

## 4.3

# UNPRECEDENTED MOVE TOWARD A MORE COHERENT APPROACH

Among Sectors for the Strengthening of National  
Human-Animal-Ecosystem Health Capacities

### BACKGROUND

The WHO International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) is a framework to prevent the international spread of disease and includes obligations for States Parties to review and strengthen their national public health capacities. The OIE Performance of Veterinary Services Pathway (PVS) is a framework to assess the performance of Veterinary Services and its compliance with the international standards on quality linked to a capacity building pathway. The application of these evaluation processes jointly at the country level can optimize strengths and reduce gaps in the control of zoonotic diseases, and increase the benefits of capacity building investments in both sectors. OIE and WHO have initiated efforts to harmonize these tools, and present the efforts for greater synergy between WHO and OIE, at headquarters and national levels. More than just the adjustment of tools, this reflects the sharing of concept and strategies, also supported by FAO in implementation projects at country and regional settings as well as policies, as described in a tripartite concept note published in 2010. To add to this discussion, FAO promotes the incorporation of environment, a fundamental part of the One Health concept, into this governance discussion. This session will present the last developments in this efforts, also use example from the countries to highlight the benefits of synergies between sectors, and will open a discussion between the floor and the key players.

### MODERATOR

**Maged YOUNES**

Senior Policy Advisor

*Committee on World  
Food Security at FAO  
Italy*

The session is intended to address the following questions:

- How can the PVS and IHR offer a more coherent approach to the development of national core capacities?
- How can they contribute to country-level governance at the human-animal interface?
- What is the contribution of the Tripartite (FAO, OIE, WHO) to One Health and its role in establishing key principles and actions at the international level and in supporting countries in development of practical policies and programs?

## **OBJECTIVES**

Through the description of the current effort to bridge the approaches and methods used in the respective sectors, the main objective is to increase awareness on some of the fundamental principles guiding the collaborative work between FAO, OIE, WHO, i.e. the importance of strengthening human and animal institutions as well as partnership, alignment and coherence in standards and protocols when appropriate, “good governance and (strengthening of) official services, since they ensure an early detection and a rapid response to biological threats, facilitate trade flows and contribute to global food security” (G20 Agriculture Ministers, Paris, 22-23 June 2011).

The discussion should provide recommendations to the establishment of key principles and actions and the support to develop and implement practical national policies and programs. This would address particularly the importance of strengthening human and animal institutions and health systems and the partnerships among them; the central role of the national strategies in the approach and the alignment and coherence in standards and protocols.

## **OPENING**

- **Brief introduction – What are we talking about, what is the challenge?  
Challenges that have previously identified**
- **How to find a common ground? The development of the One Health strategy and the National Program for the Prevention and Control of Emerging and Re-Emerging Zoonotic Diseases in Cameroun**  
Severin Loul, Committee Zoonoses Member, Ministry of Livestock, Cameroon
- **Brief overview of IHR and OIE Standards/PVS**  
Alejandro Thiermann, President, Code Commission,  
World Organisation for Animal Health, France

## **PANEL PRESENTATIONS**

- **IHR and implementation framework and experience of a member country**  
Rajesh Sreedharan, Medical Officer, World Health Organization, Switzerland  
Stela Gheorghita, Deputy Director,  
National Center for Public Health, Republic of Moldova
- **OIE standards and the PVS Pathway and experience of a member country**  
Herbert Schneider, Senior OIE PVS Evaluator & Consultant,  
Agrivet International Consultants, Namibia  
Simeon S. Amurao, Jr, DVM, MBA, Officer-In-Charge,  
Office of the Assistant Director, Bureau of Animal Industry, Philippines
- **Toward a more coherent approach in national capacity assessment for zoonotic disease management using the IHR and PVS frameworks**  
Stephane De La Rocque, Technical Officer, World Organization for Animal Health, Belgium
- **Approaches related to environmental health and governance**  
Scott Newman, Wildlife Health & Ecology Unit Coordinator and Co-Convener  
of the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife & Ecosystem Health,  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Italy
- **Strategies for filling financial gaps**  
Francoise Le Gall, Livestock Advisor, World Bank, USA



Dr. Simeon S. Amurao Jr. is a graduate of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of the Philippines and Master of Business Administration from the Ateneo de Manila University. He started his career as a Farm Veterinarian in a government poultry farm. Later, he was appointed in various veterinary positions at the Department of Agriculture (DA).

