

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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A

ACCEDE

States that did not send their signatures to the Convention during the time it was opened for signatures are given the option to join the Convention at any time. This is called acceding. Once a country sends its request for accession to the UN, the Convention comes into force in that country after a period of 90 days.

ADOPT

Once governments agree on the need to develop a convention on an issue, they develop the text which is then adopted.

AFFORESTATION

Artificial establishment of forest by planting or seeding in an area of non-forest land.

AGRICULTURAL LAND

Land including arable land, land under permanent crops and land under permanent meadows and pastures.

AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION

Liquid and solid wastes from all types of farming activities, including run-off from pesticide and fertilizer use, and from feedlots, erosion and dust from ploughing; animal manure and carcasses and crop residues.

AGRICULTURAL WASTE

Waste produced as a result of various agricultural operations. It includes manure and other wastes from farms, poultry houses and slaughter houses, harvest waste, fertilizer run-off from fields, pesticides that enter into water, air or soils and salt and silt drained from fields.

AIR POLLUTION

The presence of contaminant or pollutant substances in the air that do not disperse properly and that interferes with human health or welfare or produces other harmful environmental effects.

AIR POLLUTANT

Substances in the air that could, at high enough concentrations, harm human beings, animals, vegetation or material. Air pollutants may thus include forms of matter of almost any natural or artificial composition capable of being airborne. They may consist of solid particles, liquid droplets or gases or combinations of these forms.

AIR POLLUTION SOURCES

Activities that result in air pollution including agricultural activities, combustion processes, dust producing processes, manufacturing activities, nuclear energy related activities, spray painting, printing, dry cleaning and so on.

AIR POLLUTION RULES

Establishes a permitting system and air pollution emission standards for industrial processes.

ALKALINITY

Capacity of aqueous media to react with hydroxyl ions. Alkalinity is the factor representing the acid-neutralizing capacity of aqueous system.

ARTISANAL FISHERIES

Small-scale fisheries using relatively small amount of capital and energy, relatively small fishing vessels (if any), making short fishing trips, close to shore, mainly for local consumption.

AQUIFER

Underground geologic formation or group of formations, containing groundwater that can supply wells and springs.

AQUACULTURE

The farming of aquatic organisms, including fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants. Farming implies some sort of intervention in the rearing process to enhance protection from production from predators and so forth. It also implies individual or corporate ownership of the stock being cultivated.

AUTOMOBILE AIR POLLUTION

Emissions from cars and other vehicular traffic consisting chiefly of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, unburnt gasoline, carbon dioxide and lead.

B

BEVERAGE CONTAINER LEGISLATION

Proposes a deposit/refund system for beverage containers such as plastic soft-drink bottles. Allows for the establishment of recycling centres and voluntary industry stewardship programmes.

BIODEGRADABLE

Capable of decomposing rapidly under natural conditions.

BIODIVERSITY

The range of genetic differences, species differences and ecosystem differences in a given year.

BIOMASS

Total living weight (generally in dry weight) of all organisms in a particular area or habitat. It is sometimes expressed as weight per unit area of land or per unit volume of water.

BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND (BOD)

Dissolved oxygen required by organisms for the aerobic decomposition of organic matter present in water.

BOARD FOOT

A unit for measuring wood volume in a tree, logs, or board. A board foot is commonly 1 foot by 1 foot by 1 inch, but any shape containing 144 cubic inches of wood equals one board foot.

BRACKISH WATER

Water containing salts at a concentration significantly lower than that of sea water. The concentration of total dissolved salts is usually in the range of 1,000-10,000 milligrams per litre (mg/l).

BUILT-UP AND RELATED LAND

Land under houses, roads, mines, quarries or any other facilities, including auxiliary spaces, deliberately installed so that human activities may be pursued. Included are also certain types of open land (non-built-up land) that is closely connected with these activities such as the waste tips, derelict land in built-up area, junkyards and city parks and gardens. Land occupied by scattered farm buildings and annexes is excluded.

BUILDING CODES

Building Regulations concerning materials, structural design, construction practices, safety, building services, (lighting, ventilation, electricity, heating/air conditioning, escalators, plumbing, water supply, drainage and so forth) and specifications for appropriate administrative and technical control .

BYCATCH

Part of a catch of a fishing unit taken incidentally in addition to the target species towards which fishing effort is directed. Some or all of it may be returned to the sea as discards, usually dead or dying.

C**CALIPER**

A tool to measure the diameter of a tree.

CANOPY

Branches and leaves of woody plants that are developed some distance above the ground.

CARBON DIOXIDE

A colourless, odourless and poisonous gas that results from fossil fuel combustion and is normally part of ambient air. It is also produced in the respiration of living organisms (plants and animals) and considered to be the main greenhouse gas, contributing to climate change.

CARBON MONOXIDE

Colourless, odourless and poisonous gas produced by incomplete fossil fuel combinations. Carbon monoxide combines with the haemoglobin of human beings, reducing its oxygen carrying capacity with effects harmful to human beings.

CARRYING CAPACITY

The maximum number of individuals of a wildlife species that an area can support during the most unfavorable time of the year.

CATCHMENT AREA

Area from which rainwater drains into river systems.

CEC DESIGNATED ACTIVITIES ORDER

Activities requiring a Certificate of Environmental Clearance (CEC)

CHROMIUM

Heavy metal used in the manufacture of alloys and electroplating. It is a multivalent element that in hexavalent form can be toxic in drinking water if concentration exceeds 50 milligrams per litre.

CLASS

The sub division of various tree species according to use in terms of value to priority.

CLIMATE

Condition of the atmosphere at a particular location (microclimate) or region over a long period of time. It is the long term summation of atmospheric elements – such as the solar radiation, temperature, humidity, precipitation type (frequency and amount), atmospheric pressure and wind (speed and direction) and their variations.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Term frequently used in reference to global warming due to greenhouse gas emissions from human activities.

