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**Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the
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from Land-based Activities**

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Day three: building a common agenda:

**Review of accomplishments, focussing on progress
in implementing the Global Programme of Action
for the Protection of the Marine Environment from
Land-based Activities at the international, regional
and national levels in the period 2002–2006**

**Progress in implementing the Global Programme of Action for
the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based
Activities at the international, regional and national levels in the
period 2002–2006**

Note by the secretariat

1. Implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities is in the first place the task of Governments. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as the secretariat of the Global Programme of Action, is tasked with facilitating and promoting the implementation of the Global Programme of Action through international, regional and national action. International and regional organizations and programmes, non-governmental organizations and other major groups also contribute to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at all levels.
2. The information in the present report provides a concise overview of progress made in advancing the Global Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels during the period 2002–2006. It is thus closely linked to the delivery of the activities outlined in the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office programme of work 2002–2006. It also provides support for

* UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/1.

the new strategic direction set out in the proposed programme of work for the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for 2007–2011. Additional information on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action voluntarily provided by Governments and other stakeholders is available in documents UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/INF/2 and UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/INF/5.

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Introduction: Linking progress achieved with next steps

1. In brief, while much remains to be done to protect the marine environment from land-based activities, many of the goals set by the international community for the further implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities by Governments and the facilitating role of the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for the period 2002–2006 have been met. The strategic direction set at the first session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action in 2001, was to facilitate the process of moving from planning to action at all levels. This has been achieved in large measure, as will be outlined in the present progress report. The results include integrating the Global Programme of Action into the international environmental agenda; strengthening the UNEP Regional Seas Programmes to address, amongst other things, the Global Programme of Action; facilitating action at the national level; and concrete outputs at the sectoral level. Measures including 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 bringing about these results.

2. The progress outlined in the present report emphasizes the importance of political determination on the part of Governments to undertake tangible action to address the underlying causes of marine degradation resulting from land-based activities. It has been demonstrated that effective national action is demand driven, is assisted by an enabling environment and is sustained through regional frameworks and international cooperation. Integration of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action across sectors and ministries and into domestic and international aid budgets, development plans, strategies and actions has proven to be vital for the overall implementation of the Global Programme of Action. As outlined in the document entitled “Guidance to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities 2007–2011: Global Programme of Action contribution to the internationally agreed goals and targets for the sustainable development of oceans, coasts and islands” (UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/3), the Global Programme of Action has remained 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. As a result, the programme of work of the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for 2007–2011 identifies three main areas of focus for the future:

- (a) Further promoting the Global Programme of Action at the international, regional, and national levels;
- (b) Strengthening the implementation of the Global Programme of Action through the Regional Seas Programmes and other regional mechanisms; and
- (c) Mainstreaming the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in national development planning and budgetary mechanisms.

I. National implementation of the Global Programme of Action

3. As will be outlined in this chapter, the Global Programme of Action has been successfully integrated into national planning processes in more than 60 countries. A key to this success has been building the Global Programme of Action into existing national processes and instruments and to involve a wide range of stakeholders. This demonstrates the importance of maintaining the flexible and adaptive nature of the Global Programme of Action and the need to take this one step further by mainstreaming and integrating the Global Programme of Action into national developing planning and budget mechanisms.

4. Strong leadership and political will remain vital to supporting the process of translating the Global Programme of Action into national programmes of action in particular in the implementation of long-term activities. Legislation dealing with coastal and marine resources needs to address a wide range of land-based pressures upon coastal and marine environments. At the same time, the importance of developing national programmes of action, based on affordable programming and leading to concrete action, has been recognized. Greater support in developing environmental financing strategies and other supporting mechanisms is needed. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has identified tools to assist countries in utilizing their own resources effectively and efficiently, and to find possible new domestic resources, make the most of foreign assistance and optimize possibilities of utilizing international financial institutions and commercial financing.

5. In response to requests from Governments, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has focused on establishing enabling legislation, finance, compliance and enforcement frameworks for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action. This has involved collecting and demonstrating international best practices and helping to integrate them into regional and national processes. The long-term objective is that countries will adapt their national programmes of action to reflect better the reality with respect to institutional arrangements, available capacity, available funding coming primarily from domestic resources or better leveraged international sources, and to remove legislative barriers.

6. Greater priority is being placed by some Governments on creating interlinkages between the national programmes of action process and other development processes, including:

(a) Processes within the United Nations framework, such as the United Nations Millennium Declaration and associated internationally agreed development goals, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) targets and goals, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, United Nations common country assessments, and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

(b) Processes within the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building; and

(c) Processes within the existing national development frameworks, such as national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategy papers, national environmental management strategies.

7. In that context, Governments are also seeking to contribute to the efficient and financially sustainable implementation of national environmental management strategies.

A. National programmes of action

8. A national programme of action is a policy framework that ensures and facilitates Global Programme of Action implementation at the national level. More than 60 national programmes of action currently implement the Global Programme of Action, either through specifically designed national programmes of action, or through national programme of action-related processes such as national development policies, programmes, initiatives and frameworks. Supported by strong collaboration with GEF, donor countries and international and regional partners, national programmes of action are in place, albeit at different stages of implementation, as follows: 17 in Africa (Algeria, Angola, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania, Tunisia and Togo), seven in Asia and the Pacific (Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tonga), 19 in Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, France (Mediterranean), Greece, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Malta, Monaco, the former Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Russian Federation (Caspian Sea and Arctic), Turkey (Mediterranean) and Turkmenistan), 15 in Latin America and the Caribbean (Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica (Caribbean), Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico (Caribbean), Panama, Peru, St. Lucia, the Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago), one in North America (Canada) and four in West Asia (Lebanon, Palestinian Authority, Syria and Yemen). Further details are available at www.gpa.unep.org.

9. Countries that have finalized the development of national programmes of action are in most cases moving to implementation through pilot projects to address priority issues. The pilot projects also aim to demonstrate sustainable management approaches and the testing of new technology (e.g., use of constructed wetlands or mangroves for wastewater management) to address land-based sources of coastal and marine pollution. These projects are often implemented in partnership with non-governmental organizations and private sector institutions and are making important contributions to the development of new institutional arrangements for coastal resource management. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office and GEF provide technical and financial assistance to many of these pilot projects.

