



ANNEX IV

ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL AREAS OF  
THE EAST ASIAN REGION

## PREFACE

During the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972), the Action Plan for the Human Environment, including the General Principles for Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution was adopted. 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 coordination 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 coordinated 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 cooperation and coordination". 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 coordinating 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. More recently, Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) as adopted by the Plenary in Rio de Janeiro on 14 June 1992 reaffirmed the need to strengthen, and extend, where necessary, intergovernmental regional cooperation, citing in particular the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP (paragraph 17.120).

The Regional Seas Programme at present includes thirteen regions<sup>1</sup> and has nearly 140 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<sup>2</sup>.

On the initiative of the States of the East Asian region, the Governing Council of UNEP in 1977 decided that "steps are urgently needed to formulate and establish a scientific programme involving research, prevention and control of marine pollution and monitoring" for a regional action plan in East Asia (Decision 88 (v)).

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<sup>1</sup> Mediterranean, Kuwait Action Plan Region, Black Sea, West and Central Africa, Wider Caribbean, East Asian Seas, South Asian Seas, South-East Pacific, South-West Pacific, North-West Pacific, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, East Africa and South-West Atlantic.

<sup>2</sup> 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 activities for the formulation of the regional action plan, a large number of surveys, reviews, studies and meetings were prepared and convened on the initiative of UNEP, other United Nations agencies and the States of the region. In early 1979 an exploratory mission assessed the feasibility of the action plan for East Asia and the first draft of the plan was prepared by UNEP.

The draft of the action plan was reviewed and refined by two meetings of experts designated by the States of the region (Baguio, June 1980 and Bangkok, December 1980).

The Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Region (Manila, 27-29 April 1981), attended by representatives of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, adopted the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Region (UNEP/IG.26/6, Annex IV).

The subsequent Intergovernmental Meeting on the East Asian Seas Action Plan (Bangkok, 9-11 December 1981), attended by the representatives of the same States, determined the institutional and financial arrangements for the implementation of the Action Plan (UNEP/IG.31/6, paragraphs 36-57) including the terms of reference for the management of the East Asian Seas Trust Fund (UNEP/IG.31/6, Annex VII).

A decision to revise the East Asian Seas Action Plan arose at the 10th meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) held in Bangkok, Thailand on 9-10 July 1993. Such a step was to be undertaken in line with the revision of the Long-Term Strategy of COBSEA which had to take into consideration Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and all recent national and regional developments concerning the East Asian Seas (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.4/7, paragraph 58). The two major factors guiding such a revision were the expansion of COBSEA to include the wider East Asian Seas region, and the need for the Long-Term Strategy to be "problem-oriented and management-driven" and integrated in approach, with the "ultimate goal of an actual and real improvement in coastal and marine environmental quality" (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.4/7, Annex V).

It was envisaged that participation to COBSEA be extended to include all countries bordering the East Asian Seas. In view of this, countries not initially participating in COBSEA have already attended the more recent intergovernmental COBSEA meetings as observers.

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ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT OF  
THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND COASTAL AREAS  
OF THE EAST ASIAN REGION

I. INTRODUCTION

II. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES LEADING TOWARDS MANAGEMENT

1. In the light of the historical development of the East Asian Seas Action Plan, the relevant past and recent events within the East Asian Seas region, the emergence of new issues in marine and coastal environmental protection, including the formulation of Agenda 21 (particularly Chapter 17), and the nature of marine and coastal environmental problems besetting the region which require specific and decisive management action, the following are proposed as the main scientific activities to be given priority in the action plan in the coming decade.

2. An integrated and interdisciplinary approach to the study of marine and coastal ecosystems listed below is envisaged. To this end, and to the extent feasible, participating States will identify and designate pilot areas for the coordinated implementation of the activities listed below.

3. The programme components listed below are interdisciplinary and interrelated. Therefore, while preparing the operational details of each programme component, due attention should be paid to close coordination among these activities.

