



**MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

MINISTER'S REMARK

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MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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FOR

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY 2026

“ACTING LOCALLY FOR GLOBAL IMPACT”

22 MAY 2026

Greetings from Malaysia.

1. The health of our planet is an intricate mirror of human action. For far too long, we have treated biodiversity merely as a resource to be exploited, rather than recognising it as the vital life-support system that underpins our very existence. While human activity has undeniably strained our ecosystems, it is also the only force capable of restoring them.
2. The theme for the International Day for Biodiversity 2026, “Acting Locally for Global Impact,” serves as a clarion call, emphasising that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) is a roadmap that requires urgent, localized human intervention for its success. As a megadiverse nation, Malaysia has integrated KMGBF in its National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) recognising that the grand ambitions of both KMGBF and NBSAP are rooted in our forests, protected within our reefs, and carried through the hands of our local communities.
3. Malaysia is among the Parties that have submitted their 7th National Report (7NR) ahead of COP17. This milestone is critical for everyone, representing a pivotal moment that should drive forward global implementation. This process extends beyond mere reporting; it is about calibrating our shared journey towards a nature-positive future.
4. Our 7NR highlights significant national milestones, including maintaining more than 54% forest cover; the strengthening of the Ecological Fiscal Transfer for Biodiversity Conservation; the

deployment of community rangers for biodiversity protection; the implementation of a large-scale ecosystem restoration programme; enriching our award-winning clearing-house mechanism; the establishment of a dedicated platform for business and biodiversity as well as the systematic documentation of traditional knowledge.

5. In addition, Malaysia is mobilising a ‘Whole-of-Nation’ and ‘Whole-of-Society’ approach, which reflects the progressive initiatives of our subnational governments, the innovative leadership of the private sector and civil society, and the vital stewardship of indigenous peoples and local communities, alongside our rising youth champions; form the backbone of our national progress.
6. We remain steadfast in creating an enabling environment that empowers stakeholders to safeguard the biodiversity that sustains our economy, our society, and our shared future. However, as we look towards 2030, it is crucial to close the gap between global targets and local realities. We call for enhanced international cooperation, particularly in capacity building and resource mobilization; to ensure that no nation, and no ecosystem, is left behind.
7. Malaysia looks forward to advancing our local actions that have made a significant contribution to global efforts, while also fostering strategic collaborations moving towards COP17 in Yerevan, Armenia, under the aptly themed banner of “Taking Action for Nature.”

8. In conjunction with the International Day for Biological Diversity 2026 themed “Acting Locally for Global Impact”, Malaysia strengthens national resilience to the current global supply crisis by conserving biodiversity and ecosystems that sustain essential resources such as food, water, and raw materials, thereby ensuring more secure and sustainable supply chains.

Biodiversity is our life, our heritage, and our future.

Happy International Day for Biological Diversity 2026.

Thank you.

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