

Strategies to Prevent (STOP) Spillover

Impact Brief

Côte d'Ivoire

Training workshop for local government agents on the management of wildlife carcasses in the District des Montagnes

Activity 2.2.1: Development of district level capacity for wildlife carcass identification, reporting and disposal.

INTRODUCTION

STOP Spillover aims to build capacity in the prevention of zoonotic risks, and focuses its interventions on specific interfaces where potential spillover may occur. In Côte d'Ivoire, the project's activities include building district capacity to manage wild animal carcasses in order to prevent the spillover of pathogens from wild animals to humans and contamination of the environment.

For the implementation of this activity, a training was planned to reinforce the capacities of the Ministry of animal and fishery resources agents in appropriate wildlife carcass disposal techniques and biosecurity measures. Community leaders at the human-wildlife interface attended this workshop to facilitate

understanding and collaboration with local authorities in the process of notifying the relevant local administration of carcasses found by community members. They raised awareness of the biosafety risk practices that can lead to the spread of zoonotic diseases.

Expected Outcomes

- Participants understood how to dispose of carcasses when responding to a wildlife disease event.
- Participants acquired biosafety and biosecurity good practices to reduce the spread of pathogens during carcass disposal of wild animals.
- Community representatives gained awareness of the risks associated with handling wild animals and consuming wild animal carcasses.
- Community representatives are engaged to collaborate with local authorities in the process of wildlife carcasses and another events reporting.



Training workshop Participants and local government authorities
Photo credit: STOP Spillover Côte d'Ivoire



Community leaders attended the workshop
Photo credit: STOP Spillover Côte d'Ivoire

Achievements

The training and community engagement mission took place April 17-19, 2024, in Man – District des Montagnes. Twenty-five participants from the Ministry of Animals and fisheries Resources (MIRAH) of the District des Montagnes were trained. The training focused on the topics related to wildlife: (1) Methods of carcass disposal (Deep burial, open burning, shallow burial with carbon, and composting), (2) Decision criteria for managing wildlife carcasses, (3) Biosafety and biosecurity precautions during carcass disposal. These topics were reinforced through field demonstrations.

Four community leaders and community representatives gained awareness of the risks associated with handling wild animals and consuming wild animal carcasses and pledged to collaborate with local authorities in the process of reporting wildlife carcasses and other events. Community leaders committed to sensitize their members to stop wildlife carcass consumption (a common practice in their communities), after realizing the related potential for infection, and to report wildlife carcass and collaborate with the local government in wildlife mortality events identification.



*Training session in classroom
Photo credit: STOP Spillover Côte d'Ivoire*



*Left: Evaluating carbon feedstocks practical exercise. Right: Field demonstration on composting.
Photo credit: STOP Spillover Côte d'Ivoire*

Next Steps

STOP Spillover will equip trained personnel with appropriate tools and personal protective equipment (PPE) to minimize exposure to hazards and do community engagement and awareness through meetings and the dissemination of written materials.