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Regional training seminar for OIE focal points on wildlife in Africa and the Middle-East

Arusha, Tanzania, 16 – 19 March 2010

OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa
Gaborone, Botswana



Regional Information Seminar funded by the OIE and the European Union (European Commission) under the DG SANCO 'Better Training for Safer Food' programme.



REPORT

REGIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR

*“OIE Focal Points for Wildlife
in Africa
(English-speaking countries)
and the Middle East”*

16.03.2010 – 19.03.2010

Arusha ▼ Tanzania

OIE Sub-regional representation for Southern Africa

Gaborone ▲ Botswana

Seminar funded by the OIE and
the European Union
(European Commission)

April 2010

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ACRONYMS

BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food (programme) [DG SANCO]
CCWHC	Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre
DG-SANCO	Health and Consumer Directorate General [EC]
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OWOH	One World, One Health
PPR	Peste des Petits Ruminants
RR	Regional Representation [OIE]
RR-AF	RR for Africa
RR-ME	RR for the Middle-East
RVF	Rift Valley Fever
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SPS	[Agreement on the application of] Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards [WTO]
SRR	Sub-Regional Representation [OIE]
SRR-EA	SRR for East Africa and the Horn of Africa
SRR-NA	SRR for North Africa
SRR-SA	SRR for Southern Africa
TANAPA	Tanzania National Parks
TFCA	Transfrontier Conservation Area
UK	United Kingdom
WAHID	World Animal Health Information Database [OIE]
WAHIS	World Animal Health Information System [OIE]
WTO	World Trade Organisation

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All weight units expressed in tonnes are metric tons.

All distance and surface area units are expressed in metric units (km and km²)

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Edited by Pierre Primot, Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel & Patrick Bastiaensen

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INTRODUCTION

Within the framework of the OIE's ongoing training of focal points, a joint seminar for wildlife focal points from english speaking African countries and Middle Eastern countries, was organised in Arusha, Tanzania, from 16th to 19th March 2010.

This seminar was organised by the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa in Gaborone, Botswana, in close collaboration with the OIE Regional Representation for Africa in Bamako, Mali, the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle-East in Beirut, Lebanon, the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France, the OIE Collaborating Centre on *Training in Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Health and Management*, based at the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Pretoria, South Africa and the OIE Collaborating Centre on *Wildlife Disease Surveillance and Monitoring, Epidemiology and Management*, based at the *Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre*.



As far as the participants from Africa was concerned, this seminar was organised with the financial support of the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG-SANCO) under the “*Better Training for Safer Food*” programme for Africa.

Picture courtesy of Sandy Karam (2010)

In line with the OIE's overall mandates, this training seminar dealt with providing OIE subject matter Focal Points on wildlife with the necessary information, updates and skills to better assume their responsibilities and obligations towards their national OIE Delegates in their respective countries and thus strengthen the interaction with the OIE, and particularly to ensure the adequate notification on wildlife diseases to the OIE.

OIE Focal Points on wildlife from 21 countries of Africa and 9 countries of the Middle East attended this seminar: Angola, Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Bahrain, Cyprus, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian Autonomous Territories, Qatar, Syria and Yemen.

The seminar was interactive, in part facilitated by both OIE Collaborating Centres from South Africa and Canada, and integrated small working group sessions on practical examples. During the week, a visit to Tarangire National Park was organised. It was the opportunity to highlight some of the aspects that have been discussed during this training seminar, and could be used in the planning of national surveillance programmes.

More information : http://www.rr-africa.oie.int/en/en_index_annex51.html

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SUMMARY

During the 76th OIE General Session in May 2008, the International Committee of the OIE reiterated the importance of the Focal Points for animal diseases notification and requested delegates to nominate additional Focal Points for: wildlife, veterinary products, animal production food safety, animal welfare and aquatic animals. OIE Focal Points, nominated by OIE delegates and acting under their supervision, are an important mechanism for countries to satisfy to their OIE obligations and to strengthen communication and collaboration between OIE Members and the OIE.

In the global OIE framework of focal point training, the OIE decided to organize a joint seminar for African English speaking countries and for Middle Eastern countries, in Arusha, Tanzania, from 16th to 19th March 2010. This seminar was organised by the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa in Gaborone, Botswana, in close collaboration with the OIE Regional Representation for Africa in Bamako, Mali, the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle-East in Beirut, Lebanon, the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France, the OIE Collaborating Centre on *Training in Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Health and Management*, based at the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Pretoria, South Africa and the OIE Collaborating Centre on *Wildlife Disease Surveillance and Monitoring, Epidemiology and Management*, based at the *Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre*.

