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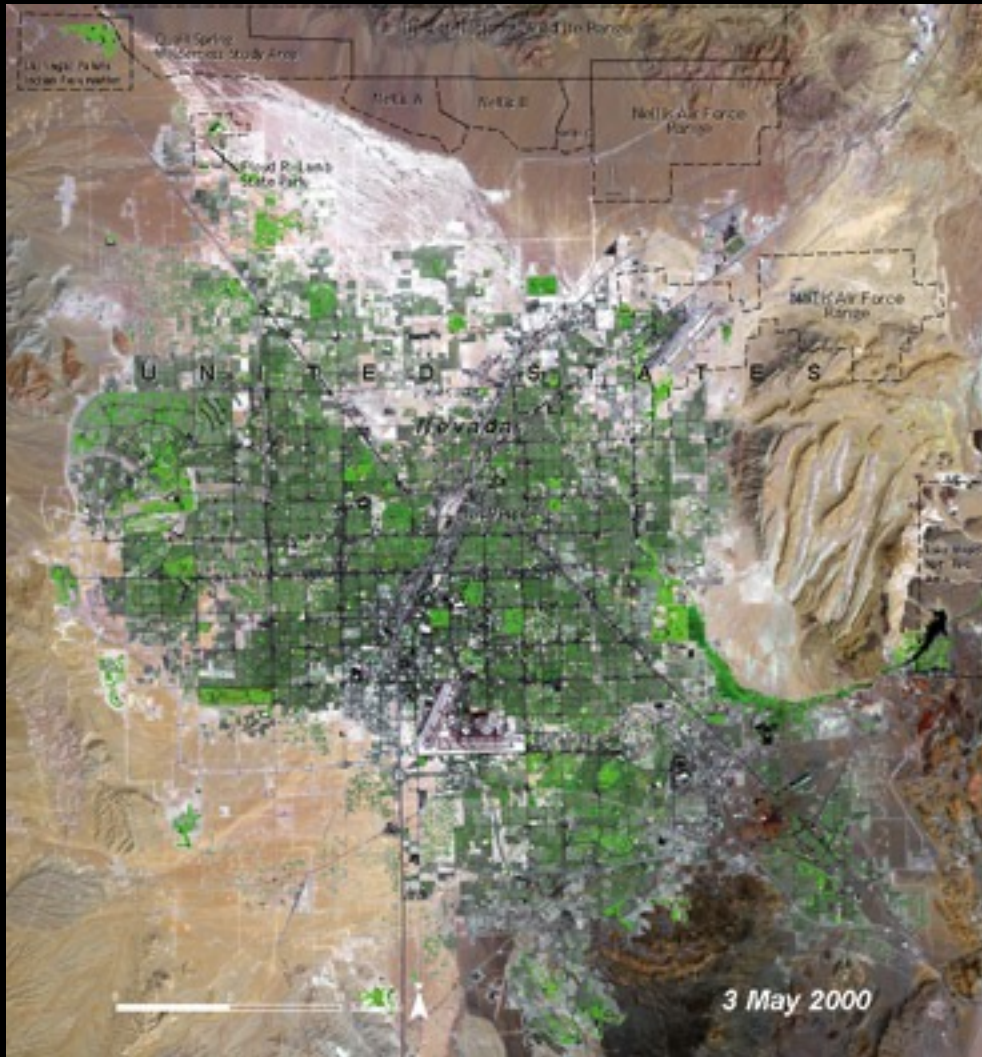
International environmental law (0)



