## Urban green spaces and health

## Launching a brief for action

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## Content

- The WHO work on environment and health priorities in Europe
- Biodiversity and health go together
- Launching a WHO action brief on urban green spaces









Европейское ранктетиче боро

## THE WHO WORK ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH – PRIORITIES IN EUROPE









Европеяское регистельное бюро

## Health 2020: addressing European challenges



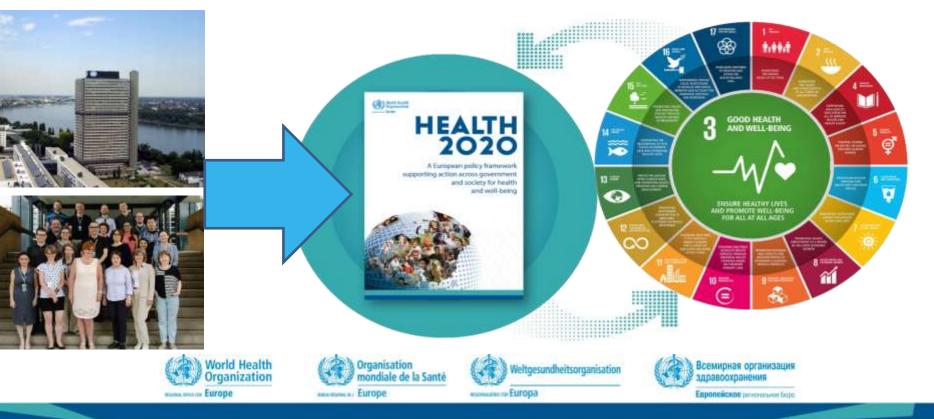






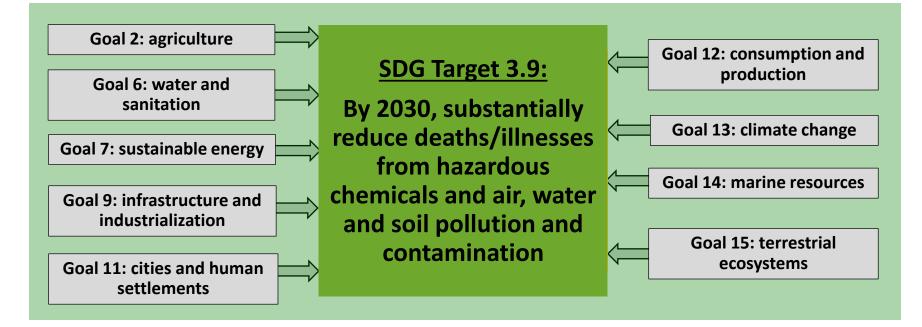


## WHO European Centre for Environment and Health: Implementing Health2020 and the SDGs





## SDG target 3.9 on health improvement by environmental measures

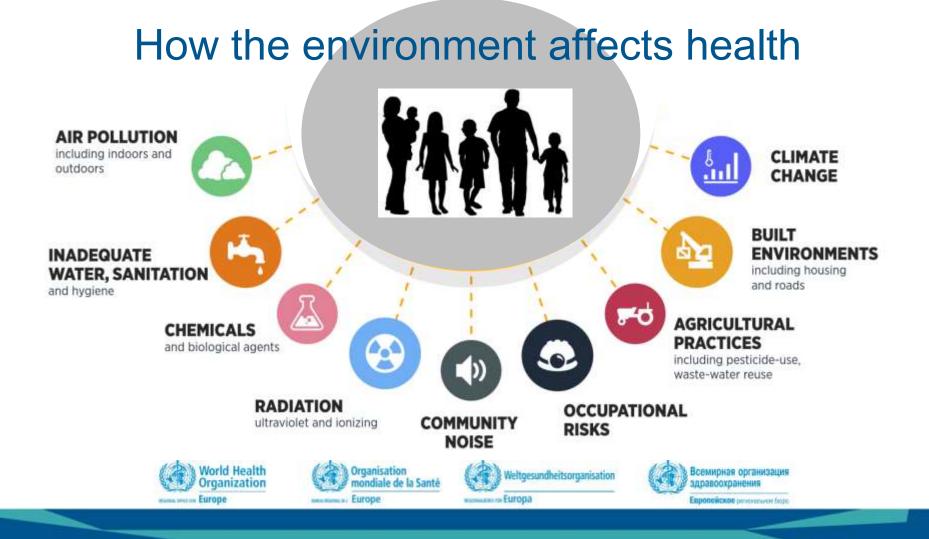




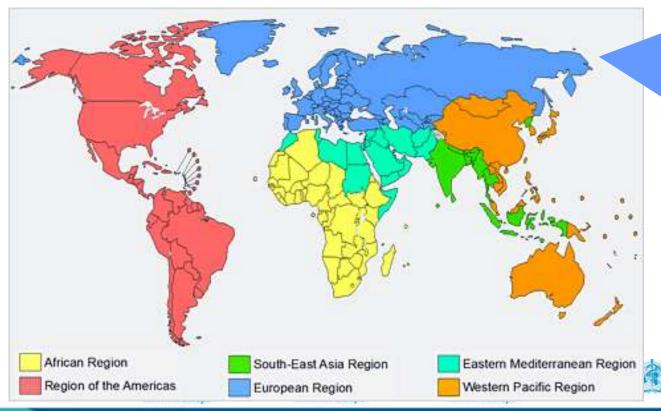








## The health burden of inadequate environments

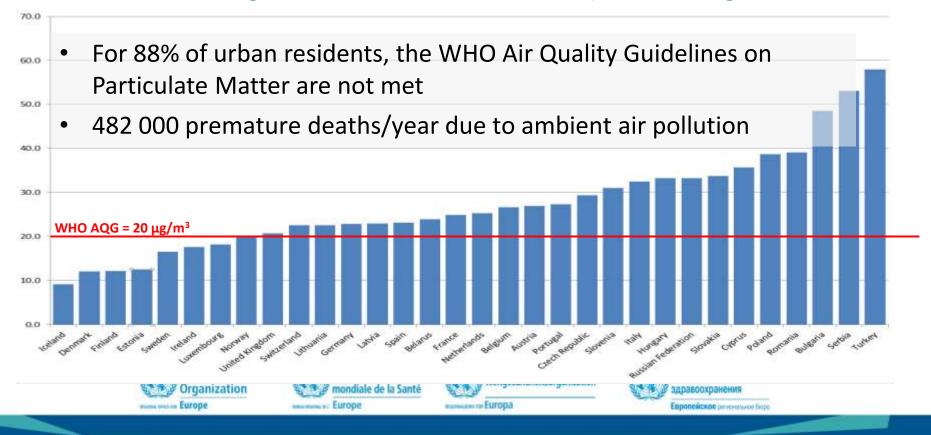


WHO European region: at least 1.4 million deaths per year are related to environmental conditions.

#### => 15% OF ALL DEATHS

Всемирная организация здравоохранения Европейскае опротитися force

## Air quality: the number one environmental health challenge in the WHO European region



## Other environmental challenges in the WHO European region



Inadequate housing causes more than 100,000 deaths/year

> Active mobility could prevent many of the 1,000,000 deaths/year attributable to inadequate physical activity



Inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene cause an estimated 14 diarrhoeal deaths per day in low and middle income countries













