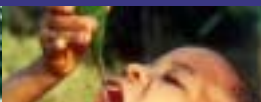




GPA OUTREACH



UNEP STAKEHOLDER FORUM



GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2003
ISSUE TWO

WELCOME

Welcome to the second Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities *GPA Outreach* newsletter. In conjunction with the weekly *GPA News Updates* these newsletters provide updates on GPA-related events, news and information for all relevant GPA stakeholders. We hope you find them an informative and relevant source of information for your own work.

This newsletter sees the initiation of the regular feature: GPA Nodes and Partners. The section is designed to highlight some of the key work which is being undertaken on pollutant source categories, regional partnerships and National Programmes of Action (NPAs) for the GPA. These nodes and partnerships form an integral component of the GPA web networks (known as a Clearing House Mechanism). This month features the Oil and Litter Pollutant Source Nodes which are managed through an initiative with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The work of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) also highlights the regional perspective for implementing the GPA through NPAs.

A review of the outcomes of the Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands (GCOCI) held last month in Paris is presented, both overall, and with specific reference to Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It is an exciting time for all practitioners and policy makers in the marine sector. GCOCI

provides the impetus for constructive and collective action for the protection of the marine environment to transcend across the SIDS preparatory meeting in January, the Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (GMEF) in March and the 12th Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), April 2004.

In addition to the recent GCOCI, the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water, held in Ethiopia last week, is a key international meeting forming part of a critical juncture in discussions on water, sanitation and human settlements. This conference concluded last week with strong recommendations on the thematic clusters of water, sanitation and settlements; protecting ecosystems and livelihoods; managing risks; integrated water resource management; valuing and allocating water; financing water infrastructure; and enacting appropriate governance. The conference provides a strong basis for the representation of African water issues at CSD12.

Again, we hope you enjoy *GPA Outreach*. We encourage you to pass these messages on to colleagues and friends who may be interested in the GPA. We also welcome feedback and submissions, so feel free to contact us: kdickinson@stakeholderforum.org. From all of us at Stakeholder Forum and GPA, we offer you seasons greetings and hope you have a safe and happy new year.

OCEANS, COASTS AND ISLANDS (OCI)

The *Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands: Mobilizing for Implementation of the Commitments Made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)* took place from November 12th – 14th, 2003 at United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters in Paris, France. The conference provided an open platform bringing together a wide range of stakeholders committed to ocean, coasts and island issues. Approximately 250 participants attended, representing governments, international organisations, NGOs, academia and civil society. Veerle Vandeweerd, GPA Coordinator and Head of Regional Seas was one of three Co-Chairs. The GPA was also represented by David Osborn and Isabel Martinez.

Following an opening session of high-level ministerial perspectives on implementing WSSD commitments, participants met in plenary, roundtable and working group sessions to examine the WSSD commitments on oceans, coasts and islands and strategies for achieving implementation of the global oceans agenda. There was a particular focus on regional implementation and SIDS issues pertaining to the upcoming meeting in Mauritius in August 2004. UNEP's Regional Seas Programme was noted for the valuable role it can play in the implementation of WSSD commitments and the Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs) at the regional level. David Osborn (GPA) highlighted how the programme can assist in promoting ocean monitoring and assessment and can be used as a platform for the coordinated implementation of multilateral environment agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On Thursday, 13 November, participants discussed NGO and foundation perspectives on WSSD implementation and challenges and opportunities in meeting WSSD objectives on oceans, coasts and SIDS. They also met in working groups to discuss WSSD targets, including: marine pollution, fisheries, SIDS, biodiversity and marine protected areas and enhanced UN coherence. The cross sectoral themes discussed during these sessions were integrated coastal and ocean management, and the ecosystem approach. Both were highlighted as critical to achieving sustainable outcomes in marine and freshwater management. Cross sectoral issues raised included: the need for reliance on good science; adopting the precautionary and polluter-pays principle; increased civil society awareness of marine issues; increased institutional capacity to develop clear policy links between freshwater, coastal management and settlements; and a long term vision, strategic planning and political will.

“Ocean issues should be linked with the Millennium Development Goals and the work of the Commission for Sustainable Development”

Klaus Töpfer - UNEP Executive Director

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OCEANS, COASTS AND ISLANDS continued

On Friday, 14 November, participants met in plenary to hear presentations on targeting development assistance, private sector perspectives, options for a global oceans fund, generating public support and emerging issues. They also heard reports from each of the working groups and from the pre-conference meeting (held from 10 and 11 November and designed to allow participants to informally discuss oceans related WSSD commitments and to identify key issues for further in depth deliberation during the Conference). Special addresses were also made throughout the three-day conference on a range of topics, including: challenges to the global oceans environment, the Law of the Sea, the international oceans regime, the global water agenda, and achieving WSSD objectives at the regional level.

Throughout the conference, UNEP-GPA highlighted the issue



that WSSD targets are not self-implementing and work needs to be done for them to be met. David Osborne also stressed the need for conferences such as this to be constructively linked with other international processes addressing water issues. In terms of providing protection from marine pollution, David highlighted the work the GPA is doing to help countries develop NPAs by 2006.

Outcomes from the Global Conference will be included in a Co-Chairs report, containing WSSD implementation perspectives, progress initiatives and summaries of papers presented at the Conference. This will shortly be available from:

www.globaloceans.org.

The International Institute for Sustainable Development provided daily coverage of the conference.

Visit: www.iisd.ca/sd/sdune/ for daily and summary reports.

SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

In 2004, an international meeting reviewing the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) for the sustainable development of SIDS will be held in Mauritius (Barbados +10). This 10 year review provides SIDS with the opportunity to develop a more integrated approach to sustainable development strategies, particularly for ocean and marine policies. The United Nations Under-Secretary-General Anwarul K. Chowdhury was recently appointed the secretary-general of the Mauritius meeting. Mr. Chowdhury is also the UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and SIDS.

In preparation for this review meeting, three regional meetings were convened during the second half of 2003. Delegates at these meetings discussed achievements and constraints that are particular to each region, how to improve regional cooperation, and emerging issues such as human security concerns, including drug trade, crime, terrorism and food and water. The results of these regional meetings will form the basis for discussion at the interregional preparatory meeting to be held in Nassau, Bahamas, in January 2004. Additionally, the *Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands* (GCOCI) provided an opportunity to analyse the needs of SIDS, particularly in relation to the forthcoming Mauritius meeting.

The SIDS sessions at the GCOCI were led by Ambassador Jagdish Koonjul, Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) as well as Diane Quarless, Chief SIDS Unit, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). During the roundtable discussion, various issues were discussed including ensuring environmental sustainability, strengthening regional fisheries organisations and regional capacity in scientific areas, addressing sustainable tourism and waste management, and promoting alternative energies. Several

participants emphasised the lack of capacity and the need to harmonize reporting requirements for SIDS.

As an outcome of the SIDS working group, participants agreed on Barbados +10 preparations, discussing the need to address the strengthening of institutions, capacity building, the role of civil society, information dissemination, youth involvement, the importance of science and technology research and development, and inter-agency collaboration. Among these was a more important component focusing on building resilience in SIDS. Instead of focusing on the negative aspects of SIDS, the positive attributes of "islandness" such as cultural richness, music, food, natural and indigenous resources of SIDS should be highlighted with the underlying strategic goal of attracting support from investors.

Moreover, the special case of SIDS with regards to sustainable development and the environment, particularly the marine ecosystem, and the constraints SIDS face due to their smallness, remoteness and vulnerability to natural disasters was highlighted. The Chair also emphasised that SIDS need to: develop integrated coastal management policies; establish new institutional and administrative arrangements to implement these policies; develop legal frameworks for fishery management; strengthen regional capacity; develop national and regional action plans; and ensure the implementation of international agreements, such as UNCLOS.

The SIDS session fully contributed to the preparatory process for the full and comprehensive review of the BPoA. This, in itself, furthered the preparatory process. It also gave the non-SIDS international community an opportunity to better comprehend SIDS concerns and challenges.

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GPA NODES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Introduction

The GPA clearing house mechanism is intended to provide a one-stop method that promotes the advertising, discovery, access, dissemination and use of GPA related information and data held by numerous organisations using the decentralised capabilities of the internet. Each node is managed by a specialised organisation. As part of the redevelopment of the GPA website, all of the nodes are being reinvogated and updated. The new GPA website and clearing house mechanism will be launched in May 2004 at the Global Hilltops 2 Oceans

(H2O) Partnership Conference in Cairns, Australia.

Pollutant source nodes include: sewage, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), radioactive substances, heavy metals, oils, litter, nutrients, sediment mobilization, and physical alterations and destruction of habitats. Regional nodes include the Caribbean, South Pacific and Arctic, while national nodes include Australia, Brazil, Canada, Iceland and Yemen. Each month, *GPA Outreach* will feature an article on a GPA node or partnership to highlight the invaluable work that is being done in the GPA.

