

Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and its Protocols

History of the Convention

The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) or Cartagena Convention is a regional legal agreement for the protection of the Caribbean Sea.

The Convention was adopted in Cartagena, Colombia on 24 March 1983 and entered into force on 11 October 1986.

The Convention is supported by three technical agreements or Protocols on Oil Spills, Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) and Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS).

1. The [Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region](#) was adopted in 1983 and entered into force on 11 October 1986.
2. The [Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife \(SPAW\) in the Wider Caribbean Region](#) was adopted on 18 January 1990 and entered into force on 18 June 2000.
3. The [Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities](#) was adopted on 6 October 1999 and entered into force on 13 August 2010.

The Regional Coordinating Unit (UNEP-CAR/RCU) was established in 1986 in Kingston, Jamaica and is the Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.

The Convention covers several aspects of marine pollution for which the Contracting Parties must adopt specific measures. These measures include to prevent, reduce and control:

- pollution from ships
- pollution caused by dumping
- pollution from sea-bed activities
- airborne pollution
- pollution from land-based sources and activities

Countries who are Contracting Parties to the Convention are also required to:

- protect and preserve rare or fragile ecosystems and habitats of depleted, threatened or endangered species; and
- develop technical and other guidelines for the planning and environmental impact assessments of important development projects.

Country profile

Date ratified: July 14, 2010 (including the Oil Spills Protocol, SPAW Protocol, and the LBS Protocol).

For more information on the Cartagena Convention, click [here](#)

Sources

<https://www.unep.org/cep/who-we-are/cartagena-convention>

<https://www.unep.org/cep/resources/publication/cartagena-convention-booklet>