



Caribbean Animal Health Network

Charter

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Acronyms

APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services
CAHFSA	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
CAFP	Caribbean Agriculture & Fisheries Programme
CAP	Caribbean Amblyomma Programme
CAREC	Caribbean Epidemiology Centre
CaribVET	Caribbean Animal Health network
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CDERA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency
CIRAD	Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
CPA	Caribbean Poultry Association
CSF	Classical Swine Fever
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCR	Fond de Coopération Régionale
FIC	French Cooperation Fund
FSP	Fond de Solidarité Prioritaire
GIS	Geographic Information System
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
LAVECEN	Laboratorio veterinario central
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NVSL	National Veterinary Services Laboratories
OIE	Animal World Health Organization
OIRSA	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
SNAT	Surveillance Network Assessment Tool
TAD	Transboundary Animal Diseases
TBD	Tick Borne Diseases
TBT	Tropical Bont Tick
UG	University of Guyana
USDA	United State Department of Agriculture
USVI	United States Virgin Islands
UWI	University of West Indies
VEP	Veterinary Epidemiologist and Paraepidemiologist

A) General information

1. Definition and objectives of CaribVET

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

The specific objectives are to:

- Support the development of a regional strategy as regards animal health and to contribute to maintain and improve the effectiveness and competitiveness of animal productions in the Caribbean countries;
- Contribute to the structuring, the reinforcement and the harmonization of the national surveillance networks of animal diseases, including zoonoses and emerging diseases, in order to facilitate their conformity with international standards;
- Improve and harmonize the control of animal diseases and implement an early alert system;
- Reinforce the technical skills of the main actors and support the development of tools necessary for surveillance and control of animal diseases in the region including diagnosis capacity;
- Improve the knowledge on animal diseases and their distribution.

2. Global organization of CaribVET

Members of CaribVET are individuals in the Caribbean working in the field of animal health.

According to his/her competences, any individual working in the field of epidemiology or animal health outside the Caribbean and who is interested in the regional network can participate in the activities as a **collaborator** of CaribVET.

A design incorporating common structures for decision-making, coordination and collaboration was chosen to reinforce the coherence, effectiveness and sustainability of CaribVET. The organizational structure of CaribVET includes:

- A Steering Committee composed of Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) of participating Caribbean countries/territories and representatives of regional/international organizations, research institutes and universities;
- A Coordination Unit comprising the chairperson and co-chair of CaribVET, CIRAD Guadeloupe, USDA/APHIS/IS (DR office) and the CARICOM Secretariat and other regional and international agencies as required or deemed necessary;

- Technical working groups that are both disease specific: “Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease”, “Swine diseases”, “Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases”, “Salmonellosis”; “Rabies”; and transversal: “Epidemiology” and “Laboratory quality assurance and diagnosis” (see Annex 1).

