



# PREZODE

*PREVENTING ZOOONOTIC DISEASE EMERGENCE*



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Preventing zoonotic  
disease emergence

## Zoonoses: a major scientific and global challenge

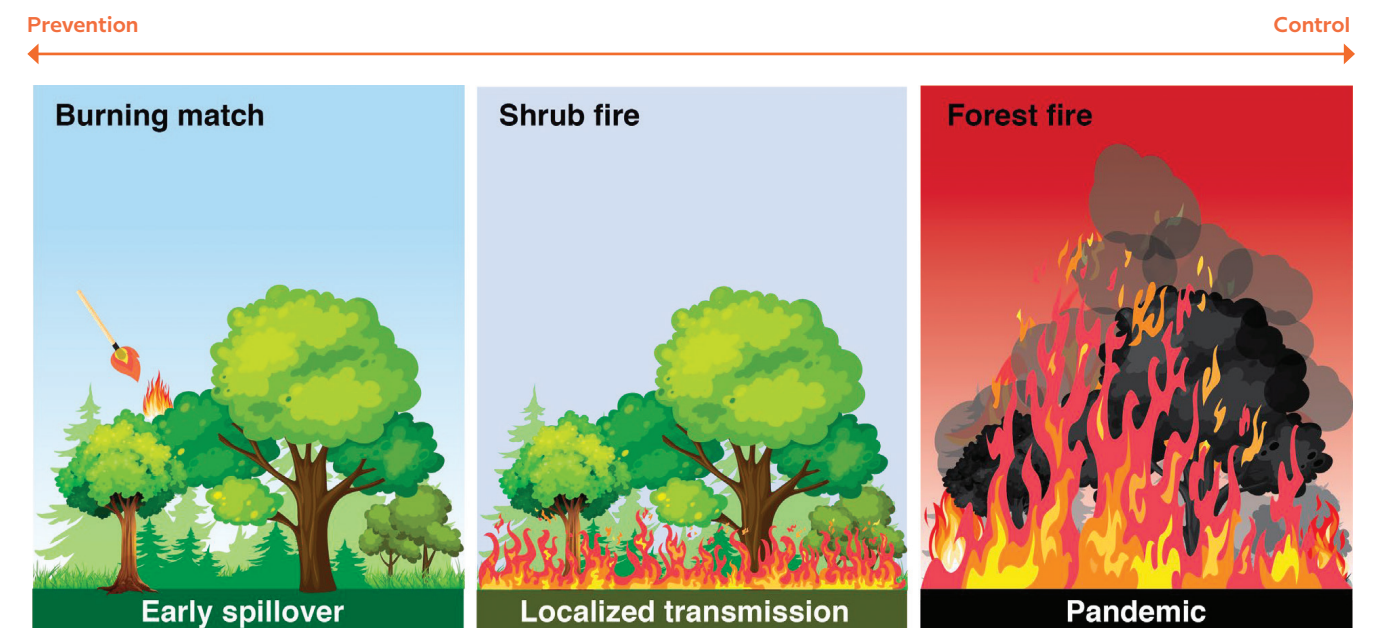
**Over the past decade, 75% of emerging human infectious diseases have been of animal origin.**

(WHO)

The proportion of zoonoses among emerging human diseases has increased over the past 50 to 60 years, rising from 62% to 75%, and the occurrence of associated epidemics has also increased over the past 30 years.

The emergence and reemergence of these diseases are profoundly linked to pressures on the environment, and especially on natural habitats and biodiversity.

The crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has also reminded us more than ever of our need for a One Health approach including human, animal and environmental health in order to fight new pandemics and, above all, better prevent and avoid them.



IPBES- 2020

**The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the close links between human, animal and environmental health, in a context of increased human-livestock-wildlife contacts and ecosystem degradation. FAO recognizes the importance of environmental sustainability as a key determinant of a long term 'One Health for All'. We need to do more 'all for one health'.**

(FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DR QU DONGYU, OPS 11 January 2021)



## Prevention programmes have to be developed



**Investing in prevention would cost 100 times less than trying to control future pandemics.**

(IPBES)



Despite the fact that the vast majority of emerging infectious diseases in humans are of zoonotic origin, the current dogma is to focus on control and preparedness of the response to spillover or outbreaks rather than prevention at source.

Public policies to prevent disease emergence are efficient when they are based on science; research is essential to make the world safer and better equipped to deal with the infectious risks of zoonoses.

