



International
Alliance against
Health Risks in
Wildlife Trade

Report 2021–2025

Translating Knowledge into Action

Initiated by:



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Climate Action,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Implemented by:

giz

Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Cover photo © CIFOR-ICRAF / Vivian Anogo

Proudly ÉBAÉ Marcel, a hunter from the Zoulabot community, presents his *kinga*.

In this region of Cameroon, hunters traditionally use *kingas*, backpacks woven from rattan, to carry wildlife they have hunted. Recognising the potential health risks associated with direct contact with animal blood, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) launched a community-led *kinga* design contest. The goal was to create improved *kingas* that offer better hygiene and safety, helping protect hunters from pathogens and reducing the risk of disease spillover.

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Acknowledgements

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Table of Abbreviations

ACI	Airports Council International
BMUKN	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CC	Community Conservancy
CIFOR-ICRAF	Center for International Forestry Research — World Agroforestry
CIH	Center for International Health (at LMU)
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
CONTACT	Government Consultation Facility
COMIFAC	Central African Forest Commission
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IUBS	International Union of Biological Sciences
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude, Practice
KAZA	Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area
LMU	Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich
NABU International	The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union International Nature Conservation Foundation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OHHLEP	One Health High Level Expert Panel
Quadripartite	Collaborative work by FAO, UNEP, WHO, and WOA
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (by CBD)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SWM	Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme (by FAO)
UN	United Nations
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WDA	Wildlife Disease Association
WOAH	World Organisation for Animal Health
WHO	World Health Organisation
WWF	World Wide Fund For Nature



Foreword

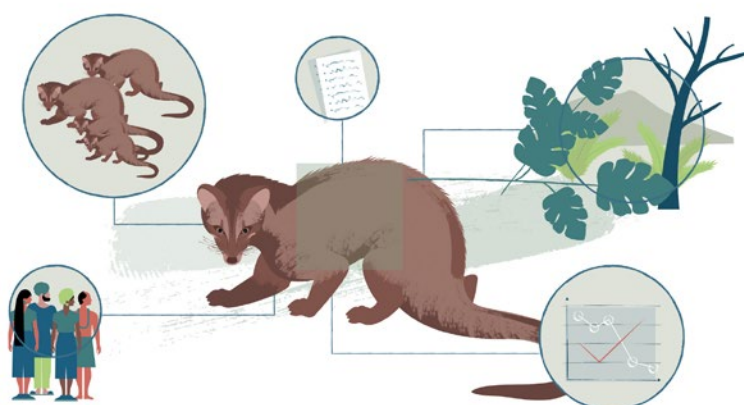
In the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic and in the face of rising disease threats such as avian influenza, there is mounting political and scientific urgency to manage infectious risks linked to the trade of wild animals. Wildlife is an important and integral part of biodiversity, which in turn underpins the health of human civilisation. It is also a source of known and currently unknown pathogens, some of which have the potential to become pandemic in humans. However, it is not wildlife itself that poses a risk, but the interface between wildlife and people. There is a growing chorus of governments, international fora, multilateral organisations, and civil society members advocating for improvements in pandemic prevention. Institutions such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and many others are calling for fundamental, transformative innovations in how we dampen or prevent pandemic threats. The [International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade](#), initiated in 2021, exists to help answer these calls.

The Alliance facilitates the necessary interdisciplinary actions at an international level to protect the health of people and wildlife. We are united by the aim of primary prevention through reducing the health risks linked to the trade of wild animals.

We are proud to present this report, which underscores how we have brought the health risks associated with wildlife trade to the forefront of international agendas, engaging governments, local communities, and global stakeholders alike. Through strategic partnerships and collaboration, we have helped identify what needs to be done and supported the development of practical pathways to create meaningful change. This report illustrates how we have empowered our membership to translate diverse forms of knowledge and experience into tangible action.

Our companion report [Learning to Make Change Happen: Global Lessons from 18 Projects Supported by the International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade](#), highlights the outcomes of funded projects and offers in-depth insights into the lessons learned across a wide range of initiatives implemented by Alliance partner organisations around the world.

Together, these reports show how the Alliance has responded to global calls for a safer, healthier future by forging innovative, collaborative approaches to knowledge sharing and action, from grassroots initiatives and online events to major conferences and beyond.



Words from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



Global health security does not begin in the clinic, it begins at the source, where ecosystems are intact, wildlife is protected, and people live in harmony with nature. The destruction of biodiversity and unregulated wildlife trade are not just ecological issues; they pose a direct threat to human health and global stability.

In response to this challenge, the German Government has taken action. In 2021, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN) jointly initiated the International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade.

The Alliance is a pioneering effort to implement the One Health approach in practice. It recognizes that the health of humans, animals, and ecosystems is interconnected, and that preventing future pandemics requires integrated, cross-sectoral cooperation. Through this Alliance, projects have been financed in over 25 countries, where partners work together to reduce zoonotic spillover risks, strengthen regulation and surveillance, and build local and global capacity for prevention.



As German Government we are proud to see the Alliance's work reflected in key international processes — from the WHO Pandemic Agreement negotiations to the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Through its Working Groups, policy support, and field projects, the Alliance is helping to bridge the gap between science and policy, and between knowledge and action.

To all Alliance members, partners, and contributors: Thank you! You are shaping the cooperation between human health, animal health and the environment — based on equity and respect for the natural world. Your efforts help protect health, dignity, and the planet we share.

Let us continue this important work: together, and with determination.

Dr. Tania Rödiger-Vorwerk

Director Global Health, Equality of Opportunities

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Words from the Head of Secretariat



Wildlife trade is problematic in many respects, certainly dramatically from the point of view of dwindling biodiversity, but also due to the threat posed by novel pathogens from the animal kingdom. The reasons for the emergence of new pathogens are manifold and include a variety of parasites, fungi, viruses, and bacteria — changing land use and increased pressure on ecosystems lead to more intensive contact with potential pathogens and thus increase the risk for transmission.

It has therefore never been more important to bring together experts from all sub-disciplines of the One Health concept to work on early and holistic solutions. Four years on from the launch of the *International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade*, initiated by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation

and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN) and by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and commissioned by the latter, I can say that this has been successful — across sectors and areas and open to innovative approaches and ideas; united under the goal of identifying threats and tackling them early. Through a brute commitment of the members and a highly dedicated Steering Committee, I can say today that we have not solved the problems, but we are working hard to do so.

Dr. Michael Nagel

Head of Secretariat

Words from the Steering Committee



Wildlife trade is a vast, complex and changing phenomenon. Finding strategic opportunities to affect health risks, therefore, requires a diverse set of knowledge, skills, and experiences. The Alliance's Steering Committee reflects this diversity. This group of experts from around the world and across disciplines provides the Alliance with a breadth of understanding that helps formulate strategic plans and set targets for its work. These dedicated Committee members have volunteered countless hours for meetings, travel, Working Groups and outreach that has amplified the Alliance's messages and impacts.

Success for the Alliance and its membership lies in addressing pressing risks, while being practical and resourceful. The Committee's Working Groups have generated some bold thinking to help members expand and reimagine how to most effectively manage health risk in wildlife trade.

The Steering Committee's expertise and experience have helped the Alliance not just to pragmatically plan for the present but also for the future. I think everyone involved in the Steering Committee would agree that challenges of dealing with health risks in wildlife trade seem at times to be overwhelming but that we learned from each other and the membership to help the Alliance create and adjust plans that have led to important and beneficial impacts.

Dr. Craig Stephen

on behalf of the Steering Committee

(alphabetically ordered by last name):

Bupe Rita Banda, Dr. Marcela Fresno, Dr. Alex D. Greenwood,
Dr. Hongying Li, Dr. Susan Lieberman, Dr. Barbara Maas,
Dauda Ayomide Onawola, Dr. Christina Pettan-Brewer,
Dr. Jamie K. Reaser, Dr. Chadia Wannous, Dr. Sandul Yasobant



International **Alliance** against **Health Risks** in **Wildlife Trade**



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¹ **Zoonosis** Means any disease or infection that is naturally transmissible from vertebrate animals to humans (WHO definition); either directly — via contact or aerosol, or indirectly — via food, fomite or vector (usually arthropod).

² **Pathogen** Means an organism causing pathological dysfunction (disease) to its host. A host is a living organism which is capable of supporting a microorganism in its body or cells.

³ **Prevention** The Alliance focuses on primary pandemic prevention which refers to preventative measures that reduce risks of pathogen transmission from wildlife — sometimes via domesticated animals — to humans (spillover). These pre-spillover measures address underlying drivers through a One Health approach at the human-animal-environment interface. Key drivers include wildlife trade, livestock rearing, and deforestation as they lead to increased contact between humans and animals.

