

# GPA Outreach



16 October 2006

GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE  
ENVIRONMENT FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

IGR-2 Special Series  
Issue 1

Welcome to the first edition of the **IGR-2 Special Series** of *GPA Outreach*. *GPA Outreach* is a monthly newsletter produced during the preparatory process of the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the UNEP *Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities* (GPA). Since February 2006, *GPA Outreach* has aimed to keep stakeholders up-to-date on the planning and preparatory events of the IGR-2. Special editions of *GPA Outreach* produced at the 4th World Water Week in Mexico City and World Water Week in Stockholm also served to raise awareness among the freshwater community about the important role of the Global Programme of Action and spread the message of the importance of linking coastal, marine and freshwater environments.

organizations, and the private sector—play a crucial role in implementing the GPA either through their own activities or in partnership with governments and other stakeholders. Stakeholders have been actively engaged in contributing to the preparatory process of the IGR-2.

This IGR-2 Special Series of *GPA Outreach*, produced on Days 1, 3, and 5 of the IGR-2, aims to highlight the important contribution of stakeholders to the implementation of the GPA. Over the week, this newsletter will include articles on the role of stakeholders in implementing the GPA and provide space for stakeholder representatives to express their views and policy recommendations for the IGR-2.

While the implementation of the GPA is primarily the responsibility of national governments, other stakeholders—including NGOs, intergovernmental



## PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Partnerships are a key means through which the contribution of stakeholders to the implementation of the GPA is realized.

Since the early 1990s, partnerships have emerged within the United Nations system as an innovative and increasingly acknowledged means of realizing the sustainable development agenda. Through successive international meetings and negotiated texts the definition and diverse typologies of partnerships have been developed and refined. In 2002, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), broke new ground by officially recognizing partnerships as an essential means of implementation. Partnerships for sustainable development are defined as:

*"...voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiatives contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21, Rio+5, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the internationally agreed development goals in the Millennium Declaration."*

*"...the challenge now is to learn from these experiences and to move from the current phase of experimentation towards a more systematic approach to partnerships that includes a greater focus on their impact and sustainability."*

-Secretary General's Report, 2005

In May 2003, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)-11 further advanced the notion that successful partnerships for sustainable development must adhere to certain guidelines and principles. The decision included several key ideas—partnerships should:

- "add value" by furthering previously negotiated international commitments
- "be new – that is not merely reflect existing arrangements."
- "complement" not "replace." Such that partnerships "are not intended to substitute commitments made by Governments but supplement the implementation of [various international agreements]."
- be clearly linked to existing commitments
- include sustainable development in their design and implementation
- achieve thematic and geographic balance as much as possible
- inform national focal points about their activities and progress
- be publicly announced

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*GPA Outreach supports the preparatory work for the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA)*

*This IGR-2 Series of GPA Outreach is produced by Stakeholder Forum and the Global Forum on Oceans Coasts and Islands, in collaboration with the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office*



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By involving stakeholders in partnerships, the United Nations is able to direct crucial skills and new resources towards its work. Furthermore, innovative solutions to complex problems can be created when diverse stakeholders are able to share their knowledge, learn together and develop a collective approach. In successful multi-stakeholder partnerships, partners share risks, pool resources and talents and deliver mutual benefits for each partner. As such, they develop collective commitment and capacity to turn ideas and plans into action<sup>(1)</sup>.

Nowhere is the commitment to the value of partnerships to sustainable development more evident than in the CSD, the custodian of the Rio and Johannesburg commitments. In this forum, partnerships have continued to gain visibility and prominence as an important means of implementation, along with the more traditional overseas development assistance and technical cooperation. The forum has provided a space for learning and innovation, generating hundreds of initiatives and helping to disseminate lessons learned, through:

- A publicly accessible, web-based "Partnership Database" is CSD's main information hub on registered partnerships. Summary reports, based on the data collected, are prepared annually as input to the CSD process.
- A "Partnership Fair" is organized at each CSD for registered initiatives "to network, identify partnerships and learn from each others experience."
- A "Learning Centre" offers small group training sessions on operational and substantive issues facing partnerships.
- Summary Reports and notes draw out essential analysis and lessons learned from partnerships presented at the CSD.



## Emerging Issues

Despite such developments, a number of stakeholder interlocutors have expressed their desire to see the partnership process, through the CSD, become more effective. These groups—NGOs, trade unions and private initiatives—represent stakeholders and a number of important partnerships; but many of these groups choose not to register their partnerships with the CSD process

because they see little benefit or support in doing so. In addition, there is a growing sense among stakeholders that the partnership process is more rhetoric and less action. The result is slowed momentum on the part of important partnership initiatives.

