

Nature4Health
MPTF OFFICE ANNUAL FUND NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2023

Fund Title & Project Number	Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results¹												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund Title: Nature4Health (Nature4Health) Fund Number BPH00 	<p>Global</p> <p>One Health – Environment – primary prevention</p>												
Participating Organization(s)	Implementing Partners												
<p><u>Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this² Fund</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco Health Alliance International Union for Conservation of Nature United Nations Environment Programme United Nations Development Programme World Organisation for Animal Health 													
Fund Cost (US\$)³	Fund Duration												
<p><u>Donors' Contributions⁴:</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Germany BMUV</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 56,465,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transfers to PUNOs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 2,974,614</td> </tr> </table>	Germany BMUV	\$ 56,465,000	Transfers to PUNOs	\$ 2,974,614	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Overall Duration</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9 years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Start Date⁵</td> <td style="text-align: right;">18 November 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Original End Date⁶</td> <td style="text-align: right;">31 December 2030</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current End date⁷</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Overall Duration	9 years	Start Date ⁵	18 November 2021	Original End Date ⁶	31 December 2030	Current End date ⁷	
Germany BMUV	\$ 56,465,000												
Transfers to PUNOs	\$ 2,974,614												
Overall Duration	9 years												
Start Date ⁵	18 November 2021												
Original End Date ⁶	31 December 2030												
Current End date ⁷													

¹ Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

² The Secretariat for Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and the World Health Organization are Participating UN Organizations under Nature4Health, but did not receive any funding in 2023.

³ Official financial information is in the Financial Report prepared by the MPTF-Office

⁴ The MPTF Contribution refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁵ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁷ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a Fund completes its operational activities.

Fund Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.

Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*

Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Mid-Term Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach*

Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Report Submitted By

- Name: Anjana Varma
- Title: Programme Management Officer
- Participating Organization (Lead): UNEP
- Email address: anjana.varma@un.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nature4Health is a global initiative working to reduce the risk of future pandemics and other health threats by strengthening the environmental and preventative aspects of One Health. Conceptualized in 2021, the initiative went through an inception phase from early 2022 and to mid 2023, with a focus on defining the Nature4Health scope, risks and feasibility issues and carry out preparatory work including a global work plan, recruitment of key staff and a launch. The year 2023 marked by a transition between the inception phase and implementation phase, as the former came to a close. Key documents, including the updated terms of reference for the Nature4Health fund and its operations manual were finalized and endorsed by the Steering Committee. The scoping stage of Phase I was initiated and partner organizations developed and submitted their scoping project documents to initiate their scoping work for a period of 3-6 months. To assist partners in implementing their scoping stages, the Nature4Health Secretariat oversaw the development a guide to systemic practice. During 2023, all NUNO partners (EcoHealth Alliance and IUCN) signed the Nature4Health Framework agreement and Financing agreement respectively. Five out of six Nature4Health partners submitted their Scoping Project Documents, received the funds and kicked off their scoping projects (EcoHealth Alliance in Ghana, WOA in Mongolia, IUCN in Vietnam, UNEP in Zambia and UNDP in Ecuador) between November 2023 and January 2024.

I. Purpose

Nature for Health is a global initiative which has been set up as a Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) to reduce the risk future pandemics by focusing on deep prevention upstream, by working to prevent spillover events and by strengthening the environmental aspects of One Health.

Through an initial contribution of EUR 50 million from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), Nature4Health assists countries to develop integrated and coordinated preventative policies and actions; generate knowledge and evidence on the links between biodiversity, climate and health; build capacity for deep prevention and support the strengthening or development of lasting One Health governance structures that fully integrate the environment sector. Nature4Health will work in eighteen low-and middle-income geographical jurisdictions over an 8-year period. Based on context and need, Nature4Health will facilitate implementation teams in each country including policy decision-makers, technical experts, local communities and other relevant stakeholders to deliver long term systemic change.

