

**Statement by
David Cooper
Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
World Migratory Bird Day
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Water and water-related ecosystems are essential to all life on Earth. Today, we focus on the migratory birds who rely on wetlands and other water-related ecosystems, for migration, refueling, breeding, and simply put, for life.

Sadly, the extreme conditions caused by climate change, working synergistically with other drivers of biodiversity loss such as land use change, pollution, invasive species and over exploitation, are threatening aquatic ecosystems. This, in turn, threatens the migratory birds and many other species that depend on these ecosystems. Wetlands are disappearing faster than any other ecosystem. Migratory birds are being forced to alter their migration patterns as they are rapidly losing their water sources and breeding grounds.

Why should we care? Migratory birds are a beautiful sight for a birdwatcher. More than that, they spread seeds. They eat insects. They pollinate plants. They add to our quality of life, and we must protect them and the water ecosystems that sustain them.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is how we do just that. Achieving the targets of effectively conserving and managing at least 30% of the world's lands, waters, coastal areas, and oceans, and of restoring at least 30% of degraded ecosystems will make a huge difference.

The Framework also contains targets aimed at reducing pollution, protecting wildlife, minimizing the effects of climate change, ensuring agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, and much more. Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Framework in December 2022 and are now working to implement it at national and sub-national levels to ensure that we see results by 2030.

We must act now to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This Migratory Bird Day, let us learn more about biodiversity and water-related ecosystems and how they are of the utmost importance to migratory birds and to humankind's survival on Earth. After all, without water, there is no life.
