

UNEP CEP

Marine Litter Management

The Caribbean Experience



International Year of
Small Island
Developing States
— 2014 —

Sixteenth Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans

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Solid Waste & Marine Litter

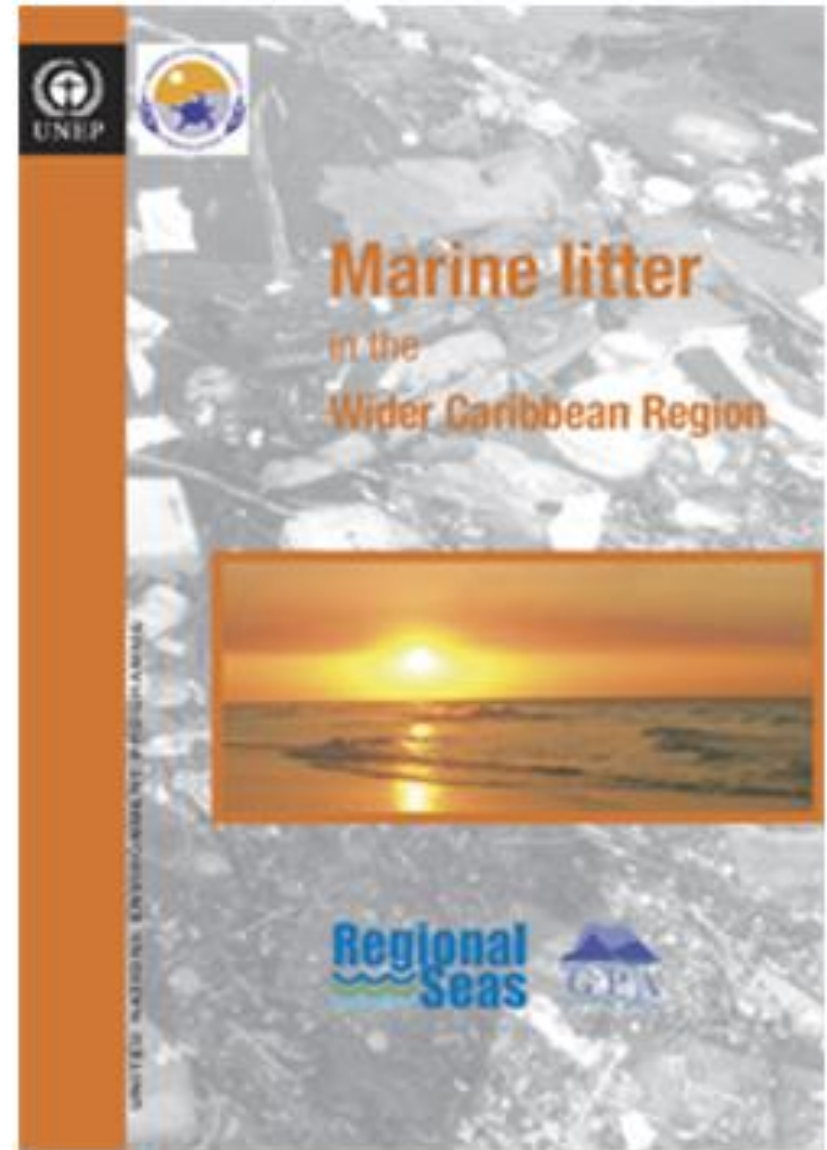
Regionally:

- 65% or 275,000 tons of solid waste is disposed in open dumps, rivers or the Caribbean Sea
- 70% - 85% of Marine Litter in the Caribbean Sea is from land-based sources of solid waste



The Wider Caribbean Context

- Cartagena Convention & LBS Protocol
- Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter (updated 2014)
- GPA & Global Partnership for Marine Litter
- Global MEAs: BASEL, Stockholm, London, MARPOL
- Global Partnership for Waste Management
- GESAMP & GEF STAP on Marine Litter/Microplastics



