

Meeting Summary

Improving Cross Agency Responses Biological and Environmental Threats Across the Borders of the GMS

22-23 March 2023, Bangkok



GLOBAL
INITIATIVE

BMJ



Between 22-23 March 2023 the Asian Development Bank (ADB), GI-TOC (Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCDO) and the British Medical Journal (BMJ) convened a summit focused on improving cross-agency responses to biological and environmental threats across the borders of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS).

The meeting sought to apply a One Health approach that included a broader set of stakeholders who are essential to developing effective responses along borders. It included 73 representatives from sectors including border security agencies (immigration and customs), along with human and animal health agencies, as well as environment and natural resources management. The objective of the meeting was to understand the challenges and opportunities for cross agency cooperation and start to build joint working between agencies and countries in response to the intersecting challenges of cross border movement and biological threats (See Appendix 1 for a full list of attendees and organisations involved).

The meeting agenda was shaped in advance by a programme committee and the agenda designed in consultation with invited participants across three consultation calls. Five key areas were identified which formed the core sessions of the programme -

1. Overview: The links between licit and illicit commodity flows across the Greater Mekong subregion borders and biological threats
2. Updates from the field: existing policies and programmes
3. Capacities, capabilities and partnerships at the intersection of security and health sectors
4. Opportunities to include security sector agencies in a broader operational definition of One Health
5. How to recreate, resource and enable scaled-up partnerships among national, bilateral and multilateral partners

(See Appendix 2 for full meeting agenda)

Participants identified the key challenges facing actors along GMS borders in instituting One Health approaches to reducing biological and environmental risks. These included a lack of knowledge about roles and capacities across sectors, poor understanding of One Health, limited accountability for actions at the interface of different sectors, and inadequate attention to defining opportunities to collaborate.

Suggested actions were proposed including a White Paper for One Health action on borders, political commitments, regular interagency meetings, building One Health literacy and education capacity, improving community engagement, and increasing financial and technical resources for collaboration and information sharing.



Introduction

To support the free exchange of perspectives and ideas, the meeting was held under Chatham House Rules so while the opening comments from panellists named in the agenda of each session are summarised, discussion between the moderators, panellists and broader participants used in this report is not attributed unless permission was expressly given. This meeting rapporteur's report summarises discussions from each of the sessions of the meeting including possible next steps as discussed by participants in break out groups.

Opening remarks from Patrick Osewe, ADB and Abhijit Mitra, Government of India

Patrick Osewe, Chief of the Health Sector Group, Asian Development Bank, welcomed attendees to the meeting and set out the objectives. He highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic showed the importance of interagency collaboration and the need for One Health to be an ongoing multi sectoral priority.

For future pandemic preparedness we must involve all sectors that influence the health of people, animals and the environment. We need to move beyond just the traditional One Health professionals and draw on other human resources to address this challenge.

He also set the importance of this meeting against the context of the climate crisis and the rapidly ageing populations in the Asia-Pacific region which increase risks and vulnerabilities.

Abhijit Mitra, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India

Professor Mitra highlighted that two out of three infectious diseases in humans originate from animals. He told how India has formed a Commission specifically to address One Health to prevent losses due to animal diseases given India's huge populations of livestock and poultry upon which millions depend.

The One Health Commission has four areas of focus: (1) integrated disease surveillance built on existing programs; (2) joint outbreak response systems to control disease at the source; (3) extending pandemic preparedness to diseases of animals through the Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI); and (4) improving the enabling environment through better R&D, data regulatory and governance mechanisms.

He explained that India has also already extended the livestock data system by combining it with data from people, animal husbandry and wildlife sources on a common digital platform. Mobile vet units have now been introduced to provide services to 433.7 million livestock. As the host of G20 this year, India will be focusing on fostering One Health coordination globally to create a more effective preparedness system.



Session 1

Overview: The links between licit and illicit commodity flows across the Greater Mekong Subregion borders and biological threats



Moderator: Louise Taylor, Asia-Pacific Representative, Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime

Presenters: Srinivasan Ancha, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB, James Compton, Project Leader - USAID Wildlife TRAPS, TRAFFIC, Anne-Lise Chaber, Senior Lecturer, School of Animal and Veterinary Science, Faculty of Sciences, Engineering and Technology, University of Adelaide, Ross McEwing, Programme Officer, Environment Team, Border Management Branch, UNODC

This session provided an overview of licit and illicit cross-border flows in the GMS and touched on wildlife and other environmental commodities, people, medicines and narcotics, and why these pose risks to the health of people, animals and the environment. It also looked at drivers of risk, such as climate change. The panel drew on experts from national and regional law enforcement agencies, disease surveillance experts and stakeholders engaged in responding to these threats.

Srinivasan Ancha explained how the work towards climate change offers lessons for bridging the current gaps between human health, animal health and the environment. He highlighted a series of reports on climate change that had identified that the GMS in particular will feel the intensity of increasing extreme climate events with implications, not only for human health but also on the entire ecosystem.

