



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



INVESTING IN BIODIVERSITY – A MATTER OF SURVIVAL

I. A MATTER OF SURVIVAL

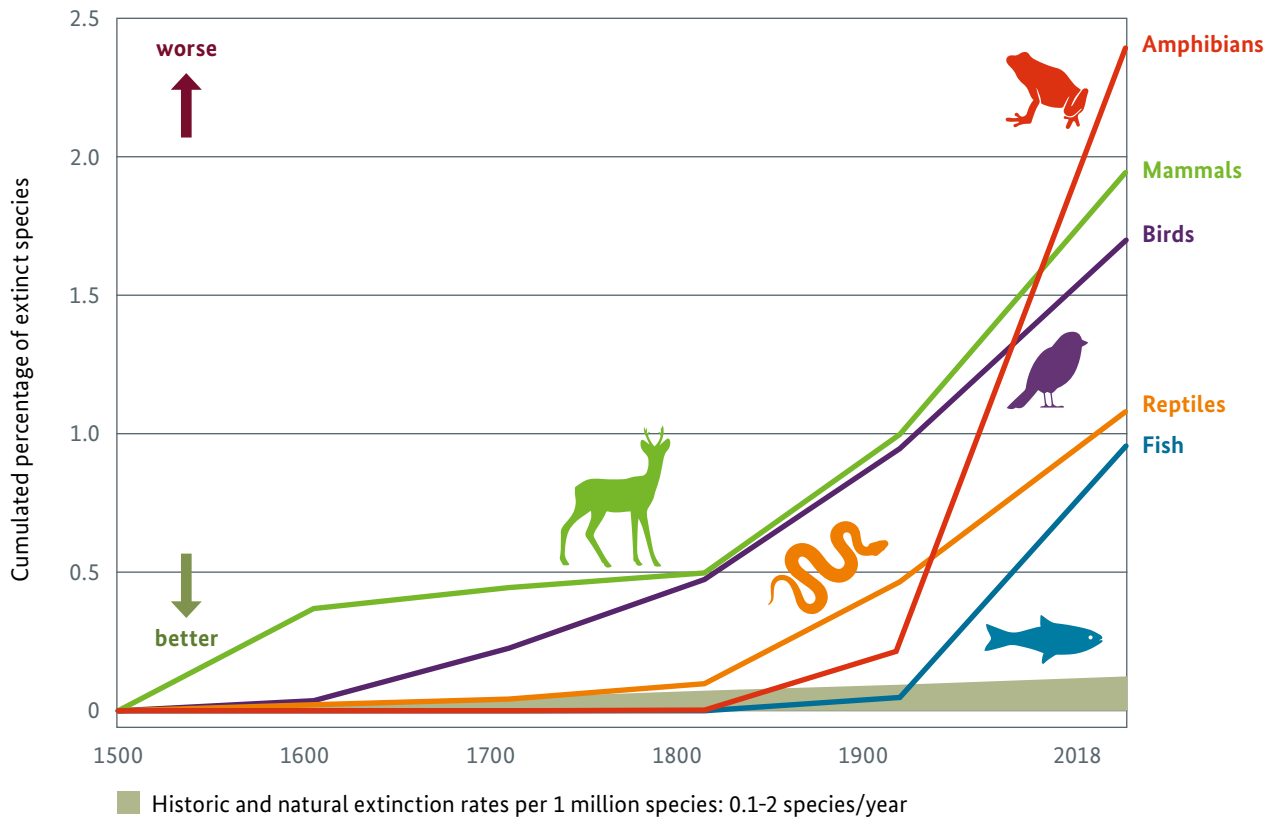
In 1992, with the adoption of the international Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the parties to the Convention set out goals for worldwide conservation of biodiversity. Yet, alongside the climate crisis, a biodiversity crisis is also unfolding:

