

Environmental Protection

Environmental protection is a practice of protecting the natural environment on individual, organization controlled or governmental levels, for the benefit of both the environment and humans.

Environment Protection Act

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India

The Environment (Protection) Act was enacted in 1986 with the objective of providing for the protection and improvement of the environment. It empowers the Central Government to establish authorities [under section 3(3)] charged with the mandate of preventing environmental pollution in all its forms and to tackle specific environmental problems that are peculiar to different parts of the country. The Act was last amended in 1991.

Objectives

Since the 1960s, activity of *environmental movements* has created awareness of the various *environmental issues*. There is no agreement on the extent of the environmental impact of human activity and even scientific dishonesty occurs, so protection measures are occasionally debated.

Due to the pressures of over consumption, population and technology, the biophysical environment is being degraded, sometimes permanently. This has been recognized, and governments have begun placing restraints on activities that cause environmental degradation.

The power conferred by the Environment Protection Act are followed under the following heads:

- **Amendments to Principal Rules**
- **Coastal Regulation Zone**
- **Delegation of Powers**
- **Eco-marks Scheme**
- **Eco-sensitive Zone**
- **Environmental Clearance - General**
- **Environmental Labs**
- **Environmental Standards**
- **Hazardous Substances Management**
- **Loss Of Ecology**
- **Noise Pollution**
- **Ozone Layer Depletion**
- **Water Pollution**
- **2-T Oil**

Approaches

Voluntary environmental agreements

In industrial countries, voluntary environmental agreements often provide a platform for companies to be recognized for moving beyond the minimum regulatory standards and thus support the development of best environmental practice.

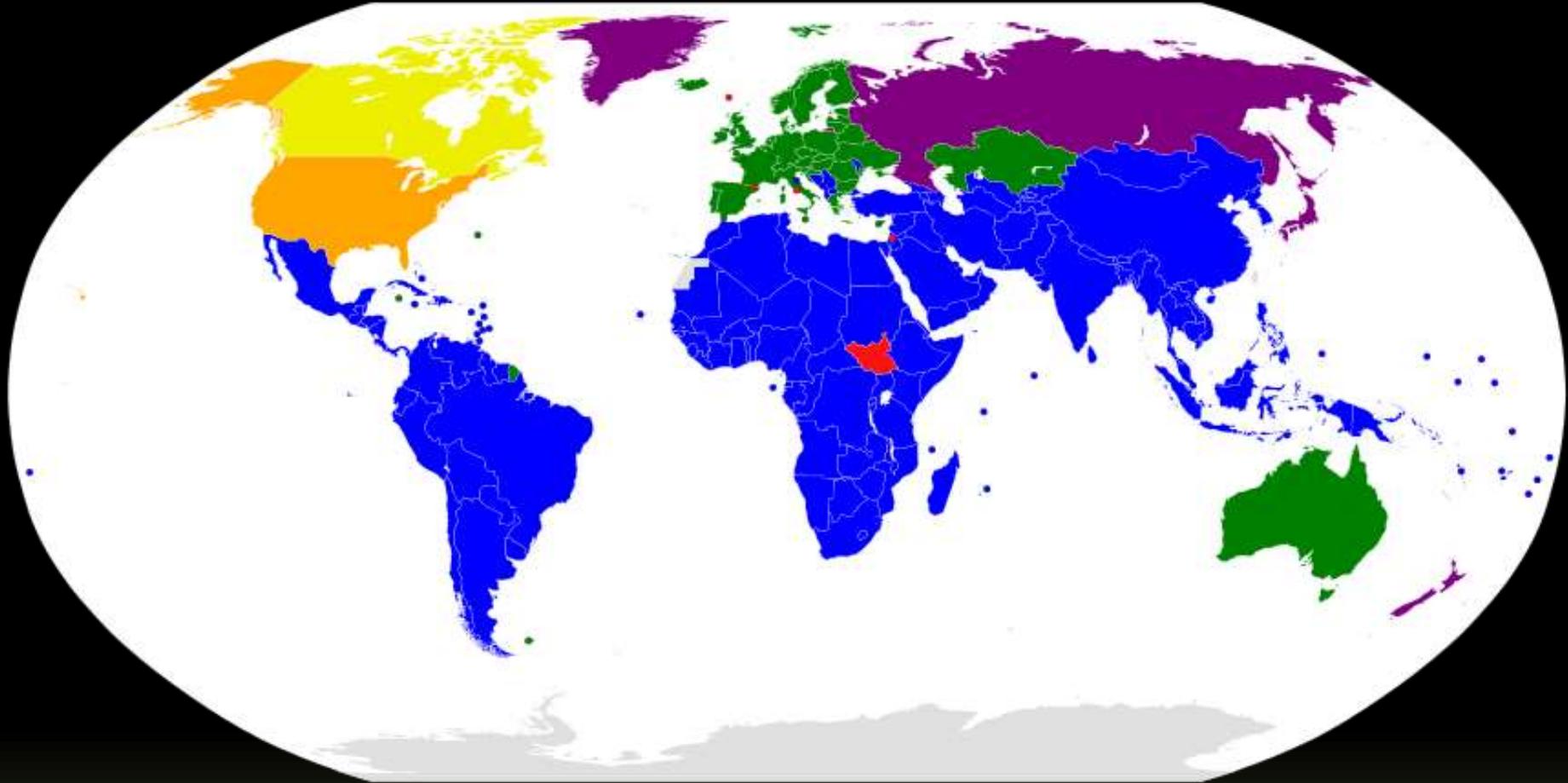
Ecosystems approach

An ecosystems approach to resource management and environmental protection aims to consider the complex interrelationships of an entire ecosystem in decision making rather than simply responding to specific issues and challenges.

