

Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import into Africa and Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa

No.	Country	No.	Country
1.	Benin	13.	Libya
2.	Burkina Faso	14.	Mali
3.	Burundi	15.	Mozambique
4.	Cameroon	16.	Mauritius
5.	Côte d'Ivoire	17.	Niger
6.	Comoros	18.	Senegal
7.	Congo	19.	Sudan
8.	Democratic Rep. of Congo	20.	Tanzania
9.	Egypt	21.	Togo
10.	Ethiopia	22.	Tunisia
11.	Gabon	23.	Uganda
12.	Gambia	24.	Zimbabwe

Below is a list of countries that have signed but not ratified the Bamako Convention:

No.	Country	No.	Country
1.	Angola	10.	Liberia
2.	Central African Rep.	11.	Madagascar
3.	Chad	12.	Nigeria
4.	Djibouti	13.	Rwanda



No.	Country	No.	Country
5.	Ghana	14.	Sierra Leone
6.	Guinea-Bissau	15.	Somalia
7.	Guinea	16.	Sao Tome & Principe
8.	Kenya	17.	Swaziland
9.	Lesotho	18.	Zambia

Below is a list of countries that have signed the Bamako Convention:

No.	Country	No.	Country
1.	Algeria	7.	Mauritania
2.	Botswana	8.	Namibia
3.	Cape Verde	9.	South Africa
4.	Equatorial Guinea	10.	Sahrawi Arab Democratic
5.	Eritrea	11.	Seychelles
6.	Malawi		

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WHAT IS THE BAMAKO CONVENTION

The Bamako Convention is an African convention that speaks on the ban on the import into Africa and the Control of Trans-boundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa. The Convention prohibits all imports of hazardous waste into Africa, including radioactive waste. The Bamako Convention provides strong legal prohibitions on hazardous waste import and dumping by declaring such activity an illegal and criminal act. The prohibition also applies to products which have been banned, cancelled or withdrawn from registration for environmental or health reasons. The Convention also prohibits hazardous waste incineration at sea or their disposal in the seabed and sub-seabed. Other features include the adoption of the precautionary principle in relation to waste generation and promotion of cleaner production. Trans-boundary transfer of polluting technologies is also prohibited under the Convention. This convention is therefore Africa's regional response to curb the environmental threat posed to the continent and its people by hazardous wastes, which negatively impact on human health and the environment. The Convention was negotiated by twelve nations of the Organization of African Unity at Bamako, Mali in January, 1991 and came into force on April 22, 1998. The African Union Commission as the depository of the instruments of ratification.

WHY IS THE BAMAKO CONVENTION IMPORTANT

Hazardous wastes are dumped in Africa in several disguises, such as the dumping of

outdated mercury process and production equipment, e wastes, agricultural wastes etc. Toxic wastes are being dumped into our waters and harm many plants and animals in the ocean. About 25 million tons of waste including scrap metal, chemicals, and acids were dumped into the ocean in a span of ten years. Toxic substances in these wastes can quickly be passed along the food chain and may eventually end up in our systems and will have adverse health and environmental impacts. Huge amounts of obsolete pesticides and other chemical wastes are stocked in Africa and contribute to land degradation and water contamination, resulting in serious health implications.

This problem is compounded by low level of awareness of the average African, absence of disposal facilities, high cost of destruction, and porous borders. Controlling the trans-boundary movement and entry of these hazardous wastes under the Bamako Convention would help minimise the threat due to these wastes. The obligations of this Convention are closely related to and supportive of other international conventions such as the Basel Convention, the Basel Ban Amendment and the Waigani Convention which are also intended to control and limit the global trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BE A PARTY TO THE BAMAKO CONVENTION

Although the objective of the Bamako Convention is to prevent the import of hazardous wastes including radioactive wastes

into African nations, this provision is applicable only to contracting parties i.e. countries that are parties to the Convention.

Other obligations of the Convention to contracting parties include the banning of the import of hazardous wastes products and technologies; dumping of wastes; and controlling intra-African trade or export of hazardous wastes.

The Bamako Convention also prohibits ocean disposal of all types in contracting party states and obliges these countries to minimize their own intra-African waste trade and only conduct it with prior informed consent. Parties to this convention are also obliged to engage in environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous wastes generated within their countries.

The Convention also makes provision to provide information to contracting parties on the important components of implementing the Convention.

COUNTRIES THAT SIGNED AND/OR RATIFIED THE CONVENTION

Although the Bamako Convention came into force in 1998 to date only twenty-four African countries have ratified it.

Below is a list of countries that have signed and ratified the Bamako Convention, or have acceded to it.