

International Conventions



The Energy & Biodiversity Initiative

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1. INTRODUCTION

International conventions and agreements form an important backdrop to the issues surrounding biodiversity and the oil and gas industry, and they are a significant pressure driving the development of a strong business case for biodiversity conservation. This document will assist users of the EBI's *Framework for Integrating Biodiversity into the Site Selection Process* (the Framework) in considering the implications of international conventions.

i **Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into Oil and Gas Development** contains a summary of the analysis and recommendations of the EBI.

Within the Framework, conventions are especially important during the review of legal/regulatory issues although they may be relevant to subsequent stages as well. While the focus here is on the international and regional levels, information on country-specific legislation will also be required in applying the Framework. The need for such information will vary according to the regulatory, legal and political context of the country in question, whether that country is a party to the relevant international conventions and agreements, and whether these have been implemented at the national level. Therefore, when the Framework is applied, country-specific aspects of legislation must be considered as appropriate by the user to supplement the information supplied here.

i Further information on the business case for biodiversity conservation can be found in **Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into Oil and Gas Development** (Section 2).

The conventions in this document are listed in groups with a common theme (ordered by year). The overall list includes conventions that address the issues of conservation and biodiversity at a global level and also at the level of specific geographical regions. This should enable the user to focus on the particular project area

of interest. Agreements and conventions relating to the more general issue of pollution prevention have also been included as pollution and its avoidance during exploration and production have a significant bearing on the type and degree of negative impacts on biodiversity.

Where possible, links are given for websites¹ containing more detailed information on the conventions and agreements (including in some cases the specific text). The web address of the site can be entered manually by readers using a hardcopy version of this document or for those using an electronic version the website can be viewed by placing the mouse pointer over the underlined text at which point the address of the site will be displayed in a box. A left click on the mouse will automatically connect to the site if the reader's computer has a connection to the Internet. The reader may then return to this document simply by clicking the back arrow on the browser tool bar.

Section 2 highlights those conventions that are considered to be the most important in relation to biodiversity – generally known as the “Big Five.” Section 3 then addresses other international legislation and conventions, of which those that are considered the most important are marked with a leaf. 🍃

Finally, the continued improvement of this document is dependent on the active participation of end-users and stakeholders. Therefore, we welcome any comments and suggestions relating to conventions and legislation directly or indirectly related to biodiversity.

PLEASE SEND COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS AND QUESTIONS TO:

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2. THE “BIG FIVE” BIODIVERSITY CONVENTIONS

One of the earliest global environmental instruments was the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), conceptualized in the 1960s and signed in 1973. Essentially, CITES views international wildlife trade as a major underlying cause of biodiversity loss and contains provisions to restrict it.

The thrust of global environmental conventions subsequently shifted toward the protection of particular habitats, such as wetlands (the Convention on Wetlands, Ramsar, 1971), sites of natural or cultural value (the World Heritage Convention, 1972), or the protection of species migrating between sites (the Convention on Migratory Species, 1983). A significant milestone was reached in 1992 with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the first global, comprehensive treaty to place environmental, social and economic objectives on an equal footing.

Although different in inception, scope and philosophy, all five conventions are commonly referred to as the biodiversity-related conventions. In contrast to other issues, notably trade, there is no single international body dealing with the environment. All five biodiversity conventions, for instance, operate independently and have separate secretariats, even though increasing attention has been paid to building synergies and avoiding duplication. The “Big Five” may have important implications for business activities in terms of where the oil and gas industry can operate and – equally important – how it should conduct its operations.

2.1 THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FLORA AND FAUNA, 1975 (CITES)

[<http://www.cites.org>]

CITES represents a cooperative effort between countries to prevent loss of species resulting from international wildlife trade. It works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls. Significantly, not one species protected by the Convention has become extinct because of trade since its implementation. CITES species are categorized in

three Appendices depending on the level of threat to the species. Appendix I lists species threatened with extinction, for which CITES allows trade only under stringent circumstances. While Appendix II species are not necessarily threatened with extinction, CITES calls for controlled trade. A Party to the Convention can proactively place certain species in Appendix III and thereby request other Parties for assistance in controlling their trade. The Text of the Convention – which originated from a 1963 IUCN resolution – was agreed by governments in 1973 and entered into force in 1975. CITES now counts over 150 member states and protects, in varying degrees, over 30,000 species.

