

GPA 3rd Intergovernmental Review and Global Conference on Land – Ocean Connections



UNEP – Freshwater & Marine waters

- **Marine and Coastal Strategy** – “prosperous and healthy oceans and coasts where conservation, productivity and resource use are sustainable”
- **Water Policy and Strategy**
- **Specialized Programmes** - Marine & Coastal Ecosystems; Coral Reef, SIDS, Regional Seas Programme, Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), Freshwater and

Land-Oceans
Connections



Ecosystems for
Human Wellbeing



Reconciling Use &
Conservation



Vulnerable People
& Places



GPA

- The GPA is a flexible multilateral programme to protect coastal ecosystems from land-based activities
- Intergovernmental mechanism explicitly addressing the linkages between freshwater, coastal and marine environments
- Priority source categories include sewage, nutrients, marine litter, and physical alteration and destruction of habitats (PADH)
- Regional implementation facilitated and supported by/through RSCAPs
- Intergovernmental reviews every 5 years – next 25-27 January 2012



INTERNATIONAL
MARINE DEBRIS CONFERENCE



Land – Oceans Connections

- To fill knowledge and policy gaps among the land, water and marine managements
- Water entering coastal areas and land-based human activities are managed to maintain, or where necessary, restore conditions that optimise ecosystem services and associated benefits . This encompasses management of river basins, addressing land-based pollution, coastal habitat management, and promoting best available practices and technologies
- Understand and communicate factors affecting functions of coastal ecosystems
- Source categories (nutrients, sewage, marine litter, physical alteration and destruction of habitats, etc.)
- Support to national efforts in addressing land-based activities affecting the marine and coastal environment, and mainstreaming these in national development planning and framework

Freshwater/
river basins

Delta/Estuaries

Coastal areas

EEZ

High Seas



3rd Inter-governmental Review of GPA

- Review the progress of GPA implementation since IGR2, adopt the Programme of Work for next five years, Receive policy guidance on a further implementation of GPA, Manila Ministerial Declaration;
- Held in Manila during 25-27 January 2012
- Seeking discussion and adoption on policy direction. UNEP intends to use this as the inter-governmental mechanism to discuss not only pure GPA issues, but also the marine and coastal issues relevant to UNEP's Freshwater, Marine and Coastal Programme e.g., green economy in a blue world, blue carbon.
- The results should feed into Rio+20, meaning alignment of discussion to green economy, governance and emerging issues. The last global marine and freshwater related inter-governmental meeting UNEP has before the Rio+20.



GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON LAND-OCEAN CONNECTIONS (GLOC)

- Scientific and Technical Sessions, **23-24 January 2012** to discuss emerging issues and science-policy linkages , feeding results into the IGR-3
- More flexible arrangements, involving our governmental, international and regional organisations
- A number of emerging issues will be highlighted. Emerging issues selection ongoing in alignment with UNEP Foresight Process
- Science-policy linkage discussion from the green economy perspective, governance/policy perspective (Integrated Coastal Management, River Basin Management)



Opportunities for regional seas conventions and action plans

- Regional Seas coordinated under the UNEP umbrella, to provide regional seas input to UNEP's sole global intergovernmental mechanism where Governments discuss a wider Marine and Coastal environmental issues;
- GLOC – international conference where regional seas conventions and action plans can bring their key programmatic issues to global discussion. The proposed session (3 hours) on regional seas is an opportunity to discuss further input to IGR-3.
- GLOC and IGR-3 – opportunities to demonstrate achievements and partnerships in regional seas and develop new partnership
- IGR3 – Opportunity to bring to inter-governmental attention issues that require inter-governmental attention and discussion, particularly future Rio+20 discussion.

Achievements related at the regional scale

- National and regional plans of action developed or facilitated through the regional seas mechanisms;
- Implementation of the NAPs facilitated, e.g. Mediterranean.
- LBS/A protocols developed and adopted. Implementation started in some of the regions;
- Source category specific actions are undertaken – e.g., RAPs on marine litter, wastewater training courses and financial mechanism
- Wider integrated coastal and ecosystem management initiatives

Future policy direction: “Towards Greener Coastal Economy”

With lower resource input and higher resource efficiency, achieving economic growth and employment creation without compromising climate change and environmental quality

- We highlight the value and contribution of marine and coastal ecosystems and well-managed human land-based activities to a greener coastal economy;
- These values and contributions should be appropriately incorporated into Integrated Coastal Management schemes at the national, regional and global levels;



“Towards Greener Coastal Economy”

- Linking with Water Quality
- Linking with Coastal and associated Freshwater Ecosystem Services
- Pursue connection with food security, sanitation and climate change benefits

- Key mechanisms so far are: National Plans of Action (NPAs), many of which were incorporated into a wider environmental policies, Integrated Coastal Management frameworks; These frameworks for NPA implementation will be used or possibly modified to realise the transition towards a greener coastal economy

“Greener Coastal Economy”

