LESSONS FROM COVID-19 FOR ONE WATER, ONE HEALTH

NICHOLAS A. ROBINSON

PROFESSOR, ELISABETH HAUB SCHOOL OF LAW, PACE UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK

EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

SECRETARIAT: PASCUAL MADOZ INSTITUTE, CARLOS III UNIVERSIDAD, MADRID



WWW.ICELINTERNATIONAL.ORG



International Council of Environmental Law



 THE HEALTH OF ALL LIFE ON THE PLANET IS CONNECTED. THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK STARKLY REMINDS US OF A BASIC FACT THAT CANNOT BE IGNORED: HUMAN, ANIMAL, PLANT AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING ARE ALL INTRINSICALLY CONNECTED AND PROFOUNDLY INFLUENCED BY HUMAN ACTIVITIES. HEALTH ENTAILS MORE THAN THE ABSENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE; IT MUST INCORPORATE SOCIOECONOMIC, POLITICAL, EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS WHILE CONSIDERING INDIVIDUAL ATTRIBUTES AND BEHAVIORS.

FOLLOW THE SCIENCE: ECOLOGY & VIROLOGY

• ZOONOSIS = DISEASES PASS FROM ANIMALS, WHETHER WILD OR DOMESTICATED, TO HUMANS, AND THE OTHER WAY TOO.

MANY DISEASES ARE SPECIES SPECIFIC; OTHERS ARE SPREAD BETWEEN DIFFERENT ANIMAL SPECIES, BY BACTERIA OR VIRUSES. SARS-COV-2 IS ONE OF SOME 7,000 VIRUSES.

THEY TRANSFERRED BY HUMAN CONTACT WITH INFECTED ANIMALS,
 OR BY INSECT VECTORS FROM THE ANIMAL HOST "RESERVOIR"

COVID-19 PANDEMIC CHALLENGES EVERYTHING

- ON APRIL 2, 2020, THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (WORKING REMOTELY) ADOPTS BY CONSENSUS **RESOLUTION 74/270** "GLOBAL SOLIDARITY TO FIGHT THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE"
- THE UNGA CALLS FOR **INTENSIFIED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION** AND REQUESTS THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL TO LEAD A COORDINATED RESPONSE GLOBALLY



COVID-19 PANDEMIC OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNITING NATIONS ANEW

- THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IS ALSO A **NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY RISK** TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND WORLD ORDER [EFFECTS OF THE 1918 PANDEMIC STILL PLAGUE US]
- THE ROAD MAP FOR COOPERATION AFTER THE PANDEMIC IS CHARTED IN THE UNITED NATIONS **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

COPING WITH COVID-19 IS MULTI-LAYERED

1ST: URGENT PREPARATIONS PROVIDE MANDATORY SOCIAL-DISTANCING (QUARANTINES OR SELF- ISOLATION) and ENHANCE HOSPITAL CAPACITY and PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES, in real time, **AS THE PANDEMIC ROLLS ACROSS** NATIONS [DECEMBER 2019-SEPTEMBER+ 2020] – ROLES FOR **WHO & HEALTH MINISTRIES**



COPING WITH COVID-19 IS MULTI-LAYERED

 \bigcirc

• 2ND: CONTINUING CARE AND **RECOVERY FOR COMMUNITIES** AS THE PANDEMIC RECEEDS, PLUS COPING WITH "SECOND WAVE" INFECTIONS OF THOSE NOT INFECTED AT FIRST (APRIL 2020 TO JANUARY+ 2021)

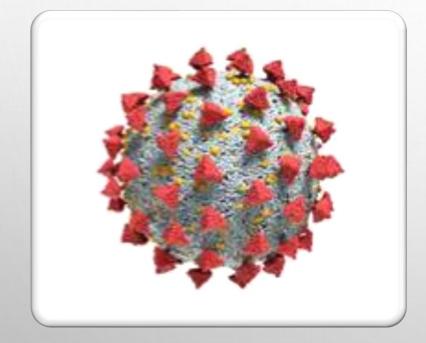
COPING WITH COVID--9 IS MULTILAYERED

3RD: RELAUNCHING ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IS AN UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGE: WILL IT BE EITHER BY DEFAULT AS "BUSINESS AS USUAL" **[COMMERCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH** MINISTRIES] OR ON THE BASIS OF THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS? [ROLES FOR FAO, IUCN, CBD, ENVIRONMENT MINISTRIES]

COPING WITH COVID-19 IS MULTILAYERED

• 4TH: MEASURES FOR PREVENTING THE NEXT PANDEMIC NEED TO BE ESTABLISHED DURING THE ACTIVITIES TO **RESOLVE THE ON-GOING COVID-19 CRISIS AND THE** RELAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL ECONOMIES = ROLES FOR ECOLOGISTS, PROTECTED AREA MANAGERS, AND VIROLOGISTS IN DEFINING "NEXT STEPS"

HOW DO WE PREVENT THE NEXT PANDEMIC ? ONCE OVER, IS IT, "OUT OF SIGHT OUT OF MIND"?



