



UN Environment Assembly Process on Marine Litter and Microplastics

Heidi Savelli,
Programme Officer Marine Litter
GPA, UN Environment



Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities

- Adopted in 1995, it is a voluntary, action-oriented, intergovernmental programme, hosted by UN Environment

IGR-4:

31 October – 1 November 2018,

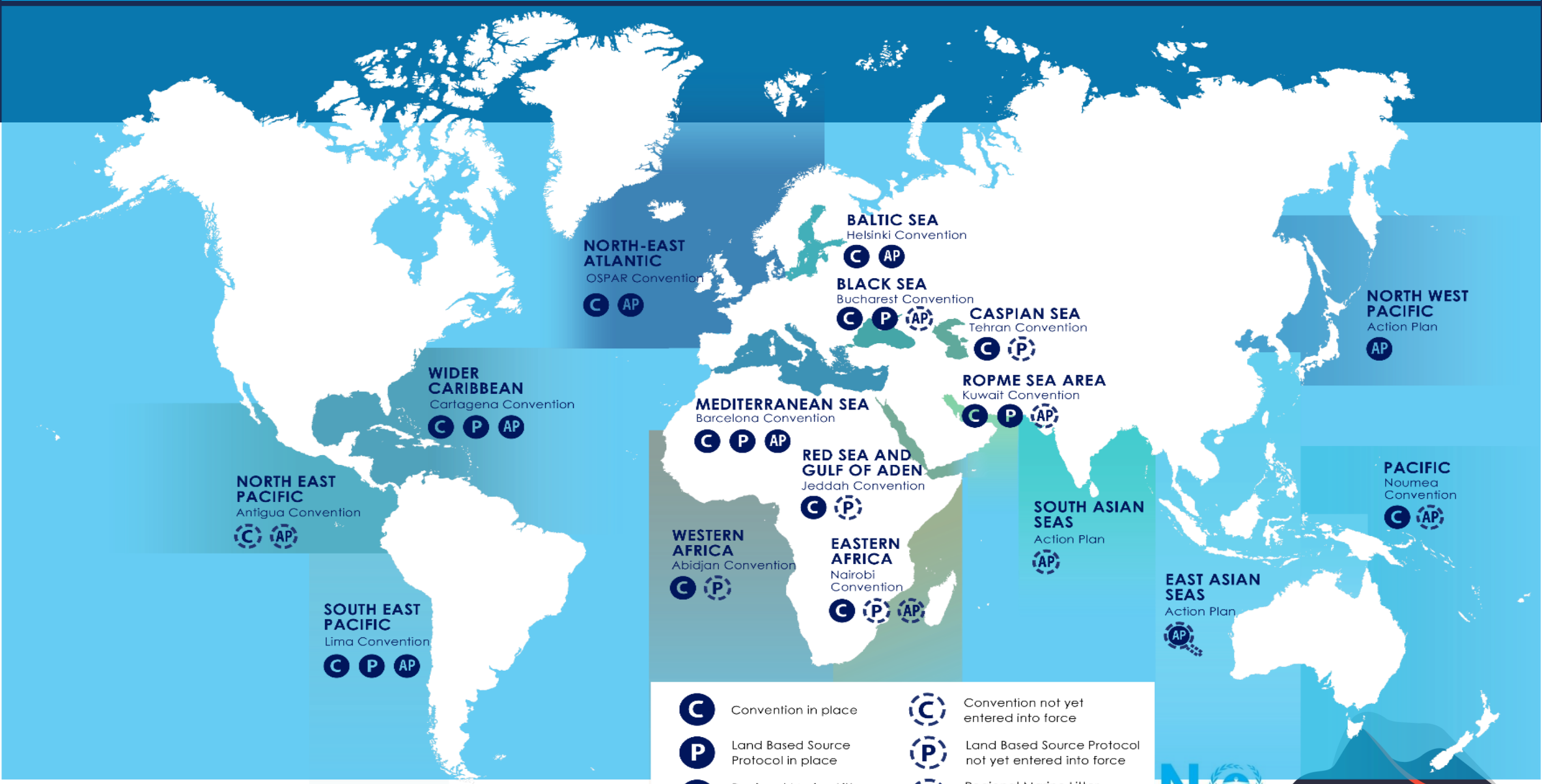
Bali, Indonesia



Join Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML):

