

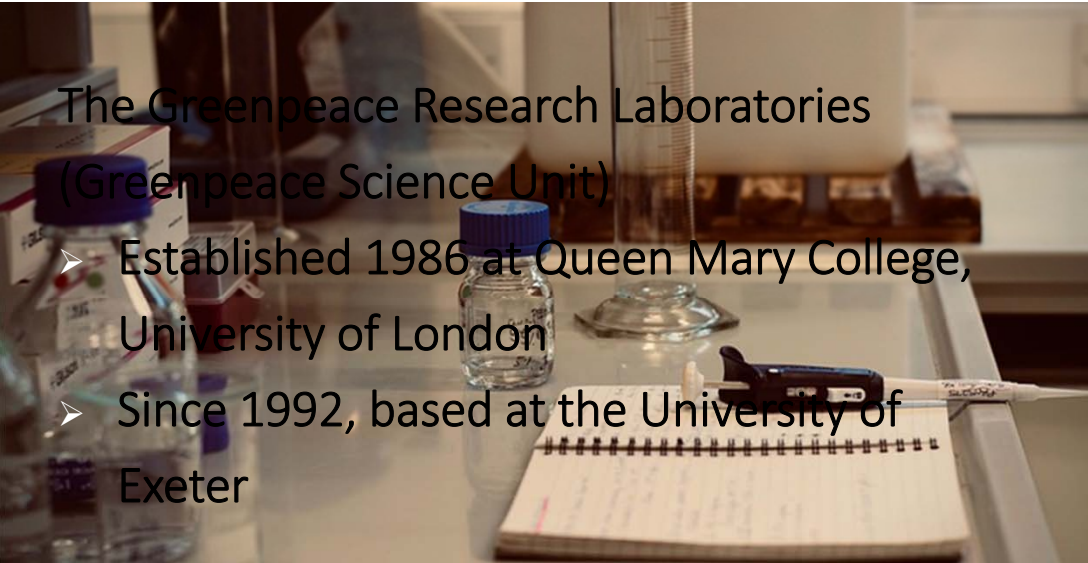
*EELF 2021 Conference, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021*

*Roundtable session: Interface between science, policy and law from a marine environmental protection perspective.*

*Dr David Santillo & Dr Melissa Wang,  
Greenpeace Research Laboratories,  
University of Exeter*

**GREENPEACE**

[www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)



## The Greenpeace Research Laboratories (Greenpeace Science Unit)

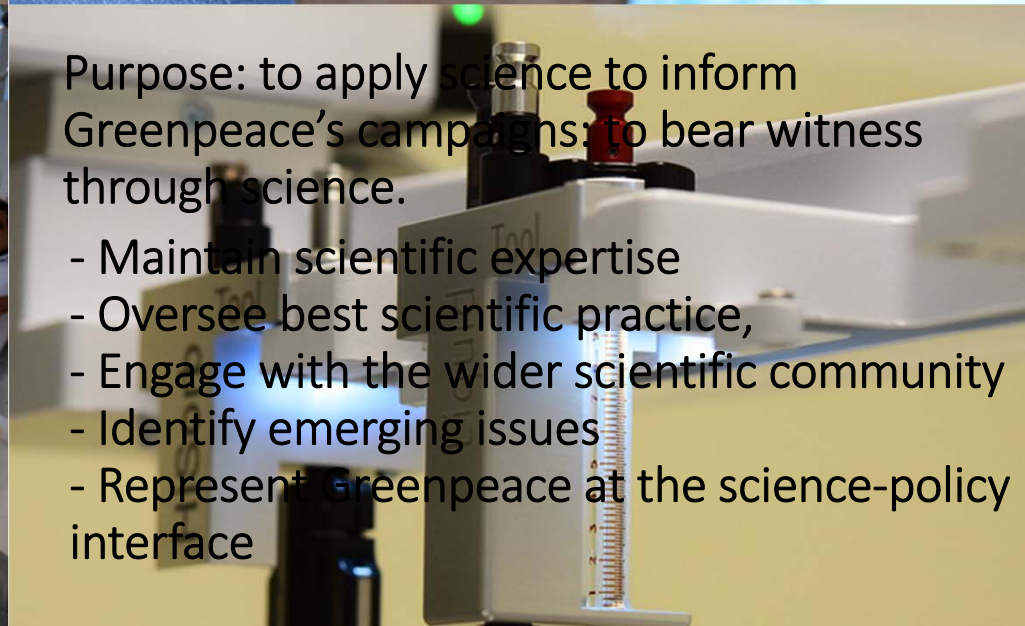
- Established 1986 at Queen Mary College, University of London
- Since 1992, based at the University of Exeter



- 9 research staff affiliated to College of Life and Environmental Sciences through Honorary Fellowships
- Independence to conduct and defend our own research



[scienceunit.greenpeace.org](http://scienceunit.greenpeace.org)



Purpose: to apply science to inform Greenpeace's campaigns; to bear witness through science.