Development of a regional database

4. Since the inception of the action plan, activities arising from it, together with related programmes carried out in the region, have resulted in the following accomplishments:

- 4.1 Baseline information on the structure, distribution and dynamics of major marine ecosystems (e.g. coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, soft bottoms) situated in the different countries;
- 4.2 Information on levels and trends in the distribution of important non-oil pollutants originating from land-based and offshore sources;
- 4.3 Information on levels and trends in the distribution of oil pollutants, from both land-based and offshore sources (including shipping);
- 4.4 Directories of scientific institutions, research centres, information centres and data sources in the region; and
- 4.5 Bibliographies of publications on relevant marine environmental issues in the region.

5. A regularly updated database should integrate all this information into a compatible format including risk assessment estimates readily assessable to and usable through electronic networking by policy/decision makers, managers and other scientists.

6. A database on the status and distribution of marine ecosystems and their associated species has been developed by the ASEAN-Australia Economic Cooperation Programme (AAECP) Marine Science Project: Living Coastal Resources. A new phase of AAECP aims at establishing national decision-support systems by integrating different databases relevant to the coastal and marine environment. An important activity of the action plan would be to build on and expand these valuable databases to incorporate all information generated pertaining to the East Asian Seas. This will provide decision makers with a sound basis for the management and protection of the marine and coastal environment on a regional basis.

#### Long-term monitoring and environmental assessment

7. It is imperative that monitoring programmes already underway, covering both the status of ecosystems and levels and trends in distribution of pollutants, be continued within the framework of the action plan. In addition, efforts should be made to identify gaps in information which would require the establishment of expanded or additional monitoring programmes. The vital importance of long-term monitoring to help ensure effective management is stressed in many parts of Chapter 17 of Agenda 21. Long-term monitoring is also an essential feature of efforts to anticipate and mitigate the adverse effects of global change.

8. In order to keep abreast of international efforts to cope with global change, the action plan should incorporate elements relating to the immediate effects of resource use as well as the longer-term effects of the climate change. With regards to use, these would include data on the existing and projected levels of use and socio-economic demand. With respect to climate change, these would include the effects of possible sea level change, incidents of extreme climatic events, and the role of oceans as the sink and regulator of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. In addition, the increasing amounts of ultraviolet radiation that penetrate the atmosphere due to the depletion of ozone layer which in turn would adversely affect both terrestrial and marine communities.

#### Scientific aspects of rehabilitation of vital ecosystems and restoration of ecologically or economically important species and communities

9. Such action would be in line with the global call to conserve biodiversity through the Biodiversity Convention. It also directly addresses the need to maintain the livelihood and resource base of human populations of the region which are dependent on the seas, directly or indirectly. Consideration should be given to the development of cooperative regional approaches for the effective conservation and management of migratory marine species, particularly among the range countries.

10. Scientific research which seeks to create a sound basis for the rehabilitation of critical ecosystems should be encouraged and supported. The rehabilitated ecosystems will generate a wide range of benefits, including food, products used in shelter and industry, recreation, and physical protection from natural hazards. They also serve as habitats for commercially and ecologically important species. Under such an activity, research into basic ecological processes such as productivity and factors which structure communities is indispensable.

11. Studies should be conducted on the biology and ecology of important species that are threatened with significant depletion in numbers or with extinction. The scientific results thus produced would be used for the purpose of guiding efforts to restore species or ecologically important functional groups to their normal levels in their natural habitats, or to introduce them in convenient locations for sustainable exploitation (as in mariculture and sea-ranching).

#### Scientific aspects of marine protected areas

12. Marine protected areas play a critical role in the conservation of biodiversity. The scientific basis for this should be examined, for example, the function of marine protected areas as refuge or as replenishment sources for endangered species. The marine protected areas will also provide an opportunity for the studies on reintroduction of species into their natural habitats from which, due to various environmental pressures, they were displaced or forced out. Relevant questions also concern the minimum size or the extent of such areas, and the corridors which connect them to similar reserves elsewhere in order to form a viable network for the preservation of critical habitats or species.

#### Utilization and protection of marine resources

13. Scientific research which establishes a better understanding of the relationship between protection and utilization of marine resources and their environment would contribute to management for sustainable use and development of the region and should be encouraged and supported.

#### Quality assurance for pollution monitoring

14. This activity would be of primary importance in the region because of the need to ensure that data gathered on the types and levels of pollution in the marine environment are updated to meet appropriate standards for quality and inter-comparability.

