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UNDP Capacity Building Activities in the field of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea – 2012-2013

Input to the 2013 Secretary General's Report on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

28 June 2013

Executive Summary

Over the past twelve months, UNDP's Water and Ocean Governance Programme (WOGP) has made significant contributions to strengthening developing country capacities in ocean and coastal area management. UNDP, through its GEF International Waters portfolio, supported efforts towards establishing a permanent regional institutional mechanism for the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem; supported the nine countries of the Agulhas/Somali Large Marine Ecosystems in conducting national and regional marine assessments to inform regional ocean and coastal strategic planning; supported the development of 5-year national implementation plans in eight countries committed to implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia; and enhanced monitoring, data management, stock assessment and other aspects of fisheries management in Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam. UNDP/GEF supported a range of integrated water resources and wastewater management initiatives in the Pacific Island Countries which helped to reduce coastal pollution and habitat degradation; assisted the 27 countries of the Caribbean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) in completing three sub-regional transboundary diagnostic analyses which informed the development of a regional Strategic Action Programme for the CLME which was technically adopted by the CLME Steering Committee in February 2013 and is presently undergoing formal adoption by the participating governments; and supported efforts by Argentina and Uruguay in the Rio de la Plata/Maritime Front to improve watershed management, agree upon environmental monitoring standards, define water quality goals, and develop public-private partnerships focused on cleaner production. At the global level, the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships program continued to play a highly catalytic role in building developing country capacity to comply with the Global Convention on Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments and to stimulate R&D and investment in ballast water treatment technologies. In 2012, UNDP/GEF published a large suite of signature ocean governance publications, both as input to Rio+20 and to the post-Rio dialogue.

Overview

The world depends on its large scale marine and freshwater systems – river basins, aquifers, lakes and marine ecosystems – for a wide array of both market and non-market services, valued in the trillions of dollars per year. The majority of these aquatic systems cross the borders of one or more country and thus require integrated, multi-country ecosystem-based approaches to shift human practices towards sustainability. Unfortunately, the world's water and ocean ecosystems are under severe stress from a variety of pressures including pollution (especially nutrients), inefficient water use, overfishing, habitat degradation, invasive species and, increasingly, ocean acidification due to continued growth in atmospheric CO₂ levels. While a wide range of global, regional and national commitments have

been made to address these challenges and trends, in the aggregate most continue to worsen, several at an accelerating pace.

The goal of the [UNDP Water and Ocean Governance programme](#) is to promote integrated, ecosystem-based, climate resilient management of the world's major freshwater and marine systems through improved water and ocean governance. UNDP's Water & Ocean Governance programme is making a substantial contribution to demonstrating strategic approaches to slowing and even reversing the negative environmental trends summarized above. Over the last 20 years, UNDP/GEF has developed, applied and refined a series of three ocean strategic planning methodologies and approaches (TDA/SAP¹, Integrated Coastal Management, building on regional/global legal frameworks) that have proven highly effective not only in advancing water and ocean governance reform, but also at catalysing sizeable quantities of both public and private financial flows for ocean restoration and protection. These tools are highlighted in the recently launched UNDP/GEF publication, "[Catalysing Ocean Finance](#)" which documents successful UNDP/GEF efforts to reverse large scale coastal hypoxia, sustain some of the world's largest fisheries, and substantially reduce the risk from aquatic invasive species.

UNDP's Water & Ocean Governance portfolio operates through four signature programmes, two (SP1, SP3) of which relate directly to oceans and coasts:

- SP1 – Sustainable Management of Oceans in a Changing Climate
- SP2 – Protection of Transboundary Surface and Groundwaters in a Changing Climate
- SP3 – Ridge to Reef – Climate Resilient Integrated Water Resource & Coastal Management
- SP4 – Climate Resilient Access to Water Supply and Sanitation

2012 UNDP Water & Ocean Governance Portfolio - Oceans and Coasts Results

GLOBAL

GloBallast Partnerships

GloBallast Partnerships continues to serve as a model for catalysing transformational change in an ocean-related industry, shipping in this case. The project has emerged as the most financially catalytic project in GEF International Waters history, with expected catalysis of financial flows exceeding \$35 billion as the Ships' Ballast Water Convention enters into force and industry moves towards compliance. As of October 2012, with catalytic support from GloBallast, 36 countries had ratified the Convention (of required 35), representing 29% of global ship tonnage (of required 35% to come into force); the convention is widely expected to come into force some time in 2013 or 2014.

In 2012, the GloBallast programme, in partnership with World Maritime University, completed development of Ballast Water Risk Assessment guidelines. In partnership with IOI, IUCN and the National Institute for Oceanography of India, the project also completed development of Port Biological Baseline Survey Guidelines; both of these tools will be broadly disseminated for utilization in 50+ lead and partner countries. The project also completed development of an Advanced Training Package on the Operational Aspects of BWM, with significant co-financing from IMO ITCP. The GloBallast Port Environmental Database has been updated to include 400 ports and has been used by several developing and developed countries. Examples include Turkey undertaking risk assessments for major ports using GloBallast Risk Assessment Tools, Ballast Water Risk Assessment by BP for BTC pipeline, Canada and Australia using GloBallast database for undertaking ballast water risk assessments.

The GloBallast PCU continues to be a model of efficiency and cost effectiveness and has mobilized substantial cash co-finance from within IMO's ITCP. This has in turn enabled the project to be extended by several years and to deliver associated increases in impact at country, regional and global levels. This extension is particularly important given the unique nature of GloBallast's close linkage to the new Convention on Ships' Ballast Water; given the normal pace of

¹ Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis/Strategic Action Programme

country ratification and coming into force of a highly complex international instrument, the extension and newly mobilized co-finance provides additional opportunity to both advance progress on Convention ratifications (through advocacy and awareness raising) and to further strengthen the capacity of key Convention parties and the affected private sector (ship owners, ship builders, ballast water treatment companies).

EUROPE/CIS

The Caspian Sea: Restoring Depleted Fisheries & Consolidation of a Permanent Regional Environmental Governance Framework - CASPECO

The project has made a significant contribution towards multi-state cooperation in the management of the Caspian Sea ecosystem, particularly through its support to the Tehran Convention processes. The project was able to achieve most of its global development objectives and generate global environmental benefits through multi-state cooperation, future biodiversity conservation, and long-term monitoring of the Caspian ecosystem. Strengthening of the Tehran Convention and capacity building for EBM approaches are the two most successful benefits of the project, with strong co-financing support from the littoral states, EU and other partners. The Matched Small Grants Programme and Micro Environmental Grants Programme were successfully implemented. The ecosystem monitoring program is an important step towards sustainable regional long-term monitoring of the Caspian ecosystem. The State of Environment 2010 report (released mid-2011) prepared by the project is recognized as a solid platform for further development of regional monitoring activities and electronic data collection and sharing systems. The two fisheries demonstration projects provided effective demonstration of sustainable practices, and completion of management plans for the Kura River Delta protected area in Azerbaijan and the Seals Special Protected Areas in Kazakhstan provide solid mechanisms for ensuring that these areas are sustainably managed.

In 2011-2012 four protocols to the Tehran Convention were developed, of which two (Oil Pollution, Land-Based Pollution) were signed and adopted. The two remaining protocols were expected to be signed at the next conference of the parties (COP). Furthermore, the Caspian states have agreed to a Strategic Convention Action Program (SCAP) and each country is contributing financially to the Secretariat.

AFRICA

Combating Living Resource Depletion and Coastal Area Degradation in the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem through Ecosystem-based Regional Actions

The Regional Coordination Unit supported intergovernmental consultations on the preferred institutional set-up for the establishment of the Guinea Current Commission. In June 2012, citing the need to promote synergies, coordinate and reduce duplication, as well as potential cost-savings for the emerging Guinea Current Commission (GCC) Secretariat through sharing of costs and/or services with the Abidjan Convention, Interim GCC Ministers decided to establish the GCC via a protocol to the Abidjan Convention (vs. as a 'stand alone' institutional entity).

Agulhas & Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems – ASCLME

National Marine Environment Diagnostic Analyses (MEDA) were conducted for all 9 countries participating in the Agulhas/Somali LMEs project. The work to develop the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) based on the MEDAs, is progressing well. Once completed, the TDA will significantly fill the data and information gaps identified during the preparatory stage of the ASCLME project. The ASCLME project has successfully catalyzed finance needed for data gathering in the form of more than 30 research cruises in the ASCLME region since the beginning of the project, each of them benefiting the western Indian Ocean countries. The countries are currently assessing the current situation of the ASCLME resources and beginning to conduct evidence-based causal chain analysis, which leads to the identification of priority issues (TDA) and in turn inform development of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

ASIA-PACIFIC

Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Programme - ATSEA

The project successfully completed development and multi-country approval of the TDA which serves as the basis for SAP development. The TDA is a scientific document that identifies the priority transboundary issues in the Arafura and Timor Seas, the first step in addressing the developmental objectives of the project. The completion of the TDA enabled ATSEA to begin work on formulating the Strategic Action Program that will identify the interventions at the national and regional levels to address the priority environmental concerns.

Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS/SEA)

PEMSEA has accomplished a number of major activities over the last year. At the regional level, the PEMSEA Governance and By-Laws and Transformation Plans and Roadmaps have been adopted and implementation initiated. PEMSEA put in place all arrangements required for the conduct of the East Asian Seas Congress 2012 and Fourth Ministerial Forum to be held in July, developed and published a regional review of SDS-SEA implementation progress, achievements and challenges from 2003 to 2011, and developed the Regional SDS-SEA 5-Year Implementation Plan.

At the national level, PEMSEA has supported drafting of eight 5-year national SDS-SEA Implementation Plans in coordination with the countries for adoption. These implementation plans 'nationalize' the regional SDS-SEA and outline strategies for scaling up ICM in each country towards achieving the goal of putting at least 20% of the region's coastline under ICM. The implementation of these national plans is envisioned to be supported in the next phase of PEMSEA.

At the local level, the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments through the Dongying Declaration, adopted in 2011, has also committed to implement the PNLG Strategic Action Plan 2011-2015 which includes mainstreaming of ICM into local development plans, applying State of Coast reporting system across 100% of PNLG members by 2015, and implementing ICM Code and Recognition System. The Port Safety, Health and Environmental Management Code and Recognition System was adopted and published, for formal launching at the Yeosu Expo 2012. A number of capacity building activities from local to regional level were conducted, 10 State of the Coasts reports, 5 case studies on ICM good practices, and several publications and information materials produced and shared. ICM scaling up projects covered 31 projects sites, covering approximately 11 percent of the region's coastline.

West Pacific – East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project - WPEA

The West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (WPEA) has focused on two components: i) monitoring, data enhancement and fishery assessment, and ii) policy, institutional strengthening and fishery management. The project continues to collect data from port sampling and logbook programmes in Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam. Various trainings and auditing processes have been conducted for species identification, capacity building in data/database management, quality control, total catch estimation and stock assessments. These have strengthened the capacity of national scientists to represent their respective countries, particularly at the Scientific Committee meetings of WCPFC. SPC, which is the scientific body that assists the WCPFC, has confirmed that the data for tuna catches from the three countries, which account for up to 30% of total catch (20% for skipjack and 30% for yellow fin) from the convention area in the Western and Central Pacific, have now been incorporated into the overall stock assessments. These have reduced the uncertainty from the estimates of allowable catches which is one of the important basis for conservation and management measures in the WCPFC convention area.

Implementing sustainable integrated water resources and wastewater management in the Pacific Island Countries

Significant progress has been made with respect to the GEF 4 Strategic Priorities for International Waters, particularly in the area of overuse and conflicting uses of water resources in surface and groundwater basins: capacity building for national and/or site based cross-sectoral IWRM coordinating committees in Pacific SIDs; strengthened sectoral

engagement in formal multilateral communication on water issues and increase in proportion of community engaged in actions to reduce vulnerability of water resources; sustainable forest and land management practices established and successfully trialed with landowners to reduce runoffs and sediment loads in participating countries; increased population with access to safe water supply and sanitation; reduction in use of freshwater for sanitation purposes; reduction in drinking water source pollution; lessons learned from national demonstrations incorporated into legislation; development and implementation of water safety and watershed management plans, including supporting legislation; reduction in water loss from public distribution systems and improved rainwater harvesting and water storage capacity; and development of national indicator frameworks and IWRM investment plans.

During the reporting period, pollution discharges were significantly reduced due to project and co-funded activities in seven countries (Nauru, Palau, RMI, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) reducing impacts on river systems, ground water and seven coastal zones. This on-the-ground work was supported by legislation passed in Niue to protect the quality of water resources. Over 3,200 ha of land was protected from development pressures in catchments in Samoa and FSM, with work ongoing to protect a further 5,000 ha in FSM, Palau and Vanuatu. Water demands on limited resources were reduced in Tuvalu, RMI, Nauru and Tonga through the installation of composting toilets, augmenting the water use efficiency savings being realised in Honiara (Solomon Islands) and Luganville (Vanuatu).

