

# UN: Growing environmental threat from animal-to-man diseases

May 20 2016

---

A new U.N. report identifies some of the most worrying environmental threats facing the world today.

Those threats range from the rise in diseases transmitted from animals to humans to the increasing accumulation of [toxic chemicals](#) in [food crops](#) as a result of drought and [high temperatures](#).

The U.N. Environment Agency report also highlighted the threat to human health posed by the alarming amount of plastic waste in the oceans and scientific evidence suggesting that losses and damage from climate change are inevitable.

According to Friday's report, biodiversity and ecosystems decreased dramatically in the 20th century while the number of people and domestic animals increased equally dramatically. This increased the opportunity for viruses, bacteria and other agents to pass from animals through the environment to cause diseases in people, it said.

© 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: UN: Growing environmental threat from animal-to-man diseases (2016, May 20)  
retrieved 24 April 2024 from  
<https://phys.org/news/2016-05-environmental-threat-animal-to-man-diseases.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is

provided for information purposes only.