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ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for
International Law: International
Environmental Law

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ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law

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I. INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the *ASIL Guide to Electronic Resources for International Law* discusses electronic resources of international environmental law. The types of resources covered emphasize the Internet but also include CD-ROMs, library catalogs, and on-line subscription/commercial services. The emphasis here is on English-language sources. Although a number of primary and secondary sources are discussed below, the rapidly expanding list of electronic resources in this field precludes any claim to this being an inclusive guide. With that in mind, search strategies for conducting research in this area are included in [Section III](#).

II. OVERVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

When attempting to determine the boundaries of international environmental law, one finds that no clear definition can be applied. Like many other branches of international law, international environmental law is interdisciplinary, intersecting and overlapping with numerous other areas of research, including economics, political science, ecology, human rights and navigation/admiralty.

Until the late 1960s, most international agreements aimed at protecting the environment served narrowly defined utilitarian purposes. Alexandre C. Kiss and Dinah Shelton, *International Environmental Law* (New York: Transnational Pub., 1991) at p. 1. Beginning with the 1972 [Stockholm Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment](#) (linked from <http://www.unep.org/Documents/Default.asp?DocumentID=97>), however, international agreements came to reflect a desire to limit damages to the environment. These international agreements paralleled national legislation which increasingly sought to preserve the environment. International environmental law encompasses a diverse group of topics, including:

- sustainable development ([The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development](#) <http://www.unep.org/documents/default.asp?documentid=78>),
- biodiversity ([Convention on Biological Diversity](#) <http://www.biodiv.org/convention/articles.asp>,
- transfrontier pollution ([Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Pollution](#) <http://www.unep.org/env/lrtap/>,
- marine pollution ([Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter](#) <http://www.londonconvention.org/>,
- endangered species ([Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species\(CITES\)](#) <http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/text.shtml>
- hazardous materials and activities ([Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal](#) <http://www.basel.int/text/text.html>
- cultural preservation ([Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural & Natural Heritage](#), <http://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/>),
- desertification ([United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#), <http://www.unccd.int/>),
- uses of the seas ([United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea \(UNCLOS\)](#) linked from <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/index>.

- htm), and
- climate change ([United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol on Global Warming](http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/items/2627.php) (http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/items/2627.php).



III. GENERAL SEARCH STRATEGIES

Researchers in this field must remain cognizant of the multiple sources for international environmental law. In addition to international agreements (treaties, conventions, etc.), the researcher should consider the relevance of national environmental laws, regulations and policy statements. Reports and documents issued by multinational and non-governmental organizations also play an important role in shaping and defining international environmental law. These myriad resources can be difficult to identify, much less to obtain in full text. Flexibility, creativity and familiarity with helpful research tools can make this process less confusing. Tips on using some of these tools follow:

a. Online library catalogs

One of the best places to start research in international environmental law is with the catalog in your local library or law library. A number of these catalogs are now online and can be searched from all over the world.

Many law library online catalogs, especially in the United States, use the [Library of Congress \(LC\)](http://www.loc.gov) (<http://www.loc.gov>) Subject Headings.

For general or comparative publications on international environmental law, try the subject heading ENVIRONMENTAL LAW--INTERNATIONAL.

More specific subject headings include MARINE POLLUTION, NATURAL RESOURCES, RADIOACTIVE POLLUTION OF THE SEA, SHORE PROTECTION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, TRANSBOUNDARY POLLUTION, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.

In addition to searching your local law library's online catalog, you can search for materials in other libraries by using multi-library databases. Many libraries provide public access to WorldCat, a merged electronic catalog of libraries from around the world, maintained at the [Online Computer Library Center, Inc. \(OCLC\)](http://www.oclc.org/home/) (<http://www.oclc.org/home/>). WorldCat currently contains over 57 million records. In addition to providing bibliographic information, WorldCat lists the libraries holding the item, along with their willingness to participate in InterLibrary Loan.

b. Periodical indexes

Periodical articles are particularly useful in researching current issues in international environmental law. In addition, articles can provide useful overviews of the subject as well as citations to relevant primary and secondary sources. Numerous tools exist which index periodicals containing articles about international environmental law. Some legal journals are now available on the Web in full text. For more about those focusing on international environmental law, see [Periodicals](#) under Secondary Resources in [section V](#) below.

The *Legal Resources Index (LRI)* (Farmington Hills, MI: Gale Group, 1980-) is available in CD-ROM and on the Web under the title LegalTrac. *LRI* can also be found on LEXIS (LAWREV/LGLIND) and WESTLAW (LRI) if the subscriber's library also subscribes to the CD-ROM or Web version. *LRI* is updated monthly and indexes over 800 English language legal periodicals. Information Access' paper counterpart is called *Current Law Index*. Coverage dates back to the early 1980s.

The *Index to Legal Periodicals & Books (ILP)* (New York, NY: H.W. Wilson Co., 1926-) is available in CD-ROM and as a Web resource (SilverPlatter Information, Inc. and H.W. Wilson Co.). *ILP* is also available on WESTLAW (ILP) if the subscriber's library also subscribes to the CD-ROM. Online coverage begins with articles indexed after July 1981. *Note*: although there is considerable overlap between *LRI* and *ILP*, each index does cover some periodicals not included in the other. In addition, *LRI* tends to include shorter articles and case notes that *ILP* excludes.