15. The component on quality assurance for pollution monitoring is to be strengthened through an intensive programme of training and technical support of local scientists and technicians, including (UNEP/IG.26/6, Annex IV, paragraph 17):

- 15.1 Standardization of analytical techniques for measuring pollutant concentration, and of techniques used to measure the effects of pollutants on human health, fishery resources and marine and coastal ecosystems;
- 15.2 Introduction of quality control of analytical procedures within and among the laboratories participating in the action plan, including the conduct of regional intercalibration exercises on a regular basis to ensure intercomparability;
- 15.3 Assistance to the laboratories in the field of instrumental analysis through the establishment of a joint regional equipment service;
- 15.4 Training of scientists and technicians through existing national, regional and international institutions ready to offer their facilities; and
- 15.5 Updating and developing compatible methodology for the handling, validation and regional evaluation of data collected through the above research projects.

#### Biological and ecological effects of pollution

16. The most significant effect on marine biodiversity is land-based sources of pollution and human activities. In order to develop proper management measures to combat the adverse impacts of pollution, effects at all relevant levels of the ecological hierarchy must be understood. Pollutants always exert action first at the molecular and cellular levels. Processes that are triggered

on these scales then build up to be manifested at higher levels, such as in the form of pathological reactions in individual organisms. Deleterious consequences may make their way up the ecological hierarchy to entire populations or even communities.

#### Development and application of technologies to prevent and control pollution and its effects

17. This activity would be of major importance to the region through identifying and updating methodologies for reducing pollution at source for providing effective and rapid response to pollution emergencies and to effects including red tides.

### III. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

18. It is expected that data produced by scientific activities described in the above paragraphs will have direct utility for programmes designed to protect and properly manage the marine and coastal environment of the East Asian Seas region. They also will promote the utilization of resources on a sustainable basis and enhance awareness of the requirements and basis for sustainability.

19. Integrated management efforts shall draw on the spirit of Chapter 17, Agenda 21 of UNCED, as reflected in the "Guiding Principles" of the Long-Term Strategy of COBSEA. The action plan should eventually see the "implementation of integrated coastal and marine management and sustainable development plans and programmes at appropriate levels" (Agenda 21, Chapter 17, paragraph 17.6).

20. The specific management activities that are considered essential for the success of the action plan are as follows:

#### Maintenance of a regional database

21. Effective management action can rely only on the availability, interpretation and use of the right kind of data at the right time (paragraph 4) on critical habitats, endangered species, vulnerable coastal areas, trends in pollution, and corresponding socio-economic and political structures.

#### Development and maintenance of monitoring and environmental assessment programmes

22. Long-term monitoring and periodic assessments of the state of the coastal and marine environment will help provide sufficient early warning of danger to habitats, species, and even human populations from either anthropogenic activities or natural phenomena. Timely management action can thus be instituted.

#### Management aspects of rehabilitation of vital ecosystems and restoration of ecologically or economically important species and communities

23. Active measures to rehabilitate damaged natural habitats (within the realm of scientific and economic possibility) and to replenish depleted species populations will need to be undertaken to restore the kind of sustainable productivity which serves as the basis for the generation of food, other useful products, and amenities on which human populations depend. Establishment of regional mechanism for the development of cooperative management approaches to the conservation of migratory marine species need to be encouraged and developed.

#### Establishment of a viable network of marine protected areas

24. A network of properly managed marine protected areas including strictly protected reserves should be established. Critical habitats to form part of this network are to be selected on the basis of their productivity, uniqueness, or vulnerability. Such a measure would have the twin goals of conserving biodiversity (to the degree possible) and maintaining useful levels of productivity with respect to human needs.

#### Employing appropriate technologies for the prevention and management of pollution

25. Much progress has been made within and outside of the region towards the development of technologies, processes and activities for controlling pollution, either at source, or upon discharge into the marine environment. Every effort should be made to adopt the most appropriate technologies for specific cases, if it is not already in place. There is, however, no substitute for actual prevention of pollution, so that the overall approach should be *preventive* and *precautionary* in nature.

26. With respect to land-based sources of pollution and human activities, States are urged to take account of the the on-going revision of the Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Sources of Pollution (Agenda 21, Chapter 17, paragraph 17.24) and development emanating there from and the developments emanating therefrom.

27. With respect to prevention, reduction and control of degradation of the marine environment from sea-based activities, States will be encouraged to enhance the cooperation in marine environment management and adhere to the provisions of the appropriate international conventions and agreements including: UNCLOS (UN Convention on Law of the Sea); MARPOL 73/78; the London Convention 1972 (Convention of the Prevention of Marine Pollution from the Dumping of Waste and Other Matter, 1972) and OPRC 1990 (Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness Response and Cooperation).

#### Environmental impact assessment

28. An important component of the action plan would be strengthening capabilities in environmental impact assessment in the region in order to prevent or minimize adverse impacts on the marine and coastal environment, leading to sustainable development. In order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of environmental impact assessment, managing agencies are urged to monitor the actual impacts of use and development and reconcile them against the predictions in environmental impact assessment.

#### Capacity building

29. An indispensable component of any management plan would be the manpower and institutional factor. This again cannot be over-emphasized, and is reiterated several times in Chapter 17, Agenda 21 (e.g. paragraphs 17.15-17.17). In the action plan, sufficient attention will be devoted to education and short-term training, the development of an institutional framework as well as institution building. An ultimate objective of such efforts would be the development of *sustained public awareness* of coastal and marine environmental issues involving targeted educational programs starting with decision makers and continuing through to include education of the general public. Specific effort will be directed towards revision of existing curricula at all levels of formal education. Particular attention should be given to strengthening the role of system-wide considerations. In the educational curricular, emphasis should be given to environmental quality and not to economic considerations. Cooperation between UNEP and UNESCO can be

strengthened to ensure success in this aspect of the work.

30. A priority of the action plan should be the support and strengthening of institutions within the region which have the capability or potential to contribute significantly to its objectives. Such "centres of excellence" will be crucial in its successful implementation.

31. Collaborative linkages will be developed with relevant programmes of the United Nations system and other organizations that aim towards the incorporation of environmental issues into general education at the various academic levels. Particular attention will be paid to the elaboration of appropriate environmental curricula at all levels of the education system with particular emphasis on marine and coastal systems.

32. In capacity building, all relevant sectors of society should be involved (both private and Government), and their resources mobilized. Special attention should be paid to tapping the traditional knowledge and enhancing the involvement of local or indigenous communities in the management of the marine and coastal environment.

#### Other issues

33. In addition to the above items, it will be necessary to take note of points made in Chapter 17, Agenda 21 that are not within the mandate of the action plan (e.g. fisheries management), but which are also critical for the attainment of objectives for comprehensive management and sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment of the region.

## IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EAST ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN

### Overall authority

34. The Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) is the overall authority to determine the content of the action plan, to review its progress and to approve its programme of implementation, including the financial implications. Specific functions of COBSEA are as follows (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.4/7, Annex IV, paragraph 15):

- 34.1 Examine, at regular intervals, its Long-Term Strategy, and, on the basis of the evaluation of results of completed activities as well as relevant developments, amend and extend it accordingly;
- 34.2 In order to enhance interregional cooperation and exchange of information, regularly review the situation and advise the Regional Coordinating Unit of the East Asian Seas Action Plan (EAS/RCU--see "Coordination" below) and UNEP on potential areas of cooperative venture with other Regional Seas Programmes;
- 34.3 With an enhanced coordinating function within the wider East Asian Seas region, and in order to avoid duplication of activities, on policy issues, advise and on technical aspects, guide the EAS/RCU on the development of its programme activities;

- 34.4 With reliance on information concerning national, bilateral and regional activities and programmes, advise and assist UNEP and the EAS/RCU on avenues to be pursued for securing possible additional funding for its major priority programmes; and
- 34.5 The projects to be developed for implementation within the priorities of the action plan will be based on the elements of the comprehensive Long-Term Strategy of COBSEA.

#### Coordination

35. The Regional Coordinating Unit of the East Asian Seas Action Plan (EAS/RCU) will assist COBSEA in the implementation of the action plan by serving as the Secretariat for the action plan. In addition to its general coordination function, the EAS/RCU will be tasked with programme and financial management (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.4/3, Annex I).

36. The channel of communication between the EAS/RCU and the participating Governments in the East Asian Seas Action Plan will be through the respective National Focal Points. In matters of technical nature, the EAS/RCU may communicate with individuals and/or institutions concerned, providing copies of communications to the relevant National Focal Points.

