



OIE Regional Seminar

***“OIE international standards, a lever for growth  
in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Southern Africa”***  
Maputo, Mozambique, 10 – 12 June 2008

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**Recommendations**

***Considering***

- OIE’s mandate and responsibilities to promote aquatic animal health; and
- the international resolve and numerous instruments on fisheries and aquaculture in relation to food security, trade, environmental concerns, income generation and achievement of the *Millennium Development Goals*; and
- the potential benefits from sustainable fisheries and aquaculture and the opportunities to meet increasing demand for food from fish and other aquatic animals, as well the enhancement of natural resources; and
- the need to improve skills, knowledge and information exchange on aquatic animal diseases in the OIE Members in the SADC region; and
- the crucial role played by veterinary and other aquatic animal health professionals in the development and sustainability of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the OIE Members in the SADC region; and
- the need for harmonised development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector across the SADC region, both at private and public levels; and
- the international obligations of the countries in the region as Members of both the OIE and the *World Trade Organisation (WTO)*; and
- the recent *epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS)* outbreak in the Chobe-Zambezi river catchment and the questions it raises with regard to preparedness and disease intelligence at national and regional levels;

**the OIE seminar on *International Standards : a level for growth in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Southern Africa*, recommends:**

**▣ To the OIE Members in southern Africa :**

1. To ensure that OIE Delegates appoint the aquatic animal health focal points and that these appointees be officially communicated and regularly updated to the OIE Central Bureau.
2. To provide national focal points with adequate resources in order to fulfill their terms of reference.

3. To ensure that the OIE Delegates provide the nominated national OIE focal points with the reports from the *Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission* and that the focal points coordinate the in-country consultation to provide a consolidated national response for submission to the OIE through the OIE Delegate and hence take an active part in the OIE standard setting process.
4. To ensure that national OIE focal points assist the OIE Delegate so as to comply with reporting requirements to the OIE through the WAHIS reporting system.
5. To encourage twinning between national diagnostic laboratories and with OIE Reference Laboratories. To encourage similar agreements with OIE Collaborating Centers.
6. To encourage the inclusion of aquatic animal health issues into the veterinary, fisheries and aquaculture curricula and provide opportunities for continuous education.
7. To promote dialogue between veterinary authorities or other relevant competent authorities, as well as the private sector, to identify their respective roles and responsibilities in aquatic animal health matters.
8. To review the national legislative framework for allowing the development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
9. To prioritise aquatic animal diseases of concern and fast track implementation of surveillance programmes in line with art. 13.9 of the *SADC Protocol on Fisheries* (2001) and OIE guidelines. To enhance cross-border cooperation between competent authorities to control aquatic animal diseases.

**■ To the OIE Central Bureau and the Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa :**

10. To facilitate OIE Members in the surveillance and notification of aquatic animal diseases by supporting training on the use of WAHIS.
11. To coordinate and support the establishment of a regional aquatic animal health network for fisheries and aquaculture in southern Africa in close collaboration with relevant bodies at national, regional and international level.
12. To promote the inclusion of aquatic animal health training into the ongoing process of harmonisation of the veterinary curriculum.

*Endorsed by all participants on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Maputo, Mozambique*