Current Index to Legal Periodicals (CILP) is a weekly index published by the Marian Gould Gallagher Law Library at the University of Washington. It is available electronically as well as in paper. *CILP* is also available on WESTLAW in the *CILP* database. For subscription information, see <http://lib.law.washington.edu/cilp/cilp.html>.

Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press for the American Association of Law Libraries, 1960-). The *IFLP* is a multilingual index to articles and book reviews in over 500 legal journals worldwide. Its scope includes international law, comparative law and national law of jurisdictions *other than* the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. Updated

quarterly, *IFLP* is available on the Web through [Ovid](http://www.ovid.com) (<http://www.ovid.com>).

The *Public Affairs Information Service (PAIS) International* (Bethesda, MD: CSA, 1972-) indexes public policy literature, including periodicals, books, government documents and reports, international agency publications, and internet material in six languages. The references are in English, and many entries include brief contents notes. *PAIS International* is available via subscription on [CSA Illumina](http://www.csa.com/factsheets/pais-set-c.php) (<http://www.csa.com/factsheets/pais-set-c.php>). The PAIS Archive database contains records for items dating back to 1915.



c. Research Guides and Bibliographies

- 1) Burns, Wil, [Bibliography: Environmental Change and Its Impact on Species/Ecosystems](http://www.internationalwildlifelaw.org/Biblio.php4) (<http://www.internationalwildlifelaw.org/Biblio.php4>) contains over 3900 citations. It includes citations to peer-reviewed and gray literature (including journal articles, newspaper articles, reports and materials on the Internet) with a focus on climate change (defined as global warming or ozone depletion) and its impacts on flora and fauna species and critical supporting ecosystems.
- 2) [E.B. Williams Library Research Guides: International Environmental Law](http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/intl/guides/InternationalEnvironmentalLaw.cfm) (<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/intl/guides/InternationalEnvironmentalLaw.cfm>) - comprehensive research guide prepared by the Georgetown Law Library International and Foreign Law Department.
- 3) Hunter, et al, [International Environmental Law and Policy: A Comprehensive Reference Source](http://www.wcl.american.edu/pub/iel/index.html) (<http://www.wcl.american.edu/pub/iel/index.html>) was designed to be used in conjunction with the authors' textbook, but, as a separate document, this site provides useful links to treaties, international organizations and recent developments in international environmental law. Annex I provides links helpful in researching international environmental law, Annex II lists international organizations active in international environmental affairs, and Annex III provides a chronology of international environmental agreements.
- 4) [Electronic Information System for International Law \(EISIL\)](http://www.eisil.org) (International Environmental Law section linked from <http://www.eisil.org>). In fall 2004, the American Society of International Law launched this comprehensive database that includes a section on international environmental law. EISIL links to primary documents, such as treaties and other international instruments. Additional information is provided on each instrument, including print citations and relevant dates. EISIL will also guide users to the "best sites" for certain topical areas or kinds of research: Web sites that have been examined by experts and measured against certain standards, such as currency, stability, authenticity, and comprehensiveness. EISIL additionally provides links to recommended research guides that assist researchers in exploring their topics of interest more widely. The database is browseable through a broad framework of subject areas as well as searchable using a targeted search engine.

d. Web Directories and Indexes

Web searching tools enable the researcher to search for Web sites containing certain types of information. The two major categories of Web search tools are Web directories (like [Yahoo](http://www.yahoo.com) <http://www.yahoo.com>) and Web indexes (like [Google](http://www.google.com) <http://www.google.com>). The lines between these categories are blurring, but they are generally distinguished as follows:

1. Web Directories

Web directories are generally indexed by humans and arranged hierarchically. Because they are labor-intensive to create, Web directories tend to be smaller than Web search engines. The smaller size of directories may be helpful in eliminating some irrelevant sites from your results; the flip side is that a useful site may not be included in the directory at all.

2. Web Indexes

Web indexes are compiled automatically by *robots* or *spiders*, which search the Web and return information to the database. Their automated nature allows them to cover many more Web sites than the human-indexed directories. One common tip is to try a directory first to see if there is a category fitting your needs. If that yields inadequate results, move on to a broader search using a search engine.

3. Examples:

Yahoo(<http://www.yahoo.com>) - one of the most popular search directories

AltaVista (<http://www.altavista.com>) - a widely used Web index; allows simple keyword searching and boolean searching in the Advanced Search mode; pioneered online translation with **Babelfish** (<http://babelfish.altavista.com>)

Google (<http://www.google.com>) - this popular Web index provides simple and advanced (boolean) searching; includes automated translation for sites retrieved in languages other than English.

All the Web (<http://www.alltheweb.com>) - allows simple and advanced (boolean) searching; the index is updated every 7 to 11 days; searching available in 49 languages.

Search.com (<http://www.search.com>), **Dogpile** (<http://www.dogpile.com>) and **MetaCrawler** (<http://www.metacrawler.com>) - these meta-search tools search numerous Web indexes simultaneously; the breadth of the search slows retrieval somewhat; relevancy rankings from each individual search engine are lost.



