### Towards an International Global Agenda to Address Pollution from forms of Reactive Nitrogen and Nutrients across Air, Land, Water and Oceans

5th Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

24 October 2018, UN Environment HQ, Nairobi









# Nitrogen, Nutrients What? Why must we be concerned?

- Life's building blocks...
- Foundation of our food production system and industrial production systems
  - Reactive forms of Nitrogen
  - Phosphorus
- Nutrients are GOOD!!!
  BUT...can be BAD
- How so???







# Too much nutrients.... Air, Water, Ocean



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Jan 26, 2015 (estimated day's avg)

Jan 26, 2013 6-10am

Jan 25-27, 2012-14

(3-day average)

(during R-Day parade)

WHAT'S PM2.5 Fine, respirable particles

floating in air that get lodged in lungs

New Delhi: Amld reports that the US may curb President Barack Obama's early morning scheduleduring his visit to Delhi later this month, air pollution monitoring agencies said the levels of PM2.5 or fine, respirable particles that get lodged in the lungs are likely to be in the range of moderate to high in the period while he's

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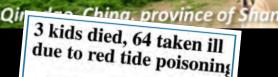
#### NITRATES IN WATER

160-234

130-170

15

- Agricultural activity
- Inorganic nitrogenous fertilizers and manures
- Erosion of natural deposits
- Leaking from sewer tanks/sewage



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Article from the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on May 19, 1995, reporting victims who ate green mussels collected from Manila Bay. Used with permission.



# **Too little nutrients...**

Harvest more than is replaced by nutrients - nutrient mining, reduced crop yield and failure



#### Land degradation



#### Poor nourishment, social conflict



### Action is needed!!! The nutrient challenge – pervasive, cross-cutting

- UNEA3 Resolutions on pollution; <u>GOOD anchor...but enough?</u>
  - Environment and Health
  - Water pollution
  - Soil pollution
- UN Environment Programme of Work Chemicals, Waste & Air Quality Subprogramme
- Global Programme of Action lead on nutrient pollution in oceans
- Partnerships:
  - International Nitrogen Initiative
  - Global Partnership on Nutrient Management









