

# Glossary

This glossary is compiled from citations in different chapters, and draws from glossaries and other resources available on the websites of the following organizations, networks and projects: American Meteorological Society, Center for Transportation Excellence (United States), Charles Darwin University (Australia), Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Europe's Information Society, European Environment Agency, European Nuclear Society, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (New Zealand), Global Footprint Network, GreenFacts Glossary, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, International Centre for Research in Agroforestry, International Comparison Programme, International Research Institute for Climate and Society at Columbia University (United States), International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Lyme Disease Foundation (United

States), Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, Illinois Clean Coal Institute (United States), National Safety Council (United States), Natsource (United States), The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Professional Development for Livelihoods (United Kingdom), SafariX eTextbooks Online, Redefining Progress (United States), The Edwards Aquifer Website (United States), TheFreeDictionary.com, The World Bank, UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, UN Development Programme, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Industrial Development Organization, UN Statistics Division, US Department of Agriculture, US Department of the Interior, US Department of Transportation, US Energy Information Administration, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Geological Survey, Water Quality Association (United States), Wikipedia and World Health Organization.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Abundance	The number of individuals or related measure of quantity (such as biomass) in a population, community or spatial unit.
Acidification	Change in environment's natural chemical balance caused by an increase in the concentration of acidic elements.
Adaptation	Adjustment in natural or human systems to a new or changing environment, including anticipatory and reactive adaptation, private and public adaptation, and autonomous and planned adaptation.
Alien species (also nonnative, non-indigenous, foreign, exotic)	Species introduced outside its normal distribution.
Aquaculture	The farming of aquatic organisms in inland and coastal areas, involving intervention in the rearing process to enhance production and the individual or corporate ownership of the stock being cultivated.
Aquatic ecosystem	Basic ecological unit composed of living and non-living elements interacting in an aqueous milieu.
Aquifer	An underground geological formation or group of formations, containing usable amounts of groundwater that can supply wells and springs.
Benthic organism	The biota living on or very near the bottom of the sea, river or lake.
Biocapacity	The capacity of ecosystems to produce useful biological materials and to absorb waste materials generated by humans, using current management schemes and extraction technologies. The biocapacity of an area is calculated by multiplying the actual physical area by the yield factor and the appropriate equivalence factor. Biocapacity is usually expressed in units of global hectares.

Biodiversity (a contraction of biological diversity)	The variety of life on Earth, including diversity at the genetic level, among species and among ecosystems and habitats. It includes diversity in abundance, distribution and in behaviour. Biodiversity also incorporates human cultural diversity, which can both be affected by the same drivers as biodiversity, and itself has impacts on the diversity of genes, other species and ecosystems.
Biofuel	Fuel produced from dry organic matter or combustible oils from plants, such as alcohol from fermented sugar, black liquor from the paper manufacturing process, wood and soybean oil.
Biomass	Organic material, both above ground and below ground, and both living and dead, such as trees, crops, grasses, tree litter and roots.
Capital	Resource that can be mobilized in the pursuit of an individual's goals. Thus, we can think of natural capital (natural resources such as land and water), physical capital (technology and artifacts), social capital (social relationships, networks and ties), financial capital (money in a bank, loans and credit), human capital (education and skills).
Carbon sequestration	The process of increasing the carbon content of a reservoir other than the atmosphere.
Catchment (area)	The area of land bounded by watersheds draining into a river, basin or reservoir.
Climate change	Any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity. (The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change defines climate change as "a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.")
Climate variability	Variations in the mean state and other statistics (such as standard deviations and the occurrence of extremes) of the climate on all temporal and spatial scales beyond that of individual weather events. Variability may be due to natural internal processes in the climate system (internal variability), or to variations in natural or anthropogenic external forcing (external variability).
Conservation tillage	Breaking the soil surface without turning over the soil.
Coping capacity	The degree to which adjustments in practices, processes or structures can moderate or offset the potential for damage, or take advantage of opportunities.
Cross-cutting issue	An issue that cannot be adequately understood or explained without reference to the interactions of several dimensions that are usually treated separately for policy purposes. For example, in some environmental problems economic, social, cultural and political dimensions interact with one another to define the ways and means through which society interacts with nature, and the consequences of these interactions for both.
Cultural services	The non-material benefits people obtain from ecosystems, including spiritual enrichment, cognitive development, recreation and aesthetic experience.
Deforestation	Conversion of forested land to non-forest areas.
Desertification	This is land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities. It involves crossing thresholds beyond which the underpinning ecosystem cannot restore itself, but requires ever-greater external resources for recovery.
Drylands	Areas characterized by lack of water, which constrain two major, interlinked ecosystem services: primary production and nutrient cycling. Four dryland sub-types are widely recognized: dry sub-humid, semi-arid, arid and hyper-arid, showing an increasing level of aridity or moisture deficit. Formally, this definition includes all land where the aridity index value is less than 0.65. See also Aridity index.
Ecological footprint	An index of the area of productive land and aquatic ecosystems required to produce the resources used and to assimilate the wastes produced by a defined population at a specified material standard of living, wherever on Earth that land may be located.
Ecosystem	A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment, interacting as a functional unit.
Ecosystem management	An approach to maintaining or restoring the composition, structure, function and delivery of services of natural and modified ecosystems for the goal of achieving sustainability. It is based on an adaptive, collaboratively developed vision of desired future conditions that integrates ecological, socio-economic, and institutional perspectives, applied within a geographic framework, and defined primarily by natural ecological boundaries.

