

# GPA Outreach



22nd August 2006

GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE  
ENVIRONMENT FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

World Water Week  
Series Issue 2

## WASTEWATER

### Municipal Wastewater Management



Some four children die every minute in developing countries from diseases caused by unsafe water and inadequate sanitation. On average, 250 million cases of gastroenteritis occur worldwide every year from bathing in contaminated water, and 50,000-100,000 people die from infectious hepatitis. The global burden of human disease caused by sewage pollution of coastal waters has been estimated at 4 million lost person-years annually.

The discharge of untreated domestic wastewater has been identified as a major source of pollution in most of the UNEP Regional Seas. About 90% of sewage and 70% of industrial wastes in developing countries are discharged into water courses without treatment, often polluting the usable water supply. Coral reefs and precious habitats are disappearing and biodiversity is decreasing, fishing and agricultural potential are being lost, while poor water quality is reducing income from tourism and the value of real estate.

Such concerns have helped push the international community to ensure that the targets of the 2000 Millennium Development Goals and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) address improved access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. The target agreed by the WSSD on water and sanitation is 'to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation.'

Population growth, rapid urbanization, and increasing water supply and sanitation provision to meet the 2015 targets will all generate increased problems from wastewater pollution. At present, only about a tenth of the domestic wastewater in developing countries is collected, and only about a tenth of existing wastewater treatment plants operate reliably and efficiently. Ignoring wastewater pollution issues proves costly, in human, ecological and financial terms. Discharging untreated wastewater to the natural environment directly affects the primary resource for drinking water supply, essential ecosystem functions and the sustainable use of water. Increasing sanitation coverage, therefore, requires public sewage collection and treatment systems, so as to prevent raw sewage from entering groundwater, surface waters and coastal areas. A sustainable approach to sanitation includes wastewater collection, treatment and reuse. Reusing wastewater should be considered more often as an important option, especially in water-scarce regions. Also ecological sanitation has proven to be a viable alternative to implement in different local settings. Overall, the same number of people in both urban and rural areas (1.1 billion) will require improved sanitation by the target year of 2015. This means that 400,000 additional people will have to be supplied with services each day.

A global consensus is emerging on how to address municipal wastewater collection and treatment in a sustainable manner. Guidelines on Municipal Wastewater Management and its Ten Key Principles for local and national action were considered by over 100 countries at the UNEP/GPA Intergovernmental Review meeting in 2001. Aimed at setting a new global standard in the field of sustainable municipal wastewater management, the Ten Key Principles cover policy issues, management approaches, technology selection and financing mechanisms. They have been developed jointly by UNEP, the World Health Organization, UN-HABITAT and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, and supported by UNICEF as a result of the jointly established Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater.

Best practices and successful innovative approaches urgently need intensifying and scaling up. Sharing knowledge on appropriate and environmentally sound technologies is a current practice among others through sourcebooks and web-based knowledge bases like

*GPA Outreach supports the preparatory work for the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA)*

*This World Water Week Series of GPA Outreach is produced by Stakeholder Forum and the Global Forum on Oceans Coasts and Islands, in collaboration with the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office and the Stockholm International Water Institute.*





22nd August 2006

GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE  
ENVIRONMENT FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

World Water Week  
Series Issue 2

## WASTEWATER continued

*Continued from Page 1*

### Guidelines on Municipal Wastewater Management:

#### 10 Key Principles

1. Secure political commitment and domestic financial resources as absolute prerequisites for appropriate wastewater management.
2. Create an enabling environment for sustainable solutions at both national and local levels.
3. Develop integrated and demand-driven management systems combining the collection and treatment of wastewater with drinking water supply and the provision of sanitation services.
4. Prevent pollution at the source, use water efficiently, and apply appropriate low cost technologies for wastewater treatment.
5. Make water users and polluters pay for services based on social equity and solidarity to reach cost-recovery.
6. Use time-bound targets and indicators for environmental integrity as well as on public health or economic welfare to make actions successful.
7. Implement measures step-by-step while exploring alternatives to reach long-term management goals.
8. Involve all stakeholders through partnership from the very beginning to secure their commitment.
9. Link the municipal wastewater sector to other economic sectors to ensure financial stability and sustainability.
10. Introduce innovative financial mechanisms, including private sector involvement.

Sanitation Connection (SANICON). Capacity building through pilot projects and training 'on the spot' will enhance further implementation. Partnerships that actively and effectively implement innovative approaches are key to success. These partnerships rely heavily upon strong commitment, shared responsibilities and – just as important – shared risks among all stakeholders.

During the UNEP/GPA Second Intergovernmental Review (IGR-2) a Partnership Day will be held on GPA related issues, including on Municipal Wastewater and Sanitation, in which relevant partners will participate. These organisations play a crucial role in implementing the GPA Municipal Wastewater and Sanitation programme, either through their own activities or in partnership with governments and other stakeholders. During the IGR-2 a forum will be provided where existing partnerships implementing this GPA programme can meet, chart a course of action for the coming five years, and interact with the government representatives and other stakeholders participating in IGR-2. In addition the creation of new partnerships will be encouraged, which could contribute to the implementation of the Wastewater and Sanitation programme. See page 5 for more information.

For further details on the Municipal Wastewater and Sanitation Programme, see <http://www.gpa.unep.org/bin/php/programs/sap/index.php>

Cees van de Guchte  
UNEP/GPA Coordination Office  
[c.vandeguchte@unep.nl](mailto:c.vandeguchte@unep.nl)

## The Train-Sea-Coast GPA Receives New Funding

### **The Wastewater Problem**

In many parts of the world, sewage is discharged directly into open water without treatment. Such uncontrolled discharge is one of the most serious threats to the productivity and biodiversity of the world's oceans.

### **Training as part of the solution**

The GPA joined forces with the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, the United Nations Development Programme UNDP and in the framework of the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea DOALOS Train-Sea-Coast Programme in response to the challenges faced by countries in addressing municipal wastewater problems.

The programme strengthens capacity at the local level towards:

- Achieving the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation target on sanitation
- Improving environmental conditions in coastal regions
- Improving human health.

The training courses offered contribute to building decentralized capacity by strengthening municipal efforts to identify, design and finance projects to collect and treat domestic wastewater. The programme trains managerial staff and facilitates stakeholder involvement and thereby strengthens a weak link in the chain between political decisions at the national level and implementation at the local level.

*Continued on Page 5*

# GPA Outreach



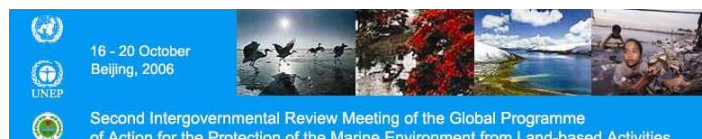
22nd August 2006

GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE  
ENVIRONMENT FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

World Water Week  
Series Issue 2

## IGR-2 UPDATE

### ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS IN THE IGR-2 AND PREPARATORY PROCESS



*IGR-2 Update aims to provide key information about the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. Articles in this World Water Week Series of GPA Outreach will include details on the IGR-2 preparatory process, agenda, and supporting documents.*

On 16-20 October 2006, the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) will be held in Beijing, China. The Intergovernmental Review Meetings are a forum where Governments and other stakeholders meet to review the status of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and decide on action to be taken to strengthen the implementation of the GPA.

Throughout the preparatory process of the IGR-2, a series of consultations have been organised by the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office to gather feedback on various agenda items of IGR-2. A number of partners and organisations have offered their support to this process. To this end, Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future is partnering with the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office to conduct stakeholder consultations in preparation for the IGR-2. The purpose of these dialogues is to enable a broad range of local, national, and regional stakeholders (including those who are unable to attend the IGR-2 in China) to share their positions and experiences on protection of the marine environment in advance of the IGR-2.

In preparation for the IGR-2, an Informal Preparatory Meeting was held on 27-28 June 2006 in Paris, France. Some 50 representatives from 23 countries attended the meeting to advance the preparation of the draft official documents for IGR-2 and to seek guidance on some of the issues to be addressed during the Ministerial Segment of IGR-2. During the middle of June, Stakeholder Forum convened consultations in London and New York with representatives from Major Groups and other stakeholders. Non-governmental organizations, trade unions, women, and youth were among the Major Groups represented. The purpose of the meetings was to develop stakeholder inputs to the IGR-2 Preparatory Meeting, including specific amendments to the draft Beijing

Declaration. Felix Dodds, Executive Director of the Stakeholder Forum, attended the Preparatory Meeting to represent these stakeholder inputs. A summary of this position is available at [www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa.html](http://www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa.html)

Stakeholder Forum is also hosting regional stakeholder consultations on the GPA in collaboration with the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office. In March at the World Water Forum, it organised an event for stakeholder from the Latin American and Caribbean Region. Workshop participants identified problems, challenges, and constraints to protecting the marine environment from land-based activities and developed recommendations for furthering the implementation of the GPA.

To support the preparatory work for the IGR-2, Stakeholder Forum has developed a dedicated website to provide stakeholders with easy access to background information and official documents ([www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa.html](http://www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa.html)). Stakeholder Forum also publishes a monthly online newsletter in collaboration with the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office, *GPA Outreach*, to inform stakeholders of the latest developments in the preparatory process for the IGR-2 and provide background information on GPA related issues.

From 19-30 June, Stakeholder Forum, in collaboration with the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office, also hosted an online dialogue on the theme of *Our Expanding Urban Coast: A Threat to the Marine Environment and Human Health*. The purpose of the online dialogue was to raise awareness of the GPA and to collect stakeholder experiences, lessons learned and best practices. Over 120 people from more than 40 countries signed up to the online dialogue to explore the links between the marine environment, coastal urbanization and Integrated Management Approaches, Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitat, and Nutrients.

In the upcoming two months, Stakeholder Forum will continue its work of engaging stakeholders in the preparatory process of the IGR-2. Two events on the GPA will take place at World Water Week in Stockholm. Please see page 6 for more information. We look forward to your active participation!



22nd August 2006

GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE  
ENVIRONMENT FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

World Water Week  
Series Issue 2

## PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

### **Towards a Successful Sustainable Sanitation Implementation 2006-2015: A Partnership on Municipal Wastewater and Sanitation**

*Day 2 of the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the Global Programme of Action is Partnerships Day. The Partnerships Day is a forum where existing and new partnerships that implement the GPA will meet and interact with government representatives and other stakeholders participating in IGR-2. Partnership Spotlight aims to profile a selection of the more than twenty Partnerships that will be featured at the IGR-2.*

The Global Programme of Action's Strategic Action Plan (SAP) on Municipal Wastewater, jointly developed with UNEP, World Health Organization (WHO), UN-HABITAT and Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), was adopted at the GPA's first Intergovernmental Review Meeting in 2001 in Montreal, Canada. The Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater has been prepared to further develop the guidance given on sewage in the Global Programme of Action and to promote concrete action at the local and national levels aimed at addressing sewage as one of the major source categories impacting the coastal and marine environment, particularly by promoting the use of alternative solutions, including low cost technologies, appropriate financial mechanisms and partnerships and creating an enabling environment for action.

Within this framework, a set of Guidelines on Municipal Wastewater Management and the associated 10 Keys for local and national action were developed. UNICEF also supports the 10 Keys. Aimed at setting a new global standard in the field of sustainable municipal wastewater management, the 10 Keys cover policy issues, management approaches, technology selection and financing mechanisms. (See pages 1-2 for more information).



A sustainable approach to sanitation includes wastewater collection, treatment and reuse. Overall, the same number of people in both urban and rural areas (1.1 billion) will require improved sanitation by the MDG-target year of 2015.

