

# ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2022

( PLASTIK )



## SEA circular Project – Annual Progress Report 2022

**Project duration:** August 2018 – December 2022 (Including inception phase)

**Reporting period:** January – December 2022

**Date:** 31 December 2022

The SEA circular project "Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in South-East Asia" aims to reduce marine plastic litter by ensuring that less plastic is entering general solid waste streams where the coverage and effectiveness of the management system is weak. This initiative is implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) to inspire market-based solutions and encourage enabling policies to prevent marine plastic pollution as well as raise awareness among consumers and the private sector to end plastic pollution in South-East Asia.

Over the period 2018-2022, the project has contributed to a pathway towards less plastic wasted through different deliverables. The project built a strong foundation for the development of marine litter policies and monitoring programmes. The Regional Guidance on Harmonized National Marine Litter Programmes was adopted by COBSEA IGM 25.1 in 2021, guiding national efforts. Baseline data on plastic pollution were collected through material flow analyses and hotspot assessments, contributing to a pool of knowledge and information on managing marine plastic litter in the South-East Asian region (i.e., a regional research database on marine litter). The project provided support to the development of national action plans on marine litter, particularly in Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Awareness about the impacts of plastic pollution was increased among stakeholders across the plastic value chain, and public support was built for policies and solutions to reduce plastic waste thanks to various outreach activities, for instance the regional campaign **100daysto#BeatPlasticPollution** and the award-winning short film **"PLASTIK."**

On the other hand, market-based solutions were identified, developed, and promoted. The project conducted two surveys to generate insights into plastic waste perceptions among consumers and businesses and a situational analysis of new, evolving business models and financial mechanisms to incentivize plastic waste practitioners toward a circular plastic economy, for instance, plastic credits and the enablement of EPR to further engage with the private sector through producer responsibility organizations (ROs). The project developed a Knowledge Compendium compiling 20+ publications, 10 Accelerating Solutions to end plastic pollution, tools, case studies, and organized a regional dialogue series to disseminate knowledge products and to further engage with policy makers, private sector actors, academics, development partners and other stakeholders. The knowledge exchange dialogues provided a platform for key stakeholders to discuss on alternatives to plastics, innovative solutions, avoidance of use, how to promote and inspire sorting, re-use, recycling, as well as setting reduction targets on plastic footprint and commitments. A toolbox was developed on human rights, providing access to capacity building resources, guidance documents, frameworks, and other tools for policy makers and businesses to address the nexus of human rights, gender, and plastic pollution. The project also promoted alternatives to plastic packaging and provided research-based recommendations on strengthening and harmonizing regional standards and regulations for packaging, labelling, and recycling. Regional networking events (e.g., SEA of Solutions), webinars, training, and dialogues were organized, providing a platform and opportunities for stakeholders in the plastic value chain to increase knowledge, build capacity, and share experience and lesson learned. These concerted efforts have resulted in an increase in plastic reused and recycled and a reduction in the most harmful and difficult to recycle plastics.

This Annual Progress Report 2022 provides an overview of the project implementation progress from 1 January until 30 December 2022. It has been prepared for the Project Steering Committee of SEA circular and the project donor to supplement and support considerations of a project extension proposal until end of 2024.

The report sets the new context of the project and presents the progress against the Project Workplan 2022, with a summary of delivery against the project results framework. The report also summarises responses to the recommendations of the Mid-Term Review (MTR), as well as changes made to project implementation and governance arrangements. Challenges and lessons learned are reflected, and recommendations made on the alignment in reporting over the period 2018-2024. The report provides a rationale for the project extension until 2024 and an updated approach.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank	SSFA	Small-scale Funding Agreement
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology	SWAT	Solid Waste Management Association of Thailand
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	UN	United Nations
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
CCA	Common Country Analysis	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
CF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework	UNEA	the United Nations Environment Assembly
COBSEA	Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
COP	Conference of the Parties	UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
CSO	Civil Society Organization	VASI	Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility	WGML	COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
GEF	Global Environment Facility	YEH	Yunus Environment Hub
FECICAM	Festival de Cine Español Emergente		
FIA	Food Industry Asia		
FFI	Fauna & Flora International		
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)		
GPAP	Global Plastic Action Partnership		
GPML	Global Partnership on Marine Litter		
HRBA	Human Rights-based Approach		
IGES	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies		
IGM	Intergovernmental Meeting		
INC	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee		
ISWA	International Solid Waste Association		
MIMA	Maritime Institute of Malaysia		
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course		
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding		
MSWM	Municipal Solid Waste Management		
MTR	Mid-Term Review		
NAP	National Action Plan		
NGO	Non-governmental Organization		
NSI	National Source Inventory		
NUS	National University of Singapore		
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development		
PRO	Producer Responsibility Organization		
PSC	Project Steering Committee		
RAP MALI	COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter		
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute		
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals		
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency		
SOS	SEA of Solutions		

# 1. PROJECT SUMMARY

<b>Project title</b>	SEA circular (Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in South-East Asia)
<b>Project duration</b>	August 2018 – December 2022 (including inception phase)
<b>Reporting period</b>	1 January – 31 December 2022
<b>Countries</b>	Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam (target countries), Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Singapore (knowledge partners)
<b>Executing agencies</b>	United Nations Environment Programme Asia and the Pacific Regional Office and the Secretariat of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
<b>Donor</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
<b>Total grant</b>	USD 6.3M (SEK 55M)
<b>Project impact</b>	Less plastic wasted, with reduced input to and impact on the marine environment as well as dependent people
<b>Project outcomes</b>	Reduction in plastic that are difficult to collect and recycle Increase in plastic reuse and recycle Increase in awareness about marine litter and plastic pollution, and public and consumer support for policies to fight it
<b>Project outputs and results</b>	<p>Output 1: Market-based solutions towards 'less plastic wasted'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Result 1.1</u>: Stakeholders in South-East Asia measure and report their plastic footprint.</li> <li>○ <u>Result 1.2</u>: Stakeholders in South-East Asia demonstrate ability to manage the plastic value chain better.</li> <li>○ <u>Result 1.3</u>: Business incentives for plastic reduction and recycling identified and applied.</li> </ul> <p>Output 2: Strengthening the scientific basis for decision-making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Result 2.1</u>: Marine litter status and trends are monitored, assessed, and reported at national and regional level.</li> <li>○ <u>Result 2.2</u>: Decision makers and academic community in the region have access to marine litter research.</li> <li>○ <u>Result 2.3</u>: Obstacles and opportunities for policies and regulations to reduce plastic wastage and pollution based on best available evidence are identified.</li> </ul> <p>Output 3: Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Result 3.1</u>: Project products and results reach target groups and inform efforts to tackle marine litter and plastic waste.</li> <li>○ <u>Result 3.2</u>: Consumer awareness of solutions to marine litter and plastic pollution is increased to inform decision making and behaviour change.</li> </ul> <p>Output 4: Regional networking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Result 4.1</u>: Regionally coherent national marine litter plans, policies, regulations and/or standards to prevent and reduce plastic pollution.</li> <li>○ <u>Result 4.2</u>: Information sharing and stakeholder engagement to support targeted action on reduction in plastic pollution and wastage.</li> <li>○ <u>Result 4.3</u>: An East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML improves knowledge management on marine litter.</li> </ul>
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p><i>SEA circular - solving plastic pollution at source</i></p> <p>SEA circular project aims to reduce adverse impact of land-based plastic leakage into the marine environment by ensuring that less plastic is wasted at source and the management of the plastic value chain is improved in South-East Asia. Considering waste management systems in the region remain inadequate to process increasing amounts of plastic waste, the project focuses on the life cycle stages of (i) Production of plastic products, (ii) Plastic use, and (iii) Collection / sorting / recycling to ensure that less plastic is wasted and strategically prevent plastic litter entering the ocean.</p> <p>To achieve these objectives, the project leverages UNEP's technical expertise and COBSEA's intergovernmental mechanism to facilitate regional learning and</p>

	<p>coordinated action. Project partners include national and local governments, the private sector (e.g., producers, retailers, associations in the packaging industry, consumers, institutional products industry), academic and research institutes, international organizations, as well as civil society and non-governmental organizations. The project promotes a gender and human rights-based approach to identify people-centred and equitable solutions and actively engages all groups of society, including consumers, informal waste workers, and coastal communities who are most vulnerable to the impacts of marine litter.</p>
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## 2. SETTING THE CONTEXT

Marine plastic litter is attracting increasing policy and media attention across the globe. At the regional event SEA of Solutions 2021, policy makers from ASEAN member states, development partners, and related stakeholders in the plastic value chain identified [10 Accelerating Solutions to reduce plastic waste](#), which set the benchmark for stepping up collective actions. On the second of March 2022, Heads of State, environment ministers, and other representatives from 175 nations signed a historic resolution at the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi (UNEA 5.2) to end plastic pollution and forge an international legally binding agreement by the end of 2024. The resolution, titled “End Plastic Pollution: Towards an internationally legally binding instrument,” includes explicit references to the circular economy, the full life cycle of plastics, and sustainable consumption and production. It underlines the importance of promoting a circular design of products and materials so that they can be reused, remanufactured, or recycled and therefore retained in the economy for as long as possible along with the resources they are made of, as well as minimising the generation of waste.

The UNEA-5.2 Resolution shows the global commitment to addressing plastic pollution and highlights the importance of promoting circularity in the plastic value chain. This has been reflected in priorities, plans, and strategies of the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN member states. Most of the ASEAN countries have developed national strategies to address the management of plastic waste broadly through environmental policies and waste management acts. UNEA-5.2 urges countries to participate in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) process. The INC will consider how to promote sustainable consumption and production of plastics from product design to environmentally sound waste management through resource efficiency and circular economy approaches. The first session of the INC was held in Uruguay from 28 November to 2 December 2022.

On 31 December 2022, SEA circular is expected to be completed. The project workplan 2022 was developed and implemented building upon lessons learned and recommendations from the MTR in 2021. Progress has been made towards filling the gaps between the committed results by the end of the project and achievements as of 2021. The MTR also identified areas for improvement and opportunities to align activities better and increase the impact of the project, which have been partly addressed in 2022. An important recommendation was to consider an extension of the current project period to enable making up for delays due to COVID-19 and human resource issues and to plan for support to marine plastic litter in the region beyond 2022, in cooperation with other UN agencies and in line with the UN reform process. On 7 October 2022, a 24-month extension proposal was submitted to Sida, requesting an additional fund allowing the project to scale up, replicate, and ensure sustainability and high-impact contributions towards the INC process. The extension proposal focuses on two complementary areas: i) addressing the plastic pollution and marine litter in the South-East Asian region, and ii) strengthening the capacity of ASEAN Member States to effectively participate in the INC process to end plastic pollution. On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022, Sida approved the cost extension for 24 months until December 2024 with an additional fund contribution of USD 1.2 million.

## 3. OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS

The UNEA-5.2 Resolution sets the new context for the project. In 2022, SEA circular has achieved notable results, including the enablement of market-based solutions such as EPR and plastic credits, policy changes in Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand towards less plastic wasted, co-financing raised from the private sector, the development of national marine litter monitoring programmes in five COBSEA countries, a regional research database on marine litter, more products or polymers subject to recycling or reduction mechanisms, the award-winning short film ‘PLASTIK’ raising consumer awareness about the impact of marine plastic litter, and various outreach and networking events at regional and national levels organized with different partners to address plastic waste and marine litter. More details about achievements against the outputs are presented below.

### 3.1 Key highlights and achievements for 2022

#### Output 1: Market-based solutions towards ‘less plastic wasted’

- Policy changes happened in Malaysia and Thailand concerning recycled plastics. In Malaysia, the Government launched the National Policy and Action Plan on Marine Litter 2021-2030 in December 2021. In Thailand, a major progress in policy development was the acceptance of recycled plastic content in packaging with food contact. This development was welcomed by the private sector and can lead to higher levels of recycling in

Thailand rather than export of recyclables and recovered raw materials. The Government of Thailand also developed the National Action Plan on Marine Litter with support from SEA circular.

- Co-financing raised from the private sector, including USD 40,000 contributed by Food Industry Asia to the plastic waste perception survey in five Southeast Asian countries.
- Stakeholders across the plastic value chain improved their knowledge and took action to address marine plastic pollution thanks to better access to 10 Accelerating Solutions, toolkits, case studies, and 20+ publications of the project. These knowledge products are being compiled in a publication “End Plastic Pollution: A knowledge compendium for less plastic waste in South-East Asia.”
- Stakeholders demonstrated the ability to better manage the plastic value chain, which was exemplified by 10 case studies of good practices in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam, for instance the development of nature-based food packaging, reuse of old clothes, sustainable funding mechanism, the adoption of market-based solutions throughout the food delivery value chain.
- Informal waste collectors were incentivized by new financial instruments (e.g., plastic credits) identified through a situational analysis of new, evolving business and financial models. A regional dialogue on this topic attracted more than 200 participants around the globe. A key-note speech was delivered by Ms. Åsa Stenmarck, Material Flow Expert and Member of the PSC.
- Practitioners in the plastic value chain built their capacity through a series of regional dialogues, which were organized to disseminate knowledge products of the project and to further engage with the private sector, policy makers, academics, and other stakeholders in the plastic value chain. Though leaders and experts were invited to speak on the key topics to be addressed to enable a shift to plastic circularity.
- Stakeholders in the plastic value chain understood how to apply the HRBA to address plastic pollution and plastic circularity through a regional training on this topic, which attracted more than 100 participants from government agencies, industries, and businesses. A key-note speech was delivered by Ms. Betty Yolanda, member of the PSC. Participants were sensitized on human rights and gender perspectives, which are key components of market-based solutions and enabling policies to reduce marine plastic pollution.

## Output 2: Strengthening the scientific basis for decision making

- National monitoring programmes are under development in Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, incorporating pollution loading and socio-economic and environmental impact indicators in marine litter reporting. In Malaysia, a national monitoring framework and implementation plan was developed as a living document, based on the country’s Clean-Coast Index, for further development to include additional habitats and methods over time. National baseline surveys were conducted in Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam and data summarized in baseline reports and country factsheets. Countries have made significant progress in developing and strengthening their monitoring programmes and have conducted extensive surveys in the environment applying harmonized regional guidance, which is a key output of this project.
- Five countries have applied a citizen-science approach under the International Coastal Clean-up, incl. China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand. The Regional Guidance on Harmonized National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes also includes recommendations for strengthening and incorporating robust data from the citizen science approach.
- Two research projects on plastic credit schemes and risks and opportunities of plastic credit financing instruments were conducted with support from SEA circular.
- Stakeholders enhanced their knowledge thanks to the development of a regional research database on marine litter in the South-East Asia region, which provides access to over 700 publications and data on plastic pollution and marine litter across disciplines and languages of the region. The database is an integral part of Pillar 2 on science and research of the East Asian Seas Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), which was launched in 2022.

## Output 3: Outreach

- Increased awareness of consumers about the plastic pollution crisis through the short film [PLASTIK](#), which was produced and launched on the World Environment Day 2022 to increase media coverage of social and economic impacts of plastic pollution and marine litter. By the end of October, the film reached more than 15,000 views on UNEP’s YouTube channel, showing that even children can influence their families to say no to single-use plastic and that we must #ActNow to #BeatPollution because we have #OnlyOneEarth. PLASTIK was awarded for the Best International Short Film at [FECICAM 2022](#).



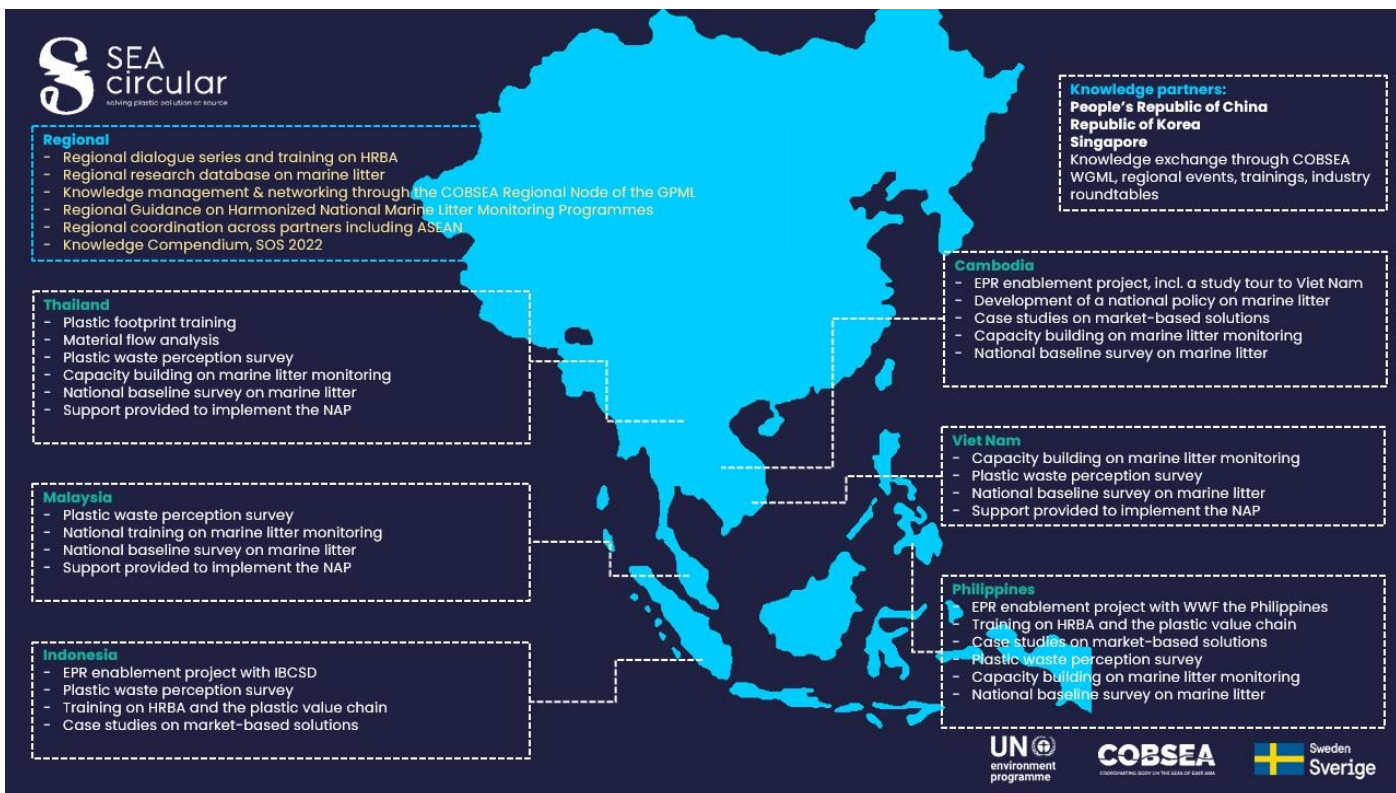
- The side event at the UN Ocean Conference on ‘Collective Effort in South-East Asia to End Plastic Pollution’ gathered 310 stakeholders from different fields – government, academia, the private sector, consumers, etc. SEA circular collaborated with the World Economic Forum’s Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) and Food Industry Asia (FIA) to organize this event and hosted a panel discussion comprising of government representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. The event informed governments, the private sector, civil society organizations, consumers, youths, academics, and experts of key initiatives and regional efforts to address plastic pollution. It also garnered commitment to innovative financing mechanisms and closer engagement with the informal sector in the fight against plastic pollution. Besides, the event promoted collective actions of different networks’ regional frameworks to have an interconnected approach to addressing plastic pollution in South-East Asia. It also encouraged efforts among the private sector through sharing examples of good practice in the region.

#### Output 4: Regional networking

- Five COBSEA countries adopted or revised national marine litter action plans in line with COBSEA RAP MALI (Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam).
- All COBSEA countries have adopted several laws and regulations to address marine litter. In 2022, the Philippines enacted the EPR Act (i.e., Republic Act No. 11898), amending the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (i.e., Republic Act No. 9003) and introducing EPR to plastic waste management (Chapter III). Producers generating plastic packaging waste with total assets of PHP 100 million or more are required to develop and implement an EPR program and collect plastic package.
- In 2022, more products or polymers were subject to recycling or reduction mechanisms in the Philippines, incl. (i) sachets, labels, laminates, other flexible plastic packaging products, whether single-layer or multi-layer with plastics or other materials, (ii) rigid plastic packaging products, whether layered with other materials, which include containers for beverages, food, household goods, personal care, cosmetic products, their coverings, caps, lids, and other necessities or promotional items such as cutlery, plates, drinking straws, sticks, tarps, signage, or labels, and (iii) single-use plastic bags.
- The [web platform](#) of the East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML was launched in November 2022. The Regional Node will be populated with data, providing access to knowledge on marine litter policy and regulatory frameworks, initiatives and good practices, research database and information on research network, and capacity building resources, including knowledge products developed by SEA circular.

