



# WILDHEALTHNET VIET NAM UPDATE NO. 4

July 2021 – December 2021



Rodent sample collection video shooting, Ha Noi, September 2021

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Building capacity on rodent sampling

In order to keep building capacity on wildlife health surveillance despite the COVID-19 travel and meeting restrictions, WildHealthNet focused on creating training materials to be used during virtual training events with our collaborators and partners.

WCS produced a training video to assist our government partners from the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE) and the Department of Animal Health (DAH) in training health and field staff in rodent sample collection for disease surveillance. The video aims to provide detailed and step-by-step protocols on equipment preparation; data recording, and instructions to safely collect and transport tissue samples from rodents for surveillance of zoonotic pathogens, such as rickettsial pathogens and hantaviruses.

The video was shared with our network and partners on November 3, 2021 and is available for all to use. The video is available here ([Rodent training video](https://youtu.be/FJL_LcaiRAk)). More training videos on wildlife health surveillance will be produced in 2022.

Link to video: [https://youtu.be/FJL\\_LcaiRAk](https://youtu.be/FJL_LcaiRAk)



Shooting the rodent sample collection video, Ha Noi, September 2021

## NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

This period, the Dong Thap Provincial Department for Animal Health, Production and Fisheries and Tram Chim National Park (NP) in Dong Thap province officially joined our wildlife health surveillance network. Activities related to Avian Influenza virus (AIV) surveillance in wild birds will be implemented in the park.

Mortality events in wild birds will be reported and environmental samples will be collected to assess the circulation of AIV in the area. The Regional Animal Health Office No. 7 (RAHO7) joined our network as well. RAHO7 is responsible for reporting mortality events and collecting samples when sick/dead birds are found. Samples and carcasses will be delivered to RAHO7's laboratory for further diagnosis.



A sick Asian openbill stork found in AIV surveillance, Dong Thap province, April 2021

## SEAOHUN FELLOWSHIP

During this period, WCS partnered with the Southeast Asia One Health University Network (SEAOHUN) and hosted a SEAOHUN fellow, Mr. Vo Duy Thanh, from July to November 2021 to enhance his One Health experience and skills. During his fellowship, Mr. Thanh assisted our team with the development of the WildHealthNet network, training material development, wildlife health data management and health risk assessment along the wildlife trade in Viet Nam.

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*I am truly grateful for all the lessons learned from my colleagues at WCS Vietnam and One Health professionals that I have met during the SEAOHUN fellowship program*”

Mr. Vo Duy Thanh

## CORONAVIRUS SURVEILLANCE IN CONFISCATED TIGERS AND PANGOLINS

In August 2021, the rescue center located at Pu Mat National Park, which is part of our wildlife health surveillance network, rescued seven tigers and four pangolins confiscated from the illegal wildlife trade. The staff at the Pu Mat rescue center was trained by WildHealthNet in June 2020 and provided with field kits for biological sample collection from wildlife. WildHealthNet virtually supported the rescue center to collect biological samples from these tigers and pangolins by sharing detailed sampling protocols and instructions for sample storage. All samples were transported to the National Center for Veterinary Diagnostic (NCVD) in November 2021.

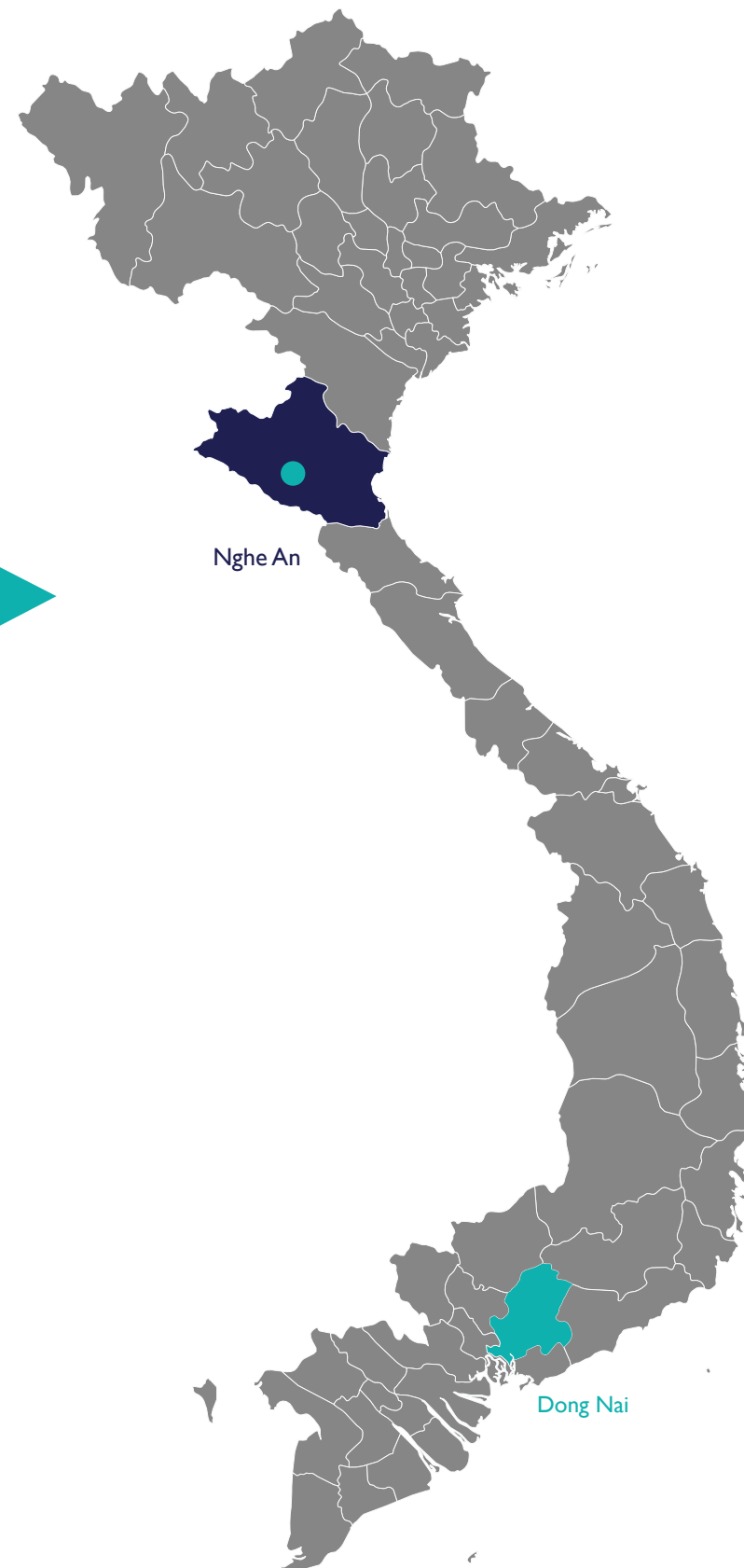
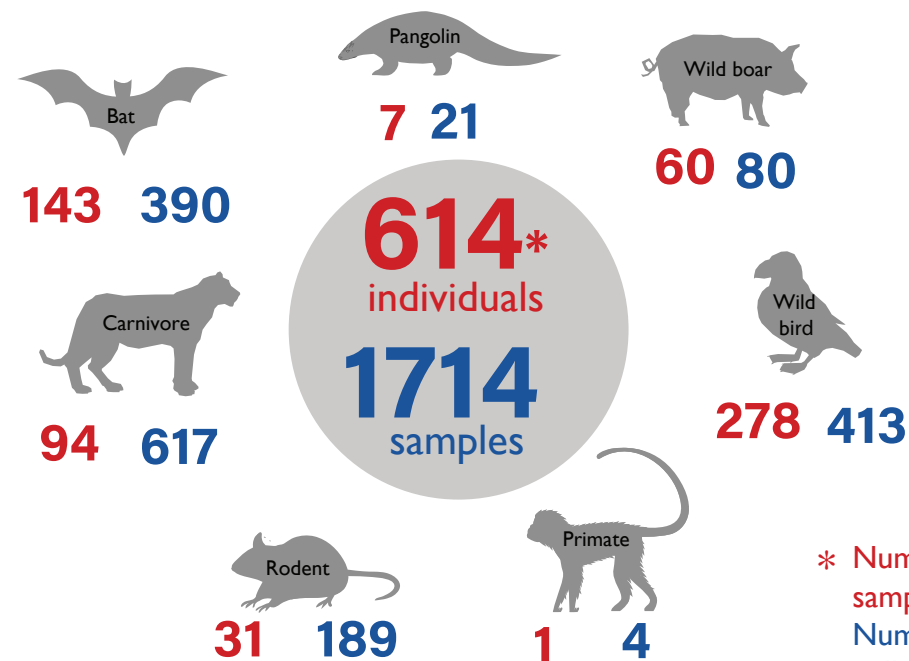
As tigers can be infected by SARS-CoV-2 (causative agent of COVID-19) and pangolins are the hosts of coronaviruses closely related to SARS-CoV-2, the collected samples were screened for coronaviruses using a broad PCR assay able to detect viruses in all genera of CoVs with high sensitivity, including SARS-CoV-2. All samples were negative.

## AFRICAN SWINE FEVER SURVEILLANCE IN WILD BOAR

In October 2021, WCS received information about one dead wild boar in Pu Mat NP. A fecal sample was collected from the carcass and tested negative for African Swine Fever (ASF). Five additional wild boar fecal samples were collected this period, four from Pu Mat NP (Nghe An province) and one from Tan Phu Protect Area (Dong Nai province).

Three were tested for ASF and were negative. The remaining three samples are being tested at the NCVD under the Department of Animal Health (DAH).

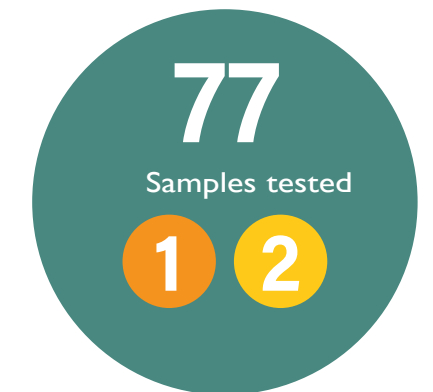
## SUMMARY OF SAMPLES COLLECTED UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2021



## LABORATORY TESTING: NUMBER OF SAMPLES TESTED UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2021



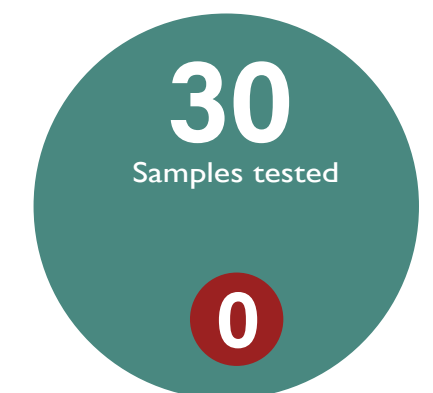
National Center for Veterinary Diagnostics



Regional Animal Health Office No. 6



Vietnam National University of Agriculture



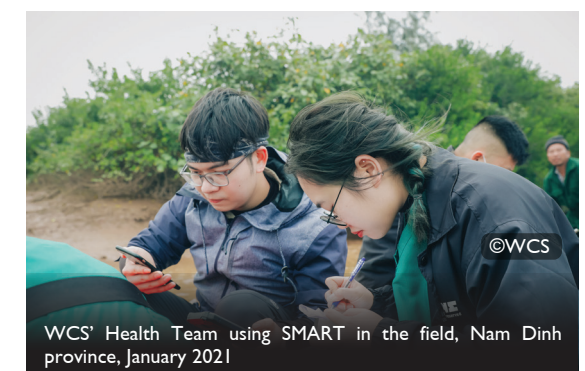
Ha Noi Medical University

Number of positive samples for each pathogens



## SMART NETWORK IN VIET NAM

WildHealthNet joined the SMART network in Viet Nam and attended several SMART meetings and training including more than 40 participants from the Department of Protected Area Management (DOPA-M/VN Forest), multiple Protected Areas, NGOs and development agencies (GIZ) supporting various Protected Areas and conservation teams. The SMART platform is a suite of tools that enable rangers and field staff to collect and manage data on wildlife conservation. One of the objectives of these meetings was to develop a new national SMART data model. The entire SMART Viet Nam network contributed to the discussion and final decision to include some basic wildlife health categories and attributes in the core data model and detailed attributes in an add-on data model component, as suggested by WCS. The SMART Viet Nam network agreed this could be an add-on for sites that want to additionally record wildlife health data at sites that choose to do wildlife health monitoring with SMART.



# WILDHEALTHNET PARTNERS IN VIET NAM



National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), Ministry of Health (MoH)



Hanoi Medical University (HMU), (MoH)



Department of Animal Health (DAH), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)



Regional Animal Health Office No. 6 (RAHO6), DAH, MARD

Regional Animal Health Office No. 7 (RAHO7), DAH, MARD



Viet Nam National University of Agriculture (VNUA), MARD



Forest Protection Department (FPD), VNFOREST, MARD



Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR)



Endangered Primate Rescue Center (EPRC)



Save Vietnam's Wildlife (SVW)



Cat Tien National Park



Pu Mat National Park



Cuc Phuong National Park



Xuan Thuy National Park



Bu Gia Map National Park



Tram Chim National Park



Dong Nai Culture and Nature Reserve



Tan Phu Protected Area Management Board

Dong Thap Provincial  
Department for Animal  
Health, Production and Fishery

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