



Ministerio
del Ambiente



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**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**
Our solutions are in nature



Convention on
Biological Diversity

International Biological Diversity Day 2020

Statement by Gabriel Quijandría, Vice Minister of Strategic Development of Natural Resources of Peru

Dear Excellencies, colleagues, distinguished participants.

It is an honor for me, on behalf of the Peruvian government, to send you the warmest regards on this special day, in which we recall the fundamental role of nature in ensuring the viability of human life on Earth.

We must be extremely concerned that the very year in which we were supposed to renew our commitments to biological diversity conservation, almost 3 billion people around the world are in lockdown due to a pandemic that has been generated by a dysfunctional relationship with nature.

Today, there is no doubt that the origin and rapid expansion of the COVID-19 pandemic has environmental determinants such as the degradation of ecosystems, land and water pollution, and overexploitation and abuse

of wild animals and plants, as identified in the IPBES report published last year.

For this reason, today more than ever, we need a long-term transformation, a transformation that makes the use of biodiversity goods and services based on the principles of sustainability and mutual respect, to ensure that the promise of development becomes true, not only for us but for generations to come.

During the last months, our distancing from nature has generated images, from all over the world, of unusually clean skies, rivers and seas and wildlife recovering spaces from which we had expelled them before. Nature has taken a breath and has shown its resilience and capacity to come back. This is good news, but once the pandemic is over, we must not return, I repeat, not return to the previous normality, since that normality was the very cause of the problem.

As stated in this year's special theme, we are convinced that real and lasting solutions to this and other serious environmental problems are precisely in nature and, for that reason, we must ensure functional ecosystems, healthy animals and plants, and human populations with more sustainable consumption habits.

Due to its megadiverse condition, Peru is a country where nature has always been a challenging partner, which has forced men to display the best of their ability and creativity to build a culture that was able to flourish

within the limits of nature. Somewhere in time we lost that capacity, but current times demand us to find it again.

In such regard, the government of Peru reaffirms its commitments to the following:

- Work to stop the net loss and degradation of ecosystems, including pollution of seas and rivers, and seek innovative measures to reduce and mitigate the impacts on biodiversity caused by climate change. The establishment and consolidation of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OMECS) will be fundamental in achieving these objectives;
- Restore degraded terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems, with emphasis on those that provide the biggest contributions to human well-being;
- Join efforts to eradicate over-exploitation and illegal trade in wild species and to avoid genetic erosion of native species and their wild relatives, focusing on research, development and innovation, and on generating information for better decision-making;
- Increase the benefits provided by biodiversity to the population, by promoting responsible private investment in bio and eco-businesses, and strengthening the role and participation of

indigenous peoples and local communities in those ventures;

- Guarantee a fair and equitable distribution of benefits for indigenous peoples and local communities, protectors of our natural heritage, but also direct victims of the consequences of its degradation;
- Mainstream the green infrastructure approach, which seeks to incorporate ecosystems as part of the tools used to solve major development challenges such as the provision of clean water, coastal erosion, or disaster risk reduction; and through that, reconnect urban spaces and their inhabitants with their remaining natural surroundings;
- Promote the deployment of increased public and private finance aimed at ecosystems conservation and sustainable use, using mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services.
- Promote the adoption of circular economy models, renewable energies, the reduction of the use of plastics and other pollutants, and the adoption of technologies in production systems that have less impact on the environment and biodiversity.

This is a crucial time. It is time for us to renew our partnership with nature. It is time for us to understand that long-lasting human wellbeing **is not and will not be possible** without nature's involvement.

It is not late yet. There is still hope. Let's work together to rebuild our relationship with nature and, in the process, ensure our survival in the long term.

Thank you very much for your attention and a great Global Biodiversity Day for all.