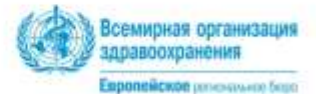


Urban green spaces and health

Launching a brief for action

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Content

- The WHO work on environment and health – priorities in Europe
- Biodiversity and health go together
- Launching a WHO action brief on urban green spaces

THE WHO WORK ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH – PRIORITIES IN EUROPE

Health 2020: addressing European challenges

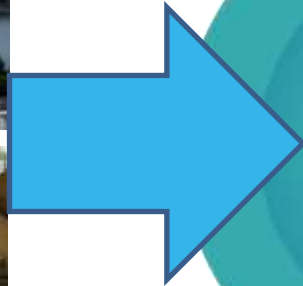
Lifestyle, social, economic and
environmental determinants of health

Health equity

Good governance



WHO European Centre for Environment and Health: Implementing Health2020 and the SDGs



SDG target 3.9 on health improvement by environmental measures



How the environment affects health



AIR POLLUTION

including indoors and outdoors



CLIMATE CHANGE

INADEQUATE WATER, SANITATION and hygiene



BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

including housing and roads

CHEMICALS

and biological agents



AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

including pesticide-use, waste-water reuse

RADIATION

ultraviolet and ionizing

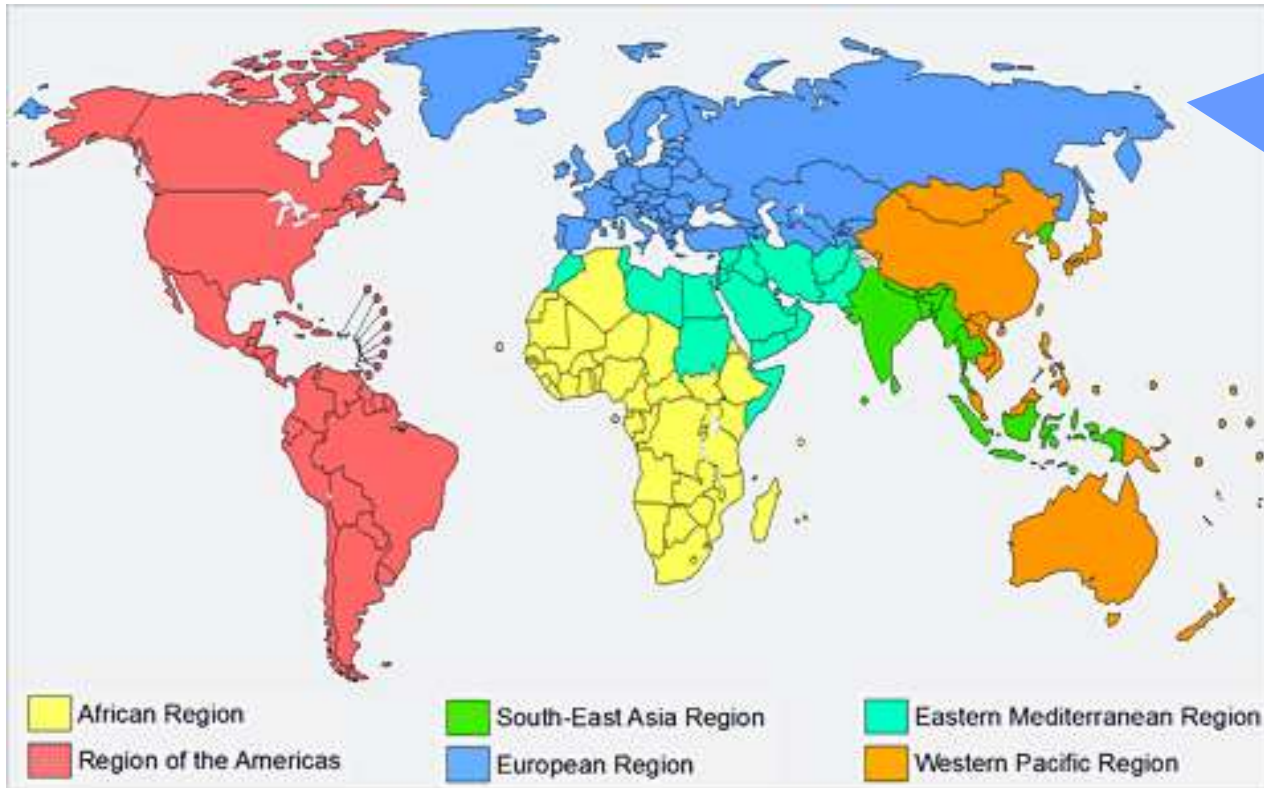


COMMUNITY NOISE



OCCUPATIONAL RISKS

The health burden of inadequate environments

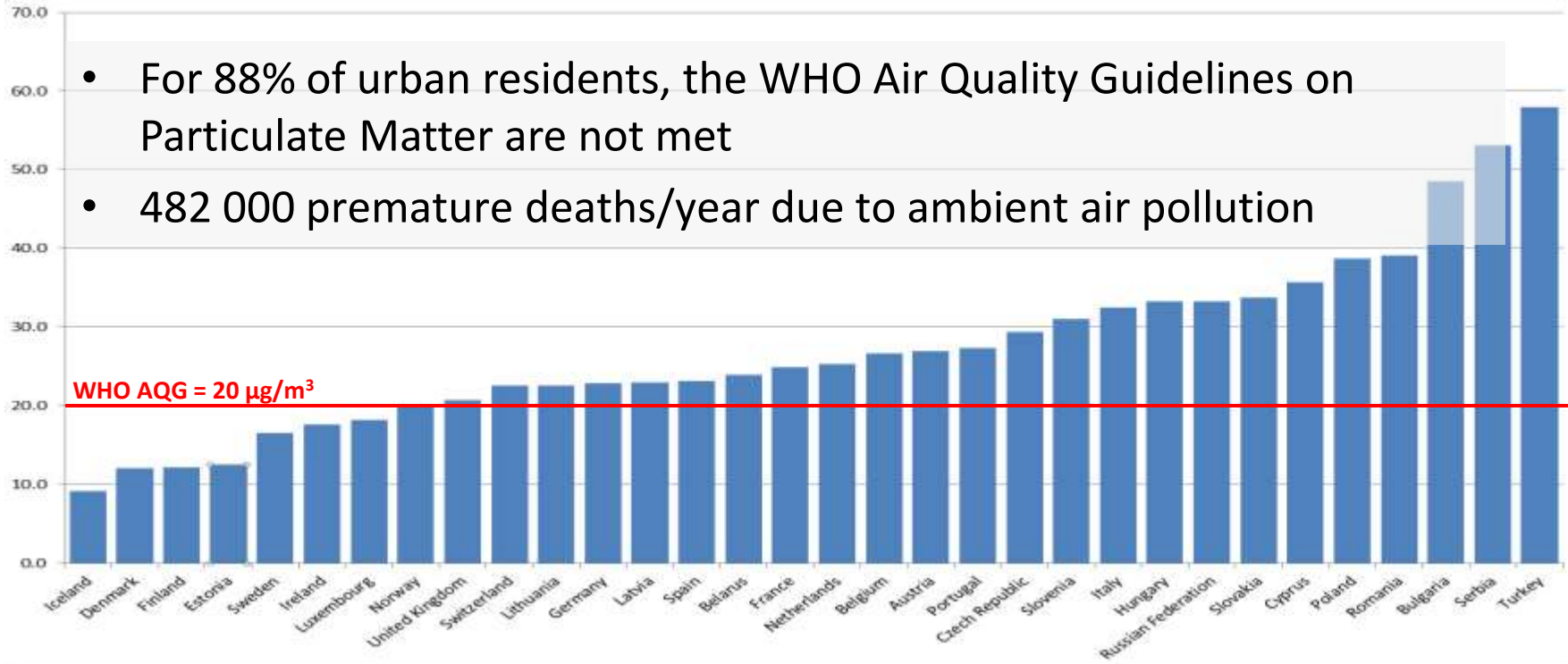


WHO European region: at least 1.4 million deaths per year are related to environmental conditions.

=> 15% OF ALL DEATHS

Air quality: the number one environmental health challenge in the WHO European region

- For 88% of urban residents, the WHO Air Quality Guidelines on Particulate Matter are not met
- 482 000 premature deaths/year due to ambient air pollution



Other environmental challenges in the WHO European region



Inadequate housing causes more than 100,000 deaths/year

Active mobility could prevent many of the 1,000,000 deaths/year attributable to **inadequate physical activity**



Inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene cause an estimated 14 diarrhoeal deaths per day in low and middle income countries

WHO tools and support

Evidence:



- WHO Guidelines and technical reports on environment conditions
 - Transport
 - Housing
 - Air pollution
 - Noise
 - Climate change
 - Water/sanitation
 - Green spaces
- Health Impact Assessments
- Economic assessments



Tools:



- AirQ+ on health impacts of air pollution
- Health Economic Assessment Tools for cycling and walking
- Heat-Health Action Plans
- Climate change and health adaptation cost tool
- Air Quality in Cities database
- Environmental Burden of Disease quantification methods
- Environmental health indicators

BIODIVERSITY AND HEALTH GO TOGETHER

Biodiversity and health – an old topic with new relevance



Ecosystem effects of biodiversity loss could rival impacts of climate change

Date: May 2, 2012

ScienceDaily
Your source for the latest research news

Tropical Mosquitoes Gain Foothold in Northern Europe

Date: May 9, 2016

SPIEGEL
ONLINE

Scientists warn of 'unsafe' decline in biodiversity

Date: July 15, 2016

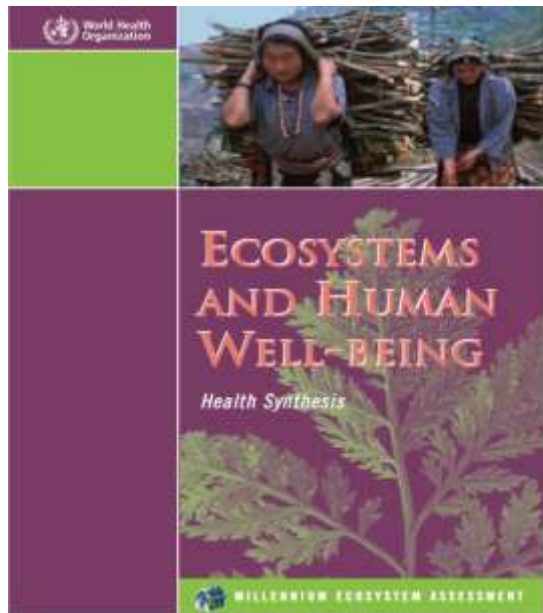
BBC

Climate change: global reshuffle of wildlife will have huge impacts on humanity

Date: March 30, 2017

theguardian

Importance of biodiversity and ecosystems to human health

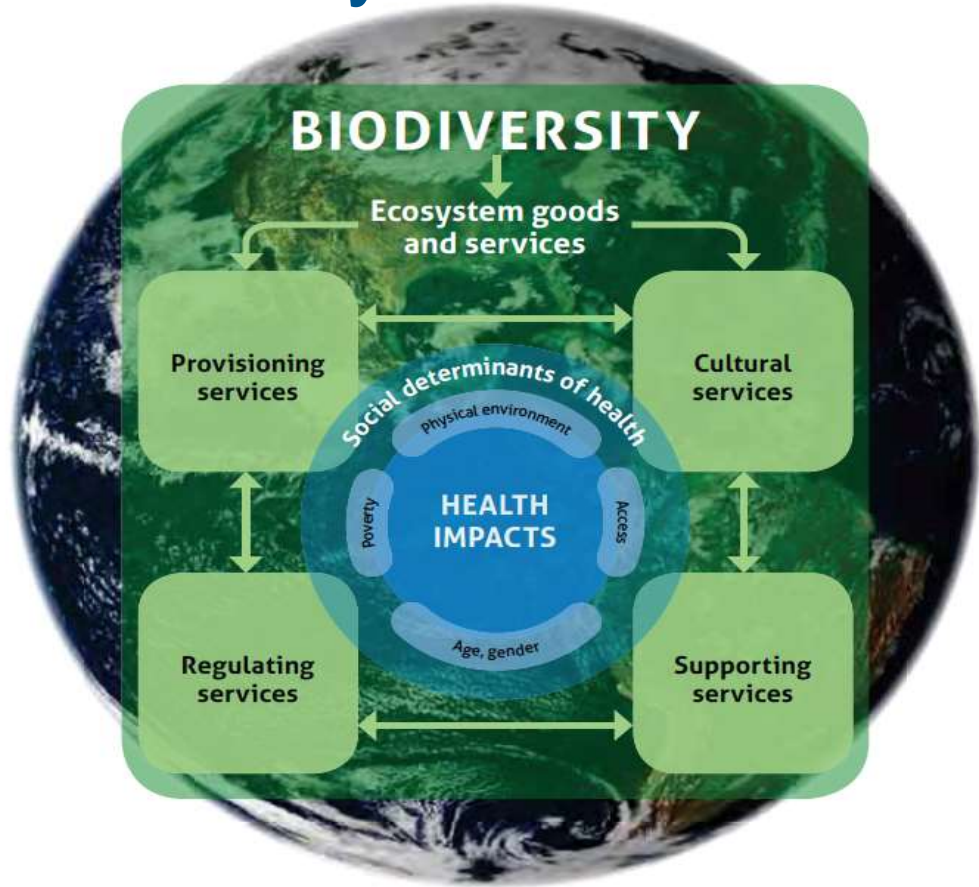


“Nature’s goods and services are the ultimate foundations of life and health, even though in modern societies this fundamental dependency may be (...) poorly recognized.

