

GPA Outreach



24th August 2006

GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

World Water Week
Series Issue 4

PHYSICAL ALTERATION AND DESTRUCTION OF HABITATS

The Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats (PADH) was identified as a priority issue in the 1995 Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA). The objectives of the PADH programme are:

- to safeguard ecosystem function and maintain coastal habitats which are of major socio-economic and ecological interest, and
- to where practicable restore marine and coastal habitats.

These objectives are to be achieved in large part through the formulation, adoption and implementation of programmes for integrated coastal management (ICM) in accordance with Agenda 21, Chapter 17 of the Rio Declaration of 1992.

Recognition of the link between PADH and ICM programmes has proved to be important since large investments in ICM programs have been made by national governments, bilateral and multilateral donors, national and international NGOs and, in some cases, the private sector. Today ICM programmes at a range of spatial scales are underway in nearly 100 nations representing all world regions. In many of the most well established national ICM programmes the physical alteration of coastlines and their associated habitats has been either the top priority issue or one of the priority issues addressed.

The UNEP/GPA Coordination Office PADH programme focuses on the impact of major infrastructure work on the coastal and marine environment from the legal, economic and scientific perspectives, particularly as they relate to tourism, aquaculture, mining and the development of ports and harbours. Land use planning and construction in coastal zones has been a priority focus area as little has been done in this area though considerable environmental damage occurs during construction (see <http://padh.gpa.unep.org/>). Key Principles for minimizing physical alteration of coastal areas, destruction of habitats and sediment mobilisation have been formulated to increase awareness and build consensus amongst national governments, industry and business associations, the UN and intergovernmental bodies. Various agencies have endorsed these key principles: in the case of those for ports and harbours, the International Navigation Organisation (PIANC) and private sector institutions, such as the International Association of Ports and Harbour

(IAPH), the International Association of Dredging Companies (IADC) and the Central Dredging Association (CEDA); and in the case of principles for Tourism development, the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). Key principles for aquaculture are being put together in a joint effort with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific (NACA), the World Bank and the World Wild Life Fund (WWF). A set of Guiding Principles for shrimp aquaculture have also been developed and were endorsed in February 2006 by the Governing Council of NACA, and is scheduled for endorsement by FAO in September. The implementation of these principles take place at the national level through their incorporation in various sectoral policies and through the initiation of pilot projects within the framework of National Programmes of Action (NPA) for the protection of the coastal and marine environment.



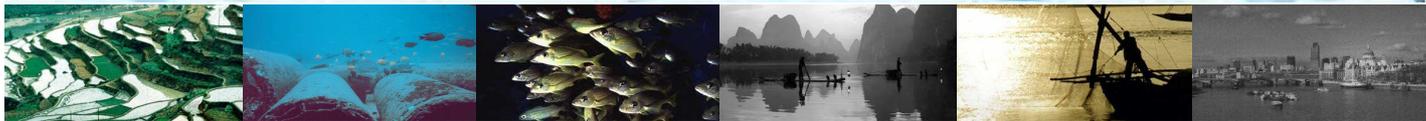
As the GPA looks to the future there are major opportunities for a careful review of the progress that has been made in habitat protection and restoration in a wide range of settings. At the global scale the destruction of critically important habitats is continuing and in some cases even accelerating. There is an urgent need to identify what factors enable, and what factors resist, the changes in human behaviour at the societal and institutional scales that lead to positive outcomes. The Second Intergovernmental Review (IGR-2) meeting of the GPA offers the opportunities for discussing them further to chart the way forward for the implementation of a plan of action and the achievement of goals that integrate across the human and environmental dimensions of ecosystem health. Such methods can play a central role in increasing the impact of investments in the many plans and programmes that are contributing to protection and restoration of habitats.

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

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.

address the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities to show the opportunities and challenges of both legally binding instruments and non-binding mechanisms. The aim of the review is to provide a guide to more effective implementation of the GPA, primarily at the regional level, through existing, new or amended binding and non-binding legal mechanisms.

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. The Intergovernmental Review Meetings are a forum where Governments and other stakeholders meet to review the status of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and decide on action to be taken to strengthen the implementation of the GPA. A number of supporting information documents are being prepared as an input to IGR-2:

Protecting Coastal and Marine Environments from Land-based Activities: A Guide for National Action

This Guide revises and updates the 2002 Handbook on the Development and Implementation of National Programmes of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (NPAs). It introduces various guiding principles for national action, and stipulates the process should be adapted to the specific situation in a country, addressing key activities that proved to be critical for success. In this regard, the NPA process should ideally build on existing strategic mechanisms and programmes, guarantee political support and commitment, mobilize stakeholders and resources at the right levels, link up to existing institutional, budgetary, policy and legal frameworks, work with achievable targets, budgets and long term financing, and incorporate lessons learnt in the process. In summary, implementation is at the core of the new NPA Guide, and it is emphasised that activities in the NPA process should be based on realistic assumptions of available and potential financing, institutional arrangements and capacity needed to implement activities in the short, medium and long term.

The State of the Marine Environment: Trends and Processes

This report aims is to give a broad global perspective on the state of the marine environment, providing regional and sometimes national examples. The report provides an overview of the current state of the coastal and marine environment in relation to the nine categories of threats outlined by the GPA. The report indicates that legal and institutional arrangements have been strengthened and now cover most regions of the world. In addition, ongoing programmes, including GEF supported large marine ecosystems (LME) programmes, contribute to the implementation of the GPA. Despite these heightened efforts globally, coastal and marine ecosystems continue to deteriorate mainly because of pressures by human development. Progress in dealing with the nine GPA source categories has been uneven: progress has been made in Persistent Organic Pollutants, Radioactive Substances and Oils (Hydrocarbons), results are mixed in Heavy Metals and Sediment mobilization and conditions have worsened in Sewage, Nutrients, Marine Litter, and Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats.

Other IGR-2 supporting documents include:

- The State of the Marine Environment: Regional Assessments
- Financing for the implementation of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
- Ecosystem-based management: Markers for assessing progress

The IGR-2 supporting documents are available as they are ready at www.gpa.unep.org

Implementation of the GPA at the regional level: The role of Regional Seas Conventions and their Protocols

The UNEP/GPA Coordination Office has commissioned this review of existing binding and non-binding instruments that

16 - 20 October
Beijing, 2006

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GPA Outreach



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World Water Week Series Issue 4

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Increasing Public Awareness of the Global Oceans Agenda, Implementation of the Ocean Awareness and Stewardship Activities and Promotion of the Citizenship of the Ocean

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.

The World Ocean Network Partnership was formed to put together an Ocean Information



Package, a collection of public information materials on ocean issues, which aims to enhance general public awareness of the Global Oceans Agenda and engage the public into concrete actions for the sustainable use of the world oceans. This Information Package will be developed and produced by the World Ocean Network in collaboration with the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, the UNEP/GPA, and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO in the framework of the GEF-UNEP-UNESCO/IOC Project on Fostering a Global Dialogue on Oceans, Coasts, and SIDS, and on Freshwater-Coastal-Marine Interlinkages.

The main objective of the World Ocean Network Partnership is to motivate the widest possible audience on a worldwide scale to inspire new behaviour that respects the environment and thus promotes an intelligent and sustainable use of the ocean. Embedded in the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands objectives concerning oceans and World Summit on Sustainable Development targets, the World Ocean Network mission is to rally organizations (aquaria, zoos, science centres, institutions, associations, NGOs, etc.) to reach out to the public at large and engage citizens into sustainable actions. WON estimates its potential audience to be 200 million people per year, i.e., 1 million people contacted, 350 million people affected, and 100 million people who are active Citizens of the Ocean in 10 years time.

Why is it important to communicate toward the public at large? How can public mobilization change ocean governance? How can a citizen contribute to sustainable

use of the ocean? These are the questions that the Partnership would like to address in the development of the Ocean Information Package and its worldwide dissemination with specific focus on further implementation of measures and best practices to mobilize the general public into action.

The Ocean Information Package will be composed of public information materials on ocean issues and sustainable use of marine resources that aim to provide practical guidance to the general public regarding taking individual or joint concrete actions. The Ocean Information Package is intended to supply museums and aquaria staff as well as teachers and educators with information, tools and other materials to communicate towards the general public. It will include ocean facts, World Summit on Sustainable Development decisions, the World Ocean Network communication tools, in ready to print templates for people and organizations willing to communicate towards the public at large and activity sheets and cues for the average individual on what he or she can do to move forward on the oceans agenda. It will also include a background summary text "One World, One Ocean," on the implementation of ocean awareness raising activities and promotion of the Citizenship of the Ocean.

