



Understanding and engaging in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD)

Course Syllabus

Learning Objectives

This course guides learners in discovering the processes and mechanisms of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Developed by the CO-OP4CBD Horizon Europe project, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, it aims to answer the knowledge needs of newcomers in CBD processes, including researchers, experts, negotiators and ministers' staff. The course explores the functioning of the CBD (ie. concepts, text, bodies) and how to concretely engage in its processes when working on biodiversity-related topics. It provides practical insights, examples, and tools to support the engagement into the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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

- Identify the processes and mechanisms of the CBD in which you could fit according to your own expertise and field of activity,
- Identify the type of knowledge that could be shared and used in UN CBD circuits, including the format and specific skills required for policy making,
- Evaluate your capacity to engage in the Convention circuits both in terms of skills, time and resources available,
- Be able to engage in policy processes, by identifying and interacting with the right contact points (e.g., specific Ministries, negotiators...) to contribute to CBD processes.

Content & Duration

This online course is composed of 3 lessons, each structured around an expert-led video, concrete inputs, and additional factsheet. Each lesson also includes a short quiz to test knowledge acquisition, and the course concludes with a final assessment leading to a certificate upon successful completion.

Each lesson takes approximately 45 minutes to complete. The course is self-paced, allowing learners to progress at their own convenience, navigate the lessons freely, and revisit the content as needed.

Course Outline & Content

Lesson 1: First introduction to the CBD

Introduces the CBD origins and history, the Convention text, typology of actors and bodies, institutional mechanisms, science-policy interface specificities and broad decision-making process.

Lesson 2: The corridor of CBD processes and mechanisms

How a national delegation works and what are its objectives, typology of CBD documents, wording and in-depth description of the decision-making process, description of negotiations, modalities and tips for newcomers.

Lesson 3: Engage with the CBD, beyond CBD meetings

How to contribute to technical and scientific cooperation related activities, implementation of biodiversity strategies, reporting, monitoring and review, opportunities to join existing networks and biodiversity-related initiatives beyond institutional mechanisms.

About CO-OP4CBD

The **CO-OP4CBD project**, funded by the **European Union** (G.A. No. 101081778.), aims to enhance the coordination of the EU support for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and make more effective use of existing expertise and initiatives. You can find information on the project through [its website](#) and by following us on [LinkedIn](#).

Take the free and self-paced course [HERE](#) (login required)



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