

Building a global network

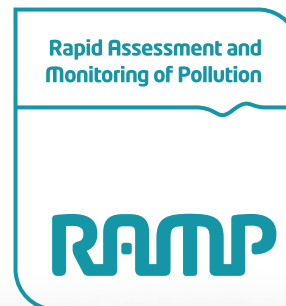


Developed in 1993 by Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) and its science partners, RAMP has grown from a marine assessment tool to an effective 'monitoring of aquatic pollution' approach with over 14 training programs completed with users from over 32 countries.



Previous RAMP initiatives have received support and funding from the United Nations, European Union, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK Department for International Development and through in-country support.

RAMP improves the efficiency of pollution monitoring and effectiveness of related data management and communication. Additional funding is now sought to develop the RAMP approach into a global network by 2020.



PML is an independent marine science organization with over 30 years experience in the development of methods for the determination of environmental quality.

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Rapid and cost-effective aquatic
pollution monitoring and data
management for the benefit of
human and environmental health

By Plymouth Marine Laboratory

Addressing human and environmental health issues



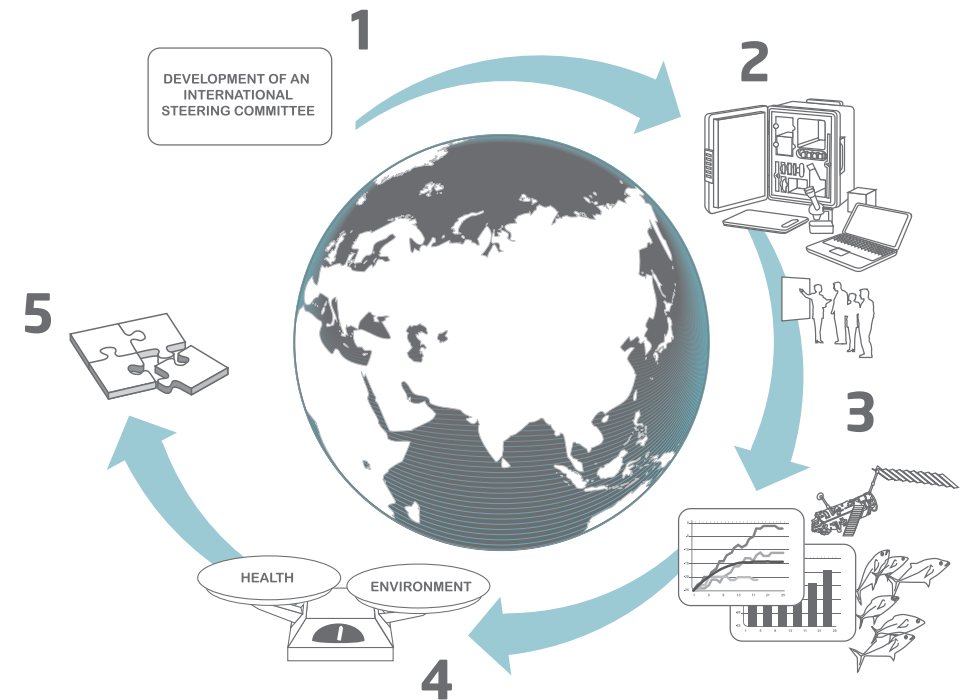
A diverse range of human activities have an impact on the environment, which in turn may affect human health and well-being. The World Health Organisation estimates that a quarter of global human diseases and deaths are now caused by the environment. Sewage pollution, harmful algal blooms and chemical pollutants in drinking water and food are only a few examples of how poor ecosystem health directly damages human health.

RAMP facts:

- Focused monitoring programmes meeting local needs
- Easy to use technology providing affordable, intelligent, sustainable methods for monitoring ecosystem health
- Expert training programmes, local and regional networks and capacity building
- Introduces monitoring through socio-economic indicators
- Informs people about the health benefits of ecosystem management
- Empowers communities to make better decisions about ecosystem management, enhancing regional economies
- Adds value to existing health and development programmes

Information about ecosystem health allows communities to make better decisions about ecosystem management, consequently benefitting and strengthening regional economies and human health.

The Rapid Assessment and Monitoring of Pollution (RAMP) approach provides a pragmatic, mobile, community managed, cost-effective approach for detecting, monitoring and predicting the impacts of pollution on human health in freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems. It interacts with existing regional, national and international health and development programmes to build capacity in less wealthy countries. It integrates with existing projects and improves communications to enhance health diagnoses and business opportunities.



1. Integration with international and regional programmes through a steering committee addressing pollution concerns
2. PML provides training, in-country support and a toolbox for measuring sewage, oil, agrochemicals, metals and industrial contaminants
3. Findings are analyzed and integrated with further data sets providing local and regional context
4. Enabling informed decision making and community based monitoring
5. Building a global network by 2020

RAMP in practice

The RAMP approach builds regional capacity and includes expert in-country training, a mobile measurement kit, data analysis and ongoing remote support by experienced scientists. It applies existing technology in a novel way including mobile access to data. This allows communities, scientists and environmental managers to effectively determine ecological status and take relevant action. In addition, RAMP is building a global network by 2020 through linking with existing regional, national and international health and development programmes.