# **Annex 3. Work Programme for the WOAH Biological Standards Commission**

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| **Subject**  | **Issue** | **Status and Action** |
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| **Updating the *Terrestrial Manual*** | 1) Circulate the chapters approved by the BSC to Members for second-round comment and proposal for adoption in May 2024 | March 2024 |
| 2) Remind authors of the chapters identified previously for update but not yet received and invite authors of chapters newly identified for update | On-going |
| 3) Upload, publicise and inform Reference Laboratories experts about the database of validation reports to be published on the WOAH Website for tests recommended in the *Terrestrial Manual*  | On-going |
| 4) Include as appendices at the end of the disease-specific chapters, the tables explaining the scores given to the tests in Table 1 *Test methods available and their purpose*. Add links to the validation reports when available (point 3 above).  | Accomplished |
| 5) Ask Reference Centres to provide links to suitable instructional videos to be added to the end of the disease-specific chapters. Videos to be reviewed by the Commission when the chapter is up for review | On-going |
| 6) Develop criteria for removing chapters for non-listed diseases and assess those chapters against the criteria | Accomplished |
| 7) Review new developments in diseases causing significant global impacts (e.g. avian influenza, African swine fever) and prioritise those chapters | On-going |
| 8) Start the process of addressing the request to have access to the previous versions and evolution of the *Terrestrial Manual* as done with the *Terrestrial Code* | On-going |
| **Collaborating Centres** | 1) Implementation of the adopted SOPs: |  |
| 1. Develop a template for the Collaborating Centres for the report of their assessment of their performance in the past 5-years to be compared with their initial 5-year work plan
 | Accomplished |
| 1. Send the 5-year working plan evaluation template to the appropriate Collaborating Centres
 | July 2024 |
| 2) Evaluate the feedback from those Centres that completed 5 years and assess the current relevance of the scope of their activities for renewal | February 2025 |
|  | 3) Increase visibility of current Centres: ask to submit maximum of 5 bullet points to be added to their website entry under the title “How can we help?” | For September 2024 |
|  | 4) Explore mechanisms to improve collaboration by bringing together the Centres with the same main focus area (currently six): involvement of industry or other partners for fundings | On-going |
|  | 5) Develop a questionnaire to gather feedback from the Collaborating Centres on their experiences being a WOAH CC, similar to the one for the Reference Laboratories | September 2024 |
| **Reference Laboratories** | 1) Put under-performing laboratories on watch list and monitor their performance. | On-going |
| 2) Implement the new system for evaluating annual reports and provide list of assigned reports to Commission members | Accomplished |
| 3) Send feedback to the Reference Laboratory network on the questionnaire | Accomplished |
| 4) Explore enhancements to the annual report process: the possibility of filling in the annual report template throughout the year | May 2024 |
| **Reference Centre Networks** | 1) Follow up with the three Reference Laboratory networks (ASF, PPR and rabies)  | On-going |
| **Standardisation/Harmonisation** | 1) Project to extend the list of WOAH-approved reference reagents |  |
| a) Ask the other networks if they accept the minimum standards document proposed by PPR network. Once finalised, upload the document for implementation  | For September 2024 |
| 2) Project to develop Replacement International Standard Bovine and Avian Tuberculin: finalise report and propose for adoption | On-going  |
| ***Ad hoc* Groups** | 1) *Ad hoc* Group on Sustainable Laboratories | On-going |
|  | 2) Contribute on the review on the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 4.7. Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen | On-going |
|  | 3) Contribute to the *Ad hoc* Group on Emerging Diseases and Drivers of Disease Emergence in Animals | On-going |
| **Projects** | 1) Veterinary Biobanking (project) | On-going  |
| **Conferences, Workshops and Meetings with participation by BSC Members** | 1) Biosafety research roadmap  | Accomplished  |
| 2) ISWAVLD WOAH Seminar: develop a theme and programme and speakers. June 2025 in Canada | September 2024 |
| **Performance** | 1) Engage with the ongoing processes around performance issues with Reference Laboratories | On-going |
| **Develop laboratory standards for emerging diseases** | 1) Discuss the *Terrestrial Code* chapter once adopted and consider introducing a corresponding chapter for the *Terrestrial Manual* | After May 2024 |
| **Case definitions** | 1) Follow up the implementation of the SOPs for case definitions | On-going |

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