



**First Intergovernmental Review (IGR) Meeting of the GPA  
26 – 30 November 2001  
Montreal, Canada**

**GPA IGR Newsletter #1 – July 2001**

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**1) About the GPA IGR Newsletter**

Dear reader,

Welcome to the first issue of a series of electronic newsletters to inform you about preparations for the First Intergovernmental Review (IGR) Meeting of the GPA! These newsletters will briefly update you on the major activities of the GPA Coordination Office and our various partners and stakeholders as we begin the countdown to the last week of November. Between now and the IGR, we hope to prepare about six such newsletters. Each issue will be e-mailed to our large contacts database and also published on the IGR website (<http://www.gpa.unep.org/igr>).

You have been sent this newsletter on the forthcoming GPA IGR because of your involvement as a GPA partner or stakeholder, or, because you asked to receive further information about the GPA IGR. Please contact the GPA at [gpa@unep.nl](mailto:gpa@unep.nl) if you wish to be removed from further mailings. Conversely, we would be very pleased to add the names of any colleagues or contacts that might like to receive this and future issues.

Your creative suggestions to make this a useful and informative newsletter are very welcome. Please contact us at [gpa@unep.nl](mailto:gpa@unep.nl).

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**2) Countdown to the IGR...**

The IGR is now less than 5 short months away! Needless to say, the staff of the GPA Coordination Office are working very hard on the numerous substantive and logistical

matters that need attending to in order to ensure a successful meeting. We have a great GPA team to assist in this mammoth task, including some new staff members, interns and consultants. We are also fortunate to have a dedicated and hard working Canadian Host Partners Group (Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and the Canadian International Development Agency) working with us on the logistical and budgetary matters. Also working closely with us is a large number of partner and stakeholder organizations and groups scattered across a number of global, regional and national sectors.

Formal letters of invitation to attend the IGR have been sent out by the UNEP Executive Director to Governments. Some 500 – 600 persons representing governments, UN and other international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector and other GPA stakeholders, are expected to attend the event. If you or your organization wishes to be accredited to attend the IGR, please contact us at [gpa@unep.nl](mailto:gpa@unep.nl) for further information.

At this time, the Draft Agenda is in an advanced form of development. The major challenge has been to scale-back the agenda to what should be a more manageable number of sessions that will give sufficient time for discussion. There will be some 8 formal plenary sessions, including the 1 ½ day Ministerial High-Level session.

In addition to the formal sessions, there will be a number of *Core Events* and *Side Events* happening on all 5 days. The *Core Events* will have full interpretation in the six UN languages and will include a series of presentations by the Regional Seas programmes. *Side Events* will include presentations by a number of countries on their National Programmes of Action, and sessions relating to the GPA Clearing-House Mechanism, Non-governmental Organizations, and UN partner agencies. There should be time and rooms available for additional *Side Events*. If you are interested in scheduling an event, please contact Mr. Kenneth Korporal at the GPA Coordination Office ([k.korporal@unep.nl](mailto:k.korporal@unep.nl)).

There will also be several professionally developed and managed display areas linked together to form a *Forum Romanum*. We are also hoping to organize a joint Regional Seas / GPA Clearing-House Pavilion – watch future editions of this newsletter for more information on these exciting initiatives!

Finally, logistical arrangements are well underway to ensure that an adequate number of nearby hotel rooms will be available to accommodate all delegates in Montreal during the busy November event period. Block hotel bookings and special pricing are being organized – watch for further announcements in the next newsletter and on the IGR website in the Information for Participants section (<http://www.gpa.unep.org/igr/participants>).

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### **3) Workshop on Promoting Sustainable Financing for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities**

From 9 – 11 July, the GPA Coordination Office in The Hague hosted a unique event – a *Joint World Bank / UNEP Workshop on the Use of Innovative Financial Arrangements (IFAs) for the protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities*. This

workshop brought together over 60 representatives of different stakeholder groups representing financial institutions, Governments, local governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society, and the private sector. The workshop looked at a number of issues and mechanisms for implementing the GPA from a financial perspective. Sustainable financing, best available technologies, clean production practices, and best management approaches are all needed, in addition to new and additional financial resources and better use of existing domestic resources.

The three-day workshop was deemed a creative success by most of the participants. There were a number of important conclusions and recommendations that will now be used as input to the GPA IGR meeting in November. A summary of the meeting, including overviews of the different financial instruments that were endorsed by the workshop, will be available soon, along with a more formal report of the meeting.

Watch for the above documents to be published on the GPA clearing-house in the Documents Library under the Meetings section (<http://www.gpa.unep.org/documents>).

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#### 4) New Nodes on the GPA Clearing-House Mechanism

The GPA clearing-house continues to expand and evolve, especially with the recent release of prototype nodes for the pollutant source categories of Litter, POPs, and Heavy Metals. These new nodes can be accessed from the GPA clearing-house mechanism at [www.gpa.unep.org](http://www.gpa.unep.org) or directly linked to at:

- <http://marine-litter.gpa.unep.org>
- <http://pops.gpa.unep.org>
- <http://heavy-metals.gpa.unep.org>

Your comments, suggestions and feedback on these nodes or any other aspect of the GPA Clearing-House Mechanism are always welcome. E-mail directly ([gpa@unep.nl](mailto:gpa@unep.nl)) or use the on-line feedback form at <http://www.gpa.unep.org/contact/feedback.htm>.

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#### 5) Contacting the GPA Coordination Office

Our contact address is:

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And, of course, visit the GPA Clearing-House at:

[www.gpa.unep.org](http://www.gpa.unep.org)