



REGIONAL ORGANIZATION  
FOR THE PROTECTION OF  
THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT  
KUWAIT

ROPME VIEWS

ON

INTER-REGIONAL ARAB CO-OPERATION FOR THE PROTECTION

AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

AND THE COASTAL AREAS RESOURCES

Submitted to:

Inter-Secretariat Meeting on Arab Regional  
Co-operation for the Protection and Deve-  
lopment of the Marine Environment and  
Coastal Areas Resources.

Athens, 16 - 17 February 1985.

R O P M E

## INTRODUCTION

The area covered by the KUWAIT REGIONAL CONVENTION has been recognized by the Governments concerned and by the Governing Council of UNEP as a "Concentration Area" in which UNEP, in close collaboration with other Agencies of the United Nations system, will attempt to fulfil its catalytic role in assisting States of the Region in the development and implementation, in a consistent manner, of an Action Plan commonly agreed upon.

Although all regional action plans are constructed in a similar manner, the specific activities of the KUWAIT ACTION PLAN are dependent upon the needs and priorities of the Region. In particular, the Action Plan, which is a comprehensive approach to coastal area development, is appropriate for this rapidly developing Region.

Adoption of the Kuwait regional legal agreements has been facilitated by numerous technical surveys, studies and reviews prepared by UNEP in co-operation with other concerned Organizations and UN Agencies.

The Kuwait Action Plan, therefore, has been based upon the findings and results of the mentioned activities.

The purpose of this Report is to present and highlight the status of the Kuwait Regional Action Plan, the activities undertaken and co-ordinated by ROPME and the long-term programme activities, with advice on ways and means in which the area may strengthen inter-Arab co-operation in the field of Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas Resources.

All Arab States have coastal areas and all are Contracting States to one or more of the five Regional Conventions and Action Plans.

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R.O.P.M.E.

ROPME, the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment was established on 1st January 1982. In application of Article XVI of Kuwait Regional Convention, the permanent headquarters of ROPME are located in Kuwait. ROPME consists of the following organs:

- 1) A Council comprised of the Contracting States;
- ii) a Secretariat;\*
- iii) a Judicial Commission for the settlement of disputes.

ROPME Secretariat is supervised by an Acting Executive Secretary assisted by a Deputy Executive Secretary. An Executive Committee representing BAHRAIN, IRAN, IRAQ and KUWAIT, Chaired by the Executive Secretary has been in effect since 1982.

ROPME overall functions and responsibilities are to facilitate, through its organs, co-operation and co-ordination among the Contracting States in order to implement the Action Plan and to apply Kuwait Regional Convention and Protocols. (Functions of ROPME Council, the Secretariat and MEMAC appear in Annex I).

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\* - The Secretariat structure as at February 1985 in accordance with relevant Council decisions is as follows:-

Department of Programmes, Department of Finance & Administration, Department of Public Awareness.

- MEMAC (Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre) established in accordance with Article III of the relevant Protocol and located in BAHRAIN is considered as a Department of ROPME Secretariat.

The ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan consists of the following components:

- a) Environmental assessment
- b) Environmental management
- c) Legal component
- d) Institutional and Financial arrangements

All components of the Action Plan are independent and provide a framework for comprehensive action to contribute to both the protection and the continued development of eco-region. Therefore, various projects and programmes were derived from the Action Plan, designated and grouped according to similarity and thematically into Groups A, B, C and D respectively (see Annex II). Through several successive meetings, operational details of each programme were developed by experts nominated by the Governments of the Region, in co-operation and co-ordination extended by UNEP and the relevant UN organizations and agencies.

The Regional Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas (held in Kuwait, 15-24 April 1978) adopted and signed the Action Plan, the Convention and the Protocol, concerning Regional Co-operation in Combating Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency. Also, the Conference adopted resolutions concerning interim arrangements (the Interim Secretariat) and the financial arrangements (the Resolutions appear as Annex III). Thus the Interim Secretariat (1979-1981) established, supervised and administered by UNEP, was functioning for initiation, preparation and co-ordination of KAP Projects even before the establishment of ROPME. Furthermore, several activities of Group "A" were implemented by a disciplinary mission to KAP Region, which was formed mostly of experts from the Region.

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The First meeting of ROPME Council (convened in Kuwait, 21-23 April 1981) adopted Kuwait Action Plan programmes (ROPME Council decisions attached as Annex IV) which reflected the views of a pre-Council Government Experts Review Meeting on Co-operative Projects of the Kuwait Action Plan (Kuwait, 11 - 14 April 1981), which recognize the complexity and excessive manpower requirements involved in forming numerous task teams for implementation of KAP projects - as presented to that meeting - and its recommendations, to be consolidated into two Task Teams namely; Task Team on Oceanography and Task Team for Baseline Studies of Oil and Non-Oil Pollutants, and deferring formation of other Task Teams to a later phase. The activities covered by the above-mentioned Task Teams are consolidated component of the coordinated regional environmental assessment programme of the Action Plan (i.e. Group "A" and Group "B"). The operating details of the activities (monitoring) covered by both Task Teams, were the text of an agreement signed between ROPME and Member States, ROPME/UNEP and competent U.N. agencies, (specimen of the agreement appears as Annex V). In general the 18-month Monitoring Programme is one of the basic programmes, its implementation has been extended for another 18 months (July 1984 - December 1985).

