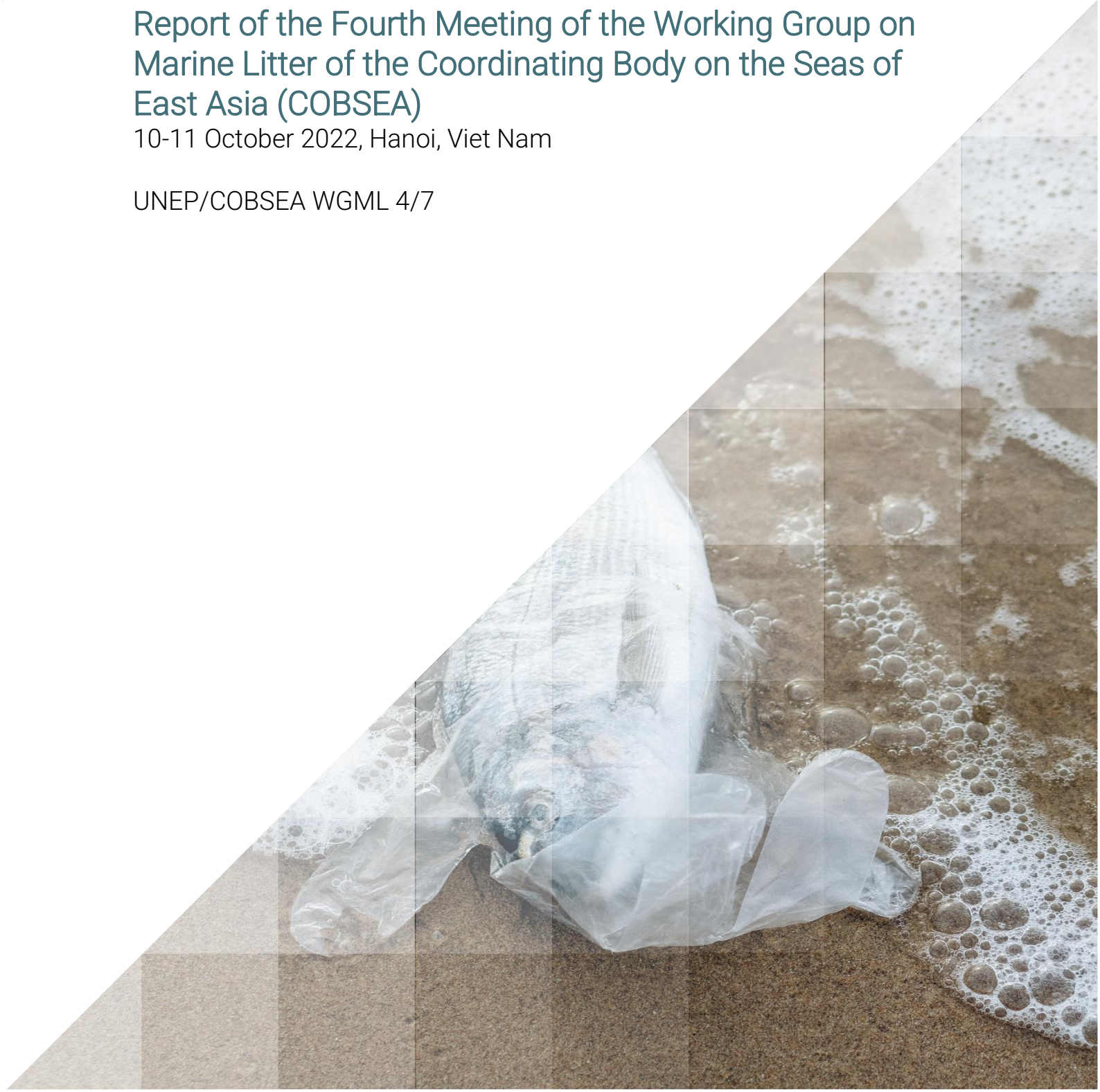




# Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Marine Litter of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)

10-11 October 2022, Hanoi, Viet Nam

UNEP/COBSEA WGML 4/7



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**The Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)** is a regional intergovernmental mechanism and one of 18 Regional Seas programmes. It is the decision-making body for the East Asian Seas Action Plan, bringing together nine countries – Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Viet Nam – in protection and sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment. COBSEA focuses on marine pollution, ecosystem-based marine and coastal planning and management, and ocean governance. The COBSEA Secretariat is hosted by Thailand and administered by UNEP. [www.cobsea.org](http://www.cobsea.org)

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## **Introduction**

The Fourth Meeting of the COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter (WGML) was held on 10-11 October 2022 as a hybrid Meeting, with participation of Working Group focal points and representatives of COBSEA countries, as well as observers and UNEP colleagues. The purpose of the Meeting was to discuss progress of marine litter activities related to the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) and further develop substantive issues responding to decisions made by the Twenty-fifth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM 25) of COBSEA. This report summarizes discussions and input provided at the Meeting, main outcomes and follow up actions.

### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

Mr. Mahesh Pradhan, COBSEA Coordinator, opened the hybrid Meeting at 9:00am (ICT) 10 October 2022. He welcomed all participants and highlighted landmark decisions by the 5<sup>th</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly on a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. Recognizing COBSEA countries taking action and working with partners to achieve the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter. The Coordinator requested the participants guidance to strengthen cooperation, to harmonize monitoring for evidence-based action, to create an impactful biennial workplan, and to share knowledge through our Regional Node. Mr. Pradhan stressed in preparation for the resumed 25<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting

Mr. Nguyen Le Tuan from the Viet Nam Institute of Seas and Islands (VISI) of the Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI) as the Working Group focal point of the Government of Viet Nam and representative of the host country of the WGML Meeting and IGM 25, provided opening remarks.

Brief introductions of Meeting attendees were provided by each COBSEA country.

### **2. Organization of work**

In line with the Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Marine Litter, participants were invited to elect a Chairperson and a Rapporteur. As recommended by the Working Group at the Technical Consultation in June 2020, it was suggested that the Meeting be chaired by the host country of IGM 25. Mr. Nguyen Le Tuan from Viet Nam was elected Chair, supported by Thailand, and the COBSEA Secretariat was appointed to serve as Rapporteur.

The Chairperson noted that the Meeting would take place in hybrid format between 9.00 - 17:00 ICT on 10-11 October 2022. COBSEA Secretariat presented meeting documents.

### **3. Regional activities and global marine litter processes**

Updates on regional and global marine litter processes were provided by COBSEA countries and the COBSEA Secretariat.





### 3.1 Progress update from participating countries

COBSEA countries were invited to give brief updates on national marine litter activities and policy progress.

Cambodia expressed gratitude for the invitation to join the meetings. Highlighted Cambodia's growing economy, population growth, rapid urbanization which has led to over consumption of plastic products. The pandemic has caused a rise in single use plastic and needs urgent handling through policies, strategic directions, and enhancing waste management practices. The Government of Cambodia has been tackling the marine plastic pollution by conducting a decentralized waste management, developing a plastic bag fee at supermarkets, implemented a policy on solid waste management in urban settings from 2020-2030, and recently developed a plastic roadmap on plastic pollution. Under COBSEA, the representative updated on the marine litter report on planning and action and under ASEAN, the Cambodian government is conducting a survey on extended producer responsibility.

China issued significant laws and policies in marine litter and plastic pollution to combat waste mismanagement such as the law on prevention and control on environmental pollution by solid wastes, the guidelines to further strengthen the control of plastic pollution, and the plastic pollution control action plan 2021-2024. China has focused on source reduction, recycling and disposal, and waste and marine clean up. Since 2019, China has banned the import of plastic waste and solid waste since 2021. By the end of 2022, all non-biodegradable plastic bags will be banned in large shopping and commerce centres in cities and counties. Improving the use of degradable plastic alternatives and developing industries in plastic substitutes and bio-based materials. Increased waste collection, sorting, and separating for recyclable materials at household levels and

expanded to rural areas. Clean-up activities have intensified and treatment of plastic pollution in rivers, lakes, and oceans, as well as standardizing the recycling and disposal of fishing gear. The government has formulated an action plan for cleaning and floating litter in rivers and lakes focused on monitoring and community activities for economic growth.

Indonesia stated their continued devotion on marine litter and ocean related activities as this was high on the G20 agenda and workstream. Indonesia has put into place regulatory framework for a national plan on marine plastic debris from 2017-2025. Indonesia has signed a policy to reduce plastic pollution by 70% in 2025 using the 2018 baseline. The national action plan compares the following activities; national rise in stakeholders, sustainable management of land-based source of waste and pollution, waste management in coastal and marine areas, funding institutions, strengthening law enforcement mechanisms, and sustainable development. Indonesia has introduced policies on packaging waste through a roadmap to reduce waste production from 2020 to 2029 by implementing waste limitation through a redesign, recycling, and reusing program. Downstream pollution, marine litter monitoring has been conducted twice a year across Indonesia by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and SEA circular.

