



## WELCOME BY THE COORDINATOR

Welcome to the September edition of the GPA Outreach Newsletter. The 2nd Intergovernmental Review will be held in Beijing in just over four weeks and we look forward to seeing you there.

In this issue I would like to provide you with some updates on the final preparations for IGR-2:

### 1. Participation:

We are pleased to announce that over 425 participants have pre-registered for IGR-2 so far. This includes over 40 Ministers and other High-Level officials. If you would like to participate in IGR-2 please register on-line at [www.gpa.unep.org](http://www.gpa.unep.org) before 22 September. After pre-registration, you should receive an official letter of invitation from UNEP/GPA in order to proceed with your visa application. Please also note that each participant is responsible for making their own hotel bookings and the block of rooms reserved for IGR-2 participants at the three designated hotels will be available for booking until 25 September only. Further details can be found on our website.

### 2. Partnerships Day

Over 20 workshops will be held throughout Day 2 of IGR-2. The objective of the workshops is to highlight how non-state actors contribute to the implementation of the GPA. The full titles of the workshops are:

- Strategic Partnerships for International Waters in the Global Environmental Facility (GEF): Mainstreaming GPA in Transboundary Basins and Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs).
- UNEP/GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem: Strengthening protection from land based sources of pollution and conservation of biodiversity.
- PEMSEA – Local Government Implementation of GPA: Partnerships in Integrated management of Coastal and Marine Areas.
- World Oceans Network.
- Oceans Library.
- Municipal Wastewater and Sanitation.
- Oceans Training.
- National Implementation of the LBA Protocols in partnership with the Regional Seas Programmes.
- Advancing JPOI Targets on Ecosystem Management and in Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management Through the GPA.
- Global Partnership for Marine Litter.
- Establishing a London Convention/GPA/Regional Seas Partnership.
- Planning instruments for sustainable tourism development in SIDS.

- Information Portal on Waste Management for SIDS (GPA + AOISIS + UNEP DTIE).

- White Water to Blue Water – a model for partnership building in the wider Caribbean and beyond.

- Pacific Islands Solid Waste Regional Collaboration, Coral Reef and Financing Initiatives.

- Seeking solutions to integrating stakeholders to achieve sustainable freshwater and coastal management at the local and national level in the wider Caribbean. (NOAA - UNEP/GPA).

- China – Africa, China-Arabic Partnership for Environmental Cooperation.

- Demonstration of an integrated freshwater to oceans management approach for the Xiamen-Zhangzhou-Long Yan region of Fujian Province (NOAA).

- IUCN- UNEP.

- Comunidade dos Paises de Lingua Portuguesa (Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries).

- Business and the GPA Partnership.

### 3. Supporting Documents available on-line:

Please visit [www.gpa.unep.org](http://www.gpa.unep.org) to see the latest GPA publications including:

1. Protecting coastal and marine environments from land-based activities: A guide for national action.
2. The State of the Marine Environment: Trends and Processes.
3. The State of the Marine Environment: Regional Assessments.
4. Implementation of the GPA at the regional level: The role of Regional Seas Conventions and their Protocols.
5. Financing the implementation of regional seas conventions and action plans: A guide for national action.
6. Ecosystem-based management: Markers for assessing progress.

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## GPA ISSUES: IGR-2 OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

A number of official documents will be discussed during the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the GPA, taking place on 16-20 October 2006 in Beijing, China. These documents are available in 6 UN languages at [www.gpa.unep.org](http://www.gpa.unep.org).

### IGR-2 Official Documents

- Progress in implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities at the international, regional and national level in the period 2002 - 2006
- Guidance to the Implementation of the GPA 2007-2011: GPA contribution to the internationally agreed goals and targets for the sustainable development of oceans, coasts, and islands,
- Proposed 2007 - 2011 programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme Global Programme of Action Coordination Office,
- Draft Elements for a Beijing Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,
- Ministerial/High-level Segment Background Paper.

coastal and marine environments. The document is divided into three chapters:

- Chapter I: This chapter is an introduction outlining the background, the purpose and the nature of the present guidance document, the structure of the document, and the state of the marine environment as it relates to the Global Programme of Action source categories.
- Chapter II: This chapter contains a description of developments that have taken place since the adoption of the Global Programme of Action, particularly since the first session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action, which are relevant to the scope and objectives of the Global Programme of Action. It is divided into legal, policy, financial and conceptual frameworks and a fifth section referring to practical experience gained and lessons learned in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the national level.
- Chapter III: This chapter contains the guidance itself. It shows how the developments described in the second chapter relate to and impact the implementation of the Global Programme of Action. It gives suggestions on how the developments can be integrated to further implementation of the Global Programme of Action in a coherent and consistent manner.

