

Importance of WAHIS Animal Disease Reporting in the SPC Region in support of Trade

In support of developing and maintaining trade, the Land Resources Division (Animal health and Production, Increasing Agricultural Commodity Trade, Pacific Horticultural and Agriculture Market Access and the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems division (FAME) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, in collaboration with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) conducted a training workshop in Fiji from 13–15 June on animal disease reporting using the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS). The meeting brought together participants from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. They joined the SPC and its representatives from regional organizations and the OIE, in order to strengthen capacity to lodge and regularly update animal health reports to OIE, by using WAHIS. Participants included veterinarians, para-veterinarians, animal health specialists, aquaculture officers and biosecurity officers from across the Pacific region (**Refer to Annex 1 – Participants list**).

Mr Inoke Ratukalou, Acting Director of SPC's Land Resources Division, formally welcomed the participants to the workshop in Fiji. He mentioned how the workshop is important in the area of terrestrial and aquatic animals production, developing and maintaining systems that truly reflect our animal disease status. It is important to remain transparent and trustworthy in the eyes of our existing and potential trading partners, and indeed to the global family, to ensure that we have effective mechanisms, systems and structures, such as effective animal disease surveillance and reporting systems, in place, and that we regularly update our animal disease status through reliable and credible channels.

The representative of the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE), Dr Karim Ben Jebara spoke on behalf of OIE. He expressed the collaboration between SOC and OIE in areas of capacity building on disease surveillance and enhanced reporting mechanisms. He further mentioned the need to support such training workshops in the region to improve animal health information systems. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community has formal agreements with OIE, one of which concerns the dissemination of animal disease information from the Pacific region to OIE. SPC is committed to ensuring that member countries are able to regularly report on their animal disease status in order to strengthen the control and spread of animal diseases. In order to achieve this major objective, SPC in collaboration with OIE conducted this workshop with the aim of building capacities regarding the use and application of WAHIS.

OIE, as the globally recognized animal health standard-setting body under the World Trade Organization, offers this unique opportunity through their WAHIS system, and SPC-Land Resources Division as well as SPC FAME division recognizes that animal disease reporting through WAHIS is vital if we are to develop and facilitate trade in livestock and aquatic animals and products from the Pacific region.

Dr Ken Cokanasiga, SPC Animal Health and Production adviser further elaborated that the notification of disease may have a negative impact on the economic performance of a country (e.g. by causing loss of export markets or discouraging tourism). Regaining credibility in the face of public knowledge of failure to meet international rules is a costly and time-consuming exercise.

To prevent such failure, timely and accurate reporting enhances a country's ability to attract the technical and scientific support to address disease problems in a timely manner. Under LRD's current strategic plan, biosecurity and trade facilitation are important strategic objectives, and developing and facilitating trade is an integral part of the SPC LRD work programme and the focus of its assistance to SPC's 22 member countries.

General Presentation

As an introduction, representations from SPC PHAMA, IACT, and SPC FAME gave presentations on the priority areas for strengthening capacities within the Pacific region in order to enhance early detection and efficient reporting of animal diseases. The presenters briefly introduced the components of their projects and listed the key objectives that were linked to animal health disease information systems.

Dr Ruth Garcia, SPC FAME Aquaculture officer presented a summary in the area of aquatic animals and how important it is to report disease status through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS). FAME is the SPC division of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems. Its main work is to provide the SPC's member countries and territories with the information to make decisions on the management and development of their aquatic resources, and help to provide the tools and strengthen the capacity needed to implement these decisions. FAME's goal is focused on the sustainable management of aquatic resources, taking into account the opportunities that these resources provide to improve education, health and prosperity.

Dr Ruth highlighted the relevance of efficient disease diagnosis, tracking and reporting systems at national level to maintain and improve trade opportunities, among many other reasons, e.g. a better understanding of the aquatic animal health status in a certain country will contribute to more efficient and sustainable fish farming systems. Accurate and timely reporting to OIE on aquatic animal diseases by PICTs is of extremely relevance in order to maintain, protect and improve trade operations on marine ornamentals and aquaculture products with the EU and other regions of the world. Maintaining a diseases status which is transparent to trading partners is crucial, in order for them to make wise decisions on whether to trade and how to trade. Regarding the ornamental market, the **Pacific is a major exporter of live ornamental fish and invertebrates**, which contribute to hundreds of households in the region. Live ornamental aquatic imports were previously considered low risk activities, until 2006, when the EU introduced a new legislation which included the assessment of the capacity of ornamental commodities exporting countries and their "competent authorities", including the OIE membership as a requirement for country approval.

SPC suggested to the EU that this new imposition regarding the OIE membership represented a non technical barrier to trade, because, with a very few exemptions, OIE listed diseases are not present in the Pacific region (they have never been reported); most of the OIE listed diseases affect temperate species and/or freshwater species, or, marine species that either do not occur in the Pacific or are not exported by SPC member countries as ornamental commodities. SPC suggested that SPC member countries and territories which are not members of the OIE could be able to upload relevant aquatic animal disease information through WAHIS in accordance to OIE criteria, as from May 2009, in order to be considered as "possible" trade partners for the EU regarding ornamental commodities.

In response to SPC's suggestion, the EU granted an exemption for SPC member countries from the OIE membership requirement, but conditional upon SPC member countries demonstrating their effective use of the WAHIS reporting system and completing the required reports in an accurate and timely manner.

The obligation of SPC is to encourage and facilitate SPC member countries and territories to regularly and accurately provide information and updates on disease status via WAHIS to the OIE, in support of trade.

Mr Lesio Saurara, SPC-Increasing Agriculture Commodity Trade (SPC-IACT) representative, presented main highlights regarding the collaborative initiative between SPC-AHP and SPC-IACT, in order to implement the Economic Partnership Agreement by building their capacity to meet EU Market access requirements, including minimum pesticide residual limits and novel food classifications and registrations. This activity includes an activity that is linked to the WAHIS training. It states that SPC needs to **assist Countries in maintaining OIE compliant regarding terrestrial and aquatic animal disease reports via WAHIS, to maintain European Countries Market Access**. Lesio also stated that there is a need to strengthen technical capacities of PACP governments and intermediary organizations to increase market access and penetration for niche and value added products. As a result of this, it is important to ensure that countries are compliant to report their disease status via the WAHIS system.

Mr Josua Wainiqolo of SPC – Biosecurity and Trade Support Team (BATS) presented his paper on the AUSaid funded project through **PACIFIC HORTICULTURAL & AGRICULTURAL MARKET ACCESS (PHAMA)** to provide regional MA support services in the following areas:

- (a) Provision of MA information services to national stakeholders;
- (b) Representation of PICTs in relevant international MA bodies such as PPPO and OIE; and
- (c) Maintenance of MA-related surveillance and reporting in accordance with international standards.

He mentioned that SPC-LRD plays a crucial role in assisting countries to comply with international standards through training and capacity building to enhance PICTs ability to take advantage of trading opportunities and they continue to assist PICTs in their online reporting to OIE via WAHIS. Under the LRD objective, it is important to improve information available on plant and animal health status and ensure that accurate information on plant & animal pest status is a precondition for trading in agricultural, livestock, aquatic and forestry products. He further elaborated that trade has an important role in supporting economic growth in PICTs. Trade in agriculture...(the same) & forestry products must be supported by effective biosecurity support services to enable PICTs to submit market access requests based on valid scientific evidence.

OIE Criteria list

Summary of the presentation on “OIE criteria for listing terrestrial animal diseases”, presented by Dr Ken Cokanasiga

Dr Ken Cokanasiga presented OIE criteria for WAHIS Terrestrial Animal Disease Listing. There are multiple uses of disease notification data, which provides information concerning the historical background of a certain disease, e.g. there may be a gradual decrease in incidence of a disease due to successful control measures. There may be sporadic increases, reflecting or linked to some migration patterns, for example. It is also important to monitor the effectiveness of control and prevention measures, such as the decreasing incidence of a disease reflecting a certain nation's vaccination program, and to assist in the detection of a national epidemic that may not be apparent when looking at data from a single site/state. When data are accumulated from several sites/states, however, the

occurrence of an epidemic may become apparent. It's also useful in suggesting the need for research, including field investigations in order to explain unusual features of disease occurrence.

The criteria for listing terrestrial animal diseases are:

- Capacity for international spread;
- Capacity for significant spread within naïve populations; and
- Zoonotic potential of a certain new or emerging disease.

