



# International Strategic Management – the case of the UN



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# Lecture Outline

- History of the UN
- **UN Terms.**
- Protocols, agreements, MEA
- UNEA
- UNEP
- **Assignment Q+A**





# UN75

**2020 AND BEYOND**



“The #UN75 Anniversary provides a timely occasion to reaffirm our collective commitment to the UN Charter, to remain committed to multilateralism and to demonstrate international solidarity so that together we create *The Future We Want* with *The UN We Need*.”

Huang Xia

*United Nations Special Envoy of  
the Secretary-General for the Great  
Lakes region*

**Multilateralism is**  
when many countries work together  
to pursue a common goal.

[MFAT Multilateralism History](#)

- For the past 100 years multilateralism has shaped our world. Today, multiple organisations involve most – or all – the world's nation-states, while others represent specialist or regional groups with global interests. Many are commonly known by their acronyms:

- ## MFAT Multilateralism History





# History of the UN





# Background history

- League of Nations
- UN 1945
- *Peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet*

# Brief history of the UN



# UN Conference on the Human Environment (1972)

- [Historical Archives - Introductory Note - Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment \(Stockholm Declaration\), 1972 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992 - English](#)
- [NL730005.pdf \(un.org\)](#)



# Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development (1992)

- [A/CONF.151/26/Vol.I: Rio Declaration on Environment and Development \(un.org\)](#)



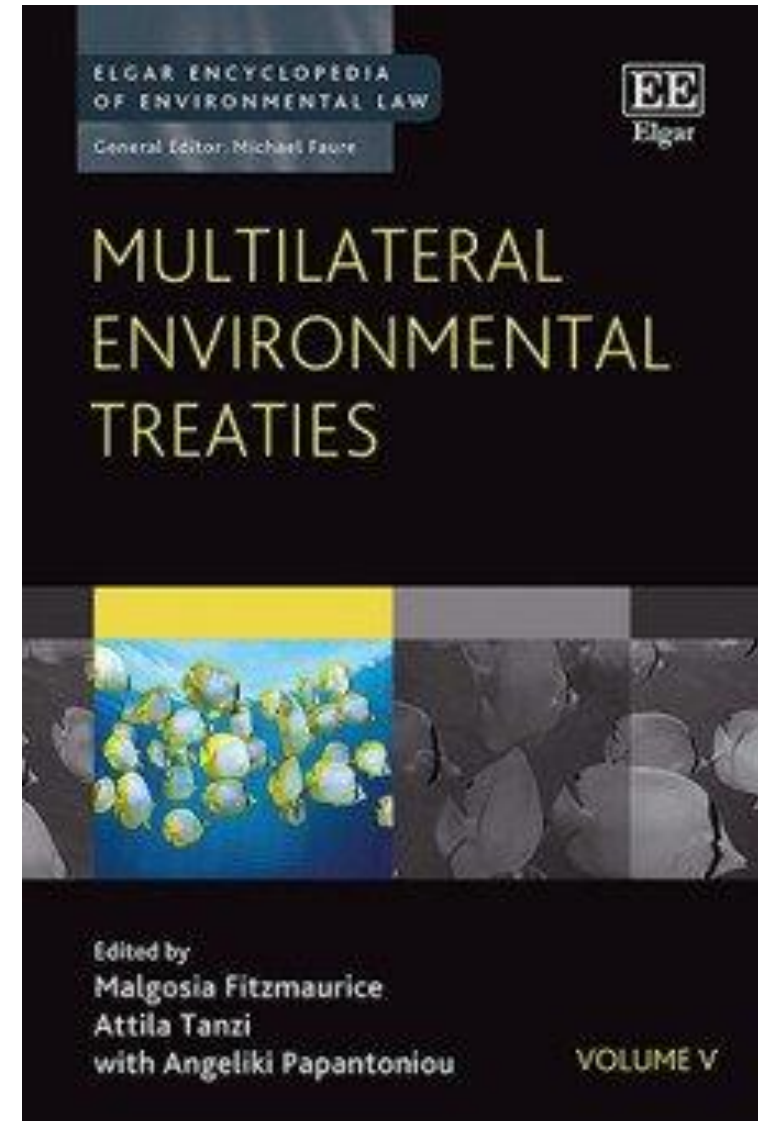
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# UN Terms



# UN Terms Relevant to the Environment

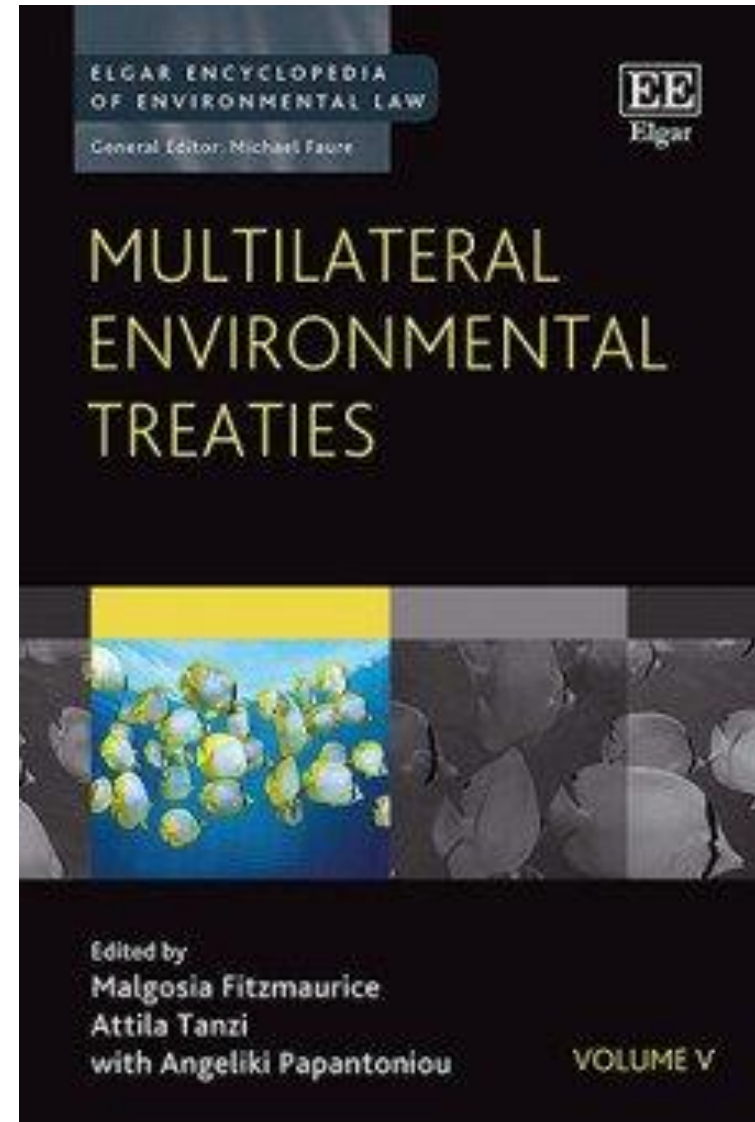
- Treaty is a formal agreement
  - Binding
  - Bound by international law
  - In writing
- Conventions (similar to treaties but tend to be more focused)
  - V.imp to the env.
  - Veto points can cause difficulties
  - General principles
- Protocol
  - Is one of the ways a Convention/Treaty can be complemented/modified



