



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

UNEP(DEC)/RS.8/INF.5

Original: ENGLISH



8th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas
Conventions and Action Plans
Beijing, People's Republic of China
13th–14th October 2006

Proposed 2007-2011 Programme of Work of the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office

**Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the
Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the
Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
Second session
Beijing, 16–20 October 2006**

Note: Please visit <http://www.gpa.unep.org/bin/php/igr/igr2/home.php> for more information and documents on the IGR-2.

**UNITED
NATIONS**

EP

UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/4



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



Distr.: General
1 August 2006

Original: English

**Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the
Implementation of the Global Programme of Action
for the Protection of the Marine Environment
from Land-based Activities
Second session
Beijing, 16–20 October 2006
Item 6 (d) of the provisional agenda***

**Building a common agenda:
Programme of work of the United Nations
Environment Programme Global Programme
of Action Coordination Office**

**Proposed 2007–2011 programme of work of the United Nations
Environment Programme Global Programme of Action
Coordination Office**

Note by the secretariat

Proposals for the programme of work for 2007–2011 of the United Nations Environment Programme Global Programme of Action Coordination Office are set forth in the annex to the present note.

* UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/1

Contents

I. Executive summary.....	4
II. Introduction.....	5
A. Purpose.....	5
B. History.....	5
C. Considerations.....	5
D. Goal.....	6
E. Political will.....	6
F. Role of UNEP.....	6
III. Programme of work 2007–2011 of the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office ...	7
A. UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office contribution to international cross-cutting objectives	7
B. Elements of the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office programme of work 2007–2011.....	9
IV. Human and financial resources.....	15
A. Introduction.....	15
B. Opportunities and challenges	15
C. Personnel and budget	16
V. Overview matrix	18

I. Executive summary

1. A healthy coastal and marine environment is essential to human well-being, sustainable development and economic security. Marine and coastal ecosystems provide a range of important functions and services, ranging from food, transport, natural shoreline protection against storms and floods, to tourism and recreation, and are of great economic value, directly as well as indirectly. The natural resource base of the marine and coastal areas is under growing pressure, however. At the present time, 38 per cent of the world's population lives within a narrow fringe of coastal land, which accounts for only 7.6 per cent of the Earth's total land area (UNEP 2005), and a large proportion of coastal dwellers are largely dependent on coastal resources for their livelihoods. Despite action at all levels, coastal and marine ecosystems continue to deteriorate in many locations around the globe. Nearly 80 per cent of all marine pollution originates on land and this degradation from human activities is proving costly.

2. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,¹ 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.

3. 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. The ability of the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office to continue to promote the Global Programme of Action as an effective and flexible instrument for integrated watershed and coastal area management, in particular in the period 2007–2011, depends on the willingness of national governments, regional and multilateral organizations and other stakeholders to mainstream the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in their sustainable development programmes.

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 2002–2006 set by the international community at the first 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, held in Montreal, Canada, in 2001. Those results include contributing to the international environmental agenda, strengthening the UNEP regional seas programmes and facilitating national action. 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 strategic partnerships with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the large marine ecosystem projects, and the regional seas conventions and action plans, have been instrumental in that regard.

5. Progress has been made in facilitating the implementation of the Global Programme of Action even while the yearly contributions from the UNEP Environment Fund to the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office have remained roughly the same since the establishment of the secretariat in The Hague. Since world attention and funding is currently focused on the internationally recognized goals adopted in the last few years, such as those in the Millennium Declaration² and associated goals, funding sectoral programmes, like those concerning oceans and coasts, is becoming increasingly difficult.

6. The activities of the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office in the period 2007–2011 will align with international developments and assist countries in making the transition to integrated management approaches that lead to poverty reduction, the mainstreaming of environment in development planning and sound investments that reduce pollution reaching the marine environment from land-based activities. The programme of work for the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for the period 2007–2011 will position the Coordination Office as a catalyst for change, promoting integrated processes, intellectual leadership and partnerships.

¹ UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/7.

² See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

7. The 2007–2011 programme of work outlines how the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office will build on the momentum that has been achieved during the period 2002–2006. The catalytic role of the 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 second phase, from 2002 to 2006, was characterized by a move from planning to action, leading to widespread Programme-related activities and programmes at the national and regional levels. The third phase, from 2007 to 2011, outlined in the present programme of work, 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 Global Programme of Action 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.

8. To implement the third phase fully by mainstreaming the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in national development planning and budgetary mechanisms, with continuing support to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the regional and international levels, will require renewed financial commitment by donors. At the “medium” and “appropriate” levels of funding outlined in chapter III of the present document, activities will be undertaken at the international, regional and national levels across five clusters of activities, although, as shown in chapters III and IV, those funding levels would provide for differing priorities and possibilities. The “appropriate” level of funding would place greater emphasis on supporting national governments in integrating and mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action across sectors and within major development processes. At the “minimum” level of funding, activities would be limited to reporting on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action by governments and other partners; awareness-raising on the need to address the crucial interlinkages between the freshwater and coastal environment; and promoting alliances and partnerships with key players at the international and national levels.

II. Introduction

A. Purpose

9. The purpose of the present document is to present the strategic directions and programme of work for the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for the period 2007–2011 for endorsement by governments represented in Beijing from 16 to 20 October 2006 for 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. It has been prepared in response to the needs and demands expressed by countries.

B. History

10. The first phase of the activities of the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office during the period 1996–2001 focused on setting priorities and translating the Global Programme of Action from the international to the regional level. In keeping with the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, agreed at the first session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action in 2001, the focus of the second phase of the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for the period 2002–2006 was moving from planning to action.

C. Considerations

11. In developing the present programme of work 2007–2011, the following points have, among others, been taken into consideration:

- (a) Experience acquired over previous years (see document UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/2);
- (b) Major international developments that have taken place since the adoption of the Global Programme of Action (see document UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/3);

(c) The adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-building, as adopted by the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building at its third session, in Bali, Indonesia, on 4 December 2004; the work of the United Nations Development Group; and the flexibility needed to respond to current United Nations reform processes.

D. Goal

12. The overall goals of the programme of work 2007–2011 are:

(a) To promote further the Global Programme of Action at the international, regional, and national levels;

(b) To strengthen the implementation of the Global Programme of Action through the Regional Seas Programmes and other regional mechanisms;

(c) To mainstream the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in national development planning and budgetary mechanisms.

13. Like certain other activities, mainstreaming will focus on integration of the Global Programme of Action across sectors and ministries, integration of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action into domestic and international aid budgets, development plans, strategies and actions, so that the Global Programme of Action remains 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.

E. Political will

14. Implementing the Global Programme of Action ultimately depends on the political determination of governments to undertake tangible action to address the underlying causes of marine degradation resulting from land-based activities. National actions must be demand-driven, assisted by an enabling environment and sustained through regional frameworks and international cooperation. Since the Global Programme of Action was adopted in 1995, many international and regional commitments and decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the UNEP Governing Council, and various international and regional binding and non-binding agreements, provide additional legislative and policy frameworks for governments to protect and preserve the coastal and marine environment against land-based sources of pollution. Concomitantly, they provide further guidance to the functions and mode of operation of the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office. The document entitled “Guidance for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action 2007–2011” (UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/3) describes how those developments relate to the Global Programme of Action, the impact they may have on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, and how they can be integrated to implement further the Global Programme of Action in a coherent and consistent manner.

F. Role of UNEP

15. UNEP has the mandate to provide the secretariat of the Global Programme of Action. Paragraph 74 of the Global Programme of Action provides as follows:

“Recognizing that States have the primary role in the implementation of this Programme of Action, UNEP, as the coordinator and catalyst of environmental activities within the United Nations system and beyond, should, through its programmes and in its secretariat role:

(a) Promote and facilitate implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the national level;

(b) Promote and facilitate implementation at the regional, including subregional level through, in particular, a revitalization of the Regional Seas Programme; and

(c) Play a catalytic role in the implementation at the international level with other organizations and institutions.”

16. Paragraph 77 of the Global Programme of Action provides, inter alia, that:
 “UNEP should, in close collaboration with the relevant organizations and institutions, convene periodic intergovernmental meetings to:

(a) Review progress on implementation of the Programme of Action ...”

17. The recent restructuring within UNEP has brought together within one division both freshwater programmes (including approaches such as integrated water resource management) and programmes related to the coast and oceans (including the Global Programme of Action, Regional Seas Programme, and programmes relating to coral reefs and small island developing States). This restructuring further assists UNEP in implementing its functions as the secretariat of the Global Programme of Action.

III. Programme of work 2007–2011 of the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office

18. The present 2007–2011 programme of work outlines how the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office will build on the momentum that has been achieved in previous years to move to a new phase focusing on the promotion, facilitation and implementation of the Global Programme of Action in an integrated, mainstreamed and cross-sectoral manner at international, regional and national levels. The programme of work serves as a management tool for the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office to operationalize its role as a catalyst for change, thereby contributing to the achievement of internationally agreed goals and targets as they relate to the sustainable development of coasts, oceans and islands, and their associated watersheds. This will ultimately lead to concrete action on the ground, effectively addressing land-based sources of pollution and the physical alteration and destruction of habitats.

