

# Connecting Freshwater to Oceans: Major Questions

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world ocean  
network

# Origin of Global Forum

- Mobilized in 2001 to put oceans, coasts, and SIDS on the WSSD agenda and formalized at the WSSD

# Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands-- Purposes

Multi-stakeholder forum (comprised of govts, international organizations, NGOs, private sector, science groups, ocean donors) for :

--cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder policy dialogues

--policy analyses

--mobilization of knowledge and other resources *to advance the global oceans agenda*

# Advance the Global Oceans Agenda

- Promote the implementation of international commitments related to oceans, coasts, and SIDS--especially WSSD and MDG
- Consider new emerging ocean issues
- Promote consensus building on unresolved ocean issues)
- Provide oceans policy advocacy at the highest political levels

# **Work to date**

- **Global Conferences, 2001, 2003, 2006**
- **Reports on WSSD/MDG implementation**
- **Policy analyses on SIDS ocean issues for Mauritius 2005**
- **Information services, global newsletter, etc.**

# **Freshwater/Coasts/Oceans**

- **The water planet 70% of earth**
- **97.5% is saltwater**
- **2.5% is freshwater (snow and ice, groundwater, surface and atmospheric water)**

**Freshwater/Coasts/Oceans=  
an interconnected system in need of  
interconnected management  
approaches**

- **Recognized by freshwater leaders**
- **Recognized by ocean leaders**

# **Freshwater/Coasts/Oceans= an interconnected system in need of interconnected management approaches**

## **■ Global Water Partnership**

**– IWRM includes more coordinated develop.  
and mgt of:**

**--land and water**

**--surface water and groundwater**

**--river basin and adjacent coastal and  
marine environment**

**--upstream and downstream interests**

# **Freshwater/Coasts/Oceans= an interconnected system in need of interconnected management approaches**

- **Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands emphasizes freshwater to oceans linkages**
  - **Global Conference– January 23-28, 2006**
  - **Mexico Workshop– January 10-11, 2006**

# This panel

1. **Explore general considerations and obstacles in linking freshwater to oceans**

# Major questions for panel

- Why the linkage among freshwater, coasts, oceans? (in a clear way, readily understandable to decisionmakers and the public)
- Why the linkage is often ignored? (different areas, actors, processes, too complex, too difficult)
- Why is it imperative to link freshwater, coasts, oceans? What happens if we don't?

# Major Questions (cont.)

- **How does Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Need to be Linked to Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management (ICM) and to NPAs for GPA?**
  - Analyses?
  - Planning?
  - Decisionmaking?

# Major Questions (cont.)

**Take into account that:**

- **ICM (coastal) in 100 countries**
- **IWRM in 75 countries**
- **GPA NPA 40-60 countries**
- **EEZ (ocean) management 20-30 countries**

**How do these efforts come together on the ground?**

## Major Questions (cont.)

- What are the specific benefits of linking freshwater, coasts, oceans?
- What are the specific costs of linking freshwater, coasts, and oceans?

# **This panel**

## **2. Examine actual cases, and draw lessons learned**

**What can be learned from the cases and scaled up to other situations?**

# Major Questions (cont)

- **Where, in what cases, has IWRM been effectively linked to ICM and to GPA NPAs?**
- **What are the characteristics of these cases?**
- **Have actual management linkages been made? Of what kind? What decisionmaking processes have been used?**

# **This panel**

1. **Examine the GPA as the main global program that explicitly links freshwater to oceans**

**--Especially dynamics of creating and implementing National Plans of Action**

## Major Questions (cont.)

- Are new institutions that make decisions “from hilltops to oceans” needed?
- Or is a nested system of governance linking existing decisionmaking processes for watersheds, river basins, coasts, and oceans suitable?

# Major Questions (cont.)

- Are there a specific set of activities/program of work that would systematically result in enhancing linkages between freshwater/coasts/oceans?

--At the global level?

--At the regional, national, subnational levels?

# Output of this panel

**Will feed in directly to:**

**--The Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) to be held in Beijing on October 16-20, 2006**

**--The Global Water Partnership summit, Sweden, August 2006**

# Bottom line from panel

- Bottom line action message on freshwater/coasts/oceans linkages and means of enhancing these linkages