



Global Partnership on Marine Litter

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UNEP and Partnerships

UNEP's approach to environmental management revolves around the creation of effective partnerships. These include:

The Global Partnership for Waste Management

The Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)

The Global Partnership on Nutrient Management

The Global Wastewater Initiative

The Global Coral Reef Partnership

History of the GPML

The **Global Programme of Action** for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) **was adopted in 1995 and is hosted by UNEP**

The **GPA is the only global intergovernmental mechanism** directly addressing the connectivity between terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems. Marine Litter is one of the priority source categories

The 3rd Intergovernmental review meeting in 2012 recommended the establishment of a **Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)** which was subsequently launched at the Rio+20 meeting under the auspice of the GPA.

The first Partnership forum was held October 2013 – feedback incorporated in workplan

What is the GPML?

The GPML seeks to protect human health and the environment by the reduction and management of marine litter

It is a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership involving: IGOs, Governments, NGOs, Private sector, academia

Guided by the Honolulu Strategy, the GPML has several focal areas:

- Reduced levels and impact of Land-based sources of ML – led by UNEP/GPA
- Reduced levels and impact of Sea-based sources of ML - led by IMO and FAO (ALDFG)
- Reduced levels and impact of ML on shorelines, habitats and biodiversity

UNEP's Role (Secretariat):

- Facilitate “matchmaking” and use its **convening power** to bring together the various stakeholders
- **Coordinate with relevant initiatives**

Objectives

The GPML aims to achieve the following objectives:

- **To address the (ecological, human health, and economic) impacts of marine litter worldwide**
- **To enhance international cooperation and coordination (with Governments, private sector, civil society etc.)**
- **To promote knowledge management, information sharing and monitoring of progress and increase awareness on marine litter sources, fate and impacts.**
- **To promote resource efficiency and economic development through waste prevention (e.g. 4Rs) and by recovering valuable material and/or energy from waste.**
- **To assess emerging issues related to the fate and potential influence of marine litter, such as (micro) plastics & associated transfer of pollutants.**

Actions Worldwide

Publications, guidelines and Research Papers

- An e-book (YB) and brochure on microplastics
- Valuing Plastic publication (June, 300 ml. reach)
- Short papers demystifying issues (Oct/Dec):
 - Microplastics and food safety
 - Biodegradable/bio plastics – friend or foe?
- Plastics in Cosmetics – is our personal care polluting the environment? (October 2014)
- Guidelines on Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gear (FAO – December 2014)



Actions Worldwide

Marine Litter Action Plans & pilot projects

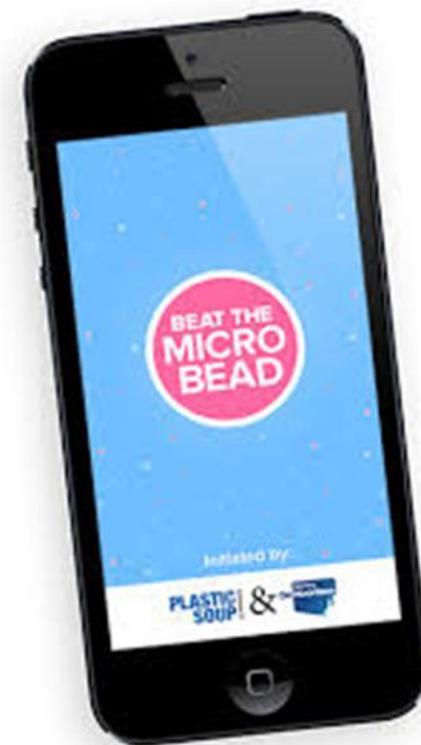
- Regional ML Action Plan in the Mediterranean (in force July 2014), & Caribbean
- National Action Plan on ML - Nigeria
- Municipal Action Plans on ML (Chile, Colombia, Panama, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil)
- Pilot activities: Waste minimization, Samoa; Ghost Gear Identification project
- Under development: Public-private partnerships to give waste(plastics) a value



Actions Worldwide

Awareness, Outreach & Capacity building

- Supported Internationalization of the “Beat the microbead” initiative
 - Many personal care products and cosmetics contain plastics
 - Now 50 NGOs involved
 - App in 7 languages – helps consumers to check if a product contains microbeads by just scanning the barcode with your smartphone camera
 - Promotes a phase out of microbeads by industry
 - <http://get.beatthemicrobead.org/>
- Supported the development of the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI)
- Capacity building in Southeast Pacific (600 pax)
- Media trainings

