

WOAH global animal welfare strategy (GAWS) and activities related to transport of animals.

Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa

13- 15 January 2026, Amman, Jordan

Leopoldo Stuardo

Scientific Coordinator/ Animal welfare / WOAH Standards Department



World Organisation
for Animal Health

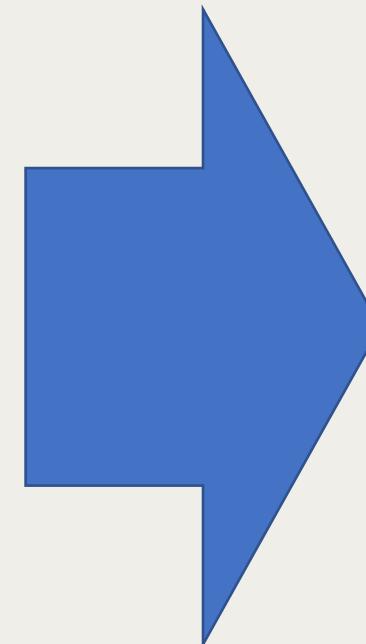
THE WOAH AND ANIMAL WELFARE: A STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

Resolution No. XIV from the 70th WOAH
General Session, 26 - 31 May 2002

- Animal welfare has been identified as a strategic priority for the WOAH since 2001, under the mandate granted by all Members.

Resolution No. XXXI from 85th General Session,
21–26 May 2017

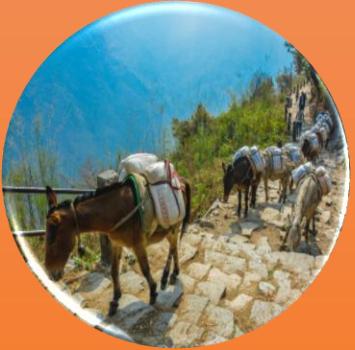
- The WOAH Global Animal Welfare Strategy was developed from lessons learned from actions taken at national and regional level and aims to be a source of ongoing guidance for the WOAH's activities in this area, and it's based in four main pillars.



VISION

A world where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and advanced, in ways that complement the pursuit of animal health, human well-being, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability.

