

**Statement by
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Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Soil Day
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Soil and Water: A Source of Life**

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Our survival depends on the precious link between soil and water. Soil and water are fundamental for the functioning of all terrestrial ecosystems and over 95 percent of our food originates from these two resources.

Soil provides the nutrients that feed plants, and thereby feed us. It decomposes the dead and recycles wastes. It stores carbon. Soil holds the moisture that supports life and reduces both droughts and floods.

Key to all these functions, on which we and all terrestrial life depend, is soil biodiversity. From earthworms and termites, springtails and nematodes, to the vast range of fungi, protozoa and bacteria, as well as the roots of plants and their symbiotic partners, the hidden life of soils is critical to nutrient cycling, controlling pests and diseases and maintaining good soil structure.

But soils and soil biodiversity are under threat. Soils are being compacted, eroded, polluted and sealed. The causes are many including deforestation, agricultural intensification, overgrazing and urbanization, among others. These threats must be addressed.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is a plan for everyone to take urgent action to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity loss and, by 2030, to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet. It includes a target to restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people including soil health and the regulation of water.

The Framework is supported by an updated Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity, which was adopted at by the Convention on Biological Diversity at COP-15 alongside the Framework itself.

The activities of the Plan of Action include the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity to support a transition to more sustainable agricultural and food systems.

Now is the time to move from agreement to action. Now is the time to protect soil, its biodiversity and water to ensure a sustainable future.