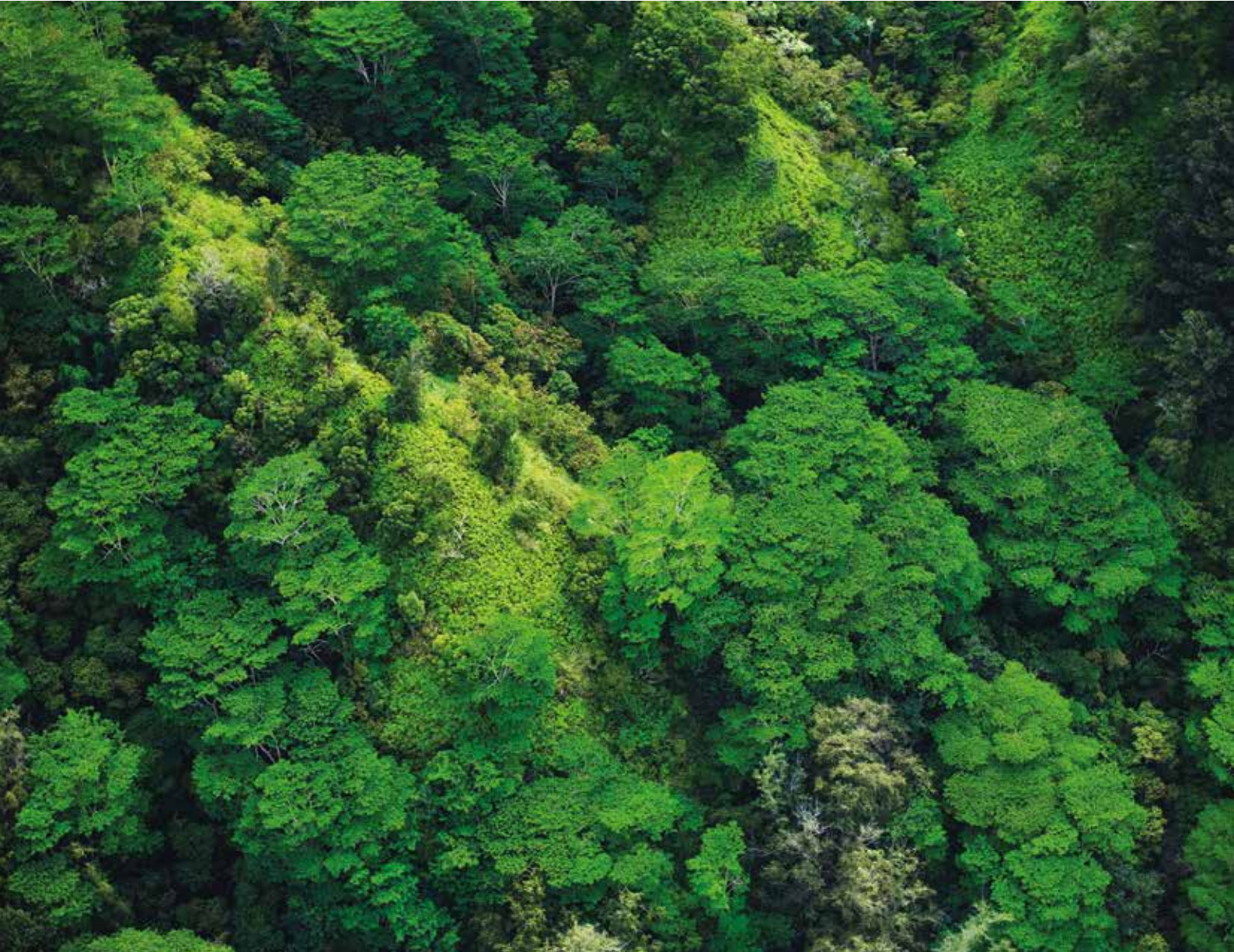




Preventing zoonotic
disease emergence



2024

PREZODE ACTIVITY REPORT



SUMMARY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	03
2. PREZODE COMMUNITY	04
3. GOVERNANCE	05
3.1. PREZODE General Assembly.....	05
3.2. General Assembly Presidency.....	05
3.3. Steering Committee Activities.....	06
3.4. Secretariat Activities.....	06
4. SCIENCE	07
4.1. Pillar Working Groups.....	07
4.2. International Data Working Group.....	08
4.3. Labelling Endorsement Scheme/Group.....	08
5. PREZODE PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, AND SYNERGIES	09
5.1. PREACTS (PREZODE In ACTION in the global South).....	09
5.2. PEPR PREZODE.....	10
6. COLLABORATION WITH GLOBAL PARTNERS	12
6.1. Contribution to the Pandemic Agreement Process.....	12
6.2. World Health Organization-PREZODE Joint Working Group: Quantitative Indicators for Risk of Zoonotic Disease Emergence.....	13
6.3. PROPOSAL FOR THE PANDEMIC FUND.....	13
6.4. Creation of PREZODE's mapping portal of One Health activities.....	13
7. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS	14
7.1. Main International Events.....	14
7.2. Regional Events.....	16
7.3. PREZODE Communication and Events.....	18
8. LOOKING AHEAD	19



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2024 PREZODE Activities Report highlights the initiative's progress, achievements, and future orientations. The initiative now involves 257 members across 80 countries, including 29 country members. Over the past year, the initiative has expanded its network, launched programs and working groups, and reinforced global collaborations.

Governance

PREZODE's governance is driven by the General Assembly (GA), the Steering Committee (SC), and the Secretariat. The GA is chaired by the President, Dr. Papa Seck (Senegal), with Dr. Soawapak Hinjoy (Thailand) as Vice President. The GA serves as the initiative's highest decision-making body. The SC, led by the Chair, Dr. Gerardo Suzàn, and the Vice Chair, Dr. Ricardo Soares Magalhaes, oversees strategic orientations and decision-making. The SC held regular meetings and met in person for the first time in Brussels, Belgium, in November 2024. The Secretariat, coordinated by Dr. Zeev Noga, carries out daily operations with contributions from the secretariat officers, and regional and scientific focal points. An Executive Committee (ExCom), formed by representatives of the research institutions that founded the initiative and are contributing to it, provides support to the Secretariat.

Science

With 87 experts from 36 countries, the Pillar Working Groups (PWGs) highlighted their role in advancing PREZODE's Strategic Agenda. Their immediate goals include developing key activities of the five pillars, updating the Strategic Agenda, and collaborating with the International Data Working Group (IDWG). The IDWG focuses on developing a global data platform through five specialized sub-groups. Additionally, the newly introduced PREZODE Endorsement Scheme recognizes projects aligned with the Initiative's objectives, fostering collaboration and enhancing visibility for initiatives aimed at disease prevention.