Issues of highlight

- Introducing ecosystem-based approach, more specifically incorporating ecosystem services into planning and management of coastal areas and associated river basins;
- Application of natural resource efficient approaches, following 3R (reduce, recycle and reuse) and linked with water quality management;
- Implementation of the NPAs under a broader policy framework such as Integrated Coastal Management scheme, based on the ecosystem-based approach and resource efficient programmes;
- Within the framework of Sustainable Coastal Development, the countries move towards a Greener Coastal Economy



Ecosystem-based Approach

- Optimise the use and benefit of ecosystem services in planning, management and decision-making in the coastal zones and associated river basins;
- The values and actual benefits are appropriately considered for decision-making on the investments in the coastal areas and associated river basins, through ecosystem services valuation;
- The functional linkages and trade-offs among the ecosystem services associated with sectors involved in the coastal areas and associated river basins are clearly presented to inter-sectoral discussion. Regulation services may be linked with nutrient, water and energy cycling – linkages with food security, climate change and water productivity; and
- Linkage between freshwater and coastal waters may be discussed based on the ecosystem-based connections or taking the coastal area-river basin as one ecosystem.

Resource efficiency linked with water quality management

- Pollution source categories of GPA should not be seen only as pollutants. Many of these are resources to be used for human benefits;
- Removing from the pollution reduction approach to resource approach, involving removal of pollution sources for reduce, recycle and reuse of these materials as resources.
- Water quality management as water management interface with food security (reuse of nutrients and organics), water use efficiency, climate change (removal and recycling of BOD/COD - carbon).
- Recycling, reuse and reduce would lead to resource-based benefits as well as creation of employments – transition to green economy

Policy messages that the Governments may agree

- The challenge is not to prompt Governments to recognise the benefits of coastal and marine ecosystems, but to provide Governments with means and rationale to incorporate these in their planning and management.
- Improved ecosystem resilience and services and enhanced resource efficiency could lead to Greener Coastal Economy within the framework of NPA implementation and possible under a wider policy framework such as Integrated Coastal Management
- We are not proposing a new approach, but rather re-align the existing policy frameworks to emerging issues and concepts with the objective of transiting to Green Economy in Coastal Areas

Policy outcomes from IGR

- The GPA as re-energised and cooperative inter-governmental mechanism, includes a more flexible working processes addressing emerging issues and developing targets and policy frameworks (shorter planning timescale);
- The GPA source categories may be addressed through ecosystem-based approach and resource efficiency with focus on nutrients, sewage and marine litter for the coming five years;
- The targets of the GPA taking these approaches are impacting sectors and resource users (through water quality and resource use focus) and Governments (through incorporation of these approaches in policy frameworks); and
- The GPA to seek commitments on transitioning to Greener Coastal Economy. The GPA could set targets and indicators to give substances to Government commitments to be monitored through Regular Process.



Leading to Rio+20

- Green Economy in the framework of Sustainable Development – highlighting the green economy in a Blue World, and green economy in SIDS. Contribution of marine and coastal ecosystems to green economy;
- Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development – Review of ICM and IWRM, which may lead to a modified global policy framework, incorporating ecosystem services and green economy transition; and
- Emerging issues – water quality in developing countries, coastal ecosystem services, including climate change related services (blue carbon) with clear linkage with UNEP's Foresight Processes.



Possible elements for Programme of Work for LINEP (Programmatic approach)

Global Multi-stakeholder Partnerships – Nutrient, Marine Litter and Wastewater

- On-line information management system, sharing lessons learnt, good practices and available and acceptable technologies
- Demonstration projects, which pilot test innovative approaches and technologies, embodying ecosystem-based approach and resource efficient/3R approaches
- Network of experts, institutions and Governments, as well as private sectors
- Mobilised financial resources

Possible elements for Programme of Work for LINEP (Programmatic approach)

Development of policy tools and their application, also linked
with global partnerships

- ICM and IWRM incorporating ecosystem approach and realising transition to green economy;
- Resource efficient approach incorporated into water quality management;
- Trade-off analysis among the ecosystem services and user sectors

Possible elements for Programme of Work for LINEP (Programmatic approach)

Blue Carbon Initiative

- Blue Carbon Forum (?);
- Methodologies for carbon accounting and coastal ecosystem valuation;
- Demonstration of habitat management
- Use of carbon related funding

Global Water Quality Challenge

- Development of international water quality guidelines from the ecosystem perspectives
- Global overview of the water quality issues
- Technology matrix.

Possible elements for Programme of Work for LINEP (Coordination function)

To be undertaken by UNEP

- Organisation of Inter-Governmental Review meetings; and
- Inter-sessional activities with the main focus on identification of emerging issues and setting targets

Not to be pursued by UNEP

- Information clearing house mechanism - only through the global partnerships
- Global assessment - only through Regular Process
- Haphazard partnerships – focus on global partnerships with specific targets



Discussion items for regional seas conventions and action plans

- Input from the regional seas conventions and action plans, concerning achievements in achieving the priority issues UNEP would like to bring forward at the GLOC and IGR; and
- Policy issues emanating from regional seas inter-governmental processes, to be brought forward to global discussion;
- Any future policy direction for contributing to and participating in the GPA programme of work for the coming five years; and
- Organisation of the regional seas session during GLOC

Looking forward to further discussion on GPA implementation

