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7th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas
Conventions and Action Plans

Helsinki, Finland 18-20 October 2005

External Business Plan

**UNEP Global Programme of Action (GPA)
Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR 2)**

16 – 20 October 2006, Beijing

Overview of IGR 2 Objectives, Preparatory Process and Funding Requirements

A. Introduction

The Global Programme of Action (GPA):

In 1995, 108 Governments and the European Commission adopted the GPA. The GPA targets major threats to the health, productivity and biodiversity of the marine and coastal environment resulting from human activities on land. The GPA proposes an integrated, multi-sectoral approach based on commitment to action at local, national, regional and global levels. It is the only global mechanism explicitly addressing the linkages between freshwater, coastal and marine environments.

The first Intergovernmental Review meeting (IGR 1) was held in Montreal, Canada in November 2001. Over 300 participants took part in the meeting. IGR 1 was instrumental in developing the GPA such that it is now recognised as a valuable tool for furthering ecosystem approaches to coasts, oceans and island management, and national, regional and global cooperation. Please see www.gpa.unep.org for IGR 1 documentation.

The Second Intergovernmental Meeting of the GPA (IGR-2):

The Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the GPA will be held in Beijing from 16-20 October 2006. Over 300 organisations from governments, inter-governmental organisations, NGOs and other groups will be invited to participate and take part in a highly inter-active and lively debate.

The objectives of IGR 2 are to:

1. **Promote national level activities:** The key to successfully managing the impacts of land-based sources of marine pollution is primarily through innovative national level activities. Thus, IGR 2 will provide a forum to share experience and good practice in policy development and implementation and discuss alternative, innovative and action-oriented approaches towards implementing the GPA.
2. **Strengthen global implementation of the GPA:** Examine the broader global context in which GPA is operational - coastal zone management, the marine and freshwater environment, and the goals and targets set by the international community in these areas - and review the barriers to and opportunities for further implementation of the GPA.
3. **Define the future direction of the GPA Coordination Office:** The GPA Coordination Office Programme of Work for the period 2007 – 2011 will be finalized and approved.

B. Focus and expected outcomes of IGR 2

Day 1: GPA National Programmes of Action – Implementation in Action

In addition to country presentations highlighting lessons learned and innovative measures to implement the GPA, breakout sessions will be organised focussing on practical measures to move from planning to implementation. These will include the following issues addressed at the national, sub-regional and regional levels:

- Innovative financing mechanisms
- Strengthen legislative and institutional frameworks
- Enforcement and compliance mechanisms

Outcomes:

- Recommendations to further implement the GPA in light of changes and developments in the last decade (Annex to GPA).
- Recognition of the tools outlined in the updated UNEP GPA National Programmes of Action (NPA) Handbook.

Day 2: Partnerships- Mainstreaming the GPA at Global, Regional and National Levels

Existing partnerships will be strengthened and new ones created during an open forum whereby +/- 15 partnerships will be discussed focussing on operational modalities, progress made and concrete results achieved. These will highlight what can be achieved through a partnership approach at global, regional and national levels and between different stakeholders (including governments, intergovernmental organizations, international financing institutions, regional bodies, civil society, academia, the scientific community and other major groups).

Outcomes:

- Recognition of these partnerships reflected in the Beijing Ministerial Declaration.
- Sharing of experience and greater understanding of the results achieved by partnerships.

Day 3: GPA Coordination Office Programme of Work (PoW) 2007 - 2011

The GPA PoW will build on the innovations discussed above and will incorporate:

- a) the new approach outlined in the UNEP Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building.
- b) Strengthened cooperation with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and Regional Offices, the United Nations Development Group, the Global Environment Facility, UN-Oceans, UN-Water and other relevant organizations.
- c) Mainstreaming the GPA through partnerships between various stakeholders at the global, regional and national levels.
- d) Aligning future GPA activities with emerging issues as outlined in the SOE Report¹ and agreed global targets and priority issues such as:
 - *Ecosystem approaches* and thereby provide practical input to the implementation of the JPOI² 2010 ecosystem approach to coast and ocean management.
 - *Municipal Wastewater* collection, treatment, reuse and reallocation to the natural environment thereby contributing to the achievements of the JPOI 2015 sanitation targets.
 - *Linking management of freshwater and coastal/marine environments*
 - *Management of nutrient, marine debris and other priority issues.*

Outcomes:

- Approved and widely supported GPA Coordination Office PoW for the period 2007 - 2011.

Day 4 and 5: High-Level Ministerial Segment

Ministers will discuss and debate actions required on a number of priority issues, which will culminate in the endorsement of the Beijing Ministerial Declaration. The priority issues include:

- a) Flexible Instruments for Environmental Governance: GPA as a 'living' document
- b) Global Actions Needed to Reach Agreed Targets: Charting a Course for the Future
- c) Partnership: Mainstreaming the GPA
- d) Emerging issues as outlined in the SOE Report: nutrients, linking management of freshwater and coastal/marine environments.

Outcomes:

- Focused debate on emerging issues related to the GPA.
- Consensus reached during IGR 2 outlined in the endorsed Beijing Ministerial Declaration.

C. IGR 2 Preparatory Process

The GPA Coordination Office will organise a series of consultations at the international and regional level involving a wide range of stakeholders. The purpose of these consultations will be to obtain feedback that will enrich the preparations for the IGR 2 itself and to ensure that all relevant constituencies are fully involved and feel a sense of ownership in the IGR 2 process. Please consult the newly designed and inter-active UNEP GPA website at <http://www.gpa.unep.org> for daily updates.

Highlights include:

→ **Open dialogue via upgraded GPA website (electronic process):** GPA partners and the public at large will be able to provide input via electronic means in particular through the newly designed GPA website. This will facilitate a wide range of contributions to IGR 2.

¹ SOE Report – State of Environment Relevant to GPA Issues forthcoming early 2006

² JPOI = Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

→ **The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands:** This global alliance of leading ocean experts from the governmental, nongovernmental and international and intergovernmental sectors is a key partner network of the GPA and will be actively involved in the IGR 2 preparations.

→ **UN-Oceans and UN-Water Task Force:** This joint task force comprised of key UN agencies involved in oceans and freshwater activities will provide substantive input to IGR 2.

→ **Regional Seas Programmes and other regional events:** As important GPA partners, the Regional Seas Programme will have an active role in the IGR 2 preparations. Input to the IGR 2 will also be sought from Regional Meetings of Environmental Ministers and other international or regional meetings/conferences related to ocean and freshwater issues.

→ **UNEP-wide involvement:** The UNEP Regional Offices and other UNEP Divisions will continue to play a key role in the IGR 2 preparations, and the Governing Council/GMEF meeting in Dubai in February 2006 will be an important occasion to seek input to the IGR 2 process.

→ **Intergovernmental preparatory meeting:** The preparatory process is also expected to include an intergovernmental preparatory meeting (June 2006) to look specifically at the proposed GPA Coordination Office PoW for 2007 – 2011.

D. Development of IGR 2 Documentation

1. **Review of GPA Implementation 2002 – 2006 and Report of GPA Coordination Office**

Activities: 2 official documents

These reports will provide all actors participating in the IGR 2 process with relevant information on the achievements of the GPA in general and the GPA Coordination Office in particular. Both reports will highlight successes, impacts and challenges from a national, regional, and global perspective and recommend areas of future work.

2. **Proposed GPA Coordination Office Programme of Work (PoW) 2007 – 2011: official document**

Based on the above implementation reviews, the draft PoW will describe the GPA Coordination Office activities for the period 2007 - 2011. It will address innovative financing mechanisms, institutional embedding of the GPA, the partnership approach, the continuation of coordination and implementation through the Regional Seas Programme, and the mainstreaming of an ecosystem approach in GPA-related policies and actions. Actions will be proposed to further bridge the gaps between different communities, including the freshwater and coastal zone management communities.

3. **Draft Beijing Ministerial Declaration: official document**

The Ministerial Declaration will be a key output of the IGR-2 and will build on the Montreal Declaration of the 1st IGR Meeting in 2001. The Declaration will outline key developments related to the implementation of the GPA including:

- Endorsement of the Programme of Work for the GPA Coordination Office for the period 2007-2011;
- Policy recommendations to further implement the GPA in light of changes and developments in the last decade, analysing the necessary shift in focus from the global to the regional and national policy levels (Annex to GPA);
- Contribution a number of partnerships have made, and will continue to make, to the implementation of the GPA;
- The recognition and inclusion of ecosystems approaches and capacity building, and the role of the Regional Seas Programme as key to the future implementation of the GPA.
- Proposals for a number of concrete actions contributing to the JPOI targets and the Mauritius Strategy for SIDS;
- Emerging issues to consider as outlined in the State of the Environment report relevant to the GPA including: nutrients, linking management of freshwater resources and coast zones;
- A call for the recognition of the "Circular Economy" and other emerging concepts as effective approaches to forward the implementation of the GPA;
- Support for NPAs and innovative financing as a means to implement the GPA.

4. **Draft Annex to GPA:** Technical annex to the GPA.

- GPA is a flexible instrument and can respond to evolving needs and emerging issues.
- Policy recommendations to further implement the GPA in light of changes and developments in the last decade, analysing the necessary shift in focus from the global to the regional and national policy levels.

E. Organisation

Many institutions have been actively involved in implementing the GPA since its inception in 1995. The GPA Coordination Office will reach out to all these partners during the next year.

High Level IGR 2 Steering Committee: In order to assure that the IGR-2 meets expectations, a High Level Steering Committee will be formed late 2005 and will be comprised of 10 – 15 Ministers from around the world. This Committee will advise the GPA Coordination Office on the programme and other developments related to IGR 2.

