

**Transcript: Video message from Her Excellency Ms. Carola Schouten,  
Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality,  
The Netherlands  
on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2021**

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the International Day for Biological Diversity we celebrate the value of nature to our lives.

Nature provides us with fertile soils, pollinators, food, clean air and much more. Nature also makes us resilient to climate change and helps protect us from flooding.

From the office where I am standing now, it is just a short bike ride to the sea.

There we find a perfect example of the way nature serves us.

We call it the Sand Motor.

Ten years ago, a large amount of sand was dredged offshore and added to the coastline.

This allowed wind, wave and tide action to distribute the sand further.

This way, nature reinforces our coastline, while creating new habitats with great biodiversity.

In the same way that nature gives us a helping hand, we must protect and restore biodiversity.

Because if biodiversity is threatened, we ourselves are at risk.

In recent years, a Delta Plan for Biodiversity has come to light in the Netherlands, primarily a non-state actor initiative, bringing together nature organisations, businesses, farmers, scientists, governments, and the financial sector.

This is an excellent showcase of a whole-of-society approach, because we can only do it together.

We are all part of nature, and we are all part of the solution.

This year, in Kunming, China, at the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, we must take an important step by adopting an ambitious, but most of all **effective** Global Biodiversity Framework.

Together we can turn the tide!

