# BIODIVERSITY and HEALTH

## A One Health approach for a resilient Armenia

World Health Organization
Armenia

**Protecting biodiversity is a public health intervention: healthy ecosystems help prevent disease, secure food and water, reduce antimicrobial resistance (AMR) risks, support mental well-being, and strengthen resilience. The health of people, animals, plants, and their shared environment are fundamentally linked.**

**~1M** Animal and plants species threatened globally

**>60%** emerging infections are zoonotic in origin

**>75%** global food crops depend on pollinators

**~2/3** Agricultural land affected by degradation in Armenia

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK LINKING BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN HEALTH

### WHY IT MATTERS

1 **Disease prevention**
Biodiversity loss and habitat disruption increase zoonotic and vector-borne diseases.

2 **Food & nutrition**
Pollination, soil health and genetic diversity sustain resilient, nutritious food systems.

3 **Water & pollution**
Degraded ecosystems increase contamination and water-related disease risks.

4 **AMR prevention**
Pollution and ecosystem disruption can facilitate resistant organisms and antimicrobial residues.

5 **Mental well-being**
Biodiverse environments support recreation, restoration and psychological health.

### ONE HEALTH IN PRACTICE

**connects human, animal, plant and ecosystem health through coordinated prevention, surveillance and action.**

**PREVENT** Zoonotic & vector-borne diseases
**DETECT** Integrated surveillance & early warning
**PROTECT** Food safety, biosecurity & water quality
**ADAPT** Climate resilience & environmental monitoring
**COORDINATE** Health, environment, agriculture

**RESULT: More resilient health systems, stronger pandemic preparedness and healthier ecosystems.**

### HOW ITS RELATES TO ARMENIA

- **Biodiversity hotspot**
Armenia lies in the Caucasus biodiversity hotspot, with rich but threatened ecosystems.

- **Growing pressures**
Land degradation, rising temperatures, drought, wildfire risk, pollution and habitat fragmentation threaten health and livelihoods.

- **Cross-sector risks**
Water quality, livestock disease and AMR connect environment, agriculture and health.

- **COP17 opportunity**
As COP17 host in October 2026, Armenia can highlight and reiterate the biodiversity-health nexus and facilitate One Health implementation.

**1 Governance**
Strengthen cross-sector coordination and accountability.

**2 Surveillance**
Expand integrated zoonotic, environmental and AMR surveillance.

**3 Policy integration**
Embed health in biodiversity, land, water and climate policy — and biodiversity in health and nutrition.

**4 Research**
Invest in multidisciplinary evidence, innovation and digital tools.

**5 Communities**
Build awareness, prevention and community-based conservation-health action.

**6 Partnerships & Financing**
Mobilize partnerships and sustainable financing; position Armenia as a regional One Health platform.

Source: Thematic Brief - Biodiversity and Health: A One Health Approach towards a Resilient Society (31 Aug 2026)