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The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden - PERSGA - is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to the conservation of the coastal and marine environment in the region. Its legal basis stems from the Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment known as the Jeddah Convention and signed in 1982. The PERSGA member countries include Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. The headquarters are based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

The aim of the newsletter is to provide information on conservation and development activities taking place in the region together with articles on marine issues of general interest. The contents of the newsletter do not necessarily represent the position or views of PERSGA or the editorial board, nor do they imply the expression of any opinion on the part of PERSGA concerning the legal status of any country, territory, frontier or border.

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The editors encourage you to submit articles, reviews, and photographs for publication but cannot guarantee that they will be used.

## افتتاحية

**لقد** لقد درجت "السنبوك" على إبراز أنشطة الهيئة وإنجازاتها في شتى المحافل؛ ويأتي العدد الثامن والعشرون من هذه النشرة الإخبارية وهو يبرز ما تم إنجازه منذ صدور العدد السابق. فقد تم تنفيذ البرنامج التدريبي للهيئة للعام 2009؛ ومواصلة العمل في مشروع الملوثات العضوية الثابتة مع منظمة الأمم المتحدة للتنمية الصناعية؛ ومشروع إدارة مياه التوازن مع المنظمة البحرية الدولية، وغير ذلك من الأنشطة المختلفة. وتفاعلاً مع الهيئة في حرصها على موضوع التلوث بالزيت ومتابعتها لإعلان البحر الأحمر منطقة خاصة، قام السودان، مع بقية دول الإقليم، خلال عام 2009 بالتوقيع على البروتوكول الإقليمي الخاص بالتعاون الفني في نقل الخبراء والفنيين والمعدات عبر أراضي الدول الأعضاء في الحالات الطارئة، والذي يعتبر دعماً لمركز المساعدات المتبادلة في أداء مهامه. كما بدأ السودان في الإجراءات الخاصة بالانضمام إلى اتفاقية ماربول أسوة ببقية دول الإقليم. وعلى صعيد التغير المناخي فقد وضعت الهيئة إستراتيجية للتأقلم مع التغير المناخي في الإقليم؛ وكان السودان من بين الدول التي تفاعلت مع مسألة التغير المناخي، حيث شارك في مؤتمر الأطراف الخامس عشر لاتفاقية تغير المناخ ومؤتمر الأطراف الخامس لبروتوكول كيوتو، بالإضافة لاجتماعات الهيئات التابعة لهما، والذي انعقد بمدينة كوبنهاجن بالدنمارك خلال الفترة من 7 إلى 19 ديسمبر 2009. وكانت المشاركة في هذا المؤتمر التاريخي غير مسبوقة حيث شارك فيه أكثر من أربعين ألف من ممثلي الدول الأطراف، والمنظمات الدولية الحكومية والطوعية، ووسائل الإعلام، وذلك نظراً لأن هذا المؤتمر كان من المتوقع أن يتوج جهود المفاوضات التي انطلقت منذ عام 2005 حول تجديد فترة الالتزام لبروتوكول كيوتو. لقد كان هذا المؤتمر بمثابة المؤتمر السادس والأخير في رئاسة السودان لمجموعة الـ 77 والصين خلال عام 2009. ومن المعلوم أن مجموعة الـ 77 والصين تضم حوالي 134 دولة تتباين من جميع النواحي مما جعل إدارتها وتنسيق مواقفها تحدياً واجهه السودان. وقد نجح السودان بصورة مميزة في هذه الإدارة والتنسيق، وأصبح حلقة الوصل بين المجموعة وبين أمانة الاتفاقية ورؤساء الهيئات والمؤتمرات، وقد أشار إلى ذلك كل مجموعات الدول تحت مظلة الـ 77 والصين. وسيواصل السودان دعمه للهيئة في تنفيذ إستراتيجيتها تجاه التأقلم مع التغير المناخي بجانب دعمه المتواصل لأنشطة الهيئة في شتى المجالات.

والله ولي التوفيق،،،



د. أحمد بابكر نهار

وزير البيئة والتنمية العمرانية  
جمهورية السودان



## PERSGA and Sudan Interaction for common goals

The Sudan is a vast country extending gradually from a desert in the north, to light and dense Savannah in the central parts and to the sub-tropical region in the south. A flat coastal plain on the eastern side extends to a distance of 750 km bordering the Red Sea Hills.

The Sudan is an Afro-Arab country bordering Arab countries in North Africa and across the Red Sea, and African countries in the south, east and west of the country. In this respect, the country serves as a bridge facilitating trade and human movement, and also serves as a melting pot of African and Arab cultures.

The Sudan is also the largest country in Africa with about 2.6 million square kilometers in area; however, its attached population does not exceed 39 million inhabitants according to 2009 census.

The role of the Sudan was prominent in the programmes and activities of PERSGA since it was established as a Programme for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden in 1974.

Sudan has participated in all PERSGA meetings, including the Jeddah Regional Conference of Plenipotentiaries in 1982 with the signing of the Jeddah Convention, its attached Protocol and the Action Plan.

### **Implemented Projects**

Following the signing of the Jeddah Convention, and in accordance with the Action Plan to implement the Convention, the Sudan has received support from PERSGA to implement the National plan for Research in Sudan in the field of Marine Science.

Such support included laboratory and field equipment for the Institute of Oceanography (now Faculty of Marine Sciences), the Red Sea Fishery Research Center and the Suakin Marine Biological Laboratory (University of Khartoum).

Following the establishment of PERSGA in September 1995, and during the preparatory phase of the Strategic Action Program (SAP), PERSGA supported the Sudan through funding of two projects: Survey of Natural Habitats in Sudan and Plans for their Protection, and Promotion of National System for Oil Spill Preparedness and Response.

In addition, a Country Report for Sudan was prepared containing important information regarded as a starting point for interaction with PERSGA objectives which encourage member states to adopt the approach of sustainable use of coastal and marine resources.

### **Strategic Action Programme (SAP) capacity building**

The Sudan interacted with PERSGA in the implementation of the Strategic Action Program for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (SAP) by participating in all PERSGA activities through the regional working groups, and national specialists of the programme components.

From its side, PERSGA had worked on strengthening the capacity of Sudan through the appointment of a national coordinator for the project, the establishment of four centers for fishery data collection with the provision of necessary equipment, in addition to promotion of environmental school clubs, providing awareness materials, and the training

Consolidating the role of Sudan in PERSGA work and activities, the Sudanese President Omer Al-Bashir has issued the Presidential Decree Nr 36 on 14th February 2010 endorsing the hosting of 13th PERSGA Ministerial Council Meeting in Khartoum.



of 40 trainees from Sudan in the framework of the SAP implementation.

