Environmental law

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Environmental Systems and Societies · HL · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
yangtze River Protection Law	The **Yangtze River Protection Law** protects the river basin.
environmental law	**Environmental law** sets rules to protect the environment.
statute	A **statute** is a law passed by a legislature.
regulation /ˌregjʊ'leɪʃn/	A **regulation** can set a factory's emission limit.
case law	**Case law** develops through court decisions.
treaty	A **treaty** is a formal agreement between states.
customary international law	**Customary international law** comes from what countries have always done.
jurisdiction /ˌdʒʊərɪs'dɪkʃn/	The river authority's **jurisdiction** ends at the border.
hard law	A treaty that countries must follow is **hard law**.
soft law	A promise that countries do not have to keep is **soft law**.
prevention principle	The **prevention principle** says stop harm before it happens.
precautionary principle	The **precautionary principle** says act to protect nature even if science is not yet sure.

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polluter pays principle	The **polluter pays principle** says those who pollute should pay to clean up.
environmental impact assessment	An **environmental impact assessment** studies how a new dam would affect nature.
public participation	**Public participation** lets residents comment on a proposed factory.
intergenerational equity	**Intergenerational equity** asks whether borrowing today is fair to our children.
common but differentiated responsibility	**Common but differentiated responsibility** means all countries must act, but rich ones should do more.
command and control	A legal limit on pollution is a **command and control** measure.
market-based instrument	A pollution tax is a **market-based instrument**.
liability /ˌlaɪə'bɪlɪti/	A firm has **liability** for its pollution: it must pay for the damage.
protected area	Hunting may be restricted in a **protected area**.
information /ˌɪnfə'meɪʃn/	Clear **information** helps people make choices that protect nature.
transboundary	Smoke crossing a border causes **transboundary** pollution.
global common	The open ocean is a **global common**: no country owns it.
ramsar Convention	The **Ramsar Convention** protects wetlands.

Word	Example
CITES	**CITES** controls international trade in threatened wildlife.
UN Convention on the Law of the Sea	The **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea** sets rules for ocean use.
convention on Biological Diversity	The **Convention on Biological Diversity** protects the variety of life.
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change	The **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change** is the main climate treaty.
kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	The **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** aims to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030. 2030 30%
high Seas Treaty	The **High Seas Treaty** protects life in the open ocean.
sovereign	A **sovereign** state rules its own land.
ratify	A country must **ratify** a treaty before it has to follow it.
kigali Amendment	The **Kigali Amendment** cuts gases used in fridges that warm the planet. `
daily penalty	A factory that keeps polluting may pay a **daily penalty**.
ecological red line	An **ecological red line** marks land that must be strongly protected.

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central environmental inspection	A **central environmental inspection** checks whether local governments enforce the rules.
environmental public interest litigation	In **environmental public interest litigation**, a group goes to court to protect nature for everyone.
customary rule	A **customary rule** grows from what people have always done.
legal person	A company is a **legal person**: it can sign contracts and be taken to court.
ecocide	**Ecocide** means destroying nature on a huge scale.
weak monitoring	**Weak monitoring** lets pollution go unnoticed.
local protectionism	**Local protectionism** may protect a polluting factory because it gives local jobs.
corruption	**Corruption** takes money away from schools and hospitals.
displacement /dɪ'spleɪsmənt/	Closing one dirty factory may cause **displacement**: the pollution moves elsewhere.
environmental justice /enˌvaɪrən'mentl 'dʒʌstɪs/	**Environmental justice** means pollution should not fall mostly on poor people.