#### Project formulation, development and funding

37. On the basis of past experiences under the action plan, the steps recommended for project formulation, development and funding are as follows (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.4/3, paragraph 40):

- 37.1 The National Focal Points, through the annual meetings of the COBSEA, should as much as possible limit the number and approval of small-scale projects. They should aim at the development of major regional projects, within the framework of the Long-Term Strategy of the COBSEA as well as the priorities that are emerging or already established.
- 37.2 The approved project proposals should be developed (see statement immediately following) and presented through the EAS/RCU, acting as Secretariat, for funding;
- 37.3 For each project proposal or concept approved by COBSEA, an appropriate amount of funds from the East Asian Seas Trust Fund or the Environment Fund will be approved for project development. Project development and formulation should be undertaken with full cooperation of the relevant National Focal Point(s), the Secretariat, and the national project coordinator(s). This could be achieved through short missions involving the national project coordinator(s) and the Secretariat;
- 37.4 The projects thus approved should then, depending on the decision of the COBSEA, be funded either by the Trust Fund or the Environment Fund, or both, or where appropriate be presented to potential donors or funding agencies; and
- 37.5 On the basis of needs identified by various fora in the region, the EAS/RCU shall periodically solicit project proposals from competent national institutions or individuals (e.g. the Association of South East Asian Marine Scientists) for activities to further the objectives of the action plan.

38. In the formulation stage, due consideration should be paid to the scientific aspects of a

project to ensure its technical soundness. Over-ambitious workplans and timetables should also be avoided (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/10, paragraph 26).

39. Scientific experts should provide assistance in developing the operational details of the programme components (UNEP/IG.26/6, Annex IV, paragraph 19).

#### Project implementation

40. The action plan is to be implemented primarily through national; institutions of the participating States by way of coordinating national, sub-regional and regional activities. The activities of the action plan as described above will be implemented directly by competent national institutions of the participating States, identified by the National Focal Points and with intensive involvement of scientists, technicians, administrators and other appropriate experts from the East Asian Seas region (UNEP/IG.77/6, paragraph 39; UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/10, paragraph 26).

41. Emphasis will be given to collaboration among national institutions, in particular to the exchange of scientists and managers among countries in order to maximize benefits from the expertise that has been cultivated since the inception of the action plan in the region, and also to optimize the use of laboratories that have since been established or developed, including major equipment and facilities that have been acquired in the course of implementation of the action plan and other programmes.

42. International, intergovernmental and regional organizations will play an active role in these activities, contributing their expertise and experience in the management of large-scale multidisciplinary programmes (UNEP/IG.77/6, paragraph 39).

43. In each of the States participating in the action plan, a coordinating mechanisms will be established and/or enhanced under the chairmanship of the respective National Focal Point in order to ensure timely and effective implementation of projects (UNEP/IG.77/6, paragraph 39).

44. For each project, a scientific or technical coordinator shall be clearly identified. Technical matters shall be communicated directly to this coordinator with copies to the implementing organizations and to the National Focal Points (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/10, paragraph 26).

45. A widely distributed newsletter will be issued regularly in order to improve communication among scientists, resource managers, development experts, policy-makers and the general public on matters relevant to the action plan (UNEP/IG.77/6, paragraph 39).

46. UNEP will be requested to continue supporting the action plan as part of its Regional Seas Programme (UNEP/IG.77/6, paragraph 39).

47. With respect to the routine management of projects, the following are recommended (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/10, paragraph 26):

47.1 Progress reporting, as well as the analysis and evaluation of reports, should be done on a regular basis and as envisaged in the project documents;

47.2 A mandatory scientific report should also be included in the reporting procedure for projects, in addition to UNEP's requirements;

47.3 Progress (including scientific) reports should be copied to all National Focal Points by the project coordinators for information and for comments. This would serve to promote a clearer understanding among the participating institutions;

47.4 Any scientific papers which arise out of or are directly related to EAS projects should accompany the half-yearly reports; and

47.5 The scientific symposia of ASEAMS (see paragraph 48 below) and the meetings of experts on the action plan should as far as possible be organized in tandem. The symposia would serve as one forum for the presentation of scientific results of the projects.

#### Project evaluation and revision

48. In order to undertake as objective and comprehensive evaluation as possible of the action plan, COBSEA shall solicit on a regular basis the independent advice of scientists and managers in the region on various aspects ranging from project proposal assessment to the critique of technical outputs of projects. The constructive role of regional groupings such as the Association of Southeast Asian Marine Scientists (ASEAMS) as an independent body representing scientists and managers of the region, and providing advice to Governments of the region and to UNEP, shall be supported and enhanced (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.4/7, paragraphs 35-36).

49. Each project revision should not only concentrate on the budget and the workplan and timetable but consideration should also be given to refining or changing the objectives and activities with a view towards strengthening the technical and scientific aspects of a project (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.2/10, paragraph 26).

#### Legal framework

50. The feasibility of the development and adoption of a suitable legal framework, consisting of a convention and relevant protocols for the action plan will be explored (UNEP/IG.77/6, paragraph 39).

#### Collaboration

51. In the implementation of the action plan, consideration will be taken at all times of similar projects and programmes being undertaken within and outside the region by national or regional institutions funded by national, regional or international bodies. Every effort will be taken to collaborate with such entities to ensure complementing rather than duplication of efforts, and to benefit from each other's endeavors so that a fund of knowledge and experience is mutually built up for the East Asian Seas region.

### V. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

#### Policy guidance and coordination

52. The overall authority to determine the content of the action plan, to review its progress and to approve its programme of implementation, including the financial implications, is vested in the annual meetings of governments (intergovernmental meetings) that participate in the action plan. For this purpose, the participating governments will continue to employ the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) as the sole decision-making body for the action plan. The participating governments have agreed that in the case of the ASEAN countries the existing ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment or their representatives would also function as the government representatives in the COBSEA meetings. However, in the case of non-ASEAN countries the Government appointed National Focal Point(s) will represent their respective governments in the COBSEA.

53. COBSEA will make policy decisions concerning all substantive and financial matters related to the action plan, and in particular, will:

- 53.1 adopt a workplan for the implementation of the programme at each annual meeting;
- 53.2 approve the budgetary resources required to support the work plan and their allocation;
- 53.3 review the progress achieved in implementing the programme since the previous meeting;
- 53.4 evaluate the results achieved;

53.5 at regular intervals review, amend, and extend its Long-Term Strategy; and

53.6 provide information and guidance on the coordination of coastal and marine environmental activities within and without the framework of the East Asian Seas activities.

54. The communication links with respect to policy matters between the COBSEA, UNEP, EAS/RCU, National Focal Points and the national institutions, are shown in *ANNEX I* to this Action Plan document.

#### Overall technical coordination

55. At the request of the governments participating in the action plan the Executive Director of UNEP established the Regional Coordinating Unit for the East Asian Seas Action Plan (EAS/RCU). The EAS/RCU is expected to function primarily as the Secretariat of the action plan. In addition the EAS/RCU is to provide the overall technical coordination and the continuous supervision of the implementation of the action plan.

56. There is a need for a workable channel of communication on technical aspects of the action plan and the projects implemented in its framework, between the UNEP, EAS/RCU and the national institutions involved. At the national level the participating governments will select and operate their own channels of technical coordination. For the overall technical coordination by the EAS/RCU the communication links are outlined in *ANNEX II* of this Action Plan document.

57. The EAS/RCU will be kept optimally efficient and effective in order to maximize the availability of funds for programme activities under the action plan, noting the expanded membership.

#### National Focal Points

58. The channel of communication between EAS/RCU and UNEP on issues related to the East Asian Seas action plan are the Government-nominated National Focal Points. The list of the National Focal Points is given in *ANNEX III*.

59. The role of the National Focal Points (NFP) at the national level will be:

59.1 to act as the official channel of communication between the national institutions of their respective governments, the COBSEA, EAS/RCU and UNEP;

59.2 to coordinate, as appropriate, the participation of national institutions in the implementation of the COBSEA-approved programme(s);

59.3 to consult with and provide guidance to the relevant national institutions in connection with the implementation of the COBSEA-approved activities; and

59.4 to collate and represent the results of the COBSEA-approved projects and activities for presentation at the regular meetings of the COBSEA.

