

WELCOME

Welcome to the February edition of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities *GPA Outreach* newsletter.

We are pleased to announce the hosting of an online debate in the lead up to the 8th Special Session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environmental Forum in Korea. This will provide an opportunity for you as stakeholders to voice your opinions on key water issues. The debate will be held from **8 – 17 March**, so put the dates in your diary! More information on the debate and the thematic inter-linkages across upcoming meetings is featured on page 2.

In this edition, you will also find coverage of two conferences, the first being the revision of the Black Sea Land-Based Sources of Pollution Protocol which UNEP convened, and the second being the Inter-regional Preparatory Meeting for the Ten-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) for the

Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This article provides an overview of the meeting and what the next phase will entail for SIDS. It also highlights the GPA related aspects of the negotiations.

The GPA Nodes and Partner section focuses on the Sewage and Wastewater node. This is a pertinent review given the high agenda of water and sanitation in upcoming meetings. In addition, we are pleased to publicise the Medcoast Training Programme offering practitioners training in Integrated Coastal Management in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

Again, we hope you enjoy *GPA Outreach*. We encourage you to pass the 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.

CONFERENCE OUTCOMES: GPA Black Sea

The Consultative Meeting on the Revision of the Black Sea Land-Based Sources of Pollution Protocol, the GPA Work Programme for the Black Sea, the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the EU Marine Strategy was held 20-21 January 2004 in Istanbul, Turkey. This meeting was the result of discussions held in the framework of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Black Sea Ecosystem Recovery Project during the 10th Meeting of the Black Sea Commission 27-29 October 2003 in Istanbul. The meeting gathered the Black Sea Commissioners and their representatives, the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission (BSC), the members of the Land-based Sources Advisory Group and the WFD Advisory Group, the Activity Centre based in Istanbul, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, the European Commission, the DABLAS Task Force, stakeholders from the Black Sea region and the Project Implementation Unit of the GEF-BSERP.

The meeting analysed and discussed the existing land-based sources of pollution to the Black Sea. Participants also discussed and agreed upon the work plan and methodology for the collection and analysis of relevant information, as well as the process for preparing the revised Protocol and the GPA Work Programme with the involvement of relevant stakeholders. In discussing the revision of the LBS Protocol, several points were brought up highlighting:

- The importance of generating political commitment;
- The fundamental importance of funding availability;
- The broader geographical focus of the Protocol;
- The inclusion of objectives, measures and Best Environmental Practices in the new Protocol;
- The need for a new Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis in order to provide politicians and decision-makers with reliable information; and
- The importance of involving other countries, not only Black Sea countries, in the process;

In discussing the GPA Work Programme in the Black Sea, discussion points focused upon that fact that:

- Bathing water quality and marine litter are not covered with ongoing activities and it would be helpful if GPA could help with studies and development of programmes;
- It is important to establish a financial mechanism for the implementation of the Land-Based Sources of Pollution Protocol and GPA work programme;
- Cooperation with private sectors is very important;
- Some actions of the GPA should be regional and some should be on a national level; and
- Linkages between the Land-Based Sources of Pollution Protocol and the GPA Work Programme for the Black Sea need to be clarified;

At the end of the meeting, it was believed all representatives had a common understanding of the need for the revision of the Land-Based Sources of Pollution Protocol and the steps to be taken in preparing the GPA Work Programme, and of the participatory and transparent process that UNEP is willing to undertake. To this extent, UNEP was successful in building:

- A transparent and participatory process for the revision of the LBS Protocol and the preparation of the GPA Work Programme for the Black Sea region taking into account the EU WFD and the EU Marine Strategy; and
- The necessary level of trust for the continuation of the process, including an agreed detailed workplan on the process to revise the Land-Based Sources of Pollution Protocol and the preparation of the GPA Work Programme driven by countries.

