



Organisation
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de la Santé
Animale

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de Sanidad
Animal

The Director General

Our ref: 06.689 DS/NM

Paris, 23 November 2006

Mr Michael Roberts
Economics Affairs Officer
Agriculture and Commodities Division
Centre William Rappard
154 rue de Lausanne
CH 1211 Genève 21
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Switzerland

Dear Mr Roberts,

Technical and Financial report-STDF 14

I am pleased to attach a technical and financial report on STDF 14 which has been duly completed.

The project was satisfactorily completed thanks to all partners involved. It has provided a sound basis for the OIE to continue using the tool for the strengthening of Veterinary Services which remains a major objective of the OIE.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the STDF for the assistance provided to the OIE to enable the successful completion of the project.

With Kind regards,

Yours Sincerely,


Dr Bernard Vallat

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STANDARDS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY (STDF)**OIE Proposal (number 2)****1. Title of the project:****EVALUATION OF NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES' CAPACITY TO BENEFIT FROM THE SPS AGREEMENT****2. Background:**

Since the entering into force of the SPS Agreement it has been obvious that many countries are having difficulties in meeting their obligations under the Agreement. Even further, some countries have been unable to benefit from the most basic advantages offered in international trade by the Agreement. These inabilities to fully participate in the process have been raised repeatedly at SPS Committee meetings by developing countries. The necessity to tailor capacity assistance to the needs of the particular country, and not to merely provide 'generic' assistance, has also been raised. At the Ministerial meeting in Doha, this became one of the major issues and it resulted in substantial commitments made by the WTO, the World Bank and the standard setting organizations (OIE, FAO and WHO) to respond with focused technical assistance. The creation of the STDF is in direct response to these demands.

During the past 7 years many SPS seminars have been given by the WTO Secretariat and representatives of the standard setting organizations, as well as by member countries. However, these have been primarily aimed at explaining the provisions of the Agreement, but have not tried to identify specific Member Country deficiencies or to focus on remedying identified deficiencies. In order to provide the needed assistance and capacity building to member countries it will be necessary to first assess needs at a country and regional level. This must then be followed by an implementation plan aimed at addressing the individual deficiencies identified. The initial assessment and the development of the implementation plan must be done with the direct participation by the relevant authorities of the assisted country or region. Traditional technical assistance programs to date have demonstrated not to be the most appropriate tools to resolve those difficulties.

3. Proposal:

The OIE will first analyze existing infrastructure evaluation instruments, focusing primarily on the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool developed by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), as well as tool developed by Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA). OIE will then develop a specific diagnostic tool capable of evaluating the capacity of national veterinary services

to meet international zoosanitary obligations in an efficient and sustainable manner. The instrument will measure capacities of various countries through an inventory of the functions and resources available to comply with zoosanitary obligations according to the OIE standards. These standards include the Code chapter on the quality and evaluation of veterinary services, as well as specific standards dealing with animal health and food safety aspects of a Veterinary Service, including surveillance and monitoring of animal diseases and zoonoses. Previous evaluation efforts have focused primarily on strict technical issues, training and capabilities of laboratories, without examining the underpinning structures, as well as the administrative and financial management, necessary for the effective response to SPS obligations and proper operations of a veterinary service. Different elements are required to meet these SPS obligations, as well as more specific import and export certification requirements. On the public sector, these includes legislation, standards, enforcement mechanisms, inspection and certification systems, monitoring and surveillance systems, management structures, trained staff, laboratories, communication systems, etc. On the private sector side there are complementary capabilities by private veterinarian, para-professional and producer participation in the areas of animal disease surveillance and monitoring, as well as animal production food safety.

This process will then be followed by a self-diagnosis by national authorities, of systemic strengths and weaknesses and the identification of priorities by a national team of experts, assisted by a consultant. This approach will increase national awareness and encourage consensus and ownership by both the public and private sectors. This approach is also aimed at limiting the role of external consultants to that of facilitators of the process, rather than as external experts in diagnostics and implementation. The resulting evaluation is likely to provide recommendations in areas not previously identified, such as increasing public and private awareness and collaboration, upgrading national legislation, improvement of institutional aspects dealing with sustainability, implementing operational and management procedures, in addition to the improvement of technical skills, infrastructure and equipment.

The self-diagnostic process will then be followed by a phase aimed at advising on models for investment application, designed to attract both public and private sources of funding. This phase will incorporate the results of the evaluation process above and provide a specific tool kit for economic evaluation and cost/effectiveness of the proposed investments. This tool kit will assist, when appropriate, developing countries to prepare internal and external grant applications for projects on technical and administrative infrastructure improvements, resulting in increased benefits from the SPS Agreement.

