

Video message by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity, 22 May 2021

Today is the International Day for Biological Diversity under the theme “We’re part of the solution”.

At times the news seems overwhelming. The diversity of life on our rich planet is declining more than ever before in human history. One million plant and animal species face extinction. Humans are overusing the Earth’s capacity by more than half.

The COVID-19 crisis has also served to highlight just how critical the health of nature is for human well-being and sustainable development.

Now is the time to change our relationship with nature.

By halting biodiversity loss, we create the conditions needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, to improve human health, and address the climate emergency.

World leaders are embarking on a journey to negotiate a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that will be agreed later this year at the fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP15) in Kunming, China.

It is imperative we get a compact that will support and enable transformative change and alter the behaviour of people, businesses and governments around the world. Even as governments discuss the way to build a future of life in harmony with nature must all immediately endeavour to protect the ecosystems, species and genetic diversity so crucial to human well-being and that of our planet. By acting for nature, we create a fairer, healthier and more sustainable world.

Are you part of the solution to save biodiversity? If not yet, I invite you. Become part of the solution for nature. Happy International Biodiversity Day!

[#BiodiversityDay](#)

[#COP15](#)

[#ForNature](#)