

Environmental Policy Facts

Public Policy · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. Which international treaty, ratified by over 190 countries, aims to conserve biodiversity and ensure the sustainable use of biological resources?

- A) The Kyoto Protocol
- B) The Paris Agreement
- C) The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- D) The Montreal Protocol

2. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the United States provides a legal framework for the conservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals and their habitats. Which federal agency is primarily responsible for the implementation of the ESA for marine species?

- A) United States Forest Service
- B) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- C) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- D) Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

3. The Ramsar Convention is an intergovernmental treaty that provides a framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. What is the primary focus of this convention?

- A) Protection of migratory birds
- B) Conservation of coral reefs
- C) Wise use and conservation of wetlands
- D) Management of transboundary water resources

4. The European Union's Natura 2000 network is the largest coordinated network of protected areas in the world. What is its main objective?

- A) To protect major rivers and their catchments
- B) To conserve the most important European species and their habitats
- C) To establish a transcontinental wildlife corridor
- D) To promote sustainable agriculture in rural areas

5. Which international agreement focuses specifically on phasing out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances, like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)?

- A) The Basel Convention
- B) The Stockholm Convention
- C) The Montreal Protocol
- D) The Rotterdam Convention

6. The Lacey Act in the United States is a landmark conservation law that prohibits the trade in wildlife, fish, and plants that have been illegally taken, possessed, transported, or sold. What specific historical context led to its enactment?

- A) The overhunting of bison
- B) The illegal import of exotic pets
- C) The interstate commerce of illegally harvested birds
- D) The destruction of rainforests for timber

7. The CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) regulates international trade in listed species to prevent overexploitation. Which appendix lists species most endangered by international trade?

- A) Appendix I
- B) Appendix II
- C) Appendix III
- D) Appendix IV

8. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the parent treaty of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. What is its overarching objective?

- A) To establish global emissions trading markets
- B) To stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere
- C) To fund renewable energy projects in developing nations
- D) To mandate national carbon taxes

9. The precautionary principle, often enshrined in environmental policy, suggests that if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public or to the environment, in the absence of scientific consensus that harm would not ensue, the burden of proof falls on those taking an action. Which international body's declaration prominently featured this principle in relation to environmental protection?

- A) The World Health Organization (WHO)
- B) The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- C) The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- D) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

10. The Clean Water Act in the United States regulates the discharge of pollutants into the nation's waters. What does it also aim to restore and maintain?

- A) The quality of groundwater
- B) The integrity of the nation's wetlands
- C) The navigability of inland waterways
- D) The aesthetic value of coastal areas

11. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in the US requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions before making decisions. What is a key document produced under NEPA that details potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures?

- A) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- B) Biological Opinion (BiOp)
- C) Record of Decision (ROD)
- D) Categorical Exclusion (CE)

12. The Basel Convention controls the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal. What is its primary goal?

- A) To promote recycling of hazardous materials
- B) To reduce the generation and movement of hazardous wastes
- C) To establish international standards for waste treatment
- D) To provide financial aid for waste management infrastructure

13. The 'polluter pays' principle is a fundamental concept in environmental policy. Which international agreement explicitly endorses this principle as a basis for environmental protection?

- A) The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- B) The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer
- C) The Convention on Migratory Species
- D) The International Tropical Timber Agreement

14. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) aims to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, and accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife. Which of the following is NOT typically categorized as a POP under this convention?

- A) DDT (Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane)
- B) PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls)
- C) Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)
- D) Dioxins

15. The International Whaling Commission (IWC) manages the conservation and sustainable use of whale stocks. What significant policy action did the IWC implement in 1982 to address concerns about declining whale populations?

- A) Established catch limits for all whale species
- B) Banned all commercial whaling
- C) Created marine protected areas for whales
- D) Mandated specific whale sighting protocols