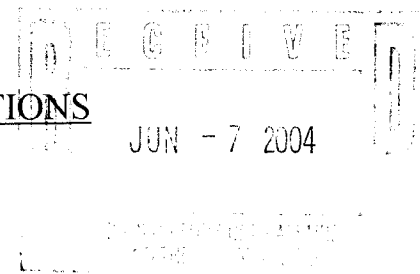


## GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

### THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGULAR PROCESS FOR GLOBAL REPORTING AND ASSESSMENT OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECT (GMA)

#### PARAWISE COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS



#### I. GOALS AND SCOPE:

##### A. INTRODUCTION:

Para 1: It is our international and regional obligation to start development of GMA Process and arrange for its implementation under UN umbrella as required by the World Summit on WSSD.

Para 2a: Pakistan has already initiated some work with its limited technical and financial sources by increasing its efforts for the scientific and Technical collaboration, including integrated assessment at the regional and international level for transfer of marine science and marine technologies for conservation and management of living and non living marine resources and expanding ocean observing capabilities for the assessment of the state of marine environment.

Para 2b: Pakistan endorses the relevant suggestions for the establishment of a regular process under UN GMA.

Para 2c: Pakistan endorses the relevant suggestions and projects for the capacity building in developing countries.

Para 2d: Pakistan supports the strengthening of the ability of IOC/UNESCO; FAO and UNEP and other relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations to build national and local capacity in marine science and for sustainable management of ocean and their resources. It endorses the relevant suggestions and efforts for the capacity building under UN GMA.

Para 3: Member States are required to develop GMA as per decisions taken by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WCCD) under the United Nations.

B: GOALS:

Para 4: Pakistan agrees with the goals of GMA and the need to facilitate continuous access to information on the status and trends of marine ecosystems on diverse geographical scale. However, access to relevant information on some coastal waters may not be allowed for reasons of national security and defence.

C: SCOPE:

Para 5: Pakistan agrees with the Scope of GMA and the need to promote the implementation of plans and projects under the overall scope of GMA. The suggestion of Peer Review for the regular scientific reports to ensure good quality is appropriate, however, it might delay the production of regular scientific assessment reports on-time as envisaged under GMA. To ensure good quality of scientific reports some independent consultants may also be hired on short term basis for limited time for checking, editing and improvement of the regular scientific reports. This will ensure good quality and on-time production of regular scientific reports.

The scope of GMA for assessment of marine ecosystem should provide scientific basis for formulation of a specific policy or a set of policies for the conservation/management of marine resources, at least at regional and national levels.

II. FRAMEWORK AND PROCESSES:

Para 6: Implementation of a Start-up Phase of two years before the commencement of a regular five year cyclic process of GM would make it adaptable in many developing countries with little or no institutional arrangements for GMA.

## A. GMA Start-UP:

Para 7: Pakistan agrees with the structure of the GMA Start-up Phase and its focus on five main tasks.

### A.1. Assessment of the Assessments:

Para 8: There is genuine need for the Assessment of assessments to analyze the results, process and policy relevance of any preceding assessments to define the current state of knowledge of marine ecosystem/marine environment and marine resource assessments. Pakistan agrees with the proposed approach outlined in this regard.

Para 9: Pakistan agrees to the suggestion under this para.

Para 10: Pakistan agrees that there is genuine need for a preparatory phase for the implementation of GMA particularly in the developing countries.

Para 11: Pakistan agrees that the GMA should provide useful guidance on several aspects of the design of GMA as outlined under this para.

### A.2. Identification of GMA Regions:

Para 12: Pakistan agrees to the proposal for the GMA as outlined under this para.

Para 13: Pakistan agrees to the proposal for the GMA as outlined under this para.

Para 14: Pakistan agrees to the proposal for the GMA as outlined under this para.

### A.3. Capacity Building:

Para 15: Pakistan supports this proposal for the implementation under GMA as outlined under this para.

A.4. Topical Assessments:

Para 16: Pakistan agrees to the suggestion under this para.

A.5. Scenario analysis:

Para 17: Pakistan agrees to the suggestion under this para.

Paras 18-20: Pakistan agrees to the suggestions under these paras.

B. REGULAR GMA PROCESS:

B.1. frequency of the GMA Process:

Para 21: Pakistan agrees to the five year cycle for regular GMA Process.

B.2. Conceptual Framework:

a) Themes, b) Drivers, and c) Implications:

Para 22: Pakistan agrees to the Themes for the Conceptual Framework for regular GMA Process.

Para 23: Pakistan agrees to the identification of immediate causes of environmental change/stressors under regular GMA Process.

Para 24: Pakistan agrees to the identification of driving forces to the stressors for environmental change under regular GMA Process.

Para 25: Pakistan agrees to the scientific assessment of the policy options, including analysis of potential future scenarios under the Conceptual Framework for regular GMA Process.

### B.3. General organization Framework:

Paras 26-29: Pakistan agrees to the plan for the working and functions of the consultative scientific assessment after the Start-up Phase of GMA.

a. Global Scientific Assessment Panel: The composition and Functions of the Global Scientific Panel appears to be adequate for the assigned tasks.

b. Regional Scientific Assessments:

i) Modalities and Methodologies:

Paras 30-33: Pakistan agrees to the Modalities Methodologies for the Regional Scientific Assessments for GMA. There appears to be flexibility to accommodate specific regional requirements through changes in the structure mechanisms and design for Regional Scientific Assessments, and the involvement of natural scientists and social scientists with experience in various disciplines to complete assessments.

ii) Activities:

Para 34: Pakistan agrees to the proposed mechanism for scientific assessment after the Start-up Phase of GMA. The quality control may be ensured by some time efficient alternative method. It is feared that Peer Review of the Results of Regional Reports might delay the timely submission of Regional Assessment Reports.

### B.4. Coordination of the GMA Process.

Paras 35-37: Pakistan agrees to the proposed mechanism for the Coordination of the GMA Process. It is equally important to ensure better coordination between various agencies with the national and local assessments of the marine environment and its ecosystem. The required capacity building at national levels and the involvement of all

stakeholders at the national level in the assessments would ensure success of GMA Process

### C. BUDGETARY Considerations

Paras 38-39: The size of the budget appears to be less than that required for the establishment of GMA and its planned activities. The budget for the capacity building has to be added to it as this component will also be needed in the initial stages of GMA Process.

## III. QUALITY ASSURANCE INCLUDING PEER REVIEW:

### A. GMA POOL OF EXPERTS:

Paras 40-42: Pakistan agrees to the proposed mechanism for the quality control and high standard of scientific Reports. The national experts from developing countries should also be added to the list of GMA Pool of Experts for the review of scientific reports.

### B&C. PEER REVIEW OF GLOBAL AND REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS.

Paras 43-45: Pakistan agrees to the proposed mechanism for the quality control and high standard of scientific Reports. The national experts from developing countries should also be added to the list of GMA Pool of Experts for the review of scientific reports.

The suggestion of Peer Review for the regular scientific reports to ensure good quality is appropriate, however, it might delay the production of regular scientific assessment reports on-time as envisaged under GMA. To ensure good quality of scientific reports some independent consultants may also be hired on short term basis for limited time for checking, editing and improvements of the regular scientific reports. This will ensure good quality and on-time production of regular scientific reports.

#### IV. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND THE GMA SECRETARIAT:

Paras 46-48: Pakistan agrees to the proposed mechanism for the Institutional Arrangements and for the GMA Secretariat under the UN umbrella. Pakistan may offer to host a regional Secretariat at Karachi for coordinating GMA activities in the Arabian Sea Region.

#### V. CAPACITY BUILDING:

Paras 49-50: The need for the capacity building is emphasized for GMA Process. However, the details of the proposed mechanism for capacity building under the GMA needs to be worked out.

Meanwhile, Pakistan would like to ensure participation of its scientists in other global and regional programmes for marine environment such as GOOS, LME, and GAP for the protection of pollution from land based sources, SCCR and SCAR.

#### VI. FUNDING FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE GMA.

Paras 51-52: The required funding for GMA has to be explored. The idea of Voluntary Trust Fund for GMA appears to be attractive but would need some seed funds to get started. The World Bank, GEF, UN, UNESCO and UNEP may provide some seed money to raise the funds on voluntary basis.

#### VII. UN AGENCIES AND PROGRAMME COMMITMENTS:

Paras 53-55: In addition to the commitments from UN agencies, national commitments would ensure the implementation of the GMA. The required funding for GMA may also be explored from external sources, such as ADB, and the World Bank, GEF, NORAD, CIDA etc. to raise the funds on voluntary basis.

