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Environmental/Climate Diplomacy. Negotiating Green Solutions

Course 10

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GREEN DEAL AND EUROPEAN NEGOTIATIONS GRE DEN

JEAN MONNET CHAIR

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PROJECT ID: 101126710-GREDEN-ERASMUS-JMO-2023-HEI-TCH-RSCH

1 October 2023 – 30 September 2026

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Jean Monnet Chair - Green Deal and European Negotiations

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4.1. Introduction to Environmental Diplomacy

- 4.1.1. Definition of environmental diplomacy and its scope.
- 4.1.2. The historical context and evolution of environmental diplomacy.



Environmental/Climate diplomacy

- refers to the practice of conducting diplomatic relations and negotiations specifically focused on addressing transboundary environmental issues and promoting sustainable solutions.
- involves the use of diplomatic tools, strategies, and negotiations to foster international cooperation, build consensus, and resolve conflicts related to environmental challenges.
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXi_h4lgkk&ab_channel=NationalMuseumofAmericanDiplomacy





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Scope of Environmental Diplomacy

<p>Global Environmental Issues</p>	<p>Environmental diplomacy addresses global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation, pollution, and resource depletion. It recognizes that these issues transcend national borders and require collaborative efforts to find effective solutions.</p>
<p>International Cooperation and Agreements</p>	<p>The scope of environmental diplomacy includes the negotiation and development of international agreements, treaties, and conventions aimed at addressing specific environmental concerns. Examples include the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p>
<p>Resource Management and Conservation</p>	<p>Diplomatic efforts in environmental diplomacy extend to the sustainable management and conservation of natural resources. This includes discussions on water resources, forests, fisheries, and other critical ecosystems that span multiple countries.</p>



Pollution Control and Prevention	Addressing cross-border pollution and ensuring pollution control measures are part of the diplomatic agenda. Negotiations may focus on reducing air and water pollution, managing hazardous waste, and promoting environmentally responsible industrial practices.
Energy Transition and Sustainable Development	Diplomacy plays a role in facilitating international cooperation on transitioning to sustainable energy sources, promoting clean technologies, and achieving sustainable development goals. Negotiations may involve sharing expertise, technology transfer, and financial support.
Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies	Environmental diplomacy encompasses discussions on adaptation and mitigation strategies to address the impacts of climate change. This includes negotiations on financing mechanisms, technology sharing, and collaborative initiatives to build resilience.
Conflict Prevention and Resolution	Diplomacy is crucial in preventing and resolving conflicts arising from environmental issues. Competing interests over natural resources or differing approaches to environmental management can lead to tensions, and diplomatic efforts aim to find mutually beneficial solutions.



Scientific and Technological Collaboration	Collaboration in the field of science and technology is part of environmental diplomacy. This involves sharing scientific data, research findings, and technological innovations to address environmental challenges collectively.
Human Security and Environmental Justice	Environmental diplomacy recognizes the interconnectedness between environmental issues and human security. It includes discussions on ensuring environmental justice, protecting vulnerable communities, and addressing the disproportionate impacts of environmental changes on certain populations.
Public Awareness and Education	Diplomacy extends to fostering international public awareness and education on environmental issues. This includes promoting information exchange, educational programs, and awareness campaigns to engage the global community in environmental stewardship.
Corporate and NGO Engagement	Environmental diplomacy involves engaging with non-state actors, including corporations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Collaborative efforts with these entities are essential for implementing sustainable practices, mobilizing resources, and achieving shared environmental goals.



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Environmental Governance and Institutional Frameworks

Diplomatic efforts also focus on establishing and strengthening international governance structures and institutions dedicated to environmental management. This includes creating frameworks for cooperation, establishing monitoring mechanisms, and ensuring compliance with agreements.

To be remembered!



