



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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WILDLIFE DISEASE AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Tenth Meeting
(Bergen, 20-25 November 2011)

Acknowledging that wildlife health, livestock health, human health, and ecosystem health are interdependent and influenced by multiple factors, *inter alia* socio-economics, sustainability of agriculture, demographics, climate and landscape changes;

Understanding the role that wildlife can play in emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) serving as either a reservoir host, temporary or periodic transmitter, or spillover/dead-end host;

Recognizing that wildlife can be a victim of diseases and there is an increase in emergence or re-emergence of diseases negatively affecting wildlife including highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 which causes continued mortality, and more recently (since COP9) the spread of white-nose syndrome in bats, and the high mortalities affecting Saiga antelope (*Saiga spp.*) and Mongolian gazelle (*Procapra gutturosa*); and *highlighting* the need to understand the causes and epidemiology of these diseases and to coordinate effective and rapid responses to such events;

Welcoming the significant work of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) since its creation in 1994 and the recommendations and scientific publications derived from the Working Group on the surveillance and control of the most important specific wildlife diseases;

Welcoming the international conference organized in Lyon, France, 22-27 July 2012 by the Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) and the European Wildlife Disease Association (EWDA) on Convergence in Wildlife Health;

Acknowledging the importance of the global disease information systems WAHIS and WAHIS-Wild developed by the OIE as well as its web interface WAHID, the FAO/OIE/WHO joint mechanism Global Early Warning and Response System for Major Animal Diseases (GLEWS) and existing information systems developed by organizations such as the IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group, the European Union, AU-IBAR in Africa, ASEAN in Asia, SPC in the Pacific Islands and OIRSA in Central America;

Welcoming the large scope of consensus on appropriate approaches and responses to wildlife diseases which has developed among UN agencies, multilateral environmental agreements and other international organizations including the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), reflected for example in decisions and resolutions of the Ramsar Convention, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), CMS and in standards of the OIE;

Recognizing that the direct effects of disease on wildlife are particularly important for small or geographically isolated populations, and that there are numerous indirect effects including lethal approaches to managing wildlife disease and their negative influence on public perception of wildlife;

Recognizing the high risk of transmission of wildlife diseases from livestock and/or humans to wildlife and vice versa in areas of growing conflicts over land and increasing habitat loss, especially in developing countries;

Acknowledging the substantial impacts of wildlife trade, both legal and illegal, on threatened and endangered species worldwide and the loss of biodiversity and food security that can result from the spread of pathogens through regional and international movements of animals and animal products;

Further acknowledging the substantial risks for wildlife, livestock and people of the wildlife trade, both legal and illegal, which can result in the spread of pathogens to previously unexposed populations through regional and international movements of animals and animal products;

Noting that existing methods of communication between management authorities, health professionals, biologists, veterinarians and natural resource professionals could be improved in some jurisdictions and are currently inadequate to respond to the complex issues surrounding human, animal and ecosystem health;

Recalling Resolution 9.8 which called on the Secretariat and the FAO Animal Health Service to co-convene the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Disease to develop guidance on responding to wildlife diseases of importance to people, domestic animals and wildlife;

Welcoming the body of work being undertaken by the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel on wetlands and health and promotion of an ecosystem approach to dealing with health, in particular the Ramsar Disease Manual on Guidelines for Assessment, Monitoring and Management of Animal Disease in Wetlands which is aimed at practical disease guidance for wetland managers and policy makers;

Further welcoming the significant work in the area of wildlife health by the IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group, the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and non-governmental agencies and organizations;

Further recalling Resolution 9.8 that requested the Secretariat and the FAO Animal Health Service to determine the relationship between the existing Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds and the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Disease;

Taking note of the report from the inaugural workshop of the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Disease, which took place in Beijing, China, on 27-28 June 2011, as well as the

Terms of Reference and Work Plan of the Task Force included in document UNEP/CMS/ScC.17/Inf.13;

Acknowledging the proposed *Modus Operandi* for Conservation Emergencies (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.38 and Resolution 10.2), which is envisaged to improve the rapid response to disease-related and other conservation emergencies;

Noting also that the new Task Force agreed to enhance research on diseases that have an impact on both domestic and migratory wildlife, and that are of greatest concern with regard to food security, sustainable livelihoods and conservation;

Further noting that the Task Force agreed on a mechanism to be created for CMS Parties and FAO Member States to respond to the threat of trans-boundary animal health crises by reporting wildlife morbidity and mortality events;

