

OCEANS AND COASTS BRAINSTORMING

Background Information Package

**OCEANS AND COASTS
RELATED PROGRAMMES
IN UNEP
and in other
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
AND PROCESSES**

NAIROBI, 29-30 AUGUST 2007



Executive summary

This report serves as a background information document, containing an inventory of all current UNEP activities as well as other international organizations and processes; as they relate to oceans, coasts and islands. It is a useful consideration for the two-day brainstorming meeting aiming at the development of a comprehensive and integrated strategy for all UNEP Oceans, Coasts and Islands-related programmes. The meeting will review and discuss UNEP's programmes and activities addressing the marine and coastal environment, and contribute to UNEP's Medium Term Strategic Framework.

UNEP has been given a lead role in environmental issues as they relate to the sustainable development of oceans and coasts. The Regional Seas Programme, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), support to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) within the framework of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS and the Mauritius Strategy, and attention to coral reef issues, are currently implemented and operate under the aegis of DEPI. Other UNEP Divisions also carry out important coastal and ocean-related programmes. It is therefore crucial to create maximum synergies and complementarities among these programmes and activities and discuss possible directions for coordination, coherence and consistency.

Chapter one dwells on the UNEP **Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI)** and its role in implementation of environmental policies and management practices. The division carries out a range of activities on oceans and coasts through the Regional Seas Programme (RSP), the global programme of action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities (GPA), Coral Reef Unit (CRU), and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) programme.

The first section of this chapter outlines the history of the **Regional Seas Programme** since its formation in 1974 by the UNEP GC and the milestones it has achieved to-date, highlighting the development of regional programmes, conventions and action plans. It also highlights synergies with international processes over many years of programme implementation and wraps up with the history of the annual Global Meetings of the Regional Seas secretariats.

The section goes further to elaborate on the major tasks and objectives of the Regional Seas conventions and action plans and how the current six strategic directions (2004-2007) aim at strengthening the regional seas programme at the global level while complementing the implementation of work programmes of individual RS conventions and action plans. The main focus areas within the strategic directions encompass partnerships, Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEA's), financing advice, legal advice, marine and coastal biodiversity, marine litter/debris, Large Marine Ecosystems (LME's), and ecosystem approach as well as outreach and awareness.

Some of the challenges that RSP aims to address in future include: further strengthening of individual RSP's; provision of financing and legal advice for sustainability; development and implementation of the global initiative on marine litter, and the development of new RSP's in areas that are not covered with the programme.

Under the auspice of the Regional Seas Programme, the section goes further to highlight the development of six regional seas programmes and offices that are directly administered by UNEP and elaborates on the important work of Regional Coordinating Units (RCU's) in supporting the implementation of the priority project activities in these regions. These Regional Programmes include: East Asian Seas (**COBSEA**), North-West Pacific Action Plan (**NOWPAP**), Mediterranean Action Plan (**MAP**), **Nairobi Convention**, **Abidjan Convention**, and the Caribbean Environment Programme (**CEP**). For each RSP, the history, major tasks and objectives, current situation and future challenges is mentioned in detail.

The second section delineates the **Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from land-based activities (GPA)**. The GPA was adopted in 1995 by 108 governments and the European commission and is designed to be a source of conceptual and practical guidance to prevent, reduce, control or eliminate marine degradation resulting from land-based activities. It explicitly addresses the linkages between freshwater, coastal and marine environments. Its implementation is the task of national governments and UNEP facilitates its implementation at the international, regional and national levels. The 1st intergovernmental review meeting (IGR-1) held in 2001 was instrumental in shifting focus from planning to action and developing the GPA as a tool for furthering ecosystem approaches to coasts, oceans and island management. The 2nd intergovernmental review meeting (IGR-2), 2006 reinforced the catalytic role of the GPA

and its crucial role in promoting the GPA at all levels and strengthening the RSP and other regional mechanisms to facilitate its implementation. The IGR-2 discussed and reviewed problems encountered and lessons learned, and identified practical solutions that can be scaled up in other countries and at the regional and global levels. The key outcomes of IGR-2 were: (1) prioritizing focus on mainstreaming and integration, financing and legislative and institutional strengthening; (2) the need for the GPA to be flexible and innovative for adaptation to new challenges; (3) the partnership approach as key to success; (4) Beijing declaration which was endorsed by governments and gives a new direction with great emphasis on national and local-level action supported by a call for creating sustainable financial mechanisms, economic valuation of goods and services provided by oceans, coasts and watersheds, local participation and integrated approaches in particular linking freshwater and coastal management.

Section three discusses the **Coral Reef Unit (CRU)** which was established in the year 2000 to serve as focal point on all matters related to coral reefs within the UN system. CRU implements UNEP Governing Council (GC) decisions on coral reefs and from 2003-onwards, has initiated and coordinated UNEP's work on deep waters and high sea biodiversity and ecosystems (including cold-water corals).

The major tasks and objectives of CRU include: (a) activities in tropical, warm-water reefs, where main activities involve provision of policy support and facilitation of site-based activities and work of UNEP and UNEP partners. Some of its major achievements in this area include: representation of UNEP within ICRI, ICRAN and GCRMN; review of international coral reef policies and frameworks within and outside the UN system; administration of annual US counterpart contributions; response to the South Asia Tsunami and activities in South Asian coral reefs. (b) Activities in cold-water coral reefs include: publication of several reports i.e. "Cold-water Coral Reefs: Out of sight – no longer out of mind", "Ecosystems and Biodiversity in Deep Waters and High Seas", "Seamounts, Deep Sea Corals and Fisheries"; production of a TV documentary "Cold Coral Deep"; development of the Global Cold-water Coral Database and GIS; and is in partnership with UNEP in "Hotspot Ecosystems Research in the Margins of European Seas (HERMES)" project.

CRU like other entities faces the challenge of lack of stability and continuity of work and non-guaranteed maintenance of partnerships as they don't have enough funds for staff but only for activities and projects. One area that presents a window of opportunity for CRU is provision of answers on how human activities have impacted the deep waters and high seas including the effects of climate change.

It should be noted that the current discussions within the UN GA and other intergovernmental organizations show that there is yet no consensus between governments on the areas of responsibility and legal competence of the various organizations within and outside the UN system regarding high seas issues.

The last section of this chapter is a summary of the **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** programme which was adopted by UNEP's GC 22 in decision 22/13 which called for the strengthening of institutional capacity of SIDS through provision of dedicated technical and financial support and the provision of support for the development and execution of partnership initiatives as well as requesting for increased funding for activities related to SIDS. Resolution 23/5 of UNEP/GC 23 requested UNEP ED to strengthen UNEP's activities in SIDS on a tailored and regional basis and to ensure that these contribute to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. Relevant regional offices including ROAP, ROA and ROLAC are currently delivering activities in SIDS. UNEP needs to strengthen its presence in SIDS in order to ensure its credibility and visibility in these areas.

The major UNEP task as regards SIDS is to contribute to internalize the Mauritius Strategy within its programme of work and contribute to its implementation. The main challenge is to ensure that UNEP activities take into consideration SIDS vulnerabilities and tailors its activities to SIDS specificities.

Chapter 2 highlights other UNEP Divisions which also undertake significant activities in the areas of oceans, coasts and small islands. These include the **Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA)** whose water unit is water unit is responsible for the assessment of the world's water resources where it carries out comprehensive assessments of world's freshwater and coastal/marine water resources in an integrated manner in collaboration with partners, UN collaborators, NGOs, universities, governments etc. **GRID-Arendal**, provides analysis and supports communication on issues such as climate change, environment and poverty, environment and security, the urban environment and sustainable development through education. They lead the UNEP Shelf Programme, which aims to help developing States and SIDS with data and other related aspects of Article 76 of the Convention of the Law of the Sea. The programme deals with coastal states in need of establishing the outer limits of their continental shelf. **UNEP-WCMC** has been addressing marine and coastal biodiversity issues for over twenty years, from the Polar region to the tropics, and from coastlines to the shallow and deep seas.

Its One Ocean Programme seeks to synthesise, analyse and disseminate marine and coastal biodiversity knowledge which not only provides the basis for decision making, but advances the understanding and debate regarding the sustainable use and development of marine and coastal goods and services.; **Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE)** whose mission is to encourage decision makers in government, local authorities and industry to develop and implement policies, strategies and practices that are cleaner and safer, make efficient use of natural resources, ensure environmentally sound management of chemicals, reduce pollution and risks for humans and the environment, enable implementation of conventions and international agreements, and incorporate environmental costs.; **Division of Environmental Conventions and Law (DELIC)**, whose freshwater and marine law and governance unit is newly established, and has therefore not developed a costed workplan. However the activities herein will form the basic framework of the work of DELIC relating to environmental law, governance and negotiations.; **Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination (DGEF)** coordinates UNEP's unique role and activities in the Global Environment Facility; **Division of Regional Cooperation (DRC)**, is mandated to strengthen regionalization while ensuring a central coordinating role of headquarters. The Coordination Office together with the six regional offices constitutes the Division for Regional Cooperation (DRC).

Chapter 3 briefly outlines the **UN Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)**, and the important processes that have been initiated under it including the **annual reports of the Secretary General on the Law of the Sea** which provide the GA with a comprehensive overview of developments relating to the Law of the Sea. These reports are usually considered by the **Open-ended Informal Consultation Process (UNICPOLOS)** who facilitate the annual review by the GA of developments in ocean affairs and who also suggest particular issues for consideration by the GA with an emphasis on identifying areas for coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and interagency levels. The **UN Ad-hoc Open Ended Informal Working Group** studies issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of National jurisdiction.

Chapter 4 describes UN specialized agencies and programmes, that undertake activities relevant to marine and coastal affairs. **UN Water** is an important UN mechanism for follow-up of the water-related decisions reached at the 2002 WSSD and the MDG's and provides support to member states in their efforts towards achieving progress in these aspects. On the other hand, **UN-Oceans** (previously referred to as Oceans and Coastal Areas Network) serve to establish an effective, transparent and regular inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the UN system.

The **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)** of UNESCO, founded in 1960, works to promote international cooperation and coordination of programmes in research, services and capacity building in oceans and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its member states; alongside collaborating with international organizations concerned with the work of the commission.

International Maritime Organization (IMO) is mandated with the main task of "providing machinery for cooperation among Governments in the field of governmental regulation and practices relating to technical matters of all kinds affecting shipping engaged in international trade; to encourage and facilitate the general adoption of the highest practicable standards in matters concerning maritime safety, efficiency of navigation and prevention and control of marine pollution from ships". The Organization is also empowered to deal with administrative and legal matters related to these purposes. The **Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)** is IMO's senior technical body on marine pollution related matters. The "Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter 1972", the **"London Convention"** for short, aims to protect the marine environment from human activities by promoting the effective control of all sources of marine pollution and to take all practicable steps to prevent pollution of the sea by dumping of wastes and other matter.

The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** leads international efforts to fight hunger by acting as a neutral forum for negotiation and policy debate between member states and is specifically mandated to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy. FAO has broad expertise in global fisheries and aquaculture ranging from information and statistics to economics and policy to management and conservation to products and industry.

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** is UN's global development network which advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help build a better life. By having a resident representative in each country office, UNDP seeks to ensure most effective use of the UN and international aid resources, as their representative also serves as the resident coordinator of development activities for the UN system as a whole.

The **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)** houses the **UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)**, which was established in 1992 by the UN General Assembly to ensure effective follow-up of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit. The commission is responsible for reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the RIO Declaration on Environment and Development; as well as providing guidance to follow up the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) at the local, national, regional and international levels.

The **World Bank** with its capacity to combine policy dialogue at the highest level with specific investments is well placed to work with international agencies and analytically with governments in key fishing nations to assist in reaching the goals of effective sustainable fisheries management mainly through the biological, economic, and social domains. The bank has established a new Global Program on Fisheries (PROFISH), a programming and funding partnership between key fishery sector donors, international financial institutions, developing countries, stakeholder organizations, and international agencies.

