

Assessment of Progress in Marine Pollution Control (including land-based sources of Pollution) and Challenges to the Implementation of the Oceans-related outcomes of Earth Summits 1 & 2

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Outline

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 - Land-based Pollution – Priority Issues
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 - Suggested New Directions- with the GCLME Project Initiative as an example
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- Conclusions



Earth Summits and the Oceans

- Countries had stated since UNCED that degradation of the marine environment could result from land-based sources
- Both Agenda 21 and JPOI set up Agreements to promote the sustainable utilization, conservation and prevention of pollution of the marine environment and its resources, both in the oceans and in coastal areas.
- Both set up objectives, activities and means of implementation



Summits Agreements

- Agenda 21 – 7 goals and targets
- JPOI – 8 goals and recommendations including the Ecosystem approach and integrated management
- Both Summits declarations contain elements of recommendations urging States to apply preventive, precautionary and anticipatory approaches (EIAs, mainstreaming etc) including economic incentives for internalisation of env costs
- Additional financing for DCs and CEITs



POST SUMMITS ‘ STATE OF THE OCEANS- INCREASING VULNERABILITY AND DEGRADATION

The oceans even though vast are fragile ecosystems. Commonly thought to be resilient and able to absorb waste and withstand increased human population, fishing and shipping pressures. However there is increasing evidence of the ocean’s vulnerability

Examples:

- **Destruction of 50% of the world’s mangroves, which provide crucial habitat for a variety of important coastal and ocean species and serve as natural barriers to increased storm surges from Coastal development ;**
- **Increasing hypoxic and anoxic zones from excessive nutrients from sewage outfalls and agricultural runoff resulting in the collapse of some ecosystems and loss of biota;**
- **80% of global fisheries are either fully exploited or overexploited;**
- **90% of the large marine predators are estimated to have already vanished due to unsustainable fishing,**



Alien invasive species from ships' ballast water (ca. 3,000 species of plants and animals) causing explosive growth of alien invasive species resulting in irreversible damage to marine habitats mostly in DCs;

- An estimated 58% of global coral reefs are threatened, and many will be gone by 2040 due to the rising temperature of the ocean as well as ocean acidification; and**
- Ocean chemistry data and 'carbon sink function' are indicating undue changes affecting the growth of plankton, corals, and invertebrates that form the primary level of the marine food chain.**



Land-based Pollution- Priority Issues

Estimates of LBP is 80% from point and non-point sources

- Coastal erosion
- Pollution (either from Oil spills, Sewage, Solid waste, Marine debris and litter, Industrial effluents, Persistent organic pollutants, EDS, Radioactive substances, Heavy metals , Nutrients, Sediment mobilization, liter etc)
- Flooding
- Deforestation
- Salinisation
- Habitat destruction
- Subsidence



PROGRESS IN POLLUTION MANAGEMENT OF THE OCEANS

- Well-developed legal regime globally (the development of legislation, agreements and programmes of action at the international level) - UNCLOS in 1994 providing an overall framework for governance of the ocean; Ramsar, Stockholm. Mercury INC etc complimented by many Regional instruments and guidelines
- UNEP GPA for the Protection of Marine Env from Land-based Activities - Highly active, providing TA (even in DCs) 70 States have an NPA - Intergovernmental reviews of GPA in 2001 and 2006 further strengthening activities and forging new strategies
- IMO –anchored Conventions, guides and activities to prevent pollution from ships since UNCED
- CBD activities
- Jakarta Mandate and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement in 1995



GAPS/CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION

- Despite the notable successes in outlined above, the degree of implementation of the past Summits outcomes have been insufficient to bring about a reversal in the decline of resources and environmental conditions or to ensure better protection against natural and anthropogenic degradation
- Causes
 - pressure on environmental resources from high use and natural disasters (poverty crisis in most DCs)
 - social unrest
 - Lack of political will



- insufficient governance and planning policies
- lack of financial resources
- lack of coordination among internal authorities stemming from an unclear definition of roles and responsibilities
- Lack of collaboration and coordination among the donor community also presents difficulties in terms of country priorities versus those of the donor community

are among the challenges contributing to lack of environmental sustainability



SUGGESTED NEW DIRECTIONS

- New strategic directions required especially through responses to listed challenges above
- Increased national level actions- implement Agenda 21's paradigm of "Think globally, but act locally"
- Development of newer economic incentives including Cost of Inaction models/data
- Increased support and encouragement of the LME Ecosystem Approach and Integrated Management for Coastal Areas of DCs, SIDs and CEITs to address issues such as over-exploitation, land-based pollution, habitat destruction etc
- Additional financial support and assistance including for use of cleaner technology



Guinea Current LME Project Initiative as Example of IEM of Coastal Areas

- The success of the 16-country GEF GCLME Project in the West and Central Africa region is beginning to amply demonstrate that dissimilar countries in can jointly assess and co-manage the national and the shared transboundary marine resources of each State.
- Also, regional cooperation in management of the marine areas can be well facilitated by successfully adopting the LME ecosystem-based approach for addressing common challenges in ocean management across borders
- The growing interest of member-states to a joint partnership and joint management for restoring biomass and ecosystem integrity and diversity is manifested in the smooth commitments of Governments in transforming the GCLME Project to a full-fledged Guinea Current Commission after the GEF catalytic action similar to the IBCC for the Benguela LME in Southern Africa
- The targeted national and regional cooperation actions and mechanisms have begun to have measurable effects in reversing impacts on the marine environment as well as the livelihoods and security of dependant poor communities



CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ Much progress since Rio but many gaps and challenges that are still jeopardizing the management and sustainability of the oceans
- ❖ Twenty years post Rio and JPOI Summits, it is necessary to state that the principles, goals and targets that were agreed to in the 1992 and 2002 negotiations are still very relevant esp for DCs, SIDs and CEITs
- ❖ Action planning now should be more at national level for improved implementation of the goals and targets
- ❖ No healthy ocean-state without a healthy ocean!



Thank you for your attention

*ENSURE SUSTAINABLE
MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL
AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT*



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