⁴ **One Health** One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to achieve optimal and sustainable health outcomes for people, animals, and ecosystems. It recognises that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (our ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent. The approach mobilises multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at all levels of society to work together to tackle threats to health and ecosystems, while addressing our collective needs for healthy food, water, energy and air, taking action on climate change, and promoting sustainable development.

(One Health High Level Expert Panel [OHHLEP] definition)

1.

An Overview

In this report, the reader will find main achievements of our work since the launch of the Alliance, structured across three main sections:

1. In the chapters '**Our Strategic Approach**,' and '**Our Driving Principles**,' we present the vision, framework and principles guiding our network.
2. In the following chapter '**How we are Driving Change**', we highlight our achievements and showcase the results of our work across various thematic areas along our three main action fields based on our *Theory of Change*.
3. Finally, in '**Sustaining Impact — The Handover of the Alliance Secretariat**,' we look towards the future and hear from WOAHA about their vision as they assume the Secretariat function of the Alliance.

'Envision a world of healthy and safe coexistence of people, animals, and the ecosystems they share.'

The *International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade* works to make this vision a reality by narrowing the gap between what we know we should do to reduce zoonotic disease¹ risks from wildlife and what we can do to turn knowledge into action. We work collaboratively to reduce the risk of pathogen² spillover between wildlife, and people, with a strong focus on preventing the emergence of novel diseases with pandemic potential. Our goal is to drive and accelerate change by translating knowledge into effective policy and action on the ground.

We do this by creating inclusive, global, collaborative opportunities to:

- i. Put health risks from wildlife trade on the agenda of international political processes.
- ii. Focus on ways to prevent pathogen spillover by advising governments on effective policy implementation.
- iii. Enable on-the-ground trials to co-learn about pragmatic means to reduce risk.
- iv. Share and pool the collective wisdom and knowledge of diverse expertise, organisations, and communities to speed the global diffusion of knowledge to advance pandemic prevention³ and preparedness through a One Health⁴ lens.

Our members include governmental agencies, non-governmental organisations, civil society and Indigenous Peoples' organisations, international organisations and research institutes. Private sector organisations are eligible for membership.

The **Alliance Secretariat** facilitates the smooth operation of the Alliance, organises events, forms tailor-made expert teams for government consultancy services, and serves as the Alliance's central point of contact. It is supported by an international, multidisciplinary **Steering Committee** that formulates the strategic plan for the Alliance, identifies priorities and sets targets. The Secretariat is currently hosted by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in Germany.

2.

Our Strategic Approach

The *International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade* does not stop pandemics. That is beyond the capability of any single network. But by making it easier for our members to work and learn together, the world becomes better prepared to predict, prevent, detect, assess and effectively respond to infectious disease threats linked to wildlife trade.

Since its foundation in 2021, the Alliance has had two primary goals, as collaboratively defined by its members:

1. Substantially **reducing the risks of zoonotic spillover** and **stepping up responses** (including behavioural changes) to human and animal health risks caused by direct and indirect contact with wildlife and their products along the wildlife trade chain.
2. Enhancing international and national awareness, knowledge, and policies with regard to goal 1, thus **narrowing the gap between science and implementation**.

We make it easier to build the necessary evidence-based programs for healthy change. We have created an open, inclusive and collaborative space where stakeholders join forces to better understand and reduce the threat of pathogen spillover from wildlife trade and markets, provide and communicate evidence, support interventions, and increase awareness that will lower the risk of future outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics. We do this while promoting health equity for all species and generations by aligning our work with international enthusiasm for One Health policies and practices.

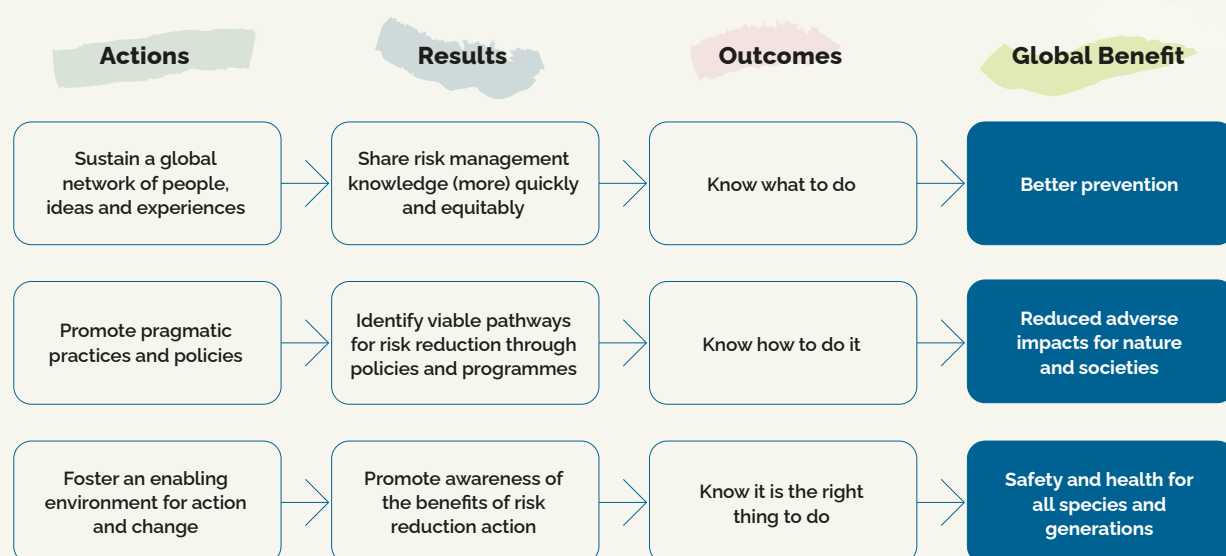
Paraphrasing the President of the European Council at the 2021 World Health Summit, to confront the spectre of the next pandemic, we need spaces where diverse sectors and expertise can band together for a common cause. More than five hundred global and local members of the Alliance are united by the aim to reduce the threat of zoonotic spillover between wildlife and humans.

The Challenge at Hand

Managing health risk in wildlife trade is a complex task. There is not one simple answer or single route preventing future pandemics. No single actor, institution or government can prevent them by themselves. Guided by the One Health approach, bringing together multiple sectors and disciplines, working across borders, including governments and local communities are demanding tasks to fulfil. Many Alliance activities reflect these complexities and together create a holistic portfolio. To strategically navigate this complexity, the Alliance relies on a collectively developed Theory of Change. This Theory of Change outlines the logic behind our activities and how, together, they contribute to global benefits. It aligns with the priorities identified by numerous international and national organisations (see Table 1) and was co-designed with our members.



Our Theory of Change



Graphic 1. The Alliance's Theory of Change was designed to mobilise our activities and outputs into global benefits. Our strategic foci for what we do were based on consultation with partners and stakeholders to address critical gaps in moving knowledge to action.

The Alliance's Actions and their International Alignments

What the Alliance does		Examples of aligned international and multilateral agency statements
Sustain a global network of people, ideas and experiences	Sharing data and knowledge and being a knowledge broker	WOAH, IPBES, WHO, IUCN, World Bank, UNEP
	Supporting and building inclusive collaborations	WWF, CBD, IPBES, WHO-WOAH-UNEP-FAO (Quadripartite) joint statements
Promote pragmatic policies and processes	Supporting policy change and implementation	WHO-WOAH-UNEP joint statements, WWF, CBD, IPBES, Wildlife Trafficking Alliance, UNODC, GEF
	Fostering on-the-ground actions	Wildlife Trafficking Alliance, TRAFFIC, WCS, WWF, IUCN, UNEP, CITES
	Advancing the One Health approach to wildlife trade risk management	Quadripartite joint statements. TRAFFIC, CBD, IPBES, WCS
Foster an enabling environment for action and change	Advocating for support	WCS, WWF, WHO, UNEP, WOAH, IUCN, CITES
	Promoting awareness in governments	CBD, IPBES, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Trafficking Alliance
	Building support and evidence for change	UNEP, IPBES, WHO-WOAH-UNEP joint statements, ACI, WCS

Table 1. Aligning the activities and priorities of the International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade with a selection of recommendations and statements made by international and multinational organisations for health risk reduction in wildlife trade. Note: This is not an exhaustive list but rather examples selected to illustrate the extent of alignment.



3.

Our Driving Principles

Three driving principles underpin the work of the Alliance and its two central goals. The Alliance membership is deeply committed to integrate these driving principles in all areas of our work. Since 2021, these three principles have fundamentally guided our activities:



Our member network is at the heart of the Alliance

Fostering inclusive cooperation and knowledge exchange between our members is one of our greatest successes.



We are guided by a deep commitment to One Health

Empowering actions that tackle threats to health and ecosystems, and contributing to sustainable development is a foundation of our strategic approach.