19. The programme of work options presented here envisages three potential funding scenarios. At the “medium” level of resources, current staff posts, which comprise 10 Professional and six support and administrative staff, would be maintained. The “minimum” level of funding would imply a reduction in staffing levels, while at the “appropriate” level of resources staffing numbers would increase to 16 Professional and nine support staff. That expansion would support increased mainstreaming of the Global Programme of Action at the national level, as outlined above. The resource estimates and their projected impact are summarized under paragraphs 73 and 77 below.

20. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office will continue its function of coordinating activities in UNEP dedicated to small island developing States.

A. UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office contribution to international cross-cutting objectives

21. All activities supported or undertaken by the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office in 2007–2011 will be designed to help achieve the following overall objectives that have been adopted or are being implemented by the national and international communities and UNEP, provided the necessary resources are made available to UNEP to carry out its function as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action.

1. International level

22. During the period 2007–2011, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office will contribute to the following objectives at the international level:

(a) Contributing to achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration; this includes follow-up to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,³ the outcomes of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the relevant decisions of the General Assembly, 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,⁴ the United Nations Millennium Project, the outcome of the 2005 World Summit,⁵

³ Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁴ *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

the European Union Marine Strategy and Water Framework Directive and other high-level meeting recommendations (see document UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/3);

(b) Contributing to the 2010 target on promoting ecosystem approaches and the 2015 target on water and sanitation, set forth in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation; the preparations for twentieth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held in 2014, addressing the thematic issues of coasts, oceans and islands; and promoting linkages between freshwater and coastal and marine management at international, regional, national and local levels;

(c) Promoting and advancing the flexible and adaptive nature of the Global Programme of Action and contributing and responding to emerging changes within the United Nations, in particular as they relate to the United Nations reform process;

(d) Contributing to the ongoing coordination and collaboration under multilateral environmental agreements and other international agreements as they relate to the Global Programme of Action, and promoting the internalization of relevant multilateral environmental agreements into national development planning and legislative frameworks jointly with their secretariats;

(e) Contributing to building national capacities for coastal and marine management within global frameworks such as the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building; this will be achieved using means including close cooperation with the secretariats of the regional seas conventions and action plans and members of the United Nations Development Group, thus facilitating links with United Nations common country assessments, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and other development frameworks.

2. Regional level

23. During the period 2007–2011, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office will contribute to the following objectives at the regional level:

(a) Facilitating the integration of the Global Programme of Action into the cooperative frameworks of the 18 regional seas programmes and other regional mechanisms, taking into account the need for regionally differentiated approaches;

(b) Facilitating the integration of the Global Programme of Action into supraregional and interregional partnerships, such as partnerships of small island developing States, least developed countries, the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, the Southern African Development Community and the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

(c) Contributing to building regional capacities for coastal and marine management within the framework of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and facilitating interregional coordination.

3. National level

24. During the period 2007–2011, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office will contribute to the following objectives at the national level:

(a) Promoting mainstreaming of the Global Programme of Action into national sustainable development policy processes, including poverty reduction strategies, country common assessments, domestic budgets and sustainable development plans, and the United Nations and World Bank country programming process, in close collaboration with the other members of the United Nations Development Group, international financial institutions, donors and partners. Furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in those sustainable development plans could be a primary focus in those countries where coasts and oceans have a major impact on social and economic development or provide a major basis of such development;

(b) Contributing to the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan, through measures including the continued development and delivery of Programme-specific training modules, mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action into other training programmes and initiatives, the UNEP water policy and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

(c) Contributing to the outcomes of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005, as they relate to the Global Programme of Action, and mitigation of disaster-related coastal vulnerability arising from various issues and changes, including a potential rise in sea levels;

(d) Providing continued guidance on the development of national programmes of action and related programmes, following step-wise and integrative processes and focusing on institutional, legal and financial mechanisms that are necessary to support the long-term implementation of the Global Programme of Action. This recognizes that many countries implement the Global Programme of Action in the framework of other sustainable development policies, strategies and programmes, and therefore do not necessarily need to embark on separate national programmes of action;

(e) Building on the progress which has been achieved, as outlined in the documents “Progress in implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities at international, regional and national levels: 2002–2006” (UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/2) and “State of the marine environment: trends and processes” (see document UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/INF/5), and progress in respect of activities related to sewage, domestic and industrial wastewater and sanitation, physical alteration and destruction of habitats, nutrients, marine litter and other Global Programme of Action source categories;

(f) Further promoting and facilitating integrated management of coastal areas to safeguard coastal habitats and combat physical alteration of the coast, including by building linkages with river basin and watershed management.

