

WELCOME

Welcome to the first 2004 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 relevant for all GPA stakeholders. We hope you find them an informative and relevant source of information for your own work.

This newsletter explores the outcomes of two regional meetings held in December 2003. The first is the East Asian Seas Congress 2003 which reinvigorated 12 East Asian Ministers commitments to strategically manage and develop coastal and marine resources through the Putrajaya Declaration. The adoption of this Declaration paves the way for a strategic regional approach in developing and managing coastal and marine resources in the East Asian region. The second regional meeting is the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference. The meeting outcomes were two-fold. Firstly, it ended with an action plan reaffirming global commitments to meet Africa's development and environment targets from international agreements, and secondly it acted as a platform for regional negotiations and input into the 12th session of the

Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD12), which is focused on water, sanitation and human settlements.

You will also find coverage of the Small Island Development States (SIDS) regional preparatory process towards the 2004 Mauritius review meeting of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA+10). The specific work undertaken by the GPA towards the Mauritius meeting is also discussed.

The GPA Nodes and Partner section focuses on the Regional Seas programme by providing an overview of GPA's involvement in Regional Seas. Last month, the Caribbean region was highlighted. This month the focus is on the Pacific island region and their initiatives towards integrated coastal management. In addition, we have a reflexive article on the GPA in Mexico from an environmental consultant.

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: East Asia & Africa

Regional Implementation of the WSSD for the Seas of East Asia

The East Asian Seas Congress 2003 (for which PEMSEA* provided the secretariat) in Malaysia on 8-12 December 2003 carried a new hope for the seas of the East Asian region in the form of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA). Building on the work done at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Meeting of Ocean-Related Ministers (Seoul, 2002) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the Ministerial Forum provided a forum where East Asia's top-level policymakers discussed the state of the region's environment and natural resources, the sustainable development of coasts and oceans, and agreed on a common framework of actions for the East Asian Seas known as the SDS-SEA. The resultant adoption by 12 Ministers of the Putrajaya Declaration now paves the way for a strategic regional approach in developing and managing coastal and marine resources in the region.

The SDS-SEA is a package of applicable principles, action programs, agreements and instruments for achieving sustainable development for the Seas of East Asia. It represents implementation approaches for the integrated management and sustainable use of the environment and resources by:

- Creating regional partnerships among government agencies, non-government organizations, private sector and other stakeholders;
- Enabling concerned organizations operating in the region at all levels to promote synergistic and cumulative impacts of

their efforts and expertise for the benefits of the countries involved and other stakeholders;

- Providing countries and other stakeholders with a set of guidelines, references and examples for assisting in their development of strategies, policies and implementation plans to address specific national, local and sectoral needs;
- Offering a set of operational approaches and measures for sustainable coastal and marine development that have been proven suitable and effective in the region;
- Facilitating the sharing and transfer of experiences, knowledge, technology and techniques, as well as mutual assistance among countries;
- Facilitating support and assistance from interested financing institutions and donor agencies, and the creation of self-sustained financing mechanisms and investment opportunities for sustainable coastal and marine development.

The SDS-SEA is a product of a long and comprehensive consultation and approval process that has stimulated debates and built up general consensus and partnerships among various policy makers, natural resource and environment managers, the academe, private sector, civil society, international agencies (including the GPA), intergovernmental financial institutions and all those who care for the coastal and marine environment and believe in sustainable development.

For conference documents and more details visit:

www.pemsea.org

*Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) is a Global Environmental Facility (GEF) project implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).



CONFERENCE OUTCOMES: East Asia & Africa continued

Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water Ends with a Water Action Plan for Africa

The Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water, Addis Ababa, from 8-13 December 2003 ended with an action plan that reaffirmed the commitments of African countries, the international community and UN agencies to meet Africa's WSSD targets, the African Water Vision, the Water Agenda of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on water. The Conference also provided a platform for consideration of the CSD agenda, enabling the forum to act as Africa's regional implementation meeting for CSD12. This was a pertinent association given CSD12's focus on water, sanitation and human settlements.

The Conference brought together approximately 1,000 delegates and 45 water and environment ministers representing countries throughout the African continent, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other key stakeholders.

The discussions related to water and sanitation noted some achievements including: commitment of the African countries to implement international agreements and goals in these areas; stronger focus on and placement of water and sanitation high on their development agenda to contribute to poverty eradication; and increased co-operation at sub-regional level and the creation of high-level forums at the regional level, such as the African Ministerial Council on Water. The meeting also highlighted the challenges faced by African countries in

implementing and meeting the WSSD commitments and targets due to constraints such as: low capacity for implementation, monitoring and evaluation; inadequate level of investment; insufficient planning for disaster preparedness; low level of integrated planning; and insufficient capacity at local government. The Ministers welcomed the active participation of civil society organisation throughout the conference and agreed to incorporate civil society and gender issues in policy formulation on water.

Recommendations adopted by the meeting were many but included: increasing the proportion of national and municipal budgets to provide water, sanitation and human settlements to the poor; devolution of power and resources to local governments to enhance their capacity to plan, manage and monitor programmes and operationalise partnerships at local, national and international levels; integrating disaster management into the management of water, sanitation and human settlements; and creation of an enabling environment for broader participation by all relevant stakeholders.

The meeting recognized the importance of linkages between water, sanitation and human settlements and encouraged African countries to promote policies that integrate these sectors in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote socio-economic goals. The outcome of this meeting will be transmitted to the UN Secretary-General to contribute to the preparations for CSD-12.

The IISD provided coverage of the conference. Visit: www.iisd.ca/csd/rim/eca/ for daily and summary reports. For conference documents visit: www.uneca.org/panafcon/docframe.htm. For the report on the African regional implementation meeting to CSD12 visit: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/panafcon_rimreport_wsh.pdf

SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) generically refer to coastal countries sharing similar challenges for sustainable development. Challenges range from small populations with limited expertise and natural resources, to acute ecological fragility and susceptibility to natural disasters. SIDS provides a link grouping similar countries and thus strengthening their position in international negotiations. At present, there are forty-one countries which are a part of SIDS.

In 2002, the United Nations General Assembly called for a comprehensive review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) which was adopted in 1994. The BPoA sets forth specific actions and measures at the national, regional, and international levels in support of the sustainable development of the small island developing States (SIDS). In August 2004, the international community will convene in Mauritius to discuss recommendations for further and successful implementation of the BPoA.

Three regional preparatory meetings in 2003 have highlighted the actions taken and the challenges faced in the implementation of BPoA. These meetings were:

- Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for BPoA+10, Samoa, August 2003
- Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and the South China Seas (AIMS) Regional Preparatory Meeting for BPoA+10, Cape Verde, September 2003
- Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for BPoA+10, Trinidad and Tobago, October 2003

Drawing upon the outcomes of these regional level meetings, two international level preparatory meetings are scheduled prior to BPoA+10. These include an inter-regional preparatory meeting in the Bahamas from 26-30 January, 2004, and a SIDS preparatory meeting preceding the twelfth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in New York from 14-14 April 2004.

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SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS) continued

The regional meetings were attended by the governments, observer countries and international, regional and national organisations relevant to each region. The meetings highlighted the key current and rising issues, constraints and opportunities for the implementation of BPoA in each region.

Each of the three preparatory meetings highlighted the following aspects towards the implementation of BPoA:

- Reaffirmed the validity of the BPoA as a blueprint for the sustainable development of SIDS.
- Acknowledged the financial support provided by governments and institutions for the generation of National Assessment Reporting, though highlighted the need for reinvigorated support.
- Recognised the value of streamlining the implementation and reporting of the BPoA with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) to create a simple, harmonised annual monitoring process.
- Key issues that were raised in all regions included: climate change, dependence on trade, lack of freshwater availability, limited institutional capacity, small scale economies, biodiversity (endemism), coastal and marine resources, energy (dependence on fossil fuel imports), waste management, access to technologies and cultural vulnerabilities.
- Key opportunities that exist for all of the regions include: potential development of renewable energies, ecotourism and regional and international partnerships.
- Opportunities for stakeholder participation were highlighted across all aspects of the BPoA in SIDS including: through the national preparatory processes, in the implementation of sustainable development policies and the management of coastal and marine resources, within national institutions and through the building of administrative capacity.
- Integrated management of coastal and freshwater resources was highlighted by all regions as a key instrument for the implementation of the BPoA. The use of integrated water resource management (IWRM) and watershed management policies and integration of land-based sources of pollution into coastal zone policies were identified as key mechanisms to link freshwater and marine resource management. It was recognised that more work is needed in integrating coastal and marine resources to achieve integrated policy preparation and decision making for the implementation of BPoA.
- New and emerging issues for all regional meetings included: security, health, poverty and trade, though the particulars for each issue are regionally specific.

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

SIDS and the GPA en-route to Mauritius

SIDS and Regional Seas

UNEP organized the 5th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas from 26 to 28 November 2003 in Nairobi, Kenya. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss UNEP's proposed Regional Seas Strategic Direction 2004-2007 Global Initiative for Regional Seas Co-operation. In this regard the meeting endorsed the following recommendations:

- Facilitate common policy development towards global issues and present them in relevant fora including SIDS, CSD, United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS), UN Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas (UNSOCA), and UNEP Governing Council.
- Promote at the national and regional level, combined reporting to relevant regional and global conventions and programmes (e.g. SIDS, Regional Seas, GPA, Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management (ICARM)).
- Facilitate a concerted and visible input and policy statement by Regional Seas in relevant international fora, including SIDS, GPA, CSD, UNICPOLOS, UN General Assembly, Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), Conference of Parties (COPs - including Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Convention on Climate Change) and global programmes

such as International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN), and the Global Environment Facility – International Waters (GEF IW).

