

**HARMONIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL
FRAMEWORK TO PRESERVE MARINE BIODIVERSITY IN
THE COASTAL REGIONS OF PAKISTAN**



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**The thesis is presented as satisfying the prerequisites for the degree of
LL.M.**

(Int'l and Maritime Laws)

SCHOOL OF LAW

BAHRIA UNIVERSITY ISLAMABAD

2024

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FRAMEWORK TO PRESERVE MARINE BIODIVERSITY IN THE COASTAL
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DEDICATION

“Dedicated to my parents, whose unwavering support shaped my academic journey.”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Before anything else, I express my deep thanks to Allah, the Divinely Merciful and Benevolent, for bestowing with me the understanding, insight, and courage desired for conquering difficulties.

I'm extremely indebted to my supervisor, Commander (R) Abdul Ghaffar, for his consistent guidance, invaluable assistance, and profound observations, which have illuminated my path during this task.

Sincere appreciation belongs to our research coordinator, Dr. Sohaib Mukhtar, who provided positive comments and consistent motivation, which elevated the originality of the dissertation. His comprehension and distinct perspectives proved productive.

Finally, I consider myself incredibly grateful to my mother for encouraging me to pursue this degree and also to my close companions for giving me ongoing support and confidence in my capabilities. The support you provide has served as a cornerstone of my course.

ABSTRACT

This thesis explores the urgent need for comprehensive measures to address the emerging threats facing marine biodiversity in Pakistan's coastal regions. It emphasizes the necessity of aligning Pakistani laws with international standards to effectively conserve and preserve the diverse ecosystems along the coastline. The research investigates key threats, such as overfishing, marine pollution, and climate change, which are degrading marine ecosystems. It evaluates Pakistan's current legal framework for marine biodiversity conservation and assesses its effectiveness. Furthermore, the study examines Pakistan's commitments to international conventions related to marine biodiversity and analyzes the country's initiatives, and measures for protection. It identifies shortcomings in existing laws highlighting the importance of international collaboration joint research programs information exchange and the adoption of modern technology to enhance compliance procedures. A consistent and harmonized approach to compliance is crucial to strengthen, maritime preservation efforts, and promote equitable growth in coastal communities. The findings of this thesis will inform policymakers and stakeholders about pressing threats to marine biodiversity, and facilitate the development of initiatives to conserve and protect coastal ecosystems in Pakistan.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
ABT	Aichi Biodiversity Targets
AFS	Anti-Fouling Standards
APFIC	Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BWMC	Ballast Water Management Convention
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FOC	Framework of Cooperation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management)
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulatory
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zones

MFF	Mangroves for the Future
MGD	Million Gallons per Day
MoCC	Ministry of Climate Change
MoD	Ministry of Defense
MoMA	Ministry of Maritime Affairs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategic and Action Plans
NCB	National Coordinating Body
NEP	National Environment Policy
NP	Nagoya Protocol
PEPA	Pakistan Environmental Protection Act
PMSA	Pakistan Maritime Security Agency
PMZA	Pakistan Maritime Zones Act
PNSC	Pakistan National Shipping Cooperation
RC	Ramsar Convention
REMO's	Regional Fisheries Management Organizations
SAR	Search and Rescue
TED	Turtle Excluding Device
UK	United Kingdom
UNCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

UNHST	United Nations High Seas Treaty
UNFSA	United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	Worldwide Fund for Nature

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