THE UNDP WATER & OCEAN GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME (WOGP) WORKS TO SUSTAIN AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS AND ENSURE BASIC SERVICES

DELIVERING ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
IN 2015, WORLD LEADERS adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This plan of action – for people, planet and prosperity – recognizes that eliminating poverty is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) helps countries build and share solutions and strengthen frameworks for governance, development and reducing risks of disaster and climate change.

UNDP’s work on Water & Ocean Governance focuses primarily on the challenges related to SDG 6 – sustainable management of water and sanitation for all – and SDG 14 – to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.

The WOGP set of projects and programmes bring a diverse suite of actors together to jointly protect ecosystems and ensure the sustainable use of water and ocean resources to build equitable, inclusive and sustainable societies. Yet, as exemplified in this brochure, the work contributes to the achievement of all the SDGs.

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GLOBAL CHALLENGES FOR WATER & OCEAN GOVERNANCE

- 80% of global FISH stocks are fully exploited, OVEREXPLOITED or collapsed.
- 20% of the world’s CORAL REEFS have already been LOST and another 20% degraded.
- 10-20 MILLION TONS of PLASTICS produced every year, damaging species and ecosystems.
- OVER 80% of wastewater is estimated to be released to the environment WITHOUT adequate TREATMENT.
- NEARLY 1,000 CHILDREN die each day due to preventable water and sanitation-related diseases.
- FLOODS and other water-related disasters account for 70% of all deaths related to natural disasters.
- 1.8 BILLION people live in river basins where water use EXCEEDS the locally renewable water resources.
- 30% increase in ocean ACIDITY due to build-up of anthropogenic carbon dioxide in the ocean over the last 50 years is negatively IMPACTING OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS.

GLOBALLY, 6 BILLION PEOPLE HAVE BASIC SANITATION, BUT LESS THAN 2 BILLION HAVE THEIR EXCRETA SAFELY MANAGED.

GLOBALLY, 6.4 BILLION PEOPLE HAVE BASIC WATER SUPPLY, BUT LESS THAN 5.2 BILLION ACCESS A SAFELY MANAGED SYSTEM.
The Governments of Sweden and France, and the Adaptation Fund, are the most important financial partners. UNDP-WOGP works with and through a wide range of partners, and supports water and ocean-related projects that deliver on particular aspects and sub-themes, and supports water and ocean-related endeavours throughout UNDP.

UNDP-WOGP responds to the water and ocean governance challenges by supporting dialogues that build trust in transboundary water cooperation between countries. UNDP is involved as a GEF Agency in a total of 22 transboundary water initiatives consisting of 13 river, six lake and three aquifer projects. Complementary to the GEF initiatives, the Shared Waters Partnership, implemented by SIWI, is an international platform, Knowledge Management Facility, International Waters focal area lead agency in the GEF initiatives. UNDP is the lead agency in the Global Water Partnership, implemented by SIWI, was established in 2005, serve to strengthen UNDP’s capacity to provide relevant policy support and advice to countries, and to build the knowledge and capacities for improved water governance within governments and civil society as well as among UN agencies.

Over a third of the world’s population lives within 100 km of the coast or estuaries. Harbouring the brunt of the world’s economic activities, coastal ecosystems are under constant threat. Integrated coastal management (ICM) embraces a broader, more systemic approach to the management of coastal environments and fosters sustainable development of coastal areas by bringing together government, technical specialists and local stakeholders. Increasingly, stakeholders are engaging in sustainable natural resources management. Institutions, protected areas, and empowered communities and investments. Process outcomes involve new and strengthened analysis and multi-country agreement on required governance reforms by developing action plans, coordination and regulatory functions; formulation of required policy changes; preparing for change, by supporting implementation and strengthening capacities for enhanced accountability and transparency.

