

Wildlife Trafficking as a driver of disease emergence: WCS and its partners' responses

PAHI One Health Communication Network Meeting
Hanoi, September 24, 2015



PREDICT



Content

- Wildlife trade and its hidden threats to human health
- WCS and partners' on-going efforts to combat wildlife trafficking
 - Policy advocacy is key
- Collective efforts
 - How to build joint efforts within OH communication network?

Normality breeds Hidden Threats

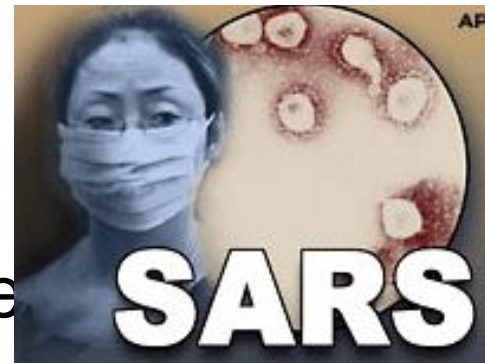
1. August 14th: Thanh Hoa: 56 Java Pangolins rescued
2. August 19th: Quang Binh, traffic police seized a car transporting 20 wild animals 13 civets (38kg); 7 soft-shelled turtles (35kg) and some organs of other wild animals
3. Augusts 23rd: at Cao Lanh market (Cao Lanh city), Environmental police of Dong Thap Province detected Le Thi Bich Van (born 1978) illegally buying wild species of birds
4. August 26th: Lam Dong found a number of black-shanked douc langur killed
5. August 31st: Stopped a bus transporting 5 pangolins and 36kg cobras

Source: WCS daily news scan



- 8089 human cases, 774 fatal (*Guan et al 2004*)
- 39% first human cases in China were associated with wildlife trade:
 - Chefs in wild meat restaurants
 - Buyers for wild meat restaurants
 - Wildlife traders in a market selling a variety of wildlife

(*Xu et al 2004*)



PREDICT Results:

Sequencing of PCR Products

- **Screened in Vietnam**

- Bunya-
- Arena-
- Henipa-
- Filo-
- Flavi-
- Hanta-
- Corona-
- Rhabdo-
- Paramyxo-
- Herpes-