Preventing the emergence of zoonotic diseases is a cross-sectorial issue that encompasses many concerns such as biodiversity loss, agricultural development, land use, and climate change, as well as human behaviour and exposure (wildlife trade or encroachment on natural habitats).



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## The PREZODE initiative as a proposed way forward

PREZODE - PREventing ZOonotic Disease Emergence - **is an international initiative addressing all the challenges related to the prevention, surveillance, early detection and rapid response to risks of zoonotic pandemics.**

The initiative was announced by the President of France during the ONE PLANET SUMMIT in January 2021 with the support of the President of the European Commission and of the FAO Director General.

PREZODE promotes a paradigm shift in the way we tackle emerging risks: by focusing on prevention and bottom-up design of health policies.

PREZODE aims to **contribute to the new One Health 'High-Level' Expert Panel (OHHLEP)** set up by the FAO, OIE, WHO and UNEP.



**We need to work closely with our international partners on research - in the spirit of the PREZODE initiative [...] which the European Commission welcomes.**

(European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen - OPS 11 January 2021)





## Bringing the community together and building synergies

### PREZODE: Ambition and Objectives

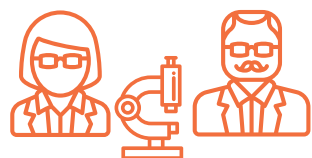
PREZODE will help coordinate a large portfolio of national, regional and international projects focusing on the emergence of zoonotic infectious diseases and implement innovative methods to improve prevention and mitigate emerging risks. It will bring actors together to create synergies with and in between programs currently conducted.

As an **international initiative** PREZODE will thus constitute:

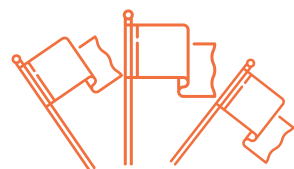
- A scientific and operational **framework to coordinate** research projects, health networks and operational actions to strengthen the integrated approach and maximize the impact.
- A **platform for sharing knowledge** acquired through past, current and future projects and capitalizing on **success stories and pilot actions** in different regions of the world.
- A resource center available notably for the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP), to facilitate in particular the development of recommendations for decision makers by the latter.

## Preparing the operational launch: How can you contribute?

PREZODE is an open initiative that intends to gather all interested and concerned actors willing to contribute to the prevention of zoonotic disease emergence. All actors can manifest their support by signing the **PREZODE declaration of intent**.



Already more than a  
**1,500** scientists involved



From **150** countries



**140** partners  
including **10**  
countries

The year 2021 was devoted to building the initiative with all the interested partners, before an operational launch in 2022.

- **The initiative now gathers almost 140 partners**, i.e. International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Research Institutions, including 10 countries (Belgium, Cambodia, Costa-Rica, France, Haiti, Mexico, Senegal, Uruguay, Vietnam, Zimbabwe) who have signed PREZODE's Declaration of Intent. As such, they have demonstrated an interest to contribute to the development of initiative and to the prevention of future zoonotic disease emergence through a One-Health and participative approach. Moreover, international organizations like the FAO and the European Commission have expressed their support for the initiative;
- The initiative was presented during several **high impact international events** such as the World Health Summit in Berlin or IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille and mentioned during the last UN biodiversity Conference in Kunming;
- Three series of co-construction workshops were organized in 8 regions of the world with the aim to collectively define the vision of the initiative and identify the main needs for change, research questions or resources needed to achieve it.



Photo by Sippakorn Yamkasikorn

### In the first months of 2022, PREZODE will see the launch of its first two programs:

- With a first budget of 10 M€, that will be part of a global budget of 30 M€ financed by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), **PREZODE's first operational program** aims to support five countries (Cambodia, Cameroun, Guinea, Madagascar, and Senegal) in the operationalization of their national strategies and policies at the interface of human-animal-ecosystem health. This will involve preventing the emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases while ensuring food security and livelihoods for the poorest communities, building on the five pillars of PREZODE.
- With a budget of 30 M€, financed by the French Investment for the Future programme (PIA), **PREZODE's first research program** will provide funding for projects on the links between human activities and zoonosis emergence and re-emergence; on sustainable strategies for preventing the emergence of zoonoses; or aiming to develop innovative methods to improve the surveillance of pathogens.

Furthermore, this year will see the establishment of the **governance of the initiative** that will involve the partners having signed PREZODE's Declaration of Intent.

PREZODE partners will also be involved in the writing and the publication of the **Initiative's strategic agenda** that will assemble the knowledge gathered through the co-construction process and identify a way forward to foster zoonotic disease prevention.





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**For more information, please visit**

<https://prezode.org>

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