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Meeting of the Steering Committee
for the Marine Environment of
West and Central Africa

Abidjan, 20 - 22 July 1981

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE
FOR THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT
OF WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

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Introduction

1. After consultation with the Chairman of the Steering Committee for the Marine Environment of West and Central Africa, the meeting of the Committee was convened by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in accordance with the resolution on institutional arrangements adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan, 16 - 23 March 1981). At the kind invitation of the Government of the Ivory Coast, the meeting took place at the headquarters of the African Development Bank, Abidjan, from 20 to 22 July 1981.

Attendance

2. All Member States of the Steering Committee designated in paragraph 4 of the resolution on institutional arrangements were invited to participate in the meeting. Representatives of the following Member States attended the meeting: Congo, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Senegal. A representative of the United Nations Development Programme attended the meeting as an observer. A full list of the participants appears as annex I to the present report.

Agenda item 1 : Opening of the meeting

3. The meeting was opened by His Excellency Mr. A. Brou Tanoh, Minister of the Environment of the Ivory Coast, in his capacity as Chairman of the Steering Committee, and Mr. S. Keckes, Director of the Regional Seas Programme Activity Centre, as representative of the Executive Director of UNEP. After welcoming the participants, the Chairman of the Steering Committee thanked the African Development Bank for its hospitality. He went on to recall the results and decisions of the Abidjan Conference of Plenipotentiaries, and thanked the Executive Director of UNEP for the initiatives he had taken to follow up the decisions of the Conference.
4. In his opening statement, the representative of the Executive Director welcomed the participants and confirmed to them the commitment of UNEP to supporting the States of West and Central Africa in their common efforts to protect and develop their marine environment and the resources of

their coastal areas. He recalled that, at the present meeting, the Steering Committee should define the priorities for the period 1982-1983 and provide UNEP with the necessary guidance as to the steps to be taken to implement the priority activities.

Agenda item 2 : Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Adoption of the agenda

5. The meeting adopted the agenda reproduced as annex II to the present report.

Rules of procedure

6. The Steering Committee decided to apply, mutatis mutandis, the rules of procedure of the UNEP Governing Council (UNEP/GC.3/Rev.1).

Organization of work

7. The Steering Committee decided to conduct its work along the lines of a small technical group, under the effective leadership of its Chairman. The secretariat was requested to assist the Chairman in drawing up the report of the meeting.

Documentation

8. The list of documents before the meeting appears as annex III to the present report.

Agenda item 3 : Follow-up to the decisions of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries requesting action

9. The secretariat described the most important issues covered by the agenda item, referring to the Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (UNEP/IG.22/7) and to the note by the Executive Director of UNEP on the implementation of the Action Plan for the West and Central African Region and proposed activities (UNEP/WG.61/3). Those issues were:

- (a) The status of signature, acceptance, approval and ratification of and accession to the Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West

and Central African Region and the Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution in Cases of Emergency;

- (b) The draft terms of reference for the Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region (UNEP/WG.61/4);
 - (c) Contributions to the Trust Fund;
 - (d) Questions relating to the establishment of the Regional Co-ordinating Unit.
10. The Committee noted that, to date, twelve States had signed the Convention and Protocol. It considered that, in addition to the initiatives taken by the Executive Director, and by the Government of the Ivory Coast as depositary of those instruments, the Chairman of the Steering Committee should invite all States entitled to do so to adhere to the Convention and Protocol. He should also request those States which had already signed the Convention and Protocol to complete the procedures which would lead to their prompt ratification. The representatives of the Ivory Coast, Congo, Nigeria and Senegal informed the meeting that their Governments had already initiated ratification procedures.
11. The Steering Committee recommended that a high-level mission be sent, under the auspices of UNEP, to a number of West and Central African States to study with their Governments the possibility of their adhering to the Convention or ratifying it without delay.
12. The Steering Committee considered the draft terms of reference for the management of the Trust Fund, and adopted the text in the form in which it appears in annex IV to the present report. It was suggested that, pending the first meeting of the Contracting Parties, the organization administering the Trust Fund should submit the annual report on the administration of the Fund to the Steering Committee.
13. Regarding the preparations for the establishment of the Regional Co-ordinating Unit (RCU), the Committee invited the UNEP secretariat to inform States of the conditions necessary for the effective functioning of the Unit and to make note of offers by States other than Gabon, which had

already made such an offer, to host the RCU. The Committee felt that the mandate of the RCU should be defined at a later date, in the light of the work programme to be drawn up by the Contracting Parties at their first meeting.

