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Topic : CITES, IUCN & CBD

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**Commissioner,**

**Department of Employment and Training.**



# CITES, IUNC & CBD

## CITES

### CONSERVATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA OR WASHINGTON CONVENTION

1. It is an International agreement and multilateral treaty to regulate worldwide commercial trade in wild animal and plant species.
2. It was signed on March 3, 1973 (Hence world wildlife day is celebrated on march 3) came in to force in 1975.
3. It is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
4. Secretariat — Geneva (Switzerland) and 2018 secretary general of the CITES is IVANGO HIGUERO.
5. CITES is legally binding on state parties to the convention, which are obliged to adopt their own domestic legislation to implement its goals but participation is voluntary.
6. Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties, it does not take the place of national laws. Rather it provides a framework respected by each Party, which must adopt their own domestic legislation to implement CITES at the national level.
7. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild, and it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 35,000 species of animals and plants.

#### Classifications:

It classifies plants and animals according to three categories, or appendices, based on how threatened. They are.

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**Appendix I species:** It lists species that are in danger of extinction. It prohibits commercial trade of these plants and animals except in extraordinary situations for scientific or educational reasons.

**Appendix II species:** They are those that are not threatened with extinction but that might suffer a serious decline in number if trade is not restricted. Their trade is regulated by permit.

**Appendix III species:** They are protected in at least one country that is a CITES member states and that has petitioned others for help in controlling international trade in that species.

In addition, CITES also restricts trade in items made from such plants and animals, such as food, clothing, medicine, and souvenirs.

#### **INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE(IUCN):**

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an organization working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. The International Union for Conservation of Nature is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organizations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organizations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.

It was established in 5<sup>th</sup> October 1948 and Head quarter in Gland VD, Switzerland.

#### **Vision:**

The vision of IUCN is 'A just world that values and conserves nature'. It is involved in data gathering and analysis research, field projects and education on conservation, sustainable development and biodiversity.

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### **Mission:**

IUCN's mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. IUCN has widened its focus beyond conservation of ecology and now incorporates issues related to sustainable development in its projects. It influences governments and industries through partnerships by providing information and advice.

### **Priority areas:**

1. Bio diversity
2. Climate change
3. Sustainable energy
4. Human well being
5. Green economy

### **Red Data Book**

Red Data book or Red list is a catalogue of taxa facing risk of extinction. IUCN – International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, which is renamed as WCU – World Conservation Union (Morges Switzerland) maintains the Red Data book. The concept of Red list was mooted in 1963. The organization collects, compiles and publishes the IUCN red list of threatened species and their conservation status in the world. It plays a vital role in the implementation of several international conventions on nature conservation and biodiversity.

### **The purpose of preparation of Red List are:**

1. To create awareness on the degree of threat to biodiversity
2. Identification and documentation of species at high risk of extinction
3. Provide global index on declining biodiversity
4. Preparing conservation priorities and help in conservation of action
5. Information on international agreements on conservation of biological diversity

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## **Red list has eight categories of species**

- a. Extinct- The species has disappeared and no known individuals remaining
- b. Extinct in wild - Known only to survive in captivity, or as a naturalized population outside its historic range.
- c. Critically Endangered - Species that have drastically dwindled and are at extremely high risk of extinction in the wild
- d. Endangered - High risk of extinction in the wild
- e. Vulnerable – High risk of endangerment in the wild
- f. Near threatened – Likely to become endangered in the near future
- g. Least concern – Lowest risk widespread and abundant Conservation dependent. This group has now merged with near threatened.
- h. Data deficiency - Not enough data to assess the risk of extinction of the species.
- i. Not Evaluated-Species not yet been evaluated against the criteria.

In the context of the IUCN Red List, ‘threatened’ embraces the three categories of Critically Endangered, Endangered, and Vulnerable.

## **IUCN World Conservation Congress**

1. Held once every four years
2. Brings together several thousand leaders and decision-makers from government, civil society, indigenous peoples, business, and academia, with the goal of conserving the environment and harnessing the solutions nature offers to global challenges.
3. Forum — hub of public debate, bringing together people from all walks of life to discuss the world’s most pressing conservation and sustainability challenges.
4. Members’ Assembly— IUCN’s highest decision-making body. A unique global environmental parliament, it involves governments and NGOs – large and small, national and international – taking joint decisions on conservation and sustainability.

## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

### 1. United Nation Conference on The Human Environment (1972)

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was first held in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1972. It marked the emergence of international environmental law.

#### Stockholm Declaration

It is also known as The Declaration on the Human Environment. It set out the principles for various international environmental issues, natural resource management, pollution prevention and the relationship between the environment and development.

### 2. United Nations Conference on Environment and Development:

Also known as RIO Earth summit, Rio conference, held in Rio de-janeiro in June 1992. Earth Summit 1992 succeeded in raising public awareness of the need to integrate environment and development. At 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, world leaders agreed on a comprehensive strategy for “sustainable development” — meeting our needs while ensuring that we leave a healthy and viable world for future generations.

#### The issues addressed by this Summits are:

1. Checking production of toxic components, such as lead in gasoline, or poisonous waste including radioactive chemicals,
2. Alternative sources of energy to replace the use of fossil fuels,
3. New reliance on public transportation systems in order to reduce vehicle emissions, congestion in cities,
4. The health problems caused by polluted air and smoke, and
5. The growing usage and limited supply of water.

#### The Earth Summit resulted in the following documents:

1. **Rio Declaration:** principles intended to guide countries in future sustainable development.
2. **Agenda 21:** non-binding action plan of the United Nations with regard to sustainable development.



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3. **Forest Principles:** Non-legally binding document on Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests.

### **Landmark Agreements**

Important legally binding agreements (Rio Convention) were opened for signature:

1. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
2. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
3. United nation framework on climate change (UNFCC).

### **CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY:**

The Convention on Biological Diversity is the international legal instrument that has been ratified by 196 nations. The Convention on Biological Diversity (a multilateral treaty) was opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and entered into effect in 1993. It is often seen as key document for Sustainable development.

Three main goals:

1. Conservation of Biodiversity
2. Sustainable use of the components of biodiversity
3. Sharing benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way.

Nearly all countries have ratified it (notably, the US has signed but not ratified) 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 interval and these meetings are called Conference of Parties (COP).

There are two different protocols

#### **1. Cartagena protocol:**

On 29 January 2000, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP5) adopted a supplementary agreement to the Convention known as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. It came into force on 11 September 2003. The Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. There are two major



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components of Cartagena Protocol viz. Advanced Informed Agreement (AIA) Procedure and Biosafety Clearing House.

### **Advanced Informed Agreement (AIA)**

AIA under the Cartagena Protocol ensures that the countries are provided with the information necessary to make informed decisions before agreeing to the import of Living Modified Organisms into their territory.

### **Biosafety Clearing House**

Biosafety Clearing-House facilitates the exchange of information on living modified organisms and to assist countries in the implementation of the Protocol.

## **2.Nagoya Protocol:**

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted on 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan at COP10. It entered into force on 12 October 2014. It provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. 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 Nagoya Protocol on Genetic Resources, the COP-10 also adopted a ten-year framework for action by all countries to save biodiversity.

### **Aichi Targets:**

Officially known as “Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020”, provide a set of 20 ambitious yet achievable targets (divided into 5 sections: A to E), collectively known as the Aichi Targets for biodiversity.

The Aichi Biodiversity Targets are:

- 1. Strategic Goal A:** Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society.

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1. By 2020, at the latest, making the people aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to ensure conservation and sustainable use of the resources of biodiversity.
  2. By 2020, at the latest integrating the biodiversity values in the national and local level development and poverty reduction plans and strategies, and the planning process to be incorporated in the national accounting, as appropriate and reporting systems.
  3. By 2020, at the latest, the incentives including subsidies which are harmful to the biological diversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed to minimize or remove its negative impacts on biodiversity. Also, positive incentives to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the resources of biological diversity are developed and applied which are consistent and in harmony with the CBD, and other international obligations and treaties, taking into account the national socio-economic conditions.
  4. By 2020, at the latest, the governments, businesses and other stakeholders at all the levels should have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans and strategies to ensure sustainable production and consumption to keep the impacts of natural resources within the safe ecological limits.
2. **Strategic Goal B:** Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use.
1. By 2020, the rate of loss of forests and all other natural habitats is at least halved and wherever possible brought close to zero, and the degradation and fragmentation of habitats are reduced significantly.
  2. By 2020 all the fish and invertebrates stocks and the aquatic plants are harvested and managed sustainably, legally and by applying ecosystem-based approach. This is to avoid overfishing, the recovery plans and measures are in place for all the depleted species, and the fisheries have no significant negative impacts on the threatened species. The vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on the stocks, species and the ecosystems are well within the safe ecological limits.
  3. By 2020, the areas under agriculture, forestry and aquaculture are managed sustainably to ensure the conservation of biodiversity.

