The Rio Convention:

The UN Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, discussed a number of global environmental problems. At that time the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Framework Convention on Climate Change was born as well the sustainable principles of forest management were accepted and the need for an international agreement on desertification was identified. Their common principles were set out in the Rio Convention.

Objectives:

 The objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity is the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components, the equitable distribution of benefits from the exploitation of genetic resources, including appropriate access to genetic resources, technology transfer and provision of funds. The Convention strives to balance the three prominent goals between conservation, use and sharing of benefits.

According to the Convention, biodiversity means the diversity of living organisms of all origins, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and ecological complexes incorporating these systems; this includes the diversity of species within the species, the diversity of the species and the ecosystems themselves. Sustainable use means using components of biodiversity in a way and at a pace that does not lead to a long-term loss of biodiversity, thus preserving the potential for meeting the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

The Convention on Biological Diversity is not a classic nature conservation convention, as its objectives are not just about nature conservation, but to exploit the interests of a society for recovery. Indeed, it has an extremely important message to nature conservation, since the sustainable use of wildlife is only possible if we do everything to prevent degradation. The Convention is special because it refers to the whole of the wildlife, that is, to the survival of all living entities and living systems, to the universal protection of all forms of life on earth. The value of biological diversity lies in the ecological, genetic, scientific, educational, social, economic, cultural and aesthetic values ​​of its components. Of course, the Convention also provides for "traditional" methods of protection, including the creation of a network of protected areas, where special conditions must be maintained to protect biodiversity.

Liabilities:

The Convention defines the tasks to be performed by States Parties with regard to in-situ and ex-situ protection, the sustainable use of biodiversity, and research and training, public education and information, environmental impact assessment and minimization of harmful effects, access and transfer of information, exchange of information and funding.

The Convention has triggered and accelerated a wide range of activities in States Parties. Research on biodiversity exploration, strategic plans and action programs have been intensified and are being prepared, and new legislation is in place that is in line with the objectives of the Convention and supports its implementation.

Functioning of the Convention:

The main decision-making body of the Convention is the Conference of the Parties (COP), which is responsiblefor directing the operation and monitoring the implementation of the Convention. A regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties is held every two years at regular intervals, but extraordinary meetings can also be convened. Such an extraordinary meeting took place to adopt the Cartagena Protocol.

It is the secretariat's task to organize and assist the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of other subsidiary bodies of the Convention and to coordinate with other relevant international bodies. The Parties shall contribute to the administrative expenses of the Secretariat by an amount determined by the Conference.

The Scientific, Professional and Technological Advice Board (SBSTTA) of the Convention assists the work of the Conference of the Parties with its scientific, professional and technological recommendations, which takes its decisions with due care.

The decision-making body of the Convention decided to entrust the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with the management of its financial support system (mechanism). GEF helps to achieve the objectives of the Convention in developing and transition economies with financial support. Hungary has benefited from numerous projects under GEF, but in the future it is not possible to launch new GEF projects.