**WEBINAR:**

Internews — Local voices, Global change | EARTH JOURNALISM NETWORK | OXPECKERS

# COVID-19
## AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS
## Harnessing Data to Expose Inequality and Wildlife Trafficking

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

### Eva Constantaras
Data journalist specialized in building data journalism teams in developing countries

### Roxanne Joseph
Manager of the #WildEye project for Oxpeckers Investigative Environmental Journalism

### Bao Choy
Independent investigative journalist based in Hong Kong

Tuesday
**May 6th, 2020**
14:00 in Thailand/Vietnam,
15:00 in China/Singapore/Philippines
12:30 in India

**Register at:**
**tiny.cc/dataharness**

# #WILDEYE ASIA

Mapping illegal wildlife trafficking in Asia

OXPECKERS
Investigative Environmental Journalism

Internews

EARTH JOURNALISM NETWORK

#WILDEYE ASIA

HOME ABOUT INVESTIGATIONS NEWS TOOLS GET THE DATA


oxpeckers.org/wildeyemap-asia

# Oxpeckers: The data is the story

- Africa's first journalistic investigative unit focusing on environmental issues;
- Combines traditional investigative reporting with data analysis and geo-mapping tools;
- Tracks and exposes criminals in Africa;
- Developing the most comprehensive database of eco-offences in Africa;
- Working with media partners to tell stories and make resources available to the public.

# What is #WildEye?

- Maps seizures, arrests, court cases and convictions of illegal wildlife trafficking;
- Europe and now Asia;
- Developed *by* journalists *for* journalists;
- Created our own dataset → translated it into a platform that makes this information truly accessible;
- Interactive, gives user control = personalised access to data;
- Analysis, research and storytelling.

Developed by Oxpeckers Investigative Environmental Journalism in partnership with Internews' Earth Journalism Network.

# Why #WildEye? Why now?

- What is law enforcement doing about illegal wildlife trafficking?;
- In post-Covid-19 era, not only a concern for environmentalists;
- Until now, no single place to access information easily on efforts to crack down on wildlife crime;
- #WildEye addresses the gap → sharing data on justice in action.

# What does #WildEye do?

- Europe and Asia → two different parts of the world, same concept;
- Maps populated with icons containing information about a seizure, arrest, court case or conviction;
- Can filter your experience to get the data you want by selecting either a category or searching using a keyword (e.g. pangolin, scale, rhino, horn);
- Alert system allows user to stay up to date → no need to manually search for updates, rely on #WildEye to do this for you.

# How can journalists use #WildEye?

- Track specific data, patterns or trends for use in investigations;
  - Where law enforcement efforts are concentrated → leading to judicial certainty?;
  - More intense control or preference smugglers have for certain routes?
  - Why do so few seizures result in prosecutions and convictions?
- Identify cases to build new stories;
- The world has its eye on wildlife trafficking right now → use your voice to tell important stories and effect change.

# Join the #WildEye community

1. **Get the data**

Oxpeckers is a data-driven journalism organisation and to promote transparency and accountability, we share our data with users and readers. Request specific data by visiting this page.

1. **Pitch a story**

#WildEye wants to tell hard-hitting stories about illegal wildlife trade. Suggest a story by filling in this form.

1. **Share your data**

We're always looking to add new data to #WildEye. If you have a dataset you'd like to share with us, fill in this form.

