



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



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Tulane University

Ecosystems and zoonotic disease in Africa

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STEPS Centre

ESPA Dynamic Drivers of Disease in Africa Consortium (DDDAC)



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Last Updated: Monday, 31 January, 2005, 09:20 GMT

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Vietnam bird flu deaths increase

A 10-year-old girl has died of bird flu in Vietnam, the country's 12th confirmed victim in a month.

Medical official Ngo Van Hoang said the girl developed a high fever and bad cough a week after helping her family bury some dead chickens.



More than 200,000 chickens were culled in Vietnam in January

The spike in deaths has raised worries the disease, which last year hit 10 Asian countries, could re-emerge.

It has also renewed scientists' fears that the virus could mutate into a form that is easily spread human-to-human.

Vietnam
year-old
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Last Updated: Wednesday, 22 August 2007, 07:41 GMT 08:41 UK

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Deadly virus linked to fruit bat

US and Gabonese scientists say a common type of fruit bat could be the source of an outbreak of the deadly Marburg disease in Africa.

The scientists tested more than 1,000 bats caught in caves in Gabon and DR Congo, and found some members of one species were infected with the virus.

Outbreaks of the Marburg disease have hit sub-Saharan Africa in the past.

Marburg is a contagious disease characterised by sudden bleeding and high fever, often ending in death.

Archers, from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and Centre International de Recherches Medicales de Gabon, who are investigating the death of a man from Marburg fever in western Uganda, found that the virus is common in only one species of fruit bat.

Coll

Locally known as *Rousettus aegypticus*, the bat is found in sub-Saharan Africa.

"Finding Marburg infection in the African fruit bats brings us a step closer to understanding this deadly disease," Eric Tenenbaum, one of the study's authors, told AFP news agency.


Outbreaks of Marburg and the related Ebola virus have caused in the past outbreaks with extremely high mortality rates, 80 to 90% in humans and great apes.

The most recent outbreak of the Marburg disease occurred in 2005 in Angola and killed more than 300 people.

Scientists say that the discovery could lead to better strategies in combating the disease.



Uganda has been hit by outbreaks of deadly viruses like Marburg and Ebola

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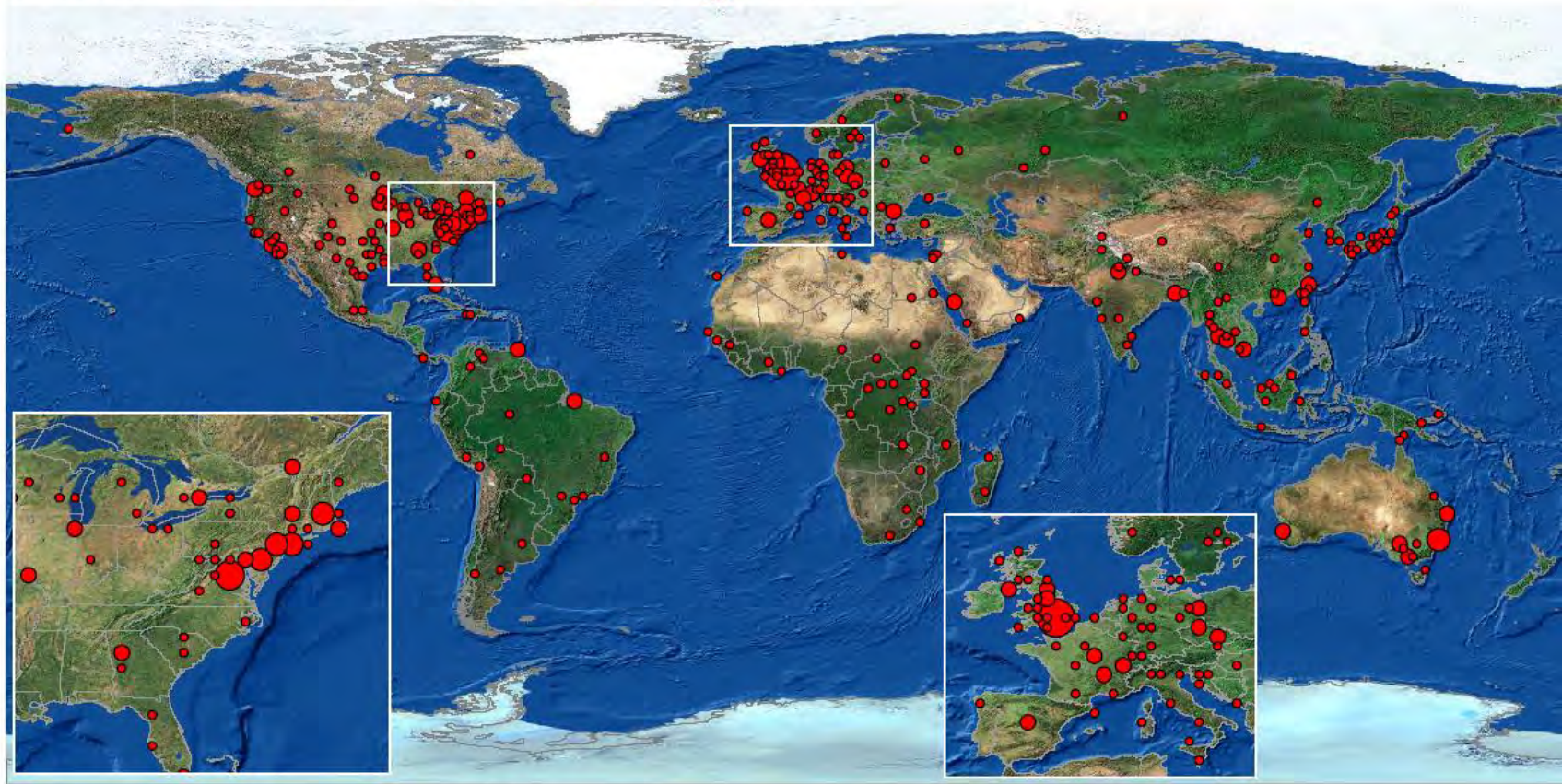
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Emerging Infectious Disease events 1940-2004

