

BIODIVERSITY AND HEALTH

Multidisciplinary Workshop

BRUSSELS, Friday 6 December 2019

First Announcement and Call for Contributions



VENUE

Palais des Académies – Paleis der Academiën
rue Ducale 1 – Hertogsstraat 1
1000 Brussels



Royal Academy for
Overseas Sciences 

AIMS OF THE WORKSHOP

The importance of living organisms and of biodiversity as a whole, for human well-being is increasingly recognized, whether as a source of tangible and/or immaterial ecosystem services or disservices.

Among these services, biodiversity has been and is an important source of nutrition and substances with medical or medicinal properties. Today, sustainable use of these resources is an important challenge, in particular in biodiversity hotspots submitted to major environmental pressure, through land use and climate changes, many of which lie in tropical regions. In addition, major social changes across the world are putting at threat the local and traditional knowledge that would be crucial in protecting and harnessing biodiversity to foster a sustainable development.

By contrast, emerging and re-emerging pathogens represent a growing concern for human, livestock, and wildlife health, most of which are zoonotic, while infectious diseases are still the most important cause of human mortality in low-income countries. Global environmental change is triggering rapid shifts in the distribution range of pathogens and pathogen vectors. While it is generally assumed that pathogens emerge and vectors abound in ecosystems that are off balance and where biodiversity is not intact, empirical evidence of the mechanisms involved, in the broader context of environmental and societal change, is lacking.

The One Health and EcoHealth concepts have gained increasing attention in the last two decades, acknowledging that human, animal and environmental health are inseparably linked. These approaches both aim at fostering an integrated, systemic and unified approach of human and animal health, and the environment.

In this context, the Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences (Belgium) organizes a one-day workshop on the theme “Biodiversity and health” on 6th December 2019. The workshop aims at fostering interdisciplinary exchanges between scientists from all disciplines with an interest in the topics covered here: biologists, health professionals (epidemiologists, physicians, veterinarians, and pharmacists), agronomists, (agro)foresters, geographers, social scientists, environmental scientists...

The day is divided in three sessions. Session 1 is devoted to emerging infectious diseases and vector-borne diseases. Session 2 focuses on the natural resources of plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms. Session 3 is devoted to the practical implementation of the One Health and EcoHealth concepts.

The workshop **warmly encourages communications from young researchers**, in the form of oral presentations or posters.

TIMING

Abstract submission

Abstracts (max. 250 words - 12 point font) + short biographical note should **preferably** be submitted **in English**. They can however also be submitted in French or Dutch. Please use the template available on the website of the Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences (link below):

http://www.kaowarsom.be/en/submission_abstracts_jongevorsers_jeuneschercheurs

Deadlines

Submission of abstracts: 5 September 2019

Notification: 30 October 2019

Registration: before 25 November 2019

Award for the Best Poster

During the workshop, the posters will be evaluated in terms of scientific content, structure and formatting, text and visuals, oral delivery and response to questions.

Secretariat of the Workshop

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