



Environmental Data & Governance Initiative Website Access Assessment Report

envirodatagov.org | edgi.websitemonitoring@protonmail.com

Removal of EPA’s “International Priorities” and “International Grants and Cooperative Agreements” pages, as well as corresponding links, from the International Cooperation Website

April 23, 2018

Report writer: Sara Rubinow

Technical reviewer: Jake Wylie

Content reviewer: Toly Rinberg

Additional contributions: EDGI’s Website Monitoring Team

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Removal of EPA's "International Priorities" and "International Grants and Cooperative Agreements" pages, as well as corresponding links, from the International Cooperation Website

Overview

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has removed its "International Priorities" page, which listed "Strong Environmental Institutions," "Climate Change," "Air Quality," "Clean Water," "Toxic Chemicals," and "E-Waste" as priority areas. Likewise, the "International Grants and Cooperative Agreements" page and links to information about priorities and grant applications were removed from EPA's International Cooperation website.

Description

EPA's [International Cooperation](#) website reports EPA's initiatives "with global and bilateral partners...to promote sustainable development, protect vulnerable populations, facilitate commerce, and engage diplomatically around the world." The site also provides [resources](#) for international partners and users. In mid-October 2017, EPA's "[International Grants and Cooperative Agreements](#)" page was removed, reducing access to information about financial assistance projects as well as international and tribal EPA grants. In mid-December 2017, EPA's "[International Priorities](#)" page and links to international priorities and grant application pages were removed from the International Cooperation website. While almost all pages linked from the removed pages remain available, access to them has been significantly reduced by these changes. EPA has not provided an explanation to justify these removals and no timeline has been given for when replacement content may be added to the International Cooperation website.

The most notable changes to EPA's International Cooperation website are summarized here:

- 1. Removed "International Priorities" page ([Page 1](#))**
 - a. Removed information regarding EPA's six international priorities: Strong Environmental Institutions, Climate Change, Air Quality, Clean Water, Toxic Chemicals, and E-Waste. The priority sections included information and links to content about global and regional EPA efforts, as well as collaboration with specific countries (1.1a, 1.1b, 1.1c, 1.1d).

- 2. Removed "International Grants and Cooperative Agreements" page ([Page 2](#))**
 - a. Removed page included section titled "Examples of Previous Financial Assistance Projects," listing projects such as "Global Mercury Supply and Use Management" and "Environmental Governance in India." (2.1b).
 - b. Removed page included section titled "Additional Grant Information" section linking to [International Financial Assistance Projects](#) and [U.S. EPA grants and cooperative agreements](#) (2.1c).

- c. Removed page included links to tribal grants such as [Explore open grants for tribes](#), [Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreements](#), and [Indian Environmental General Assistance Program \(GAP\)](#) (2.1c).
- 3. Removed priorities and grant application links from the “International Cooperation” homepage ([Page 3](#))**
- a. Removed links to EPA’s removed “International Priorities” page (3.1a).
 - b. Removed link to “[International Grants and Cooperative Agreements](#)” (3.1c).
 - c. Removed link to “[International Climate Partnerships](#)” (3.1d).

Table of Contents

	Page Title	URL	Status
Page 1	International Priorities	https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/international-priorities	Page Removed
Page 2	International Grants and Cooperative Agreements	https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/international-grants-and-cooperative-agreements	Page Removed
Page 3	International Cooperation	https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation	Page Altered

Detailed Description of Changes

Page 1: International Priorities

- URL: <https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/international-priorities>
- Page removed between [December 13, 2017, 11:42 AM ET](#) and [December 14, 2017, 12:12 PM ET](#)
- Webpage is archived on the EPA [January 19 snapshot](#)

Screenshot 1.1

(1.1a) Removed page included two introductory paragraphs.

“The Environmental Protection Agency has a long history of international collaboration on a wide range of global environmental issues. In recent years, EPA’s bilateral and multilateral partnerships have taken on new significance in the face of shared environmental and governance challenges, such as global climate change and improving children’s environmental health outcomes.

It is our vision that environmental progress in cooperation with global partners can catalyze even greater progress toward protecting our domestic environment including adapting to climate change, ensuring national security, facilitating commerce, promoting sustainable development, and engaging diplomatically around the world. To advance all of these goals, EPA has identified the following six international priorities.”

