



United Nations Environment Programme
Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine
Environment from Land-based Activities

Global Partnership on Waste Management

Marine Litter (ML)

Work Plan for 2012-2016

November 2011

TBD IGR-3 25-27 January 2012

MARINE LITTER WORK PLAN

The marine litter problem is global in scale and intergenerational in impact. Marine debris, or marine litter, is defined to include any anthropogenic, manufactured, or processed solid material (regardless of size) discarded, disposed of, or abandoned that ends up in the marine environment. It includes, but is not limited to, plastics, metals, glass, concrete and other construction materials, paper and cardboard, polystyrene, rubber, rope, textiles, timber and hazardous materials, such as munitions, asbestos and medical waste. In some instances, marine debris may also be a vessel for dangerous pollutants that are eventually released into the marine environment. Marine litter may result from activities on land or at sea. Marine litter is a complex cultural and multi-sectoral problem that exacts tremendous ecological, economic, and social costs around the globe.

1. SUMMARY OF THE SPONSORED FOCAL AREAS OF WORK

Despite decades of efforts to prevent and reduce marine litter in many countries, there is evidence that the problem is persistent and continues to grow – especially as populations continue to increase. Most current solid waste management practices are inadequate and require changes to the regulatory and enforcement regimes as well as non-regulatory incentives. Better leadership, coordination of mandates and resources are required at both the national, regional and international levels to better address this global problem. The persistence of the marine debris problem results from both a lack of global, regional and national requirements and programs, and deficiencies in the implementation and enforcement of existing international, regional and particularly national programs, regulations and standards.

Some of the major sources of marine debris are well described and include sewage and run-off related debris, materials from recreational/beach users and materials lost or disposed of at sea from fishing activities (such as ALDFG) or shipping. Debris originating from the land is either transported by storm water, via drains and rivers toward the sea, or is blown into the sea from the land. Ship based sources of debris represent additional, and in some regions substantial sources of debris.

A great deal of the marine debris from land-based sources results from unsustainable production, consumption, and poor waste management. Increased development, urbanization, and consumerism lead to increases in the use of disposable and non-degradable products and packaging, which results in increased generation of solid waste. Our mishandling of waste materials creates the foundation for land-based sources of marine debris (IMDCC, 2008). Both legal and illegal waste handling practices contribute to marine debris. These include the inadvertent release of trash from inadequately covered waste containers and waste transport vehicles; poorly managed waste dumps and landfills; manufacturing sites, processors, and transporters; recreational beach and roadside littering; sewage treatment and combined sewer overflows; and the illegal dumping of domestic and industrial garbage into riverine, coastal and marine waters.

Solid material anywhere in the environment, can be delivered to marine environments (washed, blown or via nearby waterways) and become marine debris if no mechanisms are in place to intercept these materials. Marine debris is therefore part of a broader problem of solid waste management, which affects all coastal and upland communities including inland waterways and is closely linked to the protection and conservation of the marine and coastal environment and sustainable development (UN-HABITAT, 2010). A lack of capacity and funding to effectively manage solid wastes is common, particularly in developing countries, and contributes to the problem of marine debris.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP SPONSORED FOCAL AREA OF WORK

The activities to be carried out by the ML focal point aim to reduce the amount of land-based litter and solid waste introduced into the marine environment.

Strategies to prevent and Manage marine debris from Land-based sources

Thematic Objective | Threat Reduction Result

The following results will be pursued:

- 5,000 members of an online marine litter forum within the first year created with the objective to facilitate information flow, knowledge sharing and promotion of the Honolulu Commitment and the Honolulu Strategy (HS);
- The online forum will be accessed frequently (at least more than 50,000 hits per month) by the end of the first year;
- 100,000 will sign up for the Honolulu Commitment within a year and ;
- 100 partners will join a Global Partnership on Marine Litter, facilitated through the online forum – providing input to it on project activities, best practices and success stories while reporting on the implementation of the HS;
- 5 new regional policy instruments aligned with the Honolulu Strategy through the RSCAPs within 5 years.
- Demonstration of at least 20% reduction of solid waste reaching the marine environment and 50% recycling rates of certain wastes in selected demonstration sites;
- Market-based instruments adopted in 2 countries to reduce the influx of solid waste into the coastal environment within 5 years;
- Plastic bag ban in 5 countries within 5 years;
- 15% reduction in use of raw material in selected demonstration projects with industry

Strategies | Expected Results

Strategies to reduce the amount of marine debris from land-based sources focus on:

- A1 - Conduct education and outreach on marine debris and solid waste minimization and management
- A2 - Employ market-based instruments to support solid waste minimization and management
- A3 - Employ infrastructure and best practices for stormwater and solid waste minimization and management
- A4 - Develop and enact legislation and policies to support solid waste minimization and management
- A5 - Improve the regulatory framework regarding stormwater, sewage systems, and debris in tributary waterways
- A6 - Build capacity to monitor and enforce compliance with regulations and permit conditions regarding litter, dumping, solid waste management, stormwater, and surface runoff
- A7 - Conduct targeted cleanup efforts on coastal lands, in watersheds, and in waterways

3. PRIORITY ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES

The proposed activities are:

Component 1: Development of a Global network/forum for the marine litter community

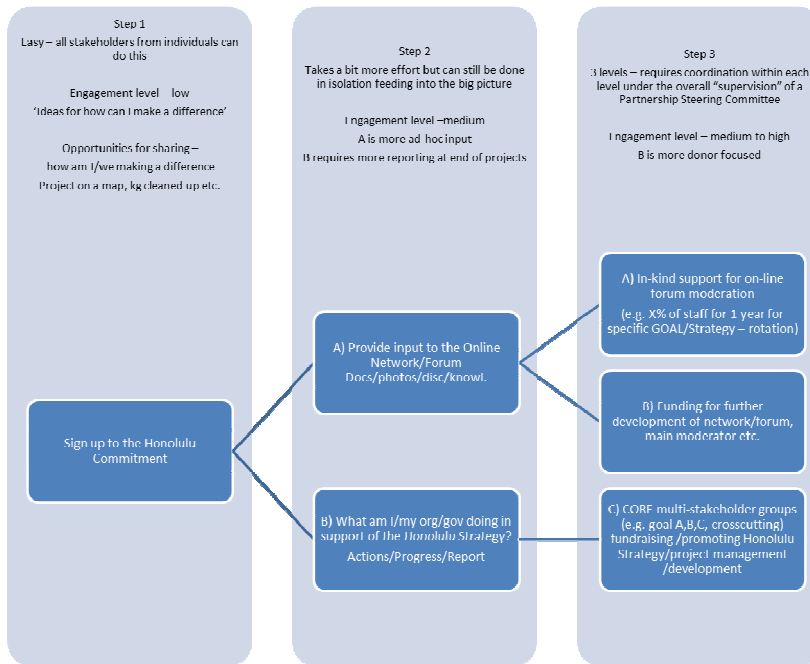
Participants of the 5IMDC expressed the need for a global marine litter forum. UNEP and NOAA are developing such an online forum for marine litter stakeholders to continue the dialogue after the conference, share ideas and promote best practices. The forum will be structured so as to facilitate the implementation/use of the Honolulu Strategy and the sign up to the Honolulu Commitment. The first step is a static online platform which, dependent on funding, could be developed to include a community of practice, database and other services for the marine litter community. The online platform could provide links to the GPWM online resources/information platform and have strategic cross-linkages to show how these initiatives complement each other.

Principles for the functioning of the online platform

An online survey on the establishment of an online collaborative platform aiming at facilitating information exchange and supporting the implementation of the Honolulu Strategy will guide UNEP/NOAA on further development of the platform by identifying the level of interest and expertise of stakeholders and their 'marine debris info' needs. Such an online forum could facilitate a Global Partnership on Marine Litter, engaging governments, regional organizations, other UN agencies, and importantly the private sector. This marine litter partnership may be associated with the Global Partnership on Waste Management (in particular the areas related to land-based sources of pollution).

Component 2: Creation of a Global Partnership on Marine Litter

The development of an online forum could facilitate and benefit from the formation of a global partnership on marine litter in support of the implementation of the Honolulu Strategy to ensure various levels of commitments amongst stakeholders. Such partnership would include various levels/steps of the partnership which would be closely tied to the online forum. The partnership would facilitate international coordination and provide guidance within various areas related to the Honolulu Strategy.

