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Conventions and Action Plans**

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## **GPA SUMMARY FOR REGIONAL SEAS**

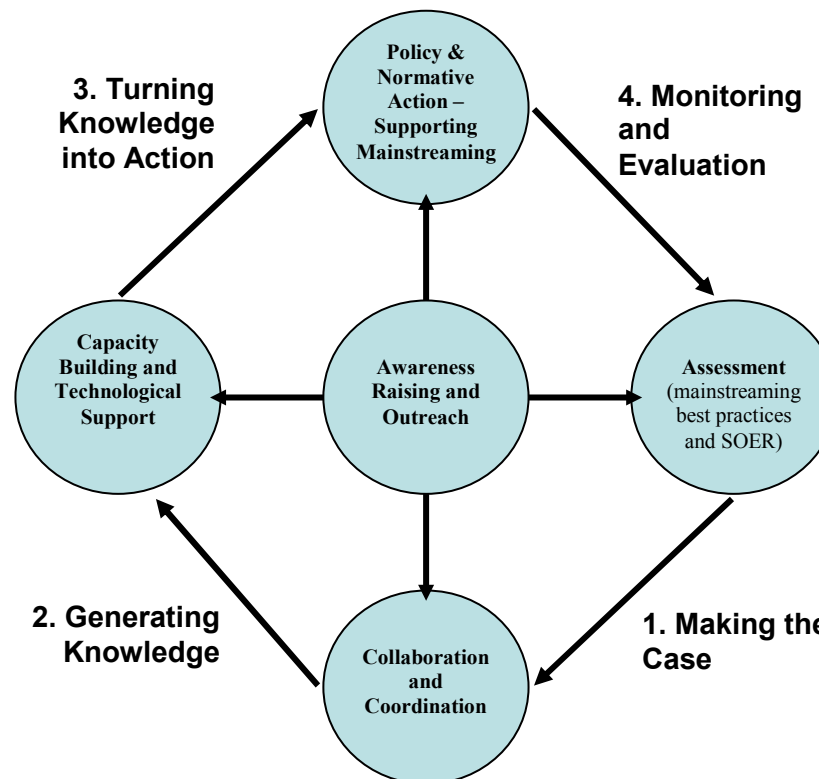
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Table of MCEB Activities relating to the GPA-Marine, 2009-2011  
An information document for the Regional Seas Programmes

***UNEP’s overarching objective in relation to the GPA-Marine is to encourage and support governments at all levels in their respective efforts to advance governance and policy reforms, ecosystem-based management, poverty alleviation and sustainable development at the interface of land and sea***

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intergovernmental Review (IGR2) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA-Marine) in Beijing in 2006, governments determined that the period 2007 – 2011 would “focus on mainstreaming the implementation of the GPA in national development planning and budgetary mechanisms”. Governments indicated that “mainstreaming will require integration of the GPA across sectors and ministries and also integration into domestic and international aid budgets, development plans, strategies and actions.” To assist them in their efforts to implement the GPA, governments recommended that UNEP conduct activities at international, regional and national scales under the following five categories: Collaboration and coordination; Policy and normative action; Capacity-building and technology support; Assessment; and Awareness-raising and outreach. These areas of focus are complementary to UNEP’s Ecosystem Management Programme (Figure 1)