2.2 THE RAMSAR CONVENTION, 1971

[<http://www.ramsar.org>]

The Ramsar Convention – formally known as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat – provides a framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. Ramsar covers all aspects of wetland conservation and “wise use” of wetlands, recognizing that wetlands are extremely important ecosystems for biodiversity conservation. The criteria used to identify wetlands that may be of international importance can be found at http://www.ramsar.org/key_criteria.htm. The Convention defines wetlands as “*areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed 6 m.*” To date, the Ramsar Convention remains the only global convention dealing with a particular type of habitat. The Convention – which originated at a 1962 conference on waterfowl conservation – was adopted in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. As of 2003, there were 138 Contracting Parties to the Convention, with 1,308 sites, amounting to 110 million hectares (271.8 million acres) designated in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

For further information on the significance of the Ramsar Convention for oil and gas operations see **Framework for Integrating Biodiversity into the Site Selection Process.**

2.3 THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION, 1972 [<http://whc.unesco.org>]

The objective of the World Heritage Convention—or the Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, as it is formally known—is to identify and conserve the world’s cultural and natural heritage. Its main instrument is the World Heritage List, which contains sites of outstanding cultural and natural values. An overview of the process for nominating sites is available at http://whc.unesco.org/nwhc/pages/doc/dc_f8.htm and a detailed review of the implementation of the Convention (including the designation process and the criteria applied) at http://whc.unesco.org/nwhc/pages/doc/dc_f10.htm. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) houses the Convention’s Secretariat, while IUCN—The World Conservation Union, the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) act as the advisory bodies for, respectively, natural properties, cultural properties and the study of the preservation and restoration of cultural property. The Convention text was influenced by the call for a “World Heritage Trust” in a 1965 conference and proposals developed by IUCN in 1968 and subsequently presented to the 1972 United Nations Conference on Human Environment. The Convention was adopted by the 1972 General Conference of UNESCO and now counts more than 150 member nations. Since the early 1970s, UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere program has promoted the multi-zone concept of biosphere reserves to reconcile conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. This IUCN category of protected areas encourages “*private sector initiatives to establish and maintain environmentally and socially sustainable activities in appropriate zones of biosphere reserves,*” ranging from ecotourism and the collection of forest products in buffer zones, to agricultural practices in transition areas. By March 2002, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves comprised 409 sites in 94 countries.

For further information on the significance of the World Heritage Convention for oil and gas operations see **Framework for Integrating Biodiversity into the Site Selection Process.**

2.4 CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES, 1979 (BONN CONVENTION)

[<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/cms>]

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as the Bonn Convention) aims to “*conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range.*” The Convention facilitates the adoption of strict protection measures for endangered migratory species, the conclusion of multilateral agreements for the conservation and management of migratory species, and co-operative research activities. The Convention has two appendices: Appendix I lists migratory species that are classified as endangered and where urgent international cooperation is necessary to address the issue. Appendix II lists other species that require or would benefit significantly from international agreements under the Convention. The Convention entered into force in 1983, and now has 81 member countries (as of March 1, 2003). Within the convention there are a number of agreements covering specific migratory species, including:

- EUROBATS – Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe, concluded in September 1991.
- Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas, 1991.
- African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), 1995.
- Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), 1996.
- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, 2001.

2.5 CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, 1992 (CBD) [<http://www.biodiv.org>]

The three main goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from utilization of genetic resources. In a marked shift from previous agreements, the CBD calls for a much more holistic approach to biodiversity, by recognizing its ecosystem, species and genetic levels. The CBD was one of the major outcomes of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development – termed the “Earth Summit” – in Rio de Janeiro. The Convention has 186 Parties, with the notable exception of the United

States. Other formal agreements that resulted from the Earth Summit include the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification [www.unccd.ch] and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [www.unfccc.org]. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety – which seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology – has since arisen out of the CBD [www.biodiv.org/biosafety].

Member states have structured their work into thematic programs, which include marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, the biodiversity of inland waters, and dry and sub-humid lands. They have also considered crosscutting issues such as biosafety, access to genetic resources, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, intellectual property rights, public education and awareness, and incentive measures. In addition, a clearing-house mechanism has been established under the CBD to facilitate the sharing of information and capacity building [www.biodiv.org/chm]. Two publications are of particular assistance to understanding the Convention: IUCN's 1994 *Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity* and the CBD Secretariat's 2001 *Handbook of the Convention on Biological Diversity*.

Several articles are relevant to the relationship between energy development and biodiversity conservation, including:

Article 6(b) General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use: Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities, integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

Article 10(e) Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity: Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, encourage cooperation between its governmental authorities and its private sector in

developing methods for sustainable use of biological resources.

Article 11 Incentive Measures: Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity.

