



*Inventory of the endangered amphibian species *Lissotriton vulgaris* on the grounds of Sunnaas Rehabilitation Hospital, Norway*



Landscaping for biodiversity and views of nature at Basel Rehab, Switzerland. Photo credit: The Ohio State University Knowlton School

Call to Action for a Nature-positive Health Sector

Aligning the health sector with the biodiversity goals in The Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework

Two years have passed since the 15th Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15) was held in Montréal, Canada. There, world leaders agreed on a set of goals and targets to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 - the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The agreement set forth common targets for signatory nations to align human actions with sustainable stewardship of nature and biodiversity. For the health sector two of the GBF targets are particularly relevant:

- Target 12 calling for a reversal of nature loss in populated areas, an increase in connectivity of and access to green and blue spaces, enhancement of native biodiversity and harnessing the benefits of these actions to improve human health and well-being and connection to nature.
- Target 15 calling for business enterprises to take administrative and policy measures to monitor and report on their impacts on nature and biodiversity, including the impacts of their supply chains, and to reduce those impacts.

The World Health Organization's report, [Nature, Biodiversity and Health, an Overview of Interconnections](#), clearly lays out the negative impacts of nature and biodiversity loss on human health and well-being. These negative impacts include failure of food systems, water scarcity, expansion of vector-borne diseases and invasive species, increasing frequency of extreme events, conflict and displacement of people, and loss of health-promoting opportunities.

Health systems in GBF signatory countries thus have both an obligation and a strong motivation to lead the way toward nature positive development. The Norwegian Physicians' Campaign Against Climate Change, in solidarity with our sister organizations from Ireland, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland, call on Healthcare Without Harm and the World Health Organization, together with health ministers of GBF signatory countries to launch and conduct a Program for a Nature-positive Health Sector.

At the COP26 in Glasgow these actors demonstrated their ability to act responsibly in response to the climate crisis by initiating the COP26 Health Program (COP26HP), calling on national health systems to measure their GHG emissions, commit to climate neutrality, define pathways to achieve the goal, and to work for climate resilience within their health systems.

We call on these same actors to replicate the COP26HP collaboration and structured approach in a similar response to the nature crisis. Key elements of the Program should be:

1. Baseline assessment of how the health system impacts nature loss and biodiversity, especially estate management and supply chains, using standardized methodologies (TNFD, CSRD, ESRS etc.)
2. Assessment of how a nature positive health sector development can impact health and healthcare delivery.
3. National action plan or roadmap to develop a nature positive health system, including estate management and supply chains, and harness the benefits a nature-positive health system can offer to improve human health and well-being and connection to nature
4. Commit to ongoing monitoring and reporting on contribution to nature positive development and fostering a healthy local and global biodiversity
5. Set a target date for when the health system will be nature positive
6. Commit to using the baseline assessment and national action plan to facilitate access to funding for pilots and interventions supporting nature positive development of the health system

We are presently working to lay the foundation for a COP17 health program for a nature-positive health sector. The Norwegian Physicians for Planetary Health, together with our sister organizations, is prepared to assist in a collaboration with Healthcare Without Harm, WHO and other global health organizations.

We look forward to a collaborative effort for a nature-positive health sector that improves people's health, quality of life, and connection to nature.

Are you interested in supporting this call to action? We welcome your statement of support given via [this form](#) or by following the QR code.