COASTAL LAGOONS

Sea-bodies situated at the coast, but separated from the sea by and spits or similar land features. Coastal Lagoons are open to the sea in restricted spaces.

COASTAL PROTECTION

Steps required to prevent erosion of the coast. The stabilization of beaches or dunes is achieved by mechanical or vegetational means, or through erecting heavy sea overalls or revetments.

COST, INSURANCE AND FREIGHT (C.I.F)

A sales transaction in which the seller pays for the transportation and insurance of goods up to the port of destination specified by the buyer.

COAL

A readily combustible black or brownish-black rock whose composition, including inherent moisture, consists of more than 50 percent by weight and more than 70 per cent by volume of carbonaceous material. It is formed from plant remains that have compacted, hardened, chemically altered and metamorphosed by heat and pressure over geologic time.

COASTAL PROTECTION

Steps required to prevent erosion of the coast. The stabilization of beaches or dunes is achieved by mechanical or vegetational means or through erecting heavy sea walls or revetments.

COASTAL ZONE

Lands and waters adjacent to the coast that exert an influence on the uses of the sea and its coast that exert an influence on the uses of the sea and its ecology or inversely, whose uses and ecology are effected by the sea.

COLOURED LEDGER

Same as white ledger, except the paper is coloured.

COMBUSTION

Chemical oxidation accompanied by the generation of light and heat.

COMPOST

Mixture of organic garbage and degradable thrash with soil, in which bacteria in the soil break down the garbage and thrash into organic fertilizer.

COMPUTER PAPER

This refers to continuous paper usually solid white, or blue or green lined, used specifically for computer use.

CONSERVANCY

A sub division of the forestry division Trinidad is divided into six conservancy or sections.

CONSERVATION

Management of human use of organisms or ecosystems to ensure that such use is sustainable. (IUCN / WWF, 1991)

CONTAMINANT

Any physical, chemical, biological or radiologic substance or matter that has an adverse effect on air, water, land/soil or biota. The term is frequently used synonymously with *pollutant*.

CORD

A unit of wood cut for fuel that is equal to a stack 4 x 4 by 8 feet or 128 cubic feet. A cord is the legal measure of fuel wood volume in Maryland.

CROP ROTATION

Practice of growing different crops in succession on the same land.

CRUDE OIL

A mixture of hydrocarbons that exists in liquid phase in natural underground reservoirs and remains liquid at atmospheric pressure after passing through surface separating facilities.

CRUSTACEANS

A group of mainly marine invertebrates, including lobsters, crabs and shrimps with hard shells.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW)

At the opening plenary session of each COP, a committee is established and chaired by a Vice-President of the COP, and open to the participation of all Parties. This Committee of the Whole (COW) makes recommendations on draft decisions for adoption by the COP. Its Chairperson has the authority to delegate work to drafting groups.

CONVENTION

International Conventions are legal agreements among sovereign countries, addressing a particular issue.

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP)

Comprising governments that have ratified the Convention, the Conference of the Parties is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention. The Parties are the only ones with voting rights during COP sessions.

COUNTERURBANIZATION

Movement of city dwellers to suburban areas resulting in the creation of new urban areas. This is a phenomenon usually observed in industrialized countries.

CUTTING CYCLE

The period of time between major harvests in a stand.

CURRENT TIP

This is the unloading or dumping area for waste delivered to the landfill.

CYCLONE

Any closed circulation in which the winds rotate counter-clockwise in the northern hemisphere or clockwise in the southern hemisphere. The term tropical cyclone refers to such a circulation, non-frontal in origin, which develops over tropical waters, between latitude 09^o and 30^o.

D**DAM**

An impounded body of water, used for the supply of drinking water, electricity generation, irrigation or animal husbandry. Watercourses serving as part of a reservoir system are included.

DEFORESTATION

Clearing of tree formations and their replacement by non-forest land uses.

DEGRADATION

Deterioration in environmental quality from ambient concentrations of pollutants and other activities and processes such as improper land and the use and natural disasters.

DEMERSAL

Living in close relation with the bottom and depending on it. Example: Groupers and lobsters are demersal resources.

DEPLETION (in natural resource accounting)

For renewable resources – the part of the harvest, logging, catch and so forth above the sustainable level of the resource stock; for non-renewable resources- the quantity of resources extracted.

DERELICT VEHICLE

A deserted or abandoned vehicle which is run-down and dilapidated and discarded by the owner.

DIRECT TRANSIT

Passengers remain on board before embarkation.

DISAGGREGATION

To become separated from a mass, breaking up into component parts.

DISCARDS

Fish or other living organisms released or returned to the sea, dead or alive, whether or not such organisms are brought fully on board a fishing vessel.

DISCHARGE

Release of substances (residuals of production and consumption) into water or soil.

DISSOLVED OXYGEN

Amount of gaseous oxygen actually present in water expresses in terms either of its presence in the volume of water (milligrams of oxygen per litre) or of its share in saturated water (percentage).

DISSOLVED SOLIDS

Disintegrated organic and inorganic material contained in water. Excessive amounts make water unsuitable for drinking or for the use in industrial process.

DISPOSAL OF WASTE

Waste elimination techniques comprising landfills, containment, underground disposal, dumping at sea and all other disposal methods.

DROUGHT

Prolonged absence or marked deficiency of precipitation which may contribute to desertification.

DUMPING

Waste disposal in an uncontrolled manner.

E

EARTHQUAKE

Sudden shaking or trembling of the earth caused by faulting or volcanic activity.

EARTHFILL STORAGE

Area used to store earthfill material which is used as cover material for waste.

ECOLOGY

Totality or pattern of relationships between organisms and their environment.

ECOLOGICAL BALANCE

Equilibrium between and harmonious coexistence of organisms and their environment.