We are inclusive

The Alliance embraces different perspectives and ways of knowing to find opportunities to reduce the threat of pathogen spillover from wildlife trade and markets.

INCLUSIVENESS IN ACTION: HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUITY

Human rights and gender equity are building blocks of acceptable and sustainable risk management practices. The Alliance ensured all its collaborators receiving funds or support through projects or consultations have safeguards that care for human rights, gender equity, conflict management, and care for the environment. Alliance projects respect the rights of local communities and aim at consensual participation of community members in their activities.



Left: The project implemented by the EcoHealth Alliance aimed to spread awareness on zoonotic spillover risk with diverse knowledge products such as guidelines. Interviews and focus groups were designed to capture diverse gender perspectives. The project revealed differences in how men and women interact with wildlife and zoonotic risks. Women, involved in food preparation, sanitation, and animal husbandry, were key stakeholders in risk mitigation. Men had more outdoor wildlife contact. The study assessed gender-based differences in the adoption of mitigation measures, refining strategies to be more inclusive. Although men were often community decision makers, they found that it is critical to ensure that women have access to the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to take risk-mitigation measures. Women were more likely to acknowledge the existing risks and comply with the recommended risk management measures in the project.

Thailand © Photo: Nutthinee Sirichan

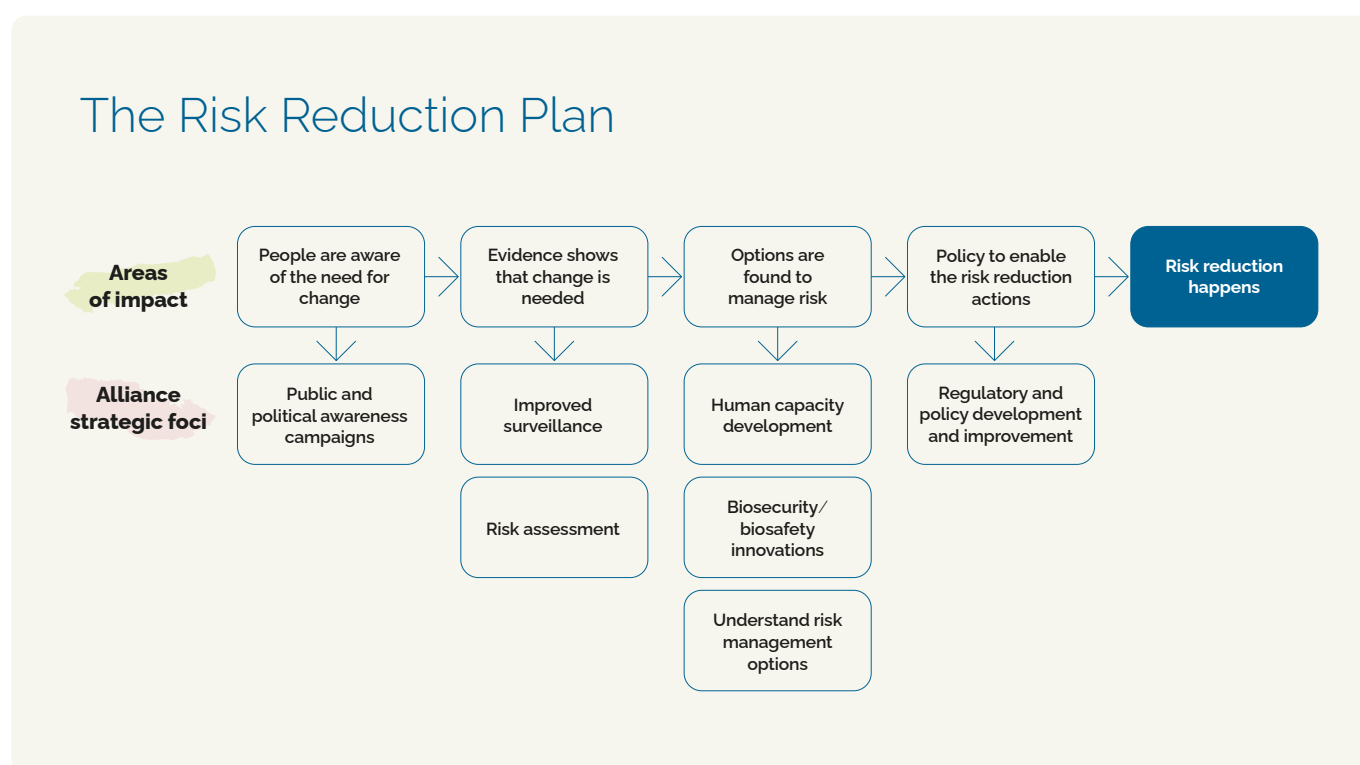
4.

How we are Driving Change

After introducing our goals, framework and values guiding our network in the first three chapters, the following section shows our Theory of Change in action. Through multiple initiatives, projects, formats, and conferences, across various thematic areas, the Alliance has sustained a global network of people, ideas and experiences, has promoted pragmatic practices and policies, and has fostered an enabling environment for action and change. While the implementation process is not always linear and much work remains, the Alliance has laid strong foundations for reducing health risks holistically and over the long term.

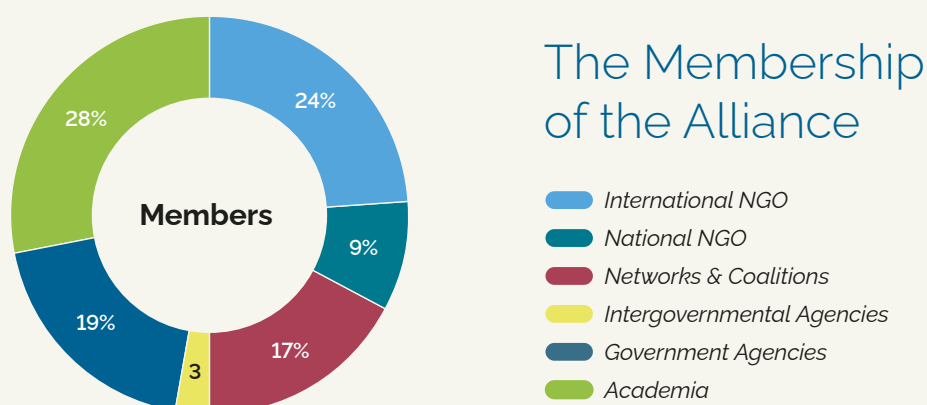
The Alliance's Risk Reduction Plan

To better envision the implementation of our Theory of Change, we have created a risk reduction plan. This plan is zooming in on the results and outcomes of our Theory of Change as 'areas of impact' and offers concrete guidance. Each of the Alliance's activities corresponds to one of these risk reduction areas. Altogether, the Alliance addresses risk reduction through multiple angles and strengthens a holistic approach to risk reduction.



Graphic 2. The Alliance was guided by four core impact areas throughout the risk reduction process. This helped guide decisions on strategic foci for resource allocation.

The Risk Reduction Plan helps to understand how concrete activities by the Alliance are connected and contribute to our overall central goals in more detail. Situated within the logic of our Theory of Change, the following section will portray some of these concrete activities and achievements along the three main actions of the Theory of Change.



Graphic 3. Percentage of Member Organisation Categories

4.1 Sustain a Global Network of People, Ideas and Experiences

The first action 'Sustain a global network of people, ideas and experiences' refers to the first driving principle of the Alliance, its member network. Resulting in a more equitable and faster way of sharing risk reduction knowledge, the Alliance network established important groundwork of sharing vast knowledge on what can be done for risk reduction with and beyond the multiple members of the community. Hence, knowledge sharing is a cornerstone of our efforts to promote a collaborative environment, as one of our main activities within the Alliance's Theory of Change, that accelerates the diffusion of knowledge and increases the likelihood of innovative ideas. It is key to narrowing the gap between knowing what to do and making sure it gets done fairly and effectively.

Improved global knowledge sharing and knowledge brokering are key recommendations of the WOA 2021 report 'Rapid Review of Evidence on Managing the Risk of Emerging Diseases in the Wildlife Trade'. The WHO has also recognised the importance of mechanisms that enable collaborative knowledge sharing to co-create and crowdsource solutions to pandemic risks. The Alliance is a key international venue that actively and regularly promotes global knowledge sharing and regularly gives voice to expertise from around the world on the issue of health risks in wildlife trade.

Building a Knowledge Community

The Alliance provides a platform for co-learning that helps our members build upon each other's knowledge and expertise. Our growing knowledge communities of over 500 individuals and 180 organisations accelerate knowledge growth and drive significant innovative thinking by building relationships and sharing knowledge across diverse circumstances, experiences and wisdom. Not only does this help speed the diffusion on knowledge but also inspires others to act. Following a call with the Alliance, the International Union of Biological Sciences ([IUBS](#)) joined forces with 143 organisations and co-signed a letter addressed to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, tasked with negotiating an international pandemic instrument under the WHO. This letter underscored the significance of prioritising pathogen spillover prevention and addressing the root causes of zoonotic disease emergence.

The Alliance: A snapshot of some of our many member organisations



By supporting a virtual community, we help experts, community members and decision makers deepen their knowledge, transcend boundaries to knowledge exchange and learn from each other to improve risk reduction worldwide. Bringing our members together regularly at virtual or face-to-face events helps build relationships across fields, enhance opportunities to find partners that support international, regional, national, and local initiatives. These events also provide space to discuss new ideas, reflect on possible interventions, build the relationships needed for rapid sharing of new information, and enable timely access to expertise needed to translate information into action.



Above: This image captures one of the community engagement activities from the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Wildlife project, which was implemented to raise awareness about the interconnectedness of humans, animals, and the environment. The mural was painted in the municipality of Presto, with the participation of students and a teacher from a local public school, supported by a visual artist. Participants focused on incorporating strong cultural themes and clothing. Carnival, a very colourful event that showcases folklore and traditional clothing, was a key inspiration. As a result, the mural features a man and a woman in festive, traditional clothing, along with representations of local flora and fauna. These include the Jukumari bear with its cub, a brightly coloured owl associated with both good and bad luck, and chirimoyas, a popular local fruit related to custard apples. The participants wanted to play with the duality of day and night to create a visual impact at the town's entrance.

Project by the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU).

Photo © Center for International Health (CIH) 2024

Right: This image shows a costume worn during a local anniversary celebration in the municipality of Presto, located within the El Palmar Integrated Management Natural Area, in 2022 during the socialising phase of the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Wildlife project. The costume highlights the cultural significance of the endangered Jukumari Bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) in the community, symbolising its important role in local culture.

Project by the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU).

Photo © Center for International Health (CIH) 2024

RESPECTING DIFFERENT WAYS OF KNOWING

The Alliance promoted awareness within the wildlife health community at the International Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) Conference in Australia 2024 highlighting not only how Indigenous knowledge can provide valuable insights into risk management strategies but also how respect for their knowledge is essential for decolonising how we manage wildlife trade risks.

As a co-sponsor of the WDA conference 2024 under the theme 'Respect – Listen – Reflect', the Alliance helped create a dedicated space where Indigenous perspectives and their relationship with the natural world took centre stage. Collaborating with Indigenous organisations can be challenging due to colonial legacies and differing worldviews, yet it remains a core principle of the Alliance's mission. Through two submissions and direct exchange at the conference, the Alliance strengthened connections to further integrate Indigenous perspectives into wildlife health strategies.



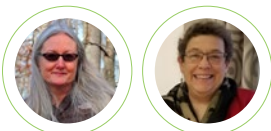
Sharing, Generating and Gathering Knowledge: Our Working Groups

Our five Working Groups (WG) draw on international expertise to advance thinking in areas deemed to be strategically important by our Steering Committee. These Working Groups aim to create game changing ideas that advance knowledge integration and identify tools, methods or processes to give insights into how infectious disease risks linked to wildlife trade can be mitigated or prevented.

The five Working Groups of the Alliance

Working Group (WG) Title	Objectives
WG 1 <i>Science-Policy Interface</i>	This WG works towards bridging the gap between science and policy implementations. This includes capacity building and the creation of an overview of decisions made under the CBD to better integrate them into action.
WG 2 <i>Transformative System Change: The Big Picture</i>	Members of this WG aim to provide guidance for policy makers on how to create a healthier, safer, and more sustainable global policy landscape regarding the regulation of these markets.
WG 3 <i>Evaluation/Effective Interventions</i>	This WG puts attention to the need for implementation science and program evaluation to strengthen the evidence base for risk reduction actions.
WG 4 <i>Wildlife Trade Data Management</i>	This WG aims to set up an open-source library of wildlife trade databases to help researchers and policy makers study and reduce risks of disease emergence.
WG 5 <i>Human Dimensions of Zoonoses in Wildlife Trade</i>	The goal of WG 5 is to translate knowledge about zoonotic spillover into concrete actions on the ground. This includes contributing to initiatives such as the 'Love Them, Leave Them' campaign.

Table 2. Over the past years, the amount of Working Groups has increased from three initial working Groups to five, initiated by the Steering Committee members. Working Groups are open to all members of the Alliance. Every member is invited to propose Working Group ideas which will be checked and supported by the Secretariat.



"Members of the Alliance's Science-Policy Working Group have played vital roles in bringing science to the table through various intergovernmental fora engaged with pandemic prevention and wildlife trade, from human, animal, and environmental health perspectives. This has included representing the Alliance's mission at meetings of the CITES, CMS, and CBD as well as in the WHO Pandemic Agreement negotiations. Moving forward, the Working Group will expand its efforts to include capacity building of Alliance members — enabling members to become more effective at delivering wildlife trade and zoonoses science into multilateral processes."

Dr. Jamie K. Reaser and Dr. Susan Lieberman

Chairs of Working Group 1: *Science-Policy Interface*



"Working Group 2 'The Big Picture' brought together multiple experts with highly distinct backgrounds and expertise to address the risks associated with wildlife trade and live markets. The driving theme was to think outside the box, which was strongly supported by the different views, challenges experienced and takes on the subject by this very diverse group. The outcome is an upcoming paper that encompasses the many ideas and discussions of this Working Group that no single participant could have likely created on their own."

Dr. Alex D. Greenwood and Dr. Barbara Maas

Chairs of Working Group 2: *Transformative System Change: The Big Picture*

The Alliance's Knowledge Products

The Alliance Secretariat strongly encouraged and supported the Working Groups, funded projects and collaborators to share what they learned. In total, over 500 various knowledge products were produced by our partners. Knowledge sharing was also achieved by hearing from the experts and our membership. The Alliance organised 30 online events that attracted more than 1,400 people to rapidly share insights, experience, and evidence from around the world.

Big Numbers



4.2 Promote Pragmatic Practices and Policies

Looking at our second Theory of Change action 'Promote pragmatic practices and policies', the Alliance has supported the identification of viable pathways for risk reduction through programmes and policies. Eighteen funded projects, along with four country missions conducted through the Alliance's Governmental Consultation Facility CONTACT, have set an example of how to implement change across various thematic areas, from social and behaviour change and education, to pathogen discovery. These pragmatic pathways are designed not only to serve the Alliance community but also to cross borders and support the broader international community in advancing effective approaches to primary prevention.



Photos © Udayana OHCC



Building Awareness on the Need for Strategic Action

The Alliance has persistently been building and sharing the case for the necessary actions by helping people be aware of the need and opportunities for change. Political change is not enough to see risk reduction actions work. The Alliance funded projects are also building community awareness of the need for action. For example, an Alliance funded project in Indonesia is developing children's books in five different local languages based on the values and customs of the respective ethnic group to increase public awareness and knowledge of nature and species conservation. Altogether, the Alliance activities and funded projects have been estimated to have reached 12 million people worldwide.



CASE STUDY

Increasing Awareness to Support Risk Reduction

The Alliance supported work in Asia by **The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) International Nature Conservation Foundation** that used various media outlets, to reach over 1.8 million people across three countries. NABU International and partners leveraged Buddhist principles to align with societal and religious values to reduce demand for high-end products made from endangered species.



Photos © NABU International / Dr. Barbara Maas

Practices for Changes on the Ground

Reducing health risks in wildlife trade is highly specific to the local social and environmental context. Risk reduction necessitates practical, on-the-ground action. The Alliance supported 18 projects in over 23 countries to make on-the-ground change. The diverse projects reflect the diversity of risk reduction challenges and are closely aligned with our risk reduction plan.

Alliance seed funding helped country-level and local-level teams design, apply and learn practical risk reduction interventions. Some examples of outcomes include:

- **Legislative and policy outputs**

- Guidance, informed by legal best practices, was produced to help countries assess national legislation that directly or indirectly govern wildlife trade, and in particular their ability to prevent, prepare for and respond to health threats from wildlife trade.
- Policy recommendations were provided to legislators and decision makers in China at national and provincial levels. Some have already been incorporated into the wording of legislation to improve wildlife trade management, and government officials and legislators were made aware of regulatory loopholes and public health risks along wildlife trade chain.
- Vietnamese regulatory frameworks to address biosecurity gaps were strengthened and institutional capacity enhanced by clarifying the roles and responsibilities and promoting multi-stakeholder coordination to align national strategies with global best practices.



“This activity is very positive. Before this, my child didn't know about tigers, and I had never told them about tigers either. Through this activity, both my child and I learned that tigers live around us. (...) It's really good because now we know how to respond when facing a wild animal like that. Since we live close to their habitat, it's very important to have this kind of information.”

Parent Testimony from Riau Region

Udayana OHCC Storytelling Event

Photo © Udayana OHCC



“Founded during the COVID-19 pandemic with the support of the German government, the Alliance illustrates how passionate, dedicated teamwork can drive meaningful change and propel a budding organisation from concept to positive action. As the Alliance's Steering Committee representative for Biodiversity and Wildlife Trade, I was able to witness firsthand how the insights and engagement of professionals from diverse fields, supported by an exceptional Secretariat, converged into powerful ideas about how to prevent future outbreaks. Our collective work across the Alliance underscores the transformative potential of cross-sectorial collaboration and serves as a testament to what can be achieved when we prioritise the health of all species.”

Dr. Barbara Maas

Head of Endangered Species Protection, NABU International

Photo © Dr. Barbara Maas



“The Alliance isn’t just a funding body, it’s an active network of dedicated professionals focused on knowledge sharing and the identification and application of best practices. Being part of the Alliance has introduced us to others working on related issues and allowed us to align efforts to increase the scale of our impacts, including in policy engagement. Over the past four years we have learnt a lot from engaging with other Alliance members and grant recipients, we have also identified opportunities and priorities for scaling up efforts in the future continue to reduce risks of zoonotic spillover. We look forward to continuing to work through the Alliance to ensure that the health of the environment and wildlife are strong components of a One Health approach to reducing risks of zoonotic spillover.”

Kevin Smith

Head of Programme Invasive Species and Wildlife Health, IUCN

Photo © Piero Genovesi

- **Increased awareness of risks and risk management**

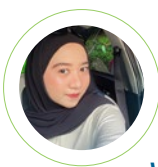
- The Zoonosis Education Campaign reached over 8.2 million people across four African countries through 1,460 educational activities at sport events, theatre and dancing groups, and workshops, increasing awareness of zoonotic health risks to an average of 84%.
- Knowledge from local communities that is often overlooked was given greater visibility and was used to inform social and behavioural change campaigns for health risk reduction efforts in South and Central America.
- Fifteen young professionals were given training to become One Health leaders in spillover prevention and wildlife conservation with extensive communications skills to translate science into policy in the Philippines.

- **Better understanding of the risk environment**

- Alliance support enabled the collection of 1,500 samples for pathogen detection purposes.
- A deeper understanding of the wild meat value chain in Lagos, paved the way for interventions to address wildlife conservation challenges and spillover risks from a gender-sensitive perspective.

- **Insights into risk management options**

- Research in Cameroon to understand perceptions, sanitation and hygiene behaviours along the wildlife trade chain informed interventions in eight villages to reduce risky behaviours.
- Global wildlife health surveillance was strengthened by fostering collaboration between the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), WOAHI, and other stakeholders, resulting in the development of comprehensive guidelines for surveillance of diseases, pathogens, and toxic agents in free-ranging wildlife.
- Improved understanding and management of health risks in Tanzania’s game meat industry was gained by analysing the value chain, identifying critical control points, and enhancing regulatory frameworks.
- Analyses of the current performance standards of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in relation to biodiversity and health that identified a number of gaps and made recommendations for revisions. IFC intends to review and update its Sustainability Framework which includes the performance standards related to biodiversity and health. The IFC Performance Standards are used by over 150 organisations, including Equator Principles signatories, export credit agencies, and Development Finance organisations.



“It was a pleasure to be part of the fun and meaningful activities organised by OHCC Udayana! We (...) gained important knowledge about wildlife and potential diseases that could be transmitted to humans in a fun way for children. We hope that positive activities like this can continue and reach more areas, so that more children and families can learn while enjoying the story.”

Defina Qotrunnada

(Storyteller South Kalimantan — Ruang Aktor)
Udayana OHCC Storytelling Event

Photo © Udayana OHCC



Implementation workshop of the WOA-IUCN Guidelines in Liberia, funded by the Alliance.

Photo © IUCN / Kevin Smith

By linking the lessons learned across these projects, the Alliance gained transferable insights that can accelerate the design and implementation of initiatives elsewhere. Opportunities were identified to bundle these learnings, bring together diverse experts, leverage the Alliance membership's collective expertise, and scale up results to influence the political sphere.

The Alliance supported projects proved that incorporating wildlife health into global health security is not merely a conservation concern but a practical and scalable strategy for preventing pandemics. The provided examples, where

public health experts, conservationists, and local communities worked together, offer a blueprint for scaling effective solutions and demonstrate how strategic investments can fill policy gaps and create systemic change. The on-the-groundwork enabled by the Alliance can provide adaptable methods and processes to encourage communication, coordination, collaboration and capacity building to strengthen governance systems and promote behavioural change. Our [companion report](#) *Learning to Make Change Happen: Global Lessons from 18 Projects Supported by the International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade* details the impacts of these projects and other on-the-ground projects.



If you would like to learn more about our funded projects, please refer to the [Annex](#) or the [companion report](#): *Learning to Make Change Happen: Global Lessons from 18 Projects Supported by the International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade*.

Mapping Global Activities

This world map shows the location of the projects and CONTACT consultation missions and their respective outcomes.



For more information on each project, implementing organisation, and project title, please see the [Annex](#).

St. Luke's Medical Center

Trained 12 young leaders in One Health, policy, and communication.

OHCC Udayana University

Created ten storybooks (5,000 copies) and seven region-specific podcasts for early-age education.

Dalberg Catalyst

Strengthened cross-sector collaborations; built journalist capacity to enhance One Health media coverage; developed a One Health policy paper and disseminated across multi-stakeholders.

EcoHealth Alliance

Empowered local communities by incorporating their knowledge into risk mitigation strategies.

NABU International

Raised awareness through buddhist principles, reaching over 1.8 million people.

WCS China

Reviewed national laws and regulations leading to policy recommendations to mitigate spillover risks.

Goethe University Frankfurt

Launched a One Health task force and an early warning system.

FAO SWM Cooperation

Analysed and compared legal frameworks to promote regional policy alignment and harmonisation.

Stichting Wageningen Research

Explored Lagos' wildlife trade to guide wildlife conservation and spillover risk reduction.

UNEP

Generated data for zoonotic disease monitoring in high-risk areas, enabling early detection.

WWF Germany

Provided guidance to decision makers as 69% of sales outlets showed high zoonotic risk.

TRAFFIC International

Supported the introduction of game meat inspection regulation in Tanzania.

Pro Wildlife e.V.

Reached 8.2 million people through a transnational education campaign.

The ICCF Group

Developed a legal tool to assess wildlife trade laws for pandemic prevention.

IUCN Liberia

Trained Liberian stakeholders, established wildlife disease surveillance protocols, and shared findings regionally.

CIFOR-ICRAF

Conducted a social and behaviour change campaign informed by local surveys on zoonotic risk perception.

FAO SWM Cooperation

Conducted a detailed legal review that highlighted replicable aspects of Namibia's community conservancy framework regionally.

CONTACT Charité

Changed traditional and ritual bushmeat consumption through evidence-based pathogen detection and collaboration.

FAO SWM Cooperation

Is preparing a first draft national wildlife policy through inclusive, multi-stakeholder consultations.

Facilitating an Enabling Policy Environment

Guided by a deep commitment to the One Health approach, the Alliance uses its vast pool of expertise to support preventive actions through policy consultancy services. Our ultimate goal is to empower countries and communities to develop evidence-based interventions targeting risks and behavioural prevention measures throughout the wildlife trade chain, through strengthened regulation, legislation, improved enforcement, and enhanced international cooperation.

The Alliance has helped countries align their risk management activities with international agreements and expectations. For example, a biosecurity project in Vietnam helped to align national strategies with global best practices. In another project carried out by IUCN and WOA, policy makers, conservationists, and health experts were engaged to enhance One Health integration in biodiversity and disease management. The results were presented at side events at the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) 26 and WOA General Session, as well as a global webinar reaching over 500 stakeholders.



The Alliance's CONTACT Missions

Through our Government Consultancy Facility (CONTACT), the expertise within our Alliance assembles interdisciplinary teams for tailor-made advice in line with specific country needs to support governments on primary prevention measures and interventions at the wildlife-human interface. CONTACT is providing context-specific

multidisciplinary consultancy services to governments and governmental institutions in four countries. The governments of Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru and Benin are collaborating with the Alliance experts to reduce risks for zoonotic spillover in their country. The Alliance Secretariat is coordinating these joint efforts, intended to close the science-policy gap.

CONTACT BENIN

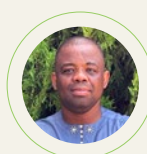


Right: Group photo with Dr. Michael Nagel (GIZ), Dr. Felix Drexler (Charité Berlin), Dr. Anges Yadouleton, Head of the National Reference Laboratory for Hemorrhagic Fever, and four voodoo high priests.

Photo © GIZ / Dr. Michael Nagel



Through the **CONTACT mission in Benin**, concrete policy recommendations were developed, including better regulation through support for alternative livelihoods such as wildlife farming licenses, awareness and hygiene programs to mitigate health risks, and active involvement of local communities in policy making. To ensure long-term impact, a dedicated national committee will oversee implementation and initiate pilot projects.

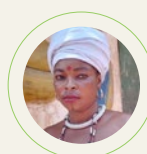


"The CONTACT mission in Benin has provided our government with vital insights into the complex realities of wildlife trade and its implications for public health and biodiversity. Through the close collaboration with German and Beninese institutions, we now have access to innovative diagnostic tools like the Pan-Orthopox PCR test, which significantly improves our ability to detect zoonotic diseases early. Just as important, the project's social science research has helped us understand the motivations and practices of those involved in the bushmeat trade, enabling us to design more targeted and culturally sensitive health communication strategies. These results will play a key role in shaping our national policies for disease prevention and sustainable wildlife management."

Dr. Anges Yadouleton

Head of National Reference Laboratory for Haemorrhagic Fever, Cotonou, Benin

Photo © GIZ / Dr. Michael Nagel



"Being part of this project was a meaningful experience. I value that all participants ranging from scientists, policymakers, and traditional knowledge holders, including religious perspectives, were treated with equal importance throughout the process. Sharing my own experiences provided a unique perspective on the challenges faced by this country and its people."

Agbanninkon Tchaossi

High Priestess of Dan Vodún

Photo © GIZ / Dr. Michael Nagel

CONTACT LATIN AMERICA



Right: Luis Guerra (WCS) presenting the consultation results of Guatemala during the final workshop in Lima.

Photo © WCS / Jorge Suárez



The **CONTACT Latin America missions** identified key knowledge and policy gaps in Peru, Guatemala, and Bolivia, and developed tailored recommendations to strengthen national legislation and institutional capacities. These technical findings and policy proposals were presented to national authorities during a concluding workshop held in Lima.

In **Guatemala**, the recommendations focused on enhancing biosafety and wildlife management capabilities. The results of the consultancy contribute to strengthen coordination platforms, for example, the One Health Technical Commission. Based on the mission's outcomes, the Zoonosis Risk Map was created which demonstrates the first national approach for the identification of risk areas associated with wildlife trafficking and other anthropogenic factors. This map offers a strategic tool for guiding surveillance, the prioritisation of biosecurity interventions and for public policies around pandemic prevention.

In **Peru**, emphasis was placed on improving risk management systems related to wildlife imports and exports. The results can be used to improve national intersectoral wildlife health regulations or management strategies of sustainable and health-oriented wildlife trade, strengthening food safety.

Meanwhile, in **Bolivia**, a collaborative effort with the National Museum of Natural History led to the design of a platform structure for the country's first system for health surveillance and data systematisation of confiscated wildlife. The Bolivian government has emphasised that the CONTACT mission has been a crucial initiative for its institutional commitment to the protection of public health and biodiversity conservation.



"Missions in Peru, Bolivia, and Guatemala, funded by the Alliance and implemented by WCS, led to significant outcomes in reducing health risks linked to wildlife trade chains. The project produced three national reports identifying critical policy and knowledge gaps, along with actionable lists of needs for mitigating pathogen emergence. Targeted actions addressed regulatory and procedural gaps, while also strengthening transdisciplinary and multisectoral collaboration in each country. Over 200 stakeholders participated in the consultation process, and more than 15 experts were mobilised through the Alliance network to support identified priorities. These efforts lay a strong foundation for long-term, cross-border solutions that protect human and ecosystem health under the One Health approach."

Yovana Murillo

Wildlife Trafficking and Health Coordinator, WCS Andes Amazon Orinoco Region

Photo © WCS / Jorge Suárez



SWM SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME



Primary Prevention at the Policy Level

By partnering with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' (FAO) Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme (SWM), the Alliance enhanced international collaboration, highlighting the essential need for an enabling policy environment that reflects local realities and regional priorities. Through efforts to reform legal and policy frameworks, foster multi-stakeholder engagement, and integrate the One Health approach, these initiatives contribute to the broader goal of promoting healthy wildlife populations and ensuring a sustainable wildlife trade, ultimately supporting both conservation objectives and public health outcomes.



In the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, funded activities supported the development of a national wildlife policy, addressing the country's lack of a comprehensive wildlife framework. The process involved engaging stakeholders from across the wildlife value chain, including hunters and sellers, ensuring the policy reflected diverse regional interests. As a result, national decision makers gained a deeper understanding of the complex wildlife management challenges across different ecosystems.

In **Cameroon**, effort was directed towards aligning national policies with regional strategies under the Commission of Central African Forests (COMIFAC) framework. Their efforts contributed to harmonising legal frameworks for sustainable wildlife management, ensuring that **Cameroon and neighbouring countries** could collectively improve wildlife protection, while benefiting from shared knowledge and regional funding opportunities.

In **Namibia**, the analysis of the Community Conservancy (CC) model demonstrated how the country's legal framework could be replicated in other regions, particularly within the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA) which covers areas in **Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe**. This work enhanced Namibia's role as a model for community-based wildlife management, helping to scale best practices and ensuring better integration of the One Health approach across ministries.

4.3 Foster an Enabling Environment for Action and Change

As the third action in our Theory of Change, 'Foster an enabling environment for action and change,' which emphasises the importance of raising awareness about the benefits of risk reduction and establishing that these actions are the right course of action, the Alliance, with the active support of its members, engages in various platforms to promote this awareness. Central to this field of action is the One Health approach, the Alliance's second driving principle. By focusing on the health of wildlife, ecosystems, and humans, and emphasising primary prevention, we aim to reduce adverse impacts and safeguard our well-being. This commitment is translated into action and actively promoted across sectors, helping to build understanding and pave the way for action and change.

Promoting Awareness of the Need for Action and Change

The Alliance has used its vast pool of expertise and One Health focus to facilitate collective responses for risk reduction. By promoting transparent evidence sharing amongst its members, the Alliance is actively combating the infodemic of misinformation and disinformation, a problem that is impeding action on risk management in wildlife trade and closing crucial governance gaps causing siloed rather than system-wide interventions.



Participants of the breakout session 'Pandemic Prevention at Source – Protection of Ecosystems & Biodiversity' at the Breaking Barriers conference in Berlin 2023, co-led by the Alliance, UNEP, WHO, WCS and WOA. Photo © Frank Peters

Advancing the Conversation

Early pandemic prevention lies in protecting nature and biodiversity by reducing the human-wildlife interface and other anthropogenic pressures on ecosystems, such as habitat loss and human encroachment. In this context, the Alliance has prioritised actions that raise awareness of the critical gaps in existing political frameworks for primary pandemic prevention. This approach aligns with the core principle of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR): that prevention saves lives, a perspective that underpins the Alliance's mission. Its members work hard to bring the evidence and experience that supports this conclusion to the ears of decision makers. For example, the Alliance organised a session at World Health Summit 2022 on 'The Cost of Inaction – The Importance of Pandemic Prevention at the Source.' This brought international attention to the urgent need to invest in primary prevention (pre-spillover) as a cost-effective strategy to mitigate future pandemics while benefiting climate and biodiversity. Momentum was continued by the Alliance co-sponsored 'Breaking Barriers' conference which brought together multilateral agencies, national governments and international NGOs to promote a stronger focus on the environment as a prevention approach. The Alliance continued to promote this perspective at the 2023 World Health Summit that advanced the idea that intergenerational and interspecies health equity as the foundations of equitable and sustained pandemic prevention.



Amplifying the Message

Sustained and long-term political engagement is essential to secure the fiscal and policy support required to make wildlife trade safer for all. The Alliance has co-organised and participated in international gatherings that bring sustained attention to the need for inclusive and cross-sector responses to risk management in wildlife trade.



"I have seen the impact of the Alliance's work in several different dimensions over the past five years: transdisciplinary guidance development bridging science, policy, and practice; advancing context-specific research that improves understanding and fosters local and global solutions; and providing a community of practice for shared learning and growth in collegial and diverse formats. A personal highlight was a visit to the Wildlife Forensics Academy while in South Africa last year, with a chance to interact with other Alliance members and see and hear about cutting-edge yet practical approaches. I am thankful to GIZ and our Secretariat colleagues for their initiative and kindness and always promoting a spirit of respect and collaboration rather than competition. I look forward to the Alliance's continued evolution and am grateful for the enduring friendships formed along the way!"

Dr. Catherine Machalaba
Planetary Health Scientist

Photo: © WHS / Steffen Kugler

CASE STUDY

Amplifying International Momentum for Pre-spillover Action

The Alliance led sessions at the World Health Summit 2022 combined with gatherings of experts from 20 national to pave tangible pathways to invest in primary prevention as a cost-effective strategy that produce additional conservation and social benefits. The Alliance played a key role in finding the right experts and organising sessions to highlight multiple ways of framing and acting on prevention. After each event, it amplified lessons learned through its awareness, advocacy and outreach campaigns.



Speakers of the session: Maria Neira from WHO and Jochen Flasbarth from BMZ. Other speakers of the session included Catherine Machalaba and Andrew Dobson.

Photo © WHS / Steffen Kugler

Global Presence: Advancing Risk Reduction on the International Stage

This timeline showcases the Alliance's participation in key conferences and congresses worldwide, where members have shared insights, research, and strategies for risk reduction. From high-level policy discussions to scientific forums, these events play a crucial role in shaping global action.

- Africa
- Europe
- North America
- Latin America
- Middle East
- Asia-Pacific

BERLIN, GERMANY
World Health Summit 2022

The Alliance co-sponsored the EWDA in Stralsund and organised an interdisciplinary sessions with various Alliance members that present on various aspects of work within the One Health spectre: From social and behavioural change campaigns in Bhutan to pathogen surveillance in Guatemala and the importance of the evaluation of these activities to achieve the desired impact.

BERLIN, GERMANY
Breaking Barriers Conference

RWANDA
East African Health & Scientific Conference

STRALSUND, GERMANY
European Wildlife Disease Association Conference

ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA
Wildlife Disease Association Conference

The Alliance has co-sponsored the Breaking Barriers Conference and organised two sessions on 'Pandemic Prevention at Source' and 'German Flagship' projects which served to raise awareness on the concept of primary prevention and implementation efforts and the identification of synergies.

BERLIN, GERMANY
World Health Summit 2023

KINSHASA, DRC.
USAID Wildmeat Learning Exchange

UTRECHT, NETHERLANDS
European Congress on Global Health

The presentation on the impact of children's books in Indonesia sparked interest among experts in Malaysia, inspiring efforts to establish a similar project in their country.

SANTIAGO DE CHILE, CHILE
36th Annual Conference of the International Society of Environmental Epidemiology

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
33rd meeting of the Animals Committee

CHIANG MAI, THAILAND
Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN) International Conference

Impactful connections at the WOHC facilitated a collaboration between the NGO CABI and the Alliance, leading to the publication of One Health cases from Alliance members in a Special Issue of the CABI Journal.

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
8th World One Health Congress

HANOI, VIETNAM
One Health Scientific Conference

BERLIN, GERMANY
One Health Symposium One Health Platform



NOTHABURI, THAILAND

Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN) International Conference



MARSEILLE, FRANCE

IUCN World Conservation Congress

6 Sep 2021

International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade was officially launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille.

2022

2021



SINGAPORE

7th World One Health Congress



DODOMA, TANZANIA

International Scientific Conference of the Tanzania Veterinary Association (TVA)



MONTREAL, CANADA

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP15



ARUSHA, TANZANIA

14th Annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) Global Health Conference

2023

Science-Policy Dialogue session between members of the national One Health Committee Guatemala with academic representatives, learning exchange with other ministerial OH Committees (Costa Rica and Mexico), presentation and discussion of pathogen analysis by Charité and ARCAS, decision to continue as a next step with a prioritisation of diseases.



GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

32nd meeting of the Animals Committee



MÜNSTER, GERMANY

Junior Scientist Zoonoses Meeting



NETHERLANDS

GDG Amsterdam



PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

2nd Annual One Health Symposium



YAOUNDE, CAMEROON

Yaounde One Health Conference



CHUQUISAC, BOLIVIA

One Health week of the USFX



ARUSHA, TANZANIA

14th Scientific Conference of the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute



PARIS, FRANCE

WOAH General Session



NAIROBI, KENYA

26th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)



KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

Planetary Health Annual Meeting (PHAM)



ARUSHA, TANZANIA

The 41st Tanzania Veterinary Association (TVA) Conference

2024



CALI, COLOMBIA

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP16



CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

Wildlife Disease Association Conference



BRUSSELS

Belgian One Health



PARIS, FRANCE

WOAH General Assembly

Oct 2025



ABU DHABI, UAE

IUCN World Conservation Congress

2025

Handover of the Secretariat to WOA.

Generating change and lasting transformative processes need time.

Over the past four years, foundations have been built, connections have been made, awareness has increased, and many activities have created an environment that enables the change needed. However, the desired impact and the achievement of the Alliance's long-term goals require more time and dedication. To ensure a lasting impact, and to strengthen international consolidation, the Alliance Secretariat will be handed over to WOAAH. The new Secretariat hosted by the WOAAH Preparedness and Resilience Department, headed by Dr. Alexandre Fediaevsky, is committed to sustain the Alliance's impacts in the coming years. Dr. Fediaevsky presents WOAAH's vision for the Alliance in this last section of the report.

5.

Sustaining Impact

The Handover of the Alliance Secretariat

What inspired you to take on the role of the next Secretariat team of the Alliance?

WOAH's Wildlife Health Framework aligns strongly with the Alliance's goals. This represents a great opportunity to synergise efforts and sustain the Alliance's achievements. WOAH will assume the Secretariat role, but the Alliance governance remains member driven.

As an active member of the Alliance, participating in two Working Groups and more recently joining as a member of the Steering Committee, WOAH values the work done by the Secretariat and the dedication of the members of the Alliance. From the outside, we perceived the Alliance as a dynamic network with useful objectives supported by a courageous and innovative implementation. The Alliance clearly brought a breath of fresh air to a vital but often neglected issue. Being a member has been a very positive experience thanks to the passion-driven members. It is interesting because the Alliance's has a flexible membership model, which is different from WOAH traditional model of partnerships where we usually sign an agreement of understanding. Both membership content and structure are quite complementary.

WOAH's core mission is to improve animal health and welfare while leveraging a One Health approach. The health risks associated with wildlife trade are part of that ecosystem even though when related to wildlife, these topics present complexities that demand tailored solutions. We hope that this integration will allow deeper connections between veterinary services traditionally responsible for animal health and the diverse partners that the Alliance brings. This integration is key to building a more cohesive, effective system for safeguarding health across human, animal, and environment interfaces.

What is your vision of embracing innovation and change?

The Alliance's inclusivity is exemplary, particularly in its efforts to integrate Indigenous knowledge and local culture, even if it is difficult to address representativeness and broad outreach. These values are very relevant to maintain. Additionally, the communication done by the Secretariat, technical coordination and care for details have been exceptional and inspiring. WOAH values knowledge development and local perspectives. We aim to maintain close links with the field for relevant, science-based policy making.

New, innovative paths for science-policy connections are needed, and the Alliance could be an exceptional incubator to experiment with new processes, since the integration will bring in close contact WOA's traditional membership to the knowledge and field success stories emanating from the Alliance.

From a technical perspective, the capacity to generate, share and use reliable health data is essential and in terms of wildlife, there are many organisational, scientific and practical challenges for which we will need collective thinking. WOA's will support integration of emerging research methods, like non-invasive sampling, remote sensing, and modelling, to improve data flow on wildlife trade and health risks.

How do you envision fostering collaboration among the diverse membership and stakeholders of the Alliance?

We need to be mindful of the different membership mechanisms between WOA's as an intergovernmental organisation and the Alliance. We certainly have a great opportunity to bring collaboration between WOA's membership and the Alliance memberships and we will invite and create incentives to our members to join the Alliance but this should not be a condition for collaboration. We will maintain open collaboration channels for government institutions who may prefer non-membership engagement, using a WOA's as an intermediate.

Regarding non-governmental institutions, we will encourage the regular expansion of the Alliance, with attention to priority areas for wildlife trade and health risks, leveraging WOA's global network and related projects to identify strategic partners, and implement targeted advocacy to ensure balanced representation.

How will you handle differing perspectives?

We recognise divergent views among members. WOA's experience in consensus building through science-based dialogue will guide us. We will not tolerate disinformation or unproven claims.

How does WOA's intend to engage underrepresented groups?

Diversity in both membership and implementation is essential. Not all stakeholders must become members, but engaging them enhances solutions' relevance and sustainability

By leveraging the strengths of its institutional and technical partners and implementing One Health initiatives, WOA's promotes a holistic understanding of health that encompasses humans, animals, and ecosystems. This collaborative framework enhances the potential for success in achieving the Alliance's goals and safeguarding global health.

What steps will you take to ensure all voices are heard?

We'll maintain an open governance model and encourage respectful, evidence-based dialogue. For very localised stakeholders, the focus will be on sensitising policy makers to consult them, rather than formal membership. Aligning with like-minded organisations will strengthen our collective advocacy.

We should not be naïve; this effort requires dedication, and sometimes financial or political interests may take precedence. However, many organisations are working toward similar goals concerning environmental issues, and we should support each other in our messaging. Often, we are advocating for the same populations, so continuing to align our voice with others will be a key part of our approach.

