

# Pacific Wildlife Health Network

## Terms of Reference (TOR)

### Background

The OIE 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 [OIE 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.

Pacific Wildlife Health Network was established in 2021 to coordinate networking among wildlife health professionals and institutions and other experts in the region.

### Purpose

To provide a platform to facilitate effective sharing of information and advocacy to promote the wildlife health agenda in the Pacific.

### Objectives

1. To provide a platform for timely sharing of information and encourage sharing, where appropriate, wildlife disease with relevant regional and international organisations (e.g. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)).
2. To facilitate in building capacity for wildlife disease surveillance and management, and other technical assistance to members
3. To build a network of wildlife experts across various fields and facilitate exchange of expertise in support of capacity enhancement
4. To undertake collaborative and joint activities to advance the wildlife health agenda

### Scope of work for network discussions

Wildlife = wild animal, captive wild animals, feral animals, inclusive of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, bees and marine / freshwater wildlife.

Wildlife health and one health surveillance, management and communications.

## **Membership**

Membership in the network shall include those in, or with an interest in, the Pacific, limited to those outlined below:

1. OIE Focal Points for Wildlife
2. OIE Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification
3. OIE Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories
4. OIE Focal Points for Animal Welfare
5. Representatives from governmental or designated veterinary or animal health and wildlife authorities/services,
6. Representatives from other governmental or designated authorities responsible for wildlife health management.
7. Representatives from the OIE
8. Representatives from regional and international organisations with an interest in wildlife health (e.g. the Pacific Community (SPC), FAO, etc)
9. Others by invitation and agreement by the group (e.g. Representatives from research institutions, academia and non-government organisations with expertise in wildlife health)

## **Governance**

1. Chairmanship – the Chair will be chosen among its members for a period of two 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 OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (OIE 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.