

CBD COP17: Animals for Biodiversity and Health

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Environment*

Why in News?

A new policy guide titled “Animals for Biodiversity and Health” was launched on October 21, 2026, at the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).



Parameter	Details
 Full form	17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
 Dates	October 19–30, 2026
 Venue	Yerevan, Armenia
 Convention	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 Main issue in news	Integrating animal welfare into biodiversity and health policies
 Related framework	Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health

- **Titled** - “Animals for Biodiversity and Health”.
- **Introduced at** - 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- **Objective** - To help governments translate recommendations under the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health into practical policies.
- It facilitates the implementation of the Global Action Plan (GAP) on Biodiversity and Health.
- It addresses interconnected challenges, including biodiversity loss, zoonotic diseases, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- **Key Recommendations**
- **Wildlife Protection**

- Prohibit or strictly regulate high-risk and inhumane wildlife capture, transport, and trade.
- Mitigate risks associated with the exotic pet trade.
- Enhance wildlife care, rehabilitation, and conservation.
- **Habitat Protection and Climate Resilience**
 - Increase urban tree cover.
 - Develop wildlife corridors to enhance habitat connectivity.
 - Safeguard ecosystems and promote biodiversity conservation.
- **Farm Animal Welfare**
 - Eliminate high-risk livestock confinement systems.
 - Preserve locally adapted and genetically diverse livestock breeds.
 - Advance food systems aligned with environmental sustainability.
- **Interconnections Among Animal Welfare, Biodiversity, and Human Health**
- The guide highlights the intrinsic relationship between animal welfare, ecosystem health, and public health.

Issue	Connection
Biodiversity loss	Habitat destruction and unsustainable wildlife exploitation threaten species and ecosystems.
Zoonotic diseases	Wildlife capture, trade and close contact between animals and humans can increase opportunities for pathogen spillover.
Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)	Inappropriate antimicrobial use and associated practices can contribute to the emergence and spread of resistant pathogens.
Climate change	Habitat degradation and ecosystem disruption can weaken ecological resilience.
Animal welfare	Better treatment, handling and management of animals can contribute to conservation and disease-prevention objectives.

- **Key insights**

- By 2050, an estimated 1.91 million deaths per year may be directly attributable to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) worldwide.
- Approximately 8.22 million deaths each year may be associated with antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- The transcontinental spread of H5N1 avian influenza underscores the necessity of monitoring animal diseases and assessing their potential impacts on public health.

*The **One Health Approach** is an integrated framework that recognises the interconnections among human health, animal health, and ecosystem health.*

This approach promotes coordination among human medicine, veterinary science, environmental protection, and public health.

- **Countries mentioned in the guide**

Country/place	Initiative
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Colombia — Medellín	Developed 30 green corridors along roads and streams; the initiative was associated with lower urban temperatures and the return of wildlife.
Belgium	Introduced a positive list for mammals in 2009, specifying species legally permitted to be kept as pets.
Brazil	Wildlife screening and rehabilitation centres operated by IBAMA received more than 54,000 wild animals in 2023 for veterinary care and possible release.
Bangladesh and Cameroon	One Health frameworks recognise animal welfare.
Germany	National dietary guidelines incorporate health, environmental, social and animal welfare considerations.

Reference

[Down to Earth | Animals for Biodiversity and Health](#)

