



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

# REGIONAL SEAS

## *Action Plan for managing the natural resources and environment of the South Pacific Region*

*UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 29*

*Prepared in co-operation with*



SPC



SPEC



ESCAP

UNEP 1983

Note: This document reproduces the parts of the report of the Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific convened by the South Pacific Commission (SPC) in co-operation with the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 8 - 11 March 1982, as the final stage of the preparatory work leading to the adoption of the Action Plan for Managing the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific.

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## PREFACE

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

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

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

The idea for a regional South Pacific environment management programme came from the South Pacific Commission (SPC) in 1974. Consultations between SPC and UNEP led, in 1975, to the suggestion of organizing a South Pacific Conference on the Human Environment. The South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC) and the

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<sup>1/</sup> Mediterranean, Kuwait Action Plan Region, West and Central Africa, Wider Caribbean, East Asian Seas, South-East Pacific, South Pacific, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, East Africa and South-West Atlantic.

<sup>2/</sup> UNEP: Achievements and planned development of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and comparable programmes sponsored by other bodies. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 1. UNEP, 1982.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) soon joined SPC's initiative and UNEP supported the development of what became known as the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) as part of its Regional Seas Programme.

A Co-ordinating Group, consisting of representatives from SPC, SPC, ESCAP and UNEP, was established in 1980 to co-ordinate the preparations for the Conference. As part of these preparations, 18 "country reports" and 13 "topic reviews" were prepared identifying the environmental problems of individual countries and the region<sup>3/</sup>.

These reports and reviews were examined by a technical meeting (Noumea, June 1981) attended by experts from the South Pacific region.

The meeting also drafted the basic working documents which were submitted to the Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific (Rarotonga, 8 - 11 March 1982).

The Conference adopted: the South Pacific Declaration on Natural Resources and the Environment; the Action Plan for Managing the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region; and agreed on the administrative and financial arrangements needed to support the implementation of the Action Plan and on the workplan for the next phase of SPREP.

The Declaration and the Action Plan adopted at the Conference are reproduced in this document.

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<sup>3/</sup> The Country Reports and Topic Reviews have been published by SPC, 1981. For an overview based on these documents see:

- A. L. DAHL and I. L. BAUMGART: The state of the environment in the South Pacific. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 31. UNEP, 1983.

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

I. INTRODUCTION

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

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

Countries and territories within this area are :

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

## II. OBJECTIVES

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

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

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

## III. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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

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



- 5.3 Consultations with UNEP leading to the suggestion that a South Pacific Conference on the Human Environment should be held in the region.
- 5.4 The request by UNEP in 1975 to SPC to develop a comprehensive programme for environmental management for the region, including a Regional Conference on the Human Environment.
- 5.5 The decision of the South Pacific Forum in 1976 that SPC should consult with SPC with a view to preparing proposals for a co-ordinated regional approach to the problem of environmental management.
- 5.6 The direction of the South Pacific Conference (1976) that a comprehensive environmental programme reflecting the environmental interests of all countries and territories in the region be jointly prepared by SPC and SPC.
- 5.7 The reiteration of UN support for the programme at the ESCAP/UNEP Joint Programming Meeting in Bangkok in 1977.
- 5.8 The endorsement by the 34th Session of ESCAP held in Bangkok in March 1978 of "the idea of convening a South Pacific Conference on the Human Environment, and recommended that such a conference should be held in co-ordination with SPC and SPC."
- 5.9 Successive considerations of the proposal submitted to the Forum and the South Pacific Conference leading to refinement and re-definition of the proposal by a special meeting of officials in 1978 and subsequent adoption of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme by the South Pacific Forum and the South Pacific Conference later that year.
- 5.10 The preparation of "country reports" by 18 governments of countries of the region as official statements on the state of the environment, the trends and problems.
- 5.11 The preparation by invited specialists of "Topic Reviews" of fields identified as of wide importance to the region from analysis of the country reports.
- 5.12 The consideration of the country reports and the topic reviews by a Technical Meeting of representatives of participating countries.

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

#### IV. NATURE OF THE ACTION PLAN

6. All components of the Action Plan are inter-dependent and provide a framework for comprehensive action which should contribute to both the protection and continued development of the region. Each activity is intended to assist governments and regional organizations to improve the quality of the information on which environmental management policies are based.

7. The Action Plan will be implemented by making the fullest possible use of government and independent institutions in countries of the region, supplemented by appropriate regional bodies (SPC and SPEC), with assistance from participating countries and international institutions. For some projects, the assistance of experts from inside and outside the region will be required.

