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**Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the
Implementation of the Global Programme of Action
for the Protection of the Marine Environment
from Land-based Activities**

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda for the high-level segment*

**Programme of work of the Global Programme
of Action Coordination Office for 2012–2016**

**Proposed programme of work of the United Nations
Environment Programme Global Programme of Action
Coordination Office for 2012–2016**

Introduction

1. A healthy coastal and marine environment is essential to human well-being, sustainable development and economic security. Marine and coastal ecosystems provide important functions and services, ranging from food, transport and natural shoreline protection against storms and floods to tourism and recreation, and are of great economic value, both directly and indirectly.
2. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, adopted in 1995 in Washington, D.C., is designed to be a source of conceptual and practical guidance on preventing, reducing, controlling and eliminating marine degradation resulting from land-based activities. It is the only global action programme that explicitly addresses the linkages between the freshwater, coastal and marine environments.
3. Implementing the Global Programme of Action is primarily the task of national Governments, while the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as secretariat, is tasked with facilitating implementation at the national, regional and international levels.
4. While much remains to be done to protect the marine environment from land-based activities, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has accomplished many of the programmatic goals for the period 2007–2011 set at the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, which was held in Beijing in 2006. Information on progress can be found in documents UNEP/GPA/IGR.3/2 and UNEP/GPA/IGR.3/INF/3.

* UNEP/GPA/IGR.3/1.

5. During the reporting period, the availability of resources limited the work of the Office in facilitating implementation. The Office performed its secretariat tasks with only four Professional staff and a support staff all funded under the UNEP Environment Fund. Few additional resources to cover staff costs and programme delivery were mobilized.

6. The Office's ability to continue to promote the Global Programme of Action as an effective and flexible instrument that can be used to address the key priority source categories, as reported in documents UNEP/GPA/IGR.3/2 and UNEP/GPA/IGR.3/INF/3 and outlined in the policy guidance for implementing the Global Programme of Action (UNEP/GPA/IGR.3/3), will therefore depend on the national Governments, regional and multilateral organizations and other stakeholders and their commitment to contributing to this effort.

7. The Office's activities over the period 2012–2016 will align with international policy discussions and decisions to give a renewed impetus to the implementation of existing sustainable development commitments based on scientific knowledge. They will also assist countries in making the transition to integrated management approaches and investing in water quality and greater resource efficiency in their efforts to build a green economy that makes full use of coastal ecosystem services – that lead to poverty reduction and reduce stress on ecosystems – by investing in and preserving the natural capital of the coastal and marine environment. The programme of work proposed for the period 2012–2016 will position the Office as a catalyst for change that will promote integrated processes, intellectual leadership and partnerships with a view to reducing the pressure on natural resources and the environment while improving human well-being and quality of life.

I. Scope and purpose

8. The present note sets out a draft work programme for the further implementation of the Global Programme of Action over the period 2012–2016.

9. The proposed programme entails four main elements: a set of commitments to be made by Governments at the third session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting to adopt and implement various policies and measures, along with the relevant implementation mechanisms; a set of actions to be agreed upon by Governments and UNEP at the third session regarding how the Office would support Governments in meeting the those commitments; a five-year process – covering the period between the sessions of the intergovernmental review meetings – by which Governments and the Office would maintain the intergovernmental platform that the Programme offers and monitor its implementation (component B of the work programme); and its implications in terms of financial resources for Governments and UNEP in carrying out the actions outlined in the previous components (component C).

10. Overall, the work programme would continue to contribute to the attainment of internationally agreed goals and targets related to the sustainable development of coasts, oceans and islands, and their associated watersheds, including those set forth in the Millennium Declaration, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

11. The activities will also facilitate the integration of the Global Programme of Action into the cooperative frameworks of the existing 18 regional seas programmes, and other regional mechanisms, taking into account the need for regionally differentiated approaches. They will also facilitate integrated management approaches, such as integrated coastal management, using the Global Programme of Action as an intergovernmental platform and non-binding global agreement for the protection and management of coastal and marine resources. In this regard, the work programme will help Governments to develop national programmes of action, establish frameworks for regulatory and policy measures (such as integrated coastal management) and move towards ecosystem-based management approaches in their efforts to achieve sustainable development.

12. The programme will also serve as a management tool for the Office, enabling it to consolidate its role as a catalyst for change consistent with the commitments of Governments and the objectives of UNEP, including those of the Marine and Coastal Strategy of the UNEP Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch, of which the Office forms an integral part. A tracking tool to monitor the progress in the implementation of the programme is included in the annex to the present note.