He outlined five areas to be considered in improving collaboration in One Health: (1) Expanding the One Health definition by involving more agencies; (2) Raising awareness on the interactions and the links between climate change and biological and environmental threats where the awareness on these issues is extremely limited, including in the private sector; (3) Building capacities both at an institutional and technical level; (4) Investments focusing on leapfrogging technologies; and (5) Designation of a national authority, a multidisciplinary or intersectoral force for leadership on One Health initiatives.

James Compton discussed TRAFFIC's collaborations with regional organisations which have used a structured supply chain analytical approach to understand how wild animals are traded in different international, national and sub-national scenarios, with the goal of identifying critical control points for addressing risks. He outlined that a systems-based approach will likely be most effective for risk reduction, with the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points approach used in the livestock sector holding some good potential for adaptation to the wild animal trade, where practical mitigation measures can support multi-hazard risk reduction. At the same time, increasing the transparency of wild animal trade will help with disease risk surveillance, and this data could be integrated with law enforcement information for a more robust intelligence-led approach to mitigate and prevent high-risk activities.

He explained that higher risks of zoonotic disease spillover risk from wild animal trade will be driven by factors including: which taxa are being traded, in what form (live, raw meat/body parts, processed), the magnitude of trade and under what circumstances the trade from source to end-use takes place (e.g., mixing with other wild or domestic taxa, cramped/unsanitary transport conditions). It will

also depend on which zoonotic pathogens are present, the types of human behaviours and practices at human-animal interfaces, and various socio-economic, cultural and regulatory contextual variations. Success of solutions will depend on a strong enabling environment, where regulation, compliance and enforcement are effectively linked across agency jurisdictions, reinforced by targeted social and behavioural change approaches to move people away from high-risk practices.

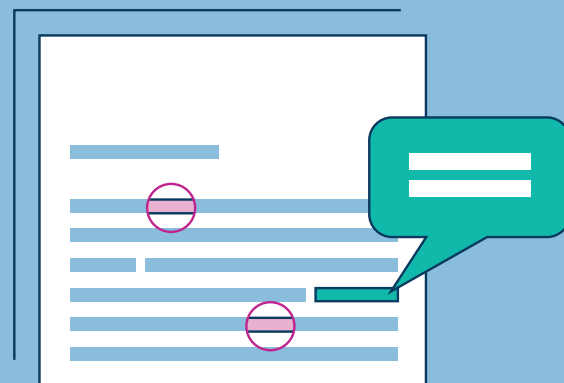
Ross McEwing raised some of the challenges of law enforcement of illegal wildlife crime. He mentioned that there is commonly a lack of prioritisation from the governments and it is often very difficult to differentiate between legal and illegal trade. Corruption also plays a large part in illegal wildlife crime. He discussed the role of the wildlife trade in zoonotic disease spread across the (1) illegal wildlife trade which fell under the customs department's mandate; (2) the grey wildlife trade under the wildlife department (for example skin, meat, coffee and pets); and (3) the legal wildlife trade which comes under the livestock department's mandate. Ross stressed the huge scope falling under the 'grey' wildlife trade, that wildlife departments tend to be underfunded and that high profile cases are often open to corruption.

Anne-Lise Chaber said that collaboration and partnership are key to operationalizing border security road maps and enhancing governance. Sharing intelligence and improving communication pathways is critical to detect illegal animal movements across borders. She said that capability training for frontline officers is necessary to ensure they are adequately prepared to respond to illegal animal movement. Frontline officers need to be equipped with the necessary knowledge and tools to collect evidence for prosecution, and compliance is crucial to address biological threats.

Adequate political support is crucial for proper prosecution and addressing illegal animal movement as a threat to national security. Combating illegal animal movement requires a multifaceted approach that involves collaboration, technology, and compliance. The economic collapse resulting from biological threats further highlights the need for effective detection and prevention measures.

Session 2

Updates from the field: existing policies and programmes



Moderator: Ben Coghlan, Senior Health Specialist, ADB

Presenters: Bacharee Puengpak, Director of Political and Security Division Department of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russell Gray, Science Advisor, Save Vietnam's Wildlife, Vinh Ngo, Social Sector, Asian Development Bank, Carla Baker, Regional One Health Coordinator, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Paolo Zucca, Lead Partner Bio-Crime Project, European Union

This session provided an overview of existing frameworks, policies and programs that seek to introduce One Health approaches and/or to mitigate illegal cross-border flows implemented by national governments, multilateral organisations and civil societies. It aimed to enhance the attendees' understanding of potential gaps, opportunities and emerging models of innovation for partners working in cross border settings at the interface of crime and environmental and biological threats.

Carla Baker shared examples of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) training programs for relevant stakeholders to enhance a better understanding One Health, including a pilot training program for the human and animal health sectors in Vietnam, Mongolia, Laos, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Thailand. This included a virtual learning centre on One Health training with the aim of educating medical personnel on the role of the environment One Health.

Bacharee Puengpak explained that ASEAN is working on common threats and challenges to support flow of goods across the region, including the GMS. For ASEAN, the work on tackling transnational crimes is being conducted under the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) pillar under the framework of the ASEAN senior officials on transnational crimes.

