

## 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Training of WOAHA Focal Points for Wildlife in Asia and the Pacific with Regional Networking Workshop

14 – 17 February 2023

### Report for networking sessions on 17 February 2023



6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Training of WOAHA Focal Points for Wildlife in Asia and the Pacific with Regional Networking Workshop  
14-17 February 2023, Bangkok, Thailand

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## INTRODUCTION

### Background

The World Organisation for Animal Health's (WOAH, founded as OIE) is the international organisation responsible for developing standards, guidelines and recommendations for animal health and zoonoses; these are laid down in the WOAH Terrestrial and Aquatic Animals Codes and Manuals. WOAH's Global Programme for Capacity Building supports WOAH Delegates and WOAH National Focal Points towards providing good governance for improving animal health at the national level, while explaining and clarifying their roles and responsibilities within WOAH. One of the important pillars in this program is the wild animal health capacity building effort, which includes activities such as the WOAH Focal Points for Wildlife Regional Training Workshop.

The venue for the 6th Regional Workshop for the Asia-Pacific Region's WOAH Focal Points for Wildlife was in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop was conducted with local assistance from the Department of Livestock Development (DLD), Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Mahidol University (MU) in Thailand. Financial support came from the Japan Trust Fund and Australia DFAT IPCHS One Health partnership.

In the four sub-regions of Asia and the Pacific—East Asia, the Pacific, South Asia and South-East Asia—[WOAH sub-regional wildlife health networks](#) were established in 2021. For most of these (excepting South-East Asia), members have been conducting activities in a purely virtual format. The South-East Asia network held an in-person event in September 2022.

In conjunction with the regular training for Focal Points for Wildlife related to the 6<sup>th</sup> cycle training manual (workshop programme sessions 1 to 5), a day was also organised to strengthen wildlife health network across this region (sessions 6 to 9, on networking). These built on the existing sub-regional wildlife health networks in East Asia, the Pacific, South Asia and South-East Asia. This report summarises the networking sessions held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February, the final day of the workshop.

The workshop methodology was developed by WOAH in collaboration with invited facilitators. The method was very dynamic and interactive, based on group exercises to identify both strengths and needs of participants, and to develop a future sustainable network for wildlife health in Asia and the Pacific.

## Objectives of the networking sessions and expected outputs

Building on shared experiences both before and during the workshop, participants were encouraged to continue to work together to strengthen their communication and collaborations after the workshop.

The objectives of the networking sessions of the workshop were:

1. To support the National WOAHA Focal Points for Wildlife in building and participating in networks at the national, sub-regional, regional, and global scales.
2. To reinforce networking through experience-sharing and discussion between participants.
3. To build on wildlife health networking in sub-regions to the regional level.

The expected outputs were:

1. Framework for the Regional Wildlife Health Network
2. Vision for each sub-regional wildlife health network
3. Better wildlife health network within each Member

The programme of the sessions is available in [Annex 1](#).

## REPORT ON THE SESSIONS

From 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> February 2023, the 6th Cycle Training of WOAHA Focal Points for Wildlife in Asia and the Pacific with Regional Networking Workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand, led by the WOAHA Collaborating Centre based in the USGS National Wildlife Health Centre and WOAHA headquarters, and with kind support from the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) in Thailand. Presentations for the entire workshop are available on the [event page](#) of the regional WOAHA website.

On 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023, the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RRAP) and Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia (SRR-SEA) led sessions on wildlife health networking. The Workshop was attended by 28 participants (including 2 online), 7 experts, and 8 WOAHA staff. Participants were nominated by WOAHA Delegates – either as Focal Point for Wildlife or their alternate. The workshop used an interactive methodology and a structured approach to guide participants from their own view at country/territory level up to the sub-regional level and finally the regional level. The [WOAH Wildlife Health Framework](#) was used as a reference text by participants during discussions. Sessions were structured in a step-by-step process as follows:

### Session 6: Opening of the networking sessions

Opening remarks were provided by Associate Professor Dr Ganokon U Ferreira, Asst. Dean for International Relations, Mahidol University, Thailand. Dr Dharmaveer Shetty (WOAH headquarters) introduced the objectives for the day, outlining the step-wise approach for networking from country/territory responsibilities of WOAHA Focal Points for Wildlife, to the sub-regional level, then regional. In the future, the regional network will also connect to other regional networks to form a global network.