- environmental diplomacy encompasses a broad and dynamic scope that goes beyond traditional diplomatic concerns. It reflects the recognition that the health of the planet is a shared responsibility requiring coordinated international action and cooperation.
- the scope of environmental diplomacy is evolving as new challenges emerge, and it continues to play a crucial role in addressing the complex interplay between human activities and the environment on a global scale.

The Historical Context and Evolution of Environmental Diplomacy



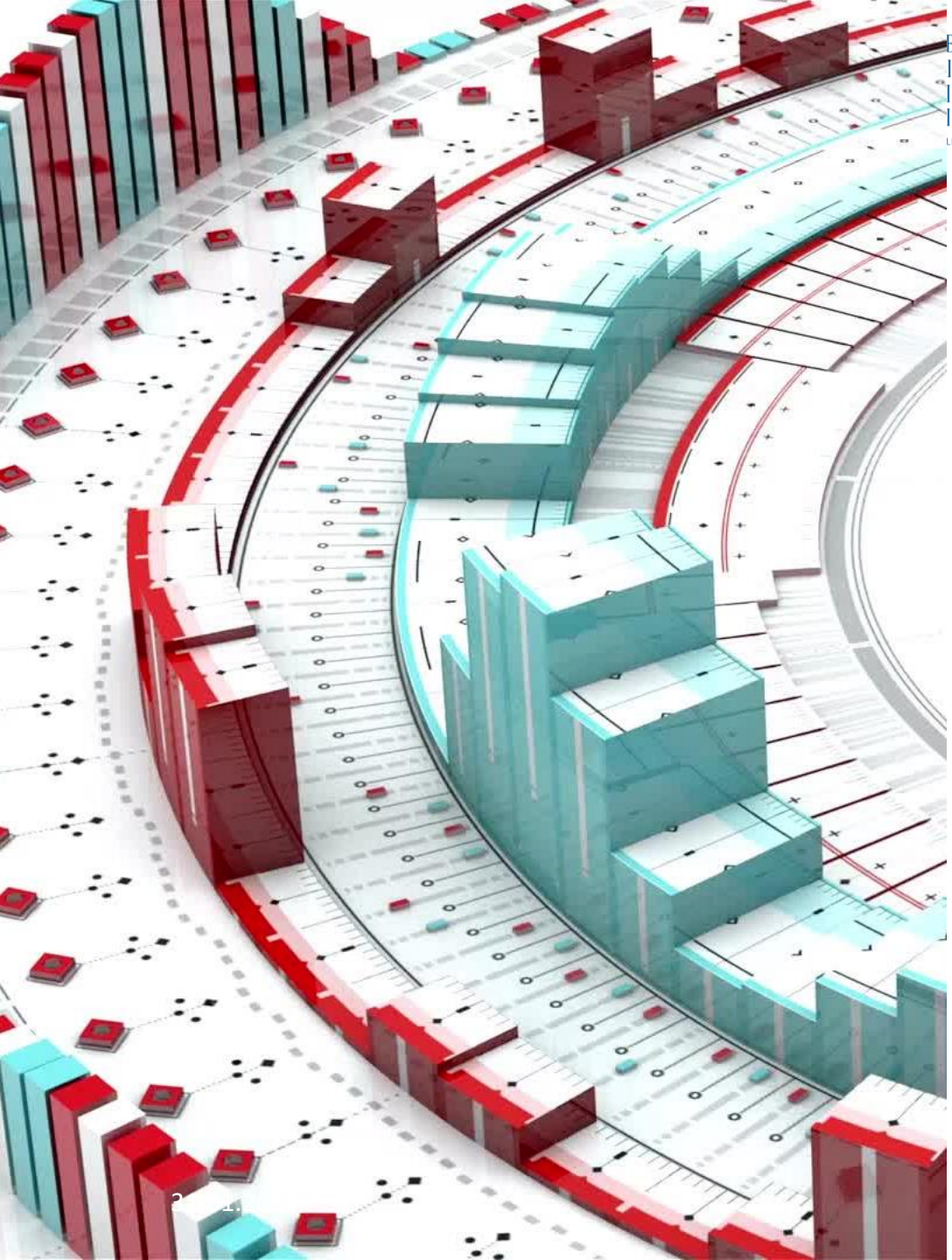
- **1. Pre-20th Century:**
 - **Early Conservation Efforts:**
 - Before the 20th century, there were instances of localized conservation efforts and resource management, often driven by immediate concerns such as water scarcity or deforestation.
 - However, these efforts were largely localized and lacked a global perspective.