3. Organogram of CaribVET

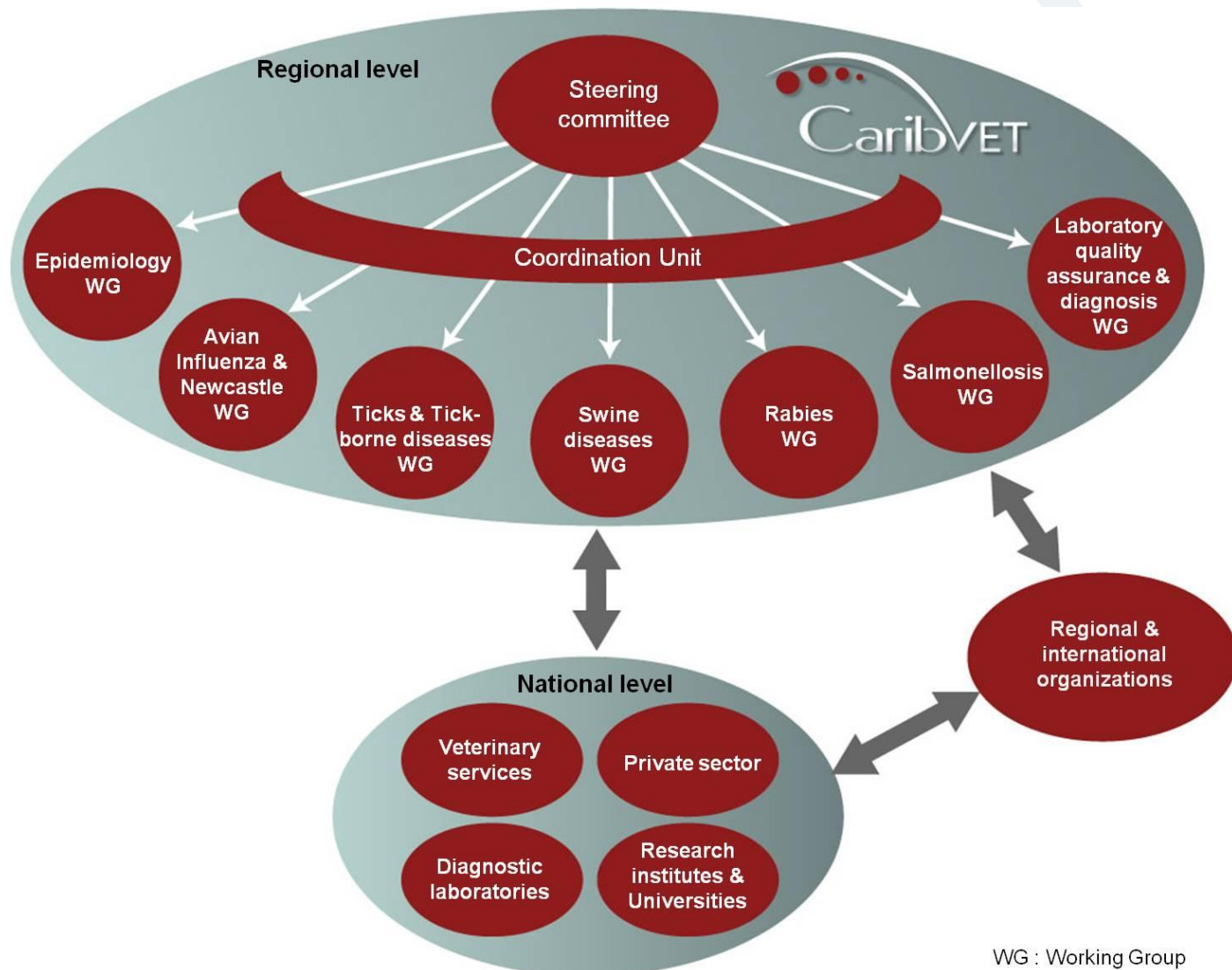


FIGURE 1 – Organogram of CaribVET

4. Relationships between national networks and CaribVET

Each national surveillance network has its own organization and structure and is under the full and entire responsibility of their national institutions.

The regional network does not have any hierarchical or technical competence on the operation of these networks. National networks will benefit from the services and support such as training, data exchanges, technical protocols, expertise, etc. provided by the regional CaribVET network.

Furthermore, the final objective is that countries/territories assume the ownership of the regional surveillance for the sustainability of CaribVET.

5. Data exchange and property

Sanitary data and information are the property of the CVO of the country they originate from.

The regional network is dedicated to exchange and communicate data and information for national networks' benefit.

The regional network CaribVET does not substitute itself to the Animal World Health Organization (OIE). CaribVET does not intend to declare diseases in the Caribbean. The declaration of notifiable animal diseases to OIE is a country's official responsibility and the CVOs of each country can only be encouraged by CaribVET to comply with their international obligations.

6. Communication

Internal communication

Communication between members of the regional network is a key element to meet the objectives of CaribVET. The organization of meetings, training sessions and missions of expertise are the main communication tools used by the partners of CaribVET. Moreover, the Coordination Unit ensures the circulation of information within the network partners.

Furthermore, the CaribVET interactive and participative website (<http://www.caribvet.net>) represents the major tool for partners to exchange information and data. The website gathers information dealing with countries (health news, OIE health standards, veterinary legislation...); diseases circulating in the region (monograph, geographical distribution, regional activities...); minutes of the activities of the network (working groups meetings, training sessions, congress...) and laboratories (listing of the Caribbean laboratories, diagnosis activities, location...).

Information can be posted on the website by partners of the network. In order to guarantee the confidentiality and reliability of information, only CVOs or someone designed by the CVO can add sanitary information dealing with their country on the website.

A forum with access restricted to members of CaribVET enables them to post any relevant information or ask questions. An electronic bulletin of information coordinated by the Coordination Unit is edited regularly and is accessible upon subscription. Finally, subscribers can be frequently informed of any updated event or health alert posted on the website by using RSS feed.

External communication

The www.caribvet.net website represents also the main external communication tool of the regional network. Visitors can access most of the website content including health news, diseases, livestock and minutes of CaribVET activities. For better diffusion of information, the site is entirely translated into three languages most spoken in the Caribbean region: French, English and Spanish.

Members of CaribVET participate regularly in international and/or regional meetings in order to introduce their activities to the scientific community.

7. Funding

The regional network has been built up and developed since 1995 thanks to several projects: Caribbean Amblyomma Programme (CAP) (FAO, USDA) which started interactions among Caribbean

countries for the eradication of the tropical bont tick; the FIC project (CIRAD-IICA, funded by the French MoFA) (1998-2000) which allowed evaluating veterinary diagnosis capacities in the Caribbean and paved the way for a regional network in epidemiology; FCR on CSF, West Nile and avian influenza (CIRAD, funded by Guadeloupe), CAFP (Caribbean Agriculture & Fisheries Programme) which developed regional activities especially on ticks and CSF (funded by EU); and FSP programme (CIRAD-funded by the French MoFA) (2005-2009) that enabled harmonization of epidemiological surveillance animal health surveillance.

