

# **Biodiversity & health**

## reconciling two key SDG focus areas

*On the occasion of the Stockholm+50 side event, “Implementing Integrated Solutions to Planetary Challenges: Reflections and Perspectives on Integration in Post-Stockholm+50 Era”*

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# Biodiversity, health, and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

- Target 5. Ensure that the harvesting, trade and use of **wild species** is sustainable, legal, and safe for human health.
- Target 7. Reduce **pollution** from all sources to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health, including by reducing nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, and pesticides by at least two thirds and eliminating the discharge of plastic waste.
- Target 12. Increase the area of, access to, and benefits from **green & blue spaces**, for human health and well-being in urban areas and other densely populated areas.
- Target 17. Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement measures in all countries to prevent, manage or control potential adverse impacts of **biotechnology** on biodiversity and human health, reducing the risk of these impacts.





Target 5. Ensure that the harvesting, trade and use of **wild species** is sustainable, legal, and safe for human health.

- 40% - 50% of EIDs, 71.5% of viruses affecting human beings may have come from wild animals, feral animals, or captive or farmed wildlife
- Regulation and incentives have a role to play
- As long as we aren't distracted from other risk factors like wildlife farming, global travel, climate change, socioeconomics, transmission to researchers in the field or in the laboratory



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Target 7. Reduce **pollution** from all sources to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health, including by reducing nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, and pesticides by at least two thirds and eliminating the discharge of plastic waste



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- Air, water, soil
- Major advances in mostly developed world
- Trade-offs inevitable but we should continue minimizing them
- Regulation and incentives at national level
- Incentives at international level

Target 12. Increase the area of, access to, and benefits from **green & blue spaces**, for human health and well-being in urban areas and other densely populated areas.

- Increasing literature on health benefits
- Important role of cities
- Success despite some “performative opportunism”
- Disproportionate privilege of the developed world
- Unexpected consequences of Covid warnings on green & blue spaces?



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Target 17. Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement measures in all countries to prevent, manage or control potential adverse impacts of **biotechnology** on biodiversity and human health, reducing the risk of these impacts.

- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; synthetic biology
- Risks and benefits
- Land-saving potential in agriculture
- Conservation applications



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# A global playbook for biodiversity & health?

- One Health “optimal health for people, animals, and the environment”
- Acknowledging trade-offs (e.g. culling for control)
- The importance of local context
- Need for a clear definition; need for less of a definition?