Programs and Projects

PREACTS (PREzode in ACTION in the global South) includes operational projects, which focus on zoonotic disease prevention through a One Health approach. AfriCam (2023-2026) implements its actions in five countries (Cambodia, Cameroon, Guinea, Madagascar, and Senegal). ASAMCO (2024-2028), takes a regional approach targeting Central America (Mexico, Costa Rica, and Haiti), Africa (DRC), and Asia (Laos and Thailand). A third and last project, ASEACA, is currently being

co-designed with partners in three regions: South East Asia (Philippines, Vietnam); Austral Africa (Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Mozambique); and the Caribbean (including Cuba).

The PEPR PREZODE, a research program, has launched four research projects with a €9 million budget, focusing on the understanding of zoonotic disease dynamics across multiple regions. It will issue further funding calls for innovative surveillance and prevention strategies.

Global Collaboration

The Initiative actively contributes to the Pandemic Agreement process and has engaged with the World Health Organization (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in joint working groups to develop quantitative indicators for zoonotic disease emergence and to evaluate the return on investment in One Health initiatives. Furthermore, PREZODE is preparing a regional proposal for the Pandemic Fund.

Events and Communication

The Initiative enhanced its visibility, especially through the launch of a webinar series and outreach. PREZODE's Newsletter and social media activities continue to engage its growing audience, while a new website is under development to facilitate information sharing and collaborations.

Looking Ahead

The 2025 work plan focuses on long-term sustainability, scientific programs, re-organizing governance, enhancing visibility, and strengthening partnerships and memberships. Communication efforts will be bolstered by continued collaborations with international organizations and partners to further advance PREZODE's mission of preventing future pandemics through a comprehensive One Health approach.

2



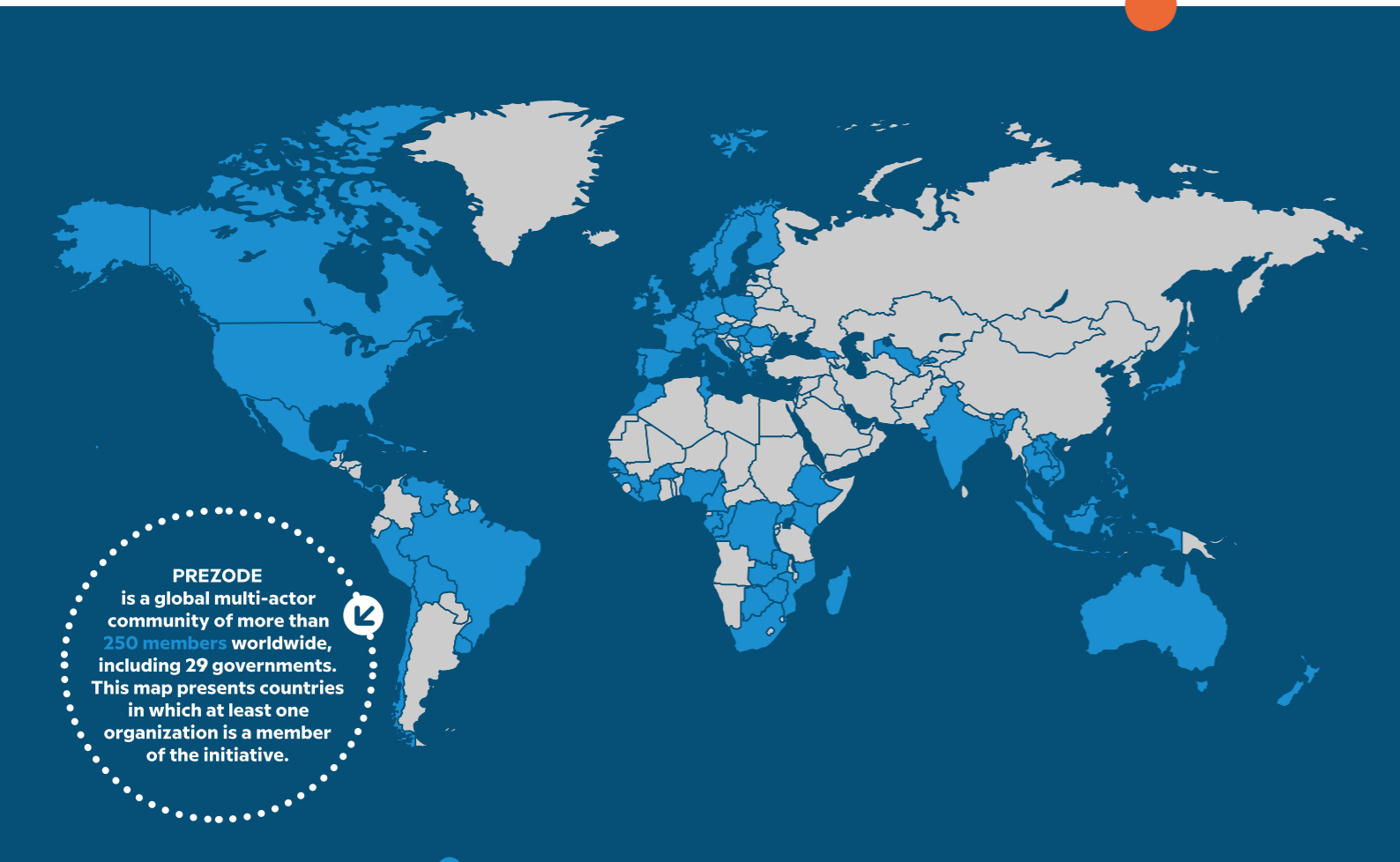
PREZODE COMMUNITY

As of October 31, 2024, the Initiative gathers 257 members representing governments, research institutions and laboratories, academics, civil societies, NGOs, industry, and professional organizations from 80 countries that compose the PREZODE Community.

PREZODE now comprises 29 Country Members, with the addition of Panama, the Dominican Republic, The Philippines and Trinidad and Tobago. They joined Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Chile, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominica, Gabon, France, Guinea Conakry, Congo, Haiti, Laos, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Senegal, Thailand, Vietnam, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Zambia, and

Zimbabwe. The Initiative also includes two regional territories, Anguilla (United Kingdom) and St. Eustatius (The Netherlands).

