

Chapter 6

Global Guardians: The Framework of Environmental Treaties


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ABSTRACT

Global warming and environmental issues are current issues whose threat is coupled with actual economic problems. Environmental and social costs are often rising inside the country as its economy grows, where they strive to maintain acceptable living standards and decrease the volume of emissions. Hence, the nations have their oversized role to play in decision making or decisions of a global nature depending on the size of their economy. The analysis of climate change and its impacts entails calling for a paradigm shift and focusing on obligations recognition and compliance through civilian pressure rather than on the politically skewed international political diplomacy systems. The goal of the study is therefore to review the chronological progression of international environmental agreements from early protocols to contemporary, Outline the key factors that have facilitated change in the agreements and evaluate how effective these agreements have been in meeting their goals.

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INTRODUCTION

Global environmental challenges including climate change, biodiversity loss, and transboundary pollution require global solutions. International environmental agreements (IEAs) are means of cooperation and shared goals and accountability frameworks for these challenges. However, the effectiveness of these agreements has been vastly different, with strong relationships to scientific evidence, geopolitics, and enforcement. This paper is a literature review of IEAs, their progression, and their drivers of change, with effectiveness as the central focus of the review.

The world faces an urgent requirement for worldwide collaboration following planetary ecosystem deterioration and the climate emergency that persists. International environmental agreements (IEAs) serve as essential instruments which help solve environmental challenges that span through national borders including biodiversity erosion and ocean pollutions as well as greenhouse gas release and ozone layer destruction. Humans have established these diplomatic agreements because environmental problems exceed national boundaries while requiring international collaboration. Their development has involved splendid achievements along with enduring restrictions due to scientific engineering alongside geopolitical and economic matters and grassroots environmental campaigns. The analysis focuses on historical development alongside vital motivational elements and performance assessments of international environmental agreements to understand their influence on worldwide environmental leadership frameworks.

Global environmental issues including climate change and deforestation and plastic pollution transcend geographic boundaries because they operate at nationwide and international levels. Environmental challenges go beyond state borders which requires systems that unite national objectives with worldwide sustainability. At the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment the world established foundational international environmental law principles while founding the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for global coordination (Sohn, 1973). After the Stockholm Conference IEAs have expanded in number to target problems such as toxic waste trade (Basel Convention, 1989) and desertification (UNCCD, 1994). These agreements prove ineffective because they face three fundamental problems which include insufficient enforcement capabilities, conflicting national sovereignties and unequal distribution of resources.

IEA evolution showcases a fundamental dispute between two theoretical perspectives which bracket market-oriented administrative modifications against comprehensive change strategies targeting essential causes of overexploitation and social inequality. The analysis tracks the timeline of IEAs and their changing elements to demonstrate their success and challenges in environmental conservation.

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