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First Intergovernmental Meeting on  
the Northwest Pacific Action Plan

Seoul, 14 September 1994

**REPORT OF THE MEETING**

September 1994



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## Introduction

1. In accordance with resolution 2997(XXVII) of the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established "as a focal point for environmental action and coordination within the United Nations system." The Governing Council of UNEP has defined this environmental action as encompassing a comprehensive transsectoral approach to environmental problems which should deal not only with the consequences but also with the causes of environmental degradation.
2. The Governing Council of UNEP designated Oceans among the priority areas in which activities are to be developed, and it endorsed a regional approach to the control of marine pollution and management of marine and coastal resources. Consequently, in 1974 the Regional Seas Programme was initiated. The objective and strategy of the Regional Seas Programme were adopted at the sixth session of the UNEP Governing Council (UNEP/GC.7/7, para. 397, approved by GC decision 6/2 of 24 May, 1978).
3. The substantive aspect of any regional programme is outlined in an "action plan" which is formally adopted by an intergovernmental meeting of the Governments of a particular region before the programme enters an operational phase. In the preparatory phase leading to the adoption of the action plan, Governments are consulted through a series of meetings and missions about the scope and substance of an action plan suitable for their region. In addition, with the cooperation of appropriate global and regional organizations, reviews of the specific environmental problems of the region are prepared in order to assist the Governments in identifying the most urgent problems in the region and the corresponding priorities to be assigned to the various activities outlined in the action plan. UNEP coordinates directly, or, in some regions, indirectly through existing regional organizations, the preparations leading to the adoption of the action plan.
4. At present the Regional Seas Programme covers fourteen areas where regional action plans are either operative or under development. Operative are: the Mediterranean region (1975), the Kuwait region (1978), the West and Central African region (1981), the Wider Caribbean region (1981), the East Asian Seas region (1981), the Southeast Pacific region (1981), the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region (1982), the South Pacific region (1982), the East African region (1985) and the Black Sea (1993). Under development are (in alphabetical order): the Caspian region, the Northwest Pacific region, the South Asian Seas region and the Southwest Atlantic region.
5. On the initiative of the states bordering the semi-enclosed seas of the Northwest Pacific, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), at its fifteenth session (Nairobi, 15-26 May, 1989, Decision 15/1, part VI.3) approved the "preparation of new action plans for seas not yet covered by the regional seas programme (i.e., Northwest Pacific, Black Sea)." The Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Center (OCA/PAC) of UNEP convened an informal meeting during the sixteenth session of the Governing Council (Nairobi, 29 May, 1991) at which the interest and intentions of the governments of the Northwest Pacific region were confirmed.
6. The first Consultative Meeting of Experts and National Focal Points for the development of the action plan was held from 28 to 31 October, 1991, in Vladivostok, Russia, with the cooperation of the Centre for International Projects and the Pacific Oceanological Institute. This meeting was considered a success in that it brought together for the first time the governments of the region to seek a common set of goals. Reports were presented on aspects of the marine environment in the region. The meeting identified the geographical scope for the action plan. It was agreed that each country would prepare a national report which was to review the state of the marine environment and the coastal areas within the countries, comment on national policies, measures and relevant activities dealing with marine pollution problems, make proposals on ways and means of solving environmental problems, and finally propose activities for the Action Plan. The meeting also agreed on a work plan for the preparation by UNEP of a Regional Overview and a draft Action Plan.

7. A second Consultative Meeting of Experts and National Focal Points was convened with the cooperation of the National Environmental Protection Agency of the People's Republic of China in Beijing from 26 to 30 October, 1992. The national reports were presented and UNEP was requested to arrange for their editing and eventual publication. The draft Regional Overview was discussed and comments were provided to UNEP on revisions that were required before publication. The proposed Action Plan was discussed and details were provided to UNEP for its further development.

8. The third meeting of Experts and National Focal Points was held from 10 to 12 November, 1993 in Bangkok, Thailand. The draft Action Plan and three draft Resolutions were discussed. The meeting concluded that the draft Action Plan and the draft Resolutions could be finalized and submitted for adoption by the present meeting at a preparatory meeting of Experts and National Focal Points to be held immediately prior to the present meeting.

9. At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Korea, the preparatory meeting of Experts and National Focal Points was convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 12 and 13 September, 1994. The meeting reviewed and finalized the draft Action Plan and the draft Resolutions and recommended that these were to be presented to the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Seoul, 14 September, 1994).

