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**Implementation of the programme of work
of the United Nations Environment Programme
and the relevant decisions of the Governing Council**

**Progress report on activities to implement the water policy and
strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme**

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The annex to the present note provides information on the progress made in implementation and resource allocation of the updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme since the report submitted to the Council at its twenty-third session (UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5/Rev.1/Add.2). The present note is being submitted in response to paragraph 8 of decision 23/2 adopted by the twenty-third session.

The annex is being circulated without formal editing.

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I. Introduction

1. At the twenty-third session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in February 2005, the Ministers and heads of delegations adopted the updated UNEP Water Policy and Strategy (UNEP/GC.23/3/Add.5) as a general framework and guidance for UNEP activities in the field of water and sanitation for the period 2005–2007, to be implemented with interested countries, upon their request. By decision GC23/2 paragraph 8, the session also requested the Executive Director “to circulate a report on the implementation and resource allocation of the Water Policy and Strategy before the ninth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum”. In compliance, the Executive Director presents, in summary, an update on the progress of UNEP, in collaboration with its partners, in meeting the objectives of the updated UNEP Water Policy and Strategy since the last report to the twenty-third session of the Governing Council up through November 2005.

2. Following a brief summary of UNEP’s overall achievements in implementing the Updated Water Policy and Strategy, this report addresses in more detail the work programmes and strategies identified in the updated Water Policy and Strategy and is presented in line with the document’s three components: (i) assessment, (ii) management, and (iii) coordination. Due to the functional organisational structure of UNEP, all Divisions contribute to the implementation of activities in the water sector.

II. Summary of UNEP results achieved

3. In line with the goals of its Water Policy and Strategy, UNEP increased understanding of water resources through the recently completed Global International Water Assessment (GIWA) project that provides scientific information on water issues for 66 sub-regions. As a result of GIWA, 27 regional assessment reports were published. UNEP also made advancements into groundwater assessment and assisted in post conflict and disaster areas, in particular post tsunami to assess the vulnerability of the environment to disasters. Information from UNEP assessments has been used in several UN and UNEP major global environmental assessments such as the World Water Development Report Chapter on “Water and Ecosystems”. Finally, and in addition to the Global Environment Monitoring Systems (GEMS/Water) global database, GLOWDAT, a new online searchable database, GEMStat, was launched in March 2005.

4. Achievements in UNEP’s efforts to raise awareness and to promote the importance of ecosystem approaches in water management include: (i) the improved regional seas website and database; (ii) participation and presentations in the “Lake Ecosystems Health” session at the 11th World Lakes Conference held in Nairobi, from October to November 2005; and (iii) various publications such as “Review of Small Cetaceans: Distribution Behaviour, Migration and Threats”. UNEP has also targeted children and youths through the publication of children’s books, which illustrate and create greater understanding of the value of water. UNEP supported the side event on “Islands, Reefs and Communities: Committing to the Future,” hosted by the President of Seychelles in January 2005, which has led to subsequent awareness-raising activities at other international fora in the area of marine and coastal protection and poverty alleviation.

5. UNEP developed tools and provided training for enhancing technical, institutional, and human capacity for water management. The UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (UNEP/GPA) trained 230 managers from 15 countries on municipal waste water management and developed key principles for the sustainable development and management in aquaculture, ports and harbours, tourism and mining sectors that have been adopted. Further, UNEP/GPA assisted 40 countries in the development of their National Programmes of Action (NPA) for addressing land-based pollution.

6. As a result of the activities of UNEP and its partners to address marine litter, marine debris issues have been included in the draft resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea of the 60th UN General Assembly. Further, regional projects were developed on the sustainable management of marine litter in the Black Sea; Mediterranean; Caribbean; South Asia Seas; East Africa; Red Sea and Gulf of Aden; and South East Pacific. Efforts to address marine safety have led to the signing and adoption of a Contingency Plan on Regional Co-operation Regarding Preparedness and Response to Oil Spills in the Marine Environment of the North West Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), which serves to improve preparedness and response to oil spills in the region. In Europe, UNEP ensured the integration of the principles of integrated water resource management (IWRM) and ecosystem approaches in the revised Protocol on Pollution from Land-based Sources under the Bucharest Convention.

7. In the area of freshwater management, UNEP in collaboration with UNEP Collaborating Center on Water and the Environment (UCC-Water) is conducting regional and sub-regional workshops to develop IWRM and water efficiency plans to meet the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) 2005 target. These workshops have initiated common conception on IWRM processes, sub-regional and national roadmaps for IWRM reform processes, and harmonized progress reporting on the JPOI.

8. UNEP uses pilot projects as a mechanism to promote the transfer and build capacity for using environmentally sound technologies that augment freshwater resources. Pilot projects to empower women in rainwater harvesting in Bhutan, India, Nepal and Tonga have improved the capacity of women to manage water as well as undertake economic activities, contributing to poverty alleviation. The rainwater harvesting approach used in these pilot projects has been adopted by Governments and other institutions in the project areas.

9. UNEP's support to regional organisations has facilitated the preparation of common approaches to the Fourth World Water Forum for the African and, Latin American and the Caribbean regions. In addition, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) developed a common regional position paper to the 13th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 13) for the African region. Further, UNEP promoted environmentally sustainable water resources management through the development of guidelines and handbooks on economic instruments and ecosystem approaches in Asia and the Pacific (AP) and capacity building activities in West Asia. UNEP workshops on gender and water in AP enhanced stakeholder participation in water management.

10. UNEP continues working with other agencies to support Governments and regional bodies to develop and implement environmentally sustainable water management policies. At the global level, UNEP's contributions to the CSD 13 and at the 11th World Lakes Conference ensured environmental aspects of water are mainstreamed into water management. UNEP facilitated the formation of the Rainwater Partnership through which knowledge sharing and south-south cooperation is promoted. The Partnership has membership from over 50 global, regional and national institutions and joint activities have begun. At the national level and through collaboration with UN-HABITAT and UNDP in the Nairobi River Project, catchment rehabilitation has started with the planting of 2000 tree seedlings.

III. Assessing global water resources

11. Water assessment and monitoring activities provide background and analytical information on the state and trends of water resources which serves as a basis for decision making processes related to the sustainable use of water resources in development initiatives, including poverty alleviation. To this end, UNEP and its partners continue to implement a number of global, regional and national assessment activities. A summary of these activities are presented below.

A. Regional and global assessment of water resources

12. The UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment (UNEP/DEWA) continued its support to GEMS/Water, which compiles water quality data from different national Governments into a global database (GLOWDAT) as part of the UN Global Freshwater Monitoring and Assessment programme. GLOWDAT is available to other UN agencies and international organisations for undertaking global and regional water quality assessments (<http://www.gemswater.org>). The GEMStat is a new online database that was launched in March 2005. It is designed to share surface and ground water quality data sets collected from the GEMS/Water Global Network, including over 1,400 stations, two million records, and over 100 parameters. Further, in the area of capacity building, the GEMS/Water programme organised country level training workshops, such as "Atelier de travail sur l'état des lieux, la Mise à niveau et la Définition de grandes lignes du programme" in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

13. The five year UNEP-led Global International Water Assessment (GIWA) project was completed at the end of June 2005. This Global Environment Facility (GEF) project, implemented by UNEP and other stakeholders using existing assessments and other relevant information, provides Governments, decision makers and funding agencies with a quantitative, scientifically accurate identification and assessment of water issues in 66 sub-regions world-wide. Fourteen area-specific reports were published and printed while another thirteen were published on the website. Eleven other reports have been finalised and peer reviewed, but not yet published (<http://www.giwa.net>).

B. Groundwater vulnerability

14. UNEP/DEWA's project "Assessment of Pollution Status and Vulnerability of Water Supply Aquifers of African Cities: Phase II", will provide some good quality data on water, which is currently lacking in many developing countries, though necessary for the sustainable use of the resource. This

assessment, scheduled for completion in December 2005, is an extension of the “Urban Pollution of Surficial and Groundwater Aquifers” project which was implemented in collaboration with International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO (IHP/UNESCO) UN-Habitat and Economic Commission for Africa.

15. An international workshop on groundwater protection strategy is scheduled for 28 to 30 November 2005 in South Africa. This workshop will bring together project coordinators of the UNEP/DEWA groundwater project, and experts from Africa and prominent groundwater institutions to present their findings on groundwater protection. Their deliberations will be documented and published in a book, “Groundwater Protection Strategy for Africa” that will target an audience of policy makers, academia and the general public.

C. Global assessment of the vulnerability of water resources

16. Current projects to assess the vulnerability of water resources commenced in Africa and Asia and are intended to ultimately cover the globe. The assessments cover the vulnerability of surface water and groundwater aquifers in relation to quantity and quality and the impact of human land uses on water resources within the framework of integrated river basin management.

17. Two documents have been published as a result of these activities, "Facing the Facts: Assessing the Vulnerability of Africa's Water Resources to Environmental Change" and "Assessing Coastal Vulnerability; Developing a Global Index for Measuring Risk". Other documents to be published by the end of 2005 include “Hydropolitical Vulnerability and Resilience along International Waters: Africa”, “Hydropolitical Vulnerability and Resilience along International Waters: Latin America” and “Africa's Lakes: An Atlas of Environmental Change”.

18. Data generated in other activities on fresh, coastal and marine waters is being used to write the water chapters for the Global Environment Outlook and the African Environment Outlook. UNEP also provided input to the World Water Assessment Programme and the World Water Development Report Chapters on “Water and Ecosystems”.

D. Coastal and marine assessment activities

19. During 2005, UNEP undertook several assessments which will contribute to the 2006 State of the Environment report on coastal and marine resources. This report is under preparation by the UNEP/GPA Programme Coordination Office and will contribute to the 2nd GPA Inter-Governmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) in China, October 2006. Another report ready for publication is, “Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and Human Well-being: A Synthesis Report Based on the Findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment”.

20. A follow-up to the Global Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment has been developed and provides input to the general UN Global Marine Assessment (GMA) (<http://www.unep.org/dewa/water/MarineAssessment>). The 60th Session of the UN General Assembly endorsed the request by the 2nd International Workshop of the GMA for UNEP and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC UNESCO) to lead the production of the initial phase of establishing a Global Marine Assessment process, “Assessment of Assessments”.

E. Post conflict and disaster assessment

21. Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Seychelles, Yemen and Somalia requested UNEP to assist their national experts in understanding the environmental dimension of the Indian Ocean Tsunami. The UNEP Tsunami Disaster Task Force responded with support in conducting rapid environmental impact assessments. A preliminary report entitled “After the Tsunami – Rapid Environmental Assessment”, containing a summary of the main impacts and recovery needs, was released on 22 February 2005. More detailed assessments have been carried out in Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles and Sri Lanka. UNEP has also produced a desk study on the environmental situation in Somalia and will continue its work in Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand to integrate environmental dimensions into reconstruction plans, and coordinate environmental recovery activities.

22. The Annotated Guiding Principles for Post-Tsunami Rehabilitation and Reconstruction were adopted in Cairo on the 17th of February 2005, during the UNEP Tsunami Disaster Task Force meeting.

IV. Managing Water Resources

23. Consequences of unsustainable water management are felt in all sectors and are an impediment for development, specifically in meeting the internationally agreed targets of the Millennium Development Goals. Sustainable management of water resources should include ecosystem approaches, involvement of all stakeholders and sectors, and the mainstreaming of environmental aspects of social and economic development. The UNEP strategic approach to the issue of water, therefore, focuses on the achievement of environmentally sustainable water management comprising of policy development, integrated implementation and support to programmes.

A. Global Programme of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities (GPA)

24. At the global level, the Coordination Office of the GPA (UNEP/GPA) provided substantive inputs to the preparatory reports of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), ensuring that relevant issues were addressed from a GPA perspective, specifically with respect to the CSD thematic cluster of water, sanitation and human settlements. This included the furthering of the 10 Keys and associated guidelines and training on municipal wastewater management, which have been adopted by various international organizations, including UN-HABITAT, WHO, UNICEF and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and Governments. Through active participation in partnerships like the White Water to Blue Water initiative, led by the United States of America, the GPA has further strengthened global cooperation.

25. Key Principles to provide guidance for the sustainable development and management of four economic sectors (aquaculture, ports and harbours, tourism and mining) have been developed and adopted. The principles are mainly directed towards national Governments, industrial/business associations, UN and intergovernmental bodies. The 12 Guiding Principles for Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management (ICARM) have been finalized and published. In line with these Guiding Principles, and as part of on-going preparations for the 4th World Water Forum and the IGR2, an ICARM Casebook and Progress Marker is in development.

26. UNEP is closely cooperating with People's Republic of China, other Governments, intergovernmental bodies, UN institutions and other stakeholders in preparation for the IGR2, scheduled for the 16-22 October 2006 in Beijing. The preparatory process is being launched at several global fora meetings such as the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, the UN-Oceans, United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea and the Ocean Policy Summit 2005. A joint UN-Oceans/UN-Water Task Force is being set up to provide guidance on the preparatory work for the IGR2.

27. At the regional level, UNEP/GPA collaborates with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme in the organization of regional meetings and workshops, in reviewing and developing protocols to various regional seas conventions and in the execution of relevant capacity building activities. UNEP/GPA has been actively participating in a number of regional GEF projects and task forces, such as the UNEP-GEF Land-based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean project (WIO-LAB), the Task Force on Municipal Wastewater and Sanitation, the Task Force on Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats and the UNEP/GEF WIO-LAB Legal Task Force.

28. UNEP/GPA provided substantive support to national Governments to develop national programmes of action (NPAs) for the implementation of the GPA. As a result, over 40 countries are in the process of, or have finalized, their respective NPAs. This support included advice and assistance on GPA programme components like the strategic action plan on municipal wastewater management, physical alteration and destruction of habitats, integrated coastal area and river basin management, and cross cutting issues like legislation and innovative financing.

29. The UNEP/GPA, in partnership with UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS), coordinated over 10 training courses on Municipal Wastewater Management, training more than 230 managers from 15 different countries in English, Portuguese, Turkish and Spanish, working closely with local governments, academic institutions and NGOs <http://www.gpa.unep.org/training>.

30. UNEP has prepared a work plan to internalize the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in alignment with the BSP. A Memorandum of Understanding that covers an annual programme of work to renew cooperation with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

(SPREP) was signed in May 2005. The agreement includes a UNEP position based at SPREP in order to coordinate UNEP's activities with SPREP and other relevant organizations in the region.

B. Regional seas programme

31. The UNEP Regional Seas Programme (UNEP/RSP) implemented the six global Regional Seas Strategic Directions for 2004-2007, which were agreed to by the 6th Global Meeting of RSPs in Istanbul, December 2004 as follows:

(a) Increase Regional Seas' contribution to Sustainable Development

A database which gives an overview of all major actors and players in conservation and management of marine and coastal environment of the various Regional Seas Programmes (RSPs) was developed (<http://www.unep.org/regionalseas>). This facilitates partnerships and exchange of information. This website also links to other databases of major actors (e.g. the GEF). A regional seas brochure on 'Partnerships for Sustainable Development' has been published and can also be viewed on the Regional Seas website.

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development for the Mediterranean Action Plan, developed with the assistance of the UNEP/RSP, was adopted by the Mediterranean Conference of the Parties in Slovenia, 8-12 November 2005.

(b) Increase country ownership, implement legislation, involve civil society and the private sector, build capacities and ensure viable national and international financial arrangement

The UNEP/RSP provided advice and guidance for translating the regional seas conventions and protocols into national legislation in the Mediterranean, East Asia, Northwest Pacific and Caribbean regions. As part of the capacity building activities, the UNEP/RSP conducted a training workshop on compliance and enforcement for the regional seas conventions and related conventions in the Wider Caribbean and Pacific regions and supported the Caspian Sea, Black Sea and Nairobi Conventions to develop and revise the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Sources of Pollution Protocol. In November 2004, the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) for the NOWPAP, which is co-hosted in Toyama, Japan and Busan, Republic of Korea, was established and the staff recruited. The best practices and rules governing the involvement of civil society organisations, governments and regional seas secretariats identified have been uploaded on the regional seas' website.

The UNEP/RSP assisted in raising funds for implementing the regional seas action plans from multilateral and bilateral donors such as the GEF and the Government of Sweden. In addition, a training package on developing and implementing viable GEF projects in collaboration with the GEF is being developed. The 7th Global Meeting of Regional Seas, held from 18 to 20 October 2005 in Helsinki, Finland focused on strengthening the financial components of the programmes.

(c) Enhance Regional Seas' visibility

To increase visibility of the RSPs: (i) a revised website containing a global overview of each regional seas convention and action plan, along with its major actors and stakeholders and latest developments was launched (<http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/Publications/default.asp>); (ii) education and awareness raising material on specific issues such as marine litter were developed; (iii) the new RSPs' global strategy was made available in all UN languages and is available online; and (iv) the publication "Feasibility Study on Sustainable Management of Marine Litter", was finalised and is available online.

(d) Support knowledge-based policy making, through monitoring and assessment activities

In 2004, UNEP/RSP, in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency Marine Environment Laboratory (IAEA) published a review of regional marine pollution monitoring and assessment in the RSPs, giving recommendations on the improvement of these mechanisms to individual RSPs (<http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/Publications/default.asp>). Further, the IAEA assessed the water and sediment monitoring capacities of key laboratories in the Western Indian Ocean region within the framework of the GEF Western Indian Ocean Project on Land-Based Activities. In March 2005, UNEP and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide a framework for collaboration between the Global Ocean Observing System and UNEP/RSP.

(e) **Promote synergies and coordinated regional implementation of relevant Multilateral Environment Agreements and global organizations and initiatives**

UNEP/RSP worked with the following institutions and Conventions:

- a. *International Maritime Organisation (IMO)* to: (i) assist developing countries to enact necessary national level policy, legal and institutional reforms; (ii) build capacity for addressing the risks associated with the transfer of invasive aquatic species and pathogens through ships' ballast water and sediment; and (iii) develop a project proposal for achieving compliance with sea disposal agreements.
- b. *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*, UNEP/RSP, Nairobi Convention, and IUCN East Africa are developing training programmes to be used with the "Managing Marine Protected Areas" toolkit in the Western Indian Ocean. In addition UNEP/RSP, CBD, and the Black Sea Commission Secretariat, organized a workshop, "Looking for Synergy in Achieving Biodiversity Millennium Goals in the Black Sea", in Istanbul, September 2005.
- c. *Basel Convention* in developing a framework for cooperation between the Convention, the Mediterranean Action Plan and the RSPs. UNEP/RSP and the Convention also supported the Caribbean, Mediterranean and South Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Units to address marine litter issues.
- d. *Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)* to produce the joint publication: "Review of Small Cetaceans: Distribution, Behaviour, Migration and Threats" that was launched at the CMS COP 8 in November 2005. In addition, UNEP/RSP, Abidjan Convention Secretariat, CMS Secretariat and the Government of Monaco are developing a regional status report and conservation strategy on the Western African manatee. Further, UNEP/RSP, CMS and the Black Sea and Mediterranean Action Plans are supporting the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) to develop a training toolkit on small cetaceans.
- e. *Global Invasive Species Programme*. A toolkit and guidelines to manage invasive species of the marine and coastal environment was developed jointly in 2005.

(f) **Develop and promote ecosystems-based marine and coastal management**

In recognition of the inter-disciplinary character of integrated ecosystem approaches, UNEP/RSP signed Memoranda of Understanding to undertake economic valuation of goods and services for each of the world's Large Marine Ecosystems with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration.

32. Following the 6th Global Meeting of RSPs in Istanbul, December 2004, the UNEP/RSP initiated a comprehensive review of the RSP in order to enhance and revitalize the programme and to align the Regional Seas with recent international developments.

33. Within the reporting period, UNEP/RSP support to individual RSPs resulted in the following:

- (a) **Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)** – (i) establishment of the co-hosted RCU, inaugurated in November 2004; and (ii) signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on a Regional Oil Spills Contingency Plan between NOWPAP members and IMO.
- (b) **Northeast Pacific Action Plan-La Antigua Guatemala Convention (NEP)** – mobilization of SEK 3 million from the Swedish Development Agency to provide institutional support to NEP.
- (c) **Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region and The Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region** - (i) approval of a four-year Programme of Work and new partnerships; (ii) the development and approval process of the GEF Western Indian Ocean Project on Land-Based Activities, for which Norway provided the counterpart funding of US\$3.4M to the project's total budget of US\$11.4M; and (iii) agreement on the Programme of Work for 2004 to 2006 at the Abidjan Convention Focal Points Forum. At the 7th Abidjan Convention COP in March 2005 project proposals were developed to co-ordinate with the New Partnership for African Development's Environmental Action Plan. Additionally, the COP strengthened linkages with large marine ecosystems programmes and supported small island developing States' projects.

- (d) **South-east Pacific Action Plan (Lima Convention)** - (i) a High Level meeting to review the new Strategic Directions of the RSP in Lima, November 2004; (ii) a workshop on the development and implementation of GPA at the regional and national levels in Chile, January 2005; and (iii) the Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management workshop in 2004 from which selected case studies are being implemented in the countries with GPA support.
- (e) **Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) – Jeddah Convention** the provision of technical and financial support to PERSGA to implement its Action Plan for the Preparation and Response to Major Oil Spills through a regional training workshop on oil spill contingency planning in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

34. UNEP/RSP continued to mobilize funds from the GEF to support the implementation of individual RSPs. Additional information on the accomplishments of the individual Regional Seas Programmes can be found at the Regional Seas website (<http://www.unep.org/regionalseas>).