IV. PRIMARY SOURCES

The major sources of international environmental law are treaties and international agreements. An additional source is *customary* international law, which is often evidenced by national legislation, government statements, restatements of the law, and the interpretations of international tribunals such as the International Court of Justice and other arbitral bodies. This section lists electronic resources for these various kinds of primary sources, with an emphasis on treaties and other types of international environmental agreements.

a. International Agreements, Declarations, Organizational Statements, Reports, Resolutions and Like Materials

1. The United Nations and Related Organizations

Numerous entities within and related to the United Nations produce materials relevant to international environmental law. These organizations range from divisions within the United Nations to specialized agencies related to the United Nations. Many of these entities have a substantive presence on the Web, providing full-text access to international agreements, reports, resolutions, and other materials. They are arranged here alphabetically after the official UN Web site.

The UN provides **UNBISnet** (<http://unbisnet.un.org/>), an online index to its documents along with detailed voting records for General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. For a more detailed discussion of the United Nations and the electronic resources available for researching United Nations materials, see the **United Nations Chapter of this ASIL Guide** (<http://www.asil.org/resource/un1.htm>).

A. Web Sites

United Nations Official Web Page(<http://www.un.org>)

One of the most useful items on the UN site is its subscription database **UN Treaty Collection Database**(<http://untreaty.un.org/>), which holds the *United Nations Treaty Series (UNTS)* and *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General*. In addition to providing the text of many UN documents, the UN Web site also includes a directory of other UN Web sites, many of which also contain relevant documents. Links to a number of these sites of interest to the international environmental law researcher are included below.

Climate Change Secretariat (<http://www.unfccc.de>)

Performs secretariat functions as set forth in the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/items/2627.php). In addition to the text of the convention and the Kyoto Protocol, the secretariat's Web site provides an overview of climate change; documents of the various conferences, bodies and groups created by the convention; national communications; and technical papers.

Convention on Biological Diversity Clearing-House Mechanism (<http://www.biodiv.org/chm/>)

The Clearing-House Mechanism is a network of parties and partners working together to facilitate implementation of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The site provides access to official CBD documents, including final reports and decisions of the Conference of Parties.

Economic and Social Council (<http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/>)

The Economic and Social Council's charge under the [UN Charter](http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter/) to promote conditions of economic and social progress and development led to the inclusion of the [United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development \(CSD\)](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd.htm) as one of the Council's nine functional commissions. Working closely with the Commission is the [Division for Sustainable Development](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/dsd.htm) with the mission of contributing to sustainable development worldwide by facilitating the implementation of various international environmental agreements relevant to sustainable development.

[Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](http://www.fao.org)

The FAO is the largest specialized agency within the United Nations system. Founded in 1945, the FAO's mandate to raise levels of nutrition and improve agricultural productivity involve the organization in issues of sustainable development and conservation of natural resources. [FAO's Catalog](http://www.fao.org/icatalog/inter-e.htm) provides bibliographic information on FAO publications. Items can be searched by title, ISBN or Year. The catalog also provides a browsable list of subjects. The [FAOLEX database](http://faolex.fao.org/faolex/index.htm) contains treaties, national laws and regulations on food, agriculture and renewable natural resources world-wide. FAOLEX users have direct access to abstracts and indexing information about each text.

[International Atomic Energy Agency \(IAEA\)](http://www.iaea.org)

Although not categorized officially as a specialized agency within the United Nations system, the IAEA's direct relationship with the UN's General Assembly has led to the agency's being treated in most respects as if it were a specialized agency. IAEA's site provides the text of selected official documents and resolutions from recent sessions of the IAEA General Conference (the policy-making body).

[International Maritime Organization \(IMO\)](http://www.imo.org)

The IMO is the UN's specialized agency responsible for improving maritime safety and preventing pollution from ships. The IMO served as the Secretariat for the [Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter \(MARPOL\)](http://www.londonconvention.org/) in 1972 and has facilitated adoption of numerous Annexes to that convention. Most recently, the IMO adopted Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships, which are included in Annex VI to MARPOL. The IMO Web site contains a section describing conventions and other treaties adopted by the IMO. Although no full-text conventions are included, you may find useful the descriptions of the conventions, protocols and amendments as well as the Governments that have accepted them and the percentage of the world fleet that is covered by the agreements. The site does include the text of press briefings, IMO Circulars, speeches and other documents.

[United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](http://www.undp.org)

UNDP's mission is to help countries achieve sustainable human development. Along with the [World Bank](http://worldbank.org) and [UNEP](http://www.unep.org), UNDP is a managing partner in the [Global Environment Facility](http://www.gefweb.org), which funds country efforts to address ozone depletion, global warming, loss of biodiversity and pollution of international waters. UNDP's Web site includes human development reports, annual reports, evaluations and other UNDP publications.

