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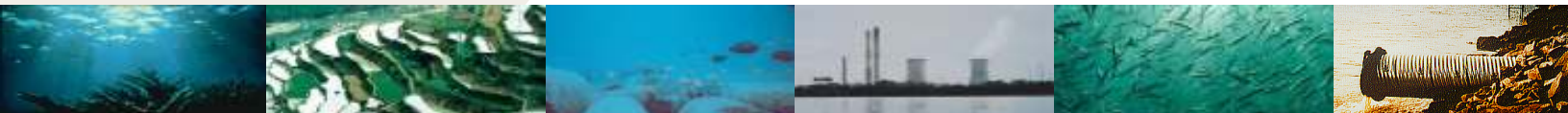
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○ JUNE | ○ 2008



# GPA Outreach

## Oceans and Coasts



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

*GPA Outreach is a newsletter that helps raise awareness among a diversity of stakeholders of issues and activities relating to the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities. The United Nations Environment Programme Acts as the Secretariat for the GPA. Stakeholder Forum is responsible for producing the newsletter.*

## Welcome to the re-launch of GPA Outreach

This issue of the GPA Outreach brings you up to date with some important events and changes within the global marine environment arena, following up on the gathering of ocean decision makers and donors at the Fourth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands in Hanoi, Viet Nam, which took place last April. In this issue, we present a message from Anjan Datta, Officer-in-Charge at the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office, an overview of the outcomes of the Fourth Global Conference by Biliana Cicin-Sain and Miriam C. Balgos of Global Forum, and a description of the joint UNEP/GPA and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) framework on mainstreaming coastal and marine resources into national development strategies.

We will continue to keep you informed, on a quarterly basis, of the developments in the oceans agenda from the perspective of the only intergovernmental programme that addresses the inter-linkages between freshwater and the coastal environment, and look ahead to the Stockholm World Water Week in August.

# Message from the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office

*Dr Anjan Datta, Officer-in-Charge at the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office, provides an overview of some progress relating to the GPA, and outlines his vision for the future.*

UNEP/Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) was delighted to be a leading partner in the Fourth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands in Hanoi, Viet Nam, as it provided an opportunity for the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office to develop the new approach called for at the Second Intergovernmental Review meeting of the GPA, which was held in Beijing, China, from 16-20 October 2006. This new approach for the GPA focused on mainstreaming, financing, and legislative and institutional strengthening. Governments also requested the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office to provide assistance to countries in assessing how the conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems contributes to poverty alleviation and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and to support them in mainstreaming the sustainable development of oceans and coasts into international development frameworks and national planning and budgetary processes. In 2007, the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office began to implement

**“Governments are taking a step back to review the interplay of pollution control and the market”**

**“There is a recognition that people’s care and interest in ocean matters is often not reflected in domestic policy and decision making processes”**

this mandate with a primary focus on ensuring that further efforts by national authorities to address land-based sources of marine pollution are well integrated into relevant national development processes, including those supported by the international community such as the Bali Strategic Plan, UN Development Assistance Frameworks, and poverty reduction strategies. This mainstreaming approach is being integrated into National Programmes of Action through training workshops using new tools such as mainstreaming guidelines and a checklist developed in collaboration with the Stockholm Environment Institute, as well as other web-based interactive documents. To date, three such regional training workshops have been held with participation of senior officials from the Ministries of Environment, Finance and Planning. The first was held in Chennai, India, for the Asian countries, and was hosted by the Indian

## ABOUT THE GPA:



*The GPA was adopted in 1995 by 108 Governments and the European Commission in response to the increasing threat to the marine environment from human activities on land. The*

*GPA is designed to be a source of conceptual and practical guidance for national and/or regional authorities for devising and implementing sustained action to prevent, reduce, control and/or eliminate marine degradation from land-based activities.*

*The UNEP/GPA Coordination Office, located in The Hague, the Netherlands, supports the implementation of the GPA by: promoting and facilitating the implementation of the GPA at the national level and the regional and sub-regional levels; and playing a catalytic role with other organisations and institutions in the implementation of the GPA at the international level.*

*For more information please visit [www.gpa.unep.org](http://www.gpa.unep.org)*

Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Institute of Ocean Management of Anna University from 27-29 November 2007. The other took place in Fiji for the countries of the Pacific region and was hosted by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme from 7-8 February 2008. The third, for the Eastern Africa region, was held from 20-23 May 2008 in Mauritius, and was hosted by the Mauritius Ministry of En-

vironment and National Development Unit. The one for the English speaking Caribbean will take place from 8-10 July in Jamaica, and will be hosted by the Jamaican National Environment and Planning Agency.

