

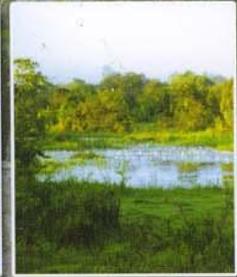


# HAND BOOK ON MEAs

(MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENT AGREEMENTS)

- Sri Lanka -

2008



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES  
SRI LANKA

## Introduction

Since the number of multilateral environmental institution and agreements has grown steadily over the past several years, it is important to understand the context in which current environmental discussions and negotiations occur. More and more state governments participate in international negotiations, whether in a bilateral, trilateral or multilateral context. A key consideration is that Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) have largely grown out of and been produced by large international conferences convened by the United Nations (UN).

MEAs are living instruments, featuring annual or biennial meetings of the Parties, inter-sessional meetings of technical and expert groups and inter-sessional written submissions. These various activities are intended to move the environmental agenda forward and keep pace with scientific development. Because of this, the number of international meetings has proliferated, with more public officers taking part in negotiating a wide range of environmental issues, than ever before.

Sri Lanka has actively participated in the global environment partnership. In this process, the importance of working and making decisions in a cohesive and united framework has been agreed upon and several MEAs have been ratified. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources functions as the focal point for 16 MEAs.

This Hand book has been developed to serve the needs of various agencies engaged in coordinating activities and effectively implementing international agreements relevant to the environment conservation and development in the country.

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## **Important Landmarks in Conservation of Environment...**

### **United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE) in 1972**

The relationship between economic development and environmental degradation was first placed on the international agenda in 1972, at the *United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE)* in Stockholm. After the Conference, Governments set up the *United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*, which today continues to act as a global catalyst for action to protect the environment.

### **World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in 1983**

By 1983, when the UN set up the *World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED)*, environmental degradation which had been viewed as a side effect of industrial wealth with only a limited impact, later previewed to be a matter of survival for developing nations.

### **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) / Earth Summit in 1992**

In 1992 at The Rio de Janeiro with the participation of the 178 heads of states, *United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)* was held for the first time. It is commonly known as the Earth Summit, where world leaders discussed about the adverse impacts of the development on the environment and at the end of the summit they adopted many important Conventions and Principles.

### **World Summit on Sustainable Development(WSSD) in 2002**

In December 2002 the *World Summit on Sustainable Development(WSSD)* convened in Johannesburg, South Africa was the largest intergovernmental event ever held, the summit focused on implementing sustainable development and poverty alleviations as its key themes.

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## **Steady increase in Multilateral Environmental Institutions and Organizations over the last twenty years**

- UNEP-** The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the voice of the environment in the United Nations system. It is an advocate, an educator, a catalyst and a facilitator in promoting the wise use of the planet's natural assets for sustainable development.
- UNDP-** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating change and connecting countries to acquire knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. They are on the ground in 166 countries, facilitating to work with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges.
- GEF-** The Global Environment Facility (GEF), established in 1991, helps developing countries fund projects and programs that protect the global environment. GEF grants support projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and to persistent organic pollutants.
- SACEP-** South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is an inter-governmental organization, established in 1982 by the governments of South Asia to promote and support protect, manage and enhance quality in the environment in the region
- IUCN-** The World Conservation Union(IUCN) is the world's largest and most important conservation network. The Union brings together 83 States, 110 Government Agencies, more than 800 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in a unique worldwide partnership for the conservation of the environment.

## **Terms related to Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs)**

**Parties-** States and International Organizations that have the capacity to enter into treaties may be Parties to an MEA.<sup>1</sup>

**Signature-**

After the adoption of an MEA at a Diplomatic Conference, it is open for signature and States are invited to sign it. States usually have a limited period of time to become a signatory.<sup>1</sup>

**Entry into force-**

An MEA only enters into force once the number of ratification or accessions required have been attained.

**Ratification or Accession-**

To become a party to an MEA, a State must ratify it or accede to it. After the MEA is adopted, it will usually be open for signature and then ratification. A State that has not taken part in the negotiation or that has not signed it prior to the closing date for signature only has the option of acceding to it to become bound.<sup>1</sup>

**Observer states -**

The United Nations, its specialized Agencies and State are not Party to the Convention. The Chair may invite them to participate without the right to vote, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.<sup>1</sup>

**Focal Point -**

The focal point is usually responsible for the international processes, such as negotiating MEAs and participating in the Conferences of the Parties. Most States designate their Ministry of Foreign Affairs or a similar body as the political focal point.<sup>1</sup>

**Conference of the Parties (COP)/ Meeting of the Parties(MOP)-**

Governing body for the Parties and its decision making authority. For Convention this body is a COP, while a Protocol will have a MOP.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Negotiators Handbook – Multilateral Environmental Agreements, 200, Workshop held in Colombo

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## **Forms of MEAs**

**Agreement** is the international agreement concluded between two or more parties each possessing treaty making capacity

**Treaty** is a generic term embracing all instruments binding under international law, regardless of their formal designation, concluded between two or more international judicial persons

**Declaration** is a unilateral formal or public statement or document stating agreed upon standards but which is not legally binding. The United Nations General Assembly often issues Declarations which are influential but legally nonbinding.

- An interpretative declaration is a declaration by a state as to its understanding of some matter covered by a treaty or its interpretation of a particular provision.
- A mandatory declaration is a declaration specifically required by the treaty itself. Unlike an interpretative declaration, a mandatory declaration is binding on the state making it
- An optional declaration is a declaration that a treaty specially provides for, but does not require. Unlike an interpretative declaration, an optional declaration is binding on the state making it

**Convention** is the international law, which concludes common conceptions, rules as well as the working approaches of international parties and governments on environmental protection.

**Protocol** is generally a subsequent and separate agreement that adds to or modifies an existing convention only for the State that becomes Parties to it.

### **Code of conduct**

is a set of rules outlining the responsibilities of or proper practices for an individual or organization or a set of conventional principles and expectations that are considered binding on any person who is a member of a particular group.

### **Environmental principles**

are the essential concepts which, explicitly or implicitly, underlie all environmental legislation, policies, and programs. The explicit statement of principles is important, particularly when preparing draft legislation, or environmental policy set at a high level of generality. Statements of principle are also important in establishing the legitimacy of international law.

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## **Multilateral Environment Agreements(MEAs) and Sri Lanka**

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are internationally agreed-upon measures to protect the environment and/or to promote sustainable development and require the engagement of stakeholders at all levels to make them truly effective. They detail many important critical issues of global environmental issues.

MEAs also can define as an agreement between states which may take the form of “soft-law”, setting out non-legally binding principles, which parties will respect when considering actions, which affect a particular environmental issue, or “hard-law”, which specify legally-binding actions to be taken to work toward an environmental objective.

Sri Lanka has acceded or ratified around 40 Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources is the National focal point of 16 MEAs. MEAs can be divided under subject related areas as follows;

### **1. Atmosphere**

- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985)
- Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC-1992)
- Kyoto Protocol (1997)

### **2. Bio Diversity**

- International Plant Protection Convention (1951)
- Plant Protection Agreement for Asia and Pacific Region (1956)
- Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the living resources of the high seas (1958)
- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971)
- Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES -1973)
- Convention on the conservation Of Migratory Species (CMS-1979)
- Agreement on the network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia and the Pacific (1988)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-1992)
- Agreement for the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (1993)
- Agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the United nations Convention on the Law of Seas relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and migratory fish stocks (1995)
- Cartagena Protocol on Bio Safety (2000)

### **3. Land**

- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification ( UNCCD- 1994)

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#### **4. Marine & Coastal**

- Convention on the Continental Shelf (1958)
- Convention on the High Seas (1958)
- Convention concerning the protection of workers against ionising radiations(1960)
- Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water (1963)
- Treaty on principles governing the activities of states in the exploration and use of outer space including the moon and other celestial bodies.(1967)
- Convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and on their destruction (1972)
- Convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques (1977)
- United Nations Convention on the Law of Seas (1982)
- Convention on early notification of a Nuclear Accident (1986)
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and their destruction (1993)
- Agreement relating to the implementation of part XI of the United Nations of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (1994)

#### **5. Chemical**

- International Convention Relating to intervention on the high seas in cases of oil pollution casualties (1969)
- International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil pollution Damage (1969)
- International Convention on the establishment of an international fund for compensation for oil pollution damage (1971)
- The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from the ships (MARPOL-1973)
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (1989)
- Rotterdam Convention (1998)
- Stockholm Convention on Persistence Organic Pollutants (POPs -2001)

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# 1. The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer

[www.ozone.unep.org](http://www.ozone.unep.org)

## **Introduction:**

The issue of ozone depletion was first discussed by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1976. A meeting of experts on the ozone layer was convened in 1977, after which UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) set up the Coordinating Committee of the Ozone Layer (CCOL) to periodically assess ozone depletion. Intergovernmental negotiations for an international agreement to phase out ozone depleting substances started in 1981 and concluded with the adoption of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer in March 1985. The Vienna Convention encourages intergovernmental cooperation on research, systematic observation of the ozone layer, monitoring of CFC production, and the exchange of information.

Recognizing that world-wide emissions of certain substances can significantly deplete and otherwise modify the ozone layer in a manner that is likely to result in adverse effects on human health and the environment and determined to protect the ozone layer by taking precautionary measures to control equitably total global emissions of substances that deplete it, with the ultimate objective of their elimination on the basis of developments in scientific knowledge, Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was adopted in September 1987. It was designed so that the phase out schedules could be revised on the basis of periodic scientific and technological assessments. The Protocol was adjusted to accelerate the phase out schedules. It has also been amended to introduce other kinds of control measures and to add new controlled substances to the list.

**Objective:** Protection of the Ozone Layer through international cooperation in the areas of scientific research, monitoring and of information exchange.

**Date of Adoption: 22.03.1985**

**Date of Entry into Force: 22.09.1988**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 15.12.1989**

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka: 15.12.1989**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 195**

**National Focal Point:** Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources

## **Activities conducted to implement the Convention at country level:**

Sri Lanka has ratified and accessed the **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer** in December 1989 under this convention and all the activities carried out according to the guidelines of Montreal Protocol.

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## 2. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer- [www.ozone.unep.org](http://www.ozone.unep.org)

**Introduction:** The Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer is a landmark international agreement designed to protect the stratospheric ozone layer. Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) are man-made chemicals that, when released into the atmosphere, can cause the depletion of the Ozone Layer. This leads to increased levels of ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth's surface, which results in higher rates of skin cancer, eye cataracts and damage to people's immune systems. It also diminishes the productivity of food crops and reduces levels of plankton in the ocean.

