Today is International Biodiversity Day. This year we are celebrating global biodiversity under the theme: building a shared life for all.

The science is unequivocal: a healthy planet made up of biodiverse ecosystems and species is fundamental to the health and prosperity of all. But despite this, biodiversity continues to disappear at unprecedented rates. And today, a million plant and animal species face extinction.

Wetlands are the most endangered ecosystems on our planet. The Convention on Wetlands’ Global Wetland Outlook shows that we have lost 85% of the global area of wetlands, including freshwater, marine and coastal ecosystems. These ecosystems are among the most biodiverse on our planet: hosting 40% of global species. But they are also ‘life providers’ for humans; and critical nature-based solutions for fresh water, carbon storage, food and medicines and coastal protection from floods and storms.

Reversing the loss of biodiversity is critical for human health, addressing climate emergency and achieve sustainable development. And we have a huge opportunity before us: The new Global Biodiversity Framework to be agreed at COP15 must be an ambitious, comprehensive compact which leverages all existing efforts, including the biodiversity-related Conventions, to maximize our shared impact for nature. Together, we can, with unprecedented efforts halt biodiversity loss and build a shared life for all.