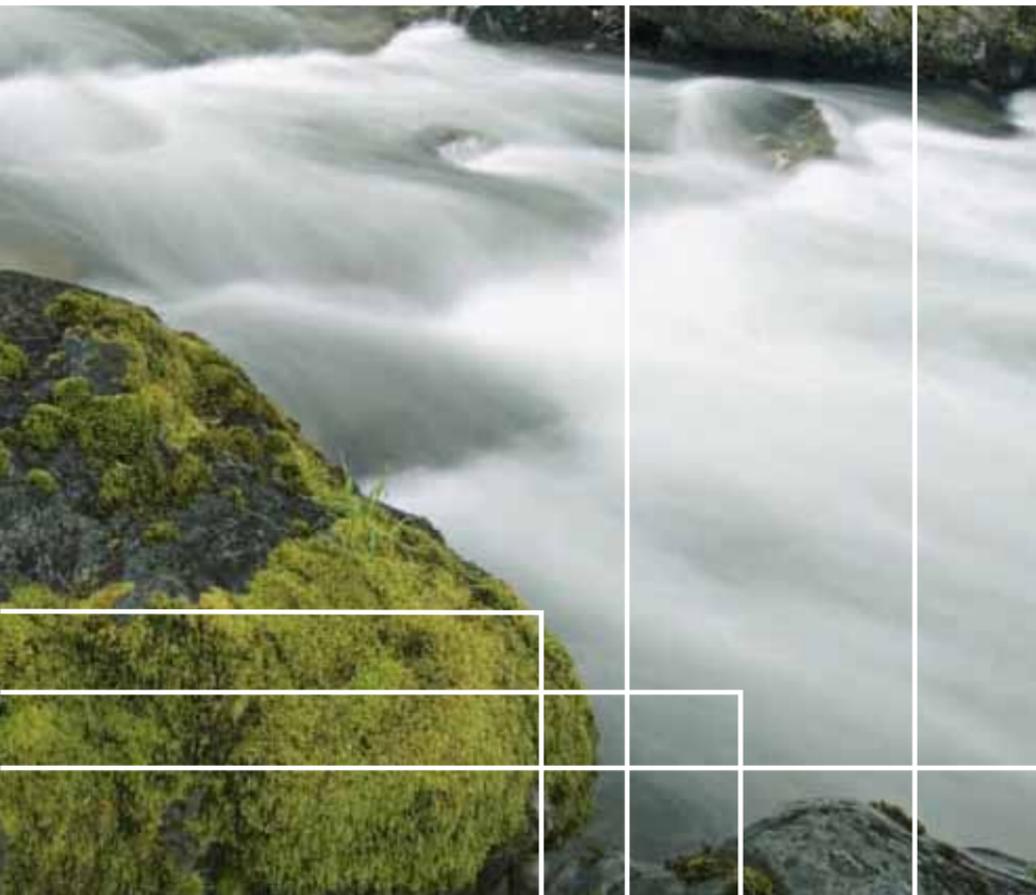


# *Glossary of Terms for Negotiators of Multilateral Environmental Agreements*



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Glossary of Terms  
for Negotiators of Multilateral  
Environmental Agreements

Published in January 2007 © 2007, UNEP

ISBN: 978-92-807-2809-5

Job Number: DEL/0934/NA

Produced by the UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions

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Cover Design: Division of Communication and Public Information, UNEP

Design and Layout: UNON/ Publishing Services Section/Nairobi

Image Credits: Kevin Schafer / Still Pictures

Cascade in Sucker Creek, Siskiyou National Forest, Illinois River Valley, Siskiyou Mountains, Southern Oregon.

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# Introduction

This glossary of terms and acronyms aims to provide a support tool not only for those that are frequently engaged in negotiations under various multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), but also for those involved in the daily implementation of such agreements and related decisions.

The need for such a glossary has arisen in the course of several regional and national-level workshops organized by UNEP, including workshops to disseminate the UNEP Guidelines on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs and the UNEP Manual on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs.

UNEP believes that negotiations are part of the implementation chain, as crucial decisions are made at the negotiation level that clearly impact on the ability of a State to fulfill its commitments under an MEA. In its continued endeavour to strengthen the capacity of countries to implement their commitments under MEAs, UNEP has therefore engaged in a series of regional and national training workshops to build the capacity of novice negotiators and strengthen that of experienced negotiators to prepare for, conduct, and follow up on negotiations.

The glossary is not meant to be exhaustive in its scope, but provide definitions for the most commonly used terms and acronyms in environmental fora. It recognizes that each MEA is unique and uses its own specific terminology. In this regard, an Annex to the glossary provides for the internet addresses of the glossaries developed by MEA Secretariats, when available.

This glossary has been prepared by the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions of UNEP on the basis of publicly available information, including the United Nations Treaty Collection Treaty Reference Guide, websites of the global MEAs, the UNITAR Glossary of Terms for UN Delegates, and literature on international negotiations and international law.

# Acknowledgments

UNEP wishes to acknowledge the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD), the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS), the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS), and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for their contributions and review of this Glossary, as well as Richard Sherman, Carl Bruch and Ian Fry who provided valuable input to an earlier draft of this Glossary.

## User notes

When an acronym, word, or phrase in a definition is underlined, the acronym, word, or phrase has its own separate definition in the glossary.

When a definition is the definition provided under an MEA, the source has been provided in parenthesis (e.g. "CBD").

# A

## Aarhus Convention

Shorthand for the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. Adopted in 1998, entered into force in 2001.

## ABS

Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing. Acronym used to refer to access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization as set out in of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

## ACAP

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels. Adopted in 2001, entered into force in 2004.

## Acceptance

In practice acceptance is used instead of ratification when, at a national level, constitutional law does not require an agreement to be ratified by the head of State. Acceptance has the same legal effect as ratification.

## Accession

Act whereby a State becomes a Party to an international agreement already negotiated and closed for signature. Accession has the same legal effect as ratification, although an acceding State has not signed the agreement.

<b>Acclamation</b>	Mode of <u>adoption</u> of <u>decisions</u> without voting. The decision is considered adopted when all delegations have indicated their support by applause.
<b>ACCOBAMS</b>	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and Contiguous Atlantic Area. One of the <u>agreements</u> under the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals ( <u>CMS</u> ). Adopted in 1996, entered into force in 2001.
<b>Accreditation</b>	Approval and assertion of the fact that <u>credentials</u> submitted by <u>delegates</u> to a particular <u>meeting</u> are in order.
<b>Ad hoc</b>	Latin word meaning “for this purpose.” An <i>ad hoc</i> <u>committee</u> , for example, is created with a unique and specific purpose or task and once it has studied and reported on a matter, it is discontinued.
<b>Adaptation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Actions taken to help communities and <u>ecosystems</u> cope with changing climate conditions (<u>UNFCCC</u>).</li> <li>2) Genetically determined characteristic that enhances the ability of an organism to cope with its environment (<u>CBD</u>).</li> </ol>
<b>Adaptation Fund</b>	Fund established under the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> to provide support for adaptation projects.
<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank. Can also stand for the African Development Bank.

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**Add.**

Stands for "addendum". Used to reference additions to existing documents.

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**Additionality**

- 1) Funding principle envisaged to ensure that the Global Environment Facility funds do not substitute for existing development finance but provide new and additional funding to produce agreed global environmental benefits.
  - 2) Approval test for projects under the CDM of the Kyoto Protocol. CDM projects are considered additional if they would not have taken place in the absence of the CDM.
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**Adoption**

- 1) Adoption by a country of an international agreement refers to the process of its incorporation into the domestic legal system, through signature, ratification or any other process required under national law.
  - 2) Adoption by the international community of an international agreement is the formal act by which the form and content of a proposed treaty text are established.
  - 3) Adoption of a decision, resolution, or recommendation is the formal act (e.g. strike of gavel) by which the form and content of a proposed decision, resolution or recommendation are approved by delegations.
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<p><b>Ad referendum</b></p>	<p>A latin term meaning "subject to reference." When a <u>delegate</u> is asked for <u>agreement</u> on a topic he or she is not authorized to give, he or she may agree <i>ad referendum</i> (or ad ref.), meaning he or she agrees provisionally and forwards the request for final approval.</p>
<p><b>Advanced Informed Agreement</b></p>	<p>Principle or procedure whereby the international exchange of resources or products that could have adverse effects on the environment should not proceed without the informed agreement of, or contrary to the decision of, the competent authority in the recipient country.</p>
<p><b>AEWA</b></p>	<p>Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds. Adopted in 1995, entered into force in 1999.</p>
<p><b>Afforestation</b></p>	<p>The direct human-induced conversion of land that has not been forested for a period of at least 50 years to forested land through planting, seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources (<u>UNFCCC</u>). Should be distinguished from "<u>reforestation</u>".</p>
<p><b>Agenda</b></p>	<p>Programme of work during a <u>meeting</u>.</p>
<p><b>Agenda 21</b></p>	<p>Programme of action on <u>sustainable development</u> adopted at the <u>UN Conference on Environment and Development</u> in 1992, often referred to as the "Blueprint for Sustainable Development." Agenda 21 has 40 chapters dealing with all aspects of</p>

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sustainable development, including social and economic dimensions (combating poverty and promoting human health), conservation and resource management, major groups (e.g. women, indigenous people, business and unions), and means of implementation (e.g. financial resources, transfer of technology, public awareness and education).

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## Agreement

- 1) Generic term for an international legally binding instrument. In this sense, encompasses several instruments, such as treaties, conventions, protocols or oral agreements.
  - 2) Specific term used to designate international instruments that are sic "less formal", thus corresponding to soft law and deal with a narrower range of subject-matter than treaties.
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## AHTEG

*Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group. Within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a group of experts convened once or several times to provide expert advice to the Conference of the Parties on specific issues. Example: AHTEG on climate change and biodiversity.

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## AIA

Advanced Informed Agreement

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<p><b>Alien species</b></p>	<p>Species occurring in an area outside of its historically known natural range as a result of intentional or accidental dispersal by human activities. Alien species are not necessarily <u>invasive species</u>.</p>
<p><b>Alpine Convention</b></p>	<p>Convention on the Protection of the Alps. Signed in 1991, entered into force in 1995. The Alpine Convention is a <u>framework convention</u> to ensure the protection of the Alpine region and its <u>sustainable development</u>.</p>
<p><b>AMCEN</b></p>	<p>African Ministerial Conference on the Environment. Established in 1985 to strengthen cooperation between African governments on economic, technical and scientific activities to halt the degradation of Africa's environment. AMCEN plays an important role in providing political guidance to Africa's positions on many MEAs.</p>
<p><b>Amendment</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A modification or addition to an existing legal instrument (e.g., <u>treaty</u>, <u>convention</u>, or <u>protocol</u>).</li> <li>2) A modification to a proposal under negotiation (e.g., draft <u>decision</u>, draft <u>recommendation</u>, or draft <u>resolution</u>).</li> </ol>
<p><b>Anthropogenic emissions</b></p>	<p><u>Greenhouse-gas emissions</u> resulting from human activities, under the <u>UNFCCC</u>.</p>
<p><b>AOSIS</b></p>	<p>Alliance of Small Island States. A negotiating group and <u>ad hoc</u> coalition of 43 small island and low-lying coastal States In the <u>UNFCCC</u>.</p>

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process. These nations are particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels and thus share common positions on climate change.

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## Approval

In practice, approval has been used instead of ratification when, at a national level, constitutional law does not require an international agreement to be ratified by the head of State. Approval has the same legal effect as ratification.

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## ASCOBANS

Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas. One of the agreements under the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). Adopted in 1991, entered into force in 1994.

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## ASEAN

Association of Southeast Asian Nations. A regional community of 10 States with the aim of accelerating economic growth and social progress, and promoting peace and security.

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## Assessed contribution

Contribution, expressed in percentage, of a Member State to the budget of an international organization. Should be distinguished from the notion of "voluntary contribution".

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## ATCM

Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting. The governing body of the Antarctic Treaty (see ATS). Meets annually.

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## ATS

Antarctic Treaty System. Refers to all instruments adopted within the framework of the Antarctic Treaty, adopted in 1959, entered into force in 1961.

In addition to measures adopted annually by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), the following treaties compose the ATS:

- The Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (CCAS)
  - The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
  - The Convention for the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities (CRAMRA)
  - The 1991 Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty
  - Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora
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## Awké Kon Guidelines

Voluntary guidelines for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessment regarding developments proposed to take place on, or which are likely to impact on, sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities. Related to CBD.

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# B

## Ballast Water Convention

Shorthand for the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments. Adopted in 2004, not yet entered into force.

## Basel Convention

Shorthand for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Adopted in 1989, entered into force in 1992.

## Basel Protocol

Shorthand for the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation to the Basel Convention on Hazardous Wastes. Adopted in 1999, not yet entered into force.

## BAT

Best available technique or best available technology

## BCH

Biosafety clearing-house (in the context of the Biosafety Protocol)

## BCRCs

Basel Convention Regional Centres. Centres established under the Basel Convention to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition (CEITs), within their own region, to achieve the objectives of the Convention, through capacity building for environmentally sound management.