In line with the OIE's overall mandates, this training seminar dealt with providing OIE subject matter to Focal Points on wildlife with the necessary information, updates and skills to better assume their responsibilities and obligations towards their national OIE Delegates in their respective countries and thus strengthen the interaction with the OIE, and particularly to ensure the adequate notification on wildlife diseases to the OIE.

The training seminar addressed the following areas:

- Terms of Reference of National focal points for wildlife;
- Collection and submission of wildlife disease information;
- Disease surveillance;
- Reporting via the WAHIS wild system;
- Basic principles of sample collection and submissions;
- Data collection and management;
- Disease control interventions that relate to wildlife and livestock at the interface;
- Appreciation of the inter-relatedness of wildlife and livestock health and production, and human health;
- Diagnostic protocols and tests.

The seminar was interactive, in part facilitated by the both OIE Collaborating Centre from South Africa and Canada, and integrated small working group sessions on practical examples. During the week, a visit to Tarangire National Park was organized. It was the opportunity to highlight some of the aspects that have been discussed during this training seminar, and could be used in the planning of national surveillance programmes. This training seminar for OIE Focal Points for wildlife also stressed the necessity of a better networking at national and regional level.

OPENING CEREMONY

Dr Bonaventure Mtei, OIE sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa, welcomed, on behalf of the OIE Director General, all participants and expressed his gratitude to the Tanzania Authorities for the extraordinary hospitality and cooperation in the organisation of this seminar. He thanked also the European Commission for its financial support through the "*Better Training for Safer Food*" programme and both OIE Collaborating Centres, from South Africa and Canada, for their support in organizing this seminar. He reminded the participants that training is an important part of capacity building and improvement of competencies of Veterinary Services, which is one of the main mandates of the OIE. He mentioned also the need to protect wildlife and the importance to better understand the relationships between wildlife and livestock. And so the activities of OIE Focal Points on wildlife are essential to achieve these goals.



Prof. Koos Coetzer, from the OIE Collaborating Centre on *Training in Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Health and Management*, based at the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Pretoria in South Africa, thanked Tanzania to host this important training for OIE Focal Points on Wildlife. He briefly explained the role and objectives of his Department, particularly in the domain of training, activity recognised by the OIE in May 2009 as an OIE Collaborating Centre. He highlighted the importance of training in order to ensure a better integrated disease management at the wildlife – livestock – and human interface. He presented also the objectives of the training and topics that were presented during the week. He expressed also his pleasure to participate in the organisation of this seminar in this great country.

Dr Ladislaus Komba, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism of Tanzania, welcomed all the participants of the seminar and said that Tanzania is very pleased and honoured to host this meeting. He mentioned that Tanzania has an important and rich wildlife population and famous wildlife parks. He highlighted that the coexistence between wildlife, livestock and human is a main characteristic of Tanzania, which has a strong experience in wild conservation areas. He also reminded participants the present increase of infection disease occurrence worldwide, threatening not only human but also livestock, wildlife and particularly endangered species. He finally wished all participants a very good stay in Tanzania, a very profitable seminar and officially opened it.

**WELCOMING ADDRESS BY THE OIE SUB-REGIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA**

Bonaventure J. Mtei

Guest of Honour,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of Dr Bernard Vallat, the Director General of the *World Organisation for Animal Health* (OIE) and on my own behalf, may I join the OIE Delegate for Tanzania, Dr Mleche to welcome you all to Arusha, and in particular to this workshop.



Bonaventure Mtei

Guest of Honour,

I thank you for availing yourself to come and officiate this meeting. We are most grateful to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania through the *Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism* and the *Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries* for agreeing to host this meeting.

I would also like to thank Prof. Coetzer and his team from the OIE Collaborating Centre for *Training in Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Health and Management* together with the workshop organizing committee for their efforts in preparing for this workshop.

May I take this opportunity to acknowledge with appreciation financial support to the OIE from the European Union in organizing this workshop through the *Better Training for Safer Food* (BTSF) programme for Africa.

Colleagues,

Wildlife health is a term used to encompass not only diseases of wildlife species, but also nutritional issues and the general well being including environmental factors that allow interaction of multiple factors. OIE defines health as a condition that allows species to prosper within a habitat where sustainable biodiversity and biosecurity are the measures of success. Therefore, diseases are not the only monitors of health but indeed an integral part of a “healthy” ecosystem.

