

Exploring disease risks in legal and illegal wildlife trade

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Why this matters



~60% of emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic



~70–75% of emerging zoonoses originate from wildlife



Wildlife trade is one pathway (among several) for pathogen movement



Goal: Reduce disease risk while enabling legal and sustainable trade

NParks Centre for Wildlife Forensics

World's first WOAHA Collaborating Centre specialising in
Wildlife Trade and Wildlife Health

Strategic objectives:



International
cooperation



Enhance
regional
capability
building



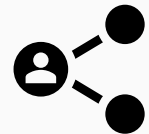
Provide
strategic
insights and
expertise on
wildlife trade



Support
implementation
of wildlife trade
regulatory
frameworks

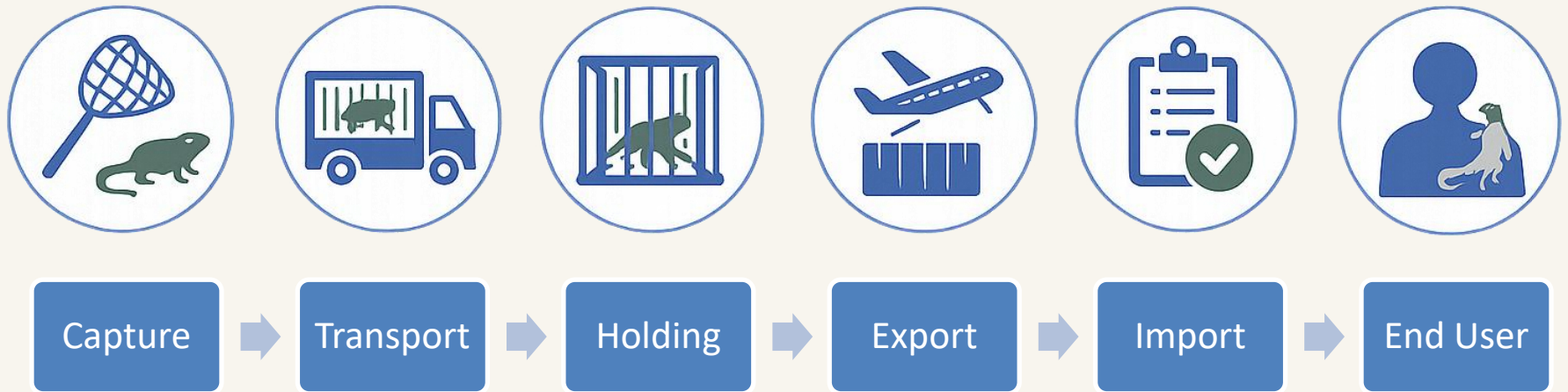


Share
knowledge on
wildlife
forensics and
biosurveillance



Risk
communication
and best
practices

Wildlife Trade Pathway



At every step > **stress, species mixing, poor hygiene** and **human contact** can increase spillover opportunities

Legal vs Illegal Trade



Legal: Permits, documentations, opportunities for veterinary controls



Illegal: Hidden, mixed species, no oversight

Where CITES fits



Legal trade

Trade that is permitted under national laws and CITES



Sustainable trade

Trade that supports conservation and species survival



Traceable trade

Trade that can be tracked and verified along the supply chain

Ways CITES reduces risks



Regulates trade

Ensures trade is legal, sustainable and traceable



Improves traceability

Makes it easier to track and verify wildlife products



Reduces illegal trade

Deters and helps prevent illegal wildlife trade



Supports inspections

Provides a framework for checks and enforcement



Promotes cooperation

Encourages global collaboration and information sharing

MoU between WOAAH and CITES

Key Areas of Collaboration



Safe, traceable and legal international trade of wildlife



Identifying zoonotic disease risk associated with CITES activities and CITES listed species



Welfare of live wild animals during their transport for the international trade



Safe and fast transport of biological samples from wild animals for diagnosis or identification



Prevention and control of invasive alien animal species



Combat illegal wildlife trade

How the Partnership Works



Regular policy consultation on matters of common interest



Exchange of information, documents and publications



Technical cooperation and exchange of expertise



Joint meetings, workshops and conferences



Collaborative capacity building and technical assistance

CoP20 Decisions

CoP20 Decisions		Desired Outcomes	
20.10	Strengthen collaboration with WOAHA, FAO and other One Health Partners.		Better surveillance
20.11	Animals Committee to participate in the processes of developing guidance by relevant organisations with mandates in animal health such as WOAHA and FAO that helps Parties strengthen national SOPs for preventing, detecting and controlling zoonotic disease risks and pathogen spillover.		Improved traceability
20.12	Parties encouraged to collaborate with Veterinary Services, WOAHA, WHO, CBD focal points and others; share experience and best practices.		Stronger biosecurity
			Earlier detections
			Reduced pathogen spillover risk

Where can we collaborate

 CITES Management Authority	 WOAH Wildlife Focal Point
 Share permit information	 Share disease intelligence
 Notify unusual mortality events	 Alert CITES on disease outbreaks affecting traded species
 Import/export inspections	 Veterinary support during inspections
 Capacity building	 Wildlife disease training
 Risk profiling	 Disease risk assessment

 Collaboration should occur **before, during** and **after** wildlife trade transactions.

What success looks like



CITES Management Authorities and WOAHP Wildlife Focal Points can:



Improve communication



Strengthen wildlife disease surveillance



Enhance traceability



Support evidence-based risk assessments



Improve border controls



Facilitate safe and sustainable wildlife trade



Reduce opportunities for future disease emergence

Key Messages



Preventing zoonotic disease emergence begins before pathogens reach people.



Well-governed wildlife trade is an important component of One Health.



CITES and WOAHA have different mandates but are complementary in expertise.



Regular collaboration between CITES Management Authorities and WOAHA Wildlife Focal Points improves conservation, animal health and public health outcomes.



Working together today reduces the risk of tomorrow's pandemics.

**Let's build a world where
trade is safe, health is a
priority, and wildlife thrives.**



Contact us at CWFWOAHCC@nparks.gov.sg