10. The first Intergovernmental Meeting was held at the Shilla Hotel, Seoul, Republic of Korea, at the invitation and with the assistance of the Government of the Republic of Korea, on 14 September, 1994. This document is the record of the deliberations of this meeting.

11. The following countries were represented at the Intergovernmental Meeting: the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. Representatives of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO/IOC) and the World Bank attended as observers. UNEP was represented by Mr. Peter Schröder, Director of UNEP's Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Center (OCA/PAC), Mr. Reza Amini, Coordinator, Regional Coordinating Unit for the East Asian Action Plan, Ms. Philomène Verlaan, Senior Programme Officer, OCA/PAC, Mr. Garth Edward, Conference Services Officer and Mr. Mitsuo Usuki, Deputy Regional Representative, Regional Office of UNEP for Asia and the Pacific. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

#### **Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting**

12. Mr. Peter Schröder, Director of UNEP's Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Center (OCA/PAC), opened the meeting on behalf of Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director of UNEP. In his opening remarks he welcomed the participants and briefed them on the background leading to this meeting. Mr. Schröder also thanked the Government of the Republic of Korea for its hospitality in hosting the meeting and for the excellent logistical support provided.

13. The meeting was also addressed by the representative of, respectively, the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

14. The representative of China proposed that under the project NOWPAP 1, the comprehensive database and information management system be established in China.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Organization of the meeting**

15. The meeting elected Mr. Jung-Young Sun (Republic of Korea) as Chairman, and Mr. Feng Gao (China) as Rapporteur.

16. The meeting was held in plenary sessions.

17. The meeting was conducted in English.

**Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the agenda**

18. The Chairman invited the meeting to adopt its agenda. The provisional agenda, originally circulated by the Secretariat as document UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP IG.1/1, was amended by the preparatory meeting and has been circulated as document UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP IG.1/1/Rev.1. The meeting adopted this as their agenda, as it appears in Annex II of this report.

The annotated provisional agenda, originally circulated by the Secretariat as document UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP IG.1/2, was amended by the Secretariat to reflect the changes in the amended agenda and has been circulated as document UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP IG.1/2/Rev.1.

19. The list of documents made available to participants is contained in Annex III to this report.

20. The Chairman noted that the Report of the Preparatory Meeting with its annexes, presented as document UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP IG.1/4, was adopted by the Preparatory Meeting.

**Agenda Item 4: Report of the Executive Director on preparatory activities leading to the adoption of an action plan for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the Northwest Pacific region.**

21. The Chairman invited the representative of the Executive Director of UNEP to present the report of the Executive Director. This was presented by Mr. Peter Schröder, and is contained in document UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP IG.1/3.

**Agenda Item 5: Review of the Revised Draft Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP)**

22. The revised draft Action Plan for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the Northwest Pacific region (UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP IG.1/4 Annex IV) was reviewed item by item by the meeting. The full text of the Action Plan, as amended (see paragraphs 23-24 immediately following) and adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting, is annexed as Annex IV to this report.

23. With regard to paragraph 9 on the geographical scope of NOWPAP, the UNEP secretariat will await the final input from China on the latitudes and longitudes before issuing the final version of the Action Plan. The text will remain otherwise unchanged.

24. The objectives and assigned tasks under each objective will be reviewed to ensure that there is no duplication and the text will be amended to eliminate duplication if necessary. These amendments, if any, will be reflected in the final version of the Action Plan.

**Agenda Item 6: Review of Revised Draft Resolution 1 for the implementation of the Action Plan**

25. Revised Draft Resolution 1 (UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP IG.1/4 Annex V) was reviewed by the meeting. The final text of this resolution, as adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting, is annexed as Annex V to this report.

**Agenda Item 7: Review of Revised Draft Resolution 2 for institutional arrangements to implement the Action Plan**

26. Revised Draft Resolution 2 (UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP IG.1/4 Annex V) was reviewed by the meeting. The final text of this resolution, as adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting, is annexed as Annex V to this report.

**Agenda Item 8: Review of Revised Draft Resolution 3 for financial arrangements to implement the Action Plan**

27. Revised Draft Resolution 3 (UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP IG.1/4 Annex V) was reviewed by the meeting. The final text of this resolution, as adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting, is annexed as Annex V to this report.

**Agenda Item 9: Adoption of the Action Plan and the three Resolutions**

28. The meeting adopted the Action Plan and the three Resolutions on September 14, 1994 (Annexes IV and V of this report).

**Agenda Item 10: Other business**

29. Under this agenda item, the Chairman invited the meeting to raise any other business that was of relevance and contributed to the development of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan.

