



Second International Conference on Health & Biodiversity, 2008  
25-28 February 2008, Radisson SAS, Galway, Ireland

## Invitation

The COHAB Initiative Secretariat and its international partners invite you to attend COHAB 2, the Second International Conference on Health and Biodiversity, from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February in Galway, Ireland. This important event will address the barriers to a common understanding across disciplines on the relationships between the health and well-being of human communities and the health and sustainability of the natural environment.

The conference will explore strategic practical methods for integrating biodiversity into local, national and international programmes on health and development, including national climate change strategies and action plans towards the U.N. Millennium Development Goals. Discussions will also investigate the health and social aspects of nature conservation strategies, with the aim of promoting cross-sectoral understanding and partnerships for truly sustainable development.

## Background

Everyone in the world depends on nature to provide the conditions for a decent, healthy and secure life. Biodiversity provides the foundations for our health and well-being, and provides the essential natural capital for our social and economic development.

Human health represents one of the most important indicators of sustainability - a healthy human population is dependent upon a healthy natural environment. However, human impacts on the environment in recent decades have severely affected the world's ecosystems upon which we depend. The capacity of ecosystems to provide life-sustaining services in the future is threatened by biodiversity loss. The pace of growth and urbanisation of the world population in the coming decades, with a related increase in demand for basic life sustaining resources, will put further massive strains on biodiversity and ecosystem services worldwide.

The COHAB 2 conference will explore how the ecosystem approach to health and development can help to address some of the key challenges facing the health and environmental professionals, scientists, decision makers and communities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century:

How to integrate biodiversity conservation and ecosystem sustainability into health and development sectors worldwide?

How to integrate health and development considerations into plans and programmes on biodiversity conservation?

How to strengthen international, inter-governmental and interdisciplinary cooperation on biodiversity conservation for human health and well-being?

How will the impacts of climate change upon the worlds ecosystems affect human health?

How to raise public and corporate awareness of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and increasing public involvement in biodiversity conservation?

The conference aims to assist in addressing these challenges within the context of wider international partnerships and collaborative programmes:

Providing independent, evidence-based guidance and support for existing programmes of work within various sectors.

Building strong partnerships with policy makers and stakeholders across key sectors.

Empowering organisations, communities and individuals to address the linkages between biodiversity and health within their own areas of activity.

## Conference Programme

**Day 1: Plenary** - overview of partnership requirements between the health and biodiversity communities; developments in research and policy; related aspects of Millennium Ecosystem Assessment reports, IPCC 4th Assessment Report and outputs from other relevant projects.

**Day 2: Workshops** - three parallel workshops will run on key issues linking biodiversity with health and well-being:

### WORKSHOP 1 Disaster Relief & Emergency Response



Harnessing ecosystem services for prevention, recovery and redevelopment programmes.

### WORKSHOP 2 Food Resources, Diet & Nutrition



Meeting food security and poverty challenges with biodiversity.

### WORKSHOP 3 Emerging Infectious Diseases



Integrating biodiversity conservation and management into disease prevention and control programmes.

In each of the workshops, participants will be asked to consider three key themes in their discussions - these will form the basis of the workshop reports:

1. Systemic approaches to health and development - building, communicating and reinforcing the conceptual framework on health and biodiversity linkages.
2. The use of strategic assessments for the design and development of plans, programmes and policies on health, social welfare and economic development.
3. Climate change - accounting for the potential impacts of climate change on ecosystem services in the context of each workshop theme.

Side events by various organisations will run during lunch breaks and in the evening.

**Day 3: Plenary** - including panel discussions on policy integration, research needs, and ecosystem approaches; discussion of national strategies to address health-biodiversity linkages; a review of workshop outcomes; presentation of recommendations and preliminary conference report.

## Registration Form

Please complete this form IN BLOCK CAPITALS and return by fax or post to the COHAB Initiative Secretariat *[see contact details on back page]*.

All registration forms must be signed and dated by the registrant. Incomplete forms may not be considered. See reverse side for costings and closing dates of registration.

