



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Hazardous waste storage and disposal in the South Pacific

UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 48
Appendices

Prepared in co-operation with







SPC

SPEC

ESCAP

PREFACE

Iwelve years ago the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 5–16 June 1972) adopted the Action Plan for the Human Environment, including the General Principles for Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution. In the light of the results of the Stockholm Conference, the United Nations General Assembly decided to establish the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to "serve as a focal point for environmental action and co-ordination within the United Nations system" (General Assembly resolution 2997(XXVII) of 15 December 1972). The organizations of the United Nations system were invited "to adopt the measures that may be required to undertake concerted and co-ordinated programmes with regard to international problems", and the "intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have an interest in the field of the environment" were also invited "to lend their full support and collaboration to the United Nations with a view to achieving the largest possible degree of co-operation and co-ordination". Subsequently, the Governing Council of UNEP chose "Oceans" as one of the priority areas in which it would focus efforts to fulfil its catalytic and co-ordinating role.

The Regional Seas Programme was initiated by UNEP in 1974. Since then the Governing Council of UNEP has repeatedly endorsed a regional approach to the control of marine pollution and the management of marine and coastal resources and has requested the development of regional action plans.

The Regional Seas Programme at present includes eleven regions \(\frac{1}{2} \) and has over 120 coastal States participating in it. It is conceived as an action-oriented programme having concern not only for the consequences but also for the causes of environmental degradation and encompassing a comprehensive approach to combating environmental problems through the management of marine and coastal areas. Each regional action plan is formulated according to the needs of the region as perceived by the Governments concerned. It is designed to link assessment of the quality of the marine environment and the causes of its deterioration with activities for the management and development of the marine and coastal environment. The action plans promote the parallel development of regional legal agreements and of action-oriented programme activities

The idea for a regional South Pacific environment management programme came from the South Pacific Commission (SPC) in 1974. Consultations between SPC and UNEP led, in 1975, to the suggestion of organizing a South Pacific Conference on the Human Environment. The South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) soon joined SPC's initiative and UNEP supported the development of what became known as the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) as part of its Regional Seas Programme.

Mediterranean, Kuwait Action Plan Region, West and Central Africa, Wider Caribbean, East Asian Seas, South-East Pacific, South Pacific, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, East Africa, South-West Atlantic and South Asian Seas.

<u>2</u>/ UNEP: Achievements and planned development of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and comparable programmes sponsored by other bodies. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 1. UNEP, 1982.

A Co-ordinating Group, consisting of representatives from SPC, SPEC, ESCAP and UNEP, was established in 1980 to co-ordinate the preparations for the Conference. As part of these preparations, 18 "country reports" and 13 "topic reviews" were prepared identifying the environmental problems of individual countries and the region $\frac{1}{2}$.

These reports and reviews were examined by a technical meeting (Noumea, June 1981) attended by experts from the South Pacific region.

The meeting also drafted the basic working documents which were submitted to the Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific (Rarotonga, 8 - 11 March 1982).

The Conference adopted: the South Pacific Declaration on Natural Resources and the Environment; the Action Plan for Managing the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region; and agreed on the administrative and financial arrangements needed to support the implementation of the Action Plan and on the workplan for the next phase of SPREP 4.

At the request of the States and Territories of the South Pacific Region, negotiations were initiated to develop, in the framework of the Action Plan, a Convention for the Protection and Development of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region with specific protocols related to (i) prevention of pollution by dumping and (ii) co-operation in combating oil pollution emergencies. In order to facilitate the negotiation of these legal instruments, a review of hazardous waste storage and disposal in the South Pacific Region was commissioned from Messrs R. Golob and J. Egan of World Information Systems, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

The review was issued as

SPC/SPEC/ESCAP/UNEP: Hazardous waste storage and disposal in the South Pacific. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 48. UNEP, 1984.

and the present document reproduces the appendices to the review which were collected by Messrs R. Golob and J. Egan.

^{3/} The Country Reports and Topic Reviews have been published by SPC, 1981. For an overview based on these documents see:

⁻ A. L. DAHL and I. L. BAUMGART: The state of the environment in the South Pacific. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 31. UNEP, 1983.

^{4/} SPC/SPEC/ESCAP/UNEP: Action Plan for managing the natural resources and environment in the South Pacific Region. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 29. UNEP, 1983.

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enclosed questionnaire for your region and return it to us as soon as possible. If possible, to further reduce time delay, please send the requested information to us by telex to 710-320-1628 WORLDINFO.

Only with a complete set of information from each region can we hope to make an accurate assessment of the hazardous waste situation in the South Pacific. We share your commitment to the assessment and improvement of the South Pacific environment, and we believe that this preliminary study is a vital step toward achieving that goal.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Golob Director

Joseph Egan Research Associate

RG/ip Enclosures

16 October 1982

Ms. Helen R. Hughes
Acting Commissioner for the Environment
P.O. Box 10241
Wellington
New Zealand

Dear Ms. Hughes:

We are writing to ask your participation in a preliminary survey of hazardous chemical waste storage and disposal in the South Pacific region. World Information Systems, an international environmental research company, is conducting this survey under the direction of the South Pacific Commission. Our survey, which will not include radioactive wastes, is intended to serve as an information tool for governments and policy makers now in the process of assessing the human environment in the South Pacific region.

As part of this urgent survey, we are asking the representatives of numerous governments, industries, and research institutes to assist us by furnishing basic information, bibliographic references, and statistics on local hazardous waste storage and disposal in their immediate region. Specifically, we would appreciate it if you would provide us with data on the following:

- o Types of hazardous wastes stored or disposed of in the past and at present, or planned to be stored or disposed of in your region;
- o Amounts of hazardous wastes stored or disposed of in your region, including whenever possible the sources of these wastes and their countries of origin;
- o Environmental and public health effects, observed or potential, resulting from the hazardous wastes stored or disposed of in your region.

We would be especially grateful to receive copies of any published statistics, technical reports, press articles, and bibliographic listings on this particular subject in your region, and we would be happy to reimburse you for any reasonable reproduction costs, mailing expenses, and telex fees incurred in sending the materials.

Our group is working under very severe time constraints. We ask, therefore, that these materials be mailed to us via airmail special delivery. We would also appreciate it if you would complete the

WORLD INFORMATION SYSTEMS

P.O. Box 535, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02238, U.S.A. Telephone: 617-491-5100 Cable: WORLDINFO TWX: 710-320-1628

Hazardous Waste Survey under the direction of the South Pacific Commission

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