The CONVENTION and the PROTOCOLS

The Kuwait Regional Convention together with the Protocol Concerning Regional Co-operation in Combating Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, were ratified by the Contracting States during the period 1979-1981. (MEMAC is the Organ charged with sharing responsibility with ROPME and the Contracting States for the implementation of the Protocol and applying MEMAC functions). Nevertheless, another five recommended additional Protocols are to be prepared. Priority was given to initiation of a Protocol on Pollution from Land-Based Sources, which is believed to be in process for final drafting and presentation to the coming Fourth Meeting of ROPME Council (April 1985).

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CO-ORDINATION OF PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Since the Interim Secretariat was absorbed by the formation of ROPME Secretariat in January 1982, the need for co-ordination and assistance from UNEP was essential and reflected by ROPME Council Decisions relevant to co-operation with UNEP (Annex IV). Several national institutions of the Region were designated by their Governments for co-ordination and co-operation in order to achieve the implementation of ROPME programmes (e.g. Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Marine Science Center of Basrah University, Marine Science Department of Qatar University, Scientific Research Centre of University of Petroleum and Minerals, Saudi Arabia). Co-ordination is channelled through designated National Focal Points of Member States (i.e. National Environmental Committees and National Environmental Councils).

ROPME programmes are derived from the Action Plan initiated by the Secretariat and experts from the Region. Operational details are prepared by Regional Task Teams and wherever assistance and consultancy is required - both in the preparatory phase or during implementation, UNEP and other relevant Regional and International Organizations and Agencies stand ready to give support and assistance. Agreements and understanding are usually considered as the framework for such co-operation.

The following programmes and activities are mentioned to describe the co-ordinated activities taken by ROPME with particular emphasis on the involvement of Arab States.

1. Baseline Studies of Oil and Non-Oil Pollutants (including Monitoring programmes, Ecological Surveys, Training Workshops, Uses of Regional Manual, Intercalibration, and Special Training).

Execution of the programme with such a wide range of activities was subject to co-ordination and co-operation between ROPME Secretariat and its National Focal Points in Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, where the designated

institutions are involved. While for Bahrain, Oman and U.A.E., irrespective of the National Focal Points and the national institutions, UNEP and other UN Agencies were involved. Detailed negotiations, discussions and understanding for such procedures was reached through interagency meetings and co-ordination between both UNEP and ROPME Secretariat.

2. In-Depth Study of Land-Based Sources of Pollution.
3. Public Awareness Activities.
4. Reception Facilities.
5. Study of Mercury Levels in edible fish and in the sediments (proposed).
6. Study for the Assessment of the Characteristics of Dust Fallout and Associated Pollutants (proposed).
7. Uses of Dispersants in the "Sea Area".
8. Sewage Discharge to "Sea Area" (study).

The above mentioned programme activities and proposals (2-8), although derivatives of the Action Plan programmes, were subjected to study by Experts, Task Team Meetings and approved by ROPME Council. This procedure, by involving national experts and institutions, will result in strengthening the role of regional co-operation and guarantee effective co-ordination. Therefore, follow-up and liaison are of utmost importance for fulfilment of any co-ordinated programme.

Assistance from elsewhere will be sought whenever it is considered necessary either by ROPME Secretariat or by the Member States. Specifically, Iraq, Kuwait, U.A.E., Oman, Qatar and Bahrain, through their National Focal Points, are in process of co-ordination with ROPME Secretariat in implementation of the studies and proposals mentioned above. Certain programmes such as the Reception Facilities Study, was contracted to an outside

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Consultancy firm, whilst the In-Depth Study of Land-Based Sources of Pollution is assisted by a consultant through ROPME Secretariat, and in a similar way the Study of Sewage Discharge is under way.

The applied procedures for execution of relevant decisions as taken by ROPME Council concerning activities and programmes, is felt to give the Secretariat a free hand for further support to the national institutions in carrying out their part of the programme.

The Kuwait Regional Convention and the Action Plan both recommend and urge the Contracting States to co-operate with competent international, regional and sub-regional organizations, as a general obligation towards application of the Convention. Also, the Convention stresses on a regional and international co-operation within the framework of Scientific and Technological Co-operation (Article X) and through Technical and Other Assistance (Article XII) which should be reflected in the long-term work programmes of the Action Plan.

Seven Arab States of the eight Contracting States realized co-operation and co-ordination of the relevant activities dealing with the protection of the marine environment through ROPME. Arab States in the KAP Region as well as other regions are involved as members and are represented by the competent concerned organization of the Arab League (ALESCO), which is concerned with the environment. Most of the several Arab States are members of the Governing Council of UNEP and Members of other UN organizations and agencies dealing even partly with the environment. Six Arab States of the KAP Region, form the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) where a co-ordination unit on environmental aspects comes as reality.

