



**MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

## **MINISTER'S REMARK**

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY 2025**

**“HARMONY WITH NATURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”**

**H.E. NIK NAZMI NIK AHMAD  
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY MALAYSIA**

**22 MAY 2025**

---

Greetings from Malaysia.

1. This year, we celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity with the theme “Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development”. The theme underscores the urgent need for transformative change to achieve the goals and targets of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 to ensure that the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled by 2050.
2. Malaysia is consistent in its priority towards living in harmony with nature and achieving sustainable development. This commitment is translated through various initiatives, ensuring that our socioeconomic development does not compromise our biodiversity richness.
3. One of the key pillars for Malaysia's 13<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan for 2026 to 2030 is to address the escalating triple planetary crisis, including efforts to mitigate biodiversity loss, manage climate risks, and reduce pollution. Malaysia has formulated the National Climate Change Policy 2.0 to recognise the intricate connections between biodiversity and climate change, and to foster the positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.
4. Biodiversity is fundamental to achieving the SDGs, serving as the cornerstone for environmental health, economic stability, and social well-being. As we approach the final five years towards 2030, Malaysia has met over 100 of its SDG targets, surpassing the global average.

5. Following Malaysia's integration of the KMGBF into our NBSAP 2022–2030, we will continue to focus on its implementation through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, as well as concerted effort towards establishing a national monitoring framework to track its progress.
6. As one of the world's 17 megadiverse countries, Malaysia's consistent dedication to sustainable development is evident in our forest cover, which currently stands at more than 54%—surpassing our pledge to maintain at least 50% of our land area under forest and tree cover. Our effort to mobilize resources towards biodiversity conservation is demonstrated through the increase in ecological fiscal payments to USD57 million this year, aiming to incentivise the expansion of protected areas.
7. In line with Target 3 of KMGBF, Malaysia has strengthened its National Framework for Protected Areas and is currently developing its National OECM Framework that leverages the synergy between Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), the private sector and non-governmental organisations.
8. Acknowledging IPLCs as the custodians of biodiversity and partners in biodiversity conservation, the IPLCs' role is further reinforced through their involvement as community rangers to protect our wildlife and forests. Additionally, our Access and Benefit-Sharing Framework documents and protects their traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices.

9. This year's theme resonates with the ASEAN 2025 theme of "Inclusivity and Sustainability". Moving forward, as Malaysia assumes the ASEAN Chairmanship; we reaffirm our commitment to play a proactive role in biodiversity conservation and our dedication to preserving our natural heritage for future generations.
  
10. Happy International Day for Biological Diversity 2025.

Thank you.

**MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY, MALAYSIA  
22 MAY 2025**