



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

*Action Plan
for the protection of the marine environment
and the coastal areas of
Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar,
Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates*

UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 35

PREFACE

Ten 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 (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 environmental 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 1/ 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 2/.

The Kuwait Action Plan emerged from the mutual interest of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in protecting from pollution the marine area of their region. This interest was reflected in 1976 in a decision of the Governing Council of UNEP at its fourth session which approved the preparatory work for convening a regional conference on the protection of marine areas from pollution.

1/ 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.

2/ 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.

As part of the preparatory work, an interagency fact-finding mission, sponsored and financially supported by UNEP, visited the eight states of the region from March to May 1976. The mission was organized by the Ocean Economics and Technology Office (OETO) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in co-operation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO).

Based on the findings of the mission, a preliminary action plan dealing with the scientific and socio-economic aspects of a comprehensive programme for the protection and development of the marine environment and coastal areas in the region was prepared and presented for consideration to a technical meeting of government-nominated experts in Kuwait in December 1976.

Aware of the benefits to be derived from developing scientific and socio-economic activities within a legal framework, UNEP convened a task force in Nairobi in late 1976 to formulate the basis for regional legal action. In light of the recommendations of the task force, preliminary drafts were prepared of a framework Convention for Co-operation in the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution and, in co-operation with IMCO, a Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combatting Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergencies.

The drafts of the action plan together with the draft legal instruments were reviewed during two subsequent expert meetings (Bahrain, January 1977 and Nairobi, June 1977).

In April 1978 a Regional Conference of Plenipotentiaries was convened in Kuwait for the purpose of reviewing, revising and adopting a comprehensive action plan for the protection and development of marine and coastal areas of the region, including its legal framework.

The Conference, on 23 April 1978, adopted

- (a) the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates,
- (b) the Kuwait Regional Convention for Co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution,
- (c) the Protocol concerning Regional Co-operation in Combating Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, and
- (d) resolutions on (i) interim secretariat, (ii) financial arrangements, (iii) steps to be taken for the establishment of the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre, and (iv) co-ordination between the regional marine meteorological and environmental programmes.

The Action Plan and the four resolutions adopted by the Conference are reproduced in this document 3/.

3/ The two legal instruments adopted by the Conference have been published separately (INFP 1983)

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND THE COASTAL AREAS OF BAHRAIN, IRAN, IRAQ, KUWAIT, OMAN, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1
CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS	11
INTERIM SECRETARIAT	12
FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS	13
STEPS TO BE TAKEN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MARINE EMERGENCY MUTUAL AID CENTRE	14
CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE REGIONAL MARINE METEOROLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES	15

ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE
MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND THE COASTAL AREAS OF
BAHRAIN, IRAN, IRAQ, KUWAIT, OMAN, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA AND
THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

adopted by the Kuwait Regional Conference of
Plenipotentiaries on the Protection and Development
of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas
in Kuwait, 23 April 1978

CONTENTS

	paragraphs
INTRODUCTION	1 - 9
I. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	10 - 17
II. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	18 - 22
III. LEGAL COMPONENT	23 - 25
IV. INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS	26 - 31

