

**Joint Symposium:  
Belgian Wildlife Disease Society  
&  
Dutch Society for Wildlife Health**

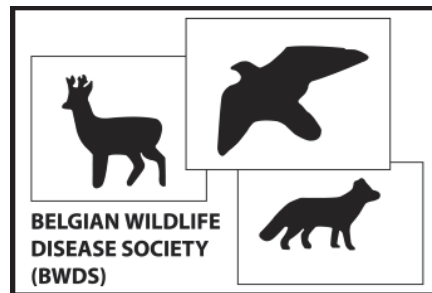
**“Wildlife crossing borders”**

**Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2016  
Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp**



## Wildlife Crossing Borders

**1<sup>st</sup> Joint Symposium:  
Belgian Wildlife Disease Society  
&  
Dutch Society for Wildlife Health**



Dutch Society for Wildlife Health

**7 October 2016, ITM, Antwerp**

### **Organizing and Scientific Committee:**

**Joke van der Giessen, Judith van den Brand, Wim van der Poel, Rogier Bodewes  
Paul Tavernier, Stefan Roels, Paul Heyman, Leen Claes, Kristof Baert**

**Abstract book edited by Kristof Baert**

## **Wildlife pathogens and invasive alien species.**

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The Convention on Biological Diversity wants priority invasive alien species (IAS) identified, pathways controlled and management strategies deployed. The new EU IAS Regulation provides a framework to protect biodiversity from IAS. For a number of listed species, and more generally at least one quarter of the “world’s worst IAS”, invasion and associated impacts are linked to wildlife diseases. Pathogens may be left behind in the native range, affording enemy release to their host, or they may be introduced and represent a source of pathogen pollution. Risk analysis is used to evaluate the risk associated with species introductions and their pathogens. However, interactions between vectors, hosts, pathogens and the environment are complex. We address gaps constraining our ability to undertake risk assessments and identify risk management options for pathogens of concern. Pathogens need to be better covered in international (IAS) databases and data on prevalence, pathogenicity, virulence and transmission dynamics are needed to assess their risk. Assessing the exposure of native wildlife to novel pathogens is constrained by lack of data on the distribution and likelihood of introduction. Despite their role in mediating invasions, wildlife pathogens are excluded from the IAS Regulation. In contrast with policies on diseases of humans or livestock, policy on pathogens of wildlife is fragmented and characterized by a lack of international cooperation. There is a need to address pathways by increased controls, health surveillance of wildlife imports and wildlife populations, as well as increased biosecurity awareness among all actors in the field. To identify and manage the threats associated with alien pathogens and their vectors, the development of interdisciplinary capacity, expertise and coordination is critical.