

Conference of the Parties (COP)

Background and Status

The Conference of the Parties is the governing body of the Convention, and advances implementation of the Convention through the decisions it takes at its periodic meetings.

To date the Conference of the Parties has held 10 ordinary meetings, and one extraordinary meeting (the latter, to adopt the Biosafety Protocol, was held in two parts). From 1994 to 1996, the Conference of the Parties held its ordinary meetings annually. Since then these meetings have been held somewhat less frequently and, following a change in the rules of procedure in 2000, will now be held every two years. To date the Conference of the Parties has taken a total of 299 procedural and substantive decisions.

The Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in Nagoya, Japan (18 - 20 October 2010). The Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties will take place in India in October 2012.

Meetings of the Conference of the Parties

COP 11 - Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Hyderabad, India, 8 - 19 October 2012 [125 Documents](#) [33 Decisions](#)

COP 10 - Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, 18 - 29 October 2010 [107 Documents](#) [47 Decisions](#)

COP 9 - Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Bonn, Germany, 19 - 30 May 2008 [110 Documents](#) [36 Decisions](#)

COP 8 - Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Curitiba, Brazil, 20 - 31 March 2006 [106 Documents](#) [34 Decisions](#)

COP 7 - Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9 - 20 February 2004 [94 Documents](#) [36 Decisions](#)

COP 6 - Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
The Hague, Netherlands, 7 - 19 April 2002 [114 Documents](#) [32 Decisions](#)

COP 5 - Fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Nairobi, Kenya, 15 - 26 May 2000 [81 Documents](#) [29 Decisions](#)

EXCOP 1 - First Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Cartagena, Colombia & Montreal, Canada, 22 - 23 February 1999 & 24 - 28 January 2000 [24 Documents](#) [3 Decisions](#)

COP 4 - Fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Bratislava, Slovakia, 4 - 15 May 1998 [71 Documents](#) [19 Decisions](#)

COP 3 - Third Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 4 - 15 November 1996 [112 Documents](#) [27 Decisions](#)

COP 2 - Second Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Jakarta, Indonesia, 6 - 17 November 1995

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COP 1 - First Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Nassau, Bahamas, 28 November - 9 December 1994

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The agenda of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties is very wide-ranging, reflecting the programme of work the Conference of the Parties has established for itself. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided on a medium-term programme of work for the period 1995-1997. Implementation of this programme has laid the groundwork for the long-term implementation of the Convention itself. In particular it has seen the development of a number of thematic work programmes, and identified a series of key cross-cutting issues relevant to all work programmes.

The fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties established a programme of work to cover the period from then until the seventh meeting and, more importantly, established a process to review the operations of the Convention and set out a longer term programme of work. As part of this process, an intersessional meeting on the operations of the Convention was held in 1999, the results of which were reported to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and formed the basis for a decision on future operations of the Convention.

Major themes at meetings of the Conference of the Parties

First ordinary meeting	Guidance to the financial mechanism; Medium-term programme of work;
Second ordinary meeting	Marine and coastal biological diversity; Access to genetic resources; Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; Biosafety;
Third ordinary meeting	Agricultural biodiversity; Financial resources and mechanism; Identification, monitoring and assessment; Intellectual property rights;
Fourth ordinary meeting	Inland water ecosystems; Review of the operations of the Convention; Article 8(j) and related issues (traditional knowledge); Benefit sharing;
Fifth ordinary meeting	Dryland, mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems; Sustainable use, including tourism; Access to genetic resources;
Sixth ordinary meeting	Forest ecosystems; Alien species; Benefit-sharing; Strategic plan 2002-2010;
Seventh ordinary meeting	Mountain ecosystems; Protected areas; Transfer of technology and technology cooperation.
Eighth ordinary meeting	Island biodiversity; Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands; Global Taxonomy Initiative; Access and benefit-sharing (Article 15); Article 8(j) and related provisions; Communication, education and public awareness (Article 13).
Ninth ordinary meeting	Agricultural biodiversity; Global Strategy for Plant Conservation; Invasive alien species; Forest biodiversity; Incentive measures; Ecosystem approach; Progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and

progress towards the 2010 target and relevant Millennium
Development Goals;
Financial resources and the financial mechanism.

COP also sets out a series of standing items for the provisional agenda of its meetings, namely:

- Organizational matters;
- Reports from subsidiary bodies, the financial mechanism and the Executive Secretary;
- Review of the implementation of the programme of work;
- Priority issues for review and guidance; and
- Other matters.