Agenda item 4 : Definition of priorities for which projects should be developed

14. After considering the information provided in the note by the Executive Director (UNEP/WG.61/3), the Steering Committee decided that the following activities, with their corresponding main objectives, should be assigned priority among those outlined in the Plan of Action:

- (a) Institution and co-ordination of national contingency plans:
 - (i) Development of a discharge alert system;
 - (ii) Development of a system for assessing situations and mobilizing responses: action at sea and on land;
 - (iii) Identification of human and material resources;
 - (iv) Definition of model administrative and legal procedures;
- (b) Control of coastal erosion:
 - (i) Inventory and classification of various instances of coastal erosion;
 - (ii) Identification of appropriate measures;
 - (iii) Application of such measures;
- (c) Monitoring of marine pollution:
 - (i) Design and installation of systems for the monitoring of pollutants in the marine environment and coastal areas;
 - (ii) Identification and monitoring of pollutants including their effects;

(iii) Development of different methods capable of yielding comparable data;

(d) Supporting measures:

(i) Training, including the organization of a regional seminar/workshop on coastal area development and management, subject to availability of required resources;

(ii) Documentation;

(iii) Legislation.

15. The Committee recommended that in the conduct of the activities thus singled out, attention should be given to evaluation of capabilities, co-operation and training.
16. The Committee invited the Executive Director to draw up, on the basis of the priorities identified in paragraph 14 above, and in conformity with the resolution on institutional arrangements, a detailed programme document describing the operational details and financial implications of the projects to be developed, for submission to the meeting of competent national authorities scheduled for the beginning of 1982.

Agenda item 5 : Other business

17. The Steering Committee requested the secretariat to invite the States of West and Central Africa to designate competent national authorities responsible for the co-ordination of national efforts to implement the Action Plan, the Convention and its related Protocols, or to confirm that the competent authority is the one already designated as UNEP focal point for matters relating to the programme for West and Central Africa.
18. With reference to paragraph 7 of the resolution on institutional arrangements adopted at the Abidjan Conference, the Committee recommended that representatives of the national authorities should meet for three days in February 1982 to review, and revise as necessary, the programme document referred to in paragraph 16 above. It was also recommended that this meeting should be immediately followed by a two-day meeting of the Steering Committee to which the recommendations of the meeting of national authorities would be submitted for endorsement.

19. In view of the difficulties encountered in the past in finding States prepared to host meetings, seminars, workshops or other activities planned for the region, the Steering Committee recommended that if two months prior to the start of an activity no State of the region had indicated its readiness to provide the necessary facilities for the organization of that activity in its territory in accordance with the relevant regulations of the United Nations, the activity in question should take place at the Regional Seas Programme Activity Centre or at UNEP headquarters.

Agenda item 6 : Adoption of the report

20. The Steering Committee adopted the present report on 22 July 1981.

Agenda item 7 : Closure of the meeting

21. On 22 July 1981, after the customary exchange of courtesies and expressions of thanks addressed to the Government of the Ivory Coast, as host, and to the UNEP secretariat, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

Annexe I / Annex I

Liste des participants / List of participants

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Annex II

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work.
3. Follow-up to the decisions of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries requesting action.
4. Definition of priorities for which projects should be developed.
5. Other business.
6. Adoption of the report.
7. Closure of the meeting.