4. Budget:

4.1 Examination of existing tools and adaptation to a zoosanitary evaluation instrument:

Travel for one expert and three representatives from candidate countries \$ 8,000.00

Per Diem for a four day meeting (4 participants) \$ 3,600.00

4.2 Application of the instrument and assessment of African country weaknesses and strengths (with SADC where appropriate):

Travel of facilitator (Africa component) \$ 5,000.00

Per Diem for 5 day visit (per country) visiting 4 African countries \$ 4,000.00

4.3 Application of the instrument and assessment of America's country weaknesses and strengths (with IICA where appropriate):

Travel of facilitator (Americas component) \$ 5,000.00

Per Diem for 5 day visit (per country) visiting 4 Americas countries \$ 4,000.00

4.4 Application of tool for economic evaluation and cost effectiveness (Africa component of the project):

Travel of facilitator \$ 5,000.00

Per Diem for 3 day visit (per country) visiting the 4 African countries \$ 2,400.00

Total: \$37,000.00

OIE Veterinary Capacity Evaluation Project- STDF 14 Final Report

1. Background information:

The aim of the project was to develop a tool to evaluate Veterinary Services (VS) of developing and in transition countries with the aim of identifying gaps and weaknesses using OIE standards on quality that can subsequently be addressed through national or external resources.

To facilitate the process, a tool already developed by the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was used as initial reference. That tool had been tested in 12 countries in Latin America and it was decided to align it to OIE standards on quality..

The IICA tool was thus subsequently revised by OIE Headquarters to ensure compliance with the OIE international standards on the quality of VS as described in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. The OIE subsequently decided to test the instrument in other continents.

2. Methodology:

2.1: Design and application of the tool

2.1.2: Manama conference

After a preliminary but intensive review of the document by the OIE Headquarters, the tool was presented in Manama, Bahrain during the Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East in September 2005. The Conference was attended by 72 participants comprising representatives of 17 OIE Member and Observer Countries of the Region and regional and international organisations. The PVS tool and its adaptation to the region were discussed as part of a technical item dealing with capacity building for VS of Middle Eastern Countries. Referring to the PVS, the Conference recommended *“that the OIE guarantee the national and international transparency of VS evaluation by proposing that the International Committee adopt a new voluntary procedure for evaluating the compliance of VS of Member Countries with the quality standards mentioned in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, requiring the intervention of independent international auditors under the auspices of the OIE’s Director General and International Committee”*.

2.1.3: N’Djamena seminar:

The comments made during the Manama Conference were taken on board by the OIE and a more specialised seminar entitled *“Joint OIE/FAO/AU-IBAR Seminar on animal health policies, evaluation of Veterinary Services and the role of livestock breeders in the surveillance of animal diseases”* was organised by the OIE in N’Djamena, Chad in February 2006. The PVS tool was formally presented for discussions by the OIE and an IICA representative. The seminar was attended by Chief Veterinary Officers and their close collaborators from selected African countries as well as regional and international organisations. Discussions on the PVS tool proved extremely fruitful and the application of the tool in Africa was unanimously approved. The seminar went on to recommend that the OIE:

1. *Support the national and international transparency of VS evaluation by proposing that the International Committee adopt a new voluntary procedure for evaluating the compliance of Veterinary Services of Member Countries with the standards on quality mentioned in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, requiring the intervention of independent international auditors, under the auspices of the OIE’s Director General and International Committee.*
2. *Make formal reference to the Performance, Vision, and Strategy (PVS) instrument as a guide for the evaluation of VS in Chapter 1.3.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.*

3. *Establish a list of experts approved by the OIE International Committee, capable of using the PVS for the external evaluation of VS.*
4. *Mobilise appropriate international financial resources with the support of the FAO for the evaluation under the auspices of the OIE of VS of countries that so request.*
5. *Benefit from the OIE/FAO partnership in order to implement through FAO networks, national programmes aiming at strengthening of VS.*
6. *Take into account the input from PACE evaluations of VS of countries in order to incorporate the results in the evaluation of VS using PVS tool to be carried out in Member Countries on request.*
7. *Organise training for experts including from Africa, in order to implement the evaluation process and to advise countries on the use and benefits of the PVS.*
8. *Be urged to seek ways and means to support regional and international organisations to harmonise efforts to strengthen the VS in order to comply with OIE international standards.*

B. AND THAT THE OIE MEMBER COUNTRIES:

1. *Consider as a top priority, the implementation of the provisions of Chapter 1.3.3 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code on the evaluation of VS.*
2. *Encourage and set up a continuous quality assessment system for VS based on the utilisation of PVS.*
3. *Mobilise the necessary national, regional or international, public or private financial resources to support VS compliance, taking into account specific national and regional characteristics as well as international standards.*
4. *To prepare whenever required, official requests for assistance for the strengthening of VS to governments and donors based on evaluations carried out in order to comply with OIE standards and to be able to ensure early detection and rapid response to animal disease outbreaks, including avian influenza.*

2.1.4: Chiang Mai SEAFMD meeting:

Following continued interest in the PVS by other OIE Member Countries, the tool and its applications were again discussed in Chiang Mai, Thailand during the South East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease (SEAFMD) annual meeting of the Sub-Regional Commission in March 2006. After a careful consideration of the tool by the 8 Sub Commission Member Countries, the meeting recommended:

“that SEAFMD campaign closely collaborate with forthcoming activities on the implementation of OIE Performance, Vision, Strategies (PVS) tool and utilize its vast experience in working with veterinary services in the region”.