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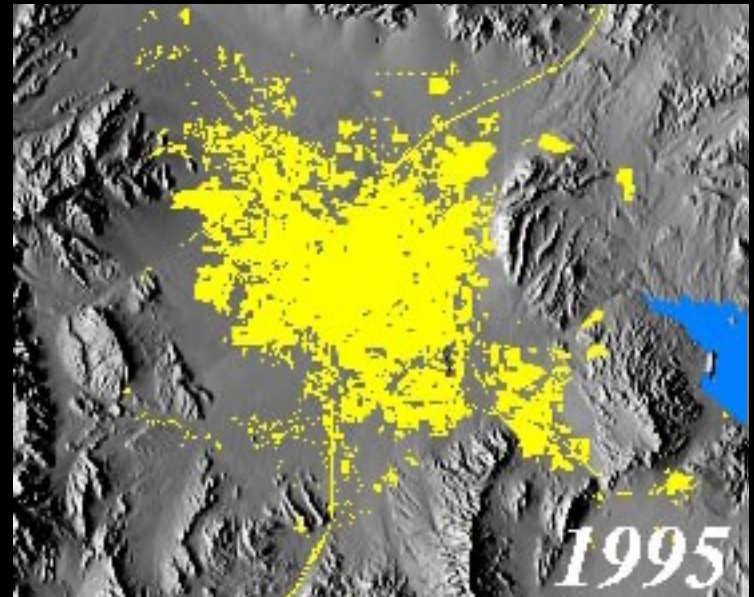


Population Growth: Expanding Las Vegas



➤ 1973 -A small settlement

➤ 2000 -The landscape is now dramatically modified



Images courtesy USGS

Environmental problems

Global

- Climate change, including global warming
- Stratospheric ozone depletion
- Species extinction and loss of biodiversity
- Hazardous chemicals and wastes

Regional:

- Lack of access to fresh water
- Air pollution-transboundary dimension
- forestry

Environmental problems

Protection of environmental elements:

- Atmosphere: climate change, ozone depletion, transboundary air pollution
- Biodiversity: loss of biodiversity, land resources, deforestation
- Fresh water resources
- Oceans and seas

Human technology and industrial innovation:

- Biotechnology
- Toxic chemicals
- Hazardous and radioactive wastes
- Agricultural practices

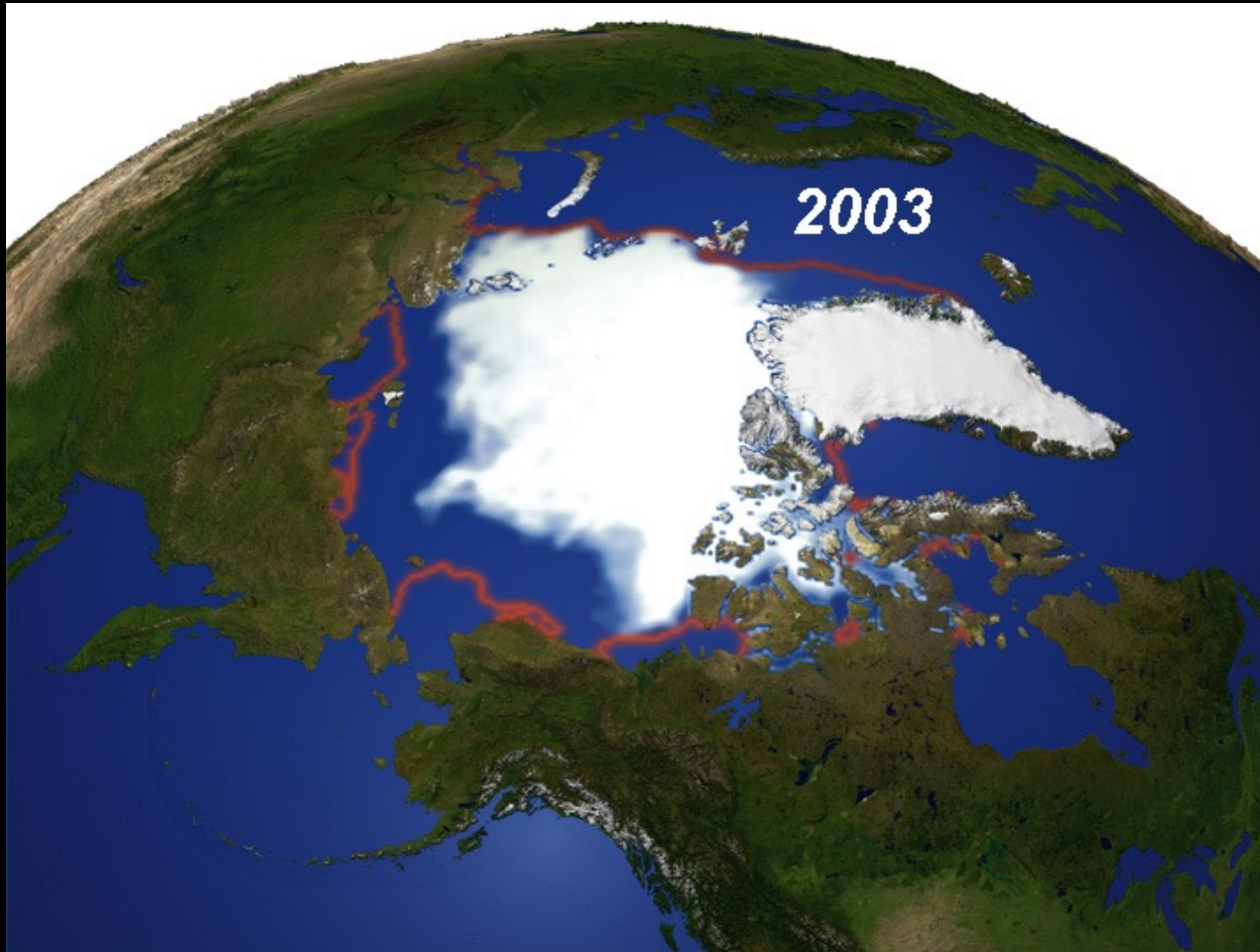
From Fields to Greenhouses: Almeria, Spain



➤ 1974: Mixed land use, including land for urban and agricultural use.

➤ 2004: Greenhouses blanket the plain from the shoreline to the base of the mountain.

Dramatic Changes in the Arctic: Imagine an Ice-free Arctic



➤ 1979-2003:
Progressive Loss
of Arctic Ice.

Freshwater: Aral Sea



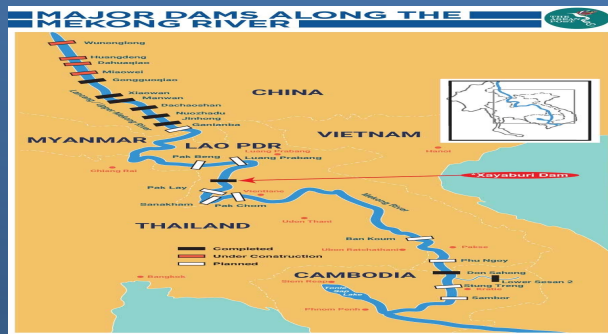
➤ The world's fourth largest lake before 1960.

➤ 1973-2004: More than 60 per cent of the lake has disappeared.

Freshwater: Aral Sea



Xayaburi (Mekong), Laos, Camboya, Vietnam



Kariba (Zambeze), Zambia y Zimbabue



Itaipú, (Paraná), Brasil, Paraguay



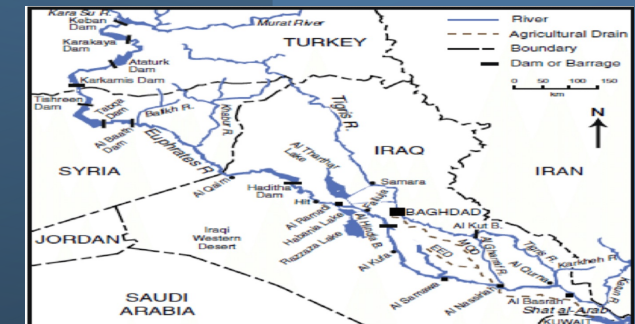
Gran Renacimiento Etíope (GERD), (Nilo), Etiopía, Egipto, Sudán



Rogún (Vakhsh), Tayikistán, Kirguistán



Ataturk (Eufrates), Turquía, Siria, Irak



Causes of unsustainable development

Population growth

- Growth of the 2.5 billion in 1950; 7 billion today; forecast of 9,000 in 2050
- Incorporation of 74 million people each year
- 98% of current births in developing countries
- 80% of the current population lives in developing countries



Technology: intensive use of resources + waste

Economic growth: Expansion in developing countries, globalization & “welf distribution”