- Worldwide, one million out of an estimated eight million animal and plant species are facing extinction.
 - The populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish that have been studied have shown decreases of roughly 70 per cent over the last 50 years because of human intervention in nature.
 - Seventy-five per cent of terrestrial ecosystems and 40 per cent of marine ecosystems have already been dramatically changed by human intervention. Since 1990, 420 million hectares of forest have been lost worldwide – an area twelve times the size of Germany. Every year, an additional 10 million hectares of forest are lost – approximately an area as big as Iceland.
 - Over the last 30 years, global trade has increased eightfold, and demand for natural resources has doubled, multiplying the pressure on natural habitats.
- According to the fifth United Nations Global Biodiversity Outlook, the international community is thus set to miss all of the biodiversity targets set in Aichi (Japan) in 2010.



White rhinos in Kruger National Park (South Africa).

EXTINCTION OF SPECIES SINCE 1500



Source: adapted from: IPBES (2019) and UFZ (2019): Fact sheet Global Assessment

This is about more than failing to achieve the Aichi targets by 2020, however. The loss of biodiversity means that the achievement of roughly 80 per cent of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is in jeopardy – thus jeopardising the whole of the 2030 Agenda.

The main cause of the global loss of biodiversity is human activity. The expansion of human settlements and agricultural land, the consumption and extraction of resources, the industrialisation of food production and climate change are reducing plant and animal habitats unrelentingly. The result is more and more contact between humans and (wild) animals, thus increasing the risk that zoonotic diseases will emerge, i.e. infectious diseases that spill over from animals to humans. The Ebola virus, the 2003 SARS virus, the Nipah virus and, most recently, COVID-19 are prominent examples. Developing countries are the most directly and hardest hit. They account for more than 80 per cent of global terrestrial biological and genetic resources and are very dependent on using them.

The situation is dramatic, yet there is still hope for the preservation of biodiversity! The fifth Global Biodiversity Outlook also highlights achievements in key areas:

- Between 2010 and 2020, international finance for biodiversity conservation doubled.
- Between 2000 and 2020 the areas designated as protected areas increased from 10 to at least 15 per cent for terrestrial and from 3 to at least 7 per cent for marine areas.
- Compared with the last decade, global deforestation rates have fallen by roughly one third.
- Without the conservation measures undertaken so far the extinction rates of birds and mammals would probably have been two to four times higher in the last ten years.

Efforts to build on this progress are needed so as to stop the dramatic and accelerating global loss of biodiversity.



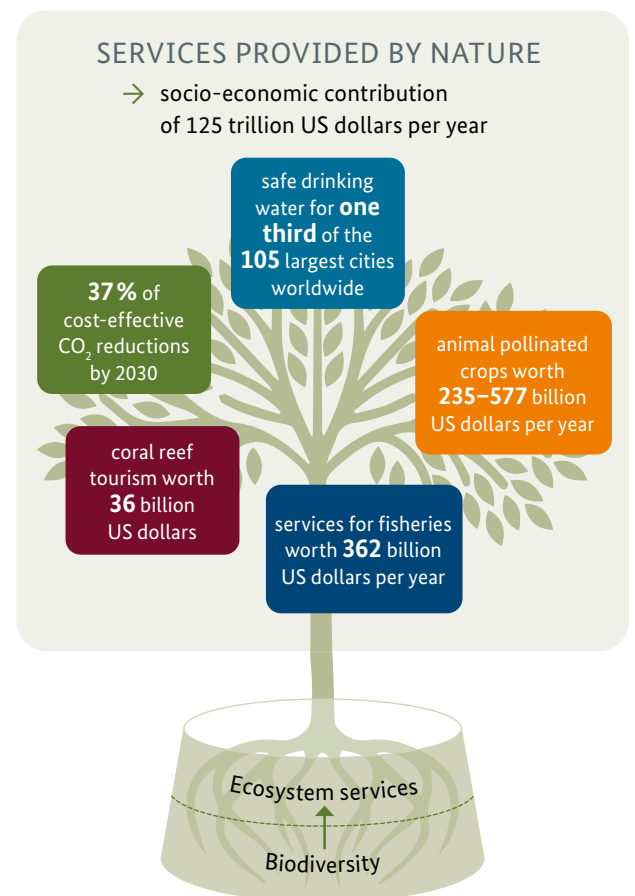
In Cameroon and other African countries non-timber forest products are an important source of income for local communities.

