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Sixteenth Meeting of the Coordinating
Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
on the East Asian Seas Action Plan

Bangkok, Thailand, 24-26 October 2001

**REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE
COORDINATING BODY ON THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (COBSEA)
ON THE EAST ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN**



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INTRODUCTION

1. The Intergovernmental Meeting on the East Asian Seas Action Plan, held in Bangkok, 9-11 December 1981, agreed *inter alia*, to establish the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), to serve as the overall authority to determine the contents of the Action Plan, to review the progress of the Action Plan and to approve its programme of implementation during the annual meetings of the governments (intergovernmental meetings) that participate in the Action Plan. A Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the East Asian Seas Action Plan (Bangkok, 27-28 October 1994), decided to enlarge the geographic coverage of the Action Plan to enable Australia, Kingdom of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to participate in activities concerning the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Coastal and Marine Areas of the East Asian Seas. The decision to revise the Action Plan, originally adopted by five countries of the region in 1981, was taken in order to:

- (a) bring it in line with new developments, particularly with regard to the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and its programme, Agenda 21;
- (b) allow the addition of the new Member-states; and
- (c) take into consideration emerging environmental issues of the past thirteen years.

2. Representatives from Australia, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam attended the meeting. The meeting was attended by the following observers: ASEAN Secretariat, ESCAP, ICLARM, IOC/WESTPAC of UNESCO, GEF/UNDP/IMO PEMSEA project, Burapha University, SEA START RC, Chulalongkorn University, UNEP and UNDP. The list of participants and observers appears as Annex I to this report.

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the meeting

3. Dr. Hugh Kirkman called the meeting to order and welcomed all participants on behalf of the Secretariat. He invited Mr. Ellik Adler, Regional Seas Co-ordinator of the Division of Environmental Conventions to officially open the meeting.

4. On behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Mr. Adler welcomed participants from Member countries, and organisations participating as observers in the COBSEA meeting, and highlighted the importance which UNEP and the Executive Director attach to the successful implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan during the last year.

5. He noted the progress made by the East Asian Seas Action Plan since the last COBSEA meeting in Pattaya, Thailand in September 2000, guided by EAS/RCU. He mentioned the UNEP/GEF Project, "Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand", and emphasised its importance to a regional co-ordinated approach in the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the region. He noted the intensive work of the UNEP/GEF Co-ordinating Office and the EAS/RCU, in developing the project. He expressed his hope that, although the project approval by Member States was slow at times, things would change following the First Meeting of the Project Steering Committee, held in Bangkok, just prior to the COBSEA meeting. Countries agreed to sign the Memoranda of Understanding within a few weeks, allowing the beginning of the operational phase of the project.

6. He further noted the efforts made by EAS/RCU to study and reduce the impact of pollution, degradation and loss of marine resources in the Region. He commented on the commencement of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) project funded through the UN Foundation and referred to the EAS/RCU Project "Establishment of an Effective Coral Reef Monitoring Network in the East Asian Seas Region" and its sub-projects on coral reef monitoring, training, awareness and management that would be co-ordinated with the ICRAN Project.

7. He then mentioned the importance of COBSEA to the regional implementation of UNEP/GPA activities, and emphasised the unique opportunity for EAS/RCU to present its achievements, such as the Regional Workshop on Protecting Coastal and Marine Ecosystems from Land-Based Activities in the Asia-Pacific Region, Toyama, Japan, 25 - 28 September 2001, to the First Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the GPA in Montreal, Canada, November 2001. He then expressed his hope that the difficult times for most countries in the Region, especially after the sad September 11th events in the United States, and the economic recovery that is occurring, would not threaten the environment.

8. Mr. Adler mentioned the financial difficulties that UNEP has at the moment due to lack of contributions from some countries to the Environment Fund and expressed his fear that UNEP may no longer be able to financially support COBSEA. He called on Member States to consider increasing their financial support to COBSEA and asked the Secretariat to assist them in this task. He expressed the commitment of UNEP to do whatever is possible to assist this very important region referring to UNEP's Governing Council Decision GC21/28 Nairobi, 21 February that calls for the strengthening of the various Regional Seas Programmes. He then wished the meeting success in its endeavours.