According to Initiative rules, organizations applying for PREZODE membership require a majority vote by PREZODE GA. Since the 2023 GA meeting, **24 new members** signed letters of intent, becoming observers and then full-fledged PREZODE Members following a majority vote at the 2024 GA meeting.



PREZODE is a global multi-actor community of more than 250 members worldwide, including 29 governments. This map presents countries in which at least one organization is a member of the initiative.

3



GOVERNANCE

3.1. PREZODE general assembly (GA)

PREZODE GA is the initiative's highest governance body in charge of setting the direction and approving actions of the Initiative. The GA is composed of one representative for each member and is chaired by a President and a Vice president.

The third PREZODE GA meeting took place on November 21 and was co-organized with the Kingdom of Belgium. This meeting was notable as it was held in a hybrid format for the first time, with 60 delegates attending in Brussels and over 100 participating online.

During the meeting, a report detailed the activities and accomplishments of the Initiative and provided updates on its progress. The GA also offered delegates discussion and exchange opportunities. An inspiring round-table discussion focused on "How to Move from a Pathogen-Centric Approach to a Risk-Centric Approach" in the context of zoonotic disease prevention, surveillance, and early detection. Additionally, there was a brainstorming session regarding members' involvement in a PREZODE proposal for the Pandemic Fund.

3.2. General Assembly Presidency

Presidency

Elected during the 2023 GA, PREZODE President **Dr. Papa Seck** and Vice President **Dr. Soawapak Hinjoy** represented PREZODE in many high-level political events around the world to promote and enhance the Initiative's actions and outreach.

Activities of the President

Over the past year, the President has actively represented the organization at numerous international and regional events. In December 2023, he participated in **COP 28 in Dubai**, where he took part in PREZODE co-organized events focusing on community engagement in global health security. He promoted the PREZODE Declaration, emphasizing the need for the immediate and comprehensive implementation of the One Health approach, including environmental considerations.



© Creatif Image/PREZODE

The GA is chaired by the President, Dr. Papa Seck (Senegal). Dr. Soawapak Hinjoy (Thailand) is the Vice President.

In May, he attended the **General Session of WOA**H, meeting with officials and promoting PREZODE during an event co-organized with the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food, celebrating WOA'H's 100th anniversary. In October, he joined the forums of the **Galien Africa Foundation** and the **One Sustainable Health for All initiative** in Dakar, opened by His Excellency Mr. Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar FAYE, President of Senegal. Serving as both a moderator and panellist, Dr. Seck contributed to discussions on Africa's follow-up to the COP 28 declaration on climate and health, the social and environmental determinants of health.

At the WHO Intergovernmental Negotiation Body (INB) on the Pandemic Agreement, the GA President advocated for integrating the One Health approach and proactive prevention alongside preparedness strategies.

Dr. Papa Seck also participated in key regional events, including the launch of **AFRICAM activities** in Kedougou, Senegal, and the Nouakchott+10 High-Level Forum on Pastoralism in early November. Within PREZODE, he chaired several events, such as the Kick-off meeting of the Pillar Working Groups in May and the Country-members Meeting in October.

Activities of the Vice President

Dr. Soawapak Hinjoy actively participated in several high-level international and regional events. In May, she attended the World Health Assembly, where she took part in the side event co-organized by PREZODE “One Health: From Ambition to Action”, and in a Workshop with the Global Fund.

Regionally, Dr. Hinjoy served as a Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) in the ASAMCO program in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (LPDR) and the Kingdom of Thailand. She delivered speeches at the Regional Workshop on One Health operationalization and investment in Southeast Asia, organized by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), and at a workshop within the PREACTS initiatives. Additionally, she represented PREZODE during a roundtable discussion on building partnerships for a secure, resilient, and sustainable world at the SCIENCE4ACTION Forum, held as part of the IRD’s 80th anniversary celebrations.

3.3. Steering Committee Activities

The Steering Committee (SC) plays a vital role in shaping PREZODE’s strategic direction, submitting recommendations to the GA, and making key decisions on various actions. The SC meets every 6–8 weeks online to address matters such as committee and working group Terms of Reference, the PREZODE Endorsement Scheme, legal status, working group composition, and representation at global and regional events. Members also actively participate in and represent PREZODE at numerous international, regional, and virtual events and chair the Pillars Working Groups. As Dr. Musso Munyeme had to step down his role of Chair of the SC, Dr. Gerardo Suzàn was appointed new Chair, and Dr. Ricardo Soares Magalhaes Vice Chair. The SC is entering the final year of its current mandate, which concludes in November 2025.



Members of the Steering Committee during the 2024 in-person meeting. From left to right: Dr. Ricardo Soares, Dr. Lucy Keatts, Dr. Casimiro Vizzini, Dr. Sarah Olson, Dr. Gerardo Suzàn, Dr. Prisca Mugabe and Dr. Neil Vora.

3.4. Secretariat Activities



The Secretariat staff. From left to right: Catherine Denis (Communication Delegate), Stephanie Signoret (Events Officer), Dr. Paula Caceres (Data Officer, also Science Focal Point), Drs. Manon Lounnas and Elsa Leger (Science Officers), Emma Gomez (Policy Officer/SG Assistant), Dr. Zeev Noga (Secretary General), Murielle Trouillet (member of the Executive Committee), Natacha Rousseau (Partnership Officer). Absent from the photo: Cecile Grimaldi (Membership Officer) and Sari Tanikawa (Communication Officer).

The Secretariat’s role is to coordinate and implement the day-to-day activities of the PREZODE initiative and to ensure the implementation of the GA and SC decisions and the smooth operations and procedures of all PREZODE Committees and Working Groups. The Secretariat meets twice per month to follow up on all the Secretariat missions and tasks.

The Secretariat is supported by dedicated Science Focal Points—Drs. Anne Laure Banuls, Christine Citti, Marisa Peyre, Benjamin Roche, Elena Arsevska, Christian Ducrot, and Daan Vink—who provide scientific advice and guidance.

Decisions related to the Secretariat’s budget, capacity, and legal matters are managed by representatives of the founding research institutes through the Founders and Contributors Executive Committee (ExCom): Dr. Jean-Francois Soussana and Murielle Trouillet for INRAE, Drs. Marisa Peyre and Thierry Lefrancois for CIRAD, and Drs. Benjamin Roche and Eric Delaporte for IRD. These institutes also provide financial and capacity contributions to support the Secretariat’s operations.

Members of the Steering Committee during the 2024 in-person meeting. From left to right: Dr. Ricardo Soares, Dr. Lucy Keatts, Dr. Casimiro Vizzini, Dr. Sarah Olson, Dr. Gerardo Suzàn, Dr. Prisca Mugabe and Dr. Neil Vora.



