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MANAGEMENT OF TRUST FUNDS AND OTHER FUNDS

Report of the Executive Director

INTRODUCTION

1. At its tenth session the Governing Council approved the continuation or establishment of a number of Trust Funds under chapter II, article V, of the general procedures governing the operations of the Environment Fund, ^{1/} and took note of the Executive Director's report on those and other funds. ^{2/} Developments with respect to each of these funds since the Executive Director last reported to the Governing Council ^{3/} are described in this report; details of income and expenditure in respect of each fund will be given in the financial report and interim accounts (unaudited) of the Environment Fund for the first year of the biennium 1982-1983 ended 31 December 1982 (UNEP/GC.11/L.2).

I. TRUST FUNDS

A. The Regional Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates

2. The Governing Council, at its tenth session, approved the continuation of this Trust Fund until 31 December 1983. ^{4/} All costs of the technical support provided by the Executive Director to the regional organization are met from the Trust Fund. No new contributions were made to the Trust Fund during 1982 and outstanding contributions remain at \$1,592,352. The Executive Director has been advised informally that the parties to the Convention will be requesting him to secure the consent of the Secretary-General to an extension of this Trust Fund for a further two years but a formal request to this effect has not yet been received. A further report on this matter will be made at the time of the eleventh session.

B. The Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution

3. At its tenth session, the Governing Council approved the continuation of this Trust Fund for a further period of one year ^{5/} and it was accordingly extended until 31 December 1983. At the time of preparing this document, no request for an extension of the Trust Fund had been received by the Executive Director, but he assumes that the matter will be discussed at the scheduled meeting of the contracting parties in February 1983. Contributions amounting to \$3.43 million were made to the Trust Fund in 1982, leaving an amount of only \$343,817 outstanding at the end of the year, which was a considerable improvement on previous years. A significant proportion of contributions were, however, paid late in the year, which held up the implementation of the Action Plan during 1982. With funds available, implementation should be smoother during 1983.

C. The Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

4. In 1981 this Trust Fund was extended until 31 December 1983. ^{6/} No request has been received by the Executive Director for an extension of the Trust Fund, but it is understood that the matter will be discussed at a meeting of the parties to the Convention scheduled to be held in Botswana in February 1983.

5. The funding of the secretariat of the Convention, which is the purpose of the Trust Fund, continues to be difficult owing to delays in payment of agreed contributions by a number of the parties. This has resulted in a lower budget being available for the operational costs of the Convention secretariat and in budgeting for only a few months ahead at a time. Of the contributions of \$428,237 pledged for 1982, \$127,934 was outstanding at the end of the year.

D. Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region

6. This Trust Fund was established with the consent of the Secretary-General for an initial period of two years extending to 31 December 1983. ^{7/} In accordance with the terms of reference no commitments can be incurred until a minimum of \$250,000 has been contributed to the Trust Fund. As at 31 December 1982, contributions of only \$40,893 had been received out of a total of \$1,000,000 due. Activities planned for 1982 that were to be financed from the Trust Fund have thus had to be deferred. No request for an extension of the Trust Fund has been received by the Executive Director.

E. Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme

7. This Trust Fund was established with the consent of the Secretary-General for an initial period of two years extending to 31 December 1983. ^{8/} By 31 December 1982 contributions amounting to only \$120,279 compared with a pledged total of \$554,615 had been received, and since the terms of reference of the Trust Fund stipulate that no commitments can be incurred until a minimum of \$250,000 has been contributed, activities planned for 1982 that were to be financed from the Trust Fund have had to be deferred until 1983. No request for an extension of the Trust Fund has been received by the Executive Director. Whether or not such a request is made, the Executive Director proposes that if the stipulated minimum level of contributions has not been reached by the time of the Governing Council's eleventh session, he should, subject to the agreement of the Council, request the Secretary-General to lower that minimum to \$125,000 so that activities can be started in 1983 without further delay.

F. Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Area of the East Asian Seas

8. This Trust Fund was established for an initial period of two years extending to 31 December 1983. ^{9/} All contributions for 1982, totalling \$86,000, were received and committed against projects financed jointly by the Trust Fund and the Environment Fund. No request for an extension of the Trust Fund has been received by the Executive Director.

G. Trust Fund for Regional Training Workshops on Environmental Management

9. This Trust Fund, which has an income derived entirely from contributions made by the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), has now received additional contributions, making a total of \$587,180. Five workshops were held during 1982 namely: in New Delhi in February, Manila in March,

Nairobi in June, and Mexico City and Sao Paulo in November. Two more workshops are planned for March 1983. One of these is to be held in Rome in collaboration with FAO and the other for West African countries at a venue that is still to be determined. Once all activities have been completed the Trust Fund will be wound up.

H. Trust Fund for the purpose of financing the new international environment prize

10. By its decision 10/27, paragraph 14, the Governing Council approved the establishment of a Trust Fund for the purpose of financing the new international environment prize. The Secretary-General's consent to the establishment of the Trust Fund and delegation of his responsibility for administering it to the Executive Director was communicated to the latter early in August 1982.

11. The procedures for administering the prize are still being discussed with the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation and when these are finalized, the initial endowment of \$1 million is expected to be deposited to enable the Trust Fund to be activated.

I. Special purpose trust funds for the provision of junior professional officers

12. Under the agreement with the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) which provides funds to finance the appointment by UNEP of Danish junior professional officers, one junior officer worked at UNEP until 25 April 1982. The appointment of another junior officer is expected in 1983.

13. Discussions with the Government of Norway regarding arrangements for financing the appointment by UNEP of Norwegian junior professional officers were successfully concluded with an exchange of letters between UNEP and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway on 13 October 1982. One Norwegian junior professional officer has been appointed by UNEP under this scheme, all costs relating to this appointment being charged to the relevant special purpose Trust Fund.

14. During 1982 UNEP entered into similar agreements with the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The Secretary-General was formally requested in December 1982 to delegate his responsibility for administering the schemes to the Executive Director.

II. OTHER FUNDS

A. Special Account for financing the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

15. The Special Account for financing the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification was established by the General Assembly in December 1978 by resolution 33/116, Part C, section IX. While the Executive

Director was authorized by the Secretary-General to accept pledges of contributions to the Account, to review and approve cost plans, and to allocate and allot funds, as at 31 December 1982, only \$43,524 in contributions had been received from five countries as follows: Chile, Mexico, Panama, Sierra Leone and Sudan. Two other countries, Brazil and Bangladesh, have indicated a willingness to contribute but have not yet specified an amount. No commitments have been incurred under this Account as yet, but it will soon be used to provide technical assistance to countries affected by desertification.

Notes

- 1/ Decision 10/27.
 - 2/ Ibid.
 - 3/ UNEP/GC.10/10/Add.2 and Supplements 1 and 2.
 - 4/ Decision 10/27, para. 11.
 - 5/ Ibid.
 - 6/ Decision 9/26, para. 1 (c).
 - 7/ Ibid., para. 1 (d).
 - 8/ Ibid., para. 1 (e).
 - 9/ Ibid., para. 1 (f).
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