

**From:** Mia MacDonald [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Feedback on A Proposed Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response Hosted by the World Bank  
**Date:** June 1, 2022 at 9:36 PM  
**To:** Consultations consultations@worldbank.org



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Dear World Bank Colleagues:

I write to offer feedback on the white paper issued last month for the proposed FIF for a PPPR to be hosted by the Bank. The comments here are drawn from a number of collaborative research and policy analysis projects undertaken since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in late 2019/2020.

On the issue of proportion of finance across the three priority areas, I would like to see more attention to and funding for pandemic prevention strategies and initiatives focus on changing practices that a considerable body of research demonstrates heighten the risks of zoonosis and also have multiple detrimental impacts on the environment, GHG emissions, and the health and well-being of non-human animals, both domesticated and wild. Specifically:

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We know that zoonoses make up 70% of all emerging infectious diseases. Zoonoses occur because of increasing human encroachment on the natural habitat of wildlife, as well as breeding, confinement, and consumption of animals, whether wild or domesticated.

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This isn't a closely held secret. A report on preventing the next pandemic published in June 2020 by the UN Environment Programme and the International Livestock Research Institute declares, "Pandemics such as the COVID-19 outbreak are a predictable and predicted outcome of how people source and grow food, trade and consume animals, and alter environments." Factory farming (also known as industrial animal agriculture or the "CAFO" system), deforestation, and the wildlife trade contribute to global health and environmental threats like pandemics and climate change

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The main focus in this third year of COVID-19 is on preparedness, but we need much more money, policy and practice on prevention, too. By one estimate, preventive measures, such as additional protection for intact forests and wild animals, would cost less than a paltry 2% of the financial damage attributed to COVID-19 in 2021.

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The food system needs to be a key locus for action. Global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from food systems account for one-third of all human-caused GHGs, with animal agriculture contributing at least 14.5% of overall GHGs.[8] Agricultural expansion, including for cattle grazing and feedcrops fed to billions of animals in factory farms and feedlots, is a principal driver of biodiversity and habitat loss and land-use change and conversion. Up to 80 billion land animals are raised and slaughtered for food globally each year, with an increasing number spending their entire lives in an industrialized system: bred for fast growth, dosed with antibiotics (an important contributing factor to the rising incidence of antimicrobial resistance), mutilated, confined, and treated like a commodity crop.

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The intertwined crises and injustices laid bare by the pandemic (including unequal access to vaccines, treatment, and hospital care), added to the climate and biodiversity loss emergencies, offer an opportunity for new interdisciplinary collaborations across environmental and climate policy, agriculture and food systems, biodiversity and forest protections, public health, human rights, and animal welfare and rights. Success in bringing about real systemic change likely depends on useful disruptions in, and bridging of, the divides that have separated human and nonhuman health and rights and have limited the intersections between public health, the environment, and animal welfare and rights. Some of this will be destabilizing for sure, but the urgency of resolving the staggering scale of the ecological crisis and advancing justice and rights demands new theory and praxis *this decade*, as climate scientists tell us, or it will be too late to avoid catastrophic planetary warming.

On the issue of governance, I would like to see a board comprised of interdisciplinary experts, e.g., from public health, biodiversity and forest protection, agriculture/food systems/food security, wildlife, rapid response, and those with an interest in and experience in the One Health framework. In support of these points, and to offer more specific research, analysis, and policy recommendations, I would like to refer you to a [recent article I wrote](#) for a special section of the Harvard Health & Human Rights Journal, along with the text of the [Animals' Manifesto: Preventing COVID-X](#), an analytic report endorsed by more than 150 civil society organization from across the

world.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this feedback. I would welcome further communication with the group working on the Bank's proposal for the new FIF and I know that many of my colleagues working in the space of pandemic prevention and response would be open to engaging in a dialogue(s), too.

Sincerely,

Mia MacDonald

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**Brighter Green**  
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