Ecosystem services	The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services, such as food and water, regulating services, such as flood and disease control, cultural services, such as spiritual, recreational and cultural benefits, and supporting services, such as nutrient cycling, that maintain the conditions for life on Earth. Sometimes called ecosystem goods-and-services.
Endangered species	A species is endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the criteria A to E specified for the endangered category of the IUCN Red List, and is therefore considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.
Energy efficiency	Using less energy to achieve the same output or goal.
Environmental assessment (EA)	An environmental assessment is the entire process of undertaking a critical and objective evaluation and analysis of information designed to support decision making. It applies the judgment of experts to existing knowledge to provide scientifically credible answers to policy relevant questions, quantifying where possible the level of confidence. It reduces complexity but adds value by summarizing, synthesizing and building scenarios, and identifies consensus by sorting out what is known and widely accepted from what is not known or not agreed. It sensitizes the scientific community to policy needs and the policy community to the scientific basis for action.
Environmental health	Those aspects of human health and disease that are determined by factors in the environment. It also refers to the theory and practice of assessing and controlling factors in the environment that can potentially affect health. Environmental health includes both the direct pathological effects of chemicals, radiation and some biological agents, and the effects (often indirect) on health and well-being of the broad physical, psychological, social and aesthetic environment. This includes housing, urban development, land use and transport.
Environmental policy	A policy initiative aimed at addressing environmental problems and challenges.
Environmental problems	Environmental problems are human and/or natural influences on ecosystems that lead to a constraint, cutback or even a cessation of their functioning. They may be broadly categorized into environmental problems with proven solutions, and problems with emerging solutions. See also conventional environmental problems and persistent environmental problems.
Equity	Fairness of rights, distribution and access. Depending on context, this can refer to resources, services or power.
Evapotranspiration	Combined loss of water by evaporation from the soil or surface water, and transpiration from plants and animals.
E-waste (electronic waste)	A generic term encompassing various forms of electrical and electronic equipment that has ceased to be of value and is disposed of. A practical definition of e-waste is "any electrically powered appliance that fails to satisfy the current owner for its originally intended purpose."
Forest	Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 metres and a canopy cover of more than 10 per cent, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use.
Forest degradation	Changes within the forest that negatively affect the structure or function of the stand or site, and thereby lower the capacity to supply products and/or services.
Fossil fuel	Coal, natural gas and petroleum products (such as oil) formed from the decayed bodies of animals and plants that died millions of years ago.
Global (international) environmental governance	The assemblage of laws and institutions that regulate society-nature interactions and shape environmental outcomes.
Global warming	Changes in the surface air temperature, referred to as the global temperature, brought about by the enhanced greenhouse effect, which is induced by emission of greenhouse gases into the air.
Globalization	The increasing integration of economies and societies around the world, particularly through trade and financial flows, and the transfer of culture and technology.
Governance	The manner in which society exercises control over resources. It denotes the mechanisms through which control over resources is defined and access is regulated. For example, there is governance through the state, the market, or through civil society groups and local organizations. Governance is exercised through institutions: laws, property rights systems and forms of social organization.
Green procurement	Taking environmental aspects into consideration in public and institutional procurement.

