



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

REGIONAL
SEAS

*Action Plan
for the protection of the marine environment
and the coastal areas of
Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar,
Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates*

UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 35

Note: This document reproduces the parts of the final act of the Kuwait Regional Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas convened by UNEP in Kuwait, 15-23 April 1978, as the final stage of the preparatory work leading to the adoption of the (a) Action Plan for the protection and development of the marine environment and the coastal areas of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, (b) Kuwait Regional Convention for Co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution, (c) Protocol concerning Regional Co-operation in Combating Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, and (d) a set of resolutions adopted by the Conference.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNEP concerning the legal status of any State, Territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of their frontiers or boundaries.

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PREFACE

Ten years ago the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972) adopted the Action Plan for the Human Environment, including the General Principles for Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution. In the light of the results of the Stockholm Conference, the United Nations General Assembly decided to establish the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to "serve as a focal point for environmental action and co-ordination within the United Nations "system" (General Assembly resolution (XXVII) of 15 December 1972). The organizations of the United Nations system were invited "to adopt the measures that may be required to undertake concerted and co-ordinated programmes with regard to international environmental problems", and the "intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have an interest in the field of the environment" were also invited "to lend their full support and collaboration to the United Nations with a view to achieving the largest possible degree of co-operation and co-ordination". Subsequently, the Governing Council of UNEP chose "Oceans" as one of the priority areas in which it would focus efforts to fulfil its catalytic and co-ordinating role.

The Regional Seas Programme was initiated by UNEP in 1974. Since then the Governing Council of UNEP has repeatedly endorsed a regional approach to the control of marine pollution and the management of marine and coastal resources and has requested the development of regional action plans.

The Regional Seas Programme at present includes eleven regions 1/ and has over 120 coastal States participating in it. It is conceived as an action-oriented programme having concern not only for the consequences but also for the causes of environmental degradation and encompassing a comprehensive approach to combating environmental problems through the management of marine and coastal areas. Each regional action plan is formulated according to the needs of the region as perceived by the Governments concerned. It is designed to link assessment of the quality of the marine environment and the causes of its deterioration with activities for the management and development of the marine and coastal environment. The action plans promote the parallel development of regional legal agreements and of action-oriented programme activities 2/.

The Kuwait Action Plan emerged from the mutual interest of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in protecting from pollution the marine area of their region. This interest was reflected in 1976 in a decision of the Governing Council of UNEP at its fourth session which approved the preparatory work for convening a regional conference on the protection of marine areas from pollution.

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- 1/ Mediterranean, Kuwait Action Plan Region, West and Central Africa, Wider Caribbean, East Asian Seas, South-East Pacific, South Pacific, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, East Africa, South-West Atlantic and South Asian Seas.
- 2/ UNEP: Achievements and planned development of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and comparable programmes sponsored by other bodies. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 1, UNEP 1982.

As part of the preparatory work, an interagency fact-finding mission, sponsored and financially supported by UNEP, visited the eight states of the region from March to May 1976. The mission was organized by the Ocean Economics and Technology Office (OETO) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in co-operation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO).

Based on the findings of the mission, a preliminary action plan dealing with the scientific and socio-economic aspects of a comprehensive programme for the protection and development of the marine environment and coastal areas in the region was prepared and presented for consideration to a technical meeting of government-nominated experts in Kuwait in December 1976.

Aware of the benefits to be derived from developing scientific and socio-economic activities within a legal framework, UNEP convened a task force in Nairobi in late 1976 to formulate the basis for regional legal action. In light of the recommendations of the task force, preliminary drafts were prepared of a framework Convention for Co-operation in the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution and, in co-operation with IMCO, a Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combatting Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergencies.

The drafts of the action plan together with the draft legal instruments were reviewed during two subsequent expert meetings (Bahrain, January 1977 and Nairobi, June 1977).

In April 1978 a Regional Conference of Plenipotentiaries was convened in Kuwait for the purpose of reviewing, revising and adopting a comprehensive action plan for the protection and development of marine and coastal areas of the region, including its legal framework.

The Conference, on 23 April 1978, adopted

- (a) the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates,
- (b) the Kuwait Regional Convention for Co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution,
- (c) the Protocol concerning Regional Co-operation in Combating Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, and
- (d) resolutions on (i) interim secretariat, (ii) financial arrangements, (iii) steps to be taken for the establishment of the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre, and (iv) co-ordination between the regional marine meteorological and environmental programmes.

The Action Plan and the four resolutions adopted by the Conference are reproduced in this document 3/.

3/ The two legal instruments adopted by the Conference have been published separately (UNEP, 1983).

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ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE
MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND THE COASTAL AREAS OF
BAHRAIN, IRAN, IRAQ, KUWAIT, OMAN, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA AND
THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

adopted by the Kuwait Regional Conference of
Plenipotentiaries on the Protection and Development
of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas
in Kuwait, 23 April 1978

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Region has been recognized by the Governments concerned and by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as a "concentration area" in which UNEP, in close collaboration with the relevant components of the United Nations system, will attempt to fulfill its catalytic role in assisting States of the Region to develop and implement, in a consistent manner, an Action Plan commonly agreed upon.
2. The protection and development of the marine environment and the coastal areas of the Region for the benefit of present and future generations will be the central objective of the Action Plan. This Action Plan sets forth a framework for an environmentally sound and comprehensive approach to coastal area development, particularly appropriate for this rapidly developing Region.
3. Recognizing the complexity of the problem and the numerous ongoing activities, the Action Plan has been based upon:
 - 3.1 findings of an interagency mission 1/ organized by UNEP in co-operation with UN/ESA which visited Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates from 15 March to 25 May 1976;
 - 3.2 Consultative Meeting on Marine Sciences in the Region convened by UNESCO in Paris, 11-14 November 1975;
 - 3.3 recommendations for a marine science project endorsed by the Conference of Ministers of Arab States Responsible for the Application of Science and Technology for Development, CASTARAB, convened by UNESCO in Rabat, 16-25 August 1976;
 - 3.4 Meeting of a Group of Experts on Coastal Area Development convened by UN/ESA in New York, November 1974;
 - 3.5 recommendations of the Kuwait Technical Meeting on Coastal Area Development and Protection of the Marine Environment co-sponsored by UNEP and UN/ESA in Kuwait, 6-9 December 1976;
 - 3.6 a feasibility study for a co-ordinated applied marine science and basic marine science programme conducted by UNEP and UNESCO in co-operation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and FAO;
 - 3.7 Regional Meeting of Legal Experts on the Protection of the Marine Environment held by UNEP in Bahrain, 24-28 January 1977;
 - 3.8 Experts Meeting on the Protection of the Marine Environment, Nairobi, 13-18 June 1977;
 - 3.9 additional suggestions and proposals received from the United Nations system.

1/ UNEP, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/ESA), Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

4. The Action Plan aims to achieve the following:

- 4.1 assessment of the state of the environment including socio-economic development activities related to environmental quality and of the needs of the Region in order to assist Governments to cope properly with environmental problems, particularly those concerning the marine environment;
- 4.2 development of guidelines for the management of those activities which have an impact on environmental quality or on the protection and use of renewable marine resources on a sustainable basis;
- 4.3 development of legal instruments providing the legal basis for co-operative efforts to protect and develop the Region on a sustainable basis;
- 4.4 supporting measures including national and regional institutional mechanisms and structure needed for the successful implementation of the Action Plan.

5. For this document, it is assumed that the Region includes the marine area bounded in the south by the following rhumb-lines:

From Ras Dharbat Ali
Lat. 16° 39'N Long. 53° 3'30"E; then

to a position in:
Lat. 16° 00'N Long. 53° 25'E; then

to a position in:
Lat. 17° 00'N Long. 56° 30'E; then

to a position in:
Lat. 20° 30'N Long. 60° 00'E; then

to Ras Al-Fasteh in:
Lat. 25° 04'N Long. 61° 25'E

The coastal area to be considered as part of the Region will be identified by the relevant Governments of the Region on an ad hoc basis depending on the type of activities to be carried out within the framework of the Action Plan. Nevertheless, coastal areas not included in the Region as defined above, should not be a source of marine pollution.

6. All components of the Action Plan are interdependent and provide a framework for comprehensive action to contribute to both the protection and the continued development of the ecoregion. No component will be an end in itself. Each activity is intended to assist the Governments of the Region to improve the quality of the information on which environmental management policies are based.

