

UNDP submission to 2010 SG Report

Capacity Building in Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

The UNDP-GEF **Pacific Oceanic Fisheries Management** project is on track to achieve its first objective to improve understanding of the transboundary oceanic fish resources and related features of the Western and Central Pacific Warm Pool Large Marine Ecosystem, through improved availability of fish stock status measures, including improved flow and quality of fisheries data from beneficiary countries, which are progressively incorporated into stock assessments; completion of the successful first phase of the regional 'Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme'; new analyses of environmental impacts on yellowfin and bigeye recruitment; and comprehensive estimates of by-catch levels and uncertainty. Seamounts fisheries data are being analyzed to detect any tuna and other species catch rate increase in relation to seamount, and to determine the importance of tuna production around seamounts in comparison to the total Pacific tuna production. Impact of the presence of seamounts on oceanic biodiversity is also being explored. The project is also well on target to achieve its second objective to create new regional institutional arrangements and reform, realign and strengthen national arrangements for conservation and management of transboundary oceanic fishery resources. As a result of the project, the capacities of all participating Pacific SIDS to meet their obligations under the WCPF Convention have been substantially enhanced, and its Subsidiary bodies are fully operational. The performance and outcomes of the Project were highly rated by the WCPF Commission according to the Mid-Term Evaluation.

The 5th Steering Committee Meeting of the GEF-UNDP-UNEP-UNIDO **Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME)** project agreed to submit the Programme of Action on Land-Based Activities and new Protocol to the Abidjan Convention to the next CoP of the Abidjan Convention for endorsement. The 5th SCM entrusted the project Regional Coordination Unit with the preparations for the transition of the Interim Guinea Current Commission into a full Guinea Current Commission. The GCLME Strategic Action Programme (SAP) has now been endorsed by all 16 GCLME countries and widely disseminated, and a process to prepare National Action Plans for the implementation of the SAP launched. A Regional Task Force and a Road Map for Ballast Water Management was established and a Port Based Biological Survey Training Course conducted in 2009.

With support from the UNDP-GEF **Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME)** project, the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the YSLME was adopted by the two participating countries (China, Republic of Korea) in November, 2009. The SAP applied an ecosystem-based approach which, unlike the traditional sector approach, will enable the Project to tackle environmental issues holistically by maintaining and improving the "ecosystem carrying capacity" of the Yellow Sea. During the course of the SAP

development, the Project has implemented co-operative cruises successfully to collect data and information on the Yellow Sea ecosystem. These joint surveys—the first in history—have provided not only the basis for a basin-wide management of marine and coastal resources in the Yellow Sea, but also strengthened the co-operative spirit of the littoral countries.

In 2009, under the UNDP-GEF **Agulhas/Somali Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLMEs)** Project, 120 days of oceanographic cruises on the R/V Fridtjof Nansen were completed. Reports of three cruises have been finalized and circulated leading to preparation of 43 peer-reviewed papers and abstracts. Through the cruises, LME information gaps required for a science-based Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) are being filled and baseline information collected for the east coast of Madagascar, the Mozambique Channel, the Mascarene Plateau and Basin, and around Mauritius and Seychelles. Further data collection is on-going in 2010. Original plans for 2009 had been to undertake a gap-filling survey off Kenyan and Tanzanian coasts but this has been blocked due to increasing incidents of piracy and refusal of research vessels to work in these dangerous waters. Through an adaptive management approach, plans are being made to capture information through other means (use of local vessels, coastal studies, remote sensing from air and through use of underwater autonomous robotic vehicles). Marine Environmental Diagnostic Analyses (MEDA) Teams have been formed in each country to begin national level work leading to TDA formulation. Inter-ministerial Committees are in process of being formed in Seychelles, Mozambique, Mauritius and Tanzania. The project website is up and running; media contacts, project primer film, and active media engagement plan is in place and functioning. Lastly, the project has been systematically engaging regional entities such as Nairobi Convention, IOC, IOTC, and others, as well as the African Union in discussions about ways in which regional governance structures can work effectively to participate in, and eventually play a direct role in, SAP development and implementation.

In 2009, UNDP-GEF **PEMSEA** programme (Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia) has undergone further transition into the regionally-owned PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF), coordinating implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia. Highlights of this transition include the initial stages of operation of the new PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) and the operationalization of the EAS Partnership Council's Executive Committee and the EAS Partnership Council from the former Programme Steering Committee. These changes brought about challenges of ensuring close collaboration between PEMSEA and the Partners to ensure further strengthening of the partnership that PEMSEA has built over the years. Key progress made in 2009 includes: (i) development and adoption of the Partnership Trust Fund Management Guidelines; (ii) completion of the Framework of Partnership Programs Philippines and State of the Coasts Report of Batangas which are now utilized as models in preparation of other countries' reports; (iii) development of a paper on PEMSEA's legal personality and positive indication received from countries; (iv) signing of MOAs with Partner countries on SDS-SEA implementation and ICM scaling up programs; (v) MOAs signed with universities as ICM Learning

Centers as well as conduct of a number of trainings on IIMS, ICM, SOC, and PSHEMS; (vi) conduct of meetings, i.e. PC and EC meetings, PNLG Forum, Twinning workshop; and (vii) promotion of private-public sector participation with the signing of PPP agreement with Puerto Galera and private consortium.

An adjunct project to **PEMSEA** piloting public-private partnership (PPP) modalities for catalyzing environmental investments completed operations in 2009. Five PPP initiatives were completed (Puerto Galera, Philippines; Danang, Vietnam; Haikou, China; Bali, Indonesia; and Sihanoukville, Cambodia) with each site adopting their different scheme under the general project design of PPP. Several capacity building training/guidance materials were produced: Guide to Environmental Investments; Case Studies; Training Manual on PPP for Environmental Investments, PPP articles in PEMSEA e-updates; and PPP webpage. A number of trainings, consultations and consensus building were also conducted as part of the PPP process. The experiences gained from the PPP initiatives validated that PPP is a viable process, as demonstrated by the interest shown by the Asian Development Bank and the Philippine BOT Center to use Puerto Galera case/experience and the ongoing review of its BOT scheme to strengthen its PPP component, as well as the Vietnam Environmental Fund which was established to assist local governments in preparing PPP projects, and the recognition given to PEMSEA's PPP initiative at the Sustainable Coastal Tourism Conference in the Philippines.

GEF-UNDP-IMO **GloBallast Partnerships** (GBP) project in its first year of implementation significantly progressed in meeting its objective of expanding government and port management capacities in the participating countries to minimize the risk of transfer of harmful organisms and pathogens in ships' ballast water and sediments. The project has successfully established a global project coordination mechanism consisting of global, regional and national task forces and corresponding coordinating organizations. The project has so far delivered over 14 regional training courses covering various aspects of ballast water management and port baseline surveys, facilitated over 15 National Stakeholder workshops, 6 regional strategy development workshops as per the project implementation plan approved by the Global Project Task Force. A number of GloBallast tools have been developed to assist the countries in moving along the legal, policy and institutional reforms. GloBallast successfully established a first of its kind private sector partnership titled Global Industry Alliance (GIA) and a GIA Fund, with significant financial contribution from the maritime industry. All told, more than 70 countries in 14 developing sub-regions have benefitted from the UNDP-GEF intervention which has now resulted in a number of ratifications of the IMO BWM convention. The Project has successfully developed a number of strategic partnerships with organizations such as IUCN, IOI, UNEP Regional Seas, WMU and Regional Development Banks such as EBRD. The award winning GloBallast-BBC TV documentary "Invaders from the Sea" that was produced during the preparatory stage of the Project with the financial support from shipping industry continues to play a significant role in raising awareness of the ballast water issues. The Project has also progressed significantly in developing the key building block of a global marine electronic information system for biosecurity, through the development of a

country profile database, a port environmental parameter database and a GloBallast web portal (<http://globallast.imo.org>). The Project has also acted as a catalyst for transforming the ballast water management technology market through the coordination of a number of R&D and technology forums in partnership with the industry. In summary the Project, in a short period of time, made a significant improvement in the baseline scenario in terms of capacity building, legal, policy and institutional arrangements and stakeholder engagement including private sector.