### **Marine surveys and National Conservation Action Plans**

Surveys and studies have been conducted on the Sudanese coast, including coral reefs and mangroves, turtles and sea birds, in addition to the survey which has been carried out in Dunganab Bay and Mukawar Island prior to their formal declaration as Marine Protected Areas. The outcome of these surveys lead to the preparation of national action plans for the conservation of these habitats and key species.

### **Marine protected areas**

Sudanese coast is characterized by scarcity of coastal development activities which are focused on the coastal area between Port Sudan and Suakin cities; therefore, most important natural habitats in Sudan are in healthy condition. Coral reefs in Sudan, for instance, had attracted the attention of celebrities and famous scientists in the world and who have paid visits to the coral reefs, including Cousteau (of the Secrets of the Sea), and Prof. Hans Hass, who was the first diver in the Red Sea, and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and husband of the British Queen, in his capacity as Honorary President of the World Wildlife Fund. Such an international interest leads to the declaration of Sanganeb coral reef a National Marine Park. PERSGA also assisted in the preparation of the management plan for both Sanganeb and Dunganab Bay/Mukawar Island Marine Protected areas.

### **On-the-ground Projects**

After the completion of the SAP, PERSGA continued its efforts to encourage member countries to adopt the approach of sustainable use of coastal and marine resources which could be done through coordination



Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh during his visit to Senganeb Marine Park (1982)

efforts to achieve sustainable development in coastal areas, and reduce the risk of pollution from marine and land sources. Thus, PERSGA funded Demonstration Projects and On-the-ground Projects in coordination and cooperation with its Focal Point in Sudan. Among these projects were the Environmental Monitoring Programme and a Demonstration project aimed at monitoring coral reefs and rehabilitation of degraded mangroves. Purchase and shipment of relevant equipment were carried out by PERSGA for the implementing institution (the Red Sea University).

In addition PERSGA also supported and funded an On-the ground Project designed to enhance the establishment of a national system to address and respond to oil pollution incidents in the Sudan; this project has gained the interest of the concerned ministries and their cooperation in funding the project as a local component.

### **Training**

Sudan has greatly benefited from the PERSGA Annual Training Program; participants from the Sudan have been trained through the regional training workshops held by PERSGA in various fields.



## The Umbrea Story at Port Sudan

The “Umbria” is a name for an Italian ship that became famous among scientists after its sinking and stability on Wingate Reef near Port Sudan during the Second World War in 1940. It has won such fame after the visit of the world famous Professor Hans Haas, who was the first to dive in the area to explore the wreck of the ship, and to study the colonization of coral reefs to it; he described this in his book “Under the Red Sea” which was published in 1952. Details of the story of Umbrea are found in “Red Sea Explorers” by Peter Vine and Hagen Schmid (1987).

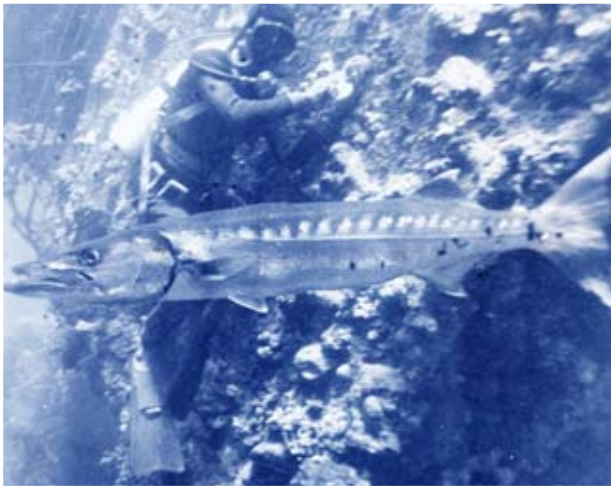
It was an adventure for Haas to dive and explore the wreckage of “Umbrea” as it was loaded with seven thousand tons of bombs and ammunition that could explode



and flood the city of Port Sudan at any moment. Thus, it was not allowed to dive near the wreck, except for Hans Haas, allowed by the British Commissioner who told him the story of the Umbrea; the ship was on its way to the port of Massawa in Eritrea loaded with three hundred thousand of bombs and mines, in addition to three thousands of different cargo.

The Umbrea crossed the Suez Canal when a British ship commanded her to go to Port Sudan to make sure that she was not smuggling weapons, despite the fact that Italy had not yet announced its participation in the war. The Umbrea anchored at Wingate Reef on the ninth of June 1940. In the following day, the ship’s captain heard, in his a small radio, the announcement of the participation of Italy in the war; he gave orders to sink the Umbrea; and the crew of the ship, including the captain, was taken as prisoners of war to Port Sudan.

Following this incident, the process of



An old picture of a big barracuda at Umbria wreck



colonization of the wreck by coral reefs and associated biota continued with bright colors and without fear of what comes out of the ship's dangerous goods. This has been described by Hans Haas in his book "Under the Red Sea," following his visit and photographing of the wreck a few years after its sinking. However, the remarkable thing is that Professor Hans Haas visited the Umbrea again after thirty years to photograph the ship once again, and portray the colonization of corals and fish, and to study the rate of growth and prosperity of corals in an appropriate bottom.

The Umbrea then became a magnet for scientists after Haas description, and after it was safe to dive. Further more, coral fishes in the Umbrea became tamed without fear of the serious military ammunition, and could be fed with the exception of a large barracuda which settled near the ammunition for a long time, and it is not yet known if it is still there or left the wreck for any reason.



## U.N Climate Change Conference at Copenhagen December 7-18 2009



The 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly known as the Copenhagen Summit, was held at the Bella Center in Copenhagen, Denmark, between 7 December and 18 December. The conference represented the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 5th Meeting of the Parties (COP/MOP 5) to the Kyoto Protocol. According to the Bali Road Map, a framework for climate change mitigation beyond 2012 was to be agreed there.

The conference was based on 4 Pre-conf preparatory meetings held in Bonn, Bangkok, Barcelona and New York. The delegates were negotiating a reduction range that has been set out by science to avoid the worst consequences of climate change: a minus 25% to minus 40% reduction below 1990 level by 2020.

### Outcome of the meeting:

There was a consensus among world leaders that global average temperatures must not be allowed to rise beyond 2C. It affirms that, to achieve such a target, there must be substantial cuts in carbon emissions and that the mechanism for achieving such cuts should not hamper economic progress

in the developing world.

Many considered the summit a failure especially in less developed countries. Others consider it a step forward. Earlier proposals, which would have aimed to limit temperatures rise to 1.5 and cut CO<sub>2</sub> emission by 2050 were dropped from the text of the final agreement.

There was a financial commitment by richer nations to help poorer ones adapt to the threat of climate change. It establishes a fund with an initial annual outlay of \$30bn, rising to \$100bn by 2020. The accord also commits signatories to adopt, within six weeks, binding emissions targets, also for 2020. Also, a fund for "Green Climate" was agreed upon to support less developing countries to help in restorations of forests and the enhancement of their capacities for technology transfers.

