

WELCOME FROM THE COORDINATOR

Welcome to the May edition of our GPA newsletter! As we move closer to the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the GPA, taking place in Beijing, China on 16-20 October 2006, I shall use this space to highlight developments in our events programme for the IGR-2. This month I would like to bring to your attention our **National Programmes – Implementation in Action** event, taking place on the first day of the IGR-2, Monday 16 October 2006.

The National Programmes – Implementation in Action day at IGR-2 will chart the way forward in the national implementation of the GPA. Three breakout sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to share experience and best practice approaches. The sessions will focus on identifying, scaling up and expanding the implementation of best practices. The innovative approaches and the underlying principles inherent to their success identified and discussed in the sessions will be forwarded to the Ministerial Segment of IGR-2.

Breakout Session 1: Mainstreaming the GPA into national development plans

This session will focus on how countries have linked their national GPA priorities with broader development frameworks to maximise resources and results. The session will underscore how some countries have integrated and mainstreamed the GPA in the work of the UN Development Group, the development process of Common Country Assessments, UN Development Assistance Frameworks, and Poverty Reduction Strategies, or are in the process of doing so.

Issues for Discussion:

Session participants are invited to discuss the following questions and agree on forward-looking recommendations:

1. What measures to incorporate the GPA into national development frameworks and strategies such as the UN Development Group, poverty reduction strategies, common country assessments and UN Development Assistance Frameworks have worked and why?
2. What measures to integrate the GPA into national development policies and plans and into donors frameworks and priorities have worked and why?

Breakout Session 2: Financing the implementation of the GPA

The overall objective of this session is to identify key mechanisms/principles that can increase the financing for the implementation of the GPA at the national level. Specifically, participants are invited to highlight examples of strengthening sustainable financing and improving the

effectiveness of existing sources of financing for the environment – with a focus on the GPA. Participants are also invited to discuss how they have secured increased international funding by adopting a more systematic approach to the implementation of the GPA.

Issues for Discussion:

Session participants are invited to discuss the following questions and agree on forward-looking recommendations:

1. What investment specific economic instruments have worked at the national level and why?
2. How could international financing mechanisms, including the GEF, and regionally established facilities and trust funds better contribute to the implementation of the GPA?
3. How can the GPA be mainstreamed into public finance and private sector investments as a means to mobilize domestic resources? What examples have worked and why?

Breakout Session 3: Strengthening national legislative and institutional frameworks to further implement the GPA

This session invites participants to discuss situations that provide opportunities for the further development and implementation of NPAs: for example, improvement of legislative and regulatory tools and mechanisms; greater capacity building; access to technology to monitor compliance with laws and regulations; and, enhanced integration between water and coastal areas authorities.

Issues for discussion:

Session participants are invited to discuss the following questions and agree on forward-looking recommendations:

1. What compliance mechanisms with legislation and regulations have been successful in addressing the prevention, reduction, control and / or elimination of the degradation of the marine environment and why?
2. How can coordination among the different sectors that are responsible for land-based activities at the watershed, coastal and marine areas and with the various levels of government (municipal, sub-national and national) become more efficient and effective? What constraints need to be addressed?

Rapporteurs will distil the discussions into a one-page summary to forward to the Ministerial Segment. Participants are invited to provide written input prior to the session addressing the questions highlighted above.

Veerle Vandeweerd
GPA Coordinator/ Head Regional Seas
UNEP/GPA Coordination Office
v.vandeweerd@unep.nl

GPA ISSUES UPDATE: NATIONAL PROGRAMMES—IMPLEMENTATION IN ACTION

National Programmes of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (NPA): Implementing the GPA at national level

The first day of IGR-2 will focus on the implementation of the GPA at the national level. For the past few years, the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office has advocated doing so through the development and implementation of NPAs (National Programmes of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities), a call which has been followed by many countries in all parts of the world.

The NPA process aims to provide a flexible policy and management framework that serves as a strategic tool that can assist governments, industry, tourism, other relevant sectors, and local communities in prioritizing their coastal and marine development needs and goals. It is a tool for formulating affordable short, medium and long term strategies and programmes to achieve these goals, and for mobilizing political and financial support to implement them.

Since the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office was set-up in 1999, 40 countries produced official NPA documents, while almost 20 others have embarked on a NPA related process adapted to their own situations (for up to date information on the status of NPAs see <http://www.gpa.unep.org/bin/php/programs/npa/index.php>). In order to guide countries in the process, the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office published a Handbook on the Development and Implementation of National Programmes of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (NPAs) in 2002.

