

International environmental law (0)

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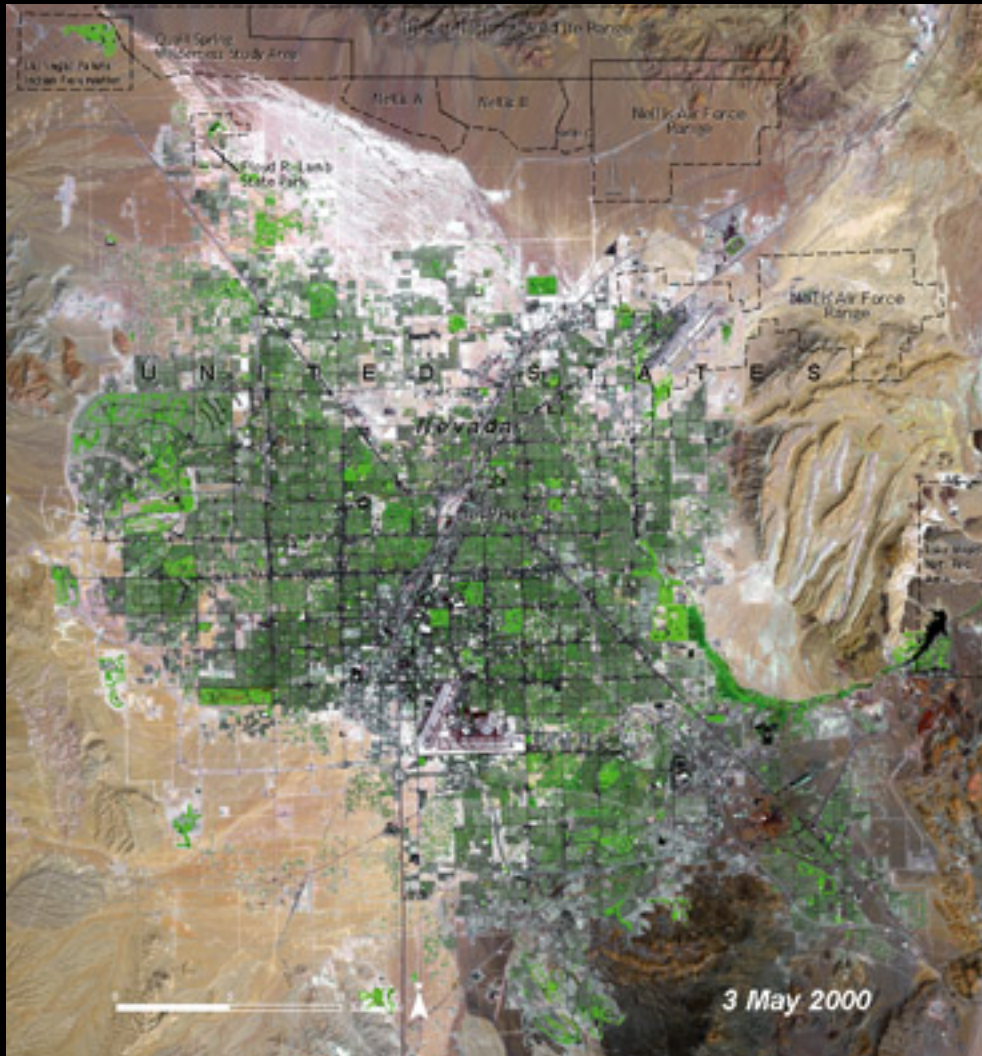




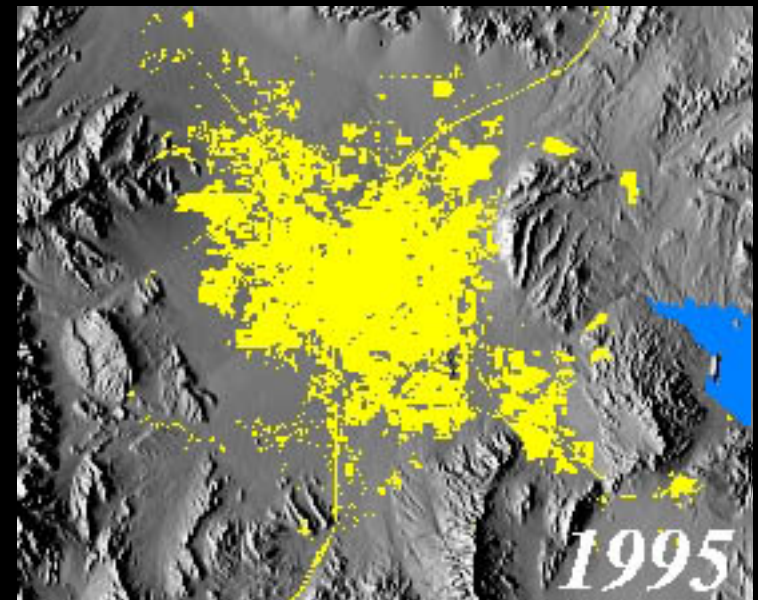


Source: National Geographic

Population Growth: Expanding Las Vegas



- 1973 -A small settlement
- 2000 -The landscape is now dramatically modified



Images courtesy USGS

Environmental problems

- 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 various 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

