



Consultation Meeting for Operationalizing a One Health Approach for Vector-Borne Diseases in the Context of Climate Change

17-18 December 2019

Mikhael's Hotel, Rue de Pavie, Brazzaville 14507
Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo

Background and Rationale

Human health is intimately linked to the state of the environment, including the effects of climate change. At the recent Implementation Research Scientific Working Group meeting (SWG), the expert-members noted the importance of the interrelationship between health and climate and acknowledged that research in this area remains highly topical albeit the completion of the TDR IDRC Research Initiative on Vector Borne Diseases (VBDs) and Climate Change. The SWG further recommended that this work area may be transitioned into a clearly defined future TDR work programme. Thus, this Consultation Meeting is the first step to addressing this recommendation and to explore opportunities for building up a new TDR research initiative the will scale up VBD interventions for increasing resilience to climate change in Africa.

TDR-IDRC Research Initiative on VBDs and Climate Change (2012-2017). The recently concluded TDR IDRC Research Initiative on VBDs and Climate Change was centred on a particular health threat, VBDs (namely, malaria, Rift Valley fever, African trypanosomiasis and schistosomiasis), in the broader development context of human vulnerability to climate change in Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mauritania, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The overall goal of this research initiative was to generate new knowledge and evidence for the development of innovative strategies to reduce VBD-related human vulnerability and to increase resilience of African populations to VBD-related health threats from climate change. It is anticipated that the new knowledge, tools, research capacity, collaboration and policy advice products will be valuable to vulnerable populations in the dryland and Sahelian areas of Africa.

Translation of the new knowledge, evidence and tools from the TDR IDRC Research Initiative into policy and practice, leading to the design of prevention and preparedness response strategies against VBD threats linked to climate change is imperative. It is likewise important to identify and systematize the metrics necessary to assess the public health efficiency and

cost effectiveness of the implementation of such intervention for a better understanding of the outcomes and benefits to humans and animal health as well as to ecosystems.

Strategic Action Plan to Scale Up Health and Environment Interventions in Africa (2019-2029). In a parallel development, WHO Member States in Africa have acknowledged the linkage between health and environment and have committed to promote an integrated approach to addressing priorities and challenges concerning health and the environment. By adopting the 2008 Libreville Declaration, and the 2012 Luanda Commitment, Ministers in both the health and environment sectors have committed to multisectoral joint actions to implement country-specific National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) through the Health and Environment Strategic Alliance (HESA) in the respective countries and the establishment of country task teams. This commitment was further confirmed through the recently signed Libreville Strategic Plan of Action to scale up health and environment interventions in Africa for 2019-2029, which is focused on addressing the environmental determinants of human health and ecosystems integrity; and envisioned to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the 2016 Marrakesh Ministerial Declaration on Health and Environment and Climate Change and the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The One Health Approach. One of the approaches that has been proven to be valuable in the implementation of joint interventions on health and environment is the One Health (OH) approach, which ensures that human and animal health, and environmental integrity concerns are addressed in an integrated, multisectoral and holistic manner, and to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the problems and potential solutions than would not be possible with siloed approaches by the stakeholders concerned (researchers, public health practitioners, environment, agricultural sectors, communities and other relevant partners). At the same time, the OH approach is quite complex, making its practical implementation and operationalization not straightforward, and thus, the stakeholders concerned will benefit from capacity building on the One Health approach to build resilience against VBDs under climate change conditions.

Objectives and expected outcomes

The principal goal of this Consultation Meeting, therefore, is to identify research gaps and capacity building needs for operationalizing and implementing a One Health approach, embedded into the HESA and the country task teams, to enable African countries to manage the impact of VBDs in the context of climate change. This meeting will also provide the venue to explore opportunities for resource mobilization (both technical and financial) for research using a transdisciplinary OH approach.

It is anticipated that deliverables/products resulting from this Consultation Meeting will inform the framing of a proposed new TDR Expected Result (ER 1.3.3: Operationalizing a One Health approach for VBDs and Climate Change). In addition, it will also form the basis for a new TDR call for research proposals that will facilitate increased integrated coverage of health, agricultural and environment interventions for primary prevention of VBDs while integrating ecosystems preservation in Africa.

General objective

To identify research gaps and capacity building needs for operationalizing and implementing a One Health approach

Specific objectives

- a. To present a synthesis report on the outcomes and outputs from the TDR IDRC Research Initiative and an analysis of how the research products can be aligned with the implementation of the 2019-2029 strategic plan of action
- b. To discuss a draft plan that will guide the implementation of the One Health approach. This will include the following:
 - Research and capacity building needs, key result areas, deliverables and indicators
 - Resources framework
 - Metrics-based assessment (including the use of a scorecard) of the One Health approach

A. Expected outcomes

It is anticipated that at the end of the Research Uptake Meeting, the participants will have:

- a. Agreed on a list of research and capacity building priority needs for operationalizing a One Health approach for VBDs in the context of climate change
- b. Provided input to the draft plan for One Health

Structure of the meeting and method of work

During this 2-day meeting, the participants will be engaged in active discussions around the draft plan for Operationalizing the One Health approach.