### **Progress in implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities at the international, regional and national level in the period 2002 - 2006 coasts, and islands**

The information presented in this report provides a concise overview of progress made in advancing the Global Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels during the period 2002–2006. It is thus closely linked to the delivery of the activities outlined in the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office programme of work 2002–2006. It also provides support for the new strategic direction set out in the proposed programme of work for the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for 2007–2011.

### **Guidance to the Implementation of the GPA 2007-2011: GPA contribution to the internationally agreed goals and targets for the sustainable development of oceans, coasts and islands**

This document promotes the GPA as a valuable tool to contribute to achieving the goals and targets set by the international community in recent years for the sustainable development of oceans, coasts and islands. It aims to emphasize that the GPA, due to its cross-sectoral nature, is relevant and well-suited to respond to the new challenges associated with the impact of land-based activities on the

### **Proposed 2007 - 2011 programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme Global Programme of Action Coordination Office**

This document outlines the proposed programme of work for the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office for the phase 2007-2011. The 2007–2011 programme of work outlines how the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office will build on the momentum that has been achieved during the period 2002–2006, which was characterized by a move from planning to action, leading to widespread Programme-related activities and programmes at the national and regional levels. The third phase, from 2007 to 2011, outlined in the present programme of work, will maintain the crucial role of promoting the Global Programme of Action at all levels and of strengthening the Regional Seas Programme and other regional mechanisms to facilitate its implementation. In addition, the third phase will focus on mainstreaming the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in national development planning and budgetary mechanisms. That mainstreaming will require integration of the Global Programme of Action across sectors and ministries and also integration into domestic and international aid budgets, development plans, strategies and actions.

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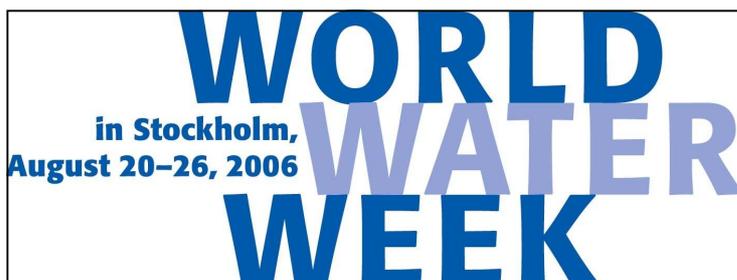


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## STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

### Consultation on the Global Programme of Action held at World Water Week in Stockholm

On 22 August, 2006 Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future, in collaboration with the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office, held a stakeholder consultation on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) at the World Water Week in Stockholm. The consultation aimed to engage stakeholders from the freshwater community in the preparatory process of the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the GPA, being held in Beijing, China on 16-20 October 2006.



Mr. Chris Tompkins, UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), opened the meeting by welcoming participants to the consultation and highlighting the importance of stakeholder engagement to the GPA process. He explained that 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. Mr Tompkins noted that as an instrument to tackle marine pollution, the GPA has raised awareness of marine and coastal issues and the need to mainstream them into development planning.

Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, further emphasised the need to link freshwater and coastal environments. She highlighted the important role of the GPA in this process, as the only intergovernmental programme that addresses the linkages between freshwater and the coastal environment. Dr. Cicin-Sain explained that partnerships are an important part of furthering the implementation of the GPA. She explained that the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands is proposing a partnership with many partners from around the world to prepare a global report on the status and trends in the implementation of policy initiatives in ecosystem management, and integrated coastal and ocean management. Ms. Miriam Balgos, Global Forum of Oceans Coasts and Islands, explained that the upcoming IGR-2 of the

GPA will include a day dedicated to partnerships, where 23 partnerships will be presented.

