

International Day for Biological Diversity 2023: The Bern Convention's past and future contributions to the Global Biodiversity Framework

Strasbourg, 19 May 2023: The Bern Convention celebrates the International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May) and its 2023 theme, ***“From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity”***, inspired by the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at the 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15).

Following this landmark Agreement, the focus now is on turning it into action. Here at the Bern Convention, we have been taking action to protect and restore nature for over four decades. An example of this action is the success story of the Burren Programme. Years of tension between farmers and policymakers in the Irish region of the Burren found relief when the impact of farming on local biodiversity was researched. What was discovered paved the way for a locally targeted conservation initiative and eventually turned the Burren into an international example of successful citizen participation and engagement. The careful management of the region has earned it the [European Diploma for Protected Areas](#) (EDPA) granted by the by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe upon recommendation by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention. The EDPA is a prestigious international award. It recognises natural and semi-natural areas and landscapes of exceptional European importance for the preservation of biological, geological and landscape diversity and which are managed in an exemplary way.

Furthermore, following adoption of a Vision for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030 and its slogan that *“By 2030, declines in biodiversity are halted, leading to recovery of wildlife and habitats, improving the lives of people and contributing to the health of the planet.”* the complementary Strategic Plan to 2030 is being finalised and will aim to actively and effectively contribute to the Kunming GBF on a regional scale.



The Burren region, Ireland

On International Day for Biological Diversity and its theme, ***“From Agreement to Action”***, we would like to encourage collective efforts to actively rebuild Biodiversity for the benefit of people and the planet as a whole!