Serengeti Health Initiative

Preserving Wildlife and Providing Value to Local People

Description

The centerpiece of the Serengeti Health Initiative is the carnivore disease project, which incorporates wildlife surveillance, design and evaluation of vaccination programs, and research on how wild animals, domestic animals, and humans interact. The program focuses on the protected park area as well as the areas bordering the park that provide homes to millions of people and domestic animals. The program recognizes that fluid boundaries and close contact between domestic animals, humans and wildlife enable the spread of disease, and is designed to protect animals and people in Serengeti National Park from transmissible diseases.

Purpose

The Serengeti Health Initiative aims to preserve the wildlife of the Serengeti region while also benefiting local people. This collaborative conservation effort is dedicated to building a better understanding of the Serengeti ecosystem that can help keep it healthy and whole.

Scope

Regional - Serengeti, Tanzania.

Primary Funders

Lincoln Park Zoo, University of Glasgow, University of Minnesota, Princeton University (through grants from the Wellcome Trust, NSF Ecology of Infectious Diseases Program, Google.org, BBSRC and DfID) and Intervet.

Participants & Key Collaborators

Primary Funders as well as University of Illinois at Chicago, National Institute of Medical Research (Tanzania), Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania), Tanzania National Parks, Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (Tanzania), Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries (Tanzania).

Definition of One Health

None. The program's vision includes humans, wildlife, and domestic animals as interrelated players for ecosystem health.

Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy

An informal M&E strategy includes an annual review, which monitors progress against key health indicators (vaccination coverage, human and animal rabies incidence, human animal bite-injury data), cost-effectiveness of the program (including cost-sharing with local authorities), professional development of staff (training Tanzanian vets and field assistants), scientific outputs (publications, presentations) and broader outreach (e.g. impact on national and international rabies policy and advocacy). Targets include attaining a vaccination coverage of at least 70% in the dog population, with the ultimate goal of rabies elimination in the Serengeti ecosystem.

Sources of Information

Website: http://www.lpzoo.org/conservation-science/projects/serengeti-health-initiative
www.afya.org

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