In 2011, 90 diseases were listed under the OIE disease criteria list:

- 25 multiple species ;
- 14 cattle ;
- 11 sheep/goats ;
- 11 equine ;
- 7 swine ;
- 12 avian ;
- 2 lagomorphs ;
6 bees ; and
- 2 others.

The notification of diseases may have a negative impact on the economic performance of a country (e.g. by causing loss of export markets or discouraging tourism). However, new information technologies and practices make it difficult for governments to hide occurrences of serious notifiable diseases.

Summary of the presentation on “OIE criteria for listing aquatic animal diseases and OIE listed aquatic animal diseases”, presented by Dr Ruth Garcia, SPC Aquaculture officer.

The OIE is the intergovernmental organization responsible for improving animal health worldwide, including aquatic animals, and it is recognized as a reference organization by the World Trade Organization. In 2011 it had a total of 178 members. Two main OIE international standard setting documents regarding OIE listed aquatic animals disease diagnosis, tracking and reporting are the “Aquatic Animal Health Code”, which sets out **standards** for the **improvement of aquatic animal health**, animal welfare and veterinary public health worldwide, including **standards for safe international trade** in aquatic animals and their products, and the “Aquatic Manual of Diagnostic Tests for aquatic animal diseases”, which provides a **standardised approach to the diagnosis** of the diseases listed in the Aquatic Code and **facilitate health certification** for trade in aquatic animals and aquatic animal products.

With regards to the criteria for listing aquatic animal diseases under the OIE list (for emerging and not emerging diseases), new diseases proposed should meet at least one of the relevant parameters related to these 3 criteria, namely i) Consequences, ii) Spread and iii) Diagnosis.

Parameters considered under each of these 3 criteria are:

- i) Criteria 1 – Consequences. Relevant parameters under this criteria are:

- The disease has been shown to cause significant production losses at national or multinational (zonal or regional level); or
- The disease has been shown to or scientific evidence indicates that it is likely to negatively affect wild aquatic animal populations; or
- The agent is of public health concern.
- ii) Criteria 2 – Spread. Relevant parameters under this criteria are:
 - Infectious aetiology of the disease is proven; or
 - An infectious agent is strongly associated with the disease, but aetiology is not yet known; and
 - Likelihood of international spread, including via live animals, their products and fomites; and
 - Several countries or country with zones may be declared free of the disease based on general surveillance principles.
- iii) Criteria 3 – Diagnosis: Relevant parameter under this criteria are:
 - A repeatable and robust mean of detection/diagnosis exist.

Proposals should be always accompanied by a case definition for the disease under consideration. Under the Aquatic Animal Health Code there are a total of 26 OIE listed diseases:

- 9 diseases listed for finfish;
- 8 diseases listed for crustaceans;
- 7 diseases listed for mollusks; and
- 2 diseases listed for amphibians.

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, OIE Head of Animal Health Information Department

Dr Karim Ben Jebara presented the importance of animal disease reporting, needs and assumptions on which the WAHIS system was based, as well as the new functionalities of the updated WAHIS version (WAHIS 2). The presentation highlighted the background on how the World Animal health information system has benefited and will benefit all countries, even the non OIE member countries.

As mentioned in his presentation, the World Animal Health Information System, better known as WAHIS, is an internet-based computer system that processes data on animal diseases in real-time and then informs the international community. Access to this secure site is only available to authorized users, namely the Delegates of OIE Members and their authorized representatives or focal points, who use WAHIS to notify to OIE regarding relevant animal disease information.

The system consists in two components:

- An early warning system to inform the international community, by means of “alert messages”, of relevant epidemiological events that occurred in OIE Members; and
- A monitoring system in order to monitor OIE listed diseases (presence or absence) over time.

The Early warning system – Source: Dr Karim Ben Jebara’s presentation

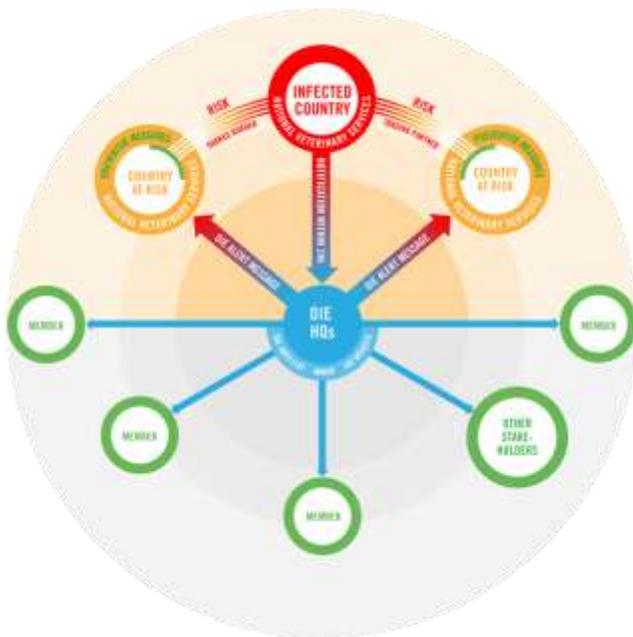
Whenever an important epidemiological event occurs in a Member country, the Member must inform the OIE by sending an Immediate Notification (for both terrestrial and aquatic animals), which includes the reason for the notification, the name of the disease, the affected species, the geographical area affected, the control measures applied and any laboratory tests carried out or in progress.

To improve the scope and efficiency of the OIE's early warning system, events of epidemiological significance faced by Members, should immediately be notified to the OIE Headquarters according to the reasons laid down in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* for terrestrial animals, and in the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* for aquatic animals (Chapters 1.1 – Articles 1.1.3).

Alert procedure

Once the immediate notifications have been received, verified and validated by the OIE, they are published in the OIE's three official working languages (English, French and Spanish) under the heading alerts and sent to everyone on the OIE-Info Distribution List, an electronic distribution list set up to facilitate and widen the dissemination of animal health information. This list is open not only to the Delegates of Members, the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centers and international and regional organizations, but also, by subscription, to any institutions or individuals interested in receiving such information directly.

After having informed the OIE of a significant epidemiological event by means of an immediate notification report, the Member must send weekly follow-up reports so that the event can be monitored as it evolves. In all cases, the country must submit a final report to notify either that the event has been resolved or that the disease has become endemic. In both cases, the country will continue to submit information in its six-monthly reports, if the disease is on the OIE List.



Copyright OIE: Source: OIE website (<http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/the-world-animal-health-information-system/the-oie-data-system/>) and Dr Karim Ben Jebara’s presentation

The Monitoring system

Six-monthly reports provide information on the presence or absence of diseases present on the OIE List, including the prevention and control measures applied. In 2009, a new possibility has been added to the system, in order to differentiate, when relevant, between domestic and wild species using different occurrence codes. This change is an important step forward to improve transparency and the knowledge of the animal health situation worldwide in domestic and wild species, without necessarily putting unjustified trade barriers against countries notifying diseases in wild animals only. For diseases reported as being present in a country/territory during a given six-month period, the country/territory in question must provide quantitative data on the number of outbreaks, susceptible animals, cases, deaths, animals destroyed and animals vaccinated. For diseases that are present and are notifiable in the country, the OIE recommends that countries provide quantitative data by month and by first administrative division. Countries/territories that so wish can enter their data in WAHIS each month during a given six-month period (i.e. without waiting until the end of the six-month period), thereby providing the international community with the most recent information on the diseases that are present and which Members consider are the most important.

In this respect, Members are given other options for entering information in WAHIS on diseases that are present: by month and for the whole country/territory, by first administrative level and for the entire six-month period, and by first administrative level for the whole country/territory. The choice of one or other of these options will depend on the national surveillance and monitoring systems in the country/territory in question and the type of information generated by these systems. These choices made by Countries and Territories will be reflected in the way the WAHID interface is presented whenever a request for information is made.

Annual Reports: the two six-monthly reports of a given year are combined as part of the annual report for OIE-listed diseases. Moreover and in cooperation with the WHO and the FAO, Members are asked to complete it once a year with information on non OIE-listed diseases, the impact of zoonoses on humans, animal populations, as well as information regarding the Veterinary Services personnel, national reference laboratories and their performed diagnostic tests, and, when appropriate, vaccine manufacturers and vaccine production.

As an adjunct to the World Animal Health Information (WAHIS) on-line reporting system, the data and information provided by Members are accessible via the Web interface WAHID (World Animal Health Information Database), and can be accessed by the public through the OIE Web site.