The meeting also devoted a session for relevant Regional Seas to provide input to the 10-year review meeting of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (BPoA+10).



The representative of the Caribbean Environment Programme mentioned that there are key success stories in the region, for example within ICRAN projects and on marine protected areas. Other examples lay within the GEF project on Integrating Water Resources and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM), the activities under the SPAW protocol (Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region) and the protocol on LBA (Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region), and projects under the GPA assisting develop National Programmes of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. The SPREP representative mentioned that 14 countries are preparing their national assessment reports which are being converted into one regional position document for BPoA+10, and that several success stories of sustainable development activities (in cooperation with Commonwealth) in the region could be used at appropriate venues.

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SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS) continued

SIDS and the GPA en route to Mauritius

continued

Africa

UNEP, through the GPA Coordination Office and the Regional Office for Africa, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment of Mauritius to contribute to the improvement of the knowledge of officials from the Ministry of Environment of Mauritius on major SIDS environmental challenges. UNEP will also support outreach activities relating to the regional, inter-regional and international discussions towards the International Meeting for the full and comprehensive review of the BPoA+10 meeting to be held in Mauritius.

The Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern Africa Region Secretariat, the UNEP Regional Office for Africa and the GPA Coordination Office have contributed to a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Seychelles to ultimately support the efforts of Eastern African

SIDS in their preparations of national assessment reports, since national reports are a critical component for the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action in providing information on respective national circumstances.

Caribbean

The Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM) is finalizing the Regional Synthesis Report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the sustainable development of small island developing States in the Caribbean. The Regional Synthesis Report is to be discussed at the Inter-regional preparatory meeting to be held in the Bahamas from 26 to 30 January 2004. UNEP through its Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the GPA Coordination Office provided technical and financial support.

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For more information on UNEP and SIDS visit:

www.gpa.unep.org

For more information on the review process of the BPoA visit:
www.sidsnet.org/

GPA - A MEXICAN PERSPECTIVE

Governments and Civil Society Coordination: A necessary, sometimes elusive path

Last year I had the opportunity to work as a legal and policy consultant for GPA and it was, and continues to be, a great professional learning experience-- a period of time spent conducting on-site and distance assessments on efforts to integrate management of coastal resources in at least three countries of the Wider Caribbean region. This work gave me the opportunity to expand a number of views on what sustainable coastal habitat use demands in terms of coordination of governments, corporations and civil society.

I speak to the fact that historic inertia in terms of governance of coastal resources has proven to be determinant on conditions in certain countries, and to be more specific, Mexico. I live in the State of Veracruz, in the Gulf of Mexico. Through the city and port of Veracruz, thousands, perhaps millions of ships have arrived and departed since the Spanish came to Mexico more than 500 years ago. The introduction of countless species and the impacts of discharges on the waters, islands and reefs have come at a price. This historic chain of impacts and the economic and human growth of the Port of Veracruz have

resulted in some of its beaches being among those officially declared the most polluted in Mexico.

What to do? In my view, a stronger, more transparent enforcement of environmental legislation, and the promotion of effective mechanisms to share experiences among involved actors is essential. Decreed as a marine protected area in 1992, the Sistema Arrecifal Veracruzano, today suffers from apparent governance confusion. Under the current system, coastal municipalities have jurisdiction to control the use of adjacent lands, and have a Constitutional mandate to treat water municipal discharges before release into federal waters. The federal government controls the beach, the reef and the islands in a centralized fashion. The State government produces and implements development policies and legislation. Finding effective ways to coordinate and balance these efforts into a governance process where civil society would participate actively has been a hard task to achieve, especially when faced with conflicting interests. Citizens demand environmental legislation to be enforced. Businesses demand patience to reach environmental quality. In the meantime, bathers take another dive.

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- 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 any questions regarding the newsletter 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



GPA NODES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Introduction

Pollutant source nodes, national nodes highlighting GPA national plans of action and 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 that is being done in the GPA.

Regional Seas

The implementation of the GPA is primarily the task of Governments, in close cooperation with all stakeholders including local communities, public organizations and the private sector. The GPA identifies the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP as an appropriate framework for delivery of the GPA at the regional level.

The Regional Seas Programme was initiated by UNEP in 1974 as a global programme implemented through regional components. Since then, the Governing Council of UNEP has repeatedly endorsed a regional approach to the control of marine pollution and the management of marine and coastal resources and has requested the development of regional actions plans.