(1.1b) Removed page included six sections detailing EPA international priorities: [Strong Environmental Institutions](#), [Climate Change](#), [Air Quality](#), [Clean Water](#), [Toxic Chemicals](#), and [E-Waste](#). This report only details the content of sections “Climate Change” and “Toxic Chemicals” below as representative examples. (**Note:** *On the “International Priorities” page, “Strong Environmental Institutions” was the section immediately visible when the page loaded; the user could view other sections by clicking on tabbed navigation.*)

(1.1c) Removed section [Climate Change](#) included two paragraphs and two subsections. All linked pages in the section were live as of March 18, 2018. (**Note:** *the links below are to the Internet Archive snapshots of the corresponding pages from March 18, 2018*). Section included:

“EPA has taken important steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at home, but the global challenge of climate change requires a global solution. To make significant progress in reducing the effects of climate change, pollution must be cut throughout the world.

EPA will promote global strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants such as methane from landfills and black carbon from cookstoves and diesel engines. These pollutants are damaging especially vulnerable regions such as the Himalayan glaciers and the Arctic.

- Global and Regional Efforts:
 - [Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles](#)
 - [Asian Development Bank](#)
 - [Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas*](#)
 - [Global Methane Initiative](#)
 - [Addressing Black Carbon in the Russian Arctic](#)
 - [Opportunities to Reduce Black Carbon in South Asia](#)
 - [International Climate Adaptation](#)
- Explore our work in:
 - [Sub-Saharan Africa](#)
 - [China](#)
 - [India](#)
 - [Indonesia](#)
 - [Vietnam](#)
 - [Taiwan](#)
 - [Europe](#)

*** Note:** “Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas” is not a US federal government website.

(1.1d) Removed section [Toxic Chemicals](#) included two paragraphs and four subsections. All linked pages in the section were live as of March 18, 2018. (Note: the links below are to the Internet Archive snapshots of the corresponding pages from March 18, 2018). Section included: “Chemicals are prevalent in everything from food to baby bottles. As children develop, they are especially vulnerable to these chemicals, particularly mercury and lead.

While EPA works closely with Congress to strengthen our chemical laws, the agency also will work with our global partners to provide protections for people and consistency for industry. In working with partners like the United Nations Environment Programme, EPA will strive to reduce or eliminate the impact of pesticides and other toxic chemicals.

- Global and Regional Efforts:
 - [Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint](#)
 - [Persistent Organic Pollutants \(POPs\)](#)
 - [Arctic Council's Arctic Contaminants Action Program \(ACAP\)](#)
 - EPA played an early role in the Chemical Information Exchange Network (CIEN), launched by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2000.
- Explore our work in:
 - [China](#)
 - [India](#)

- [Indonesia](#)
- [Vietnam](#)
- [Chile](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Europe](#)
- [Mexico](#)
- Mercury:
 - [International Actions for Reducing Mercury Emissions and Use](#)
 - [Global Context](#)
 - [Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining](#)
 - [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#)
 - [UNEP Global Mercury Partnership](#)
- EPA provides technical support and capacity building for the negotiation and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals and waste, including*:
 - [The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal \(Basel\)](#)
 - [The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants \(POPs\)](#)
 - [The Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent \(PIC\)](#)
 - [The Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution \(LRTAP\)](#)
 - [The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management \(SAICM\)](#)

** Note: The links in the last subsection do not link to US federal government pages.*

Important Note: This report does not include an analysis of EPA International Cooperation country/region pages for language alteration. The pages for [Morocco](#) and [Israel](#) specifically reference “EPA’s six International Priorities,” while the pages for other countries have language reflecting the six international priorities previously listed on the “International Priorities” page, including the pages for [China](#), [Europe](#), [India](#), [Indonesia](#), [Singapore](#), [Taiwan](#), and [Vietnam](#).

i We've made some changes to [EPA.gov](#). If the information you are looking for is not here, you may be able to find it on the [EPA Web Archive](#) or the [January 19, 2017 Web Snapshot](#).


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International Cooperation

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International Priorities

The Environmental Protection Agency has a long history of international collaboration on a wide range of global environmental issues. In recent years, EPA's bilateral and multilateral partnerships have taken on new significance in the face of shared environmental and governance challenges, such as global climate change and improving children's environmental health outcomes.

It is our vision that environmental progress in cooperation with global partners can catalyze even greater progress toward protecting our domestic environment including adapting to climate change, ensuring national security, facilitating commerce, promoting sustainable development, and engaging diplomatically around the world. To advance all of these goals, EPA has identified the following six international priorities.

[Strong Institutions](#)
[Climate Change](#)
[Air Quality](#)
[Water](#)
[Toxic Chemicals](#)
[E-Waste](#)

Strong Environmental Institutions

Countries need adequate governmental structures to enforce environmental protections. EPA will work with countries such as India, Ghana, Kenya and Brazil to develop and support the promotion of good governance, improve judicial and legal structures and design the regulatory systems necessary for effective environmental protection around the world.

Explore our work in:

- [Sub-Saharan Africa](#)
- [China](#)
- [Indonesia](#)
- [Vietnam](#)
- [Taiwan](#)
- [Brazil](#)
- [Chile](#)
- [Central America and the Dominican Republic](#)
- [Morocco](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Europe](#)

[Contact Us](#) to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem.

Internet Archive's Wayback Machine: Last snapshot of live page from [12/13/2017](#)

Page 2: International Grants and Cooperative Agreements

- URL:
<https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/international-grants-and-cooperative-agreements>
- Page removed between [October 25, 2017, 8:40 PM ET](#) and [October 26, 2017, 8:49 PM ET](#)
- Webpage is archived on the EPA [January 19 snapshot](#)

Screenshot 2.1

(2.1a) Removed page included an introductory section. All linked pages in the section are as they appeared October 25, 2017. (**Note:** *the links below are to the Internet Archive snapshots of the corresponding pages*). Section included:

“EPA provides grants and enters into cooperative agreements that support protecting human health and the environment while advancing U.S. national interests through international environmental collaboration.

Our [International Priorities](#) are:

- [Building Strong Environmental Institutions and Legal Structures](#)
- [Combating Climate Change by Limiting Pollutants](#)
- [Improving Air Quality](#)
- [Expanding Access to Clean Water](#)
- [Reducing Exposure to Toxic Chemicals](#)
- [Cleaning Up Electronic Waste \(E-Waste\)”](#)

(2.1b) Removed page included a section titled “Examples of Previous Financial Assistance Projects” with a numbered list:

1. Global Mercury Supply and Use Management
2. Environmental Governance in India
3. Protecting At-Risk Communities in Sub-Saharan Africa
4. Managing Pollution from POPs and Other Toxic Substances in China
5. Supporting the National Program of Action for Protection of the Arctic
6. Promoting Cleaner Fuels and Vehicles in Developing and Transitioning Countries
7. Promoting Environmentally Sound Chemicals Management Worldwide”

(2.1c) Removed page included a section titled “Additional Grant information”. All linked pages in the section were live as of March 18, 2018. (**Note:** *the links below are to the Internet Archive snapshots of the corresponding pages from March 18, 2018*). Section included:

“For competitive awards, EPA will review and evaluate applications, proposals, and/or submissions in accordance with the terms, conditions, and criteria stated in

the competitive announcement. Competitions will be conducted in accordance with EPA policies/regulations for competing assistance agreements.

- [International Financial Assistance Projects](#): Grants and Authorizations
- [U.S. EPA grants and cooperative agreements](#): General information
- [Open competitive grant opportunities](#) from all U.S. federal grant-making agencies.
- [Catalogue of Federal and Domestic Assistance \(CFDA\)](#): Learn about other grant-making U.S. agencies.
- [Information on Receiving International Grant Payments](#)

The Office of International and Tribal Affairs also has responsibility for **tribal grants**.

- [Explore open grants for tribes](#)
- Full information: [Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreements](#)
- Full information: [Indian Environmental General Assistance Program \(GAP\)](#)

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International Priorities

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International Grants and Cooperative Agreements

EPA provides grants and enters into cooperative agreements that support protecting human health and the environment while advancing U.S. national interests through international environmental collaboration.

Our [International Priorities](#) are:

- [Building Strong Environmental Institutions and Legal Structures](#)
- [Combating Climate Change by Limiting Pollutants](#)
- [Improving Air Quality](#)
- [Expanding Access to Clean Water](#)
- [Reducing Exposure to Toxic Chemicals](#)
- [Cleaning Up Electronic Waste \(E-Waste\)](#)

Examples of Previous Financial Assistance Projects

1. Global Mercury Supply and Use Management
2. Environmental Governance in India
3. Protecting At-Risk Communities in Sub-Saharan Africa
4. Managing Pollution from POPs and Other Toxic Substances in China
5. Supporting the National Program of Action for Protection of the Arctic
6. Promoting Cleaner Fuels and Vehicles in Developing and Transitioning Countries
7. Promoting Environmentally Sound Chemicals Management Worldwide

Additional Grant Information

For competitive awards, EPA will review and evaluate applications, proposals, and/or submissions in accordance with the terms, conditions, and criteria stated in the competitive announcement. Competitions will be conducted in accordance with EPA policies/regulations for competing assistance agreements.

- [International Financial Assistance Projects](#): Grants and Authorizations
- [U.S. EPA grants and cooperative agreements](#): General information
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- [Information on Receiving International Grant Payments](#)

The Office of International and Tribal Affairs also has responsibility for **tribal grants**.

- [Explore open grants for tribes](#)
- Full information: [Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreements](#)
- Full information: [Indian Environmental General Assistance Program \(GAP\)](#)

Internet Archive's Wayback Machine: Last snapshot of live page from [10/25/2017](#)

Page 3: International Cooperation

- URL: <https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation>
- Side-by-side View: 11/16/2017 - 12/15/2017
- Changes occurred between [December 11, 2017, 11:03 AM ET](#) and [December 12, 2017, 11:30 PM ET](#)
- Previous version of webpage is archived on the EPA [January 19 snapshot](#)

Screenshot 3.1

(3.1a) Removed “Priorities” section, which included links to the “International Priorities” page ([Page 1](#)). All linked pages are as they appeared December 11, 2017. (**Note:** *the links below are to the Internet Archive snapshots of the corresponding pages*). Section included:

- “Priorities
 - [Strong Environmental Institutions](#)
 - [Climate Change](#)
 - [Air Quality](#)
 - [Clean Water](#)
 - [Toxic Chemicals](#)
 - [Electronic Waste \(E-Waste\)](#)

(3.1b) Added “Popular Pages” section where the “Priorities” section had previously been located. All linked pages in the section are as they appeared December 12, 2017. Section includes:

- “Popular Pages
 - [Cleaning Up Electronic Waste](#)
 - [Protecting the Marine Environment](#)
 - [Transboundary Air Pollution](#)
 - [Collaboration with China](#)
 - [Collaboration with Canada](#)
 - [Introduction to Public Participation](#)
 - [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#)

(3.1c) Removed “Apply for Grants” link in “Tools” section.

- The link had pointed to the “[International Grants and Cooperative Agreements](#)” page ([Page 2](#)) at the URL <https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/international-grants-and-cooperative-agreements>, which was removed between October 25, . 2017 and October 26, 2017.

(3.1d) Removed link “International Climate Partnerships” with the link URL <https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/international-climate-partnerships>. Page is [currently removed](#); previous version stored in [EPA January 19 snapshot](#).

International Cooperation | US EPA
 https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation
 View this diff in Versionsla (account: versionista1)
 From: November 16, 2017, 8:41:05 PM EST To: December 15, 2017, 11:18:09 AM EST
 Comparison: Side-by-Side Rendered

Left Panel (November 16, 2017):

- PRIORITIES**
 - Strong Environmental Institutions
 - Climate Change
 - Air Quality
 - Clean Water
 - Toxic Chemicals
 - Electronic Waste (E-Waste)
- WHERE WE WORK**
 - Asia/Pacific
 - Europe
 - Eurasia
 - Latin America and the Caribbean
 - Middle East
 - North America
 - Sub-Saharan Africa
- TOOLS**
 - Request a Visit to EPA
 - Apply for Grants
 - Importer/Exporter Requirements
 - Public Participation Guide
 - International E-Waste Management Network
 - Technical Review Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment
 - Additional Resources for International Users
- GLOBAL INITIATIVES**
 - Partnering with International Organizations
 - International Actions to Reduce Mercury
 - Cleaning Up Electronic Waste
 - Environment, Trade and Finance
 - Protecting the Marine Environment
 - Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles
 - Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paint
- Participation**
 - Tweets by EPA Office of International and Tribal Affairs
- Related Topics**
 - International Climate Partnerships
 - Environmentally Sound Management of Waste
 - Global Methane Initiative
- For EPA Staff**
 - Remote Access

Right Panel (December 15, 2017):

- POPULAR PAGES**
 - Cleaning Up Electronic Waste
 - Protecting the Marine Environment
 - Transboundary Air Pollution
 - Collaboration with China
 - Collaboration with Canada
 - Introduction to Public Participation
 - Minamata Convention on Mercury
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 - Global Methane Initiative
- For EPA Staff**
 - Remote Access

EDGI's website monitoring software: side-by-side view comparing versions from November 16, 2017 and December 15, 2017. **Previous version of the page from December 11, 2017 and current version from December 12, 2017** are stored in the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine.