

ES written statement on the 2026 International Day for Biological Diversity - “Acting locally for global impact” – 22 May

This year’s International Day for Biological Diversity comes at a critical moment for people and planet.

Climate change is pushing many ecosystems to their limits and provoking an unprecedented rate of biodiversity loss. This directly threatens food and water security, the fundamental building blocks of economic prosperity in every country.

Amid deepening global divisions and unprecedented environmental pressures, this is a moment to strengthen cooperation and accelerate action to protect the foundations of life itself.

Some of the most powerful transformations begin in communities, landscapes and ecosystems closest to people’s daily lives.

Healthy forests, wetlands and grasslands absorb carbon, reduce disaster risks, protect water supplies and strengthen food security.

Nature-based solutions are vital in helping mitigate and adapt to worsening climate impacts. Ecosystem restoration, in particular, can be one of our greatest accelerators for resilience and sustainable development.

Indigenous Peoples and local communities are central to this effort. Their knowledge, stewardship and lived experience have protected biodiversity for generations.

Supporting them is essential – through partnership and co-creation. Because protecting nature also restores culture and tradition, strengthens resilience and creates lasting results.

This reflects a broader reality: climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation are one interconnected crisis – acting to solve them together delivers the fastest, most durable benefits.

Conserving biodiversity, for example, nourishes both people and the planet: delivering cleaner air, more fertile soils, stronger economies, new jobs and greater resilience for communities everywhere.

New national climate and adaptation plans increasingly reflect this integrated approach too. They include biodiversity, ecosystems and nature-based solutions.

Our work must be focused on preserving the world that sustains every person on the planet, while also achieving gains people can feel in their everyday lives.

Doing this right will benefit billions more people around the world.