Much of the text of the agreement reads like the preamble to the treaty that was supposed to be agreed in Copenhagen, but wasn't agreed upon. There is no target for emission cuts. National targets must be taken on trust. There are no incentives for countries to pollute less and no sanctions on those that pollute more. Many commitments are to be enacted "as soon as possible" –a phrase that has no biding authority in international law!



## Sudan and the Group of 77 and China

The Year 2009 was the Sudan's chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China, which includes about 134 countries; Sudan has succeeded, during the Climate Change Convention Summit in Copenhagen, in consolidating the Group's positions in several subjects in the course of the Kyoto Protocol as follows:

- Maintain the Kyoto Protocol and identify a second commitment period for the industrialized countries to reduce their emissions in line with scientific agreed references, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- Develop and improve mechanisms for reducing emissions, in particular the principle of justice in the distribution of clean development mechanism and the expansion of range of sectors covered.
- Agreement on the role of forests in reducing emissions under the Kyoto Protocol, the need to adjust the known procedures and standards, and identification of limits on the utilization of forests in reducing emissions.
- The need to address the economic, social and environmental consequences with regard to the developing countries in the process of reducing emissions.

**In the course of the Convention positions have been consolidated as follows:**

- Emission reduction in developing countries should be practiced in the framework of sustain-

able development with support of industrialized countries in the field of finance, technology transfer and capacity building;

- Use of the facilities provided by the forest sector in what is known as emission reduction from deforestation in developing countries, provided that it is done through direct stimulation of policies and programs adopted by developing countries to achieve this;
- The need to develop effective policy and institutional frameworks to address the impacts of climate change and the support of adaptation programs on the global, regional and national levels. There must be a full commitment to fund the adaptation programs through sustainable sources, commensurate with the size and cost of the required adaptation programs;
- The need to formulate an effective mechanism to develop and transfer an environmentally friendly technology to support the efforts of developing countries in reducing emissions and adapting to climate change; in addition to the establishment of a fund to support the efforts of developing countries in this field and remove all the obstacles;
- Funding commitment as the basis for the implementation of the commitments to be from government sources and commensurate with the needs of developing countries to implement the Convention.

## A Workshop in Port Sudan: Discussion of the Sudan's NPA Draft Document

In collaboration with the national focal point in Sudan (Higher Council for the Environment and Natural Resources, HCENR), PERSGA held a national Workshop on 16th June 2009 in Port Sudan.

The workshop was organized to discuss the 1st draft of the National Program of Action to protect marine environment from the impacts of land-based activities in Sudan (NPA-Sudan).

The workshop was attended by policy and decision makers in the line ministries and authorities.

The draft NPA document, which mainly includes assessments of the impacts, sources and priority actions required, was thoroughly discussed. Several amendments and were recommended, which will be integrated in the NPA manuscript in the course of developing the final document by the national team.





## **Assessment of coastal vulnerability to Climate Change impacts: Application of CVI and DIVA in the Region**



In the framework of the implementation of its “Regional Strategy for Adaptations to the Impacts of Climate Change”, PERSGA undertakes a full capacity building program in this field. PERSGA has launched this program since 2008 by organizing a regional training workshop on methods for coastal vulnerability assessment, through which participants from the region were introduced to an array of tools and computer programs applied in coastal Vulnerability assessment studies. It has been recommended that emphasis should be put on the Coastal vulnerability Index (CVI) and the computer package Dynamic Interactive Vulnerability Assessment (DIVA) for further training and applications in the region.

Based on this, PERSGA has recently organized a further training workshop on “Applications of CVI and DIVA in assessment of coastal vulnerability in the Region” which was held during 25-27 January 2010 in Jeddah. The objectives of the workshop were to provide the participants with the theoretical background and data requirements of the two tools, along with practical training on data entry, analysis and interpretation of the results. The workshop also aimed at discussing issues approaching applica-

tions of CVI and DIVA in the regional assessments and studies.

22 participants from PERSGA countries participated in the workshop, in addition to one participant from the Directorate of Sustainable Development of the Arab League HQ Office. The training team included Dr. M. Mokrech (University of Southampton, UK) and Dr. A. Khalil (PERSGA). The workshop program integrated a series of lectures, exercises, national presentations and discussions. The main program topics included:

- Impacts of Climate Change on coastal and marine environments.
- Coastal vulnerability: background, assessment and scenarios.
- Possible impacts on the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and PERSGA Strategy.
- Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI).
- Dynamic Interactive Vulnerability Assessment (DIVA).
- Applications of CVI and DIVA in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
- Linking vulnerability assessment with adaptation options and plans.



## On-Scene Commanders' at oil spills, national contingency plans and oil spill preparedness and response

Article IX of the Jeddah Convention (1982) stresses on cooperation in dealing with emergency cases of pollution; Similar emphasis came in the Second Article of the Protocol concerning Regional Cooperation in Combating Pollution by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in cases of emergency (1982). The Regional Action Plan on Contingency Planning (paragraph 18-6) also included necessary measures to be taken, including measures to ensure the availability of adequate equipment and staff to deal with emergency cases of pollution in the Red Sea, and to reduce or eliminate the damage caused. Within these terms, PERSGA is trying constantly to build capacity in this aspect, and this is one of the objectives of establishing the PERSGA/EMARSGA in accordance with the Emergency Protocol of 1982.

As part of the Annual Training Program for 2009, PERSGA organized a regional training course on "On-Scene Commanders' at oil spills, national contingency plans and oil spill preparedness and response" at PERSGA/EMARSGA in Hurgada during 20-22 June 2009. This workshop is the third of its kind within PERSGA programme during the past three years; This series of workshops is designed to stimulate the capacity of States and raise the overall performance of the national focal points at regional level regarding the implementation of contingency plans through the identification of basic needs, plans for implementation mechanism, clarification of the role of the PERSGA/EMARSGA during marine emergency accidents, implementation of periodical practical training on communicate in cases of marine accidents, and training on the use of computer models to track and combat oil pollution.

The workshop was attended by 27 specialists from the PERSGA member countries belonging to government and private sectors. The workshop was lead by an IMO expert in the field of contingency plans and oil pollution control (Dr. Lindsey Paige Jones).

The Training program included a series of theoretical and technical lectures on field leadership for contingency planning, preparedness and response which focused on the following topics:

- The concept of response ranging.
- Emergency plan, strategic planning, operational plans and incident management.
- Behavior and fate of spilled oil and the effective



- use of trajectory model;
- Strategies, methods and techniques to address oil spills.
- Evaluation of aerial monitoring;
- Investigation of Maritime Accidents and beach survey.
- Availability and use of relevant technical documents and reference materials;
- Case studies for the use of dispersants in the region.
- Protection of sensitive coastal locations;
- Beach clean-up techniques and management of logistics operations.
- Waste management, transport, storage and disposal.

