



## WELCOME FROM THE COORDINATOR

Welcome to the second IGR-2 Newsletter! I hope that you enjoyed the Welcome Edition and have since visited our webpage at <http://www.gpa.unep.org>.

### High Level Steering Committee for the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the GPA

I am pleased to highlight that an IGR-2 High-Level Steering Committee has been formed to provide strategic policy guidance to UNEP during the preparations for IGR-2 and to assist UNEP in the meeting itself. The members include:

#### IGR-2 High Level Steering Committee Members

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Australia:</b>    | Senator The Honourable Ian Campbell, Minister for the Environment and Heritage                                     |
| <b>Barbados:</b>     | H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Thompson, Minister, Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment                              |
| <b>Brazil:</b>       | H.E. Ms. Marina Silva, Minister for the Environment  |
| <b>China:</b>        | H.E. Mr. Zhou Shengxian, Minister, State Environmental Protection Administration                                   |
| <b>Finland:</b>      | H.E. Mr. Jan-Erik Enestam, Minister of Environment   |
| <b>India:</b>        | H.E. Mr. A. Raja, Minister for Environment and Forests   |
| <b>Kenya:</b>        | Professor Ms. Wangari Maathai, Nobel Laureate  |
| <b>Mauritius:</b>    | H.E. Mr. Anil Kumar Baichoo, Minister of Environment   |
| <b>Mexico:</b>       | H.E. Mr. José Luis Luege Tamargo, Minister of Environment  |
| <b>Saudi Arabia:</b> | HRH Prince Turki Bin Nasser Abdel Aziz Al Saud, President, Meteorology and Environment Protectorate Administration |
| <b>South Africa:</b> | H.E. Mrs. Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism                      |
| <b>Sweden:</b>       | H.E. Mrs. Lena Sommestad, Minister of the Environment  |
| <b>Venezuela:</b>    | H.E. Mrs. Jacqueline Faria Pineda, Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources                               |

### Partnerships Day at IGR-2

I would also like to inform you of an exciting innovation of IGR-2: The Partnerships Day. On Day 2 of IGR-2, a series of parallel partnership workshops will take place. Partnerships will hold workshops of 1 or 2 hours on the theme of "Mainstreaming the GPA" aimed at charting a course of action for the coming five years. The purpose of the Partnerships Day is to:

- Support and encourage the further implementation of the GPA in the work-programmes of major international programmes and initiatives, regional/global organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders.
- 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.

The Partnerships Day will begin in Plenary with an opening panel where speakers will highlight the objectives of the Partnership Day. Thereafter, some 20 partnership workshops will be conducted under the leadership of the partnerships concerned.

A list of Partnerships that have been approached to participate in the Partnerships Day of IGR-2 is included below. If you would like to launch a new Partnership at IGR-2, please contact UNEP/GPA at [igr2@unep.nl](mailto:igr2@unep.nl). Please note that due to the physical limitations of the conference venue, no more than 20 – 25 partnership workshops can be accommodated.

1. WW2BW: White Water to Blue Water
2. Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands
3. Global Water Partnership: Freshwater to Oceans
4. IWCAM/Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)/ICARM
5. World Oceans Network + Oceans Library
6. WHO and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for water supply and sanitation
7. Xiamen City and other coastal cities partnerships
8. UNEP/WHO/HABITAT/WSSCC/UNESCO-IHE
9. IOI + IW Learn + UNESCO-IHE / UNDOALOS / UNDP-GEF / European Commission / UNEP Train-Sea-Coast GPA : Oceans Training
10. China – Africa + West Asia Environmental Partnership
11. OSPAR Abidjan + HELCOM Nairobi Convention partnership
12. IUCN – UNEP
13. London Convention/GPA/Regional Seas
14. Marine Litter Partnership
15. NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration USA) NODE
16. Strategic Partnerships for International Waters in the Global Environmental Facility (GEF): Mainstreaming GPA Across Borders
17. UNEP/GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem: Strengthening protection from land based sources of pollution and conservation of biodiversity
18. Comunidade dos Paises de Lingua Portuguesa (Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries)
19. SIDS: waste management + global environmental management
20. UNEP DTIE: circular economy
21. UNEP DTIE: industry in PRC
22. Dredging Companies

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## GPA ISSUES UPDATE: FINANCING

### Financing the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Implementation of GPA

The first day of IGR-2 will feature a breakout session on Financing and Resource Mobilisation. This session will present current practises and good examples of how countries are addressing their financial challenges in implementing the GPA.

