



3.14 Government commitment

	Environmental strategy or action plan	Country environmental profile	Biodiversity assessment, strategy, or action plan	Participation in treaties ^a				
				Climate change	Ozone layer	CFC control	Law of the Sea ^b	Biological diversity
Albania	1993	..	..	1995	2000	2000	..	1994
Algeria	..	..	..	1994	1993	1993	1996	1995
Angola	..	..	..	..	..	..	1994	1998
Argentina	1992	..	..	1994	1990	1990	1996	1995
Armenia	..	..	..	1994	2000	2000	..	1993
Australia	1992	..	1994	1994	1987	1989	1995	1993
Austria	..	..	..	1994	1987	1989	1995	1994
Azerbaijan	..	..	..	1995	1996	1996	..	..
Bangladesh	1991	1989	1990	1994	1990	1990	..	1994
Belarus	..	..	..	..	1986	1989	..	1993
Belgium	..	..	..	1996	1989	1989	..	1997
Benin	1993	..	..	1994	1993	1993	..	1994
Bolivia	1994	1986	1988	1995	1995	1995	1995	1995
Bosnia and Herzegovina	..	..	..	..	1992	1992	1994	..
Botswana	1990	1986	1991	1994	1992	1992	1994	1996
Brazil	..	..	1988	1994	1990	1990	1994	1994
Bulgaria	..	..	1994	1995	1991	1991	1996	1996
Burkina Faso	1993	1994	..	1994	1989	1989	..	1993
Burundi	1994	1981	1989	1997	1997	1997	..	1997
Cambodia	1997	..	..	1996	..	..	..	1995
Cameroon	..	1989	1989	1995	1989	1989	1994	1995
Canada	1990	..	1994	1994	1986	1988	..	1993
Central African Republic	..	..	..	1995	1993	1993	..	1995
Chad	1990	1982	..	1994	1989	1994	..	1994
Chile	..	1987	1993	1995	1990	1990	..	1994
China	1994	..	1994	1994	1989	1991	1996	1993
Hong Kong, China	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Colombia	..	1990	1988	1995	1990	1994	..	1995
Congo, Dem. Rep.	..	1986	1990	1995	1995	1995	1994	1995
Congo, Rep.	..	..	1990	1997	1995	1995	..	1996
Costa Rica	1990	1987	1992	1994	1991	1991	1994	1994
Côte d'Ivoire	1994	..	1991	1995	1993	1993	1994	1995
Croatia	..	..	..	1996	1992	1992	1994	1997
Cuba	..	..	..	1994	1992	1992	1994	1994
Czech Republic	1991	..	..	1994	1993	1993	1996	1994
Denmark	1994	..	..	1994	1988	1989	..	1994
Dominican Republic	..	1984	1995	1999	1993	1993	..	1996
Ecuador	1993	1987	1995	1994	1990	1990	..	1993
Egypt, Arab Rep.	1992	1992	1988	1995	1988	1988	1994	1994
El Salvador	1994	1985	1988	1996	1993	1993	..	1994
Eritrea	1995	..	..	1995	..	..	..	1996
Estonia	..	..	..	1994	1997	1997	..	1994
Ethiopia	1994	..	1991	1994	1995	1995	..	1994
Finland	1995	..	..	1994	1986	1989	1996	1994
France	1990	..	..	1994	1988	1989	1996	1994
Gabon	..	..	1990	1998	1994	1994	..	1997
Gambia, The	1992	1981	1989	1994	1990	1990	1994	1994
Georgia	..	..	..	1994	1996	1996	1996	1994
Germany	..	..	..	1994	1988	1989	1994	1994
Ghana	1992	1985	1988	1995	1989	1989	1994	1994
Greece	..	..	..	1994	1989	1989	1995	1994
Guatemala	1994	1984	1988	1996	1987	1990	..	1995
Guinea	1994	1983	1988	1994	1992	1992	1994	1993
Guinea-Bissau	1993	..	1991	1996	..	..	1994	1996
Haiti	..	1985	..	1996	..	..	1996	1996
Honduras	1993	1989	..	1996	1994	1994	1994	1995