The process of consultations and workshops began back in 2019. Priority areas, which fundamentally focus on information sharing and capacity building, include improving the capacity of frontline officers especially related to their ability to undertake risk-based approaches, enhancing operational capacity and awareness of law enforcement sectors, exploring aggregated information and demographic characteristics, adopting technology to support border officials such as alerts, and developing common minimum standards for training, data, and responses.

Russell Gray explained that the regulations surrounding wildlife protection and trade typically revolve around their conservation status and potential declines of global/national populations. However, species that are considered high-risk for spreading diseases to people or other animals (such as primates, rodents, viverrids, mustelids, bats etc.) are often not considered for wildlife-based policy decisions. He explained that many of the common species found in legal (and under-regulated) trade throughout the GMS (such as civets) are often wild-sourced since farms have little-to-no biosecurity measures or veterinary care.

Legal-trade species, like common palm civets, are not necessarily threatened with extinction. However, they are a

threat to other Endangered and Critically Endangered species due to underregulated wildlife farms and wild meat restaurants that result in rearing and preparing animals for consumption in unhygienic conditions that create high risks for disease transmission. As such, they are a very real threat to public health. Funding and resources to tackle these issues are limited. Therefore he suggested reviewing and prioritising high-risk species, high-risk interfaces, and high-risk time windows, such as Tết when there is a high demand for wildlife meat; then mobilising targeted funding, resources, and outreach campaigns within these. On the donor end, providing financial resources to actors should occur early on, so the resources are available when needed. Although they should allow activities and impacts to be condensed into targeted high-risk windows instead of spread out across every quarter where the impacts may be reduced.

Vinh Ngo stressed that One Health is a useful paradigm for framing complex public health issues and addressing new global and public health challenges. He mentioned that the Vietnam government has launched the second phase of the One Health Partnership and highlighted that the Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN), established in 2011, aims to effectively equip a new generation of lecturers and researchers with the knowledge and skills to practice a One Health approach. Vietnam is preparing a Disease Prevention Law with support from ADB and other international donors to address many of the environmental and public health risks that have been raised in this session.

Paolo Zucca explained that crime in one country affects other countries, leading to zoonotic disease risks. The bio-crime model of cross-border cooperation compromises stakeholders from veterinary health, public health, justice, law enforcement and customs. He gave examples of capacity building in bio-crime through courses offered to law enforcement officers. He also encouraged raising awareness among teachers and students on knowledge of bio-crime through schools and media.

Session 3

Capacities, capabilities and partnerships at the intersection of security and health sectors



Moderator: Nicholas Thomson, ADB consultant and Senior Research Fellow, College of the Asia Pacific, Australian National University

Presenters: Pol Major General Tran Minh Le, Vietnam Police, Lt General Thong Sokunthea, Deputy Secretary General of the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) of Cambodia, Sovann Ly, Board member, Mekong Disease Surveillance Network, Intuorn Teeranuwat, Veterinary Officer, Department of Livestock Development, Thailand

This session provided the opportunity to explore country-level perspectives on existing capacities and capabilities that could contribute to enhancing both line agency knowledge of the nexus of crime and biological threat and enablers for improved cross-agency partnerships for effective multi-sectoral efforts to combat cross-border biological and environmental threats. It explored the knowledge, attitudes and practices of law enforcement personnel working along borders and also aimed to explore what we know about cross-agency partnership.

Pol Major General Tran Minh Le explained that in Vietnam, cross-agency collaborations, utilisation of technology (satellite) and expansion of workforce to remote areas have led to increased detection of environmental crime. Vietnam has enhanced its efforts by establishing policies and programs for biodiversity conservation. These include (1) creating changes in perception, (2) promptly and strictly handling criminal acts, (3) building capacity of officers, and (4) strengthening cooperation between law enforcement agencies across countries. Despite efforts, there are some difficulties and challenges such as evidence collection and legal processes that may take time to finalise, as well as information sharing between countries.

For Cambodia, **Lt General Thong Sokunthea** discussed the experiences from prevention and countermeasures during COVID-19 and stressed the importance and necessity of involving law enforcement agencies in preventing and countering biological threats and environmental crimes, particularly law enforcement along the border areas. He described the implementation of a harm reduction program in Cambodia which aims to prevent the spread of HIV infection amongst injecting drug users as an example of where the prevention and countering of biological

threats and environmental crimes needed good understanding and collaboration amongst local people, local authorities, law enforcement and public health sector. It is also important to include grassroot activities that involve local communities.

Intuorn Teeranuwat explained that in Thailand communities could have a greater role in putting pressure on government agencies to enhance their cross-agency responses to biological threats across the borders. She mentioned that focal points between GMS countries should be established to strengthen GMS collaborations on One Health. As an example of successfully utilising networks, Cambodia was able to share information with Thailand, which led to detecting the first Monkeypox case within 24 hrs of the information being shared.

Sovann Ly recommended a focus on greater collaboration between the sectors involved and on building greater transparency and trust. He highlighted the need to reduce bureaucracy and hierarchy between organisations and enhanced communication between policy makers and leaders, and with the public. He suggested making available financial mechanisms to support emergency situations and having available basic supplies and logistical support accessible at any time.

