

Exotic animal cafés in Japan: a new fashion with potential implications for biodiversity, global health and animal welfare

Date 3rd Mar (Fri.)

Time 16:00 (UTC+8)

Venue Zoom



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Abstract

Wildlife trade is a multibillion-dollar industry and concerns not only the exploitation of animals for their body parts but is also largely fueled by the demand for exotic pets. We document, in Japan, a recent phenomenon closely related to the pet trade and rapidly spreading in Asia: the display of exotic animals in a café/bar context. We surveyed 142 exotic animal cafés (EACs) by visiting their website and/or social media accounts. We recorded every available exotic animal species, their IUCN Red List status and CITES Appendix and compared the CITES Appendix-listed species imported in Japan during 1975–2019 to the species present in EACs. We discuss the consequences for biodiversity, the risk of pathogen transmission and the serious concerns about animal welfare of this type of businesses.

All are welcome!



Marie Sigaud is a behavioural ecologist interested in the impact of human activities on animal behaviour and physiology. Her recent experiences in Indonesia and Japan have contributed developing her interests on the far-reaching impacts of the wildlife trade. Today she participates in various projects in Indonesia and Gabon always related to the trade of wild animals (i.e. exotic pet trade and ivory trade). She is now based at the Center for Ecology and Conservation Sciences of the National Museum of Natural History in Paris.