The workshop programme also included practical training of participants through an exercise dealing with a default pollution incident by a ship in the Red Sea; the participants were divided into groups and distributed in different locations, and means of communication were used for the management of the default incident, then the experience evaluation and correction of errors were reviewed.



## The Ecosystem Approach in the Management of Fishery Resources in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

Fishery resources in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden have a great economic and social importance that plays an important role in activating the exploitation of this wealth by traditional and commercial sectors. However, the living marine resources in the region face various threats the most important of which are the deterioration of habitats, overfishing and pollution risks from different marine and land-based sources. Most PERSGA activities and programmes have focused on the living marine resources in the region targeting mainly the improvement of capacities to achieve sustainable management of these renewable resources. Under the concept of sustainable development, the rational management of fisheries should take into account the pressure caused by extensive fishing activities in the ecosystem in general, not just pressure on the target species. From this perspective, appears the importance of adopting the ecosystem approach in fisheries management as an ideal tool for the appli-

cation of the concept of sustainable development. On this basis, PERSGA is currently seeking to adopt this approach, which is in harmony with its objectives, and in line with what has been formulated by several treaties and international initiatives (such as the Sustainable Development Summit 2002, the Jeddah Declaration, Strategic Directions for Regional Seas for the years 2008-2012). The Sustainable Development Summit (Johannesburg, 2002) has urged countries of the world to apply the ecosystem approach in fisheries management by 2010, but progress in this field has been very slow in general. The weakness of technical knowledge and lack of awareness of the differences between traditional management methods and the ecosystem approach in fisheries management, formulate the most important obstacles in this area. Perhaps the most important prerequisites for this is the improvement of human and institutional capacities in national departments responsible for







fisheries management, and knowledge of professionals of the ecosystem approach in fisheries management, as can be applied.

In this context and within the efforts of PERSGA Living Marine Resources Programme in building regional capacity to implement the ecosystem approach in the management of coastal and marine resources in the region, PERSGA, in cooperation with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), held a regional training workshop on “ecosystem approach in the management of fishery resources in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, “ during the period 12-14 October 2009 in Jeddah, under the «The PERSGA Annual Training Program».

Participated in the workshop included specialized cadres from PERSGA Member States; additional participants from Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Iran attended the workshop at invitations from ISESCO in coordination with PERSGA.

The workshop aimed to introduce to the participants the principles of responsible fishing, the role of ecosystem approach in applying these principles, description of ecosystem approach compared to traditional methods of fishery management, clarification of application practical modeling process for planning the approach with definition of application tools at the spatial level,

and at the stages of production and harvesting, and diagnosis of the difficulties that might face the application of an ecosystem approach with clarification how to find appropriate solutions for this.

The workshop also aimed to draw recommendations and a framework for a regional plan to implement the ecosystem approach in the management of marine fisheries in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

Both Dr. Derek Staples (Australia) and Dr. Ahmed Khalil (PERSGA) have Participated, as instructors, in this training workshop.

The Workshop training programme focused on five main areas, including the theoretical background to the ecosystem approach; assessment of current practices and activities in Fishery management; the way to move from traditional management to ecosystem approach; practical applications which include several steps in determining the spatial and temporal framework; diagnosis of fisheries-related issues; risk assessment and prioritization; then set goals and determine the administrative procedures, monitoring and control, evaluation and control; and development of a framework plan for future actions to implement the ecosystem approach in fisheries management of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

## Regional workshop on MARPOL Special Area Status of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

The Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (RSGA) have been designated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as Special Areas under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ship 1973 as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, known as MARPOL 73/78. The purpose of a Special Area is the prevention of pollution of the sea in these areas because of their particular sensitivity or other factors. According to MARPOL 73/78 Annex I, Regulation 10(4)b, the discharge of any oil or oily mixture, or chemicals into the sea in a Special Area is prohibited; oil and oily mixture must be retained on board or discharged into reception facilities in ports.

The Red Sea was adopted by IMO as Special Area under Annexes I & V in 1973, entered into force in 1983 for Annex I and 1988 for Annex V; while the Gulf of Aden was adopted as Special Area under Annex I in 1987, entered into force in 1989. However,

the designations of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden as Special Areas under MARPOL are not yet effective. This is because the States in the region have not yet been able to advise IMO that they have established adequate reception facilities for ships calling at their ports as required by MARPOL 73/78 for ports within Special Area. Also, some States bordering the RSGA have not yet become parties to MARPOL 73/78.

In view of the importance to the Region that the remaining States becoming parties to MARPOL 73/78, PERSGA has been helping to support this process. In 2005 PERSGA conducted a fact finding mission and technical workshop on the MARPOL 73/78 requirements in the region.

In this framework, and in the context of its efforts to implement this plan, PERSGA, in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) organized a regional workshop on "MARPOL Special Area Status of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden".





The workshop was held during the period 19 to 21 October 2009 at PERSGA/EMARSGA in Hurghada, Egypt, and was attended by 15 participants from four PERSGA member countries.

The main objective of the workshop was to discuss the difficulties facing the activation of the Red Sea under MARPOL Annexes I & V, and Gulf of Aden under Annex I as Special Areas and to identify feasible solutions to facilitate the activation.

The specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- Provide an update on the status of the MARPOL Convention and other IMO environmental conventions (AFS, BaWa and SR).
- Update information on existing reception facilities and ship traffic in the region through National Reports.
- Identify the need of additional reception facilities at a regional level.
- Identify the most feasible manner to have the additionally needed reception facilities available.
- Identify other difficulties that countries might be facing that have not become party to the MARPOL73/78 convention and/or the optional Annex V yet; and.

- Identify the best approach to submit to IMO the application with the request to establish a date as from which the requirements, that apply to ships when in the Special Area, will become effective so as to ensure a much greater protection for the marine environment in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

The workshop was conducted by a team consisting of Dr. Mohammad Badran from PERSGA and Ms. Marja C. Tiemens-Idzinga as an independent consultant recommended by IMO.

The workshop was successful inasmuch as the participants were highly satisfied with the arrangements and efforts made by PERSGA, PERSGA/EMARSGA and the independent consultant. There was consensus that further follow up is necessary and that there is an urgent need to meet the obligations to ensure the proper provision of adequate facilities and arrange for effective receipt of ships' wastes in the ports. The participants has recognize the importance of follow up on the workshop recommendations and in particular, the identified priority items resulting from the in depth debates.



