

International Day for Biodiversity

Theme: “Be part of the Plan”

22ND MAY 2024



Did you know?

There are approximately 8.7 million species on Earth, with only 1.2 million identified.

International Day for Biodiversity is observed annually on May 22nd. This day is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of biodiversity and promoting actions to protect and sustain the variety of life on Earth.

Biodiversity in India

India is one of the world's most biodiverse countries, known for its rich variety of flora and fauna. The country's biodiversity is a result of its diverse ecosystems, ranging from the Himalayas to coastal regions, deserts to tropical rainforests.

Ecosystems and Habitats

- 📌 **Himalayan Region:** Home to unique species like the snow leopard, Himalayan tahr, and various endemic plant species.
- 📌 **Gangetic Plains:** Rich in alluvial soil supporting diverse crops and wildlife like the Bengal tiger and Indian rhinoceros.
- 📌 **Tropical and Subtropical Rainforests:** Found in the northeastern states and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, housing to species like the Hoolock gibbon and diverse bird species.

Be part of the Plan

The theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity 2024, "*Be part of the Plan*", is a powerful call to action aimed at mobilizing all stakeholders - governments, organizations, communities, and individuals - to actively participate in halting and reversing biodiversity loss. This theme emphasizes the critical importance of supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, often referred to as the Biodiversity Plan.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is a landmark agreement adopted during the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which took place in Kunming, China, and Montreal, Canada, in 2022 and 2024 respectively. This framework sets ambitious targets and guidelines to address the ongoing global biodiversity crisis and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources.

Importance of the theme

The 2024 theme, "*Be part of the Plan*", emphasize the importance of collective action and shared responsibility.

Governments:

- ◆ Develop and enforce policies and regulations that align with the framework's goals.
- ◆ Invest in biodiversity conservation and restoration projects.
- ◆ Collaborate internationally to support global biodiversity initiatives.

Businesses and Corporations:

- ◆ Integrate biodiversity considerations into business models and supply chains.
- ◆ Support sustainable practices and reduce ecological footprints.
- ◆ Fund and partner with conservation projects and initiatives.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society:

- **Advocate for stronger biodiversity protection measures.**
- **Raise awareness and educate the public about biodiversity issues.**
- **Engage in and support grassroots conservation efforts.**

Indigenous People and Local Communities:

- **Share traditional knowledge and practices that contribute to biodiversity conservation.**
- **Participate in decision-making processes and benefit-sharing mechanisms.**
- **Lead community-based conservation and sustainable resource management initiatives.**

Individuals:

- **Make lifestyle choices that reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, such as reducing waste, using sustainable products, and supporting conservation efforts.**
- **Participate in local conservation activities and citizen science projects.**
- **Advocate for biodiversity-friendly policies and practices in their communities.**