<b>Berlin Mandate</b>	A <u>decision</u> adopted at the first <u>Conference of the Parties</u> to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ) and which led to the adoption of the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> .
<b>Bern Convention</b>	Shorthand for the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. Adopted in 1979, entered into force in 1982.
<b>Best available technique</b>	Most effective and advanced technique, the environmental impacts of which are limited.
<b>Binding</b>	Adjective which means that an instrument entails an obligation (usually for States) under international law.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Shorthand for biological diversity. Variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of <u>ecosystems</u> ( <u>CBD</u> , <u>CITES</u> , <u>CMS</u> , <u>Ramsar</u> , <u>WHS</u> ).
<b>Biodiversity Liaison Group</b>	Group of representatives of the Secretariats of <u>biodiversity-related MEAs</u> to enhance coherence and cooperation in the implementation of these <u>conventions</u> .
<b>Biological resources</b>	Genetic resources, organisms or parts thereof, populations, or any other biotic component of <u>ecosystems</u> with actual or potential use or value for humanity ( <u>CBD</u> ).

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## Biomass fuels

Energy sources that are renewable as long as the vegetation producing them is maintained or replanted, such as firewood, alcohol fermented from sugar, and combustible oils extracted from soy beans. Their use in place of fossil fuels cuts greenhouse gas emissions because the plants that are their sources recapture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

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## Bioprospecting

Exploration of biodiversity for commercially, scientifically, or culturally valuable genetic and biochemical resources.

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## Biosafety

Set of measures or actions addressing the safety aspects related to the application of biotechnologies (see biotechnology) and to the release into the environment of transgenic plants and other organisms, particularly microorganisms, that could negatively affect plant genetic resources, plant, animal or human health, or the environment.

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## Biosafety Protocol

Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Also referred to as the "Cartagena Protocol." Adopted in 2000, entered into force in 2004. The Protocol regulates the transboundary movement, transit, handling and use of living modified organisms that may have an adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, taking also into account human health.

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<p><b>Biosphere reserves</b></p>	<p>Sites recognized under <u>UNESCO's</u> Man and Biosphere Programme which innovate and demonstrate approaches to conservation and <u>sustainable development</u>. They are of course under national sovereign jurisdiction, yet share their experience and ideas nationally, regionally and internationally within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. There are 482 sites worldwide in 102 countries.</p>
<p><b>Biotechnology</b></p>	<p>Any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms, or <u>derivatives</u> thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific use (<u>CBD</u>).</p>
<p><b>BLG</b></p>	<p><u>Biodiversity Liaison Group</u></p>
<p><b>Bonn Guidelines</b></p>	<p>Shorthand for the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilization. Adopted by the sixth <u>Conference of the Parties</u> to the Convention on Biological Diversity (<u>CBD</u>), in 2002.</p>
<p><b>Bottom-up approach</b></p>	<p>Approach based on the participation of all <u>stakeholders</u>, particularly those at the local levels.</p>
<p><b>BPOA</b></p>	<p>Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States. Adopted at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States in 1994.</p>

<b>Bretton Woods Institutions</b>	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development ( <u>IBRD</u> ) (now one of five institutions in the World Bank Group) and the International Monetary Fund ( <u>IMF</u> ). Established by the Bretton Woods Agreements in 1944, Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, USA.
<b>Brundtland Commission</b>	Shorthand for the World Commission on Environment and Development. Named after its Chair, Gro Harlem Brundtland, Norwegian Prime Minister. The Commission produced a report in 1987, <i>Our Common Future</i> , which laid down the concept of <u>sustainable development</u> .
<b>Brundtland Report</b>	The outcome of the <u>Brundtland Commission</u> . Published in 1987.
<b>Bureau</b>	A formal structure that oversees the running of <u>meetings</u> . The Bureau is usually composed of representatives of each regional group and a <u>Secretariat</u> representative. In some instances, such as the International Conference on Chemicals Management an extended bureau may be created that includes intergovernmental organizations and <u>non-governmental</u> organizations.
<b>Bushmeat</b>	Meat for human consumption derived from wild animals.

# C

<b>CACAM</b>	Negotiating coalition of countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus, Albania, and the Republic of Moldova.
<b>CAFF</b>	Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna. A distinct forum of Arctic professionals, indigenous people representatives, and observer countries and organisations aiming to discuss and address circumpolar Arctic conservation and <u>sustainable use</u> issues.
<b>Capacity building</b>	Process of developing the technical skills, institutional capability, and personnel to, e.g., implement <u>MEAs</u> .
<b>Carbon Market</b>	A popular term for a trading system through which countries may buy or sell units of <u>greenhouse-gas</u> emissions in an effort to meet their national limits on emissions, either under the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> or under other agreements, such as that among member states of the <u>European Union</u> .
<b>Carbon sequestration</b>	The process of removing additional carbon from the atmosphere and depositing it in other “reservoirs”, principally through changes in land use. In practical terms, the carbon sequestration occurs mostly through the expansion of forests.

<b>Carbon tax</b>	Tax by governments on the use of carbon-containing fuels.
<b>CARICOM</b>	Caribbean Community and Common Market. Regional economic integration community.
<b>Carpathian Convention</b>	Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians. Adopted in 2003, entered into force in 2006.
<b>Cartagena Convention</b>	Shorthand for the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region. Adopted in 1983, entered into force in 1986.
<b>Cartagena Protocol</b>	Other name of the <a href="#">Biosafety Protocol</a> to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
<b>Cartagena Setting</b>	See: <a href="#">Vienna Setting</a> .
<b>Caucus</b>	A group of <a href="#">like-minded delegations</a> , which meet both during and outside negotiations to develop common positions and negotiation strategies.
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity. Adopted in 1992, entered into force in 1993. One of the <a href="#">Rio Conventions</a> .
<b>CCAMLR</b>	Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. One of the <a href="#">agreements</a> of the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS). Adopted in 1980, entered into force in 1982. Acronym also used for the Commission, which administers the Convention.

<b>CCAS</b>	Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals. One of the <u>agreements</u> of the Antarctic Treaty System ( <u>ATS</u> ). Adopted in 1972, entered into force in 1978.
<b>CDM</b>	<u>Clean Development Mechanism</u>
<b>CEE</b>	Central and Eastern Europe
<b>CEIT</b>	Country with Economy in Transition. Designates a country that was formerly a centrally planned economy and is undergoing transition to a market-oriented economy.
<b>CEPA</b>	Communication, education and public awareness
<b>CER</b>	<u>Certified Emissions Reductions</u>
<b>Certified Emissions Reductions</b>	Unit equal to one metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent, which may be used by countries listed in Annex I of the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> towards meeting their <u>binding</u> emission reduction and limitation commitments ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ).
<b>CFCs</b>	Chlorofluorocarbons. A category of chemical substances that contributes to the depletion of the ozone layer. Regulated under the <u>Montreal Protocol</u> .
<b>CGRFA</b>	Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Permanent forum established in 1983 under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN ( <u>FAO</u> ), where

	governments discuss and negotiate matters relevant to genetic resources for food and agriculture.
<b>Chair</b>	Presiding officer of a <u>meeting</u> .
<b>Chair's compilation</b>	Text prepared by the presiding officer of a <u>meeting</u> that lays out proposals made by delegations.
<b>Chair's text/draft</b>	Proposal prepared by the presiding officer of a <u>meeting</u> to assist reaching <u>consensus</u> .
<b>Chairman</b>	Title of the presiding officer of a <u>meeting</u> , and way he/she should be addressed. Synonym: "Chairperson" or " <u>Chair</u> ."
<b>Chapeau</b>	Phrase at the beginning of an article or paragraph to guide the interpretation of this article or paragraph.
<b>Chemical Review Committee</b>	<u>Subsidiary body</u> under the <u>Rotterdam Convention</u> .
<b>CHM</b>	<u>Clearing-house Mechanism</u> , the term originally referred to a financial establishment where checks and bills are exchanged among member banks so that only the net balances need to be settled in cash. Today, its meaning has been extended to include any agency that brings together seekers and providers of goods, services or information, thus matching demand with supply. The <u>CBD</u> has established a Clearing-house Mechanism to ensure that all

	governments have access to the information and technologies they need for their work on biodiversity.
<b>CIS</b>	Commonwealth of Independent States. A community of States and economic union composed of 12 former constituent republics of the Soviet Union.
<b>CITES</b>	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Adopted in 1973, entered into force in 1975.
<b>Clean Development Mechanism</b>	One of the three market-based mechanisms under the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ), whereby developed countries may finance <u>greenhouse gas</u> emissions-avoiding projects in developing countries, and receive credits for doing so which they may apply towards meeting mandatory limits on their own emissions ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ).
<b>Clean technologies</b>	Both process and product engineering that reduces the pollutants and environmental impacts inherent in industrial production.
<b>Clearing house</b>	Mechanism, which facilitates and simplifies exchange of information or transactions among multiple <u>Parties</u> .
<b>Climate change</b>	Change of climate, which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere

	and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods ( <a href="#">UNFCCC</a> ).
<b>Climate conventions</b>	The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( <a href="#">UNFCCC</a> ) and the <a href="#">Kyoto Protocol</a> .
<b>Closed-door meeting</b>	<u>Meeting</u> to which access is restricted. Usually restricted to <u>Parties</u> and excludes <u>observers</u> .
<b>CMS</b>	Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals. Also called the “Bonn Convention”. Adopted in 1979, entered into force in 1983.
<b>Coalition</b>	A group of <u>like-minded States</u> or <u>delegations</u> that work together towards a common objective.
<b>Code of conduct</b>	Set of rules to guide behaviour and decisions.
<b>Codex</b>	Usually reference to a code of law. Also used as shorthand for Codex Alimentarius. A publication on food standards maintained jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and the World Health Organization ( <a href="#">WHO</a> ).
<b>COFI</b>	Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN ( <a href="#">FAO</a> ).
<b>COFO</b>	Committee on Forestry of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN ( <a href="#">FAO</a> ).

<p><b>Committee</b></p>	<p>Subset of a <u>Plenary</u>, open to all <u>Parties</u>, established to perform particular tasks (e.g., drafting committee), address a particular issue (e.g., credentials committee) or a particular set of <u>agenda</u> items (then equivalent to a <u>working group</u>). Committees make <u>recommendations</u> to the <u>Plenary</u>.</p>
<p><b>Committee of the Whole</b></p>	<p>Also known as CoW. Often created by a <u>COP</u> to aid in negotiating text. It consists of the same membership as the <u>COP</u>. When the Committee has finished its work, it turns the text over to the <u>COP</u>, which finalized and then adopts the text during a plenary session.</p>
<p><b>Community Forestry</b></p>	<p>Forestry management that includes local people in planning and implementing forestry activities.</p>
<p><b>Competent Authority</b></p>	<p>Governmental authority designated by a <u>Party</u> to be responsible for receiving the notification of a <u>transboundary movement of hazardous wastes</u> or other <u>wastes</u>, and any information related to it, and for responding to such a <u>notification</u> (Basel Convention).</p>
<p><b>Complementarity</b></p>	<p>Funding principle according to which funded activities must be coherent with national programmes and policies to maximize global environmental benefits.</p>
<p><b>Compliance</b></p>	<p>Fulfilment by a <u>Party</u> of its obligations under an international <u>agreement</u>.</p>

<b>Compliance Committee</b>	<p><u>Committee</u> mandated to review <u>compliance</u> with the provisions of an international <u>agreement</u>. The powers of compliance committees vary according to each <u>agreement</u>.</p>
<b>Conference of the Parties</b>	<p>One of the designations for the main negotiating body under an international <u>agreement</u>. The <u>COP</u> is a policy-making body that meets periodically to take stock of <u>implementation</u> of the agreement and adopt <u>decisions, resolutions, or recommendations</u> for the future implementation of the agreement.</p>
<b>Conference Room Paper</b>	<p>A category of in-session document containing new proposals or outcomes of in-session work and is for use only during the <u>sessions</u> concerned.</p>
<b>Consensus</b>	<p>A mode of <u>adoption</u> of <u>decisions, resolutions, or recommendations</u> without voting. A decision is adopted by consensus if there is no formal explicit <u>objection</u> made. Whether there is consensus on an issue or not is determined by the presiding officer on the basis of the views expressed by <u>delegates</u> and his/her subjective assessment of the sense of the <u>meeting</u>.</p>
<b>Contact Group</b>	<p>A group formed during negotiations to reach <u>consensus</u> on an issue proving particularly contentious. May be established by the <u>COP</u> or a <u>Committee of the Whole</u> and is open to all <u>Parties</u> and sometimes to <u>observers</u>.</p>

<b>Contracting State</b>	A State which has consented to be bound by an international <u>agreement</u> , whether or not the international agreement has entered into force ( <u>Vienna Convention</u> on the Law of Treaties).
<b>Contribution</b>	Amount that a <u>Party</u> owes annually to the general trust fund of an <u>agreement</u> or an international organization. Determined on the basis of an indicative scale adopted by the governing body of the agreement or the international organization.
<b>Convention</b>	A <u>binding agreement</u> between States. Generally used for formal multilateral instruments with a broad number of Parties.
<b>COP</b>	<u>Conference of the Parties</u>
<b>COP/MOP</b>	<u>Conference of the Parties</u> to a Convention serving as Meeting of the Parties to a Protocol (e.g., <u>Biosafety Protocol</u> COP/MOP).
<b>Corr.</b>	Stands for the latin term <i>corrigendum</i> . Used to reference corrected versions of documents during a <u>meeting</u> .
<b>Council of Europe</b>	A regional political organisation founded in 1949. Should be distinguished from the <u>Council of the European Union</u> .
<b>Council of the European Union</b>	The Council of the <u>European Union</u> forms together with the European Parliament the legislative arm of the EU. It is composed of

	<p>Ministers from all the EU Member States and presided by the representative of the country currently holding the Presidency of the EU. Should be distinguished from the <u>Council of Europe</u>.</p>
<b>COW</b>	<p>See <u>Committee of the Whole</u>.</p>
<b>CPF</b>	<p>Collaborative Partnership on Forests. A partnership of 14 international organizations, the work of which has relevance to forests.</p>
<b>CRAMRA</b>	<p>Convention for the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities. One of the <u>agreements</u> of the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS). Adopted in 1988, not yet entered into force.</p>
<b>CRC</b>	<p><u>Chemical Review Committee</u></p>
<b>Credentials</b>	<p>A document evidencing a person's authority. Signed by the Head of State or Government or other high authority. Without credentials in order, a person is not considered a <u>delegate</u> and cannot legally act on behalf of his/her State and participate in decision making.</p>
<b>Credentials Committee</b>	<p>A <u>committee</u> established by the <u>Plenary</u> of a meeting to review the <u>credentials</u> submitted by delegations.</p>
<b>CRIC</b>	<p>Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention. Within the context of the</p>

	<p>UN Convention to Combat Desertification (<u>UNCCD</u>), the <u>subsidiary body</u> that reviews how <u>Parties</u> implement their commitments under the Convention.</p>
<b>CRP</b>	<p><u>Conference Room Paper</u>. Working documents during negotiations. The acronym is also used to reference these documents.</p>
<b>CSD</b>	<p>Commission on Sustainable Development. Called for in <u>Agenda 21</u> and established by <u>ECOSOC</u> as the highest level forum within the UN on <u>sustainable development</u>. Mandated to monitor the <u>implementation of Agenda 21</u> and the <u>JPOI</u>.</p>
<b>CST</b>	<p>Committee on Science and Technology. <u>Subsidiary body</u> established under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (<u>UNCCD</u>) to provide advice to the <u>Conference of the Parties</u> on scientific and technical matters regarding the combat against <u>desertification</u>.</p>
<b>D</b>	
<b>DCPI</b>	<p>Division of Communications and Public Information of <u>UNEP</u>.</p>
<b>DELIC</b>	<p>Division of Environmental Law and Conventions of <u>UNEP</u>.</p>

<b>Decision</b>	Formal expression of the will of the governing body of an international organization or international <u>agreement</u> . Usually <u>binding but may also correspond to soft law</u> .
<b>Decision Guidance Document</b>	Document that provides information that would assist a country in making an import decision on a chemical listed in Annex III to the <u>Rotterdam Convention</u> .
<b>Declaration</b>	A formal statement of aspirations issued by a <u>meeting</u> . Usually issued by high-level representatives. A declaration is not <u>binding</u> .
<b>Declaratory</b>	Said of something that declares an intention, opinion or reserve, rather than expresses an agreed commitment.
<b>Declaratory interpretation</b>	Statement made at the time of <u>signature or ratification</u> of an international <u>agreement</u> . Spells out a State's interpretation of one or more of the provisions of the agreement.
<b>Deep seabed</b>	Synonym for "The Area" under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea ( <u>UNCLOS</u> ).
<b>Deforestation</b>	The direct human-induced conversion of forested land to non-forested land ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ).
<b>Delegate</b>	Representative of a State or organization who has been authorized to act on its behalf and whose <u>credentials</u> are in order.

<b>Delegation</b>	Team of <u>delegates</u> to a <u>meeting</u> from the same country or organization.
<b>DEPI</b>	Division of Environmental Policy Implementation of <u>UNEP</u> .
<b>Derivative</b>	Any processed part of an animal, plant or body fluid.
<b>Desertification</b>	Degradation of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities ( <u>UNCCD</u> ).
<b>Designated National Authority</b>	The national agency responsible for addressing specific issues or acting as the <u>focal point</u> for an <u>MEA</u> .
<b>DEWA</b>	Division of Early Warning and Assessment of <u>UNEP</u> .
<b>DGD</b>	<u>Decision Guidance Document</u>
<b>DGEFC</b>	Division of Global Environment Facility Cooperation of <u>UNEP</u> .
<b>Diplomatic Conference</b>	Conference of <u>plenipotentiaries</u> held to adopt and sign an international <u>agreement</u> . The text of the agreement has usually been negotiated before the Conference convenes.
<b>Dispute</b>	Disagreement on a point of law (e.g., the interpretation of an international <u>agreement</u> ) or fact (e.g., an action taken by a State).

<b>DNA</b>	<u>Designated National Authority</u>
<b>Drafting group</b>	Informal group established by the presiding officer of a <u>meeting</u> , <u>committee</u> , or <u>working group</u> to draft <u>consensus text</u> . <u>Observers</u> generally may not attend drafting group meetings.
<b>DRC</b>	Division of Regional Cooperation of <u>UNEP</u> .
<b>DSA</b>	Daily Subsistence Allowance. Allowance paid to UN staff or <u>delegates</u> to a UN <u>meeting</u> , which is intended to account for lodging, meals, gratuities and other business-related expenses during the period of the meeting.
<b>DTIE</b>	Division of Trade, Industry and Economics of <u>UNEP</u> .
<b>E</b>	
<b>Earmarked</b>	Dedicated to a particular purpose. Usually said of funds or <u>contributions</u> .
<b>Earth Negotiations Bulletin</b>	An independent, impartial reporting service published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), providing daily summaries of major international environmental <u>meetings</u> and <u>Conference of the Parties</u> to various <u>MEAs</u> .
<b>EC</b>	<u>European Community</u>

<b>Ecological character</b>	Combination of the <u>ecosystem</u> components, processes and services that characterise the wetland at a given point in time.
<b>Economic Instruments</b>	One of the tools for environmental protection that make use of fiscal incentives (subsidies) and deterrents (taxes), as well as market measures such as tradeable emissions permits, rather than regulating specific outcomes.
<b>ECOSOC</b>	UN Economic and Social Council. One of the principal organs of the UN, addressing economic, social, cultural, educational, health, environmental and other related matters.
<b>Ecosystem</b>	Dynamic complex of plant, animal, micro-organism communities and their non-living environment, interacting as a functional unit ( <u>CBD</u> ). Ecosystems are irrespective of political boundaries.
<b>Ecosystem approach</b>	Strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and <u>sustainable use</u> in an equitable way ( <u>CBD</u> , <u>FAO</u> , <u>Ramsar Convention</u> ).
<b>Ecosystem services</b>	Processes and functions provided by natural <u>ecosystems</u> that sustain life and are critical to human welfare.
<b>Eco-tourism</b>	Travel undertaken to witness sites or regions of unique natural or ecologic quality, or the provision of services to facilitate such travel.

<b>EECCA countries</b>	Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia countries, namely: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.
<b>EGTT</b>	Expert Group on Technology Transfer, a <u>subsidiary body</u> under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ).
<b>EIA</b>	<u>Environmental Impact Assessment</u>
<b>EMG</b>	<u>Environmental Management Group</u>
<b>Emission-reduction Unit</b>	A unit equal to one metric tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent, applicable to binding emissions-reductions targets under the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> , and generated through <u>joint implementation projects</u> ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ).
<b>Emissions trading</b>	Mechanism under the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> through which <u>Parties</u> with emissions commitments may trade units of their emissions allowances with other Parties ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ).
<b>ENB</b>	<u>Earth Negotiations Bulletin</u> .
<b>Endemic</b>	Native and restricted to a specific geographic area, usually referring to plants or animals.
<b>Enforcement</b>	Range of procedures and actions taken by a State and its competent authorities to ensure that persons or organizations failing to comply with laws or regulations are brought back into

	<p><u>compliance</u> or punished through appropriate action.</p>
<p><b>Entry into force</b></p>	<p>Coming into legal effect of an international <u>agreement</u>, i.e. time at which an international agreement becomes legally <u>binding</u> for the States that have ratified it or acceded to it or otherwise expressed their consent to be bound by the agreement.</p>
<p><b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b></p>	<p>Process by which the environmental consequences of a proposed project or programme are evaluated and alternatives are analyzed. EIA is an integral part of the planning and decision-making processes.</p>
<p><b>Environmental Integrity Group</b></p>	<p>A coalition or negotiating alliance in the <u>UNFCCC</u> process consisting of Mexico, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland.</p>
<p><b>Environmental Management Group</b></p>	<p>Group created in 1999 by the UN <u>General Assembly</u> to enhance worldwide cooperation in the field of environment and human settlements. The EMG meets periodically. Members are the specialized agencies, programmes and organs of the United Nations system, including secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the <u>Bretton Woods Institutions</u> and the World Trade Organization (<u>WTO</u>).</p>
<p><b>Environmentally Sound Management</b></p>	<p>Defined as taking all practicable steps to ensure that <u>hazardous wastes</u> or other wastes are managed in a manner which will protect</p>

	human health and the environment against adverse effects which may result from such wastes, in terms of the <u>Basel Convention</u> .
<b>ERU</b>	<u>Emission-reduction Unit</u>
<b>ETIS</b>	Elephant Trade Information System. A database used to compile law enforcement data on seizures and confiscations of elephant specimens, under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ( <u>CITES</u> ).
<b>EU</b>	<u>European Union</u>
<b>EUROBATS</b>	Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats. Adopted in 1991, entered into force in 1994.
<b>European Commission</b>	The executive body of the <u>European Union</u> . Alongside the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, it is one of the three main institutions governing the Union. Its primary roles are to propose and implement legislation, and to act as "guardian of the treaties" which provide the legal basis for the <u>EU</u> . The Commission negotiates international trade agreements (in the <u>World Trade Organization</u> ) and other international <u>agreements</u> on behalf of the EU in close cooperation with the <u>Council of the European Union</u> .

<p><b>European Community</b></p>	<p>Most important one of the three European Communities. Originally European Economic Community. That name changed with the Maastricht Treaty in 1992, which at the same time effectively made the European Community the first of three pillars of the <u>European Union</u>, called the Community (or Communities) Pillar.</p>
<p><b>European Union</b></p>	<p>The European Union (EU) is an intergovernmental and supranational union of 27 democratic member states. The European Union was established under that name in 1992 by the Treaty on European Union (the Maastricht Treaty). Member in its own right of several international organizations and a <u>Party</u> to various international <u>agreements</u>, sometimes alongside its <u>Member States</u>.</p>
<p><b><i>Ex officio</i></b></p>	<p>Latin phrase meaning "by virtue of one's position or function."</p>
<p><b><i>Ex situ</i></b></p>	<p>Latin phrase meaning "not the original or natural environment."</p>
<p><b>ExCOP / Ex-COP</b></p>	<p>Extraordinary <u>Conference of the Parties</u>. Conference of the Parties held outside the normal scheduled cycle of meetings of the Conference of the Parties.</p>
<p><b>Executive Director</b></p>	<p>Title of the head of some international organizations (e.g., the Executive Director of <u>UNEP</u>).</p>

<b>Executive Secretary</b>	Title of the head of some international organizations or <u>Secretariats</u> of <u>MEAs</u> (e.g., Executive Secretary of the <u>Convention on Biological Diversity</u> ).
<b>Extraterritorial</b>	Set of measures or laws that apply beyond a State's jurisdiction.
<b>F</b>	
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The UN specialized organization for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development. Established in 1945.
<b>Final clauses/provisions</b>	Clauses/provisions of an international <u>agreement</u> that set the rules of the functioning of the agreement.
<b>Financial rules</b>	Rules governing the financial administration of an international organization, a <u>Conference of the Parties</u> , <u>subsidiary bodies</u> , and the <u>Secretariat</u> .
<b>FoC</b>	<u>Friends of the Chair</u>
<b>Focal point</b>	An official or agency designated by a government to serve as the focus or channel of communications for a particular issue or <u>agreement</u> .
<b>Framework convention</b>	<u>Convention</u> that provides a decision-making and organizational framework for the

	<p>adoption of subsequent complementary <u>agreements</u> (e.g., <u>Protocol</u>). Usually contains substantial provisions of a general nature, the details of which can be provided in the subsequent agreements.</p>
<b>Friends of the Chair</b>	<p>An informal group of a few prominent negotiators invited to assist the Chair of a <u>meeting, working group, or contact group</u> to develop a <u>consensus</u> proposal on a specific issue.</p>
<b>Full powers</b>	<p>A document emanating from the competent authority of a State designating a person or persons to represent the State for negotiating, adopting or authenticating the text of an international <u>agreement</u>, for expressing the consent of the State to be bound by an international agreement, or for accomplishing any other act with respect to an international agreement.</p>
<b>G</b>	
<b>G-8</b>	<p>Group of eight industrialized countries comprising Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the UK and the US.</p>
<b>G77</b>	<p>Originally group of 77 developing countries established in 1964 at the first session of <u>UNCTAD</u>. Now gathering 132 developing States. The Group seeks to harmonize the positions of developing countries prior to and</p>

	during negotiations. China sometimes also associates itself with the G77, in which case the group is referred to as “G77/China” or “G77 plus China.”
<b>GATT</b>	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (1994). One of the <u>agreements</u> annexed to the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization ( <u>WTO</u> ).
<b>Gavel</b>	<p>1) Hammer used by the presiding officer of a <u>meeting</u> to recall <u>delegations</u> to order and/or signal the <u>adoption of decisions, resolutions, or recommendations.</u></p> <p>2) Also used as verb in many expressions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Gavel the meeting to a close”: to declare a meeting closed.</li> <li>- “Gavel down objections”: to silence <u>delegates</u> who are vociferously raising <u>objections.</u></li> <li>- “Gavel through a decision”: to strike the gavel at a pace that does not allow time for delegations to raise <u>objections.</u></li> </ul>
<b>GBF</b>	<u>Global Biodiversity Forum</u>
<b>GBO</b>	<u>Global Biodiversity Outlook</u>
<b>GC</b>	<u>Governing Council</u>
<b>GCOS</b>	Global Climate Observing System
<b>GEF</b>	<u>Global Environment Facility</u>

<b>General Assembly</b>	Shorthand for the UN General Assembly. The main political body of the United Nations. It is composed of representatives of all <u>Member States</u> , each of which has one vote.
<b>General clauses/provisions</b>	Clauses/provisions of an international <u>agreement</u> or <u>decision</u> that create the context, principle and directions helping the understanding and application of the rest of the <u>agreement</u> or <u>decision</u> .
<b>Genetic Use Restriction Technologies</b>	Genetic engineering of plants to produce sterile seeds ( <u>GURTS</u> ).
<b>GEO</b>	<u>Global Environment Outlook</u>
<b>GEOSS</b>	Global Earth Observation System of Systems. A global system of earth observation systems (10 year implementation plan agreed in 2005).
<b>GESAMP</b>	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection. Established in 1967 to advise sponsoring UN agencies on the scientific aspects of marine pollution.
<b>GHGs</b>	<u>Greenhouse gases</u>
<b>GHS</b>	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. Managed by an <u>ECOSOC</u> sub-committee of experts.

<b>Global Biodiversity Forum</b>	Open and independent mechanism, founded in 1993, to encourage analysis, dialogue and partnership on key ecological, economic, social and institutional issues related to <u>biodiversity</u> .
<b>Global Biodiversity Outlook</b>	Periodic report prepared by the <u>Secretariat</u> of the Convention on Biological Diversity ( <u>CBD</u> ) on the status and trends of biological diversity at the global and national level, as well as the steps taken to conserve and use sustainably the <u>biodiversity</u> and share equitably the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
<b>Global Compact</b>	A UN initiative launched in 1999 to bring the private sector together with UN agencies and civil society to support ten principles related to human rights, labour, anti-corruption and the environment.
<b>Global Environment Facility</b>	Launched in 1991, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides grant and concessional funds to developing countries for projects and programmes targeting global environmental issues: <u>climate change</u> , biological diversity, international waters, ozone layer depletion, land degradation and <u>persistent organic pollutants</u> . Its implementing agencies are <u>UNEP</u> , <u>UNDP</u> , and the <u>IBRD</u> . Designated as the operating entity of the financial mechanism for some <u>MEAs</u> (e.g., the <u>CBD</u> and the <u>UNFCCC</u> ).

<p><b>Global Environment Outlook</b></p>	<p>A periodic report that provides a comprehensive overview of the state of the global environment. Published every five years by <u>UNEP</u>. Completed by the GEO Yearbooks, published annually.</p>
<p><b>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation</b></p>	<p>Outcome-oriented and targeted strategy adopted by the sixth <u>Conference of the Parties</u> to the Convention on Biological Diversity (<u>CBD</u>) to halt the current and continuing rate of loss of plant diversity.</p>
<p><b>Global Taxonomy Initiative</b></p>	<p>Initiative established by the <u>Conference of the Parties</u> to the Convention on Biological Diversity (<u>CBD</u>) to address the lack of taxonomic information and expertise around the world.</p>
<p><b>GMEF</b></p>	<p>Global Ministerial Environment Forum. A ministerial-level forum on environmental policy open to all States. Held periodically in conjunction with the sessions of the <u>Governing Council</u> of <u>UNEP</u>.</p>
<p><b>GMO</b></p>	<p>Genetically Modified Organism. Organism, plant or animal modified in its genetic characteristics by inserting a modified gene or a gene from another variety or species.</p>
<p><b>Governing Council</b></p>	<p>The decision-making body of the UN Agencies, Programme and Funds, eg: Environment Programme (<u>UNEP</u>). Meets annually through regular and special sessions.</p>

<b>GPA</b>	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. Adopted in 1995 and administered by <u>UNEP</u> .
<b>GRASP</b>	Great Apes Survival Project. Partnership launched in 2001 to save the great apes and their <u>habitat</u> . Jointly administered by <u>UNEP</u> and <u>UNESCO</u> .
<b>Greenhouse gas</b>	Atmospheric gas that traps the heat and is responsible for warming the earth and <u>climate change</u> . The major greenhouse gases are: carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ), methane (CH <sub>4</sub> ) and nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O). Less prevalent – but very powerful – greenhouse gases are hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF <sub>6</sub> ). Those gases are regulated under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ) and the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> . Some greenhouse gases are also regulated under the <u>Montreal Protocol</u> for their effects on the ozone layer.
<b>GRID</b>	Global Resources Information Database. The basis for <u>UNEP's</u> environmental assessment programme.
<b>GRULAC</b>	Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries. A regional negotiating group.
<b>GSPC</b>	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. Outcome-oriented and targeted strategy adopted by the sixth <u>Conference of the Parties</u>

	to the Convention on Biological Diversity ( <u>CBD</u> ) to halt the current and continuing rate of loss of plant diversity.
<b>GTI</b>	<u>Global Taxonomy Initiative</u>
<b>GURTs</b>	<u>Genetic Use Restriction Technologies</u>
<b>H</b>	
<b>Habitat</b>	<p>1) Place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs (<u>CBD</u>).</p> <p>2) Shorthand for <u>UN-Habitat</u>.</p>
<b>Hard law</b>	Term used to describe the legally <u>binding</u> nature of various <u>agreements</u> or provisions, which leave no or little room for discretion. Often opposed to <u>soft law</u> .
<b>Hazardous wastes</b>	<u>Wastes</u> that exhibit one or more hazardous characteristics, such as being flammable, oxidizing, poisonous, infectious, corrosive, or ecotoxic ( <u>Basel Convention</u> ).
<b>Haze Agreement</b>	Shorthand for the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution. Adopted in 2002, entered into force in 2003.
<b>HCFCs</b>	Hydrochlorofluorocarbons. Regulated under the <u>Montreal Protocol</u> .
<b>HFCs</b>	Hydrofluorocarbons. Regulated under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

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(UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, as well as under the Montreal Protocol.

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### High-level segment

Segment of a meeting composed of the highest-level representatives of State Parties attending the meeting.

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### HNS Convention

International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea. Adopted in 1996, not yet entered into force.

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### Hotspot

- 1) Area particularly rich in total numbers of species (*sic* "biodiversity hotspot").
  - 2) Area of especially high concentrations of pollutants.
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### IBD

International Day for Biodiversity  
– traditionally May 22 each year.

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### IBM

Issue-Based Modules for the Coherent Implementation of Biodiversity-related Conventions. UNEP web-based analytical tool to facilitate the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related conventions. Aimed to be replicated for the other clusters of MEAs (e.g., chemicals).

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<b>IBRD</b>	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development also known as World Bank. One of the <u>Bretton Woods Institutions</u> .
<b>ICCP</b>	Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol (discontinued). Body established by the resumed <u>ExCOP</u> that adopted the <u>Cartagena Protocol</u> on Biosafety to undertake preparations for the first Meeting of the Parties to the <u>Protocol</u> . The ICCP ceased to exist upon the entry into force of the <u>Protocol</u> and the convening of the first meeting of <u>COP-MOP</u> .
<b>ICJ</b>	International Court of Justice. The principal judicial organ of the UN. The ICJ has established a special chamber for environmental disputes.
<b>ICRAN</b>	International Coral Reef Action Network
<b>ICRI</b>	International Coral Reef Initiative. A partnership of governments, international organizations, and <u>non-governmental organizations</u> to preserve coral reefs and related <u>ecosystems</u> . Established in 1994.
<b>ICRW</b>	International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. Adopted in 1946, entered into force in 1948. Also called the " <u>Whaling Convention</u> ."
<b>IDR</b>	In-depth review (within the context of the <u>UNFCCC</u> ).

<b>IEC</b>	Information, Education, and Communication (under the <u>Montreal Protocol</u> ).
<b>IET</b>	<u>International Emissions Trading</u>
<b>IFCS</b>	International Forum on Chemical Safety. Established in 1994 to promote the environmentally <u>sound management</u> of chemicals.
<b>IFI</b>	International Financial institution
<b>IIFB</b>	<u>International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity</u>
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization. UN <u>specialized agency</u> , which seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights. Founded in 1919.
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund. International organization established to, inter alia, promote international monetary cooperation, foster economic growth and high levels of employment, and provide temporary financial assistance to countries to help ease balance of payments adjustment. Established in 1945 as one of the <u>Bretton Woods Institutions</u> .
<b>IMO</b>	International Maritime Organization. UN organization, created in 1948, to address shipping activities.
<b>Implementation</b>	For a <u>Party</u> to an international <u>agreement</u> , process of adopting relevant policies, laws

	and regulations, and undertaking necessary actions to meet its <u>obligations</u> under the <u>agreement</u> .
<b><i>In situ</i></b>	Latin phrase meaning “within the original place.” In situ condition is the condition of genetic resources in their <u>ecosystems</u> and natural <u>habitats</u> and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties ( <u>CBD</u> ).
<b>INC</b>	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. Forum established to negotiate an international <u>agreement</u> .
<b>Incrementality</b>	Funding principle according to which funded activities produce global environmental benefits (e.g. “to provide a basis for calculating incrementality at regional and extra-regional scales for the reduction of the environmental hotspots in coastal areas”).
<b>Indigenous people/s</b>	No universal, standard definition. Usually considered to include cultural groups and their descendants who have a historical continuity or association with a given region, or parts of a region, and who currently inhabit or have formerly inhabited the region either before its subsequent colonization or annexation, or alongside other cultural groups during the formation of a nation-state, or independently or largely isolated from the influence of the claimed governance by a nation-state, and

	<p>who furthermore have maintained, at least in part, their distinct linguistic, cultural and social / organizational characteristics, and in doing so remain differentiated in some degree from the surrounding populations and dominant culture of the nation-state. Also includes people who are self-identified as indigenous, and those recognized as such by other groups.</p>
<b>INF.</b>	<p>Information document. Usually provided during <u>meetings</u> to provide background information to draft <u>decisions</u>, <u>resolutions</u>, and <u>recommendations</u>. These documents are not subject to negotiation.</p>
<b>Informal consultations</b>	<p>Exchange of views among <u>delegations</u> which take place outside the formal setting of negotiations. Usually undertaken with the aim of identifying a compromise position.</p>
<b>In-session documents</b>	<p>Documents distributed during a meeting, such as conference room papers (<u>CRP</u>), limited distribution documents (<u>L. docs</u>), informal documents, etc.</p>
<b>Institutional clauses/provisions</b>	<p>Clauses/provisions of an international <u>agreement</u> that relate to the institutions established under the <u>agreement</u>.</p>
<b>Inter alia</b>	<p>"Among other things." Often used in legal documents to compress lists of <u>Parties</u> etc.</p>
<b>Interlinkages</b>	<p>Connections between and among processes, activities, or international <u>agreements</u>.</p>

<b>International Emissions Trading</b>	Regime that allows <u>Parties</u> subject to emissions reduction targets to buy and sell emissions credits among them (within the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> context).
<b>International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity</b>	Group of representatives from indigenous governments, indigenous non-governmental organizations and indigenous scholars and activists (see <u>Indigenous people</u> ) organized around the Convention on Biological Diversity ( <u>CBD</u> ) and other major international environmental <u>meetings</u> to help coordinate indigenous strategies at these meetings and provide advice to governments.
<b>International Seabed Authority</b>	International organization established under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea ( <u>UNCLOS</u> ) to address matters related to <u>The Area</u> .
<b>Intervention</b>	Synonym for " <u>statement</u> ."
<b>Invasive species</b>	A species that invades natural <u>habitats</u> .
<b>IOC</b>	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of <u>UNESCO</u> .
<b>IOPC Funds</b>	International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds. Provide compensation for oil pollution damage resulting from spills of persistent oil from tankers. The Funds are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1971 Fund, established by the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for</li> </ul>

<p><b>IOPC Funds</b></p>	<p>oil Pollution Damage. Adopted in 1971, replaced by the 1992 Protocol to the 1969 Civil Liability Convention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1992 Fund, established by the 1992 Protocol to the 1969 Civil Liability Convention. Entered into force in 1996.</li> <li>- Supplementary Fund, established by the 2003 Protocol to the 1969 Civil Liability Convention. Entered into force in 2005.</li> </ul>
<p><b>IPCC</b></p>	<p>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Established jointly by the World Meteorological Organization (<u>WMO</u>) and <u>UNEP</u> in 1998 to assess the scientific, technical and socio-economic impacts of <u>climate change</u>.</p>
<p><b>IPPC</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) International Plant Protection Convention. Adopted in 1952. Revised in 1997, entered into force in 2005.</li> <li>2) Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control.</li> </ol>
<p><b>IPRs</b></p>	<p><u>Intellectual property rights</u></p>
<p><b>ISA</b></p>	<p><u>International Seabed Authority</u></p>
<p><b>ISCC</b></p>	<p>Interim Secretariat of the <u>Carpathian Convention</u> provided by <u>UNEP</u> in Vienna.</p>
<p><b>ISO</b></p>	<p>International Organization for Standardization. <u>Non-governmental organization</u>, the members of which are national standards institutes of 156 countries. Established in 1946 to facilitate</p>

	the international coordination and unification of industrial standards.
<b>ITLOS</b>	International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. Judicial organ established under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea ( <u>UNCLOS</u> ) to deal with <u>disputes</u> related to the law of the sea.
<b>ITPGRFA</b>	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Adopted in 2001, entered into force in 2004.
<b>ITTA</b>	International Tropical Timber Agreement. Commodity <u>agreement</u> that regulates trade in tropical timber. Adopted in 1983 and renegotiated periodically.
<b>ITTC</b>	International Tropical Timber Council. The governing and policy-making body of the International Tropical Timber Organization ( <u>ITTO</u> ). Meets annually.
<b>ITTO</b>	International Tropical Timber Organization. Established under the International Tropical Timber Agreement ( <u>ITTA</u> ) to administer the <u>agreement</u> .
<b>IUCN</b>	The World Conservation Union. A hybrid international organization, the membership of which is composed of governments and <u>non-governmental organizations</u> .
<b>IUU</b>	Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (fishing).

<b>IWC</b>	International Whaling Commission. The governing body of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling ( <u>ICRW</u> ).
<b>J</b>	
<b>Jakarta Mandate</b>	Shorthand for Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity. Global consensus on the importance of marine and coastal biological diversity, adopted in 1995 by the second <u>Conference of the Parties</u> to the Convention on Biological Diversity ( <u>CBD</u> ). Includes the programme of work on marine and coastal <u>biodiversity</u> under the CBD.
<b>Jl</b>	<u>Joint Implementation</u>
<b>JLG</b>	<u>Joint Liaison Group</u>
<b>Johannesburg Plan of Implementation</b>	One of the outcomes of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development ( <u>WSSD</u> ). Outlines a framework for action to implement the commitments undertaken at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development ( <u>UNCED</u> ), including goals and time-bound targets.
<b>Joint Liaison Group</b>	Group of representatives of the <u>Secretariats</u> of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ), the Convention on Biological Diversity ( <u>CBD</u> ), and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification

	<p>(UNCCD). Set up to explore common activities related to <u>climate change, biodiversity, and desertification</u>. The <u>Ramsar Convention</u> is an invited <u>observer</u> to this Group.</p>
<b>JPOI</b>	<p><u>Johannesburg Plan of Implementation</u></p>
<b>JUSCANZ/JUSSCANZ</b>	<p>A negotiating group composed of Japan, the US, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand. Other <u>delegations</u> sometimes associate with it.</p>
<b>K</b>	
<b>Kyoto Protocol</b>	<p>Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (<u>UNFCCC</u>). Provides for <u>binding</u> emission reductions for Annex I <u>Parties</u> to the UNFCCC. Adopted in 1997, entered into force in 2005.</p>
<b>L</b>	
<b>Land degradation</b>	<p>Reduction or loss, in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of rainfed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest and woodlands resulting from land use or from a process or combination of processes, including processes arising from human activity and habitation patterns.</p>

<b>Limited Distribution Documents, L. docs</b>	L. docs are limited distribution documents.
<b>LDC Expert Group</b>	Panel of experts providing advice to <u>Least Developed Countries</u> (LDCs) on the preparation and <u>implementation</u> of National <u>Adaptation Programme of Action</u> (NAPAs) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ).
<b>LDC Fund</b>	Fund established by the <u>Conference of the Parties</u> to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ) to assist <u>least developed countries</u> to undertake activities to adapt to to the adverse effects of <u>climate change</u> .
<b>LDCs</b>	<u>Least Developed Countries</u>
<b>Least Developed Countries</b>	Countries at the lowest level of the scale of development. Status defined according to level of income, human resources, and economic vulnerability.
<b>Like-Minded</b>	Group of <u>delegations</u> that share common interests and positions on specific issues.
<b>Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries</b>	A negotiating group of 17 <u>megadiverse countries</u> , among those that collectively account for 70% of the world's <u>biodiversity</u> . Mainly operates during negotiations on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing under the Convention on Biological Diversity ( <u>CBD</u> ).

<b>Listing</b>	Inclusion of a product or species in a list of regulated products or species.
<b>LMG</b>	<u>Like-Minded</u> Group
<b>LMMC</b>	<u>Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries</u>
<b>LMO</b>	Living Modified Organism. Any living organism that possesses a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology ( <u>Biosafety Protocol</u> ).
<b>London Convention</b>	Shorthand for the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping Waste and Other Matter. Adopted in 1972, entered into force in 1975. Will be replaced by the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention, when the Protocol enters into force.
<b>LRTAP</b>	Shorthand for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. Negotiated under the auspices of the <u>UN Economic Commission for Europe</u> . Adopted in 1979, entered into force in 1983.
<b>LULUCF</b>	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry. Within the context of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ), refers to the impact of the type of land use by humans, and changes in such land use, on <u>greenhouse gas</u> emissions.

# M

## MA

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Sometimes also wrongly abbreviated as MEA.

## MAB

Man and the Biosphere. A Programme of UNESCO established in 1971. Encourages interdisciplinary research, demonstration and training in natural resource management, and develops the basis, within the natural and the social sciences, for the sustainable use and conservation of biological diversity, and for the improvement of the relationship between people and their environment globally. Is responsible for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

## MAI

Multilateral Agreement on Investment. Proposed agreement negotiated under the auspices of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) between 1995-1998, but which was never adopted.

## Management Authority

Within the context of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), national body responsible for implementation of the Convention.

## Mandate

What a meeting, organization or individual has been given authority to do.

<b>MARPOL</b>	Shorthand for the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, as modified by the <u>Protocol</u> of 1978 relating thereto. Adopted in 1973, entered into force in 1983.
<b>Marrakech Accords</b>	Series of <u>decisions</u> adopted at the seventh <u>Conference of the Parties</u> to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ), related to the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> .
<b>MAT</b>	Mutually Agreed Terms, within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity ( <u>CBD</u> ).
<b>May</b>	As negotiating language, “may” entails discretionary action and creates no obligation for the addressee. It is not <u>binding</u> .
<b>MCPFE</b>	Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe. The MCPFE is a high level political initiative that has developed as a dynamic process towards the protection and <u>sustainable forest management</u> . This political commitment involves 45 European countries, the <u>European Community</u> and cooperates with other countries as well as international organizations that participate as <u>observers</u> .
<b>MDGs</b>	<u>Millennium Development Goals</u> .
<b>MEA</b>	<u>Multilateral Environmental Agreement</u>
<b>Meeting</b>	Generic term used for conferences, <u>summits</u> , <u>sessions</u> , etc.

<p><b>Meeting of the Parties</b></p>	<p>A body equivalent to the <u>Conference of the Parties</u>. The terminology differs according to <u>agreements</u>. In practice, there is a tendency within environment negotiating fora to use “Conference of the Parties” for the <u>conventions</u> and Meeting of the Parties for the <u>protocols</u>.</p>
<p><b>Megadiverse Countries</b></p>	<p>Countries which collectively account for 70% of the world’s <u>biodiversity</u>. These countries are Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Venezuela.</p>
<p><b>Member State</b></p>	<p>State which is a member of an international organization.</p>
<p><b>Memorandum of Understanding</b></p>	<p>A simplified type of international instrument, which can be concluded between States, between States and international organizations or between international organizations. MoUs can provide a framework for cooperation or be concluded for specific time-bound activities.</p>
<p><b>Miami Group</b></p>	<p>A negotiating group of countries, under the <u>CBD</u> and <u>Biosafety Protocol</u>, which are large, grain exporting countries, and have made considerable investments in genetic engineering.</p>

<p><b>Micro-organism</b></p>	<p>Group of microscopic organisms, some of which cannot be detected without the aid of a light or electron microscope, including viruses, prokaryotes (bacteria and archaea), and eukaryotic life forms, such as protozoa, filamentous fungi, yeasts and micro-algae.</p>
<p><b>MIKE</b></p>	<p>Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants. A monitoring system established to contribute to an assessment of the impact of <u>decisions</u> on the illegal hunting of elephants, adopted under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (<u>CITES</u>).</p>
<p><b>Millennium Development Goals</b></p>	<p>A set of eight goals and associated targets to achieve poverty alleviation by 2015, which found their origin in the <u>Millennium Summit</u>.</p>
<p><b>Millennium Ecosystem Assessment</b></p>	<p>A global assessment of the earth's <u>ecosystems</u> supported by the UN <u>Secretary-General</u>. The MA completed its work in 2005 with the publication of its report. The acronym <u>MEA</u> is often used wrongly for the MA.</p>
<p><b>Millennium Summit</b></p>	<p>Meeting of high-level government representatives convened in 2000. The Summit adopted an agenda for the elimination of poverty through the implementation of target-oriented goals.</p>
<p><b>Mitigation</b></p>	<p>In the context of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (<u>UNFCCC</u>) and its <u>Kyoto Protocol</u>, actions to cut net emissions</p>

	of <u>greenhouse gases</u> and reduce <u>climate change</u> as a consequence (UNFCCC).
<b>Monterrey Conference</b>	Shorthand for the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002.
<b>Monterrey Consensus</b>	Outcome of the <u>Monterrey Conference</u> .
<b>Montreal Protocol</b>	Shorthand for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. <u>Protocol</u> to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. Adopted in 1987, entered into force in 1989.
<b>Montreux Record</b>	The principal tool of the <u>Ramsar Convention</u> for highlighting those sites where an adverse change in ecological character has occurred, is occurring, or likely to occur, and which are therefore in need of priority conservation attention. It shall be maintained as part of the <u>Ramsar</u> Database and shall be subject to continuous review.
<b>MOP</b>	<u>Meeting of the Parties</u>
<b>MOS</b>	Meeting of the Signatories
<b>Motion</b>	Formal oral proposal on a matter of procedure.
<b>MoU or MOU</b>	<u>Memorandum of Understanding</u>

<b>MPPI</b>	Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative. Developed in the context of the <u>Basel Convention</u> for the recycling of mobile phones.
<b>Multilateral Environmental Agreement</b>	A generic term for <u>treaties</u> , <u>conventions</u> , <u>protocols</u> , and other <u>binding</u> instruments related to the environment. Usually applied to instruments of a geographic scope wider than that of a bilateral <u>agreement</u> (i.e., between two States).
<b>Multilateral Fund</b>	Shorthand for the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. Assists developing countries to implement the <u>Montreal Protocol</u> .
<b>Must</b>	As negotiating language, “must” creates an obligation to act for the addressee. It is <u>binding</u> .
<b><i>Mutatis Mutandis</i></b>	Latin phrase meaning “with such changes as are necessary on the points of detail” (e.g., “the dispute settlement provisions of the Convention apply <i>mutatis mutandis</i> to the Protocol”).
<b>MYPOW</b>	Multi-Year Programme of Work
<b>N</b>	
<b>NAFTA</b>	North American Free Trade Agreement

<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan. Required under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification ( <u>UNCCD</u> ) for the <u>implementation</u> of the Convention.
<b>NAPA</b>	National Adaptation Programme of Action. Prepared by <u>least developed countries</u> under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ) for urgent activities to cope with <u>climate change</u> .
<b>National Communication</b>	Under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ), document by which a <u>Party</u> informs other Parties of activities undertaken to mitigate <u>climate change</u> .
<b>NBSAP</b>	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Required under the Convention on Biological Diversity ( <u>CBD</u> ) for the <u>implementation</u> of the Convention.
<b>NC</b>	<u>National Communication</u>
<b>NCC</b>	National Compliance Centre (under the <u>Montreal Protocol</u> )
<b>NCSA</b>	National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management. Initiative by the <u>Global Environment Facility</u> that aims to assist countries to assess their capacity needs to implement the <u>Rio Conventions</u> on the basis of <u>synergies</u> between these <u>conventions</u> .

<b>NEPAD</b>	New Partnership for Africa's Development. A framework for action towards the socio-economic development of Africa. Adopted in 2001 by the Organization of African Unity (now African Union).
<b>New and additional financial resources</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Financial resources that are provided in addition to the UN target level of 0.7% of Gross National Product (GNP) for <u>Official Development Assistance</u> (ODA).</li> <li>2) Financial resources that are new and additional to annual general ODA funding which has remained constant or increased, in absolute terms or in ODA/GNP terms.</li> </ol>
<b>NGO(s)</b>	<u>Non-governmental organization(s)</u>
<b>NIP</b>	National Implementation Plan, required under the <u>Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants</u> .
<b>Non-Governmental Organization(s)</b>	Also referred to as <u>NGO(s)</u> . Applied to community groups and not-for-profit organizations. In the UN system, it also includes business associations. The term gathers organizations with different <u>mandates</u> (e.g., research, education and awareness building, lobbying, technical assistance, field projects, etc.).
<b>Non-Paper</b>	Informal text aimed at facilitating negotiations. It is not a formal proposal.

