



## PRESS RELEASE



### World celebrates nature as a source of solutions to global challenges

- *International Biodiversity Day on 22 May is preceded by a week of daily themes and events.*
- *Crucial role of nature in addressing climate change, food security and health highlighted.*
- *Virtual events being held throughout week, webinars planned by the UN and UNESCO for Friday.*

**19 May 2020** – The critical importance of nature for our wellbeing is being highlighted throughout this week, with daily sub-themes, in advance of Friday’s International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) and its overall theme of “Our solutions are in nature.”

As the global community re-examines, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, its relationship with the natural world, one thing is certain: despite our technological advances, humans are completely dependent on healthy and vibrant ecosystems for our health, water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter and energy, to name a few.

This year’s IDB theme, “Our solutions are in nature”, emphasises the importance of working together at all levels to build a future of life in harmony with nature. 2020 is a year of reflection, opportunity and solutions. All of us have the opportunity to reflect on how we can “Build back better” to increase the resilience of nations and communities as we recover from this pandemic.

2020 is also the year when the world can signal a strong will for adapting as well as adopting, in 2021, a robust and ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework that will “bend the curve” on biodiversity loss for the benefit of all life on Earth.

“Biodiversity loss is a direct result of our short-sighted human activities including uncontrolled mining and infrastructure development, unsustainable farming and deforestation, said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, CBD Acting Executive Secretary. “All these have degraded ecosystems and have created the conditions that lead to events like possibly the pandemic.”

“While the world is striving to end this pandemic, we all need to take urgent concerted and collaborative actions to build a resilient and sustainable global economy that incorporates nature at its heart, even as we build back from the crisis.”



## NOTES FOR EDITORS

The themes for the days are (further information: [www.cbd.int/idb/image/2020/idb-2020-theme.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/idb/image/2020/idb-2020-theme.pdf))

- 18 May: Science and Knowledge
- 19 May: Conservation of Biodiversity
- 20 May: Health and Food
- 21 May: People and Culture
- 22 May: “Our Solutions are in Nature”.

The **2020 IDB logo** is a graphic representation of “Our solutions are in nature”. Designed as a puzzle, each day leading up to IDB is represented by one puzzle piece. Each piece of the puzzle connects to the other pieces. On 22 May, all of the pieces come together, in recognition that all life is interconnected.

### **The UN will hold a Virtual High-Level Panel Discussion on the International Day for Biological Diversity.**

Discussions takes place 22 May 2020 between 9:00-11:00 (Eastern Daylight Time), followed by a dialogue with member States. Present speakers include:

- H.E. Mr Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the United Nations General Assembly
- H.E. Mr Sveinung Rotevatn, President of UNEA-5, Minister of Climate and Environment, Norway
- H.E. Mr Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, Minister of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica
- Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Acting Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity
- Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme
- Mr. Marco Lambertini, Director General, WWF International

**The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** is setting up online dialogues and conversations between various experts and networks. The aim is to share a scientific assessment of the unprecedented health crisis we are going through, but also to come together around common values, to share the resources on which we can rely on to be collectively resilient and make the necessary changes. The interventions will be organized around five themes:

- Introduction: Links between coronavirus and biodiversity: the scientific analysis
- Gather around what connects us: what are our shared values?
- What changes are needed?
- What are the possible ways/tools to regenerate ecosystems and restore our links to the living?
- In closing: Share our solutions from nature

Link: <https://en.unesco.org/events/celebration-international-day-biological-diversity-day-our-solutions-are-nature>

### **Important links:**

International Biodiversity Day 2020: [www.cbd.int/idb/2020](http://www.cbd.int/idb/2020)

Messages for International Biodiversity Day: [www.cbd.int/idb/2020/messages](http://www.cbd.int/idb/2020/messages)

Activities: [www.cbd.int/idb/2020/activities](http://www.cbd.int/idb/2020/activities)

Celebrations: [www.cbd.int/idb/2020/celebrations](http://www.cbd.int/idb/2020/celebrations)

IDB logo, available in all 6 UN languages and other languages: [www.cbd.int/idb/2020/logo](http://www.cbd.int/idb/2020/logo)

Social media channels:

[facebook.com/UNBiodiversity](https://facebook.com/UNBiodiversity)

[twitter.com/unbiodiversity](https://twitter.com/unbiodiversity)

[instagram.com/unbiodiversity](https://instagram.com/unbiodiversity)

[linkedin.com/company/unbiodiversity](https://linkedin.com/company/unbiodiversity)

### **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 172 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 124 Parties.

For more information visit: [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int). For media inquiries, please contact David Ainsworth on +1 514 561 2720 or at [david.ainsworth@cbd.int](mailto:david.ainsworth@cbd.int); or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at [johan.hedlund@cbd.int](mailto:johan.hedlund@cbd.int).

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