## Assessment of the current status of contingency planning, preparedness and response to cases of marine pollution in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden



A regional workshop was organized on the Assessment of the Current Status of Planning, Preparedness and Response to cases of marine pollution during the period 23-24 June 2009 at PERSGA/EMARSGA in Hurghada, Egypt.

The workshop aimed at assessing the performance in the implementation of the program, outlined by «the Regional Plan for the Development of National devices and mechanisms for preparedness and response to cases of oil spills in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden» which was prepared by PERSGA in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 2005; the workshop also aimed to assess the situation in the light of the current regional and national contingency plans in order to advance the process of implementation, identify the needs and suggestions related to completion of national plans in countries that have not yet prepared such plans, or the updating of the existing plans to meet the requirements of the Convention and implementation of regional protocols.

The training team included an expert from IMO (Dr. Lindsay Jones) and from the region (Rear Admiral AD. / Mahmoud Ismail), with 24 participants in the workshop from countries of the region.

The opening session included a welcome speech by the Director of PERSGA/EMARSGA, a review by the workshop coordinator on the role of the Jeddah Convention and regional and national contingency plans, and the importance of the suitability of such plans, their coordination and continuous updating to keep pace with developments on the ground; and implementation of commitments contained in regional and international legislation.

A short film on a pollution incident by default, produced by the Presidency of Meteorology and Environment was also presented in addition to a lecture on contingency plans and maritime disasters.

The Workshop showed the importance of the Jeddah Convention and the need for cooperation in its implementation with regard to national contingency plans; the Emergency Protocol of 1982 was also discussed together with the role of media and the International Convention on Preparedness, Response and Cooperation in cases of oil pollution in 1990 (OPRC) in crisis management and environmental disasters.

The participants have actively contributed to the workshop by provision of lectures on national plans and their own experiences in their countries, which enriched the workshop and contributed to the exchange of expertise in this area.

The workshop recommended organization of workshops for coordination and capacity building further in the field of assessment methods of the damage caused by oil pollution, and assessment of oil pollution compensation equivalent to the environmental damage by pollution; and modern techniques for identifying the source of the spilled oil (oil fingerprint) to prove the source of polluters. It has also been proposed to set a working group for emergency and preparedness from all Member States composed of key and reserve individuals in the framework of the Regional Action Plan for Contingency Planning. The workshop also stressed on the need to strengthen regional coordination between the Center, the national plans and other government agencies.



## Quality Control of Sea Water Monitoring Results

Environmental monitoring is one of the most important tools of efficient management. Some countries in the Region have started regular monitoring programs of basic variables of the coastal environment since late nineties. PERSGA has been leading a regional effort for establishing a sustainable regional monitoring program since 2004. Significant steps, such as training of technicians and providing necessary equipment have been taken. Although all countries have produced monitoring data, such data, for some countries are produced in an irregular manner. Efforts are currently being continued to have all PERSGA member states participating effectively in the Regional Environmental Monitoring Program and their monitoring data flowing into the regional database maintained at PERSGA Headquarters.

Regional monitoring of coastal and marine environments has a broad nature both temporally and spatially. Monitoring data will not be of a significant value in policy making and management practices, unless adequate procedural quality control and quality assurance were maintained.

Accordingly quality control and quality assurance need to be applied not only on data collection and analysis, but also on display of the results. This will help avoiding errors that may be encountered even after good data has been collected and facilitates the use of such data.

In this context, PERSGA has held a regional training workshop on methods of quality control in the results of sea water monitoring in Aqaba (Jordan) during the period 15-17 November 2009 in cooperation with the bin Hayan International Laboratories - Aqaba.

The Workshop was attended by 19 officials from the coastal monitoring and environmental analysis in four of the Member States. Lectures were presented by Dr. Mohamed Badran (Coordinator of the workshop – PERSGA) and Dr. Mai Ezz El Din Ahmed (Director of Quality Management, EEAA, Egypt).

The main objective of the workshop was to train laboratory and data managers working in coastal and marine monitoring to produce monitoring results of the required quality. This will help in establishing and improving quality control in the Regional Network of the PERSGA Monitoring Programme.

Specific objectives included the following:

- Identify appropriate methods of regular intra-laboratory checks on the accuracy of routine measurements;
- Identify common standard procedures that can be followed in presenting the results and the flow of data from the concerned laboratories to the regional database in PERSGA.
- Explain the foundations of assurance methods and quality control (QA / QC) by a factor of environmental monitoring;
- Introduction of the principles and foundations of aptitude tests for the factor analysis, and sources of errors contained in these laboratories;
- Introduction of the principles and foundations of identifying the sources of variability and uncertainty.

The desired objectives of the workshop have been achieved where participants were trained on the tab results and data models of quality assurance and statistical analysis in addition to a test to compare the efficiency of small quantity of the results between the participants.

At the end of the workshop, the participants were provided with copies of the lectures presented, along with materials and references.





## **Chemical spills in Coastal and Marine Environment: Control and Response Measures**

Consistence with its mission to facilitate implementation of Jeddah Convention, PERSGA shall enhance cooperation among member states, in taking the necessary and effective measures to protect the coastline from the threat and effects of pollution, by oil or other harmful substances that may result from marine emergencies.

The tonnage of chemicals exported and imported by countries of the region, and that in transit through the Red Sea is steadily rising. This suggests that incidents that could or would cause damage to the marine environment and risks to public health are distinctly probable. An essential requirement for Response and Contingency Plans implementation is building capacities to ensure that the bodies responsible for management are able to efficiently deal with such hazardous incidents of chemical spills. Acquainting methods of predicting the fate of chemical spills including trajectory models; chemical pollutants types, toxicity and reactivity; equipment



and tool requirements etc., in addition on-scene drilling and exercise are important to ensure best preparedness and response performance.

In collaboration with International Maritime Organization (IMO) PERSGA organized a workshop on “Control of and Response to Chemical Spills in the Coastal and Marine Environment” in its headquarter in Jeddah During the period 20th- 23rd December 2009.

The main workshop objectives were to train the participants on the latest methods employed to chemical spill preparedness and response, and building regional capacities to combat chemical spill incidents; it also included reviewing national reports and the exchange of experience among the participants from the region.

PERSGA Secretary-General delivered a welcoming speech at the opening ceremony explaining the importance of this workshop in building regional capacities on chemical spill preparedness and response.





He stressed on the importance of contingency planning in the region and combating potential chemical spill incidents in the marine environment, pointing out that the risks of chemical spills may be more severe than oil pollution and often difficult to control and reduce its devastating impacts. He also stressed on the importance of benefiting from the experiences of countries that have faced similar incidents, the importance of taking preventive measures and precautions, and following the safe ways of transport and storage of chemicals to prevent such incidents. He reviewed the role played by EMARSGA in Hurghada in the coordination of regional efforts in this field.

