

International Environmental Agreements

- A multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) - an agreement between 3 or more states relating to the environment.
- They are produced by the United Nations which represent the 197 countries in the world.
- The Terms Conventions and Protocols are also used to refer to MEAs

- Many important MEAs were adopted following major United Nations conferences:
e.g - United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (better known as the Stockholm Conference) in 1972.
- the 1992 Earth Summit which is the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements...

- **The Basel Convention**
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
- 1992

- **The Bamako Convention**
- Bamako Convention on the ban on the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa.
 - 1998
 - is a treaty of African nations prohibiting the import of any hazardous (including radioactive) waste.

- The Bamako convention came as a result of failure of the Basel Convention to prohibit trade of hazardous waste to less developed countries (LDCs), and from the realization that many developed nations were exporting toxic wastes to Africa.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1992

- commits State Parties to reduce greenhouse gases emissions, based on the premise that:
- (a) global warming exists
- (b) man-made CO₂ emissions have caused it.

The Kyoto Protocol , 1994

- Based on the UNFCCC of 1992
- The Kyoto Protocol implemented the objective of the UNFCCC to fight global warming by reducing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere to "a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system"
- it puts the obligation to reduce current emissions on developed countries on the basis that they are historically responsible for the current levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

- **The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer , 1989**
- Based on the the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer
- to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that are responsible for ozone depletion.
- As a result of this international agreement, the ozone hole in Antarctica is slowly recovering.

- **The Ramsar Convention, 1971**
- an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands,
- recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value
- Wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres.

- **CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1975**
- to protect endangered plants and animals.
- Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild.