GAWS STRATEGIC PILLARS



DEVELOPMENT OF
ANIMAL WELFARE
STANDARDS



CAPACITY BUILDING
AND EDUCATION



IMPLEMENTATION OF
ANIMAL WELFARE
STANDARDS AND
POLICIES



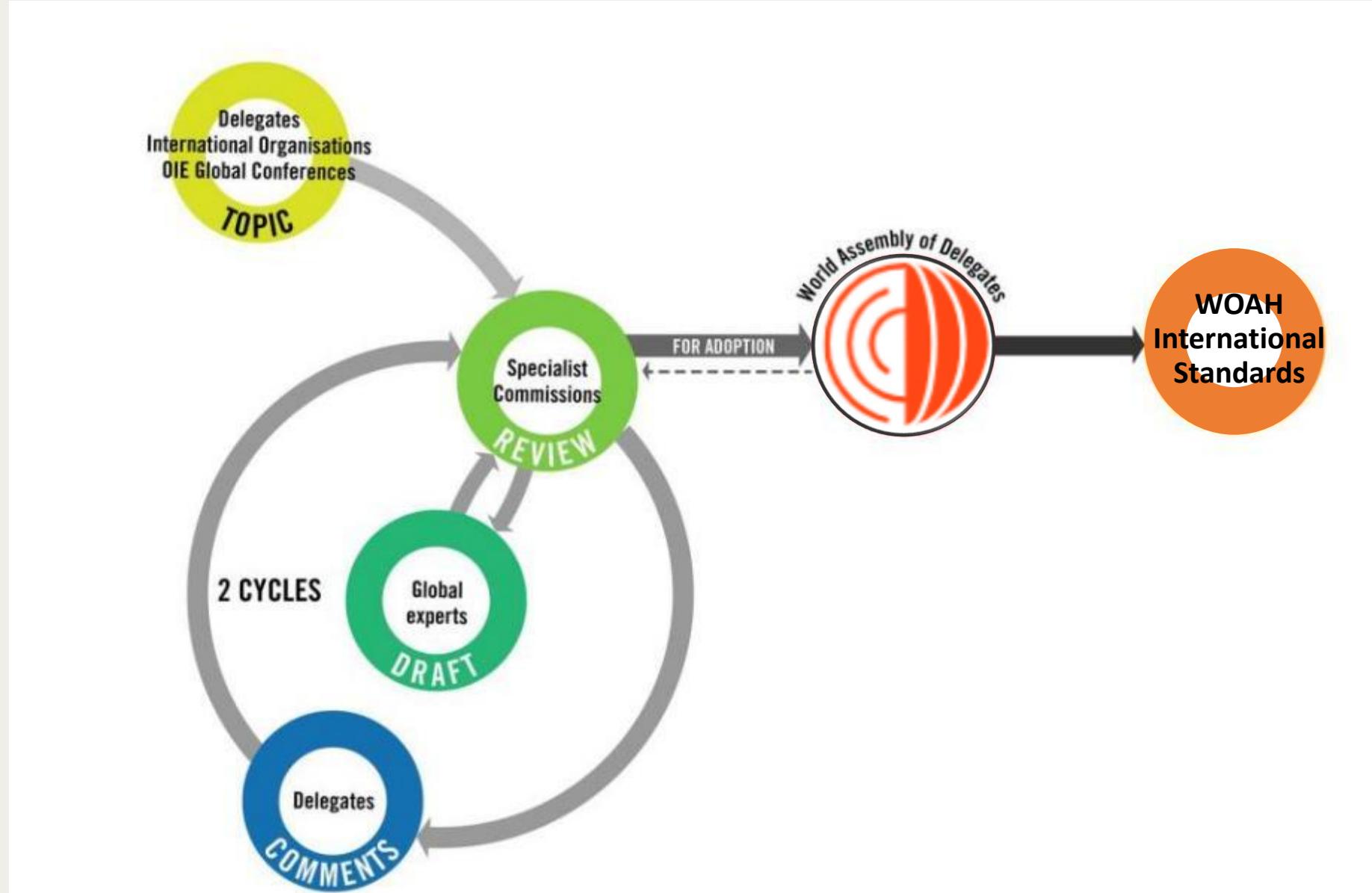
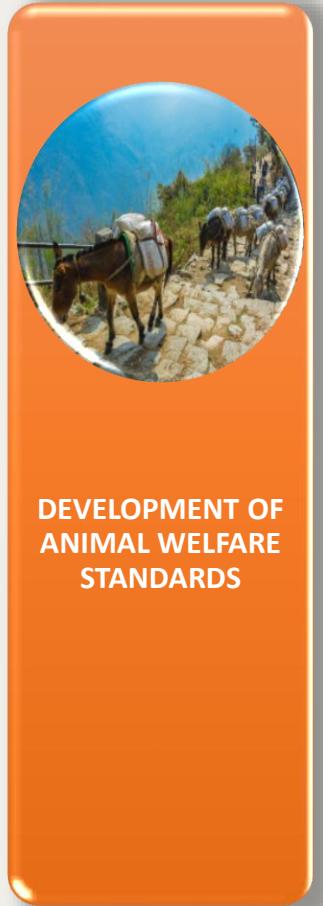
COMMUNICATION
WITH
GOVERNMENTS,
ORGANISATIONS AND
THE PUBLIC