What have we achieved?/1

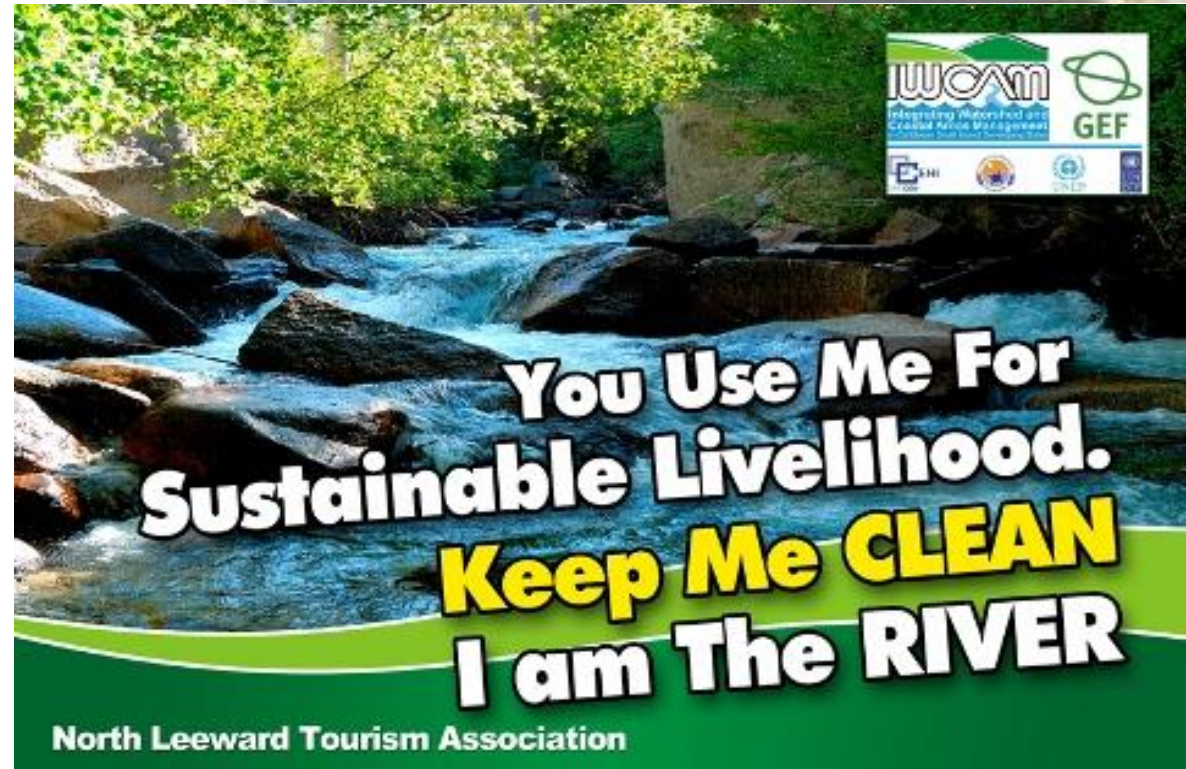
- **Ocean Conservancy:** Support International Coastal Clean Up Day in several countries. 2014- Jamaica- over 9,000 volunteers
- **IMO, MV Freewinds & RAC REMPEITC:** MARPOL Annex V Special Area Designation entered into force for the Caribbean Sea
- Interactive On-Line Kids Game on Marine Litter

