

**Statement by  
Elizabeth Maruma Mrema  
Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
at the occasion of the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste  
2022  
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Today, this International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, we are reminded that our existing food production systems are still one of the key drivers of biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation.

We can't stand still and allow this triple planetary crisis to continue.

Not when we have the ability to make a change.

While modest results have been achieved in 10 years of implementation of Aichi Target 4 on Sustainable Production and Consumption, it's not enough.

We are seeing an increasing number of governments and businesses developing plans for more sustainable production and consumption.

However, they are not being implemented on a scale that eliminates the negative impact of unsustainable human activities on biodiversity.

We have our work cut out for us.

We **can** overcome this triple challenge through nature-friendly and climate-friendly food production systems that support and enhance biodiversity and reduce carbon emissions.

How can we reduce food loss and waste?

With bold conservation measures, sustainable intensification of agricultural production, increased trade in agricultural goods, more sustainable and healthier human diets, especially reduced meat consumption, and the adoption of a bold and ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework which aims to address food loss and waste, among other targets.

If we act now, we can potentially prevent more than two-thirds of projected biodiversity loss by 2050, while avoiding threats to the provisioning of affordable food and food security.

I encourage us all to look at our own habits, practices, and values, and make the choice to make a change.

Thank you.

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