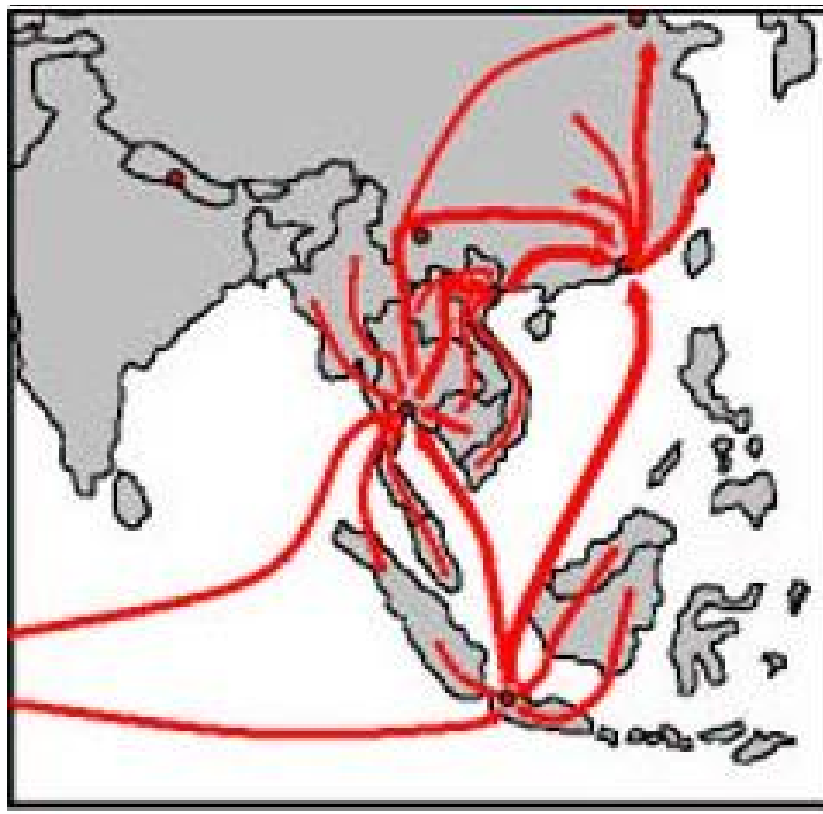
- **Screened at UC Davis**

- Alpha-
- Seadorna-
- Influenza-
- Retro-

Further characterization of some of these novel viruses discovered during PREDICT 1 will proceed under PREDICT

Global wildlife trade brings Ebola closer to us

- Estimated value legal trade - \$US 15 billion annually (from CITES data) (WWF/TRAFFIC, 2002)
- INTERPOL estimate illegal trade at ~\$US 20 billion annually, third behind narcotics and illegal weapons (Sinha, 2010)
- Global – geographic distribution
 - E.g.: 2004 HPAI H5N1 isolated from Thai Mountain Hawk Eagles, confiscated Brussels International Airport, smuggled in hand luggage via Vienna (Van Borm et al 2005).



Innocent: no preventive measures



General Health of traded animals



L. Clark, Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program



Unfamiliar pathogens continue to arise

- Very little known about the pathogens in traded animals (limited capacity and legislation for screening of wildlife in trade)
- Compared to domestic animals, comparatively little known about wildlife diseases in general
- Wildlife in trade – potential interface from which many new and unfamiliar pathogens will continue to arise



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PREDICT

Wildlife trafficking in Viet Nam: WCS and partners' responses



Wildlife criminals are

TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIMINALS



Driving species extinct across our planet



Corrupting government officials



Spreading diseases to humans

Threatening national security

Weakening the rule of law



Professional, organised, cooperating
internationally, innovative



From tigers to songbirds and the parts thereof.....



South Africa annual rhino poaching continues to escalate





Pseudo hunting: a Vietnamese trophy hunter - Photo from Julian Rademeyer

Demand from Asian consumers is driving a poaching crisis across Africa



One million pangolins illegally traded in last 10 years
Range collapsing across Asia – African imports increasing



Criminals – Not ‘wildlife’ criminals



International law enforcement cooperation against wildlife trafficking networks is in its toddler years



What impact are we having?
Where should we focus effort?



