

Several researches conducted, and adaptation options piloted and implemented. Key good practices and innovations in Bangladesh relating to UNCBD are:

- Co-management of the Protected Areas
- Innovative Village Common Forests Management
- Community Based Eco-System Restoration
- Community Based Swamp Forest Restoration Initiative
- Community Based Fish Sanctuary

Global agenda for sustainable development and obligations of Rio Conventions focus on the interactions between components of environment with sustainable livelihoods. Accomplishments of Rio Conventions are one of the key drivers to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. Out of 17 SDGs, Goal 14: Life below Water and Goal 15: Life on Land are directly linked with Convention on biological diversity.



## UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (UNCBD)

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## United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a “Rio Convention”. This Convention was opened for signature on 5 June 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the “Earth Summit”). It remained open for signature until 4 June 1993, by which time it had received 168 signatures. The Convention entered into force on 29 December 1993. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was inspired by the world community’s growing commitment to sustainable development.

Bangladesh as a Party signed the Convention on 05 June 1992 and ratified on 03 May 1994. Secretary of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the National Focal Point of three Rio Conventions.

The objectives of the Convention are: conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

### Following two protocols have been adopted to guide the implementation of the Convention:

- The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement which aims to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity. It was adopted on 29 January 2000 and entered into force on 11 September 2003.
- The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement which aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way. It entered into force on 12 October 2014.

## Bangladesh’s Response

Bangladesh lies in the ecotone, i.e. interfacing different ecosystems. Bangladesh is rich in biodiversity and is categorized under 03 broad Ecosystem Diversity (Terrestrial, Inland waters and Coastal and Marine Ecosystem) hosting 40 protected areas, 13 ecologically critical areas and 25 bio-ecological zones. However, during last couple of decades many species become extinct, some others are threatened, and others are endangered because of many drivers and underlying causes. The situation necessitates implementation of the CBD obligations in the country contexts.

With the aim to mainstream the obligations and principles of UNCBD for biodiversity conservation, Bangladesh has made considerable progress in line with the commitments laid down in the Convention and related Protocols. Bangladesh included a new Article 18A in the Constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, which states:

***18A. The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to preserve and safeguard the natural resources, bio-diversity, wetlands, forests and wild life for the present and future citizens.***

Bangladesh has incorporated the biodiversity issues in all the relevant sector policy, plans including national five-year plans and perspective plans. To realize the constitutional obligation in this regard, Bangladesh has taken following policy measures directly related to the biodiversity conservation.

- National Environment Policy 2018
- Draft National Forest Policy 2018
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2016-2021
- National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2010-2021
- Bangladesh Biological Diversity Act, 2017
- Protected Area Management Rules 2017
- Ecologically Critical Area Management Rules, 2016
- Bangladesh Biosafety Rules, 2012
- Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act, 2012
- National Biosafety Guidelines, 2007