Marine Litter and Oils – Two GPA Pollutant Source Category Nodes

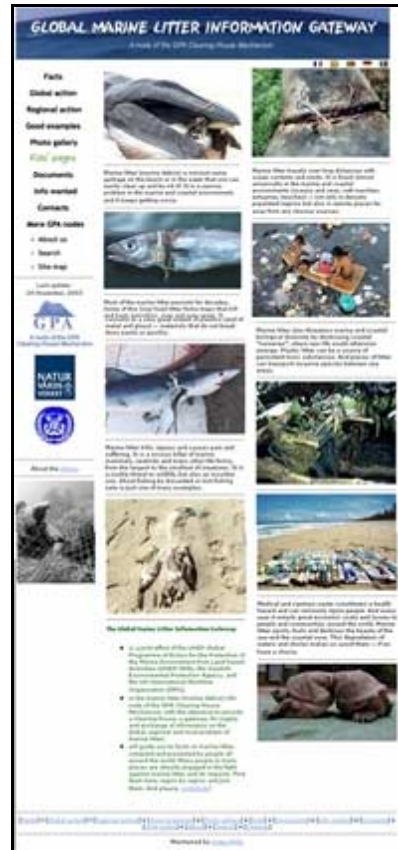
The *Global Marine Litter Information Gateway*, launched in May 2001, and the *Global Marine Oil Pollution Information Gateway*, launched in March 2003, are two of the GPA clearing house mechanism pollutant source category nodes. They have been developed and co-financed as joint efforts and co-operative projects between the GPA Co-ordination Office and the Swedish EPA. For the node on marine litter site, the International Maritime Organization has also been a partner. In close co-operation with these partners, Ardea Miljö, a small Swedish consultancy company, has built the sites, and also maintains and updates them.

Programmes, as well as for the five Regional Seas partner seas, and for two additional large sea areas. The sites also offer easy access to online information sources (a place to find information in a wider context), underline the fact that oils and marine litter are marine problems that concerns everyone everywhere, give visual contact with the problems (photos), and highlight the owners/senders, i.e., UNEP GPA, the Swedish EPA, and the International Maritime Organisation.

Furthermore, the co-operation between the GPA Co-ordination Office and the Swedish EPA has resulted in additional information products. For the GPA Intergovernmental Review meeting in November 2001, Ardea Miljö produced the brochure *Marine litter – trash that kills*, and a CD-ROM of the first version of the marine litter node. Later, a poster on sources of marine litter was produced.

This material has also been used by the Swedish EPA to highlight the marine litter issue in a Northeast Atlantic context, including at Ministerial Meetings. The marine litter node contains a special multilingual section on a six-year pilot project on monitoring of marine litter on reference beaches in the Northeast Atlantic region, as part of the work of the OSPAR Commission.

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www.oils.gpa.unep.org

www.marine-litter.gpa.unep.org



GPA NODES AND PARTNERSHIPS continued

Caribbean Implementation of the GPA



The Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-CAR/RCU), located in Kingston, Jamaica, is Secretariat to the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention). The CEP recognises the need for research, assessment and management of marine pollution in its efforts to coordinate projects which implement the Protocol on Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS Protocol) and the GPA, as well as research, assessment and control of degradation in the marine and coastal environment in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR). Additionally, it recognises the need for integrated planning and strengthened institutional infrastructure for the management of marine and coastal resources.

The CEP workplan facilitates the implementation of two main GPA activities in the WCR. Firstly, National Programmes of Action (NPAs) are underway with two Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Jamaica and Saint Lucia. Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago will be benefiting from these models in the second phase of the project.

Secondly, a sub-programme of the CEP called CEPNET (Information Systems for the Management of Marine and Coastal Resources) has been working on the development of the Caribbean node of the GPA clearing house mechanism to create a referral system through which decision-makers at the national and regional levels are provided with access to current sources of information, practical experiences and scientific and technical expertise relevant to developing and implementing strategies to deal with the impacts of land-based activities. In September 2003, at a brainstorming session in The Hague, the GPA Coordinator supported the creation of a Steering Committee to bring a second life to the GPA-CHM. In addition to the drafting of a 6-month workplan, the meeting made a series of recommendations:

- Undertake a diagnostic/site audit;
- Review resource situation/allocation and prioritise the

revamping and maintenance of activities and allocation of resources in accordance with the outcome of the site audit and share information on resources available;

- Migrate from clearing house mechanism to GPA website;
- Establish a clearing house mechanism Steering Committee;
- Integrate GPA Reporting requirements into the clearing house mechanism ;
- GPA to strengthen clearing house mechanism with policy to promote/stimulate GPA integration with the aim of providing leadership to other nodes and to fulfil its mandate as given by governments under the Washington Declaration (Nov. 1995);
- Launch the new GPA website at the Hilltops to Oceans (H₂O) meeting in Cairns, Australia, April 2004.

