Annex 1: Progress report for IPSI Collaborative Activity (ongoing)

The following form is for use when reporting progress of an ongoing Collaborative Activity. Please fill out this form as updates become available and submit to the IPSI Secretariat (isi@unu.edu).

Reporting Date:	15 December 2022

Project title:
Flying Vets Mongolia

Please provide any relevant information on the activities and any outputs and/or outcomes below:

Conducted Workshops

The CIC and WOAH have conducted two Flying Vets workshops in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, which were held on 3 August 2022 and 5 - 6 October 2022 respectively. The aim of these workshops was to discuss the current state of disease monitoring and management in the country, and to explore possible steps going forwards.

The first workshop in August was attended by 30 participants, and established a community of practice across Mongolia, while charting the road ahead in implementing the UN One Health Approach in Mongolia and beyond. Among the findings from this event was the identification of a need for improved sustainable capacity in terms of wildlife disease surveillance, training for veterinarians in topics relating to wildlife health, and an integrated system of data analysis and sharing.

The second workshop in October - which was attended by 60 individuals - took a closer look at enhancing inter-sectoral collaboration, in particular engaging the environment and wildlife sectors to help address wildlife disease surveillance. The workshop was also held back-to-back with the stakeholder roundtable meeting on the implementation of the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) evaluation (a follow-up on 2019 mission recommendations).

Following the discussions and deliberations that took place at the October workshop, five key challenges in relation to wildlife diseases surveillance were identified, with two priorities associated with each topic:

1. Disease Detection and Diagnostics
- Early warning and response (EWAR) – protocols on who/how to contact in cases of wildlife morbidity/mortality.
- Increase capacity for diagnosis at field level – prepare for diagnostics in the field, protocols for full necropsy.
2. Human Resources and Education
- Appoint wildlife officers at all levels.
- Training/education – at agricultural university/veterinary school.
3. Data Management and Analysis
- Develop SOPs on which data is required.
- Create a shared network of information.
4. Information Sharing and Communication
- Create a data centre for all information.
- Communication activities – including to members of the public, utilizing various means e.g., social media/radio.
5. Governance (covering legislation, regulations and permits)
- Create a multi-sectoral One Health committee.
- Review legislation – both national and international (*Noted that national legislation pertaining to wildlife has already been reviewed recently by a WOAH consultant.).

Looking ahead
- Data Collection and Analytics

Develop and improve existing database platforms which are currently managed by our partners. This includes, but is not limited to; SMART data collection software managed by the State Central Veterinary Laboratory (SCVL), as well as the MAHIS database by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MoET) and the National Centre for Zoonotic Diseases (NCZD).

There are also plans to make use of public-private sector partnerships when it comes to data analytics, which will assist in the effort to both monitor and survey the outbreak of wildlife diseases.

- Infrastructure and Logistics

A means of transport will be required to carry out day-to-day operations, which will include vaccinations among other activities. Light aircraft and offroad vehicles will be the optimum means of transport, given the remote and often inaccessible terrain that can be found throughout Mongolia. Light aircraft in particular will allow for the quickest response time in getting veterinarians to where they are most needed.

- Capacity Building

Workshops will need to be held in order to develop the project, facilitate inter-sectoral collaboration and provide education services. Resources will also need to be allocated to sourcing and training individuals working on The Flying Vets (staff and field workers).

- Technology and Innovation

The use of innovative technology will be critical to this project, particularly when it comes to monitoring the outbreak of wildlife diseases. In this regard, improving existing data collection methods will greatly facilitate the ability to oversee and respond to any new developments that need to be addressed.

While satellite imagery currently exists as a monitoring tool, it is only available at intermittent intervals; in an ideal scenario, this data should be available on a 24/7 basis. Widespread internet availability - through the implementation of satellite internet access - in remote areas would also increase the amount and quality of data collected.

Please attach additional pages as necessary.