

Guidelines for Integrated Management of Coastal and Marine Areas



UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 161

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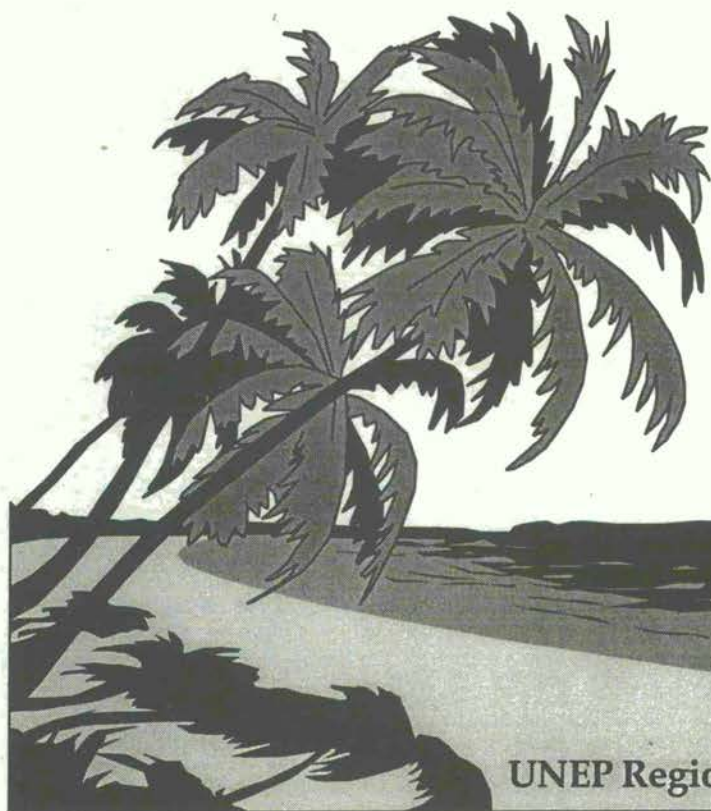
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REGIONAL SEAS

Guidelines for Integrated Management of Coastal and Marine Areas

With Special Reference to the
Mediterranean Basin



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PREFACE

Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992) on *Protection of the Oceans, all kinds of Seas, including Enclosed and Semi-enclosed Seas, and Coastal Areas and the Protection, Rational Use and Development of their Living Resources*, concluded that: "The marine environment - including the oceans and all seas and adjacent coastal areas - forms an integrated whole that is an essential component of the global life-support system and a positive asset that presents opportunities for sustainable development". The Conference further concluded that as the coastal area contains diverse and productive habitats and ecosystems important for human settlement, development and local subsistence, and noting that more than half the world's population lives within 60 km of the shoreline, and is estimated to rise to three quarters by the year 2020, recommended that new integrated approaches to marine and coastal area management and development, at the national, sub-regional, regional and global levels be developed.

It is now widely accepted that sectoral activities produce combined environmental impacts resulting in marine and fresh water pollution, air pollution, loss of marine resources, loss of natural land resources, land degradation and destruction of historic sites, and that policies to reduce coastal degradation have been based on the sectoral approach and have therefore failed, usually transferring problems among the resources and products which coastal and marine areas produce, as well as to the services they support, unable to take into account the overall impact of coastal development on resources.

Sectoral approaches to the management and planning of natural resources utilisation can no longer meet the requirements of the management of complex systems such as coastal areas. It is within this frame that UNCED "Agenda 21", called for the promotion of adaptable and flexible process of integrated coastal and marine areas management (ICAM).

OCA/PAC, through its Regional Seas Programme which includes thirteen regions world-wide with well over 140 coastal States and Territories participating, supports and coordinates, on an international, regional, subregional, national and local level, the rational management of the marine environment as a whole, and the coastal areas specifically. It is towards this end that the preparation of the Guidelines was commissioned.

The Mediterranean Action Plan was the first regional seas programme of UNEP to be established within the framework of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona Convention). Over the last 20 years, the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), has provided the organisational structure for the implementation of activities aimed at the protection of the sea, and at sustainable development of the Mediterranean coastal areas. The Priority Action Programme (PAP) as one of the regional centres of MAP, is entrusted with the implementation of priority actions, the integrated management of coastal areas being the most important. The centre has accumulated many years of experience and knowledge not only on the problems of the Mediterranean coastal areas, but of other regions of the world as well.

This wealth of experience was subsequently documented in these Guidelines. Written by Valerie Brachya, Ferenz Juhasz, Arsen Pavasovic and Ivica Trumbic, this document represents a practical realization of the tasks set out by Agenda 21 which states that States should cooperate in the preparation of national guidelines for ICAM, drawing on existing experience (Chapter 17.11).

The first draft of these Guidelines was reviewed on the basis of the comments given by Ms. Astrálaga (OCA/PAC), Messrs. D. Insull (FAO), S. Keckes, Consultant to PAP, and L. Jetic, Deputy Coordinator of the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan. The first revision of the document was made during an expert meeting convened in Geneva in February 1993, while the second revision was completed during an interregional meeting held in Rome in December 1993. The Guidelines were finalized at a meeting held in the offices of OCA/PAC in Nairobi in February 1994.

Neither ICAM nor these Guidelines are a panacea for all problems of coastal areas, nor are they a universal tool applicable in the same way in all the regional seas. However, there are elements that are universal, such as the gradual process of ICAM implementation. Other elements such as: the importance of individual natural resources, possibilities of implementation, institutional arrangements, or the application of tools and techniques, must be understood and applied with flexibility. The applicability of the Guidelines must be evaluated and possible amendments suggested to adapt them to other situations, if applied in areas outside the Mediterranean.

At present the Guidelines are being applied in the Eastern and West and Central African Regional Seas Programmes. The Guidelines will be amended based on experiences gained in its application in the regions, and the revision published.

It is hoped that these Guidelines will be used as a tool by a large audience for the implementation of ICAM. We shall be grateful for any comments, amendments, and proposals for the improvement of the Guidelines, especially if resulting from the experience in their practical application.

A special expression of appreciation is due Mr. P. Schröder, Director, OCA/PAC, for his help in reviewing the earlier drafts, Mr. P. Akiwumi, Programme Officer and Ms. Ruth Batten, Editorial Assistant, OCA/PAC, for editing and finalizing the document for printing, and Mr. W. Clarke for his professional suggestions on the improvement of the language of the draft text.

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