

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Seventy-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6–10 November 2023

Strategic matters

Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence
associated with international wildlife trade

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.15 to 19.19 on the *Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade*. The complete set of Decisions are included in Annex 1 to the present document.

Implementation of Decision 19.15 directed to the Secretariat

Decision 19.15 paragraph a) – Notification to the Parties and responses

3. Pursuant to paragraph a) of the Decision, the Secretariat published Notification to the Parties [No. 2023/028](#) of 16 March 2023 inviting Parties to submit reports on any measures they have in place to prevent and mitigate the risk of pathogen spillover and transmission from wildlife trade and associated wildlife supply chains, including markets. The Secretariat received responses from 19 Parties¹ which were made available to the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC26; Geneva, June 2023) and the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC32; Geneva, June 2023) in Annex 2 to document [PC26 Doc. 10 / AC32 Doc. 10](#). The Decision requests the Secretariat to make the information available on the CITES website as a compilation of responses that could be useful to other Parties. The responses received can be accessed on the zoonoses webpage on the Secretariat's website (Responses were posted in the language received). The Secretariat encourages Parties to share further information and reports as they become available.
4. The key aspects covered in the responses received from Parties include:
 - a) definitions adopted relating to zoonosis – most definitions include references to “any disease or infection that is naturally transmissible between animals and humans”;
 - b) legislative provisions, systems and processes to address biosecurity issues relating to wildlife and wildlife trade;
 - c) processes to detect risks and continually review risks, including through research and information-sharing between government authorities, as well as the private sector;
 - d) monitoring and surveillance especially in high-risk areas and activities. The focus is on prevention; reducing risk at the source; early detection; surveillance; and timely responses. Measures include the

¹ Australia, Canada, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, Germany, Honduras, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Mexico, Malaysia (State of Sabah), Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

issuance of sanitary certificates; the use of vaccines; quarantine requirements; and the development of lists of species of concern requiring surveillance;

- e) collaboration between various government entities, the private sector and international organizations [such as the World Organisation for Animal Health and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)]. Some Parties have established structures or initiatives to formalize collaboration and strengthen capacity to improve surveillance, investigation, information-sharing and responses;
- f) training of officials and traders to ensure compliance and enforcement of the legal provisions and to strengthen capacity to detect and respond to incidences and to ensure proper reporting and management of incidences;
- g) information systems to record and map incidences, results of investigations and analysis, responses implemented and to disseminate and share information;
- h) some Parties also reflected on the need to further improve their capacity in terms of infrastructure (laboratories to carry out analysis); and
- i) awareness-raising and education on wildlife health matters.

Decision 19.15 paragraph b) – Cooperation with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

- 5. With regards to the implementation of paragraph b) of Decision 19.15, the Secretariat and the World Organisation for Animal Health (hereafter referred to as the “WOAH”, whose statutory name is *Office International des Epizooties*) reviewed their [Cooperation Agreement](#) signed on 1 December 2015. The agreement provided for collaboration on activities that make a direct contribution to the achievement of their respective Strategic Plans.
- 6. The Secretariat and WOAH agreed to work on formalizing cooperation and collaboration on matters of common interest using a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as a way of updating the existing Cooperation Agreement considering recent events, the needs of CITES Parties and of WOAH Member States, and the importance of partnerships. The draft MoU prepared by the Secretariat and WOAH is attached as Annex 2A to the present document for inputs by the Standing Committee so the Secretariat may proceed with its finalization with WOAH. The draft MoU provides for collaboration on matters of common interest, such as animal health and welfare standards and guidelines for safe legal international trade and transport of wild animals.
- 7. The draft MoU presented in Annex 2A takes into consideration the inputs received during the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC32; Geneva, June 2023) and further discussions with WOAH.
- 8. The illustrative list of topics and activities of mutual interest included in the draft MoU include:
 - a) safe, traceable and legal international trade in wildlife;
 - b) welfare of live wild animals during their transport for international trade;
 - c) safe and fast transport of biological samples from wild animals for diagnosis or identification;
 - d) prevention and control of invasive alien (non-native) animal species; and
 - e) combating illegal trade in wildlife.
- 9. The proposed modalities for cooperation include mutual consultation and cooperation; exchange of information and documents; technical cooperation and reciprocal representation. The Secretariat and WOAH have developed a draft joint programme of work to give effect to the proposed MoU (Annex 2B). The draft joint programme of work includes three key areas of collaboration: (1) wildlife health and trade; (2) training, capacity-building and networking; and (3) coordination and communication.
- 10. The draft joint programme of work contained in Annex 2B includes changes made based on the inputs received during AC32 and further discussions with WOAH.

11. The Standing Committee is invited to provide inputs to the draft joint programme of work so the Secretariat may proceed to finalize it with WOAH as per Decision 19.15, paragraph b). The Secretariat notes that some Parties have indicated in their responses to the Notification referred to in paragraph 4 that collaboration with WOAH focal points is taking place at the national level and that this collaboration should be strengthened.

Decision 19.15 paragraph c) – Collaboration with the Convention on Migratory Species

12. In line with paragraph c) of Decision 19.15, the Secretariat reached out to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) to obtain information relating to the activities implemented by the CMS Secretariat and Parties to CMS relating to this area of work. The CMS secretariat provided the Secretariat with the summary report contained in Annex 3 to the present document. The key activities that may be relevant and could inform the CITES Decisions to be implemented include:
 - a) The [Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds](#) that is co-convened by FAO and CMS to bring together the best scientific advice on the conservation impact of the spread of avian influenza, assessing the role of migratory birds as vectors of the virus.
 - b) Possible amendments and work undertaken in terms of CMS [Resolution 12.06 on Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species](#) that addresses wildlife diseases, in particular those zoonotic diseases that qualify as highly pathogenic, spread rapidly and pose a threat to both animals and humans on a global scale.
 - c) The work to be carried out by the Working Group on Migratory Species and Health includes the review commissioned by the CMS Secretariat of migration and wildlife disease dynamics, and the health of migratory species, within the context of One Health and ecosystem approaches to health. The 6th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council that took place from 18 to 21 July 2023 considered a [draft report](#) and [summary document](#) relating to the review. The Scientific Council requested the CMS Secretariat to finalize the report and to prepare a document for consideration by the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS ([recommendations of the Scientific Council](#)) that includes a recommendation to encourage the Secretariat and Parties to engage WHO in developing a new instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. The Secretariat notes that at AC32 an observer Party asked the CITES Secretariat whether it is participating in the process and it was clarified that the Secretariat has not been provided with a mandate to engage in the process (see summary record [AC32 SR](#))

Decision 19.15 paragraph d) and Decision 19.18 – consultation with organizations and UNEP

13. Pursuant to paragraph d) of Decision 19.15 and to Decision 19.18, the Secretariat reached out to the organizations referred to in paragraph d) of Decision 19.15 and the United Nations Environment Programme (Decision 19.18). The responses received were consolidated and are available in Annex 4 to the present document. With regards to opportunities for practical collaboration, the following activities or processes are highlighted:
 - a) Targets in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and support to Parties on the implementation of targets adopted that relates to this matter, with specific reference to Target 5.
 - b) Possible lessons learnt from processes implemented by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC): Maintaining effective biosecurity and safeguards systems and work initiated to assess and manage the impact of climate change on plant health and the international trade in plants and plant products (network of diagnostic laboratory services and diagnostic protocols).
 - c) The joint FAO-WHO-WOAH Global Early Warning System (GLEWS+): Information on health threats and emerging risks at the human–animal–ecosystems interface is consolidated through GLEWS+. National and international early warning systems should integrate the data on risks from wildlife value chains and collaborate on early warning surveillance and multisectoral risk management.
 - d) The One Health Intelligence Scoping Study (OHISS): CITES was highlighted as a valuable source of information to generate OH intelligence. Information from CITES would be valuable in monitoring the risk of zoonotic emergence and spread associated with wildlife trade, and therefore CITES is listed as a potential data source to be connected within the framework of the One Health Intelligence System, which OHISS recommended to be built as a Quadripartite initiative to generate One Health intelligence at the global level.