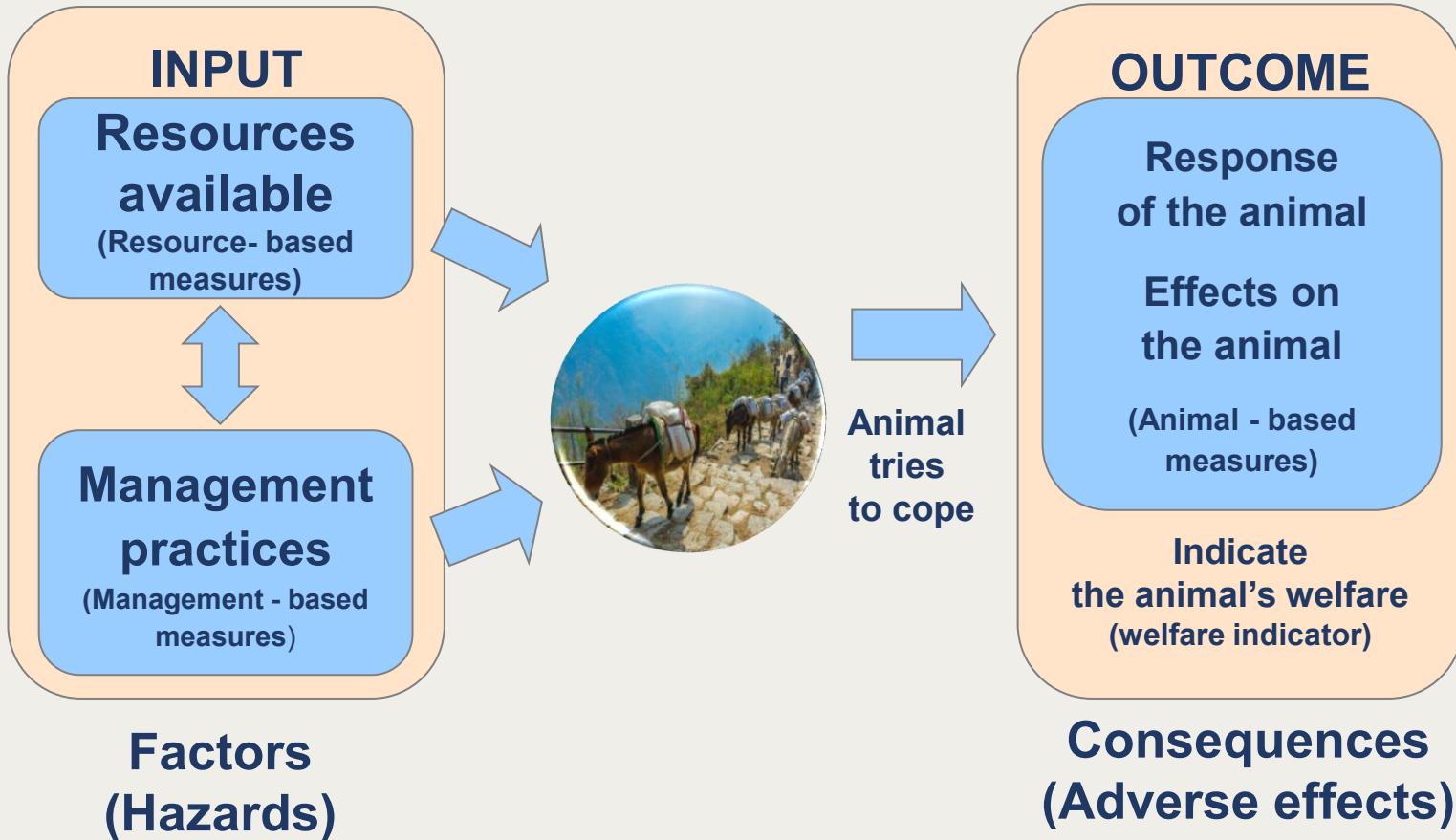


ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

WOAH STANDARD SETTING PROCESS



CONCEPTS USED ON THE WOAH ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS



GAWS PILLARS ACTIVITIES



**Chapter adopted during the 92nd WOAH General Assembly,
May 2025**

- Chapter 7.1. Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare; Inclusion of the 'Five domains' concept and clarification on the use of the terms 'animal-based, resource-based and management-based measures'.**

**ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS UNDER REVIEW
(TERRESTRIAL CODE)**

Chapter for comments

- Article 7.5.30 of Chapter 7.5. Animal welfare during slaughter, Annex 12 of the September 2025 Code Commission Report.**
- Chapter 7.6. Animal welfare at the time of killing, Revised draft to be presented to the February 2026 Code Commission meeting.**

GAWS PILLARS ACTIVITIES



ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS UNDER REVIEW (TERRESTRIAL CODE)

Other work in progress

- Chapters 7.2., 7.3. and 7.4. Transport of animals by sea land and air; New draft Chapter 7.2. Animal welfare during transport, to be presented to the February 2026 Code Commission meeting**

GAWS PILLARS ACTIVITIES



COMMUNICATION
WITH
GOVERNMENTS,
ORGANISATIONS
AND THE PUBLIC

- First WOAH AW Forum -March 2018.
‘Supporting the implementation of WOAH standards’
- Second WOAH AW Forum - April 2019
‘Animal transport: a shared responsibility’
- Third WOAH AW Forum (Virtual) April - April 2021
‘Animal Welfare and the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals’
- Fourth WOAH AW Forum (Virtual) -October 2022.
‘Animal welfare economics’
- Fourth WOAH AW Forum (Virtual) -October 2023.
‘Developing national animal welfare legislation; different paths for the same destination’
- Sixth WOAH AW Forum (Merida, Mexico) - October 2024
‘How WOAH Global Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre Network can support Members in the development of animal welfare policies’
- 7th WOAH Global Animal Welfare Forum, WOAH Headquarters, Paris, France, 13-14 November 2025
‘Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and Platforms (RAWS&P); A key tool for the implementation of WOAH animal welfare standards’



To bring together members of the animal welfare research community, the global animal welfare movement and the global animal-source food sector to debate openly on topics relevant to animal welfare

GAWS PILLARS ACTIVITIES



A journey to animal welfare and sucessful shipments

Identification and Involvement of the main actors (across borders – throughout the supply chain)



- Competent Authorities proactivity (e.g. Quarantine services)
- Exporter
- Importers
- Civil Society
- Role of police
- Effective communications (contact points)

- Animal-base oriented
- Indicators
- Criteria
- Contingency plans (e.g. feed)
- Monitoring (new technologies)
- Neglected areas (laboratory animals)

Potential revision of the Code Chapters (Science based)



Inclusion of other sciences



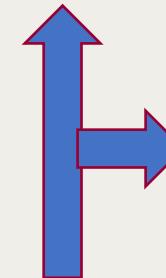
- Economy and other social sciences (local solutions for local problems)
- Applied ethology

Communications



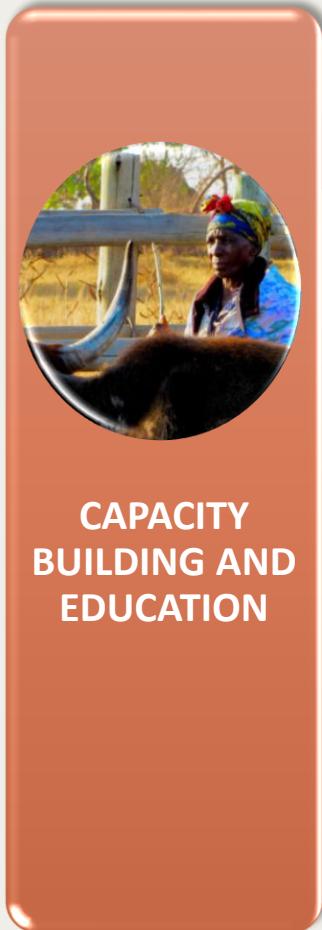
- Coordination
- Attitudes awareness campaigns
- OIE air transport not well known

Support the regulatory framework (Fit for purpose –flexible – consistent. Focused on “Good regulatory practices”)



- Education (to all the concerned participants – behavioural changes (VPP))
- Training
- Coregulation (ISO 34 700)
- Use of OIE tools (PVS pathway)
- Interaction between regulations (Sea – Land)

GAWS PILLARS ACTIVITIES



- WOAH Training Portal (<https://training.oie.int/>)
- Development of e-leaning modules.
 - Chapter 7.14. Killing of Reptiles for their Skins, Meat and Other Products (Finalised).
 - Labelling process of Chapter 7.7. Dog population management (On going).
 - Initial work on Chapters 7.5. Animal welfare during slaughter, 7.6. Animal welfare at the time of killing and 7.13. Animal welfare en pig production systems (On going).
- Work plan of the Global Network of Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres, presented to the Biological Standard Commission at their September 2025 meeting. The Commission acknowledged and encouraged this initiative.



GAWS PILLARS ACTIVITIES



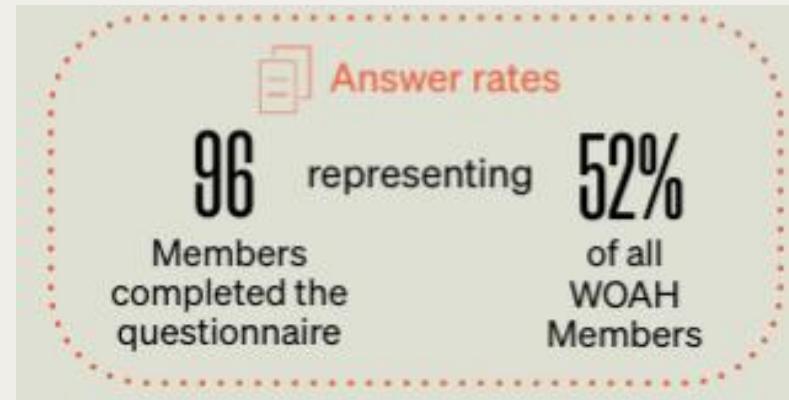
- Technical Specification ISO TS 34700, Animal welfare management - General requirements and guidance for organizations in the food supply chain (<https://www.iso.org/standard/64749.html>)
- WOAH Observatory project
 - Thematic study on animal transport by land and sea. 1st Phase finished (Factsheet on WOAH Website; <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/observatory/the-observatorys-thematic-studies/#welfare>). 2nd Phase started during the 1st Semester of 2025.