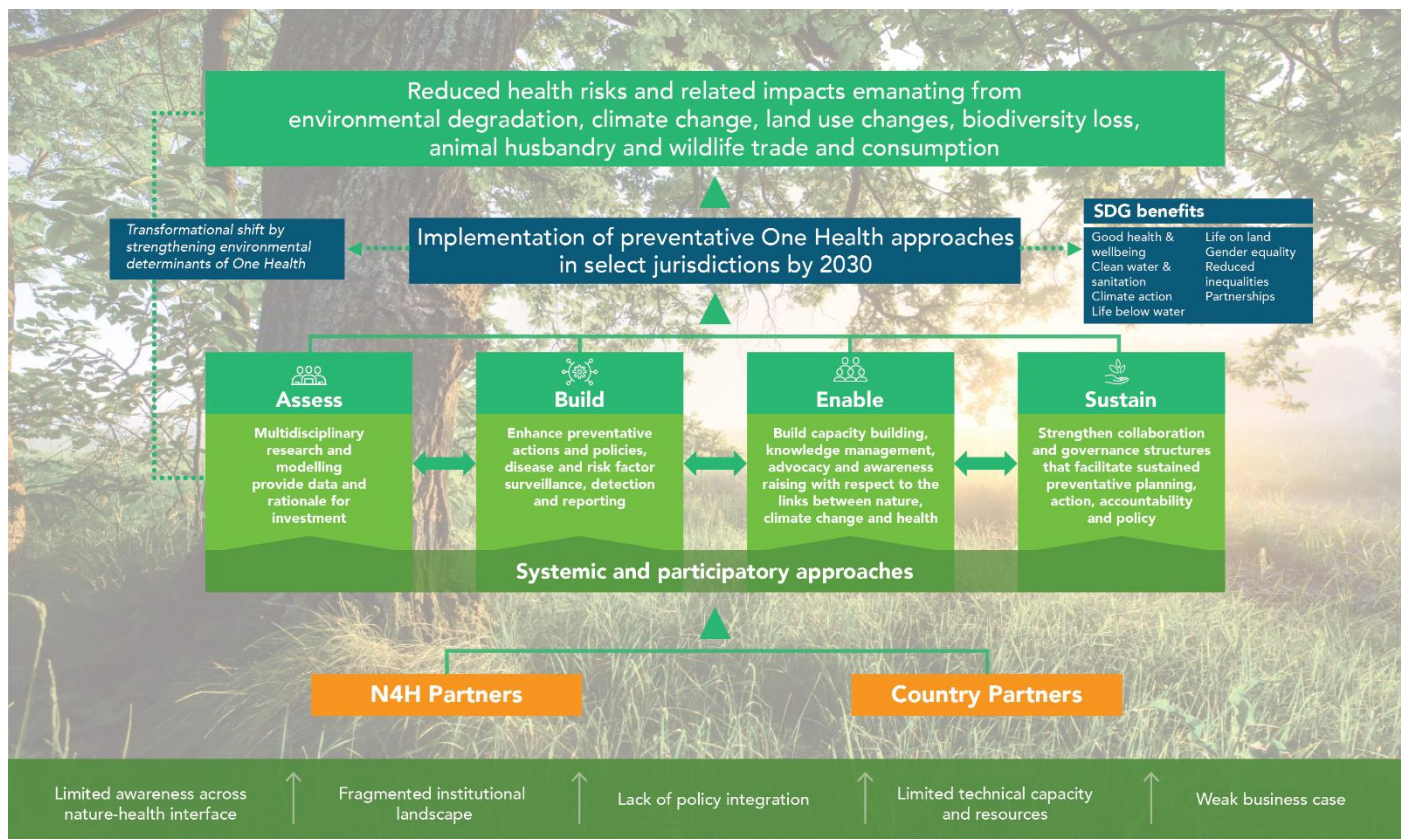
Nature4Health brings together leading UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations in the field of environment and health in a partnership which includes eight initial Partners who leverage extensive multisectoral and diverse One Health practical experience. Hosted by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) with a Secretariat based at UNEP in Nairobi, Kenya, the Nature4Health governance structure includes a Steering Committee, with representation from each Partner organization, responsible for strategic guidance, and an independent Technical Advisory Group (TAG) providing additional technical expertise.