# UN Terms Relevant to the Environment

United Nations Treaty  
Collection

UNTC



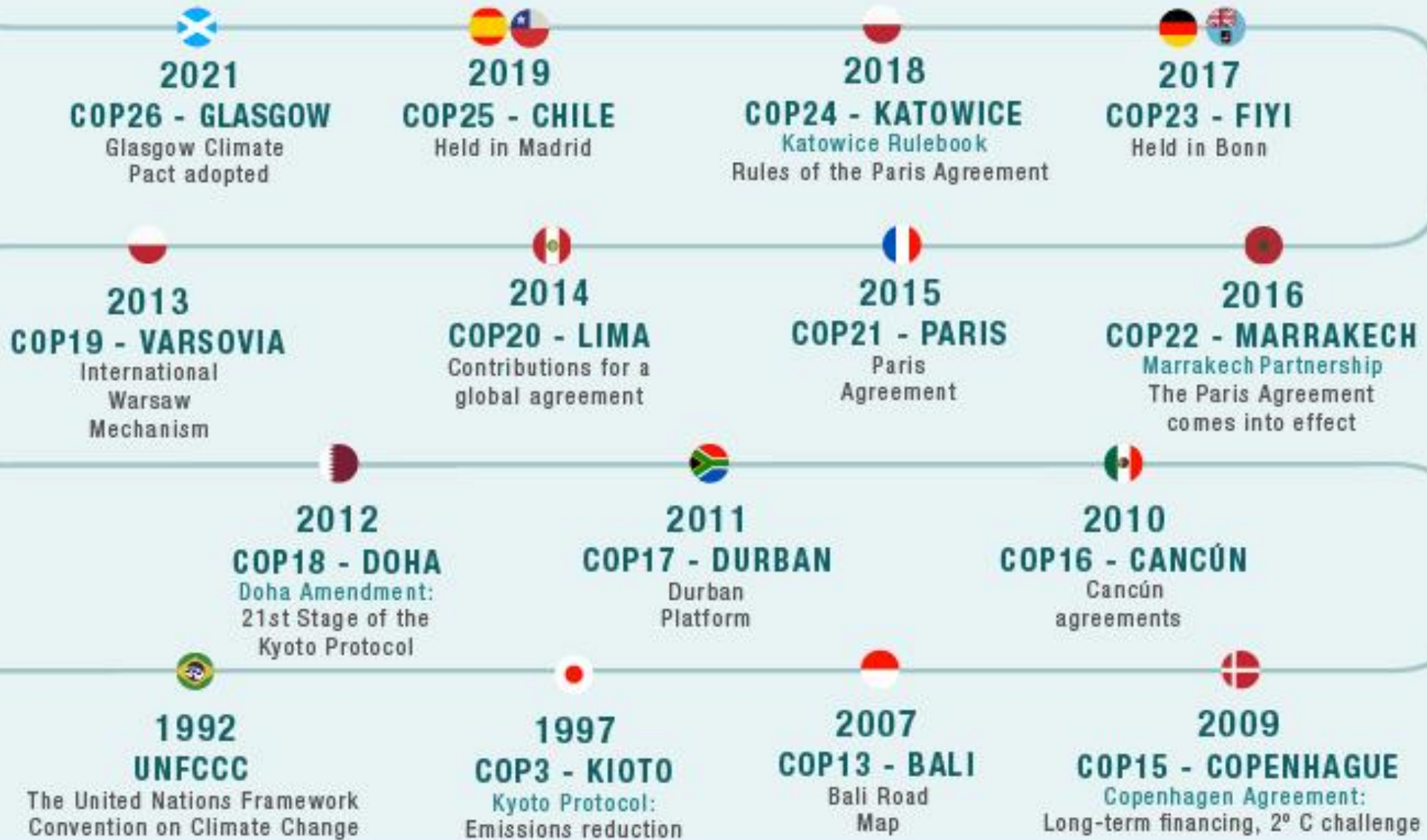
# Protocols

## Protocol

- Signed at a diplomatic conference (E.g. Montreal 1987 CFC's Ozone Success) (Barrett, 2018)
- Follow-on from a convention specific obligations/areas
- Convention on long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution associated with 8 protocols



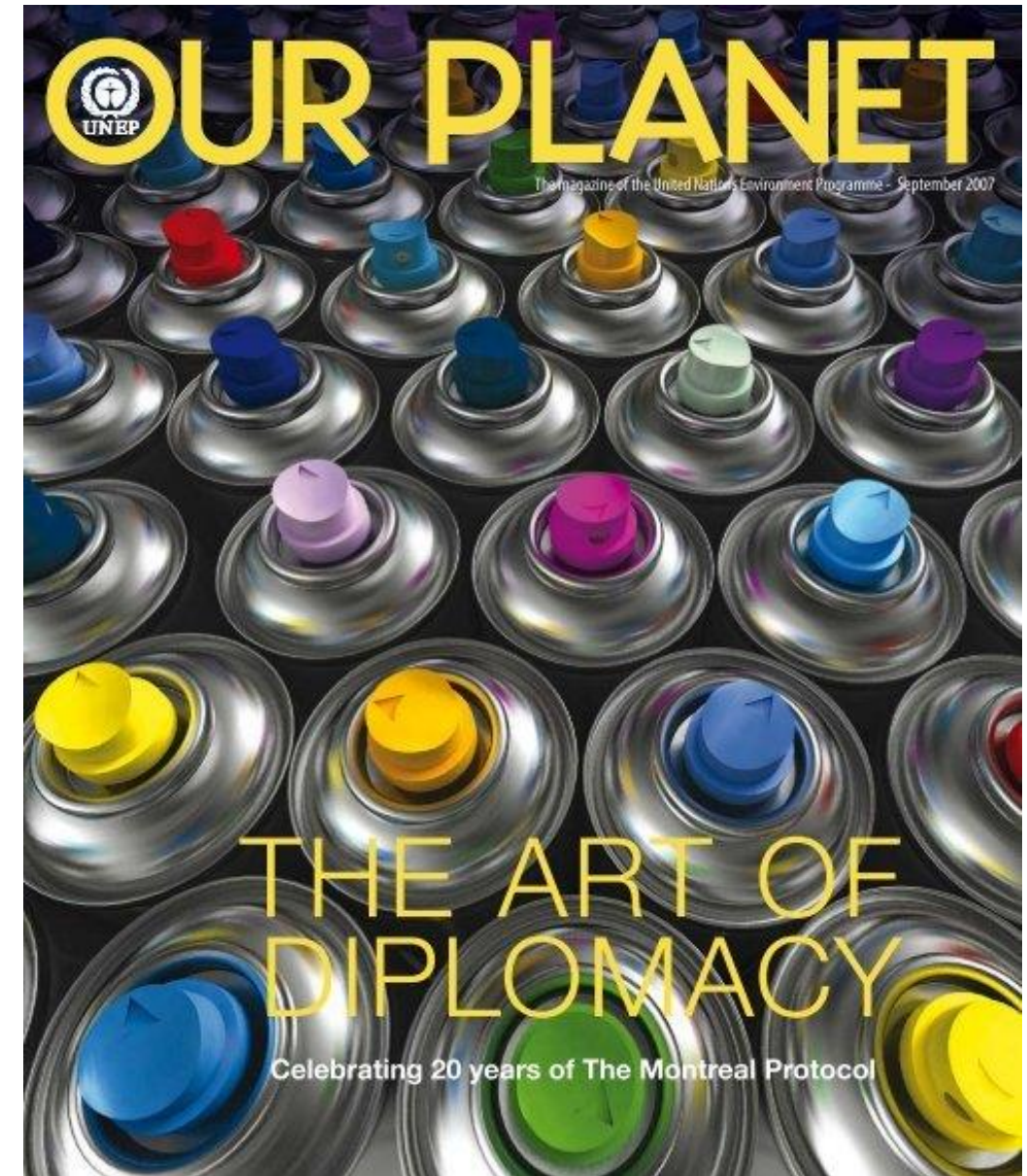
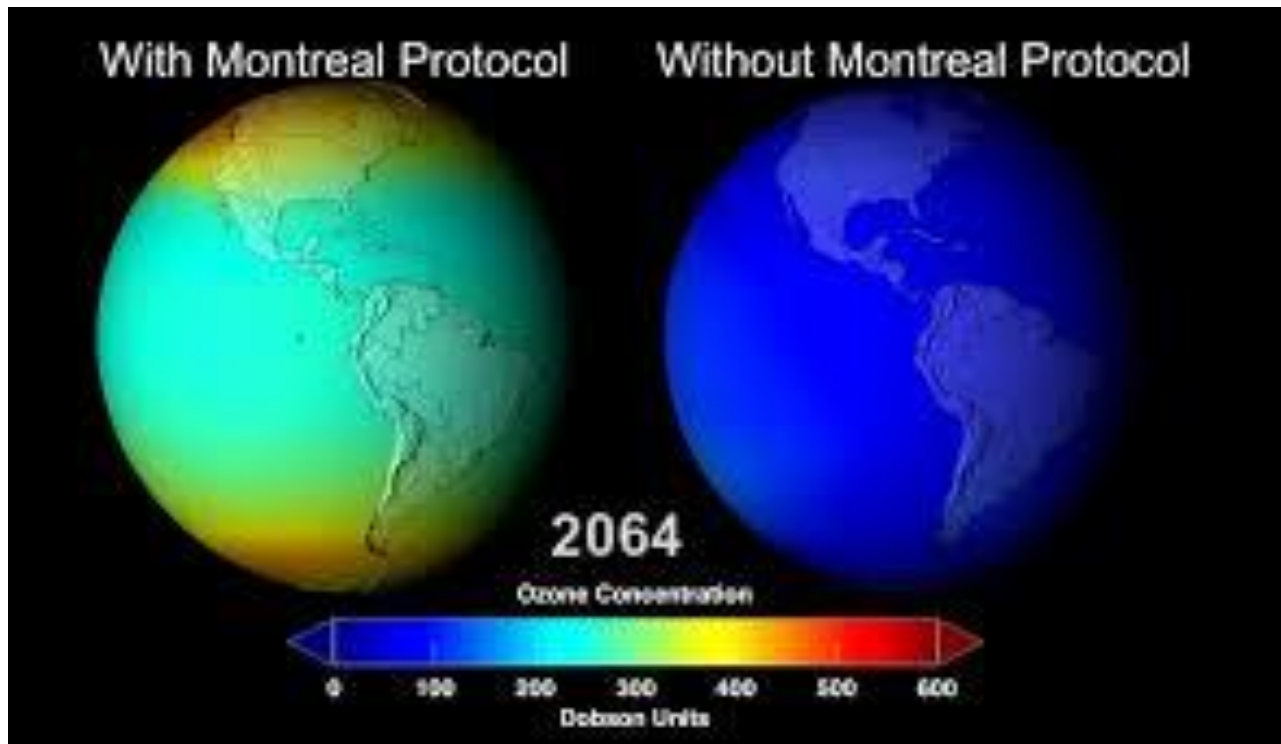
# THE MAIN CLIMATE SUMMITS (AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS)



