



**H.E. Mr. KIM, Sunghwan**  
**Minister of Climate, Energy and Environment of the Republic of Korea**

**Message on the International Day for Biological Diversity**  
**22 May 2026**

It is my honor to share this message on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2026, on behalf of the Republic of Korea, in its capacity as the COP12 Presidency.

At COP12, held in Pyeongchang in 2014 under the theme of "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development," the international community adopted the Pyeongchang Road Map, marking a significant step forward in mainstreaming biodiversity and strengthening implementation. Korea remains committed to carrying forward this legacy. More than a decade later, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has reaffirmed our collective commitment and set clear global targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

The year 2026 is a critical moment, with COP17 to be held in Yerevan, Armenia in October, to move from commitment to implementation under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Securing adequate biodiversity finance and strengthening implementation will be essential to achieving our shared goals.

In this context, the theme of IDB 2026 — "Acting locally for global impact" — is both timely and essential. Achieving global biodiversity goals requires concrete action on the ground. Nature-based solutions, community engagement, and strengthened local governance are keys to turning ambition into reality. When individuals, communities, local governments, and national authorities act together, their combined efforts can drive transformative change at the global level.

The Republic of Korea remains firmly committed to this shared journey. Through our 5th National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2024–2028), we are advancing ecosystem restoration, expanding protected areas and promoting community-based management of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs). We are also strengthening international cooperation by increasing biodiversity finance and supporting capacity-building efforts in developing countries.

Korea will continue to work closely with the international community to build a sustainable future through biodiversity conservation. In this spirit, I call upon all nations to scale up local action, accelerate implementation, and work together to deliver the transformative change that our planet urgently needs.

Thank you.