



## **International Day for Biodiversity 2024: The Bern Convention's Strategic Plan for the period to 2030**

**Strasbourg, 21 May 2024:** On May 22, the [International Day for Biodiversity](#), the global community focuses on the critical importance of biodiversity and the urgent need to protect it. This annual event highlights both the issues and opportunities related to biodiversity conservation. However, the triple planetary crisis—climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution—poses a threat to our natural world all throughout the year. Humans, being at the centre of this crisis, are both its cause and potential solution. Nonetheless, it is essential to recognize that humanity cannot exist in isolation from nature; every action we take has a direct impact on the environment. We must therefore learn to interact more harmoniously with our surroundings and reduce our negative impacts on the environment and biodiversity.

This year's theme, “Be part of the Plan”, serves as a poignant reminder that no action is too small when it comes to protecting biodiversity. Conservation efforts must occur at all levels: global, regional, national, local, and individual. At the [Bern Convention](#) on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats we want to lead by example. In December 2023, the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention adopted a landmark [Strategic Plan](#) for the period to 2030. It follows the adoption in 2021 of the [Vision](#) for the Bern Convention for the same period. This comprehensive plan establishes four key goals: increasing the resilience and connectivity of ecosystems, improving the conservation status of threatened species, valuing, maintaining and enhancing the contributions of wild flora and fauna and their habitats to a healthy environment, and ensuring efficient resource use.

These goals align with other initiatives such as the European Union's Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework 2030/2050. The shared objective is to address the biodiversity crisis through coordinated and effective measures.

Nearly 45 years since its inception, the Bern Convention remains a cornerstone in the fight against biodiversity loss in Europe and its neighbouring regions. In the continuation of the [Reykjavík Declaration](#) and the commitment of its Heads of State and Government to strengthening work on the human rights aspects of the environment, the Council of Europe embraces the message “Be part of the Plan”, recognising the essential role of the Bern Convention in fostering collaboration among governments and between governments and civil society. This collective action is crucial to tackling the environmental challenges we face today. The Strategic Plan to 2030 not only provides a roadmap for preserving Europe's natural heritage but also underscores the importance of international cooperation in achieving these goals. By committing to the principles outlined in the Strategic Plan to 2030 and the broader goals of global biodiversity frameworks, we can make important steps to protect and restore the rich biodiversity of our planet for generations to come.