

# Mainstreaming biodiversity into the health sector and society in Austria – focus and activities of the project “Biodiversity and health”



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## Motivation and goals of the project “Biodiversity and health”

The Austrian initiative “Biodiversity and health” started in 2012 as a project led by Umweldachverband (Austrian NGO and environmental umbrella organization) in cooperation with several partners of the health and science sector with the aim of **raising awareness for the benefits of biodiversity and nature for human health and well-being**.

By pointing out to the correlations and relationships between biodiversity and health aspects, the attention of decision-makers and the general public is drawn to the intrinsic value of unspoiled ecosystems, landscapes and services they provide for free.

### Introducing people to the topic: animated short video

- Inform as many people as possible about this complex issue
- Explain: What is biodiversity and what are its benefits for human health and well-being?
- Visualise the multiple associations of biodiversity and human health
- Easy to understand



Fig.1: Title frame of the video clip – Translation: “Biodiversity. The diversity of life”

### Explaining the details: the book “Good for you and me – How biodiversity promotes our health”

- Enable a more detailed look at the complex relationship biodiversity – human health
- Communicate the importance of intact ecosystems and biodiversity for human health and well-being
- Explain various aspects in 9 chapters:



1. Introduction: biodiversity
2. Introduction: health
3. Well-being
4. Medicine and microbes
5. Nutrition and agriculture
6. Garden
7. Children
8. Natural resources
9. Mainstreaming – get active!

Fig.2: Book cover

**Goal: Get People engaged in biodiversity conservation in their daily life**

### Establishing the forum “Biodiversity & health” – a cross-sector platform

- Established in 2015, meets annually
- Mainstream issues of biodiversity conservation into other sectors
- Promote synergies with health promotion
- Engage stakeholders of various fields such as science, nature conservation, health, medicine, psychology, education, public authorities
- Discuss priorities for cross-sector collaboration and engagement of the general public
- Develop an action plan including recommendations for measures

**Goal: Promotion of biodiversity conservation and its various benefits for the health sector as well as other parts of society**