Article 14(a) Impact Assessment and Minimizing Adverse Impacts: Each Contracting Party, as far as possible and as appropriate, shall introduce appropriate procedures requiring environmental impact assessment of its proposed projects that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity with a view to avoiding or minimizing such effects and, where appropriate, allow for public participation in such procedures;

Article 16 (1) Access to and Transfer of Technology: Each Contracting Party, recognizing that technology includes biotechnology, and that both access to and transfer of technology among Contracting Parties are essential elements for the attainment of the objectives of this Convention, undertakes subject to the provisions of this Article to provide and/or facilitate access for and transfer to other Contracting Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment.

Article 17 (1) Exchange of Information: The Contracting Parties shall facilitate the exchange of information, from all publicly available sources, relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account the special needs of developing countries.

Article 18 (1) Technical and Scientific Cooperation: The Contracting Parties shall promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, where necessary, through the appropriate international and national institutions.

3. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEGISLATION AND CONVENTIONS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The section above describes and provides links to the five key international conventions that should be considered during the evaluation process of the Framework. In addition to these five, there will be more specific legislation, relating to region and nature of potential impact, to which reference may be necessary. Links to this legislation are provided in the following sections.

For users with an existing knowledge of legislation who wish to go directly to a document, two links that will enable a more direct route are:

- ENTRI (Environmental Treaties and Resource Indicators) website, which allows the user to carry out specific searches for conventions and legislation covering a wide range of categories.
[\[http://sedac.ciesin.org/entri/\]](http://sedac.ciesin.org/entri/)
- Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) website, which is geographically based and provides access to regional conventions and protocols.
[\[http://icm.noaa.gov/laws/lbs.html#RSGA\]](http://icm.noaa.gov/laws/lbs.html#RSGA)

3.2 CATEGORIZATION OF LEGISLATION

For those wishing to carry out a search of conventions and legislation by topic, a range of sources has been reviewed and classified by date within the following categories:

- 3.2.1 Nature Conservation
- 3.2.2 Coastal and Marine Areas
- 3.2.3 Rivers and Lakes
- 3.2.4 Wetlands
- 3.2.5 Birds
- 3.2.6 Mammals
- 3.2.7 Pollution Prevention
- 3.2.8 Endangered Species

Where possible, hyperlinks to external locations are provided to enable the on-line user to access the text of

the convention or regulation directly. A short review is also included for each entry.

3.2.1 Nature Conservation

- **Convention Relative to the Preservation of Fauna and Flora in their Natural State, 1933**

[No hyperlink available]

This convention was entered into by the Governments of the Union of South Africa, Belgium, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Egypt, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan with the aim of instituting a special regime for the preservation of flora and fauna. It promotes the institution of regulations to control the hunting, killing and capturing of fauna, referring to the constitution of national parks and reserves and the prohibition of certain methods.

- **Convention on Nature Protection and Wild Life Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, 1940**
[\[http://sedac.ciesin.org/pidb/texts/wildlife.western.hemisphere.1940.html\]](http://sedac.ciesin.org/pidb/texts/wildlife.western.hemisphere.1940.html)

The Governments of the American Republics concluded this convention for the protection of nature and the preservation of flora and fauna. It refers specifically to the wish to protect and preserve flora and fauna in sufficient numbers and over areas extensive enough to assure them from becoming extinct through any agency within man's control. It also refers to the wish to protect and preserve scenery of extraordinary beauty, unusual and striking geologic formations, regions and natural objects of aesthetic, historic or scientific value, and areas characterized by primitive conditions. 🍀

- **International Plant Protection Convention, 1951 amended in 1979 and 1997**

[\[http://www.ecoport.org/REFS/IPPC/engippc.pdf\]](http://www.ecoport.org/REFS/IPPC/engippc.pdf)

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is a multilateral treaty deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and administered through the IPPC Secretariat located in FAO's Plant Protection

Service. There are currently 117 governments that are contracting parties to the IPPC. The purpose of the IPPC is to secure common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests to plants and plant products and to promote measures for their control. The Convention provides a framework and forum for international cooperation, harmonization and technical exchange in collaboration with regional and national plant protection organizations (RPPOs and NPPOs).

- **African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1968**

[http://fletcher.tufts.edu/multi/texts/african_convention.txt]

This Convention was entered into by the Heads of State and Government of Independent African States, undertaking individual and joint action for the conservation, utilization and development of natural resources (soil, water, flora and fauna) by establishing and maintaining their rational utilization for the present and future welfare of mankind.

- **Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972**

[<http://whc.unesco.org/nwhc/pages/doc/main.htm>]

See Section 2.3, above.

- **Nordic Environmental Protection Convention, 1974**

[<http://sedac.ciesin.org/entri/texts/acrc/Nordic.txt.html>]

The Governments of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, aware of the urgent need to protect and improve the environment, developed this convention concerned with the protection of the environment between their countries.

- **EC Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), 1979**

[<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/en.pdf>]

This Directive relates to the conservation of all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state in the European territory of the Member States to which the Treaty applies. It covers the protection, management and control of these species and lays down rules for their exploitation.

- **Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 1979**

[<http://sedac.ciesin.org/pidb/texts/european.wildlife.natural.habitats.1979.html>]

This is the Bern Convention, amended in 1987 and 1991, entered into mainly by the Member States of

the Council of Europe (but also open to non-Member States – current parties include Burkina Faso, Senegal and Tunisia). The aims of this Convention are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the cooperation of several States, and to promote such cooperation. Particular emphasis is given to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species.

- **Convention on Migratory Species, 1979 (Bonn Convention)**

[<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/cms>]

See Section 2.4, above.

- **Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna in the Eastern African Region, 1985**

[<http://eelink.net/~asilwildlife/EastAfrPro.html>]

This protocol is for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the Eastern African Region. The aims are for the Contracting Parties to take all appropriate measures to maintain essential ecological processes and life support systems, to preserve genetic diversity, and to ensure the sustainable utilization of harvested natural resources under their jurisdiction. In particular, it refers to endeavors to protect and preserve rare or fragile ecosystems as well as rare, depleted, threatened or endangered species of wild fauna and flora and their habitats in the Eastern African region. To this end, it calls for the Contracting Parties to develop national conservation strategies and coordinate, if appropriate, such strategies within the framework of regional conservation activities.

- **ASEAN Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1985**

[<http://eelink.net/~asilwildlife/asean.html>]

This agreement is for the Contracting Parties (the member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations – ASEAN), within the framework of their respective national laws, to undertake to adopt singly, or where necessary and appropriate through concerted action, the measures necessary to maintain essential ecological processes and life-support systems, to preserve genetic diversity, and to ensure the sustainable utilization of harvested natural resources under their jurisdiction in accordance with scientific principles and with a view to attaining the goal of sustainable development. To this end it calls for the Contracting Parties to develop national conservation

strategies and to co-ordinate such strategies within the framework of a conservation strategy for the Region.

- **Convention Concerning the Conservation of the Biodiversity and the Protection of Priority Forestry Areas of Central America, 1992**

[No hyperlink available]

The Convention established the Central American Council for Protected Areas and identifies various principles and measures to support sustainable forest management (SFM) in the region

- **Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992**

[<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf>]

See Section 2.5, above.

- **EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), 1992**

[<http://www.ecnc.nl/doc/europe/legislat/habidire.html>]

The aim of this Directive is to contribute toward ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of the Member States to which the Treaty applies.

- **Inter-American Convention for the Conservation of Turtles, 1996**

[<http://www.seaturtle.org/iac/>]

The Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles is the only international treaty dedicated exclusively to sea turtles, setting standards for the conservation of these endangered animals and their habitats. Because individual sea turtles migrate and disperse over vast distances, they are resources shared by the peoples of many nations. Hence, the Inter-American Convention has been vigorously supported by many members of the international community of sea turtle biologists and conservationists, particularly specialists from Latin America.

3.2.2 Coastal and Marine Areas

- **Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific, 1976**

[<http://eelink.net/~asilwildlife/pacific.html>]

Encourages the creation of protected areas which together with existing protected areas will safeguard representative samples of the natural ecosystems occurring therein (particular attention being given to endangered species), as well as superlative scenery, striking geological formations, and regions and objects

of aesthetic interest or historic, cultural or scientific value.

- **Regional Seas Conventions and Protocols, 1978, revised in 1995**

[<http://www.unep.ch/seas/main/hconlist.html>]

Provides links to the sites describing conventions and protocols for the principal sea areas in which exploration and production are carried out, including: Mediterranean; Kuwait Region; West and Central Africa; South-East Pacific; Red Sea and Gulf of Aden; Wider Caribbean; Eastern Africa; South Pacific; Black Sea and the North-East Pacific.

- **Global conventions regulating environmental impact of the offshore oil and gas development and protecting the marine environment**

[<http://www.offshore-environment.com/conventions.html>]

At present, over 70 international conventions and agreements are directly concerned with protecting the marine environment. However, none of them is specially devoted to regulating offshore oil and gas development exclusively. In practice, these problems are solved either at the national level or within the framework of international conventions.

