



15th Meeting of Regional Seas Programmes and GLOC-2

History of the Regional Seas Programmes

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Key Persons who brokered the Birth of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme: 1972 - 1976

- Maurice Strong, Chairman of the Stockholm Conference on Man and the Environment and UNEP's first Executive Director.
- Peter Thatcher, close Advisor to Strong, first UNEP Regional Director for Europe and Deputy Executive Director of UNEP under Mustafa Tolba.
- Serge Antoine, Advisor to Maurice Strong and French negotiator of the Barcelona Convention for the Mediterranean Sea.
- Elizabeth Mann Borgese, political scientist and expert in international oceans policy.
- Mustafa Tolba, Head of Egypt's delegation to the Stockholm Conference and Executive Director of UNEP from 1975-1992 who strongly supported the regional seas programme.

Outstanding Directors of Regional Seas Programmes

- Aldo Manos, Mediterranean (1975-1993)
- Lucien Chabason, Mediterranean (1994-2003)
- Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Wider Caribbean (1996-present)
- Jairo Escobar, Southeast Pacific (1984-1993)
- Juan Alberto Manelia, Northeast Pacific (2002-2006)
- Prasantha Dias Abeyegunawardene, South Asian Seas
- Tamarii Tutangata, South Pacific (1997-2003)
- Alan Simcock, Northeast Atlantic (2001-2006)
- Ben van de Wetering, Northeast Atlantic (1995-2001)
- Mieczyslaw S. Ostojki, Baltic Sea (1999-2003)

History of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme: It's Founder, Stjepan Keckes



History of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme: It's Founder, Stjepan Keckes

- Born in the former Yugoslavia of Hungarian descent, he received his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Zagreb.
- Senior Staff member, Laboratory of Marine Radioactivity, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), late 1960s and early 1970s.
- Served as Deputy Director of the Ruder Boskovic Institute in Zagreb and ran its Marine Laboratory at Rovinj, early 1970s up to 1974.
- Director of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme from 1975 to 1990.









Legal and structural considerations in the development of regional seas conventions and action plans

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as the instrument that sets out the legal framework within which all activities pertaining to the oceans and seas, including the GPA, must be carried out.
- No other UNEP programme has had the degree of political support from developing countries as regional seas, which for many provided concrete results.
- The emergence of regional seas programmes as platforms for supporting regional cooperation as well as the implementation of global MEAs: IMO conventions, GPA, Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention, CBD, CITES, CMS, World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention, among others. Their role in contributing to sound international environmental governance has been under-appreciated.

Legal and structural considerations in the development of regional seas conventions and action plans

- Unlike most global MEAs, the secretariats of regional seas are better placed to coordinate the development and implementation of environmental management projects in the field.
- Unlike global MEAs, UNEP regional seas programmes generally adopt action plans before or at the time that their conventions are adopted, meaning that member states commence implementation earlier.
- Regional seas programmes as effective platforms/instruments for supporting the implementation of the focal area strategies of the Global Environment Facility (GEF): e.g., international waters, biodiversity, chemicals, land degradation.

The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS): the Constitution for the Oceans

- Provides a new spatial organization of the oceans, defines boundaries, redistributes resources, rights and responsibilities.
- Establishes the framework for the management of all major issues of the oceans.
- Provides for the first time a comprehensive set of international environmental laws, a new type of international law of cooperation, mandating regional cooperation among States and cooperation between States and international organizations.
- Is the most advanced international instrument for strengthening development, peace and the protection of the environment.

The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS): the Constitution for the Oceans

It would probably be one of the ironies of history that the sea which has so effectively separated the unit territories of the region over the centuries should now become the *raison d'être* for cooperation among countries. Such cooperation will indeed set a new pattern for regional economic development in the area and constitute a breakthrough in mankind's quest for global solutions to the problems of the marine environment.

- The Rt. Hon. Dr. Eric Williams, Prime Minister of
Trinidad and Tobago, 1973

Milestones in the Historical Development of the Regional Seas Programmes

- 1970: Peace in the Oceans Conference
- 1971: Ramsar Convention adopted; enters into force 1975
- 1972: UN Conference on Man and the Environment
- 1972: Oslo Convention adopted
- 1972: IMO London Convention on Dumping adopted; enters into force 1975
- 1973: Establishment of UNEP
- 1973: IMO MARPOL 1973/78 Convention on pollution from ships; enters into force 1983
- 1973: UNCLOS negotiations commence
- 1973: CITES adopted; enters into force 1976

Milestones in the Historical Development of the Regional Seas Programmes

- 1974: UNEP begins work on a possible regional agreement for the Mediterranean Sea
- 1974: UNEP Regional Seas Programme approved by GC 2
- 1974: Helsinki Convention for the Baltic Sea Area adopted
- 1974: Paris Convention adopted
- 1975: Mediterranean Action Plan adopted
- 1976: Barcelona Convention adopted; enters into force 1978
- 1976: Apia Convention adopted
- 1978: Kuwait Convention and AP ROPME Sea Area adopted
- 1979: CMS adopted; enters into force 1983
- 1980: CCALMR adopted; enters into force 1982

Milestones in the Historical Development of the Regional Seas Programmes

- 1981: Caribbean Action Plan adopted
- 1981: Abidjan Convention/AP adopted, enter into force 1984
- 1981: Lima Convention and Action Plan adopted
- 1981: East Asian Region Action Plan adopted
- 1982: UNCLOS negotiations finalized
- 1982: Jeddah Convention/AP adopted; enter into force 1985
- 1983: Cartagena Convention adopted; enters into force 1986
- 1985: Nairobi Convention adopted, enters into force 1996
- 1986: Noumea Convention adopted, enters into force 1990
- 1989: Basel Convention adopted; enters into force 1992

Milestones in the Historical Development of the Regional Seas Programmes

- 1990: IMO OPRC Convention adopted; enters into force 1995
- 1991: Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy adopted
- 1991: Global Environment Facility (GEF) established
- 1992: OSPAR Convention adopted; enters into force 1998
- 1992: Black Sea Convention adopted; SAP adopted 1996
- 1992: CBD adopted; enters into force 1993
- 1994: UNCLOS enters into force
- 1994: NOWPAP adopted
- 1995: SASAP adopted
- 1995: GPA on LBA adopted

Milestones in the Historical Development of the Regional Seas Programmes

- 1998: First Global Meeting of Regional Seas Programmes, The Hague
- 1999: Twinning arrangement between the Jeddah and Kuwait Conventions
- 1999: Second Global Meeting of Regional Seas Programmes, The Hague
- 1999: Caspian Environmental Programme established
- 2000: UNICPOLOS 1 (30 May-2 June)
- 2000: Twinning arrangement between the Helsinki and Nairobi Conventions (Malmo, 30 May)
- 2000: Third Global Meeting of Regional Seas Programmes, Monaco (6-10 November)

Milestones in the Historical Development of the Regional Seas Programmes

- 2001: Fourth Global Meeting of Regional Seas Programmes, Montreal
- 2001: First Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the GPA, Montreal
- 2002: Antigua Guatemala Convention and AP adopted
- 2003: Tehran Convention adopted; enters into force 2006
- 2004: IMO Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediment
- 2006: Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the GPA, The Hague
- 2012: Third Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the GPA, Manila

Regional Seas Conventions: Protocols or Annexes

Convention	Oil and HS pollution	LBA	Protected areas & WI	Radio-activity	TB move-ment HW	Offshore E & E	Dumping
Barcelona	P	P	P		P	P	P
Kuwait	P	P			P	P	
Abidjan	P						
Lima	P	P	P	P			
Jeddah	P	P	P				
Cartagena	P	P	P				
Nairobi	P	P	P				
Noumea	P			Waigani C.	Waigani C.		P
Black Sea	P	P	P				P
Caspian	P	P					
Antigua							
Helsinki	Annexes I, IV & VII	Annexes I & III				Annex VI	Annex V
SPREP							

Key factors affecting UNEP's Regional Seas Programme 1990 - 2002

- Decline in the programme's leadership.
- Lack of vision at the top on the importance of oceans, 1998-2002.
- Changing trends in donor contributions to UNEP.
- Earmarking of donor contributions to UNEP.
- Reduced role in the decision-making of the GC in setting the priorities of the Environment Programme.
- UN and UNEP reform and restructuring.
- Decline in number and quality of UNEP regional seas staff.
- Loss of critical mass in the Regional Seas Programme.
- Regional seas loses its priority status in UNEP and is under the GPA.

UNEP GC decisions of relevance to the Regional Seas Programme 1973 - 2013

- 61 GC decisions for the 30 year period from 1973 to 2003, or an average of 2 per year during regular and special sessions of the Governing Council.
- 5 GC decisions for the 10 year period from 2004 to 2013, or an average of 1 every two years during regular and special sessions of the Governing Council.
- One-fourth the number of GC decisions on regional seas since 2003 than previously.

Budget of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme per Biennium 1980-1981 to 2012-2013

Biennium	Apportionment (US\$)	%	Commitment (US\$)	%	Total committed (US\$)
Marine and coastal environment budget of UNEP's Programme of Work					
1974-1975 to 1978-1979					
1980-1981	7,500,000	11.05			
1982-1983					
1984-1985	7,400,000	10.57	5,750,300	10.58	52,500,000
1986-1987	6,780,000	11.30	5,140,000	11.37	45,200,000
1988-1989	6,900,000	11.50	5,865,000	11.50	51,000,000
1990-1991	8,950,000	10.20	8,782,837	10.89	80,686,473
1992-1993	14,480,000	8.00			
1994-1995	11,700,000	9.00			

Budget of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme per Biennium 1980-1981 to 2012-2013

Biennium	Apportionment (US\$)	%
Freshwater and the marine and coastal environment budget of UNEP's Programme of Work		
1994-1995	22,100,000	17.00
1996-1997	13,500,000	15.00
1998-1999	11,550,000	15.40
Marine and coastal areas: Environmental Conventions budget of UNEP's Programme of Work		
2000-2001	Unspecified in GC 20/31: \$6,775,000	1.35? (6.77)
2002-2003	Unspecified in GC 21/31: 6,975,000	1.39? (6.97)
Marine and coastal areas: DEPI budget of UNEP's Programme of Work		
2004-2005	Unspecified in GC 22/20	?
2006-2007	Unspecified in GC 23/3	?
2008-2009	Unspecified in GC 24/9	?
2010-2011	Unspecified in GC 25/13	?

Where do we go from here?



Where do we go from here?

1. Build off of GC decisions 21/28, 22/2, SS11/7 and 27/6 as a collective blue print for moving forward in the revitalization of the regional seas programme.
2. Governments should request accountability on the follow-up to these decisions.
3. At the next meeting of the GC, Governments should request the Executive Director to come up with a costed workplan for revitalizing the regional seas programme and the GPA.
4. Governments should work to increase the budget for the marine and coastal environment, including regional seas, in the budget of UNEP's programme of work at the next and future meetings of the GC.
5. Governments should consider the possibility of recommending an intergovernmental consultation for proposing to the Executive Director a plan with a strategy for revitalizing the regional seas programme and consequently strengthening the implementation of the GPA.



Thank you.