Environmental problems

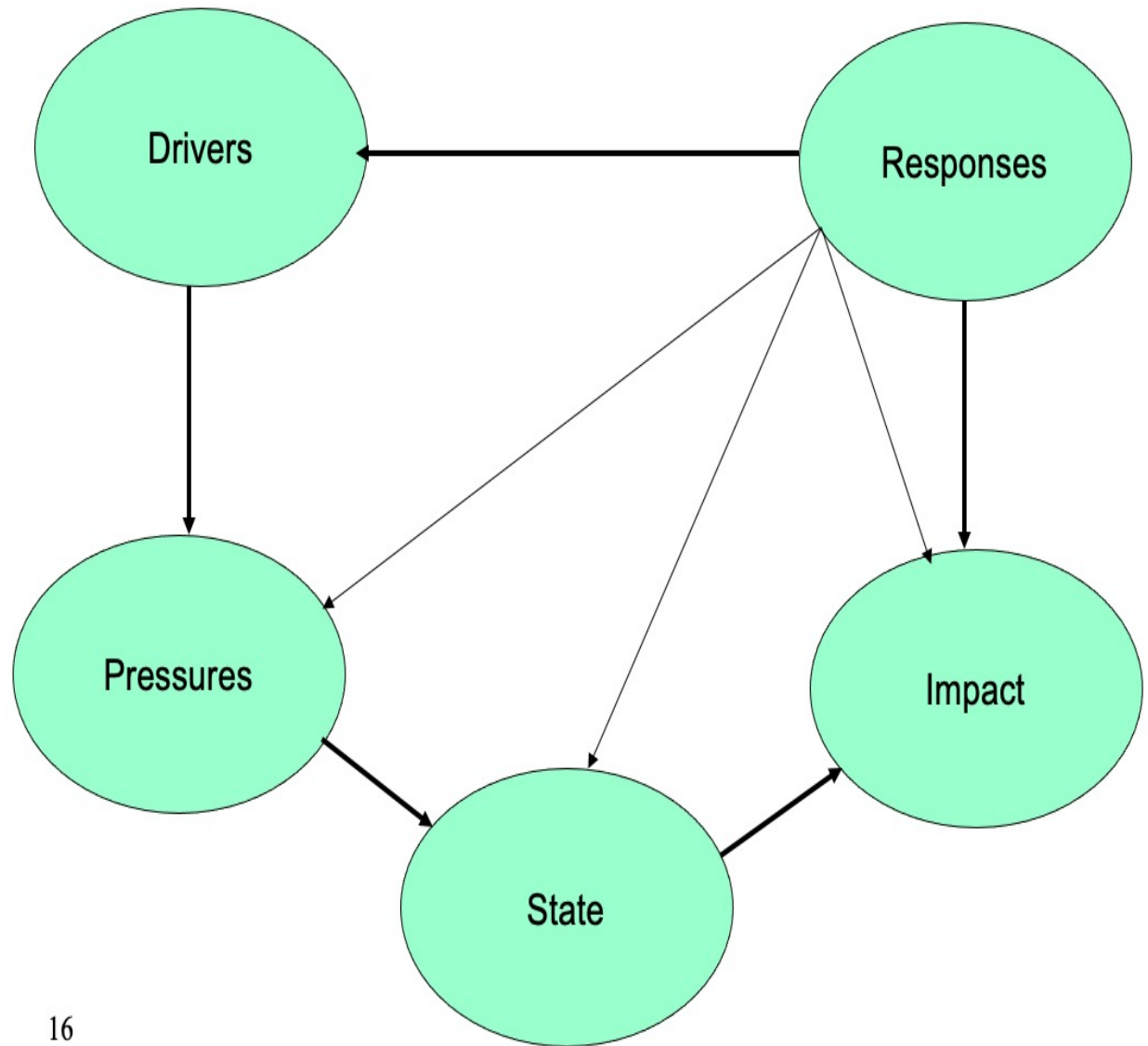
Internationalization of environmental issues:

- Transborder pollution (acid rain)
- Exportation of pollution (sources/risk)
- Globalization of the economic system

Specific issues:

- Different environmental interest/priorities among regions/countries
- Uncertainty of scientific/technological data
- Who decides the interest to be protected?

