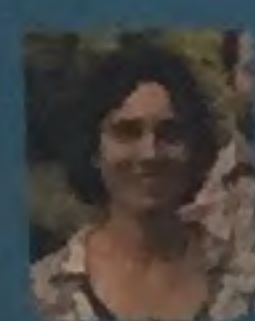
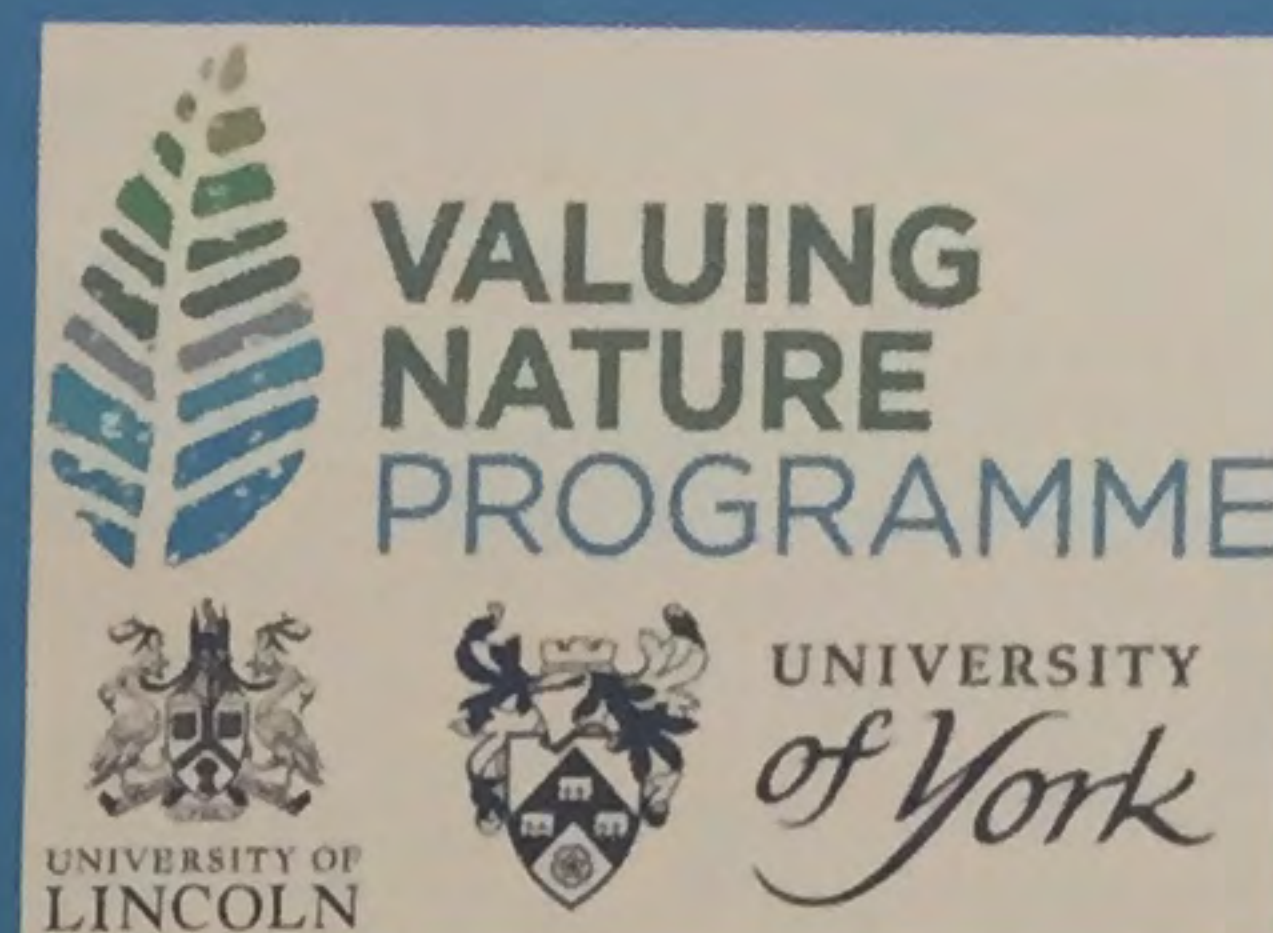


Linking environmental and health research on antimicrobial resistance



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1. Background

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major challenge facing the world and future generations, in which understanding the value of nature is paramount.

In 2015 the World Health Organization, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and World Organisation for Animal Health adopted a global action plan to tackle AMR through an One Health (human, animal and ecosystem health) approach. One of the aims of my placement was to analyse the national action plans on AMR published post 2015 to review the inclusion of a One Health approach and, specifically, ecosystems within them.



Figure 1. WHO database on AMR: multi-sectoral and One Health arrangements.

