CaribVET charter, a tool for institutionalization and sustainability of a regional animal health network.

Thierry Lefrançois,
J Pradel, M Petit-Sinturel, L Bournez, J Shaw, M Kalloo, V Gongora
CaribVET Coordination unit and CIRAD Guadeloupe UMR CIRAD INRA CMAEE « Control of exotic and emerging animal diseases »
USDA-APHIS-IS Dominican Republic, CARICOM Secretariat Guyana, Veterinary Services, Belize, CaribVET chair
The Caribbean a challenging environment?
YES: a complex region at risk for emerging diseases

- **Spread & diverse territories**: 32 territories!
  - 4 languages
  - Different political status
  - Several non OIE members
  - Heterogeneous development level
    - poor sanitary condition & migration

- **Animal productions**
  - Many livestock owners, not farmers
  - Backyard production

- **Human, animals & products movements**
  - Legal and illegal
  - Bird migration

- **Adverse environment**
  - Natural disasters
    - hurricane, earthquake, flooding
  - Habitat fragmentation

**Sources:**
- Global trends in emerging infectious diseases,
The Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET) : a regional approach to manage/mitigate these risks

- Detecting and responding to emerging diseases is challenging
  - Drivers of emergence & spread result from complex interactions
  - Need to combine research-surveillance

- Objectives
  - Structure, reinforce and harmonize national surveillance networks;
  - Improve and harmonize the control of animal diseases and implement an early alert system;
  - Reinforce the technical skills and support the development of tools necessary for surveillance and control including diagnosis capacity;
  - Improve the knowledge on animal diseases and their distribution.

- CaribVET is a collaboration network involving:
  - Veterinary services
  - Laboratories
  - Research institutes
  - Regional/international organizations

Regional approach = effectiveness, harmonization, coordination, sharing & reciprocal trust = regional strategy

Improve animal and veterinary public health in all the countries & territories of the Caribbean
Building and strengthening of CaribVET

- **Mature network**
  - 32 territories (Dutch & US territories included)
  - Charter development
  - Cooperation agreement with OIE

- **Adoption of CaribVET**
  - Adoption by 20 CVOs and international organizations
  - Political adoption by CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED)

- **Development of CaribVET**
  - Technical activities (West Nile, AI, CSF…)
  - Trainings and meetings in epidemiology

- **Origin of CaribVET**
  - Technical projects involving some countries:
    - Caribbean Amblyomma Programme (CAP territories)
    - CSF Control (Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic)
  - Sanitary crisis: CSF reintroduction in Hispaniola
Charter implementation: main steps for institutionalization

- **Development** by the Coordination unit & chair (2009-2010)

- Presentation of the draft charter to 5th SC meeting (May 2010) and adoption

- Review, validation and endorsement by SC members May-December 2010

- Last update and translation into Spanish and French March 2011
CaribVET Charter: content

- **Definition & objectives** including relation with national networks
- **Organization**
  - Steering committee
    - Composition, role, meeting
    - Chair: election, terms of reference
  - Coordination unit
    - Composition, role, meetings
  - Working groups
    - Objectives, organization, functioning, evolution
    - Terms of references for transversal and disease specific working groups
- **Data exchange and property**
- **Communication (internal, external)**
- **Funding (past and current)**
Global organization of CaribVET: structured network

Central decisions

Activities Coordination

6 Working groups

Steering committee

- Every CVO of the 32 Caribbean countries/territories
- Representatives of:
  - Regional/international organizations,
  - Research institutes & universities
  - Donor agencies operating in the Caribbean

CARICOM, CIRAD, USDA, FAO, OIE, IICA, PAHO, UG, UWI and CENSA

WG : Working Group
Activities of CaribVET

CAPACITY BUILDING

Research & expertise (technical WG & research institutes):
Surveys design, disease modeling

Disease knowledge

Diagnostic capabilities
Interlaboratory assays
Assurance quality
Regional laboratories with research capacities

CaribVET Steering Committee:
countries & organizations
Sustained collaboration
Regional strategy
Structured collaboration

Improve regional surveillance & control of animal diseases

Surveillance protocols
Risk assessment

Evaluation of surveillance systems
Surveillance Network Assessment Tool (SNAT)

Data flow
Databases
 Syndromic surveillance
Disease specific

Sharing of information
Reporting
www.caribvet.net

Disease priorization,
Risk assessment (AI and fighting cocks, Teschen, FMD...)
Regional RA framework
CaribVET: data and information exchanges

- www.caribvet.net
  - Internal and external communication
  - Clear responsibilities regarding health data: CVO, OIE
  - Host surveillance databases (TickINFO, Declavet)

Definition and objectives
Thu, 01/20/2011 - 19:09 — Anonyme

The Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET) is a collaboration network involving veterinary services, laboratories, research institutes, and regional / international organizations to improve animal and veterinary public health in all the countries and/or territories of the Caribbean. The global objective of the regional network is to improve the regional sanitary situation and to contribute to the harmonization and reinforcement of animal diseases surveillance and control activities in the Caribbean in order to promote commercial exchanges in the area and human health.
Evolution of CaribVET charter

- **Composition of the network**
  - Number and names of SC members
  - Names of the Chair and Co-chair of CaribVET
  - Composition of the:
    - Working groups (WG)
    - Coordination unit

- **Funding of the network due to evolve**
  - CIRAD, Ministry of Foreign affairs, Europe (Interreg IV Caraïbe), USDA-APHIS-IS, USDA-FAS, FAO

- **Activities & number and names of the WG will evolve according to sanitary issues in the region and prioritization**
  - yearly update

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**Annex 1**

CaribVET organization in 2009 - 2010

**Chairs of CaribVET**
The current chair of CaribVET is Victor Gongora (Belize). He was elected in 2010 for a two year period. The current Co-Chair is Jorge-Luis Milian Darias (Cuba) and was elected in 2010 for 2 years.

**Coordination Unit of CaribVET**
In 2010, the coordination unit is composed of 10 people. Mail: coordination-unit@caribvet.net

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Function</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOURNÉZ Laure</td>
<td>Guadeloupe</td>
<td>CIRAD</td>
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<td>GONGORA Victor</td>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>Chair</td>
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<td>KALLOQ Margaret</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
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<td>MILIAN DARIAS Jorge Luis</td>
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<td>RAEBER Aurelie</td>
<td>Guadeloupe</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHAW John</td>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>USDA</td>
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**Composition of the working groups (as of March 2011)**

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<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
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<th>Function</th>
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<tr>
<td>HERBERT-HACKshaw Kathleen</td>
<td>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
<td>Veterinary Services (CVO)</td>
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<td>JOHNSON Cynthia</td>
<td>USDA-APHIS, USA</td>
<td>Epidemiologist expert</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEFRANÇOIS Thierry</td>
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<td>LOPEZ Juan-Francisco</td>
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<td>PARRIS-AARON Maxine</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>ICA</td>
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<td>PERCE1DO ABREU Maria-Hiran</td>
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<td>TITUS Simone</td>
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<td>University of West Indies</td>
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<td>TROTMAN Mark</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZEPEDA Cristóbal</td>
<td>USDA-APHIS, USA</td>
<td>Epidemiologist expert</td>
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Role of the charter

- Provides a clear and transparent document to all the members and facilitates the understanding and the adoption of the objectives and operations of the network.

- Increases trust between members and prevent conflict (memberships, responsibilities and data properties).

- Facilitates collaborations with partners and regional and international organizations and avoids duplication of technical activities in the region.

- Facilitates political support
  - For decision makers in the countries / territories
  - For funding agencies to promote the network and its sustainable funding.
CaribVET Charter: key element for sustainability

- **Gives a quasi-legal status to CaribVET**
  - Definition, terms of references, objectives, membership, chairmanship
  - Organizational structure, operational procedures,

- **What Next?**
  - Charter basis for legal status = adoption by Ministry of Foreign affairs for better implementation of recommendations
  - Cooperation agreements with international organizations
  - CaribVET to host more projects and funding from different sources
  - Funding by country members at least for the Steering committee meeting
Human challenge: scientists and decision makers
Many thanks

Coordination unit: CIRAD Guadeloupe team + chair & co-chair CaribVET, + chairs of the working groups + USDA + CARICOM

Caribbean CVOs + members of the WG

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<td>Turks and Caicos Island</td>
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<td>Grenada</td>
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