



WELCOME FROM THE COORDINATOR

Welcome to the first **GPA OUTREACH** newsletter. The aim of this newsletter is to keep you up-to-date on the *Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities* (GPA) (quite a mouthful, I know). These newsletters will provide updates on GPA-related events, news and information for all relevant GPA stakeholders. In doing so, we aim to increase the implementation of the GPA in your part of the world.

Whilst implementation of the GPA is primarily the task of Governments, partnerships with and input from all sectors of civil society are critical to the success of the programme. This newsletter hopes to act as a key source of information for all GPA-related stakeholders. Stakeholders who may find this newsletter of interest include: local councils, fisheries, marine-based NGOs, community groups (freshwater or marine focused), public institutions, the private sector, academia, scientists, government and UN officials, students and the media.

The GPA is designed to be a source of conceptual and practical guidance to be drawn upon by national and/or regional authorities for devising and implementing sustained action to prevent, reduce, control and/or eliminate marine degradation from land-based activities. A key tool facilitating this is the GPA website and web networks (Clearing House Mechanism – CHM), that exists as a system through which decision makers and other stakeholders at national and regional levels are provided with access to current sources of information, practical experience and scientific and technical expertise relevant to developing and implementing strategies to deal with the impacts of land-based issues on the marine environment. With a mandate of this range, there is considerable breadth in the variety of stakeholders who can become involved (directly or indirectly) in the GPA. We want you to get the most value from the GPA and all its sources of information; this newsletter will be a catalyst in drawing all those resources together.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides the secretariat for the GPA. The GPA was enacted in 1995 and endorsed by 108 Governments and the European Commission in response to the increasing threat to the marine environment from human activities on land. Some 80% of the pollution load in the oceans originates from land-based activities. Key pollutant sources include persistent organic pollutants (POPs), heavy metals, radioactive substances, nutrients, oils, litter, physical

“Today, mankind is a bigger threat to the sea than the sea has ever been to mankind...and the GPA is acting to help and advise Governments on concrete steps needed to restore the health of the marine world.”

Klaus Töpfer - UNEP Executive Director

alteration and destruction of habitat and wastewater/sewage. Each of these pollutant sources form the basis of a ‘node’ from the GPA website. These websites are focused on the GPA and are maintained by external, expert institutions (such as the Swedish EPA who have developed the litter and oil nodes).

Additionally, there are ‘nodes’ for regional and national plans of action. By creating a network of websites, the GPA website capitalises on the dynamic and decentralised capabilities of the Internet. In each upcoming newsletter a node will be featured to highlight the opportunities for implementing the GPA through this mechanism. This edition, however, focuses on upcoming GPA-related events, partnerships and initiatives.

I do hope you will find this newsletter a valuable resource of marine and freshwater related information. Please feel free to contact us at GPA if you have any questions.

Veerle Vandeweerd

GPA AND STAKEHOLDER FORUM

Stakeholder Forum has recently established a partnership with UNEP GPA. Through this partnership, Stakeholder Forum is undertaking outreach to traditional and non-traditional stakeholders and developing dynamic tools to help deliver the GPA.

Stakeholder Forum is building on its experience and expertise to assist in the restructuring of the GPA website and web networks (Clearing House Mechanism – CHM). This includes a mix of informative and interactive resources designed to raise the profile of the GPA, expand its network and to increase participation by all stakeholders in its delivery. The work programme is designed to provide outreach from mid-2003 to

2006, when the GPA Intergovernmental Review (IGR) is scheduled. The work includes newsletters (such as this one), events diaries, interactive web-based activities such as online debates, polls and video diaries, the development of reporting templates and peer reviewed papers.

Stakeholder Forum is in a unique position to contribute to the GPA through their international stakeholder outreach work. This new partnership is exciting for everyone involved. For more information on Stakeholder Forum’s past and present projects and successes, visit www.stakeholderforum.org.



