



**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

**WET-WASH is a joint campaign  
of UNEP/GPA and the WSSCC:**



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

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Launch of the  
**WET-WASH Campaign**  
*Linking two big issues*

Join us at the launch of the WET-WASH Campaign:  
Friday, 14 May at 14.30 hrs  
Venue: Cairns International Hotel, Tully Rooms

Global H<sub>2</sub>O Partnership Conference  
11–14 May 2004 in Cairns, Australia

**WET – Wastewater Emission Targets**



# The WET – WASH Campaign, a joint initiative of UNEP/GPA and WSSCC

Both the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, and the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12) in April 2004, recognized that the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) must be set within the broader goals for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Similarly, both events acknowledged that UNEP and the WSSCC can contribute directly to this process.

UNEP/GPA and WSSCC have developed the WET-WASH initiative in order to collaborate more effectively in attaining these common goals. While WSSCC continues to work in the niche of hygiene, sanitation and water for the poor and UNEP/GPA within the area of environmental aspects of water and sanitation, both organisations will increasingly work together and with other partners in broad support of IWRM plans and Human Settlements.

Wastewater management, household sanitation and hygiene awareness are issues that will cover the scope of the joint advocacy, communications and applied research activities. The first building block in this programme of action will be the development of 'coalitions' on WET-WASH at local, national and regional levels.

Furthermore, the WET-WASH initiative will target key issues, including:

- A minimum of 20 per cent of coastal cities implementing sustainable and environmentally sound water supply and wastewater treatment systems by 2012, using alternative technological, infrastructure, managerial and financial approaches to traditional large scale investments;
- Realistic regional and/or national Wastewater Emission Targets (WET), and practical intermediate benchmarks towards these goals;
- Adoption of alternative, appropriate techniques for wastewater treatment, including natural sewage filtering systems such as ponds, reed beds, and mangrove swamps;
- Need for better quality indicators and monitoring data in order to assess the amount of untreated wastewater being discharged into the coastal environment

As we enter into a new decade "Water for Life – 2005–2015", mobilizing political will and engaging all stakeholders towards the achievement of the MDGs and implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation are further key elements of this new initiative.

## UNEP/GPA: The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

The major threats to the health, productivity and biodiversity of the marine environment result from human activities on land – in coastal areas and further inland. Nowadays, some 80% of the pollution load in the oceans, including municipal, industrial and agricultural wastes and run-off, as well as atmospheric deposition, originates from land-based activities. The health, well-being and, in some cases, the very survival of coastal populations often depend upon the health of coastal systems such as estuaries and wetlands. On a global level, about one billion people live in coastal urban centers and estimates show that almost 50% of the world's coasts are threatened by development-related activities.

In response to these major problems, 108 governments and the European Commission declared their commitment to protect and preserve the marine environment from the adverse environmental impacts of land-based activities. In 1995, the Washington Declaration on the GPA was adopted and UNEP was tasked to coordinate this programme.

The majority of the UNEP Regional Seas identified untreated domestic wastewater – sewage – as one of the primary pollution source categories. Jointly with WHO, UN-HABITAT and WSSCC, UNEP/GPA developed a Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater. Within this context, Guidelines for Municipal Wastewater Management and 10 KEYS for Local and National Action have been developed.

Based on the Guidelines a training course is being delivered jointly with UNESCO-IHE and UN/DOALOS. They all contribute to addressing environmental aspects of the MDG- and WSSD-target on Water and Sanitation, which should include wastewater collection, treatment, re-use and re-allocation to the environment. This holistic approach has been supported at UNEP's 5<sup>th</sup> Global Ministerial Environment Forum in March 2004 in Korea as well as at CSD-12 in April 2004 in New York.

### 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. The WET-initiative has been launched by UNEP/GPA and partner organisations as part of the "H<sub>2</sub>O – From Hilltops to Oceans" Partnership at the WSSD.

If WET is regarded feasible to implement within the context of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, the expected outcomes of WET are multilateral negotiations for establishing Wastewater Emission Targets, multilateral binding instruments that set sanitation and wastewater emission targets and measurable reductions in discharges of untreated wastewater at local, national and regional levels.

## The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)

The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council was mandated by a 1990 UN resolution to accelerate progress towards safe water, sanitation and hygiene for all (WASH). It does so by enhancing collaboration among developing countries, external support agencies and other stakeholders. It has developed and manages programmes of advocacy, communications, applied research and concerted national action plans.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All – WASH

In order to raise awareness about water, sanitation and hygiene issues, WSSCC launched the WASH campaign at the end of 2001 at the global level. WASH is a concerted global advocacy effort to place sanitation, hygiene and water firmly on the political agenda. The Council is working with governments, parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations, community groups and other stakeholders to raise the commitment in order to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to water supply and sanitation.

# WET – WASH