

CBD session for SBSTTA-24 on biodiversity, One Health and COVID-19, 15-16 December 2020

As we work together to recover from COVID-19, we have an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration through more inclusive One Health approaches that considers upstream drivers of ecosystem health, including in the post-2020 Global biodiversity framework.

FAO stands ready to work with the CBD on the full range of biodiversity - health linkages in all sectors of food and agriculture.

In its new Strategic Framework, FAO will work to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda by promoting food systems to meet its aspiration of *Leaving No One Behind through sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*.

To tackle the complex and interrelated issues associated with biodiversity loss, deforestation, and the emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases, FAO intensified its work on OH.

Most importantly, it created a **new Joint FAO/WHO Centre** in which also the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) will be fully involved. The center will address Zoonotic Diseases, AMR and CODEX Food Standards.

The FAO Committees on Agriculture and Forestry both requested FAO, in the implementation of its **Biodiversity mainstreaming Strategy**, to comprehensively address the disease threats at the animal-human-environment interface, and to strengthen the promotion of sustainable management of wildlife along the whole wild meat value chain.

FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme in support of its Members contains 7 holistic priorities, including on One Health and preventing the next zoonotic pandemic; food systems transformation, as well as economic inclusion, employment and social protection.

The Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management and the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme provided guidance for reducing future wildlife-borne spillover of disease to humans whilst promoting the sustainable use of wildlife. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is assessing the current and potential future impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the management of plant genetic resources.

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework could consider a specific target on OH - or developing specific indicators under currently proposed Targets (13, 14 and 15) which are of relevance for interlinkages between biodiversity and health.

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