



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Convention  
on Biological  
Diversity



# Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity

## UNESCO-SCBD Joint Programme



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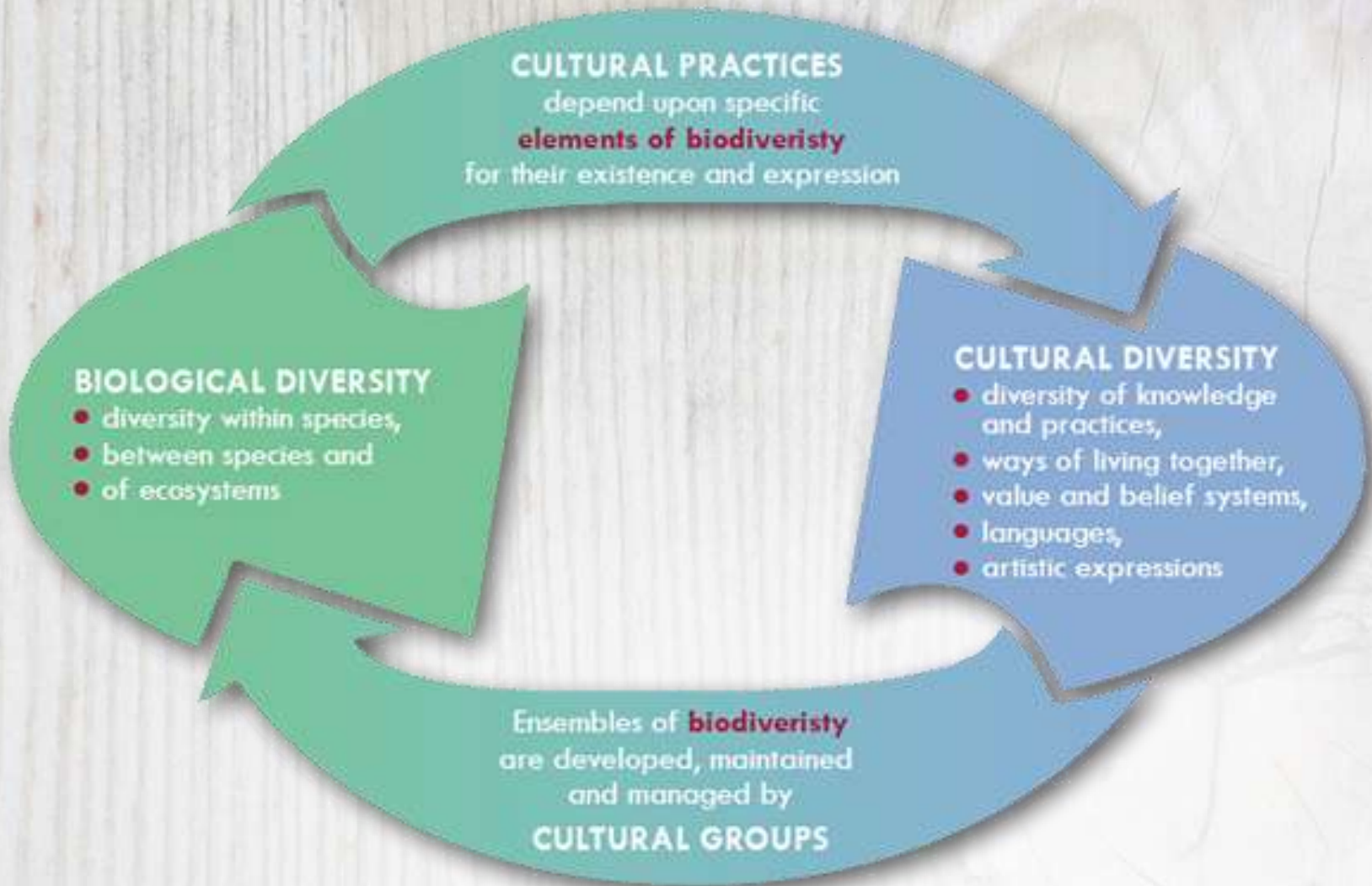
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## Joint Programme UNESCO – SCBD 2010 - 2020

