Assuring transparency

OIE Global Conference on Wildlife
Animal Health and Biodiversity - Preparing for the Future

23-25 February 2011, Paris, France
INTRODUCTION

Challenges

One system for All

Active search

OIE’s single list of diseases

Communication strategy

OIE Wildlife Disease Notification System
INTRODUCTION

General mandate of the OIE:
*to improve animal health worldwide*

1st OIE historical objective

*To ensure transparency in the global animal disease situation including zoonosis*
CHALLENGES
CHALLENGES

- Notification of diseases in backyard and wild animals was difficult (economic reasons) for countries having interest in exporting animals and animal products.

- Veterinary services that participate in the development of international standards and their adoptions sometimes undertake measures not appropriate and not scientifically based (risk analysis).
CHALLENGES

- some countries put on purpose unjustified trade barriers to other countries

- Some least developed countries do not request science based requirements or request requirements that are not enough to protect their animals and human health from introduction of pathogens (international standards)
CHALLENGES

The World Trade Organisation Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) gives the right to countries to protect their human and animal health by implementing international standards and if their requirements are higher then they can base their importations on risk analysis.
ONE SYSTEM FOR ALL
2002: Establishment of the OIE Animal Health Information Department as an entity that gradually worked to improve networking between the OIE and its Members

Start involving more and more countries, having interest or not in trade, in disease notification and in the other OIE activities
Members were given more frequent and regular updates on their reporting statuses in all transparency.

Those that were not providing regularly reports on their animal health situations were sensitised and reminded to follow-up on notified exceptional epidemiological events and to submit regularly their reports to the OIE (General Assemblies, Regional Conferences, Regional Commissions, Trainings seminar, etc.)
ONE SYSTEM FOR ALL - ALERT MESSAGES

Number of alert messages disseminated by the OIE before and after the launch of WAHIS

Launch of WAHIS

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OTHER STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY
Other strategy to improve transparency: OIE’s tracking activities

Since 2002, the OIE has operated an active search and analysis procedure for unofficial information from a variety of sources and networks, verifying it where appropriate with the countries concerned.

This has allowed to detect a number of exceptional events needing to be notified immediately.
OTHER STRATEGY TO IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY: NETWORK OF REFERENCE LABORATORIES AND COLLABORATING CENTERS

- Raising awareness among the OIE’s network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centers and ensuring that they comply with one of their key mandates, namely to inform the OIE Delegate of the Member Country or Territory from which the samples originated as well as the OIE Hqs.
2004: establishment of a single list of diseases

2005: new notification procedures and launch of the online notification application WAHIS (World Animal Health Information System)

Both have enabled countries to notify monthly information on priority diseases present in their territory rather than solely on the previous List A diseases.
OIE’S SINGLE LIST OF DISEASES AND WAHIS GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE SYSTEM

Immediate notifications and Follow-ups

OIE’s early warning system

International alert messages → Rapid response

Regular information through *six-monthly* and *annual* reports

OIE’s monitoring system

To monitor OIE Listed diseases (presence or absence) over time

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RESULTS OF TEN YEARS OF ACTIVITIES:
WORLD ANIMAL HEALTH COVERAGE BY WAHIS FOR 2009

Received reports for 2009:
- Complete
- No information

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COMMUNICATION STRATEGY
Discriminating strategy between a disease event that might necessitate measures to avoid the pathogen being spread by commodities through trade and events that are notified but should not have an impact on trade

- Since 2007: diseases outbreak maps in WAHID, enabling outbreaks in domestic animals and in wild animals to be clearly distinguished
- In the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code - Chapter 10.4 - avian influenza (highly pathogenic) should be notified both in domestic and in wild birds, but notifying it in wild birds should not affect trade in poultry
DISEASE OUTBREAK MAPS: HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (2010)

Outbreaks differentiation between domestic and wild species
DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN INFORMATION RELEVANT FOR TRADE WITH OTHER INFORMATION

Similar work needs to be done for all Terrestrial Code chapters in order to identify diseases that may be present in wildlife and indicate what effect, they may or may not have on trade of domestic animals and their products.
OBJECTIVES

- Have a clearer picture of the animal health situation in domestic animals and in wildlife, so as to avoid the introduction of unjustified trade barriers when only wild animals are affected in a given country.

- Raise the awareness of all countries of the need to include surveillance of diseases in wildlife species in their animal surveillance systems and have a better coverage of the animal health situation in their different animal populations.
Changes are being made to the OIE notification system in order to better address disease situation in wildlife.

During 2011 will be launched:
- A new version of WAHIS (WAHIS-2) that will bring significant improvements in the field of notification of diseases in wildlife.
- A newly developed on-line notification application, named WAHIS-Wild is being finalized.

OBJECTIVES

Protecting wildlife, and consequently biodiversity.

Where appropriate serves as an early warning system to protect livestock health and public health.

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THE TRANSITION: WILDLIFE QUESTIONNAIRE

The process of improving the system for wildlife has started in 2008 through the new questionnaire in Excel file that has been redesigned to take into account further new improvements and start the integration between WAHIS and data previously collected through the previous questionnaire.
A total of 89 completed questionnaires were received
Distribution of countries (89) that submitted completed questionnaires to the OIE for 2009
WILD LIFE FOCAL POINTS NOTIFY ON WILDLIFE DISEASES

- This will contribute to improve transparency by offering a better understanding of the animal health situation

- Improve our knowledge of the worldwide wildlife disease situation by increasing disease surveillance in wildlife species in OIE Members
Annual wildlife report: WAHIS-Wild

OIE-listed diseases

Non OIE-listed wildlife diseases

WAHID Interface

A new web interface will be created to display information on wildlife diseases that are not OIE-listed diseases.
CONCLUSIONS

The presented changes will certainly:

- help the OIE to ensure better transparency, safer trade of domestic animals and their products and

- Give a better knowledge of the worldwide animal health situation in both domestic and wild animals, for the benefit of animal health and, where zoonoses are concerned, human health.
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