



Economic Community of West African States

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**, has emerged at the forefront of international attention due to its active involvement in addressing the aftermath of the [coup in Niger](#).

- This coup, which ousted the **democratically elected President and ushered in a military coup**, has raised alarm bells globally.

What is the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)?

▪ About:

- The ECOWAS, also known as CEDEAO in French, is a regional **intergovernmental organization established in 1975**.
- Created through the **Lagos Treaty**, ECOWAS aims to foster **economic integration, cooperation, and development among West African nations**.
- The Secretariat, headquartered in **Abuja, Nigeria**.

▪ Member States:

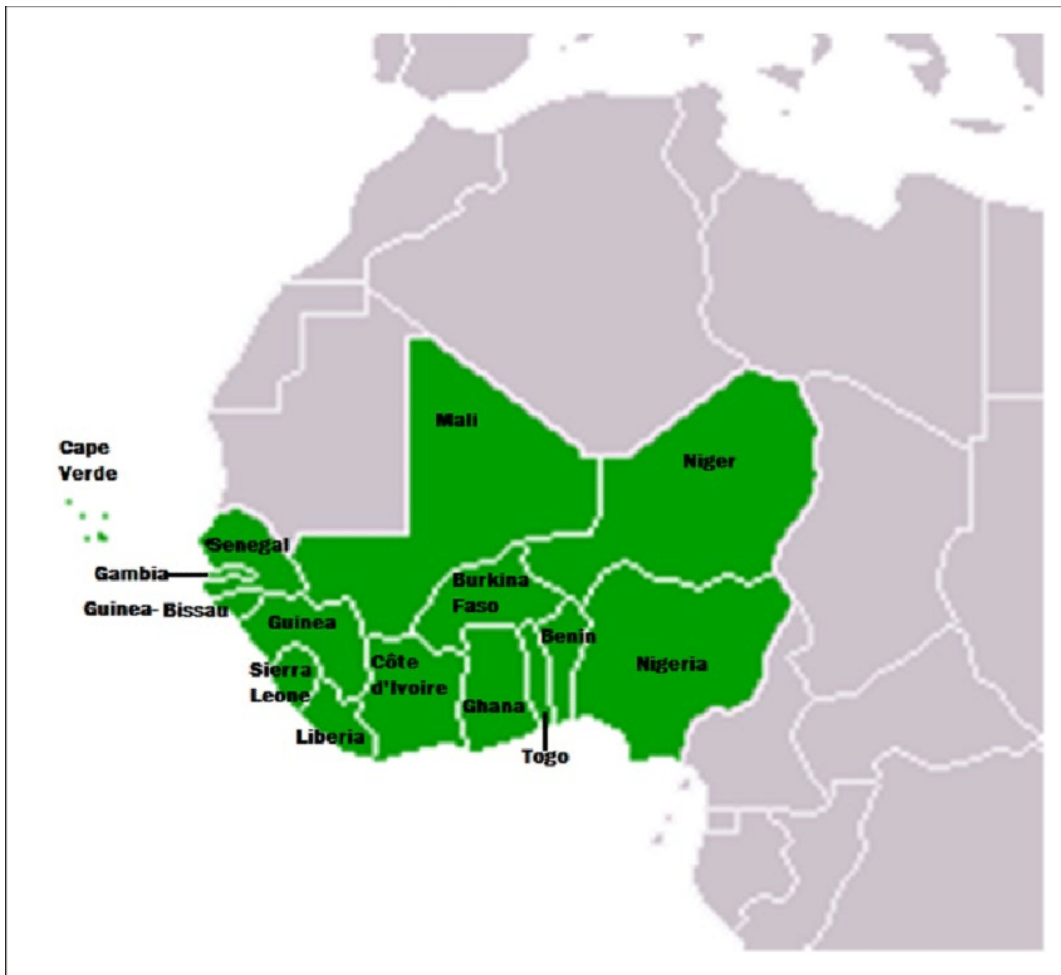
- ECOWAS consists of 15 member states: **Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal, and Togo**.

▪ Primary Goals and Objectives:

- Promoting **economic integration among member states**.
- Facilitating the **free movement of people, goods, and services**.
- Enhancing **regional cooperation** in various sectors, including industry, transport, energy, and finance.
- Fostering a **borderless region governed by democratic principles, the rule of law, and good governance**.
- Addressing security and political challenges through collaboration and conflict resolution.

▪ Achievements and Initiatives:

- The establishment of a regional peacekeeping force known as **the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG)**, which played pivotal roles in resolving conflicts in **Liberia and Sierra Leone during the 1990s and early 2000s**.
- Launching the **ECOWAS Single Currency Initiative to create a common currency**, fostering economic integration and trade.
- Supporting efforts to combat terrorism, human trafficking, and organized crime through joint initiatives and collaboration.



UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question:

Q. In the recent years Chad, Guinea, Mali and Sudan caught international attention for which one of the following reasons is common to all of them? (2023)

- (a) Discovery of rich deposits of rare earth elements
- (b) Establishment of Chinese military bases
- (c) Southward expansion of Sahara Desert
- (d) Successful coups

Ans: (d)