For full report and background documents see:
www.gpa.unep.org/meetings/black_sea/

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CONFERENCE OUTCOMES: GPA Wider Caribbean

The GPA Wider Caribbean regional consultation meeting was held in Panama, February 10-12, 2004. Overall there were 82 participants, 30 from governments representing 22 countries of the wider Caribbean, attended the meeting. The other participants were from Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), Global Environmental Facility (GEF) IW-LEARN, Germany's GTZ, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), RAMSAR, US Agency for International Development (USAID), UN agencies (e.g., Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP) and the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP)), Universities, NGOs, and private sector.

Building on the many ongoing activities relating to the objectives of the GPA in the Caribbean region, and commitments made vis-à-vis the GPA by governments at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) placing particular emphasis on municipal wastewater, the physical alteration and destruction of habitat, and nutrients, the meeting identified the need for new and/or enhanced partnerships in four broad categories.

Based on these categories, the meeting agreed to pursue the following activities, supported wherever possible, or explicit, by new and/or enhanced Caribbean partnerships:

1. Institutional, legal and policy frameworks to ensure sustained and coordinated action at both national and regional levels

- 1.1 Create a council of regional organisations, donors and other contributors, supported by a small secretariat, to coordinate and match-make regional and bilateral activities and events relating to watershed management, coastal planning and development, and land-based sources of marine pollution;
- 1.2 Prepare, with the support of NOAA, regionally-specific protocol/guidelines for the development of National Programmes of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (NPA);
- 1.3 Support the continued development of NPAs in Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago as policy and programme umbrella's for enhancing and coordinating, *inter alia*, legislative and institutional reforms, new engineering works for municipal wastewater *et al*, market-based tools and capacity building initiatives that emphasize integrated watershed and coastal area management;
- 1.4 Develop further NPAs, including in Barbados, Belize, Haiti, Honduras, Panama and Turks & Caicos, building on the experience of those countries in the region currently developing NPAs, paying particular attention to legal improvements linked where necessary with institutional reform, the issue of standing, and legal enforcement and compliance;
- 1.5 Prepare and implement pilot projects that strengthen

institutional capacity, raise awareness of the GPA and emphasise integrated watershed and coastal area management;

- 1.6 Incorporate activities/projects under GEF projects, such as the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Systems Project (MBRS) and Integrated Watershed and Coastal Areas Management (IWCAM)/SIDS projects, as pilot projects in NPAs where they exist or are being developed;
- 1.7 Develop generic environmental legislation, monitoring and enforcements templates to assist public officials and parliamentarians in the development and strengthening of legislation;
- 1.8 Encourage public/private partnerships for institution building and the maintenance of knowledge bases, especially in governments where public administrations experience substantial changes linked with political change;
- 1.9 Facilitate the expansion and/or replication of regional eco-certification (e.g. Green Globe, Blue Flag) in partnership with the Caribbean Alliance of Sustainable Tourism (CAST), Caribbean Tourism Organisation *et al*.

2. Access to information, technology, expertise and practical experience

- 2.1 Survey existing information services (e.g. databases such as Field, AIDA, SIDS-NET and those developed by GEF and IDB) leading to an analysis of information services against user needs, and if necessary, development of a partnership matchmaking service based on the Internet;
- 2.2 Identify and disseminate to organizations and governments throughout the region, perhaps via an internet site, working models and case studies of instances in the region where:
 - 2.2.1 Successful community-based finance initiatives, eg credit unions, as tools for financing local initiatives to protect coastal and marine resources;
 - 2.2.2 Successful initiatives utilizing user/service fees (eg Gold Pass) as a means of revenue to protect coastal and marine resources;
 - 2.2.3 Governments have utilized taxes, tariffs and appropriate penalties as a means of resourcing capital intensive infrastructure, such as sewerage collection schemes and wastewater treatment;
 - 2.2.4 Governments and/or industry bodies have implemented market-based instruments and/or voluntary agreements as a compliment to legislative and fiscal regimes;
 - 2.2.5 Alternative water supply and wastewater technologies / techniques have been applied to local/community scenarios, e.g. eco-technology, rainwater harvesting; and

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CONFERENCE OUTCOMES: GPA Wider Caribbean continued

2.2.6 Innovative approaches to reducing non-point source pollutants, including nutrients and pesticides, from agricultural production have reduced the incidence of eutrophication and POP pollution.