H2O PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Hilltops₂-Oceans (H₂O) Type II Partnership Initiative was launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2002. A major outcome of the WSSD was the formation of more than 200 Type II Partnerships, voluntary, non-negotiated multi-stakeholder partnerships intended to provide a mechanism for stronger collaboration between governments and NGOs, international organizations, the private sector, academia and civil society to further the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI).

As one of these partnerships, the H₂O Initiative aims to strengthen national governance frameworks that protect coastal and marine environments by (i) highlighting the link between freshwater and marine ecosystems; (ii) building multi-stakeholder capacity for integrated water resource and coastal area management; and (iii) exploring the use of time-bound Wastewater Emission Targets (WET) as a tool for managing water from the hilltops to the oceans. To accomplish this goal, the Initiative seeks to expand stakeholder involvement at global, regional and national levels through political, financial and institutional partnerships, alliances and networks. The H₂O Initiative contributes to the objectives of the GPA.

The Global H₂O Partnership Conference in Cairns, Australia,



11-14 May 2004, will serve as a major milestone in implementation of the H₂O Initiative. Sessions will focus on sustained national action to integrate water resource and coastal area management, the realization of WET, and effective partnership building to strengthen political support, institutional and financial frameworks, capacity and outreach. The agenda is structured around working groups and plenary sessions, all aimed at fostering dialogue and leading to partnership formation.

To this extent, the participation and active involvement of a broad body of stakeholders in Cairns is encouraged and necessary to ensure Conference success. The experiences, knowledge, and resources that NGOs, international organizations, academia and the private sector stand to contribute to and gain from strengthened collaboration and partnerships addressing integrated water resource and coastal area management is substantial. The greater the involvement and representation, the more encompassing and complete the H₂O Initiative will be.

For further details please visit the Conference website at www.hilltops2oceans.org or contact the Secretariat at h2o@unep.nl.

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GMEF - Global Ministerial Environmental Forum

The Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (GMEF) and Governing Council (GC) are fundamental in the United Nations (UN) responsibility towards generating sustainable environmental policy. The GC was established in 1975 and reports to the UN General Assembly. Regionally representative members of the council are elected on four-year terms. Alongside the GC is the GMEF which is convened annually to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment. The last GMEF/GC meeting was held in Nairobi, February 2003. For full details of the outcomes see: www.unep.org/GoverningBodies/GC22/.

South Korea is hosting the next (23rd) session of the GMEF/GC in Seoul on 29th – 31st March 2004.

Key responsibilities of the GMEF/GC are to:

- Promote international cooperation in the field of the environment;
- To provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes within the UN system;
- To review implementation reports of environmental

programmes within the UN system;

- To review and ensure emerging environmental problems receive appropriate consideration by Governments;
- To promote the contribution of scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information;
- To continually review the impact of national and international policies and measures on developing countries, and ensure that such programmes and projects are compatible with the development plans and priorities of those countries;
- To review and approve the programme of utilisation of resources of the Environment Fund.

The GMEF/GC meeting will focus dialogue on the environmental dimensions of the current work plan of the Commission of Sustainable Development (CSD). The 2004 thematic cluster is 'Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements'. For full details see:

www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/csd12.



OCEANS, COASTS AND ISLANDS (OCI)

The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands (GFOCI) serves as a platform for cross-sectoral information sharing and dialogue on issues affecting oceans, coasts and islands, with the common goal of achieving sustainable development of these regions. The forum is composed of 'ocean and coastal advocates' from all sectors, including NGOs, governmental, intergovernmental and international organisations. The forum grew out of the WSSD in response to alarming trends regarding depletion of coastal and ocean resources (in fisheries, marine mammals, coral reefs, and other resources), and in the socio-economic condition of coastal communities, especially in the coastal megacities of the developing world, where poverty remains largely unabated and adverse public health conditions predominate.

Key goals of the forum include:

- Implementation of the JPoI, Agenda 21 and other related agreements;
- Increasing the number of voluntary partnership initiatives between all stakeholders to put sustainable development practices into action;
- Raise the profile of oceans, coasts and islands in all relevant global, regional and sub regional fora;
- Mobilise public awareness and promote information sharing and dissemination on these issues.

The WSSD targets and timetables for achieving sustainable development of oceans, coasts, and islands are not "self-implementing". Instead, governments around the world will need much assistance and support from all parts of the oceans, coasts, and islands community to focus resources and know-how in actual implementation of these commitments, to insure that "on-the-ground" improvements in the health and condition of marine ecosystems and in the well-being of coastal communities are actually achieved.

Mobilizing for Implementation of the Commitments Made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, was held at UNESCO in Paris on November 12-14, 2003, and aimed to catalyse useful strategies for achieving implementation of the global oceans agenda.

This conference:

- Reviewed WSSD implementation;
- Developed strategies bringing together all sectors in mobilizing resources and know-how to implement the WSSD commitments and remaining commitments from Agenda 21;
- Focused on the special issues of the 43 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) which control a large part of the

world's oceans, particularly in relation to the review of progress achieved since the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (BPoA);

- Discussed emerging ocean, coasts, and islands issues for which international consensus is still to be reached, such as protection of biological diversity on the high seas;
- Developed strategies for mobilizing private sector involvement and increased public awareness on oceans, coasts, and islands, to insure continued support for the global oceans agenda.



This conference will play a key role in establishing linkages between WSSD targets and on-ground actions. Targets from the WSSD are focused on integrated ocean and coastal management, fisheries, conservation of biodiversity, protection from marine pollution, science and observation and SIDS. These targets are imperative to all management of oceans, coasts and islands and this will be reflected in this conference. The conference provides a platform from which other initiatives and events related to the GPA are constructed.

For further details concerning the Global Forum on OCI and the conference, please visit the conference website at www.globaloceans.org/. The next newsletter (to be released in December) will review the conference and reflect on the outcomes of it.

CONTACT GPA OUTREACH

- For all general GPA enquiries contact: gpa@unep.nl
- If you have any questions regarding the newsletter, subscriptions or would like to submit some information or an article for possible inclusion in the next issue please contact: kdickinson@stakeholderforum.org



WHITE WATER TO BLUE WATER (WW2BW)



The White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) Initiative, first announced at the WSSD, is underway in the Wider Caribbean Region. Recognizing the fragile state of the coastal and marine environment of this region, WW2BW has been launched to bring about new results in conservation efforts. The initiative is designed to promote the practice of integrated watershed and marine ecosystem-based management in support of sustainable development within the Wider Caribbean Region. WW2BW will specifically focus on enhancing integrated approaches in areas such as wastewater and sanitation, sustainable agricultural practices, integrated coastal management, sustainable tourism, and environmentally sound marine transportation. The initiative strives to create dynamic partnerships between public and private entities and funding sources to promote its goals as well as to implement international agreements such as the GPA, International Coral Reef Initiative, Convention on Biological Diversity and others. The GPA and many other global, regional and national partners will support WW2BW.

The waters of the Wider Caribbean Region support high-density population centres, including many people below global poverty levels; a substantial tourism industry; and some of the world's busiest sea-lanes. With these stresses increasing each year, the need for focused attention by individual Caribbean

nations and the global conservation community is paramount. Through its partnerships, WW2BW will address these serious threats to Caribbean waters, such as sewage, sediments, nutrients, pesticides, solid wastes and marine debris. WW2BW will help to provide a spotlight on ongoing coastal and marine conservation efforts in the region and certainly spur new partnerships to help implement its objectives--particularly with regional GPA activities. WW2BW partnership projects will also be essential for assisting regional states in implementing National Programmes of Action to implement the GPA as its focus of integrated watershed and marine ecosystem management provide the foundation for controlling land-based sources of marine pollution.

