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Intervention made by Iceland at CSD 13

In my short intervention I will focus on one important issue concerning integrated water resource management.

Allow me first to draw your attention to The Millenium Ecosystem Assessment - called for by UN Secretary General, published in March this year. The report clearly illustrates how measures taken to improve the life of people in one place can harm ecosystems and the living conditions of people elsewhere.

Nearly half of the world's population lives within 60 kilometers of the coast. The proportion is increasing as growth in urban communities this century will largely take place in coastal zones.

Coastal zones are the most productive ecosystems on earth and therefore particularly vulnerable to pollution from land-based sources.

One in five people in the world depend on fish as their primary source of protein, and fisheries provide direct or indirect livelihoods for 400 million people.

80% of marine pollution comes from land-based activities.

Iceland would like to congratulate the chair on a very clear and concise matrix from the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting. Still I would like to draw your attention to one important issue we would like to have mentioned. The theGlobal Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) is in the view of Iceland a very important instrument to ensure a holistic approach to integrated water resource management.

The GPA was adopted by 108 governments and the European Commission in 1995. The GPA targets major threats to the health, productivity and biodiversity of the marine and coastal environment resulting from human activities. GPA is the only global mechanism explicitly addressing the linkages between freshwater, coastal and marine environments.

The value of GPA as a tool for achieving internationally -agreed goals and targets, including the MDG's has been reiterated in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and in numerous intergovernmental and multistakeholder fora.

Iceland would like to take this opportunity to underline the linkages between marine and freshwater management and GPA as the only global process that addresses the interface between freshwater and the marine environment. It is important that at

Iceland would therefore like to emphasize the need for strengthening the implementation of GPA and hopes to see this reflected in the outcome of CSD 13.