The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** is an international financing mechanism that addresses global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives. Recently, GEF has formulated a new strategy which aims at boosting funding, supporting programs (not projects), and supporting a regional approach.

Chapter 5 mentions the various conventions and agreements that exist including those directly administered by UNEP and other marine related ones. The **Convention on Biological Biodiversity (CBD)** is a legally binding commitment, ratified by majority of countries; to conserve biological diversity, to sustainably use its components and to share equitably the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. Parties to the convention agreed on the “**Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity**”, a program of action for implementing the convention.

The **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)** aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range. It is an intergovernmental treaty, concluded under the aegis of UNEP, concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale. Under the auspices of the CMS, two regional agreements have been established: **ASCOBANS** (Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas) and Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (**ACCOBAMS**).

The **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)** is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Among the marine organisms addressed under this convention include the endangered Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and Sturgeons which are among the world's most valuable wildlife resources.

The **Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal** is the most comprehensive global environmental agreement on hazardous and other wastes.

Among the other marine related conventions, we have the **RAMSAR Convention** which is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources and various IMO conventions i.e. the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (**MARPOL 73/78**); International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (**OPRC**); and the **International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water & Sediments**.

Chapter 6 wraps up the programmes segment with brief descriptions of other related programmes, processes and declarations of essence to coastal and marine environment and resources. The **RIO Declaration on Environment and Development** and **Agenda 21** agreed in 1992 to establish the basic principles for sustainable development and endorsed the concepts of the precautionary approach and the polluter pays principles. In chapter 17 of Agenda 21, global leaders recognized the necessity of adopting an integrated, precautionary and ecosystem-based approach to oceans management. The **Johannesburg Declaration** recognized the leadership role of the United Nations as the most universal and representative organization in the world, which is best placed to promote sustainable development. The **World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)** aimed at achieving a number of specific goals and targets, inter alia, to reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, encourage application by 2010 of the ecosystem approach and to establish representative networks of marine protected areas by 2012.

The **Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands** serves as a multi-stakeholder forum for cross-sectoral discussion, policy analyses, and mobilization of knowledge and other resources to achieve the full implementation of international agreements related to Oceans, Coasts, and Small Island Developing States by bringing together leading experts from governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, NGO's, private sector, and academic and scientific institutions.

In addition to the three processes mentioned earlier in Chapter 3 DOALOS, the **International Seabed Authority (ISA)** was established in 1982 to administer the seabed "Area" beyond national jurisdiction and its solid, liquid or gaseous mineral resources, which are recognized under UNCLOS as the "common heritage of mankind." The ISA is to oversee resource development, distribute the benefits arising from activities in the Area, and ensure that the marine environment is protected from any harmful effects which may arise during mining operations.

The **UN Atlas of the Oceans** is an internet portal providing information relevant to the sustainable development of the oceans. It is designed for policy-makers who need to become familiar with ocean issues and for scientists, students and resource managers who need access to databases and approaches to sustainability.

The **IUCN Global Marine Programme** provides vital linkages for the Union and its members to all the IUCN activities that deal with marine issues, including projects and initiatives of the regional offices and the 6 IUCN Commissions. Its co-ordination role is above and beyond the policy development and thematic guidance that it undertakes to provide to assist governments, communities and NGOs alike. In addition, IUCN, with leadership and support from the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) stages **World Park Congresses (WPC)** every 10 years for the benefit of the conservation community and the world at large. The Congress brings together the largest global assembly of protected area specialists, managers and experts to focus on the state of the planet's protected areas, the challenges they face and the opportunities before them.

To wrap up the document, there are four annexes attached at the end where **Annex 1** highlights achievements/progress attained by individual RSPs since the year 2002; **Annex2** outlines in detail the UNEP water policy and strategy while **Annex 3** briefly touches on the European Union marine strategy aimed at saving Europe's seas and oceans. **Annex 4** titled "Climate Change as a Global Challenge" is a summary note on the Informal Thematic Debate of the General Assembly.

Among the outcomes that the meeting aims to attain include: reaching a common understanding of the UNEP Oceans, Coasts and Islands-related programmes; recommendations for a coherent, synergistic and complementary framework to implement and deliver all of UNEP's programmes and activities in the field of oceans, coasts and islands, taking into account the conceptual and operational principles that inform the updated UNEP Water Policy and Strategy; and elements for the development of UNEP Strategy on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, which will constitute an input to UNEP's Medium Term Strategic Framework.

Indeed, this meeting is timely and it provides a unique opportunity for UNEP to strengthen its position and role as one of the key international organizations which provides governments and stakeholders with factual, objective and sound information and policy advice on coastal and marine issues.

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1 DEPI PROGRAMMES

DEPI is responsible for the implementation of environmental policies and management practices for natural resources management and to mitigate the impact of emergencies and post-conflict situations towards sustainable development at global, regional and national levels.

The division carries out a wide range of activities on oceans and coasts through the following programmes: the Regional Seas Programme, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), the Coral Reef Unit and Small Island Development States.

1.1 Regional Seas Programme

History of Regional Seas

In 1974, UNEP Governing Council decided to set up the Regional Seas Programme (RSP) and at first to concentrate on four regions: the Mediterranean, the Kuwait region (also known as the ROPME Sea Area), West and Central Africa and the Caribbean.

Today, the 'family' of the Regional Seas comprises 18 individual Regional Seas Programmes (of which 14 have regional conventions) 6 RS Programmes are currently a part of, and administered directly by UNEP: Mediterranean (MAP, Barcelona Convention), Caribbean (CEP, Cartagena Conv.) , East Asian Seas Action Plan (COBSEA), North West Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), East Africa (Nairobi Convention) and West Africa (Abidjan Convention)

The other RS programmes operate independently, but as close members of the RS Alliance: Black sea, the ROPME Sea Area, North-East Pacific, Red Sea & Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), South Asian Seas (SAS/SACEP), Pacific (SPREP), South-East Pacific (CPPS), Antarctic (CCAMLR), Arctic (PAME), Baltic (HELCOM), Caspian and North-East Atlantic (OSPAR). Some of these RSPs were established under the auspice of UNEP.

For more information on key milestones, visit,
http://new.unep.org/regionalseas/About/Background/Key_Dates/default.asp

Global Meetings of the Regional Seas secretariats are held every year since 1998. In June 1998 all the secretariats and coordinating units of the regional programmes met for the first time at The Hague, and since then, 8 Global Meetings have been held, with the 9th to be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia October 2007. The Strategic Directions for 2004-2007 (as set out by GC 22) were developed by the 5th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas, Nairobi, November 2003 and finally, formally endorsed by the chairpersons/ representatives of the COPs and IGMs at the 6th Global Meeting, Istanbul, Nov./Dec. 2004.

Objectives of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans include:

- (a) Promoting the integrated and sustainable development of marine and coastal areas and associated river basins and their living aquatic resources;
- (b) Promoting the implementation of appropriate technical, institutional, administrative and legal measures for the improved protection and sustainable management of the coastal and marine environments;
- (c) Facilitating monitoring and assessments of the coastal and marine environments, including their conditions and trends, thus providing science-based information for informed policy and decision-making;
- (d) Promoting integrated and ecosystem-based management, protection and sustainable development of marine and coastal areas and associated river basins and their living aquatic resources.

RS Strategic Directions for 2004-2007

The current RS Strategic Directions for 2004-2007 aim at strengthening the RSP at the global level while complementing the implementation of the work programmes of the individual Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans.

For detailed information on the strategic directions (in six languages), visit,
<http://new.unep.org/regionalseas/About/Strategy/default.asp>

Current Situation (major activities/output)

The UNEP Regional Seas Coordination Office continues to support the individual Regional Seas Programmes, acting as a liaison and information centre for the Regional Seas Programmes, UNEP, and other actors at the international level. UNEP provides strategic programmatic support to various RSCAPs. UNEP's RSP offers an effective platform for the implementation the strategic elements which address the global concern over the future of our seas, coasts and their catchments areas.

Some focus areas among many others (& within the context of the strategic directions) include:

- Enhancing and establishing partnerships
- Cooperating with Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- Financing advice
- Legal advice
- Marine and Coastal Biodiversity
- Marine Litter
- Large Marine Ecosystems and Ecosystem Approach
- Outreach and Awareness

Challenges for the future

- a) Further strengthen the individual Regional Seas Programmes and the implementation of the global strategic directions leading to a more efficient Regional Seas Programme and a global alliance of Regional Seas Programmes.
- b) Provide advice for and assist in achieving sustainable financing and solid legal regimes.
- c) Further develop and implement the Global Initiative on Marine Litter.
- d) Develop new Regional Seas Programmes in areas still not covered.

For detailed information about the Regional Seas Programme, download the Regional Seas brochure "**Partnerships for Sustainable Development**" at, <http://new.unep.org/regionalseas/Publications/RegionalSeasPartnerships.pdf>

1.1.1 East Asian Seas - Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)

On the initiative of the States of the East Asian region, the Governing Council of UNEP in 1977 decided that "steps are urgently needed to formulate and establish a scientific programme involving research, prevention and control of marine pollution and monitoring" for a regional action plan in East Asia (Decision 88 (v)). In early 1979 an exploratory mission assessed the feasibility of the action plan for East Asia and the first draft of the plan was prepared by UNEP. The draft of the action plan was reviewed and refined by two meetings of experts designated by the States of the region (Baguio, June 1980 and Bangkok, December 1980).

The Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Region (Manila, 27-29 April 1981), attended by representatives of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, adopted the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Region (UNEP/IG.26/6, Annex IV). The subsequent Intergovernmental Meeting on the East Asian Seas Action Plan (Bangkok, 9-11 December 1981), attended by the representatives of the same States, determined the institutional and financial arrangements for the implementation of the Action Plan (UNEP/IG.31/6, paragraphs 36-57) including the terms of reference for the management of the East Asian Seas Trust Fund (UNEP/IG.31/6, Annex VII).

A decision to revise the East Asian Seas Action Plan arose at the 10th meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) held in Bangkok, Thailand on 9-10 July 1993. Such a step was to be undertaken in line with the revision of the Long-Term Strategy of COBSEA which had to take into consideration Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and all recent national and regional developments concerning the East Asian Seas (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.4/7, paragraph 58). With COBSEA's expansion in 1994 to include five new member countries (Australia, Cambodia, China, Korea and Vietnam), the two major factors guiding such a revision were the expansion of COBSEA to include the wider East Asian Seas region, and the need for the Long-Term Strategy to be "problem-oriented and management-driven" and integrated in approach, with the "ultimate goal of an actual and real improvement in coastal and marine environmental quality" (UNEP(OCA)/EAS IG.4/7, Annex V).

Currently, COBSEA activities are focused on:

- management of coral reefs; land-based pollution; database development; marine litter and capacity building.

It is envisaged that through its new strategic direction, COBSEA will evolve into a more policy oriented forum that can play an important role in regional coordination, thereby assisting to alleviate the challenges faced by countries in the EAS region on marine and coastal environment.

Website: <http://www.cobsea.org/>

1.1.2 Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

In 1989, UNEP GC-15 decided to prepare new action plans for seas not yet covered by the Regional Seas Programme (North-West Pacific, Black Sea). After several years of negotiations and several preparatory meetings, the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) was adopted in 1994.

In 1995 GC-18 approved the establishment of the NOWPAP Trust Fund (to be administered by UNEP). After that, the Trust Fund (TF) administration was extended several times, last time (GC-23) until December 2007. NOWPAP decision-making body is the Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) which is held every year.

The overall goal of NOWPAP is *“the wise use, development and management of the coastal and marine environment so as to obtain the utmost long-term benefits for the human populations of the region, while securing the region’s sustainability for future generations”*. In 2000-2002, four Regional Activity Centres (RACs) were established (each member country hosts one RAC). Most NOWPAP activities are being implemented by or through RACs.

Until 2005, UNEP has played a role of interim secretariat for NOWPAP. In 2005, NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) was established in Toyama (Japan) and Busan (Republic of Korea).