Large marine ecosystems (LMEs) are highly productive waters which together produce about 90% of the world’s fisheries catch. They are also hot spots of pollution and nutrient overload, overfishing and biodiversity loss, urgently requiring cooperative, multi-country approaches at the regional level. UNDP is involved as a GEF Agency in 13 LMEs, applying the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Programme (TDA-SAP) methodology for issue prioritization, causal chain analysis and multi-country agreement on required governance reforms and investments. Process outcomes involve new and strengthened institutions, protected areas, and empowered communities engaging in sustainable natural resources management.
REDUCED VULNERABILITY to economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters is critical for poverty reduction. The VRBAS RIVER Basin in Bosnia & Herzegovina has a large rural population with poor and vulnerable communities, including war returnees and displaced persons. In 2014, the region was hit by flooding with devastating effects. Working closely with state, local government and other relevant institutions, flood risks are now better included into legal and policy frameworks, enhancing preparedness for the future. The project forms part of broader endeavors funded by the GEF to address CLIMATE-RELATED RISKS in the greater Balkans and Caucasus.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SERVICES like water and sanitation is fundamental for improving human health and eradicating poverty. Safe sanitation for all is fundamental for reducing diarrhoeal disease. The UNDP GOAL WASH programme, active in 12 countries and one region, builds governance frameworks for the sustained and equitable provision of water and sanitation services.

QUALITY SEAFOOD and strengthened livelihoods are gained by improved fisheries management. UNDP supports the governance of marine ecosystems and purposeful management of small scale and artisanal coastal fisheries help local livelihoods and improved nutrition.

HYGIENE FACILITIES, including provisions for menstrual hygiene management, are critical for girls’ education. In Bangladesh, the UNDP Every Drop Matters partnership with Coca-Cola Foundation supported the construction of drinking water and sanitation facilities in twelve SCHOOLS leading to improved access for 9,700 students in Chittagong City.

WATER & OCEAN GOVERNANCE HELPS COUNTRIES ACCELERATE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE WHOLE 2030 AGENDA

1 NO POVERTY
2 ZERO HUNGER
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6

The WATER & OCEAN GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME

acts as focal point for SDG6 within UNDP and in support of water-related efforts of other UNDP offices and partners. Committed to coordination as a crucial element of good governance, UNDP works closely with the UN-Water inter-agency mechanisms that coordinates the efforts on water and sanitation of UN entities and international organizations. The UNDP Water Advisor led the UN-Water SDG Task Force that presented a comprehensive report with technical advice on a possible post-2015 global goal for water. All recommended goals, targets and indicators were picked up by the Open Working Group and subsequently adopted by the UN General Assembly at the high level SDG summit in September 2015. Several WOGP delivery mechanisms support and promote the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the sustainable, equitable and accountable provision of water supply and sanitation services. In partnership with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) UNDP leads a range of programmes in support of ecosystem based management of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Aquifers, as well as Integrated Water Resources and Coastal Area Management.

SDG6 TARGETS

6.1 SAFE WATER FOR ALL

6.2 EQUITABLE SANITATION AND HYGIENE

6.3 REDUCE POLLUTION, INCLUDING LATE-WASTE

6.4 INCREASE WATER USE EFFICIENCY

6.5 IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

6.6 PROTECT AND RESTORE WATER-RELATED ECOSYSTEMS

SOURCE-TO-SEA. UNDP supports the “Action Platform for Source to Sea Management” to enhance the linkages between land, sea, coastal and marine management and support coordinated implementation of SDGs 6 and 14. The platform has contributed to six regional case studies of multi-country initiatives dealing with source-to-sea priorities undertaken in collaboration with GEF-STAR; and a conceptual framework for the governance and management of resources along with a study on the linkages and gaps between SDG6 on freshwater and SDG 14 on life under water undertaken for the Swedish Agency on Marine and Water Management.

ACCESS TO SAFE WATER IS A HUMAN RIGHT. In Tajikistan, UNDP GoAL WaSH has supported a process of rendering legal consultative services to water consumers (including pre-trial court protection with special focus on gender, vulnerable and marginalized groups). A local network of volunteers has been set up. Through this network more than 150 consultancy services have been provided in the target areas, as well as information campaigns. An online resource (www.obinushoki.tj) has been set up to EXTEND LEGAL SERVICES for drinking water consumers throughout Tajikistan.

ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

The INTEGRATED TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT project in Puyo-Puyo-Tumbes, Catamayo- Chira and Zarumilla River Basins and Aquifers aims to enhance biotermal efforts of Peru and Ecuador. These water resources are currently threatened by overexploitation, pollution and inefficient management, as well as by climate variability and change. The project will integrate climate variability and groundwater concerns, and strengthen inclusive and participatory decision-making in support of habitat protection, pollution reduction and improved water supply which is essential to the region’s socio-economic development and to the integrity of its ecosystems.

PROMOTING INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM). In 2012, 65 per cent of the 130 countries that responded to a survey on IWRM reported that management plans were in place at the national level. Through its network for sustainable water management, Cap-Net continuously supports enhanced IWRM capabilities across the global South. In the 2002-2016 period Cap-Net published 25 manuals and delivered 450 training courses. The network thus trained some 19,000 people in 120 different countries. Over US$30 million were invested, leveraging some US$2.1 million. The implementation of IWRM at all levels is integral to the SDG agenda.

Research by the UNDP-SMI Water Governance Facility assessed institutional clashes between communities, service providers, development co-operation actors and local authorities, in areas with large groups of indigenous peoples guided a set of recommendations for an INTERCULTURAL APPROACH. It highlights the importance of MUTUAL RESPECT, FLEXIBILITY AND LONGTERM SUPPORT, inserting the recommendations into the project cycle.
A manual for the application of a HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH to the integrated water resources management has been produced to promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all in the management of water. The Manual is accessible through the Cap-Net website and the mobile app ‘Cap-net in your pocket’, and has been used for training through the Virtual Campus.

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UNDP supports long-term and sustainable use of water and natural resources throughout its work towards poverty eradication. In Cabo Verde, a demonstration project in Tarrafal has upgraded the wastewater treatment plant to cope with additional flow, and to channel TREATED WASTEWATER to the Colonato agricultural area on the outskirts of the town. This area sustains many underprivileged families who will be able to EXPAND CULTIVATION. With a special focus on women farmers, support is provided for changing farming practices and crop diversification, adapted for wastewater reuse and tailored to save water and fertilizers. Farmers have also been trained to plant salt tolerant and salt absorbing tree species along the coast to protect the cultivation area. This project is implemented jointly by UNDP and the UN Environment Programme, and financed by GEF.

In 2015, UNDP and IMO launched the GEF-financed GLOBAL MARITIME ENERGY EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP Project (GloMEEP) to reduce the shipping industry’s global carbon footprint by improved ship design and operation. GloMEEP supports ten lead pilot countries with 1) Legal, policy and institutional reforms; 2) Awareness raising and capacity-building activities; and 3) Establishment of public-private partnerships to encourage technology transfer.

Sanitary and health conditions have improved in several communities of La Havana, Cuba, through the installation of a sewage collection system in the Havana Bay, supported by a UNDP/GEF project. Support from a series of UNDP/GEF International Waters projects has helped SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS) in the Pacific to fully engage in processes of the West & Central Pacific Fisheries Convention, apply Bent and catch monitoring, control and surveillance, and to apply ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management.  

Over the 1997-2012 period of catalytic UNDP/GEF support, overall tuna landings by Pacific SIDS fishing fleets roughly tripled as did the dockside dollar value of landed fish.

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Evolving from a demonstration project on marine pollution prevention and management, the Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PIMSEA) is now an intergovernmental organization operating in East Asia to foster sustainable and resilient oceans, coasts, communities and economies across the region. With the help of GEF, UNDP and many other international organizations, PIMSEA has fostered a dynamic partnership among stakeholders from the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels working to address threats to the region’s marine and coastal ecosystems and the communities these support. PIMSEA has applied INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT solutions in dozens of sites across East Asia, impacting more than 11,000 km of coastline and over 146 million people living in coastal and watershed areas. Healthier habitats and fisheries resources have improved the quality of life for coastal communities.

The Humboldt Current, one of the world’s most productive marine ecosystems, extends along the Coast of Chile and Peru and its cold and nutrient-rich waters support one of the world’s largest fisheries, anchovy. Through the anchovy. Through the application of the Ecosystem Based Management Approach and the recent signing of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP), the Convention and the IUCN has identified over 500 priority MARINE ECOSYSTEM a ground-breaking environmental treaty that established the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (HCLME) Project Chile and Peru have been assisted by GEF and UNDP in the application of the Ecosystem Board Management Approach to fisheries management. The Convention enters into force in 2014. The Ballast Water Management Convention and its Guidelines were adopted to eliminate the transfer of harmful aquatic species and pathogens through the control and management of ships’ ballast water and sediments. In September 2017 the Convention enters into force. The GEF-UNEP-IMO Global Ballast Programme has for nearly 20 years supported the development of uniform LEGAL, POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS in developing countries, along with major capacity building efforts to foster technological innovations in ballast water treatment.

The western and central Pacific Ocean supply nearly half the world’s tuna. In the early 2000s, the countries that fish these waters realized that overfishing the region was depleting many fish stocks, including the extractive of oil, gas and diamonds from the seabed, has had detrimental effects on this ecosystem. Inadequate planning has created a number of pollution hotspots, and increasing fishing pressure has led to the depletion of stocks and, in some instances, stock collapse. In 2013, the governments of Angola, Namibia and South Africa signed the BENGUELA CURRENT CONVENTION, a ground-breaking environmental treaty that established the Benguela Current Commission as a permanent inter-governmental organization to foster the implementation of an integrated, multi-sector, multi-country approach to ocean management. GEF, through UNDP, are among the partners that support this improved ocean governance.

The Bengal Sea is a major coastal upwelling ecosystem that is rich in pelagic and coastal biodiversity, and supports one of the world’s most productive fisheries. In the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem extends from east of the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa, northwards to Cabinda Province in Angola and encompasses the full extent of Namibia’s marine environment. It is a major coastal upwelling ecosystem that is richly ENDOWED with both living and non-living resources – from large, gas and mineral reserves to abundant fisheries and unrivalled natural beauty. Exploitation of natural resources, including the extraction of oil, gas and diamonds from the seabed, has had detrimental effects on this ecosystem. Inadequate planning has created a number of pollution hotspots, and increasing fishing pressure has led to the depletion of stocks and, in some instances, stock collapse. In 2013, the governments of Angola, Namibia and South Africa signed the BENGUELA CURRENT CONVENTION, a ground-breaking environmental treaty that established the Benguela Current Commission as a permanent inter-governmental organization to foster the implementation of an integrated, multi-sector, multi-country approach to ocean management. GEF, through UNDP, are among the partners that support this improved ocean governance.
The model of MULTILEVEL WATER GOVERNANCE applied in the Tonsa River Basin (developed in coordination with the UNDP ART Program) has been recognized and supported by the central government in El Salvador as the first pilot of the model in Latin America. The project takes an INTEGRATED LAND, WATER AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT APPROACH – protecting livelihoods and food production and enhancing climate resilience – through the conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, in line with international conventions and national legislation.

Through the Pacific Islands Ridge-to-Reef programme, UNDP and GEF are supporting the conservation and the enhancement of ecosystem services of the Tongatapu Lagoon Catchment on the Tongatapu Island of the Kingdom of Tonga in the South Pacific. The project takes an INTEGRATED LAND, WATER AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT APPROACH – protecting livelihoods and food production and enhancing climate resilience – through the conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, in line with international conventions and national legislation.

The network for sustainable water management, Cap-Net, directly links to SDG Target 17.9 on CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. Composed of 23 affiliated regional and country level capacity development networks with over 1000 member organizations in 120 countries, Cap-Net delivers training and education to water professionals in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The results relating to ‘water integrity’ trainings through Cap-Net’s Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (MELP) indicated that 70% of the trainees had shared the knowledge from the courses with others. Moreover, 57% indicated that the course had contributed to their organizations becoming more transparent and accountable, and 53% could identify concrete changes to improved integrity in their local area as a result of the course.

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UNDP water and ocean vision: integrated, climate-resilient, sustainable and equitable management of water and ocean resources, and universal access to safe water supply and sanitation, through improved water and ocean governance.

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