

OPERATIONALISING ONE WELFARE¹ INTO GLOBAL POLICYMAKING TO PREVENT ZOOONOTIC DISEASE RISK

Wild animal health and welfare need to be prioritised as cross cutting themes in policymaking, accompanied by urgent reforms in international animal and public health laws.

Human activities such as wildlife trade (both legal and illegal), live animal markets, intensive animal agriculture and fur farming inevitably lead to crowding, stress and injury among animals. The close proximity between people and animals during capture, farming, transportation, butchering and trade presents numerous and unpredictable opportunities for pathogens to spread and undergo mutations, leading to the emergence of zoonotic diseases with pandemic potential.

By focussing on primary prevention, One Welfare principles offer cross-disciplinary solutions to address the common drivers of biodiversity loss and climate change, and mobilise relevant sectors, disciplines and communities to reduce future zoonotic disease risk.

Reducing and eliminating high-risk human activities such as the taking, holding, trade, marketing, use and consumption of both wild and domestic animals that pose a risk to public health are vital to tackle the root causes of zoonotic disease transmission. Such mechanisms and measures to prevent pathogen emergence at source must be incorporated into the new global instrument negotiated under the World Health Organisation.

“ Curtailing the emergence of zoonotic diseases is complex and requires a holistic approach. Measures to prevent the unsustainable exploitation of wildlife, and improvements in the enforcement and regulation of wildlife conservation, animal welfare and public health regulations are also part of the solution. ”

2021 Dasgupta Review²

“ It is estimated that 75% of Emerging Infectious Diseases are zoonotic and, of these, 70% originate in wildlife populations. ”

Jones et al. (2008) Global trends in emerging infectious diseases.³ Nature, 451 (7181), pp. 990-993

“ An estimated 1.7 million currently undiscovered viruses are thought to exist in mammal and avian hosts. Of these, 631,000–827,000 could have the ability to infect humans. ”

Preventive measures - such as cracking down on the wildlife trade - would cost between \$22bn and \$31bn annually, a fraction of the economic cost of coping with a pandemic like Covid-19 (which it estimated at the time would cost \$16 trillion by summer 2021).

IPBES 2020 Biodiversity & Pandemics Workshop Report⁴



OPERATIONALISING ONE WELFARE, AN EXTENSION OF THE WELL-ESTABLISHED ONE HEALTH CONCEPT, ENTAILS ADOPTING A LONG-TERM COLLABORATIVE AND INTEGRATED APPROACH THAT OPTIMISES THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE, ANIMALS AND ECOSYSTEMS. FOR MORE INFO, SEE WWW.BORNFREE.ORG.UK/WILDLIFE-PANDEMICS/



¹ Pinillos, R. G. (2018). https://books.google.co.uk/books/about/One_Welfare.html?id=4YtIDwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=kp_read_button&hl=en&newbks=1&newbks_redir=0&gboemv=1&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review>

³ <https://www.nature.com/articles/nature06536>

⁴ https://files.ipbes.net/ipbes-web-prod-public-files/2020-12/IPBES%20Workshop%20on%20Biodiversity%20and%20Pandemics%20Report_0.pdf

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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