- Maintain scientific expertise
- Oversee best scientific practice,
- Engage with the wider scientific community
- Identify emerging issues
- Represent Greenpeace at the science-policy interface

# Climate Change

- UNFCCC & Paris Agreement
  - IPCC

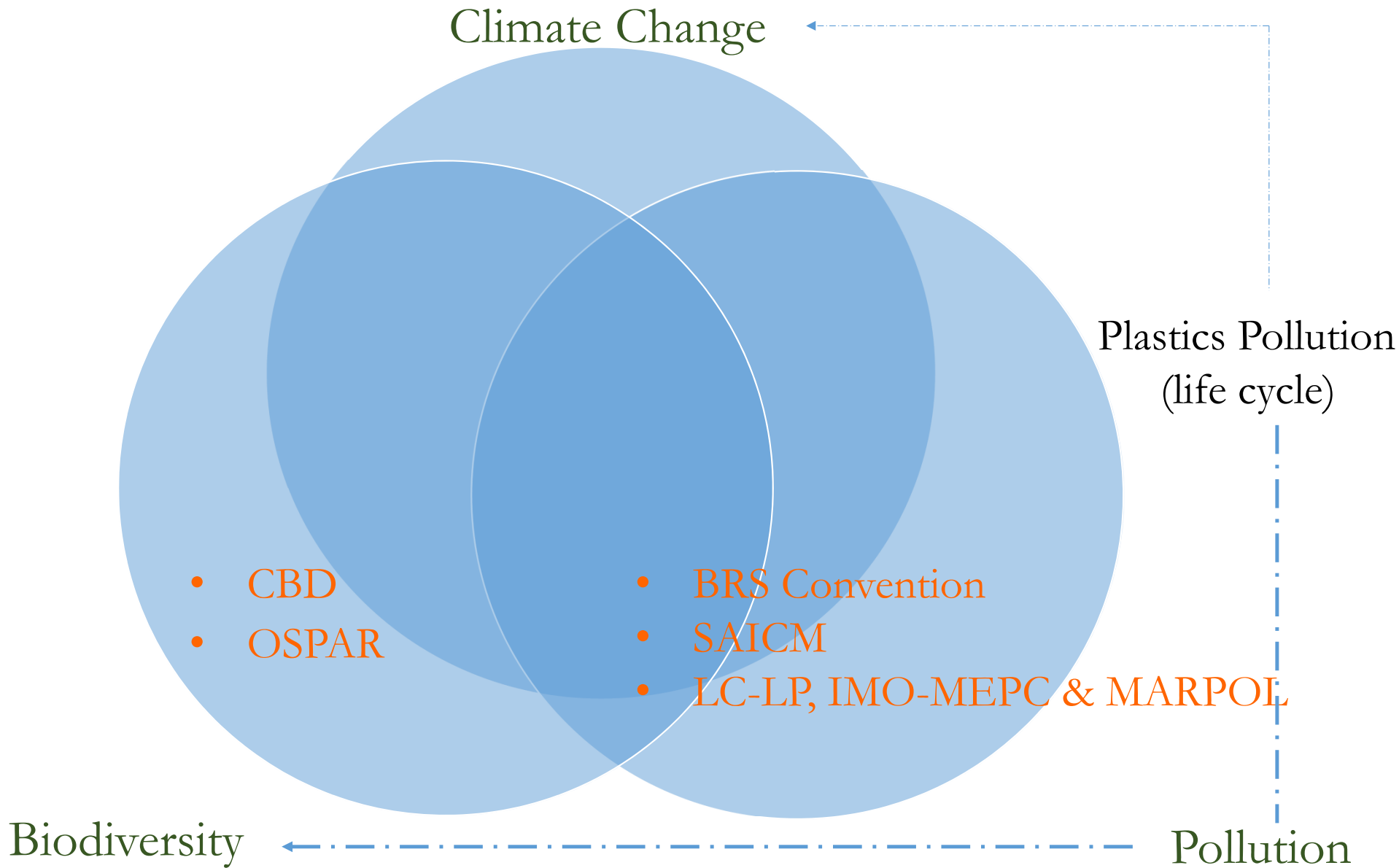
- UNEA
- GEF-STAP
- Ministerials

- CBD
- OSPAR  
(ICG-MPA, ICG-ML...)