[United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](http://www.unep.org)

UNEP was established after the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Described as the "environmental conscience" of the UN system, UNEP has provided support in the negotiation, adoption and implementation of several international environmental agreements. The agency also generates numerous reports and policy documents, many of which are available on the Web site. The [Key Documents pages](http://www.unep.org/resources/gov/keydocuments.asp) provide access to information about developing international environmental law, the text of a number of environmental conventions, a register of environmental conventions, and more. UNEP and [The World Conservation Union \(IUCN\)](http://www.iucn.org/themes/law/) have joined in an initiative called [ECOLEX](http://www.ecolex.org/ecolex/index.php), designed to provide global access to information on environmental law. ECOLEX contains information on multilateral treaties, international "soft law" and related documents, instruments of the European Union, national legislation, judicial decisions, and law and policy literature.

[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](http://www.who.int)

As part of its objective to promote the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health, the WHO proposes conventions, agreements, and regulations regarding health issues and develops, establishes and promotes international standards concerning foods, pharmaceuticals, and similar substances. The Web site contains a section on [Protection of the Human Environment](http://www.who.int/phe/en/), which includes reports and other WHO publications on environmental health.

[World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](http://www.wmo.ch)

According to the WMO's Web site, "within the United Nations, [the WMO] provides the authoritative scientific voice on the state

and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere and climate." Its policy-making body, the World Meteorological Congress, meets every four years. The WMO's Secretariat includes publication and distribution of WMO publications among its duties. The WMO Web site includes WMO statements, long-term plans, and announcements.

B. UN-specific CD-ROM or Web commercial products

AccessUN(available by subscription from **Newsbank**(<http://infoweb.newsbank.com>) indexes United Nations documents including Official Records, masthead documents, draft resolutions, meeting records, UN Sales Publications, and the UN Treaty Series citations. Also includes several thousand full-text UN documents.



2. Other Multinational Organizations

A. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

ASEAN formed in 1967 to promote economic cooperation and the welfare of the people in the region. Although the focus thus far has been on economic cooperation, the member states have concluded several **Agreements on the Environment** (<http://www.aseansec.org/8919.htm>)

i. ASEAN Web Sites

ASEANWEB(<http://www.aseansec.org>)

ASEANWEB was officially launched at the Joint Ministerial Meeting of the Fifth ASEAN Summit in December 1995. This site includes all ASEAN Agreements, Declarations, and Statements from 1967 to present, plus press releases, speeches, and staff papers. Look for the Transnational Issues page, which links to ASEAN environmental documents.

Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL) (<http://law.nus.edu.sg/apcel/>)

APCEL, which is maintained at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law, provides the text of **major global environmental instruments** (<http://law.nus.edu.sg/apcel/links/instrumt.html>) and additional **Internet Resources on International Law** (<http://law.nus.edu.sg/apcel/resources.htm>).

B. Council of Europe (COE)

Formed in 1949, the Council of Europe's main goal is to strengthen democracy, human rights and the rule of law throughout its 46 member states.

i. Council of Europe Web Sites

Council of Europe(<http://www.coe.int>)

The Council of Europe's official Web site contains numerous documents, including international agreements. Environmental conventions can be located using the site's full-text searching function at <http://conventions.coe.int/>. Examples of environmental conventions coming out of the Council of Europe are : Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats and Convention on Civil Liability for Damage Resulting from Activities Dangerous to the Environment.

C. European Union

The European Union, (used here as an umbrella term encompassing several communities, including the European Coal & Steel Community, European Economic Community, and the European Communities), was created after World War II to unite the nations of Europe economically. From its initial membership of six European nations, the EU has grown to include twenty-five nations, and several more have applied for membership. Although initially framed as an *economic* union, the EU is becoming a cultural and social union in many ways. Concern for the environment is among its members' united concerns. To this end, the **European Commission** (<http://ec.europa.eu/>) has created the **Directorate-General for the Environment** (ec.europa.eu/dgs/environment/index_en.htm) addressing a broad array of **Policy Areas** (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/policy_en.htm).

i. EU Web Sites

Europa (<http://europa.eu>)

Europa is the official Web site of the European Union. The site is extensive and comprehensive, including many free, full-text documents. The Europa site provides access to its documents through **EUR-Lex** (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>), its

official portal to EU law. EUR-Lex allows searching in a number of fields as well as by browsing.

[Directorate-General for the Environment](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/environment/index_en.htm) (http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/environment/index_en.htm).

This Directorate-General is the body within the **[European Commission](http://ec.europa.eu/)** (<http://ec.europa.eu/>) responsible for Commission work on the Environment. The Web site contains a selection of recent Environment Directorate General proposals, fact sheets on air quality and waste, a **[Guide to the approximation of EU environmental legislation](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/guide/contents.htm)** (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/guide/contents.htm>) and numerous newsletters. The Web site also includes information about the EU's **[Eco-label Programme](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/index_en.htm)** (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/index_en.htm), which serves the primary purpose of stimulating the supply and demand of products with a reduced environmental impact.

[European Environment Agency \(EEA\)](http://www.eea.europa.eu/) (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/>)

Created by Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1210/90, the EEA's aims are to provide information which can be directly used in the implementation of EU environmental policy. Although an entity of the European Union, the EEA's membership is open to non-Member countries that share the agency's concerns. Many full-text PDF documents are available, along with summaries of additional documents. The **[EC Biodiversity Clearing-House Mechanism](http://biodiversity-chm.eea.europa.eu/)** (<http://biodiversity-chm.eea.europa.eu/>) facilitates the exchange of biodiversity information between EU institutions. The Clearing-House provides a biodiversity thesaurus, directory of information sources on biodiversity, and numerous links to full-text documents maintained on other EU sites.