B. Elements of the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office programme of work 2007–2011

25. The elements of the programme of work listed below are indicative of the type of activities which the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office will undertake if the human and financial resources detailed in chapters IV and V of the present document are made available. If those resources are not forthcoming, the implementation of the various aspects of the programme of work will have to be prioritized and scaled down to match the availability of resources. At the “minimum” level of funding, the activities in the programme of work would be very limited and would mainly consist of reporting on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action by governments and other partners; awareness-raising on the need to address the crucial interlinkages between the freshwater and coastal environment; and promoting alliances and partnerships with key players at the international and national levels.

26. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office requires a core set of professional staff and an appropriate level of catalytic financial resources to enable UNEP to make an impact at the international, regional and national levels and to further the implementation of the Global Programme of Action. At the “medium” and “appropriate” levels of funding, the 2007–2011 programme of work would address the following clusters of activities, albeit to differing extents as outlined in chapters IV and V:

(a) Assessments, in full cooperation with the UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment;

(b) Policy and normative action, building on the expertise and experience of UNEP and United Nations partners;

(c) Capacity-building and technology support within the framework of the Bali Strategic Plan;

(d) Promoting collaboration and coordination, including partnerships;

(e) Awareness-raising and outreach, in full cooperation with the UNEP Division of Communication and Public Information.

27. Activities in those clusters have been identified at the international, regional and national levels, in line with the Global Programme of Action strategic directions. The “appropriate” level of funding would, at the request of Governments, place greater emphasis on supporting national governments in integrating and mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action across sectors and into major development processes.

28. The listing of activities is not meant to be exhaustive. It is an indication of the type of activities which the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office would undertake in collaboration with other UNEP divisions, including the UNEP regional offices and other partners.

1. International level

29. The objective of activities undertaken at the international level is to raise awareness of the crucial need to address the interlinkages between the freshwater and the coastal and marine environment and to mainstream the implementation of the Global Programme of Action into international sustainable development agendas. It is estimated that roughly 20 per cent of the resources of the 2007–2011 programme of work would be devoted to activities undertaken at the international level.

30. The following activities would be possible at the international level, with the extent of implementation contingent upon the levels of resources made available.

(a) Assessment

31. At the “medium” level of resources, activities would include:

(a) Facilitating periodic integrated reporting on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and contributing to relevant indicator development projects so as to be able to report periodically in quantitative terms on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and the state of the coastal and marine environment;

(b) Contributing to the special report series of the Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation, run by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), addressing the discharge of municipal wastewater.

32. Assuming an “appropriate” level of resources, further activities would include:

(a) Contributing to the work of the UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment on the United Nations World Water Development Report and the Global Marine Assessment, and contributing to other international reporting mechanisms as they relate to the Global Programme of Action and land-based pollution sources and activities;

(b) Promoting research on the economic, social and environmental importance of coasts and oceans relating to the Global Programme of Action, as follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

(b) Policy and normative action:

33. At the “medium” level of resources, activities would include:

(a) Taking forward the development of the Global Programme of Action as a flexible instrument for environmental management as it relates to the interface between freshwater and coastal zones, through measures including contributing to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas and demonstrating the value and importance of the Global Programme of Action as a flexible instrument to be mainstreamed into sustainable development planning;

(b) Promoting the development of the necessary sustainable development policy guidance in the context of changing international circumstances and initiating and supporting strategic policy dialogues as needed;

(c) Building on existing policy and normative frameworks to develop practical and realistic guidelines to further the implementation of the Global Programme of Action.

34. Assuming an “appropriate” level of resources, further activities would include:

(a) Promoting the mainstreaming of the Global Programme of Action into the operational work programmes of international organizations, international financial institutions, bilateral donors and other key actors through the establishment of partnerships and other means;

(b) Continuing to disseminate and promote the effective use of the existing guiding principles and guidelines on municipal wastewater management, aquaculture, ports and harbour development, coastal tourism and sustainable coastal zone rehabilitation (including work to address the consequences of tsunamis);

(c) Supporting the development of guiding principles and guidelines for other relevant Global Programme of Action source categories, in particular regarding nutrients and marine litter;

(d) Continuing to promote the sustainable sanitation cycle, comprising wastewater collection, treatment, reuse and safe reallocation to the natural environment, thereby contributing to the achievement of the 2015 target on water and sanitation set by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the 2006 compendium of actions of the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation;

(e) Incorporating, jointly with partners, rural sanitation into the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater, as a follow-up to twenty-third session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

(f) Further aligning the Global Programme of Action's Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats programme with integrated coastal management initiatives and programmes;

(g) Addressing freshwater and coast linkages and the role of coastal groundwater aquifers.

