

A Case Study on Disease Risk Management in Singapore: Illegal Wildlife Trade

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Wildlife Trade – An Overview



Wildlife trade (legal and illegal) can facilitate transmission of diseases



Across borders and continents



Wildlife markets, transportation networks, and mixing of species > **disease hotspots**

Singapore as a major trade hub



LEGAL TRADE



Comprehensive
biosurveillance
systems



Rigorous
screening
protocols



Robust import
health controls



ILLEGAL TRADE



Enforcement
measures for
detection



Every seizure – an opportunity
to identify, analyse and share
intelligence

Pangolin scale seizure



Background



December 2025



Seizure of **over 830kg** of Asian pangolin scales, the **largest** of its kind to date



Declared as **dried fish skin**



Worked with **Immigration and Checkpoints Authority** to intercept shipment



Genomic analyses done at **Centre for Wildlife Forensics**



Seized shipment of Asian pangolin scales in Singapore (Dec 2025)

Potential disease vectors



Further laboratory analyses found **ticks** embedded in the scales



Potential **disease vectors**



Tick species: *Amblyomma c.f. javanense*

Intelligence-Led Conservation: The Rhino Horn Case Study

Singapore

Singapore seizes record 35.7kg of rhino horns worth S\$1.13 million at Changi Airport

Twenty rhinoceros horns as well as 150kg of other animal parts were detected in four pieces of cargo from South Africa bound for Laos.



The 20 pieces of rhinoceros horns that were seized weighed 35.7 kg with an estimated worth of S\$1,130,000. (Photo: National Parks Board of Singapore)



Key lessons learnt



Wildlife trade enforcement and wildlife health surveillance are critically interlinked



Screening every seizure for species identification and health risks
> **Early warning systems** for regional and international protection



To work closely with frontline officers and border agencies



Singapore's commitment



Proactive seizure and biosurveillance efforts

- Demonstrate our commitment to building resilience against future health crisis



Invest in inter-agency collaboration, capacity building, and international partnerships

- Ensure that our biosurveillance and enforcement frameworks remain robust, adaptable and fit for purpose in an increasingly complex threat landscape

Thank you