**Agenda Item 11: Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Meeting**

30. The Rapporteur submitted the draft report for consideration by the meeting.

31. The meeting, after making certain amendments, adopted the document as the report of their deliberations (UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP IG.1/5).

**Agenda Item 11: Closure of the meeting**

32. The representatives of the Governments of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Russian Federation in their closing remarks thanked the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting the meeting and the excellent facilities. They also expressed their appreciation to UNEP and the Secretariat for the efficient manner in which the meeting was organized and conducted.

33. The meeting was closed on September 14, 1994 by the Chairman after the Representative of the Executive Director of UNEP thanked the Government of the Republic of Korea for its hospitality and excellent organization.



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ANNEX II

AGENDA

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2. Organization of the meeting
  - a) election of the officers
  - b) organization of the work of the meeting
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Report of the Executive Director on preparatory activities leading to the adoption of an action plan for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the Northwest Pacific Region
5. Review of the revised draft action plan for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the Northwest Pacific Region
6. Review of revised draft resolution 1 for the implementation of the action plan
7. Review of revised draft resolution 2 for institutional arrangements to implement the action plan
8. Review of revised draft resolution 3 for financial arrangements to implement the action plan
9. Adoption of the action plan and resolutions
10. Other business
11. Adoption of the report of the meeting
12. Closure of the meeting





UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP IG.1/5  
ANNEX III

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Documents

UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP IG.1/1/Rev.1	Provisional Agenda for Intergovernmental Meeting
UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP IG.1/2/Rev.2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP IG.1/3	Report of the Executive Director on preparatory activities leading to the adoption of the action plan
UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP IG.1/4	Report of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts and National Focal Points for the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan

Information Documents

UNEP(OCA)/NOWPAP IG.1/1/Inf.1/Rev.1	Provisional List of Documents
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ANNEX IV

ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT  
AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT  
OF THE NORTHWEST PACIFIC REGION



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Description of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme

1. The UNEP Regional Seas Programme was initiated in 1974 as a global programme implemented through regional components. It has been repeatedly endorsed by the UNEP Governing Council as a regional approach to the management of marine and coastal resources and control of marine pollution. The Regional Seas Programme at present comprises 10 regions, while three more regional Programmes, including NOWPAP, are being developed. There are over 140 coastal States and Territories participating in the Programme. It is 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 combatting environmental problems through the integrated management of coastal and marine areas.

2. The fulcrum for each regional programme is the Action Plan. All action plans are structured in a similar manner and designed to link assessment of the quality of the marine environment with the causes of its deterioration, leading to activities designed for rehabilitation and improvement in the short term and comprehensive protection and management for sustainable development in the longer term. Action plans usually include the following elements:

- **Environmental Assessment** which comprises baseline studies, research and monitoring of the quality of the marine environment and the factors that may influence it. It is not to be confused with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.
- **Environmental Management** which includes cooperative training in assessment methodologies, ecosystem management, control of wastes from industrial, agricultural and domestic sources, and the formulation of contingency plans for dealing with pollution emergencies.
- **Environmental Legislation** which seeks legal commitments in the form of conventions, protocols and similar instruments on a regional basis as well as ratifying and implementing legislation at the national level.
- **Institutional Arrangements** which determine the frequency of meetings, setting of objectives, reviewing progress and approving activities and budgets, as well as providing a secretariat to coordinate activities.
- **Financial Arrangements** through which UNEP often provides "seed financing" until the participating Governments are able to assume full responsibility for budgetary requirements, at which stage UNEP usually assumes responsibility for administering trust funds that are set up.

3. The initial Objectives and Goals adopted by the various regions do have a common thread. However, there is sufficient flexibility in the system to allow for particular emphases and priorities as perceived by the Governments concerned. While Action Plans are fashioned on a similar mould for all regions, the priorities differ from region to region. There could even be differences within the same region over time, through the merging of some objectives and the lessening in importance of others.

4. The key to the success of any regional action plan is a common understanding and a mutual commitment by the participating governments to act collectively or individually towards shared regional goals. This commitment is usually in the form of conventions and protocols.

## 1.2 The Northwest Pacific Action Plan

5. The Governing Council of UNEP at its Fifteenth Session (Decision 15/1: "Strengthening the role and effectiveness of the United Nations Environmental Programme", part VI.3) approved the "preparation of new action plans for seas not yet covered by the regional seas programme (Northwest Pacific, Black Sea)" as one of the activities listed within the "Supplementary Programme of Environment Fund Activities for the Biennium 1990-1991" attached as an Annex to the above-listed decision. The countries that make up the Northwest Pacific region are: China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Russian Federation.

