
Implementing Agency	United Nations Development Programme
Region	East Asia
Focal Area	International Waters
Project Title	Prevention and Management of Marine Pollution in East Asian Seas
GEF Allocation	US\$8.0 million
Cofinancing	US\$3.4 million
Total Financing	US\$11.4 million
Dates	July 1993–July 2000
Environmental Problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal waters degraded by many kinds of pollution due to increasing population and economic activities
Project Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen regional capability to manage marine pollution and implement international conventions • Develop pollution-monitoring network, and initiate long-term financial options to manage pollution

The maritime countries of East Asia hold one-third of the world's population, more than half of whom live in the coastal zone. Diversification and intensification of economic activities to meet growing demands for food, employment, and shelter have placed tremendous pressures on coastal and adjacent marine environments. As a result, the coastal waters of the region have become contaminated by untreated sewage, industrial effluents, oils, pesticides, and hazardous wastes from land- and sea-based activities. The increasing volume of shipping traffic into and within the region has led to dumping at sea and oil and chemical spills, which have attracted wide media coverage and public attention. The general public now perceives shipping accidents as seriously threatening the livelihoods of coastal populations. The major land-based issues affecting marine resources include proliferation of poorly planned urban centers, mismanagement of coastal forests, and unregulated development of inefficient and polluting industries. Unfortunately, many countries in the region lack the financial resources and technical and managerial capabilities to plan, implement, and manage programs to address marine pollution problems within their jurisdictions.

The Project This project, implemented by the International Maritime Organization, has been assisting participating countries in managing East Asia's transboundary marine pollution problem. A regional approach was necessary because East Asian countries have previously managed this common marine resource with a range of water quality standards, pollution regulations, and

national development plans. A fundamental strategy of the project is to demonstrate the effectiveness and modalities of integrated coastal management in tackling marine pollution from land-based sources. This decisionmaking framework and management process involves all major stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, local communities, and scientific and educational institutions. It also incorporates measures to prevent and mitigate adverse impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems into stakeholder planning and operational activities. The project is providing key stakeholders a better appreciation of the social and economic opportunities resulting from marine pollution initiatives and the costs and benefits of partnerships between government and the private sector.

Activities The project is developing:

- An integrated management framework for land- and sea-based sources of marine pollution
- Working models on prevention and mitigation of marine pollution from land-based activities
- Capacity building at local and national levels through hands-on experience, practical training programs, technology transfer, and information dissemination
- Harmonization of pollution monitoring and analytical measurement techniques
- Networking among national scientific institutions, research centers, and organizations involved in marine and coastal monitoring activities for sharing of information on the coastal and marine environment of the East Asian seas
- Networking of public and private institutions in the region on the legal aspects of marine pollution, status of national regulations, and implementation of international conventions
- Public-private partnerships as financial mechanisms to sustain local, national, and regional marine pollution programs.

The project has launched integrated coastal management programs at Batangas Bay in the Philippines and Xiamen in China. The project has also provided coastal management assistance to the littoral states of the Malacca Straits.

- Benefits**
- Reduce coastal and marine pollution in East Asia
 - Strengthen capacity of government and institutions
 - Contribute to protection of human health in coastal populations
 - Serve as a model for replication elsewhere in East Asia.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a financial mechanism that provides grants and concessional funds to developing countries for projects and activities designed to protect the global environment. GEF resources address climate change, biological diversity, international waters, and depletion of the ozone layer. Activities concerning land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation as they relate to the four focal areas, are also eligible for funding.

GEF is a joint venture of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank. These three agencies implement GEF projects.

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United Nations Development Programme

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