- Voluntary multi-stakeholder partnership ~ 150+, IMO, FAO
- Help countries reach their targets related to SDG 14.1
- 4 Regional nodes to e.g. support implementation of regional action plans
- Activities e.g. Clean Seas Campaign, Massive Open Online Courses, Innovation Challenge,
- Stop Plastic Waste Coalition
- Resolutions on marine litter and microplastics adopted both at all United Nations Environmental Assemblies (UNEA 1/6, 2/11 and 3/7) → GPML key platform








ANTARCTIC
Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources



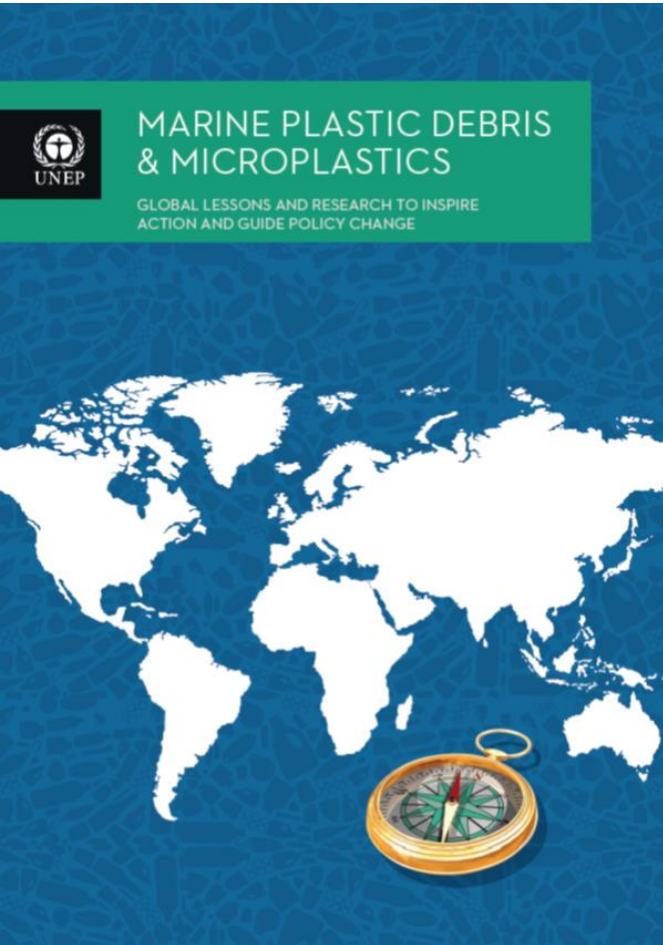
-  Convention in place
-  Land Based Source Protocol in place
-  Regional Marine Litter Action Plan in place
-  Regional Marine Litter Action Plan in place but under review

-  Convention not yet entered into force
-  Land Based Source Protocol not yet entered into force
-  Regional Marine Litter Action Plan is being developed

