



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

WOAH Wildlife Health Programme

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Preparedness and Resilience Department

Regional Commission meeting
Middle East

- Larnaca, Cyprus, 24-28 November 2025



To Protect Wildlife health

To reduce, anticipate and manage the risk of pathogen emergence and transmission at the human-animal-ecosystem interface

To improve early detection, notification and management of wildlife diseases

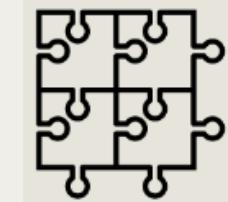
A political, policy and scientific environment to support Veterinary Services in the implementation of effective wildlife health monitoring, surveillance and management is key to reinforce One Health strategies to manage the risk of disease emergence and protect wildlife health.

- Funding support from **6** WOAH Members = 3,3Ms (without EU funded regional Projects) over 5 years
- Team of **4** people at WOAH HQ
- 1 staff in the region supporting wildlife implementation





HOW to achieve these objectives?



Promote multisectoral coordination and collaboration to operationalize the One health approach



Strengthen capacity in wildlife health management for veterinary services



Improve reporting and analysis of quality wildlife health data to improve global surveillance systems



Update and develop relevant international standards and guidelines related to wildlife health



Dissemination of scientific knowledge to address risks and identify best practices in wildlife health



Awareness and advocacy to integrate wildlife health issues into veterinary services' priorities



- Questionnaire to WOAH Members to collect inputs
- Consultation of external stakeholders
- Inputs from the WGW

Wildlife Health Framework
(Dec. 2020)

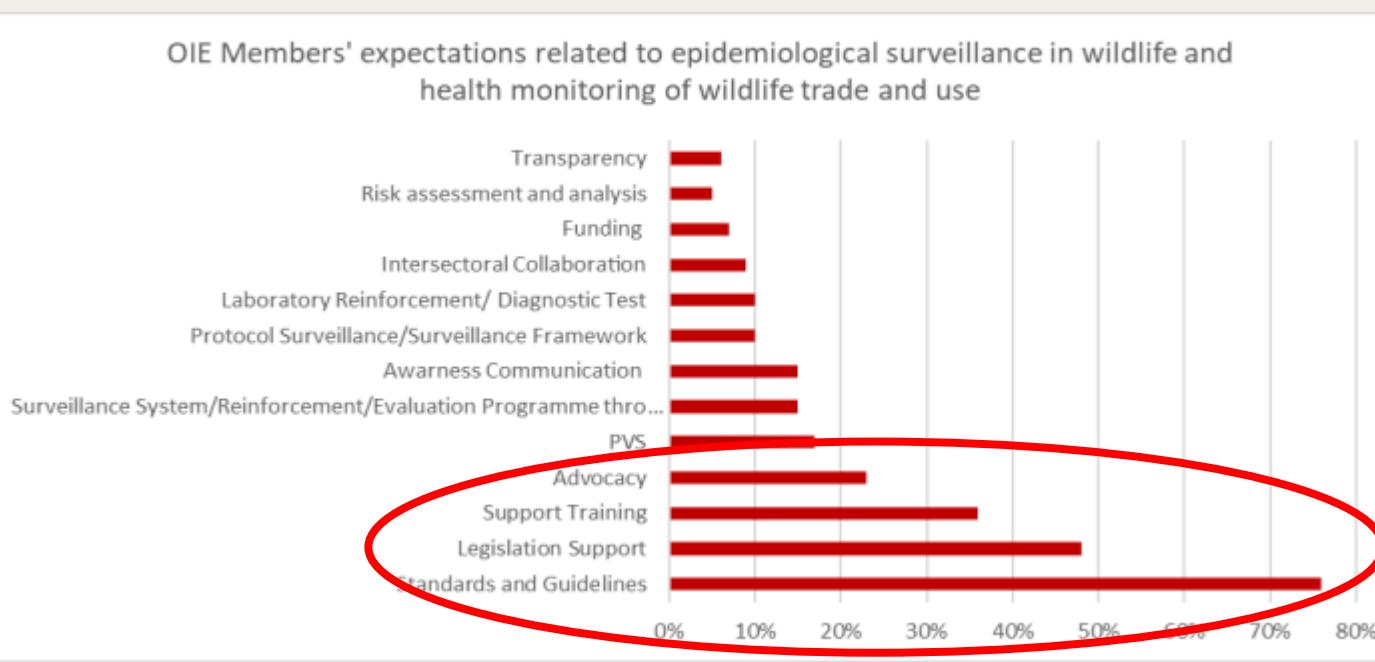
5-year Wildlife Health Framework implementation plan (2021-2025)

- Stock taking and baseline (**Two surveys to Wildlife Focal Points**)
 - Products development
 - Products dissemination
 - Resource mobilisation

