

# From species protection to an ecosystems approach

1st phase: Protection of species on the basis of their usefulness to humans

➤ Examples:

- Paris Convention on the Protection of Birds Useful to Agriculture (1902)
- Whaling Convention original version (1946)
- Fisheries treaties of the 1940s

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2nd phase: Protection of species on the basis of their intrinsic value

➤ Examples:

- CITES: Inclusion of the African Elephant in Annex 1 (1989)
- Whaling Convention: Moratorium on whaling (1982)

➤ Questions debated:

- Right of animals to life
- Rights of future generations

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In recent years:

- Attempts to combine the utilitarian approach and the intrinsic value approach (direct application of the concept of sustainable development)
- Attribution of responsibilities as well as utilization rights local communities
  - Example: Limited and controlled exploitation of ivory in 3 African countries (CITES, 1997)

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3rd phase: Ecosystems approach as a prerequisite of successful species protection

- Protection of a species must include protection of the entire ecosystem. Limitation of exploitation is not sufficient
- Examples:
  - UNESCO Convention on cultural and natural heritage (1972)
  - UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)

# Protection of species

## *Legal rules: Transboundary and global approaches*

- Transboundary approach where only a limited no. of states concerned (e.g. protection of migrating species, Bonn Convention)
- Global approach where there is a universal interest (e.g. protection of the African elephant (CITES))

# Protection of species

*International agreements on protection of species exist in the following areas:*

1. [Fisheries]
2. Marine mammals (whales, seals)
3. Species migrating across national borders
4. Endangered species general (prohibition of trade)

# Protection of species

## Principles of efficient protection of species

1. Sustainable exploitation (e.g. by hunting / fishing) based on scientific criteria
2. Protection of the species as a whole, in its entire habitat
3. Consideration of all ecological factors that influence the species and its habitat

# Protection of ecosystems

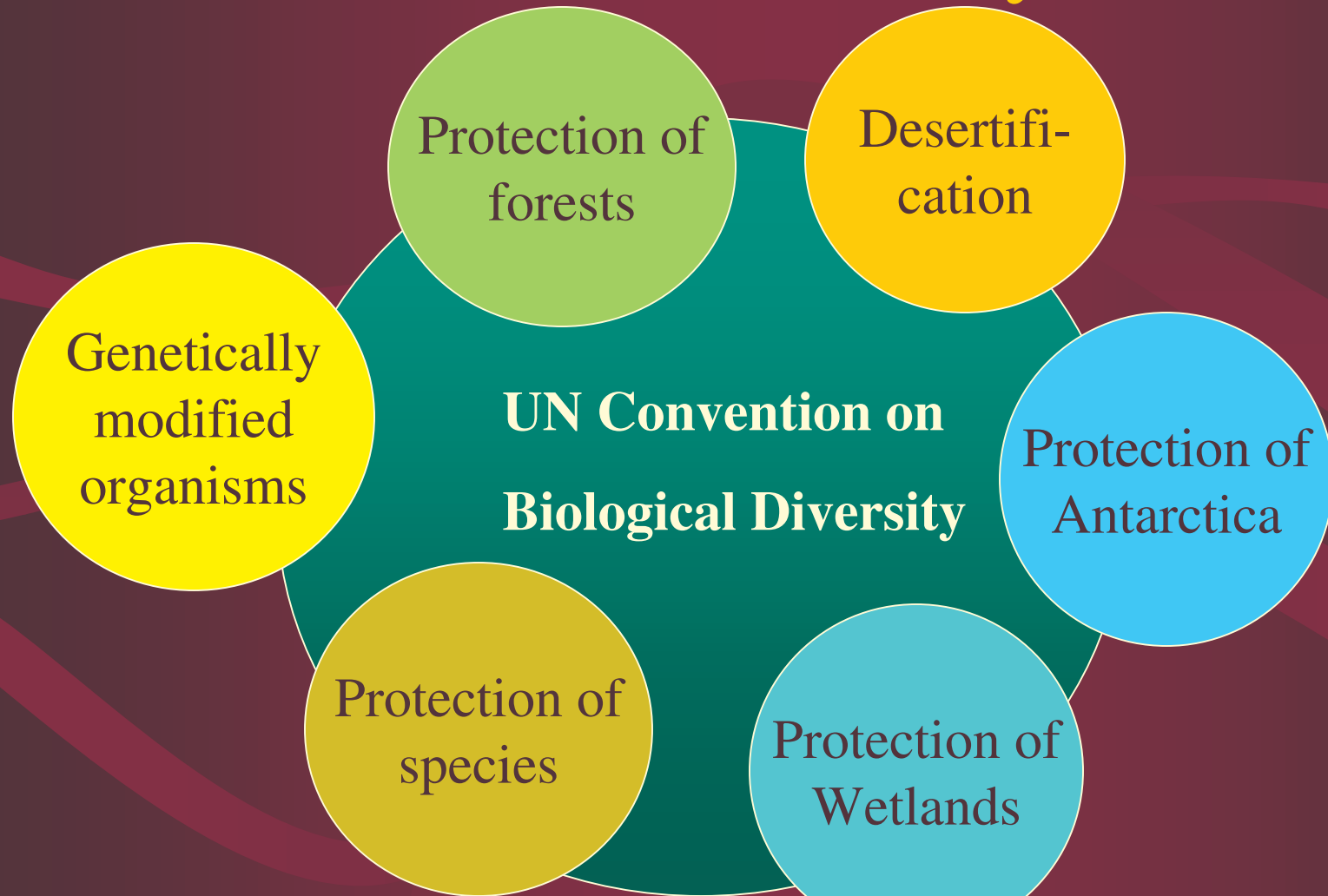
Most ambitious attempt at comprehensive global regulation to date: *UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)*

- Global approach: Objective to protect biological diversity independently of national borders
- Comprehensive regulation: Conservation of biological diversity of the Earth as a whole rather than by sphere

# Protection of ecosystems

- Each Party has the obligation to protect biological diversity also within its own territory
- Inclusion of socio-economic issues, e.g. sharing of and access to benefits from genetic resources

# Protection of ecosystems



# Protection of ecosystems

*International agreements on protection of ecosystems exist in the following areas:*

1. Wetlands of international significance
2. Desertification
3. Antarctica
4. [Forests: non-binding principles]