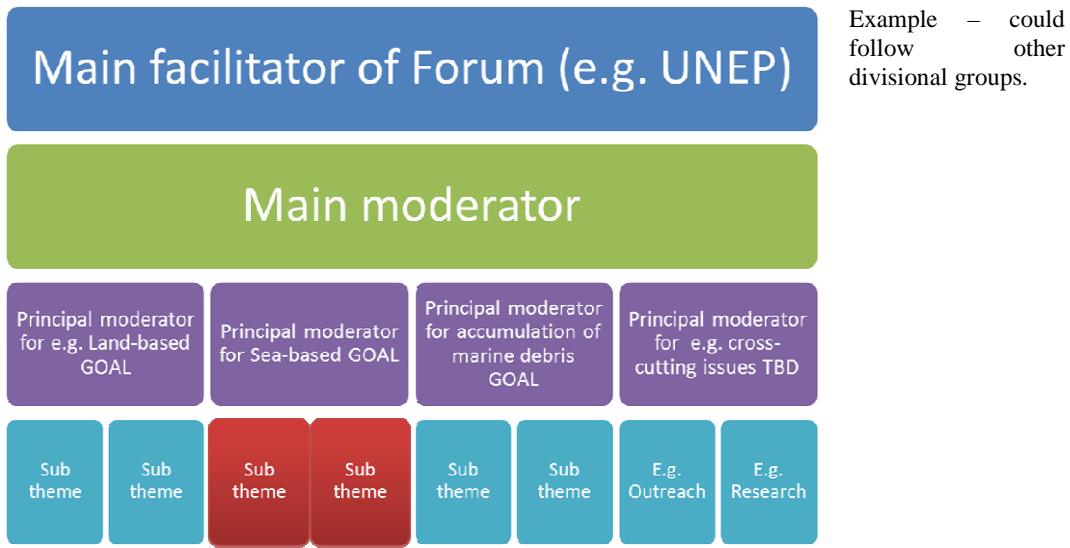


Step 1: Sign on to the Honolulu Commitment (All levels from individuals to companies/governments with logos) – this could be done by submitting name online and for other stakeholders by uploading logo for posting on site with link to their website.

Step 2 A: Commit to provide input to the on-line platform by uploading information and using the platform for information exchange – ad hoc input not tied to projects – passive support to the implementation of the Honolulu Strategy.

Step 2 B: Identify areas within the Honolulu Strategy for implementation and reporting after a certain timeframe. An online tool could be created to allow partners to click in HS action boxes and add links or upload documents relevant to that action – there could be 3 steps – project initiated – well underway and finalized – once the date of the project comes to an end, an automatic reminder goes out to the contact person with an invitation to upload outputs or modify timeframe – if the project has ended there could be a simple online form to fill in (or tick boxes for simplicity) to allow for some monitoring or progress on the implementation of certain areas of the Honolulu Strategy.

Step 3 A: Provide in-kind support such as offering the services of in-house staff (20% of a persons time) for e.g. 1 year to assist with specific aspects of the on-line platform and/or as focal points for the partnership. There could be X number of slots to be filled each year (depending on areas of expertise) and would focus on some coordination of information regarding that area/some moderation/engage other stakeholders within that area (technical and geographical to overcome language barrier and engage different regions).



Step 3 B: Provide funding for moderator/upgrading/development – donor/sponsor focused

Step 3 C: Be part of multi-stakeholder Core Management groups (1 per GOAL/AREA) – this could be rotating ensuring involvement and representation of different groups across language barriers. This could also include development of joint project proposals to further support the development of the platform and the implementation of the Honolulu Strategy.

The partnership itself would be coordinated by a multi-stakeholder Steering Committee (TOR tbd).

The modalities of coordination for 3 C would be worked out among the participants in the multi-stakeholder groups. They may involve, for instance, a combination of face-to-face meetings (depending funding availability), teleconferences, online forums, joint projects or programmes, etc.”

Component 3: Support to regional marine litter activities

Support regional activities aimed to introduce the global partnership and the online platform through "regional nodes". This could include regional training courses for nodes and support to implementation of the Honolulu Strategy through Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, with the view to facilitate the development of regional policy instruments aligned with the Honolulu Strategy framework through the RSCAPs. (MAP, CAR, CPPS, OSPAR, PERSGA)

UNEP will continue to support and strengthen Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in further developing and strengthening their respective Regional Strategies (Action Plans) in Marine Litter and will play a leading and coordinating role in providing scientific and technical support (including informing and promoting Regional Seas and Partners on emerging issues and global advances in the field. UNEP will support and encourage each of the Regional Sea programmes who have not done so yet to develop a regional action plan or strategy to address the problem of marine litter, either within the framework of their regional convention or protocol or as an independent instrument and document. Those RAPs should be sustainable and long-term in their nature, incorporating basic principles of preventive actions and strategies, but they should be routinely updated to adjust to changing circumstances or conditions.

Particularly in areas not covered by a Regional Sea Convention or Action Plan, UNEP will also

seek to strengthen efforts at the national level or through other mechanisms.

Component 4: Demonstration projects for reducing the inflow of solid waste into the marine environment

Ten demonstration projects will be developed under the global partnership and in support of the Honolulu Strategy within three main areas:

Demo projects for reducing the inflow of solid waste into the marine environment: Demonstration projects including capacity building for the introduction of simple measures to reduce litter influx to coastal areas and broadening available options. The refinement, development, and promotion of existing and new best management practices (BMPs) and the creation and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure (such as waste receptacles, landfills, debris traps, and booms). Understanding benefits and costs is expected to lead to increased application of BMPs and guidelines for handling, transporting, recycling, and disposing of solid waste. Application of new practices and technologies would thereby decrease the incidence of accidental or intentional loss of waste.

