



**Statement by  
David Cooper  
Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
World Migratory Bird Day (pt. 1)  
11 May 2024  
“Insects”**

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Migratory birds are a wonder of nature. They also play an essential role in pollination and pest control, benefitting us as people. We need migratory birds, but what do they need? This World Migratory Bird Day, we focus on insects.

Insects are also part of the beauty of nature. They provide so many of nature’s contributions to people and are vital elements of the web of life. But as more and more grasslands and forests are falling victim to land use change, including intensive agricultural practices and urban development, insect populations are falling, sometimes dramatically. Harmful pesticides, climate change and light pollution also take their toll. The populations of migratory birds and other species then suffer too. Sometimes there is overpopulation of certain insets due to the lack of natural predators, causing pest outbreaks.

The ambitious Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, or [The Biodiversity Plan](#), is our best chance to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity. Its four goals aim to protect and restore nature, to prosper with nature, to share benefits fairly, and to invest and collaborate for nature. These goals are supported by 23 action targets for 2030. Achieving these goals and targets is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Biodiversity Plan requires a whole-of-society approach – we all have a role to play.

Governments can put strong policies in place and reduce harmful incentives, repurposing subsidies towards activities that contribute to protecting, restoring, and making the use of nature sustainable, in line with [Target 18](#) of the Plan.

Farmers can enhance agricultural biodiversity to help reduce the use of pesticides and the overuse of fertilisers, in line with [Targets 7](#) and [10](#) of the Plan. They can also connect areas of natural vegetation which provide food and shelter for birds, insects and other species in agricultural landscapes.

Citizens can advocate for these changes and educate themselves and others on the effects of harmful agricultural practices. We can all take action -- for migratory birds, for insects and for our planet.

We can all be part of the Plan; The Biodiversity Plan.

