

WOAH East Asia Wildlife Health Network

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Background

WOAH considers disease surveillance in wild animals—including both terrestrial and aquatic species—to be important. In response to an increased risk of disease emergence at the human-animal-environment interface, the organization developed a new [WOAH Wildlife Health Management Framework](#). The overall goal is to protect wildlife health worldwide to achieve One Health.

Additionally, the Wildlife Health Framework notes a plan to develop global, regional and sub-regional networks for Focal Points for Wildlife together with other stakeholders, to encourage sharing of information and developing a common strategy to improve surveillance and management of disease risks from wildlife. Networks provide an opportunity for ongoing information sharing between key professionals working on wildlife health, taking account of geographically-relevant issues.

Purpose: To provide a platform to facilitate effective sharing of information and advocacy to promote the wildlife health agenda in East Asia.

Objectives

1. To provide a platform for timely sharing of information
2. To facilitate in building capacity for wildlife disease surveillance and other technical assistance to members
3. To build a database of wildlife experts of various fields and facilitate exchange of expertise in capacity building, and conduct of scientific research
4. To undertake collaborative and joint activities to advance the wildlife health agenda
5. To share information with the WOA Working Group on Wildlife

Membership

Membership in the network shall include those in, or with an interest in, East Asia.

1. WOA Focal Points for Wildlife
2. WOA Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification
3. WOA Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories
4. WOA Focal Points for Animal Welfare

5. Representatives from research institutions and academia with an interest in wildlife health
6. Representatives from international organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with an interest in wildlife health

Governance

1. Chairmanship – The Chair will be chosen from among its members for a period of two years, with the possibility of a single reappointment, allowing the Chair to serve a maximum of four years.
2. Secretariat – The Secretariat will be chosen among its members and will serve for five years (renewable)
3. Meetings – to be organized at least twice a year either virtually and/or physically

Adviser

The WOAHA Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (WOAH RRAP) shall serve in an advisory role to the Network and shall coordinate closely with the Secretariat.

Amendments

Any member may propose an amendment to these ToR. The proposed amendment shall be distributed to known members of the network and the amendment adopted if approved by at least two-thirds of members.

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Amended, 2024/09/26