Website: <http://www.nowpap.org/>

As most of NOWPAP activities are being implemented by or through the RACs, please visit the RACs at the following web addresses for more information:

- Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC) in Toyama, Japan (<http://cearac.nowpap.org/>).
- Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre (DINRAC) in Beijing, the People’s Republic of China (<http://dinrac.nowpap.org/>).
- Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre (MERRAC) in Daejeon, the Republic of Korea (<http://merrac.nowpap.org/>).
- Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre (POMRAC) in Vladivostok, the Russian Federation (<http://pomrac.nowpap.org/>).

1.1.3 Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)

The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) was adopted in Barcelona, Spain in 1975 by 16 Mediterranean States and the EC, under the auspices of UNEP. The Barcelona Convention was adopted in 1976 and revised in 1995. This together with six Protocols covering specific aspects of environmental protection comprises the legal framework of MAP. Twenty-one Mediterranean States and the European Community are today Parties to the Convention.

MAP covers pollution control, coastal zone management, protection of the ecosystem and preservation of biodiversity. In 1995 it became oriented and an instrument for sustainable development in the region. MAP is coordinated by the Barcelona Convention Secretariat, the Coordinating Unit (MEDU), which has been based in Athens, Greece since 1982. Six Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the MED POL Programme are responsible for the implementation of respective components of MAP.

While the Executive Director of UNEP has overall responsibility for the management of MAP, biannual meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are held to review the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and take decisions on general policy and strategic issues relevant to the Mediterranean as well as to decide on MAP’s programme and budget.

Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development was established in 1996 as a regional forum for dialogue and for defining a regional sustainable development strategy for the Mediterranean. The Coordinating Unit acts as the Commission's Secretariat. Commission is composed of representatives of the twenty-two Contracting Parties as well as representatives from local authority networks, socio-economic groups and NGOs. It meets every year.

Since its adoption, MAP has developed close cooperation with other Regional Seas Programmes as well as with other UN agencies, Inter-Governmental Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations, the latter with representation on the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development and participation as observers in the meeting of the Contracting Parties.

The MED POL Programme (the marine pollution assessment and control component of MAP) is responsible for the follow up work related to the implementation of the LBS Protocol, the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (1980, as amended in 1996), and of the dumping and Hazardous Wastes Protocols. MED POL assists Mediterranean countries in the formulation and implementation of pollution monitoring programmes, including pollution control measures and the drafting of action plans aiming to eliminate pollution from land-based sources.

Six MAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs) are based in Mediterranean countries, each offering its own environmental and developmental expertise for the benefit of the Mediterranean community in the implementation of MAP activities. These include:

- Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC), France (<http://www.planbleu.org/>).
- Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), Croatia (<http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org/>).
- Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), Tunisia (<http://www.racspa.org/>).
- Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), Malta (<http://www.rempec.org/>).
- INFO/RAC, Italy (<http://www.inforac.org/>).
- Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC), Spain (<http://www.cprac.org/>).

Website: <http://www.unepmap.org/>

1.1.4 Nairobi Convention

The work programme for the Nairobi Convention is based on the decisions of the Conference of Parties and identified priority activities that are developed by a multidisciplinary team (Ad Hoc Legal and Technical Working Group). The development of the work programme involves representatives of all Contracting Party Governments (Comoros, France/Reunion, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and United Republic of Tanzania,) as well as; UNEP-GPA, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Secretariat for Eastern African Coastal Area Management (SEACAM), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO), the Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), partners from the Abidjan Convention area, and a number of experts from within and outside the East African region. The work programme is a product of a collaborative, participatory and consultative process between UNEP, Parties to Convention and partners that aims at providing the Eastern African countries a framework for coordinating and implementing priority activities.

Thematic approach in work programme

The work programme focuses on five main themes - assessment, management, coordination and legal aspects, and cross-cutting issues:

The implementation of the work programme is supported through the WIO-Lab Project and Sida support to strengthen programme co-ordination structures in; (a) the Nairobi based Secretariat, the RCU and information dissemination exchange, (b) a review of the Nairobi Convention, (c) co-ordination with other conventions and partners and (d) strengthening the co-ordination mechanism in the Abidjan Convention area.

For more details on the convention countries, governing instruments, governing body and administrative body, visit, <http://www.gpa.unep.org/regsea/regions/view.php?ids=9>

Website: <http://www.unep.org/nairobiconvention/>

1.1.5 Abidjan Convention

There is consensus among all key players that there is a need to strengthen the Abidjan as part of UNEP's revitalization process began in 1998 as a response to the Maputo Pan-African Conference on Sustainable Integrated Coastal Management (PACSIKOM) recommendations and the Cape Town Declaration of 1998. The two processes were merged and aptly referred to as an African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment, in sub-Saharan Africa. The Africa Process culminated into the NEPAD's program of interventions on Marine and Coastal environment.

The main assumption is that, the Abidjan Convention has realistic chances to re-invent itself as a vehicle for sustainable development, in support of the New-Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The Abidjan Convention is therefore expected to play a co-ordinating role in the implementation of a series of intervention projects that will support the NEPAD process in the implementation of the NEPAD's action strategy on Environment.

The Abidjan Convention however has a weak coordination structures and very weak Trust Fund with total annual contributions ranging between USD 0 and USD 37,500 in 2000-2005.

The Abidjan Convention area is bounded by three adjacent LMEs (Canary Current in the north, Benguela Current in the South and Guinea Current in the middle). Under the GEF-International Waters programme, all three LMEs are benefiting from large multi-national, multi-sectoral projects that are at different levels of implementation.

Suggested actions

Immediate actions should address the following needs:

- a) Strengthening of programme co-ordination structures in the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU)
- b) Improving co-ordination with other conventions and partners by establishing effective sub-regional co-ordination mechanisms.
- c) Development of a collaborative Work Programme, through partnerships with private sector, UNDP, UNIDO and UNEP.
- d) Development of a funding structure that guarantees financial reliability and predictability; and,
- e) Investment of some seed money by UNEP for 2 - 3 years, to enable the convention to hire an expert to be based in Abidjan or Accra. The expert will be responsible for developing the UNDP, UNIDO, private sector and UNEP partnership programme.

Website: <http://www.unep.org/abidjanconvention/>

1.1.6 Caribbean Environment Programme

In 1976, a number of Caribbean Governments requested the assistance of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the assessment and development of environmental criteria in the regional development process. In response to this request, and following preparatory activities, UNEP and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC) agreed in 1977 to coordinate a project to develop an environmental action plan for the Wider Caribbean Region.

The assessment for the preparation of the Action Plan was conducted with the collaboration of a number of United Nations (UN) organizations, international organizations, Caribbean governments, and regional organizations. The relationship between the environment and development was determined by focusing on energy production and consumption, agriculture and fisheries, human health, human settlements, coastal development and natural disasters, and marine pollution (UNEP 1984). The results of the assessment were reviewed by a panel of experts from the Wider Caribbean, which subsequently worked with UNEP and ECLAC in the preparation of the first draft of the action plan for a Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP).

The draft action plan was revised during two meetings of government-nominated experts (Caracas, January 28 to February 1, 1980, and Managua, February 23-27, 1981), and was formally adopted by the First Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM), Montego Bay, Jamaica, April 6-8, 1981.

In addition to adopting the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, the representatives of the 22 governments participating in the first IGM also (a) designated UNEP as the coordinating institution for CEP,

(b) established a nine-member Monitoring Committee from the participating governments, (c) agreed to establish a Caribbean Trust Fund to cover the (common) costs of programme implementation, (d) agreed to develop regional legal agreements to provide a legal framework for the Action Plan, and (e) requested that UNEP establish a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) to coordinate the Programme.

The "...principal objectives of the Action Plan are to assist the Governments of the region in minimizing environmental problems in the Wider Caribbean through assessment of the state of the environment and development activities in environmental management." (UNEP 1983, page 1, para. 4 [Appendix 1]).

The regional legal framework, the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (the Cartagena Convention), was adopted in 1983; while the Regional Coordinating Unit was established in 1986. The CEP has evolved since its beginning in 1981, both in structure and programming.

The programme of work for the CEP is distributed across four sub-programmes:

- Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP)
- Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW)
- Information Systems for the Management of Marine and Coastal Resources (CEPNET)
- Education, Training and Awareness (ETA)

Website: <http://www.cep.unep.org/>

1.2 Global Programme of Action for Protection of Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA)

Nearly 80% of all marine pollution originates on land and this degradation from human activities is proving costly. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), adopted in 1995 in Washington D.C. by 108 governments and the European Commission, is designed to be a source of conceptual and practical guidance to prevent, reduce, control or eliminate marine degradation resulting from land-based activities. The Global Programme of Action is the only global action programme that explicitly addresses the linkages between freshwater, coastal and marine environments.

GPA implementation and role of UNEP

Implementing the Global Programme of Action is primarily the task of national governments. As the secretariat of the Global Programme of Action, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is tasked with facilitating the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the international, regional and national levels. With the kind support of the Government of the Netherlands, UNEP established the GPA Coordination Office in The Hague, the Netherlands, in 1997.

The catalytic role of the GPA Coordination Office in the first phase, from 1996 to 2001, was characterized by a focus on priority setting and translating the Global Programme of Action from the international to the regional level.

The First Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-1), held in Montreal, Canada in 2001, was instrumental in shifting focus from planning to action, and developing the GPA as a tool for furthering ecosystem approaches to coasts, oceans and island management. More than 60 countries are currently preparing or implementing national programmes of action addressing land-based sources of pollution and physical alteration and destruction of coastal habitats.

The Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) held in October 2006 in Beijing, China reinforced the catalytic role of the GPA. The third phase, from 2007 to 2011, will maintain the crucial role of promoting the Global Programme of Action at all levels and of strengthening the Regional Seas Programme and other regional mechanisms to facilitate its implementation. In addition, the third phase will focus on mainstreaming the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in national development planning and budgetary mechanisms. That mainstreaming will require integration of the GPA across sectors and ministries and also integration into domestic and international aid budgets, development plans, strategies and actions. As such, the Global Programme of Action will remain a valuable and flexible tool to achieve the various goals and targets set by the international community as they relate to the coastal and marine environment and their associated watersheds.

Main highlights of IGR-2

The success of the Second Intergovernmental Review (IGR-2) meeting of the GPA, demonstrates a growing momentum to address land-based sources of marine pollution through the GPA. Participants reviewed the implementation of the GPA, charted the way forward, and strongly renewed their commitment to address land-based sources of marine pollution at the national, regional and global levels.

Building on a review of the accomplishments in GPA implementation from 2002 to 2006, participants fully recognized the benefits and value of the GPA as a flexible international instrument for environmental management to achieve the various goals and targets set by the international community as they relate to the coastal and marine environment and their associated watersheds. They also renewed their support to the catalytic role of the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office in furthering the implementation of the GPA by endorsing the Programme of Work for the office for the period 2007-2011.

The outcome documents of the meeting include: an endorsed Beijing Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the GPA whereby governments endorsed, amongst others, the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office Programme of Work for 2007-2011 at an appropriate level of funding, and welcomed the Guidance Document for the further implementation of the GPA: 2007-2011, and a Chair's summary of the high-level discussions.

Key outcomes of IGR-2

- **Priority focus on mainstreaming and integration, financing, and legislative and institutional strengthening:** UNEP/GPA Coordination Office focus on assisting governments in mainstreaming the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in national development planning and budgetary mechanisms.
- **The flexible and innovative nature of the Global Programme of Action:** GPA must remain responsive to new developments in the international agenda.
- **Partnership approach key to success:** An entire day of IGR-2 was devoted to discussing existing partnerships - with a particular focus on planning activities for the coming five-years - and to launching new partnerships.
- **Beijing Declaration:** Governments endorsed a new direction with greater emphasis on national and local-level action supported by a call for creating sustainable financial mechanisms, economic valuation of goods and services provided by oceans, coasts and watersheds, local participation and integrated approaches in particular linking freshwater and coastal management. Also, the interlinkage between GPA implementation and poverty reduction-focused development strategies is clearly stated, as well as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation's targets for implementing the ecosystem approach and integrated water resource management activities.

For additional information, visit,

<http://www.gpa.unep.org>

1.3 Coral Reef Unit (CRU)

The CRU was established by the Executive Director in 2000 to provide a focal point for all matters related to coral reefs within the UNEP and UN system. CRU implements the UNEP Governing Council decisions on coral reefs and, from 2003 onwards, has initiated and coordinated UNEP's work on deep-water and high-sea biodiversity and ecosystems (including cold-water corals).

In May 2003, the Executive Director re-located CRU as a 'hosted Unit' to the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) in Cambridge, where it forms part of a centre of expertise on corals together with the Secretariat of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the Coordinating Unit of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN), and UNEP-WCMC Marine Programme.

CRU is set-up as project financed by an annual MoU between UNEP and UNEP-WCMC, which utilises DEPI (EF) funds for staff and WCMC services (\$132,500 in 2007) and travel (\$18,000 in 2007).

The major tasks undertaken by the Coral Reef Unit involve activities in (i) Tropical, warm-water reefs, where CRU provides policy support and facilitates the site-based activities and work of UNEP and UNEP partners, and (ii) activities in Cold-water coral reefs with emphasis on protecting cold-water corals.

Challenges for the Future

Since 2003, CRU has successfully performed and delivered a number of important UNEP services and products. CRU was able to successfully implement the UNEP GC decisions on coral reefs, and in addition to prepare an internationally highly recognized UNEP portfolio of products on vulnerable deep-water and high seas biodiversity and ecosystems, with a focus on cold-water corals. These activities now constitute about 50% of CRU's work.

Opportunities for the Future

The deep waters and the high seas represent the largest realm in the world. Only in the last 5-10 years, scientists have increasingly unveiled facts -and made predictions- about human activities and their environmental impact on the deep waters and high seas, either directly (e.g. fishing, bioprospection, extraction of oil & gas and mineral resources, carbon sequestration) or indirectly (e.g. climate change induced ocean acidification). CRU has closely followed these revelations, and provided the UNEP input to the emerging international debate on how best to conserve and sustainably manage/use the marine biodiversity in deep waters and areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The current discussions within the UNGA and other intergovernmental organizations show that there is as yet no consensus between governments on the areas of responsibility and (legal) competence of the various organizations within and outside the UN system regarding high seas issues, i.e. "who should do what".

The 2006 UNGA resolution on sustainable fisheries sets out a timeframe and line of action for the upcoming years to combat and control the environmental impact of deep sea fishing, especially bottom trawling. In addition, international momentum is growing to negotiate a dedicated Implementation Agreement under UNCLOS, which would provide a comprehensive policy framework for all human activities and impacts on the high seas - a process which will take at least 7-10 years. The continuation of the debate on deep water and high sea biodiversity and ecosystems provides a unique opportunity for UNEP to strengthen its position and role as one of the key international organisations which provides governments and stakeholders with factual, objective and sound information and policy advice. A dedicated **Programme of Work on Deep Water and High Seas Biodiversity and Ecosystems**, which takes into account and builds upon the mandate, role and strength of UNEP and its various programmes (e.g. RSP, GPA) and partners (including other UN agencies and NGOs), would be needed to deliver this support in a coherent and efficient way. Such a programme would respond to the urgent needs identified by the UNGA, i.e.:

1. moving from words to action, i.e. the need to implement existing instruments and commitments (especially to combat IUU and destructive fishing).
2. strengthening internal coordination and cooperation at all levels.
3. enabling an integrated approach in oceans management.
4. implementing ecosystem-based management.
5. building and strengthening the capacity of developing countries.
6. improving data collection and exchange.
7. accelerating scientific research.
8. raising awareness of the importance and value of marine biodiversity.
9. and help governments in their efforts to conserve the living resources in the deeper marine waters both within and beyond the areas of national jurisdiction.

CRU, with its experience and well established contacts within and outside the UNEP system, would be well placed to prepare such a programme.

1.4 Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

The UNEP/GC 22 adopted resolution 22/13 which called for the strengthening of institutional capacity of SIDS through the provision of dedicated technical and financial support and the provision of support for the development and execution of partnership initiatives as well requested increased funding for activities related to SIDS. Since then, the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office (located in The Hague) has been performing the global programmatic coordination of SIDS in UNEP, while the UNEP New York Liaison Office has been following-up the SIDS political negotiations in New York (UN General Assembly, Commission on Sustainable Development and others).

A major task for UNEP (and the UN system) between February 2003 and January 2005 was to contribute to the preparations of the International Meeting for the Review of the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (BPOA/SIDS). UNEP had a predominant and successful role in said meeting. See ED's report to the UNEP/GC 23 (<http://www.sids.unep.org/documents/GC23-3-Add6-Rev1.pdf>). The meeting adopted the **Mauritius Political Declaration** and the **Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of BPOA/SIDS (Mauritius Strategy)**.

Subsequently, UNEP/GC 23 (February 2005) adopted resolution 23/5 which requested UNEP ED, amongst other things, to strengthen UNEP's activities in SIDS on a tailored and regional basis and to ensure that these contribute to the implementation of the **Mauritius Strategy**.

At regional level, relevant Regional Offices (ROAP, ROA and ROLAC) are delivering activities in SIDS. In addition, ROLAC, at the request of the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean, has developed a Caribbean SIDS Programme (November 2003).

UNEP's major task in SIDS is to contribute to internalize the Mauritius Strategy within its programme of work and contribute to its implementation.

Major activity areas / output

At the global level programmatic activities are mainly directed to the development of national programmes of action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities.

Main challenge is to actually ensure that UNEP's activities take into consideration SIDS vulnerabilities and tailors its activities to SIDS specificities. Ideally, UNEP's delivery in SIDS could improve if a dedicated Unit with dedicated personnel and resources could be created and resources would be challenged through Regional Offices.

For additional information, visit

<http://www.gpa.unep.org/content.html?id=284&ln=6>

<http://www.sids.unep.org/> (*This includes information on: Database with UNEP's activities in SIDS based on the SIDS/POA priority areas; UNEP's decisions relating to SIDS (GC and LAC Forum of Ministers); list of SIDS; Mauritius International Meeting; and links.*)

Also see the relevant GC/24 document (Implementation of Governing Council decision 23/5 on small island developing States:UNEP/GC/24/5) at: http://www.unep.org/gc/gc24/working_documents.asp

2 Other UNEP Programmes

2.1 Division of Early Warning & Assessment (DEWA)

A. UNGA 60/30 Regular Process (The regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment including socio-economic aspects).

Background

The rationale for establishing a Regular Process:

- Increasingly signs of stress and degradation on marine and coastal ecosystems;
- Filling the knowledge Gap (e.g. links between the state of the marine environment and cross-cutting issues of human health, seafood safety and sustainable fisheries);
- Need to provide accurate, scientifically robust and objective information to decision makers and the public on the state of the marine environment;
- Address the state of marine ecosystems, causes of change, benefits derived from marine ecosystems, and threats and risks;
- Improve and organize the flow of existing scientific information at regional and global scales.

The Assessment of Assessments forms the first step in the Regular Process.

Modalities for undertaking the start up phase (UNGA resolution 60/30) include the following:

1. An Ad Hoc Steering Group to oversee the execution composed of Member States representatives appointed by UNGA President and other UN agencies and other international organisations;
2. UNEP and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO to co-lead and facilitate the process;
2. A Group of Experts (GoE) to carry out the Assessment of Assessments and produce a peer reviewed report including a summary for decision makers

Main objectives:

The aims of the assessment of assessment are:

- (i) To assemble information on, and carry out a constructive appraisal of, past and ongoing assessments relevant to the marine environment;
- (ii) To identify gaps and uncertainties in scientific knowledge and current assessment practices and assess how these assessments have been communicated to policy-makers at the national, regional and global levels;
- (iii) To produce a framework and options for the Regular Process itself.

Main Activities:

UNEP and IOC of UNESCO have jointly facilitated the formation of the AHSG and the Group of Experts with the approval of the AHSG. The Group of Experts consist of 20 high level independent ocean experts identified by the lead agencies, representing various regions with a wide background of expertise in Environmental assessments, Oceanography, Marine Ecology /Biology/Geology, Fisheries, Law/ Policy and Social sciences. Two meeting of the AHSG have been held since last year. Last March the first meeting of the GoE was held in Paris. The meetings came out with an overall working approach of the Assessment of Assessments, an annotated outline, a work plan and timeline as well as a budget.

Reports of meetings available at:

<http://www.unep.org/dewa/assessments/EcoSystems/water/MarineAssessment/meetings.asp>

Main deliverables/results:

1. The GoE is expected to produce a report including a summary for decision makers to be presented to the UNGA within two years.
2. As part of preparations for the task of the Group of Experts, UNEP-WCMC on behalf of the lead agencies prepared an update of the publication, "A survey of global and regional assessments and related activities

of the marine environment". The report includes an online database was presented available at www.unep-wcmc.org/GRAMED

Partners:

The activity is being carried out within the UNGA and UN-Oceans framework. As determined by the resolution the lead agencies are to coordinate the work of the assessment of assessments in collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies, organizations and programmes and related international organizations. A number of organizations and institutions within the UN-Oceans network and other international organizations with coastal and marine interest have been invited to participate in the process.

Overall budget:

Funding for the Assessment of Assessment is to be made by voluntary contributions by member states. A total amount of over 1.9 M USD is required for the project. Financial contributions have so far been made by Belgium, Canada, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea and USA, and also in kind contribution from UNEP and IOC of UNESCO, in implementing the A of A. Both Lead agencies are working closely together to raise the funding of this UNGA activity in cooperation with number of states and governments.

B. Integrated International Water Assessments

With the completion of GIWA (Global International Waters Assessment) project, carried out with support of multiple partners and key role and funding of GEF, follow up activities are presently under discussions with DGEF, in particular, between UNEP and a wide range of partners including Sweden, Finland, Norway, NOAA, IOC of UNESCO and University of Kalmar....Preparation of 2 PDF A and PIF's have been undertaken on (1) Transboundary International Waters Assessment (TIWAP) based on existing work by UNEP to identify demonstration activities for sustainable management of transboundary water resources. The system boundaries will be defined by terrestrial drainage areas (transboundary river basins and aquifers), Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) and ocean biomes, (2) on strengthening the scientific basis of GEF International Waters; project envisaged with UN-UNH implementation.

C. Follow up of GESAMP activities

DEWA has been working with the Joint Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP), GESAMP is a key partner in the UNGA 60/30 Regular Process. A clearer position and role of UNEP should be defined as far as our future cooperation and collaboration with GESAMP is concerned...

D. UN Atlas of the Oceans activities

Although UNEP is a member of this important UN activity: "UN Atlas of the Oceans", in participating in UN Atlas of the Oceans" activities, working on populating the database and take part to various meetings, etc..., we have not been very active in this project those past 2 years, at the difference of many other UN Agencies and Programmes. A clearer position and role of UNEP should be discussed and agreed, as well as responsibility for the follow up of the tasks attributed to each agency, including UNEP.

E. Follow up of the "UN-OCEANS" activities

Up to now, follow up activities of the various working groups have been assumed by DEPI and DEWA. A clearer role and responsibility of UNEP should be discussed and agreed for the follow up of the tasks attributed to all UN agencies taking part to this project, including UNEP.

2.1.1 GRID-ARENDAL

UNEP Shelf programme

The UNEP Shelf Programme, a programme of GRID-Arendal, began with a Feasibility Study in 2003 following a resolution of the UN General Assembly calling on UNEP's GRID network to coordinate work on marine data related to Article 76 of the Convention of the Law of the Sea. The resolution 57/141, given by the 57th General Assembly by the United Nations in 2002, reads as follows:

....“Calls upon the United Nations Environment Programme, working within the Global Resource Information Database (GRID) system for data and information management, to expand on a voluntary basis the capacity of existing GRID centres to store and handle research data from the outer continental margin, on a basis to be mutually agreed with the coastal State, and complementary to existing regional data centres, giving due regard to confidentiality needs and in accordance with Part XIII of the Convention, and making use of existing data management mechanisms under the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the International Hydrographic Organisation, with a view to serving the needs of coastal States, and in particular developing countries and Small Island Developing States, in their compliance with article 76 of the Convention;”

This mandate provides the UNEP Shelf Programme a clear message regarding the nature of what it should be aiming to achieve, namely to help developing States and SIDS with data and other related aspects of Article 76.

Main Activities

The programme includes 4 main components.

Component 1: The One Stop Data Shop

The UNEP Shelf Programme has developed a “One stop data shop” (OSDS) for use by coastal states preparing submissions for establishing the outer limits of the continental shelf. The primary goal of the OSDS is to provide geoscientific data (principally bathymetric and seismic) to these States.

Component 2: Training and Capacity Building

The Programme has capacity building as an integral part of its activities. The successful lodgement of a submission by a developing States requires a combination of expert support and local capacity building.

Component 3: Advisory services for all stages of the submission process

The advisory services offered by the Programme support the six phases of the submission process. The Programme is collaborating with DOALOS and other partners, such as the IOC to develop products and mechanisms to support States undertaking the complex and various tasks required to produce a robust submission. This includes project planning and management, data acquisition plans, tendering and contract preparation, technical oversight and quality assurance and the provision of legal advice.

Component 4: Communication and Outreach

The communication and outreach activities are focused principally on using web-based resources to inform and educate managers, technicians, and the general public on all aspects of the outer continental shelf within the framework of boundary delimitation, sustainable management and the law of the sea. However the Programme also actively disseminates information through attendance with presentations and side events at Governing Councils, conferences, participation in partner activities.

2.1.2 UNEP-WCMC

UNEP-WCMC has been addressing marine and coastal biodiversity issues for over twenty years, from the polar regions to the tropics, and from coastlines to the shallow and deep seas.

In 2007 UNEP-WCMC decided to consolidate its considerable marine experience and expertise to form the *One Ocean Programme*. This programme has been designed to reflect the interconnected nature of the world's oceans and coastlines, and the rich and varied biodiversity it supports. This Programme considers the many values of marine biodiversity and the importance it has to a range of sectors and stakeholders, including, UN, governmental and international agencies, processes and conventions. It also recognizes the great importance of marine resources to millions of people and numerous local communities.

The One Ocean Programme seeks to synthesise, analyse and disseminate marine and coastal biodiversity knowledge which not only provides the basis for decision making, but advances the understanding and debate regarding the sustainable use and development of marine and coastal goods and services.

Strategic Objectives

The One Ocean Programme is directed by strategic objectives which are in accordance with those of UNEP-WCMC. The One Ocean Programme shall:

- Support the development and adoption of policies and practices that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity
- Create credible and reliable knowledge on the state and value of global, regional and local marine and coastal biodiversity through synthesis, analysis, assessment and reporting
- Use marine and coastal biodiversity data, analysis and knowledge to address issues of human development and poverty
- Encourage and facilitate data sharing, interoperability and standards to create accessible web based information on marine and coastal biodiversity and areas of special conservation significance
- Be a trusted global repository and a partner for centralised and distributed 'foundation' marine and coastal databases, particularly those dealing with areas of special conservation significance
- Achieve success in all our marine and coastal areas of activity by building and supporting collaboration and increasing the capacity of partners as necessary and appropriate

Activities and Deliverables/Outputs

UNEP-WCMC, through the One Ocean Programme and its hosted units, has a well established history of marine and coastal activities all of which have lead to significant, widely cited and influential outputs. Listed below are examples of both past, current and future activities.

- Assessment and analysis of abundance, distribution and status of marine and coastal habitats and species (e.g. cold and deep water coral reefs, mangroves, sea grasses, tropical coral reefs, salt marshes, etc.).
- Providing science-based information for informed policy and decision-making
- Strengthening capacity for the management of marine and coastal ecosystems
- Inventory, distribution and status of national and international marine protected areas
- Private sector engagement

2.2 Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE)

A. Sustainable Coastal Tourism: The Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Approach

The main objective of the project is to promote sustainable use of resources in coastal areas by focusing on sustainable tourism planning and management. Tourism is one of the most important activities in coastal areas with substantial impacts on sustainability.

B. Disaster Reduction through Awareness, Preparedness and Prevention Mechanisms in Coastal Settlements in Asia - Demonstration in Tourism Destinations

The main objective of the project is to minimise casualties, property and environmental damages from natural and man-made disasters of three tsunami-hit tourism destinations (Kanniyakumari in Tamil Nadu State, India; Patong in Phuket; and Pi Pi Island in Krabi, Thailand) by improving the local authorities and the private sector ability to manage natural and man-made disasters and by educating the residents and tourists on how to properly react to disasters.

C. Fisheries Subsidies Reform and Sustainable Fisheries

Inappropriate subsidies to the fishing industry are a key factor driving the depletion, overcapitalization, and ecosystem degradation associated with fisheries worldwide. In 2001, WTO ministers placed new fisheries subsidies disciplines on the negotiating agenda for the Doha Round. And in 2002, the WSSD Plan of Implementation made eliminating harmful subsidies one of the top eight priorities for achieving sustainable fisheries.

With its current and planned projects, UNEP ETB aims to promote integrated and well-informed responses to the need for fisheries subsidies reform and to improve the understanding of the impact of fisheries subsidies.

2.3 Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination (DGEF)

UNEP-GEF Approved/Ongoing International Waters Projects

UNEP has a key role in the GEF, catalyzing the development of scientific and technical analysis and advancing environmental management in GEF-financed activities. UNEP provides guidance on relating the GEF-financed activities to global, regional and national environmental assessments, policy frameworks and plans, and to international environmental agreements.

In the fourth phase of the GEF (GEF-IV), UNEP's strategy will be to build on lessons learned and to use its strengths to assist the GEF in being more effective by providing it with a range of relevant experiences, proof of concept, testing of ideas and access to the best available science and knowledge.

For GEF-IV, which covers the period 2006 to 2010, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - one of the three implementing agencies of in the GEF - is focusing its work on areas in which UNEP has clear comparative strengths.

In particular UNEP's experience includes piloting and evaluating innovative approaches for addressing emerging environmental problems.

The GEF funds projects in the following focal areas:

- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- International Waters
- Protection of the Ozone Layer
- Land Degradation
- Reduction of Persistent Organic Pollutants

International Waters

GEF projects to reverse the degradation of international waters are informed by—and help to realize the objectives of— a mosaic of regional and international water agreements. These projects enable countries to recognize and learn more about the water-related challenges they share, find ways to work together, and undertake important domestic changes needed to solve problems. The three categories of water projects are:

- 1) Water bodies;
- 2) Integrated land and water projects; and
- 3) Contaminants.

The portfolio of projects, co-financed by GEF, via UNEP, fall under the following main themes:

1. The Global International Waters Assessment
2. The development and implementation of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Programmes for shared marine water-bodies:
 - The South China Sea
 - The Mediterranean Seas
 - The Red Sea
 - The Caspian Sea

The Role of the Coastal Ocean in the Disturbed and Undisturbed Nutrient and Carbon Cycles

The project “The Role of the Coastal Ocean in the Disturbed and Undisturbed Nutrient and Carbon Cycles” was implemented within the UNEP-GEF International Waters focal area, Operational Programme 10 – Global contaminants, the sub-programme: “Sustainable Management and Use of Natural Resources” by the Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone (LOICZ) project.

2.4 Division of Regional Cooperation (DRC)

A) ROAP - Programme Implementation in East Asian Seas Region

The activities that are being implemented by the East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit (EAS/RCU) are in line with the new strategic direction of COBSEA. This new direction for COBSEA has been developed in the form of a draft White Paper. Activities undertaken include:-

1. Coral Reef Management Activities
2. East Asian Seas Environment Outlook (EASEO) Report
3. Sustainable Management of Marine Litter
4. East Asian Seas Knowledgebase
5. Land-based Pollution
6. "Hot spot" project
7. Capacity building
8. National Dugong Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for Indonesia

B) ROLAC - Caribbean SIDS Programme

The objective is to provide a framework as the basis for the development of a comprehensive environmental and sustainable development programme for Caribbean SIDS.

C) ROWA

- Ongoing work with the relevant Regional Seas Programmes (Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, PERSGA and the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment, ROPME)
- Provision of technical inputs to the International Conference on Environmental Protection in Coastal Zones, Lattakia, Syria, 18-20 September 2006
- Presentation of paper to the Offshore Arabia 2006 Conference and Exhibition, Dubai, UAE, 17-19 December 2006
- Provision of technical guidance to Regional Consultation Meeting to review and finalize enhanced Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) State of the Marine Environment Report Guidelines, Kuwait, 21-23 January 2007 and organisation of the Train-the-Trainer Programme for the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) State of the Marine Environment Report National Coordinators and Associate Coordinators, Manama, Bahrain 23-25 April 2007
- Provision of technical inputs to the Arabian Seas International Conference on Science and Technology Aquaculture, Fisheries and Oceanography, Kuwait, 10-13 February.
- Provision of technical inputs to the Interagency Meeting on Monitoring and Management of Dubai Coastal Waters organised by UNU, Dubai, UAE, 10 April 2007

2.5 Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC)

Main objective of the Freshwater and Marine Law and Governance Unit¹: To provide leadership in legal and governance matters for sustainable management of freshwater and marine resources.

Main activities relating to Coastal and Marine environment

(a) Environmental Law:

¹ Our programme activities are still in the initial stages of development as the Unit is new. Therefore, what's contained here is simply those generic activities that we intend to carry out. In the same vein, there are no costed activities at the moment relating to coastal and marine law and governance.

- Progressive development of environmental law:
- Strengthening legal regimes for coastal and marine environment:

(b) Environmental Governance

- Reviewing and analyzing institutional frameworks for coastal and marine resources governance:
- Promoting institutional partnerships for coastal and marine governance:
- Strengthening the capacity of stakeholders in coastal and marine law and governance:

(c) Negotiations

- facilitating regional and global consultations on water resources management.
- building capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in water negotiations.

3 DOALOS

3.1 UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea - DOALOS



3.1.1 Reports of the Secretary-General

The annual reports of the Secretary-General on the law of the sea have provided the General Assembly since 1984 with a comprehensive overview of developments relating to the law of the sea. These reports on the law of the sea have been complemented periodically by Special Reports on specific topics of current interest, e.g., marine environment, marine scientific research, needs of States, progress made in the implementation of the comprehensive legal regime embodied in the Convention, etc. The reports also serve as reports on the work of the Organization, and of the United Nations system as a whole, in the field of ocean affairs.

3.1.2 UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS)

Following the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and consistent with the legal framework provided by UNCLOS and the goals of chapter 17 of Agenda 21, the General Assembly decided on 24 November 1999 to establish an Open-ended Informal Consultative Process in order to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly, in an effective and constructive manner, of developments in ocean affairs and the law of the sea by considering the Secretary-General's annual report on oceans and the law of the sea and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by it (resolution 54/33), with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced.

Meetings of the Consultative Process

The meetings deliberate on the Secretary-General's report on oceans and the law of the sea, with due account given to any particular resolution or decision of the General Assembly, any relevant special reports of the Secretary-General and any relevant recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The topics for the focus of discussions at the meetings are decided by the General Assembly in its annual resolution on "Oceans and the law of the sea".

3.1.3 UN Ad-hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group

A UN Ad-hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group was convened in February 2006 following the agreement reflected in the 2004 UNGA resolution on oceans and the law of the sea to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. The purpose of this Working Group was to enable more focused discussion and to indicate key areas for future cooperation. The meeting surveyed four topics:

- 1) past and present activities of the UN and other relevant organizations;
- 2) scientific, technical, economic, legal, environmental and socio-economic aspects;
- 3) key issues and questions where more detailed background studies would facilitate consideration by states of these issues; and
- 4) possible options and approaches to promote international cooperation and coordination for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. Some of the options raised at this meeting are explored in more detail in the subsequent sections of this report.

For more information, please visit,

http://www.un.org/depts/los/general_assembly/general_assembly_reports.htm

http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm

4 UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND PROGRAMMES

4.1 UN WATER



In 2003, UN-Water was endorsed as the new official United Nations mechanism for follow-up of the water-related decisions reached at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals. It will support Member States in their efforts to achieve water and sanitation goals and targets. UN Water is made up of the UN agencies, programmes and funds that have a significant role in tackling global water concerns. It also includes major non-UN partners who cooperate with them in advancing progress towards the water-related goals of the Decade Water for Life and Millennium Declaration.

UN-Water is responsible for organizing the annual *United Nations World Water Day* (22 March) and the upcoming *United Nations Decade on Water 2005 - 2015*.

For more information, please visit,
<http://www.unwater.org>

4.2 UN-OCEANS



In 2003, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board (CEB/2003/7) endorsed the creation of an Oceans and Coastal Areas Network (subsequently renamed UN-OCEANS²) to establish an effective, transparent and regular inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the United Nations system.

The objective of UN-OCEANS Network is to enhance cooperation and coordination among Secretariats of the International Organizations and Bodies concerned with ocean related activities. UN-OCEANS noted the goals adopted by WSSD, namely:

- Maintenance of the productivity and biodiversity of important and vulnerable marine and coastal areas and implement the Jakarta mandate on biodiversity;
- Application of the ecosystem approach by 2010 for the sustainable development of oceans;
- Promotion of integrated coasts and ocean management at national and regional levels;
- Establishment of a UN inter-agency mechanism on oceans and coasts;
- Implementation of fishery capacity management measures by 2005;
- Elimination of illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries by 2004;
- Maintenance or restoration of depleted fish stocks on MSY levels by 2015;
- Development of networks of marine protected areas by 2012;
- Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities to achieve substantial progress by 2006;
- Development of integrated water resources management plans by 2005;
- Accelerate development of measures to address invasive species in ballast water; and
- Establishment of a process for global marine assessment by 2004.

Terms of Reference

- Strengthen coordination and cooperation of United Nations activities related to oceans and coastal areas;
- Review the relevant programmes and activities of the United Nations system, undertaken as part of its contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
- Identify emerging issues, define joint actions and establish specific task teams to deal with these, as appropriate;

² This information on UN-OCEANS is under development and none of it has been approved by the Partners of UN-OCEANS. March 9, 2005

- Promote the integrated management of oceans at the international level;
- Facilitate, as appropriate, the inputs to the annual report on oceans and the law of the sea of the Secretary-General; and
- Promote the coherence of United Nations system activities on oceans and coastal areas with the mandates of the General Assembly, and the priorities contained in the Millennium Development Goals, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and of governing bodies of all members of UN-OCEANS.

For more information, please visit,
<http://www.oceansatlas.org/www.un-oceans.org/>³

4.3 Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)



The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO was founded in 1960 on basis of the recognition that *"the oceans, covering some seventy percent of the earth's surface, exert a profound influence on mankind and even on all forms of life on Earth... In order to properly interpret the full value of the oceans to mankind, they must be studied from many points of view. While pioneering research and new ideas usually come from individuals and small groups, many aspects of oceanic investigations present far too formidable a task to be undertaken by any one nation or even a few nations."*

Responsibilities

- To promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in research, services and capacity-building, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its Member States.
- Collaborate with international organizations concerned with the work of the Commission, and especially with those organizations of the United Nations system which are willing and prepared to contribute to the purpose and functions of the Commission and/or to seek advice and cooperation in the field of ocean and coastal area scientific research, related services and capacity-building.

For more information, please visit,
<http://www.oceansatlas.org/www.un-oceans.org/>

4.4 International Maritime Organization (IMO) Safe, Secure and Efficient Shipping on Clean Oceans



The Convention establishing the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was adopted in Geneva in 1948 and IMO first met in 1959. IMO's main task has been to develop and maintain a comprehensive regulatory framework for shipping and its remit today includes safety, environmental concerns, legal matters, technical co-operation, maritime security and the efficiency of shipping. A specialized agency of the United Nations with 167 Member States and three Associate Members, IMO is based in the United Kingdom with around 300 international staff.

IMO is a technical organization whose purposes, as summarized by Article 1(a) of the Convention, are *"to provide machinery for cooperation among Governments in the field of governmental regulation and practices relating to technical matters of all kinds affecting shipping engaged in international trade; to encourage and facilitate the general adoption of the highest practicable standards in matters concerning maritime safety, efficiency of navigation and prevention and control of marine pollution from ships"*. The Organization is also empowered to deal with administrative and legal matters related to these purposes.

Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)

The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) is IMO's senior technical body on marine pollution related matters. It is aided in its work by a number of Sub-Committees.

³ The website <http://www.un-oceans.org/> is under revision at the moment.

Among a series of important decisions in its 56th session, it agreed to commission a study into the impact of proposed measures to reduce air pollution from ships. The Committee also further developed the proposed Ship Recycling Convention, discussed issues relating to the implementation of the 2004 Ballast Water Management Convention and adopted a number of amendments to the MARPOL Convention.

For more information, please visit,

<http://www.imo.org/>

http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=109&doc_id=7537 (MEPC)

4.5 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO helps developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and ensure good nutrition for all. FAO's activities comprise four main areas: Putting information within reach; Sharing policy expertise; Providing a meeting place for nations; and Bringing knowledge to the field.

The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department has broad expertise in global fisheries and aquaculture ranging from information and statistics to economics and policy to management and conservation to products and industry. In order to provide an overview of this knowledge to a wide audience, the Department's key activities are driven to support and promote responsible and sustainable development in fisheries and aquaculture.

To promote long-term sustainable fisheries, in 1995 the FAO Conference adopted the **Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries**, which aims at establishing principles, in accordance with the relevant rules of international law, for responsible fishing and fisheries activities, taking into account all their relevant biological, technological, economic, social, environmental and commercial aspects; among other objectives.

For more information, please visit,

<http://www.fao.org>

<http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/005/v9878e/v9878e00.htm> (Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries)

4.6 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges.

World leaders have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015. UNDP's network links and coordinates global and national efforts to reach these Goals.

UNDP's work on Energy and Environment is focused on six priority areas:

1. Frameworks and strategies for sustainable development
2. Effective water governance
3. Access to sustainable energy services
4. Sustainable land management to combat desertification and land degradation
5. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
6. National/sectoral policy and planning to control emissions of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and persistent organic pollutants (POPs)

For more information, please visit,

<http://www.undp.org/about/>

4.7 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)



Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established by the UN General Assembly in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit. The Commission is responsible for reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; as well as providing policy guidance to follow up the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) at the local, national, regional and international levels.

For more information, please visit,
<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/>

4.8 World Bank



The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, made clear in its Agenda 21 report that international financial institutions should help developing countries implement their multilateral environmental treaty obligations, and that implementation should include adopting and implementing sound environmental and natural resources legislation.

The World Bank is well placed to work with international agencies and analytically with governments in key fishing nations to assist in reaching the goals of effective sustainable fisheries management. Successful fisheries management systems need to meet objectives in at least three domains: Biological (conservation and sustainable use objectives); Economic (wealth and efficiency objectives); and Social (meeting equity objectives, in terms of access to resources, distribution of benefits, and human welfare).

The Bank has also established a new Global Program on Fisheries (PROFISH), a programming and funding partnership between key fishery sector donors, international financial institutions, developing countries, stakeholder organizations, and international agencies. The partnership seeks to establish a national consensus on the design and implementation of sector strategies and plans for sustainable fisheries, and to mainstream these policies and plans into national economic planning frameworks.

For more information, please visit,
<http://www.worldbank.org/> and
<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTENVMAT/64199955-1162240805462/21127284/7Governanceinthe.pdf>

4.9 Global Environment Facility (GEF)



The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is an international financial mechanism with 177 member countries that addresses global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives. GEF grants support projects in developing countries related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer and persistent organic pollutants.

International Waters

The GEF international waters focal area targets transboundary water systems, such as river basins, groundwater resources, or marine ecosystems bounded by more than one nation. This focal area supports projects that help countries: Learn to work together on their key transboundary concerns; Set priorities for joint action; and Implement those actions if a political commitment to sustainability is shown.

For more information, please visit,
<http://www.thegef.org/> and
http://www.thegef.org/interior.aspx?id=236&ekmense=c580fa7b_48_128_btlink

5 CONVENTIONS

5.1 UNEP Administered

5.1.1 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)



The 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro adopted at Rio was the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Convention was opened for signature at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. It is now a legally binding commitment to conserve biological diversity, to sustainably use its components and to share equitably the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

In view of their common concern for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed in 1995 on a program, called "**Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity**" of action for implementing the Convention. CBD's programme of work on Marine and Coastal biodiversity aims to assist the implementation of the Jakarta Mandate at the national, regional and global level.

For more information, please visit,

<http://www.cbd.int>

<http://www.cbd.int/programmes/areas/marine/default.aspx> (Jakarta Mandate)

5.1.2 Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)



The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range. It is an intergovernmental treaty, concluded under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme, concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale. Several Agreements have been concluded to date under the auspices of CMS.

Among those aimed at conserving marine related organisms include: Cetaceans of the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area; Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas; Seals in the Wadden Sea; Albatrosses and Petrels.

In addition, several Memoranda of Understanding have been concluded to date under the auspices of CMS.

For more information, please visit,

<http://www.cms.int> (CMS)

<http://www.ascobans.org> (ASCOBANS), <http://www.accobams.org> (ACCOBAMS)

5.1.3 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)



CITES is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. CITES works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls. All import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea of species covered by the Convention has to be authorized through a licensing system.

CITES have activities on Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and Sturgeons.

For more information, please visit,

<http://www.cites.org/>

5.1.4 Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes (Basel Convention)



The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal is the most comprehensive global environmental agreement that aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation, management, transboundary movements and disposal of hazardous and other wastes.

Key issues addressed by convention include: Dismantling of Ships; Compliance Committee; Liability Protocol; Ban Amendment; Trade and Environment.

For more information, please visit,
<http://www.basel.int/index.html>

5.2 Other Marine Related Conventions

5.2.1 Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR Convention)



The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. There are presently 155 Contracting Parties to the Convention, with 1675 wetland sites, totaling 150 million hectares, designated for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

Mangroves and the Ramsar Convention: Mangroves occur under Marine/Coastal Wetlands: I (Intertidal forested wetlands) in the Ramsar Classification System for Wetland Type.

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands has several memoranda of understanding and cooperation with other conventions and international organizations including: UNEP/GPA; Cartagena Convention; Barcelona Convention; and SPREP.

For more information, please visit,
<http://www.ramsar.org/>

5.2.2 IMO Conventions



International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78): The MARPOL Convention is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes. It is a combination of two treaties adopted in 1973 and 1978 respectively and updated by amendments through the years.

International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC): Parties to the OPRC convention are required to establish measures for dealing with pollution incidents, either nationally or in co-operation with other countries. Ships are required to carry a shipboard oil pollution emergency plan, and to report incidents of pollution to coastal authorities.

International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water & Sediments: The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water & Sediments aims to prevent, minimize and ultimately eliminate the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens through the control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments.

London Convention 1972

The "Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter 1972", the "London Convention" for short, is one of the first global conventions to protect the marine environment from human activities and has been in force since 1975. Its objective is to promote the effective control of all sources of marine pollution and to take all practicable steps to prevent pollution of the sea by dumping of wastes and other matter. Currently, 82 States are Parties to this Convention.

In 1996, the "London Protocol" was agreed to further modernize the Convention and, eventually, replace it. Under the Protocol all dumping is prohibited, except for possibly acceptable wastes on the so-called "reverse list". The Protocol entered in to force on 24 March 2006 and there are currently 31 Parties to the Protocol.

http://www.imo.org/Conventions/contents.asp?doc_id=678&topic_id=258 (MARPOL 73/78)

http://www.imo.org/Conventions/mainframe.asp?topic_id=258&doc_id=682 (OPRC)

<http://globallast.imo.org> (Global Ballast Water Management Programme)

http://www.imo.org/includes/blastData.asp?doc_id=7487&type=body (London Convention)

6 OTHER PROGRAMMES, PROCESSES AND DECLARATIONS

6.1 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (Agenda 21, Chapter 17)



The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21 were agreed in 1992 at the United Nations Summit on Environment and Development. The Declaration established the basic principles for sustainable development, and endorsed the concepts of the precautionary approach and the polluter pays principle.

