

Strategies to Prevent (STOP) Spillover

Impact Brief

Cambodia

Applying science to understand artificial bat roost risks to communities

- Activity 1.2.6.1: Research on bat ecology and prevalence of pathogens carried by these species
- Activity 1.2.6.2: Food and water contamination assessment

INTRODUCTION

OH-DReaM working groups (OH-DWGs) are being trained to conduct research on bat ecology and characterize risks of pathogen spillover. Outcome Mapping (OM) conducted at the interface level identified knowledge gaps about bat species, pathogens, distribution and scale at bat guano farms in Kang Meas district, Kampong Cham province. To fill these knowledge gaps, the Cambodia team is training OH-DWGs to survey bat guano harvest sites to document scale of bat guano production, and carryout bat sampling to monitor bat species and pathogens over time at bat guano farms (Activity 1.2.6.1).



Photos courtesy of STOPS Cambodia team

OH-DWGs are also being trained on conducting a food and water contamination assessment by sampling food, water and other sources such as bat roosts, building roofs and other relevant surfaces as a potential location of bat guano production in surrounding communities. The study intends to examine the presence of bat DNA and coronavirus RNA in food, water and other surface samples to quantitatively assess viral spillover risk from bats (Activity 1.2.6.2).

Expected Outcomes

- Context-specific knowledge is generated from research to inform intervention design, implementation and surveillance. The capacity of OH-DReaM Working Groups are strengthened.
- Results from the assessment will inform design of SBC interventions to reduce the risk of spillover from bat to human.



Photos courtesy of STOPS Cambodia team

WEEK IN REVIEW AT A GLANCE

Activity 1.2.6.1

OH-DWG and country team members were trained to don/doff appropriate PPE, obtain and transport samples, video and audio monitor roosts.

- 14 households surveyed
- 11 artificial bat roosts samples collected
- 178 samples collected in total



Activity 1.2.6.1 sampling and survey implementation

Activity 1.2.6.2

OH-DWG and country team members were trained on PPE and sampling precautions, survey conduct, sampling procedures and safe transport.

- 10 bat guano producing households sampled
- 10 non-bat guano producing households sampled
- 77 water samples collected
- ~400 surface and food samples collected in total



OH-DWG and country team classroom training on PPE, sampling SOPs and survey practice