2. The analysis

I reviewed all national action plans post 2015 comprising countries from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Europe (Fig. 1). I also analysed the WHO Global Database on AMR for inclusion of multisectoral committees (a pillar of One Health). For countries that had adopted a One Health approach, I reviewed i) the presence of a multisectoral committee; ii) whether the committee was working jointly or was implementing integrated approaches to AMR; and iii) whether ecosystems were being considered.



3. Results

Since 2015, all published national action plans on AMR have an integrated One Health approach (12/12). None of these plans included ecosystems within One Health. Despite multi-sectoral committees almost doubling post 2015 (51/194 vs 105/194), only 6.4% of countries (14/194) have joint working or integrated approaches to monitor progress on the national action plans on AMR (Fig. 2).

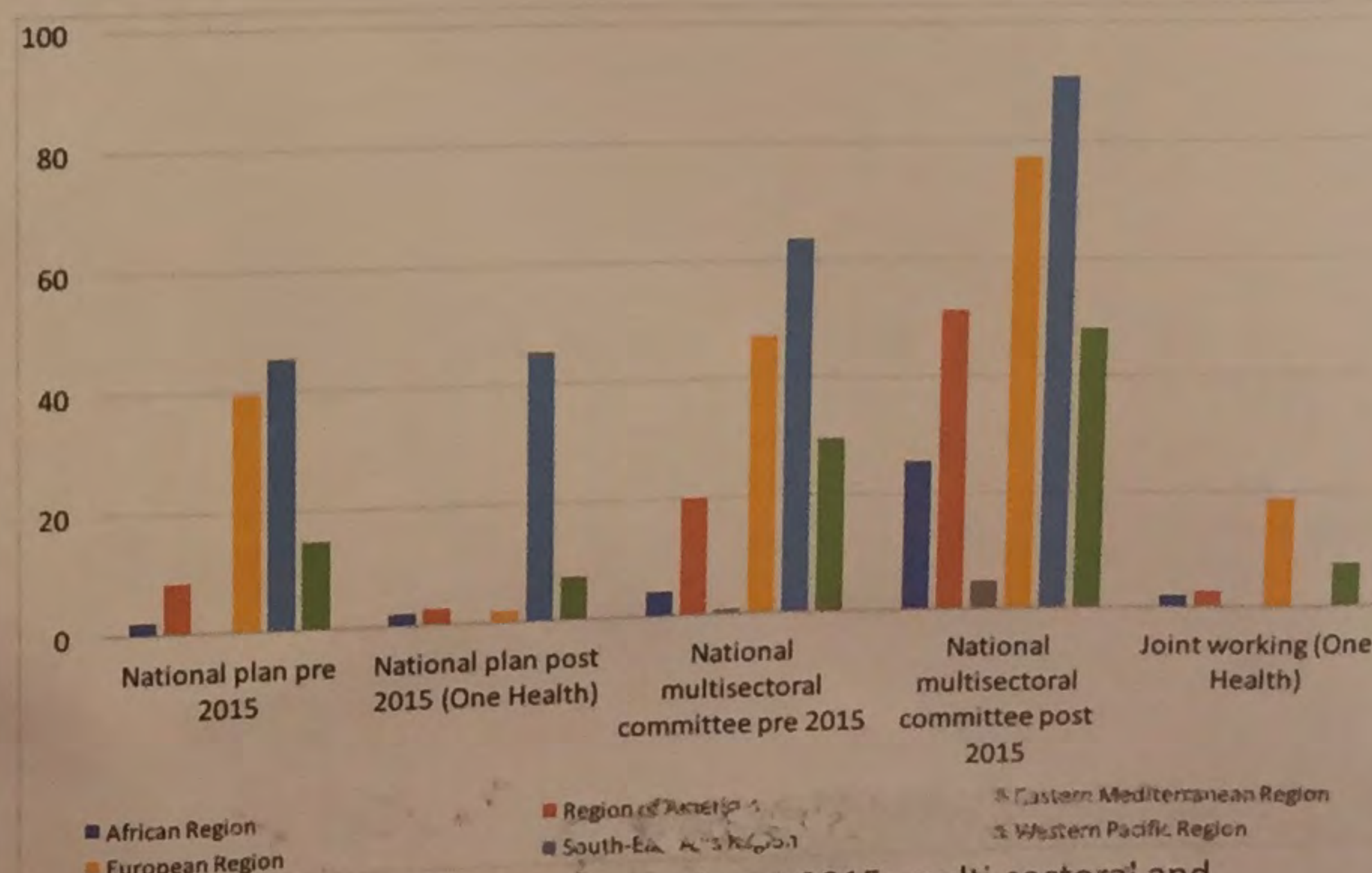


Figure 2. National action plans pre and post 2015: multi-sectoral and One Health arrangements.

4. Conclusions

Despite progress in the uptake of a One Health approach, current national action plans still fall short of including ecosystems. This is a critical future challenge if we are to tackle AMR.