2.4 Build on experiences within the region (e.g. Cuba and Bonaire) to develop, in cooperation with diving associations, programmes to expand training, share experiences and raise awareness amongst tourists;

2.5 Develop a technical manual on Caribbean beach protection focusing on scientific and engineering approaches.

3. Mobilisation of political and community capital

3.1 Governments will, depending on legislative development/review schedules, invite the United Nations Environment Programme to present to parliament, congress and/or cabinet the issues facing coastal and marine environment and the regional implementation of the GPA;

3.2 Build on and accelerate local community and private sector involvement in the delivery of water and sanitation services.

4. Human and institutional capacity building

4.1 Promote knowledge sharing among legal practitioners, judges & magistrates, parliamentarians and government officials, at both national and regional levels, on environmental and natural resource management statutes, decisions and regulations;

4.2 Establish dialogues and protocols with academic and research institutions in the region (e.g. schools of law and environmental studies) to document case studies emphasizing the objectives of the GPA;

4.3 Raise awareness among law makers, public officials (especially ministries in addition to environment), the private sector and the general public;

4.4 Propose to the Caribbean Tourism Organisation that one of its periodic conferences on sustainable tourism place specific focus on the GPA.

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MEDCOAST TRAINING PROGRAMME 2004

Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea The Seventh International Training Programme

31 August - 14 September 2004, Dalyan - Aegean Coast, Turkey

Program: MEDCOAST Institute is a unique, well-established, high quality, international training program on integrated coastal management (ICM). The MEDCOAST Institute is specially designed to address issues and problems that are particular to or significant for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea countries. The program consists of three parts:

1. Four day long in-class training, including lectures by the international faculty on a variety of topics related to ICM, presentations by participants on their country experiences, and group exercises in Dalyan (31 August - 3 September).

2. A week long study trip for field observations on traditional wooden boats sailing along the Aegean coast from Marmaris to Fethiye (Olu Deniz), and anchoring at locations of significant coastal conservation and/or development activities for observations, applied research, questionnaire study and interviews with various. A number of lectures and discussion sessions will also be held on the boat (4-10 September). Almost



all participants and the faculty sleep on the deck covered by the summer stars!

3. Concluding workshop including lectures by the faculty on topics relevant to the field trip, presentations by the participants on their field work, group discussions and exercises back at the hotel in Dalyan (11-14 September).

Faculty: The Institute will be run by an international faculty drawn from the fifteen Network MEDCOAST institutions representing France, Egypt, Italy, Israel, Malta, Spain, The Netherlands, Tunisia, Turkey, UK and UNEP (PAP RAC, Croatia) and also including additional well known experts.

Participants: The highest priority target group for the participants of MEDCOAST Institute 2004 are *professionals holding mid-managerial positions in their central governments and being responsible for planning and execution of programs or projects on coastal and marine issues*. The other groups are employees of coastal municipalities, non-governmental environmental organisations, universities and research centres.

The last date for submitting application is **31 May 2004**.

For more details and applications visit: www.medcoast.org.tr
E-mail: medcoast@metu.edu.tr



ONLINE DEBATE: 8th—17th March 2004

Stakeholder Forum and GPA are pleased to launch an interactive online debate as part of *GPA Outreach*. The debate is strategically placed to enable stakeholder input into the 5th Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF), which runs alongside the 8th Special Session of the Governing Council (GC) / Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (GMEF). This debate focuses on the themes:

Water Management and Governance

The Ecosystem Approach; Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM); Rural/Urban Management; Freshwater/Coastal Inter-linkages

Perspectives on Water and Poverty Reduction.

Fighting poverty through environmental management; Sewage and wastewater

These themes are relevant, not only to the GPA, but form part of the thematic inter-linkages between the GC/GMEF and the

12th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD12). These themes have been highlighted as key issues in regional preparations for the GCSF.

This debate will enable a variety of stakeholders (you!) to have their voices heard within the UNEP system. More information on how to participate will be provided in upcoming emails. The outcomes of the debate will form that basis of a briefing document that will be submitted to the GCSF for their consideration, circulated at GC/GMEF and distributed through *GPA Outreach*. The online debate will be located on Stakeholder Forum's website along with relevant background documents. Expert practitioners will be lending their views, and all stakeholders are encouraged to participate in this exciting event. Please put the dates in your diary and we look forward to hearing your views!

