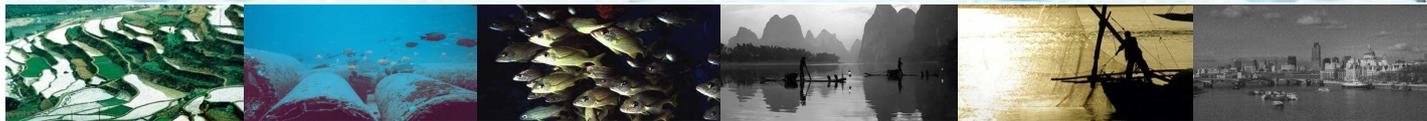


GPA Outreach



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ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

Indicators for Assessing Progress

River basin management, coastal management and management of large marine ecosystems (LMEs) cannot independently solve many of the challenges posed by intensifying human activity and ecosystem change. Increasingly, human activities are causing changes in ecosystems that have transboundary consequences. For example, the pollutants that degrade human health and reduce the goods and services in estuaries and LMEs may originate from human activities far inland that are transported by rivers to the coast. On a planet dominated by the impacts of human activities, it is increasingly necessary to design and implement management programmes that address the complex linkages between marine systems, coastal regions and river basins. Transboundary management is complex and must span long time periods. It is therefore important to clearly define how success will be achieved and how progress will be assessed. Simplified methods are needed that offer an overview of the status of a given programme at a given time and can trace progress by a consistent set of indicators.

The challenges of addressing human activities within river basins and in coastal areas that affect the state of coastal and marine ecosystems is the subject of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, coordinated by UNEP. Initiated in 1995, this global programme assists nations in the development of National Programmes of Action (NPAs) that address these linked issues and work to mitigate the impacts of human activities that reduce or threaten the goods and services that flow from coastal and marine ecosystems.

Ecosystem based management: Indicators for assessing progress is a document being prepared for IGR-2 that presents a framework for a sequence of indicators that can be used to mark the advance to more sustainable forms of development at the ecosystem level. This framework identifies the critical outcomes associated with a sequence of accomplishments associated with planning, implementation of a plan of action and the achievement of goals that can be used to gauge progress on that path. It offers a framework for disaggregating the goal of sustainable development into a sequence of tangible



levels of achievement. The focus is on outcomes rather than management processes. Sets of indicators are offered that can be used to assess progress in integrated management of river basins, coasts or large marine

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Consultation on the Global Programme of Action Held at World Water Week

On Tuesday 22 August, 2006 Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future, in collaboration with the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office, held a stakeholder consultation on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) at the World Water Week in Stockholm. The consultation aimed to engage stakeholders from the freshwater community in the preparatory process of the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the GPA, being held in Beijing, China on 16-20 October 2006. Participants highlighted the importance of cross-cutting issues such as health, gender, and multi-stakeholder participation.

Mr Chris Tompkins, of the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), opened the meeting by welcoming participants to the consultation and highlighting the importance of stakeholder engagement to the GPA process. He explained that the GPA was adopted in 1995 by 108 Governments and the

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GPA Outreach supports the preparatory work for the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA)

This World Water Week Series of GPA Outreach is produced by Stakeholder Forum and the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, in collaboration with the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office and the Stockholm International Water Institute.



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IGR-2 UPDATE

THE IGR-2 AGENDA

IGR-2 Update aims to provide key information about the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. Articles in this World Water Week Series of GPA Outreach will include details on the IGR-2 preparatory process, agenda, and supporting documents.

On 16-20 October 2006, the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) will be held in Beijing, China.

IGR-2 Day 1: National Implementation in Action

The purpose of this Day is to chart the way forward in the national implementation of the GPA. Three breakout sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to share experience and best practice approaches. The sessions will focus on identifying, scaling up and expanding the implementation of best practices. Key lessons learned will be transmitted to the Ministerial/High-level Segment of IGR-2. Full details are available at www.gpa.unep.org

The Breakout sessions are:

- Mainstreaming the GPA into national development plans
- Financing the implementation of the GPA
- Strengthening national legislative and institutional frameworks to further implement the GPA

IGR-2 Day 2: Partnerships– Mainstreaming the GPA

The Partnerships Day at IGR-2 is a forum where existing and new partnerships that implement the GPA will meet and interact with government representatives and other stakeholders participating in IGR-2. Over twenty Partnership workshops will be held in parallel with each workshop running for 1.5–2 hours. Details of each workshop are available at www.gpa.unep.org. A summary report of the Partnerships Day will be forwarded to the Ministerial/High-level Segment of IGR-2.

The purpose of the Partnership Day at IGR-2 is to:

- Support and encourage the further implementation of the GPA in the work-programmes of existing partnerships, regional/global organisations and NGOs.
- Highlight the important role of these multi-stakeholder partnerships in implementing the GPA, benchmark their success to date, discuss lessons learned and chart a course of action for the coming five years.

IGR-2 Day 3: Building a Common Agenda

Day 3 will focus on a set of official working documents that will be finalized and transmitted to the Ministerial/High-level Segment IGR-2. These include:

- *Guidance to the Implementation of the GPA 2007-2011: GPA contribution to the internationally agreed goals and targets for the sustainable development of oceans, coasts and islands.* The purpose of this document is to promote the GPA as a valuable tool to contribute to achieving the goals and targets set by the international community in recent years thereby demonstrating that due to its cross-sectoral character, the GPA is relevant and well suited to respond to the new challenges associated with the impact of land-based activities on coastal and marine environments.
- *UNEP/GPA Coordination Office Programme of Work for 2007-2011* outlines a new phase in the implementation of the GPA, and activities the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office could undertake to catalyse and facilitate the mainstreaming and integration of the GPA at the international, regional and national levels.

IGR-2 Day 4 & 5: Ministerial/High-level Segment and Parallel Regional Sessions - Building Momentum and Partnerships

Ministerial/High-level Segment: The Ministerial Segment will provide a forum for debate on a number of key issues related to the GPA as outlined in a draft Ministerial Segment background paper available at www.gpa.unep.org. The Ministerial/High-level Segment is expected to endorse the Beijing Declaration on furthering the implementation of the GPA. The Declaration is expected to focus on improving the implementation of the GPA through mainstreaming and integrating the GPA into international and national development planning, improving coastal and ocean governance, building partnerships and ensuring adequate financing.

Parallel Regional Sessions - Building Momentum and Partnerships:

To forward and integrate the outcomes of Days 1, 2, and 3 of the IGR-2, regions are invited to convene multi-stakeholder regional/sub-regional meetings to be held concurrently with the Ministerial segment. These regional meetings will provide a forum for participants to discuss and agree on ways and means to take the emerging outcomes of IGR-2 forward at the regional and sub-regional level and to build synergies and partnerships to advance further initiatives as they relate to the sustainable development of oceans, coasts and small island developing States, and their associated watersheds.

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PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Day 2 of the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the Global Programme of Action is Partnerships Day. The Partnerships Day is a forum where existing and new partnerships that implement the GPA will meet and interact with government representatives and other stakeholders participating in IGR-2. Partnership Spotlight aims to profile a selection of the more than twenty Partnerships that will be featured at the IGR-2.

White Water to Blue Water



White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) partnership established at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and led by the Caribbean Community, Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the

Caribbean (UN-ECLAC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United States of America. The partnership is under the direction of an international Executive Committee representing governments, U.N. organizations, non-governmental organizations, universities and the private sector.

White Water to Blue Water is based on the premise that sustainable development in the Wider Caribbean region is not possible without integrated watershed and marine ecosystem-based management. The process is designed to create and expand as many partnerships aimed at these twin goals as possible.

The White Water to Blue Water Partnership Conference held in Miami on March 22-26, 2004 was an important event in the implementation of the partnership. The meeting was designed to focus on four overlapping themes: integrated watershed management; marine ecosystem-based management; sustainable tourism and environmentally sound marine transportation. In addition, the issues were addressed through several cross-cutting themes, including education, marine science and adaptation to climate change.

In preparation for the meeting, International Visiting Teams, went to Wider Caribbean countries to encourage the formation of interagency "Country Teams" for the purpose of identifying WW2BW opportunities and, more specifically, to participate in the Miami Conference. Also, during the months preceding the Conference, a "Rollup" of partnerships, organized by theme, was created and transferred to a matchmaking website (www.ww2bw.org)

for the purpose of maximizing new opportunities. The website continues to perform a matchmaking function for the region for the foreseeable future.

The Miami Conference was designed to create as many partnership opportunities as possible. Plenary sessions were short and inspirational in nature, while most of the Conference was organized into breakout sessions. Evening opportunities were set aside for country teams to meet and compare notes. The first plenary session of each day was set aside for announcements of new partnerships. Two evenings were set aside for informal matchmaking socials, with tables available for those who wished to gather to discuss specific topics. The Tuesday social focused on UNEP's GPA. Several partnerships discussed at this event were spawned at the Regional Consultative Meeting on the GPA Programme of Work in the Wider Caribbean sponsored by UNEP and the Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC) (February 10-12, 2004, Colon, Republic of Panama). It is hoped that the concept of using multiple meetings, under varying auspices to focus on specific themes and programs might be, in itself, a new method for promoting partnerships in the region.

