Health & Ecosystems: Analysis of Linkages (HEAL)

Research to Quantitatively Evaluate the Potential Health Benefits of Intact Ecosystems

Description	HEAL is a policy-linked research initiative designed to examine the cause and effect relationships between ecosystem alteration and public health outcomes. The HEAL applied research program will address the current ecosystem-human health research gap, seeking to more comprehensively characterize how ecosystem change affects human health, and will test whether and under what conditions health can be considered an ecosystem-derived benefit. Applied research, linked to important policy issues at a range of relevant scales, will be conducted for five specific themes/sites, which will be part of a comprehensive umbrella cross-site synthesis initiative to "make the whole more than the sum of its parts" and ensure sharing of prioritized, science-based recommendations with key policy makers/institutions.
Purpose	Increase support for integrated public health and environmental conservation initiatives as intimately related, interdependent challenges, to ultimately improve public health outcomes, equity, and resilience for some of the world's poorest people while simultaneously conserving some of the most important landscapes and seascapes left on earth.
Scope	Global.
Primary Funders	The Rockefeller Foundation and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (planning grants invested: full initiative funding still under consideration).
Participants & Key Collaborators	The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and 25 international partners including universities, non-governmental organizations, and government agencies.
Definition of One Health	See 2004 Manhattan Principles on "One World, One Health" in appendices. Operationally, HEAL will define human health so as to consider the direct consequences of ecosystem degradation on provisioning services, indirect relationships operating through changes in regulating services, supporting services, and cultural services.
Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy	A monitoring and evaluation team will ensure the production of deliverables and the maintenance of the highest ethical standards. Evaluation plans are tied to the research goal of characterizing how ecosystem change affects human health, and are also under development in terms of evaluating progress towards the ultimate goal of increasing support for integrated public health and environmental conservation initiatives.
Sources of Information	See Contacts.
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