



**Statement by
David Cooper
Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
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Plant health, safe trade and digital technology**

Plants make up 80 percent of the food we eat and 98 percent of the oxygen we breathe. They are essential to not only our health, but our survival. Needless to say, plant biodiversity needs to be a priority.

Globally, more than 240 million containers are shipped between countries, carrying different goods, including some plant products, and some form of wood packaging materials. Unfortunately, this high volume of movement can also unintentionally move pests across borders in the form of seeds, snails, slugs, soil, spiders, and numerous other biosecurity risks.

The Convention on Biological Diversity cooperates with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) to coordinate efforts to prevent the control the introduction and spread of plant pests. The IPPC addresses plant pest risks and that could include [invasive alien species](#). Currently, global economic losses caused by invasive pest species are estimated at approximately USD 220 billion per year.

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity is a supplementary protocol to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol contributes to an adequate level of protection in the safe transport, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biodiversity, taking into account risks to human health. Biotechnology applications are often used as part of integrated pest control programmes in agriculture. In this regard, countries applying such approaches do so in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

The [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), or The Biodiversity Plan, has 4 goals and 23 targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and build a healthy future for generations to come. Urgent and effective implementation of the Biodiversity Plan will be important for ensuring plant health, safe trade and digital technology priorities. Specifically, [Target 6](#) to reduce the introduction of invasive alien species and minimize their impact, [Target 11](#) to restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, and [Target 17](#) to strengthen biosafety and distribute the benefits of biotechnology are crucial to the plant health agenda.

The Biodiversity Plan also takes a One Health approach, among other holistic approaches, based on science, in order to mobilize multiple sectors, disciplines, and communities to work together and aim to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, plants, and ecosystems.



This International Day of Plant Health, let us be reminded to protect plant health across borders, collaborate globally, promote international standards, and let us all be part of the Plan; The Biodiversity Plan.