

Targeting Natural Resource Corruption

Welcome! We will begin shortly.

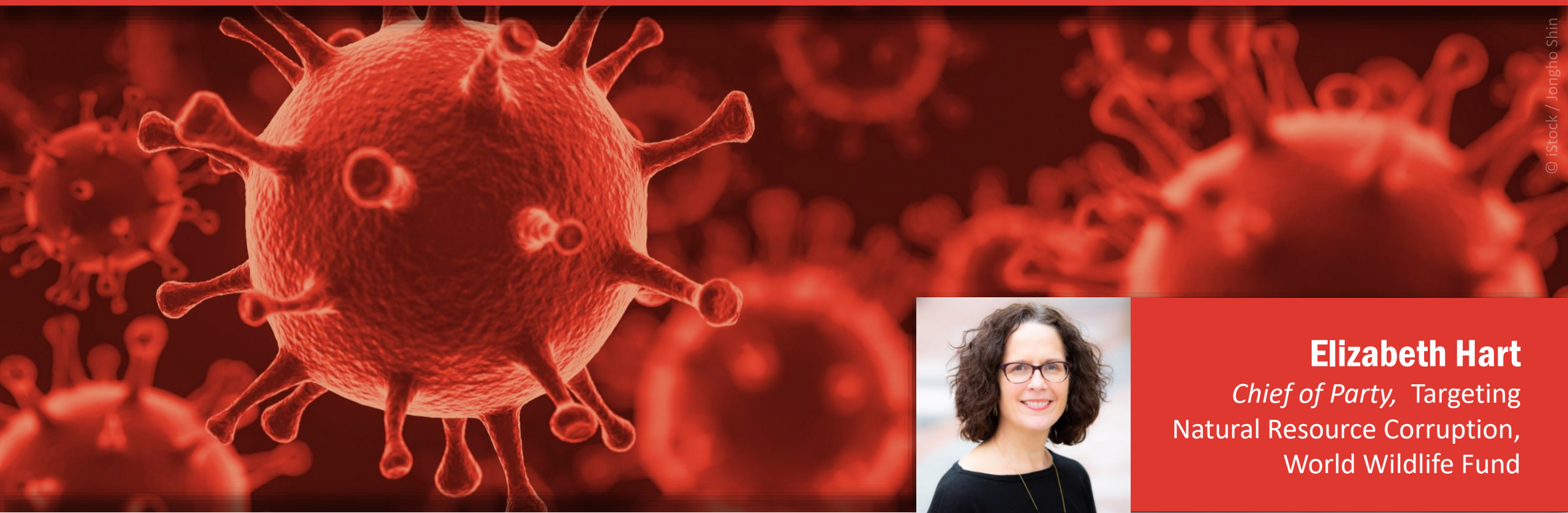
This is a Zoom webinar. All participant videos are off and lines are muted, but please feel free to introduce yourself in the chat.

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The COVID-19 pandemic, corruption, and the socio-economic impacts on local communities



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Elizabeth Hart
*Chief of Party, Targeting
Natural Resource Corruption,
World Wildlife Fund*



Ground rules...

