



THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

A *visual* INTRODUCTION

The Convention on Biological Diversity is another part of the UN framework that we engage with. In an effort to facilitate young people (and all people) interested in the subject to engage with one of the UN structures who deals with it, we've created this map. Its structure may seem hazy and confusing, but it just takes getting used to. Enjoy!

WHY THE CBD?

Biological Diversity is the term we have given to the variety of life on Earth. It's understood in terms of the huge variety of plants, animals, and other organisms, but also includes the genetic differences within each species. The combination of all these life forms and their interactions with each other and the rest of the environment has made the global environment that is so habitable for Humans. In preparations for the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, nations agreed that the protection of the world's ecological underpinnings was a key factor in ensuring the "sustainable development" of humanity, and developed the Convention in time for adoption in Rio.

ABOUT THE CBD

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has three objectives:

- Conservation of biological diversity
- Sustainable use of biological diversity
- Fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the use of genetic resources

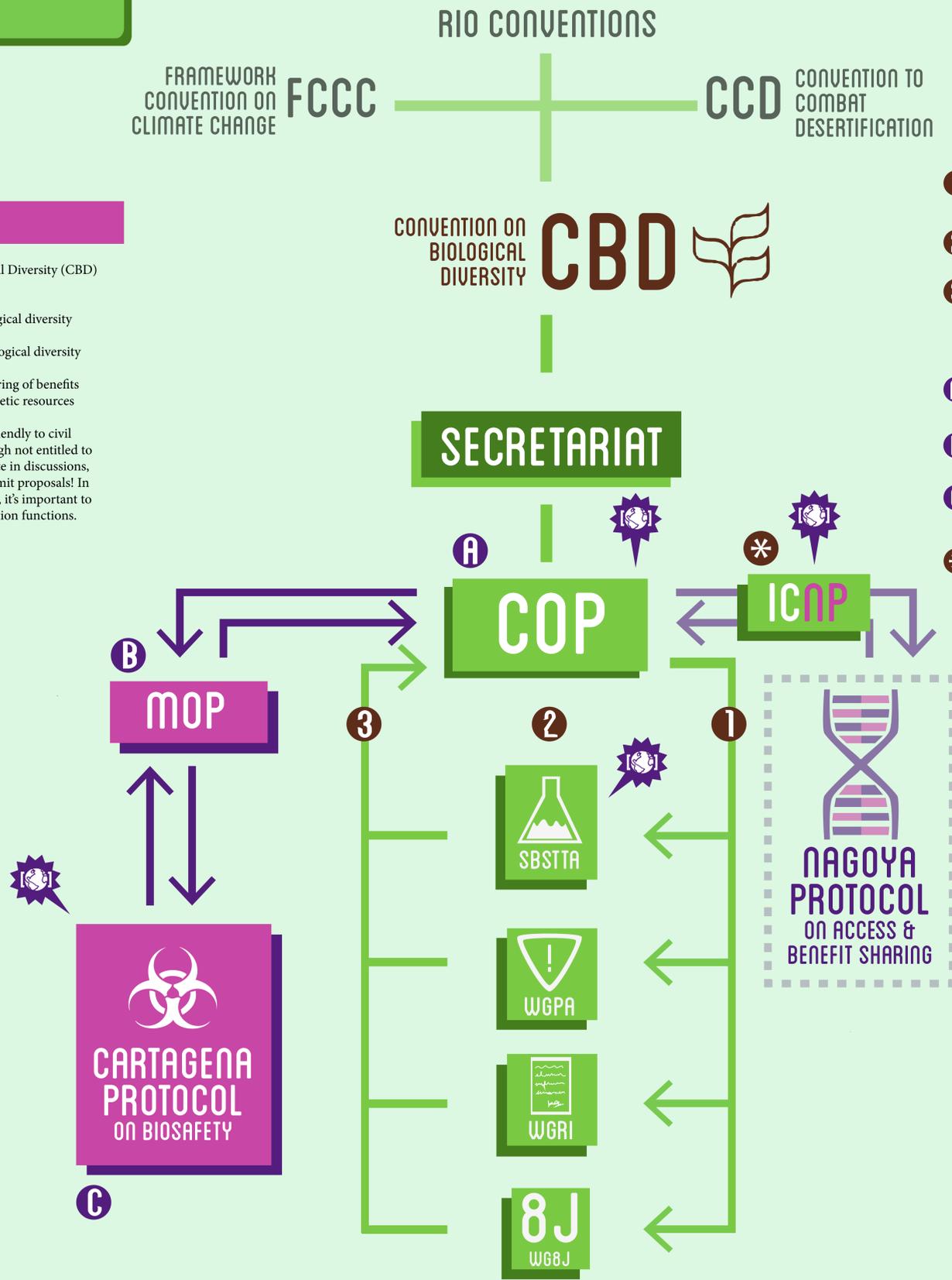
The CBD is also unusually friendly to civil society participation: Although not entitled to vote, observers can participate in discussions, make interventions, and submit proposals! In order to participate, however, it's important to understand how the Convention functions.