**Figure 1: GPA-Marine Focal Areas**



MCEB Activity	Description of Activities
<p><b>Policy and Normative Action</b></p>	<p>UNEP's Marine &amp; Coastal Ecosystems Branch (MCEB) wants to better communicate the social &amp; economic dividends of investing in GPA-Marine related activities and to highlight how the implementation of the GPA-Marine contributes to helping coastal ecosystems adapt to climate change. In 2009/10, MCEB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• initiated support to DR Congo and Vietnam to develop and implement National Programmes of Action working with UNDP and other in-country agencies to ensure a 'OneUN' and a 'One UNEP' approach; and</li> <li>• held regional mainstreaming workshops in Guayaquil, Ecuador and in Manila, the Philippines in 2009 to share lessons learned from other countries in those regions and to try to identify and progress increased mainstreaming opportunities for national programmes of action</li> </ul> <p>Subject to available funds, UNEP will encourage the mainstreaming of GPA-Marine objectives by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consolidating NPA guidelines, EBM markers &amp; mainstreaming publications, including policy papers on GPA-Marine categories and emerging/pressing issues, e.g. desalination, climate change;</li> <li>• developing the Blue Diamond campaign highlighting economic and social returns on investment in national action;</li> <li>• organising regional mainstreaming workshops in Africa, Asia and Latin America;</li> <li>• supporting the Regional Seas to promote regional implementation of the GPA.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Assessment</b></p>	<p>Assessment activities fall into two categories: (1) Assessment of national action to mainstream the GPA-Marine; and (2) Assessment of the bio-physical environment, i.e. State of the Environment Reporting.</p> <p>1. As there is no compulsory reporting framework under the GPA, efforts will be directed at assessing measures taken by governments (with an emphasis on best practices) to mainstream the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• developing a web-based tool for country reporting;</li> <li>• promoting voluntary reporting through name-and-praise activities, e.g. the Blue Diamond Award;</li> <li>• preparing "lessons learned" reports in select countries;</li> <li>• supporting the Regional Seas to conduct regional assessments of GPA implementation;</li> <li>• compiling a global assessment of GPA implementation for IGR3, including status, trends, opportunities, etc.; and</li> <li>• conducting an assessment of pesticide management practices in coastal areas.</li> </ul> <p>2. The MCEB is leading efforts to adopt and implement a Regular Process of the assessment of the marine environment. If funding is available, MCEB will also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support regional workshops on emerging/pressing issues in the marine environment, e.g. microplastics;</li> <li>• Host a global conference on emerging/pressing issues; and</li> <li>• Prepare a global report on the presence of pesticides in coastal and marine waters and their impact on select marine ecosystems, including seagrass meadows and coral reefs.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Collaboration &amp; Coordination</b></p> <p><i>Nutrients</i></p> <p><i>Wastewater/ Sewage</i></p> <p><i>Marine Litter</i></p>	<p>MCEB is leading the establishment, development and secretariat for a multi-stakeholder forum: ‘The Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM)’, aiming at reducing nutrients entering water systems and ultimately coastal areas. Outputs from this initiative include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an assessment of nutrient over-enrichment in coastal waters, including the extent and frequency of hypoxia;</li> <li>• an understanding the combined affect of diffuse sources (e.g. agriculture), point sources (e.g. wastewater treatment facilities) and natural sources (e.g. ocean upwellings);</li> <li>• sharing information on nutrients, their role in food production and their impact (positive and negative) on the environment;</li> <li>• sharing experiences (lessons and practices) in managing nutrients; and</li> <li>• show-casing tools and best practices, including farming practices, legislation and policies, market-based instruments, training, nutrient mining from wastewater, etc.</li> <li>• MCEB has secured a US\$3.5 GEF project for a large scale global nutrient management project. Demonstration regions are in the process of being selected. Implementation is planned to commence in Spring 2011.</li> </ul> <p>During 2009, a total of 29 training courses on wastewater management for municipal managers were held in 18 countries where 773 experts were trained (since 2003, 1800 people have been trained from 67 countries). Plans are underway to hold the training course in Spanish in Panama (only one course has been previously run in Spanish). Subject to available funding, this training will continue in 2010 and 2011.</p> <p>In 2010, MCEB launched a Rapid Assessment Report (RAR) on Wastewater Management. MCEB is now leading the UN-Water Taskforce on Wastewater Management to develop a multi-stakeholder collaborative agenda on sustainable wastewater management. The collaborative agenda will, amongst other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• place more emphasis on ecosystem-based approaches to wastewater management such as the protection and rehabilitation of coastal wetlands, ecologically safe re-use of wastewater and use of phyto-technology / eco-sanitation;</li> <li>• implement demonstration projects in wastewater eco-technology in coastal communities (if resources are available); and</li> <li>• explore sustainable financing arrangements for ecosystem-based wastewater management.</li> </ul> <p>In 2009, MCEB, in collaboration with the Regional Seas, launched a number of reports on Marine Litter. To further and deepen this work, MCEB intends to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• partner with the US government to host the International Marine Debris Conference in early 2011;</li> <li>• collaborate with NGOs to support and develop media campaigns highlighting the problems of marine litter;</li> <li>• provide funding to selected Regional Seas to support implementation of their Regional Marine Litter Action Plans</li> <li>• work with the respective Regional Seas organisations to identify donors and other resources to support localised action and awareness raising;</li> <li>• develop a multi-stakeholder collaborative partnership to improve our understanding of the problem of marine litter, and generate solutions to both prevent and retrieve marine litter (if resources are available);</li> <li>• work with UN-Habitat and the GEF to develop a new GEF project addressing solid waste management in coastal cities; and</li> <li>• work with relevant scientific and research organisations, including UNESCI-IOC to collect and synthesize information on marine litter and toxins.</li> </ul>
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<p><i>Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitat</i></p> <p><i>Other GPA-Marine Source Categories</i></p>	<p>Subject to available funding, MCEB will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• collaborate with UN-HABITAT and ICLEI to assess, develop and implement EBM adaptation strategies for coastal cities;</li> <li>• explore utilising the UN REDD programme to address rehabilitation/protection of mangrove forests;</li> <li>• partner with IMO to assess and determine policy responses to the submarine disposal of mine tailings; and</li> <li>• develop partnerships with stakeholders focussing on coastal infrastructure and linking coastal planners and engineers through developing codes of practice, and then develop demonstration projects that apply the codes of practice in select locations (if resources are available).</li> </ul> <p>• POPs, Heavy Metals, Radioactive Material, Sediment Mobilisation, Oils/Hydrocarbons</p> <p>Due to a lack of funding, MCEB is not currently working directly on the above GPA-Marine source categories. However fundraising is ongoing for work on marine litter &amp; toxins and GPA-Marine partnerships on water and nutrients will examine aspects of some of these source categories. Work on POPs is led by the Stockholm Convention Secretariat.</p>
<p><b>Capacity-building and technology support</b></p>	<p>The MCEB aims to develop training programmes in nutrient management and municipal wastewater management in coastal cities. The training will build on the long running wastewater training programme previously funded by the GEF and the EU.</p> <p>Subject to available funding, UNEP will also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• upgrade the GPA-Marine Clearinghouse Mechanism;</li> <li>• develop a GPA-Marine Planning/Decision Support Tool to help mainstreaming marine/coastal issues into development planning; and</li> <li>• organise a global pollution solutions conference to highlight the latest techniques and technology for preventing land-based sources of marine pollution.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Awareness-raising and outreach</b></p>	<p>UNEP will continue producing the GPA-Marine newsletter and develop a communication strategy for the GPA-Marine that is integrated with communication under the UNEP Marine &amp; Coastal Strategy and the DEPI Communications Strategy. Subject to available funds the MCEB will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revitalize the MCEB/GPA-Marine website;</li> <li>• Expand outreach activities to highlight UNEP's work on nutrient management, wastewater management, marine litter, the physical alteration and destruction of habitat, and the mainstreaming of national measures to protect the marine environment from land-based activities; and</li> <li>• Develop global campaigns on marine litter and pesticides in the marine environment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Intergovernmental Review (IGR3)</b></p>	<p>MCEB is currently working towards holding the 3rd intergovernmental review of the GPA-Marine in November 2011. The location is yet to be finalised.</p>