[European Environmental Law Homepage](http://www.eel.nl) (<http://www.eel.nl>)

Provides the text of the major treaties creating the EU, environmental treaties, case law, draft legislation, and other environmental documents. Subscribers to the free **EEL News Service** receive bi-weekly e-mail updates on EU environmental developments.

[European Union Delegation in the United States](http://www.eurunion.org) (<http://www.eurunion.org>)

This site, which is maintained by the European Commission's Office of Press and Public Affairs, reflects the EU's presence in the United States and covers developments in the Transatlantic Action Plan. The site contains numerous full-text documents. The **[Environment Policy](http://www.eurunion.org/policyareas/environment.htm)** page (<http://www.eurunion.org/policyareas/environment.htm>) provides an overview of EU policy in these areas and includes links to various EU pages related to environmental policy.

ii. EU CD-ROM, Web & Other Online Commercial Products

Eurolaw(Ascot, England: ILI): includes CELEX and additional EU materials, including national implementing measures; updated monthly; available in CD-ROM or as Web product. **[ILI](http://www.ili.co.uk/en)**(<http://www.ili.co.uk/en>).

EU Infodisk (Ascot, England: ILI): bibliographic legal database of the EU; includes abstracts of articles from more than 2500 journals worldwide; updated every 13 weeks; available in CD-ROM. **[ILI](http://www.ili.co.uk/en)** (<http://www.ili.co.uk/en>).

Justis-Celex (London: Context Limited): Provides access to CELEX and national implementing measures; Web product is updated weekly; CD-ROM product is updated quarterly. **[Context Limited](http://www.justis.com/titles/celex.html)** (<http://www.justis.com/titles/celex.html>).

LEXIS EU databases provide access to the CELEX database as well as Butterworths selected cases and competition cases.

WESTLAW's EU-ALL database provides access to treaties, legislation, case law, preparatory documents, parliamentary questions and information and notices.



D. GATT & the World Trade Organization (WTO)

The World Trade Organization was established during the Uruguay Round negotiations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1994 to deal with the rules of trade between nations. The WTO Committee on Trade and Environment works to incorporate environmental and sustainable development issues into trade rules.

i. GATT/WTO Web Sites

[World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](http://www.wto.org) (<http://www.wto.org>)

The WTO's Web site contains unrestricted working documents distributed by the WTO since its creation in January 1995, plus selected related material from 1986 to 1994. The documents are stored in the **[Documents Online search facility](http://docsonline.wto.org/)** (<http://docsonline.wto.org/>) in WordPerfect 5.2 format before 2 June 1998 and in Word 97 thereafter. Many documents are

also provided in PDF. The documents can be searched, viewed, and downloaded. Search fields include symbol, title, date, and full-text. Updated daily. The WTO's environmental work is discussed at http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/envir_e.htm.

ii. GATT/WTO on Online Commercial Databases

LEXIS - The international trade materials include the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Uruguay Round, including the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization as well as *GATT/WTO Basic Instruments and Selected Documents*, which includes the principal decisions, resolutions, recommendations and reports adopted by the Contracting Parties every year.

WESTLAW - The GATT database contains the text of the final General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Uruguay Round, including the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, and other documents, including the GATT Uruguay Round Agreements Report on Environmental Issues. The WTO-DEC database includes selected documents from WTO/ GATT dispute settlement panels.

E. North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

Although they entered into NAFTA as a trade agreement, the three member states (Canada-Mexico-United States) subsequently entered into a complementary agreement, [the North American Agreement for Environmental Cooperation](#) (linked from "Laws, Treaties & Agreements" at http://www.cec.org/pubs_info_resources/) to address shared environmental concerns.

i. Web Sites

[Commission for Environmental Cooperation \(CEC\)](http://www.cec.org) (<http://www.cec.org>)

Created under the the North American Agreement for Environmental Cooperation to address regional environmental concerns, the CEC works to prevent trade and environmental conflicts and to promote the enforcement of environmental law. This Web site provides documents from the CEC's governing body, the [CEC Council](#) (linked from http://www.cec.org/who_we_are/) as well as a Summary of Environmental Law in North America, including links to the texts of several international agreements and relevant national laws in NAFTA member countries (Canada, Mexico, and the United States). The materials are available in French, Spanish and English.

[National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade](http://www.natlaw.com) (<http://www.natlaw.com>)

The National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade is a non-profit research and educational corporation whose purpose is to facilitate trade and investment in the Western Hemisphere. The Center's [InterAm Database](#) (<http://www.natlaw.com/database.htm>), available by subscription, provides access to Mexican and Latin American legal and regulatory information. Non-subscribers can purchase documents for a fee. In addition, this site provides several [environmental treaties](#) (<http://www.natlaw.com/treaties/enviro.htm>) in full text, although only to subscribers or for a per-document fee.