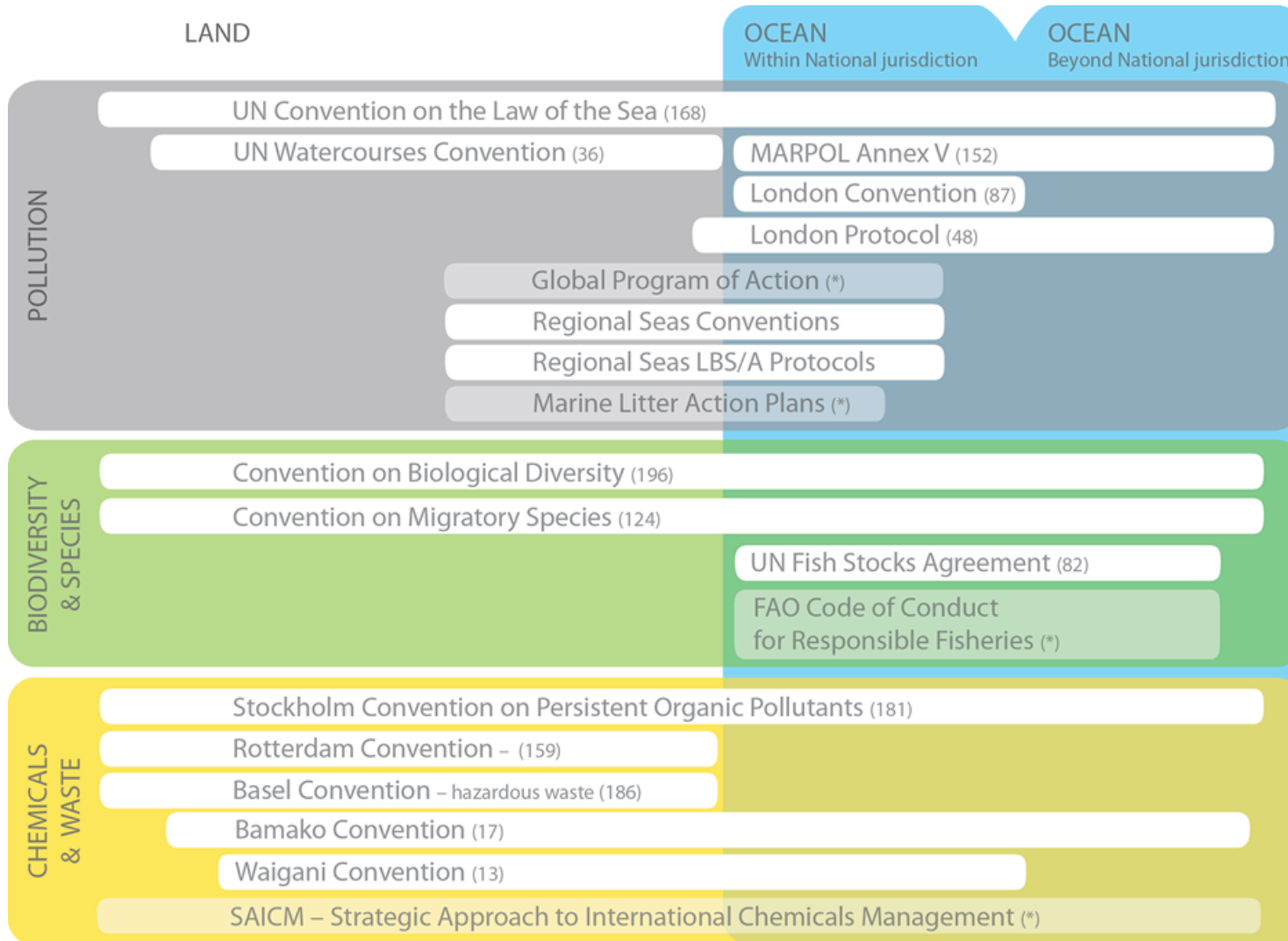


Activities: Knowledge Generation: Marine Plastic Debris and Microplastics – policy relevant recommendations

- **Phase out** of microbeads
- Drastic reduction of **single-use plastics**
- Short-term: waste man. long-term: upstream reduction
- **Need for internationally agreed definition of biodegradability** (marine env.)
- **harmonization and standardization** of methods
- Priority areas for action & in need of additional research



International Legal Framework - Overview



An Assessment of the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and sub-regional instruments and frameworks was submitted to UNEA-3 as an information document

Conclusion

Current governance strategies and approaches provide a fragmented approach that does not adequately address marine litter and microplastics



Options

OPTION 1 Maintain Status Quo

- Strengthen implementation of existing instruments
- Continue current efforts

OPTION 2 Revise and Strengthen existing framework

- Integrate existing industry into the solution
- Expand mandate of an existing int. body, include coordination
- Strengthen existing measures
- Adopt voluntary agreement on marine plastic litter

OPTION 3 New global architecture with multilayered

- Establish a new int. legally binding architecture.
- Phase I: Dev. voluntary measures (op2)
- Phase II: Dev. a binding agreement

Example: Implementation of the Marine Litter and Micro Plastics Resolution

Operative Paragraph 10

Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Experts Group (May & Nov/Dec):

- ✓ barriers to combating marine litter and microplastics,
- ✓ Identify response options, including actions and innovative approaches, and voluntary and legally binding governance strategies and approaches;
- ✓ Identify environmental, social and economic costs and examine the feasibility and effectiveness of different response options;
- ✓ Identify potential options for continued work

Operative Paragraph 9

Analysis of voluntary commitments

Operative Paragraph 7

- Expand Global Partnership
- Six new Regional Action Plans
- Harmonization of monitoring methodologies for marine litter