Having successfully developed National Programmes of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, many countries are now facing the challenges of implementation. Initial experience has shown that financing for the implementation of GPA is far less than what is needed.

The global community has reacted to this challenge by, among others, establishing the Global Environmental Facility, which has spent over US \$1.2 billion for International Waters (GPA related) projects. Other donors have established environmental support programmes, though countries are still having difficulties in generating new resources for GPA.

In addition to financial constraints, many countries also face structural and legal barriers to implementing the needed activities. Actions for the protection of the marine environment are usually undertaken at the local level (municipal) or at the corporate level, whereas policy decisions to preserve/protect the marine environment are decided at the national, regional or global levels. If national policies, therefore, are not specifically designed to address financial needs at the local level, a disconnect can occur between demand for financing and availability of financing at the relevant governmental levels.

The GPA is currently in its final stages of publishing a publication on *Financing the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment*.<sup>1</sup> The publication is based on experience from

### Accounting for Marine Economic Activities in Large Marine Ecosystems and the Regional Seas Programmes

The Regional Seas Programmes (RSPs) provide a policy framework for the regional implementation of the GPA. Efforts are being made to highlight the economic value of goods and services oceans and coasts provide, while ensuring the sustainable management of the marine resources.

A report has been commissioned targeted towards government policy and decisions makers. It compiles

the first 10 years of implementing the GPA, and other international experience, and presents best practices and proven tools to assist countries addressing the challenges of implementing the GPA and to ensure long-term sustainability.

The main messages in this publication relate to changing strategic approaches and programme implementation. Specifically, developing action plans should be based on a realistic assessment of available resources and should identify possible barriers to implementation from a legal, institutional and capacity aspect. The publication presents a logical method of analyzing the constraints countries are facing, evaluating the opportunities to strengthen domestic resources, and prioritizing actions based on affordability and ease of implementation.

Since typically, the largest part of programme implementation is at the national level, the publication focuses on domestic resource mobilisation. The publication provides some international and regional examples. It also introduces methods, tools, economic instruments and/or other mechanisms that can assist countries in their implementation of the GPA and create a larger pool of sustainable, long-term financing.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The publication follows a previous publication for Regional Seas Programmes, which can be downloaded from the GPA web page: [www.gpa.unep.org](http://www.gpa.unep.org) (Financing for the Environmental Conservation of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden).

<sup>2</sup> Long term sustainable financing – can come from three main sources of funding: 1) domestic public-sector financing through direct or indirect transfers, 2) polluters and user pays mechanisms and 3) foreign grants (international). It should be noted that loan financing and other forms of future repayment mechanisms can bridge a time gap until sustainable financing mechanisms can be established. However, the use of bridging mechanisms based on future repayment will increase the need for domestic resources to be made available in the future when repayment is taking place.

estimates of the value of goods and services for each of the relevant marine sectors of countries bordering the world's Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) and Regional Seas. Two case studies have been included exploring the scale of economic rents (revenue minus costs), that could be derived from the sustainable management of the marine resources. The report will be presented and disseminated at the IGR-2 to participating governments and partners in implementing the GPA.

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## STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

Mexico 2006  
4th World  
Water Forum



Last month nearly 20,000 representatives of governments, UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and Major Groups gathered in Mexico City at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. The World Water Forum seeks to enable multi-stakeholder participation and dialogue to influence

water policy-making at a global level, in pursuit of sustainable development. The 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum provided an excellent opportunity to bring together stakeholders to discuss issues related to the GPA in preparation for the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2). Two sessions were hosted in Mexico City for this purpose.

On Monday 20 March 2006, Stakeholder Forum and UNEP/GPA, together with Misión Rescate: Planeta Tierra Mexico, hosted a workshop entitled **“Developing Solutions for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities: Stakeholder Dialogue for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region.”** The event was the first of a series of regional stakeholder dialogues organized by Stakeholder Forum and UNEP/GPA in the run up to the IGR-2. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together stakeholders working in the Latin America and Caribbean region to discuss issues threatening the marine environment in the region and to explore the roles of stakeholders and national governments in developing solutions to these problems. The workshop aimed to:

- gather the experiences of stakeholders working to prevent the destruction of the marine environment from land-based activities;
- identify priority issues for action within the region to be considered at the IGR-2;
- identify constraints and obstacles to implementation of the GPA;
- and develop recommendations on how the implementation of the GPA could be strengthened



Participants shared experiences the implementation of the GPA within their countries, revealing that awareness and implementation of the GPA seemed to vary within the region. Though Brazil is one of the few countries in the region with a finalized National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from land-based activities, it was perceived that stakeholder knowledge and implementation of the GPA is limited. Furthermore, integrated water resource management is not well understood. In Mexico, the development and implementation of Regional Action Plan for the Yucatan Peninsula region has been initiated. It was reported that the Action Plan has stressed the importance of consultations and projects at the local level.

Key issues or factors contributing to the pollution of the marine environment within the region were identified. Sewage and sediment mobilisation, among others, were identified as particularly problematic sources of marine pollution. Sources of degradation identified included activities resulting in the destruction of mangrove ecosystems, pollution from the energy industry, and agricultural run-off from intensive agricultural practices reliant on fertilizers.

Indirect causes of marine degradation within the region were also identified, including environmental culture and education, socio-economic factors, scientific information, and management issues. The problem of environmental culture and education was considered largely one of capacity and awareness among governments and stakeholders about the value of the marine environment and integrated water management. Concern was raised over a perceived lack of awareness and understanding about the marine environment and the impacts of activities further upstream and in mountains; irresponsible tourism resulting from lack of information about the degradation of the marine environment; and inadequate valuation of ecosystem services related to the marine environment.

Participants also identified the lack of adequate scientific information as a serious challenge to the protection of the marine environment within the region.

Numerous socio-economic factors also identified as having a negative impact on the health of the marine environment within the region. These included: unplanned industrial and population growth; coastal industry growth; uncontrolled harbour activities; and farm industry.

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## STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE cont.

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Finally, participants identified numerous “management” issues, revealing the perception that insufficient legal and regulatory frameworks are often a significant barrier to the protection the marine environment or institutional barriers.

The workshop also produced some recommendations for protecting the marine environment from land based activities. Participants stressed the need to build capacity for integrated water resource management, generally agreeing that the links between ocean and freshwater management are not well understood. Plans to increase and broaden access to environmentally sound technologies were considered necessary, coupled with efforts to break down barriers that impede the flow of technology. It was also proposed that scientific consultation for public policy and planning is necessary. Participants agreed on the need for establishing links between national and regional networks working on issues related to the GPA as a means to share information and seek reinforcement.

On 21 March 2006, a second stakeholder event was hosted on the GPA and IGR-2 as a side-event at the World Water Forum. The side-event, entitled “**Protecting the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities: Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Session**” was organised by UNEP/GPA in collaboration with Stakeholder Forum and the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands. The side-event aimed to facilitate preparing multi-stakeholder input to IGR-2 of the GPA and to raise awareness on key

messages from UNEP/GPA that form part of the broader focus of IGR-2:

Message #1: The importance of linking freshwater to coasts/oceans management also in relation to the IWRM target 2005; and

Message #2: The importance of environmental dimensions in addressing the Water and Sanitation targets 2015.