10. Many countries, either as a follow-up or in parallel to the national programme of action development process, have initiated integrated coastal management programmes or integrated coastal zone management programmes as a vehicle to implement their national programme of action. In several countries, national programme of action development processes have triggered the reformulation of coastal policy and coastal development strategies. This has been the case for example in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka in South Asia, Republic of Korea, the Philippines and Vietnam in South-east Asia,

and in the 21 member countries of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention). Several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have engaged in the development or implementation of integrated coastal zone management programmes. Some of these countries receive Inter-American Development Bank support for their integrated coastal (zone) management programmes including: Barbados, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guyana, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago. These projects and programmes are, in several countries, financed through national budgets or bilateral donors. For example, India has embarked on the implementation of a multi-million dollar project, primarily using its own resources, while in the Mediterranean region a three year programme with an integrated coastal area management focus has recently been started as part of the European Union's Euro-Mediterranean Partnership initiative.

11. To assist countries in the national programme of action process, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office prepared a document in 2002 entitled "Development and Implementation of National Programmes of Action", commonly referred to as the "NPA handbook". The handbook was translated into the six official languages of the United Nations and is available on the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office website. The handbook outlines a comprehensive and flexible framework for mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action into national policies, programmes and plans, as well as into relevant institutional and budgetary frameworks. The handbook guides national programmes through a phased implementation of priorities within a cross-sectoral, participatory framework. To reflect emerging knowledge and lessons learned, a new document was prepared and published in 2006. Its aim is to further assist countries in implementing the Global Programme of Action by building on existing policies, programmes and development frameworks or embarking on different sorts of national programme of action processes, depending on the institutional and legislative frameworks in place. In the national programme of action document entitled "Protecting coastal and marine environments from land-based activities: A guide for national action", three possible paths (short, intermediate and full) for a national programme of action process are outlined and explained. Numerous examples of lessons learned, national experiences, and reference materials are included.

B. National programme of action processes supported by the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office

12. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office does not encourage countries to start a separate national programme of action process where relevant mechanisms to address Global Programme of Action source categories and priority issues are already in place.¹ Rather, countries are encouraged to prioritize and addresses outstanding issues pertaining to coastal and marine pollution issues where they exist. This is the approach chosen by European Union members in the context of the development of national action plans for the Mediterranean. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office is currently collaborating with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States to integrate national programme of action-related activities and financing and strategic planning into the national environment management strategies of its member countries (Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines).

13. The initial strategy adopted by the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office was to support individual countries through the national programme of action process. This was the case for Egypt (Red Sea), Nigeria, Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen. Subsequently, a partnership has been developed with the regional seas secretariats, which provide technical support to carry forward the process and thereby advance the development of some national programmes of action. This approach has helped the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office to multiply its efforts and also provides additional opportunities to the regional seas conventions and action plans to integrate national concerns into the regional policy context to generate countries' interest in participating, endorsing and implementing regional action plans, protocols and other instruments. This regional strategy has proven successful and is currently being applied in the South-east Pacific (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru), the Wider Caribbean (Barbados, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago), the Caspian Sea (Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Turkmenistan), and the South Pacific (Tonga and others planned) and South Asia (Bangladesh, India and Pakistan).

¹ The Global Programme of Action source categories are: sewage; persistent organic pollutants; radioactive substances; heavy metals; oils (hydrocarbons); nutrients; sediment mobilization; litter; physical alteration and destruction of habitats.

14. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has also facilitated national programme of action development through strategic partnerships and alliances with agencies and institutions in specific regions. For example, a Global Programme of Action node has been established in the International Program Office of the United States of America's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to support Global Programme of Action implementation in countries of the Central America and the Caribbean. The Global Programme of Action National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration node is supporting national programme of action development in the Bahamas, Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago. As a direct consequence of the diversity of issues addressed by the Global Programme of Action, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, regional seas secretariats and the other partners, such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration node or Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), have developed their networks and work with authorities dealing with maritime issues, ports, tourism, water, and land-use and with national ministries for the environment or natural resources. Cases in point are Chile, Ecuador and Peru, where the national programme of action is led by the maritime authorities; in Panama it is led jointly by the Maritime Authority and the Ministry of Environment; in the Bahamas by the Ministry of Tourism.

15. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has undertaken activities on strategic financing (financing strategies, expenditure information and detailed activity planning) for the implementation of national programmes of action. This approach, which is currently been piloted in Jamaica and Sri Lanka, is expected to demonstrate the complete national programme of action cycle from development to implementation. It ensures a realistic, step-by-step implementation of priorities within a cross-sectoral, participatory framework. Overall, the strategic finance activities consist of four individual components:

- (a) Transferring innovative approaches to the analysis of financial framework conditions and the potential for increased use of market-based instruments for the environmental sector and strategic financial planning;
- (b) Developing a strategic financial action programme to implement the medium- and long-term components of a national programme of action;
- (c) Identifying innovative financing arrangements to support the assessment and valuation of the social and economic consequences of environmental changes in coastal regions and squatter settlements;
- (d) Providing international expertise and guidance to national experts assisting ministries responsible for the environment and natural resources.

C. Other actions at the national level

16. In Quito, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office assisted the National Water Fund (Fondo Nacional del Agua or FONAG), in strengthening its institutional arrangements and in preparing projects for more sustained and increased funding. Similarly, at the request of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has provided technical advice on how to integrate Global Programme of Action-related principles into a draft law on water resources that is being discussed in the Costa Rican national assembly.

D. National programmes of action supported by GEF

17. As mentioned above, national programme of action processes are being supported through GEF in several countries. In the Mediterranean region, development of the national programme of action was initiated under the project "Determination of priority actions for the further elaboration and implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea to address pollution from land-based activities for the Mediterranean Sea". Twenty-one countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea have benefited from this project. National programme of action development is also under way in several countries of Eastern Africa through the "Addressing land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean project", in Western and Central Africa under the "Combating living resource depletion and coastal area degradation in the Guinea current large marine ecosystem through ecosystem-based regional actions project" (Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem project) and in the East Asia region through Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia.