Audio Settings ^



Chat

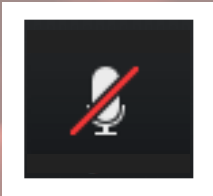


Raise Hand



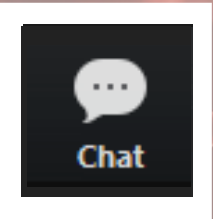
Q&A

Leave Meeting



1. All participants are muted

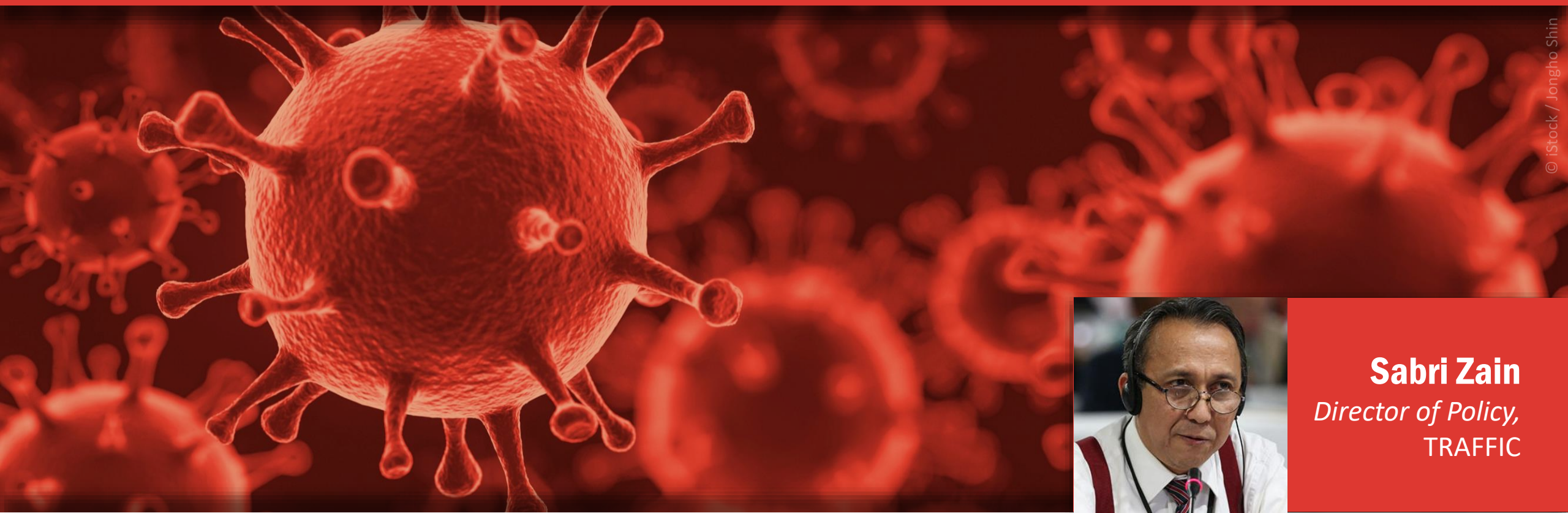
Given high attendance in this webinar, all lines will remain muted



2. Exchange thoughts and pose questions

Introduce yourself and share your own insights and questions in the chat window

The COVID-19 pandemic, corruption, and the socio-economic impacts on local communities



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Sabri Zain
Director of Policy,
TRAFFIC



The COVID-19 pandemic, corruption, and the socio-economic impacts on local communities



Duan Biggs, PhD.

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Daniel M. Korbei

International Indigenous Forum for Biodiversity (IIFB), and Executive Director, Ogiek Peoples Development Program (OPDP)



Nathalie van Vliet, PhD.

Wildlife and Livelihoods Expert, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)



Dilys Roe

Principal Researcher and Team Leader (Biodiversity), Natural Resources, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)



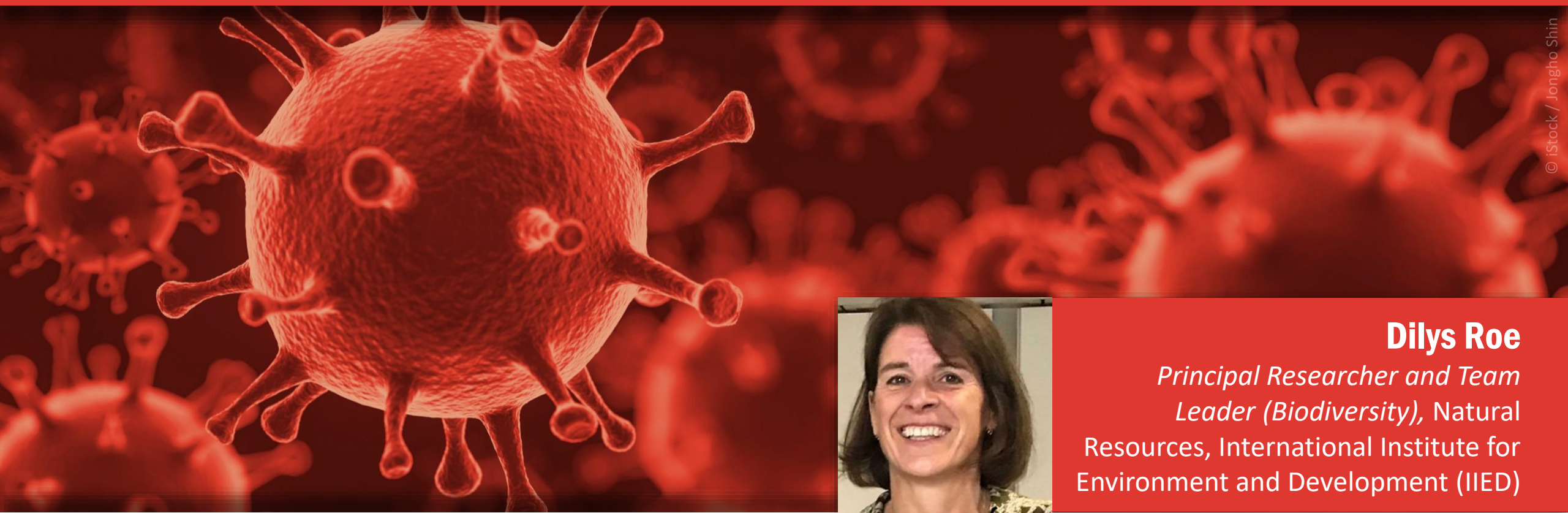
Sabri Zain

Director of Policy, TRAFFIC (Moderator)

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Covid-19, Conservation and Communities

Wildlife Trade



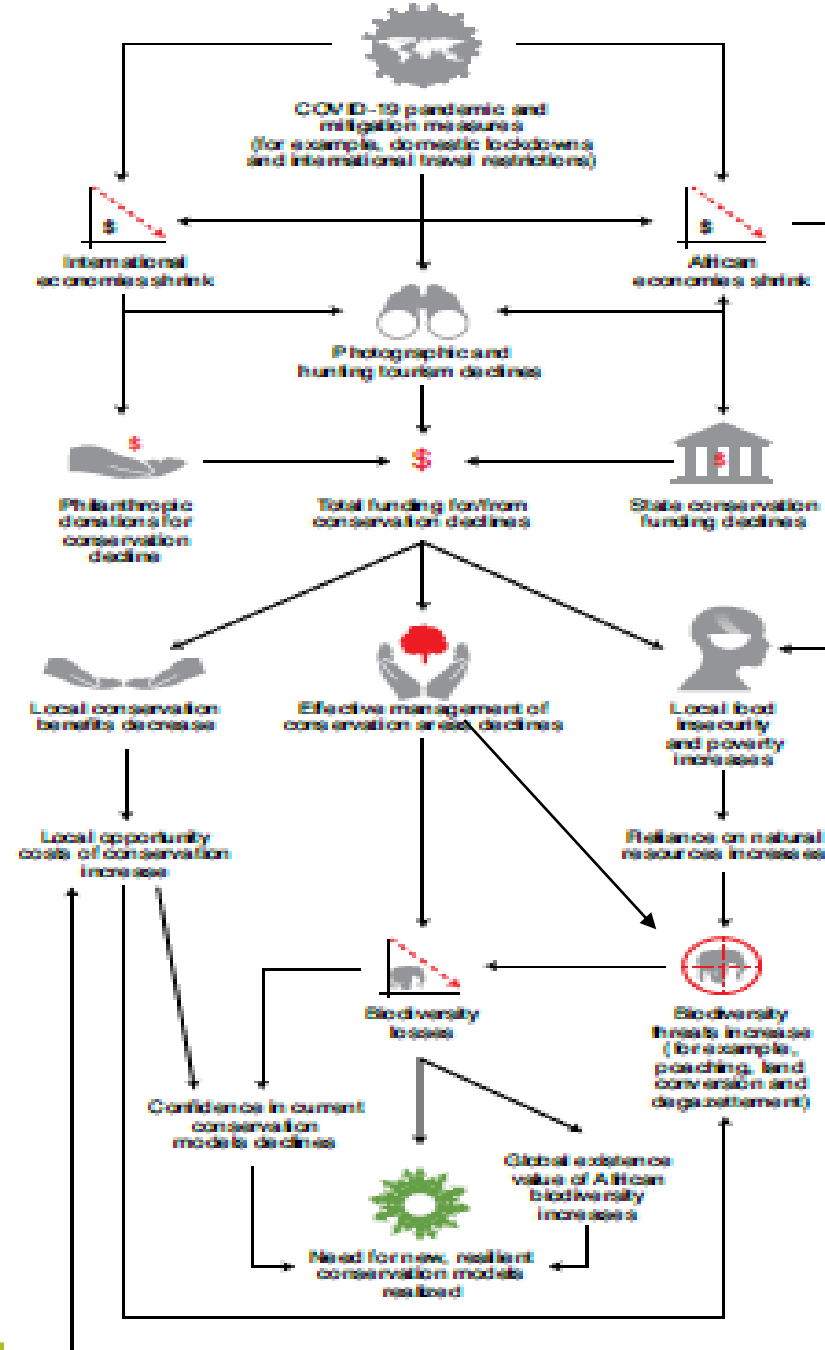
Dilys Roe

Chair, IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group
Biodiversity lead, International Institute for Environment and Development

Covid and Conservation

- Focus on Africa – but same likely to apply elsewhere
- Immediate and most obvious impact: cessation of international tourism (photographic and hunting)
 - Huge impact on state wildlife agency budgets
 - But also on community-based conservation
- Africa already struggling to finance conservation before Covid impacts

Beyond tourism



Predictions fulfilled?

PERSPECTIVE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-020-1275-6>

nature
ecology & evolution



Conserving Africa's wildlife and wildlands through the COVID-19 crisis and beyond

Peter Lindsey^{1,2,3}  , James Allan⁴, Peadar Brehony⁵ , Amy Dickman⁶, Ashley Robson⁷ , Colleen Begg⁸, Hasita Bhammar⁹, Lisa Blanken¹⁰, Thomas Breuer¹¹ , Kathleen Fitzgerald¹², Michael Flyman¹³, Patience Gandiwa¹⁴, Nicia Giva¹⁵, Dickson Kaelo¹⁶, Simon Nampindo¹⁷, Nyambe Nyambe¹⁸ , Kurt Steiner¹⁹ , Andrew Parker²⁰, Dilys Roe^{21,22} , Paul Thomson³ , Morgan Trimble²³ , Alexandre Caron^{24,25}  and Peter Tyrrell^{26,27} 

The SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19 illness are driving a global crisis. Governments have responded by restricting human movement, which has reduced economic activity. These changes may benefit biodiversity conservation in some ways, but in Africa, we contend that the net conservation impacts of COVID-19 will be strongly negative. Here, we describe how the crisis creates a perfect storm of reduced funding, restrictions on the operations of conservation agencies, and elevated human threats to nature. We identify the immediate steps necessary to address these challenges and support ongoing conservation efforts. We then highlight systemic flaws in contemporary conservation and identify opportunities to restructure for greater resilience. Finally, we emphasize the critical importance of conserving habitat and regulating unsafe wildlife trade practices to reduce the risk of future pandemics.

Mixed effects

- UNODC World Wildlife Crime report (2020): wildlife trafficking and poaching unlikely to decline
- Int Rhino Foundation (2020): decrease in poaching pressure – closed borders, increased military and police presence.
- But increases in some countries (eg Bots) masked by decreases in others (eg RSA)
- Some high profile examples eg Rafiki the gorilla
- But a lot of low level subsistence poaching

Covid19 and wild meat consumption

- Wild meat important as a subsistence product for millions of local people
- Calls to ban wild meat consumption and trade risk negatively impacting the livelihoods and food security of those dependent on it

The COVID-19 challenge: Zoonotic diseases and wildlife

Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management's four guiding principles to reduce risk from zoonotic diseases and build more collaborative approaches in human health and wildlife management

October 2020
Joint CPW Statement

COVID-19 falls into the category of emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) that are transmitted between domestic or wild animals and humans (known as 'zoonotic diseases') (WHO, 2020a). EIDs can significantly impact global economies and public health. More than 60 percent of all EID events are dominated by zoonoses, the majority of these originate in wildlife and are increasing significantly over time (Jones *et al.*, 2008; Morse *et al.*, 2012).

The far-reaching impacts of COVID-19 on the entire planet have mobilized numerous calls to prevent similar pandemics in the future. Appeals have ranged from advocacy for the permanent closure of markets where wild animals may be sold, to banning all commercial use of wildlife, to significantly stepping up sanitary measures and monitoring along all food value chains.

In this document, the Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) propose four guiding principles to assist practitioners and decision-makers in making practical and scientifically informed responses (FAO, 2020b). These principles aim to reduce the risk of future pandemics originating from wild animals, at the same time as strengthening the conservation of wildlife whilst respecting livelihoods, food security and culture of diverse groups of people.



**First principle:
Recognize the importance
of the use of wildlife for
many communities,
including Indigenous
Peoples and Local
Communities (IPLCs), in
policy responses.**

Covid, conservation and corruption

BMJ: “Covid-19 has unleashed state corruption on a grand scale, and it is harmful to public health”.

