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The Glo**Ballast** Story: Reflections from a Global Family

**Partnerships to catalyze transformational
innovations in marine biosafety**

GloBallast Monograph Series No. 25



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Published in 2017 by
GloBallast Partnerships Project Coordination Unit
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
United Kingdom

Printed in the United Kingdom by Elephant Print, Lewes, East Sussex

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ISSN 1680-3078

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Please cite this document as: The GloBallast Story: Reflections from a Global Family. GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme. GloBallast Monograph No. 25.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication has been prepared by the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme (GloBallast) and the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) with contributions from all the stakeholders and participants in the Programme. The GloBallast Project Coordination Unit would like to thank the many individuals that have helped in the design, writing and production. In particular, we would like to thank all the national focal points of the GloBallast Lead Partnering Countries, all the Strategic Partners, colleagues at IMO and past members of the GloBallast Project Coordination Unit. Special thanks are due to Andrew Hudson (UNDP) and Christian Severin (GEF) for their constant support.

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FOREWORD



Naoko Ishii

CEO & Chairperson
Global Environment
Facility

Shipping is a great connector between continents, countries and cities—about 80 percent of international trade relies on shipping. However, global shipping is also a significant source of the spread of invasive alien species when ship's ballast water is not managed properly.

Invasive alien species often disrupt the local ecosystems, threaten local economies and livelihoods, cause diseases, and can even cause the loss of human life. Moreover, experience shows that once invasive alien species have been introduced and established, they are virtually impossible to eradicate. Preventing their arrival in the first place is the best strategy.

This was the fundamental rationale for GloBallast. For more than a decade – in partnership with IMO and UNDP – GloBallast has mobilized a broad coalition of more than 50 countries, shipping lines, port authorities and other stakeholders around a bold vision to eliminate ballast water as a key conduit for invasive alien species and a driver of global biodiversity loss.

The entry into force of the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention in September 2017 will be a crowning moment for our joint efforts. The BWM Convention provides a strong basis for the world to tackle this important problem, and it is also helping create the foundations for private sector investments in the global water ballast industry that may be worth US\$35 billion over the next decade.

Furthermore, the implementation of the Convention will directly support countries to address Aichi Biodiversity Targets towards addressing invasive alien species, their pathways to control them and curb the serious economic impact alien invasive species have in coastal countries.

The GEF recognizes the critical need for global action to support ocean governance to ensure the sustainability of the shared resources in our oceans. Since its establishment, the GEF has become a large financier of transboundary investments in the world's oceans with over US\$1.1 billion in grants, leveraging more than US\$7.7 billion in funding from other sources.

I am proud of the GEF's role as a key partner in the GloBallast programme. GloBallast is an excellent illustration on how crucial multi-stakeholder coalitions are providing long term solutions to protect our oceans and ultimately, our global commons.

FOREWORD



Andrew Hudson

Head, Water & Ocean Governance
Programme, Global Environmental
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Support



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Welcome to the final GloBallast monograph, *The GloBallast Story: Reflections from a Global Family*. As lead for the International Waters portfolio at UNDP/GEF, I have had the unique pleasure and privilege to be involved in GloBallast from its initial conception in 1998, to its completion in June of 2017, a nearly twenty year period. It has been a truly remarkable journey, supporting and witnessing two sequential relatively modest sized GEF-financed projects play a highly catalytic role in transforming one of the world's largest industries towards addressing one of the most significant threats to ocean sustainability.

You might wonder why UNDP, with its mandate related to the eradication of poverty and reduction of inequalities and exclusion, should be so interested in a highly technical issue like ships' ballast water as an invasive species vector. In supporting countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development, UNDP helps countries to integrate environmental considerations into development plans and strategies, including through managing and sustainably using natural resources. We do this by helping countries to develop policies, leadership skills and stronger institutions to sustain development results.

These strategies dovetail very clearly to the objectives and approaches of GloBallast such as through its support to ballast water legal, policy and institutional reforms. We know that invasive species not only can impact large scale infrastructure vital to economic development (such as power plants), but also local communities, for example via invasives preying on or outcompeting important fish stocks that people depend upon for their livelihoods and food security. By helping countries and the shipping industry to reduce invasives risk, GloBallast has contributed to reducing poverty that can be caused or exacerbated by degraded marine ecosystems. This legacy will carry far into the future as industry compliance continues to reduce the overall risk of introductions and their impacts on people and economies.

Of the environmental challenges facing our oceans, such as overfishing, pollution and habitat loss, in many ways invasive species is the most pernicious. While it is possible to reduce overfishing and pollution, allowing marine ecosystems to recover, there are few if any successful examples of an established invasive aquatic being eradicated. This underscores the importance of the preventive approach built into the global convention on ship's ballast water and sediments, and GloBallast's overall strategic approach building national capacity for convention compliance and engaging both the shipping and ballast water treatment technology sectors.

Following receipt of the Finland ratification in summer 2016, the Convention achieved its required number of country and tonnage ratifications and will come into force in September 2017. Over the years, GloBallast has assisted many of the countries involved in the programme on ratification matters and clearly has played a catalytic role in advancing and achieving entry into force.

As GloBallast comes to an end, on both a personal and professional level, I want to take this opportunity to thank a number of UN and GEF colleagues, past and present, who have made key contributions to the many important impacts GloBallast has delivered over these almost twenty years. This includes IMO staff I worked with in the initial conceptualization of GloBallast like Henning Brathaug and Manfred Nauke, and Phil Reynolds at UNDP; the support we received from Al Duda, Andrea Merla and Peter Bjornsen at the GEF; the various heads of the IMO Marine Environment Division from Oleg Khalimonov, Jean-Claude Sainlos, Miguel Palomares and Jo Espinoza to Stefan Micallef. Each of the IMO Secretary Generals over this period – Bill O'Neill, Efthimios Metropoulos, Koji Sekimizu and Kitack Lim, have all provided their unequivocal support to the programme over the years, ensuring its continued success.

Lastly and perhaps most of all, I would like to thank and recognize the superb suite of Technical Advisors and programme staff the project has employed over the years – Dandu Pughiuc, Steve Raaymakers, Jose Matheickal, Fredrik Haag, Antoine Blonce, Aicha Cherif, John Alonso, Christine Gregory, Baharak Bashmani, Alexandra Puhl, Robert Macciochi, Canan Karadut, Bethel Worku and Mervin Nkole – whose tireless efforts enabled the GloBallast programme to deliver again and again and again.



FOREWORD

This is a milestone year for marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of the oceans with the entry into force, on 8 September, of the International Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention. This key treaty aims to reduce the transfer of potentially harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens through ships' ballast water.

2017 also sees the conclusion of the decade-long GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme. This project has played a key role in assisting beneficiary countries to reduce the risk of ballast water mediated bio-invasions and to prepare for implementation of the global landmark BWM treaty. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) executed the GloBallast Partnerships Programme in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This is a successful example of "delivery as one".

The GloBallast Programme was launched in 2007 after an initial four-year phase. Since then, GloBallast has developed a successful three-pronged implementation model of working with lead partnering countries, regional coordinating organizations and global strategic partners. It has also worked with the shipping industry and academia to catalyse knowledge-sharing, training and capacity building.

Among the tangible achievements of GloBallast are: specialized training packages; regular Ballast Water Management R&D Fora, which catalysed the development of ballast water treatment technologies; the formation of task forces and the development of strategies and action plans on ballast water management, involving more than 100 countries at the national and regional levels; and a pioneering public-private sector partnership, the Global Industry Alliance for Marine Biosecurity (GIA), just to name a few. This is a fine example of how global partnerships, as promoted by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17, can effectively encourage technology development and transfer to find innovative solutions to protect the marine environment.

As the United Nations agency responsible for developing and adopting measures to improve the safety and security of international shipping and to prevent pollution from ships, IMO has an integral role in contributing to meet the targets set out in SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. The story of GloBallast tells how IMO, alongside the



Kitack Lim
IMO Secretary-General



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