

Links between Coronavirus and biodiversity: the scientific finding

Speakers :

- Eduardo Brondizio**, Co-chair of the IPBES' 2019 Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- Elizabeth Maruma Mrema**, Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Serge Morand**, CNRS-CIRAD Researcher, ecologist and evolutionary biologist
- Shamila Nair-Bedouelle**, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO

Moderator: **Meriem Bouamrane**
UNESCO Biodiversity Focal Point, MAB Programme

Eduardo Brondizio



Eduardo Brondizio is Professor at the Anthropology Department of Indiana University Bloomington and Director of the Center for the Analysis of Social-Ecological Landscapes (CASEL).

His research focuses on a comparative analysis of rural populations in Brazil and Latin America, with a special focus on these populations' interactions with government development programmes, the regional and global commodities sector, and demographic and climate change. He also studies the consequences of these transformations for local populations and for sustainable regional development.

He was the co-chair of the Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2016-2019) of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema



Elizabeth Maruma Mrema from the United Republic of Tanzania, was appointed Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with effect on 1 December 2019. Prior to this appointment, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema was the Director of the Law Division at the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and has worked with UNEP for more than two decades. Before joining the Law Division in June 2014, she was Deputy Director of the Ecosystems Division, in charge of coordination, operations and programme delivery from 2012 and also served as Acting Director to the same Division for one year.

Ms Mrema's work at UNEP has focused on development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws at national, regional and international levels, among others. Her various roles over the years, include being coordinator of capacity-building and compliance and enforcement projects related to environmental law and the multilateral environmental conventions.

She was a Senior Legal Officer and Chief of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements Support and Cooperation Branch in the then Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, and later a Principal Legal Officer and Chief of the Biodiversity/Land Law and Governance Branch in the same Division.

Before joining UNEP, Ms Mrema worked with Tanzania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and left as a Senior Legal Counsellor. A lawyer and career diplomat, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema has published various articles on international environmental law, compliance and enforcement of conventions and developed several multilateral environmental agreements negotiation tools, handbooks and guidelines currently used by UNEP in its capacity-building programmes.

Serge Morand



Serge Morand is a research director at CNRS and an associate researcher to CIRAD. He is also a visiting professor at the Faculty of Tropical Medicine at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand.

A health ecologist and field parasitologist, Serge Morand analyses the links between global changes, biodiversity, health and societies in Southeast Asia. He is interested in the role of biodiversity in reducing the risks associated with infectious zoonotic diseases or the emergence of antibiotic resistance at the environmental, animal and human interfaces.

Shamila Nair-Bedouelle



Dr Shamila Nair-Bedouelle took up her new duties as Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences in April 2019.

She holds a PhD in Life Sciences from the University of Cape Town in South Africa. She pursued her research career at Pasteur Institute in Paris, then within the pharmaceutical industry at the MIT University Park in Boston, USA, and integrated the French National Institute for Medical Research (Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale, INSERM).

From 2002 to 2007, she was seconded from INSERM to the European Commission and then to UNESCO in January 2007. Dr Shamila Nair-Bedouelle has a long experience in the management and development of international scientific cooperation programmes and in the anticipation of emerging scientific and technical needs.



Additional resources

Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services : <https://ipbes.net/global-assessment>