Since 1987 the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer has sought to reverse past damage done to the Ozone Layer by supporting efforts to eliminate the consumption and production of ODS. With the financial support of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, the Global Environment Facility and bi-lateral donors, UNDP assists developing countries and countries with economies in transition in complying with the Montreal Protocol's control measures.

**Objective:** Reduction and the eventual elimination of the consumption and production of unanthropogenic Ozone Depleting Substances

**Date of Adoption: 16.09.1987**

**Date of Entry into Force: 01.01.1989**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 15.12.1989**

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka: 15.12.1989**

**Number of countries which have ratified the Convention: 195**

**National Focal Point:** Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources

<p><b>Ozone depleting substances:</b> Ozone depleting substances (ODS) are those substances which deplete the ozone layer and are widely used in refrigerators, air-conditioners, fire extinguishers, in dry cleaning, as solvents for cleaning, electronic equipment and as agricultural fumigants. Ozone depleting substances include: Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), Halon, Carbon tetrachloride, Methyl chloroform, Hydrobromofluorocarbons (HBFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), Methyl bromide &amp; Bromochloromethane</p>
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### Activities conducted by the NOU to implement the Montreal Protocol at country level.

- 1) Sri Lanka ratified all the amendments to the Montreal protocol. (London, Copenhagen, Montreal & Beijing)
- 2) To track the Sri Lanka's effort as part of the Institutional Strengthening(IS) project, the Montreal Protocol Unit (MPU) was established in July 1994 and now it is known as National Ozone Unit, (NOU).

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- 3) In the year 2000 the South Asia Regional Network of Ozone Officers was held in Sri Lanka in cooperation with the Sri Lankan MPU.
  - 4) 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the parties to the Montréal Protocol was held in Colombo on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2001. The meeting of the implementation committee was also held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2001, followed by the Bureau meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October.
  - 5) South Asia ODS Officers Network Meeting was held in Sri Lanka from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> December 2006 in cooperation with the NOU.
  - 6) Sri Lanka's ODS consumption data has been collected and reported to Ozone and Multilateral Fund Secretariat annually.
  - 7) In order to control ODS imports, exports and consumption several gazette notifications were published under the Import and Export Control Act and the National Environmental Act. Proceeding along with the Montreal Protocol obligations, Sri Lanka has introduced a licensing system to control the imports of ODS.
  - 8) In compliance with Montreal Protocol obligation, Sri Lanka was able to reduce and control all ODS imports and consumption in country level. As a significant achievement, Sri Lanka achieved Zero level CFC consumption in the year 2008, two year ahead of the Montreal Protocol targets.
  - 9) To strengthen efforts and expedite this process several bilateral projects under the key projects of Refrigerant Management Plan(RMP) and National Compliance Action Plan(NCAP) of Sri Lanka have been put into practice effectively.
    - i) Consequently, four major refrigerator, deep freezer and aerosol manufacturing factories have been converted to ozone friendly technology.
    - ii) 71 Recovery and Recycling Centers and 12 Mobile Air Conditioning Centers have been established island wide and donated about 200 Recovery /Recycle machines to Refrigeration and AC workshops and technical colleges island wide.
    - iii) Handed over sets of training equipment to institutions that are involved in training AC/Ref technicians around the country.
    - iv) Refrigerant Identifiers were provided to Sri Lanka Customs.
    - v) Established a Ozone Information Center at Sri Lanka Customs.
    - vi) 200 Government vehicles fitted with AC systems working with CFC 12 refrigerant were retrofitted to ozone friendly refrigerants.
    - vii) A Data Bank has been established for AC/ref service centers and technicians and introduced safety standards for refrigeration
    - viii) A number of awareness programmes including seminar and various competitions, have been conducted, intending for different targets groups.
    - ix) Under the Training Programmes, number of Training workshops have been conducted and more than 3000 technicians and 900 custom officers were trained and certified.
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- x) Number of print media publications, TV and radio programmes, and many other publicity activities are being conducted together with many other publications printed and published works. Most of these publications are available to the general public and also NOU Official Web site provides updated information.
  - xi) Environmental Friendly Refrigeration Association of Sri Lanka (EFRASL) was formed under the auspices of the National Ozone Unit to address the issue of Ozone Depleting Substances in the Refrigeration Sector in Sri Lanka.
  - xii) To control of MeBr use in Sri Lanka there were two successfully completed projects funded by Multilateral Fund. Those projects were to eliminate the use of MeBr in all remaining uses emphasizing on fumigation excluding QPS application and to recommend regulatory and other measures which the government of Sri Lanka will put in place to ensure the phasing out of MeBr use. As a result of this efforts presently under taken in Sri Lanka, Overall quantity of MeBr used has been greatly reduced in non QPS purpose.
  - xiii) The National Halon Bank Management Plan (HBMP) of Sri Lanka approved in the 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the ExCom of the Multilateral Fund is being progressing fruitfully

#### **Benefits & Opportunities**

- 1) Funds for all the above activities were received from the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol through UNDP and UNEP.
- 2) Sri Lanka obtained latest ozone friendly technologies through these projects.
- 3) If Sri Lanka is not a signatory to the Montreal Protocol it is impossible to import any ODS from any other signatory country of the Montreal Protocol
- 4) Benefits of education and awareness creation.
- 5) Helping to create a name for Sri Lanka as an environmental friendly country.
- 6) Sri Lanka was appointed with chairman of the Vienna Convention/Montreal Protocol during the meeting held in Montreal in 2008

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### 3. **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) [www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int)**

**Introduction:** The debate on global climate change particularly in relation to human interventions has begun since 1980s. As a result of such efforts, the United Nations General Assembly established the International Negotiating Committee (INC) for a Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1990. The INC drafted the Convention and was adopted at the UN Headquarters of New York. It was opened for signature at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit from 4th to 14th June 1992.

The Convention on Climate Change sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change. It recognizes that the climate system is a shared resource whose stability can be affected by industrial and other emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the "supreme body" of the Convention, as its highest decision-making authority. It is an association of all the countries that are Parties to the Convention

The Convention established two permanent subsidiary bodies: the **Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)** and the **Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)**. These bodies give advice to the COP and each has a specific mandate. They are both open to participation by any Party and governments often send representatives, who are experts in the fields of the respective bodies.

**Objective:** Stabilization of greenhouse gas (GHG) (Carbon dioxide -CO<sub>2</sub>, Methane-CH<sub>4</sub>, Nitrous Oxide-N<sub>2</sub>O, PerFluoro Carbon PFCs, HydroFluoro Carbons-HFCs, SulphurhexaFluoride-SF<sub>6</sub>) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climatic systems.

**Date of Adoption: 09.05.1992**

**Date of Entry into force: 21.03.1994**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 23.11.1993**

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka: 21.03.1994**

**Number of countries which ratified the Convention: 192**

**National Focal Point:** Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources

#### **Activities conducted to implement the Convention at country level:**

- 1) The preparation of the Second National Communication of Sri Lanka is in progress
- 2) The Initial National Communication of Sri Lanka was prepared and submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat in October 2000.
- 3) Preparation of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory (1993-1995)
- 4) Sri Lanka is voluntarily participating in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which was adopted by the Kyoto Protocol in 1997.
- 5) Pioneering experience in conducting many national programmes to meet obligations under the UNFCCC with the financial support from various international donors.
- 6) Establishment of the Climate Change Secretariat (CCS) under the Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources in view of the urgent need for adopting a comprehensive national approach to address climate change challenges.

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- 7) The establishment of the Center for Climate Change Studies (CCCS) of the Department of Meteorology, to take the lead role in conducting research ,training and awareness programmes on climate change.
  - 8) Establishment of the Sri Lanka Carbon Fund (SLCF) to facilitate to obtain benefits under the CDM mechanism for Sri Lanka development.
  - 9) Carried out a Capacity Assessment under the National Capacity needs Self Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA) Project to implement the Rio Conventions and preparation of a Capacity Development Action Plan (2005-2007)

**What is GHG:** Green House Gases are components of the atmosphere that contribute to the greenhouse effects. Greenhouse gases include water vapour, Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), Methen (CH<sub>4</sub>), Nitrous oxide(N<sub>2</sub>O), Perfluorocarbon (PFCs), Hydrofluorocarbon (HFCs) and Sulphurhexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub> )

### **Benefits & Opportunities**

- 1) Assessing vulnerability and adaptation to Climate Change as well as developing and implementing adaptation plans and measures.
- 2) Developing and transferring technology and developing National Climate Change Programmes.
- 3) Implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
- 4) Gather and share information on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, national policies and best practices .
- 5) Education, training and raising public awareness on possible climate change impacts.
- 6) Obtain optimum national benefits at international negotiation and liaise with the UNFCCC Secretariat to discharge Sri Lanka's obligations
- 7) Incorporating Climatology, basic concepts of meteorology, environment, biodiversity oceanography and climate change in the education system.
- 8) Launch national strategies for addressing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to expected impacts, including the provision of financial and technological support from developed countries
- 9) Cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change .
- 10) Preparing and managing greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and information and networking, including the establishment of databases.

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#### 4. Kyoto Protocol-[www.unfccc.int/kyotoprotocol](http://www.unfccc.int/kyotoprotocol)

**Introduction:** The Conference of the Parties (Article 7), the Supreme Body of the UNFCCC Convention, held its 3<sup>rd</sup> session in December 1997 and adopted the Kyoto Protocol, which commits developed countries (Annex I parties) to reduce their collective emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 5% of the 1990 level by the period 2008–2012. The major distinction between the Protocol and the Convention is that while the Convention encouraged industrialised countries to stabilize GHG emissions, the Protocol commits them to do so.

Three Kyoto mechanisms have been proposed by the protocol to achieve the Kyoto targets in reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) from the atmosphere. These mechanisms guide developed as well as developing countries to take collaborative efforts to fulfill the protocol commitments. These market based mechanism include:

- I. Emission Trading (ET)
- ii. Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
- iii. Joint Implementation (JI)

The **Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP)** is the "supreme body" of the Kyoto Protocol. It is an association of those Parties to the Convention that have also ratified the Kyoto Protocol. The CMP meets every year during the same period as the COP.

**Objective:** The Annex 1 parties (Developed Countries) to reduce their collective emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 5% of the 1990 level by the period 2008–2012.