[Office of NAFTA & Inter-American Affairs](http://www.mac.doc.gov/nafta/index.htm) (<http://www.mac.doc.gov/nafta/index.htm>)

The NAFTA page at the Department of Commerce Office of NAFTA and Inter-American Affairs Web site includes the text of NAFTA as well as various reports, statistics, and links to additional NAFTA Web sites.

ii. NAFTA on Online Commercial Databases

LEXIS - In INTLAW/NAFTA, find the North American Free Trade Agreement plus Supplemental Agreements. NAFTA panel review decisions from April 1995 on are included in INTLAW/NAFDEC.

WESTLAW - The NAFTA database includes chapters of the North American Free Trade Agreement and other documents released by the Office of the United States Trade Representative; find Binational Panel decisions and related documents in the NAFTA-BIP database.



F. Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD)

The OECD is a Paris-based intergovernmental organization enabling its 30 Member Countries to consult and cooperate with each other in matters concerning sustainable economic growth, including sustainable development and the environment.

i. Web Sites

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (<http://www.oecd.org>)

This official OECD homepage, available in English and French, provides detailed information about the OECD. In addition to background information, the site contains the text of recent annual reports, policy briefs, statistics, background papers and numerous other documents (follow the link to "documentation"). Click on "Environment" under Topics to access environmental publications.

G. Organization of American States (OAS)

Under the **OAS Charter** (<http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/charter.html>), economic and social development of the Americas has long been one of the organization's goals. At its 26th regular session in 1996, the General Assembly established the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development.

i. Web Sites

Organization of American States (<http://www.oas.org>)

The official OAS Web site provides the text of **Resolutions and Declarations** (<http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/resolut.html>) and **conventions** (<http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/treaties.html>) and numerous other types of **documents** (<http://www.oas.org/documents/eng/documents.asp>). The **Department of Sustainable Development and Environment** (<http://www.oas.org/usde/>) is the technical arm of the OAS General Secretariat responsible for responding to the needs of member states on issues relating to sustainable development within an economic development context. On the **Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI)** (<http://www.cidi.oas.org>) Web site, read about the **Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development** (<http://www.cidi.oas.org/prosusteng.asp>).

3. Miscellaneous Sources for International Environmental Agreements, Declarations, Statements, and Related Documents

A. Web Sites

Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) (<http://www.ciesin.org>)

CIESIN is part of Columbia University's Earth Institute. This Center focuses on applying information technology to interdisciplinary data, information, and research problems related to human interactions in the environment. CIESIN's Web site contains the text of more than 140 international environmental agreements, which are searchable through the **ENTRI system** (<http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/entri/>) *see infra*.

Environmental Treaties and Resource Indicators (ENTRI) (<http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/entri/>)

ENTRI allows the researcher to search for treaties by date, keyword, and other fields. In addition to access through the Web, ENTRI is accessible via email. For more information, visit <http://sedac.custhelp.com/>. ENTRI also includes user forums that encourage interaction, via email, with the ENTRI system maintainers and other ENTRI users.

Globelaw (<http://www.globelaw.com/index.html>)

This site contains some of the environmental treaty material formerly found at the Greenpeace International Multilateral Treaties site. Includes the text of several conventions, national and international tribunal cases, selected UN resolutions, and links to other sites containing multilateral conventions and international environmental law and policy documents.

Multilaterals Project (<http://fletcher.tufts.edu/multilaterals.html>)

The Multilaterals Project at the Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy is designed to make available the texts of international multilateral conventions and other instruments. The database is organized by subject as well as chronologically. Full-text searching is also available. Originally begun in 1992 to provide access to environmental agreements, the database now includes treaties in other fields as well. The 11 major subject headings still reflect the emphasis on environmental agreements: they include "Atmosphere and Space," "Flora and Fauna--Biodiversity," "Marine and Coastal," and "Other Environmental."

B. CD-ROMs and Online Commercial Databases

The Environmental Law Reporter, edited by The Environmental Law Institute (St. Paul, MN: West Group, c1993-) (ELR) The

ELR contains the text of major treaties, conventions and international agreements concerning the environment. Subscription information is available at <http://www.elistore.org/elr.asp>.

HeinOnline Treaties and Agreements Library is a subscription collection of treaties and related materials. It includes *United States Treaties and Other International Agreements (UST)*, *Treaties and Other International Agreements Series (TIAS)*, *Kav Agreements*, *International Legal Materials*, *Treaties in Force*, *Guide to Treaties in Force*, and other useful treaty indexes. See <http://heinonline.org/front/front-index> for additional information.

Treaties and International Agreements Researchers' Archive, edited by Erwin Surrency (Dobbs Ferry, NY: 1993-), contains the text of over 11,000 treaties to which the United States is a party plus 1800 bilateral treaties to which the United States is *not* a party. Also **available on the Web as TIARA** (<http://www.oceanalaw.com>). Updated twice yearly. Allows for full-text and field searching.

LEXIS - Look for treaties to which the United States is a party in INTLAW/USTRTY. Additional selected treaties and agreements can be found in INTLAW/ILMTY, which contains portions of the American Society of International Law's *International Legal Materials* from 1980.

