



**Md. Shahab Uddin MP**  
**Minister**

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

### Message

This is indeed my great pleasure to express warm greetings to the people of Bangladesh and to the world community in celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity, 22 May 2020. We are happy to be a part of the global online-only campaign of this very auspicious day towards enhancing awareness on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The importance of the natural world and the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services could never be undermined as we human being will always be completely dependent on them for our life and livelihoods, including health, water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter and energy, just to name a few. Despite tremendous technological advances made by human being in the past century and until now, we could not realize the intricate relationships and dependencies of our existence with the nature, although it is a proven truth that if we ignore nature, it repulses on us and results in various epidemics or disasters. In this milieu, we the global community have to re-examine how we are acting or reacting with the natural world, the ecosystems, the diversity of species, the environment as a whole. As we human being is placing enormous pressure on natural world and the nature is taking its own revenge, the slogan of this year's International Day for Biological Diversity **"Our solutions are in nature"** is a proverbial one to be upheld by all of us.

2020 is the year when, more than ever before, we understood the urgency for a global framework that will **"bend the curve"** on biodiversity loss for the benefit of humans and all life on Earth. Bangladesh as a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is very keen to engage with the post 2020 biodiversity framework and its implementation at the local, regional and global level.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has recognized biodiversity and nature conservation as an important fundamental policy of the state. Bangladesh is one of the few countries that enacted Bangladesh Biological Diversity Act 2017. The country has formulated updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2016-2021. We have integrated Biodiversity related SDG Targets into the NBSAP and most of the targets are being implemented under various development initiatives. The area coverage of the protected areas, ecologically critical areas and other special conservation areas are on an increasing trend towards achieving the global targets.

As a biodiversity rich country, Bangladesh will vigorously be engaged with raising the voice on nature conservation at the national, regional and global level. I would like to express our solidarity to the global community to work very cohesively together to build a future of life in harmony with nature.

I wish every success of the International Day for Biological Diversity.

(Md. Shahab Uddin MP)  
Minister