Agenda Item 2. Organisation of the meeting

(a) Designation of officers

9. The Delegate from Cambodia nominated Dr. Robert Jara from Philippines as the Chairperson of the meeting. The nomination was seconded by the Delegate from Malaysia and Dr. Jara from Philippines was duly elected Chairperson by acclamation.

10. The Delegate from Malaysia nominated Mr. Henk Uktolseya from Indonesia as Vice-Chairperson of the meeting. The nomination was seconded by the Delegate from Cambodia, and Mr. Uktolseya was duly elected as Vice-Chairperson by acclamation.

11. The Delegate from Thailand proposed that Ms. Sonya Errington from Australia be invited to serve as Rapporteur of the meeting. The nomination was seconded by the Delegate from Philippines and Ms. Errington was duly elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

(b) Organisation of work

12. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to introduce this agenda item, and Dr. Kirkman proposed, and the meeting agreed that, the rules of procedure adopted by UNEP's Governing Council, as applicable to meetings convened by the Executive Director, would apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to this meeting. Dr. Kirkman proposed, and the meeting agreed, to carry out its work in plenary session.

13. The meeting was conducted in English.

Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the agenda

14. The revised provisional Agenda was introduced to the meeting. With a minor change in the proposed agenda, it was adopted and is attached as Annex II to this report.

Agenda Item 4. Report of the UNEP Executive Director on the progress of the implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan

4.1 UNEP/GEF Project "Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand"

15. The Chairperson, Dr. Robert Jara invited Dr. John Pernetta to present the report of the First Meeting of the Project Steering Committee for the UNEP/GEF Project entitled: *"Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand"* on behalf of the Committee.

16. In opening his presentation, Dr. Pernetta conveyed the apologies of the Chairperson of the Project Steering Committee, Honourable Deputy Minister, Dr. Daniel Murdiyarso that he was unable to present the report in person. Dr. Pernetta noted that a number of Steering Committee members were present however, in the COBSEA meeting and hoped that any errors or omissions in his presentation would be corrected by those members present. He noted that the agreed text of the report had been made available to the COBSEA meeting as document UNEP(GEF)/SCS/PSC.1/3.

17. Dr. Pernetta presented the national and regional management framework for the Project, which were formally adopted by the First Meeting of the Project Steering Committee. He noted that the Steering Committee had worked extremely hard, and in a spirit of friendly collaboration and co-operation in reviewing, amending and adopting the Terms of References for all the National and Regional Committees and working groups, which formed part of this management framework. He further noted that, the framework budget and workplan for the five years of the project were agreed upon by the meeting, as had the workplan and budget for the calendar year 2002. In addition, the Steering Committee considered and adopted a cost coefficient for calculation of the participating countries in-kind co-financing to the project, and had adopted Rules of Procedure for the conduct of future meetings of the Committee.

18. Finally, Dr. Pernetta informed the meeting that the participating countries had agreed to ensure signature of all 45 Memoranda of Understanding between UNEP, and the Governments and Specialised Executing Agencies at national level by the end of November 2001. In the light of the need for GEF clearance of the final project document, which would include these Memoranda of Understanding, a likely commencement date for the project therefore, would be the end of February 2002.

19. During the ensuing discussion, questions were raised by participants regarding the relationships between the Project Co-ordinating Unit and the EAS/RCU and between COBSEA and the Project Steering Committee. The Delegate from Singapore noted that there had been a considerable investment of time from the EAS/RCU in the preparatory phase of this GEF Project and that he would wish to see some benefits accrue to COBSEA from this investment.

20. In response Dr. Pernetta acknowledged the important support provided by the EAS/RCU to the development of this project and pointed out that, substantial additional resources had been invested in project development by UNEP's GEF Co-ordination Office. He further noted that the Project Brief, which had been endorsed by the participating countries and agreed by the 15th Meeting of COBSEA, held in Pattaya, Thailand, September 2000, clearly stated that the supreme decision making body of the project was the Project Steering Committee. This Committee is composed solely of representatives of the participating countries. Dr. Pernetta stated that, the Project Steering Committee had agreed to convene its annual meetings in advance of those of COBSEA. This would ensure appropriate reporting of the outcomes of project activities to COBSEA, and would ensure linkage and synergy with the actions undertaken in the framework of the East Asian Seas Action Plan. In addition, he noted that, the co-location of the staff of the Project Co-ordinating Unit with those of the EAS/RCU would ensure co-ordination of operational level activities. This would also provide a strengthened and unified presence at the regional level; and, ensure that activities funded through various sources were managed in a cohesive and complementary manner.