International environmental agreements

These international environmental agreements are sometimes legally binding documents that have legal implications when they are not followed and, at other times, are more agreements in principle or are for use as codes of conduct. Some of the most well-known international agreements include the *Kyoto Protocol* and others.

Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



- ❖ Annex B parties with binding targets in the second period
- ❖ Annex B parties with binding targets in the first period but not the second
- ❖ Non-Annex B parties without binding targets
- ❖ Annex B parties with binding targets in the first period but which withdrew from the Protocol
- ❖ Signatories to the Protocol that have not ratified
- ❖ Other UN member states and observers that are not party to the Protocol

Environmental Movement

The *environmental movement*, also including conservation and green politics, is a diverse scientific, social, and political movement for addressing environmental issues. The movement is centered on **ecology, health, and human rights**.

- **Conservation movement** – protect natural areas for sustainable development
- **Environmental conservation** - involved in conserving the natural aspects of the environment
- **Environmental health movement** - focuses on clean water, efficient sewage handling, stable population growth, nutrition, preventive medicine, aging
- **Environmental justice** - seeks to link "social" and "ecological" environmental concerns, while at the same time preventing de facto racism, and classism
- **Ecology movement** - involve the value of Earth and other interactions between humans, science, and responsibility
- **Bright green environmentalism** - emphasizes on technology, good design and more thoughtful use of energy and resources
- **Light green and dark green environmentalism** - lifestyle choice (light greens) and relinquishment of technology (dark greens)
- **Deep Ecology** - views the diversity and integrity of the planetary ecosystem
- **The anti-nuclear movement** - opposes the use of various nuclear technologies

Environmental Issues

- **Human overpopulation** - Exploitation, Industrialisation, Land reclamation, Waste, Overshoot, Overdrafting, Water conflict, Water scarcity, Population density, Urbanization, Biocapacity
- **Hydrology** - Environmental impacts of reservoirs, Tile drainage, Flooding, Landslide
- **Intensive farming** - Agricultural subsidy, Intensive animal farming, Environmental effects of meat production, Slash and burn, Overgrazing, Pesticide drift, Plasticulture, Tile drainage, Nutrient pollution, Irrigation
- **Land use** - Built environment, Desertification, Habitat fragmentation, Land degradation, Habitat destruction, Urban heat island, Urban sprawl
- **Nuclear issues** - Nuclear fallout, Nuclear meltdown, Nuclear power, Nuclear weapons, Nuclear and radiation accidents, Nuclear safety, High-level radioactive waste management
- **Natural disasters** - Earthquake, Vulcanism, Cyclone, Tsunami, Landslide, Flood

Effects

- **Climate change-** Global warming, Fossil fuels, Greenhouse gas, Flooding, Urban Heat Islands, Ocean acidification, Environmental impact of coal industry
- **Environmental degradation-** Habitat destruction, Invasive species
- **Environmental health-** Air quality, Asthma, Developmental disability, Lead poisoning
- **Environmental issues with energy-** Industry (Coal, Energy), Hydraulic fracturing
- **Environmental issues with war-** Depleted Uranium, Scorched earth
- **Pollution-** Air, Soil, Water
- **Resource depletion-** Consumerism, Fishing, Logging, Mining, Water depletion
- **Toxicants-** Bioaccumulation, Biomagnification, Explosives, Toxic heavy metals, CFC, DDT
- **Waste-** Electronic waste, Illegal dumping, Medical waste, Toxic waste, Litter, Landfill

Mitigation

Conservation

Ecosystems- Coral bleaching, In-situ leach, Habitat fragmentation, Edge effect

Fishing- Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, Marine pollution, Whaling

Forests- Clearcutting, Deforestation, Illegal logging

Natural resources- Resource depletion, Exploitation of natural resources

Species- Endangered species, Genetic diversity, Habitat destruction, Poaching

Energy conservation- Efficient energy use

Renewable energy- Renewable energy commercialization

Recreation- Protected areas

Water conservation

Disaster mitigation- Hazard mapping, Reinforced tornado safe rooms,
Disaster mitigation public awareness programs

Environmental law- Environmental crime, Environmental justice, Regulatory capture, Polluter pays principle, Precautionary principle



***Yosemite National Park* in California. One of the first protected areas in the United States**



The Great Barrier Reef in Australia



Panorama of the *Iguazu falls* in Brazil



The *Longwanqun National Forest Park* is a nationally protected nature area in Huinan County, Jilin, China



Zebras at the Serengeti savana plains in Tanzania



The *axolotl* is an endemic species from the central part of Mexico

Thank You

Subhanil Guha