Towards a Zero Waste Society for the Protection of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

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https://www.unescap.org/our-work/environment-development

SDG I 4, the Blue Economy and Ocean Waste

- SDG14: To conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.
- The **Blue Economy** is Vital for Development
 - >3bn people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for livelihoods.
 - 80% of tourism takes place is reliant on coastal areas.
 - 85% of all fishery and aquaculture workers are found in Asia and the Pacific.
- Our ocean and coastal ecosystems are under increasing pressure from **unmanaged waste emissions** and **unsustainable resource use**.
- Data is Key!
 - No Data for 8/10 SDG14 indicators in the Asia Pacific region.

GOAL 14
14.1 Marine pollution
14.5 Conservation of coastal areas
14.2 Marine & coastal ecosystems
14.3 Ocean acidification
14.4 Sustainable fishing
14.6 Fisheries subsidies
14.7 Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs
14.a Research capacity & marine technology
14.b Small-scale artisanal fishing
14.c Implementing UNCLOS



Ocean Health Index: Coastal Livelihoods and Economies (2019)

ESCAP

Sustainable Oceans ESCAP 2020 Commission Theme Study

Key Priorities

- Greater data sharing and investment in national statistical systems to better collection and harmonize regional ocean data.
- Enforcement of international conventions, norms and standards in relation to maritime shipping, sustainable fisheries and marine pollution.
- Strengthening regional platforms as avenues for building partnerships, facilitating knowledge-sharing and to support the implementation and monitoring of global agreements.

Overview

- 1. Data on Sustainable Development Goal 14 in Asia and the Pacific
- 2. Transforming Maritime Shipping
- 3. Regional Cooperation for Ocean Fisheries
- 4. Plastic Pollution in the Marine Environment



CHANGING SAILS:

ACCELERATING REGIONAL ACTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE OCEANS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC







The Challenge of Plastic Waste

359Mt

Annual Plastic Production

(PlasticsEurope, 2018)

6300Mt Total Plastic Waste (Geyer et al., 2017)



Landfill or Environment



Note: The figures in the graph do not include micro- or nanoplastics. Source: Lebreton, Egger, and Slat (2019).

Projected Ocean Plastic Debris

Surface Macroplastics



Plastic Waste in the Asia Pacific Region



\$2.3bn

Direct Revenue Loss for Asian Fisheries and Tourism (Deloitte, 2019)



Global wasted plastic packaging value (Ellen MacArthur, 2020)



Mismanaged plastic waste (Mt/yr) within 50km of the coast

(Jambeck et al., 2015)



How can the Circular Economy create a Zero Waste Society?



Increasing Circularity



(Potting et al., 2017)

10th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum

Turning Circular Economy Principles into Policy

5 Priorities for Tackling Plastic Pollution



Improved Waste Management using 3R Educate Consumers and Businesses Promote Eco-Friendly Alternatives and Design

Regulatory Framework



Enable Voluntary Reduction Strategies



Where to Act?

Cities as a Key Interface between Land and Ocean

60%

Of marine plastic waste derived from cities

Cities are hotspots for plastic consumption and waste generation. They are often located along rivers and coastlines. I.2bn

Additional Urban Residents by 2050

The Asia Pacific region is rapidly urbanising. Waste management systems are under increasing pressure to deal with high quantities of mixed waste. >80% Of GDP generated in cities

Cities are economic hubs and have the greatest capacity and resources to address plastic waste and improve urban livelihoods.



Regional Action on Marine Debris is Accelerating



ASEAN FRAMEWORK OF ACTION ON MARINE DEBRIS





2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

SDGI1: Sustainable Cities and Communities **SDGI2:** Responsible Production and Consumption **SDGI4:** Life Below Water



G20 OSAKA BLUE OCEAN VISION



COBSEA REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON MARINE LITTER





PACIFIC REGIONAL ACTION PLAN: MARINE LITTER

UN ESCAP: Closing the Loop

'Closing the Loop' aims to reduce the environmental impact of ASEAN cities by addressing plastic waste in the marine environment.







Closing the Loop: Baseline Assessment

Closing the Loop is working with local governments and organisations to complete 4 city plastic baseline assessments.

Partnered with International Solid Waste Association and University of Leeds to apply the **Plastic Pollution Calculator**.

Why collect primary data?

- 2020 has been an **exceptional year** for plastics. We need to capture the impact on urban plastic **consumption**, **waste generation** and **management**.

Surabaya



Da Nang

- COVID-19
 - Changing residential/commercial consumption
 - Increased prevalence of Single Use Plastics and Medical Waste
 - Widespread disruption to waste management sector including recycling supply and finance
 - Collapse in international tourism
- Record-low oil prices
- This data will allow the analysis of intra-city composition variability for the development of **targeted policies**
 - Which items are most prevalent? in what areas? from what sources?
- Support city qualitative policy, stakeholder and governance review.



Kuala Lumpur



Nakhon Si Thammarat





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Key Messages and Conclusions

Our shared oceans provide immense environmental and economic value. However, coastal and marine ecosystems are increasingly under pressure and demand a global response.

The rapidly urbanizing Asia Pacific region is a key hotspot for the generation of ocean waste.

A Circular Economy approach maximizes long-term product value and use, reduces demand for raw materials and understands waste as a resource.

There are clear synergies in applying Circular Economy principles in marine policy. Acting on plastic waste presents significant environmental and economic opportunities. Accelerating action on marine waste is a regional policy priority. The transboundary nature of marine waste requires coordinated responses from nations.

Efforts to strengthen regional cooperation, and data sharing and harmonization are vital.



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Questions

HTTP://WWW.ESCAP.ORG/OUR-WORK/ENVIRONMENT-DEVELOPMENT





