

International Day for Biological Diversity 2026

Ladies and gentlemen,

Celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity means recognizing a fundamental truth: protecting life on this planet begins where life itself unfolds, in territories, communities, and ecosystems cared for every day.

Protecting biodiversity is not an ecological abstraction; it means acting locally with the certainty that our actions echo far beyond our borders, shaping the common destiny of humanity.

In Brazil, this understanding is reflected across our territories and biomes. Our biodiversity is more than a collection of ecosystems or species inventories. It is part of our national identity, the livelihood of millions of families, the root of ancestral cultures, and the greatest wealth we have inherited to shape the future we want to build.

As one of the world's megadiverse countries, Brazil recognizes the responsibility that comes with this status. Caring for our forests, savannas, rivers, and oceans is not a burden; it is our historic mission. But we know this mission can only be fulfilled if we face inequalities head-on. For us, protecting nature and giving dignity to our people are two sides of the same coin. There is no environmental conservation without social justice. This vision is fully aligned with the global commitment to living in harmony with nature.

In recent years, Brazil has made a clear decision: to place life and nature at the center of our decisions. We have strengthened our institutions, combated illegality, and strengthened governance and enforcement across our territories. And the results speak for themselves: the significant reduction in deforestation is living proof that it is possible to promote development while protecting ecosystems.

This agenda is carried forward by Indigenous Peoples, local communities, family farmers, artisanal fishers, and the workers of our bioeconomy. They are not merely beneficiaries of public policies, but central partners in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. By protecting biodiversity, we are safeguarding their lives, their cultures, and their fundamental rights.

We move forward with ambition and responsibility. Brazil is investing in the bioeconomy, in science combined with traditional knowledge, and in the fair sharing of benefits arising from our genetic heritage. Brazil is committed to promoting

standing forests, healthy oceans, and restored ecosystems as foundations for sustainable livelihoods, climate resilience, and social inclusion.

Our leadership is also forged through global dialogue. Building on its long-standing engagement with multilateral environmental governance, including hosting COP-8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Curitiba in 2006, Brazil remains committed to strengthening global cooperation, fostering dialogue, building bridges, and promoting collective solutions.

In this spirit, Brazil has also proposed the Tropical Forest Forever Facility, an innovative mechanism designed to support countries that conserve tropical forests and recognize the global value of standing ecosystems.

Our National Strategy, aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, reflects this commitment. We are working tirelessly to halt species loss, restore degraded areas, and integrate biodiversity into our development planning.

"Acting locally for global impact" is an urgent call to collective action. Governments, businesses, scientists, and citizens all have a role to play.

Every local action contributes to building a more resilient and sustainable future for humanity, reminding us that local action is essential for global impact.

Brazil remains committed to science, social inclusion, and international cooperation. We invite all nations, institutions, and citizens to join us in making biodiversity conservation not only a responsibility of the present, but a shared commitment to our common future.

João Paulo Ribeiro Capobianco

Minister of the Environment and Climate Change of Brazil

MINISTÉRIO DO
MEIO AMBIENTE E
MUDANÇA DO CLIMA

