

The Convention provides the legal framework for cooperative regional and national actions in the wider Caribbean region. The Convention requires countries to adopt measures to prevent, reduce and control airborne pollution and pollution from:

- ships;
- dumping;
- sea-bed activities; and
- land-based sources and activities.

This is achieved through the following protocols:

1. Oil Spills Protocol;
2. Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol; and
3. Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution.

The EPD implements and raises awareness about the provisions of the Convention.

5. The London Convention

The Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter 1972, or the "London Convention", seeks to promote the effective control of all sources of marine pollution and to prevent pollution of the sea by dumping of wastes and other matter.

The EPD assesses proposals for disposal at sea, reviews applications for dredging and issues licences where appropriate.

6. Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

SAICM is a policy framework for international action on chemical hazards. It is not legally binding. It seeks to ensure that by 2020 chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

Using the principles of the Strategic Approach, the EPD undertook an assessment of the systems for the sound management of chemicals and developed plans to strengthen those systems. The plans were developed with input from stakeholders from government, industry, academia and civil society.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & DRAINAGE

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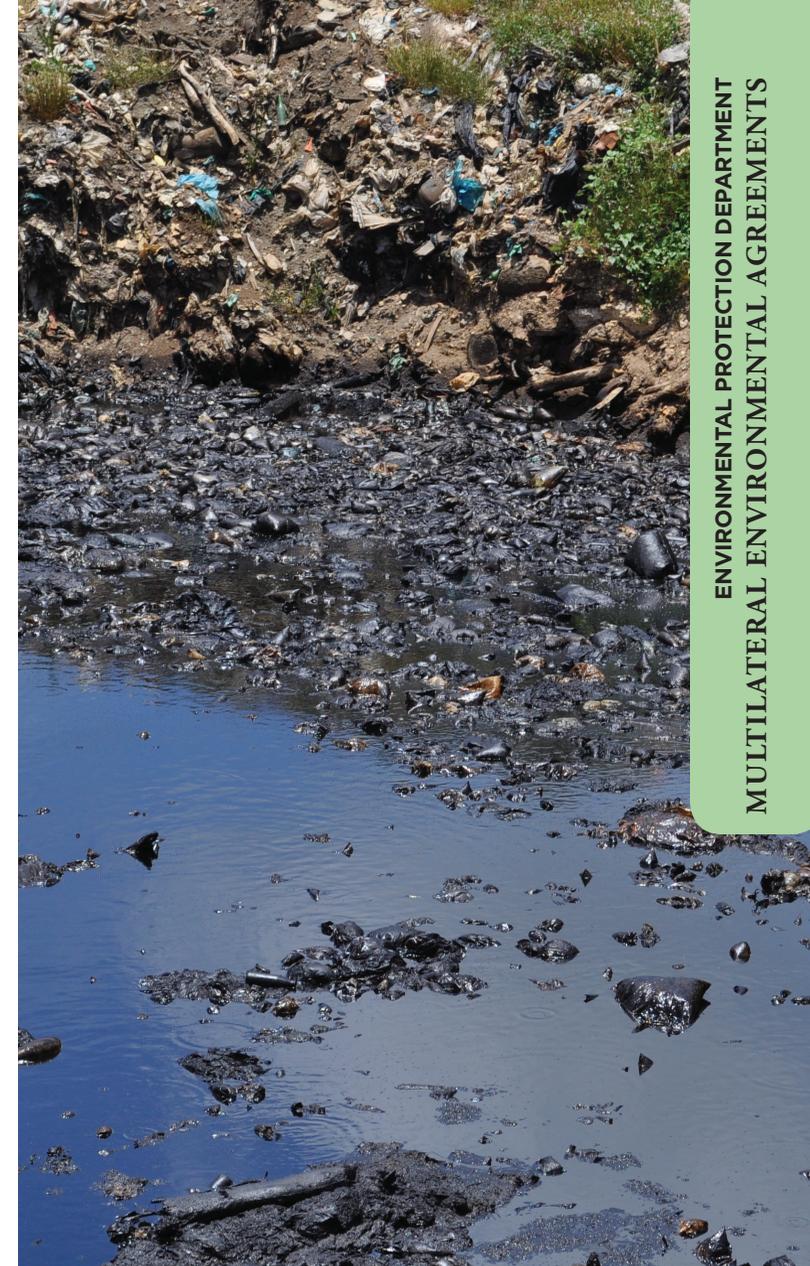
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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

**MULTILATERAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
AGREEMENTS**



Multilateral Environmental Agreements

WHAT ARE MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS?

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is responsible for a number of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). MEAs are legally binding agreements relating to the environment between three or more states. The benefits of MEAs include:

- Promotion of cooperation on environmental issues that affect all countries and that no individual country can solve on its own.
- Utilisation of available resources to the benefit of all the states that signed the agreement.
- Promotion and sharing of best practices in managing environmental challenges.
- Mobilisation of financial and technical resources to address common problems.

The Environmental Protection Department is responsible for several MEAs and international agreements as described below.

1. The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (The Basel Convention)

The Basel Convention aims to protect human health and the environment from harmful effects of hazardous waste. The Convention:

- provides a system for informing countries of the shipment of hazardous waste before the waste reaches their shores;
- encourages minimization of hazardous waste generation; and
- promotes environmentally sound waste management.

Hazardous materials which cannot be treated or disposed locally must be shipped overseas for disposal in an environmentally acceptable manner. The Basel Convention ensures that hazardous waste is shipped only to countries that are Parties to the Convention and are capable of properly disposing of the waste. This reduces the adverse negative impacts on human health and the environment from these wastes.

The role of the EPD is to:

- Regulate the shipment of hazardous waste overseas for disposal in keeping with the requirements of the Convention; and
- raise awareness about the Basel Convention.

2. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

The Stockholm Convention seeks to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants, POPs for short. The Convention requires participating countries to reduce and, where possible, eliminate the production, use and release of POPs.

POPs are chemicals that are hazardous to human health and the environment. POPs are highly toxic,

very persistent, highly mobile and can build up in fatty tissue.

At the beginning of 2016, Parties to the Convention identified twenty six (26) substances whose production and use need to be regulated. These substances can be divided into three groups:

- pesticides;
- industrial chemicals; and
- unintentionally produced by-products from manufacturing and incomplete combustion processes e.g. the production of some pesticides and chlorinated substances.

In 2007, the Government of Barbados endorsed a National Implementation Plan for the management of POPs. This plan outlines activities that various stakeholders need to undertake in order to minimize the negative impacts of POPs.

3. Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

The CWC aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons. Countries, in turn, must take the steps necessary to enforce the tenets of the Convention.

The EPD:

- reports on actions taken to achieve national obligations under the convention;
- facilitates training for local officials in order to help Barbados identify and respond to threats posed by chemicals; and
- raises awareness about the Convention.

4. The Cartagena Convention

Cartagena Convention is the term used to refer to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region. It is a comprehensive agreement for the protection and development of the marine environment.