It is clear, therefore, that the practice of partnership must move beyond mere acceptance and public relations. As outlined in the Secretary-General's August 2005 report "... the challenge now is to learn from these experiences and to move from the current phase of experimentation towards a more systematic approach to partnerships that includes a greater focus on their impact and sustainability"<sup>(2)</sup>.

In doing so, many outstanding challenges<sup>(3)</sup> pertaining to the practice of partnerships must be addressed, in particular:

- a) Priority on Partnerships:** While the general concept of partnerships has widespread support, opinions differ on the emphasis partnerships should receive relative to other means of implementation. Some perceive a growing pressure to advance policy and achieve implementation through partnership models, but are concerned that there is a lack of adequate financial and leadership resources to carry out successful efforts. Others believe partnerships offer a new means of mobilizing action and leveraging multi-sector resources to achieve specific outcomes—ones that cannot be achieved as effectively through governmental initiatives alone. Others still believe that partnerships hold inherent risks in terms of their ability to deal with pressing and/or politically unattractive problems; their ability to mobilize resources on an ongoing basis; and their long-term impact.
  - What kind of examination is helpful to review and evaluate the efficacy of partnerships as a means of implementation? What criteria should guide this examination?
  - How can evaluating the impact of partnerships help create momentum for WSSD implementation?

**b) New vs. Ongoing Initiatives:** While the importance of launching new initiatives is often recognized, many acknowledge the political pressure to launch new initiatives and the fact that a "new" initiative can more easily generate funding, partnership commitments and visibility. A common concern is the state of registered, ongoing partnerships, many of which have not been able to scale up beyond the pilot phase. It is sometimes argued that more focus should be placed on evaluating existing partnerships and helping them work, rather than re-

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directing limited resources on launching new initiatives.

- How can partnerships be encouraged to present a frank assessment of their challenges and successes?
- What support can be given to help partnerships succeed?

**c) Emphasis on Outcome:** The diversity of partnership models has made it difficult to develop a single standard evaluation measure that can be used for comparative purposes. Still, it is widely believed that there should be a means of evaluating if registered partnerships are fulfilling their mandate. No such mechanism currently exists. Participants noted that despite the voluntary nature of partnerships, it was important to create metrics, beyond what is currently collected in the Partnership Database, and to implement independent monitoring and evaluation.

- By what metrics should partnerships be evaluated?
- Should there be some consequence for partnerships that “are not performing”? If so, what?



**d) Financing:** A major challenge facing the successful launch and success of partnerships is the ability to secure sufficient funding beyond the “seed funding” phase. As of February 2006, 67% of all registered partnerships were seeking additional funding for their initiatives. Of those, 25% provided specific figures for the funding they are currently seeking. These additional amounts needed range from tens of thousands to tens of millions of United States dollars. 22% of partnerships reported they were not seeking additional funding<sup>(4)</sup>. Participants report that stalemates over funding, lag time in realizing funding commitments, and uncertainty over future funding are the leading cause for “stalled” or “dormant” partnerships. And

while the political and public relations benefit of a newly launched partnership is achieved in the short run, it has been much more difficult to gain attention for re-invigorating ongoing initiatives.

- How can momentum for financial commitments in support of partnership be created?

### Partnerships and the GPA

Partnerships clearly offer great potential to bring much needed resources and expertise to the implementation of the GPA. In light of the challenges outlined above, Partnership Day at IGR-2 provides a unique opportunity to draw from the experiences and lessons learned from partnerships implementing the GPA, while gaining a greater understanding of the results achieved through partnerships, the challenges and constraints faced by partnerships, and opportunities for further supporting partnerships in the next five years.

In doing so, participants should ask how partnerships are making a difference to the implementation of the GPA? And is that difference what we hoped it could be? If not, what actions on the part of governments and other stakeholders are necessary to ensure that the valuable contribution of partnerships to the GPA are achieved?

- (1) Minu Hemmati and Robert Whitfield, “Capacity Building for Sustainable Development Partnerships,” Stakeholder Forum, 2003.
- (2) “Enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular private sector,” Report of the Secretary-General. A/60/214. August 2005. P.4
- (3) This analysis is based on interviews conducted by Maria Figueroa Küpcü with participants of the CSD, August 2005.
- (4) “Partnerships for Sustainable Development.” Report of the Secretary-General. E/CN.17/2006/6. March 2006.

*The content of this article is based on: “Ideas for launching and evaluating new partnerships/ initiatives and reinforcing ongoing ones” by Maria Figueroa Küpcü, Stakeholder Forum, 2005. Available at [www.stakeholderforum.org](http://www.stakeholderforum.org)*



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## PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

### White Water to Blue Water Partnership: A Model for Partnership Building in the Wider Caribbean and Beyond



White Water to Blue  
Water (WW2BW)

partnership established at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and led by the Caribbean Community, Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United States of America. The partnership is under the direction of an international Executive Committee representing governments, U.N. organizations, non-governmental organizations, universities and the private sector.

White Water to Blue Water is based on the premise that sustainable development in the Wider Caribbean region is not possible without integrated watershed and marine ecosystem-based management. The process is designed to create and expand as many partnerships aimed at these twin goals as possible.

The White Water to Blue Water Partnership Conference held in Miami on March 22-26, 2004 was an important event in the implementation of the partnership. The meeting was designed to focus on four overlapping themes: integrated watershed management; marine ecosystem-based management; sustainable tourism and environmentally sound marine transportation. In addition, the issues were addressed through several cross-cutting themes, including education, marine science and adaptation to climate change.

In preparation for the meeting, International Visiting Teams, went to Wider Caribbean countries to encourage the formation of interagency "Country Teams" for the purpose of identifying WW2BW opportunities and, more specifically, to participate in the Miami Conference. Also, during the months preceding the Conference, a "Rollup" of partnerships, organized by theme, was created and transferred to a matchmaking website ([www.ww2bw.org](http://www.ww2bw.org)) for the purpose of maximizing new opportunities. The website continues to perform a matchmaking function for the region for the foreseeable future.

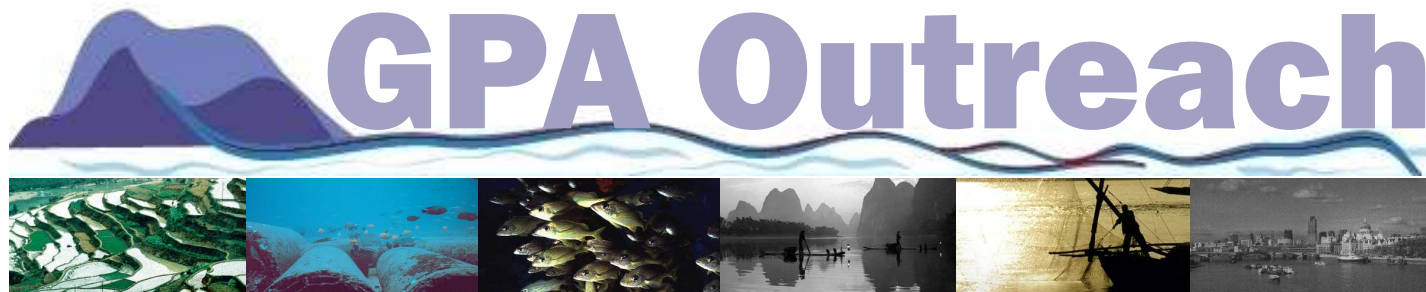
The Miami Conference was designed to create as many partnership opportunities as possible. Plenary sessions were short and inspirational in nature, while most of the Conference was organized into breakout sessions. Evening opportunities were set aside for country teams to meet and compare notes. The first plenary session of each day was set aside for announcements of new partnerships. Two evenings were set aside for informal matchmaking socials, with tables available for those who wished to gather to discuss specific topics. The Tuesday social focused on UNEP's GPA. Several partnerships discussed at this event were spawned at the Regional Consultative Meeting on the GPA Programme of Work in the Wider Caribbean sponsored by UNEP and the Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC) (February 10-12, 2004, Colon, Republic of Panama). It is hoped that the concept of using multiple meetings, under varying auspices to focus on specific themes and programs might be, in itself, a new method for promoting partnerships in the region.

In the spring and early summer of 2006, the Executive Committee held periodic meetings to discuss the next steps forward under the newly established WW2BW structure. The new structure is composed of a small Executive Committee, the wider Governing Council and a Secretariat which provides support for WW2BW activities. A WW2BW Governing Council Meeting will be held preceding the November 29 Caribbean Environment Program Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) in Montego Bay. This will provide an opportunity to update the Council and regional participants on the new structure and ideas for further partnering in the key theme areas of integrated watershed management, environmentally sound marine transportation, sustainable tourism, and marine



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ecosystem-based management. The upcoming meeting will be the first of the larger WW2BW Council and will provide new opportunities for involvement in the partnership.

The Executive Committee is also working on development of a "Mobilizing Resources Primer" as well as other resources and materials that will be useful to Council members and distributed at the Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action in Beijing in October and the IGM in Montego Bay in November. The resources will also be available on the [www.ww2bw.org](http://www.ww2bw.org) website as soon as possible.

White Water to Blue Water currently serves as a model for orchestrating successful partnerships. The White Water to Blue Water tools can be used to establish similar partnership models in other regions. During Partnerships Day at IGR-2, lessons learned, pitfalls that may occur, and what needs to be done by the WW2BW Partnership in order to move forward would be discussed. As a flagship of the partnerships, WW2BW will hold a discussion on how

other partnerships can replicate the WW2BW model and how they can adapt the model for their own involvement in the GPA. WW2BW can also provide insights on their experience in dealing with the difficulties of getting off the ground and in sustaining momentum. Finally the WW2BW workshop at IGR-2 will explore the potential synergies between international plans of action to protect watersheds and coastal areas.

*For more information about this partnership, please contact:*

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## GPA EVENTS

### **Advancing the Oceans, Coasts, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and Freshwater/Oceans Agenda in the Next Decade: Key Issues and Opportunities**

Thursday, October 19, 2006, 13:15 to 14:45,  
Room 10 Level 3

The event will focus on key challenges and opportunities for the integrated implementation of the oceans, coasts, SIDS, and the freshwater/oceans agenda in the next decade, 2006-2016, paying particular attention to the forthcoming review of the oceans agenda by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in 2014-2015.

#### **INVITED SPEAKERS**

**Chair:** Ms. Lori Ridgeway, Director-General, International Coordination and Policy Analysis, Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, and Co-Chair, United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea

#### **Presentations:**

- ***A Strategy for Advancing the Oceans, Coasts, SIDS, and Freshwater/Oceans Agenda, 2006 to 2016***  
Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, Co-Chair and Head of Secretariat, Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands

- ***Thinking Ahead: What We Need to Do on Freshwater and on Connecting Freshwater to Oceans***

Prof. Torkil Jönch-Clausen, Director, Danish Hydrological Institute, Water and Environment, and Senior Adviser, UNEP

- ***Perspectives on Key Issues and Opportunities for Advancing the Oceans, Coasts, SIDS, and Freshwater/Oceans Agenda in the Next Decade***

Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP

#### **Roundtable Discussion:**

- Ambassador Enele Sopoaga, Permanent Mission of Tuvalu to the United Nations, Vice-Chair, Alliance of Small Island States
- Dr. Vladimir Golitsyn, Director, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
- Dr. Magnus Ngoile, EEZ Governance Team Leader, GEF Project on Marine and Coastal Environment Program, Tanzania
- Dr. Al Duda, Senior Adviser, International Waters, Global Environment Facility
- Mr. Felix Dodds, Executive Director, Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future

**Sponsor:** Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands

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## GPA EVENTS

### Side event: Developing Stakeholder input to the Beijing Declaration

Wednesday 18 October  
11:00 - 13:00, Room 11

Throughout the preparatory process of the IGR-2, a series of consultations have been organised by the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office to gather feedback on various agenda items of IGR-2. A number of partners and organisations have offered their support to this process.

To this end, Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future is partnering with the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office to conduct stakeholder consultations in preparation for the IGR-2. The purpose of these dialogues is to enable a broad range of local, national, and regional stakeholders (including those who are unable to attend the IGR-2 in

China) to share their positions and experiences on protection of the marine environment in advance of the IGR-2.

Stakeholder Forum has been actively working with Major Groups and other stakeholders to ensure that a strong stakeholder input is reflected in the *Beijing Declaration on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities*.

This working meeting will bring together Major Groups, including NGOs, academics, and other stakeholders at the IGR-2 to finalise this preparatory process. All are welcome.

For more information, please visit  
[www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa.html](http://www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa.html)

### About Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future



Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future's mission is to inform, influence, promote, and advance the implementation of sustainable development. Stakeholder Forum fulfils this mission by developing and facilitating multi-stakeholder processes that engage stakeholders in the development and implementation of sustainable development policy. To support multi-stakeholder processes, Stakeholder Forum also undertakes activities related to capacity building, training, and policy development.

Stakeholder Forum is delighted to continue our partnership with UNEP GPA as we build toward the IGR-2. Stakeholder Forum is working with UNEP GPA to undertake outreach and conduct dialogue with stakeholders to ensure that the IGR-2 will gain from the experience and expertise of a broad range of stakeholders.

For more information visit [www.stakeholderforum.org](http://www.stakeholderforum.org)

### About Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands



The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, organized informally in 2001 and formalized at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, serves as a multi-stakeholder forum for cross-sectoral discussion, policy analyses, and mobilization of knowledge and other resources to achieve the full implementation of international agreements related to oceans, coasts, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Global Forum brings together leading ocean, coastal, and SIDS experts from governments, intergovernmental and international organizations (including all the relevant UN agencies), nongovernmental organizations, private sector, and academic and scientific institutions.

For more information visit [www.globaloceans.org](http://www.globaloceans.org)

## CONTACTS

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