C. Coral reefs

35. Through its Coral Reef Unit (CRU) and the UNEP-facilitated conventions, UNEP continued to support the implementation of coral reef activities through the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the International Coral Reef Network (ICRAN) and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network. The CRU administers the United States of America counterpart contributions for coral reefs and utilises these funds to support UNEP partners and international frameworks in their efforts and activities to reverse the degradation of the world's coral reefs.

36. The CRU supported the organization of the high profile side event, "Islands, Reefs and Communities: Committing to the Future," which highlighted the essential role of marine and coastal protected areas in human well-being and poverty alleviation, during the International Meeting for the 10-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action in Mauritius, January 2005. Hosted by the President of Seychelles, this event was attended by several heads of state and ministers of small island States, the UN Secretary General, and senior officials of global multilateral organisations. Financial pledges were made by Australia, France, the United States of America and the European Commission, as well as The Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund. This initiative was followed by another event, "Benefits and Costs of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas for Islands", hosted by the Government of Palau and ICRI in June 2005.

37. UNEP, in partnership with the ICRAN, implemented the ICRAN Mesoamerican Reef Alliance Project to address coral reef threats in relation to watershed management, sustainable fishing, and sustainable tourism in the Mesoamerican region. The Alliance has (i) conducted national workshops in Belize, Honduras and Mexico; (ii) created networks for suppliers and purchasers of marine recreation activities; (iii) assisted in the development of regional codes of conduct for marine recreation providers; (iv) published a handbook, "A Practical Guide to Good Practice: Managing Environmental Impacts in the Marine Recreation Sector," in both English and Spanish; and (v) conducted a programme to improve the adoption and compliance of codes of conduct for providers and guidelines for purchasers of marine recreation.

38. In collaboration with the ICRAN Coordinating Unit, the CRU expanded ICRAN activities into the Arabian Sea and is projecting the impact of climate change on coral reefs and the goods and services they provide. In December 2004, ICRAN published "People and Reefs: Successes and Challenges in the Management of Coral Reef Protected Areas", which incorporates reports and case studies from East Asia, East Africa, South Pacific and Caribbean regional sea programmes.

39. In collaboration with the ICRAN Coordinating Unit, the CRU secured US\$845,000 from the European Commission for capacity building activities on coral reefs and marine protected areas in South Asia. Further, discussions are ongoing on the proposals to secure GEF funds for the South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme and for coral reef work in East Africa under the Nairobi Convention.

40. The CRU works closely with the ICRI co-host countries, Governments and other ICRI members to strengthen the initiative's impact. CRU also supports and advises the ICRI Secretariat, which was transferred in July 2005 from the UK/Seychelles to Japan/Palau for the next 2 years.

41. In 2004, ICRI included cold-water coral reef ecosystems within its remit, *inter alia*, calling upon competent authorities and other bodies to take appropriate actions to sustainably conserve, protect and manage these and related ecosystems. The CRU, with ICRI partners, prepared a programme of work on cold-water coral reefs and subsequently developed a global cold-water coral reef database and GIS and

produced a TV documentary to raise global awareness of cold-water coral reef ecosystems to implement parts of this programme of work.

D. Programme for the environmentally sound management of freshwater

42. UNEP, through the UNEP Collaborating Center on Water and Environment (UCC-Water), provides developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with technical and financial assistance for IWRM activities, which include, inter alia, policy dialogue and the development of guidelines. This support is provided through sub-regional intergovernmental fora such as the sub-regional economic communities and in collaboration with other development partners, notably UNDP, the UN Economic Commissions, and the Global Water Partnership. The Government of Denmark allocated US\$2.6 million and the Government of Norway contributed US\$318,000 to develop IWRM plans.

43. In 2004 and 2005, such support was given to Southern and West African countries in collaboration with the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)¹ and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)². Non ECOWAS members also participated in the West Africa water policy dialogue. Since the beginning of 2005, the programme has expanded to include five additional sub-regions. Implementation has begun in South East Asia³, Northern Africa, the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC)⁴, Central Asia⁵ and Latin America⁶. Tangible outputs of this process include sub-regional common conception on IWRM processes, sub-regional and national roadmaps for IWRM reform processes, and harmonized progress reporting on the World Summit on Sustainable Development target to “develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005”.

44. Since the launching of phase 2 in February 2005, the Dams and Development Project (DDP) has continued to promote improved decision making, planning and management of dams through facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue and has embarked on producing practical tools to help decision makers. At the global level, the DDP convened the 4th Dams and Development Forum meeting and conducted an issue-based workshop on Gaining Public Acceptance, which addressed key and sensitive issues on the planning and management of dams and the use of stakeholders’ experience to include local level perspectives. At the national level, the DDP assisted and followed-up on national multi-stakeholder consultation meetings on core values and strategic priorities of the World Commission on Dams, building on Phase 1 experiences, which resulted in policy and procedural recommendations to be submitted to Governments for consideration.

45. DDP developed and uploaded an online inventory of policy/normative frameworks (www.unep-dams.org). Further, DDP is updating the database of examples and lessons learnt and compiling a compendium on relevant practices.

46. UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Development and Law developed a guidebook, “Negotiator’s Handbook on International Freshwater Agreements”, for officials involved in planning and negotiating agreements on international waters.

E. Capacity building

47. Governing Council decision 23/2, paragraph 14, requested the Executive Director “to provide the necessary support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition through the implementation of UNEP activities under the Water Policy and Strategy within the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building”. In response, a Natural Resources Branch, covering a number of natural resources including water, has been established in the Division of

¹ SADC includes: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

² ECOWAS includes: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cap Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

³ The South East Asia program includes: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

⁴ CEEAC includes: Angola, Brundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, and Sao Tomé and Príncipe.