### Session 7: Situating the WOAHA Wildlife Health Networks

Dr Shetty conducted an exercise with participants to situate WOAHA Focal Points for Wildlife as stewards for wildlife health networks in their country/territory. Participants worked in small groups to identify stakeholders in wildlife health networks.

Chairs of the WOAHA sub-regional Wildlife Health Networks—East Asia (Japan), Pacific (Australia), South Asia (Nepal) and South-East Asia (Singapore)—presented reports on their activities during 2022. They discussed success stories and overcoming challenges in the fledgling networks, as well as plans for the upcoming year.

Dr Steve Unwin (Wildlife Health Australia) presented an introduction to Theory of Change (ToC), describing how to develop an outcomes framework for the regional network. He emphasised the importance of “backward mapping”, by first agreeing on the desired impact of the network before mapping the outcomes/outputs/activities/input needed to achieve that impact. Additionally, Dr Unwin spoke of the need to have indicators to be able to assess progress and adapt as needed to reach the ultimate goal (the impact).

## Session 8: Priorities and vision for the networks

Putting into practice their knowledge of ToC, participants assembled in groups corresponding to their sub-regional networks to firstly discuss sub-regional perspectives. They developed a vision and a list of priorities for their network, as well as compiling ideas on what they need from the region and what they can offer. Each group gave feedback in plenary to share with all four sub-regions.

### *Visions for each sub-regional wildlife health network:*

<b>East Asia</b>	Maintain network. Overcome gap of information to understand other country strategy to control disease to prepare for introduction of disease from a neighbouring country or region.
<b>Pacific</b>	Good output and engagement (connections). Sustainable and relevant. Promote wildlife health management, conservation and biodiversity.
<b>South Asia</b>	Sustainable networking and epi-lab capacity to support and assist in the management of wildlife health challenges.
<b>South-East Asia</b>	Functional network to address needs, priorities and offering. Integration with One Health.

### *Priorities for each sub-regional wildlife health network:*

<b>East Asia</b>	Invite participants from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. To get and share information from/with other countries and other regions. To control wildlife disease effectively in each country to prevent spread to others.
<b>Pacific</b>	More Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) on board. Strengthen network → able to contact each other for advice (Focal Points and experts). Support in-country networks to develop and maintain. Contribute to WOA and regional bodies (PHOVAPS).
<b>South Asia</b>	To have healthy and sustainable (viable) populations of wildlife species. National, regional and global cooperation and communication among the stakeholders. Task Force development in terms of capacity building of wildlife staff and animal health care providers. Wildlife disease surveillance. To create awareness about wildlife health and conservation among general public.
<b>South-East Asia</b>	Wildlife disease surveillance system – enhanced lab capacity; data knowledge sharing and reporting system. Regular meetings and situation/trend updates. Go beyond the network.

Dr Lesa Thompson (WOAH RRAP) outlined a draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for a new WOA Regional Wildlife Health Network for Asia and the Pacific (WOAH Regional WHN A-P). The participants were mixed in new groups before they had further discussions on the regional perspective. They prepared their ideas of a vision for the regional network, and priorities for a regional platform. The output was again discussed in plenary.

Common threads from the group discussions were: sustainability, a One Health approach, and enhancement of wildlife health and biodiversity.

*Purpose and objectives of the WOA Regional WHN A-P (from draft ToR):*

6th Cycle Training of WOA Focal Points for Wildlife in Asia and the Pacific  
with Regional Networking Workshop

**Draft**

## WOAH Regional WHN for Asia & the Pacific

- **Provide a platform to facilitate effective sharing of information, expertise and advocacy to promote the wildlife health agenda in the Region**
- Establish a network of wildlife experts across the Region to facilitate exchange of knowledge and expertise
- Support wildlife disease surveillance and reporting to global information systems, including capacity building across the Region
- Enhance communication, including but not limited to members in the Region, WOA in the Region and at headquarters, and other wildlife experts globally including the WOA Working Group on Wildlife and WOA Reference Centres
- ...

