

# GPA Outreach



21st August 2006

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

World Water Week Series  
Issue 1

## WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of the **World Water Week Special Series** of *GPA Outreach* newsletter. *GPA Outreach* is a monthly newsletter designed to keep you up-to-date on the planning and preparatory events of 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), which will take place in Beijing from 16 – 20 October 2006.



The theme for the World Water Week is *Beyond the River – Sharing Benefits and Responsibilities*. Human activities, policies and natural systems form a complex web and the theme reflects that what happens in society and through policy has implications far beyond the river, the people and the sector with which political decisions and activities are associated. Similarly, links between land, water, ecosystems and other natural resources provide opportunities and challenges for appraising collaboration, technological improvement, development and management.<sup>1</sup>

In our efforts to approach water management in an integrated and holistic manner, we must remember the intrinsic links that exist between freshwater and oceans. Oceans have become the final destination for municipal sewage and solid waste, litter, chemical discharges from factories, fertilizer run-off and other pollution, much of which is transported to oceans by streams and rivers. The effects of this pollution are detrimental for the biodiversity and productivity of estuaries and near-shore coastal waters. The health, well-being, and in some cases the very survival of coastal populations depend largely upon the health and maintenance of the coastal ecosystems.

### Facts About the GPA:

- The GPA was adopted by 108 Governments and the European Commission in 1995.
- It targets major threats to the health, productivity and biodiversity of the marine and coastal environment resulting from human activities on land.
- The GPA proposes an integrated, multi-sectoral approach based on commitment to action at local, national, regional and global levels.
- It is an important global mechanism that explicitly addresses the linkages between freshwater, coastal and marine environments.

The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), adopted by 108 Governments and the European Commission in 1995, is one important response to these problems. Furthermore, it is the only global mechanism explicitly addressing linkages among coastal, marine and freshwater environments. The GPA has catalysed many governments around the world to build institutional capacities, and review legislative frameworks and environmental policies for the sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment. The GPA has raised international awareness and facilitated action to address the environmental dimension of urban sanitation and municipal wastewater, and the physical alteration and destruction of habitats. It is also recognised as a valuable tool for achieving internationally agreed goals and targets, including those associated with the Millennium Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy on Small Island Developing States. This was reaffirmed in Paragraph 33 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation which, in addition to endorsing the GPA, calls upon States to: "Make every effort to achieve substantial progress by the next GPA conference in 2006 to protect the marine environment from land-based activities."

This Special Series of *GPA Outreach*, produced daily at World Water Week in Stockholm aims to spread the message of the importance of linking coastal, marine and freshwater environments and to raise awareness about the important role of the Global Programme of Action. Over the week, this newsletter will provide information about the GPA and upcoming IGR-2, details of GPA-related activities taking place at the World Water Week, brief profiles of partnerships developed to implement the GPA, and related articles of interest.

We hope this newsletter will not only inform you, but also inspire you to become involved in GPA events at the World Water Week and beyond.

<sup>1</sup> [www.worldwaterweek.org](http://www.worldwaterweek.org)

*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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## LINKING THE MANAGEMENT OF FRESHWATER AND OCEANS

Human activities and their impacts on river basins are intrinsically linked to problems in the marine environment. Pollution discharges, increased freshwater use, land use practices, river regulation works and water resource development projects all have a crucial impact on coastal and ocean resources and may place the viability of coastal economic activities at risk. Increased demands for food by an expanding global population have necessitated a rapid growth of the agricultural sector in recent decades. The widespread and heavy use of fertilizers employed by modern agriculture hundreds of kilometres from the coast is making nutrient over-enrichment and eutrophication an increasingly hot issue in coastal waters. Oxygen depleted "dead zones" have been a rapidly expanding problem during the last decades in, for example, the Gulf of Mexico adjacent to the Mississippi River delta, the Baltic Sea and South China Sea. On the other hand, freshwater flows are critical to the health and productivity of estuaries and coastal waters. Increased demand of freshwater, mainly for irrigated agriculture (80% of water use) and urban development are depleting freshwater flows and damaging



coastal ecosystems and their vital functions as spawning and nursery grounds for coastal fisheries.