This annual report provides information on the progress against output indicators (as defined in the Project Results Framework, see Annex 1), as well as against the project workplan 2022.

**Snapshot of activities by country is shown below:**



**Cambodia:** The Government of Cambodia is developing a national policy on marine litter with support from SEA circular. A national baseline survey on marine litter was conducted in cooperation with national technical partners and COBSEA focal agencies to establish robust baselines for regionally harmonized monitoring programmes. SEA circular conducted training and capacity building activities for policy makers and related stakeholders, incl. a study tour to Viet Nam on circular economy and EPR jointly organized by UNDP Viet Nam and Cambodia. Participants learned about the new EPR law and how the Government of Viet Nam introduced EPR, as well as any issues and challenges in the EPR development process. Case studies were also developed based on SEA circular’s interventions in Cambodia.

**Indonesia:** The Government of Indonesia has developed the Plan of Action on Marine Debris (2017-2025), which calls for efforts to reduce 70% of marine plastic debris by the end of 2022 ([Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs, 2017](#)). Targets of 80% collection rate and 20% reduction of solid waste generated in urban areas by 2025 are set in the National Medium-Term Development Plan for 2020-2024 (RPJMN) ([Government of Indonesia, 2020](#)). To achieve its policy targets, SEA circular, through a strategic partnership with the IBCSD, supported an EPR enablement project, engaging with stakeholders in the plastic value chain, especially SMEs, to scale up collection, recycling and reducing plastic waste. In addition, a survey was conducted to gauge perceptions of consumers and businesses on plastic waste, providing important insights for the development of market-based solutions and behaviour change interventions. Policy makers and related stakeholders in Indonesia were also capacitated to apply the HRBA to the plastic value chain through targeted training on responsible business conduct. Best practices of the project interventions in Indonesia were documented and developed into case studies for promotion to inspire market-based solutions.

**Malaysia:** The Government has launched the National Policy and Action Plan on Marine Litter 2021-2030 and Roadmap towards Zero Single-Use Plastics 2018-2030 with technical assistance through the SEA circular project. A Circular Economy Roadmap is under development. SEA circular provided support to implement the National Action Plan on Marine Litter and strengthen a national monitoring programme through a national training on marine litter monitoring and assessment and technical assistance for baseline surveys. SEA circular also conducted a plastic waste perception survey among Malaysian consumers and businesses to inform the implementation of market-based solutions and behaviour change interventions towards less plastic waste. Particularly, SEA circular engaged with the UNRC and UNCT in Malaysia through the project “UNEP-UN Reform Engagement Pilot Study on Plastics Value Chain and Circularity,” which mapped and analysed data, information, knowledge products and data needs and gaps thereof, and collected data on integrating circularity in the plastics value chain in order to strengthen this thematic dimension within the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and Cooperation Framework (CF) of Malaysia. SEA circular contributed to the development of a Country Brief on reducing plastic pollution and promoting plastic circularity with data and recommendations to inform the CCA and CF and to catalyse action on plastics.

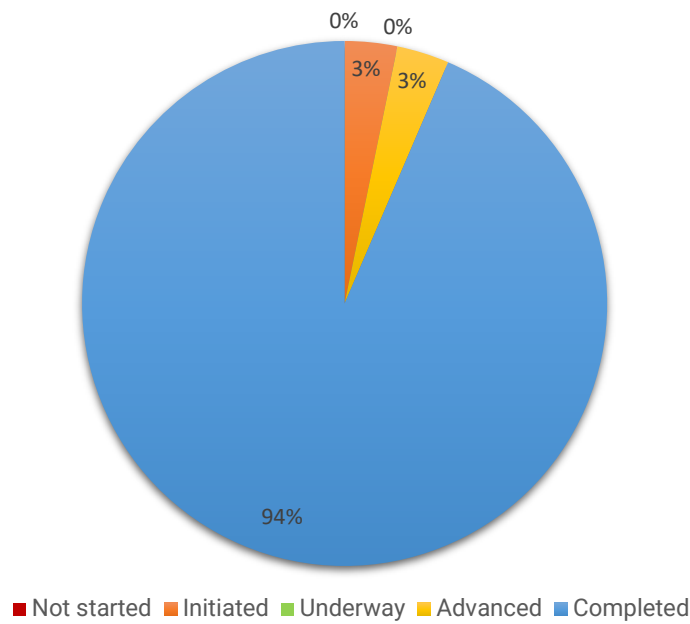
**The Philippines:** The National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Marine Litter (NPOA-ML) was adopted in November 2021, which provides a blueprint to enhance the current efforts of the country in resource and waste management and to bring additional lens to marine litter issues and the control of additional leakage of waste into bodies of water ([National SWM Commission, 2021](#)). SEA circular provided support to the implementation of NPOA-ML through capacity building on marine littering monitoring and assessment and training on applying the HRBA to the plastic value chain. National marine litter surveys were conducted to inform a national baseline for informed decision making. SEA circular also conducted a similar plastic waste perception survey in the Philippines and collaborated with WWF to implement an EPR enablement project engaging with the private sector and other stakeholders across the plastic value chain. Best practices of the project interventions in the country were developed into case studies for further dissemination.

**Thailand:** The Government of Thailand has implemented various activities in line with the 10 Accelerating Solutions in SOS 2021. SEA circular provided recommendations for the development of a National Action Plan on Marine Litter (not yet launched). Policy makers and private sector practitioners developed their capacity in managing the plastic value chain through training and capacity building activities of the project, incl. on plastic footprint in collaboration with SWAT. Under SEA circular, a material flow analysis and national baseline surveys on marine litter were conducted, strengthening the basis for decision making. A plastic waste perception survey was conducted with consumers and businesses to inform the development of market-based solutions and behaviour change campaigns. SEA circular also engaged with the UNRC and UNCT in Thailand through the project “UNEP-UN Reform Engagement Pilot Study on Plastics Value Chain and Circularity,” which mapped and analysed data, information, knowledge products and data needs and gaps thereof, and collected data on integrating circularity in the plastics value chain in order to strengthen this thematic dimension within the CCA and CF of Thailand. A Country Brief on reducing plastic pollution and promoting plastic circularity was developed with data and recommendations from SEA circular to inform the CCA and CF and to catalyse action on plastics.

**Viet Nam:** SEA circular provided support to the implementation of the National Action Plan for Management of Marine Plastic Litter, which was developed by the Government of Viet Nam in 2019. A training on marine litter monitoring and assessment strengthened the capacity of policy makers and stakeholders from academia and marine litter surveys were conducted toward developing baselines for informed decision making. SEA circular also conducted a plastic waste perception survey on consumers and businesses to inform market-based solutions and behaviour change intervention towards less plastics wasted. Through the project “UNEP-UN Reform Engagement Pilot Study on Plastics Value Chain and Circularity,” SEA circular engaged with the UNRC and UNCT in Viet Nam to catalyse actions on plastic waste issues. A Country Brief on reducing plastic pollution and promoting plastic circularity was developed with inputs from SEA circular to integrate plastic pollution and plastic circularity into the CCA and CF of Viet Nam. Case studies were developed on best practices in the implementation of market-based solutions in Viet Nam. The country also hosted a study tour for policy makers from Cambodia to learn about the new EPR law and how the Government of Viet Nam introduced EPR, as well as any issues and challenges in the development process.

## 3.2 Overview of progress against Output indicators

A summary of the implementation status, as of 30 December 2022, of 31 activities in the 2022 workplan is provided here (Figure 1). Overall, 29 activities (94%) in the 2022 workplan have been completed, while one activity (3%) is at an advanced stage of completion. Only one activity (3%) is at an early stage (i.e., initiated). A qualitative and quantitative assessment of the implementation against the 2022 workplan is presented in Section 4.



Not started	Implementation not started, planning may be underway.
Initiated	Fully developed implementation plan, implementation modality/partner confirmed, implementation agreement in prep or initial steps of implementation taken.
Underway	Activity ongoing, agreement signed/procurement process finalized, considerable progress made.
Advanced	Activity nearing completion, e.g., advanced or final draft of a report.
Completed	Activity completed, deliverables, expenditure and progress reports from partner approved.

Figure 1. Summary of the 2022 workplan implementation status.

Following the MTR and reflections on the project strategy as well as considering the outcomes of projects in 2021, new project ideas with a cross-cutting approach in the plastic value chain were identified and implemented in 2022 to reach more plastic stakeholders. This approach is further illustrated in the figure below on the different components of the SEA circular plastic value chain and mapping of the stakeholders and key players involved and to be included in addressing plastic waste and marine litter. This is in line with SEA circular's cross-cutting theme on incorporating the human rights-based approach and equitable solutions for those who are most vulnerable to the impacts of marine litter.



Figure 2. SEA circular plastic value chain approach.

## Output 1: Market-based solutions towards “less plastic wasted”

Output Indicator	Status as of 30 December 2022
Number of companies operating in South-East Asia publishing sustainability reports with information on Plastic Footprint	Plastic footprint training was delivered to 153 entities in 2020 (including 142 companies, 3 local government bodies, 5 educational institutions, 3 hospitals) and 22 organizations in 2021 (incl. 10 organizations in Malaysia and 12 in Thailand). However, few companies have published sustainability reports with information about the plastic footprints. In 2022, the project strategy was refocused on efforts supporting the enablement of market-based solutions, incl. EPR, plastic credits, and HRBA. As such, no activities to follow up on the number of companies publishing sustainability reports were conducted. This was also because sustainability reports being reviewed were not seen to provide granular data on plastic footprint.
Number of pilot demonstration on environmentally sound waste management supported	Two pilot demonstrations were implemented in Malaysia (Petaling Jaya and Penang) in 2021, showing how cross-sectoral partnerships and collaborations can help city councils and municipalities promote innovative circular economy approaches and transformational changes to provide better integrated waste management solutions for the residents. In 2022, no more pilot demonstrations were conducted due to the refocused strategy. Efforts were instead made on cross cutting projects on market-based solutions and best practice sharing through development of case studies. Exemplary solutions with potentials for being replicated and scaled up were spotlighted in the SOS 2022 event, which received good participation and encouraging feedback.
Changes in policies in Malaysia and Thailand concerning recycled plastics	In Malaysia, the Government launched the National Policy and Action Plan on Marine Litter 2021-2030 in December 2021. In Thailand, a major progress in policy development was the acceptance of recycled plastic content in packaging with food contact. This development was welcomed by the private sector and can lead to higher levels of recycling in Thailand rather than export of recyclables and recovered raw materials. The Government of Thailand also developed the National Action Plan on Marine Litter with support from SEA circular.
Amount of co-financing raised from private sector stakeholders towards achieving Output 1 (cash and in kind, USD):	Food Industry Asia contributed USD 40,000 to the survey on plastic waste perceptions among consumers and businesses in Southeast Asia. In 2020, USD 16,000 was leveraged for the material flow analysis in Thailand, conducted by Chulalongkorn University. The project also leveraged in-kind contributions from private sector stakeholders, especially in Malaysia and Thailand. These contributions were not quantified but they were meaningful towards the achievement of Output 1.
Saving achieved (including avoided costs) by companies and other entities through improved management of plastic value chain	The project contributed to improved knowledge on management of the plastic value chain, including plastic use and wastage in production and operations to help companies and other entities save costs. These cost savings were not reported by participating companies, and they were not quantified as part of the project.

## Output 2: Strengthening the scientific basis for decision making

Output Indicator	Status as of 30 December 2022
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Number of COBSEA countries publishing marine litter monitoring results	Four COBSEA countries have established national marine litter monitoring programmes (China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Singapore). National monitoring programmes are under development in five COBSEA countries – Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. In Malaysia, a national monitoring framework and implementation plan was developed as a living document, based on the country’s Clean-Coast Index, for further development to include additional habitats and methods over time, with additional technical assistance and capacity building through COBSEA. National baseline surveys were conducted in Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam and data summarized in baseline reports and country factsheets.
Number of COBSEA countries that incorporate pollution loading as well as environmental, social, and economic impact indicators in marine litter reporting	Four COBSEA countries have incorporated pollution loading and socio-economic and environmental impact indicators in marine litter reporting (China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Singapore), while five others are incorporating these indicators into the development of national marine litter monitoring programmes (Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam), which is guided by the Regional Guidance on Harmonized National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes.
Number of COBSEA countries that include a citizen science approach in baseline data development and national monitoring programmes	Five COBSEA countries have applied a citizen-science approach under the International Coastal Clean-up, incl. China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand. The Regional Guidance on Harmonized National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes also includes recommendations for strengthening and incorporating robust data from the citizen science approach. Further support will need to be provided to the last four COBSEA countries to apply this approach in their national monitoring programmes.
Number of new research projects/partnerships on marine litter and plastic pollution, including environmental, social, and economic impacts and governance aspects	Two research projects on plastic credit schemes and risks and opportunities of plastic credit financing instruments were conducted with support from SEA circular. The first project by the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) was a situational analysis of the nascent plastic credits scheme that is continuing to evolve. The second research project was conducted by implementing partner Yunus Environment Hub (YEH). This research was focused on the impact plastic credits have on informal waste collectors. Both reports presented recommendations for practitioners.

### Output 3: Outreach on marine litter and plastic pollution

Output Indicator	Status as of 30 December 2022
Number of individuals completing Massive Open Online Course and distribution among stakeholder groups (government, private sector, academia, civil society, and community-based organizations)	So far, 9,040 individuals from different groups, incl. government, private sector, academia, NGOs, CSOs, and community-based organizations, have completed the MOOC on marine litter. Composed of the Leadership Track and the Expert Track, the training is free and now available in 10 languages. SEA circular has translated the training materials into Thai and Vietnamese.
Change in consumer awareness in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam	Over 21 million consumers were reached with awareness raising messaging through social media campaign called ‘100 days to #BeatPlasticPollution’ in 2021. The project has conducted two plastic waste perception surveys among consumers and businesses in these five countries. The first consumer survey was conducted in 2020, indicating that 49% of the surveyed consumers reported that if a product is made from non-recycled material, they will not buy it (UNEP and FIA, 2020). The follow-up survey in 2022 indicated that only 33% of the surveyed consumers have stopped buying products

	with non-recyclable packaging. Clearly, there is a discrepancy between the consumer intention and their actual behaviours, that requires more concerted efforts to increase awareness and change behaviours.
Increased media coverage of social and economic impacts of plastic pollution and marine litter	An addition of 3,165 articles about the socio-economic impacts of plastic pollution and marine litter have been published in mass media. Data were collected from Meltwater, a media monitoring service, in 2019 (1,944 articles) and 2020 (1,221 articles), based on articles in English, Indonesian, Khmer, Malay, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese media. In 2022, a short film – <a href="#">PLASTIK</a> – was produced and launched on the World Environment Day 2022 to increase media coverage. So far, the film has reached more than 16,000 views on UNEP’s YouTube channel. Additionally, side events (e.g., at the UN Ocean Conference, World Environment Day) enabled actors to reach out to consumers and relevant stakeholders, raising awareness about the fight against plastic pollution in South-East Asia.

#### Output 4: Regional networking for exchange, cooperation, and integration

Output Indicator	Status as of 30 December 2022
Number of COBSEA countries adopting or revising national marine litter action plans or equivalent in line with COBSEA RAP MALI	Five COBSEA countries adopted or revised national marine litter action plans in line with COBSEA RAP MALI (Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam).
Number of national or local/municipal regulations adopted, aiming to tackle marine litter e.g., by reducing or eliminating single use plastic, expanding markets for alternative materials, promoting plastic segregation and recycling, etc.	All COBSEA countries have adopted several laws and regulations to address marine litter. In 2022, the Philippines enacted the EPR Act (i.e., Republic Act No. 11898), amending the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (i.e., Republic Act No. 9003) and introducing EPR to plastic waste management (Chapter III). Producers generating plastic packaging waste with total assets of PHP 100 million or more are required to develop and implement an EPR program and collect plastic package. Yet, the number of national and local regulations was not reported.
Number of products or polymers subject to recycling or reduction mechanism adopted regionally/by multiple countries	The number of products or polymers subjective to recycling or reduction mechanisms adopted regionally or by multiple countries has increased since the start of the project. The exact number has not been published. In 2022, more products or polymers were subject to recycling or reduction mechanisms in the Philippines, incl. (i) sachets, labels, laminates, other flexible plastic packaging products, whether single-layer or multi-layer with plastics or other materials, (ii) rigid plastic packaging products, whether layered with other materials, which include containers for beverages, food, household goods, personal care, cosmetic products, their coverings, caps, lids, and other necessities or promotional items such as cutlery, plats, drinking straws, sticks, tarps, signage, or labels, and (iii) single-use plastic bags.
Year-on year percent increase in regional marine litter knowledge hub online content as well as traffic	The East Asian Seas Regional Node was formally established in October 2022 by the Twenty-fifth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM 25) of COBSEA. The <a href="#">web platform</a> of the Regional Node was launched in November 2022, providing access to knowledge on marine litter policy and regulatory frameworks, initiatives and good practices, the Research Database and information on the Research Network, and capacity building resources, incl. knowledge products developed by SEA circular. Therefore, data have not been collected to measure the progress against this indicator.

<p>Year-on year percent increase in participation in a SEA of Solutions partnership week across government, private sector, academia, and civil society, with attention given to the participation/representation of disadvantaged groups</p>	<p>The yearly increase in the number of participants in SOS events was 13.3% in 2021 (850 participants) and 25% in 2020 (750 participants) compared to 2019 data. The SOS 2022 was organized from 23 to 24 November. The event attracted 995 registrants, with over 550 unique participants joining the event across the 2 days. Over 55% of the participants who declared gender were female. The stakeholder representation was spread across key sectors:  Private sector – 34%; Civil society – 25%  International organizations – 14%  Government agencies – 12%  On an average 60% of the participants came from the ASEAN</p>
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## 4. IMPLEMENTATION AGAINST THE 2022 WORKPLAN

This section reports the progress made against the 2022 workplan, identifying costed activities, intended deliverables, a progress rating, and a brief narrative. The 2022 workplan includes 31 individual activities. Where relevant, to aid reporting and ensure clarity, reporting is against clusters of two or more activities, as indicated in the tables.

### 4.1 Output 1: Market-based solutions towards ‘less plastic wasted’

#### Result 1.1: Stakeholders in South-East Asia measure and report their plastic footprint

SEA circular strategy was redirected to efforts supporting the enablement of market-based solutions. While the reporting of plastic footprint was not followed up on, cross-cutting projects with private sector stakeholders, policy makers, and practitioners in the plastic value chain were conducted. A situational analysis on plastic credits and another research focused on the impact of this nascent market-based tool and its impact on the informal waste management sector were conducted. Through regional and national training and dialogues, stakeholders in South-East Asia were capacitated to apply market-based solutions, particularly EPR and plastic credits, to reduce plastic waste. Supporting the private sector in responsible business conduct, SEA circular developed training content and delivered HRBA sensitization trainings and conducted a regional dialogue to encourage the incorporation of the HRBA into the management of the plastic value chain.

Activity 1 (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
<p>Supporting the delivery of market-based solutions and coordination, management of private-sector and civil society partnerships, technical and other support to private-sector implementing partners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Two research projects on plastic credit schemes and risks and opportunities of plastic credit financing instruments.</li> <li>○ A <a href="#">regional dialogue</a> on plastic credit (Sep 2022).</li> <li>○ Two EPR enablement projects in Indonesia and the Philippines.</li> <li>○ Training on HRBA developed and delivered by Dalhousie University.</li> <li>○ Three regional events on market-based solutions, HRBA and perceptions on plastic waste from the lens of consumers and the private</li> </ul>	<p>100% (Completed)</p>

	sector organized in collaboration with AIT.	
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#### Narrative

In 2022, SEA circular has provided support in various forms to the delivery of market-based solutions and engagement with the private sector. Two research projects were conducted, incl. one by the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) assessing the contribution of plastic credit schemes to reducing plastics pollution and the other by the Yunus Environment Hub (YEH) assessing risks and opportunities of plastic credit financing instruments being introduced to the informal waste management sector. Results were disseminated in a regional dialogue on plastic credits, which aims to explore the views of key players and stakeholders on how plastic credits can support plastic circularity in the region. The dialogue informed practitioners and stakeholders on what is required to support a fair and level playing field for plastic credits, to achieve a harmonized operational framework. SEA circular also enhanced engagement with the private sector through training, knowledge dissemination, and a regional dialogue series.

Activity 2	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Supporting enablement of EPR and PROS, engaging with stakeholders in the plastic value chain to scale up collection, recycling and reducing leakage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Two EPR enablement projects in Indonesia and the Philippines.</li> <li>○ Multi-stakeholder meetings to engage with stakeholders.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)

#### Narrative

SEA circular further enabled EPR through supporting PROs in Indonesia and the Philippines to engage with stakeholders in the plastic value chain, especially SMEs, to scale up collection, recycling and reducing plastic waste. Multi-stakeholder meetings were organized to bring different perspectives, suggestions, and recommendations to policy makers. SEA circular focused on membership-based organizations such as the IBCSD, the FTI, inviting speakers from these organizations to dialogues. However, the project in Viet Nam was significantly delayed due to late approval from line ministries on amendments to the SSFA. The project in Viet Nam will be considered for execution in 2023 during the extension period.