The Workshop was attended by more than thirty specialists from countries of the region representing various sectors involved in combating chemical pollution. The workshop was lead by an Australian expert who contributed to the enrichment of the workshop

**Several important topics were discussed in the workshop including the following:**

- Management chemical spill disasters in coastal and marine environments; development of national and regional chemical spill contingency plans and training programs.
- How chemicals are shipped by sea, vessels types, product control systems on board and potential accident scenarios. in addition to the methods and safety procedures to reduce incidents of chemical spills.
- Monitoring of chemical spills in the marine environment, combating chemical spills - options, technologies and equipment, and imposed restrictions.
- Hazards, properties and spill behavior of chemicals, impacts on the human health, the marine



environment, fisheries, aquatic life, wildlife and coastal resources.

- Modeling of chemical spills during the maritime transport and its importance in decision-making, preparedness and response in maritime emergencies, and environmental impact assessment.
- Chemical spill modeling basics and essential data requirements. Demonstration of the “Chemical Spills - Responders Toolbox and Resource CDROM.”

During the workshop, an exercise on a hypothetical scenario of a major chemical spill incident in the marine environment was carried out; in which; the participants were divided into working groups, and were provided with initial data about the incident; then each group developed an action plan to respond and deal with the incident; at the end of the exercise, each group presented their results and discussed them with other groups.

The workshop adopted several recommendations including the following:

1 – Formation of a regional working group supervised by PERSGA with the following tasks:

- Conduct risk assessment study of chemical spill incidents in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Region.
- Carry out an inventory of capacities and equipment in the region to deal with these incidents and risks.
- Provision of a vision of national and regional chemical spill contingency plans in RSGA region.
- Benefit from the experiences of other regional seas in similar fields.
- Identifying the difficulties that PERSGA States face in transporting and handling of chemicals.

2- Preparation of guidelines and explanatory information for the development of national plans to manage incidents of chemical spills in the marine environment in Arabic.



## Legal Aspects of Ballast-Water Management



PERSGA and IMO jointly implement the Global Ballast-Water Management Project (GloBallast) in the region, which was initiated last year. Within the activities of the capacity building component of the project, PERSGA held a regional training workshop on “Legal Aspects of Ballast Water Management” at its regional center for marine Emergency Mutual Aids in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (EMARSGA) in Hurgada during 16-17 November 2009.

The workshop, which was organized in the framework of PERSGA Annual Training Program, was attended by 18 participants from PERSGA countries. The main objective of the workshop was to train the participants on the legal aspects of ballast water

management concerning the international convention and its related agreements, with emphasis on the approaches to mainstreaming the international convention into national and regional legislations, laws and management policies.

The training team included Dr. Hisham Baban (an IMO expert) and Dr. Mohamed Badran (PERSGA). The training program included 5 modules focusing on introduction to ballast water management, the International Convention on Ballast Water Management and other related conventions and agreements, implementation of the international convention, and guidelines for development of regional/national legislations and laws on ballast water management.

*A New Regional Protocol signed*

**The Protocol concerning Technical Cooperation to borrow and transfer Experts, Technicians, Equipment and Materials in Cases of Emergency**



After the success of PERSGA in the establishment and inauguration of the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (PERSGA/EMARSGA) a Regional Protocol Concerning Technical Cooperation to Borrow and Transfer Experts, Technicians, Equipment and Materials in Cases of Emergency was prepared.

This protocol has passed several stages of review of legal and technical aspects by technical and legal experts from the countries of the region; accordingly, signed and initialed at a meeting of Plenipotentiaries in PERSGA headquarters at Jeddah city on 8 Rajab 1430, corresponding to the first of July 2009.

This Protocol is considered as an important supplement that consolidates the Jeddah Convention (1982) and activates the functions of the PERSGA/EMARSGA; it plays an important role in promoting regional cooperation to reduce the risk of pollution resulting from maritime accidents.

The new Protocol includes 11 articles: articles I and II clarify the objectives terminologies cited; article III and IV defines the span of the Protocol implementation and state the general obligations, and the provision for exchange of personnel, equipment, apparatus and materials, while articles V, VI and VII define the particular obligations for each of the lender and borrower country in case of exchanging any of the items stated above; article VIII explicates the Protocol annexes; articles IX and X include the procedures of signing, approval and ratification of the Protocol by the contracting parties; article XI, the last article, focuses on dealings and procedures regarding the implementation of the Protocol. Finally, the three annexes to the Protocol detail the procedural administrative, technical and financial, and legal dealings regarding exchange and movement of experts, technicians, equipment and materials among the PERSGA member states.



## The implementation of the second phase of the NOSRC in Sudan



NOSRC coordination office at SMA



HCENR Secretary General



Ministers of Environment and Energy and Wali of RS State attending the decision makers workshop (June 2009)



The implementation of the second phase of the National Oil Spill Response Center (NOSRC) project has begun in Sudan; the first draft of the Foundation and Institutional Framework studies for the Center has been prepared together with its operation plan and policy framework.

The offices of the Center have been established and furnished by the Sudanese Maritime Authority; an awareness workshop for decision makers was organized and held in Khartoum attended by Their Excellencies the Ministers of Environment and Physical Development, Justice, Transport and Bridges, the Wali of the Red Sea State, the Secretary General of the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources, the State Minister of Environment and Tourism along with a group of decision makers in relevant ministries.

A Public Awareness Seminar for the Center has also been held in Port Sudan organized by the State Ministry of Environment and Tourism; a training workshop was held at Bashair Oil Terminal in



Port Sudan involving relevant actors; an Environmental Awareness Seminar has also been held in Khartoum about marine oil pollution. Such activities have played an important role in initiating procedures for accession to the International Maritime Organization conventions, especially the MARPOL Convention.



## A project for mangrove assessment on the Red Coast of Saudi Arabia

PERSGA has recently initiated implementation of a project for “Assessment of Mangroves on the Red Sea Coast of Saudi Arabia”, in collaboration with National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWCD). The project endeavours to assess the status of mangroves and their communities, current ecological impacts and stress on mangroves, their vulnerability to the possible impacts of Climate Change; and suggesting procedural recommendations for national plans aiming at mangrove conservation and development.

The project activities include a field survey that are to be carried out in two phases: phase I including mangroves located on the Red Sea coast from Jeddah to north of Dhuba, and phase II including mangroves from Jeddah to the southern borders and Farasan Archipelago. Information and data will be collected for assessing the condition of the mangrove stands and sites suitable for mangrove planting in future projects aiming at mangrove restoration and extension. The project outputs will also provide a foundation for creating, updating and synthesis of habitat maps and GIS for the mangroves along the extensive Red Sea coast Saudi Arabia.

