



United Nations
Environment
Programme



Global Programme of
Action for the Protection
of the Marine
Environment from Land-
based Activities



World
Health
Organisation



UN-HABITAT



Water Supply
& Sanitation
Collaborative
Council

NEED FOR WASTEWATER EMISSION TARGETS ?

UNEP/GPA and the Regional Seas Programme

The UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, endorsed in 1995 by over 100 countries, addresses coastal and marine pollution problems affecting human health and the environment. The programme is among others implemented through the UNEP Regional Seas programme. The majority of the Regional Seas identified untreated domestic wastewater – sewage – as one of the primary pollution source categories.

UNEP/WHO/Habitat/WSSCC Guidance on Municipal Wastewater

In accordance with the GPA Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater, UNEP developed, jointly with WHO, HABITAT and WSSCC, a guidance document on Municipal Wastewater. The document aims at setting a new global standard through advocating innovative approaches, comprising integrated wastewater management, enhanced institutional set-up, innovative financing mechanisms, multi-stakeholder involvement & community participation, and low-cost environmentally sound technologies.

UNCLOS and Wastewater Emission Targets (WET)

Consistent with the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS), UNEP/GPA and partners seek to move beyond the provision of guidance to a process of determining and achieving global, regional and national Wastewater Emission Targets, to be reached within one generation's lifetime. Exploring Wastewater Emission Targets may be instrumental to achieve a better coverage in water sanitation and wastewater treatment. There is a direct link with the Millennium and WSSD targets. WET is part of the "H2O - Hilltops to Oceans" initiative launched by UNEP/GPA and partner organisations.

Expected Outcome of WET

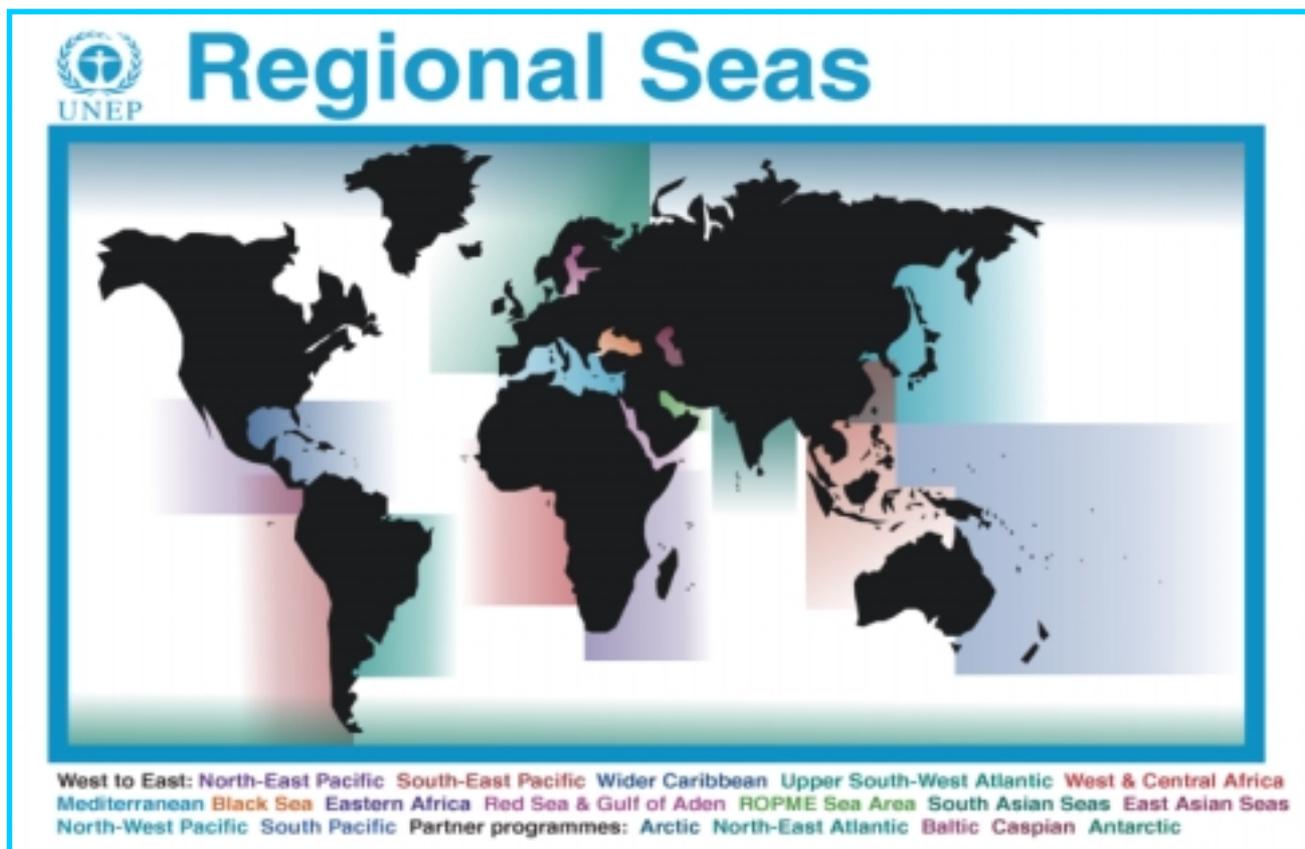
- A programme of multilateral negotiations for establishing Wastewater Emission Targets;
- A multilateral binding instrument, or a series of integrated regionally binding agreements, by December 2005, that set sanitation and wastewater emission targets for parties based on 2000 levels;
- Measurable reduction in discharges of untreated wastewater at local and/or national levels;
- At least 20% of coastal cities implementing sustainable water supply and wastewater treatment systems by 2012.