During the Fourth Global Conference, the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office was able to work with partners, such as the Stockholm Environment Institute, with which it has developed one of these new tools: a guide to help governments mainstream coastal and marine resource issues into national development frameworks. This joint effort was prompted by the recognition that people's care and interest in ocean matters is often not reflected in domestic policy and decision making processes. The joint mainstreaming framework presented during the Fourth Global Conference is one example of how the UNEP/GPA Office is focusing, at the request of governments themselves, on helping countries take account of the real value of marine and coastal ecosystems. Further, the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office continues to provide technical services to governments in their efforts to address land-based sources of marine pollution through policy change and implementation of pilot projects to tackle priority issues. These pilot projects implemented in countries such as Indonesia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Mauritius, and South Africa are to demonstrate linkages between coastal zone management and river basin management, effectiveness of constructed wetland for wastewater treatment, and new management practices, including local action through building government-civil society partnerships. Today, the effort to protect the marine environment from land-based activities is moving in the right direction. An increasing number of governments are taking a step back to review the interplay of their pollution control policies and pro-

***“Today, the effort to protect the marine environment from land-based activities is moving in the right direction”***

***“Inspired political leadership and intense cooperation across all regions and sectors is needed”***

grammes with the market, and self-regulation of the industry itself. In large part, this is being done with a view to achieving a more strategic use of limited resources, within broader enabling frameworks such as integrated coastal zone management.

This includes growing recognition that national and local sustainable development cannot be achieved, and the challenge of climate change cannot be met, without acknowledgement and valuation of the ecosystem services provided by the marine and coastal environment. The progress is slow, but steady. Inspired political leadership and intense cooperation across all regions and sectors is needed to put both existing and new policy instruments to work. We strongly believe that through dialogues and sharing of experiences we will be able to redefine our approach, and redirect our efforts for the protection and sustainable management of our coastal and marine environment and so realize our collective vision “sustainable development.”

The Hanoi Conference highlighted the need to pursue this agenda and stressed the linkages between the management of freshwater, oceans and coasts. This integrated approach will also be key in tackling the challenge of climate change and strengthen the resilience of millions of people whose livelihoods depend on the marine environment. The UNEP/GPA Office is determined with its partners to show leadership and assist other stakeholders in their efforts.

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# Fourth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands

Organized by the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, and hosted by the Government of Viet Nam, the Fourth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands took place in Hanoi from 7-11 April 2008. **Biliana Cicin-Sain** and **Miriam C Balgos**, of the Global Forum Secretariat, share some of the outcomes from the Conference.



The Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands brought together 439 ocean and coastal leaders from 71 countries representing all sectors (including governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the business community, ocean donors, and scientific institutions) to assess essential issues in the governance of the world's oceans, with an emphasis on moving toward an ecosystem-based and integrated approach to oceans governance at national, regional, and global levels. For the first time, a concerted effort was made to bring together oceans and climate change policy. As indicated in the 2007 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, climate change will have profound effects on coastal ecosystems and populations around the world, especially among the poorest people on Earth and in small island developing States (SIDS).

The Global Forum was first mobilized in 2001 in the run-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa, which brought together the world's Heads of State and government to examine progress achieved, or lack thereof, in the ten years since the

***“The Global Forum has played a key role in tracking the implementation of global goals and targets on oceans”***

1992 ‘Earth Summit’ in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. At that time, it became apparent that issues related to oceans (72% of the Earth’s surface), coasts (home to 50% of the world’s population), and islands (44 nations are SIDS), were absent from the global agenda. A broad coalition of governments, NGOs, UN agencies, and other groups mobilized to bring these issues to the attention of the world’s governments at the first *Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands*, which took place at the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters in Paris, France, in December 2001. This effort was successful in the inclusion of oceans targets in the 2002 WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Since 2001, the Global Forum has played a key role in tracking the implementation of global goals and targets on oceans, issuing policy analyses and periodic report cards on these issues, and organizing global conferences. These events bring together key players from over 100 countries to advance the implementation of global goals as well as to devise solutions to new challenges such as climate

## ABOUT STAKEHOLDER FORUM

*Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future’s mission is to inform, influence, promote, and advance the implementation of sustainable development. Stakeholder Forum fulfils this mission by developing and facilitating multi-stakeholder processes that engage stakeholders in the development and implementation of sustainable development policy. To support multi-stakeholder processes, Stakeholder Forum also undertakes activities related to capacity building, training, and policy development.*

*Stakeholder Forum is delighted to continue its partnership with UNEP/GPA to undertake outreach and communicate the activities carried out by the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office and its partners.*

*For more information please visit [www.stakeholderforum.org](http://www.stakeholderforum.org)*

change (see, for example, the 2006 Global Forum “report card” on [Meeting the Commitments on Oceans, Coasts, and Small Island Developing States Made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development: How Well Are We Doing?](#)).



The Fourth Global Conference underlined that ocean and coastal managers, who are at the front-line of climate changes, will need to incorporate climate change planning into all existing management processes, develop and apply new tools related to vulnerability assessment, and make difficult choices in what in many cases will be “no win” situations, involving adverse impacts to vulnerable ecosystems and communities. Conference participants underlined the costs of inaction and the urgency of incorporating climate change in decision-making processes, including by altering coastal development already in the pipeline. Conference participants assessed the progress that has been achieved (or lack thereof) on the global oceans targets established by the world’s political leaders at the WSSD, including: achieving ecosystem-based management (EBM) and integrated ocean and coastal management (ICM) by 2010; reducing marine biodiversity loss by 2010; establishing networks of marine protected areas by 2012; and restoring fish stocks by 2015.

An extensive preparatory process mobilized 12 multinational Working Groups (involving 254 ocean experts from 68 countries) to develop policy analyses and specific policy recommendations to the Fourth Global Conference on: 1) Climate, Oceans, and Security; 2) Achieving EBM and ICM by 2010 and Progress Markers; 3) Large Marine Ecosystems; 4) Marine Biodiversity and Networks of Marine Protected Areas; 5) Fisheries and Aquaculture – Sustainability and Governance; 6) SIDS and Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy; 7) Linking the Management of Freshwater, Coasts, and Oceans; 8) Governance of Marine Ecosystems and Uses in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction; 9) Maritime Transportation; 10) Capacity Development; 11) Compliance and Enforcement; and 12) Public Education and Out-

reach. The Policy Briefs prepared by each Working Group are available on the GOC2008 website as noted below.

A critical part of a healthy marine environment, *fisheries*, was a major emphasis of the Conference. Sound and sustainable aquaculture policy was deemed necessary for meeting increasing demand for fisheries resources. *Marine biodiversity* was another critical focus of the Conference, as it is essential to human life in providing food and basic compounds for drugs and technology, tourism attractions and recreational activities, and protection from storms and coastal erosion. The reduction of biodiversity may be associated with exponential reductions of ecosystem functions: 20-25% species loss can cause a reduction of 50-80% of ecosystem functions, threatening life-supporting services. The changing nature of freshwater resources due to global climate change was also addressed, emphasizing the challenge of *linking freshwater to coasts to oceans* from a new collaborative perspective to connect decision-making and institutional development in upstream and downstream areas.

All of the priority themes of the Fourth Global Conference have to address the underlying issues of *poverty, capacity development, compliance and enforcement, and public education and outreach*. Moreover, changes in the marine environment are already occurring, and at a much rapider pace than anticipated. The Fourth Global Conference provided a chance to catalyze the global policy changes needed to prevent human suffering and further degradation of the oceans, and to successfully adapt to the effects of a changing climate.

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## COVERAGE OF GLOBAL CONFERENCE

The Global Forum, the World Ocean Network, and the World Ocean Observatory have created a special [GOC2008 website](#) and [YouTube channel](#)

The International Institute for Sustainable Development – Reporting Services (IISDRS) has provided [coverage of Conference proceedings](#). IISDRS’ Report of the Conference is available at [www.iisd.ca](http://www.iisd.ca)

# Mainstreaming Coastal and Marine Resource Issues into National Development Strategies

*Professor John Soussan, Director of the Water Resources and Sanitation Programme at Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), gives an overview of the framework that has been jointly developed by UNEP/GPA and the SEI to help incorporate coastal and marine resource issues into national development strategies.*

People care about coasts. Around the world, hundreds of millions of people live their lives on and derive their livelihoods from coasts and coastal resources. Hundreds of millions more people use them for recreation or depend on the resources and environmental services they produce. The damage caused by human activities, from habitat loss, pollution damage or increased exposure to natural disasters, attracts great political and public concern. But society's response is usually reactive and slow, when after the event it is too late. And the attention span is too often short-lived. Few countries have a coherent and comprehensive approach to the planning and management of coastal areas, despite their importance in the lives of their people and the functioning of their economies. In particular, coastal and marine resource issues are generally not well integrated into overall national development policies and plans.

The UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities (UNEP/GPA), in partnership with the Stockholm Environment Institute has prepared a framework for mainstreaming coastal and marine resource issues into national development frameworks. The framework em-

phasizes the need to build national ownership and broad cross-sectoral coalitions of support for actions to promote sustainable development in coastal areas. This includes two inter-related elements: (i) the specific development goals and targets as expressed in national development plans; and (ii) the wider policy and development environment, including trends such as decentralization, the balance sought between economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability, and moves towards integration into regional and global political and economic systems. The mainstreaming framework consists of six steps:

**Step 1: The institutional mechanism:** including the selection and mandating of a **Lead Agency** that will be the focus of mainstreaming and the formation of an **Inter-Agency Working Group** that brings together key stakeholders from the different sectors relevant to coastal and marine resources management. This will provide the institutional framework for the identification and implementation of actions to promote mainstreaming.

**Step 2: The strategic frame-**



## RELOCATION OF THE GPA COORDINATION OFFICE

*In a letter dated 30 May 2008, Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, officially communicated the relocation of the GPA Coordination Office from The Hague, the Netherlands, to Nairobi, Kenya. In his letter, he emphasizes the multiple benefits of this move, which is aimed at consolidating and strengthening UNEP's marine and coastal programme overall, and indicates that the relocation will finalize the creation of the new Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Branch. Achim Steiner also extends UNEP's gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands for their invaluable support. The move is expected to take place in August 2008.*

**work:** specific national development goals and targets to which mainstreaming will contribute and a strategy on how mainstreaming will be accomplished. The analysis will need to demonstrate to national decision-makers that the management of coastal and marine resources can make specific and significant contributions to the national development goals and targets. Mainstreaming will be easier and

more effective where it is seen to be contributing to, rather than running counter to, these wider policy priorities.

**Step 3:** Identification of **sectoral policy priorities**. Coastal and marine resource issues touch upon almost all aspects of national development. Effective mainstreaming will prioritize **focal sectors**: (i) where the potential for mainstreaming in poverty reduction and national development processes is greatest; (ii) that are significant in the livelihoods of poor communities; (iii) where the relationship between coastal and marine resources and growth is clear; and (iv) with more straightforward institutional structures and good chances of success.

**Step 4:** The assessment of existing and future **negative impacts** of land-based activities on coastal and marine resources. This has been the main focus of the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office's work to date and is indeed an important part of the strategy set out here. The approach to mainstreaming is to build on what is already going on within the GPA and associated processes, not to abandon and replace them. The recognition of the negative impact of land-based human activities is the 'entry point' for the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office to engage with national stakeholders.

**Step 5:** This step is focused on the **contributions** of the management of coastal and marine resources in attaining **national development goals**. The key is to turn the message around: to demonstrate that these resources can be part of the solution, in terms of generating major poverty reduction and growth benefits, rather than being a prob-

lem that will cost to address in terms of mitigating pollution impacts.

**Step 6:** The final step is to identify **policy options** and specific **action areas** to mitigate impacts and stimulate positive contributions of coastal and marine resources to national development goals. This should produce a **consolidated strategy** that both mitigates negative impacts and optimizes the development potentials of coastal and marine resources.

The framework has been presented at a number of meetings, including the Fourth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands in Hanoi, and regional meetings of GPA member countries in India, Fiji and Mauritius. These meetings have subjected the framework to rigorous examination by policy makers and the results have been extremely positive, with several countries indicating their enthusiasm for starting a mainstreaming process. Further dissemination efforts will carry on during 2008.

The framework can be downloaded from the UNEP/GPA website ([www.gpa.unep.org](http://www.gpa.unep.org)) and the SEI website ([www.sei.se](http://www.sei.se)).

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