#GLFBiodiversity

Photo by David Mansell-Moullin/FAO

GLF
Biodiversity
Digital
Conference

Tackling the risks of wildlife-borne disease pandemics – policy and investment priorities

One
World
One
Health

**28.29
OCTOBER
2020**

White paper

Background

We need to learn from the COVID-19 pandemic, and better understand the root causes of zoonotic diseases, in order to prevent future outbreaks and support a green recovery.

Approximately 70 percent of emerging infectious diseases today, and almost all recent pandemics, originate from animals – particularly wildlife. This includes for instance the Ebola virus, Lassa virus, and human immunodeficiency virus. Emerging evidence indicates that such outbreaks of animal-borne diseases are on the rise, mostly due to environmental degradation and the intensification of livestock production and trade in livestock and wildlife.

Human-wildlife-livestock interactions are increasing as human populations expand, and urbanization and economic activities (such as wildlife trade, husbandry, agriculture, fishing, infrastructure development, mining and logging) encroach into wildlife habitats. This greater proximity enhances the probability of disease spillover from wildlife to humans, and from wildlife to livestock to humans.

In a comprehensive European Union-funded review, policy makers and researchers have reviewed and analyzed available scientific information on the causes of zoonotic disease spillover and their subsequent spread. The resulting white paper and policy brief provide clear guidance for Northern and Southern development partners and decision-makers to understand:

a) why spillover of disease from wildlife to humans occurs, and why these zoonotic disease outbreaks can spread and become epidemics and pandemics such as COVID-19;

b) what they can do to prevent, detect and respond to future spillover events, with a special focus on priority interventions at the human–wildlife–livestock interfaces.

The two publications were launched at the Global Landscape Forum's 'One World – One Health' biodiversity conference. They were produced as part of the Sustainable

Wildlife Management Programme – an Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) initiative – by specialists from the:

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD)
- Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

The SWM Programme is a major international initiative to improve the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife in forest, savannah and wetland ecosystems. Field projects are being implemented in 13 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. The aim is to: improve how wildlife hunting is regulated; increase the supply of sustainably produced meat products and farmed fish; strengthen the management capacities of indigenous and rural communities; and reduce demand for wild meat, particularly in towns and cities. For more information, please visit: www.swm-programme.info

Photo by Olivier Girard/CIFOR

Prevent, Detect and Respond

The White Paper and the associated Policy Brief provide recommendations on the three main areas – namely prevention, detection and response - that require policy and investment support if we are to learn from the COVID-19 pandemic and support a green recovery and "build back better".

Challenges and solutions in relation to each of these areas include:

PREVENT - We must minimize the risks of exposure to wildlife pathogens by:
• Maintaining ecosystems' integrity
• Reducing urban demand for wild meat
• Reinforcing controls on wildlife trade
• Promoting food safety and hygiene standards
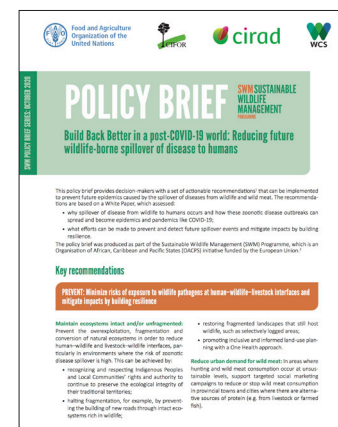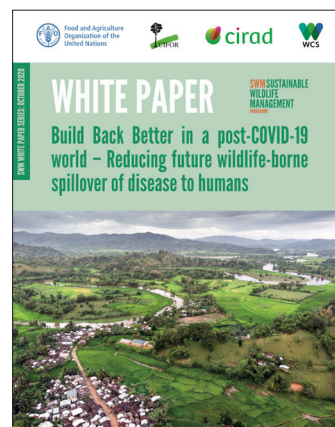• Developing sustainable and safe local food systems

DETECT - We must detect and report future zoonotic disease outbreaks by:
• Supporting risk assessment and mapping
• Developing effective surveillance systems

RESPOND - We must put in place effective One Health approaches by:
• Involving the wildlife and forestry sectors in One Health
• Supporting national implementation of One Health
• Strengthening sectoral legal frameworks

The White Paper emphasises the need to consider and involve the millions of people, including Indigenous People, who rely on wildlife for food, income and cultural identity in a comprehensive risk-based approach. It concludes with very specific priority multi-disciplinary approaches and actions (legal development, food safety, risk assessment, etc.) that can contribute to the concrete implementation of the above recommendations.

Description of the GLF Session

The session will launch the White Paper and Policy Brief *"Build Back Better in a post-COVID world – Reducing future wildlife-borne spillover of disease to humans"* produced by the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme.

The alternative strategies to tackle the drivers of zoonotic disease emergence and their spread along wildlife value chains will be discussed through the lens of different stakeholders. The session will include speakers and representatives from the donors (European Union), government (Gabon), Indigenous Peoples (Guyana) and technical partners (FAO, CIFOR, CIRAD and WCS), including local development practitioners to wildlife conservationists and public health specialists.

The different perspectives of the panellists will be enriched and debated through interactions with the online and offline audiences (Q&A session, poll).

Discussions will focus on how to encourage policy dialogue and coordinated targeted investments to prevent, detect and respond to future pandemics. The session will also provide a platform to discuss the following questions:

- How can we ensure that the wildlife/forestry sector better contribute to implement the One Health approach?
- How can we encourage dialogue amongst national and international policy makers on the recommendations of the White Paper and Policy Brief for concrete follow-up actions that are adapted to local risks and contexts?
- How can we ensure coordinated and targeted approaches and investments to prevent/detect and respond to future wildlife-borne disease pandemic given multiple initiatives that are currently being developed following the COVID-19 crisis?

Participating organizations

GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference 2020 would not be possible without the support and participation of the following hosts, partners and organizations. For a full list of everyone involved, please visit:
events.globallandscapesforum.org/biodiversity-2020/partners

Global Landscapes Forum

The **Global Landscapes Forum** (GLF) is the world's largest knowledge-led platform on integrated land use, dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement. The Forum takes a holistic approach to create sustainable landscapes that are productive, prosperous, equitable and resilient and considers five cohesive themes of food and livelihood, landscape restoration, rights, finance and measuring progress. It is led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), in collaboration with its co-founders UN Environment Programme and the World Bank and Charter Members.

Charter Members: CIAT, CIFOR, CIRAD, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Crop Trust, EcoAgriculture Partners, EFI, Evergreen Agriculture, FSC, GEF, GIZ, ICIMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, ILRI, INBAR, IPMG, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, RRI, SAN, UN Environment Programme, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, part of Wageningen Research, WFO, World Agroforestry, World Bank Group, WRI, WWF International, Youth in Landscapes Initiative.

GLF
Biodiversity
Digital
Conference

One
World
One
Health

**28.29
OCTOBER
2020**