At the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in China in 2021, the international community needs to usher in a fundamental turnaround towards worldwide conservation of biodiversity with a new global biodiversity framework (2021 to 2030).

The new approach must consider biological diversity and climate issues in combination, establishing the necessary synergies. This is important, because the only way these two global challenges can be surmounted is if they are tackled together.

Measures to protect nature and fight illegal trade in wild life and plants need to be significantly strengthened and the effects of trade policies on sustainability and biodiversity need to be assessed.

By 2050, the world's ecosystems need to be resilient, adequately protected and, where possible, restored. What we have at stake here is nothing less than the vital natural resources we need to ensure our survival: There can be no sustainable development without biological diversity!



Source: illustration based on OECD (2019): *Biodiversity: Finance and the Economic and Business Case for Action*, report prepared for the G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting, 5-6 May 2019.



The forests of south-west Ethiopia are the cradle of the Arabica coffee bean and are still home to numerous wild varieties of coffee. German development cooperation efforts are fostering the sustainable use of forest coffee and thus contributing to forest conservation.

II. OUR GOALS

1. INVESTING IN BIODIVERSITY

We must increase investments in the conservation of biodiversity – so as to at least double their volume. This will also require mobilising new sources of funding, for instance from the private sector and philanthropists.

Biodiversity conservation is severely underfunded worldwide. According to the OECD, some 85 billion US dollars is spent around the world each year on protecting biodiversity. Of that 68 billion US dollars is domestic public spending, for the most part in industrialised countries and emerging economies. Six billion US dollars comes from private sources and is invested worldwide, including in industrialised countries. International cooperation provides only 6 billion US dollars to finance measures to protect biodiversity in emerging economies and developing countries. The global need for investment in biodiversity is estimated to be up to five times higher. And investing more

in the preservation of biodiversity pays off. The financial and economic advantages of realising the 30% target for protected areas outweigh the costs five to one.

Therefore, we have to

- assist developing countries in their efforts to strengthen and implement their national biodiversity strategies. This will require international cooperation to double its funding for biodiversity – with a focus on biodiversity-rich poorer countries,
- make cooperation more effective by empowering countries, regional and international organisations and networks,
- dismantle environmentally harmful subsidies, in particular ones for fossil fuels. According to the IMF, such subsidies currently amount to 5.2 trillion US dollars a year.

2. STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING PROTECTED AREAS

We must strengthen and expand protected areas. That is why the BMZ is supporting the 30/30/10 target: placing 30 per cent of terrestrial and 30 per cent of marine areas under protection (so far 17% and 10%), with 10 per cent being “strictly protected”.

Biodiversity is unevenly distributed: 20 per cent of the planet is home to 80 per cent of species worldwide. It is especially important to implement effective conservation measures in these biodiversity-rich areas, more than three-quarters of which are in developing countries and emerging economies. Against the backdrop of competing interests this can only be successfully achieved through protected areas that are managed effectively. Ecological corridors connecting protected areas are a means of preventing genetic isolation and let species migrate freely.

There are already many benefits in protected areas for people. They account for 20 per cent of terrestrial carbon sequestration and provide drinking water for one third of the 100 largest cities worldwide. Achieving the 30 per cent target would bring many more advantages for people. Up to 650,000 new jobs could be created in the management of protected areas. Up to 30 million jobs could be maintained or newly created in ecotourism and sustainable fisheries.

However, designating protected areas alone is not enough. We need to establish clear rules that regulate protection and the extent to which protected areas may be used; and these rules need to be underpinned by fair and sustainable mechanisms. Such efforts will only be successful if the people affected are actively involved. It is indispensable to uphold traditional usage rights, to involve indigenous people and local communities in both the planning and the implementation of nature conservation projects, and to put in place effective complaint mechanisms that are easy to access in order to protect human rights and open up development opportunities for local people.

