

THE HISTORY, NEGOTIATIONS AND GENERAL FEATURES OF THE AGREEMENTS

TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

In the course of the last centuries, the environmental effects of human activities have been ever increasing in scale and complexity, especially since the age of the industrial revolution. The recognition of these processes and the assessment of their impacts are due to the development of the tools and systems of monitoring the environment and the results of scientific research. By the expansion of economic activities, the scale of these impacts has become larger and larger. These impacts were transmitted to large distances by the atmospheric circulation and watercourses; they crossed the borders and have become global. The development of the economy entailed not only effects damaging the environment, but also the increased demand for natural resources. Access to and/or exploitation of natural resources related to (i.e. being under the scope of interest or under the jurisdiction of) more than one country or groups of countries has caused the clash of economic and political interests, in some cases armed conflicts. It became evident that the solution of such environmental problems could be found only in the framework of international co-operation, through the appropriate negotiation of interests and arrangements. The development of international agreements has gained momentum particularly in the last several decades, and today there are already hundreds of international – multilateral – instruments of environmental law. By now, the objectives and provisions of these multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) practically cover all elements of the environment, components and values of nature, human (anthropogenic) activities having or potentially having significant environmental impacts and activities transferring such impacts. Besides global environmental issues, these legal instruments deal with the specific environmental issues of all regions, which also have various implications on the interstate relations.

Hungary is also an active participant in this international co-operation. Due to certain industrial and other activities conducted in the country, pollutants are discharged into the environment and contribute, on a regional and global scale, to various environmental damages and to the long-term changes in the state of the environment. At the same time, a significant amount of pollutants arrive and deposited to our territory and the global environmental changes also have their impacts in the country. Having realised this, Hungary has become a party to many international agreements and took the commitment to conform to the objectives and provisions set therein.

The environmental act in force (Act LIII of 1995) pays special attention to participation in international co-operation and carrying out tasks resulting from international obligations. According to the law, the state ensures the enforcement of citizens' rights related to the protection of the environment and the implementation of environmental agreements made with other states and international organisations. It is a further task of the government to maintain the fulfilment of environmental obligations resulting from these international agreements. Furthermore, it is also important to adequately disseminate information on nature conservation, environment protection, and on the environmental impacts and obligations.

As a "regional economic integration organisation", the European Community became also a Party to many MEAs and it has important implications for its member states. After becoming a member of the EU in 2004, Hungary takes part in the Community's cooperative efforts to strengthen the status and implementation of the various MEAs (and more broadly the international environmental governance), to develop and represent concerted positions at the international meetings, including the sessions of the Conference of the Parties of the relevant conventions.

The previously published four-volume series of the ministry of environment (Lakosné and Mihályfi, 1989-1992) contained the Hungarian and English texts of the most important international conventions and declarations in the field of environment protection and nature conservation up to 1991. The publication compiled for educational purposes by the Ecological Institute in Miskolc (ÖIFF, 1994) gave a detailed analysis of six conventions on nature conservation. Another volume published in the near past also contained the texts of several international agreements (Nagy, 2003).

Further publications of the ministry of environment summarised the main features of the most important international agreements and their implementation in Hungary (Bándi, Faragó and Lakosné, 1994; Faragó and Lakosné, 1995, 1996). Since the mid-1990s, new conventions and protocols were developed and also significant changes have occurred in the context of the Hungarian implementation of international agreements.

The present compilation and its former Hungarian version (Faragó and Nagy, 2005) give a comprehensive picture on multilateral environmental agreements of Hungarian relevance, especially on their status and implementation regarding Hungary. Experts on the individual legal instruments or their national coordinators were requested to provide the basic information on these MEAs. These short outlines certainly cannot describe the relevant conventions or their protocols in depth, but the basic aspiration in each case was to highlight the essence of the objectives and the tasks to be carried out. To be acquainted with the respective international agreements is important for those who deal with various issues in the fields of environment protection or nature conservation. Furthermore, information about the elaboration, the contents and the implementation of these conventions may prove useful for the participants of bi- or multilateral environmental negotiations and in settling disputes, furthermore for the understanding of the environmental threats, the causes and effects of the environmental processes, the requirements for the response strategies, the international political and economic relations as well as the prototypes and precedents of compromises or innovative elements and mechanisms which were agreed during the negotiations.

THE MAIN STAGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

The international conventions which were developed from the beginning of the 19th century and which were related to fishing, to the protection of bird species useful for agriculture and of wild animal species and to transboundary waters may be considered the beginnings of the multilateral agreements on environment and on nature conservation (Bándi et. al, 1993). Due to their significance for nature conservation, the 1911 convention on the protection of seals, the 1946 convention on the regulation of whaling, the 1950 convention on the conservation of birds and the 1951 convention on the conservation of plants should receive special emphasis. A predecessor of the bi- and multilateral conventions on transboundary waters was the 1906 agreement between the United States and Mexico on the utilisation of the water of the Rio Grande for irrigation purposes. Besides the conventions on environment protection and nature conservation, the international agreements and programmes on the exchange of information as well as on the establishment and development of monitoring systems necessary for forecasting the state of the sea or the weather also played an important role. The initiatives for the discovery of various geographical areas (primarily, the Polar regions) – realised through international co-operation – may also be included in this list.

The comprehensive analysis of the Earth's environment and the international co-operation, which is a prerequisite for it, could only begin after the 'cold war' era. International trade and economic co-operation were rapidly developing, and more and more environmental pollution incidents of international significance were registered – in the beginning especially in connection with naval transportation. By this period, the development of the technologies for comprehensive environmental observations and for processing the resulting expansive data also brought significant results: information technology started to develop swiftly and this was also the time of the appearance of the first satellites. The 1957/58 International Geophysical Year can be considered an important stage in the series of comprehensive environment-monitoring programmes.

The 1958 "Convention on the High Seas" may be regarded as the first in the series of conventions dealing with large-scale environmental issues. To be more precise, there were certain provisions of this convention [Art-s 24, 25] dealing with explicitly environmental issues (Scovazzi and Treves, 1992). The Antarctic Treaty (1959) and the Outer Space Treaty (1967) were also adopted in the same period. Afterwards, a comprehensive system of Antarctic agreements was developed: it included the complementing agreements that covered the protection of the region's flora, fauna and mineral resources; however, the detailed protocol on environmental provisions for this region was only prepared much later, in 1991. Similarly, the agreements on the 'clean' utilisation of outer space could not be timely in the 1960s, since satellite research of outer space only began in that period.

In fact, the '*modern*' era of international environmental co-operation began with the 1970s. This was the period of the 'détente', the easing of the East-West opposition, and the first years of the unfolding scientific, cultural and environmental co-operation. In 1972 the famous UN Conference on Human Environment was held in Stockholm, where, the basic principles of environmental protection and international co-operation were adopted which emphasized the importance of international law for the protection of the environment as well (UN, 1972; Dunay et al., 1991, pp. 208-213; principles 11, 12, 13, 22, 24). Subsequently, these principles were included in many conventions specifically dealing with the international co-operation on the environment. However, in this period (the first half of the 1970s) the recognition of *global environmental hazards* did not expressly emerge – at least not at the level of political decision-making. The first agreements on specific issues were elaborated in three different fields: on the *prevention of sea pollution* (London - 1972, 1973); on wildlife protection, more concretely *on habitat protection and on endangered species* (Ramsar - 1971; Washington - 1973, Bonn - 1979); furthermore, on the preservation of the *natural and cultural heritage* (Paris - 1972).

A fundamental change was brought into the approach towards the international recognition of large-scale environmental problems – thus the environmental interdependence of countries – by the 1979 *Geneva Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution*. The preparation of this pan-European convention was supported by extensive observations, data collection and analysis which described the process of the long-range transport and the atmospheric deposition of pollutants playing a significant role in environmental acidification, especially due to emissions of sulphur-dioxide. To some extent, this convention became exemplary for many agreements that were elaborated and adopted later on various large-scale or global environmental issues.

The beginning of the next prominent phase of the MEAs' evolution can be identified with the resolution of the UN General Assembly on setting up the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1983 and the 1987 adoption of the report by this commission entitled 'Our Common Future'. By this time, the scientific reports on the increasing environmental hazards (such as the report on 'The Limits to Growth' of the Club of Rome based on world models) have reached the levels of political decision-makers and had a direct influence on international co-operation. The report of the World Commission was very definite on these hazards and adverse processes (Brundtland, 1987; pp. 58-60). The recommendations – from the point of view of international law and programme development – have largely been implemented since then: international agreements of different levels and effectiveness were born for the mitigation of almost each hazardous issue listed in the report. In the field of the development of global environmental agreements, the last fifteen years were prevailed by the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Brundtland's report and the UN Resolution adopting it.

Three multilateral agreements of global significance must be pointed out: the *Conventions on the Protection of the Ozone Layer* (Vienna – 1985) and its Montreal Protocol (1987), *on Climate Change* (1992) and *on the Biological Diversity* (1992).

From among the further conventions we highlight the global *Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal* (Basel – 1989), and two pan-European MEAs, the *Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents*, the provisions of which also refer to environmental effects (Helsinki – 1992), and the *Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context* (Espoo – 1991). Two further issues mentioned in the Brundtland's report – desertification and deforestation – would be discussed later.

The 1992 *UN Conference on Environment and Development* held in Rio de Janeiro was a cornerstone for the future of the international environmental co-operation and agreements.

Beyond the fact that in the framework of this highest-level conference (the Earth Summit) held with the participation of more than a hundred heads of states and governments, the above mentioned conventions on the protection of the Earth's climate and biological diversity were opened for signature, this UN forum already considered the future tasks and perspectives of international environmental co-operation. This was also where the *Rio Declaration reinforcing the basic principles of environmental protection* and its relation to all of the development activities was adopted, together with the programme '*Agenda 21*'. Even though these two documents do not contain legally binding provisions, they came to have a decisive significance in the further development of international co-operation.

The Rio Declaration enlists a number of important principles that have already appeared in previously adopted international conventions or declarations. At the 1992 UN Conference, these principles received the confirmation of a political declaration of the highest level. It must also be mentioned at the same time that at the Conference, the *right for development* was given a similar, if not bigger emphasis than the issues of environmental hazards and the right to a healthy environment.

After the Rio Conference, the convention on combating desertification and droughts was developed, a new UN body, the Commission on Sustainable Development was established, as well as the particular objectives and elements of the programme (Agenda 21) gradually became integrated in the action plans of the different specialised and regional organisations, and in relevant national implementation programmes. Attention towards the issues of environment protection and nature conservation grew stronger. The study of environmental impacts together with issues of development and the system of coordinating institutions organised at the highest level opened up new perspectives for the tasks set in the previously signed conventions as well as for the co-operation between the organisations dealing with the conventions and the specialised UN organisations. The high-level statements at the Rio Conference pointed out the necessity of a more effective *co-operation between the international organisations dealing with the respective conventions* (as part of the "International Environmental Governance").

The contribution of *scientific communities* has a similar importance in identifying and studying environmental threats and impacts, analysing feasible solutions and thus establishing the scientific basis for the policy-oriented negotiations of MEAs. The two 'Rio conventions' drew attention in a peculiar way to the highly complex global environmental problems, to the need of the overall assessment of human

interference with the Earth's environment and to the difficulty of finding generally acceptable policy responses. Besides the substantial dialogue between the scientific and the political communities, the comprehensive consideration of different political, social, economic, environmental, technological and scientific aspects could lead to the identification of the general and more specific measures to be taken and to the means of their implementation. This can especially be felt in the case of such global-scale environmental hazards as the climate change or the rapid loss of biodiversity, where scientific uncertainty is still significant regarding the pace, extension and consequences of the processes. Nevertheless, steps must be taken in light of the precautionary principle that was accepted as the common guiding principle in such cases. A higher scientific certainty gained at a later time might mean that by that point, the costs of actions have become much higher or the processes irreversible.

The Rio Summit also highlighted the importance of co-operation for governmental and intergovernmental institutions with the non-governmental organisations and stakeholder groups at all levels. Such an effective co-operation is also of high significance from the point of view of the development and implementation of environmental agreements.

Parallel to global co-operation, the multilateral environmental co-operation within the various regions also developed rapidly. The series of ministerial conferences launched under the auspices of UNECE – the pan-European environmental co-operation or the “*Environment for Europe*” process – became a productive framework for all countries in the region. After the first phases of this process (and conferences held in Lucerne, Dobris and Sofia), important new agreements were also adopted by the last two ministerial conferences held in Aarhus (1998) and in Kiev (2003).

Even though the Rio Conference had a significant influence on the development of the international environmental law and its institutional structure, only fractions of the programme elaborated there have been implemented, while *the state of the environment has further deteriorated in many aspects*. Consequently, the following key questions were posed: have the agreed measures been implemented?; were the agreed commitments satisfactory to meet the objectives of the relevant agreements and to tackle the specific environmental threats?; and have the existing MEAs covered all essential global or regional hazards?

The plans adopted at the extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly on the fifth anniversary of the Rio Conference and at the *World Summit on Sustainable Development* in Johannesburg in 2002 were especially formulated for the purpose of the (more) effective implementation of the earlier programmes and legal instruments. Moreover, *new environment related agreements* were developed and some existing ones have been strengthened (let us only mention the Kyoto Protocol, the Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the UNECE Convention on public participation, i.e. the Aarhus Convention). It should also be mentioned that in some cases “only” strategies or programmes were adopted and mechanisms were established for the coordination of implementation when no consensus could be achieved on legally binding provisions, as in the case of the sustainable management of forests or sound management of chemicals.

SUBJECT AREAS AND INTERRELATIONS OF THE AGREEMENTS

The MEAs concern issues of special environmental significance, *particular elements and characteristics of the environment* or the *anthropogenic effects* having a deteriorating effect on them. For example, concerning the elements (components) and specific areas of global environment, we may distinguish between international agreements dealing with the atmosphere, with the aquatic environment (hydrosphere), with wildlife (more broadly, the biosphere) etc. In a broader context, these also include the agreements covering the issues of the “utilisation” of outer space or the protection and sustainable use of the biological and mineral resources of the Antarctica.

However, the conventions themselves do not make provisions for the protection of the elements of the environment in a comprehensive way, but tackle certain features or threatened components that are significant for the international community. As an example, within the components of the hydrosphere, we may mention the convention on high seas or the convention on transboundary waters and international lakes. Also the atmosphere *per se* does not require general protection in itself; the problems that need to be solved as soon as possible are the tasks related to, for example, the emission of ozone depleting substances, the transboundary impacts of atmospheric pollution or the emission of greenhouse gases. In the case of the biosphere, among the objectives of the specific conventions the protection of endangered species and their habitats or, on a more general scale, the conservation of biological diversity – biological and genetic resources – are to be found. Such a compartmentalization is understandable; however, the *close and complex interrelations among the various elements and processes of the environment* and also among the response measures should not be overlooked (e.g., those among the “Rio agreements” – Faragó and Kerényi, 2004). Lastly, part of the conventions are not strictly connected to a specific element, region or feature of the environmental system but related to activities that have significant adverse consequences on one or several components of the environment.

Any way of categorising the MEAs – including their division into agreements on protection of (physical) environment or nature conservation – is conditional. The issue of pollution of the seas is obviously related to naval wildlife. The conventions dealing with specific components of the environment refer to environmentally harmful activities that also have an effect on other environmental components (the issue of acid rains and the vegetation, the forest ecosystems and the climate, the water pollution and the aquatic wildlife, etc.).

Similarly to the general structure of this publication, Annex C lists the MEAs according to the categorising criteria mentioned above. It includes those agreements, which are described in detail in this publication and also many other legal instruments, which are at least partially relevant from a Hungarian environmental policy point of view.

REFERENCES

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- UNEP, 2003: *UNEP Handbook of environmental law. Nairobi*
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LIST OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

(List of conventions, protocols, agreements of environmental significance which at least to some extent are relevant for Hungary.
Hungarian accession stands for depositing the instrument of ratification/approval/accession.)

CONVENTIONS ON PROTECTION OF COMPONENTS, SPECIFIC FEATURES OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Atmospheric environment

- Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP)
international adoption, entry into force Geneva 1979, 1983
Hungarian accession 1980
- * Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Co-operative Programme for Monitoring
and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)
international adoption, entry into force Geneva 1984, 1988
Hungarian accession 1985
- * Protocol on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions
or Their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30 per cent
international adoption, entry into force Helsinki 1985, 1987
Hungarian accession 1986
- * Protocol Concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides
or Their Transboundary Fluxes
international adoption, entry into force Sofia 1988, 1991
Hungarian accession 1991
- * Protocol Concerning the Control of Emissions
of Volatile Organic Compounds or Their Transboundary Fluxes
international adoption, entry into force Geneva 1991, 1997
Hungarian accession 1995
- * Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions
international adoption, entry into force Oslo 1994, 1998
Hungarian accession 1994
- * Protocol on the Control of Emissions
of the Persistent Organic Pollutants
international adoption, entry into force Aarhus 1998, 2003
Hungarian accession 2004
- * Protocol on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on Heavy Metals
international adoption, entry into force Aarhus 1998, 2003
Hungarian accession 2005
- * Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-Level Ozone
international adoption, entry into force Gothenburg 1999, 2005
Hungarian *signature*, accession 1999
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer
international adoption, entry into force Vienna 1985, 1988
Hungarian accession 1988
- * Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
international adoption, entry into force Montreal 1987, 1989
Hungarian accession 1989
- * London Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances
that Deplete the Ozone Layer
international adoption, entry into force London 1990, 1992
Hungarian accession 1992
- * Copenhagen Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances
that Deplete the Ozone Layer
international adoption, entry into force Copenhagen 1992, 1993

	Hungarian accession	1994
* Montreal Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer		
international adoption, entry into force	Montreal.....	1997, 1999
Hungarian accession		1999
* Beijing Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer		
international adoption, entry into force	Beijing.....	1999, 2002
Hungarian accession		2002
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change		
international adoption, entry into force	New York.....	1992, 1994
Hungarian accession		1994
* Kyoto Protocol		
international adoption, entry into force	Kyoto	1997, 2005
Hungarian accession		2002
<i>Hydrosphere</i>		
International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil		
international adoption, entry into force	London	1954, 1958
Hungarian accession		
Convention on the High Seas		
international adoption, entry into force	Geneva	1958, 1962
Hungarian accession		1961
Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas		
international adoption, entry into force	Geneva	1958, 1966
Hungarian accession		
International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties		
international adoption, entry into force	Brussels.....	1969, 1975
Hungarian accession		
* Protocol Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Marine Pollution by Substances Other than Oil		
international adoption, entry into force	London	1973, 1983
Hungarian accession		
Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (MARPOL)		
international adoption, entry into force	London	1972, 1975
Hungarian accession		1976
International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships		
international adoption, entry into force	London	1973, 1983
Hungarian accession		1983
* Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships		
international adoption, entry into force	London	1978, 1983
Hungarian accession		1985
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)		
international adoption, entry into force	Montego Bay.....	1982, 1994
Hungarian accession		1985
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes		
international adoption, entry into force	Helsinki.....	1992, 1996
Hungarian accession		1994
* Protocol on Water and Health		
international adoption, entry into force	London	1999, 2005
Hungarian accession		2001
* Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters		
international adoption, entry into force	Kiev	2003, ____
Hungarian accession		2004

Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the River Danube	
international adoption, entry into force	Sofia..... 1994, 1998
Hungarian accession	1995
Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses	
international adoption, entry into force	New York..... 1997, _____
Hungarian accession	2000
<i>Land surface, soil, landscape, mountains</i>	
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa	
international adoption, entry into force	Paris 1994, 1996
Hungarian accession	1999
European Landscape Convention	
international adoption, entry into force	Florence 2000, 2004
Hungarian <i>signature</i> /accession	2005
Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians	
international adoption, entry into force	Kiev 2003, 2006
Hungarian accession	2004
<i>Continental shelf</i>	
Convention on the Continental Shelf	
international adoption, entry into force	Geneva 1958, 1964
Hungarian accession	
<i>Antarctic</i>	
The Antarctic Treaty	
international adoption, entry into force	Washington 1959, 1961
Hungarian accession	1984
* Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty on Environmental Protection	
international adoption, entry into force	Madrid..... 1991, _____
Hungarian <i>signature</i> /accession	1991
Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals	
international adoption, entry into force	London 1972, 1978
Hungarian accession	
Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources	
international adoption, entry into force	Canberra..... 1980, 1982
Hungarian accession	
Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities	
international adoption, entry into force	Wellington 1988, _____
Hungarian accession	
<i>Space</i>	
Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (The Space Treaty)	
international adoption, entry into force	London 1967, 1967
Hungarian accession	1967
Agreement on Control of the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (The Moon Treaty)	
international adoption, entry into force	New York..... 1979, 1984
Hungarian accession	

CONVENTIONS ON NATURE CONSERVATION

Convention for the Establishment of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization	
international adoption, entry into force	Paris 1951, 1953
Hungarian accession	1960
International Plant Protection Convention	
international adoption, entry into force	Rome..... 1951, 1952
Hungarian accession	1960

Convention Concerning Fishing in the Waters of the Danube	
international adoption, entry into force	Bucharest 1958, 1958
Hungarian accession	1961
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance	
Especially as Waterfowl Habitat	
international adoption, entry into force	Ramsar 1971, 1975
Hungarian accession	1979
* Protocol to Amend the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance	
Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Paris Protocol)	
international adoption, entry into force	Paris 1982, 1986
Hungarian accession	1986
* Regina Amendment	
international adoption, entry into force	Regina 1987, 1994
Hungarian accession	1990
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	
(World Heritage Convention)	
international adoption, entry into force	Paris 1972, 1975
Hungarian accession	1985
Convention on the Conservation	
of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	
international adoption, entry into force	Bonn..... 1979, 1983
Hungarian accession	1983
* Agreement on the Conservation	
of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS)	
international adoption, entry into force	London 1991, 1994
Hungarian signature/accession	1994
* Agreement on the Conservation	
of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)	
international adoption, entry into force	Hague 1995, 1999
Hungarian accession	2002
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats	
international adoption, entry into force	Bern 1979, 1982
Hungarian accession	1989
Convention on Biological Diversity	
international adoption, entry into force	Rio de Janeiro 1992, 1993
Hungarian accession	1994
* Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	
international adoption, entry into force	Montreal (!)..... 2000, 2003
Hungarian accession	2004
International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling	
international adoption, entry into force	Washington D.C..... 1946, 1948
Hungarian accession	2004

CONVENTIONS ON ACTIVITIES THAT INFLUENCE THE STATE OF ENVIRONMENT

European Agreement Concerning	
the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR)	
international adoption, entry into force	Geneva 1957, 1968
Hungarian accession	1979
Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests	
in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water	
international adoption, entry into force	Moscow..... 1963, 1963
Hungarian accession	1963
Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons	
of Mass Destruction on the Sea Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil thereof	
international adoption, entry into force	London 1971, 1972
Hungarian accession	1971

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons, and on Their Destruction	
international adoption, entry into force	London 1972, 1975
Hungarian accession	1972
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	
international adoption, entry into force	Washington 1973, 1975
Hungarian accession	1985
Agreement on an International Energy Programme	
international adoption, entry into force	Paris 1974, 1976
Hungarian accession	
Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques	
international adoption, entry into force	Geneva 1977, 1978
Hungarian accession	1978
Convention Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (COTIF)	
international adoption, entry into force	Berne 1980, 1986
Hungarian accession	1982
International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA)	
international adoption, entry into force	Geneva 1983, 1985
Hungarian accession	
successor agreements: ITTA, 1994 and ITTA, 2006	Geneva
Hungarian accession	
Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency	
international adoption, entry into force	Vienna 1986, 1986
Hungarian accession	1987
Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency	
international adoption, entry into force	Vienna 1986, 1987
Hungarian accession	1987
Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal	
international adoption, entry into force	Basel 1989, 1992
Hungarian accession	1990
* Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal	
international adoption, entry into force	Basel 1999, _____
Hungarian <i>signature</i> /accession	2000
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context	
international adoption, entry into force	Espoo 1991, 1997
Hungarian accession	1997
* Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment	
international adoption, entry into force	Kiev 2003, _____
Hungarian <i>signature</i> /accession	2003
Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	
international adoption, entry into force	Helsinki 1992, 2000
Hungarian accession	1994
Convention on Civil Liability for Damage resulting from Activities Dangerous to the Environment	
international adoption, entry into force	Lugano 1993, _____
Hungarian accession	
The Energy Charter Treaty	
international adoption, entry into force	Lisbon 1994, 1998
Hungarian accession	1998
* Energy Charter Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects	
international adoption, entry into force	Lisbon 1994, 1998
Hungarian accession	1998

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters	
international adoption, entry into force	Aarhus 1998, 2001
Hungarian accession	2001
* Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR)	
international adoption, entry into force	Kiev 2003, _____
Hungarian <i>signature</i> /accession	2003
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	
international adoption, entry into force	Rotterdam 1998, 2004
Hungarian accession	2000
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	
international adoption, entry into force	Stockholm 2001, 2004
Hungarian <i>signature</i> /accession	2001