<b>Non-Party</b>	Refers to a State that has not ratified, acceded, or otherwise become a <u>Party</u> to an international <u>agreement</u> . As a Non-Party, a State may have limited rights to participate in negotiations or deliberations under the agreement, or to invoke provisions of the agreement.
<b>Non-recorded vote</b>	Vote where the way in which each <u>delegation</u> voted is not reported in the official records or the <u>report of the meeting</u> .
<b>NOO</b>	National Ozone Officer (under the <u>Montreal Protocol</u> )
<b>Notification</b>	Formal communication that bears legal consequences (e.g., start of a time-bound period).
<b>NOU</b>	National Ozone Unit (under the <u>Montreal Protocol</u> )
<b>Noumea Convention</b>	Shorthand for the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region. Adopted in 1986, entered into force in 1990.
<b>NR</b>	National Reports
	
<b>Objection</b>	Oral or written <u>statement</u> by which a <u>delegation</u> informs a <u>meeting</u> that it objects

	to the <u>adoption</u> of a proposed <u>decision</u> , <u>resolution</u> , <u>recommendation</u> , or measure.
<b>Obligation clauses/provisions</b>	Clauses/provisions of an international <u>agreement</u> or <u>decision</u> that provide for the actions to be taken, individually or jointly, by the <u>Parties</u> to achieve the objectives of the agreement or decision.
<b>Observer</b>	Non-state or State actor invited to participate in a limited capacity in discussions during negotiations. Observers are not allowed to negotiate text and have no voting powers. In practice, some observer States do negotiate, although they do not participate in final decision making.
<b>ODA</b>	<u>Official Development Assistance</u>
<b>ODS</b>	Ozone-depleting substance (under the <u>Montreal Protocol</u> and the <u>Vienna Convention</u> )
<b>OECD</b>	The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is an organization of 30 advanced economies in North America, Europe, and the Pacific region that share a commitment to democratic government and a market economy. Originated in 1948 as the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC), to help administer the Marshall Plan for the re-construction of Europe after World War II.

<b>OECS</b>	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States. Regional cooperation organization created in 1981.
<b>OEWG</b>	<u>Open-ended Working Group</u>
<b>Official Development Assistance</b>	Also known as "foreign aid". Consists of loans, grants, technical assistance and other forms of cooperation from developed to developing countries.
<b>OP 5, 13, XX...</b>	<u>Operational Programme 5, 13, XX...</u>
<b>OPEC</b>	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. Organization of eleven developing countries whose economies rely on oil export revenues. Created in 1960 to, inter alia, achieve stable oil prices, which are fair and reasonable for both producers and consumers.
<b>Open-ended</b>	Said of a <u>meeting</u> or a group which is not time-bound (unless specified otherwise) and participation is not restricted.
<b>Operational Programme</b>	Conceptual and planning framework of the <u>Global Environment Facility</u> for the design, <u>implementation</u> , and coordination of a set of projects in a particular focal area. Developed on the basis of priorities identified by <u>Parties</u> to various <u>MEAs</u> , the Council of the <u>Global Environment Facility</u> , advice from the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel ( <u>STAP</u> ) and country-driven projects. There are 15 Operational Programmes.

<p><b>Operative paragraphs</b></p>	<p>Paragraphs of an international <u>agreement</u>, <u>decision</u>, <u>resolution</u>, or <u>recommendation</u> that provide for the actions to be taken, individually or jointly, by the <u>Parties</u> to achieve the objectives of the <u>agreement</u>, <u>decision</u>, <u>resolution</u>, or <u>recommendation</u>. Often contrasted with the <u>preamble</u>.</p>
<p><b>OPRC</b></p>	<p>Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation. Adopted in 1990, entered into force in 1995.</p>
<p><b>Order</b></p>	<p>1) "Call to order": direction by the presiding officer of a <u>meeting</u> that a <u>delegate</u> or group of delegates should be silent to allow the meeting's proceedings to take place in an orderly manner.</p> <p>2) "Out of order": the status of something that is not in accordance with the <u>rules of procedure</u>.</p>
<p><b>Out of order</b></p>	<p>Not behaving in accordance with the <u>rules of procedure</u>.</p>
<p><b>Ozone Secretariat</b></p>	<p><u>Secretariat</u> administered by <u>UNEP</u>. Services the <u>Vienna Convention</u> and the <u>Montreal Protocol</u>.</p>
<p><b>P</b></p>	
<p><b>Package deal</b></p>	<p>Proposal that includes several issues, not necessarily related, which has to be accepted or rejected as a whole.</p>

<b>PADELIA</b>	UNEP Partnership for Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa.
<b>PAH</b>	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon
<b>PAMs</b>	<u>Policies and Measures</u>
<b>Party</b>	Refers to a State (or regional economic integration organization such as the <u>European Union</u> ) that has ratified, acceded to, or otherwise formally indicated its intent to be bound by an international <u>agreement</u> , and for which the agreement is in force. Also called “Contracting Party.” While most Parties have signed the instrument in question, it is not usually a necessary step in order to become a Party (see “ <u>accession</u> ”).
<b>Patent</b>	Government grant of temporary monopoly rights on innovative processes or products.
<b>PCA</b>	Permanent Court of Arbitration
<b>PEBLDS</b>	Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy. Endorsed at the third Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in 1995, to provide an innovative and proactive approach to stop and reverse the degradation of biological and landscape diversity values in Europe.
<b>Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues</b>	Advisory body to the <u>ECOSOC</u> , established in 2000 to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the

	environment, education, health and human rights.
<b>Persistent Organic Pollutants</b>	Also referred to as <u>POPs</u> . Chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods of time. Regulated under the <u>Stockholm Convention</u> .
<b>Permanent Representative (PR)</b>	The head of a permanent mission.
<b>PFCs</b>	Perfluorocarbons. Regulated under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ).
<b>PFI</b>	<u>Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues</u>
<b>PGRFA</b>	Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Any genetic material of plant origin of actual or potential value for food and agriculture ( <u>ITPGRFA</u> ).
<b>PIC</b>	1) <u>Prior informed consent</u> . Used in the context of negotiations on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, as well as on <u>traditional knowledge</u> of local and indigenous communities (see <u>indigenous people</u> ). Also used in the context of the <u>PIC Convention</u> . 2) Pacific Island Country.
<b>PIC Convention</b>	Shorthand for the Rotterdam Convention on the <u>Prior Informed Consent</u> Procedure For Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. Also called the " <u>Rotterdam Convention</u> ."

<b>Plenary</b>	The main meeting format of a <u>Conference of the Parties</u> or a <u>Subsidiary Body</u> . <u>Decisions</u> or <u>recommendations</u> approved by sub-sets of the Plenary have to be forwarded to the Plenary for formal final <u>adoption</u> .
<b>Plenipotentiary</b>	Individual who carries or has been conferred the <u>full powers</u> to engage the State he or she represents.
<b>Point of order</b>	Formal question raised by a <u>delegation</u> as to whether the proceedings are in order or a particular action by a <u>delegate</u> or a presiding officer follows the <u>rules of procedure</u> .
<b>Policies and Measures</b>	Steps taken or to be taken by countries to achieve <u>greenhouse gas</u> emissions targets under the <u>Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC)</u> .
<b>POPRC</b>	Persistent Organic Pollutant Review Committee, a <u>subsidiary body</u> under the <u>Stockholm Convention</u> .
<b>POPs</b>	<u>Persistent Organic Pollutants</u>
<b>POPs Convention</b>	Shorthand for the <u>Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants</u> .
<b>Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper</b>	Country-led, country-written document that provides the basis for assistance from the <u>World Bank</u> and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Country initiative. A Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper describes

	<p>a country's macroeconomic, structural, and social policies and programs to promote growth, and the country's objectives, policies, and measures for poverty reduction.</p>
<b>PPP</b>	<p>Public-Private Partnership</p>
<b>Preamble</b>	<p>Set of opening <u>statements</u>, called "<u>recitals</u>," of an international <u>agreement, decision, resolution, or recommendation</u> that guides the interpretation of the document. Often contrasted with the <u>operative paragraphs</u>.</p>
<b>Preambular paragraphs</b>	<p>The paragraphs found in the <u>Preamble</u> to an international <u>agreement, decision, resolution, or recommendation</u> and that help interpreting the document.</p>
<b>Precautionary approach/ principle</b>	<p>Approach/principle according to which the absence of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing action where there is a risk of serious or irreversible harm to the environment or human health. The approach/principle is embedded in several instruments, including Principle 15 of the 1992 <u>Rio Declaration</u> on Environment and Development. Whereby the precautionary approach is often used in negotiations to infer a less definite meaning than the precautionary principle.</p>
<b>Prep Com / PrepCom</b>	<p>Preparatory Committee. A <u>committee</u> mandated to prepare a <u>meeting</u>. It can be mandated to address substantive issues or</p>

	not. The phrase is often used to refer to the meetings of the preparatory committee.
<b>Pre-session documents</b>	Documents prepared by the <u>Secretariat</u> for distribution before a <u>meeting</u> . These include draft <u>decisions</u> , <u>resolutions</u> , <u>recommendations</u> , <u>non-papers</u> , information documents ( <u>INF docs</u> ), etc.
<b>Presiding Officer</b>	<u>Delegate</u> elected by a <u>meeting</u> to preside over the proceedings, maintain order and lead the work of the meeting.
<b>Primary forest</b>	Forest largely undisturbed by human activities. Also called "natural forest."
<b>Prior informed consent</b>	Consent to be acquired prior to accessing genetic resources or shipping internationally regulated chemicals, substances or products. Granted by competent authorities on the basis of the information provided by the partners to a prior informed consent agreement. The notion is linked to the principle of the <u>Advanced Informed Agreement</u> .
<b>Procès verbal</b>	Record of all <u>statements</u> made during a <u>meeting</u> .
<b>Protected Area</b>	Geographically defined area which is designated or regulated, and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives ( <u>CBD</u> ).
<b>Protocol</b>	1) International legal instrument appended or closely related to another <u>agreement</u> .

	<p>which constitutes a separate and additional <u>agreement</u> and which must be signed and ratified by the parties to the <u>convention</u> concerned. Protocols typically strengthen a <u>convention</u> by adding new, more detailed commitments.</p> <p>2) Rules of diplomatic procedure, ceremony and etiquette.</p> <p>3) Department within a government or organization that deals with relations with other missions.</p>
<b>Provisional agenda</b>	Draft <u>agenda</u> of a <u>meeting</u> that has yet to be adopted.
<b>PRSP</b>	<u>Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper</u>
<b>PRTR</b>	Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
<b>Public-Private Partnership</b>	A cooperative initiative between public (i.e., governmental) and private entities (including businesses, <u>NGOs</u> , etc.) toward a specific action.
	
<b>QELROS</b>	<u>Quantified Emissions Limitation or Reduction Commitments</u>
<b>Quantified emissions limitation or reduction commitments</b>	Legally <u>binding</u> targets and timetables under the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> for the limitation or reduction of <u>greenhouse-gas</u> emissions by developed countries ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ).

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## Quorum

The minimum number of Parties or members that must be present for a meeting to start or decisions to be made. The quorum is stated in the rules of procedure, and it may be expressed in absolute numbers or as a percentage of an overall number (e.g., 60% of the Parties).

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# R

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## Ramsar

Shorthand for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Adopted in 1971, entered into force in 1975.

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## Ramsar List

List of Wetlands of International Importance. List of wetlands which have been designated by the Parties to the Ramsar Convention as internationally important according to one or more of the criteria that have been adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

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## Ramsar Site

Wetlands designated by the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention for inclusion in the Ramsar List because they meet one or more of the Ramsar criteria.

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## Ramsar State

A State whose territory is within the natural range of distribution of a species.

