

Chapter 12: Environmental Protection

Glossary

Climate change: changes in the earth's climate, including increases in the global average temperature

Common but differentiated responsibility: the claim that while the environment is a common concern, states have different levels of responsibility for protecting the environment

Environmental impact assessment: a process for evaluating the impact of a policy or project on environmental outcomes

Exclusive economic zone: sea zone in which coastal states can regulate economic activities and natural resource conservation; extends up to 200 n.m.

Framework agreement: an agreement that contains objectives and principles, and creates an institution to promote these objectives and principles

Free-riding: a situation in which actors provide less cooperation than would be optimal for society as a whole

Fugitive resources: resources that move across borders, such as migratory birds, fish, and whales

Global commons: resources that belong to no specific state

Greenhouse gases: atmospheric substances—including carbon dioxide and methane—that modify the impact of sunlight on the earth's surface

Industrialization: the shift from agrarian production to manufacturing

Inter-generational equity: the claim that current generations of humans should leave ample resources for future generations

International watercourses: freshwater resources—including lakes and rivers—that are shared by multiple states

Linkage: the use of conditional economic benefits and punishments to encourage compliance with international agreements

New International Economic Order: a set of trade, investment, development, and assistance policies to promote the interests of developing states in the 1970s

Ozone layer: the outer layer of the atmosphere that filters dangerous radiation from sunlight

Pollution: the release of substances that harm the atmosphere, water, and/or living resources

Protocol: an agreement that contains detailed rules for a specific issue

Public good: a good that is non-excludable and non-rivalrous

Right to development: the right of a state to create its own policies for exploiting its natural resources

Rio Declaration: a non-binding document from 1992 that includes general principles about development and the environment

Science: the intellectual claim that natural processes can be understood by human reason based on observation and experimentation

Sink: a system that absorbs more greenhouse gases than it releases

Stockholm Declaration: a non-binding document from 1972 that includes general principles about development and the environment

Tragedy of the commons: a type of collaboration problem in which states jointly benefit from preserving a common resource, but each state is tempted to unilaterally deviate to over-consumption of the resource

Transboundary harm: a situation in which an act in one state causes or threatens harm to the persons, property, or environment of another state