**Date of Adoption:** 11.12.1997

**Date of Entry into force:** 16.02.2005

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka:** 03.09.2002

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka:** 16.02.2005

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention:** 184

**National Focal Point:** Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources

**Sri Lanka Carbon Fund:** The Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources established the Sri Lanka Carbon Fund to actively participate in the carbon trading business. The fund is a private company, which will facilitate CDM project development within the country and will facilitate the potential CDM project developers in project development, facilitate financing and other related matters. It will also participate in Carbon Market scheme and to obtain maximum benefit to the country via carbon trading.

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**Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol:** As the National Focal Point for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, in Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources functions as the Designated National Authority (DNA) for the implementation of the CDM process. A separate CDM Secretariat has been established within the Ministry. A national CDM policy and strategy has been prepared by the Ministry with financial and technical assistance from the World Bank. A CDM project pipeline has been developed. Under the national CDM policy the priority sectors identified for CDM project development are renewable energy, forestry and plantation, waste management, industry and energy. At the moment several CDM projects in the Mini-hydro power sector have already been approved by the CDM/ Executive Board/UNFCCC.

**Activities conducted to implement the Protocol at country level:**

- 1) Establishment of Designated National Authority (DNA) for Clean Development Mechanism(CDM) activities in Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources
- 2) Preparation of the Draft National Framework Policy on CDM
- 3) Establishment of two CDM study centers at University of Peradeniya and University of Moratuwa.
- 4) Conducting the project on the preparation of National Carbon Finance Business(CFB) Strategy and Preparation of draft CFB strategy.
- 5) Conducted awareness creation programme for project developers, experts and public officers.
- 6) The private-public partnership initiative for the establishment of the Sri Lanka Carbon Fund is in progress.

**Benefits & Opportunities**

Three Kyoto mechanisms are proposed by the protocol to achieve the Kyoto targets in reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) from the atmosphere. Clean Development Mechanism projects are viable among developing countries and developed countries.

Sri Lanka being a developing nation, no direct commitment under the Kyoto protocol is enforced. However Sri Lanka has volunteered to participate in CDM projects, thus gaining foreign exchange to the country. Sri Lanka is already involved in several CDM projects, especially through renewable energy sector.

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## 5. United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) - [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)

**Introduction:** At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, world leaders agreed on a comprehensive strategy for "sustainable development" -- meeting our needs while ensuring that we leave a healthy and viable world for future generations. One of the key agreements adopted at Rio was the Convention on Biological Diversity. This pact among the vast majority of the world's governments sets out commitments for maintaining the world's ecological underpinnings as we go about the business of economic development. The Convention establishes three main goals: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources.

Biological diversity - or biodiversity - is the term given to the variety of life on Earth and the natural patterns it forms. The biodiversity we see today is the fruit of billions of years of evolution, shaped by natural processes and, increasingly, by the influence of humans. It forms the web of life of which we are an integral part and upon which we so fully depend.

The Convention's ultimate authority is the Conference of the Parties (COP), consisting of all governments (and regional economic integration organizations) that have ratified the treaty. This governing body reviews progress under the Convention, identifies new priorities, and sets work plans for members. The COP can also make amendments to the Convention, create expert advisory bodies, review progress reports by member nations, and collaborate with other international organizations and agreements.

**Objective:** The conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies and appropriate funding

**Date of Adoption:** 22.05.1992

**Date of Adoption:** 22.05.1992

**Date of Entry into Force:** 29.12.1993

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka:** 23.03.94

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka:** 23.03.94

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention:** 191

**National Focal Point:** Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources

### Activities conducted to implement the Convention at country level:

- 1) Preparation of a Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan (BCAP).
- 2) The setting up the Biodiversity Secretariat under the Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources in 1998.
- 3) Strengthen the key institutes in the forestry, wildlife, agriculture and coastal sector.
- 4) Setting up the implementing mechanism for coordinating Biodiversity activities in the Ministry of Environment.
- 5) In-country capacity assessment for biodiversity conservation.

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- 6) Projects promoting capacity building for biodiversity conservation with the financial support from various international donors.
  - 7) Training, Awareness & Education programmes
  - 8) Development of subject specific policies (Traditional knowledge, Access to genetic resources etc.)
  - 9) Carried out a Capacity Assessment under the National Capacity needs Self Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA) Project to implement the Rio Conventions and preparation of a Capacity Development Action Plan (2005-2007)

**Biodiversity** is the variation of life forms within a given ecosystem, biome or for the entire Earth. Biodiversity is often used as a measure of the health of biological systems. The biodiversity found on Earth today consists of many millions of distinct biological species, which is the product of nearly 3.5 billion years of evolution. The 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro defined "biodiversity" as "the variability among living organisms from all sources, including, 'inter alia', terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems".

Biodiversity found on Earth today is the result of 4 billion years of evolution. The origin of life has not been definitely established by science, however some evidence suggests that life may already have been well-established a few hundred million years after the formation of the Earth. Approximately 600 million years ago, all life consisted of archaea, bacteria, protozoans and similar single-celled organisms.

### **Benefits & Opportunities**

- 1) Sectoral and cross sectoral support for effective national planning and coordination to mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources.
- 2) Developing and transferring technology.
- 3) Effective enforcement of laws and regulations.
- 4) Access to genetic resources and fair and equitable benefits to traditional knowledge.
- 5) Enhance national capacity for biotechnology using genetic resources.
- 6) Biodiversity information management and exchange and Multi-institutional coordinated national network.
- 7) Participatory and integrated in-situ conservation and ex-situ conservation
- 8) Improved decision-making, including assistance for participation in international negotiations.

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## 6. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety -[www.biodiv.org/biosafety](http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety)

**Introduction:** On 29 January 2000, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a supplementary agreement to the Convention known as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. It establishes an Advance Informed Agreement (AIA) procedure for ensuring that countries are provided with the information necessary to make informed decisions before agreeing to the import of such organisms into their territory.

The Protocol contains reference to a precautionary approach and reaffirms the precaution language in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The Protocol also establishes a Biosafety Clearing-House to facilitate the exchange of information on living modified organisms and to assist countries in the implementation of the Protocol.

**Objective:** To contribute to ensuring an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, and specially focusing on transboundary movements.

**Date of Adoption: 29.01.2000**

**Date of Entry into Force: 11.09.2003**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 28.04.2004**

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka: 28.07.2004**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 153**

**National Focal Point:** Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources

**Biosafety:** Prevention of large-scale loss of biological integrity, focusing both on ecology and human health. Biosafety is related to several fields; in ecology (referring to imported life forms from beyond ecoregion borders), in agriculture (reducing the risk of alien viral or transgenic genes, or prions such as BSE/"MadCow", reducing the risk of food bacterial contamination), in medicine (referring to organs or tissues from biological origin, or genetic therapy products, virus; levels of lab containment protocols measured as 1, 2, 3, 4 in rising order of danger), in chemistry (i.e., nitrates in water, PCB levels affecting fertility) and in exobiology (i.e., NASA's policy for containing alien microbes that may exist on space samples)

The international Biosafety Protocol deals primarily with the agricultural definition but many advocacy groups seek to expand it to include post-genetic threats: new molecules, artificial life forms, and even robots which may compete directly in the natural food chain.

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**Living Modified Organisms** - Those organisms that have been genetically modified through the application of biotechnology including organisms that have been modified by novel recombinant DNA techniques as well as those that have been modified by mutagenesis or classical breeding and selection techniques.

**Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) /Genetically Engineered Organism (GEO)** is an organism whose genetic material has been altered using genetic engineering techniques. These techniques are generally known as recombinant DNA technology. With this technology, DNA molecules from different sources are combined into one molecule to create a new set of genes. This DNA is then transferred into an organism, giving it modified or novel traits

**Activities conducted to implement the Protocol at country level:**

- 1) Conducting National Biosafety Framework Development Project for Sri Lanka (2003-2005)
- 2) Strengthening the existing legislation and Proposed Biosafety Law for GMOs
- 3) Implementing Awareness and Education programmes
- 4) Development of National Biosafety Policy

**Benefits and Opportunities**

- 1) A regulatory system set in place to address safety in the field of modern biotechnology.
- 2) An administrative system to handle requests for permits for certain activities, such as releases of Living Modified Organism (LMOs).
- 3) A decision making and management for the release of LMOs.
- 4) Mechanism for public participation and information.

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## **7. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** **www.unccd.int**

**Introduction:** The international community has recognized that desertification is a phenomenon that causes major economic, social, and environmental problems in many countries in all regions of the world. In 1977, the United Nations Conference on Desertification (UNCOD) adopted a Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (PACD). Unfortunately, despite all efforts, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) concluded in 1991 that the problem of land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas had intensified, although there were "local examples of success".

As a result, the question of how to tackle desertification was still a major concern for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), which was held in Rio de Janeiro. The Conference supported a new, integrated approach to the problem emphasizing action to promote sustainable development at the community level. It also called on the United Nations General Assembly to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to prepare, by June 1994, a Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

**Objective:** To combat desertification and to mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious droughts and/ or desertification with the final aim being to prevent land degradation in the hyper arid, arid, and semi arid, dry sub humid areas in the countries that are parties of the Convention.

**Date of Adoption: 17.06.1994**

**Date of Entry into Force: 26.12.1996**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 09.12.1998**

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka: 09.03.1999**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 193**

**National Focal Point:** Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources

### **Activities conducted to implement the Convention at country level:**

- 1) A National Expert Committee (NEC) on Land Degradation had been appointed to advise the Ministry on matters relating to land degradation and droughts and implementation of obligations of the UNCCD.
- 2) First, Second and Third National Status Reports on Land Degradation in Sri Lanka were prepared in 2000, 2002 and 2006 respectively and submitted to the UNCCD Secretariat.
- 3) National Action Programme (NAP) for Combating Land Degradation was prepared in 2002 and a project proposal was prepared to implement the NAP and forwarded to UNCCD Secretariat for funds.
- 4) International workshop on the Development of the South Asia Sub-Regional Action

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Programme (SA-SRAP) for Combating and Promoting Sustainable Land Management in 2004.

- 5) International Workshop on UNCCD/ NAP Implementation and Partnership Building in Sri Lanka held in 2004.
- 6) National Workshop on UNCCD Implementation in Sri Lanka and Identification of Synergies of Environmental Conventions held in 2003.
- 7) Degraded catchment area restoration, minor tanks in the Dry Zone, tree planting programme and other activities have been implemented and still continuing with local funds.
- 8) Carried out a Capacity Assessment under the National Capacity needs Self Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA) Project to implement the Rio Conventions and preparation of a Capacity Development Action Plan (2005-2007)

**Desertification** is the degradation of land in arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting primarily from human activities and influenced by climatic variations. A major impact of desertification is biodiversity loss and loss of productive capacity, for example, by transition from land dominated by shrublands to non-native grasslands.

#### **Benefits and Opportunities**

- 1) Sri Lanka has the potential to obtain assistance for future actions on prevention of land degradation and rehabilitation of degraded lands specially in the dry zone and central hill country.
- 2) Access to modern technology relevant to the prevention of Land Degradation and the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of economically, socially and environmentally appropriate technologies.
- 3) Opportunities to participate in scientific research activities carried out by other countries on prevention and control of Land Degradation.
- 4) Since Land Degradation is a cross cutting issue, as a party to the Convention, facilities, synergistic implementation of activities related to UNCCD, UNCBD & UNFCCC which complement each other are available for utilisation.
- 5) Financial assistance for followup activities of the Convention.

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## 8. **Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (1989) - [www.basel.int](http://www.basel.int)**

**Introduction:** In the late 1980s, a tightening of environmental regulations in industrialized countries led to a dramatic rise in the cost of hazardous waste disposal. Searching for cheaper ways to get rid of the wastes, “toxic traders” began shipping hazardous waste to developing countries and to Eastern Europe. When this activity was revealed, international outrage led to the drafting and adoption of the Basel Convention.

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal is the most comprehensive global environmental agreement on hazardous and other wastes. The Convention aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation, management, transboundary movements and disposal of hazardous and other wastes. During its first Decade (1989-1999), the Convention was principally devoted to setting up a framework for controlling the “transboundary” movements of hazardous wastes, that is, the movement of hazardous wastes across international frontiers.

*The Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation* was adopted at the Fifth Conference of Parties (COP-5) on 10 December 1999. The Protocol talks began in 1993 in response to the concerns of developing countries about their lack of funds and technologies for coping with illegal dumping or accidental spills.

The objective of the Protocol is to provide for a comprehensive regime for liability as well as adequate and prompt compensation for damage resulting from the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes, including incidents occurring because of illegal traffic in those wastes. The Protocol addresses who is financially responsible in the event of an incident. Each phase of a transboundary movement, from the point at which the wastes are loaded on the means of transport to their export, international transit, import, and final disposal, is considered. Sri Lanka is not a party to this protocol yet and the Protocol has not yet entered into force. Entry into force is pending on the ratification by 20 Parties.

### **Objective:**

- To reduce transboundary movements of hazardous waste and other waste subject to the Basel Convention to a minimum consistent with their environmentally sound management
- To ensure strict control over the movements of hazardous waste across the borders as well as the prevention of illegal traffic
- To dispose of the hazardous waste and other waste generated, as close as possible to their source of generation
- To minimize the generation of hazardous waste in terms of quality and hazardousness
- To prohibit shipments of hazardous waste to countries lacking the legal, administrative and technical capacity to manage and dispose of them in an environmentally sound manner
- To assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in environmentally sound management of the hazardous waste they generate

**Date of Adoption: 22.03.1989**

**Date of Entry into Force: 05.05.1992**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 28.08.1992(Ac)**

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka: 28.11.1992**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 172**

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**National Focal Point:** Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources

**National Competent Authority:** Central Environment Authority

**Activities conducted to implement the convention at country level:**

- 1) Establishment of a National Coordinating Committee and a Coordination Mechanism for the implementation of the Basel Convention in Sri Lanka.
- 2) Development of Harmonized System(HS) codes for Annex IX (List B) items under Basel Convention in collaboration with Department of Customs and drafting of regulations under the Import & Export Control Act for the control of transboundary movement of hazardous waste.
- 3) Regulations for the Internal Management of Hazardous Waste were gazetted. (under the National Environment Act) in 1996 & amended in 2008.
- 4) Guidelines for the implementation of Hazardous Waste Management Regulations were developed and published
- 5) Development of a Guidance Manual for Safe and Effective Detection and Investigation of Illegal Traffic and Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and other Waste in Sri Lanka.
- 6) Implementation of a project on Situational Analysis of Electrical and Electronic waste with the assistance of BCRC (Basel Convention Regional Center) China and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention
- 7) Implementation of a project on preparation of an inventory of e-waste with the financial assistance of the Government of Japan through Basal Convention Trust Fund as part of a Development of a National Implementation Plan for e-waste management in Sri Lanka
- 8) Formulation of the National Policy and Strategy on Cleaner Production for Sri Lanka and promote implementation of cleaner production principles in the economic sectors.
- 9) Organizing and conducting a sub regional Training Seminar for the implementation of the Basal Convention on the control of transboundry movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal for SAARC Region
- 10) Development of a National Electrical and Electronic Waste Management Policy
- 11) Development of a National Implementation Plan for Electrical and Electronic Waste Management in Sri Lanka (Componenet one completed)

**Benefits and Opportunities**

- 1) Capacity building of stakeholder institutions for the implementation of the Basel Convention.
- 2) Legal, Financial and Technical Assistance and Guidelines for the implementation of pilot projects.
- 3) Facilitation of information exchange regarding Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes.
- 4) Collection and dissemination of statistical data and their transmission among member countries.
- 5) Regional and international cooperation for the management of Hazardous Wastes.

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## 9. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)- www.pops.int

**Introduction:** The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically and accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife.

Exposure to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) can lead to serious health effects including certain cancers, birth defects, dysfunctional immune and reproductive systems, greater susceptibility to disease and even diminished intelligence. Given their long range transport, no government acting alone can protect its citizens or its environment from POPs. In response, the Stockholm Convention, which was adopted in 2001 and entered into force 2004, requires Parties to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment.

### What are the POPs ?

**Aldrin-** A pesticide applied to soils to kill termites, grasshoppers, corn rootworm, and other insect pests.

**Chlordane-** Used extensively to control termites and as a broad-spectrum insecticide on a range of agricultural crops.

**DDT-** Perhaps the best known of the POPs, DDT was widely used during World War II to protect soldiers and civilians from malaria, typhus, and other diseases spread by insects. It continues to be applied against mosquitoes in several countries to control malaria.

**Dieldrin-** Used principally to control termites and textile pests, dieldrin has also been used to control insect-borne diseases and insects living in agricultural soils.

**Dioxins-** These chemicals are produced unintentionally due to incomplete combustion, as well as during the manufacture of certain pesticides and other chemicals. In addition, certain kinds of metal recycling and pulp and paper bleaching can release dioxins. Dioxins have also been found in automobile exhaust, tobacco smoke and wood and coal smoke.

**Endrin-** This insecticide is sprayed on the leaves of crops such as cotton and grains. It is also used to control mice, voles and other rodents.

**Furans-** These compounds are produced unintentionally from the same processes that release dioxins, and they are also found in commercial mixtures of PCBs.

**Heptachlor-** Primarily employed to kill soil insects and termites, heptachlor has also been used more widely to kill cotton insects, grasshoppers, other crop pests, and malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

**Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)** -HCB kills fungi that affect food crops. It is also released as a byproduct during the manufacture of certain chemicals and as a result of the processes that give rise to dioxins and furans.

**Mirex-** This insecticide is applied mainly to combat fire ants and other types of ants and termites. It has also been used as a fire retardant in plastics, rubber, and electrical goods.

**Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)** -These compounds are employed in industry as heat exchange fluids, in electric transformers and capacitors, and as additives in paint, carbonless copy paper, sealants and plastics.

**Toxaphene-** This insecticide, also called camphechlor, is applied to cotton, cereal grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables. It has also been used to control ticks and mites in livestock.

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**Objective:** To protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

**Date of Adoption: 22.05.2001**

**Date of Entry into Force: 17.05.2004**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 22.12. 2005**

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka: 22.12.2005**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 168**

**National Focal Point:** Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources

**Activities conducted to implement the protocol at country level:**

- 1) Establishment of a National coordinating committee for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in Sri Lanka.
- 2) Development of Harmonized System(HS) codes for prioritized POPs Chemicals in collaboration with Department of Customs.
- 3) Capacity building of stakeholder institutions for the formulation of national inventories.
- 4) Development of the National Inventories for PCBs, Dioxins and Furans and Pesticides identifying existing situation of the country and future trends.
- 5) Development of a National Implementation Plan for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention
- 6) Public awareness creation on POPs including school children
- 7) Development and publication of awareness materials on POPs and related health impacts(Videos, Exhibition models, Leaflets, Posters, Cds)
- 8) Development of a website and an information system for POPs

**Benefits & Opportunities**

- 1) Capacity building of stakeholder institutions for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention.
- 2) Legal, financial and technical assistance and guidelines for the development of inventories on POPs
- 3) Technical and financial assistance for the development of a National Implementation Plan and for its subsequent implementation.
- 4) Collection and dissemination of statistical data and transmission among member countries.
- 5) Regional and international cooperation for the management of PCB and ultimate elimination
- 6) Control of dioxins and furans emissions and mitigation of health impacts

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## 10. The Ramsar Convention on Wet Lands-[www.Ramsar.org](http://www Ramsar.org)

**Introduction:** The Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty adopted on 2 February 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the southern shore of the Caspian Sea. Although, at present the name of the Convention is usually written as "Convention on Wetlands", it has come to be known popularly as the "Ramsar Convention". Ramsar is the first of the modern global intergovernmental treaties on the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources; but, compared with more recent ones, its provisions are relatively straightforward and general.

The Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".

The Convention uses a broad definition of the types of wetlands covered in its mission, including swamps and marshes, lakes and rivers, wet grasslands and peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, near-shore marine areas, mangroves and coral reefs, and human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs, and salt pans.

**Objective:** To stem the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands now and in the future, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific and recreational value.

**Date of Adoption: 02.02.1971**

**Date of Entry into Force: 21.12.1975**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 15.06.1990 (Ac)**

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka: 15.10.1990**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 159**

**National Focal Point:** Department of Wildlife Conservation

**Wetlands** are defined as: "areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres"

Five major wetland types are generally recognized: **Marine** (coastal wetlands including coastal lagoons, rocky shores, and coral reefs), **Estuarine** (including deltas, tidal marshes, and mangrove swamps), **Lacustrine** (wetlands associated with lakes), **Riverine** (wetlands along rivers and streams) and **Palustrine** (meaning "marshy" - marshes, swamps and bogs). In addition, there are **human-made wetlands** such as fish and shrimp ponds, farm ponds, irrigated agricultural land, salt pans, reservoirs, gravel pits, sewage farms and canals.