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Since ROPME is the Organization dealing specifically with aspects of the Marine Environment and Development of Coastal Areas, other competent organizations and agencies deal, generally, with different aspects of the environment and this is believed to be beneficial towards selection of options for better coordination between Arab States. Arab States being Contracting States to five Regional Conventions, necessitates the importance of defining areas, ways and means for promoting and strengthening inter-Arab Co-operation in the field of the protection of the marine environment. The following recommendations reflect ROPME's views regarding this matter.

Recognizing the importance, the needs and necessity between the Arab States for the Protection and development of the marine environment, coastal areas and resources, for:

- minimizing duplication of activities;
- combining and unifying efforts;
- ensuring comprehensive co-operation and positive co-ordination for better results and sharing of benefits and uses;

the following recommendations may aid better co-operation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Co-operation and co-ordination between Arab States in the relevant fields of marine environment would, in general, be strengthened through the existing relevant Arab organizations. This only requires agreements to be made between the existing organizations, so there is obviously no need for the establishment of new organs to put this co-operation into motion.

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- UNEP has been involved in the development of several Regional Programmes for the protection of coastal and marine environment, therefore UNEP should have a leading role in formulating a basis, to be agreed upon, for co-ordination amongst the Contracting States of each region.
- The different Regional Action Plans and programmes define the fields of interest, co-operation, general obligations and appropriate measures to be taken for prevention and protection of the marine environment against pollution from ships, dumping, from land-based sources, pollution emergencies and other harmful activities, etc. Most of the Arab States have certain capabilities and facilities which could possibly be used or shared as a form of co-operation.
- Experts and scientists from amongst the Arab States, in the fields of marine environment and marine resources, form a front line for strengthening co-operation and co-ordination between these States.
- The role of national institutions and National Focal Points should be developed in order to put into effect the basic principles of "Co-ordination between Arab States".
- Training Programmes in the field of marine environment including planning, administration, public awareness, seminars, and workshops, in the relevant fields, should be given utmost priority for advancement and promotion of co-operation.
- Open water cruises, research vessels and surveillance could also be considered as tools for establishing co-operation and co-ordination amongst Arab States. Dissemination of gathered information relevant to the marine environment could also strengthen capabilities within each region.

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- Participation of Marine Science Centres of the Arab States in implementation of the Regional Action Plan, guarantees their co-operation. Therefore, involvement of these institutions and their contribution towards the protection of the marine environment should be determined.
  
- Stress should be placed on running systematic and regular campaigns on environment issues for public awareness in the Arab States, followed by initiation and implementation of comprehensive programmes in the relevant fields.

Finally, the existing bodies concerned with the marine environment in the Arab States have to decide on priorities in fields of co-operation and selected programmes, to be achieved within the framework of the Regional Action Plans, and take into account the findings and results of this meeting which may form a basis for the desired strengthening of co-operation between Arab States.

ANNEX I

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL, THE SECRETARIAT AND MEMAC

COUNCIL

The functions of the Council shall be:

- i) to keep under review the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, and the Action Plan referred to in paragraph (e) of Article I;
- ii) to review and evaluate the state of marine pollution and its effects on the Sea Area on the basis of reports provided by the Contracting States and the competent international or regional organizations;
- iii) to adopt, review and amend as required in accordance with procedures established in Article XXI, the Annexes to the Convention and to its Protocols;
- iv) to receive and to consider reports submitted by the Contracting States under Articles IX and XXIII;
- v) to consider reports prepared by the Secretariat on questions relating to the Convention and to matters relevant to the administration of the Organization;
- vi) to make recommendations regarding the adoption of any additional Protocols or any amendments to the Convention or to its Protocols in accordance with Articles XIX and XX;
- vii) to establish subsidiary bodies and ad hoc working groups as required to consider any matters related to the Convention and its Protocols and Annexes to the Convention and its Protocols;
- viii) to appoint an Executive Secretary and to make provision for the appointment by the Executive Secretary of such personnel as may be necessary;
- ix) to review periodically the functions of the Secretariat;
- x) to consider and to undertake any additional action that may be required for the achievement of the purposes of the Convention and its Protocols.

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SECRETARIAT

- a) The Secretariat shall be comprised of an Executive Secretary and the personnel necessary to perform the following functions:
- i) to convene and to prepare the meetings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies and ad hoc working groups as referred to in Article XVII, and conferences as referred to in Articles XIX and XX;
  - ii) to transmit to the Contracting States notifications, reports and other information received in accordance with Articles IX and XXIII;
  - iii) to consider enquiries by, and information from, the Contracting States and to consult with them on questions relating to the Convention and its Protocols and Annexes thereto;
  - iv) to prepare reports on matters relating to the Convention and to the administration of the Organization;
  - v) to establish, maintain and disseminate an up-to-date collection of national laws of all States concerned relevant to the protection of the marine environment;
  - vi) to arrange, upon request, for the provision of technical assistance and advice for the drafting of appropriate national legislation for the effective implementation of the Convention and its Protocols;
  - vii) to arrange for training programmes in areas related to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols;
  - viii) to carry out its assignments under the Protocols to the Convention;

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ix) to perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Council for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

b) The Executive Secretary shall be the chief administrative official of the Organization and shall perform the functions that are necessary for the administration of the present Convention, the work of the Secretariat and other tasks entrusted to the Executive Secretary by the Council and as provided for in its rules of procedure and financial rules.