8. Efforts should be made to co-ordinate the implementation of the Action Plan with activities being undertaken in other Regional Seas Programmes, particularly those adjacent to the region.

9. In a subsequent step, the environmental assessment and management components of the Action Plan will be developed in the form of an operational programme document, taking into account current and planned programmes of the participating countries and regional and international organizations.

#### V. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COMPONENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 15.4 The impact of marine oil spills on sensitive coastal environments of the region.
  - 15.5 The impact of tourism development on land/lagoon/reef ecosystems.
  - 15.6 The impact of urbanization and increasing population density on representative environments of the region.
  - 15.7 The impact of storage and utilization of pesticides on the small island environment.
  - 15.8 The impact of subsistence and commercial activities on forests of the region, including the impact of the burgeoning demand for unprocessed logs for use outside the region.
  - 15.9 The impact of development on the quality and quantity of available fresh water.
  - 15.10 The impact of natural and artificial radioactivity on people and the environment including in particular the effects of nuclear testing.
  - 15.11 The potential dangers to the region of the storage and dumping of hazardous wastes, particularly nuclear wastes, anywhere in the Pacific.
  - 15.12 The impact of modern education systems and current development trends on traditional systems of resource management.
  - 15.13 The impact of modern commercial agricultural production on traditional food and agricultural systems and the environment.
16. Effective environmental assessment on a regional basis requires acceptance of standards and procedures throughout the region, so that meaningful comparisons can be made. In general, this will involve adoption of compatible standards and procedures developed elsewhere but, where necessary, adapting them to Pacific conditions.
- Examples are :
- 16.1 The adoption of standardized analytical techniques for measuring levels and trends of pollution and its effects.
  - 16.2 The development of quality control in analytical procedures such as inter-laboratory calibration exercises both within the region and with outside reference laboratories.

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

#### VI. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMPONENT

18. Continuing socio-economic development in the region can only be achieved on a sustainable basis if environmental considerations are incorporated into the designing of developments. Improved knowledge of environmental systems may now enable some environmental errors of the past to be corrected and avoided in future.

19. The aim of the environmental management component of the Programme should be :

- 19.1 To ensure that environmental assessments are thoroughly and effectively carried out, and that the results are incorporated into management programmes.
- 19.2 To strengthen environmental education in school curricula and to support programmes to increase community awareness of environmental issues.
- 19.3 To ensure that adequate training is provided for all levels of environmental management, so that skilled people are available within the region.
- 19.4 To train managers and policy makers on how to take environmental considerations into account in management programmes.
- 19.5 To encourage the development and effective placement of people skilled in environmental aspects of development.

- 19.6 To devise ways of making wise use of natural resources (such as land, water, minerals, and forests), balancing utilization with conservation and preservation, and the needs of present people with the needs of future generations.
  - 19.7 To adapt to changing patterns of energy availability without damaging the environment, including the use of new sources.
  - 19.8 To ensure that national and regional environmental management systems are compatible and complement each other.
  - 19.9 To develop the framework of laws and international agreements necessary for wise regional environmental management.
20. Certain areas which are regarded as regionally important are:
- 20.1 The management of the land/lagoon/reef ecosystem to maintain its health and condition.
  - 20.2 The balanced management of mangrove ecosystems to maintain their many uses including fisheries.
  - 20.3 The study of traditional land and marine tenure systems and their reconciliation with environmental management, especially in relation to conservation and the designation and management of reserves.
  - 20.4 The management of forests in such a way as to safeguard their health and vigour.
  - 20.5 The monitoring and publishing of international prices for commodities from the region and of royalties and taxes deriving from their production.
  - 20.6 The development of national contingency plans integrated with a regional control plan to minimize the effects of major oil spills.
  - 20.7 The management of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides in a small island environment to minimize their adverse effects on the environment and people.
  - 20.8 The continued gathering of information on the populations and movements of important types of fish throughout the region.
  - 20.9 The minimization of deleterious environmental effects of urbanization in the South Pacific.

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

- 20.24 The auditing of the effectiveness of previous environmental management decisions.

## VII. THE LEGAL COMPONENT

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

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

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

24. The legal component should :

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



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

#### VIII. INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

31. The Secretariat, including a Regional Co-ordinator, who could also perform the functions of the SPC Regional Ecological Adviser, should be appointed to cover the day-to-day execution of the operational programme including active communication with the co-operating organizations and the designated national focal points.

