

Strategies to Prevent (STOP) Spillover

Impact Brief

Côte d'Ivoire

Training of trainers for wildlife carcass management and community engagement in the District des Montagnes

Activity 2.21: 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 to prevent the spillover of pathogens from wild animals to humans and contamination of the environment.

For the implementation of this activity, a training of trainers was held to reinforce the capacities of agents in appropriate wildlife carcass disposal techniques and biosecurity measures. A community at the human-wildlife interface was identified and engaged in the process of notifying carcasses to the relevant local government departments for appropriate sanitary action. This brief provides key achievements during the activity.



Training workshop participants with consortium experts and local government authorities.

Expected Outcomes

- Participants understand how to dispose of carcasses when responding to a wildlife disease event.
- Participants acquire biosafety and biosecurity best practices to reduce the spread of pathogens during the carcass disposal of wild animals.
- The community is engaged in collaborating with local authorities in the process of wildlife carcasses and other event reporting.



Classroom session during the training workshop.

Achievements

The training and community engagement mission took place from August 21-23, 2023, in Man – District des Montagnes. Fifteen participants (ToT) from the Ministry of Animals and Halieutic Resources (MIRAH) and the Agency for Rural Development (ANADER) of the District des Montagnes were trained. The training focused on the following 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. The Gbêpleu community located in Man, District des Montagnes was identified and engaged in the carcass identification and reporting process in collaboration with the local government. During the engagement, the Gbêpleu community committed to sensitizing their members to stop wildlife carcass consumption (a common practice in the community), realizing the related potential for infection. The wildlife carcass disposal training and the development of the related protocol is a first in Côte d'Ivoire. More importantly, the decision criteria under which wildlife carcasses should be managed were agreed upon with the government realizing the difference with domestic animals.



Biosafety and PPE exercise.



Field demonstrations on composting and shallow burial with carbon.



Engaging the Gbêpleu community in Man, District des Montagnes.

Next Steps

STOP Spillover will finalize the protocol for managing wild animal carcasses in Côte d'Ivoire. This document will include the decision criteria for managing wildlife carcasses under various scenarios. The training will be extended to more local government personnel. Furthermore, trained personnel will be equipped with appropriate tools and personal protective equipment (PPE) to minimize exposure to hazards.