Poaching: some anecdotal evidence of official involvement

Wildlife trade: Trade bans may fuel corruption by driving trade underground

Wild meat consumption: IPLC dependence on wild meat has the potential to fuel rent-seeking behaviour

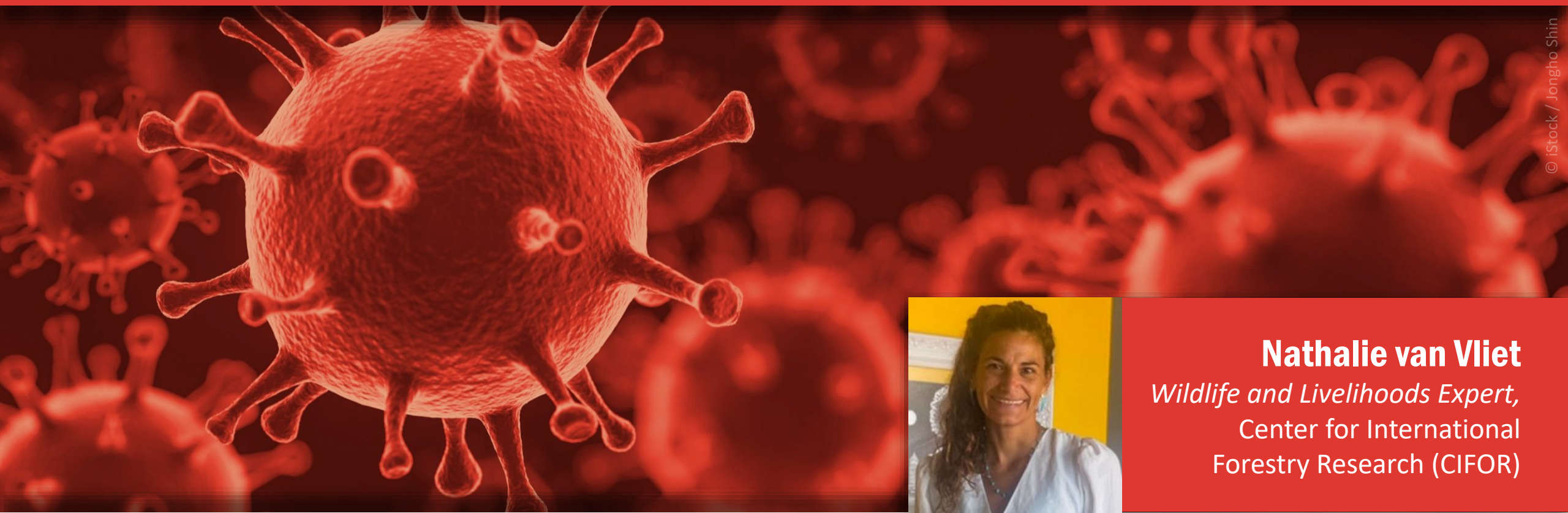
Building back better from Covid19

- Political attention now on Covid recovery
- Lots of attention to green recovery
- Critical to ensure that such green recovery is not feeding corruption
- Issues to watch out for will include permitting for harvest and trade of wildlife; changing nature of interaction between organised crime and wildlife; increased pressure to earn money on the side in absence of salaries and other income