ECOSYSTEM

A system in which the interaction between different organisms and their environment generates a cyclic interchange of materials and energy.

ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS

Fiscal and other economic incentives and disincentives to incorporate environmental costs and benefits into the budgets of households and enterprises. The objective is to encourage environmentally sound and efficient production and consumption through full-cost pricing. Economic instruments include effluent taxes on changes in pollutants and waste, deposit-refund systems and tradable pollution permits.

EFFLUENT

Liquid waste product (whether treated or untreated) discharged from an industrial process or human activity that is discharged into the environment.

EFFLUENT CHARGE

Fee or tax to be paid on discharges into the environment based on the quantity and/or quality of discharged pollutants.

EFFLUENT STANDARDS

Maximum amount of pollutants permitted in effluents.

ELECTRICITY

A form of energy characterized by the presence and the motion of elementary charged particles generated by friction, induction or chemical change.

ELECTRICITY GENERATION

The process of producing electric energy or amount of electric energy produced by transforming other form of energy, commonly expressed in kilowatt-hours (kWh) or megawatts.

EMISSIONS

Discharge of pollutants into the atmosphere from stationary sources such as smokestacks, other vents, surface areas of commercial or industrial facilities and mobile sources, for example, motor vehicles, locomotives and aircraft.

EMISSION DAMAGE

Effects of air pollution on buildings, monuments, organisms and ecosystems.

ENDANGERED

A species is considered "Endangered" by IUCN when it is not Critically Endangered but is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as defined by any of the relevant IUCN criteria.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Taxa in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if causal factors continue operating. Included are taxa whose numbers have been drastically reduced to a critical level or whose habitants have been so drastically reduced to critical level or whose habitants have been so drastically impaired that they are deemed to be in immediate danger of extinction, in so far as they have definitely have not been seen in the wild in the past 50 years.

ENERGY

The capacity for doing work as measured by the capability of doing work (potential energy) or the conversion of this capability to motion (kinetic energy). Energy has several forms, some of which are easily convertible and can be changed to another form

useful work. Most of the world's convertible energy comes from fossil fuels burned to produce

ENERGY BUDGET

Record of the flow of energy through a system.

ENERGY DEMAND

The requirement for energy as an input to provide products and/or services.

ENERGY CONSUMPTION

The use of energy as a source of heat or power or as a raw material input to a manufacturing process.

ENTER INTO FORCE

After a certain number of countries have ratified a convention, it comes into force, which means it becomes legally binding for those countries that have ratified it. For the UNCCD, this was 26th December, 1996; ninety days after the 50th country had ratified it.

ENVIRONMENT

The totality of all the external conditions affecting the life, development and survival of an organism.

ENVIRONMENT DEGRADATION

Deterioration in environmental quality from ambient concentrations of pollutants, and other activities and processes such as improper land use and natural disaster.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Capital and current expenditures related to characteristic activities and facilities specified in classifications.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Direct effect of socio-economic activities and natural events on the components of the environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Any activity to maintain or restore the quality of environmental media through preventing the emission of pollutants or reducing the presence of polluting substances in environmental media. It may consist of (a) changes in characteristics of goods and services, (b) changes in consumption patterns (c) changes in production techniques, (d) treatment or disposal of residuals in separate environmental protection facilities, (e) recycling and (f) prevention of degradation of the landscape and ecosystems.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS (ESA) RULES

Provision will be made for the designation of National Parks and other protected areas in coordination with other relevant government entities.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE SPECIES RULES (ESS)

Protects endangered species and fulfills domestic legal obligations under several international treaties.

ENVIRONMENTAL FUNCTIONS

Environmental services, including spatial functions, waste disposal, natural resource supply and life support.

EMISSION STANDARD

Maximum amount of pollution discharge legally allowed from a single source, mobile or stationary

ENVIRONMENT IMPACT

Direct effect of socio-economic activities and natural events in the components of the environment.

ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

Statistics that describe the state and trends of the environment, covering the media of the natural environment (air/climate, water, land/soil), the biota within the media, and human settlements. Environment statistics are integrative in nature, measuring human activities and natural events that affect the environment, the impacts of these activities and events, social responses to environmental impacts and quality and availability of

natural assets – broad definition include environmental indicators, indices and accounting.

EROSION

The wearing away and transport of the soil by wind or running water, glaciers or waves. Erosion occurs naturally but it is often intensified by human land-clearing activities related to farming, residential or industrial development.

ESA REGULATIONS

Allows for ESA management plans, user fees and penalties for violations.

EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ)

Concept adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the sea (1982), whereby a coastal state assumes jurisdiction over the exploration and exploitation of marine resources in its adjacent section of the continental shelf taken to be a band extending 200 miles from the shore.

EXPIRED SPECIAL DISPOSAL AREA

The area that is no longer used for the disposal of special waste.

EXHAUST GASES

Gases produced by burning of petrol (gasoline) in combustion engines. Exhaust gases are harmful to human beings, plants and animals.

EXTINCT SPECIES

Species not definitely located in the wild during the past 50 years.

F

FAECES

Waste matter discharged from the bowels.

FAECAL WASTE

Unstabilised sludges collected from septic tanks, cesspits and pit privies.

FAECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA

Micro-organism found in the intestinal tract of human beings and animals. Its presence in the water indicates faecal pollution and pollution and potentially dangerous bacterial contamination.

FAUNA

All animal life.

FALLOW AGRICULTURAL LAND

Arable land not under rotation that is set aside for a period of time ranging from one to five years before it is cultivated again, or land, usually under permanent crops, meadows or pastures that is not being used for such purposes for a period of at least one year. Arable land that is normally used for the cultivation of temporary crops, but temporarily based for grazing, is included.

FELLING

The cutting of standing trees.

FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (FAD)

Artificial or natural floating objects placed on the ocean surface, often anchored to the bottom, to attract several schooling fish species underneath, thus increasing their catchability.

FISHERY

A unit that is engaged in raising and/or harvesting fish. Typically, the unit is defined in terms of some or all of the following: people involved species or type of fish, area of water or seabed, method of fishing, class of boats and purpose of the activities.

FISHERY MANAGEMENT

The integrated process of information gathering, analysis, planning, decision-making, allocation of resources and formulation and enforcement of fishery regulations by which the fishery management authority controls the present and future behaviour of interested parties in the fisheries, in order to ensure the continued productivity of the living resources.

FISHING EFFORT

The amount of fishing gear of a specific type used on the fishing grounds over a given unit of time e.g. hours trawled per day, number of hooks set per day or number of hauls of a beach seine per day.

FISHING MORTALITY

A mathematical expression which reflects all deaths in the stock that are due to fishing. Example: a rate that indicates the percentage of the population caught in a year.

FLAT

Flats are self-contained private dwelling units in a single or multi-storied building.

FLASH FLOOD

Flood of short duration with a relatively high peak discharge.

FLORA

All plant life.

FOREST

A biological community dominated by trees and other woody plants.

FORESTER

A degreed professional trained in forestry and forest management.

FORESTRY

The science of tending woodlands.

FOREST COVER

All the trees and other woody plants (underbrush) covering the ground in forest. It includes (a) trees and all shrubs (b) herbs and shrubs growing there under or in openings in the forest or brush fields (c) litter or fallen leaves, branches, fallen trees and other negative material on the forest floor and (d) the rich humus of partially decayed vegetable matter at the surface and top layer of the soil.

FOREST FUNCTIONS

(a) Environmental functions of forest or other wooded areas that include protection of soil against erosion, water flow control, air purification, wind shelter, noise abatement, preservation of habitats, protection of species of fauna and flora, preservation of wildlife forage grounds and other biological uses, (b) economic functions of the production of timber and other forestry products and recreational activities and (c) social functions for example, of an aesthetic or religious nature.

FOSSIL FUEL

An energy source formed in the Earth's crust from decayed organic material. The common fossil fuels are petroleum, coal and natural gas.

FREE ON BOARD (F.O.B)

A sales transaction in which the seller makes the product available for pick up at a specified price and the buyer pays for the subsequent transportation and insurance.

FRESHWATER

Naturally occurring water having a low concentration of salts. It is generally accepted as suitable for abstractions and treatment to produce potable water.

FUELWOOD

Wood and wood products used as fuel, including wood waste, black liquor, red liquor, spent sulfite liquor, pitch, wood sludge, peat, railroad ties and utility poles.

FULLY EXPLOITED

Term used to qualify a stock which is probably neither being overexploited nor underexploited and is producing, on average, close to its Maximum Sustainable Yield.

FUMES

Tiny particles trapped in vapour within a gas system.

G

GIRDLING

A method of killing trees by cutting through the stem, thus interrupting the flow of water and nutrients.

GLOBAL WARMING

Phenomena believed to occur as a result of the build up of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. It has been identified by many scientists as a major global environmental threat.

GREENHOUSE EFFECT

Warming of the earth's atmosphere caused by a build up of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse or trace gases that act like a pane of glass in a greenhouse, allowing sunlight to pass through and heat the earth but preventing a counterbalancing loss of heat radiation.

GREENHOUSE GASES

Carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane, ozone and chloro-fluorocarbons occurring naturally and resulting from human (production and consumption) activities, and contributing to the greenhouse effect (global warming).

GROSS REGISTERED TONNAGE

A measure of a vessel's size and capacity.

GROUNDWATER RESERVOIR

Reservoir under the earth's surface that obtains its water through infiltration and percolation.

H

HABITAT

A place where an organism or population (human, animal, plant, micro organism) lives.

HARDWOODS

A general term encompassing broadleaf, deciduous trees.

HARVEST

The cutting, felling, and gathering of forest timber.

HARD WATER

Alkaline water containing dissolved salts that interfere with some industrial processes and prevents soap from lathering.

HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS

Air pollutants that may reasonably be expected to cause or contribute to irreversible illness or death. They include asbestos, beryllium, mercury, benzene, coke oven emissions, radionuclides and vinyl chloride.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE

Any substance that poses a threat to human health and the environment. Hazardous substances are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive or chemically reactive.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Waste that, owing to their toxic, infectious, radioactive or flammable properties pose a substantial actual or potential hazard to the health of humans and other living organisms and the environment.

HAZARDOUS WASTE (SPECIAL)

Wastes requiring specialized handling and disposal to render them safe.

HEAVY METALS

Potentially toxic metals used in industrial processes, for example, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel and zinc. They may damage plant and animal life at low concentrations and tend to accumulate in the food chain.

HERBICIDE

Substances used to control weeds on the growth of undesirable grass or plants.

HUMAN SETTLEMENT

Integrative concept that comprises (a) physical components or shelter and infrastructure and (b) services to which the physical elements provide support, that is to say, community services such as education, health, culture, welfare, recreation and nutrition.

HYDROCARBONS

Compounds of hydrogen and carbon in various combinations that are present in petroleum products and the natural gas. Some hydrocarbons are major air pollutants, some may be carcinogenic and others contribute to photochemical smog.

HYDROLOGY

(1) Science that deals with the waters above and below the land surfaces of the earth, their occurrence, circulation and distribution, both in time and in space, their biological, chemical and physical properties and their interaction with the environment including their relation to living beings and (2) Science that deals with the process governing depletion and replenishment of water resources of the land areas of the earth including the various phases of the hydrolic cycle.

I

INDUSTRIAL WASTES

Liquid, solid and gaseous wastes originating from the manufacture of specific products.

INFILTRATION

Flow of water through the soil surface into a porous medium.

INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

(1) Areas where groups of housing units have been constructed on land that the occupants have no legal claim to or occupy legally. (2) Unplanned settlements and areas where housing is not in compliance with current planning and building regulations (unauthorized housing)

INTEGRATED FARMING

Semi-intensive aquaculture systems in synergy with agriculture (including animal husbandry).

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)

This organization oversees management of fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic and Mediterranean (Source: FAO website and Fisheries Division).

INTENSIVE-AQUACULTURE

System of culture characterized by (i) a production of up to 200 tonnes/ha/yr; (ii) a high degree of control; (iii) high initial costs, high-level technology, and high production efficiency; (iv) tendency towards increased independence of local climate and water quality; (v) use of man-made culture systems.

INTENSITY

A measure of the shaking and damage caused by the earthquake and this value changes from location to location.

INTRANSIT

Passengers have up to 48 hours to depart from Piarco International Airport on their connecting flights.

INTRANSIT TOTAL

Sum of both direct transit and intransit.

IRRIGATION

Artificial application of water to land to assist in the growing of crops and pastures. It is carried out by spraying water under pressure (spray irrigation) or by pumping water onto the land (flood irrigation).

L**LABOUR FORCE**

The total population of persons 15 years old and over from private households engaged in or willing and able to be engaged in the production of economic goods and services.

LAND COVER

All trees, shrubs, herbs deciduous plants and so forth that cover an area.

LANDSLIDE

Downward mass movement of earth or rock on unstable slopes.

LAND CLASSIFICATION

Land categories, reflecting quality classes, capability classes or grade, depending upon the characteristics of the land and/ or its potential for agricultural use.

LAND DEGRADATION

Reduction or loss of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of rain-fed cropland, irrigated cropland or range, pasture, forest or woodlands resulting from natural processes, land use or other human activities and habitation patterns such as land contamination, soil erosion, and the destruction of the vegetation cover.

LANDFILL

Final placement of the waste in or on the land in a controlled or uncontrolled way according to different sanitary, environmental protection and other safety requirements.

LAND TENURE

Right to the exclusive occupancy and use of a specified area of land.

LAND USE

Use of land for more than one purpose, for example, grazing of livestock, recreation and timber production. The term may also apply to the use of associated bodies of water for the recreational purposes fishing and water supply.

LEACHATE PONDS

Leachate is liquid that has percolated through solid waste mixed with rainwater and has extracted dissolved and suspended materials. Leachate formed is pumped into a holding pond where it is broken down through oxidation.

LEAD

Heavy metal whose compounds are highly poisonous to health. Its use in gasoline, paints and plumbing compounds has been generally reduced.

LIFE EXPECTANCY (at birth)

The number of years a newborn infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same through its life.

LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG)

Natural gas (primarily methane) that has been liquefied by reducing its temperature to minus 260 degrees Fahrenheit at atmospheric pressure. (The volume of the LNG is 1/600 that of the gas in its vapour state.)

LOADED

Having a load.

LOGGER

An individual who harvests timber as a profession.

LOGGING

Process of harvesting trees, sawing them into appropriate lengths and transporting them to a saw mill.

M**MAGNITUDE**

This is the most common measure of an earthquake's size. It is a measure of the size of the earthquake source and is the same number no matter where you are or what the shaking feels like.

MAJOR HURRICANE

A term utilized by the National Hurricane Centre for hurricanes that reach maximum sustained 1-minute surface winds of at least 50 m/s (96 kt, 111 mph). This is the equivalent of category 3, 4 and 5 on the Saffir-Simpson scale.

MANURE

Organic material used to fertilize land, usually consisting of barnyard and stable refuse (livestock excretion), with or without accompanying litter such as straw hay or bedding.

MARGINAL LAND

Land of poor quality with regard to agriculture use and unsuitable for housing or otherwise.

MARINE POLLUTION

Direct or indirect introduction by humans of substances or energy into the marine environment (including estuaries) resulting in harm to living resources, hazards to human health, hindrances to marine activities, including fishing, impairment of the quality of sea water and reduction of amenities.

MARKING TIMBER

Indicating by paint or other means which trees are to be cut or otherwise treated. It is advisable to mark trees to be harvested twice-once at eye level and once on the stump.

MERCURY

Heavy metal that can accumulate in the environment is highly toxic if breathed or swallowed.

MIXED

A mixture of various grades of recyclable waste paper not limited by fibre content and includes most types of clean and dry paper including glossy paper, magazines, windowed envelopes and sticky note pads.

MIXED CROPPING

System of sowing two or three crops together on the same land, one being the main crop and the others the subsidiaries.

MIXED FARM

Farm on which both crop production and livestock-keeping are practiced simultaneously.

MONOCULTURE

Repeated cultivation of a single crop on a given area of land.

MUNICIPAL WASTE

Waste produced by residential, commercial and public service sectors that are collected by local authorities for treatment and/or disposed in a central location.

N**NATURAL DISASTER**

Sudden calamitous event as in the case of the earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, volcanic eruptions, cyclones and landslides or ongoing misfortune as in conditions or processes such as drought and desertification.

NATIONAL PARK

Large natural areas not materially altered by human activity where extractive resource uses are not allowed and whose purpose is to protect nature and scenic areas of national and international significance for scientific, educational and recreational use.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural assets (raw materials) occurring in nature that can be used for economic production or consumption.

NATURAL SELECTION

Natural process by which organisms that adapt to their environment survive while those that do not adapt become eliminated progressively.

NET PRICE

Valuation used in environmental accounting to estimate the economic value of a natural resource and its depletion. It is defined as the actual market price of a natural resource output minus all marginal exploitation costs including a normal return to capital.

NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

Energy sources including solar energy, geothermal energy, wind power, hydropower,

ocean energy (thermal gradient, wave power and tidal power) biomass draught animal power, fuelwood, peat, oil shale and tar sands.

