

Lecture 2

How Preventing Next Pandemics: The PREZODE Initiative

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Over the past 50 years, there has been a significant increase in the emergence of infectious diseases. More than 70% of emerging infectious diseases are zoonoses, diseases caused by germs that spread between wild animals, farm animals and humans. Almost all the pandemics we know of are zoonoses (SARS Cov2, Ebola and COVID19 to name a few).

These emergences and re-emergences are deeply linked to the pressures exerted on the environment, in particular on natural habitats and biodiversity. These pressures increase contacts between virus reservoirs in wildlife, livestock and humans. 30% of emergences are believed to be due to changes in land use, including deforestation.

Therefore, the PREZODE initiative, an international initiative involving 15 governments and 180 institutions), aims to (i) strengthen the One Health surveillance networks throughout the World and (ii) envision sustainable strategies of ecosystem management to make them resilient to zoonoses emergence. Developed through a co-design approach, the first operational activities will start during the fall of 2022.