Session 4

Opportunities to include security sector agencies in a broader operational definition of One Health



Moderator: Vipat Kuruchittham, Executive Director of Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN)

Presenters: Loeung Kesaro, Deputy Director General, General Directorate of Protected Areas, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, Gyanendra Gongal, Senior Public Health Officer, WHO SEARO, Ashish Sutar, Capacity Building Coordinator, World Organisation Animal Health, Felipe De La Torre, Regional Coordinator, Policy and Outreach, Border Management Programme, UNODC, Marie-Yon Struecker, Biodiversity Specialist, UNEP Regional Office Asia and the Pacific

The One Health approach aims to mobilise multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at varying levels of society to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems. This session aimed to identify ways to encourage security sector practitioners, such as border management agencies, that are normally focused on activities such as migrant or drug smuggling, to consider their role in the prevention of biological threats across borders. In doing so, the session points to the need for broadening the operational definition of One Health in order to overcome some of its implementation limitations in addressing cross-border threats.

Loeung Kesaro explained that Cambodia's Ministry of Environment considers the improvement to the wellbeing and livelihood of local communities living inside and adjacent to protected areas as strategically important. The strategy of the ministry for protecting a healthy ecosystem is to improve the management of protected areas in the country which account for 41% of the country's total territory, approximately 7.2 million hectares. The Ministry of Environment strongly believes that wildlife in the protected areas can be protected if there is zero snaring, zero poaching, zero poisoning, effective law enforcement, active public and private sector participation and awareness and collaboration. He also welcomed conservation organisations and development partners to join to manage and conserve biological diversity in the country.

Gyanendra Gongal drew attention to the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005), which is a legal instrument to govern global health security and it is dealing with all hazard approaches, biological, chemical and radionuclear. The IHR (2005) recognized that managing ground crossing points for health security is complex and politically sensitive and that local sociocultural context must be taken into consideration. Different government authorities are involved in border control and health security and all of them have different mandates and therefore coordination and collaboration among them is critical.

He said that community engagement in cross-border areas is a must for sustainable and viable border health security. One Health is an integrated and unifying approach as defined by the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP). Ownership, leadership and partnership are critical for One Health action and legal, administrative and fiscal policies, standard operating procedures are needed to facilitate One Health collaboration. The use of subregional and regional platforms like GMS and ASEAN are important to facilitate intercountry agreement for cross-border collaboration. Low cost and high impact projects may serve as a basis for meaningful engagement of communities and cross-border districts.

Ashish Sutar outlined the role of veterinary services in GMS region discussing biosecurity protocol and risk analysis across borders. World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), and through the Quadripartite as well, is well aware that trade in domestic animals, wildlife and their products, as well as human travel, can facilitate the spread of locally emergent diseases over long distances, even between countries, resulting in wider dissemination and impact. To advocate for the One Health approach within countries and at the regional level, it is essential to highlight its contribution to global health security. This approach promotes the health and well-being of both domestic and wildlife animals, emphasizing the need to address the illegal trade of animals in order to maintain animal health and biodiversity.

Multisectoral, interdisciplinary partnership, regional coordination and cooperation can continue to be strengthened to deal with Biological Threats & Environmental Crimes. Practicing collaboration and cooperation between security sectors including Law Enforcement and Veterinary Services at national and regional levels through preparedness and exercises is an opportunity. While learning from past experiences, real events in the region and learning from collaborative approaches are equally important.

Marie-Yon explained that UNEP officially joined the Quadripartite Alliance for One Health last year especially to strengthen the environmental dimension of One Health. The aim is to do this by highlighting the linkages between human, animal and environmental health across sectors, and engaging the environmental sector in the initiatives related to One Health and health security and resilience. Guided by the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, they've made efforts at the national level to deal with the threats posed by the transboundary movement of biotechnology products and other biodiversity challenges (e.g. posed by invasive alien species), especially regarding early detection and preparedness for Zoonotic diseases. She stated that One Health as a holistic approach requires a deeper understanding to address the Triple

Planetary Crises understanding Climate change, Pollution and Biodiversity loss, which are also the biggest “biosecurity” threats at the moment

Felipe De La Torre outlined the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) which supports a network of more than 120 border liaison offices (BLOs) in strategic locations in Southeast Asia. A border liaison office (BLO) is a unit integrated usually by members of the national police, immigration, customs, etc., who are expected to coordinate internally as well as to collaborate and exchange information with the border liaison office on the other side of the border to detect and deter possible situations of illicit trafficking. The BLO network in Southeast Asia is one of the world's largest formal mechanisms of intra-regional border management to combat transnational organized crime. The ASEAN Border Management Cooperation Roadmap expressly mentions the BLO

network (priority 9) and expects countries to continue using and expanding it.