We now need to look at environmental health through a broader lens (...) ”

(Lee Jong Wook, former DG of WHO)

Linkages and co-dependencies at the intersection of biodiversity and human health



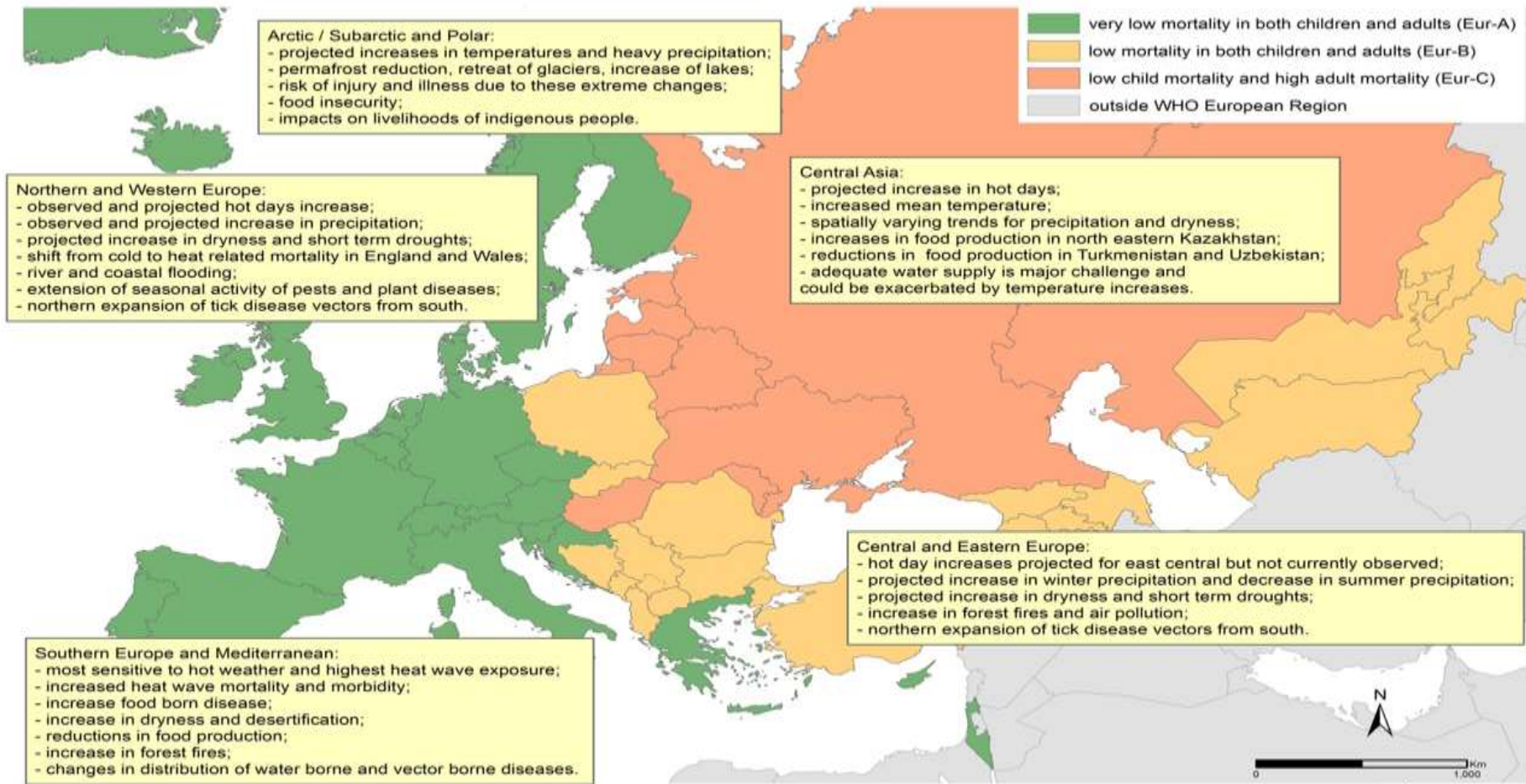
Ecosystem service changes – affecting us all

Ecosystem services are indispensable to the wellbeing of people everywhere.

