Q55

## What is 'Greenhouse Gas Protocol'? (a) It is an international accounting tool for government and business leaders to understand, quantify and manage greenhouse gas emissions (b) It is an initiative of the United Nations to offer financial incentives to developing countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adopt eco-friendly technologies (c) It is an intergovernmental agreement ratified by all the member countries of the United Nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to specified levels by the year 2022 (d) It is one of the multilateral REDD+ initiatives hosted by the World Bank Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2016 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

### Explanation

### (a) Official key

The Greenhouse Gas Protocol is an international accounting and reporting tool, developed by the World Resources Institute and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. Governments and companies use it to inventory, quantify and manage GHG emissions in a comparable way. That description is the official key.

### (b)

Financial incentives to developing countries to cut emissions and adopt clean technology describes climate finance or the Clean Development Mechanism / GCF world, not the GHG Protocol. The Protocol is a measurement standard, not a UN payment scheme, so this option is not the key.

### (c)

An intergovernmental treaty ratified by all UN members to hit specified cuts by 2022 does not exist under this name. The Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement are treaties of a different kind; the GHG Protocol is not a UN-wide ratified pact. This option is wrong.

### (d)

REDD+ initiatives hosted by the World Bank (such as the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility) are distinct from the WRI-WBCSD Protocol. This option therefore confuses two climate instruments.

### Summary

Official key is (a) an international accounting tool for government and business leaders to understand, quantify and manage greenhouse gas emissions. The GHG Protocol supplies corporate, city and mitigation-goal standards, not a UN cash window or a 2022 global treaty. World Bank REDD+ facilities are separate. Candidates should keep 'accounting standard' distinct from 'climate finance' and from UNFCCC treaties.

## Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

**Developers**
World Resources Institute (WRI) and WBCSD

**Scopes 1, 2, 3**
Direct, purchased-energy, and value-chain emissions in corporate inventories

**Paris Agreement**
UNFCCC treaty on NDCs; not the same as the Protocol

**ISO 14064**
Related family of GHG quantification standards

**Science Based Targets**
Corporate goal-setting that often uses Protocol inventories

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · https://wrapexams.com/upsc/prelims/gs/2016/what-is-greenhouse-gas-protocol/ · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com