



**STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
BRAULIO FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS**

**on the occasion of the  
ENCYCLICAL LETTER LAUDATO SI' OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS  
ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME**

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity welcomes Pope Francis' call to action in the face of global biodiversity loss, climate change and environmental degradation.

Biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides are a critical foundation of the Earth's life support system on which the welfare of current and future generations depend. Biodiversity plays a major role in mitigating climate change by contributing to long-term sequestration of carbon in a number of biomes. Biodiversity also underpins food security, human health and well-being, and plays a vital role in disaster risk reduction. Protecting ecosystems and ensuring access to ecosystem services by poor and vulnerable groups are an essential part of poverty eradication.

The encyclical sends a clear message to the world – Catholics and non-Catholics alike – that global action is critical. We stand at an important crossroads for biodiversity and the well-being of humanity. The actions we take or fail to take in the next few years will decisively impact all life on Earth. Thus the time for global action is now, by governments, businesses, civil society, indigenous peoples and by individuals. We owe it to future generations to ensure that biodiversity will provide them with the same benefits that we enjoy. That is truly the future we want, a future of life in harmony with nature.

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**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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Full text of the “Encyclical Letter Laudato Si’ of the Holy Father Francis on Care for Our Common Home”: [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)