3. FIGHTING POACHING AND ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE WORLDWIDE

We must fight poaching and illegal wildlife trade worldwide and along the entire supply chain. The demand for wildlife products, in particular, needs to be reduced.

Despite all the prosecution efforts and the bans imposed, poaching and illegal wildlife trade are still very common throughout the world. Poachers killed roughly 157,000 elephants between 2010 and 2018 and approximately 9,000 rhinos in the last ten years. Poaching is not only threatening the survival of these and of other species, it is also depriving many local communities of the resources that form the basis of their lives and economic activity.

International regulatory frameworks need to be systematically applied and improved in order to fight poaching and illegal wildlife trade and reduce the demand for wildlife products. In addition, actors from the realms of politics, civil society and the private sector need to work together in a coordinated approach across all countries and fields of policy. One instrument that can play a key role is tracking illegal financial flows.



Rhino horn is much sought after, especially in Asia – as a status symbol or in traditional medicine. In the last ten years, poachers have killed some 9,000 rhinos.

4. PREVENTING FURTHER LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

We must implement strategies for the sustainable management of the agricultural and forestry sectors, in particular, and of fisheries – this is a key to achieving global food security. In addition, we all need to change our patterns of consumption.

Unsustainable agriculture is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss. Between 2000 and 2015, more than 20 per cent of the Earth's total land area became degraded and now this area can no longer or can barely be used. Excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides is causing chemical and biological contamination that is impacting directly on biodiversity.

Similar trends are emerging with regard to the oceans. Overfishing and pollution has increased the share of overfished global marine fish stocks from 10 per cent in 1974 to 33 per cent in 2015. The biodiversity of inland waters is also under serious threat. Twelve million tonnes of fresh-

water fish are caught each year – the main source of protein for at least 160 million people worldwide.

However, agriculture, forestry and fisheries depend on biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. Nature provides ecosystem services in the form of animal pollination or water supplies that are worth as much as 125 trillion US dollars a year – that is 1.5 times the amount of global GDP. That is why the loss of biodiversity was identified by the World Economic Forum in 2020 and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in 2019 as one of the main threats to global economic prosperity.

More biodiversity conservation and more protected areas are essential, but are not enough to bring about a global turnaround. That will only be achieved if biodiversity issues are mainstreamed in food production, the timber industry, land use planning for housing, etc. and if our consumption patterns change.



Women fishing for shrimp in the Sundarbans, Bangladesh.

5. ENHANCING SYNERGIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION

We must address biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation in combination. Reaching the Paris target of 1.5 degrees is an important prerequisite for biodiversity conservation.

Global warming and loss of species are closely linked. The share of species pushed to extinction by the climate crisis will be as high as 5 per cent if global warming is limited to 2 degrees Celsius; a rise in temperatures of 4.3 degrees Celsius would take it to 16 per cent. Yet, a rich diversity of species and healthy ecosystems are critical factors for fighting and adapting to climate change. Ecosystems, especially forests, oceans and wetlands, absorb roughly half of the carbon released into the atmosphere. Many nature-based solutions are not only important carbon sinks but also boost resilience against unavoidable impacts of climate change. Mangrove forests, for instance, absorb significantly more CO₂ than other tree species, protect coasts from increasingly heavy storms and are also important habitats for fish stocks.

