



---

***UNEP-Sponsored programme  
for the  
protection of oceans and coastal areas***

***UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 135***

---

***UNEP 1991***

**Note:** This report was prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under project FP/5102-86-02 as a contribution to the development of the Regional Seas Programme.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNEP concerning the legal status of any State, Territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

*For bibliographic purposes this document may be cited as:*

UNEP: UNEP-Sponsored programme for the oceans and coastal areas. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 135, UNEP, 1991.



---

***UNEP-Sponsored programme***  
***for the***  
***protection of oceans and coastal areas***

***UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 135***

---

***UNEP 1991***

## PREFACE

Eighteen 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 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 fulfill its catalytic and co-ordinating role.

The oceans and coastal areas programme, co-ordinated by the Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre (OCA/PAC) of UNEP and supported by intensive co-operation of fourteen international and intergovernmental organizations as well as of several hundred national institutions, consists of three closely linked elements dealing with:

- (a) the global marine environment;
- (b) the regional marine environment; and
- (c) the living marine resources.

Bearing in mind the considerable experience that has been accumulated in the protection and development of regional sea areas, the Governing Council of UNEP decided at its eighth session in May 1980 (decision 8/13 A) that the achievements and planned development of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme, as well as of comparable programmes sponsored by other bodies, should be reviewed by a government expert group. The Meeting of Government Experts on Regional Marine Programmes was convened by the Executive Director of UNEP in Nairobi, 18-21 January 1982, in co-operation with relevant international and intergovernmental organizations. Based on the documentation submitted to that meeting, the achievements and planned development of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and other comparable programmes sponsored by other bodies were summarized in a document issued in 1982 by UNEP (UNEP, RSRS 1).

The present document reviews the development of the UNEP-sponsored programme for the protection of oceans and coastal areas since the 1982 review meeting and its planned future development in light of the relevant decisions of the Governing Council (UNEP, RSRS 17), and specifically of the Decision 15/1 of the 15th session of the UNEP Governing Council (Nairobi, 15-26 May 1989) which reconfirmed the "protection of ocean and coastal areas and resources" as one of UNEP's concentration areas and decided that special attention should be given to "control of pollution in regional seas and proper management of their coastal areas" within that concentration area.

# CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
PREFACE	
1. THE PROBLEM AND APPROACH TO ITS SOLUTION	1
2. GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION	1
3. REGIONAL SEAS PROGRAMME	3
3.1 General strategy	3
3.2 Mediterranean action plan	5
3.3 Caribbean action plan	7
3.4 South-East Pacific action plan	9
3.5 Kuwait action plan	11
3.6 Eastern African action plan	13
3.7 West and Central African action plan	14
3.8 East Asian Seas action plan	17
3.9 South Pacific Regional Environment Programme	18
3.10 Red Sea and Gulf of Aden action plan	20
3.11 South Asian Seas action plan	21
3.12 South-West Atlantic	21
3.13 North-West Pacific	22
3.14 Black Sea	22
4. GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT	23
4.1 Integrated global ocean monitoring	23
4.2 "Mussel Watch"	24
4.3 GIPME	24
4.4 Monitoring of climate related changes	25
4.5 Regional seas monitoring programmes	25
4.6 GESAMP	28
4.7 Environmental impact assessment	30
5. CLIMATE IMPACT STUDIES	31
6. PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF MARINE LIVING RESOURCES	36
7. INTER-REGIONAL CO-OPERATION	40
7.1 Africa	40
7.2 Pacific	42
7.3 Indian Ocean region	44
7.4 Latin America and Caribbean	45
8. INFORMATION EXCHANGE	47
9. WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNEP AND THE CO-OPERATING AGENCIES AND SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS	48
REFERENCES	51

## 1. THE PROBLEM AND APPROACH TO ITS SOLUTION

1.1 Problems related to the marine environment have not altered greatly in the past two decades, but general perceptions of the main threats and corresponding solutions have markedly changed on the basis of knowledge accumulated during that period. Although there is still an interest in levels of contamination in the open ocean and in major oceanic processes, the danger of the open ocean becoming severely polluted is now considered to be less acute, and it is evident that existing problems, and the first effects of new ones, are most likely to arise in waters close to land (UNEP, RSRS 115; UNEP, a). Attention is therefore being concentrated on protecting the health of the coastal waters, especially in enclosed and semi-enclosed seas. The continued growth of human settlement along the coast, the increase in coastal recreation, the concentration of industrial development in coastal areas and the wealth of exploitable living marine resources in coastal waters, all justify the concern currently felt for the quality of the coastal marine environment and its resources.

1.2 The application of environmentally-sound management practices in coastal and maritime activities is now accepted as the key to safeguarding the marine environment. Only by this means can the unplanned or ill-planned land-use practices, the irrational exploitation of natural resources and the pollution to which they incidentally give rise be avoided. Emphasis on the concept of management reflects a critical change from earlier concern that the oceans had to be preserved unchanged. Management implies use: rational use. For example, when deciding on appropriate waste treatment and disposal practices, the waste receiving capacity of the sea is clearly recognized as an asset which may be used for certain types of waste (UNEP, RSRS 80).

