



World Conference on Disaster Reduction

18-22 January 2005, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan

Workshops title	Intersection of Animal and Human Issues in Disasters
Lead organization	US Department of State
Speakers, etc.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Larry W. Roeder, Jr., Policy Adviser on Disaster Management, US Department of State2. Dr. Robert Tanaka, US Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Officer, US Embassy, Tokyo3. Clive Mantell, Director of Disaster Relief, World Society for the Protection of Animals4. Gerardo Huertas, Director of Disaster Relief for Latin America, World Society for the Protection of Animals:5. Oliver Davidson, Humane Society of the United States
Outline of content	<p>The session was attended by private citizens and disaster management and health experts from the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), the Global Alliance for Disaster Reduction, the ICR International of France, CARE, (GDIN) the Global Disaster Information Network, the Humane Society, and the governments of Israel, Australia, Italy, USA and Denmark. The consensus was that fostering Animal care is integral to reforming humanitarian relief. The experts were thus concerned that diplomats negotiating the WCDR outcomes document were not trained in disaster management and thus did not grasp that dealing with animal issues is essential to human health and sustainable development. To deal with the issue, a task force was formed within GDIN and the group also called for a relationship with ISDR, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to argue for practical disaster reduction reforms through UN structures, GDIN conferences and other fora.</p>

The new group will identify ways to prevent the spread of diseases from animals to humans after a disaster, and to preserve animal stocks in order to protect local economies and cultures. It also asked the US Departments of Agriculture and State, as well as WSPA and the Humane Society to coordinate a large body of supportive work to be reported out at the next GDIN conference in Davos, Switzerland, in August, 2006.

Relief operations in the recent Tsunami crisis were examined as well as other past events and preparatory measures in Latin America, Israel and the USA. Animals were viewed as companions, food and fiber resources, and integral to the economy and culture, as well as a potential threat as a disease carrier. The workshop studied examples animal recovery that benefited societies, but also gaps that should be closed, noting that more effective national and UN animal disaster plans are needed. The group agreed to assess the monetary and non-monetary values of animal resources, collecting and managing relevant data, networking with government and international organizations, and noted that comprehensive disaster reduction plan must deal with animals in a positive way. Two NGO's called for further research into the ability of animals to provide early detection of certain kinds of crisis. Many animals in Tsunami struck lands hurriedly left risky areas before human populations were aware of their own risks, a point also noted in other panels.

Much of the statistical work in the task force study will require close cooperation with CRED, ADRC and other data collection bodies, as well as government and international organizations to assure that that information is interoperable. This will be crucial when deciding on food sources after a disaster or to preserve a vulnerable agricultural economy or to coordinate response efforts, which will preserve animal companions and reduce the spread of disease and hunger. In addition, the group agreed to develop best practices to protect rare animals covered by CITES, drawing on US Department of State

	experiences facilitate the intervention of animal protection experts in the Iraq and Afghan conflicts.
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