



Barcelona Convention

Published On: 06-12-2025

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).**