7. The protection of the marine environment is considered as the first priority of the Action Plan, and it is intended that measures for marine and coastal environmental protection and development should lead to the promotion of human health and well-being as the ultimate goal of the Action Plan.

8. The Action Plan is intended to meet the environmental needs and enhance the

environmental capabilities of the Region and is aimed primarily toward implementation by way of co-ordinated national and regional activities. To achieve this goal, an intensive training programme should be formulated in the early phases of the implementation of the Action Plan.

9. A general description of the various components of the Action Plan is given in the following paragraphs.

I. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

10. Environmental assessment is one of the basic activities which will underlie and facilitate the implementation of the other components of the Action Plan.

11. The identification of the present quality of the marine environment and the factors currently influencing its quality and having an impact on human health will be given priority together with an assessment of future trends.

12. Due to the lack or inadequacy of available basic data on the marine environment, a co-ordinated basic and applied regional marine science programme and marine meteorological programme will be formulated as a basis for the protection of the marine environment of the Region. In formulating the operational details of these programmes, planned and ongoing national and regional programmes will be taken into account.

13. The following programmes are recognized as components of the co-ordinated regional environmental assessment programme:

13.1 survey of national capabilities of the Region in the field of marine sciences including marine meteorology covering:

- (a) scientific and administrative institutions;
- (b) information centres and data sources;
- (c) research facilities and equipment;
- (d) manpower;
- (e) existing environmental laws and regulations;
- (f) ongoing and planned activities;
- (g) publications.

13.2 assessment of the origin and magnitude of oil pollution in the Region comprising:

- (a) baseline studies on the sources, transport and distribution of oil and petroleum hydrocarbon pollution in the Region;
- (b) physical, chemical and biological oceanography of the Region relevant to the transport, distribution and fate of oil as a pollutant;

(c) marine meteorology relevant to the transport and distribution of oil as a pollutant.

13.3 assessment of the magnitude of pollutants affecting human health and marine ecosystems of the Region consisting of:

(a) survey of land-based sources of industrial and municipal wastes discharged directly or indirectly into the sea or reaching it through the atmosphere;

(b) studies on the impact of industrial and municipal waste, including microbiological agents, on human health;

(c) research on effects of pollutants and other human activities, such as dredging and land reclamation on important marine species, communities and ecosystems;

(d) baseline studies and monitoring of the levels of selected pollutants, in particular heavy metals, in marine organisms.

13.4 assessment of factors relevant to the ecology of the Region and to the exploitation of its living resources including:

(a) biology of commercially important species of crustaceans, molluscs and fish in the Region, including their stock assessment;

(b) plankton productivity and distribution in the Region;

(c) ecological studies of important natural habitats in the intertidal and subtidal zones, including creeks (khores) in the Region.

13.5 assessment of geological processes such as sedimentation contributing to, or modifying, the fate of pollutants in the Region, and their impact on human health, marine ecosystems and human activities, as well as effects of coastal engineering and mining.

14. The programme listed in paragraph 13 are interdisciplinary and interrelated in nature. Therefore, while preparing the operational details of each programme, due attention should be paid to their close co-ordination in order to avoid duplication.

15. The priorities to be assigned to the activities listed in paragraph 13 will be determined by the Governments of the Region taking into account the present level of development in the Region and the pressing need to provide reliable and comparable data on which sound management decisions can rest.

16. The agreed programme will be executed primarily through existing national institutions within the framework of regional co-operation keeping in mind that for some projects a training programme should be formulated and that the assistance of experts from outside the Region might be required in the initial phase of some projects.

17. Operational details of each programme will be developed primarily by experts nominated by the Governments of the Region.

The documents describing the operational details of the approved programmes as well as the national institutions participating in the programmes will be approved by the Governments before the implementation of the programmes.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

18. The countries of the Region have experienced unprecedented rates of growth during recent years, particularly in areas such as urbanization, industrialization, agriculture, transport, trade, and exploration and exploitation of the Region's resources. Continuous socio-economic development can be achieved on a sustainable basis if environmental considerations are taken into account.

19. To achieve the objectives of the development and environmental management component of the Action Plan the following preparatory activities should be undertaken:

- 19.1 preparation and up-dating of a directory of Government-designated institutions available in the Region and active in fields related to the environmental management components of the Action Plan;
- 19.2 assessment of present and future development activities and their major environmental impact in order to evaluate the degree of their influence on the environment and to find appropriate measures to either eliminate or reduce any damaging effects which they may have;
- 19.3 identification of the most relevant ongoing national, regional or internationally supported development projects which have beneficial environmental effects such as the various fisheries projects of FAO, the environmental sanitation activities of the World Health Organization, and the assistance in industrial waste treatment provided through the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The most significant of these projects should be strengthened and expanded to serve as demonstrations and training sites on a regional basis.

20. Furthermore, in view of the priorities and needs of the Region, the following co-operative programmes relevant to the management of regional environmental problems stemming from national development activities will be undertaken:

- 20.1 formulation of regional contingency plans for accidents involving oil exploration, exploitation and transport, and strengthening the meteorological services contributing to the development of contingency plans and to their execution in co-ordination with existing or future marine regional meteorological programmes;
- 20.2 assistance in development of national capabilities in engineering knowledge needed for regional environmental protection;
- 20.3 strengthening the national public health services and their co-ordination whenever transboundary interest require it;
- 20.4 rational exploitation and management of marine living resources, including aquaculture, on a sustainable basis, and the establishment of protected aquatic and terrestrial areas, such as marine parks, wetlands and others;
- 20.5 co-ordination of marine and land transport activities and the creation of a regional transport co-ordinated programme with special emphasis on port-generated pollution;

- 20.6 development of principles and guidelines for coastal area development and management through workshops;
- 20.7 co-ordination of national water management policies including community water supply and water quality control, whenever they may have impact on the marine environment of the Region;
- 20.8 upkeep of records of oil pollution incidents in the Region with relevant information on the impact of such pollution on the marine environment.

21. As part of the activities and regional co-operative programmes mentioned in paragraphs 19 and 20 a vast training programme should be developed for personnel from the Region. Such a programme may be executed through training at existing national, regional or international institutions ready to offer their facilities.

22. Marine and coastal area environmental protection and enhancement cannot be achieved without the full support and co-operation of all those concerned. Therefore, adequate resources should be devoted to systematic and regular campaigns for public awareness of environmental issues in the Region.

III. LEGAL COMPONENT

23. Regional legal agreements provide a fundamental basis for regional co-operation to protect the marine environment in the Region. Recognizing the importance of sound environmental development of the Region, the Governments agree to the need for early ratification of the Kuwait Regional Convention for Co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution, and the Protocol concerning Regional Co-operation in Combating Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, which are adopted by the Kuwait Regional Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas.

24. It is recommended that UNEP should, in co-operation with the Governments and United Nations bodies concerned, convene intergovernmental groups to prepare additional protocols which will include:

- 24.1 scientific and technical co-operation;
- 24.2 pollution resulting from exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the sea bed and its subsoil;
- 24.3 development, conservation, protection and harmonious utilization of the marine living resources of the Region;
- 24.4 liability and compensation for damage resulting from pollution of the marine environment;
- 24.5 pollution from land-based sources.

25. Aware of the need to give special protection to the Region against pollution from the ships through normal operations or dumping activities, an appeal is made to Governments of the Region to strengthen the measures for the protection of the Region through ratification and implementation of the relevant international conventions, particularly:

- 25.1 1954 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, and its amendments;
- 25.2 1972 Convention on Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter;
- 25.3 1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships as modified by the Protocol of 1978.

IV. INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

26. In establishing institutional arrangements for carrying out the Action Plan, a mechanism should be established which uses, to the greatest possible extent, the national capabilities available in the Region and the capabilities of existing international organizations and co-ordinating bodies and which would deal with national institutions through the appropriate national authorities of the States concerned. Where necessary, national institutions should be strengthened so that they may participate actively and efficiently in the various programmes.

27. Subject to the approval of the Governments of the Region and in close co-operation with the international bodies concerned, UNEP should make such interim arrangements as may be required for the achievement of the objectives of the Action Plan, including the establishment of an interim secretariat, until the permanent Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment is established. In order to fulfill this task the interim secretariat should have adequate professional and supporting staff recruited mainly from the signatory States in consultation, as far as possible, with the Governments of the Region. The interim secretariat shall be responsible for the overall co-ordination of the Action plan and of matters arising out of the Convention and any protocol thereto. The interim secretariat should convene annual meetings of the States of the Region and, as necessary, working groups of regional experts to review progress achieved pursuant to recommendations set forth in the Action Plan and to advise the Executive Director of UNEP on the development of additional activities.

28. In addition to the functions assigned to it by the States of the Region, the interim secretariat or the secretariat should establish and maintain liaison with competent bodies responsible for similar activities in the Region and in other regions of the world so that each region may benefit from the experience of others and data generated in all regions may be compatible and may contribute to an overall view of the marine environment.

29. The Governments of the Region agree to the necessity of establishing a Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre. The Centre should have primarily a co-ordinating role in exchange of information, training programmes and monitoring. The possibility of the Centre initiating operations to combat pollution by oil and other harmful substances may be considered at a later stage in accordance with Article III of the Protocol concerning Regional Co-operation in Combating Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency.

30. Responsibilities should be transferred from the interim secretariat to the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment as soon as this Organization is established.

31. It is proposed that the programme be financed by proportional contributions by the governments to be assessed on the basis of a mutually agreed scale of contributions and supplemented especially in the initial stages by assistance that could be available from international bodies. The ultimate aim should be to make the programme self-supporting within the regional context, not only by developing institutional capabilities to perform the required tasks, but also by supporting training, provision of equipment and other forms of assistance from within the Region.

RESOLUTIONS

adopted by the Kuwait Regional Conference of
Plenipotentiaries on the Protection and Development
of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas
in Kuwait, 23 April 1978

INTERIM SECRETARIAT

THE CONFERENCE

HAVING ADOPTED the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates;

HAVING ADOPTED the Kuwait Regional Convention for Co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Protocol to that Convention concerning Regional Co-operation in Combating Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency;

NOTING the statement of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to the effect that UNEP is willing to accept responsibility in the interim period before the entry into force of the Convention for the overall co-ordination of the development of activities under the Action Plan;

RECOGNIZING the importance of co-operation with other bodies in the Region, the United Nations system and other international organizations and expert bodies in the field of marine pollution;

CALLS UPON the Executive Director of UNEP, in consultation with the Governments of the Region and in close co-operation with relevant United Nations bodies, to make such interim arrangements as may be required until the establishment of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment in order to achieve the objectives of the Action Plan and to convene annual meetings of the States of the Region and, as necessary, working groups of regional experts to review progress achieved pursuant to recommendations set forth in the Action Plan and to advise on the development of additional activities.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

THE CONFERENCE

HAVING ADOPTED the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates;

HAVING ADOPTED the Kuwait Regional Convention for Co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution and the Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency as part of the legal component of the Action Plan;

WELCOMING the willingness of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to assume responsibility for such interim arrangements as may be required for the achievement of the objectives of the Action Plan prior to the establishment of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment;

FURTHER WELCOMING the offer of the Executive Director of UNEP to contribute toward the costs of the interim secretariat up to a maximum of U.S. \$500,000 for the initial two and one-half years;

HAVING REGARD to the cost estimates for the implementation of the Action Plan totalling U.S. \$6.3 million for the initial two and one-half year operating period during which the projects stipulated in the Action Plan will be implemented;

AGREES to establish a Regional Trust Fund to cover the costs of implementing the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas;

DECIDES that the Regional Trust Fund be financed for the initial two and one-half year period by proportional contributions from the Governments to be assessed as follows:

	%	U.S. \$
BAHRAIN	2.00	116,400
IRAN	28.04	1,631,928
IRAQ	12.66	736,812
KUWAIT	15.46	899,772
OMAN	2.00	116,400
QATAR	8.93	519,726
SAUDI ARABIA	19.18	1,116,276
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	11.73	682,686
Sub total		5,820,000
UNEP		500,000
Total		6,320,000

REQUESTS that the Executive Director of UNEP assume responsibility for administering the Regional Trust Fund in the interim period prior to the establishment of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment.