II. Regional cooperation in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action

18. Facilitating collaboration at the regional level is crucial for successful national action to protect the marine environment from land-based activities. For example, the regional seas conventions and the action plans provide the appropriate regional policy framework to implement the Global Programme of Action and many other global instruments dealing with the protection of the marine environment. The UNEP Regional Seas Programmes have successfully promoted coordination between regional and global conventions and they serve as an important vehicle for gathering information. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, in cooperation with the Regional Seas Programmes, assists countries in identifying and addressing barriers to the implementation of legislation. This cooperation has led to a number of activities and achievements, as outlined in this section.

A. Regional Seas Programmes and land-based sources and activities protocols

19. There are currently 18 Regional Seas Programmes with over 140 participating countries, 14 of which have regional conventions (www.unep.org/regionalseas) and a number of protocols dealing with specific sources of marine pollution and ecosystem management. Thirteen Regional Seas Programmes were established under the auspices of UNEP, and six are directly administered by UNEP.

20. The legal implementation of the Global Programme of Action has been facilitated through the development of protocols to regional seas conventions. The protocols address the protection of the marine environment from land-based sources and activities. Six protocols specifically address pollution from land-based sources and activities in the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) Sea Area, the Southeast Pacific, the Wider Caribbean, and the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Of these, three are post-Global Programme of Action instruments: the amended Mediterranean protocol, adopted in 1996; the Wider Caribbean protocol, adopted in 1999; and the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden protocol, adopted in 2005.

21. The “second generation” of land-based sources and activities agreements, adopted after the development of the Global Programme of Action, can be more comprehensive in their scope and in the number and types of pollution sources regulated, including numerous land-based activities affecting the marine environment. In several regions, Governments have revised existing protocols or initiated the development of new ones, and strengthened enforcement mechanisms at the national level by enhancing the appropriate legislation. Such processes have been strengthened by measures including the exchange of experiences and lessons learned through the development, revision, and implementation of land-based sources and activities protocols. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has coordinated or supported these efforts in the following regional seas:

- (a) Black Sea, within the framework of the GEF “Black Sea ecosystem recovery project, phase II” (protocol being revised);
- (b) Caspian Sea, within the framework of the Caspian Sea Environment Programme (protocol under development);
- (c) Wider Caribbean, within the framework of the Caribbean Environment Programme (protocol being implemented);
- (d) East Africa in the framework of the GEF “Addressing land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean project” (protocol being developed);
- (e) West and Central Africa in the framework of the GEF Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem project (protocol being developed).

22. National implementation of the land-based sources and activities protocols is often facilitated through national programmes of action and other land-based activities projects in the framework of the Regional Seas Programmes and supported by GEF. For example, the Regional Coordination Unit of the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme has assisted Caribbean small island developing States in meeting the legal obligations of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) and related multilateral environmental agreements, by building the countries’ capacities through a series of workshops on compliance and enforcement of such agreements. In the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States countries, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office assisted in integrating long-term strategic planning into national environmental management plans.

23. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office also provides advice on sustainable financing to Regional Seas Programme secretariats in the development of their programmes of work. In the context of national programme of action development, the Coordination Office provides information about project cycle management, economic valuation of marine resources and the importance of domestic resource mobilization. In addition, the Regional Coordination Unit of the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme and the secretariat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States coordinate and harmonize activities of their member countries with the aim of improving the implementation and minimize duplication of programmes, projects and activities under the Cartagena Convention. Furthermore, the activities, institutional arrangements and legal or financial instruments that have been put in place to enhance the implementation of the Global Programme of Action within the regional seas have been compiled into an overview. Most of the regions contributing to the overview have demonstrated that addressing land-based sources and activities of marine pollution has been given a high priority.

B. Examples of other regional cooperation

24. The Regional Coordination Unit of the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme, the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office have joined efforts to respond to a request for technical assistance from the Government and the Law Reform Commission of the British Virgin Islands. The overall objective of this assignment is to provide legal advice and assistance in the analysis of the environmental legislative framework of the British Virgin Islands, and accordingly to draft, in collaboration with the Law Reform Commission's Environmental Legislation Committee, legal instruments for the efficient and effective discharge of environmental functions. The assignment will facilitate implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its protocols.

25. Regional and national Global Programme of Action programmes related to physical alteration and destruction of habitat, integrated coastal area and river basin management and municipal wastewater management have been redefined to suit the regional needs identified in a series of regional stakeholder consultations in South Asia (2002 in India, 2003 in Sri Lanka), Eastern Africa (2002 in Kenya, 2003 in Mozambique), Latin America and the Wider Caribbean (2002 and 2003 in Mexico, 2004 in Panama) organized by the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office jointly with regional partners including the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), Global Legislators' Organisation for Balanced Environment (GLOBE) South Asia Chapter, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) and the Water Centre for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC). Activities included the development of agreements to harmonize environmental legislative frameworks; the initiation of land-based sources and activities protocols; development of guidelines for regional environmental impact assessments; and the initiation and implementation of multiple national programmes of action and pilot projects to translate the Global Programme of Action approach and guiding principles into concrete action.

26. As a follow-up to regional meetings, a number of studies on specific issues were carried out. Those studies included a comparative review of legislation, an economic valuation of mangroves, and consideration of the rules and procedures that are currently in place to prevent the further degradation of the coastal and marine environment by physical alteration and destruction of habitats. Twenty-two countries were covered by the studies, including Bangladesh, Belize, Colombia, the Comoros, Cuba, Guatemala, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Pakistan, Reunion (France), Saint Lucia, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

C. Regional policy responses

27. The Global Programme of Action is well embedded in the high-level policy discussions within various regional forums. The Bali Plan of Action "Towards Healthy Oceans and Coasts for the Sustainable Growth and Prosperity of the Asia-Pacific Community" was adopted in September 2005 by ministers responsible for the marine environment at the second Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting of the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation group, held in Bali. It recognizes the importance of an ecosystem-based approach to management of the marine environment to address the serious and continuing threats from land-based and sea-based pollution. It further seeks to ensure sustainable management of the marine environment and its resources. In 2003, the national focal ministries of the twelve countries that participate in Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia produced the Putrajaya Declaration of Regional Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia, calling for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and the Montreal Declaration

on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, “with special emphasis on municipal wastewater, the physical alteration and destruction of habitats and nutrients through efforts at all levels.” A call for Global Programme of Action implementation in South Asia was made during the Governing Council meeting of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme in January 2003, where it was agreed to develop a common, regional level legislative framework on coastal zone management. In response, a South Asia regional coastal zone management centre has been established, which facilitates sharing of experiences between member countries.