1. **Share this resource**

# Chinese courts treat pangolin offenders lightly, *Bao Choy*

Criminals convicted of pangolin-related crimes

# Thank you!

# Q&A

OXPECKERS
Investigative Environmental Journalism

Internews

# The Front Lines of the COVID-19 and Climate Crisis

Explanatory Reporting through Data

Internews
Data Journalism

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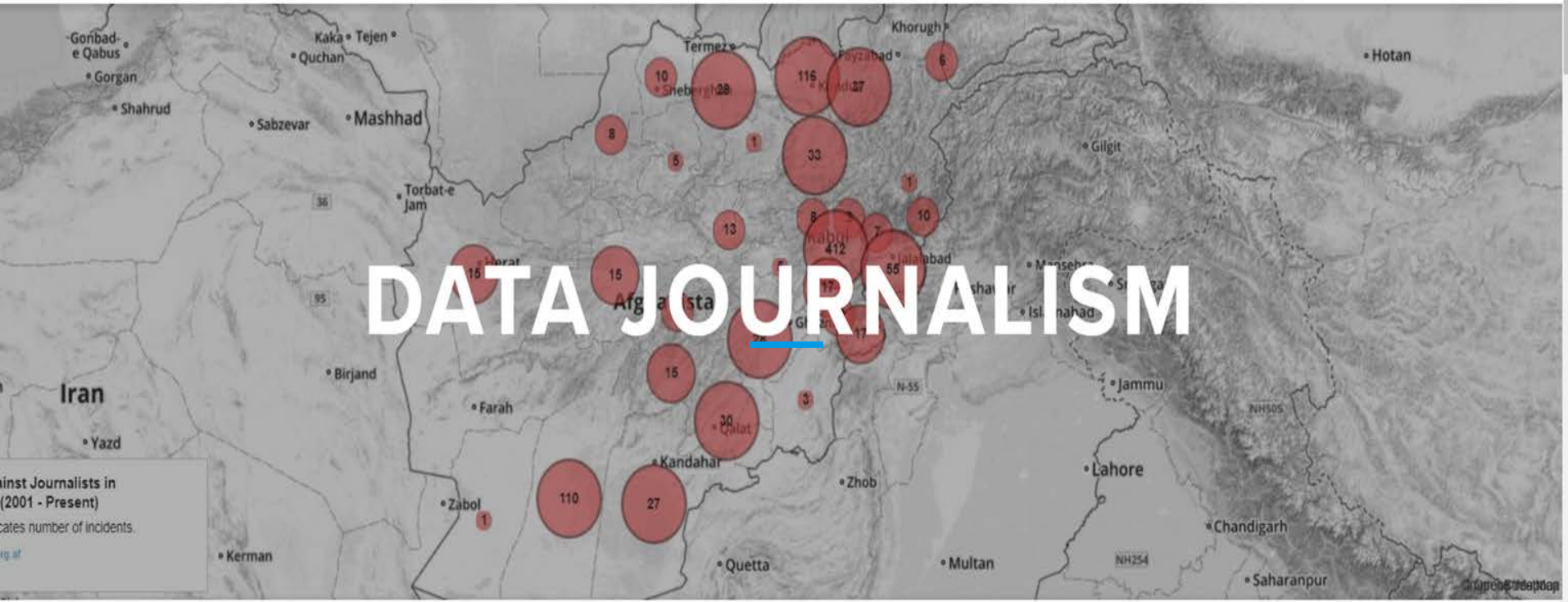
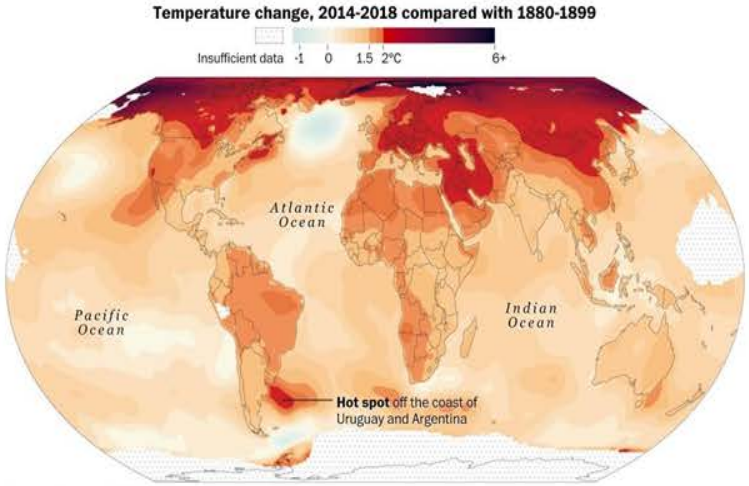



