



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

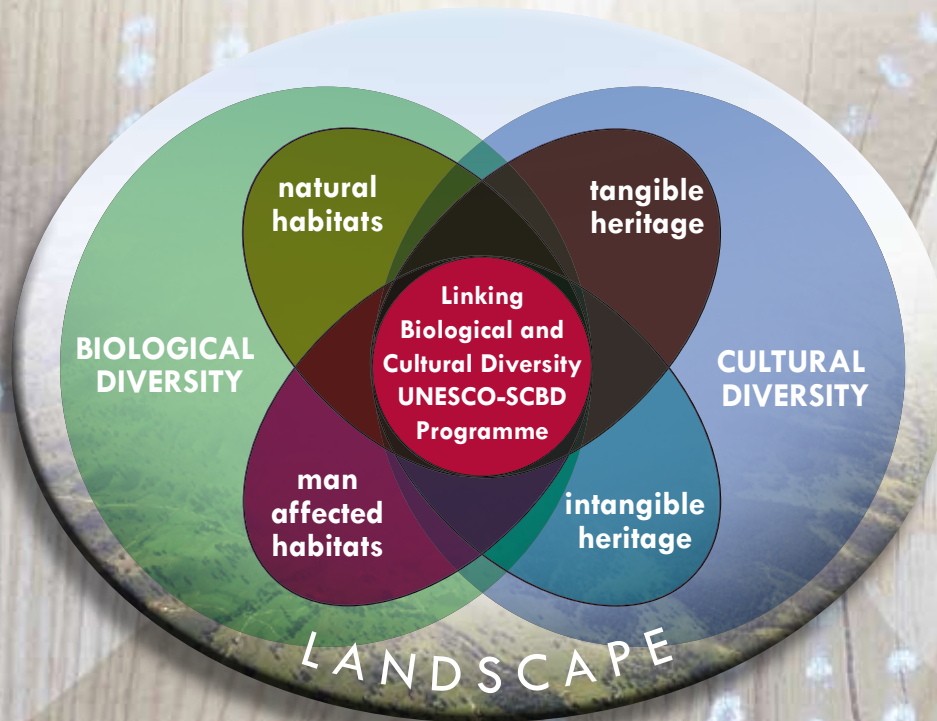


Convention
on Biological
Diversity



Linking Biological and Cultural Diversity

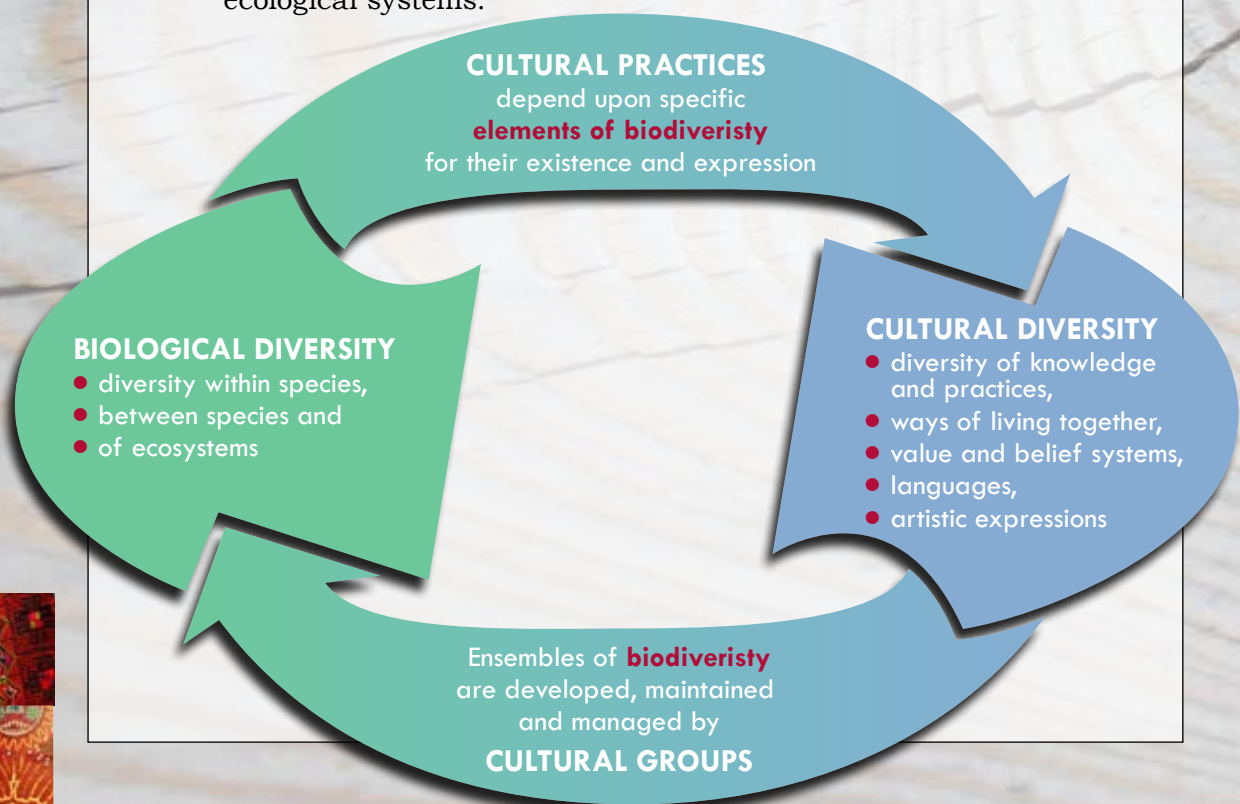
UNESCO-SCBD Programme



KEY OBJECTIVES

With the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** acting as global focal point for biodiversity and **UNESCO** acting as global focal point for cultural diversity, the two Institutions launched a Joint Programme in 2010 to:

