



## IKI Focus

# International Climate Initiative

## Pandemic Prevention

The causes of pandemics are the same as those that contribute to the loss of biological diversity – first and foremost, human encroachment into previously intact ecosystems, for example through the global expansion and intensification of agriculture and the unregulated wildlife trade. The continued loss of habitat through changes in land use and non-sustainable practices is leading to the disappearance of refuges and the natural habitat of wildlife. As a result, wildlife is increasingly moving into areas used and populated by humans, leading to more frequent contact between humans and animals, thus increasing the risk of disease transmission. In order to reduce the risk of future pandemics, there must be increased investment in precautionary measures to protect nature. This requires substantial investments in the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of ecosystems. However, compared to the costs of a pandemic, the costs of prevention are significantly lower and cause many additional benefits beyond pandemic prevention. The conservation of ecosystems and their services needs to be systematically integrated into land use and development planning in order to reduce the areas of contact between humans and wildlife, and between domestic or farm animals and wildlife.

### Linking human and environmental health

The so-called ‘One Health’ approach considers the health of humans, animals and the environment together. This is because human health is directly dependent on functioning ecosystems and the health of the animals that surround us.

Ecosystems and their services – for example absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> and thus climate protection, purification function for air and water, source of food and raw materials for medicine – in turn depend on the intact ecosystems. Combating and preventing pandemics requires cooperation at all levels – local to international – with common goals and measures that involve all affected sectors and actors in society. This integrated approach to promoting healthy ecosystems, healthy animals and healthy people is also gaining importance in the International Climate Initiative (IKI). Through the supported projects, the IKI promotes, for example, the integration of the approach in protected area standards and the raising of awareness through informative biodiversity communication.

### Protected areas for pandemic prevention

Terrestrial protected areas play an important role in pandemic prevention, as they provide wildlife with intact ecosystems

**The International Climate Initiative (IKI) is an important part of the German government’s international climate and biodiversity finance commitments.** Since 2022 the IKI is implemented by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) in close cooperation with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and the Federal Foreign Office (AA).

and refuges. Therefore, the IKI has integrated pandemic control and prevention measures into the promotion of protected areas. For example, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) works closely with the EcoHealth Alliance and international health experts in an IKI project on protected area management.

#### Protected area management for biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation

IKI funding: € 4,368,657.00, Time frame: 11/2015 to 12/2022  
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#### 'Nature for Health': a multi-partner trust fund for pandemic prevention

Following the urgent Corona Response Package provided by the IKI, they are also currently involved in a long-term strategy for pandemic prevention. To achieve this, the BMUV initiated a multi-partner trust fund 'Nature for Health' involving various partner organisations with an initial capital of 50 million euros from IKI funding. The new initiatives goal is to facilitate better policies and cross-sectoral cooperation based on an One Health approach. It aims to support the prevention of zoonosis and future pandemics with a wide range of measures including environmental protection at the local level, policy advice at the regional and national levels and support the implementation of an international action plan at the global level. In the preparation phase, interested countries and regions could apply for support through the initiative. The operational phase of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund started at the end of 2022.

#### Nature for Health Multi-Partner Trust Fund

IKI funding: € 50,000,000.00, Time frame: 12/2021 to 12/2030  
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#### Further pandemic prevention projects in preparation phase

With the thematic priority 'Pandemic preparedness: natural protective barriers between humans and animals by expanding, linking and improving protected areas' in the thematic call 2020, the IKI will also strengthen the synergies between the conservation of biological diversity and pandemic prevention in the coming years. Two selected projects are currently in the preparation phases, which will be completed in 2023. After the preparation phase, a decision is made on further funding by the IKI. One project aims to improve and expand protected and conserved areas in Central Asia. It will focus on three core components: area-based conservation, species management and human and environmental

health through good governance in the partner countries. The planned project activities include disease monitoring, communications and knowledge sharing and environmental and health policy. The project will involve local partners, governmental and non-governmental organisations, specialist groups and local communities in the project work



The interdisciplinary 'One Health' approach takes into account the complex interrelationships between ecosystems, animals and humans and plays an important role in the prevention of future pandemics.

– including marginalised groups and those particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and disease outbreaks.

#### Enhancing landscape resilience to zoonotic disease emergence by consolidating nature conservation systems in Central Asia

Planned IKI funding: € 10,850,589.00  
Time frame preparation phase: 07/2023 to 03/2023  
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The second project aims to protect the Congo Basin rainforests based on the "One Health" approach. It will improve the management of existing protected areas and introduce new community-led conservation measures. Another goal is to foster forest-based effective economic modalities. To minimise the risk of zoonotic outbreaks, the project also plans to establish an early warning system.

#### IN.FOR.BIO - INtact and effectively managed FORests and BIOdiversity as natural barriers

Planned IKI funding: € 11,487,203.00  
Time frame preparation phase: 09/2022 to 05/2023  
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