In 1989, he was assigned as Quarantine Officer at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. This started his career and extensive involvement in crafting policies related to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures implemented by the Department of Agriculture.

Earning the expertise on SPS, he became a member of the DA SPS Focal Group specifically for the Livestock Sector. He also represented the Philippines in many international forums on SPS measures and became a member of several DA Mission Teams responsible in accrediting foreign meat establishments which export their products to the Philippines. These accreditations include the evaluation of the Veterinary Services of the exporting country based on OIE guidelines.

At present Dr. Amurao is the Assistant Director of the DA - Bureau of Animal Industry.

## **SIMEON S. AMURAO**

Officer-In-Charge  
Office of the Assistant  
Director

*Bureau of Animal Industry  
Philippines*



Stéphane de La Rocque, DVM, , graduated at the veterinary school of Lyon, France and PhD in Parasitology. He has over 20 years of experience in the field of disease ecology, spatial epidemiology, early warning and control of outbreaks, with a specific expertise on animal and zoonotic vector borne diseases. He spend about 15 years on the field, from French Guyana to West Africa (Burkina Faso, Senegal), with trypanosomosis as study model, but latter also developed expertise for other vector-borne diseases such as bluetongue, Rift Valley Fever or West Nile Fever. He initiated and then coordinated the EDEN project, a 25 countries project supported by European Commission on the impact of environmental changes of human and zoonotic diseases. In 2006, in the epizootic context of avian influenza, he joined the Animal Health Division of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome, to support the Global early warning system (GLEWS) established by OIE, FAO and WHO. Since the beginning of 2012, with the support of the French Ministry of Foreign European Affairs, he is working for the OIE for a special mission with WHO to further develop initiatives at the animal-human interface, especially through the international health Regulation.

**STEPHANE  
DE LA ROCQUE**

Technical Officer

*World Organization  
for Animal Health  
Belgium*



The main domain of professional activity includes surveillance of communicable disease (cholera and diarrhoeal diseases, zoonosis and vector borne diseases) and outbreak response. I'm responsible for coordination of national surveillance system on communicable diseases and public health event. We have to organize public health intervention according national procedures in case of outbreak (shigellosis, salmonellosis,) or in a single case (anthrax, tularemia etc). I represent the Focal Point for IHR implementation in the Republic of Moldova. After announcement of influenza pandemic alert phase I participated to enhance the national surveillance system capacities of pandemic influenza and as well prepared the notifications to WHO about trends of diseases cases and death.

According to the Governmental Decree competent authorities at points of entry are Border Police and Customs Services, using the WHO Assessment tool for core capacity requirements at designated airports, ports and ground crossings we evaluated in 2010 national capacity at points of entry and started to implement requirements in order to strengthen the capacity to detect, notify, and control of public health events. In 2009 ministries of Health and Agriculture established a protocol for information exchanging regarding zoonotic diseases. I continue to work on scientific researches in the field of communicable vector-borne diseases.

## **STELA GHEORGHITA**

Deputy Director

*National Center for  
Public Health  
Republic of Moldova*



## **FRANCOISE LE GALL**

Livestock Advisor  
*World Bank*  
USA

François Le Gall graduated from Ecole nationale vétérinaire de Toulouse (France) in 1987. He obtained post-graduate diplomas in tropical veterinary medicine (IEMVT, 1987), medical virology (Institut Pasteur, 1988) and veterinary public health (French Ministry of Agriculture, 1989). He received his Veterinary Doctorat in 1989 and, the same year, his status of Veterinary Public Health Inspector. After joining the World Bank in 1993, his training continued with the World Bank learning program on Economics, Operations, and Management.

From 1989 to 1993, he served with the French Cooperation as co-Director of Animal Health and Applied Research at the Agence Nationale de Développement de l'Élevage in Central African Republic.

From 1993 to 1997, he was a secondeed to the World Bank in Washington DC as a livestock expert in the Agriculture and Rural Development Central Unit.