SCIENCE

Launched in 2024, the PREZODE PWGs and the PREZODE IDWG work with an integrative, collaborative, and cross-cutting approach alongside experts.

4.1. Pillar Working Groups

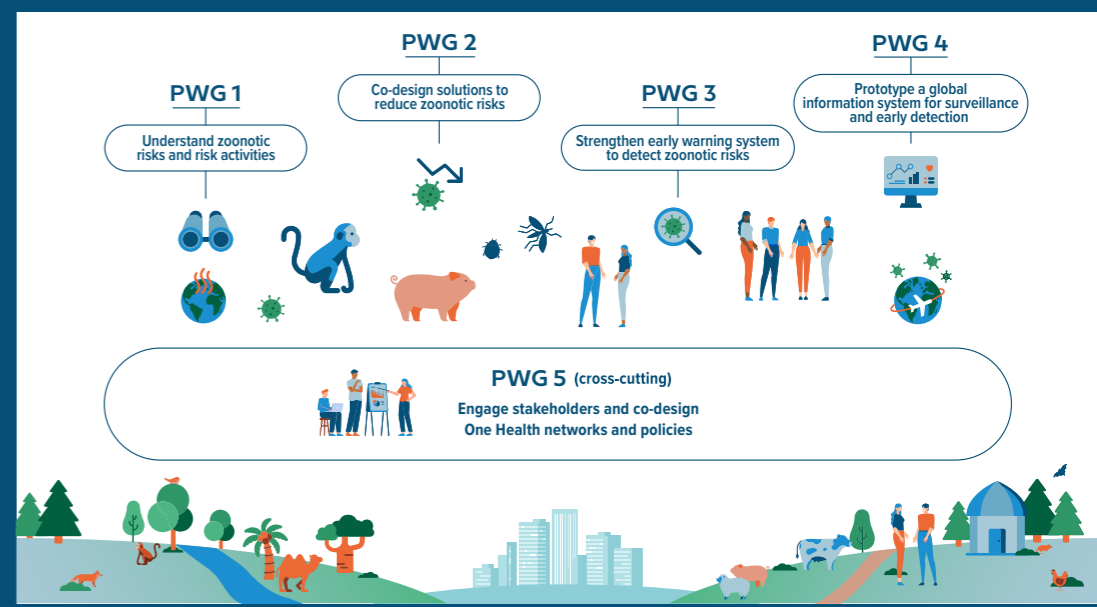
The five PWGs were established and launched during a kick-off webinar held in May. Eighty-seven experts from the PREZODE science community from thirty-six different countries are engaged to deliver the PREZODE Strategic Agenda’s framework actions and to explore the main research themes identified in the Strategic Agenda. The PWGs are each supporting an array of potential operational actions. The PWGs have established short-term objectives for the next year, which include updating the Strategic Agenda, identifying funding opportunities, and proposing data and information exchange mechanisms concerning the IDWG. Over the next three to five years, the groups aim to prioritize international studies, develop high-level papers, reinforce network activities and global collaborations, and contribute to the development of a PREZODE sharing platform in coordination with the IDWG.

The PWGs are based on the five pillars described in PREZODE’s Strategic Agenda.

They are led by PREZODE Steering Committee members and composed of experts nominated by PREZODE members (see the full list on our website here):

- **PWG 1: Understand the zoonotic risk and risk activities.** It is chaired by Dr. Aitor Nogales, Dr. Lucy Keatts, and Pr. Nitish Debnath and comprises 21 members.
- **PWG 2: Co-design solutions to reduce the zoonotic risk.** It is chaired by Dr. Waraphon Phimpraphai, Pr. Gerardo Suzan, Dr. Ricardo Soares Magalhaes and Dr. Prisca Mugabe and comprises 12 members.
- **PWG 3: Strengthen early warning systems to detect zoonotic risks.** It is chaired by Pr. Wim Van der Poel, Dr. Manuelle Miller and Dr. Christophe Cordevant and comprises 19 members.
- **PWG 4: Prototype a global information system for surveillance and early detection.** It is chaired by Dr. Sarah Olson, Dr. Gabriel Magezi, and Dr. Vannaphone Phouthana and comprises 16 members.
- **PWG 5: Engage stakeholders and co-design One Health networks and policies.** It is chaired by Dr. Musso Munyeme, Dr. Magda Robalo, Dr. Casimiro Vizzini and Dr. Neil Vora and comprises 19 members.

The agenda is based on the analysis of 30 co-construction workshops held in 2021 and 2022, gathering 1800 participants from 128 countries, identifying more than 300 research gaps & operational needs.



4.2. International Data Working Group

The IDWG was launched at the end of September. It aims to design and establish the foundations for implementing the PREZODE international platform. The group is composed of **25 international experts** from various international organizations, universities, research institutes, and national experts. The PREZODE international platform will focus on research data, adopting a One Health approach for the prevention of emerging zoonotic diseases. PREZODE has already identified the needs associated with creating this platform, which will serve as the basis for the IDWG's proposal.

The IDWG has been divided into five sub-groups following the objectives predefined by the PREZODE SC. To better coordinate the work, these sub-groups work in parallel and sequentially. The first two sub-groups started their activities in October. **They focused on identifying the: (1) critical data to be included in the PREZODE platform and (2) governance aspects, roles, and responsibilities within PREZODE.**

A concept note proposing the type of platform to be developed for PREZODE will

be delivered in February 2025, followed by the continuation of work with the next three sub-groups, which will cover:

- Addressing how scientific data can be shared and made interoperable, including ethical guidelines for data production and use.
- Identifying a data ontology and common vocabulary.
- Designing and implementing of a global data platform for PREZODE.

A joint meeting between the five PWGs and the IDWG took place on November 14. This meeting allowed the groups to discuss synergies and finalize the activities roadmap.

4.3. Labelling Endorsement Scheme/ Group

In May, the Steering Committee adopted the proposal and Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Endorsement Scheme process. This aims to expand the reach of PREZODE by formally acknowledging research projects, programs, and initiatives that address disease prevention. Whether they are directly funded by PREZODE or not, these programs have to align with its values and goals and promote its specific approach to prevent the next pandemic, as outlined in the [Declaration of Intent](#).

