



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

REGIONAL SEAS

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Pesticide use
in the South Pacific

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SPC



SPEC



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PREFACE

Sixteen 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 2997(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 fulfill 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^{1/} and has over 130 coastal States participating in it. It is conceived as an action-oriented programme having concern not only for the consequences but also for the causes of environmental degradation and encompassing a comprehensive approach to combating environmental problems through the management of marine and coastal areas. Each regional action plan is formulated according to the needs of the region as perceived by the Governments concerned. It is designed to link assessment of the quality of the marine environment and the causes of its deterioration with activities for the management and development of the marine and coastal environment. The action plans promote the parallel development of regional legal agreements and of action-oriented programme activities^{2/}.

The 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 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.

^{1/} Mediterranean, Kuwait Action Plan Region, West and Central Africa, Wider Caribbean, East Asian Seas, South-East Pacific, South Pacific, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, Eastern Africa and South Asian Seas.

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

The Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific was convened in Rarotonga, from 8 to 11 March 1982. It adopted: the South Pacific Declaration on Natural Resources and Environment. the Action Plan for Managing the Natural Resources and the Environment in 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^{3/}.

The legal framework of the Action Plan was developed through several meetings of legal and technical experts from the South Pacific Region. It was adopted by the Plenipotentiary meeting of the High Level Conference on the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region convened by the Secretary-General of SPC in Noumea, New Caledonia, from 17 to 25 November 1986.

The legal framework adopted by the Conference consists of the following instruments^{4/}:

Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region;

Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution Emergencies in the South Pacific Region;

Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the South Pacific Region by Dumping.

The convention is a comprehensive umbrella agreement for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the South Pacific Region. It lists the sources of pollution which require control: pollution from ships, dumping, land-based sources, seabed exploration and exploitation, atmospheric discharges, storage of toxic and hazardous wastes, testing of nuclear devices, mining and coastal erosion. It also identifies environmental management issues requiring regional co-operation: specially protected areas, pollution in cases of emergency, environmental impact assessment, scientific and technical co-operation, technical assistance, and liability and compensation for damage resulting from pollution.

Considerable support to the implementation of the Action Plan is received from a number of South Pacific research and training institutions. Periodic consultative meetings of these institutions are convened to discuss the environmental problems of the region which may be mitigated or solved through the Action Plan and to identify activities which may contribute toward the goal of SPREP. The present report was commissioned by UNEP as such a contribution. The report has been prepared by Mr. David Lindsay Mowbray of the University of Papua New Guinea and the sponsors of the study would like to express their gratitude to the author of the report and to his institution.

3/ SPC/SPEC/ESCAP/UNEP: Action Plan for managing the natural resources and environment in the South Pacific Region. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 29, UNEP, 1983.

4/ Convention for the protection of the natural resources and environment of the South Pacific Region and related protocols, UNEP, 1987.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

This is the second printing of the first edition of Pesticide Use in the South Pacific. The first printing was issued by the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) entitled "Pesticide Use in the South Pacific", preliminary printing by the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), October 1986. Prior to this a "preliminary draft edition" was printed by UNPG in January 1984. This draft edition was for limited circulation only and was forwarded to governments and other specified personnel for their comments only.

Subsequent to writing this first edition, more information has been provided by officers of the South Pacific Commission (SPC), governments, companies and non-government organisations in the South Pacific and overseas. Assistance has also been provided by officers of the Australian, New Zealand and United States governments on the section on "banned and restricted pesticides". Their comments, suggestions and data, together with corrections and updates to earlier information, and bibliographic listings of recent publications will be incorporated into the second edition.

The following will also be incorporated into the second edition:

- * Summary of responses to the Codex Questionnaire (see appendix F).
- * Summary of responses to FAO Questionnaire to governments of the South Pacific on the international code of conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides.
- * Summary on detailed study done in Papua New Guinea on monitoring and reporting the implementation of the FAO international code of conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides.
- * Use of pictograms in labelling.
- * A list of pesticides registered or in use in 1986-88, and a list of pesticides banned or restricted for use in 'non-SPC' countries with reasons given for such banning or restrictions.
- * A preliminary pesticide data base for South Pacific countries.
- * A re-evaluation of the needs of the South Pacific.

The following sections of the review will also be written in French:

- * Title
- * Contents
- * Chapter 14. Summary and Recommendations
- * Original questionnaire (Appendix A).

David Mowbray
10th June 1988

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by David L. Mowbray

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**PART C. PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A PESTICIDE INFORMATION,
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