



United Nations
Environment
Programme



Distr.
RESTRICTED

UNEP/IG.44/4
1 March 1983

Original: ENGLISH

Second Meeting of the
Co-ordinating Body on the
Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)

Yogyakarta, 25-26 March 1983

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EAST ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN

1982 - 1983



United Nations
Environment
Programme



Distr.
RESTRICTED

UNEP/IG.44/4
1 March 1983

Original: ENGLISH

Second Meeting of the
Co-ordinating Body on the
Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)

Yogyakarta, 25-26 March 1983

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EAST ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN
1982-1983

INTRODUCTION

1. At its meeting on 25 May 1977 the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) took note of the interest manifested by the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand in developing a programme for the protection and management of their seas and decided to initiate steps to "formulate and establish a scientific programme involving research, prevention and control of marine pollution and monitoring" for the East Asian Seas Region. (UNEP/GC/106, Decision 88(V)).
2. In accordance with this decision, the Executive Director of UNEP in co-operation with ESCAP, FAO, UNESCO, IOC of UNESCO, WHO, IMO and IAEA initiated the preparatory work needed to develop an Action Plan for the protection of the marine environment of East Asia.
3. The programme, which involved many background studies, expert meetings and consultations, culminated in the convening of two intergovernmental meetings which formally adopted the "Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Region."

4. The first intergovernmental meeting, held in Manila, 27-29 April 1981, finalized the content and agreed to the environmental assessment and environmental management components of the Action Plan. In addition, the meeting participants agreed to explore various institutional and financial arrangements for the implementation of the Plan and requested that the Executive Director of UNEP prepare with the collaboration of the relevant international organizations, as appropriate, detailed draft description(s) of the projects to be developed on the basis of the established priorities (UNEP/IG.26/6).
5. Subsequent to the first intergovernmental meeting, the five participating governments decided to establish a Trust Fund to finance the implementation of the Action Plan and requested the Executive Director to manage the Fund.
6. The ninth session the Governing Council of UNEP reviewed this request and taking note of the "agreement among Ministers with responsibility for the environment of the States," members of the Association of South East Asian Nations, "to finance the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Region through the mechanism of a trust fund" approved "the establishment of a Trust Fund for the implementation of the Action Plan for the East Asian Seas for an initial two-year period extending to 31 December 1983" (UNEP/GC/106, Decision 88(V)).
7. The Second Intergovernmental Meeting on the East Asian Seas Action Plan was convened by the Executive Director in Bangkok, 9-11 December 1981 (UNEP/IG.31/6). The meeting reviewed the programme priorities of the Action Plan, the timetable for their implementation as well as the institutional and financial arrangements needed to support their implementation. The meeting decided that "overall authority to determine the content of the action plan, to review its progress and to approve its programme of implementation, including financial implication, would be vested in the regional periodic meetings of Governments (intergovernmental meetings) participating in the Action Plan." For this purpose a policy co-ordinating body known as the Co-ordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (CDBSEA) was formed. The overall technical co-ordination of the Action Plan was vested in UNEP. The meeting also decided that each of the national focal points will be responsible for the implementation and co-ordination of one or several priority projects. Financial resources were pledged by the governments to the Trust Fund. The UNEP Executive Director pledged an allocation of counterpart funds in cash and in kind from UNEP.

