Introducing the Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter

GPML-Caribe

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A Brief History of the Node
2016 Workshop – Workshop Objectives

• To understand the current priorities in respect to marine litter management in the region with a focus on Jamaica
• To identify projects to address gaps in addressing marine litter management in the region
• To identify ways to increase capacity and leverage support to address marine litter in the region
• To develop program objectives and priority areas for the Caribbean Node of the GPML
Workshop findings – Roles of the Node

• Sharing best practices and case studies
• Updating key actors on state of knowledge of technical marine litter issues
• Facilitating discussions on barriers and solutions, especially online
• Encourage regional-level proposals to compile best practices, gap analyses (e.g., socio-economic aspects), assimilate guidance on technical methods and protocols
Very Early Draft Mission and Vision of the GPML-Caribe

- VISION – A healthy Caribbean Sea without risk from marine litter
- MISSION - To provide leadership, information, and resources in the efforts to reduce marine litter in the Caribbean Sea
Introducing the GPML-Caribe Logo
Activities of the GPML-Caribe to date

GPML-Caribe Email distribution List

The Global Partnership on Marine Litter - Wider Caribbean Node

Dear Colleagues,

While we are not the original designer of the attached image which was shared with us on social media - it has for our small social media presence "gone viral" reaffirming that a powerful image and built in message that persons can relate to can go a long way. Regards Chris Christopher Corbin Programme Officer Pollution and Communications Sub-Programmes Cartagena Convention Secretariat Ecosystems Division UN Environment 14-20 Port Royal Street Kingston, JAMAICA E mail: Christopher.Corbin@un.org Tel. # 1 876 922 9267-69 Fax # 1 876 922 9292 Skype: cristoj URL: http://www.cep.unep.org Facebook; Twitter; You Tube; Instagram:

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Activities of the GPML-Caribe to date

Concept Note 1

Marine litter reduction strategies for major cultural events in the Caribbean

A PILOT STUDY ON CARNIVAL IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Introduction
Caribbean & Trinidadian Tobago attracts thousands of people to the country annually, prolonging the season and increasing economic productivity. However, marine litter consumption is generated as a result. Due to poor waste management, these single-use items and disposed of improperly have posed a threat to the environment.

Objectives
This pilot study aims to reform existing litter through the use of effective communication strategies and economics. It serves as a pilot project for the Caribbean.

Methodology
A needs assessment was conducted to evaluate existing waste management practices and key stakeholders. Three major organizations, regional government authorities, Caribbean companies and businesses collaborated around Carnival events.

Findings
A study was conducted where recycling initiatives were successful throughout the year, particularly during Carnival. A positive impact of zero waste initiatives was noted because it helped alleviate the economic impact on the environment.

Conclusion
Through findings from Carnival events in Trinidad and Tobago, strategies were developed to integrate waste management initiatives to generate economic benefits and reduce litter. These initiatives were made available to the responsible agencies to manage Carnival events better.

Activity 1
Sustainability: information, identity key stakeholders and participate in preliminary consultation.

Activity 2
Create a sustainable strategy and identity to promote internalization with implementation.

Activity 3
Work with Carnival organizers and relevant stakeholders to create partnerships and public sector support.

Activity 4
Strengthened media and resources to capture support from all stakeholders.

Activity 5
Create an internal program to provide educational outreach.

Activity 6
Identify and develop tools to identify and reduce marine litter.

Activity 7
Strengthened partnerships through a process of collaboration and events in the Caribbean.
Activities of the GPML-Caribe to date
Concept Note 2

Links between marine litter and the prevalence of mosquito-borne public health concerns
Take-Home Message

• A relationship between the cases of ZikV and marine debris density, especially of large marine debris (i.e. Tires) was found

• These results suggest coastal communities may want to prioritize clean up of large marine debris to limit *Aedes aegypti* habitat and subsequent ZikV transmission
Activities of the GPML-Caribe to date
Concept Note 3 – Project 1

Microplastic in Commercially Exploited Fish form Grenada, West Indies
Activities of the GPML-Caribe to date
Concept Note 3 – Project 1

Microplastic in Commercially Exploited Fish form Grenada, West Indies

Results – Fibres

Averaged number of microplastic fibres found in each species of fish. Error bars indicate the mean ± S.E.M.
How can we reduce marine litter?

Caribbean: What can we do?
- Research
  - Less toxic and persistent alternatives to plastic
- Promote
  - Waste as a resource
  - Advocate for regulations, policies and incentives to reduce the use of plastics
  - Show the true cost of plastic damage on products
  - Educate to promote sustainable living and reduce waste
- Invest
  - in waste management infrastructure
- Recycle
  - To convert waste into new useful products
- Ban
  - Smoking on beaches
- Strengthen & enforce
  - Policies and legislation to stop marine litter
- Stop
  - Littering
- Clean up
  - Rivers, gulfs, shorelines and beaches
- Use
  - Reusable or biodegradable bags
- Drink with
  - Paper, straw or bamboo straws
- Avoid
  - the use of Styrofoam food containers
- Buy
  - Unpackaged food

Personal: What can I do?
- Bring your own
  - Reusable containers and coffee mugs
- Buy
  - Unpackaged food

Caribbean Litter Factsheet – Page 2
GPML – San Diego
Some outcomes of the meeting

• Test best practices and the node can be used to distribute this knowledge

• Putting together targeting workshops and helping to coordinate resources and research in the region.
REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON MARINE LITTER MANAGEMENT (RAPMaLi) FOR THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION 2014