Many lessons have been learned during these 7 years of experience in developing and implementing NPAs. Moreover, it has been recognized that linkages with policy frameworks and developments such as the Millennium Development Goals, sustainable development partnerships, poverty reduction strategies and sectoral policies, as well as linkages between coastal areas and upstream river basin should be strengthened. This has led to the revision of the Handbook in the forthcoming publication "Protecting coastal and marine environments

from land-based activities: a guide for national action" (NPA Guide), which will be available shortly.

The NPA Guide 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 NPA Guide will be available at www.gpa.unep.org

Lucy Kormann
UNEP/GPA Coordination Office
l.kormann@unep.nl

Sneak Preview: Some Guiding Principles for National Action from 2006 NPA Guidance Document

- Ensure the NPA development process leads to concrete action and includes measures that are affordable.
- Ensure policy makers and other stakeholders are committed to the process and involved in its development and implementation from the beginning.
- Ensure linkages are built among different sectors and also between different levels of government (municipal, sub-national, national)
- Include a strategic precautionary and long-term, inter-generational equity approach.
- Prioritize issues to be addressed to enable step-by-step implementation.
- Build in measures to ensure transparency of the process.

GPA ISSUES UPDATE cont.

Strengthening the GPA at the Regional Level Through Land-Based Sources and Activities Protocols

Chapter III of the GPA on Regional Cooperation recommends that, amongst other aims, States should:

- Strengthen existing regional conventions and programmes, and their institutional arrangements; and
- Negotiate, as appropriate, new regional conventions and programmes.

Also, most regional seas conventions call upon countries to take all appropriate measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution caused by land-based activities. This includes coastal disposal or discharges emanating from rivers, estuaries, coastal establishments, outfall structures, and any other sources on their territories.



Increasingly, pollution of the sea from land-based sources and activities is being addressed at the regional level through Protocols for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBSA Protocols). The Caspian Sea (Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea), the Eastern Africa region (Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, Nairobi Convention) and West and Central Africa (Convention for Co-operation in the protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region, Abidjan Convention) are in the process of developing LBSA protocols. The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) region recently adopted a Protocol concerning the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (September 2005). The Black Sea is revising its Protocol on Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment against Pollution (revision process started in 2004).

The Mediterranean adopted an amended Protocol, the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, and in 1999 the Wider Caribbean adopted a Protocol on the Prevention, Reduction and Control of Land-Based Sources and Activities. The Southeast Pacific adopted a Protocol for the Protection of the Southeast Pacific Against Pollution from Land-based Sources in 1983 (which entered into force in 1986) and the ROPME Sea Area adopted a Protocol for the Protection of the Marine Environment Against Pollution from Land-based Sources in 1990 (which entered into force in 1993). The scientific and technical basis for the development of the LBSA Protocols relies strongly on the outcomes of trans-boundary diagnosis analyses carried out in the context of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) international waters projects (http://www.gefweb.org/Projects/focal_areas/iw/iw_ops.html).

Agenda 21, the GPA and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation are central to the new approaches in most recent LBSA Protocols. For example, the "first generation" of the land-based sources of pollution regional agreements developed before 1995 typically apply to a marine application area coinciding with the jurisdictional sea area covered by the relevant convention and a land application area measured up to the freshwater limit -including inter-tidal zones and salt-water marshes- or determined by each Contracting Party. This contrasts with the "second generation" of the LBSA agreements, which are based on a more comprehensive approach both in terms of the application area – extended to the hydrologic basin – and the sources of pollution regulated -including numerous land-based activities affecting the marine environment.

LBSA Protocols are a way to translate the GPA within the framework of regional seas conventions. The level of existing cooperation, predominant legal regimes, and potential windows for domestic and international financing are some of the factors which may influence this choice. It is for each region to assess its value. Some positive experiences are already becoming evident in regions like the Mediterranean and Wider Caribbean.