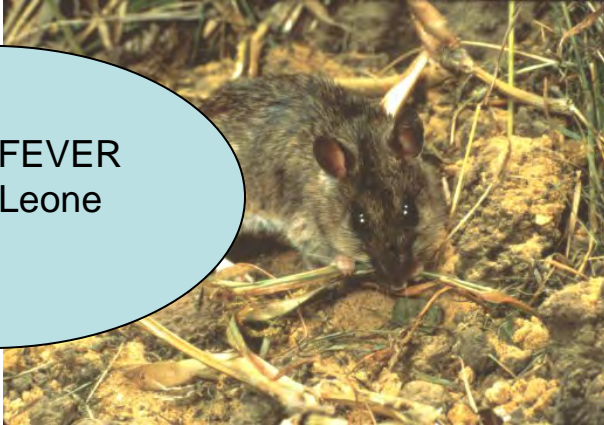
61% are zoonotic

Total EID events ● 1 ● 2-3 ● 4-5 ● 6-7 ● 8-11



Jones et al. 2008 Nature

LASSA FEVER
Sierra Leone



HENIPAVIRUS
Ghana



RIFT VALLEY FEVER
Kenya



TRYPANOSOMIASIS
Zambia/Zimbabwe



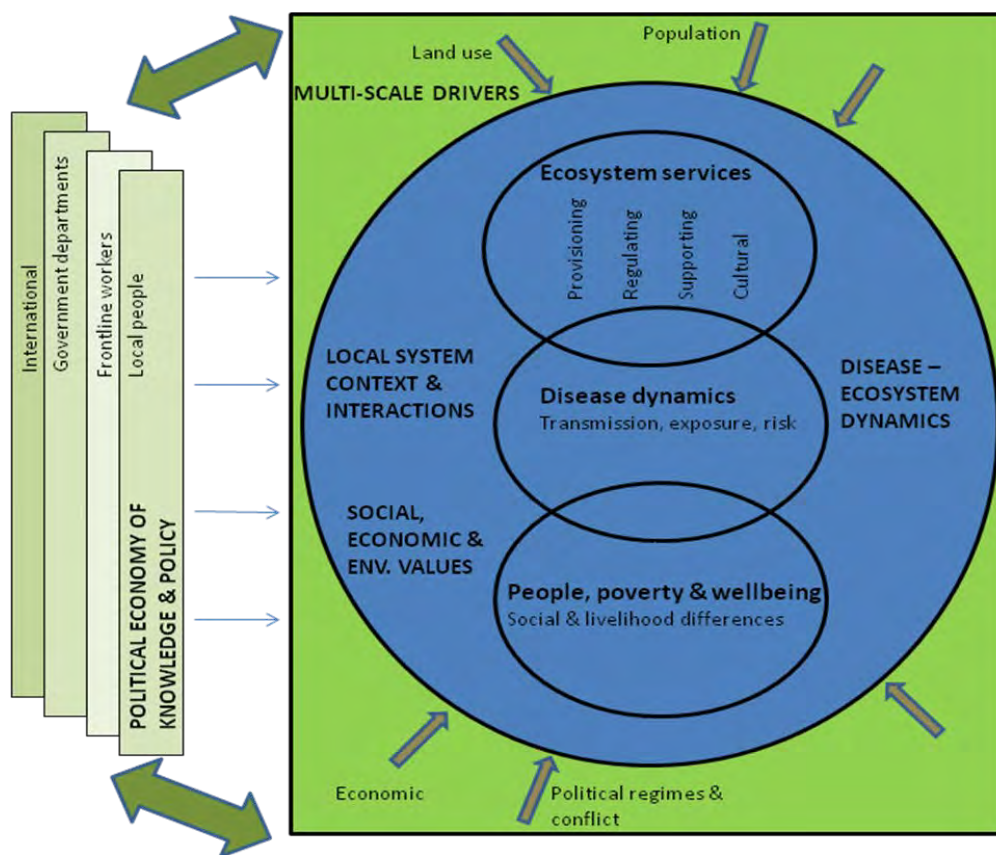




Interdisciplinary science