2. 20th Century:

- **Emergence of Global Environmental Issues:**
 - The mid-20th century saw the emergence of global environmental issues, driven by industrialization, population growth, and technological advancements. Concerns such as air and water pollution, deforestation, and the use of harmful pesticides gained international attention.
- **Silent Spring (1962):**
 - Rachel Carson's groundbreaking book, "Silent Spring," highlighted the environmental impact of pesticides, particularly DDT. This influential work sparked public awareness and laid the groundwork for the environmental movement.
- **First UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972):**
 - The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm marked a turning point. It was the first major international conference focused on environmental issues. The conference addressed concerns such as pollution, wildlife conservation, and the relationship between economic development and the environment.
- **UNEP Establishment (1972):**
 - The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established because of the Stockholm Conference. UNEP became a key international institution dedicated to coordinating global environmental efforts and fostering environmental diplomacy.

3. 1980s-1990s:

- **Emergence of Climate Change as a Global Concern:**
 - The 1980s and 1990s saw the gradual recognition of climate change as a major global environmental concern. The establishment of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** in 1988 and the negotiation of the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** in 1992 were pivotal moments.
- **Montreal Protocol (1987):**
 - The Montreal Protocol, aimed at phasing out ozone-depleting substances, demonstrated international cooperation on a pressing environmental issue. It highlighted the potential for diplomatic efforts to address global environmental challenges.



4. 21st Century

- **Kyoto Protocol (1997):**
 - The Kyoto Protocol, an extension of the UNFCCC, marked a significant step in international efforts to combat climate change. It introduced binding emission reduction targets for developed countries and set the stage for subsequent climate negotiations.
- **Rio+20 (2012):**
 - The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, known as Rio+20, addressed the integration of social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It emphasized the importance of green economy and environmental governance.
- **Paris Agreement (2015):**
 - The Paris Agreement, a landmark accord within the UNFCCC framework, brought nations together to commit to limiting global temperature increases. It showcased a shift towards a more inclusive and bottom-up approach, with countries determining their own climate action plans.
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**
 - The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, with its 17 SDGs, highlighted the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic goals. Environmental diplomacy became integral to achieving these universal objectives.

5. Current Trends:

- **Emergence of Environmental Security:**
 - Growing recognition of the link between environmental degradation and security issues, including resource conflicts and migration, has led to increased attention on environmental security within diplomatic circles.
- **Biodiversity Conservation Diplomacy:**
 - Diplomatic efforts are intensifying to address the rapid loss of biodiversity. International agreements such as the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** underscore the need for collaborative action to preserve global biodiversity.
- **Circular Economy and Sustainable Practices:**
 - Modern environmental diplomacy increasingly focuses on promoting circular economy principles and sustainable practices. Diplomats work to encourage international cooperation on reducing waste, promoting recycling, and fostering sustainable consumption.



To be remembered!

- The historical evolution of environmental diplomacy reflects the growing awareness of global environmental challenges and the need for collaborative solutions.
- From early conservation efforts to the establishment of international agreements and institutions, the trajectory of environmental diplomacy demonstrates an ongoing commitment to addressing pressing environmental issues on a global scale.
- The challenges of the 21st century require continued diplomatic efforts, innovative solutions, and international cooperation to achieve a sustainable and resilient future.