More information on the regional seas and the LBSA Protocols is available at: <http://www.unep.org/regionalseas> and <http://www.gpa.unep.org/bin/php/legislation/r/lbsa.php>

Isabel Martinez
UNEP/GPA Coordination Office
i.martinez@unep.nl

STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

Upcoming Events

Online Dialogue

During the month of June, Stakeholder Forum will host an online dialogue as part of its ongoing work with UNEP/GPA in the run-up to the IGR-2. The online dialogue will take place from **12-23 June 2006** and will be open to anyone with an interest in the GPA and related issues. More information about the online dialogue will be available soon on the Stakeholder Forum website www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa and in June's edition of *GPA Outreach*. We look forward to your participation in this virtual chat about protecting the marine environment from land-based activities!

Regional Consultations

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. Regional consultations for the **European region** and the **African region** will be held in August at the World Water Week (www.worldwaterweek.org), which will take place in Stockholm, Sweden on 20-26 August 2006. The World Water Week in Stockholm is the leading annual global meeting place for capacity-building, partnership-building and follow-up on the implementation of international processes and programmes in water and development. It is the meeting place for experts from businesses, governments, the water management and science sectors, inter-governmental organisations, NGOs, research and training institutions and United Nations agencies. More information will be provided about these events here in *GPA Outreach*. Alternatively, please contact Jennifer Peer at jpeer@stakeholderforum.org for more information.

CONFERENCE ROUND-UP: CSD 14

Fourteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

On 1-12 May 2006, the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) took place at UN headquarters in New York. The fourteenth session was the review session of the two year implementation cycle, which is focussing on Energy for Sustainable Development, Industrial Development, Air Pollution/Atmosphere and Climate Change. CSD 14 was tasked with reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, while identifying barriers and constraints, lessons learned and best practices in the thematic cluster.

The organization of work for CSD 14 included: opening and general statements, and a multi-stakeholder dialogue; thematic discussions and regional discussions; a day on small island developing States (SIDS); and a high-level segment with some 50 Ministers. CSD 14 also featured a Partnerships Fair, Learning Centre, and side-events.

The bulk of discussion at the CSD focused on the energy agenda, including access to energy, energy efficiency, and the role of renewable and clean technologies. Energy security took a prominent position in the discussions, with many delegates remarking that it seemed energy security had been introduced as a fifth issue in the thematic cluster. On industrial development, the role of good governance, the need for industrial development in Africa, sustainable natural resource management, and the role of small and

medium enterprises were among the issues addressed. Discussion on air pollution/atmosphere focused largely on the role of energy efficiency and renewable energy in reducing air pollution and the impacts on health from air pollution. Discussions on climate change focused on the inter-linkages between climate change and sustainable development.

SIDS Day served to highlight the particular challenges faced by small island developing States, focusing on a review of the Mauritius Strategy for the implementation of



Picture courtesy of the International Institute for Sustainable Development

sustainable development in SIDS. Discussions were held on the four themes in the thematic cluster and highlighted problems facing SIDS (particularly due to climate change and rising fuel prices), solutions currently existing within SIDS, and the lack of resources.

The outcome of CSD 14 was a non-negotiated Chair's Summary which contained an overview of the discussions, the SIDS day, the multi-stakeholder dialogue, the high-level segment, the Partnerships Fair, and the Learning Centre. Next year the Commission will meet for the policy session. It will build on the outcomes of CSD 14, deciding on measures to speed up implementation and mobilize action to overcome obstacles and constraints, and to build on lessons learned.

UPCOMING EVENTS

12—16 June 2006 New York, USA	7th United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS) Contact: doalos@un.org
18—24 June 2006 Hong Kong, China	First Asia Pacific Coral Reef Symposium Contact: apcrs.secretariat@cuhk.edu.hk
19—23 June 2006 Vancouver, Canada	3rd World Urban Forum Contact: lars.reutersward@unhabitat.org
27 – 28 June 2006 Paris, France	IGR-2 Preparatory Meeting Contact: igr2@unep.nl
21—27 August 2006 Stockholm, Sweden	World Water Week Contact: sympos@siwi.org
1—30 September 2006 Beijing, China	International Water Association (IWA) World Water Congress Contact: water@iwahq.org.uk
14—15 September 2006 Helsinki, Finland	6th Asia—Europe Summit Meeting (ASEM) Contact: admin@aseminboard.org
16—20 October 2006 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) Contact: igr2@unep.nl

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 visit 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

CONTACTS

- For all general GPA enquiries contact, including information about the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting, please email 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. If you have been forwarded this newsletter and would like to subscribe to GPA Outreach, please email jpeer@stakeholderforum.org to subscribe.