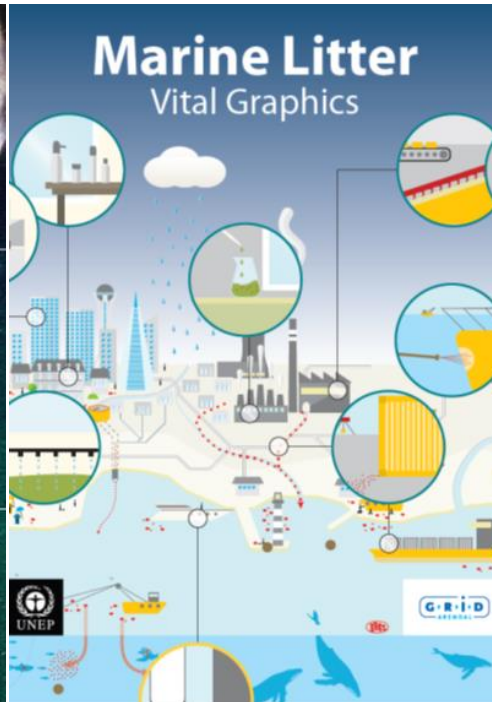
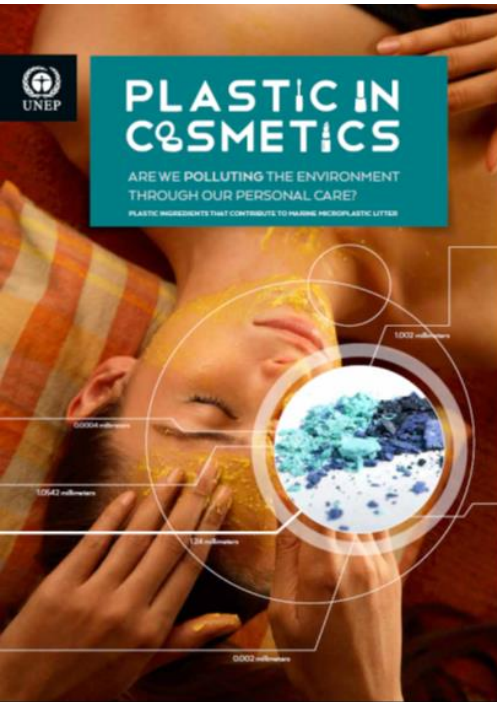
Operative Paragraph 11

Progress on implementation of marine litter resolutions

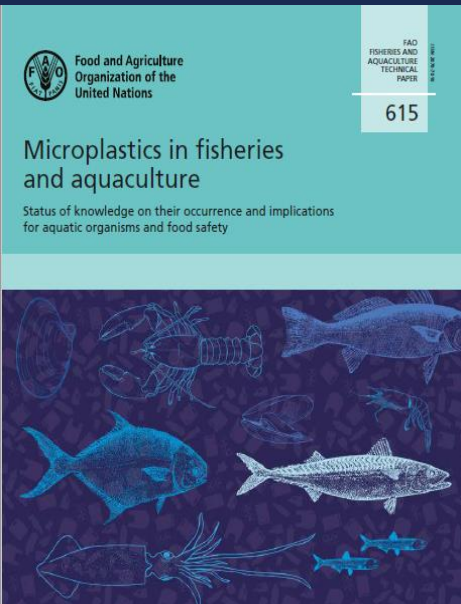
Ad hoc open ended expert group

- First meeting held 29-31 May in Nairobi –
- Meeting report + Co-Chairs Summary with elements for further work (under review)
- Next Meeting Tentatively: End of November 2018
 - Series of technical webinars to be held in lead up to meeting (Sept/Oct)
 - Merged background documents and preparation of other documents
 - Tentative: Workshop format 1-2 days followed by 3 days of Meeting (depends on funding)
 - Outcome: Input to UNEA-4 progress report & options for continued work

Activities: Knowledge Products



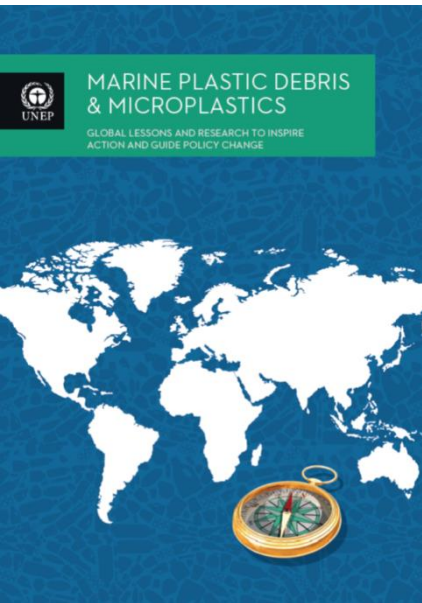
Activities: Knowledge Products



- Microplastics – fisheries and aquaculture – FAO (2017);
- Exploring the potential of alternative materials to reduce ML (2018);
- Baseline single use plastics (Bags, single-use plastics, PCCP's);
- Plastics and coral reefs;
- Review state of knowledge regarding disposal of fiberglass vessels (scope of the issue, environmental impacts, regulatory context) - IMO;
- Marine hull scrapings and marine coatings as a source of MP – IMO;
- Analysis of voluntary commitments



Activities: Other Knowledge Products - ongoing



- Harmonization of monitoring methodologies (GESAMP, IOC-UNESCO/IMO);
- Monitoring methodologies for rivers (TBD);
- Hotspot assessment methodology (sources & accumulations);
- Hotspots in value chain and life-cycle (methodology) - GEF;
- Economics of marine litter (model for costs at national level);
- Pro's and con's of waste to energy (SIDS);
- Plastics Management Strategy (SIDS)

Project Listings

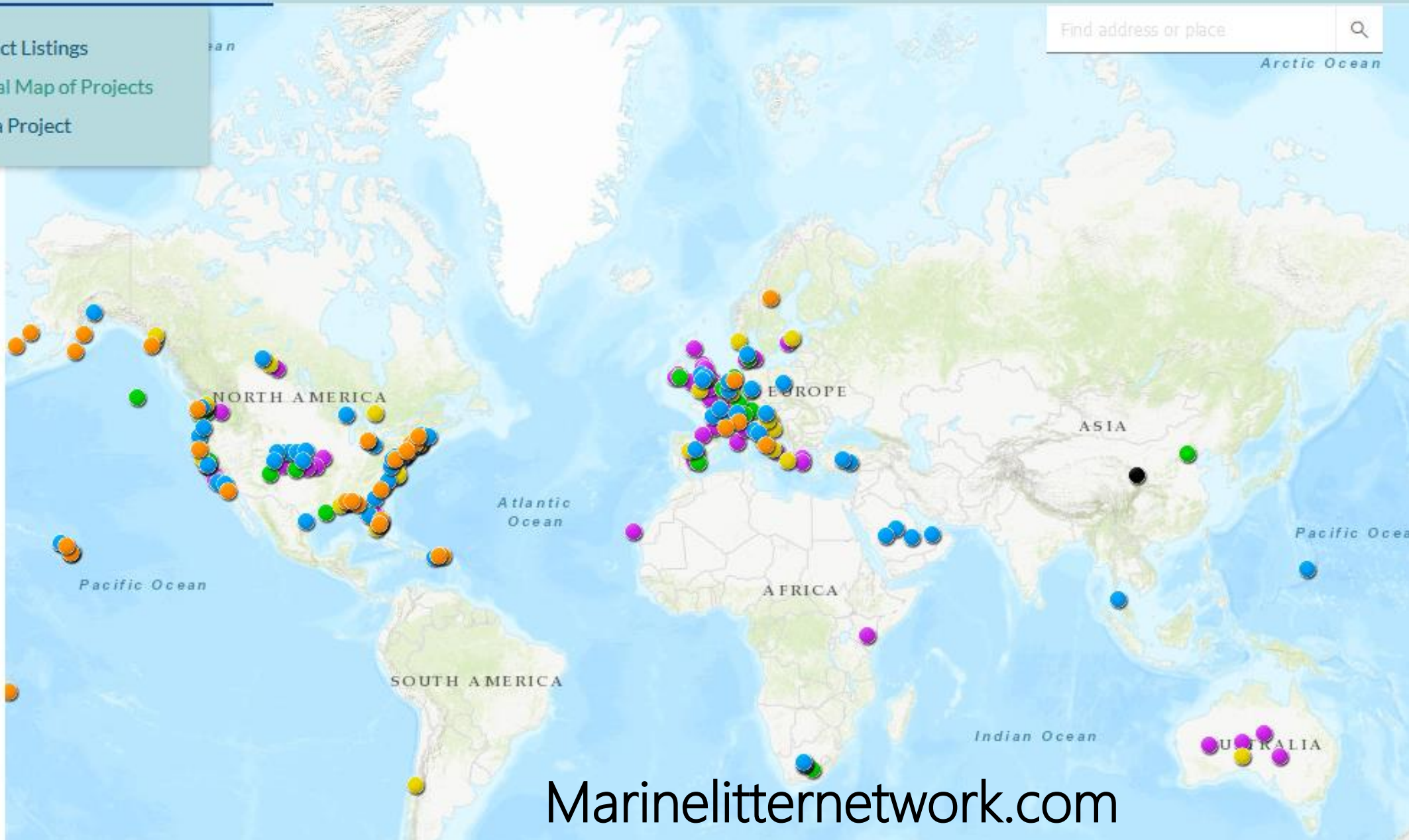
Global Map of Projects

Add a Project

Find address or place



Arctic Ocean



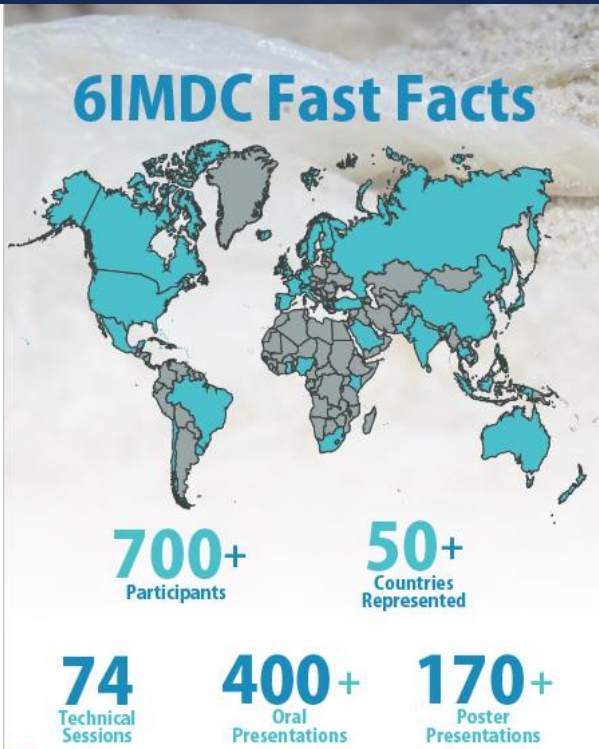
Marinelitternetwork.com

Capacity building: Courses

- Two Massive Open Online Course on Marine Litter in 2015 & 2017;
- Spanish MOOC in 2018;
- 2-week in all UN languages in 2018 (leadership track) & PORTUGUESE;
- **Leadership Track:**
5 hours of learning consist of 2 blocks
- **Expert Track:**
32 additional hours consisting of 6 blocks some optional;
- GPML members incl. IMO & FAO;
- E-course on MARPOL Annex V under development (IMO);



Activities: Mix



- Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (NOAA & UN Environment)
 - Proceedings available
 - Internationalmarinedebrisconference.org



- UN Environment in partnership with Think Beyond Plastic™ launched a global Marine Plastics Innovation Challenge to engage university students and faculties
- Four tracks: Engineering and Design, Communications, Economics and Prediction/Recovery



#Clean Seas - Mission

- Improve plastics management (reduce, redesign, reuse, recycle)
- Global phase out non-recoverable plastics (e.g. microplastics in cosmetics)
- Reduce single-use plastics drastically

Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Honduras, Panama and St Lucia.



#Clean Seas – Partnerships & multipliers

- Museums, Zoos and Aquaria: e.g. Ocean Project, WAZA, EC
- Cruise Operators Associations
- World Scouts Association
- **The International Olympic Committee (IOC)** and their stakeholders have already committed to:
 - **World Sailing** - waste reduction strategy events by 2019 + education programme est. 70 million sailors;
 - The **International Surfing Association (ISA)** - use, reuse and recycle plastics at ISA World Championships by 2019, and expand its education materials on sustainability.
 - **The International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF)** is decreasing plastic use and encouraging recycling at its headquarters, and providing recycling education opportunities at national and youth camps.
 - **World Rugby** - reuse and recycle, reduction of plastic waste.
 - **National Olympic Committees**

Private Sector join with commitments (“soft”, “hard”)



Thank you for your attention

heidi.savelli@un.org

<http://marinelitternetwork.com/join-us/>

<https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/adhoc-oeeeg>

Internationalmarinedebrisconference.org

Cleanseas.org



- Introduction, Christopher Corbin, Caribbean Environment Programme, UN Environment;
- UN Environment Assembly process on Marine Litter and Microplastics Heidi Savelli, PO ML GPA;
- Roundtable discussion on priority activities for the Wider Caribbean Node – GPML, Bob Glazer, GCFI
- **What are priority marine litter projects for your country?**
- **What kind of marine litter relevant activities would you like to see at a regional level?**
- **What kind of benefits would you like to get from the GPML and its regional node?**
- **Can you identify and case studies in your countries of successes or failures?**
- **Can you recommend any specific plans, strategies, or research gaps studies?**