Mr. Felix Dodds, Stakeholder Forum, briefly outlined the role of Stakeholder Forum in engaging stakeholders in the preparatory process of the IGR-2. He noted that Stakeholder Forum had facilitated the preparation a stakeholder position for the Preparatory Meeting of the IGR-2 in June, and that many of the recommendations had been incorporated. He explained that the Ministerial/high level segment of the IGR-2 is expected to endorse the Beijing Declaration on furthering the implementation of the GPA. He called on participants to offer their suggestions on how the Beijing Declaration could be strengthened, particularly from the perspective of the freshwater community. He noted that it is important for stakeholders to have the opportunity to input to intergovernmental processes, as it yields stronger outcomes and improved implementation.



Participants in the meeting highlighted the need to strengthen the inclusion and integration of cross cutting issues within the document. Emphasis was placed on the importance of marine resources for food security and human health, and that marine resources need to be better valued and understood. The need to establish quantifiable benchmarks for marine pollution was called for, as was the need for a universal set of indicators to assess marine pollution. Gender and the diversity of people was highlighted as a critical element missing from the draft Beijing Declaration. The role of various Major Groups including local authorities and environmental NGOs in furthering the implementation of the GPA was discussed, and the need to reinforce multi-stakeholder participation at the national level was noted.

A full report of the meeting will soon be available at: [www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa.html](http://www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa.html)



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## PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

*Day Two 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. Here are details on three of the more than twenty Partnerships that will be featured at the IGR-2.*

### **Seeking Solutions to Integrating Stakeholders to Achieve Sustainable Freshwater and Coastal Management at the Local and National Level in the Wider Caribbean**

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Secretariat of the Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GPA) entered into an umbrella Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in March 2004 at the White Water to Blue Water Conference in Miami. The MOU established a framework for collaboration on activities related to coastal and marine pollution originating from land and coastal degradation within the Wider Caribbean region and established a virtual NOAA GPA office within the National Ocean Service's Staff Office for International Programs in Silver Spring, Maryland.

This collaboration initially has a timeframe of four years, beginning at the start of calendar year 2004 and expiring at the end of calendar year 2007.

The NOAA GPA Office provides direct technical assistance and advice to governments in the Wider Caribbean in the development of their National Programmes of Action (NPAs) to prevent, reduce, control and/or eliminate marine degradation from land-based activities and to use NPAs as a vehicle to promote the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities and raise environmental awareness.

This Partnership hopes to further implement the GPA in its programme of work during the period 2007-2011 by continuing to provide technical assistance to countries interested in developing National Programs of Action in the wider Caribbean. Additionally NOAA will expand its geographic scope to include the Pacific Region and Southeast Asia. The Partnership also aims to share experiences with other countries in developing National Programs of Action and to develop a concept of countries helping other countries in NPA development by creating an "on-the-ground" network of NPA practitioners.

The Partnership will announce that NOAA will commence development of a "best practices" manual for NPA

development in CY 2007 at the IGR-2. The Partnership will also hold a workshop where panelists will lead a discussion on lessons learned from current and previous planning processes that apply integrated management approaches at the national and local levels and identify major issues and constraints faced during this process. The goal of the session is to promote an open discussion on identifying national/local issues and share different approaches to the problem of integrating institutions and stakeholders to promote integrated freshwater to oceans management.

The Partnership will also be implementing pilot demonstration projects to promote integrated coastal and watershed management to address land-based sources of pollution in Southeast Asia and the Pacific in CY2007/2008 under existing NOAA bilateral agreements. Furthermore, the Partnership hopes to complete an additional four national programs of Action in the wider Caribbean by 2008.

*For more information on this Partnership, please contact:*

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### **China-Africa, China-Arabic Partnership for Environmental Cooperation**

The partnerships between China and Africa (involving 46 African governments), and between China and Arabic countries (involving 22 Arab governments) were established in February 2005 and February 2006 respectively, both of which are funded by the Chinese government and aim to assist African and Arabic countries with capacity building and technology supported.