- External WHF evaluation
- Foresight tools
- **Feedback from Members through Regional Commissions**

Programme evaluation to inform next Strategy (2026-2030)

Table 1: Total number of responses per region			
OIE Region	Total no. of respondents	Total no. of OIE Members	% of OIE Members who responded
AFRICA	44	54	81%
AMERICAS	28	32	88%
ASIA AND PACIFIC	26	36	72%
EUROPE	47	53	89%
MIDDLE EAST	6	20	30%
Grand Total	151		83%



- TOP Enabling factors for Veterinary Services to conduct surveillance in wildlife and monitor health risk in wildlife trade and use
- 1. Increase collaboration with other sectors (conservation)
- 2. Relevant legislative framework
- 3. Funding from government
- 4. WOAH Guidelines pertaining to wildlife trade



Some key Highlights



Multisectorial collaboration to produce Guidelines on wildlife trade



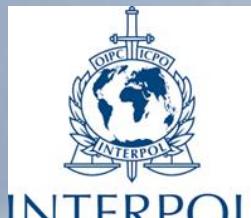
WOAH
Working
Group on
Wildlife



World Health
Organization



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



WOAH
Collaborating
Centre for Risk
Analysis and
Modelling

TRAFFIC

Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade



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Avian influenza and Wildlife

Risk management for people working with wild birds

September 2022



General Guidelines for Surveillance of Diseases, Pathogens and Toxic Agents in Free-ranging Wildlife

An overview for wildlife authorities and others working with wildlife

First edition



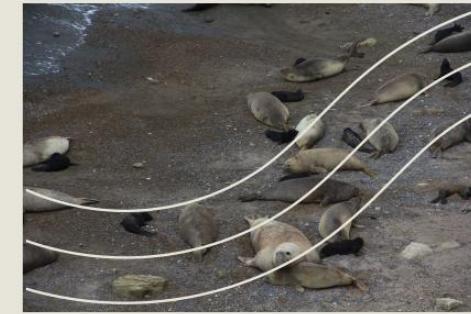
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Practical guide for authorised field responders to HPAI outbreaks in marine mammals

With a focus on biosecurity, sample collection for virus detection and carcass disposal

February 2024



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Guidelines for WOAH Members

- Guidelines for Risk guidance on **reducing spillback of Mpox from humans to wildlife, pet animals and other animals**
- Considerations for **emergency vaccination of wild birds against high pathogenicity avian influenza** in specific situations
- Guidelines for **Working with Free-Ranging Wild Mammals in the Era of the COVID-19 Pandemic**
- Guidelines & Manual for **Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis** (currently being updated)

Wildlife legislation needs special attention (surveys)
June 2020 and June 2021

Wildlife health legislation questionnaire
June 2023

Review and adjust questionnaire
2024 -2025

Address gaps in the WOAH Code Legislation Chapter
Long term

Wildlife health legislation review (terrestrial animals)
Sep. 2022

Pilot VLSP missions with wildlife component
2023 - 2025

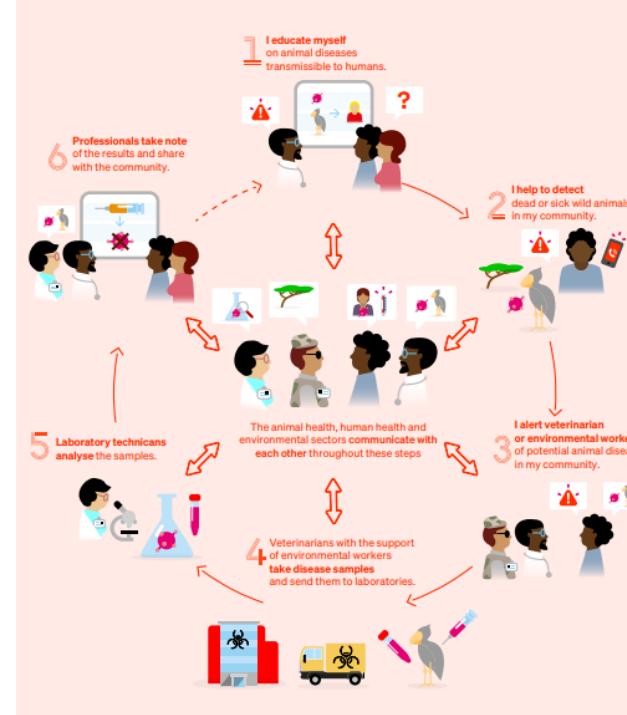
Wild aquatic animal health legislation review
Q3 2025

- To highlight the importance of Wildlife health for Global health
- Provide material for advocacy purpose

