



South Pacific Bureau
for Economic Co-operation



South Pacific Commission



Economic & Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific



United Nations
Environment Programme

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

REPORT OF THE
TECHNICAL MEETING
Noumea, New Caledonia, 22 ~ 26 June 1981



SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION
NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

TECHNICAL MEETING

Noumea, New Caledonia, 22-26 June 1981

R E P O R T

South Pacific Commission
Noumea, New Caledonia
June 1981

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I - INTRODUCTION

1. The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme : Technical Meeting, was held at South Pacific Commission Headquarters from 22-26 June 1981.

2. The Meeting was opened by Tamarii Pierre, Acting Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission (SPC), who presented a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General, the Honourable M. Young Vivian, including the following points.

" Global attention to environmental problems has been a comparatively recent development. In our region, environmental conservation practices are not new. In fact, our forefathers actively promoted the conservation of fisheries, land and other resources through stringent but effective measures. Given the small size of our respective countries in the Pacific, the impact of environmental issues will assume larger proportions in scale than in larger countries and is likely to accelerate at a greater rate than that experienced in other parts of the world if left unchecked. We must therefore act now and learn from the experience of others before we too go through similar and potentially disastrous experiences in relation to environmental issues.

" After reviewing the background information that has been assembled, it is incumbent upon you to prepare an Action Plan that will respond to the needs and priorities identified by our Governments which would, at the same time, be practical, reasonable and effective. Once this Action Plan has been considered and approved at the Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific Region early next year, it is intended that the Plan will serve as the master plan for the Programme for perhaps the next five years. Later this year, our political leaders will also be presented with the results of your deliberations - both at the South Pacific Forum and at the 21st South Pacific Conference. It will be remembered that the Programme we are now considering was initiated by these two bodies.

" In your deliberations, you will also need to consider the most appropriate institutional and financial arrangements that will allow the co-operating organizations to prepare and undertake specific projects in the implementation of the Action Plan. In particular, UNEP is willing to make a substantial financial contribution to the Programme over the next few years provided that the participating and supporting Governments agree to provide counterpart contributions for the implementation of the Plan.

" The environment compasses a vast field and touches on so many essential aspects of our life that we cannot afford to ignore it. The future well-being of the countries and peoples of our region can be influenced by what you are setting out to do this week."

3. The Deputy-Director of the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC), Mr. Jon Sheppard, joined the Acting Secretary-General in welcoming delegates and participants to the Meeting. He pointed out that the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) was in fact a joint project involving both SPEC and SPC at the regional level, as well as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). He recalled that the South Pacific Forum has clearly demonstrated its interest in environmental issues, notably through the adoption by the 1977 Forum Meeting of an Environmental Management Declaration; and consequently SPEC was charged with the responsibility of monitoring developments and ensuring the Forum was closely informed of progress in the SPREP. The Deputy-Director noted that the Technical Meeting had the important task of formulating practical recommendations for the proposed Phase 2 of SPREP. These recommendations would be considered in detail by the Conference on the Human Environment, while the direction of the Programme would also be reviewed by Forum leaders. He expressed SPEC's satisfaction with the work of the Co-ordinating Group, and the Bureau's appreciation of both the substantial financial input from UNEP and ESCAP's participation. In conclusion, he acknowledged the valuable work of the Secretariat in preparing for the current Meeting.

4. An address of welcome was delivered by Dr. Richard Helmer. He conveyed a greeting message on behalf of Dr. Mostafa Tolba, the Executive Director of UNEP, who wished the Meeting every success in its deliberations. Referring to the development of the SPREP, Dr. Helmer acknowledged the substantial achievements made during the first phase of the project. He then explained the role of SPREP as part of a worldwide effort of UNEP to develop regional seas programmes which would ultimately cover all of the major world oceans. UNEP's option for an individual approach to each region was highlighted. This would acknowledge the differences not only among the particular environmental problems encountered in various seas but also among the cultural and socio-economic realities of the states in or around those seas. Finally, UNEP's great interest in the result of the Technical Meeting was reiterated; this should lead on to the Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific scheduled for early next year.

5. The Representative of American Samoa, Mr. Pati Fai'ai, was elected Chairman of the Meeting, and Mr. Tom Daniel, representing the Cook Islands, was elected Vice-Chairman.

6. Rather than select a Drafting Committee, it was decided to form working groups to consider and redraft the Declaration of Principles, the Action Plan and the paper on Institutional and Financial Arrangements.
7. The agenda was adopted as presented, with the understanding that Item 8, "Consideration of draft Action Plan", would include co-ordination with other Regional Seas Programmes.
8. This Report contains a summary of the proceedings of the Technical Meeting and the three working papers as redrafted and approved by the Meeting for submission to the Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific Region. The List of Working Papers and Documents presented to the Meeting appears on pages 17, 18, 19. The Country Reports and Topic Reviews are available as separate volumes from the SPREP Secretariat.

II - AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and a Drafting Committee.
3. Adoption of the Agenda.
4. Statement on the objectives and progress of SPREP.
5. Summary presentation of Country Reports.
6. Presentation and discussion of Topic Reviews on the state of the environment in the region.
7. Review of Draft Declaration of Principles on the Management and Improvement of the Environment in the South Pacific Region, for recommendation to the Regional Environment Conference.
8. Consideration of Draft Action Plan, for recommendation to the Regional Conference.
9. Discussion of Administrative Arrangements and Financing for the next phase of SPREP, for recommendation to the Regional Conference.
10. Proposals for dates, venue, scope and agenda of the Regional Environment Conference.
11. Preparatory activities for the Regional Conference.
12. Other business.
13. Adoption of the Report.

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IV - SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

STATEMENT ON THE OBJECTIVES AND PROGRESS OF SPREP

9. The Secretary to the SPREP Co-ordinating Group, Dr. A.L. Dahl, reminded the Meeting that the principal objective of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is to help the countries of the South Pacific to maintain and improve their shared environment and to enhance their capacity to provide a present and future resource base to support the needs and maintain the quality of life of the people of the Pacific. Environmentally sound management is not seen as blocking development but as encouraging the sustainable use of resources and directing development along those lines most compatible with human requirements, cultural traditions, and ecological and resource limits.

10. SPREP officially started in January 1980 under the responsibility of a Co-ordinating Group representing SPC (Chairman), SPC, UNEP and ESCAP, with SPC providing the secretariat. UNEP was providing 61% of the funding (US\$ 312,000) for the first phase of the Programme, with significant support coming from the other co-operating organizations. Eighteen countries and territories in the region were participating actively in the Programme, with almost all having submitted country reports on their environmental policy, problems and requirements. A series of expert reviews were also commissioned on important environmental topics. The Technical Meeting was responsible for preparing documents for a Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific Region to be held early next year, which would conclude Phase I of the Programme, and adopt an Action Plan and Administrative and Financial Arrangements for Phase 2.

