



**Statement by
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Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
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This 17 October, 2022 marks the 30th anniversary of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, under the theme of “Dignity for All in Practice”.

The connection between biodiversity and poverty is undeniable. Over seventy percent of people living in poverty live in rural areas and heavily depend on biodiversity for survival. The urban poor also rely upon biodiversity, not only to produce food and other necessary goods, but also for ecosystem services such as the maintenance of air and water quality, climate regulation, or the breakdown of waste. The impact of environmental degradation is devastating for people living in poverty because they often don’t have anything else to fall back on.

The current rate of biodiversity loss may have grave consequences and hamper efforts to meet a range of Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, specifically those related to poverty, hunger and health. Vulnerable populations including the poor, marginalized, women and children, will likely suffer first and most severely because, as mentioned, they often rely more directly on biodiversity and associated ecosystem services for their very survival.

The underlying causes of biodiversity loss, climate change and negative health outcomes are common: change in land-use and habitat, overharvesting, deforestation, unsustainable agricultural and water management practices, climate change, invasive alien species resulting from vectors such as international travel and trade, and more. The severe consequences of climate change and biodiversity loss are responsible for the destruction of homes, crops, and livelihoods. And in many cases, hope.

But I would like to offer a renewed sense of hope and a vision for the future that will help move us towards the goal of eradicating poverty. This December, Parties to the Convention will gather in Montreal, Canada for a milestone event. Together, world leaders are expected to adopt an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework to transform our relationship with biodiversity.

The stakes are high, but we remain hopeful that the adoption of this ground-breaking framework will chart the path into a transformational decade - a decade marked by meaningful collaboration and concrete action towards the delivery of the set goals and targets, including poverty reduction. In order for that to happen, an *all-hands-on-deck* approach is needed. We all have a part to play in the halting and reversing of biodiversity loss and the eradication of poverty.