River basins and the marine environment share common problems and therefore require common solutions. The separate efforts of ocean management, coastal management and river basin management are not able to achieve their shared objectives. An integrated, ecosystem-based approach is needed, linking the management of river basins, coasts and oceans. The required scale of the area of integrated management is defined by the extent of the priority problems themselves, their driving forces, the extension of their impacts and anticipated societal responses. Defining the management area in such a way as a 'problem-shed' may easily allow for the inclusion of groundwaters, air deposition, and river catchments in marine management approaches.

### Activities

The Global Programme of Action and freshwater-coast partners established at the WSSD in 2002 the FreshCo partnership and developed a series of activities, such as workshops, pilot projects, and an ICARM (Integrated

### Freshwater to Oceans Linkages Highlighted at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum

Two sessions at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum highlighted the inextricable connection between freshwater and oceans and made specific recommendations for creating linkages among management regimes for watersheds, river basins, coasts, and oceans.

**Strengthening Crosscutting Schemes Toward the Integrated Management of Rivers and Coasts**, hosted by Mexico's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), addressed the need for: crosscutting interventions along the watershed to protect coastal areas from land-based sources of pollution; raising awareness that solutions to coastal pollution problems often must be internalized by freshwater basin managers as part of the IWRM and ICM (integrated coastal management) processes; encouraging integrated and shared policies for freshwater and coastal zones users; sharing practical experiences and best management practices on linking watershed, river basin, and coastal management.

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Coastal Area Management) expert group to promote and guide the management link. The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands established the Task Force on Linking Freshwater to Oceans and organized the Lisbon and Paris conferences in 2005/06 to promote linkages between freshwater and oceans.

### Forthcoming Publications

The GPA and its partners will issue two publications on linking the management of freshwaters to oceans in the next few months as a preparation for the IGR-2 meeting in October. The ICARM Casebook will capture the lessons learned from practical cases on linking the management of rivers and coasts. Case studies for some 20 river-coast systems will be analyzed to assess the need for and benefits of linking management. Measures taken and constraints and challenges encountered in establishing a management link will be examined. An ICARM Progress Marker report will give guidance on assessing progress towards linking the management of catchments and coasts. The specific objectives are to sketch a roadmap, to identify subsequent phases and outcomes, and to set adequate markers to guide and provide a yardstick for assessing progress.

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## LINKING THE MANAGEMENT OF FRESHWATER AND OCEANS cont.

**The International Workshop on Freshwater-Coastal-Marine Management Interlinkages** was held on January 10-11, 2006 in Mexico City, organized by the Consejo Consultivo del Agua - Mexico, The Mexican Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Centro EPOMEX, the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, UNEP/GPA and other collaborating organizations. Thirty-nine (39) experts from 29 countries participated in the workshop.

### Background

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), in 2002, called for all countries to develop Integrated Water Management Strategies by the end of 2005. These strategies are intended to build national and regional efforts to tackle specific water challenges. Similarly, the WSSD, as well as the MDGs, called for all countries to create systems for integrated coastal and ocean management to address downstream issues in coastal areas, in oceans, and in Small Island Developing States.

Today, it is important to address the challenge of linking freshwater to coasts and oceans from a new collaborative perspective that examines how decision-making and institutional arrangements can be aligned to achieve a true

“hydro-solidarity” between “upstream” and “downstream” stakeholders. Finding models for how these interests can be reconciled is an urgent and challenging task.

### Challenges and constraints

Workshop participants identified several challenges and constraints to achieving commitment, coordination and even communication on linked management of catchments and coasts/oceans. These included: institutional inadequacies; lack of awareness; limited information and analysis of linked issues; and that river basin management/integrated water resources management and coastal/ocean management policies represent two different traditions, with different disciplines and networks, with little communication between them.

### Management options - What could be done?

Participants noted the obvious benefits of linked management, namely the scope it provides to ensure that development activities upstream are planned and implemented with full knowledge of the potential impacts on the ecosystems and economic activities and livelihoods in the coastal and marine areas. In light of this, they proposed numerous recommendations on how to advance integrated management approaches:

#### At the global scale:

- Link the coastal/ocean and freshwater communities at important events by creating shared agendas, such as the World Water Week in Stockholm
- Develop a program of collaboration between global oceans organizations and global water organizations
- Operationalize the intended management link in the concrete support of such initiatives/targets like IWRM 2005 through, e.g., the IWRM InfoForum; in updating the definition of ICM, broadening the scope from the terrestrial zone to watersheds and oceans;
- Enforce the development of capabilities and common standards, methodologies, and indicators in linking freshwater to coasts to oceans.