Table 3.14a

Status of national environmental action plans

Completed

Albania	Georgia	Mongolia
Azerbaijan	Ghana	Montserrat
Bangladesh	Grenada	Mozambique
Belarus	Guinea	Namibia
Benin	Guinea-Bissau	Nepal
Bhutan	Guyana	Nicaragua
Bolivia	Haiti	Niger
Botswana	Honduras	Nigeria
Bulgaria	Hungary	Pakistan
Burkina Faso	India	Papua New Guinea
Burundi	Indonesia	Philippines
Cambodia	Kenya	Poland
Cameroon	Lao PDR	Romania
Cape Verde	Latvia	Rwanda
China	Lebanon	São Tomé and Príncipe
Comoros	Lesotho	Senegal
Congo, Dem. Rep.	Lithuania	Seychelles
Congo, Rep.	Macedonia, FYR	Sierra Leone
Costa Rica	Madagascar	Sri Lanka
Côte d'Ivoire	Malawi	St. Kitts and Nevis
El Salvador	Maldives	Swaziland
Eritrea	Mali	Tanzania
Estonia	Mauritania	Togo
Ethiopia	Mauritius	Uganda
Gabon	Mexico	Ukraine
Gambia, The	Moldova	Zambia

Being prepared

Armenia	Equatorial Guinea	South Africa
Central African Rep.	Kazakhstan	Uzbekistan
Djibouti	Korea, Rep.	Vietnam
Dominican Rep.	Malaysia	Zimbabwe
Ecuador	Paraguay	

Note: Status is as of September 1999.

Source: World Resources Institute, International Institute for Environment and Development, and IUCN, 1996 *World Directory of Country Environmental Studies*; World Bank data; World Bank 1998b.



