistency over time



# Thank you

All the information sources referred are available at WOAHA Website:

Check it out!



The screenshot shows the WOAHA website header with navigation links: Codes and Manuals, Publications, Documentary Portal, Training Platform, ANIMUSE, Bookshop, EN, FR, ES. The main navigation includes Animal Diseases, Avian Influenza, Antimicrobial resistance, WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, WHAT WE OFFER, MEDIA, and WAHIS. A banner for 'Latest disease alerts' mentions '04.12.2023 / Foot and mouth disease virus (Inf. with), Tunisia'. The main content area features a 'Statements' tab and a large headline: 'WOAHA urges Veterinary Authorities and the animal industry to live up to their commitments regarding the use of antimicrobials as growth promoters'. A sidebar on the right contains a paragraph about antimicrobial resistance and a 'Learn more' button.

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