

## Planetary Health

## Issue Brief

More guidelines, online courses, posters, and videos can be found in our Planetary Health TOOLBOX [www.planetaryhealthbox.org](http://www.planetaryhealthbox.org)

## Planetary Health Basics

Planetary Health is an interdisciplinary academic collective of many scientific disciplines. In addition to the fields of environmental and social sciences, that of human health is one of many.

Because of the many disciplines involved in this topic and the large number of resources available, we would like to share with you in this Issue Brief the most important documents related to Planetary Health. All of these documents and many more can be found in the [Planetary Health Toolbox](#).

### Climate Change

Climate change is a central factor when we talk about planetary health. Next you will find some key documents on climate change.

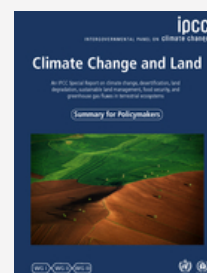
#### IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land *The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2019)*

An IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems. As more frequent droughts and floods threaten the global food supply, humans are increasing their demands on water and land, The New York Times reports. Data from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report: • 500 million people are living in areas that are becoming desert. • Soil is depleted at 10X-100X the rate it's being formed. • More than 10% of the global population is undernourished. Major threats include the risk of "multi-breadbasket failure"—simultaneous food crises on several continents—and migration triggered by food shortages. Good News/Bad News: Catastrophe can be avoided, but it would require massive changes to agriculture, food systems and behavior. A Key Action: Eat less meat. Cattle production is driving deforestation, consuming huge amounts of water, generating methane and causing other impacts, notes Nature.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/ipcc-special-report-on-climate-change-and-land>

#### Climate–Poverty Connections: Opportunities for synergistic solutions at the intersection of planetary and human well-being. Fact Sheet *Project Drawdown (2022)*

Project Drawdown (2022) provides evidence of how climate solutions can also be



win-win opportunities for meeting development and human well-being needs while boosting prosperity for rural communities in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The report summarizes the co-benefits of five groups of a subset of Project Drawdown climate solutions (28 total solutions) for advancing human well-being in rural areas of low- and middle-income countries

<https://www.medbox.org/document/climatepoverty-connections-opportunities-for-synergistic-solutions-at-the-intersection-of-planetary-and-human-well-being-factor-sheet>



**World Disasters Report 2020: Come Heat or High Water - Tackling the Humanitarian Impacts of the Climate Crisis Together. Executive Summary**  
*International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies IFRC (2020)*

The failure to protect the people most vulnerable to climate change is especially alarming given the steady increase in the number of climate and weather-related disasters. According to the World Disasters Report, the average number of climate and weather-related disasters per decade has increased nearly 35 per cent since the 1990s. Over the past decade, 83 per cent of all disasters were caused by extreme weather and climate-related events such as floods, storms, and heatwaves. Together, these disasters killed more than 410,000 people and affected a staggering 1.7 billion people.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/world-disasters-report-2020-come-heat-or-high-water-tackling-the-humanitarian-impacts-of-the-climate-crisis-together-executive-summary>



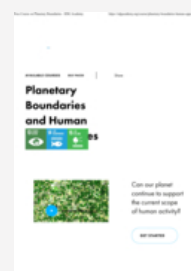
## Planetary Boundaries

The planetary boundaries describe the ecological limits, which, if exceeded, endanger the ecosystem of the Earth.

**Planetary Boundaries and Human Opportunities**  
*SDG Academy (2022)*

Can our planet continue to support the current scope of human activity?

<https://www.medbox.org/document/planetary-boundaries-and-human-opportunities>  
<https://sdgacademy.org/course/planetary-boundaries-human-opportunities/>



**The nine planetary boundaries**  
*Stockholm Resilience Centre (2022)*

<https://www.medbox.org/document/the-nine-planetary-boundaries>  
<https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries/the-nine-planetary-boundaries.html>



## One Health

The One Health approach describes the importance of health in relation to the coexistence of the environment, animals and humans.

**One health joint plan of action (2022) working together for the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment**  
*World Health Organization WHO (2022)*

The Quadripartite Organizations – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE), and the World Health Organization (WHO) – collaborate to drive the change and transformation required to mitigate the impact of current and future health challenges at the human–animal– plant–environment interface at global, regional and country level.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/one-health-joint-plan-of-action-2022-working-together-for-the-health-of-humans-animals-plants-and-the-environment>



### One Health Basics

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC (2022)*

One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach – working at the local, regional, national, and global levels – with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/one-health-basics>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/basics/index.html>



### Joint Tripartite (FAO, OIE, WHO) and UNEP Statement Tripartite and UNEP support OHHLEP's definition of "One Health"

*Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations FAO; World Health Organization (WHO), et al. (2022)*

The One Health definition developed by the OHHLEP

<https://www.medbox.org/document/joint-tripartite-fao-oie-who-and-unep-statement-tripartite-and-unep-support-ohhleps-definition-of-one-health>



## Health & Social Consequences

Planetary health has a great impact on human health and our social environment.

### Healthy planet, healthy people. Understanding the relationship between human health and natural systems

*World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) (2022)*

Human activities are driving fundamental changes to the biosphere and disrupting many of our planet's natural systems. There is increasing scientific evidence that the unfolding climate crisis, global pollution, unprecedented levels of biodiversity loss, and pervasive changes in land use and cover threaten nearly every dimension of human health and wellbeing

<https://www.medbox.org/document/healthy-planet-healthy-people-understanding->

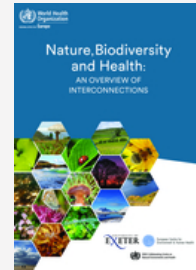


## [the-relationship-between-human-health-and-natural-systems](#)

### **Nature, biodiversity and health: an overview of interconnections** *World Health Organization. Regional Office for Europe (2021)*

Urbanization, land use, global trade and industrialization have led to profound and negative impacts on nature, biodiversity and ecosystems across the world. The ongoing depletion of natural resources not only affects environmental conditions but also has an enormous impact on the well-being and security of societies. This report provides an overview of the impacts of the natural environment on human health. It presents the ways nature and ecosystems can support and protect health and well-being, and describes how nature degradation and loss of biodiversity can threaten human health.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/nature-biodiversity-and-health-an-overview-of-interconnections>



### **The World Climate and Security Report 2021**

*Brock, S.; Barrett, O.L.; Birkman, L.; et al. (2021); International Military Council on Climate and Security*

The World Climate and Security Report (WCSR) 2021 from the Expert Group of the International Military Council on Climate and Security is a global assessment of the security dimensions of a changing climate and effective means to address them. It is intended to inform timely climate and security policy and action, and builds upon the analysis in the first WCSR, released in February 2020.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/the-world-climate-and-security-report-2021>



### **Mental health and climate change: policy brief**

*World Health Organization WHO (2022)*

We need to be concerned about mental health in the context of climate change

<https://www.medbox.org/document/mental-health-and-climate-change-policy-brief>



### **GRID 2021 Internal displacement in a changing climate**

*Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (2021)*

New displacements by conflict and disasters in 2020

<https://www.medbox.org/document/grid-2021-internal-displacement-in-a-changing-climate>

