

Environmental Cooperation

Forms of Global Participation by States

Bilateral Treaty

An agreement or treaty between two states

- Can be used to formalize relations between states (Amity, Aid, Peace, Intelligence, Mutual-Defense)
- Can establish agreements regarding trade and economic relations (Free-Trade Agreements, Preferential Trade Agreements, Trade Pacts)



Solar Panels in Nepal provided in an Agreement with China in the 2016 Nepal-China Agreement

Example: Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

Agreement between the United States and Canada to restore and protect the Great Lakes

- Originally signed in 1972
- Amended in 1983, 1987, and 2012

Agreement addresses physical/chemical composition, efforts against invasive species, pollution, algae growth, and illegal dumping



EPA Administrator and Environment Minister signing Amended Agreement in 2012

Accords/Protocols/Conventions/Multilateral Treaties/Resolution

Legal negotiations between 3 or more countries, sometimes involving dozens of countries

- Wide sweeping agreements which countries must then go enact within their own country

Usually most difficult to pass through authoritarian and democratic states

Some countries may sign with reservations because of personal interests

International delegates gather for UN Climate Change Gathering (COP21) in Paris in 2015



Example: Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)

Originally drafted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature in the 1960s and originally signed by 80 countries in 1973

- Regulates the passage of endangered species over international borders
- Covers over 37,000 species (live and dead)



Intergovernmental Governmental Organizations (IGOs)

An organization composed primarily of sovereign states, or of other intergovernmental organizations

Established by treaties or other requirements

May require countries to contribute money, supplies, information, or man power

Develop administrative bodies

- Sometimes independent from state governments



Example: The Arctic Council

IGO supporting the development and conservation of the Arctic Region

Represented by 8 Arctic states and members of 6 indigenous councils

Allows for scientific data sharing, monitoring, aid (emergency and rescue), and policy recommendations



Sanctions, Embargos, and Restrictions

Sanctions are legal barriers to limit the trading capacity of a particular country

Embargos are complete or partial bans of all trade, or a particular good with a particular country

Trade Restrictions are implemented by countries to protect particular aspects of their own economies by restricting the importing of particular goods, services, or resources



Examples: The Black Market

Illegal trading of goods that have otherwise been made illegal by laws, sanctions, or international agreements

- Especially in Exotic/Rare plants and animals, minerals and metals, human trafficking, weapons, illicit drug trade, or luxury goods

Often leads to organized crime and government corruption



A baby tiger found while trying to be smuggled out of Thailand in 2010