In the spring and early summer of 2006, the Executive Committee held periodic meetings to discuss the next steps forward under the newly established WW2BW structure. The new structure is composed of a small Executive Committee, the wider Governing Council and a Secretariat which provides support for WW2BW activities. A WW2BW Governing Council Meeting will be held preceding the November 29 Caribbean Environment Program Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) in Montego Bay. This will provide an opportunity to update the Council and regional participants on the new structure and ideas for further partnering in the key theme areas of integrated watershed management, environmentally sound marine transportation, sustainable tourism, and marine ecosystem-based management. The upcoming meeting will be the first of the larger WW2BW Council and will provide new opportunities for involvement in the partnership.

The Executive Committee is also working on development of a "Mobilizing Resources Primer" as well as other resources and materials that will be useful to Council members and distributed at the Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action in Beijing in October and the IGM in Montego Bay in November. The resources will also be available on the www.ww2bw.org website as soon as possible.

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PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT continued

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White Water to Blue Water currently serves as a model for orchestrating successful partnerships. The White Water to Blue Water tools can be used to establish similar partnership models in other regions. During Partnerships Day at IGR-2, lessons learned, pitfalls that may occur, and what needs to be done by the WW2BW Partnership in order to move forward would be discussed. As a flagship of the partnerships, WW2BW will hold a discussion on how other partnerships can replicate the WW2BW model and how they can adapt the model for their own involvement in the GPA. WW2BW can also provide insights on their experience in dealing with the difficulties of getting off the ground and in sustaining momentum. Finally the WW2BW workshop at IGR-2 will explore the potential synergies between international plans of action to protect watersheds and coastal areas.

For more information about this partnership, please contact:

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Strategic Partnerships for International Waters in the Global Environmental Facility: Mainstreaming GPA in Transboundary Basins and in Large Marine Ecosystems

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) international waters (IW) focal area targets assistance to transboundary water systems, such as river basins with water flowing from one country to another, groundwater resources shared by several countries, or marine ecosystems bounded by more than one nation, such as Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs). Among the primary concerns addressed are water pollution, habitat conservation, and ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries. In certain cases, once cooperating nations have agreed upon a joint strategic action program (SAP) to address such issues, the GEF leverages additional support to implement the action program through long-term Strategic Partnerships.

At the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the UNEP-GPA (IGR-2), several GEF-supported strategic partnerships that explicitly address land-based sources of marine pollution will be presented: These focus on the Danube-Black Sea Basin, the Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) of East Asia and (as discussed elsewhere) the Mediterranean Sea.

The GEF Strategic Partnership on the Black Sea and Danube Basin is an initiative aimed at reducing agricultural, industrial, and municipal sources of nitrogen and phosphorous pollution resulting in the "dead zone" in the Black Sea. The elements of the Partnership are two UNDP-GEF Regional Projects and the World Bank/GEF Investment Fund:

- The Danube Regional Project (DRB): Strengthening the Implementation Capacities for Nutrient Reduction and Transboundary Cooperation in the Danube River Basin
- The Black Sea Ecosystems Recovery Project (BSERP): Control of eutrophication, hazardous substances and related measures for rehabilitating the Black Sea ecosystem
- World Bank Investment Fund for Nutrient Reduction in the Danube-Black Sea Basin Pertinent to GPA, specific focus is on reduction of land-based sources of nutrient pollution in the entire Black Sea basin.

The long-term goal of the developing Strategic Partnership on East Asia's LMEs is to reduce pollution in the LMEs of East Asia and to promote sustainable coastal development through ICM. This partnership consists of two components:

1. The Regional Component entitled the UNDP-GEF Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia Project implemented in parallel with the Fund, and responsible for stakeholder involvement, dissemination of lessons learned, replication of good practice, and capacity building.
2. The investment component, entitled the World Bank/GEF Partnership Investment Fund for Pollution Reduction in the Large Marine Ecosystems of East Asia (the Fund) develops partnerships for investments on land-based pollution reduction.

Both partnerships are explicitly action oriented, building upon long-term strategies endorsed by their respective national governments. Hence, both their historical experience and expected actions transcend geographic

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scales and are potentially transferable to other regions working to address land-base sources of marine pollution. They also bring together agencies with different comparative advantages to work on behalf of the GEF and the GPA.

The GEF also plays a catalytic role in helping countries make full use of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments necessary to address these complex transboundary water concerns. To stimulate and facilitate exchange of experiences and lessons learned among different international waters projects, GEF initiated a specific project known as [IW:LEARN](#). The project organizes staff exchanges between projects that face similar challenges (e.g., large marine ecosystem projects), forums to stimulate collaboration between international waters projects in a particular region (e.g., the Caribbean), and structured learning for South-to-South exchanges of experience. To further increase this exchange of experiences, a GEF international waters conference is organized every two years to bring together country representatives from all GEF international waters projects. The role IW:LEARN plays in helping to transfer practical GPA-related experience within and among regions is also highlighted.