Greenhouse gases (GHGs)	Gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and emit radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, the atmosphere and clouds. This property causes the greenhouse effect. Water vapor (H <sub>2</sub> O), carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ), nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O), methane (CH <sub>4</sub> ) and ozone (O <sub>3</sub> ) are the primary greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. There are human-made greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, such as the halocarbons and other chlorine and bromine containing substances. Beside CO <sub>2</sub> , N <sub>2</sub> O and CH <sub>4</sub> , the Kyoto Protocol deals with sulphur hexafluoride (SF <sub>6</sub> ), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and per-fluorocarbons (PFCs).
Groundwater	Water that flows or seeps downward and saturates soil or rock, supplying springs and wells. The upper surface of the saturate zone is called the water table.
Habitat	(1) The place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs. (2) Terrestrial or aquatic areas distinguished by geographic, abiotic and biotic features, whether entirely natural or semi-natural.
Hazard	A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation.
Hazardous waste	By-products of society that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Substances classified as hazardous wastes possess at least one of four characteristics: ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity or toxicity, or appear on special lists.
Heavy metals	A group name for metals and semimetals (metalloids), such as arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel and zinc, that have been associated with contamination and potential toxicity.
High seas	The oceans outside of national jurisdictions, lying beyond each nation's exclusive economic zone or other territorial waters.
Human health	A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.
Human well-being	The extent to which individuals have the ability to live the kinds of lives they have reason to value; the opportunities people have to achieve their aspirations. Basic components of human well-being include: security, material needs, health and social relations.
Institutions	Regularized patterns of interaction by which society organizes itself: the rules, practices and conventions that structure human interaction. The term is wide and encompassing, and could be taken to include law, social relationships, property rights and tenurial systems, norms, beliefs, customs and codes of conduct as much as multilateral environmental agreements, international conventions and financing mechanisms. Institutions could be formal (explicit, written, often having the sanction of the state) or informal (unwritten, implied, tacit, mutually agreed and accepted). Formal institutions include law, international environmental agreements, bylaws and memoranda of understanding. Informal institutions include unwritten rules, codes of conduct and value systems. The term institutions should be distinguished from organizations.
Integrated water resources management (IWRM)	A process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.
Interlinkages	The cause-effect chains that cross the boundaries of current environmental and environment-development challenges.
Invasive alien species	An alien species whose establishment and spread modifies ecosystems, habitats or species.
Kyoto Protocol	A protocol to the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted at the Third Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in 1997 in Kyoto, Japan. It contains legally binding commitments, in addition to those included in the UNFCCC. Countries included in Annex B of the protocol (most OECD countries and countries with economies in transition) agreed to control their national anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases (CO <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>4</sub> , N <sub>2</sub> O, HFCs, PFCs and SF <sub>6</sub> ) so that the total emissions from these countries would be at least 5 per cent below 1990 levels in the commitment period, 2008 to 2012. The protocol expires in 2012.
Land cover	The physical coverage of land, usually expressed in terms of vegetation cover or lack of it. Influenced by, but not synonymous with, land use.
Land degradation	The loss of biological or economic productivity and complexity in croplands, pastures and woodlands. It is due mainly to climate variability and unsustainable human activity.

