



Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

# Tackling Marine Litter: Global Partnerships and Activities

by the BMUV Support Project Marine Litter



# Global sector project to support the BMUV in implementing the Marine Debris Framework – Regional hubs around the globe<sup>1</sup>

## Background

Nowadays, barely any other global threat to the oceans is as visible as the pollution from plastic waste. As often portrayed in visually charged media reports, the increasing littering of the oceans has reached an alarming level. A recent report indicates an estimated amount of eleven million metric tons of plastic waste being released into the oceans in 2016.<sup>2</sup> Large rivers play an important role in transporting macro- and microplastics from inland to the sea, especially in Asia and Africa. In addition, coastal areas contribute to plastic waste leakage, releasing the largest discharges into the sea.<sup>3</sup>

Various stakeholders recognize the need for a paradigm shift to combat marine litter. Strategies focus above all on limiting its further discharge as effectively as possible, including the avoidance and reduction options in the upstream value chains in accordance with the waste hierarchy. In addition to bans and voluntary approaches, e. g. to reduce single-use plastics, discussions are also taking place on how producers, retailers and other stakeholders can be held accountable. Awareness-raising measures to trigger changes in societal behaviour regarding littering, waste separation and waste avoidance represent another important approach.

## International approaches for action

For several years, international regulations for combating marine litter have been discussed and thus some implementations already approach the challenges:

Under the auspices of the BMUV, Germany has been engaged in combating marine litter for years. In 2015 and 2017, it successfully placed the issue on the agenda of the German [G7](#) and [G20](#) presidencies respectively. Also, in the current G7 presidency in 2022, the topic is anchored in a so called [Ocean Deal](#). Topics such as avoiding and reducing single-use plastic, sustainable production and consumption, transparency, internalization of costs, raising awareness, etc. play an important role. In November 2018, the BMUV launched an action plan “for less plastic and more recycling” under the programmatic title “[No to the throw-away society](#)” which comprises 5 points. While the first four points relate primarily to guiding principles for action within Germany, the fifth point concerns “international commitment against marine litter and for a sustainable use of plastics”. This addresses in particular support for selected developing and emerging countries in their efforts to avoid marine litter and to establish appropriate waste collection and recycling systems. For this purpose the funding program “[Marine Debris Framework – Regional Hubs around the Globe](#)” (Marine:DeFRAG) was launched in 2019. The program supports [projects](#) which primarily aim at the avoidance of waste directly at the source, to furthermore limit plastic waste entry into the oceans.



1 For an easier reading flow we use here the project name: **BMUV Support Project Marine Litter**

2 Tekman, M. B., Walther, B. A., Peter, C., Gutow, L. and Bergmann, M. (2022): **Impacts of plastic pollution in the oceans on marine species, biodiversity and ecosystems**, 1–221, WWF Germany, Berlin [WWF-Impacts of plastic pollution in the ocean on marine species, biodiversity and ecosystems.pdf](#)

3 Schmidt, C., Krauth, T., Wagner, S. (2017): **Export of Plastic Debris by Rivers into the Sea**. Environ. Sci. Technol. <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.7b02368>



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This includes measures such as reducing plastic waste in the medium term, as well as establishing functioning waste and recycling management systems in the longer term. Furthermore, in September 2021 Germany teamed up with Ecuador, Ghana and Vietnam and convened the first ever [Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution](#) with the aim to build political momentum in the lead up to the second part of the 5th UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi (UNEA 5.2) in 2022. A historic resolution passed mandating an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in March 2022 to draft a legally binding resolution to end plastic pollution. The Negotiating Committee begins its work in the second half of 2022 with the goal to present an agreement ready for a vote by the end of 2024.

## Project goal and activities

Considering marine littering a global problem and following Germany's commitment, the BMUV Support Project Marine Litter is supporting the engagement of the German Government to tackle plastic waste leakage at its source. For this, the project provides the BMUV with needs based advisory services, considering relevant national and international initiatives and corresponding synergy potentials. International platforms and events are used to share knowledge and experiences and distribute the projects products and findings. Furthermore, the project cooperates with regional, national, and local actors to implement small scale activities and pilots, developed in close coordination with BMUV.

To achieve this, the project activities are divided into three work packages

### Technical and conceptual support to the BMUV

GIZ provides demand- oriented technical advice and support with regard to the international commitment of the BMUV to combat marine litter as well as the design of the funding program.

### Strengthening the International exchange of experiences

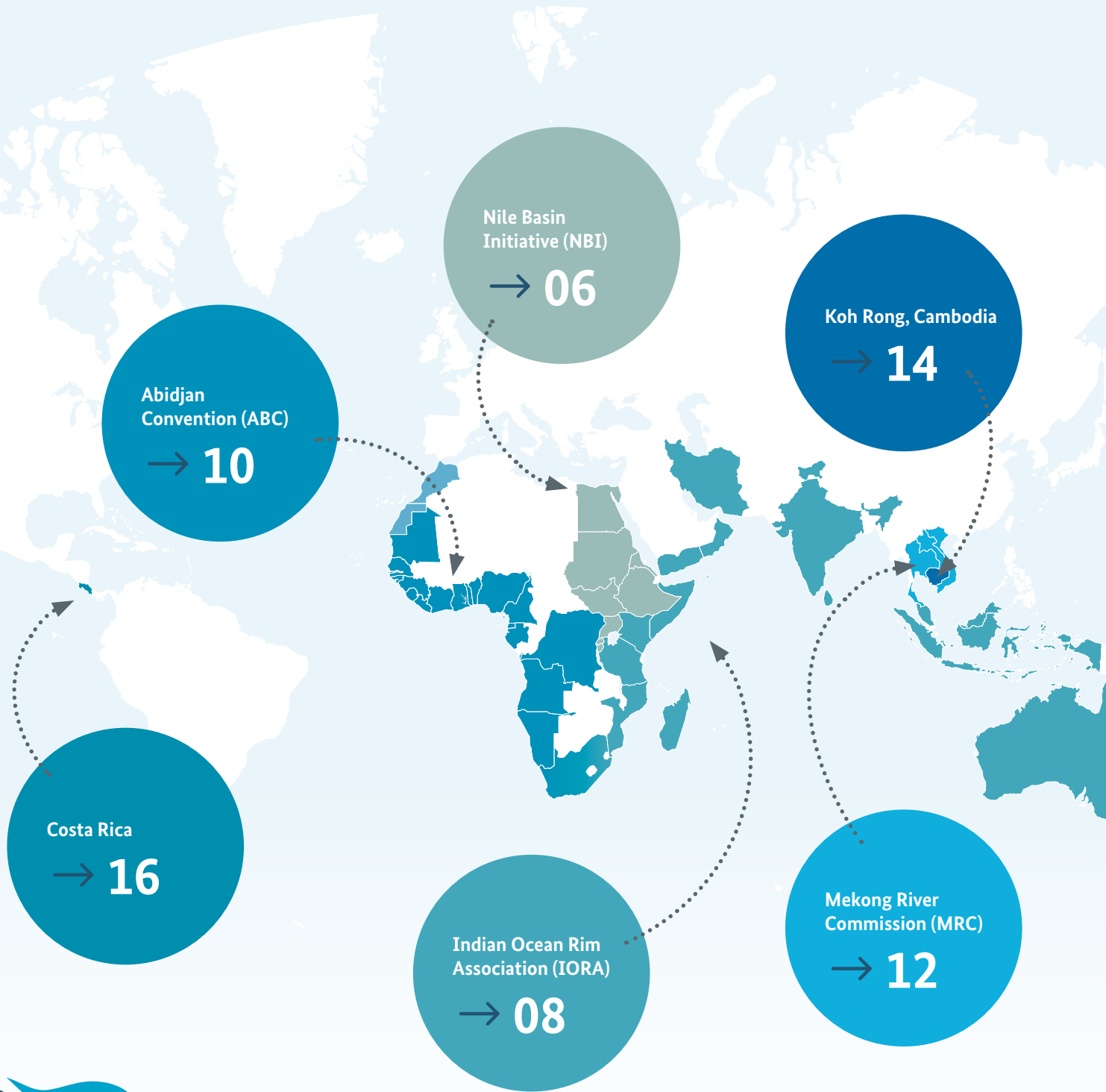
The project supports in coordination with the BMUV and in cooperation with national and international partners events for international dialogue and exchange of experience. For this purpose, the Project prepares professionally relevant inputs and knowledge on defined key topics and makes it publicly accessible.