28. At its fifteenth meeting, held in 2005, the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean adopted a decision, which encourages the prevention of coastal and marine degradation from land-based activities through the Global Programme of Action, and supports the preparatory process of second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action.

29. In Europe, the European Commission adopted the European Union Marine Strategy in 2005, which addresses a number of threats to the marine environment, including loss or degradation of biodiversity, loss of habitats, contamination by dangerous substances and nutrients and the impacts of climate change. While the European Union Marine Strategy is primarily focused on the protection of the regional seas of European Union countries, it also takes into account the international dimension in recognition of the importance of reducing the European Union’s footprint in marine areas in other parts of the world, including the high seas. Discussions on a European Union Maritime Strategy have started in the European Council and the European Parliament.

30. The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) adopted the coastal and marine programme under its Environment Initiative, recognizing that sustainable development policies for the region should include the economic and social significance of the coast. Progress under this and other NEPAD environmental initiatives, within the frameworks of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention) and the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region (Nairobi Convention) has been made through various means, including GEF funded projects, such as the “Addressing land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean project” and the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem project. The Global Programme of Action was also referred to in the Brazzaville Declaration on the Environment for Development, endorsed by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) at its eleventh session in May 2006.

31. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office participated in the project “Development and protection of the coastal and marine environment in sub-Saharan Africa”, which involved the following countries: Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa and United Republic of Tanzania. A report of the project, by the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (ACOPS) within the framework of the GEF medium-sized project entitled “The African Process for the Development and Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment in sub-Saharan Africa” (the African Process) and NEPAD, identified sources of degradation and hot spots and proposed programmes and action to address these problems.

32. In the light of the outcomes of the African Process, two regional projects have been initiated with the support of GEF. The “Addressing land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean project” covers eight countries of the Eastern Africa region: the Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa and United Republic of Tanzania. The second project, the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem project, implemented in the West and Central Africa region, covers 15 countries: Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Togo.

33. In support of these regional initiatives, a joint United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) project “Reduction of environmental impact from coastal tourism through introduction of policy changes and strengthening public-private partnerships” was recently approved by the GEF. It aims to address the negative impacts of tourism on the coastal and marine environment in sub-Saharan Africa including Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles and Tanzania. The project promotes the development of sustainable tourism policies and strategies and the implementation of pilot demonstration projects.

34. The “Support to the national programme of action for the protection of the arctic marine environment from anthropogenic pollution in the Russian Federation project” (Russian Arctic project) is

a national project with significant regional implications. The first phase of the project focused on the development of a nationally approved strategic action programme to address damage and threats to the arctic environment from land-based activities. It addresses legislative, regulatory, institutional and technical capacity-related issues to improve environmental protection. Ten studies will be undertaken prior to the investment, which address the highest priorities and those that could correct or prevent transboundary impacts of land-based activities. The results are intended to benefit the international arctic environment, particularly the Arctic Ocean basin and its shelf seas, and contribute to two principal international agreements: the Arctic Council Plan of Action to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic; and the Global Programme of Action as implemented in the Arctic region through the Arctic Regional Programme of Action and the Arctic Council Plan of Action to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic. The second phase of the project targets improvement of an environmental protection system for the Russian Arctic. This will follow on from the strategic action programme and constitute the first stage of its implementation. The environmental protection system represents a third major deliverable from the project but has additional importance, as it will provide the basis for federal and on-the-ground implementation of the strategic action programme. The other important activities during the second phase will be the three demonstration projects: indigenous environmental co-management; remediation of the environment through the use of brown algae; and environmental remediation of two decommissioned military bases.

III. International cooperation in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action

35. As outlined in this section, the Global Programme of Action is becoming increasingly mainstreamed in the international agenda. This is evident in the integration of the Global Programme of Action into the mandates of a number of international bodies and instruments and the growing number of international partnerships that address Global Programme of Action-related issues. In addition, progress has been made in providing technical guidance at a sectoral level on Global Programme of Action-related issues including wastewater and tourism. In order to benchmark progress made in implementing the Global Programme of Action, however, global assessments of Global Programme of Action-related topics are required and continued support for such activities.

A. Mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action into the international agenda

36. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, world leaders identified the importance of the Global Programme of Action through the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which calls for “advanced implementation” of the Global Programme of Action with particular emphasis on municipal wastewater, the physical alteration and destruction of habitats, and nutrients, through actions at all levels to:

- (a) Facilitate partnerships, scientific research and diffusion of technical knowledge; mobilise domestic, regional and international resources and promote human and institutional capacity-building, paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries;
- (b) Strengthen the capacity of developing countries in the development of their national and regional programmes and the mechanisms needed to mainstream the objectives of the Global Programme of Action and to manage the risks and impacts of ocean pollution; and
- (c) Elaborate regional programmes of action and improve the links with strategic plans for the sustainable development of coastal and marine resources, noting in particular areas that are subject to accelerated environmental changes and development pressures.

37. In 2005, the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States adopted the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. The Strategy calls for collaboration between small island developing States and international development partners to “fully implement the Global Programme of Action, particularly with the support of UNEP, by undertaking initiatives to specifically address the vulnerability of small island developing States”.