**It will take
International enforcement cooperation
To defeat
International criminal cooperation**

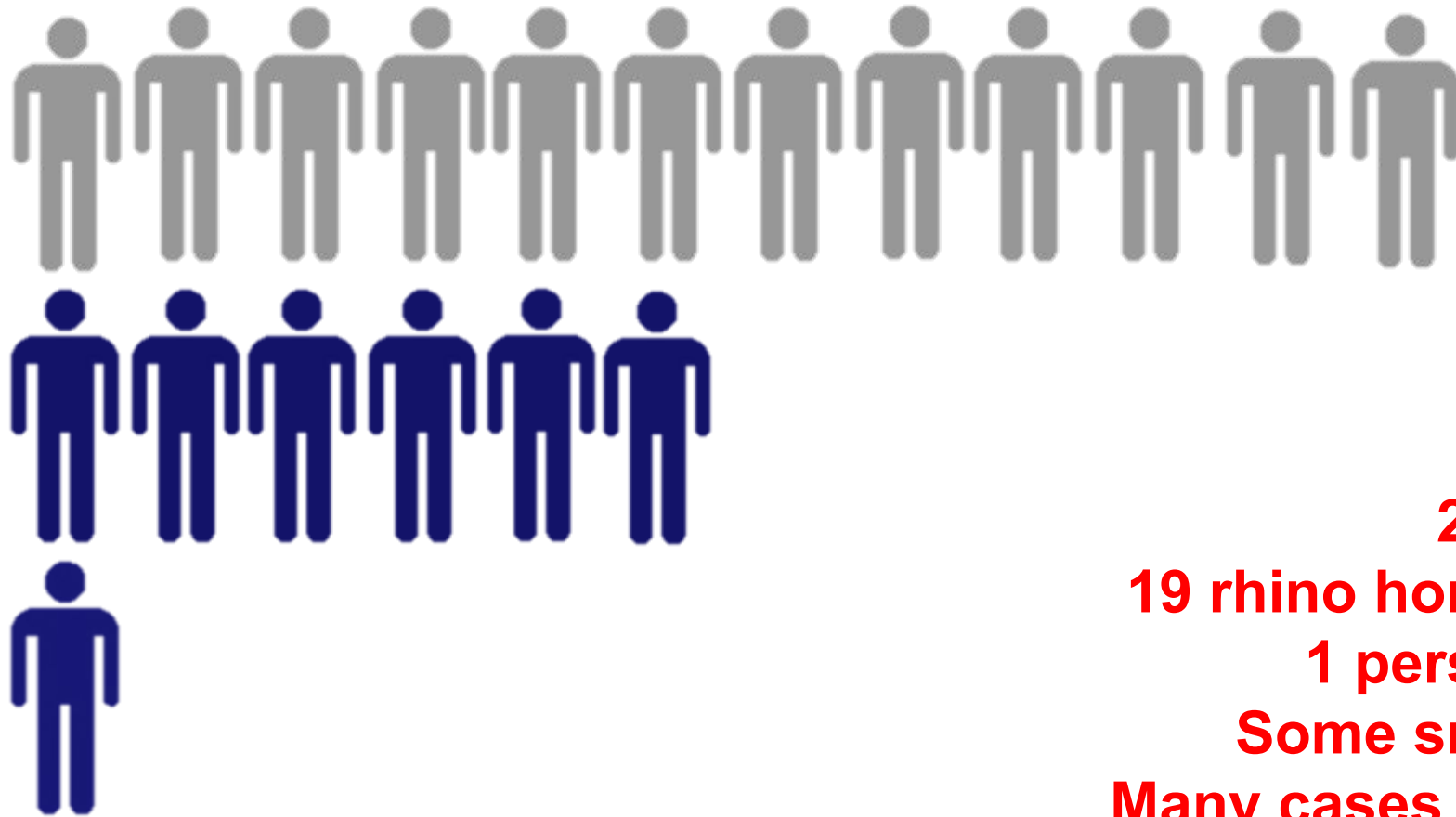


Seizures of products from murdered animals celebrated as a success....

Success is when the criminals who are behind the illegal slaughter and trade of these animals are brought to justice



Criminal justice system not effectively addressing the criminal groups in Asia yet



2008-2013

19 rhino horn arrests

1 person jailed

Some small fines

Many cases still open

No additional arrests following


Are consumers listening to our efforts to reduce demand?



Being aware

≠

Behaviour change



**Governments action, or inaction are important
drivers to changing traditional consumptive
behavior**



Policy Advocacy is Key

- Policy Advocacy strategy is under development:
 - Show the flow chart of steps to design an advocacy plan
 - WCS has been in every step of the process but
 - A more focused strategy is needed

How to advocate and influence change?

- Influence strategy under development
 - Theory of Change: practice based
 - Create a tipping point for change (communication strategy)
 - Law of the few:
 - Form a group of influencers/champions across sectors: Government, NGOs, Media, Business
 - Messages are passed through words of mouth
 - The Stickiness factors
 - What makes a message stick in a human mind?
 - The Law of context:
 - an alliance for collective voices
 - an enabling environment for a message to be passed through

How to influence change?

- Network and stay abreast of policy developments
- Utilize formal and informal channels to advocate:
 - Revised Penal Code consultation with National Assembly
 - Wildlife crime and increased penalties
 - Enhanced law enforcement
 - Billionaire Richard Branson coming to VN

What shall we do together?

- What endeavors you are taking that we can leverage to spread our influencing messages?
- Which organizations/individuals can be the champions in the animal/public health sector?
- Who are willing to join our efforts to influence changes together?