WESTLAW - The INTLENVL database contains a collection of international environmental law instruments in a variety of subject areas, including control of resource pollution, environmental protection and conservation of natural resources. The USTREATIES database covers *U.S. Treaties and other International Agreements (T.I.A.S.)* from June 1979 and Senate Treaty Documents from 1993. The ILM database contains the American Society of International Law's *International Legal Materials (ILM)* from 1980, which reproduces a variety of international legal documents, including selected international agreements.



b. Case Law

1. Web Sites

International Court of Justice (ICJ) (<http://www.icj-cij.org>)

The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Its official Web site contains recent decisions of the Court, its current docket, basic documents and other publications in French and English.

Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ) (<http://curia.europa.eu/en/index.htm>)

The ECJ's official Web site contains recent judgments. The database is searchable by case number, date, parties' names, words in the text, and a number of other fields, including one specifying cases involving the "environment and consumers." The judgments are available in all official languages. In addition to judgments, the site provides the ECJ's diary, proceedings, press releases, a digest of Community case law, annotations of judgments (in French) and other information.

Globelaw's Cases Relating to Nuclear Testing, Climate Change and the WTO (<http://www.globelaw.com/Cases.htm>)

The Globelaw site currently contains the text of a few decisions of international and national tribunals along with summaries, and parties' arguments.

2. Online Commercial Databases

WESTLAW's INT-ICJ database contains the ICJ cases since 1947.

c. National Legislation, Regulations, and Policy Statements

National laws often contribute to the formation of customary international environmental law. In addition, national laws can indicate acceptance of such custom-based law in the absence of a treaty or other binding international agreement. However, identifying or confirming the existence of a particular country's environmental legislation poses quite a challenge. The Internet is fast becoming a good source for these foreign materials.

1. Internet Sources

Global Legal Information Network (GLIN)(<http://www.glin.gov/>)

Maintained on the **Library of Congress Web site**(<http://www.loc.gov>), GLIN is an online database containing statutes, regulations and related national materials from over 50 countries in the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia. Selected countries have authorized free access to full-text files while others are available only to official contributors. GLIN provides abstracts and citations to the more than 60,000 laws of foreign nations in the database.

2. CD-ROMs and Online Commercial Databases

Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo a. Flores, *Foreign Law: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World* (Littleton, CO: Fred B. Rothman & Co., 1997-).

Like its revered counterpart in print, *Foreign Law: Current Sources* on CD-ROM and the Web provides an overview of each nation's legal system, official sources of legislation and judicial decisions, and a subject-specific guide to both official and commercial sources of law, including those translated into English. To identify environmental legislation in each country, look for sources listed under the subject heading ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, along with FISHING & MARINE RESOURCES, MARITIME LAW (ADMIRALTY), MINERALS & MINING, and NUCLEAR ENERGY. See the **W.S. Hein site** (<http://www.wshein.com>) for information about ordering the CD-ROM version, and visit <http://www.foreignlawguide.com> for more about the Web version.

WESTLAW - The ENFLEX-INT database contains full-text translations of environmental statutes and regulations for a number of foreign jurisdictions.



V. SECONDARY SOURCES

1. Periodicals

Environmental law journals have embraced electronic publication, and a number provide either the full text or abstracts of articles on the Internet.

a. Web Sites

Duke Environmental Law & Policy Forum (<http://www.law.duke.edu/journals/delpf/index.htm>)

Full-text articles from 1996 -.

E-LAW Advocate (follow link from "News" at <http://www.elaw.org/>)

Quarterly electronic newsletter of the **Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (E-LAW)** (<http://www.elaw.org>) *see infra*

Earth Negotiations Bulletin (linked from <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/>)

Published by the **International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)** (<http://www.iisd.org/>), the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* provides daily coverage of official UN negotiations for environmental and development agreements. The bulletin is written and edited by a team of professionals from throughout the world.

Electronic Green Journal (University of Idaho Library) (<http://egj.lib.uidaho.edu/index.html>)

Full-text articles, bibliographies and book reviews concerning international environmental topics. The April 1999 issue included ***Environmental Resources on the World Wide Web*** (<http://egj.lib.uidaho.edu/egj10/shrode1.html>).

Environmental Law (Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College) (<http://www.lclark.edu/org/envtl/>) Web site provides abstracts beginning with issue 25:1 (1995).

FSU Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law (<http://www.law.fsu.edu/journals/landuse/>)

Full-text articles from 1994-.

Georgetown International Environmental Law Review (<http://www.law.georgetown.edu/journals/gielr/>)

Web site contains abstracts only from 1988 to present.

[Global Environmental Politics](http://www.mitpressjournals.org/loi/glep) (<http://www.mitpressjournals.org/loi/glep>) This periodical examines the relationship between global political forces and environmental change. The site provides tables of contents and abstracts from 2001 to present. Articles can be purchased individually from the site.

[GreenLaw](http://law.pace.edu/environment/greenlaw.html) (**Pace University College of Law**; former title: *Environmentally Friendly*) (<http://law.pace.edu/environment/greenlaw.html>)
Full-text journal of the Pace Center for Environmental Legal Studies.

[Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy](http://www.jiwlw.com/) (<http://www.jiwlw.com/>)
Web site includes abstracts and full-text articles in PDF

[New York University Environmental Law Journal](http://www.law.nyu.edu/journals/envtllaw/) (<http://www.law.nyu.edu/journals/envtllaw/>)
Includes full-text articles, notes and book reviews since 1992. Also includes videos and speeches. Indexed by author, subject and issue.