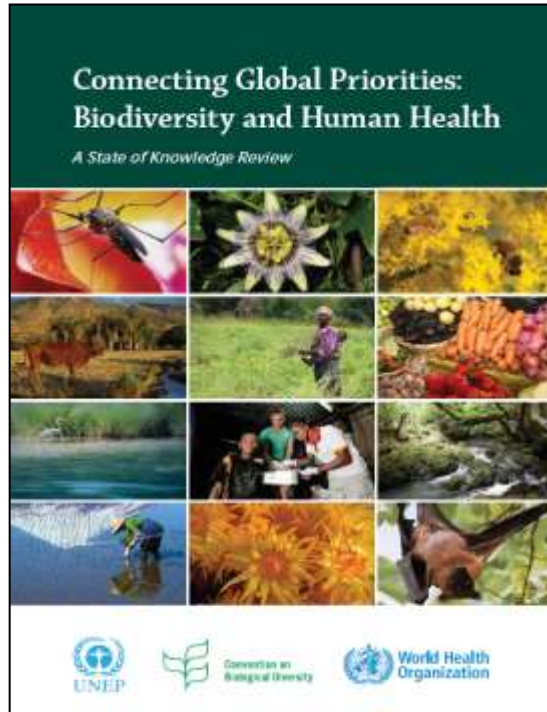


Even wealthy populations cannot be fully protected from the impacts of degradation of ecosystem services.

Climate change and high level of diversity



State of Knowledge Review on Biodiversity and Health



Biodiversity and health connections covered include:

- Water
- Air quality
- Food security / nutrition
- Green spaces
- Infectious diseases
- Noncommunicable diseases
- Biomedicine and pharmaceuticals
- Traditional medicine
- Climate change
- Resilience and disaster risk reduction

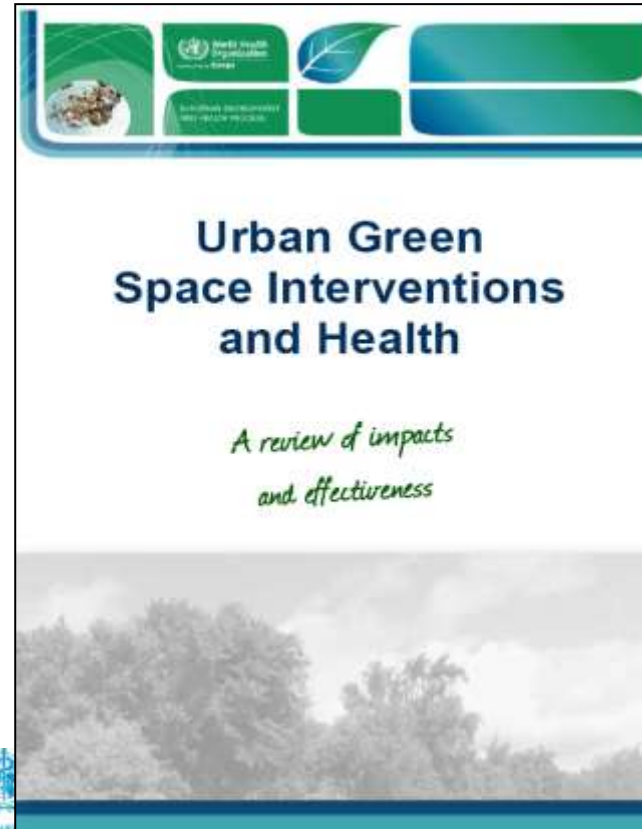
LAUNCHING A WHO ACTION BRIEF ON URBAN GREEN SPACES

Political frameworks for our work on green space and health

- WHO Parma Declaration commitments:
By 2020: “to provide each child with access [...] to green spaces in which to play and undertake physical activity”
- SDG agenda “Leaving no-one behind” SDG 11.7:
“provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities”
- New Urban Agenda adopted at Habitat III, Quito, 2016:
“We envisage cities and human settlements that [...] prioritize safe, inclusive, accessible, green and quality public spaces”



Compiling evidence for action



Green space benefits: health, equity and beyond

Green spaces benefit cities and urban quality of life because they can:

deliver positive environmental, social and health outcomes

upgrade the social and environmental quality of disadvantaged and deprived areas

make cities more liveable and enjoyable

Urban green spaces: a WHO brief for action



Key messages

1

Urban green spaces provide multiple benefits and constitute a necessary feature of healthy settlements.

2

The benefits of urban green spaces can be maximized through adequate planning, design and evaluation.

3

Local authorities are responsible for protecting and maintaining existing urban green spaces.