- 1 Build bridges between ongoing work on biodiversity and cultural diversity.
- 2 Promote synergies and information sharing among already existing programmes, projects and activities.
- 3 Further explore conceptual and methodological issues related to the links between biological and cultural diversity and the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in enhancing those links.
- 4 Promote the collection, compilation and analysis of information from on-the ground activities linking biological and cultural diversity from, among others, biosphere reserves and World Heritage sites, and from the experiences provided by indigenous peoples and local communities.
- 5 Support and foster learning networks on bio-cultural approaches, linking grassroots and community initiatives with local, national, regional and global policy processes.
- 6 Raise awareness about the importance of biological and cultural diversity in resource management and decision-making processes as well as for the resilience of socio-ecological systems.



KEY ACTION POINTS

Engaging with multiple actors Acting across scales

1. Building bridges between legal instruments

- 1.1** Analyze the provisions linking cultural and biological diversity under the CBD and UNESCO culture related Conventions.
- 1.2** Provide recommendations for the implementation of the interlinked provisions in a mutually reinforcing and coordinated manner.
- 1.3** Collaborate with other international programmes and legal instruments towards the protection of interdependent biological and cultural diversity.

2. Building the knowledge base

- 2.1** Develop interdisciplinary conceptual and methodological frameworks for addressing the links between biological and cultural diversity.
- 2.2** Develop a set of guiding principles, including ethical principles, for future research, management, practice and policy work.
- 2.3** Advance knowledge on the ways in which cultures have shaped and continue to shape biodiversity in sustainable ways.
- 2.4** Synthesize and advance knowledge on contemporary processes that simultaneously impact biological and cultural diversity and responses to address those processes and their impacts.
- 2.5** Support the development of indicators and other means of measuring status, trends and values of diversity.
- 2.6** Promote inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogues on the links between biological and cultural diversity.

3. Raising awareness and educating

- 3.1** Develop communication materials and other tools to raise awareness of the importance of the links between biological, cultural and linguistic diversity.
- 3.2** Promote and develop multilingual and intercultural education as well as non-formal intergenerational transmission of knowledge on links between biological and cultural diversity.
- 3.3** Develop education kits for students as well as local decision makers, including in cities and urban environments.
- 3.4** Promote the use of UNESCO chairs to further study the interlinked diversity.
- 3.5** Build national and local capacities to mainstream principles and knowledge about the interdependence of biological and cultural diversity in sustainable development policies.

4. Informing management and policy

- 4.1** Mainstream principles and knowledge about the interdependence of biological and cultural diversity in the relevant CBD and UNESCO work, including in the management of UNESCO biosphere reserves and World Heritage sites through pilot projects.
- 4.2** Support indigenous and local communities to assess the possible challenges relating to implementation of the interlinked provisions of the CBD and UNESCO culture related Conventions and make recommendations for improving their full and effective participation in the implementation of these provisions.

LINKS BETWEEN BIOLOGICAL and CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Languages and linguistic diversity	Language is the key vehicle of knowledge. It captures, maintains and conveys information of local territories, species, ecosystems, landscapes. Through the richness of linguistic diversity, knowledge is developed and passed from generation to generation.
Material culture	People engage with biodiversity through specific objects, which can be created from or represent biodiversity. These objects provide valuable information on the diverse use of biodiversity and the associated economic, social and cultural practices and values.
Local, traditional and indigenous knowledge, technology and innovation	Local communities and indigenous peoples possess sophisticated sets of knowledge, know-how, technologies, skills and practices related to local biodiversity. In response to the changing environment, such knowledge is often combined with innovation resulting from the interaction between local biodiversity, practices, customary laws, cultural and spiritual values.
Modes of subsistence	From agriculture to fisheries, forestry or pastoralism, people depend on biodiversity to meet their basic needs and earn an income. Local knowledge, management and governance practices relating to the sustainable use of biodiversity result from complex interactions between economic and cultural forces that drive communities' interactions with their local environment.
Social and economic relations	Cultural identity, social structures and economic relations are strongly linked to local biodiversity and the relationships communities have with the surrounding land, sea, rivers, mountains, forests, lakes, animals and plants.
Belief systems	The diversity of the world's belief systems, mythologies, worldviews and cosmologies affects the ways people develop their identity and spirituality in relation to the natural world.
Values	Cultural values of biodiversity encompass aesthetic, spiritual, recreational, educational, inspirational values. They define peoples' relations to biodiversity and are defined by culturally grounded and often intergenerational value and belief systems.

The Joint Programme between UNESCO and the CBD Secretariat (SCBD) was developed at the International Conference on Biological and Cultural Diversity, held in Montreal, Canada in 2010.

It was endorsed by UNESCO's constituencies and welcomed by the 10th meeting of the Parties to the CBD (CBD COP 10) held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan (Decision X/20).

CBD COP 10 recognized the Joint Programme as a 'useful co-ordination mechanism to advance the implementation of the Convention and deepen global awareness of the interlinkages between cultural and biological diversity'. State Parties and other relevant stakeholders were invited to 'contribute to and support the implementation of this joint programme'.

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