



VIET NAM UPDATE NO. 4

January – June 2017



PANGOLINS are small mammals that eat insects and are mainly active during the night. Pangolins are found in Africa and Asia, and all eight species are threatened with extinction due to illegal hunting and trade. Pangolins are trafficked for their meat and scales that are consumed as luxury food and traditional medicine in some Asian countries.

Two species of pangolin are found in Viet Nam. They are both listed as “endangered, precious, and rare species” in national legislation, and prioritized for protection. Pangolins are listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which is the highest level of protection under the convention.

In Viet Nam, in the first half of 2017 alone, there were **14 VIOLATIONS** recorded that were related to the illegal transportation and trade of pangolins and resulted in confiscations by the authorities. The seizures included **879.2 KG** of pangolin scales and **173 LIVE INDIVIDUALS**.

From late April to early May 2017, **93 LIVE PANGOLINS** confiscated in previous wildlife trafficking incidents in Viet Nam were successfully released back into the wild.

PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

PREDICT/Viet Nam advancing techniques for the surveillance of critical species in the wildlife trade animal value chain

- PREDICT surveillance of the wildlife trade and animal value chain in Viet Nam has focused on collecting specimens from pangolins confiscated from the illegal trade to understand the potential for viral presence and spillover at this important wildlife/human interface.
- PREDICT has developed a Pangolin Sampling Guide as part of PREDICT’s Standard Operating Procedures e-book, an important resource supporting the safe handling of this critical species and providing other partners, projects, and the surveillance community at large with the knowledge to conduct zoonotic disease investigations of pangolin populations across the globe.

Building One Health Partnerships

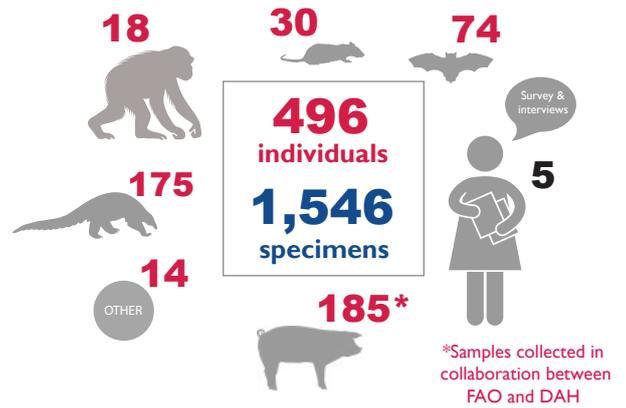
The One Health approach emphasizes the relatedness of human, animal, and environmental health, and the importance of trans-disciplinary efforts. The PREDICT One Health approach, and the importance of triangulated surveillance to characterize viral spillover and sharing, were highlighted by all stakeholders participating in the consultation workshop organized by PREDICT and the Viet Nam National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE) in March 2017. All stakeholders, the government, international, and US partners represented at the workshop, confirmed their commitment to working collaboratively to address zoonotic disease emergence and pandemic threats.



Photo 1: PREDICT staff in Viet Nam collect oral swabs from a juvenile Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) confiscated from the illegal wildlife trade. Photo credit: WCS Viet Nam

SURVEILLANCE AND FIELD ACTIVITIES

One Health Surveillance collected samples:



LAB DEVELOPMENT/TESTING

PREDICT/Viet Nam conducted tests at its key partner laboratories

1,372 tests

Viet Nam National University of Agriculture

1,295 tests

Regional Animal Health Office No. 6

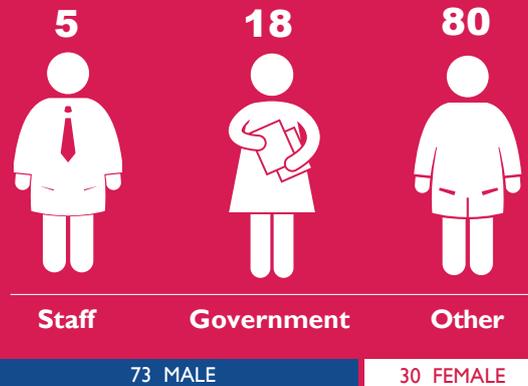
TRAINING

LIMITED TESTING

TESTING ALL TARGET VIRAL FAMILIES

CAPACITY BUILDING

PREDICT/Viet Nam continued strengthening capacity with project partners and stakeholders



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNER COORDINATION

- **March 23:** A launch meeting of human health surveillance activities with representatives from all project provinces.
- **April 25-26:** NIHE and WCS organized a coordination meeting with Bac Giang Center for Disease Control and a sample collection event from a bat cave where bat guano is routinely harvested.
- **June 15:** Planning meeting with Hanoi Center for Disease Control and training on surveillance protocols for key staff who will be involved in PREDICT human surveillance activities.



Photo 2: Participants at the PREDICT human surveillance coordination meeting at the Viet Nam National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Hanoi on March 23, 2017. Photo credit: NIHE

PREDICT PARTNERS IN VIET NAM

- Department of Animal Health (DAH), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)
- National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), Ministry of Health (MoH)
- Viet Nam National University of Agriculture (VNUA)
- Regional Animal Health Office No. 6 (RAHO6)

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