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## **MESSAGE BY NEVILLE ASH, OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE IPBES SECRETARIAT, ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, 22 MAY 2025**

The 2025 theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity — “Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development” — underscores the vital connection between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). Importantly, it emphasizes the need to pursue their ambitions together. Doing so requires that we draw on a strong foundation of knowledge.

The theme also highlights a broader imperative: the need to break down siloed approaches and to foster integrated and transformative responses to our interconnected global challenges, such as climate change and biodiversity loss. These crises are deeply intertwined and further exacerbate other critical issues such as water scarcity, food insecurity, and public health crises.

Effectively addressing these complex challenges requires moving beyond single-issue strategies. We must embrace integrated, cross-cutting solutions that deliver co-benefits across sectors, for just and sustainable futures. Harmony with nature demands evidence- and science-based, holistic action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss while enhancing human well-being.

The various IPBES Assessment Reports offer valuable guidance, outlining multiple pathways to achieve the goals of both the KMGBF and the SDGs. These include diverse ways of valuing nature, adopting ‘nexus’ approaches for integrated solutions, and driving transformative change.

On this International Day for Biological Diversity, and every day, IPBES celebrates the progress already made in setting and pursuing science-informed, integrated goals, while reaffirming our commitment to provide the scientific evidence needed to bridge gaps, inform policy, and enable transformative change as these goals are delivered through urgent action for people and nature.