

***China-ASEAN Forum on Law, Policy and
Management of the Sea
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**Regional Sea Co-Operation in
East Asia**

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Overview

- **Backgrounds and Facts**
- **East Asian Seas Programme under the UNEP**
- **Future Developments**

Geographic Scope of East Asian Seas



Facts

States	Key Issues and Threats to Marine Environment
Australia Cambodia China Indonesia Malaysia Philippines Republic of Korea Singapore Thailand Viet Nam Brunei DPR Korea Japan	Habitat Loss: coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, seaweeds and other habitats; Loss of Biodiversity and Endangered Species: invertebrates, fish, marine mammals, seabirds, plankton, reptiles, etc.; Land-Based Pollution: sewage, waste, dumping; Sea-based Pollution: marine litter, oil spills; Erosion; Small Islands and Submerged Banks;

Promoting Co-operation in East Asian Seas

- Obligation to cooperate under UNCLOS – Articles 123 and 197;
- Growing interests in marine environmental protection;
- Lack of comprehensive cooperation on maritime issues:
 - Most environmental protection regimes are land oriented;
 - East Asian States have diverse/conflicting interests regarding maritime issues;
 - Sensitive Issues;
- Other forums – UNEP & PEMSEA

UNEP Regional Seas Programme

- Launched in 1974.
- Aims to address the accelerating degradation of the world's oceans and coastal seas through the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment.
- More than 143 countries participate in 13 RSP, plus 5 partner programmes.
- Coordinated by UNEP's Regional Seas Branch based at the Nairobi Headquarters.

UNEP RSP

UNEP Administered

- Caribbean Region
- **East Asian Seas**
- Eastern Africa Region
- Mediterranean Region
- North-West Pacific Region
- Western Africa Region

Non-UNEP Administered

- Black Sea Region
- North-East Pacific Region
- Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
- ROPME Sea Area
- South Asian Seas
- South-East Pacific Region
- Pacific Region

Independent Programmes

- Arctic Region
- Antarctic Region
- Baltic Sea
- Caspian Sea
- North-East Atlantic Region

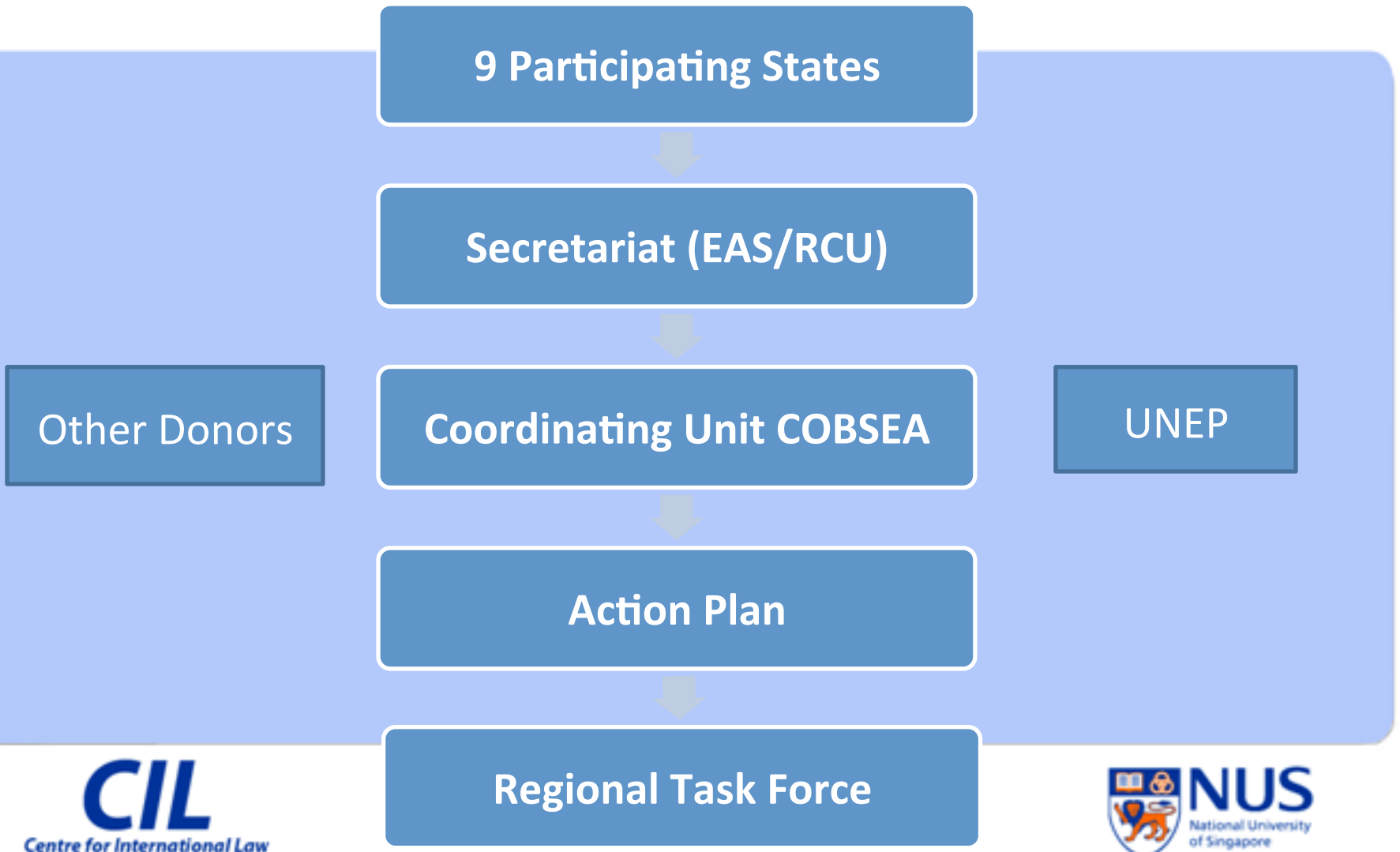
Structure of the UNEP RSP

- **Action Plan** – outlines the strategy and substance of the programme.
- **Legally-Binding Convention** – 14 out of 18 RSP is underpinned with a regional Convention and associated Protocols on specific problems.
- **Regional Coordinating Unit** – has the overall and practical responsibility for the implementation regarding the operation of the AP.
- **Regional Activity Center** – undertakes activities related to the AP, reports to the RCU.

East Asian Seas and the Action Plan

- **Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Region** was approved in 1981 by Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, revised in 1994 joined by (Australia), Cambodia, China, Korea and Vietnam.
- There is no legally binding regional Convention but instead the programme promotes compliance with existing environmental treaties and is based on member country goodwill.
- Steered by the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) that is consisting of the ten member countries, based in Bangkok in the UNEP Regional Office for the Asia-Pacific.

Structure of the EASP



Achievements

- Scientific research and data gathering on marine pollution;
- Improved coordination and cooperation among participating States;
- National capacity building and increased public awareness of marine environmental issues;
- COBSEA: <http://www.cobsea.org/index.html>

New Strategic Direction

- Focus Areas:
 - Marine- and land-based pollution;
 - Coastal and marine habitat conservation; and
 - Management and response to coastal disasters.
- Strategies:
 - Information management;
 - National capacity building;
 - Strategic and emerging issues; and
 - Regional cooperation.

Future Developments

- Adoption of marine protected areas in the region;
- Improve monitoring of State environment reports;
- Implement activities to reduce land-based pollution;
- Education and capacity building;
- *Legally Binding Regional Convention?*

An Outcome/Cost Theory of International Law and DS

Clarity of Outcome



Ewing-Chow and Yusran

Political Costs