AN EXAMPLE OF A COLLABORATING CENTRE CONSORTIUM ILLUSTRATED BY THE CANADIAN WILDLIFE HEALTH COOPERATIVE AND USGS NATIONAL WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER

Jonathan Sleeman (1), Ted Leighton (retired) (2) & Craig Stephen (2)

(1) Center Director, United States Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, USA
(2) Executive Director, Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative, Saskatoon, Canada
Overview

Introduction to the two Centres
Governance of the Consortium
Case studies
Future directions

3rd Global Conference of OIE Reference Centres
Challenges and expectations for the future
Incheon (Seoul), Korea (Rep. of), 14-16 October, 2014
Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative

- **Mission**: Promote and protect the health of wildlife and Canadians through leadership, partnership, investigation and action

- **Two key goals**
  - Working to sustain healthy wildlife
  - Working to sustain healthy wildlife-society interactions
Structure

• National Office
  – Strategies, health intelligence and administrative functions at a national level
  – National services
    • Database, facilitation, plans, policy

• Regional Centres across Canada
  – In each veterinary college
  – Investigative and diagnostic units
  – Research
  – Local planning
Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative

Supports government
- Is Canada’s national program & OIE focal point
- Coordinates national plans, strategies and programs

Independent
- University based
- Generates its own information to develop its own advice

Collaborative
- No legislated authority
- Leads through partnerships, facilitation & advocacy
- Trusted, objective & ‘nonthreatening’ to others with authority
USGS National Wildlife Health Center

Advancing Wildlife and Ecosystem Health

The U.S. Geological Survey’s National Wildlife Health Center mission is to provide national leadership to safeguard wildlife and ecosystem health through dynamic partnerships and exceptional science

Key Strategic Goals:
• National leadership and coordination of wildlife health issues
• Provide nationally comprehensive wildlife health information
• Science to anticipate, detect, and manage wildlife diseases
USGS National Wildlife Health Center

Federal government science center within Department of the Interior

Purposefully designed biocontainment (BSL-3) diagnostic and research facility for wildlife located in Madison, Wisconsin

Field station in Hawaii
Core Functions

Advancing Wildlife and Ecosystem Health

- Epidemiological and diagnostic investigations
- Surveillance and monitoring
- Emergency response
- (ESF-11)
- Applied research
- Education, training and outreach

Wildlife Disease Diagnostic Laboratories
- Cause of death determination
- Pathogen detection, discovery and characterization

Applied Wildlife Health Research
- Hypothesis driven research
- Development of models and management tools

Wildlife Epidemiology and Emerging Diseases
- Outbreak investigation
- Surveillance
- Disease status and trends
The Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) was designated as an OIE Collaborating Centre in 2007.

In 2012, USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) also applied to become an OIE Collaborating Centre.

Following the OIE requirement to designate one Collaborating Centre per topic per region, the CWHC and the NWHC were asked to collaborate as a consortium in the sphere of 'competence of research, diagnosis and surveillance of wildlife pathogens'.
Governance: Formal

• Memorandum of Understanding established:
  – Outlines the scope of the collaboration and form and frequency of communications
    • Directors are the primary points of contact
    • Keep each other informed of planned OIE activities
    • Invite participation in these activities
    • Joint annual report submitted
  – NWHC Director serves on the CWHC Executive Committee
Governance: Informal

- Key factors for success:
  - Collegial approach
  - Good communication and building trust
  - Shared vision and mission
  - Good governance with clear roles and responsibilities
  - Dedication to volunteering resources
  - Rotational leadership of the consortium between the two institutions
Advantages

• Pooling of resources and expertise brings the strengths and complementarities of the two institutions together to enhance capacity to assist the OIE

• CWHC has a greater emphasis on disease surveillance and management and the NWHC has a greater emphasis on wildlife pathogen diagnostic methodologies and research

• These complementary skill sets as well as different organizational models provide for flexibility in perspectives and a larger pool of experts
Case Study: OIE Wildlife Focal Point Workshops
Case Study: Building Wildlife Health Capacity in Asia

Sri Lanka

South Korea
Future Directions

• Continue the OIE Wildlife Focal Point Workshops
• Joint projects on a vision for wildlife health, wildlife health business case, and development of frameworks for national wildlife health infrastructure
• Continue long-term capacity building in wildlife health for OIE Members
One Health
Summary

• Very successful collaboration
• Built on collegial relationships, trust and shared vision
• Resulted in enhanced capacity to assist OIE Members
• Collaboration has extended beyond OIE responsibilities
Thank You

Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative: www.healthywildlife.ca