4.2 *The Project "Establishment of an Effective Coral Reef Monitoring Network in the East Asian Seas Region (ES/6030-00-06)*

21. Dr. Hugh Kirkman reported to the meeting progress on the implementation of the project. He informed the meeting that a workshop was organised in Phuket, Thailand, May 2000 with participation of other relevant organisations and national experts. The Workshop proposed a number of activities under this project with an indication of their relative priority. The implementation of activities to date has been successful, and these include activities on supporting coral reef monitoring in the participating countries. Translation of relevant material for public awareness was undertaken in some of the national languages of participating countries. A meeting of journalists was organised in Thailand resulting in the publication of coral reef articles in the national newspapers. TV and radio programmes were also produced to show the importance of coral reefs and problems with tourism. This report was provided to the meeting as UNEP(DEC)/EAS/IG.16/INF.4. He also reported on the Regional Workshop on Networking of Marine Protected Areas (Coral Reefs) in the East Asian Seas. This Workshop was held after the COBSEA documents had been prepared so results are not attached. An important outcome of the Workshop was that COBSEA countries will be asked to support the networking of marine protected areas in the region.

22. The meeting expressed appreciation for the progress that has been made in the implementation of the project, and instructed EAS/RCU that further project activities should be confirmed by the National Focal Point in advance.

23. With the understanding that participants who attended the Workshop organised in Phuket had been nominated by the COBSEA Focal Points of participating countries, and the web pages available to exchange necessary information, the meeting expressed the desire that information regarding project activities should be sent to the participating countries during the inter-sessional period.

24. The representative from ICLARM commended EAS/RCU on its initiative in convening the workshop in Phuket on coral reef monitoring and data acquisition, and on the work that has been done since then. He also informed the Delegates of recent revisions to Reefbase, the global information system on coral reefs, and expressed ICLARM's willingness to work with EAS/RCU and COBSEA countries in the development of coral reef database and monitoring programme.

4.3 *The East Asian Seas Regional International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) (MT/1010-01-03)*

25. Mr. Yihang Jiang presented a summary on the activities carried out during the last inter-session period with regard to the preparation and implementation of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) by referring to the ICRAN Strategic Action Plan. The project is funded by the United Nations Foundation with several organisations as partners to implement project activities. He informed the meeting about the general objectives and management structure of the project. He also informed the meeting that the Co-ordinator of EAS/RCU is a member of the Steering Committee of ICRAN to ensure the successful implementation of project activities in the region.

26. Considering the on-going and planned project activities relating to the protection of coral reefs in the region, the meeting noted the importance of co-ordinating the relevant activities, such as ICRAN, the coral reef component of the UNEP GEF project in the South China Sea, and the Project "Establishment of an Effective Coral Reef Monitoring Network in the East Asian Seas Region".

27. The representative from IOC/WESTPAC informed the meeting that a UNESCO workshop on assessing important biodiversity sites as potential world heritage sites was planned to be held in Manila, Philippines, to which EAS/RCU was invited. However, due to unforeseen reasons, this workshop was postponed.

28. The meeting was informed by the Secretariat that discussions were held between staff from EAS/RCU and the Chief of Nature World Heritage programme, resulting in agreement to co-operate between the two programmes on the world heritage sites, through the UNESCO Jakarta Office. A MOU is under preparation.

29. The representative from ICLARM informed the meeting about the governance structure of ICRAN, and expressed his organisation's willingness to co-operate with EAS/RCU and other relevant partners for successful implementation of ICRAN.

30. The meeting noted that prompt action is needed for the implementation of ICRAN activities, in particular in identifying demonstration and/or target sites, as the implementation of ICRAN in the East Asian Seas region is behind other regions.

4.4 Implementation of the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the East Asian Seas from the Effects of Land-based Activities

31. The meeting was informed by the Secretariat of the organisation and outcomes of the Regional Workshop on Protecting Coastal and Marine Ecosystems from Land-Based Activities in the Asia-Pacific Region, Toyama, Japan, 25 - 28 September 2001.

32. There were 40 participants from 10 countries from the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) and EAS regions. Information on the main objectives and outcomes of the Workshop was provided. The meeting was invited to review the recommendations made by the Workshop for future implementation of agreed activities.

33. The meeting expressed its appreciation to the Government of Japan, UNEP GPA Co-ordination Office, and EAS/RCU for the successful organisation and good results from the Workshop.

34. With regard to the recommendation of the Toyama Workshop to establish a joint NOWPAP and EAS Steering Group for the implementation of the agreed activities, the meeting felt that it was more appropriate that initial implementation should focus on the East Asian Seas region.

35. The meeting supported the submission of the Toyama Workshop recommendation to the First Intergovernmental Review meeting of the GPA in Montreal, Canada, November 2001 together with the Workshop report.

4.5 The GEF PDF B proposal for "Reducing Loss of Mangrove Forests and Biodiversity through Promotion of Sustainable and Environmentally Sound Shrimp Farming"

36. The Secretariat informed the meeting on the status of preparation of this GEF proposal. One co-operating organisation of the project proposal withdrew from this initiative. It was unfortunate that the project proposal was not able to be included in the GEF pipeline of projects. However, the Secretariat also informed the meeting that efforts will be made to consult with other potential donors to provide financial support to the proposed project.

37. Several countries expressed their interest in the project design, and encouraged the EAS/RCU to continue seeking support for the proposed project.

38. The Delegate of China expressed its concern about this project. He also expressed interest in participating in some activities at technical level in the future.

4.6 Co-operation with the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment

39. The meeting was informed by the Secretariat of the initiatives towards strengthening the co-operation with the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment through preparation of a concept paper, which was submitted to the meeting of the Working Group in Brunei on 10 - 11 July, 2001.

40. As part of this initiative, an ASEAN/UNEP workshop is planned in January 2002 to discuss water quality standards and marine protected areas. A review of relevant regional action plans is underway and will be discussed at workshop. The meeting was also informed that other organisations, such as PEMSEA, would be invited to the workshop.

41. The ASEAN Secretariat expressed its appreciation to EAS/RCU regarding assistance provided and made a presentation on ASEAN co-operation in marine and coastal environments.

42. ASEAN co-operation is based on the ASEAN Vision 2020 and the Hanoi Plan of Actions (HPA) 1999-2004. Environmental co-operation is under the purview of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN). ASOEN developed the Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment (SPAEE) 1999-2004. The ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME), a subordinate body under ASOEN, is tasked to implement two of the HPA objectives which aims for : better regional co-ordination for the integrated protection and management of coastal zones; and the protection of the marine environment from the land-based and sea-based activities. There are also other ASEAN Bodies looking after the coastal and marine issues : the Sub-committee on Marine Science and Technology (SCMSAT) and the ASEAN sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (AWGF).

43. AWGCME's programmes and activities include: information exchange/networking on seven priority areas, development of standard format on coral monitoring, harmonisation of criteria for identifying coastal and marine pollution "hotspots", development of marine water quality standards for the ASEAN region, development of guidelines for management and conservation of marine resources, development of a framework to protect the marine

environment from land-based and sea-based activities, and development of a regional mechanism to enhance surveillance and follow up action against illegal discharge.

44. There are several regional initiatives in the East Asian Seas that have similar objectives and these are complementing each other. In this regard, the ASEAN Environment Ministers directed ASOEN/AWGCME to collaborate with these regional initiatives in order to enhance programme efficiency, and to ensure consistency and synergy. ASEAN hopes for further integration of its activities with major regional initiatives, such as COBSEA and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA). ASEAN can provide co-ordination role, commitment, policy, and institutional framework.

45. The meeting fully recognised the importance of co-ordination and co-operation with other regional organisations and programmes, and instructed EAS/RCU to strengthen co-ordination of activities with the AWGCME and the PEMSEA project and prepare a concept paper to be discussed with the AWGCME and PEMSEA at above ASEAN/UNEP workshop. The result of discussion will be reported to the next COBSEA meeting.

4.7 *The International Symposium on Protection and Management of Coastal Marine Ecosystems*

46. The meeting was informed by the Secretariat of the organisation and outcomes of the International Symposium on Protection and Management of Coastal Marine Ecosystems, Bangkok, November 2000, undertaken in close co-operation with, and support from the Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS) Centre. The proceedings of the symposium were prepared and published (UNEP,2001. Proceedings of the International Symposium on Protection and Management of Coastal Marine Ecosystems. Bangkok, Thailand, 12-13 December, 2000. EAS/RCU, UNEP, Bangkok, Thailand. 270 pp.).

Agenda Item 5. Financial arrangements

- (a) Financial Report for 2000-2001
- (b) Contributions to the East Asian Seas Trust Fund

47. Dr. Kirkman provided the financial report for 2000-2001, with reference to the allocation and expenditures from UNEP Environment Fund and EAS Trust Fund. He further indicated that the operation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan during the last two years had relied to a large extent upon support from the UNEP Environment Fund (UNEP(DEC)/EAS IG.16/4 rev.1 Annex II).

48. He also informed the meeting that due to financial constraints in UNEP, the financial support from the Environment Fund would be reduced or removed. Therefore, it is crucial for the future existence of COBSEA that the East Asian Seas Action Plan become self-sustaining in the near term.

49. With regard to the potential increase in contributions from the participating countries to the EAS Trust Fund, Dr. Kirkman presented five scenarios (document UNEP(DEC)/EAS IG.16/6). These scenarios were calculated based on a target amount of US\$ 475,000, and with options regarding:

- (i) Amounts agreed to by the participating countries that add up to an agreed "base figure" determined on the basis of the percentage of the total which each country now pays;
- (ii) The amount agreed by the countries that would add up to the required amount of \$475,000 based on incremental increases over five years;

- (iii) Contributions in accordance with the UN scale of assessment as determined by the General Assembly of the United Nations;
- (iv) Contributions from each country comprised of two components: (i) an amount based on equal sharing by COBSEA Member Governments, of a fixed percentage of the "base figure" (e.g. 50 per cent) plus (ii) contributions from each country calculated using the same ratios as applied in the UN assessment scale to make up the remaining 50 per cent of the "base figure"; and
- (v) Contributions remain voluntary as they are now but each country increases its contributions to the target amount, with the shortfall being met through innovative fund raising from donors on the part of the EAS/RCU, provision of salaries for staff by Member Governments.

50. The representative of the UNEP Executive Director informed the meeting that UNEP, through its Environment Fund, has provided substantial financial support to the East Asian Seas Action Plan since its initiation in recognition of the importance of this region. Over the same period, UNEP has provided more funds to COBSEA than to other regional seas programmes,

51. He also informed the meeting that during the last UNEP Governing Council, the member countries approved a workplan and budget for UNEP's entire operation of about US\$100 million. However, on the basis of pledges and contributions received to date, UNEP will face a considerable shortfall in this amount. Therefore, UNEP as a whole faces a serious financial situation and will be unable to continue to provide financial support to the EAS Trust Fund as it did in previous years.

52. With regard to the financial report for 2000-2001, the table presented in the report only indicated 2001 expenditures for the year up to end of June. The meeting requested the Secretariat to provide expected expenditures to the end of December 2001. The Secretariat provided and distributed a separate table with an indication of expected expenditures for 2001, which is attached as Annex III.

53. The meeting was advised that the United Nations requirements for inclusion of an allotment for staff termination and establishment costs in any one year in order to cover the contingency of staff leaving and being replaced in the year concerned. The meeting accepted the financial report for 2000-2001.

54. After extensive discussion regarding the possibility of Member Governments increasing their contribution and the financial problems facing UNEP, the meeting adopted the resolution contained in Annex IV. The resolution of the meeting will be presented to UNEP.

55. On the matter of unpaid pledges, the meeting was informed by the secretariat that a letter was received by UNEP from the Government of Thailand. In the reply from UNEP to the Government of Thailand, it was indicated that this matter should be discussed and decided by COBSEA.

56. The meeting agreed to include a separate item on the agenda for the next COBSEA meeting, to discuss unpaid pledges and contributions, and instructed the Secretariat to prepare an information document on this matter.

Agenda Item 6. Workplan and Budget for 2002 – 2003

57. Mr. Yihang Jiang introduced this agenda item and referred participants to the document

UNEP(DEC)/EAS IG.16/5. He informed the meeting that the budget plan had been prepared on the basis of a continuation of the same level of Environment Fund inputs as in previous years, since the difficulties facing UNEP had not been conveyed to the EAS/RCU prior to the preparation of the meeting documents. The plan also could not take into account the contents of the resolution (Annex IV) just adopted and mentioned in paragraph 54.

