



**STATEMENT BY**

**DR CRISTIANA PAȘCA PALMER**

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

on the occasion of the

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY  
17 October 2019**

***“Acting Together to Empower Children, their Families and Communities to End Poverty”***

Through the Sustainable Development Goals, the world community has committed to end poverty – in all forms and in all places. Achieving this goal will require more than just GDP growth. It requires sustainable and inclusive economic models that open up more choices and put poor people themselves in control of wealth-generating resources.

This year, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty focuses on empowering children, along with their families and communities, to end poverty. Every child is entitled to live in a clean and healthy environment, with livelihood opportunities and access to natural resources that many times are closely linked to their communities’ cultural identities.

Achieving the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity will ensure that the children of today and tomorrow, along with their families and communities, can enjoy the benefits of nature and escape the trap of poverty and environmental degradation.

In particular, indigenous peoples and local communities have traditional knowledge, expertise, skills and practices related to poverty alleviation, which include knowledge on ecosystem management, food production, forest and water management and others, which contribute to the well-being of their children, families and communities.



The Conference of the Parties (decision XI/21, para. 6); in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development encourages Parties, other Governments and all partners:

- To protect and encourage the customary use of biological resources
- To promote biodiversity and development of projects that can empower poor and vulnerable people, particularly women and indigenous and local communities, for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

By involving communities in the management of protected areas, families and their children are empowered, and biodiversity is conserved. By supporting the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through systems for sustainable wildlife management, sources of income and food are available and poverty is reduced. By ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, including by ratifying and implementing the Nagoya Protocol, those most in need can realize the full benefits of the nature that surrounds them.

Nature and the ecosystem services it delivers are the foundation of all human wealth. Environmental degradation harms our global economy in the long term and affects poor people most, because they often depend more directly on nature for their food and employment.

Empowering indigenous peoples and local communities and ensuring the traditional knowledge transmission from elder to children is one of the key ways to break the cycle of poverty, to guarantee children's rights and achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of "No Poverty." On this day, I call upon all Parties to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity and act together to end poverty.

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