From 1997 to 2006, he served as a livestock specialist in the Africa Region of the World Bank. In this capacity he supported operations promoting livestock sector development in the region and participated in the formulation of policy and strategy. In 2004 he created the multi-stakeholder partnerships for the development of livestock in Africa, ALive. He led the multi-disciplinary operational task force for AHI in the Africa region until 2006.

In addition to his geographic responsibilities, he has participated in a number of corporate thematic initiatives, including the Livestock Thematic Group (to which he was elected president in 2000) and the Sustainable Agriculture Systems Thematic Group (elected president in 2003). He was in charge of veterinary issues in the Global Emergency Response to the Avian and Human Influenza (AHI). In 2005, he established the Global Partnership for Animal Health with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). He has been the Chairman of the advisory committee to the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund since its creation in 2006.

From 2006 to 2011, he held several managerial positions, including:

- Acting Sector Manager for Agriculture and Rural Development for Central African countries (July 2006 to June 2007).
- Program Coordinator for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Francophone countries of sub-Saharan Africa (July 2007 to June 2009)
- Operational Adviser of the Sustainable Development Department of the East Asia and Pacific Region (July 2009 to August 2011).

In September 2011, he was appointed Livestock Adviser of the World Bank, in the Agriculture and Rural Development Department of the Sustainable Development Network.

He is author or co-author of several technical and scientific publications in the area of agriculture and rural development, and livestock and animal health. He is an alumni of the Institut Pasteur de Paris since 1989.



Mr. Severin LOUL is a Veterinary Doctor, holder of a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree obtained in 1998 from the Inter States School of Science and Veterinary Medicine of Dakar in Senegal.

He also holds a Post-graduate Certificate in Business Administration obtained in 1997 from the Faculty of Science and Management of the Cheick Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal. In addition, he is holder of two other Post-graduate Certificates; a Post-graduate Diploma in Animal Epidemiology obtained in 2006 from the National School of Veterinary Medicine, Alfort, France and a Master of Science in Tropical Animal Health obtained in 2009 from the Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp, Belgium.

He has 12 years (2000-2012) experience in animal diseases monitoring and particularly in the area of zoonoses and emerging diseases, fields in which he has dedicated 8 years (2000-2008) in wildlife diseases research, especially in the collection of data related to wildlife and primates, monkeys in particular. He has co-authored about a dozen of publications in this domain. He was the Animal World Health Organization (OIE) focal point for wildlife disease reporting in Cameroon for 2 years (2007-2008). Based on his rich experience in wildlife-related issues he conceived a National Multi-sectorial Program for the prevention and fight against emerging and re-emerging zoonoses and Cameroon's ONE HEALTH implementation Strategy. He is a member of the ad hoc committee in charge of developing the national program for prevention and control against emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases. He masters of several computer software programs (word, excel, power point and publisher) and some specialized statistics and Geographic Information System, GIS softwares (Stata, R, Sphinx, Arcviews, Manifold).

## **SEVERIN LOUL**

Committee Zoonoses  
Member

*Ministry of Livestock  
Cameroon*

Since 2010, he is the chief of service in charge of epidemiological surveys of animal diseases in the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA) in his home Country. He is also the focal point for the program " Zoonoses and ONE HEALTH strategy" at the ministerial level and has unilaterally championed the implementation of the National Program for the prevention and fight against emerging and re-emerging diseases in Cameroon.

He serves as an interface between MINEPIA, other administrations and partners in the implementation of the program " Zoonoses and ONE HEALTH strategy" in Cameroon.





Scott Newman recently took up the position as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Senior Technical Coordinator for the Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) in Vietnam.

Scott is a veterinarian, wildlife epidemiologist and biologist receiving his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University (Massachusetts) in 1992, and his PhD from the University of California Davis in 1998 where he studied disease ecology, ecotoxicology and comparative pathology. Between 1998 and 2007 Scott has worked at the Wildlife Health Center and Oiled Wildlife Care Network in California, Wildlife Trust (now called Ecohealth Alliance) in New York as Senior Conservation Medicine Scientist, and as the Liaison to the United Nations and Wildlife Health Specialist for the Wildlife Conservation Society. Since 2007, Scott has worked as an Animal Health Officer in the Animal Production & Health Division where he developed and led the EMPRES Animal Health - Wildlife Health & Ecology Unit. Scott has extensive international experience working on more than 40 countries focused on One Health, disease ecology and disease management at the livestock-wildlife-human-environment interfaces.