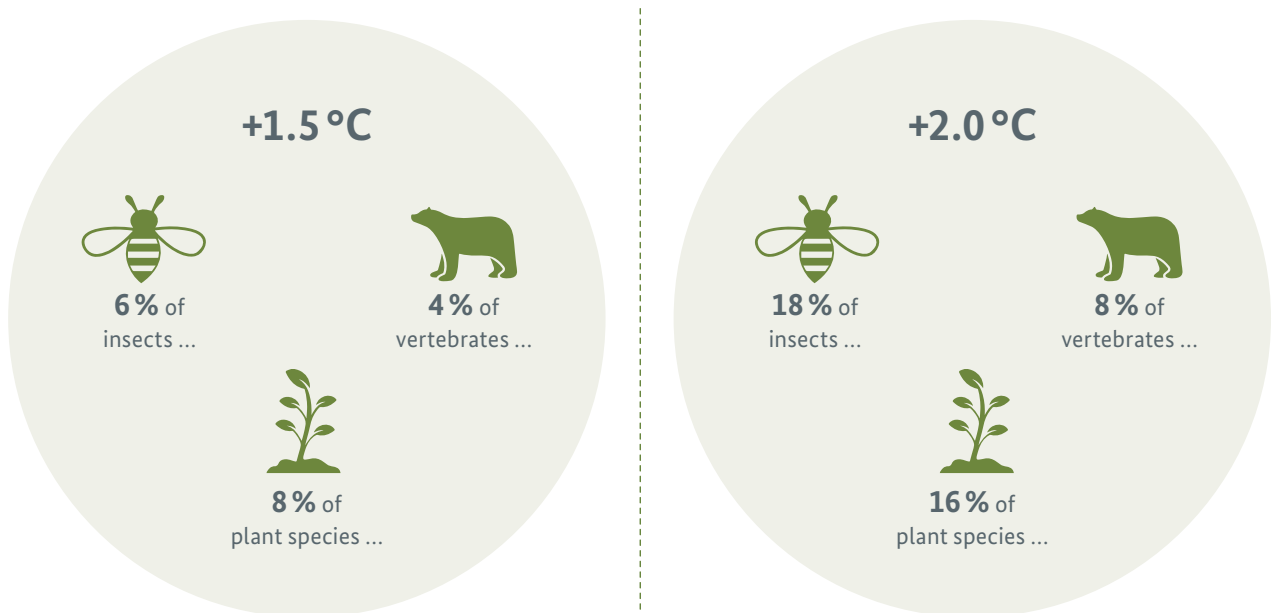
6. IMPLEMENTING THE ONE HEALTH APPROACH WORLDWIDE

We must introduce and implement the One Health approach worldwide.

The health of people, the health of domestic and wild animals and the health of ecosystems are closely linked. An intact ecosystem is a prerequisite for healthy wildlife and healthy people. Because this makes it more difficult for pathogens that cause infectious diseases to spill over and spread. *One Health* stands for a holistic, interdisciplinary approach encompassing complex linkages and systemic solutions for health-related challenges. It needs to become a global guiding principle for all activities.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS THREATENING BIODIVERSITY

The higher the temperature, the higher the number of species at risk because of declining populations.



... will see their populations shrink by more than half.

III. OUR APPROACH

The German government is making available 500 million euros a year to support biodiversity conservation efforts in more than 90 countries; 400 million of this total comes from the budget of the BMZ. Thus, Germany is one of the largest bilateral donors worldwide. Germany accounts for almost ten per cent of the six billion US dollars made available each year through international cooperation worldwide to support biodiversity. In 2021, the BMZ will increase its investments in biodiversity conservation to 600 million euros. The BMZ will also leverage private funding through a new innovative financing instrument.

Biodiversity conservation can only be successful if it works to people's benefit and not against them. That is why BMZ funding is only provided when human rights are respected and internationally recognised environmental and social safeguards are observed.



A woman returning to the remote village of Shangarh near the Great Himalayan National Park in India after collecting firewood in a nearby forest.

1. WE ARE PROTECTING AN AREA THAT IS MORE THAN FOUR TIMES THE SIZE OF GERMANY

Germany is one of the largest public donors for protected areas in developing countries and emerging economies. We are supporting more than 500 protected areas worldwide with a total area that is more than four times as big as Germany.

