
Message by Dr. Anne Larigauderie, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) to Mark the 2023 International Day for Biological Diversity

As we mark the 2023 International Day for Biological Diversity it is worth celebrating the fact that we are, today, better positioned than we have ever been to tackle the global nature crisis – but, as challenging as it was to reach this point, the hardest work still lies ahead.

The adoption in December of the ambitious Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework – based in large part on the science and evidence provided by IPBES over the last decade – was an absolutely vital element in our shared efforts to address the unprecedented loss of biodiversity and the degradation of nature’s contributions to people.

Robust scientific evidence and policy-relevant knowledge have helped to forge this global compact to protect and restore nature. But the firm commitments to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and achieve the vision, mission, goals and targets of the new Framework need to be rapidly translated into science-based, practical, inclusive, sustainable and properly resourced action, at every level, if this roadmap to ‘Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050’ is to ever make a real difference.

Translating global agreements into concrete actions requires transformative change – fundamental shifts in how we value nature, how we interact with it and how we support its intrinsic worth, as well as its invaluable role in supporting human well-being. IPBES remains committed to providing the scientific evidence and innovative policy options necessary to support these efforts.

On International Day for Biological Diversity – and every day – let us reaffirm our resolve to ‘build back biodiversity’, from agreement to action, for people and the rest of nature.