Scott will lead the FAO Country ECTAD Team in Vietnam supporting the HPAI and other zoonotic and non-zoonotic diseases, and facilitate a One Health approach to agriculture, public health, forestry, fisheries and natural resource management issues, as well as supporting broader mandates of FAO including food safety, food security, and sustainable development.

## **SCOTT NEWMAN**

Wildlife Health &  
Ecology Unit Coordinator  
and Co-Convener of the  
Scientific Task Force on  
Wildlife & Ecosystem  
Health

*Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations  
Italy*



Herbert Schneider was born in 1942 in Wiesbaden/Germany, emigrated with his parents to South-West-Africa (today Namibia) in 1950 and grew up on a farm in the Karibib district of Namibia, where he is part-time farming with indigenous African Sanga cattle, Damara sheep and wildlife. He studied veterinary medicine at the University of Pretoria (Onderstepoort, South Africa), obtaining the degree BVSc degree in 1965. Post graduate qualifications are: DVSM (Dip. State Vet. Med) University of Edinburgh (Scotland) 1973; Dr.med.vet, University of Giessen (Germany) 1977; and Specialist veterinarian in Tropical Veterinary Medicine, State of Hessen (Germany) 1981 (FTA-TVM)..

He was employed for 42 years in the veterinary department of Namibia and inter alia held the posts of Director of Veterinary Services and Principal Secretary for Agriculture, Nature Conservation, Veterinary Services and Sea Fisheries. In 1990 he established a veterinary specialist consultancy in Windhoek which is a consultancy in the field of veterinary medicine, with special expertise in the field of tropical animal health, veterinary epidemiology, veterinary legislation, food hygiene & safety and veterinary public health.

He served the World Veterinary Association as Vice-President AFRICA, President and Immediate Past-President. Recent activities include being Chairman of the OIE Ad Hoc Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services (PVS) (since 2003), Chairman of the OIE ad hoc Expert Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (since 2010), Member of the OIE Ad Hoc Group on the Evaluation of Aquatic Veterinary Services (PVS) (since 2012 and being Member of the OIE ad Hoc Group on CBPP (since 2008). He is a Member of the Veterinary Medicines Committee of Namibia Medicines Regulatory Council (2010 – 2013) and a Member of the Namibia Qualifications Regulatory Authority (2011 – 2014).

## **HERBERT SCHNEIDER**

Senior OIE PVS Evaluator  
& Consultant

*AgriVet International  
Consultants  
Namibia*

Recent honorary citations include Honary Member of the World Veterinary Association; Certificate of Merit for Extraordinary contributions to Veterinary Medicine in Namibia by the Veterinary Association of Namibia; AGRI-STER Award for Dedicated Service to Agriculture in Namibia and Honary Life Member of the South African Veterinary Association.



Dr Rajesh Sreedharan is a Medical Officer for the World Health Organization. He is part of the International Health Regulations (IHR) Monitoring, Procedures and Information team within the Global Capacities Alert and Response department at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

A 194 States Parties to the IHR have been implementing these global rules to enhance national, regional and global public health security. As part of his work, he is responsible developing and maintaining cross-cutting global guidance and tools on IHR assessment, planning and monitoring along with implementing, monitoring, strengthening and evaluation of IHR core capacities in WHO States Parties and WHO Regional Offices in this regard.

Dr Sreedharan is trained as a physician and has a degree in Public Health. Before working at WHO HQ, he was with the emergency preparedness and humanitarian action (EHA) programme in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO). He was based in Sudan as an epidemiologist responsible for communicable disease outbreak alert and response operations and worked extensively in Darfur and South Sudan. His next posting was to the WHO office in West Bank and Gaza office as programme manager. The EHA programme works closely with Member States, international partners and local institutions to help communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies, disasters and crises. Prior to his work in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, he worked as an epidemiologist in the communicable disease surveillance and response team in WHO South East Asian Regional Office responding to the 2004 Tsunami.

