

Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future

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**Stakeholder Consultation on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of
the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)
(held during the 7th United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on
Oceans and the Law of the Sea) Thursday, June 15, 2006, 1:15 P.M - 2:45 P.M.
UNEP New York Conference Room**

Participants

Dr. Veerle Vandeweerd, UNEP/GPA

Ms. Maria Figueroa Küpçü, Stakeholder Forum

Mr. Robert Baldi, DEFRA, UK

Dr. Chua, T.E., Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
(PEMSEA)

Dr. Harlan Cohen, IUCN

Ms. Nilda Mesa, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)

Father Paul Mayer, Climate Crisis Coalition

Professor Ann Powers, Pace University

Mr. Leonard Sonnenschein, World Ocean Network

Dr. David Vanderzwaag, Dalhousie University, IUCN

Representative, Institute of Marine Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago

Ms. Kateryna Wowk, Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands

Observers

Ms. Ann Marie Jobity, Ministry of Agriculture Land and Marine Resources (Trinidad &
Tobago)

Dr. Amoy Lum Kong, Institute of Marine Affairs (Trinidad & Tobago)

Additional Written Comments

Ms. Patricia Aquing, Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI)

Mr. Christopher Corbin, UNEP CAR/RCU

Mr. Vincent Sweeney, Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI)

Meeting Minutes

Introduction by Dr. Vandeweerd

Ms. K p u began the meeting by welcoming participants and explaining that the aim of the consultation was to involve a variety of stakeholders in identifying key issues and discussing the role they can play in addressing the implementation of the GPA.

Dr. Vandeweerd emphasized the importance of placing oceans on the international agenda, noting that the oceans community is very small, particularly in comparison with the freshwater community. Focus turned to the structure of the GPA and IGR-2, with thanks to the Chinese government for their assistance in supporting IGR-2. Dr. Vandeweerd explained that the GPA is a non-binding agreement, and is the result of a long process of negotiations. It is a comprehensive action program, which works at both the national and global levels. The GPA is the only global program addressing freshwater to oceans issues; the GPA has the opportunity to bring communities together, and place oceans issues on the international agenda.

Dr. Vandeweerd reminded participants that the implementation of the GPA is primarily the task of governments, and secondly the task of the freshwater and oceans communities. The primary task of the Secretariat of the GPA is to promote and facilitate the implementation of the GPA. Phase I of the GPA consisted of translating a global program into a regional one. Phase II of the GPA, implemented in Montreal, was to translate the GPA into an action program, by turning planning into action. A first action is to deal with financing, and a second is to deal with government structures, including existing legal and political frameworks in which the GPA must be implemented.

Achievements since Montreal at the global level have been the promotion of the linkages between freshwater and coasts, including recognition of this link at the 2002 WSSD. Also, the 2006 4th World Water Forum (WWF), for the first time, held sessions on the linkages between oceans and coasts, and recognized that Intergrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) necessarily implies the management of water resources from hilltops to oceans. The University of Delaware was instrumental in the recognition of oceans issues at the 4th WWF. At the CSD-14, it was recognized that IWRM needs incorporate coastal zones as well. Furthermore, the GWP, a freshwater organization, has now constructed a toolkit for the integration of freshwater resources and coastal zones. Finally, the Marine Strategy of the EC explicitly makes a link between the freshwater and marine environments.

Dr. Vandeweerd further emphasized that global targets on water supply and sanitation must consider sewage that impacts coastal zones and the health of coastal populations. Currently, 37% of the global population lives on the coasts, and coastal populations are growing. Freshwater goals in the international community must consider the condition of the oceans, and in particular of coastal zones. Dr. Vandeweerd noted that the Stakeholder Forum could play an important role in linking the coastal and oceans communities, as the Stakeholder Forum has a good constituency in the freshwater community, and was an integral part of both the 2002 WSSD and past meetings of the CSD. The oceans

community needs to further reach out to the freshwater community. Stakeholder Forum could facilitate this matter.