All of these programmes are conceived as being action-oriented and concerned not only with the consequences, but also the causes of environmental degradation. Each has a

Last month GPA pollutant source nodes (marine litter and oils) and a regional seas partnership (Caribbean Environmental Programme) were highlighted. This month, an overview of regional seas is presented, followed by an article examining integrated coastal management strategies through the South Pacific Environmental Programme.

comprehensive, integrated, results-oriented approach to combating environmental problems through the rational management of marine and coastal areas. Each regional action plan is formulated according to the needs of the region as perceived by the Governments concerned. The action plans promote the parallel development of regional legal framework agreements and action-oriented programme activities.

The regional seas are: Arctic, Baltic, Black Sea, East Asian Seas, Eastern Africa, Mediterranean, North-East Atlantic, North-East Pacific, North-West Pacific, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, ROPME Sea Area (Kuwait), South Asian Seas, South Pacific, South-East Pacific, South-West Atlantic, West and Central Africa and Wider Caribbean.

For more details on the GPA and regional seas visit: www.gpa.unep.org/seas/seas.htm

For more details, and links to specific programmes on regional seas visit: www.unep.ch/seas/

Integrated Coastal Management in the Pacific Islands Region

The Secretariat for the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP), through the International Waters Project that is implementing the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the International Waters of the Pacific Small Island Developing States, convened an informal brainstorming session for integrated coastal management (ICM) in December 2003.

The International Waters Programme (IWP) is a 7-year programme that is part of a global effort to develop and implement measures to conserve, sustainably manage, and restore coastal and oceanic resources in the Pacific Region. This programme addresses a diverse range of issues, including resource management, conservation, habitat rehabilitation, economic development, policy and planning, and institutional issues, particularly at the community level. Three priority concerns related to international waters were identified: degradation of their quality; degradation of their associated critical habitats; and unsustainable use of their living and non-living resources. The SAP identifies four high priority areas for immediate intervention: improved waste management; better water quality; sustainable fisheries; and effective marine protected areas. Targeted action within these activity areas is proposed in five categories: management; capacity building; awareness/education; research/information for decision-making; investment; and institutional strengthening.

The December meeting, which was held at the offices of the

South Pacific Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) in Suva, Fiji, brought together practitioners representing national, regional and international agencies, tertiary institutions and non-government organisations involved in coastal management in the Pacific Islands region. The aim of the meeting was to discuss current initiatives and emerging issues relating to coastal management in the Pacific Islands region - to complete a preliminary assessment of gaps and to identify opportunities to strengthen ICM in the region. The meeting also discussed how integrated coastal management can be promoted as a key element for consideration during the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Forum which is scheduled to be held at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji, 2-6 February 2004 (www.piocean.org).

The main outcome of the meeting was a draft set of guiding principles that could be considered a starting point for strengthening ICM in the Pacific Islands region. The most significant constraints impeding effective ICM in the region were agreed to as being related to capacity, governance, information management and communications, finance, research and coordination. Potential responses, including an initial prioritisation, to help address these constraints, were also identified. A side event to focus on ICM in the Pacific Islands region will be held in the margins of the Ocean Forum in February 2004. Details for that session are available from Mary Power (maryp@sprep.org.ws) or Andrew Wright (dreww@sprep.org.ws).

For more details on SPREP and the IWP meeting visit: www.sprep.org.ws/iwp



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

26 - 30 January Istanbul, Turkey	Consultative Meeting on the Revision of the Black Sea Land-based Sources of Pollution Protocol, the UNEP GPA Work Programme for the Black Sea and the EU Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy <i>Contact:</i> www.gpa.unep.org/meetings/black_sea/default.htm
26 - 30 January Portland, USA	12th Oceans Sciences Meeting <i>Contact:</i> www.agu.org/meetings/os04/
26 - 30 January Nassau, Bahamas	Interregional Preparatory Meeting for Mauritius 2004 (BPoA +10) <i>Contact:</i> www.best.bs/bpoa_meeting.htm
2 - 6 February Suva, Fiji	Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Forum <i>Contact:</i> www.piocean.org
15 - 20 February Honolulu, USA	2004 Ocean Research Conference <i>Contact:</i> www.aslo.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 Seoul, South Korea	5th Global Civil Society Forum <i>Contact:</i> www.unep.org/dpdl/cso/global_csf/about.html
29 - 31 March Seoul, South Korea	23rd Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum <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/csd/csd12/csd12.htm#sids
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/
28 June - 2 July Okinawa, Japan	10th International Coral Reef Symposium <i>Contact:</i> www.plando.co.jp/icrs2004/
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) <i>Contact:</i> www.sidsnet.org