The Endorsement Scheme will foster synergies between existing and upcoming initiatives, encouraging collaboration and enhancing sustainability. It also aims to promote science-based solutions to inform policy- and decision-makers. Participants will benefit from recognition for adopting collaborative principles, inclusion in a community of practice, and enhanced visibility through PREZODE's communication channels. Additionally, the scheme will ensure that endorsed activities complement rather than duplicate efforts, maximizing their impact. Applications will involve the creation of an online account, completing an online form and self-assessment questionnaire, and providing evidence of alignment with PREZODE's criteria. Applications will be reviewed by the PREZODE Scientific Focal Points to provide recommendations to the Steering Committee, which will give final validation.



Working Groups meetings are places for brainstorming sessions, discussions on synergies and activities aligned with the Strategic Agenda.



PREZODE PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, AND SYNERGIES



5.1. PREACTS (PREzode in ACTION in the global South)

PREACTS is a program funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD). It includes three projects: AFRICAM (2023-2026), ASAMCO (2024-2028), and ASEACA (2025-2029, in co-design process). A scientific and cross-cutting group coordinates activities between the three projects and beneficiary countries. The program aims to prevent outbreaks and curb the spread of zoonotic diseases at the human-animal-environment interface. It prioritizes nature-based solutions and approaches that are context-based, and that address social and economic impacts. Ultimately, the goal is to enhance the resilience of socio-ecosystems to zoonotic disease emergence while strengthening surveillance systems at the animal-human interface.

The selected countries (within PREZODE country members) and regions identified as epidemic hotspots provide a diverse landscape for PREACTS' One Health approach, which fosters collaboration across health, environmental, and socio-economic sectors.



AFRICAM

Launched in 2023 with funding of 10 million euros from the AFD, the AfriCam project is implemented in Cambodia, Cameroon, Guinea, Madagascar, and Senegal, and has entered a crucial development phase. This year saw the beginning of on-the-ground activities in each country, with a strong focus on cross-sector partnerships and frequent coordination meetings to facilitate knowledge-sharing and synergy among all participants. Progress to date includes training (training workshops, PhD and Master students), significant data collection (sampling of wildlife and domestic animals, epidemiological surveys, knowledge attitude, and practices surveys), codesigned workshops of integrated surveillance systems,



© Sokha_Chea_Cirad

Participatory mapping to design community-based surveillance in Stung Trung Province, Cambodia, for the AfriCam project.

a deeper understanding and integration of gender perspectives, and the preliminary implementation of prevention mechanisms. Local and national governments are actively engaged to ensure the sustainability and long-term impact of AfriCam's activities. Looking ahead to next year, AfriCam plans to expand these activities, enhance regional synergies beyond individual countries, and grow global collaboration through partnerships with ASAMCO.



ASAMCO

The ASAMCO project officially started on August 28. Characterized by its regional approach, it covers Central America (Mexico, Costa Rica, and Haiti), Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo), and Asia (Laos and Thailand). The activities have been officially launched in each region. The Latin America region kick-off meeting occurred on October 14 in Mérida, Mexico. For Asia, the meeting took place in Bangkok, Thailand, on December 12-13. The launch in DRC was planned early January 2025. A general kick-off meeting will take place in early 2025 to articulate the different ASAMCO activities and to seek synergies in the PREACTS program through the CAST (Transversal Scientific Animation Committee), a committee designed to ensure alignment and relevance across the different PREACTS projects.

5.2. PEPR PREZODE

The acronym “PEPR” stands for “Programme et Équipements Prioritaire de Recherche”, a program funded by the French government to support innovative academic research in France.

📌 Launch of the four first projects

The PEPR launched its first competitive research call in 2023 focused on “Global changes, human practices, and the emergence of zoonotic diseases,” selecting four projects with a total budget of €9 million. These projects were presented at the “Acceleration Strategy Day for Emerging Infectious Diseases” event on September 30. They aim to explore the connections between human activities, global changes, and zoonotic disease emergence, focusing on three main areas: (1) the role of hosts, reservoirs, and vectors in pathogen dynamics and transmission; (2) the sociological, economic, and environmental factors at the human/animal/environment interface; and (3) the cascade effects of human activities and global changes on zoonotic emergence risks. The selected projects include:

- The AMAZED project will investigate the mechanisms of arbovirus emergence using a “One Health” approach across several overseas territories, including French Guiana, the Caribbean, the South Pacific as well as in Cameroon, and mainland France.
- The ARCHE project aims to understand the determinants of the emergence of the Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever virus (CCHFV – transmitted by ticks to humans and animals) in different regions of southern France.
- The ZOOCAM project seeks to unite health-environment research in the Camargue with an integrative and interdisciplinary approach to provide concrete responses to local actors.
- The ZOOFLU project aims to unlock the scientific puzzle of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses (HPAI) emergence at the wildlife-domestic animal-human interface.

📌 Second and Third calls for projects

A second call for projects was launched in April, with a €7M budget to enhance surveillance and early warning systems for zoonoses. Key focus areas include early detection of emerging zoonoses, engagement and collaboration

among stakeholders, and improving dialogue between science, society, and public policies. Projects are currently under evaluation.

In September, a third call was announced, with a €7M budget, inviting proposals to reduce the risk of zoonotic disease emergence. This call, closed on January 28, 2025, focuses on identifying risk and resilience factors for prevention strategies; co-developing and assessing zoonosis prevention strategies; and understanding sociocultural factors affecting prevention efficacy and acceptability.

📌 Transversal actions of the PEPR PREZODE

In parallel, a project on program management and governance has been launched and will serve as a key tool to create synergies and foster engagement at various scales throughout the program:

- **At the international level**, through the international PREZODE initiative and its operational research program PREACTs, as well as by organizing thematic workshops, bringing together international stakeholders on the links between biodiversity and health, and the theme of integrated surveillance.
- **As a prospective study** aimed at developing scenarios for zoonotic risk prevention, an approach that systematically considers complex dynamics and potential medium- to long-term implications.
- **At the national level**, fostering collaboration with other research programs through the organization of webinars and networking events for awarded projects, as well as the creation of a “PhD Club.”

The PEPR PREZODE integrates a strong data component, supported by the PEPR Data Working Group (PEPR DWG) established in January 2023. Comprising experts from CNRS, CIRAD, INRAE, IRD, and the MOOD project, the group ensures PEPR project teams receive guidance to make their data FAIR-compliant—Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable.



ZOOCAM, a project selected within the 1st PEPR call, seeks to unite health-environment research in the Camargue with an integrative and interdisciplinary approach to provide concrete responses to local actors.