II. Goal

13. The overall goal of the programme of work for 2012–2016 is to further the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and to strengthen such implementation through the regional seas programmes and other regional mechanisms.

III. Programme of work of the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for 2012–2016

14. The programme of work for 2012–2016 outlines how the Office will build on the momentum of previous years to move to a new phase in which the focus will be on the promotion, facilitation and implementation of the Global Programme of Action in an integrated and cross-sectoral manner at the national, regional and international levels. It also outlines how the Global Programme of Action will help Governments to understand the contribution of marine and coastal ecosystems to sustainable development and the need to invest in water quality and greater resource efficiency to make full use of the services provided by coastal ecosystems.

15. Following the proposed approach set out in the policy guidance for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, Governments are requested to establish and support three global partnerships under the Global Programme of Action – on nutrients, wastewater and marine litter – under the overarching theme of improving coastal water quality. The partnerships would be responsible for helping to collate scientific knowledge to be used in taking policy decisions and to mobilize technical support for partners in their endeavours to tackle the issues involved. This would drive forward necessary institutional and policy changes to promote the concepts of resource efficiency and lower carbon usage in key sectoral activities, thereby enabling the Global Programme of Action to add value as a forum in which to discuss water quality issues linked to broader integrated coastal management. The programme of work outlined below sets out component themes and proposed commitments by Governments to be achieved with the support of the Office.

A. Component A-1: Establishment of partnerships for coastal water quality management with a focus on nutrients, wastewater and marine litter using higher resource efficiency and lower carbon footprint approaches

16. In terms of overall water quality objectives, Governments would commit themselves to putting in place over the coming five years policies and measures at the national and regional levels necessary to secure significant improvements in coastal water quality. This would be achieved first through a new focus on higher resource efficiency and lower carbon footprints through the ecosystem-based management of wastewater, nutrients and marine litter, including agreement on targets to limit, treat and recycle wastewater discharges, improve efficiency in the use of nutrients and reduce litter influx to coastal areas. Second, Governments would establish global stakeholder partnerships on nutrients, marine litter and wastewater and, through such partnerships, would set targets and establish indicators for improved use efficiency, treatment, recycling and reduction of untreated discharges into the natural environment.

17. The Office's role would be to provide support for each partnership, including by developing overall terms of reference and modalities based on the commitments made by Governments as to aims, objectives and targets in relation to each partnership. The Office would provide technical support to the partnerships in their efforts to mobilize support from non-State stakeholders and to set up appropriate institutional arrangements for their effective functioning. It would be, however, for each partnership to establish and strengthen its governance framework (e.g., steering committee and other bodies) and agree on particular day-to-day functioning modalities and organization. All partnerships would be subject to the overall working arrangements established under component B, below, on servicing the platform.

1. Global Partnership on Nutrient Management

18. Governments are invited to commit themselves to promoting the sustainable use of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous) by making full use of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management. Through the partnership and with support from the regional seas programmes, Governments are invited:

(a) To consider and agree on measures to promote greater efficiency in nutrient uptake from manufactured fertilizer and to limit, treat and recycle discharges of nutrients;

(b) To develop, by 2016, cost-effective, environmentally beneficial management strategies and plans for efficiency in nutrient uptake to contribute to a reduction in run-off of unused nitrogen and phosphorous and its environmental impact. This will mean that fewer nutrients applied will be wasted,

thus making financial savings. In the light of current knowledge it is proposed that Governments agree to a target of 15–20 per cent efficiency in nutrient use to be realized within five years;

(c) To facilitate assessment and knowledge generation, with the aim of gaining a better understanding of the complexity of global nutrient cycles (including nutrient pools and flows in agriculture) and the potential for recycling organic nutrient sources (including in particular livestock manure and sewage sludge), developing practices that improve use efficiency and developing policy options based on sound science;

(d) To support the further development of the multi-stakeholder Global Partnership on Nutrient Management as a mechanism for global advocacy and to trigger discussions aimed at forging a common agenda and mainstreaming best practices for policymaking, investment and engagement in international and regional forums on nutrient management issues;

(e) To facilitate and support the development of regional and national multi-stakeholder nutrient management partnerships similar to the Global Partnership.

