



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

*Action Plan  
for the  
Caribbean environment programme*

*UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 26*

Na.86-6474

UNEP 1983

## 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>.

On the initiative of several Caribbean States, the Governing Council of UNEP decided in 1974 that "UNEP should concentrate ..... on the protection of the marine environment" and stressed "the importance of activities in the Caribbean" (Decision 8/11). In keeping with the regional approach, an early association was sought by

---

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

(ii)

UNEP with the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) and in 1977 a joint UNEP/ECLA project team was set up to co-ordinate the preparations for the development of an Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme. An eight-member Advisory Panel, composed of eminent Caribbean experts, provided UNEP and ECLA with valuable policy guidance on the development of the Action Plan in the framework of the UNEP-sponsored Regional Seas Programme. The close collaboration of the specialized agencies of the United Nations and of other intergovernmental, international and regional organizations was also sought, and obtained, in the preparation of the Action Plan.

As part of the preparatory activities, a large number of surveys, reviews and studies were prepared under the guidance of UNEP and ECLA<sup>3/</sup> and the first draft of the Action Plan was based on these documents.

The First Meeting of Government-nominated Experts (Caracas, Venezuela, 28 January - 1 February 1980) reviewed the first draft of the Action Plan and the documents supporting it. The meeting provided UNEP and ECLA with advice on the further preparatory activities which led to the Second Meeting of Government-nominated Experts (Managua, Nicaragua, 23 - 27 February 1981).

The expert meeting in Managua made a detailed study of the principal components of the Action Plan, reviewed the specific project proposals and recommended a priority programme, analysed the various options for institutional and financial arrangements needed to support the implementation of the Action Plan, and formulated general guidelines for the development of a regional legal agreement which could serve as the legal framework of the Caribbean Environment Programme. Furthermore, the Managua meeting recommended the convening of an intergovernmental meeting to review, revise and adopt the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and to decide on all measures, including the institutional and financial arrangements, needed for its effective implementation.

The Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme was convened by UNEP in co-operation with ECLA in Montego Bay, Jamaica, 6 - 8 April 1981. The representatives of Governments from 22 States of the region adopted at the meeting the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, a conference resolution dealing with (a) programme implementation, (b) institutional arrangements, and (c) financial arrangements related to the implementation of the Action Plan and the programme priorities for the Action Plan (UNEP/CEPAL/IG.27/3).

The Action Plan, the conference resolution and the programme priorities adopted at Montego Bay are reproduced in this document. The numbering of paragraphs in this document follows the numbering used in the report of the Montego Bay meeting.

---

<sup>3/</sup> For a summary of these studies see UNEP/CEPAL: Development and environment in the Wider Caribbean Region: A synthesis. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 14. UNEP, 1982.

(iii)

## CONTENTS

	<u>Pages</u>
ACTION PLAN FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP/CEPAL/IG.27/3, Annex IV)	1 - 12
PREAMBLE	1 - 2
I INTRODUCTION	2
II ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT	2 - 8
III EDUCATION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	9
IV SUPPORTING MEASURES	9 - 12
RESOLUTION ON THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP/CEPAL/IG.27/3, Annex V)	13 - 16
I PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION	13 - 14
II INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	14
III FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS	15 - 16
PROGRAMME PRIORITIES FOR THE ACTION PLAN (UNEP/CEPAL/IG.27/3, Appendix II)	17 - 19

## ACTION PLAN FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

### PREAMBLE

1. The region is a geographical entity made up of States and Territories with diverse economic and political structures, natural resources, social systems, environmental characteristics and potential development capabilities. These diversities have been recognized in the formulation of this Action Plan.
2. The region covered by the Action Plan is the Wider Caribbean, and it comprises the insular and coastal States and Territories of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, including the Bahamas, Guyana, Suriname and the French Department of Guiana, as well as the waters of the Atlantic Ocean adjacent to these States and Territories. Other countries may participate in the Action Plan if they so desire, and, in accordance with United Nations procedures, they will be classified in terms of the nature of their participation.
3. The island countries of the region have special needs owing to the fragility of their ecosystems and their particularly limited carrying capacities. These were specifically recognized in the Action Plan.
4. The principal objectives of the Action Plan are to assist the Governments of the region in minimizing environmental problems in the Wider Caribbean through assessment of the state of the environment and development activities in environmental management. Furthermore, the Action Plan will establish a framework for activities requiring regional co-operation in order to strengthen the capacity of the States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean region for implementing sound environmental management practices and thus achieve the development of the region on a sustainable basis. In order to achieve these overall goals, co-operation will specifically include:
  - assistance to all countries of the region, recognizing the special situation of the smaller island countries;
  - use of the region's human, financial and natural resources through technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC);
  - regional self-reliance through the sharing of experience in common problems;
  - co-operation on problems of a transnational or international nature, including natural and man-induced disasters;
  - stimulation and co-ordination of international assistance activities;

- strengthening of existing national and subregional institutions;
- increasing public interest in, and awareness of the environment/development process.