58. He also informed the meeting of the detailed workplans and budgets for the implementation of other projects supported from external funding sources.

59. Taking into consideration the fact that the personnel allotments in the planned budget include the contingency costs referred to in paragraph 52 above, the meeting felt that it would be helpful if this was made clear through inclusion of an appropriate footnote to the budget.

60. The meeting approved the workplan and budget as proposed by the Secretariat with the addition of the footnote referred to above. The approved budget for 2002 – 2003 is attached as Annex V.

Agenda Item 7. Other Business

61. The Delegate of Australia informed the meeting about the Ebbe Nielsen Regional Postgraduate Research Scholarship, which is available in the Australian Biological Resources Study, and provided guidelines concerning how suitably qualified candidates might apply.

62. The representative from PEMSEA updated the meeting on the implementation status of some of the activities relevant to COBSEA, including:

- (i) Consultative Workshop on the Gulf of Thailand Environmental Management Project; and
- (ii) Preparation of a document entitled "Environmental Strategy for the Seas of East Asia".

Agenda Item 8. Adoption of the Report

63. The Rapporteur introduced the draft summary report of the meeting and invited participants to review and adopt the document as a true record of its deliberations. The meeting reviewed, discussed and amended the draft report and approved it as contained in this document.

Agenda Item 9. Closure of the Meeting

64. On behalf of the participating countries, the delegate of China thanked the Chairman and secretariat for their hard work. The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 1200 hrs on Friday 26 October 2001.

ANNEX I

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
- 2. Organisation of the meeting**
 - (a) Designation of officers
 - (b) Organisation of work
- 3. Adoption of the agenda**
- 4. Report of the UNEP Executive Director on the Progress of the Implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan**
 - 4.1 UNEP/GEF Project "Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand"
 - 4.2 The Project "Establishment of an Effective Coral Reef Monitoring Network in the East Asian Seas Region" (ES/6030-00-06)
 - 4.3 The East Asian Seas Regional International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) (MT/1010-01-03)
 - 4.4 Implementation of the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the East Asian Seas from the Effects of Land-based Activities
 - 4.5 The GEF PDF B proposal for "Reducing Loss of Mangrove Forests and Biodiversity through Promotion of Sustainable and Environmentally Sound Shrimp Farming"
 - 4.6 Co-operation with the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment secretariat
 - 4.7 The International Symposium on Protection and Management of Coastal Marine Ecosystems
- 5. Financial arrangements**
 - (a) Financial Report for 2000-2001
 - (b) Contributions to the East Asian Seas Trust Fund
- 6. Workplan and Budget for 2002 – 2003**
- 7. Other Business**
- 8. Adoption of the Report**
- 9. Closure of the Meeting**

**ANNEX III
EXPECTED EXPENDITURES OF THE EAS/RCU JUN-DEC 2001**

Item	Allotment	Records		Expected Figures for 2001	
		Expenditure	Balance	Expenditures	Balance
		(as of June 2001)	(as of June 2001)	(end 2001)	(end 2001)
GRAND TOTAL	602,464	142,898	459,566	331,454	271,010
I. PROJECT PERSONNEL	474,000	125,737	348,263	282,414	191,586
1.1. Project Personnel	290,000	89,000	201,000	179,000	111,000
1.1.1. Coordinator	150,000	45,000	105,000	92,000	58,000
1.1.2. Programme Officer	140,000	44,000	96,000	87,000	53,000
1.2. Consultants	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000
1.3. Administrative Support	139,000	27,448	111,552	70,414	68,586
1.3.1. One Admin. Assistance + two Secret.	129,000	27,059	101,941	70,025	58,975
1.3.2. Temporary Assistance	10,000	389	9,611	389	9,611
1.4. Travel on Official Business	35,000	9,289	25,711	33,000	2,000
1.4.1. National trips		740		3,000	
1.4.2. Regional trips		1,549		15,000	
1.4.3. Inter-continental trips		7,000		15,000	
II. SUB-CONTRACTS	30,000	-	30,000	-	30,000
2.1. Unspecified	30,000	-	30,000	-	30,000
III. TRAINING COMPONENT	20,000	327	19,673	11,000	9,000
3.1. Group Training (attendance of experts)	10,000	327	9,673	1,000	9,000
3.2. Meetings and conferences (unspecified)	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-
IV. EQUIP. & PREMISES COMPONENT	40,000	12,065	27,935	24,040	15,960
4.1. Expendable Equip. (Office supplies)	5,000	1,210	3,790	2,000	3,000
4.2. Non-expendable Equip. (Zipper, CD-W, mob.phone & HDD)	10,000	835	9,165	2,000	8,000
4.3. Premises (Office rent)	25,000	10,020	14,980	20,040	4,960
V. MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT	38,464	4,770	33,694	14,000	24,464
5.1. Operation and Maintenance of Equipment	5,500	-	5,500	2,000	3,500
5.2. Reporting Cost (Sewage + EMECS)	11,964	3,100	8,864	5,000	6,964
5.3. Sundry (Communications & postages)	19,000	1,670	17,330	5,000	14,000
5.4. Hospitality	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	-