6. As a first step in this process, UNEP initiated a series of consultations with representatives of the governments of the region and with other organizations within the United Nations system. This culminated in the First Meeting of Experts and National Focal Points on the Development of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan which was held in Vladivostok from 28 to 31 October 1991 in cooperation with the Centre for International Projects and the Pacific Oceanological Institute.

7. Experts and National Focal Points presented reports on the aspects of the marine environment in their region. They also agreed on the scope and format of national reports which they undertook to prepare and which were to review the state of the marine environment and the coastal areas within the countries, comment on national policies, measures and relevant activities dealing with marine pollution problems, make proposals on ways and means for solving environmental problems, and finally propose activities for the Action Plan. The meeting also agreed on a workplan and timetable towards the preparation of a draft Action Plan and a draft Regional Overview.

8. At the Second Meeting of Experts and National Focal Points on the Development of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan, held in Beijing from 26 to 30 October 1992, in cooperation with the National Environmental Protection Agency, the first draft of the Action Plan was discussed. Subsequently, UNEP arranged for revisions and improvements to the draft and a final draft was discussed and agreed to by the participants at the Third Meeting of Experts and National Focal Points on the Development of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan, which was held in Bangkok from 10 to 12 November 1993.

## 1.3 Geographic coverage

[9. The geographic scope of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan spans from about 121 degrees E to 143 degrees E longitude, and from approximately 52 degrees N to 33 degrees N latitude.]

NOTE: THE GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE REMAINS TO BE AGREED

## 2 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### 2.1 Goals

10. The overall goal of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan is:

The wise use, development and management of the coastal and marine environment so as to obtain the utmost long-term benefits for the human populations of the region, while protecting human health, ecological integrity and the region's sustainability for future generations.



11. The meeting also adopted three subsidiary and complementary goals as follows:
- i) The control, halting and prevention of any further degradation and deterioration of the coastal and marine environment and its resources;
  - ii) The recovery and rehabilitation of coastal and marine environments that have been degraded and which still have the potential for such a recovery;
  - iii) The long-term sustainability of coastal and marine environmental quality and resources as assets for the present and future human populations of the region.

## 2.2 Objectives

12. The key to a successful strategy for applying remedies where needed, and protecting what is still of good quality, lies in wise management. This must be preceded by a clear understanding of the environment and resources that are to be managed. Resource information needs to be organized in a useable and accessible format. Then there is a need to plan for management. The strategy for wise management of the Northwest Pacific coastal and marine environment should therefore consist of 5 main elements:

monitoring and assessment of the environmental condition  
creation of an efficient and effective information base  
integrated coastal area planning  
integrated coastal area management  
establishment of a collaborative and cooperative framework

13. The above 5 elements provide an excellent framework for the development of the 5 Objectives through which NOWPAP States can achieve their adopted Goals. These Objectives will be pursued through activities or tasks which, in turn, will generate specific project proposals. Therefore, after analyzing the objectives selected by other regional seas, giving effect to the discussion at the Second Meeting of Experts and National Focal Points on the Development of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan, and guided by the Overall Goal and three Subsidiary Goals adopted for NOWPAP above, the Objectives proposed for the Northwest Pacific Action Plan for the short- and medium-term are:

- i) To assess regional marine environmental conditions by coordinating and integrating monitoring and data-gathering systems on a regional basis, making the best use of the expertise and facilities available within the region on a consistent and collective basis;
- ii) To collate and record environmental data and information to form a comprehensive database and information management system which will serve as a repository of all relevant available data, act as the sound basis for decision-making, and serve as a source of information and education for specialists, administrators, and others;
- iii) To develop and adopt a harmonious approach towards coastal and marine environmental planning on an integrated basis and in a pre-emptive, predictive and precautionary manner;
- iv) To develop and adopt a harmonious approach towards the integrated management of the coastal and marine environment and its resources, in a manner which combines protection, restoration, conservation and sustainable use;

- v) To develop and adopt effective measures for mutual support in emergencies, collaboration in the management of contiguous bodies of water, and cooperation in the protection of common resources as well as in the prevention of coastal and marine pollution.

### 3 ACTIVITIES AND TASKS

14. Within the framework of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), it was decided to undertake a number of activities and tasks in pursuit of their chosen goals and objectives and provide for the exchange of as much data and information as national legislation and regulations permit. These activities and tasks are listed below according to the specific objective they support.

**3.1 Objective 1:** To assess regional marine environmental conditions by coordinating and integrating monitoring and data-gathering systems on a regional basis, making the best use of the expertise and facilities available within the region on a collective and consistent basis.

