



**Statement by Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias  
Executive Secretary for the Convention on Biological Diversity**

It is with great sadness that we heard of the passing away of Angela Cropper. My thoughts and prayers, and those of the entire Secretariat are with her family and friends in this time of loss. Angela was a central figure to the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and indeed to the field of biodiversity overall.

She was the first Executive Secretary for the CBD, serving from 1993 to 1995. With a handful of colleagues, she was responsible for establishing the interim secretariat and the building blocks for the work of the Convention. During her tenure, the first two meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity were held. COP-1, held in the Bahamas, set the CBD on the path towards the Programme of Work it has now. COP-2, held in Indonesia, produced the Jakarta Mandate which remains the foundation and framework for protection of our oceans today.

During these years, it was the vision and energy of Angela that propelled the international community towards protecting the variety of life on our planet today. Following her tenure at the Secretariat, Angela continued to be an energetic champion for the environment. Her Cropper Foundation became an important organization for promoting sustainable development in the Caribbean and beyond. She continued to contribute to the biodiversity agenda, including serving as Co-chair of the assessment panel for the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and as a member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility.

Even as she battled illness in recent years, she continued her service to the environment, serving as Deputy Executive Director for UNEP. In that capacity, she maintained a focus on biodiversity and the work of the Convention.

Her death is a huge loss. She will be missed.

As we remember her, let us be inspired by her tireless energy, by her commitment to making a better world for all and by her leadership and vision. Her inspiring vigor is a lesson and her legacy to us.



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

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