COLLABORATION WITH GLOBAL PARTNERS

6.1. Contribution to the Pandemic Agreement Process

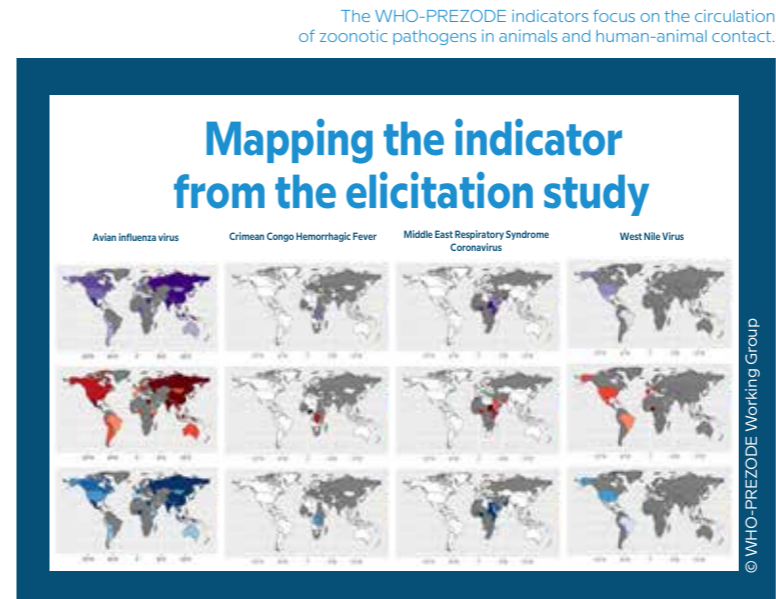
As a Relevant Stakeholder of the WHO Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB), PREZODE is contributing to the development of key provisions in the forthcoming Pandemic Agreement, specifically articles 4 (Pandemic Prevention and Surveillance) and 5 (One Health Approach for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response).

Dr. Papa Seck represented PREZODE at multiple INB meetings, raising the initiative's profile within the negotiation process. In March, he underscored the importance of integrating proactive prevention alongside preparedness strategies. During the May session, he emphasized the critical role of pathogen spillover prevention and the One Health approach in mitigating pandemic risks. At the July session, Dr. Seck highlighted collaborative efforts between PREZODE and the WHO joint expert group to develop indicators for measuring human exposure to zoonotic infections. In September, he addressed gaps in coordination between One Health initiative mandates and Ministries of

Health globally, alongside the insufficient involvement of the public health sector in these efforts. In November, **Dr. Elsa Léger**, Science Officer of PREZODE, stressed the importance of incorporating prevention into the legal framework of the future Pandemic Preparedness and Response Agreement. In the statement, PREZODE emphasized that "the role of research is crucial in understanding these factors and collaborating with frontline communities".

Members of PREZODE have been engaged in a **scientific study to document the institutional and operational status of One Health in countries worldwide** in line with the argument pushed forward in articles 4 and 5 (Prevention and One Health) in the negotiations. The outcomes of this study have been shared with PREZODE members and presented during the World One Health Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, in September 2024. They were shared with relevant and key partners involved in the INB.

Closing of the second resumed session of the ninth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) for a WHO instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, on 24 May 2024. PREZODE is an Observer of the INB.



6.2. World Health Organization-PREZODE Joint Working Group: Quantitative Indicators for Risk of Zoonotic Disease Emergence

On June 20, the World Health Organisation (WHO) organized an EPI-WIN Webinar to present the results of the WHO-PREZODE joint working group, established in 2022, on developing quantitative indicators for the risk of zoonotic disease emergence.

Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO Interim Director of the Department of Epidemic and Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness, opened the webinar with an overview of preventing zoonotic diseases at early stages through a One Health approach. She highlighted that the WHO-PREZODE effort represents a significant step towards improving global prevention and preparedness against future pandemics. **Dr. Benjamin Roche**, PREZODE Global Science Leader and co-founder, explained the methodology developed during this working group and presented the indicators, that aim to assess the likelihood of zoonotic exposure in human populations. These indicators focus on the circulation of zoonotic pathogens in animals and human-animal contact, to facilitate characterizing the impact of prevention strategies against future pandemics of zoonoses and, therefore, strengthen their implementation. Following his presentation, a panel discussion was held to explore how the WHO-PREZODE indicators can support the implementation of prevention strategies against zoonotic emergence. The report on the indicators is forthcoming.

6.3. PROPOSAL FOR THE PANDEMIC FUND

During the GA, **Dr. Marisa Peyre**, PREZODE Global Science Leader and co-founder, introduced a proposal for the Pandemic Fund. The proposal aims to enhance PREZODE's visibility and strengthen partnerships with key organizations such as the World Bank, the Global Fund, and the Quadripartite. The proposal seeks long-term sustainability by securing funding for its secretariat, working groups, and members' operations. Aligned with the Pandemic Fund's priorities, the proposal focuses on improving One Health systems, particularly in early warning and rapid response mechanisms. Goals include enhancing community-based surveillance at human-animal interfaces, building capacity, engaging stakeholders, and implementing targeted tasks. Expected outcomes include stronger One Health systems in member and pilot countries through training, South-South collaboration, and improved governance. This involves piloting community-based surveillance systems and boosting members countries' ability to design and evaluate Pandemic Fund initiatives. Even without funding, the proposal will enhance members engagement and elevate PREZODE's profile. The PREZODE Secretariat is leading the proposal's development, involving bilateral discussions, co-design workshops, and active members participation. The final proposal is expected to be submitted by May 2025.

6.4. Creation of PREZODE's mapping portal of One Health activities

PREZODE created a global mapping portal to document and connect One Health activities around the world. At this stage, over 400 initiatives have already been identified. The portal aims to enhance collaboration, facilitate knowledge exchange, and provide a comprehensive overview of efforts addressing health at the human-animal-environment interface.



INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

Representatives of PREZODE's governance participated in high-level meetings during the past year, raising a variety of issues at the core of PREZODE. Overview.

7.1. Main International Events *

COP 28 (Dubai, December 2023)

PREZODE, in collaboration with **Unitaid** and **The Global Fund**, co-hosted a roundtable during the 28th Conference of the Parties (CoP) on Climate Change. The talks underscored the vital role of community engagement in mitigating health and climate change risks. Following the event, a **Declaration** advocating for an immediate and thorough implementation of the One Health approach, encompassing environmental concerns, was endorsed.



In Dubai, PREZODE, represented by Dr. Papa Seck, co-organized a roundtable on "Community engagement and climate-smart health products".