The Peoples Republic of China to Host IGR 2: UNEP GPA is delighted to announce that the Ministry of Environment in China, SEPA, will work closely with the GPA Coordination Office in the planning and organisation of IGR 2. SEPA has also kindly agreed to second a SEPA official to the GPA office to assist in this regard. Other national organisations will assist including the UNEP-Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development of Tongji University and the Center for Environmental Education and Communication of SEPA.

Fundraising: GPA is actively seeking financial support to ensure the IGR 2 is a success. Please see the project proposal and budget in Annex 2 (page 6).

Further information: Please visit www.gpa.unep.org or contact us at igr2@unep.nl Phone: +31 70311 4460 Fax: +31 70 345 6648.

Annex 1: IGR 2 documents

Official Documents: to be translated into 6 official UN languages

- | 1. IGR 2 Agenda (+ Annotated Agenda):
- | 2. [Draft Beijing Ministerial Declaration](#)
- 3. Report of GPA Coordination Office activities 2002-2006
- 4. Review of GPA implementation 2002 - 2006
- 5. Proposed/draft GPA Coordination Office POW 2007-2011

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Supporting Documents: summary of each to be translated into Chinese

- 1. SOE for GPA
- 2. 2006 GPA Annex
- | 3. LME Report
- | 4. [The economic valuation of goods & services for each of the LMEs](#)
- 5. Regional and national ICZM practices (Nippon Foundation Documents)
- 6. Review of Regional Seas
- | 7. [SAP](#) on Wastewater Casebook
- 8. ICARM Casebook
- | 9. [Report on how to use LBA Protocols to strengthen the legal implementation of the GPA](#)
- 10. Proceedings from 7th Regional Seas Meeting (Financing of RS and GPA)
- 11. Handbook on NPAs
- 12. Municipal Wastewater Training Manual
- | 13. [\(Report on the findings of the Pollution solution database\)](#)
- 14. (Progress Indicators for implementation of GPA, ICZM, ICARM)

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Annex 2: Funding Requirements

The main activities for the IGR 2 that require additional external resources are listed in this Annex 2. Please see the budget breakdown below for a complete overview of the budget needed for IGR 2.

1. Preparing in-depth reports and analyses

The GPA Coordination Office is coordinating the preparation of numerous reports and analyses on GPA-related issues to support the discussions at IGR-2. These documents will be critical for assessing the progress governments have made to date in implementing the GPA, the impact this implementation has had on marine environments, and determining what activities must be undertaken in the future, thus providing important guidance and direction to stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels.

These documents will include:

- A second comprehensive state of the environment report
- A thorough review of large marine ecosystems within the Regional Seas framework
- A compilation of national and regional reports
- A comprehensive review of GPA implementation
- A report on the GPA Coordination Office's activities during the period 2002-2006
- A comprehensive draft GPA PoW for the period 2007-2011
- A detailed paper on major policy options and emerging issues for the high-level segment

2. Delivering an effective preparatory process

The GPA Coordination Office will organise a series of consultations at the international and regional level involving a range of stakeholders. The purpose of these consultations will be to obtain feedback that will enrich the preparations for the IGR itself and to ensure that all of the relevant constituencies are fully involved and feel a sense of ownership in the IGR process. In particular, these consultations will be intended to help:

- Identify and further develop realistic actions and targets for future implementation of the GPA;
- Identify emerging issues and new areas for potential cross-sectoral collaboration;
- Ensure that both the freshwater and coastal management communities are fully engaged in the GPA process;
- Strengthen linkages with the non-governmental community and civil society institutions;
- Build new ties with the private sector and international financial institutions;
- Ensure that the relationship between the GPA and Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans is as symbiotic and mutually beneficial as possible; and
- Strengthen relations with regional ministerial fora.

In an effort to minimize costs, these consultations will be organized in conjunction with other events to the greatest extent possible.

3. Ensuring broad outreach and participation

As noted previously, the value of the entire review of the GPA will hinge to a large extent on having representatives of all of the major stakeholders aware of and engaged in the IGR 2 process. The GPA Coordination Office will undertake a number of activities designed to ensure success in this area, including:

- Produce a regular IGR 2 newsletter;
- Maintain a comprehensive IGR 2 web site; and
- Support the participation of government representatives from developing countries, particularly least-developed countries and small island developing States.

4. Fostering the exchange of information and experiences

The GPA Coordination Office will also undertake activities designed to promote the exchange of ideas and the identification of best practices for upscaling, both within and across sectors. Activities will include:

- Further developing the national practitioners database; and
- Organising a comprehensive partnerships exhibition for GPA partners during IGR 2.

5. Total budget

Activities to be funded by donor(s)	2005	2006	Total
Conference facilities in Beijing	200,000	200,000	400,000
Staff and other personnel costs	50,000	50,000	100,000
Consultancies	50,000	100,000	150,000
Contractual Services		150,000	150,000
Official Travel UNEP Staff	25,000	75,000	100,000
Travel participants from developing countries – preparatory meetings	50,000	50,000	100,000
Travel participants from developing countries – IGR 2		550,000	550,000
Documentation		250,000	250,000
Interpretation		200,000	200,000
Total cost			2,000,000
