

Introductory Course to Introductory Course to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Course Syllabus



InforMEA
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Learning objectives

The Earth's biological resources are vital to humanity's economic and social development. As a result, there is a growing recognition that biological diversity is a global asset of tremendous value to present and future generations. At the same time, the threat to species and ecosystems caused by human activities has never been so great.

This course introduces you to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is the legally binding framework for the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Explain the importance of biological diversity for humankind.
2. Describe the core components and mechanisms established by the Convention.

Content and duration

The e-learning course is comprised of 8 short lessons, which provide links to the relevant treaty text paragraphs and term concepts of the InforMEA Glossary section. The lessons are organised in books, which can be downloaded in pdf from the left-hand navigation menu.

The core content of these lessons is complemented with additional materials, such as videos, publication and/or external websites

It will take you 2 and a half hours approximately to complete the course, excluding additional materials. You can manage your time as you wish; take a few units and retake the course whenever it is more convenient for you.

Assessment and certificate

Take the quizzes to assess your learning progress after units 3, 6 and 8.

You are required to answer at least 80% of the assessment questions correctly in order to obtain a course certificate.

Before obtaining the certificate you also need to submit the course survey (your feedback). This survey helps us to improve the course, develop new course and assess if you are achieving your learning objectives.

Unit	Content	Learning objectives
Unit 1 – Introduction	<p>1. What is biological diversity? From genetic resources to ecosystems Non-renewable resource</p> <p>2. Biodiversity as a provider of goods and services Effects of the loss of biodiversity The importance of biodiversity for local and indigenous communities</p> <p>3. The Convention on Biological Diversity Framework instrument The Preamble Objectives</p> <p>4. General Principles of the CBD Sovereign right of states over their own biological resources Responsibility for Transboundary Harm Common concern of humankind Inter-generational equity Precaution</p>	<p>1. Describe what biological diversity is</p> <p>2. Illustrate cases of biological diversity as a provider of goods and services and the consequences of biodiversity loss</p> <p>3. State the origins, rationale and objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity</p> <p>4. Identify the guiding principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity</p>
Unit 2 - Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use	<p>1. Development of national strategies, plans or programmes Examples of processes to revise NBSAPs</p> <p>2. Identification and monitoring</p> <p>3. In-situ conservation</p> <p>4. Ex-situ conservation</p> <p>5. Sustainable Use</p>	<p>1. Identify the conservation and sustainable use measures included in the Convention on Biological Diversity</p>

Unit	Content	Learning objectives
Unit 3 - Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why regulating Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing? 2. ABS provisions in the CBD 3. Scope of application 4. Terms and conditions for access to genetic resources and benefit sharing 5. ABS and biotechnology 6. The Nagoya Protocol 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the importance of regulating the access to genetic resources and the sharing of the benefits arising from its utilization (ABS) 2. List the main provisions of the CBD in relation to ABS 3. Recall the Nagoya Protocol as the framework for the implementation of the third objective of the Convention
Unit 4 - Access to and Transfer of Technology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technology for implementation of the Convention 2. Basic obligation 3. Fair and most favourable terms 4. Intellectual property rights 5. Enabling legal and policy frameworks 6. International scientific cooperation 7. Biotechnology research 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define the obligations of all Parties in relation to access to and transfer of technology 2. Identify the main issues addressed by the Convention regarding access to and transfer of technology
Unit 5 - The Role of Indigenous and Local Communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traditional Knowledge 2. Main obligation : Article 8(j) 3. Working Group on Article 8(j) 4. The Nagoya Protocol and Traditional Knowledge 5. Case Study - monitoring of traditional knowledge in the Philippines 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outline the recognition and protection granted by the Convention to traditional knowledge and the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. 2. Describe the milestones achieved by the Convention in relation to traditional knowledge, innovation and practices

Unit	Content	Learning objectives
Unit 6 - Mechanisms for Implementation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. International Cooperation 2. Clearing-House Mechanism 3. Financial Resources <p>The financial mechanism</p> <p>Innovative financial mechanisms</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The Strategic Plan <p>Strategic Plan 2011-2020, including Aichi Biodiversity Targets</p> <p>Thematic programmes of work</p> <p>Cross-cutting programmes of work</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the mechanisms and instruments used by Parties to cooperate and implement the Convention.
Unit 7 - Institutional Arrangements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conference of the Parties 2. Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 3. Working Groups 4. The Secretariat 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discern the main bodies under the Convention and their functions
Unit 8 - Compliance, Liability and Dispute Settlement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Reporting 2. Dispute Settlement 3. Liability and Redress 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recall the mechanism establish by the Convention to monitor compliance 2. Summarize the dispute settlement procedure 3. Tell the status of the liability and redress regimen under the Convention



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