

PHOENIX ZONES INITIATIVE



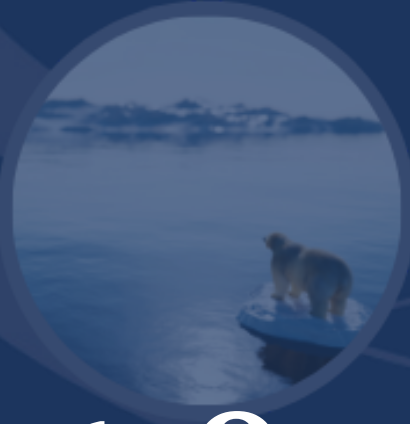
People

THE
NEXUS

Animals



Planet



Just One Health Impact Assessment Tool

WHAT IS A JUST ONE HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL?

There is an indelible connection between the rights, health, and wellbeing of humans, other-than-human animals (hereafter: animals), and shared environments and ecosystems. The evidence is clear that for humans to thrive, animals and the rest of the natural world must also thrive. A Just One Health Impact Assessment Tool can help ensure that proposed and existing projects center these connections.

What is an Impact Assessment?

An impact assessment is a structured, evidence-based process for considering how a proposal or intervention could affect a defined group of individuals, communities, shared environments, and ecosystems. There are many types of impact assessments, such as Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs), Human Rights Impact Assessments (HRIAs), and Child Rights Impact Assessments (CRIAs).

A New Kind of Impact Assessment

Phoenix Zones Initiative's research has shown the need for impact assessment tools and metrics that professionals, communities, and policy makers can use to gauge the intended and unintended impacts of proposed or existing policies, industries, and infrastructure on the rights, health, and wellbeing of humans, animals, shared environments, and ecosystems. These tools and metrics can also be used to hold policy makers and industries accountable when they're developing plans, legislation, budgets, services, and other policies and practices. Development of this impact assessment tool and related metrics has been informed by collaboration with other organizations and experts in a variety of fields.

A Framework Founded on Interspecies Justice

Phoenix Zones Initiative's impact assessment is founded on a Just One Health framework, which builds on a One Health approach that recognizes the interconnected health and wellbeing of humans, animals, plants, shared environments, and ecosystems. A Just One Health approach enables a more effective and impactful realization of One Health's potential by also recognizing the connections between rights, health, and justice, and that humans and animals have a right to be free from abuse and exploitation; to meet their self-determined physiological, physical, and mental needs; and to thrive as individuals, families, and communities in natural, safe, and healthy environments.

A Just One Health framework centers interspecies and intergenerational justice, which recognize the equal interests of humans and other-than-human beings across generations, as well as the importance of healthy environments and ecosystems. Taking these interests seriously requires that basic institutions in society—including social, economic, legal, and political systems—prioritize these interests in decision making.

A Just One Health Impact Assessment

A Just One Health-focused assessment examines the potential impacts of a proposal or intervention on the interdependent rights, health, and wellbeing of humans, animals, shared environments, and ecosystems. The assessment can be made as interventions are being developed or reviewed and, if necessary, suggests ways to avoid or mitigate any negative impacts while promoting positive impacts.

Ideally, this assessment is done prior to implementing a decision or action. The assessment focuses on how rights, health, and wellbeing may be affected by the decisions and actions of governments, institutions, and other entities in areas such as law, policy, and practice. Impacts are measured against the framework of justice set out above, and related tools and metrics. The process is meant to be continuous, from assessing anticipated impacts to reviewing and evaluating actual impacts. The tool emphasizes the importance of the precautionary principle, which generally aims to minimize the risk for harm in conditions of uncertainty.

STEP 1: SCREENING

Screening a proposal acts as a preliminary check to help determine whether a Just One Health impact assessment could be useful. It also provides a record of the decision and the basis for that decision. Initial screenings can be based on the information already available and the existing knowledge and expertise of those informing and conducting the assessment.

Key questions to ask:

- What is being proposed and what are its aims?
- How could the proposal generally impact the rights, health, and wellbeing of humans, animals, shared environments, and ecosystems?
- How would an impact assessment be useful?

A full assessment would generally be useful where the rights, health, and wellbeing of humans, animals, shared environments, and ecosystems are likely to be directly or indirectly affected, and where there is the potential to influence a change in policies, legislation, budgets, services, or planning or practice decisions.

