



## International Day for Biological Diversity 2020

### Background

The United Nations proclaimed May 22 as the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues ([www.cbd.int/idb](http://www.cbd.int/idb)).

As the global community is called to re-examine its relationship to the natural world, one thing is certain: despite all our technological advances we are completely dependent on healthy and vibrant ecosystems for our water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter and energy, just to name a few. The theme “Our solutions are in nature” emphasizes hope, solidarity and the importance of working together at all levels to build a future of life in harmony with nature.

Build back better. 2020 is a year of reflection, opportunity and solutions. It is the year where, more than ever, the world can signal a strong will for a global framework that will “bend the curve” on biodiversity loss for the benefit of humans and all life on Earth. 2020 will witness:

- The final period for the [2011-2020 Strategic Plan on Biodiversity](#) and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
- The end of the [2011-2020 United Nations Decade on Biodiversity](#), leading to the transitional phase for the start of other new pivotal biodiversity-related decades for the period 2021-2030: the [UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development](#) and the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#);
- The UN Biodiversity Summit ([A/RES/73/234](#)), at the level of Heads of State and Government, in order to highlight the urgency of action at the highest levels in support of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and places the global community on a path towards realizing the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.



As part of a comprehensive communication strategy, the CBD Secretariat, working with Parties, UN entities and other partners around the world, will commemorate the IDB on 22 May. Each day leading up to it will highlight interconnected topics related to the biodiversity agenda. It is hoped that this roadmap could also be adapted, emulated and used by all countries and stakeholders around the world. All biodiversity-related conventions are invited to contribute to IDB in accordance with their mandates and current situation.

## Themes

The themes to be covered from 18 to 22 May 2020 are key elements of the biodiversity agenda. The “story” unfolds, building up to the International Day for Biological Diversity, 22 May:

May 2020				
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	Tue 19 <sup>th</sup>	Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Thu 21 <sup>st</sup>	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Science and Knowledge	Awareness			Action
	Conservation of Biodiversity	Health and food	People and Culture	

**18 May – Science and traditional knowledge** are in the spotlight, not only to understand the state of biodiversity, but also to comprehend the drivers of biodiversity loss and pathways for a sustainable future.

**19-21 May** – Taking advantage of [World Bee Day](#), and the [World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development](#), these 3 days are devoted to raising **awareness** on areas that deal with the different objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity: 1) different ways of conserving biodiversity; 2) health, agriculture, food and feed, food security and biodiversity; and 3) people, culture and biodiversity. Awareness should also be raised on the link between biodiversity, climate and land (particularly in light of the outcome of Climate Change COP 25).

**22 May** – The commemoration culminates with the International Day for Biological Diversity around the theme of **action for biodiversity** and emphasizing that “**Our solutions are in nature**”.



## Slogan

The themes and the slogan are meant to mirror the relationship with [IPBES assessments](#). It is recommended that the days preceding IDB build up to the Day and, therefore, build up to the overall slogan: “**Our solutions are in nature**”. This slogan brings both Nature-Based Solutions with biodiversity safeguards and the biodiversity/nature aspect together in a way that is easy to grasp. It also shows that people are part of nature rather than separate from nature.

This slogan can also pair well with different calls to action for each day. Calls for action could include:

- Ecosystem-based solutions for addressing biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation simultaneously;
- Mainstreaming biodiversity in economic sectors.

The theme of the upcoming UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) will be: “Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”. To build that future, we can find solutions in nature.

## Worldwide commemoration

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, IDB 2020 will be commemorated through its first ever online-only campaign. **You are in the best position to know what awareness-raising campaigns and calls to action are feasible at your national level.**

For each of the themes/days, you are encouraged to collaborate with your Ministry of Education, formal and informal education sector, UNESCO National Commission, and/or your local NGOs network to do specific activities and multiply the effects of the campaign.

We are soliciting videos and written statements on the theme “Our solutions are in nature” from all regions of the world with the plan to roll these out across the different time zones, thereby emphasising hope, solidarity and the importance of working together at all levels to build a future of life in harmony with nature. If you wish to participate in this “wave of solidarity”, please [send us your message](#).



## IDB assets



[Get the logo >](#)

The CBD Secretariat is in the process of creating a number of digital assets to support commemoration of the IDB by the Parties. Please visit the website [www.cbd.int/idb/2020](http://www.cbd.int/idb/2020) and follow [@UNBiodiversity](https://twitter.com/UNBiodiversity) social media platforms below to see what is available:

[facebook.com/UNBiodiversity](https://facebook.com/UNBiodiversity)

[twitter.com/unbiodiversity](https://twitter.com/unbiodiversity)

[instagram.com/unbiodiversity](https://instagram.com/unbiodiversity)

[linkedin.com/company/unbiodiversity](https://linkedin.com/company/unbiodiversity)

**Thank you for your participation!**