### Initiation of first measures in selected partner countries

The project provides selective technical consultancy and policy advice to partner countries to facilitate dialogues among stakeholders and the development of strategic options. In addition, small-scale measures with innovative and transferable solutions are supported financially and with advice.

The following overview includes all activities of the BMUV Support Project Marine Litter. The activities are described in the following and their geographical distribution is visualized in the map below. In addition, information is provided on other activities, publications and studies regarding the project.

# Geographical Overview of Regional Activities



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## PUBLICATIONS

The completed publications can be found on the [GIZ project side](#)

**Assessing the role and impact of EPR in the prevention of marine Plastic Packaging Litter (cyclos)**

**Achieving more circularity in the future global plastic agreement:**

**Potential topics to raise the awareness of stakeholders (cyclos)**

**EPR in the context of SIDS (adelphi)**

**Benchmark of plastic hotspotting methodologies – Review of existing plastic material flow and leakage methodologies (and respective tools), to understand the context of application of each methodology (EA)**

**Review of remote sensing technologies and their fields of application in waste management**

**Small Island Developing States and plastic pollution –**

**Challenges and opportunities of a global agreement on plastic pollution for SIDS (adelphi)**

**Country profiles Eastern African Region (ecogeos)**

**Country profiles Latin America (Linda Breukers)**

**German Development Cooperation for Marine Litter Prevention (RWA Group)**





# Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)

**On behalf of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and cooperation with local experts, the BMUV Support Project Marine Litter carried out a desktop study on plastic pollution along the Nile river. The aim is to enhance the current knowledge on plastic pollution in the Nile Basin to support the development of counter measures and as basis for a NBI strategic framework for plastic waste prevention.**

## Background

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is a regional intergovernmental partnership of 10 Nile Basin countries, namely Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, The Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. NBI provides the Member States with the only basin wide and impartial platform to discuss how to jointly take care of and utilize the shared Nile Basin water resources for win-win socio-economic benefits and to promote regional peace and security. 3.3 million tons of mismanaged plastic waste generated in the catchment of Africa's largest river Nile is the reason for change.<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, NBI implements three core functions: facilitate basin cooperation, water resource management and water resource development. The issue of plastic pollution has also arrived in the Nile Basin region which affects the Nile's freshwater ecosystems and threatens its environmental and economic

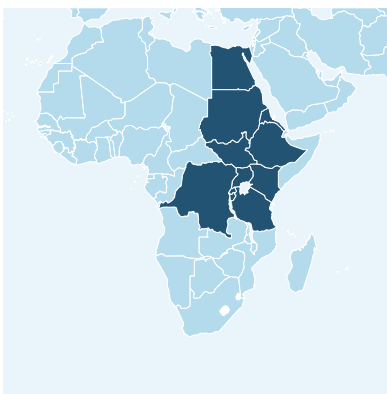
resources. Thus, the NBI wants to address the issue together with the member states. This in turn requires a better knowledge of the current state of pollution.

Rivers are a significant transporter of plastic waste from catchment areas into the marine environment with 10 rivers transport 88 – 95 % of the total annual volume of plastic waste into the oceans. In a previous study the Nile River is ranked number five of all rivers worldwide in terms of the amount transported into the marine environment.<sup>1</sup> However, a new [research](#) found that 80 percent of plastic waste is distributed by more than 1,000 rivers, not just by 10 or 20.<sup>2</sup> Accordingly, most of the waste is carried by small rivers that flow through densely populated urban areas.

This latest research underscores the pervasive spread of plastic waste into literally every crevice of the planet, and the need for solutions far more logistically complex and costly than some of the plastics campaign sloganeering suggests. The study also reinforces what marine scientists and other experts have long argued: that the ultimate solution to protecting oceans and freshwater systems is to contain plastic waste on land, where it originates ([National Geographic](#)).<sup>3</sup>



1 Christian Schmidt, Tobias Krauth, and Stephan Wagner (2017): [Export of Plastic Debris by Rivers into the Sea](#); Environmental Science and Technology; ACS publications; DL10.1021/acs.est.7b02368  
2 Meijer et al. (2021): [More than 1000 rivers account for 80 % of global riverine plastic emissions into the ocean](#). In: SCIENCE ADVANCES, Vol. 7, Issue 18.  
3 National Geographic (2021): <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/plastic-gets-to-oceans-through-over-1000-rivers>. [09.06.2022].



Time frame  
**2021 – 2022**



Budget  
**~ 100.000 €**



Partners  
▶ Nile Basin Initiative      ▶ BlackForest Solutions GmbH



Facts  
NBI's 10-year strategy 2017 – 2027 translates the NBI Shared Vision Objective to achieve sustainable socio-economic development through equitable utilization of, and benefit from the shared Nile Basin water resources, into basin development goals.



## Activity

GIZ, in the context of the BMUV Support Project Marine Litter, intends to support the NBI to explore opportunities for cooperation in the field of plastic pollution prevention in the Nile Basin. Given the great lack of data for the Nile Basin regarding waste management and river pollution, a first important step is to assess the level of knowledge and the extent of pollution based on a compilation and analysis of secondary data from published literature and to elaborate policy recommendations upon the results.

## Objective

The overall objective of the assignment is to enhance current level of understanding on level of plastic pollution transported by the Nile and its source areas in the catchment.

### The specific objectives of the assignment are

- to establish current level of knowledge on plastic (micro and macro) waste transport by the Nile to the Mediterranean sea;
- to map relevant sources (hotspots) of plastic pollution and assess the waste management situation in the Nile basin countries to prepare a scoping report outlining the data gaps and identification of further actions and further recommendations
- to raise awareness through policy briefing with recommendations on key areas of further activities addressing NBI and Nile basin countries.

## Key results

- During the study it became obvious that the pollution of the Nile is not well researched due to or because of the large data gaps in the waste management sector, which could not be filled within the scope of this study. Also, there is currently no research on how plastic waste, both micro- and macroplastics, is transported onwards in the Nile river system to the Mediterranean Sea. In this context, the impact of infrastructures needs to be further researched. The prevailing disposal practice, namely low waste collection rate especially in rural areas, low recycling rate and dumping of mixed waste on unsecured dumps, weak enforcement of regulations and low awareness among the population and business leading to litter could be identified as the main reasons for plastic pollution.
- The key outcome of the study is to improve current knowledge and raise awareness through recommendations on how Nile Basin countries can individually and through regional cooperation address this increasingly transboundary problem. Key recommendations include promoting the principles of circular economy and establishing a mechanism for regional cooperation. To this end, the study recommends the establishment of a strategic framework, including, for example, agreed objectives, priority areas and guiding principles. Such a framework should serve as a basis for more specific (transboundary and national) action plans.
- The study results and the policy brief were presented to NBI and country (government) representatives during the Consultation Workshop 27 – 29 Apr 2022, Entebbe (Uganda). During this workshop, the participants had opportunities to give comments for revision, but also to share how their country is affected by river pollution and what measures have been successfully taken to address this problem. Through this dialogue, NBI countries should gain a comprehensive understanding of plastic pollution across the basin and strengthen their cooperation by developing workable actions manifested in a framework of actions to eventually make littering prevention an integral part of the NBI agenda.
- It is expected to submit the revised report and policy brief to the Technical Advisory Committee of NBI for endorsement followed by adoption by the NBI Council of Ministers.

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GIZ/Giang

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# Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)



Indonesia in partnership with the Indian Ocean Rim Association, the BMUV Support Project Marine Litter and the GIZ Project “Strengthening IORA and its Secretariat” funded by the Federal Foreign Office conducts a series of workshops for IORA Member States to exchange on current national marine litter strategies in IORA member states and to discuss opportunities for cooperation. The aim is to develop a common strategic framework as a basis for national and regional action plans.

## Background

The Indian Ocean Rim Association ([IORA](#)) aims to strengthen regional cooperation and sustainable development in the Indian Ocean region through its 23 member states and 10 dialogue partners. The member states recognize that without immediate action, marine pollution will negatively impact biodiversity, the environment, health, society, and the economy, not just in their countries but in the world. Although marine pollution is an overgrowing concern for the IORA Member States, no specific regional guidelines have yet been established for IORA. Within the IORA Blue Economy Working Group (WGBE), the topic is currently only discussed as a sub-topic of the cross-cutting theme. Considering that marine pollution is a growing global problem that requires intergovernmental agreements and regionally coherent national and local actions, it is necessary to give this issue more priority in the WGBE agenda. As a first step to address this in IORA and according to the WGBE work plan, the development of a strategic framework for action is foreseen to serve as a basis for national and regional action plans. The development of this framework will be organised through several workshops to share best practices and experiences and to discuss priorities, areas of intervention and cooperation.



