

Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health

A State of Knowledge Review



Convention on Biological Diversity



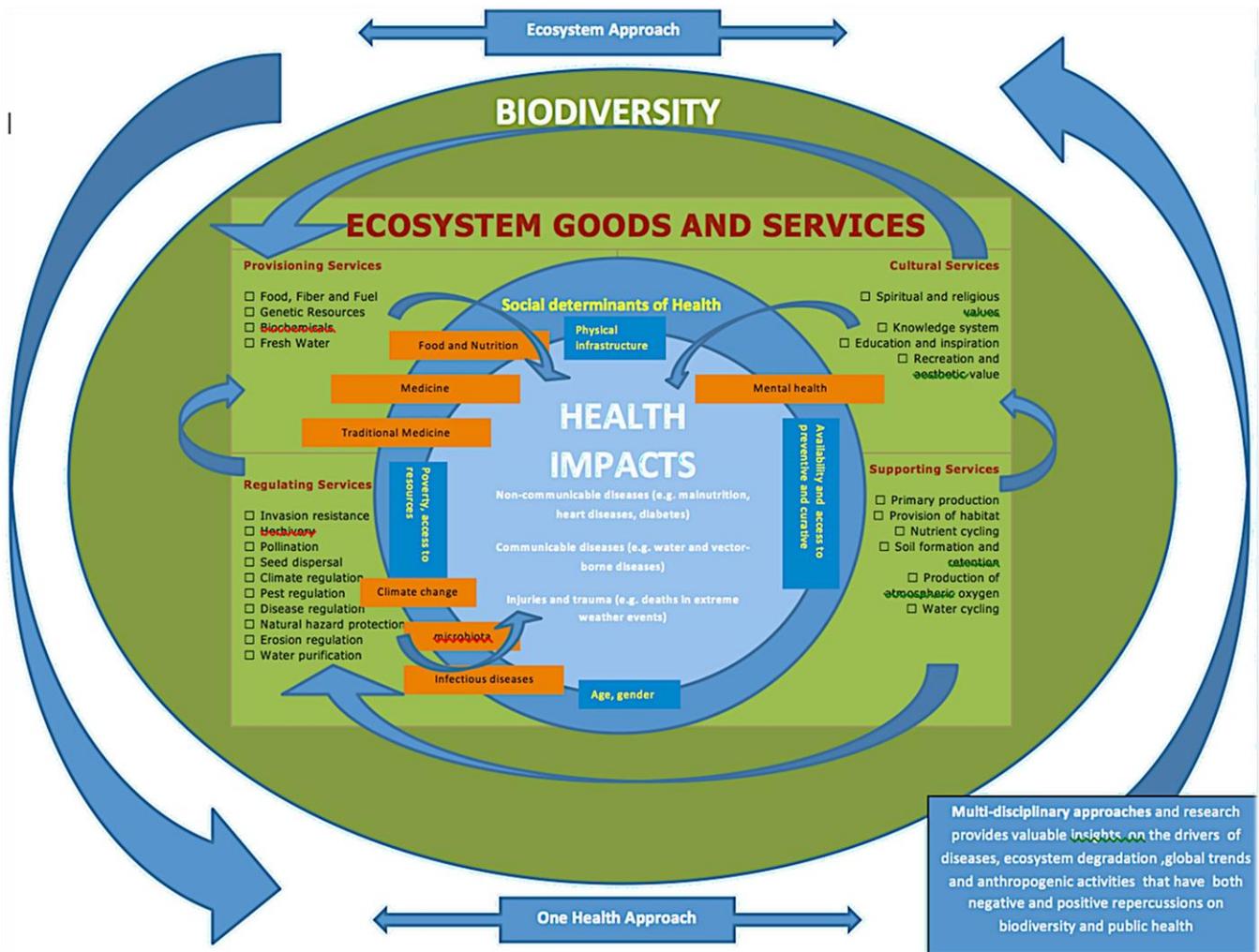
World Health Organization



Forthcoming CBD-WHO flagship publication

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the World Health Organization (WHO) embarked on this ambitious project in October 2012, following a decision adopted at the eleventh Conference of the Parties to the CBD calling for the establishment of a joint work programme on biodiversity and human health, jointly led by the two UN agencies. This collaborative effort, involving over 100 leading scientists, public health specialists, social scientists, and indigenous and local community representatives, will culminate in the first flagship publication on biodiversity and human health under the CBD-WHO joint work programme.

