



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

Message from the Hon'ble Minister for the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bangladesh on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2022

This is my immense pleasure to convey my felicitations to the global community on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity, 22 May 2022. The auspicious day is celebrated with the slogan '*Building a shared future for all life*' is a timely one for all of us when the planet, as well as our natural world, is under severe threat due to the drastically changing scenario in the use of both land and sea, climate change, pollution, over-exploitation of natural resources, invasive species and so on. 'Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth', is the theme of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) to be held this year in Kunming embodies the hope of humanity for a better future. The slogan brings awareness to think and act strategically for the security of the future of our planet. The slogan has got the imperative force to build momentum and support for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to be adopted at the COP-15. The Biodiversity Day allows the global community to re-examine their relationship to the natural world, while the pressures of degradation of the ecosystems are ever-increasing.

Despite all our technological advances, we could not ignore our dependence on healthy and vibrant ecosystems for our water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter, and energy, just to name a few. A healthy ecosystem endows us with wealthy goods and services, which is essential for the prosperity of civilization. We need to respect nature, follow its laws, and conserve it. We need to find a way for human beings and nature to live in harmony, balancing economic development and ecological protection, and work together to build an environment-friendly prosperous world.

To this end, the Honourable Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has declared Environment Conservation as one of the ten priorities for achieving Sustainable Development Goals in the country. The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has recognized the 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 to fulfil the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. We

have also promulgated the Wildlife (conservation and protection) Act 2012 for the conservation and protection of wildlife. The country has taken steps to update the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in line with the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Despite being a smaller country in regard to land resources, around 5.74% area of the country has been declared as Protected Areas including Ecologically Critical Areas. A total of 6.20% of the marine area has been declared as 'Marine Protected Area'. Bangladesh being a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is expressing solidarity towards a stronger GBF to 'bend the curve' on biodiversity loss for the benefit of humans and all life on Earth.

I would like to express our solidarity to the global community to strengthen the efforts toward **Building a Shared Future for all Life**.

I wish every success of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2022.



(Md. Shahab Uddin, M.P)

Minister