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

8. Subsequent to the Second Intergovernmental Meeting, the first meeting of the COBSEA was held in Bangkok, 3 April 1982 and allocated funds to each of the agreed priority projects for 1982. It was agreed that budget allocations for 1983 would be made in late 1982 or early 1983 in light of progress achieved (UNEP/IG.37/10).
9. On the basis of project descriptions and the budget allocations made by COBSEA, UNEP with the help of a consultant, prepared five project documents, one for each of the regional institutions responsible for a priority project. These projects were signed by the respective institutions and the UNEP Environment Fund. The five projects and the corresponding co-ordinating institutions are:
 - a) FP/0503-82-15: Co-operative Research on Oil and Oil Dispersant Toxicity in the East Asian Seas Region; co-ordinated by the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment, Government of Malaysia.
 - b) FP/0503-82-16: Study of Coral Resources and the Effects of Pollutants and Other Destructive Factors on Coral Communities and Related Fisheries in the East Asian Seas Region; co-ordinated by the Natural Resources Management Centre, Government of the Philippines.
 - c) FP/0503-82-17: Study of the Maritime Meteorological Phenomena and Oceanographic Features of the East Asian Seas Region; co-ordinated by the National Environment Board, Government of Thailand.
 - d) FP/0503-82-18: Survey and Monitoring of Oil Pollution and Development of National Co-ordinating Mechanisms for the Management and Establishment of a Regional Data Exchange System; co-ordinated by the Office of the State Minister for Development Supervision and Environment, Government of Indonesia.
 - e) FP/0503-82-19: Assessment of Concentration Levels and Trends of Non-Oil Pollutants and their Effects on the Marine Environment in the East Asian Seas Region; co-ordinated by the National Environmental Protection Council, Government of Philippines.

10. The relatively late start of these projects was due to the fact that according to the terms of reference of the East Asian Seas Trust Fund "no expenditure from the Trust Fund shall be made in advance of the receipt of contributions, and none shall be made before a minimum of US\$ 50,000 has been contributed to the Trust Fund" (UNEP/IG.31/6, Annex VII). This condition was only met in late 1982.
11. The respective co-ordinators of each project have been requested by the Interim Co-ordinator of COBSEA to prepare progress reports together with proposals for revisions of the substantive activities of each project as well as proposals for budget allocations to cover 1983. These proposals are contained in Working Documents Nos. UNEP/IG.44/5-9.
12. The Report of the Interim Co-ordinator of COBSEA on the "Implementation of the East Asian Seas Action Plan 1982-1983" (UNEP/IG.44/3) reviews the substantive implementation of the projects mentioned above. That report, together with those referred to in paragraph 11, form the basis of this meeting's deliberations on the scientific programme of the Action Plan.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

13. During the second Intergovernmental Meeting on the East Asian Seas (see paragraph 7) the five East Asian Seas Governments pledged the following contributions to the Trust Fund:

State	US dollars	
	1982	1983
Indonesia	30,000	30,000
Malaysia	17,000	17,000
Philippines	19,000	19,000
Singapore	1,000	1,000
Thailand	19,000	19,000
TOTAL	86,000	86,000

14. At the same meeting the Executive Director of UNEP indicated that in the biennium 1982-1983 UNEP "will contribute the cost of the technical co-ordination in so far as its own staff and related costs are concerned (estimated at \$50,000 per year). In addition, UNEP will contribute \$50,000 in 1982 for programme activities and, subject to the availability of funds, at least a further \$50,000 for programme activities in 1983."

15. The funds pledged to the Trust Fund for 1982 were received in full before the end of 1982. By the end of February 1983, only US\$ 1,000 was received from Governments for 1983.
16. In addition to the funds provided by governments through the Trust Fund, UNEP has contributed to the costs of co-ordination of the Action Plan as well as to the costs of specific projects implemented by the institutions of the region. These expenditures and commitments in 1982 and 1983 amounted to US\$ 189,998. This sum does not include the cost of UNEP staff time involved in the co-ordination of and support to the Action Plan which is estimated to be about US\$ 80,000 in the biennium 1982-1983.
17. The status of the 1982/1983 budget, including the resources of the Trust Fund and UNEP's Environment Fund are summarized in Annex I.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

18. The Second Intergovernmental Meeting on the East Asian Seas (9-11 April 1981) agreed that 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, would be vested in the regular, periodic meetings of governments (intergovernmental meetings, i.e. COBSEA) participating in the Action Plan.
19. Specifically, COBSEA is expected to:
 - (a) review the progress achieved in implementing the programme since its previous meeting,
 - (b) evaluate the results achieved,
 - (c) adopt a work plan for implementing the programme in the biennium 1982/1983, and
 - (d) approve the budgetary resources required to support the workplan and their allocation.
20. The same meeting designated UNEP to be responsible to the Governments for the overall technical co-ordination and continuous supervision of the implementation of the Action Plan for the years 1982 and 1983. The decision to establish a regional co-ordinating unit as the Secretariat of the Action Plan was deferred to a later stage.

