

DRAFT

IUCN statement to CBD Special Session 15 – 16 December 2020 Biodiversity, One Health and the response to COVID-19.

The pandemic has made the interlinkages between the biodiversity, climate and health crises very clear. Post-COVID, recovery plans must ensure that societies and economies not only “build back better” but also greener. There is therefore a need to integrate Human and animal health considerations, in the spirit of the One Health approach, across the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

So, in section (a) “Reducing threats to biodiversity”, and acknowledging that the relationship between biodiversity and infectious diseases is complex, it should be made clear that the loss and degradation of ecosystems increases not only the risk of disease spillover from wildlife to people, but also people to wildlife.

In section (b) “Meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and benefit sharing” management of the use of, and trade in, wildlife, needs to ensure that it is safe (from a health perspective) as well as being legal and sustainable. A forthcoming situation analysis from IUCN will expand on the evidence base for trade specifically. It is also important to emphasize that many people are dependent on the sustainable use of biodiversity and that banning such use could be counter-productive.

Section (c) on Tools and solutions should reflect the imperative for government measures to invest in nature-based recovery addressing the common drivers of biodiversity loss and pandemic risk together.

IUCN draws attention to tools such as the *Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis*, published by IUCN and OIE, to help Parties integrate health into environment impact assessments. It highlights the need to develop capacity and commitment to rapid investigation and reporting of disease events in wild animal populations.

These issues need be made crystal clear in the Post-2020 Framework.