SPC Regional WAHIS Update – Anju Mangal

Ms Anju Mangal provided a presentation on the SPC regional WAHIS update. As presented, WAHIS is an official online animal disease information system for the submission and reporting of official animal disease information to OIE for SPC member countries. A few countries have developed animal disease reporting systems (example TADinfo and in-country surveillance system) as national database and surveillance systems. There is a need to establish a “WAHIS Regional Core Facility” for the SPC region in order to avoid duplication and inconsistencies, and streamline disease reporting system. The WAHIS regional core will still need to meet the needs of Member countries and the Pacific to improve OIE reporting as well as animal disease information sharing among countries within the region. The idea of developing a WAHIS Regional Core Facility is to improve animal disease control within the Pacific, through information sharing in order to achieve a coordinated response and thus improve early disease detection.

The information on the WAHIS regional core will have prioritized diseases of the region, where there are 22 countries or territories (SPC Members) and information related to veterinary resources and animal populations in the region. The signing of the MOU between OIE and SPC on the linkage between the Pacific - WAHIS regional core to the OIE WAHIS is crucial to assist countries in improving their reporting obligations to OIE.

As Dr Karim Ben Jebara highlighted in his presentation, and again reiterated by Anju, that there is a reporting obligation to comply with international standards and according to international standard setting bodies, and there is a need for countries to be transparent, accurate and to ensure that trade is successful.

Ms Mangal stated that on 15th September, 1999, SPC and OIE signed a memorandum of agreement on the need to implement joint activities on strengthening national institutions responsible for the control of animal disease and dissemination of animal health information. The agreement specified exchange of information through the use of PAHIS and dissemination and promotion of OIE standards. It also stated the organization and attendance of OIE meetings on veterinary epidemiology, including surveillance and risk analysis methods.

In line of the new WAHIS system, another MOU was signed between OIE and SPC as a supplementary to the existing agreement established between OIE and SPC in September 1999, with the same terms and conditions of the existing agreement. In addition, it establishes guidelines and obligations governing data and information sharing between OIE and the SPC to feed into WAHIS. The obligations of OIE is to provide SPC regular updates and disease information via WAHIS and to provide to Member countries that are not OIE m=Members complete access to WAHIS application with the same benefits on OIE disease notifications and information. The obligations of SPC are to encourage and facilitate SPC member countries to regularly provide information and updates on disease status via WAHIS. It also states that the representative of SPC member countries (in this case the Chief Veterinarian or the Head of the Animal Health Division) will be the OIE delegate that regularly provides information and updates on disease via WAHIS.

Data submitted to WAHIS is owned by the governments of the countries submitting the data, as represented by the official OIE delegate (CVO or Head of Agriculture/Animal Health). Data shall not be shared or given to other countries other than for the limited purpose of International trade and biosecurity. Each country shall provide accurate information on disease notification, including epidemiological notifications, as well as aquatic and terrestrial information. In accordance with standard disease reporting arrangements for OIE, SPC member countries agree to submit immediate notification of the occurrence of a disease outbreaks, follow-up reports, six-monthly reports and annual reports. Ms Mangal also presented the SPC-LRD WAHIS related projects, which have a common objective: to develop and support trade. The Increasing Agriculture Commodity Trade (IACT) in close collaboration with other agencies assisting PACPs (government and private sector) is required to implement the economic partnership agreement by building their capacity to meet EU market access requirements including on minimum pesticide residual limits and on novel food classification and registrations. This activity includes the following sub-activities:

- Assisting countries in submitting and maintaining OIE compliant terrestrial and aquatic animal disease reports via WAHIS to maintain access to EU market; and
- Assist export enterprises to identify EU market requirements and have pesticide and heavy metal analyses of export products aimed at EU market.

Under the Biosecurity and Trade Support (Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Services), the maintenance and updating of PICTs' animal health information, utilizing the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and FAO's Transboundary Animal Disease Information System (TADInfo), is also a common objective. TADInfo is a software package, a data management system fully dedicated to animal and zoonotic disease information management and analysis. It is entirely customizable to the animal disease quantification and management needs of each user. Currently PNG is the only country that uses TADInfo to store data on diseases and has provisions to allow veterinary epidemiology and animal disease surveillance. Under the SPC division of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems, SPC advocates to EU on behalf of SPC member countries, regarding the non trade barrier which is the compulsory OIE membership for PICTs, taking into account that efficient and accurate provision of information regarding aquatic diseases present in the region is the first priority in order to maintain and improve trade.

In 2009, a Regional Animal Disease Reporting and Information Management workshop with OIE representatives and FAO focal point was organized, and the key objective of this workshop was to provide a training on TADInfo — the trans-boundary animal disease information management system of FAO, to provide an overview of WAHIS, and to introduce a training session to participants regarding disease reporting by using WAHIS (for terrestrial animal commodities). In 2010, another SPC Regional Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Disease Reporting workshop was conducted, in order to provide an overview of the WAHIS system, as well as to provide a practical training in the use of WAHIS.

The training was held in Nadi, Fiji, and it was organized around sub-regional groups, in order to assist PICTs who had not yet lodged reports on terrestrial and aquatic commodities to lodge their first reports. It was also devoted to provide information on implications regarding EU legislative amendments for countries that export ornamental fish to EU, and with the aim of increasing awareness regarding the risks of aquatic diseases likely to have implications on trade.

The table below shows the disease status report of SPC member countries and territories from year 2008 to 2011. It should be mentioned that certain countries (without any reporting activity) have not been listed.

Countries	2008 reports	2009 reports	2010 reports	2011 reports
Cook Islands	no	no	no	no
Federated States of Micronesia	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report	1 semester, 2 semester	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report
Fiji	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report	1 semester, 2 semester (draft)
French Polynesia	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report	1 semester
Kiribati	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report (draft)	1 semester (draft)	no

Papua New Guinea	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report (draft)			
Samoa (Western)	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report	1 semester (draft)
Solomon Islands	annual	no	no	no
Tonga	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report	1 semester (draft)	no
Vanuatu	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report	1 semester, 2 semester, annual report	1 semester, 2 semester	1 semester (draft)

It is quite apparent that countries like the Cook Islands (among others) have not been making any effort in reporting via the WAHIS system. Countries like Kiribati have attempted to complete their reports during the 2009 and 2010 workshops, but they have not done anything after the workshops, despite the frequent reminders by SPC and the relevance of the marine ornamental trade for the national economy. It should be mentioned that Kiribati has complained regarding poor online access because of infrastructure problems and connectivity issues (this is one of the issues to be solved in future in-country actions in order to improve reporting efficacy).

PNG has stated that their capacity to undertake surveillance of animal health is weak, because of high inter-travel costs, poor communication links, low number of trained staff and fragmented geography.

In the case of Fiji, the focal points have changed during the past years. Due to staff turnover in the Ministry and Division of Animal Health and Production, there have been issues in terms of reporting on time and accurately. Staff trained in 2009, 2010 are no longer the WAHIS focal points (they have moved on or they are in-charge of other activities). It's usually a challenge to train focal points as new ones keep coming on board. It should be mentioned that this is a common limitation and constraint within the region.

Other countries have stated common constraints, such as:

- National level communication strategies in order to share and compile the necessary information for animal diseases efficient reporting is one of the main constraints for countries. There is no structured process in place for Aquatic and Terrestrial animal diseases reporting, under a single national framework
- Countries have poor online access because of infrastructure problems and connectivity issues.
- Access problems: they don't remember the username and/or the password (login details)..
- Computer illiteracy.
- There's no in-country data management system in place (records are usually on hard copies).
- Management of focal point succession issues, disease reporting via WAHIS should be included in job descriptions, job terms of reference or work plan.
- Lack of coordination internally (focal points should provide an overview of training objectives to their staff).
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From SPC's point of view, the aspect of regional core for consideration has been determined based on previous workshop reports, such as:

- Additional MOU to be developed between SPC and PICTs obligating members to provide regular submission of animal disease status. The MOU will establish the same procedures, guidelines and obligations governing the data and information sharing that is currently being shared between SPC and OIE.
- There is a need to establish and develop the WAHIS Regional Core facility to improve animal disease information sharing among countries of a given region, and a regional body (example, SPC and OIE).
- SPC will need to assist countries to formalize national-level arrangements for data collection and compilation via MOU between terrestrial and aquatic authorities, informally foster official-to-official contacts between ministry/department counterparts.

Summary of country report

Papua New Guinea on animal disease reporting

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is a member of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and is obliged to submit semester and annually reports to the OIE. However, reporting to the OIE has not been up to date. Poor staff retention, lack of skills of incoming officers, inadequate surveillance and the inherent lack of laboratory testing capabilities hinder the timely collection and documentation of data for reporting. This is made worse by the lack of priority animal health gets from various levels of government including the national government.

