



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

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Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) Proceedings of the 3rd Steering Committee meeting

December 10th - 11th, 2014

**US Department of Agriculture, South Building, Room 3109, 1400 Independence
Avenue, SW, Washington, DC (hosted by USDA)**

Overview

The **Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM)** was launched in 2009 to address the global challenges faced by the mismanagement of nutrients and nutrient over-enrichment. It is a global partnership of governments, scientists, policy makers, private sector, NGOs and international organizations. It responds to the 'nutrient challenge' – how to reduce the amount of excess nutrients in the global environment consistent with global development. The GPNM reflects a need for strategic, global advocacy to trigger governments and stakeholders in moving towards more efficient and effective nitrogen and phosphorous use and lower losses associated with human activities. It provides a platform for governments, UN agencies, scientists and the private sector to forge a common agenda, mainstreaming best practices and integrated assessments, so that policy and investment responses/options are effectively 'nutrient proofed'. The GPNM also provides a space where countries and other stakeholders can forge more co-operative work across the variety of international and regional fora and agencies dealing with nutrients, including the importance of impact assessment work. The work of the GPNM is advanced by a Steering Committee, a sub-set of the Partnership members and is supported by the GPA Unit of the Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation of UNEP, which serves as the Secretariat to the Steering Committee.

The Third meeting of GPNM Steering Committee was convened over the 10th and 11th December 2014 for the purpose of providing an update on progress of the GPNM since the last steering committee meeting, agree on a resource mobilization strategy for the GEF-G funding cycle and agree on the main inputs from the GPNM to the new International Nitrogen Management System (INMS) project being developed for funding by the GEF.

The meeting was hosted and held at the US Department of Agriculture, in Washington, DC. The Steering Committee participation included representatives from (i) government agencies including the US Department of Agriculture, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Government of the Philippines, the Government of the Netherlands (ii) industry - the International Fertilizer Industry Association and Fertilizers Europe, (iii) research and academia including the Virtual Fertilizer Institute, Rothamsted Research, the International Plant Nutrition Institute, the UK-China Sustainable Agricultural Innovation Network, GGS Indraprastha University, the INI & Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands, the University of Zürich, the International Fertilizer Development Center and (iv) project development collaborators and partners including UNEP, the Global Environment and Technology Foundation, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, IOC/UNESCO and the Laguna de Bay Authority, Philippines.

Day 1 of the two-day meeting included review of work accomplishments and the general outlook for the GPNM since the last steering committee meeting, achievements of the four Task Teams (i. Policy; ii. Nutrient use efficiency; iii. Partnerships and iv. Toolbox) of the GPNM over the intervening period, status of implementation of the GEF-Global Nutrient Cycling (GNC) Project (including the project mid-term review) and the development of the INMS Project. The **Day 2** proceedings focused on governance arrangements for GPNM's participation/engagement within the INMS Project, resource mobilization for the GPNM and access to GEF support resources, transitioning the Global TraPs Phosphorous initiative to the GPNM, building new partnerships and the workplan for the GPNM including the strengthening of the communications capacity of the Partnership.

GPNM 3rd Steering Committee Meeting Proceedings - Day 1

Welcome remarks and agenda review

Welcome Remarks: Dr. Greg Crosby, National Program Leader, Sustainable Development, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and GPNM Chair

Dr. Crosby welcomed the meeting participants and formally opened the meeting. He extended greetings on behalf of the USDA and announced that on the start of day 2 there will be the official welcome from the USDA by the Under Secretary, Dr. Ann Bartuska, as she was unavailable to attend the opening.

Welcome Remarks: Vincent Sweeney, GPA Coordinator

Mr. Sweeney introduced himself and his UNEP colleague Dr. Christopher Cox, newly appointed Programme Officer assigned to the GPA (under the nutrient management portfolio) to the meeting, and outlined the work of the GPA and how the programme can assist with the work of the GPNM.



Steering Committee members in session

Welcome Remarks: Patricia Beneke, Director UNEP Regional Office for North America (RONA)

Ms. Beneke delivered remarks on behalf of UNEP thanking USDA for hosting. She special thanks to Vincent Sweeney in his role as Coordinator of the GPA. Reflected on personal family experiences in Iowa and farming, use of nutrients and impacts on the environment. She recognized the twin goal of increasing productivity but keeping sight of conservation of resources, highlighting the role of the GPNM in this regard. The Hague meeting provided the basis for the organization of work of the GPNM and set forth the mission in carrying out the mandate. Noting that the GPA was created in Washington, DC 20 years ago, she encouraged all to be the faces of the GPNM and to let UNEP know all that needs to be

done to assist. She highlighted the challenges of nutrient loading and the dead-zones in the US and even close by in the Chesapeake Bay.

Comments: Scholz: suggested that there have been some faltering in the progress in recent years at the global level on nutrient management asking what is UNEP's perspective on this. Beneke: it is a sensitive issue as it is tied to economics and industry and requires more awareness-raising amongst all stakeholders, particularly at policy and industry levels. Crosby: noted the importance of public private sector cooperation in solving these issues. Beneke: reflected on work in the Florida Everglades in a water pollution issue where there was good cooperation between public and private sector, adding that regulatory compliance did serve an important role in backstopping.

Review of the agenda: Vincent Sweeney, GPA Coordinator

Mr. Sweeney took the participants through the provisional agenda and opened the floor for amendments and adoption. Scholz: requested that the Global TraPs discussion be shifted to ahead of the group discussions (to 2pm) in order to accommodate travel commitments; this was agreed to by the SC. The meeting agenda was adopted.

Status of GPNM and way forward

Vincent Sweeney, GPA Coordinator

The last SC meeting in India included discussions on NUE. The Task Team met here yesterday and the day before and the Task Team chair, Dr. Terry Roberts will update the meeting.

A draft proposal 'Nutrient Benefits and Threats' was prepared but could not be tabled at the first United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in June 2014 given time constraints. The UNEP Governing Council had previously endorsed the work of the GPA and GPNM and supported the strengthening of collaboration to meet the Manila Declaration objectives. The second meeting of the UNEA Assembly will be held in May 2016 and nutrient management goals should be better defined by then; this is a critical timeline to aim for. By mid-2015 there should be a draft resolution that goes to the Committee of Permanent Representatives. This relatively short time span is related to the length of time that will be required for the UNEA process.

Mr. Sweeney's remarks noted the following:

- The GPA will provide the meeting with an update on the outreach activities that includes the creation of newsletters and other communications products.
- The SC will receive an update on the new GEF International Nitrogen Management System (INMS) project.
- The Global TraPs and transition will be the subject of discussion on Day 2.
- The SC will be provided an outline of what GPNM did during the UNEA.

- The new staff member at GPA in the person of Dr Christopher Cox replaces Dr Anjan Datta and will assume full responsibility for the nutrients management programme of the GPA. Dr Datta has continued to provide support (on a consulting basis) through the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH).

Koo-Oshima: Noted that the content of some of the meeting documents need to be more accurately reflected. She asked about progress on the website and when will this come up on the agenda. Sweeney: responded that any comments regarding accuracy of documentation should be communicated directly to him, noting that he relies on the SC for verification of content accuracy.

Crosby: stated that he sent the GPNM workplan to the SC noting that it needs to be understood that UNEP has committed resources.

Development of a UNEA Resolution on nutrient management: Crosby: asked that for the 2016 UNEA, what kind of resolution are we looking at drafting? Sweeney: responded that the SC should really be answering this although there are a few key things to consider. The resource allocations UNEP makes when it submits its work programme and budget are based on its mid-term strategy and need to ensure that GPNM's work gets supported from UNEP's resources. The form that it is presented needs to be informed by what are the priorities, and should include timelines. For example for countries adopting NUE guidelines, perhaps highlight the work of the GPA in supporting the GPNM in assisting countries. Need to highlight specific actions to which the countries may commit. There are also facts that can form part of the UNEA resolution. UNEA can mandate UNEP to do specific things and send signals to partners within the resolution.

