**Scientists Warn of More Deadly Pandemics if Nature Not Protected**

**科学家警告：如不保护自然会有更多致命疫情**

Scientific experts have warned that deadly pandemics are likely to keep happening if action is not taken to protect natural environments.

科学专家警告称，如果不采取行动保护自然环境，致命的流行病很可能会继续发生。

Future pandemics will happen more often, spread faster and kill more people than COVID-19, the experts said. Such events are also expected to cause lasting harm to the world economy.

专家们表示，未来的疫情大流行将比新冠肺炎发生地更频繁、传播更快、死亡人数更多。预计此类事件还将对世界经济造成持久性伤害。

The warning came in a report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, an international expert group that advises governments. The group has more than 130 member states.

生物多样性和生态服务跨政府间科学政策平台的一份报告发出了这一警告。该平台是一个拥有130多个成员国的专为各国政府提供咨询服务的国际专家组。

The experts called for major efforts aimed at preventing pandemics rather than trying to contain them after they happen. The report urges major worldwide efforts to stop habitat destruction that can lead viruses to jump from wild animals to humans.

专家们呼吁重磅出击去预防大流行，而非在大流行发生后对其加以控制。该报告敦促全球各国努力停止进行或会导致病毒从野生动物传播到人类身上的生态环境破坏。

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has estimated that three out of every four new or emerging infectious diseases in people come from animals. Scientists have said COVID-19 probably started in bats and began spreading among humans at a market in China.

据美国疾病控制和预防中心估算，人类每四种新型或新出现的传染病中就有三种来自动物。科学家表示，新冠肺炎可能最开始是在中国的一个市场上从蝙蝠身上开始传播给人类并进一步传播的。

In their report, the experts predict that about half of an estimated 1.7 million undiscovered viruses in nature might be able to infect people. Activities such as poaching or clearing forests to grow soy or palm oil can bring humans and disease closer together.

他们在报告中预测，自然界中大约170万未被发现的病毒中约有一半能够感染人类。诸如偷猎或砍伐森林拓荒种大豆或棕榈油等活动会使人类和疾病更加紧密地联系在一起。

Deforestation, agriculture expansion, urbanization and other land-use changes are responsible for about one-third of all new diseases that have emerged since 1960, the report says. The $100 billion global wildlife trade is also responsible for the spread of new and existing diseases.

报告称，毁林、农业扩张、城市化和其他土地利用的变化是自1960年以来约三分之一新疾病的罪魁祸首。价值1000亿美元的全球野生动物贸易也对新型和现有疾病的传播负有重大责任。

The experts predict that about $50 billion a year in pandemic prevention spending could save the world about $1 trillion a year, on average, in economic damage. They said that as of July, the economic cost from COVID-19 was at least $8 trillion and rising.

专家们预测，每年支出约500亿美元用于大流行预防平均每年可以为全球节省约1万亿美元的经济损失。他们还说，截至7月新冠肺炎引发的经济成本至少为8万亿美元，而且还在上升。

Peter Daszak was the report’s lead writer. He is president of EcoHealth Alliance, an international health, environment and development organization. He said in a statement that even though the experts call for urgent action, "this is not a doom and gloom report saying the world's going to end and it's too late." Instead, Daszak said it should be seen as “an optimistic call for action."

彼得·达扎克是该报告的主要作者。他是国际健康、环境与发展组织“生态健康联盟”的主席。他在一份声明中称，尽管专家们都在呼吁采取紧急行动，但“这不是一份悲观绝望的报告，告诉大家世界将要毁灭，一切都太晚了。”相反，达扎克说，这应该被视为“乐观奋起的呼声”。

He noted that the current method for dealing with pandemics is to wait for them to emerge and then try to identify them before they spread. COVID-19 has demonstrated the problems with that plan. Chinese officials attempted to contain COVID-19 after the disease was discovered last year, but it was already too late.

他指出，目前应对大流行的方法是等待它们出现，然后在它们传播之前尝试识别出它们。新冠肺炎已经显露了这个计划的问题。中国官方在去年发现新冠病毒后试图控制它但为时已晚。

"And here we are waiting for a vaccine and drugs to work," Daszak said. "It's not a good strategy. We need to do more."

达扎克说：“我们则正在等待某个疫苗和药物能起到（治疗它的）作用。这不是一个好的策略。我们需要做得更多。”

I’m Bryan Lynn.

布莱恩·林恩报道。

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