

Trade and Environment:

How has the geopolitical and economic context
changed since we first made the connection?

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Since the late 1980s, the United States government has used provisions in international trade agreements to protect natural resources. The use of those provisions has been contested on several occasions at the World Trade Organization's Dispute Body Settlement. However, in 2001, the Appellate Body ruled that the United States government could use Article XX(g) to protect natural resources. In recent years, though, the Doha Round of negotiations has been less than fruitful. In the absence of multilateral agreement through the Doha Round, the United States and other countries have pursued numerous regional free trade agreements. These regional free trade agreements have varying degrees of environmental provisions. This talk will discuss how the geopolitical and economic context has evolved over the last two decades and what that means for how trade and environment linkages are made. And ultimately, what that means for resource protection.