



## International Day for Biological Diversity 2025

On 22 May, the global community celebrates the [International Day for Biological Diversity](#), an occasion to highlight the vital importance of biodiversity for life on Earth and the future of humanity. The 2025 theme, “Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development,” calls for a rethinking of our relationship with the living world and for nature to be placed at the heart of development strategies.

Biodiversity underpins our well-being, the health of the planet, and economic prosperity. It provides us with food, medicines, energy, clean air and water, protection against natural disasters, as well as cultural inspiration. The rapid loss of biodiversity threatens these essential balances.

In response to this urgency, the [Bern Convention](#), a key Council of Europe instrument for the conservation of wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, works towards a Europe in harmony with nature. Its [Strategic Plan 2030](#), aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals, aims to enhance ecosystem resilience, improve the conservation status of threatened species, valorise biodiversity, and promote sustainable resource management.

Among its flagship tools, the Convention awards the [European Diploma for Protected Areas](#), a prestigious label granted to sites of exceptional natural interest. This diploma is underpinned by rigorous monitoring, to ensure exemplary and sustainable site management practices. The Convention has also established the [Emerald Network](#), a pan-European network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. Complementary to Natura 2000, this network ensures the long-term protection of species and habitats listed in the Convention’s appendices.

The Convention relies on [thematic expert groups](#) which bring together specialists and NGOs to develop action plans and recommendations on key issues such as amphibian, bird and large carnivore conservation, the control of invasive alien species, and the impacts of climate change.

A further mechanism unique to the Convention is its [case-file system](#), which allows NGOs and citizens to report potential violations of the Convention. These cases are reviewed by the Standing Committee, which may organize on-site inspections, thereby strengthening the legal protection of species and habitats.

Achieving this transformation requires the engagement of all stakeholders: governments, local authorities, private sector, civil society, local communities, youth, and scientists. The Bern Convention promotes ambitious policies, international cooperation, and public awareness to safeguard our shared natural heritage.

With five years remaining until the targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2030 Agenda, the Bern Convention calls for increased mobilisation and resolute action to restore biodiversity and build a future in which humanity lives in harmony with nature.

Together, let us make biodiversity the foundation of sustainable and equitable development for present and future generations.

Link to the latest developments at the Council of Europe to combat the “triple planetary crisis” of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/council-of-europe-steps-up-on-the-environmental-front>