The GPA is a freshwater program, though it is typically placed in the coastal and oceans areas. Civil society and NGOs need to be mobilized toward their involvement in the implementation of the GPA. At the regional level the GPA primarily works through the Regional Seas Programme, including 140 nations and 17 regional seas, which disseminate the GPA. Much knowledge has been gained and adapted through advice from these regions, in particular through PEMSEA. At the national level, the GPA has gained much support. In Montreal there were four nations with National Programs of Action (NPAs), whereas now there are approximately 80 nations that have implemented, or are developing, NPAs. However, Dr. Vandeweerd noted that the purpose of the GPA is not only to develop an NPA, but to incorporate an NPA into existing national plans and frameworks. NPAs need to have action, and need to be adopted by development authorities in order to be actionable.

Beijing represents some major challenges for the GPA and involved stakeholders. As mentioned, the role of the GPA Secretariat is to promote and facilitate the implementation of the GPA. One place in particular where this has been challenging has been in the private sector. Private sector involvement, including involvement from municipal authorities, has not been successful in the past. Additionally, mobilizing partners in the UN has been difficult.

IGR-2 will need to determine next steps for the GPA. Dr. Vandeweerd noted that the goal of the GPA should not be to expand too much. More NPAs could be promoted, but many nations already have NPAs. Additionally, the GPA is on most international agendas, including that of the GEF. A second goal could be to monitor and promote on progress made, yet there is a third goal that may best serve the next phase of the GPA. The GPA needs to be mainstreamed in developing planning. Oceans should no longer be considered in isolation. Oceans are inextricably linked with poverty development, and need to be considered when addressing these challenges. Beijing presents an opportunity to discuss how best to mainstream the GPA into national development plans, across ministers and sectors (including transport, tourism, energy, etc.).

An additional goal in Beijing should be to show the flexibility of the GPA. For example, the GPA contributes to the 2015 goal of poverty reduction in world society. A key question in Beijing will be how to incorporate these overall goals into an NPA program. Dr. Vandeweerd emphasized that new tools are needed to further the GPA, as conventions are not typically action-oriented. The GPA has a role to make sure that new instruments are working. Beijing presents an opportunity for an intergovernmental and interactive discussion, which may lead to the incorporation of new tools.

Dr. Vandeweerd briefly described the schedule for IGR-2. On Day 1 governments will explain how they have implemented their respective NPAs, including financing, mainstreaming the GPA into various ministries, and major challenges they have faced in GPA implementation. Day 2 is Partnerships Day, largely modelled after White Water to Blue Water, where many partnerships will be represented. By creating partnerships institutions can save valuable resources by reducing duplication and utilizing each others

tools. For example, International Oceans Institute can use its various training institutions to provide GPA training. The global community can be rallied by using one set of information, shared between oceans institutions. Additionally, it was noted that the Global Forum provides much representation across sectors, which can be mobilized to encourage public support. Day 3 of IGR-2 will focus on the GPA Programme of Work. Finally, Days 4 and 5 will consist of Ministerial discussions. Major topics expected to be discussed include:

- Nutrients – Sewage pollution is a major problem affecting freshwater and coastal resources; this issue was emphasized at the CSD and has been gaining international attention. Also, nutrient overloading, including excessive amounts of nitrogen and phosphorous entering freshwater and marine resources, is of particular concern. Discussions need to focus on what the international and national reactions should be to these problems at the Ministerial level.
- Physical alteration and destruction of habitats – The degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems is of concern. By 2050 it is projected that over 50% of the global population will live on the coasts, making these habitats more susceptible to alteration. Integrated Coastal Zone Management already addresses this issue, but the GPA can be utilized to further progress toward the protection of these habitats.
- Mainstreaming the GPA – The GPA can be utilized as a cross-sectoral instrument to mainstream the implementation of NPAs. Domestic resources and finances need to be mobilized, existing political and institutional structures may need to be altered, and various stakeholders need to be involved.

At the regional level, discussions will need to include next steps for stakeholders, concerning what regional stakeholders can and should do, and how. The final product of these discussions will be a Ministerial Declaration. Finally, Dr. Vandeweerd noted that it is the public that needs to push policy makers to take action. While freshwater resources are very close to people's daily lives, the oceans are not so obviously linked, and the oceans community is much smaller than the freshwater community. It is difficult to mobilize action toward the protection of the marine environment; there is currently not enough movement, and in this respect the public needs to play a more integrated and mobilizing role.