Land use	The human use of land for a certain purpose. Influenced by, but not synonymous with, land cover.
Lead markets for environmental innovations	Countries that are earlier in the introduction of environmental innovation and with more widespread diffusion of the innovations. If these countries serve as an example or model for other countries and their innovations are distributed elsewhere as well, these countries are lead markets.
Mainstreaming	Mainstreaming the environment into development policy making means that environmental considerations are considered in the design of policies for development.
Mitigation	Structural and non-structural measures undertaken to limit the adverse impact of natural hazards, environmental degradation and technological hazards.
Monitoring (environmental)	Continuous or regular standardized measurement and observation of the environment (air, water, soil, land use, biota).
Multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)	Treaties, conventions, protocols and contracts among several states to jointly agree on activities regarding specified environmental problems.
Natural capital	Natural assets in their role of providing natural resource inputs and environmental services for economic production. Natural capital includes land, minerals and fossil fuels, solar energy, water, living organisms, and the services provided by the interactions of all these elements in ecological systems.
Nitrogen deposition	The input of reactive nitrogen, mainly derived from nitrogen oxides and ammonia emissions, from the atmosphere into the biosphere.
Nutrient loading	Quantity of nutrients entering an ecosystem in a given period of time.
Nutrients	The approximately 20 chemical elements known to be essential for the growth of living organisms, including nitrogen, sulphur, phosphorous and carbon.
Organizations	Bodies of individuals with a specified common objective. Organizations could be political organizations (political parties, governments and ministries), economic organizations (federations of industry), social organizations (NGOs and self-help groups) or religious organizations (church and religious trusts). The term organizations should be distinguished from institutions.
Overexploitation	The excessive use of raw materials without considering the long-term ecological impacts of such use.
Ozone layer	Very dilute atmospheric concentration of ozone found at an altitude of 10-50 kilometres above the earth's surface.
Ozone-depletion potential	A relative index indicating the extent to which a chemical may cause ozone depletion. The reference level of 1 is the potential of CFC-11 and CFC-12 to cause ozone depletion.
Ozone-depleting substance (ODS)	Any substance with an ozone depletion potential greater than 0 that can deplete the stratospheric ozone layer.
Persistent environmental problems	Some of the basic science about cause-and-effect relationships is known, but often not enough to predict when a turning point or a point of no return will be reached, or exactly how human well-being will be affected. The sources of the problem are quite diffuse and often multisectoral, potential victims are often quite remote from the sources, extremely complex multi-scale ecological processes may be involved, there may be a long time between causes and impacts, and there is a need to implement measures on a very large scale (usually global or regional). Examples include global climate change, stratospheric ozone depletion, persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals, extinction of species, ocean acidification, and introduction of alien species.
Persistent organic pollutants (POPs)	Chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of living organisms and are toxic to people and wildlife. POPs circulate globally and can cause damage wherever they travel.
Policy	Any form of intervention or societal response. This includes not only statements of intent, such as a water policy or forest policy, but also other forms of intervention, such as the use of economic instruments, market creation, subsidies, institutional reform, legal reform, decentralization and institutional development. Policy can be seen as a tool for the exercise of governance. When such an intervention is enforced by the state, it is called public policy.
Pollutant	Any substance that causes harm to the environment when it mixes with soil, water or air.

Pollution	The presence of minerals, chemicals or physical properties at levels that exceed the values deemed to define a boundary between “good or acceptable” and “poor or unacceptable” quality, which is a function of the specific pollutant.
Poverty	The pronounced deprivation of well-being.
Precautionary approach	The management concept stating that in cases “where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.”
Prediction	The act of attempting to produce a description of the expected future, or the description itself, such as “it will be 30 degrees tomorrow, so we will go to the beach.”
Primary energy	Energy embodied in natural resources (such as coal, crude oil, sunlight or uranium) that has not undergone any anthropogenic conversion or transformation.
Projection	The act of attempting to produce a description of the future subject to assumptions about certain preconditions, or the description itself, such as “assuming it is 30 degrees tomorrow, we will go to the beach.”
Provisioning services	The products obtained from ecosystems, including, for example, genetic resources, food and fibre, and freshwater.
Purchasing power parity (PPP)	The number of currency units required to purchase the amount of goods and services equivalent to what can be bought with one unit of the currency of the base country, for example, the US dollar.
Reforestation	Planting of forests on lands that have previously contained forest, but have since been converted to some other use.
Regulating services	The benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystems processes, including, for example, the regulation of climate, water and some human diseases.
Resilience	The capacity of a system, community or society potentially exposed to hazards to adapt by resisting or changing in order to reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning and structure.
Rules and norms	A part of the umbrella concept of institutions. While the distinction is a bit thin, rules could be considered to be directions for behavior that can both be explicit or implicit. Norms are an accepted standard or a way of behaving or doing things that most people agree with.
Run-off	A portion of rainfall, melted snow or irrigation water that flows across the ground’s surface and is eventually returned to streams. Run-off can pick up pollutants from air or land and carry them to receiving waters.
Sahel	A loosely defined strip of transitional vegetation that separates the Sahara desert from the tropical savannahs to the south. The region is used for farming and grazing, and because of the difficult environmental conditions that exist at the border of the desert, the region is very sensitive to human-induced land cover change. It includes parts of Senegal, the Gambia, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Chad.
Salinization	The buildup of salts in soils.
Scale	The spatial, temporal (quantitative or analytical) dimension used to measure and study any phenomena. Specific points on a scale can thus be considered levels (such as local, regional, national and international).
Scenario	A description of how the future may unfold based on “if-then” propositions, typically consisting of a representation of an initial situation, a description of the key drivers and changes that lead to a particular future state. For example, “given that we are on holiday at the coast, if it is 30 degrees tomorrow, we will go to the beach”.
Security	Relates to personal and environmental security. It includes access to natural and other resources, and freedom from violence, crime and war, as well as security from natural and human-caused disasters.
Sediment	Solid material that originates mostly from disintegrated rocks and is transported by, suspended in or deposited from water.
Sedimentation	Strictly, the act or process of depositing sediment from suspension in water. Broadly, all the processes whereby particles of rock material are accumulated to form sedimentary deposits. Sedimentation, as commonly used, involves not only aqueous but also glacial, aeolian and organic agents.