NICHE

Appropriate combination of conditions for the survival of a given species.

NITRATE

Nitrogen-containing compound that can exist in the atmosphere or as a dissolved gas in water. It may produce harmful effects on humans and animals.

NONGAME WILDLIFE

Wildlife species that are protected by state wildlife laws and can not be hunted. Examples include songbirds, eagles, etc.

NOISE

Audible sound from traffic, construction and so on that may generate unpleasant and harmful effects (hearing loss). It is measured in decibels.

NOISE POLLUTION

Sound at excessive levels that may be detrimental to human health.

NOISE POLLUTION RULES

Establishes ambient noise pollution standards and a National Noise Abatement Advisory Panel.

NOISE ZONING

Classification of areas according to the intensity of the noise levels that are acceptable for particular activities.

NON-RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES

Exhaustible natural resources such as the mineral resources that cannot be regenerated after exploitation.

NON- SCHEDULED FLIGHTS

Operate on a seasonal basis and vary during the year e.g. Chartered or Cargo flights.

O

OBSERVERS

Although conventions are legal agreements among sovereign countries, the UNCCD makes special provisions for national and international agencies and NGOs to attend the meetings of the COP as Observers.

OCEAN DUMPING

Deliberate disposal of hazardous wastes at sea from vessels, aircraft, platforms or other human-made structures. It includes ocean incineration and disposal of waste into the seabed and sub seabed.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH HAZARDS

Hazards of exposure to pollution, noise and vibrations in the working environment. Exposure limits are produced by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

OIL DARK

Odorous, coloured, dense liquid that is a water pollutant and also an air pollutant when burnt.

OIL SPILL

Oil discharged accidentally or intentionally that floats on the surface of water bodies as a discrete mass and is carried by the wind, currents and tides. Oil spills can be the partially controlled by chemical dispersion, combustion mechanical contaminant and absorption. They have destructive effects on coastal ecosystems.

OPEN ACCESS

A condition of a fishery in which anyone who wishes to fish may do so.

OPEN DUMP

Uncovered site used for disposal of waste without environmental controls.

OPEN LAND

Non- built-up land with no or with significant, vegetation cover.

ORGANIC FARMING

Farming system that avoids the use of artificial fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides and uses organic manures and organic methods of crop rotation.

ORGANIC FERTILISERS

Fertilisers derived from animal products and plant residues containing sufficient nitrogen.

OUTTURN

This is the product of the plantation after harvesting or sawmilling.

OVERGRAZING

Grazing by livestock or wildlife to the point where the grass cover is depleted, leaving bare, unprotected patches of soil. As a result, water and wind cause erosion, especially on clay soils and the growth of poisonous plants and thorny shrubs may increase.

OVERPOPULATION

Exceeding of certain threshold limits of population density when environmental resources fail to meet the requirements of individual organisms regarding shelter, nutrition and so forth. It gives rise to high rates of mortality and morbidity.

OVERSTOCKED

The situation in which trees are so closely spaced that they compete for resources and do not reach full growth potential.

OVERSTORY

The level of forest canopy that includes the crowns of dominant, co dominant and intermediate trees.

OVER-CAPITALIZED

Economic over fishing. A condition which occurs when a fishery is generating no economic rent, primarily because an excessive level of fishing effort is applied in the fishery.

OVERFISHED OR OVEREXPLOITED

A stock is considered "overfished" when exploited beyond an explicit limit beyond which its abundance is considered "too low" to ensure safe reproduction.

OVERFISHING

In general, action of exerting a fishing pressure (fishing intensity) beyond agreed optimum level. A reduction of fishing pressure would, in the medium term, lead to an increase in the total catch.

OVERPOPULATION

Exceeding of certain threshold limits of population density when environmental resources fail to meet the requirements of individual organisms regarding shelter, nutrition and so forth. It gives rise to high rates of mortality and morbidity.

OZONE DEPLETION

Destruction of ozone in the stratosphere, where it shields the earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation. Its destruction is caused by chemical reactions in which oxides of hydrogen, nitrogen, chlorine and bromine act as catalysts.

P

PARTIES

The Parties to a Convention are sovereign States. In addition, some Conventions allows recognition of regional integration bodies, such as the European Union, to become Parties to the Convention, although their rights are limited, in that they cannot vote independently of their member countries.

PATHOGEN

Micro-organism that can cause disease in other organisms. It may be present in the sewage, run-off from animal farms, swimming pools, contaminated shellfish and so forth.

PELAGIC FISH

Fish that spend most of their life swimming in the water column with little contact with or dependency on the bottom.

PER CAPITA GDP AND PER CAPITA GNI

These are obtained by dividing the value of the respective variable by the mid year population estimates for the reference year.

PERSONS WITH JOBS

All persons who worked for pay for any length of time during the survey week. The definition includes persons who were temporarily absent from work due to vacation, illness etc. Also included are unpaid family members in family businesses.

PEST

Species viruses, bacteria and other micro-organisms considered harmful to the health of human beings, crops and other living organisms.

PESTICIDES

Any substance or mixture of substances that is used to prevent, destroy or control pests-including vectors of human on animal disease and unwanted species of plants or animals. Pesticides may cause harm during or otherwise interfere with the production, processing, storage, transportation, marketing of food, agricultural commodities, wood and wood products or animal feedstuffs or that may be administered to animals so as to control insects, arachnids or other pests in or on their bodies.

PHOSPHORUS

Element that, while being essential to the life as a key nutrient factor, nevertheless, contributes to the eutrophication of lakes and other bodies of water.

PLANTATION

A stand or coupe, the same species planted for commercial purposes.

POLLUTION

(1) Presence of substances and heat in environmental media (air, water, land) whose nature, location or quantity produces undesirable environmental effects, (2) activity that generates pollutants.