### Mission

**Advance knowledge and strengthen the linkages between biological and cultural diversity initiatives, and enhance synergies between interlinked provisions of conventions and programmes dealing with biological and cultural diversity at relevant scales.**



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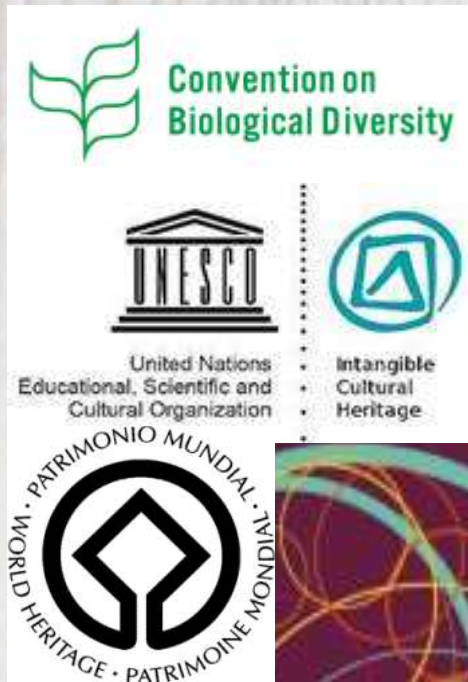


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## Challenges on the International Level



### ► Reinforcing and building bridges btw:

- The Convention on Biological Diversity &
- 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage,
- 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expressions,
- 1972 World Heritage Convention

► **Integrating** the the links between biological and cultural diversity in policy and decision making processes.

► Developing **common frameworks** and knowledge base through combination of **scientific and traditional knowledge and practices.**



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### Current Actions

- ▶ **Compilation of the relevant CBD and UNESCO Decisions** making reference to the links between cultural and biological diversity
- ▶ **Development and launch of the web-portal**
- ▶ **Identification of Priority Areas and Articulation of Key Messages in Different Regions**
- ▶ **Analysis of the contribution of bio-cultural approaches to implementation of the existing CBD and UNESCO Programmes;** including the **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Targets**



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### Contribution to the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets

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

**Target 1:** By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.

► ***Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity***

**Target 13 :** By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.



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### Contribution to the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets

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

**Target 18:** By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

**Target 19:** By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.



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***Thank you for your attention***





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## **Florence Declaration**

First European Conference for the Implementation of the UNESCO-SCBD Joint Programme on Biological and Cultural Diversity, held from 8 to 11 April 2014 in Florence, Italy



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## Florence Declaration

### European Perspective

- The current state of biological and cultural diversity in Europe results from the combination of historical and on-going environmental and land use processes and cultural heritage
- The European landscape is predominantly a biocultural multifunctional landscape. Landscapes rich in biocultural diversity are often those managed by small-scale or peasant farmers, traditional livestock keepers/pastoralists, and small-scale/artisanal fishermen
- The involvement of local communities can assist in more effective management and governance of multifunctional biocultural landscapes, and contribute to their resilience and adaptability;



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## Florence Declaration

### Regional Level

- Inclusion of biocultural diversity into national and local planning for nature conservation and landscape management, protected areas, agricultural and forest landscapes
- Incorporation of the links in sustainable forest management, including through the development of appropriate criteria and indicators
- Recognition of positive interactions between biological and cultural diversity through appropriate certification processes and labelling;
- Promoting the use of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for the promotion and valorisation of the links for scientists, policy makers and others



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## Florence Declaration

### National Level

- Incorporate biological and cultural diversity in rural and environmental policies
- Make available funding for multi-disciplinary research;
- Establish cross-sectorial and/or cross-departmental approaches;
- Provide mechanism for the review of relevant European and national policies and to take into account the links
- Promote local production practices and resources for up-scaling and replication



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## Florence Declaration

### Local Level

- Encourage participatory research opportunities; and bottom-up development of policy and legislation;
- Recognise, promote and scale up and replicate good local practices;
- Encourage and empower local communities to continue, transmit, and innovate traditional practices compatible with the sustainable use of biocultural diversity;
- Support local community organisations to develop initiatives for the conservation of biocultural diversity for resilient farming systems and local economies;
- Promote urban biological and cultural diversity through community grants, creation, preservation and maintenance of public green spaces, community gardens and greening of cities.

## 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.