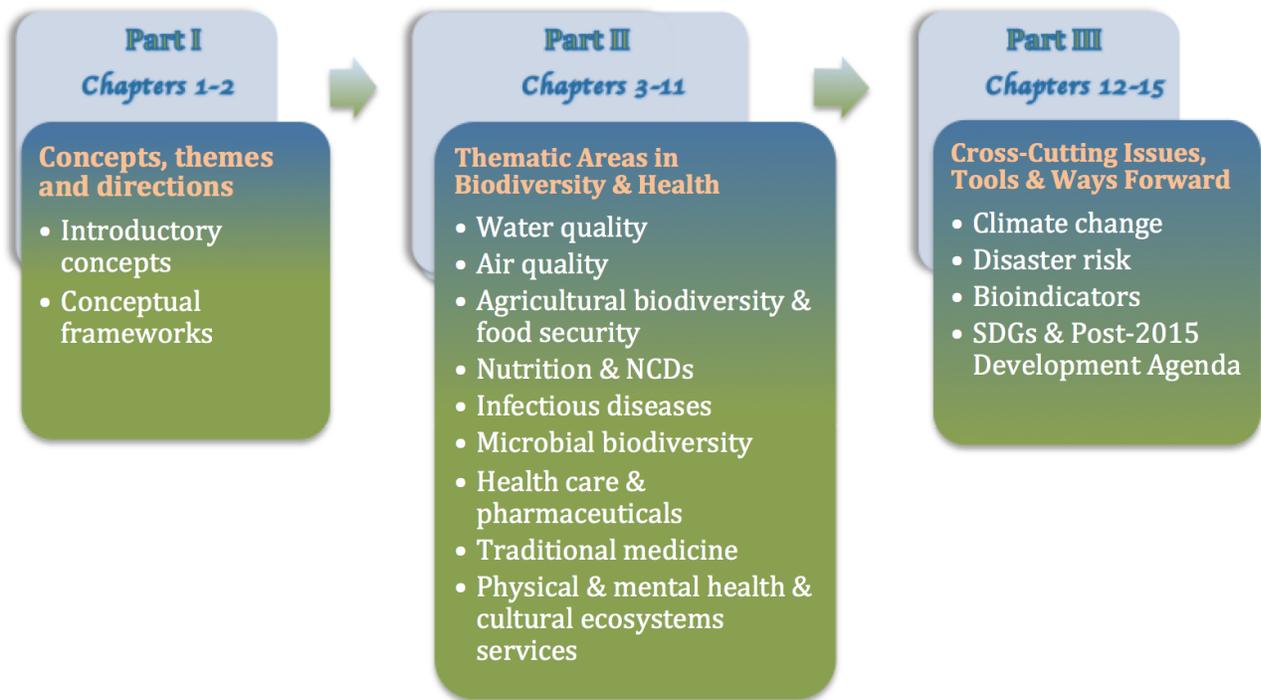
This state of knowledge review is aimed at policy-makers, practitioners and researchers working in the fields of biodiversity conservation, public health, development, agriculture, animal health and many other key sectors. The contributions of biodiversity to human health and well-being are varied, complex and far-reaching. While it is not possible to cover the full breadth of these critical linkages in detail within the scope of one volume, attention is given to key thematic areas shaping the biodiversity-health nexus. Harnessing the knowledge it contains will contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, in particular its Aichi Target 14 (ecosystem services), and to the development and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, and a corresponding Post-2015 Development Agenda.



Conceptual Frameworks

Biodiversity not only plays a critical role in ecosystem functioning, it can also yield direct and indirect benefits (or ecosystem services) that support human and societal needs, including good health, food and nutrition security, energy provision, and freshwater. The complex interactions at the junction of biodiversity and human health are influenced by prevailing governance structures, policies, institutions and dynamics of global development and these changes in turn influence broader ecological processes.

Although these links are fundamental, there are a number of actors and processes that moderate and mediate the critical underlying relationships. In the public health sector, emphasis was traditionally placed on curative rather than preventive interventions which also consider the social and environmental determinants of health. One Health, Ecohealth and similar interdisciplinary approaches are important tools for maximizing resource efficiency, and improving health, conservation and development outcomes. A powerful argument is made for the critical need to incorporate these dimensions to improve public health outcomes.



Contents of the volume

Part one defines key concepts and provides a broad overview of the numerous ways in which biodiversity and health are inextricably linked. It also considers common drivers of change that impact on both global public health and biodiversity, and calls for the systematic use of comprehensive approaches including the “One Health”, “Ecohealth” or ecosystem approach that attempt to unite different fields.

Part two examines how biodiversity, ecosystems and the life supporting services they sustain are closely associated with and impact upon global public health. The biodiversity-health nexus is including water and air quality, food and nutrition security, microbial biodiversity, infectious and non-communicable diseases, traditional medicine, development and impacts of pharmaceuticals, physical and mental health and cultural ecosystem services.

Part three explores critical cross-cutting themes, such as climate change and disaster risks, examines complementary tools such as bioindicators, and discusses how knowledge of and consideration for linkages at the biodiversity health nexus are necessary to the successful achievement of biodiversity, public health and development objectives and targets as we transition from the Millennium Development Goals toward Sustainable Development Goals.



Final consultation at IUCN World Parks Congress

All chapters and emerging key messages have undergone open peer review processes open to all governments, academia, relevant organizations and indigenous and local community representatives. The final consultation for the book was held at the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia in November 2014.

Accessing the State of Knowledge Review

Advanced drafts of each chapter of the volume and emerging key messages can be accessed at: www.cbd.int/en/health/stateofknowledge

Once completed, the full volume and a *Summary for Decision Makers* will be made available for download on the CBD and WHO websites!

Forthcoming launch!

The final volume will be launched at the **14th World Congress on Public Health in Kolkata, India in February 2015.**

Some key partners of the State of Knowledge Review

