

**Statement by  
David Cooper  
Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
International Mother Earth Day  
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Mother Earth is life-giving, nurturing, complex, and beautiful. We see this in mountain ranges, rainforests, coral reefs, wetlands, and in the full diversity of life and cultures on this planet.

Biodiversity is the heartbeat of Mother Earth.

The triple planetary crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution is threatening Mother Earth, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the global vision of living in harmony with nature.

Indigenous peoples and local communities, including youth and children, are at the forefront of protecting Mother Earth but they are also among the most directly affected by these crises.

In December of 2022, the global community took a huge step towards a positive change. It agreed upon the most ambitious set of global goals and targets to protect nature that the world has ever seen. The [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), or The Biodiversity Plan, aims to protect and restore nature, to prosper with nature, to share benefits fairly, and to invest and collaborate for nature. These goals are supported by 23 action targets that address both the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss.

The Biodiversity Plan recognizes and considers diverse value systems and concepts, including for those countries that recognize them, rights of nature and rights of Mother Earth.

The Plan also acknowledges the important roles and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity and as partners in its conservation, restoration and sustainable use. Their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices are crucial to halting and reversing biodiversity loss.

To achieve the goals and targets of The Biodiversity Plan it will take a holistic, whole-of-society approach.

We all have a role to play.

On this International Mother Earth Day, let us pause to cherish and strengthen our relationship with the land, air, water, plants, and animals. Let us focus on the ways that Mother Earth provides for our health and wellbeing – physically, mentally, spiritually. In turn, let us take action to protect her.

We can all be part of the Plan -- The Biodiversity Plan.