



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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Agenda Item 17.3.2

SCIENTIFIC TASK FORCE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES: PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE TASK FORCE ON WILDLIFE DISEASES



SCIENTIFIC TASK FORCE ON WILDLIFE DISEASE



*Note: the Task Force is considering changing its name to the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health

2011 Work Plan

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- b. Zoonotic Disease Threats
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Participating Organizations:

Co-Convener:

- Food and Agriculture Organization, Wildlife Health and Ecology Unit - EMPRES-Animal Health, Animal Production and Health Division with support from the FAO Forestry Department.
- United Nations Environmental Program Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP-CMS)

Core Affiliates

- African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
- Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat (CBD)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Secretariat(CITES)
- Convention on Wetlands Secretariat (Ramsar)
- International Veterinary Student Association (IVSA)
- Max Planck Institute for Ornithology
- Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)

Partner

- Wildlife Disease Association (WDA)

National Associate

- Australia Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
- Mongolia State Central Veterinary Laboratory (SCVL)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Wildlife Services/National Wildlife Disease Program (USDA/APHIS/WS/NWDP)

Observer

- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

WORK AREA 1: Diseases of Priority to Task Force Members

Task 1.1 –Disease of Priority to TF Members	
Description	Gather input from each of the current Task Force members about the 5 most important diseases from the perspective of each organization or MEA in the categories of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wildlife population Health 2. Zoonotic Disease Threats 3. Wildlife-Livestock diseases of Importance to Production 4. Diseases of Regional Importance.
Lead	Lindsey McCrickard
Personnel	All Task Force core affiliates, and those in attendance at the launching workshop.
Outputs	Organized list of diseases in order of most frequently identified diseases and also by submitting group
Funds needed?	None
Approach and timeline	Email request sent out by July 5 th to contact points with return response requested by July 25 th 2011

Task 1.2 –Resource Material Development	
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine available information - Identify gaps where the Task Force can create useful tools/references about the high priority diseases.
Lead	Lindsey McCrickard
Personnel	Task Force Members
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specific products for benefit of the members of the task force, also available to the general public via website if possible. (ie fact sheets, brochures, etc) - Identify areas for capacity building+/- development of training module Setting up links to outside sources for the prioritized diseases (via website) - Videos? About the impact of these diseases
Funds needed?	+/-
Approach and timeline	End October: disease fact sheets / information

WORK AREA 2: Bridging the Gap between Natural Resource Professionals and Health Professionals

Task 2.1 – Identify resources that characterise economic and social values of biodiversity and ecosystems	
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine what research has already been done in the area of ecosystem worth / value (including wildlife/ecotourism) through online sources such as The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) work, research articles, and the task force members network. - Identify gaps in the knowledge base for ecosystem value.
Lead	CBD(Campbell), CITES (Morgan), AU-IBAR (Soumare), FAO-Forestry (Kaeslin)
Personnel	---
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Library collection of specific data on ecosystem value (including summary information about information resources it is linked to) - Specific areas that lack research details, as possible suggestions for future research. - Summary paragraphs
Funds needed?	-
Approach and timeline	First summary / introduction and links by October 9 th to Lindsey McCrickard

Task 2.2 – Post on the Website and Summarize Information Available on Valuation of Biodiversity and Ecosystems	
Description	Using what information is available / presented from Task 2.1, summarize and link through website.
Lead	Lindsey McCrickard
Personnel	CBD- Secretariat, CITES-Secretariat, AU-IBAR, FAO-Forestry
Outputs	Develop the website section on ecosystem services
Funds needed?	-
Approach and timeline	Update to website by mid-end of October. Must be finalized before November COP.

WORK AREA 3: Wildlife Morbidity and Mortality Event Monitoring

Task 3.1 – Develop standard operating procedures for the Wildlife Health Event Reporter (WHER) system and information management through the FAO-EMPRES-i (FAO Database)	
Description	Develop SOPs for the unofficial wildlife morbidity and mortality reporting system. (WHER) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate how WHER protocols provide a useful tool to biologists and resource managers; its contribution to improved mortality event reporting and management with emphasis on conservation and non-disease based causes of mortality. - Clearly define linkage to OIE-WAHID when needed, and develop the required protocols for if/when disease is diagnosed. - Finalize the web site for use of WHER on a trial basis to track unofficial wildlife morbidity and mortality events, including linkages with EMPRES-i
Lead	FAO (Newman)
Personnel	OIE (Ishibashi), DAFF(Post), MPI (Wikelski), AU-IBAR (Soumare)
Outputs	- Draft SOP for use of WHER developed
Funds needed?	None
Approach and timeline	November 15, 2011: SOP Draft finalized for review

WORK AREA 4: Human-Wildlife-Livestock-Ecosystem Interface

Task 4.1 – Human- Wildlife, Livestock-Wildlife Disease Transmission	
Description	Provide examples to illustrate disease transmission tracked from either humans or livestock transmission to wildlife, and the ramifications to wildlife or ecosystem health
Lead	Lindsey McCrickard
Personnel	Members of the Task Force
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of the events including response of the events/who funded it/management - Listing of common factors noted, health (in addition to disease) - Links to already existing information - Case study - Web posting
Funds needed?	None
Approach and timeline	<p>June 30 – Along with top 5 disease request, reminder for sending in case examples.</p> <p>August 31 – Sent in case study suggestions/transmission examples</p> <p>Early October – Finalize case studies, obtain feedback</p>

