



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

*Regional Seas Programme:
Legislative authority*

UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 17 Rev.1

PREFACE

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(XXV)] 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. At present, it includes eleven regions ^{1/} and has more than 120 participating states. It is conceived as an action-oriented programme concerned not only with the consequences but also with the causes of environmental degradation and encompassing a comprehensive approach to controlling 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 Regional Seas Programme has always been recognized as a global programme implemented through regional components. Inter-regional co-operation among the various sea areas on common problems is an important element in assuring the compatibility of the different regional components.

At present, there are 17 major organizational units of the United Nations system and 11 specialized agencies undertaking distinct marine affairs activities ^{3/}. Although these activities constitute a useful and well-organized response by the system to the needs of its member states, the multiplicity of mandates has caused some overlap and duplication of activities.

This document is a compilation containing the basic texts adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, June 1972) as well as the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations and by the Governing Council of UNEP. These resolutions and decisions provide the legislative authority for UNEP's oceans-related programme, the Regional Seas Programme specifically.

^{1/} Mediterranean Region, Kuwait Action Plan Region, West and Central African Region, Wider Caribbean Region, East Asian Seas Region, South-East Pacific Region, South Pacific Region, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Region, Eastern African Region, South-West Atlantic Region and South Asian Region.

^{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.

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REPORT OF UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (EXTRACTS)*

Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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