Activity 3	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Training content development and delivery, on human rights relevant material for the stakeholders in the plastic value chain aimed at participants in the projects in the Philippines (WWF) and in Indonesia (IBCSD) and at a later stage for similar projects to be conducted in Vietnam and Cambodia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One regional training and two in-country training sessions.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)

#### Narrative

As part of a Regional Dialogue Series by SEA circular and in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), UNEP conducted a training on the Human Rights-Based Approach and a dialogue on EPR in the plastic value chain with over 100 participants from government agencies, industries, businesses, start-ups and entrepreneur communities from Bangladesh, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Nigeria, Pakistan, and ASEAN member states. Stakeholders were sensitized on human rights and gender aspects - key components of market-based solutions and enabling policies to reduce marine plastic pollution. The HRBA-related training content was developed by Dalhousie University.

Activity 4	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Study on the situational analysis related to plastic credits and neutrality. Focussing as well on the impact to the informal sector. The report provided insights into the evolving status of this area, suggesting a need for a harmonized standard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A situational analysis study on the plastic credits market landscape.</li> <li>○ A focus study on the impact of plastic credits on informal waste collectors.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)

#### Narrative

The project conducted a situational analysis on plastic credits, a nascent market-based tool, and a focus study on the impact of plastic credits on the informal waste management sector. The findings of these studies were presented in a regional dialogue event that was well received.

### Result 1.2: Stakeholders in South-East Asia demonstrate ability to manage the plastic value chain better

Better management of the plastic value chain in South-East Asia was exemplified in 10 case studies on the implementation of market-based solutions, new approaches, and business models. The SOS event by the end of November spotlighted the solutions to overcome barriers to reducing plastic waste.

Activity 5	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Preparation of case studies on exemplary practices in the plastic value chain selected from projects to be executed with partners in Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Cambodia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 case studies completed</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
Narrative		
SEA circular developed ten case studies on various market-based solutions, novel approaches, exemplary practices, and good practice models in managing plastic waste and promoting circularity in the plastic value chain. The organization, subjects of the case studies, were selected from the project activities with partners in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam.		

Activity 6	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Project to engage with the private sector, looking for emerging ideas, solutions to enable circularity in the plastic value chain. Engaging with a sustainability focussed event organizer or organization that can bring together entrepreneurial solutions to overcome barriers in the plastic value chain to enable circularity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement through regional dialogues and trainings (e.g., SEA of Solutions 2022).</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
Narrative		
The regional event SOS was conducted on the 23&24 November 2022 in partnership with EB Impact, where all solutions of organizations having participated in previous SOS events and SEA circular's direct engagement in case studies were reviewed, shortlisted, and put into three categories: innovation, inclusion, and collaboration. The event was concluded with five action points and recommendations summarized and provided to be considered during the first INC meeting in Uruguay.		

### Result 1.3: Business incentives for plastic reduction and recycling identified and applied

Businesses in South-East Asia were sensitized to the perceptions of consumers and representatives from various private sector companies in the food and beverage industry thanks to insights gained from a plastic waste perception survey. Knowledge assets developed as part of SEA circular's deliverables were compiled and made available to the practitioners from the private sector and beyond. The publication, a knowledge compendium (End Plastic Pollution: A knowledge compendium for less plastic waste in South-East Asia), brings together solutions, toolkits, and best practices from the project inventions in six South-East Asian countries.

Activity 7	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Perception Survey - second and final phase - this work already been covered from 2020 agreement. The second phase of the research was conducted in 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A survey on plastic waste perceptions.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
Narrative		



UN environment programme

## Perceptions on Plastic Waste 2.0

Insights from businesses and consumers in South-East Asia

Understanding perceptions of plastic waste issues from consumers and food beverage businesses in 2022

Following the consumer survey conducted in 2020, SEA circular collaborated with Food Industry Asia (FIA) to conduct another round of survey on plastic waste perceptions in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam in 2022. The survey collected insights from consumers and businesses in the food and beverage industry with respect to their behaviours, knowledge, and attitudes toward plastic pollution and plastic circularity.

Activity 8	Deliverables	Progress (%)
<p>Preparation of a SEA circular Solutions Report - Conduct activities of compiling market-based innovations and solutions in various business sectors, preparing case studies and other knowledge sharing materials into a Solutions Report.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End Plastic Pollution: A knowledge compendium for less plastic waste in South-East Asia.</li> </ul>	<p>100% (Completed)</p>
<p><b>Narrative</b></p>		
<p>A knowledge compendium, namely “End Plastic Pollution: A knowledge compendium for less plastic waste in South-East Asia,” has been developed, compiling 20+ publications, 10 Accelerating Solutions to end plastic waste, tools, case studies, and best practices from SEA circular’s interventions in six South-East Asian countries with stakeholders across the plastic value chain (incl. practitioners, business owners, policy makers, industry associations, civil society organizations).</p>		<p>UN environment programme</p> <h2>End Plastic Pollution</h2> <p>A knowledge compendium</p> <p>for less plastic waste in South-East Asia</p> <p>START »</p>

## 4.2 Output 2: Strengthening the scientific basis for decision making

### Result 2.1: Marine litter status and trends are monitored, assessed, and reported at national and regional level

The scientific basis for managing marine litter was developed and strengthened through research (e.g., marine litter surveys) and other knowledge products of SEA circular. The project also built the capacity of stakeholders and provided

technical support to develop and implement national marine litter monitoring programmes in line with the Regional Guidance and international guidelines.

Activity 9	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Establish national baselines on marine litter for robust national monitoring efforts over time, in line with the Regional Guidance and international guidelines on marine litter monitoring (incl. national workshops, implementation plans, marine litter surveys, validation of findings).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National baseline reports.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
<b>Narrative</b>		
The first part of the Twenty-fifth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM 25) of COBSEA in 2021 adopted the Regional Guidance on Harmonized National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes to guide national efforts. In 2022, the COBSEA Secretariat continued the partnership with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) to apply the Regional Guidance. National surveys were conducted in Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam in cooperation with national technical partners and COBSEA focal agencies to establish robust baselines as the foundation for harmonized monitoring programmes. Baseline reports and factsheets summarizing survey findings have been completed and shared with COBSEA focal agencies for review. Reports and factsheets will be made publicly available pending approval for data release by relevant country partners (should countries request not to make data public at this point in time, products can be shared with the donor in confidence).		

Activity 10	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Regional webinar to build capacity of participating countries on application of Regional Guidance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A regional webinar held.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
<b>Narrative</b>		
The Regional Guidance was presented, and plans for technical assistance to apply the Guidance were discussed with target countries at an online regional consultation in April 2022.		

Activity 11	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Develop a plan for potential regional COBSEA assessment of marine litter status and trends (incl. consultation with WGML on needs and scope and identification of steps, procedures, and potential institutional structures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan for discussion with WGML, technical consultation meeting.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
<b>Narrative</b>		
A plan for a potential regional assessment of marine litter status and trends was developed in partnership with CSIRO, identifying aim, scope and steps for a regional report building on national monitoring efforts. The plan was discussed with the COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter (WGML) and its Expert Group on Monitoring at its 4th Meeting on 10-11 October in Hanoi, Viet Nam. Activities for a regional assessment were successfully identified in the biennial workplan for implementation of the RAP MALI 2023-2024 accordingly.		

Activity 12	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Capacity building on marine litter monitoring and assessment through targeted national training in Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, in line with Regional Guidance and international guidelines on monitoring (incl. development of training syllabus, training modules and materials, training plans/programmes) (Project to be developed and budget will be committed in 2022, implementation will span over 2022 & 2023.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National and local trainings held (training materials, reports).</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
<b>Narrative</b>		
In line with the Regional Guidance, the COBSEA Secretariat is working with CSIRO and national technical partners to build capacity on marine litter monitoring methods and approaches, toward strengthening and harmonizing efforts, to enable national baseline assessments and development of robust monitoring programmes. A regional training of trainers and national training for Thailand was held in Phuket, Thailand, in July 2022 to train technical partners in target countries, including Fauna & Flora International (FFI) in Cambodia, GreenHub in Viet Nam, Davao del Sur State		

College (DSSC) in the Philippines, Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA), and the Research Centre of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) in Thailand. Participants joined national baseline surveys in August 2022 following the training to build further capacity for implementation. Additional footage was captured for video modules, and a handbook developed for hybrid training at the national level. National trainings targeting relevant government agencies and other stakeholders have been conducted with remote support from CSIRO in Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. Comprehensive training material was developed to support continued capacity building, including a [Handbook in two parts in languages of the region](#) and [training videos](#) to support hybrid learning.

Activity 13	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Technical support and guidance to strengthen and further develop national marine litter monitoring programmes in line with Regional Guidance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Elaborated) National monitoring programme frameworks.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
<b>Narrative</b>		
National consultations to identify monitoring priorities and gaps and inform capacity building and baseline assessments were held in all target countries. Technical assistance toward strengthening monitoring programmes was further provided at the regional training of trainers. Baseline reports include recommendations for strengthening and/or developing monitoring capacities and frameworks. Documents guiding further strengthening and harmonization of monitoring programmes have been developed based on country consultations in collaboration with technical partners and shared with country partners for internal use.		

**Result 2.2: Decision makers and academic community in the region have access to marine litter research and data on marine litter**

Decision makers and academic communities in the COBSEA region enhanced their knowledge thanks to the development of a regional research database, which provides access to over 700 publications and data on plastic pollution and marine litter across disciplines and languages of the region. The database is an integral part of Pillar 2 on science and research of the East Asian Seas Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), which is planned for launch by November 2022.

Activity 14	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Integrate web-based marine litter research database into East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML (Output 4.3) and identify mechanism for continuous updating/expansion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A web-based marine litter research database under the <a href="#">Regional Node of the GPML</a>.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
Launch East Asian Seas regional research network linked to the East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML (Output 4.3) (incl. identifying members based on ToR, assembling board or similar, and hosting launch meeting).		

**Narrative**

The beta Regional Research Database and inventory of over 700 peer-reviewed publications, including visualizations of data, was launched with the National University of Singapore (NUS) at a regional webinar on 20 April. The webinar served to collect feedback from academia and decision makers to inform further development of the database under the East Asian Seas Regional Node pillar 2 on science and research. Participants provided very positive feedback on the database. COBSEA Secretariat is working with Akvo Foundation (the digital service provider involved in the development of the Global Digital Platform of the GPML) to launch the database under the web platform of the Regional Node. Consultations were held between the NUS, Akvo, and the COBSEA Secretariat to inform the integration of the Research Database into the Regional Node web platform.

Topic	Number of Articles
1	3
2	0
3	1
4	0
5	7
6	2
7	0
8	3
9	4
10	10
11	8
12	14
13	36
14	55
15	68
16	159
17	248
18	159
19	144
20	144

Work is continuing with the NUS to launch the regional research network on marine litter, including further consultations and webinars toward catalysing collaborative research. Plans were presented to the WGML at its 4th Meeting toward improving science-policy integration by sharing research findings with decision makers of the WGML at its meetings, as well as through the Regional Node.

The East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML was formally established by the IGM 25 Part 2 following WGML-4 and the web platform November with the Regional Research Database fully integrated and information on the Research Network of the Node.

### Result 2.3: Obstacles and opportunities for policies and regulations to reduce plastic wastage and pollution based on best available evidence are identified

Obstacles and opportunities for the development of policies and regulations were identified thanks to research into plastic credits, a nascent market-based solutions, and two EPR enabling projects in Indonesia and the Philippines.

Activity 15	Deliverables	Progress (%)
A continuation of 2021 workplan on this area - looking at targeted studies along the value chain. The activities included meetings/dialogues and roundtables on areas including the 10 solutions coming from SOS 2021. Here, it will also include HR and gender related issues along the value chain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research into plastic credits.</li> <li>○ Two EPR enabling projects.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
Narrative		
In continuation to the 2021 workplan, the project conducted research into plastic credits and two projects enabling EPR in Indonesia and the Philippines. A HRBA training content was developed in collaboration with Dalhousie University and delivered to inform policy makers and private sector practitioners.		

## 4.3 Output 3: Outreach

### Result 3.1: Project products and results reach target groups and inform efforts to tackle marine litter and plastic waste

Stakeholders across the plastic value chain were informed of the plastic pollution crisis and efforts to tackle marine litter and plastic waste through various outreach activities of SEA circular, including the short film 'PLASTIK', Country Briefs, the project website, newsletters, a regional dialogue series, training, and knowledge products.

Activity 16	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Implement and update as needed project Communication Strategy including planning and managing outreach activities under output 3, mapping of target groups and outreach channels, effectively using media and social media channels including press events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A short film (<a href="#">PLASTIK</a>) launched on the World Environment Day 2022.</li> <li>○ A virtual side event at the UN Ocean Conference 2022 titled <a href="#">Collective Efforts to End Plastic Pollution in South-East Asia</a>.</li> <li>○ Two hybrid sessions at the 7th International Marine Debris Conference, incl. <a href="#">Private Sector Engagement for Plastic Circularity</a> and <a href="#">Act Now: Solutions to Stop Plastic Pollution</a>.</li> <li>○ A session titled <a href="#">Plastic Circularity Through</a></li> </ul>	100% (Completed)

- [Responsible Business Conduct: Realizing the Right to a Healthy Environment](#) at the United Nations Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum, Asia-Pacific.
- o A [regional dialogue series](#) in partnership with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT).

### Narrative

The project communications strategy and outreach activities in 2022 have been responsive to the situation and opportunities to increase effects. SEA circular introduced the short film “[PLASTIK](#)”, commissioned by Meshminds and produced by Studio Birthplace, that exhibits the significance of both individual and collective action to combat plastic pollution in the Southeast Asian region. The film, featuring a child looking through a telescope made out of a plastic bottle, shows hyperrealist glimpses of a plastic-polluted future. The narrative helps the audience view the plastic pollution crisis through the eyes and imagination of a child. The film warns how human life can be affected if plastic waste becomes unmanageable. It shows that even children can influence their families to say no to single-use plastic and that we must #ActNow to #BeatPollution because we have #OnlyOneEarth. The film has been awarded for the Best International Short Film at FECICAM 2022.



At the UN Ocean Conference on 29 June 2022, SEA circular organized a virtual side event titled [Collective Efforts to End Plastic Pollution in South-East Asia](#) to address plastic pollution and discuss the way forward to tackle plastic pollution in the Southeast Asian region through collaborative actions. The event brought together 310 participants of various backgrounds from different regions, incl. speakers and panellists from ASEAN members states, the private sector, and development partners, in the discussion on tackling plastic waste and marine litter. Initial results of the survey on perceptions of consumers and businesses towards plastic waste were presented, while good practices from the food and beverage sector were shared.

At the 7<sup>th</sup> International Marine Debris Conference, SEA circular organized two hybrid sessions, incl. i) [Private Sector Engagement for Plastic Circularity](#) under Track 7 – Economics, Financing and Private Sector Engagement, and ii) [Act Now: Solutions to Stop Plastic Pollution](#) under Track 4 – Education, Awareness and Communication.

At the United Nations Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum, Asia-Pacific, on 21 September 2022, SEA circular organized a session titled [Plastic Circularity Through Responsible Business Conduct: Realizing the Right to a Healthy Environment](#), which focuses on the interconnectedness of responsible business conduct, EPR, and how a rights-based approach can support the achievement of plastic circularity in an inclusive way, to gradually mainstream the informal waste management sector towards green jobs. This session informed and shared progress on efforts to sensitize actors in the plastic value chain on a rights-based approach and discussed what actions are needed to help businesses, governments, and communities to shift away from business as usual to an inclusive circular and more sustainable and resource-efficient plastics economy. Furthermore, SEA circular also held [a regional dialogue series](#) to improve knowledge and catalyse action against plastic issues.

Activity 17	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Dissemination of project knowledge products, other deliverables- key data, project findings and activities, and presentation materials, in line with project branding and, where needed, prepared in national languages (if needed). Outreach products and communication approach include development of	o Country Profiles of nine ASEAN countries (e.g., <a href="#">Cambodia</a> ).	100% (Completed)



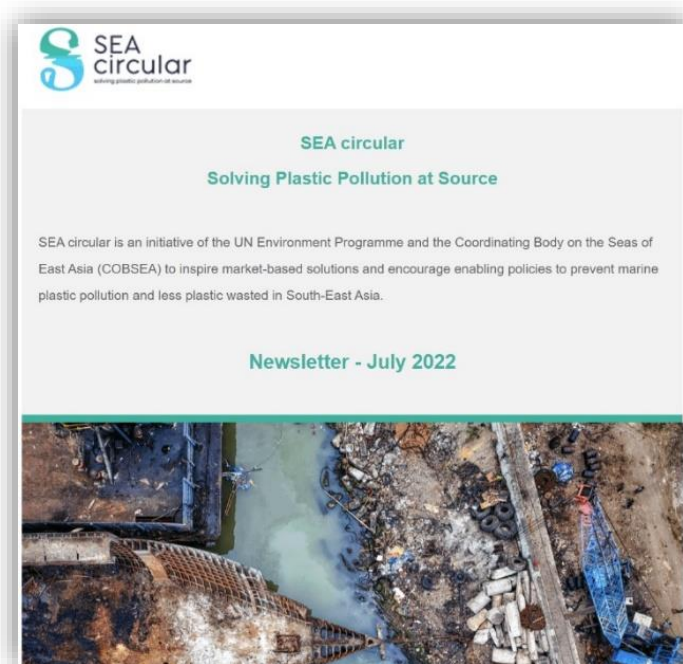
<p>audio-visual materials, infographics, written products, briefs, interactive visual communication. Support for language editing, designing and layout of project's products are budgeted accordingly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Country Briefs on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter for Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam.</li> <li>○ A report on perceptions of consumers and businesses in Southeast Asia on plastic waste.</li> <li>○ Four project newsletters published in <a href="#">April, July, October and December (Quarterly newsletters)</a>.</li> <li>○ A report of the side event "<a href="#">Collective Effort in Southeast Asia to End Plastic Pollution.</a>"</li> <li>○ Various presentations in events (cf. above), <a href="#">news</a> on the project website, social media posts, and visual communications.</li> </ul>	
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**Narrative**

In 2022, a variety of dissemination activities were conducted. Country Profiles of nine ASEAN countries were developed, with six Profiles recently updated, incl. social and economic characteristics, coastal and marine ecosystem and economy, plastics and plastic packaging, solid waste management, marine litter status, action on marine litter (key stakeholders), policy frameworks on municipal solid waste and marine litter, and fiscal measures.

As part of the project "UNEP-UN Reform Engagement Pilot Study on Plastics Value Chain and Circularity," SEA circular contributed to the development and dissemination of three Country Briefs on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter for Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam. The short film "PLASTIK" was produced by MeshMinds and Studio Birthplace, being inspired by the **100daysto#BeatPlasticPollution** campaign. A survey on perceptions of consumers and businesses on plastic waste was conducted, and the report is being finalized for publication.

SEA circular also produced and disseminated quarterly newsletters, which were published in the project website and sent directly to subscribers, reaching out to 3,000+ receivers via through email campaigns. Around 15,500 clicks were made by the receivers that directed them to the project website. A post-event report "Collective Effort in Southeast Asia to End Plastic Pollution" was made available in the project website, which was frequently updated, incl. knowledge products, tools, presentations, infographics, social media posts, and visual communications.

