



JANE

JUSTICE & ACTION NETWORK FOR THE EARTH

A NEW WAY FORWARD

TODAY'S GLOBAL PANDEMIC HAS SOUNDED AN ALARM THAT IS CALLING THE JUSTICE & ACTION NETWORK FOR THE EARTH (JANE) INTO URGENT ACTION.

As the world struggles with the devastating impact of COVID-19, the disease has increased global awareness about the connection between wildlife exploitation and human disease. The expanding wildlife trade and human encroachment on wild spaces are at the root of the problem, as they increase opportunities for disease transmission between animals and humans. This problem isn't new. SARS, MERS, Ebola, and HIV are all viral diseases transmitted from wild animals to humans.

"COVID-19 should make us rethink our destructive relationship with the natural world. We need to chart another way forward."

- Dr. Jane Goodall

The Justice & Action Network for the Earth (JANE) is our new way forward. JANE is designed to combat wildlife crime and trade to help save endangered species from extinction. In a study published this month (April 2020) by the University of California Davis, scientists explored the relationship between virus spillover, wildlife extinction, and the environment. They found that wildlife species threatened by exploitation and loss of habitat shared more viruses with humans, underscoring the substantial risk for future pandemics.

"Spillover of viruses from animals is a direct result of our actions involving wildlife and their habitat. The consequence is they're sharing their viruses with us. These actions simultaneously threaten species survival and increase the risk of spillover. In an unfortunate convergence of many factors, this brings about the kind of mess we're in now."

- Dr. Christina Kreuder Johnson, Project Director of USAID PREDICT

Although the origins of COVID-19 are unproven, there are strong indications of a link to the wildlife trade. Undercover operatives at Earth League International (ELI) are documenting the illegal sale of wildlife in Southeast Asia. Traffickers are ready to ship wild animal products around the world for sale on the black market. This is an urgent and dangerous situation that deserves global attention.

We are rapidly incorporating information and insights from the COVID-19 pandemic into JANE's approach to fight wildlife crime and save endangered species.

First, we are prioritizing the Indo-Burma hotspot and accelerating our plans for the region. As a well-established hub of wildlife trafficking, and with conservation partners and environmental crime investigators embedded in the region, JANE is prepared for rapid activation in Indo-Burma. JANE's newest collaborator, Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC), further equips us for rapid mobilization, as they have expertise, partner networks, and ongoing wildlife operations in Indo-Burma.

Second, we are enhancing infectious disease monitoring and assessing the potential for disease transmission (animal-to-animal, animal-to-human, human-to-animal). This is an inherent part of the JANE model, as we target wildlife crime and the exploitation of wild animals, both of which are directly linked to disease emergence. However, we will now integrate a more proactive infectious disease monitoring and risk assessment component.

"Threats to global health and risk factors for emerging infectious diseases run the gamut from climate change to poverty to security issues, but few are as immediately manageable as the global trade in wildlife."

- Dr. William Karesh, EcoHealth Alliance

Third, by ultimately exposing the very likely root-cause of the COVID-19 pandemic in films, TV-series and social media campaigns, we will apply maximum public pressure on governments and policymakers around the world to: (1) crack down on the illegal wildlife trade; (2) protect ecosystems from human exploitation; and (3) reduce demand for illegally and legally exploited wildlife.

The United Nations warns that poaching and wildlife trafficking are skyrocketing, decimating populations, robbing local communities of their livelihoods, and undermining global economies. Additionally, wildlife trade is resulting in disease transmission from wild animals to humans, which can result in deadly consequences.

"It boggles my mind how, when we have so many diseases that emanate out of that unusual human-animal interface, that we just don't shut it down, I don't know what else has to happen to get us to appreciate that."

- Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, NIAID Director

JANE is poised to swiftly tackle illegal wildlife exploitation and help prevent global pandemics in the process.

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW.

To support JANE efforts, donate at www.nmmf.org/donations/jane

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