- Ecosystem Video
- Surveillance Video
- Pelican and AI video
- TB video



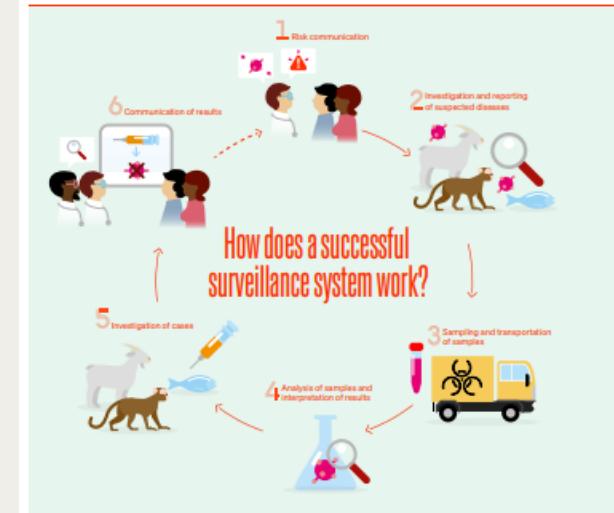
WHAT IS MY ROLE AS A CITIZEN IN THE ANIMAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM?



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HOW DOES COMMUNITY-BASED SURVEILLANCE WORK?



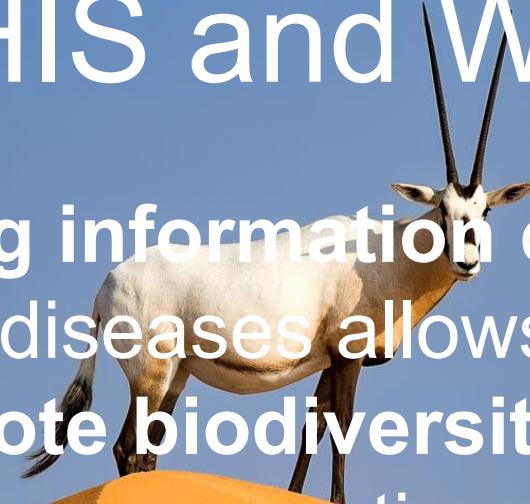
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WAHIS and WAHIS-Wild Beta

Sharing information on wildlife diseases allows us to :

- **Promote biodiversity and wildlife conservation**
- **Improve knowledge and raising awareness of emerging threats for better protection of**
 - Human health
 - Animal health



Period covered: Jan - Jun 2024

This report provides an update of wildlife disease situation, according to the information submitted through the World Animal Health Information System of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WAHIS).

A general introduction of the scope and objective of this report as well as global level of wildlife disease surveillance activities can be found on [Wildlife Health - WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health](#).

Key messages and Recommendations

- During the reporting period, 55 countries and territories reported 3,800 outbreaks and 11,566 cases in wildlife. Cases of eight diseases were reported in 151 different wildlife species, 10% of which are classified as being at risk of extinction by the IUCN red-list.
- The reporting of exceptional events affecting wildlife during the period mainly concerned African Swine Fever and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in several regions. This is a common situation also observed in previous situation reports that shows the widespread existence of surveillance activities in WOAH Member countries and the extensive distribution of these two diseases worldwide.
- Few deaths and cases in 15 threatened species, representing 0.6% of the total number of cases notified during the period have been reported, highlighting the importance of diseases for the conservation of biodiversity. The spread and persistence of ASF and HPAI in wildlife poses a threat not only to biodiversity (especially when the diseases are reported in fragmented bird and mammal populations), but also to livestock, food security, and human health at the global level.



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TADs & Regional Lab Capacity-Building (Wildlife-Related)

- **HPAI & PPR**

- Support to countries on surveillance at the wild–domestic interface.
- Regional technical missions, webinars, and alerts (2023–2025).



- **Regional Reference Labs**

- Strengthening diagnostics for wildlife-linked TADs (HPAI, PPR, MERS-CoV).
- Capacity-building workshops on sample management, sequencing, QA/QC.



Wildlife Focal Points & Regional Wildlife Network

- **Wildlife Focal Point Training**

Participation of Middle East Wildlife Focal Points in WOAH Inter-Regional Wildlife Training Cycle 2021

- RRME prepared a **full concept note and program for a new Wildlife FP Training (2024–2025)**. Training did not take place due to lack of funding despite strong regional identified need.

- **Regional Wildlife Health Network**

- The **Middle East Wildlife Health Network** was formally identified as needing to be **rebuilt, strengthened, and reactivated**.
- Reinforced as one of RRME's **priority regional ambitions** for 2025–2026.
- Currently seeking partners and funding to operationalize the network.