- e) Reports, information documents and policy briefs published by FAO with links provided in the report in Annex 4.
- f) Various activities of the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme of FAO, including the expanded scope of activities that includes a new Result Area on One Health with the following expected outputs that could assist Parties:
 - i) Modelling tools for predicting zoonotic risks based on environmental factors are developed to support prioritization of investment efforts in countries' preparedness.
 - ii) Early detection and rapid response systems for zoonotic disease transmission along wild meat value chains are developed and tested.
 - iii) Strategies to reduce the supply of and demand for urban consumption of wild meat from species at risk for transmission of emerging infectious disease pathogens originating in wildlife are developed and tested.
 - iv) Decision-makers are sensitized and/or trained to improve the consideration of environmental/biodiversity aspects and associated sectoral actors in the operationalization of the One Health approach.
- g) Projects implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) could provide information relating to risk assessment frameworks and improving biosafety for facilities and key locations.
- h) The use of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) by UNESCO: MOOC "One Health in practice: Solutions for healthy people in Biosphere reserves" used to train the staff of UNESCO-designated sites on management approaches and practices that ensure human, animal and ecosystem health.
- i) UNEP's report on its participation in the One Health Quadripartite processes as well as the Nature4Health initiative that includes six initial pilot countries.

Decision 19.15 paragraph d) – CITES advisory body

14. With regards to the consideration of a CITES advisory body, the Secretariat notes that institutional arrangements and structures at the national level that foster collaboration with relevant national and international bodies, such as the CITES Secretariat and others mentioned above, seem to provide the platform needed to ensure a coherent response to address the risk of zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade. Furthermore, the joint programme of work with WOAH will also strengthen the collaboration on this matter and mechanisms to share information and guidance. Ongoing and new initiatives implemented by various other organizations as reflected in Annex 4 also provide valuable insights relating to practical collaboration. In addition to publishing the responses received from Parties, the Secretariat is considering to also provide information and links to the project and initiatives reported by other organizations on the CITES zoonoses webpage.

Standing Committee intersessional working group

- 15. At its 76th meeting (SC76; Panama City, November 2022), the Standing Committee established a working group on *the role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade* (see summary record [SC76 SR](#)). The membership was confirmed in Notification to the Parties [No. 2023/036](#) and the mandate of the working group is available on the [CITES website](#). Israel and Singapore are the co-chairs of the working group. The Animals and Plants Committees nominated representatives to participate in the Standing Committee's intersessional working group.
- 16. The Standing Committee's intersessional working group initiated its work with a focused discussion on paragraph b) of Decision 19.17. The working group co-chairs' report to the Standing Committee on these discussions is in document SC77 Doc. 17.1. The Secretariat notes that the working group must still address the rest of its mandate, including the need for and development of a Resolution on actions CITES Parties and others could take to advance a 'One Health' approach as it pertains to international wildlife trade.

Recommendations adopted by the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC26) and the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC32)

17. The Plants Committee agreed at PC26 to nominate the representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng) and the representative for North America (Mr. Boles) (see executive summary [PC26 SR](#)) and the Animals Committee agreed at AC32 to nominate the nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk) and the alternate representative for Asia (Mr. Diesmos) (see executive summary [AC32 SR](#)) to participate in the Standing Committee's intersessional working group.
18. The Animals Committee established an intersessional working group on zoonotic disease and the [membership and mandate](#) have been published on the CITES website. At the time of writing, the intersessional working group has not initiated its work. The intersessional working group will report its findings to AC33 and any pertinent matters to be considered by either the Animals Committee or Standing Committee intersessional working groups could be addressed through the representatives of the Animals Committee on the Standing Committee's intersessional working group.

Recommendations

19. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) review the report of the Secretariat and provide inputs to the Secretariat on the draft Memorandum of Understanding and draft joint programme of work with the World Organisation for Animal Health contained in Annex 2A and 2B so that the Secretariat may proceed with their finalization with WOAH; and
 - b) request the Standing Committee's intersessional working group to consider the information provided by the Parties, the CMS Secretariat, organizations and the United Nations Environment Programme referred to in this present document and its Annexes in implementing its mandate.

DECISIONS ADOPTED AT COP19 ON THE ROLE OF CITES
IN REDUCING RISK OF FUTURE ZOONOTIC DISEASE EMERGENCE
ASSOCIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE TRADE

Directed to the Secretariat

19.15 The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties, requesting Parties to report on any measures they have in place to prevent and mitigate the risk of pathogen spillover and transmission from wildlife trade and associated wildlife supply chains including markets, and make the results available on the CITES website as a compilation of responses that could be useful to other Parties;
- b) review its Cooperation Agreement with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) to identify any necessary updates to reflect guidance provided by the Animals and Standing Committees and work with WOAH to, *inter alia*, develop a joint programme of work to identify effective and practical solutions for reducing pathogen spillover risk in wildlife supply chains;
- c) collaborate with the Convention on Migratory Species to assess the potential risk of pathogen spillover and identify practical solutions for reducing pathogen spillover risk from wildlife;
- d) following any necessary consultations, prepare a report summarizing existing activities or formal agreements with other entities (such as, among others, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other relevant biodiversity-related agreements, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO) and International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)) as well as possible emerging opportunities, and identify opportunities for additional practical collaboration towards reducing the risk of pathogen spillover or zoonotic disease transmission in international wildlife trade supply chains, including consideration of a possible CITES advisory body; and
- e) report to the Animals and Standing Committees on the implementation of Decision 19.15, paragraphs a) to d).

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committee

19.16 The Animals and Plants Committee shall review the report of the Secretariat under Decision 19.15 and make recommendations to the Standing Committee, including on proposed effective and practical solutions for reducing pathogen spillover risk in wildlife supply chains, opportunities for practical collaboration under the direction of existing Resolutions, Decisions or agreements, and consideration of a possible CITES advisory body.

Directed to the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees

19.17 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) review the report of the Secretariat under Decision 19.15, taking into account the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees under Decision 19.16;
- b) taking into account the information provided by the Secretariat and the Animals and Plants Committees, consider the establishment of a CITES advisory body to provide guidance based on best available science to Parties, in their efforts to reduce the risk of zoonotic pathogen spillover and transmission from wildlife trade and associated wildlife supply chains, including markets;
- c) taking into account proposals in document CoP19 Doc. 23.2 and in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees, consider the need for and development of a Resolution on actions CITES Parties and others could take to advance a ‘One Health’ approach as it pertains to international wildlife trade; and

- d) provide its guidance to the Secretariat and its recommendations, which may include a new draft Resolution, to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the United Nations Environment Programme

19.18 The Conference of the Parties invites the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to share information from relevant work carried out under the Quadripartite Collaboration for One Health or other relevant initiatives, with the Parties *via* the Secretariat.

Directed to Parties

19.19 Parties are invited to:

- a) endorse the Quadripartite's (FAO/UNEP/WHO/WOAH) definition of the term zoonoses as "infectious diseases that can be spread between animals and humans; can be spread by food, water, fomites or vectors".
- b) take into consideration a multi-sectoral approach such as defined by the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) when implementing the Convention, contributing to managing, preventing and mitigating the risk of pathogen spillover and zoonotic disease emergence by:
 - i) ensuring live animals are being traded in accordance with Articles III, IV, V and VII, which require that living specimens are so prepared and shipped as to minimise the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment, and Article VII which further requires that all living specimens, during any period of transit, holding or shipment, are properly cared for so as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment;
 - ii) regulating, registering, or otherwise administering captive-breeding, farming, and ranching facilities, including in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on *Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes*, Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19) on *Specimens of animal species bred in captivity*, and Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15) on *Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II*;
- c) develop and strengthen synergies with appropriate national and international animal and public health authorities, taking account of relevant definitions, standards and guidance from the WHO, WOAH, FAO, UNEP and other international bodies and expert organizations as appropriate; and
- d) building on such synergies, ensure that CITES Authorities, if requested, work with relevant national authorities including national WOAH and WHO focal points to develop and implement strategies that aim to identify and reduce the risk of transmission and spillover of zoonotic diseases and pathogen emergence from traded wildlife.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE SECRETARIAT AND THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