COUNTRY REPORTS

11. Working Paper I was presented and summarized giving emphasis to common themes significant for the whole region which arise from the Country Reports. The fact that the first stage of SPREP was the preparation of reports by each country, and that practically all countries had taken part, was indicative of the great importance given to environmental matters in the region, and provided an unusually broad basis on which to build the rest of the Programme. The exercise of preparing the reports has in itself been valuable, drawing attention to the importance of incorporating environmental issues in national policies.

12. The traditional place of wise environmental management in the culture of Pacific peoples was emphasized as of basic importance regionally and possibly as a unique contribution to world environmental thinking. The way in which new countries of the region were incorporating environmental objectives into their constitutions and other basic statements of policy could be a lesson to the rest of the world. The keenness for finding regional legal bases for environmental protection promises strength for the region.

13. There was concern that available scientific information was often not applied to management decisions, and that in other cases urgent management decisions had to be made in the absence of adequate information. However, it was stressed that the region has a large fund of basic information, and, with four universities and many research centres in the region, a very substantial pool of internal expertise. These are supplemented by many institutions, in peripheral regions and throughout the world, with interests in the region. It was recognized, however, that the integration of basic information into environmental policies was still a difficult operation and, in common with the rest of the world, skills in this field needed development. Environmental assessments are far behind the basic data available.

14. Attention was given to the difficulties of finding reliable methods of incorporating environmental factors into the machinery of government, so that the best available technical information, and appropriate value judgments expressed as political decisions, are effectively applied. This process established the desired harmony between environmental management and resource development. It was stressed that "eco-development" in many cases need not sacrifice economic gains for environmental protection, and that on occasions better environmental solutions may even lead to better economic returns. There is, however, generally a "trade-off" which must be decided on as an expression of the country's own environmental and cultural values. It is essential that, to be effective, the environmental factor should be taken into account at an early stage of planning, and not be applied as a late consideration.

15. Education in the community, in schools, in technology institutions and in the universities, was recognized as basic to the creation of an informed and understanding people who could use their resources positively and responsibly, for the long term real benefit of themselves and their children.

16. Some aspects of environmental management can be adopted regionally or co-operatively. However, most environment issues involve people and the way they live, and they must be worked out by each country for itself, after drawing on the experience of others and seeking and evaluating expert advice. It is rarely satisfactory to transfer procedures directly from one country to another.

17. Several countries considered it was a difficult task to balance cultural values with economic values, conservation areas with subsistence production, indigenous forests with manioc crops. It was stressed that further knowledge might in fact show that the balance was really between manioc crops and clean water yield, or manioc crops and a healthy lagoon fishery.

18. Other matters noted for attention later in the Meeting were :
- a) a regional investigation and development of a regional policy on the control of hazardous wastes and nuclear pollution,
 - b) the development of regional guidelines for discharges of gaseous, liquid and solid wastes from mines and industries,
 - c) the extent of compatibility of forest management and agricultural development in the region.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF TOPIC REVIEWS ON THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE REGION

19. The Topic Reviews commissioned by the Programme were presented by the experts present. They highlighted the development possibilities and environmental problems associated with the conservation of native plants and animals and the exploitation of mineral, soil, forest, mangrove, reef and fishery resources in the region. They also highlighted the difficulties faced by Pacific human settlements, both rural and urban, in meeting basic human needs, the dangers presented by misuse of toxic chemicals and other types of pollution, and the national and international legal measures which have been or could be taken in this area.

20. Among the important regional subjects emphasized in several expert reviews were the problems of urban impact, especially the disposal of sewage and solid wastes, the difficulties of managing coastal areas with their complex interactions between land and sea, the special importance of careful handling of toxic chemicals on small islands, the need for the restoration of degraded areas to productivity, the usefulness of protected areas as part of resource management and development, and the importance of working with, rather than against, traditional land and reef tenure systems in the Pacific.

21. The problems of information, both what we know and what we need to know, were emphasized in the reviews. There is a need for better information exchange on environmental subjects within the region, and for help in converting available information into a form appropriate to and understandable by the user. More efforts are needed to record the wealth of traditional knowledge about the use and conservation of island resources, and to apply this knowledge in development and management programmes. Research should be continued into those resource areas where scientific management is not yet possible or where problems peculiar to the region exist. However, greater effort should be devoted to the better use of the extensive knowledge that now exists, but that is frequently not applied to management decisions. Continuing studies and monitoring are required to give governments better information on what is happening to the environment and resources, thus providing an early warning of problems so that corrective action can be taken in time. Many governments want more information on the international conventions that may be applicable to their situations. Finally, emphasis was placed on better education and training in environmental fields so that the users of information will be able to understand and apply it.

22. Discussion focussed on the apparent choice between environment or culture and economic development, showing that it is not a question of one or the other, but rather how environmental and social considerations can make development more efficient and can reduce unexpected or future costs. There is a need in the region to exchange experiences with big development projects. More attention should also be paid to the indirect impacts of major new developments such as in oceanic fisheries and oil exploration, which would require port development, processing, and trained manpower taken from other parts of the economy. Contrary to experience elsewhere, small scale projects may avoid diseconomies of scale in island situations and may fit better with the existing economic structure, land tenure system, and environmental limits.

23. Several governments expressed an interest in regional co-operation to dispose of or recycle solid wastes such as cars, metal appliances and aluminium containers. Changes in the international market for corals and other valuable island products were increasing the pressure to harvest resources, and a regional exchange of information was needed so that management decisions could be soundly based.

24. The observers present from international agencies, universities and research centres described their existing capacities to co-operate with or undertake parts of SPREP.

REVIEW OF DRAFT SOUTH PACIFIC DECLARATION ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

25. The draft Declaration of Principles was presented to the Meeting, and the value of a declaration as a statement of regional policy was explained. The government representatives proposed a number of changes and additions. These were referred to a working group set up to study and revise the document. The revised draft South Pacific Declaration on Natural Resources and the Environment was approved by the Meeting and recommended for adoption by the Conference on the Human Environment (Annex 1).

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

26. The representative of UNEP explained how the Action Plan related to the series of regional action plans already adopted or under development for each of the ten Regional Seas Programmes of UNEP. There were some common elements of format, but each plan was adapted to the environmental, cultural, and institutional requirements of its region. In discussion, it was emphasized that the Action Plan should reflect those matters which would clearly benefit from a regional approach as distinct from those best handled at a national or local level. The Plan should reflect the environment as a perspective on development and resource use with the aim of preventing problems from developing. A working group was formed to consider the Action Plan in detail. The resulting revised Action Plan was approved by the Meeting and recommended for adoption by the Conference on the Human Environment (Annex 2).