77th World Health Assembly (WHA) (Geneva, Switzerland, May 27-June 1)

PREZODE representatives participated in several discussions during the WHA. **Dr. Soawapak Hinjoy**, Vice President of the GA, participated in the high-level strategic dialogue "One Health: From Ambition to Action", focusing on the need to accelerate and implement a framework for One Sustainable Health to effectively help countries and communities prepare for and respond to health threats posed by climate change. Along with **Dr. Marisa Peyre** and **Dr. Benjamin Roche**, she took also part in an event organized by COP28, The Green Climate Fund, The Rockefeller Foundation, the World Health Organization, and the Global Fund.



In May, Dr. Soawapak Hinjoy took part in the side event co-organized by PREZODE during the WHA "One Health: From Ambition to Action".



Geneva Health Forum (May 28)

The event "One Health and Pandemic Prevention in Practice: Is the Global South Leading Innovation?" was co-hosted by the Geneva Health Forum and our member **Four Paws International**. **Dr. Benjamin Roche** took part in the discussion that highlighted the Global South's leadership in pioneering One Health strategies for pandemic prevention.

PREZODE representatives (P. Seck, Z. Noga and P. Caceres) met with the WOAHA Deputy Director General JP. Dop in May.



100-anniversary of WOAHA (May 29)

The French Ministries for Europe and Foreign Affairs and of Agriculture hosted an event on the 29th of May in Paris. **Dr. Papa Seck** delivered a speech celebrating the 100th anniversary of WOAHA.

8th World One Health Congress (Cape Town, South Africa, September 20-23)

Dr. Marisa Peyre and **Julie Meunier** presented the results of the study "One Health Governance and Implementation at the Country Level: An Overview of the Situation Worldwide Including the Global South", co-written by PREZODE scientists. **Dr. Nitish Debnath**, a member of the Steering Committee, spoke on behalf of PREZODE in a discussion panel 'Seeking greater impact, harmonization, dialogue and collaboration between the different One Health Networks operating in Africa'.



In September, Dr. Zeev Noga participated in a roundtable co-hosted by PREZODE, FAO and ZODIAC.

FAO Global Conference on Animal Health Innovation, Reference Centres, and Vaccines (Rome, September 23-25)

Together with **FAO** and **ZODIAC**, PREZODE co-hosted a side event on the One Health approach to strengthen pandemic prevention and preparedness during the FAO Global Conference. The speakers highlighted global and national activities that underscore the importance of the One Health concept and approach in preventing the emergence of zoonotic diseases. **Dr. Zeev Noga**, Secretary General, participated in the discussions, which allowed the showcasing of PREZODE's work in the field.



© Sebastian Zuchmaniski/ Unsplash

* The list is illustrative, not exhaustive.

7.2. Regional Events

ASIA

PREZODE was involved in high-level events in Thailand and Vietnam. At the 2024 **National Science and Technology Fair in Bangkok**, held in August, **CIRAD** showcased its involvement in One Health, with an important focus on PREZODE.



In November, PREZODE held its first meeting with Indian members in New Dehli.

On July 15, the first consultation workshop of Phase 3 of the PREACTs program (ASEACA) took place in Hanoi under the chairing of the PREZODE Vice President.

On November 28, PREZODE, represented by **Dr. Zeev Noga**, General Secretary, and **Dr. Elsa Léger**, Science officer, with the support of the French Embassy in India, organized the first meeting with Indian members to discuss emerging zoonotic diseases and prevention strategies. This provided an invaluable opportunity to explore the involvement and contributions of Indian members to PREZODE's missions and activities as well as present and discuss activities concerning animal and public health from a One Health perspective with government representatives.

AMERICAS

On April 24, a Franco-Panamanian scientific conference "Fighting against infectious and tropical diseases: between historical legacy and global challenges" was co-organized by the Embassy of France in Panama, the **Ciudad del Saber Foundation**, the **Pasteur Network**, and **IRD**. The event was followed by a ceremony in which the Vice Minister of Health of **Panama**, signed the letter of intent to join PREZODE.

Steering Committee member **Dr. Lucy Keatts** represented PREZODE by participating in the course "One Health in a Global Perspective," organized by the Evandro Chagas National Institute of Infectious Diseases (**INI**), **Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz)**, and the **Brazilian Ministry of Health**. The event, held remotely from October 22 to 25, aimed to provide insights into One Health concepts for managing zoonotic diseases globally.

The PREACTS ASAMCO project marked its first launch in the Latin American deployment on October 14, in Mérida, Mexico. Partners from Haiti, Costa Rica, and Mexico, alongside members of the PREZODE team, participated in the event. Mexican authorities and the French ambassador were also present to support the initiative.

The Vice Minister of Health of Panama and the PAHO representative officially signed the PREZODE letter of intent in a ceremony in April.



AFRICA



In October, Dr Papa Seck participated in the launch of AFRICAM activities in Kedougou (Senegal).

Dr. Papa Seck participated in the One Sustainable Health by All Conference co-organized by our member the **One Sustainable Health for All Foundation** in Dakar (October 25-26).

He was also involved in the launch of **AFRICAM activities** in Kedougou, Senegal, and the Nouakchott+10 High-Level Forum on Pastoralism in early November.

In September a regional workshop for South and East African regions was organized in Cape Town in collaboration with the COHESA program to co-design the regional approach of phase 3 of the PREACTS program (ASEACA). **Prisca Mugabe**, a member of the SC, presented PREZODE and PREACTS during this workshop.

EUROPE

The first four **PEPR PREZODE** projects were presented on September 30, during the event "Acceleration Strategy Day for Emerging Infectious Diseases – NRBC Threats: 3 Years of Actions Taken to Be Ready for Tomorrow".