Human doctors, veterinarians and biologists are currently trained to become professional specialists separately and there is lack of cross cutting specialties. OIE and many other institutions now strongly believe in a multidisciplinary approach to health and well being of all species within ecosystems and as a result of a relatively new concept has evolved on One Health. In comparison to human and animal health, One Health examines ecological health concerns beyond the species-specific approach.

Current health problems are largely due to human activities. Humans have an extraordinary capacity to modify the physical world. This power allows humans to be the most instrumental force in setting the stage for evolution and or extinction. For this reason, OIE supports the concept that people must live and thrive in ecosystems they share with their natural heritage and environment. The greatest physicist, Albert Einstein, may have created some problems but before he died he stated, “*We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.*” When biodiversity and biosecurity are lost, species composition is disturbed, ecological processes are disrupted and therefore serious health implications arise. OIE understands the interconnections of species and the complexity of ecological health problems.

I believe Albert Einstein would have appreciated using the One Health approach as a guide, to bridge the gaps of professional specialties.

Guest of honour,

Gathered here are wildlife health experts from Africa and Middle East to deliberate and share experiences on how best to address wildlife health challenges. Some of the subjects to be covered during this workshop include wildlife disease reporting systems and evolutions of health problems of free living and farmed wildlife as they relate to populations of domesticated animals and humans.

Measures to prevent, control or where appropriate, treat these wildlife health problems will be discussed with special reference to risk problems in the transportation and trade of wildlife and products thereof. But more importantly as a result of this workshop we hope to establish a network of wildlife health experts who should contribute to improved surveillance and diagnostic techniques of wildlife diseases.

Guest of honour,

Of particular interest to the OIE is the role played by wildlife in the epidemiology of infections and or diseases like Bovine Tuberculosis, Avian Influenza, Newcastle Disease, Foot and Mouth Disease, Classical Swine Fever, African Swine Fever, Bluetongue, Rabies, Brucellosis, Anthrax and Rift Valley Fever to mention a few especially with regards to trade.

Very often illegal wildlife trade presents an unquantified risk of geographical spread of infectious diseases as well as enhanced opportunities for new interspecies exchange of infectious organisms.

On the other hand, legitimate trade in wildlife serves a role in captive breeding and zoological gardens, as well as potentially an important source of protein and income for many people. Obviously various stakeholders need to work together to discuss and evaluate wildlife commodity trade and health risk management, food security and livelihoods issues and conservation impacts in order to objectively inform the global community including standard setting bodies like OIE.

This is one of the very first training sessions conducted for OIE Wildlife Focal Points as encouraged by the OIE. We will be discussing in more details the terms of reference for the OIE Wildlife Focal Points but at the end of this workshop it is expected that the level of awareness will be raised to facilitate networking, cooperation and communication among several competent authorities where responsibilities are shared. We need to maintain dialogue amongst the relevant competent authorities with the One Health concept in mind at all levels to ensure efficient and effective management of wildlife health for the benefit of currently and future generations.

Colleagues,

I believe you will find this training a worthwhile undertaking and for those visiting Arusha for the first time, the field visit to Tarangire will definitely be a lifetime experience for you.

I thank you all for your attention.

“Aksanteni Sana”

**OPENING ADDRESS BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

Ladislaus Komba

Dr. Abdoulaye Bouna Niang,
The OIE Regional Representative, Africa;

Ms Nuru Milao,
The Regional Administrative Secretary for Arusha;

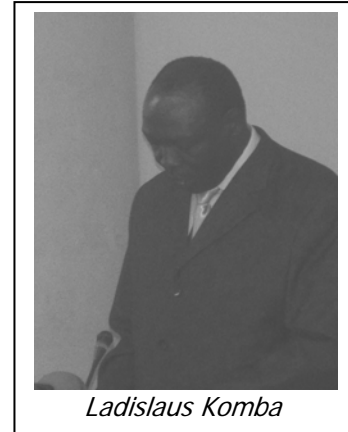
Dr. Faouzi Kechrid,
The OIE Representative, Sub-Region Northern Africa;

Dr. Walter Masiga,
The OIE Representative, Sub-Region Eastern and Horn of Africa;

Dr. Bonaventure J. Mtei,
The OIE Representative, Sub-Region Southern Africa;

Invited Guests;

Workshop Facilitators; Workshop Participants; Ladies and Gentlemen.