Looking ahead: What is your long-term vision for the Alliance, and what key priorities and strategies will you focus on?

In five or ten years we hope that the Alliance supported by its WOAHS Secretariat, will be integrated in the WOAHS wildlife strategy to support its implementation as an extended arm and will be using WOAHS's capacity as a standard setting organisation for the safe trade of animal and animal products to serve Alliance fundamental objectives. We expect it will be producing impactful insights and knowledge to lead to technical guidance and recommendations on the questions of understanding and reducing health impact of wildlife trade with new initiatives and innovative approaches can be developed and tested, building up on the incubator goal!

We hope the Alliance will also benefit from WOAHS's regional presence to strengthen its capacity for regional networking and local adaptation to countries specific needs, supported by stakeholder mapping and connection with relevant organisations.

What major challenges and opportunities do you anticipate?

Political instability and funding limitations pose real risks. Resilience and creative resource mobilisation will be crucial. One Health remains high on political agendas, and new technologies can help lower data generation costs.

What concrete actions will you take to achieve your vision?

We intend to regularly consult members (those of the Alliance and of WOAHS) on their needs and seek support to address priority needs either directly through projects inspired by the CONTACT initiative run by the Secretariat, or through projects proposed by members, which can include those lead by WOAHS including in the context of the next phase of the wildlife health strategy.

We will continue to integrate wildlife aspects in the development of international standards which are particularly used for safe international trade and develop tools and guidelines to support their implementation.

We will keep and enhance existing communication channels and expand them to our focal points for wildlife. When possible and

relevant, we will also promote the Alliance work in the context of the activities run by our 13 regional and sub-regional offices. We will run Working Groups and organise regular webinars and exchange of experience, trying to engage diverse groups as much as possible.

What three words best capture the essence of your team?

Dedication, professionalism and humanity.

How do these words reflect the mission and future of the Alliance?

Dedication because we have the privilege to serve a noble cause, that we share between WOAHA and the Alliance: safeguarding global health through science, collaboration and action. Our commitment ensures long-term impact, even in the face of complex challenges.

Professionalism because we are a science based international organisation, we uphold the highest standards in our work, ensuring credibility and trust among members and partners, so as well as the members of the Alliance.

Humanity because at its core, the Alliance is about people connecting with people, uniting expertise, cultures, and compassion to protect health across species. We believe in the profound responsibility of caring for others, improving animal health to secure a healthier, more equitable future for all.

These principles guide us as we strengthen the Alliance's legacy, ensuring it remains a dynamic, inclusive, and impactful force in One Health.



WOAHA Team

Photo © Dr. Alexandre Fediaevsky

Annex

Overview of the projects and the government consultation missions (CONTACT) financed by the Alliance, including details on their implementing organisations, co-partners, and project titles.



For more information on each project please read our [additional report](#):
*Learning to Make Change Happen: Global Lessons from 18 Projects Supported by
the International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade.*

Abbreviation	Implementing Organisation	Co-Partners	Project Title
CIFOR-ICRAF	Center for International Forestry Research — World Agroforestry	PSU, Forests Resources and People (FOREP)	Mitigating Risks of Disease Transmission in the Wild Meat Food Chain from Forest to Fork in Cameroon
Charité	Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin	ARCAS Wildlife Protection Guatemala	Health Monitoring of Animals Subject to Illegal Trafficking from the One Health Perspective
CONTACT Charité Benin	Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin	Laboratory for Viral Haemorrhagic Fever (LFHB) in Cotonou, the Conseil Africain et Malgache pour l'Enseignement Supérieur (CAMES), the Institute of Geography, Department of Political Geography at the University of Bayreuth, the Institute of Human Geography at Freie Universität Berlin	Benin Bushmeat – Novel Pathogens at Wildlife Markets in Benin
The ICCF Group	International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF)	ADM Capital Foundation, Legal Atlas, Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime	Preventing Zoonotic Strengthening Legal Frameworks and International Cooperation Future Pandemics: National
Dalberg Catalyst	Dalberg Catalyst	Preventing Pandemics at the Source (PPATS), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Yayasan Alam Sehat Lestari (ASRI)	Spillover Prevention in Indonesia with Outreach to the Southeast Asia Region
EcoHealth Alliance	EcoHealth Alliance	Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, Vietnam Thai Red Cross Emerging Infectious Diseases Clinical Center, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand	Mitigating Zoonotic Disease Emergence Risk in Wildlife Trade in Southeast Asia
GIZ Vietnam	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Vietnam	The One Health Partnership Secretariat under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Vietnam Country Package – Reducing Health Risks in the Wild Animal Trade in Vietnam
IUCN	IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources	WOAH and EcoHealth Alliance	Mobilising IUCN Knowledge to Support the Development or Updating of WOAHS Standards and Guidelines on Wildlife Disease Surveillance, Risk Assessment and Risk Management
IUCN Vietnam	IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources		International Wildlife Trade and Snaring Assessment
IUCN Liberia	IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources		Capacity Building for a National Wildlife Disease and Pathogen Surveillance Programme in Liberia
Goethe University Frankfurt	Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) and Ministry of Health (MOH) of the National Unity Government of Myanmar (NUG); Karen Department of Health and Welfare (KDHV); Kachin State Comprehensive University (KSCU)	Changing Dynamics and Health Risks along the Illegal Wildlife Trade Supply Chain from Myanmar to China and Thailand
LMU	Clinic of the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich	Universidad San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca, Sucre, Bolivia, Universidade Federal do Paraná, Curitiba, Brazil, Universidad O'Higgins, Chile, Universidad San Carlos de Guatemala, Guatemala	Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Towards the Risk of Zoonotic Diseases, Wildlife Trade and Wildlife Consumption in Latin America
NABU International	Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union International Nature Conservation Foundation, Germany	Association of Mongolian Buddhist Devotees – Mongolia Central Monastic Body Media Office (Zhung Dratshang Media Office)/Bhutan, Nature Conservation Foundation/Vietnam	A Buddhist Wildlife Trade Demand Reduction Initiative in Southeast Asia

Abbreviation	Implementing Organisation	Co-Partners	Project Title
Pro Wildlife e.V.	Pro Wildlife e.V.	Pandillus Cameroon – Limbe Wildlife Centre (LWC), Pandillus Nigeria – Drill Ranch (Pandillus) and Game Rangers International – Zambia Primate Project (GRI-ZPP); Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary, Liberia	A Transnational African Zoonosis Education Campaign: Raising Awareness for Wildlife Trade-linked Health Risks
St. Luke's Medical Center	St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine William H. Quasha Memorial	Planetary Health Philippines, Department of Biology of the Ateneo de Manila University, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity	Next Generation One Health Philippines: Building National Capacity for Transdisciplinary and Translational Research and Advocacy for Wildlife Conservation and Zoonotic Spillover Prevention in the Next 50 Years
Stichting Wageningen Research	Stichting Wageningen Research, Wageningen Environmental Research	International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Kenya; African Center of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases (ACEGID), Nigeria	Health Risks Associated with Wild Meat Trade in Lagos, Nigeria and Nairobi, Kenya
FAO SWM	Sustainable Wildlife Management Program by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation		Support to National Regulatory Wildlife Frameworks
TRAFFIC International	TRAFFIC International	Wildlife TRAPS Project, IUCN, IIED, University of Edinburgh, Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA), Tanzania Meat Board (TMB), the Game meat Selling Advisory Committee (GMSAC), Veterinary Services Division, The One health Coordination Desk under the Prime Minister's Office, Tanzania Wildlife Farmers' and Game Meat Sellers' Association (TAWIFAGAMSA), Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology	Reducing Risks in Tanzania's Game Meat Industry: Developing a One Health Model for Safe, Sustainable and Legal Supply
OHCC Udayana University	Udayana University, One Health Collaborating Center		The Application of One Health Approach to Raise Wildlife Protection Awareness (OHAWPE) in Indonesia
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Global Environmental Facility (GEF) National Institute of Health (NIH)	Preventing the Next Pandemic: Human and Wildlife Health Monitoring and Formulation of Best Practice Guidelines and Inclusion of Health Indicators in Development Planning
WCS China	Wildlife Conservation Society China		Breaking the Chain of Health Risks from the Wildlife Sources in China
CONTACT WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society		Consultation to Strengthen Policy Frameworks for Primary Pandemic Prevention at Wildlife Trade Interfaces
W/WWF Germany	World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Deutschland	Helmholtz Institute for One Health, Greifswald, National pour la Recherche Biomedicale, Kinshasa, W/WWF DRC, (APPACOL-PRN)	Zoonosis Risk Along the Bushmeat Value-chains. The Case of Salonga National Park and Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

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