- Together with France and Sweden we have established one of the world's largest funds for marine protection, the Blue Action Fund (BAF). An endowment of 123 million euros is currently available, to be used for instance for expanding especially valuable marine and coastal protected areas.
- Since 2006 we have been helping Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe link up their national protected areas, creating the world's largest terrestrial cross-border protected area, the Kavango Zambesi Trans-frontier Conservation Area.
- Together with other public and private donors we will be providing long-term support through the Legacy Landscapes Fund to assist protected areas in developing countries and emerging economies that are of paramount importance for global biodiversity.
- By creating a transboundary corridor and conservation area system in southern Kenya and northern Tanzania we are contributing to safeguarding one of the last large and intact natural landscapes in the world. We are thus reducing the pressure on this natural habitat, promoting its integrity and connectivity, and ensuring that this ecosystem remains intact.

2. WE ARE FIGHTING POACHING ALONG THE ENTIRE SUPPLY CHAIN

The BMZ takes a leading role worldwide, providing more than 260 million euros to support projects to fight poaching and illegal wildlife trade. Our main focus here is on products derived from elephants and rhinos.

→ The interministerial global project Partnership against Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade in Africa and Asia is based on a holistic approach and targets the entire supply chain for illegal wildlife products – from countries of origin and transit countries in Africa and Asia all the way to consumer countries. In addition, it promotes alternative sources of income for local communities.

- With the initiative on reducing demand for ivory products in China we want to do our part to ensure that up to 18 million Chinese consumers will in future refrain from buying and consuming ivory.
- The BMZ takes a firm position in favour of expecting human rights and the systematic prosecution of violations, including within our partner organisations. We are providing targeted support to institutions in our partner countries to help them train their staff in dealing with poaching. A German development cooperation project is for instance developing study and training programmes in southern Africa that include a human rights component. A large number of these programmes are being run at the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) in South Africa.



Rangers at work in Cameroon.

3. WE PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY-FRIENDLY SUPPLY CHAINS

Forests are the green lungs of our planet, also serving as a source of livelihood for more than 1.6 billion people, providing food and oxygen and regulating the climate. That is why the BMZ is working and lobbying for biodiversity-friendly, deforestation-free supply chains.

- Together with the private sector and civil society we are supporting efforts to develop sustainable, deforestation-free agricultural land, for example for palm oil, cocoa, soya or to be used as grazing land, in Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Brazil and Colombia.
- The German Federal Government's Guidelines on the Promotion of Deforestation-Free Supply Chains of Agricultural Commodities adopted in April 2020 provide the framework for even stronger national and international commitment for forest protection in supply chains.
- We are a member of the Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA). This global partnership of governments, the private sector (including companies such as Unilever, P&G and Henkel) and civil society serves to support the implementation of voluntary corporate commitments on deforestation-free supply chains.
- We are promoting sustainable artisanal fisheries and aquaculture on the basis of our Ten-point Plan of Action for Marine Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries. We are advocating sustainable and socially responsible processing and marketing of fish products (for instance in Mauretania or Uganda).
- Through the international ABS Initiative (Access and Benefit Sharing) and the initiative BioInnovation we are promoting fair conditions in Africa for the sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources. We are building European-African business partnerships for fair and sustainable value chains for products made from natural ingredients.

4. WE ARE LINKING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE ACTION

The BMZ is financing a large number of climate projects. In 2020, the target for climate change mitigation and adaptation funding is roughly two billion euros. Some 20 per cent of this funding will also benefit biodiversity conservation measures.

- We are supporting the international Save Our Mangroves Now! initiative of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The initiative is about mobilising political leaders and taking action to contain the loss of mangroves.
- Working with the development programme of the African Union (New Partnership for Africa's Development, NEPAD) and the World Resources Institute (WRI), the BMZ launched the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100). The aim of the initiative is to restore 100 million hectares of forest and tree-rich landscapes in Africa by 2030.
- We are promoting sustainable and resilient landscapes through the PROGREEN multi-lateral fund, hosted by the World Bank (BMZ funding: 200 million euros). Its focus is on measures that support countries in their efforts to achieve their climate and sustainability goals. Its main areas of action are the protection and restoration of forests.
- Together with the Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU) and other donors we have not only helped to save 74 million tonnes of carbon emissions in Colombia, Brazil and Ecuador through our bilateral REDD Early Movers programme, but have also contributed to forest preservation and thus also to biodiversity conservation.
- By creating the Development and Climate Alliance we have established an instrument for voluntary private sector climate action. Supporters of the Alliance avoid and reduce emissions and offset whatever emissions cannot be avoided, for instance by financing forest protection projects.