I feel greatly honoured to have the privilege to officiate the opening of this important workshop on the World Organization for Animal Health Training for national Focal Persons on Wildlife diseases in Anglophone Africa and Middle East Countries.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to Arusha and to this training workshop in particular. Special welcome is extended to most of you who have travelled all the way from outside Tanzania to come and attend this training workshop. You are most welcome and it is my hope that you will find the environment conducive for your training.

'Karibuni Sana'.

Mr. Chairman,

I have been informed that this training workshop will mainly deal with providing OIE subject matter focal points on wildlife diseases the necessary information, updates and skills to better assume their responsibilities and obligations towards their National OIE Delegates in their respective countries and strengthen the interaction with OIE. This training workshop has Just come at the right time, when the world is being faced by an increase in emerging and resurging diseases due to global travel and trade; which has resulted into potential movements of diseases among humans, domesticated animals and wildlife populations.

Mr. Chairman,

The increase of emerging and resurging infectious diseases threatens not only humans, but also domesticated animals, wildlife and the overall biodiversity. Some years ago, diseases were not considered as a threat to wildlife conservation. However, currently diseases are considered to be among the most threats to wildlife, and outbreaks are more likely to be catastrophic in smaller endangered species. The increase in disease threat to wildlife has been, particularly so, due to increased interaction of wildlife-livestock and humans.

In order to address health challenges at the wildlife-livestock-human interface, there is a great need to strengthen the capacity for early detection, accurate diagnosis, reporting, control, mitigation and monitoring capabilities. I am delighted to note in the Workshop Program, that these components will be well addressed during the training workshop.

Mr. Chairman and workshop participants,

Currently there is a significant increase in wildlife-livestock-human interaction especially in Africa. This is mainly due to the increased of human population, a slight increase in livestock population and change in land use patterns; which all of them, have resulted in encroachment to protected areas and loss of wildlife habitats. In Tanzania, wildlife is losing migratory routes, corridors and dispersal areas due to increased human activities.

Apart from increased human-livestock- wildlife conflict, adjacent to protected areas, health challenges at the wildlife-livestock-human interface are expected to increase significantly in the near future, and we have to be prepared since the current health challenges we are experiencing are just a tip of an iceberg and are expected to be more in the near future.

Mr. Chairman,

Climate change which is largely attributed by human activities since the beginning of the Industrial Era; increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere pose a serious threat to society and is having an unprecedented impact on the natural processes operating in the global climate system. Impacts of extreme drought will lead to lack of forage production and water resources, thus necessitating large scale movement of animals and wildlife in search of water and pastures. The large movements of livestock, wildlife and people will lead to increased interaction over meagre resources. Hence increased transmission of diseases between livestock, wildlife and people as well as increased human-livestock-wildlife conflicts. Extreme floods on the other hand will lead to increased disease incidences and restricted movements of some livestock and wildlife in search of pastures. This calls for Governments to prepare and put forward coping strategies to adapt/mitigate against extreme climate events.

Workshop Participants,

This workshop has brought mostly focal points for wildlife diseases, I urge you to interact with domestic animal veterinarians as well as people from the human health sector at your work place. I am sure that almost everyone is aware of the '*One World, One Health*', or '*One World, One Medicine*' concept. The concept is now a buzz word for addressing livestock-wildlife-human health challenges globally, it provides a holistic approach to preventing epidemic/epizootic diseases and for maintaining ecosystem integrity for the benefit of humans, and biodiversity that supports us all. I therefore emphasize on the need for multi-disciplinary, inter-disciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration on diseases prevention, surveillance, monitoring, control, mitigation, information sharing as well as environmental conservation.

Mr. Chairman and Workshop Participants,

Surveillance of wildlife diseases is very expensive, especially for countries like Tanzania that contains high numbers of wildlife, with numerous protected areas located in various ecological zones of the country. For many years, wildlife health has not been fully integrated in the line Ministries for health; as a result, it has not been receiving adequate funding for wildlife disease surveillance. This phenomenon, coupled with inadequate human-resource capacity and other infrastructure, (transport, laboratory and equipment) has been a main cause of inadequate surveillance and reporting of disease outbreaks in wildlife. I commend OIE Regional Representation for Africa, the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa and OIE for capacity building and provision of standards on animal health, for the good job and urge member states to allocate adequate budget to livestock-wildlife diseases surveillance. This will make the subject focal points on wildlife diseases address their responsibilities adequately.