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

SOUTH PACIFIC DECLARATION ON NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND THE ENVIRONMENT

This Conference :

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

Noting the World Conservation Strategy;

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

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

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

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

Declares that :

1. The resources of land, sea and air which are the basis of life and cultures for South Pacific peoples must be controlled with responsibility, and safeguarded for the benefit of present and future generations, through sustained resource management.
2. Integrated environmental, economic, social and resource planning and management is essential to ensure sustainable rational use of the land and sea resources of the region, and the greatest enhancement of human well-being.
3. An effective programme of public information, education and training is necessary to promote basic environmental understanding by the people, as well as the skills necessary for effective environmental assessment and management.

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

## PUBLICATIONS IN THE UNEP REGIONAL SEAS REPORTS AND STUDIES SERIES

- No. 1 UNEP: Achievements and planned development of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and comparable programmes sponsored by other bodies. (1982)
- No. 2 UNIDO/UNEP: Survey of marine pollutants from industrial sources in the West and Central African Region. (1982)
- No. 3 UNESCO/UNEP: River inputs to the West and Central African marine environment. (1982)
- No. 4 IMCO/UNEP: The status of oil pollution and oil pollution control in the West and Central African Region. (1982)
- No. 5 IAEA/UNEP: Survey of tar, oil, chlorinated hydrocarbons and trace metal pollution in coastal waters of the Sultanate of Oman. (1982)
- No. 6 UN/UNESCO/UNEP: Marine and coastal area development in the East African region. (1982)
- No. 7 UNIDO/UNEP: Industrial sources of marine and coastal pollution in the East African region. (1982)
- No. 8 FAO/UNEP: Marine pollution in the East African region. (1982)
- No. 9 WHO/UNEP: Public health problems in the coastal zone of the East African region. (1982)
- No. 10 IMO/UNEP: Oil pollution control in the East African region. (1982)
- No. 11 IUCN/UNEP: Conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems and living resources of the East African region. (1982)
- No. 12 UNEP: Environmental problems of the East African region. (1982)
- No. 13 M. PATHMARAJAH: Pollution and the marine environment in the Indian Ocean. (1982)
- No. 14 UNEP/CEPAL: Development and environment in the Wider Caribbean Region: A Synthesis. (1982)
- No. 15 UNEP: Guidelines and principles for the preparation and implementation of comprehensive action plans for the protection and development of marine and coastal areas of regional seas. (1982)
- No. 16 GESAMP: The health of the oceans. (1982)
- No. 17 UNEP: Regional Seas Programme: Legislative authority. (in preparation)
- No. 18 UNEP: Regional Seas Programme: Workplan. (1982)
- No. 19 UNEP: Regional Seas Programme: Compendium of projects. (1982)
- No. 20 CPPS/UNEP: Action Plan for the protection of the marine environment and coastal areas of the South-East Pacific. (1983)
- No. 21 CPPS/UNEP: Sources, levels and effects of marine pollution in the South-East Pacific. (1983) (In Spanish only)
- No. 22 UNEP: Regional Seas Programme in Latin America and Wider Caribbean. (1983)

- No. 23 FAO/UNESCO/IOC/WHO/WMO/IAEA/UNEP: Co-ordinated Mediterranean Pollution Monitoring and Research Programme (MED POL) - Phase I: Programme Description. (1983)
- No. 24 UNEP: Action Plan for the protection and development of the marine and coastal areas of the East Asian Region. (1983)
- No. 25 UNEP: Marine pollution. (1983)
- No. 26 UNEP: Action Plan for the Caribbean environment programme. (1983)
- No. 27 UNEP: Action Plan for the protection and development of the marine environment and coastal areas of the West and Central African Region. (1983)
- No. 28 UNEP: Long-term programme for pollution monitoring and research in the Mediterranean (MED POL) - Phase II. (1983)
- No. 29 SPC/SPEC/ESCAP: Action Plan for managing the natural resources and environment of the South Pacific Region. (1983)
- No. 30 UNDIESA/UNEP: Ocean energy potential of the West African Region. (1983)
- No. 31 A. L. DAHL and I. L. BAUMGART: The state of the environment in the South Pacific. (1983)
- No. 32 UNEP/ECE/UNIDO/FAO/UNESCO/WHO/IAEA: Pollutants from land-based sources in the Mediterranean. (1983)
- No. 33 UNDIESA/UNEP: Onshore impact of offshore oil and natural gas development in the West African Region. (1983)
- No. 34 UNEP: Action Plan for the protection of the Mediterranean. (1983)
- No. 35 UNEP: Action Plan for the protection of the marine environment and the coastal areas of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. (1983)
- No. 36 UNEP/CEPAL: The state of marine pollution in the Wider Caribbean Region. (1983)
- No. 37 UNDIESA/UNEP: Environmental management problems in resource utilization and survey of resources in the West African Region. (1983)
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