2.2 Funding for PVS evaluations

The international conference on human and avian influenza held in Beijing, PR China in January 2006 highlighted the front line role of Veterinary Services in the control of animal diseases including zoonoses. The principle that improving governance and strengthening of Veterinary Services worldwide be regarded as a Public Good was endorsed by the Conference. The joint OIE/FAO document entitled “Ensuring Good Governance to Address Emerging and Re-emerging Animal Diseases Threats” was presented during the conference and the principle that the first step in the process of strengthening Veterinary Services consisted in an evaluation of the Veterinary Services was endorsed. Following that conference, specific donors such as the World Bank and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided funding for pilot evaluations to be carried out.

The Beijing document is presented in Appendix I.

3. Seminars on PVS:

Following the recommendations of Manama, N'Djamena, Chang Mia and Beijing, the OIE organised in collaboration with its Collaborating Centre of Lyons, France a training seminar in May 2006. The purpose of the seminar was to train veterinary administrators (past CVOs and their close collaborators) on the PVS tool and to harmonise its applications. The seminar proved highly successful and Member Countries insisted that the OIE organise further seminars. Subsequently, a second seminar was held in July 2006. Opportunity was seized during the two seminars to further refine the tool adding to the list of critical competencies and suggesting possible indicators for assessing the competencies. Based on the two seminars, approximately 40 experts have been trained and certified by the OIE in addition to the senior staff of the OIE who also participated actively in the seminars. The list of experts has been transmitted to the World Bank, the current main donor to the OIE Fund for evaluation of VS. The list of experts is presented in Appendix II.

After the July seminar, a new provisional PVS version was posted on the OIE Web site and all the pilot evaluations carried out so far under the auspices of the OIE have been based on that version.

4. Endorsement of the PVS by the OIE International Committee

The PVS tool was presented to the OIE International Committee during the General Session of May 2006. The tool was endorsed by the Committee and reference has been made to the tool in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* in Article 1.3.3.5 which reads as follows:

Article 1.3.3.5.

Evaluation facilitated by OIE experts under the auspices of the OIE

The OIE has established procedures for the evaluation of the Veterinary Services of a Member Country, upon request by the Member Country.

The OIE International Committee endorses a list of approved experts to facilitate the evaluation process.

Under these procedures, the Director General recommends an expert(s) from that list.

The expert(s) facilitate(s) the evaluation of the Veterinary Services of the Member Country based on the provisions in Chapter 1.3.4, using the Performance, Vision and Strategy [PVS] Instrument.

The expert(s) produce(s) a report in consultation with the Veterinary Services of the Member Country.

The report is submitted to the Director General and, with the consent of the Member Country, published by the OIE.

5. Continuous review of the PVS tool:

Bearing in mind that the PVS is an evolving tool, the OIE set up a specific Ad Group of experts to review the tool as well as the critical competencies and the indicators. As of now, the list of critical competencies has been finalised and will be presented to the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission comprising members elected by the International Committee. In May it will be presented to the OIE International Committee which is composed of Delegates from the 167 Member Countries. The Group is expected to continue work on the indicators and on a Manual for auditors to be prepared by the OIE Collaborating Centre which is expected to be completed by January 2007. The last version of the PVS proposed by the Group is presented in Appendix III.

6. Evaluations using the PVS tool:

Thanks to the financial support of the World Bank and USDA, the OIE has so far identified a list of 15 pilot countries to be evaluated based on demand but also on the occurrence of highly pathogenic avian influenza. A few evaluations have been completed and the reports are being reviewed. In accordance with the standard terms of reference, the draft report of the experts is preliminarily reviewed by the OIE Central Bureau before being submitted to the evaluated country. The report will only be published with the consent of the country concerned.

7. Finance:

The expenses related to the funds provided under STDF 14 are summarised in Appendix IV.

8. Conclusion:

STDF 14 should be considered as a seed project that provided the basis for the development of a world-wide programme for the progressive improvement in the early detection of and rapid response to animal disease outbreaks through good governance of animal health systems in developing and in transition countries world-wide. Thanks to the achievements described above, the current OIE objective is to evaluate and support 105 countries for 3 years during the period 2006-2009.