(c) Capacity-building and technology support

35. At the "medium" level of resources, activities would include contributing to the development and implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan, as it relates to the Global Programme of Action, by UNEP and other development partners.

36. Assuming an "appropriate" level of resources, further activities would include:

(a) Developing training modules on components of the Global Programme of Action;

(b) Maintaining, updating and disseminating the Global Programme of Action knowledge bases.

(d) Collaboration and coordination

37. At the "medium" level of resources, activities would include:

(a) Facilitating the establishment of Programme-focused partnerships between governments and other actors;

(b) Contributing to relevant coordinating mechanisms such as UN-Water and UN-Oceans.

38. Assuming an "appropriate" level of resources, further activities would include:

(a) Promoting the Global Programme of Action as a proven instrument to further integrated approaches to freshwater and coastal zone management and sustainable development;

(b) Strengthening the partnerships established at the second session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action and also promoting new international partnerships;

(c) Strengthening cooperation with secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other international agreements.

(e) Awareness-raising and outreach

39. At the "medium" level of resources, activities would include:

(a) Supporting the UNEP Division of Communication and Public Information in communication and outreach relating to the Global Programme of Action;

(b) Promoting the exchange of information and experiences from implementation of the Global Programme of Action by governments and other actors in the various regions;

(c) Regularly updating the Global Programme of Action website.

40. Assuming an "appropriate" level of resources, further activities would include:

(a) Facilitating broad dissemination of outputs and results achieved, including best practices;

(b) Enhancing, operating and maintaining the Global Programme of Action clearing-house mechanism;

(c) Promoting the Global Programme of Action at relevant international forums and enhancing strategic partnerships between governments and with relevant United Nations agencies, GEF, other development partners and major international organizations;

- (d) Contributing to the United Nations International Decade for Action “Water for Life”, 2005–2015.

2. Regional level

41. The objective of activities undertaken at the regional level is to support and advance the activities and action plans of the regional seas conventions and other relevant regional policy frameworks and mechanisms that seek to address land-based sources of pollution, including those concerning Small Island Developing States. It is estimated that roughly 30 per cent of the resources of the 2007–2011 programme of work would be devoted to activities undertaken at the regional level.

(a) Assessments

42. At the “medium” level of resources, activities would include promoting regional assessments of land-based pollution sources and activities by regional organizations in cooperation with relevant partners.

43. Assuming an “appropriate” level of resources, further activities would include supporting regional assessments by regional organizations, particularly those relating to the economic valuation of goods and services that coasts and oceans provide, the implementation of land-based sources and activities protocols and ecosystem approaches, and sharing of best practices.

(b) Policy and normative action

44. At the “medium” level of resources, activities would include:

- (a) Promoting and disseminating existing tools and guidelines;
- (b) Policy support to relevant regional forums.

45. Assuming an “appropriate” level of resources, further activities would include:

- (a) Continuing to provide support to the regional seas programmes, focusing on components relevant to the Global Programme of Action and acknowledging regionally differentiated approaches, through improvement and implementation of land-based sources of pollution and activities protocols, harmonization of legal instruments, supporting regional financial mechanisms and the optimization of regional clearing house mechanisms;
- (b) Supporting the implementation of the new strategic direction of the UNEP global Regional Seas Programme insofar as it relates to the Global Programme of Action.

(c) Capacity-building and technology support

46. At the “medium” level of resources, activities would include:

- (a) Supporting activities that address freshwater and coastal zone linkages in integrated regional development plans;
- (b) Assist regional seas programmes in identifying capacity-building and technical support needs with respect to the Global Programme of Action.

47. Assuming an “appropriate” level of resources, further activities would include:

- (a) Contributing to the regional implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan as it relates to land-based sources of pollution and activities and physical alteration and destruction of habitats;
- (b) Supporting regional forums and web-based activities for policy dialogues, norm-setting and the dissemination of best practices;
- (c) Supporting the implementation and further development of GEF-supported large marine ecosystem projects relevant to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and regional seas conventions;
- (d) Supporting the development of targeted regional sustainable financing mechanisms to address land-based sources of pollution and physical alteration and destruction of habitats.