Malaysia thanked COBSEA on their support and guidance through their SEA circular project The Third Sea Solutions Source 2021 and the launch Malaysian Government's National Marine Litter Policy and Action Plan 2021 to 2030. Malaysia shared the launch of the Malaysia Plastic Sustainability Roadmap 2021 to 2030 in December 2021. This policy will help industries transition from a linear waste management system to a sustainable circular system Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme. Malaysia shared The Plastic Free Seas initiative to address the marine litter pollution affecting local and regional fishing industry working with industries Nestle and Uniqlo and local organizations. Another initiative is capacity building of local communities and service providers in responsible waste management and community led tourism commissioned by UNDP. Finally, a World Bank project called the Remote Island Toolkit covers the RAP MALI workplan 2.2; the removal of existing marine litter and disposal.

The Philippines thanked the COBSEA Secretariat for supporting the Philippines on their National Plan of Action on Marine Litter and updated the participants on the launch of November 2021 with a vision of the Philippines free of marine litter through shared responsibility, accountability and good governance. It has been developed to be used to serve as a blueprint to enhance the current efforts of the country and resource and waste management and bring an additional lens to marine litter issues. The overarching goal of the NPOA ML is to have waste free waters in the Philippines by 2040. Under the NPOA ML there are several initiatives; localization of the NPOA ML with local partners, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2022, research on microplastic in coastal zones and major water bodies, implementation plastic industry roadmap, research bioplastics and sustainable green packaging, adapted the National Framework Plan for the Informal Waste Sector in solid waste management, conducted training on MRF management and seminars on composting, inter-agency national task force to address ship and port waste, and many more projects. Currently the Philippines is working with COBSEA on training in November 2022 for marine plastic monitoring and leakage to support the NPOA ML baseline.

Singapore thanked the COBSEA Secretariat for convening the WGML-4 and the Government of Viet Nam for hosting the Meeting. Singapore shared that marine plastic pollution was a transboundary environmental challenge. To address this issue, the Government of Singapore launched the inaugural National Action Strategy on Marine Litter on 5 June, 2022. The National Action Strategy is guided by the principles of sustainable development and a circular economy approach, and addresses marine litter across six priority areas; reduction of land-based sources

of litter, reduction of sea-based sources of litter, circular economy approaches, research and development, maintaining and strengthening outreach and stakeholder engagement, and international engagement and collaboration. The development of the National Action Strategy was conducted in close consultation with stakeholders and civil society organisations in Singapore.

Republic of Korea thanked the COBSEA Secretariat and the Government of Viet Nam for hosting the Meeting. The Republic of Korea updated on the progress on the environmental action and the recent outcome of the --. The Republic of Korea has been developing several legal and policy frameworks to work on marine litter pollution. Korea is targeted to reduce 60% of marine litter pollution by 2030.

Thailand thanked COBSEA for the invitation and the Vietnamese government for hosting the Meeting. Thailand shared their marine litter management through their Roadmap of Plastic Management. First is to reduce and replace single use plastic materials with environmentally friendly reusable materials. Second is to target plastic waste by ensuring a circular economy. Thailand shared their Plastic Waste Action Plan from 2018 to 2022 focused on measuring and reducing plastic waste at the source while reducing the single use at the consumption level. Marine debris and abandoned, lost, discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) management is now a priority issue limiting waste within national parks. Thailand also shared Public Private Partnerships (PPP) that regularly meet to frame the action on the circularity concept on plastic products.

Viet Nam updated on the implementation of the Viet Nam National Action Plan on Marine Plastic Waste and the development of the national guidelines of the marine plastic waste. Viet Nam finalized the draft guidelines and will submit to the Ministry of the Environment for approval to assess the marine plastic in ecosystems. Viet Nam shared they are looking for projects monitoring marine plastic pollution and impact on marine ecosystems and human health.

### **3.2 Update on ongoing and pipeline initiatives of COBSEA**

Ms. Natalie Harms, Programme Officer Marine Litter in the COBSEA Secretariat, updated participants on completed, ongoing and pipeline activities toward achieving the COBSEA RAP MALI, including pilot activities on integrated solid waste management in remote and island communities.

