



REGIONAL SEAS

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Environment and resources in the Pacific

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EDITORS' NOTE

This volume brings together a number of papers presented at the 15th Pacific Science Congress organized by the Pacific Science Association in Dunedin, New Zealand on 1-11 February 1983. While the Congress treats scientific questions in the entire Pacific Basin, the papers collected in this volume focus on environmental problems relevant to the three regional action plans^{1/} sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as part of its Regional Seas Programme^{2/}. The majority of the papers came from sessions on Regional Co-operation on the Protection of the Environment intended to review the three Regional Seas Action Plans in the Pacific. With the kind permission of the organizers of the Congress, a selection of papers relevant to environmental problems in the region, originally presented in other sessions of the Congress, such as the General Symposium on Pacific Island Potentials organized by Ian L. Baumgart, are also included in this volume.

It is inevitable in a collection of papers such as this that there is great variability among the authors in style and approach, particularly since some papers were originally intended for oral presentation rather than publication. All, however, present points of view which are important to a consideration of the environment and resources of the Pacific and the directions that development should take in the region. While most papers are as presented at Dunedin, a few have been updated to include important developments in the months following the Congress. A summary of discussions at the Congress on inter-regional co-operation has also been added.

It will be apparent that there is some imbalance in the treatment of the three action plan areas. This reflects the Congress itself where papers were weighted more towards the islands rather than the continental margins and where participation from more distant regions, such as Latin America, was slight. The papers from South-East Asia and South America are also more technical in approach and more narrowly concentrated on marine and coastal pollution problems than those from Oceania. This reflects the different foci of their Action Plans and the greater development of their scientific capacity and data bases.

We hope that this volume will provide a useful record of environmental understanding in the Pacific and of the increasing extent of regional co-operation to deal with environmental problems.

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^{1/} CPPS/UNEP: Action Plan for the protection of the marine environment and coastal areas of the South-East Pacific. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 20. UNEP, 1983.

UNEP: Action Plan for the protection and development of the marine and coastal areas of the East Asian region. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 24. UNEP, 1983.

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

^{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.

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