



Introduction:

UNIDO shares the deep concern of the General Assembly at the continuing degradation of the marine environment, especially from land-based activities and is working to build the international cooperation, coordinated actions and integrated management necessary at national, regional and global levels to address this problem.

UNIDO assists its partner governments in the preparation of *environmental policies*, which define the role of industry, or specific sub-sectors, in achieving compliance with national, regional and international legal instruments related to the environment, and *environmental norms*, which set standards for the discharge of industry pollutants into the environment. UNIDO also assists in building capacity for the development and deployment of *environmental monitoring systems* that combine inspections by enterprise and government to assess performance and measure compliance with operational licences.

Salient Issues Identified:

UNIDO participated in the several Global Forum activities in 2002 notably the WSSD and the African Regional initiative for the Development and protection of the coastal and marine environment of Sub-Saharan Africa. Three important issues took prominence in the programmes of UNIDO relating to the coastal and marine environment and formed its contribution to debates and discussions at the various Global Forum function namely:

- i) Restoration of the global Large Marine Ecosystems;
- ii) Industrial Globalized Fisheries and bridging of the north/south divide in artisanal and industrial fisheries;
- iii) Sustainable coastal tourism development to mitigate degradation of the coastal areas and sensitive ecosystems and conserve threaten biodiversity.

It is noted that the unrestricted activities of global industrialized fisheries are encroaching on the artisanal fisheries of the developing countries large marine ecosystems, placing at risk food security and economic returns from fisheries for the people of the regions.

Measures being undertaken to address the issues:

Recognizing that pollutants and living resources in the coastal and marine environment respect no political boundaries and few geographical ones and, in effect, require large scale, concerted and holistic approaches for their assessment and management, UNIDO in partnership with other UN Agencies, International Organizations and Regional Groupings adopted the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) approach for marine environmental management. The long-term objective is to restore and sustain the health of the LMEs and its natural resources particularly as it concerns its biological diversity.

The LME approach has been very successful in creating regional and global frameworks for mobilising national human, institutional and financial resources in a co-ordinated and synergistic manner towards resolving common transboundary priority problems including governance issues in accordance with long-term and sound environmental and living resources management principles.

UNIDO is formulating and executing major projects addressing regional transboundary problems of Large Marine Ecosystems and their associated river basins, wetlands and coastal zones within the *International Waters* focal area of the Global Environment

Facility. Each of these projects is founded on the principle of integrated ecosystem management developed from consideration of five modules:

- ecosystem productivity,
- fish, fisheries and biodiversity,
- pollution and ecosystem health,
- socio-economic conditions,
- governance

The Large Marine Ecosystem Projects notably the Guinea Current and Canary Current in Western Africa, Humboldt Current and Gulf of Mexico in South America are collaborative and cooperative initiatives with other UN Agencies, International Organizations, Governments, Regional Commissions, Private Sector and NGOs. The projects are ecosystem-based effort to assist the countries and regions achieve environmental and resource sustainability. This would be accomplished by shifting from short-term sector-by-sector driven management approach to a long-term integrated perspective, and from managing commodities to sustaining the production potential for ecosystem-wide goods and services.

Recommendation: Better Coordination within the UN system

UNIDO fully recognizes the importance of close cooperation and coordination between the member organisations of the UN system in order to respond appropriately and effectively to the needs of developing countries and economies in transition. UNIDO actively participated in the activities of the subcommittees of the ACC including, of particular relevance here, the Subcommittee for Oceans and Coastal Areas (SOCA). A mechanism to replace the ACC subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas needs to be urgently put in place to facilitate regular consultations and dialogue among the UN Agencies. UNIDO contributed actively to the recent First Intergovernmental Review of the Global Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA), held in Montreal in November 2001, and is a participating member of consultations, led by the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO on Large Marine Ecosystems.

At an operational level, UNIDO collaborates with other members of the UN system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the joint development, execution and implementation of projects and programmes. For example, the Large Marine Ecosystem projects executed by UNIDO are commonly co-executed or implemented by UNEP, UNDP, FAO and IMO.

As a specialised agency of the UN, UNIDO's operational budget to execute these activities is drawn from external contributions, including UN implementing agencies, through a variety of funding mechanisms. Perhaps most important for the support of larger projects directly addressing issues related to the sustainable development and management of the Oceans and Seas is the Global Environment Facility.

There is the need to consolidate and strengthen collaboration and cooperation among and between the UN Agencies, Intergovernmental Organizations and the Private Sector active in the marine and coastal environment. A cohesive UN framework agenda on coastal and marine environmental protection will enable better collaboration with the private Sector and other multilateral organizations and provide for pooling of resources and expertise to solve the identified problems besieging the marine and coastal ecosystem.