

Recommendation N°2

**Surveillance and risk mitigation measures for illegal and unregulated movement of animals
across borders or through markets**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. There has been a marked rise in demand for poultry meat, beef, lamb, pork, and aquatic animal products in recent years, due to the increasing population, continued economic development and the transition towards a more meat-rich diet in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region;
2. Animal movements are considered a major factor in the transmission of transboundary animal diseases, including some important diseases that pose a threat to the livestock, poultry, and aquatic animal industries;
3. The distribution and spread of transboundary animal diseases in the region are a reflection of the market-driven movement of animals;
4. Illegal or unregulated movements of animals between or within countries have been reported in several countries of the region;
5. Livestock and poultry markets continue to be important components in the movement pathways of animals across the region;
6. Water ways, and particularly rivers, can be a source of transboundary animal diseases' spreads (e.g. African swine fever), such as through the dumping of infected carcasses;
7. Surveillance is essential to prevent diseases entering and moving along the livestock and poultry market chain, whereas the shortage of funding and the lack of coverage of the field animal health network, well-equipped laboratories, experienced and skilled staff, and reliable and affordable reagents are constant constraints on surveillance activities in some countries of the region; and
8. The OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, in Section 4 on disease prevention and control, Section 5 on trade measures, import/export procedures and veterinary certification and in disease-specific chapters, and the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*, in the corresponding Sections 4 and 5 and in disease-specific chapters, provide recommendations including mitigating measures to be implemented by OIE Members for the safe trade of animals and products of animal origin.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Members of the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region affected by illegal and unregulated movement of animals take joint actions aimed at better exchanging information on disease status, monitoring animal movements, identifying current and new movement routes and establishing movement protocols including joint check points and strategies to mitigate illegal movements;

2. Members of the region strengthen and implement their legislation on animal movements to reduce the risk of transboundary animal diseases being spread through movement of animals;
3. Members of the region establish buffer zones along borders where there is a known potential for animal movements;
4. Members of the region consider, bilaterally or multilaterally, and in collaboration with livestock and poultry dealers and traders, the establishment of orderly and efficient official pathways and risk-based cross-border protocols for animal movements, that would benefit livestock, poultry, and aquatic animal product traders, dealers, and producers (through safe but cost-effective transboundary movements); as well as governments (through reduced costs of disease control);
5. Members of the region apply for OIE official recognition of country or zone disease-free status or formally self-declare disease free status as appropriate;
6. Members of the region make their import/export regulations and protocols readily accessible to all stakeholders, including providing relevant contact details;
7. Members of the region ensure they have strong animal disease surveillance in place supported by adequate field animal health networks and laboratory capacity allowing for proper certification of animals destined for trade;
8. Members of the region improve their animal identification and traceability systems and consider how such systems can contribute to safer cross border animal movements, including through identifying vaccination status and minimising illegal movements;
9. Members of the region ensure that livestock and poultry markets and border checkpoints be provided with experienced veterinarians and/or veterinary paraprofessionals trained to perform inspection activity and respond to (or refer as appropriate) disease detections;
10. Members of the region establish cross-sectoral relationships with their national authorities in fields such as Customs, Border Police, and the Military to ensure there is cross-sectoral awareness of the risks and referral, with appropriate penalties, to minimise the risk of illegal or unregulated cross border animal movement;
11. Members of the region take advantage of the OIE PVS Pathway to evaluate and monitor their compliance with OIE standards, including those relevant to the movement of animals;
12. Members of the Region address risks of transboundary animal diseases' spread by water ways, such as from illegal dumping of contaminated carcasses;
13. The OIE encourage through its Reference Laboratories, the undertaking of inter-laboratory proficiency testing to make sure that laboratory diagnostic results are reliable;
14. The OIE continue to develop guidelines, recommendations and standards to support its Members in mitigating the risk of animal disease transmission through the movement of animals;

15. The OIE continue to provide training to its Members on the OIE official disease status recognition procedures; and
 16. The OIE continue to support its Members in their efforts to monitor their compliance with OIE standards, including for transboundary animal movements, by providing PVS Pathway missions and related support.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 24 November 2017 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2018)