The UNEP/WHO/WSSCC/UN-HABITAT/UNICEF partnership will use the opportunity given during IGR-2 to discuss revision of the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal

Wastewater with a view of including the present work of the GPA on urban sanitation, as well as rural sanitation, in order to address the environmental dimension of sanitation, following the UNEP Governing Council Decision 23/2, Paragraph 9.

The UN Task Force on Water and Sanitation and the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (March 2006) will raise awareness and gear up political will on three main aspects: hygiene promotion, household sanitary arrangements and sewage treatment, and also promote the sustainable approach to sanitation in order to broadcast the messages of CSD12 and CSD 13. Greater attention will be paid to the development and application of capacity of implementing organisations in line with the UNEP Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Transfer and Capacity Building.

In order to continue addressing the wastewater and sanitation issues at the global, regional and national level, the partnership will collaborate on a number of issues:

- **Assessment:** Contribute to the special report series of the Joint Monitoring Programme on Water and Sanitation (JMP, WHO/UNICEF) addressing the discharge of municipal wastewater.
- **Policy and normative action:** Continue to disseminate and promote the effective use of the existing 10 Keys and Guidelines on Municipal Wastewater Management, as well as the extension of SAP on rural sanitation; and continue to promote the sustainable sanitation cycle, comprising wastewater collection, treatment, re-use and safe reallocation to the natural environment thus contributing to the achievement of the JPOI 2015 target on Sanitation.

The Partnership aims to produce a Revised Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater on urban and rural sanitation; jointly develop a JMP special report addressing the discharge of municipal wastewater with UNEP partnering with UN-HABITAT in the WHO/UNICEF lead JMP report, which is the institutionalised forum to report on progress made with respect to the MDG/WSSD targets on Water and Sanitation. The Partnership will also jointly develop a best practices report on the promotion of the sustainable sanitation cycle; promote and better integrate the environment dimension in the project formulation cycle; and ensure more sustainability through the implementation of activities in the partners' work programme.

*Continued on Page 5*

# GPA Outreach



22nd August 2006

GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE  
ENVIRONMENT FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

World Water Week  
Series Issue 2

*Continued from Page 4*

For IGR-2, the Partnership will prepare the following materials, which will be distributed at a workshop on Partnerships Day at IGR-2, to be held on October 17, 2006:

- UN-Water Thematic Initiative: "Issue paper Sanitation Access" on collaborative activities of UN-agencies on how to contribute to the "Water for Life" Decade, 2005-2015.
- Updated sourcebook on environmentally sound technologies (if possible a workshop will be organised during which the existing UNEP IETC's "Environmentally Sound Technologies in Wastewater Treatment for the Implementation of the UNEP/GPA Guidance on Municipal Wastewater" and the IETC/IWA published "International Source Book on Environmentally Sound Technologies for Wastewater and Stormwater Management" will be discussed).

Experts in the field will be invited to speak at the workshop, which will be followed by a discussion on future challenges for joint implementation of the Partnership.

*For more information about this Partnership, please contact:*

Mr. Cees van de Guchte  
Senior Programme Officer  
UNEP/GPA  
The Hague, The Netherlands  
Email: [c.vandeguchte@unep.nl](mailto:c.vandeguchte@unep.nl)  
<http://www.gpa.unep.org/bin/php/programs/sap/index.php>

*Continued from Page 2*

## New funding

With major new funding from the European Union-African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Water Facility and the Global Environment Facility GEF, this programme will expand in the coming three years and is expected to train an additional 1,200 experts in 60 course deliveries.

## Languages and local instructors

The training material is fully documented and already exists in English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian,

and Turkish translations. North-South knowledge transfer is combined with South-South knowledge sharing. An increasing pool of local instructors are involved in anchoring the training courses in the local context.

