Vietnam
local actions to address
of marine litter

NOWPAP-TEMM Joint Workshop on
Marine Litter Management
Busan, Republic of Korea, 4-6 June 2018
Trang Nguyen - GreenHub
1. Vietnam waste management, marine debris, plastic pollution

2. Showcases of GreenHub-Vietnamese NGOs activities to address the issues of marine debris: public awareness; monitoring & data citizen science

3. Recommendations and collaboration to address marine litter
Challenges posed by marine debris, plastics and microplastics

- Marine debris, plastic and microplastics debris are considered some of the biggest global challenges in the 21st century.

- They harm marine wildlife and human health as well as destroying the marine environment.

- They are also found to cause economic damages to coastal states in terms of fishery, maritime transportation and tourism industries, as well as increasing coastal clean-up operations.
62% ~55.9 mil people in coastal provinces (94 mil), increasing 12% per year (est)

30 mil Ton waste/year from various sources; 50% is from municipal sources; 1% hazardous, 0.79 waste gen. rate kg/ppd

85% towns/cities are using non-sanitary landfills; 10% waste recovered for recycling or reuse

62% Waste generated in Red River Delta; MeKong delta; East Southern & Centre Coast (19%)

VIETNAM - Annual GDP growth ~6%

Nguyen, 2013
Marine debris: Cleanups item found in analysis of 2000-2017

Marine Debris data – Clean up
*(Ocean Conservancy, GreenHub)*

- **115,276** items
  - **29%** Plastic (1-2-4-6-7-10-Others; GreenHub 2017)
- **71%** waste collection in rural areas rate (MONRE)
- **40-55%**
- **83%** % mismanaged waste; 5.8 % of total mismanaged plastic waste
- **10%** all waste generated in Vietnam is recovered for recycling or reuse

Polystyrene Foam and Plastic Bags  Accounts for 29% and 27% of found items
Vietnam policies related to Marine litter

- Performing its duties under international conventions, Viet Nam has adopted legal documents regarding environment protection and management policies, including:
  
  

As part of ASEAN Conference on Reducing Marine Debris in ASEAN Region

The ASEAN Conference on Reducing Marine Debris in ASEAN Region, organised by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand in coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat, was held on 22-23 November 2017 in Phuket, Thailand:

- Underlined that while research on marine debris already undertaken reflects level sources and impacts of marine debris, and provides sufficient evidence for immediate action, further research is needed on marine plastic debris and microplastics including biodegradable alternatives, waste management, and especially on environmental and social impacts – including on human health.

- Recommend focus on Policy Support and Strengthening, Capacity Building (national action plan); Education, research and Innovation & Private Sector Engagement, Public Awareness and Outreach)
National facing with challenges

- Lack of accurate data of solid waste, marine debris, plastic pollution & micro-plastic in Vietnam
- Policies do exist but overlaps and conflicts still remain; lack of enforcement
- Lack of national coordination for data collection and monitoring program
- Do not have national protocol for monitoring
- Voluntary based or project based activities of clean-up: not regularly conducts & lack of commitment
GreenHub – VNGOs working: Sustainability Opportunities

Based on UN Sustainability Goals, GreenHub focuses on: #11, #13 and #14.

GreenHub takes actions

- raise public awareness and influencing behavioral change to reduce, reuse, and recycle (3R’s)
- marine debris monitoring and Coastal Clean-up Campaigns and promoting citizen science approach
- As part of global research and regional network for sharing information and learning
Events: Clean-up & Recycling Day; Idea hub – Greenovation Challenge 2017 for reducing plastic
Training course & session;
Social media

- sharing and engagement
- educating

AWARENESS RAISING
GreenHub 3Rs promotion – Youth Engagement

Awareness & Engagement with the youth during the Recycling Day organized by DONRE Hanoi (Sept, 2017)
GreenHub 3Rs promotion – Recycling Day

3Rs products marketing at the Recycling Day organized by Vietnam Women Academic (Oct ‘17)
GreenHub 3Rs Promotion - Greenovation Challenge 2017

Training courses & Competition of Greenovation Challenge 2017
Working with Fishermen

• Waste audit
• Training courses of waste separation at source
• Piloting for replacement of EPS float in aquaculture
Monitoring & data citizen science
Experiences from GreenHub-
from Ha Long Bay cleanup:

Data management and Advocacy
Ha Long Bay

• UNESCO World Heritage Site due to the natural limestone Karst formations of the area
• Covering an area of 43,400 ha, with 1,600 islands and islets
• Management issues from 500 tourist boats, 1,000 ships, and 7 floating villages using the area daily
• Main waste = polystyrene from aquaculture activities, & plastic from tourism and fishing boats

(Ha Long Bay Management Board, UNESCO)
Marine debris monitoring & Coastal cleanup for a sustainable marine ecosystem - Ha Long Bay

“I was shocked to see the huge amount of trash on the beach, given that it didn’t look bad while we were travelling by boat to the area. I wondered how we could deal with that but eventually with the joint effort, we made it.”

- Pham Thi Thuy Duong, final year student at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities

220 Volunteers
4.2 km of coastline cleaned
2570 Kg debris removed so far
The efforts of have resulted in the Ha long Bay Peoples Committee **Banning the use of polystyrene** and calling for the implementation of an environmentally friendly alternative.

### Most common marine debris items collected during coastal cleanup events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polystyrene pieces</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic bags</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverage bottles (plastic)</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabric and rubber products</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takeaway containers...</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing equipment</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food packaging</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottle caps (plastic)</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous materials</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MANAGEMENT IMPACT**

The efforts of have resulted in the Ha long Bay Peoples Committee **Banning the use of polystyrene** and calling for the implementation of an environmentally friendly alternative.
Monitoring & networking, sharing information
- Monitoring and Research activity: **Quantifying flows of plastic and other debris from land-land based sources to the ocean**
  - Models of community plastic recycling & replacement of plastic using (polystyrene)
  - Sharing information and exchange ideas/advocacy for local policies
Recommendations and further solutions; collaboration
Facing forwards – Further solutions to address marine debris

**Data collection**
- Standard protocol
- Mobile App

**Coordination**
- Mapping locations of hot-spots with marine debris; plastic pollution
- Use ICC/location from OC for coordinating clean-ups
- Organize clean-ups based on hot-spot locations (beach, coastal lands, watersheds and in waterway)

**Network & Policy**
- National Network of mind-like organizations; & mobilize local volunteers
- Data analysis and dissemination and Dialogues with local gov;
- International monitoring for sea-based marine debris (Regional level- with China, Southeast Asia)
- Local policies: e.g banning plastic bag (2020), single use; enforcements

Developing, implementing the National Action Plan on Marine Debris;

Towards reducing marine debris in Vietnam

- Developing, implementing the National Action Plan on Marine Debris;
- Innovation: Cleanup system or trash bin at bigger scale (OceanCleanup);
- Education-based program
Thank you and join collaboration