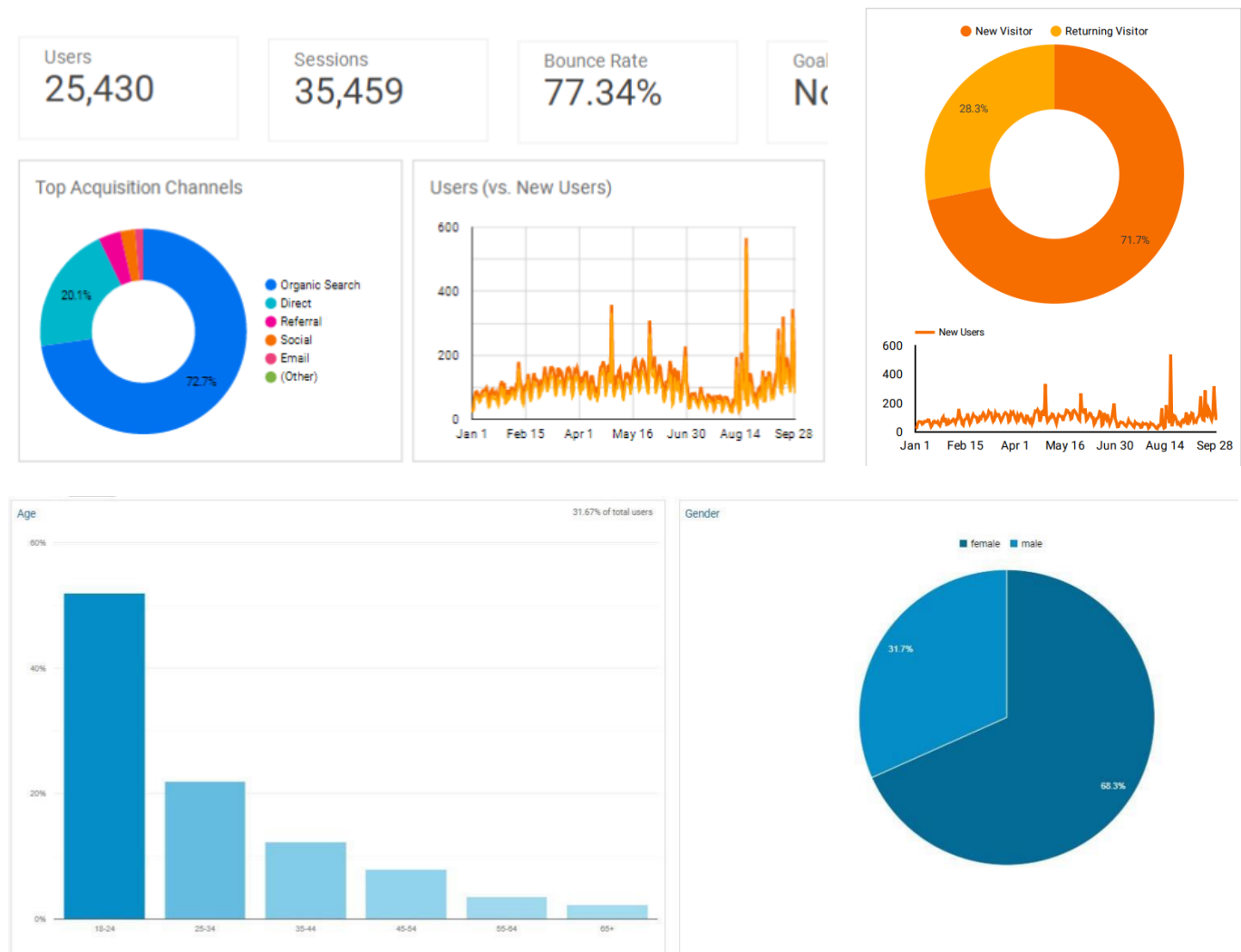


Activity 18	Deliverables	Progress (%)
<p>Updating and further development of project website, including news of events/launches, resources, newsletters, sharing information and materials related to internal/external events as well as relevant activities of UNEP and COBSEA;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Updates of the <a href="#">project website</a>.</li> </ul>	<p>100% (Completed)</p>

and further development and updating of SOS website for SOS 2021.

**Narrative**

The project website was frequently updated with solutions, news, newsletters, video, resources, and links to social media channels. In 2022, over 25,430 users visited the project website among which 72.7% found the website through organic searches. Over 71% of the total users are returning visitors, while more than 28% of visitors are new to the website. The demographic assessment shows that we have over 68% female visitors, while 28% are male among the total visitors, and most of the visitors are based in Asia (19,792). Additionally, more than 50% of the total user are aged 18-24 years old. Compared to 2021, the number of visitors to the website grew by 38.4%, with an average number of 3,000 per month, and the number of page views grew by 50%. The domain and hosting are secured until September 2023.



**Result 3.2: Consumer awareness of solutions to marine litter and plastic pollution is increased to inform decision making and behaviour change**


Consumers and other stakeholders in the plastic value chain increased awareness about marine plastic litter through various outreach activities implemented by SEA circular.

Activity 19	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Consumer awareness surveys conducted in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A report on perceptions of consumers and businesses in South-East Asia on plastic waste.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)

**Narrative**

In collaboration with Food Industry Asia, SEA circular conducted a survey on perceptions of consumers and businesses towards plastic waste in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. This survey assessed consumers and businesses' knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours related to plastic waste, measuring changes compared to the 2020 survey.

Activity 20	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Develop/expand UNEP marine litter MOOC with regionally appropriate training and education material in national languages of the East Asian Seas region (e.g. Khmer, Korean) (not from 2022 budget).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MOOC training materials have been <a href="#">archived</a>.</li> </ul>	75% (Advanced)
<b>Narrative</b>		
SEA circular has translated the MOOC materials into Thai and Vietnamese and archived them in the project website. A Master Class on Unnecessary, Avoidable and Problematic Plastic Products and Polymers is expected to be developed with the Open Universiteit of the Netherlands as part of the MOOC, but it has been postponed.		

Activity 21	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Organization of 3 policy and business roundtable/dialogue virtual events on topics related to the Output 1, to cover topics related to EPR, PRO, Plastic Credits and a the human rights based approach to managing plastic credits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">A series of regional dialogues</a>.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
<b>Narrative</b>		
SEA circular launched a <a href="#">regional dialogue series</a> in partnership with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) Extension in August to develop the capacity of the stakeholders on the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA), engage and orient them in emerging plastic circularity opportunities like Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Plastic Credits. The first training and dialogue on HRBA and EPR was held on 23 August 2022. On the 28th of Sept the dialogue on plastic credits was conducted. This was followed by a dialogue on the role of the private sector to accelerate plastic circularity. Attendance for all the events included, participants from government agencies, industries, businesses, start-ups and entrepreneur communities from Bangladesh, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, and the ASEAN countries.		
		

Activity 22	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Campaign to promote behavioural change building on 100daysto#Beatplasticpollution. Phase II follow up campaign will be launched to focus on education targeting youth and children in partnership with network of education in the SEA region. Habits to be inculcated among children and youth through daily activities in school / embedded in education curriculum (Linked to Session 1 of SoS 2021).	Not available.	25% (Initiated)
<b>Narrative</b>		
The second phase of the campaign <b>100daysto#Beatplasticpollution</b> has not been implemented in 2022. The campaign is planned for the project extension, and it will be conducted in 2023 upon approval of the extension proposal.		

## 4.4 Output 4: Regional networking

**Result 4.1: Regionally coherent national marine litter plans, policies, regulations and/or standards to prevent and reduce plastic pollution**

In 2022, national marine litter plans, policies, regulations, and standards to prevent and reduce plastic pollution were further developed and implemented towards coherence and harmonization across the region. SEA circular provided technical support and regional networking opportunities to facilitate regional and national marine litter planning.

Activity 23	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Track progress on national marine litter planning in the context of the RAP MALI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Progress assessment report.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
<b>Narrative</b>		
<p>The technical consultation of the COBSEA WGML in June 2020 discussed the progress reporting format and process on national marine litter plans and policies, which were developed further with country input. Per country request, the adoption of progress reporting format and process was postponed to the in-person resumed session of IGM 25 in October 2022. WGML-4 finalized the progress reporting process and format which was adopted by IGM 25 part 2. The first full round of progress reporting will take place in 2024 in line with biennial workplan reporting (as per the RAP MALI), but initial reporting will be tested in the first half of 2023. Progress made by end of 2022 was reported by the Secretariat and an update of national marine litter planning in the region based on country consultations was provided by the COBSEA Secretariat at the <i>Workshop for National Action Plans on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter</i> of the GPML on 25-26 August 2022. The format and process for progress assessment was adopted by IGM 25 Part 2 and in line with the biennial workplan for implementation of the RAP MALI, the format and process will be tested in 2023 and a first full regional assessment will be conducted in 2024.</p>		

Activity 24	Deliverables	Progress (%)
<p>Technical support and guidance to develop/strengthen and implement evidence-based National Action Plans on marine litter (or similar framework plans) in the context of COBSEA RAP MALI using a National Source Inventory approach (incl. regional/national training on NSI, stakeholder consultations, support for data management):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cambodia: stakeholder consultations and collaboration with development partners to draft NAP or similar</li> <li>- Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam: support for implementation of NAPs, NSI workshops, NSI report to inform priority actions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A joint project with UNDP supporting Cambodia to develop a national policy on plastic circularity.</li> <li>○ Draft NAP/NSI reports.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
<b>Narrative</b>		
<p>In August 2022, SEA circular initiated a project in collaboration with UNDP, providing support to Cambodia to develop a National Action Plan on Marine Litter. The project includes training and capacity building activities for policy makers on EPR enablement, the HRBA, and gender equality. Technical consultations were held in Cambodia with development partners, national stakeholders, and the Ministry of Environment to coordinate the multitude of efforts underway. Technical working groups were established to draft elements of the National Action Plan for completion in October 2022. The Situation Analysis for Cambodia was updated and is being translated into Khmer upon request of the Ministry for completion by November 2022. A NSI report was developed for Cambodia, identifying data sources and gaps to inform evidence-based development and implementation of a NAP.</p>		
<p>In the Philippines, an NSI report was completed providing an overview of existing data and gaps, with recommendations how to strengthen data management at national level. Consultations were held with the national focal agency Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and stakeholders, incorporating a legislative gap analysis conducted in 2021 (through COBSEA funds complementary to SEA circular). The NSI report provides DENR with recommendations on how to build evidence and strengthen their National Plan of Action on Marine Litter and prioritize implementation.</p>		
<p>In Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam, continued support for the implementation of NAPs is provided at the regional level through the COBSEA WGML, including support for participation in negotiations of an international instrument on plastic pollution and marine litter at the global level and building readiness for the implementation and progress tracking at national and regional levels.</p>		

Activity 25	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Fourth Meeting of the COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter and its Expert Group on Monitoring (and associated meetings/ webinars)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report of the Meeting</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
<b>Narrative</b>		
<p>The Fourth Meeting of the COBSEA WGML (WGML-4) and its Expert Group on Monitoring was organized successfully on 10-11 October in person in Hanoi, Viet Nam, immediately prior to the resumed session of IGM 25. The WGML finalized the national reporting of marine litter planning process and format, identified next steps to further harmonize monitoring including a future regional assessment, reported the completion of biennial workplan for implementation of RAP MALI 2021-2023 and developed a new biennial workplan 2023-2024, presented the draft web platform of the East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML and plans to launch the Regional Research Network (see above and Result 4.3). The WGML also facilitated exchange with partners in the region and shared updates on global processes toward the development of an international instrument on plastic pollution. The Meeting enabled preparation of issues for adoption by IGM 25, including the adoption of the biennial workplan 2023-2024 and the establishment of the East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML.</p>		

Activity 26	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Knowledge sharing through ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME) and other working groups as relevant; meetings related to the ASEAN Regional Action Plan; regular COBSEA-ASEAN inter-Secretariat communication and consultations with development partners as relevant to strengthen coordination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inputs to meetings, consultation meetings.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
<b>Narrative</b>		
<p>The COBSEA Secretariat continued to strengthen coordination with relevant regional and global entities to promote knowledge sharing on marine litter, align efforts and avoid duplication, including the ASEAN Secretariat and the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership. A strategy paper for strengthening coordination with ASEAN was developed based on discussions of the WGML and with the ASEAN Secretariat following the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the WGML. Updates from COBSEA and areas for coordination were presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment on 26-27 July 2022, and COBSEA activities were supported by representatives of Thailand. The ASEAN Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Regional Centre will be invited to share knowledge and opportunities for coordination at WGML-4. An update by partners was shared at the WGML-4, and coordination will continue under the COBSEA biennial workplan for the implementation of the RAP MALI 2023-2024.</p>		

#### **Result 4.2: Information sharing and stakeholder engagement to support targeted action on reduction in plastic pollution and wastage**

Stakeholders in the plastic value chain were engaged and capacitated through policy recommendations (e.g., EPR enablement) and sharing of information in various forms and events.

Activity 27	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Consultation with ASEAN and relevant regional/national partners on strengthening and harmonizing regional standards and regulations for packaging, labelling, and recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendations to national policy makers on EPR enablement.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
<b>Narrative</b>		
<p>The project team has participated in consultation sessions with the ASEAN Secretariat and other regional and national partners on topics that contribute to strengthening and harmonizing regional standards and regulations on packaging, labelling, and recycling. Results of the project's research on plastic credits and EPR were presented and fed into this long-term process. Research-based recommendations were provided to policy makers on EPR enablement in Indonesia and the Philippines. The project has contributed to establishing a strong foundation and a good start on this process, and further efforts will be made in the extension phase.</p>		

Activity 28	Deliverables	Progress (%)
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Dissemination of findings, recommendations, tools and knowledge products through relevant events, e.g., the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), the UN Ocean Conference, United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), UN Forum on Responsible Business and Human Rights, and UNEP events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Knowledge disseminated in various forms in different events.</li> <li>o Contributions to sessions, presentations, side events.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
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**Narrative**

SEA circular shared knowledge on applying the HRBA in the plastic value chain through a dialogue at the UN Forum on Responsible Business and Human Rights. The HRBA training content developed in collaboration with Dalhousie University was featured in this forum. The plastic waste perception survey was featured in the UN Ocean Conference. Furthermore, the HRBA training, research on market-based solutions and enablement of EPR in Indonesia and the Philippines were featured in the UNEP's 7<sup>th</sup> International Marine Debris Conference (cf. above).

Activity 29	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Convene quarterly coordination meetings among regional marine litter projects (group of project leads).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Meeting minutes.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)

**Narrative**

SEA circular convened quarterly coordination meetings with regional marine litter projects to share progress, knowledge, lessons learned, and discuss opportunities for creating concerted efforts and catalysing actions across projects.

Activity 30	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Launch and webinar series for the Solution report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o A sneak peek at the 7th International Marine Debris Conference.</li> <li>o Online toolkit, media roundtables, stakeholder roundtables, etc.</li> </ul>	100% (Completed)

**Narrative**

A Knowledge Compendium has been drafted, compiling 20+ publications, 10 Accelerating Solutions, tools, best practices, and case studies on managing plastic waste and promoting circularity. An official launch is pending upon finalization and approval of the Compendium. Yet, the sneak peeks in the 7<sup>th</sup> International Marine Debris Conference revealed that 61% of consumers and 40% of businesses feel that governments are actively tackling plastic issues. While 85% of businesses are concerned about plastic waste issues, only 53% feel that their current actions are sufficient. On the other hand, 88% of consumers are concerned about plastic waste issues, while only around half of them will switch to purchase products made from recycled materials.

7th International Marine Debris Conference  
**ACT NOW: Solutions to Stop Plastic Pollution**  
 Track 4: Education, Awareness and Communication  
 22 September 2022  
 09:45 - 10:45 am GMT +9  
 Hybrid  
 Chaired by Ms Kamala Ernest  
 SEA circular Project Coordinator  
 UN Environment Programme

**Result 4.3: An East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML improves knowledge management on marine litter**

Activity 31	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Launch East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML (incl. expression of interest to host to GPML Steering Committee, workplan, information on governance structure, finance and hosting arrangements)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Regional Node workplan (as document to IGM 25 part 2).</li> <li>o <a href="#">Web platform of the Regional Node.</a></li> </ul>	100% (Completed)
Launch functions and services of the Regional Node in line with ToR (incl. exploring integration with Global		

Digital Platform on Marine Litter) under three knowledge management and networking pillars: (1) policies & initiatives, (2) science & research, (3) capacity building		
<b>Narrative</b>		
<p>Part one of IGM 25 adopted the Terms of Reference of the <a href="#">East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML</a>, identifying the purpose, functions, and priorities. Countries requested the Secretariat to provide interim hosting services and to continue working with the Regional Capacity Center for Clean Seas (RC3S) to explore (co-)hosting arrangements in the future. The COBSEA Secretariat has made significant progress in developing the services and functions of the East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML, including Pillar one on knowledge management related to policies and good practices. The draft workplan for the Regional Node and web platform of the Node developed in partnership with Akvo, with links to the Global Digital Platform of the GPML, was presented to the WGML-4 for feedback. The resumed session of IGM 25 endorsed the formal establishment of the Regional Node with the Secretariat carrying out interim functions. The web platform of the Regional Node was established in November 2022 and is available at <a href="https://cobsea.gpmarinelitter.org">https://cobsea.gpmarinelitter.org</a>. The web platform provides access to knowledge on marine litter policy and regulatory frameworks, initiatives and good practices, the <a href="#">Research Database</a> and information on the Research Network (see Result 2.3), and capacity building resources, including knowledge products developed under SEA circular. The web platform is linked to the Global Digital Platform, increasing reach and integration across knowledge hubs and partners. The web platform will be developed further by COBSEA in phases to address stakeholder needs with funding outside of SEA circular.</p>		

## 4.5 Leveraged resources

In 2022, SEA circular successfully leveraged additional funds and resources through partnerships to further address marine plastic litter, building on activities of the project. Sida provided additional USD 1.2 million funds for the 24 months extension of the project until December 2024, making the total contribution for SEA circular project of USD 68 million Swedish Krona. The FIA contributed USD 40,000 to the plastic waste perception survey, while UNDP contributed USD 20,331.54 for the joint project in Cambodia. SEA circular also contributed to three Country Briefs and engaged with UNRCs and UNCTs in Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam through the project “UNEP-UN Reform Engagement Pilot Study on Plastics Value Chain and Circularity,” which was funded with USD 80,000 from the Norwegian government. In addition, SEA circular project provided leveraged co-financing for new project funding proposals targeted for the Southeast Asia region to address plastic pollution, namely secured funds from UNDESA SDG funds of USD 1.5 million.

Other resource mobilization activities were described below:

- COBSEA Secretariat leveraged additional GPML resources to collaborate with the UNEP Law Division to develop a toolbox on human rights, gender equality and plastic pollution and a gap analysis to inform targeted training on HRBA for plastic pollution prevention. As a follow-up to the contribution from UNEP Law Division, SEA circular project funded the development of training modules and held trainings in 2022. This directly contributes to Result 1.1 (co-financing grant valued at USD 20,000).
- COBSEA Secretariat leveraged additional GPML resources to collaborate with the UNEP Law Division to strengthen national legislative governance in COBSEA countries for National Action Plans on Marine Litter in line with the COBSEA RAP MALI. National legislative guidance was developed in Cambodia, Philippines, and Malaysia based on expressions of interest. This directly builds on technical assistance provided in result 4.1 and contributes to further progress against result 4.1 (USD 32,000) and contributes to the development of NSI reports in Cambodia and the Philippines in 2022.
- The COBSEA Secretariat leveraged additional support from the GPML for a parttime UNV to support development and launch of the Regional Node web platform.
- The COBSEA Secretariat supported pilot activities in the Mersing Islands (Malaysia) and Untia (Indonesia) in 2021-22 to demonstrate integrated plastic waste management for marine litter prevention, including in remote and island communities. Good practices are shared for replication through the Regional Node and WGML. This activity is funded under the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and UNEP umbrella agreement and complements demonstration activities and knowledge sharing undertaken by SEA circular under output 1 and output 4.
- In 2022, CSIRO provided in-kind funding to support a regional training of trainers and work with national technical partners. This directly contributes to result 2.1.

- USD 18,000 was funded by the project “UNEP-UN Reform Engagement Pilot Study on Plastics Value Chain and Circularity” to develop three videos for Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam to engage with the UN Country Teams, led by the UN Resident Coordinators, along with the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee Focal Points in the country to inspire the youth group and influence other UN agencies and stakeholders towards the Internationally Legally Binding Agreement.

## 4.6 HRBA and gender equality

Plastic pollution has serious impacts on human rights, incl. the right to health, the right to science and information, as well as the rights of our future generations. Every stage of the plastic life cycle has human rights impacts and outright violations, for instance exposure to toxic additives in plastic products, toxic pollution from factories, waste mismanagement (United Nations General Assembly, 2021). In most South-East Asian countries, the plastic management system depends on both formal and informal stakeholders, where the informal sector plays a considerable role in plastic waste collection and recycling. The informal sector often includes vulnerable groups, and hence human rights issues have further implications.

In 2022, the HRBA contributed to SEA circular’s outputs to various extents. For instance, human rights were the focus or an integral part of a regional dialogue series, regional and national training sessions, issue briefs, webinars, and global events. The training content on human rights developed in collaboration with Dalhousie University was used in the UN-to-UN agreement with UNDP for activities in Cambodia, incl. perspectives of gender equality and poverty. The following events highlight the contribution of the HRBA to each project output:

### Output 1: Market-based solutions towards ‘less plastic wasted’

Stakeholders in the plastic value chain applied the HRBA to market-based solutions, e.g., EPR, plastic credits, thanks to toolkits, training, and dialogues by SEA circular:

- Webinar “[Addressing plastic waste through responsible business conduct: Shifting towards circularity in South-East Asia](#)” organized on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 in partnership with ILO and OECD. SEA circular discussed the HRBA to EPR and how businesses can safeguard from risks in their efforts on EPR, particularly when it is highly dependent on the informal sector.
- [Dialogue on Extended Producer Responsibility and Training on the Human Rights Based Approach](#) in the Plastic Value Chain organized on 23<sup>rd</sup> August as part of the Regional Dialogue Series by SEA circular. The training enhanced understanding of human rights dimensions and policy implications, increased awareness on the application of human rights principles and environment frameworks in the plastic value chain. Participants were provided with case examples of policies on the HRBA, frameworks and tools for applications, and guidance for implementing the HRBA in business.
- Dialogue on Plastic Credits- A Circular Solution for Plastic Waste Management was held on 28 September 2022. Findings from research on this topic were discussed and expert practitioners shared further insights on the topic. Plastic credits is a nascent and evolving solution, and this dialogue was very well received. This dialogue included discussions on the role of the informal sector and how human rights-based approach should be considered in the development of plastic credit projects.
- [Technical Session on Private Sector Engagement for Plastic Circularity](#) organized on 20<sup>th</sup> September at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Marine Debris Conference (IMDC). The session provided insights into cross-cutting projects supported by SEA circular, projects encouraging the collaboration between the private sector, PROs, government agencies, and CSOs to support the enablement of EPR and raise awareness on human rights.

### Output 2: Strengthening the scientific basis for decision making

Decision makers and academic community in the region had better access to and applied knowledge products covering the emerging plastic credit mechanism and linkages to help sensitize and raise awareness on human rights, particularly when waste management systems of most ASEAN countries still rely on the informal sector, incl. vulnerable groups. Countries have made significant progress in developing and strengthening their monitoring programmes and have conducted extensive surveys in the environment applying COBSEA Regional Guidance. These baselines provide the foundation for tracking progress and effective implementation of interventions over time and are a crucial result of the project. Further capacity building, surveys and efforts to continuously harmonize monitoring in the region are needed for robust and comparable data and an assessment of regional trends in the final two years of the project.

### Output 3: Outreach

Knowledge products of SEA circular, e.g., the [Plastic Toolbox: Business, Human Rights, and the Environment](#), further reached target groups and informed efforts incorporating the HRBA into the fight against marine litter and plastic waste. Consumers increased awareness about solutions to marine litter and plastic pollution through various outreach activities, incl. the short film [PLASTIK](#).

[Session on Plastic Circularity through Responsible Business Conduct: Realizing the Right to a Healthy Environment](#) organized on 21<sup>st</sup> September as part of the United Nations Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum, Asia-Pacific. The training content was developed in partnership with Dalhousie University to inform and sensitize actors in the plastic value chain on the HRBA. The dialogue and discussion part of the session focused on the interconnectedness between responsible business conduct and EPR and how the HRBA can support the achievement of plastic circularity in an inclusive way, gradually mainstreaming the informal waste management sector towards green jobs. Participants discussed actions needed to help businesses, governments, and communities to shift away from business as usual to an inclusive circular and more sustainable and resource-efficient plastic economy. Panelists from OECD, ILO, UNDP, and the private sector reflected on best practices to respect the right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment (e.g., human rights due diligence), good examples of state and corporate policies that ensure public participation from stakeholders, proactive steps that businesses could take to avoid impacting vulnerable groups, and tools and initiatives that can help companies identify areas of non-compliance.

#### **Output 4: Regional networking**

Regional networking events and activities were conducted, integrating the HRBA into national marine litter plans, policies, and regulations. Information about human rights issues in the plastic value chain was shared among different stakeholders, and actions were catalysed to prevent and reduce plastic pollution.

[Dialogue on Extended Producer Responsibility and Training on the Human Rights Based Approach in the Plastic Value Chain organized on 23rd August.](#) The training enhanced understanding of human rights dimensions and policy implications, increased awareness on the application of human rights principles and environment frameworks in the plastic value chain. Participants were provided with case examples of policies on the HRBA, frameworks and tools for applications, and guidance for implementing the HRBA in business.

[Regional Dialogue on Plastic Credits – A Circular Solution for Plastic Waste Management](#) organized on 28<sup>th</sup> September. The dialogue enhanced understanding on concepts and key aspects of plastic credits as a solution for plastic waste management. Insights were shared on the correlation of plastic credits with circularity enabling instruments such as EPR, HRBA, and Responsible Business Conduct. Participants from different sectors were provided a holistic view of plastic credits system and mechanism for market integration and standardization.

[Regional Dialogue on Perceptions on plastic waste: A dialogue on the findings of a regional study and the role of businesses in accelerating circularity organized on 11<sup>th</sup> November.](#) The study explored human factors and organizational cultures influencing actions, especially among consumers, business entities, policy makers, and the informal sector. Findings provide the fundamentals for creating business-to-business and consumer-to-consumer platforms to set the conducive business environments that can help to scale up utilization of market-based instruments in the plastic value chain. The session was followed by a dialogue on what businesses need to do to support circularity, while not leaving SMEs behind.

Following these events, stakeholders of the plastic value chain have improved their knowledge and applied human rights-related tools, frameworks, and approaches to developing strategies, policies, codes of conduct, action plans, and daily practices. This has been reflected in [case studies](#) showing the best practices in managing plastic waste.

Around 1,000 stakeholders from various sectors registered for the annual flagship event [SOS 2022](#) – Asia-Pacific’s biggest networking event for the plastic value chain, which was organised in partnership with EB Impact in collaboration with the World Economic Forum’s GPAP. SOS 2022 spotlighted 12 impactful and unique solutions and concluded with five recommendations and action points for the multi-stakeholder forum at the first INC meeting in Uruguay, incorporating human-rights and gender issues.

## **4.7 Responses to the MTR recommendations**

The project’s MRT report includes seven recommendations. Recommendations 1 and 2 are critical. Recommendations 3, 4, and 5 are important, while Recommendations 6 and 7 provide opportunities for improvement. In 2022, SEA circular has addressed these recommendations to different extents as follows:

**Recommendation 1:** Bring the learnings and experiences of SEA circular together in a Solutions Report, including case studies and pilot reports as well as relevant learnings from supporting countries (China, Republic of Korea, and Singapore) and make use of this report to advocate for and guide support at country level to initiate, replicate and scale up initiatives.

**Response:** The “End Plastic Pollution: A knowledge compendium for less plastic waste in South-East Asia” has been developed, which compiles and analyses different knowledge products of SEA circular and launched in the last quarter of 2022. Furthermore, a new set of 10 case studies has been finalized to showcase exemplary market-based solutions for transformational changes in the way plastic is managed along the value chain.

**Recommendation 2:** In country level support, engage with the office of the Resident Coordinator and with country offices of sister UN agencies (incl. UNDP, UNIDO, UN-Habitat) in order to inform their work with the experiences and lessons learned from the project and to assess opportunities for cooperation in terms of country level support to marine plastic litter issues, in line with the UN Reform process and together with other government, private sector, civil society and academic stakeholders.

**Response:** Through the project “UNEP-UN Reform Engagement Pilot Study on Plastics Value Chain and Circularity,” SEA circular has engaged with UNRCs and UNCTs in Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The project provided technical deliverables by mapping and analysing current data, information, knowledge products and data needs and gaps thereof, and collecting data on integrating circularity in the plastics value chain in order to strengthen this thematic dimension within CCAs and CFs in ASEAN countries. Country Briefs on reducing plastic pollution and promoting plastic circularity were developed with data and recommendations to inform CCAs and CFs and to catalyse action on plastics by UNCTs and development partners. The Briefs set forth the ‘value proposition’ for national governments in engaging with the UNRCs, UNCTs, and UN agencies to collaboratively support them in making significant and accelerated process on the national and international plastic waste reduction and marine plastic pollution reduction pledges, goals, and targets. Three videos were produced based on these Briefs to facilitate engagement with the UNRCs and UNCTs in Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam. SEA circular supported this initiative and used this engagement platform to further integrate the results of the project to support and influence in-country activities on marine plastic litter issues.

**Recommendation 3:** For Sida to consider a no-cost extension of the present project period to enable the project to make up for delays experienced in particular due to the COVID-19 pandemic and human resource issues and to plan for support to marine plastic litter in the region beyond 2022, in cooperation with sister UN agencies in line with the UN reform process.

**Response:** The project team has submitted a 24-month extension proposal to Sida with adjustments to the Theory of Change and the results framework, requesting an estimated additional fund of USD 1.35 million. The request was approved by Sida and an Amendment to the donor agreement is being concluded by both parties. The extension proposal includes enhanced results that are aimed to be achieved from 2023 to 2024. The project structure will remain the same as per its original design with four outputs, namely (i) Output 1 - Market-based solutions towards “less plastic wasted’ accessible to national and regional actors in the plastic value chain, (ii) Output 2 - Scientific basis for decision-making on marine litter enhanced, (iii) Output 3 - Outreach on plastic pollution and its impact enhanced, and (iv) Output 4 - National actors in the region are more knowledgeable on how to coordinate action on plastic pollution. Building upon the networks, partnerships, and results from the past years, the project extension will focus on:

- i. Enhanced efforts in the South-East Asian region to adopt and implement policy measures as well as promoting circular economy in the plastic value chain by key actors in the plastic value chain.
- ii. As a continuation of project’s intervention, targeted capacity building and trainings for the implementation of national marine litter plans and national marine litter policies will be supported. An evidence-based harmonized approach to marine litter measurement and monitoring will be targeted in 5 countries.
- iii. Measures for reductions in plastic pollution and promoting circularity in the plastic value chain will focus on human rights (incl. gender equality) based approach to managing the plastic value chain, bringing about research, analysis, and regional guidance frameworks on emerging market-based solutions.
- iv. A particular focus to enhance collection, sorting and recycling will target small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with guidance on harmonized approach to increasing the rate of recycling.
- v. Outreach activities will target using social media platforms to encourage behaviour change. While the networking effort is aimed at bringing about relevant actors in the plastic value chain and interagency coordination and enhancing UN Reforms and plastic circularity in Indonesia, Cambodia, and the Philippines.
- vi. Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) and SEA Regional Node will be populated with data, knowledge products from SEA circular for easy accessibility of accelerated solutions in the South-East Asian region.



SEA circular project is well positioned to seamlessly contribute and influence the process of achieving a legally binding instrument to be negotiated by Member States for practical national level compliance, expected by December 2024.

**Recommendation 4:** Enhance linkages of the project with a human rights-based approach, the principle of leaving no one behind and poverty reduction through the inclusion of a focus on accountability and transparency and on the balance between rights and responsibilities at all levels.

**Response:** In 2022, SEA circular has further incorporated the human rights-based approach into project activities and knowledge products, including exploring financial mechanisms inclusive of and benefitting the informal sector, which plays an important role in the plastic value chain in many Southeast Asian countries. The project built upon case studies at the city level in Malaysia on engagement with the informal sector to improve recycling, sorting, and upscaling for less plastic wasted. Human rights issues are also an integral part of SEA circular's capacity building component. Training of trainers on this topic was conducted in collaboration with Dalhousie University and IBCSD, where links were made to the enabling of EPR. A situational analysis was conducted, in partnership with the ISWA, on plastic credits and neutrality, focusing on the impact on the informal sector. The study shed lights on the evolving status of this area, supporting the part towards a harmonized standard. An Issue Brief on the HRBA has been completed by the Dalhousie University.

**Recommendation 5:** Enhance the project monitoring and evaluation system and gear it towards assessment and documentation of results achieved so far and the ability for the project to perform results-based management, in addition to the use of workplan based activity monitoring, while at country level linking with the UN Info system.

**Response:** Given the challenge in identifying baseline values for the project indicators, SEA circular used the results of 2021 as baseline values for the 2022 workplan. The project team also reviewed and revised the results framework as part of the extension proposal development. A gap analysis was conducted, and output indicators were revised using the SMART criteria. Baseline data were collected, where possible, and targets set for 2022 and the extension phase. A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan was developed, incl. templates for monitoring and data collection methods.

**Recommendation 6:** Enhance the focus on networking and coordination amongst marine plastic litter stakeholders at country and regional levels, providing on-going means for networking across stakeholders in between SEA of Solutions events, making use of support to existing platforms, in order to enhance coordination and cooperation amongst partners contributing to the same objectives and support the establishment of a community of practice on marine plastic litter in the South East Asia region across the project output areas.

**Response:** The project continued engaging with stakeholders in the plastic value chain through established strategic partnerships (incl. World Economic Forum, Global Partnerships on Plastics Actions) and establishment of multistakeholder platforms for the enablement of market-based solutions, e.g., EPR in Indonesia, the Philippines, building upon the work on private sector engagement done in Malaysia and Thailand. Potential partnerships in Cambodia and Vietnam were also explored.

**Recommendation 7:** Follow up on the gaps identified through the science-based research inventory and facilitate the connection between science and policy through getting policy level demands for research to relevant research agencies and consortia.

**Response:** In coordination with the COBSEA Secretariat, UNEP Ecosystem Division and the Global Partnership on marine litter and its digital platform, SEA circular facilitated feeding data and information requirements of policy makers back to research institutes and follow up on the gaps. Data were populated from the project results, including the research work into SEA circular knowledge repository and linked to GPML digital platform. East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML was formally established and a web platform developed with Akvo linked to the Global Digital Platform of the GPML.

## 5. GOVERNANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Project governance and implementation arrangements were strengthened to accelerating implementation rate in line with discussions and recommendations arising from donor meetings as well as Project Steering Committee meetings.

## 5.1 Project Steering Committee

PSC-2 emphasized the need for active participation of all members in PSC meetings and recommended that a review of the membership be undertaken. This was also emphasized in the annual review meeting between Sida and UNEP in March 2020. In response to this, the composition of the PSC has been reviewed and revised to strengthen and diversify experience among members in the PSC that corresponds to priority aspects of the project (e.g., HRBA and business; sustainable consumption and production) for guiding the project towards impact.

As of December 2022, the composition of the PSC is as follows:

- i. Isabelle Louis (Chair), Deputy Regional Director at United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- ii. Eddy Mazuaansyah Mohd Ali Murad, Under Secretary, Pollution Control Division of the Ministry of Environment and Water, Malaysia
- iii. Suwan Nanthasarut, Advisor to the Director General of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand
- iv. Heidi Savelli-Soderberg, Programme Officer, Marine Litter, Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- v. Åsa Stenmarck, Material Flow Expert - sustainable consumption, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
- vi. Betty Yolanda, Asia Regional Manager, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre.
- vii. Mr. Anh-Duc LUU, the Chair of the COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter 2021 - 2022
- viii. Sara Öberg Höper (Observer), First Secretary, Programme specialist Environment and Climate Change, Development Cooperation – Regional Asia and the Pacific, Embassy of Sweden in Thailand
- ix. AnnaMaria Oltrop, Head of Development Cooperation – Asia and the Pacific, Embassy of Sweden in Thailand
- x. Mahesh Pradhan, COBSEA Coordinator.
- xi. Vong Sok (Observer), Head, Environment Division, ASEAN Secretariat.

## 5.2 Project Implementation Group

The Project Implementation Group has been restructured since May 2020, including one Project Coordinator at P4 level, two Programme Management Officers at P3 level, one Administrative Assistant at G5 level, and one Communications Officer (International UN Volunteer).

The Project Coordinator, Ms. Kamala Ernest, leads the project implementation, being responsible for project management including managing financial and human resources, overseeing the implementation of activities, monitoring and reporting, leading development of strategic partnerships, and liaising with the donor.

The Markets and Plastic Value Chain Programme Management Officer, Mr. Vincent Aloysius, is responsible for the implementation of project activities related to market transformation and moving businesses towards models in which less plastic is wasted. A Private Business Sector Analyst position was filled by an international consultant, Mr. Kathikeyan Subburaman, who helped develop knowledge products and the “Knowledge Compendium” for SEA circular.

The Marine Litter Programme Officer, Ms. Natalie Harms, is responsible for the implementation of project activities related to the scientific basis for decision making and regionally coherent marine litter planning and has a role in the implementation of the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI), including secretariat functions of the COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter. Ms. Harms took parental leave from October 2021 to April 2022, and she has returned to work since May 2022. During her leave, a Marine Litter Specialist (Mr. David Kuntel) was recruited to fill her role related to the delivery of Output 2 and Output 4 of SEA circular. Further work on making the research inventory on marine litter accessible through GPML and Regional Node is supported by a Regional Marine Litter Research Consultant (Ms. Cheng Ling Lim), and implementation of the Philippines Plan of Action was supported by a National Source Inventory Expert in the Philippines (Mr. Gregoria Rafael P. Bueta).

Human resources and administrative support functions were carried out by Ms. Chutatip Taweekul, Administrative Assistant, who then handed over to Ms. Chisa Padungpornworakul in October 2022. In addition, a dedicated Communications Officer, Ms. Ummay Habiba, was recruited in December 2021 to support the continuous communication and outreach needs and implementation of the project’s Communications Strategy. A Data Analyst,

Mr. Vu Hoai Nam Dang (international consultant), was recruited in July 2022 to support with preparing the Annual Progress Report 2022 and the project extension proposal. Mr. Dang was responsible for updating the Results Framework of SEA circular, identifying baseline and target values of outcome and output indicators, and developing lessons learned and recommendations for the project monitoring and evaluation.

The organogram of the project implementation group and project coordination group is shown below.

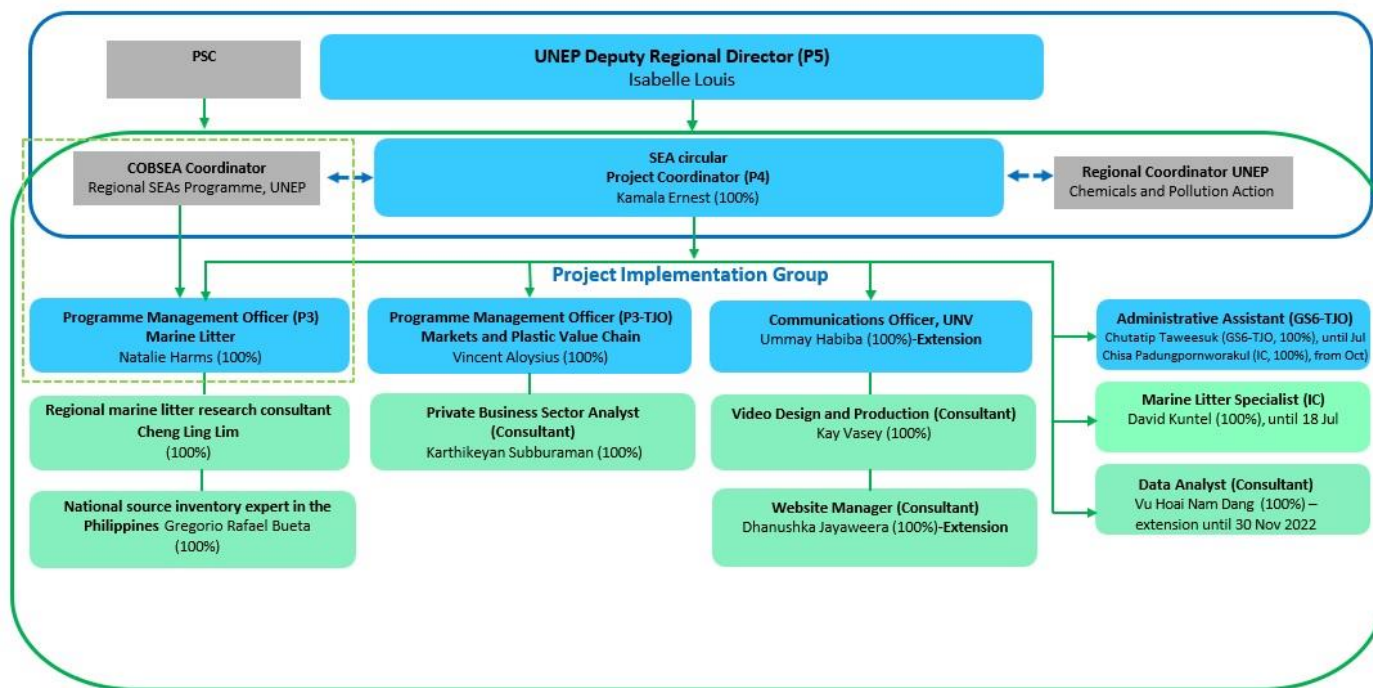


Figure 3. SEA circular project implementation organogram.

## 6. CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 6.1 Challenges

In 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to represent one of the challenges to the project implementation. Although restrictions were alleviated in most ASEAN countries, certain measures were still in place, especially in the first half of 2022. Infections among the project staff, partners, and related stakeholders delayed activities to different extents, making it difficult to organize in-person events. In response to this challenge, SEA circular applied a flexible working mode, combining virtual and in-person meetings and events. Both have their pros and cons. Virtual meetings allowed more participants and saved costs, yet interactions and active engagement with stakeholders, incl. through informal discussions, were limited. Some of the events and meetings were organized in person, where possible.

Furthermore, COBSEA countries were under immense economic and social pressures associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. This affected the implementation of the HRBA in the fight against plastic pollution and marine litter. While the informal waste collection sector, which plays an important role in the management of plastic waste in some ASEAN countries, bore the disproportionate cost of the COVID-19 crisis (e.g., loss of jobs and income, limited access to social and health services), governments needed to prioritize economic recovery in some cases, reducing the emphasis on sustainable and inclusive practices.

A major challenge lay within the original results framework of the project, in which outcomes, outputs, results, and activities are not coherent to some extent. Output 1 (Market-based solutions) and Output 2 (Scientific basis) of the project may contribute to both Outcome 1 and Outcome 2, while Output 4 (Regional networking) comes across all three Outcomes. Outcome 3 focuses on increased awareness, yet all Outputs feed into it. Several indicators at both the outcome and output levels are not really SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound). Baseline information cannot be verified, and data are not available to measure these indicators. The lack of an effective monitoring and evaluation plan makes it difficult to plan activities and track the progress of the project, incl. preparation

of this annual report. The project team has conducted an analysis and revised the results framework in the extension proposal so that outcome and output indicators can be better measured. Further details are described in section 6.3.

## 6.2 Lessons learned

SEA circular has made significant progress toward the expected results in 2022. Important lessons can be learned from the project implementation as follows:

First, the enablement of market-based solutions, incl. EPR, plastic credits, and the HRBA, can be effective through supporting membership-based organizations, such as the Indonesian Business Council for Sustainable Development, Food Industry Asia and the Federation of Thai Industries. Participation of influential persons from these organizations in training sessions and dialogues (e.g., keynote speaker) creates a ripple effect on members and related stakeholders in the plastic value chain.

Second, the Regional Guidance on Harmonized National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes plays an important role in guiding national efforts and contributes significantly to the development of national action plans on marine litter. Capacity building and ongoing support are indispensable to catalyse actions, facilitating a harmonized approach to monitoring marine plastic litter.

Third, regional coordination plays an increasingly important role to leverage synergies and avoid consultation fatigue in target countries. This holds true in particular for technical assistance to develop evidence-based National Action Plans and similar frameworks. To this end, coordination with development cooperation partners such as the World Bank, UNDP, and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) was strengthened in 2022, e. g., in Cambodia, and cross-agency technical working groups were created to draft elements of the NAP in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment. This form of coordination does require additional planning and time, but it will result in more effective and streamlined planning processes.

## 6.3 Recommendations on alignment in reporting over the period 2018-2024

In the extension proposal, the Theory of Change and the results framework have been revised to improve coherence in the project design and to accommodate for the extension results. The Outcome indicators remain the same, while the Output indicators have been adjusted to make them more SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound), in line with a newly developed monitoring and evaluation plan. Baseline and target values have been identified for most of the Outcome and Output indicators. To ensure alignment in reporting from the beginning of the project to the end of the project extension, the following recommendations are made:

- In general, the revised results framework will guide the reporting of the whole project (2018-2024). At the Outcome level, progress against the four indicators will be captured in the final evaluation, focusing on quantitative data.
- At the Output level, some indicators will be discontinued in the extension, i.e., activities completed by end of 2022 or no more activities in the extension. For these indicators, achievements will be aggregated, and progress will be reported for the whole project duration from 2018-2024 (e.g., number of companies publishing sustainability reports with information on plastic footprint, amount of co-financing raised from private sector stakeholders towards achieving Output 1, number of individuals completing the MOOC).
- The revised indicators for the extension are SMART. Hence, quantitative data will be collected to report on the progress against these indicators, while qualitative data will provide deeper insights into activities implemented and their contributions to the attainment of the extension results.
- As the extension results complement or contribute to the original results, the report will mention both results and provide quantitative data measuring the Output indicators in the extension and qualitative insights into activities which are implemented against the original results and indicators.

## 7. FINANCIAL REPORT

A summary of financial updates is provided below for the expenditure rate, budget revisions in the following sections. Output based financial reporting and UNEP certified financial statement are also included at the bottom of Section 7.

## FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 01 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

2022 Budget: USD 1,565,122

2022 Expenditure and Commitment: USD 1,077,210

2022 Budget Utilization: 69%

	Budget	Expenditures	Commitment	Total Expenditures & Commitment	Balance	% Utilization
Output 1	223,153	270,509	(171,553)	98,955	124,198	44%
Output 2	246,377	217,033	(143,427)	73,607	172,770	30%
Output 3	251,141	177,135	(63,715)	113,421	137,720	45%
Output 4	100,500	89,089	(35,127)	53,962	46,538	54%
Project Coordination	628,016	705,020	(42,652)	662,368	(34,352)	105%
Programme Support Cost	115,935	74,898	-	74,898	41,037	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,565,122</b>	<b>1,533,684</b>	<b>(456,474)</b>	<b>1,077,210</b>	<b>487,912</b>	<b>69%</b>

### 2022 Financial Report by Outputs

#### 2022 Budget

The 2022 budget was first approved on 07 December 2021 and a budget revision to the 2022 work plan was approved on 01 July 2022. The budget reallocation was mainly due to a change of modality for project implementation by engaging more consultants and individual contractors to support the implementation of activities. The budget redistribution mainly applied to outputs 1, 3, 4, and Project Management Unit (Output 5) by reallocation between budget classes within the same output.

#### Fund utilization

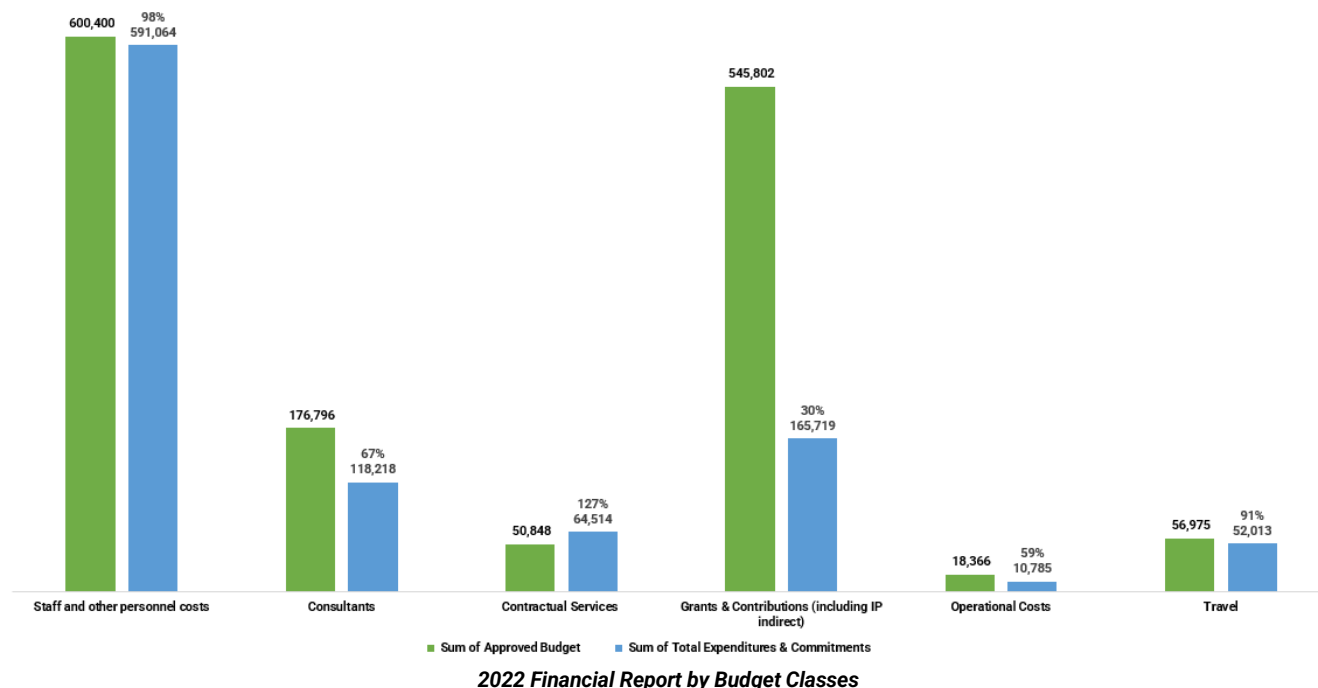
The approved annual budget for 2022 was USD 1,565,122 (25% of the total project budget prior to extension). Total expenditure and commitment (funds obligated for partnership agreements and other legal instruments) from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022 amounts to USD 1,077,210 (69% of annual budget). The cash balance as of 31 December 2022 is USD 1,245,748 (this balance is inclusive of the 55 million SEK transferred under the Donor Agreement prior to extension).

The project coordination is slightly overspent due to Staff entitlement and benefits recorded in 2022 particularly in relation to the Project Coordinator who relocated to Bangkok in February 2022. Additional expenses are in relation to the reallocation costs that were charged to the project as well as education grant claims. The reallocation costs are a one-time cost.

As per the 2022 approved workplan, we have achieved close to what we had set out to do in 2022 even though in terms of financial figures we have underspent. Some of the modalities were changed to consultancies from Grants and Contributions where such modalities were feasible. Also, due to 2022 being the final year under the previous agreement, we were avoiding committing more funds beyond September 2022 to allow ourselves time to close all existing agreements. In addition, we were able to close previous years' agreements with implementing partners where any savings from unspent budget were also returned to the grants and contribution budget line.

#### Annotations on the financial report





### Staff and other personnel cost

The expenditure and commitment recorded under the budget class of Staff and other personnel accounted for USD 591,064 (98%) against the budget of USD 600,400. This includes the cost of Programme officer – Project Coordinator (P4: from January – December 2022), Programme Officer – Markets and Plastic Value Chain (P3: from January – December 2022), Programme Officer – Marine Litter (P3: from January – December 2022), the Administrative Assistant (GS-6-TJO: from January – July 2022) and Communications Officer (UNV from January 2022 – November 2022).

### Consultants/Experts

Total expenditure and commitment recorded under the consultant budget line accounted for USD 118,218 (67%) against the budget of USD 176,796. Short-term consultants were hired as follows:

- **Data Analyst** Consultant to produce technical deliverables and results-based monitoring (mentioned under Section 3 of this TOR) by mapping and analyzing current data, information, knowledge products, and data needs and gaps therein, and collecting data for the SEA circular project.
- **Private sector business analyst** consultant to conduct research and analysis for issue briefs. To prepare content, presentations, and good practice case studies. To support with facilitating regular dialogues and roundtable sessions and provide awareness/training to stakeholders of projects. To produce a Solutions Report that contains all the industry good practices, tools, and methodologies in the SEA Circular Project countries for knowledge sharing, management, and outreach activities.
- **Website Manager** Consultant to manage the SEA circular website and migrate all existing content to new SEA circular microsite integrated with UNEP website.
- **Research database and research network** Consultant to support the integration of the Regional Research Database into the East Asian Seas Regional Node and launch the Regional Research Network of the Node toward achievement of Results 2.2 and 4.3 of the SEA circular project.
- **National source inventory in the Philippines** Consultant to assess the current state of knowledge and data on plastic pollution in the Philippines and develop an NSI report with recommendations for implementation of the NPoA, toward achieving Result 4.1 of the SEA circular project.

### Contractual services

Total expenditure and commitment recorded under the contractual services budget class accounted for USD 64,514 (127%) of the approved budget of USD 50,848. These costs include the production of outreach material for news and resources under the SEA circular website and UN Environment Programme Document Repository

from the Design and Translation service providers, an individual contractor contract for a marine litter specialist to lead technical assistance and capacity building efforts as per the costed workplan of Outputs 2 and 4 of the SEA circular projects (from January to July 2022) and an administrative assistant to support the overall project's implementation and management of all activities implemented by the SEA circular project (October to December 2022).

### Grants and contributions

Total expenditure and commitment recorded under the grants and contributions class, including indirect support costs for implementing partners, accounted for USD 165,719 (or 30%) of the approved budget of USD 545,802. Four new partnership agreements (Small Scale Funding Agreements) were formalized. They are YEH Philanthropy Foundation, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), EB Impact Limited, AKVO Foundation and one UN-to-UN agreement with UNDP Cambodia (refer to Annex 3). In addition, eight existing partnership agreements (from 2021 workplan) with: Dalhousie University, FFI, FIA, IBCSD, ISWA, WWF the Philippines, one PCA with CSIRO, and one UN-to-UN agreement with UN Habitat have been completed and the agreements have been closed.

The table below list the number of partnership agreements (SSFAs) we had planned and the actual SSFAs committed in 2022. Where we did not initiative the SSFAs, it means that some of the planned in-country works have been supported through other funding source, change in modalities or there were risks that the activities would need more time beyond 2022 for implementation, thus we did not pursue nor commit any activity beyond September 2022.

SSFAs/PCA/ UN-to-UN agreement	Planned (USD)	Committed in 2022 (USD)	Balance (USD)	Remarks
YEH	20,000	20,000	0	
EB Impact	61,700	61,700	0	
AKVO	63,621	55,000	8,621	
AIT	35,800	35,800	0	
UNDP Cambodia	68,300	68,300	0	
VNU-Viet Nam	68,339	0	68,339	This was long internal approval process by the Government of Viet Nam involving 4 different ministries to clear the partnership agreement. We will pursue this SSFA in 2023 workplan.
CSIRO amendment	135,000	0	135,000	CSIRO was underspending their funds from the PCA signed in the previous year (2021). There was a risk to add more funds to the PCA if we followed the project's original timeline of ending by Dec 2022. We have plans for a new SSFA now that CSIRO has completed the planned activities as per 2021 workplan.
Thai national counterpart for a campaign in Thailand	29,996	0	29,996	We did not carry out this activity as we focused on a campaign to empower UN Resident Coordinators on addressing plastic pollution at national level. Instead, we developed 3 videos on plastic pollution in Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam with funds contribution from Norway grant. Therefore, no cost incurred to SEA circular project. The originally planned campaign will be implemented in 2023 / 2024 extension phase at a global / regional scale.
National Partner Philippines and Viet Nam	31,300	0	31,300	We did not carry out these activities using the SSFA modalities. Instead, we hired a consultant to fulfill the work in the Philippines and in Viet Nam the work was not done because their internal approval process for signing a SSFA (agreement).
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>514,056</b>	<b>240,800</b>	<b>273256</b>	

### **Operational costs**

Total expenditure and commitment recorded under the operational cost class accounted for USD 10,785 (65%) of the approved budget USD 18,366.

### **Travel**

Total expenditure and commitment recorded under the travel budget line accounted for USD 52,013 (91%) against the budget of USD 56,975. These travel costs will support the COBSEA IGM-25 Working Group on Marine Litter (WGML) held in Vietnam in October 2022 and, travel support for Government Officials to participate in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee - (INC -1) in Punta del Este, Uruguay, during November 28–December 2, 2022.

## Financial Report 2022: Output Based Provisional Financial Report

### Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in Southeast Asia

Output based Provisional Financial report (period of 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022)  
(Expressed in US dollars)

	Approved Budget	Expenditures	Commitment	Total Expenditures & Commitments	Balance	% Utilization
<b>OUTPUT 1 : Market-based solutions towards "less plastic wasted"</b>						
Staff and other personnel costs				-	-	
Consultants/ Experts	9,450	30,200	(30,000)	200	9,250	
Travel	6,475	4,527		4,527	1,948	
Contractual Services				-	-	
Grants & Contributions (Including IP Indirect)	207,228	235,782	(141,553)	94,228	113,000	
Operational Costs				-	-	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>223,153</b>	<b>270,509</b>	<b>(171,553)</b>	<b>98,956</b>	<b>124,198</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>OUTPUT 2 - Strengthening the scientific basis for decision-making</b>						
Staff and other personnel costs				-	-	
Consultants/ Experts	15,000	12,120		12,120	2,880	
Travel	10,000	8,937		8,937	1,063	
Contractual Services	19,756	8,074	7,197	15,271	4,485	
Grants & Contributions (Including IP Indirect)	198,621	182,902	(150,623)	32,279	166,342	
Operational Costs	3,000	5,000		5,000	(2,000)	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>246,377</b>	<b>217,033</b>	<b>(143,427)</b>	<b>73,607</b>	<b>172,770</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>OUTPUT 3 - Outreach on marine litter and plastic pollution</b>						
Staff and other personnel costs	60,000	53,433	(53,433)	-	60,000	
Consultants/ Experts	83,096	64,842	9,000	73,842	9,254	
Travel				-	-	
Contractual Services	26,092	12,326	6,229	18,554	7,538	
Grants & Contributions (Including IP Indirect)	81,953	44,774	(23,749)	21,025	60,928	
Operational Costs		232	(232)	-	-	
Equipment Vehicles and Furniture		1,530	(1,530)	-	-	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>261,141</b>	<b>177,136</b>	<b>(88,716)</b>	<b>113,421</b>	<b>197,720</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>OUTPUT 4 - Regional networking</b>						
Staff and other personnel costs				-	-	
Consultants/ Experts	17,000	17,070	(1,250)	15,820	1,180	
Travel	20,500	17,318		17,318	3,182	
Contractual Services	5,000	3,283	(1,995)	1,288	3,712	
Grants & Contributions (Including IP Indirect)	58,000	50,366	(31,882)	18,484	39,516	
Operational Costs		1,052		1,052	(1,052)	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>100,600</b>	<b>89,089</b>	<b>(36,127)</b>	<b>63,962</b>	<b>48,638</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>Project Coordination</b>						
Staff and other personnel costs	540,400	591,064		591,064	(50,664)	
Consultants/ Experts	52,250	12,491	3,745	16,236	36,014	
Travel	20,000	21,231		21,231	(1,231)	
Contractual Services		49,401	(20,000)	29,401	(29,401)	
Grants & Contributions (Including IP Indirect)		26,100	(26,397)	(297)	297	
Operational Costs	15,366	4,733		4,733	10,633	
Supplies Commodities Materials				-	-	
Equipment Vehicles and Furniture				-	-	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>628,016</b>	<b>706,020</b>	<b>(42,862)</b>	<b>663,160</b>	<b>(34,362)</b>	<b>106%</b>
Programme Support Cost	115,935	74,898	-	74,898	41,037	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,686,122</b>	<b>1,633,884</b>	<b>(468,474)</b>	<b>1,677,210</b>	<b>487,912</b>	<b>89%</b>

Certified by



Ahmed Iftekhar Khan  
Administrative Officer  
Asia & Pacific Office

Cash Status	Amount in USD
Funds Received	5,982,696
2018 Expenditure	10,000
2019 Expenditure	869,006
2020 Expenditure	1,615,736
2021 Expenditure	1,369,087
Prior Year Adjustment	4,796
1 January - 31 December 2022	1,077,210
Cumulative Expenditure as of 31 December 2022	4,736,699
Exchange rate (loss/gain)	240
<b>Cash Balance</b>	<b>1,346,748</b>

Certified Financial Statement



1000/32CPL - TF Ctrpart Ctrs Supp Envrmt Activities

M1-32CPL-000404 - M1-32CPL-000404 Marine Litter

Donor: 1111000157 - PM OF SWEDEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Interim Certified Financial Statements for the period ended 31 December 2022

(Expressed in US dollars)

<b>Income</b>	
Contributions received	5,982,695.63
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,982,695.63</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Staff and other personnel cost	2,072,175.18
Supplies, Commodities and Materials	1,164.00
Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture	5,796.00
Contractual Services	187,941.40
Travel	111,878.52
Transfers and Grants	1,848,665.32
General Operating and Other Direct Costs	158,211.97
<b>Total direct expenditures</b>	<b>4,385,832.39</b>
Indirect Support Costs (United Nations) <sup>2/</sup>	332,387.24
Indirect Support Costs (Implementing Partners)	18,479.35
<b>Total indirect support costs</b>	<b>350,866.59</b>
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>4,736,698.98</b>
<b>Net excess/(shortfall) income over expenditure</b>	<b>1,245,996.65</b>
Exchange rate (loss)/gain	(248.95)
<b>Available Balance</b>	<b>1,245,747.70</b>

<sup>2/</sup> Indirect Support Costs (United Nations) has been manually adjusted in lieu of pending full PSC batch run.

Certified by:

  
 Ahmed Khan  
 Fund Management Officer  
 United Nations Environment Programme

Date: 14.03.2023

Cleared by:

  
 Miriam Kizito  
 Chief, Financial Reporting Unit  
 BFMS, UNON  
  
 United Nations Office at Nairobi  
 ACCOUNTS SECTION  
 Budget and Financial  
 Management Service

Date: 13/03/2023

Approved by:

  
 Onesmus Thiong'O  
 Chief, Financial Management Services  
 United Nations Environment Programme

Date: 16.03.2023



## ANNEX 1: Project Result Framework (as of 30 April 2020)

Project Impact:	Less plastic wasted, with reduced input to and impact on the marine environment as well as dependent people
Project Outcomes	Outcome Indicators
<p>Reduction in plastic that are difficult to collect and recycle</p> <p>Increase in plastic reuse and recycle</p> <p>Increase in awareness about marine litter and plastic pollution, and public and consumer support for policies to fight it</p>	<p><b>Reduction in single-use plastic production and sale</b> (plastic shopping bags, plastic straws and/or plastic cutlery)  <i>Baseline: Indonesia 6.5% increase; Malaysia 3.9% increase; Thailand 4.16% increase; Viet Nam 7.2% increase between 2016 and 2017</i>  <i>Target: Reduction in annual rate of increase</i>            Data collection by national plastic associations, including Malaysia Plastics Forum and Plastics Institute of Thailand            Measured through industry reports</p> <p><b>Variety of alternative packaging (item)</b>  <i>Baseline: 0 (no systematic documentation so far)</i>  <i>Target: 50</i>            Data collection by all project implementing partners            Measured through case studies, factsheets and product information collected</p> <p><b>Increase in collection of PET bottles for recycling (by tonnage)</b>  <i>Baseline: 44 - 59% in Bangkok; 32 - 43% in Phuket; 20.8 - 27.9% for Kuala Lumpur (all in 2018)</i>  <i>Target: 40% increase</i>            Data collection by national plastic associations, including Malaysia Plastics Forum and Plastics Institute of Thailand            Measured through industry reports</p> <p><b>Packaging recycling rate</b>  <i>Baseline: Standardization of recycling rate definition by Q1 2020</i>  <i>Target: To be determined in Q1/Q2 2020</i>            Data collection by national plastic associations, including Malaysia Plastics Forum and Plastics Institute of Thailand; UNEP as indicator coordinator of SDG indicator 12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled            Measured through industry reports; governmental reports on SDGs</p> <p><b>Increased consumer awareness on marine litter and plastic pollution</b>  <i>Baseline: 54% consumers recycling and converting their plastic waste into useful products, 38% more have interest to do so in the next 12 to 18 months</i>  <i>49% say if a product is made from non-recycled material, they are less likely to buy it</i>  <i>Target: To be confirmed after Q2 2020</i>            Data collection by FIA and UNEP            Measured through consumer awareness surveys in 2020 and 2022</p> <p><b>Number of governments at all levels that are implementing waste prevention and sound management policies and good practices, in accordance with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant international agreements with UNEP support</b>  <i>Baseline: Cambodia and Phnom Penh in 2018</i>  <i>Target: 8 additional countries and cities in Southeast by 2022 in collaboration with World Bank, WWF and other city-based projects</i>            Data collection by: International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC), UNEP, other actors in civil society            Measured through governmental reports and communications and civil society project reports</p>

Output	Output indicators	
<b>1: Market-based solutions towards ‘less plastic wasted’</b>	Number of companies operating in South-East Asia publishing sustainability reports with information on Plastic Footprint and number of companies committing to nation-wide private-sector plastic reduction programmes including plastic neutrality Number of pilot demonstration on environmentally sound waste management supported Changes in policies in Malaysia and Thailand concerning recycled plastics	
Results	Activities	Partners and roles
<b>Result 1.1:</b> Stakeholders in Southeast Asia measure and report their plastic footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collection of 35 cases of plastic re-use and recycle and of reduction and elimination of single-use plastics and hard-to-recycle plastic packaging and preparation of factsheets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information collected by the project coordination team and verified by all implementing partners</li> <li>Cases will include, among others: IKEA Southeast Asia; The Siam Cement Group Public Company Limited and other members of the Public Private Partnership for Sustainable Plastic and Waste Management; natural fibre packaging by Gracz; UN Compound in Malaysia and Thailand; BNI Indonesia</li> <li>SDG 12.7.1 Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans</li> </ul>
	Raise awareness of rights and responsibilities, including business and human rights, and develop the capacities of duty-bearers (governments and businesses) to fulfil their obligations and address the needs of disadvantaged groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dissemination of information material such as issue papers on human rights-based approach and gender dimensions of plastic management and marine litter</li> <li>Delivery of dedicated one-day trainings on human rights, gender equality &amp; applying UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights for stakeholders and UNEP colleagues, and scoping of additional opportunities to engage stakeholders in human rights training at internal and partner events (e.g. Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implemented by the project coordinating team, targeting all implementing partners, organized in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and other UN partners (e.g. UN Women)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic value chain analysis for the beverage, food, and retail industry and for low-value materials including Flexibles (recognizing gender-specific needs and contributions of disadvantaged groups)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carried out by:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coca-Cola Thailand and Malaysia for beverages</li> <li>Food Industry Asia and/or GA Circular for food packaging (non-PET)</li> <li>GA Circular for low-value materials (Flexibles and Plastic Bags)</li> <li>GA Circular for retail</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landfill composition analysis (where landfill access is provided by landfill operators) representative of waste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Methodology for the landfill compositional analysis to be</li> </ul>

	<p>entering the landfills to verify landfill rates for both high value and low value plastic materials entering the landfills</p>	<p>determined by GA Circular with inputs from other implementing partners</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training on Plastic Disclosure Project and technical support towards preparation of information on plastic footprint in 2 local governments and 10 companies each in Malaysia and Thailand</li> <li>• Propel plastic measurement, disclosure, offsetting, commitment and collaboration for solutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through sector-specific roundtables in target countries</li> <li>• Plastic neutrality credit system by recovery with underprivileged or affected communities (informal sector)</li> <li>• With implementation by Ocean Recovery Alliance</li> <li>• Carried out by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MEWA), in two local governments and 10 companies in Malaysia</li> <li>• Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) and Pollution Control Department (PCD) of the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment (MONRE), with help of Kitakyushu City Government (Japan) in two local governments in Thailand</li> <li>• Phuket Hotel Association, Thailand</li> <li>• The Siam Cement Group Public Company Limited in ASEAN countries</li> <li>• 2 companies with support of the Solid Waste Association of Thailand (SWAT)</li> <li>• Thailand Environment Institute as Secretariat of the Public Private Partnership for Sustainable Plastic and Waste Management</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Result 1.2:</b> Stakeholders in Southeast Asia demonstrate ability to manage the plastic value chain better</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of inclusive market transforming solutions on plastic reduction, reuse and recycling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solutions analysis for plastic recycling and energy recovery</li> <li>• Solutions analysis for improvement on plastic waste management – segregation at source, collection coverage, and plastic disposal (including informal activities)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Solutions analysis on plastic avoidance and upcycling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inviting tech partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GA Circular – for plastic recycling and energy recovery</li> <li>• Waste Management Association of Malaysia (WMAM) and Solid Waste Association of Thailand (SWAT) for plastic waste management</li> <li>• Ocean Recovery Alliance – Solutions analysis on plastic avoidance and upcycling</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In consultation with informal economy networks and/or local waste picker representatives and human rights / gender equality advocacy such as: Women in Informal Employment</li> </ul>

		Globalizing Organizing (WIEGO), Enlawthai Foundation, the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of solutions for better management of the plastic value chain two provinces in Thailand (Koh Samet and Rayong) and two states in Malaysia (Penang, Petaling Jaya), ensuring an inclusive and gender-sensitive perspective</li> <li>• Delivery of solutions for better management of the plastic value chain in 10 companies each in Malaysia and Thailand (through the preparation of Corporate Sustainability Report), ensuring an inclusive and gender-sensitive perspective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carried out with MEWA in Malaysia and the MONRE in Thailand</li> <li>• With technical support of GA Circular, SWAT, Kitakyushu City Government (Japan), and the Ocean Recovery Alliance</li> </ul>						
<b>Result 1.3:</b> Business incentives for plastic reduction and recycling identified and applied	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business incentive surveys in 2020 and 2021 (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jointly with Food Industry Asia (FIA)</li> </ul>						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roundtable on policy and technology for plastic re-use and recycling and alternative packaging, in Malaysia and Thailand (ensuring safe spaces for gender-balanced and inclusive participation)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With local trade associations for specific sectors</li> <li>• In cooperation with local/regional informal economy representatives (e.g. WIEGO)</li> <li>• SDG 12.A.1</li> </ul>						
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>
IA: Stakeholders in Southeast Asia report their Plastic Footprint	0			10	10		20	PDP "Plastic Footprint Challenge" online data
IB: Roundtables on policy and technology for reduction/elimination, re-use and recycle of plastic	0		1	4	4	1	2	Published reports, knowledge hub, information sessions at plastic and waste conferences; COBSEA meeting proceedings
IC: Implementation of demonstration interventions for reduction/elimination, re-use and recycle of plastic	0		2	2			4	Published reports, knowledge hub, , information sessions at plastic and waste conferences; COBSEA meeting proceedings
ID: Report on policy and technology solutions	0				1		1	Published reports, knowledge hub, media coverage

## Output 2: Strengthening the scientific basis for decision making

Output	Output indicators
<b>2: Strengthening the scientific basis for decision making</b>	Number of COBSEA countries publishing marine litter monitoring results Number of COBSEA countries that incorporate pollution loading as well as environmental, social and economic impact indicators in marine litter reporting Number of COBSEA countries that include a citizen-science approach in baseline data development and national monitoring programmes

		Number of new research projects/partnerships on marine litter and plastic pollution, including environmental, social and economic impacts and governance aspects							
Results	Activities	Partners and roles							
<b>Result 2.1:</b> Marine litter status and trends are monitored, assessed and reported at national and regional level	<p>Technical support toward identification of marine litter accumulation and waste leakage hotspots.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This entails developing and applying relevant methodologies at identified sites to assess marine litter pathways and influx, in collaboration with national and regional technical partners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>led by national government partners and local research partners in consultation with COBSEA WGML</li> <li>East China Normal University (ECNU), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), GPML</li> <li>supported by national consultants and regional experts</li> </ul>							
	<p>Technical assistance toward development of regionally coherent marine litter monitoring programmes and associated data management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This entails capacity building and technical assistance e.g. trainings at the national and regional level supported through national consultants and regional experts.</li> <li>Regional guidance on harmonization of marine litter monitoring will draw on global guidance including the Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) WG 40 guidelines, tools and resources developed through the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), as well as best practice in the region.</li> </ul>								
<b>Result 2.2:</b> Decision makers and academic community in the region have access to marine litter research and data on marine litter	<p>Analysis and technical support for research relevant to addressing marine litter and plastic pollution and social and economic impacts including on disadvantaged groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This entails mapping and cataloguing current research in the region, trends and data gaps as well as supporting research networks to address science needs (for further development linked to a Regional Node of the GPML, see Output 4).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National University of Singapore (NUS), ECNU, and other relevant academic and research institutions in the region</li> </ul>							
<b>Result 2.3:</b> Obstacles and opportunities for policies and regulations to reduce plastic wastage and pollution based on best available evidence are identified	<p>Review of evidence-based marine litter policy and regulatory frameworks toward strengthening the science-policy interface.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This entails analysing to what extent policies and regulations are served by current by science and providing recommendations for evidence-based action including findings from Outputs 1 and 2.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National University of Singapore (NUS)</li> <li>in consultation with COBSEA WGML</li> <li>leveraging networks of GPML</li> <li>supported by regional consultant(s) as needed</li> </ul>							
Milestones	Baseline	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total	Means of Verification	



Milestone 2A: Baseline assessments on plastic pollution leakage and marine litter hotspots published	2 (China; Malaysia)			4	4		8	Published reports
Milestone 2B: Regional workshops for development and implementation of national ML monitoring	0		1			2	2	Workshop report
Milestone 2C: Regional guidance on harmonized ML monitoring developed	0			1			1	Regional guidance document
Milestone 2D: Catalogue of regional monitoring indicators and methods is developed	0			1	1	1	3	Catalogue of indicators and methods
Milestone 2E: Catalogue of ongoing marine litter/plastic pollution research is shared	0			1	1	1	1	Searchable online catalogue
Milestone 2F: Research network developed addressing gaps on plastic pollution and impacts	0			1			1	Research network and related agreements
Milestone 2G: Report of priorities to strengthen evidence-based policy and regulatory interventions	0			1			1	Published report

<b>Output 3: Outreach</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Output indicators</b>	
<b>3: Outreach</b>	Number of individuals completing Massive Open Online Course and distribution among stakeholder groups (government, private sector, academia, civil society and community-based organizations) Change in consumer awareness in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam Increased media coverage of social and economic impacts of plastic pollution and marine litter	
<b>Results <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Partners and roles</b>
<b>Result 3.1:</b> Project products and results reach target groups and inform efforts to tackle marine litter and plastic waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dissemination of a set of the project identity products (e.g. logo, slogan, key messages) and a launch and maintenance of the project website</li> </ul>	Led by the project coordination team, in consultation with UNEP Communications Division
<b>Result 3.2:</b> Consumer awareness of solutions to marine litter and plastic pollution is increased to inform decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment and delivery of Plastic Circular Economy Award, highlighting champions and promoting inclusive approaches in communities and civil society, industry and the public sector</li> <li>Consumer awareness surveys in 2020 and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping of national and local level stakeholders concerning waste management, recovery and recycling of plastic packaging, led by GA Circular, in consultation with civil society organizations (CSO) and representatives</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Change from the Inception Phase Results Framework: "Result 3.1: Social and economic impacts of marine litter better understood, leveraging interest and action across stakeholder groups" involved the analysis of social and economic impacts of marine litter, with focus on key economic sectors as well as vulnerable groups such as coastal communities and informal waste pickers with gender-specific information, to inform project design and outreach and bring visibility to gender and human rights dimensions. The analysis was carried out by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) in 2019. This activity is considered completed and the result has been removed from the updated Results Framework and the remaining results renumbered.

making and behaviour change	<p>2022 (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional tailoring and delivery of global Massive Open Online Course on Marine Litter and a course segment on gender sensitivity and on human rights and stakeholder engagement (e.g. of vulnerable groups)</li> <li>Implementation of the communication and outreach strategy for the project, including development and dissemination of campaign materials, drawing on the Clean Seas campaign, analytical outputs from the inception phase, leveraging input from partners across stakeholder groups through media and outreach (using gender-responsive and culturally sensitive language and accessible communication channels)</li> <li>Implementation of regional awareness raising campaign including nationally tailored sub-campaigns delivered through national partners (ensuring targeted/equitable outreach and accessibility that respect the needs and capacities of right holders for inclusive behaviour change, including in coastal communities and the urban poor, women and youth)</li> </ul>	<p>of disadvantaged groups including the informal sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping of regional level stakeholders on marine ecosystem management and marine litter, led by Centre for International Law (CIL) of the National University of Singapore (NUS)</li> <li>FIA</li> <li>Led by the project coordination team with national and local partners of the existing global campaigns, i.e. #BeatPollution, #CleanSeas, and #BeatPlasticPollution</li> <li>In consultation with GPML</li> <li>Carried out in Malaysia with MEWA</li> <li>Carried out in Thailand by local governments with help of the MONRE, Thailand</li> </ul>
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Milestones	Baseline	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Cumulative	Means of Verification
3A: Assessment of social and economic impacts of marine litter	0	1					1	Published report
3B: Public awareness survey on marine litter and plastic pollution conducted	0		1		2		2	Published reports
3C: Train-the-Trainers workshop	0		1					Knowledge hub
3D: Massive Open Online Course on Marine Litter, encompassing gender and human rights content	0		1	2	3	4	4	Knowledge hub
3E: Additional Clean Seas pledges from Southeast Asia (government/civil society/private sector)	2/1/0		2	3	3	2	10	Campaign website
3F: National sub-campaigns using regional campaign strategy and materials	1		1	1	1	1	5	Campaign website and social media platforms
3G: Media tours	2		1	1	1		5	Media coverage; knowledge hub

Output 4: Regional networking		
Output	Output indicators	
<p><b>4: Regional networking</b> for exchange, cooperation and integration</p>	<p>Number of COBSEA countries adopting or revising national marine litter action plans or equivalent in line with COBSEA RAP MALI</p> <p>Number of national or local/municipal regulations adopted, aiming to tackle marine litter e.g. by reducing or eliminating single use plastic, expanding markets for alternative materials, promoting plastic segregation and recycling, etc.</p> <p>Number of products or polymers subject to recycling or reduction mechanism adopted regionally/by multiple countries</p> <p>Year-on year percent increase in regional marine litter knowledge hub online content as well as traffic</p> <p>Year-on year percent increase in participation in a SEA of Solutions partnership week across government, private sector, academia and civil society, with particular attention given to the participation/representation of disadvantaged groups</p>	
Results	Activities	Partners and roles
<p><b>Result 4.1:</b> Regionally coherent national marine litter plans, policies, regulations and/or standards to prevent and reduce plastic pollution</p>	<p>Technical support and guidance to strengthen national marine litter planning in the context of the revised COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This entails guidance toward developing/implementing National Action Plans through national consultants and COBSEA WGML.</li> <li>Knowledge sharing through the ASEAN and its Working Groups to leverage synergies and promote alignment of national plans with regional frameworks.</li> <li>Technical advice/seminars on priorities in development of the policy and regulatory framework based on project findings and reports (incl. e.g. Packaging Industry Regulations &amp; Standards for Design, Labelling, Recovery &amp; Recycling in ASEAN)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Led by national institutions,</li> <li>In consultation with COBSEA WGML</li> <li>Ensuring equitable participation of human rights / gender equality advocacy organizations and representatives of disadvantaged groups, academia, civil society, and private sector in stakeholder consultations</li> <li>Supported by national consultants</li> <li>NGOs, intergovernmental organizations, and other actors in marine litter and plastic value chains</li> </ul>
<p><b>Result 4.2:</b> Information sharing and stakeholder engagement to support targeted action on reduction in plastic pollution and wastage</p>	<p>Regional constituency engagement, networking and knowledge sharing on marine litter through relevant events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convening an annual “SEA of Solutions” partnership week on plastic pollution prevention in coordination with regional partners to showcase inclusive solutions and accelerate action.</li> <li>Presenting project findings and knowledge products at external and UNEP events.</li> <li>Coordination of marine litter efforts in the region across projects and initiatives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusive stakeholder engagement and representation including national/local authorities, plastic producers, businesses and associations, recyclers, research institutes, academia, social enterprises, start-ups, disadvantaged groups, community initiatives, civil society organizations</li> <li>Collaboration with other UNEP Divisions and UN agencies and other development cooperation partners and international organizations working on marine litter e.g. IUCN, giz/EU, WWF, World Bank, ASEAN, EJF, WIEGO, GPML/GPA, UNDP, ESCAP, regional research institutes and project partners</li> </ul>
<p><b>Result 4.3:</b> An East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML improves knowledge management on marine litter</p>	<p>Develop knowledge management and networking services related to marine litter policy, science and capacity building as part of a Regional Node of the GPML.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regional Node will harness expertise and resources, provide a regularly updated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional knowledge partners e.g. ECNU, NUS, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Regional Capacity Center for Clean Seas (RC3S)</li> <li>In consultation with COBSEA WGML</li> <li>In collaboration with the GPML</li> </ul>

	<p>inventory of marine litter efforts in the region, access to tools, knowledge products, and training opportunities as well as to ensure access to project outputs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implemented in collaboration with regional knowledge partners to leverage synergies in the region, in consultation with the COBSEA WGML, for consideration at the 25th Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA.</li> </ul>							
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>
Milestone 4A: Guidance for national marine litter planning in the context of COBSEA RAP MALI	0				1		1	Biennial work plan (developed in 2020 for consideration at IGM 25 in 2021)
Milestone 4B: Meeting of the COBSEA WGML to guide national marine litter planning	0		1	2	1	1	5	Meeting reports
Milestone 4C: National marine litter plans developed or updated in all EAS countries	2	1	1	1	2	2	9	Published national ML plans
Milestone 4D: Adoption of policies aiming to reduce marine litter/plastic pollution	2		1	1	1	1	6	National or municipal policies and regulations; Reports of ASEAN and COBSEA meetings
Milestone 4E: Regional knowledge hub providing access to project outputs and marine litter knowledge	0			1			1	Knowledge hub content and visitor/use statistics
Milestone 4F: SEA of Solutions constituency engagement and networking mechanism	0		1	1	1	1	4	Event report, press, social media

## ANNEX 2: Members of the Project Steering Committee (PSC)

Project Steering Committee Members			
No.	First and Last Name	Position and Organization	E-mail
1.	Isabelle Louis (Chair)	Deputy Regional Director, UN Environment Programme Asia and the Pacific, Thailand	lousi@un.org
2.	Eddy Mazuaansyah Bin Mohd Ali Murad	Under-Secretary Pollution Control Division, Ministry of Environment and Water, Malaysia	eddyms@kasa.gov.my
3.	Suwan Nanthasarut	Environmental Expert, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand	snanthasarut@yahoo.com
4.	Heidi Savelli-Soderberg	Programme Officer, Marine Litter, Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), UN Environment Programme	heidi.savelli@un.org
5.	Åsa Stenmarck	Material Flow Expert - sustainable consumption Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	asa.stenmarck@naturvardverket.se
6.	Betty Yolanda	Asia Regional Manager Business & Human Rights Resource Centre	yolanda@business-humanrights.org
7.	Mr. Anh-Duc LUU (participating from the 4 <sup>th</sup> PSC meeting – 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov'2021)	Deputy Director - Department of Science, Technology, and International Cooperation (DSTIC), Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)  2021-22 Chair of the COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter	luuanhduc@gmail.com, laduc2@monre.gov.vn
Observers			
No.	First and Last Name	Position and Organization	E-mail
1.	Sara Öberg Höper	First Secretary Programme specialist Environment – Human Rights Development Cooperation- Regional Asia and the Pacific Embassy of Sweden in Thailand	sara.oberg.hoper@gov.se
2.	AnnaMaria Oltrop	Head of Development Cooperation- Regional Asia and the Pacific	annamaria.oltrop@gov.se
3.	Mahesh Pradhan	COBSEA Coordinator	mahesh.pradhan@un.org
4.	Vong Sok	Head, Environment Division, ASEAN Secretariat	vong.sok@asean.org



### ANNEX 3: Implementation Agreements with partners

No.	Partner	Status*	Agreement amount (USD)	Contribution to the project outputs
1	AIT	Task completed	35,800	Output 1, Result 1.2
2	CSIRO	Task Completed*	230,000	Output 2, Result 2.1
3	Dalhousie University	Task completed	20,000	Output 1
4	FFI	Task completed	62,060	Output 2, Result 2.1
5	FIA	Task completed	160,000	Output 1, Result 1.3
6	IBCSD	Task completed	74,791	Output 1, Result 1.1
7	ISWA	Task completed*	29,580	Output 1, Result 1.1
8	UNDP Cambodia	Task completed	68,300	Output 4, Result 4.1
9	UN Habitat	Task completed	171,400	Output 2
10	WWF the Philippines	Task completed*	75,000	Output 1, Result 1.1
11	YEH Philanthropy	Task completed	20,000	Output 1, Result 1.1
12	Akvo foundation	Task completed*	55,000	Output 2, Result 2.2 Output 4, Result 4.3
13	EB impact	Task completed*	61,700	Output 1, Result 1.2 & 1.3 Output 3, Result 3.2

\* As of 30 December 2022 (Most activities have been implemented and concluded but final reports and payments are pending).

#### List of Partners with which the project collaborates outside formal implementation agreements

No.	Partner	Contribution to project outputs
1	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat	Output 4
2	COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter (WGML)	Output 2, 4
3	GreenHub in Viet Nam	Output 2
4	Davao del Sur State College (DSSC) in the Philippines, Philippines	Output 2
5	Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)	Output 2, 3, 4
6	Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA)	Output 2, 4
7	Ministry of Environment (MOE), Indonesia	Output 2, 4
8	Ministry of Environment and Water (MEWA), Malaysia	Output 2, 4
9	National University of Singapore (NUS)	Output 2, 4
10	Open Universiteit	Output 3
11	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	Output 1, 4
12	Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) – Thailand	Output 2
13	The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF), Indonesia	Output 2, 4
14	The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	HRBA and gender equality
15	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	Output 3

No.	Partner	Contribution to project outputs
16	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	HRBA and gender equality
17	Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI)	Output 2, 4
18	World Economic Forum Global Plastics Action Partnership (GPAP)	Output 3, 4
19	Meshminds Foundation	Output 3

## ANNEX 4: SEA of Solutions 2022

**SEA of Solutions 2022** – A Spotlight on Solutions to end plastic pollution in SE Asia

**Date:** Nov 23-24, 2022

**Time:** 1-5 pm (GMT+7)

**Event Partner:** EB Impact

### Context

**SEA circular project** aims to **reduce plastic pollution** and its impact through a **multi-sectoral approach**, working with actors across the value chain – from policy makers to communities. The project strives to **promote market-based solutions** and enable policies to end plastic pollution at source – ensuring impact that is sustainable and scalable. This requires awareness raising, situation analysis, policy support, industry collaboration and trends monitoring.

Among several key initiatives of SEA circular promoting industry collaboration and networking, **SEA of Solutions (SoS)** is the flagship annual event for bringing together local and national governments, value chain stakeholders, investors, civil societies, youth, thought leaders, academia, and development organizations under one roof to exchange knowledge, enable collaboration and enact change.

The inaugural [SoS 2019](#) marked significant pledges from different value chain actors for action towards circularity, while the [SoS 2020](#) progressed under the cloud of the COVID -19 pandemic at its peak and focused on 'have we moved the needle in addressing plastic pollution?'

[SOS 2021](#) attracted 800+ stakeholders and focused on the theme of **Accelerating solutions to reduce plastic waste** by exploring policies, partnerships, innovative technologies and financing that help address present challenges and mitigate the potential impacts of future disruptive global events. It marked the launch of the National Marine Litter Policy and Action Plan (2021-2030) by the Ministry of Environment and Water, Malaysia. In addition, the project coined the '**10 Acceleration Solutions**' to set the benchmark for collective action to end plastic pollution – this was borne out of the discussions with over 50+ speakers from 20+ countries during the program.

### Transitioning to a Circular Plastic Economy

Plastic pollution is a result of fundamental flaws of linear plastic system (make-use- dispose) in which 75% of plastic packaging value is lost to the economy after a short first use cycle.

The Asia and the Pacific region produce 49% of the global total of plastics and consumes 38% of the global total. With less than 10% of plastic waste being recycled, 81% of plastic waste come from Asian rivers.

The transition to circularity demands impactful solutions across the plastics value chain. A circular plastics economy does not only mean recycling materials at the end of life but also:

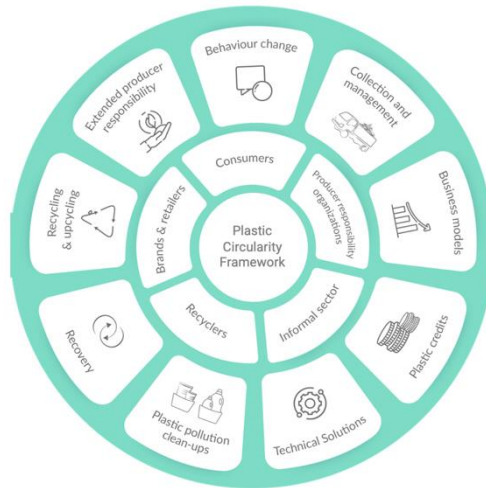
- Eliminating the production of products which can be considered as avoidable, unnecessary, or problematic.
- Designing products for reuse and ensuring their effective reuse.
- Removing hazardous additives in plastic products that facilitates bringing plastic waste back into plastic production.
- For plastics already produced, we need to keep them in the economy and out of the environment.

A comprehensive circular economy approach could:

- Reduce the volume of plastics entering our ocean by over 80% by 2040
- Reduce virgin plastic production by 55%
- Save governments US\$70 billion between 2021-2040
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25%
- Create 700,000 additional jobs, mainly in the global south.

### About SEA of Solutions 2022

[SoS 2022](#) leveraged on the momentum built so far and showcase exemplary market-based solutions promoting circularity, to the broader community; and facilitate key dialogues as negotiations begin towards an international agreement to end plastic pollution.



Plastic circularity solutions and value chain stakeholders

Using the plastic circularity framework of the SEA circular project, SoS 2022 spotlighted such circular solutions sourced from the presenters and partners that SEA circular has worked with through SoS events (in the last 3 years), good practice case studies compiled so far and other key initiatives.

The spotlighted solutions exhibited effective approaches to tackle the plastic pollution crisis including:

- Plastic **avoidance** and **alternative** solutions design.
- **Reducing** plastic usage at design and consumption stages; and
- **Removal** and better **recycling** initiatives to allow new post-consumer applications.

In addition, the inclusive and sustainable nature of the solutions addressed gender, human rights and responsible business conduct.

**Objectives:**

The SoS 2022 event achieved the following objectives:

- **Exchange** ideas, best practices and market-based solutions to promote circularity in the plastic value chain
- **Enable** a dialogue amongst key stakeholders to explore collaboration opportunities and adoption of spotlighted best practices
- **Empower** actors including government, private sector, and civil society with new knowledge and insights on the trends and upcoming developments as the world moves towards a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution

All the sessions were in plenary mode and [staggered over two half days](#).



SoS 2022 covered a combination of looking back and spotlighting exemplary circularity initiatives in the region along the [plastic value chain](#) from design and production to consumption and post-consumer waste management; and bringing together key

leaders and stakeholders for meaningful [dialogue](#) through engaging keynotes and panel discussions.

These solutions were segmented and presented under [three \(3\) cross-cutting themes](#) (listed below).



Innovation is imperative to address the multidimensional plastic waste management issue and advance circularity along the plastic value chain.	Designing policy coordination and interventions to improve waste management systems with principles of inclusivity makes it sustainable.	Collaboration is essential in stemming the plastic pollution crisis, given its multipronged and transboundary nature.
Solutions under this theme may feature innovations spanning technology, operations, business model or financing model.	Solutions under this theme can include work with marginalized groups, advancing their livelihood and fostering social equity.	Solutions under this theme shall cover how meaningful partnerships can transform a linear plastic value chain to a circular one.

## Panel discussions

Apart from spotlighting solutions, SoS 2022 dived deep into:

1. How a legally binding international instrument on plastic pollution can be inclusive, innovative and collaborative?
2. What will be the perspective and roles of the private sector, governments and civil societies?
3. How it is imperative to integrate inclusivity into the different market mechanisms and solutions while pursuing circularity in the plastic value chain?

## Speakers:

Expert speakers were drawn from thought leadership institutions like the World Economic Forum, key partners of SEA circular and UNEP, civil society organizations representing major industry groups, private sector leaders and regional state actors.

## Participation

The program shall address all key actors from the plastic value chain –specifically

1. Business leaders and representatives from industry associations
2. Representatives from value chain enablers (Financing, Accreditation etc.)
3. Representatives from relevant national and local agencies focused on environment, waste management etc.
4. Civil society actors working across the plastic value chain
5. Representatives from regional multistakeholder organizations

The event had 995 registered participants representing stakeholders from the region and beyond. The event aims to be **gender balanced** and **inclusive**, seeking involvement of representatives of disadvantaged groups and the informal sector.



## ANNEX 5: Key Deliverables

### Publications, knowledge products

**End Plastic Pollution: Knowledge Compendium to Accelerate Solutions for Plastic Circularity in South-East Asia**, which compiles 20+ publications, 10 Accelerating Solutions to end plastic waste, tools, case studies, and best practices from SEA circular's interventions in six South-East Asian countries with stakeholders across the plastic value chain. (Resources produced until December 2021)

**Good practices in Circular Solutions for Plastic Pollution – a compilation of practices along the plastic value chain by stakeholders / key players in the South-East Asia region**

- I. A Micro-business-driven Solution for Zero-waste Communities,
- II. An Ecosystem Business Model for Small Communities and a Renewed Sense of Value towards Plastic,
- III. An incentive model for behaviour change in managing plastic waste,
- IV. A Plastic Offset Programme is Encouraging Companies to Reduce their Plastic Footprint,
- V. City-university collaboration for plastic-free cities
- VI. Community-based Plastic Credit Solution – A Holistic Attempt to Make Coastlines Plastic-free,
- VII. Drinking Water System with Zero Plastic Packaging,
- VIII. Enabling Hotels to Become more Sustainable through Voluntary Collective Action,
- IX. Fostering collaboration for upcycling and circularity in the Philippines,
- X. Influencing Value Chains to Reduce Plastic Use,
- XI. Innovative Local Strategies for Effective Plastic Waste Management Models,
- XII. Sustainable and ethical collection infrastructure for plastic waste,
- XIII. Sustainable Funding Mechanisms that Empower Communities And Clean Oceans,
- XIV. Technology-enabled Reusable Packaging,
- XV. Turning Plastic Trash into Treasure

### Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Law, Toolkits for the Philippines

- I. Toolkit 1: The EPR System and Policy Landscape
- II. Toolkit 2: The EPR System and Business Sector
- III. Toolkit 3: The EPR System and Waste Management Sector
- IV. Toolkit 4: The EPR System, Civil Society, and General Public
- V. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Law of the Philippines: A White Paper

### Human rights-based approach (HRBA)

- I. Plastics Toolbox, Business, Human Rights, and the Environment
- II. Plastics, Human Rights, and Business Responsibilities - Issue Brief August 2022
- III. Business, Human Rights and the Environment in South-East Asia: Overcoming the Plastics Challenge Policy Training Resource
- IV. Training Modules on "The Human Rights Dimensions of the Plastics Crisis - Business, Human Rights, and the Environment"
  - a. Module 1: The Human Rights Dimensions of Plastic Crisis
  - b. Module 2: Plastics, Human Rights & The Environment
  - c. Module 3: Business & Human Rights (BHR) and Plastic
- V. A Checklist for Responsible Business Plastic Action
- VI. A Checklist for Civil Society
- VII. A Checklist for State Institutions and Government Officials

- VIII. **Training Package and Overview: Business, Human Rights and the Environment: Overcoming the Plastics Challenge**

## **Marine Litter Monitoring Implementation in South-East Asia**

- I. **Regional Guidance on Harmonized National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes**, guiding COBSEA countries to incorporate pollution loading as well as environmental, social, and economic impact indicators in national marine monitoring programmes.
- II. **Marine Litter in Cambodia: A Situation Analysis & Recommendations for Planning and Action**
- III. **Marine Litter Monitoring Methods Handbook Part I (English) and Handbook Part II English and 5 languages from the region (Tagalog, Thai, Khmer, Vietnamese, and Malay), and video modules**
- IV. National Source Inventory reports for **Cambodia** and the **Philippines** – technical guidance to support countries with the implementation of their National Action Plans
- V. National marine litter baseline assessment reports and factsheets summarizing survey findings (Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam) – publication pending country approval for release of data.
- VI. Marine litter monitoring frameworks and recommendations for harmonization (Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam) - not intended for publication, resource for internal country use

## **Research and Assessments**

- I. **Perceptions on Plastic Waste 2.0: Insights from businesses and consumers in Southeast Asia** - survey on plastic waste perceptions, which was conducted in collaboration with FIA in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. A final survey report has been submitted for publication.
- II. **Plastic Material Flow and Value Chain Analysis (Thailand)**
- III. **A qualitative study on risks and opportunities of plastic credit financing instruments being introduced into the informal waste management sector - Working Paper, Executive Summary and Full Report**
- IV. Assessing the Contribution of Plastic Credit Schemes to Reducing Plastics Pollution and improving recycling – Working paper
- V. **Identifying plastic leakage hotspots in the East Asian Seas region: Waste flow analyses in six cities and regional modelling of plastic emissions**

## **Video and Public Service Announcements (PSA)**

- I. **Film Plastik**, a wakeup call to end plastic pollution
- II. **SEA of Solutions 2022 - A spotlight of Solutions to End Plastic Pollution in South-East Asia region**
  - a. **Opening Video**
  - b. **Day 1**
  - c. **Day 2**
- III. **Inspiring and exemplary solutions to End Plastic Pollution in South-East Asia**
  - a. **Spotlight on Innovation**
  - b. **Spotlight on Collaboration**
  - c. **Spotlight on Inclusion**
- IV. UN reform videos **“A Call to Beat Plastic Pollution”** in **Malaysia, Thailand,** and **Viet Nam** involving the respective UN Resident Coordinators and INC focal points.

## Workshops, Seminars, Roundtables, and other events (by date)

- I. [Addressing plastic waste through responsible business conduct: Shifting towards circularity in South-East Asia \(16 March\)](#)

The webinar discussed the HRBA to EPR and how businesses can safeguard from risks in their efforts on EPR, particularly when it is highly dependent on the informal sector.
- II. [Regional consultation on strengthening and harmonizing marine litter monitoring programmes \(14 April\)](#)

A virtual consultation organized by the COBSEA Secretariat and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) was held with SEA circular target countries on 4 April 2022 on strengthening marine litter monitoring efforts in line with COBSEA Regional Guidance on Harmonized National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes. 26 participants shared country needs to guide planned technical assistance and capacity building activities on monitoring under SEA circular, including national training on monitoring and assessment of national marine litter baselines.
- III. [Regional consultation on marine plastic research inventory \(20 April\)](#)

The consultation introduced the web database to participating countries and regional stakeholder to gather comments and feedback on format, content, and accessibility. The event informed further development of the database, integration into the COBSEA Regional Node, and the establishment of a regional research network to address research gaps and priorities. The consultation further ensured that data management and its application are in line with the COBSEA RAP MALI and UN Environment Assembly resolutions on marine litter and microplastics.
- IV. [Launching event of the short film 'PLASTIK' \(World Environment Day, 5 June\)](#)

UNEP, through SEA circular, introduced a short film 'PLASTIK', which was commissioned by MeshMinds and produced by Studio Birthplace, that exhibits the significance of both individuals and collective actions to combat plastic pollution in the South-East Asian region. The film, featuring a child looking through a telescope made out of a plastic bottle, shows hyperrealist glimpses of a plastic-polluted future. The narrative helps the audience view the plastic pollution crisis through the eyes and imagination of a child. The film warns how human life can be affected if plastic waste becomes unmanageable. It shows that even children can influence their families to say no to single-use plastic and that we must #ActNow to #BeatPollution because we have #OnlyOneEarth.
- V. [Collective Efforts to End Plastic Pollution in South-East Asia \(29 June\)](#)

The webinar was organized as a side event at the UN Ocean Conference 2022, attracting 310+ participants from all over the world, especially from Southeast Asia. Representatives from four ASEAN member states joined a dynamic panel discussion titled "Transforming Commitment into Action to End Plastic Pollution" to share national plans and efforts in this area.
- VI. [Dialogue on Extended Producer Responsibility and Training on the Human Rights Based Approach in the Plastic Value Chain \(23 August\)](#)

The training enhanced understanding of human rights dimensions and policy implications, increased awareness on the application of human rights principles and environment frameworks in the plastic value chain. Participants were provided with case examples of policies on the HRBA, frameworks and tools for applications, and guidance for implementing the HRBA in business.
- VII. [Technical Session on Private Sector Engagement for Plastic Circularity \(20 September\)](#)

The session provided insights into cross-cutting projects supported by SEA circular, projects encouraging the collaboration between the private sector, producer responsibility organizations, government agencies, and civil

society organizations to support the enablement of EPR. These projects developed and applied knowledge products covering the emerging plastic credit mechanism and linkages to help sensitize and raise awareness on human rights, particularly when waste management systems of most ASEAN countries still rely on the informal sector, incl. vulnerable groups.

**VIII. [Session on Plastic Circularity through Responsible Business Conduct: Realizing the Right to a Healthy Environment \(21 September\)](#)**

The training content was developed in partnership with Dalhousie University to inform and sensitize actors in the plastic value chain on the HRBA. The dialogue and discussion part of the session focused on the interconnectedness between responsible business conduct and EPR and how the HRBA can support the achievement of plastic circularity in an inclusive way, gradually mainstreaming the informal waste management sector towards green jobs. Participants discussed actions needed to help businesses, governments, and communities to shift away from business as usual to an inclusive circular and more sustainable and resource-efficient plastic economy. Panellists from OECD, ILO, UNDP, and the private sector reflected on best practices to respect the right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment (e.g., human rights due diligence), good examples of state and corporate policies that ensure public participation from stakeholders, proactive steps that businesses could take to avoid impacting vulnerable groups, and tools and initiatives that can help companies identify areas of non-compliance.

**IX. [Regional Dialogue on Plastic Credits – A Circular Solution for Plastic Waste Management \(28 September\)](#)**

The dialogue enhanced understanding on concepts and key aspects of plastic credits as a solution for plastic waste management. Insights were shared on the correlation of plastic credits with circularity enabling instruments such as EPR, HRBA, and Responsible Business Conduct. Participants from different sectors were provided a holistic view of plastic credits system and mechanism for market integration and standardization.

**X. [Regional consultation on the Regional Marine Litter Research Database](#)**

On 20 April 2022, the COBSEA Secretariat and the National University of Singapore (NUS) held a regional virtual consultation with participating countries of COBSEA and stakeholders from academia to introduce the expanded regional marine litter research inventory and online research database and collect feedback for further development of the database under the East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML.

**XI. [Fourth Meeting of the COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter \(WGML-4\) and resumed Twenty-fifth Intergovernmental Meeting \(IGM 25\) of COBSEA](#)**

WGML-4 and IGM 25 part 2 took place in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 11-14 October, hosted by the Viet Nam Administration for Seas and Islands (VASI) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Over 50 participants representing all nine COBSEA participating countries, observers and UNEP personnel took part in both hybrid Meetings. Developed and prepared by the WGML, IGM 25 *inter alia* formally established the East Asian Seas Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) and adopted the biennial workplan for implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) 2023-2024.

**XII. [SEA of Solutions 2022 – A Spotlight on Solutions to end plastic pollution in South-East Asia \(23-24 November\)](#)**

The SOS 2022 was convened in partnership with EB Impact, spotlighting the exemplary solutions and facilitating networking among all stakeholders. The event was concluded with five action points and recommendations to be considered during the first INC meeting in Uruguay. The [Outcome Summary](#) and [detailed Outcome report](#) titled “[Voices from South-East Asia to End Plastic Pollution](#)” were widely disseminated to stakeholders and beneficiaries.