In 2010-2011, the activities of the network are funded by several projects: Interreg IV Caraïbes CaribVET (funded by CIRAD, Europe and Guadeloupe region), the VEP Project (funded by USDA and organization/institutions: CIRAD, USDA). The Interreg IV Caraïbes (see Annex 2) project aims at reinforcing the Caribbean animal health network CaribVET and harmonizing the national surveillance systems of animal diseases. The VEP project (see Annex 2), funded by the USDA aims at creating, strengthening and maintaining coordinated and harmonized national activities.

Caribbean countries also fully support and participate in CaribVET activities and meetings.

B) CaribVET steering committee

1. Composition

The Steering Committee comprises every CVO of the Caribbean countries/territories (*see details in the following paragraph and Fig. 2*) and the representatives of regional/international organizations, research institutes and universities and donor agencies operating in the Caribbean: CARICOM, CIRAD, USDA, FAO, OIE, IICA, PAHO, UG, UWI and CENSA.

CVOs of the 31 countries and territories belong to:

- CARICOM countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago (15);
- CARICOM Associate Members : Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Turk and Caicos (5);
- Non CARICOM countries/territories:
 - Cuba, Dominican Republic (2)
 - American territories: Puerto Rico, U.S Virgin islands (USVI) (2)
 - French territories: Guadeloupe, French Guyana, Martinique (3)
 - Dutch speaking countries: Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, St Maarten (4)

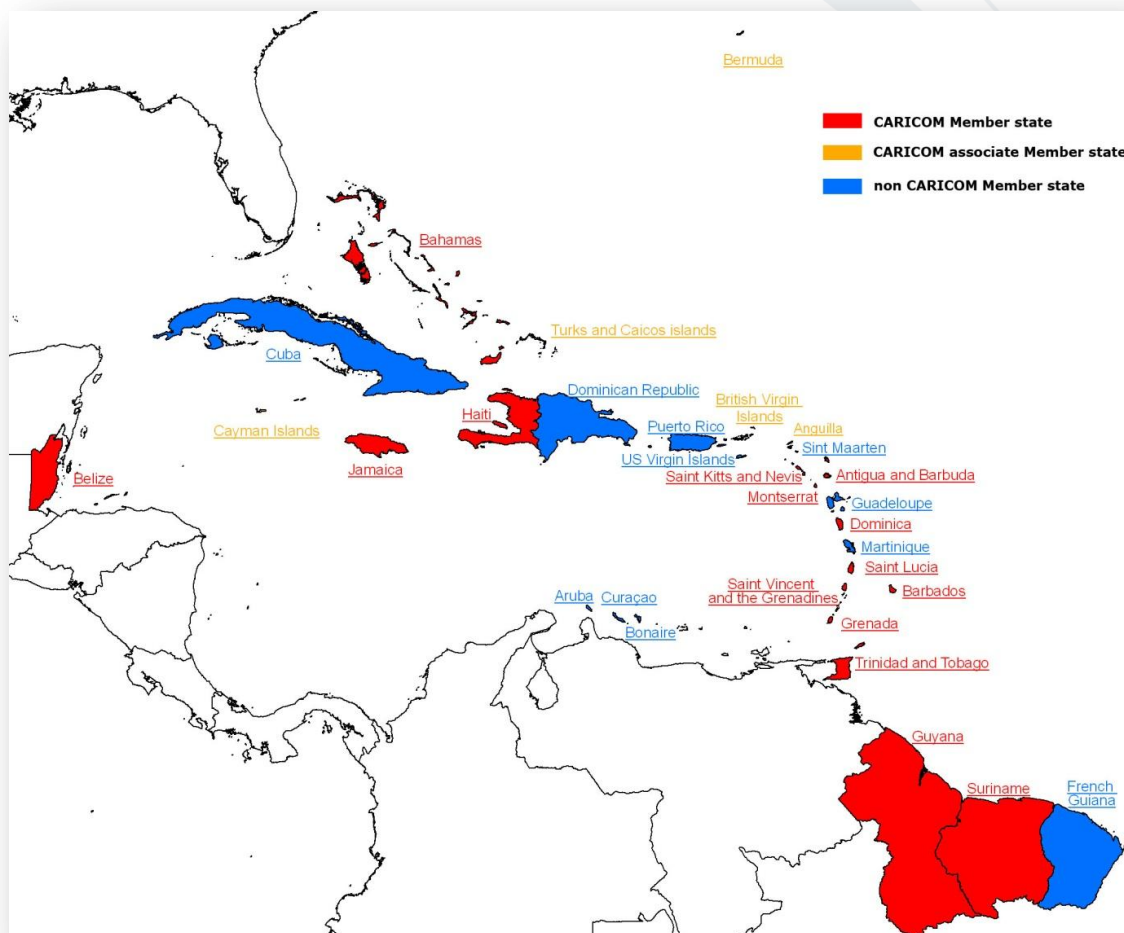


FIGURE 2 – Countries and territories members of the CaribVET network

2. Role

The objectives of the Steering Committee are to:

- Determine the main orientations of CaribVET and the list of regional priority diseases;
- Lay down general orientations regarding the network by defining regional strategies and priority actions concerning animal diseases surveillance and, possibly, control (eradication, emergency preparedness); make recommendations on regional strategy for safeguarding animal health; make recommendations for strengthening national and regional surveillance and response mechanisms and systems;
- Periodic assessment towards the usefulness and relevance of the organization of CaribVET in meeting the animal health surveillance needs of the Caribbean Countries (listing and activities of the working groups, extension of the regional network, etc.).

3. Meeting

The members of the Steering Committee meet once a year, preferably during the week of the CARICOM CVOs' annual meeting organized by the CARICOM. If members are not available, they must inform in writing to the Chairperson of CaribVET, of their official representative to deputize them, their country, or organization at the meeting of the Steering Committee.

The main objective of the meeting is to give a progress report to Caribbean countries on the activities of CaribVET during the past year, and to consider current issues with a view to determine general orientations regarding future and continuing activities of the Network.

The Steering Committee also works out proposals regarding the activities of working groups during allotted time for each leader of working group to wrap up the activities of the year. During the last day of the Steering Committee, draft recommendations are reviewed. They are then circulated through the members of the Steering Committee after the meeting for final validation. For CARICOM countries the recommendations of the CaribVET Steering Committee Meeting of the Network are further discussed in the Meeting of the CARICOM Chief Veterinary Officers Meetings towards advising the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED), a Policy Making Organ of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

If necessary and upon request from CaribVET members, a decision can be taken by vote. Each member of the Steering Committee has only one vote.

4. Chairs of CaribVET

The Chair and Co-Chair of CaribVET are elected by the Steering Committee from among the country/territory official representatives at the Steering Committee (CVOs). The CVO can nominate someone from his country to chair if he/she cannot do it himself/herself for a period of 2 years. Each member of the Steering Committee has one vote. It has been agreed that organizations will not chair or co-chair CaribVET.

The Chair and Co-Chair are elected for a two-year period. At the end of the term of their office, they can be reelected.

For a better balance, it is accepted that if the Chair is a CARICOM country, then the Co-chair should be a Non-CARICOM country and vice-versa, if possible.

Where the person holding the post of chair vacates the post of CVO, the co-chair takes over. In extraordinary circumstances, the Steering Committee will decide within 3 weeks on chairmanship until the next Steering Committee annual meeting. In this event, the Coordination Unit shall ensure that this process is completed in the specified timeframe. Where the person holding the post of co-chair vacates the post of CVO, the chair shall determine who shall serve until the next Steering Committee meeting (same regulation than for election) and so inform the Coordinating Unit. During the following meeting, the CaribVET Steering Committee decides to elect a new chair/co-chair or lets him/her finish the two-year term, if there is one year still remaining.

Terms of reference of the Chair and Co-Chair of CaribVET (not comprehensive):

The Chair:

- Represents the network at the international level and introduce and report the regional activities through oral presentations and papers;
- Advocates and assists in sourcing financial and technical assistance to support the network;
- Assist in preparing projects or documents in support of seeking support for network;
- Chairs the Steering Committee meeting;

- Assists in the planning and organization of the Steering Committee meetings;
- Assists in coordinating the activities of the working groups and of the regional network;
- Generates the preparation of technical papers and reports for CaribVET;
- Receives and coordinates the delivery of SNAT reports;
- Provides guidance on issues related to the coordination of CaribVET and of the working groups;
- Makes recommendations regarding the guiding principles of the CaribVET and of the working groups.
- Oversees the activities of the network in keeping with the guiding principles;
- Advises on the formulation of programs and projects for the network.

The Co-chair:

- The Co-chair assists the Chair in his tasks and can be designated to represent the Chair.

C) Coordination Unit

1. Composition

The Coordination Unit comprises Caribbean experts in epidemiology, in animal health and in management in the Caribbean region. Thanks to the technical and scientific expertise of its members, the Coordination Unit supports different projects and protocols development within working groups.

The Coordination Unit is composed of the chairperson and co-chair of CaribVET, CIRAD Guadeloupe, USDA-APHIS-IS (DR office) and the CARICOM Secretariat. Other agencies may be incorporated from time to time as deemed necessary.

