

Preliminary Efforts in Implementing the Rio Targets

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The Article discusses the preliminary efforts in implementing the targets set during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) at Rio de Janeiro last 1992, which set out to enliven global environmental consciousness and find solutions to global environmental problems. The Article also discusses whether the UNCED goals can be achieved and whether the targets remain viable and credible given the problems in implementing the UNCED commitments into concrete domestic policies and regulatory measures. It also examines the new legal and eco-management instruments created for the development of international environmental law.

The Article presents examples of preliminary efforts in implementing the Rio targets as well as explains the new models of cooperation between State and industry, the current IUCN Draft International Covenant on Environment and Development, and the latest tendencies concerning mechanisms for sanctions. The Article concludes that in terms of substantive and binding legal obligations, the Rio Conference has produced meager results with regard to the concept of sustainable development. State practices have elaborated on progressive and future-oriented legal mechanisms and instruments for the development and implementation of international environmental law; however, more needs to be done in order to successfully implement the Rio targets.