Life cycle approach demo: A project or program testing the life cycle approach to marine debris prevention, reduction, and management in one of the areas covered by Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans e.g. the Mediterranean. Mobilizing public and private sector resources for specific market transformation in the production, consumption, and utilization of marine debris sources such as plastics.

Plastics recycling demo project, ban of plastic bags: Demonstration project with a focus on plastic waste management and recycling and life cycle. This would include promotion of a global public-private partnership to transform single-use plastics packaging markets to more environmentally friendly alternatives on a global scale. Developing and promoting compliance with legislation and policies to support waste minimization and solid waste management practices and infrastructure is expected to provide for increased capacity and infrastructure for waste disposal and management. The existence of regional and national policies and legislation is also assumed to enhance enforcement capacity and user compliance with proper waste management practices, which would result in overall reductions in the amount of solid waste introduced into the ocean from land-based sources.

UNEP will also work to engage interested countries and non-governmental stakeholders to develop and carry out additional, complementary projects.

Geographic coverage: Global with one-two demonstration sites in five UN regions (Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, West Asia and Europe)

Possible Partners: National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (USA), European Commission, Global Partnership on Waste Management, Global Partnership on Tourism, Gates Foundation, Clinton Foundation, organisations participating in the 5IMDC.

Duration: 3 years plus 6 months preparation as soon as a certain level of funding is secured.

4. GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP SPONSORED FOCAL AREA EFFORTS AND TIMELINES

Budget (for 3 years):

| Component | Budget (million USD) | % against the total | Timeline |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| <u>Component 1</u> : Development of online forum/platform | 0.25 | 3.4 | 09/11-12/12 |
| <u>Component 2</u> : Global Partnership on Marine Litter | 0.5 | 6.8 | 01/12-12/16 |
| <u>Component 3</u> : Support to regional activities | 0.25 | 3.4 | TBD |
| <u>Component 4</u> : Demonstration of marine litter reduction strategies for Land-based sources | 5.0 (ten sites) | 68 | TBD |
| UNEP Project management cost | 0.5 | 6.8 | |
| Sub-total | 6.5 | 88.5 | |
| Programme Support Cost (13%) | 0.85 | 11.6 | |
| Total | 7.35 | 100 | |

| POW | Expected Outcomes | Indicators (by June 2016) | Means of Verification |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Global Partnership on Marine Litter | Operational partnership with a wide range of partners facilitated through an online forum promoting the Honolulu Commitment and the Honolulu Strategy (HS). | <p>At least 100 Governments, organisations, agencies and institutions join the GPML.</p> <p>An effective and functional international steering committee established and its meeting is organised at least every year.</p> <p>A global partnership meeting to review implementation of the Honolulu Strategy</p> <p>The web-based information platform/forum for marine litter is operational and at least 5,000 members ; and 50,000 hits per month counted.</p> <p>500,000 people sign up to the Honolulu Commitment.</p> | <p>Letters of intent to join the partnership.</p> <p>Clear guidance from the committee recorded in the meeting reports.</p> <p>Website access record.</p> <p>Meeting reports</p> <p>On-line sign-up sheets.</p> |
| | Development of regional and national policy instruments aligned with the 'Honolulu Strategy'. | 5 regional and 10 national policy instruments aligned with the Honolulu Strategy discussions for decision making at respective levels. | Policy instruments |

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| | Reduction of influx of solid waste to the marine environment in 10 demonstration sites through the demonstration of good policy and on-the-ground practices and technologies | <p>Demonstration of at least 20% reduction of solid waste reaching the marine environment and 50% increase in the recycling rates of certain wastes in the demonstration sites through introduction of new policies and market-based instruments;</p> <p>Plastic bag ban in 5 countries;</p> <p>15% reduction in use of raw material in selected demonstration projects with industry</p> <p>20 Governments and private sectors agree to make use of best practices developed through the demonstration projects.</p> | Project documents and reports, meeting reports, compilation of best practices, guidelines, etc. |
| | | | |

5. SELECTION CRITERIA

The activities are selected based on the demand expressed by national and local governments where political support is evident.

6. OPPORTUNITIES AND LINKAGES

Explore linkages between online fora to maximize resources and show linkages. Cooperation with other GPWM working groups will be sought as needed and appropriate.

