Results of the PVS Tool: Aquatic Questionnaire & OIE national Focal Point Concept

Ho Chi Minh City, 21 January 2015
Results of the PVS Tool: Aquatic Questionnaire
To achieve more success, the OIE needs to understand what are the obstacles to MCs making a request.

- PVS Tool: Aquatic only undertaken in 7 MCs.

- applied in 74% of OIE Member Countries (ie 133 MCs)
How

Short questionnaire

- sent to 123 OIE National Delegates (Sept. 2014)
  - i.e. those that had requested a PVS evaluation of their VS - terrestrial sector;

- Members who had requested a PVS Evaluation of their AAHS were excluded.
Responses – by region

- Africa: 59%
- Americas: 65%
- Asia Oceania: 42%
- Europe: 59%
- Middle East: 50%

56% overall (69/123)
Q. In your country is the Aquatic Animal Health Services in the same Ministry as the VS?

- YES 75%
- NO 25%
Q. In your country, is the AAHS under the direct administrative responsibility of the OIE Delegate?

- YES: 68%
- NO: 32%
Q. Does the national focal point for aquatic animals work in VS, AAHS, other organisation?

- VS: 58%
- AAHS: 23%
- Another organisation: 17%
- No answer: 1%
Q. How many of the 27 OIE listed aquatic animal diseases are notifiable to the Veterinary Authority or another Competent Authority?

- 15 diseases are not notifiable
- 17 diseases are notifiable for 1 - 20 diseases
- 9 diseases are notifiable for 27 diseases
- 28 diseases are not notifiable and no answer
Q. In your country, how would you rate compliance with OIE Aquatic standards

![Bar chart showing compliance ratings](chart.png)
Will you make a request for a PVS:Aquatic in the next 12 months?

**YES – 29 (42%).**

**NO - 31 (45%)**

Reasons given:
Inadequate human resources, inadequate budget, no legal framework, ministry under restructure, AAHS in another Ministry, priority is strengthening VS in terrestrial animal health, need to consult with another ministry or ministerial level.
Conclusions

The PVS: Aquatic evaluation

- aims to sustainably improve the compliance of AAHS with international standards (whether part of the VS or not);
- and is designed to assist a country to improve its AAHS.

The OIE encourages Delegates to consider making a request for a PVS evaluation of the AAHS in your country.
OIE National Focal Point Concept
The OIE Delegate

APPOINTED by their national government

- Contact point for the OIE in his/her country.

RESPONSIBILITIES (interalia)

- Provide input into the OIE standard setting process;
- Notify the OIE of national animal disease situation;
- Harmonise national legislation with OIE standards (Article 3.1. of WTO SPS Agreement).
National Focal Points

Nominated by the OIE Delegate in:

- Aquatic animals
  - Animal disease notification
  - Animal production food safety
  - Veterinary products
- Communication
- Veterinary products
- Veterinary laboratories
- Wildlife
Support the Delegate to:

• prepare comments on relevant new and revised OIE standards for aquatic animals;
• prepare and implement appropriate national legislation that complies with OIE standards;
• support collection and submission of aquatic animal disease information to the OIE through WAHIS.

Technical contact point for OIE on aquatic animal issues
Forum for networking and information exchange

Note:

- Focal Points are under the responsibility of the OIE Delegate;
- All communication to the OIE must be through the OIE Delegate.
Focal Point Seminars

Timeline:
- 1st cycle 2010-11
- 2nd cycle 2011-13
- 3rd cycle 2015-16

Overall objective:
- to equip the FPs with the knowledge so they can support their Delegate in meeting their responsibilities as an OIE Member specifically in contributing to the standard setting process and meeting disease reporting obligations.
Findings / Challenges

- high turnover of FPs (and Delegates);
- nominated FP does not attend the seminar;
- FP is not directly involved in AAHS activities;
- Link between FP and Delegate is weak (or absent!);
- FP has not been delegated specific tasks or allocated dedicated time;
- Knowledge from seminar is not applied back in the office;
- Knowledge is not transferred when a new FP is appointed.
What are the Impacts of the FP Seminars?

- difficult to evaluate objectively;
- feedback evaluation forms for each seminar have been positive;
- participants have a better understanding of the OIE, aquatic animal activities and their role as the FP for AAs.

But:

- What has been the impact on number of Members commenting? A key role of the FP.
Number of Members commenting on the reports of the Aquatic Commission 2008-2014

Good news

- number of Members commenting has been increasing.
- In 2008 38 Member Countries submitted comments and in 2014 this has increased to 100.
- Conclusion: FP concept has likely contributed to the increase in the number of Members commenting on OIE aquatic draft texts.
Aquatic versus Terrestrial (2013-2014)

- 2013: 94 MCs commented on aquatic draft texts compared to 103 for terrestrial texts (i.e. Code Commission reports);
- A similar trend in 2014; 100 MCs commented on aquatic draft texts compared to 105 for terrestrial draft texts.
Recommendations

OIE strongly encourages Delegates to optimise the value of their Focal Points in supporting them to meet their OIE responsibilities.

Delegates - when nominating the FP consider:

- **stability** of the person/position;
- FP’s **expertise** matches the Terms of Reference;
- FP is delegated specific OIE tasks and allocated time;
- availability of FP to attend seminars;

Focal Points:

- share knowledge with colleagues after seminars;
- meet regularly with other FPs and Delegate.
- transfer knowledge if new FP nominated;
- review reports of Aquatic Commission and implement ToR.
Conclusions

- The OIE is committed to the National Focal Point Concept.

- The OIE is constantly working to obtain donor funds to support this activity.