

**Stakeholder Submission  
to the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the  
Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the  
Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities**

**19 October 2006, Beijing, China**

Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the Millennium Development Goals set out the framework for our commitments and activities on sustainable development and in particular on marine and coastal issues.

Stakeholders<sup>1</sup> from several Major Groups have taken the opportunity of the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities to review the status of the marine environment and the threats to it from land-based sources of pollution. We are concerned with the rapid pace of development in coastal areas, increased discharges from industrial, agricultural and domestic sources, and growing exploitation of marine resources that are putting growing stresses on the marine environment in many parts of the world. A further impact on the ocean from land-based activities is the climate change created by global warming, the results of which are degrading the ocean habitat and marine life.

Stakeholders recognize the progress that has been made in some places in establishing regimes to monitor and control pollution levels. In many places, however, these systems are incomplete or are not being implemented with sufficient vigor to prevent further deterioration. We believe the Global Programme of Action provides a unique opportunity to focus attention on the scale of the problems and to secure high-level political commitment to a more determined programme of action at national and international levels.

Stakeholders assert that the establishment of targets, timetables and commitments of appropriate resources are critical to the delivery of the Global Programme of Action and the preservation of our marine environment.

Stakeholders believe that their involvement in all stages in the development and implementation of strategies at national and local levels is vital, taking full advantage of their knowledge, experience and skills. National programmes of action should be based upon extensive consultation with stakeholders at all levels and should include measures to raise awareness and understanding of the issues and problems and to develop the capacity of groups and of the public to play their parts in influencing decision-making processes and proposing and implementing solutions.

Stakeholders are already working in partnerships to implement the Global Programme of Action, but these partnerships often are not supported with adequate financing to enable them to fulfil their potential and to foster replication. Funding for partnerships should be new and additional resources from both governments and stakeholders. Greater flexibility by international financial institutions should be encouraged in supporting stakeholder activities for the purposes of the Global Programme of Action.

**To further the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, stakeholders will:**

1. Utilize their scientific, technical and policy expertise and experience to identify and highlight degradation of marine and coastal environments and associated river basins by land-based activities;
2. Advocate solutions to identified problems and the means of overcoming obstacles to implementation of the Global Programme of Action;
3. Practice, in their own operations and activities, efforts to minimize impacts on the marine environment, thus providing leadership by example;

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<sup>1</sup> During the preparatory process of the second session, a consultative process with major groups and other stakeholders was held to develop stakeholder inputs to the Beijing Declaration and a stakeholder submission to the second session of the Global Programme of Action. Inputs were collected during meetings in Mexico City, Stockholm, New York, London, and Beijing. These inputs supplemented the informal consultative process. The outcomes of this process were built upon and finalised by stakeholders attending the second session.

4. Promote civic participation in implementing the goals of the Global Programme of Action, particularly at the local, sub-national and national levels;
5. Introduce and emphasize concerns of the Global Programme of Action, especially regarding freshwater-coastal-marine linkages, into international environmental forums, including the annual meetings of the World Water Week in Stockholm and World Water Forums;
6. Provide leadership by identifying and testing innovative technologies and promoting community-based approaches for reducing pollution from land-based activities, particularly from human and industrial wastes;
7. Endeavor to enhance communication and collaboration among stakeholders in programmes and activities directly and indirectly in support of the Global Programme of Action;
8. Work with the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office to develop appropriate partnerships to realize the Global Programme of Action and commitments made at the second session;
9. Work to quantify and publicize the values of the marine environment and its uses, including, inter alia, through work at the national level with ministries of the environment; and
10. Promote collaboration with local, sub-national, national governments and at the regional and international levels to further the implementation of international commitments.

**We call on governments and other bodies in implementing the Global Programme of Action to:**

11. Develop and implement national programmes of action with adequate resource allocations;
12. Mainstream and integrate the Global Programme of Action into all national development strategies and environmental policies, including poverty reduction strategy programmes, and include relevant goals and targets in such strategies and policies;
13. Exercise the political will necessary to achieve the goals of the Global Programme of Action, by identifying specific, quantitative goals for reducing adverse impacts from land-based activities from all nine source categories identified in the Global Programme of Action, and ensure the use of existing mechanisms for achieving these goals;
14. **Reinstate full funding for the work on International Waters at the next Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly**, while in the meantime, supporting a voluntary fund administered by UNEP to cover the reduction of funding agreed at the last session of the Global Environment Facility;
15. Finance the work programme of the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, and endorse its emphasis on assisting countries and regions to develop and implement action-oriented local, sub-national, national and regional programmes;
16. Ensure appropriate capacity-building, exchanges of information, and public education as tools to implement the Global Programme of Action;
17. Work through their National Councils for Sustainable Development and similar bodies to engage stakeholders in the development of both national policy options and partnerships to implement the Global Programme of Action and realize commitments made at the second session;
18. Promote and support the Local Agenda 21 framework to engage stakeholders in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action;
19. Actively involve local communities and other stakeholders in identifying problems, developing programmes of action and playing appropriate parts in implementation, based on traditional knowledge and other local resources;
20. Foster coordination among local and regional governments and organizations and cooperation among neighbouring countries and their organizations;

21. Promote and participate in significant partnerships with stakeholders and the public in furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action;
22. Ensure that all development and management plans for river basins that drain into coastal areas explicitly include protection of the marine and coastal environment and its living resources among their goals, thereby providing for the needs of river basin inhabitants and freshwater ecosystems;
23. Give greater emphasis to small- and medium-scale wastewater treatment facilities and provide financial support to alternatives to large-scale sewers and municipal wastewater treatment plants as one measure of addressing sewage pollution of coastal areas and associated river basins;
24. Implement a coastal restoration agenda focusing on a zero-loss policy, as one means of addressing coastal habitat degradation;
25. Give a high priority to identifying and implementing appropriate, cost-effective programmes and measures to address point and non-point sources of nutrient discharges, particularly programmes for the management and prevention of nitrogen and phosphorus run-off from agriculture activity;
26. Ensure national and regional programmes of action under the Global Programme of Action are consistent with the basic principles of ecosystem management, transparency, environmental education, training, institutional capacity-building, public awareness and participation, integrated approaches and equity, and the “polluter pays” and precautionary principles;
27. Understand that integrated management of watersheds with coastal and marine zones must consider appropriate geographic and also technical and political factors;
28. Identify and implement time tables to phase out subsidies for all materials and practices that are destructive to coastal and marine environments and associated watersheds and river basins;
29. Establish data and information systems to assure long-term preservation of data and information, to facilitate their exchange and to develop capacity-building programmes for States lacking relevant expertise;
30. Ratify and enforce all multilateral environmental agreements and related protocols relevant to achievement of the goals of the Global Programme of Action as rapidly as possible;
31. Undertake with their National Councils on Sustainable Development or similar bodies, in preparation for the third session of the Global Programme of Action, an assessment of challenges and obstacles to realization of commitments made under the Global Programme of Action and recommend policy options for the third session of the Global Programme of Action; and
32. Consider holding the third session of the Global Programme of Action in conjunction with a leading international freshwater event to facilitate improved cooperation among freshwater, coastal and marine stakeholder communities.