

Subject: Environmental economics

Course code: ECON3029

Topic: **Trans-Boundary Environmental Problems**

B.A. Economics (6<sup>th</sup> Semester)

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# What is a trans-boundary environmental problem?

- ▶ A trans-boundary environmental problem is an *environmental problem* that is *trans-boundary in scale*. In other words, it is an environmental problem originating in, or contributed by, one country and affecting (or impacting) another.
- ▶ For example, in the case of [eutrophication in the Dnipro River Basin](#) (a trans-boundary problem affecting many aquatic systems), the nutrients may be emitted predominantly by one country in a region but the effects felt in several countries. The impact may be damage to the natural environment (e.g. algal blooms) and/or damage to human welfare (e.g. health problems).



## Across, Beyond National Borders

Trans

Boundary

## Environmental Problems

TEPs broadly refer to cases in which pollution created in one country “moves” across national boundaries.

Such TEPs have negative implications for living standards in one or more countries in the region or the world in general.

## What are TEPs?

- ❖ Some environmental problems span a country's borders and are felt regionally and globally, e.g. ozone layer depletion, loss of biodiversity, and climate change.
- ❖ Population growth, industrialization and globalization are adding these global or trans-boundary environmental problems and their impacts on countries

## Examples of trans-boundary environmental challenges:

- ▶ Air and water pollution
- ▶ Shared natural resources (river systems, forests coasts etc.)
- ▶ Large ecosystems
- ▶ Toxic Waste management
- ▶ Movement of refugees
- ▶ Spread of disease/pests

# Trans-boundary Environments



Migratory birds and other migratory animals are a significant component of Trans-boundary environmental resources

The map illustrates global migratory bird routes and shows that Africa has the highest concentration of such routes

# Monitoring Impacts of TEPs

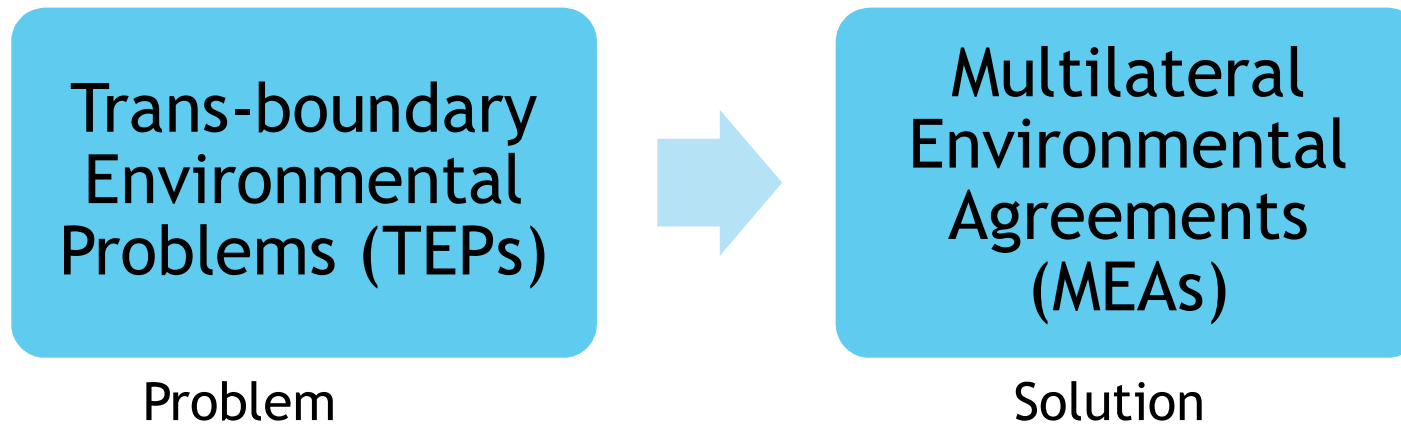
- ❖ A key tool for TEPs is Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) - used at the regional level
- ❖ It covers issues of (a) notification, (b) prior consultation and (c) agreement
- ❖ The information that an Trans-boundary EIA generates is used for conflict resolution and sustainable development.
- ❖ Examples:
  - EU Law
  - United States, Canada, and Mexico
  - ASEAN members

# Understanding TEPs

- ▶ There are two key issues to be considered in understanding TEP:
  - ▶ 1. The duty to cooperate in international law - sovereignty vs. trans-boundary environmental problems.
  - ▶ 2. Beyond the duty to cooperate - international environmental law obligations



- ▶ Trans-boundary environmental problems can be solved only by Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).



- ❖ Most UN Agencies work on trans-boundary issues using MEAs

Thank You

