

**H.E. DATUK SERI DR. SHAMSUL ANUAR NASARAH**  
**MINISTER OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, MALAYSIA**  
**IN CONJUNCTION WITH**  
**THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (IDB)**  
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Salam Sejahtera,

At the outset, I wish to thank the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for providing me the opportunity to deliver an important message from Malaysia in conjunction with the International Day of Biological Diversity (IDB) 2021.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The global community has experienced the health, economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a zoonotic disease that originated from the disconnect between humans and nature. While the vaccines offer hope for normality, we must take this opportunity to rebuild our relationship with nature.

“We are part of the solution” is an apt theme for this year in light of recent events. The pandemic has emphasized man’s broken relationship with nature and the need to remedy the same.

Malaysia, being one of the 12 mega-diverse countries, pledges to maintain its rich natural heritage. Our biodiversity can be seen in the regal Malayan tiger, the charismatic orangutan and the Yellow Meranti – the tallest tropical tree. It is evident in our diverse ecosystems, from lime stones caves of Gua Niah, the mountains of Mt Kinabalu and to the seas of Sipadan Island. Our genetic diversity’s pool is limitless.

Keeping these diverse ecosystems and species intact is a mammoth task. Malaysia is proud to be part of the solution by keeping the delicate balance between our own economic progress and the protection of biodiversity. Some of our key initiatives are the Greening of Malaysia, Ops Bersepadu Khazanah (OBK), Biodiversity Protection and Patrolling Program (BP3) and the implementation of the Access and Benefit Sharing Act 2017.

In Malaysia, we believe that the conservation of biodiversity is a shared responsibility. This can be seen through the involvement of all levels of society in the various conservation initiatives undertaken by the country.

For example, the public and private sectors, the NGOs and local communities all participate in the Greening of Malaysia campaign that aims to plant 100 million trees by 2025. Further, OBK employs a multi-agency approach to increasing ‘boots on the ground’, while BP3 encourages the involvement of Malaysian Armed Forces Veterans, Royal Malaysia Police Veterans and Indigenous Peoples and Local

Communities (IPLC) in patrolling. For its successes in combatting wildlife crime, the OBK was given recognition at the 5<sup>th</sup> Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards organized by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The implementation of the National Policy on Biological Diversity 2016-2025 together with other related initiatives ensures Malaysia's green recovery plan.

On that note, let us strive towards achieving the overall goal of nations living in harmony with nature by 2050. Biodiversity is our life, our heritage and our future.

Happy International Day of Biological Diversity 2021.

Thank you.