

Key Conservation Agreements

National (USA)

Clean Air Act - 1963 (with ongoing amendments)

Empowers EPA to limit airborne pollutants; 1990 - proposed emissions trading, requirements on gasoline formulations; 2010 - declared CO₂ & greenhouse gases threaten public health

<http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/laws/caa.html>

Endangered Species Act (ESA) - 1973

Tasks all state and federal agencies with evaluating effects of policies on listed endangered species.

<http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/laws/esa.html>

Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) - 1972

Requires dolphin-protection measures in tuna fishery fleets

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/laws/mmpa/>

International

International Pacific Halibut Commission - 1923

Jointly regulates fishery in western USA and Canada

<http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/default.htm>

International Convention for Regulation of Whaling (set up the International Whaling Commission) - 1946

Conserve whale stocks and provide control for whaling industry

<http://www.iwcoffice.org/commission/iwcmain.htm>

Convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources of the High Seas - 1958

Promote international cooperation to protect marine resources from overharvesting

<http://sedac.ciesin.org/entri/register/reg-021.rrr.html>

International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (Europe) - 1969

Regulates (rather opaquely) Atlantic Ocean tuna fisheries

<http://www.iccat.int/en/>

Ramsar Wetlands Agreement - 1971

Among earliest international conservation agreements

<http://www.ramsar.org/>

Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage - 1972

Encourage countries to identify, nominate and protect World Heritage sites

<http://whc.unesco.org/>

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) - 1973

Controls cross-border trade in threatened species; IUCN Red Books evaluate species' status

<http://www.cites.org/>

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS, or "Bonn Convention") - 1979

Promotes habitat protection for migratory birds, mammals and marine animals

<http://www.cms.int/>

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources - 1982

Among first community-level conservation agreements; recognized risks of increased krill catches

<http://www.ccamlr.org/>

- International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) - 1983 (updated 1994)
Encourage countries to protect tropical forests and manage for sustainable harvest & trade
<http://www.itto.int/en/>
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) - 1992
Promoted unification of biodiversity protection with promotion of sustainable development
<http://www.cbd.int/>
- Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) - 1992
Regulates tropical (mostly Pacific Ocean) tuna fisheries; membership optional
<http://www.iatcc.org/HomeENG.htm>
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - 1994
Address global warming through collection and sharing of data, and cooperate in developing solutions
<http://unfccc.int/>
- African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) - 1995 (in force: 1999)
Protects migratory birds (largest agreement under the CMS) that rely on wetlands
<http://www.unep-aewa.org/>
- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels - 2001
Protect wide-ranging seabirds of southern oceans
<http://www.acap.aq>
- Kyoto Protocol Summary - 1997 (in force: 2005)
Recognized CO₂ emissions as global climate threat; sets binding targets for industrialized nations
http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php
- Kyoto Protocol Text- 1997 (in force: 2005)
Recognized CO₂ emissions as global climate threat; promotes reduction of emissions
<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.html>
- Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) - 1997 (in force: 2005)
Component of Kyoto rewarding reforestation and afforestation for carbon-sequestration
<http://cdm.unfccc.int/index.html>
- Reduced Emissions from Deforestation & Degradation (REDD) - Bali UNFCCC conference, 2007
Recognizes deforestation's contribution to carbon release; promotes protection of standing forests
<http://www.forestforclimate.org/Analysis/>