# Datajournalism.internews.org

# 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting

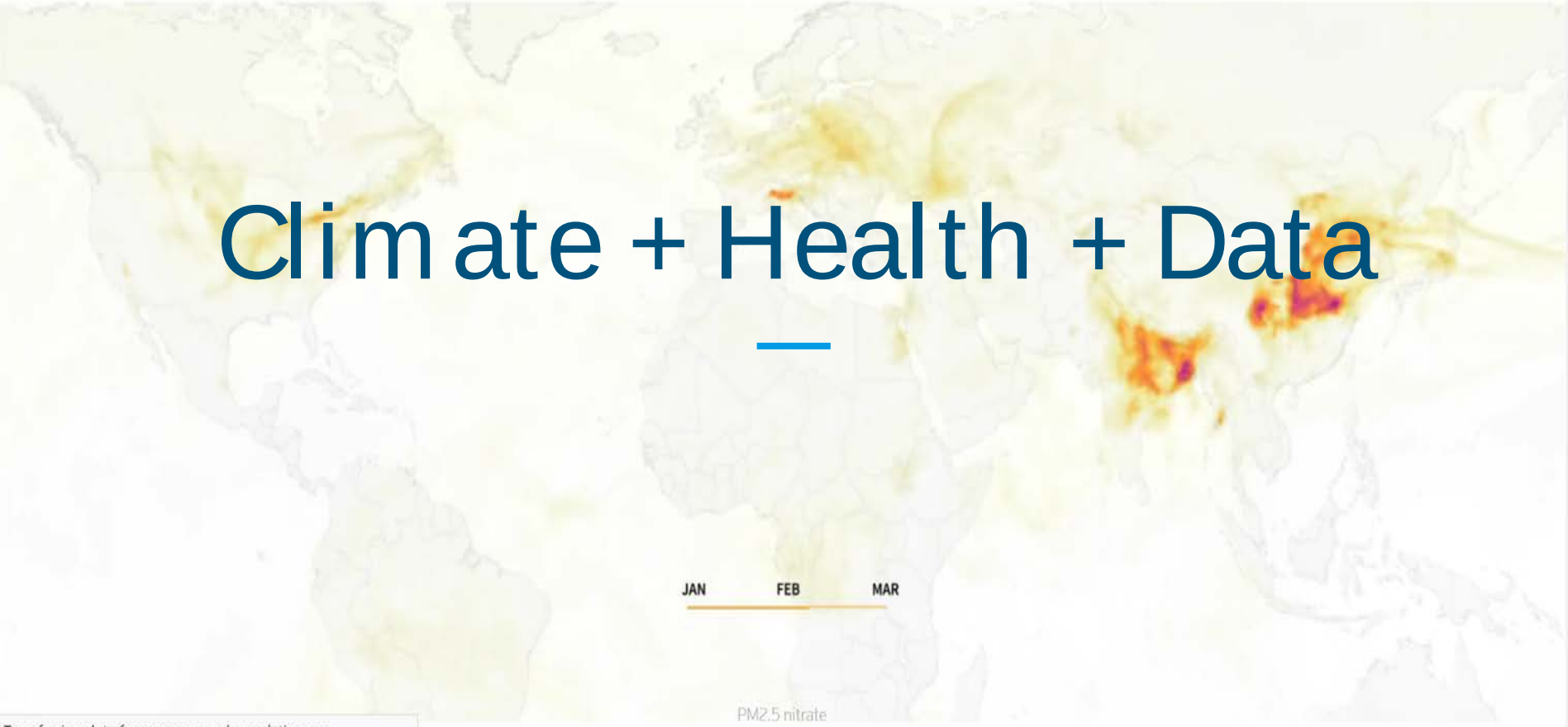
Washington Post: “2°C: Beyond the Limit”

# How has life changed for people in the most rapidly heating regions?




Pioneered the use of temperature data, demonstrating that extreme climate change is already a life-altering reality across 10 percent of the Earth's surface.