ANNEX IV

RESOLUTION OF THE 16TH MEETING OF COBSEA

Recognising the severe constraints under which the Environment Fund of UNEP is currently operating;

Recognising further that UNEP may not be in a position to support the work of COBSEA during the biennium 2002-2003 with the same level of financial contributions from the Environment Fund as in previous years;

Taking note of UNEP Governing Council decision 21/28, Nairobi, 9th February 2001 regarding the strengthening of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme;

Taking note also of the fact that, the East Asian Seas Action Plan was established as a partnership between UNEP and the countries of the region;

Noting further that as of the end of the biennium 2000-2001 there will be an unspent balance of the Environment Fund allotment for 2001 to the EAS Action Plan, of the order of US\$ 130,000.

The 16th meeting of COBSEA:

Urges UNEP to consider the continuation of its financial support;

In the event that UNEP is unable to continue its financial support at previous levels **requests that UNEP consider** at least phasing out its support over a longer period rather than removing all support as of January 1st 2002;

Requests UNEP to transfer the balance of unspent Environment Fund allotment for 2001 to the East Asian Seas Trust Fund as an earmarked contribution in support of the EAS/RCU operations during 2002;

Requests the EAS/RCU to:

- produce as promptly as possible a comprehensive costing for the operation of the EAS/RCU formulated on zero based budgeting and scenarios reflecting alternative levels of available funding from all sources, that may be used by COBSEA members in justifying any requests for increased contributions from the member countries;
- engage in an active campaign to raise funds for the continued operation of the Secretariat;
- consider ways in which cost recovery in the execution of externally funded activities might be achieved.

Urges member governments to pay their arrears as promptly as possible; and,

Urges member Governments to maintain their current levels of contribution whilst they consider raising their annual contributions in order to ensure the sustainable operation of the Secretariat.

ANNEX V

WORKPLAN AND BUDGET for 2002 -2003

1. In anticipation of the establishment of the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU), the Intergovernmental Meeting held in Manila in 1981 decided that UNEP:
 - (a) be responsible for the overall technical coordination and the continuous supervision of the implementation of the Action Plan,
 - (b) act as its secretariat, and
 - (c) manage the resources of the East Asian Seas Trust Fund.
2. In response to the decision of the Ninth COBSEA meeting (Kuala Lumpur, 13 – 15 November 1991) on the immediate establishment of the RCU, the Executive Director of UNEP arranged for the establishment of the EAS/RCU. The EAS/RCU is staffed by two Professional staff: Coordinator and Programme Officer, and three locally recruited General Service staff: Administrative Assistant, Senior Secretary and Secretary.
3. The main responsibilities of the EAS/RCU are:
 - To function as the Secretariat of the Action Plan
 - To coordinate the activities decided and approved by the COBSEA.
4. Since the adoption of the East Asian Seas Action Plan in 1981 up to now, the financial support for the implementation of the operations of the COBSEA secretariat have been provided mainly from the resources of UNEP's Environment Fund with partial support from the East Asian Seas Trust Fund.
5. Bearing in mind the reduced resources made available through the UNEP Environment Fund and the insufficient contributions of our COBSEA member countries, a workplan and budget were prepared for the 2002 – 2003 biennium.
6. The budget from the Environment Fund covers the salaries of the Coordinator and three General Services officers while the Trust Fund supports the Programme Officer. Travel for the secretariat's business is covered from the Trust Fund and is based on previous biennium workplans.
7. Funding for "Establishing an Effective Coral Reef Monitoring Network in the East Asian Seas Region" - Project No. ES/6030-00-06 and the Regional GPA project on "Identification of Regional "Hot spots" on Land-based Pollution, Their Characteristics and Impacts -Towards Better Management" is from funds specifically placed in the Trust Fund for these purposes. Other expenses include office rental, expenses and equipment. Also from the Trust Fund come the expenses of the COBSEA Meeting.
8. The Workplan and Budget are presented below for adoption by the COBSEA Meeting. The Budget is shown as Table 1.
9. The objectives of the East Asian Seas Work Plan in 2002-2003 are to:
 - I. Give general support for the implementation of the Action Plan by actively implementing and overseeing the projects described in the Workplan.