#### National institutions

60. National institutions (NI) (such as research centres, laboratories, government services, universities), designated by each participating government, will provide the institutional basis for carrying out the projects under the action plan. They will be the principal executors of the specific work and research under the action plan. NIs will be designated by the NFPs, taking into account the specific characteristics of the national administration and organizational structure of each State.

61. In order to allow for complete and effective participation in agreed activities, technical assistance (such as provision of equipment and training) may be extended through the action plan to strengthen the capabilities of NIs to participate in the programme.

#### Sub-regional and regional institutions (SRI and RI)

62. Sub-regional (covering only part of the East Asian region as defined by the action plan) and regional institutions will be used to the maximum possible extent for the implementation or coordination of the action plan.

63. Where appropriate, NIs will be proposed by a State to assume a sub-regional or regional role with the objective of providing services in support of the action plan (such as intercalibration exercises or data collection, collation and dissemination).

64. Technical assistance may be provided through the action plan to participating sub-regional and regional institutions.

#### Networking

65. In principle, several NIs nominated by the NFPs in various States of the region could become participants in any one activity of the action plan. The NIs, working on the same activity, could be linked in a network of cooperating institutions.

66. RIs and SRIs participating in an activity may also be considered as members of the activity's institutional network.

67. It may be decided by governments that it would be useful if one member of a network assumed the role of a regional activity centre (RAC) for that network and became responsible for coordinating the activity for which the network was established.

#### International organizations

68. Participation of the international organizations in the programme, in particular those belonging to the United Nations System, can greatly assist in the implementation of the action plan. Therefore, their technical and managerial support for specific projects may be solicited on an *ad hoc* basis. The EAS/RCU and UNEP will be invited to assume the responsibility for coordinating such support. Contacts between the international organizations and NIs participating on specific projects will be channelled through the respective NFPs. Furthermore, in order for the action plan to be strengthened and contribute to the global marine environmental issues the EAS/RCU, UNEP and participating States need to initiate and maintain, wherever appropriate, inter-regional cooperative activities and linkages between relevant and appropriate Regional Seas Programmes.

## VI. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

### Financial support

69. Financial support for the activities of the action plan may come from:
- 69.1 contributions from participating governments to the East Asian Seas Trust Fund, established in 1982, according to a scale determined from time to time by the governments concerned;
  - 69.2 contributions from the participating governments, made in addition to the regular contributions outlined in (i) above;
  - 69.3 contributions from governments supporting the action plan but not participating in it;
  - 69.4 support from any United Nations organization on a project-funding basis;
  - 69.5 support from the regional and international organizations which are not part of the United Nations System (eg. regional development banks), in most cases on a project-funding basis;
  - 69.6 support from bilateral and multilateral donors; and
  - 69.7 any other source of funding agreed to by the participating governments.
70. Contributions to the action plan may be in cash or in kind (staff time, experts, training, facilities, services, etc.), or both.
71. Ultimately, the action plan is expected to be financially self-supporting through the East Asian Seas Trust Fund or any other approved and appropriate mechanisms. In the meantime, it is expected that the Environment Fund of UNEP will provide financial support to the action plan although this will, over time, decrease as a proportion of the total annual cost.

### Funding (East Asian Seas Trust Fund and UNEP's Environment Fund)

72. The participating Governments pledges to will be paid to the East Asian Seas Trust Fund on the basis of the amounts shown in *ANNEX IV* of this Action Plan document.
73. The cost to UNEP relating to the supervision of the activities of the EAS/RCU, in so far as its own staff and related costs are concerned, is estimated at US\$ 250,000 per year. In addition, UNEP, subject to the availability of funds, will contribute toward the programme in accordance with specific and *ad hoc* needs.

Management of financial resources

74. In response to the request of the participating governments during the ninth session of Governing Council, a Trust Fund has been established and the authority for its administration delegated by the United Nation's Secretary-General to the Executive Director of UNEP. The Trust Fund will, therefore, be administered according to the financial rules of the United Nations and the terms of reference agreed by the participating governments. These arrangements will be subject to review at *ad hoc* intervals by the participating governments.

75. The Terms of Reference for the Management of the East Asian Seas Trust Fund is provided in *Annex V* of this document.

