

**Statement by
David Cooper
Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction
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“Fighting inequality for a resilient future.”**

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Our planet is in crisis, facing more and more disasters each year. It is estimated that by 2030, with current climate projections, the world will face around 560 disasters per year and an additional 37.6 million people will be living in conditions of extreme poverty due to the impacts of climate change and disasters.

We know that poverty, inequality, and discrimination are consequences of growing disaster risk, leaving people more exposed and vulnerable to disasters than ever before. Unfortunately, disasters also impact the poorest more severely, cyclically growing inequality.

But there is hope for an equitable future. [The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) can help reduce the risk of disasters, fighting inequality at the same time. The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as the restoration of ecosystems can significantly help with climate change mitigation and adaptation, combating desertification and disaster risk reduction – all of which breed inequality. The Framework is currently being moved from agreement to action, with a human rights-based and gender-responsive implementation, including the full participation of indigenous people and local communities.

The [mission](#) of the Framework is to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet by 2030. This is toward the overall [vision](#) of the Framework – to live in harmony with nature and, by 2050, have biodiversity valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.

[Target 11](#) of the Framework, specifically speaks to reducing the risk of disaster. It aims to restore, maintain and enhance nature’s contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as the regulation of air, water and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.

Disasters are continuing to grow inequality in our world. However, a sustainable, equal future is possible. That said, it will take urgent action and a whole-of-society approach to see that kind of change. This International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, I challenge us all to advocate for both people and planet by supporting and urgently implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as we work towards a sustainable, equitable future.