*Active discussion by participants on the new network:*



*Suggestions proposed for the vision of the WOA Regional WHN A-P:*

- To establish a good functional network
- To promote One Health and Biodiversity
- Enhance wildlife health and management through One Health collaboration

- Functional and sustainable network
- To conserve and protect wildlife = happy, health wildlife, humans and domestic animals
- Resilient regional network
- Share information on factors affecting wildlife health to achieve One Health

Several priorities for the network were identified in group discussions. Based on these discussions, FOUR priority areas identified for the Asia and the Pacific region:

1. **Information sharing and communication**
2. **Wildlife trade**
3. **Wildlife disease surveillance and reporting**
4. **Capability**

### Session 9: Future actions of the regional wildlife health network

Dr Tricia Fry (USGS) and Dr Shetty kicked off the last session with a presentation on historical lessons on building wildlife health networks. They gave examples of Wildlife Health Cooperatives in the USA and India, emphasising the importance of a value-based and sustainable network.

Using the same working groups as for the previous session, participants focussed on ONE of the FOUR regional priorities (from session 8). Participants were asked to identify, for each priority area, priority activities that the network should implement to improve their networking in the future. They completed “Actions/activities” cards, detailing the activity, the desired date of achievement, responsible persons including focal points, support required to achieve the action/activity, indicators for successful implementation. Groups were encouraged to consider sustainability and resilience of the actions/activities, and to rank the impact and difficulty of the action/activity (from a low of 1 to a high of 5). The importance of identifying an activity that is specific, measurable, agreed upon, realistic and time-based (SMART) was highlighted.

*Template for developing actions/activities:*

WOAH Focal Points for Wildlife: Regional Wildlife Health Network	
Action/activity	
Activity	Required support
Desired date of achievement	Indicators
Who should be involved? Suggestions for responsibility and focal point(s)	
Impact	Difficulty

A World Café exercise was then organised to enable participants to contribute to the actions/activities of all priority areas. Each group had a rapporteur whose duty was to summarise the results of their work to the other groups. Each group rotated between the different poster boards to contribute and provide feedback on all technical areas. Facilitators in the session



(invited speakers and WOAHA staff) gave verbal feedback and also use post-it note pads to leave comments on the actions/activities.

A total of 12 actions/activities were proposed by participants in the 4 priority areas. The desired date of achieved ranged from within one month's time to December 2028. Most actions/activities were ranked for an impact of 4 or 5, with difficulty ranking of 3 to 5; note that ranks were not agreed for all actions/activities.

*Activities proposed for each priority area:*

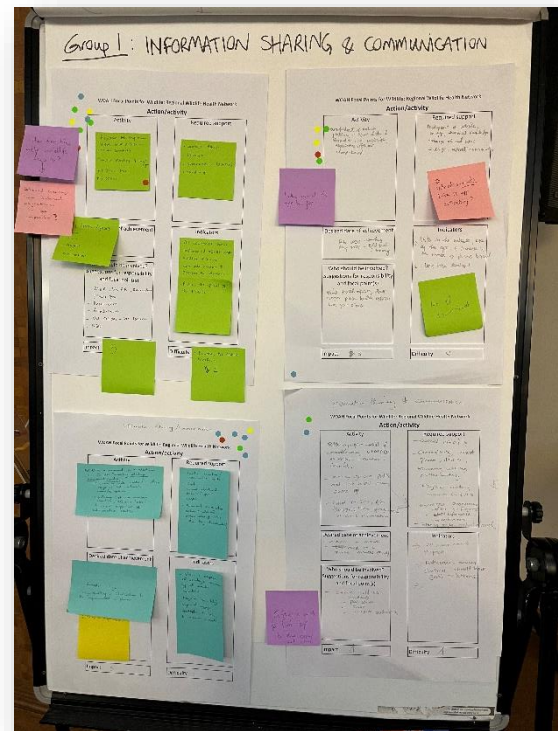
<p><b>Information sharing and communication</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional meeting about updates on wildlife disease in the countries. Regular meeting 4 times/year: 1 face-to-face, 3 online.</li> <li>• Establishment of online platform to share data and information, e.g. website, applications software, cloud-based.</li> <li>• Establish a regional strategic document/policy on communications and sharing: harmonise with WOAHA and other regional wildlife networks/policies; pathways between member countries / reference laboratories / collaborative centre / technical expertise etc.</li> <li>• Selecting proper method of communication: WhatsApp, emails, contact details. Making general public and stakeholders more aware. Fund raising to support the programmes to share information.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wildlife trade</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-stakeholder interaction meeting to identify five wildlife trade commodities to manage better.</li> <li>• Quantitative risk analysis process for an identified hazard/species.</li> <li>• Develop risk reduction measures (SOP/guidelines): risk reduction guidelines for identified commodities to achieve safer wildlife trade.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wildlife disease surveillance and reporting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a list of emerging and infectious diseases of concern.</li> <li>• Develop a national reporting system (country-wide).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Capability</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trainings: Involve organisations/networks already working on wildlife (e.g. WWF, IUCN, UNEP, UNDP, GEF, GCF) for their inputs. Launch a specialised course in collaboration with a university for capacity building in wildlife for veterinarians.</li> <li>• Series of activities:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop KAP questionnaire.</li> <li>○ Develop/update national wildlife health surveillance and monitoring plan/action plan.</li> <li>○ Training on developing national wildlife health surveillance and monitoring plan.</li> <li>○ Annual WOAHA Focal Points for Wildlife training.</li> <li>○ Joint symposium on wildlife and One Health.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Surveillance training. Laboratory capacity training. Risk assessment.</li> </ul>

## Prioritisation of actions/activities

To prioritise the actions/activities, each Member country/territory was given six small stickers, to identify which they considered as of highest priority. This was conducted during the afternoon coffee break. At the end of the World Café, Dr Kinley Choden (WOAH SRR-SEA) provided an overview of the actions/activities.

A total of 99 votes were cast, with two actions/activities obtaining very high scores, including one activity in “Wildlife trade” (for a “Multi-stakeholder interaction meeting”) and one in “Wildlife disease surveillance and reporting” (to “Develop a list of diseases of concern”). In the “Capability” priority, a suite of activities involving various training exercises received a high number of votes in total.

*Example of group output on “Information sharing and communication”, comprising four proposed actions/activities:*

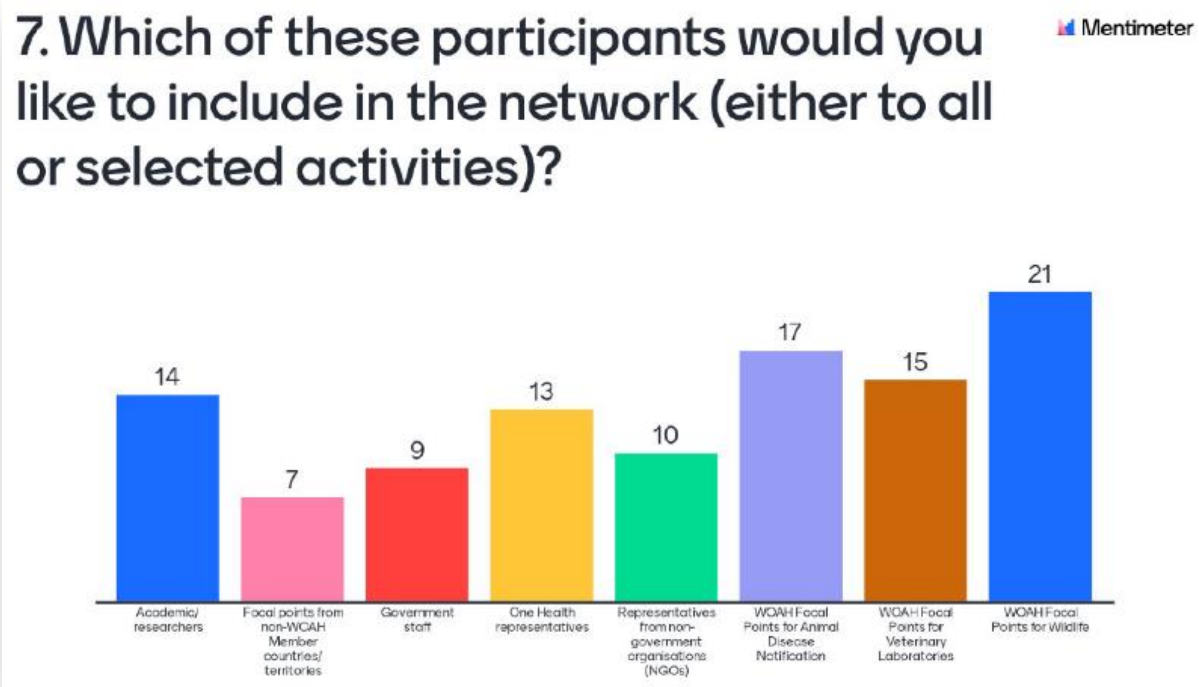


## Modality of the regional wildlife health network

Interactive software (Mentimeter®) was used to discuss the modality of the network, with n.23 participants sharing responses. Most participants were interested in being a part of the network secretariat. Regular physical and virtual meetings were the most popular modalities selected for the network (19 and 18 votes, respectively). Two thirds (15/22) voted to restrict membership of the network to WOAH Members only, but one third (7/22) disagreed. Many voted for inclusion of other participants, either to all or selected activities.

Common challenges perceived for the network were: sustainability, collaboration and communication, and sufficient resources such as time/funding. Possible solutions offered include: good planning, commitment, regular meetings, open communication, and multi-sectoral communication.

Possible participants for some network activities (Mentimeter® responses):



### Governance and responsibilities of the regional wildlife health network

It was proposed that WOAH RRAP will act as Technical Secretariat of the WOAH Regional WHN for A-P in coordination with WOAH SRR-SEA. It was agreed by participants that the Network Secretariat will be held on a rotating basis, starting with Wildlife Health Australia (which has applied to become a WOAH Collaborating Centre).

The Network Chair will be held on a rotating basis by WOAH Focal Points for Wildlife. Two Members volunteered for this position and votes were taken. Japan will be the first Network Chair. Singapore will be the Network Deputy Chair, becoming the Network Chair next year.

### Closing

Dr Hirofumi Kugita, WOAH Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific (WOAH RRAP), gave closing remarks via Zoom® link. He congratulated the participants on their active discussions during the workshop and on the establishment of the regional wildlife health network.

Workshop attendance certificates were distributed by Dr Shetty.

Participants completed a workshop evaluation survey online. The main strengths of the networking sessions were the group discussions and participatory approach. The most popular session was the World Café where participants discussed other groups' work. Several participants suggested that more time to discuss the network would be beneficial.

## WAY FORWARD

### Continued networking at country/territory and sub-regional levels

WOAH Focal Points for Wildlife will continue to network within their country/territory as outlined in their [ToR](#) and discussed during this workshop.

WOAH Sub-regional Wildlife Health Networks will continue their activities. Based on outputs from this workshop, the network secretariats (led by their respective chairs) will refine their vision and priority actions/activities. They will develop a roadmap to effect the actions/activities of their respective networks, ensuring they are SMART and sustainable. Future annual reports will include monitoring and evaluation based on indicators developed for the actions/activities.

WOAH will continue to support WOAHH Focal Points for Wildlife in their work. WOAHH RRAP and SRR-SEA will continue to support WOAHH Sub-regional Wildlife Health Networks in East Asia, the Pacific and South Asia (RRAP), and South-East Asia (SRR-SEA).

### Initiate coordination calls with the WOAHH Regional WHN A-P secretariat

Time was limited during the workshop sessions. Further discussions between WOAHH RRAP/SRR-SEA and the rest of the Regional WHN A-P secretariat will refine the outputs from these discussions to update the network ToR and propose a roadmap for the network.


### Consultation with WOAHH Regional WHN A-P members



WOAHH RRAP/SRR-SEA will share documents drafted by the secretariat with members of the network for review and comments. Based on this feedback, the WOAHH Regional WHN A-P secretariat will then update and finalise the documents.

### Implement WOAHH Regional WHN A-P roadmap

The WOAHH Regional WHN A-P secretariat will implement the agreed roadmap actions/activities.

## ANNEX 1: Programme for networking sessions

DAY 4: Friday 17 February 2023		
	<b>Session 6: Opening of the networking sessions</b>	Chair: Dr Lesa Thompson, WOAHRAP
09:00 – 09:05	Opening remarks	Associate Professor Dr Ganokon U. Ferreira, Asst. Dean for International Relations, Mahidol University, Thailand
09:05 – 09:10	Introduction and objectives for today	Dr Dharmaveer Shetty, Preparedness and Resilience Department, WOAHR headquarters
	<b>Session 7: Situating the WOAHR Wildlife Health Networks</b>	Chair: Dr Kinley Choden, WOAHR SRR-SEA
09:10 – 09:30	Network Exercise: Situating the Wildlife Focal Point as a steward for wildlife health networks in their country/territory	Dr Dharmaveer Shetty, Preparedness and Resilience Department, WOAHR headquarters
09:30 – 10:15	Reports from WOAHR sub-regional wildlife health networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Asia</li> <li>• Pacific</li> <li>• South Asia</li> <li>• South-East Asia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Manabu Onuma, Japan</li> <li>• Dr Tiggy Grillo, Australia</li> <li>• Dr Mukul Upadhyaya, Nepal</li> <li>• Dr Anna Wong, Singapore</li> </ul>
10:15 – 10:35	Theory of Change: developing an Outcomes Framework for the Regional Network	Dr Steve Unwin, Wildlife Health Australia
10:35 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
	<b>Session 8: Priorities and vision for the networks</b>	Chair: Dr Lesa Thompson, WOAHR Regional Office
11:00 – 11:30	Group discussion: Sub-regional perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vision</li> <li>- Priorities</li> <li>- Needs from the region</li> <li>- What can you offer?</li> </ul> 	Facilitators: chairs of sub-regional networks
11:30 – 11:50	Plenary feedback and discussion	Group rapporteurs

11:50 – 12:30	Group discussion: Regional perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vision</li> <li>- Priorities</li> </ul> 	Facilitators: Dr Steve Unwin, Dr Julia Lankton, Dr Tricia Fry, WOH staff
12:30 – 13:00	Plenary feedback and agreement on regional priorities and vision	Group rapporteurs
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
	<b>Session 9: Future actions of the regional wildlife health network</b>	Chair: Dr Dharmaveer Shetty
14:00 – 14:15	Learning from the past: Historical lessons on building wildlife health networks in Asia and around the world	Dr Tricia Fry and Dr Dharmaveer Shetty
14:15 – 15:15	World Café: Establishing the regional wildlife health network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5-year plan (strategy)</li> <li>- 1-year plan (activities/actions)</li> <li>- Working groups/focal person for regional topics</li> </ul> 	Chair: Dr Kinley Choden Facilitators: Dr Steve Unwin, Dr Julia Lankton, Dr Tricia Fry, WOH staff
15:15 – 15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:45 – 16:15	Plenary discussion	All
16:15 – 16:45	Modality of the regional wildlife health network (Mentimeter® poll)	Dr Lesa Thompson and Dr Kinley Choden
16:45 – 17:00	Evaluation and closing ceremony	Dr Hirofumi Kugita, WOH Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific (WOH RRAP)