Reducing Biodiversity Loss: At the Crossroads of Human, Ecosystems and Animal Health

by

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Current Situation

• Crucial time in the history of mankind for people, nature and indeed the whole planet

• COVID-19 is not only a health crisis

• Long-term vision: transformation of our relationship with the natural world
Links Between Biodiversity Loss and Health

Biodiversity: foundation of human health

IPBES recent report: human activity main drivers of loss

Human activity + climate change: higher risk of emergence and spread of diseases

2/3rds of human diseases are of zoonotic origins. COVID-19 likely, but not proven.

Biodiversity loss also limits discovery of treatments, medicines and antibiotics

Prevention strategies and risk assessments necessary
Environmental Law as Support to Health Law

**One Health Guidance:**
Adopted at COP 14, important tool in the prevention against pandemics but also in the larger implementation of the CBD, UNFCCC and 2030 Agenda

**Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework:**
- To be adopted at COP 15 in China
- Overarching Framework
- Ambitious and measurable targets
- Will aim to align biodiversity policies across the range of global commitments

**CBD and other MEAs and International Organizations:**
- Improved implementation of policies on veterinary controls of food production systems and markets
- Important role of CITES, CMS, OIE, FAO

**Joint Programme on Biodiversity and Health**
Going Forward: Need for Global Transformation

1. Global transformation of the development model

2. Whole-of-Government, Whole-of-Society approaches

3. Implementation of commitments under the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement, and the future Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

4. Need to harness positive forces to achieve the shared and interdependent goals of healthy societies and a healthy planet
If we work together to take care of nature, nature will take better care of us.