The BLO network, initially focused on deterring precursors and drugs has now expanded to cover human trafficking, migrant smuggling, wildlife and timber crime, and other criminal offences as needed. In the last two years UNODC has also been working in the areas of community policing and women in law enforcement. During the pandemic UNODC worked on the development of material to improve the preparedness of border officers to deal with the virus, and also provided personal protection equipment. UNODC is keen to support policy discussions on how to incorporate a health approach into the work of the border liaison offices. During the pandemic UNODC worked on the development of material to improve the preparedness of border officers to deal with the virus, and also provided personal protection equipment.

Attendees then joined four working groups to identify the key challenges and actions needed to enable better cross-agency working. A summary of the main points raised are listed below -

Challenges

Engagement:

- Many actors are not engaged or aware of the One Health challenges in the region
- Sectors, like police and prosecutors, are often omitted from One Health discussions
- Networking where it does take place most frequently takes place in silos
- Community engagement is often deprioritised against other priorities
- Corruption

Alignment:

- Difference in cultures and mandates across the GMS
- Different law enforcement, biosafety protocols across borders
- Political support to develop a legal framework to reduce risks in cross-border movement is limited or low priority
- Accountability can often be poor and it is often a challenge to identify which agency is responsible

Technical:

- The technical aspects of the language used in One Health can make engagement difficult
- Risk identification is weak and in many sectors there continues to be gaps in biosecurity knowledge

Resources:

- Limitations in financial funding and workforce to support work in this sector

Actions needed

Engagement:

- Better understanding and agreement on the role of each sector in address this challenge
- Establishment of a regional forum to advance knowledge, enhance network and provide a place for shared learning
- Build better bilateral engagement across the GMS countries and also establish intra-country multi sectoral networks where these do not already exist
- Collaboration between government and private sectors

Alignment:

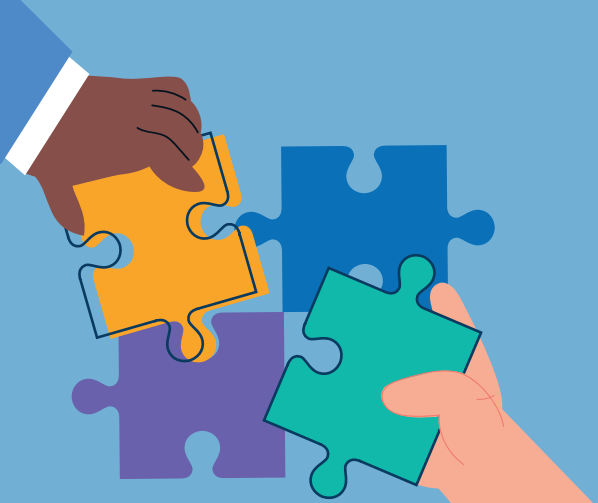
- Political commitments at all levels across the GMS and at a multilateral level
- Better communication of information, including the sharing or development of joint databases where appropriate
- Harmonising of protocols, best practice strategies and tools across the GMS agencies
- Coordination and integration of the university networks into the One Health approach
- Hosting regular simulation exercises to test responses and allow for better coordination and preparation

Technical:

- Education and building of One Health literacy
- Greater capacity of personnel on the ground supported by political commitment
- Establishment of better capacity and capability, including strengthen border officers
- Pilots and evidence based shared examples of innovative approaches that stakeholders can learn from and adopt
- Recommendations on how new technologies can be applied to address these challenges
- Joint monitoring and surveillance teams

Session 5

How to recreate, resource and enable scaled-up partnerships among national, bilateral and multilateral partners



Moderator: Patrick Osewe, Chief of the Health Sector Group, Asian Development Bank

Presenters: Jéssica Kayamori Lopes, Technical Officer (Food Safety and Zoonotic Diseases) Health Security and Emergencies, WHO WPRO - APSED, Scott Newman, Senior Animal Health & Production Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia Pacific, Simmi Tiwari, Joint Director and Head of Zoonoses NCDC, MoHFW, Government of India; National Institute for One Health, Nagpur Dinesh Arora, Principal Health Specialist, ADB

Using the current Pandemic Fund of the G20 as a backdrop, this session discussed the funding strategies of government and donors in response to both transnational cross-border environmental and biological threats including protection for frontline workers, enhanced disease surveillance, and actions to protect environments and biodiversity. The session examined how we can overcome shortcomings in current siloed funding arrangements which limit resource opportunity for non-health sectors to engage in pandemic and biological threat preparedness.

Jéssica Kayamori Lopes explained the mandate of IHR National Focal Points and that their work on Points of Entry is key to establishing and maintaining public health measures that are important elements of health and national security. There is a need to identify common work priorities amongst sectors and increase cross-border collaboration and information sharing (establish/improve mechanisms for cross border network). She felt there was an opportunity to raise awareness of multisectoral collaboration aiming to strengthen engagement between health and non-health sectors by applying a One Health approach. Jéssica also reminded us of the value of available frameworks and guidelines to support and guide work in the region (Asia Pacific strategy for emerging diseases and public health emergencies (APSED III), One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA).