Discussion

Dr. Vanderzwaag began the discussion by focusing on financial constraints and the need to mobilize domestic funding, and how IGR-2 would address this issue. National reporting takes a large amount of resources, which are often lacking in many countries.

Dr. Vandeweerd noted that concerning financing and legislative problems, there will be an opportunity at IGR-2 for nations to report on who has faced these issues, who has solved these issues, how, and what can that nation teach other nations attempting to implement NPAs. However, she also noted again that IGR-2 is to be action-oriented. The meeting is not to focus too much on reporting but on producing actionable goals for nations and partners to implement.

Mr. Sonnenschein announced that the Sustainable Actions Committee (World Ocean Network) is planning a strategy to advance the oceans agenda by using celebrity power. They have put out an RFP concerning small actions on a regional basis to this end. He noted that the public is often paralyzed by an overload of information. World Oceans will seek from these meetings what the general public can do to forward the oceans agenda, including measures like refraining from buying certain types of seafood, or not dumping oil near bays. Finally, Mr. Sonnenschein informed the group that on June 8, 2007, the World Oceans Network will be holding a Concert for the Oceans. IGR-2 presents an opportunity to mobilize support for this event.

Dr. Vandeweerd mentioned that it would be very useful to provide the public with a one-page document on how the general public can help to protect the oceans. She reminded participants that this is an intergovernmental meeting, and therefore this topic is not the focus of IGR-2; however this could be a positive addition to the meeting. Dr. Vandeweerd suggested that the World Ocean Network come up with a set of about 10 points on what the average individual can do to protect the oceans, as an action-oriented outcome of IGR-2, particularly considering that there will be much media attention at IGR-2. This would present a tremendous opportunity to reach out to the Chinese public (all publications will initially be in Mandarin). The Stakeholder Forum, as well as the Global Forum, could also be mobilized to get the message out to the general public.

Mr. Sonnenschein noted that they would like to hold a workshop at IGR-2 on how to implement measures to mobilize the general public. Dr. Vandeweerd emphasized that if participants intend to hold like events they need to inform the GPA well in advance of IGR-2. Participants may contact Nancy Bennet (n.bennet@unep.nl) to this end.

Dr. Vanderzwaag asked what is being done about legislative modelling. Dr. Vandeweerd explained that there is a report coming out soon that answers this specific question. She further explained that the GPA wants to build strategic partnerships, and test out a specified strategy in three or four nations. The GPA will also observe how a nation can sustain domestic funding in the long-term (10-20 years). Legislative and financial modelling will continue to be areas of GPA focus.

Professor Powers stated that legislative models are often very general, to be used as guidelines for a nation, yet that these models typically need to be narrowed down to meet the specific needs of different countries. Also, the UNEP is developing specific protocols to this end. Dr. Vandeweerd furthered this point, noting the Black Sea and Nairobi Conventions, as examples where the UNEP is working to first identify best practices, and then work with countries to see how these best practices can be implemented. Professor Powers noted that it is very difficult to tailor general models that are broad enough to suit a wide range of activities, but that are also narrow enough to support on-the-ground activities.

Dr. Chua informed participants that PEMSEA has been working very closely with local governments to help establish an integrated regime which involves all relevant stakeholders. To establish an integrated regime PEMSEA has been developing sea-use and land-use planning together, and then developing the proper protocol. Dr. Vandeweerd thought this would be a useful concept to bring into the Ministerial

Declaration. Dr. Chua further explained that in China all coastal areas are mandated to develop sea-use planning, giving local governments limitations on development and resource use, giving a clear demarcation of coastal zone use. PEMSEA has good case studies that could be used to present lessons learned in this practice, including the Philippines, where the government was influenced to consider the entire watersheds of Laguna Bay, including a population of 7 million. With PEMSEA, the government sought to address the treatment of the ecosystem as a whole, which is now in the planning stage. Dr. Chua emphasized that it is important to involve all stakeholders in the planning and implementation processes; the involvement of not only the local government, but also the private sector, are of critical importance. Dr. Vandeweerd asked if it would be possible to invite a Philippine representative to present the results of these efforts and the concept of sea-use planning in a 5 minute presentation, to which Dr. Chua agreed.