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<p><b>Rapporteur</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Delegate</u> (more specifically, a member of the <u>Bureau</u>) elected/nominated to prepare or oversee the preparation of the <u>report of a meeting</u>.</li> <li>2. Person appointed by a body to investigate and issue or function and report back to that body.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Ratification</b></p>	<p>Formal process by which a Head of State or appropriate governmental official or authority signs a document which signals the consent of the State to become a <u>Party</u> to an international <u>agreement</u> once the agreement has entered into force and to be bound by its provisions.</p>
<p><b>Recitals</b></p>	<p>Set of opening <u>statements</u> of an international <u>agreement, decision, resolution, or recommendation</u> that guides the interpretation of the document. Also referred to as "<u>Preamble</u>" or "<u>preambular paragraphs</u>."</p>
<p><b>Recommendation</b></p>	<p>Formal expression of an advisory nature of the will of the governing body of an international organization or international <u>agreement</u>. It is not <u>binding</u>.</p>
<p><b>Recorded vote</b></p>	<p>Vote where the way in which each <u>delegation</u> voted is reported in the official records or <u>report of the meeting</u>.</p>
<p><b>Reforestation</b></p>	<p>The direct human-induced conversion of non-forested land to forested land through</p>

	<p>planting, seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources, on land that was forested but that has been converted to non-forest land (UNFCCC).</p> <p>Should be distinguished from the notion of <u>afforestation</u>.</p>
<b>Regional groups</b>	<p>Alliances of countries, more or less from by geographic location, which meet privately to discuss issues and nominate bureau members and other officials for activities under the Convention. The five regional groups are Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), and the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG).</p>
<b>Registration</b>	<p>Process by which <u>delegates</u> are issued a pass to access a meeting's venue and discussions.</p>
<b>Registries, registry system</b>	<p>Systems, including electronic databases, that will track and record all transactions under the <u>Kyoto Protocol's greenhouse-gas emissions trading system</u> (the "<u>carbon market</u>") and under mechanisms such as the <u>CDM</u>.</p>
<b>Report on/of the meeting</b>	<p>Document that records all discussions and results of a <u>meeting</u>. A report is not the same as minutes, which record all interventions. A report "on" the meeting does not need the approval of the body in question whereas a report "of" a meeting does.</p>

<b>Reservation</b>	Unilateral <u>statement</u> made by a State upon <u>signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession</u> to an international legal instrument, indicating that it wishes to exclude or alter the legal effect of certain provisions in their application to that State. Reservations are generally permitted, but some international <u>agreements</u> expressly prohibit reservations.
<b>Resolution</b>	Formal expression of the opinion or will of the governing body of an international organization or international <u>agreement</u> . Usually non- <u>binding</u> .
<b>Rev.</b>	Stands for "revision". Used to reference revised versions of documents during negotiations.
<b>Review of Significant Trade</b>	Review of the biological, trade and other relevant information on species listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ( <u>CITES</u> ), and subject to levels of trade that are significant in relation to the population of the species, in order to identify problems concerning the <u>implementation</u> of the <u>Convention</u> .
<b>RFMO</b>	Regional Fisheries Management Organization
<b>Rio Conference</b>	Shorthand for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development ( <u>UNCED</u> ), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. The outcomes of the Conference include:

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The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Agenda 21
- The establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)
- The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- The Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, conservation and sustainable development of all Types of Forests (also known as “the Forest Principles”)

UNCED also led to the negotiation and adoption of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

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## Rio Convention(s)

Used to designate the conventions negotiated and adopted during the Rio Conference in 1992. These Conventions are the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to which the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), adopted in 1994, is also added.

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## Rio Declaration

Shorthand for the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development adopted at the Rio Conference, the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. Set of 27 Principles on sustainable development.

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## RMPs

Refrigerant Management Plans

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<b>Roster of experts</b>	Experts nominated to perform certain tasks as defined by the governing body of an international <u>agreement</u> or international organization.
<b>Rotterdam Convention</b>	Shorthand for Rotterdam Convention on the <u>Prior Informed Consent</u> Procedure For Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. Also referred to as the "PIC Convention." Adopted in 1998, entered into force in 2004.
<b>RSPB</b>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, a <u>non-governmental organization</u> .
<b>RST</b>	<u>Review of Significant Trade</u>
<b>Rules of Procedure</b>	Set of rules adopted by a <u>meeting</u> to govern the work and decision making of its formal settings (i.e., for <u>Plenary</u> or <u>working groups</u> ).
<b>S</b>	
<b>SACEP</b>	South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SAICM</b>	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. Approach developed on the basis of an <u>open-ended</u> consultative process involving representatives of all <u>stakeholder</u> groups, jointly convened by the

	<p>Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) and UNEP. Adopted in 2006.</p>
<b>SBI</b>	<p>In the context of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Subsidiary Body for Implementation. Advises the <u>Conference of the Parties</u> to the Convention and/or the <u>Meeting of the Parties</u> to the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> in the form of <u>recommendations</u> and draft <u>decisions</u>.</p>
<b>SBSTA</b>	<p>In the context of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. Advises the <u>Conference of the Parties</u> to the Convention and/or the <u>Meeting of the Parties</u> to the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> in the form of <u>recommendations</u> and draft <u>decisions</u>.</p>
<b>SBSTTA</b>	<p>In the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. Provides advice to the <u>Conference of the Parties</u> to the Convention and/or the <u>Meeting of the Parties</u> to the <u>Biosafety Protocol</u> in the form of <u>recommendations</u>.</p>
<b>Scale of assessment</b>	<p>Agreed formula for determining the scale of <u>contribution</u> of each <u>Member State</u> of an international organization.</p>

<b>SCCF</b>	<u>Special Climate Change Fund</u>
<b>SEA</b>	<u>Strategic Environmental Assessment</u>
<b>SEE</b>	South Eastern Europe
<b>Secret ballot/vote</b>	Type of vote. Organized to ensure that each <u>delegation's</u> vote remains secret.
<b>Secretariat</b>	The body established under an international <u>agreement</u> to arrange and service <u>meetings</u> of the governing body of that agreement, and assist <u>Parties</u> in coordinating <u>implementation</u> of the agreement. Also performs other functions as assigned to it by the <u>agreement</u> and the <u>decisions</u> of the governing body.
<b>Secretary-General</b>	Normally: Head of the United Nations Secretariat.
<b>Session</b>	<u>Meeting</u> or series of meetings of a particular body (e.g., Eighth Special Session of <u>UNEP Governing Council</u> ; " <u>working group II met in four sessions</u> ").
<b>Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulation</b>	Chemical formulated for pesticidal use that produces severe health or environmental effects observable within a short period of time after single or multiple exposure, under conditions of use ( <u>PIC Convention</u> ).
<b>SFM</b>	<u>Sustainable Forest Management</u>

<b>Shall</b>	As negotiating language, "shall" creates an obligation for action for the addressee. It is <u>binding</u> .
<b>Should</b>	As negotiating language, "should" entails an advice, not an obligation, to do something. However, while non- <u>binding</u> , it implies a stronger imperative than "may."
<b>Show of hands</b>	Type of voting procedure by which <u>delegations</u> raise a hand or nameplate to signal "yes," "no," or "abstain." A vote by show of hands is a non- <u>recorded vote</u> .
<b>SHPF</b>	<u>Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulation</u>
<b>Side events</b>	Events taking place concurrently with a <u>meeting</u> . Usually in the form of discussion panels, workshops, seminars, launches, etc. organized either by the <u>Secretariat</u> , States, international organizations or <u>non-governmental organizations</u> .
<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing States. Low-lying coastal countries that share similar development challenges and concerns about the environment, especially their vulnerability to the adverse effects of global climate change. <u>Agenda 21</u> recognized that SIDS and islands supporting small communities are a special case both for environment and development. Currently 41 SIDS are included in the list used by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

<b>Signatory</b>	A State that has negotiated and signed an international <u>agreement</u> .
<b>Signature</b>	Act by which the head of State or government, the foreign minister, or another designated official indicates the authenticity of an international <u>agreement</u> and, where <u>ratification</u> is not necessary, it may also indicate the consent of the State to be bound by the agreement.
<b>Single negotiated text</b>	Draft text compiling all the <u>delegations</u> proposals into a coherent whole.
<b>Sinks</b>	In the context of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ) and the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> , any process, activity or mechanism which removes a greenhouse gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a <u>greenhouse gas</u> from the atmosphere. The major sinks are forests and other vegetation which remove carbon dioxide through photosynthesis ( <u>UNFCCC</u> ).
<b>Soft law</b>	The term used for quasi-legal instruments which do not have any <u>binding</u> force, or those whose <u>binding</u> force is somewhat “weaker” than the <u>binding</u> nature of traditional law, often referred to as “ <u>hard law</u> ”. In the field of the international law soft law, consists of non-treaty obligations which are therefore non-enforceable and may include certain types of declarations, guidelines, communications and <u>resolutions</u> of international bodies.

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(e.g. resolutions of the UN General Assembly).  
Soft-law may be used to encourage broader  
adhesion to a proposal.

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### **Sound management**

Taking all practicable steps to ensure that  
management takes place in a manner which  
protects human health and the environment  
against the adverse effects of activities,  
processes, products or substances.

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### **SPAW Protocol**

Shorthand for the Protocol Concerning  
Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (to the  
Cartagena Convention for the Protection and  
Development of the Marine Environment of  
the Wider Caribbean Region). Adopted in  
1990, entered into force in 2000.

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### **Speakers' list**

List of delegations seeking the floor (see "To  
seek the floor"). Maintained by the presiding  
officer, in the order in which delegations have  
made the request.

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### **Special Climate Change Fund**

A fund established under the UN Framework  
Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)  
to finance projects relating to adaptation;  
technology transfer and capacity building;  
energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry  
and waste management; and economic  
diversification.

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### **Special session**

A session of a body outside and additional to  
its regularly scheduled sessions. Focused on a  
particular issue.

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<b>Specialized agency</b>	Autonomous international organization linked to the United Nations through special <u>agreement</u> .
<b>Spokesman/spokesperson</b>	A <u>delegate</u> speaking on behalf of a group of countries or organizations.
<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Delegation</u> which proposes a <u>decision</u> , <u>resolution</u> , <u>recommendation</u> , or <u>amendment</u> for <u>adoption</u> by a <u>meeting</u> .
<b>SPREP</b>	Pacific Regional Environment Programme
<b>Square brackets</b>	Typographical symbols placed around text under negotiation to indicate that the language enclosed is being discussed but has not yet been agreed upon. It is possible to have square brackets within square brackets, as there may be disagreement about both the general provision and the specific language. Square brackets are also used to indicate changed or added text in quote.
<b>Stakeholder</b>	Individuals or institutions (public and private) interested and involved in a process or related activities.
<b>Stalemate</b>	Point at which negotiations make no progress and no possible solution is in sight.
<b>Stalled</b>	Said of negotiations which are making no progress. Usually temporary situation.

<b>Standard Nomenclature</b>	The scientific names adopted by the <u>Conference of the Parties</u> to the Convention on International trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ( <u>CITES</u> ) for CITES-listed species.
<b>Standing Committee</b>	<u>Committee</u> established under various international <u>agreements</u> to perform certain functions as agreed to by the <u>Conference of the Parties</u> .
<b>STAP/stap</b>	Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the <u>Global Environment Facility</u> . Provides strategic scientific and technical advice to the Global Environment Facility on its strategy and programs.
<b>Statement</b>	Oral or written expression of opinion.
<b>Status quo</b>	Latin phrase meaning “the current state of affairs.”
<b>Steering Committee</b>	Restricted group of individuals planning the work of a major <u>meeting</u> . Deals exclusively with procedural matters.
<b>Stockholm Conference</b>	Shorthand for the UN Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1972. The outcomes of the Stockholm Conference were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the establishment of the UN Environment Programme (<u>UNEP</u>)</li> <li>- the establishment of an Environment Fund</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- an Action Plan</li> <li>- the <u>Stockholm Declaration</u></li> </ul>
<b>Stockholm Convention</b>	Shorthand for the Stockholm Convention on <u>Persistent Organic Pollutants</u> . Adopted in 2001, entered into force in 2004. Also referred to as the " <u>POPs</u> Convention."
<b>Stockholm Declaration</b>	One of the outcomes of the 1972 <u>Stockholm Conference</u> . A set of 26 Principles on environmental protection.
<b>Strategic environmental assessment</b>	Procedure for incorporating environmental considerations into national policies, plans and programmes. Sometimes referred to as "strategic environmental impact assessment."
<b>STRP</b>	Scientific and Technical Review Panel, a <u>subsidiary body</u> under the <u>Ramsar Convention</u> .
<b>Sub-committee</b>	<u>Committee</u> created by another committee to address a specific issue.
<b>Subsidiary body</b>	A body, usually created by the governing body of an international <u>agreement</u> or international organization, with a specific mandate (e.g., Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice under the Convention on Biological Diversity). Different from a <u>working group</u> in that it is usually permanently established to assist the governing body.

<b><i>Sui generis</i></b>	A latin term meaning “being the only example of its kind; constituting a class of its own; unique”. Often used to describe a unique (legal) system.
<b>Summit</b>	<u>Meeting</u> at which the participants are high-level officials, such as Heads of State or Government.
<b>Sustainable development</b>	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
<b>Sustainable forest management</b>	Concept according to which the full range of social, economic and environmental values inherent forests are managed and sustained.
<b>Sustainable use</b>	Use in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term degradation of the environment, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.
<b>Synergies</b>	Result of joint activities that goes beyond the sum of individual activities, making efforts more effective and efficient.
<b>T</b>	
<b>Tally</b>	Count of positive and negative votes and abstentions.

<b>Taxonomy</b>	Naming and assignment of biological organisms to taxa.
<b>TEAP</b>	Technology and Economic Assessment Panel. Created within <u>UNEP</u> to provide technical information to <u>Parties</u> to the <u>Vienna Convention</u> and the <u>Montreal Protocol</u> on alternative technologies to the use of ozone-depleting substances.
<b>Technology Transfer</b>	Transmission of know-how, equipment and products to governments, organizations or other <u>stakeholders</u> . Usually also implies adaptation for use in a specific cultural, social, economic and environmental context.
<b>Tehran Convention</b>	Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea. Signed in 2003 and entered into force in 2006.
<b>TEK</b>	Traditional Ecological Knowledge
<b>Terms of Reference</b>	The <u>mandate</u> and scope for work of a body or individual.
<b>The Area</b>	The seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. Used interchangeably with “deep seabed.” Regulated under Part XI of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea ( <u>UNCLOS</u> ).
<b>TK</b>	<u>Traditional Knowledge</u>
<b>To cast a vote</b>	To vote.