Mr. Chairman,

I understand that organizing a training workshop like this one is expensive. Therefore, allow me to thank OIE and other development partners for funding the workshop and workshop participants. Let me also thank members of the Organising Committee from OIE, OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa and the local organising Committee in Tanzania for the successful organisation of the workshop.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude my speech by wishing all participants a fruitful workshop. For participants coming outside Tanzania, I welcome you to Tanzania; the *“Land of Kilimanjaro, Serengeti and Zanzibar”*, and more specifically to Arusha - *“The Geneva of Africa”*, which is surrounded by a diversity of tourist attractions, within easy reach, including Arusha, Lake Manyara, Tarangire and Serengeti National Parks, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Oldupai Gorge, the cradle of human kind and also Meru and Kilimanjaro Mountains. Spare some days after the workshop to visit some of these fascinating tourist attractions in Tanzania. Indeed, you will find a home away from your home.

With these few remarks, I now have the pleasure to declare that the 'OIE TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR NATIONAL FOCAL PERSONS ON WILDLIFE DISEASES' is officially opened.

SESSION 1: THE OIE – MISSIONS, ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING



Elisabeth Erlacher - Vindel



Karim Ben Jebara



Patrick Bastiaensen

The first session was facilitated by Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Information Department, and Dr Patrick Bastiaensen, Programme Officer at the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa.

After providing general information on the OIE (role, objectives, mandates, structure - at global and regional levels - and management), they described the role of the OIE Delegate in each country, his/her rights and obligations, explained the work of each of the OIE Focal Points in assisting the Delegate in their relevant domain of competencies. The rights and obligation of OIE Member on international trade, through the WTO-SPS Agreement, were underlined and explained and a detailed presentation on OIE Code and Manuals was made. The OIE notification system, to ensure worldwide transparency, and the tools developed by the OIE (WAHIS and WAHID) in this area were also clarified and this was the main subject of the general and very pro-active discussion ending the session.

SESSION 2 : THE OIE – ACTIVITIES LINKED TO WILDLIFE

The second session dealt with the OIE activities related to wildlife and was facilitated by Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific Department, and by Dr Roy Bengis, Member of the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Disease.

A specific attention was given to the mandate and expected activities of OIE focal point for wildlife through a comprehensive explanation of the specific Terms of Reference of the OIE Focal Point for wildlife (Annex 3), and the opportunity to build regional technical networks was discussed.

The activities of the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases started in 1994, comprising world-leading scientific experts in their subject areas. The main objectives of the Group were clarified and include: to inform and advise the OIE on all health problems relating to wild animals, whether in the wild or in captivity, through a network of experts and specialized laboratories, specific scientific recommendations and overseeing numerous scientific publications on the surveillance and control of the most important specific wildlife diseases. A particular focus was also made on new activities foreseen by the Group such as the investigation and validation of current diagnostic laboratory tests for wildlife and the development of guidelines on vaccination strategies.



Roy Bengis

SESSION 3 : NOTIFICATION FOR WILDLIFE AND DIAGNOSTIC ASPECTS



This session, facilitated by Dr Karim Ben Jebara from the OIE and by Dr Anita Michel, from the OIE Collaborating Centre of Pretoria in South Africa, dealt specifically with issues of reporting (or notification) of diseases or infections of the wildlife to the OIE through the online notification system, the *World Animal Health Information System* (WAHIS), and with diagnostic aspects.

The new WAHIS system, adopted since 2009 and including the report of wildlife diseases, was detailed and explained, as well as its outputs in the *World Animal Health Information Database* (WAHID).

In future there will be the implementation of a new interface dedicated to wild animals (WAHIS wild) foreseen to be available in 2011, including the non OIE-listed diseases of wildlife (presently 53 diseases or infections) in order to do a specific annual report of wildlife diseases for each Member.

Sampling strategies for surveillance and monitoring, including samples handling and packaging, diagnostic tests and diagnostic protocols for wildlife and livestock diseases were also explained and discussed in a comparative way and core components of what is required specifically for wildlife were described. The importance of collaboration and cooperation between veterinarians, laboratory-experts and biostatisticians for conducting surveillance studies was highlighted in order to build comprehensive programmes.

Affordability of diagnostic tests for conducting large surveillance programme and reliability of laboratory results were the main topics tackled during the session discussion.

SESSION 4 : SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF WILDLIFE

This session consisted of providing a background to ecology and disease issues, *transfrontier conservation areas* (TFCA), and wildlife/livestock diseases of concern. The impact of social and economic aspect was also discussed, notably in such areas and in terms of sustainability and livelihood of human population. In order to encourage biodiversity conservation, socio economic partnerships, particularly between neighbouring countries sharing protected area and/or migratory wild populations, were highlighted.

Related disease issues in the context of conservation and biodiversity were highlighted, taking the situation in the SADC as an example, where infections in wildlife are most often silent. The role of wildlife in the epidemiology of Foot and Mouth Disease, Catarrhal Malignant Fever, African Swine Fever, African Horse Sickness, Buffalo-associated Theileriosis and Trypanosomiasis was underlined.

A particular focus was made on the impact of wildlife in zoonotic disease epidemiology - Rift Valley Fever, Anthrax, Bovine Tuberculosis, Rabies and Brucellosis were detailed - and the concept of "*One World – One Health*" was explained.

The certification of farmed wildlife species and derived commodities for export, in compliance with OIE standards, was also described, notably in its practical aspects.

The session was facilitated by Dr Richard Burroughs, from the OIE Collaborating Centre of Pretoria, South Africa, Dr Roy Bengis, from South Africa and member of the OIE Working Group on wildlife diseases, and Dr Julius Keyyu, from the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute.



Richard Burroughs



Julius Keyyu

SESSION 5: SURVEILLANCE IN ACTION



*Scott McBurney (top)
and Neo Mapitse*

This section concentrated on aspects that are important in surveillance of wildlife and livestock diseases at the interface, and collection, management and analyses of data.

In order to lead into a discussion on the development of surveillance systems for wildlife, the session started by a detailed introductory presentation on the topic of surveillance, identifying key strategies and techniques that are applicable.

Special attention was also focused on problems affecting wildlife health surveillance programmes such as the need of relevant diagnostic tests for the targeted species, the particular difficulties to examine dead or sick animals and gaps in the knowledge of animal populations.

Disease outbreaks intervention in wildlife and livestock were also described on a practical way, keeping in mind that surveillance and control of diseases in wildlife is more difficult and complex than in livestock.

A review of the most important and specific wildlife diseases in Southern Africa was also presented. Establishing networks of experts was also recommended in the frame of building comprehensive surveillance programmes for wildlife.

Dr Scott Mc Burney, from the OIE Collaborating Centre in Canada, Dr Neo Mapitse, from the Ministry of Agriculture of Botswana, and Dr Paul Rossiter, independent consultant from the UK, facilitated this session.



**SESSION 6 : WORKING GROUPS SESSION
DESIGN OF WILDLIFE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMMES**

Facilitated by experts from both OIE Collaborating Centres and by Dr Paul Rossiter, this session provided a general introduction on the practical implementation of surveillance programme and information and guidance for the exercise proposed to small working groups.

6 groups were invited to work on two different exercises:

- the establishment of general surveillance programmes for wildlife diseases;
- and surveillance programme for PPR in wild ungulates.

Each group reported during the final day their specific work, describing actions foreseen in terms of reporting, sampling and diagnostic, management of data, communication on disease results and management and governance of this kind of surveillance programmes.

Participants also benefited from explanations and discussions provided during the field visit organised in the Tarangire National Park in collaboration with the *Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA)*.



*Working group session (above)
Field trip to Tarangire National Park (left).
Participants asking questions during the field trip (next page)*



Paul Rossiter



Peter Thompson



*Explanations provided by
TANAPA staff in Tarangire
National Park*

CONCLUSIONS

This seminar for national OIE Focal Points on wildlife from Anglophone Africa and the Middle-East was part of a large programme of the OIE, providing information and training to each nominated Focal Point in order to improve collaboration and communication of each country with the OIE.

This seminar proposed particular clarifications and explanations on the role of the OIE focal points for wildlife, particularly in the collection of information on wildlife diseases and the support of National Delegates in their relation and obligation to the OIE. Lots of discussion and active participation took place during the entire seminar, showing the interest of all the participants, particularly in sharing their own experiences.

The improvement of knowledge on wildlife diseases or infections and particularly their implication at the livestock – human interface was particularly stressed during the seminar. The needs of reliable diagnostic tests and diagnostic capacities at national and/or regional level were also highlighted. Networking in terms of disease surveillance and control and conservation management was also stressed in order to improve collaboration and exchange of information between countries.

This could be facilitated also through the assistance of the OIE network of Reference Laboratories, Collaborating Centres, Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and the Members of the OIE Working Group on Wildlife. The OIE will also organize a Global Conference on Wildlife *Animal Health and Biodiversity - Preparing for the Future* in Paris, France, from 23 to 25 February 2011 and all OIE Delegates and Focal Points for wildlife will be invited.



**CLOSING ADDRESS BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF
THE MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

Charles Nyamurunda (delivered by Win C. Mleche)

The OIE Regional Representative, Africa,
Dr. Abdoulaye Bouna Niang
The OIE Regional Representative, Middle East,
Dr. Ghazi Yehia,
The Regional Administrative Secretary for Arusha ,
Ms Nuru Milao,
The OIE representative, Sub-Region Northern Africa,
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Dr. Walter Masiga
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Dr. Bonaventure J. Mtei,
Invited Guests,
Workshop Facilitators, Workshop Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, allow me to extend my sincere gratitude to you for inviting me to grace the closing of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Training workshop for National Focal Points on wildlife diseases in Anglophone African and Middle East countries here in Arusha. Indeed, I feel greatly honoured to have privilege to officiate the closing of this important workshop.

Dear participants,

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the organizers for their wise decision to hold this important training here in Tanzania the land of Serengeti and Ngorongoro just to mention a few touristic attractions existing in Tanzania.

I am very happy to learn that you had an opportunity to visit the Tarangire national park where you might have seen a good number of wild animals and saw the real livestock - wildlife - human interface, I will however advice you either individually or in groups to purposively find time to visit other wildlife attraction centres in the country. I would in this regard like to thank the Arusha regional administration for agreeing to host you, and I am sure that you have enjoyed your stay, in particular the "*nyama choma*"!!

Dear participants,

I have been informed that the training provided the OIE subject matter focal points on wildlife diseases with the necessary information, updates and skills to better assume their responsibilities and obligations towards their National OIE Delegates in their respective countries and strengthen the interaction with OIE. I urge the participants to not only put into practice what they have learned, but to timely report on the occurrence of wildlife diseases, and such reporting should as much as possible be transparent.

In Tanzania there is a saying that "*death reveals a hidden disease*", thus hiding wildlife disease outbreaks does not help but tarnishes the country's image; contrarily, timely and transparent reporting are crucial in early and proper management of the outbreak, as well as in sourcing donor's support.

Dear participants,

Timely and transparent reporting goes hand in hand with a well established and functioning animal health data capturing system. Countries should therefore make efforts to improve their respective national passive and active surveillance systems. This can be achieved through :

- increased budgetary allocation,
- strengthening of national and regional diagnostic capacities,
- introduce technology such as the digital pen, for point of disease event capture at field plus participatory epidemiology with community and private veterinary sector involvement
- establish a national and regional epidemio-surveillance network incorporating the livestock, wildlife, and human medical experts for surveillance of infectious and zoonotic diseases.

Dear participants,

Wildlife and or livestock diseases are not static so is science and technology, the OIE collaborating centres, the national laboratories and institutions of higher learning should therefore develop continuous education programmes to keep the focal points and others involved in national surveillance updated and well informed on the current developments.

Dear participants,

Let me conclude by wishing all of you a good and safe journey back home, and having said that I now officially declare this training workshop closed.

SEMINAR PROGRAMME



Tuesday 16 March 2010

08:00	Registration of participants	
08:30	Opening remarks by the chair and guests of honour	Win C. Mleche Bonaventure Mtei Koos Coetzer Ladislaus Komba
09:30	Morning break – Coffee/Tea (group photograph)	

Session 1 : The OIE : missions, organization and functioning

Chaired by : Abdoulaye Bouna Niang

10:00	Rights and responsibilities of OIE Delegates and focal points	Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel
10:20	International trade : rights and obligations of OIE Member	Karim Ben Jebara
10:50	OIE Codes and Manuals	Patrick Bastiaensen
11:10	Transparency : the OIE notification system	Karim Ben Jebara
11:30	Discussion	

Session 2 : The OIE : activities linked to wildlife

Chaired by : Abdoulaye Bouna Niang

11:50	Terms of Reference for OIE Focal Points on wildlife and recommended skills	E. Erlacher-Vindel
12:20	Update on OIE activities related to Wildlife	Roy Bengis
12:40	Discussion and closing remarks by the chair	Abdoulaye Bouna Niang
13:00	Lunch	

Session 3 : Notification for wildlife and diagnostic aspects

Chaired by : Ghazi Yehia

14:30	The OIE notification System for wildlife : WAHIS wild	Karim Ben Jebara
15:30	Sampling Strategies	Anita Michel
16:00	Afternoon break – Coffee/Tea	
16:30	Diagnostic protocols and tests	Anita Michel
17:00	Discussion and closing remarks by the chair	Ghazi Yehia
19:30	Welcome dinner reception hosted by the Tanzanian Government	