AND

**THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF
WILD FAUNA AND FLORA**

WHEREAS, the World Organisation for Animal Health (hereinafter referred to as the WOAH whose statutory name is *Office International des Epizooties*) is an intergovernmental organisation recognised by the World Trade Organization as a reference organisation for international standards concerning the sanitary safety of international trade of animals and products of animal origin and zoonoses, and is in charge of improving animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare worldwide, as well as transparency of the global animal disease situation;

WHEREAS, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species. The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (hereinafter referred to as the CITES Secretariat) has a pivotal role, fundamental to the Convention and its functions are laid down in Article XII of the text of the Convention. They include, in particular, playing a coordinating, advisory and servicing role in the working of the Convention;

WHEREAS, both WOAH and the CITES Secretariat (hereinafter referred to collectively as the “Parties” and individually as a “Party”) have accumulated a breadth of experience in policy development and implementation in various contexts, and have developed significant know-how and practices within their own areas of expertise;

WHEREAS, the Parties have extensive experience in animal trade and animal welfare, are able to combine intellectual and technical support, and to engage in capacity building and technical assistance on those topics;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the specific methods and character of the activities of each of the Parties as determined by their statutory objective, their mandates and the provisions of the relevant international instruments;

RECOGNISING the need to develop and strengthen their cooperation in order to benefit from complementarities; and

CONSIDERING THAT, the Parties formalized a basis for cooperation and collaboration on matters of common interest through a Memorandum of Understanding signed on 1 December 2015 (the “2015 MoU”);

CONSIDERING THAT, the 2015 MoU was automatically renewed at the end of the initial term in 2019 and that the Parties now wish to amend the initial MoU to notably update the areas of common interest;

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties are interested in continuing their collaboration and therefore have agreed to enter into this revised Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the “MoU”), which will amend and supersede the 2015 MoU:

ARTICLE 1

OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this MoU is to establish a revised framework for cooperation between the Parties, within their respective competencies and subject to their respective rules and regulations, to enable the Parties to pursue more effectively their common interests and objectives.

ARTICLE 2

MODALITIES OF COOPERATION

1. ***Mutual consultation and cooperation.*** When appropriate, the WOAH and the CITES Secretariat shall exchange views on relevant policy issues within their respective competence and shall consult with each other on matters of common interest, such as animal health and welfare standards and guidelines for safe legal international trade and transport of wild animals. This will include the following illustrative list of topics and activities of mutual interest:
 - Safe, traceable and legal international trade of wildlife;
 - Welfare of live wild animals during their transport for the international trade;
 - Safe and fast transport of biological samples from wild animals for diagnosis or identification;
 - Prevention and control of invasive (non-native) alien animal species; and
 - The combating of illegal trade in wildlife.Other areas of cooperation or activities may be identified and jointly agreed upon by the Parties during the implementation of this MoU.
2. ***Exchange of information and documents.*** Subject to their respective internal regulations regarding the safeguarding of confidential information, the WOAH and the CITES Secretariat will, as necessary and appropriate, exchange information and documents concerning matters of common interest. Such information that is not in the public domain shall be used by the Parties solely for the purposes of their collaboration. The Parties will also exchange their catalogue of publications to enable each Party to request items relating to its activities published by the other Party. Where appropriate, the Parties will exchange free copies of documents and publications on topics of common or individual interest. The Parties will benefit from the concessionary rates applied to their members or affiliated organisations for orders of publications.
3. ***Technical cooperation.*** The WOAH and the CITES Secretariat shall, in the interest of their respective activities, seek each other's expertise and observations to optimise the effects of such activities. Should the activities of the WOAH and of the CITES Secretariat in fields of common interest so dictate, either Party may request the cooperation of the other whenever the latter Party is in a position to help develop the former's activities. The WOAH and the CITES Secretariat shall endeavor, insofar as possible and in compliance with their constituent instruments and the decisions of their competent bodies, to respond favorably to such requests for cooperation in accordance with procedures and arrangements to be mutually agreed upon.
4. ***Reciprocal representation.*** The Parties will extend to each other invitations for participation in all meetings, seminars and conferences during which matters of common interest are to be discussed and where observers are allowed.

ARTICLE 3

IMPLEMENTATION

The WOAH and the CITES Secretariat may, if necessary, enter into additional arrangements for the implementation of this MoU.

ARTICLE 4

LEGAL AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS

1. Nothing in this MoU shall give rise to financial obligations upon either Party.
2. To the extent any activity may give rise to financial obligations, a separate agreement shall be concluded subject to the Parties' respective internal rules and policies, prior to such activity being undertaken.
3. The Parties will mutually agree on preparation and issuance of any publications pertaining to joint activities arising from this MoU. If a Party (the "Publishing Party") prepares and issues publications on its own which refers to joint activities involving both Parties, the other Party shall be given the opportunity to comment on the content before the publication is issued and the Parties will agree on any further amendment to the text. The copyright to the publication shall remain with the Publishing Party. The copyright of any contribution made to the publication by the other Party (the "Contributing Party") will be retained by the Contributing Party who hereby grants to the Publishing Party a worldwide, non-exclusive, sub-licensable, royalty-free license to use such copyright for purposes of publication.
4. The collaboration of the Parties shall be duly acknowledged in any publication resulting from this MoU, unless a Party notifies that it does not wish to be associated with the publication. The wording of the acknowledgement shall be agreed between the Parties.

ARTICLE 5

USE OF THE PARTIES' NAMES AND EMBLEMS

Except as provided in this MoU and/or any subsequent agreement, neither Party shall use the other Party's name, acronym and/or emblem, without the prior written consent of that other Party.

ARTICLE 6

LIABILITY

Each Party shall be solely responsible for the manner in which it carries out its part of the collaborative activities under this MoU and/or any subsequent agreement. Thus, neither Party shall be responsible for any loss, accident, damage or injury suffered or caused by the other Party, or that other Party's employees, consultants or sub-contractors, in connection with, or as a result of, the collaborative activities under this MoU and/or any subsequent agreement, unless such loss, accident, damage or injury suffered by one Party results from gross negligence or willful misconduct of the other Party.

ARTICLE 7

PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

Nothing in or relating to this MoU shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any privileges or immunities which the WOAH and CITES enjoy.

ARTICLE 8

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. This MoU will enter into force upon signature by both Parties.
2. This MoU shall have a four-year term. At the end of this term, this MoU may be renewed in writing by mutual consent of the Parties.
3. This MoU may be amended by mutual consent expressed in writing.
4. Either Party may also terminate this MoU by giving six months' notice to the other Party in writing.

5. Termination will not affect the implementation of ongoing activities which have been decided by the Parties prior to the date of termination, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties in writing.
6. Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of the provisions of this MoU shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation between the Parties.

The Parties agree that this MoU will be concluded electronically via email exchange of scanned signed copies and that the signed copies exchanged in this manner shall be treated as originals.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health and the Secretary General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora have signed the present MoU in duplicate, in English, on _____ [day month 2023]_____.