It works in close relation with the leader of the working groups and with funding institutions. Any expert (or institution) in animal health having a major role in CaribVET network can join the Coordination Unit, after validation by the Steering Committee.

The Coordination Unit should meet once a year for a better coordination of the activities. The Coordination Unit will also meet as needed with the chairpersons of the technical working groups.

2. Role

The main objective of the Coordination Unit is to ensure the success of the regional network. More particularly, it:

- Maintains the link between members and collaborators of CaribVET;
- Facilitates the implementation of different projects and activities conducted by CaribVET;
- Ensures regularly the effective operation of the working groups;
- Organizes CaribVET meetings;
- Centralizes information (protocols, meetings, congress...) and shares them with the members and collaborators of CaribVET, mainly through the CaribVET website. Especially, the Coordination Unit:
 - Manages the CaribVET website and the CaribVET forum;

- Coordinates and sends information bulletin and information about CaribVET's website to members of CaribVET and to subscribers.
- Works on the preparation of new projects and funding;
- Conducts external communication on CaribVET through regional and international events and meetings;
- Conducts research activities for the benefit of the network.

D) CaribVET working groups

1. General organization and rules of working groups

Objectives

Working groups gathers Caribbean specialists who have recognized competence and/or experience in the thematic targeted by the network. Terms of reference are assigned to each working group.

Each working group carries out specific activities that can be requested by the Steering Committee through its recommendations. Activities conducted or foreseen by the group are then reported to the Steering Committee and proposed for comments and adoption.

Working groups can request specific information or data from CaribVET member countries if they are necessary to conduct their activities. The chair of CaribVET can assist the working groups in getting information and data.

Organization

A **leader** is nominated in each working group. He/she can be designated during the annual Steering Committee meeting or during a meeting of the working group. If there is any conflict dealing with the designation of the leader, the Steering Committee will make the final decision. The group leader is in charge of the coordination, the follow-up processes and the report of the activities of its group to the annual Steering Committee.

Members of working groups are people working in the Caribbean with specific skills dealing with the thematic targeted by the group. Working group leaders can invite external **observers** to their meetings, according to their skills and their experience. The observers can be solicited to participate in working group activities.

The list of the members of a working group can be modified continuously by the chair. For better efficiency, the number of permanent members in a working group should be ideally limited to 10-12 persons.

Functioning

Throughout the year, members of the working groups collaborate, communicate and exchange data and information by using the Internet (diffusion listing, e-mails) and the CaribVET website (forum on <http://www.caribvet.net>). Generally, they meet once a year. There should be at least two Reports of the working groups per year. One report per working group meeting and the last one should be submitted to the Coordination Unit at least one month in advance of the Steering Committee meeting in the required

format for incorporation into the documents for said Meeting. The Chair of each working group is responsible for the coordination and production of such reports of the working group.

Working groups evolution

The Steering Committee is responsible for the definition of the list of regional priority diseases and associated working group.

This list of regional priority diseases can evolve according to the sanitary and socio-economical situation. More especially, if an animal disease or zoonosis emerges in any country or territory of the Caribbean, an existing working group can choose to include this new topic in their activities according to its members' skills. The Steering Committee can validate this activity or decide to create a new working group.

2. Terms of reference

a) Working groups with transversal activities

Epidemiology working group

The Epidemiology working group contributes to the development of harmonized procedures for epidemiological surveillance networks. For this, Epidemiology working group:

- Assesses and supports epidemiological surveillance networks in the region;
- Develops risk analysis for the region;
- Defines criteria for priority diseases. Supports:
 - The development of the CaribVET website, of regional databases and of national Geographic Information Systems (GIS) projects;
 - Epidemiology projects implemented in the region;
- Develops and validates tools used by CaribVET members.

Laboratory quality assurance and diagnosis working group

The Laboratory quality assurance and diagnosis working group contributes to the improvement of diagnostic capacities in the Caribbean and to the development of the principles of laboratory quality assurance in the region. For this, it:

- Helps in implementing quality assurance in the Caribbean laboratories (training expertise)
- Helps in organizing inter-laboratory assays;
- Participates in the evaluation of the laboratory diagnostic capacities in the region and provide guidance for their improvement.

b) Diseases specific working groups

Five disease-specific working groups were created: "Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases", "Swine diseases " and "Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease" (first meetings of these 3 groups in 2009), Salmonellosis (first meeting in 2010) and Rabies (no meeting organized yet).

Each disease-specific working group shares similar general objectives, which are to:

- Provide a regional expertise on the disease they deal with;

- Work out harmonized regional disease surveillance and control protocols and strategies;
- Settle regional communication system or data management;
- Improve diagnosis capacities (training, inter-laboratories assays);
- Define regional emergency plans, etc.