⁵ The Central Asia program includes: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan,

⁶ Latin America includes Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Environmental Policy Implementation (UNEP/DEPI). UNEP/DEPI is also responsible for coordinating implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building (BSP).

48. Under guidance of the BSP, UNEP is assisting Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho and Rwanda to assess their capacity building needs in water. These assessments are part of a pilot project to assess the capacity needs of six African countries to tackle environmental issues. The project countries are currently preparing proposals to address their identified needs in line with the BSP.

49. The UCC Water undertook capacity building activities through the IWRM 2005 project as part of UNEP's support to the West African, Southern African and South East Asian sub-regions through workshops and training courses. A number of capacity building workshops have been held, alongside Expert Group Meetings and discussion forums to develop a freshwater and sanitation strategy for the West Asian region. Further, sessions on international and national legal issues relevant to IWRM were held as part of the UNEP/Joensuu University course on International Environmental Law-making and Diplomacy in 2004.

50. UNEP's Environmental Education and Training Unit produced two children's books to raise awareness on water issues. The first publication is "Water World, Children's Voices", which includes water stories provided by children from all over the world. The second, "A Trip with Drip, The Water Drop," is a learning-by-doing workbook, which was launched at the World Youth Forum in Japan in October 2005. At this forum a workshop was organized to sensitize the youth about water conservation. "A Trip with Drip, the Water Drop" is available on a CDROM and on UNEP's website.

F. Environmentally sustainable technologies for water and waste management

51. The UNEP International Environment Technology Center (IETC) in Japan is assisting the Iraqi Government to restore the Iraqi marshlands by applying environmentally sustainable technologies for providing clean water and sanitation for local communities as well as for wetland rehabilitation and reconstruction in six pilot sites. Subsequently, freshwater augmentation, which increases water quality in the marshes and provides drinking water for human consumption, is also addressed (<http://marshlands.unep.or.jp>). In Viet Nam's sugar industry, IETC is also implementing a pilot project on augmenting freshwater, utilizing rainwater harvesting, wastewater treatment, and solid waste management based on the 4Rs (reduce, recycle, reuse and recover) management approach.

52. UNEP/DEPI initiated a number of pilot projects to promote rainwater harvesting as a means of achieving local empowerment and the MDG targets in water. In collaboration with the South Pacific Geoscience Commission, UNEP completed the Tonga pilot project to empower women in water management, which employed a training of trainers approach to train 30 village workers active in water and sanitation issues. Manuals and guidelines were developed and distributed throughout the Pacific small island developing States. As a result of the training, local women are able to maintain their rainwater harvesting facilities.

53. In collaboration with the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), UNEP completed the pilot project to empower women in water and energy management in the Himalayan regions of Bhutan, India and Nepal. Using the time saved from collecting water and firewood, women undertook income-generating activities such as selling cooking gas, solar driers, tailoring etc. Local governments have included this approach in their development plans. UNEP extended the projects to the Caribbean region, where lessons learnt in the Tonga islands and other regions will be used in the promotion of South-South cooperation. At the national level the project will promote the use of rainwater harvesting to ameliorate the impacts of Hurricane Ivan in Grenada. At the regional level, the project will facilitate the formation of a regional plan for promoting the use of rainwater.

54. UNEP is implementing a pilot project in Viet Nam to promote the use of environmentally sustainable technologies in the generation of biogas from wastes for industrial use.

V. Regional implementation of the UNEP water policy and strategy

55. Water is an area for which protection and sustainable management requires national action, and regional and sub-regional cooperation. The UNEP regional offices serve as the focal points in the implementation of the UNEP Water Policy and Strategy through regional ministerial forums and liaison with major stakeholder groups. The UNEP activities during the reporting period are presented below:

A. Africa

56. UNEP continued to be a strong partner in the UN-Water Africa framework. In collaboration with other UN agencies, UNEP supported the AMCOW, a regional intergovernmental mechanism established as a result of significant UNEP support. AMCOW's membership consists of the fifty-three countries in the region, represented by the ministers responsible for water from each nation. The UNEP participated in discussions relating to the report of the Commission on Africa, which places a particular emphasis on water policy challenges in Africa and references the coordinating role of AMCOW. The activities and results supported by UNEP and its partners are presented below:

- (a) **The fifth ordinary session of AMCOW in November 2004, Uganda**, which (i) produced a regional position for CSD 13 on the implementation of the MDGs targets relating to water; (ii) adopted the US\$3.7million 2005-2007 work programme for which UNEP prepared a proposal; and (iii) approved the AMCOW Trust Fund to which UNEP contributed US\$100,000.
- (b) **The regional coordination meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, June 2005, attended by the Executive Committee of AMCOW**, senior officials of the African Union, representatives of African River/Lake Basin countries and member agencies of UN-Water. Outcomes include a proposal on modalities for integrating AMCOW into the African Union and agreement on the main agenda items for the inaugural meeting of the Governing Council of the African Water Facility.
- (c) **Collaboration with AMCOW** to review the implementation of water policies in preparation for the 13th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. UNEP Collaborating Centre on Water and Environment (UCC) supported two sub-regional review processes in Western and Southern Africa. The result is an overall assessment of the progress made or needed to achieve the water-related aspects of the MDGs at the national and regional level.
- (d) **Support to AMCOW's participation in the Ministerial Round Table discussion at the 11th World Lakes Conference (Nairobi, 31 October - 4 November)**. Attended by ministers and high-level officers and experts, the session provided a forum for exchange of knowledge and experiences on the management of lakes, particularly African lakes.

B. Asia and the Pacific

57. As the Coordinating Body on Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP): (i) conducted the First Regional Partners Workshop on Regional Coordination Mechanisms in the East Asian Seas Region from 9 to 11 May 2005, Bangkok; (ii) discussed the proposed new strategic directions based on the revised white paper with COBSEA national focal point and relevant agencies; and (iii) participated in the "Brainstorming Meeting on the Development of National Action Plan on Implementation of the Cairo Guiding Principle" from 6 to 8 October 2005 in Chaam, Thailand.

58. UNEP/ROAP organized the 9th intergovernmental meeting on the NOWPAP in November 2004, Busan, Republic of Korea. Outcomes of the meeting include: (i) decision to conduct the "Intercessional Workshop" to discuss the ROAP proposal for new NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres' directions; (ii) decision that the new RCU will take the lead on developing the marine litter activities; (iii) agreement to discuss further Japan's proposal for geographical coverage of the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan; and (iv) endorsement, in principle, the concept proposal to be submitted to UNEP/GEF, and requested UNEP and the RCU to pursue the proposal with GEF for approval.

59. The East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit initiated and coordinated the "Green Fins" project in line with UNEP's implementation of the ICRAN and ICRI programme in the EAS region. This project is part of the effort to increase public awareness and management practices that will benefit the conservation of coral reefs and reduce unsustainable tourism practices. To evaluate the project and adherence to the Code of Conduct, the three types of assessments prepared are: (i) a twice yearly dive operator self-assessment; (ii) guest assessment of the dive operator; and (iii) a twice yearly network leaders' assessment.

60. Major activities of the South Asia Seas Programme (SAS) within the reporting period include: (i) the conclusion of a pilot project for establishing integrated coastal area and river basin management plan in South Asia; (ii) a national Oil Pollution Preparedness Response and Cooperation contingency planning workshop in December 2004, Pakistan; (iii) a revision of UNEP's regional seas reports and studies for the South Asian States; (iv) development of market based instruments for the medium to long term strategic planning of the implementation of the Sri Lankan NPA; (v) organized regional

workshops on measures to collect, handle, treat and dispose of waste generated in applying anti fouling system; and (vi) organized the 3rd Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting of the SAS in August 2005, which approved the region's programme of work for 2005-2007.

61. A "Gender, Water and Environment" workshop was held in December 2004, New Delhi, to draft the South Asian region's position paper for the UNEP 23rd Governing Council Meeting in February 2005, Nairobi.

C. Europe

62. UNEP Regional Office for Europe (UNEP/ROE) participated in a review of the implementation of the Environment Strategy for Countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia environment strategy. The results will, *inter alia*, substantiate discussions at the sixth "Environment for Europe" ministerial meeting in 2007. UNEP/ROE also followed the European Union (EU) Water Framework Directive implementation to reflect its principles in the development and revision of multilateral environmental agreements.

63. Within the framework of the GEF-funded Caspian Environment Programme, UNEP/ROE facilitated the development of a Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention). In its role as the Interim Secretariat to the Tehran Convention UNEP/ROE's main objective is to develop protocols in areas of particular environmental concern. To this end, work has been initiated on the development of three priority protocols: Environmental Impact Assessment in Transboundary Context, Biodiversity Conservation, and Regional Preparedness, Response and Co-operation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents. Additional protocols are under consideration.

64. UNEP/ROE and UNEP/GPA ensured the integration of the principles of IWRM and ecosystem approaches in the revised Protocol on Pollution from Land-based Sources under the Bucharest Convention. It is expected that this revised protocol will be adopted at the 2007 ministerial session of the Black Sea Commission. UNEP/ROE support leads to the development of nationally owned policy options and practical measures for the integration of water resources management plans into poverty reduction strategies or national sustainable development strategies, and enhancing the role of regional and sub-regional institutions.

D. Latin America and the Caribbean

65. UNEP regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP/ROLAC) assisted in the organisation of the third intergovernmental meeting of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the NEP, in November 2005, Guatemala. The member states agreed that the NEP Secretariat will be hosted in Guatemala.

66. The Environmental Training Network, in partnership with the Water Education for Teachers Network, organized the international training course, "Economic Instruments for Integrated Management of Water Resources" in Mexico. Two handbooks on ecosystem management of water resources and the water management participative approach were published within the series on Environmental Training.

67. UNEP/ROLAC organised a regional roundtable on Integrated Watershed Management during the 5th Inter-American Water Dialogue in Montego Bay, Jamaica in October, 2005. Recommendations of the discussions will be sent as regional input to the 4th Global Water Forum in Mexico City, March 2006.

E. West Asia

68. UNEP regional office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA) cooperated with the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia, FAO, UNESCO and the WHO in implementing a programme relating to water in the region. The programme, which includes the development of a training course, follows closely to the principles of IWRM. A number of capacity building workshops to develop an IWRM strategy for the region were held alongside Expert Group Meetings and discussion forums.

69. UNEP is working alongside the WHO and a number of global experts in the development of a Guidance Document on Desalination for Safe Water Supply. This involves a series of Expert Working Groups, discussing technology, health, microbiology, monitoring and environmental effects and impact assessments.

VI. Global water resources: coordination, partnerships and mobilizing actions

70. Coordination, cooperation and partnerships between and among relevant stakeholders are essential to addressing complex and inter-linked water problems. As such, UNEP helps to mobilize actions and partnerships and to strengthen the capacity of Governments and experts to adapt appropriate policies to the environmental, social and economic issues related to the sustainable use and management of freshwater, coastal and marine resources.