Global Facts and Figures

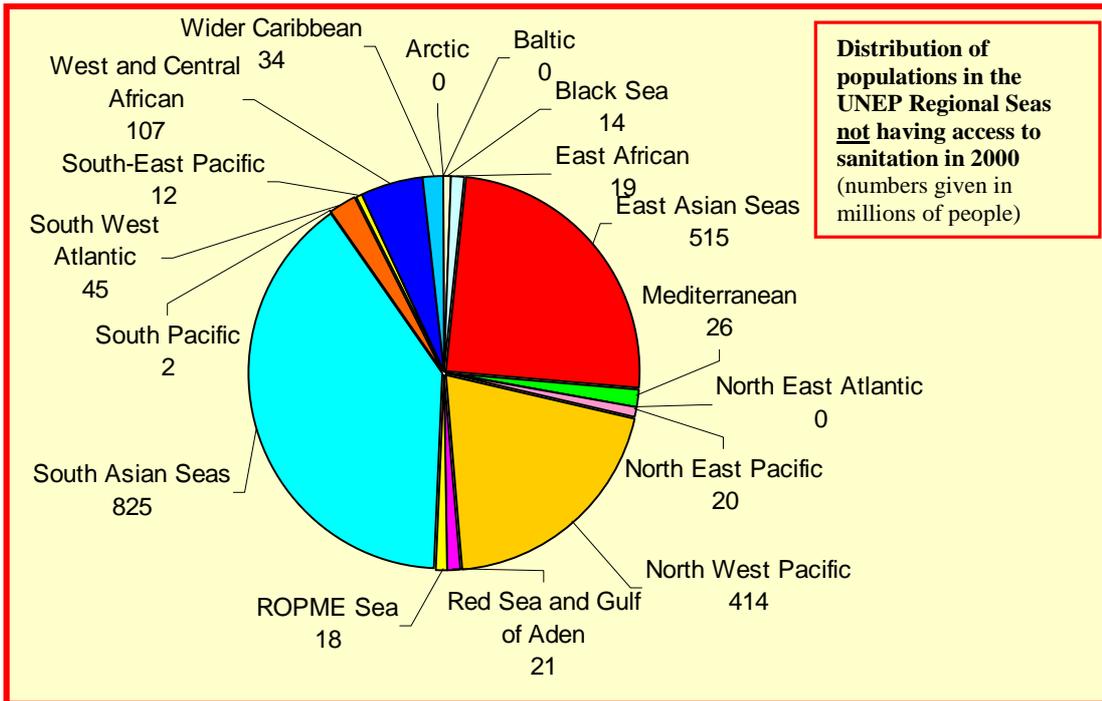
1990 – 2000	increase of the world population	789 million people
1990 – 2000	new access to improved sanitation	747 million people
2000	global population 'un-served'	2,400 million people
2000	lost 'man-years' due to sewage pollution of coastal zones	4 million my / year
2000	economic loss of human resources	16 billion US\$ / year
2000	other economic loss (tourism, fisheries,..)	not quantified
2000	worldwide investments in the water sector	80 billion US\$ / year
2003 – 2025	needed investments to half the number without access to water supply and sanitation in 2015, and 100 % access in 2025	180 billion US\$ / year*

*: Bonn, 2001; 70 % for sanitation and wastewater treatment, 30 % for water supply

