5.-International biodiversity conservation conventions

Washington Convention (CITES)

The Washington convention, also called CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), is an international intergovernmental convention which was created so that international trade in wild plants and animals should not be endangered.

The convention’s aim is to tightly control the International Animal- and Plant trading system.

It defines two lists :

 1. list : especially endangered species;

 2. list : endangered species.

The species on this list may enter commerce only with the permission of the administration of the exporter's and the receiving countries’ authorities . Keeping of species included in Schedule 1 is also subject to report.

The Convention applies

 for living instances

 for preparations

 for the ornaments made from them, or even their powdered parts.

The two lists aren't permanent, they vary according to the level of threat of the species.

The Washington convention was accepted in March 1973, it entered into force in July 1975, and Hungary joined it in 1985. Its aim is to control traiding the endangered species , and to prevent thousands of animal and plant species from of extinction. The Washington Convention Secretariat is located in Switzerland, Genf. The global agreement now has 183 parties, including the European Union, and regulates or sometimes prohibits the trade of nearly 35,000 species.

Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

- Bern Convention)

One of the first important regional conventions which was adopted in Europe in 1979, in Bern. It has been in force since 1982, after the the first 5 states ratified it, as stated in the convention - of which four had to be a member of the Council of Europe.

This shows that the Council of Europe played an important role in its creation, which has since been the owner of the Convention and the International Secretariat in Strasbourg.

Objective :

The convention’s main aim is to defend the habitat of animal- and plant species , with particular attention to endangered species(including migratory species).

Rio Convention

The Rio Convention ( the Convention on Biological Diversity) is an International Convention which was signed in Rio de Janeiro on 13 June 1992. It takes a position on the relationship between man and nature.

Aims :

 To keep the biodiversity, sustainable use of its components , fair and equitable distribution of benefits through the utilization of genetic resources including proper access to genetic resources, technology transfer and provision of funds.

 According to the Convention, biodiversity is the diversity of organisms of any origin, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and ecological complexes including these systems, this includes the diversity of species within the species, the diversity of the species and the ecosystems themselves.

 The Convention on Biological Diversity is not a classic nature conservation convention, because its objectives are not just about protecting nature, but about using it directly for the benefit of society. The Convention is special because it applies to the whole living world, that is, the survival of all living and living systems, 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.