

Need for Wastewater Emission Targets ?



United Nations Environment Programme



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



World Health Organisation (WHO)



UNHSP-HABITAT



Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)

Global Facts and Figures

1990-2000	Increase of the world population	789 million
1990-2000	new access to improved sanitation	747 million
2000	global population 'un-served'	2,400 million
2000	lost 'man-years' due to sewage pollution of coastal zones	4 million m ³ /yr
2000	economic loss of human resources	16 billion US\$/yr
2000	other economic loss (tourism, fisheries)	not quantified
2000	worldwide investments water sector	80 billion US\$/yr
2003-2025	needed investments to half the 'un-served' in 2015 and 100 % access in 2025	180 billion US\$/yr*

*. 70% for sanitation, 30% for water supply

Example 1: East African Region

1990-2000	Increase of the regional population	20 million
1990-2000	new access to improved sanitation	11 million
1990-2000	Increase category 'un-served'	9 million
2000	regional population 'un-served'	19 million

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.



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

- UNEP/GPA and the Regional Seas Programme**
- In 1995 over 100 countries endorsed the UNEP/GPA Global Programme of Action.
 - Implementation is realized through, among others, the UNEP Regional Seas programme.
 - The majority of the Regional Seas identified discharges of untreated domestic wastewater, sewage, as one of the primary pollution source categories.

- UNEP/WHO/Habitat/WSSCC Guidance on Municipal Wastewater**
- Joint development of a Strategic Action Plan and guidance document on Municipal Wastewater.
 - Aim: to set a new global standard through advocating innovative approaches in wastewater treatment and management.

- 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.
 - 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 (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 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.

Example 2: South Asian Seas

1990 - 2000	Increase of the regional population	222 million people
1990 - 2000	new access to improved sanitation	220 million people
1990 - 2000	Increase category 'un-served'	2 million people
2000	regional population 'un-served'	825 million people

Since the absolute population numbers of the category 'un-served' in South Asia total up to 40% of the world's 'un-served' population this gives South Asia a high need for improved and innovative approaches in the sanitation and wastewater sector.

- Conclusive statements**
- 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 following adequate, innovative action.
 - 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.

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Sources:
 WHO/UNICEF/WSSCC (2001) WHO (2002)
 GESAMP (2001), UNEP/GPA (2002)