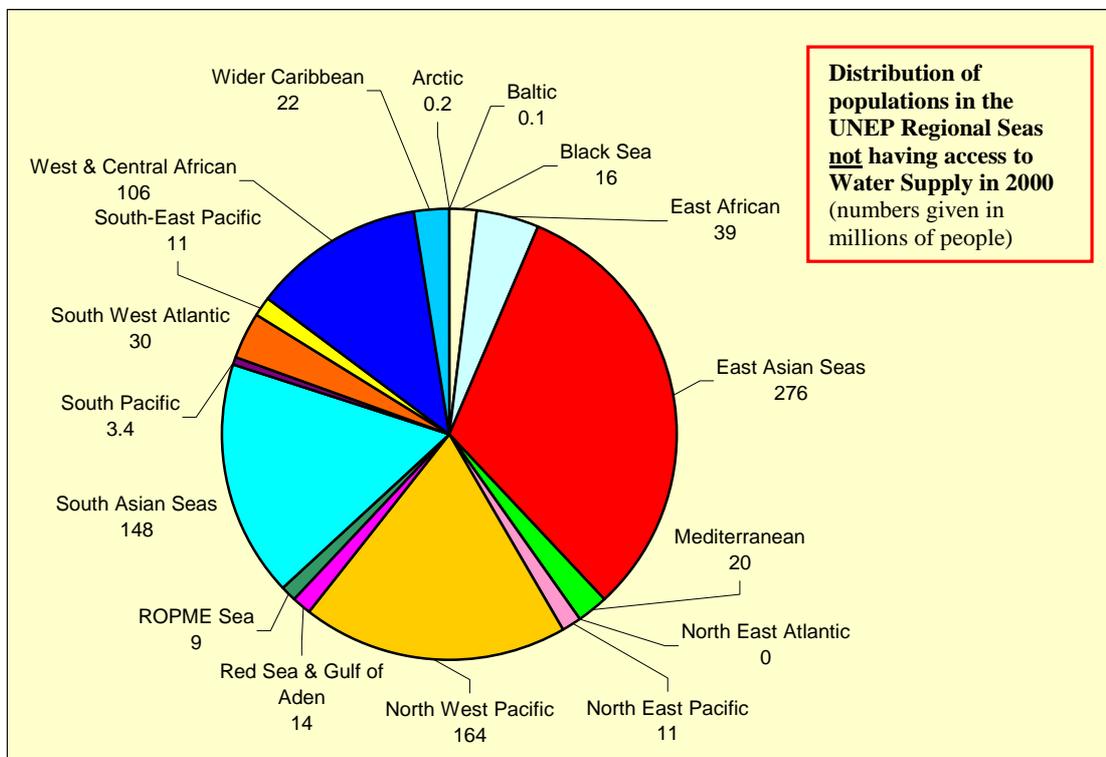
The UNEP Regional Seas



Population without access to Sanitation in the Regional Seas (2000)



Population without access to Water Supply in the Regional Seas (2000)

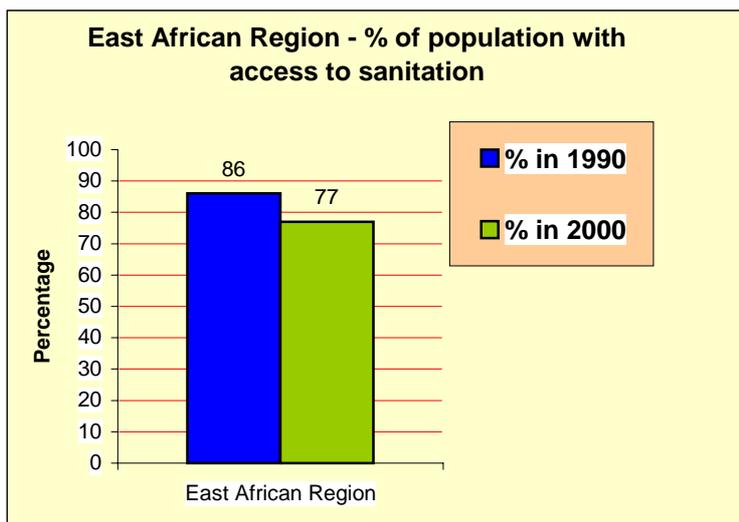


Some examples of the Regional Seas' analysis on sanitation coverage

Example 1: East African Region

1990 – 2000 increase of the regional population
 1990 – 2000 new access to improved sanitation
 1990 – 2000 increase category 'un-served'
 2000 regional population 'un-served'