MARINE EMERGENCY MUTUAL AID CENTRE (MEMAC)

The functions of the Centre shall be:

- a) to collect and disseminate to the Contracting States information concerning matters covered by this Protocol, including:
  - i) laws, regulations and information concerning appropriate authorities of the Contracting States and marine emergency contingency plans referred to in Article V of this Protocol;
  - ii) information concerning methods, techniques and research relating to marine emergency response referred to in Article VI of this Protocol; and
  - iii) list of experts, equipment and materials available for marine emergency responses by the Contracting States;
- b) to assist the Contracting States, as requested:
  - i) in the preparation of laws and regulations concerning matters covered by this Protocol and in the establishment of appropriate authorities;
  - ii) in the preparation of marine emergency contingency plans;
  - iii) in the establishment of procedures under which personnel, equipment and materials involved in marine emergency responses may be expeditiously transported into, out of, and through their respective countries;
  - iv) in the transmission of reports concerning marine emergencies; and
  - v) in promoting and developing training programmes for combating pollution.

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- c) to co-ordinate training programmes for combating pollution and prepare comprehensive anti-pollution manuals;
- d) to develop and maintain a communication/information system appropriate to the needs of the Contracting States and the Centre for the prompt exchange of information concerning marine emergencies required by this Protocol;
- e) to prepare inventories of the available personnel, material, vessels, aircraft, and other specialized equipment for marine emergency responses;
- f) to establish and maintain liaison with competent region and international organizations, particularly the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, for the purposes of obtaining and exchanging scientific and technological information and data, particularly in regard of any new innovation which may assist the Centre in the performance of its functions;
- g) to prepare periodic reports on marine emergencies for submission to the Council; and
- h) to perform any other functions assigned to it either by this Protocol or by the Council.

GROUP (A)
KAP 1/1 1/2 1/3 1/4 1/5 1/6 1/7
KAP 2/3
KAP 3/1
KAP 6
KAP 7 PHASE 1 ONLY

GROUP (B)
KAP 2 EXCLUDING 2/3
KAP 3 EXCLUDING 3/1
KAP 4/2 4/3
KAP 5

GROUP (C)
KAP 7 ONLY PHASE 2
KAP 8
KAP 10
KAP 13
KAP 14

GROUP (D)
KAP 4/1
KAP 11
KAP 12
KAP 15

## BASIC GROUPING OF KUWAIT ACTION PLAN PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

KAP Project	KAP Branch	
KAP 1		Survey of national capabilities of the Region in the field of marine sciences including marine meteorology covering:
	KAP 1/1	Scientific and administrative institutions.
	KAP 1/2	Information centres and data sources.
	KAP 1/3	Research facilities and equipment.
	KAP 1/4	Manpower.
	KAP 1/5	Existing environmental laws and regulations.
	KAP 1/6	Ongoing and planned activities.
	KAP 1/7	Publications.
KAP 2		Assessment of the origin and magnitude of oil pollution in the Region comprising:
	KAP 2/1	Baseline studies on the sources, transport and distribution of oil and petroleum hydrocarbon pollution in the Region.
	KAP 2/2	Physical, chemical and biological oceanography of the Region relevant to the transport, distribution and fate of oil as a pollutant.
	KAP 2/3	Marine meteorology relevant to the transport and distribution of oil as a pollutant.
KAP 3		Assessment of the magnitude of pollutants affecting human health and marine ecosystems of the Region consisting of:
	KAP 3/1	Survey of land-based sources of industrial and municipal wastes discharged directly or indirectly into the sea or reaching it through the atmosphere.
	KAP 3/2	Studies on the impact of industrial and municipal waste, including microbiological agents, on human health.
	KAP 3/3	Research on effects of pollutants and other human activities, such as dredging and land reclamation on important marine species, communities and ecosystems.
	KAP 3/4	Baseline studies and monitoring of the levels of selected pollutants, in particular heavy metals, in marine organisms.
KAP 4		Assessment of factors relevant to the ecology of the Region and to the exploitation of its living resources including:
	KAP 4/1	Biology of commercially important species of crustaceans, molluscs and fish in the Region, including their stock assessment.
	KAP 4/2	Plankton productivity and distribution in the Region.
	KAP 4/3	Ecological studies of important natural habitats in the intertidal and subtidal zones, including creeks (khores) in the Region.
KAP 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.

KAP 6		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.
KAP 7		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.
KAP 8		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.
KAP 9		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.
KAP 10		Assistance in development of national capabilities in engineering knowledge needed for regional environmental protection.
KAP 11		Strengthening the national public health services and their co-ordination whenever transboundary interests require it.
KAP 12		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.
KAP 13		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.
KAP 14		Development of principles and guidelines for coastal area development and management through workshops.
KAP 15		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.
KAP 16		Upkeep of records of oil pollution incidents in the Region with relevant information on the impact of such pollution on the marine environment.
KAP 17		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.

ANNEX III A

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 Cooperation 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.

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ANNEX III B

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

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 Cooperation 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 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 US\$500,000 for the initial two and one-half years;

HAVING REGARD to the cost estimates for the implementation of the Action Plan totalling US\$ 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;

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DECIDES that the Regional Trust Fund be financed for the initial two and one-half year period by proportional contributions from the Governments.

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.

ANNEX IV A

ROPME COUNCIL DECISIONS\*

(First Meeting of the Council, 21 - 23 April 1981)

\* Only relevant decisions of the Council have been quoted.

DECISION VIIKuwait Action Plan

- The Council decided to adopt the Action Plan Programmes as they appear in Document UNEP/WG.47/6, with the addition of the completion of oil and tar surveys of the coastal areas of the Sultanate of Oman.
- The Council further decided that the task teams should,
  - a) In the light of data and information collected establish priorities with regard to both activities and areas of the Region to be covered in future action.
  - b) ensure that activities in the area of public awareness are commensurate with the values of Islamic traditions and culture.
- The Council also decided to appropriate KD.2,145,000/- for the implementation of the Action Plan Programmes during the financial period July 1st 1981 to December 31st 1983.
- The Council further decided to appropriate KD.1,235,000/- for the implementation of the Action Plan Programmes during the period July 1st 1981 to December 31st 1982 to be included in the Kuwait Action Plan Trust Fund.

DECISION VIIIMarine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC)

- The Council decided to establish the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC) as from July 1981; the sum of KD.327,270/- shall be appropriated to MEMAC for the period July 1st 1981 to December 31st 1982. This amount constitutes part of the total budget detailed in Annex 6.

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DECISION IX

Interim Arrangements

- The Council decided to entrust the Minister of Public Health of the State of Kuwait, to administer the Secretariat of the Regional Organization on its behalf, on a temporary basis, until the next meeting of the Council and to have the full authority of the Executive Secretary in this respect.
  
- The Council also decided to entrust the Minister of Health of the State of Bahrain to administer MEMAC on its behalf, on a temporary basis, until the next meeting of the Council and to have the full authority of the Executive Secretary in this respect.
  
- The Council further decided to establish an Executive Committee to supervise the implementation of the Action Plan Programmes until the next meeting of the Council to be composed of:
  - The Chairman of the Council.
  - The Minister of Public Health, the State of Kuwait.
  - The Minister of Health, the Republic of Iraq.
  - The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Kuwait.
  
- The Council also decided that the Staff of the Interim Secretariat be appointed as members of the Regional Organization Secretariat for a period of one and a half years starting from July 1st 1981.

DECISION X

Kuwait Action Plan Trust Fund

- The Council decided to extend the Trust Fund of the Kuwait Action Plan for another period of one and a half years starting July 1st 1981 until December 31st 1982.

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DECISION XI

Scientific Advisory Committee

- The Council decided to establish a Scientific Advisory Committee composed of scientists from the Contracting States, having no more than two from each State and which will have the following functions:

a) On the Administration side

- i) The Committee shall assist the Executive Secretary in recruiting the Staff of the Organization.
- ii) The Committee will advise on available Scientists from the Region for recruitment of consultants or staff for the Secretariat to allow the administration of the Organization to establish the necessary rosters.
- iii) The Committee shall screen applications and present them to the Executive Secretary for consideration of appointments at his discretion.
- iv) During the period July 1st 1981 until December 1982, the Committee shall meet as and when called upon by the Executive Secretary.

b) On the Technical and Scientific side

The Committee shall provide Technical and Scientific advice to the Executive Secretary on the implementation of the Action Plan Programmes.

- The Council further decided that the Organization shall bear the expenses of the participants attending the meetings of the Committee.

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DECISION XII

Relationship between the Organization and the United Nations  
Environment Programme

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- Bearing in mind the effective assistance extended by UNEP to the Region covered by the Kuwait Action Plan in the establishment of the Interim Secretariat in accordance with the Final Act of the Kuwait Regional Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas - 1978;
- Recognizing the effective role of UNEP and other UN agencies and organizations in the design of the Kuwait Action Plan projects and their contributions to the implementation of the first phase of the Plan;
- Desirous of utilizing the capabilities and expertise of UNEP and other UN agencies in the implementation and development of the future programmes of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment;

The Council:

- i) Wishes to express its gratitude to UNEP and its Executive Director, and to all UN agencies and organizations that participated in the Kuwait Action Plan.
- ii) Decides to maintain full co-operation with UNEP as well as with all other UN agencies and organizations active in the field of the protection of the marine environment.

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- iii) Requests the Executive Director or UNEP to transfer the responsibility of administering the Trust Fund of the Kuwait Action Plan to the Executive Secretary of the Organization before the end of 1981, and to take appropriate measures in the interim to transfer allocations, from the existing contributions, to the Fund of the Organization for its work.
  
- iv) Further requests the Executive Director of UNEP to assist the Organization upon its request and within the resources available to the Fund of UNEP in:
  - a) the co-ordination of the implementation of specific activities;
  - b) negotiation of specific projects with UN specialized agencies; and
  - c) organizing missions, meetings or preparing reviews, studies, surveys, directories, etc.

ANNEX IV B

ROPME COUNCIL DECISIONS\*

(Second Meeting of the Council of ROPME, 6-7 November 1982)

\* Only relevant decisions of the Council have been quoted.



DECISION III  
RECEPTION FACILITIES

The Council approved the Recommendations of the Expert and Preparatory Meetings concerning the Reception Facilities (ROPME/PREP/CM.2/4, ROPME/PREP/CM.2/4-Add.1, and ROPME/CM.2/3).

- 3.1 The Council authorizes the Executive Secretary to initiate in respect to Reception Facilities - the necessary steps to undertake feasibility studies - including technical specifications, cost-benefit analysis, legal implications and proposed locations and the implications of ratifying MARPOL 1973/1978.
- 3.2 The Council authorizes the Executive Committee to act on its behalf in implementing the above.

DECISION IV  
PUBLIC AWARENESS

The documents of the Experts and Preparatory Meetings and their Recommendations (ROPME/PREP/CM.2/3 and ROPME/CM.2/3) were noted.

- 4.1 The Council request the Executive Secretary to appoint a Public Awareness specialist to initiate the implementation of activities and programmes as recommended in document (ROPME/PREP/CM.2/3).
- 4.2 The task of the specialist should include a study of the necessity of establishing a Department of Public Awareness in ROPME in the future.
- 4.3 The Council decided that Member States of ROPME should observe the 24th April, annually, as the REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT DAY.
- 4.4 A documentary film recording the present situation of the natural life of the Sea Area is to be commissioned.

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DECISION VI

DECISIONS CONCERNING OTHER BUSINESS

The Council requests the Executive Committee to:

- 6.1 Carry out the necessary studies and to convene the necessary meetings for Technical and Legal Experts from the Region to study and report on the possibility of expanding (the activities) of the Organization so as to include land and air environment.
- 6.2 Approve the list of International Organizations (Annex VII) to be invited as Observers to its regular sessions as deemed necessary by the Executive Secretary.

DECISION VII

DECISION ON CO-OPERATION WITH UNEP

- 7.1 The Council authorizes the Acting Executive Secretary to enter into negotiations with the Executive Director of UNEP on the implementation of the activities outlined in paragraph 23 of his Report (Annex XI) with a view to concluding Agreements after consultation with Member States for their implementation, and to ensure the full participation of members of ROPME Secretariat and Experts from the Region in the development of these activities.

ANNEX IV C

ROPME COUNCIL DECISIONS \*

(Third Meeting of the Council of ROPME, 24-25 April 1984)

\* Only relevant decisions of the Council have been quoted.

DECISION III

TASK TEAM ON OCEANOGRAPHY AND TASK TEAM ON BASELINE STUDIES  
ON OIL AND NON-OIL POLLUTANTS

Eighteen-month Monitoring Programme

The Council decided:

- 3.1 to approve the extension of the 18-month Monitoring Programme through the end of 1985 with the proposed modifications concerning the parameters to be monitored; as well as the convening of two Workshops and one Symposium;
- 3.2 i) to approve the development of new proposals to the Task Team within the available Programme Budget;
- ii) to conduct a study of mercury levels in edible fish and in the sediments. The study, if feasible, be extended to other biological indicators if sampling can be achieved, so as to enrich the Programme;
- iii) to investigate the possibility of establishing a Regional bio-assay facility for the assessment of toxicity levels of pollutants;
- iv) to conduct a study for the Assessment of the Characteristics of Dust Fall-out and Associated Pollutants, their effect on oil removal from the sea surface and their fate upon accumulation in the sediments, with particular reference to the northern part of the Sea Area;
- v) to initiate, by MEMAC, a programme for Oil Identification Data Bank and Finger-printing of oils from offshore oil fields as well as oil terminals in the KAP Region, after the review of the required Project Document by the Executive Committee.

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DECISION IV

DRAFT PROTOCOL CONCERNING PROTECTION OF THE SEA AREA  
AGAINST POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES IN THE KAP REGION  
AND THE TECHNICAL ANNEXES

The Council decided:

- 4.1 to approve, in principle, the essence and the spirit of Protocol as contained in document ROPME/CM.3/PREP/INF.10;
- 4.2 to request the Secretariat to convene a Meeting of Legal and Technical Experts before the end of 1984 to further refine the draft Protocol;
- 4.3 to request the Secretariat to conduct additional work on the Technical Annexes attached to the Protocol.

DECISIONS V

THE PROPOSED IN-DEPTH STUDY ON THE CONTROL OF LAND-BASED  
SOURCES OF POLLUTION IN THE KAP REGION.

The Council decided:

- 5.1 to approve the recommendations of Phase I of the Study;
- 5.2 to request the Secretariat to convene an Expert Meeting to review the activities of Phase I and re-evaluate the programme of Phase II of the Study;
- 5.3 to approve, in principle, the proposed Budget for Phase II of the Study pending the outcome of the Expert Meeting in 5.2 above.

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DECISION VI

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LOAN OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT IN CASES OF EMERGENCY (MEMAC)

The Council decided:

- 6.1 to approve the principle of the Financial Arrangements for the Loan of Personnel and Equipment in Cases of Emergency, as contained in document ROPME/CM.3/PREP/INF.13;
- 6.2 to request the Director of MEMAC to prepare details of the working arrangements for the loan of personnel and equipment in cases of emergency, by mid-1985, based upon the principles approved in 6.1 above and guidelines annexed to those principles within the document. The booklet shall be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval prior to its implementation.

DECISION VII

ACTIVITIES OF THE MARINE EMERGENCY MUTUAL AID CENTRE (MEMAC)

The Council decided:

- 7.1 to urge Member States to support MEMAC by providing any available facilities and necessary information and responses to inventories and to encourage appropriate authorities and National Focal Points to co-ordinate and communicate continuously with immediate responses in cases of emergencies;
- 7.2 to request appropriate authorities and National Focal Points of Member States to appoint one or more responsible officer(s) who may be contacted on a 24-hour basis with whom MEMAC can co-ordinate in cases of emergency;

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- 7.3 to urge Member States to prepare and develop their own national contingency plan for dealing with pollution in cases of emergency consistent with the necessary requirements to make them easily co-ordinated with a unified detailed Regional Contingency Plan to be developed by MEMAC;
- 7.4 to approve the hosting of an annual regional seminar in which the whole conduct of marine emergencies are demonstrated in relation to oil pollution resulting from marine emergencies, and to propose specific programmes for MEMAC in this regard for the following year;
- 7.5 to request the Director of MEMAC to compile a Directory of National, Regional and International Experts, Consultants and Agencies for oil combating, fire fighting on ships and other marine structures, and salvage operations;
- 7.6 to approve the services of a consultant beginning from mid-1984 who is an expert in oil pollution combating and on formulation of National Contingency Plans for marine pollution emergencies and in training of personnel in oil pollution combating techniques; in all circumstances priority should be given to consultants and experts from the Region;
- 7.7 to approve the air surveillance programme as detailed in Proposed Activities 1984-85 contained in document ROPME/CM.3/PREP/4;
- 7.8 to approve the Workshops and Training Courses as detailed in Proposed Activities 1984-85 contained in document ROPME/CM.3/PREP/4.

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DECISION VIII

RECEPTION FACILITIES

The Council decided:

- 8.1 to take note of the progress achieved in relation to the study on Reception Facilities and request the Secretariat that when the Final Report is available, the same will be distributed to all National Focal Points. Thereafter, a Meeting on Reception Facilities will be convened to take further measures;
- 8.2 to approve the supply to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of an appropriate number of copies of MARPOL 73/78 in the Arabic language, for the purpose of authentication as official translation of such texts.

DECISION IX

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The Council decided:

- 9.1 to approve the formation of a specialized Regional Task Team of selected national experts to propose specific programmes and activities on Public Awareness;
- 9.2 to approve the allocation of adequate resources to finance such programmes and activities as proposed by Regional Task Team in 9.1 above;
- 9.3 to request the Executive Committee to approve the programmes and activities before implementation;

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- 9.4 to award a prize annually, on Environment Day of the Region, to selected national(s) of the Region (e.g. Scientists, Journalists, Institutions, Editors, etc.) who have contributed outstanding work or achievements in the field of the marine environment;
- 9.5 to emphasize to Member States the importance for the need of public awareness programmes on the national level in support of ROPME's activities in this field.

DECISIONS X

USE OF DISPERSANTS IN THE SEA AREA

The Council decided:

- 10.1 to request the Secretariat to convene Technical Working Group meetings to set up Regional Criteria on the Selection and Use of Dispersants in the Sea Area;
- 10.2 that International Experts e.g. from U.N. Organizations, Agencies, etc., and Experts from Oil Companies operating in the Region may be invited to participate in such meetings with the Regional Experts.

DECISION XI

RELATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Council decided:

- 11.1 to note with appreciation the report of the Executive Director of UNEP and his oral statement and recommendations which are included in the aforementioned decisions;

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- 11.2 to reaffirm its decision (No.VII of the Second Meeting of the Council) to extend co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme, so as to benefit ROPME;
- 11.3 to welcome the offer of the Executive Director of UNEP to involve ROPME Secretariat and ROPME's participating National Institutions in UNEP's Regional Seas Programme activities, especially those of East Africa, South Asia and the Red Sea.

DECISION XII

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS

The Council decided:

- 12.1 that no immediate action will be taken with respect to the MARPOL 1973/1978 until the issues on Reception Facilities are considered and the official Arabic translation of the Convention is confirmed as authentic by International Maritime Organization (IMO);
- 12.2 to urge Member States to ratify, as soon as possible, the following IMO Conventions:
- International Conventions relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties (1964);
  - International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (1969);
  - International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage (1971);

- 12.3 to urge Member States to evaluate the London Dumping Convention (1972) with the intention of ratifying the Convention;
- 12.4 to urge Member States to participate in the International Conference hosted by IMO at their Headquarters in London, U.K. during the month of May 1984, that will consider a number of amendments to the Civil Liability and International Fund Convention of concern to the Member States;
- 12.5 to request the Secretariat to convey to National Focal Points, OPEC and OAPEC any concerns that may ensue from the Conference referred to in 12.3 above.