# Montreal Protocol Example

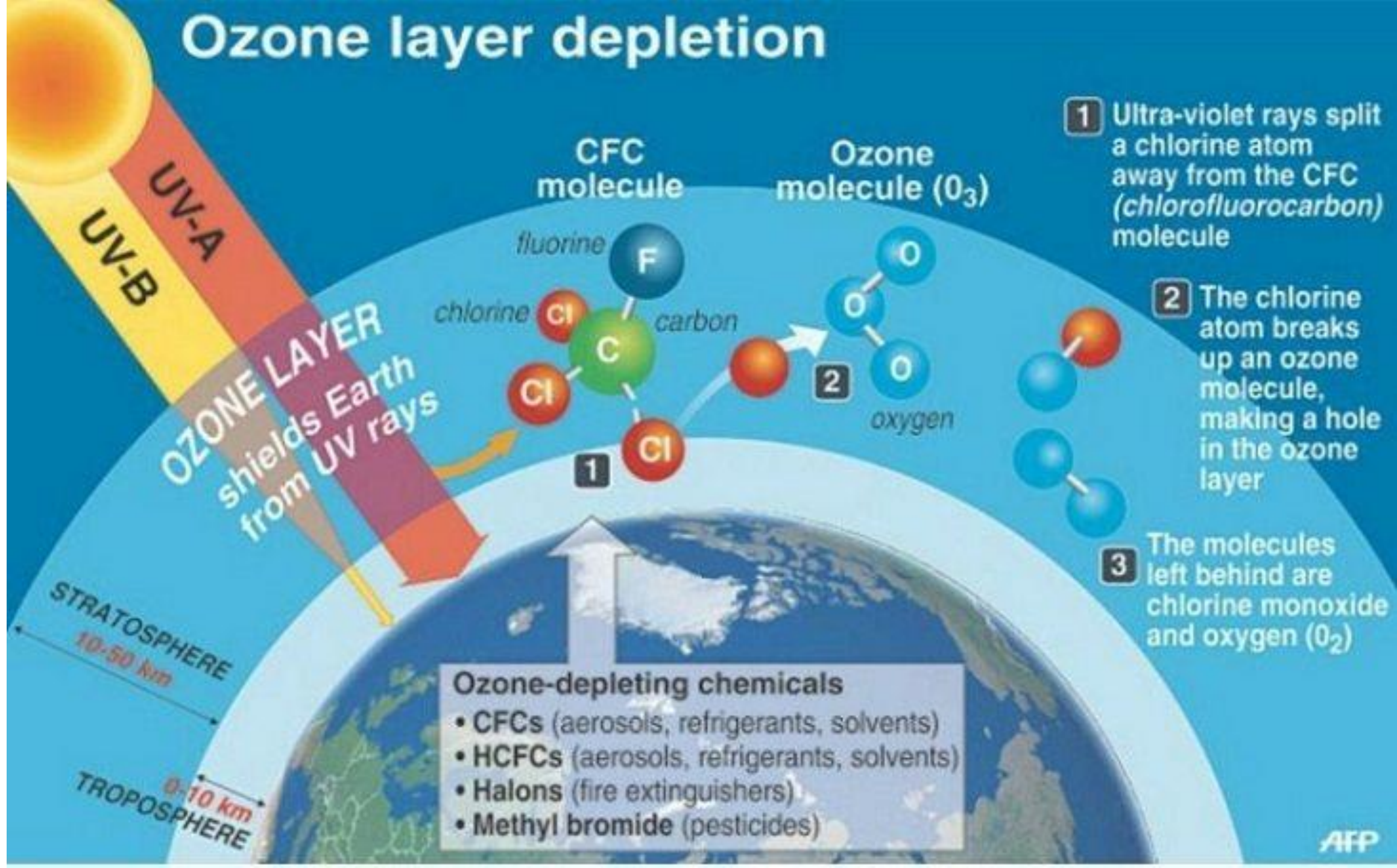
# The example of Ozone

Atmospheric scientists identified the actions that humans were taking to cause the stratospheric ozone depletion. Chlorine and bromine, released by the breakdown of CFCs, were particularly problematic.



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Atmospheric scientists identified the actions that humans were taking to cause the stratospheric ozone depletion. Chlorine and bromine, released by the breakdown of CFCs, were particularly problematic.

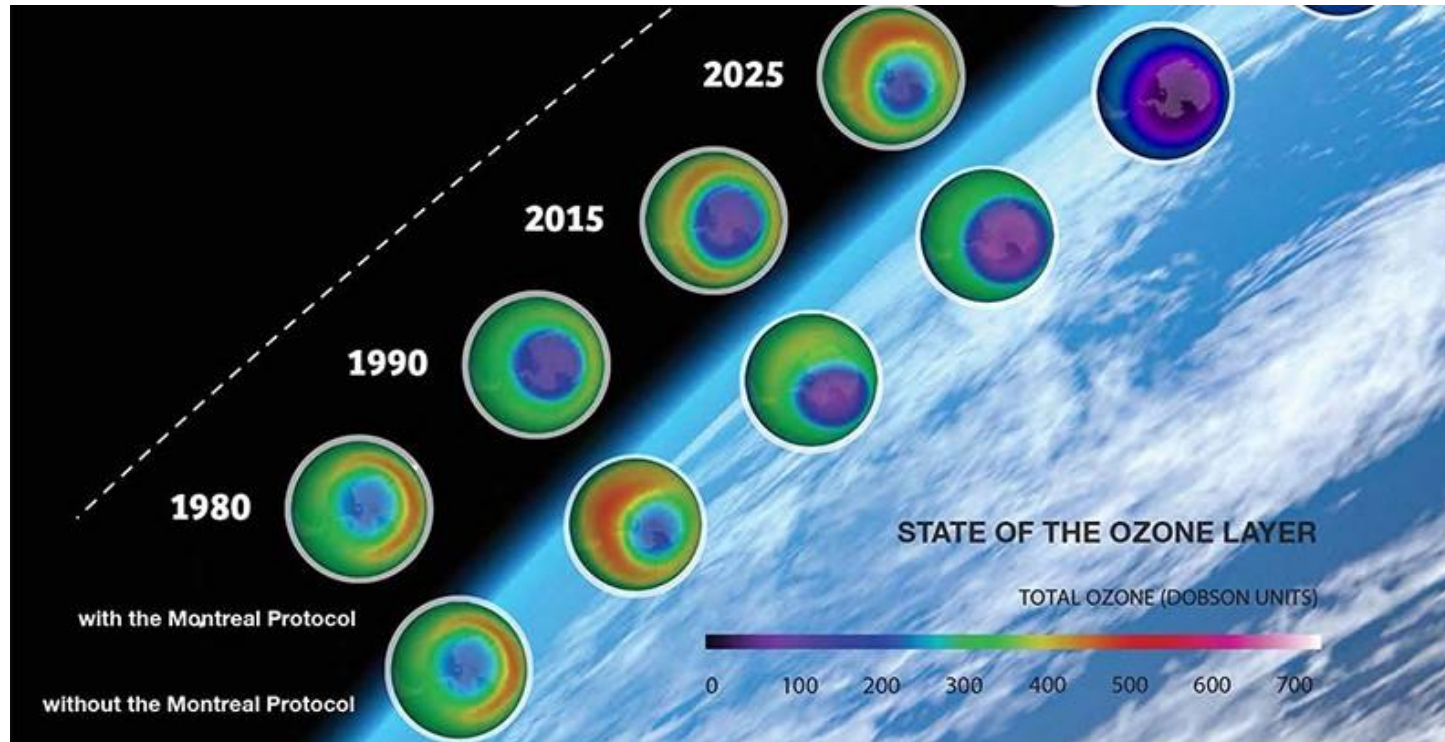


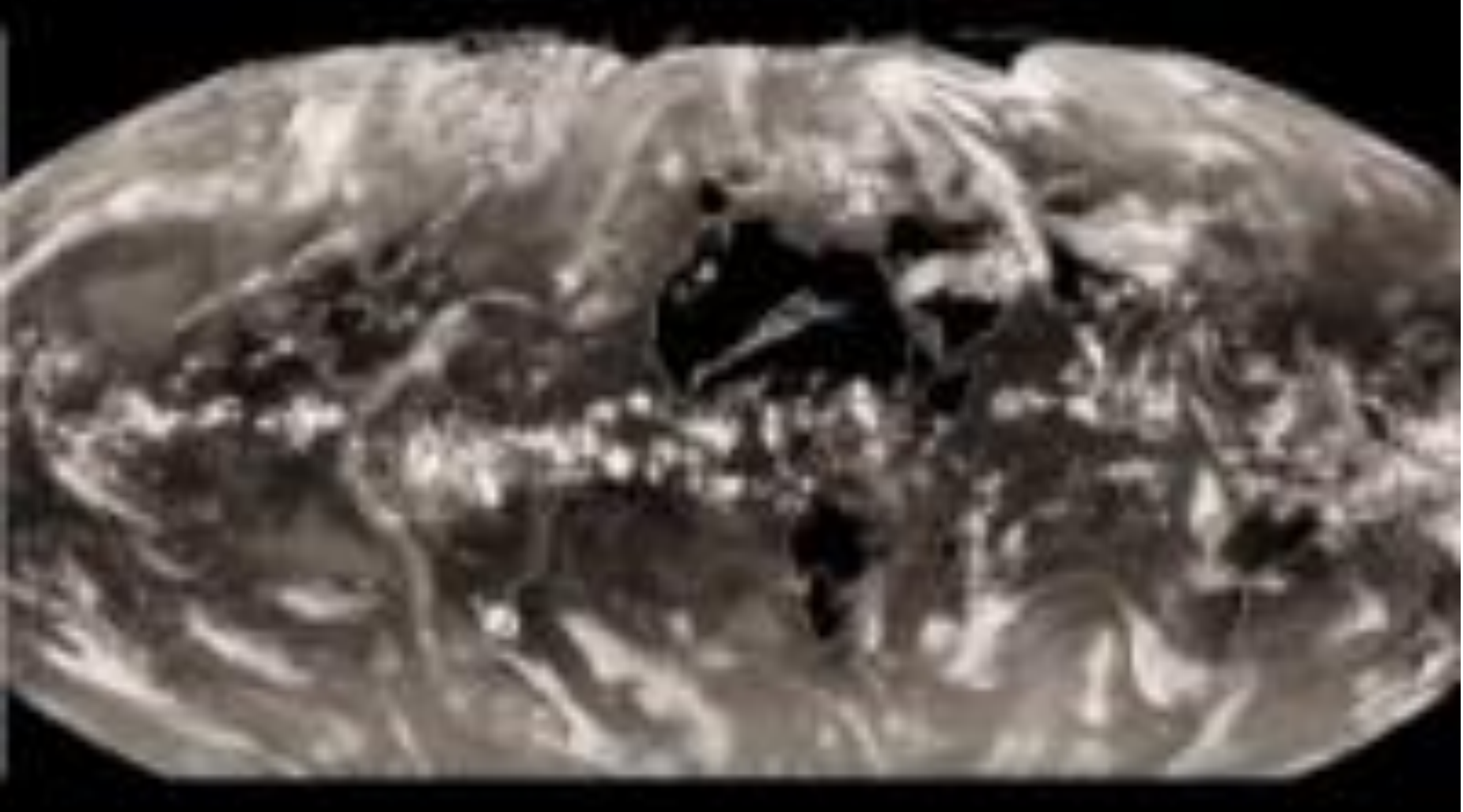
# Montreal Protocol

25 years Montreal Protocol history

- [5 min success the Montreal Protocol on CFC](#)

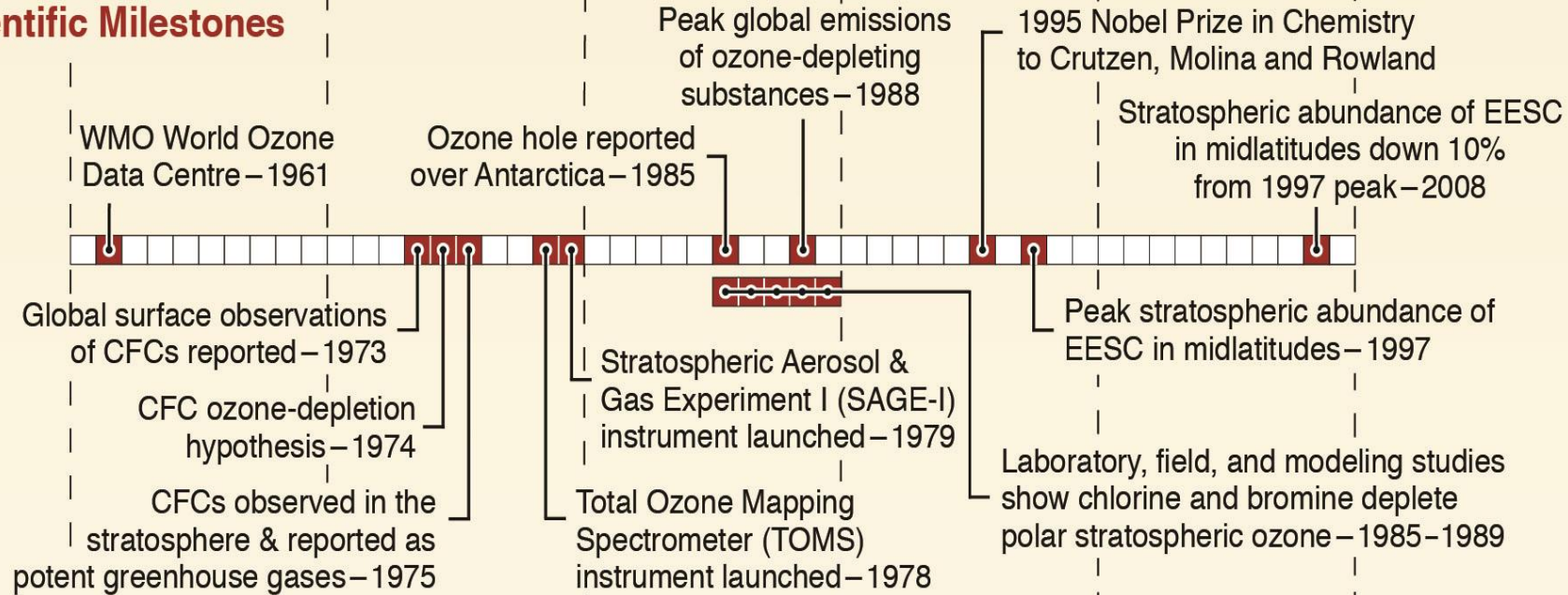
One hundred and ninety-seven U.N. member states adopted the Montreal Protocol, making it the only U.N. treaty ratified by every country on the planet.



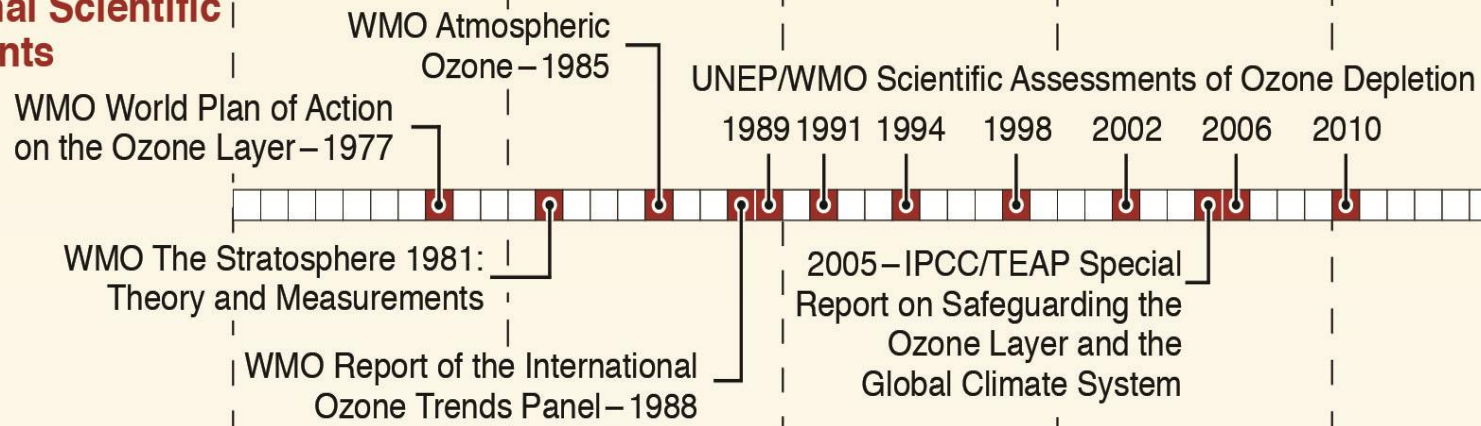


# Milestones in the History of Stratospheric Ozone Depletion

## Scientific Milestones



## International Scientific Assessments



EESC: Equivalent Effective Stratospheric Chlorine

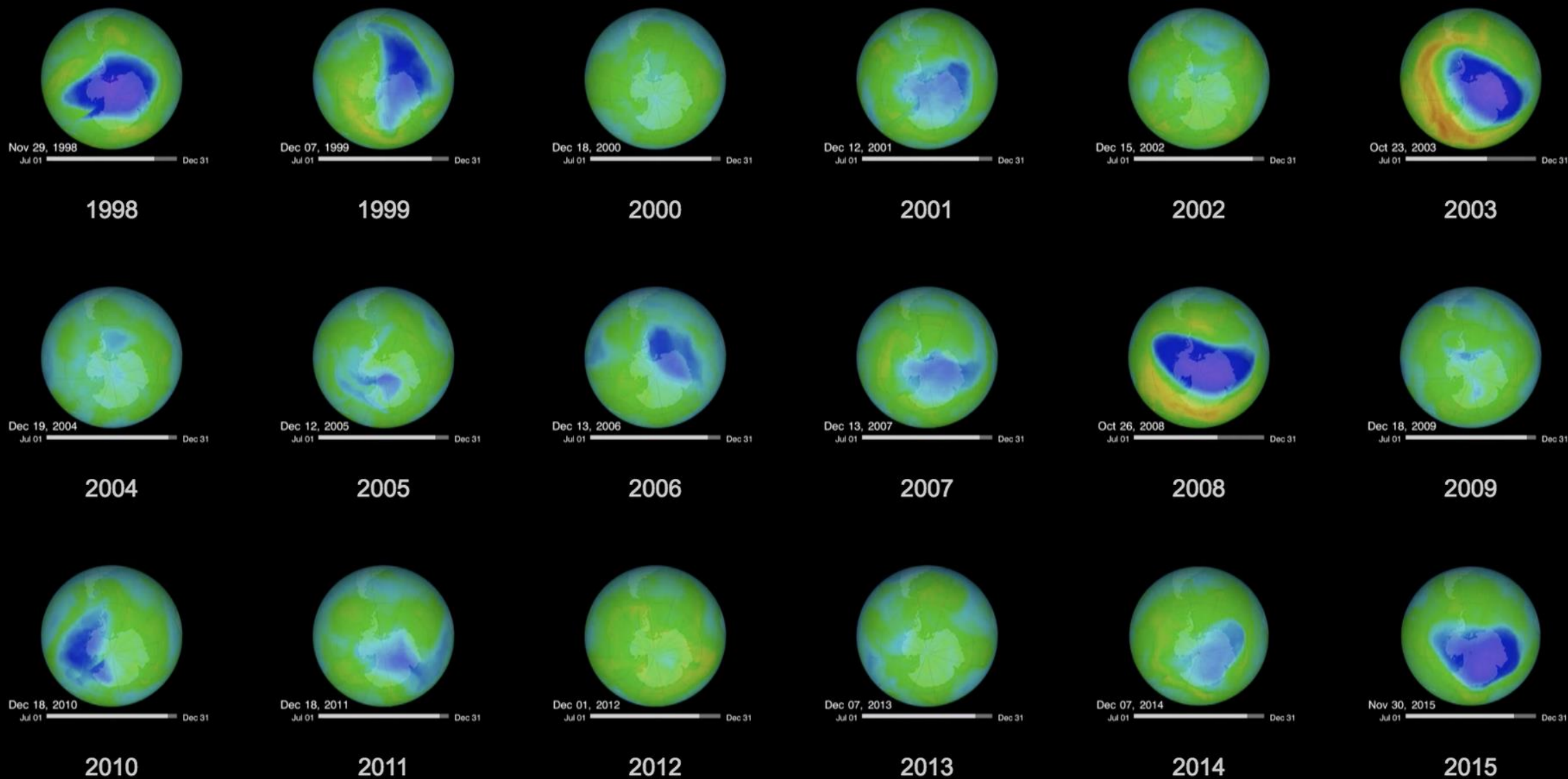
ODSs: Ozone-depleting substances

IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

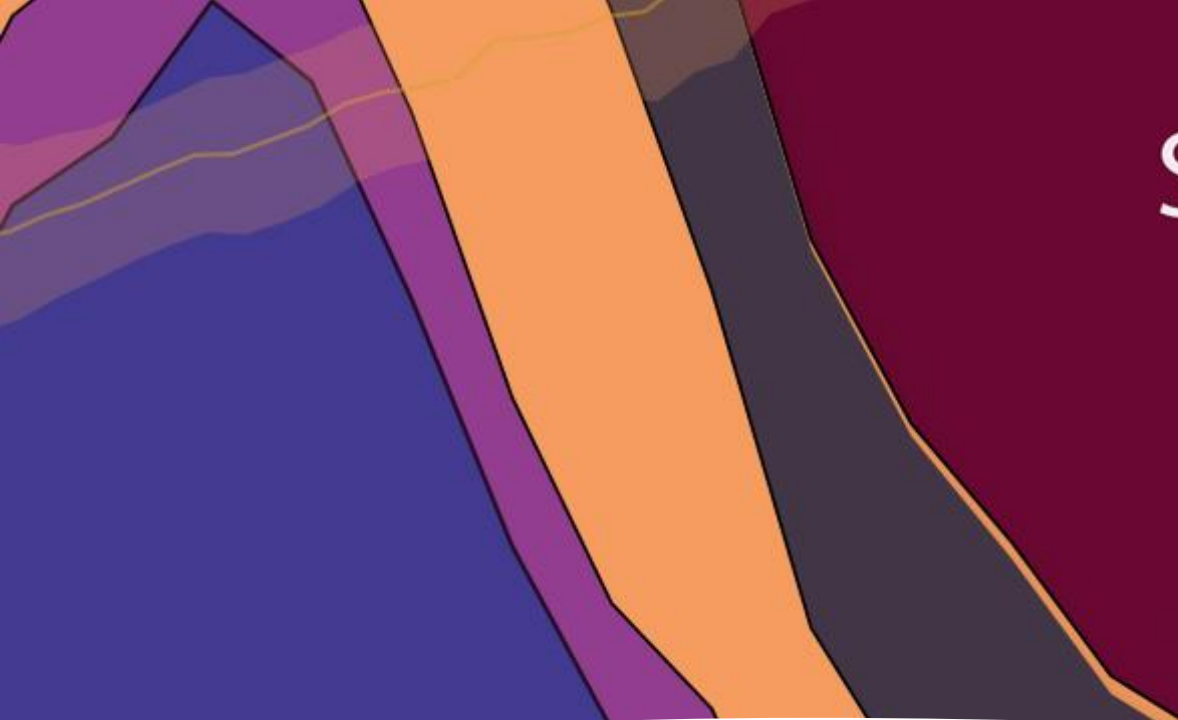
TEAP: Technical and Economic Assessment Panel of the Montreal Protocol

WMO: World Meteorological Organization

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme



[Decades after the Montreal Protocol, there are signs the hole in the ozone layer has begun to heal - Los Angeles Times \(latimes.com\)](#)



# Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2018

## Executive Summary

### Ozone

- [Montreal Protocol assessment reveals healing ozone, untapped potential for climate action - United Nations Sustainable Development](#)

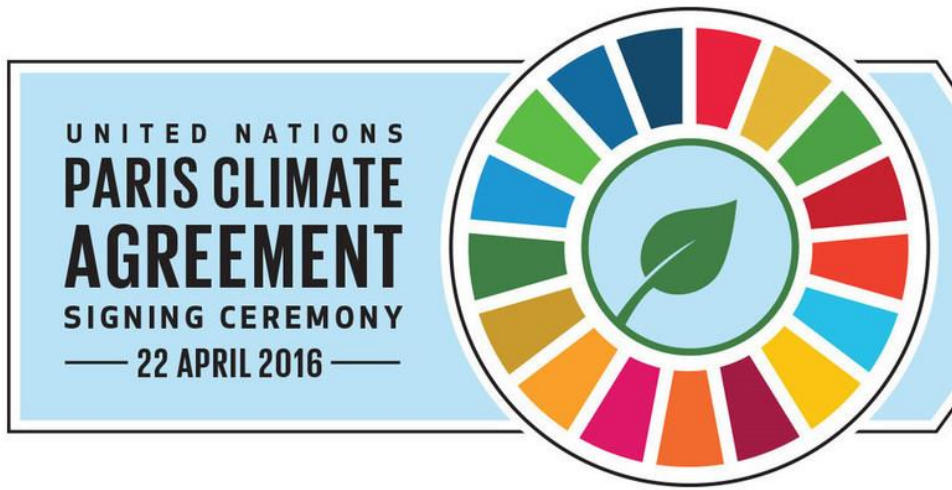
# But.....

- [Ozone layer: Banned CFCs traced to China say scientists - BBC News](#)



# Agreements

What is an agreement?

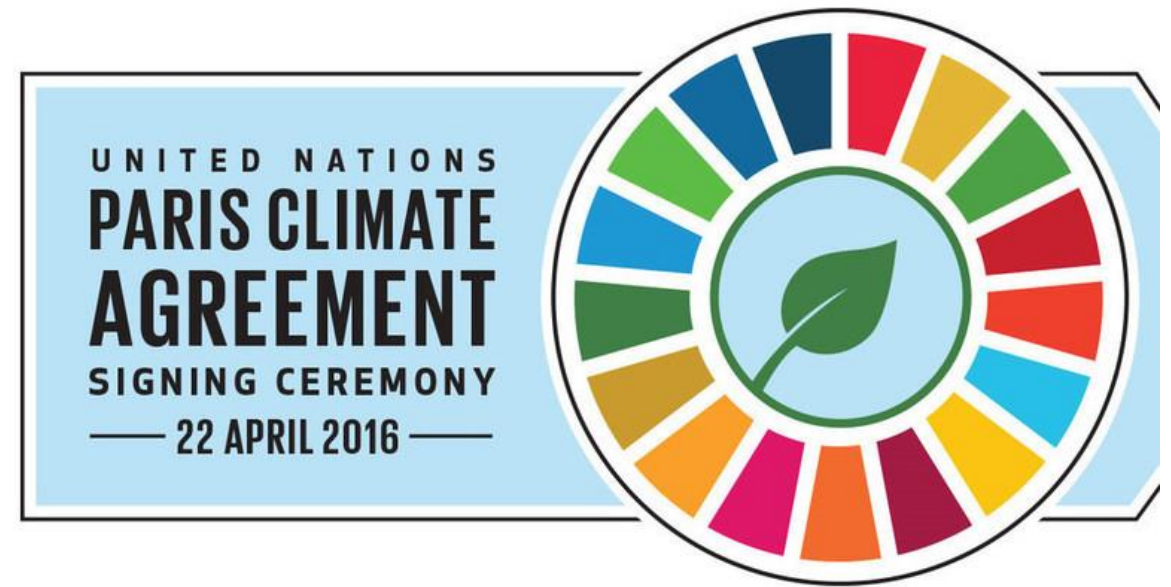


# Agreements (Accord)

- Agreement
  - Accord is a formal agreement
  - Head of Government/executive) (not legally binding)

e.g. The **Paris Agreement** builds upon United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

# Agreements (Accord)



- The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through “**nationally determined contributions**” (NDCs)
- Aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius
- To facilitate the signatures agree to provide:
  - financial resources,
  - new technology framework and
  - enhanced capacity-building

# Non-binding agreements

- A non-binding resolution is a written motion adopted by a deliberative body that cannot progress into a law. The substance of the resolution can be anything that can normally be proposed as a motion.
- Non-binding resolutions are usually specific simple or concurrent resolutions that are not passed on to the executive branch to be signed into law.

