



Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health: advancing prevention at the biodiversity-animal health interface

A joint document of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Organisation for Animal Health



Convention on
Biological Diversity



World Organisation
for Animal Health



WHAT IS THE GLOBAL ACTION PLAN ON BIODIVERSITY AND HEALTH?

In 2024, the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health (GAP) was adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to support Parties and relevant stakeholders in mainstreaming biodiversity and health interlinkages into national policies, strategies, programmes and accounts. The GAP aims to facilitate the realization of biodiversity and health co-benefits through the implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), recognizing that the health of ecosystems and the health of all species are interconnected and interdependent.

WHAT DOES THE GLOBAL ACTION PLAN OFFER?

The GAP provides an enabling framework of actions that Parties and other actors can adopt to strengthen the integration of biodiversity and health across sectors. These actions are organized into two categories:

- **General actions:** cross-cutting measures applicable to all sectors and governance levels, and
- **Sector-specific actions:** tailored activities to facilitate the mainstreaming of biodiversity and health linkages across the implementation of all KMGBF targets.

This flexible structure enables country-owned approaches to biodiversity and health integration, while promoting policy coherence and intersectoral coordination.



WHY IS THE GLOBAL ACTION PLAN ON BIODIVERSITY AND HEALTH IMPORTANT FOR THE ANIMAL HEALTH SECTOR?

By recognizing biodiversity as a fundamental driver of animal health and ecosystem resilience, and by promoting preventive actions and nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, the GAP contributes to a range of interconnected outcomes. These include strengthened intersectoral coordination, reduced disease risks, and enhanced co-benefits for both animal health and biodiversity conservation.

Through its voluntary actions, the GAP helps build capacities for surveillance, risk assessment, prevention, preparedness and response, and overall supporting to more effective, resilient, and sustainable health systems while advancing biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.



HOW DOES THE GAP STRENGTHEN ANIMAL HEALTH IN PRACTICE?

UPSTREAM DISEASE PREVENTION

Prioritizing biodiversity conservation, the GAP's implementation reduces the risk of zoonotic disease emergence and spread at the human, animal, and environment interface. Improved management of wildlife–livestock interactions and production systems helps limit pathogen spillover before it affects animal and human populations, directly supporting animal health protection.



SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Encouraging sustainable livestock systems and biodiversity-friendly food production, the GAP's implementation reduce dependency on inputs, support animal welfare, and contribute to ecosystem stability.

INTEGRATED SURVEILLANCE AND PREPAREDNESS

Promoting the incorporation of biodiversity and health interlinkages into assessments, the GAP's implementation can support linking biodiversity data with wildlife and veterinary surveillance strengthening early warning systems, joint risk assessments, and preparedness planning.



CAPACITY-BUILDING AND EVIDENCE GENERATION

Promoting coordinated training, research, and shared learning, the GAP's implementation strengthens technical capacity and supports evidence-based decision-making across sectors, including the animal health sector.

INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Catalyzing inclusive partnerships among governments, communities, indigenous peoples and local communities, academia, and the private sector, the GAP's implementation enables integrated solutions that maximize co-benefits across health and environment sectors.

OPERATIONALIZING ONE HEALTH

In addition to the above, the GAP serves as a practical and strategic instrument to promote policy coherence through the operationalization of the One Health approach, and by addressing the shared foundations of animal, human, and ecosystem health. This supports the mandate of the World Organisation for Animal Health to strengthen veterinary services, animal health legislation, surveillance, emergency preparedness, and intersectoral coordination.

The GAP also complements the One Health Joint Plan of Action (JPA) by addressing the ecological drivers of health risks. While the JPA strengthens multisectoral coordination and health systems, the GAP focuses specifically on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem integrity as upstream determinants of animal, human, and environmental health.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION

The GAP provides multiple entry points for collaboration among Parties, stakeholders, and for biodiversity and health-related agreements. Some key opportunities include:

- **Policy, Integration, and Mainstreaming:** Align biodiversity and health targets, planning processes, and implementation frameworks to ensure coherent and mutually reinforcing outcomes.
- **National coordination and stakeholder engagement:** Strengthen collaboration among ministries, veterinary authorities, biodiversity agencies, research institutions, and communities.



- **Integrated risk assessment:** Combine biodiversity monitoring with animal and wildlife health surveillance to better understand drivers of emerging threats.
- **Knowledge generation, sharing, and exchange:** Promote cross-sector training, technical exchange, and shared platforms to strengthen coordinated implementation.
- **Unified advocacy:** Use the GAP as a common reference point across COPs, regional meetings, and health fora to build political momentum for integrated biodiversity–health solutions.

Learn more
at Biodiversity
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Use the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health as a common framework to identify synergies, design joint initiatives, and promote integrated solutions that deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and animal health.

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