Monique Eloit
Director General
World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

Ivonne Higuero
Secretary General
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

DRAFT CITES / WOAH JOINT PROGRAMME OF WORK – 2023/2025

(1) Wildlife Health and Trade				
Area	Details of the collaboration	Activities	Timeline	Focal Points Units/Staff members
Guidelines and standards for wildlife health within wildlife trade and transport of live wild animals	<p><i>Guidelines for Reducing the Risk of Disease Spillover Events at Markets Selling Wildlife and along the Wildlife Supply Chain</i> that provides an over-arching high-level framework to assess risks and identify risk reduction strategies.</p> <p>(Developed in collaboration with CITES, Chairs of the Animals Committee and Standing Committee of CITES, IUCN, WHO, FAO, IFAW, Interpol, TRAFFIC, and WCS)</p>	<p><u>2023:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize Guidelines • Distribute it to relevant authorities (CITES Management Authorities and WOAH national Focal Points for Wildlife, relevant stakeholders and general public). • Share the guidelines as an Information document with the scientific bodies of CITES and the Standing Committee • Workshop in southeast Asia in collaboration with TRAFFIC to share the guidelines with focal points in veterinary services and wildlife / environment authorities. • Identify the need for workshops (online and in-person) in other regions and organize these if external funds can be secured. <p><u>2024</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Guidelines will be open for a next round of comments (comments from the different events organized to present these guidelines and from international partners that were not involved in the first draft) 	2023/2025	CITES: Science Unit (Thea Carroll - thea.carroll@un.org) WOAH: François Diaz, f.diaz@woah.org
	Updating existing or develop new Guidelines or Standards related to wildlife trade including animal welfare (in collaboration with the relevant committees of CITES - Animals Committee and Standing Committee through the respective	Participation of CITES Secretariat and the Chairs of Animals Committee and Standing Committee (as appropriate) in updating or the development of WOAH Guidelines and Standards. Distribute these updated and new Guidelines and Standards to relevant authorities (Veterinary services, and Wildlife and Environment authorities) through the	2023/2025	CITES: Science Unit (Thea Carroll - thea.carroll@un.org) WOAH: François Diaz, f.diaz@woah.org

	Chairs and relevant WOAH structures ²⁾	networks of each organization and joint workshops.		
CITES permits and veterinary certificates	Increase awareness of the WOAH Focal Points for Wildlife and CITES Management Authorities about CITES permit requirements and veterinary certificate requirements.	Training sessions and general awareness raising involving WOAH Focal Points for Wildlife and CITES Management Authorities about CITES permit requirements and veterinary certificate requirements.	2023/2024	CITES: Legal Unit (Juan Carlos Vasquez - juan.vasquez@cites.org) WOAH: François Diaz, f.diaz@woah.org
Transport of diagnostic specimens – Simplified procedure	Rapid movement of wildlife diagnostic samples (<u>Decision 19.160</u>).	<u>2023- 2024</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WOAH participate in the Standing Committee Working group on rapid movement of wildlife diagnostic samples and musical instruments. Recommendations to be made for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2025) 	2023/2025	CITES: Legal Unit (Juan Carlos Vasquez - juan.vasquez@cites.org) WOAH: François Diaz, f.diaz@woah.org
Quadripartite OneHealth collaboration	Develop a closer collaboration between WOAH, CITES, FAO, WHO, and UNEP to advance the “One Health” approach for wildlife health	<u>2023-2025</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023 CITES survey (Notification to the Parties No. 2023/028): The Secretariat invites Parties to submit reports on any measures they have in place to prevent and mitigate the risk of pathogen spillover and transmission from wildlife trade and associated wildlife supply chains including markets, taking the above into consideration. Involve the CITES Secretariat, the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee through the respective chairs (as appropriate) in the relevant activities of the One Health joint plan of action (2022-2026) <p>For example: Action track 2 2.3.4 Develop a pathogen monitoring framework for wildlife and the environment, including in</p>	2022 - 2026	CITES: Science Unit (Thea Carroll - thea.carroll@un.org) WOAH: Sophie Muset, s.muset@woah.org

² WOAH structures include the Specialist Commissions, the Working Groups and the ad hoc Groups

		<p>wildlife habitats, on farming and trade routes and along the wild meat and products value chain, and support countries with implementation.</p> <p>Action track 6</p> <p>6.1.6 Support the development of legal, sustainable, resilient and inclusive wildlife-based economies while managing the risks of unregulated and illegal wildlife farming and trade.</p> <p>Engagement / consultations with CITES on activities/ processes relating to international trade in CITES listed species or aspects relevant to CITES</p>		
Mobilizing CITES and WOAH partners (IATA, INTERPOL, IUCN, WCO) to support the regulation of wildlife trade, and the transport of live wild animals	Joint training sessions on requirements of the various organizations.	<p><u>2023-2025</u></p> <p>Participate in online training webinars organized by partners.</p>		<p>CITES: Legal Unit (interim: Sofie Flensburg - sofie.flensburg@un.org)</p> <p>WOAH: François Diaz, (f.diaz@woah.org)</p>
	Transport of live wild animals.	<p><u>2023-2025</u></p> <p>Collaboration on processes relating to the transport of live wild animals (<i>CITES Guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants</i> and CITES Decisions 19.158 and 19.159 on Transport of live specimens).</p>		<p>CITES: Legal Unit (interim: Sofie Flensburg - sofie.flensburg@un.org)</p> <p>WOAH: François Diaz, (f.diaz@woah.org and Leopoldo Stuardo, l.stuardo@woah.org)</p>

(2) Training, capacity building, networking

Area	Details of the collaboration	Next steps	Timeline	Focal Points Units/Staff members
CITES nationally designated Management and Scientific Authorities (MAs) and the WOAH national Focal Points for Wildlife (NFPW)	CITES and the WOAH Secretariats explore, identify and develop collaboration mechanisms for the training of CITES MAs and WOAH national Focal Points (Virtual CITES College for training	<p><u>2023-2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CITES Secretariat to make basic presentations to regional meetings of WOAH Wildlife Focal Points – e.g., 6th cycle of the training workshop of the WOAH National Focal Points will start in 2023. 	2023-2025	<p>CITES: Legal Unit (Juan Carlos Vasquez - juan.vasquez@cites.org); Science Unit (Thea Carroll - thea.carroll@un.org)</p>

	<p>design / WOAH Training seminars for the focal points for Wildlife)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WOAH to make presentation on specific topics relevant for CITES capacity building workshops. Include relevant authorities in national initiatives such as national CITES training and WOAH national Focal Point (for wildlife) workshops. WOAH to provide the CITES Secretariat with list of the NFPW (WOAH national Focal Points for Wildlife not necessarily part of veterinary services). Contact details of the CITES nationally designated management and scientific authorities available on the CITES website: National CITES Authorities CITES Develop material to be included in the CITES Virtual College. Draw attention to the <i>Safe handling of CITES specimens</i> module in the <i>Green Customs Knowledge Series</i> available through the CITES Virtual College and encourage its distribution amongst officers from all relevant authorities. <p><u>2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize joint event between CITES MAs and WOAH NFPW (through CITES or WOAH training) 		<p>WOAH: Dharmaveer Shetty, d.shetty@woah.org</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share information with CITES Management and Scientific Authorities and WOAH focal National Points through the secretariats' websites links to existing guidance training material available on WOAH's website, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines on Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis and the Manual of Procedures for Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis Guidelines for working with free-ranging wild mammals in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic 	2023-2025	<p>CITES: Science Unit (Thea Carroll - thea.carroll@un.org) and Outreach and Projects Unit (Haruko Okusu - haruko.okusu@un.org)</p> <p>WOAH: Dharmaveer Shetty, d.shetty@woah.org and François Diaz, f.diaz@woah.org</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Training manual on surveillance and international reporting of diseases in wild animals</u> ○ <u>Training manual on wildlife health risk assessment in support of decisions and policies</u> ○ <u>Training manual on wildlife diseases and surveillance</u> ○ <u>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</u> ○ <u>World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)</u> 		
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(3) Coordination and communication

Area	Details of the collaboration	Next steps	Timeline	
Participation in major events of each organization	Participation of WOAH in CITES meetings and events, including the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee meetings; and participation of the CITES Secretariat in major WOAH meetings, including the WOAH General Session	<p><u>2023-2024</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CITES Event: 3 March World Wildlife Day (WWD) (WOAH webinar and CITES events - Partnerships) - A video has been released by CITES this year for the WWD with at the end a list of partners with whom CITES work, in the future video for this WWD (next years), WOAH is interested to be listed as a CITES partners. • CITES meetings: 19 - 23 June 2023: 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee 6 - 10 November 2023: 77th meeting of the Standing Committee • WOAH meetings: CITES S-G to speak at WOAH General Session 21 May 2023 	2023-2025	CITES: Science Unit (Thea Carroll - thea.carroll@un.org) WOAH: François Diaz, f.diaz@woah.org
MoU between the two organizations	MoU between the two organizations (include common communication)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Cooperation Agreement between the CITES and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) to identify any necessary updates to reflect guidance provided by the Animals and Standing Committees [CITES Decision 19.15 b)] • Finalize MoU for signature. 	2023	CITES: Science Unit (Thea Carroll - thea.carroll@un.org) WOAH: François Diaz, f.diaz@woah.org

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further elaborate this joint programme of work based on guidance provided by the by the Animals and Standing Committees [CITES Decision 19.15 b)] 		
	Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade (Decisions 19.15 - 19.17)	<p>2023-2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WOAH to participate in the Standing Committee Working group on the role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade. Recommendations to be made for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (2025) 		CITES: Science Unit (Thea Carroll - thea.carroll@un.org) WOAH: François Diaz, f.diaz@woah.org
Common communication	Communicate on collaboration and on key messages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication focal points of the two organizations to liaise on communication matters. Regular meetings between focal points for Communication from the CITES Secretariat and the WOAH Secretariat (provide name from each organization) – first meeting by at the latest end of June. Joint communication products, including best practice for inter-agency cooperation. Support specific campaigns to further limiting illicit wildlife trade. Advocate for better support to local communities for alternative sustainable economic activities 	2023-2025	CITES: Outreach and Projects Unit (Haruko Okusu - haruko.okusu@un.org) WOAH: Sarah Sullivan, s.sullivan@woah.org

CMS RELEVANT WORK TO PREVENT AND MITIGATE ZOONOTIC DISEASES

CMS Family has a relevant role in the prevention and mitigation of zoonosis which can own epidemic potential.

