



Managing Global Environmental Challenges:

The Role of Trade-Related Measures in Multilateral Environmental Agreements

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Major Global Trends

🌐 Over the past 50 years, humans have changed ecosystems more rapidly and extensively than in any comparable period of time in human history



🌐 The net loss of global forest area during the 1990s was about 94 million hectares (2.4% of all forests)



* Source: UNEP Global Environmental Outlook Reports 1-3

Major Global Trends

🌐 Pesticide use globally accounts for 3.5-5 million acute poisonings a year*

🌐 Currently, 24% of the world's mammals and 12% of birds are threatened*



🌐 The volume of hazardous and toxic wastes generated from human activities has increased exponentially over the last 20 years*

* Source: UNEP Global Environmental Outlook Reports 1-3

MEAs: Solutions to Global Challenges

- Transboundary and **global environmental problems and trends** (e.g. ozone depletion, loss of biodiversity, transport of hazardous waste) are of international concern
- Addressing transboundary and global environmental problems requires **international cooperation**
- Over **200 international environmental agreements** have been negotiated, signed and ratified by governments

Selected MEAs

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**)
- **Montreal Protocol** on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
- Cartagena **Biosafety Protocol**
- Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (**PIC**)
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (**POPs**)

CITES



Why?

To ensure **international trade** in species of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival

When? Signed – 1973
Entry into force - 1975

Who? 167 Parties (136 are WTO Members)

www.cites.org



CITES

What?

Regulates **international trade** in selected species identified in three appendices, depending on the level of threat they face

How?

Requires the import, export, and re-export of these species be authorized through a **licensing and permit system**

The Montreal Protocol

Why? To end the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances

When? Signed – 1987

Entry into force – 1989

Who? 188 Parties (145 are WTO Members)

<http://www.unep.org/ozon>



Montreal Protocol

What?

Regulates the **production and consumption** of ozone-depleting substances

How?

- Requires implementation of a series of **control measures** over time, including **phase-out schedules** for various categories of ODS
- Trade in ODS **prohibited with non-Parties**
- **Multilateral Fund** - US\$1.76 billion for 4,700 projects in 139 developing countries

Biosafety Protocol

Why?

To protect biodiversity and human health from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms



When? Adopted – 2000
Entry into force - 2003

Who? 111 Parties (90 are WTO Members)

<http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety>

Biosafety Protocol

What?

Regulates the transfer, handling and use of LMOs

How?

- Establishes an **advanced informed agreement (AIA)** procedure and a **Biosafety Clearinghouse**
- Creates **simplified procedures** for LMOs destined for **direct use as food, feed or processing**
- Establishes **handling, transport, packaging and documentation requirements**

Rotterdam Convention

Why?

To protect human health and the environment against potentially harmful impacts from certain **hazardous chemicals and pesticides** in international trade

When? Signed – 1998

Entry into force - 2004

Who? 80 Parties (68 are WTO Members)



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

Rotterdam Convention

What?

Requires the sharing of information about hazardous chemicals and pesticides to be traded

How?

- Establishes a **prior informed consent (PIC)** procedure for listed chemicals and pesticides
- Requires exporting Parties to **require their exporters to comply** with decisions by importing Parties
- Requires exporting Party to inform importing Party if chemical is **banned or restricted** in their jurisdiction even if not listed in Convention

Stockholm Convention

Why?

To protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants

When? Signed – 2001

Entry into force - 2004

Who? 93 Parties (78 are WTO Members)



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

Stockholm Convention

What?

Requires the **elimination or restriction** of production and use of intentionally produced POPs

How?

- **Prohibits imports** of listed substances except if destined for environmentally sound disposal or if covered by specific exemption
- **Prohibits exports** except for environmentally sound disposal or if covered by specific exemption
- **Requires reduction or elimination of releases** from unintentional production and stockpiles

Overview of trade-related measure functions

- To control or regulate the **transboundary movement of environmentally harmful goods**
- To control or regulate the **transboundary movement of goods** sought to be **protected**
- To ensure **exchange of information and consent**
- To encourage **compliance**
- To promote **broad participation** and avoid “free-riding”

Summary

MEAs containing trade-related measures share certain characteristics:

- **Closely tailored** to address specific problems
- **Carefully negotiated** and **broadly supported**
- Based on **best available science** and **precautionary approach**
- Depend on **international cooperation**
- Reflect principle of **common but differentiated responsibilities**

THANK YOU!

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