**RAJESH  
SREEDHARAN**

Medical Officer

*World Health Organization  
Switzerland*



## **ALEJANDRO THIERMANN**

President  
Code Commission  
*World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
France*

Dr. Thiermann is president of the standard setting committee for the OIE, at its headquarters in Paris, France. He has been seconded to the OIE by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (USDA-APHIS) to devote most of his time to the work of the OIE, serving as the senior advisor to the Director General.

Prior to coming to Paris, from October 1996 and until September 2001, he served as Senior Trade Coordinator and Regional

Director for USDA-APHIS in Brussels, with responsibility over Europe, Africa, Middle East, Russia and the former Soviet Republics.

During 1997 to 1999 he was twice elected Chairman of the World Trade Organisation, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (WTO-SPS) Committee. In 1994 he was elected vice-president of the Code Commission of the OIE. In 2000 he was elected, and since 2003 re-elected president of this important standard-setting committee.

He was also an active member of U.S. delegations to the negotiation of the Uruguay Round of the WTO, the drafting of the new International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), also served for two years as the U.S. Coordinator for the Codex Alimentarius.

Dr. Thiermann joined USDA-APHIS in 1989 as the Deputy Administrator for International Services. In this capacity, he promoted APHIS' role in trade facilitation, he also lead the overseas animal and plant health eradication and control programs such as the screwworm, foot-and-mouth disease, and Mediterranean fruit fly.

Before joining APHIS, he was the National Program Leader for animal health research under the USDA Agriculture Research Service (ARS). He began his career with the U.S. Government in 1979 as the research leader for the leptospirosis and the mycobacterioses research laboratories in Ames, Iowa.

From 1973 to 1979 he worked at Wayne State University's School of Medicine as an instructor and veterinary clinician for the university's Laboratory Animal Unit. Where he obtained his PhD degree at the Department of Medical Immunology.

From 1972 to 1973 Dr. Thiermann worked at NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, Texas in the Health Application's Office applying remote sensing techniques for the utilization of satellite data in animal and plant health projects.

A native of Chile, Dr. Thiermann received his doctorate of veterinary medicine degree from the University of Chile at Santiago, and a PhD degree in microbiology and immunology from the School of Medicine at Wayne State University in Michigan.



Maged Younes is currently Senior Policy Adviser at the Committee on World Food Security on loan from the German government. Following an academic career as Professor of Toxicology at the Medical University of Lübeck, Germany, and as Director and Professor at the German Federal Health Office, Maged joined the World Health Organization in 1991. He held various key roles both at the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health and at WHO Headquarters, in particular in the fields chemical and food safety as well as environmental and occupational health. From 2006 to 2007, he served as Head of the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and Acting Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. He returned to WHO as Director of Governing Bodies and External Relations, Office of the Director-General, before taking on the Directorship of the Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses until his retirement from WHO in May of this year. He holds a Doctor's and a Master's degree in Biochemistry and Physiological Chemistry from the University of Tübingen and a degree of Dr. habil. in Toxicology and Biochemical Pharmacology from the Medical University of Lübeck in Germany. Maged is Adjunct Professor of Toxicology and Biochemical Pharmacology, Medical University of Lübeck, Germany, and Visiting Professor for Risk assessment and management, Chulabhorn research Institute, Bangkok, Thailand.

## **MAGED YOUNES**

Senior Policy Advisor

*Committee on World Food  
Security at FAO  
Italy*

# HOW TO FIND A COMMON GROUND?

The Development of the One Health Strategy and the National Program for the Prevention and Control of Emerging and Re-Emerging Zoonotic Diseases in Cameroun

Severin LOUL

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## BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

Cameroon is located in the Congo Basin, one of the five areas at high risk of disease emergence in the world. During the last decade, its animal and human populations have been at risk of or affected by several zoonotic diseases emerging or re-emerging. Some events mentioned below have been instrumental in leading the Government of Cameroon to better prepare for the emergence of zoonotic diseases. These events include:

- The fear of a possible occurrence of haemorrhagic fever virus such as Ebola and Marburg, already emerging in neighboring countries (Gabon, Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo) which share the same ecosystem with Cameroon (Congo Basin forest).

- The circulation of several simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) in monkeys in Cameroon (Peeters. M.; 2002) and the discovery of the SIVcpztt in the chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*) species have been speculated linked to the HIV pandemic

(Keele, BF, 2006). The occurrence of a fatal outbreak of anthrax in great apes (gorillas and chimpanzees) in late 2004 and early 2005 in the Dja Biosphere Reserve has also impressed the opinion of the public (Leendertz, F, 2006). This outbreak revealed the lack of coordination between animal health, human health and environmental health. As a result, it was recommended by the Government to improve the trans-sectoral collaboration for the response to such emergence and to put this supervision under the Prime Minister (Loul S. 2005).

In 2006 the detection of three H5N1 avian influenza outbreaks in the North of the country created panic (Baschirou, MD 2006). This was used as an opportunity for the Government to implement the "Limbé recommendations" for the control of avian influenza H5N1. A "strategic plan for the prevention and control of human and animal flu" was developed, supporting cross-sectoral actions (human health, animal and environmental health). A Common Fund Project (CFP) was created to support the implementation of the strategic plan.

The Steering Committee of the CFP was chaired by the Prime Minister and includes thirteen ministers as members. Avian Flu was rapidly controlled.

Building on the success in the control of Avian Influenza H5N1 and with the perspective to develop an approach to prevent and control all zoonotic diseases, the Prime Minister, Head of Government has established an Ad Hoc Committee (PM decree, 2008) in charge of the development of a “National Program for the prevention and the control of zoonoses”. This program is based on multisectoral and interdisciplinary connections between human, animal and environmental health and therefore the development of a National “One Health” Strategy was a prerequisite.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of this paper is to describe the steps outlined to meet the animal health (domestic and wild), human health and environmental health sectors and to develop a participatory and consensual “One Health” National Strategy and the associated “National Program for the Prevention and Control of Emerging and Re-emerging Zoonoses”.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAM FOR THE PREVENTION AND THE CONTROL OF ZOO NOTIC DISEASES**

### **Context**

In Cameroon, human health, animal health (domestic and wild) and environmental health are under the mandate of four different ministries: Minister of Health (MINSANTE), Minister of Animal Health (MINEPIA), Minister of Wildlife Conservation (MINFOF) and Minister for the Management of the

Environment (MINEPDED). Effective control of zoonoses requires a consensus between these main actors.

### **Building process**

As Head of the Government, the Prime Minister has the power to bring together several ministries and to deliver guidance for harmonized action and collaboration between sectors. He has played an important role in the development of the OH strategy and the associated national program for prevention and fight against zoonoses. This development included six steps :

- The first step was the establishment of an Ad Hoc Inter-Ministerial Committee in charge of the development of the Programme for the Prevention and Fight against Zoonoses. The Committee was established through an Order from the Prime Minister. The eight ministries involved are: the Ministries in charge of Human Health (MINSANTE), Animal Health (MINEPIA), Wildlife (MINFOF), Environment (MINEPDED) Tourism (MINTOUR), Research (MINRESI), Economy (MINEPAT) and Finance (MINFI). Are also included in the Committee NGO on biodiversity conservation (WWF, WCS, IUCN) and regulatory bodies of doctors, pharmacists and veterinarians. The MINEPIA was mandated to chair this committee.
- The second step was to train and increase awareness of the members of the Committee on the OH approach. The objective was to provide minimum information on the concept so that the value of the multisectoral collaboration was understood and used for the development of the National Program for the Prevention and Control of Emerging

Re-emerging Zoonoses;

- The third step included the strengthening of the Committee through the creation of a Technical Secretariat in charge of the development of the strategy and associated National Program for the Prevention and Control of Emerging Re-emerging Zoonoses. Additional actors have been included at this: laboratories (CPC; CREMER; GVFI; LANAVET), Universities, other organizations such as USAID-EPT (MINEPIA, 2011b).
- The fourth step of the process was the adoption of a working method and a timetable. The main guiding points were:
  - a) the analysis of the situation: surveillance systems for animal and human diseases, regulatory texts in various departments and areas of collaboration between ministries;
  - b) the development of the National OH Strategy;
  - c) the development of the Program for the Prevention and Control of Emerging Re-emerging Zoonoses.
- The presentation of the results from the analysis and the identification of the key elements to guide the development of the OH strategy of "Health" and the Program for the Prevention and Control of Emerging Re-emerging Zoonoses were in the fifth step.
- Through a participatory and consensual process involving all stakeholders, a document was developed (step Six) which included:

