



## THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK MUST INCLUDE PROVISIONS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FUTURE PANDEMICS OF ZONOTIC ORIGIN

### *Advisory note to Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, prepared by the Coalition for Preventing Pandemics at the Source*

The new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework provides a once-in-a-decade opportunity to help reduce the risk of future pandemics of zoonotic origin through a strengthened global biodiversity agenda. Most emerging infectious diseases documented over the last century were caused by pathogens that spilled over from animals, particularly wildlife, to humans. Urgent policy reforms, including effective conservation measures and controls on practices involving wildlife, together with a global annual investment of approximately \$20 billion would be sufficient to implement actions needed to significantly reduce the risk of pathogen spillover and spillback<sup>1</sup> on a global scale. This sum represents just three percent of the annualized cost of new diseases of zoonotic origin.<sup>2</sup> As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to reap huge costs in terms of loss of life and economic devastation, the world can no longer afford to ignore these links between the degradation of nature and health impacts.

The Coalition for Preventing Pandemics at the Source<sup>3</sup> – a group of leading organizations focused on conservation, public health, human rights, science, health justice and Indigenous Rights – is concerned that this vital One Health<sup>4</sup> component, linking biodiversity and human health, is missing from the first draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.<sup>5</sup>

Recent research<sup>6</sup> and analysis produced by our Coalition<sup>7</sup>, as well as a large body of research including from members of our Coalition, shows that a set of highly cost-effective actions can reduce the risk of future pandemics of zoonotic origin by addressing upstream drivers of pathogen spillover. These actions include:

- Eliminating large-scale deforestation and forest degradation
- Shutting down or significantly regulating commercial markets and associated trade in live and freshly butchered wildlife that pose health risks (while respecting the traditions and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities)

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<sup>1</sup> The term spillback refers to transmission of zoonotic pathogens from humans to animals

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abl4183>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.preventingfuturepandemics.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/37600/JTFOWU.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/article/draft-1-global-biodiversity-framework>

<sup>6</sup> <https://cdn1.sph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2343/2021/08/PreventingPandemicsAug2021.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://518e5d64-0420-46bf-af00->

[ae9ccb35a974.usrfiles.com/ugd/518e5d\\_40b62fb5ff104a1a806276bc9bf54a2a.pdf](https://518e5d64-0420-46bf-af00-ae9ccb35a974.usrfiles.com/ugd/518e5d_40b62fb5ff104a1a806276bc9bf54a2a.pdf)

Inclusion of spillover prevention as a priority theme and justification for action and investment in the Global Biodiversity Framework is critical to ensure the Framework is fit for purpose for a decade in which the world increasingly needs to work across traditional silos to address interconnected issues. This includes ensuring it is consistent with the Berlin Principles<sup>8</sup> and OHHLEP's definition<sup>9</sup> of One Health, which recognize the interconnection of human, animal, and ecosystem health.

***We urge Parties to the CBD to include in their feedback on the first draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework, and subsequent negotiations, the position that reducing the risk of pathogen spillover must be explicitly included.***

***While some member organizations of the Coalition have provided their own recommendations on other aspects of the Framework<sup>10 11 12 13</sup>, below are a number of recommendations from the Coalition on the inclusion of pathogen spillover prevention.***

For each relevant section of the draft Framework, we provide suggested text. (Existing text from the Framework is in *italics*. Proposed new text is in **bold**)

#### Section B. The purpose

Suggested additional wording: **3bis. The framework will provide special attention and deliver adequate action to address drivers of pathogen spillover to significantly reduce the risk of emerging diseases of zoonotic origin in humans that can lead to future pandemics.**

#### Section G. 2030 Action targets

We recognize that some Parties to the CBD support including a standalone target on reducing the risk of pathogen spillover. Below is our suggestion for how such a target could be phrased.

Suggested additional wording: **Address drivers of pathogen spillover (e.g., commercial markets for live wildlife and trade into those markets; unsustainable or risky food production systems**

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969720364494>

<sup>9</sup> <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/37600/JTFOWU.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Conservation International: [https://cicloud.s3.amazonaws.com/docs/default-source/s3-library/publication-pdfs/conservation-international-intersessional-policy-recommendations.pdf?sfvrsn=a19131c6\\_2](https://cicloud.s3.amazonaws.com/docs/default-source/s3-library/publication-pdfs/conservation-international-intersessional-policy-recommendations.pdf?sfvrsn=a19131c6_2)

<sup>11</sup> WWF:

[https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf\\_response\\_to\\_first\\_draft\\_of\\_the\\_post\\_2020\\_gbf.pdf](https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_response_to_first_draft_of_the_post_2020_gbf.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> Wildlife Conservation Society [https://c532f75abb9c1c021b8c-e46e473f8aad72cf2a8ea564b4e6a76.ssl.cf5.rackcdn.com/2022/01/27/2eh6l972ji\\_Updated\\_WCS\\_Recommendations\\_on\\_Draft\\_1\\_of\\_the\\_GBF\\_26\\_January.pdf](https://c532f75abb9c1c021b8c-e46e473f8aad72cf2a8ea564b4e6a76.ssl.cf5.rackcdn.com/2022/01/27/2eh6l972ji_Updated_WCS_Recommendations_on_Draft_1_of_the_GBF_26_January.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> The Nature Conservancy:

[https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/TNC\\_views\\_First\\_Draft\\_GBF\\_August\\_2021.pdf](https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/TNC_views_First_Draft_GBF_August_2021.pdf)



such as large-scale livestock and wildlife farming; and land-use change such as deforestation, forest degradation, and habitat fragmentation, including through conversion of land for agriculture) and apply, at all levels, a strengthened One Health approach consistent with the Berlin Principles and OHHLEP's definition, uniting human, animal and ecosystem health, to prevent future pandemics of zoonotic origin.

Instead of being included as a standalone target, pathogen spillover prevention could also be included in existing targets.

#### Target 5

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

Suggested wording: *Ensure that the **exploitation**, trade and use of wild species is sustainable, legal, **effectively regulated and enforced**, and does not pose a risk of pathogen spillover to humans, wildlife, or other animals.*

#### Target 11

Current wording: *Maintain and enhance nature's contributions to regulation of air quality, quality and quantity of water, and protection from hazards and extreme events for all people.*

Suggested wording: *Maintain and enhance nature's contributions to **human health and well-being** for all people **through** regulation of air quality, quality and quantity of water, and protection from hazards and extreme events, **including pathogen spillover due to factors such as land-use change, through the conservation, sustainable use, and/or restoration of the places most important for delivering these contributions.***

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.

*The members of the Coalition for Preventing Pandemics at the Source endorsing this advisory note are: Conservation International, WWF, Wildlife Conservation Society, Rainforest Alliance, World Resource Institute, the Jane Goodall Institute, IFAW, Management Science for Health, EcoHealth Alliance, Health in Harmony, Right to Health Action, PIVOT, Marked by Covid, INCT EECBio, The Tenure Facility, Dalberg Catalyst*

*For more information, please visit the [Preventing Pandemics at the Source](https://preventingfuturepandemics.org) website or contact [secretariat@preventingfuturepandemics.org](mailto:secretariat@preventingfuturepandemics.org)*