WEBINAR
Regional Training of
National OIE Focal
Points for Wildlife
Intermediate cycle training round

20 - 24
September | 2021

Georges Phrem, Lebanon
Wildlife focal point
CITES M.A



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
Protecting animals, preserving our future

Member experiences:
OVERCOMING CHALLENGES IN
WILDLIFE DISEASE REPORTING



IUCN World Conservation Congress – UAE, Oct 2025

- **Regional Leadership**

- Hosting by UAE reflects **strong ME commitment** to wildlife health, biodiversity, and One Health.
- Highlights UAE's growing role in **global conservation diplomacy**.

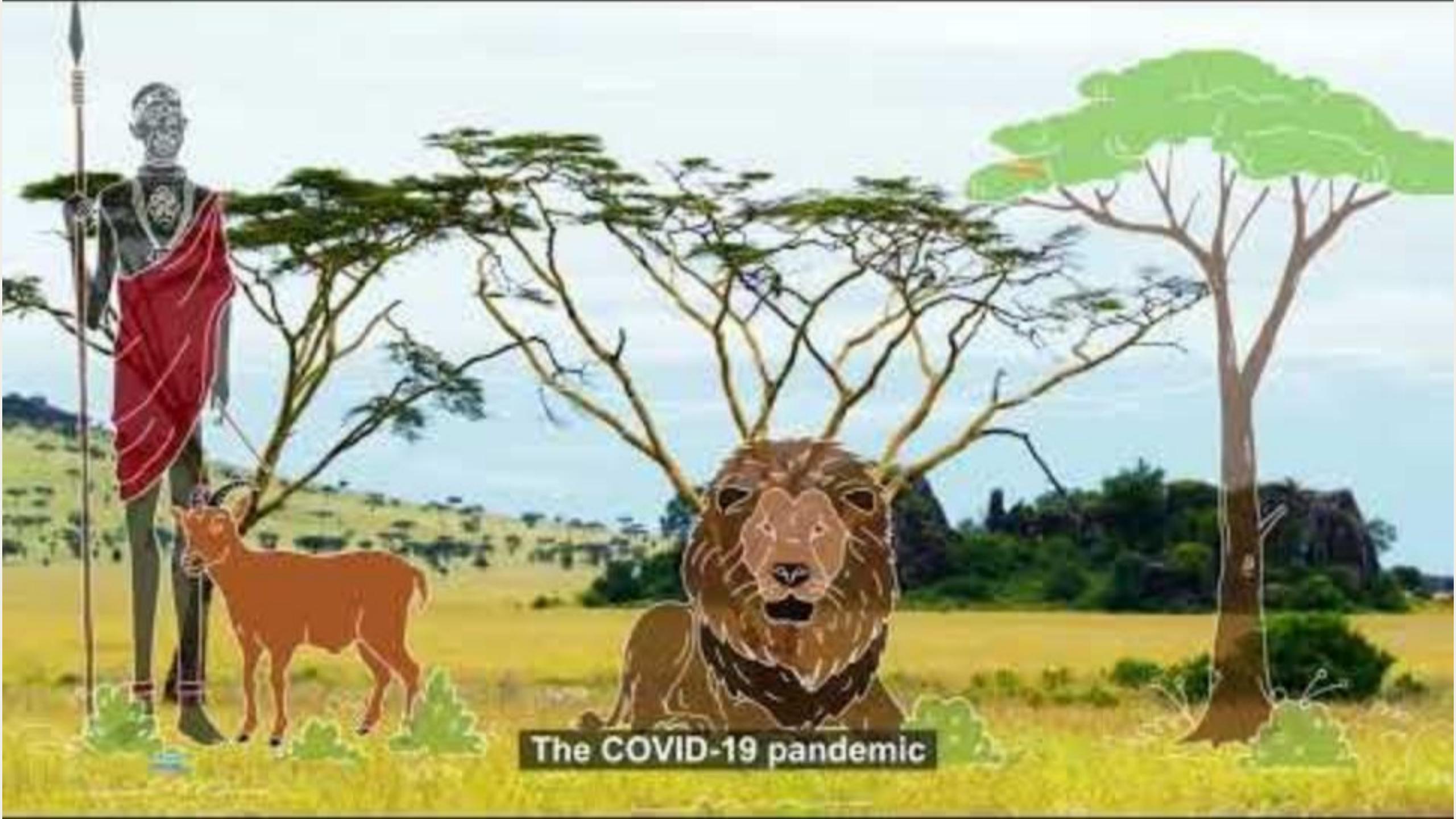
- **Middle East Involvement**

- ME countries increasingly engaged in wildlife health and ecosystem protection.
- Congress offers a platform to **showcase regional initiatives** and strengthen collaboration.

- **WOAH Contribution**

- WOAH co-leading a **side event** under the *International Alliance Against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade*.
- Event marks the **handover of the Alliance** from GIZ to WOAH, reinforcing WOAH's global role.
- Opportunity to promote rebuilding the **ME Wildlife Health Network**.





The COVID-19 pandemic

Your turn !

Any questions ?

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