## WHO tools and support

Tools:

### Evidence:



- WHO Guidelines and technical reports on environment conditions
  - Transport
  - Housing
  - Air pollution
  - Noise
  - Climate change
  - Water/sanitation
  - Green spaces
- Health Impact Assessments
- Economic assessments

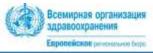








- AirQ+ on health impacts of air pollution
- Health Economic Assessment Tools for cycling and walking
- Heat-Health Action Plans
- Climate change and health adaptation cost tool
- Air Quality in Cities database
- Environmental Burden of Disease quantification methods
- Environmental health indicators



## BIODIVERSITY AND HEALTH GO TOGETHER







Всемиркая организация здравоохранения

Европейское ранкочению боро

## Biodiversity and health – an old topic with new relevance

On Airs, Waters and Places Hippocrates



Published by the Library of Alexandria



Europe

Ecosystem effects of biodiversity loss could rival impacts of climate change **Science**Daily Date: May 2, 2012

**Tropical Mosquitoes Gain Foothold in** Northern Europe Date: May 9, 2016



Scientists warn of 'unsafe' decline in biodiversity Date: July 15, 2016

BBC

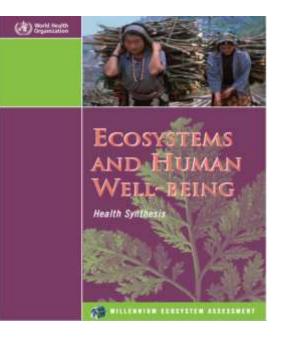
Climate change: global reshuffle of wildlife will have huge impacts on humanity theguardian Date: March 30, 2017







# Importance of biodiversity and ecosystems to human health



"Nature's goods and services are the ultimate foundations of life and health, even though in modern societies this fundamental dependency may be (...) poorly recognized.