### Delegate Details

Title [Dr, Mr, Ms. etc]:
First Name:
Last Name:
Position:
Organisation:
Address:
Town, City:
State, County, Province:
Zip, Post Code:
Country:
Email Address:
Telephone Number:
Fax Number:

### Conference Details

Chosen Workshop <i>[select one only, details above]</i> :	1	2	3
Special Needs?			
Dietary Requirements?			
Attending Conference Banquet?	Yes	No	

### Student Details *[to be completed by students only]*

Students must provide the name and contact details for their Research Supervisor or Department Head, who may be contacted to verify the application.

Supervisor's Name:
Position:
Affiliation/Organisation:
Email Address:
Telephone Number:

### Developing Countries *[see worldbank.org website for country listing]*

Are you eligible for Developing Country Fee?	Yes	No
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Continued Overleaf ►

## Registration Form [continued]

### Payment Details

Payment Method:	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque/Bank Draft
Amount Payable [see registration fees]:		
Credit Card Type:		
Please state Visa, MasterCard, American Express etc.		
Credit Card Number:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Expiry Date:	<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	Security Code [CCV No.*]: <input type="text"/>

\*The CCV [Credit Card Validation] number is a 3 digit code printed on the BACK of your card in the signature panel. If there are more than 3 digits, the CCV is always the LAST 3 digits.

Cardholder's Name:

Cardholder's Address:

To complete the registration, please sign and date below:

Signature:

Date:

### Fee Details

Fees in Euro (€)	Early Bird [before 1st Oct 2007]	Standard Rate [before 1st December 2007]	Late Fee [after 1st December 2007]
Standard	340	390	440
Student*	200	250	300
Developing Countries**	200	200	240

### Notes

- \* Students: Students MUST complete Student Section [overleaf].
- \*\* Developing Countries: Please see [worldbank.org](http://worldbank.org) listing to see if you are eligible  
NB: All these rates are subject to availability so early booking is advisable.

Fees cover attendance at the plenary sessions, your chosen parallel workshops (details of each workshop are on the website), the conference reception, refreshments and lunches, and the Conference Banquet on the evening of February 27th.

### Other Details

All delegates are encouraged to attend the opening and closing plenary sessions. The parallel Workshops (Workshops 1, 2 and 3) include a refreshment and a lunch break on each day, therefore delegates have the opportunity to move between themes if they so wish, though seating in each workshop will be limited. Please refer to the Conference Programme for theme details and indicate your selection clearly on the registration form.

Note: Themes may change depending on the number and content of submitted abstracts.

## About the COHAB Initiative

The COHAB Initiative is an international programme established to respond to the gaps in awareness and existing policies on issues linking biodiversity with human health and well-being. The Initiative aims to establish an international, interdisciplinary collaborative framework to support existing activities on international development, biodiversity conservation and population health, and to support the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Initiative works to establish mechanisms by which policy makers, researchers, practitioners and stakeholders can effectively communicate and work together, to understand, assess and resolve the issues linking biodiversity and human well-being. In particular, the Initiative works to identify and overcome the conceptual barriers to cross-sectoral understanding and dialogue at government levels, and to build capacity for cooperation and harmonization within and between stakeholders in developed and developing regions.

## COHAB Initiative Secretariat

The COHAB Initiative Secretariat is based in Galway, Ireland and is supported by international and multi-lateral agencies including: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Development Programme, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, UN Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Bioversity International, World Conservation Union (IUCN), International EcoHealth Association, and government agencies worldwide.

## For Further Information Please Visit:

Cohab Initiative site: [www.cohabnet.org](http://www.cohabnet.org)  
Cohab Conference site: [www.cohabnet.org/cohab2008](http://www.cohabnet.org/cohab2008)

For further information about the conference and the COHAB Initiative, please write to us, or visit our website.

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## Front Page Image Details



1. Vaccination Drive in Africa
2. Indian Corn Varieties, USA
3. Waiting for the Morning Catch, Mui Ne, Vietnam
4. Pink-tipped Sea Anemone
5. Flooded Street after Hurricane Katrina

## COHAB 2008 Sponsors