A. Global coordination

71. UNEP is actively engaged in discussions within the framework of the EU water initiative for Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific region as well as supporting countries in regional institutions in the preparation of project document to access funds for addressing the environmental aspects of water.

72. UNEP has been involved in international sessions and fora to promote the inclusion of environmental aspects of IWRM and ecosystem approaches into national, regional and global sustainable development plans and poverty reduction strategies through the provision of input to the Secretary-General's reports and participation at the (i) CSD 13, which was the second part of the water policy cycle and (ii) 2005 World Summit, which reviewed progress made in implementing the MDG. CSD 14 is the first part of the energy cycle and will be held in 2006, where, in addition to its contribution on energy, UNEP will highlight the importance of environmentally sustainable use of water in relation to energy.

73. As a member of the UN-Water network, UNEP shares information with other UN agencies and provides necessary input on the environmental aspects of water. UNEP contributed to the Water and Ecosystems chapters of the World Water Assessment Programme and the World Water Development Report. "Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and Human Well-being: A Synthesis Report on the Findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment" is an example of this cooperation. Further, UNEP contributes to the marine and coastal activities of the JPOI within the framework of UN-Oceans.

74. Among its efforts to support the scientific community in addressing the environmental issues of water, UNEP supported the 11th World Lake Conference from 31 October to 4 November, Nairobi and sponsored the "Lake Ecosystem Health" Session.

B. Collaboration on specific water projects with other UN agencies

75. UN-Habitat and UNEP, through their Sustainable Cities Programme, established the Basic Urban Services (BUS) initiative to address water supply, sanitation, solid waste, and storm water management. BUS is implemented through municipal and national level projects to promote the environmental planning and management approach to urban environmental issues. BUS pilot projects are in Wattala, Sri Lanka, Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso and Egypt.

76. UNEP, in collaboration with other Nairobi-based UN agencies, including UNDP and UN-Habitat, continued to collaborate on the "Nairobi River Basin Programme – Phase III" (NRBP-Phase III), which was designed through a multi-stakeholder consultative and participatory process. The project is implemented in line with the BSP through environmental assessment, capacity building, technical and institutional support, and awareness-raising activities. An afforestation programme was launched on 28 May 2005 as a component of catchment rehabilitation and 2,000 tree seedlings have since been planted.

77. Participants and other governments have pledged support for the programme, which has received a contribution of US\$769,000 for earmarked activities; US\$719,000 from Belgium and US\$50,000 from Ireland. Further, thirty-five Nairobi-based companies committed themselves to the achievement of NRBP-Phase III and contributed US\$64,000 to the Nairobi Dam Trust.

C. Partnerships

78. The 2005 Water Resources Alliance Initiative, launched at the CSD 12, consists of key organisations such as UNDP and Global Water Partnership, which support the achievement of the WSSD 2005 IWRM target. The Initiative's scope has broadened to cover implementation of IWRM processes beyond the 2005 target and is now referred to as the "IWRM InfoForum". This forum is one of the mechanisms for coordinating UNEP's support related to the IWRM 2005 target with other organisations.

79. UNEP catalyzed the formation of the Rainwater Partnership, whose main objective is to raise the profile of rainwater, an MDG-relevant resource, to that of surface and groundwater. The Partnership, supported by 11 Governments, has over 50 members including Governments and non governmental and academic institutions at national, regional and global levels. Through the Rainwater Partnership, UNEP, World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) and the Rotary Club of Nakuru are promoting microfinance in rainwater harvesting for productive purposes in Kenya. In addition, UNEP, in partnership with ICRAF, developed maps indicating the rainwater harvesting potential in the African region, including 10 African countries. A report on the maps will be published in late 2005.

Appendix I: List of Acronyms

ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water
BSP	Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building
BUS	Basic Urban Services
CEEAC	Economic Community of Central African States
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
COBSEA	Coordinating Body on Seas of East Asia
CRU	Coral Reef Unit
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
DDP	Dams and Development Project
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS/Water	Global Environment Monitoring Systems
GEMS/stat	Global Water Quality Database
GIWA	Global International Water Assessment
GLOWDAT	Global Environment Monitoring Systems global database
GMA	Global Marine Assessment
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICIMOD	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Center
ICRAN	International Coral Reef Network
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IETC	International Environment Technology Center
IGR2	2 nd GPA Inter-Governmental Review Meeting
IHP/UNESCO	International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
IOC UNESCO	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
IWRM	Integrated water resource management
JPOI	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
NEP	Northeast Pacific Action Plan-La Antigua Guatemala Convention
NOWPAP	North West Pacific Action Plan
NPA	National Programmes of Action
NRBP-Phase III	Nairobi River Basin Programme – Phase III
PERSGA	Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
RCU	Regional Coordinating Unit
RSP	Regional Seas Programmes
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SAS	South Asia Seas Programme
UCC-Water	UNEP Collaborating Center on Water and Environment
UNDOALOS	UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
UNEP/DEPI	UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
UNEP/DEWA	UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment
UNEP/DTIE	Division of Technology, Industry and Energy
UNEP/GPA	UNEP Global Programme of Action
UNEP/ROAP	UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
UNEP/ROE	UNEP Regional Office for Europe
UNEP/ROLAC	UNEP regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNEP/ROWA	UNEP regional office for West Asia
UNEP/RSP	UNEP Regional Seas Programme
WIO-LAB	Western Indian Ocean Land Based Activities