15. The wise use, development and management of resources requires a sound information base, adequate knowledge of natural processes, an understanding of the interrelationships between resources and between them and their environment, as well as their range of tolerance to environmental stress. This assessment and recording of resources, environmental characteristics, as well as human uses, is needed on a comprehensive, regional basis, according to agreed, consistent and compatible procedures. It is also important to establish a baseline against which the NOWPAP activities can be evaluated. Such an evaluation will be a continuing process and comprises monitoring, sampling and review.

16. The following tasks, involving investigative research, resource surveys and documentation of human needs will contribute towards this Objective, and have been selected for implementation:

- (a) Prepare and publish a Directory of Marine Environmental Institutions in the NOWPAP Region, including a list of the leading scientists and other workers together with their areas of interest and expertise;
- (b) Assess the capabilities of national scientific, academic and other research institutions to investigate and record environmental processes, resources and their characteristics. Such an assessment will involve the identification of institutions which can serve as regional activity centres, and the degree to which they may need to be strengthened in order to assume such a role;
- (c) Develop collaborative research projects on aspects of environment, resources, and their uses; facilitate sharing of certain special equipment and facilities such as laboratories and research vessels; exchange scientists, technicians and other specialists between institutions within the region;
- (d) Establish a collaborative, regional monitoring programme, targeted to specific indicative parameters, and undertaken according to agreed, consistent procedures, following intercalibration to ensure regional and international compatibility;
- (e) Emphasize research, survey and monitoring of environmental characteristics which extend beyond national boundaries, and resources which are shared on a regional basis, without prejudice to the relevant existing and future national legislations and intergovernmental

agreements; research and survey of socio-economic activities, human needs and quality of life.

**3.2 Objective 2:** To collate and record environmental data and information to form a comprehensive database and information management system which will serve as a repository of all relevant available data, act as the sound basis for decision-making, and serve as a source of information and education for specialists, administrators and others throughout the region.

17. The countries of the Northwest Pacific Region are rich in data and information. Other data systems have also been developed by UNEP and by other international agencies such as IOC and FAO on a regional basis. The above activity will generate even more data on a region-wide basis. This information and data are most useful if they are properly organized and managed in a manner which will make them readily accessible by those who need them most.

18. The development of a cooperative regional approach to databases and related tools which will overcome these difficulties comprises the following tasks:

- (a) Develop and establish a Regional Information Referral System (RIRS) on projects related to the protection and management of the marine and coastal zone environment;
- (b) Develop a digitized map base for the entire region at a scale no less than 1:250,000, to serve as the base for an electronic database in the form of a Geographic Information System (GIS). The GIS will become the repository for environmental and resource information and serve as the basis for decision-making on resource use. Each country GIS will be complete and self-contained, but each would be compatible and in harmony with as well as contribute to the region as a whole;
- (c) Review and give due consideration to similar electronic databases developed on a sectoral basis by a number of international agencies, as a starting point for the development of a comprehensive regional GIS;
- (d) In order to ensure that the responsibility of maintaining and updating the GIS passes quickly to an in-country institution, appropriate equipment and training must be made available in each participating country;
- (e) Since the number of users of a GIS will be somewhat limited for the foreseeable future, the GIS Database will be used to produce and publish a printed Atlas of Coastal and Marine Resources for each country. Such an atlas will reach planners and managers, students, special interest groups, tourists and members of the general public.

**3.3 Objective 3:** To develop and adopt a harmonious, approach towards coastal and marine environmental planning on an integrated basis and in a pre-emptive, predictive and precautionary manner;

19. Environmental planning is an orderly and rational process which prepares for the protection, management and wise use of the environment, its resources, and the actions of those who live in it. The aim of environmental planning is to predict the likely consequences of decisions and actions on the wide environment and provide an opportunity to eliminate or minimize them. The process of environmental planning sets or underscores existing goals and objectives, identifies and helps resolve conflict, provides a framework for rational and purposeful decisions, guides the deployment of finite resources, and provides a mechanism by which the performance of environmental managers can be measured.