3. Composition

See Annex N°1

CaribVET organization in 2009 - 2010

Chairs of CaribVET

The current chair of CaribVET is Victor Gongora (Belize). He was elected in 2009 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 persons. Mail: coordination-unit@caribvet.net

Name	Country	Function
BOURNEZ Laure	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
GONGORA Victor	Belize	CHAIR
KALLOO Margaret	Guyana	CARICOM secretariat
LEFRANCOIS Thierry	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
MILIAN DARIAS Jorge Luis	Cuba	CO-CHAIR
MORALES Paula	Dominican Republic	USDA
PETIT-SINTUREL Marion	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
PRADEL Jennifer	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
RAER Aurélie	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
SHAW John	Dominican Republic	USDA

Composition of the working groups (as of March 2011)

Epidemiology working group

Chair: Kathian HERBERT-HACKSHAW, 19 members. Mail: epidemiology-caribvet@caribvet.net

Name	Country	Function
BOURNEZ Laure	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
DELGADO Amy	USA(Costa Rica)	IICA
DEPAZ Miguel	Belize	Veterinary Services (CVO)
FRÍAS-LEPOUREAU María-Teresa	Cuba	CENSA
GÓMEZ Lissette	Dominican Republic	Veterinary Services
GONGORA Victor	Belize	BPA
GUITIÁN Javier	RVC, England	Epidemiologist expert (occasional member)
HERBERT-HACKSHAW Kathian	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Veterinary Services (CVO)
JOHNSON Cynthia	USDA/APHIS, USA	Epidemiologist expert
LEFRANCOIS Thierry	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
LÓPEZ Juan-Francisco	Dominican Republic	Veterinary Services
PARRIS-AARON Maxine	Guyana	IICA
PERCEDO-ABREU María-Irian	Cuba	CENSA
PHANORD Simeon	Haiti	Veterinary Services
PRADEL Jennifer	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
SANFORD Bryan	Barbados	Veterinary Services
TITUS Simone	Trinidad and Tobago	University of West Indies
TROTMAN Mark	Barbados	Veterinary Services (CVO)
ZEPEDA Cristóbal	USDA/APHIS, USA	Epidemiologist expert

Avian Influenza and Newcastle working group

Chair: Mark TROTMAN, 18 members. Mail: avianflu@caribvet.net

Name	Country	Function
ALI Desmond	Trinidad and Tobago	CPA
BOURNEZ Laure	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
DELGADO Amy	Costa Rica	IICA
DEPAZ Miguel	Belize	Veterinary Services (CVO)
GÓMEZ Dejelia	Dominican Republic	Veterinary Services
GONGORA Victor	Belize	BPA
GOUYET Loïc	Martinique	Veterinary Services
JOSEPH Haim	Haiti	Veterinary Services
HACKSHAW Kathian	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Veterinary Services (CVO)
LAZARUS Cedric	Barbados	FAO
LEFRANCOIS Thierry	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
NHEGNGI Fidelis	USDA/APHIS	USA (occasional member)
PETERS Linnette	Jamaica	Veterinary Public Health
PRADEL Jennifer	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
SANFORD Bryan	Barbados	Veterinary Services
SHAW John	Dominican Republic	USDA/APHIS
TROTMAN Mark	Barbados	Veterinary Services (CVO)
ZAMORA Pastor Alfonso	Cuba	CENSA

Ticks and tick-borne diseases working group

Chair: Thierry LEFRANCOIS, 22 members. Mail: tbt-caribvet@caribvet.net

Name	Country	Function
BARTLETTE-POWELL Patricia	Nevis	Veterinary Services (CVO)
BRADFORD Bethany	St Croix	Veterinary Services (CVO)
BUTCHER Mervyn	St Maarten	Veterinary Services (CVO)
CHALLENGER Tracey	St Kitts	Veterinary Services (CVO)
COMPTON Eden	St Lucia	Veterinary Services
CORONA Belkis	Cuba	CENSA
CORN Joseph	USA (Georgia)	University (occasional member)
DIAZ-COLLAZO Hector	Puerto Rico	Veterinary Services
GERBIER Guillaume	Guadeloupe	Veterinary Services
GOODWIN-DIAZ Zakia	Antigua and Barbuda	Veterinary Services
HACKSHAW Kathian	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Veterinary Services (CVO)
HOLT Thomas	USA (Floride)	Veterinary Services (occasional member)
JOSEPH George	St Lucia	Veterinary Services (CVO)
LEFRANCOIS Thierry	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
MAITLAND Rosina	Barbados	Veterinary Services
PEGRAM Rupert	Antigua and Barbuda	Expert (occasional member)
PELONDE Philippe	Martinique	Farmer association
PRADEL Jennifer	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
SANFORD Bryan	Barbados	Veterinary Services
SIMON Ayanna	St Croix	Veterinary Services
ST. AIMEE Lennox	Dominica	Veterinary Services
THOMAS Reginald	Dominica	Veterinary Services (CVO)

