

Media Update

3 March 2019

United Nations

MESSAGE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

World Wildlife Day -2019

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“ Marine species provide indispensable ecosystem services. Plankton enrich the atmosphere with oxygen and more than 3 billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for sustenance and livelihoods. Marine and coastal resources and the industries they support are estimated to be worth at least US\$3 trillion a year, some 5 per cent of global GDP.

Sustainably managing and protecting marine and coastal ecosystems are the objectives of Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Today, ocean life is under severe pressure, ranging from climate change to pollution, the loss of coastal habitats and the overexploitation of marine species. Some one-third of commercial fish stocks are overfished, and many other species – from albatrosses to turtles – are imperilled by the unsustainable use of ocean resources.

The good news is that solutions are available. For example, where fisheries are managed scientifically, most fish stocks have a good chance of recovery. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) is increasing regulation of marine species. And the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is engaged in crafting a post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

On this World Wildlife Day, let us raise awareness about the extraordinary diversity of marine life and the crucial importance of marine species to sustainable development. That way, we can continue to provide these services for future generations.”



About:

The incalculable value of wildlife

The animals and plants that live in the wild have an intrinsic value and contributes to the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic aspects of human well-being and sustainable development.

World Wildlife Day is an opportunity to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora and to raise awareness of the multitude of benefits that conservation provides to people. At the same time, the Day reminds us of the urgent need to step up the fight against wildlife crime and human induced reduction of species, which have wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts. Given these various negative effects, Sustainable Development Goal #15 focuses on halting biodiversity loss.

Life Below Water: For people and planet

Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG14) aims to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.” The theme of World Wildlife Day 2019 is: “Life Below Water: For people and planet” which closely aligns with this goal, with a specific focus on the conservation and sustainable use of marine wildlife.

The ocean contains nearly 200,000 identified species, but actual numbers may be in the millions. Over three billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods. Marine wildlife has sustained human civilization and development for millennia, from providing food and nourishment, to material for handicraft and construction. It has also enriched our lives culturally, spiritually, and recreationally in different ways.

The capacity of life below water to provide these services is severely impacted, as our planet’s oceans and the species that live within it are under assault from an onslaught of threats. These include the most significant and direct threat of overexploitation particularly unsustainable fishing and other marine species extraction practices but also important threats such as climate change, marine pollution and habitat destruction. These threats have a strong impact on the lives and livelihoods of those who depend on marine ecosystem services, particularly women and men in coastal communities.

Background

On 20 December 2013, the Sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly [decided](#) to proclaim 3 March as World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora. The date is the day of the adoption of the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#) in 1973, which plays an important role in ensuring that international trade does not threaten the species' survival.

Previously, 3 March had been designated as World Wildlife Day in a [resolution](#) made at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP16) held in Bangkok from 3 to 14 March 2013. The CITES resolution was sponsored by the Kingdom of Thailand, the Host of CITES CoP16, which transmitted the outcomes of CITES CoP16 to the UN General Assembly.

The secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), in collaboration with other relevant United Nations organizations, facilitates the implementation of World Wildlife Day.

With 183 Member States, [CITES](#) remains one of the world's most powerful tools for biodiversity conservation through the regulation of trade in wild fauna and flora.

"جنگلی حیات کا عالمی دن" "03 مارچ"

جنگلی حیات ایک قدرتی اہمیت کی حامل ہے اور یہ پائیدار ترقی اور انسانی بہتری کے ماحولیاتی، موروثی، سماجی، اقتصادی، سائنسی، تعلیمی، تہذیبی، فرحت بخش اور جمالیاتی پہلوؤں میں اپنا کردار ادا کرتی ہے۔ جنگلی حیات کا عالمی دن منانے کا مقصد مختلف انواع کی جنگلی حیات اور اس کے تحفظ سے لوگوں اور دنیا کو پہنچنے والے فوائد کے حوالے سے آگاہی فراہم کرتا ہے۔ یہ دن ہمیں جنگلی حیات سے وابستہ جرائم، جنگلی حیات کی غیر قانونی تجارت، اور جنگلی جانوروں اور پودوں سے منصفانہ سلوک کرنے اور ان کی تجارت کی یاد دلاتا ہے۔ قرار داد نمبر 205/68 کے ذریعے اقوام متحدہ کی جنرل اسمبلی نے 3 مارچ کو جنگلی حیات کے عالمی دن، خطرے سے دوچار فلورا اور فاونا کی جنگلی انواع (CITES) کی بین الاقوامی تجارت پر ضابطے کو لاگو کرنے کی سالگرہ کے طور پر منظور کیا۔

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=KsRRpFP-hKc>

<http://www.un.org/en/events/wildlifeday>



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