Government commitment 3.14

	Environmental strategy or action plan	Country environmental profile	Biodiversity assessment, strategy, or action plan	Participation in treaties ^a				
				Climate change	Ozone layer	CFC control	Law of the Sea ^b	Biological diversity
Hungary	1995	..	..	1994	1988	1989	..	1994
India	1993	1989	1994	1994	1991	1992	1995	1994
Indonesia	1992	1994	1993	1994	1992	1992	1994	1994
Iran, Islamic Rep.	..	..	..	1996	1991	1991	..	1996
Iraq	..	..	..	..	..	..	1994	..
Ireland	..	..	..	1994	1988	1989	..	1996
Israel	..	..	..	1994	1992	1992	..	1995
Italy	..	..	..	1994	1988	1989	1995	1994
Jamaica	1994	1987	..	1995	1993	1993	1994	1995
Japan	..	..	..	1994	1988	1988	1996	1993
Jordan	1991	1979	..	1994	1989	1989	1995	1994
Kazakhstan	..	..	..	1995	1998	1998	..	1994
Kenya	1994	1989	1992	1994	1989	1989	1994	1994
Korea, Dem. Rep.	..	..	..	1995	1995	1995	..	1995
Korea, Rep.	..	..	..	1994	1992	1992	1996	1995
Kuwait	..	..	..	1995	1993	1993	1994	..
Kyrgyz Republic	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1996
Lao PDR	1995	..	..	1995	1998	1998	..	1996
Latvia	..	..	..	1995	1995	1995	..	1996
Lebanon	..	..	..	1995	1993	1993	1995	1995
Lesotho	1989	1982	..	1995	1994	1994	..	1995
Libya	..	..	..	..	1990	1990	..	..
Lithuania	..	..	..	1995	1995	1995	..	1996
Macedonia, FYR	..	..	..	1998	1994	1994	1994	..
Madagascar	1988	..	1991	1996	1997	1997	..	1996
Malawi	1994	1982	..	1994	1991	1991	..	1994
Malaysia	1991	1979	1988	1994	1989	1989	1997	1994
Mali	..	1991	1989	1995	1995	1995	1994	1995
Mauritania	1988	1984	..	1994	1994	1994	1996	1996
Mauritius	1990	..	..	1994	1992	1992	1994	1993
Mexico	..	..	1988	1994	1987	1988	1994	1993
Moldova	..	..	..	1995	1997	1997	..	1996
Mongolia	1995	..	..	1994	1996	1996	..	1993
Morocco	..	1980	1988	1996	1996	1996	..	1995
Mozambique	1994	..	..	1995	1994	1994	..	1995
Myanmar	..	1982	1989	1995	1994	1994	1996	1995
Namibia	1992	..	..	1995	1993	1993	1994	1997
Nepal	1993	1983	..	1994	1994	1994	..	1994
Netherlands	1994	..	..	1994	1988	1989	1996	1994
New Zealand	1994	..	..	1994	1987	1988	1996	1993
Nicaragua	1994	1981	..	1996	1993	1993	..	1996
Niger	..	1985	1991	1995	1993	1993	..	1995
Nigeria	1990	..	1992	1994	1989	1989	1994	1994
Norway	..	..	1994	1994	1986	1988	1996	1993
Oman	..	1981	..	1995	1999	1999	1994	1995
Pakistan	1994	1994	1991	1994	1993	1993	..	1994
Panama	1990	1980	..	1995	1989	1989	1996	1995
Papua New Guinea	1992	1994	1993	1994	1993	1993	..	1993
Paraguay	..	1985	..	1994	1993	1993	1994	1994
Peru	..	1988	1988	1994	1989	1993	..	1993
Philippines	1989	1992	1989	1994	1991	1991	1994	1994
Poland	1993	..	1991	1994	1990	1990	..	1996
Portugal	1995	..	..	1994	1989	1989	..	1994
Puerto Rico	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Romania	..	..	..	1994	1993	1993	1997	1994
Russian Federation	..	..	1994	1995	1986	1989	..	1995

Table 3.14b

States that have signed the Convention on Climate Change

Antigua and Barbuda ^a	Guatemala ^a	Paraguay ^a
Argentina	Honduras	Peru
Australia	Indonesia	Philippines
Austria	Ireland	Poland
Austria	Israel	Portugal
Bahamas, The ^a	Italy	Romania
Belgium	Jamaica ^a	Russian Federation
Bolivia ^a	Japan	Samoa
Brazil	Kazakhstan	Seychelles
Bulgaria	Korea, Rep.	Slovak Republic
Canada	Latvia	Slovenia
Chile	Liechtenstein	Solomon Islands
China	Lithuania	Spain
Cook Islands	Luxembourg	St. Lucia
Costa Rica	Malaysia	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Croatia	Maldives ^a	Grenadines
Cuba	Mali	Sweden
Cyprus ^a	Malta	Switzerland
Czech Republic	Marshall Islands	Thailand
Denmark	Mexico	Trinidad and Tobago ^a
Ecuador	Micronesia ^a	Turkmenistan ^a
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Monaco	Tuvalu ^a
El Salvador ^a	Netherlands	Ukraine
Estonia	New Zealand	United Kingdom
Fiji ^a	Nicaragua ^a	United States
Finland	Niger	Uruguay
France	Niue ^a	Uzbekistan ^a
Georgia ^a	Norway	Vietnam
Germany	Panama ^a	Zambia
Greece	Papua New Guinea	

Note: Status is as of November 1999.

a. Ratification or accession signed.

Source: Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.



