

In 1992, governments, indigenous groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from around the world gathered in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to talk about the **environment**. The Rio Earth Summit was the largest international environmental meeting ever. At the meeting, world leaders agreed that it was important to protect the environment for all people, including future generations. The leaders decided to create three conventions to achieve this goal.

Three conventions emerged from the Rio Earth Summit:

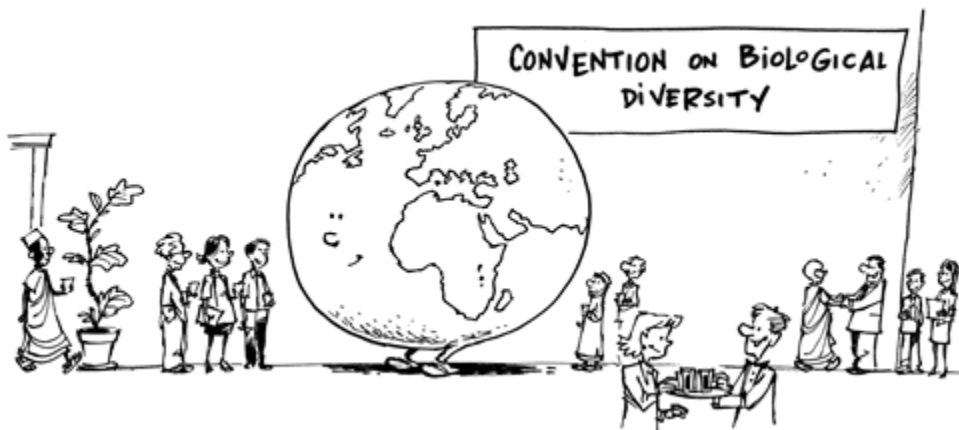
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was signed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992 and entered into force on 29 December 1993.

A convention is an agreement or contract. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an agreement between countries based on natural and biological resources. It is the first global agreement to cover all aspects of biological diversity. It is an international legally-binding treaty with three main goals:

- to protect **biodiversity**;
- to use biodiversity without destroying it; and,
- to share any benefits from **genetic** diversity equally.



Its overall objective is to encourage actions, which will lead to a sustainable future.

The conservation of biodiversity is a common concern of humankind. The Convention on Biological Diversity covers biodiversity at all levels: ecosystems, species and genetic resources. It also covers biotechnology, including through the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. In fact, it covers all possible domains that are directly or indirectly related to biodiversity and its role in development, ranging from science, politics and education to agriculture, business, culture and much more.

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

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), based in Montreal, Canada, was established to support the goals of the Convention. Its primary functions are to organize meetings, prepare reports, assist member governments in the implementation of the various programmes of work, coordinate with other international organizations and collect and spread information.

International Day for Biological Diversity 22 May