Crosby: suggested the chair of the GPNM Policy Task Team start looking at preparation of the resolution. Koo-Oshima: noted that there had been some work on a draft resolution for the last UNEA, however was too late to move through the process. Something can be done more formally now. This could be accompanied by a side event at the event for awareness and promotion. Since Rio+20 the governance mechanism has moved to the UNEA which supersedes the previous governing council mechanism. Passenier: added that the UNEA resolution must be strong and affirmed his willingness to contribute to its development. Crosby: noted that Arnoud Passenier's participation on the GPNM was supported by a letter from the Dutch government which constitutes formal high-level government endorsement for which the SC is grateful. Koo-Oshima: stated that the EPA has developed similar type resolutions for freshwater quality guidelines for ecosystems so there is experience; a resolution will need to be reviewed by all countries and put into proper language based on a prescribed format. Datta: suggested that the work of the GPNM to date can be used as part of the background for the resolution. Crosby: there are opportunities for making linkages with many other global frameworks and priorities.

Presentation of GPNM 2013 accomplishments and review of 2014 plan of work

Vincent Sweeney, Coordinator, GPA & GPNM Secretariat

Presentation slides in Annex 3.1. Available at

<http://unep.org/gpa/documents/meetings/gpnm/SteeringCommittee/GPNMProgressOverviewSweeney.pptx>

Overview: Mr. Sweeney stated that documentation on progress is available on the website at <http://unep.org/gpa/gpnm/gpnm.asp> and the Nutrient Challenge website at <http://www.nutrientchallenge.org/>. He provided a background on the GPA and the Manila 2012 Declaration that established and/or endorsed the 3 multi-stakeholder global partnerships. Stressed that GPA has a mandate to support the GPNM and this mandate was handed down by governments. He provided some detail on the 3 partnerships: Nutrients, Marine Litter and Wastewater. GPA has 3 programme officers; one each for the partnerships so there are capacity limitations. He outlined the roles of the GPNM and the need for strategic advocacy and partnerships at the global level. How we get the mandate elevated at the highest decision making level is important. He noted the work of the indicators Task Team that provide useful contributions to support the agenda of the GPNM. Highlights of the GPNM include:

- Integration within UNEP's programme of work.
- Two regional platforms have been established; one for the Caribbean and one for Asia.
- Four Task Teams have been established; (i) policy (ii) toolbox development, (iii) NUE and (iv) partnership development.

He noted that the Programme Officer staff is 100% funded under UNEP's core budget, a demonstration of UNEP's commitment to the process. He acknowledged the support from Greg Crosby and Anjan Datta (supported by CEH) in the interim period between Anjan Datta's departure and recruitment of Christopher Cox. Two steering committee meetings have been held.

Achievements: A GPNM Partnership forum was held at the 2nd Global Conference on Land-Ocean Connections (GLOC-2) in Jamaica in October 2013. IFA's annual conference in May 2014 in Sydney Australia was addressed by UNEP Executive Director which was a significant show of UNEP's commitment. The side event at the UNEA in Nairobi June 2014 was a well-attended significant event. With respect to private-public partnerships, the Division Director met with stakeholders (e.g. an IFA and UNEP bilateral) to show commitment to GPNM.

There has been focus on outreach. In UNEP's flagship publication the UNEP Yearbook, the issue of nitrogen was featured as a priority issue, showcasing relevant information surrounding the issue and proposing approaches to solve the problem. There are UNEP web apps that have been developed to distribute knowledge. It should be noted that in the 2011 Yearbook the focus was on phosphorus. The keynote publication "Our Nutrient World" is another significant publication. The GPA has hired a full-time communications consultant to assist with the development of outreach resources. A draft communications strategy has been developed for discussion at this forum and the website has been revamped and is up and running which includes GPNM pages. The GPNM logo has been revised that

could be considered by the SC at this meeting or via a round-robin process later. Guest editorials on the website are useful information products that support the relevance of GPNM. On the 9th December 2014 UNEP's RONA highlighted a "2 Minutes with Jim Toomey" Nutrient video which won an award at the Blue Ocean Film festival. The GPA is quite proud of this achievement.

GEF Projects: The **Global Nutrient Cycle (GNC) Project** is a core initiative under GPNM which has captured several tools and case studies, and developed the ecosystem health report card for revision and replication. The **International Nitrogen Management System (INMS) Project** concept (Project Identification Form or 'PIF') has been approved by the GEF Secretariat and is in the stage of full project design. The project will access a grant of US\$6 million. The GPNM has contributed to the new post 2015 SDGs discussion on possible nutrient goals. Supporting policy briefs and other resources have been developed for this process.

Way forward:

- Seek continued GPNM member support in all areas,
- anticipate the expansion in the global knowledge-base on policy and broaden awareness raising through the work of the new communications officer,
- development of new projects for increased resource mobilization,
- identification of and addressing key research needs,
- expansion of the GPNM and increased opportunities for networking and collaboration.

There is much work going on with many partners and it is expected that the GPNM will continue to support the process.

Discussion points:

Strengthening awareness: Crosby: stated that this has set the stage for the partnership adding that we need to be able to mold these products into useful tools for governments, partners and even small holder farmers. He stressed that it is time to get more governments on board, partners (such as partners engaged in agriculture extension), build capacity of organizations along the science/education value chain; we need to ramp up membership to the GPNM. He thanked the Policy Task Team for leading the preparation of the draft resolution for UNEA.

Scholz: noted that with regard to P management, we need to think of the most important flows; manure and runoff. Runoff uncertainty is large with very significant impacts to water systems. There has to be outreach for getting the numbers to support information for decision making to stakeholders. Crosby: agreed that this is an important aspect for the communications team to pick up. Sweeney: added, with respect to the short video on nutrient pollution produced by Jim Toomey in collaboration with the GPA (see link at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nolsLLSpXeg>), there are constraints on how much detailed information can be conveyed; it may be necessary to develop something more focused. Heffer: asked where are the lines between GPNM and UNEP in terms of editorial inputs to public outreach material. This aspect needs to be made clearer; has to be some guiding consensus/principles in terms of how content is approved and sanctioned by the steering committee.

Regional Platforms for nutrient management and constraints: Raghuram: suggested that the Regional Platforms for nutrient management can be supported by giving them some level of secretarial support and maybe funding to allow them to do their work. Lewsey: noted that an inaugural meeting of the Caribbean Platform was held a year and a half ago; a report was generated but there has been no activity since then; the report was to have been submitted to the SC but not sure if it ever was. Lu: proposed that we need to consider publication of outreach resources in other languages since it is a global mechanism. The platforms cannot just be information on the website; important that the process moves information from the website to where it is needed. Datta: noted that there are some issues in moving the Caribbean Platform that is hosted by Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) Secretariat but staff limitations have been posing a challenge. The meeting proposed that the Regional Platform chairs be incorporated into the GPNM SC as a means to promote buy-in. Sweeney: stated that this calls for additional resource mobilization to support the regional platforms hence the reason why this topic is on the table for this meeting. The GPA Secretariat also needs to be in a position to catalyze the process. For example the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) has received extra-budgetary resources that support the platforms for marine litter; this presently does not exist as yet for the GPNM and will be given priority attention as UNEP will not be able to shoulder entirely on its own.

Strengthening communications, outreach and building partnerships: Santos-Borja: stressed that there needs to be more emphasis on lakes and wetlands given the severe problems caused by nutrient-driven eutrophication. Passenier: advised that we need to have good stories that justify why are we doing this, what we can deliver on; needs to be very clear and convincing. Koo-Oshima: agreed that we need a very pointed narrative, however the GPNM seems to be too narrowly focused; need to be more integrative of wastewater contribution, for example. Passenier: added that the big city deltas have large issues; the stakeholders of these communities should be represented at the GPNM to share experiences with successful initiatives. In addition, the World Bank should be a partner in the GPNM; he underscored the importance of having the right narrative to get financing agencies and other stakeholders involved. Raghuram: suggested that the problem is not lack of information; it is the packaging. This points to the strengthening of the communications strategy. Need simple messages particularly linked to food production. A useful aspect to highlight is that a lot of nutrients within the food production chain are lost. He has volunteered to assist with the communications strategy. Hansen: noted that the World Bank (through the Global Environment Facility) for example invested US\$20 to 25 million in wastewater management in Asia but noted that the GEF cannot do large-scale

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