POLLUTION OF POVERTY

Environmental problems that result from the lack of development rather than from the development process itself. These problems include poor water quality, inadequate housing and sanitation, malnutrition and disease.

POPULATION DENSITY

Total number of inhabitants per square unit of surface area.

PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH

Set of measures taken to implement the Precautionary principle. A set of agreed cost-effective measures and actions, including future courses of action, which ensures prudent foresight, reduces or avoids risk to the resource, the environment, and the people, to the extent possible, taking explicitly into account existing uncertainties and the potential consequences of being wrong.

PRIMARY ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Direct use at the source or supply to users without transformation of crude energy that is energy that has been subjected to any conversion or transformation process.

PROTECTED AREA

Legally established land or water area under either public or private ownership that is regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives.

PROTOCOL

An amendment or addition to a convention is called a protocol. Protocols usually embody commitments to execute national and sub-regional action programmes within a fixed time frame.

PROTECTION OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

Environmental Protection activity comprising the conservation of threatened species in flora and fauna and the protection of ecosystems/habitats that are essential to the well being of significant species of flora and fauna.

PRUNING

The act of sawing or cutting branches from a living tree. In forest management, pruning is done to promote the growth of clear, valuable wood on the tree bole.

Q

QUALITY OF LIFE

Notion of human welfare (well-being) measured by social indicators rather than by 'quantitative' measures of income and production.

R

RAINFOREST

Luxuriant forest, generally composed of tall, broad-leaved evergreen trees, found in regions where annual rainfall exceeds 1,800 millimeters.

RATIFY

Before a Convention can become legally binding at the national level, countries that have signed it must present it to their parliaments or legislative bodies for ratification. Ratification means that the convention is officially accepted, and is consistent with the country's national laws. The instruments of ratification are then presented to the United Nations.

RATIFICATION

The ratification of international treaties follows the same rules as the passing of laws in most democracies. An important exception is the United States, where treaty ratification requires a two-thirds majority in the U.S. Senate (and the United States House of Representatives does not vote on it at all). This makes it considerably more difficult in the US than in other democracies to rally enough political support for international treaties. Note: Signing is optional, indicating intention to ratify. Ratification is the key step for a country to formally accept an international treaty.

RECYCLE

Processing and use of wastes in production and consumption processes, for example, melting of scrap iron so that it can be converted into new iron products.

REFORESTATION

Artificial or natural re-establishment of forest that was in an area that was previously under forest cover.

REGENERATION CUT

A timber harvest designed to promote natural establishment of trees.

RESERVOIR

Place where water is collected and stored in large quantities for use when required.

RETREADED

Tyres where the treading has been replaced. To put a new tread on (a worn pneumatic tire casing) either by recapping or by cutting fresh treads in the smooth surface.

ROLL ON/ ROLL OFF

Vehicles imported into Trinidad and Tobago in a fully assembled state.

ROTATION

The number of years required to grow a stand to a desired size or maturity.

ROYALTY

The monies paid or charged by the government are referred to as such.

S**SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE INTENSITY SCALE**

An index for the Atlantic and Northeast Pacific basins to give an estimate of the potential flooding and damage to property given a hurricane's estimated intensity:

SALINITY

Salt content of environmental media.

SANITATION

Improvement of environmental conditions in households that affect human health by means of drainage and disposal of sewage and refuse.

SANITARY SEWAGE

Domestic Wastes from bath rooms, kitchen and so on.

SAPLING

A tree at least 4 1/2 feet tall and up to 4 inches in diameter.

SAWLOG

A log large enough to be sawed economically on a sawmill. Sawlogs are usually at least 8 inches in diameter at the small end.

SAWMILLER

A person who owns a sawmill that is capable of converting round logs into boards.

SAWTIMBER

Trees from which sawlogs can be made.

SCHEDULED FLIGHTS

Operate on a constant basis, they run throughout the year and are always in the system.

SEWERAGE

Organic waste and waste- water produced by residential and commercial establishments.

SIGNATORIES

Once a convention has been adopted, the normal practice is to open it for signatures from States for a specified period of time. For instance in the case of the UNCCD, this was for one year between October 1994 and 1995. Countries then append their

signatures to the Convention, which is done at the United Nations Headquarters in New York; making them signatories to the Convention.

SILVICULTURE

Management of forest land for timber.

SKIDDER

A rubber-tired machine with a cable winch or grapple used to drag logs out of the forest.

SKIDDING

The act of moving trees from the site of felling to a leading area or landing. Tractors, horses, or specialized logging equipment can be used for skidding. Skidding methods vary in their impact on soils and the remaining stands.

SLASH AND BURN AGRICULTURE

Method of cultivation whereby areas of the forest are burnt and cleared for planting. When soil fertility declines, cultivation shifts to a new plot.

SLUMS

Areas of older housing that are deteriorating in the sense of being underdeveloped, overcrowded and dilapidated.

SOIL

Loose and unconsolidated outer layer of the earth's crust, made up of small particles or different sizes.

SOIL EROSION

Wearing away and transport of the soil by wind or running water, glaciers or waves. Erosion occurs naturally but is often intensified by human land clearing activities related to farming, residential or industrial development.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Supervised handling of waste material from generation at the source through the recovery process to disposal.

SOLID WASTE

Those with insufficient liquid content to be free flowing. It refers to the useless, unwanted, or discarded materials resulting from society's normal activities.

SPECIAL WASTE

Categories of waste not normally accepted at the landfills for disposal without the prior approval of SWMCOL.

SPECIES

All the individuals and populations of a particular kind of organism, maintained by biological mechanisms that result in their breeding only with their own kind.

SQUATTER SETTLEMENTS

Areas of Housing Units that have been constructed or erected on land to which the occupants do not have a legal claim.

STAND

A group of forest trees of sufficiently uniform species composition, age, and condition to be considered a homogeneous unit for management purposes.

STAND DENSITY

The quantity of trees per unit area, usually evaluated in terms of basal area, crown cover and stocking.

STOCK

A group of individuals in a species occupying a well defined spatial range independent of other stocks of the same species. Such a group can be regarded as an entity for management or assessment purposes.

STOCK ASSESSMENT

The process of collecting and analysing biological and statistical information to determine the changes in the abundance of fishery stocks in response to fishing, and, to the extent possible, to predict future trends of stock abundance.

STOCKING

The number and density of trees in a forest stand. Stands are often classified as understocked, well-stocked or overstocked.

STRATIFICATION

Division of a forest, or any ecosystem, into separate layers of vegetation that provide distinct niches for wildlife. See canopy and understory.

SUBDUCTED

A geological process in which one edge of one crustal plate is forced below the edge of another.

SUBDUCTION ZONE

The zone of convergence of two tectonic plates.

SURFACE WATER

All water naturally opens to the atmosphere, including rivers, lakes, reservoirs, streams, impoundments, seas, estuaries and so on. The term also covers springs, wells or other collectors of water that are directly influenced by surface waters.

SUSTAINABLE CATCH (YEILD)

The number (weight) of fish in a stock that can be taken by fishing without reducing the stock biomass from year to year, assuming that environmental conditions remain the same.

SUSTAINABLE FISHING

Fishing is sustainable when it can be conducted over the long-term at an acceptable level of biological and economic productivity without leading to ecological changes that foreclose options for future generations.

SWAMP

Type of wetland with water standing permanently or for a considerable period of time and with a dense cover of native vegetation. Swamps may be freshwater or saltwater and tidal or non-tidal.

SWARM

A number of earthquakes of similar magnitude occurring closely within a given period or place.

T**TANTEAK**

Government company established to harvest and process lumber from the plantations.

THREATENED SPECIES

A species or subspecies whose population is so small or is declining so rapidly that it may become endangered in all or a significant portion of its range.

TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (TAC)

The TAC is the total catch allowed to be taken from a resource in a specified period (usually a year), as defined in the management plan. The TAC may be allocated to the stakeholders in the form of quotas as specific quantities or proportions.

TROPICAL CYCLONE

A non-frontal synoptic scale low-pressure system over tropical or sub-tropical waters with organized convection (i.e. thunderstorm activity) and a definite cyclonic surface wind circulation.

TROPICAL DEPRESSION

A tropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained wind speed (using the U.S. 1 minute average standard) is 33 kt (38 mph, 18 m/s) or less. Depressions have a closed circulation.

TROPICAL DISTURBANCE

A discrete tropical weather system of apparently organized convection - generally 200 km to 600 km (100 to 300 nmi) in diameter - originating in the tropics or subtropics, having a non-frontal migratory character, and maintaining its identity for 24 hours or more.

TROPICAL STORM

A tropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface wind speed (using the U.S. 1 minute average standard) ranges from 34 kt (39 mph, 19 m/s) to 63 kt (73 mph, 34 m/s).

TURTLE EXCLUDER DEVICE (TED)

A grid-like device inserted into the trawl net, before the cod-end, designed with an escape panel to allow turtles to exit the net on hitting the grid, while the catch passes through the grid and is captured in the cod-end (Source: Fisheries Division).

U**URBANIZATION**

(1) Increase in the proportion of a population living in urban areas, (2) Process by which a large number of people become permanently concentrated in relatively small areas forming cities.

URBAN RUN-OFF

Storm water from city streets and adjacent domestic or commercial properties that contains litter and organic and bacterial wastes.

UNDERSTOCKED

A stand of trees so widely spaced, that even with full growth potential realized, crown closure will not occur.

UNDERSTORY

The level of forest vegetation beneath the canopy.

UNIT SALE

A timber sale in which the buyer makes regular (weekly, monthly) payments based on mill receipts. Unit sales are useful when the amount of timber sold is so large that a preharvest, lump-sum payment would be prohibitive.

UNLOADED

Not having a load.

V

VIRGIN FOREST

An area of old-growth trees that never has been harvested by humans.

VULNERABLE

A species is considered “Vulnerable” when it is not Critically Endangered or Endangered but is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as defined by any of the relevant IUCN criteria.

W

WASTE

Materials that are not prime products (that is products produced for the market) for which the generator has no further use in terms of his/her own purposes of production, transformation or consumption and of which he/she wants to dispose wastes may be generated during the extraction of raw materials into intermediate and final products, the consumption of final products and other human activities. Residuals recycled or reused at the place of generation are excluded.

WASTE WATER

Used waster, typically discharged into the sewage system. It contains matter and bacteria in solution or suspension.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Process to render waste water fit to meet environmental standards or other quality norms. Three broad types of treatment may be distinguished: mechanical, biological and advanced.

WASTE HANDLING, PERMITS AND LISCENCES RULES

Establishes a Permit and Licensing system for solid and hazardous waste handling, recycling and disposal.

WATER POLLUTION

Presence in water of harmful and objectionable material obtained from sewers, industrial wastes and rainwater run-off in sufficient concentrations to make it unfit for use.

WATER POLLUTION RULES

All industry putting water pollutants into the environment from a point source will be required to register with the EMA. Those exceeding specified water pollutant effluent standards will require a permit.

WATER QUALITY

Physical, chemical, biological and organoleptic (taste-related) properties of water.

WATERSHED

Land area that drains into a stream. Area from which all precipitation flows into a single stream or set of streams.

WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

System for the conversion, transmission, treatment, storage and the distribution of water from source to consumers, for example, homes, commercial establishments, industry, irrigation facilities and public agencies for water-related activities (fire fighting, street flushing and so forth).

WETLAND

Area of low-lying where the water table is at or near the surface most of the time. Wetlands include swamps, bogs, fens marshes and estuaries.