3.14 Government commitment

	Environmental strategy or action plan	Country environmental profile	Biodiversity assessment, strategy, or action plan	Participation in treaties ^a				
				Climate change	Ozone layer	CFC control	Law of the Sea ^b	Biological diversity
Rwanda	1991	1987	..	1998	..	..	..	1996
Saudi Arabia	..	..	..	1995	1993	1993	..	..
Senegal	1984	1990	1991	1995	1993	1993	1994	1995
Sierra Leone	1994	..	..	1995	..	..	1995	1995
Singapore	1993	1988	1995	1997	1989	1989	1994	1996
Slovak Republic	..	..	..	1994	1993	1993	1996	1994
Slovenia	..	..	..	1996	1992	1992	1994	1996
South Africa	1993	..	..	1997	1990	1990	1994	1996
Spain	..	..	..	1994	1988	1989	..	1994
Sri Lanka	1994	1983	1991	1994	1990	1990	1994	1994
Sudan	..	1989	..	1994	1993	1993	1994	1996
Sweden	..	..	..	1994	1987	1988	1996	1994
Switzerland	..	..	..	1994	1988	1989	..	1995
Syrian Arab Republic	..	1981	..	1996	1990	1990	..	1996
Tajikistan	..	..	..	1998	1996	1998	..	1997
Tanzania	1994	1989	1988	1996	1993	1993	1994	1996
Thailand	..	1992	..	1995	1989	1989	..	..
Togo	1991	..	..	1995	1991	1991	1994	1996
Trinidad and Tobago	..	..	..	1994	1989	1989	1994	1996
Tunisia	1994	1980	1988	1994	1989	1989	1994	1993
Turkey	..	1982	..	..	1991	1991	..	1997
Turkmenistan	..	..	..	1995	1994	1994	..	1996
Uganda	1994	1982	1988	1994	1988	1988	1994	1993
Ukraine	..	..	..	1997	1986	1988	..	1995
United Arab Emirates	..	..	..	1996	1990	1990	..	..
United Kingdom	1995	..	1994	1994	1987	1989	..	1994
United States	1995	..	1995	1994	1986	1988	..	1993
Uruguay	..	..	..	1994	1989	1991	1994	1994
Uzbekistan	..	..	..	1994	1993	1993	..	1995
Venezuela, RB	..	..	..	1995	1988	1989	..	1994
Vietnam	..	..	1993	1995	1994	1994	1994	1995
West Bank and Gaza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yemen, Rep.	..	1990	1992	1996	1996	1996	1994	1996
Yugoslavia, FR (Serb./Mont.)	..	..	..	1997	1990	1991	..	..
Zambia	1994	1988	..	1994	1990	1990	1994	1993
Zimbabwe	1987	1982	..	1994	1993	1993	1994	1995

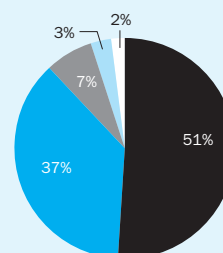
a. The years shown refer to the year the treaty entered into force in the country. b. Convention became effective 16 November 1994.

Figure 3.14

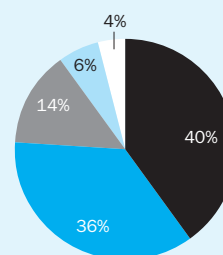
Climate change and biodiversity at the fore

Projects financed by the Global Environment Facility, February 1995–June 1998

Distribution of projects (Total: 621)



Distribution of project financing (Total: \$2,444 million)



- Biodiversity
- Climate change
- International waters
- Ozone depletion
- Multifocus

Source: Global Environment Facility.



Government commitment 3.14

About the data

National environmental strategies and participation in international treaties on environmental issues provide some evidence of government commitment to sound environmental management. But the signing of these treaties does not always imply ratification. Nor does it guarantee that governments will comply with treaty obligations.

In many countries efforts to halt environmental degradation have failed, primarily because governments have neglected to make this issue a priority, a reflection of competing claims on scarce resources. To address this problem, many countries are preparing national environmental strategies—some focusing narrowly on environmental issues, others integrating environmental, economic, and social concerns. Among such initiatives are conservation strategies and environmental action plans. Some countries have also prepared country environmental profiles and biological diversity strategies and profiles.