#### At the regional/national scale:

- Focus not only on assessing interlinkages but take concrete next steps to establish multi-sectoral policies, institutional frameworks, stakeholder participation in policy making and planning across the freshwater-coastal interface.
- Promote GPA National Programmes of Action in the context of IWRM and Water Efficiency plans and Large Marine Ecosystem initiatives.
- Consider and respond to the difficulties that national authorities face in implementing multiple mandates.

The full workshop report is available at [www.globaloceans.org/freshwater/index.html](http://www.globaloceans.org/freshwater/index.html)

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Progress made in Mexico connecting freshwater and oceans institutions at the national level and in the Yucatan Peninsula was highlighted. Presenters focused on the role of the GEF in supporting freshwater to oceans projects worldwide, enabling progress to be made through institutionalization of watershed/river basin/coastal management linkages at local and regional levels.

**Management Link for Freshwater and Coasts – Progress in Local Actions**, hosted by UNEP/GPA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Ocean Service (NOAA/NOS); the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, in collaboration with SEMARNAT, Instituto Politecnico Nacional, Mexico, Centro de Ecología, Pesquerías y Oceanografía del Golfo de México (EPOMEX), Mexico, and the UNEP Regional Office for the Latin America and the Caribbean focused on lessons learned from specific case studies of freshwater-to-oceans linkages, including the example of Chilika Lagoon, India, which highlights specific socioeconomic improvements derived from linking watershed/river basin/coastal management. The GPA was highlighted as the major global program linking freshwater to oceans, and several cases of developing GPA National Programmes of Action in the Wider Caribbean were presented. Participants also discussed the opportunity for further developing specific programs of work for linking freshwater to oceans at global, national, and subnational levels.

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## IGR-2 UPDATE

### About the IGR-2

*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. 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.

The First Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-1) was held in Montreal, Canada in November 2001. More than 300 participants from over 80 countries took part in the meeting. IGR-1 was instrumental in furthering the implementation of the GPA such that it is now recognised as a valuable tool for furthering ecosystem approaches to coasts, oceans and island management.

Building on the outcomes of the IGR-1, representatives from governments, intergovernmental organisations, NGOs and other groups are expected to participate in IGR-2 in a results-oriented meeting. The objectives of the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the GPA (IGR-2) are to:

- Strengthen the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at national, regional and global levels.
- Contribute to the achievement of specific targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) as they relate to the Global Programme of Action, ecosystem approach, and sanitation.
- Provide guidance on the Programme of Work for the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office for the period 2007-2011.

The expected outcomes of IGR-2 will include approval of the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office Programme of Work for the period 2007- 2011, which includes activities to

address the GPA's contribution to key international goals and targets such as: The International Decade for Action: 'Water is Life', 2005-2015; ecosystem approach as per the JPOI 2010 target; and sanitation target of the JPOI 2015. 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.

The preparatory process for the IGR-2 is well underway. An informal preparatory meeting was held in Paris from 27-28 June at the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Government of France. Over 45 representatives participated and provided substantive and technical comments on various draft IGR-2 official documents. In addition, a series of consultations have been organised by the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office to gather feedback on various agenda items of IGR-2. A number of partners and organisations have offered their support to this process. To this end, Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future is partnering with UNEP/GPA to conduct stakeholder consultations in preparation for the IGR-2. The purpose of these dialogues is to enable a broad range of local, national, and regional stakeholders (including those who are unable to attend the IGR-2 in China) to share their positions and experiences on protection of the marine environment in advance of the IGR-2.

An IGR-2 High Level Steering Committee has also been formed. This important Committee will provide strategic policy guidance to UNEP/GPA Coordination Office during the preparations for IGR-2 and assist UNEP/GPA Coordination Office in the meeting itself.