Dinesh Arora reminded us that human activities are exacerbating climate change and contributing to environmental degradation, including pollution, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and soil erosion. This has a cumulative effect in terms of the adverse impact on animal and human health. Zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance, emerging infectious diseases and food safety remain the most prominent One Health research fields but there is very limited inclusion of climate change. Bringing climate change into the fold of One Health is not only crucial but also urgent as research agenda setting informs the policy agenda and has implications for development assistance financing.

He referenced the financing during the COVID pandemic and that only approximately 15% of this went towards strengthening laboratories, surveillance networks and risk communication. As we move from the G20 in Indonesia and to the G20 in India we must include climate change in One Health. We must also ensure that the philanthropic organisations, multilateral development banks (MDBs) and bilaterals come together to invest efficiently to make this vision a reality.

Simmi Tiwari felt that the involvement of security sectors in broader definition of One Health may be agreed upon in-principle by all country representatives in the meeting however in the Indian context, a more frequent and periodic discussion is warranted given the fact that India shares the land border with seven countries. She suggested systematic mapping of those stakeholders who are directly and indirectly impacted by the mechanism of customs and trade activities across the borders of the countries in the GMS. She also suggested a systematic gap analysis on the legal provisions and responsibilities of different stakeholders to monitor and regulate various trade practices and look for areas of synergies and divergence.

She suggested the formulation of a Strategic Regional Action Plan on One Health with explicitly defined roles and responsibility of countries to address the issues. Countries should work together to explore the uninterrupted and sustainable resources to undertake regulatory and surveillance activities in the region. They should also review and reassess their own One Health Action plan and IHR plans.

Summary points from breakout groups on how multilateral agencies can support this work

Leadership and coordination

- Develop a White Paper for One Health actions along borders of the Greater Mekong Subregion (NEW ONE)
- Convene further meetings in the GMS to bring together intracountry and inter-country agencies across all relevant sectors reflecting on the value and success of this inaugural meeting of One Health and security sector actors
- Support greater collaboration on One Health capacity and capability building specifically across border points between sectors
- Take the coordinating role for national emergency responses where these are needed

Financing and capacity building

- Increased funding and resource allocation to One Health both at a national and multilateral level
- Provide funding to establish a regional GMS taskforce/national committee (to include representatives for each ministry)
- Support the development of a GMS information sharing network and collaborative community
- Support the addition of One Health into each GMC country national health security plans
- Support a significant increase wildlife funding to counter severe resource constraints

Knowledge generation

- Undertake mapping across the entire One Health chain to understand where donors and multilateral agencies need to work together and identify what resources are needed at each point to avoid silo-approaches and non-joined up funding
- Undertake mapping of environmental sector onto One Health to identify key areas where resources should be prioritised

Appendices

Participant List

Amber Parr, Agricultural Counsellor, Dept Agriculture, Australian Government, Australia

Dr. Angkana Sommanustweechai, Health systems and policy research fellow

Dr. AnneLise Chaber, Senior Lecturer, School of Animal and Veterinary Science, Faculty of Sciences, Engineering and Technology, University of Adelaide, Australia

Ashish Sutar, Capacity Building Coordinator, World Organisation Animal Health

Bacharee Puengpak, Director of Political and Security Division, Department of ASEAN Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

Ben Coghlan, Senior Health Specialist, Asian Development Bank, Australia

Bounpakone Phongpichit, Director, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR

Carla Baker, Regional One Health Coordinator, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Chiti Hoonaukit, Manager, Coordinating Unit for One Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

DaiLing Chen, Health Specialist, Asian Development Bank

Dinesh Arora, Principal Health Specialist, Asian Development Bank

Do Manh Cuong, Division Vice Head, Ministry of Health, Vietnam

Dr. Doan Thi Xuan Huong, Senior Official, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam

Duangsavanh Saophimpha, Inspector, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Laos

Esteban Felipe De La Torre, Regional Coordinator Policy and Outreach, Border Management Programme, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Felicity Lee, First Secretary, Australian Embassy, Australia

Giulia Roncon, Analyst on Environmental Crime, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, Italy

Gyanendra Gongal, Senior Public Health Officer, (Food safety, zoonoses and One Health), World Health Emergency Programme, WHO Regional Office for South East Asia

Dr. Hai Thanh Luong, Research Fellow in Cyber Criminology, University of Queensland, Australia

Intuorn Teeranuwat, Veterinary Officer, Department of Livestock Development, Thailand

James Compton, Wildlife TRAPS Project Leader, TRAFFIC, Vietnam

Dr. Jéssica Kayamori Lopes, Technical Officer (Food Safety and Zoonotic Diseases), World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Philippines

Dr. Kan Kledmanee, Rapporteur, Thailand

Kanokwalee Pittayakool, Senior Program Manager, Australian Embassy, Thailand

Dr. Karunasinee Supapipat, Rapporteur, Thailand

Dr. Khatthaoudone Bounkhoun, Senior Officer, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR

Dr. Khieu Borin, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia

Police Lieutenant Colonel Krisanaphong Poothakool, Professor, Royal Thai Police Cadet Academy, Thailand

Kristina Amerhauser, Programme Manager, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, Austria

Le Minh Tuan, Official, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam

Dr. Leoung Kesaro, Deputy Director General, Local Community Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Cambodia