The crucial components of the World Ocean Network communication strategy and the action plan to be included in the Ocean Information Package and consequently in the Partnership objectives are the official designation by the United Nations of June 8th as the international World Ocean Day celebrated worldwide, and the promotion of the Citizenship of the Ocean. The World Ocean Day is a perfect occasion to raise the international profile of the ocean through jointly organized cultural, educational, scientific, recreational activities based on the themes of water, the ocean and sustainable development. Easy to implement and adapt and highly attractive to the general public, it is an opportunity to promote better ways of life that preserve the planet's equilibrium and to encourage everyone to act for the well-being of humanity and the



Blue Planet. The Citizenship of the Ocean is the first step towards an active and responsible stewardship of the planet's environment.

At the IGR-2, the Partnership will hold a discussion about the implementation of a joint information campaign in coordination with UNEP GPA. The discussion aims to produce lists of 10 things that can be done by the general

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PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT continued

public to protect the marine environment to be developed by major civil society representative groups specific to their sectors and areas of expertise and geographical location.

The power of public opinion to change behaviour and perceptions of policy decision makers and stakeholders and push them to take action must not be neglected. The general public needs to play a more integrated and mobilizing role in the protection of the marine environment. To this end, the World Ocean Network strategy seeks to further develop targeted general public communication materials and instruments to increase public awareness of the ocean related issues and to forward the oceans agenda in synergy with the GPA. In other terms, as a highly action-oriented institution, the World Ocean Network translates the GPA into a general public awareness raising action plan to be conducted by its partners and members in a coherent and mutually supportive manner at a global, national, regional and local scale.

The Partnership hopes that by promoting sustainable behaviour towards the oceans, the World Ocean Network could provide the general public via its members and partners with ideas of concrete actions and measures that the average individual can do to protect the oceans, and inspire them to adopt new habits that respect the environment and use the ocean resources in a sustainable way, such as the public information campaign on sustainable seafood consumption or the information on how the average individual can reduce pollution affecting the oceans. One of the objectives of this Partnership will be to further develop this information effort in pursuit of UNEP GPA objectives.

The Partnership hopes to further implement the GPA in its programme of work during the period 2007-2011 by publishing and disseminating the Ocean Information Package in English, French and Spanish through networks of educational and public awareness organizations and therefore facilitate the free flow of information and communication tools about the GPA, the state of the ocean, and the sustainable use of marine resources. The Partnership will also further develop and consolidate the World Ocean Network regional coordination nodes as a means to implement this Partnership. The World Ocean Network already conducts its activities through regional coordination nodes in conjunction with local partners. Global actions are locally adapted to meet local needs. This is what allows us to reach a very large audience. As an example, a presentation of the Chinese perspective for the

development of the World Ocean Network activities is expected to be given by Mr. Weiyong Hu, General Manager, Beijing Aquarium, China, at the IGR-2 Partnerships Day, in addition to presentations from other international speakers, including Dr. Ram Boojh, Coordinator/Scientist in Charge, Centre for Environment Education, India; Manuel Cira, Head of Cultural Services, NAUSICAA Centre National de la Mer, France; Leonard Sonnenschein, President, World Aquarium City Museum, USA; Philippe Vallette, General Manager, NAUSICAA, Centre National de la Mer, France.

For more information about the Partnership, please contact:

Mr. Philippe Vallette
World Ocean Network Co-chair
Secretariat – c/o NAUSICAA, Centre National de la Mer
BP 189 - Bd Sainte-Beuve - 62203 Boulogne sur Mer
Cedex - France
Tel : +33 (0)3 21 30 99 99 / Fax : +33 (0)3 21 30 93 94
Email: info@worldoceannetwork.org
Website: www.worldoceannetwork.org

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

CONTACTS

- For general GPA enquiries, including information about IGR-2 please email igr2@unep.nl or telephone +31 70 311 4460.
- For information on this newsletter, contact Jennifer Peer at jpeer@stakeholderforum.org or Miriam Balgos at mbalgos@UDel.Edu