- II. Seeking further funding to enhance existing projects and initiate new ones that fall within the objectives of the Action Plan.
 - III. Support activities identified by member countries and the UNEP Governing Council.
 - IV. Support the COBSEA Meeting.
10. The following Projects are funded from other sources.
- I. The UNEP/GEF "Project Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand" Workplan and Budget is document UNEP(DEC)/EAS IG.16/5. This Project is now in the implementation phase and the First Meeting of the Project Steering Committee was held on 22-23 October.
 - II. The EAS ICRAN Project is underway and described in the Executive Director's Report document UNEP(DEC)/EAS IG.16/4 rev.1.
 - III. The objectives of the GPA project "Identification of Regional "Hot spots" on Land-based Pollution, Their Characteristics and Impacts -Towards Better Management" are to: analyse criteria to identify the regional "hot spots" of marine pollution from land-based sources, and to form a network of institutions responsible for control and management of "hot spots". A workshop on the impacts of pollution on the marine environment in the "hot spots" will be organised and a regional database on the state of pollution in these areas established on "hot spots" with a GIS format.
 - IV. The project "Establishing an Effective Coral Reef Monitoring Network in the East Asian Seas Region" is underway and described in the Executive Director's Report document UNEP(DEC)/EAS IG.16/4 rev.1.

Table 1. SUPPORT FOR THE OPERATION OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATING UNIT FOR
THE EAST ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN (RCU/EAS)

Proposed Budget 2002-2003		2002		2003		TOTAL
(Expressed in US \$)		ES/6030-96-12	FP/6030-96-12	ES/6030-96-12	FP/6030-96-12	
10	PROJECT PERSONNEL					
	1100 Project Personnel ¹	140,000	150,000	140,000	150,000	580,000
	1200 Consultants	8,000	-	8,000	-	16,000
	1300 Administrative Support	20,000	129,000	20,000	129,000	298,000
	1600 Travel on Official Business	21,000	-	21,000	-	42,000
	1999 COMPONENT TOTAL	189,000	279,000	189,000	279,000	936,000
20	SUB-CONTRACTS					
	2200 w/ Regional Institutions/organizations	18,000	-	20,000	-	38,000
	2999 COMPONENT TOTAL	18,000	-	20,000	-	38,000
30	TRAINING COMPONENT					
	3200 Group Training	26,000	-	26,000	-	52,000
	3300 Meeting and Conferences	19,000	-	19,000	-	38,000
	3999 COMPONENT TOTAL	45,000	-	45,000	-	90,000
40	EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES					
	4100 Expendable Equipment	2,000	-	3,000	-	5,000
	4200 Non-Expendable Equipment	1,000	-	2,000	5,000	8,000
	4300 Premises	25,000	-	25,000	-	50,000
	4999 COMPONENT TOTAL	28,000	-	30,000	5,000	63,000
50	MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT					
	5100 Operation and maintenance of equip.	2,500	-	2,000	-	4,500
	5200 Reporting cost	2,500	-	12,500	-	15,000
	5300 Sundry	12,000	-	3,000	15,000	30,000
	5400 Hospitality and entertainment	1,000	-	2,000	-	3,000
	5999 COMPONENT TOTAL	18,000	-	19,500	15,000	52,500
99	PROJECT TOTAL	298,000	279,000	303,500	299,000	1,179,500

¹ This allotment includes an allowance, 59,591 as in the case of the Co-ordinator in the year 2000, to cover *inter alia* the costs of pension contributions, repatriation, re-advertisement, re-appointment and establishment grants for replacement staff together with the administrative costs associated with personnel support including payroll.