



**Statement by
David Cooper
Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
World Bee Day
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Bee Engaged with Youth**

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Pollination is a vital ecosystem function and service. Bees and other pollinators are critical for agriculture, ecological balance and biodiversity conservation. Nearly 90 per cent of the world's wild flowering plant species depend on pollinators.¹ Unfortunately, pollinators have drastically declined mainly due to habitat fragmentation, land use change, pesticides and other agricultural and industrial chemicals, parasites and diseases, invasive alien species, climate change, and intensive agricultural practices. But it's not too late to act.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, or The Biodiversity Plan, adopted by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, aims to create a sustainable future, one in which we live in harmony with nature. Its four goals are: to protect and restore nature, to prosper with nature, to share benefits fairly, and to invest and collaborate for nature. The Biodiversity Plan includes targets to use biodiversity more effectively in agriculture, thereby enhancing pollination, pest control and soil fertility.

The Biodiversity Plan requires a whole-of-society approach and actors from all walks of life. Target 22 of the Plan aims to ensure indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities have the right to participate in decision-making and have access to justice and information related to biodiversity.

Young people, in particular, have an important role to play. Wherever they are, young people are inspired by nature around them. At school, at home, in their communities, they learn about biodiversity and the role of pollinators, share ideas on conservation and sustainability efforts, and advocate for the environment.

Young people can make a positive impact. They can – they must – be part of the Plan; The Biodiversity Plan.

¹ IPBES (2016). [Assessment Report on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production](https://www.cbd.int/undb/media/youth/fao-youth-guide-biodiv.pdf).
Youth Guide to Biodiversity <https://www.cbd.int/undb/media/youth/fao-youth-guide-biodiv.pdf>
And the Challenge Badge on Pollinators <https://www.fao.org/3/cb4803en/cb4803en.pdf>

