

## MANAGING OUTBREAKS

- **Brückner G.K.**  
 President, OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, Schoongezicht 30, 1 Scholtz Street, Somerset West 7130, South Africa

Outbreaks of OIE listed diseases where wildlife is incriminated as the primary source, often calls for a different approach to the application of disease control strategies to contain an outbreak compared to disease outbreaks where the disease is limited to domesticated species with no wildlife involvement. The competent veterinary authority of a country responsible for containing the disease not only has to consider the health of the livestock population being at risk or possible trade restrictions but also has to cope with wildlife conservation interests and difficult decisions that need to be taken to meet the needs, priorities and very often conflicting demands of livestock producers, the wildlife industry and other interest groups. Classical control measures such as isolation, vaccination and culling of infected stock are seldom questioned when applied in disease outbreaks in livestock. However, when similar methods are proposed for application in wildlife in the event of threatening disease outbreaks, several challenges come to the fore such as objections raised on the rationale for the application of classical control measures in wildlife, the need for wildlife conservation and the guarantees required for certification of freedom of disease in the domestic population when the disease is also present in the wildlife population.

OIE standards for diseases where wildlife is implicated as a primary source of the disease have a two-throng approach. For those diseases where control of the wildlife vector are accepted to be impossible (such as wild birds in the case of highly pathogenic avian influenza) proof of absence of the disease in the domestic population is accepted for international trade whilst presence of the disease in wildlife where the wildlife vector can be controlled through methods of isolation or separation from susceptible livestock (such as foot and mouth disease in free roaming buffalo), requires a different set of guarantees for international trade.

The paper will describe some of the difficulties posed by the managing of outbreaks of trade sensitive diseases in livestock where wildlife is incriminated as the primary source of the outbreak and the challenge posed to the setting of international animal health standards in addressing these difficulties.