II. Results

In the table below, the main outcome for Nature4Health is reflected, along with the outputs that culminate in the outcome. In 2023, the programme had not fully started implementation however, there were a number of key achievements that have fed into the overall outcome. In the course of 2023, the programme/initiative became operational at all levels, with intervention strategies further elaborated through the preparatory work for the scoping phase.

Outcome for Programme
<i>Implementation of preventative One Health approaches in select jurisdictions in 2030</i>
Output 1: Assess: multidisciplinary research and modelling provide data and rationale for investment
Output 2: Build: enhance preventative actions and policies, disease and risk factor surveillance, detection and reporting
Output 3: Enable: build capacity, knowledge management, advocacy and awareness raising with respect to the links between nature, climate change and health
Output 4: Sustain: strengthen collaboration and governance structures that facilitate sustained preventative planning, action, accountability and policy

Theory of Change for Nature4Health



Output 1: Assess: multidisciplinary research and modelling provide data and rationale for investment

Release of the Scoping Guide for multi-disciplinary guidance, knowledge and understanding in Nature4Health

One Health requires multi sectoral and whole of society solutions which are complex to design and difficult to implement, especially as Nature4Health is set up with multiple organizations and individuals with different priorities, interests and constraints, as well as varying competencies, experiences and cultures. Thus, a key activity in 2023 that facilitated and strengthened the multidisciplinary foundation of Nature4Health was the development and launch of the [Scoping Guide](#). The purpose of this guide was to enable core teams within the programme to successfully conduct a three to six month scoping phase to reduce pandemic risk within the four outcome areas, according to the systems principles. This was done by (1) articulating the rationale and arguments for employing a One Health approach (principles); (2) co-developing a framework describing the process and signposts to relevant supporting materials and tools; and exposing the core team to the developed materials and helping them to utilize it. The development of the comprehensive document took place between March 2023 and July 2023, following which the Secretariat organized ‘summer school’ [sessions](#) to sensitize the core teams of the content of the guidance document in July 2023 and August 2023.

Output 2: Build: enhance preventative actions and policies, disease and risk factor surveillance, detection and reporting

In its decision 15/29, on biodiversity and health, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Quadripartite alliance on One Health to: (a) complete the work pursuant to paragraphs 13 (b) and (c) of decision 14/4 on the development of targeted messages and a draft global action plan to mainstream biodiversity and health linkages into national policies, strategies, programmes and accounts, drawing on the deliberations of the Subsidiary Body at the resumed session of its twenty-fourth meeting; (b) invite Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders to review the updated version of the draft plan; and (c) make the outcomes of that work available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body, with a view to making recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

In December 2023, UNEP worked closely with the CBD Secretariat to ensure that One Health stakeholders, including through Nature4Health, were able to effectively contribute to the peer review process under the CBD Secretariat. Amongst other awareness raising duties, the Nature4Health Secretariat invited partner organisations, which include non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations, to contribute for the drafting of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health which was initiated in December 2023 and will end in February 2024. It is important to highlight that the recognition of interlinkages between biodiversity and health, in particular through the Global Action Plan (which is to be endorsed at CBD COP 16), was an important basis and provided the impetus for the mobilization of IKI funds for Nature4Health.

Output 3: Enable: build(ing) capacity, knowledge management, advocacy and awareness raising with respect to the links between nature, climate change and health

Launch of the Scoping Phase

Between November and December 2023, four of the six participating organizations submitted scoping project documents and the Nature4Health Secretariat submitted the fund transfer request (FTR) on their behalf to the MPTFO. The table below provides a quick overview:

Country, Participating Organizations	Start date *	Proposed end date *	FTR date
Ghana, EHA	2023-11-29	2024-05-28	2023-11-29
Zambia, UNEP	2023-11-01	2024-04-30	2023-12-01
Mongolia, WOAHA	2023-12-01	2024-04-30	2023-12-11
Vietnam, IUCN	2024-01-08	2024-06-07	2023-12-11
Ecuador, UNDP	2024-01-01	2024-06-30	2024-01-15
Rwanda, WHO	TBC	TBC	TBC

**start and end dates are based on either their approved SPD ProDocs or the date when funds were transferred.*

This release of funds through the multi-partner trust fund office (MPTFO) enabled the kick-off of the scoping phase. As a result, the following progress was made in relation to the scoping phase in 2023, which will continue into 2024:

Ghana/EHA: In preparation for the release of funds, EHA in 2023 conducted planning and preparations for the scoping activities. This included planning meetings with their local partner, University of Ghana (UG), and meetings with key stakeholders to plan out scoping activities once funds were released. This also enabled project sensitization meetings with Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation and WHO and UNDP country offices between late 2023 and early 2024. With the release of funds, the first scoping workshop is planned for in February 2024 in Kumasi with 30 participants including government representatives from wildlife and forestry, veterinary services, public health, disaster management, and environmental protection, and nongovernmental stakeholders including livestock and poultry farming associations and several community members who work across the bushmeat value chain. Two facilitators have been brought on to support the core team. EHA planned to use the funds for a total of four workshops in the first half of 2024.

Mongolia/WOAH: the Scoping ProDoc was approved in December, and a kick off workshop was held in Ulaanbaatar with 57 participants, representing animal health, environment, human health, and One Health sectors to introduce the scoping objectives and present systems thinking methodologies. Two more workshops will be held in January and February with 39 and 41 participants respectively, to have in-depth discussion and analyse the situation in Mongolia, to prioritize key activities and identify potential solutions for the main issue of concern.

Vietnam/IUCN: IUCN will organize for scoping workshops in early 2024, which would include key stakeholders including the Vietnam One Health Partnership, CITES Authority, Department of Animal Health, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Environment, UNDP, UNEP, GIZ, WWF, Save Vietnam's Wildlife, Vietnam One Health University Network, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, FAO, French agricultural research and international cooperation organization, and Center for Conservation and Development. TOR for a working group to support the scoping work was under development.

Zambia/UNEP: the Scoping ProDoc was approved in December 2023. UNEP hired two consultants to support the scoping work and will hold an inception meeting on 26 - 27 March 2024 in Lusaka – Zambia National One Health Institute has invited 50 stakeholders.

Ecuador/UNDP: UNDP Ecuador, PAHO Ecuador, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, and IUCN, jointly developed the scoping prodoc in late 2023, which will be approved in January 2024. The document outlines the scope of work to be undertaken in the country, with a primary focus on supporting the development and reinforcement of regulatory, institutional, and technical strategies to address existing gaps in the prevention, detection, response, and recovery of zoonotic disease risks in Ecuador. TOR for a multidisciplinary team is under development.

Rwanda/WHO: the Scoping ProDoc was under development with Minister of Health, Minister of Environment and national stakeholders in the second half of 2023.

Output 4: Sustain: strengthen collaboration and governance structures that facilitate sustained preventative planning, action, accountability and policy

Nature4Health Governance Structures Formalized and Operationalized

The Nature4Health governance structure has 5 key components, each of which has been a key development area through 2023 including the Steering Committee, Partners (through Focal Points and Working Groups), Technical Advisory Group (TAG), Secretariat and the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO). Evaluating the evolving One Health ecosystem and the key partners working in this area has also been a clear priority.

During 2023, the programme finalized a number of key documents that underpin the implementation of work. A major focus was on programme design including the review process for the terms of reference as well as the finalization of the technical, administrative and financial procedural information, which is summarized in the Operations Manual. In September 2023, the Operations Manual was further refined, clarified and aligned with the Terms of Reference. On 16 November 2023, the Steering Committee adopted the revised terms of reference, which provide an expanded focus on the programme for addressing health risks. During this period, initial discussions took place on the learning component of the Nature4Health programme, which is a key component of the TORs of the programme.

The governance structures of the programme were operationalized fully, with the Steering Committee meeting once each quarter; the partners meeting once every month; and the technical advisory group (TAG) being convened on a needs-basis, with their last meeting take place in September 2023. These regular meeting interactions have been crucial in ensuring ensure regular communication, coordination and knowledge sharing, and in the case of the Steering Committee, clear decisions and mandates for the way forward. These structures have been working well under rules and policies, in line with MPTFO.