38. At its thirteenth session, held in 2005, the Commission for Sustainable Development adopted policy decisions to expedite implementation of international commitments in relation to water, sanitation and human settlements, several of which pertain to the Global Programme of Action. These include the promotion of integrated water resources management; strengthening the prevention of the pollution resulting from wastewater, solid waste, industrial and agricultural activities; and expanding and improving wastewater collection, treatment and reuse. The Commission for Sustainable

Development emphasized the importance of training and of the dissemination of information and guidelines, and the need to support regional arrangements to protect water resources from pollution, specifically arid, semi-arid and coastal countries.

39. The High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly (the 2005 World Summit), which addressed the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Project, produced an outcome document in which Governments resolved, among others things, to improve cooperation and coordination at all levels in addressing issues related to oceans and seas “in an integrated manner and promote integrated management and sustainable development”. In addition, General Assembly resolution 60/30 (pertaining to oceans and law of the sea), includes a section on building the capacity of developing States to implement improved wastewater management practices, with particular recognition of the vulnerability of small island developing States to the impact of pollution from land-based activities and marine debris.

B. Building partnerships and global consensus on the Global Programme of Action

40. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has launched or supported numerous partnerships, like those recommended at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, such as the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands; White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW); Hilltops to Oceans (H2O); and the FreshCo Partnership. These partnerships serve to advance the objectives of the Global Programme of Action, including its efforts to contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the United Nations Millennium Declaration and associated development goals, the Barbados Programme of Action and the subsequent Mauritius Strategy. These, and others developed subsequently, such as the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Global Programme of Action node and the cooperation with the Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future, have led to a growing awareness of the relevance of the Global Programme of Action’s integrated approach by many sectors of society, as detailed below.

1. Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands

41. The Forum brings together an informal association of ocean leaders from Governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, donors, and scientific institutions to discuss how to advance implementation of the global oceans agenda. It has held three major meetings and has prepared several reports analyzing the synergies and gaps in policymaking, and conducted a multiplicity of outreach activities. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office is a co-chair of the Forum.

2. White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW)

42. Many water-related programmes in the wider Caribbean are directly or indirectly linked with the White Water to Blue Water initiative. It is led by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Comision Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo (Central American Commission on Environment and Development), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC), UNEP and the Government of the United States of America. A 2004 partnership conference led to enhanced collaboration between the wider Caribbean, Europe, North America and the Pacific region on issues related to implementing Global Programme of Action at national and regional levels. A number of concrete partnerships resulted, among them the cooperation between the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to forward implementation of the Global Programme of Action in the wider Caribbean. The White Water to Blue Water initiative now has institutional support in the form of a council and an executive committee, comprising representatives from regional Governments, civil society groups and United Nations agencies. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office is a member of the White Water to Blue Water Council.

3. Hilltops to Oceans (H2O)

43. The H2O initiative supports the crucial link between watersheds, river systems, coastal estuaries and the marine environment and focuses on the development of national programmes of action and on the possible use of wastewater emission targets as they refer to sanitation. Following the H2O Partnership Conference in 2004, the network of government and non-governmental organizations working on this issue broadened with the emergence of new partnerships including the Network of National Programme of Action Practitioners; the Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WET-

WASH) partnership with the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC); a partnership between the World Ocean Network and the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for an H2O awareness campaign; a partnership between the Pacific Region and the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for the development of national programmes of action and a merger of the H2O and FreshCo partnerships.

4. FreshCo partnership initiative

44. The FreshCo partnership focuses on linking integrated water resources management and integrated coastal zone management to promote more efficient methods for the management of freshwater, coastal and marine resources, including the protection of the productivity and biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems. The partnership fosters North–South and South–South cooperation between Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, communities and private sector representatives. An informal group of experts meets periodically to contribute to various initiatives to promote the integrated management approach, including the preparation of the “State of Marine Environment: Regional assessments” report, published by the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office. For this purpose the expert group compiled case studies from various parts of the world, identifying the key challenges to sustaining synergies between integrated water resources management and integrated coastal zones management and to the development of a comprehensive framework to assess progress in the management of water resources according to an ecosystem-based approach.

5. Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia

45. Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia has undertaken collaborative activities with the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, including sharing models of good practices through case studies; joint publications; linking Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia and Global Programme of Action websites; collaborating on the finalization of the “Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia” and its adoption by the countries of the region at the ministerial forum that took place during the East Asian Seas Congress in December 2003, through the Putrajaya Declaration. Subsequently, in the Philippines and Vietnam, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia participated in a review of national policies, regulations, programmes, and capacities for pollution prevention, reduction and management through a series of workshops, also intended to promote the development of projects aimed at delivering national programmes of action that respond to priority concerns in each country. In addition, two subnational training programmes helped to build local capacities in sustainable financing, including the application of the public–private partnership process.

6. Global Environment Facility

46. Further to the Montreal Declaration, adopted by the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action at its first session, which calls on international financial institutions and mechanisms to “expeditiously finance” activities of the Global Programme of Action, the GEF contribution to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action has increased significantly. The international waters focal area has mobilized \$1.8 billion for projects to improve management of 18 large marine ecosystems involving 121 countries, many of which include Global Programme of Action components. These projects contribute to the knowledge base in a number of regions, through transboundary diagnostic analyses of priorities leading to the development of strategic action plans and national action plans. A number of strategic action plans have been completed or are under development, including for the Black Sea, the Canary Current (West Africa), the Caspian Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, the South China Sea, and the Western Indian Ocean. As the strategic direction of GEF moves from enabling activities to on-the-ground, country-level implementation, GEF has recently established an investment fund of \$80 million available for addressing land-based sources of marine pollution in the East Asian seas region. It has also established a similar \$70 million investment fund for the Mediterranean region, with a further \$15 million provided for capacity-building activities there.

47. Large marine ecosystems provide a framework for progress in the direction of adaptive management by recognizing the basic linkages between scientific assessments, protection of the marine environment, sustainable development of coastal and marine resources, and poverty alleviation. The five module large marine ecosystem approach has developed indicators relating to productivity, fish and fisheries, pollution and ecosystem health, socioeconomics and governance to facilitate analysis of

ecosystem-wide changes. The approach provides the scientific foundation for management actions in current GEF large marine ecosystem projects and the management of coastal and marine resources through the Regional Seas Programmes.