27. In discussions of both the Declaration and the Action Plan, many governments requested increased attention to the problem of radioactive pollution. Deep concern was expressed at plans to dump large quantities of low level nuclear wastes in Pacific waters which might eventually enter food chains and contaminate island marine resources. There were also fears of high level nuclear waste stockpiling on remote Pacific Islands. The human impacts of previous nuclear contamination in the region were cited.

DISCUSSION OF INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS REQUIRED FOR
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN, FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE
REGIONAL CONFERENCE

28. The Secretariat indicated that the proposals in the working paper reflected the administrative arrangements reached by consensus at the South Pacific Forum and the South Pacific Conference for Phase 1. UNEP had no preference concerning such arrangements, leaving the choice to the governments of the region.

29. The financing proposals reflected UNEP requirements for their continued support of the programme. With all the regional programmes, UNEP has provided initial support in keeping with its catalytic role, and then expects some support from the region on a cost sharing basis during Phase 2. The formula for cost sharing and the possible establishment of a trust fund or other mechanism are left to the region to decide. The working paper sets out a possible option based on a previous precedent.

30. The Deputy-Director of SPEC sought to clarify for the Meeting the factors affecting the inter-relationship of the two regional organizations, SPEC and SPC, in the SPREP Programme. He stressed that the South Pacific Forum had expressed its close interest in the environmental programme and had directed SPEC to assume primary responsibility from the organizational point of view. SPC possessed the expertise to implement the project at the technical level. Thus, SPEC has chaired the managing body of the programme, the Co-ordinating Group, and SPC has provided the Secretariat. The proposals, from the Co-ordinating Group, on future Phase 2, organizational and financial arrangements, reflected only the status quo of today. SPEC has not attempted to push for decisions beyond its present mandate, but had also endeavoured to ensure that there would be no erosion of the Forum position.

31. Decisions on how/whether to proceed with Phase 2 now lay with political leaders, and those leaders would expect the best advice from this Meeting, based on all relevant factors. He urged the Meeting to face the issue of putting to political leaders clear recommendations based on all relevant factors. This Technical Meeting constituted the best opportunity for an input from the participating governments and he felt it was up to government representatives to redraft the working papers to suit their requirements.

32. The Deputy-Director noted that while the Conference on the Human Environment was due to meet early in 1982, the South Pacific Forum would meet in August 1981, and the South Pacific Conference in October. SPEC and SPC had agreed to report to these meetings on the state of the programme. These meetings would likely provide guidance for the 1982 Conference.

33. A working group was formed to review the document in the light of the comments made. The modified paper was further revised by the Meeting and approved for presentation to the Conference on the Human Environment (Annex 3).

PROPOSALS FOR DATES, VENUE, SCOPE AND AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION

34. It was agreed that the Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific Region should be held early in 1982 to permit high level government representatives, preferably of ministerial or equivalent rank, to exchange views on environmental issues of mutual interest and concern and to discuss policies and procedures for environmentally sound development. The Conference should review the environmental situation in the region, as described in the background paper on the state of the environment, and identify problems concerning terrestrial and marine resources, particularly those which should be tackled on a priority basis. It should also identify areas for regional co-operation. It should review the basic working documents as produced by the Technical Meeting and consider the adoption of the South Pacific Declaration on Natural Resources and the Environment, and the Action Plan for Managing the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region, including Institutional and Financial Arrangements for its implementation.

35. The following agenda was approved for the Conference :

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and a Drafting Committee
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. The common environmental heritage of the South Pacific
5. Overview of the state of the environment in the South Pacific Region
6. Overview of development trends, their environmental consequences and the contribution of environmental management to development
7. South Pacific Declaration on Natural Resources and the Environment
8. Action Plan for Managing the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region

9. Administrative Arrangements and Financing for the next phase of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
10. Other business
11. Adoption of the report
12. Closing of the Conference.

36. Concerning the venue of the Conference, the Meeting noted the offers of the Cook Islands and the Solomon Islands to host it. It was agreed that the two regional SPREP sponsors, SPEC and SPC, will further consult with the two governments concerned and decide upon the venue. Early February or alternatively early March 1982 were agreed upon as suitable dates.

37. The question was raised whether the region of the programme should be referred to as the South Pacific or the South West Pacific. The UNEP representative explained that the term South West Pacific had been introduced to distinguish the programme from another Regional Seas Programme in the South-East Pacific off South America. It was decided to retain the term South Pacific Region as being the most familiar and best understood within the region.

PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES FOR THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

38. The Secretariat described the plans already adopted by the Co-ordinating Group for the period between the Technical Meeting and the Regional Conference. These include a public information campaign on environmental issues, with the production of radio broadcasts, newspaper and magazine articles, a press kit and a poster, and country visits by programme staff and consultants. The proceedings of the Technical Meeting, and a Directory of Environmental Research Centres will also be published. A number of countries requested visits in connection with the preparatory activities, including American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tonga, TTPI, Vanuatu, and Western Samoa.

V - LIST OF WORKING PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Working Papers

SPREP/Tech.Mtg./WP. 1	Summary Review of the Country Reports.
WP. 2	Draft Declaration of Principles on the Management and Improvement of the Environment in the South Pacific Region.
WP. 2/Rev. 1	Draft Declaration of Principles on the Management and Improvement of Natural Resources and the Environment in the South Pacific Region.
WP. 3	Draft Action Plan for the Development and Protection of the Environment of the South West Pacific Region.
WP. 3/Rev. 1	Draft Action Plan for the Development and Protection of the Environment of the South Pacific Region.
WP. 4	Options for Institutional and Financial Arrangements required for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the South West Pacific Region.
WP. 4/Rev. 1	Proposed Institutional and Financial Arrangements required for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the South West Pacific Region.
WP. 5	Objectives and Draft Agenda for the Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific Region.