CMS Family work on zoonosis

Wildlife can be both victim and vector of infectious diseases: domestic, wild animals and humans can share many pathogens demonstrating that wildlife health, ecosystem health and human health are highly interlinked. CMS COP adopted several resolutions on the subject, notably i) Resolution 8.27, Migratory Species and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza; ii) Resolution 9.8, Responding to the Challenge of Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases in Migratory Species, including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1; iii) Resolution 10.22, Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species. COP12 consolidated all these resolutions in [Resolution 12.06 on Wildlife Disease and Migratory Species](#). Res. 12.06 addresses wildlife diseases and in particular those zoonotic diseases that, qualifying as highly pathogenic, spread rapidly and pose a threat to both animals and humans on a global scale. In response to the issue of the High pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI H5N1) and in order to be better prepared of future animal borne diseases, the Resolution provides guidance towards the adoption and implementation of enhance biosecurity measures, including health standards for activities concerning animals and animal products. The Resolution calls to fill the gaps in knowledge through research and monitoring of migratory patterns of targeted species and it also calls Parties to integrate wildlife, livestock, human and ecosystem health into contingency planning, monitoring, investigations and capacity building activities.

Resolution 12.06 recognizes CMS and its Scientific Council role in providing practical measures, recommendations and guidance on the nature and extent of risks associated with diseases and migratory species, in the context of some institutional mechanisms established within CMS, such as:

- the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health;
- the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds,
- the Working Group on Migratory Species as Vectors of Diseases;

The [Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health](#) was created in 2011, co-convened by FAO and CMS, with the aims to promote coordination among the members, share science-based information and raise awareness on prioritized diseases as well as biodiversity and ecosystem health concerns within the context of MEAs, to support decision-making processes. The CITES Secretariat was among the members. The Task Force has in the meantime become inactive and, while it was not formally terminated, it is unlikely to resume its work

The [Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds](#) was established in 2005 by CMS and AEWA Secretariats, to bring together the best scientific advice on the conservation impact of the spread of avian influenza, assessing the role of migratory birds as vectors of the virus. It is also intended to issue advice on the root causes of the epidemic as well as on technically sound measures to combat it and to develop early warning systems.

The Task Force draws on the expertise of conservation scientists, hunters, veterinarians, epidemiologists, virologists, land managers and other experts comprised of 14 members and observers, including UN bodies, wildlife treaties and specialist intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.

In March of 2007, FAO changed its status from an observer member to full member of the AI Task Force. In June 2007, FAO was asked to co-convene and co-coordinate the AI Task Force with UNEP/CMS.

More information is available in the related publications, press releases and documents available from the Task Force Webpage [Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds | CMS](#).

The [Working Group on Migratory Species as Vectors of Diseases](#) was established in 2007, in the context of the CMS Scientific Council. Resolution 12.06 requests CMS, working with the Scientific Council and the mentioned Working Group, to make recommendations regarding the nature and extent of risks associated with other diseases in migratory species and possible areas of action to be taken by Contracting Parties in addressing this. The resolution also calls on the Working Group to become part of the broader focused Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health and to provide guidance related to past accomplishments as well as future needs. The scope of the WG has been revised by the 5th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (2021), which changed its name to **Working Group on Migratory Species and Health** and established new [Terms of Reference](#) for it.

To support the work of the Working Group, the Secretariat is commissioning a review of migration and wildlife disease dynamics, and the health of migratory species, within the context of One Health and ecosystem approaches to health. The review is expected to cover:

- a. A context of the issue of wildlife health and conservation and the need for One Health and ecosystem approaches.
- b. A review of disease dynamics in relation to migration highlighting potential consequences of migration disruption for zoonotic risks
- c. A high-level review of the key health issues affecting migratory species – to be provided in text and a tabular form for terrestrial, aquatic and avian taxa.

The review should be available by the time of the 6th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council, scheduled to take place from 18-21 July 2023.

Wildlife health will be on the agenda of CMS COP14 (October 2023), which is expected to provide guidance on further work on the Convention on the subject, most likely through a revision of Res. 12.06

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY ORGANIZATIONS AND UNEP
AS PER DECISION 19.15 PARAGRAPH d) AND DECISION 19.18

A. Convention on Biological Diversity

Building upon the Convention's ongoing programme of work on biodiversity and health, there have been further efforts towards understanding the linkages between biodiversity and health and how the drivers of biodiversity loss increase the risk of zoonotic disease emergence. For example, in cooperation with other organizations, the Secretariat contributed to the following publications:

- (a) The joint WHO-CBD Questions and Answers on Conservation, Biodiversity and Infectious Disease;
- (b) The report of the United Nations Environment Programme and International Livestock Research Institute: Preventing the Next Pandemic: Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission;
- (c) The Joint Statement of the Collaborative Partnership for Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW): The COVID-19 challenge: Zoonotic disease and wildlife;
- (d) The report on a workshop on Biodiversity and Pandemics convened by IPBES (see descriptions and links below).

The fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-5) launched in September 2020 includes a section on "The Biodiversity-inclusive One Health Transition" – one of eight areas of transition that may be needed to achieve living in harmony with nature.

More recently, the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) also brings up the link between sustainable and safe wildlife management and disease prevention. Some examples are:

Target 5: "Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities" (directly related)

Target 9. "Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities" (indirectly related)

The CBD has a leading role in supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and as such, will continue to engage through different areas of work on the issue of mitigating pathogen spillover, including thorough wildlife. The CBD will collaborate with CITES on any efforts in this respect.

Below is a list of references to some of the publications mentioned.

- **WHO/CBD (2015) Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health.** A state of Knowledge review. The report examines the multiple ways biodiversity and health are interlinked and highlights the common drivers of biodiversity loss and ill-health. It explores how biodiversity contributes to clear air and water, food and nutrition, medicines and the prevention of infectious and non-communicable diseases. It also discusses how biodiversity and health interplays with climate change, disaster risk reduction and consumption patterns. Finally, it outlines tools and ways forward of integrating biodiversity and health considerations in policy and practice. The report brings together knowledge from over 100 experts working across several scientific disciplines, including public health, conservation, agriculture, epidemiology, development and others. Summary of key messages: <https://www.cbd.int/health/summary-state-knowledge-review-en.pdf>
Full report: <https://www.who.int/globalchange/publications/biodiversity-human-health/en/>