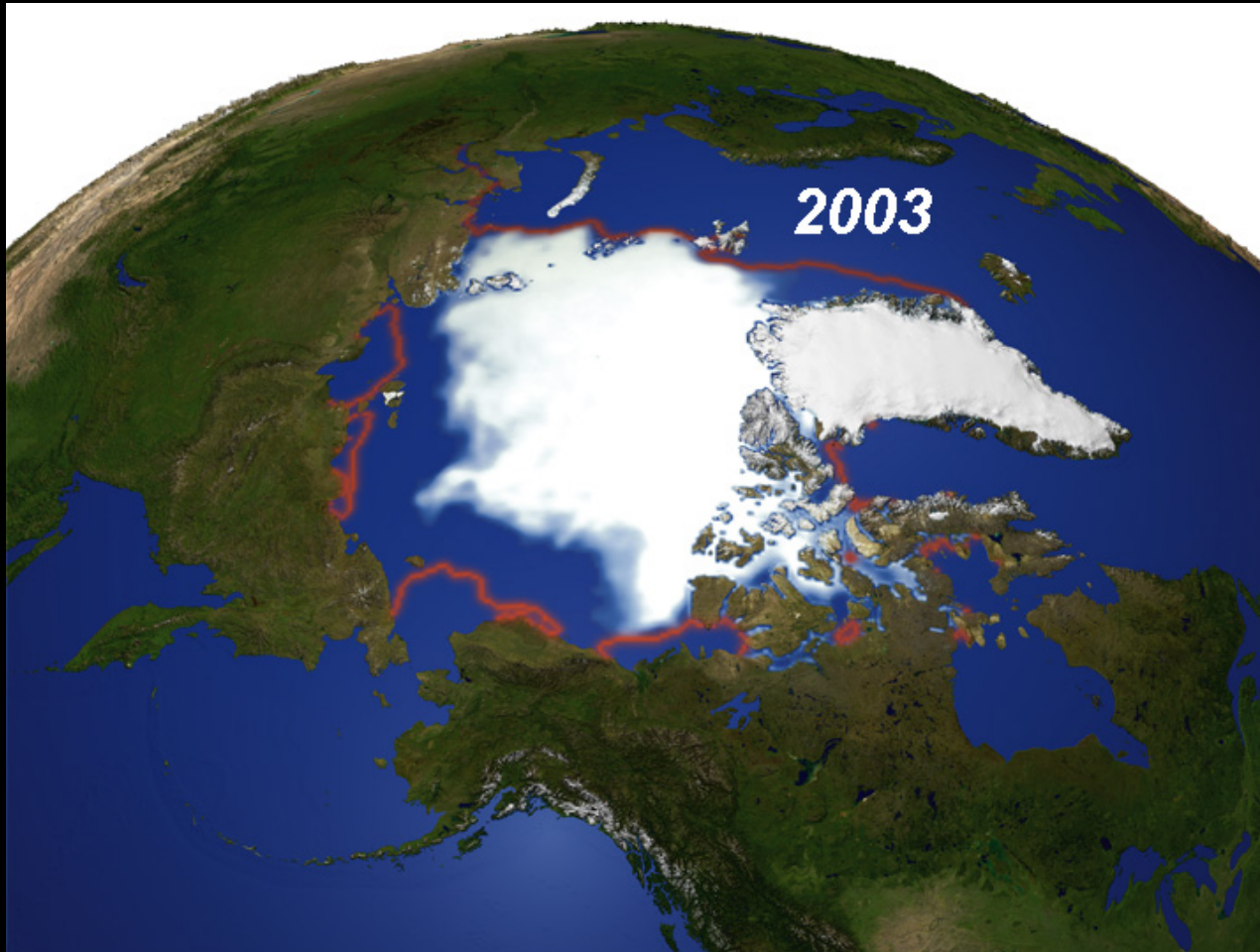
From Fields to Greenhouses: Almeria, Spain



