How are coronavirus and the wildlife trade related?
Wildlife trade is the selling or exchanging of any wild animals (dead or alive), wild animal products or wild plant life.
Coronavirus is a zoonotic disease - that means it comes from animals. Scientists believe that coronavirus originated from bats and then that it may have passed to a pangolin. However, this is not yet verified.
Though it has not been proven, researchers believe that the virus was passed to humans at a wet market in China where wildlife was being sold.
A temporary ban on all wildlife trade has been introduced in China and a similar ban has been adopted in Vietnam. It has not been verified, however there is some suggestion that illegal wildlife trade is diminishing due to tourism shortages.
Experts do not agree on what should be done in the wake of coronavirus. Some have called for complete bans on wildlife trade, whilst others say that this is excessive and would have negative impacts on people’s financial security.
Some conservationists argue that we need to end the wildlife trade because:

1. It contributes to the spread of disease
2. The spread of disease disproportionately affects the poor
3. It contributes to decline in wildlife
Some researchers argue that we should not end the wildlife trade because

1. It is the basis of many people’s livelihood
2. Implementation of bans is difficult and may overwhelm organisations
3. Focus should instead be on ‘smart regulation’
The information in this powerpoint has been taken from The Conversation. In particular:


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