Time frame  
**2021 – 2022**



Budget  
**~ 15.000 € (BMUV)**



### Partners

- ▶ Government of Indonesia through the Directorate for Intra and Inter Regional Cooperation of Asia Pacific and Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia
- ▶ Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Rim Association
- ▶ RWA Group



### Facts

1st Workshop on [Development of IORA Declaration on Combatting Marine Debris and a Strategic Framework of Action on Marine Debris in the Indian Ocean](#) – Indian Ocean Rim Association – IORA



## Activity

GIZ, through its Projects “Strengthening IORA and its IORA Secretariat” and BMUV Support Project Marine Litter support IORA in the process of developing the Strategic Framework of Action on Marine Debris in the Indian Ocean.

- In this regard Indonesia in partnership with the BMUV Support Project Marine Litter organized online workshops to present the status quo in the marine/plastic waste sector of selected IORA countries as basis for the draft framework.
- In-person workshop in Bali in September 2022 to finalise the draft IORA Strategic Framework of Action on Marine Litter in the Indian Ocean. On this occasion, Member States also exchanged views on possible activities for its implementation as a preparatory step for an action plan.

## Objectives

- Promotion of exchange of knowledge and experiences in waste management, circular economy and marine litter
- Strengthening of regional cooperation, Awareness-raising, sensibilization and prioritization of the topic in the Blue Economy working group
- Development of a Strategic Framework of Action on Marine Debris in the Indian Ocean, supported by a list of measures which can be implemented by Member States



## Key results so far

For the development of the Strategic Framework of Action on Marine Debris in the Indian Ocean, two workshops were held with key stakeholders from Member States and actors responsible for addressing marine litter in the Indian Ocean region (December 2021 and March 2022) to share best practices and experiences in addressing plastic litter in their respective countries. As a result of these workshops, the framework was drafted and finalised at the in-person workshop in Bali in September 2022.

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GIZ/König (1); GIZ/Scholz (2)

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# Abidjan Convention (ABC)

The BMUV Support Project Marine Litter supports the Abidjan Convention's efforts to communicate and mainstream the problem of marine litter and to promote a possible global plastic treaty within its member states.

## Background

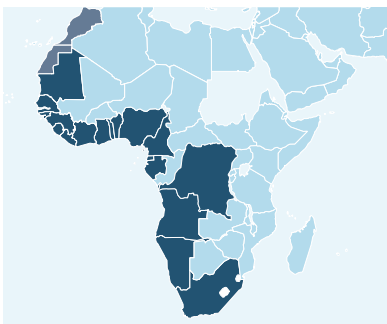
The Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region ([Abidjan Convention in short or ABC](#)), covers a

marine area from Mauritania to South Africa which has a coastline of just over 14,000 km. The agreement arising from the need to adopt a regional approach for the prevention, reduction and control of pollution of marine environment, coastal waters and related river waters is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It provides an overarching legal framework for all marine-related programmes in West, Central and Southern Africa. It's member countries recognized the need for a regional approach to meet transboundary marine environmental challenges and environmental management issues.

Africa could follow Asia in becoming the next regional plastic pollution hotspot.<sup>1</sup> The region's rapid modernization has already led to the unsustainable use of natural resources and to extensive pollution. Thus, it is necessary to further sensitize the member states as well as the region about the global marine litter problem.



1 Sadan, Z. and De Kock, L. (2021). **Plastic Pollution in Africa: Identifying policy gaps and opportunities**. WWF South Africa, Cape Town, South Africa. [https://wwfafrica.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf\\_plastic\\_pollution.pdf?38342/plastic-pollution-in-africa](https://wwfafrica.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_plastic_pollution.pdf?38342/plastic-pollution-in-africa)



Time frame  
**2021 – 2022**



Budget  
**~ 47.000 €**



Partners  
▶ Abidjan Convention (ABC)



Facts  
Video [Convention Fighting against Plastic Pollution – Abidjan Convention – YouTube](#)



## Activity

The BMUV Support Project Marine Litter provides financial support through a grant agreement to enable, among other things, a lobbying campaign for a global plastics agreement, as well as other targeted support such as the provision of PR materials and cleaning equipment.