ANNEX V

SPECIMEN AGREEMENT

between

THE GOVERNMENT OF

and

THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

concerning the

18-MONTH MARINE POLLUTION MONITORING AND RESEARCH PROGRAMME

AGREEMENT BETWEEN

The Government of \_\_\_\_\_ as a signatory to the Convention for Co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment against Pollution; and THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT (ROPME), designated by the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the KUWAIT ACTION PLAN Region against pollution and its related protocols.

1. The legal obligations of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the KAP Region against Pollution and its Related Protocols, and in particular

i) Article 3 of the Convention for the protection of the Marine Environment against Pollution, which entered into force on 30th June, 1979; and

ii) Article 4 of the Protocol concerning Regional Co-operation in Combating Pollution by oil and other harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, which entered into force on 30th June 1979;

require the establishment of the pollution monitoring system in the KAP Region.

2. Based on the recommendations made at the First Annual Expert Review Meeting and the meetings of the Task Team on Oceanography and Task Team on Baseline Studies of Oil and Non-Oil Pollutants, an 18-month programme for Pollution Monitoring and Research was formulated and approved by the Executive Committee of ROPME.

3. The present agreement is aimed at assisting the Government of \_\_\_\_\_ in the implementation of its National Monitoring Programme, and specifies in its Technical Annex the modalities of Co-operation between the signatories.

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4. This agreement and its Annexes shall be valid for an initial period of eighteen months starting from \_\_\_\_\_ and may be extended, amended, changed or terminated by mutual consent of both parties.

For and on behalf of

THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR  
THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE  
ENVIRONMENT (ROPME)

THE GOVERNMENT OF

Signature : \_\_\_\_\_

Signature : \_\_\_\_\_

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Title : \_\_\_\_\_

Title : \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

TECHNICAL ANNEX

NATIONAL MONITORING PROGRAMME

OF

SECTION I

TECHNICAL MODALITIES OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_ AND ROPME ON POLLUTION MONITORING RELEVANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE KUWAIT CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND THE COASTAL AREAS.

Terms of Reference:

An Eighteen-month Programme for Pollution Monitoring and Research provides the basic Framework for activities to be carried out according to the Agreement of which this Technical Annex is a part. Any modifications made in the TTO/TTBS programme at the forthcoming meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Kuwait Regional Convention for the Protection of Marine Environment will automatically apply in the context of this Agreement.

Responsibilities of the National Focal Point (NFP)

The responsibilities of the National Focal Point for the TTO/TTBS are:

- To be responsible for co-ordinating the implementation of the Pollution Programme at the national level;
- to designate participating institutions which will be responsible for implementation of the pollution programme according to the technical details outlined by the Task Teams on Oceanography and Oil and Non-Oil Pollutants and according to nationally adopted co-ordination mechanism;
- to channel all the formal communications between the ROPME and the designated national collaborating institutions including their request for support;

...../



- to report to the ROPME Secretariat on the progress achieved by the National Monitoring Programme according to the agreed formats and schedules;
- to provide the ROPME Secretariat quarterly, with the data submitted by the national collaborating KAPR institutions, ensuring the compliance with the agreed formats and schedules;
- through the regular meetings of the Task Teams, as members of the group, to advise the ROPME Secretariat on technical and policy matters related to the monitoring activities and to review the technical reports including the consolidated report and all analysed data prepared by the Task Teams before submission to the Contracting Parties.

Responsibilities of the ROPME Secretariat are:

- To be responsible for the overall co-ordination of the TTO and TTBS in accordance with the decisions and recommendations of the TTO and TTBS and the annual expert review meeting of KAP;
- to undertake preparations for training workshops, courses, and symposia as requested by the Task Teams;
- to exercise, in consultation with the Co-operating Agencies, the day-to-day co-ordination of the work carried out by the national collaborating/participating institutions;
- to provide the National Focal Points with any relevant available information concerning workshops, seminars, and symposia on Marine Sciences to be conducted in the Region and encourage participation of National Institutions in these activities;

- to arrange for the provision of experts, consultants, equipment or supporting measures according to the agreed Appendix to this Annex;
- to collect and disseminate the result of the TTO and TTBS programmes of KAP Region;
- to convene, in consultation with the NFP, and the Participating Agencies, either periodically or on an ad hoc basis, meetings of experts to assist in the analysis, integration and interpretation of the results of TTO and TTBS Programmes:
- to exercise the overall guidance on the data quality control and maintenance service organized and carried out by the competent Co-operating Agencies or selected national institutions.

Channels of Communications:

All formal communications related to the implementation of this Agreement will be between the ROPME Secretariat and the National Focal Point, on behalf of the Government of \_\_\_\_\_.