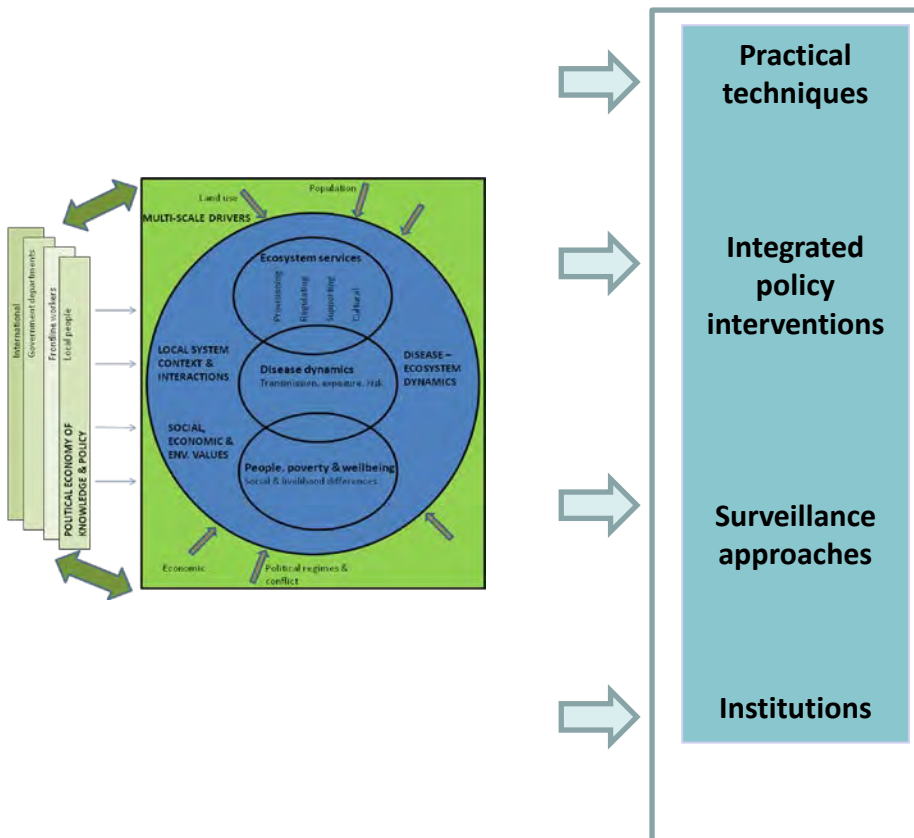
Untangling interactions

Eco-epidemiological modelling (mathematical, empirical, participatory)



Impacts

Managing ecosystem services in sustainable ways that reduce disease risks and burdens for the poor





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