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4. By 2020, the pollution levels, including from the excess of nutrients, are brought to the levels which are not detrimental to the functioning of ecosystem and biodiversity.
  5. By 2020, the invasive alien species and their pathways are identified and prioritized. The priority species are either controlled or eradicated, and measures are taken to manage the pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
  6. By 2015, the multiple sources of anthropogenic pressures on the coral reefs, and all other vulnerable ecosystems which are highly impacted by the climate change or by the ocean acidification are minimized to ensure their integrity and proper functioning.
3. **Strategic Goal C:** To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity
1. By 2020, at least 17% of the terrestrial and the inland water, and 10% of the coastal and marine areas, especially the areas which are important for biodiversity and ecosystem services are conserved. This is to be achieved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected ecosystems of the protected areas and other area-based conservation measures and strategies, and are integrated into the wider landscapes and the seascapes.
  2. By 2020, the extinction of the threatened species is to be prevented and their conservation and protection status, especially of those which are most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
  3. By 2020, genetic diversity of the cultivated plants and domestic animals and their wild relatives, including other socially, economically and culturally valuable species has been maintained. Also, strategies had been developed and implemented to reduce and minimize the genetic erosion and for safeguarding their genetic diversity.
4. **Strategic Goal D:** Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services
1. By 2020, ecosystems which provide essential services, including the services related to water, and contribute to the health, wellbeing, and livelihoods are to be

restored and safeguarded. It will also take into account the needs of women, local and Indigenous communities and that of the poor and vulnerable sections.

2. By 2020, the ecosystem resilience and contribution of biological diversity to the carbon stocks are to be enhanced and increased through conservation and restoration. It includes the restoration of at least 15% of the degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to the mitigation and adaptation of climate change and to combat desertification.
3. By 2015, the Nagoya protocol and the access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from its utilization are in force and operational, and it is also consistent with the national legislation.

5. **Strategic Goal E:** Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

1. By 2015, each party has developed and adopted a policy instrument and has also commenced the implementation of an effective, updated and participatory national biological diversity strategy and action plan.
2. By 2020, the traditional knowledge, practices and innovations of the local indigenous communities which are relevant to the conservation and the sustainable use of biological diversity, and their customary use of biodiversity resources are respected subject to the national legislation and international treaties and applications. Also, it has to be fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of this convention with effective participation of the local and indigenous communities at all the relevant levels.
3. By 2020, the knowledge, scientific base and the technologies related to the biological diversity, its values, status, trends and the functioning and the consequences of its loss and degradation, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and are applied.
4. By 2020, the mobilization of financial resources for effective implementation of the strategic plans and measures for biodiversity 2011 - 2020 from all the different sources, in accordance with the consolidated and an agreed process for resource mobilization should increase to a significant extent from the current levels. The target will be subject to the different change's contingent on the

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resource needs assessments which are to be developed and reported by the parties.

### **In India Biodiversity:**

1. The government passed the biodiversity act to conserve and promote sustainable use of biological diversity and to regulate the access to biological resources of the country with equitable share in benefits.
2. It sets up National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), State Biodiversity Board (SBB) and Biodiversity Management Committees.
3. Besides, it aims to respect and protect knowledge of local community's traditional knowledge related to biodiversity and secure sharing of benefits with local people as conservers of biological resources and holders of knowledge and information relating to the use of biological resources.
4. Besides, it also has provisions for notifying heritage sites by State Government in consultation with local body.

### **NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY:**

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established by the Central Government in 2003 to implement India's Biological Diversity Act (2002). The NBA is a Statutory Body and it performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory functions for the Government of India on issues of conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources. The NBA is headquartered in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

International Biological Diversity Day is observed on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. United Nations General Assembly had declared the period 2011-2020 to be the "United Nations Decade on Biodiversity".

### **Questions:**

1. Discuss the aims and working of the CITES.
2. Give the detailed notes of IUCN role in nature conservation and its Red data book.