Wednesday 17 March 2010

Session 4 : Social, economic and ecological importance of wildlife

Chaired by : Daniel Bourzat

08:00	Ecological aspects of Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA)	Richard Burroughs & Roy Bengis
08:30	Diseases of TFCA in the SADC region	Roy Bengis
09:00	Zoonoses and the OWOH concept	Julius Keyyu
09:30	Safe trade in wildlife – certification of farmed wildlife species	Richard Burroughs
10:00	Morning break – Coffee/Tea	

Session 5 : Surveillance in action

Chaired by : Daniel Bourzat

10:30	Introduction, techniques and strategies	Scott McBurney
11:30	Information gathering and sharing	Neo Mapitse
12:00	Disease outbreak interventions in wildlife and livestock	Paul Rossiter
12:30	Lunch	

Session 6 : Design of wildlife disease surveillance programmes (working groups)

14:00	Introduction : Development and implementation of a surveillance programme (including bioterrorism) Introduction to the Working Group Session	Scott McBurney & Paul Rossiter
15:00	Working groups (4-5 groups)	Scott McBurney, Roy Bengis, Richard Burroughs, Koos Coetzer, Paul Rossiter, Peter Thompson, Neo Mapitse, Anita Michel
16:00	Afternoon break (available for groups)	
16:30	Working groups (4-5 groups) [continued]	
19:00	Cocktail reception hosted by the OIE and the OIE Collaborating Centres	



Thursday 18 March 2010

Session 7 : Best practice (reality check)

06:00	Pick-up at the hotel
09:00	Tarangire National Park
19:00	Return to the hotel



Friday 19 March 2010

08:00 Finalisation of reports of the Working Groups including feed-back from the field day Participants

Session 8 : Presentation of reports of each working group

Chaired by : Paul Rossiter

09:30 Report of Working Groups (4-5) - plenary Scott McBurney

10:40 Morning break – Coffee/Tea

11:10 Review of the Terms of Reference (points 1 to 6) and final discussion Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel

Chaired by : Ghazi Yehia

12:00 Training impact assessment Patrick Bastiaensen

12:30 Conclusion and closing remarks by the chair
Gheza Yehia,
Abdoulaye B. Niang,
Charles Nyamurunda

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Group photograph of the participants, trainers and guests of honour after the opening session.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF OIE FOCAL POINTS ON WILDLIFE

During the 76th General Session in May 2008 the importance of the focal point for information on animal diseases was re-iterated and Delegates were also requested to nominate additional focal points for wildlife, veterinary products, animal production food safety, animal welfare and aquatic animal diseases.

As detailed in the final report of the 76th OIE General Session in May 2008, the responsibilities of the focal points are under the authority of the OIE Delegate. Any information transmitted to the OIE from the different focal points needs to be transmitted under the designated authority of the OIE Delegate. This practice would equally apply, if focal points are located in other Departments or Ministries not under jurisdiction of the Veterinary Authority, as from a legal perspective the OIE considers the official OIE Delegate to be the unique representative of the country.

Details on proposed tasks of the national focal point for wildlife:

1. to establish a network of wildlife experts within his country or to communicate with the existing network;
2. to establish and maintain a dialogue with the Competent Authority for wildlife in his country, and to facilitate cooperation and communication among several authorities where responsibility is shared;
3. under the authority of the OIE Delegate of his country, to support the optimal collection and submission of wildlife disease information to the OIE through WAHIS (immediate notifications and follow-up reports, six-monthly reports, and annual questionnaires) to enable the OIE Delegate to more efficiently manage his OIE Member obligations;
4. to act as a contact point with the OIE Animal Health Information Department and the Scientific and Technical Department on matters related to information on wildlife including wildlife diseases;
5. to receive from the OIE Central Bureau copies of the reports of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, selected reports of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and other relevant reports, should they address discussion points on wildlife or the livestock-wildlife interface and conduct the in-country consultation process with recognised wildlife and animal health experts on draft texts of standards proposed in those reports as well as draft standards proposed by the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission when dealing with wildlife diseases; and
6. to prepare comments for the Delegate on each of the relevant meeting reports reflecting the scientific view and position of the individual OIE Member Country or Territory and/or the region including comments on the proposals for new OIE standards and guidelines related to wildlife.



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