[Our Planet](http://www.ourplanet.com/imgvrsn/planethme.html) (<http://www.ourplanet.com/imgvrsn/planethme.html>)
UNEP's bimonthly magazine on the environment and sustainable development, *Our Planet* contains full-text articles by leaders of UN organizations, national governments, NGOs, and experts. Each issue focuses on a specific theme, usually tied to an international conference (e.g. climate change).

b. Commercial Online Services

LEXIS - The *BNA International Environment Reporter* can be found on LEXIS in the BNA/INTENV file. It monitors the pollution control activity in the major industrial nations, focusing on legislation and the political and social issues affecting environmental protection programs, multinational and bilateral agreements and treaties, pollution prevention measures, key meetings, and actions of the United Nations and other international organizations.

For environmental law reviews, search LAWREV/ENVLR. To search all of the full-text legal periodicals on LEXIS, use LAWREV/ALLREV.

WESTLAW - The *BNA International Environment Daily* is located in the BNA-IED database. This daily journal reports and analyzes legislative, judicial and administrative activities that affect the environment worldwide. Sources for this database include activity in federal and international courts and legislatures, administrative agencies, and private organizations beginning in January 1991.

For environmental law reviews, use the ENV-TP database. To access all texts and periodicals on WESTLAW, search the TP-ALL database.



VI. OTHER RELATED SITES

Many of these sites contain links to official versions of primary sources. In addition, they may contain essays, press releases, directories, and other useful information.

The American Society of International Law's current awareness publication **[International Law In Brief](http://www.asil.org/ilib/ilibarch.htm)** (<http://www.asil.org/ilib/ilibarch.htm>) is a free, bi-monthly email service. It carries "analytical abstracts of significant documents reflective of the broad, contemporary nature of international law".

[ASIL Insights Online](http://www.asil.org/insights.htm) is also available both on the ASIL Web site (www.asil.org/insights.htm) and as a free email service (about once a month). Concise, unbiased essays outline the international law issues behind current events.

[ASIL Interest Group in International Environmental Law](http://www.asil.org/environmentallaw/index.html) (<http://www.asil.org/environmentallaw/index.html>)
The International Environmental Law Interest Group focuses on the role of law in addressing international environmental issues.

[Center for International Environmental Law \(CIEL\)](http://www.ciel.org) (<http://www.ciel.org>)
CIEL is a public interest, not-for-profit law firm focusing on strengthening and developing international and comparative environmental law, policy and management. CIEL provides access to many of its documents on this site.

Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (E-LAW) (<http://www.elaw.org>)

E-LAW is a network of "Amigos" (public interest attorneys, scientists and other advocates interested in international and domestic environmental law) from over 60 countries. The Amigos exchange information concerning international environmental issues, with the aim of building *local* environmental law expertise. Most of these exchanges occur through e-mail and electronic conferencing. The site features environmental law cases from around the world, mostly in English.

Environmental Law Institute (ELI) (<http://www.eli.org>)

The ELI is an independent, non-partisan, not-for-profit organization working to activate a broad constituency of nearly 4,000 environmental professionals in government, industry, the private bar, public interest groups, the media, and academia. They provide training programs, law and policy reform programs, and produce numerous publications, which can be ordered via the Web site.

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) (<http://www.iisd.org/>)

IISD works to promote sustainable development in decision-making internationally and within Canada. IISD publishes the Internet periodical *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* and hosts the **Linkages site** (<http://www.iisd.ca/linkages>), which is a multimedia resource providing timely coverage of conferences and updates re ongoing negotiations.

Law and Policy Institutions Guide (<http://www.lpig.org/environ.html>) Selective list of links to environmental law web sites, including several international environmental law sites.

World Wide Web Virtual Library: Law: Environmental Law (<http://www.law.indiana.edu/v-lib>)

This site at the Indiana University School of Law contains an extensive list of alphabetically arranged links to resources on environmental law. The list is fully searchable.



VII. ONLINE DISCUSSION LISTS

Online discussion lists provide a convenient forum for discussing issues with others interested in the same topic. A number of lists focus on issues relating to international environmental law:

ASILIEL@u.washington.edu (American Society of International Law list restricted to members of the Interest Group on International Environmental Law)

CLIMATE-L (moderated news and information distribution list on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; more information at <http://sdgateway.net/maillinglists/list93.htm>)

EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment; moderated list for professionals in government, NGOs, academic & research institutions; more information at <http://www.sdgateway.net/maillinglists/list55.htm>)

ENV.SEASHEPHERD (Sea Shepherd Conservation Society; discussion of international conservation law and related environmental topics; subscription information at <http://www.seashepherd.org/>)

ENVLAWPROFS@lists.uoregon.edu (Environmental Law Professors discussion list; subscription instructions at <http://lists.uoregon.edu/listjoining.html>)

OCEANLAW (global forum for the exchange of information and ideas relating to international fisheries law and related law of the sea issues - go to <http://www.oceanlaw.net/lists/index.htm> to subscribe)



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