Country Reports

SPREP/Country Report	1	AMERICAN SAMOA
	2	AUSTRALIA
	3	COOK ISLANDS
	4	FIJI
	5	FRENCH POLYNESIA
	6	GUAM

SPREP/Country Report	7	KIRIBATI
	8	NEW CALEDONIA
	9	NIUE
	10	PAPUA NEW GUINEA
	11	PITCAIRN
	12	TOKELAU
	13	TONGA
	14	TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
	15	VANUATU
	16	WESTERN SAMOA
	17	SOLOMON ISLANDS

Topic Reviews

SPREP/Topic Review	1	Report on the Mining Pollution in New Caledonia (M. Benezit)
	2	Parks and Reserves in the South Pacific (P.H.C. Lucas/S. Gorio/K. Poai)
	3	Urbanization and its Effects on the South Pacific Environment (John Low)
	4	Making Better Use of Existing Knowledge in Managing Pacific Island Reef and Lagoon Ecosystems (Robert Johannes)
	5	Mangrove Resources and their Management in the South Pacific (Graham Baines)
	6	Environmental Health in Rural Development - An Overview (Eric Dunn)
	7	Soils of the South Pacific - their Capabilities and Limitations (J.D. Cowie)
	8	Forestry and Environment in the South Pacific (S.D. Richardson)

SPREP/Topic Review	9	Oceanic Fisheries Impact on the Environment in the South Pacific (FAO/Fisheries Resources & Environment Division)
	10	Comments on Pest and Pesticide Control (K.M. Harrow)
	11	Marine Pollution in the South Pacific (Cruz A. Matos)
	12	Activities of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization in the South Pacific relating to Marine Pollution Prevention Control and Response (Terence M. Hayes)
	13	An Overview of Environmental Protection Legislations in the South Pacific Countries (S. Venkatesh/S. Va'ai)

Information Papers

SPREP/Tech.Mtg./Information Paper	1	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization : I. Recommendations / II. Reports / III. Recommendations.
	2	Environmental Education and Research, Human Ecology and Ecosystem Management in the Pacific Islands (R.R. Thaman)
	3	Western Pacific Regional Centre for Promotion of Environmental Planning and Applied Studies (PEPAS) of World Health Organization (WHO) (O.V. Natarajan)

General

- Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972)
- Comments submitted by UNDAT on documents WP.2 and WP.3.
- Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other matter.
- A brief Review of the State of the Stocks of Highly Migratory Species of Fish in the Central and Western Pacific (R.E. Kearney)
- Country Report for Guam : Summary Presentation, with Eighth Annual Report (1980).

ANNEX 1

DRAFT SOUTH PACIFIC DECLARATION ON NATURAL RESOURCES
AND THE ENVIRONMENT

This Conference :

Having regard to the Declaration of the UN Conference on the Human Environment adopted in Stockholm in 1972 and the desirability for a regional declaration within the South Pacific framework;

Noting the World Conservation Strategy;

Recognizing that the environment of the South Pacific Region has features such as tropical rain forests and small island/lagoon/reef ecosystems which require special care in responsible management;

Taking into account the traditions and cultures of the Pacific people which incorporate wise management, born of their long history of living successfully in the region, as expressed in accepted customs and rules of conduct;

Seeking to ensure that resource development for the benefit of the people shall be in harmony with the maintenance of the unique environmental quality of the region and the evolving principles of sustained resource management, particularly in view of increasing population densities;

Building on the established processes of regional co-operation based on independence, consultation and consensus;

Declares that :

1. The resources of land, sea and air which are the basis of life and cultures for South Pacific peoples must be controlled with responsibility, and safeguarded for the benefit of present and future generations, through sustained resource management.
2. Integrated environmental, economic, social and resource planning and management is essential to ensure sustainable rational use of the land and sea resources of the region, and the greatest enhancement of human well-being.

3. A substantial programme of public information, education and training including the recruitment of environmental expertise is necessary to develop basic environmental understanding by the people and to produce the skills necessary for effective environmental assessment and management.
4. Appropriate and enforceable legal instruments and institutional arrangements are a necessary basis for effective integration of environmental concern with the whole development process.
5. A system of designated areas is essential for the protection of traditional use of resources, and should be included in the plans for development.
6. The economic utilization of resources, particularly forests and fisheries, should be based upon reliable information to ensure sustainable production without over-exploitation or damage to the environment and affected peoples.
7. The rate and nature of discharges of non-nuclear wastes shall not exceed the capacity of the environment to absorb them without harm to the environment and to the people who live from it.
8. The release of nuclear wastes into the South Pacific regional environment shall be prevented.
9. The vulnerability of much of the region to environmental and economic damage from natural and man-made disasters requires the development of national and regional contingency plans and prevention programmes.
10. Regional co-operation should be further developed as an effective means of helping the countries and territories of the South Pacific to maintain and improve their shared environment and to enhance their capacity to provide a present and future resource base to support the needs and maintain the quality of life of the people.
11. Traditional conservation practices and technology and traditional systems of land and reef tenure adaptable for modern resource management shall be encouraged. Traditional environmental knowledge will be sought and considered when assessing the expected effects of development projects.
12. Involvement and participation of directly affected people in the management of their resources, including the decision-making process, should be encouraged.

ANNEX 2

DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR MANAGING THE NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The South Pacific Region has been designated by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme as a "concentration area" in which UNEP, in close co-operation with ESCAP and other relevant components of the UN system, working through the established co-operative regional agencies - the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC) - will fulfil its catalytic role by fostering the design and adoption of a Regional Action Plan by the countries of the region.

2. The area of application of the Action Plan is that covered by the area of responsibility of the South Pacific Commission, together with any associated national maritime resource management zones.

Countries and territories within this area are :

American Samoa	Solomon Islands
Cook Islands	Tokelau
Fiji	Tonga
French Polynesia	Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands :
Guam	Northern Marian Islands
Kiribati	Marshall Islands
Nauru	Federated States of Micronesia
New Caledonia	Palau
Niue	Tuvalu
Norfolk Island	Vanuatu
Papua New Guinea	Wallis and Futuna
Pitcairn Island	Western Samoa

II. OBJECTIVES

3. The principal objective of the Action Plan is -- " to help the countries of the South Pacific to maintain and improve their shared environment and to enhance their capacity to provide a present and future resource base to support the needs and maintain the quality of life of the people ".

4. The Action Plan is intended to provide a framework for environmentally sound planning and management, suited to the needs and conditions of the countries and people in the region, and to enhance their own environmental capabilities. Particular projects which should be undertaken under the Action Plan will be developed later in an operational programme document. The more specific objectives of the Action Plan are :

- 4.1 Further assessment of the state of the environment in the region including the impacts of man's activities on land, fresh water, lagoons, reefs and ocean, the effects of these on the quality of man's environment, and the human conditions which have led to these impacts.
- 4.2 The development of management methods suited to the environment of the region which will maintain or enhance environmental quality while utilizing resources on a sustainable basis.
- 4.3 The improvement of national legislation and the development of regional agreements to provide for responsible and effective management of the environment.
- 4.4 The strengthening of national and regional capabilities, institutional arrangements and financial support which will enable the Action Plan to be put into effect efficiently and economically.

III. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5. Regional activities providing formative guidelines for the Action Plan have been :

- 5.1 A regional symposium on reefs and lagoons organized by SPC in 1971.
- 5.2 The initiation by SPC of a Special Project on Conservation of Nature in 1974, and the appointment of a Regional Ecological Adviser.

- 5.3 Consultations with UNEP leading to the suggestion that a South Pacific Conference on the Human Environment should be held in the region.
- 5.4 The request by UNEP in 1975 to SPC to develop a comprehensive programme for environmental management for the region, including a Regional Conference on the Human Environment.
- 5.5 The decision of the South Pacific Forum in 1976 that SPEC should consult with SPC with a view to preparing proposals for a co-ordinated regional approach to the problem of environmental management.
- 5.6 The direction of the South Pacific Conference (1976) that a comprehensive environmental programme reflecting the environmental interests of all countries and territories in the region be jointly prepared by SPEC and SPC.
- 5.7 The reiteration of UN support for the programme at the ESCAP/ UNEP Joint Programming Meeting in Bangkok in 1977.
- 5.8 The endorsement by the 34th Session of ESCAP held in Bangkok in March 1978 of "the idea of convening a South Pacific Conference on the Human Environment, and recommended that such a conference should be held in co-ordination with SPEC and SPC."
- 5.9 Successive considerations of the proposal submitted to the Forum and the South Pacific Conference leading to refinement and re-definition of the proposal by a special meeting of officials in 1978 and subsequent adoption of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme by the South Pacific Forum and the South Pacific Conference later that year.
- 5.10 The preparation of "Country Reports" by 17 governments of countries of the region as official statements on the state of the environment, the trends and problems.
- 5.11 The preparation by invited specialists of "Topic Reviews" of fields identified as of wide importance to the region from analysis of the country reports.
- 5.12 The consideration of the Country Reports and the Topic Reviews by a Technical Meeting of representatives of participating countries.

- 5.13 The very substantial scientific investigations which have been carried out and reported on in the region covering geology, soils, seas, plants and animals and their inter-relationships, together with a smaller but increasing body of investigation into socio-economic factors and the relationship of man to his environment.
- 5.14 The contributions of institutions of higher education and research in the region, and the provision of effective platforms for regional discussion (SP Forum and SP Conference), and to established bodies for regional action (SPEC and SPC).

IV. NATURE OF THE ACTION PLAN

6. All components of the Action Plan are inter-dependent and provide a framework for comprehensive action which should contribute to both the protection and continued development of the region. Each activity is intended to assist governments and regional organizations to improve the quality of the information on which environmental management policies are based.
7. The Action Plan will be implemented by making the fullest possible use of government and independent institutions in countries of the region, supplemented by appropriate regional bodies (SPC and SPEC), with assistance from participating countries and international institutions. For some projects, the assistance of experts from inside and outside the region will be required.
8. Efforts should be made to co-ordinate the implementation of the Action Plan with activities being undertaken in other Regional Seas Programmes, particularly those adjacent to the region.
9. In a subsequent step, the environmental assessment and management components of the Action Plan will be developed in the form of an operational programme document, taking into account current and planned programmes of the participating countries and regional and international organizations.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COMPONENT

10. Many of the Country Reports indicate that policy makers consider environmental management to be primarily concerned with pollution controls and preservation. The programme will seek to emphasize that environmental assessment should attempt to establish harmony in the use of natural resources viewed from the true well-being of people at present and of future generations.

11. In the Action Plan, priority must be given to the gathering of information on the processes taking place in nature in typical environments of the region and how man is modifying these natural processes for better or for worse. A working information exchange at which the findings of relevant work are assembled, wherever it has been done, and made available in a readily usable form, is a basic requirement.

12. A directory of institutions and professionals in the region with expertise in fields relevant to environmental assessment and management is a basic resource that is essential to efficient use of expert manpower. The SPC has the production of such a directory under consideration. It should be given high priority as a preparatory document necessary for the implementation of the Action Plan.

13. Although the region has only limited capacity to carry out research basic to the wise management of the environment, there are some very active research centres. An extensive body of knowledge already exists. Integrating studies building on the basic data available and translating them into "process" terms on which management effects can be superposed would, if well presented, probably attract the interest and participation of research institutions of high standing and capacity. Examples are the land/lagoon/reef ecosystem and the maintenance of fertility in tropical forest soils.

14. The region is short of local expertise in disciplines basic to the understanding and monitoring of natural and human-induced processes and to the management of man-induced land use systems such as agriculture and forestry. It also lacks the skills of inter-disciplinary integration which are necessary for sound environmental assessment. A practical means of creating such expertise would be to include suitable programmes of basic study and training programmes in environmental assessment at appropriate institutions within the region. Post graduate training in inter-disciplinary integration requires special emphasis.

15. Initial areas which have been identified as requiring environmental assessment on a regional basis are :

- 15.1 The impact of sediments, tailings, nutrients, and metallic and organic pollutants on the river and lagoon/coral reef ecosystems.
- 15.2 The impact of land use, and industrial and urban development on mangrove ecosystems.
- 15.3 The impact of off-shore sea bed exploration and exploitation, and the processing of marine products, on the marine and adjoining ocean environment.

- 15.4 The impact of marine oil spills on sensitive coastal environments of the region.
 - 15.5 The impact of tourism development on land/lagoon/reef ecosystems.
 - 15.6 The impact of urbanization and increasing population density on representative environments of the region.
 - 15.7 Impact of storage and utilization of pesticides on the small island environment.
 - 15.8 The impact of the burgeoning demand for unprocessed logs for use outside the region.
 - 15.9 The impact of development on the quality and quantity of available fresh water.
 - 15.10 The impact of subsistence and commercial activities on forests of the region.
 - 15.11 The impact of natural and artificial radioactivity on people and the environment.
 - 15.12 The potential dangers to the region of the dumping of hazardous wastes, particularly nuclear wastes, anywhere in the Pacific.
 - 15.13 The impact of modern education systems and current development trends on traditional systems of resource management.
16. Effective environmental assessment on a regional basis requires acceptance of standards and procedures throughout the region so that meaningful comparisons can be made. In general, this will involve adoption of compatible standards and procedures developed elsewhere but, where necessary, adapting them to Pacific conditions.

Examples are :

- 16.1 The adoption of standardized analytical techniques for measuring levels and trends of pollution and its effects.
- 16.2 The development of quality control in analytical procedures such as inter-laboratory calibration exercises both within the region and with outside reference laboratories.

- 16.3 The development of centres of expertise in equipment maintenance which could be available throughout the region.
 - 16.4 The development of regionally compatible methodologies for the handling, validation, and evaluation of data basic to environmental assessment.
 - 16.5 Though there will be variation in detail in assessment procedures according to differences in machinery of government, a standardization of terminology in the assessment process would assist in developing regional compatibility.
17. Successful regional assessment depends on the capacity of individual countries to undertake effective local assessment. Countries will be encouraged and assisted to establish mechanisms for effective environmental assessment suited to their own particular conditions, cultures, resources, and needs.

VI. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMPONENT

18. Continuing socio-economic development in the region can only be achieved on a sustainable basis if environmental considerations are incorporated into the designing of developments. Improved knowledge of environmental systems may now enable some environmental errors of the past to be corrected and avoided in future.
19. The aim of the environmental management component of the Programme should be :
- 19.1 To ensure that environmental impact assessments are thoroughly and effectively carried out, and that the results are incorporated into management programmes.
 - 19.2 To ensure that adequate training is provided for all levels of environmental management, so that skilled people are available within the region.
 - 19.3 To train managers and policy makers on how to take environmental considerations into account in management programmes.
 - 19.4 To encourage the development and effective placement of people skilled in environmental aspects of development.

- 19.5 To devise ways of making wise use of natural resources (such as land, water, minerals, and forests), balancing utilization with conservation and preservation, and the needs of present people with the needs of future generations.
 - 19.6 To adapt to changing patterns of energy availability without damaging the environment, including the use of new sources.
 - 19.7 To ensure that national and regional environmental management systems are compatible and complement each other.
 - 19.8 To develop the framework of laws and international agreements necessary for wise regional environmental management.
20. The Country Reports and Topic Reviews point to certain areas which are regarded as regionally important. These are :
- 20.1 The management of land/lagoon/reef ecosystem to maintain its health and condition.
 - 20.2 The management of mangrove ecosystems to avoid progressive deterioration and to utilize their capacity for pollution absorption.
 - 20.3 The study of traditional land and marine tenure systems and their reconciliation with environmental management, especially in relation to conservation and the designation and management of reserves.
 - 20.4 The management of forests in such a way as to safeguard their health and vigour.
 - 20.5 The monitoring and publishing of international prices for commodities from the region and of royalties and taxes deriving from their production.
 - 20.6 The development of a regional control plan to minimize the effects of major oil spills.
 - 20.7 The management of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides in a small island environment to minimize their movement away from their point of application.
 - 20.8 The development of the skipjack programme to cover the movements of other types of fish through the region.

- 20.9 The minimization of deleterious environmental effects of urbanization in the South Pacific.
- 20.10 The development of a policy for prohibiting the disposal of nuclear waste in the region.
- 20.11 The development of regional policies for the disposal of non-nuclear wastes.
- 20.12 The reconciliation of tourism development and environment protection in the South Pacific.
- 20.13 The development of mining methods with minimum deleterious effects on the environment.
- 20.14 The selection, dedication, and management of reserves, both land and marine, and their incorporation into a planned regional pattern of reserves.
- 20.15 The development of regional programmes for the safeguarding of regionally important endangered species of plants and animals - land and marine.
- 20.16 The consideration of means, appropriate to the countries of the region, of bringing the environmental factor effectively into government decision making.
- 20.17 The development of an effective environment information exchange to ensure that the best available knowledge can be applied to environmental management in the region.
- 20.18 The development of a regional programme to control litter problems giving primary consideration to recycling and reuse and export of recoverable materials.
- 20.19 The development of appropriate sub-regional programmes to ensure the supply of safe domestic water.
- 20.20 The recording of traditional knowledge of island natural resources and its use in complementing our scientific knowledge in the management of those resources.
- 20.21 The consideration of the effects on the environment of the introduction of exotic plants and animals.

VII. THE LEGAL COMPONENT

21. Legal agreements generally provide the fundamental basis for regional co-operation to protect the environment. But in the South Pacific region, there is a wide diversity of approach to environmental law and very different stages of legal development. Countries have expressed their need for assistance in developing their environmental legal controls and assessing the advantages and disadvantages of becoming parties to international conventions.

22. Most of the countries are small island states and still practise customary controls. For legislation to be effective it must, as far as possible, be harmonized with customary practices to ensure that laws are effective and can be enforced.

23. The Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (1976), not yet in force, could serve as a legal basis for regional co-operation on conservation in the region. A revised convention consistent with evolving principles of environmental management may need to be considered.

24. The legal component should :

- 24.1 Identify existing customary controls, local by-laws and national legislation relevant to the protection and conservation of the environment. This should be done by national administrations.
- 24.2 Examine and determine the most appropriate mechanism to harmonize the implementation of controls to ensure maximum effectiveness including examination of the need or otherwise to update, amend or pass new legislation. This can be done by national administrations with assistance from the programme.
- 24.3 Examine the advantages of participation by countries in international conventions on the environment with particular emphasis on conventions on pollution of the marine environment by any source. This should cover the International Composite Negotiating Text of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. Such examination should be undertaken in close co-operation with the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency and other appropriate bodies. Individual countries should seek advice on appropriate national legislation to give effect to international conventions.

25. Expertise to undertake studies should as far as possible be recruited from the region and have the requisite knowledge of traditional customs of the region. In that respect, the programme should keep in close contact with the Regional Advisory Services being established in the region by the Commonwealth Secretariat and other Regional Institutions in the South Pacific.

VIII. INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

26. In formulating institutional arrangements for carrying out the Action Plan, mechanisms should be worked out which use the national capabilities available and the capabilities of existing regional organizations. Where necessary, both national and regional institutions should be strengthened so that they have the capacity to put the Action Plan into effect. The designation of national focal points - a concept which proved successful in the assembly of the country reports - should be used to facilitate communication and co-operation in the region.

27. The financing of operations under the Action Plan will be principally concerned with :

- 27.1 Increasing the technical capacities and breadth of coverage of national and regional institutions to put the Plan into effect.
- 27.2 Providing funds for personnel training inside and outside the region.
- 27.3 Providing the costs for regional studies and meetings to develop common approaches to and understanding of regional environmental matters.
- 27.4 Providing resources for special studies necessary for effective regional environment management, but outside existing available capacities.
- 27.5 Providing resources to establish and operate a regional information exchange system.
- 27.6 Providing resources for the existing regional bodies to operate an adequate administrative base to service the implementation of the Action Plan.

28. The activities arising from this Action Plan should be principally financed by participating governments, by regional organizations, by international agencies, and by non-governmental organizations. Initially, support should be provided by the United Nations system as a catalytic initiation of a new phase of regional co-operative activity.

29. To provide for the orderly evolution of an operational programme from the Action Plan, a central co-ordination mechanism is necessary involving the existing regional organizations and the major funding agencies.

30. The present Co-ordinating Group, consisting of representatives of UNEP, ESCAP, SPC and SPEC, should be retained as the central co-ordinating mechanism for the implementation of the Action Plan. The membership of this Group should be readily adjustable to reflect the emphasis of the programme and of its funding sources.

31. A Regional Co-ordinator, who might well be the SPC Regional Ecological Adviser, should be appointed to cover the day-to-day execution of the operational programme including active communication with the co-operating organizations and the designated national focal points.

32. The ultimate aim should be to make the regional programme self-supporting, part of the normal programme of co-operative regional activities which would incorporate the SPREP objective "to help the countries of the South Pacific to maintain and improve their shared environment and to enhance their capacity to provide a present and future resource base to support the needs and maintain the quality of life of the people".

ANNEX 3

PROPOSED INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS
REQUIRED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN
FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The South Pacific Region has been designated by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme as a "concentration area" in which the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in close co-operation with other relevant components of the UN System, working through the established co-operative regional agencies - the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC) - will fulfil its catalytic role by fostering the design and adoption of a Regional Action Plan by the countries of the region.
2. The principal objective of the Action Plan is the development and protection of the environment of the South Pacific Region for the health and well-being of the people of the region and future generations. The Action Plan is intended to provide a framework for environmentally sound planning and management, suited to the needs and conditions of the countries and people in the region.
3. The draft Action Plan for the development and protection of the environment of the South Pacific Region has four main chapters :
 - (i) environmental assessment
 - (ii) environmental management
 - (iii) the legal component; and
 - (iv) institutional and financial arrangements.
4. The present document illustrates some of the options that may be considered by the Governments of the South Pacific Region in their review of the institutional structure and financial support required for the effective implementation of the activities called for in the Action Plan, and the development of an operational programme.

II. DEFINITION OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION

5. The area of application of the Action Plan is that covered by the area of responsibility of the South Pacific Commission, together with any associated national maritime resource management zones.

Countries and territories within this area are :

American Samoa	Solomon Islands
Cook Islands	Tokelau
Fiji	Tonga
French Polynesia	Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands :
Guam	Northern Mariana Islands
Kiribati	Marshall Islands
Nauru	Federated States of Micronesia
New Caledonia	Palau
Niue	Tuvalu
Norfolk Island	Vanuatu
Papua New Guinea	Wallis and Futuna
Pitcairn Island	Western Samoa

III. INSTITUTIONAL SCHEME : GENERAL PRINCIPLES

6. The efficient implementation of the Action Plan will depend primarily on the commitment of Governments in the region. They will need to decide which elements of the programme can most advantageously be dealt with at the regional level and take the responsibility for those issues which need to be dealt with in a national framework. It is, therefore, important to identify the lines of authority and communication for both the policy and the technical working levels and to designate appropriate institutional capabilities and mechanisms for co-operation.

Policy Guidelines and Co-ordination

7. 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, rests with the regular, periodic meetings of Governments participating in the Action Plan.

8. Specifically, the Governments, through biennial intergovernmental meetings, should make policy decisions concerning all substantive and financial matters related to the Action Plan, and in particular, should :

- (i) review the progress achieved in implementing the Action Plan since the previous meeting,
- (ii) evaluate the results achieved,
- (iii) adopt a work plan for implementing the Action Plan in the subsequent two-year period, and
- (iv) approve the budgetary resources required to support the work plan, and their allocation among Governments.

9. Taking into consideration the existing regional organizations and their structures, it is suggested that the above functions be assumed by both the South Pacific Forum and the South Pacific Conference at every second annual meeting.

Overall Technical Co-ordination

10. The Governments of the region participating in the Action Plan should identify an organization which would be responsible to the Governments for the overall technical co-ordination and continuous supervision of the implementation of the Action Plan. It is proposed that either the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation or the South Pacific Commission assumes this function in which it would be guided by a Co-ordinating Group consisting of representatives of UNEP, ESCAP, SPC and SPEC.

11. The Co-ordinating Group should function much like the present Group for the first phase of SPREP. It would rely on its secretariat to prepare proposals for its consideration in accordance with the Action Plan. It would also draw on other international agencies and scientific organizations operating in the region*. It would meet normally twice a year to review, assess, and up-date the programme, prepare submissions to funding sources within and outside the United Nations System, and consider projects which should receive priority of resources.

12. The Co-ordinating Group should provide annual progress reports to the regional bodies (South Pacific Forum and South Pacific Conference), and UNEP.

13. It is proposed that a Regional Co-ordinator be appointed for the implementation of the Action Plan. This officer should be located in the organization chosen to administer the Action Plan, and would operate under the supervision of the Co-ordinating Group through its periodic meetings. Routine administration and financial procedures will be in accord with accepted procedures of the host organization.

14. The terms of reference for the Regional Co-ordinator would include the following :

- (i) to formulate project documents for specific activities agreed upon as part of the programme,
- (ii) to negotiate and co-ordinate the execution of projects through international and regional organizations,
- (iii) to collect, collate and prepare a first analysis of results achieved through the programme activities and disseminate information arising therefrom,

* : see Appendix.

- (iv) to organize expert meetings to be held in connection with the programme including the preparation of reports and other documents,
- (v) to keep the participating governments regularly informed of the progress achieved in carrying out the work, the results achieved and problems encountered.

15. The office of the Regional Co-ordinator should serve as a referral centre providing information, identifying experts and institutions to aid participating States and otherwise assist in solving specific environmental problems. It should also facilitate information exchange and co-operation among those experts and institutions. It would, wherever possible, utilize regional expertise and services.

16. The secretariat staff should be kept to a minimum size in order to ensure that the maximum available funds may be used to achieve goals set forth in the Action Plan. To this end, great care must be exercised in determining the terms of reference and the administrative arrangements.

17. The composition and expertise of the secretariat staff will depend upon the scope and the magnitude of the programme adopted by the governments. It is proposed that it should be a relatively small unit comprising the following staff :

- Regional Co-ordinator
- Scientific Assistant
- Administrative Assistant
- Secretary/Typist

18. Additional support services required to implement the Action Plan will be provided by the host organization.

National Focal Points

19. The active participation and co-operation of the South Pacific countries and territories in the programme are basic prerequisites for the success of the Action Plan. In order to achieve efficient and well co-ordinated co-operation at both the national and the regional levels, a national focal point should be established (or an existing structure should be designated) at a high level in each of the participating States to deal with all matters concerning the implementation of the Action Plan.

20. The role of the national focal points should be :
- (i) to act as the official channel of communication between the secretariat and the administrations of the countries and territories,
 - (ii) to co-ordinate, as appropriate, the participation of national institutions and agencies in the agreed programme,
 - (iii) to consult with all relevant organizations in the national Governments on the activities and progress achieved in implementing the Action Plan.

National Institutions

21. National institutions (such as research centres, laboratories, Government services, universities) should provide the basis for carrying out the technical work of the Action Plan activities. They should be the principal agents of the specific work and research of the Action Plan.

22. In order to allow for complete and effective participation in agreed activities, technical and managerial assistance (such as equipment and training) should be provided on request through the Action Plan to strengthen the capabilities of national institutions to participate in the programme.

International Organizations

23. Participation of the international organizations in the programme, in particular those belonging to the United Nations System, can greatly assist the implementation of the Action Plan, and, therefore, their technical and managerial support for specific projects should be solicited. In general, the Regional Co-ordinator should facilitate such support, without impeding the establishment of direct relationships between country institutions and international organizations.

IV. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS : GENERAL PRINCIPLES

24. Although one of the ultimate aims of the programme is for the implementation phase of the Action Plan to be financially self-supporting, it is expected that the United Nations System should initially provide a substantial financial contribution which would progressively decrease as the Governments of the South Pacific Region, through a trust fund or some other mechanism, assume financial responsibility.

Financial Support

25. Financial support for the activities of the Action Plan may come from several sources :

- (i) contributions from South Pacific countries and territories participating in the Action Plan according to a scale to be determined by the Governments concerned,
- (ii) contributions made in addition to (i) above from the South Pacific countries and territories,
- (iii) contributions from other States supporting the Action Plan but not participating in it,
- (iv) contributions from SPC and SPEC,
- (v) support from the United Nations organizations on a project-funding basis,
- (vi) support from other regional and international organizations which are not part of the United Nations System in most cases on a project-funding basis,
- (vii) any other sources of funding agreed to by the Governments concerned, including the private sector.

26. Contributions to the programme may be both in cash or in kind (staff time, experts, training, facilities, services, etc.). Although contributions in kind may be of great importance, a fixed minimum level of cash contributions is essential for the smooth implementation of the Action Plan.

Funding Mechanisms

27. Three possible mechanisms may be envisaged as acting separately or together to channel contributions for the support of Action Plan activities :

- (a) a South Pacific Regional Trust Fund to cover the expenses related to common costs (co-ordination, secretariat, meetings) and the costs of projects (activities) agreed upon by participants in the Action Plan as projects of common interest,
- (b) additional contributions forwarded to the host organization earmarked as extra-budgetary resources to cover expenses under the programme,
- (c) earmarked contributions to specific activities, agreed to as part of the programme, as well as special allocations to cover expenses related to the common costs listed in (a) above.

28. Contributions through any of the three mechanisms chosen should be expected to come from the States participating in the Action Plan and, in particular, from neighbouring States supporting the Action Plan but not directly participating in it.

29. In the initial phase, contributions may be expected from the United Nations Environment Fund primarily to the projects and also to the common costs (co-ordination, meetings) of the implementation of the Action Plan on the understanding that such contributions are limited and will decrease progressively.

30. Thus, the total financial resources of the programme would consist of contributions towards the trust fund, or funds forwarded to the host organization earmarked as contributions to SPREP, and of contributions towards specific projects.

Funding Contributions

31. UNEP as a co-sponsor of the SPREP would, subject to the availability of funds, be ready to make substantial financial contributions towards the implementation of the Action Plan in its initial phase - US\$ 37,215 in 1980, US\$ 167,000 in 1981, and US\$ 200,000 each in 1982 and 1983, provided that the participating and supporting Governments agree to contribute counterpart funds.

32. It should also be understood that UNEP's contribution towards the administrative costs of the programme would be phased out in three to four years. Thereafter, UNEP would continue to examine the possibility of supporting specific project activities of the Action Plan within the framework of its programme priorities as defined by its Governing Council.

33. A table setting out the proposed contributions by UNEP for the period 1980-1983 and the target counterpart contributions that would be expected from Governments as a minimum basis for the development of the programme is presented in Table 1. The figures indicated for SPC and SPEC represent contributions in kind and salaries, subject to the normal budgetary approval procedures.

34. There are many possible ways to determine the level of contributions of the participating and supporting States. Whereas the regular contributions of the participating States might, for example, be according to the ratios of the SPC budget, there may be voluntary pledges envisaged from the supporting countries (primarily for specific projects).

35. Based upon the expected total Government contributions towards the Action Plan as given in Table 1, the individual contributions from participating governments are calculated and presented in Table 2. In addition, there are voluntary grants towards specific projects (activities) envisaged from other territories and countries within the region. (Table 3).

36. Contributions should be paid according to a schedule agreed to by the contributing Governments and phased so as to provide resources in advance of the planned activities of the Action Plan.

T A B L E 1

Budget projection for the implementation of the South Pacific Action Plan in the period 1980 to 1983 (in thousands of US dollars). For explanations, see paragraphs 31 to 34. The figures for SPC and SPEC are on the basis that SPC continues to serve as host organization for regional co-ordination and supervision functions. If other alternatives are adopted, the Table will require revision.

		1980	1981	1982	1983	Total
Projects of common interest	(UNEP	10	21	150	150	331
	(SPC	18	10	17	17	62
	(SPEC	-	5	10	10	25
	(Contributed Funds*	-	-	-	200	200
Co-ordination Costs	(UNEP	27	146	50	50	273
	(SPC	29	46	54	35	164
	(SPEC	-	10	10	10	30
	(Contributed Funds*	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-total	(UNEP	37	167	200	200	604
	(SPC	47	56	71	52	226
	(SPEC	-	15	20	20	55
	(Contributed Funds*	-	-	-	200	200
		84	238	291	472	1085

* These are contributions to a trust fund or contributions earmarked for SPREP. Contributions from governments listed in Table 3 who support by voluntary grants would be additional to these figures.

T A B L E 2 :

Country contributions if the whole of the contributed funds were provided by participating governments according to the assessment formula :

<u>State</u>	<u>Percent of Contribution</u>	<u>Contributions in US \$ for 1983</u>
Australia	33.60	67,200
Cook Islands	0.85	1,700
Fiji	0.85	1,700
France	14.00	28,000
Nauru	0.85	1,700
New Zealand	16.30	32,600
Niue	0.85	1,700
Papua New Guinea	0.85	1,700
Solomon Islands	0.85	1,700
Tuvalu	0.85	1,700
United Kingdom	12.30	24,600
United States of America	17.00	34,000
Western Samoa	0.85	1,700
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	100.00	200,000

T A B L E 3 :

Countries and Territories which support SPC by voluntary grants :

American Samoa

French Polynesia

Guam

Kiribati

New Caledonia

Vanuatu

Tokelau

Tonga

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands :

Federated States of Micronesia

Marshall Islands

Northern Mariana Islands

Palau

APPENDIX

Examples of potential supporting or co-operating organizations :

United Nations Organizations

ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)
UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)
UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)
UNDP - CCOP/SOPAC (United Nations Development Programme -
Co-ordinating Committee of the Off-shore Prospecting/
South Pacific)
F A O (Food and Agriculture Organization)
UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural
Organization)
I O C - WESTPAC (International Oceanographic Commission - West Pacific)
W H O - PEPAS (World Health Organization - Promotion of Environmental
Planning and Applied Studies)
IMCO (Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization)

Other regional and international organizations :

University of the South Pacific (USP)
University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG)
PNG University of Technology
University of Guam
ORSTOM (Office de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique d'Outre-Mer)
University of Hawaii
East-West Center
I U C N (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural
Resources)