

Role of International Organization for Environmental Conservation: An Analysis

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ABSTRACT

In 19th and 20th centuries, the man got so many innovations of science and discovered various machines. These machines generate a huge Industrial Era, Industrialization and other factors create many global environmental hazards and problems like Green House Effect, Global Warming, Pillar Melting, and Increase in sea level, Ozone Layer Depletion, Acid Rain etc. These problems are danger signals for global citizen. So, some international organization like United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Global Environment Facility (GEF) etc. are working for Environmental Conservation. UNEP was established in Stockholm, Sweden, proposed the creation of a worldwide body to act as the environmental conscience of the UN system. In response, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 2997 on 15 December, 1972 creating the UNEP Governing Council, UN General Assembly, responsible for assessing the state of the global environment. The UNEP Secretariat and its headquarters established in Nairobi, Kenya, It's headed by an Executive Director to provide a focal point for environmental action and coordination within the UN system. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change, IPCC was created in 1988. It was set up by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UNEP as an effort by the United Nations to provide the governments of the world with a clear scientific view of what is happening in the world's climate. The initial task for the IPCC was to prepare a comprehensive review and recommendations with respect to the state of knowledge for climate change; worldwide social and economic impact of climate change, possible strategies and elements for inclusion in a possible future international convention on climate. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is today the largest finance provider of projects to improve the global environment, GEF established in 1991, unites 182 member governments in partnership with international institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector to address global environmental issues. An independent financial organization, the GEF provides grants to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants. Thus, these organizations benefit the global environment, linking local, national, and global environmental challenges and promoting sustainable livelihoods, which is need of Postmodern Era.

I. Introduction

Environment plays a very important role in the economic progress of a country. There is a close relationship between environment and economic development since ancient times. Today environmental issues have become a worldwide problem. This is a problem for which no one else is responsible but humans. Today, in the race for development, we are playing with nature, the results of which are in front of us. At present, development is taking place in various fields all over the world, as a result of which the standard of living of the people is improving, but in the blind race of this development, the environment and natural resources are getting affected completely. In the beginning of civilization, the demand for environmental resources and services was much less than their supply, it means that environmental pollution was within the absorption capacity of nature and the rate of extraction of resources was less than the rate of regeneration of these resources, hence the environmental problems at that time. However, to meet the growing needs of the population, the situation changed with the advent of the Industrial Revolution. As a result, the demand for resources for production and consumption has become much higher than the regeneration rate of resources, which has increased the pressure on the absorptive capacity of the environment, thus changing the demand-supply relationship completely, causing serious environmental problems on the atmospheric side. Which is in front of us in the form of pollution, global warming, climate change, ozone erosion and acid rain etc. Efforts to save the environment from these have been going on for several decades, but expected results have not been achieved, now time is for action not for talk. Today we are living in the era of science and technology which are affected to each and every dimension of our life. We also know that we are polluting to our environment through the various activities in daily life but we are not using the natural resources in proper manner. Environmental Education

plays an important role in encouraging people to take up environment friendly practices. People will not act in an appropriate manner if they are not made aware of the problems, their causes, their effects on their lives and the long-term results. Some effort and care on the part of individuals in the society would aid in doing away with the problem. We need to begin from the grass root levels to provide environmental education which much involve all sections of the society. These problems are danger signals for global citizen. So some International Intergovernmental organizations like United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Global Environment Facility (GEF) etc.; and International Non-governmental organizations like Biosphere Expeditions, Bird Life International, Conservation International, Fauna and Flora International, Friends of Nature, Friends of the Earth, Global Footprint Network, Global Witness, Green Cross International, Green peace, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE), Mountain Wilderness, Nature Serve, Plant A Tree Today Foundation (PATT), Society for the Environment, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Conservation Union (WCN), World Land Trust(WLT), World Resources Institute (WRI), World Union for Protection of Life (WUPL), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) etc. are working for Environmental Conservation.

International Intergovernmental organizations

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

This was established after the 1972 United Nation Conference on the Human Environment, which held in Stockholm, Sweden, proposed the creation of a world level body to act as the environmental conscience of the UN system. In response, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 2997 on 15 December, 1972 creating the UNEP Governing Council, UN General Assembly, responsible for assessing the state of the global environment. The UNEP Secretariat and headquarter established in Nairobi, Kenya, it is headed by an Executive, to provide a focal point for environmental action and coordination within the UN system. Being based in Africa gives UNEP a first-hand understanding of the environmental issues facing developing countries. UNEP is represented across the globe by six regional offices: Africa: Nairobi, Kenya Asia and the Pacific: Bangkok, Thailand Europe: Geneva, Switzerland Latin America and the Caribbean: Mexico City, Mexico North America: Washington DC, USA West Asia: Manama, Bahrain. Mission of UNEP is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. UNEP is an advocate, educator, catalyst and facilitator, promoting the wise use of the planet's natural assets for sustainable development. UNEP works with many partners: United Nations entities, international organizations, national governments, non-governmental organizations, business, industry, the media and civil society. UNEP has played a major role in the establishment of major multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) dealing with diverse issues from biodiversity, chemicals and hazardous waste to migratory species, ozone depletion (including its funding mechanism), regional seas and trade in endangered species. Some Multilateral agreements are administered by UNEP, including:

- Vienna Convention for Protection of Ozone Layer (Ozone Secretariat) and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (and in addition, the secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol is co-located with UNEP)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which includes Agreement on Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Water birds, Agreement on Conservation of Populations of European Bats, and Agreement on Conservation of Small Cetaceans of Baltic and North Seas.
- Basel Convention on the Control of Trans boundary Movements of Hazardous and their Disposal.
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent, Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (secretariat shared with FAO)
- Regional Seas Programme (Administered by UNEP)

While UNEP hosts the secretariats of these conventions, each of them has its own governing body and political autonomy. It provides technical, substantive, legal and policy support to enhance the implementations and enforcement of the agreements at the national, regional and international levels.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change, IPCC was created in 1988. It was set up by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UNEP as an effort by the United Nations to provide the governments of the world with a clear scientific view of what is happening to the world's climate. The initial task for the IPCC as outlined

in the UN General Assembly Resolution 43/53 of 6 December 1988 was to prepare a comprehensive review and recommendations with respect to the state of knowledge of the science of climate change; social and economic impact of climate change, possible response strategies and elements for inclusion in a possible future international convention on climate. The IPCC is an intergovernmental body. It is open to all member countries of the United Nations (UN) and WMO. Currently 195 countries are members of the IPCC. Governments participate in the review process and the plenary Sessions, where main decisions about the IPCC work programme are taken and reports are accepted, adopted and approved. The IPCC Bureau Members, including the Chair, are also elected during the plenary Sessions. Because of its scientific and intergovernmental nature, the IPCC embodies a unique opportunity to provide rigorous and balanced scientific information to decision makers. By endorsing the IPCC reports, governments acknowledge the authority of their scientific content. The work of the organization is therefore policy-relevant and yet policy-neutral, never policy-prescriptive. The IPCC is currently organized in 3 Working Groups and a Task Force. They are assisted by Technical Support Units (TSU), which are hosted and financially supported by the Government of the developed country co-chair of that Working Group/Task Force. Working Group I deals with "The Physical Science Basis of Climate Change", Working Group II with "Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability" and Working Group III with "Mitigation of Climate Change". Working Groups also meet at the Plenary at the level of Representatives of Governments. The main objective of the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories is to develop and refine a methodology for the calculation and reporting of national GHG emissions and removals.

Global Environment Facility (GEF):

The GEF is today the largest finance provider of projects to improve the global environment, GEF established in 1991, unites 182 member governments in partnership with international institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector to address global environmental issues. An independent financial organization, the GEF provides grants to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants. Thus, these organizations benefit the global environment, linking local, national, and global environmental challenges and promoting sustainable livelihoods, which is need of Postmodern Era. The GEF partnership includes 10 agencies: the UN Development Programme; the UN Environmental Programme; the World Bank; the UN Food and Agriculture Organization; the UN Industrial Development Organization; the African Development Bank; the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; the Inter-American Development Bank; and the International Fund for Agriculture Development. The GEF also serves as financial mechanism for the following conventions:

- CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity)
- UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
- POPs (Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants)
- UNCCD (UN Convention to Combat Desertification)

These organizations are fully devoted for Environmental Conservation. After 40 years, UNEP and other organizations cannot achieve their objectives in Developing Countries. Some Developed Countries also behind the objectives. Some countries are not aware for Environmental Conservation, yet this time they are not a member of any organization.

International Non-governmental organizations

There are so many International Non-governmental organizations for Environmental Conservation. Main organizations are Biosphere Expeditions, Bird Life International, Conservation International, Fauna and Flora International, Friends of Nature, Friends of the Earth, Global Footprint Network, Global Witness, Green Cross International, Green peace, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE), Mountain Wilderness, Nature Serve, Plant A Tree Today Foundation (PATT), Society for the Environment, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Conservation Union (WCN), World Land Trust(WLT), World Resources Institute (WRI), World Union for Protection of Life (WUPL), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) etc. are working for Environmental Conservation.

These organization do and done very positive work about Environmental Conservation. Maximum of them tagged with International NGOs, but they are limited with four or five countries. Only some NGOs work in more then twenty countries.

II. Conclusion:

Many environmental institutions and organizations have been established by the United Nations, national governments and civil society at national and international levels to work on various environmental issues. Any environmental organization is an organization that protects the environment against any kind of abuse and degradation, as well as these organizations also care and analyze the environment and also form cells to achieve these goals. Environmental organizations can be government organizations, non-governmental organizations, or even a charity or trust. Environmental organizations can be global, national or local. This lesson provides information about leading environmental organizations. These organizations, whether governmental or outside the government, work for the protection and development of the environment at the national and global level. The International organizations play an important role to conserve environment. They are working with many Projects, Action Plan to environmental Conservation in Developed and Developing Countries, and provide financial support to developing countries to protect environment. Some countries are not aware for Environmental Conservation, yet this time they are not a member of any international organization. Some ground level plan also requires for Global Citizen to change their attitude about Environmental Conservation from these organizations.

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