*ANNEX I*

COMMUNICATION LINKS ON POLICY MATTERS

*ANNEX II*

COMMUNICATION LINKS ON TECHNICAL MATTERS

*ANNEX III*

NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS OF THE ACTION PLAN

The following are the National Focal Points of the East Asian Seas Action Plan:

Australia	Assistant Secretary Environment Strategies Directorate Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories
Brunei Darussalam	Head Environment Unit Ministry of Development
Cambodia, Kingdom of	Minister of Environment Ministry of the Environment
China, People's Republic of	Chief Division of Marine Environmental Management Department of Nature Conservation National Environmental Protection Agency
Indonesia	The Assistant Minister Ministry of State for Environment
Korea, Republic of	Director International Environment Organizations Division International Economic Affairs Bureau Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Malaysia	Director-General Department of Environment Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment
Philippines	Director Environmental Management Bureau Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Singapore	Head, International Environment and Policy Department Ministry of the Environment
Thailand	Secretary-General Office of Environmental Policy and Planning

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Vietnam,  
Socialist Republic of

Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment

Director  
National Environmental Agency  
Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment

*ANNEX IV*

LEVEL OF PLEDGES OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES  
TO THE EAST ASIAN SEAS TRUST FUND

The following are the level of the pledges of the participating States to the East Asian Seas Trust Fund:

State	US dollars	
Australia	15,000	(for 1994)
Cambodia, Kingdom of	5,000	(for 1995)
China, People's Republic of	15,000	(.....)
Indonesia	33,000	
Korea, Republic of	.....	(.....)
Malaysia	18,700	
Philippines	20,900	
Singapore	1,100	
Thailand	20,900	
Vietnam, Socialist Republic of	7,000	(for 1995)

ANNEX V

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF  
THE EAST ASIAN SEAS TRUST FUND

1. The Trust Fund of the Action Plan for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Region, hereinafter referred to as the "Trust Fund", is established to provide financial support for the Action Plan originally adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Region, Manila, 29 April 1981 and subsequently revised by the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the East Asian Seas Action Plan (Bangkok, 27-28 October 1994).

2. The Trust Fund, established initially for two calendar years beginning 1 January 1982, will be extended periodically by the participating countries. Whenever the participating States wish the Trust Fund to be extended beyond the period agreed to, the decision shall be made at the appropriate COBSEA meeting and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) shall be so advised in writing at least six months before that date. It is understood that such extension of the Trust Fund shall be decided at the discretion of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. The administration of the Trust Fund shall be entrusted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, should he deem it necessary, to the Executive Director of UNEP. The establishment and management of the Trust Fund shall be governed by the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, and other administrative policies or procedures promulgated by the Secretary-General. It is understood that these Rules provide that the United Nations shall make a deduction equal to 13 per cent of all expenditures financed from the Trust Fund to defray the administrative support costs of the Trust Fund.

4. The expenditures from the Trust Fund shall be made in accordance with the decisions of financial arrangements adopted by the annual Intergovernmental Meetings (COBSEA). No expenditure from the Trust Fund shall be made in advance of the receipt of contributions.

5. All contributions shall be paid in full convertible United States dollars. Contributions from the States of the region shall be paid in equal yearly installments. The contributions shall be due on or about 1 January of each year. Contributions shall be paid into the following account, indicating the purpose of payment as East Asian Seas:

Account No. 015-002756 UNEP General Trust Funds Account  
Chemical Bank, United Nations Branch  
New York, N.Y. 10017  
U.S.A.

6. Contributions received into the Trust Fund and not immediately required to finance activities, shall be invested at the discretion of the United Nations, and any income shall be credited to the Trust Fund.

7. The Trust Fund shall be subject to audit by the United Nations Internal Audit Service.

8. The budget estimates, prepared in United States dollars, covering the income and expenditure for each of the two calendar years constituting the financial period to which they relate as well as the work plan for the same period, shall be submitted to the annual intergovernmental meetings of the States participating in the East Asian Seas Action Plan.

9. The Secretary-General, or the organization designated by him to administer the Trust Fund, shall submit annual reports on the administration of the Trust Fund to the annual intergovernmental meetings of the States participating in the East Asian Seas Action Plan.