(d) Collaboration and coordination

48. At the “medium” level of resources, activities would include:

(a) Strengthening and developing further synergies between the UNEP regional seas programmes, the Global Programme of Action and programmes related to small island developing States and coral reefs;

(b) Contributing to regional environmental ministerial forums and other relevant processes, regional organizations and partnerships.

49. Assuming an “appropriate” level of resources, further activities would include promoting and supporting regional partnerships, including those established through GEF projects, programmes launched by the World Bank, regional development banks and other international financial institutions, the European Union Water Initiative and other partnerships, including the White Water to Blue Water partnership.

(e) Awareness raising and outreach

50. At the “medium” level of resources, activities would include:

(a) Disseminating the outputs and results achieved;

(b) Promoting the exchange of experiences and best-practice approaches in implementing the Global Programme of Action;

(c) Regularly updating the existing regional Global Programme of Action websites.

51. Assuming an “appropriate” level of resources, further activities would include:

(a) Contributing to relevant regional forums;

(b) Supporting regional nodes of the Global Programme of Action clearing-house mechanism.

3. National level

52. The objective of activities undertaken at the national level is to support governments and other relevant stakeholders in mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action in relevant national and local development plans, strategies and programmes, and to mobilize domestic and international resources. It is estimated that roughly 50 per cent of the resources of the 2007–2011 programme of work would be devoted to activities undertaken at the national level..

(a) Assessments

53. At the “medium” level of resources, activities would include collecting information on progress made by countries in the development of national programmes of action.

54. Assuming an “appropriate” level of resources, further activities would include:

(a) Supporting assessments of relevance to policymakers that highlight the social and economic impacts of coastal degradation and pollution;

(b) Promoting the integration of concerns regarding issues such as land-based pollution sources and activities into common country assessments, World Bank country profiles and national-level contributions to the Global Environmental Outlook process.

(b) Policy and normative action

55. At the “medium” level of resources, activities would include further developing the national programmes of action guidance document entitled “Protecting coastal and marine environments from land-based activities: A guide for national action”, based on current developments and experience acquired.

56. Assuming an “appropriate” level of resources, further activities would include:

(a) Continuing to support the development and implementation of national programmes of action with a focus on domestic and international resource mobilization, legislation including compliance and enforcement, and integrated approaches;

(b) Promoting a freshwater-to-oceans approach to developing integrated coastal and watershed management programmes through national programmes of action for the marine environment process and other sustainable development processes;

(c) Strengthening cooperative activities at the country level while implementing the Global Programme of Action and relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

(d) Supporting the “3R” (reduce, reuse, recycle) life-cycle approach as a means to implement the Global Programme of Action and as a follow-up to the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action.

(c) Capacity-building and technology support

57. At the “medium” level of resources, activities would include:

(a) Developing innovative approaches and delivering capacity-building by working with other development partners; mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action into national development processes; identifying sustainable financing sources; and coordinating with sustainable institutional, legal and regulatory processes, in two countries per region in the initial stage, with the goal of replicating successful lessons learned throughout the United Nations and other partners’ development assistance frameworks.

(b) Working closely with development partners, including bilateral donors, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), GEF and the other members of the United Nations Development Group to facilitate coordinated delivery of technology support and capacity-building as it relates to the Global Programme of Action;

(c) Enhancing partnerships and alliances with key actors that are particularly well equipped to participate in country-level, demand-driven processes;

(d) Contributing to national implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan, including through the delivery of training relevant to the Global Programme of Action.

58. Assuming an “appropriate” level of resources, further activities would include:

(a) Providing guidance to and collaborating with initiatives that address the urban environment as they relate to specific components of the Global Programme of Action, such as municipal wastewater, ports and harbour development;

(b) Providing guidance, at the request of governments, on management approaches to address Global Programme of Action source categories and other emerging issues, in particular nutrients and marine litter;

(c) Assisting the mainstreaming of the Global Programme of Action into national policy, legal, institutional and financial frameworks, such as poverty reduction strategy papers, and also international development initiatives and programmes such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

(d) Developing effective modalities for relevant development partners to replicate successful mechanisms.

(d) Collaboration and coordination

59. At the “medium” level of resources, activities would include developing operational modalities for effective collaboration in the urban environment jointly with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI), the Cities Alliance, international financial institutions, the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development and others.