- ALL GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITIES
 TODAY ARE MOTIVATED TO ACT THIS
 COMMON PURPOSE IS NEW
- PAST EPIZOOTIC EPIDEMICS CAME AND WENT, LOCALLY NOT GLOBALLY (SARS, MERS, AVIAN FLU WEST NILE VIRUS, ETC.)

GOVERNMENTS "FORGOT" THE 1918 INFLUENZA PANDEMIC AND LARGELY "IGNORED" THE ORIGINS OF THE HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC

AFTER SARS AND BUILDING ON ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE, A ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE IN 2004 RECOMMENDED STEPS:

"FOR ESTABLISHING A MORE HOLISTIC APPROACH TO PREVENTING EPIDEMIC / EPIZOOTIC DISEASE AND FOR MAINTAINING ECOSYSTEM INTEGRITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANS, THEIR DOMESTICATED ANIMALS, AND THE FOUNDATIONAL BIODIVERSITY."

FAO, the World Organization for Animal Health and WHO issued a guide to best practices for coping with zoonotic diseases in March of 2019 ONE WORLD - ONE HEALTH - ONE WATER



GERMANY AND THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY IN OCTOBER 2019 LAUNCH THE "BERLIN PRINCIPLES ON ONE HEALTH"

"Retain the essential health links between humans, wildlife, domesticated animals and plants, and all nature" "Ensure the conservation and protection of biodiversity, which interwoven with intact and functional ecosystems provides the critical foundational infrastructure of life, health and well-being on our planet"

WHEN NATIONS **DESPOIL THE** PLANET, THEY BECOME **SUSCEPTIBLE** TO NEW ZOONOTIC DISEASES

GOVERNMENTS ALLOW HARM TO NATURE, BUT DIMLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVTIY CAUSES THE SPILL OVER OF COVID-19 AND OTHER DISEASES

SDG 15: "PROTECT, RESTORE AD PROMOTE SUSTAINBLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATON AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS."

THE BERLIN PRINCIPLES GUIDE POST-COVID-19 STEPS: APPLY LESSONS LEARNED

- DEVELOP STRONG INSTITUTIONS INTEGRATING UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH WITH THE HEALTH OF ECOSYSTEMS [ESTABLISH NEW AGENCIES OR INTER-AGENCY TEAMS]
- INTERGRATE ROBUST SCIENCE-BASED KNOWLEDGE INTO PUBLIC HEALTH, ENVIRONMETNTAL AND AGRICULTURAL LAWS, POLICIES AND BUDGETS [GO BEYOND MINISTRIES OF HEALTH]
- DEVISE ADAPTIVE AND HOLISTIC APPROACHES TO THE DETECTION, PREVENTION, MONITORING, CONTROL AND MITIGATION OF EMERGING/RESURGING DISEASES [DEPLOY ENVIRONMETNAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES ROBUSTLY]

ACT UPON LESSONS LEARNED FROM COVID-19 NOW

 GERMAN FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT MINISTER SCHULZE REMARKED: (APRIL 2, 2020): "NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACUTE CRISIS MANAGEMENT. THERE WILL BE A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD. BY THEN, AT THE LATEST, WE NEED TO HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE CAUSES OF THIS CRISIS, IN ORDER TO BETTER PREVENT A SIMILAR SCENARIO IN THE FUTURE. SCIENCE TELLS US THAT THE DESTRUCTION OF ECOSYSTEMS MAKES DISEASE OUTBREAKS INCLUDING PANDEMICS MORE LIKELY. THIS INDICATES THAT THE DESTRUCTION OF NATURE IS THE UNDERLYING CRISIS BEHIND THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS."

THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS: WOULD YOU LIKE TO RISK THE NEXT PANDEMIC?

CONSERVATION OF INTACT ECOSYSTEMS AND THEIR BIODIVERSITY REDUCES THE EMERGENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES. WHEN WE DESTROY ECOSYSTEMS WE ARE DESTROYING OUR HEALTH AND LIVELIHOODS.

EVERYONE IS PART OF THE "ONE WORLD ONE HEALTH" SYSTEM: GOVERNMENTS AT ALL LEVELS, WITH PARK MANAGERS, FARMERS, NGOS, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

GLOBALLY LAUNCH **ONE HEALTH** NOW THROUGH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, IN CONCERT WITH UN DESA, UNDP, UNEP, FAO, IUCN, CMS, CITES, WHO **AND ALL NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS.** SEE THE GLOBAL REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES), THE SISTER SCIENTIFIC PLATFORM TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC). [HTTPS://IPBES.NET/GLOBAL=

ASSESSMENT].