5. WE ARE WORKING AT THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN HUMAN HEALTH AND THE HEALTH OF THE NATURAL WORLD

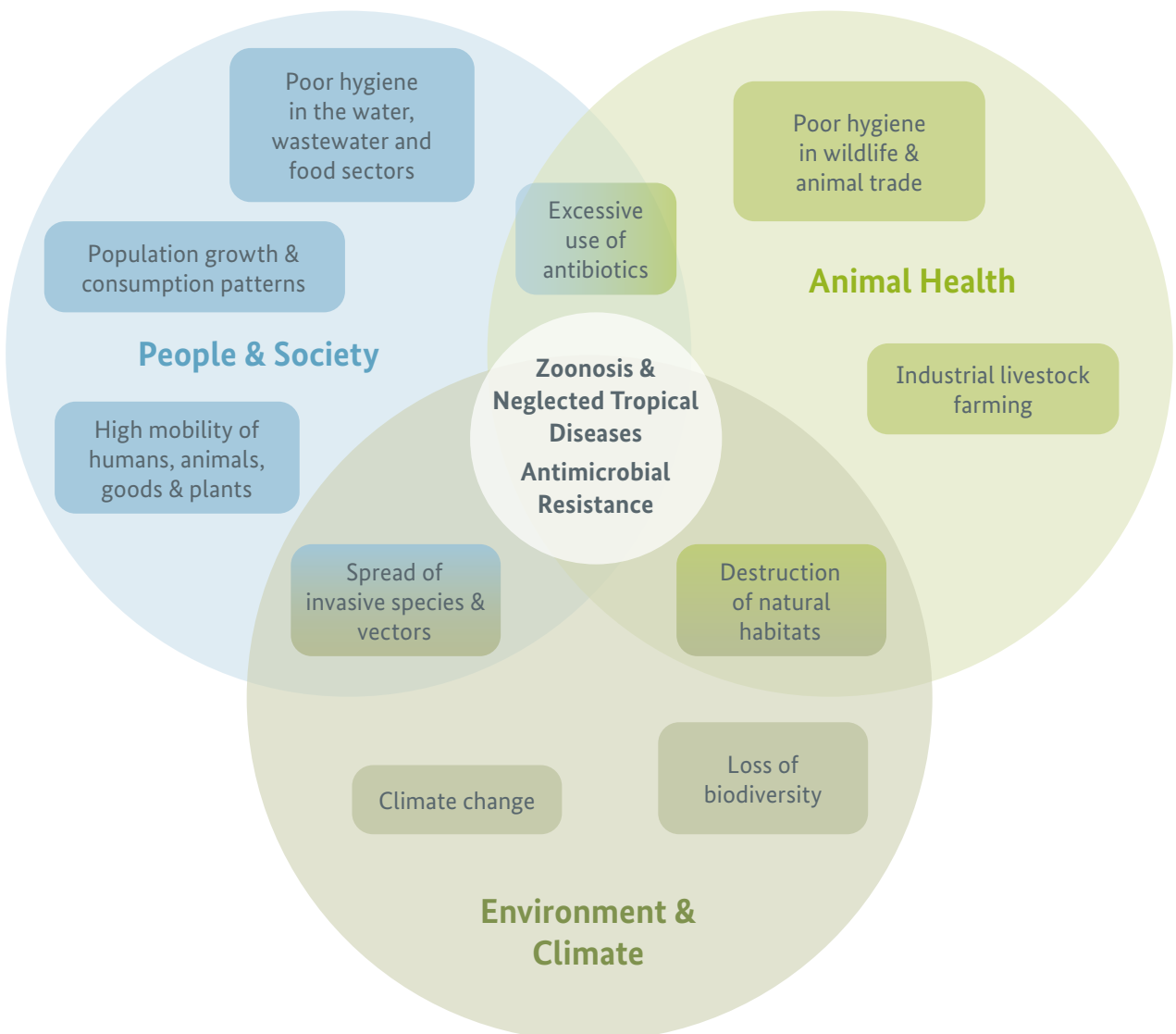
Germany has lobbied the G7, G20 and other international meetings and conferences to put global health and, increasingly, One Health on their agendas. The BMZ has been working with the One Health approach in pandemic prevention ever since the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2015.