STEP 2: SCOPING QUESTIONS

Overview

1. Name of proposal:
2. Source of proposal (e.g., city council, state legislature, federal agency, industry, institution):
3. Please provide a one- to two-sentence description of the proposal's key provisions.
4. Please provide a link to the proposal.
5. What are the goals of the proposal?

STEP 3: IMPACT ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

A. General Impact of the Proposal

1. Please estimate which and how many humans and animals could be impacted by the proposal.

Direct impacts:

Indirect impacts:

2. Please describe which and how many plants and other environmental elements could be impacted by the proposal.

Direct impacts:

Indirect impacts:

3. Please describe which ecosystems could be impacted by the proposal.

Direct impacts:

Indirect impacts:

4. How does the proposal respect the intrinsic value of individual human beings, other-than-human beings, plants, and other environmental elements?

B. Potential Harms of the Proposal

1. Does the proposal compromise the ability of humans and/or animals to make decisions about their own bodies and lives? If yes, describe how.

2. Does the proposal cause physical harm, psychological harm, suffering, or death to humans and/or animals? If yes, describe how.

3. Does the proposal cause physical harm, including death, to plants and/or other environmental elements?

C. Potential Benefits of the Proposal

1. Does the proposal improve the health of humans, animals, plants, and other environmental elements? If yes, describe how.

2. Does the proposal advance the wellbeing of humans, animals, plants, and other environmental elements? If yes, describe how.

3. Does the proposal promote the ability of humans, animals, plants, and other environmental elements to thrive to their full potential? If yes, describe how.

STEP 3: IMPACT ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

D. Fairness of the Proposal

- 1. What safeguards are in place to prevent the discrimination and exploitation of vulnerable individuals and populations, such as human children and adults affected by racism, sexism, ableism, and other forms of discrimination, and animals affected by speciesism?**
- 2. How does the proposal address systemic injustices and promote fair distribution of resources, opportunities, and benefits among humans, animals, and their shared environments and ecosystems?**
- 3. What mechanisms are in place to ensure participation and/or representation of vulnerable human beings and other-than-human beings in human-driven activities and decision-making processes?**

E. Prevention and Mitigation of Adverse Impacts of the Proposal

- 1. By applying the precautionary principle, how could the proposal anticipate and prevent potential negative impacts to humans, animals, plants, other environmental elements, and ecosystems?**
- 2. What changes could be made to the proposal to improve outcomes for humans, animals, plants, other environmental elements, and ecosystems?**
- 3. How could the proposal further prioritize historically vulnerable individuals and populations, such as animals and marginalized human children and adults?**

F. Sustainability of the Proposal

- 1. How does the proposal affect institutions that are integral to everyday life and the rights, health, and wellbeing of humans, animals, plants, other environmental elements, and ecosystems?**
- 2. How does the proposal direct resources to human and other-than-human individuals and groups who need them most?**
- 3. Once the proposal is implemented, how will the intervention be assessed over time for its actual impacts on humans, animals, plants, other environmental elements, and ecosystems?**

G. Transformative Potential of the Proposal

- 1. How does the proposal ensure a fair and just transition to more ethical practices, minimizing negative impacts on vulnerable human and other-than-human individuals and populations?**
- 2. How does the proposal consider the needs, voices, and rights of younger and future generations of human beings and other-than-human beings, ensuring that they inherit a world with equitable opportunities?**

STEP 4: SUPPORTING EVIDENCE (RELATED METRICS AND TOOLS)

The purpose of this stage is to gather evidence and identify where there may be gaps that need to be addressed—for example, by commissioning research or by seeking additional data from other sources.

Key questions to ask:

- What qualitative evidence have you used to inform your assessment? What does it tell you?
- What quantitative evidence have you used to inform your assessment? What does it tell you?
- What key missing information or evidence would be beneficial to your assessment?
- What individuals or groups would help inform your assessment?
- How could you further employ the precautionary principle in your assessment?

STEP 5: SUMMARY ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The summary assessment should indicate whether the assessed impact or impacts are

- positive, and will help progress rights, health, and wellbeing;
- neutral, with no expectation of significant change either way; or
- negative, and so will require modification of the policy or mitigation of its anticipated effects.

Indicate whether the likely impact of a proposal will have short-, medium-, or long-term outcomes. Discuss any differential impacts across groups and the justification for weighing different interests.

Considering the findings of the assessment, make recommendations, which could include, for example:

- The proposal should not proceed;
- The proposal should be amended before proceeding; or
- Further evidence is required.

Generally, each proposal or intervention could be improved by a thorough assessment.