We now need to look at environmental health through a broader lens (...) "

(Lee Jong Wook, former DG of WHO)

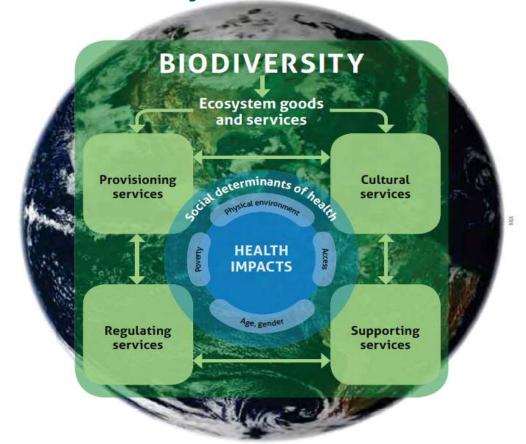








# Linkages and co-dependencies at the intersection of biodiversity and human health





## Ecosystem service changes – affecting us all

Ecosystem services are indispensable to the wellbeing of people everywhere.



Even wealthy populations cannot be fully protected from the impacts of degradation of ecosystem services.



Organisation mondiale de la Santé





## Climate change and high level of diversity



#### Arctic / Subarctic and Polar:

- projected increases in temperatures and heavy precipitation;
- permafrost reduction, retreat of glaciers, increase of lakes;
- risk of injury and illness due to these extreme changes;
- food insecurity;
- impacts on livelihoods of indigenous people.

low mortality in both children and adults (Eur-B) low child mortality and high adult mortality (Eur-C) outside WHO European Region

very low mortality in both children and adults (Eur-A)

#### Central Asia:

- projected increase in hot days;
- increased mean temperature;
- spatially varying trends for precipitation and dryness;
- increases in food production in north eastern Kazakhstan;
- reductions in food production in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan;
- adequate water supply is major challenge and
- could be exacerbated by temperature increases.

#### Northern and Western Europe:

- observed and projected hot days increase;
- observed and projected increase in precipitation;
- projected increase in dryness and short term droughts;
- shift from cold to heat related mortality in England and Wales:
- river and coastal flooding;
- extension of seasonal activity of pests and plant diseases:
- northern expansion of tick disease vectors from south.

Central and Eastern Europe:

- hot day increases projected for east central but not currently observed;
- projected increase in winter precipitation and decrease in summer precipitation;
- projected increase in dryness and short term droughts;
- increase in forest fires and air pollution;
- northern expansion of tick disease vectors from south.

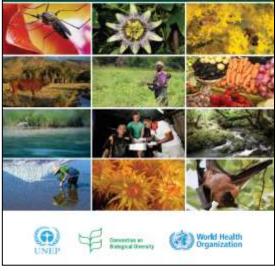
Southern Europe and Mediterranean:

- most sensitive to hot weather and highest heat wave exposure;
- increased heat wave mortality and morbidity;
- increase food born disease;
- increase in dryness and desertification;
- reductions in food production;
- increase in forest fires;
- changes in distribution of water borne and vector borne diseases.

## State of Knowledge Review on Biodiversity and Health

#### Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health

A State of Knowledge Review





Biodiversity and health connections covered include:

- Water
- Air quality
- Food security / nutrition
- Green spaces
- Infectious diseases
- Noncommunicable diseases
- Biomedicine and pharmaceuticals
- Traditional medicine
- Climate change
- Resilience and disaster risk reduction







## LAUNCHING A WHO ACTION BRIEF ON URBAN GREEN SPACES









Европеяское репутуемыное бюро

# Political frameworks for our work on green space and health

- WHO Parma Declaration commitments:
  By 2020: "to provide each child with access [...] to green spaces in which to play and undertake physical activity"
- SDG agenda "Leaving no-one behind" SDG 11.7:
  "provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities"
- New Urban Agenda adopted at Habitat III, Quito, 2016:
  "We envisage cities and human settlements that [...] prioritize safe, inclusive, accessible, green and quality public spaces"













## Compiling evidence for action





### Urban green spaces and health

A review of evidence



A review of impacts and effectiveness





Green space benefits: health, equity and beyond

Green spaces benefit cities and urban quality of life because they can:

deliver positive environmental, social and health outcomes upgrade the social and environmental quality of disadvantaged and deprived areas

make cities more liveable and enjoyable

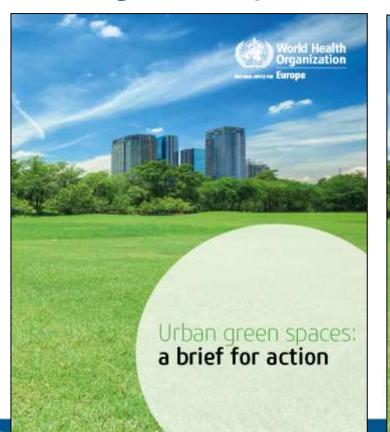








### Urban green spaces: a WHO brief for action





## Key messages

Urban green spaces provide multiple benefits and constitute a necessary feature of healthy settlements.

> The benefits of urban green spaces can be maximized through adequate planning, design and evaluation.



World Health Organization



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Local authorities are responsible for protecting and maintaining existing urban green spaces.