Environmental problems



Features of International environmental law

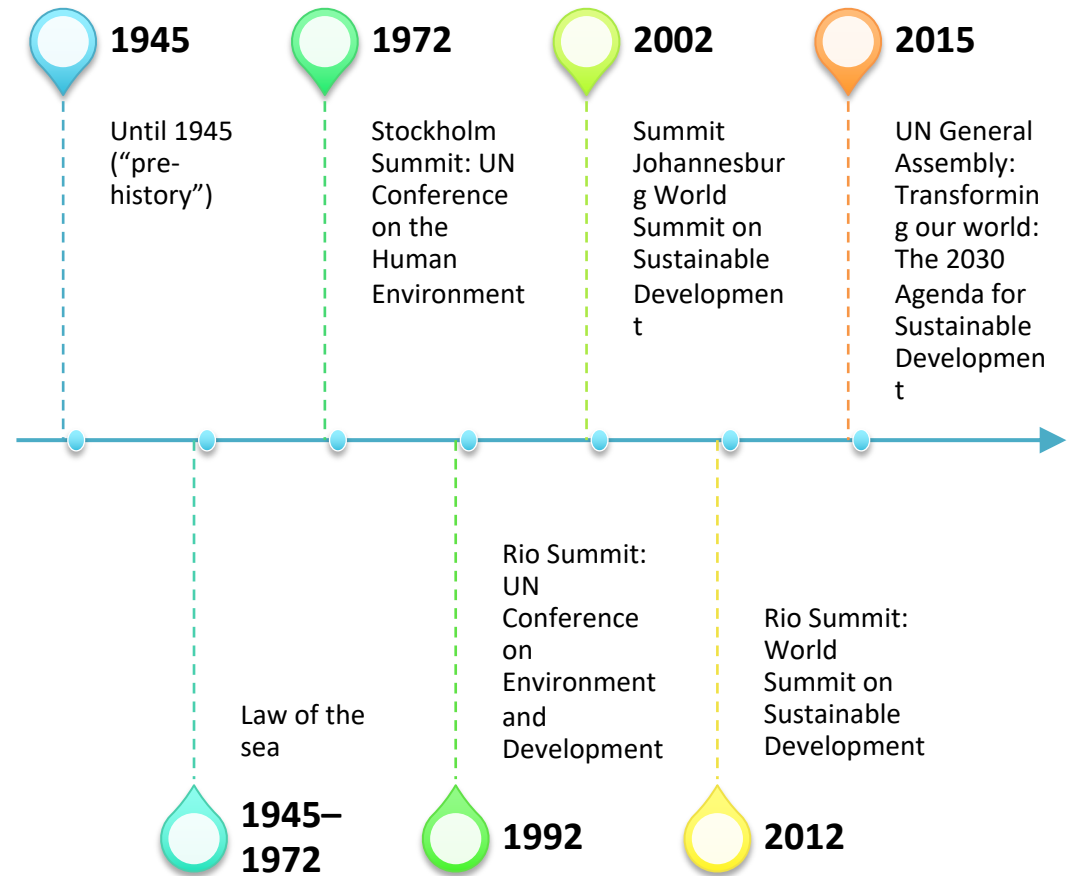
Functional

Preventive approach

Multidimensional

Soft law

International Environmental Law Evolution



Sustainable Development

Preserve natural resources

Fighting pollution

Strengthening the capacity of countries to contribute to solving global and local environmental problems

Sustainable development: Increase the capacity of countries to plan and implement policies and actions of environmentally sustainable development

Sustainable development





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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Sustainable development

SD normative character: meta-principle

SD as a conceptual matrix: Gabčíkovo Nagymaros case

SD as a principle with normative character (Juge Weeramantry's dissident opinion in Gabčíkovo Nagymaros case)

SD as an objective: Pulp Mills case

SD as an legal obligation of means

- It calls on States, IO and other actors to promote international and intergenerational equity.
- It calls on States and social actors to integrate environmental and social concerns in economic activities