*"I learned quite a bit during the five day training and can honestly say I will apply the process in my course of work here at Guam EPA."*

Si Yuus Maase, course participant in  
Guam, Northern Pacific, June 2006

## Technology Support to Island States

As part of the programme activities in the Pacific region, a CD-ROM was compiled by UNEP/GPA and UNESCO-IHE jointly with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme SPREP, the University of the South Pacific and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission SOPAC. The CD-ROM contains:

- A compendium of technologies appropriate for Pacific islands,
- A tutorial in Project Cycle management to identify feasible solutions,
- Three software tools to support decision-making, and
- A document library with 100 publications on management and technologies.

## Achievements until the IGR-2

Between December 2003 and July 2006, a total of 380 professional from 28 countries in Africa, Europe, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific have been trained. Most of the beneficiary countries are party to the various Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and represent an integral part of the implementation of the UNEP/GPA at the regional level. Ten of these countries belong to the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The next course is scheduled August 2006 for the Regional Organization for the Environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA).

More information about this training is available at: <http://www.gpa.unep.org/training>

*"Although the course was about wastewater management, my major benefit from the course was that I have gained a new perspective for problem solving. Problem analysis and objective analysis parts extended my vision. Thanks."*

Fatih Anket, course participant in  
Trabzon, Turkey, September 2005

# GPA Outreach



22nd August 2006

GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE  
ENVIRONMENT FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

World Water Week  
Series Issue 2

## GPA EVENTS AT WORLD WATER WEEK

### Developing Solutions to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities: Stakeholder Consultation

Tuesday 22 August, 2006

Evening Session (17:15-18:45), Folkets Hus, Room 300, World Water Week in Stockholm

In preparation for the GPA's Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2), which will be held in Beijing, China from 16-20 October, this side event will bring together stakeholders from around the world to discuss issues threatening the marine environment. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment and prepare a position on the draft *Beijing Declaration on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities*, while discussing the roles of stakeholders and national governments in developing solutions to these problems. The outcomes of this side-event will input into the upcoming GPA's IGR-2.

#### Agenda

- Presentation on the Global Programme of Action and IGR-2
- Presentation by representative of the Government of China on the IGR-2 in China (to be confirmed)
- Presentation by Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, Co-Chair and Head of Secretariat, Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands on the role of partnerships and Partnerships Day at IGR-2
- Presentation by Felix Dodds, Executive Director of Stakeholder Forum on stakeholder engagement in the preparations for the IGR-2
- Question and Answer/discussion in response to the presentations
- Review of the advance copy of the *Beijing Declaration on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities* and preparation of stakeholder position and input to the Declaration

As a follow up to the side-event on Tuesday, a second meeting will take place on Wednesday at World Water Week:

### African Stakeholder Consultation: Developing Solutions to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in the African Context

Wednesday 23 August, 2006

Lunch Session (12:15-13:15)

Norra Latin, Room 255

This meeting will bring together stakeholders from Africa and those working on water issues in Africa to consider the GPA in the context of the African context.

For information on the outcomes of these events, please visit [www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa.html](http://www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa.html)

## ABOUT UNEP/GPA



The GPA was adopted in 1995 by 108 Governments and the European Commission in response to the increasing threat to the marine environment from human activities on land. The GPA is designed to be a source of conceptual and practical guidance for national and/or regional authorities for devising and implementing sustained action to prevent, reduce, control and/or eliminate marine degradation from land-based activities.

The United Nations Environment Programme acts as the secretariat for the GPA. The UNEP/GPA Coordination Office, located in The Hague, The Netherlands supports the implementation of the GPA by: promoting and facilitating the implementation of the GPA at the national level and the regional and sub-regional level and playing a catalytic role with other organisations and institutions in the implementation of the GPA at the international level.

For more information please visit [www.gpa.unep.org](http://www.gpa.unep.org)

## CONTACTS

- For general GPA enquiries, including information about IGR-2 please email [igr2@unep.nl](mailto:igr2@unep.nl) or telephone +31 70 311 4460.
- For information on this newsletter, contact Jennifer Peer at [jpeer@stakeholderforum.org](mailto:jpeer@stakeholderforum.org) or Miriam Balgos at [mbalgos@UDeI.Edu](mailto:mbalgos@UDeI.Edu)