



Statement from the Honourable László Gajdos, Minister for the Living Environment of Hungary



As I took office a week ago as Hungary's Minister for the Living Environment, it is an honour to mark my first International Day for Biodiversity in this new capacity. This occasion underscores both the urgency of our task and the opportunity to give biodiversity stronger institutional weight through a dedicated ministry for the living environment.

By this decision Hungary is strengthening governance structures to ensure that environmental issues, including biodiversity, are effectively mainstreamed

into and across sectors. This institutional commitment reflects also our recognition that biodiversity underpins the long-term resilience of life on Earth.

Animals, plants and all other organisms are all valuable with their intrinsic value and beauty, while they secure the conditions for human life and well-being by essential ecosystem services, including providing clean freshwater and air, habitats, food, medicines or timber as well as preventing and mitigating natural disasters, epidemics, and diseases. It also plays a role in climate regulation, supports recreation and is becoming increasingly important for supporting mental well-being as well.

It is our important responsibility to ensure a broad understanding that biodiversity is a cross-sectoral and a whole-of-society issue. Biodiversity – including nature conservation and restoration – must become a fundamental precondition in sectoral decision-making processes. At the same time, we must reach as wide segment of society as possible, strengthening appreciation for our living environment and natural values through awareness-raising, education, and the active involvement of local communities.

On the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2026, under the theme "Acting locally for global impact", I would like to strengthen Hungary's strong commitment to safeguarding biodiversity and accelerating implementation of the global biodiversity objectives with particular emphasis on the conservation and sustainable use of our natural values as well as ecosystem restoration. We are to strengthen cooperation with non-governmental organizations, scientific institutions to ensure that our actions for biodiversity are inclusive and knowledge-based. Involving stakeholders to act is essential to translating global ambitions into real outcomes.

As we mark this important day, Hungary calls upon all partners to strengthen their efforts and collaborate across borders and sectors. Protecting biodiversity is a shared responsibility, and the time to act is now so that we can secure biodiversity and the remaining natural ecosystems for future generations.