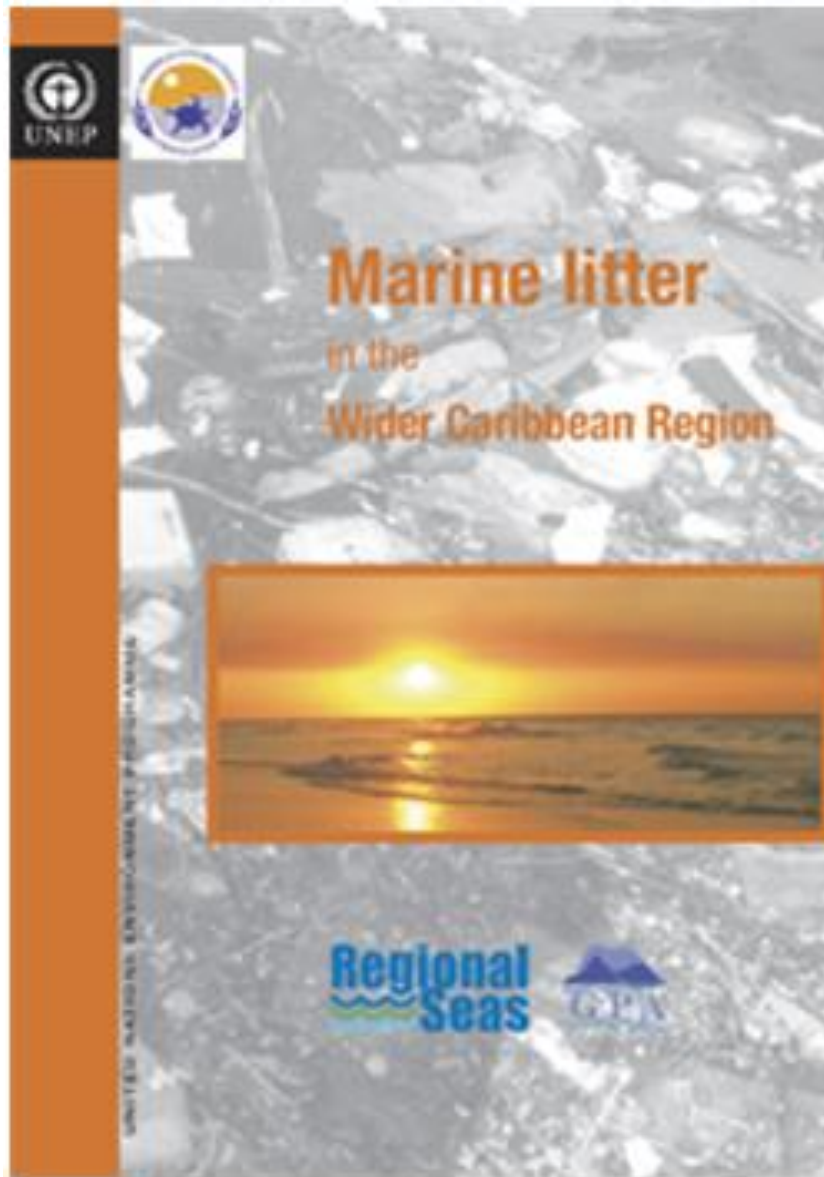
What have we achieved?/2

- **Barbados:** Environmental Education through outreach to schools & communities
- **Guyana:** Improved National Solid Waste Management Policy
- **St. Lucia:** Economic valuation of the impacts of solid waste on a fishing community

GEF Project Support: IWCAM

- Coastal Clean Up activities
 - (13 Countries)
- Provision of bins & storage facilities (13 countries)
- Awareness & Outreach





