

099 Implementation of One Health, from global to local

WELCOMING the One Health definition given by the One Health High-Level Expert Panel;

LOOKING FORWARD TO the finalisation of negotiations towards the adoption of the World Health Organization (WHO) agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (WHO Pandemic Agreement), which references the One Health approach;

NOTING that human-driven changes harm ecosystems, threaten biodiversity and amplify the effects of both pathogen spillover and other human health issues;

CONCERNED that the implementation of the One Health approach overlooks the role of conservation biology in preventing zoonotic spillovers;

COGNISANT that One Health interpretations often focus on infectious disease risk to humans and not broader human health issues with biodiversity relevance;

MINDFUL that a human rights approach means communities' health priorities must be prioritised and addressed in a way affirming rights and that WHO states "The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being..." and that "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity";

WELCOMING the integration of local authorities and Indigenous peoples as Members of IUCN, who can now participate in the Union's actions;

APPRECIATING the inclusion of One Health in the IUCN 20-year Strategic Vision and the IUCN draft Programme statement that "The ultimate outcome would be a long-term partnership between the conservation community and the public health sector";

RECOGNISING the opportunities that partnerships with the health sector have for conservation policy and practice, and to support IUCN in ensuring One Health interpretations do not overlook conservation biology or the full spectrum of human health actions with conservation co-benefits;

EMPHASISING government efforts to develop One Health strategic action plans and growing commitments to implement the One Health approach at all levels; and

UNDERSTANDING that nations have an obligation under international law to conduct environmental impact assessments, where applicable:

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:

1. ENCOURAGES IUCN to engage with intergovernmental bodies and multilaterals, WHO, the World Organisation for Animal Health, and Family Planning 2030 (FP2030), on One Health;

2 REQUESTS governments to integrate One Health into law, recognising the interdependencies among humans, other living organisms, ecosystems and pathogenic landscapes;

3 RECOMMENDS to governments that they develop One Health strategies including objectives and indicators, recognising the full range of human health actions with conservation co-benefits;

4. RECOMMENDS to governments that they establish interministerial coordination processes for One Health, ensuring that priorities and positions are aligned across regional and international processes;

5. ENCOURAGES health ministries and other governmental health agencies to mainstream:

a. biodiversity in national health plans; and

b. human health services, and rights to them, in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and National Adaptation Plans;

6. CALLS ON governmental agencies to engage communities and consider the full range of One Health issues, from drivers of zoonoses to the availability of health services, when conducting legally required environmental impact assessments;

7. URGES relevant health sector non-governmental organisations to join IUCN;

8. APPEALS TO researchers to study cross-sectoral biodiversity and health projects, which can lead to greater outcomes and cost savings;

9. ENCOURAGES donors to adapt funding criteria to enable funding of One Health projects, not just single sector-aligned elements of them; and

10. INVITES companies to include One Health in corporate social responsibility strategies.