4.2. Global Environmental Challenges

Challenge	Description	Impact
Climate Change	Climate change refers to long-term shifts in global weather patterns, including rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and changes in precipitation. It is primarily driven by human activities such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes.	Rising sea levels, more frequent and intense heatwaves, disruptions to ecosystems, altered precipitation patterns, and threats to agriculture and food security.
Biodiversity Loss	Biodiversity loss results from habitat destruction, pollution, climate change, and overexploitation of species. It involves the decline of plant and animal species, affecting ecosystems' ability to provide essential services	Disruption of ecosystems, loss of genetic diversity, reduced resilience to environmental changes, and potential negative consequences for human health and well-being.
Deforestation	Deforestation is the large-scale removal of forests, often for agricultural expansion, logging, or infrastructure development. It contributes to the loss of biodiversity, alters ecosystems, and releases stored carbon into the atmosphere.	Habitat loss for countless species, increased greenhouse gas emissions, disruption of water cycles, and negative effects on indigenous communities and their traditional livelihoods.



Air and Water Pollution	Air and water pollution result from the release of pollutants into the atmosphere and water bodies. Sources include industrial activities, agricultural runoff, and improper waste disposal.	Adverse effects on human health, harm to aquatic ecosystems, contamination of soil and food, and degradation of air quality, leading to respiratory diseases.
Land Degradation	Land degradation involves the deterioration of land quality due to various factors, including deforestation, agricultural practices, and climate change. It reduces the land's ability to support ecosystems and human activities.	Loss of arable land, decreased agricultural productivity, increased vulnerability to droughts and floods, and negative consequences for rural communities
Ocean Acidification	Ocean acidification results from the absorption of excess carbon dioxide by the world's oceans. This process alters the ocean's chemistry, posing a threat to marine life, particularly organisms with calcium carbonate shells or skeletons.	Harm to coral reefs, mollusks, and other marine species, disruptions to marine food webs, and potential consequences for fisheries and coastal communities.
Overexploitation of Natural Resources	Overexploitation occurs when natural resources are harvested at unsustainable rates, depleting populations and ecosystems. This includes overfishing, illegal logging, and excessive extraction of minerals and fossil fuels.	Decline of fish stocks, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, depletion of water resources, and adverse effects on local economies and livelihoods.



Waste Generation and Plastic Pollution	The generation of large amounts of waste, including plastic waste, contributes to environmental pollution. Improper disposal and inadequate recycling systems exacerbate the problem.	Pollution of land and water, harm to wildlife through ingestion of plastics, threats to ecosystems, and the persistence of non-biodegradable materials in the environment.
Loss of Wetlands	Wetlands, including marshes and swamps, are critical ecosystems that provide various services such as water purification and flood control. Human activities, urbanization, and pollution contribute to the loss of wetlands.	Reduced water filtration, increased risk of flooding, loss of habitat for migratory birds, and negative consequences for biodiversity.
Emerging Infectious Diseases	Changes in ecosystems, including deforestation and encroachment into wildlife habitats, can contribute to the emergence of infectious diseases. Zoonotic diseases, transmitted between animals and humans, can result from such changes.	Increased risk of disease outbreaks, potential pandemics, and the need for coordinated global efforts to address the health and environmental dimensions of emerging infectious diseases.



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To be remembered!

- These global environmental challenges are interconnected, and addressing them requires collaborative efforts at local, national, and international levels.
- Sustainable practices, conservation efforts, and international cooperation are crucial for mitigating the impact of these challenges and building a resilient and environmentally sustainable future.



