



# Integrating Public and Ecosystem Health Systems to Foster Resilience

Teddie Potter PhD, RN, FAAN, FNAP  
Director of Planetary Health  
School of Nursing, University of Minnesota

# Humans are causing the planet to change...

- Forests are being cleared
- Biodiversity is rapidly disappearing
- The ocean is acidifying
- Land is becoming desert
- Soil, air, and water ecosystems are being polluted
- Rivers are drying up and with increased shortages of drinking water
- Extreme weather events are harming communities
- Temperatures are increasing
- Sea levels are rising





These changes in our environment severely **affect our health** and jeopardize decades of public health gains:

**Human health impacts include, but aren't limited to:**

- Cardiovascular diseases
- Respiratory diseases, like asthma and COPD
- Infectious zoonotic and diarrheal diseases
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Toxic and dioxin exposures
- Heat strokes
- Mental health effects
- Malnutrition
- Forced displacement and migration
- Civil strife and trauma



# THE URGENCY OF NOW

“The life of every child born today will be profoundly affected by climate change, with populations around the world increasingly facing extremes of weather, food and water insecurity, changing patterns of infectious disease, and a less certain future. Without accelerated intervention, this new era will come to define the health of people at every stage of their lives.” (The Executive Summary of the 2019 *Lancet Countdown* report Watts et al., 2019, p. 1837)



## **Planetary Health**

*Planetary health is a solutions-oriented, transdisciplinary field and social movement focused on analyzing and addressing the impacts of human disruptions to Earth's natural systems on human health and all life on Earth.*

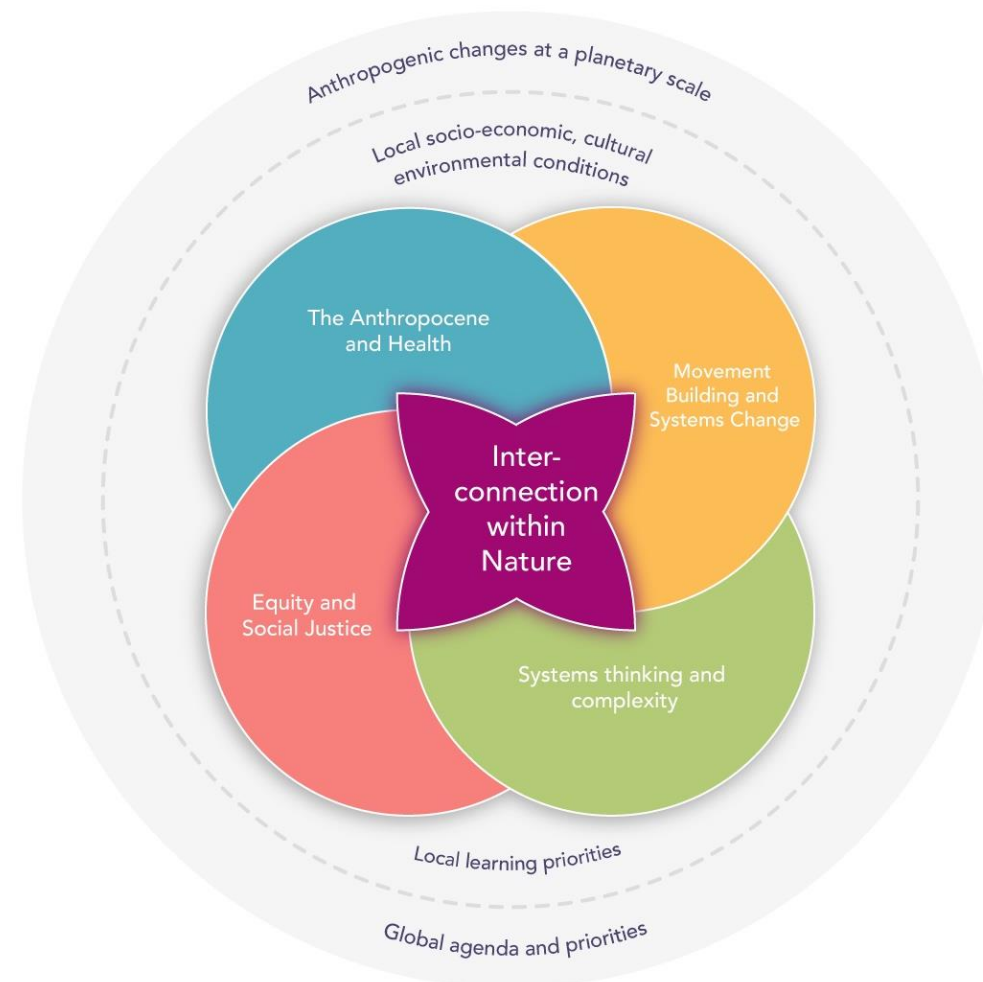


# Creating shared language and education to solve the urgent planetary health crisis



## Editors

Carlos A. Faerron Guzman  
Teddie Potter



We need a fundamental shift in how we live on Earth, what we are calling the Great Transition. Achieving the Great Transition will require rapid and deep structural changes across most dimensions of human activity.

---



# Sao Paulo Declaration for Planetary Health: Guidance for the Health Sector

Reorient all aspects of health systems toward planetary health-- from procurement, energy sources, health care efficiency, to waste reduction. Commit to achieving a Nature-positive, carbon neutral health care system before 2040, while strengthening health care systems' resilience to global environmental changes. Disease prevention, health promotion, and health equity must be at the heart of this transition.

Incorporate health perspectives and traditions beyond traditional Western methods, including traditional knowledges led by Indigenous Peoples, as well as other integrative health practices. Consider social and ecological determinants of health for both individuals and communities, including public and active transportation; access to health care facilities; green spaces to provide social, recreational, and mental health benefits; air, soil, and water quality; and access to affordable nutritious diets, particularly for lower income communities. Advocate for public access to culturally appropriate health services as a human right. (p. 6)







# 2022 Planetary Health Annual Meeting and Festival

*Building the Field and Growing the Movement*

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 2, 2022**

Held in Boston, Massachusetts

**REGISTER TODAY >**

**Event Host**



**PLANETARY  
HEALTH  
ALLIANCE**



# References and Resources

Faerron Guzman, C. A., & Potter, T. (Eds.). (2021). *Planetary health education framework*.  
<https://www.planetaryhealthalliance.org/education-framework>

Planetary Health Alliance- <https://planetaryhealthalliance.org/>

Planetary Health Alliance. (2021). *Sao Paulo Declaration on Planetary Health*.  
<https://www.planetaryhealthalliance.org/sao-paulo-declaration>

Watts, N., Amann, M., Arnell, N., Ayeb-Karlsson, S., Belesoviva, K., Boykoff, M. et al. (2019). The 2019 report of The *Lancet* Countdown on health and climate change: ensuring that the health of a child born today is not defined by a changing climate. The *Lancet*, 394(10211), 1836-1878. DOI:[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(19\)32596-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(19)32596-6)