For more information on the IGR-2, please visit [www.gpa.unep.org](http://www.gpa.unep.org)

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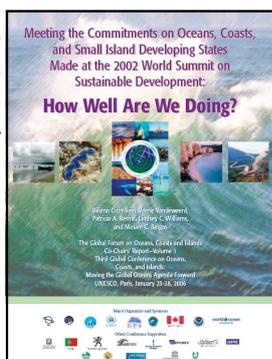
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## New Report on Meeting Global Commitments on Oceans, Coasts, Freshwater, and Islands

The world's political leaders made significant progress at the global level at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa, by agreeing to a common set of goals and targets (many with specific timeframes) related to oceans, coasts, freshwater, and small island developing States. Similarly, in the Millennium Development Goals, most recently affirmed in 2005, the world's political leaders agreed on a specific set of goals with targets and timetables emphasizing measures to lift the world's poor out of poverty and to achieve healthful conditions for all.

**Meeting the Commitments on Oceans, Coasts, and Small Island Developing States Made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development: How Well Are We Doing?** Released by the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands in June 2006, it considers the activities undertaken to date, and assesses how well we are doing on implementing these commitments. The report (funded by the GEF and many other



partners) builds on discussions held by experts from 78 countries at the Third Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, *Moving the Global Oceans Agenda Forward*, held at UNESCO, Paris, January 23-28, 2006. The report reviews the available information and provides a bottom line of progress achieved so far on each of the following goals:

### WSSD Goals Related to Oceans, Coasts, Freshwater, and Small Island States

- **The Ecosystem Approach and Integrated Management**, including encouraging the application of the ecosystem approach by 2010, promotion of integrated coastal and ocean management, and assistance to developing countries in coordinating policies and programs at the regional and sub-regional levels.
- **Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities**, advancing implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.
- **Biodiversity and Marine Protected Areas**, including achieving a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, and establishing representative networks of marine protected areas by 2012.

- **Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Oceans**, with the goal to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.
- **Sustainable Development of Fisheries**, including: implementing the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing by 2004; implementing the FAO International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity by 2005; eliminating subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to overcapacity; and maintaining or restoring depleted fish stocks no later than 2015.
- **Integrated Water Resource Management**, developing integrated water resource management plans by 2005.
- **A Global Marine Assessment**, to establish a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, by 2004.
- **Coordination of UN Activities on Oceans**, with the goal to establish an effective, transparent and regular inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the United Nations system.

### Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Related to Oceans, Coasts, and Islands

- **Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**
- **Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**
- **Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development**, to address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing States.

Also addressed is the commitment made by world leaders in 2005 to improve cooperation and coordination at all levels in order to address issues related to oceans and seas in an integrated manner and promote integrated management and sustainable development of the oceans and seas.

The UN Commission on Sustainable Development is not scheduled to review progress on the ocean and coastal related goals until 2014, so this type of periodic informal assessment is especially important. By 2014 many of the target dates will have already passed and it may be too late to refocus attention on the problems that need attention now.

### The Bottom Line

- There is considerable experience with **coastal management**, covering land and nearshore waters, with about **100 countries** having established such programs.

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- Progress is being made on the key goal of securing **water for all**, while being responsive to environmental and societal considerations. **About 70 countries** have developed or are developing **IWRM plans**.
- **Over 60 countries** are in the process of developing, or have finalized **National Programmes of Action (for control of land-based activities)**, with support from UNEP/GPA and the international community.
- Important initiatives to protect **marine biodiversity** are underway at both national and regional levels. **In the national reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 51 out of 72 reporting countries note that they have designated Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** and/or have plans to improve existing MPAs; 37 countries report that development of an MPA system or network is underway, while 21 countries report that an MPA system or network is already in place.
- With regard to integrated management of ocean waters further offshore encompassing the **200-mile Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)**, a growing number of countries—**about 40**—are developing or are implementing integrated national ocean policies covering the EEZ areas.
- Many **Small Island Developing States** lack specific institutions or administrative processes to implement cross-cutting approaches to planning and management of oceans and coasts. **No SIDS has delimited its Exclusive Economic Zone, only 8 SIDS (20%) have dedicated coastal management institutions; and only 3 (7%) have enacted coastal legislation.**
- With regard to goals of controlling **Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing**, controlling overcapacity and eliminating subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing and to overcapacity, **only 17 countries** (or regional entities) have prepared or are preparing national action plans to address IUU fishing.
- Implementation of the process for establishing a regular process for **Global Marine Assessment (GMA)** was **delayed** significantly, but now planning for the GMA is underway. The requisite funding, however, has not yet been secured.
- **A UN inter-agency coordination mechanism on oceans—UN-Oceans—has been established and is meeting regularly.** Whether this mechanism will have the capacity to achieve greater UN coherence on oceans is not yet clear. Issues related to small island developing States are not yet part of this UN coordination.