INTRODUCTION

1. The Region has been recognized by the Governments concerned and by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as a "concentration area" in which UNEP, in close collaboration with the relevant components of the United Nations system, will attempt to fulfill its catalytic role in assisting States of the Region to develop and implement, in a consistent manner, an Action Plan commonly agreed upon.
2. The protection and development of the marine environment and the coastal areas of the Region for the benefit of present and future generations will be the central objective of the Action Plan. This Action Plan sets forth a framework for an environmentally sound and comprehensive approach to coastal area development, particularly appropriate for this rapidly developing Region.
3. Recognizing the complexity of the problem and the numerous ongoing activities, the Action Plan has been based upon:
 - 3.1 findings of an interagency mission 1/ organized by UNEP in co-operation with UN/ESA which visited Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates from 15 March to 25 May 1976;
 - 3.2 Consultative Meeting on Marine Sciences in the Region convened by UNESCO in Paris, 11-14 November 1975;
 - 3.3 recommendations for a marine science project endorsed by the Conference of Ministers of Arab States Responsible for the Application of Science and Technology for Development, CASTARAB, convened by UNESCO in Rabat, 16-25 August 1976;
 - 3.4 Meeting of a Group of Experts on Coastal Area Development convened by UN/ESA in New York, November 1974;
 - 3.5 recommendations of the Kuwait Technical Meeting on Coastal Area Development and Protection of the Marine Environment co-sponsored by UNEP and UN/ESA in Kuwait, 6-9 December 1976;
 - 3.6 a feasibility study for a co-ordinated applied marine science and basic marine science programme conducted by UNEP and UNESCO in co-operation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and FAO;
 - 3.7 Regional Meeting of Legal Experts on the Protection of the Marine Environment held by UNEP in Bahrain, 24-28 January 1977;
 - 3.8 Experts Meeting on the Protection of the Marine Environment, Nairobi, 13-18 June 1977;
 - 3.9 additional suggestions and proposals received from the United Nations system.

1/ UNEP, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/ESA), Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

4. The Action Plan aims to achieve the following:

- 4.1 assessment of the state of the environment including socio-economic development activities related to environmental quality and of the needs of the Region in order to assist Governments to cope properly with environmental problems, particularly those concerning the marine environment;
- 4.2 development of guidelines for the management of those activities which have an impact on environmental quality or on the protection and use of renewable marine resources on a sustainable basis;
- 4.3 development of legal instruments providing the legal basis for co-operative efforts to protect and develop the Region on a sustainable basis;
- 4.4 supporting measures including national and regional institutional mechanisms and structure needed for the successful implementation of the Action Plan.

5. For this document, it is assumed that the Region includes the marine area bounded in the south by the following rhumb-lines:

From Ras Dharbat Ali	
Lat. 16° 39'N	Long. 53° 3'30"E; then
to a position in:	
Lat. 16° 00'N	Long. 53° 25'E; then
to a position in:	
Lat. 17° 00'N	Long. 56° 30'E; then
to a position in:	
Lat. 20° 30'N	Long. 60° 00'E; then
to Ras Al-Fasteh in:	
Lat. 25° 04'N	Long. 61° 25'E

The coastal area to be considered as part of the Region will be identified by the relevant Governments of the Region on an ad hoc basis depending on the type of activities to be carried out within the framework of the Action Plan. Nevertheless, coastal areas not included in the Region as defined above, should not be a source of marine pollution.

6. All components of the Action Plan are interdependent and provide a framework for comprehensive action to contribute to both the protection and the continued development of the ecoregion. No component will be an end in itself. Each activity is intended to assist the Governments of the Region to improve the quality of the information on which environmental management policies are based.

7. The protection of the marine environment is considered as the first priority of the Action Plan, and it is intended that measures for marine and coastal environmental protection and development should lead to the promotion of human health and well-being as the ultimate goal of the Action Plan.

8. The Action Plan is intended to meet the environmental needs and enhance the

environmental capabilities of the Region and is aimed primarily toward implementation by way of co-ordinated national and regional activities. To achieve this goal, an intensive training programme should be formulated in the early phases of the implementation of the Action Plan.

9. A general description of the various components of the Action Plan is given in the following paragraphs.

I. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

10. Environmental assessment is one of the basic activities which will underlie and facilitate the implementation of the other components of the Action Plan.

11. The identification of the present quality of the marine environment and the factors currently influencing its quality and having an impact on human health will be given priority together with an assessment of future trends.

12. Due to the lack or inadequacy of available basic data on the marine environment, a co-ordinated basic and applied regional marine science programme and marine meteorological programme will be formulated as a basis for the protection of the marine environment of the Region. In formulating the operational details of these programmes, planned and ongoing national and regional programmes will be taken into account.

13. The following programmes are recognized as components of the co-ordinated regional environmental assessment programme:

13.1 survey of national capabilities of the Region in the field of marine sciences including marine meteorology covering:

(a) scientific and administrative institutions;

(b) information centres and data sources;

(c) research facilities and equipment;

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/reportId=5_15357