Ms. K p c  asked how the private sector might become more involved in supporting the GPA. Dr. Vandeweerd noted that the GPA's first client is governments, but that the GPA does also need to incorporate the private sector. The GPA has been successful in this respect concerning the physical alteration and destruction of the marine environment. The GPA has been working closely with the tourist sector to create a code of conduct on coastal development. Also, the GPA has been working with the aquaculture and ports and harbours sectors. Particularly with the ports and harbours sector, the GPA has been conducting a lot of outreach. There is a need to incorporate the private sector to take action, for instance, in the area of waste water. The private sector has become more involved in the oceans arena through the Global Forum; however efforts toward incorporation have not been easy through this medium, and further efforts toward incorporation are needed.

Dr. Chua explained that his experience with the private sector has been bitter. The private sector is concerned with its own interests. However, he has had several interesting encounters. At the local level the private sector has been able to mobilize action because they have interests in the area. In the process, the private sector has been able to create several local champions. In these cases there is a sense of ownership, belonging, and pride, because the people are able to take part in, and witness, on-the-ground changes. Furthermore, investment opportunities that the private sector finds conducive to invest in are more likely to be adopted by that sector. This includes reducing the political and financial risks of investments.

Dr. Vandeweerd explained that the meeting in Beijing could be used to emphasize the concept of a circle economy, where the waste of one company is used to fuel another company, and which the Chinese government is trying to implement. This concept could, hopefully, reach out to the private sector and introduce a new model of consumption and production.

Ms. K p c  then focused the group's attention to the Draft Elements to the Beijing Declaration. She explained the outcomes of the Stakeholder Forum London Meeting to review the changes in the most recent Beijing Declaration, including:

- The local people are not strongly enough represented in the Declaration

- While municipal waste water is emphasized, agricultural and industrial waste is not emphasized
- Trade unions want more partnership text, and local actions are not strongly addressed, only national actions
- There is a need for more urgent and action-oriented measures in the Declaration

Dr. Vandeweerd explained that measures to deal with agricultural waste will become stronger in the Declaration. She agreed that local communities need to be emphasized more, but the focus will remain on governments. Finally, Dr. Vandeweerd reminded participants that a declaration is always carefully negotiated text, and that it is difficult to make the Declaration more action-oriented while still making it acceptable to governments.

Dr. Chua remarked that a general declaration is of little use. He further stated that big cities are able to get funding from institutions like the World Bank, while many small cities and countries find it difficult to obtain any funding. In many instances, for instance, with nutrient-overloading from a lack of sewage treatment, in the aggregate these small cities and nations are the major polluters. Text needs to be inserted into the Declaration that can be supported by action in order to be effective. Governments need to pay attention not only to big cities, but also to areas that have been neglected before, like many small communities.

Professor Powers noted that while a lack of sewage treatment is a problem in many smaller areas, a larger problem is excess of animal waste from small farmers and communities. This problem leads to a large increase in nutrient loading to water resources, and is difficult to address, except perhaps with case studies exemplifying measures for success in mitigating this problem.

Mr. Sonnenschein emphasized that 50% of downstream pollution comes from individuals, and that this personal component is missing from the Declaration. He also highlighted the distinction from the words ‘use’ and ‘develop’, and stated that “we need to know how to use what we have developed”. He offered a list of specific text amendments on behalf of the World Ocean Network.

Father Mayer reminded participants that global warming is an issue that is inextricably linked with the issues mentioned in the Declaration, and wondered whether climate change could be strengthened in the document, noting that this issue will soon overshadow all others. He mentioned that while in the first draft climate change was weakly mentioned in this draft it was completely eliminated. Father Mayer also offered specific text amendments to the Beijing Declaration on behalf of the Climate Crisis Coalition.

Dr. Vandeweerd explained that Ministers need to address the issue of climate change, not the GPA. Beijing is about action, and we need to try to avoid a stalemate. We want the oceans agenda to move forward with action. The GPA is not a negotiating forum, but all actions are rather supported by consensus.

