

One World, One Health Summary of the FAO/OIE/WHO document

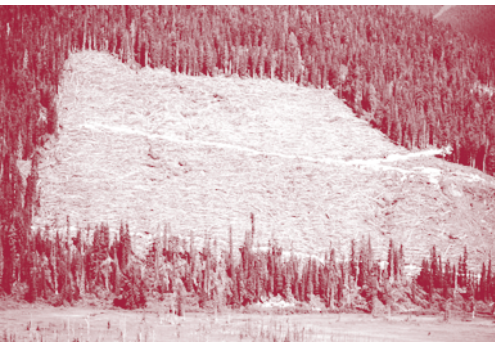
In 2008, four international organisations, FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), along with the World Bank and UNSIC (United Nations System Influenza

formulation of the Manhattan Principles. These twelve principles seek to define a holistic approach to the prevention of epidemic/epizootic diseases, while maintaining the integrity of ecosystems for the benefit of mankind, our domestic animals and

biodiversity, a topic that concerns us all.

the world's population, which is expected to reach 8 billion by 2025, mainly in Asia, Africa and Latin America, where most of the world's poor live. This trend is likely to result in more poor people in absolute terms.

At the same time, some in-transition Asian countries are currently experiencing strong economic growth, with rapid urbanisation and greater demand for food, particularly of animal



Coordinator), joined forces to produce a strategic document entitled 'Contributing to One World, One Health: a strategic Framework for Reducing Risks of Infectious Diseases at the Animal-Human-Ecosystems Interface'.

This concept is explained in a 68-page document, starting with an executive summary. It is therefore too long to be printed in full in the *Bulletin*. The document stems from a meeting held in Manhattan (New York, United States of America) in September 2004, bringing together experts in various disciplines from around the world to discuss problems arising from the circulation of diseases between humans, domestic animals and wildlife. The product of this first meeting on the subject of these three domains was the

Mankind is currently facing many different challenges, which will require global solutions. One of these challenges is the spread of infectious diseases that emerge or re-emerge at the interfaces between animals, humans and the ecosystems in which they live. This situation is the result of several factors, including the exponential growth in human and livestock populations, rapid urbanisation, changing farming systems, closer interaction between livestock and wildlife, forest encroachment, changes in ecosystems and globalisation of trade in animals and animal products.

The most important factor is undoubtedly the dramatic increase in

origin. Termed the 'livestock revolution' by Delgado, this phenomenon is leading to rapid change in farming systems. In 2008, over 21 billion food animals were produced to help feed a population of over 6 billion people. By 2020, this demand is expected to increase by 50%.

The increase in the human population is also putting pressure on land use, with further encroachment on natural forests and their rich and diverse fauna, thereby exposing humans and domestic animals to new pathogens.

The overarching objective of the strategic framework proposed in the document 'One World, One Health' is to

* One world, one health is still a concept created by the Wildlife Conservation Society

minimise the global impact of diseases of animal origin, including zoonoses, especially those with pandemic potential.

The approach articulated in the Manhattan Principles recognises the interdependence of human, animal and ecosystem health. It presupposes an international, interdisciplinary, cross sectoral approach to the surveillance, control, prevention and mitigation of emerging diseases



while preserving the environment, especially through compliance with the standards issued by the OIE.

The document also emphasises the need to improve biosecurity measures to control the emergence and spread of infectious diseases. Unfortunately, levels of biosecurity vary depending on the economic and health conditions of communities and the types of farming systems practised.

Poor communities often lack the necessary resources to access public and veterinary health services. Poor sanitary conditions and inefficient management practices tend to result in numerous infectious agents becoming endemic.

Prevention of bioterrorism (or agroterrorism) is also envisaged as a global public good. Surveillance for infectious diseases must be directed against all potential emerging infections, both natural and deliberate.

Efforts to prevent and respond to the recent avian influenza epizootic have shown that many countries were unprepared to deal with this type of

disaster. In many cases, countries did not sufficiently invest in their Veterinary or Public Health Services. Even if the Veterinary Services lie at the heart of intervention actions they require a strong partnership with Public Health Services and wildlife services.

Key elements of effective prevention programmes in both animal and public health include:

- adequate infrastructure and expertise at national and local levels, and at entry points
- timely and responsive disease surveillance systems for animal and human populations
- up-to-date emergency preparedness and response plans
- capacity for communication of level of risk
- capacity to apply international agreements and standards
- continuous evaluation and improvement of biosecurity
- governance and legislation in line with international standards
- adequate and sustainable laboratory capacity supported by external quality assurance systems
- established monitoring and evaluation systems for Veterinary and Public Health Services
- a legal framework with incentives through co-operation with the private sector
- a communication protocol between animal and public health surveillance systems