4.3. The Role of Diplomacy in Environmental Governance

Key aspect	Role of diplomacy	Example
International Cooperation and Agreements	Diplomacy facilitates the negotiation and establishment of international environmental agreements and treaties. It brings together representatives from different countries to collaborate on shared challenges, set common goals, and agree on coordinated actions.	The Paris Agreement on climate change is a result of diplomatic negotiations, bringing countries together to collectively address global warming and set emission reduction targets.
Multilateral Environmental Institutions	Diplomacy is instrumental in the creation and functioning of multilateral environmental institutions. It involves negotiations on the structure, mandates, and funding mechanisms of organizations dedicated to environmental governance.	The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a multilateral institution established through diplomatic efforts, tasked with coordinating global environmental activities and providing guidance on policy development.
Negotiation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Diplomacy played a central role in the negotiation and adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It involved representatives from numerous countries working together to address a broad spectrum of sustainability issues, including environmental considerations.	SDG 13 focuses on climate action, highlighting the interconnectedness of environmental challenges with broader development goals.



<p>Transboundary Environmental Issues</p>	<p>Diplomacy is essential in addressing transboundary environmental challenges that require coordinated efforts across borders. It involves negotiations to develop joint strategies, share information, and implement measures that benefit multiple nations.</p>	<p>Diplomatic efforts to address transboundary air pollution involve negotiations on emission reduction targets and collaborative initiatives to improve air quality in shared regions.</p>
<p>Trade and Environment Linkages</p>	<p>Diplomacy navigates the complex relationship between trade and the environment. Negotiations on trade agreements include discussions on environmental standards, sustainable practices, and the prevention of environmental degradation associated with trade activities.</p>	<p>Diplomatic efforts within trade agreements may include provisions to combat illegal wildlife trafficking, protect endangered species, and promote sustainable resource management.</p>
<p>Technology Transfer and Capacity Building</p>	<p>Diplomacy facilitates the transfer of environmentally friendly technologies from developed to developing countries. Negotiations include agreements on intellectual property rights, financial support, and capacity-building efforts to ensure effective technology transfer.</p>	<p>Diplomatic negotiations may result in partnerships to transfer renewable energy technologies to countries seeking to transition to cleaner energy sources.</p>



Conflict Prevention and Resolution	Diplomacy plays a role in preventing and resolving conflicts related to environmental issues, such as disputes over shared water resources or competing claims to biodiversity-rich areas. Negotiations seek to find mutually acceptable solutions.	Diplomatic efforts can address conflicts arising from competing interests in the use of a shared river, involving negotiations on equitable water allocation and sustainable management practices.
Public Awareness and Advocacy	Diplomacy contributes to raising global awareness of environmental issues. It involves advocacy efforts, public diplomacy, and the promotion of environmental education to foster a sense of shared responsibility.	Diplomatic missions may engage in public diplomacy campaigns to highlight the importance of conservation, sustainable practices, and the need for international cooperation on environmental challenges.
Crisis Response and Humanitarian Assistance	Diplomacy is involved in coordinating international responses to environmental crises, such as natural disasters. Negotiations focus on providing humanitarian assistance, mobilizing resources, and fostering collaboration among nations.	Diplomatic efforts in response to a natural disaster may involve negotiations on the deployment of international aid, coordination of relief efforts, and long-term strategies for rebuilding in an environmentally sustainable manner.



4.4. Case studies in Environmental Diplomacy

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWx-6WEnKcU&ab_channel=CivilServiceClimate%2BEnvironmentNetwork
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MGvDoaN7M&ab_channel=AlJazeeraEnglish





4.5. Principles of Green Solutions Negotiation

Principle	Definition	Application
Precautionary Principle	When an activity may harm the environment or human health, in the absence of scientific consensus, the burden of proof falls on those advocating the activity.	Used to justify preventive measures and decision-making in the face of uncertainty, especially in areas such as emerging technologies or potential environmental risks.
Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)	Acknowledges that while all nations share the responsibility to address global environmental issues, developed and developing nations have different capacities and historical contributions to environmental challenges.	Recognizes the need for differentiated commitments and actions based on a country's economic status, development level, and historical contribution to environmental issues.
Equity and Justice	Negotiations should consider fairness, justice, and the equitable distribution of benefits and burdens among all parties involved.	Ensures that vulnerable populations and countries disproportionately affected by environmental issues are considered in negotiations and that the benefits of sustainable solutions are shared equitably.