In December 2009, a joined research team from



PERSGA and NCWCD has conducted the first phase of the field survey including mangrove stands on the Red Sea coast from Jeddah to north of Dhuba. Arrangements are ongoing to launch phase II of the field surveys and carry on the project activities as planned in 2010.





## **In collaboration with AMP and ASEZA PERSGA implemented an ecotourism project in Aqaba**

The short coastal strip of Aqaba is getting increasingly crowded with human activities and visitors. The Aqaba Economic Zone Authorities (ASEZA) along with Aqaba Marine Park (AMP) administration exert substantial efforts to protect marine environment and ensure safety of tourist swimmers and divers. AMP is a part of the Regional Network of MPAs, which PERSGA has established and run since 2005.







In the framework of the On-the-ground Activities Program, a joint ecotourism demo project was implemented by PERSGA, ASEZA and AMP during September-October 2009 at the AMP coastal area. The project objectives were to carry out a rapid assessment study to identify problems related to conservation of marine environment and safety of tourist visitors at the AMP coast; and in light of the assessment results, to make out and apply some actions. The assessment study carried out by the project team indicated that the numbers of visitors and glass boats are significantly rising, which will increase risks of boat grounding or accidental crash of swimmers, drowning and impacts on coastal environment unless additional regulative actions are undertaken to endorse and enhance the efforts by ASEZA and AMP. Hence, the project implementation was designed to include extending the number of mooring buoys to assure their adequacy for boaters and eliminate boat anchorage on reefs; delineating clearly labeled sites for swimmers and snorkels to avoid them the risk of boat collision; defining specific routes for boat sailing from boarding and disembarking sites; in addition to implementing some measures to



ensure sustainability of the applied tools and actions.

Consequently, the project team has implemented the planned project activities, which included:

- Installation of 26 mooring buoys, including 19 for servicing diving tourism boaters (marked as orange buoys), and 7 for excursion boaters (marked as white buoys).
- Delineating shore zones for swimmers and snorkels by ropes supplied with small yellow buoys.
- Selecting entry sites and sailing routes for boaters and delineate them with labeled ropes
- Putting informative signs along the shore and warning signs indicating locations with submerged sharply ridging reef rocks;
- Locating coordinates of installed buoys and incorporate coordinates in AMP and ASEZA database maps and satellite images.
- Development of outreach materials in the form of leaflets, instruction booklets and an electronic newsletter for visitors and other stakeholders, and training of AMP staff on follow up and routine maintenance of mooring buoys/ropes and sustainability of the project plans and activities.

## A study for restoration of mangroves at Khor Angar

The Ministry of Housing, Urbanism, Environment and Land Use Planning (MHUEAT) in the Republic of Djibouti (MHUEAT) is planning to execute a GEF supported Project addressing adaptations to climate change impacts on coastal ecosystems and communities. In the framework of the project preparation activities, MHUEAT approached PERSGA to assist in conducting a study for mangrove restoration at Khor Angar, on the basis of PERSGA's previous assessment studies on mangroves of the region.

In coordination with MHUEAT, PERSGA conducted the study on restoration of Khor Angar mangroves, which is located on the northern Djiboutian coast, during May-June 2009. The objectives of the study included assessment of

the current mangrove status, identifying root causes for the reported degradation and mangrove dry up in a significant parts of the forest, suggest options for the planned mangrove restoration project, and evaluate the previous restoration efforts in the area

Khor Angar mangrove comprises one of the most extensive mangrove areas in Djibouti. It supports three mangrove species, and so it is distinguished from other mangrove areas in the region that are characteristically monospecific, or infrequently support two mangrove species only. Mangrove stands at Khor Angar were included in previous regular mangrove assessments carried out by PERSGA in the region, which has provided significant data and information on the mangrove extent and condition.



**Khor Angar Mangroves**





Considering this, the restoration study was based on review of information available from the regional mangrove database at PERSGA; conducting a field survey to update information on the current status and identify possible restoration options; and discuss their feasibilities, applicability, effectiveness and sustainability through a series of meetings and discussions with national/ district authorities and local community.

Following the field investigation, the collected information and data were assorted and analyzed and the study report was developed. The report describes the current mangrove status and explains causes of mangrove degradation in the area. It also evaluates previous restoration efforts, specifies suitable sites for hydrological restorations and mangrove planting, suggests some measures for control of the increased siltation and protection of the mangroves; and provides some technical recommendations regarding the implementation approach and participation of the local community. The report also includes maps showing suggested sites for

hydrological restoration and planting. Within the same subject matter, MHUEAT also suggested that PERSGA may later contribute to the project implementation through supporting and participation in activities related to PERSGA work; an accord was reached that such activities are to be undertaken in the framework of PERSGA on-the-ground program activities in Djibouti. The project focuses on restoration of degraded coastal ecosystems, improving water management capacities, reducing risks from climate change impacts, and development of national adaptation strategy, plans and capacities.

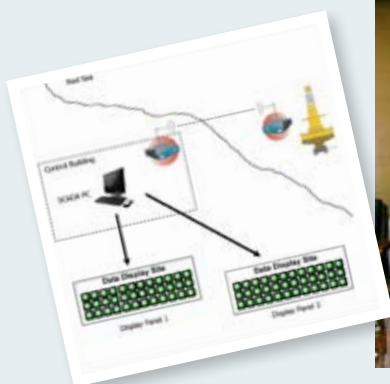




## Survey of Mangrove Habitats in Yemen

PERSGA conducted a mangrove survey during the last April-May 2009 in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Yemen. A joined PERSGA and EPA research team surveyed around 25 mangrove sites located along the Red Sea coastal strip of the country from Midi in the

north to Bab-el-Mandab in the south. The survey was conducted in the framework of the Regional Regular Mangrove Assessment Program run by PERSGA. The survey findings will be integrated into the upcoming Regional Mangrove Status Report of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden



## An Agreement to establish a pilot on-line Monitoring Network in Agaba

An agreement was signed between PERSGA and its collaborators in Jordan, comprising both government and private sector partners, for the implementation of a demo project establishing a pilot on-line network for monitoring coastal water quality in Agaba. The agreement signed on November 2nd

2009, mainly involves PERSGA, Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) and Agaba Development Company (ADC), who will support implementation of the project that has been launched in the framework of the PERSGA's On-the-ground Activities Program in Jordan.