20. In their endeavour to achieve regional harmony in the management of the coastal and marine environment and its resources, regional States have recognized that wise management must be based on adequate planning. A number of tasks towards achieving such an objective are listed below :

- (a) Survey national environmental goals, objectives, strategies and policies, and identify aspects which require strengthening in order to enable the environmental perspective to be incorporated in all developments from the early planning stage;
- (b) Provide advice and assistance where needed for the development of environmental planning procedures including conflict resolution and multiple use strategies and, where appropriate, facilitate public involvement in this process;
- (c) Provide advice and assistance where needed for the establishment of an Environmental Impact Assessment Process which will apply to all proposals and developments which are likely to have consequences for the environment. Such a Process must not only identify the potential impacts, but it must also evaluate alternative options, seek ways and means of reducing impacts, propose mitigation measures, plan monitoring procedures, set in place contingency plans, and identify which party is responsible for what activity;
- (d) Provide professional training for environmental planners and managers at universities and other institutions both within the region and outside. Those institutions within the region which have the potential should be developed into specialized centres of excellence to serve the region;
- (e) In zoning areas of coast and seabed, selected special areas should be set aside as marine parks and recreation reserves for the continued enjoyment by local people and visitors;
- (f) Set aside and protect representative examples of the regional environment as genetic reserves. Protect the best of the remaining resources that give the region its distinctive ecological character.

**3.4 Objective 4:** To develop and adopt a harmonious approach towards the integrated management of the coastal and marine environment and its resources, in a manner which combines protection, restoration, conservation and sustainable use.

21. The NOWPAP region is among the most highly-populated regions of the world, and the pressures and demands that this large population brings to bear on the environment are considerable. It is possible to strike a wise balance between providing for human needs, the use of resources, and development on one hand, and protection, enhancement and sustainability of the environment on the other hand. Such a balance will be struck through an effective management system that in turn relies on good planning. The components of good management for environmental protection, restoration, conservation, and sustainable use in the Northwest Pacific region, include the following tasks:

- (a) Survey and monitor human health, in particular the incidence of conditions related to pollution. The results of the marine environmental regional assessments, repeated regularly, will provide an important indicator of the success or otherwise of NOWPAP;
- (b) Zone bodies of water for particular purposes according to mutually-agreed and pre-determined criteria, and control discharges and other inputs to ensure that water quality is maintained at levels such that it can be used for whatever purpose it has been set aside for; to introduce compulsory environmental impact assessment according to national criteria;

- (c) In an effort to improve water quality throughout the region, cooperation to control and reduce the total discharges from land-based sources of domestic wastes, industrial effluents and those from agricultural non-point sources is required;
- (d) In an effort to improve water quality throughout the region, cooperation is also necessary in the prevention, control and combatting of marine pollution from sea-based sources, inter alia, through the implementation of existing international conventions concerned;
- (e) Cooperate in the enhancement of national and regional capacities to prepare for and respond to marine pollution emergencies;
- (f) While encouraging tourism development as a source of income and employment in the region, exercise control over the adverse impacts of development of hotel accommodation and other facilities in coastal areas;
- (g) In managing the coastal environment, special efforts should be made to protect as far as possible, all estuarine systems, saltmarshes, wetlands, and other coastal margins. Endeavour to maintain them as functioning systems.

3.5 **Objective 5:** To develop and adopt a regional framework for collaboration in the management of contiguous bodies of water, and cooperation in the protection of common resources as well as in the prevention of coastal and marine pollution:

- 22. The depth of the commitment to act collectively or individually towards agreed common goals is best demonstrated by relying on the regional capabilities to cope with marine and coastal emergencies, many of which transcend national boundaries.
- 23. The following tasks will be undertaken as and when appropriate:
  - (a) Survey national environmental legislation, assessing in particular provisions for the control of pollution, provisions for the prevention of environmental damage caused by the exploration and exploitation of non-renewable resources, maintenance of the quality of life, protection of critical habitats and species at risk, and ensuring sustainability;
  - (b) Establish a meaningful dialogue on effective protection and management of the coastal and marine environment and its resources;
  - (c) Develop and adopt effective measures for regional cooperation in combatting pollution resulting from accidental causes;
  - (d) Seek and obtain advice and assistance to enable regional States to harmonize environmental legislation and to facilitate their participation in, and compliance with, existing relevant international agreements;
  - (e) Take measures, cooperate, coordinate and facilitate exchange of relevant information and conduct joint surveys with a view to implementing, in the Northwest Pacific Area, relevant international agreements, such as the 1972 London Convention, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto as amended (MARPOL 73/78), and the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990 (OPRC Convention).