- **CBD (2018) Guidance on Integrating Biodiversity Considerations into One Health Approaches.** The purpose of this Guidance is to assist Parties to the Convention, and other relevant stakeholders, in the process of developing policies, plans, programmes and research aligned with One Health approaches, with more balanced consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem dynamics and management. The Conference of the Parties welcomed this guidance in decision 14/4 and encouraged Parties, and invited other Governments and relevant organizations to make use of the guidance, in accordance with national circumstances.
<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/8e34/8c61/a535d23833e68906c8c7551a/sbstta-21-09-en.pdf>
- **CBD/WHO (2018) Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the context of human and animal health, and food safety:** Questions and answers. These questions and answers were developed to answer questions received regarding the sharing of pathogens in the context of implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.
[https://absch.cbd.int/api/v2013/documents/612E94B5-D97A-0B5D-8E5A\[1\]40A991E29087/attachments/QA_NP_Public_Health.pdf](https://absch.cbd.int/api/v2013/documents/612E94B5-D97A-0B5D-8E5A[1]40A991E29087/attachments/QA_NP_Public_Health.pdf)
- **WHO/CBD (2020) Biodiversity and Infectious Diseases.** Questions and answers. This contains information on the links between biodiversity, health and infectious diseases in question and answers format. <https://www.cbd.int/health/doc/qa-infectiousDiseases-who.pdf>
- **CBD (2020) The fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook GBO-5** highlights that biodiversity is foundational to the 2030 Agenda and that the ongoing loss and degradation of biodiversity jeopardizes achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals. The report identifies a number of transitions necessary to achieve the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature. It highlights a biodiversity-inclusive One Health transition as one of a series of such shifts necessary for a realignment of people's relationship with nature towards sustainability. Key components of the transition include to (i) reduce disease risk by conserving and restoring ecosystems; (ii) promote sustainable, legal and safe use of wildlife; (iii) promote sustainable and safe agriculture, including crop and livestock production and aquaculture; (iv) create healthy cities and landscapes; and (v) promote healthy diets as a component of sustainable consumption. www.cbd.int/gbo5

B. International Whaling Commission (IWC)

The IWC indicated that movements of samples or contact with animals during rescue work at stranding events could result in some transmission or result zoonotic crossover and although this is not directly relevant to trade, IWC have protocols in place that may be of interest.

The IWC's work on wildmeat/bush meat and its movement could potentially include issues relevant to diseases/pathogens. Certainly, there are some that are easily transferable between cetaceans and humans if inhaled/ingested. IWC could provide a summary of the three workshops held as part of the Scientific Committee (SC) of IWC that included these matters. This summary will be available after the SC meeting scheduled to take place from 24 April to 6 May 2023.

C. International Plant Protection Convention

The IPPC Secretariat shared the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 and the 2022 IPPC Annual Report:

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc4922en>

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb3995en>

The need to maintain effective biosecurity and safeguards systems remain a key goal for IPPC and the importance of collaboration to leverage plant protection capabilities is highlighted.

In the Strategic Framework provision has been made to initiate work to assess and manage the impact of climate change on plant health and international trade of plants and plant products. Linked to this, the Strategic Framework also includes the establishment of a network of diagnostic laboratory services and diagnostic protocols to help countries identify pests in a more reliable and timely manner. These planned activities may be of interest to the Plants Committee and CITES Parties in terms of phytosanitary measures to be implemented.

D. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The FAO provided the following comprehensive response to the Secretariat.

- In its Strategic Framework 2022-31³, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has identified One Health as a cross-cutting and important concept that needs to be considered across the four pillars and specifically in its One Health Programme Priority Area (PPA-BP3). In doing so, the intent is to promote a more systematic mainstreaming and operationalization of One Health across all of FAO's work. The main goals of the One Health PPA-BP3 are to enhance productivity, and reduce risks from biological threats, applying integrated early warning systems, pest and biosecurity management approaches at national level for more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive agrifood systems, in a changing climate and environment.
- FAO jointly monitors and shares information on health threats and emerging risks at the human–animal–ecosystems interface through the joint FAO-WHO-WOAH Global Early Warning System (GLEWS+)⁴. In order to reduce the risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade, national and international early warning systems should integrate the data on risks from wildlife value chains and collaborate on early warning surveillance and multisectoral risk management.
- FAO is actively engaged in promoting partnership with the Quadripartite organizations (FAO, UNEP, WHO, WOAH) to advance the One Health approach and drive global efforts for effective and sustained prevention, preparedness and response to health threats that emerge at the human-animal-environment interfaces. During the recent Quadripartite Annual Executive Meeting held on 27-28 March 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland, the four Principals of FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAH signed off a Call to Action in person that calls up on Member States and other stakeholders to: 1) prioritize and advocate for One Health, 2) strengthen One Health policies and strategies, 3) accelerate the implementation of One Health plans, 4) continue building One Health workforce, strengthen prevention of pandemics and health threats at source, 5) strengthen One Health scientific knowledge and evidence, and 6) increase investment and financing of One Health strategies and plans.
- During the One Health Intelligence Scoping Study (OHISS)⁵, a collaborative activity among the Quadripartite organizations to identify opportunities for further technical harmonization of their systems to strengthen One Health Intelligence and to improve global health security, CITES was highlighted as a valuable source of information to generate OH intelligence. OHISS conducted a risk landscaping exercise, identifying drivers of health threats. Information from CITES would be valuable in monitoring the risk of zoonotic emergence and spread associated with wildlife trade, and therefore CITES is listed as a potential data source to be connected within the framework of the One Health Intelligence System, which OHISS recommended to be built as a Quadripartite initiative to generate One Health intelligence at the global level
- In relation to avian wildlife, FAO and the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) co-convenes a scientific task force on avian influenza and wild birds⁶. The Task Force aims to bring together the best scientific advice on the conservation impact of the spread of avian influenza, assessing the role of migratory birds as vectors of the virus. The Task Force also intends to issue advice on the root causes of the epidemic as well as on technically sound measures to combat it and to develop early warning systems. The Task Force comprises of fourteen members and observers, including UN bodies, wildlife treaties and specialist intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.
- To further contribute to FAO's goal of supporting countries in protecting humans and animals from disease threats, FAO Animal Production and Health Division (NSA), in collaboration with the FAO Forestry Division (NFO), conducts a national landscape analyses of wildlife stakeholders that may contribute to wildlife and animal-human-ecosystem interface surveillance. The activity has the purpose to identify entities within and outside of governments working on wild mammals and wild birds in target countries and broadly categorize available data, trainings and guidelines on wild mammals and wild birds, as well as to describe collaboration and data sharing of these institutions with government entities. The landscape analysis provides an inventory of institutions and activities working on wild mammals and birds categorized by type of data, training or guidelines they have available, allowing countries to identify gaps in data availability and opportunities for collaboration. Initial roll out during the first year will occur in countries where the

³ <https://www.fao.org/3/cb7099en/cb7099en.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.glews.net/>

⁵ <https://www.fao.org/3/cc1533en/cc1533en.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.cms.int/en/workinggroup/scientific-task-force-avian-influenza-and-wild-birds>

Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Programme⁷ and the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme⁸ are being implemented.

- In 2022, a team comprising experts from FAO and the World Bank, and leading veterinary, wildlife, and One Health experts from around the world have worked together to analyze the drivers of zoonoses and EIDs and assessed the management of animal and wildlife systems, using risk-based approaches, for their ability to identify and respond to emerging threats and protect the health, agricultural production, and ecosystem services. This collaboration resulted in a joint report entitled "*From Reacting to Preventing Pandemics - Building Animal Health and Wildlife Systems for One Health in East Asia and Pacific*"⁹. This report complements the findings of a related report '*Reducing Pandemic Risks at Source - Wildlife, Environment and One Health Foundations in East and South Asia*'¹⁰, jointly published by the World Bank and FAO around the same time.
- In March 2022, FAO produced an COAG:LI/2022/INF/6 Info Document on reducing wildlife-borne spillover of pathogens to domestic animals and humans¹¹. This document accompanied the Committee on Agriculture Sub-committee on livestock's official session document COAG:LI/2022/5 on strengthening national coordinated capacities to manage the risks of animal diseases and emerging zoonoses through One Health approach¹².