# Climate + Health + Data



**Exposure**

- Air quality
- Water quality

**Vulnerability**

- Health conditions
- Healthcare system

**COVID-19 Impact**

- Demographics of those tested
- Demographics of the dead


Question
Data
Story

# What are the biggest climate change related killers in my community?

- Natural disasters are worse
- Mosquitos are worse
- Food shortages are worse
- Air is worse

By James Gathany/CDC - This media comes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Image Library (PHIL).

# Where to find data on causes of death by mosquitos and climate change?

- Institute of Health Metrics Global Health Data Exchange http://ghdx.healthdata.org/
- World Health Organization Global Health Observatory https://www.who.int/gho/
- Global Neglected Tropical Diseases Database: GNT https://gntd.org/
- Past and future spread of the arbovirus vectors Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus https://www.nature.com/articles/s41564-019-0376-y
- National Ministries of Health

# Climate + Health + Data

ST SINGAPORE POLITICS ASIA WORLD VIDEOS MULTIMEDIA LIFESTYLE FOOD FORUM OPINION BUSINESS

ASIA > East Asia SE Asia South Asia Australia/NZ

## Upsurge in dengue cases recorded in Malaysia

Tue, 5th May, 2020 | Visit Home Page | IndiaSpend Hindi | IndiaSpend Tamil | About | Donate | Subscribe

IndiaSpend — Corona Coverage | Earthcheck | Educationcheck | Gendercheck | FactChecker | Special Projects

## Malaria Season Looms As India Struggles To Contain COVID-19

Sadhika Tiwari | April 3, 2020

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Regional

## Amidst Coronavirus, Deadly Cholera in Haiti Has Been Forgotten

By snr-editor · May 5, 2020

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## Malaria could make a comeback thanks to COVID-19

# How has climate change made food security worse in my region?

# Food insecurity and climate change

Met Office Hadley Centre | WFP wfp.org

Climate-related hazards affected over 220 million people on average every year in the period 2000–2009.

In 2010, the Russian drought resulted in wheat yield reductions of 40% in key production areas, and the Pakistan floods resulted in losses of half a million tonnes of wheat. Together with market speculations, these events led to price increases.

Heatwaves became more frequent over the 20th century. In the summer of 2003, Europe experienced a particularly extreme heat event. A record loss of 36% crop yield for corn occurred in Italy.

Approximately one-sixth of the world's population currently lives in glacier-fed river basins where populations are projected to increase, particularly in areas such as the Indo-Gangetic Plain.

Irrigated agricultural land comprises less than one-fifth of all cropped regions but produces 40–45% of the world's food. Water for irrigation is often extracted from rivers which depend on climatic conditions in distant areas along the river's path.

Over the past 10 years, category 5 hurricane events have resulted in an average loss of cultivated land of 10%. In the coastal states of Mexico each year, effecting mostly farmers who rely on a single crop.

In South Asia, where the most vulnerable people live in the river deltas of Myanmar, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, population growth has contributed to increased farming in the coastal regions most at risk from flooding and sea-level rise.

Over 80% of total agriculture is rain-fed. In Latin America it is close to 90%, while in Africa it is 95%.

It is estimated that, on average, for every United States dollar invested in risk reduction, US$2–4 are returned in terms of avoided or reduced disaster impacts.

Hydrological disasters accounted for 86.7% of economic damage from natural disasters in Africa in 2009.


Percentage of population undernourished

Hunger and Climate Vulnerability Index

Sources: FAO (2009) The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2009 and PAGE109

## MEAN TEMPERATURE

Average temperatures are expected to increase across the globe in the coming decades. In mid to high latitudes increasing average temperatures can have a positive impact on crop production, but in seasonally arid and tropical regions the impact is likely to be detrimental.

## MEAN PRECIPITATION

On average an increase in global precipitation is expected, but the regional patterns of rainfall will vary; some areas will have more rainfall, while others will have less. There are high levels of uncertainty about how the pattern of precipitation will change, with little confidence in model projections on a regional scale. Areas that are dependant on seasonal rainfall, and those that are highly dependant on rain-fed agriculture for food security, are particularly vulnerable.