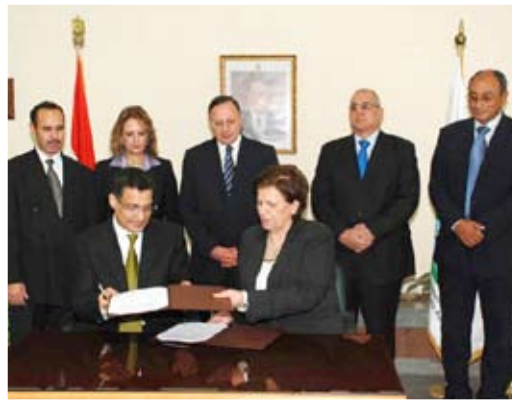


*Phase I Close Meeting of the Pollutants Monitoring Project in Egypt*

## State Minister of Environmental Affairs and PERSGA Secretary General Addressed the Meeting



H.E. the Egyptian State Minister of Environmental Affairs



Signing the Project Agreement



Concluding phase I of the on-the-ground project "Promotion of capacities for Monitoring Organic and Heavy Metal Pollutants in Egypt", a high ranking Meeting was organized during October 2009.

Addressing the Meeting, HE Magid Goerge, State Minister of the Environmental Affairs in Egypt, and HE Prof. Ziad Abu Ghararah, Secretary General of PERSGA appreciated the project achievements, indicating the project mutual advantages for promoting capacities of the National



Monitoring Program in Egypt and the Regional Monitoring Program run by PERSGA. The Meeting programme included also demonstrations on the accomplished and upcoming project activities; and the ceremony of awarding accomplishment certificates to the trainee participants during phase I of the project. By the end of the Meeting an agreement was signed for the implementation of phase II of the project during 2009-2010.



## The First Regional Meeting of the Management Committee of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Project

The first regional meeting of the Project Management Committee for the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) project was held in Jeddah during 21-22 March 2009. The meeting represents the first step in the implementation of the medium-sized project between the PERSGA and the United Nations Industrial Development (UNIDO) for activating the strategies to reduce unintentional production of POPs in the region.

Participants in the meeting included the UNIDO representative and the UNIDO consultant for the project, and a representative of the Islamic Development Bank, and five representatives of the countries in the region (Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Egypt and Yemen).

The opening session included a welcome speech by both the PERSGA Secretary General who stressed on the commitment in implementing the objectives of the project, and the UNIDO representative who gave a brief explanation of the project objectives and management structure.

This was followed by lectures and discussions during the two days meeting; the Project Coordinator in PERSGA reviewed the PERSGA activities and programs, its role in the region, the cooperation with international organizations in project implementation, and capacity-building in the region. The UNIDO representative presented a lecture on the objectives of the Stockholm Convention with respect to the coastal environment, explained the chemical substances covered by the Stockholm Convention, the role of GEF financial support to activities related to the POPs, clarified the administrative structure of the project, and explained the major sources of unintentionally produced Persistent Organic Pollutants.



The participants from countries of the region (Sudan, Egypt, Jordan and Yemen) presented lectures dealt with the national programs of the POPs and related matters to the Stockholm Convention, and reviewed the major sources of the POPs in the States.

Two laboratories in Jordan and Egypt were nominated for the analysis of samples. The work plan for 2009 was presented in its final form by the project consultant. The targets of the first year for implementation of the project were also identified including the following:

- Establishment of administrative structure for the project.
- Training of two specialist from each of the countries participating in the sampling of dioxins and furans.
- Update the inventory of emission sources of POPs in Annex C in the coastal areas in each country.
- Identification of priorities and description of the tests to apply the best available technological and environmental practices, (BAT or BEPs)
- Choose one specific site in each country to apply the best available technological and best environmental practices.

The Committee approved to provide the national project coordinators with draft contracts in each of the countries in the region as well as the draft contracts for specialist who have been nominated for training in sampling for dioxin and furans.

The most important recommendations of the meeting was to review the inventory of sources of POPs in Annex C of the Stockholm Convention in all countries of the Region, and the development of the national action plan to limit the sources of emissions of dioxins and furans.





## The Second Regional Meeting of the Administrative Committee for the Persistent Organic Pollutants Project

The Second Regional Meeting of the Management Committee for the Persistent Organic Pollutants Project was held in Aqaba - Jordan during 1-2 November 2009. The meeting was attended by representatives of five countries in the region (Jordan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Yemen) in addition to the PERSGA Secretary-General, UNIDO consultant, and the President of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) as well as many of the participants who attended the opening session.

The opening session was addressed by His Excellency the President of ASEZA, and his Excellency the PERSGA Secretary General. The latter expressed the support for PERSGA to the project and confirmed the commitment of PERSGA to achieve the objectives of the project; he also stressed on the importance of the project to the region, and urged the national coordinators of the project to follow up its implementation carefully to avoid any undue delay.

A series of lectures and discussions took place during the two days of the meeting; the UNIDO consultant presented a lecture on the project, its objectives, its administrative structure and the role of UNIDO in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention. The regional coordinator of the project briefly reviewed PERSGA activities and the achievements of the project regarding the collection of national data, assessment of the inventory, compilation of reports, and the implementation of the Action Plan for 2009.

The representatives of States participating in the meeting presented brief reviews

about the workflow in the project and achievements made in the first phase of the project.

A closed session of the Project Management Committee included clarification of procedures for coordination between the various actors, and the signing of the project document. Financial procedures were also discussed together with budget items and provision of financial reports. With regard to the training needs it has been agreed that each country should determine the needed training being presented in the form of proposals including justification and should be within the allocated budget.

*One  
of the main  
recommendations  
of the meeting was  
to establish the infra-  
structure for the Sudan  
and Yemen Offices by  
UNIDO, either di-  
rectly or through  
PERSGA.*

Several issues were discussed including the communication process between PERSGA and the focal points in countries of the region, the amendment of certain terms in the project document. Bids received from laboratories were evaluated by the Committee where the German laboratory was selected to analyze samples based on the appropriateness of price analysis of the sample, compared with the prices of other laboratories. The Committee decided to provide the national laboratories in Egypt and Jordan with 30 samples for each laboratory for analysis so as to ensure the quality of analysis and raise the capabilities of laboratories within the region.

During the meeting the project consultant reviewed the project work plan from November 2009 to March 2010 for the next six months where targets and the implementation process had been identifying.



## The First Globallast Regional Task Force Meeting

The First Globallast Regional Task Force Meeting was held at Aqaba Marine Park (Jordan) hosted by the Jordan Maritime Authority and organized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in co-operation with PERSGA, and Jordanian Maritime Authority. The meeting took place during 29 and 30 June, 2009. The 17 participants in the



meeting included senior representatives of various government administrations, NGOs, Research and Academic Organizations and Industries.

The objectives of the meeting included acquiring information on the status of GloBallast Project implementation in the Region and discussing and agreeing upon Terms of Reference for the Regional Task Force as well as the principles and elements to be included in the Regional Strategy on ship's Ballast Water management.

The meeting was successful in achieving its purpose and resulted in the adoption of the Terms of Reference for the Regional Task Force and adoption of key elements of the Regional Strategy for Ballast Water Management by participating states; the meeting also agreed on a work plan to finalize the strategy.