Since their establishment 3 training events have been held by these partnerships, all of which have covered GPA relevant events, namely water management and municipal wastewater treatment. This work will be furthered at IGR-2, where a workshop is planned, giving Ministers and participants to familiarise themselves with the programme of work of the GPA, to discuss and agree on how to make improvements, and to create closer links between China-Africa Cooperation/China Arabic Cooperation and the GPA. It is hoped future training programmes can be developed out of these closer links.

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### **Draft Elements for a Beijing Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities**

During the Ministerial/high level segment of the IGR-2, Ministers and other high-level representatives are invited to provide strategic policy guidance on improving the implementation of the Global Programme of Action by adopting a Beijing declaration on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action. This note sets forth draft elements for such a Beijing declaration. The note outlines commitments at the national, regional, and international level, and for the United Nations Environment Programme, including actions to mainstream and integrate the Programme into national development planning, improve coastal and ocean governance, build partnerships and ensure adequate financing.

#### **Ministerial/High-level Segment Background Paper**

The Ministerial/high level segment background paper sets the agenda for Day 4 and 5 of the IGR-2, where Ministers and other high level representatives deliberate on a number of key issues related to the GPA. The paper outlines:

- The importance of oceans, coasts and islands, and their associated watersheds.

- International action: the paper argues that the principle issue facing the GPA is linking it effectively to major global development themes and thereby assisting countries in making the transition to the integrative approaches, which are key to realizing the necessary sustainable investments. This requires a paradigm shift towards the use of multisectoral, integrated management approaches.
- The Way Forward: The GPA as a catalytic and integrative mechanism: the background paper contends that an appropriate way forward for the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office is to operate as an "agent of change", to create the integrated processes, intellectual leadership and partnerships that are necessary to achieve the global goals and strategies in linked watershed, coast and ocean areas, and consequently across a significant portion of the earth.

Based on this discussion, the paper proposes a number of key issues for discussion in the Ministerial/high level segment.

#### **Major Group Statement**

It is anticipated that Major Groups participating in the IGR-2 will prepare a consolidated statement on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action. For more information, please contact [jpeer@stakeholderforum.org](mailto:jpeer@stakeholderforum.org).

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### **Oceans Training: Synergies in Capacity-Building through Multi-Partner Collaboration**

This partnership will include the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), the United Nations Development Programme—Global Environment Fund (UNDP/GEF) and GEF IW:LEARN, the International Ocean Institute (IOI), UNEP/GPA and the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

While partnerships exist between these organisations in a variety of forms, it has become clear that there is great potential to increase the efficiency of each partner's capacity building efforts through more systematic collaboration. Each partner currently has different approaches to programme development and regional organisation, and they have varying capacities to disseminate information and coordinate training

programmes. This partnership is designed to strengthen and combine the existing partnerships, to maximise possible benefits.

With reference to the implementation to the GPA, the synergies created by this partnership will help maximise the impact of the training component of the GPA:

- The IOI will work with the GPA, each using the other's network to deliver GPA courses, providing opportunities for the use of distance and flexible learning methodology.
- IW:LEARN will aid with increasing outreach and knowledge dissemination.
- The DOALOS TRAIN-SEA COAST Programme (TSC) courses will be boosted through the partnership, making them known to a wider audience.
- UNESCO-IHE will enable the TSC-GPA programme to provide high quality services at country level, and growing numbers of local and regional instructors.

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## CONFERENCE ROUND-UP– 3RD GEF ASSEMBLY

The 3rd Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly was held from 29-30 August 2006 in Cape Town, South Africa. Over 1,200 participants are expected to attend, representing governments, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and the private sector.

The GEF was established in 1991, a reaction to growing concerns in the international community over the lack of progress being made on global environmental problems. Its role is to provide funds for developing countries for projects in four areas: biodiversity, climate change, international waters and ozone depletion. Since its establishment, the GEF has allocated over \$6 billion to numerous projects across the developing world. The 3rd GEF assembly was convened to address the replenishment of the facility to enable it to continue its work in the coming years, as well as to discuss the third Overall Performance Study of the GEF.

