

Wildlife Trade and Live Animal Markets

A regional perspective from Asia

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Disease, Conservation, & Public Policy

Bangkok, 15 November 2004



Bird market, Karachi, Pakistan.
M. Rautkari, WWF-Canon.

Summary

- **Live animal markets ...**
 - Massive in scale
 - Bring global biodiversity to Asia
 - Mix wild & domestic animals
- **Conservation joins health ...**
 - 'Nature is dangerous' *versus*
 - 'Linking regulatory frameworks'
- **Next steps**
 - Resolve contradictions
 - Trade controls & infrastructure



Bird market, Karachi, Pakistan.
M. Rautkari, WWF-Canon.

Wildlife Trade and Live Animal Markets

'Source' markets of Southeast Asia

- **Jakarta**

- Largest in Southeast Asia
- 80% birds, wild & domestic

- **Medan**

- Birds, monkeys, turtles
- Some species 50% mortality/day

- **Indochina**

- More markets, but smaller
- Birds, turtles, pangolins



Starlings, Medan, Indonesia.

C. Shepard, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia.

Wildlife Trade and Live Animal Markets

End markets consolidating in China

- **Guangzhou & Shenzhen**

- 677 species (39 mammals, 453 birds)
- Both wild-caught & captive bred
- Protected species 'not unusual'

- **Viet Nam / China border**

- ~ 200 vertebrate species
- > 50% protected species

- **Massive scale**

- 90000 snakes, 24000 turtles/visit
- 600 pangolins/day



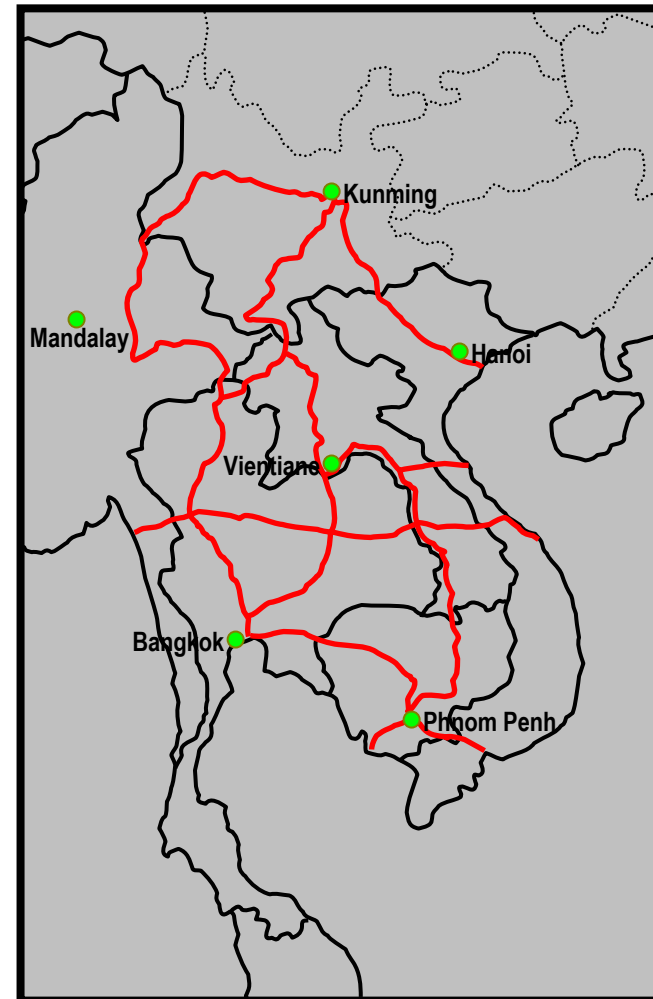
Civets in southern China.

<http://sf.indymedia.org/news/2004/01/1670470.php>

Wildlife Trade and Live Animal Markets

Trade Chains Long & Complex

- **Pangolin example**
 - Malaysia to Thailand, to China
 - Mainly land routes
 - Large seizures occur regularly
- **Ever-changing routes**
 - Most recent: 120 pangolins, Myanmar->Laos->Viet Nam->China
- **New infrastructure**
 - Reduces transport 'costs'
 - Possible benefit to regulation?



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General Lessons

- **Massive *scale***
 - Lots of animals, poor conditions
 - Mixing wild with domestic
- **Broad *scope***
 - Animals, & diseases, from around the world
- **Regulators overwhelmed**
 - Trade chains long & complex
 - Many competing priorities



Ducks & chickens, Shaanxi, China.
M. Gunther, WWF-Canon.

What SARS Taught Conservationists

- **The government is in control**
 - Wildlife markets were shut
- **Two basic 'modes' in China**
 - Unrestrained use
 - Total ban
- **Conservation a low priority**
 - Wildlife markets were re-opened



<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3908790/>

Civet in southern China.

Wildlife Trade and Live Animal Markets

Conservationists & public health

- **Two different strategies**
 - 'Health' as instrument of fear
 - Common interests & joint action
- **'Nature is a *danger*'**
 - EU Wild Bird Policy (Avian flu)
 - Hong Kong & reef fish (cyanide)
- **Conservation + Health**
 - Intuition: Health issues more compelling than conservation issues
 - Leverage the health bureaucracy



Tufted deer in market, Sichuan, China.
S. Chapman, WWF-Canon.

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Linkages & Next Steps

- **Common interests**
 - Goal is managed trade
 - Animals should be 'in the system'
 - 'Rule of law' is good
 - Invasive species (?)
- **Next steps**
 - Resolve conflicts (e.g., Moluccan Cockatoo)
 - Avoid 'quick wins' from 'fear factor'
 - Link trade controls with infrastructure development
(e.g., ASEAN Action Plan for Fauna & Flora, 2005-2010)



Macaque in market, Vietnam.

<http://coombs.anu.edu.au/~vern/wild-trade/captives/captives.html>