## 4 INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 The NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meetings

24. The Northwest Pacific Action Plan, with its Goals, Objectives and first set of Activities and Tasks, has been set in train by the approval of the first few projects for implementation under the various Activities. The Goals and Objectives are not expected to require significant amendment in the short- or medium-term. However, the Activities may require review from time to time, and their relative priority could change to reflect changes in the regional situation. The Projects will certainly be finite and those completed successfully will need to be closed and evaluated, and new ones will need to be adopted. These changes in Activities and the closing of old Projects and adoption of new ones is something which will need to happen regularly - annually, or biennially. The body charged with this review function must be made up of senior representatives of the member States. It is expected that representatives of various regional and international organizations whose aims and interests are in harmony with those of the NOWPAP will also participate in the Intergovernmental Meetings as observers.

25. It was therefore decided that policy guidance and decision-making for the Action Plan will be provided by regular Intergovernmental Meetings. Subsequent to its second meeting, the NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meetings will meet annually in one of the participating countries on a rotational basis and operate according to the terms set forth in Resolution 2.

### 4.2 Coordination and Implementation

26. The implementation of the Action Plan will comprise a number of projects running in parallel. These projects will be entrusted to national institutions to the extent that the institutions are capable. In this, the institutions will be supported by relevant regional and international organizations, particularly those that are already active in the region. Where necessary, national institutions will be strengthened to enable them to participate effectively in the various projects (see Objective 1). Until such time as national and regional institutions can undertake all activities under the Action Plan, and whenever a particular project so requires, local capabilities will be supplemented by assistance of experts from elsewhere in the region or from outside the region.

27. In view of the multiple projects that are possible and the scattered nature of the various activities, as well as the wide scope of input possible from both within and outside the region, implementation of the Action Plan must be coordinated. A network of participating institutions coordinated by regional activity centres will be established for this purpose.

28. NOWPAP States, with the assistance of UNEP, will work towards the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) to ensure the integrated and well-managed execution from within the Region of projects under the Action Plan.

29. Until such time as an RCU is established and functioning effectively, the member Governments designate UNEP as the organization responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the Action Plan, and invite the Executive Director of UNEP to prepare, in cooperation with the competent international, regional and national organizations, a detailed programme document describing the operational details of projects to be developed on the basis of priorities identified by the member Governments.

#### 4.3 Financial arrangements

30. The activities agreed upon as part of the implementation of the Action Plan will be financed principally by contributions from the Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. Direct financial support from UNEP and in-kind contributions from United Nations and other bodies will be made available in the initial stages. However, participating States acknowledge the need for financial commitments on their part and the ratio of members' financial and in-kind contributions to contributions from the United Nations systems will increase until the financing of the action plan is independent of funding from the United Nations system. Nevertheless, United Nations bodies and other international and regional organizations may continue to make contributions, in cash or in kind, to the work being carried out under the action plan.

31. The participating Governments agree to establish a Trust Fund for the Protection and Management of the Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the Northwest Pacific region, to be known as the NOWPAP Trust Fund.

32. The NOWPAP Trust Fund will be contributed to by each of the member States. The frequency of contributions, the overall amount and the individual contribution will be agreed to no later than by the second Intergovernmental Meeting.

33. More specifically, the Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP Trust Fund shall be as follows:

- The NOWPAP Trust Fund is established to provide financial support for the implementation of the Action Plan adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region.
- The administration and management of the NOWPAP Trust Fund shall be governed by the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. It is understood that these rules provide, inter alia, that UNEP shall make a deduction equal to 13 per cent of all expenditures financed from the Trust Fund to defray administrative support costs.
- The expenditures of the NOWPAP Trust Fund shall be financed from contributions in accordance with the decisions on financial arrangements adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region. No expenditure from the NOWPAP Trust Fund shall be made before a minimum of US\$ 50,000 has been contributed to the Trust Fund.
- All contributions shall be paid in fully convertible United States dollars.
- The NOWPAP Trust Fund shall be subject to audit by the United Nations Internal Audit Service.
- The Executive Director of UNEP, through his/her reports to the Intergovernmental Meetings, shall report on the status of the Trust Fund.
- The Trust Fund shall be established for a period of four years, 1994-1997, and decisions for its extension shall be made by the Intergovernmental Meetings of NOWPAP through the relevant Governing Councils of UNEP.