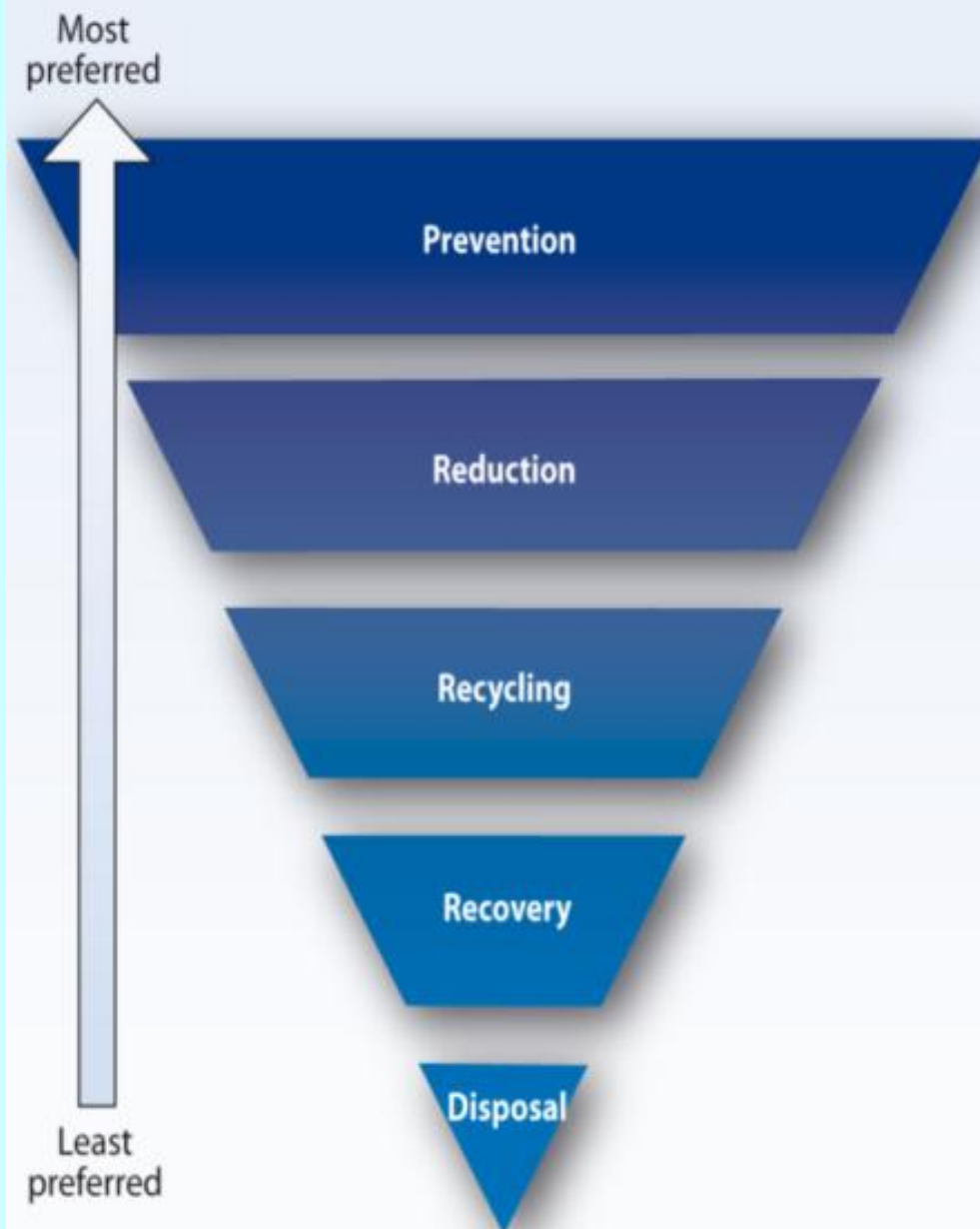
AMEP & SPAW Collaboration

Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) used the Marine Litter Action Plan for the Caribbean to obtain a NOAA grant for improving solid waste management in Marine Protected Areas. Activities included public awareness and provision of basic solid waste management infrastructure.

WEAKNESS

Lack of effective integration into national solid waste management

What is most cost-effective for the Caribbean?



4R's are just as relevant for Marine Litter Management



- Reduce the generation of waste at source
- Divert materials to recycle, recover, & reuse so as to minimize the amounts of waste going to waste-to-energy & landfill
- Establish & measure targets & indicators
- Integrate Marine Litter Management into National Waste Management Strategies

Greening the Waste Sector

- Solid Waste Management has the potential to contribute towards the Green Economy, which has been embraced as an economic development pathway by several Caribbean countries e.g. Barbados, Jamaica & St. Lucia
- It must generate economic opportunities & reduce costly environmental impacts



Marine Litter can be reduced by improving solid waste management

- Waste is a resource that can be recovered & put to productive and profitable use
- Recycling & recovery requires less capital investment & provides job opportunities
- Improving solid waste management contributes to economic growth, protects public health & improves the environment



What have we learnt?

- **Improving solid waste management and promoting plastics recycling** will receive greater political and public support than *reducing marine litter, microplastics, microbeads or nanoplastics*
- Prevention and Reduction of Marine Litter requires **investments** to improve land-based solid waste management
- Marine Litter is not only about plastics – but plastics offer economic opportunities from recycling & resource recovery
- Practical on the ground solutions are required supported by appropriate institutional, policy and legal frameworks that provide incentives and/or disincentives to ensure sustainability
- Greater involvement & partnership with private sector is needed
- Public support is critical for long term success
- Marine-based sources of marine litter must be considered (cruise ships)

THANK YOU

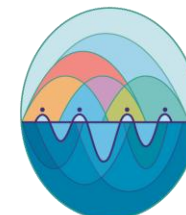


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