



DATE: April 30, 2021
TO: **G20 High Level Independent Panel** on Financing the Global Commons for Pandemic Preparedness and Response
FROM: **Coalition to Prevent Pandemics at the Source** (in alphabetical order): Conservation International; Dalberg Catalyst; EcoHealth Alliance; Health In Harmony; INCT EECBio (Brazil); The Nature Conservancy; Rainforest Alliance; R2H Action [Right to Health]; Wildlife Conservation Society; World Resources Institute; World Wildlife Fund
SUBJECT: **Toward a comprehensive financial architecture to enable pandemic prevention**

We are a [coalition](#) of leading public health and environmental organizations focused on pandemic prevention and we appreciate the opportunity to provide input to the vital work of the HLIP. [Peer-reviewed analysis](#) by leading economists and scientists underpins this input.

Most pandemic prevention discussions focus on containment measures *after* pathogen spillover from animals into humans has occurred and discount the actions that can prevent pathogen spillover in the first place. **We urge the HLIP to address this issue at the root and incorporate spillover prevention into the scope of fully comprehensive financing needs.**

Specifically, we recommend that an additional line item of **approximately \$9-12 billion per year in financing of spillover prevention be included in your proposals to tackle the root causes of future global pandemics** (see appendix for breakdown of calculation). Spending billions of dollars to reduce pathogen spillover risk results in a compelling return on investment because containment measures can fail (as COVID-19 has shown) and because full-blown pandemics result in the loss of millions of lives and trillions of dollars.

Harvard University's T.H. Chan School of Public Health, at our invitation, is convening an independent global science panel to further inform this recommendation in the coming weeks. Specific areas where we already know additional financing and capacity will lower the risk of pathogen spillover from animals into people are as follows:

- **Reducing tropical deforestation, forest degradation and forest fragmentation** through financial and technology incentives and support, especially in higher-risk countries. This could include supporting key tropical countries to establish and effectively manage protected and conserved areas in hotspots for emerging diseases.
- **Shutting down commercial wildlife trade that risks contributing to zoonotic spillover events.** This will involve putting in place the necessary regulations, incentives, and monitoring mechanisms - at every stage from production to consumption.
- **Improving biosecurity on farms** in emerging disease hotspots.
- **Rapidly detecting and responding to pathogen spillover in wildlife markets and farms** using proven technology and community-driven networking combined with local government capacity.



As with other aspects of pandemic prevention and preparedness, new funding sources and mechanisms need not entirely cover the costs of the above. Ongoing global and national programs to address climate change, biodiversity, law enforcement and sustainable agriculture already contribute. ***However, they are woefully insufficient, and are not deployed with public health outcomes in mind.***

Maintaining status quo on these drivers of spillover will miss a key, relatively low-cost opportunity to reduce the risk of future pandemics. The HLIP can begin to shift the global narrative on how to truly prevent future pandemics, and to ensure that sufficient funds are set aside to address this issue comprehensively. We urge the Panel to look beyond the traditional silos that constrain our ability to solve systems issues.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss our recommendations in more detail. We are at your disposal to prepare more analysis, suggest experts for consultation, and share practical guidance on funding modalities and implementation.

Appendix: Summary of annual global spillover prevention cost estimates

Prevention element	Global cost (billion US\$ per year)
Reduce drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and fragmentation	4.8-5.5
Shut down wildlife trade that risks contributing to zoonotic spillover events	0.8-1.6
Improving biosecurity on farms in emerging infectious disease hotspots	1.5-2.6
Early detection of spillover	1.6-1.9
Total	8.7-11.6

*Cost estimates developed by the Preventing Pandemics at the Source Coalition, Solutions Subgroup. The overall cost envelope defined by these estimates is generally comparable to those of [Dobson et al \(Science, 2020\)](#), who estimated \$11.4B per year cost of pandemic prevention through spillover reduction.