In advance of the meeting, background documents including a copy of the draft plan, will be sent to the participants. The actual consultation meeting will be an opportunity for researchers, policy makers, development partners, and other stakeholders, to engage in discussions on moving forward with the implementation of joint health and environment interventions in Africa.

Participants (35 participants)

- Country delegations from Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and Zimbabwe – from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment

- Researchers – research team leaders from the 5 projects under the TDR IDRC Research Initiative on VBDs and Climate Change
- Partners – WHO (PHE, TDR, AFRO), UNEP, IDRC, Mérieux Foundation, WMO, Wellcome Trust, UNDP-Africa, FAO-Africa, OIE
- TDR Scientific Working Group
- TDR Consultants

Working Language

The conference will be conducted in English.

Venue of the meeting

The Nelson Mandela Meeting Room at Mikhael’s Hotel & Residence, Rue de Pavie, Brazzaville 14507, Republic of the Congo

Meeting Co-Organizers:

This meeting is made possible through the support from the following partners:

	<p>The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland https://www.who.int/tdr/en/</p>
	<p>Mérieux Foundation, 17 rue Bourgelat 69002 Lyon, France https://www.fondation-merieux.org/</p>
	<p>World Health Organization – Regional Office for Africa https://www.afro.who.int/</p>

DRAFT AGENDA

Consultation Meeting for Operationalizing a One Health Approach for Vector-Borne Diseases in the Context of Climate Change

**The Nelson Mandela Meeting Room
Mikhael's Hotel, Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo**

Day 1 – Tuesday, 17 December 2019

Time	Topic	
08.00 – 08.30	Registration of participants <i>(Registration desk, Lobby of Mikhael's Hotel)</i>	
08.30 – 09.10	Welcome and introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome messages • Opening remarks • Introductions • Meeting objectives/expected outcomes • Admin announcements + security briefing 	Lucien Manga , WHO Representative, Congo Valentina Picot , Mérieux Foundation Mario Henry Rodriguez-Lopez , National Institute of Public Health and SWG-TDR (Meeting Chair) Bernadette Ramirez , WHO TDR Security Officer , AFRO
09.10-10.30 (20-min presentation, 1-hr discussion)	Presentation 1 Overview of the Strategic Action Plan to Scale Up Health and Environment Interventions in Africa (2019-2029)	Guy Mbayo , Protection of the Human Environment, AFRO
	Open Discussion	<i>Moderated by:</i> Pierre Quiblier , UN Environment Programme
10.30-11.00	Coffee/Tea (Lebanese Restaurant)	
11.00-12.30 (20 min presentation, 1-hr/10min discussion)	Presentation 2 An analysis of how the research products from the TDR IDRC Research Initiative can be aligned with the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan 2019-2029	Bruce Wilcox , GHGI
	Feedback / Open Discussion	<i>Moderated by:</i> Carsten Richter , GHGI

12.30-14.00	Lunch (<i>Lebanese Restaurant</i>)	
14.00-16.30 (20 min presentation, 1-hr/10min discussion)	Presentation 3 Draft plan for Operationalizing a One Health Approach for Vector-borne Diseases in the context of Climate Change	Carsten Richter, GHGI
	Feedback / Open Discussion	<i>Moderated by:</i> Bruce Wilcox, GHGI
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee / Tea (<i>Lebanese Restaurant</i>)	
16.30 – 17.00	Recap of Day 1	<i>Led by:</i> Mario Henry Rodriguez Lopez

Day 2 – Wednesday, 18 December 2019		
Time	Topic	
09.00 – 11.30	Workshop: Specific feedback / input from researchers, multisectoral stakeholders, partners Groups 1, 2, 3, 4	<i>To be led by:</i> Bruce Wilcox and Carsten Richter
11.30-12.30	Report from the Groups	Group rapporteurs
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee (<i>Lebanese Restaurant</i>)	
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch (<i>Lebanese Restaurant</i>)	
14.00 – 15.30	More discussions on specific feedback/input from researchers, multisectoral stakeholders and partners	
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee (<i>Lebanese Restaurant</i>)	
16.00 – 17.00	Recommendations Way forward and next steps	Mario Henry Rodriguez Lopez (Assisted by Bruce Wilcox and Carsten Richter)
17.00 – 17.10	Closing Message	Guy Mbayo, AFRO