## Objectives

The Abidjan Convention intends to use its mandate and outreach to promote the vision of a global treaty through targeted awareness campaigns and capacity building measures to inform the public and political actors.

### The specific objectives of the assignment are

- Support in positioning the ABC as a committed actor in the region who has recognized the plastic problem and is committed to an international plastic agreement;
- Support in the implementation of campaigns and communication in the region

## Key results so far

The Abidjan Convention conducted awareness campaigns and side events to promote a global plastic agreement among member countries. The successful World Ocean Day in 2021 with PR material is also part of it.

Further information can also be found on social media:

<https://de-de.facebook.com/pg/AbidjanConvention/posts/>  
<https://abidjanconvention.org>

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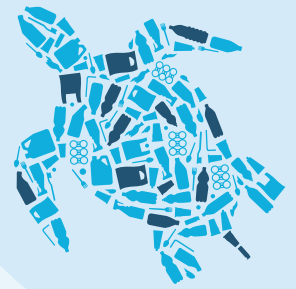
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# Mekong River Commission (MRC)

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) with the support of the BMUV Marine Litter Support Project is conducting trainings on the application of its plastic monitoring methodology.

## Background

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) was established by the 1995 Agreement on Co-operation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin, between the governments

of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam. The role of the MRC is to coordinate and promote cooperation in all fields of sustainable development, utilization, management and conservation of the water and related resources of the Mekong River Basin. The MRC is assisting its Member Countries in the development and finalization of systematic and cost-effective monitoring protocols for riverine plastics.

The MRC and UNEP have signed in 2019 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to, among others, work on water quality monitoring including plastic waste leakage into the Mekong river system. As for the waste assessment and monitoring a detailed methodology for the long-term and cost-effective assessment and monitoring of plastic waste has been developed in 2020/2021, the so-called MRC Riverine Plastic Monitoring Programme (RPM). The methodology consists of three protocols of monitoring for riverine macroplastic, riverine microplastic and microplastic in fish. Based on these protocols, MRC will plan and implement the MRC riverine plastic debris pollution monitoring programme. To ensure a consistent use of the methodology among all MRC states and so to have comparable results GIZ supports MRC in the conduction of national trainings in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam through a grant agreement. The training is part of the finalization process of the RPM.



Time frame  
**05 – 08 2022**



Budget  
**~ 108.000 €**



Partners  
▶ Mekong River Commission



Facts  
The MRC Secretariat (MRCS) is the operational arm of the MRC. It provides technical and administrative services to the Joint Committee and the Council to achieve the MRC's mission. The Environmental Management Division (ED) is responsible for environmental monitoring, assessment, planning and management to support basin planning management and development for sustainable development of the Mekong River.



## Activity

Support of the MRC in the implementation of training measures in the use of the plastic monitoring methodology in the four member countries.

## Objectives

The primary objective of the Implementation of regional trainings on the riverine pollution monitoring methodology financed by the grant is to strengthen the capacity of the implementing national line agencies of the MRC Member Countries in the monitoring of riverine macro and microplastic pollution, as part of the development and finalization processes of the monitoring methodology.

### Other objectives include

- Capacity building and awareness raising
- Comparability of the data through uniform application of the protocols

## Key results so far

The national training workshops were successfully completed in August 2022 and promoted on social media:

[Mekong countries work on riverine plastic monitoring](#)  
[Riverine plastic monitoring in the Mekong River is very important to the health of the river ... | By Mekong River Commission | Facebook](#)

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MRC Secretariat

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# Koh Rong, Cambodia



**On Koh Rong, a touristic archipelago in Cambodia, communities will be supported in the development and implementation of a circular economy-oriented waste management concept which aims at plastic prevention and supports recycling.**

## Background

In the past few years Cambodia has experienced rapid economic growth, as is common in developing countries. This has been accompanied by an increase in the amount of waste. However, the development of the waste management infrastructure is lagging behind, with the result that the increasing quantities are only improperly managed. A large part of the waste generated, up to 10,000 tons daily, still ends up mixed on dumpsites (approx. 41 %<sup>1</sup>), is being burnt or finds its way into the environment via the overloaded drainage system, streets and dumps (in total approx. 48 %<sup>1</sup>). Only about 11 %<sup>1</sup> is being recycled, mainly by the informal sector: collectors called “edjai” and home-grown backyard recycling. As a state with 440 km of coastline, a significant proportion also ends up littering Cambodian beaches and affecting coastal and marine wildlife and communities or in the Mekong river and being washed into the South China Sea.

The Koh Rong Archipelago (KRA) is just as affected by marine litter as the entire coastline. In 2019 / 2020 Flora and Fauna International surveyed the occurrence of marine litter on the Koh Rong Archipelago and found that a large part of the waste on the coast consists of plastic waste, mainly plastic bags and cups. As in other parts of Cambodia, there is little recycling; waste is either dumped in unsecured areas where it potentially pollutes the environment, or at best collected.

<sup>1</sup> SEA Circular. (2020). Country Profile: Cambodia. [https://www.sea-circular.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/SEA-circular-Country-Profile\\_CAMBODIA.pdf](https://www.sea-circular.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/SEA-circular-Country-Profile_CAMBODIA.pdf).



Time frame  
**2022**



Budget  
**~ 20.000 €**



### Partners

- ▶ Ministry of Environment
- ▶ Fauna and Flora International
- ▶ Koh Rong Environmental Conservation Association (KRECA)



## Activity

Koh Rong Archipelago will serve as a pilot area in which, through targeted information campaigns and technical assistance, communities and the private sector are empowered to develop sustainable concepts for waste management and tourism to prevent marine pollution through recycling and the use of alternative reusable items. The experience gained from this can be used by the Ministry of the Environment of Cambodia (MoE) and other municipalities in the nationwide implementation and formulation of further policies and measures, e.g. in the frame of the World Bank Project “Land-based approaches for marine litter prevention through waste management and circular economy initiatives” the MoE is currently being assisted in the formulation of policies based on research results on littered items.

## Objectives

The overall objective of this project is to support the community of KRA in increasing the citizens’ awareness toward environmental pollution and reduction of plastic consumption

through 4Rs framework (Refuse, Reuse, Reduce, Recycle) and to improve the waste management including proper disposal, separation, and increase waste collection. The achievement of this project will contribute to the MoE-implementation of the strategies and legal framework that has been developed to reduce (plastic) waste and to implement the principles of circular economy.

To achieve this, GIZ aims at the following main target groups: Citizen of Koh Rong Archipelago (with stronger focus on Koh Rong), Private sector, focusing on tourism sector (in Koh Rong Sanloem), Local decision makers, Key stakeholders at national level.

### Other objectives

- Capacity building and awareness raising
- Support of municipalities and the tourism sector in recycling-oriented waste management concepts
- Establishing Koh Rong as a pilot area to implement national guidelines

## Key results so far

As part of KRECA's objective to improve waste management and support communities on Koh Rong in adopting circular economy practices including the proper disposal, processing and separation of waste, raising citizens’ awareness and reducing plastic consumption through the 4R concept (Refuse, Reuse, Reduce, Recycle), bins for separate collection have been procured and distributed to the communities. At the same time, educational and public awareness material have been produced and used at different trainings. Flora and Fauna International supports KRECA in the design of training campaigns as well as training material.



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Global sector project to support the BMUV in the implementation of the funding program “Marine Debris Framework – Regional Hubs Around the Globe”

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**Design and editing:**  
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KRECA

December 2022

On behalf of:





# Costa Rica



**There is little reliable data on the amount, origin and type of waste from the fisheries sector in Costa Rica, which is considered a problem by the ministries. In order to formulate measures to prevent fishing waste such as abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear, a study on plastic waste from the fishery sector in Costa Rica has been concluded in early 2022.**

## Background

Costa Rica has great ambition and intends to become the first country in the world to ban single-use plastic in the country. To this end, the government announced in 2017 the ambitious National Strategy to eliminate all single-use plastics by 2021 and replace them with alternatives that biodegrade in six months. The National Strategy for the Replacement of Single-Use Plastics is in the process of being updated, since the current period runs from 2017 to 2021, so the country is looking for necessary inputs to strengthen the strategy and actions to reduce solid waste found in the seas. In addition, the National Marine Waste Plan is being developed until September 2021, where the plan seeks to be an instrument for planning and coordination with the actors and sectors involved, providing concrete actions in marine waste management issues.