Online Debate: GC/GMEF Mon 8 – Wed 17 March 2004

THE JOURNEY FROM GC/GMEF TO CSD12

The Meetings

The Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (GMEF) is an annual meeting of the world's environment ministers. This year, the GMEF will focus on the environmental dimension of water, sanitation, and human settlements issues and will contribute to the broader discussions on these issues at the CSD12 in April 2004. Immediately preceding the GMEF will be a Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF), which will be an opportunity to integrate the perspective and experience of civil society into the ensuing discussions at the GMEF.

Ecosystem Approaches and the Freshwater / Marine Inter-linkages

The quantity (water scarcity) and quality (pollution) of water resources were singled out as amongst the most critical issues requiring attention in the 21st century in a recent survey on environmental issues, conducted within the context of the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO). Short-term sectoral management of water catchments, groundwater, rivers, lakes, coastal areas and marine waters are no longer an option in light of the objectives of sustainable development. Increasingly, the urgent need for management of water, sanitation and human settlements through the ecosystem approach and integrated water resource management (IWRM) is recognised.

Key environmental water issues highlighted in previous key conferences (such as the 2001 International Conference on Freshwater, Bonn; 2002 WSSD; and 2003 World Water Forum 3, Japan) include: growing pressure on the environment and natural resource base; water and sanitation; water and human settlements; water quality; groundwater; transboundary waters; water and ecosystems; coastal and marine areas; irrigation; unsustainable use and consumption; poverty and water; extreme weather events; water governance; water financing; and the link

between freshwater and coasts.

It is important that the *environmental* dimension of these water policy issues are addressed during the upcoming meetings of GC/GMEF and CSD12. Moreover, these conferences play a key role in highlighting the inter-linkages between freshwater, riparian land areas and marine and coastal ecosystems. The relevance of water management for coasts and oceans in the context of sustainable development cannot be overlooked until 2014 when the CSD is scheduled to address oceans.

The Ecosystem Approach

The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. It is based on the application of appropriate scientific methodologies focused on levels of biological organization which encompass the essential processes, functions and interactions among organisms and their environment. It recognizes that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integral component of ecosystems.

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

Integrated water resources management is a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximise the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.

GPA's upcoming online debate focuses on these issues and provides a space for stakeholders to express their views. More details on how to participate in this event will be forwarded to you shortly!



SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

Introduction

The Inter-regional Preparatory Meeting for the Ten-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) took place in Nassau, Bahamas from 26-30 January 2004. During the week, delegates engaged in a general debate, six panel discussions, and considered and adopted the Nassau Declaration and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Strategy Paper for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA). The outcomes of this meeting will be forwarded to the G-77/China for consideration in advance of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting at UN headquarters in New York from 14-16 April 2004, during the 12th session of the CSD. This preparatory meeting will then make recommendations to the International Meeting for the Ten-year Review of the Programme of Action on SIDS (BPoA+10), scheduled to take place in Mauritius from 30 August to 3 September 2004.

Delegates included government officials, representatives of UN agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Civil society consultations were held throughout the week, with the outcomes reported to the forum along with reports from the Youth Forum. Regional preparatory meetings were convened in 2003 - each region preparing a regional position for the BPoA review process. Expert meetings were also convened in 2003. The outcomes for each of these meetings are available from www.sidsnet.org/

During the opening statements, José Antonio Ocampo, UN Under-Secretary-General for Social and Economic Affairs, highlighted the need to build on the outcomes of the regional meetings, and stressed the value of meeting the goals set out in Agenda 21, the BPoA and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) while coordinating and integrating the outcomes of the review meeting with the activities of relevant UN agencies. Anwarul Chowdhury, Secretary-General of the International Meeting, urged delegates to be realistic and practical to enable international support and implementation. During the meeting, SIDS reaffirmed their commitment to pursue sustainable development within the framework of the BPoA as well as reaffirming their commitments to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the JPOI, whilst recognising that the Mauritius review meeting must give new momentum to the implementation of the programme taking into account the emerging issues of HIV/AIDS, use of information technology, market access and security.

UNEP and GPA

UNEP reported on its programmes to assist Pacific, Caribbean and AIMS (Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas) SIDS, and the preparation of a proposed Caribbean SIDS Programme. The AOSIS Strategy referred to UNEP specifically in various realms. In the scope of management of waste, SIDS, with UNEP's support, were encouraged to implement the Global Programme of Action for the Protection

of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. Under the section of freshwater resources, it was stated that through the GPA Coordination Office amongst others, assistance must be provided to SIDS for capacity-building for the development and further implementation of freshwater programmes and the promotion of integrated water resources management. UNEP was also called to support SIDS activities in sustainable capacity development and education for sustainable development.

For more details on UNEP and GPA's work on SIDS visit the new website: www.gpa.unep.org/sids/index.html

Panel Discussions

Panel discussions were held throughout the week on:

- New challenges and emerging issues: integrating human and social development imperatives;
- Implementing National Strategies for Sustainable Development;
- Enhancing competitiveness: trade, finance, entrepreneurship and partnerships;
- Cultural diversity, developing cultural industries and empowering youth;
- Towards knowledge-based societies: building capacity for more effective application of science and technology in SIDS; and
- Building resilience: strategies for overcoming risk, uncertainty and vulnerability in SIDS.

The outcomes and priorities of each panel discussion were highlighted during a wrap-up session. Although some observers found that the panel discussions focused too much on presentations and too little on interactive discussions, diminishing the engagement of ministers, others noted that the panels provided a sound basis for discussions in the lead-up to the International Meeting. These discussions are outlined in detail in the Earth Negotiations Bulletin daily reports of the meeting, available online at: www.iisd.ca/sids/bpoa10/bahamasprep/

Nassau Declaration

During the 14 paragraph of the Nassau Declaration, SIDS reaffirmed the continued validity of the BPoA as the fundamental framework for their sustainable development. The Declaration expresses SIDS' concern regarding their weakening economic performance and their inability to effectively participate in multilateral trade negotiations. The Declaration calls upon the World Trade Organization (WTO) to recognize the special case of SIDS. SIDS further recognise the importance of establishing an AOSIS structure to strengthen the profile of SIDS in global affairs and undertake a complete review of the institutional arrangement for strengthening AOSIS and its role in the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy by the time of the AOSIS Summit to be held during the International Meeting.

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SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS) continued

AOSIS Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA

The introduction states that the BPOA provides the blueprint for addressing sustainable development in SIDS and that SIDS have shown commitment to sustainable development and poverty eradication. SIDS recognise that good governance is necessary for achieving sustainable development. Specific issues were discussed, each with a series of recommendations reflecting the agreements reached during the meeting. The issues included: climate change and sea-level rise; natural and environmental disasters; management of wastes; coastal and marine resources; freshwater resources; land resources; energy resources; tourism resources; biodiversity resources; transport and communications; science and technology; graduation of SIDS Less Developed Countries (LDCs); trade: globalisation and trade liberalisation; sustainable capacity development and education for sustainable development; sustainable consumption and production; national enabling environments; health; knowledge management and information for decision making; culture; implementation; access to financial resources; and monitoring and evaluation.

During the negotiations, trade and graduation of SIDS LDCs were issues of particular concern to SIDS and dominated the agenda. The strategy stresses that graduation from LDC status should not be contemplated unless sustainable socio-economic progress is appropriately demonstrated and that the policy and process for a smooth transition has been accepted. It underlines that all discussions on future graduations should be held in abeyance. In terms of trade, globalisation was identified as having increased the difficulties faced by SIDS. SIDS will be further marginalized due to their smallness, persistent structural disadvantages and vulnerabilities unless specific provisions are made for SIDS in the multilateral trading system. Actions required to address this included: simplification and acceleration of SIDS accession procedures to the WTO; adoption of an integrated framework of technical assistance and cooperation for trade development in SIDS and recognition by the WTO of non-reciprocal preferences for SIDS. In addition, SIDS called for greater attention to the environmental dimension of trade.