Species	An interbreeding group of organisms that is reproductively isolated from all other organisms, although there are many partial exceptions to this rule in particular taxa. Operationally, the term species is a generally agreed fundamental taxonomic unit, based on morphological or genetic similarity that once described and accepted is associated with a unique scientific name.
Species diversity	Biodiversity at the species level, often combining aspects of species richness, their relative abundance and their dissimilarity.
Species richness/abundance	The number of species within a given sample, community or area.
Surface water	All water naturally open to the atmosphere, including rivers, lakes, reservoirs, streams, impoundments, seas and estuaries. The term also covers springs, wells or other collectors of water that are directly influenced by surface waters.
Sustainability	A characteristic or state whereby the needs of the present and local population can be met without compromising the ability of future generations or populations in other locations to meet their needs.
Sustainable development	Development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Technology	Physical artefacts or the bodies of knowledge of which they are an expression. Examples are water extraction structures, such as tube wells, renewable energy technologies and traditional knowledge. Technology and institutions are related. Any technology has a set of practices, rules and regulations surrounding its use, access, distribution and management.
Technology transfer	A broad set of processes covering the flows of know-how, experience and equipment among different stakeholders.
Threshold	A point or level at which new properties emerge in an ecological, economic or other system, invalidating predictions based on mathematical relationships that apply at lower levels.
Traditional use (of natural resources)	Exploitation of natural resources by indigenous users, or non-indigenous residents using traditional methods. Local use refers to exploitation by local residents.
Urban sprawl	The decentralization of the urban core through the unlimited outward extension of dispersed development beyond the urban fringe, where low density residential and commercial development exacerbates fragmentation of powers over land use.
Urbanization	An increase in the proportion of the population living in urban areas.
Vulnerability	An intrinsic feature of people at risk. It is a function of exposure, sensitivity to impacts of the specific unit exposed (such as a watershed, island, household, village, city or country), and the ability or inability to cope or adapt. It is multi-dimensional, multidisciplinary, multisectoral and dynamic. The exposure is to hazards such as drought, conflict or extreme price fluctuations, and also to underlying socio-economic, institutional and environmental conditions.
Wastewater treatment	Any of the mechanical, biological or chemical processes used to modify the quality of wastewater in order to reduce pollution levels.
Water quality	The chemical, physical and biological characteristics of water, usually in respect to its suitability for a particular purpose.
Water scarcity	Occurs when annual water supplies drop below 1 000 m <sup>3</sup> per person, or when more than 40 per cent of available water is used.
Water stress	Occurs when low water supplies limit food production and economic development, and affect human health. An area is experiencing water stress when annual water supplies drop below 1 700 m <sup>3</sup> per person.
Wetland	Area of marsh, fen, peatland, bog 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 to a depth at low tide that does not exceed 6 metres.



# Acronyms & Abbreviations

AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEC	Commission for Environmental Cooperation (under NAFTA)
CFC	chlorofluorocarbon
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CO	carbon monoxide
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide
DDT	dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DEWA	Division of Early Warning and Assessment (UNEP)
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	gross domestic product
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
GIWA	Global International Waters Assessment
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IEG	International Environmental Governance
IFF	Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INEGI	Instituto Nacional de Geografia Estadística e Informática (Mexico)
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	World Conservation Union (International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources)
IWRM	integrated water resources management
MA	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	multilateral environmental agreement
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NGO	non-governmental organization
ODS	ozone-depleting substance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyls
POPs	persistent organic pollutants
SCP	sustainable consumption and production
SIDS	Small Island Developing State or States

TOE	tonnes of oil equivalent
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-WCMC	United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
US	United States
UV	ultraviolet (A and B)
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

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