The reduced pollution discharges were achieved via a combination of sewage pollution reduction through a further 28 compost toilets, installed in Tuvalu (20), Nauru (5) and RMI (3). Further reductions were achieved through the installation of a combination of 40 sanitation systems and/or secondary treatment systems in Nauru. Reductions in polluted piggery and agricultural discharges were achieved in FSM (dry compost piggeries and low grow sakau) and Vanuatu, RMI and Palau through the management of piggeries. Catchment management strategies in Palau, including pollution source tracing, and sustainable forestry and farming demonstration sites in Fiji also reduced sediment loads into river systems and ultimately into coastal waters. The catchment management work in Palau has been supported by water quality monitoring showing clear reductions in sediments and nutrients.

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Caribbean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project – CLME

The delivery and acceptance of the three fisheries ecosystem TDAs of regional significance (reef, pelagic and continental shelf fisheries ecosystems) and regional TDA show that a common understanding on main issues for the sustainable management of shared marine resources has been reached among the main partners. The TDAs describe the ecosystem and socio-economic impacts of the identified key transboundary issues (unsustainable exploitation, habitat degradation, and pollution), and findings are summarized in the form of Causal Chain Analysis (CCA) Diagrams.

Based on the TDA findings, draft "CLME Vision", "Ecosystem Quality Objectives", "Societal Benefits Objectives" and "Strategic Directions" (management objectives) statements have been developed by a SAP Core Development Team for the different ecosystems, and are now undergoing consultation with CLME National Focal Points.

The project has catalysed policy and institutional reform process by concerting sub-regional policies for regulating fisheries in Central America, such as the case of the enforcement arrangements that have been put in place both sub-regionally (e.g. simultaneous closed season for lobster fisheries in Central America) as well as at pilot sites (e.g. Seaflower Reserve, Colombia).

Rio de la Plata and Maritime Front – FREPLATA

National and local governments are working to develop watershed committees for controlling land-based pollution while seeking an inter-sectoral approach to this end. The Bi-national commissions (CDC) have agreed to fund the network of remote monitoring stations and are participating in the two bi-national oceanographic assessment campaigns in shared RPFM waters.

At local level, Network of Municipalities (RIIGLO) has agreed common standards for monitoring both urban and rural pollution sources. In Argentina, provincial agency has set up pilot studies in the tributaries of the Rio de la Plata, with urban and rural profile. These local governments are actively participating in NICs (ICMCU, ECOPLATA) to coordinate monitoring and to define water quality goals in relation to EQOs from the SAP/TDA.

Likewise, municipalities (6 in San Boronbom, Argentina, 4 in Santa Lucia, Uruguay), rural producers and service companies are developing Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives in the pilot projects, while governments of Buenos Aires and Montevideo are actively involved in the pilots on clean production.

UNDP Water & Ocean Governance Programme - Key Ocean and Coastal Publications 2012

- [Catalysing Ocean Finance](#)
 - Volume 1 – *Transforming Markets to Restore and Protect the Global Ocean*
 - Volume 2 – *Methodologies and Case Studies*
- [A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability](#) (UNDP, IOC/UNESCO, FAO, IMO)
- [A Green Economy in A Blue World](#) (UNEP, UNDP, FAO, IMO, IUCN, GRID-Arendal, UN-DESA). UNDP contributed chapter, “Ocean Nutrient Pollution from Agriculture, Fertilizer Production and Wastewater Management Sectors”.
- [Towards Recovery and Sustainability of the World’s Large Marine Ecosystems during Climate Change](#) (UNDP, GEF, IUCN, NOAA, Moore Foundation)
- [International Waters Programme – Delivering Results](#) (UNDP/GEF)
- [Oceans at Rio+20: How Well Are We Doing in Meeting the Commitments from the 1992 Earth Summit and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development? Summary for Decision Makers](#) (UNDP, GEF, Global Ocean Forum)
- [Frontline Observations on Climate Change and Sustainability of Large Marine Ecosystems](#) (UNDP/GEF)
- [Establishing equivalency in the performance testing and compliance monitoring of emerging alternative Ballast Water Management Systems - A Technical Review](#). GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Monograph Series No. 20; GESAMP Reports and Studies No. 83. August 2011.
- [From Source to Sea: Interactions between the Orange-Sengu River Basin and the Benquela Current Large Marine Ecosystem](#). UNDP/GEF Orange-Sengu River Basin project (2012)