In this regard, the magnitude of marine debris, particularly from fishing, has not yet been sufficiently investigated. There are hardly any reliable data on the quantity, origin and type of waste. The Ministry of Health estimates that up to 50% of the waste washed ashore consists of fishing waste, such as nets, hooks, ropes, plastic containers and other materials used by the fishing industry. Current studies, such as those of WWF and Greenpeace, show that this type of waste is particularly deadly for marine fauna.



**Time frame**  
**08 – 12 2021**



**Budget**  
**~ 16.000 €**



**Partners**

- ▶ Ministry of Health
- ▶ Ministry of Environment and Energy
- ▶ ACEPESA





## Activity

In order to formulate measures to prevent fisheries waste, a research study was conducted in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Environment and the BMUV Support Project Marine Litter to determine the type, quantity, cost and final destination of plastics used by the fishing industry. In addition, the contribution of fishing equipment to marine waste will be evaluated. This inventory will serve as a base to develop specific strategies and plans to reduce, replace, reuse, reuse, eliminate the use and consumption of plastic items and materials.

## Objectives

The General Objective is to enhance the current state of knowledge about the products used in fisheries and their possible entry into the marine environment as a basis for policy making to avoid plastic waste in the sea from the fishing sector.

The specific objective is developing a systematized database of plastic materials/equipment used by the fishing industry and fishing activity and to carry out a risk analysis for a possible entry of those items into the sea. Upon the inventory and the risk assessment recommendations on alternative products and materials as well as policy actions shall be made.

## Key results

- The area of Golfo, Puntarenas in Costa Rica was examined by ACEPESA consultants, contracted by the BMUV Support Project Marine Litter, and thus resulting in a study on plastic waste from the fisheries sector. It included a review of several documents in English and Spanish, and interviews and surveys were also conducted with key stakeholders in the sector. Thus, the problem of fishery waste in the studied area was not as big as expected as the results of the interviews indicate and also (partly missing) data. However, the study highlights the general lack of data and studies and experiences in the context of ALDFG (Abandoned, lost & discarded fishing gear), especially in Latin America. In Costa Rica, marine debris management is not yet addressed in regulations; this is an important topic to be addressed in the next updates of national policies and strategies in 2022.
- Based on the findings and consultations with relevant stakeholders, the study provides recommendations on technical, awareness-raising and educational measures as well as monitoring, policy and regulatory proposals for Golfo Dulce and for the national level to prevent marine litter from the fisheries sector.
- The study will serve as a basis for discussions and priorities in updating national strategies and policies. In this context, the results have already been presented to the ministries in January 2022.



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Adobe Stock/JUAN CARLOS MUNOZ; ACEPESA/Victoria Rudin Vega  
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On behalf of:



Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection



DEVELOPMENT OF A DIGITAL TOOL

# Marine Litter Action Mapping Tool

To support the BMUV in its knowledge management and processing, the project is developing a comprehensive information management tool presenting global data on actors and activities in the domain of marine litter and plastic pollution. The web app is providing data on actors and activities in the thematic area of marine litter and (micro-)plastics. It serves as a guidance for future activities for specific countries and regions, as an analysis tool to identify gaps and possible synergies and collaborations. best possible synergies and collaborations.



## Background

The BMUV Support Project Marine Litter developed the ML Action Mapping Tool to serve as a specific knowledge management system for the technical foundation of the funding program “Marine Debris Framework – regional hubs around the globe (DeFRAG)”. The core of the mapping tool is the visualized data regarding worldwide actors and activities contributing to the efforts to combat marine litter and plastic pollution in multiple countries and regions. The data is supplemented by legal frameworks supporting these efforts on the international, regional and national levels. Additionally, the tool portrays selected (multi-actor) initiatives as well as relevant facts and figures to provide a holistic analysis.

The mapping tool supports the user to navigate through the wide range of available information. It provides needs-based information and enables, amongst other functions, an analysis of gaps as well as an identification of best possible synergies, collaborations, and future activities, in a more targeted manner. The mapping tool aims to continuously show relevant and updated data within the various knowledge categories.



Contract end

2021 – 2023



Budget

~ 68.000 €



Partners

▶ dumpark

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