- **Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, 1983**

[<http://sedac.ciesin.org/pidb/texts/marine.caribbean.1983.html>]

Established for the protection of the marine environment of the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea and the adjacent areas of the Atlantic Ocean.

- **Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, 1985**

[<http://sedac.ciesin.org/entri/texts/marine.coastal.east.africa.1985.html>]

The Contracting Parties may enter into bilateral or multilateral agreements, including regional or sub-regional agreements, for the protection and management of the marine and coastal environment of the Convention area (which is comprised of the marine and coastal environment of that part of the Indian Ocean situated within the Eastern African region and falling within the jurisdiction of the Contracting Parties).

- **Protocol Concerning Conservation and Management of Protected Marine and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific (“Lima Convention”), 1989**

[No hyperlink available]

UNEP has collaborated with groups of governments sharing a common sea area to establish Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. An independent regional intergovernmental organization, the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS), was entrusted with the implementation of the Convention and Action Plan. A Secretary-General who reports to the Inter-Governmental Meeting of member States of CPPS, comprising Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru, heads the Secretariat in Lima, Peru. The Secretariat administers the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific, and carries out the provisions of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South East Pacific.

3.2.3 Rivers and Lakes

- **Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, 1992**

[http://www.unece.org/env/water/text/water_convention/text11toc.htm]

Established to provide the means of protecting surface and groundwaters at risk of pollution from more than one country.

3.2.4 Wetlands

- **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, 1971**

[<http://www.ramsar.org>] and

[http://www.ramsar.org/index_very_key_docs.htm]

See Section 2.2, above. 🍃

3.2.5 Birds

- **The International Convention for the Protection of Birds, 1950**

[<http://sedac.ciesin.org/entri/texts/protection.of.birds.1950.html>]

This Convention was adopted in Paris in 1950 and replaces the 1902 Convention for the Protection of Birds Useful to Agriculture. The purpose of this Convention is to protect birds in the wild state. 🍃

3.2.6 Mammals

- **Agreement on Conservation of Polar Bears, 1973**

[<http://fletcher.tufts.edu/multi/texts/BH637.txt>]

The Governments of Canada, Denmark, Norway, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the United States of America entered into this Convention. It concludes that the polar bear is a significant resource of the Arctic Region which requires additional protection, and such protection should be achieved through coordinated national measures taken by the States of the Arctic Region, leading to the prohibition of hunting, killing and capturing of polar bears subject to provisions detailed in the Convention.

3.2.7 Pollution Prevention

- **Protocol relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, (MARPOL Protocol), 1973 & 1978**

[http://www.imo.org/Conventions/contents.asp?doc_id=678&topic_id=258]

The MARPOL Convention is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes. It is a combination of two treaties adopted in 1973 and 1978 and updated by amendments through the years.

- **Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, 1979**

[<http://sedac.ciesin.org/pidb/texts/transboundary.air.pollution.1979.html>]

This Convention’s aim is to have Contracting Parties limit and, as far as possible, gradually reduce and prevent air pollution, including long-range transboundary air pollution.

- **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982**

[http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/closindx.htm]

Includes sections on exploitation of the seabed and protection of the marine environment.

- **Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention), 1989**

[<http://sedac.ciesin.org/pidb/texts/basel.transboundary.hazardous.wastes.1989.html>]

This Convention is of relevance with respect to the disposal of refinery waste, contaminated oil and oil unsuitable for use.

- **International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990**
[<http://sedac.ciesin.org/pidb/texts/oil.pollution.preparedness.1990.html>]

Established to provide measures to combat the serious threat posed to the marine environment by oil pollution incidents involving ships, offshore units, seaports and oil handling facilities.

- **Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution Concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes, 1991**

[<http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/protocol/g1voc.htm>]

The Convention contains basic obligations for the relevant Parties to control and reduce emissions of VOCs in order to reduce their transboundary fluxes and the fluxes of the resulting secondary photochemical oxidant products so as to protect human health and the environment from adverse effects.

- **Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, 1992**

[<http://sedac.ciesin.org/entri/texts/industrial.accidents.1992.html>]

This Convention applies to the prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents capable of causing transboundary effects, including the effects of such accidents caused by natural disasters, and to international cooperation concerning mutual assistance, research and development, exchange of information and exchange of technology in the area of prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents.

- **OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, 1992**
[<http://www.nearctica.com/environ/water/ospar1.htm>]

This Convention replaced both the 1972 Oslo Convention and the 1974 Paris Convention when it came into force February 9, 1999.

3.2.8 Endangered Species

- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1975 (amended 1979 and 1983)**

[<http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/text.shtml>]

See Section 2.1, above. 