

Conclusions and recommendations

In the GIWA effort in the East China Sea, a fourstep process has been used to provide a series of insights into the main issues in the region, based on data compilation and analyses. In addition, the causal chain analysis has resulted in the identification of the following root causes:

- Lack of public awareness and education, which slows down the distribution of information and existing knowledge;
- Poor organisation/control of investment planning and priorities, which results in harmful investments and actions;
- Inadequate structure and capacity building, which results in an imbalance between resource consumption and legislation;
- Weak international cooperation between neighbouring countries, which hinders coordination of implementation.

There are significant knowledge gaps in the quantitative estimates of benefits and costs in both physical and financial terms for the East China Sea, with respect to water and economic resources. In-depth studies should be carried out to establish necessary processes and to determine input and response feedback loops in various parts of society. This will help in the evaluation of potential influences on human health and the determination of mechanisms for the remediation processes.

The analyses of policy options has generated a series of recommendations, which include:

- Establishment of a regulatory framework in the region and improvements in compliance through stakeholder involvement;
- Investment in legal enforcement and an increase in capacity building to remedy pollution and habitat loss;
- Creation of education programmes to improve public awareness and participation in actions;
- Improvement in opportunities for increasing revenue and employment from environmental protection industries
- Enactment of legislation and international agreements to reduce pollution from land-based activities.

Finally, because of the similarity of environmental problems in the East China Sea to other marginal seas, the causal chain and policy option analyses presented in this report should be combined with documents from other regions to synthesise a GIWA approach for marginal seas of the world.