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**Ramsar sites in Sri Lanka:** Bundala, Annawilundawa and Maduganga have been declared as Ramsar site in Sri Lanka in 1990,2001&2003 respectively

**Activities conducted to implement the convention at country level:**

- 1) Conducting annual bird survey at Yala, Kumana and Bundala National Sanctuaries in the months of March and November .
- 2) Development and Protection of Wetlands.
- 3) Declaration of Anawilundawa, Bundala and Maduganga as Ramsar sites.
- 4) Identification of important coastal sites to be declared under Ramsar Convention.
- 5) Conducting of micro fauna research and measurements of lagoons water quality.
- 6) Examine the migratory birds and their movement
- 7) Identifying some of the important wetlands to be declared as sanctuaries under the Fauna & Flora Ordinance.
- 8) Forwarding annual contributions and progress reports to the Ramsar Secretariat.
- 9) Turtle conservation and protection in the coastal areas.

**Ramsar Site List:** The Ramsar sites are designated by considering two major criteria such as sites containing representative, rare or unique wetland types and the sites for international importance for conserving biodiversity. Though the central Ramsar message is the need for the sustainable use of all wetlands, the “flagship” of the Convention is the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the “Ramsar List”). Presently, the Parties have designated for this List more than 1,675 wetlands for special protection as “Ramsar sites”, covering 151 million hectares.

**Benefits & Opportunities**

- 1) Information exchange among the regional and member countries.
- 2) Protection, conservation and awareness about the wetlands.
- 3) Capacity building of stakeholder institution for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

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## 11. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) - [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)

**Introduction:** CITES the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is an international agreement between governments. CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union). The text of the Convention was finally agreed upon at a meeting of representatives of 80 countries in Washington DC., United States of America, on 3 March 1973.

Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Roughly 5,000 species of animals and 28,000 species of plants are protected by CITES against over-exploitation through international trade. Annually, international wildlife trade is estimated to be worth billions of dollars and to include hundreds of millions of plant and animal specimens. The trade is diverse, ranging from live animals and plants to a vast array of wildlife products derived from them, including food products, exotic leather goods, wooden musical instruments, timber, tourist curios and medicines. Levels of exploitation of some animal and plant species are high and the trade in them, together with other factors, such as habitat loss, is capable of heavily depleting their populations and even bringing some species close to extinction.

The Conference of the Parties to CITES adopted an amendment to the text of the Convention on 22 June 1979. There are currently 138 Parties out of 172 that have accepted the Bonn amendment. CITES held its second extraordinary meeting in Gaborone, Botswana, on 30 April 1983, to consider a proposed amendment to Article XXI of the Convention to permit accession by regional economic integration organizations. There are currently 47 Parties out of 80 that were party to CITES on 30 April 1983, and altogether 83 Parties out of a total of 172, that have accepted the Gaborone amendment.

Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties, they have to implement the Convention, it does not take the place of national laws. Rather it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level. The species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need;

### Appendix I

Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.

### Appendix II

Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.

### Appendix III

This Appendix contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade. Changes to Appendix III follow a distinct procedure from changes to Appendices I and II, as each Party's is entitled to make unilateral amendments to it.

**Objective:** To protect certain endangered species from being over-exploited by adopting a system of import/export permits, for regarding the procedure.

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**Date of Adoption: 03.03.1973**

**Date of Entry into Force: 01.07.1975**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 04.05.1979 (Ac)**

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka: 02.08.1978**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 172**

**National Focal Point:** Department of Wildlife Conservation

**Activities conducted to implement the convention at country level:**

- 1) All endangered species of wild fauna and flora are protected under the CITES Convention.
- 2) Import and Export of species have been regulated.
- 3) Preparation of National legislations under CITES Convention.
- 4) Issue of Gazette notifications for protection of sections not covered by Fauna & Flora Protection Ordinance.
- 5) Coordination of information sharing among Customs, Police Departments and within Environment Ministry.
- 6) Conducting awareness program for local traders.
- 7) Contribution of payments and reporting of progress of CITES Secretariat.

**Benefits and Opportunities**

- 1) Facilitate international awareness about for Sri Lanka as an environment friendly nation.
- 2) Mitigate Bio- piracy.
- 3) Enhance communication, education and public awareness.
- 4) Regional and international coordination among member countries.

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## 12. Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) - [www.cms.int](http://www.cms.int)

**Introduction:** The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals also known as CMS or Bonn Convention aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range. It is an intergovernmental treaty, concluded under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme which is , concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale.

Migratory species threatened with extinction are listed in **Appendix I** of the Convention. CMS Parties strive towards strictly protecting these animals, conserving or restoring the places where they live, mitigating obstacles to migration and controlling other factors that might endanger them. Besides establishing obligations for each State joining the Convention, CMS promotes concerted action among the Range States of many of these species.

Migratory species that need or would significantly benefit from international co-operation are listed in **Appendix II** of the Convention. For this reason, the Convention encourages the Range States to conclude global or regional Agreements.

Several **Agreements** and **Memoranda of Understanding (MoU)** have been concluded to conserve:

- Populations of European Bats
  - Cetaceans of the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
  - Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas
  - Seals in the Wadden Sea
  - African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
  - Albatrosses and Petrels
  - Gorillas and their Habitats
  - Siberian Crane
  - Slender-billed Curlew
  - Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa
  - Marine Turtles of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia
  - Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard
  - Bukhara Deer
  - Aquatic Warbler
  - West-African Populations of the African Elephant
  - Saiga Antelope
  - Cetaceans of Pacific Island States
  - Dugongs
  - Mediterranean Monk Seal
  - Ruddy-headed Goose
  - Grassland Birds

A Secretariat under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides administrative support to the Convention. It is based in the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany. The decision-making organ of the Convention is the Conference of the Parties (COP). A Standing Committee provides policy and administrative guidance between the regular meetings of the COP. A Scientific Council consisting of experts appointed by individual member States and by the COP, gives advice on technical and scientific matters.

**Objective:** To protect those species of wild animals which migrate across or outside national boundaries.

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**Date of Adoption: 23.06.1979**

**Date of Entry into Force: 01.11.1983**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 06.06.1990**

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka: 01.09.1990**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 110**

**National Focal Point:** Department of Wildlife Conservation

**Activities conducted to implement the Convention at country level:**

- 1) Supervision of Turtle conservation and protection in the Southern coastal belt
- 2) Conservation and protection of Turtle nestling sites from predators and human activities.
- 3) Development of Turtle conservation measures.
- 4) Preparation of the Turtle Conservation Action Plan.
- 5) Declare the species for protection under CMS convention.
- 6) Stakeholders, such as universities, NGOs etc. to participate in the Turtle Conservation Program.
- 7) Collaborating and providing information under the Asia Pacific Turtle Agreement.
- 8) Sending annual contributions and progress reports to CMS secretariat.

**Benefits and Opportunities**

- 1) Benefits through education and awareness creation.
- 2) Improved decision-making including assistance for participation in international negotiation.
- 3) Participation in COP meetings.
- 4) Regional and international cooperation among member countries.

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### **13. International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties [www.imo.org/conventions](http://www.imo.org/conventions)**

**Introduction:** The above Convention which is in force affirms the right of a coastal State to take such measures on the high seas as may be necessary to prevent, mitigate or eliminate danger to its coastline or related interests from pollution by oil or the threat thereof, following upon a maritime casualty.

The coastal State is, however, empowered to take only such action as is necessary, and after due consultations with appropriate interests including, in particular, the flag State or States of the ship or ships involved, the owners of the ships or cargoes in question and, where circumstances permit, independent experts are appointed for this purpose.

A coastal State which takes measures beyond those permitted under the Convention is liable to pay compensation for any damage caused by such measures. Provision is made for the settlement of disputes arising in connection with the application of the Convention. The Convention applies to all seagoing vessels except warships or other vessels owned or operated by a State and used on Government non commercial service

**Objective:** To enable countries to take action on the high seas in cases of a maritime casualty resulting in danger of oil pollution of sea and coastlines; to establish that such action would not affect the principle of freedom of the high seas.

**Date of Adoption: 29.11.1969**

**Date of Entry into Force: 06.09.1975**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 12.04.1983(Ac)**

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka: 11.07.1983**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 77**

**National Focal Point:** Marine Environmental Protection Authority

**Amendments:** 1991 amendments  
1996 amendments  
2002 amendments

**Activities conducted to implement the Convention at country level:**

Preparation of strategies to respond to such events in the process.

#### **Benefits and Opportunities**

Having in possession legal right to conduct any suitable operation in the High Seas to prevent possible oil pollution disasters in their water, by the contracted States (Parties).

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## 14. International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage - [www.imo.org/conventions](http://www.imo.org/conventions)

**Introduction:** The Civil Liability Convention was adopted to ensure that adequate compensation is available to persons who suffer oil pollution damage resulting from maritime casualties involving oil-carrying ships. The Convention places the liability for such damage on the owner of the ship from which the polluting oil escaped or was discharged.

Subject to a number of specific exceptions, this liability is strict; it is the duty of the owner to prove in each case that any of the exceptions should in fact operate. However, except where the owner has been guilty of actual fault, they may limit liability in respect of any one incident to 133 Special Drawing Rights (SDR) for each ton of the ship's gross tonnage, with a maximum liability of 14 million SDR (around US\$18 million) for each incident. (1 SDR is approximately US\$1.28 - exchange rates fluctuate daily).

The Convention requires ships covered by it to maintain insurance or other financial security in sums equivalent to the owner's total liability for one incident. The Convention applies to all seagoing vessels actually carrying oil in bulk as cargo, but only ships carrying more than 2,000 tons of oil are required to maintain insurance in respect of oil pollution damage

### Laws, Regulations and Policies:

1. **Liability** - Owner of the ship from which the polluting oil escaped or was discharged is liable and the liability is strict except for very few exceptions where the owner of the ship has to prove his defense.
2. **Insurance**- Though the Convention applies to all the sea going vessels actually carrying oil in bulk as cargo, only ships carrying more than 2000 tons of oil in bulk as cargo should maintain insurance for oil pollution damage. All ships which are covered by the Convention require maintaining insurance or other financial security in sums equivalent to the owner's total liability for one incident.
3. **Limitation of liability (As decided in 1984)** - Except when the owner has been guilty of actual fault, liability may be limited in respect of any one incident to 133 SDR for each ton of the ship's gross tonnage, with a maximum liability of 14 million SDR for each one incident. (Around US\$18 million) for each incident. (1 SDR is approximately US\$1.28 - exchange rates fluctuate daily). The daily conversion rates for Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) can be found on the International Monetary Fund website at <http://www.imf.org>
4. This Convention does not apply to war ships or other vessels owned or operated by the state and used for the time being for non government non commercial service.

**Objective:** To ensure that adequate compensation is available to persons who suffer damage caused by pollution resulting from the escape or discharge of oil from ships; to standardize international rules and procedures for determining questions of liability and the provision of adequate compensation in such areas.

**Date of Adoption: 29.11.1969**

**Date of Entry into Force: 19.6.1975**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 12.04.1983(Ac)**

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka: 11.7.1983**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 102**

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**National Focal Point:** Marine Environmental Protection Authority

**Amendments-**

The 1969 convention is being replaced by its 1992 Protocol as amended in 2000.

The Protocol of 1976

The Protocol of 1984

The Protocol of 1992

**Activities conducted to implement the Convention at country level:**

- 1) Inclusion of a specific part to empower the Minister to take actions to enforce compliance with the provisions of CLC 1962.
- 2) Drafting the National Oil Spill Contingency Management Plan in 1995. It was amended in 98, 99, 2001 and received the cabinet approval in 2004; the plan underwent a revision in 2007 with new improvements.
- 3) Establish an Operation Response Team, Regional Beach Cleaning Committee and Damage Assessment Group with necessary training and update in order to enhance response to oil spill contingencies.
- 4) Training of concerned officials to improve their competence and abilities to process the claim procedures when necessary.
- 5) Protocol of 1992 to replace the CLC in 1969 attended to in London on 07.11.1992
- 6) Cabinet memo is being prepared by the focal point to request the Cabinet of Ministers to advise the Legal Draughtsman to incorporate the provisions in the national legislation.

**Benefits and Opportunities**

- 1) This protocol is optional and participant is open to all states to the Fund Convention
- 2) The amendments raise the maximum amount of compensation payable from the International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) fund for a single incident, including the limit established under the 2000 CLC amendments, to 203 million SDR up from 135 million SDR
- 3) Victimized state has an opportunity to get the IMO/International support in the process of claim procedure.
- 4) Could obtain compensation at an oil spill in the Exclusive Economic Zone as per the limits set out in the CLC 1992 (2000 amendments) as a state party to the Convention.

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## 15. **International Convention on the establishment of an international funds for compensation for oil pollution damage- [www.ipocfund.org](http://www.ipocfund.org)**

**Introduction:** The International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) are three intergovernmental organizations (the 1971 Fund, the 1992 Fund and the Supplementary Fund) which provide compensation for oil pollution damage resulting from spills of persistent oil (Crude oil/Heavy fuel oil) from tankers.

This Convention is supplementary to the Civil Liability Convention (CLC) 1971, which was later replaced by 1992 and is open to parties to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage. This convention intends to provide compensation for pollution damage to the extent that the protection afforded by the CLC is inadequate.

**Objective:** To supplement the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969; to ensure that adequate compensation is available to persons who suffer damage caused by pollution resulting from the escape or by discharge of oil from ships; and to ensure that the oil cargo interests bear a part of the economic consequences of such oil pollution damage and provide relief to the shipping industry.

**Date of Adoption: 18.12.1971**

**Date of Entry into Force: 16.08.1978**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 12.04.1983**

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka: 11.07.1987**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 102**

**National Focal Point:** Directorate of Merchant Shipping

**Implementing Agencies:** Marine Environmental Protection Authority

**Amendments:**

The 2000 Amendments

The 2003 Protocol (supplementary fund)

### **Activities conducted to implement the Convention at country level:**

- 1) Protocol of 1992 to amend the Convention in 1969 and accomplished in London 27.11.1992 and presently 98 countries have ratified the Protocol.
- 2) Inclusion of a specific part (Part VII) to the MPP Act No: 59 of 1981 to empower the Minister to take actions to/ enforce compliance with the provisions of CLC 1969.
- 3) Drafting the National Oil Spill Contingency Management Plan in 1995. It was amended in 1998, 1999, 2001 and received the cabinet approval in 2004; the plan will undergo a revision in 2007 with new improvements.
- 4) Provision of training to concerned officials to improve their competence and abilities to process the claim procedures when necessary.
- 5) Establish an Operation Response Team, Regional Beach Cleaning Committee, Damage Assessment Group with necessary training and update in order to enhance response to oil spill contingencies.

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## **Benefits and Opportunities**

### **Obtaining compensation.**

- (1) For measures taken to prevent or minimize pollution damage caused to the Exclusive Economic Zone including the territorial sea.
- (2) Anyone who has suffered pollution damage (including clean-up costs) in a Member State, for example individuals, companies, local authorities or States can claim from the IOPC Funds.

### **Claims covered: The 1992 Fund pays for what is defined as 'pollution damage',**

- (1) The cost of clean-up operations and property damage,
- (2) Claims for consequential loss and 'pure economic loss'. For example, fishermen whose nets have become polluted are entitled to compensation for cleaning or replacing nets, and compensation for loss of income while they are unable to fish. Hotel owners at seaside resorts are entitled to compensation for loss of tourism income resulting from an oil spill.
- (3) Compensation is also paid for measures taken to prevent or minimize pollution.
- (4) Compensation for environmental damage (other than economic loss resulting from impairment of the environment) is restricted to costs for reasonable measures to reinstate the contaminated environment. Claims for damage to the ecosystem are not admissible.

The cost will depend on many factors: viz

- a. quantity and type of oil spilled,
- b. the weather conditions at the time of the spill and,
- c. the area affected. Large spills in a long way from shore can cost very little, but even relatively small spills in a coastal zone supporting fishing and tourism can be very costly.

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## **16. International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL-1973) and Protocol 1978- [www.imo.org/conventions](http://www.imo.org/conventions)**

**Introduction:** MARPOL73/78 is the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 as modified by the Protocol of 1978. ("MARPOL" is short for marine pollution and 73/78 short for the years 1973 and 1978) MARPOL 73/78 is one of the most important international marine environmental conventions. It was designed to minimize pollution of the seas, including dumping, oil and exhaust pollution. The original MARPOL Convention was signed on 17 February 1973, but did not come into force. The current Convention is a combination of 1973 Convention and the 1978 Protocol. It entered into force on 2 October 1983.

The MARPOL73/78 Convention is a frame convention with six annexes containing detailed regulations regarding permissible discharge, equipment on board ships, etc. The annexes are:

**Annex I**, which comprises regulations to prevent discharges of oil or oily residues.

**Annex II**, which comprises regulations to prevent discharges of noxious liquid substances(chemicals) in bulk.

**Annex III**, which comprises regulations to prevent discharges of harmful substances transported in packed form.

**Annex IV**, which comprises regulations to prevent discharge of sewage

**Annex V**, which comprises regulations to prevent discharges of garbage (household waste and other solid waste including cargo related waste)

**Annex VI**, which intended to reduce the discharges of air pollutants from ships.

**Objective:** To preserve the marine environment by achieving complete elimination of international pollution by oil and other harmful substances and the minimization of accidental discharge of such substances.

**Date of Adoption: 11.02.1973 & 17.02.1978**

**Date of Entry into Force:**

**Annex I - 02.10.1983**

**Annex II- 06.04.1987**

**Annex III- 01.07.1992**

**Annex IV- 27.09.2003**

**Annex V- 31.12.1998**

**Annex VI- 19.05.2005**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 24. 06. 1997**

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka: 24. 09. 1997**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 123**

**National Focal Point:** Marine Environmental Protection Authority

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**Activities conducted to implement the Convention at country level:**

- 1) Existing Act is being revised with more powers and authority, approval of the Cabinet already granted to go before the Parliament soon. It contains specific provisions enshrined in the Convention.
- 2) From the year 1996 MPPA has been Registering suitable service providers for the above service.
- 3) Regulations on ship generated waste reduction will be gazatted shortly.
- 4) Streamlined the process of waste handling by service provider by updating the terms and conditions of the service with related parties. Establishment of a major facility is under way.
- 5) Database is being maintained on ship generated waste oil collected by Marine Environmental Protection Authority (MPPA) service providers.

**Benefits and Opportunities**

- 1) Cooperation of other parties (neighboring countries and flag States) to monitor the ships.
- 2) Sri Lanka Marine environment will be better protected from illicit acts of pollution.
- 3) Less chances of spills as the pollution prevention plans of ships should be better maintained.

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## 17. International Plant Protection Convention-[www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int)

**Introduction:** The International Plant Protection Convention is an international treaty relating to plant health, to which 169 governments currently adhere. The Convention has been deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) since its initial adoption by the Conference of FAO at its Sixth Session in 1951.

The FAO Conference, at its Sixth Session (November 1951) approved the International Plant Protection Convention for submission to Governments for acceptance. The Convention was registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations on 29 November 1952 under No. 1963.

The FAO Conference at its Twentieth Session (November 1979) approved a revised text of the Convention, which incorporated amendments, proposed at a Government Consultation held in Rome in November 1976, with modifications subsequently recommended by the FAO Committee on Agriculture, at its Fifth Session in April 1979, on the proposal of an Ad Hoc Consultative Group. The FAO Conference at its Twenty-ninth Session (November 1997) approved wide-ranging amendments to the Convention

- Objectives:**
1. To maintain and increase international co-operation in controlling pests and diseases of plants and plant products, and in preventing their introduction and spread across national boundaries.
  2. It recognizes the necessity for international cooperation in controlling pests of plants and plant products and in preventing their international spread, and especially their introduction into endangered areas.
  3. It recognizes that phytosanitary measures should be technically justified, transparent and should not be applied in such a way as to constitute either a mean of arbitrary or unjustified discrimination or a disguised restriction, particularly on international trade
  4. It desires to ensure close coordination of measures directed to these ends
  5. It desires to provide a framework for the development and application of harmonized phytosanitary measures and the elaboration of international standard to that effect taking into account internationally approved principles governing the protection of plant, human and animal health, and the environment

**Date of Adoption: 06.12.1951**

**Date of Entry into Force: 03.04.1952**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 12.02.1952**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 170**

**National Focal Point:** Department of Agriculture, Seed Certification and Plant Protection Center

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## **18. Plant Protection Agreement for Asia and Pacific Region** **www.ippc.int, www.fao.org**

**Introduction:** The Plant Protection Agreement for the Asia and Pacific Region (formerly the Plant Protection Agreement for South-East Asia and Pacific Region) was approved by the 23rd Session of the FAO Council in November 1955 and entered into force on 2 July 1956. Amendments to this Agreement are:

- i) Article I(a) approved by the 49th Session of the FAO Council in November 1967;
- ii) Title of the Agreement and the name of the Committee approved by the 75th Session of the FAO Council in 1979;
- iii) Article I (a) of the Agreement approved by the 84th Session of the FAO Council in November 1983;
- iv) Articles II, III, IV and XIV of the Agreement concerning financial obligations approved by the 84th Session of the FAO Council in November 1983;
- v) At the 117th Session of the FAO Council approved, in November 1999, two sets of amendments to the Agreement designed to bring the Agreement into line with the New Revised Text of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), as well as with modern requirements for plant protection and to strengthen the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission. The Council agreed that such amendments did not involve new obligations for the Contracting Governments and, therefore, pursuant to Article IX.4 of the Agreement, will come into force with respect to all Contracting Governments as from the thirtieth day after acceptance by two-thirds of Members.

**Objective:** To prevent the introduction into and spread within the region of destructive plants

**Date of Adoption: 27.02.1956**

**Date of Entry into Force: 02.07.1956**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 27.02.1956**

**National Focal Point:** Department of Agriculture, Seed Certification and Plant Protection Center

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## **19. Agreements for the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission- [www.iotc.org](http://www.iotc.org)**

**Introduction:** The long-term institutional arrangements for the management of tuna in the Indian Ocean have been discussed by the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC) since its First Session in 1968 and in the IOFC Committee for the Management of Indian Ocean Tuna since 1970. The substantial increase in the catch of tuna and tuna-like species in the 1980s prompted serious discussions at the Ninth Session of the IOFC Committee for the Management of Indian Ocean Tuna in 1986. This marked the beginning of a serious attempt towards establishing a commission with appropriate structure and power to manage the tunas of the Indian Ocean. The Committee set up a small ad hoc group of nations to review in detail the options available for the long-term institutional arrangements for the management of tuna in the Indian Ocean.

The Second Conference which was held in Rome in June 1992 reached broad agreement on the Text of the Draft Agreement. The Draft Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission was finally adopted by the FAO Council in 1993 and circulated in 1994. The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) is an intergovernmental organization set up under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution. It is mandated to manage tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas. The Commission's objective is to promote cooperation among its Members with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of stocks and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks.

**Objective:** Promote cooperation among its members with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of stocks and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks.

**Date of Adoption: 11.25.1993**

**Date of Entry into Force: 03. 27.1996**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka:**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 24**

**National Focal Point:** Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

### **Benefits and Opportunities**

Review the conditions and trends of the stocks and to gather, analyse and disseminate scientific information, catch and effort statistics and other data relevant to the conservation and management of the stocks

### **Contact Details**

Secretary  
Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
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**20. Agreement relating to the implementation of part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - [www.un.org/depts/los/convention](http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention)**

Introduction: To address certain difficulties with the seabed mining provisions contained in Part XI of the Convention, which had been raised, primarily by the industrialized countries, the Secretary-General convened in July 1990, a series of informal consultations which culminated in the adoption, on 28 July 1994, of the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982.

It consists of 10 articles dealing mainly with procedural aspects such as signature, entry into force and provisional application. Its article 2 deals with the relationship between the Agreement and Part XI of the Convention and it provides that the two shall be interpreted and applied together as a single instrument. In the event of an inconsistency between the Agreement and Part XI, however, the provisions of the Agreement shall prevail.

The Agreement has an annex, divided into nine sections, dealing with the various issues that were identified as problem areas during the informal consultations. These include costs to States Parties and institutional arrangements; decision-making mechanisms for the Authority; and future amendments of the Convention.

**Objective:** To provide for revised modalities for the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in particular the International Seabed Authority.

**Date of Adoption: 28.07.1994**

**Date of Entry into Force: 28.07.1996**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 28.07.1995**

**Date of Entry into Force in Sri Lanka : 28.07.96**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 131**

**National Focal Point:** Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

**Benefits and Opportunities**

Describes the legal status of the area and its resources, Responsibilities and rights of the States Parties and about Marine scientific research, Archeological and historical objects.

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## 21. Rotterdam Convention-[www.pic.int](http://www.pic.int)

**Introduction:** The Rotterdam Convention is a multilateral agreement focused on protecting human health and the environment by promoting cooperation in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals that include pesticides and industrial chemicals. It provides a mechanism for participating countries to receive information on potentially hazardous chemicals that may be in use in the country and to decide whether a country wishes to receive future imports for those chemicals included in the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure under the Convention.

The Convention covers pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by Parties and which have been notified by Parties for inclusion in the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure. One notification from each of two specified regions triggers consideration of addition of a chemical to Annex III of the Convention, Severely hazardous pesticide formulations that present a hazard under conditions of use in developing countries or countries with economies in transition may also be nominated for inclusion in Annex III.

There are 39 chemicals listed in Annex III of the Convention and subject to the PIC procedure, including 24 pesticides, 4 severely hazardous pesticide formulations and 11 industrial chemicals. Many more chemicals are expected to be added in the future. The Conference of the Parties decides on the inclusion of new chemicals.

**Objective:** To promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm; to contribute to the environmentally sound use of those hazardous chemicals, by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, by providing for a national decision-making process on their import and export and by disseminating these decisions to Parties.

**Date of Adoption: 10.09.1998**

**Date of Entry into Force: 24.02.2004**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 19.012006**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 128**

**National Focal Point:** Ministry of Agriculture

### **Laws, Regulations, Policies in Sri Lanka:**

- Control of Pesticides Act No. 33 of 1980 - Regulation of imports, restriction and ban of pesticides through registration and gazette notification
- Imports and Exports (Control) Act No. 1 of 1969 – Regulation of import of industrial chemicals (except for Board of Investment requirements)
- National Environmental Act No. 47 of 1980 – Limited provisions for regulation through licensing procedures
- Factory Ordinance of 1946 – Occupational health aspects relating to the industrial chemicals
- Customs Ordinance – Import and export of regulated industrial chemicals
- Inter-agency Coordinating Procedure
- Important Articles: Annex III – Pesticide formulations and industrial chemicals under Prior

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Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure

**Established Committees:** National Steering Committee on Implementation of the Rotterdam Convention in Sri Lanka

**Designated National Authorities:**

Registrar of Pesticide-Pesticide  
Central Environment Authority-Industrial Chemicals

**Important Articles:** Annex III – Pesticide formulations and industrial chemicals under Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure

**Activities conducted to implement the Convention at country level:**

- 1) Designation of Ministry of Agriculture as the National Focal Point for the Convention
- 2) Establishment of a National Steering Committee for the Implementation of the Rotterdam Convention.

**Benefits and Opportunities**

- 1) Provides a mechanism to receive information on potentially hazardous chemicals and their trade
- 2) Identify hazardous chemicals and regulate their use
- 3) Receiving notification on exporting of chemicals banned or severely restricted in the exporting countries
- 4) Control or restrict importation of unwanted chemicals
- 5) Share experiences on current global trends on the management of chemicals
- 6) Supports national decision making process and its enforcement on the identification and use of potentially hazardous chemicals
- 7) Provides a framework for life-cycle management of chemicals in association with Basel and Stockholm Conventions
- 8) National capacity building through training and exchange

**Contact Details:**

Director  
Natural Resources Management  
Ministry of Agriculture  
80/5, Govijana Mandiraya, Battaramulla  
Tel: 011-2888909  
Fax: 011-2888909

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## **22. United Nations Convention on the Law of Seas** **[www.un.org/depts/los/convention](http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention)**

**Introduction:** The **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, also called the Law of the Sea Convention and the Law of the Sea Treaty, is the international agreement that resulted from the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III), which took place from 1973 through 1982. The Law of the Sea Convention defines the rights and responsibilities of nations in their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources. The Convention concluded in 1982 replaced four 1958 treaties. UNCLOS came into force in 1994, a year after Guyana became the 60th state to sign the treaty. To date 155 countries and the European Community have joined in the Convention. The United States has signed the treaty, but the Senate has not ratified it. However, it is now regarded as a codification of the Customary international law on the issue.

While the Secretary General of the United Nations receives instruments of ratification and accession and the UN provides support for meetings of states party to the Convention, the UN has no direct operational role in the implementation of the Convention. There is, however, a role played by organizations such as the International Maritime Organization, the International Whaling Commission, and the International Seabed Authority.

**Objectives:** To protect the economic, environmental, and national security concerns of coastal states, Strengthen the state sovereignty over the enforcement of environmental regulations up to 200 miles offshore (called the Exclusive Economic Zone—EEZ). To protect the marine environment, promote the maintenance of international peace and security, protect the freedom of navigation on the high seas as well as the right of innocent passage, including non-wartime activities of military ships

**Date of Adoption: 10.12.1982**

**Date of Entry into Force: 16.11.1994**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 19.07.1994**

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka: 28.07.1995**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 158**

**Important Articles:** Part XI

**National Focal Point:** Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

### **Benefits & Opportunities**

- 1) National Security
- 2) Environmental Protection
- 3) Protect the freedom of navigation

### **Contact Details**

Secretary  
Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
Maligawatte, Colombo - 10  
Tel: 011- 2446183

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### 23. Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage - [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

**Introduction:** The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage is an international agreement that was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972. It is based on the premise that certain places on Earth are of outstanding universal value and should therefore form part of the common heritage of mankind. The countries who ratify the Convention have become part of an international community, united in a common mission to identify and safeguard our world's most outstanding natural and cultural heritage. While fully respecting the national sovereignty, and without prejudice to property rights provided by national legislation, the States Parties recognize that the protection of the World Heritage is the duty of the international community as a whole.

Once a country signs the Convention, and has sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, the resulting prestige often helps raise awareness among citizens and governments for heritage preservation. Greater awareness leads to a general rise in the level of the protection and conservation given to heritage properties. A country may also receive financial assistance and expert advice from the World Heritage Committee to support activities for the preservation of its sites.

**World Heritage Sites in Sri Lanka:** Royal and sacred cities, colonial strongholds, temple caves and virgin forests – with no fewer than seven World Heritage Sites declared and listed by UNESCO, Sri Lanka is one of Asia's richest treasure troves of both natural and man-made wonders. Six of these marvels span some 2,500 years of history – from the sacred city of Anuradhapura and the cave temples of Dambulla, to the magnificent temples and palaces of the royal city of Kandy. The Dutch fortification at Galle has the added distinction of being a living World Heritage Site. The archaeological sites at Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya – the palace in the sky – form Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle – a world of ancient wonders.

The seventh jewel in Sri Lanka's heritage crown owes nothing to man and everything to nature: the Sinharaja Forest Reserve, a biodiversity hotspot, with its own unique eco-system consisting of protected birds, flora and fauna.

**Objective:** To establish an effective system of collective protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value organized on a permanent basis and in accordance with modern scientific methods.

**Date of Adoption: 16.11.1972**

**Date of Entry into Force: 17.12.1975**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 06.06.1980**

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**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 186**

**National Focal Point:** Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Natural Heritage

**Contact Details**

Secretary  
Ministry of Cultural Affairs & Natural Heritage  
8th Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla  
Telephone : 011- 287200, 011 2876586  
Fax :011- 2872024  
E-mail : mcanew@hotmail.com

**24. Convention on the Continental Shelf**

**Objective:** To define and delimit the rights of States to explore and exploit the natural resources of the continental shelf.

**Date of Adoption: 29.04.1958**

**Date of Entry into Force: 10.06.1964**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 58**

**National Focal Point:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Contact Details:**

Director, UN & MA Division  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Republic Building, Colombo 01  
Tel: 011-2325371  
Fax: 011-2333450  
Email: cypher@formin.gov.lk

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**25. Agreement on the Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia and the Pacific - [www.enaca.org](http://www.enaca.org), [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)**

**Introduction:** Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia and the Pacific (NACA) is an intergovernmental organization that promotes rural development through sustainable aquaculture.

**Objective:** Assist the members in their efforts to expand aquaculture development mainly for the purpose of: increasing production, improving rural income and employment, diversifying farm production; and increasing foreign exchange earnings and savings.

**Date of Adoption: 08.01.1988**

**Date of Entry into Force: 11.01.1990**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 05.01.1989**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 17**

**National Focal Point:** Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

**Benefits and Opportunities**

Transfer appropriate aquaculture technologies, conduct disciplinary and interdisciplinary research on selected aqua farming systems, promote of women's participation in aquaculture development

**Contact Details:**

Secretary  
Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
Maligawatte, Colombo - 10  
Tel:011-2446183

**26. Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas**

**Objective:** To solve the problems involved in the conservation of the living resources of the high seas through international co-operation considering that through the development of modern techniques some of these resources are in danger of being over-exploited.

**Date of Entry Adoption: 29.04.1958**

**Date of Entry into Force: 20.03.1966**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 38**

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**27. Agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and high migratory fish stocks - [www.un.org/depts/los/convention](http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention)**

**Introduction:** Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

**Objective:** To ensure long-term conservation and sustainable use of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks through effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

**Date of Adoption: 04.08.199544**

**Date of Entry into Force: 11.12.2001**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 24.10.1996**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 71**

**National Focal Point:** Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

**Important Articles:** Part II - Conservation and management  
Part III - Mechanisms for international cooperation

**Benefits & Opportunities:**

Addresses the problems encountered with regard to straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks

**Contact Details:**

Secretary  
Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
Maligawatte, Colombo - 10  
Tel:011- 2446183

**28. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction**

**Introduction:** Determined to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament, including the prohibition and elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction, and convinced that the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons and their elimination, through effective measures, will facilitate the achievement of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

**Date of Adoption: 10.04.1972**

**Date of Entry into Force: 26.03.1975.**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 18.11.1986**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 171**

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## 29. Convention on the High Seas

**Introduction:** The Convention on the High Seas was one of the four Conventions on the law of the sea adopted at the First United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS I) in Geneva in 1958. The Convention provided a definition of the "high seas" (meaning all parts of the sea that are not included in the territorial sea or in the internal waters of a State) and codified the traditional principle of freedom of the high seas, including the freedom of fishing.

Thus, article 2 of the Convention provides that the high seas are open to all nations (and that no State may validly purport to subject any part of them to its sovereignty) and specifies certain activities (navigation, fishing, laying of submarine cables and pipelines and overflight) which are included within the concept of the freedom of the high seas. These freedoms, and others which are recognized by the general principles of international law, are to be exercised by States with reasonable regard to the interests of other States in their exercise of the same freedoms. The remainder of the Convention does not concern fishing directly, but deals instead with various matters concerning the registration and nationality of ships (including the principle that there must exist a genuine link between the State and a ship registered in that State), safety at sea, piracy and other crimes at sea and the laying of submarine cables.

**Objective:** To codify the rules of international law relating to the high seas.

**Date of Adoption: 29.04.1958**

**Date of Entry into Force: 30.09.1962**

## 30. Convention concerning the protection of workers against ionising radiations.

**Introduction:** Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its Forty-fourth Session on 1 June 1960, and having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to the protection of workers against ionising radiations, which is the fourth item on the agenda of the session, and having determined that these proposals shall take the form of an international Convention, adopts this twenty-second day of June of the year one thousand nine hundred and sixty the Convention, which may be cited as the Radiation Protection Convention, 1960

**Objective:** To protect workers, as regards their health and safety, against ionizing radiations

**Date of Adoption: 22.06.1960**

**Date of Entry into Force: 17.06.1962**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 18.06.1986**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 47**

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### **31. Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water**

**Introduction:** The Test Ban Treaty of 1963 prohibits nuclear weapons tests "or any other nuclear explosion" in the atmosphere, in outer space, and under water. While not banning tests underground, the Treaty does prohibit nuclear explosions in this environment if they cause "radioactive debris to be present outside the territorial limits of the State under whose jurisdiction or control" the explosions were conducted. In accepting limitations on testing, the nuclear powers accepted as a common goal "an end to the contamination of man's environment by radioactive substances."

Efforts to achieve a test ban agreement had extended over eight years. They involved complex technical problems of verification and the difficulties of reconciling deep-seated differences in approach to arms control and security. The uneven progress of the negotiations reflected, moreover, contemporaneous fluctuations in East-West political relationships.

**Objective:** To obtain an agreement on general and complete disarmament under strict international control in accordance with the objectives of the United Nations; to put an end to the armaments race and eliminate incentives to the production and testing of all kinds of weapons, including nuclear weapons.

**Date of Adoption: 05.08.1963**

**Date of Entry into Force: 10.10.1963**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 05.02.1963**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 113**

### **32. Treaty on principles governing the activities of states in the exploration and use of outer space including the moon and other celestial bodies.**

**Introduction:** The Outer Space Treaty, formally known as the Treaty on Principles Governing the activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, is a treaty that forms the basis of international space law. The treaty was opened for signature in the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union on January 27, 1967, and entered into force on October 10, 1967. The Outer Space Treaty represents the basic legal framework of international space law. Among its principles, it bars States Parties to the Treaty from placing nuclear weapons or any other weapons of mass destruction in orbit of Earth, installing them on the Moon or any other celestial body, or to otherwise station them in outer space. It exclusively limits the use of the Moon and other celestial bodies to peaceful purposes and expressly prohibits their use for testing weapons of any kind, conducting military maneuvers, or establishing military bases, installations, and fortifications (Art.IV). However, the Treaty does not prohibit the placement of conventional weapons in orbit.

The treaty explicitly forbids any government from claiming a celestial resource such as the Moon or a planet, since they are province of mankind. Art. II of the Treaty states, in fact, that "outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means". The pendant for giving up sovereignty in outer space is the jurisdiction and control that the State that launches a space object retains. According to Manfred Lachs jurisdiction and control is giving the means to the State to conduct a mission of space exploration

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**Objective:** To establish an international legal regime for the exploration and use of outer space

**Date of Adoption: 27.01.1967**

**Date of Entry into Force: 10.10.1967**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 18.11.1986**

### **33. Convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile of environmental modification techniques.**

**Introduction:** The States Parties to this Convention, guided by the interest of consolidating peace, and wishing to contribute to the cause of halting the arms race, and of bringing about general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, and of saving mankind from the danger of using new means of warfare, Determined to continue negotiations with a view to achieving effective progress towards further measures in the field of disarmament, Recognizing that scientific and technical advances may open new possibilities with respect to modification of the environment, Recalling the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, adopted at Stockholm on 16 June 1972,

Realizing that the use of environmental modification techniques for peaceful purposes could improve the interrelationship of man and nature and contribute to the preservation and improvement of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations, Recognizing, however, that military or any other hostile use of such techniques could have effects extremely harmful to human welfare, Desiring to prohibit effectively military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques in order to eliminate the dangers to mankind from such use, and affirming their willingness to work towards the achievement of this objective, Desiring also to contribute to the strengthening of trust among nations and to the further improvement of the international situation in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

**Objective:** To prohibit the military or any other hostile use of such techniques in order to consolidate world peace and trust among nations.

**Date of Adoption: 18.05.1977**

**Date of Entry into Force: 05.10.1978**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 25.04.1978**

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka: 05.10.1978**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 36**

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**34. Convention on early Notification of a Nuclear Accident:**  
**[www.iaea.org/publications/documents/conventions](http://www.iaea.org/publications/documents/conventions)**

**Introduction:** Adopted in 1986 following the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident, this Convention establishes a notification system for nuclear accidents which have the potential for international transboundary release that could be of radiological safety significance for another State. It requires States to report the accident's time, location, radiation releases, and other data essential for assessing the situation. Notification is to be made to affected States directly or through the IAEA, and to the IAEA itself.

Reporting is mandatory for any nuclear accident involving facilities and activities listed in Article 1. Pursuant to Article 3, States may notify other accidents as well. The five nuclear-weapon States (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and United States) have all declared their intent also to report accidents involving nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons tests.

**Objective:** To provide relevant information about nuclear accidents as early as possible in order to minimise trans boundary radiological consequences.

**Date of Adoption: 26.09.1986**

**Date of Entry into Force: 27.10.1986**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 11.1.1991**

**Date of Entry into force in Sri Lanka: 11.02.1991**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 101**

**National Focal Point:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**35. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stock piling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their destruction**

**Introduction:** The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW, or the "Organisation") is the treaty-implementing body for the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (the "CWC", or the "Convention"). The Convention aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties. States Parties, in turn, must take steps necessary to enforce that prohibition in respect of persons (natural or legal) within their jurisdiction.

All States Parties have agreed to chemically disarm by destroying any stockpiles of chemical weapons they may hold and any facilities which produced them, as well as any chemical weapons they abandoned on the territory of other States Parties in the past.

**Objective:** To develop, production, stockpiling and use of chemical- weapons, to destroy the existing chemical weapons and related facilities.

**Date of Adoption: 13.01.1993**

**Date of Entry into Force: 29.4.1997**

**Date of Ratification by Sri Lanka: 10.08.1994**

**Number of Countries which have ratified the Convention: 183**

**National Focal Point:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs