



22 MAY 2017  
INTERNATIONAL DAY  
FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism

Today, we celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity; we celebrate nature!

It is a day to remember all the incredible forms of life with which we share this beautiful planet. People from across the United Nations work tirelessly to conserve nature and its resources. They strive to promote their sustainable use, highlight their true value and ensure any benefits are shared fairly. Our health and prosperity – our very existence - depend on getting this balance right, yet the threats continue to multiply and accelerate.

This year's theme of "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism" underscores the extraordinary benefits that a healthy natural environment offers for economic development and poverty eradication. For example, ecotourism promotes responsible travel to areas that conserve the environment and improve the well-being of people in that community. It provides livelihoods. And it spreads wider understanding of the need to protect our precious natural heritage.

As we reflect on the challenges and opportunities offered by our natural resources, we thank you for your support. And we encourage you to celebrate 'Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism' by planning a trip to somewhere special to 'connect with nature' for World Environment Day on 5 June!

Happy International Day for Biological Diversity!

Erik Solheim, Executive Director, UN Environment  
Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity