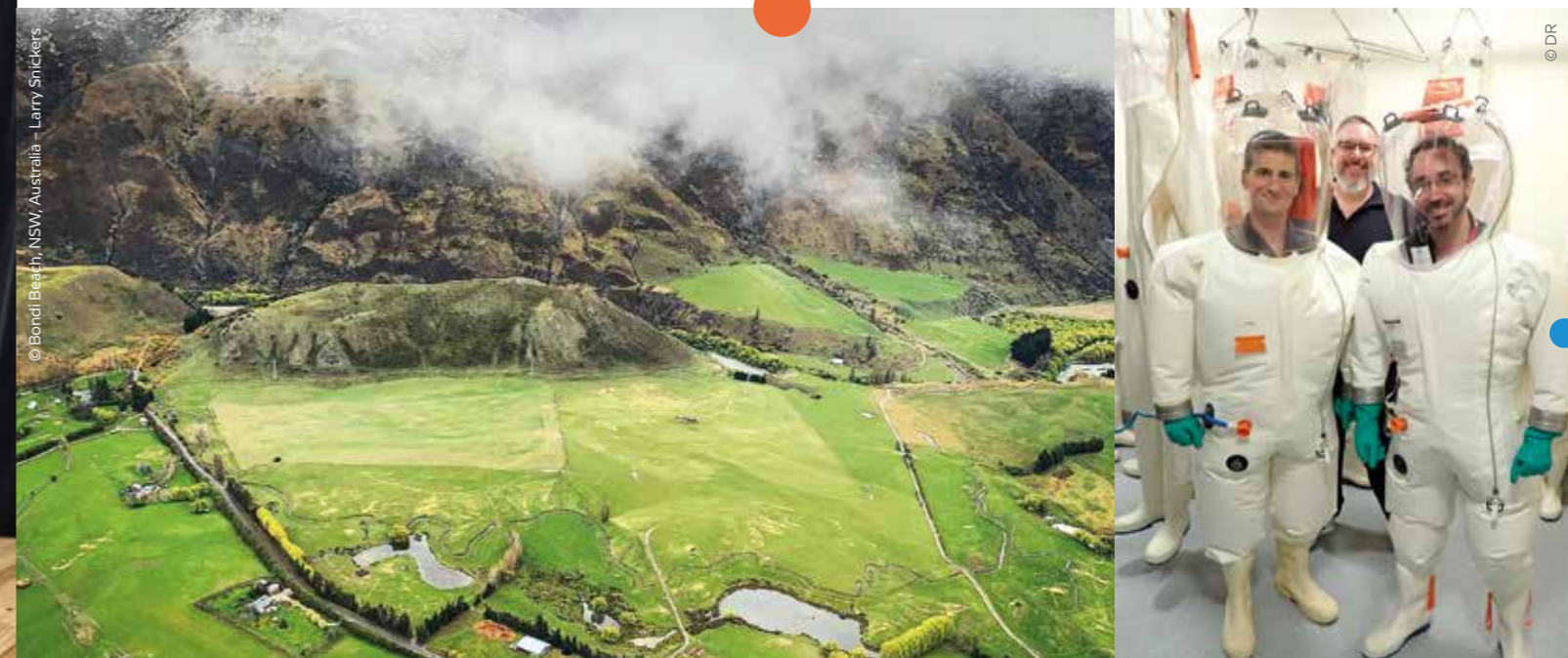


In September, Christine Citti, PREZODE Science focal point (second from the left) presented the PEPR PREZODE program.

OCEANIA

In March, the PREZODE Secretary General visited Australia and New Zealand and met PREZODE members, partners, and government officials to promote the initiative in Oceania and the Pacific regions and to enhance collaborations and activities in the Region.

In March, the PREZODE Secretary General met PREZODE members and partners in Australia and New Zealand and visited laboratories.



7.3. PREZODE Communication and Events

Webinars

As part of its mission of information sharing, PREZODE launched a webinar series bringing together representatives from its scientific community and key stakeholders. The first two online panel discussions tackled critical topics in global health.

The session on June 7 focused on **“Facing the Spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI): How Can We Better Prevent Outbreaks?”**. Panellists included **Dr. Aspen Hammond** (WHO), **Dr. Digo Diel** (Cornell University), **Dr. Nguyen Thi Dien** (University of Agriculture, Vietnam), **Dr. Folorunso Fasina** (FAO), and **Dr. Victor Neira** (University of Chile). [Discussions](#) highlighted the relevance of the One Health approach, noting that HPAI’s ability to cross species barriers poses significant threats to food safety, security, and global health. The session was opened by **Dr. Soawapak Hinjoy** and moderated by **Dr. Mariette Ducatez** (INRAE) and **Dr. Flavie Goutard** (CIRAD).

On October 3, the focus shifted to zoonosis prevention, exploring its definition, evaluation, and sustainability. Under the title, **“Prevention: what lies behind the concept?”** the [discussion](#) emphasized the need for a mindset shift, urging

stakeholders—particularly funding partners and policymakers—to **consider animal and environmental health as equally vital as human health**. Panellists included **Dr. Casey Barton Behraves** (CDC), **Dr. Osman Dar** (UK Health Security Agency and Chatham House), **Dr. Daniel Masiga** (ICIPE), and **Dr. Ana Rivièrè Cinnamond** (PAHO), with moderation by PREZODE Steering Committee member **Professor Wim van der Poel** (WUR).

Digital

Disseminated monthly, with punctual special editions, the [Newsletter](#) gained a wider audience, with more than 3,000 subscribers, and a growing number of members’ contributions. Thanks to an editorial strategy providing diverse content, videos, articles, and scientific updates, the social network activities also increased visibility, reaching a larger audience.



A new complete website is being developed. It will display a large selection of information and feature collaborative spaces to promote information sharing.

In 2024, cases of various Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza clades were found in new hosts and geographical regions. For its first Webinar Session held in June, PREZODE organized a discussion on the topic.



LOOKING AHEAD

The **work plan 2025** will focus on the following areas:

Long-term sustainability

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the initiative, PREZODE is in the process of registering as an international association under the French 1901 Law. This registration will enhance the initiative’s independence and operational capacity, enable the establishment of official relationships with international organizations, allow for the receipt of donations and funding, and facilitate application for various projects. In addition, PREZODE is developing a fundraising strategy to support the Initiative and is calling for members to contribute to the secretariat.

Scientific programs and projects

The Initiative aims to accelerate the production of scientific papers through the efforts of its working groups, launch the PREZODE Endorsement Scheme in early 2025, and evaluate the Strategic Agenda.

Governance

PREZODE is currently reorganizing and formalizing Regional Focal Points and Regional Secretariats under the International Secretariat. This initiative will also lead to the establishment of the Donor and Ethics Committees, as well as the Scientific Advisory Board. Considering that the mandate of the General Assembly President, Vice-President, and the Steering Committee members will end in November 2025, the renewal of governance bodies for the 2025-2027 term is on the agenda. The call for nominations and the election procedure will be launched in the spring of 2025.



Visibility and Advocacy

PREZODE will continue to enhance public relations and engage in high-level political events. Additionally, it will collaborate with global and regional partners to organize webinars and events promoting prevention strategies for emerging zoonotic diseases.

Partnerships and memberships

PREZODE will focus on enhancing collaborations and exploring new partnership opportunities with both international and regional stakeholders. Additionally, it will initiate a global recruitment campaign to bolster membership and cooperation worldwide.