→ The creation of the International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and other partners has further expanded our engagement. This puts us in a better position to prevent zoonoses in the future and

also safeguard biodiversity. People in poorer countries often depend on trade in and the consumption of wildlife and wildlife products. That is why creating alternative sources of income and food for local people is an important aspect in the work of the alliance.

→ Health risks in connection with the trade in and consumption of wildlife and wildlife products can be reduced along the entire value chain.

→ We are also commissioning the German Epidemic Preparedness Team (SEEG) to study the causes of outbreaks of diseases. These findings help health facilities respond better and in a more targeted way.



IV. LOOKING AHEAD

Immediate action is needed to stop the dramatic and accelerating global loss of biodiversity. Not only do we need the international community to be willing to invest more in the conservation of biodiversity, we also need consistent implementation and transparent monitoring. The new EU Biodiversity Strategy shows us the path we need to take:

→ The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans of the Parties to the CBD must undergo ambitious review by the end of 2021. If this is not done, then countries must at least submit national commitments for the most important goals.

→ The conditions for achieving the goals need to be improved worldwide with regard to funding, research, and innovation and technology. Special support needs to be provided for developing countries.

→ Civil society's role as a watchdog for compliance with regulations already in place needs to be strengthened.

Germany is working within the EU and worldwide to make the Conference of the Parties in China a sounding success. We need an ambitious and implementation-oriented biodiversity framework for the period up to 2030 setting out a clear vision for 2050.

That is why we are calling for:

1. global resources for biodiversity conservation to be doubled to about 170 billion euros by means of
 - greater efforts by all countries,
 - greater involvement of the private sector and civil society,
 - doubling international cooperation on biodiversity from 6 to 12 billion US dollars;
2. the 30/30/10 goal to be implemented worldwide and effective contributions to be made to biodiversity conservation by placing 30 per cent of national terrestrial and 30 per cent of marine areas under protection and 10 per cent under "strict protection";
3. biodiversity partnerships to be forged with developing countries so as to build capacities to implement, monitor and review their biodiversity strategies;
4. the legal and sustainable trade in and use of wild life and plants to become standard practice by 2030 at the latest;
5. direct drivers of biodiversity loss such as agriculture and forestry and indirect drivers such as, for instance, our consumption patterns to be focused more strongly on sustainability – global supply chains ending in the EU need to be deforestation free, for example;
6. synergies between climate protection and adaptation and biodiversity conservation to be harnessed and expanded – applying, for instance, nature-based solutions that contribute to both biodiversity and climate protection and adaptation;
7. environmental degradation to be significantly reduced, halving in particular the use of pesticides and the discharge of plastic waste by 2030;
8. developing countries to be finally entitled to participate fairly in the benefits companies generate from using their biodiversity in research and business operations by improving the conditions and frameworks for benefit sharing;
9. human rights and in particular the rights of indigenous peoples to be respected in nature conservation measures and for the principle of free prior informed consent to finally be made mandatory worldwide and for its implementation to be monitored;
10. One Health structures and networks to be further developed worldwide and established at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels.



Collecting wild honey in the Boeny region conservation areas.

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