Intergenerational Equity	Resources and environmental considerations should be managed to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.	Encourages sustainable practices and the preservation of natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations.
Participation and Inclusivity	Stakeholders, including affected communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and indigenous groups, should have meaningful and inclusive participation in the decision-making process.	Ensures that diverse perspectives are considered, leading to more comprehensive and socially acceptable environmental solutions.
Transparency and Information Sharing	All relevant information, including scientific data and decision-making processes, should be made accessible to stakeholders and the public.	Enhances trust among negotiating parties, fosters informed decision-making, and allows for public scrutiny of environmental agreements.
Cost-Effectiveness	The most efficient and economically viable solutions should be pursued to achieve environmental objectives	Encourages the optimization of resources, promotes the use of cost-effective technologies, and ensures that the economic impact of environmental measures is carefully considered.

4.6. Diplomatic Tools and Techniques for Environmental Negotiations

Diplomatic Conferences:

- **Definition:**
 - High-level gatherings where representatives from multiple countries come together to negotiate and reach agreements on environmental issues.
- **Application:**
 - Conferences, such as the Conference of the Parties (COP) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), provide a platform for diplomatic negotiations, information sharing, and consensus-building.

Bilateral and Multilateral Diplomacy:

- **Definition:**
 - Engaging in discussions and negotiations either one-on-one (bilateral) or with multiple parties (multilateral) to address specific environmental concerns.
- **Application:**
 - Bilateral talks allow for focused discussions, while multilateral negotiations provide a forum for addressing shared challenges with a broader group of stakeholders.

3. Shuttle Diplomacy:

- **Definition:**
 - Diplomats move between different negotiating parties to facilitate communication, build understanding, and find common ground.
- **Application:**
 - Especially useful when there are sensitive issues or disputes between parties. The mediator helps bridge gaps and build trust by shuttling between representatives.

4. Track II Diplomacy:

- **Definition:**
 - Unofficial, informal dialogue involving non-governmental actors, experts, and civil society organizations to explore potential solutions to environmental issues.
- **Application:**
 - Complements official negotiations by providing alternative perspectives, fostering innovative ideas, and creating an environment for trust-building.

5. Technical Expertise:

- **Definition:**
 - Leveraging scientific and technical knowledge to inform negotiations and facilitate evidence-based decision-making.
- **Application:**
 - Technical experts play a vital role in providing accurate data, conducting impact assessments, and offering insights into the feasibility and effectiveness of proposed environmental measures.

6. Conflict Resolution Techniques:

- **Definition:**
 - Applying conflict resolution strategies, such as mediation, facilitation, and consensus-building, to address disagreements and find mutually acceptable solutions.
- **Application:**
 - Resolving conflicts related to environmental issues, whether between nations or stakeholders, enhances the likelihood of successful negotiations.

7. Scenario Planning:

- **Definition:**
 - Anticipating potential future developments and outcomes to inform strategic decision-making.
- **Application:**
 - Diplomats use scenario planning to assess the potential impact of different negotiation outcomes and develop strategies to navigate uncertainties effectively.

8. Treaty Implementation Assistance:

- **Definition:**
 - Offering support to nations in implementing and complying with environmental treaties and agreements.
- **Application:**
 - Providing technical assistance, financial aid, and capacity-building programs to help countries meet their commitments under environmental agreements.

9. Coalition Building:

- **Definition:**
 - Forming alliances and partnerships with like-minded nations or groups to strengthen negotiating positions and build support.
- **Application:**
 - Diplomats can create coalitions to advocate for specific environmental measures, share resources, and collectively push for desired outcomes.

10. Simulations and War Games:

- **Definition:**
 - Conducting mock negotiations to test different scenarios, identify potential challenges, and refine negotiation strategies.
- **Application:**
 - Diplomats can use simulations to prepare for actual negotiations, enhance their negotiation skills, and explore innovative approaches in a controlled setting.