1.3 The problems of the high seas and of large scale marine ecosystems may require more attention in the future, as evidenced, for instance, by concern for the impacts of driftnet fisheries, the growing number of large-scale biological perturbations, and the potential effects of increasing ultraviolet radiation on plankton.

## 2. GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

2.1 In the period until 1992 the oceans and coastal areas programme of UNEP is planned to concentrate on the following issues:

- (a) *Global marine problems*, which until now were mainly addressed through assessment of the sources, amounts, levels, effects and pathways of major marine contaminants, will receive more attention in the future. A globally co-ordinated marine pollution monitoring system is presently being elaborated, as a contribution to GEMS and Earthwatch, and it is hoped that some of its elements will soon be implemented on a pilot scale. The monitoring programmes operating in the framework of the various regional seas action plans will constitute an integral part of the planned global monitoring system. In addition, the launching of a programme on global monitoring of climate-related changes relevant to the marine and coastal environment is being negotiated with IOC and WMO.
- (b) The *Regional Seas Programme* will remain the centerpiece of the oceans programme. In all regional action plans greater emphasis will be placed on:
  - integrated coastal zone management, as a general framework within which solutions for the coastal and marine environmental problems would have to be sought;
  - formulation, adoption and implementation of pollution control measures, commensurate with the severity of the problem and with the capabilities of the States to deal with it;
  - analysis of problems which may be associated with the expected impact of climatic change on marine and coastal ecosystems and on socio-economic structures and activities, as a contribution to the work of the WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and part of the World Climate Impact Studies Programme;

- direct assistance to Governments in defining and implementing policies and measures which may mitigate or eliminate problems caused by pollution and by the negative impact of climatic change;
- development and testing of procedures for environmental impact assessment, based on the general principles agreed by the Working Group of Experts on Environmental Law (Geneva, 1987), and their adoption for common use in the context of regional action plans and of Conventions supporting these action plans;
- training of policy-makers, environmental managers, scientists and technicians in subjects relevant to the protection of coastal and marine areas;
- strengthening the working relationships between governmental focal points, experts, technical institutions and other organizations located within the Regional Action Plan area. Through information networking activities, mutual assistance programmes and fellowships;
- raising the level of public awareness about the environmental problems facing the marine and coastal areas; and
- strengthening the linkages between the existing action plans through inter-regional activities, exchange of information and transfer of experience.

The consolidation of the existing regional action plans for Eastern Africa and the East Asian Seas and the adoption of the action plan for the South Asian Seas will be seen as first priority. The possible development of action plans for the Black Sea, the North-West Pacific and the South-West Atlantic, will be further explored.

- (c) In connection with *living marine resources*, the concentration will be on the promotion of measures for the protection of marine mammals in the framework of the existing global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals, for which UNEP serves as the secretariat. However, increasing attention will also be given to other marine living resources under large-scale threat from human activities.

### 3. REGIONAL SEAS PROGRAMME

#### 3.1 General strategy

3.1.1 The Regional Seas Programme was initiated by UNEP in 1974 as a global programme implemented through regional components. 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.

3.1.2 The Regional Seas Programme at present includes ten regions and has over 120 coastal States and Territories 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 (UNEP, RSRs 15 and 53). 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.

3.1.3 The programme is under the overall co-ordination of the Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre (OCA/PAC) of UNEP but its success critically depends on the work of specialized organizations and centres dealing either with specific regions covered by the programme or with specific subjects common to most or all of the regions (UNEP, b).

3.1.4 The substantive aspect of any regional programme is outlined in an "action plan" which is formally adopted by an intergovernmental meeting of the Governments of a particular region before the programme enters an operational phase. In the preparatory phase leading to the adoption of the action plan, Governments are consulted through a series of meetings and missions about the scope and substance of an action plan suitable for their region. In addition, with the co-operation of appropriate global and regional organizations, reviews on the specific environmental problems of the region are prepared in order to assist the Governments in identifying the most urgent problems in the region and in corresponding priorities to be assigned to the various activities outlined in the action plan. UNEP co-ordinates directly, or in some regions indirectly through existing regional organizations, the preparations leading to the adoption of the action plan.

3.1.5 All action plans are structured in a similar way, although the specific activities for any region are dependent upon the needs and priorities of that region. An action plan usually includes the following components:

- (a) *Environmental assessment.* This concerns assessing and evaluating the causes of environmental problems as well as their magnitude and impact on the region. Emphasis is given to such activities as: baseline studies; research and monitoring of the sources, levels and effects of marine pollutants; ecosystem studies; studies of coastal and marine activities and social and economic factors that may influence, or may be influenced by, environmental degradation; and the survey of national environmental

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_15443](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_15443)