C. International assessments on Global Programme of Action-related issues

48. In line with the normative mandate of UNEP and its role in increasing the knowledge base in the area of land-based pollution of marine and coastal areas, efforts have been devoted to developing guidelines and key principles to provide guidance for the protection and sustainable use of the coastal and marine resources. Additionally, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, with support from the Nippon Foundation through the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, is preparing a framework for comparative international analysis of national ocean policies and for drawing lessons useful to other areas.

The state of the marine environment

49. Multiple international and regional environmental assessments have been carried out under the Global Programme of Action with the aim of contributing to the “Assessment of Assessments” currently under development through the Global Marine Assessment. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has worked closely with a number of organizations in conducting scientific reviews. These include the UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment, The Coastal Union (EUCC), Land Ocean Interaction in the Coastal Zone (LOICZ), UN-Oceans, UN-Water and the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection, comprising representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO-IOC), UNEP, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Maritime Organization, World Health Organization, and World Meteorological Organization. Additionally, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has published “The State of the Marine Environment: Trends and Processes”, which presents a concise overview of the state of the marine environment, using the nine source categories of the Global Programme of Action. It further includes an expert report entitled, “State of the Marine Environment: Regional Assessments”.

50. In order to share valuable expertise and lessons learned during the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at national and local levels, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has undertaken several regional and global reviews in association with its partners. This has provided an analysis of national actions addressing the problem of shoreline changes in Eastern Africa in association with the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association; a diagnosis of the erosion processes in the Caribbean sandy beaches in conjunction with the Cuban Environmental Agency; and analyses of the application of integrated approaches for the management of freshwater and coastal water in cooperation with The Coastal Union, located in the Netherlands and the Coastal Resources Center of the University of Rhode Island, United States of America. In partnership with the Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean region (MEDPOL), a thorough examination of the state of sanitation in the Mediterranean, including sewage network and treatment plants, was carried out in 2004 and an inventory of the sewage treatment plants in Mediterranean coastal cities with populations over 10,000 inhabitants was published. The issues identified during the assessment process were the subjects of capacity-building activities. Subsequently, regional and national training courses on management and operation of wastewater treatment plants were organized.

D. Priority Sectors

1. Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater

51. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and WHO jointly developed the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater to address one of the major Global Programme of Action pollution source categories affecting coastal waters. In addition, a guidance document on municipal wastewater management has been produced, with the acknowledgment of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and backed by the UNEP Governing Council. It suggests 10 key principles and recommended practices and procedures for national and local actions. The document aims to promote global consensus, to set international standards and to encourage innovative approaches, comprising integrated wastewater management, enhanced institutional set-ups, innovative financing mechanisms, multi-stakeholder and community

involvement, and low-cost environmentally sound technologies. The guidelines, backed by the evolving web-based Sanitation Connection (SANICON) knowledge base, have been widely disseminated.

52. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, in cooperation with the UNESCO Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE), developed a training course in the framework of the Train-Sea-Coast programme of the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) on "Improving Municipal Wastewater Management in Coastal Cities". The course is fully documented in English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and Turkish and has been delivered 17 times in Africa, Europe, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific, and attended by 400 participants from 34 countries. Participants have been from Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Colombia, the Cook Islands, Djibouti, the Federated States of Micronesia, Egypt, Fiji, Guam, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, the Maldives, Mozambique, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, the Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Turkey, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Yemen. Nine of these countries are small island developing States. Most are party to the various regional seas conventions and action plans and represent an integral part of Global Programme of Action's implementation at the regional level. This capacity-building initiative also represents a contribution by the Global Programme of Action to the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-building, adopted by the UNEP Governing Council at its twenty-third session in February 2005. The programme includes both training of trainers and training of practitioners. As a result, the training has led to an improvement in the identification, formulation and implementation of sanitation infrastructures. Building on these successes, the European Union Water Facility and United Nations Development Programme-GEF have provided additional funding for an expansion of the training programmes in the coming three years in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, and with a special focus on small island developing States.

53. A study, entitled "Financing wastewater collection and treatment in relation to the Millennium Development Goals and World Summit for Sustainable Development targets on water and sanitation", commissioned by the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, points to the financing needs for wastewater treatment all over the world. Its recommendations include the use of a step-wise approach to make optimal use of the limited budgets available. The paper was welcomed by the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eighth special session, held in Jeju, Republic of Korea, in 2004. An abridged version of the paper, entitled "Targeting Sanitation" was later published in the March 2004 issue of the UNEP publication "Our Planet".

54. As a member of UN-Water, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office contributes to the WHO and UNICEF joint monitoring programme for water supply and sanitation. The joint monitoring programme reports on the status of water supply and sanitation, and supports countries in their efforts to monitor this sector, which will enable better planning and management. A forthcoming special report is envisaged, focusing on the wastewater collection and treatment worldwide.

2. Physical alteration and destruction of habitats

55. This Global Programme of Action programme focuses on the impact of major infrastructure works on the coastal and marine environments from the legal, economic and scientific perspectives, particularly as they relate to tourism, aquaculture, mining and the development of ports and harbours. Land use planning and construction in coastal zones has been a priority focus area because little has previously been done in this area despite the considerable environmental damage that occurs during construction. Key principles for minimizing physical alteration of coastal areas, destruction of habitats and sediment mobilization have been formulated to increase awareness and build consensus among national Governments, industry and business associations, the United Nations and intergovernmental bodies. Various agencies have endorsed these key principles. In the case of those principles relating to ports and harbours, the organizations involved were the International Navigation Organization and private sector institutions, such as the International Association of Ports and Harbour, the International Association of Dredging Companies and the Central Dredging Association. In the case of principles for tourism development, endorsement has come from UNIDO and UNWTO.

