



ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Geneva's importance as an environmental center has grown over the past several decades. Geneva hosts the secretariats of major environmental treaties and agreements including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes. The town of Gland, located midway between Geneva and Lausanne, is home to the two leading international conservation groups, the World Wide Fund for Nature and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) as well as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands



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Many of Geneva's UN and UN-affiliated environmental organizations are brought together under a single roof at the International Environment House in Chatelaine approximately three miles southwest of the Palais des Nations. United Nations bodies housed in the building include the UN Environment Program (UNEP) regional office for Europe, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, the Secretariat of the CITES convention, the UNEP Environment and Trade Unit, and UNEP's Information Unit for Conventions (IUC) which provides public information about United Nations

environmental treaties, including those now based outside Geneva. Organizations in the International Environment House share a common library which is open to the general public on weekdays. Non-governmental organizations in the environmental house include the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

Affiliated with the International Environment House is the Geneva Environment Network (GEN), a cooperative partnership of over 40 environment and sustainable development organizations based in the International Environment House and elsewhere in Geneva. GEN's membership includes both small non-governmental organizations and large international bodies such as the World Health Organization and the World Wide Fund for Nature.