

Wildlife trade governance for pandemic prevention

How can we prevent future pandemics?

- International and domestic responses to pandemics have primarily been reactionary, focused on outbreak detection, containment, and control measures.
- However, we also need to prevent future pandemics from occurring to promote human, animal, and environmental health. A **deep prevention** approach would aim to prevent outbreak of zoonotic disease from animals to humans.
- Effective global governance is important for a deep prevention approach. A **One Health** approach to governance encourages multi-sectoral and multi-lateral coordination across public and animal health, food security, biodiversity conservation and trade sectors.



What are some barriers to pandemic prevention?

Without a coordinated and multi-sectoral response to pandemic prevention, **prevention measures could have unintended impacts**. Key considerations for wildlife, human health, and the planet could **'fall through the cracks'**.

However, there are some barriers for global governance which limit a prevention approach to pandemics.

Barrier 1: Unclear leadership for global governance

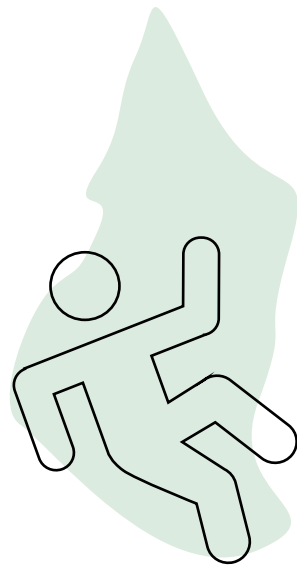
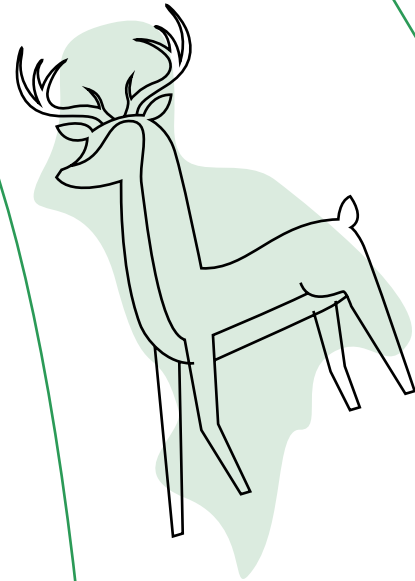
- Currently there are no international organizations that are responsible for global governance of the wildlife trade.
- No organizations are leading management of zoonotic infectious disease emergence and biodiversity protection.

Barrier 2: Limited agreements related to prevention

- No single international agreement exists focused on preventing zoonotic spillover. Related agreements include the International Health Regulations (IHR), Codex Alimentarius, and the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework.
- The extent to which the future Pandemic Treaty incorporates measures to guide the regulation of wildlife trade is unknown, as the focus remains on responding to future infectious disease outbreaks.

