

CEPF Small Grant Final Project Completion Report

Complete the following report worksheet to provide CEPF with an overall summary of the results of your project. Within the narrative section, responses should be concise, but include sufficient detail to present a clear understanding of the development and progression of this project.

Date of Report (MM/DD/YY)
02/07/2005

Organization Information
Organization Name
The Wildlife Conservation Society – Field Veterinary Program
Project Name
One World, One Health: The Threat of Emerging Diseases to Human Security and Conservation, and the Implications for Public Policy
Project Dates (as stated in the contract agreement)
1 October, 2004 – 31 December, 2004
Partners
The Wildlife Conservation Society, IUCN Commission on Environmental Law, the IUCN Veterinary Specialist Group, the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the Center for Environmental Legal Studies of Pace University School of Law, and the Thai Ministry of Public Health.
Project Description – Provide a brief description of the project your team implemented.
The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) held a one-day event at the World Conservation Congress (WCC) devoted to mapping out the links between animal health, conservation and human security, and to identifying creative approaches to protecting the health of people, animals, and ecosystems. The symposia format incorporated interlocking case studies, alternating between speakers explaining key features of specific disease issues facing humans, wildlife, and/or domestic animals, with speakers from conservation, agriculture, as well as public health agencies addressing the legal and policy issues that may be at the root of the problems delineated.

Narrative Questions

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

Our initial objective was to bring together experts across disciplines and sectors, to create a continuum of knowledge, to share information, and to reveal new approaches by concentrating on the "missing links" in terms of how the world is currently addressing new and emerging zoonotic diseases in the context of public health *and* environmental stewardship. Just as importantly, we also sought to focus on regional needs and empower local participants to effect change using the wisdom and influence of the assembled body.

2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

No, the objectives did not change.

3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?

The project exceeded our expectations in meeting the goals that were outlined. In addition to the workshop that was planned for the IUCN World Conservation Congress, a meeting was held on November 15th at the Thai Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) that served as a primer for the session at the WCC. Participants included representatives from around the region, including MOPH officials, local universities, National Institute of Animal Health – Bangkok, the Thailand Livestock department, CDC, U.N. F.A.O., Bio-Economics Research Group, Center for Unconventional Security Affairs, Pace University School of Law, and WCS. Having the meeting at this venue allowed us to really draw upon local expertise on animal and human health issues to fine tune the resolution that was presented to the IUCN Secretariat later that week. Additionally, the group drafted a formal recommendation to the Association of South East Asian Nations (**ASEAN**) to encourage collaborative efforts to tackle issues such as Avian Influenza. The meeting notes are now posted on the IUCN Veterinary Specialist Group website <http://www.iucn-vsg.org>

The results of this workshop were presented at a session within the IUCN World Conservation Congress, also held in Bangkok, four days later. This session entitled "Emerging Diseases and Ecosystems" provided an opportunity to reach out to a larger group of conservation and health professionals. At the end of the session, the group presented the resolution (that was adopted by IUCN) that included guiding principles and recommendations to better address global human/animal health-related issues (We will be posting the final document when it is released by the Secretariat).

4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

The only disappointment that was experienced during this set of meetings was the poor acoustic set up provided by the Conference Center for the WCC. The room arrangement made it very difficult to hear presentations from speakers. This problem was rectified by providing conference participants with microphones and audio amplification head-sets.

5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

This project demonstrated the value of collaborating with a local partner organization in order to reach the largest constituency. In this instance, partnering with the MOPH provided an unprecedented opportunity for high-level scientist from across the globe (many regional scientists drawn to the meeting by the distinction of the MOPH) to exchange ideas. Sponsorship of the workshop by the MOPH imparted added credibility to our efforts and helped meeting participants gain access to multi-lateral organizations such as ASEAN for which a recommendation was drafted. These entryways into the scientific community have helped to build bridges with established scientific leaders making our current and future efforts in the region more effective.

6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.

The recommendation that was presented to ASEAN serves as an entry point for on-going discussions with the organization. The next step is to identify participants from the One World – One Health workshop that will act as longer-term liaisons with ASEAN and other scientific bodies in Asia. These contact persons will develop a work plan that will further outline steps for collaboration.

Building on the success of the One World - One Health workshop in Bangkok, we will continue to focus on the human, wildlife and domestic animal health issues that are consuming Asia. In 2005, we will hold a One World – One Health workshop in the People's Republic of China, an area that was economically and socially devastated by the SARS epidemic in 2003. In a country where scientists and government representatives are traditionally isolated from those in other countries, we will break down barriers to bring together officials from China's Ministry of Health, China Wildlife Conservation Association (CWCA), and other local scientific, law and business institutions with other professionals working on human and animal health issues through out the region. Representatives from WHO, CDC, FAO, and OIE will also be invited. This workshop idea was originally developed with Dr. Endi Zhang, former WCS country director for China who is now serving as a Deputy Mayor in his home city of Shanghai. Dr. Zhang noted that in *the first ten days following the first SARS outbreak, close to one million wild animals were confiscated from wildlife markets, with 40,000 of them being legally protected species*. While the laws had been on the books for years, threats to health were the real motivation for China to enforce its own conservation laws despite 20 years of efforts to convince them to protect wildlife.

7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.

We believe that these meetings were of particular relevance in Thailand, a country that has experienced first-hand the political and economical fallout from Avian Influenza. The positive response to these meetings was evidenced by the immediate and favorable coverage in the *Bangkok Post* (Also available on <http://www.iucn-vsg.org>).