

## **PREVENTING ZOO NOTIC DISEASES AND GLOBAL PANDEMICS**

*Zoonotic diseases are those caused by viruses or other pathogens that spillover from wildlife to humans. Because these diseases are new and the global population lacks immunity, they can spread rapidly and dangerously. The spillover of zoonotic diseases, which include COVID-19, SARS, Ebola, Bird Flu and HIV, is exacerbated by a number of factors: the trade, trafficking, and human consumption of wildlife known to transmit these diseases; deforestation and habitat degradation; and the encroachment of human populations and development into wilderness areas that are spillover hotspots.*

### **ZOO NOTIC DISEASES AND GLOBAL PANDEMICS THREATEN U.S. SECURITY**

- *Zoonotic disease outbreaks and resulting pandemics and epidemics have cost millions of lives and billions of dollars.*
- *Global pandemics are deadly. COVID-19 spread to millions of people worldwide within months and has cost hundreds of thousands of lives – including over 100,000 in the United States alone.*
- *Global pandemics are costly.*
  - *It is estimated that the global cost of the COVID-19 pandemic will be in the trillions of dollars, amounting to as much as 5% of global GDP.*
  - *By April 2020, the U.S. government enacted three coronavirus relief packages costing more than \$2 trillion – increasing federal spending by over 50% within months of the COVID-19 outbreak.*
  - *By June 2020, nearly 40 million Americans had filed unemployment claims due to the pandemic, drastically impacting the U.S. economy.*
- *These public health and economic impacts are felt acutely in developing countries, which often lack resources to respond, and can exacerbate local and regional insecurities while undermining the global economy and supply chains upon which U.S. businesses and consumers depend.*
- *Global pandemics and disease outbreaks can also impact our military readiness. The Navy ships USS Theodore Roosevelt and USS Kidd were both sidelined mid-deployment after experiencing coronavirus outbreaks while at sea.*



## **U.S. LEADERSHIP IN FIGHTING ZOO NOTIC DISEASES**

*To reduce the likelihood of future epidemics, the U.S. can support governments in taking steps to:*

- *Stop trade in wildlife known to transmit zoonotic diseases and close markets where wildlife to human disease transmission is likely to occur, especially in urban areas.*
- *Stop deforestation, habitat degradation, and the encroachment of human development into wild spaces, particularly in regions that are potential hotspots for wildlife-to-human disease transmission.*
- *Stop wildlife poaching and trafficking, which exacerbate the transmission of zoonotic diseases.*
- *Continue to invest in zoonotic disease surveillance, detection, and prevention globally, building on previous USAID-supported programs such as GAINS, PREDICT and PREDICT-2.*

## **MODEST U.S. INVESTMENTS HAVE HUGE IMPACT**

*U.S. conservation investments abroad help to:*

- *Support law enforcement efforts to enforce wildlife trade restrictions and market closures to prevent wildlife trafficking and risky wildlife trade.*
- *Support programs on wildlife disease surveillance, detection, and prevention, and building “One Health” capacity overseas.*
- *Support programs to reduce demand for and consumption of high-risk wildlife while partnering with rural communities and Indigenous Peoples to ensure their nutritional and cultural needs are met, including promoting food security and safety and diversified sources of protein.*
- *Prevent deforestation and protect wildlife habitats, reducing the risks of zoonotic disease spillover to human populations.*

*By protecting and bolstering intact and healthy ecosystems and preventing unsafe and illegal trade in wildlife, U.S. funding for international conservation helps address the root causes of pandemics and promote global health security. Preventing and responding to zoonotic disease spillover plays a clear role in bolstering America’s economic security and well-being, reducing the likelihood of epidemics and pandemics and protecting the health of communities, economies, and markets - both at home and abroad.*

*By increasing U.S. funding for international conservation programs, we can reduce the likelihood of the next global disease outbreak. Given the human and economic costs of another global pandemic, these preventative measures are one of the most cost-effective investments we can make.*



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