## I INTRODUCTION

5. In order to achieve the objectives of this Action Plan, the following processes must take place:

- (a) Assessment, including an inventory and analysis of natural resources and their environmental characteristics, as necessary for formulating an environmental diagnosis in order to provide a basis for sound environmental management;
- (b) Management, including the formulation of guidelines, plans and specific projects as well as the determination of the means necessary for this purpose.

6. The Action Plan will concentrate its activities on the coastal areas with special reference to the interactions among terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems.

7. The Action Plan recognizes two distinct action levels:

- (a) Development of long-term comprehensive strategies for environmentally sound development, taking into account the priorities, needs and capabilities of the region; and
- (b) Specific, action-oriented co-operative projects in response to the region's important and immediate environmental needs.

8. The components of the Action Plan are interdependent and constitute a framework for comprehensive action in order to contribute both to the protection and to the continued environmentally sound development of the region. No component is an end in itself.

## II ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

9. One of the major constraints on the effective use of resources in the development processes confronting the Wider Caribbean region is the paucity of environment and resource information which impedes rational decision-making. This lack of adequate information is particularly critical in that it relates to issues of a fundamental nature such as:

- (i) the potential of underutilized resources;
- (ii) the fragility of many of the region's ecosystems;
- (iii) the inability of overutilized and degraded resources to maintain sustained yields; and

- (iv) the presence of many island countries which are ecosystems with limited resources and relatively large populations.

10. Consequently, the environmental assessment component, which includes the systematic description and examination of environmental topics or problems evaluating their present and future implications for man and the environment, will underlie and facilitate decision-making and the implementation of the environmental management elements of the Action Plan.

11. Owing to the lack of basic environmental data and scientific knowledge, a co-ordinated resource inventory and environmental monitoring programme will be developed throughout the region covered by this project, particularly for coastal and marine areas and neighbouring areas affecting the latter (including estuaries, deltas, marshes, mangroves lakes, rivers, coastal lagoons, coral reefs and sea-grass beds), as a basis for providing guidelines for environmentally sound development and for training tasks. The operational details of these programmes will be based on existing and projected national, regional and international activities in this field.

12. The key to environmentally sound development is the management of the resources on a sustainable basis. Such environmental management should take into account the carrying capacity of the environment, the goals of development as defined by the pertinent national authorities, and the economic feasibility of implementing them.

13. Most of the region's environmental needs can best be satisfied, and will continue to be principally dealt with, by individual States and Territories. Regional and subregional co-operative action, however, can strengthen and supplement national efforts, particularly in attending to joint concerns which, by their nature, lie outside the control of any single country. In addition, co-operative regional and subregional action can be especially beneficial to the smaller States and Territories, which have limited capacity for dealing with environmental problems.

14. Possible types of regional and subregional action include international consultations, co-operative research and joint actions by national institutions.

#### General

15. Taking into account the priority opportunities for regional or subregional co-operation and action, based on the critical needs of the people of the region, the major activities of the environmental programme will include:

- (a) Survey of national capabilities and means to respond to environmental problems including scientific and administrative institutions, manpower, research facilities and equipment.
- (b) Analysis of development trends in the region, particularly in coastal areas, in order to determine possible areas of environmental stress resulting from multiple demands on limited resources.
- (c) Development and strengthening of the capability of the nations of the region to prepare environmental impact analyses of major development projects and plans in order to incorporate the dimension of the environment and natural resources in the planning and implementation of socio-economic development programmes.

- (d) Promotion of increased technical and financial support for sound environmental management practices within ongoing national, regional, and internationally-supported economic development activities, so that they will have a demonstration effect.
- (e) Development of regional and subregional networks of coastal, marine and terrestrial protected areas so as to help to maintain the living natural resources vital to development.
- (f) To further existing efforts and agreements involving countries of the region, development of co-operative activities for the protection of endangered and threatened species so as to help to maintain the region's wealth of genetic resources; and the harmonization of national policies for the management of wildlife, genetic resources, and natural habitats.

#### Pollution control

16. Assessment of the origin and magnitude of pollution in the region with special reference to hydrocarbons and other hazardous substances including:

- (a) determination of technical knowledge as well as existing means and economic capabilities at the national or regional level for preventing, combating, limiting and, in so far as possible, eliminating pollution and other adverse effects of the exploration, exploitation, refining and transportation of hydrocarbons and other hazardous substances;
- (b) studies on sources of pollution by hydrocarbons and other hazardous substances;
- (c) identification and monitoring of existing and potential direct and indirect effects of the exploration, exploitation, refining and transportation of hydrocarbons and other hazardous substances;
- (d) studies of the destination and effect of oil pollution, especially oil spills, on tropical coastal ecosystems, particularly those of economic importance, such as mangrove swamps, coral reefs, beaches and coastal fisheries, by making use and taking advantage of accidental spills;

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_15371](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_15371)