➤ 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



Causes of unsustainable development

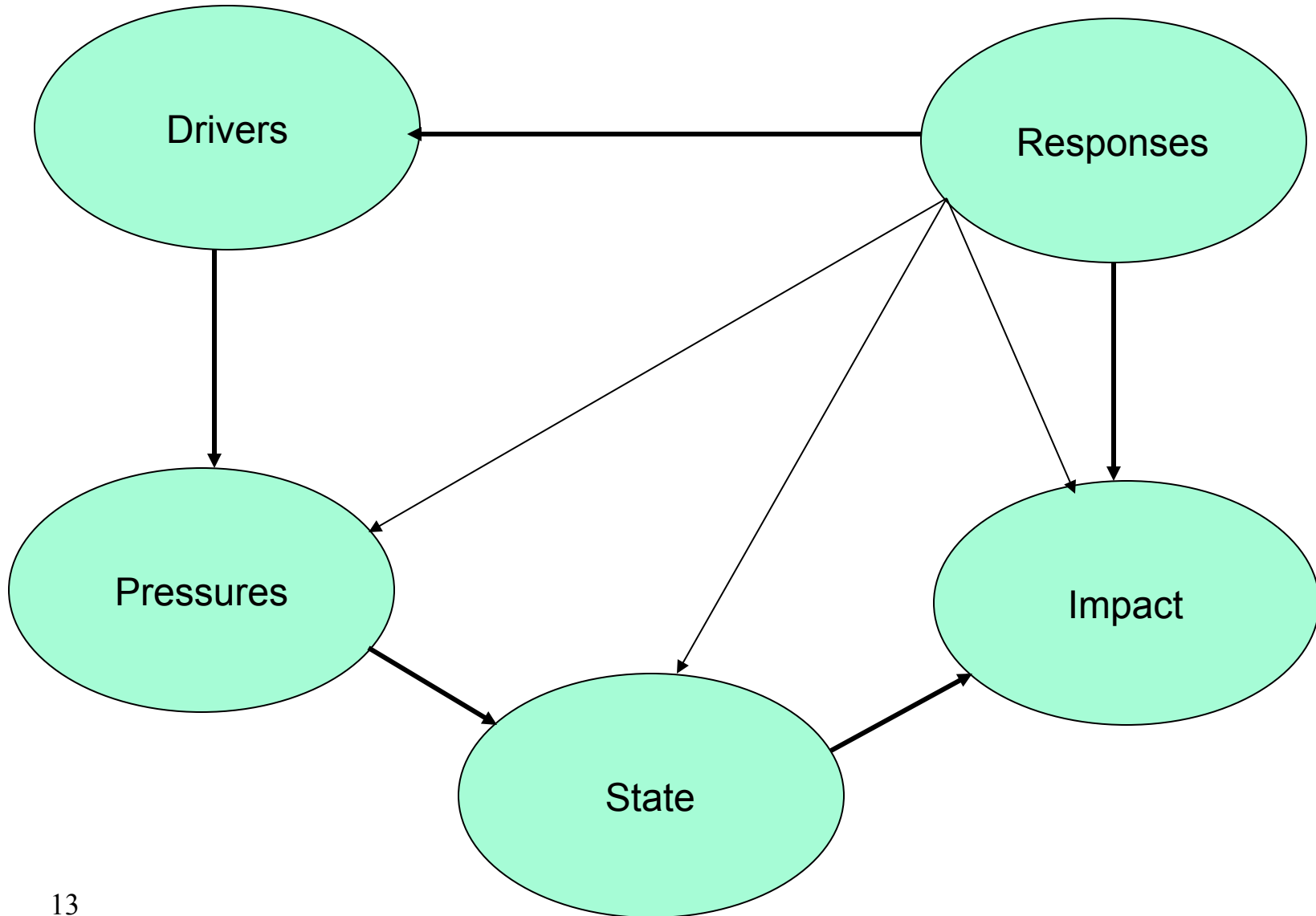
- Population growth
 - Growth of the 2.5 billion in 1950; 7 billion today; forecast of 9,000 in 2050
 - Incorporation of 74 million people each year
 - 98% of current births in developing countries
 - 80% of the current population lives in developing countries
- Economic growth: Expansion in developing countries, globalization & “welf distribution”
- Technology: intensive use of resources + waste

Source: UNEP, One Planet, Many People

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?

Addressing sustainability issues



Features of International environmental law

- Functional
- Preventive approach
 - Multidimensional
 - Soft law

International Environmental Law Evolution

- Until 1945 (“pre-history”)
- 1945-1972: Law of the sea
- 1972: Stockholm Summit: UN Conference on the Human Environment
- 1992: Rio Summit: UN Conference on Environment and Development
- 2002: Summit Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development
- 2012: Rio Summit: World Summit on Sustainable Development
- 2015: UN General Assembly: Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

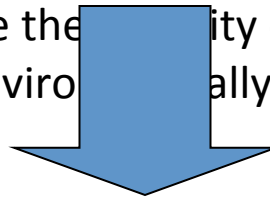
Sustainable Development

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 GOALS

1 NO POVERTY 	2 ZERO HUNGER 	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	5 GENDER EQUALITY 	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	15 LIFE ON LAND 	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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Sustainable Development

- SD normative character: meta-principle
- SD as a conceptual matrix: Gabcikovo Nagymaros case
- SD as a principle with normative character (Juge Weeramantry's dissident opinion in Gabcikovo 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

Sustainable Development