SEA circular Project Coordinator Ms. Kamala Ernest shared updates from the project implemented jointly by UNEP and COBSEA to reduce marine litter in South-East Asia which contributed fundamentally to the achievement of the UNEA resolutions and the RAP MALI.

Ms. Harms gave updates on the GIZ MA-RE-DESIGN project and the ADB Promoting Resource Efficiency and Circularity to Reduce Plastic Pollution for Asia and the Pacific project. Ms. Harms shared a new project for Combatting Ghost Gear in the East Asian Seas funded by the Government of Canada Ghost Gear Fund.

The representative of Thailand welcomed project updates and the new project proposal, noting that waste circularity was of interest as well as knowledge sharing from experts. Thailand was very interested to build their knowledge on extended producer responsibility and continued monitoring and assessment of marine litter. Thailand expressed the need to harmonize monitoring and improve data sharing. The representative thanked the Secretariat for the initiative to address ghost gear as this was a growing issue.

Cambodia shared their concerns on marine litter pollution along their coastlines with the focus on the Mekong River as a large contributor of land-based plastic pollution and expressed interest in addressing river system as sources of marine litter in the region.

Ms. Sara Öberg Höper from the Embassy of Sweden announced the Government of Sweden's new strategy for Asia and Pacific with similar goals to previous strategies targeting waste management and circular economy projects. She stated the Government of Sweden was assessing a cost extension on SEA circular to consolidate results and enhance cooperation amongst partner organizations. She reiterated Sweden's support to member States in discussion and negotiations for an international legally binding agreement by 2024 to end plastic pollution. She commended COBSEA as a valuable organization growing stronger and more relevant to member countries.

### **3.3 Strengthening coordination with ASEAN**

COBSEA Secretariat invited Ms. Vararin from the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources of Thailand as the representative of Thailand to share an update on the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combatting Marine Debris. Ms. Vararin reiterated the need to study marine litter in the environment including the deep sea and to set targets to reduce and identify intervention to retrieve during cleanup. The representative from Thailand presented on the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME).

Ms. Natalie Harms asked participants for insights or recommendations to strengthen coordination with ASEAN, and what support participants would like to see from COBSEA. Thailand highlighted that while it was estimated that 80% of marine litter comes from land-based sources, monitoring of marine litter from sea-based sources was needed. She stated the lack of metrics to study marine litter in the ocean and the difficulty to monitor deep sea marine litter. The representative expressed concern on setting appropriate targets if there is little to no funding, efforts, and metrics. She suggested to strengthen coordination to focus on plastic pollution at the source to prevent plastic pollution breaking down into microplastics downstream.

### **3.4 Knowledge sharing from partners in the region**

The Chair requested several observers to provide a brief presentation of ongoing marine litter activities relevant to the region.

The representative from GIZ presented regional efforts including through the project Rethinking Plastics that would be completed in November 2022. The project had produced knowledge resources related *inter alia* to EPR and 24 pilot projects in five countries to test new ideas and upscale good practices which were available on the Rethinking Plastics website. The representative gave an update on the upcoming MA-RE-DESIGN project on marine litter prevention through reduction, sustainable design, and recycling of plastic packaging in collaboration with UNEP, WWF, and COBSEA. He also mentioned the 3RproMar project to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle to Protect the Marine Environment and Coral Reefs.

The representative from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) presented an update on current efforts related to the technical assistance programme Promoting Action on Plastic Pollution from Source to Sea in Asia and the Pacific. Activities promoted circular economy practices across Thailand, Philippines, Viet Nam, and Indonesia.



The representative from the World Bank presented regional level activities on plastics related to the ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Combatting Marine Debris. This included the launch of the Southeast Asia Marine Plastics Program (SEA-MaP) with an investment amount of USD 20 million.

The representative from WWF presented the No Plastic in Nature Initiative with the WWF Plastic Smart Cities on working with over 20 countries—five within COBSEA—to stop leakage along the value chain at all levels. The representative identified five problematic Single Use Plastic products – plastic bags, sachets, wrappers, Styrofoam products, plastic bottles. Challenges faced in the region included limited influence upstream in the value chain, long coastlines and transboundary movement, and lack of lifecycle data. The representative stated countries were left to deal with plastic pollution on their own, costly upgrades for waste management systems, and without harmonized, global rules and standards. WWF urged COBSEA countries to prioritize the issue of single use plastic pollution in a new global treaty as well as global rules and standards to empower action at the sub-national, national, and regional level.

The representative from UNEP presented the Unwaste project aimed at addressing illegal waste trade between Europe and South-East Asia with an additional focus on the pandemic's impact on waste. The project aimed to promote cooperation through national dialogues and combat illicit movement of waste, and facilitate intra and inter-regional dialogues at the policy level. The representative presented the legal and policy review and guidance for prosecutors of waste crime and best practice of repatriation of illegal waste shipments from Asia to Europe. The representative also mentioned the Montevideo Law Programme to catalyse action on environmental issues and provide a resource platform for all countries.

A representative of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Secretariat presented an update on global and regional marine litter processes including the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership (PWP). Several pilot projects aimed at replacement and collection of single-use plastic containers for take-out food, driving environmental and economic sustainability by connecting local small and medium enterprises to markets, and research on the optimization of plastic waste utilization/absorption in recycling activities in the region. A representative from the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia (BCRC-SEA) presented on marine litter activities in the region, including training, technology transfer, and awareness raising. A plastic waste management project promoted the development of regional standard requirements for transboundary movement and research on the optimization of plastic waste utilization/absorption to five countries.

### **3.5 Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an international instrument on plastic pollution**

Ms. Heidi Savelli of UNEP presented an update on the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) process for development an international instrument on plastic pollution and opportunities for knowledge management and coordination through the GPML.

Singapore welcomed the coordination amongst various bodies and shared that INC discussions were still at a very preliminary state and outcomes of negotiations should not be pre-judged.

Malaysia noted the need for innovation on new polymers that are environmentally friendly and alternatives to replace plastics. The representative welcomed efforts for knowledge sharing of best practices, funding, and harmonization of monitoring mechanisms to address plastic pollution.

The Head of the Ecosystems Integration Branch at UNEP, Ms. Kerstin Stendahl, highlighted that Regional Seas programmes could provide information on the INC process and support implementation of regional priorities and activities, but that it was up to countries to negotiate and inform their delegations on relevant IGM discussions.

#### **4. Meeting of the Expert Group on Monitoring of the WGML**

The Secretariat and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) provided an update on monitoring efforts in 2022 and next steps for further harmonizing monitoring in the region.

##### **4.1 Update on efforts to harmonize and strengthen marine litter monitoring**

Ms. Lauren Roman from CSIRO shared that a regional training of trainers on marine litter monitoring had been held and surveys were ongoing to develop national baseline. She highlighted the need for harmonizing methods to enable a regional assessment of marine litter status and trends.

Malaysia welcomed efforts and shared that a national training would be held in mid-November. A representative from Green Hub Viet Nam shared their commitment to train students and countries, and to support the development of a national data platform and to provide accessible citizen science.

Thailand noted that monitoring surveys had been held in August and welcomed next steps and follow-up training on data analysis to understand effectiveness of interventions and to expand methods to include monitoring of marine litter underwater. Ms. Roman added that underwater data was not included in the CSIRO methodology, but that Regional Guidance included information on Project Aware and relevant methods. CSIRO would share final assessment reports and data once finalized.

##### **4.2 Preparing a regional assessment of marine litter status and trends**

Ms. Harms noted that a possible regional assessment of marine litter status and trends would help to track effectiveness of interventions at regional and global level based on national baseline surveys and monitoring efforts.

China emphasized the need for reliable on-the-ground data rather than estimates that had been used globally in the past. The representative noted the need to complete national baseline assessments as the basis for a regional assessment.

Ms. Roman shared that the state of science had progressed since early publications including CSIRO publications on human population density as a predictor for marine litter and agreed that that indicator alone was not a strong predictor for pollution.

##### **4.3 Next steps and priorities to strengthen monitoring and assessment**

Ms. Harms reaffirmed COBSEA's commitment to build capacity on data collection, analysis, and interpretation related to effective of policies to inform decision making. While support through the

SEA circular project had focused on building capacity in 5 target countries, the plan was to strengthen peer-to-peer learning in the region in partnership with countries with extensive monitoring experience.

## **5. Planning and reporting implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)**

### **5.1 Progress report on the biennial workplan for implementation of the RAP MALI 2021-2022**

The Secretariat presented the progress report on the biennial workplan for implementation of the RAP MALI 2021-2022 as contained in UNEP/COBSEA WGML 4/4. Countries congratulated COBSEA on mobilizing resources and completing the workplan.

### **5.2 Drafting the biennial workplan for implementation of the RAP MALI 2023-2024**

The Secretariat presented the draft biennial workplan for implementation of the COBSEA RAP MALI 2023-2024 as contained in UNEP/COBSEA WGML 4/4 for further development by the WGML and adoption by IGM. The Secretariat provided an update on funding sources for activities in the workplan, including a possible extension of SEA circular and the postponed start of MA-RE-DESIGN in early 2023 for three years, as well as new foundational funding to initiate work on ghost gear through the Canadian Ghost Gear Fund. Seed funding for the Regional Node would be available through GPML, for instance to support human resource capacity in the Secretariat. The Secretariat was also exploring other partnerships, such as with the World Bank.

The Philippines suggested that some activities in the new workplan start earlier to share learning on good practices and requested assistance to support phasing out of single-use plastics and to implement a new law on EPR. The Philippines suggested to include the issue of sustainable financing and community-based action for sharing of good practices. The Philippines also welcomed new activities related to ghost gear considering national plans to develop a policy on gear marking. The representative welcomed support for harmonizing and strengthening marine litter monitoring capacity and expressed their endorsement for the biennial workplan.

Cambodia thanked COBSEA for the draft workplan and expressed interest in starting activities related to legal instruments under Action 1 earlier to support current development of legal instruments.

Malaysia welcomed the draft biennial workplan recognized that there was more work to be done, particularly on sea-based sources in terms of data collection and exploring funding. He suggested that there may be the possibility to embark on microplastic issues. Malaysia suggested to include understanding of mid-stream efforts along the value chain, as well as economic incentives.

China welcomed efforts and noted that COBSEA workplans should aim to avoid duplication and reflect national priorities.

Ms. Harms emphasized that COBSEA would work with partners in the region with complementary expertise and mandate to address plastic pollution along the value chain. The Secretariat integrated suggestions and developed the workplan further, for presentation to and adoption by the IGM.

The WGML recommended adoption of the workplan by IGM 25 part 2.

### **5.3 Process for national progress reporting on implementing the RAP MALI**

The Secretariat presented the process and format for national progress reporting on implementing of the RAP MALI as contained in meeting document 4/5. Ms. Harms reiterated that extent of reporting was at the discretion of countries and that a simple spreadsheet had been developed to reduce reporting burdens and align across reporting processes as much as possible.

Countries welcomed the addition of an optional lessons learned column to facilitate replication and knowledge sharing. The WGML welcomed the proposed reporting process, highlighting that it could be tested in 2023 and that full reporting should align with biennial workplan reporting timelines.

## **6. East Asian Seas Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)**

### **6.1 Global Digital Platform of the GPML**

Ms. Heid Savelli from UNEP presented an update on the GPML Global Digital Platform and the types of data sets and resources available, including through partners. She mentioned that stakeholders defined how the Platform was used and that it aimed to connect stakeholders for coordination along GPML Action Tracks. She introduced Communities of Practice (e.g. on ontology) and Centres of Excellence. The GPML would provide support to Regional Seas to connect Regional Nodes to the Digital Platform and offered to support a United Nations Volunteer (UNV) to strengthen capacity in the COBSEA Secretariat for the development of the Regional Node web platform. Currently, five Regional Nodes existed, including in the Pacific, Caribbean, Mediterranean, and Northwest Pacific. Addressing country concerns, Ms. Savelli noted that UNEP and the Platform help desk could support on technical needs and that no additional hardware was needed. She offered to set up a separate opportunity to discuss specific questions and support use of the Platform.

Viet Nam shared its plans to build a national database and welcomed the opportunity to connect to the Global Digital Platform and Regional Node web platform.

### **6.2 Presentation of the web platform of the Regional Node**

The COBSEA Secretariat presented a prototype of the web platform of the Regional Node for feedback, including visualization of three pillars on policies and good practices, science and research, and capacity building, in line with the terms of reference of the Regional Node.

China welcomed progress made and noted that COBSEA would benefit from knowledge sharing including on good practices and training and requested further information on required budget and staffing needs for the Regional Node and duration of a possible interim hosting period. The Secretariat highlighted that funding had been secured through projects and that additional capacity would be provided by the GPML.



Malaysia welcomed the opportunity for countries to share information on webinars, workshops, and capacity building through the web platform.

### **6.3 Regional Research Network**

The Secretariat and partners from the National University of Singapore (NUS) presented plans to launch a Regional Research Network of the Regional Node. Ms. Cheng Ling from NUS shared that a network of academic and research institutions had been used to establish the Research Database and Inventory of the Regional Node including over 700 publications in languages from the region, data extracts and visualizations. The Research Network would provide input to the database and validate data, which required expertise and time and good will from partner institutions. The aim was to improve understanding of marine plastics issues, support science-based policy making with research, facilitate use of peer-reviewed data for decision making, and bridge the gap between policy and science. Research partners had expressed commitment to update and expand the database on a regular basis. Leadership for the network could rotate among members and funding would be needed to maintain the database.

Thailand welcomed the great effort to collect the data in the inventory and expressed appreciation that it now included research in different languages from the region.

### **6.4 Hosting arrangements and next steps for development**

The Secretariat presented possible hosting arrangements and next steps for development of the East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML.

Countries welcomed efforts to access resources and share knowledge through the Node and noted the importance of sustainable funding and human resource capacity for hosting, as well as the importance of cooperation from countries and willingness to contribute and learn from each other.

China welcomed longer term hosting arrangements through a regional institution with the adequate institutional capacity and mandate and long-term predictable funding. Longer term interim hosting through the Secretariat might not be possible with current capacity and funding.

Countries expressed their support toward formally establishing the Regional Node by IGM 25. The Secretariat took note of support and interest in establishing the Node, as well as concerns for sustainability of funding for continued operation. Funding and capacity had been identified to support interim functions through the Secretariat to avoid delays. Longer term hosting arrangements would need to include a clear workplan and capacity and resources.

Ms. Savelli stated the Regional Nodes should not be an additional burden to the Trust Fund and that there was support at global level. In other regions, co-hosting arrangements with Secretariats existed where continued funding had been identified and leveraged including through the GPML.

## **7. Any other business**

WWF presented on the global treaty to end plastic pollution and the upcoming negotiation process and stressed the importance of addressing the lifecycle of plastic products and a circular economy.

VASI presented on Viet Nam's efforts to eliminate plastic pollution and stated that Viet Nam was taking concrete steps to tackle plastic pollution at national and international level.

Green Hub Viet Nam shared their organization's work on implementing environmental projects in 22 different locations around Viet Nam focused on citizen science and waste monitoring from 2017-2022. Recent work includes a case study by CSIRO (2017-2019), a collaboration with IUCN (2020-2022), and a project with World Bank (2019-2022) identifying the 10 most prevalent plastic products leaked into the environment. The most common single use plastic pollution found in 50% of the beaches in Viet Nam was fishing gear, plastic bags, plastic takeaway boxes and cups, and food labels. Policies needed to include restrictions, pricing mechanisms or bans.

## **8. Next Meeting of the WGML**

In line with the Terms of Reference of the Working Group stipulate that Meetings are held at least once per year, countries proposed that the next Working Group Meeting take place in Q4 in 2023 in hybrid format to enable widespread participation.

## **9. Summary and recommendations for part two of the Twenty-fifth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM 25)**

The COBSEA Secretariat summarized that updates had been presented by countries and partners, that the Secretariat had shared information on completed, ongoing and pipeline projects and activities, including related to strengthening and harmonizing monitoring. The WGML had acknowledge efforts and welcomed the development of the project pipeline to implement the RAP MALI. Countries recommended the progress report of the biennial workplan for implementation of RAP MALI 2021-22 for endorsement by IGM 25 part 2 and adoption of the biennial workplan for implementation of RAP MALI 2023-24 based on input provided by the WGML. The Meeting welcomed the endorsement of the process and format for national progress reporting by IGM 25 part 2 and recommended further consultation on hosting of the Regional Node toward formal establishment by IGM 25 part 2.

## **10. Closing of the Meeting**

The Chair thanked the Working Group for active discussions and successful completion of the Meeting in preparation for IGM 25 part 2. The COBSEA Coordinator echoed the Chair and expressed his appreciation to countries, partners and the COBSEA Secretariat team for a successful Meeting.

## Annex 1: Agenda of the Fourth Meeting of the COBSEA WGML

Day 1: 10 October 2022		
Time (ICT)	Agenda item	Doc.
8.30	Registration, log in for online participants	
9.00 – 9.25	<b>1. Opening of the Meeting</b> 6.1 Opening remarks by COBSEA Coordinator, presentation of agenda 6.2 Opening remarks by Government of Viet Nam 6.3 Introduction of participants	4/1, 4/2
9.25 – 9.30	<b>2. Organization of work</b> 7.1 Election of Chairperson and Rapporteur	
9.30 – 10.45	<b>3. Update on regional activities and global marine litter processes</b> 8.1 Progress update on national marine litter action from participating countries (3 mins interventions each, no slides) 8.2 Update on ongoing and pipeline initiatives of COBSEA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation by Secretariat and UNEP (15 mins):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Completed: USEPA pilots</li> <li>o Ongoing: SEA circular</li> <li>o New &amp; pipeline: MA-RE-DESIGN, ADB TA, Canada GGF</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Questions and answers</li> </ul>	
<b>Coffee break: 10.30-10.45</b>		
10.45 – 12.00	<b>3. Update on regional activities and global marine litter processes (continued)</b> 8.3 Strengthening coordination with ASEAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation by ASEAN Secretariat (or Thailand as representative country, tbc) (10 mins)</li> <li>- Discussion</li> </ul> 8.4 Knowledge sharing from partners in the region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentations/interventions by observers: (5 mins each)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o GIZ</li> <li>o ADB</li> <li>o World Bank</li> <li>o UNEP Unwaste</li> <li>o BRS Secretariat and Regional Center for SEA</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Questions and answers</li> </ul>	
<b>Lunch break: 12.00-13.00</b>		
13.00 – 13.45	<b>3. Update on regional activities and global marine litter processes (continued)</b> 8.5 Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an international instrument on plastic pollution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation by UNEP (15 mins)</li> <li>- Questions and answers</li> </ul>	

13.45 – 14.45	<p><b>4. Meeting of the Expert Group on Monitoring of the WGML</b></p> <p>9.1 Update on efforts to harmonize and strengthen marine litter monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation by Secretariat and CSIRO</li> </ul> <p>9.2 Preparing a regional assessment of marine litter status and trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation by Secretariat and CSIRO</li> <li>- Discussion</li> </ul> <p>9.3 Next steps and priorities to strengthen monitoring and assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion</li> </ul>	4/3
<b>Coffee break: 14.45-15.00</b>		
15.00 – 17.00	<p><b>5. Planning and reporting implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)</b></p> <p>9.4 Progress report on biennial workplan for implementation of the RAP MALI 2021-2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation by Secretariat</li> <li>- Questions and answers</li> </ul> <p>9.5 Drafting the biennial workplan for implementation of the RAP MALI 2023-2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation by Secretariat</li> <li>- Discussion</li> </ul> <p><b>9.6</b> Process for national progress reporting on implementing the RAP MALI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation by Secretariat</li> <li>- Discussion</li> </ul>	4/4, 4/5

<b>Day 2: 11 October 2022</b>		
Time (ICT)	Agenda item	Doc.
8.45	Log in for online participants	
9.00	<i>(as needed: continuation of agenda item 5)</i>	
9.00 – 10.30	<p><b>6. East Asian Seas Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)</b></p> <p>10.1 Global Digital Platform of the GPML</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation by UNEP GPML</li> <li>- Questions and answers</li> </ul> <p>10.2 Presentation of the web platform of the Regional Node</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation by Secretariat, Akvo and NUS</li> <li>- Discussion</li> </ul>	4/6
<b>Coffee break: 10.30-10.45</b>		
10.45 – 12.00	<p><b>6. East Asian Seas Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)</b></p> <p>10.3 Regional research network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation by Secretariat, NUS, and Research Network members</li> <li>- Discussion</li> </ul> <p>10.4 Hosting arrangements and next steps for development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation by Secretariat</li> <li>- Intervention by Indonesia</li> <li>- Questions and answers</li> </ul>	4/6
<b>Lunch break: 12.00-13.00</b>		
13.00	<b>7. Any other business</b>	



13.30 – 13.45	<b>8. Next Meeting of the WGML</b> - Suggestions from participating countries on chairing arrangements, location and schedule	
13.45 – 14.15	<b>9. Summary and recommendations for part two of the Twenty-fifth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM 25)</b> - Presentation by Secretariat	
14.15 – 14.30	<b>10. Closing of the Meeting</b> - Closing remarks by Government of Viet Nam - Closing remarks by Secretariat	

#### **Side event**

15.00 – 17.00	<b>Marine litter side event hosted by the Government of Viet Nam:</b> National action in Viet Nam and the pathway toward an international instrument to end plastic pollution	
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#### **Reception**

18.00	<b>Dinner reception hosted by the Government of Viet Nam</b>	
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