Communication products

- Nature4Health Partners *video*: a video introducing the Nature4Health initiative from the perspective of its partners, in 3 parts (which were also made into 3 separate videos). Informative and showcasing the diversity of Nature4Health partners' motivations for joining and contributions to the initiative.

- *Case for Support*: a short document making the business case for donors to invest in Nature4Health, highlighting the value of healthy ecosystems and healthy biodiversity to healthy human lives and societies.
- Regular updating of the Nature4Health [website](#), including with the posting of the Scoping Guide document which provides a key technical resource.
- Use of the *Animation* – short stimulating explainer [animation](#) telling the story of zoonotic disease spillover and need for systems approach to change and introducing Nature4Health, introduced at COP15 developed by One Stop, Geneva and now available on Linked in.
- *Standard presentation* using powerpoint was continually used and updated to provide a clear narrative on Nature4Health and a visual explanation of the governance, background and theory of change to support Partners in stakeholder outreach.

III. Programmatic Revisions

- In line with the evolving nature of the programme which values participatory design and approach, the Steering Committee endorsed a revised terms of reference for Nature4Health programme in November 2023. The revised terms of reference replaced the original version: “Biodiversity for Health and Pandemic Prevention Multi”-Partner Trust Fund, Terms of Reference, 10 November 2021. The revised version incorporates the Fund’s name change from “Biodiversity and Health” to “Nature for Health”. It also reflects the inception work, which was undertaken during 2022 – 2023. Nature4Health also aims to go beyond its initial focus on pandemic prevention towards implementing actions that safeguard the health of humans, animals and ecosystems across other environmentally determined health risks. This might include non-communicable diseases, vector-borne, infectious and emerging diseases beyond zoonoses and sustainable food systems that ensure food safety and security.

V. Resources

Secretariat

Resource needs identified: during the reporting period, the Secretariat role was identified through a ToR and the Nairobi-based Secretariat was fully recruited with the final recruitee arriving on September 2023. The long-term recruitments include the P5 Senior Programme Management Officer (One Health Coordinator and Head of Nature4Health Secretariat; joined in June 2023), the P4 Programme Management Officer (joined in March 2023), two P3 Programme Management Officers (September 2023), and G7 Senior Programme Management Assistant (January 2023). In parallel, a junior professional officer and an international UN Volunteer joined the broader One Health team to support work on UNEP’s One Health interventions.

Resource Mobilisation (RM)

- *Strategy*: Resource Mobilisation strategy maps the RM landscape in the health, environment and pandemic prevention, Identifies Nature4Health’s Unique Selling Point (USP), especially vis-à-vis other important One Health initiatives such as The Pandemic Fund, as its focus on primary prevention and its systemic approach before setting the Nature4Health RM goals and rationale for this ambition:
- *Case for Support*: publication was utilized and disseminated to give potential donors an overview of the initiative and make the case for funding it. It lays out the business case for prevention, highlights

Nature4Health's USP, describes the organisational and governance structure and Nature4Health's intended impact in terms of health, lives and economics, and makes the case for donors to support the initiative.

- *Leveraged Mapping*: high level mapping work continued to identify countries with strategic interest in funding sectors relevant to Nature4Health (environment, health, agriculture, DRR) plus philanthropic foundations and the private sector as important sources of funding, and that non-financial resources such as skills and technology will also be sought and welcomed. Key principles for the identification of funders have also been drafted including: alignment with Nature4Health objectives, evidence of existing interest in One Health, motivation for involvement, existing relationship with or contacts within the funder and under acceptance of MPTF pooled funding MO.
- *Approaches* have been made during this period with potential bilateral donors to engage in technical discussions on One Health, and in particular, Nature4Health to stimulate interest.
- *Dialogue on Resource Mobilization at Nature4Health Steering Committee*, took place in August 2023 to consider how Nature4Health can make a strong case for investment and identify the way forward. It was agreed that this would an ongoing dialogue at Steering Committee given the importance of resource mobilization. In particular, a three-ponged strategy was discussed to (1) sustain Nature4Health projects; (2) secure investment in pandemic prevention, including to broaden impact and work in the countries identified as high-risk for zoonotic spillover (50 countries in total); and to (3) expand across other health issues (e.g. including pollution and non-communicable diseases).