Where to from here?

The unique and special case of SIDS has been a prominent feature of the international sustainable development agenda for over 10 years. While the BPOA is recognized as the blueprint for sustainable development in SIDS, its implementation has not been as successful as many had hoped and many new issues have emerged that affect the development prospects of SIDS. That said, the recent Bahamas meeting was an important occasion for exchanging information, strengthening ties, and building consensus among SIDS. The outcomes included the

consideration of the recommendations emanating from the regional preparatory meetings; and the adoption of a common AOSIS position, which includes the Nassau Declaration and the AOSIS Strategy Paper. These outcomes will provide the basis for negotiations in New York and Mauritius.

Issues likely to dominate the New York meetings and other informal consultations that are likely to be held in the run-up to Mauritius will be those addressing institutional mechanisms at the global level, including follow-up within the UN system. In this regard, CSD12 chair Borge Brende's opening statement highlighted the important role of the CSD as a platform for SIDS and the international community to address the special circumstances of sustainable development in SIDS.

Delegates were unanimous in the view that the International Meeting in Mauritius presents a historic opportunity for SIDS and the international community to meet, discuss, and agree on the future of SIDS. Within this context, the Bahamas meeting succeeded in consolidating the view that Mauritius must produce a set of focused and action-orientated outcomes that address new and emerging challenges, and that the results should be based on a clear set of priorities that can and will be implemented. In addition, delegates recognized the need to inspire international action and generate more political will in support of SIDS through the solidification of the partnership between SIDS and the international donor community. Moreover, while not part of the official agenda, Mauritius is likely to conclude with a strengthened AOSIS, including the adoption of an institutional charter, which, it is hoped will consolidate the role of AOSIS as the leading advocate for the special case of SIDS in the international community.

While the AOSIS Strategy focuses clearly on what can be implemented and is not just a well-intentioned paper, the consultations to be held in New York are likely to see a difficult exchange of views that will test the unity of SIDS and the resolve and leadership of AOSIS to determine the next steps in the challenging path towards sustainable development at the national and regional levels, and the advancement of the special case of small island developing states within the international community.

For full conference reporting visit:
www.iisd.ca/sids/bpoa10/bahamasprep/

For more information on SIDS visit: www.sidsnet.org

Upcoming Events:

14 - 16 April, New York, Preparatory Meeting for Mauritius 2004 (BPOA +10)

19- 30 April, New York, 12th Session Commission of Sustainable Development

30 August - 3 September, Mauritius, International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the BPOA for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (BPOA +10)





GPA NODES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Introduction

Pollutant source nodes, national nodes highlighting GPA National Programmes of Action and the Regional Seas are key constituents of the GPA clearing house mechanism. Each month, *GPA Outreach* will feature an article on a GPA node or partnership to highlight the invaluable work being done in the GPA.

Thus far, *GPA Outreach* has highlighted the GPA pollutant

source nodes (marine litter and oils) and the Regional Seas partnerships (Caribbean and the Pacific). This month, the Sewage and Wastewater pollutant source node will be highlighted. This is relevant to preparations for GC/GMEF and CSD12 because of water and sanitation being the thematic focus of both events. Additionally, it is relevant to the Global H2O Partnership Conference where discussions will explore the use of Wastewater Emissions Targets (WET) as a tool for protecting the marine environment.

Sewage and Wastewater

The GPA pollutant source node 'Sewage and Wastewater' is an online resource focusing on the protection of the marine environment from such pollution. Addressing sewage directly links to water and sanitation programmes, urban planning and integrated water resources management (IWRM). The marine environment needs protection from these pollution sources for a variety of reasons ranging from human health issues caused by water-borne pathogens to marine ecosystem damage. The effects associated with sewage and wastewater discharges are generally local with transboundary implications in certain geographic areas. The commonality of sewage-related problems throughout coastal areas of the world is significant. Consequently, domestic wastewater discharges are considered one of the most significant threats to coastal environments worldwide. To ignore sewage and wastewater pollution issues proves costly, both in human, ecological and financial terms.

The knowledge database section of the GPA sewage and wastewater node is integrated into the Sanitation Connection (SANICON) database, hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP), UNEP/GPA, the International Water Association (IWA) and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC). Resources on the SANICON-site include documents related to: risks; pollution sources; pollutants and contaminants; monitoring techniques; and policies and strategies around sewage and wastewater management. In addition, the UNEP/GPA node highlights GPA's work on the UNEP/WHO/HABITAT/WSSCC Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater, which was adopted by over 100 countries at

GPA's Intergovernmental Review in 2001. Outputs comprise 10 Keys for local and national action on municipal wastewater, associated Guidelines for Municipal Wastewater Management and documents exploring the possible use of Wastewater Emission Targets (WET) in the context of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme. The demonstration component comprises regional consultative meetings and multi-stakeholder fora, while capacity building is being realized through the selection of demonstration projects and the development of training modules. For the latter a separate web-page has been established recently (www.gpa.unep.org/training).

The interface of the node is currently being revised to better reflect GPA's work against more recent international policies addressing sewage and wastewater issues, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and Governing Council 22.

To read more on GPA's work visit:

www.gpa.unep.org/pollute/sewage.htm

To explore the knowledge base and its resources visit:

www.sanicon.net



Guidelines on Municipal Wastewater Management

10 Key Principles for policy and decision makers

1. Secure political commitment and domestic financial resources as absolute prerequisites for appropriate wastewater management.
2. Create an enabling environment for sustainable solutions at both national and local levels.
3. Develop integrated and demand-driven management systems combining the collection and treatment of wastewater with drinking water supply and the provision of sanitation services.
4. Prevent pollution at the source, use water efficiently, and apply appropriate low cost technologies for wastewater treatment.
5. Make water users and polluters pay for services based on social equity and solidarity to reach cost-recovery.
6. Use time-bound targets and indicators for environmental integrity as well as on public health or economic welfare to make actions successful.
7. Implement measures step-by-step while exploring alternatives to reach long-term management goals.
8. Involve all stakeholders through partnership from the very beginning to secure their commitment.
9. Link the municipal wastewater sector to other economic sectors, e.g. tourism, to ensure financial stability and sustainability.
10. Introduce innovative financial mechanisms, including private sector involvement.



ABOUT GPA

The United Nations Environment Programme provides the secretariat for the GPA. The GPA was adopted 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: Communications; Policy & Research and Multi-Stakeholder Processes. The partnership with UNEP focuses on outreach promoting the GPA among traditional and non-traditional stakeholders.

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

9 - 20 February Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP7) <i>Contact:</i> www.biodiv.org/
26 - 27 February Marseilles, France	World Water Council: Water and Politics Workshop <i>Contact:</i> www.worldwatercouncil.org
22 March International	World Water Day 2004 <i>Contact:</i> www.worldwaterday.org
21- 27 March Miami, USA	White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) Partnership Conference <i>Contact:</i> www.international.noaa.gov/ww2bw/index.html
27 - 28 March Jeju, Republic of Korea	5th Global Civil Society Forum <i>Contact:</i> www.unep.org/dpdl/cso/global_csf/about.html
29 - 31 March Jeju, Republic of Korea	8th Special Session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) of UNEP <i>Contact:</i> www.2004unepkorea.org/index.asp
14 - 16 April New York, USA	Preparatory Meeting for Mauritius 2004 (BPoA +10) <i>Contact:</i> www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sids/sids.htm
19- 30 April New York, USA	Commission of Sustainable Development 12th Session <i>Contact:</i> www.un.org/esa/sustdev/index
11- 14 May Cairns, Australia	Global Hilltops-2-Oceans (H2O) Partnership Conference <i>Contact:</i> www.hilltops2oceans.org/
30 August - 3 September Mauritius	International Meeting for the Full and Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (BPoA +10) <i>Contact:</i> www.sidsnet.org
<p>For more event details visit: www.stakeholderforum.org/cb/projects/gpa/GPANewsUpdatesFeb17.htm</p>	