56. Key principles for aquaculture are being put together in a joint effort with FAO, the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific, the World Bank and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). A set of guiding principles for shrimp aquaculture have also been developed, which was endorsed in February 2006 by the Governing Council of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific, and is scheduled for endorsement by FAO Committee on Fisheries in September. The implementation of these principles takes place at the national level through their incorporation in various sectoral policies and through the initiation of pilot projects within the framework of national

programmes of action. For example, in the Bahamas, the tourism principles are used as a basis to develop the national sustainable tourism awareness programme – a pilot initiative supported by the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office in partnership with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This led to the 2006 Small Island Developing States Tourism Conference in the Bahamas, co-sponsored by UNWTO and the University of the West Indies.

3. Integrated coastal area and river basin management

57. The Global Programme of Action is the only intergovernmental programme that addresses the natural inter-linkages between freshwater and the coast. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has helped to identify progress markers to enhance awareness and recognition of the critical link between the river basin and coastal areas for the sustenance of the ecosystems and to help the planners and managers of resources to assess progress towards linked management of catchments and coasts. The methodology developed has been tested and extensively discussed and the results published in a report, entitled “Ecosystem-Based Management: Markers for Assessing Progress”. In addition, a set of 12 guiding principles has been developed. These include recommendations for managers, policymakers and decision makers, focusing on identifying shared issues, needs and benefits for integrated coastal area and river basin management; securing political commitment for such management; defining common management goals and information platforms; and creating an enabling environment for the management of rivers and coasts to achieve sustainable solutions at transboundary, national, river basin and local levels. The principles were discussed with an inter-agency expert group, and then presented to a wider audience during the third World Water Forum in 2003. The principles have led to greater awareness of the need to consider freshwater and saltwater issues in conjunction with each other, and to the development of progress markers.

4. Guiding Principles for Post-Tsunami Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

58. All the tsunami affected countries (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen) and representatives of UNEP Regional Seas Programmes, international organizations and institutions (e.g., the United Kingdom Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and Department for International Development (DFID), FAO, UNESCO, World Bank, Islamic Development Bank, League of Arab States, The World Conservation Union (IUCN) and WWF discussed and adopted a set of guiding principles, commissioned by the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office in response to the Asian tsunami of December 2004. In addition to broad international discussions on the 12 guiding principles for post- tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction, national level dialogues have taken place on how to ‘operationalize’ the guidelines and ensure their incorporation in coastal reconstruction planning. The annotated principles have been translated into several languages, namely Creoles, Arabic, Dhivehi, Singhalese, Tamil and Thai.

E. Developing frameworks and mechanisms for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action

1. Legal and financial frameworks

59. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has prepared or is finalizing a number of guidance documents. These include:

(a) A “Drafters Handbook on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Environments”, which provides information about international, regional and national laws, policies and institutions that address conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal environments.

(b) A guide on how to incorporate marine pollution from land-based activities into national legislation and institutional frameworks provides a general overview on how to address marine pollution from land-based activities in national legislation, with emphasis on national programmes of action.

(c) A report, entitled “Implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the regional level: the role of regional seas conventions and their protocols”, which is a guide for reviewing and harmonizing laws and institutions to enhance the implementation of relevant protocols at the national level. It offers a review of existing binding and non-binding instruments that address the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities to show the opportunities and challenges of both legally binding instruments and non-binding mechanisms.

(d) A guide on options for increasing sustainable financing for the implementation of national programmes of action and a guiding document “Financing the Implementation of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans”, which have been developed to collect and disseminate international best practices on long term planning and sustainable financing and how to adapt these to national context. The former offers a systematic approach to focusing needed actions and matching the priorities with sometimes limited human and financial resources. Furthermore, it seeks to expand the focus of ministries for the environment beyond the legislative and institutional to include the frameworks that govern the tax and fiscal legislation usually produced under the auspices of ministries of finance.

60. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has participated in and provided inputs to several international processes on environmental financing. The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office was jointly responsible for organizing the seventh Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, which was held in 2005 and focussed on long-term sustainable financing. It provided opportunities to increase knowledge and to develop a common understanding on environmental financing internationally through the 18 represented Regional Seas Programmes. Similarly the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office is working with several regional GEF projects to establish integrated components on long-term sustainable financing in larger GEF-funded projects.

2. Exchange of information

61. The Global Programme of Action Clearing House Mechanism provides access to Global Programme of Action related data, information and activities and is a means for the enhancement of global partnerships. The national programme of action network of practitioners, created in 2005, is a useful forum for partnership building and information exchange between government officials and other stakeholders involved in the development and implementation of national programmes of action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities. The Clearing House Mechanism has been expanded and now includes a redeveloped web page relating to oils (<http://oils.gpa.unep.org>), produced in partnership with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency; a redeveloped physical alteration and destruction of habitats web page (<http://padh.gpa.unep.org>); and better collaboration with UNEP.Net initiatives and other related networking and information management initiatives. Expansion of the Global Programme of Action knowledge base and the creation of inter-linkages between the Global Programme of Action and other global initiatives are vital to the effectiveness of its implementation.

62. The progress outlined in this report demonstrates 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. Indeed, to encourage the further implementation of the Global Programme of Action, there is a clear need for the Global Programme of Action to be mainstreamed and integrated into domestic and international aid budgets, development plans, strategies and actions.

Annex

The UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has responded to the requests of Governments and other stakeholders to provide technical information related to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action. Since 2002, a number of reports have been prepared and have raised awareness amongst policymakers and policy advocates. These studies and other related information have been widely distributed by the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office (www.gpa.unep.org).