60. Assuming an “appropriate” level of resources, further activities would include:

(a) Developing operational modalities, jointly with other UNEP programmes, for effective implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the country level, through means including collaboration with the other members of the United Nations Development Group, in particular UNDP, and with other United Nations agencies;

(b) Making effective linkages with recipient countries and also with donor-country bilateral programmes;

(c) Promoting and supporting national partnerships, including those within implementation projects of GEF, international financial institutions, the European Union Water Initiative, the White Water to Blue Water initiative, donor-country aid programmes, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

(e) Awareness-raising and outreach

61. At the “medium” level of resources, activities would include:

- (a) Disseminating outputs and results achieved;
- (b) Regularly updating the Global Programme of Action website as it pertains to national Global Programme of Action activities.

62. Assuming an “appropriate” level of resources, further activities would include:

- (a) Contributing to relevant national forums;
- (b) Supporting, upon request, national Global Programme of Action clearing-house mechanisms.

IV. Human and financial resources

A. Introduction

63. In the period 1998–2001, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office received an annual allocation from the UNEP Environment Fund of approximately \$750,000. The allocation was increased in the biennium 2002–2003 to \$850,000 per year, and further increased for 2004–2005 to \$1,100,000 per year. The proportional allocation from the UNEP Environment Fund to the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has remained constant during the period 1998–2005, at approximately 2.2 per cent of the UNEP Environment Fund, while activities and outputs steadily increased.

64. At the first session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action, held in Montreal, Canada, in 2001, the 2002–2006 programme of work for the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office was presented and proposed three different levels of funding. The intermediate level of \$5,875,000 was endorsed by the Intergovernmental Review Meeting at its first session, which at that time was regarded as an adequate level for the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office to fulfil its catalytic function.

65. In keeping with the intermediate budget recommended by the Intergovernmental Review Meeting at its first session, the contributions from bilateral donors, over and above the UNEP Environment Fund contributions to the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, steadily increased from 22 per cent to 67 per cent of the total UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination office budget in the period 2002–2006.

66. The generous support received over the last years from the Governments of Australia, Belgium, the Flemish Region of Belgium, France, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, the United States of America, the European Union and from GEF is gratefully acknowledged. Sincere appreciation is directed in particular to the Government of the Netherlands for hosting the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for the last eight years and for providing financial support for four professional posts.

B. Opportunities and challenges

67. The following recent developments offer opportunities as well as possible challenges, which may impact the implementation of the programme of work 2007–2011:

(a) Under its international waters focal area, GEF mobilized \$1.2 billion to improve the management of 18 large marine ecosystem projects, many of which have incorporated Programme-related components. The strategic direction of GEF is evolving during its fourth phase, with a change in focus towards more country-level implementation programmes. The impact of this change to the level of support that GEF has provided to implementation of the Global Programme of Action is currently unclear. The programme of work 2007–2011 acknowledges the need to adapt to more country-focused approaches, in particular at the level of practical project implementation;

(b) Direct support to individual countries in implementing the Global Programme of Action has proved to be resource-intensive. To scale innovative and integrated approaches up to a level that has national impact and beyond requires that a number of strategic partnerships and alliances with key actors must be established at the country level;

(c) As UNEP is not represented at the country level, most national and local implementation of the Global Programme of Action is dependent on collaborative action, with, for example, the UNEP regional offices, the UNEP regional seas coordinating units, the UNEP collaborative centres, the Global Programme of Action regional nodes and other United Nations agencies such as UNDP, other members of the United Nations Development Group and GEF. Adequate resources are needed for efficient and successful cooperation to promote the mainstreaming of the Global Programme of Action at the national level;

(d) The clearing-house function is instrumental in furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, but it is also resource-intensive.

68. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office depends on donor funding to develop and implement the activities outlined above. Some of the partnerships between UNEP and bilateral donors are presently under renegotiation. Donor countries increasingly focus on support to internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and poverty reduction strategy papers, and on technology support and capacity-building. Consequently, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find resources to support sector-oriented programmes such as the Global Programme of Action, despite its clear contribution to those goals. In addition, leveraging donor funds to cover staff costs and costs of the Global Programme of Action clearing-house mechanism has proven difficult.

69. During the 2002–2006 reporting period, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office assisted countries and regions in raising co-financing for major donors' projects and funding facilities that required counterpart contributions, such as GEF and European Union projects. If the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office is to continue this practice, additional fundraising efforts will be needed.

70. The generous support of the Government of the Netherlands in funding four professional posts is being phased out. Funding for two posts expired on 31 December 2005, while funding for the other two posts will come to an end in December 2006. The cost of those four posts will need to be absorbed by the programme resources of the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office.

C. Personnel and budget

71. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office programme of work 2007–2011 starts from the premise that the current staff posts, which total 10 professional and six support and administrative staff, will be maintained at the “medium” level of resources or expanded to 16 professionals and nine support staff at the “appropriate” level of funding. That expansion would support increased activities at the national level as it relates to cross-sectoral integration and mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action implementation in major national sustainable development plans.

72. Three resource estimate scenarios are envisaged for the activities outlined in the programme of work 2007–2011:

(a) The “minimum” level would see no increase of UNEP Environment Fund resources from the 2005-2006 levels and no donor contributions. With the minimum level of resources, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office would have to reduce its activities and lower its level of staffing. Consequently, output delivery would decrease.

(b) The “medium” level of resources would provide for an increased allocation from the UNEP Environment Fund of \$1.6 million to maintain the current level of staffing, with 10 professional and six support staff, plus a further \$600,000 from the UNEP Environment Fund to cover operational costs and \$600,000 for activities. The UNEP Environment Fund contribution would be supplemented by donor contributions for staff costs (\$400,000) and for project activities (\$3.4 million).

(c) The “appropriate” (critical mass for mainstreaming) level of resources would allow for the employment of 16 professional and nine support staff through an increased allocation from the UNEP Environment Fund of \$2.1 million and donor contributions of \$1 million. It would provide for an increase in the allocation for operational costs from the UNEP Environment Fund to \$800,000 and

would also require additional donor contributions, particularly for mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action at the national level, of approximately \$4.5 million per year.

73. A tentative overview of the estimated funding requirements compared to available funding in 2006 is outlined in the table below.

UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office estimated funding requirements per year for 2007–2011 (amounts in \$1,000)											
FP = Environment Fund TF = Trust funds											
	Actual 2006			Minimum		Medium			Appropriate		
	FP	TF	Total	FP	Total	FP	TF	Total	FP	TF	Total
Professional staff	600	600	1,200	600	600	1,250	400	1,650	1,600	1,000	2,600
Support staff	250		250	250	250	350		350	500		500
Operational cost	250	200	450	250	250	500		500	800		800
Project activities	100	3,000	3,100	100	100	600	3,400	4,000	600	4,500	5,100
Total	1,200	3,800	5,000	1,200	1,200	2,700	3,800	6,500	3,500	5,500	9,000

74. Without major changes to the levels of UNEP Environment Fund contributions and assuming a worst-case scenario in which no donor funds are forthcoming, the “minimum” level of funding will apply and the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office will have to scale down to three main activities: reporting on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action by governments and other partners; awareness-raising on the need to address the crucial interlinkages between the freshwater and coastal environment; and promoting alliances and partnerships with key players at the international and national levels.

75. At the “medium” level of resources, the intermediate level of annual funding \$5,875,000 million endorsed by the Intergovernmental Review Meeting at its first session will be maintained in real terms, with a nominal increase of 3.5 per cent annually to offset inflation.. This will require an increase in the contributions from the UNEP Environment Fund to cover increased staff costs and operational and project expenses. The focus of the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office will gradually shift to national-level activities, integration and mainstreaming, while maintaining the current level of activities and outputs.

76. The “appropriate” level of funding would allow the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination office to become an agent of change, enhance its staff contingent with national sustainable development and policy setting expertise and serve as an effective partner in the sustainable development of coasts, oceans and associated watersheds.

V. Overview matrix

77. The matrix below summarizes the impact of the three funding scenarios on the programme of work 2007–2011 for the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office.

Level	Cluster of activities	Budget level		
		“Minimum” (3 Professionals)	“Medium” (10 Professionals)	“Appropriate” (16 Professionals)
International				
	Assessment	√	√	√√
	Policy and normative action		√	√√√
	Capacity-building and technology support		√	√
	Collaboration and coordination	√	√	√√
	Awareness-raising and outreach	√	√	√
Regional				
	Assessment	√	√	√
	Policy and normative action		√	√√
	Capacity-building and technology support		√√	√√√
	Collaboration and coordination		√√	√√
	Awareness-raising and outreach	√	√	√
National				
	Assessment	√	√√	√√√
	Policy and normative action		√√√	√√√√
	Capacity-building and technology support		√√√√	√√√√
	Collaboration and coordination	√	√√	√√√
	Awareness-raising and outreach	√	√	√√