



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalsivam Kamarajar"

Barcelona Convention

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Context

- The **Barcelona Convention** is a **regional environmental treaty** aimed at protecting the **Mediterranean Sea** from pollution.
- It often appears in the context of **marine conservation, regional cooperation, and climate change negotiations**.

Overview

- **Full Name:** Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution
- **Adoption:** 1976
- **Entry into Force:** 1978
- **Amendment / Protocols:** Updated by the **1995 Protocol** (Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean)
- **Secretariat:** United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP / MAP – Mediterranean Action Plan**)

Objectives

1 **Prevent, reduce, and control pollution** in the Mediterranean Sea from:

o Land-based sources

o Shipping and maritime activities

o Hazardous and toxic substances

2 **Protect and preserve marine environment** and coastal ecosystems.

3 **Promote regional cooperation** among Mediterranean countries for sustainable development.

Key Features

- **Pollution Control Measures:** Addresses **oil spills, chemicals, sewage, and waste** discharge.
- **Ecosystem Protection:** Encourages **biodiversity conservation, marine protected areas, and habitat restoration**.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Provides a **legal framework for Mediterranean countries** to coordinate environmental policies.
- **Compliance Mechanisms:** Includes **reporting, monitoring, and environmental impact assessment** protocols.

Significance

- One of the **earliest regional marine environmental treaties** globally.
- Strengthens **regional commitment** to marine sustainability.
- Provides a model for other **regional seas conventions**.

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- Supports **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 14: Life Below Water)**.