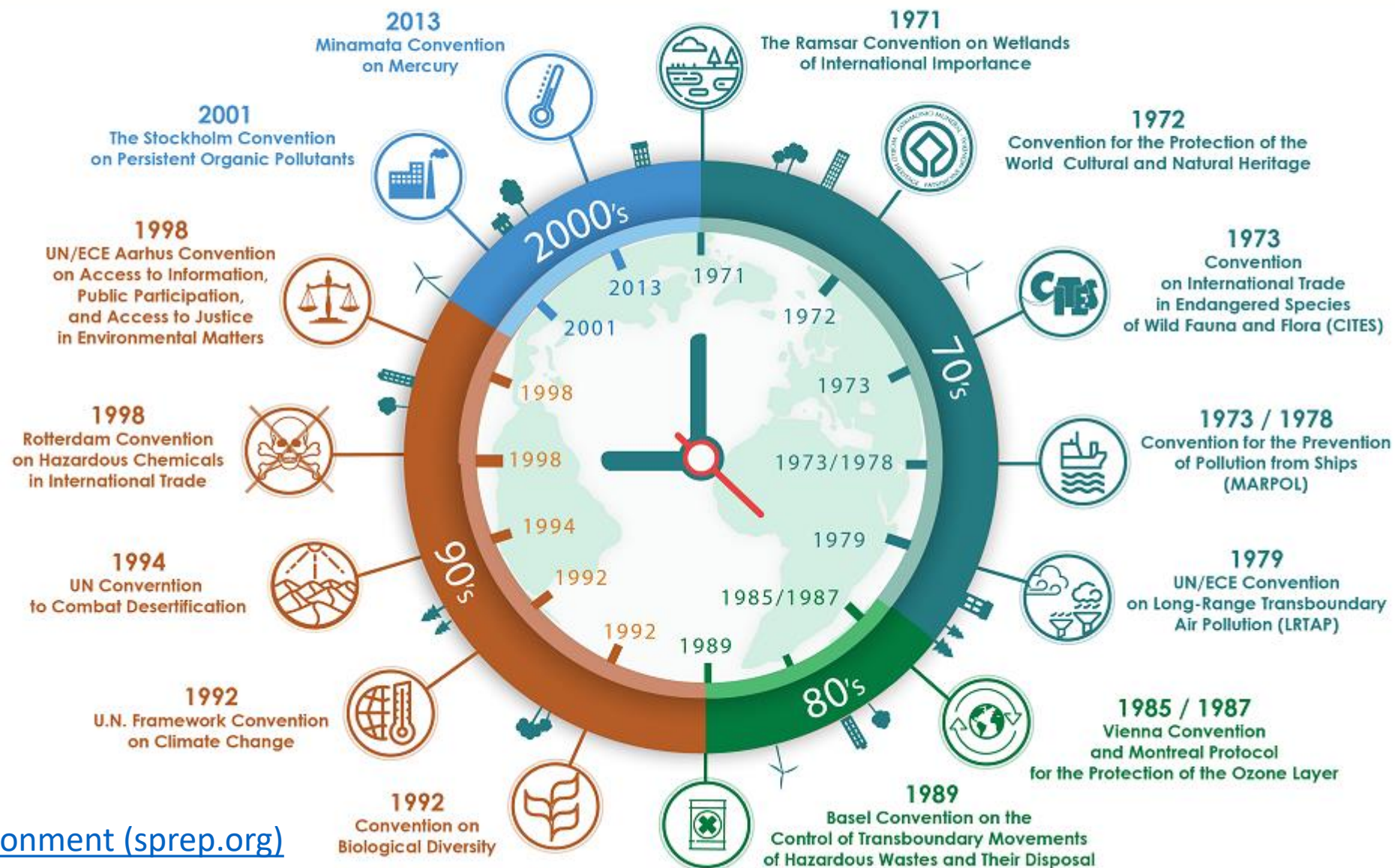
**(Associated Press, 2017: 78)**





# Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) is a generic term for treaties, conventions, protocols and other binding instruments related to the environment. It is usually applied or referred to instruments of a geographic scope wider than that of a bilateral agreement.





# MEA Resources

- [Multilateral Environmental Agreements \(MEAs\) \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu)

[Treaty Monitoring Bodies - UN Documentation: Environment - Research Guides at United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library](#)



# MEA

- One-stop portal for information on MEAs - searchable by key terms across treaty texts, COP decisions, national plans and reports, laws, court decisions and more.
- [InforMEA | United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements](#)



## UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda.

**VISIT WEBSITE >**

# UNEP

[United Nations  
Environment  
Programme \(UNEP\) |  
GSI \(iisd.org\)](#)

# United Nations

- UNEP Responsibilities
  - Climate Change
  - Disasters and conflict
  - Ecosystem Management
  - Environmental governance
  - Harmful substances
  - Resource efficiency



1972 - 2012

# 50 YEARS OF UNEP

## **Activity**

**Click on the following link:**

- [UNEP: 50 years of Environmental Milestones](#)
- Provide a short summary (in a Powerpoint slide) of a key EU Environmental milestone
- What did the milestone change?



# United Nations

- Choose a key UN initiative mentioned in the video
- Describe its contribution to global biodiversity?

[UNEP: 50 years of Environmental Milestones](#)

# Climate Adaptation Gaps



REPORT

## Adaptation Gap Report 2023

PRESS RELEASE

As climate impacts accelerate, finance gap for adaptation efforts at least 50% bigger than thought



With protective greenbelt,  
Mexican city hopes to  
fend off climate change

[LEARN MORE](#)



The launch of Production  
Gap Report 2023

[LEARN MORE](#)



## **Activity**

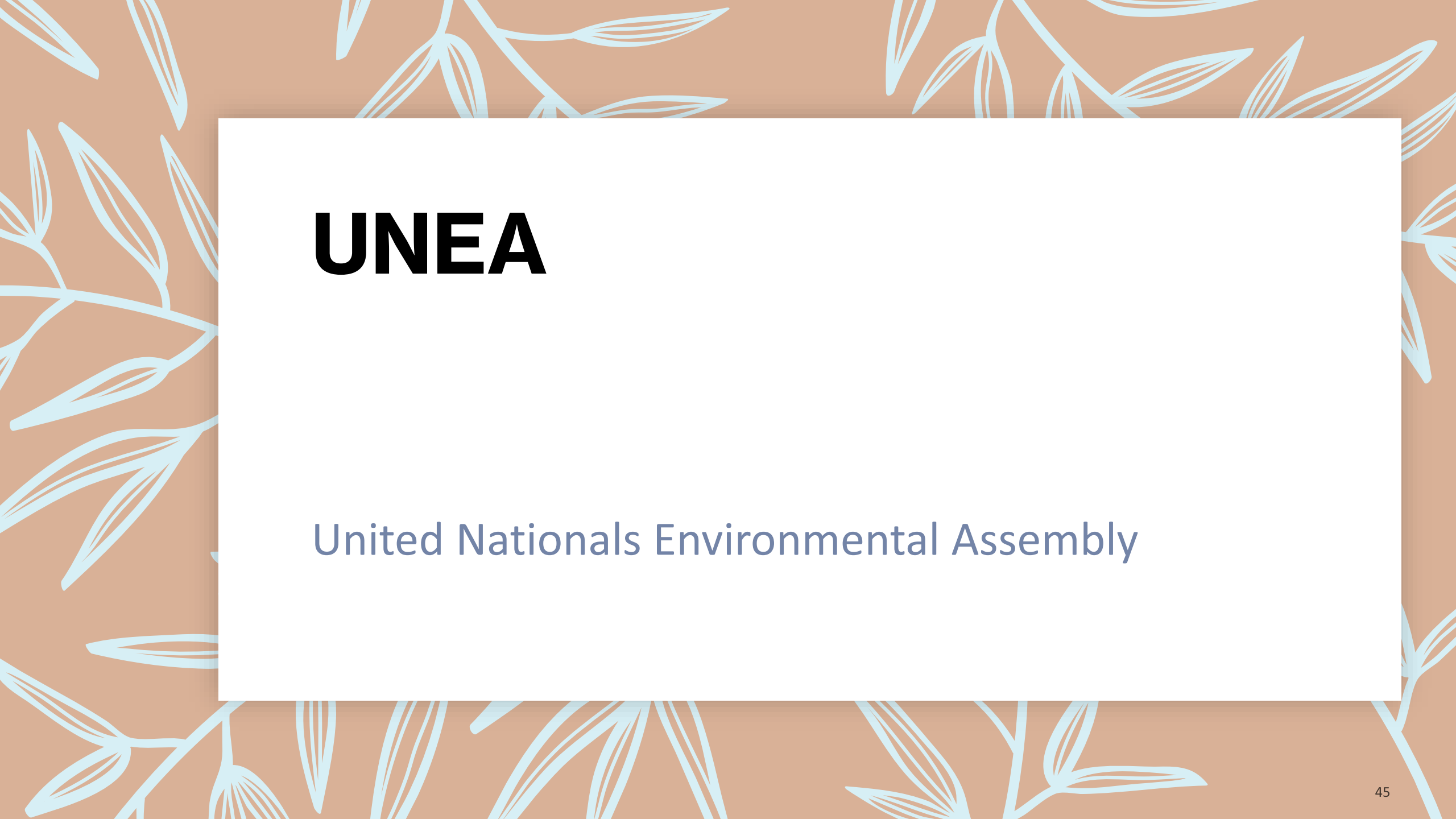
**In pairs, briefly discuss what global inequality exists for climate change adaptation.**

- Write some bullet points on the board or in the Teams chat.

Which of  
these are  
relevant for  
your COP  
topic?

## INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS

- Vienna Convention & the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change & the Kyoto Protocol
- Convention on Biological Diversity & Biosafety Protocol
- Convention in the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES)
- Convention on Wetlands of International importance especially as waterfowl habitat (RAMSAR)
- Convention on the Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Waste (Basel Convention)
- International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution by Ships (MARPOL)
- Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa



# UNEA

United Nations Environmental Assembly

# UNEA

- UNEA (Environment Assembly) (May 2016, Nairobi, Kenya)
  - [UNEA 2016](#)
  - e.g. environment assembly commitment with Ellen MacArthur Foundation 2020
- The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) will be held from 26 February to 1 March 2024 at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, under [the theme](#): *Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.*
- [Plastics report 2020](#) discuss



# UNEA

United Nations Environment Assembly  
of the United Nations Environment Programme



[United Nations Environment Assembly ...  
Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform  
- United Nations Partnerships for SDGs  
platform](#)

# UNEA



# UNEA

United Nations Environment Assembly  
of the United Nations Environment Programme

## Adaptation Gap Report 2023 | UNEP - UN Environment Programme



United Nations Environment Assembly ...  
Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform  
- United Nations Partnerships for SDGs  
platform

# UNEA



# UNEA

United Nations Environment Assembly  
of the United Nations Environment Programme

[What to expect at the next United Nations Environment Assembly \(unep.org\)](https://unep.org)



[United Nations Environment Assembly ... Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform - United Nations Partnerships for SDGs platform](#)

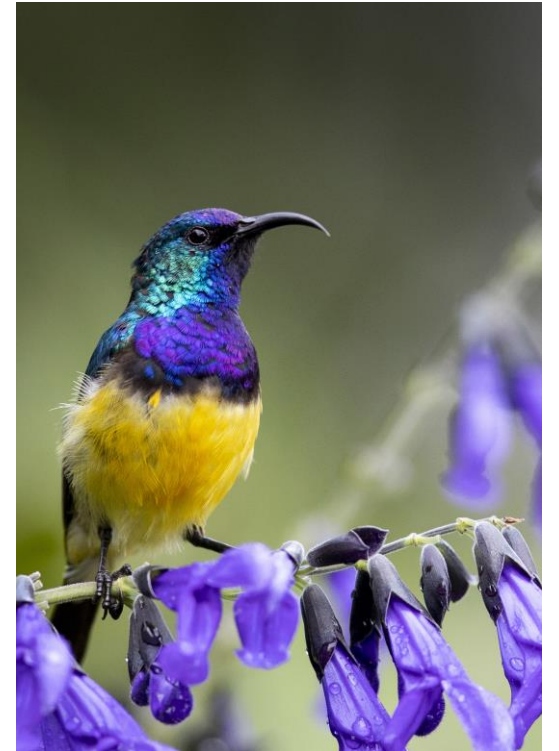


UN New and Exciting (!!)

# Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#)

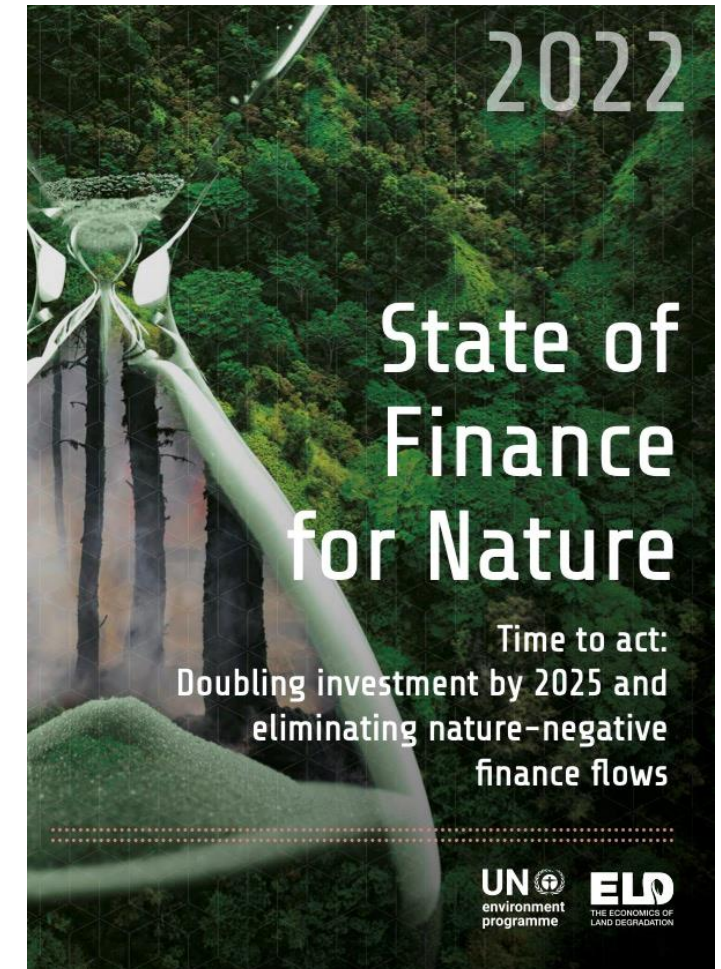
[RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON  
THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK \(cbd.int\)](#)



# State of Finance for Nature

[What to expect at the next United Nations Environment Assembly \(unep.org\)](https://unep.org)

The State of Finance for Nature is a [series](#) that aims to quantify public and private finance flows to nature-based solutions and the extent to which finance flows are aligned with global targets and the investment needed to limit global warming to below 1.5°C, halt biodiversity loss and achieve land degradation neutrality. It has a broader scope than the inaugural report in 2021.



# State of Finance for Nature

<https://youtu.be/VZfTtrsF9Kw>



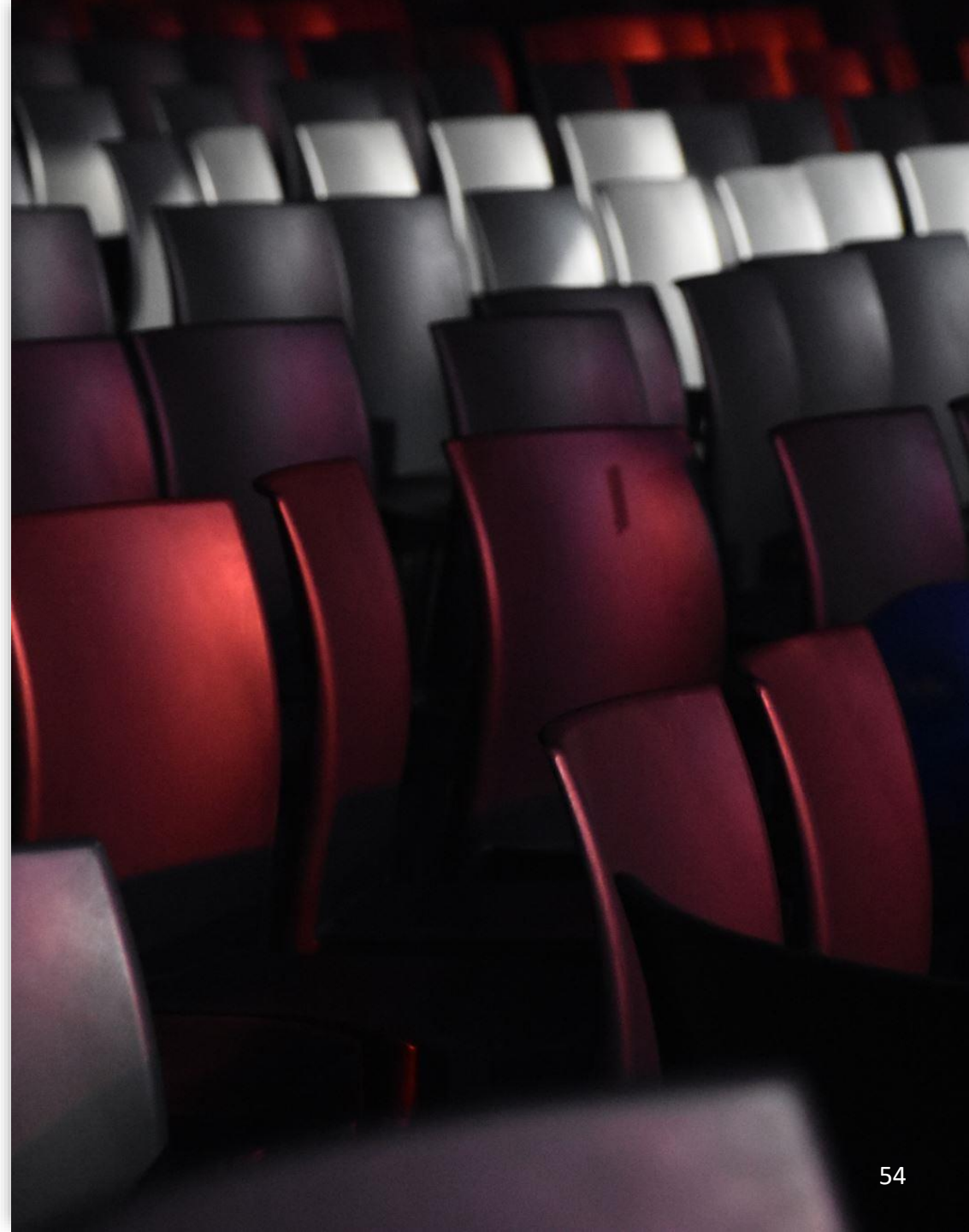
# State of Finance for Nature

<https://youtu.be/VZfTtrsF9Kw>

- [Countries search for financing to counter biodiversity crisis \(unep.org\)](https://www.unep.org/finance-for-nature)

# Conference of the Parties (COP)

- The COP is the supreme decision-making body of a Convention.
- All States that are Parties to the Convention are represented at the COP, at which they review the implementation of the Convention and any other legal instruments that the COP adopts and take decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention, including institutional and administrative arrangements
- E.g. Climate Change COP



# Assignment

## **Assessment Component 1 – 30%**

Student-led seminar to Undergraduate groups (20 minutes presentation).

Organise a post-COP 27 Student Led Seminar on your Topic.

The previous week to your SLS, you need to provide the group with an A4 summary sheet about your chosen example to familiarise them with the material before the seminar. During the seminar, you need to briefly present the Topic (max. 5 mins) and provide additional information for the group to discuss/evaluate. You need to guide the discussion and promote depth of understanding. After (one week) provide a summary sheet of the group's findings.

The preliminary material, presentation script, PowerPoint, and summary sheet should be included in the report's appendices (Assessment 2).

SLS will be in alphabetical order

## **Assessment Component 2 – 70% (report)**

Based on your chosen Topic.

***(a) Assess to what extent previous COP meetings delivered on your Topic.***

***(b) Critically discuss your Topic's prospects after COP 27.***

This report should include the inevitable analysis of the success and failures of the conference Topic (4,000 words plus references and appendices).

Examples provided in the SLS can be used to facilitate your report.



# Next week...

Strategic Management of National Parks

# What else does the UN do for the Environment?

- *"Wide-spread restoration requires us to reach out to large numbers of people, cost-effectively and quickly. Apps like Trillion Trees can go a long way in boosting nature-based solutions for climate action, livelihoods and sustainability,"* said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP, 2020)
- Just another cosmetic target? In 2011 the UN set 12 billion tree target
- **What is the UN role?**

[Planting trees has never been easier! \(unep.org\)](https://www.unep.org/planting-trees)



# What else does the UN do for the Environment?

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## Should the UN plant trees?

