

Biodiversity and Human Health

Intervention from the Group on Earth Observations – Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON)

Thank-you Madam Chair. This is a statement from the Group on Earth Observations – Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON). Considering the many common drivers between biodiversity loss and health including in relation to disease emergence and food security and in response to the many strong references to the importance of monitoring to inform integrated policy approaches as found in Decision XIII/6 on Biodiversity and Health, paragraphs 40 and 53 in the official SBSTTA document on biodiversity and health, and as referenced through the Interagency Liaison Group, GEO BON would like to highlight its ongoing collaboration with the EcoHealth Alliance. This joint effort is meant to develop coordinated biodiversity and health monitoring systems, models, toolkits and best practice guides to better support prediction, early warning and advanced understanding of the interactions between biodiversity loss, habitat degradation and human health. This collaboration was explicitly mentioned at the Regional Capacity-Building workshop for the European Region held from October 23rd to 25th in Helsinki, Finland. GEO BON welcomes the integrated approach for addressing biodiversity and health issues and offers its support through this collaboration. The resulting integrated monitoring toolkits and approaches will be deployed via GEO BON's global biodiversity observation toolkit (BON in a Box) and via its ongoing partnerships with national governments and regional entities to develop strengthened biodiversity observation networks. Thank-you.