## EXTREME EVENTS

Recurrent extreme weather events such as droughts, floods and tropical cyclones worsen livelihoods and undermine the capacity of communities to adapt to even moderate shocks. This results in a vicious circle that generates greater poverty and hunger. The impacts on food production of extreme events, such as drought, may cancel out the benefits of the increased temperature and growing season observed in mid to high latitudes.

## $CO_2$ FERTILISATION

Carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) concentrations are known to be increasing. However, the effect of $CO_2$ fertilisation on crop growth is highly uncertain. In particular, there is a severe lack of experimental work in the Tropics exploring this issue. There is some evidence that although $CO_2$ fertilisation has a positive effect on the yield of certain crops, there may also be a detrimental impact on yield quality.

## DROUGHT

Meteorological drought (the result of a period of low rainfall) is projected to increase in intensity, frequency and duration. Drought results in agricultural losses, reductions in water quality and availability, and is a major driver of global food insecurity. Droughts are especially devastating in arid and semi-arid areas, reducing the quantity and productivity of crop yields and livestock. Seven hundred million people suffering from hunger already live in semi-arid and arid zones.

## HEATWAVES

In all cases and in all regions, one in 20-year extreme temperature events are projected to be hotter. Events that are considered extreme today will be more common in the future. Changes in temperature extremes even for short periods can be critical, especially if they coincide with key stages of crop development.

## HEAVY RAINFALL AND FLOODING

While uncertain, it appears that there will be more heavy rainfall events as the climate warms. Heavy rainfall leading to flooding can destroy entire crops over wide areas, as well as devastating food stores, assets (such as farming equipment) and agricultural land (due to sedimentation).

## MELTING GLACIERS

Melting glaciers initially increase the amount of water flowing in river systems and enhance the seasonal pattern of flow. Ultimately, however loss of glaciers would cause water availability to become more variable from year to year as it will depend on seasonal snow and rainfall, instead of the steady release of stored water from the glacier irrespective of that year's precipitation.

## TROPICAL STORMS

For many arid regions in the Tropics, a large portion of the annual rain comes from tropical cyclones. However, tropical cyclones also have the potential to devastate a region, causing loss of life and widespread destruction to agricultural crops and lands, infrastructure, and livelihoods.

Some studies suggest tropical cyclones may become more intense in the future with stronger winds and heavier precipitation. However, there is a limited consensus among climate models on the regional variation in tropical cyclone frequency.

## SEA-LEVEL RISE

Increases in mean sea-level threaten to inundate agricultural lands and salinise groundwater in the coming decades and centuries. Sea-level rise will also increase the impact of storm surges which can cause great devastation.

## CHANGES IN HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Climate change has the potential to affect different diseases, including respiratory illness and diarrhoea. Disease results in a reduced ability to absorb nutrients from food and increases the nutritional requirements of sick people. Poor health in a community also leads to a loss of labour productivity.

The production of this poster was partly funded by the Government of Luxembourg.

For more information on food security and climate change and for references for the poster, please visit: **www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate-change/guide/impacts/food** or **www.wfp.org/climate-change**

**Exposure**

- Agro-industrialization
- Deforestation

**Vulnerability**

- Farmworker safety and pesticides
- Animals pushed out of their natural habitats

**COVID-19 Impact**

- Trade in wildlife grows
- Food supply chain vulnerability and people unable to access food


Question
Data
Story

# Where to find data on climate change and food security in my region?

- USDA Crop Explorer usda.gov/cropexplorer/
- SPEI Global Drought Monitor http://spei.csic.es/
- FEWS NET Data Center | Famine Early Warning Systems https://fews.net/data
- Global Forest Watch https://www.globalforestwatch.org/
- Food Security Portal http://www.foodsecurityportal.org/api
- World Food Program Integrated Platform for Data Analytics https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/
- National Environmental and Agricultural Ministries

# Q&A

@evaconstantaras

A recording of the webinar will be made available on earthjournalism.net