

## International Environmental Case Studies, Day 1

**Four stages:** issue definition, fact-finding, bargaining on regime creation, and regime strengthening

**Three key questions to ask for each issue:** who are the lead states, and why? Who are the veto states, and why? And how do the lead states convince the veto states to join the convention (if they do)?

### 1) Transboundary Air Pollution

**Lead states:** Sweden and other Nordic states (why? What happened in the 1960s that set this issue off?)

**Veto coalition:** net exporters of acid rain (because of coal-fired power plants): the US, the UK, Germany, Belgium, Denmark.

**Definition process:** complete by 1972 after Sweden convinced the OECD to monitor transboundary air pollution in Europe (fact-finding ongoing...)

**Regime creation:** Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP): a ‘least common denominator’ regime that strengthened over time

**Regime strengthening:** various protocols on a range of substances (heavy metals, volatile organic compounds, persistent organic pollutants)

**Questions:** how did LRTAP gain in strength since 1979? Which veto coalition member was incentivized to join the regime, and why? How does the concept of ‘critical loads’ for certain ecosystems alter different countries’ pollution reduction requirements?

### 4) International Toxic Waste Trade

Made an international priority in part by the cargo ship *Khian sea* and the international waste disposal incident that followed after it was unable to unload its 14,000 tons of incinerator ash anywhere during a 16 month voyage that eventually resulted in its illegally dumping the ash in the Atlantic/Indian oceans.

**Definition process:** (1984-5): UNEP guidelines “specified prior notification of the receiving state of an export, consent by the receiving state prior to export, and verification by the exporting state that the receiving state has requirements for disposal at least as stringent as those of the exporting state”

**Regime creation:** The Basel Convention on Control of Transboundary Movements of hazardous Waste and their Disposal... “suffered from a lack of precision on key definitions” (why would it be problematic to not have a clear definition of what constitutes “hazardous waste”?)

**Regime strengthening:** guidelines are now in place for 20 different types of hazardous wastes. This regime “shows how veto power can dissipate under pressure from a strong coalition,” and how NGOs like Greenpeace can influence a regime’s outcome.

### 5) Toxic Chemicals

Why would “a **prior informed consent (PIC) procedure** to help countries, especially developing countries, learn about chemicals that had been banned or severely restricted in other countries so that they could make informed decisions before they allowed them as imports” be important? Who would want to expect such things, and what would be their motives for doing so?

**Definition process:** primarily due to a number of high-profile accidents (which still happen...)

**Regime Creation:** (various, but the focus is on the) 2001 Stockholm Convention on **Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**. What are POPs, and why is the “dirty dozen” of such concern?