National conservation strategies—promoted by the World Conservation Union (IUCN)—provide a comprehensive, cross-sectoral analysis of conservation and resource management issues to help integrate environmental concerns with the development process. Such strategies discuss current and future needs, institutional capabilities, prevailing technical conditions, and the status of natural resources in a country.

National environmental action plans (NEAPs), supported by the World Bank and other development agencies, describe a country's main environmental concerns, identify the principal causes of environmental problems, and formulate policies and actions to deal with them (table 3.14a). The NEAP is a continuing process in which governments develop comprehensive environmental policies, recommend specific actions, and outline the investment strategies, legislation, and institutional arrangements required to implement them.

Country environmental profiles identify how national economic and other activities can stay within the constraints imposed by the need to conserve natural resources. Some profiles consider issues of equity, justice, and fairness. Biodiversity profiles—prepared by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the IUCN—provide basic background on species diversity, protected areas, major ecosystems and habitat types, and legislative and administrative support. In an effort to establish a scientific baseline for measuring progress in biodiversity conservation, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) coordinates global biodiversity assessments.

To address global issues, many governments have also signed international treaties and agreements launched in the wake of the 1972 United Nations

Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm and the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro:

- The Framework Convention on Climate Change aims to stabilize atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at levels that will prevent human activities from interfering dangerously with the global climate.
- The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer aims to protect human health and the environment by promoting research on the effects of changes in the ozone layer and on alternative substances (such as substitutes for chlorofluorocarbons) and technologies, monitoring the ozone layer, and taking measures to control the activities that produce adverse effects.
- The Montreal Protocol for CFC Control requires that countries help protect the earth from excessive ultraviolet radiation by cutting chlorofluorocarbon consumption by 20 percent over their 1986 level by 1994 and by 50 percent over their 1986 level by 1999, with allowances for increases in consumption by developing countries.
- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which became effective in November 1994, establishes a comprehensive legal regime for seas and oceans, establishes rules for environmental standards and enforcement provisions, and develops international rules and national legislation to prevent and control marine pollution.
- The Convention on Biological Diversity promotes conservation of biodiversity among nations through scientific and technological cooperation, access to financial and genetic resources, and transfer of ecologically sound technologies.

To help developing countries comply with their obligations under these agreements, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was created to focus on global improvement in biodiversity, climate change, international waters, and ozone layer depletion. The UNEP, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and World Bank manage the GEF according to the policies of its governing body of country representatives. The World Bank is responsible for the GEF Trust Fund and is chair of the GEF.

Definitions

• **Environmental strategies and action plans** provide a comprehensive, cross-sectoral analysis of conservation and resource management issues to help integrate environmental concerns with the development process. They include national conservation strategies, national environmental action plans, national environmental management strategies, and national sustainable development strategies. The years shown refer to the year in which a strategy or action plan was adopted. • **Country environmental profiles** identify how national economic and other activities can stay within the constraints imposed by the need to conserve natural resources. The years shown refer to the year in which a profile was completed. • **Biodiversity assessments, strategies, and action plans** include biodiversity profiles (see *About the data*). • **Participation in treaties** covers five international treaties (see *About the data*). • **Climate change** refers to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (signed in New York in 1992). • **Ozone layer** refers to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (signed in 1985). • **CFC control** refers to the Montreal Protocol for CFC Control (formally, the Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer, signed in 1987). • **Law of the Sea** refers to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (signed in Montego Bay, Jamaica, in 1982). • **Biological diversity** refers to the Convention on Biological Diversity (signed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992). The years shown refer to the year in which a treaty entered into force in a country.

Data sources

The data are from the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the Ozone Secretariat of UNEP; the World Resources Institute, UNEP, and UNDP's *World Resources 1994–95*; the World Resources Institute, International Institute for Environment and Development, and IUCN's *1996 World Directory of Country Environmental Studies*; and the World Bank's *1998 Catalog: Operational Documents as of July 31, 1998*.