THANK YOU



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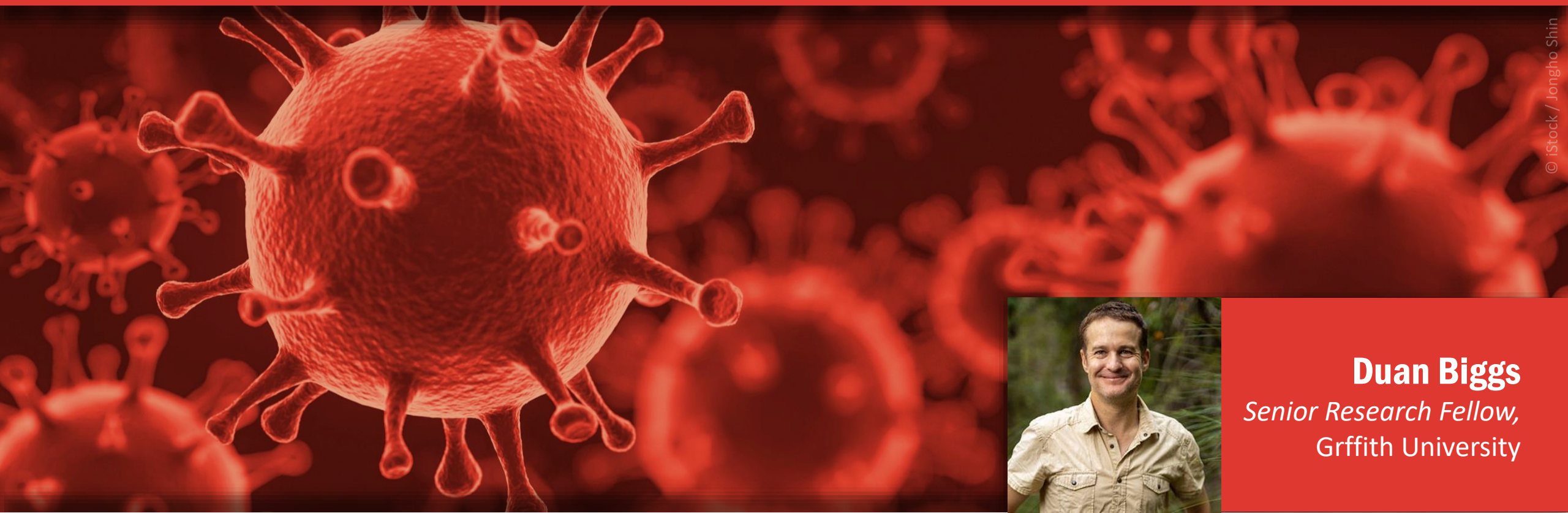
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COVID 19, corruption and socio-economic impacts on local communities

Duan Biggs, PhD

Resilient Conservation, Environmental Futures Research Institute,
Griffith University

<https://resilientconservation.org>

Talk outline

- Impacts of Covid on local communities
- Impact on natural resource dependence and use
- The window of opportunity to strengthen governance of wildlife trade and natural resource use by local communities





- Before COVID, weak governance and corruption undermined sustainability of natural resources and impacted negatively on local communities
- COVID has hit the most vulnerable hardest, such as rural communities living on the margins with already limited access to healthcare

Health impacts beyond COVID

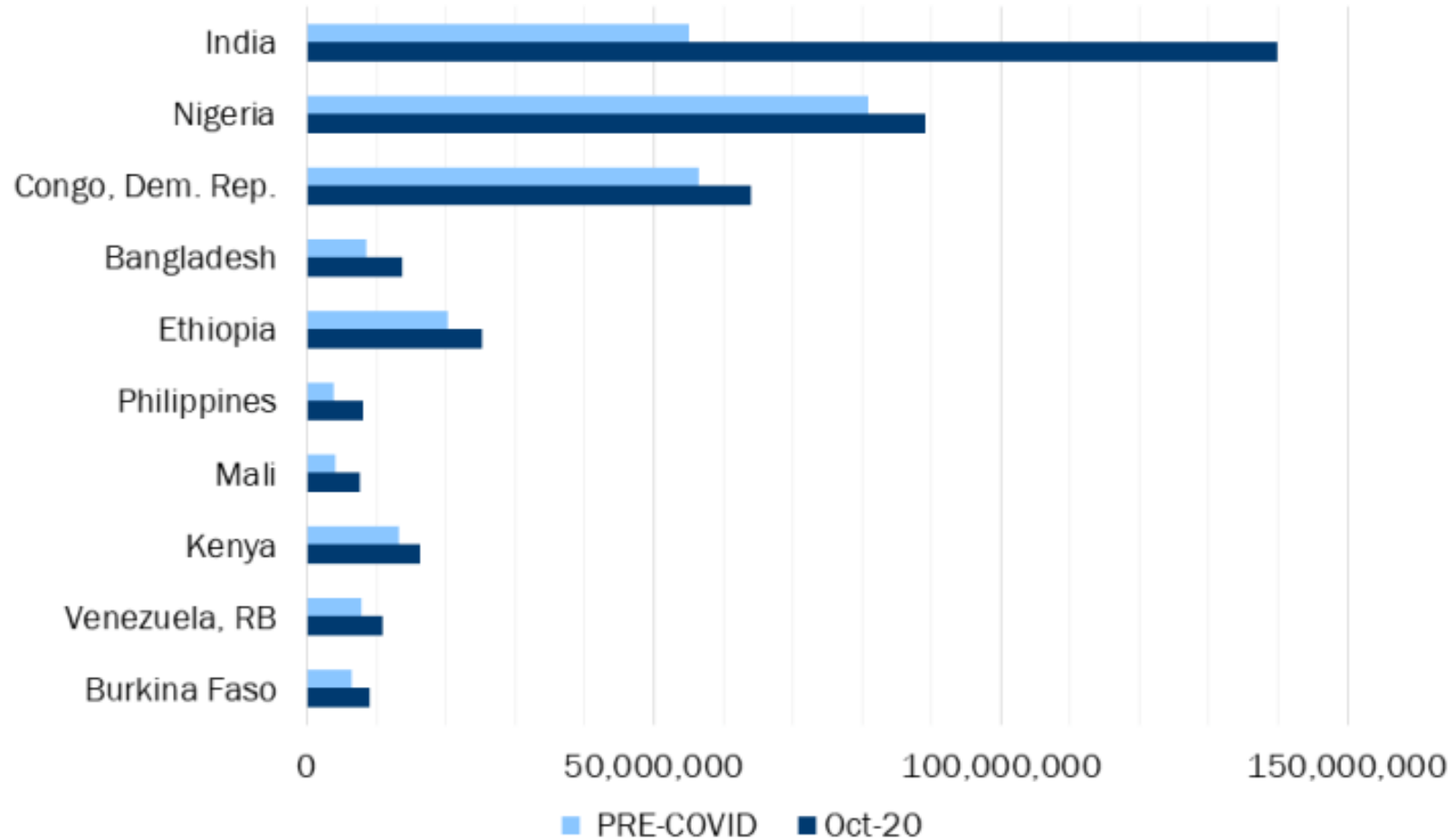
- Many people, especially those with marginalised access to healthcare are avoiding seeking medical care when they otherwise normally would have, due to concerns and misunderstandings of the COVID situation