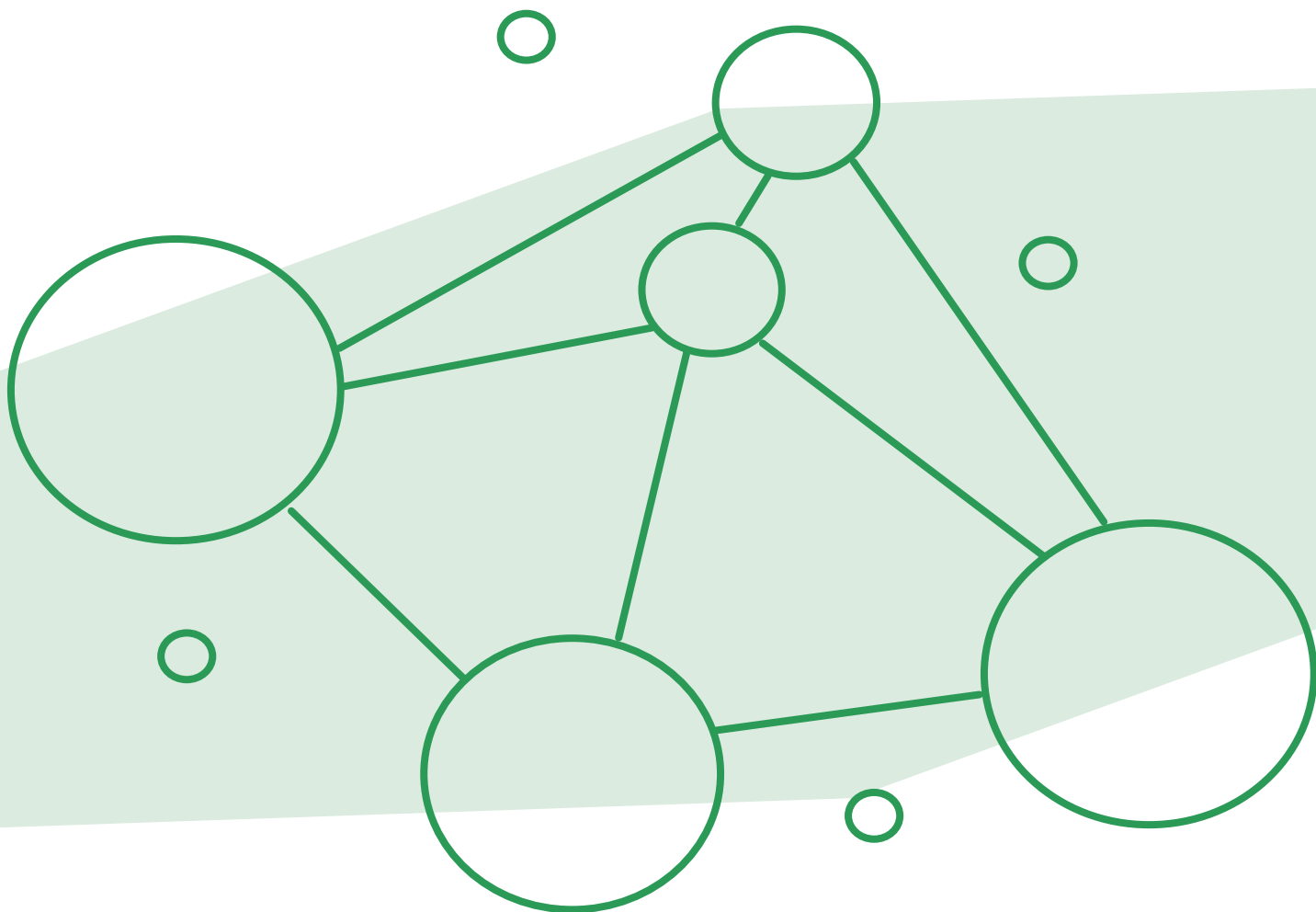
Barrier 3: Siloed mandates

- A mandate for the prevention of zoonotic spillover was poorly delineated prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Tensions exist between national sovereignty, development of international standards and enforceability.
- Intergovernmental organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) have a limited mandate on the environment (e.g., control of deforestation). Conversely, the international conventions with environmental mandates, such as CITES, have limited scope to address public health issues.



Why is cross-sectoral collaboration challenging?

- Cross-sectoral collaboration is challenging as it is much easier to develop, coordinate and implement policy within a single sector.
- Collaboration requires additional resources, staff, time, and commitment to overcome the status quo of single sector approaches.
- Cross-sectoral collaboration also faces challenges when global and national levels of governance interact. As national governments are typically organised along sectoral lines, 'whole of government' approaches can be difficult to implement, even with support at the global level.



What can policymakers and global organizations do to prevent future pandemics?

The risk of zoonotic spillover events leading to pandemics is a global challenge. **Preventing future pandemics will require leadership and guidance at the global level** to ensure implementation of effective governance mechanisms across regional, state, and global levels.

We recommend some key actions and orientations to help us prevent the next pandemic:

- 1 Incorporate a deep prevention approach** when developing instruments, mandates, and governance for pandemics, aiming to reduce the risk of zoonotic spillover originating from the wildlife trade.
- 2 Strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration mechanisms.** Global governance organisations can work to support improved coordination and collaborations between sectors at regional, state, and global levels.
- 3 Increase financial support to countries at high risk of zoonotic emergence.** Greater member state financial support of intergovernmental organizations and international conventions to support deep prevention in countries at risk of zoonotic emergence.

Relevant papers

Wiktorowicz M, Gallo-Cajiao E, Lee KM, Clifford Astbury C, Ruckert A, Aenishaenslin C, Tsasis P, Togno C, Penney TL. Assessing the multilateral governance gap in pandemic prevention. [In preparation]

Gallo-Cajiao E, Lieberman S, Dolšak N, Prakash A, Labonté R, Biggs D, Franklin C, Morrison TH, Viens AM, Fuller RA, Aguiar R. Global governance for pandemic prevention and the wildlife trade. *The Lancet Planetary Health*. 2023;7(4):e336-45.

Partners

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