

## Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

### Key features

**Type of organisation:** Secretariat of Convention

**Charter/Constitution:** Convention on Biological Diversity,  
[www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf)

**Membership:**

- Nature: governments
- Number: 196 parties

**Year of establishment:** 1992

**Headquarters:** Montreal, Canada

**Secretariat staff:** 108 (2016)

**Total budget:** EUR 44 million (2015-2016)

**Type of activity:** Supporting policy development and dialogue, information exchange, data collection and analysis, development of legal instruments, and convening and facilitating meetings

**Sectors of activity:** Biodiversity, Biosafety, Environment

**Website:** [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)

### Members

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Union, Fiji, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

### Relationship with non-members

Non-members (which are known as “Non-Parties”) participate in the deliberations of members (“Parties”) as observers, are usually invited to take part in the implementation of the obligations undertaken by the Parties and to share information on their activities.

### Observers

CBD Observers are Non-Party States, IGOs, relevant IOs and NGOs, including community organisations and academics. Each meeting of the Conference of the Parties is attended by different number of observers (between 300 and 500). CBD is institutionally linked to UNEP.

### Mandate

The objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding. The Secretariat of CBD was established to support the goals of the Convention. It serves also as the Secretariat of the Protocols of the Convention: the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress, and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

## IRC processes taking place within the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



### Categories of legal and policy instruments

	Is it taking place within the IO?	Approximate number
Treaties for ratification by States (excluding the funding one)	√	4
Legally binding decisions		
Recommendations	√	557
Political declarations	√	
Model treaties or law		
Production of technical standards		
Non-binding guidance/best practices document	√	>100

### Interactions with other international organisations active in the field

Mechanisms of interaction	Approximate number of IOs involved	Examples
Develop joint instruments		UNEP, FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, CITES, CMS
MoU or other agreements	√	(Convention on Migratory Species), Ramsar
Participate in co-ordinating institution	√	Convention on Wetlands, EU, AU (African Union),
Joint meetings that provide forum for co-ordination	√	OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the
Observe relevant actions of other bodies	√	Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic),
Exchange information	√	UNECE, IUCN (International Union for
		Conservation of Nature), CI (Conservation
		International), ICLEI (International Council for Local
		Environmental Initiatives), CropLife International

#### CBD history

In response to species extinction and ecosystems degradation, the UNEP convened the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity in November 1988 to explore the need for an international convention on biological diversity. Soon after, in May 1989, it established the Ad Hoc Working Group of Technical and Legal Experts to prepare an international legal instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. By February 1991, the Ad Hoc Working Group had become known as the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. Its work culminated on 22 May 1992 with the Nairobi Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Convention entered into force on 29 December 1993. The Convention is governed by its Conference of the Parties, which held its thirteenth ordinary meeting in 2016. Two Protocols have been established under the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was negotiated between 1996 and 2000 and entered into force on 11 September 2003. The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing was negotiated between 2003 and 2010 and entered into force on 12 October 2014. Furthermore, the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was negotiated between 2004 and 2010. It is not yet in force.

Source: Updated from OECD (2016), *International Regulatory Co-operation: The Role of International Organisations in Fostering Better Rules of Globalisation*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264244047-en>