



**Statement by  
David Cooper  
Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
World Environment Day  
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The focus of World Environment Day this year is land restoration and drought resilience.

Land ecosystems provide invaluable services that are essential for life, such as oxygen, food and water.

Land is also critical to our efforts to address climate change and to protect us from its worst impacts.

And land is home to much of the world's biodiversity:

- Picture the forests, the plains and the meadows and the extraordinary wealth of life forms that they host.
- Picture too the soils, teeming with invertebrates and microorganisms working day and night to support life and our very existence on this planet.

But land degradation through deforestation, desertification, pollution and waste, and climate change, are stifling land ecosystems, putting millions of people in harm's way.

We need to restore land and its ecosystem functions and services.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework—also known as The Biodiversity Plan—is about halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 for the benefit of people and planet.

This is humanity's roadmap towards living in harmony with nature.

The four goals of the plan aim to protect and restore nature, to prosper with nature, to share benefits fairly, and to invest and collaborate for nature.

The Plan includes a specific target to restore 30% of all degraded ecosystems by 2030. Other Targets address land use-planning, sustainable agriculture, urban planning and reducing the risks from pollution.

Achieving the ambitious goals and targets of the Plan requires a whole of society approach, with the active participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, business and civil society and all levels of government.

We must all be part of the Plan. We must all be part of Generation Restoration.

Happy World Environment Day to all.

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