20 million people
11 million people
9 million people
19 million people

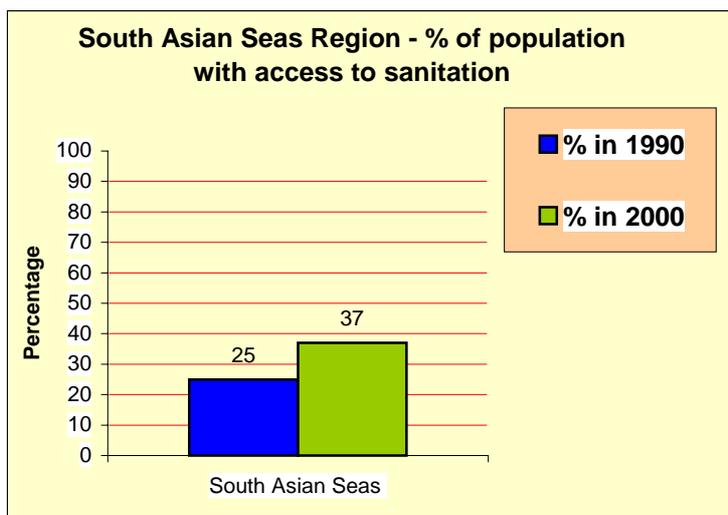


Since the population growth of Africa is almost double the global average, this makes Africa especially vulnerable to the risks of an increasing backlog of the population without access to improved sanitation.

Example 2: South Asian Seas

1990 – 2000 increase of the regional population
 1990 – 2000 new access to improved sanitation
 1990 – 2000 increase category 'un-served'
 2000 regional population 'un-served'

222 million people
220 million people
2 million people
825 million people

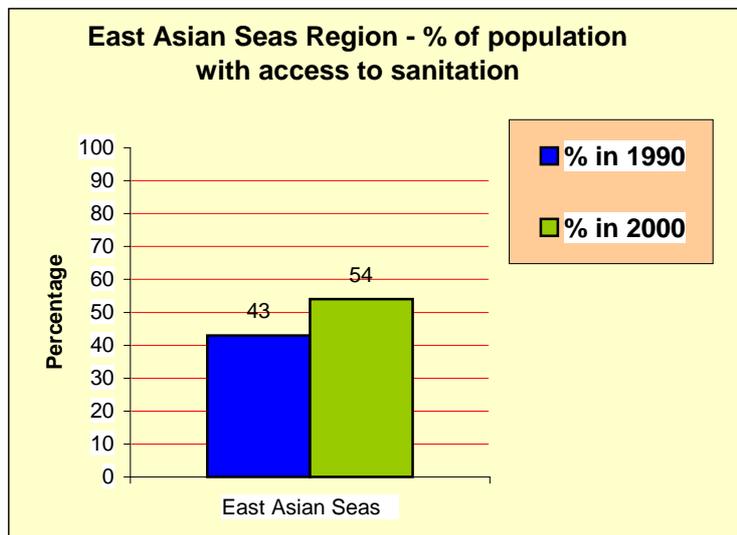


Of all the UNEP Regional Seas the South Asian Seas Region has the lowest coverage in sanitation services. Since the absolute population numbers of the category 'un-served' in South Asia total up to 40% of the world population without access to improved sanitation, this gives South Asia a high need for improved and innovative approaches in the sanitation and wastewater sector to reduce the high emission loads.

Example 3: East Asian Seas

1990 – 2000 increase of the regional population
1990 – 2000 new access to improved sanitation
1990 – 2000 decrease category 'un-served'
2000 regional population 'un-served'

161 million people
182 million people
21 million people
515 million people



As can be seen by the data analysis, the percentage of the population having access to improved sanitation has increased from 1990 to 2000. However, the absolute number of people having access to sanitation is almost equal to the number of people without access to sanitation. The numbers unserved in the East Asian Seas region account for approximately 25% of the world population without access to improved sanitation.

Conclusive statements

- Untreated municipal wastewater is a primary pollution source category affecting human health and the environment, and identified as such in the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.
- Due to the permanent growth of the world's population the numbers of people without access to improved sanitation and wastewater treatment will remain the same or even increase, if investments remain at present day levels.
- Human and ecosystem health impacts and economic losses due to emissions of untreated wastewater are avoidable assuming adequate, innovative measures are being taken.
- Among the potential instruments to solicit appropriate action and associated budgeting are time-bound Wastewater Emission Targets.
- Long-term Targets and consecutive regular progress reporting may be linked to existing Regional Seas Conventions and Protocols; National Governments are invited to consider realistic and workable intermediate benchmarks.

Contact Information

UNEP/GPA Coordination Office
P.O. Box 16227
2500 BE The Hague
The Netherlands

e-mail: gpa@unep.nl
web site: <http://www.gpa.unep.org>

Sources: WHO/UNICEF/WSSCC (2001); WHO (2002); GESAMP (2001), UNEP/GPA (in prep.)