OIE International Standards; Role of Working Groups and Specialist Commissions

SADC Animal Health Training Workshop

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WTO SPS agreement (1995)

- Legal framework for international trade
- Recognises OIE as a reference organisation for international standards (one of the “3 sisters”)
The “3 sisters”

Standard-setting organisations

- **food safety**: CODEX
- **animal health and zoonoses**: OIE
- **plant health**: IPPC

**Codex =** Codex Alimentarius Commission (FAO/WHO)
**OIE =** World Organisation for Animal Health
**IPPC =** International Plant Protection Convention (FAO)
Consequences of the SPS Agreement

- Two alternatives
- Use of OIE Standards
- Own risk analysis, based on OIE Standards
- Four sources of OIE Standards:
  - Terrestrial Manual and Code
  - Aquatic Manual and Code
Approach of OIE in the formulation of standards

- To detect
- To identify / diagnose
- To control / eradicate
- To prevent
- To communicate
- To obtain disease freedom
- To trade
The OIE Codes

• Recommendations for the improvement of terrestrial and Aquatic animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide

• Measures providing for early detection, reporting and control of pathogenic agents, including zoonotic, and

• Preventing their spread via international trade in animals and animal products, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers to trade
The OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes

- The development of these standards and recommendations is the result of the continuous work since 1960 of the OIE's Specialist Commissions;

- The measures are the result of consensus among OIE Members

- Constitute a reference within the WTO SPS Agreement as an international standard for animal health and zoonoses.

- Reference document for use by all those involved in international trade.
Codes in International Trade

• Risk Analysis –
  – determines disease risk in international trade
  – Recommendations on methodology, stages, communications, risk management

• Recommendations:
  – on animal diseases Diagnosis, surveillance and notification
  – Zoning, compartmentalisation, general hygiene in livestock production and related

• Regulatory requirements for international trade eg certification, import/export
The Terrestrial Code

• Specific disease/agent chapters
  – description of the pathogen and the disease
  – case definition, susceptible hosts
  – possible prevention/control measures
  – determining status of a country, zone, compartment, herd
  – ‘safe’ commodities irrespective of status
  – recommendations for commodities: live animals,
  – genetic material, products of animal origin

Covering listed diseases of mammals, birds and bees
Paradigm shift and future evolution

• Paradigm shift from a strict emphasis on country freedom status to risk based recommendations

• Separation of specific animal sub-populations with different health status (zones and compartments), as well as wildlife

• Recommendations based on risks mitigation measures for specified commodities

• The ultimate goal continues to be the control and eradication of the diseases
Specialist Commissions: Roles

- To use current scientific information to study problems of epidemiology and the prevention and control of animal diseases and,

- To develop and revise OIE's international standards and to address scientific and technical issues raised by Members.
Specialist Commissions

• The Assembly may, on the proposal of the Council or of the Members of the Assembly, set up Specialist Commissions for the study of special problems relevant to the mandate of the OIE and shall establish the Internal Rules governing these Commissions.

• The members of Specialist Commissions shall be appointed by the Assembly in agreement with the Delegates of the Member Countries in question, on the proposal of the Council or of the Members of the Assembly.
Specialist Commissions

• Members elected by the World Assembly: President, then 2 Vice Presidents (=“Bureau”), then 3 Members

• Geographical balance, scientific and technical relevant expertise

• Confidentiality and non conflict of interest

• Availability: physical presence twice a year + preparatory work + reports (+ meetings Bureau)

• Presidents report annually to the World Assembly
Specialist Commissions

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
“Code Commission”

President
Alex Thiermann

Vice Presidents
Stuart Mc Diarmid
Etienne Bonbon

Members
Jorge Caetano
Salah Hammami
Toshiyuki Tsutsui

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases
“Scientific Commission”

President
Gideon Brückner

Vice Presidents
Chris De Clerck
Yong Joo Kim

Members
Hassan Aidaros
Sergio Duffy
Thomas Mettenleiter

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission
“Aquatic Animals Commission”

President
Franck Berthe

Vice Presidents
Huang Jie
Victor Vidal

Members
Ingo Ernst
Brit Hjeltnes
Alicia Gallardo
Lagno

Biological Standards Commission
“Laboratories Commission”

President
Vincenzo Caporale

Vice Presidents
Hualan Chen
Rodolfo Rivero

Members
Peter Daniels
Beverly Schmitt
Paul Townsend

http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/specialists-commissions-groups/
Specialist Commissions: Roles

**Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

“Code Commission”

Responsible for updating the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* annually; proposes new standards for adoption by the World Assembly of Delegates.