**ANNEX V**

**RESOLUTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NOWPAP**



## RESOLUTION 1

### IMPLEMENTATION OF NOWPAP

#### The Intergovernmental Meeting,

Having adopted the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (Northwest Pacific Action Plan - NOWPAP),

1. Decides that, for the period 1994-1996, programme activities should be undertaken according to the following order of priority and subject to the availability of resources:

NOWPAP/1 - Establishment of a comprehensive database and information management system  
{Objective 1, tasks (a) and (b), Objective 2, tasks (a), (b), (c)};

NOWPAP/2 - Survey of national environmental legislation, objectives, strategies and policies  
{Objective 3, task (a), Objective 5, task (a)};

NOWPAP/3 - Establishment of a collaborative, regional monitoring programme  
{Objective 1, task (d) and Objective 4, task (a)};

NOWPAP/4 - Development of effective measures for regional cooperation in marine pollution preparedness and response {Objective 4, task (e) and Objective 5, tasks (c) and (d)};

NOWPAP/5 - Commence the establishment of regional activity centres and their networks  
{Objective 1, tasks (a), (c) and (d); Objective 2, task (a), Objective 3, task (a)}.

2. Invites the Executive Director of UNEP,

(a) To prepare, with the co-operation of the competent international and regional organizations and the Governments of the region, a detailed programme document, describing the operational details of projects to be developed on the basis of priorities identified in 1 above.

(b) To convene, in 1995, a meeting of National Focal Points to review financial implications of project implementation and if necessary advise the secretariat on their revision.

RESOLUTION 2

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NOWPAP

The Intergovernmental Meeting,

Having adopted the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (Northwest Pacific Action Plan - NOWPAP),

Noting the statement of the representative of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on willingness of UNEP to accept the designation as the organization responsible for the secretariat functions of NOWPAP,

1. Calls upon the Executive Director of UNEP, in consultation with the Governments of the Northwest Pacific region and in close co-operation with relevant United Nations bodies and Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to make such arrangements as required to achieve the objectives of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan;
2. Also calls upon the Executive Director of UNEP to convene, subsequent to the second Intergovernmental Meeting, every year an Intergovernmental Meeting of the States of the Northwest Pacific region in order to decide upon programme, institutional and financial matters related to NOWPAP. Specifically, the Intergovernmental Meetings should:
  - (a) Provide the overall policy direction for programme planning and execution;
  - (b) Assign priorities for project proposals within the scope of the NOWPAP Goals and Objectives, adopt and review continuously a workplan for the implementation of the Action Plan;
  - (c) Review the progress achieved in project implementation since the previous meeting;
  - (d) Approve the budgetary resources required for project implementation and determine their allocation as decided by the second Intergovernmental Meeting;
  - (e) Agree upon the means for financing activities of the Action Plan, including firm pledges for contributions to the Trust Fund;
  - (f) Assist in the coordination of regional activities related to the protection and management of the coastal and marine environment in the Northwest Pacific region.
3. Requests the Executive Director of UNEP to convene in 1996 the second Intergovernmental meeting in order to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the Action Plan and to further consider institutional and financial arrangements.
4. Decides also to consider at the second Intergovernmental meeting the establishment of a Regional Co-ordination Unit.

RESOLUTION 3

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NOWPAP

The Intergovernmental Meeting.

Having adopted the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (Northwest Pacific Action Plan - NOWPAP),

Noting the cost estimates for the implementation of activities identified in Resolution 1 of this meeting and rough figures for yearly expenditures to implement the Action Plan;

Also noting the general readiness of the Executive Director of UNEP to contribute during the 1994-1995 biennium US\$ 417,100 to cover the costs for activities related to the secretariat functions of NOWPAP and implementation of the Action Plan;

Also noting the readiness of the States of the region to contribute to the costs for implementation of NOWPAP through a NOWPAP Trust Fund, (Part 4.3 of the Action Plan);

1. Decides that the NOWPAP Trust Fund will be established and that details of the financial contributions will be decided no later than the next Intergovernmental Meeting.
2. Requests the Executive Director of UNEP to assume responsibility for administering the NOWPAP Trust Fund according to the applicable rules of the United Nations and other administrative policies or procedures promulgated by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It is understood that these rules provide that UNEP shall make a deduction equal to 13 percent of all expenditures financed from the Trust Fund to defray administrative support costs. The Trust Fund should become operational as soon as the received contributions reach US\$ 50,000.
3. Urges the States to pay their contributions to the Trust Fund in equal yearly installments.

4. Approves the following budget of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan in the 1994-1996 triennium:

	1994	1995	1996
	US\$		
From the Environment Fund	208,000	209,100	210,000*
From the States of the region	**	**	**
<b>TOTAL</b>			

\* subject to approval by the UNEP Governing Council

\*\* subject to further consultation with the States or receipt of advance voluntary contributions.

5. Calls upon the Executive Director of UNEP to search for additional financial resources which may be available for the implementation of NOWPAP, in particular to approach the GEF secretariat on behalf of the participating States to seek funds for implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan.

6. Undertakes to explore potential international sources of additional financial support for the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan.