

## Environmental Conventions and Protocols Notes

Convention	Year of establishment	Purpose	Remarks
Ramsar Convention	1971	for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Known as Waterfowl convention.</li><li>· India is part of it.</li><li>· There are currently 27 Ramsar sites in India</li></ul>
Stockholm Declaration	1972	International protection of the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· UNEP was the result of it.</li></ul>
Convention on International Trade in Endangered species of Wild flora and fauna (CITES)	1973	Control or prevent international commercial trade in endangered species or products derived from them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Known as Washington Convention</li><li>· Legally binding</li></ul>
Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)	1979	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Also known as the Bonn Convention</li><li>· It is under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</li></ul>
Nairobi Declaration	1982	for achieving sustainable developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Stockholm)</li></ul>
Vienna convention	1985	for the protection of the ozone layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· It does not include legally binding reduction goals</li></ul>
Montreal Protocol	1987	To control Ozone-depleting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· It is a protocol to the Vienna Convention</li></ul>

		Substances	for the Protection of Ozone Layer <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Universal treaty (Ratified by all UN countries)</li><li>· Legally binding</li><li>· Target only ozone depleting substances (Not GHG i.e. Hydro Fluorocarbons)</li></ul>
Brundtland Report	1987	Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· gave the concept of "sustainable development"</li></ul>
Earth Summit/ United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)/ Rio Declaration	1992	Environment conservation & Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· It had 27 principles</li><li>· Three legally binding agreements were opened for signature:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) CBD</li><li>(ii) UNFCC</li><li>(iii) UNCCD</li></ul></li></ul>
Agenda 21	1992	Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· It is a product of Earth Summit, 1992</li><li>· Agenda 21 refers to the 21st Century.</li><li>· Non-binding</li></ul>
UNFCCC	1992	Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to combat global warming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Environmental treaty produced at the Earth Summit, 1992.</li><li>· Secretariat: Bonn, Germany</li><li>· legally non-binding</li></ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Kyoto Protocol was negotiated under this framework.</li> </ul>
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	1992	<p>Three main goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity);</li> <li>2. Sustainable use of its components;</li> <li>3. Sharing the benefits of genetic resources fairly and equitably</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Legally binding</li> <li>· USA has signed but not ratified</li> <li>· The two protocols to CBD are:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 2000</li> <li>(b) Nagoya Protocol (Biodiversity Accord), 2010</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
UNCCD	1994	Convention to Combat Desertification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Headquarter: Bonn, Germany</li> <li>· Only convention that came out from direct recommendations of Rio Agenda 21</li> <li>· Legally Binding</li> <li>· Canada withdrew</li> </ul>
Kyoto Protocol (COP 3)	1997	<p>to fight global warming by reducing greenhouse gas concentrations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Negotiated under UNFCC</li> <li>· Came into force in 2005</li> <li>· Binding targets to Annex I countries</li> <li>· Mechanisms under protocol:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Clean Development</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

			<p>Mechanism (CDM) (b) Emission Trading (c) Joint Implementation (JI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· This protocol applies to follow GHGs (Annex A):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)</li><li>(b) Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)</li><li>(c) Nitrous Oxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)</li><li>(d) Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>)</li><li>(e) Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)</li><li>(f) Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)</li></ul></li><li>· The Protocol is based on the principle of shared (Common) but differentiated responsibilities.</li><li>· It places the obligation on developed countries to reduce current emissions on the basis that they are historically responsible for the current levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.</li><li>· Annex I countries: industrialized countries and economies in transition</li><li>· Annex II countries:</li></ul>
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			<p>developed countries which pay for costs of developing countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Non-Annex I countries: Developing countries</li><li>· India is Non-Annex party to UNFCC.</li><li>· There are two commitment periods<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) 2008 – 2012</li><li>(ii) 2013 – 2020</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Note:</b> The second commitment period was agreed on in 2012, known as the Doha Amendment to the protocol.</p>
Rotterdam Convention	1998	<p>Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous</p> <p>Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· UN Treaty</li></ul>
Cartagena Protocol	2000	<p>Biosafety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Protecting biological diversity from potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology.</li></ul>
Stockholm Convention	2001	<p>Eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· UN Treaty</li><li>· US is not a party to this treaty</li></ul>

		pollutants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) and the International Programme for Chemical Safety (IPCS) prepared a list, known as the <b>Dirty Dozen.</b></li> </ul>
REDD & REDD+	2005	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiated under UNFCCC since 2005.</li> <li>UN-REDD was launched in 2008. India did not participate in it.</li> <li>REDD+ (Defined in Bali Action Plan, 2007, CoP13)</li> <li>REDD+ extends to                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Sustainable Forest Management</li> <li>(b) Conservation of Forests</li> <li>(c) Enhancement of carbon sinks</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Nagoya Protocol	2010	Access to genetic resources and a fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use of the Convention on Biological Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a supplementary agreement to the CBD.</li> </ul>
Rio+20	2012	Conference on Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rio Earth Summit 1992.</li> </ul>
Paris Agreement (COP 21)	2015	Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It will come into force by 2020.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not legally binding.</li> </ul> <p><b>Aims</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This century, global temperature rises well below 2 degrees Celsius above circa-industrial level.</li> <li>Pursue efforts to limit the temperature upsurge even further to <b>5 degrees Celsius.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Indian NDCs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP- by 33 to 35 per cent below 2005 levels by the year 2030.</li> <li>By 2030, 40 percent of its energy would be generated from non-fossil fuels.</li> <li>Increase its forest cover to create an additional carbon sink equivalent to 2.5 to 3 billion tons of carbon dioxide by 2030.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Recently the US has withdrawn from it.</p>
Kigali Amendment	2016	Reduce Ozone Layer Depletion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It amends the 1987 Montreal Protocol.</li> <li>Its aims to reduce Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by roughly 80-85</li> </ul>

			Percent by late 2045.  · It will be binding on member countries from 2019.
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