In chapter 17 of Agenda 21, (Protection of the Oceans, all kinds of Seas, Including Enclosed and Semi-enclosed Seas and Coastal Areas and the Protection Rational Use and Development of their Living Resources), global leaders recognized the necessity of adopting an integrated, precautionary and ecosystem-based approach to oceans management.

For more information, please visit,

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=52&ArticleID=65>

6.2 Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development



Between Rio and Johannesburg, the world's nations have met in several major conferences under the auspices of the United Nations, including the International Conference on Financing for Development, as well as the Doha Ministerial Conference. These conferences defined for the world a comprehensive vision for the future of humanity.

The Johannesburg Summit, achieved much in bringing together a rich tapestry of peoples and views in a constructive search for a common path towards a world that respects and implements the vision of sustainable development. The Johannesburg Summit also confirmed that significant progress had been made towards achieving a global consensus and partnership among all the people of our planet.

For more information, please visit,

http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/POI_PD.htm

6.3 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)



The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, complemented the MDGs with world leaders committing to achieve a number of specific goals and targets, inter alia, to reduce the rate of loss of

biodiversity by 2010, encourage the application by 2010 of the ecosystem approach and to establish representative networks of marine protected areas by 2012.

Chapter IV, Clause 30 recognizes that Oceans, seas, islands and coastal areas form an integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are critical for global food security and for sustaining economic prosperity and the well-being of many national economies, particularly in developing countries.

For more information, please visit,
<http://www.un.org/events/wssd/>

6.4 Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands



The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, formalized at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, serves as a multi-stakeholder forum for cross-sectoral discussion, policy analyses, and mobilization of knowledge and other resources to achieve the full implementation of international agreements related to oceans, coasts, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It brings together leading ocean, coastal, and SIDS experts from governments, intergovernmental and international organizations (including all the relevant UN agencies), nongovernmental organizations, private sector, and academic and scientific institutions.

For more information, please visit,
<http://www.globaloceans.org/>

6.5 International Seabed Authority (ISA)



The International Seabed Authority is an autonomous international organization established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. (ISA) administers the seabed "Area" beyond national jurisdiction and its solid, liquid or gaseous mineral resources, which are recognized under UNCLOS as the "common heritage of mankind."

The ISA has established regulations for the exploration of manganese/polymetallic nodules, and is in the process of developing environmental regulations with respect to activities to explore minerals on hydrothermal vents and seamount crusts. The Authority also has the responsibility to promote and encourage marine scientific research in the international seabed area and to disseminate the results of such research.

For more information, please visit,
<http://www.isa.org.jm/en/home>

ISA Handbook : <http://www.isa.org.jm/files/documents/EN/Handbook/HBook2007.pdf>

6.6 United Nations Atlas of the Oceans



The UN Atlas of the Oceans is an Internet portal providing information relevant to the sustainable development of the oceans. It is designed for policy-makers who need to become familiar with ocean issues and for scientists, students and resource managers who need access to databases and approaches to sustainability. The UN Atlas can also provide the ocean industry and stakeholders with pertinent information on ocean matters.

The Atlas includes four main entry points to access information: *about the oceans* - from history, biology, maps and statistics to research, climatology and ecology; *uses of the oceans* - from fishing, shipping and mining to tourism, dumping and marine biotechnology; *issues* - from food security and climate change to governance and human health; *geography* - information categorized by geographical area

For more information, please visit,
<http://www.oceansatlas.org/index.jsp>

6.7 IUCN Global Marine Programme



The IUCN Global Marine Programme provides vital linkages for the Union and its members to all the IUCN activities that deal with marine issues, including projects and initiatives of the Regional offices and the 6 IUCN Commissions. Its co-ordination role is above and beyond the policy development and thematic guidance that it undertakes to provide to assist governments, communities and NGOs alike.

Since its inception, the Global Marine Programme has been working across Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the Mediterranean, and Central and South America. These programmes have covered multiple areas such as integrated coastal and marine management, fisheries, marine protected areas, larger marine ecosystems, as well as coral reef rehabilitation, and the effects of coral bleaching and climate change.

For more information, please visit,
<http://www.iucn.org/>

6.8 IUCN World Park Congress



IUCN, with leadership and support from the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) stages World Park Congresses (WPC) every 10 years for the benefit of the conservation community and the world at large. The Congress brings together the largest global assembly of protected area specialists, managers and experts to focus on the state of the planet's protected areas, the challenges they face and the opportunities before them. The WPC acts as a catalyst for global protected area action and recommends future directions for these special places on earth.

For more information, please visit,
<http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/wpc2003/>

7 Annexes

7.1 Annex I: Achievements/Progress in the individual Regional Seas Programmes (RSPs) - since 2002

Regional Sea	Achievements/Progress
Mediterranean (MAP) Barcelona Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COP meeting in November 2005 adopted the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). - COP meeting in 2003 adopted the Catania Declaration (addressing JPOI, EU-Med Partnership in addressing sustainable development etc). - The EU-MED Partnership (10th Anniversary in Nov. 2005) agreed on Horizon 2020: An Initiative with the priority objective to de-pollute the Mediterranean by 2020. Euro-med Ministers Meeting in Nov. 2006 in Cairo, Egypt, expected to endorse a feasible timetable on the above. - GEF/MEDPOL Phase IV – SAP/BIO & SAP/LBA – US\$75Million.
Wider Caribbean (CAR/RCU) Cartagena Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SIDA Support to CAR – SEK7.49 M (approx. \$1M - Implementation of the five-year strategy plan and the long-term sustainability of the Caribbean Env't. Programme). Project duration is 4 years since agreement was signed in Nov. 2003. - US Support US\$150,000 to implement GPA/LBA activities (2004 & 2005). - GEF/IWCAM Project – 5 years, (8M from GEF, total project 22.7M). L5 Coordinator for the IWCAM project recruited, on board in May 2006. - WW2BW Partnerships – major meeting in Miami in March 2004. - Support provided in strengthening long-term sustainable implementation of NPAs in the region. (Demonstration in Jamaica).
East Africa (EA) Nairobi Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial support achieved: WIO-LaB Project (GEF \$4.5M, Norway \$3.5M) - SIDA support to East Africa & West Africa RSPs. – SEK 9.6M approx. \$1.2M for institutional strengthening of the Nairobi & Abidjan Conventions). Project duration is 4 years since agreement was signed in November 2003. - Twinning establish between HELCOM and the Nairobi Convention. Missions undertaken to support the Nairobi Convention. HELCOM to further assist in the review process of an LBA protocol implementation of the WIO-LaB project.
West Africa (WACAF) Abidjan Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SIDA support to EA & WACAF – SEK 9.6M approx. \$1.2M for institutional strengthening of the Nairobi & Abidjan Conventions). Project duration is 4 years (2003-2007) since agreement was signed in November 2003. - 3 Major GEF projects in the region, GCLME (20M), BCLME (15M), CCLME (750K). - 7th COP of the Abidjan Convention held in Gabon in March 2005, adopting a work programme for 2005/2006. - Successful consultations undertaken by the COP Chair/Minister & Coordinator, for increased ownership of the Convention and Programme in general. - A review of the structures of the Abidjan Convention for institutional strengthening & cooperation with the GEF projects and partners is underway.
Coordinating Body for the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) East Asian Seas Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SIDA support to EAS - SEK 4.2 M (approx. \$500,000 for institutional strengthening and enhanced cooperation). Project duration is 4 years since agreement was signed in August 2003. - UNEP support - \$225,000 from the reserve for initial staff support. - Coordinator, L5 and Programme Officer, L3 recruited in Dec. 2004. - New Strategy - Draft white paper developed following recommendations for enhancement of COBSEA with increased cooperation, ownership/participation and contribution of the countries. The draft was first discussed at a brainstorming with the NFPs and meeting of the partners/ actors in the region held in May 2005 and further presented at the IGM in January 2006. Discussions ongoing on the white paper hopefully to be endorsed a special IGM tentatively scheduled for Sept. 2005.
North West Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 NOWPAP RCUs established in Toyama and Busan. Nov. 2004 - 4 Professional Staff & 2 General Service staff recruited. Dec. 2004 - The NOWPAP Regional Oil Contingency Plan has recently adopted by all four member countries of NOWPAP (China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation). - 4 RACs addressing various issues are active in the region, with a set programme of work. - GEF PDF-B Proposal to address land-based sources of persistent toxic substances under discussion (\$1.5M PDFB. – Total project estimated \$6M)
North East Pacific (NEP) Antigua Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial support mobilized for NEP from SIDA -SEK 3M (approx. \$400,000 for institutional support to NEP). Project duration 3 years, agreement signed in Sept. 2004. - 3rd IGM, 8-10 Nov. 2005. Discussed POW 2005-2007 including the above support from SIDA.
ROPME Kuwait Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - P3 to coordinate ROPME & PERSGA activities on board in Feb. 2004 (L3 replacement since July 2005 - July 2006 following temporary move of P3 to PCAU/Geneva). - Cooperation with ROWA enhanced. - Institutional and policy advice provided as well as some financial support for workshops/meetings

Regional Sea	Achievements/Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - and activities provided. - ROPME Council of Ministers Meeting, 24 April 2006. – Approved resolution on Iraq’s return as a full member to the organization.
Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) Jeddah Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - P3 to coordinate ROPME & PERSGA activities on board in Feb. 2004 (L3 replacement since July 2005–July 2006 following temporary move of P3 to PCAU, Geneva). - Successful Sea-to-Sea Conference in February 2005 in Cairo, Egypt. High participation from the region, partners and the UN. - Institutional and policy advice provided to PERSGA. - LBA Protocol signed on 25th September 2005. - Various activities ongoing including support in developing viable financial mechanisms for increased sustainability (post GEF project that has ended)
South Asian Seas Action Plan (SASAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3rd IMM 25-26th August 2005. Various ongoing activities/projects discussed and agreed Programme of Work 2005-2007. - US\$75,000 in support of SAS activities related to GPA/LBA. Proposed to revive the NPA in Pakistan (under discussion). - Support provided in strengthening long-term sustainable implementation of NPAs in the region. (Demonstration in Sri Lanka).
South East Pacific (CPPS) Lima Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GPA mobilized support of \$500,000 (from different donors) in place of the GEF MSP for pilot projects on LBAs (NPAs). - Successful ICARM Workshop in 2004 and case studies presented are being implemented in the countries. - Regional Action Plan on LBA (PROSET), adopted in 2002.
Pacific (SPREP) Noumea Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation with SPREP enhanced. Active participation in our Global RS Meetings and vice versa. - Framework MOU for cooperation signed in 2005 between UNEP and SPREP. - UNEP professional post in SPREP to enhance coordination of UNEP activities in the region and for institutional support to SPREP. - Financial support to SPREP through an MOU - \$125,000 (\$75,000 support from US govt. and the rest from GPA Trust Fund). – To support development of four NPAs and regional coordination. Activities under discussion and implementation. Additional support for GPA training activities (US\$75,000).
Black Sea Bucharest Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A GPA Work Programme for the Black Sea is being developed & the LBS Protocol being revised within the context of the 2nd Phase of the GEF Project (100K). - The Black Sea hosted the 6th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas in Istanbul, Turkey, 30th November - 2nd December 2004 during which the new Strategic Directions of the Regional Seas were endorsed. - Black Sea actively participates in the consultations on the EU Marine Strategy, the EU Water Initiative and the EU Water Framework Directive.
Caspian Sea Teheran Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caspian Convention signed in Teheran on 4th November 2003. - ROE and GPA have been included in the TACIS Regional Strategic Action Programme (2004) on the Caspian Marine and Coastal Environment and support for the Framework Convention. (Euro.2.5M) – (700K to UNEP to develop three protocols & implementation of the Convention in general). - <i>Support provided via the GPA in the development of the LBA protocol. GPA National Strategies are being developed in each country.</i>
Baltic Sea (HELCOM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Twining establish between HELCOM and the Nairobi Convention. Missions undertaken in 2003 to support the Nairobi Convention.</i> - <i>HELCOM hosted the 7th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas, in Helsinki, Finland, 18-20 October 2005. Various actors in HELCOM and the Nordic shared experiences and provided advice on financial sustainability, giving examples of the financing sequence in the Baltic region.</i> - <i>HELCOM actively participates in the discussions on the EU Marine Strategy, the EU Water Initiative and the EU Water Framework Directives.</i>
North East Atlantic (OSPAR) OSPAR Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Twining establish between OSPAR and the Abidjan Convention.</i> - <i>OSPAR actively participates in the Global Regional Seas Meetings and also contributes in sharing experiences and institutional and policy advice to other RSPs.</i> - <i>OSPAR actively participates in the consultations on the EU Marine Strategy, the EU Water Initiative and the EU Water Framework Directives.</i>
Arctic (PAME)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PAME is actively participating in the Global Regional Seas Meetings. - PAME is implementing the Arctic Marine Strategy Plan (AMSP), in response to the Ministerial Declaration. - Regional Programme of Action (RPA) being implemented on LBA (Canada taking the lead). - GEF Project - Russian Arctic NPA (31M). Project Coordinator recruited. - <i>PAME actively participates in the consultations on the EU Marine Strategy, the EU Water Initiative and the EU Water Framework Directives.</i>

7.2 Annex II: Water Policy and Strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme

Summary of the water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme

1. Since the creation of UNEP, water has played a key role in its programming. In fact, the Regional Seas Programme was one of its first flagship initiatives and remains today a strong keystone programme for UNEP. Since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development took place in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the issues related to freshwater resources management have taken on an increasingly prominent role in the international arena. UNEP has reacted to this through various initiatives and activities. The importance of freshwater issues continues to rise at the local, national, subregional, regional and global levels as elaborated upon in the Millennium Development Goals, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other forums. UNEP must continue to evolve its programming to address such freshwater issues and has thus developed the present policy and strategy.

2. The UNEP water policy and strategy as it relates to freshwater is outlined in the annex to the present report. UNEP starts from the premise that the water policy is defined by the mandates of UNEP as requested by the UNEP Governing Council and the United Nations General Assembly and is also guided by other relevant international bodies and forums (e.g., Agenda 21, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development). Taking into consideration the guidance of relevant forums and the specific mandates of the Governing Council the overall goal for the UNEP water policy and strategy is: to contribute substantively to environmental sustainability in the management of water resources, utilizing integrated ecosystems approaches, as a contribution to the internationally agreed targets and goals relevant to water and socio-economic development. The freshwater strategy is herein elaborated through a set of principles designed to focus UNEP work by outlining the conceptual considerations -- ecosystems-based approaches, sound economic and social considerations and addressing risk -- and operational means -- building capacity, partnerships and stakeholder participation -- through which UNEP will implement its water-related activities.

3. As pointed out in chapters II and IV of the annex, UNEP mandates on oceans and coasts and their associated strategies are provided through the Global Programme of Action on Land-based Activities and the regional seas conventions and action plans. In the light of that fact, the present document does not attempt further to elaborate a strategy on oceans and coasts, but specifically focuses instead on freshwater issues. Nonetheless, this freshwater policy and strategy, as do the GPA and Regional Seas Programme, recognizes the freshwater-coastal link and UNEP will work to address that linkage from both the upstream (freshwater) and downstream (coasts and oceans) ends.

4. Three key components of UNEP freshwater work are identified as assessment, management and cooperation and are tied together within a framework of integrated water resources management (IWRM). As IWRM has many elements, UNEP, with full consideration of the multi-dimensional and multi-institutional approach of IWRM, will focus on mainstreaming environmental considerations into IWRM at the regional, subregional, national and local levels, as well as on upscaling such considerations to the work of other actors involved in national poverty reduction strategies and sustainable development planning.

5. The UNEP water policy and strategy as set out in the annex to the present report will be in operation for a six-year period from 2007 through 2012 and will be operationalized through the UNEP biennial programme of work. Implementation of the policy and strategy will be monitored by the Governing Council against the expected accomplishments and indicators outlined in appendix I to the policy and strategy. Recommendations for review of the water policy and strategy will be made prior to 2012.

For full Water Policy and Strategy report, visit,

http://www.unep.org/themes/Freshwater/Documents/pdf/WPS_adpoted_at_GC%2024.pdf

7.3 Annex III: EU Marine Strategy to Save Europe's Seas & Oceans

The European Commission has proposed an ambitious strategy to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe.

The Thematic Strategy on the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment aims to achieve good environmental status of the EU's marine waters by 2021 and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend. The Marine Strategy will constitute the environmental pillar of the future maritime policy the European Commission is working on, designed to achieve the full economic potential of oceans and seas in harmony with the marine environment.

A Marine Strategy Directive will establish European Marine Regions on the basis of geographical and environmental criteria. Each Member State, in close cooperation with the relevant other Member States and third countries within a Marine Region, will be required to develop Marine Strategies for its marine waters.

The Marine Strategies will contain a detailed assessment of the state of the environment, a definition of "good environmental status" at regional level and the establishment of clear environmental targets and monitoring programmes. Each Member State will draw up a programme of cost-effective measures. Impact assessments, including detailed cost-benefit analysis of the measures proposed, will be required prior to the introduction of any new measure. Where it would be impossible for a Member State to achieve the level of ambition of the environmental targets set, special areas and situations will be identified in order to devise specific measures tailored to their particular contexts.

The Marine Strategy is consistent with the water framework directive from 2000 which requires that surface freshwater and ground water bodies (lakes, streams, rivers, estuaries, coastal waters...) achieve a good ecological status by 2015 and that the first review of the River Basin Management Plan should take place in 2021.

Components of the Thematic Strategy

At present the intention is that the Marine Strategy would comprise a package of a **Communication**, and a **Framework Directive**.

Communication

The Communication would briefly describe the state of the marine environment, the pressures acting on the marine environment and the need for action. The Communication would include the following overarching objectives and actions.

- To protect and, where practicable, restore the function and structure of marine ecosystems in order to achieve and maintain good environmental status of these ecosystems
- To phase out pollution in the marine environment so as to ensure that there are no significant impacts or risk to human and/or on ecosystem health and/or on uses of the sea:
- To control the use of marine services and goods and other activities in marine areas that have or may have a negative impact on status of the marine environment to levels that are sustainable and that do not compromise uses and activities of future generations nor the capacity of marine ecosystems to respond to changes
- To apply the principles of good governance both within Europe and globally

Marine Framework Directive

The new **Marine Framework Directive** would be based upon Article 175 of the EC Treaty and applicable to all European marine waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Member States. The objective of the directive would be to protect, conserve and improve the quality of the marine environment in these marine waters, through the **achievement of good environmental status** in European seas within a defined time period.

There would be derogations and exemptions from this objective to take account of situations where achievement of good environmental status would not be either feasible or practical.

The directive will define/establish ecosystem-based marine regions as the implementation unit. They will be defined on the basis of their hydrological, oceanographic and bio-geographic features.

An Implementation Plan, defined as an integrated framework for the adaptive management of human activities impacting on the marine region, would be prepared for each marine region.

On the basis of the assessment programmes and the monitoring information a draft Implementation Plan for each Ecosystem-based Marine Region would be drawn up. This Plan would include an identification of the measures needed to achieve the environmental objectives within the time frame required by the directive and an assessment of their environmental, social and economic costs and benefits.

Finally, the directive would include provisions on monitoring and reporting.

7.4 Annex IV: UNGA Thematic Debate on Climate Change

Summary note on the Informal Thematic Debate of the General Assembly: “Climate Change as a Global Challenge” –New York, 31 July, August 1 and 2, 2007

Introduction

The President of the General Assembly called for this a thematic debate, in response to the request of the EU and the ASEAN countries. In her opening statement she highlighted the importance of addressing climate change in the context of the development agenda. She welcomed participants to embrace their responsibility in working towards an invigorated climate change policy framework.

The Secretary-General stressed out the consensus built in the past months about the unequivocal connection between climate change and human activities and invited countries to bring new thinking for stepping up to this global challenge. He highlighted the need to reach an agreement by 2009 so that it is in force once the existing Kyoto commitments expire.

Panel 1– Climate change: The science, the impact and the adaptation imperative

Panelists gave an overview on the science of the climate system and explained the plausible consequences of its disruption. They stated that climate change is non-uniform, rapid and damaging, and that the interference of the climate system is already causing damage around the world. Human activity is been already disrupted by weather events associated with a changing climate such as increased flooding and ecosystem degradation. Panelists underscored the need for urgent action, and agreed that stabilization targets should be defined without delay.

Participants recognized that weather-related disasters can destroy decades of development overnight. The panel agreed that adaptation challenges in LDCs are critical to achieving the MDGs and that development will be more costly under a changing climate, particularly if proper actions to tackle the problem are delayed. They pointed out the need for integrating climate risk management and adaptation as part of the development agenda; the role of development as a key strategy to adaptation was also reinforced. In particular, participants expressed concern for poor countries that are more vulnerable to the disruption of the climate system.

Some participants indicated that a more responsive attitude from governments and civic society on the climate crisis has been halted by a lack of clarity about the science and unawareness of the solutions. In this sense, participants celebrated the High-Level Event on Climate Change that will take place on 24 September 2007 as it leaves them in good condition for the negotiations in Bali. Some participants underscored that the policies and tools needed for adaptation are already in existence and that these are not necessarily expensive. Some adaptation strategies mentioned include the development of better information systems -including climate modeling and observation tools and infrastructure, funding climate research, and investment in climate proof technologies.

Finally, participants indicated that the climate crisis will turn around when it becomes an electoral issue. Therefore, education and awareness is essential to inform the public and drive climate change policy. The poor need to be engaged in the mitigation and adaptation strategies so that these do not compromise the right to development and growth.

Panel 2 - Mitigation strategies in the context of sustainable development

In the opening remarks, the moderator referred to the international consensus that has emerged in recent months on the effects of climate change and on the need for urgent and decisive action to avoid catastrophic impacts. Panelists followed with presentations on mitigation strategies and invited world leaders to embrace climate change as an opportunity for economic development. Mitigation and adaptation should provide synergies that can be realized as win-win development alternatives.

The majority of the participants stressed out the need to act now and to move towards a comprehensive policy framework under the auspices of the UN that is equitable and fair, and that includes technology development and transfer, capacity building and increased access to finance as priority areas. In particular, they pointed to the need of improved decision-making and multilayer partnerships between developing and developed countries within the new regime. Avoided deforestation should be part of the new framework post-2012.

Furthermore, participants drew attention on the need of directing official development assistance towards these three priority areas in order to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy, particularly in developing countries. They also indicated the need of sound policy at the global and country level to attract higher financing towards R&D for mitigation and adaptation technologies, particularly for energy, resource efficiency and carbon sequestration and storage technologies.

Participants also noted the strong interest of the business community in clear and credible policy that includes long-term targets for emissions reductions and a scaling-up of the carbon market. Any agreement post-2012 should provide confidence to investors and businesses, while being appealing to developing countries. Delegates and panelists stressed the importance of negotiating a new policy framework based on the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities'.

Other topics highlighted, included the need of an adaptation funding mechanism, the use of market-based incentives to halt deforestation and tax-based carbon pricing. Participants underscored the need of scaling-up the Clean Development Mechanism and of developing climate-friendly industry standards at a global scale.

Finally, some participants called on a stronger response and leadership from the UN, in particular of UNEP. A participant suggested staffing the New York, Geneva and Rome offices in a sizeable number to orchestrate the UN's response to the climate change challenge.

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