

Convention on Biological Diversity



WHAT IS THE CBD?

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the international legal instrument for "the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources".

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE CBD?

The Convention was opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro on 5 June 1992 and entered into force on 29 December 1993. It was conceived as a **practical tool for translating the principles of Agenda 21 into reality**, with 3 main objectives:

The conservation of biological diversity

The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity

The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources

The CBD's overall objective is to encourage actions which will lead to a sustainable future. It covers all possible domains that are directly or indirectly related to biodiversity and its role in sustainable development, ranging from science, politics and education to agriculture, business, culture, etc.

The CBD's governing body is the Conference of the Parties (COP). This ultimate authority of the 196 parties that have ratified the treaty meets every two years to review progress, set priorities and commit to work plans.

The **Nagoya Protocol** provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

The **Cartagena Protocol** on Biosafety governs the movements of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology from one country to another.

In 2010, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was adopted. It includes **20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets**. These global targets were adopted with a deadline of 2020 and focus on different actions and outcomes needed to put the world on a path to achieve the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity: living in harmony with nature.



Freshwater and wetland ecosystems provide essential functions and services that ensure food and water security for people and are particularly important for the livelihoods of communities that depend on these services.

At its fifteenth meeting, the COP of the CBD will adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which will be a stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision of "**Living in harmony with nature**".

CBD AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The COP has also initiated work on key matters that are cross-cutting with all thematic areas and correspond to the issues addressed in the Convention's substantive provisions in Articles 6-20 such as, for example: **Gender** and **Health**, as well as **Peace**.

Efforts to address cross-cutting issues that address human rights concerns are also proposed to guide action on biodiversity in the post-2020 period. The contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities and their knowledge, innovations and practices are widely recognized under the CBD and its Protocols.

THE WAY FORWARD

My vision and values that would guide the first 3 years of mandate resonates closely with CBD's approach to interrelated issues impacting biodiversity and ecosystems. I am excited and look forward to working together on promoting water and sanitation issues within the global efforts to protect biodiversity.



Pedro Arrojo-Agudo
UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

*The Special Rapporteur held a meeting with CBD Secretariat representatives on 25 February 2021