This annex supports an earlier version of the Environmental Improvement Plan

This annex was published alongside the 25 Year Environment Plan in 2018.

The 25 Year Environment Plan was the first Environmental Improvement Plan. It was revised in 2023 and again in 2025. It is not the latest version.

The 25 Year Environment Plan and its supporting documents remain available because they form part of the history of the Environmental Improvement Plan.

See the Environmental Improvement Plan collection for the latest plan.

HM Government

A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment

Annex 3: The UK's international agreements to protect or improve the environment

A selection of the international agreements to which the UK is a party, and which seek to protect or improve the elements of the international environment covered in the 25 year environment plan, is listed below. This is not an exhaustive list of the UK's international obligations in respect of the environment.

Air

1. 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and protocols including:
    1. The 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone;
    2. The 1998 Aarhus Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs);
    3. The 1998 Aarhus Protocol on Heavy Metals;
    4. The 1984 Geneva Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe.
2. 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and five subsequent amendments (London 1990, Copenhagen 1992, Montreal 1997, Beijing 1999, Kigali 2016)

Last updated: 1 February 2018

Chemicals and Waste

3. 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and 1 amendment

    1. 1999 Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, (not yet in force)

4. 1998 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

5. 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

6. 2017 Minamata Convention on Mercury

Environmental Impact Assessment/access to justice

7. 1991 Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its 2003 Kyiv Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, which requires Parties to evaluate the environmental consequences of their official draft plans and programmes.

8. Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Terrestrial ecosystems

9. 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and 1982 Paris Protocol and 1987 Regina Amendments

10. 2000 European Landscape Convention

Biodiversity / Species

11. 1973 Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and its amendments (Bonn 1979, Gabarone, 1983)

12. 1979 Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (No 104, Council of Europe) and its amendments

13. 1979 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) and its daughter agreements:

1. 1991 Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS)
2. 1992 Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas and 1 amendment (2003)
3. 1996 Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
4. 2001 Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

14. 1997 Convention-The UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses
15. 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity and its associated protocols:
    1. 2000 Cartagena protocol on biosafety,
    2. 2010 Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, and
    3. 2010 Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol (*)

Marine

16. 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (IWC)
17. 1972 Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention) and its 1996 London Protocol
18. 1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)
19. 1980 Convention on the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources (CCAMLR)
20. 1983 Bonn Agreement for Cooperation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances and 1 amendment
21. 1984 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
22. 1992 Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention) and 2 amendments (1998, 2007)
23. 1992 Helsinki Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area

Fisheries

Regional agreements

24. 1949 Convention for Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

25. 1949 Agreement establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), amended in 1963, 1976 and 1997

26. 1966 International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT Convention)

27. 1978 Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (NAFO)

28. 1980 Convention on future multilateral cooperation in North-East Atlantic fisheries (NEAFC) and Amendments to the Convention allowing for the establishment of dispute settlement procedures, the extension of the scope of the Convention and a review of the objectives of the Convention (*)

29. 1982 Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean (NASCO)

30. 1993 Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

31. 1993 Agreement for the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

32. 1993 Agreement to promote compliance with international conservation and management measures by fishing vessels on the high seas

33. 1994 Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea (CCBSP)

34. 1995 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

35. 2000 Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

36. 2001 Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources in the South-East Atlantic Ocean

37. 2004 Convention for the strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica (Antigua Convention)

38. 2006 Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

39. 2009 Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the Southern Pacific Ocean (SPRFMO)

40. 2009 Agreement on Port State measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (*)