

# *Cuba Presents Plan 2016-2020 to Protect Its Biodiversity*

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Havana, February 9 (RHC-PL)-- Cuba presented Wednesday its plan for the preservation of its flora and fauna, under the auspices of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) with 20 concrete actions by the end of this decade.

The National Program on Biological Diversity, also led by the Cuban Environment Agency's Institute of Ecology and Systematics, has five key objectives, including addressing the underlying causes of species loss, the main threats to the species, promoting their sustainable use as well as the conservation of ecosystems, habitats, species and genes.

During the presentation, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Soledad Bauza, valued the importance of this program, the main platform to implement the strategic objectives defined in environmental policy to address the loss of botanical and zoology species.

Presented at the most recent Conference of the Parties on Biodiversity (COP13), held last December in Cancún, Mexico, the plan, according to its developers, not only responds to the commitments made in the Convention on this subject but also seeks to integrate actions with relevant and achievable vision, goals and objectives.

Its main mission, the authors explained, is to identify and establish priorities to help halt the rate of

biodiversity loss through conservation and sustainable use as a significant contribution to human well-being.

The program also includes the presentation of an initiative for the financing of biodiversity (Biofin), which has been under way since 2012 by UNDP with 30 nations.

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