

2020/12/15-16 SBSTTA/SBI online sessions on One Health

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)

- UNU-IAS has been working on landscape approaches, particularly through the Satoyama Initiative, a global effort towards “societies in harmony with nature” through “socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes”. We find that One Health is also an integrated approach that can benefit greatly from a landscape perspective.
- Relationships between people and nature are vital for addressing health and biodiversity, and our work helps to show how these relationships function through the interactions between people and nature in the landscape and seascape.
- Humans’ production activities affect nature just as nature affects humans, and management of these interactions have significant effects both positively and negatively on the health and resilience of local communities.
- It is for this reason that we continue to suggest the importance of incorporating integrated landscape approaches not only to conserve nature but also to enhance biodiversity, resilience, and health of societies, and reduce risks from disasters such as COVID-19.
- Although One Health presents an integrated approach with healthy humans, animals, and environments, we find it unfortunate that the current zero draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework does not present an integrated approach.
- In particular, we find that the sections on sustainable use focus almost exclusively on human interests and how humans can exploit nature, rather than healthy human-nature relationships.
- In developing the next draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework, we suggest that the parties should consider ways to ensure that sustainable use is integrated into a whole-of-landscape, One Health approach, taking into account local contexts.
- While the discussion note for this meeting focuses heavily on the health findings of the Global Biodiversity Outlook we would also emphasize Local Biodiversity Outlooks, which has many examples of healthy landscape approaches implemented by local communities.
- We at UNU-IAS continue to offer our services as the think tank of the United Nations to help the Parties work toward this integration and build back better from the COVID-19 crisis, and to create resilient landscapes and seascapes that will help avoid future disasters.