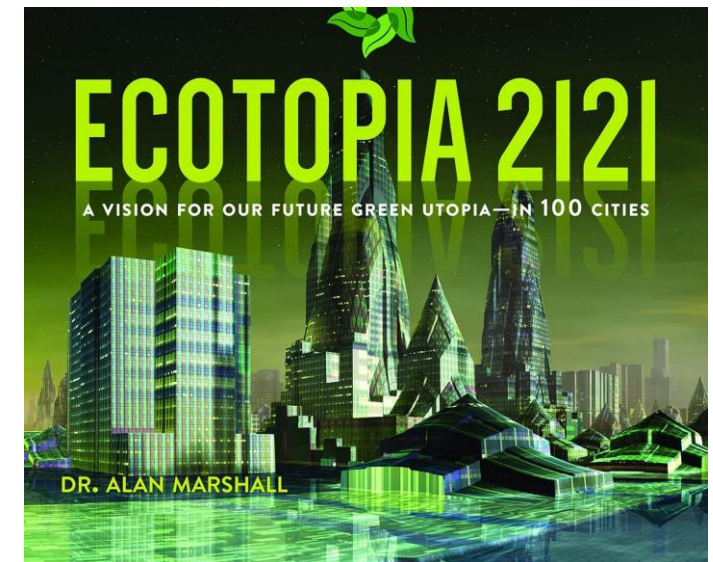
- Climate, carbon sequestration and trees.
- New York, 28 September 2019 – *“For the first time ever, some of the best community-led tree planting projects from over 20 countries have come together to deliver a massive boost to the world’s reforestation efforts. Now, with the Plant-for-the-Planet App, everyone can plant trees worldwide with just a few clicks. 100 per cent of the money raised goes directly to the tree planters”.*



# Trees in Cities Challenge

- Raising awareness or/and directly dealing with the challenge?
- “Cities are now at the center of global efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Moreover, it is increasingly recognized that cities are at the forefront of battle against climate change, at the same time being most vulnerable to its effects but also embodying the potential to counter it”.

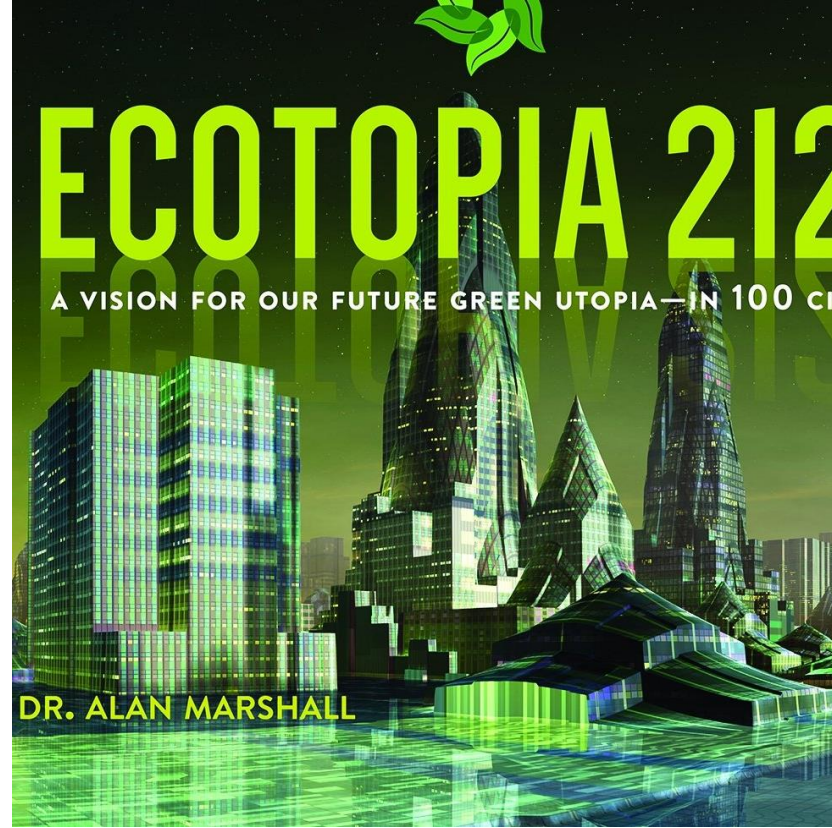
[Trees in Cities Challenge | Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(un.org\)](#)



# Trees in Cities Challenge

- “Planting more trees in urban areas holds a considerable potential to tackle some effects of climate change and contribute to the achievement of urban-related SDGs. Under auspices of the UNECE, mayors are invited to undertake a “Trees in Cities Challenge”, whereby they will pledge to plant a pre-determined number of trees in their city”. (SDG Partnership Platform, 2020)





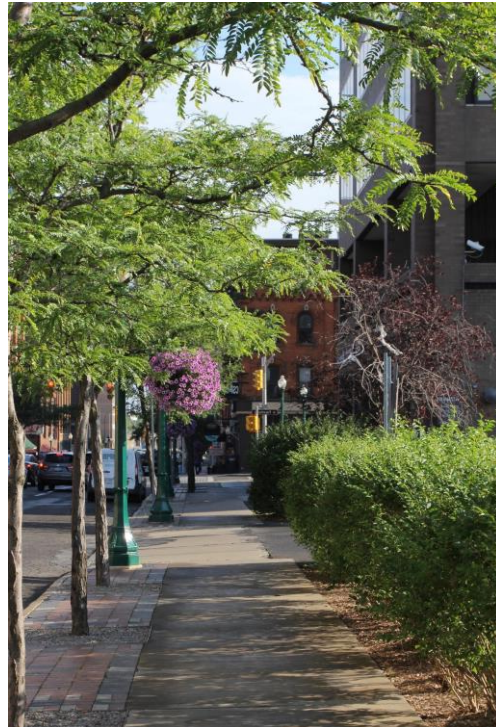
# Trees in Cities Challenge



# Trees save Cities money

- Trees have a proven positive impact on cities: They lower wind speed and thus energy consumption. They reduce pollution and heat. They generally improve how neighbourhoods are perceived. They make cities more liveable.

What's the annual  
value of trees? \$500  
millio | EurekAlert!



## Trees Can Save A City \$500 Million Every Year

It's a thankless job, but green spaces save us millions by soaking up pollution and cooling us down.



[Photo: Medioimages/Photodisc]

[Trees Can Save A City \\$500 Million Every Year \(fastcompany.com\)](https://www.fastcompany.com/4050111/trees-can-save-a-city-500-million-every-year)

# Should the UN plant trees? It's complicated

- Watch this 5 min TED Ed (2020) talk and consider how the information can inform international environmental policy and governance?

## We need a trillion trees? How?

Lessons from the seminar

- International responses are complicated
- The science and ecological interface
- The economics
- The social implications
- The politics



# Additional links:

[The &Green Fund - &Green \(andgreen.fund\)](#)

# Climate Change Global Governance Evolution

| Date      | Main events/Q's                                                                  | Date      | Main events/Q's                                                                                           |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pre 1988  | Why was the IPCC set up?                                                         | 2007-2013 | Copenhagen Accord (COP15), Cancun (COP16), Doha Climate Gateway (COP18) what was the impact?              |
| 1988-1992 | How did Rio set the scene?                                                       | 2013-2015 | Warsaw (COP 19 and Paris Agreement (COP 21), fifth assessment report. How did these change the situation? |
| 1992-2001 | The fundamentals of Kyoto Protocol and Marrakesh Accords                         | 2017-2020 | One Planet Summit (2017) Climate change weeks, COP 25 (Madrid, Chile). What were these?                   |
| 2001-2005 | Kyoto entered into force. What did this mean?                                    | 2021-     | What is likely to happen in Glasgow (COP25) 2021                                                          |
| 2005-2007 | What was the IPCC 4 <sup>th</sup> Assessment report and the COP 13 Bali road Map | 2030-2060 | What is proposed? China, US etc                                                                           |



# Environmental Governance Update - October 2020

Effective laws and institutions for people and planet

## Environmental Governance update?

This regular report is based on the idea that

- 1. Policy coherence and effective laws and institutions are foundational to address climate change, pollution and nature loss and achieve the environmental dimension of sustainable development.
- 2. Environmental governance provides the enabling framework and institutional and legal architecture needed to make environmental policy goals a reality.
- 3. The update is designed to inform us of the work that UNEP and their partners are doing to advance sound environmental governance.

# UNEP 'Sound@ Environmental Governance

Regular updates aim to note UNEP contribution in:

1. Commitment by United Nations entities, international organisations and forums of environmental policy issues or approaches;
2. Commitment of approaches for the coherent implementation of multilateral environmental agreements or other multilateral institutional mechanisms;
3. Concerted policy action taken by countries on environmental issues of international concern;
4. Enhanced institutional capacity and legal frameworks to fully implement the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)
5. Integration of the environment into sustainable development planning;
6. Partnerships between UNEP and major groups and stakeholders



# Suggested Reading

- UN update



## Related Publications



REPORT  
Environmental Governance Update  
- May 2020

## Topics

Environmental rights and governance





## **Activity**

- **Select a topic from 2020 Environmental Governance website. Present a short (2 min) overview**
  1. Advancing environmental rights
  2. The future we want 2030
  3. Strengthening institutions
  4. Promoting Environmental rule of law
  5. Global environmental commitments

# Climate Change Meeting

## Poland 2018 Chile (Madrid) 2019 Glasgow 2021

- In groups of 2 find a video clip of no more than 5 mins or a website on climate change meetings.
- Present the principal findings of the video/web to the other groups.
- Consider in what ways this is:
  - Good strategic management
  - Bad strategic management
  - Send links for upload to Moodle
- COP (Conference of the Parties)