Responsible for ensuring that the Code reflects current scientific information.

**Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases**

“Scientific Commission”

Assists in identifying the most appropriate strategies and measures for the following:

- disease surveillance
- disease prevention and control
- examining Members’ request regarding their official animal health status, for countries that wish to be included on the OIE official list of countries or zones free from certain diseases

**Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission**

“Aquatic Animals Commission”

Compiles information on diseases of fish, molluscs, crustaceans and amphibians and recommends appropriate prevention and control methods for these diseases.


**Biological Standards Commission**

“Laboratories Commission”

Establishes or approves methods for:
- diagnostic of diseases of mammals, birds and bees
- defining quality criteria of biological products such as vaccines, used for disease control purposes

Oversees production and adoption of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*.

Advises the Director General in supervising the global network of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres.
Specialist Commissions
Roles

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission - “Code Commission”

The members shall:

- be veterinarians with a broad knowledge of the major diseases of animals,
- experience and expertise in the control of animal diseases and in the animal health aspects of international trade
- understanding and practical experience of the relevant international trading rules.

http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/specialists-commissions-groups/code-commission-reports/
Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases - “Scientific Commission”

- assists in identifying the most appropriate strategies and measures for disease prevention and control.
- examine voluntary requests from OIE Members regarding their disease-specific animal health status, if a Member wishes to be included in the OIE official list of Members with a recognised diseases status for certain diseases.
Specialist Commissions

Roles

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission—“Aquatic Animals Commission”

- The Fish Diseases Commission was created in 1960 and in 1988, the scope was extended to include diseases and pathogens of molluscs and crustaceans;
- 2003 was renamed the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission.
- 2008 the Commission was extended to include pathogens of amphibians.
Specialist Commissions: Roles

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission—“Aquatic Animals Commission”

• internationally renowned experts in surveillance, diagnosis and prevention of infectious diseases and pathogens of aquatic animals.

• new OIE Reference Centres, Twinning Projects

http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/specialists-commissions-groups/aquatic-animal-commission-reports/overview/
Biological Standards Commission - “Laboratory Commission”

- Founded in 1949, develop internationally agreed standards for laboratory diagnostic tests and vaccines for OIE-listed animal diseases of mammals, birds and bees.
- Approves OIE Reference Centres/Laboratory Twinnings
Specialist Commissions

Roles

Biological Standards Commission- “Laboratory Commission”

- Provides scientific advice for Standards related to diagnostics for eventual inclusion in the Terrestrial Code
- Develops and sets International laboratory standards – diagnostics, vaccines, etc. (Terrestrial Manual)
- Promotes the preparation and distribution of reagents
Harmonised Approach: Based on latest science
Relation between *Manual* and *Code*

Where the *Terrestrial Code* requires that tests are carried out for international movement, the *Terrestrial Manual* should provide a recommended laboratory method.
OIE Working Groups are responsible for constantly reviewing developments in their field of competence and for keeping OIE Specialist Commission and the Director General informed of current issues through scientific meetings.

The fields of competence are:

- Animal welfare
- Animal production food safety
- Wildlife

Their membership is submitted to the World Assembly of Delegates.

These Groups are set up by the Director General as and when needed:

- to prepare recommendations for submission to Specialist Commissions and Working Groups
- with internationally renowned scientists who often belong to OIE Reference Centres
Reporting to the Terrestrial Code Commission:
• Animal welfare and
• Animal production food safety

NB: Reporting to the Scientific Commission:
• Wildlife

Representation and competences.

http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/specialists-commissions/groups/working-groups-reports/
Ad hoc Groups
Rules & Roles

These Groups are set up by the Director General as and when needed:

- to prepare recommendations for submission to Specialist Commissions and Working Groups
- with internationally renowned scientists who often belong to OIE Reference Centres
These Groups can have all kind of competence relating to the standards:

- They may be gathered under request of the Scientific, the Code, the Aquatic Commissions and recently the Laboratories Commission
- Geographical and scientific representation
WHERE DO I FIT IN ALL THIS?
Linkage of Codes, Manuals & SPS Agreement with national legislation, disease policy and sanitary measures
PROBLEM

Specialist Commissions

Review

Advice of experts or other Specialist Commissions

Draft text

1

DELEGATES

2

COMMIT

Adoption

COMMITTEE, COMMISSIONS, DELEGATES

Updating international standards
Thank you for your attention

www.rr-africa.oie.int