

Developing the WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

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Background and Rationale

- Marine litter – threat and impact to the health and integrity of the oceans
 - Biodiversity and marine life – pollution, public health, depleted fisheries, habitats and species loss
 - Impair economies - recreation, navigation and shipping
- Marine litter - political and public agenda
 - Complex, multi-dimensional, multi-sectoral, transnational
 - 80% of marine pollution comes from LBSA - increasing use of synthetic materials, industrialization and urbanization
 - Inadequate waste disposal and management practices
 - Knowledge on drivers, sources, types, amount, dispersion
 - Policy and legal measures, public awareness, baselines for informed preventive measures, particularly at the sources

Mandate and Call for Action

- UNEA Resolutions 1/6 of 2014 and 2/11 in 2016 on “Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics”
 - UN Environment to provide assistance in the development of national and regional measures to address marine litter, acknowledging local, national and regional variations.
- UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.3/L.20 in 2017 on “Marine Litter and Microplastics”
 - Regional Seas Conventions, within their mandates, support prevention and reduction of marine litter and microplastics and their effects.
- NC COP Decision CP8/2 in 2015 on “Amended NC and LBSA Protocol”
 - Implement the GPA within the context of the LBSA Protocol with support of UN Environment

Developing the Action Plan

- Approach
 - Review of literature – existing actions plans from other regions, reports and scientific papers
 - Regional stakeholders consultations
 - Support country action plans
- Two background studies in WIO
 - Lane et al. (2007). Regional Overview and Assessment of Marine Litter Related Activities in the WIO Region
 - UNEP/NC & WIOMSA (2009). Review of Policy, Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Frameworks for LBSA Management in WIO Region

Developing the Action Plan

- Issues characteristic in WIO identified by these two studies:
 - Sources of marine litter are mostly inferred rather than demonstrated; warranting baseline assessment about original sources for introducing effective marine litter control measures
 - Land based are more significant than marine based sources, but, marine-based sources are more difficult to control
 - Lack specific policies, laws and regulations to exclusively deal with marine litter
 - Capacity and success in managing the marine litter varies significantly between countries – preventive measures, inadequate awareness on impacts and shortage of resources

Developing the Action Plan

- Objectives:
 - Guide and enhance knowledge on the identification of needs, operations and investment in management of marine litter and microplastics through coordinated regional actions
 - Set standards for CP on the agreed commitments into action
 - Support implementation of LBSA Protocol – monitor quantities and distribution, establish regional mechanism to address marine litter and microplastics
 - Support achievement of SDG 14.1 – prevent and reduce marine pollution, particularly from LBSA, including marine debris

Actions and Interventions

Institutional Action

- **Action 1:** *Establish a regional forum to coordinate stakeholder participation in marine litter management*
 - WIO Marine Litter Working Group to co-ordinate and advise on appropriate actions for marine litter management.
 - Composed of designated national lead institutions to serve as National Marine Litter Focal Points

Actions and Interventions

Policy and Legal Action

- **Action 2:** *Review, evaluate and compare, strengthen and/or enact new jurisdictional measures to address marine litter*
 - Existing waste management legislation needs to be reviewed to provide support for prevention and monitoring efforts
 - New legislations, where necessary, specifically for marine litter and microplastics management is proposed and their effectiveness periodically evaluated

Actions and Interventions

Operational Actions

- **Action 3:** *Improve port reception facilities to effectively manage ship-generated waste*
 - Survey of adequacy of existing Port Reception Facilities in CP necessary to identify priority areas for improvement
 - Targeted intervention enacted by some CP to improve their facilities
- **Action 4:** *Eliminate, change or adapt products for environmental benefits*
 - Evaluate products and processes that include primary microplastics and appropriately act to reduce their impact, engaging manufacturing and retail sectors for possible voluntary agreements

Actions and Interventions

Operational Actions

- **Action 5:** *Maintain zero pellet loss or prohibit pellet loss*
 - Measures to regulate industrial waste in binding and voluntary instruments be extended to include compliance with existing programmes that target zero pellet loss from industrial facilities
- **Action 6:** *Identify probable ‘hotspots’ of land- and sea-based sources for plastic and microplastics*
 - Better targeted mitigation measures, used to predict and verify their effectiveness, using a combination of modelling, knowledge of actual and potential sources (e.g. coastal tourism, aquaculture, fisheries, riverine inputs, urban inputs) is warranted

Actions and Interventions

Operational Actions

- ***Action 7: Maintain clean environmental compartments***
 - Regional maps of hotspots of floating litter should be developed through identification of snagging sites or historic dumping grounds, e.g. identifying where accumulations of ghost nets pose a threat to the environment

Actions and Interventions

Education and Outreach Actions

- ***Action 8: Develop human capacity and infrastructure***
 - Capacity in research and practice through education, training and knowledge exchange to enhance assessment, monitoring and policy making to address marine litter and its impacts
 - Investing in infrastructure development, acquisition and application to improve waste management systems is equally important
- ***Action 9: Promote the 3 Rs (Reduction, Re-use and Recycling)***
 - Innovative solutions by which used plastics can be seen as a useful resource, with commercial value, rather than a waste problem requiring the allocation of scarce public and private sector resources

Actions and Interventions

Education and Outreach Actions

- ***Action 10: Encourage product labelling***
 - Promote labeling of products to show microbeads content, raising awareness of potential harm to the marine environment and human health to encourage consumers to proper disposal of these products
- ***Action 11: Establish a clearinghouse mechanism on effective strategies and practices for waste management***
 - Accessible database on information, strategies and practices for enforcement of waste management
 - Repository of marine debris data to support “Best Management Practices”

Actions and Interventions

Monitoring, Research and Reporting Actions

- **Action 12:** *Design standard methodologies for studying, monitoring and reporting on marine litter and microplastics for the region*
 - Develop common methodologies, guidelines and reporting format for assessment and monitoring of sources, types and impacts
- **Action 13:** *Update baseline data on marine litter and microplastics in the WIO region*
 - Survey(s) to update data on marine litter at both regional and national level using common methodologies and assessment criteria developed

Actions and Interventions

Monitoring, Research and Reporting Actions

- ***Action 14: Promote research on alternative biodegradable materials***
 - Technologies for production of biodegradable alternatives to plastics
 - Design of stronger, more durable materials to prevent the generation of microplastics from wear and tear during product use; and production of truly biodegradable polymers that meet international standards

Way Forward

- Develop implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review plan
- Regional stakeholders consultation forum for verification
 - Relevance
 - Applicability/feasibility
 - Urgency/prioritization
- Finalize region AP
- Inform development of country specific action plans

Thank you....