STEPS TO BE TAKEN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE MARINE EMERGENCY MUTUAL AID CENTRE

THE CONFERENCE

HAVING ADOPTED the Kuwait Regional Convention for Co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution and the Protocol concerning Regional Co-operation in Combating Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency;

NOTING that Article III of the Protocol provides for the establishment of the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre;

CONFIRMING the desirability of taking the necessary steps as soon as possible to bring the Centre into operation upon entry into force of the Protocol;

TAKES NOTE of the kind invitation of the State of Bahrain to act as host to the Centre;

REQUESTS that the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, convene a meeting of governmental experts of the States signatory to the Protocol to consider the steps to be taken for the establishment of the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre following the entry into force of the Protocol, and prepare the necessary documentation for consideration by the meeting with a view to making recommendations on the following to be submitted for consideration by the Governments and, subsequently, by the Council of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment at its first meeting.

- (a) the facilities to be offered by the host Government to the Centre;
- (b) the staff necessary for the Centre to fulfill its functions;
- (c) the character and legal status to be accorded to the Centre and its staff;
- (d) the facilities and services which could be made available to the Centre;
- (e) the financial requirements for the establishment and operation of the Centre; and
- (f) the financial and other support to be rendered in order to meet these requirements.

CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE REGIONAL MARINE
METEOROLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES

THE CONFERENCE

AWARE of the current plans for developing a marine meteorological programme by the States of the Region in co-operation with the World Meteorological Organization;

RECOGNIZING the vital role that the regional marine meteorological programme will have in the future environmental assessment and management programmes in the Region;

EMPHASIZING that an Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas was adopted by the Kuwait Regional Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas held from 15 to 23 April 1978;

WELCOMING the fact that the first Regional Marine Meteorological Conference held in Jeddah from 24 to 30 September 1977 identified marine meteorological support services for the monitoring of pollution in the marine environment and environmental protection as among the main functions of the regional marine meteorological programme;

REQUESTS that both the Regional Meeting of Marine Meteorological Experts to be held in Tehran from 29 April to 4 May 1978 and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Regional Marine Meteorological Programme to be held in Jeddah in 1978 take into consideration the requirements of the Action Plan and maintain continuous consultation with the interim secretariat of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment in order to ensure maximum efficiency and benefit for the two regional programmes by joint planning and sharing of resources;

REQUESTS ALSO that the Executive Director of UNEP and the Secretary-General of WMO keep in view the same considerations and promote maximum co-ordination between the two programmes.

PUBLICATIONS IN THE UNEP REGIONAL SEAS REPORTS AND STUDIES SERIES

- No. 1 UNEP: Achievements and planned development of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and comparable programmes sponsored by other bodies. (1982)
- No. 2 UNIDO/UNEP: Survey of marine pollutants from industrial sources in the West and Central African Region. (1982)
- No. 3 UNESCO/UNEP: River inputs to the West and Central African marine environment. (1982)
- No. 4 IMCO/UNEP: The status of oil pollution and oil pollution control in the West and Central African Region. (1982)
- No. 5 IAEA/UNEP: Survey of tar, oil, chlorinated hydrocarbons and trace metal pollution in coastal waters of the Sultanate of Oman. (1982)
- No. 6 UN/UNESCO/UNEP: Marine and coastal area development in the East African region. (1982)
- No. 7 UNIDO/UNEP: Industrial sources of marine and coastal pollution in the East African region. (1982)
- No. 8 FAO/UNEP: Marine pollution in the East African region. (1982)
- No. 9 WHO/UNEP: Public health problems in the coastal zone of the East African region. (1982)
- No. 10 IMO/UNEP: Oil pollution control in the East African region. (1982)
- No. 11 IUCN/UNEP: Conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems and living resources of the East African region. (1982)
- No. 12 UNEP: Environmental problems of the East African region. (1982)
- No. 13 M. PATHMARAJAH: Pollution and the marine environment in the Indian Ocean. (1982)
- No. 14 UNEP/CEPAL: Development and environment in the Wider Caribbean Region: A Synthesis. (1982)
- No. 15 UNEP: Guidelines and principles for the preparation and implementation of comprehensive action plans for the protection and development of marine and coastal areas of regional seas. (1982)
- No. 16 GESAMP: The health of the oceans. (1982)
- No. 17 UNEP: Regional Seas Programme: Legislative authority. (in preparation)
- No. 18 UNEP: Regional Seas Programme: Workplan. (1982)
- No. 19 UNEP: Regional Seas Programme: Compendium of projects. (1982)
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