- BRS & Minamata Convention
- SAICM
- LC-LP, IMO-MEPC & MARPOL
- GESAMP
- Global Chemical Outlook
- (EU: REACH & Water Framework Directive...)

Biodiversity

Pollution



## Global (18) and Regional (36) Instruments on Plastics Litter Microplastics

LAND

OCEAN  
Within National jurisdiction

OCEAN  
Beyond National jurisdiction

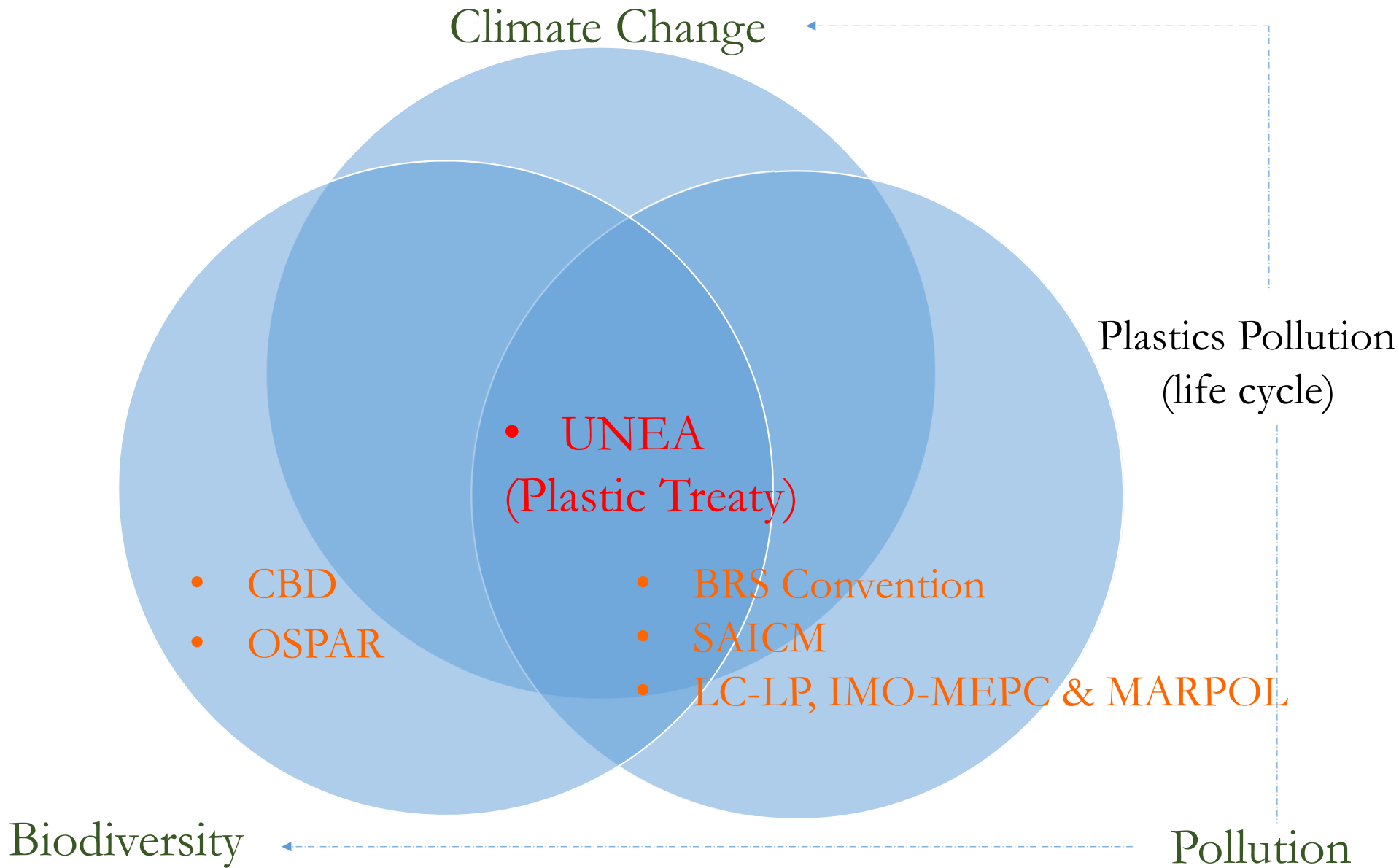
“... current governance strategies and approaches provide a **fragmented** approach ...

will provide some degree of progress, but combined may **NOT reach the desired outcomes at a global level of protecting the environment, human health and food security.**”

“a progressive **HOLISTIC** approach is now urgently needed.”



