



Md. Shahab Uddin MP
Minister

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

D.O. No

Date :



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Message from Minister for the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2021

This is indeed an immense pleasure to express our best wishes to the people of Bangladesh as well as, to the global community for celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity, 22 May 2021 with solemnity. We are highly delighted to be a part of this celebration of the auspicious day through the online-only campaign. The slogan for the day of the year “**We're part of the solution #ForNature**” is significantly conveying the appeal to all of us that we have an intricate relationship with nature. Nature incessantly supports us by providing food, water, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter, energy, and life-supporting oxygen and such. However, if the ever-growing footprint of humans on nature as well as ecology remains uncontrolled, it would not be possible to conserve it both for us and the generations to come. In fact, we should realize that the functional ecosystems underpin the wellbeing of humanity for its survival, which denotes self-preservation. It is a proven truth that if we ignore nature, it repulses us in turn and may result in various epidemics or disasters like COVID-19.

While healthy nature can contribute to minimizing the impact of climate change and maximizing wellbeing, we find frequent irreparable losses and extinction of species is happening in proportion to anthropogenic climate change, pollution, and destruction of habitats. To reverse the situation, we have to re-examine how we are acting or reacting with the natural world, the ecosystems, the diversity of species, and the environment as a whole. As a result, we are facing the extreme events of climate and pandemic diseases that are slackening our expected economic growth and development. The slogan of this

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year's International Day for Biological Diversity "*We're part of the solution #For Nature*" conveys the message that we need to restore the tie with nature and protect the planet for the sake of humanity itself.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman implemented a good number of programs including tree plantation to preserve the nature, environment and biodiversity of the country. The Father of the Nation also enacted 'the Bangladesh Wildlife (Preservation) Order' realising the need to conserve forests, wildlife and biodiversity. To save the wildlife of the country, he enacted 'the Wildlife Conservation Act' in 1974. Originally, this law marked a new chapter in the conservation of wildlife in the country. Following all his great initiatives, Present Bangladesh Government under the leadership of honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is also strongly committed to working with best efforts to conserve nature through different programs, adopting strategies, formulating and implementing policies and legislations. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change planted one core saplings free of cost across the country on the occasion of the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation. These successful tree plantation programs will play a significant role in the development of the environment and the ecosystem of the country.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has recognized conservation of biodiversity and nature as a fundamental principle of State Policy. Bangladesh is one of the few countries that enacted the *Bangladesh Biological Diversity Act 2017*. The country has formulated an updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2016-2021. We have integrated Biodiversity related SDG Targets into the NBSAP and Five-year plans. Most of the targets are being implemented under various development initiatives and aligning with the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. The area coverage of the protected areas, ecologically critical areas, and other special conservation areas are on an increasing trend towards achieving the global targets.

Bangladesh, being a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is very keen to engage with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and its implementation at the local, regional and global level. Our government is committed to remain engaged with raising the voice on the conservation of nature, natural resources, and ecosystems in the most vulnerable countries. I would like to express our solidarity to the global community to strengthen the efforts towards living in harmony with nature.

I wish every success of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2021.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu

(Md. Shahab Uddin M.P.)
Minister