Mr. Baldi then reminded participants that there is already a forum for climate change issues. In order to put the issue in the Declaration, we could frame the issue in the context of oceans, by mentioning the effects of climate change on oceans, including oceans acidification.

As a last note, Dr. Vanderzwaag mentioned that there is a need to further develop sub-regional and regional plans of action, and a need to emphasize integrated planning, including measures on how to push model development on a regional basis.

Ms. K p c  reminded the group that Stakeholder Forum will be convening additional stakeholder consultations in various regions as well as hosting an online dialogue (June 19-29, 2006) at www.stakeholderforum.org

Following the meeting, Ms. Mesa raised the idea of involving sport, sport fishing and boating groups in the awareness raising activities for the GPA. She provided several websites for follow-up by Stakeholder Forum.

Additionally, participants commented on the need for stakeholders to engage their national governments directly by asking for their position on the GPA, though direct calls to action or letter writing campaigns.

Written comments to the discussion questions was provided by Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI), who were not able to attend the meeting in person. (Annex I)

Conclusion

All suggestions of textual changes are to be sent to Ms. K p c . These suggestions will be compiled and sent to the GPA by the June 26th deadline.

Finally, Dr. Vandeweerd reminded participants that early registration is required for participation at IGR-2, and that pre-registration should take place as soon as possible.

Special thanks to Ms. Kateryna Wowk, Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands for her help preparing the summary of meeting discussion.

**Discussion Questions for Stakeholder Consultation on GPA
New York, June 15, 2006**

Submitted by the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute

1. What are the 3 largest threats to the marine environment from land based activities that affect or concern your constituency?
 - a. Coastal Development – Tourism Development (Marinas, Hotels) and Urbanization leading to increased pollution from solid waste, liquid waste (untreated sewage) and direct damage to coastal and marine ecosystems from activities such as mangrove clearing and sand mining
 - b. Changing Land use – Deforestation etc. Leading to increased sedimentation and poor soil management practices
 - c. Agriculture – Over dependence on intensive pesticide and fertilizer use leading to nutrient enhancement and agrochemical run-off

2. What has been your sector's experience of the GPA and its implementation?
 - a. Many of the GPA guidelines have perhaps not been extensively used or applied at the regional and national levels
 - b. The more recent focus on NPAs as a process of GPA implementation is a positive one and the need to develop closer linkages with other plans and strategies such as Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Sustainable Land Management (SLM) etc.
 - c. The focus on developing sustainable financing strategies to implement GPA related projects and activities is also positive and greater focus must be given to enhancing the ability to sustainably finance environmental management interventions.

3. What actions are necessary from governments, international financial institutions, the GPA/Coordination office, etc. to expedite the implementation of the GPA?
 - a. Greater integration of GPA objectives into regional, sub-regional and national environmental policies and strategies
 - b. Greater implementation of environmental needs/objectives including the GPA into national economic development plans and strategies
 - c. Use of regional and sub-regional agencies
 - d. Greater effort to value environmental goods and services at the national level
 - e. Linkages between GPA and LBS Protocols should be strengthened and supported by national activities and legislation.
 - f. Establishing priorities at the national level for the development of strategies and programmes and implementing of such;
 - g. Development of national policies through a consultative process and taking measures to prevent the pollution of the marine environment from LBS;
 - h. Establishment of timelines and means of evaluation of programmes.

4. What role exists for your sector in implementing the GPA? Specifically, what could your sector do to further support the implementation of the GPA?
 - a. Linking relevant GPA objectives to ongoing projects and activities
 - b. CEHI is uniquely placed to work with Member States incorporating the aims and objectives of the GPA within regional and national action programmes.
 - c. Provide technical assistance for the assessment of the threats to the marine environment at the regional and national levels and the establishment of priorities
 - d. There is an opportunity for the national and regional programmes to complement the work to be conducted under the IWCAM Project
 - e. Collaboration with UNEP CAR/RCU in mainstreaming GPA objectives into national planning
5. From the perspective of your constituency, what elements are missing from the Beijing Declaration that should be included? What additional language should be included?
6. Any other points or issues for consideration?
 - a. Focus should perhaps not be on implementing the GPA but rather how the GPA goals, activities, principles, obligations, processes can be better incorporated into national and regional programmes, projects and activities