



BASEL CONVENTION

History of the Convention

The accumulation of hazardous and other wastes poses a significant threat to the health of humans and the environment as well as the livelihood of people worldwide. Furthermore, how these wastes are managed, treated and disposed of by their generators can add to these impacts. The most important multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) resulting from international efforts to achieve proper management of hazardous wastes is the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in 1989 and it came into force in 1992. It is the most comprehensive global environmental agreement on hazardous wastes and other wastes. With 175 Parties (as at 31 March 2011), it has nearly universal membership. The Convention aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation, transboundary movements and management of hazardous wastes and other wastes. The Basel Convention regulates the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes and obliges its Parties to ensure that

such wastes are managed and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. The Convention covers toxic, poisonous, explosive, corrosive, flammable, ecotoxic and infectious wastes. Parties also have an obligation to minimize the quantities that are transported, to treat and dispose of wastes as close as possible to their place of generation and to prevent or minimize the generation of wastes at source.

Country profile

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National Focal Point

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

Sources

<https://www.unep.org/resources/report/basel-convention-control-transboundary-movements-hazardous-wastes>

<https://caricom.org/wp-content/uploads/BCRC-CARICOM-Secretariat-Basel-Convention-MEA-Fact-Sheet.pdf>