Publications prepared for the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting

1. The State of the Marine Environment: Trends and Processes (UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, 2006)
2. The State of the Marine Environment: Regional Assessments (UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, 2006)
3. Implementation of the Global Programme of Action at regional level: The role of regional seas conventions and their protocols (UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, 2006)
4. Protecting coastal and marine environments from land-based activities: A guide for national action (UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, 2006)
5. Ecosystem-based management: Markers for assessing progress (UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, 2006)
6. Financing the implementation of regional seas conventions and action plans: A guide for national action (UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, 2006)
7. Global Programme of Action implementation in the Regional Seas Programmes (forthcoming UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, 2006)

General publications

8. UNEP/WHO/UN-Habitat/WSSCC Guidelines on Municipal Wastewater Management. A practical guide for decision makers and professionals on how to plan, design and finance appropriate and environmentally sound municipal wastewater discharge systems (UNEP, 2004)
9. Water Supply and Sanitation Coverage in UNEP Regional Seas. Need for Regional wastewater Emission Targets? Section 1: Regional presentation of data (UNEP, 2002)
10. Water Supply and Sanitation Coverage in UNEP Regional Seas. Need for Regional wastewater Emission Targets? Section II: Targets and Indicators for Domestic Sanitation and Wastewater Treatment – Discussion Paper (UNEP, 2003)
11. Water Supply and Sanitation Coverage in UNEP Regional Seas. Need for Regional Wastewater Emission Targets? Section III: An Inventory of Regional Specific Data and the Feasibility of Developing Regional Wastewater Emission Targets (UNEP, 2004)
12. Financing wastewater collection and treatment in relation to the Millennium Development Goals and World Summit on Sustainable Development targets on water and sanitation. Background paper presented at the eighth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Jeju (UNEP, 2004)
13. Development of Sustainable Shrimp Production: Issues and Policy Options. A Briefing Note
14. Minimizing the Impact of Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitat on the Coast and Near Shore Environment from Port and Harbour Activities; A Global Programme of Action Approach, Ports and Harbour, vol 48, no 7, September 2003
15. Keeping Pollution in Check, World Port Development, International Journal of Port Management, June 2003
16. Sustainable Development and Management of Ports and Harbours: Issues and Perspectives, Port Technology International, 12th Edition, Spring 2005

17. Managing the Coastal Zone: What Lessons to Draw from the Tsunami? Tropical Coasts, vol 12, no. 1, July 2005
18. Shaken, not Stirred! Institutional and Policy Cocktails for Protecting Coastal and Marine Environments from Land-based Sources of Pollution, Ocean and Coastal Management, Special Issue (forthcoming) 2006

Regional publications

Meeting reports

19. Regional meeting report on Municipal Wastewater Management in Eastern Asia & North-West Pacific, UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office and Regional Office for Africa, Toyama, Japan, 24–28 September 2001
 - Toyama Background Paper No.1: Regional Guidelines and Standards for Control and Treatment of Sewage
 - Toyama Background Paper No.2: Innovative Solutions for Control and Treatment of Sewage
 - Toyama Background Paper No.3: Building Partnership in Controlling Sewage
20. Regional meeting report on Municipal Wastewater Management in South Pacific, UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office and South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), Majuro, Marshall Islands, 10–15 October 2001
21. Regional meeting report on Municipal Wastewater Management in West Asia, UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office and Regional Office for West Africa, Manama, Bahrain, 10–15 November 2001
22. Overview of the Socio-Economic Aspects Related to the Management of Municipal Wastewater in West Asia (Including all countries bordering the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden) (UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, November 2001)
23. Regional Meeting report on Municipal Wastewater Management in the Wider Caribbean, UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office and Caribbean Regional Unit, Ocho Rios, Jamaica, 19–21 February 2001
24. Regional Meeting report on Municipal Wastewater Management in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and UNEP Caribbean Regional Unit, Mexico City, Mexico, 10–12 September 2001
25. Second regional meeting report on Municipal Wastewater Management in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and UNEP Caribbean Regional Unit, Mexico City, Mexico, June 2003
26. Regional Meeting report on Municipal Wastewater Management in Eastern Africa, UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, Regional Office for Africa, National Environment Management Council of Tanzania and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, 11–15 June 2001
27. Report of the South Asia Regional Consultation Workshop for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 28–30 April 2003
28. Second regional meeting report on Municipal Wastewater Management in Eastern Africa, UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, Regional Office for Africa and WIOMSA, Mombasa, Kenya, 7–8 March 2003
29. Regional meeting for planning and implementation of WIO-LaB (Addressing Land-based Activities in the West-Indian Ocean) project, Maputo, Mozambique, 1–3 December 2003
30. Report of the Regional Consultative Meeting on the GPA Programme of Work in the Wider Caribbean, Colon, Panama, February 10–12, 2004

Other documents:**South Asia**

31. A Comparative Review of Coastal Legislation in South Asia
32. Study on Better Practices for Shrimp Farming in Chillaw and Puttlam Districts of Sri Lanka
33. The Economic Valuation of Alternative Uses of Mangrove Forests in Sri Lanka
34. A Framework for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution due to Land-based Activities in South Asia

Latin America and Caribbean

35. Review of National Legislations related to Coastal Zone Management in the English Speaking Caribbean
36. Review of National Legislations related to Coastal Zone Management in the Spanish Speaking Latin America (Proyecto: Análisis Comparado de la Legislación y Políticas Legales Aplicables al Manejo, Conservación, Uso y Aprovechamiento de la Zona Costera en la Región del Gran Caribe. Estudio de Caso: República de Cuba, República Bolivariana de Venezuela y Estados Unidos Mexicanos)
37. Utility of “User Fees” as Financial Instruments for the Management of Marine Parks and Marine Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region
38. Diagnosis of the Erosion Processes in the Caribbean Sandy Beaches
39. Socio-economic Aspects of the Wastewater Problem in the South East Pacific (CPPS, October 2001)

Eastern Africa

40. Review of National Legislations and Institutions Relevant to Tourism, Mangroves, Ports, Land Reclamation and damming of Rivers in Selected Countries along the Western Indian Ocean
41. Regional Overview of the Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitat in the Western Indian Ocean Region
42. An assessment of the Socio-economic Implications of Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats due to Coastal Tourism, Mangrove Destruction, Mining, Ports, Land Reclamation and Damming of Rivers in the Western Indian Ocean region
43. Overview Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats in the Eastern African region using Geographical Information System
44. Shoreline Change in the Western Indian Ocean Region: An Overview
45. Mangroves of East Africa (in association with UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre) 2003
46. Overview of Socio-economic Opportunities Related to Sewage Management of the Coastal Urban Centres of the Eastern Africa Region
47. Cost–Benefit Analysis Case Studies in Eastern Africa for the Global Programme of Action Strategic Action Plan on Sewage (Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam, UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, 2002)