



# Cameroon Adopts Nagoya Protocol

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## Why in News?

Cameroon, located in central Africa and boasting a rich biodiversity with around 11,000 species of plants, animals, and microorganisms, has recently adopted the [Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing](#), an agreement under [the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity \(UNCBD\)](#).

- The **Nagoya Protocol** aims to **promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources**.

## What was the Need for Cameroon to Adopt Nagoya Protocol?

- **Preserving Traditional Knowledge:**
  - Many of plants, animals and microorganisms contain useful genetic information or **genetic resources, such as genes for producing medicines or crops**. The knowledge, **innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities** related to these resources are called **traditional knowledge**.
- **Preventing Biopiracy and Equal Sharing of Resources:**
  - Both genetic resources and traditional knowledge are valuable for bioprospecting, **which is the exploration of biological material for new sources of drugs, food or other products**. Bioprospecting can also help to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity. For Example:
    - **Prunus Africana**, a plant endemic to Cameroon, is used to **make drugs for prostate cancer** but foreign companies buy a kilogramme of it USD 2.11 and sell the drugs made from it for USD 405.
    - **Cameroon's Bush Mango** is a wealth of medical properties. The leaves, roots and bark are used to treat scabs and skin pain. The fruit has attracted the interest of European pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies.
- **Benefiting Local Communities:**
  - **None of the companies' profits benefited the communities** where the plants were harvested.
  - Adopting the **Nagoya Protocol aids in safeguarding the rights and interests of indigenous and local communities** while fostering innovation and development based on biodiversity.

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## What is the Nagoya Protocol Under UNCBD?

### ▪ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

- The CBD, a **legally binding treaty** to conserve biodiversity has been in force since 1993 which has **3 main objectives**:
  - The **conservation of biological diversity**.
  - The **sustainable use** of the components of biological diversity.
  - The **fair and equitable sharing of the benefits** arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
- Nearly all countries have ratified it (**notably, the US has signed but not ratified**).
  - India enacted [Biological Diversity Act, 2002](#) for giving effect to the **provisions of the CBD**.
- The **CBD Secretariat is based in Montreal, Canada** and it operates under the [United Nations Environment Programme](#).
- The Parties (Countries) under Convention of Biodiversity (CBD), meet at regular intervals and these meetings are called **Conference of Parties (COP)**.
- In 2000, a **supplementary agreement to the Convention** known as the [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#) was adopted.
  - The Protocol seeks to **protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms** resulting from modern biotechnology.

### ▪ Nagoya Protocol:

- The **Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS)** was adopted in **2010 in Nagoya, Japan at COP10**.
- It **not only applies to genetic resources** that are covered by the CBD, and to the **benefits arising from their utilization but also covers traditional knowledge (TK) associated with genetic resources** that are covered by the CBD and the benefits arising from its utilization.
- Along with the Nagoya Protocol on Genetic Resources, **the COP-10 also adopted a ten-year framework for action by all countries to save biodiversity**.

- Officially known as **“Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020”**, it provided a set of **20 ambitious yet achievable targets** collectively known as the **Aichi Targets for biodiversity**.
- The **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** was adopted during the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties.
  - The Framework includes **four goals to be achieved by 2050 and twenty-three targets set for 2030**.

# CBD COP15

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 1993 - a legally binding treaty to conserve biodiversity

CBD Conference of Parties is the Governing body of the Convention



## MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

### COP 1 (1994)

- Nassau, Bahamas
- Proposed 29 December as International Day for Biological Diversity

### EXCOP 1

- 1<sup>st</sup> extraordinary meeting of UN CBD COP
- At Cartagena, Colombia (Feb 1999) & Montreal, Canada (Jan 2000)
- Adoption of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

### COP 6 (2002)

- The Hague, Netherlands
- Global Taxonomy Initiative, Global Strategy for Plant Conservation adopted

### COP 5 (2000)

- Nairobi, Kenya
- UNGA adopted 22 May as International Day for Biological Diversity

### COP 10 (2010)

- Nagoya, Japan
- Nagoya Protocol (Access to Genetic Resources and Fair & Equitable Sharing of Benefits) adopted
- Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-20 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- GBO 3

### COP 8 (2006)

- Curitiba, Brazil
- Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) Report 2 (GBO 1 in 2001)

### COP 11 (2012)

- Hyderabad, India

### COP 14

- Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

### PHASE-I

- Theme - Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth
- Held in Kunming, China (October 2021)
- Kunming Biodiversity Fund

COP 15

### PHASE-II

- Held in Montreal, Canada
- Adopted Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework - 4 goals & 23 targets to be achieved by 2030.
- 30 by 30 Target - restore 30% degraded ecosystems and protect at least 30% of the world's lands, oceans and coastal areas by 2030
- No single country met all 20 Aichi targets (expired in 2020) within its own borders



Drishti IAS

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

**Q. "Momentum for Change: Climate Neutral Now" is an initiative launched by (2018)**

- (a) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- (b) The UNEP Secretariat
- (c) The UNFCCC Secretariat
- (d) The World Meteorological Organisation

**Ans: (c)**

**Q. What is/are the importance/importances of the ' United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification' ? (2016)**

1. It aims to promote effective action through innovative national programmes and supportive international partnerships.
2. It has a special/particular focus on South Asia and North Africa regions, and its Secretariat facilitates the allocation of major portions of financial resources to these regions.
3. It is committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating the desertification.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (c)**

### **Mains:**

**Q.1** How does biodiversity vary in India? How is the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 helpful in conservation of flora and fauna? **(2018)**

**Q.2** What is meant by 'environmental ethics'? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics. **(2015)**