Acknowledging the importance of existing global disease information systems coordinated between the OIE, FAO and WHO related to wildlife diseases, and the need to assure good communication and avoid unnecessary overlap in global reporting requirements;

Acknowledging that the One Health approach is increasingly gaining ground as a multidisciplinary way of addressing emerging infectious diseases, and that the concept has been endorsed by several international organizations including FAO, OIE, WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank; and

Further acknowledging the need to maintain and build upon the global momentum created in response to successful eradication of rinderpest virus from animals including wild populations, and progress on control of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1;

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Disease at its inaugural workshop to change the current name of the Task Force to the new name of “Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health”, which reflects more comprehensively the One Health approach to integrating wildlife, livestock, human and ecosystem health issues;

2. *Requests* the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health to liaise with the OIE Headquarters and the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, and with the IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group, so that the work and recommendations of the OIE Working Group and the IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group can be taken into account in the activity plan of the Scientific Task Force, and to invite representatives from the OIE Headquarters and from the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, and the IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group, to actively participate in the Scientific Task Force particularly in the field of global wildlife disease early detection, notification and management mechanisms, and *vice versa*;

3. *Also welcomes* the recommendation of the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health to incorporate the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds

as a thematic working group, ensuring it maintains its identity and mode of working, responding as appropriate to developments concerning highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1;

4. *Further welcomes* the proposal for a *Modus Operandi* for Conservation Emergencies as a mechanism to improve the rapid response to mass mortality events affecting migratory species and other conservation emergencies as outlined in Resolution 10.2;

5. *Encourages* the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health to liaise with the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases and other related programmes so that the work recommendations and ongoing global initiatives are well coordinated, particularly in the field of global wildlife disease surveillance, early detection, including of outbreaks of domestic livestock disease with the potential to affect wildlife, and notification;

6. *Encourages* the Task Force to incorporate key relevant civil society organizations into the governance structure of the Task Force, at the Core Affiliate level, such that the work of the Task Force will be able to support the consensus of both governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations focused on wildlife and ecosystem health;

7. *Invites* Parties to contribute voluntarily to the Wildlife Health Event Reporter (WHER) as an unofficial rapid reporting system for wildlife morbidity and mortality events in collaboration with OIE national delegates and wildlife focal points, taking fully into account the OIE WAHIS, FAO/OIE/WHO GLEWs mechanisms and existing regional information systems, and the need to complement existing communication channels, specifically OIE disease reporting and ProMed-mail;

8. *Calls on* Parties to collaborate with and share simultaneously information with OIE national delegates and wildlife focal points, OIE WAHIS, the IUCN Wildlife Health Specialist Group, FAO/OIE/WHO GLEWS mechanisms and existing regional information systems;

9. *Also calls on* Parties to use and promote the Ramsar Disease Manual together with guidance produced by the Task Force for managing diseases of migratory animals and in cooperation with Veterinary Authorities following global standards adopted by the OIE;

10. *Requests* the Secretariat, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, to help in dissemination and promotion of Task Force products;

11. *Requests* the Secretariat in collaboration with, *inter alia*, Parties, other governments, IGOs and NGOs, subject to the availability of resources, to review existing initiatives to enhance cooperation and collaboration among different conventions through national focal points;

12. *Requests* the Secretariat in collaboration with, *inter alia*, Parties, other governments, IGOs NGOs, subject to the availability of resources, to facilitate workshops to enhance cooperation and collaboration among different conventions through national focal points;

13. *Urges* Parties and *invites* other governments and donors such as the GEF to provide adequate financial support for such workshops;

14. *Further urges* Parties and international donor organizations to support the activities of the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health, through both financial and in-kind support, and in particular for the organization of annual meetings of the Task Force during the intersessional period 2012- 2014;
15. *Calls on* Parties and international donor organizations to provide technical and financial support to assist developing countries in establishing appropriate systems of surveillance and control of wildlife diseases;
16. *Requests* the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health, subject to available funding, to work with the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases on the development of an agreed approach to wildlife event reporting, and to communicate regularly on their combined approach to wildlife animal health issues;
17. *Encourages* Parties to engage in Task Force activities including serving as National Associates, linking their organization's websites, and serving as a conduit for information-sharing; and
18. *Requests* the Secretariat to report progress on the implementation of this Resolution to the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.