



Managing Global Environmental Challenges - The Role of Trade – Related Measures in Multilateral Environmental Agreements

UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development
National Training Workshop for Cambodia
Phnom Penh, 5-6 October 2004

Overview

- Global Environmental Trends
- Role of Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- Background on Trade-Related Measures
- Developing Mutually Supportive Trade and Environment Policies

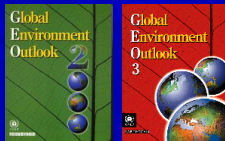


Major Global Trends

🌍🌊 Under present consumption patterns, 2 out of every 3 persons on earth will live in water-stress conditions by 2025



🌍🌡️ Global CO² emissions nearly quadrupled between 1950 and 1996 and continue to rise



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

Major Global Trends

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



🌍🌫️ Depletion of the ozone layer has reached record levels (in September 2000 the Antarctic ozone hole covered more than 28 million km³)

Role of MEAs

- Transboundary and global environmental problems (e.g. climate change, ozone depletion, loss of biodiversity) are of international concern
- Developing countries are particularly vulnerable to the effects of such problems
- Addressing transboundary and global environmental problems requires international cooperation

Role of MEAs

- Countries have recognized that international cooperation is an important complement to domestic conservation and environmental protection strategies
- 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)
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
- Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol

CITES



Key Objective:

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

Cambodia ratified in 1997

<http://www.cites.org>



Basel Convention

Key Objectives:

- To reduce transboundary movements of hazardous wastes
- To minimize the creation of such wastes
- To prohibit the shipment of hazardous wastes to countries lacking the capacity to dispose of them in an environmentally sound manner

Cambodia acceded in 2001

<http://www.basel.int>



The Montreal Protocol

Key Objective:

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

Cambodia acceded in 2001

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



Convention on Biological Diversity

Key Objectives:

- The conservation of biological diversity
- The sustainable use of its components
- The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources

Cambodia acceded in 1995

<http://www.biodiv.org>



Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Key Objective:

- To protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms



Cambodia acceded in 2003

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

MEA Implementation

- MEAs rely on a balanced package of measures to support their implementation
 - Technical Assistance
 - Capacity Building
 - Financial Assistance
 - Trade-Related Measures

Trade-Related Measures

Trade-related measures can serve a number of purposes:

- Control transboundary movement of environmentally harmful goods and services
- Remove market incentives that promote environmental harm
- Encourage compliance
- Promote broad participation

Categories of Trade-Related Measures

- Measures promoting early exchange of relevant information to support management and cooperation
- Measures supporting legal trade
- Measures limiting or prohibiting trade between parties
- Measures restricting or banning trade between parties and non-parties

Promoting Information Exchange

- Prior and advanced notification and consent
- Most commonly used “trade-related environmental measure”
- Increases transparency
- Redistributes management burden
- Examples (CITES, Montreal Protocol)

Supporting Legal Trade

Labeling, Packaging, Licensing, Transport and Other Standards



- Ensures international transportation complies with safe management provisions
- Examples (Basel, Cartagena Protocol)

Limiting or Prohibiting Trade Between Parties

- Quotas, Export and Import Prohibitions
- Used where threat posed by a product or service to the environment is significant
- Examples (CITES, Basel)



Prohibiting Trade Between Parties and Non-Parties

- Encourages broad participation
- Limits amount of “free-riding”
- Examples (Montreal Protocol, Basel)

Technical and Financial Assistance

- Complements other provisions, including trade-related provisions
- Addresses differences in environmental management capacities
- Examples (Basel, Montreal Protocol)
- Challenge of limited resources

Need for Mutually Supportive Trade and Environment Policies

- Economic activity relies on the environment
- Trade should allow for the optimal use of the world's resources in accordance with the objective of sustainable development
- WTO recognizes that trade should aim to “protect and preserve” the environment in a manner consistent with the needs and concerns of countries at different levels of economic development



THANK YOU!

For additional information, please visit the CBTF website at:

www.unep-unctad.org/cbtf