In relation to forestry and wildlife matters, the following initiatives and activities are worth mentioning:

- The integration of the natural resource sector into the global effort to reduce and mitigate the risk of emerging infectious diseases is essential, according to a new Policy Brief,¹³ launched by FAO and EcoHealth Alliance in November 2022. Entitled "*How natural resource management sectors can contribute to reducing emerging infectious diseases: the example of forest ecosystems*", the Policy Brief provides ten recommendations for how the natural resource management sector can play a more active role in reducing risk and mitigating the impact of emerging infectious diseases, targeting national government authorities in charge of natural resource management.
- Through the SWM Programme, FAO and its partners continue to support the co-development and piloting of eight innovative and scalable models of participatory wildlife management using a holistic and community-based approach. Those models aim at conserving wildlife and ecosystems, while securing the access to and use of sustainable sources of food and livelihoods (including wildlife-based) for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities across a variety of socio-ecosystems. In 2021, the SWM Programme has expanded its activities to Botswana and Namibia, leading to 15 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries supported.
- The SWM Programme Legal Hub¹⁴ has been launched. It currently provides free online access to policy and legal texts and analytical legal country profiles related to all sectors influencing sustainable wildlife management in Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Guyana, Madagascar, Suriname and Zimbabwe, as well to, more specifically waterbirds management, in the wetlands of Egypt, Mali, Senegal, Sudan and Chad. Through the Legal Hub awareness raising, six policy/law/regulatory reforms processes have started. The Legal Hub also provides access to the SWM legal toolkit (i.e., diagnostic tools and methodologies) to allow users to replicate those analyses in other countries.
- The SWM Programme Legal Hub besides providing country specific legal analysis across sectors that do directly influence the "One Health approach", such as land tenure, hunting/fishing, but also animal health, animal production and food safety, it also provides a review of the national legal frameworks of all its target countries vis-a-vis the domestication of CITES.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020, the SWM Programme published a White Paper¹⁵ and Policy Brief¹⁶ on build back better in a post-COVID-19 world: Reducing future wildlife-borne spillover of

⁷ <https://www.fao.org/animal-health/programmes/ectad/en/>

⁸ <https://www.swm-programme.info/>

⁹ <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0294en/cc0294en.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.fao.org/3/cc2900en/cc2900en.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.fao.org/3/ni074en/ni074en.pdf>

¹² <https://www.fao.org/3/ni007en/ni007en.pdf>

¹³ <https://www.fao.org/3/cc2752en/cc2752en.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.swm-programme.info/legal-hub>

¹⁵ <https://www.fao.org/3/cb1503en/cb1503en.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://www.fao.org/3/cb1490en/cb1490en.pdf>

disease to humans. Both documents aim to provide Northern and Southern Development partners and decision-makers with a better understanding of i) why spillover of disease from wildlife to humans occurs, and why these zoonotic disease outbreaks can spread and become epidemics and pandemics, and ii) what they can do to prevent, detect and respond to future spillover events, with a special focus on priority interventions at the human-wildlife-livestock interfaces.

- In 2021, the SWM Programme expanded its scope of activities, including a new Result Area on One Health, both as a risk mitigation measure following the increased concerns in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, and as an opportunity to capitalize on the original SWM Programme's Results Areas to contribute to build the capacities for an effective and efficient implementation of OH approach. The overall objective of the Result area on One Health is to contribute to improve ACP countries' preparedness to detect, prevent and respond to the increasing risks of emergence of zoonotic diseases originating from wildlife to reduce the risks of present and future epidemics and pandemics.
- The expected outputs of the SWM Programme's Result Area on One Health are:
 - Modelling tools for predicting zoonotic risks based on environmental factors are developed to support prioritization of investment efforts in countries' preparedness.
 - Early detection and rapid response systems for zoonotic disease transmission along wild meat value chains are developed and tested.
 - Strategies to reduce the supply of and demand for urban consumption of wild meat from species at risk for transmission of emerging infectious disease pathogens originating in wildlife are developed and tested.
 - Decision-makers are sensitized and/or trained to improve the consideration of environmental/biodiversity aspects and associated sectoral actors in the operationalization of One Health approach.
- As of April 2023, the SWM Programme's work on One Health advanced in different directions. Namely, models on the roles of migratory birds in the spread of West Nile virus between Africa and Europe and of deforestation, bats density and weather on Ebola outbreaks in Central Africa were completed. In Gabon, games to encourage hunters' participation in wildlife disease surveillance were tested. The risk of transmission of zoonotic pathogens along wildmeat value chains in Mulundu Department of Gabon was assessed. In Congo, bats on Brazzaville and Oueillo markets are being screened for viruses and social marketing campaigns to reduce wildmeat consumption are prepared. In Guyana, the SWM One Health Platform validated a list of priority zoonotic diseases to survey. Standard prevalence assessment protocols for those diseases are being developed. The SWM One Health Platform was proposed as technical partner for the development of the national One Health agenda recently initiated by the Government of Guyana.
- Since 2013, FAO Forestry Division serves as the Secretariat for the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) and has been a proactive part of the effort to increase cooperation among its fourteen international organization-members, which all have substantive mandates and programmes to promote the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources.
- In light of the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, in October 2020, the CPW released a joint statement¹⁷ calling for a pragmatic, factual and science-based approach to the wildlife management challenges that have arisen in the wake of the pandemic. In their statement, CPW partners put forward four guiding principles to steer decision-making towards actions that would work to reduce the risks of the rise and spread of new zoonotic diseases, while also contributing to the conservation of species and ecosystems, and the preservation of the livelihoods of the diverse groups that rely on wildlife for their incomes and sustenance.
- On the occasion of 2023 World Wildlife Day, the CPW announced that it has agreed to work together on the following new priorities:
 - To support countries to ensure that the use and trade of wildlife is legal, sustainable and safe;
 - To raise awareness of the links between sustainable use of wildlife, food security, livelihoods and well-being, culture and the integrity of landscapes;
 - To promote the prevention, management and reduction of human-wildlife conflict and enhance coexistence;

¹⁷ <https://www.fao.org/3/cb1163en/CB1163EN.pdf>

- To embed the sustainable use and management of wildlife in the One Health agenda; and
- To advocate for sustainable and inclusive wildlife economies.
- The CPW Progress Report 2019-2022 is available as CBD/COP/15/INF/25¹⁸.

In the area of legal and institutional matters:

- The Development Law Service (LEGN) of FAO works extensively, including through the SWM Programme, on the revision and update of national legislation on wildlife management, animal health, including the regulatory frameworks related to disease monitoring and control applicable to wildlife and the potential health risks associated with the international trade and movement of wild animals and products from wild origin under a One Health approach.
- Since 2019, FAO has been collaborating with the CITES Secretariat on the implementation of CITES through national fisheries legal frameworks. This collaboration has resulted in the publication, in 2020, of a legal study and guide on implementing CITES through national fisheries legal frameworks,¹⁹ and two FAO-CITES sub-regional training workshops, which raised awareness about the interactions between CITES and fisheries, and provided training on the use of the legal study and guide for representatives of national fisheries administrations and CITES management and scientific authorities in seven Pacific Island²⁰ and eleven Caribbean²¹ countries, respectively in 2021 and 2022.
- In 2022, FAO participated in the international workshop on the legal acquisition findings (LAFs),²² in Oxford, presenting about LAFs in the fisheries context, as well as about FAOLEX²³ as a tool to support CITES Parties in finding legislation relevant to CITES implementation. FAO also provided inputs to the revision of the rapid guide on LAF, particularly in respect of marine species.
- At CITES CoP19 in Panama, 2022, FAO, in partnership with the CITES Secretariat, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), organized a side event²⁴ to showcase the importance of CITES in the fisheries context, based on the joint initiatives that have been supporting CITES Parties to enhance their implementation of CITES in the fisheries sector, and sharing the experiences from Belize and Papua New Guinea. At CITES CoP19, FAO also participated in another side event²⁵ on the celebration of the 30 years of the CITES Secretariat-led “National Legislation Project”, delivering a presentation about the proposed development of CITES-LEX, a legal online database dedicated to CITES implementing legislation and to support CITES Parties in the making of legal acquisition findings.
- This collaboration between FAO and the CITES Secretariat continues through the joint organization of a regional training workshop on CITES, fisheries, and LAFs for 14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in May 2023. There is opportunity to link the activities of this ongoing collaboration to provide support to reducing risks of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade.

