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Building Ecohealth Capacity in Asia

# Building capacity for research and practice in ecosystem approaches to health in Southeast Asia

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# Presentation Outline

- Overview
- Goals and Objectives
- Outputs
- Approach
  - Workshops
- Your role





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## Overview

- 3 year project; VWB – project/budget holder
- Funded by IDRC and AusAID (Research Grant)
- Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam
- Key Personnel
  - Principal Investigator – David Hall (VWB/ Univ. Calgary)
  - Project Managers – Sonia Fevre (VWB); Aun Ting Lim
  - Co-PI – David Waltner-Toews (VWB/ Univ. Guelph)
  - Co-PI – Jeff Davidson (VWB/ Univ. PEI)
  - Co-PI – Bruce Hunter (VWB/ Univ. Guelph)
  - Co-PI – Karen Morrison (VWB/ Univ. Guelph)



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## Goal

The long term goal of this project is to ***reduce the risk of EID outbreaks in Southeast Asia*** through increased capacity in preventing and responding to EIDs through the ***development and promotion of sustainable ecosystem approaches to health***, thereby promoting healthy livelihoods and reducing poverty in the region.



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# Objectives

1. Identify through research activities and promote through research networks ***methodologies for developing and measuring impact*** of sustainable ecosystem approaches to health.



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## Objectives

2. Promote research and application of transboundary sustainable ecosystem approaches to health through ***informing and influencing local and regional policy formulation.***



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## Objectives

- 3. *Promote and facilitate regional networking and collaboration*** between high-level researchers, decision makers, and community actors in ecohealth research and EID prevention and control in the region.



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## Objectives

4. Provide a ***process oriented approach to evaluation and monitoring*** of adaptive and effective learning and teaching tools for building ecosystem approaches to health.



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## Objectives (summary)

### *Building Capacity for Ecohealth Research and Practice in SEAsia*

1. Methodologies for developing and measuring impact
2. Informing and influencing local and regional policy formulation
3. Promote and facilitate regional networking and collaboration
4. Process oriented approach to monitoring and evaluation



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## Target groups

- Researchers, government personnel, NGOs. eco-health practitioners
- Trainers of trainers
- Essentially anyone in a position to learn and contribute at the meetings with a willingness to share their knowledge during and after
- Geographic limitations at training but not within the network



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## Approach

Consultation and planning

Workshop participation

Technical support/mentoring

Networking

Monitoring and evaluation





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## Approach – Workshops

- Fundamentals of Ecohealth
- Researchable issues in Ecosystem Approaches to Health Management
- Core Ecohealth Workshops (advanced training)
- Using research to advise policy formulation
- Monitoring and evaluation



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## Participant's role

- Leadership
  - Focal points
  - Team membership
- Participation
  - Past, current, and future projects
  - Daily activities (research, government, industry)
  - Communication (networking)
- Ideas and advice



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## Outputs

- Workshop reports and findings
- Toolkit – *Ecosystem Approaches to Ecohealth*
- Identification of methodologies
  - Application of methodologies
- Policy briefs (issues, progress)
- Development/ strengthening of networks
- Capacity in Ecohealth



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## Outputs

- Workshop reports and findings
  - More than 60 people directly trained/ participated
  - Up to 20 persons directly still involved
    - Limited secondary activities
- Input to proposal development
  - Bali rabies/ VN ecohealth/ EcoEID (just starting)
- Policy entry points
- VN evaluation



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## Evaluation – Vietnam

- Follow-up with 18 participants/ direct beneficiaries of training
- “classical evaluation” – questionnaires, meetings, interviews
- Findings
  - Training and input timely and needed
  - Strong wish to continue initiatives but questions of sustainability
  - Practical tools needed (templates, methodologies)
  - Limited communication within the network currently



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# Future Outputs – initial ideas

## *Agent based modelling*

- optimization with consideration of agent preferences
  - Agents may not agree on preferences
    - Butchers vs. local government vs. dog owners have different preference structures
  - Incorporate optimization with occasionally opposing choices and preferences of agents
  - also known as “Social simulation”
- primarily the ecology and ecological systems literature



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## Future Outputs – initial ideas

There is a fundamental distinction between policies that are founded in **optimized outcomes** vs. those for which advocated **outcomes are successful for the community.**



VS.





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# Questions?



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