SPECIFIC ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE FIRST ASSESSMENT UNDER GMA INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP (7-11 JUNE 2004, NEW YORK, USA).

1. Development of GMA Start-up

Development of GMA Start-up Programme at the national levels in some maritime countries would require an initial Technical help and additional Financial resources to implement GMA Start-up Process. This issue needs to be addressed for the following cases.

- a. States/regions with no relevant data and relevant institutions for marine resource management/conservation and marine Research and Development organizations?
- b. States/regions with little relevant data and very low levels of relevant institutions for marine resource management/conservation and marine Research and Development organizations?
- c. States/regions with reasonable relevant data and moderate levels of relevant institutions for marine resource management/conservation and marine Research and Development organizations?

1) An Assessment of the Assessments:

Implementation of the proposed Assessment of the assessment programme under GMA Start-up Process would face the following types of cases to be addressed.

- a. States/regions with no or hardly any previous effort for the assessment for marine environment and marine resource management/conservation, and no effort for the assessment of the assessments.
- b. States/regions with some previous efforts made for the assessments of the marine environment and marine resource



management/conservation, and no effort for the assessment of the assessments.

- c. States/regions with adequate levels of assessments made of marine environment and marine resource management/conservation; and some efforts for the assessment of the assessments.
- d. States/regions with adequate levels of assessments made of marine environment and marine resource management/conservation; and reasonable efforts for the assessment of the assessments. However, there are great disparities in their national/regional assessments within a region which requires harmonizing under a common conceptual framework for GMA.

These issues need to be addressed for possible practicable solutions for each case.

## 2. Identification of GMA Regions:

The 25-30 GMA regions as envisaged for GMA Process needs to be identified in the beginning. Pakistan proposes a region for the Northern Arabian Sea bordering by Pakistan, Iran, Yemen, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Somalia and India. The issue of identification of all possible regions for GMA needs to be addressed in the initial phase of GMA.

## 3. Capacity Building:

Implementation of the proposed GMA Start-up Process would need to address capacity building for the following types of cases:

- a. States/regions with no or hardly any capacity for the assessment for marine environment and marine resource management/conservation; and need significant technical and financial help for developing the required level of capacities for the GMA Process.

- b. States/regions with some capacities for the assessments of the marine environment and marine resource management/conservation; and require reasonable Technical and Financial help to enhance their capacities for implementation of GMA.
- c. States/regions with adequate levels of capacities of marine environment and marine resource management/conservation, and only require coordination and policy direction for implementation of GMA Process.
- d. States/regions with adequate levels of capacities to address marine environment and marine resource management/conservation; and reasonable capacities for the assessment of the assessments. However, there are great disparities in their national/regional capacities within a region which require harmonizing under a common conceptual framework for GMA.

These issues need to be addressed for possible practicable solutions for each case.

4) Identification of Issues for the commencement of Topical Assessments:

In addition to the topics already identified in the document following may be added to list:

- a. Review of Data/Information needs for GMA in the developing Member States;
- b. Impact of the Coastal Resource Use and Conservation practices in the tropical oceans;
- c. Assessment of the Integrated Coastal Zone/Coastal Area Management practices in the various coastal regions;
- d. Status of the sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems in various regions of the world;

- e. Assessment of persistent organic pollutants and their impact on the productivity of the fragile marine ecosystems;
- f. Review of the impacts of reduced river discharges to deltas on the estuarine conditions and ecological balance in the coastal ecosystems;
- g. Assessment of the sewage discharge and industrial effluents on the health of the coastal environments;
- h. Assessment of the Sea-level Rise and its impact on coastal structures at risk and Archaeological Resources in the delta under coastal areas under threat;
- i. Assessment of socio-economy/living conditions of Coastal Communities.

2. GMA Pool of Experts:

Addition of the relevant national/regional experts from developing countries amongst the member states to the list of GMA Pool of Experts.

3. Peer Review of Global and Regional Scientific Assessment Reports:

Utilization of the services of the relevant and qualified experts from each region for the task of Peer Review of scientific reports under GMA.

4. Institutional Arrangements and the GMA Secretariat:

Identification of the States in the regions to host a regional Secretariat for coordinating GMA activities in the various identified regions under GMA.