## **How Well Are We Doing in Meeting the WSSD and MDG Commitments?**

Is the glass “half-full” or “half-empty”? Participants at the Global Oceans Conference agreed that progress toward implementation of the global targets related to oceans, coasts, and islands has been slow, but there are many

promising developments. In some areas, such as integrated coastal and ocean management, GPA, protection of marine biodiversity, integrated water resources management, and UN coherence, some very tangible progress is being made, often with specific efforts underway in a growing number of countries. In other areas such as fisheries and global marine assessment, the progress has been slower, but especially in fisheries, the groundwork seems to have been established for enhanced progress in the next phase. On SIDS and oceans, while the 2005 Mauritius International Strategy has been adopted, its implementation is in doubt if financial resources and institutional capacity are not enhanced. SIDS need assistance and collaboration from the international community to enhance their capacity to delimit, manage, and enforce their ocean areas. The least progress appears to be taking place in meeting the MDGs. In this regard, it is imperative that, increasingly, ocean and coastal management programs address poverty reduction as central goals. It is imperative, as well, that the welfare of coastal populations—their health, food security, quality of life, and the benefits they derive from the coastal and marine resources they own be periodically measured to assess the extent to which any of the MDGs and WSSD goals are making the needed difference on the ground.

Thinking about the next phase of further evolution in implementation of the WSSD and MDG goals, it is important, as well, to establish for each WSSD/MDG goal intermediate and readily measurable targets and timetables at the national level, as some countries have done. The issue of coordinating the local implementation of various international mandates should be addressed. With the WSSD and MDG mandates, nations are being asked to implement a variety of programs related to the ocean, coastal, and freshwater environments—integrated coastal and ocean management, ecosystem-management, integrated water resources management, GPA and control of land-based activities, biodiversity protection and networks of marine protected areas. On-the-ground, these efforts, address similar issues and cover, to some extent, similar areas. As further implementation of these efforts gets underway, it will be important to assist nations in rationalizing and bringing synergy among these efforts.



A companion publication, **Reports from the Third Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands: Moving the Global Oceans Agenda Forward**, is also available and brings together highlights from the global oceans conference as well as summaries of discussions and recommendations on next steps towards meeting the WSSD commitments and the MDGs.

The reports are available at [www.globaloceans.org](http://www.globaloceans.org), and may also be ordered from Ms. Shelby Hockenberry at [smhocken@udel.edu](mailto:smhocken@udel.edu).

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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.*

### **Advancing the WSSD Targets on Ecosystem Management and on Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management Through the GPA: Global Reporting and Case Studies**

The UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GPA) is the only global mechanism explicitly addressing the linkages among freshwater, coastal, and marine environments. A major purpose of the GPA is to explicitly link the National Programmes of Action under GPA to other integrated coastal and ocean management initiatives and to integrated water resources management initiatives, and to forward the achievement of ecosystem approaches to meet the 2010 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) target.

The 2006 report by the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands on the extent of implementation of the WSSD/MDG targets related to oceans, coasts, freshwater, and small island developing States *Meeting the Commitments on Oceans, Coasts, and Small Island Developing States Made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development: How Well are We Doing?* (see pages 5-6) notes that:

1. National progress in implementing the WSSD/MDG goals on ecosystem management, and integrated coastal and ocean management is not being tracked systematically by any international entity. Such information is essential to assist nations in achieving the JPOI targets of applying ecosystem management by 2010 and in achieving integrated coastal and ocean management, which will be considered by the CSD in 2014-2015.
2. With the WSSD and MDG mandates, nations are being asked to implement a variety of programs related to the ocean, coastal, and freshwater environments. On the ground, these efforts address similar issues and cover, to some extent, similar areas. An important challenge is to assist nations in making explicit linkages among these often separate efforts to achieve ecosystem management "from hilltops to oceans." Large Marine Ecosystem programs and the Regional Seas Programme often play important roles in assisting

nations in implementing ecosystem-based programs linking freshwater to oceans, and the lessons from these interactions also need to be gleaned.