<b>To give the floor</b>	Permission granted by the presiding officer of a <u>meeting</u> to make a <u>statement</u> .
<b>To seek the floor</b>	To ask permission to the presiding officer of a <u>meeting</u> to make a <u>statement</u> .
<b>To table a proposal</b>	To present the text of a proposal for consideration by other <u>delegations</u> . <sup>1</sup>
<b>To take the floor</b>	To make a <u>statement</u> during a <u>meeting</u> .
<b>ToRs / TORs</b>	<u>Terms of Reference</u>
<b>Traditional knowledge</b>	The knowledge, innovations and practices of <u>indigenous people</u> and local communities. Traditional knowledge is the object of various <u>MEA</u> provisions, including Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity ( <u>CBD</u> ).
<b>Transboundary movement</b>	Movement from an area under the national jurisdiction of one State to or through an area under the national jurisdiction of another State to or through an area not under the national jurisdiction of any State.
<b>Travaux préparatoires</b>	Preparatory work. Record of negotiations and other documents which may be of evidentiary value in establishing the meaning of an international <u>agreement</u> .
<b>Treaty</b>	International <u>agreement</u> concluded between States in written form and governed by international law, whether embodied in a

<sup>1</sup> This represents the preferred international usage of the term.

	<p>single instrument or in two or more related instruments and whatever its particular designation (<u>Vienna Convention</u> on the Law of Treaties).</p>
<b>TRIPS Agreement</b>	<p>Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. One of the <u>agreements</u> under the World Trade Organization (<u>WTO</u>).</p>
<b>Trust fund</b>	<p>Fund to which the income of an international organization is added and from which the expenditures are drawn. There are two main types of trust funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- general trust fund, made up of contributions from <u>Parties</u> and non-<u>earmarked</u> contributions from other sources;</li> <li>- special trust fund, made up of <u>earmarked contributions</u> to pay for the cost of participation of representatives of a specific category of countries in <u>meetings</u> of the governing body and <u>subsidiary bodies</u>.</li> </ul>
<b>TT: CLEAR</b>	<p>Technology Transfer Information Clearing House, operated by the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (<u>UNFCCC</u>).</p>
<b>Type II Partnership</b>	<p>A multi-<u>stakeholder</u> partnership involving, inter alia, governments, <u>non-governmental organizations</u>, businesses, universities, and/or other institutions. Type of partnership launched at the <u>World Summit on Sustainable</u></p>

	<p><u>Development (WSSD)</u> to implement commitments embedded in the <u>Johannesburg Plan of Implementation</u>.</p>
<b>U</b>	
<b>Umbrella Group</b>	<p>A negotiating group within the <u>climate change</u> negotiations. The loose coalition is usually made up of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the US.</p>
<b>UN GA / UNGA</b>	<p>UN <u>General Assembly</u></p>
<b>UN SG</b>	<p>UN <u>Secretary-General</u></p>
<b>UN/ECA or UNECA</b>	<p>Economic Commission for Africa. One of the regional commissions of <u>ECOSOC</u>.</p>
<b>UN/ECE or UNECE</b>	<p>Economic Commission for Europe. One of the regional commissions of <u>ECOSOC</u>.</p>
<b>UN/ECLAC or UNECLAC</b>	<p>Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. One of the regional commissions of <u>ECOSOC</u>.</p>
<b>UN/ESCAP or UNESCAP</b>	<p>Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. One of the regional commissions of <u>ECOSOC</u>.</p>

<b>UN/ESCWA or ESCWA</b>	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. One of the regional commissions of <u>ECOSOC</u> .
<b>Unanimity</b>	Type of decision making. A <u>decision</u> is adopted by unanimity when it has received the support of all <u>delegations</u> . Established by <u>show of hands</u> , voting, or other means.
<b>UNCCD</b>	UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/ or Desertification, especially in Africa. Adopted in 1994, entered into force in 1996. Often referred to as one of the <u>Rio Conventions</u> , as impetus for the Convention was gathered at the 1992 <u>UN Conference on Environment and Development</u> , held in Rio, Brazil (see <u>Rio Conference</u> ).
<b>UNCED</b>	UN Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio, Brazil, in 1992 (see <u>Rio Conference</u> ).
<b>UNCLOS</b>	UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Adopted in 1982, entered into force in 1994.
<b>UNCTAD</b>	UN Conference on Trade and Development. Established in 1964 to promote the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy and help shape policy debates and thinking on development, with a particular focus on ensuring that domestic policies and

	international action are mutually supportive in bringing about <u>sustainable development</u> .
<b>Under Secretary-General</b>	Third highest rank in the United Nations Secretariat.
<b>UNDG</b>	United Nations Development Group. A forum bringing together UN agencies working on development and the <u>Millennium Development Goals</u> .
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme. Created in 1965. Body responsible for coordinating UN development-related work.
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme. Established in 1972 to lead and coordinate UN environment-related work.
<b>UNEP – WCMC</b>	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. The <u>biodiversity</u> assessment and policy <u>implementation</u> arm of <u>UNEP</u> .
<b>UNESCO</b>	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Created in 1945.
<b>UNFCCC</b>	UN Framework Convention on <u>Climate Change</u> . Adopted in 1992, entered into force in 1994. One of the <u>Rio Conventions</u> .
<b>UNFF</b>	United Nations Forum on Forests. Created in 2000 for 5 years. Provides a forum for policy development and cooperation on matters related to <u>sustainable forest management</u> .

<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme. Established in 1978 to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization. Set up in 1966 and became a <u>specialized agency</u> of the UN in 1985. Has responsibility for promoting industrialization throughout the developing world.
<b>UNITAR</b>	United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Established in 1965 to enhance the effectiveness of the UN through appropriate training and research, including through the conduct of training programmes in multilateral diplomacy and international cooperation and training programmes in the field of social and economic development.
<b>UNOG</b>	United Nations Offices at Geneva.
<b>UNON</b>	United Nations Offices at Nairobi.
<b>UNOV</b>	United Nations Offices at Vienna.
<b>UNU</b>	United Nations University. Established in 1973 to contribute, through research and capacity building, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are of concern to the UN and its <u>Members States</u> .

<b>UNWTO</b>	World Tourism Organization. The UN <u>specialized agency</u> , which serves as a global forum for tourism policy issues and practical source of tourism know-how.
<b>UPOV</b>	International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants. International organization established by the 1961 International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants.
<b>USG</b>	<u>Under Secretary-General</u>
	
<b>Verbatim</b>	Latin phrase meaning “word-for-word,” “in full.” Way of recording a <u>meeting’s</u> discussions.
<b>Vienna Convention</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. Adopted in 1984, entered into force in 1985.</li> <li>2) Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. Adopted in 1969, entered into force in 1980.</li> <li>3) Vienna Convention on Succession of States in respect of Treaties. Adopted in 1978, entered into force in 1996.</li> </ol>
<b>Vienna Setting or Vienna Process</b>	The ‘Vienna Setting’ is an informal negotiating format established to help delegates reach agreement during the final stages of a meeting. It involves a relatively small group of

	<p>delegates, with each major negotiating group (such as the European Union or the Group of 77) represented by only one or two people mandated to make a deal on behalf of their group. It was a format modelled after the final negotiations on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety involving spokespersons for the major negotiating groups. Also referred to as the <u>Cartagena Setting</u>.</p>
<b>VOCs</b>	<p>Volatile Organic Compounds</p>
<b>Voluntary commitments</b>	<p>A draft article considered during the negotiation of the <u>Kyoto Protocol</u> that would have permitted developing countries to voluntarily adhere to legally <u>binding</u> emissions targets. The issue remains important for some negotiators but the proposed language was dropped in the final phase of the negotiations.</p>
<b>Voluntary Contribution</b>	<p>A contribution of any kind that unlike <u>Assessed Contribution</u>, is not assessed under a binding international agreement, including the furnishing of funds for other financial support; services of any kind (including the use of experts or other personnel); or commodities, equipment, supplies, or other material.</p>
<b>Vulnerability</b>	<p>The degree to which a community, population, species, <u>ecosystem</u>, region, agricultural system, or some other quantity is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of <u>climate change</u>.</p>

# W

## Waigani Convention

Shorthand for the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region. Adopted in 1995, entered into force in 2001.

## Waiver

Agreed exemption from an obligation, usually for a limited period of time.

## Wastes

Substances or objects which are disposed of or are intended to be disposed of or are required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law ([Basel Convention](#)).

## WCC

World Climate Conference

## WCMC

UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. The [biodiversity](#) assessment and policy [implementation](#) arm of [UNEP](#).

## WCO

World Customs Organisation. International organization established in 1952 to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations and promote an honest, transparent and predictable Customs environment.

<b>Weighted voting</b>	System in which the votes of different <u>delegations</u> are not equal but instead counted with reference to an agreed formula.
<b>WEOG</b>	Western European and Others Group
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme. Established in 1961. The food aid arm of the UN.
<b>WG</b>	<u>Working Group</u> . Also used for referencing documents from Working Groups.
<b>Whaling Convention</b>	Shorthand for the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling ( <u>ICRW</u> ). Adopted in 1946, entered into force in 1948.
<b>WHC</b>	World Heritage Convention. Shorthand for the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Adopted in 1972 under the aegis of <u>UNESCO</u> , entered into force in 1975. Also used as shorthand for the World Heritage Centre, the equivalent of the <u>Convention's secretariat</u> .
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization. The UN <u>specialized agency</u> for issues related to health. Established in 1948.
<b>WHYCOS</b>	World Hydrological Cycle Observing System. Global programme to strengthen the technical and institutional capacities of hydrological services, establish a global network of national

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hydrological observatories, and promote and facilitate the dissemination and use of water-related information.

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## WIPO

World Intellectual Property Organization. A UN specialized agency, established in 1970 to administer all matters related to intellectual property. WIPO has established an Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, which meets periodically.

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## Wise use

Sustainable utilization for the benefit of humankind in a way compatible with the maintenance of the natural properties of ecosystems within the context of sustainable development.

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## WMO

World Meteorological Organization. One of the UN specialized agencies, established in 1950 to address matters related to meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.

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## Working Group

- 1) During a meeting, a sub-division of the Plenary mandated to negotiate specific issues of the agenda, usually arranged by clusters. Open to all Parties.
  - 2) Between meetings, a subsidiary body established by the governing body of an international agreement to provide it with advice on specific issues. These working
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	<p>groups can be <u>open-ended</u> and meet periodically or be time-bound and meet once only. Open to all Parties. Example: the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing under the <u>Convention on Biological Diversity</u>.</p>
<b>Working languages</b>	<p>Languages in which texts are circulated and considered, and <u>statements</u> may be made during <u>meetings</u>. The official languages of the UN are: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The working language(s) of a particular meeting may be limited to one language, or may include a variety of languages that extend beyond the six UN languages.</p>
<b>Working paper</b>	<p>Informal paper used during a <u>meeting</u> to support negotiations.</p>
<b>World Heritage Site</b>	<p>Designation for places on earth that are of outstanding universal value to humanity and as such, have been included on the World Heritage List to be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy, according to the World Heritage Convention (<u>WHC</u>).</p>
<b>WSSD</b>	<p>World Summit on Sustainable Development. Held in 2002, in Johannesburg, South Africa. The outcomes of the WSSD are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development</li> </ul>

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- The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
  - Type II Partnerships.
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**WTMU**

Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit of INTERPOL

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**WTO**

World Trade Organization. An international organization established in 1995 to provide a forum for trade negotiations, handle trade disputes, monitor national trade policies and provide technical assistance and training for developing countries, among others.

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# Annex

## Resources on terminology relating to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Additional resources on MEA terminology include:

Basel Convention Glossary: <http://www.basel.int/press/glossary.pdf>

Belgian Clearing-House Mechanism's Glossary of Terms related to the CBD: <http://bch-cbd.naturalsciences.be/belgium/glossary/glossary.htm>

Convention on Biological Diversity Controlled Vocabulary: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/lists/cbd-voc.pdf>

CITES Glossary: <http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/terms/index.shtml>

Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals website: <http://www.cms.int/index.html>

European Environment Agency's Glossary of Terms: <http://www.glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary/>

Ozone Secretariat website: <http://www.unep.ch/ozone/index.asp>

Ramsar Glossary: [http://www.ramsar.org/index\\_about\\_ramsar.htm#gloss](http://www.ramsar.org/index_about_ramsar.htm#gloss)

Resource on Taxonomy: AGOVAC (FAO) [http://www.fao.org/aims/ag\\_intro.htm](http://www.fao.org/aims/ag_intro.htm)

Rotterdam Convention website: <http://www.pic.int/index.html>

UN Convention to Combat Desertification Glossary: <http://www.unccd.int/knowledge/glossary.php>

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Glossary: [http://unfccc.int/essential\\_background/glossary/items/2639.php](http://unfccc.int/essential_background/glossary/items/2639.php)

United Nations Treaty Collection "Treaty Reference Guide": <http://untreaty.un.org/English/guide.asp>

US Environmental Protection Agency Ozone Depletion Glossary: <http://www.epa.gov/ozone/defns.html>

World Heritage Convention website: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/about/>

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**[www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)**

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