The CEPNET Programme Officer is part of the steering committee which will allow for a perfect integration of the Caribbean Node into this global effort. The CEP will allocate new funds for the design, development, implementation and maintenance of the regional node and will benefit from the technical and advisory support of the International Office of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA). The population of the Caribbean node will be through demonstrative steps. For example, CEP and the GPA Office have prepared a preliminary study on the physical alteration and destruction of habitats (PADH) from the tourism industry in the Caribbean which will be used as a demonstration input for the Caribbean node. Also, a partnership with the National Environmental and Planning Agency (NEPA) of the Government of Jamaica and the Office of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Jamaica will also be providing the node with a new dataset on industrial sources of pollution. The Caribbean node will also point to all the GPA-related information already generated or disseminated by CEP through its own website. It is hoped that these models will attract the Member States of the CEP to provide relevant information to the clearing house mechanism. For this, mechanisms and tools will be developed on the Caribbean Node to facilitate exchange and communication.

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OTHER NEWS

Freshwater Action Network (FAN) is a global network of environmental and developmental NGOs, focusing on ensuring southern NGOs are represented at international water policy forums. FAN also aims to strengthen effective NGO participation in policy making throughout a cross-sectoral international network.

To become a FAN member or for more information, please visit www.freshwateraction.net or email fan@freshwateraction.net

CONTACT GPA OUTREACH

- For all general GPA enquiries contact: gpa@unep.nl
- If you have any questions regarding the newsletter or would like to submit some information or an article for possible inclusion in the next issue please contact: kdickinson@stakeholderforum.org
- If you have been forwarded this newsletter and would like to subscribe to GPA Outreach, please email join-gpa-outreach@lists.healthdev.org to subscribe.



ABOUT GPA

The United Nations Environment Programme 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.

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.

For more information please visit www.gpa.unep.org

ABOUT STAKEHOLDER FORUM

Stakeholder Forum exists to support a strategic, global, multi-stakeholder movement to influence and implement sustainable development agreements and the Millennium Development Goals. Stakeholder Forum specialises in three areas: Communications; Policy and Research and Multi-Stakeholder Processes. The partnership with the GPA focuses on these, with *GPA Outreach* acting as a key communication tool.

Stakeholder Forum's mandate is increasingly expanding from developing effective stakeholder participation in international policy negotiation, to include the creation of partnerships between stakeholders that delivers effective implementation at the national, regional and international levels.

For more information please visit www.stakeholderforum.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

26 - 30 January 2004 Portland, USA	12th Oceans Sciences Meeting Contact: www.agu.org/meetings/os04/
26 - 30 January Nassau, Bahamas	Interregional Preparatory Meeting for Mauritius 2004 (BPoA +10) Contact: mauritius2004@sidsnet.org
15 - 20 February Honolulu, USA	2004 Ocean Research Conference Contact: www.aslo.org
21- 27 March Miami, USA	White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) Partnership Conference Contact: www.international.noaa.gov/ww2bw/index.html
27 - 28 March Seoul, South Korea	5th Global Civil Society Forum Contact: www.unep.org/dpdl/cso/global_csf/about.html
29 - 31 March Seoul, South Korea	23rd Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum Contact: www.unep.org/
14 - 16 April New York, USA	Preparatory Meeting for Mauritius 2004 (BPoA +10) Contact: mauritius2004@sidsnet.org
19- 30 April New York, USA	Commission of Sustainable Development 12th Session Contact: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/index
11- 14 May Cairns, Australia	Global Hilltops 2 Oceans (H2O) Partnership Conference Contact: www.hilltops2oceans.org/
3 June -1 July Rhode Island, USA	The University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Centre Summer Institute in Coastal Management Contact: www.crc.uri.edu/train/index.html
28 June - 2 July Okinawa, Japan	10th International Coral Reef Symposium— Stability and degradation of coral reef ecosystems Contact: www.plando.co.jp/icrs2004/
21 - 23 July Plymouth, UK	Climate Change and Aquatic Systems: Past, Present Contact: www.biology.plymouth.ac.uk/climate/climate.htm
28 August - 3 September Mauritius	International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (BPoA +10) Contact: mauritius2004@sidsnet.org