A WW2BW conference is planned for 21-27 March 2004 in Miami, USA, to offer a forum for partnership development and program implementation. The conference will be focused on four themes: Integrated Watershed Management, Marine Ecosystem-based Management, Sustainable Tourism, and Environmentally Sound Marine Transportation, and will offer an opportunity for global and regional experts to exchange best practices and encourage management innovation in the Caribbean. For further details see: www.international.noaa.gov/ww2bw/

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MAJOR GPA MILESTONES / EVENTS

1975	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional Seas Conventions and related Protocols
1982	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNEP started addressing issues related to impacts on the marine environment from land-based activities United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment Against Pollution from Land-based Sources
1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and Agenda 21 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and adoption of the Washington Declaration Jakarta Mandate on the Programme of Action for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity within the CBD
1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GPA Implementation Plan presented to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-4)
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNEP Governing Council decision 19/14 on global and regional GPA implementation Establishment and operationalisation of the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office in The Hague 1st World Water Forum, Marrakech
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd World Water Forum, The Hague
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the GPA, Montreal International Conference on Freshwater, Bonn
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Johannesburg
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd World Water Forum, Kyoto



GPA OUTREACH



SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are engaged in the review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development (BPoA). The process will have as a milestone the International Meeting for the full and comprehensive review of BPoA in Mauritius in August 2004. It is preceded by regional preparatory meetings, an inter-regional meeting in the Bahamas January 2004 and a pre-meeting during the 12th session of the CSD in New York in April 2004.

The GPA Coordination Office was designated by the 22nd UNEP Governing Council as UNEP's focal point for the preparations of the International Meeting. GPA's comprehensive approach to land-based sources of pollution through policy instruments such as the innovative financial mechanisms and the national programmes of action, and the promotion of new partnerships ensures a sound platform to channel UNEP's overall programmatic contributions to the review process, particularly through its regional offices.

Moreover, GPA is strongly linked to SIDS given the importance given to its delivery at the regional level through the regional seas programmes. These international conventions are an additional and integrative means to enhance cooperation with SIDS. UNEP is assisting SIDS for the comprehensive review by organizing thematic workshops, elaboration and dissemination of technical papers, providing technical



assistance, facilitating institutional capacity building and cooperating with regional organizations, amongst other. Some examples include:

The GPA, in collaboration with the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, undertook a preliminary analysis on voluntary partnership initiatives, to examine how the WSSD Type II initiatives correspond with SIDS targets and timetables agreed in the JPoI, as well as identifying gaps, financial needs, priorities, and actors involved. The analysis provides the basis for the formulation of concrete recommendations to focus the support to be provided for the development and execution of partnership initiatives related to SIDS.

The preparatory process for the full and comprehensive review of the BPoA has provided UNEP with another opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to the sustainable development of SIDS, by building on well established partnerships with governments, civil society and regional and sub-regional organisations. For further details see : www.sidsnet.org/

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UPCOMING EVENTS

8th—12th Dec. 2003 Putrajaya, Malaysia	East Asian Seas Congress 2003 <i>Contact:</i> www.pemsea.org/index_seascongress
8th—13th Dec. 2003 Addis, Ababa, Ethiopia	Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water <i>Contact:</i> www.uneca.org/water/
26th—30th Jan. 2004 Nassau, Bahamas	Interregional Preparatory Meeting for Mauritius 2004 (BPoA +10) <i>Contact:</i> mauritius2004@sidsnet.org
21st—27th March 2004 Miami, USA	White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) Partnership Conference <i>Contact:</i> www.international.noaa.gov/ww2bw/meetings
27th—28th March 2004 Seoul, South Korea	5th Global Civil Society Forum <i>Contact:</i> www.unep.org/dpdl/cso/DOCS
29th—31st March 2004 Seoul, South Korea	23rd Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum <i>Contact:</i> www.unep.org/
14th—16th April 2004 New York, USA	Preparatory Meeting for Mauritius 2004 (BPoA +10) <i>Contact:</i> mauritius2004@sidsnet.org
19th—30th April 2004 New York, USA	Commission of Sustainable Development 12th Session <i>Contact:</i> www.un.org/esa/sustdev/index
11th—14th May 2004 Cairns, Australia	Global Hilltops 2 Oceans (H2O) Partnership Conference <i>Contact:</i> www.hilltops2oceans.org/
28th August—3rd September 2004 Mauritius	International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (BPoA +10) <i>Contact:</i> mauritius2004@sidsnet.org