21. In order to provide for a continuous link between UNEP (as the technical Secretariat of the Action Plan) and COBSEA (as the overall authority for the substance of the Action Plan) in the periods between the meetings of COBSEA, the governments have designated the Chairman of COBSEA (who is at the same time the Interim Co-ordinator of the ASEAN Experts Group on the Environment) to undertake this function.
22. As the technical co-ordinator for the Action Plan during the interim period UNEP has interpreted its role as being responsible, under the overall policy guidance of COBSEA, for
 - a) providing secretarial assistance and backstopping for activities requested by COBSEA;
 - b) co-ordinating the technical implementation of projects with co-operating agencies and supporting organizations;
 - c) supporting selected activities approved by COBSEA with resources from the Environment Fund;
 - d) convening meetings of general nature (COBSEA and others);
 - e) managing the East Asian Seas Trust Fund.

RECOMMENDATIONS

23. The meeting is requested to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the priority projects initiated in the framework of the Action Plan and to decide on their modifications, as appropriate. The meeting may also wish to initiate additional activities, as envisaged by the Action Plan.
24. The meeting is requested to examine the budget and the financial arrangements used in the implementation of the Action Plan and decide on future allocation of funds for agreed activities.
25. The meeting should recall that the Trust Fund arrangements approved in 1981 will terminate at the end of 1983. In view of this, the meeting is requested to decide on the termination or extension of these arrangements beyond 1983. Should the meeting decide to extend the present arrangements, the Executive Director is prepared to submit such a request to the Eleventh Session of the Governing Council of UNEP for approval. The eventual decision of the meeting to request the extension of the present financial arrangements should be accompanied with an indication of payments to the Trust Fund in the forthcoming periods, in order to allow for the Executive Director to allocate counterpart contribution from the Environment Fund.

26. In view of the fact that the present institutional arrangements are only binding until the end of 1983, the meeting should review the institutional arrangements adopted in 1981 and recommend specifically if they should be continued, altered (if so in what way) or terminated.

ANNEX 1

STATUS OF THE 1982/1983 BUDGET

(in US\$ as at 31 December 1982)

TRUST FUND

Contributions received from the Governments	87,000
Interest credited (up to 30.11.1982)	4,033

TOTAL INCOME	91,033
--------------	--------

Project commitments (see Annex II)	75,000
Revision for programme support costs (13% of project commitment)	9,750

TOTAL COMMITMENTS	84,750
-------------------	--------

INCOME - COMMITMENTS	6,283
----------------------	-------

ENVIRONMENT FUND (allocations issued by the Executive Director)

For projects referred to in paragraph 9 (see Annex II)	75,000
For programme support cost (FP/0503-82-05)	114,998*

TOTAL COMMITMENTS	189,998
-------------------	---------

* detailed breakdown

	1982	1983
- Consultant to assist in co-ordination of Action Plan	11,781	14,000
- Preparation of oceanographic overview overview of South China Sea	-	21,000
- Administrative and logistic support to CUBSEA meetings	-	8,500
- Travel of UNEP staff in connection with the Action Plan	8,114	17,000

- Support to participants from EAS region in the Pacific Science Congress, Dunedin, February 1963	-	23,000
- Expendable equipment and premises	1,250	1,500
- Computer services, reporting costs and sundry	3,453	5,400
	<hr/>	
	24,598	90,400

Project Commitments
(in US\$ as at 31 January 1983)

	1983	
	TF	EF
FP/ES/LSL3-82-15	12,650	12,650
FP/ES/LSO3-82-16	13,750	13,750
FP/ES/LSL3-82-17	16,400	16,400
FP/ES/LSL3-82-18	16,900	16,900
FP/ES/LSL3-82-19	15,300	15,300
TOTAL	75,000	75,000