UNEP (2018)





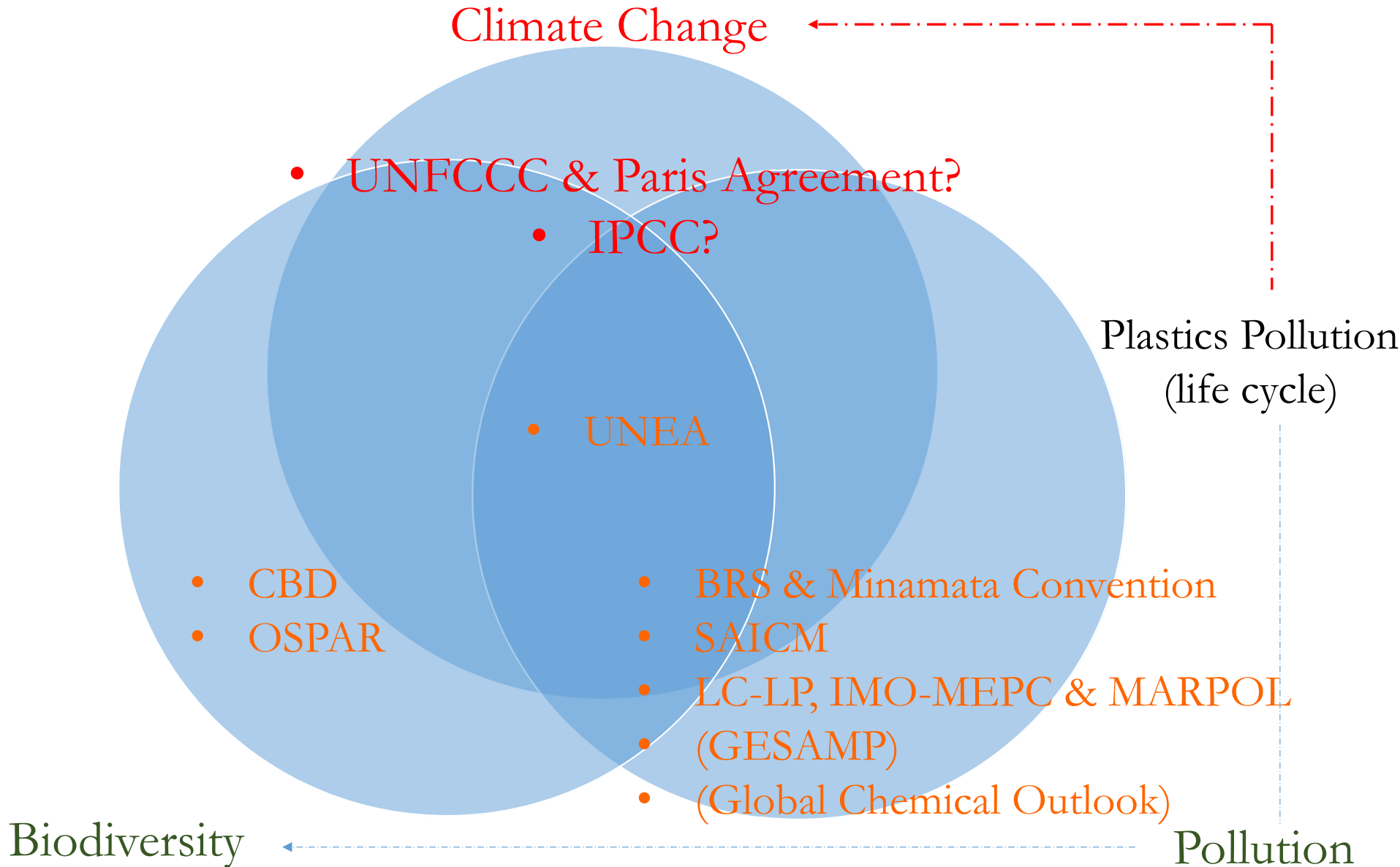
National delegates →

← Other UN agencies & instruments:  
LC-LP, OSPAR, BRS...  
GESAMP; GEF-STAP; GCO2...