Linda Sulistiawati, A/Prof of Law, Universitas Gadjah Mada

Louise Taylor, AsiaPacific Representative, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, UK

Marieyon Struecker, UNEP One Health Consultant for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme

Dr. Mushtaq Memon, UNEP Regional Coordinator, Chemicals and Pollution Action Subprogramme in Asia and the Pacific

Narongrit Sookprakarn, Forestry Technical Officer, Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Thailand

Pol. Lt. Col. Nguyen Ngoc Quynh, Deputy Head, Wildlife Control Division of Environmental Police Department, Vietnam

Nguyen Van Hoan, Deputy Director, AntiSmuggling Customs Department, Vietnam

Nicholas Thomson, ADB consultant and Senior Research Fellow, College of the AsiaPacific, Australian National University, Australia

Paolo Zucca, Lead Partner BioCrime Project, European Union

Dr. Parntep Ratanakorn, Chairman, Thailand One Health University Network, Thailand

Patrick Osewe, Chief of the Health Sector Group, Asian Development Bank

Dr. Phouvong Phommachanh, Director, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR

Puvadet Prommakrit, Public Prosecutor, Office of the Attorney General of Thailand, Thailand

Dr. Ratanaporn Tangwangvivat, Chief Coordinating Unit for One Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

Ratchakorn Kaewpramkusol, Rapporteur, Thailand

Dr. Ratsamy Vongkhamsao, Deputy Director General, Dept Communicable Diseases, MOH, Lao PDR

Rui Liu, Health Specialist, Asian Development Bank

Russell Gray, Science Advisor, Save Vietnam's Wildlife, Vietnam

Sandla Thongthimahaxay, Deputy Head of Inspection Division, Environmental Police Department, Ministry of Public Security - Lao PDR

Sarah Quinzio, Deputy Director, U.S. Embassy Bangkok, Thailand

Scott Newman, Senior Animal Health and Production Officer, FAO, regional office Asia Pacific

Sen Nguyen, Journalist, N/A, Vietnam

Dr. Simmi Tiwari, Joint Director and Head, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Sivachart Chattrastrri, Customs Technical Officer, Thai Customs, Thailand

Dr. Souphavanh Keovilay, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR

Souryasak Chayavong, Director, Veterinary Service Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR

Dr. Sovann Ly, Board member, Mekong Disease Surveillance Network, Cambodia

Dr. Srey Teng, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Health, Cambodia

Srinivasan Ancha, Principal Climate Change Specialist, Asian Development Bank

Suchaya Mokkhasen, UNODC Border Management Programme Officer, Fulbright Scholar, Thailand

Dr. Sunia Soakai, Director Public Health Unit, Secretariat Pacific Community

Suon Pheakdey, Deputy Director, Department of Checkpoints 1, Cambodia

Dr. Surakameth Mahasirimongkol, Deputy Director, Strategy and Planning Division, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

Taniela Sunia Soakai, Deputy Director, Public Health Division, Directeur adjoint, Division sante publique, Pacific Community

Tech Siek Ngorn, Deputy Director, Department of Prevention and Suppression, General Department of Customs and Excise, Cambodia

Lt General Thong Sokunthea, Deputy Secretary, National Authority for Combatting Drugs, Cambodia

Police Major General Tran Minh Le, Executive Director, Department of Environmental Police, Vietnam

Dr. Tran Dieu Linh, Deputy Director, Center for Laboratory Quality Assurance and Calibration, Vietnam

Dr. Trieu Tan Phong, Deputy Division Head, Ministry of Health, Vietnam

Vinh Ngo, Social Sector Officer, Asian Development Bank

Vipat Kuruchittham, Executive Director, Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN)

Dr. Yoganand Kandasamy, Regional Lead for Wildlife and Wildlife Crime, WWF, Greater Mekong, Laos

Improving Cross Agency Responses to Biological Threats & Environmental Crimes Across the Borders of the GMS

22-23 March 2023
Banyan Tree, 21/100 South Sathon Road, Bangkok, Thailand

DAY 1 – Wednesday 22 March 2023

0845-0930 Arrival refreshments, registration and poster showcases

0930-1030 Opening remarks and aspirations

Patrick Osewe, Chief of the Health Sector Group, Asian Development Bank

Setting the scene: G20 initiative on One Health

Abhijit Mitra, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India

Agenda overview and objectives for the meeting

Ashley McKimm, Director of Global Health, BMJ

Linda Sulistiawati, A/Prof of Law in Universitas Gadjah Mada

1030-1200 SESSION 1 – Overview: The links between licit and illicit commodity flows across the Greater Mekong subregion borders and biological threats

This session provides an overview of both licit and illicit cross-border flows in the GMS, including wildlife and other environmental commodities, people, medicines and narcotics, and why these pose risks to the health of people, animals and the environment. Drivers of risk, such as climate change, will be introduced. Material from this session will draw from national and regional law enforcement agencies, disease surveillance experts and stakeholders engaged in responding to these threats.

