



Briefing session

Towards the Fourth Inter-Governmental Review (IGR) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA)

3rd Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

4 December 2017, UN Environment HQ, Nairobi

Time: 17h30 to 19h00

Location: CleanSeas Campaign Tent

The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) was adopted by 109 governments and the European Commission in November 1995. The Programme represents global commitment among national governments, international and regional organizations and programmes, non-governmental organizations and major groups, to protect and preserve the marine environment from adverse impacts of land-based activities. UN Environment serves as the Secretariat for the GPA, through a Coordination Office based at its Headquarters in Nairobi. UN Environment is tasked with facilitating and promoting the implementation of the GPA through international, regional and national action. The Programme is reviewed every 5 years through an Inter-Governmental Review (IGR) mechanism and its work is closely inter-linked to the Regional Seas Programmes. At the third IGR convened in Manila, Philippines, governments directed the Programme to focus on three pollution source category areas, specifically nutrients, wastewater and marine litter during the period 2012 to 2016. Further, the 3rd IGR mandated the convening of the 4th Intergovernmental Review meeting to assess progress under the Programme and consider the scope of work of the programme over the next five-year period. The 4th IGR is to be convened during the course of 2018, the date and venue to be announced¹.

¹ The IGR was originally scheduled to be convened in Bali, Indonesia in October 2017, but had to be postponed due to volcanic activity associated with Mt Agung.

For more information on the GPA please see: <http://web.unep.org/gpa/who-we-are/governance/news/fourth-intergovernmental-review-meeting-global-programme-action>

The purpose of this session is to update country delegates to UNEA on the achievements of the GPA over the past five years and provide an update on planning for the next Inter-Governmental Review of the GPA Programme.

Programme

Time	Discussion item	Lead
17:30 - 17:35	Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevance of GPA to UNEA theme	Mette Wilkie, Director, Ecosystems Division UN Environment
17:35 - 18:00	Background and overview of the programme <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical issues on oceans pollution addressed by Programme• Key achievements• Strategic directions and core future actions	Habib El-Habr, Coordinator GPA, UN Environment
18:00 – 18:10	Strategic alignments between the GPA and other key global frameworks/initiatives on oceans	Lisa Svensson, Coordinator, Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch, UN Environment
18:10 - 18:20	Hosting of the 4 th Intergovernmental Review	Representative, Government of Indonesia
18:20 - 18:30	UNEA Resolutions related to marine pollution and GPA work areas - quick synopsis <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marine Litter• Water pollution• Soil pollution	Heidi Savelli; Birguy Lamizana; Christopher Cox, Programme Officers UN Environment
18:30 - 18:55	Questions and comments	Habib El-Habr, Coordinator GPA, UN Environment
18:55 - 19:00	Wrap-up and closing remarks	Mette Wilkie, Director, Ecosystems Division UNEP