



The Convention on Biological Diversity

INTRODUCTION

The Convention on Biological Diversity 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.

It is an outcome of Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro on 5 June 1992.

It entered into force on 29 December 1993.

India enacted Biological Diversity Act in 2002 for giving effect to the provisions of the CBD.

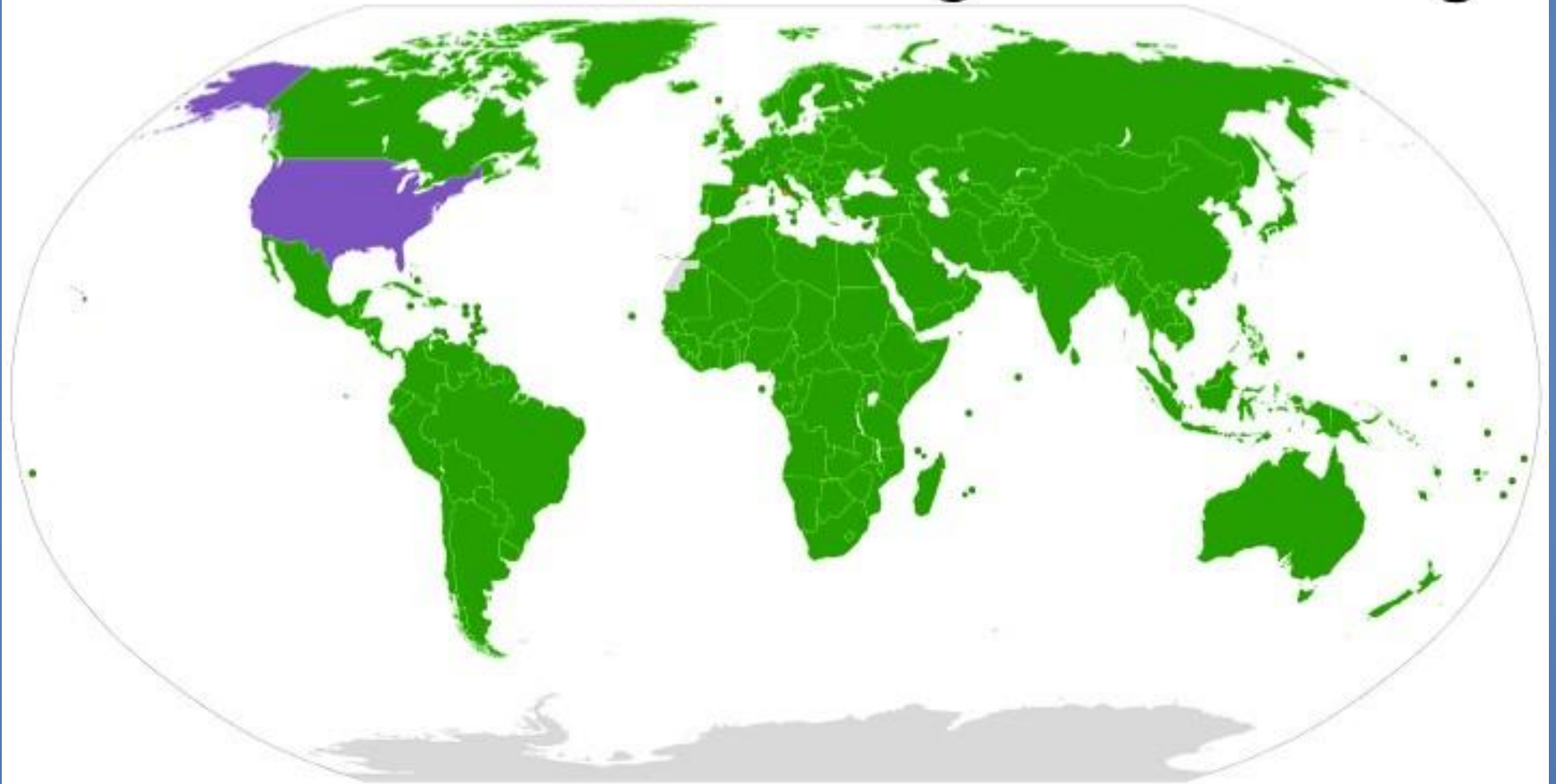
Members and Signatories

There are 196 parties and 168 signatories to the CBD, including India.

US has signed but not ratified the convention.

Main concerns of United States are the CBD provisions, which call for technology transfer to developing countries.

Countries in green have ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity



ADMINISTRATION

- The **governing body of CBD is the Conference of the Parties (COP)**, consisting of all governments (and regional economic integration organizations) that have ratified the treaty.
- So far twelve meetings of COP have taken place. The last meeting was held in October 2014, in Pyeongchang, South Korea.
- In 2012, India had hosted COP-11 at Hyderabad. The CBD Secretariat is based in Montreal, and it operates under the United Nations Environment Programme.
- There is a **Subsidiary body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)**, which has experts from member governments competent in relevant fields.
- It plays a key role in making recommendations to the COP on scientific and technical issues.

CBD OBJECTIVES

1. **Biodiversity conservation**
2. **Sustainable use of the components of biodiversity**
 - a. Integrate consideration of the conservation sustainable use of biological resources into national decision making
 - b. Encourage cooperation between governmental authorities and its private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological resources.
3. **Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.**
 - a. An appropriate access to genetic resources
 - b. An appropriate transfer of relevant technologies
 - c. An appropriate funding, thereby contributing to the conservation of biological diversity

The two protocols to CBD are Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and Nagoya Protocol.

- **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety:** It is an international agreement which aims to ensure safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms(LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health. It was adopted on 29 January 2000 and entered into force on 11 September 2003.

There are two major components of Cartagena Protocol :

Advanced Informed Agreement (AIA): AIA under the Cartagena Protocol ensures that the countries are provided with the information necessary to make informed decisions before agreeing to the import of Living Modified Organisms into their territory.

Biosafety Clearing House: It facilitates the exchange of information on living modified organisms and to assist countries in the implementation of the Protocol.

NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING

The Nagoya protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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

The Nagoya protocol on ABS was adopted on 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan and entered into force on 12 October 2014, 90 days after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification.

The Nagoya Protocol will create greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources by:

Establishing more predictable conditions for access to genetic resources

Helping to ensure benefit-sharing when genetic resources leave the country providing the genetic resources.

Aichi Target



Nagoya protocol ends up with a strategic plan with 20 targets called “Aichi Target”.



Objective of Aichi Target is to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, reduce the pressures on biodiversity, safeguard biodiversity at all levels, enhance the benefits provided by biodiversity, and provide for capacity-building.

SOME OF THE AICHI TARGETS INCLUDE:

Bringing down rate of loss of natural habitats to half.

Commitments to conserve 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10% of marine areas and coastal areas through establishing protected areas.

Restoration of at least 15% of degraded areas.

Special efforts to reduce the pressures faced by coral reefs.

substantial increase in the level of financial resources in support of implementation of the Convention.

IMPORTANCE



For the first time it recognized that the conservation of biological diversity is “a common concern of humankind” and is an integral part of the development process.



It covers all ecosystems, species, and genetic resources.



It links traditional conservation efforts to the economic goal of using biological resources sustainably.



It sets principles for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, not notably those destined for commercial use.



It also covers the rapidly expanding field of biotechnology, addressing technology development and transfer, benefit-sharing and bio-safety.

THANKS