Surveillance activities have been expanded to include other high risk areas instead of concentrating in one area. Veterinary service awareness and extension services have been increased. On the other hand, there is more intense and close collaboration with other line agencies, such as the provincial department of primary industry (DPI) and Non Government Organizations (NGO) in delivering joint surveillance exercises. The Focal Point for Aquatic Animal Disease Reporting has been delegated to the National Fisheries Authority (NFA) as the competent authority in aquatic animal health and an animal health information unit was set up at Head office. An Epidemiology position was created to head this unit who will provide advice on the proper design of field surveys and manage all animal health generated from these surveys. In addition the organizational restructure of NAQIA has been approved, including a new specialist position created. It is hoped that this will enable the National Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Authority (NAQIA) to recruit and retain qualified staff, both in the Laboratory and in the field.

This is a lot of reorganization and may take time to fully relish the outcome. However, it is expected that by taking the above actions PNG will be in a better position to do better surveillance through the collection of quality data and timely reporting to the OIE.

Animal Health Reporting in Solomon Islands

Barney Keqa presented the current situation regarding terrestrial animal disease reporting and steps taken to improve reporting capacity. The last real animal disease survey was conducted in 1998, from which the "Animal Health Status of the Solomon Island" was published (*Martin and Epstein, 1999*). Solomon Islands Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock AL recognize the importance of animal disease reporting and they are taking steps to ensure that an animal health baseline survey is conducted possibly in 2013. Unfortunately there are no CVO in Solomon Islands but they are pursuing appointment of one of CVO's in the near future. The World Bank is currently looking at assisting with hiring of a RDP position in Solomon Islands. There are currently 40 trained PARAVETs through the SPC-paravet training program, and 20 paravets are currently undergoing field epidemiology training – improving their active surveillance capacity and competencies. There are currently two local veterinarians, but only one is currently practicing. In total, there is around 19 staff in the Animal health department. There is a plan to revitalize Government Veterinary Laboratory capacity – rebuilding laboratory and improving the facilities –budget bid for 2013. There is also a plan to submit a budget bid for 2013/14 regarding Animal Health Status Survey – regular interval Animal disease survey and reporting.

The Solomon Islands Animal health teams are currently focusing on strengthening national capacities and competencies to improve Animal Disease Reporting.

Tonga – Aquatic Report

Overview of Animal Disease Surveillance and Reporting in Tonga (Aquatic and Ornamental commodities) – by Poasi Ngaluafe - Aquaculture Research and Development Fisheries Division:

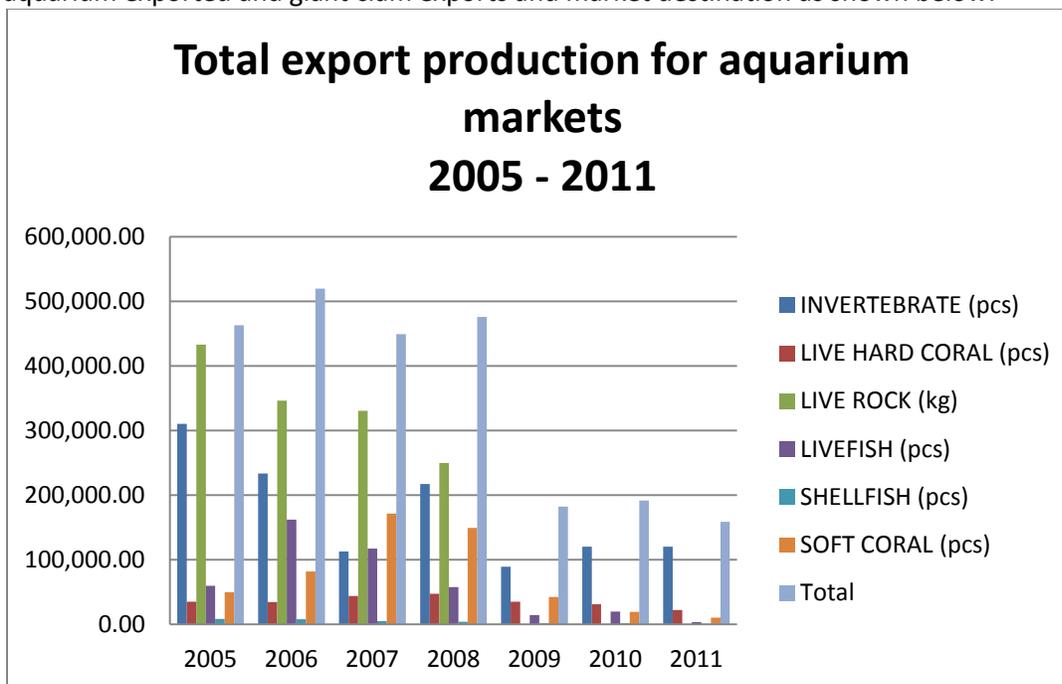
Tonga has a quite relevant live aquatic animal industry for ornamental trade (Ornamental product).

Main Ornamental commodities are:

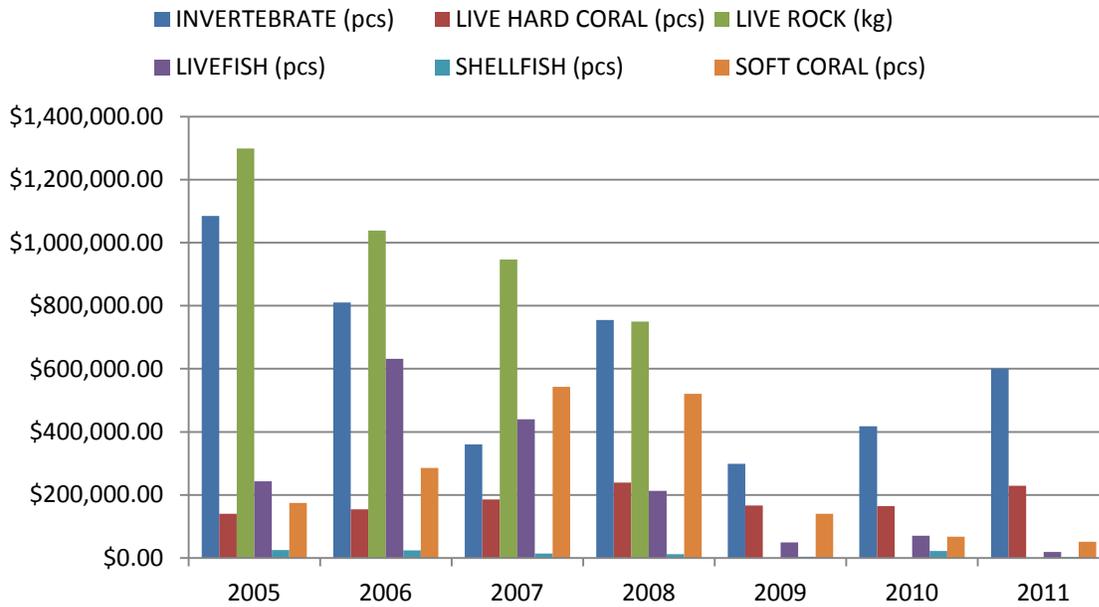
- *Cultured giant clams – Tridacnidae*
- *Cultured live rocks and coral polyps*
- *Wild harvest hard & soft coral*
- *Wild harvest invertebrates i.e. shellfish*
- *Wild harvest ornamental marine fishes*

Tonga Aquaculture team faces a lot of issues. They had laboratory equipment donated under an EU funded programme, but they needed a Laboratory in order to accommodate the equipment. There are no diagnostic mechanisms for aquatic animal diseases, except for monitoring programmes carry-out by different government department agencies.

Poasi presented graphs which displayed the total export production for aquarium markets, total value of aquarium exported and giant clam exports and market destination as shown below.



Total Value of Aquarium exported 2005-2011 (TOP\$)



Giant Clams Export & Market destination

Description	Country	Total	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
SHELLFISH	Canada	262			143	25	94	
SHELLFISH	German	502	0	227	50	225	0	0
SHELLFISH	Hong Kong	80			80			
SHELLFISH	Korea	65		65				
SHELLFISH	New Zealand	22			22			
SHELLFISH	Singapore	230	0	0	80	0	0	150
SHELLFISH	Taiwan	28		25		3		
SHELLFISH	USA	19126	8017	4410	3642	1288	1244	525
Total		20315	8017	4727	4017	1541	1338	675

Tonga Terrestrial Report

There has been no significant change since the latest disease report (implemented in 2010) and no epidemic notifiable disease has been reported since then. Unfortunately, there has been no terrestrial animal census/survey conducted since 2003. About 98% of households in Tonga own one or various terrestrial animal species – pig, cattle, chicken, horse, sheep, goat, duck, dogs, cats. There has been no trade of live terrestrial animal to other countries. Animal health and diseases are monitored by Tonga Ministry and Livestock Division (focal points). It should be mentioned that for the time being gross clinic signs assessment is the only diagnosis system in place in the country, and it is not very reliable. There have been very little studies and trainings on the use and application of laboratory tools, and laboratory equipment is very limited. Tonga is trying to control and prevent the entrance and spread of exotic diseases into the country, which has a quite high animal health status. There's lack of facilities and specialists on the diagnostic of main terrestrial animal diseases. Currently no laboratory tests are available in the country. Livestock/animal sectors are less important and less recognizable by most people and also by the government (they are not a high priority for the government). Tonga is trying to change and improve main farming systems, especially for cattle and pigs, changing the people attitude towards animal management. Unfortunately, there are no vaccines available for animals and there are constraints in getting the necessary funds.

There is a need to have more trained and skilled livestock specialists and veterinarians to be able to do disease surveillance. Tonga needs to have a laboratory in order to carry out the necessary laboratory tests. On the other hand, facilities and skills need to be updated. There are still difficulties in sending blood samples for testing overseas laboratories, in order to detect some notifiable diseases. The statistics department should also implement a terrestrial animal census and a detailed survey. There is currently no database in order to record, update, store and analyse existing and future data.

Vanuatu – By Dr Roger Philips and Lency Dick

Terrestrial animals

The Vanuatu beef Cattle were originally introduced to keep the ground clear under coconut plantations. With the fall in the price of copra and following a pasture improvement programme in the late 1980s, beef production has become increasingly important in Vanuatu as an industry both for local supply and export. Live cattle were exported several years ago, however, nowadays only prime quality beef is exported to the Pacific region. Currently, the only live animal exports are ornamental marine fish exported to countries such as Australia, USA, Canada, and the EU. The commercial farmers supply the local retail butchery market as well as the export markets such as PNG, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and Australia. Regarding other terrestrial species, many families in rural areas own one or more pigs however poor housing conditions and inadequate feeding regimes means that pigs often show signs of ill thrift and poor reproductive performance. Whilst cattle health issues are scarce, many health callouts are for pigs suffering from ill thrift or pruritic skin conditions.

Aquatic animals

There are 2 licensed exporters of ornamental marine fish in Vanuatu and they are sustainable Reef Suppliers SRS – Blacksands area, Port Vila and reef Life Vanuatu – Pango village, Port Vila. Reef Life Vanuatu commenced operation in 2003 and the Ni Vanuatu owner is Mr. Kalmet Kaltabang. The markets are Australia, Germany, France, England and USA - Total number of ornamental fish exports for 2011 was ~ 12,500. The national veterinary services are responsible for animal health.

General information

The Ministry responsible for animal health and which includes the Veterinary Services is the Ministry of Agriculture, Quarantine, Forestry and Fisheries (MAQFF). Within that ministry, there are four departments, as listed below:

- Department of Agriculture
- Department Livestock and Quarantine
- Department of Forestry
- Department of Fisheries

The Livestock and Quarantine Department, which includes the veterinary services, is the government agency responsible for all aspects of animal and plant quarantine, animal health, animal disease surveillance and control, veterinary public health, and import/export certification for animals/plants and animal/plant products. It is also responsible for livestock production, and general quarantine, including plant protection and exotic pest prevention and control. There are animal health and livestock officers who have undertaken paraveterinary training and assist in disease surveillance and animal health matters. The animal health service is composed of two senior veterinary officers, one based in Port Vila, and the other one based in Espiritu Santo, then, another two animal health officers and one assistant animal health officer. A veterinary laboratory manned by a qualified laboratory technician is present in Port Vila and although in need of refurbishment can provide basic entomological testing and identification. For expanded disease surveillance capability further staffing and funding of salaries and laboratory facilities would be desirable.

Livestock disease incidents and livestock numbers are collated and entered into a national database. The Department of Fisheries is the competent authority with respect to aquatic disease surveillance and reporting. An extension programme given by our staff to animal owners in the villages and on the farms. This programme is designed to make animal owners aware of signs of disease and to report to the government animal health officers or veterinary officers. Laboratory backup comes from New Zealand or sometimes Australian laboratories, but there's limited capacity for disease reporting due to the high cost of surveillance visits and current staffing levels. This forms a significant constraint to regular and consistent surveillance reporting. Additional livestock staff stationed on the larger islands would greatly assist livestock production, animal health issues and disease surveillance. This could also be said for the Department of Fisheries staff and aquaculture officers.

Samoa Country report

The Animal Health Section is responsible for investigating and compiling reports on the occurrence of animal diseases. The Fisheries Division is consulted regarding aquatic animal disease, but there is not much information available on aquatic animals. Samoa is not a member of OIE and does not export live animals to the EU. The first report to the OIE was submitted in 1997, reporting was not regular at first. The annual and 6-monthly reports have been regularly submitted to the OIE since 2008. Animal Health Section attends cases in response to calls from farmers:

- > Sick, Injured, Dead/disease investigation, Husbandry, Advisory
- > Cases recorded by attending veterinarian or other Animal Health personnel
- > Information on the form transferred to MS Access database by veterinarian
 - Also contains records of necropsy reports, laboratory analysis
- > Data compiled monthly for reporting to management, also used for 6-monthly/annual reporting to OIE

There's a Samoa national database for compiling field reports. There is no legislation that requires the notification of serious animal diseases. Under the Health Ordinance 1959, the occurrence of the following zoonoses in humans is notifiable: Anthrax, Leptospirosis, Psittacosis and Brucellosis.

The animal health staff is required to make paper reports from the field on cases that they attend:

- > Attending veterinarian;
- > Animal health officers; and
- > Para-veterinarians.

Field data is then entered into the Animal Health database by veterinarians/ Animal Health staff

Theoretically, information from the field (in paper form) is entered daily into the database by the veterinarian but forms accumulate when there are other duties to attend to.

The ability of field staff to make thorough observations and record accurate information e.g. new/ inexperienced staff is usually a challenge. It is difficult to produce definitive diagnoses in reports due to limitations in:

- > Laboratory diagnostic capacity; and
- > Trained staff.

Only veterinarian produces electronic reports due to high turnover of staff who were delegated the task. Some challenges faced by the Samoan Animal health department are the access to computers and internet. The ability of fisheries personnel to detect disease is also an ongoing challenge and there's no internal mechanisms existing in order to collate aquatic animal disease information for reporting.

- > PAHO makes enquiries with Fisheries Division for disease information and population of farmed aquatic animals; and
- > Little disease information on aquatic animals is available within the Fisheries Division.

Lack of timely/effective reporting due to the following:

- > Small country – communication with field officers is usually easy and reports made in timely manner;
- > Some problems with congested phone lines, lack of cell phones; and
- > Office shuts down completely on weekends and public holidays (no provisions for after hours work).

Federated States of Micronesia

There are currently no formal arrangements or mechanisms in place to facilitate animal disease reporting. National focal points (terrestrial & aquatic) are tasked with six-month disease reporting, including the annual report. The National Animal Disease Notification Focal Points are as follows:

- *For terrestrial - Mr. Engly Ioanis (COM-FSM)*
- *For Aquatic - Mr. V. Martin (FSM Dept. of R&D)*

Industry exporting live animals to EU or other regions:

- *Micronesia Management and Marketing Enterprise (MM&ME) in Kosrae*
- *Marine Environmental Research Institute for Pohnpei (MERIP) in PNI*

These two enterprises are currently in operational and are directly engaged mainly in the exports of aquatic species to regional and international markets, targeting aquarium trades. Species include: giant clams, certain species of corals, sponge, pearl and several species of aquarium finfish.

Like other small island countries in the Pacific, FSM lacks the capacity for disease surveillance, laboratory diagnostic support & reporting.

The main issues or constraints to achieve truly & effective disease reporting, just to name a few:

- Awareness (national obligations & implications on trades);
- Lack of coordination amongst focal points;
- Low knowledge of staff (disease surveillance & diagnosis, collate and confirm as well as to manage & respond);
- Absence of legal basis (biosecurity Laws are under development); and
- Absence of Competent Authority and appropriate facilities to facilitate health certifications for trades in aquatic animals and aquatic animal products.

Dedicated Staff to undertake relevant activities & reporting to ensure transparency, accuracy and timely submission of disease reporting of both, the six-monthly and annual report.

Kiribati report

Kiribati is free from exotic diseases and none of OIE list disease has been detected. A few list B diseases are present. There are currently 12 Para-veterinarians with formal training and, no qualified Veterinary doctor is present in the country. Kiribati has no capacity to diagnose terrestrial and aquatic diseases. They receive monthly reports from Agriculture Assistants. Kiribati Ministry of Fisheries has no internal mechanisms in place for aquatic disease reporting. They rely on technical assistance from SPC. The official director of Agriculture for the terrestrial diseases is the MELAD, and the Agriculture division for aquatic diseases is the MFMRD. The responsible agency for public awareness/announcement regarding disease outbreaks is the Office of Te Beretitenti (O.B). Pet fish for aquarium market is exported mainly to Honolulu, from Christmas Island. Giant Clams (*Tridacna maxima*) are exported by one company located in the Gilbert Group. Clams were mainly exported to Germany, Italy and USA for aquarium market. Number of clams exported in 2010 was about 750 pieces. In 2011 about 2,350 and in 2012 about 3,050 pieces were exported. MFMRD do the cultivation of clams, but not for exporting for the time being, but for community farming in order to reduce pressure on harvesting from the wild. There's no current capacity for disease surveillance laboratory existing in Kiribati. There's lack of capacity or expertise in this field (animal diseases diagnostic). Implementation of the animal disease database within two ministries (MELAD and MFMRD) is a quite important limitation, and there's lack of laboratory equipment and infrastructure, such as test kits and laboratory surveillance strategies in place, for detecting and analyzing diseases.

Fiji

In regards to the live animal export industry, it should be mentioned that Fiji has a quite important marine ornamental export industry, mostly focused on the European and American market. There's an aquarium fish enterprise located in Deuba and a Fish Company based in Lautoka. There's a livestock export industry as well, mostly focused on poultry, crest and rooster. Other live animal movement to be considered here are the companion animals, with an average of 24 cats and dogs exported every year. There's regular reporting regarding terrestrial and aquatic animal health management and main diseases– only as need arises. The MPI Animal Health and Production Division spearhead disease reporting, and collection and collation is done at national level. The Animal health reports are presented regularly to Ministry executives, monthly updating with PS Agriculture, quarterly reporting with HODs & Minister on the preparation of OIE WAHIS draft reports and submission to OIE WAHIS (six-monthly & annual reports).'

Fiji is an OIE member and trainings have been conducted on the use of WAHIS system. The Fiji MPI AHP staff, Mr Sanjeev Kumar participated in SPC disease reporting activities since 2009. The WAHIS reports for Fiji are available for 2009, 2010, and only the first 6 monthly for 2011. There has been consultation with SPC aquaculture & fisheries staff (Suva) for updates on Fiji aquatic animal health issues. The national agency responsible for AH reporting is the MPI Animal Health & Production, and the official delegate is the Director for Fiji AH&P is Mr Tomasi Tunabuna. The previous focal point was Mr Sanjeev Kumar (ATO FVL) – since 2010. Dr Leo Borja (SAO FVL) is the current focal point since May 2011. Sources of data & information are sourced from Fiji Veterinary Laboratory (main source of AH data), MPI AH&P regulatory department, MPI veterinary clinic, SPC Aquatic & Fisheries and Fiji Aquaculture & Fisheries department. As main limitations and constrains it should be mentioned that there's a constant movement and renewal of staff at national level, and that other work priorities pose a challenge in relation to disease reporting. Furthermore, there's also lack of commitment;, individuals feel that there is not much incentive for efforts to collect data and prepare the report.

Training Programme

Dr Karim Ben Jebara and Daniel Chaisemartin (OIE) provide an overview of useful definitions before starting the hand on training of WAHIS. The definitions were related to immediate and Follow-up Reports.

As previously mentioned, this presentation was followed by hands on training on the use of WAHIS, focused on the following issues: immediate notifications, six monthly reports and annual reports (follow up reporting using WAHIS). Each country and SPC participants were provided with the necessary tests and login details in order to carry out the practical training.

Key Recommendations

- SPC to facilitate the development of a WAHIS regional core a process to provide multiple fields that will allow national focal points to enter data and also report to the OIE system (WAHIS) using the same system.

The participants recommended that SPC and OIE develop and prepare technical guidelines for the introduction of data into WAHIS and for their own data collection, compilation and analysis systems for data sharing between disease databases in the member countries.

- SPC to discuss the possibility of funding with partner organizations such as OIE, FAO to develop the WAHIS regional core.
 - SPC to discuss the requirements for the WAHIS regional core facility at the next Pacific Heads of Veterinary Animal Productions Services, possible in 2012 and the Heads of Fisheries meeting?
- SPC to continue encouraging and assisting SPC member countries who are non OIE members to expand and improve their disease diagnosis, tracking and reporting. There should be more emphasis placed on disease reporting mechanisms to strengthen internal coordination between aquatic and terrestrial focal points.
- SPC to consider in- country trainings and in-country visits to improve the efficiency of the disease reporting systems, as a complementary action to previous and future regional seminars and workshops.
- SPC to collate input from Heads of animal health division, WAHIS delegates and WAHIS focal points in PICTS to provide input for the one ways of improving engagement for WAHIS reporting.[e.g. evaluate effectiveness and costs for sub regional and in-country WAHIS training]
- SPC to work with WAHIS focal points [both aquatic and terrestrial] on regular updating of reports to WAHIS through- online assistance and during duty travels.
- SPC (LRD and FAME division) to collaborate on the improvement of reporting capacities on aquatic animal diseases in PICTs. strengthen aquatic WAHIS reporting capacity

- Additional MOU to be developed between SPC and PICTs obligating members to provide regular submission of animal disease status. The MOU will establish the same procedures, guidelines and obligations governing the data and information sharing that is currently being shared between SPC and OIE

Summary from all the presentations

Issues or constraints to achieve timely and effective disease reporting

- Lack of National Animal Health Strategies (including list of exotic and list of notifiable diseases, list of countries and competent authorities, contingency plans, quarantine services, national surveillance programs, border controls, Import risk analysis guidelines, etc).
- Lack of capacities, skills and expertise at all levels regarding animal health management (e.g. veterinary doctors, para-veterinarians, extension officers, laboratory technicians, and so on).
- Lack of CVO and specialized veterinary doctors in the country.
- Inefficiency of past training programs (not so practically focused, lack of monitoring and follow up after the training, difficulties to apply the training recommendations in country...).
- Implementation of animal disease diagnosis, tracking and reporting strategies within two different ministries (agriculture and fisheries ministries).
- Lack of infrastructures and equipment (e.g. laboratory equipment for National disease surveillance programs implementation).
- Focal person for aquatic animal health not clearly identified in some cases.
- Constant movement and renewal of staff at national level.
- Lack of commitment - individuals feels that there is not much incentive for efforts to collect data and prepare the report.
- Financial constraints to implement animal health management programs (e.g. for surveillance and collection of data – depending only on exporters specimen submission in most cases).
- Ability of field staff to make thorough observations and record accurate information because of lack of skills, time and resources (e.g. new/ inexperienced staff).
- Limited access to computers and/or internet.
- Limited scientific bibliography on the topic (and from the Pacific region).
- Limited mechanisms and strategies to collate animal disease information collected on the field.
- Limited knowledge on aquatic animal diseases within the Fisheries Divisions and Aquaculture Sections.
- Lack of appropriate and efficient communication strategies/information transfer mechanisms (field staff → veterinary officers → laboratory staff → CVO).
- Complexity of the livestock and the aquaculture sectors (in terms of scale and location - small scale, isolated areas, etc).
- Lack of awareness regarding the relevance of proper, coherent and efficient animal health management strategies, at all levels (from policy makers, to industry, farmers, and other institutions...).
- Lack of donor prioritization.

Participant Evaluations

1) What did you like about the training and what didn't you like about the training?

- Learn on how to use and apply WAHIS (and WAHIS information).
- Realize the importance of disease diagnosis, tracking and reporting.
- Interact/communicate with other countries (with other delegates and focal points) _and identify their needs and strengths regarding terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.
- Establish a first contact (for future exchanges) between different countries' delegates and focal points.
- Improve (better/quality and timely) reporting of diseases from countries through the OIE system.
- Improve disease status knowledge within the region.
- Meet different focal points from PICTs,
- Understand different options of having access to disease surveillance, control, treatment, testing, and reporting assistance, which could be available to PICTs.
- OIE system is more advanced and I find it difficult to follow it. However, from my point of view, there should be a set of guidelines available for those that are not computer literate
- Learn about the usefulness of using WAHIS information for Import Risk Analysis preparation.
- Help us better manage our national disease information management system.
- Reports are saved as draft format to allow participants to edit later on.
- WAHIS database is quite comprehensive in terms of technical terminology.
- The workshop was very interesting and exciting; it was my first time ever to practice how to prepare and compile reports on animal diseases
- It's important to ensure that the hard copy of the report is similar to the one that we submit via the WAHIS system.
- Gain a better understanding of WAHIS occurrence code and the WAHIS system.
- Training was done well since OIE and SPC staff was present in order to help clarify difficulties when using the system.
- The practical training is too short.
- I think most of our members are not really familiar with the OIE/WAHIS system. This may affect the region in terms of reporting their disease status.
- Database availability, - it is a useful tool but not very user friendly.
- The training was well organized, the hands on exercise boosted the understanding on the WAHIS system and allowed us to submit some of the reports as draft.
- As it serves as a forum by which national focal points get the opportunity to learn and to improve their capacity for effective implementation of their mandates/obligations as stipulated in the OIE Agreement and the SPC MOU.
- I will encourage and support trainings of this nature both at the regional and national levels, and with some participants particularly, the designated national focal points, in order to ensure continuity of capacity building.
- The reporting database (template) itself, need to be simplified in order to be more user-friendly.

2) How can this workshop be improved in the future?

- Complicated, need a lot of time to be able to complete a report without any errors.
- Short training, a bit more time may be needed in future occasions.
- Keeping on losing data entered in the system because of internet connectivity issues.
- I would be happy if OIE have an on-line training on the system so the participant could login and practice how to enter data, and I think it will be easier to catch up with the system if we are able to practice more.
- Time to familiarize with the database components (the trainer needs to provide overview of the WAHIS user interface).
- Training should go through the operating the database at the beginning, instead of later on, when doing exercises.
- Report format should be differentiated between aquatic and terrestrial.
- Participants have different field of expertise in terrestrial and aquatic.
- Ensure there's accurate data/right information for data entry purposes.
- I think we should do such exercises in a group with OIE and SPC specialists. This way they can clarify some points.
- In-country training to adapt to country needs.
- Practical exercises to be step by step exercises.
- Hands-on training with practical reports carried out on line during the training by using the projector

3) What training format or means of delivery should we adopt in the future (if we decide to have more training)? Example, similar format to this training or in-country training?

- We could have at least a trial/exercise through PowerPoint, so we can learn step by step.
- A similar format is okay, once a year is feasible (or every 2 years).
- The need for **guidelines or templates** to help us understand information and be able to transform national country information to 6 monthly reports/annual reports, etc.
- There should be training on disease identification and treatment especially on aquatic animals.
- Prefer group training (sub-regional), the one similar to the last workshop to ensure that the focal points from a country work together.
- More time to allow us to do the six monthly and annual reports.
- Training to be done in CD-ROM for countries with internet difficulties.
- Skype/teleconference and video conference between trainers and in-country trainees.
- It should also consider adopting other means whereby trainings could be delivered and conducted nationally or at the country level. This, in my view, would provide opportunity to member countries particularly, the national focal points in acquiring the needed technical guidance/advisories for development and improvement of their internal mechanisms through which efficient and effective implementation of their obligations could be realized/fulfilled. In addition, it would also increase awareness on importance of disease surveillance and reporting as it would eventually impose some negative impacts on marketing and trades of aquatic species should there be a disease outbreak in respective jurisdictions.

4) Are there any issues related to the training or the WAHIS system?

- Maybe have a training where we have one on one interaction, and if possible, to be done on yearly basis so delegates and focal points are both present and learning it together.
- Need to have an **exercise guideline** to be able to complete 6 monthly reports or annual reports.
- There should be in-country training given to Vets and Para-veterinarians in the Pacific to overcome the challenge of having one focal point. This will also address staff turnover issues.
- Strongly refresher workshops for people who used it for the first time.

5) Any other useful comments?

- Lack of quality data from the field.
- No reports coming from the field.
- Lack of staff at HQ to compile and collate the data.
- Lack of data on the type of disease present in the country.
- To have a CD format for training purposes (this will be better in case of internet connectivity issues).
- To have e-learning platform available on website, regarding database entry.
- To have a manual or guidelines for database entry.
- One week training would probably be good.
- **The WAHIS system needs to be user friendly;** there is a need for a drop down list.
- Adapt system to suit country/local needs e.g., regionally, Pacific, country, island, village, district, sub divisions.
- Need to be able to identify diseases (what kind of information to collect).
- Ability to add new diseases, etc
- Regional training similar to this should be introduced nationally to help state report on a timely basis.
- SPC to provide further assistance, setting up suitable schemes/systems for disease surveillance and reporting – to be tailored down to member countries' specific needs and perhaps some other assistance be needed or required.

**Importance of WAHIS Animal Disease Reporting in the SPC Region in support of Trade
SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY**

Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, FIJI: 13 – 15 June, 2012

Programme

Day 1	Wednesday, 13 June, 2012	
9.30 – 10.00	Registration	
10.00 – 10.30	<p>MC Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotion • Opening Address • Remarks by OIE • Remarks by AHP 	<p>Andrew Tukana MC organize</p> <p>Mr Inoke Ratukalou (SPC)</p> <p>Dr Karim Ben Jebara (OIE)</p> <p>Dr Ken Cokanasiga (SPC)</p>
10.30 – 11:00	Morning Tea (Inclusive of Group Photo)	Facilitator?
11.00 – 12.00	<p>Introductory Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAME – Dr Ruth Garcia • PHAMA (Component 4) – Mr Josua Wainiqolo • IACT – Mr Samu Turagacati 	SPC team (5 to 10 minute introductory presentation)
12.00 – 13.00	<p>SESSION 1: Introduction to WAHIS/OIE Criteria for listing a disease and OIE Listed Diseases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrestrial Animals • Aquaculture <p>Overview of WAHIS</p>	<p>Dr Ken Cokanasiga (SPC)</p> <p>Dr Ruth Garcia (SPC)</p> <p>Dr Karim Ben Jebara (OIE)</p>
1.00 – 2.00	Lunch	

2 – 3 pm	SESSION 2 : WAHIS REPORTING BY THE REGION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OIE Updates SPC region updates 	Dr Karim Ben Jebara (OIE) Mr Anju Mangal
3 – 5.00pm	SESSION 3: COUNTRY REPORTS Overview of Animal Disease Surveillance and Reporting in each Country/Territory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What internal mechanisms exist to collect, compile and collate terrestrial and aquatic animal health information for reporting National Animal Disease Notification Delegates and Focal Points Is there an industry exporting live animals to EU, or other regions of the world, in particular marine ornamental fish? (Summary of status and economic figures) What is the current capacity for disease surveillance, laboratory diagnostic support and reporting? Main issues or constraints to achieve timely and effective disease reporting? 	PICTs representatives (10 minute PowerPoint – presented jointly by 2 PICTs participants)
3.00 – 5.00	SESSION 3 Continue: COUNTRY REPORTS Overview of Animal Disease Surveillance and Reporting in each Country/Territory: Open Discussion – main issues, areas of commonality between PICTs	PICTs (10 minute PowerPoint – presented jointly by 2 PICTs participants)
5.00	End of Day 1	

Day 2	Thursday, 14 June, 2012	
8.30 – 09.00 9.00 – 10.00	SESSION 4: Terrestrial and Aquatic Animals Useful definitions and before starting using WAHIS Immediate and Follow-up Reporting using WAHIS	SPC/OIE
10.00 – 10.30	Morning Tea	
10.30 – 1.00pm	SESSION 5 : Hands on training on WAHIS	SPC/OIE Participants
1.00 – 2.00	Lunch	
2.00 – 3.00	SESSION 6 Hands on training on Immediate notification and Follow-up Reporting using WAHIS	SPC/OIE Participants
3.00 – 3.30	Afternoon tea	
3.30 – 4.30	SESSION 7: Six-monthly and annual reporting using WAHIS	SPC/OIE
4:30	End Of Day 2	
Day 3	Friday, 15 June, 2012	
8.30 – 10.00	SESSION 8 : Hands on training on Six-monthly and annual reporting using WAHIS	SPC/OIE
10.00 – 10.30	Morning Tea	
10.30 – 12.00	SESSION 9: Draft reports projected and discussed	SPC/OIE
12.00 – 1.00 pm	SESSION 10 : Official reports discussed and processed	SPC/OIE
1.00 – 2.00	Lunch	
2.00 – 3.00	SESSION 11: Finalization of data processing and submission of official reports to the OIE using WAHIS online application	SPC/OIE
3.00 – 3.30	Afternoon tea	
3.30 – 5.00	SESSION 12: Presentation of WAHIS Regional Core Round table discussion and conclusion	SPC/OIE
5.00	End of Day 3	

ANNEX 1: List of Participants, 2012

Cook Islands

Mr Edwin Apera (*cancelled*)

Senior Livestock Officer
Ministry of Agriculture
PO Box 96, RAROTONGA
Tel: (682) 28-711
Fax: (682) 21-881
Email: eapera@agriculture.gov.ck;

Ms Dorothy Solomona

Acting Director – Pearl Support Division
Ministry of Marine Resources
PO Box 85, RAROTONGA
Tel: (682) 28721
Fax: (682) 29721
Email: d.solomona@mmr.gov.ck;

Federated States of Micronesia

Mr Valentin A. Martin

Program Manager
Marine Resources Unit
Department of Resources & Development
PO Box PS-12, Palikir, FM 96941
Tel: (691) 320-5133/2620/2646
Fax: (691) 320-5854
Email: fsmrd@mail.fm;

Fiji

Dr Leo Felicito J. Borja

Senior Agriculture Officer
Ministry of Primary Industries
Animal Health & Production
PO Box 15829, Suva
Tel: (679) 3315-322
Fax: (679) 3301-368
Email: borjavets@yahoo.com;

Fiji

Mr Tomasi .N. Tunabuna

Director – Animal Health & Production
Ministry of Primary Industries
Animal Health & Production
PO Box 15829, Suva
Tel: (679) 3315-322

Fax: (679) 3301-368
Email: tomasi.tunabuna@govnet.gov.fj;

Fiji

Mr Meli Raicebe
Fisheries Officer (Control, Surveillance & Compliance)
Fisheries Department
Level 1, Takayawa Towers, Toorak
PO Box 2218, Government Buildings, SUVA
Tel: (679) 330 1611
Fax: (679) 331 8769
Email: raicebe@yahoo.com;

French Polynesia

Dr Stephane Subra
Veterinary Officer-in-Charge (Stockbreeding)
Département de la qualité alimentaire et de l'action vétérinaire
Service du Développement Rural
BP 100 98713, Papeete
Tel : (689) 428144
Fax : (689) 420831
Email: stephane.subra@rural.gov.pf;
Or: sdr.qaav@rural.gov.pf

Kiribati

Mr Nautonga Anterea
Senior Agricultural Officer
Agriculture & Livestock Division
Ministry of Environment, Lands & Agriculture Development, PO
Box 267, Tarawa
Tel: (686) 28 108
Fax: (686) 28 334
Email: mamarau@gmail.com;

Kiribati

Ms Tereere Tioti
Fisheries Officer
Fisheries Division
Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources Development
PO Box 276, Bikenbeu, TARAUA
Tel : (686) 28 061 ; Fax: (686) 21 200
Email: tereereb@fisheries.gov.ki;
OR : tereerebwenawa@yahoo.com.au;

Papua New Guinea

Mr Andy Keponge Yombo

Epidemiologist

National Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Authority (NAQIA)

PO Box 741, Port Moresby, N.C.D.

Tel: (675) 325-9977

Fax: (675) 325-1674

Email: andy.yombo@gmail.com;

Or: nagia@online.net.pg;

Papua New Guinea

Mr Gideon Pama

Aquaculture Officer

National Fisheries Authority

PO Box 2016, Port Moresby

121 National Capital District

Papua New Guinea

Tel: (675) 309 0444

Fax: (675) 320 2061

Email: gpama@fisheries.gov.pg;

Or: gideon.pama@gmail.com;

Papua New Guinea

Mr Jacob Wani (*cancelled*)

Executive Manager – Aquaculture Unit

National Fisheries Authority

PO Box 2016, Port Moresby

121 National Capital District

Papua New Guinea

Tel: (675) 309 0444

Fax: (675) 320 2061

Email: jwani@fisheries.gov.pg;

Samoa

Mr Samuela Tatafu Hafoka Vi

Animal Health Officer

Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries

PO Box 1874, Apia

Tel: (685) 26 529

Fax: (685) 26 532

Email: maffm@lesamoa.net;

OR: v_samuela@yahoo.com;

Samoa

Mr Leota Laumata Pelesa

Assistant Chief Executive Officer

Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries

PO Box 1874, Apia
Tel: (685) 26 529
Fax: (685) 26 532
Email: leota.pelesa@maf.gov.ws;

Solomon Islands

Mr Barney Barnabas Keqa
Director – Animal Health & Production
Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock
PO Box G13, Honiara
Tel: (677) 22 143 ext. 215
Fax: (677) 28 365
Email: brnkq29@gmail.com;

Tonga

Mr Poasi Fale Ngaluafe
Head – Aquaculture Research & Development Section
Fisheries Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Food & Fisheries
PO Box 871, Sopo, Nuku'alofa
Tel: (676) 21-399
Fax: (676) 23-891
Email: poasif@tongafish.gov.to
Or : poasi66@hotmail.com;

Tonga

Mr Charles John Kato
Veterinary Officer
Livestock
Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forests & Fisheries
PO Box 14, Nuku'alofa
Tel: (676) 23 038
Fax: (676) 23 093
Email: kto_cjw@yahoo.com;

Vanuatu

Dr Roger Clarence Phillips
Senior Veterinary Officer
Department of Livestock & Quarantine
PMB 9095, Port Vila
Tel: (678) 23 519
Fax: (678) 23 185
Email: rogerp@vanuatu.gov.vu;

Vanuatu

Mr Lency Dick

Senior Aquaculture Officer

Department of Fisheries

PMB 9045, Port Vila

Tel: (678) 23 119

Fax: (678) 23 641

Email: lencydick@yahoo.com;

Or: fishery@vanuatu.com.vu;

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

**World Organisation
for Animal Health
12, Rue de Prony
75017 Paris,
FRANCE**

Mr Karim Ben Jebara
Head, Animal Health Information Department
Tel: +33 1 4415 18 88
Fax: +33 1 4267 09 87
Email: k.benjebara@oie.int;

Mr Daniel Chaisemartin
Head – Administrative, Logistics & Publication
Tel: 33 1 44 151868
Fax: 33 1 42670987
Email: d.chaisemartin@oie.int;

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY
Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji Islands

Tel: (679) 3370-733; Fax: (679) 3386-326/3370-021

Website: <http://www.spc.int/lrd>

Mr Inoke Ratukalou

Acting Director
Land Resources Division
Ext: 35236
Email: inoker@spc.int;

Dr Ilagi Puana

Animal Health Specialist
Animal Health & Production Services
Ext: 35260
Email: ilagip@spc.int;

Mr Josua Wainiqolo

Market Access Specialist
Biosecurity & Trade Support
Ext: 35231
Email: josuaw@spc.int

Ms Anju Mangal

Information and Knowledge Management Specialist
Animal Health & Production Services
Ext: 35361
Email: anjum@spc.int;

Mr Andrew Tukana

Research and Development Technician
Animal Health & Production Services
Ext: 35262
Email: andrewt@spc.int;

Ms Luisa Korodrau

Information Technician (BATs)
Biosecurity & Trade Support
Ext: 35310
Email: luisak@spc.int;

Mr Lesio Saurara

Biosecurity Officer
Increasing Agriculture Commodity Trade (IACT)
Ext: 35223
Email: lesios@spc.int;

Dr Ken Cokanasiga

Adviser – Animal Health & Production Services
Ext: 35364
Email: kenc@spc.int

Dr Tim Pickering

Inland Aquaculture Officer
SPC Suva
Ext: 35342
Email: timp@spc.int;

Dr Ruth Garcia Gomez

Aquaculture Officer
FAME, SPC, Noumea
B.P.D5 – 98848, Noumea Cedex
NEW CALEDONIA
Tel: (687) 26 20 00
Fax: (687) 26 38 18
Email: ruthgg@spc.int;

Mr Richard Singh

Pest List Database Technician
Biosecurity & Trade Support
Ext: 35460
Email: richards@spc.int;

Ms Aurelie Brioudes

Veterinarian, FABN Project
c/- AH&P Office
Ext: 35440
Email: aurelieb@spc.int;

Ms Maria Karalo

Programme Assistant
Animal Health & Production Services
Ext: 35359
Email: mariak@spc.int;