<https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/observatory/>

THEMATIC STUDY - ANIMAL WELFARE DURING TRANSPORT



The WOAH Observatory, together with WOAH Standards Department, is conducting a two-step study: step 1 to assess the level of implementation of WOAH standards related to animal welfare during transport by land and sea via a worldwide survey (finished), step 2 to explore the barriers to the uptake of these standards via focus group discussions.



THEMATIC STUDY - ANIMAL WELFARE DURING

Some results TRAI



IMPLEMENTATION
OF ANIMAL
WELFARE
STANDARDS AND
POLICIES

A majority of Veterinary Authorities have a regulatory framework in place...

Among the respondents reporting transport



by land



by sea

78%

70%

reported having a regulatory framework in place covering animal welfare during transport



Most Veterinary Authorities have an enforcement mechanism...

Among the respondents who reported having a regulatory framework in place covering animal welfare during transport



by land



by sea

72%

74%

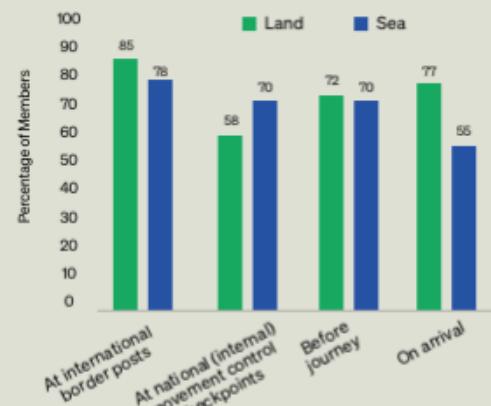
reported having a mechanism in place to enforce the regulatory requirements related to animal welfare during transport

More than 80% of respondents reported having specific requirements in place for vehicles and vessels. This percentage, however, was found much lower for holding facilities and containers (around 60% of responding Members). Responsibility and specific requirements of actors involved in transport operations were not always defined.

Journey plan* required by	Checklist of actions to be followed by actors during transport required by	Contingency plans in place for transport required by
 Land	 92% of respondents	 57%
 Sea	 94% of respondents	 67%

*Journey duration and space allowance were the requirements more frequently reported as having to be part of the journey plan. The less reported requirements were weather and road conditions.

... that includes physical inspections and documentary checks



Percentage distribution of Members performing at least one type of inspection (physical and/or documentary) at different control points for the control of animal welfare during transport by land and sea



Among the respondents who reported having a mechanism in place to enforce the regulatory requirements related to animal welfare during transport



by sea

6%

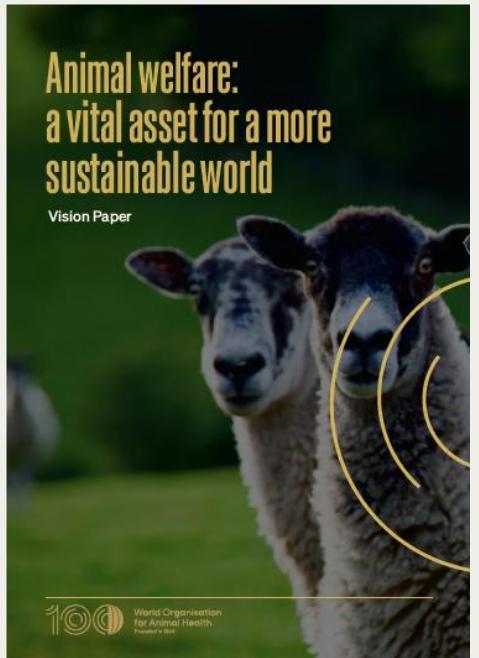
15%

reported performing no inspection (either physical or documentary) at any control point



IMPLEMENTATION

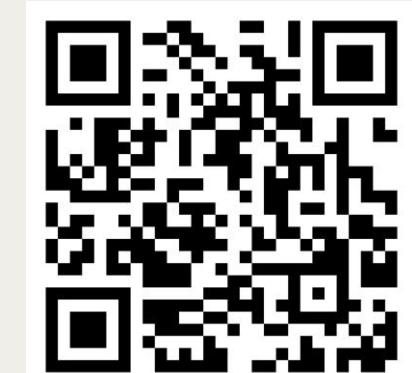
A journey to animal welfare and
successful shipments



En



Sp



Fr

Thank you!

Merci

Gracias

12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France

T. +33 (0)1 44 15 19 49

F. +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87

woah@woah.int

www.woah.org

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Flickr](#)