Impacts on Poverty

- The COVID-19 pandemic is estimated to push an additional 88 million to 115 million people into extreme poverty this year, with the total rising to as many as 150 million by 2021
- Had the pandemic not happened, the poverty rate was expected to drop to 7.9% in 2020. We are now regressing to 2017 levels with a projection of 9.1-9.4% by end 2020

Figure 1. Countries with largest likely increases in extreme income poverty headcounts compared to baseline, 2020 (absolute numbers of people)



Source: Author's calculations based on IMF World Economic Outlook October 2020 and World Bank Povcal data

BROOKINGS



The violent toll of COVID lockdowns

- Dusk-to-dawn curfews and lockdowns not only limit freedoms, these have become violent
- In first 2 weeks of lockdown in Nigeria, 18 people were killed by police enforcing lockdowns. Similarly 6 people were killed in Kenya by police in first ten days of lockdown
- Evidence for a surge in domestic violence against women around the world, with data from marginalised communities in rural communities often limited

Impact on food security and hunger



Impact on tourism dependent communities in and around Protected and Conserved Areas

- ~90% of African tour operators have experienced >75% declines in bookings.
- Serious impact on rural communities in connected supply chains and that now have to find alternative livelihood sources





Impacts on resource extraction and use

- Between February and June of this year, the Uganda Wildlife Authority recorded 367 poaching cases across the country,
- More than double the 163 cases recorded during a similar period in 2019

COVID and Corruption

- In the current crisis, corruption has flourished with marginalized communities suffering most
- In Colombia, South Africa, and other countries there has been significant overpricing of emergency goods and PPE equipment



The Opportunity: Strengthen governance of wildlife trade and natural resource use by communities

- **Who makes decisions**
- **How rules are implemented and their effectiveness**
- **Who benefits, who bears the cost**
- **Systems with weak governance are characterised by corruption**

Governance characteristics and challenges

Characteristic	Description	Challenge facing natural resource management and wildlife trade
Equitable	Processes are inclusive and produce fair outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Local voices don't have a strong mechanism for inclusion- Elite capture and corruption of implementation
Responsive	Adaptable to changing conditions and diverse contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Incorporate diverse contexts in rule establishment- Responsiveness is often slow

The opportunity: strengthen community voices

- Strengthen mechanisms for input by local communities into the formulation of new rules and regulations
- Include officials responsible for enforcement
- Structures required for community inputs to be reflected in national and international policies
- Adequate resourcing needed for this





Thank you!



Please follow us on Twitter on [@duanbiggs](https://twitter.com/duanbiggs)

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Targeting Natural Resource Corruption

Harnessing knowledge, generating evidence, and supporting innovative policy and practice for more effective anti-corruption programming

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