Salmonellosis working group

Chair (until December 2010): Lloyd Webb, 17 members. Mail: salmonellosis-caribvet@caribvet.net

Name	Country	Function
BACCUS-TAYLOR Gail	Trinidad and Tobago	UWI
BISSESSAR Sham	Trinidad and Tobago	Veterinary Public Health
BOURNEZ Laure	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
BROWNE Vaunley	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Animal health laboratory
CHRISTIAN Linroy	Antigua and Barbuda	Veterinary Services
DOOKERAN Mark	Trinidad and Tobago	UWI (occasional member)
DOUGLAS Trevorne	Dominica	Veterinary Services
ELLIS Gillian	Jamaica	Veterinary Services
INDAR Lisa	Trinidad and Tobago	CAREC
JOSEPH George	St Lucia	Veterinary Services (CVO)
PRADEL Jennifer	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
PETERS Linnette	Jamaica	Veterinary Public health
PHILIPPS Robin	Trinidad and Tobago	CPA
RAHAMAN Saed	Trinidad and Tobago	Veterinary Public health
TITUS Simone	Trinidad and Tobago	Veterinary Services (CVO)
VILLOCH-CAMBRA Alejandra	Cuba	Veterinary Services
WHITEHALL Pamela	Barbados	Veterinary Services

Laboratory quality assurance and diagnosis working group

Chair: Cedric LAZARUS, 16 members. Mail: laboratory-caribvet@caribvet.net

Name	Country	Function
ADESIYUN Abyodun	Trinidad and Tobago	UWI
ALAIN LOUIS Michel	Haiti	Laboratory director
ELCOCK David	Barbados	Veterinary Services
FRÍAS-LEPOUREAU Maria- Teresa	Cuba	CENSA
GONGORA Victor	Belize	Belize Poultry Association
GUZMAN Ramon Emilio	Dominican Republic	Laboratory director
KALLOO Margaret	Guyana	CARICOM
LAZARUS Cedric	Barbados	FAO
LEE Elise	St Kitts	Ross University
LEFRANCOIS Thierry	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
MARSDEN Wintorph	Jamaica	Veterinary Services
MARTIN Barbara	USA	USDA/APHIS
MONTOUTE Miguel	St Lucia	Veterinary Laboratory
PRADEL Jennifer	Guadeloupe	Cirad
SUEPAUL Rod	Trinidad and Tobago	Veterinary Laboratory
TREVORNE Douglas	Dominica	Veterinary Laboratory

In addition, the following countries and organizations expressed the will to have a representative from the laboratory in this group: Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago; St. Kitts and Nevis (Ross University); St Lucia; Dominica; Belize; Cuba; Jamaica; CENSA; Grenada (St Georges University); Dominican Republic, UWI, Haiti, PAHO

Swine diseases working group

Chair: María-Teresa FRÍAS LEPOUREAU, 18 members. Mail : csf-caribvet@caribvet.net

Name	Country	Function
ABDIAS DIEUDONNE Jean	Haiti	Veterinary Services
DEL ORBE Felix	Dominican Republic	LAVECEN
DENG Ming	USA	NVSL (FADDL, Plum Island)
ELLIS Gillian	Jamaica	Veterinary Services
FLANAGAN Keith	Haiti	IICA
FRÍAS LEPOUREAU Maria Teresa	Cuba	CENSA
JACQUES SIMON Jean Rodney	Haiti	Veterinary Services
JOSEPH Haim	Haiti	Veterinary Services
LAZARUS Cedric	Barbados	FAO
MILIEN Max	Haiti	Veterinary Services (CVO)
MORALES Paula	Dominican Republic	USDA/APHIS
PERCEDO-ABREU Maria-Irian	Cuba	CENSA
PETIT-SINTUREL Marion	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
PRADEL Jennifer	Guadeloupe	CIRAD
PYBURN David	USA	USDA/APHIS
ROUSSEAU Dagmar	Cuba	Veterinary Services
SHAW John	Dominican Republic	USDA/APHIS
VENTURA Angel	Dominican Republic	Veterinary Services

Rabies working group

This working group has not met yet. Until December 2010, Lloyd Webb (PAHO, Jamaica) was the chair. Several representatives of countries which expressed their interest to participate in this group were nominated: Belize, Cayman Island, Dominican Republic, French Guyana, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

Members of the VEP project

In all, 13 professionals from 12 countries of the Caribbean are part of this project.

