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Conventions and Action Plans**

Bergen, Norway, 20th – 22nd September 2010

GPA SUMMARY FOR REGIONAL SEAS

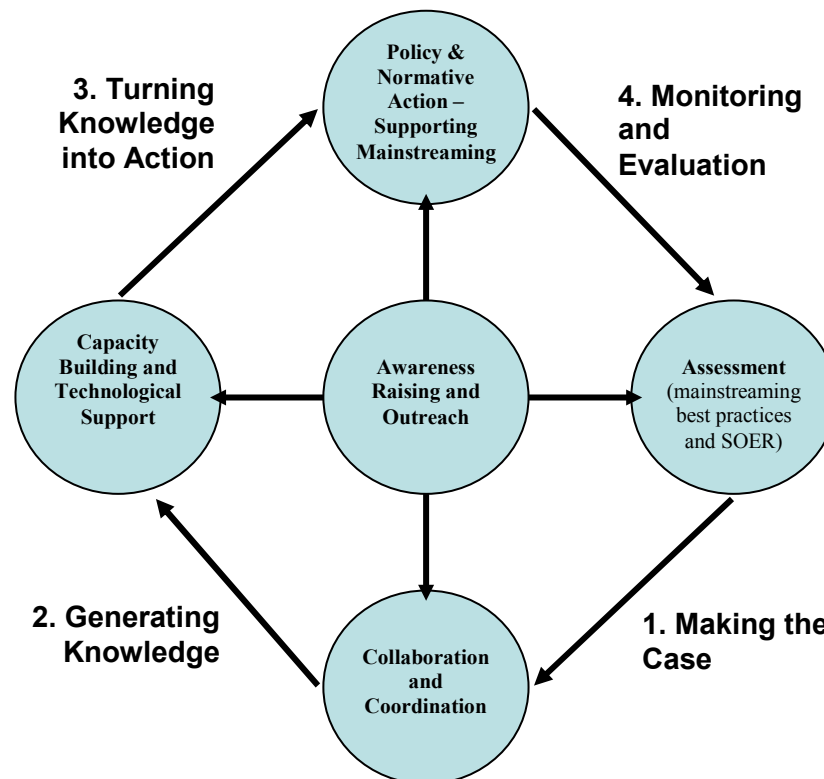
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Table of MCEB Activities relating to the GPA-Marine, 2009-2011
An information document for the Regional Seas Programmes

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 2nd 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
Policy and Normative Action	<p>UNEP's Marine & Coastal Ecosystems Branch (MCEB) wants to better communicate the social & 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"> 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 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 <p>Subject to available funds, UNEP will encourage the mainstreaming of GPA-Marine objectives by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consolidating NPA guidelines, EBM markers & mainstreaming publications, including policy papers on GPA-Marine categories and emerging/pressing issues, e.g. desalination, climate change; developing the Blue Diamond campaign highlighting economic and social returns on investment in national action; organising regional mainstreaming workshops in Africa, Asia and Latin America; supporting the Regional Seas to promote regional implementation of the GPA.
Assessment	<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"> developing a web-based tool for country reporting; promoting voluntary reporting through name-and-praise activities, e.g. the Blue Diamond Award; preparing "lessons learned" reports in select countries; supporting the Regional Seas to conduct regional assessments of GPA implementation; compiling a global assessment of GPA implementation for IGR3, including status, trends, opportunities, etc.; and conducting an assessment of pesticide management practices in coastal areas. <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"> Support regional workshops on emerging/pressing issues in the marine environment, e.g. microplastics; Host a global conference on emerging/pressing issues; and 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.

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establishment, development and secretariat for a multi-stakeholder forum: ‘The Global Partnership on Nutrient Management reducing nutrients entering water systems and ultimately coastal areas. Outputs from this initiative include:

f nutrient over-enrichment in coastal waters, including the extent and frequency of hypoxia;
g the combined affect of diffuse sources (e.g. agriculture), point sources (e.g. wastewater treatment facilities) and natural sources ellings);
tion on nutrients, their role in food production and their impact (positive and negative) on the environment;
ices (lessons and practices) in managing nutrients; and
ls and best practices, including farming practices, legislation and policies, market-based instruments, training, nutrient mining from

red a US\$3.5 GEF project for a large scale global nutrient management project. Demonstration regions are in the process of being mentation is planned to commence in Spring 2011.

of 29 training courses on wastewater management for municipal managers were held in 18 countries where 773 experts were trained (people have been trained from 67 countries). Plans are underway to hold the training course in Spanish in Panama (only one course run in Spanish). Subject to available funding, this training will continue in 2010 and 2011.

ched a Rapid Assessment Report (RAR) on Wastewater Management. MCEB is now leading the UN-Water Taskforce on ment to develop a multi-stakeholder collaborative agenda on sustainable wastewater management. The collaborative agenda will, s:

hasis on ecosystem-based approaches to wastewater management such as the protection and rehabilitation of coastal wetlands, e re-use of wastewater and use of phyto-technology / eco-sanitation;
onstration projects in wastewater eco-technology in coastal communities (if resources are available); and
ble financing arrangements for ecosystem-based wastewater management.

collaboration with the Regional Seas, launched a number of reports on Marine Litter. To further and deepen this work, MCEB

US government to host the International Marine Debris Conference in early 2011;
NGOs to support and develop media campaigns highlighting the problems of marine litter;
to selected Regional Seas to support implementation of their Regional Marine Litter Action Plans
pective Regional Seas organisations to identify donors and other resources to support localised action and awareness raising;
-stakeholder collaborative partnership to improve our understanding of the problem of marine litter, and generate solutions to both
ieve marine litter (if resources are available);
habitat and the GEF to develop a new GEF project addressing solid waste management in coastal cities; and
ant scientific and research organisations, including UNESCO-IOC to collect and synthesize information on marine litter and toxins.