Moderator: **Louise Taylor**, Asia-Pacific Representative, Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime

Srinivasan Ancha, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB

James Compton, Project Leader - USAID Wildlife TRAPS, TRAFFIC

Anne-Lise Chaber, Senior Lecturer, School of Animal and Veterinary Science, Faculty of Sciences, Engineering and Technology, University of Adelaide

Ross McEwing, Programme Officer, Environment Team, Border Management Branch, UNODC

1200-1300 Lunch



1300-1430 **SESSION 2 – Updates from the field: existing policies and programmes**

The aim of the panel is to provide an overview of existing frameworks, policies and programs that seek to introduce One Health approaches and/or to mitigate illegal cross-border flows implemented by national governments, multilateral organisations and civil societies. The session will enhance understanding on potential gaps, opportunities and emerging models of innovation for partners working in cross border settings at the interface of crime and environmental and biological threats.

Moderator: **Ben Coghlan**, Senior Health Specialist, ADB

Bacharee Puengpak, Director of Political and Security Division Department of ASEAN Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Russell Gray, Science Advisor, Save Vietnam's Wildlife

Vinh Ngo, Social Sector, Asian Development Bank

Carla Baker, Regional One Health Coordinator, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Paolo Zucca, Lead Partner Bio-Crime Project, European Union

1430-1500 **Refreshment break (30 mins)**

1500-1630 **SESSION 3 – Capacities, capabilities and partnerships at the intersection of security and health sectors**

This session is the opportunity to explore country-level perspectives on existing capacities and capabilities that could contribute to enhancing both line agency knowledge of the nexus of crime and biological threat and enablers for improved cross-agency partnerships for effective multi-sectoral efforts to combat cross-border biological and environmental threats. This session will draw on work that has explored the knowledge, attitudes and practices of law enforcement personnel working along borders. We will also use this session to explore what we know about cross-agency partnership.

Moderator: **Nicholas Thomson**, ADB consultant and Senior Research Fellow, College of the Asia Pacific, Australian National University

Pol Major General Tran Minh Le, Vietnam Police

Lt General Thong Sokunthea, Deputy Secretary General of the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) of Cambodia

Sovann Ly, Board member, Mekong Disease Surveillance Network

Intuorn Teeranuwat, Veterinary Officer, Department of Livestock Development, Thailand

1630-1645 **Day one wrap-up and close**

Giulia Roncon, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime

Rui Liu, Health Specialist, ADB

1830-2100 **Dinner at Saffron Sky Gardens, Banyan Tree**



**GLOBAL
INITIATIVE**
AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL
ORGANIZED CRIME



DAY 2 – Thursday 23 March 2023

08.30-08.45 **Morning refreshments**

08.45-0900 **Recap of day 1 and scene setting for day 2**

0900-10.30 **SESSION 4 – Opportunities to include security sector agencies in a broader operational definition of One Health**

The One Health approach aims to mobilize multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at varying levels of society to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems. This panel seeks to identify ways to encourage security sector practitioners, such as border management agencies, that are normally focused on activities such as migrant or drug smuggling, to consider their role in the prevention of biological threats across borders. In doing so, the session points to the need for broadening the operational definition of One Health in order to overcome some of its implementation limitations in addressing cross-border threats. It is expected that this session will further examine how One Health is or is not embedded within national and regional security (and health-security) architecture.

Moderator: **Vipat Kuruchittham**, Executive Director of Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN)

Leung Kesaro, Deputy Director General, General Directorate of Protected Areas, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia

Gyanendra Gongal, Senior Public Health Officer, WHO SEARO

Ashish Sutar, Capacity Building Coordinator, World Organisation Animal Health

Felipe De La Torre, Regional Coordinator, Policy and Outreach, Border Management Programme, UNODC

Marie-Yon Struecker, Biodiversity Specialist, UNEP Regional Office Asia and the Pacific

1030-1045 ***Refreshment break (15 mins)***

1045-1215 **SESSION 5 – How to recreate, resource and enable scaled-up partnerships among national, bilateral and multilateral partners**

Using the current Pandemic Fund of the G20 as a backdrop, this session will discuss funding strategies of government and donors in response to both transnational cross-border environmental and biological threats including protection for frontline workers, enhanced disease surveillance, and actions to protect environments and biodiversity. The purpose of the session will be to examine how we can overcome shortcomings in current siloed funding arrangements which limit resource opportunity for non-health sectors to engage in pandemic and biological threat preparedness. This session will also act as a potential catalyst for cross-border/cross-agency proposals to work at the nexus of crime and health.

Moderator: **Patrick Osewe**, Chief of the Health Sector Group, Asian Development Bank

Jéssica Kayamori Lopes, Technical Officer (Food Safety and Zoonotic Diseases) Health Security and Emergencies, WHO WPRO - APSED

Scott Newman, Senior Animal Health & Production Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia Pacific

Simmi Tiwari, Joint Director and Head of Zoonoses NCDC, MoHFW, Government of India; National Institute for One Health, Nagpur

Dinesh Arora, Principal Health Specialist, ADB

1215-1300 **Closing remarks and next steps**

Followed by lunch for all attendees