Task 4.2 – Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas	
Description	TFCAs illustrate the complexity of human-wildlife-livestock-ecosystem balance and the need for a One Health approach to solving challenging problems associated with multiple stakeholder interests.
Lead	Lindsey McCrickard / Tracy McCracken
Personnel	Task Force Membership
Outputs	Inputs from Task Force members about ongoing projects associated with TFCAs. Mechanism of management of TFCA, highlighting the different points of view of stakeholders. (showing the conclusion that need for communication is great) Highlight different approaches to success in TFCA management
Funds needed?	None
Approach and timeline	<i>July 5</i> –Reminder for sending in project descriptions/weblinks. <i>August 31</i> – Send in project information/weblinks to Lindsey <i>End October</i> – Finalizing/Posting information on website

Task 4.3 – Wild Meat Harvesting: Implications for wildlife health and conservation	
Description	Wild Meat (previously known as bushmeat) consumption internationally has significant implications in food security, food safety, public health, and conservation. Truly a One Health Issue, wild meat harvesting is a difficult trade to track, regulate, and make sustainable.
Lead	FAO- Edgar Kaeslin
Personnel	AU-IBAR, Lindsey McCrickard, other interested Task Force members.
Outputs	Information for website using viewpoints of different stakeholders to illustrate the importance of hunted wild meat.
Funds needed?	-
Approach and timeline	Finalized viewpoints sent to Lindsey McCrickard by early October 2011

Task 4.4 – Captive/Farmed Wildlife	
Description	Captive / Farmed Wildlife can be a source of income, livelihoods but also novel diseases like SARS. In order to best manage these risks, increased communication between ministries of health, environment, and agriculture must occur.
Lead	Scott Newman
Personnel	Lindsey McCrickard, other interested Task Force members.
Outputs	Fact sheet on Captive/Farmed wildlife
Funds needed?	-
Approach and timeline	Fact sheet prepared for use on website: October 2011

WORK AREA 5: Migration Ecology

Task 5.1 – Migratory Species, Land Use and Climate Change	
Description	Predicting the distribution of migratory species and disease transmission as a result of land use change and climate change.
Lead	
Personnel	1. Case Study: USFWS (Nagendran) 2. Migration Issues: MPI (Wikelski)
Outputs	- Linking databases to show disease linked to migration patterns - Gather data on other migration ecology through telemetry - Highlight the complexity of these interactions through case studies of previous articles published in scientific journals, or through case studies of migration patterns linked with disease outbreaks
Funds needed?	-
Approach and timeline	Written summary of information for website: October 15 th Website linkages with MoveBank: October 30 th

WORK AREA 6: Wild Birds & Avian Influenza (Incorporating the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds)

Task 6.1 – Avian Influenza and the Role of Wild Birds	
Description	Maintain and support technical leadership and engagement regarding an improved understanding on the role that wild birds play in the maintenance and spread of H5N1 HPAI at a global scale
Lead	Ruth Cromie
Personnel	Scott Newman/Taej Mundkur/David Stroud/other members
Outputs	1. Update AI and Wild Bird Task Force members about how this Task Force could be sustained/maintained and will fit structurally, into the structure of the new Task Force on Wildlife Disease 2. Update the website http://www.aiweb.info/ 3. Identify funding to continue to support the website and coordination
Funds needed?	Yes – Funding needed to maintain website annually
Approach and timeline	Identify updated information about avian influenza and wild birds Post new information on the website within the next 3 months Identify new areas for inputs and development of materials Identify people to develop new content for the website

WORK AREA 7: Communication

Task 7.1 – Website Development	
Description	Utilize products created from the first four work areas to post to a website to be created for the Scientific Task Force. This website will include a members only section for logging in.
Lead	Lindsey McCrickard
Personnel	All members
Outputs	Finalize structure and launch the website
Funds needed?	Yes – Funding needed to maintain website annually as well as for payment of a consultant to create first website.
Approach and timeline	Consultant to create website – September Finished/up and running website – Late September-October

Task 7.2 – Develop/Implement communication outreach measures	
Description	Utilize social media networking, press releases, twitter feeds, and other appropriate communication measures to inform interested parties and the public about the Task Force.
Lead	IVSA/Lindsey McCrickard
Personnel	All Task Force members
Outputs	Press releases, Facebook Organization page, Linked In group, announcements on relevant news sources twitter
Funds needed?	+/- : Will we pay for a media person?
Approach and timeline	To coincide with launching of the website in late September.

WORK AREA 8: International Networking

Task 8.1 – Identify Interested Countries / Parties for Task Force Participation	
Description	Utilize contacts internationally to identify additional groups interested in participating.
Lead	Lindsey McCrickard, Scott Newman, Borja Heredia
Personnel	All members of Task Force
Outputs	Invitations for groups to join
Funds needed?	-
Approach and timeline	First round of targeted invitations sent out by October 31.