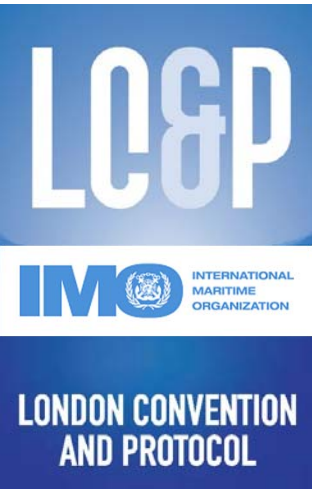
Ad-hoc Open-ended  
Expert Group  
Meeting 1-4

Scientific  
Advisory  
Committee

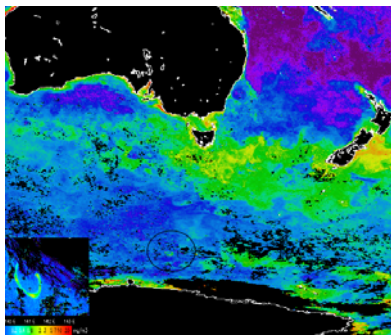
# Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution 1 & 2 September 2021 - hybrid in Geneva & online







## Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter



### Marine geoengineering at the London Convention – London Protocol (LC-LP)

- May 2007 – statement of concern on ocean fertilization
- November 2007 – intention to regulate
- May 2008 – preparation of technical background
- October 2008 – Resolution LC-LP.1

*“...given the present state of knowledge, ocean fertilization activities other than legitimate scientific research should not be allowed”*

- February 2009 – start of assessment framework
- October 2009 – first attempts to reach legally-binding agreement to prohibit all ocean fertilization activities other than legitimate scientific research (LSR-OF)
- March 2010 – intersessional legal working group to explore options further
- April 2010 – Scientific Group completes assessment framework for LSR-OF
- October 2010 – final agreement on assessment framework (OFAF) but still no legally-binding measures
- April 2011 – Scientific Group considers implications of new studies and reports
- June 2011 – intersessional legal working group to discuss specific legal proposals
- October 2011 – final agreement on legally-binding measure expected...but not reached
- October 2012 – new approaches proposed to try to reach agreement...but still ongoing



# Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter



## October 2013... first international legally-binding regulation of a geoengineering technique

IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

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**Marine geoengineering including ocean fertilization to be regulated under amendments to international treaty**

35th Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Convention) 8th meeting of Contracting Parties to the 1996 Protocol thereto (London Protocol)

Briefing: 45, October 18, 2013

Marine geoengineering, including ocean fertilization, will be regulated under amendments to the 1996 Protocol to the International treaty which regulates the dumping of wastes and other matter at sea.

The amendments, adopted on Friday (18 October) by Parties to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972, add a new article 6bis which states that "Contracting Parties shall not allow the placement of matter into the sea from vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea for marine geoengineering activities listed in Annex 4, unless the listing provides that the activity or the sub-category of an activity may be authorized under a permit".

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

CBD Technical Series No. 66

# 66

**GEOENGINEERING IN RELATION TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY: TECHNICAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS**

Part I. Impacts of Climate-Related Geoengineering on Biological Diversity  
Part II. The Regulatory Framework for Climate-Related Geoengineering Relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity

UNEP

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

CBD Technical Series No. 84

# 84

**UPDATE ON CLIMATE GEOENGINEERING IN RELATION TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY: POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

UNEP

...and more recent work from UN GESAMP

*"Marine and social scientists are urging a precautionary approach towards marine geoengineering techniques which involve deliberate large-scale manipulation of the environment."* GESAMP press release, March 2019

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GESAMP  
Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection


**HIGH LEVEL REVIEW OF A WIDE RANGE OF PROPOSED MARINE GEOENGINEERING TECHNIQUES**

GESAMP WORKING GROUP 41

REPORTS AND STUDIES

UN

Parallel work at CBD (2012 & 2016)...



Interface between science, policy and law from a marine environmental protection perspective...

...some key elements for NGO work at the science : policy : legal interface:

- Technical background – evidence and effective communication
- Continuity of engagement – preparedness and building trust & legitimacy
- Patience – plus a good memory
- Humanity – honesty and humility in approach
- Good fortune – observation to spot opportunities and links

*Questions? (and, we hope, some answers...)*

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