

**THE FORMATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION REGIME:
THE ROLE OF NGOs**

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2002

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged.



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18 April 2002

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PENGAKUAN

Saya akui karya in adalah hasil kerja saya sendiri kecuali nukilan dan ringkasan yang tiap-tiap satunya telah saya jelaskan sumbernya.



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ABSTRACT

This study seeks to discover the role environmental NGOs play in the formation of world environmental regimes, with a particular focus on the international conservation regime established under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora 1973 (CITES). The study is based on the review of secondary materials and data in the form of books, journals and backed by news reports. The role and influence wielded by NGOs in each of the phases of regime formation as manifested in the problem identification, fact-finding, negotiation-bargaining and regime strengthening phases is studied. From the study, it is observed that environmental NGOs do indeed play a central role in the formation of the conservation regime, particularly in the initial stages of problem identification and fact-finding for regime creation as they hold significant bargaining assets derived from their claim to legitimacy, transparency and transnationalism. Their role in the negotiation-bargaining and regime strengthening stages is also significant although the influence is hard to account for. The study found that environmental NGOs have been able to exert a major influence upon regime formation because states lack interests in the environmental realm, therefore providing NGOs with the opportunities to push for their own agenda in global environmental and conservation politics.

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