This partnership will undertake the following activities:

1. Preparation of a global report on the status and trends in the implementation of policy initiatives in ecosystem management, and integrated coastal and ocean management, based on collaboration with national authorities (on a voluntary basis), national experts, regional organizations, UN organizations, and other expert entities. This report will be featured at the 2008 Fourth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands to be held on March 24 to 28, 2008. The conference will bring together experts from around the world to explicitly focus on progress being achieved and obstacles faced in the implementation of ecosystem management and integrated coastal and ocean management. Following the Global Conference, the report will be revised to incorporate additional data gathered at the conference, and will be issued in early 2010, as a summary report on the fulfilment of the JPOI 2010 goal of achieving ecosystem management, and integrated coastal and ocean management.
2. This report will also include discussion of a parsimonious set of indicators which could be applied in subsequent global reports in the future.
3. Carry out selected in-depth case studies in various regions to understand the dynamics of on-the-ground linkages among efforts in: GPA National Programmes of Action, integrated water resources management, integrated coastal management (encompassing nearshore issues), EEZ management (encompassing the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone), and networks of marine protected areas, and regional/national linkages through the LME and Regional Seas programs. The studies will examine factors that facilitate and hinder on-the-ground implementation of an ecosystem approach to freshwater to oceans management, and suggest ways of overcoming obstacles and of fostering successful practices.
4. The global report and in-depth case studies will be prepared in collaboration with national authorities and experts from various regions of the world.

An important part of the GPA mandate is to assess the status and trends of such initiatives at the global level, to ascertain progress, obstacles, and possibly needed changes in direction. The global-level reporting that will be carried out through this Partnership will identify varying patterns of implementation in different regions of the world, which will be useful in the further targeting of international assistance, support, and technical know-how to disseminate good practices in ecosystem-based integrated

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## GPA EVENTS AT WORLD WATER WEEK

### Developing Solutions to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities: Stakeholder Consultation

Tuesday 22 August, 2006

Evening Session (17:15-18:45), Folkets Hus, Room 300, World Water Week in Stockholm

In preparation for the GPA's Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2), which will be held in Beijing, China from 16-20 October, this side event will bring together stakeholders from around the world to discuss issues threatening the marine environment. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment and prepare a position on the draft *Beijing Declaration on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities*, while discussing the roles of stakeholders and national governments in developing solutions to these problems. The outcomes of this side-event will input into the upcoming GPA's IGR-2.

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coastal and ocean management. The in-depth case studies will reveal explicit factors which account for successful linkages among coastal, marine, and freshwater environments, and suggest best practices for consideration in other national contexts.

The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands will be collaborating with entities around the world in the preparation of these assessments, including: the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office; the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO, the Global Environment Facility, Convention on Biological Diversity, UNEP Regional Seas Programme, the World Bank, Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; SEMARNAT Mexico; Ministry of Environment, Brazil; PEMSEA (East Asia); NEPAD (Africa); SOPAC and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (Pacific Islands).

The Partnership will prepare an initial report on the status of integrated coastal and ocean management and of networks of marine protected areas based on the national reports submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity

### CONTACTS

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### Agenda

- Presentation on the Global Programme of Action and IGR-2
- Presentation by representative of the Government of China on the IGR-2 in China (to be confirmed)
- Presentation by Dr. Biliiana Cicin-Sain, Co-Chair and Head of Secretariat, Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands on the role of partnerships and Partnerships Day at IGR-2
- Presentation by Felix Dodds, Executive Director of Stakeholder Forum on stakeholder engagement in the preparations for the IGR-2
- Question and Answer/discussion in response to the presentations
- Review of the advance copy of the *Beijing Declaration on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities* and preparation of stakeholder position and input to the Declaration

in 2005-2006, and other relevant sources, for presentation at the IGR-2, during Partnerships Day, on October 17, 2006.

The Partnership will hold a workshop on "Advancing JPOI Targets on Ecosystem Management and in Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management through the GPA: Global Reporting and Case Studies" during Partnerships Day at IGR-2.

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### 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](http://www.gpa.unep.org)