



# The London Protocol: Is it the answer to carbon capture?

This document will help prepare you to get the most out of our upcoming webinar in collaboration with the Global CCS Institute.

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The London Protocol is an international treaty that aims to protect the marine environment from any type of pollution. It defines the prohibitions and obligations contracting parties must abide by when disposing matters at sea—like CO<sub>2</sub> streams for carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) purposes. In particular, it sets very strict monitoring controls to safely store CO<sub>2</sub> at sea.



### What is the 2009 amendment, and what does it mean for CCS?

In 2009, contracting parties (countries that are parties to the treaty) amended the Protocol to help optimize CCS developments by allowing the cross-border export of CO<sub>2</sub> for sub-seabed storage, enabling greater decarbonization opportunities throughout the world.

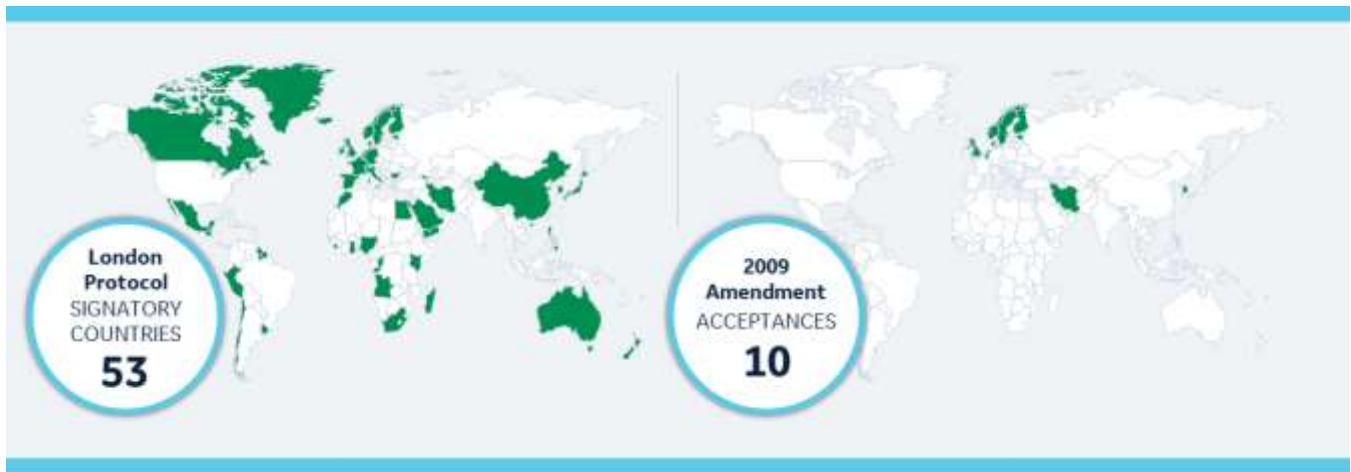
The amendment, however, must be ratified by 2/3 of the treaty’s parties to enter into force and become legally binding. This has yet to be achieved, although a transitional solution called “provisional application” has been found, as we will discuss during the webinar.

## Why does it matter?

The 2009 amendment of the treaty is a crucial step in enabling international CCS projects by defining the global boundaries for exporting CO<sub>2</sub> streams. Most importantly, it lays out how to store CO<sub>2</sub> offshore responsibly. These boundaries can mitigate risk to our marine environment and accelerate our transition to cleaner energy.

## Who has signed the London Protocol?

There are 53 signatory countries that have signed the protocol already, however 2/3 of these countries need to accept the 2009 amendment for it to enter into force (the moment at which the international agreement becomes legally binding). Only 10 countries have signed the amendment thus far.



## Legal concepts explained

 Amendment	A <b>formal modification of the provisions of a treaty</b> that must be carried out with the same formalities as the original treaty, aka <b>must also be ratified</b> .
 Entry into Force	Time at which an <b>international agreement becomes legally binding</b> for the Countries that have signed and ratified it.
 International Treaty	<b>Agreement concluded between Countries</b> in written form and governed by international law <b>that establishes obligations between them</b> .
 Provisional application (PA)	Allows Signatory Countries to <b>take action on their treaty commitments on a provisional basis</b> , which can facilitate transboundary CCS projects. This helps <b>create progress</b> while the 2009 amendment still awaits entry into force (subject to acceptance by 2/3 of the parties).
 Ratification	<b>The international act</b> whereby a Country indicates its consent to be bound to a treaty. Ratification is <b>regulated at national level</b> and can take different forms. This Country becomes a <b>Contracting Party</b> .
 Signatory Country	A <b>Country that expresses its consent to be bound by a treaty</b> by signing it.