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PREDICT

ONE HEALTH CASE STUDY

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INTEGRATING WILDLIFE CONSIDERATIONS INTO PPR CONTROL

MONGOLIA

In early January 2017, environmental rangers were encountering an unprecedented number of sick and dead saiga antelope (Saiga tatarica mongolica) – a critically endangered species - as they drove their survey transects. It was quickly determined that the disease killing the saiga was Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), a pathogen that had first been confirmed in Mongolian sheep and goats in 2016. The outbreak of PPR in Mongolian saiga represents the first time the disease was recorded in a free-ranging antelope species and took both the wildlife conservation and livestock health experts by surprise. The confirmation of PPR virus in Mongolian saiga, and other wild ungulate species in January 2017, was an indication that the large-scale vaccination of livestock for PPR completed in October 2016 had not been effective in stopping on-going transmission in Mongolia, putting non-vaccinated sheep and goats and susceptible wildlife species at risk of infection.

WHAT ONE HEALTH ADDED

Mongolia took a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach to addressing PPR emergence at the wildlife-livestock interface in Mongolia. A national emergency management committee activated an inter-agency response to the PPR die-off in wildlife. The Ministry of Environment was nominated by the Emergency Management Authority to take a leadership role coordinating support from the agricultural ministry, animal health laboratory network (national and international), wildlife experts (national and international), and wildlife-focused NGOs. Mongolia has a history of working across sectors and applying a "One Health" approach to disease at the livestock/wildlife interface, including coordinating avian influenza surveillance in wild birds with veterinarians and environmental agency officers/rangers. This foundation was used to adapt and respond to PPR in wildlife for initial investigations and going forward for monitoring and prevention.

The PREDICT lead in country is playing a leadership role in encouraging, supporting, and advocating for the multi sectoral response to the die-off in saiga antelope (an endangered species) and other wildlife and linking expertise and resources in the agricultural sector to address PPR to Mongolia. Sharing of laboratory data and joint analysis of data from wildlife and livestock have been initiated and are on-going. Through the PPR response and monitoring, environment sector rangers and local veterinarians have both been mobilized. This is an evolving situation with opportunities for integration not only in the response to PPR in Mongolia but also in the longer-term management and prevention of PPR at the livestock/wildlife interface. Looking at PPR through an integrated approach (considering wild species) will likely be essential to the success of eradication (a livestock sector goal linked to livelihoods, local and regional economies). The PPR Global Eradication Programme is in the process of formally incorporating wildlife into its guidelines for implementing national and regional prevention and control strategies and advocating for a more "ecological" approach to disease eradication.

PARTNERS: Wildlife Conservation Society; Ministry of Nature, Environment, and Tourism; Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry; State Central Veterinary Laboratory; National Emergency Management Agency; WWF Mongolia Program Office; Livestock herders, local veterinarians and rangers; PREDICT-2; FAO; OIE; Morris Animal Foundations; SNAPP