- Preparation of a draft document of the national OH strategy;
- Preparation of a draft Program for the Prevention and Control of Emerging Re-emerging Zoonoses ;
- Pre-validation of the draft of the National Program for the Prevention and Control of Emerging Re-emerging Zoonoses (NPPFERZ)
- Validation of the National Program for the Prevention and Control of Emerging Re-emerging Zoonoses through the joint signing of four heads of key ministerial departments

At the end of this process, the Committee has successfully delivered two documents: the National OH Strategy chaired by the Prime Minister and with eleven ministers as members and the National Program for the Prevention and Control of Emerging and Re-emerging Zoonoses which is part of the implementation of the OH strategy (figure below).





## LESSONS LEARNED

- A Coordination structure at a high level of decision (decision of the Prime Minister) facilitates the strengthening of multisectoral collaboration and process control;
  - A preliminary analysis of the scope and expectations of stakeholders was instrumental to develop a methodology for which the participation and inclusion of all stakeholders views was ensured.
  - A better understanding of the concept of “One Health” and its added value for policy makers and members of the Committee in charge of the process through training and awareness is a prerequisite to minimize divergences of views
  - The regulatory rules establishing the committee in charge of drafting the strategy and program should be flexible enough for adjustments when needed.;
  - The regular sessions between actors from different sectors facilitated the understanding of a common lexicon;
  - The involvement of laboratories, universities and training schools in the process has been beneficial
- the official agreement in March 2012, some preparatory activities were conducted to initiate the strengthening of the collaboration:
  - Endorsement of a cooperative agreement between the CPC and GVF laboratories and MINEPIA (previously limited to GVFI, MOH and MINFOF);
  - Investigation of two outbreaks of rabies by a joint team MINEPIA-MOH (Amban: Southern Region and Ntui: Central Region in August 2012):
  - Integrated public awareness actions between MOH and MINEPIA during the World Day against rabies (24-28 September 2012);
  - Designation of OH Focal Points in the Ministries in charge of Public Health, Livestock, Wildlife and Environment;
  - Development of the Joint Action Plan Health and Environment, validated the 19th of October 2012;

## PERSPECTIVES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF EMERGING AND RE-EMERGING ZOOSES

The launch of the program was planned for early 2013 with a specific budget line for each of the four main ministries. In the meantime, since

## CONCLUSION

To launch the OH approach and implement the National Program for the Prevention and Control of Emerging and Re-emerging Zoonoses in 2013, the Government of Cameroon, through the MINEPIA, made available a budget of about \$ 225,000. Some of the priority activities are mentioned around the following pillars.

1. For the strengthening of the surveillance, early detection and rapid response:

- Develop an integrated approach for the monitoring for the collection, management, analysis and dissemination of data on zoonoses.
  - Establish a system for the surveillance of diseases in wildlife within the protected areas of the country;
  - Capacity building in risk analysis, surveillance, investigation and integrated response for zoonotic diseases
  - Practice exercises to develop and / or improve the preparedness plans
  - Carry out integrated activities for the prevention and control of rabies
2. For the strengthening of research on zoonoses, the objective is to promote basic research and operational activities:
- A study on the situation regarding zoonoses, establishing the list of priority zoonoses and mapping their area of risk;
  - Early detection of emerging zoonotic pathogens in wildlife from animals legally hunted;
- The establishment of a national network of laboratories in the human and animal sectors and the strengthening of intersectoral collaboration and exchange of information also with the authorities
3. Training of the actors for animal health, human and environment:
- Inclusion of OH approach related skills in the curricula of environmental health, animal and human training (technical schools, universities, etc.);
  - Increase of awareness of decentralized decision makers sectors (animal, human and environmental sectors) on the OH approach;
  - Increase of awareness of the OH concept in training schools (school of wildlife, forestry, veterinary schools, nursing, health administration, etc.) and universities for human and veterinary medicine.

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