Stakeholders were invited at the side-event to share advice and guidance in identifying issues of importance for the GPA’s Programme of Work 2007-2011, which will be reviewed at the IGR-2. Below is a summary of the key points raised by stakeholders during this discussion.

### Summary of key issues from multi-stakeholder dialogue session:

- Promoting the link between coastal and freshwater management was considered to be of high importance for the GPA
- There is a need for the GPA to promote engagement with other communities, such as health and energy, to build on synergies that will benefit the marine environment
- Emerging trends should be considered in developing priorities for the GPA Work Programme, such as rising nutrient pollution
- Treatment of wastewater remains a major concern and should remain a priority of the GPA
- Participants called on the GPA to create a global classification for coastal waters equivalent to the European Blue Flag beaches classification

In addition to stakeholder dialogues on issues related to the GPA and IGR-2, several sessions at the 4th 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.

**Management Link for Freshwaters and Coasts – Progress in Local Actions**, hosted by UNEP/GPA, NOAA/NOS, the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, in collaboration with SEMARNAT, Mexico, 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. It presented the experiences of selected countries in implementing the GPA, which is the only global mechanism that explicitly addresses the linkages between freshwater, coastal and marine environments.



## STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE cont.

### Preparing for the IGR-2: Regional Stakeholder Consultations

Every few years, Governments and other stakeholders meet to review the status of the implementation of the GPA and decide on action to be taken to strengthen the implementation of the GPA. In October 2006, the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the GPA (IGR-2) will be held in Beijing, China.

Stakeholder Forum, in partnership with UNEP/GPA and the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, is organising and hosting a series of regional stakeholder dialogues in the run-up to the IGR-2. "Developing Solutions for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities: Stakeholder Dialogue for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region", held in Mexico City, was the first of these consultations (see page 3). Similar events will be held for the African Region and the European Region at the **World Water Week**

([www.worldwaterweek.org](http://www.worldwaterweek.org)) which will take place in Stockholm on 20-26 August 2006. An similar event will also be held for the Asia and Pacific Region at a later date. More information will be provided about these events here in *GPA Outreach*. Alternatively, please visit [www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa](http://www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa) or contact Jennifer Peer at [jpeer@stakeholderforum.org](mailto:jpeer@stakeholderforum.org) for more information.

In addition to the regional stakeholder consultations, Stakeholder Forum will also host an online debate in the upcoming months. The debate will create a forum for stakeholders to discuss and debate issues relevant to the implementation of the GPA and the IGR-2.

Finally, Stakeholder Forum has created a website to provide a resource for stakeholders about the GPA and the and IGR-2. This is available at [www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa](http://www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa) Stakeholders can also visit [www.gpa.unep.org](http://www.gpa.unep.org) to learn more about the IGR-2.

## CONFERENCE ROUNDUP

### Eighth Conference of the Parties (COP-8) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Following the third Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biodiversity, the eighth Conference of the Parties (COP-8) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was convened from 20-31 March 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil. Attracting the largest number of participants in the history of the Convention and record participation from stakeholders, approximately 4,000 delegates from around the world represented parties and other governments, UN agencies, intergovernmental, non-governmental, industry, indigenous and local community organisations.

Participants addressed a range of substantive issues relating to biodiversity and sustainable development, including: inland water, marine and costal biodiversity; and invasive alien species (IAS). In terms of substantive achievements, the adoption of the new island biodiversity work programme to significantly reduce island biodiversity loss by 2010 was highlighted.

With regards to inland water biodiversity it was decided to collaborate closely with the secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Under the heading of marine and coastal biodiversity, the implementation of integrated

marine and coastal area management (IMCAM) was addressed. The commitment to IMCAM – a participatory process for decision-making to prevent, control, or mitigate adverse impacts from human activities in the marine and coastal environment – was reinforced and the COP-8 encouraged countries to strengthen the participation of stakeholders and indigenous and local communities in IMCAM programmes.



On the subject of IAS it was decided to encourage support for developing countries in improved prevention, rapid response and implementation of measures to address threats of IAS. COP-8 also underlined its support for the implementation of the International

Convention on the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments and urged countries to ratify this convention in order to prevent, reduce or eliminate the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens.

Issues around the patenting of genetic resources proved controversial and generally it was recognised that more action to prevent widespread loss of plant and animal species is needed. The decisions reached by the COP-8 serve to set priorities for the COP-9, to be hosted by Germany in 2008, and it is up to the intersessional working groups to move the substantive agenda forward.



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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1—14 May 2006<br>New York, USA            | 14th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development<br>Contact: <a href="mailto:dsd@un.org">dsd@un.org</a>   |
| 17—19 May 2006<br>Delft, The Netherlands  | Envirowater 2006 Conference<br>Contact: <a href="mailto:envirowater2006@wur.nl">envirowater2006@wur.nl</a>   |
| 12—16 June 2006<br>New York, USA          | 7th United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS)<br>Contact: <a href="mailto:doalos@un.org">doalos@un.org</a>  |
| 18—24 June 2006<br>Hong Kong, China       | First Asia Pacific Coral Reef Symposium<br>Contact: <a href="mailto:apcrs.secretariat@cuhk.edu.hk">apcrs.secretariat@cuhk.edu.hk</a>   |
| 19—23 June 2006<br>Vancouver, Canada      | 3rd World Urban Forum<br>Contact: <a href="mailto:lars.reutersward@unhabitat.org">lars.reutersward@unhabitat.org</a>   |
| 27 – 28 June 2006<br>Paris, France        | IGR-2 Preparatory Meeting<br>Contact: <a href="mailto:igr2@unep.nl">igr2@unep.nl</a>   |
| 21—27 August 2006<br>Stockholm, Sweden    | World Water Week<br>Contact: <a href="mailto:sympos@siwi.org">sympos@siwi.org</a>  |
| 1—30 September 2006<br>Beijing, China     | International Water Association (IWA) World Water Congress<br>Contact: <a href="mailto:water@iwahq.org.uk">water@iwahq.org.uk</a>  |
| 14—15 September 2006<br>Helsinki, Finland | 6th Asia—Europe Summit Meeting (ASEM)<br>Contact: <a href="mailto:admin@aseminboard.org">admin@aseminboard.org</a>   |
| 16—20 October 2006<br>Beijing, China      | The 2nd Intergovernmental Review (IGR-2) of the Global Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)<br>Contact: <a href="mailto:igr2@unep.nl">igr2@unep.nl</a> |

## ABOUT STAKEHOLDER FORUM



Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future's mission is to inform, influence, promote, and advance the implementation of sustainable development. Stakeholder Forum fulfils this mission by developing and facilitating multi-stakeholder processes that engage stakeholders in the development and implementation of sustainable development policy. To support multi-stakeholder processes, Stakeholder Forum also undertakes activities related to capacity building, training, and policy development.

Stakeholder Forum is delighted to continue our partnership with UNEP GPA as we build toward the IGR-2. Stakeholder Forum is working with UNEP GPA to undertake outreach and conduct dialogue with stakeholders to ensure that the IGR-2 will gain from the experience and expertise of a broad range of stakeholders.

For more information please visit [www.stakeholderforum.org](http://www.stakeholderforum.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](http://www.gpa.unep.org)

## CONTACTS

- For all general GPA enquiries contact, including information about the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting, please email [igr2@unep.nl](mailto:igr2@unep.nl) or telephone +31 70 311 4460.
- For further information about Stakeholder Forum or stakeholder dialogues in preparation for the IGR-2, please contact: [jpeer@stakeholderforum.org](mailto:jpeer@stakeholderforum.org). If you have been forwarded this newsletter and would like to subscribe to GPA Outreach, please email [jpeer@stakeholderforum.org](mailto:jpeer@stakeholderforum.org) to subscribe.