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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Eighth Session

Rome, 8-12 April 2013

Report on OIE Activities

Agenda item 12.2.4

Prepared by the World Organization for Animal Health

## I. Introduction

1. The OIE, as an observer organisation, is pleased to provide a brief report on pertinent activities to the seventh Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).
2. The OIE together with the IPPC and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), commonly known as the 'three sisters', are the reference standard setting organizations under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) in the animal health, plant health and food safety sectors respectively.
3. The OIE works closely with the CAC in setting standards for the food production continuum. There are also some important parallels between the standard setting activities of the OIE and the IPPC. Common interests relative to the SPS Agreement include work on disease compartmentalisation, capacity building for Members and invasive alien species. Following is a brief update on the OIE's work in these areas.

## II. Disease Compartmentalisation

4. The OIE is continuing work in regard to the concept of compartmentalisation. The establishment of a 'compartment' (a sub-population) of animals of specified health status is based primarily on management controls whereas in the case of regionalisation the biosecurity of the specified population is established on the basis of geographic and/or physical separation. However, in both cases, the role of the Veterinary Authority is to ensure that the separation of the specified sub-population is biosecured and to provide appropriate guarantees to trading partners.

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5. One OIE Member Country has made a self-declaration for a disease free compartment for a poultry disease based on the implementation of OIE standards. In two OIE Member Countries, projects have been implemented to demonstrate the application of the concept of compartmentalisation, which can be a valuable tool to improve animal health and facilitate international trade.

### III. OIE's Key Capacity Building Activities

6. Recognising that more than two thirds of the OIE's 178 Members are developing or least-developed countries, the OIE places great emphasis on capacity building to help Members implement the standards established by the OIE.

7. As part of the OIE global initiative for Good Governance of Veterinary Services, and at a Member's request, the OIE conducts assessments of the quality of Veterinary Services using the *OIE PVS Tool* (Performance of Veterinary Services) on a voluntary basis. Subsequent steps in the PVS Pathway include PVS Gap Analysis, Veterinary Legislation missions, Twinning projects in laboratory capacity building and veterinary education, and PVS follow up missions, to help improve compliance of the veterinary infrastructure with the OIE quality standards set out in the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

8. The OIE PVS evaluation is regarded as the 'diagnostic step', with the main outputs comprising the description of levels of advancement for each of the 46 critical competencies of a national animal health system (Veterinary Services). The critical competencies follow the OIE standards on the quality of Veterinary Services. PVS evaluations are conducted by OIE trained and accredited independent experts. The reports are based on referenced evidence and factual qualitative information, not on assumptions, and all reports are peer-reviewed by independent experts.

9. To date the OIE has received 124 official requests for PVS Evaluation missions and 113 have been completed (at January 2013).

10. After the PVS diagnostic step, which corresponds to a qualitative assessment, the OIE may at the request of the Member conduct a PVS Gap Analysis, which involves the identification of main priorities for the country, depending on the national economic and political context; and the pre-evaluation and cost for five years of specific objectives and the desired level of advancement for each critical competency the country considers to be of priority.

11. OIE partners and potential donors will use these reports, specific to the countries concerned and based on international standards, using if needed their own instruments and procedures to achieve the desired improvements.

12. To date, the OIE has received 81 official requests for Gap Analysis and 63 have been completed (at January 2013).

### IV. Invasive Alien Species

13. In February 2013, the OIE and the Secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) signed an official cooperation agreement. The purpose of this agreement is to facilitate and strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the between the OIE and the CBD in fields of mutual interest, including the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, improvement of animal health and welfare and the promotion of the 'One Health' approach to the management of risks presented by animal diseases and zoonoses at the animal-human-ecosystem interface.

14. During the past few years, discussions have taken place between the Secretariats of the OIE and the CBD, regarding 'gaps in the coverage by international standards of risks associated with animals that may be invasive'.

15. The OIE, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, has developed guidelines on risk assessment for invasive animal species. An OIE expert meeting was held in November, 2011 to develop guidelines for Member Countries needing to assess the risk of non-native ('alien') animals

becoming invasive. The Guidelines are now available on the OIE website at:

[http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our\\_scientific\\_expertise/docs/pdf/OIEGuidelines\\_NonNative\\_Animals\\_2012.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our_scientific_expertise/docs/pdf/OIEGuidelines_NonNative_Animals_2012.pdf)

16. The OIE also worked with the IPPC to provide technical input into the seminar on International Trade and Invasive Alien Species, organised by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), held in July 2012 in Geneva. Further information on the seminar is available on the STDF website at: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAIAS.htm>