6. EVALUATION

Progress will be monitored and reported to the GPWM secretariat on a regular basis. The implementation process and the delivery of outputs for each activity will be monitored according to UNEP's logical framework matrix.

7. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Funding for activities will be sought from donors and partners. It may be linked to the online forum. Extrabudgetary support will also be used for activities.

8. WORK PLANNING PROCESS

This workplan will be further developed and finalized following the Third Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of GPA and the preceding Global Conference on Land-Ocean Connections, 23-27 January 2012 when the 5-year workplan of the GPA will be discussed and endorsed.

The marine litter session during the GLOC will discuss the TOR of the envisaged partnership, the way forward and launch the first phase of the online forum. The first meeting of the UN-

Oceans task-force may take place in Manila as well.

9. MEMBERS

Membership is currently under development. Contacts are:

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Annex I – The Honolulu Commitment

PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL MARINE DEBRIS CONFERENCE HELD IN HONOLULU, HAWAII, 20-25 MARCH 2011:

Considered marine debris to include any anthropogenic, manufactured or processed solid material, irrespective of its size, discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the environment, including all materials discarded into the sea, on the shore, or brought indirectly to the sea by rivers, sewage, storm water or winds;

Expressed concern at the growing presence of plastic debris in the marine environment and acknowledged the plastic associations' Global Declaration on Marine Litter, while recognising other materials also constitute marine debris;

Welcomed the ongoing work of scientists, research organisations and other citizens to better and more accurately understand the sources, nature and extent of marine debris, including the effects of micro-plastics, heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants, endocrine disruptors and other chemicals on marine biodiversity and public health;

Expressed concern at the continued threat and economic costs from marine debris to human health and safety; biodiversity and ecosystem services; sustainable livelihoods; and the boating, shipping, tourism and fishing sectors;

Noted that these issues are compounded by accelerating pressures associated with pollution and climate change, as well as human uses of oceans and coasts, such as fisheries, urban and industrial development, tourism and shipping;

Acknowledged the importance of international mechanisms, such as MARPOL, the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and other regional mechanisms, in preventing and reducing marine debris;

Recognised the opportunities for addressing marine debris through linkages to sustainable development goals that promote resource efficiency and the principles of a green economy, such as improved life-cycle design and sustainable packaging; extended producer responsibility; safe and efficient fishing and maritime transport practices; and the development of integrated waste management infrastructure that supports recycling and energy recovery programmes and zero-waste strategies;

Recognised the roles of governments, international organisations, industry and civil society in sharing best practices and facilitating the transfer of knowledge;

Recognised the need to address the special requirements of developing countries, in particular the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, and their need for financial and technical assistance, technology transfer, training and scientific cooperation to enhance their ability to prevent, reduce and manage marine debris as well as to implement this commitment and the Honolulu Strategy;

Emphasised the importance of collaborative partnerships, including industry and grass-roots initiatives, and acknowledged the recent creation of the Global Partnership on Waste Management;

Celebrated the increasing level of public interest in finding solutions to the marine debris challenge;

Welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Honolulu Strategy – a framework for the prevention, reduction and management of marine debris; and

HEREBY INVITE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENTS AT NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL LEVELS, INDUSTRY, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, CITIZENS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, TO COMMIT TO:

1. Make choices that reduce waste in order to halt and reverse the occurrence of marine debris.
2. Encourage all citizens, industry and governments to take responsibility for their contribution and find solutions to the marine debris problem;
3. Share openly and freely technical, legal, policy, community-based and economic / market-based solutions that will help prevent, reduce and manage marine debris;
4. Advocate mechanisms that emphasise the prevention or minimisation of waste;
5. Facilitate initiatives that turn waste into a resource in an environmentally sustainable manner;
6. Develop global, regional, national and local targets to reduce marine debris;
7. Improve global knowledge, understanding and monitoring of the scale, nature, source and impact of marine debris, and raise awareness of its impact on public health, biodiversity and economic development;
8. Collaborate with global, regional and sub-regional organisations, to enhance the effectiveness of multi-lateral initiatives aimed at preventing, reducing and managing marine debris;
9. Encourage financial support for global, regional, national and local actions that contribute to the implementation of the Honolulu Strategy;
10. Encourage relevant intergovernmental fora, including those at global and regional scales, to express support for the Honolulu Commitment and encourage governments to take action consistent with the objectives and strategic activities outlined in the Honolulu Strategy; and
11. Participate in a global network of stakeholders committed to understanding, preventing, reducing and managing marine debris in an environmentally sustainable manner;
12. Contribute to the development and successful implementation of the Honolulu Strategy – a framework for the prevention, reduction and management of marine debris – and its periodic review.