At the opening of the Assembly, Monique Barbut, GEF CEO and Chair, noted that, on the international waters focal point, GEF would now be concentrating on engaging in hands-on work with partners, with special emphasis on trans-national concerns.

With this as the overarching strategy for this focal point, the major outcomes from the Assembly concern the replenishment of the Facility, and the future targets for the funds.

The allocation of funds for the International Water focal area was cut by 3%, or \$85 million, as can be seen from the table below:

Targeted Allocation to Focal Areas, Corporate Programs and Corporate Budget				
(millions of USD equivalent)				
	GEF-3		GEF-4	
GEF Focal Areas and Corporate Programmes	Allocation	Share of Resources Programmed	Targeted Allocations	Share of Resources to be Programmed
Biological Diversity	960	33%	990	33%
Climate Change	960	33%	990	33%
<b>International Waters</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>12%</b>
Land degradation	250	9%	300	10%
Ozone layer depletion	50	1%	40	1%
Persistent organic pollutants	250	9%	300	10%
Corporate Programs	0	0%	15	1%
Sub-total: Resources Programmed	2900	100%	2990	100%
Corporate Budget	100		120	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3000</b>		<b>3110</b>	

Table from: *Summary of the Fourth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund*

With regards to International Water issues, the Assembly agreed a number of targets to be met by the funds from this 4th replenishment of GEF. By 2010, it was stated that GEF will have:

- Initiated 2 Strategic Partnerships (reducing pollution discharges to East Asia Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) and catalyzing sustainable marine fisheries in Africa LMEs) that are aimed at WSSD water-related targets.



Photo courtesy of IISD

- Increased by 20% over GEF-3 the number of representative transboundary water bodies for which it catalyzed implementation of on-the-ground stress reduction measures and reforms in agreed management programs.
- Increased by one-sixth the global coverage of representative water bodies (an additional 6) with country-driven.
- Science-based joint management programs addressing transboundary aspects of WSSD targets and MDGs over GEF-3.
- Given support to 50% of all SIDS, enabling them to take action on at least one transboundary priority concern included in OP 9 as a contribution toward IWRM and WSSD targets.
- Successfully demonstrated the local feasibility of innovative measures to address 4-5 different global water-related concerns through IWRM, groundwater protection, and demos for persistent toxic substances (PTS).

These are ambitious targets, especially given the cut in funds in this strategic area, but with a move away from funding enabling activities, to using funds to act as a catalyst for on the ground implementation of agreed management programs, there is every chance that they will be met.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

26—28 September 2006	Conference on Implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Bergen, Norway. Organised by: the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Governments of Iceland and Norway
13—14 October 2006	8th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans Beijing, China. Organised by: UNEP Regional Seas Programme. Contact: <a href="mailto:a.muchai@unep.nl">a.muchai@unep.nl</a>
16—20 October 2006	The 2nd Intergovernmental Review (IGR-2) of the Global Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) Beijing, China. Organised by: UNEP/GPA Coordination Office. Contact: <a href="mailto:igr2@unep.nl">igr2@unep.nl</a>
18 October 2006	World Water Monitoring Day Organised by: Water Environment Federation and the International Water Association. Contact: <a href="mailto:wwmd@wef.org">wwmd@wef.org</a>
27 November—1 December 2006	8th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP-8) to the Basel Convention Nairobi, Kenya. Organised by: Secretariat of the Basel Convention. Contact: <a href="mailto:sbc@unep.ch">sbc@unep.ch</a>
12 – 16 December 2006	The East Asian Seas Congress 2006 Haikou City, PR China. Organised by: GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Seas of East Asia in cooperation with the State Oceanic Administration—PR China, the Hainan Provincial Government, the Haikou City Government and various partner organisations. Contact: <a href="mailto:congress@pemsea.org">congress@pemsea.org</a>
3—6 September 2007	10th International Rivers <i>symposium</i> and International Conference on Environment Flows Brisbane, Australia. Organised by: <i>Riversymposium</i> and the Nature Conservancy Contact: <a href="mailto:emily@riverfestival.com.au">emily@riverfestival.com.au</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 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

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- 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.