Project coordinator: Amy Delgado. Mail: vep-caribvet@caribvet.net

Name	Country	Function
ST.AIMEE Lennox	Dominica	Veterinary Services
AIMEY Vicki	Barbados	Veterinary Services
BARTLETTE-POWELL Patricia	Nevis	Veterinary Services (CVO)
CHALLENGER Tracey / Henri Lesroy	St Kitts	Veterinary Services (CVO)
ELLIS Gillian	Jamaica	Veterinary Services
GLASGOW Malaika	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Veterinary Services
GONZALES Wendy	Dominican Republic	Veterinary Services
GOODWIN-DIAZ Zakia	Antigua and Barbuda	Veterinary Services
JACQUES SIMON Jean Rodney	Haiti	Veterinary Services
KING-CENAC Auria	St Lucia	Veterinary Services
TITUS Simone	Trinidad and Tobago	University
THOMAS Derek	Grenada	Veterinary Services

Current projects of CaribVET

Projet INTERREG IV Caraïbes

The project is funded by INTERREG IV Caraïbes (EU, Guadeloupe region and CIRAD).

Objectives of the project:

- Reinforcement of the Caribbean animal health network CaribVET
- Improvement and harmonization of surveillance and control of animal diseases, including zoonotic and emerging diseases especially. Implementation of an early alert system,
- Improvement of knowledge on the distribution of the diseases and improvement of the regional sanitary situation,
- Promotion of the commercial exchanges in the area.

Activities

Operation of the institutional organization of CaribVET

- Organization of the meetings of the Steering Committee of CaribVET (discussion and validation of the regional strategies prepared by the working groups).

Reinforcement of the surveillance systems of animal diseases

- Meetings of the experts of the seven technical working groups,
- Missions of the experts of CIRAD and of the working groups, establishment of surveillance protocols, set up of surveys, development of regional databases of surveillance,
- Trainings in epidemiology: workshops, long term trainings,
- Studies on priority diseases of the Caribbean: diversity of pathogens and risk analysis.

Reinforcement of the regional network of laboratories

- Organization of inter-laboratory assays,
- Organization of technical workshops,
- Establishment of the regional laboratories network (evaluation of the laboratories of the CARICOM),
- Diagnosis provided by CIRAD Guadeloupe for the Caribbean countries,
- Diversity studies and risk analysis on the pathogens and their vectors.

Communication and coordination

- www.caribvet.net animation, translation, tools for exchanges of information (email lists, forum, newsletters...), databases set up and management,
- External communication (documents, CaribVET participation in international meetings),
- Regional coordination/animation/training of the network of partners (conference calls, videoconference).

Veterinary epidemiologist / para-epidemiologist (VEP) project

The VEP project is funded by USDA and has been initiated in the former Caribbean Amblyomma Programme countries.

Objectives:

- To establish an early detection and rapid response system in the Caribbean region through the implementation and reinforcement of harmonized and sustainable epidemiological surveillance systems for the Tropical Bont Tick (TBT), Tick Borne Diseases (TBD), Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and other priority / emerging diseases,
- To develop and reinforce national surveillance systems: initiate harmonized surveillance protocols for animal diseases, with a focus on priority diseases, create, strengthen and maintain coordinated and harmonized national (and regional) databases
- To encourage private-public and animal health-public health partnership,
- To enhance human capacity building and infrastructures in national networks,
- To support and operate a rapid national and regional emergency response task force,
- To strengthen the existing CaribVET network and the collaboration between the member countries and regional/international organizations.

Organization

- The CaribVET Steering Committee is responsible for the policy determinations of the VEP project. The CaribVET Epidemiology working group is responsible for the strategic planning.
- The implementation of the project at the regional level is supported by USDA, IICA, CIRAD.
- The implementation at the national level is effected by the VEP, reporting to the CVO and communicating on an as-needed basis with the IICA country office and CIRAD epidemiologists.

National activities and practical activities carried out by VEP

- Prepare a work program and budget, in collaboration with the CVO, to meet the objectives,
- Participate in the Surveillance Network Assessment Tool (SNAT) in their country or upon request by the CaribVET Epidemiology Working Group in another country,
- Assist in the building of the epidemiological surveillance network by adapting surveillance protocols on the basis of models established by the CaribVET working groups,
- Coordinate sample collection, preparation and submission to national laboratories in the region,
- Manage the epidemiological surveillance database, GIS systems and according to the country, contribute to farmer register and livestock census databases,
- Conduct prevalence surveys dealing with VEP priority disease,
- Review the national animal disease emergency plans and adapt them on the basis of models established by the CaribVET working groups,
- Assist the planning, development and conducting of simulation exercises,

- Be available for regional work in case of an emergency and when requested by the CVO of a country through the Epidemiological Working Group (perhaps utilizing the CDERA structure),
- Establish contacts and formalize the participation in the national network of farmers, producers, producer organizations, suppliers, private veterinarians and other stakeholders,
- Prepare and submit activity reports to the CVO,
- Improve public awareness and education with respect to VEP priority diseases.