E. UNESCO

UNESCO provided information relating to initiatives implemented by the Science Sector as well as the Man and the Biosphere programme:

UNESCO Science Sector

Publication: “Policy brief: biodiversity and zoonotic diseases: lessons for effective biodiversity governance and resilience to pandemics in Africa”, 2021, *UNESCO Office Nairobi and Regional Bureau for Science in Africa*,

¹⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/1f9b/1f54/5be8297edfe4e59be7c73578/cop-15-inf-25-en.pdf>

¹⁹ Nakamura, J.N. and Kuemlangan, B. *Implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) through national fisheries legal frameworks: a study and a guide*. Legal Guide No. 4. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb1906en>

²⁰ <https://www.fao.org/legal-services/news/news-detail/en/c/1457369/>

²¹ <https://www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/en/c/1539493/>

²² <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/notifications/E-Notif-2022-051.pdf>

²³ <https://www.fao.org/faolex/en>

²⁴ <https://www.fao.org/legal-services/news/news-detail/en/c/1619698/>

²⁵ <https://www.fao.org/legal-services/news/news-detail/en/c/1620574/>

UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme

UNESCO has developed the MOOC “One Health in practice: Solutions for healthy people in Biosphere reserves” to train the staff of UNESCO-designated sites on management approaches and practices that ensure human, animal and ecosystem health. The purpose of this MOOC is to share the latest knowledge and management approaches developed under the One Health concept to restore the health and resilience of social-ecological territories. By drawing from lessons and initiatives from UNESCO and other international organizations, the objectives of this eLearning course are to:

- a) Present the scientific concepts linking healthy ecosystems to healthy human communities;
- b) Provide tools and frameworks to visualize solutions to restore ecosystem for resilience;
- c) Share good practices and innovative solutions from resilient territories (from Biosphere reserves);
- d) Provide communities, policy makers, and stakeholders with the knowledge required to create better governance that protect territories against emerging risks.

This MOOC is for UNESCO designated sites' staff (site management authority, managers, and their staff) as well as health and environmental management state agencies, policy makers, academics, students and other professionals. UNESCO partnered with SDG Academy to make the MOOC available on the leading MOOC provider edX in April 2023. This instructor-paced MOOC will run for 10 weeks with bi-weekly Q&A sessions with lead professor Dr. Serge Morand. Further iterations of the MOOC will be made available through a student-paced modality.

There was a recent news on the course already on UNESCO's website: [New UNESCO online course stresses link between environmental and human health | UNESCO](#)

F. ICCWC Partners – UNODC

UNODC provided information relating to the Safety across Asia For the global Environment (SAFE) project and a pathogen research project its implementing.

The SAFE project is funded by the European Union and implemented in co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and it focuses on the connection between wildlife trafficking and zoonotic disease transmission with the aim to prevent future pandemics. In line with a One Health approach, aimed at finding the balance between the health of people, animals and ecosystems, SAFE understands that protecting wildlife and preventing wildlife crimes is important to protect human health.

The SAFE project is implemented in Thailand, Vietnam, Lao PDR and State of Sabah in Malaysia. It will identify facilities with a high risk of disease transmission from wild animals to humans. By developing and implementing a risk assessment framework for facilities and locations posing the highest risk of passing severe zoonotic diseases from wild animals to humans, SAFE will ensure that commercial and non-commercial facilities handling wild animal species are equipped with an understanding of the risks that they encounter in their daily operations.

Good practices adopted at international level will be promoted and regulatory and advisory support provided to governments in order to appropriately manage high-risk facilities and location. It will suggest ways to improve biosafety of facilities handling wildlife in SEA: zoos, restaurants, breeding farms, and others. Cooperation between policymakers and specialists from the European Union, the United Nations and Asian governments through this project will contribute to the prevention of zoonotic diseases and wildlife-related pandemics.

The pathogen research project is underway to evaluate the potential threat of infectious diseases in efforts to combat the illegal wildlife trade by applying MinION technology to pathogen screening of illegal wildlife products. This work is being conducted in partnership with TRACE, the University of Edinburgh and with laboratories in Malaysia and Zambia to characterize, and thus help mitigate, the risks of zoonotic disease to human and agricultural health. The capacity of partner labs will be strengthened through the provision of equipment and training, including training on safe handling of wildlife products. In 2022, lab analysts from Malaysia and Zambia visited the University of Edinburgh for training to practice MinION sequence analysis. The

lab analysts are now fully trained to conduct the analysis and will be supported and encouraged to proactively screen wildlife seizures for disease. The findings will be shared in 2023.

G. UNEP (Decision 19.18)

UNEP as part of the Quadripartite has been engaging, as an observer, in the intergovernmental negotiating body (INB) process for the drafting of the text for global accord on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. Specifically, the Quadripartite has presented during the informal sessions of the INB on the importance of incorporating and mainstreaming One Health in the draft treaty and will be providing joint submissions during the proceedings.

The Quadripartite has also been supporting the efforts of the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP), who have recently produced a white [paper](#) on primary prevention, and advocates for reducing risk at the source (zoonotic spillover) rather than relying primarily on pandemic preparedness, prevention and response.

The Quadripartite Executive Annual Meeting was held in the last week of March 2023, with a focus on the implementation of the Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action, which was launched in October 2022. The Quadripartite has jointly worked on an implementation guide, which the principals of the four organizations signed a [Call to Action](#), to reiterate the commitment of FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAH to continue collaborating on One Health under the framework of the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA), particularly concerning political advocacy, policy and strategies, implementation, workforce development, prevention of future pandemics, and financing and investment. During the meeting, there was also discussion on the way forward on a number of issues ranging from financing and communications to joint knowledge creation and the implementation of the joint plan of action. From April 2023, UNEP will assume the chair position for the Secretariat of the Quadripartite and facilitate the joint implementation of the agreed actions.

There is no specific focus right now on exploring pathogen spillover *vis-a-vis* international wildlife trade supply chains. Nevertheless, the Quadripartite Joint Plan of Action does recognize this as part of its action track 2 focusing on reducing risks from emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics and pandemics. The plan of action is still at a high-level and how this would trickle down to country-levels support is still being determined/designed.

UNEP on One Health (outside quadripartite collaboration), primarily focused on setting up the Nature4Health initiative, which is a multi-partner consortium focused on reducing the risk of pandemics through the strengthening of the environmental dimension of One Health. The International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) provided initial seed funding of €50 million and the programme is administered through the Multi Partner Trust Fund. With the inception phase coming to a close, the programming will move to the scoping phase which will be implemented until the end of 2023. The focus of the scoping phase will be on bringing in a systems-based approach and subsequently, a scoping framework is being developed to support the implementation at the country-level. 6 initial pilot countries have been identified. The idea is that it will bring a systemic approach towards implementing One Health on the ground in the countries. The work will take place in Ecuador, Ghana, Mongolia, Rwanda, Vietnam, Zambia, in partnership with UNDP, IUCN, EcoHealth Alliance, WHO, WOAH, BMUV (alongside UNEP). As mentioned above, it is currently going into a scoping phase, during which time the countries will work with partners to develop this integrated, cross-sectoral approach.

H. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA)

EAZA shared information relating to several instruments and resources available that they are of the view could be useful to highlight as examples. Some of these instruments and resources were covered in the responses received from Parties ([EU Animal Health Law \(Regulation 2016/429\) and associated legal acts](#)) and in the draft joint programme of work with WOAH [Terrestrial Animal Health Code; World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)].

EAZA also shared links to its guidelines and the [EAZVW Transmissible Diseases Handbook \(THD\)](#). The European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians publish and update the so called Transmissible Diseases Handbook, a peer-reviewed reference manual that is viewed as a useful tool for zoo practitioners, zoo managers and European legislative authorities dealing with wildlife and zoo animals.

The handbook summarises information on various diseases, including susceptible animal groups, zoonotic potential, distribution, transmission, clinical signs, pathology and post-mortem findings, diagnosis, treatment, prevention and control, legislative requirements (especially according to European legislation) and a list of relevant diagnostic laboratories.

EZA published Best Practice Guidelines for species that include veterinary sections specific to the management of those species or that might have a specific focus on disease management (e.g. virus management for parrots). The guidelines are available on the [EZA website](#). Additionally the EZA [Standards for the Accommodation and Care of Animals in Zoos and Aquaria](#) include veterinary standards for our membership (these are in the process of being updated).