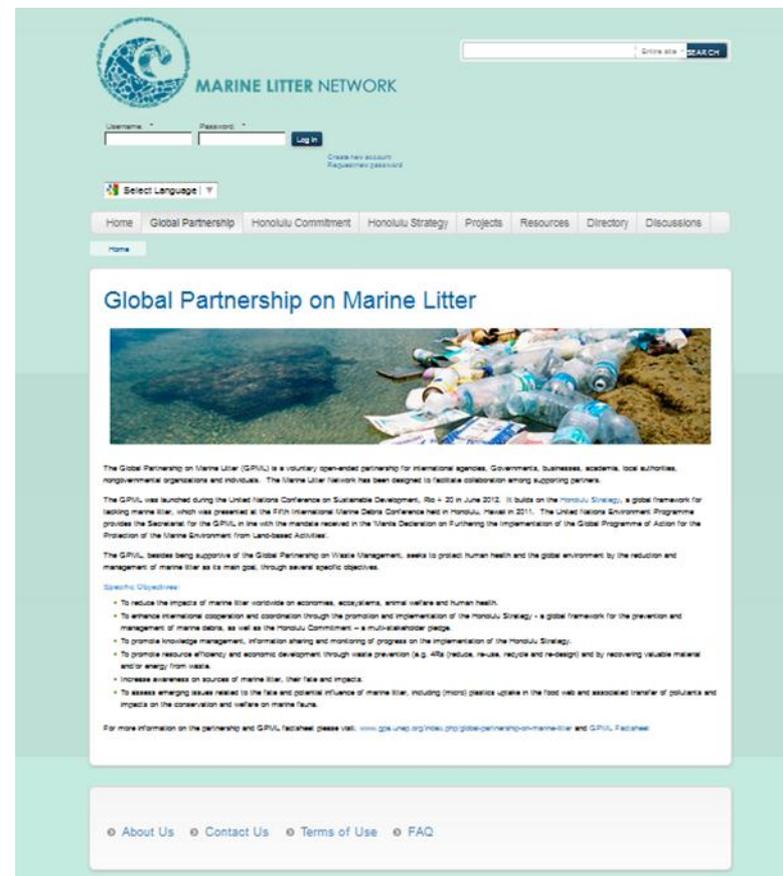


Actions Worldwide

- Establishment of a Marine litter observation system (IMO)

On-line Marine Litter Network

- To connect with global stakeholders
- To communicate
- To share information
- To collaborate
- To track progress on implementation of the Honolulu Strategy



UNEA Resolution

UNEP's Actions at the Global level:

UN Environment Assembly – Resolution on Marine Plastic Debris and Microplastics, 27/6 2014:

- “Encourages Governments, intergovernmental organizations, industry and others to cooperate with the Global Partnership on Marine Litter “
- “Emphasizes that further urgent action is needed to address the challenges posed by marine plastic debris and microplastics, by addressing such materials at source”
- “Encourages Governments and the private sector to promote more resource-efficient use and sound management of plastics and microplastics”
- “Request UNEP ED to present a study on microplastics to UNEA-2”

Future Activities

Study on microplastics for UNEA-2 (global and regional processes)

- Core microplastics study (nano-plastics, vector role, evidence-based)
- Microplastics impact on fisheries and aquaculture
- Modelling and monitoring → hotspots
- Socio-economic component
- Compilation of Best Available Technologies/Environmental Practices (BATs/BEPs)
- Regional Components
- SIDS specific chapters and recommendations throughout the study



Potential Future Activities

Supporting Activities at the Global level

- Innovation Challenge for Universities/private sector
 - Engineering challenge (new materials, redesign, prevention)
 - Communications challenge (raise awareness, engage)
 - Prediction/recovery challenge (predict, modelling, hotspot)
- Massive Open Online Course in ML – MOOC
 - (Expert & Leadership tracks)
- Campaign (2-3 components including microplastics in cosmetics)
- Demonstration/pilot projects
- Action plans, plastics management strategy



THANK YOU!

www.gpa.unep.org

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