For more information on the above partnerships, please contact:

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The Ecosystem Approach

The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. It is based on the application of appropriate scientific methodologies focused on levels of biological organization which encompass the essential processes, functions and interactions among organisms and their environment. It recognizes that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integral component of ecosystems.

ecosystems and in programmes that link across these systems. The indicators are organized into a framework composed of four Orders of Outcomes. The First Order is achieved by assembling the enabling conditions for the sustained practice of ecosystem-based management. The First Order culminates in negotiating commitments to implement a plan of action directed at a set of priority management issues. The implementation of a plan of action is addressed in the Second Order, as changes occur in the behaviour of institutions and relevant user

groups, and the programme succeeds in generating the funds required to sustain a programme over the long term. The Third Order marks the achievement of the specific societal and environmental quality goals that prompted the entire effort.

In ecosystems that are much altered by human activities the achievement of a sequence of Third Order goals over long time periods typically marks the path to sustainable forms of development. This Orders of Outcomes framework is applied to assess progress on issues that integrate across management of coasts and river basins. *Ecosystem based management: Indicators for assessing progress* also identifies major lessons that have emerged from coastal and water resources management. It offers guidance on the design and conduct of ecosystem-based management initiatives that address both the impacts of human activities and the need to sustain or restore the goods and services that are generated by healthy ecosystems. Please see <http://www.gpa.unep.org> for further information.

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European Commission in response to the increasing threat to the marine environment from human activities on land. Mr Tompkins noted that as an instrument to tackle marine pollution, the GPA has raised awareness of marine and coastal issues and the need to mainstream them into development planning.

Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, further emphasised the need to link freshwater and coastal environments. She highlighted the important role of the GPA in this process, as the only intergovernmental programme that addresses the linkages between freshwater and the coastal environment. Dr. Cicin-Sain explained that partnerships are an important part of furthering the implementation of the GPA. She explained that the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands is proposing a partnership with many partners from around the world to prepare a global report on the status and trends in the implementation of policy initiatives in ecosystem management, and integrated coastal and ocean management. Ms. Miriam Balgos, Global Forum of Oceans Coasts and Islands, explained that the upcoming IGR-2 of the GPA will include a day dedicated to partnerships, where 23 partnerships will be presented.

Mr. Felix Dodds, Stakeholder Forum, briefly outlined the role of Stakeholder Forum in engaging stakeholders in the preparatory process of the IGR-2. He noted that Stakeholder Forum had facilitated the preparation a stakeholder position for the Preparatory Meeting of the IGR-2 in June, and that many of the recommendations had been incorporated. He explained that the Ministerial/high level segment of the IGR-2 is expected to endorse the Beijing Declaration on furthering the implementation of the GPA. He called on participants to offer their suggestions on how the Beijing Declaration could be strengthened, particularly from the perspective of the freshwater community. He noted that it is important for stakeholders to have the opportunity to input to intergovernmental processes, as it yields stronger outcomes and improved implementation.

Participants in the meeting highlighted the need to strengthen the inclusion and integration of cross cutting issues within the document. Emphasis was placed on the importance of marine resources for food security and human health, and that marine resources need to be

better valued and understood. The need to establish quantifiable benchmarks for marine pollution was called for, as was the need for a universal set of indicators to assess marine pollution. Gender and the diversity of people was highlighted as a critical element missing from the Beijing Declaration. The role of various Major Groups including local authorities and environmental NGOs in furthering the implementation of the GPA was discussed, and the need to reinforce multi-stakeholder participation at the national level was noted.

A full report of the meeting will be available at www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa.html

As a follow up to the side-event on Tuesday, a second meeting will take place today at World Water Week:

African Stakeholder Consultation: Developing Solutions to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in the African Context

Wednesday 23 August, 2006
Lunch Session (12:15-13:15)
Norra Latin, Room 255

ABOUT UNEP/GPA



The GPA was adopted in 1995 by 108 Governments and the European Commission in response to the increasing threat to the marine environment from human activities on land. The GPA is designed to be a source of conceptual and practical guidance for national and/or regional authorities for devising and implementing sustained action to prevent, reduce, control and/or eliminate marine degradation from land-based activities.

The United Nations Environment Programme acts as the Secretariat for the GPA. The UNEP/GPA Coordination Office, located in The Hague, The Netherlands supports the implementation of the GPA by: promoting and facilitating the implementation of the GPA at the national level and the regional and sub-regional level and playing a catalytic role with other organisations and institutions in the implementation of the GPA at the international level.

For more information please visit www.gpa.unep.org

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