

GLOBAL HEALTH ISSUES – AMPHIBIANS

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The global trade in amphibians for food and the ornamental pet industry entails the transport of tens of millions of live animals each year. In addition to the impact that harvesting wild animals can have on the long-term sustainability of anuran populations, there is mounting evidence that the emerging pathogens *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (chytridiomycosis) and ranaviruses, are spread through this trade. The link between these pathogens, and amphibian population decline and, for some species, extinction, suggests that the epidemiological impact of the trade is significant, and may negatively affect conservation and trade economics. This presentation provides a brief assessment of the volume of the global trade in live amphibians, the risk of individuals harboring infection, and information on the recent listing by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) of two diseases of amphibians, i.e. Infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and Infection with ranavirus in the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Standards Code*, making them notifiable diseases.

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