19. The Office's role and actions would be, among others:

(a) To continue to provide support to the Global Partnership in mobilizing actions for sustainable use of nutrients and improve nutrient uptake efficiency by 15 per cent within five years, as agreed upon by Governments;

(b) To promote with partners a network of experts, institutions and Governments, including from the private sector, along with a supportive online information management system, to facilitate the sharing of lessons learned, good practices and available and acceptable technologies between Governments and other stakeholders;

(c) To draw up with partners demonstration projects that pilot test innovative approaches and technologies, embodying the higher resource efficiency and lower carbon footprint approaches in agriculture, livestock production and aquaculture;

(d) To provide institutional support through UNEP mechanisms and programmes to help mobilize financial resources, notably working with Governments and other stakeholders to support projects and donors in relation to the implementation of partnership commitments;

(e) To produce a global overview and assessment of nitrogen and phosphorous, recognizing that in some areas there remains a shortage of nutrients to enhance crop yields and that understanding of the global nutrient cycle and pools and flows of nutrients is inadequate as a basis for developing policy options and practices that improve nutrient use efficiency;

(f) To monitor and report on the development and implementation of national nutrient uptake efficiency plans and strategies as agreed upon by Governments.

2. Global partnership on wastewater

20. Governments are invited to consider committing themselves to the establishment of a global partnership on wastewater and its use:

(a) To promote and demonstrate pro-poor, environmentally friendly and resource-recycling approaches to wastewater while maintaining hygiene and health aspects of wastewater management;

(b) To collect and disseminate good practices for linking wastewater management to climate change mitigation, agricultural production, poverty reduction and water-use efficiency;

(c) To demonstrate and adopt measures enabling at least 80 per cent of nutrients to be removed from wastewater and 70 per cent recycled before discharge of the wastewater into the natural environment.

21. The Office's role and actions would be, among others:

(a) To promote with partners a network of experts, institutions and Governments, including from the private sector, along with a supportive online information management system, to facilitate the sharing of lessons learned, good practices and available and acceptable technologies between Governments and other stakeholders;

(b) To draw up with partners demonstration projects that pilot test innovative approaches and technologies, embodying the higher resource efficiency and lower carbon footprint approaches;

(c) To provide institutional support through UNEP mechanisms and programmes to help mobilize financial resources, notably working with Governments and other stakeholders to support projects and donors in relation to the implementation of partnership commitments;

(d) To establish a technology matrix for wastewater-related technologies, and a guidance document on the reuse of wastewater agreed upon by relevant United Nations agencies;

(e) To provide capacity-building support to facilitate the implementation of nationally and regionally defined priority activities.

3. **Global partnership on marine litter**

22. Governments are invited to consider committing themselves to the establishment of a global partnership on marine litter and its use:

(a) To establish initiatives that turn marine litter into a resource for environmentally sustainable use by humans;

(b) To promote and monitor the implementation of the Honolulu Strategy: A Global Framework for the Prevention and Management of Marine Debris;

(c) To develop and adopt global, regional, national and local marine litter reduction targets;

(d) To monitor the scale, nature, source and impact of marine litter, in particular its impacts on public health, biodiversity and economic development;

(e) To collaborate with global, regional and subregional organizations to enhance the effectiveness of multilateral initiatives aimed at preventing, reducing and managing marine litter.

23. The Office's role and actions would be, among others:

(a) To promote with partners a network of experts, institutions and Governments, including from private sector, along with a supportive online information management system, to facilitate the sharing of lessons learned, good practices and available and acceptable technologies between Governments and other stakeholders;

(b) To support regional activities aimed at introducing the global partnership and the online platform through regional nodes to facilitate the development of regional policy instruments aligned with the Honolulu Strategy;

(c) To draw up with partners demonstration projects that pilot test innovative approaches and technologies, embodying the higher resource efficiency and lower carbon footprint approaches;

(d) To provide institutional support through UNEP mechanisms and programmes to help mobilize financial resources, notably working with Governments and other stakeholders to support the implementation of demonstration projects and implementation of partnership commitments.

B. Component A-2: Use of the Global Programme of Action as a platform for a coherent shared approach to ecosystem services valuation for the development of ecosystem-based national programmes of action and ecosystem-based integrated coastal management initiatives

24. Governments are invited to consider committing themselves to adopting ecosystem-based approaches for the management of natural resources and the valuation of ecosystem services by agreeing to incorporate the value and benefits of the services provided by key marine and coastal ecosystems into the planning and management of and investment in coastal areas and associated river basins, including the carbon valuation of coastal ecosystems and their role in water cycling and purification.

25. The Office's role would be to develop analyses of the trade-offs among ecosystem services and user sectors; to develop methodologies for the valuation of coastal ecosystems, including carbon valuation, and the role and value of those ecosystems in water cycling and purification; and to provide technical support to countries in developing proposals for gaining access to carbon-related funding.

26. Governments would endorse the use of the Global Programme of Action by committing themselves to incorporating by 2016 higher resource efficiency, lower carbon footprint and ecosystem service approaches, as set out above, into existing and planned national programmes of action and integrated coastal management schemes that are not the subject of national programmes of action, and to developing integrated coastal management protocols across the regional seas programmes.

27. The Office's role would be to develop a package of policy tools for defining and outlining the practical application of the higher resource efficiency and lower carbon footprint approaches, in conjunction with the global partnerships on nutrient management, wastewater and marine litter, incorporating them into national programmes of action and integrated coastal management initiatives in an effective and timely manner.

C. Component B: Servicing the Global Programme of Action platform

28. Governments would commit themselves to establishing a process, as set out below, for maintaining active and effective intergovernmental involvement between the formal reviews of the Global Programme of Action every five years. This would help to ensure that the Global Programme of Action provides an effective platform for agreeing on and monitoring the work of the partnerships set out under component A, in addition to other aspects of the programme of work.

29. The Office's role would be to facilitate and provide secretariat support for intergovernmental review meetings, the timing of which would be determined by Governments; the election of a Global Programme of Action Bureau at the forthcoming session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting, which would provide an overall conduit between the partnerships established under component A and Governments generally, in addition to providing oversight over the work programme and monitoring the implementation of the Global Programme of Action; and the holding of at least two intersessional meetings (e.g., of the Bureau), if needed, in the margins of the sessions of the UNEP Governing Council so that Governments and stakeholders can, among other things, review progress on the work of the partnerships and other aspects of the work programme, promote the adoption of best practice approaches and take decisions to tackle emerging issues of particular importance.

D. Component C: Financial implications for the implementation of the programme of work

30. In terms of the support to be provided by the Office, the above work programme is based on the assumption that at least four Professional staff members and one support staff member will be funded through the Environment Fund and that around \$5 million will be made available by Governments, other stakeholders and partners to support the implementation of the activities outlined herein. The proposed level and type of staffing is commensurate with the level of staff engaged on work related to the Global Programme of Action over the past year.

Annex

Programme of work 2012–2016: Key outcomes, indicators and means of verification for measuring success

Programme of work	Expected outcomes (by December 2016)	Indicators (by December 2016)	Means of verification
Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM)	Operational partnership with a wide range of partners.	At least 100 Governments, organizations, agencies and institutions join GPNM. Effective and functional international steering committee established and at least one committee meeting organized every year. Web-based information platform for nutrients operational and at least 30,000 hits per month recorded.	Letters of intent to join the partnership. Clear guidance from the committee recorded in the meeting reports. Website access record.
	Enhanced knowledge of the partners on nutrient use and management practices with specific emphasis on current agricultural practices, fertilizer pricing and other policies pursued by various national Governments and their impacts on human health and environment.	At least 1 global, 5 regional and 20 national reviews used for decision-making at respective levels. Global, regional and national baselines on nutrient use efficiency established.	Evidence of the use of information contained in the reviews in decision-making. Baseline information used for monitoring progress in achieving the partnership objectives.
	Improved nutrient use efficiency (NUE) on a pilot basis for the demonstration of good policy and on-the-ground practices and technologies. Publication by GPNM of 4 policy briefs on agriculture, animal husbandry, aquaculture and wastewater together with toolboxes and guidance documents to improve NUE.	At least 20 per cent improvement of NUE in 20 national and 5 regional pilot activities through the development and implementation of NUE plans (in cooperation with the Regional Seas Programme). 4 policy toolboxes (agriculture, animal husbandry, aquaculture, wastewater) applied to improve NUE.	Nutrient use monitoring programme embedded in NUE to demonstrate NUE improvement. Evidence of use of policy briefs and toolboxes from GPNM for the development and implementation of NUE plans.
	Operational nutrient monitoring programme using NUE and ecosystem health as indicators.	Monitoring programme rendered operational by 20 national governments using the established indicators.	Reports of NUE, ecosystem health and other indicators received by partners.
	At least 4 global meetings, 10 regional meetings and 20 national consultations to mobilize support in tackling nutrient challenge and to help governments to develop NUE plan or strategies and introduce necessary policy reforms.	Number of events organized, attendance in them, issues discussed and decisions adopted. Number of countries in which policy reform introduced.	Meeting and workshop reports.
	Joint action by partners to support 20 national initiatives facilitating policy changes and dealing with hot spots.	At least 20 projects designed and implemented in cooperation with various stakeholders to introduce policy change and action on the ground to improve NUE against a defined baseline.	Project brief, case studies.

Programme of work	Expected outcomes (by December 2016)	Indicators (by December 2016)	Means of verification
Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)	Operational partnership with a wide range of partners facilitated through an online forum promoting the Honolulu Commitment and the Honolulu Strategy.	<p>At least 100 Governments, organizations, agencies and institutions join GPML.</p> <p>Effective and functional international steering committee established and at least one committee meeting organized every year.</p> <p>Global partnership meeting held to review implementation of the Honolulu Strategy.</p> <p>Web-based information platform or forum for marine litter operational with at least 5,000 members and 50,000 hits recorded per month.</p> <p>At least 500,000 people sign up to the Honolulu Commitment.</p>	<p>Letters of intent to join the partnership.</p> <p>Clear guidance from the committee recorded in the meeting reports.</p> <p>Website access record.</p> <p>Meeting reports</p> <p>Online sign-up sheets.</p>
	Development of regional and national policy instruments aligned with the Honolulu Strategy.	5 regional and 10 national policy instruments aligned with the Honolulu Strategy; discussions for decision-making at respective levels.	Policy instruments
	Reduction of influx of solid waste to the marine environment in 10 demonstration sites through the demonstration of good policy and on-the-ground practices and technologies.	<p>At least 20 per cent reduction of solid waste reaching the marine environment and 50 per cent increase in recycling rates of certain wastes in demonstration sites through the introduction of new policies and market-based instruments.</p> <p>Plastic bag ban in at least 5 countries.</p> <p>At least 15 per cent reduction in the use of raw materials in demonstration projects selected in collaboration with industry.</p> <p>At least 20 Governments and private sector organizations agree to use best practices developed through the demonstration projects.</p>	Project documents and reports, meeting reports, compilation of best practices, guidelines, among other things.
Global Partnership on Wastewater Management (GPWM)	Operational intersectoral partnership with a wide range of partners facilitated through an online forum.	<p>At least 50 Governments, organizations, agencies and institutions join GPWM.</p> <p>Effective and functional international steering committee established and at least one committee meeting organized every year.</p> <p>Online information management system</p>	<p>Letters of intent to join the partnership.</p> <p>Clear guidance from the committee recorded in the meeting reports.</p> <p>Website access record.</p> <p>Technology matrix.</p>

Programme of work	Expected outcomes (by December 2016)	Indicators (by December 2016)	Means of verification
		<p>operationalized for wastewater management, facilitating intersectoral information exchange, lessons learned, good practices and available and acceptable technologies among Governments and other stakeholders.</p> <p>At least 20,000 hits per month recorded after the first year.</p> <p>Technology matrix developed for wastewater-related technologies, and a guidance document agreed upon on the re-use of wastewater among concerned United Nations agencies.</p>	<p>Project documents.</p> <p>Guidance document.</p>
	<p>Improved pro-poor wastewater management in demonstration sites through innovative approaches and technologies, incorporating higher resource efficiency and lower carbon footprint.</p>	<p>At least 10 demonstration projects designed and implemented in cooperation with various stakeholders to introduce policy change and action on the ground to improve wastewater management.</p> <p>At least 80 per cent nutrient removal and 70 per cent nutrient recycling rates verified in selected demonstration sites.</p> <p>At least 10 Governments and private sector organizations agree to make use of best practices developed through the demonstration projects and capacity-building activities.</p>	<p>Project documents, guidelines, monitoring reports, policies.</p> <p>Number of people trained.</p>
<p>GPA as an intergovernmental platform for the application of coherent shared approaches to ecosystem services valuation and trade-off evaluation in the development of ecosystem-based national programmes of action (NPAs) and other policy frameworks, such as integrated coastal management (ICM) initiatives.</p>	<p>Ecosystem-based NPAs and other policy frameworks, such as ICM, implemented with clear results in the improvement of water quality and ecosystem functions.</p> <p>Standardized tools and guidance documents developed and agreed upon by the GPA platform for implementation of ecosystem-based NPAs and other policy frameworks such as ICM.</p>	<p>Improved water quality and ecosystem functions in at least 10 countries as a result of implementation of ecosystem-based NPAs and other policy frameworks applying ecosystem service valuations.</p> <p>At least 4 tools and guidance documents used by at least 20 countries for the revision and implementation of ecosystem-based NPAs and other policy frameworks.</p>	<p>Studies and reports documenting improved water quality and ecosystem functions.</p> <p>NPAs or ICM implementation plans and progress reports from countries documenting the application and impacts of the tools and guidance documents.</p>
<p>Servicing the GPA platform.</p>	<p>IGR and intersessional activities identifying key emerging issues, setting targets and confirming progress in GPA implementation.</p>	<p>At least 2 intersessional meetings held.</p> <p>At least 5 key emerging issues identified and at least 5 intergovernmental targets set.</p>	<p>Meeting reports.</p>