Annex III

List of documents

Working documents

UNEP/WG.61/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/WG.61/2	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/WG.61/3	Note by the Executive Director of UNEP on the implementation of the Action Plan for the West and Central African Region and proposed activities
UNEP/WG.61/4	Terms of reference for the management of the Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region

Information documents

UNEP/WG.61/INF.1	Provisional list of documents
UNEP/WG.61/INF.2	Provisional list of participants
UNEP/IG.22/6	Options for Institutional and Financial Arrangements required for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the West and Central African Region
UNEP/IG.22/7	Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region, Abidjan, 16-23 March 1981
	Draft Directory of Marine Research Centres in Africa

Note: A set of documents from previous meetings relevant to the West and Central African Action Plan as well as reports on previous studies and surveys was available at the meeting for reference purposes.

Annex IV

Terms of Reference for the Management of the Trust Fund for the
Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas
of the West and Central African Region

1. The Regional Trust Fund for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region, hereinafter referred to as "the Trust Fund", is established for an initial period of two years to provide financial support for the Action Plan adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region on 23 March 1981.
2. The Trust Fund shall be established for two calendar years beginning 1 January 1982 and ending 31 December 1983. In the event that the Contracting Parties wish the Trust Fund to be extended beyond 31 December 1983, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) shall be so advised in writing at least six months before that date. It is understood that such extension of the Trust Fund shall be decided at the discretion of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
3. The administration of the Trust Fund shall be entrusted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, should he deem it necessary, to the Executive Director of UNEP. The establishment and management of the Trust Fund shall be governed by the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, and other administrative policies or procedures promulgated by the Secretary-General. It is understood that these Rules provide that the United Nations shall make a deduction equal to 13 per cent of all expenditures financed from the Trust Fund to finance the administrative support costs of the Trust Fund.
4. The appropriations of the Trust Fund for 1982-1983 shall be financed from the agreed contributions made by the States of the region identified in Article 1 of the Convention in accordance with the resolution on financial arrangements

adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (see appendix showing assessed contributions for the period 1982-1983). No appropriations from the Trust Fund shall be made in advance of the receipt of contributions, and none shall be made before a minimum of \$US 250,000 has been contributed to the Trust Fund.

5. All contributions shall be paid in fully convertible United States dollars. Contributions from the States of the region shall be paid in equal quarterly installments. The first such contributions shall be due on 1 January 1982 and subsequent contributions on the first day of each subsequent quarter. Contributions shall be paid into the following account:

Account No. 015-002756
UNEP General Trust Funds Account
Chemical Bank, United Nations Branch
New York, N.Y. 10017.

6. Contributions received into the Trust Fund and not immediately required to finance activities shall be invested at the discretion of the United Nations, and any income shall be credited to the Trust Fund.
7. The Trust Fund shall be subject to audit by the United Nations Internal Audit Service.
8. The budget estimates covering the income and expenditure for each of the two calendar years constituting the financial period to which they relate, prepared in United States dollars, as well as the work plan for the same period, shall be submitted to the ordinary meetings of the Contracting Parties.
9. The Secretary-General, or the organization designated by him to administer the Trust Fund, shall submit annual reports on the administration of the Trust Fund to the Contracting Parties.

Appendix

Assessed contributions from states,
payable in equal quarterly installments:

	%	1982 US \$	1983 US \$
Angola	3.72	37,200	55,800
Benin	3.72	37,200	55,800
Cape Verde	3.72	37,200	55,800
Congo	3.72	37,200	55,800
Equatorial Guinea	3.72	37,200	55,800
Gabon	4.94	49,400	74,100
Gambia	3.72	37,200	55,800
Ghana	6.16	61,600	92,400
Guinea	3.72	37,200	55,800
Guinea-Bissau	3.72	37,200	55,800
Ivory Coast	6.16	61,600	92,400
Liberia	3.72	37,200	55,800
Mauritania	3.72	37,200	55,800
Nigeria	22.01	220,100	330,150
Sao Tome and Principe	3.72	37,200	55,800
Senegal	3.72	37,200	55,800
Sierra Leone	3.72	37,200	55,800
Togo	3.72	37,200	55,800
Cameroon	3.72	37,200	55,800
Zaire	4.94	49,400	74,100
Total	100.01	1,000,100	1,500,150