WHAT IS A CONVENTION?

The term convention is generally used to refer to formal multilateral treaties with a large number of parties. Conventions negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, are legally binding for the parties that sign and ratify the treaty.

HOW IT ALL WORKS

- 1 The Conference of the Parties makes decisions advancing the implementation of the Convention, often delegating work by creating appropriate working groups and setting out their agendas.
 - 2 These subsidiary bodies or working groups meet outside of the COP to work on the issues and topics delegated to them.
 - 3 The groups negotiate packages of reports and recommendations for the COP that can be included as draft decisions for use during negotiations. Keeping in mind my recommendation to switch the places of the Cartagena protocol and its mop (likewise with Nagoya):
- The Secretariat is a neutral organization with the principle function of supporting the role of the convention. It is accountable to the COP and has the role of organizing meetings, preparing reports, and coordinating with other international organizations
- A** The Conference of the Parties to the CBD serves as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, and is the decision making body for the Protocol.
- B** The Meeting of the Parties sets out decisions to implement the Protocol
- C** Decisions of the Conference of the Parties created the ICNP and set out work plans that contain issues for consideration by the Committee. The Committee then submits recommendations to the COP on how to best ensure the effective implementation of the Protocol when it comes into force.



WHAT IT ALL MEANS

 COP	 SBSTTA	 WGPA	 WGRI	 8(J) WG8J	 MOP	 ICNP	 NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS & BENEFIT SHARING	
<p>The Conference of the Parties is the governing body for the Convention. It is comprised of representatives of party and observer States, and produces substantive and procedural decisions meant to advance the implementation of the Convention. The COP meets periodically (currently every two years) in order to advance the implementation of the Convention. Meetings of the COP reflect the programme of work it has established for itself. In particular, this has included the development of a variety of thematic areas.</p>	<p>The Subsidiary Body on Science, Technical and Technological Advice is an advisory body to the Conference of the Parties which provides scientific and technical assessments and recommendations to the COP for Consideration. Though comprised of government representatives, SBSTTA can accept submissions of documents for consideration from civil society organizations</p>	<p>The Working Group on Protected Areas was created in 2004 to support and review the implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas. The mandate of the working group includes exploring options for resource mobilization and considering reports from parties and civil society on the implementation of the Programme of Work. WGPA last met in 2008</p>	<p>Established in 2004 to create a more effective process for reviewing the work of the Convention, the Working Group on Review of Implementation reviews the progress and effectiveness of existing work under the convention. The COP establishes the agenda for meetings of WGRI, though SBSTTA can also make recommendations.</p>	<p>The Working Group on Article 8(j) facilitates the implementation of the objectives of Article 8(j), in which parties have undertaken to respect, preserve, and maintain the knowledge and innovation of indigenous and local communities and promote the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biodiversity. The WG assists in the development and implementation of the Programme of Work on Article 8(j).</p>	<p>The MOP is the governing body of a protocol; in the case of the Cartagena Protocol, the Conference of the Parties serves as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP/MOP), with meetings every two years. Only Parties to the Protocol may participate in the decision-making process, while non-Parties to the Protocol (including non-Parties to the CBD) can participate as observers.</p>	<p>A Protocol is a binding international instrument that is separate from, but related to, another treaty. The Cartagena Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the risks posed by living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology. The Protocol governs the transboundary movements of LMOs and establishes a procedure for ensuring that countries are provided with the information necessary to make informed decisions regarding the import of such organisms.</p>	<p>The Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol was established at the tenth Conference of the Parties as an interim governing body set to undertake the necessary preparations for the first meeting of the Parties of the Nagoya Protocol. As an ad hoc body, the ICNP will cease to exist once the Nagoya Protocol comes into force and the first meeting of the Parties takes place.</p>	<p>The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing is an international agreement which aims at ensuring that the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources are shared in a fair and equitable way. After difficult negotiation, it was adopted by the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the CBD in 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. It will come into force (become legally binding) after it is ratified by fifty Parties.</p>

WHO WE ARE

Earth in Brackets is a student organization engaging in international environmental and sustainable development politics. Since 2006, we have worked to bring a sense of justice—environment and social—to international negotiations on biodiversity, climate change, sustainable development, and food security. We believe another world is not only possible, but necessary, and we want to bring more young people into the fight for and celebration of that world.



ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE...