

SEA circular > Annual Report 2020

February 2021





<p>SEA circular</p>	<p>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 systems is weak.</p>
<p>This report</p>	<p>The Annual Report 2020 presents progress against the Project Workplan 2020, with a summary of delivery against the project results framework. The report also identifies impacts of and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as changes made to project implementation and governance arrangements.</p>

CONTENTS

1.	<i>PROJECT SUMMARY</i>	4
2.	<i>OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS 2020</i>	6
2.1	Overview of progress against Outcome and Output indicators	6
2.2	HRBA and gender equality	11
2.3	COVID-19 implications	11
2.4	Project governance and institutional arrangements	12
3.	<i>IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2020 WORKPLAN</i>	13
3.1	Output 1: Market-based solutions to 'less plastic wasted'	13
3.2	Output 2: Strengthening the scientific basis for decision-making.....	18
3.3	Output 3: Outreach	21
3.4	Output 4: Regional networking	25
3.5	Implementation status summary	30
3.6	Co-financing leveraged in 2020.....	30
4.	<i>GOVERNANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS</i>	31
4.1	Project Steering Committee	31
4.2	Project Implementation Group	32
5.	<i>CHALLENGES, RISKS AND LESSONS LEARNED</i>	33
5.1	COVID-19.....	33
5.2	Human rights-based approach.....	34
5.3	Changes in the political and institutional landscape	34
5.4	Internal factors	35
6.	<i>FINANCIAL REPORT</i>	35

ANNEX 1: Project Results Framework

ANNEX 2: 3rd Meeting of the Project Steering Committee - Meeting Minutes

ANNEX 3: Implementation Agreements

ANNEX 4: SEA of Solutions 2020 Outcomes Summary

ANNEX 5: Key Deliverables

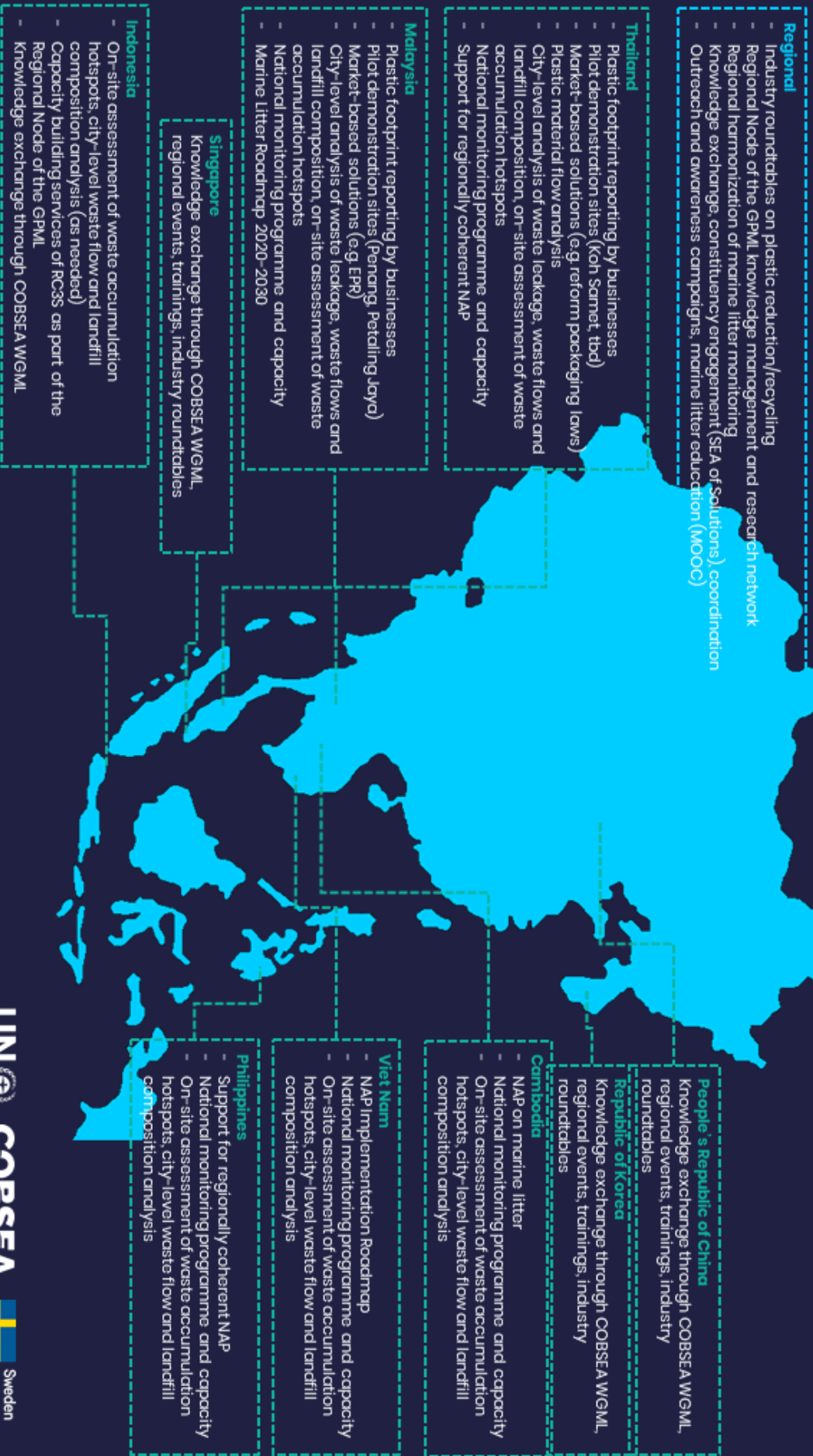
ABBREVIATIONS

AHEG	Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics	OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	ORA	Ocean Recovery Alliance
AWGCME	ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment	PCD	Pollution Control Department Thailand
COBSEA	Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia	PDP	Plastic Disclosure Project
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	PH	Philippines
CSO	Civil Society Organization	PPP-	Public-Private Partnerships Plastics Thailand
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines	PSC	Project Steering Committee
DMCR	Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Thailand	RAP MALI	COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
ECNU	East China National University	RC3S	Regional Capacity Center on Clean Seas
EPIC	Environmental Protection and Innovation Centre	SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
ERIA	Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia	Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	SOS	SEA of Solutions
FDA	Food and Drugs Administration	SSFA	Small-scale Funding Agreement
FIA	Food Industry Asia	SWAT	Solid Waste Management Association of Thailand
FFI	Fauna & Flora International	TH	Thailand
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	UN	United Nations
GPML	Global Partnership on Marine Litter	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
HRBA	Human Rights-based Approach	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
ID	Indonesia	VASI	Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands
IETC	UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre	VN	Vietnam
IGM	Intergovernmental Meeting	WaCT	Waste Wise Cities Tool
MGTC	Malaysia Green Technology and Climate Change Centre	WGML	COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter
MIMA	Maritime Institute of Malaysia	WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course		
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding		
MSWM	Municipal Solid Waste Management		
MY	Malaysia		
NAP	National Action Plan		
NGO	Non-governmental Organization		
NUS	National University of Singapore		
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development		

1. PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title	SEA circular (Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in South-East Asia)
Project duration	August 2018 – December 2022 (including inception phase)
Reporting period	1 January – 31 October 2020
Countries	Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam (target countries), Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Singapore (knowledge partners)
Executing agencies	United Nations Environment Programme Asia and the Pacific Regional Office and the Secretariat of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
Donor	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
Total grant	USD 6.3M (SEK 55M)
Project impact	Less plastic wasted, with reduced input to and impact on the marine environment as well as dependent people
Project outcomes	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
Project outputs	Output 1: Market-based solutions towards 'less plastic wasted' Output 2: Strengthening the scientific basis for decision-making Output 3: Outreach Output 4: Regional networking
Synopsis	<p><i>SEA circular – solving plastic pollution at source</i></p> <p>SEA circular aims to reduce adverse impact of land-based plastic leakage into the marine environment, by ensuring that less plastic is wasted at source and management of the plastic value chain is improved in South-East Asia. Considering waste management systems in the region remain largely inadequate to process increasing amounts of plastic waste, the project focuses on the lifecycle 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 coordinated action. Project partners include national and local government; the private sector including producers, retailers, and associations in the packaging, consumer and institutional products industry; academic and research institutes; international organizations as well as civil society and non-governmental organizations. The project promotes a 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 most vulnerable to the impacts of marine litter.</p>

Map of project activities



2. OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS 2020

SEA circular project implementation progress has accelerated, with delivery across all parts of the project annual workplan 2020. The project coordination and implementation structure has been updated, enhancing capacity. However, the COVID19 pandemic has significantly changed the context, in terms of waste generation and management and in terms of working conditions. While COVID-19 impacts were considered as much as possible in the preparation of the Workplan 2020, the continuation of the pandemic has necessitated further adjustments to project implementation modalities and in some instances, to project activities, and has caused some implementation delays.

Overall, the project has made significant progress in relation to engaging and training businesses in measuring their plastic footprint, as a basis for adoption of plastic reduction and neutrality targets. This has also enabled consistent and gradually increasing provision of information, tools and training on the application of a human rights-based approach in corporate plastic pollution reduction efforts. Business engagement as well as surveys among businesses and consumers has generated information that can inform further work on business incentives. The project has contributed to strengthening the science-policy interface, including in particular by leveraging COBSEA's regional mechanism and formal process towards strengthening marine litter monitoring as well as supporting national policy and management planning. The project's support towards expansion of the Marine Litter Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), including ensuring the course runs in two additional languages of the region starting 2020, will broaden the number of individuals across multiple stakeholder groups aware of and trained in marine litter reduction approaches, contributing to scaled up efforts in the intermediate to longer term. SEA of Solutions 2020 was held successfully as a hybrid event, enabling exchange across 750 participants from 55 countries and more than 300 organizations through a virtual platform and with another 120 participants connected through a physical hub in Hanoi, Viet Nam. Government ministers from 10 countries addressed the high-level session. Information gathering and planning in 2020 has laid a foundation for a number of activities more specifically and directly addressing COVID-19 in 2021, with particular focus on vulnerable communities. COVID-19 has to date not necessitated revision of the project results framework, but this will be further analysed as part of project implementation during 2021.

This annual report provides information on progress made in relation to outcome and output indicators (as defined in the Project Results Framework, see Annex 1), as well as against the project Workplan 2020.

2.1 Overview of progress against Outcome and Output indicators

A qualitative assessment of progress against outcome and output indicators is provided below. It should be noted that there are some challenges in obtaining consistent and reliable data on outcome indicators, in particular where indicators rely on multiple data sources and types. Moreover, the COVID pandemic has some bearing on plastic consumption, recycling and disposal and consequently also on project activities. It may therefore be meaningful to revisit the indicator framework of the project with a view to revising it as relevant. This may be best addressed in the context of / as a follow-up to the project mid-term review, to be conducted in 2021.

Outcome Indicator	Progress update
Reduction in single-use plastic production and sale (plastic shopping bags, plastic straws and/or plastic cutlery)	A range of policy measures including reduction or elimination targets have been adopted. This includes e.g.: Cambodia: As of 2018, supermarkets and shopping malls charge KHR 400/bag (~USD 0.10/bag) as of 2017, reducing distribution by 30%. Indonesia: Ban of single-use/disposable

<p><i>Baseline: Indonesia 6.5% increase; Malaysia 3.9% increase; Thailand 4.16% increase; Viet Nam 7.2% increase between 2016 and 2017</i></p> <p><i>Target: Reduction in annual rate of increase</i></p> <p><i>Measured through industry reports. Data collection by national plastic associations, including Malaysia Plastics Forum and Plastics Institute of Thailand</i></p>	<p>plastic bags (transparent bags made from various plastics, including PE and thermoplastics) in Jakarta as of July 2020, in Bali as of June 2019, in Bogor City (2018 in shopping centers and retail stores; 2019 in traditional markets) has reduced circulation of plastic bags by 41 tons/month. Malaysia: Road map of single use plastics (2018–2030). Cessation of permit issuance for plastic import 2018. No straw by default initiate started in 2019 for fixed premises, with expansion beyond straws and bags to food packaging, plastic film, cutlery food containers, cotton buds, poly bags etc. The Philippines: Single use plastics banned in national government offices and local government units since 2020. Thailand: Single use plastic bags banned in stores starting 2020 (still allowed in fresh markets & rural areas); ban on plastic shopping bags thinner than 36 microns, single use plastic cups thinner than 300 microns & plastic straws by 2022. Viet Nam: No more single use plastic or disposable plastic bags in 80% of coastal communities by 2025, 100% by 2050; Replacement of nylon bags in Quang Nam province with ecological bags.</p>
<p>Variety of alternative packaging (item)</p> <p><i>Baseline: 0 (no systematic documentation so far)</i></p> <p><i>Target: 50</i></p> <p><i>Measured through case studies, factsheets and product information collected. Data collection by all project implementing partners.</i></p>	<p>Alternative packaging materials developed and in use include e.g. materials based on/derived from bamboo, sugarcane, cotton, paper, seaweed and poly lactic acid. There are numerous applications including e.g. in packaging as well as food and beverage.</p>
<p>Increase in collection of PET bottles for recycling (by tonnage)</p> <p><i>Baseline: 44 – 59% in Bangkok; 32 – 43% in Phuket; 20.8 – 27.9% for Kuala Lumpur (all in 2018)</i></p> <p><i>Target: 40% increase</i></p> <p><i>Measured through industry reports. Data collection by national plastic associations, including Malaysia Plastics Forum and Plastics Institute of Thailand</i></p>	<p>PET bottle collection rate in Viet Nam 21% (Ho Chi Minh 74%, Hanoi 39%); The Philippines 21% (Metro Manila 39%); Thailand 32% (Bangkok 52%, Phuket 38%); Indonesia 22% (Jakarta 69%); Greater Kuala Lumpur 23%.</p>
<p>Packaging recycling rate</p> <p><i>Baseline: Standardization of recycling rate definition by Q1 2020</i></p> <p><i>Target: To be determined in Q1/Q2 2020</i></p> <p><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</i></p> <p><i>Measured through industry reports; governmental reports on SDGs</i></p>	<p>Cambodia: Low, estimated to be 1% by the Ministry of the Environment at the 2020 Waste Summit in Phnom Penh. 30% of fishing nets from one coastal community were purchased for recycling; 52% were discarded into the ocean. Indonesia: 17 ~20% recycled by private individuals and SMEs; Malaysia: 20%; The Philippines: 25% recovered, although higher for high residual-value plastics (especially PET bottles, also HDPE products) and lower for low residual-value plastics (e.g. < 5% for plastic bags and thin sachets).</p>
<p>Increased consumer awareness on marine litter and plastic pollution</p> <p><i>Baseline: To be confirmed after the joint survey with FIA in Q1 2020</i></p> <p><i>Target: To be confirmed after the joint survey with FIA in Q1 2020</i></p> <p><i>Data collection by FIA and UNEP</i></p> <p><i>Measured through consumer awareness surveys in 2020 and 2022</i></p>	<p>Perceptions on plastic waste report and the underlying data identifies how consumers and food and beverage businesses perceive plastic waste issues in five South-East Asian countries. A number of other initiatives have characterized awareness, including e.g. Malaysia: 3R campaign exists and thousands of awareness initiatives rolled out but effects on public consciousness small so far, possibly because of lack of enforcement (KeTTHA, 2017; Moh</p>

	and Abd Manaf, 2014; Cyclos, 2019); Viet Nam: 50% of households/small businesses lack knowledge about the impact of discharging plastic waste into the environment; 63% do not understand regulations on SWM and environmental protection; 5- 9% of households discharge directly into the environment (Borongon and Huno, 2020).
<p>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</p> <p><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>	Implementation initiated at two SEA circular project demonstration sites in Malaysia (Petaling Jaya and Penang), with planning and partnership building progressing at one site in Thailand (Koh Samet). Additional financial support for three further sites has been secured, with site identification and planning to commence in 2021. The project is directly supporting five COBSEA countries at national level in revising/adopting national plans.

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

Output Indicator	Progress update
Number of companies operating in Southeast Asia publishing sustainability reports with information on Plastic Footprint:	153 entities, inclusive of businesses, 3 local government bodies, 5 educational institutions and 3 hospitals, have been trained in plastic footprint measurement and disclosure. Follow-up including auditing of plastic footprint is carried out by Solid Waste Association of Thailand (SWAT).
Number of pilot demonstration on environmentally sound waste management supported	Three demonstration sites have been identified, two in Malaysia (Petaling Jaya and Penang) and in one Thailand (Koh Samet). Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, on-ground work and site visits have been delayed, with consequent delays in planning and partnership building, especially at the site in Thailand. Activities at sites in Malaysia have been initiated and are progressing with some delay.
Changes in policies in Malaysia and Thailand concerning recycled plastics.	In Thailand, efforts to revise regulations on recycled plastic content in food-grade plastics have been delayed, with the new leadership of the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) of Thailand considering further quantitative evidence. In Malaysia, a roadmap for circularity is progressing with delay due to flooding in late 2020 as well as COVID-19.
Amount of co-financing raised from private sector stakeholders towards achieving Output 1 (cash and in kind, USD):	USD 16,000 in co-financing leveraged for Material Flow Analysis in Thailand, conducted jointly with PPP Plastics. Expected co-financing for in-person SEA circular events co-hosted by private-sector entities has not materialized due to COVID-19.
Saving achieved (including avoided costs) by companies and other entities	SWAT has been commissioned to individually audit companies that have adopted plastic disclosure and

through improved management of plastic value chain:	subsequent steps. The activity is progressing with some delay and will be further detailed in a report being prepared by SWAT in 2021.
---	--

Output 2: Strengthening the scientific basis for decision making

Output Indicator	Progress update
Number of COBSEA countries publishing marine litter monitoring results:	Four COBSEA countries currently have an established monitoring programme (China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Singapore). National monitoring programmes are under development in five COBSEA countries. Malaysia has drafted a monitoring programme description for further development in 2021 and Thailand has drafted a concept to inform monitoring programme development. A draft inventory of existing monitoring efforts has been compiled to inform harmonization across programmes and improve progress tracking.
Number of COBSEA countries that incorporate pollution loading as well as environmental, social and economic impact indicators in marine litter reporting:	The inventory of monitoring efforts maps existing programmes and initiatives, including indicators and methods used. The inventory and respective recommendations to address gaps will be finalized in Q1 2021 pending final country input.
Number of COBSEA countries that include a citizen-science approach in baseline data development and national monitoring programmes:	Five COBSEA countries apply a citizen-science approach under the International Coastal Cleanup (China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand). The inventory of monitoring efforts provides further information on this and guides consideration of citizen science approaches in national monitoring programmes.
Number of new research projects/partnerships on marine litter and plastic pollution, including environmental, social and economic impacts and governance aspects:	COBSEA Secretariat provided support to four research grant proposals that speak to the RAP MALI (approved projects to be announced shortly). The research database will capture new efforts and the regional research network will catalyse (and track) collaborative research.

Output 3: Outreach on marine litter and plastic pollution

Output Indicator	Progress update
Number of individuals completing Massive Open Online Course and distribution among stakeholder groups (government, private sector, academia, civil society and community-based organizations).	9,636 participants registered for the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on marine litter, which commenced on 26 October. The number of participants registered for the five languages used in the region/in COBSEA is 5,455. This includes representatives from across stakeholder groups.
Change in consumer awareness in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam:	Baseline data for consumer awareness was measured in a survey conducted in 2019 and 2020. The report was launched in June 2020. The survey will be conducted again in early 2022 to assess changes in consumer awareness.
Increased media coverage of social and economic impacts of plastic pollution and marine litter:	Initial results from query on media reporting on marine litter, plastic pollution and their impacts over the past 5 years, in English as well as Indonesian, Khmer, Malay, Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese media, show that, in 2016, there were a total

	of 94 articles, rising to 343 in 2017, 1560 in 2018 and 1944 in 2019. In 2020 the total number of articles was 1221. This uses data from 'Meltwater', a service for media monitoring. More detailed analysis of media reporting trends will be provided in the future.
--	--

Output 4: Regional networking for exchange, cooperation and integration

Output Indicator	Progress update
Number of COBSEA countries adopting or revising national marine litter action plans or equivalent in line with COBSEA RAP MALI:	5 COBSEA countries are revising/adopting national plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Viet Nam: National Action Plan (NAP) in 2019, policy paper for implementation completed in 2020; - Malaysia: Marine Litter Roadmap 2020–2030 drafted, to be finalized Q1 2021; - Thailand: NAP drafted, a policy paper with recommendations was shared; - Philippines: stakeholder consultations for development of NAP to conclude in 2020; - Cambodia: Situation analysis with policy recommendations was developed to inform NAP development in Cambodia.
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 generation, management and discharge of waste, promote a circular economy, and/or address marine litter. National progress reporting against COBSEA RAP MALI (starting 2021) will improve progress tracking.
Number of products or polymers subject to recycling or reduction mechanism adopted regionally/by multiple countries:	Data not yet available; liaison and coordination with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat will be increased following up to the report <i>The Role of Packaging Regulations and Standards in Driving the Circular Economy</i> launched jointly in 2019. National progress reporting against COBSEA RAP MALI (starting 2021) will contribute to progress tracking.
Year-on year percent increase in regional marine litter knowledge hub online content as well as traffic:	The foundation was laid for establishment of the Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), in line with the decision of the COBSEA IGM. Structure and knowledge management services of the Node have been further developed (see Section 3.4).
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:	SEA of Solutions 2020 took place from 24–26 November, as a virtual event with a physical hub in Hanoi, Viet Nam. The event brought together around 750 participants from 55 countries and more than 300 organizations including companies, NGOs, governmental bodies, civil society, academia, and youth groups, with an additional 120 participants attending the event in person in Hanoi. Around 20 participants represented organizations working with disadvantaged groups (i.e., wastepickers, women, coastal communities in Thailand, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines). Government

	ministers from 10 countries addressed SOS 2020 as part of the high-level session.
--	---

2.2 HRBA and gender equality

The project has deepened the partnership with UNEP's Law Division, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), leveraging a larger pool of expertise for capacity building and outreach. COVID-19 and related restrictions on travel and meetings have led to delays in implementation of outreach and training activities on the needs and interests of disadvantaged groups, as well as activities at demonstration sites. Where possible, activities have been adapted, including the use of virtual learning and meetings.

Achievements in 2020 related to strengthening awareness and understanding of human rights, environmental rights and gender equality include (further described in Section 3) a joint session at the UN Virtual Forum on Responsible Business and Human Rights on 'Building Back Better: Responsible Business Conduct, Human Rights and the Environment' with over 300 participants including SEA circular stakeholders and partners; and dissemination a range of resources on HRBA and gender equality to partners and stakeholders, including information on online learning modules on environmental rights via newsletters and the SEA circular website throughout the year.

A dialogue on HRBA, responsible business practices and plastic management was held on 17 December jointly with UNEP Law Division, OHCHR, UNDP, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre. 155 participants from the private sector and civil society joined the webinar, shared good practices, and identified capacity building needs. Building on the dialogue, an opportunity for support through the UNEP Law Division was identified to jointly develop a toolbox on human rights and plastic pollution, develop action-oriented training material, and deliver a series of trainings for duty bearers. Capacity building activities will commence in early 2021 in collaboration with OHCHR, UNDP, OECD and the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre. Training material will be included in the MOOC on marine litter.

SEA circular developed a module on stakeholder engagement in the e-learning course on marine litter developed by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The module included an introduction to HRBA and highlighted disadvantaged groups such as informal waste workers and coastal communities as key stakeholders. The online course will be launched in Q1 2021. Short videos were produced and shown at SEA of Solutions, highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on disadvantaged groups such as informal waste workers, and showcased effective community-based solutions such as waste banks in schools. SEA of Solutions saw strong participation from civil society and representatives of disadvantaged groups and communities, and showcased good practice initiatives and business models that promote a HRBA throughout the event and in dedicated sessions on community-based solutions and environmental rights.

Opportunities and potential partnerships to conduct an analysis of the impact of pollution and COVID-19 on the needs and interests of disadvantaged groups (with a focus on the informal waste sector) to inform inclusive solutions to plastic value chain and waste management have been explored and will be included in 2021 activities.

2.3 COVID-19 implications

Among the many adverse consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic is the sudden surge in the volume of plastic waste, particularly for products used for personal protection and healthcare purposes. According

to [a recent report by the Circular Capital](#), more than 40% of actors in the recycling value chain are at risk of permanent closure or bankruptcy; recyclers in the region are faced with a 50% drop in demand for recycled plastics and 21% drop in sales prices for recycled plastics; the volume of plastic collected and sorted by the informal sector has dropped by an estimated 65%, affecting the most vulnerable workers in the value chain. [A hospitality-sector specific survey](#) conducted in region shows that since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, up to 50% of respondents expect at least 50% decrease in revenue in South-East Asia, while other sources have predicted a 30% closure of businesses in the tourism industry. With restructuring, massive human resource cutbacks and even threats of closure, engagement with the business sector on plastic value chain reform has become much more difficult.

The increase in single-use and hard-to-recycle products associated with medical and hygiene measures requires a sound environmental response that doesn't jeopardize progress made. The SEA circular project is supporting governments and economies to "build back better" and seize opportunities for leapfrogging to sustainable production, consumption, and waste management. To respond to COVID-19 travel restrictions and increases in plastic waste, activities of the SEA circular project have been adjusted and repurposed. This includes shifting to desk-based or virtual working modalities and cooperating closely with partners on the ground in target countries as well as postponing activities that cannot be adapted or conducted virtually. Additional efforts have been initiated and are underway to tackle COVID-19 related marine litter impacts, with a focus on disadvantaged groups and green recovery (see Section 3 for detailed information on adjustments to activities). This includes:

- Addressing the existing hurdles to reduce plastic waste and boost the adoption of recycled content in virtual industry roundtables (conducted in 2020 and continuing in 2021) while also highlighting the new difficulties with COVID-19 requirements and trends, toward identifying better business strategies;
- Op-eds have been prepared for publication in leading newspapers of the region in Q1 2021. These address the intention-action gap to tackle the region's plastic waste crisis; challenges and risks faced by the informal waste sector during COVID-19; as well as business plastic neutrality through community-based initiatives.
- The Solutions Report being prepared through the project for launch in 2021 will address COVID-19 related changes to plastic consumption and waste, the role of informal wasteworkers and inclusive solutions to mitigate risks from hazardous and low value waste to their health and livelihoods;
- SEA of Solutions 2020 encompasses sessions dedicated to addressing impacts of COVID-19 on plastic pollution and vulnerable groups and to identify pathways to build back better;
- A short video on COVID-19 impacts and engaging informal wasteworkers to build back better was shown at SEA of Solutions. Additional videos to share good practices and highlight key issues will be developed in 2021;
- Building on waste flow analyses conducted with UN-Habitat and the GPML, activities in 2021 will include an analysis of the role of wastepickers and plastic pollution related impacts of COVID-19 to inform integrated waste management.

2.4 Project governance and institutional arrangements

In order to strengthen capacity of the Project Implementation Group and accelerate the project implementation rate, the Project Implementation Group was restructured to include a new project coordinator position at P4 level, and two full time programme management officers at P3 level – a Markets and Plastic Value Chain programme officer, and a Marine Litter programme officer – supported by a full-time administration officer. This new structure was put into effect as of 25 May 2020. Jerker Tamelander, COBSEA Coordinator, functions as project coordinator ad interim in 2020 while the new project coordinator is being recruited. The SEA of Solutions event manager now also supports development and management

of business partnerships, and recruitment of a new Communication and Outreach consultant working on a full-time basis is at the final stage.

In line with recommendations arising from the second annual meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), an Update and Dialogue Webinar for the PSC was organized on 29 September 2020, to share information on progress in implementation of the project workplan 2020, status of preparations for SEA of Solutions, invite dialogue on priority activities including responding to COVID-19, and to share information on preparations for the third meeting of the PSC.

The third annual meeting of the SEA circular Project Steering Committee (PSC-3) was convened on 6 November 2020 to review the interim Annual Report 2020 and the draft annual costed Workplan for 2021 and guide their finalization. The PSC discussed updates to the composition of the PSC and adopted revised PSC Terms of Reference (Annex 2), prepared by UNEP pursuant to discussions at the second meeting of the PSC on 9 December 2019.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2020 WORKPLAN

This section provides reporting on progress made in implementation of activities in the 2020 workplan, identifying activities in the 2020 workplan, intended deliverables, a progress rating and a brief narrative. The 2020 workplan includes 74 individual activities. Where relevant, to aid reporting and ensure clarity, reporting is against clusters of two or more activities, as indicated in the tables.

3.1 Output 1: Market-based solutions to 'less plastic wasted'

COVID-19 has had major economic impact on the project target countries, including as a result of travel restrictions. It is estimated that 50% of recyclers across South-East Asia face imminent risks of closure, and even multinational beverage giants are undergoing massive lay-offs. Despite the hardships the business sector is facing, SEA circular has successfully convened two business roundtable events, for the hospitality and food delivery service industry. The roundtables helped introduce businesses in the region to tools and sector-specific commitment frameworks for plastic reduction – a notable achievement also in view of the fact that growth in the food delivery services sector has been further accelerated by COVID-19. The project has adapted to the change in context brought about by COVID-19 by pivoting to providing tools and information to businesses so the initial hurdle of adopting plastic-reducing value chain transformations could be lowered.

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

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Identification and dissemination of sector-specific plastic value chain best practices to achieve less plastic wasted	Report on business willingness to engage in plastic commitments through roundtable events Collection of 10 best practice cases of plastic value chain transformation	75% - Advanced
Narrative		
Two roundtables were conducted in 2020: one conducted with the hospitality industry and second one with food delivery companies. Collaborating with organizations that had working frameworks to which members could commit to (i.e., the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative and the Plastic ACTION programme of WWF), SEA circular enabled participant companies to work towards an increased willingness to measure their footprint and commit to less plastic wasted. In particular, Phuket Hotels Association, Six Senses, Guava Amenities have signed up with the GTPI with their plastic commitments.		

For the food delivery companies, Grab Indonesia has expressed interest to develop a robust commitment.

Five case studies on best practices of plastic value chain transformation are finalized and published on the [SEA circular website](#): 1) The Phuket Hotels Association 2) Wangwa Segregation Model 3) Six Senses Hotel's Plastic Journey 4) Starboard's Plastic Offsetting and Upcycling and 5) Plastic Collective's Recovery Work with Local Communities. Additional case studies are under development, for publication in 2021.

Information on the report "Perceptions on plastic waste: Insights, interventions and incentives to action from businesses and consumers in South-East Asia" is provided under Output 3.

Activity	Deliverables	Progress (%)
<p>-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</p> <p>-Trainings on human rights, gender, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights for partners and stakeholders</p> <p>-Mainstreaming social considerations such as gender-sensitivity, human-rights based approach, avoidance of displacement of livelihoods and care to informal sectors in business sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disseminated tools, knowledge products and resources on human rights, environmental rights, gender equality - Training summary/webinar recording, training material - Incorporating gender, human rights and avoidance of displacement of livelihoods into at least one course/training for the business sector 	<p>100% - Completed</p>

Narrative

A [dialogue on HRBA](#), responsible business practices and plastic management was held on 17 December jointly with UNEP Law Division, OHCHR, UNDP, OECD and the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre. 155 participants from the private sector and civil society joined the webinar to share good practices, including speakers from Nestle and Unilever. The webinar introduced the concept of HRBA and existing guidelines and identified related capacity building needs of participants. Building on the dialogue, SEA circular is working with UNEP Law Division, experts and regional partners to develop a toolbox on human rights and plastic pollution, action-oriented training material, and deliver a series of trainings for duty bearers in 2021.

Throughout the year, online learning courses and resources on HRBA and environmental rights have been shared with SEA circular project partners and stakeholders through newsletters and the project website, such as e.g. the UNEP online course [Introduction to human rights and the environment](#) and guidance on [Human rights, the Environment and COVID-19](#), and the UNEP International Environmental

Technology Centre (IETC) [video series on the gender and waste nexus](#). A dedicated space for these resources has been developed for the project website (under “free resources”) and the database will continuously be expanded see (Output 3). A toolbox on HRBA and plastic pollution will be launched in 2021.

Activity	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Plastic value chain analysis for the beverage, food, and retail industries and for low-value materials including Flexibles (recognizing gender-specific needs and contributions of disadvantaged groups)	Detailed plastic material flow and value chain analysis (disaggregation of data by gender and including informal activities)	50% - Underway

Narrative

Material flow analysis in Thailand is underway in collaboration with Chulalongkorn University by Center of Excellence on Hazardous Substance Management, through an implementation agreement (SSFA). This builds on material flow analysis carried out throughout Thailand in 2018 and 2019. This material flow analysis beginning in 2020 and concluding in the first half of 2021 will serve as a baseline for changes in plastic consumption changes brought about by COVID-19, especially for locations that are of interest to SEA circular, such as the pilot demonstration site(s). Activity implementation was delayed due to COVID-19 but is progressing well. Coordination between Chulalongkorn University and UN-Habitat is ongoing to ensure complementary data collection on waste leakage and flows (see Output 2).

Activity	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Identification of key sources of wasted plastic types unfit under current circumstances for circularity	Landfill composition analysis	50% - Underway

Narrative

The implementation modality for this activity has been changed and adjustments made due to COVID-19, delaying delivery. Travel restrictions made it impossible to conduct the landfill composition analysis field surveys as envisaged and with the intended partner. The activity will instead be implemented in collaboration with UN-Habitat, focusing on quantitative analysis of municipal solid waste based on the newly developed Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT) – Step by Step Guide to Assess City MSWM Performance through SDG Indicator 11.6.1 Monitoring, as part of surveys to assess waste flows and leakage (see Output 2). Dedicated and more detailed landfill composition analysis at key locations, such as demonstrations sites, will be conducted in 2021 by an independent implementing partner in Malaysia, provided it will be safe for data collection to be conducted.

Activity	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Propel businesses in the direction of eradication of wasted plastic through a step-wise approach - measure => commit => offset => strategize for reduction	Training on Plastic Disclosure Project and technical support for 2 local governments and 10 companies each in Thailand	100% - Completed
	Training on Plastic Disclosure Project and technical support for 2 local	100% - Completed

	governments and 10 companies each in Malaysia Plastic neutrality credit system for offsetting plastic consumption by recovery with underprivileged communities	50% - Underway
--	---	----------------

Narrative

Two Plastic Disclosure Project training events have been completed for Malaysia, originally scheduled to be face-to-face, but conducted as a virtual training due to COVID-19. A total of 106 participants joined the training, representing local governments of five different states (Selangor, Wilayah Persekutuan, Penang, Melaka and Sarawak). One online Plastic Disclosure Project training was conducted for Thailand with 47 participants from the private sector and government-run universities. The participants from Thailand will be followed-up for guidance on auditing of their plastic footprints.

A plastic neutrality credit system is under development through external organizations including Verra, South Pole and Gold Standard, with input from SEA circular. SEA circular has established dialogue and coordination among other plastic projects in South-East Asia, with a shared approach to plastic neutrality as an end goal for businesses agreed with 4 other projects. *Guidelines for Leadership in Corporate Plastic Accounting* have been developed as plastic neutrality precursor standards with inputs from SEA circular. Potential project activities to promote the development of plastic neutrality standards will be explored by the new P3 Markets and Plastic Value Chain Officer and Project Coordinator in 2021.

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

Activity	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Identification of inclusive market transforming solutions on plastic reduction, reuse and recycling	Interviews and meetings with stakeholders/representatives for the construction of the solutions report	100% - Completed

Narrative

SEA circular has met up one-on-one with 60 different companies from 6 industries individually over the course of 2020 and discussed market transformative solutions and the business engagement strategy with their representatives. These meetings have generated case studies wherever a best practice was identified, a total of 5 were captured in the SEA circular case studies. The final version of the business strategy is completed. Based on this business practices and solutions have been identified for inclusion in the Solutions Report, when there is potential for emulating success by examining methodology through quantitative analyses and supporting widespread application.

In Malaysia, the Environmental Preservation and Innovation Centre (EPIC) has conducted stakeholder consultations across sectors to identify key issues, challenges and opportunities to promote market-based incentives for plastic reduction and recycling appropriate for Malaysia. A second consultation to further develop and validate findings is planned in early 2021.

Activity	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Identify successful applications of infrastructure	Development of TORs on pilot demonstration sites (TH, MY)	50% - Underway

and operational innovations for circularity at city-wide level for reapplication across region		
--	--	--

Narrative

A plan for the demonstration site at Koh Samet, Rayong Province, Thailand, has been prepared, in consultation with potential partners including Suez, Terracycle Foundation, Sustainable Development Foundation (Thailand), RiverRecycle, PPP-Plastics (Dow Chemicals) and Coca Cola Foundation. Planned demonstration activities include 3 components: removal of existing/legacy waste; reduction and segregation of on-going waste; and future marine litter prevention. Two demonstration sites have been identified in Petaling Jaya and Penang upon the signing of the SSFA with MGTC in August. The key partners of the sites are Petaling Jaya City Council and Penang Green Council. Both demonstration sites have finished their consultation stages with some delays due to COVID-19 movement and meeting restrictions. The finalized Terms of Reference will be completed in early 2021.

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

Activity	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Identification and monitoring of benchmarks concerning incentives for businesses to reduce plastic wastage	Business incentive surveys in 2020 (ID, MY, PH, TH, VN)	100% - Completed

Narrative

Business incentive surveys in 2020 completed and final report published. Please refer to Output 3.2 for the "Perceptions on plastic waste: Insights, interventions and incentives to action from businesses and consumers in South-East Asia" and its launch event

Activity	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Technical capability building for sector-specific businesses	Event reports on technical seminars	50% - Underway

Narrative

Partnering up with the first organization to establish "bottle-to-bottle" recycling technology in Japan, Kyoei, the original plan after a face-to-face meeting with their 5 representatives in Bangkok in Feb 2020 was to host a technical seminar for the manufacturing and recycling industries of Thailand in Q3 of 2020. Due to COVID-19, travelling from Japan is not permitted and industry members have expressed concern over attending non-urgent meetings at this time, due to human resources limitations and strategic restructuring to overcome the financial stress as a result of declining sales. The event is planned for as soon as the travel restrictions are lifted.

Activity	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Preparation of a solution report (South-East Asia Plastic Value Chain Management) for knowledge sharing and publication for proven solutions to reduce wasted plastics	Annotated outline and timetable for the solutions report	25% - Initiated

Narrative

A draft concept note for the solutions report including an initial draft annotated outline has been prepared. This is is envisioned as a solutions guide for businesses, addressing their management of

the plastic value chain with the end goal of being plastic neutral with no plastic wasted. In Q4 2020 the intended lead partner (GA Circular) became unavailable due to redevelopment of the organization's strategic focus. This activity will be revisited and redeveloped in 2021, pending recruitment of Project Coordinator and Programme Management Officer – Markets and Value Chain, including identification of alternate implementation arrangements and taking into account ongoing work with regional partners.

3.2 Output 2: Strengthening the scientific basis for decision-making

Activities under Output 2 are well underway, with adjustments made to respond to COVID-19 travel restrictions, including developing virtual training for monitoring and holding virtual consultations and webinars of the WGML, and postponing on-site hotspot assessments (Result 2.1). A regional modelling of leakage hotspots and city-level surveys of waste flows was initiated in 2020 and will be completed in 2021 (Result 2.1). In 2020, foundations were laid for harmonized monitoring and assessment of marine litter status and trends (Result 2.1). An extensive review of existing marine litter research in the region identified gaps and trends that will be addressed through collaborative research efforts (Result 2.2) and will inform an analysis of priorities for evidence-based policies (Result 2.3).

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

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Marine litter hotspot assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inventory of existing hotspot assessments - (Initial) Implementation plans for target areas/sites - Hotspot assessment reports 	50% - Underway

Narrative

Due to continued travel restrictions, on-site hotspot assessments of marine litter accumulation in cooperation with East China Normal University are postponed to 2021 or when possible. To continue making progress towards this result, the project is partnering with UN-Habitat and GPML to develop a regional model and map of waste leakage and conduct city-level surveys and waste flow analyses (including from informal activities) applying the WaCT, to inform priority investments and project proposals to improve waste infrastructure and inform evidence-based regulations/policies (linked to Result 2.3). An interagency agreement with UN-Habitat was signed in Q4 of 2020 and activities are underway, to be completed in Q1 2021.

The approach builds on existing mapping efforts conducted by UN-Habitat and the GPML in other regions and findings will be visualized in a regional hotspot map to inform priority actions. Regional data layers will be integrated into the Regional Node and the UNEP GPML digital platform on marine litter (under development). The hotspot model will inform the selection of target sites and build the foundation for in-depth on-site hotspot assessments when travel and movement restrictions are eased. Scoping of existing hotspot efforts and initial plans for potential sites have been drafted for Malaysia, Cambodia and Thailand, to be revisited in 2021. In Malaysia in particular primary data collection including localized field surveys face continued delays due to intensified movement restrictions. UN-Habitat and COBSEA Secretariat have initiated coordination calls with international and national partners (such as the World Bank, and Chulalongkorn University – see Result 1.1) across target countries to align efforts and include existing and secondary data to support analysis.

SSFAs were signed with partners in Malaysia (MGTC) and Cambodia (Fauna & Flora International) *inter alia* to support in-depth hotspot assessments.

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Technical assistance and capacity building for harmonized monitoring programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial guidance/WGML meeting document on harmonized monitoring - Catalogue of indicators and methods - Report of the WGML meeting - Terms of Reference of an Expert Group on Monitoring - Training summaries/webinar recordings - National data inventories/ draft monitoring programme concepts 	75% - Advanced

Narrative

The technical consultation of the COBSEA WGML on 23-25 June 2020 agreed a pathway toward harmonizing national marine litter monitoring and an initial document with recommended activities was developed with WGML input. Regional guidance for harmonized monitoring including common objectives, core indicators, and shared standards, is being developed in partnership with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). An SSFA with CSIRO was signed, a regional webinar was held on 7 October to share information on process and timelines of agreed activities, and mapping of existing monitoring efforts was conducted in Q4 of 2020 in close liaison with national focal agencies and supported by project national consultants and partners. A draft catalogue of marine litter monitoring efforts, indicators and methods was developed in December. The monitoring inventory and recommendations for strengthening and harmonizing monitoring will be finalized in Q1 2021, pending additional input from COBSEA countries and validation of findings at a regional webinar.

Terms of Reference for an Expert Group on monitoring was developed through the WGML, for further refinement and consideration at the next Meeting of the WGML and 25th Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM 25) in 2021.

Country support to develop marine litter monitoring programmes is well underway and supported by national consultants/partners in Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam:

- In Malaysia, the project is working closely with the Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA) to draft a monitoring programme concept. Despite delays in stakeholder consultations due to movement restrictions, the final programme description is planned for Q1 2021.
- In Thailand, a Consultation Meeting on Marine Litter Monitoring was held on 8 September with the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) and Pollution Control Department (PCD) to identify gaps and capacity needs related to monitoring. A monitoring programme concept has been drafted for completion in Q1 2021, pending a second consultation meeting on monitoring postponed from December to February due to resurgence of COVID-19 cases in Thailand.
- Technical support for monitoring in Cambodia is provided through FFI. A mapping of Cambodia's monitoring efforts and capacity needs was submitted to inform the regional monitoring inventory.

- Mapping of monitoring efforts from Viet Nam are delayed due to changes in focal points, support is provided through CSIRO and their national partners.
- Technical support for the Philippines is provided through regional experts on monitoring (CSIRO), input to the regional monitoring inventory is delayed due to human resource constraints. Opportunities for additional capacity support through SEA circular are being explored.
- Input from Indonesia to the regional monitoring inventory is delayed and additional guidance is provided through CSIRO.

Together with CSIRO and the GPML, online training modules on marine litter monitoring have been drafted for use in hybrid national trainings supported in-country by national trainers. Training plans identifying needs, target groups, and focus areas, have been developed in Thailand and Malaysia and are under development in Cambodia and the Philippines. The delivery of hybrid trainings scheduled for Q4 2020 have been postponed to 2021 due to resurgence of COVID-19 cases and increased restrictions to in-person meetings. The training modules will be further refined in 2021 for inclusion in the MOOC on marine litter and to follow up the Training of Trainers in September 2019.

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

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Reviewing and catalysing marine litter research in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accessible online catalogue and research inventory - Updated catalogue content - Description/initial Terms of Reference, initial list of institutions 	100% - Completed
Narrative		
<p>Review of c. 400 scientific publications on marine plastic pollution in 13 countries in South-East and East Asia was conducted, in partnership with the National University of Singapore (NUS) and with support from GPML. The review, launched in August 2020, includes a comprehensive report of published plastic pollution research, policies and initiatives in ASEAN+3 as well as a searchable database of research and a series of graphics. This first review and database of its kind for the region was shared widely with SEA circular stakeholders and COBSEA and NUS networks and through UNEP GPML channels (see Output 3). Additional contributions and feedback were received by country partners and an SSFA was signed with NUS to expand and update the marine litter research database. Efforts to include research from languages in the region and upgrade the database for better access and searchability are underway for completion in 2021 and integration in the Regional Node of the GPML (see Output 4). Draft terms of reference for a research network were developed and an initial list of potential institutions and existing networks and efforts was prepared by NUS. The terms of reference will be finalized in Q1 2021 and network activities piloted later in the year.</p>		

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

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Promoting science-based policies and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis/report of how current science serves policy priorities 	50% - Underway

	- Analysis/report of evidence-based priorities	
Narrative		
<p>The extensive review of existing marine litter research, frameworks and initiatives, conducted with NUS (see Result 2.2) identified trends and gaps related to how science serves policy priorities. The review showed that a wealth of research exists in the region to support governments make evidence-based decisions, but that critical gaps remain in priority policy areas and in applying scientific findings to decision making. Wide variation in methodologies limits collaborative action, data integration and the establishment of regional baselines and understanding of pathways, fragmentation and social and environmental impacts remains limited. Through COBSEA, dialogue has been initiated with researchers to support grant proposals on marine litter that speak to the COBSEA RAP MALI and identified gaps (e.g. South East Asia Plastics grant proposals) and explore leveraging the WGML as a 'Reference User Group' to link science and policy making.</p> <p>Building on these findings, opportunities to better link science and policy for evidence-based action will be integrated in the Solutions Report (see Output 1), and preparation of more issue-specific analyses is being explored with prospective partners, pending recruitment of Project Coordinator and Programme Management Officer - Markets and Value Chain.</p>		

3.3 Output 3: Outreach

Publication of findings from a survey in five countries provides a much better understanding of perceptions of plastic waste in the business community and among consumers, serving as a baseline for tracking impact of project results as well as informing further efforts in relation to business incentives as well as awareness raising towards behaviour change. Starting in October 2020 the Marine Litter MOOC is running in 5 languages from the COBSEA region (Chinese, English, Indonesian, Thai, and Vietnamese). SEA circular has also supported other e-learning initiatives including development of a module on stakeholder engagement in addressing plastic waste as part of a training by ESCAP. The project website has continuously been updated and further developed, with new content as well as additional functionality. Some delays have been incurred, including as a result of COVID-19 travel restrictions and as a result of the restructuring of the project implementation group. A fulltime project Communications Consultant was hired in Q4 2020 to support project outreach and develop marine litter campaigns.

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

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Update and implement project Communication Strategy and create visibility for project activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated project Communication Strategy - Updated web content - news items, articles, op-eds, social media posts, challenges (including on UNEP site) - Press releases on business survey and other events 	75% - Advanced
Narrative		
<p>The project Communication Strategy was further developed in Q2 2020, including an update of target groups, communication channels and possible communication activities. A new fulltime</p>		

Communications Consultant was recruited to continuously update and streamline the Communication Strategy including to reflect COVID-19 related implications.

The SEA circular website was revamped in Q4 2020, with a new layout and categorization to enable visitors to find useful resources. The SEA circular website was updated multiple times per week in 2020, including regular upload of relevant resources, news and events on plastic and marine litter from the project and partners in the region. With the help of a web development consultant the website user interface and knowledge management infrastructure have been improved, including with a dedicated section on HRBA, and a SEA of Solutions 2020 site was developed.

Three op-eds are in the pipeline for publication in Q4 2020: "Bridge the intention-action gap to tackle the region's plastic waste crisis", co-authored with FIA; Challenges and risks faced by the informal waste sector during COVID-19; and Plastic Neutrality for Corporations through Offsetting Credits with Local Communities. Contributions were also made to the Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce op-ed: "[Thailand and Sweden – A truly sustainable relationship! Sawasdee Sustainability: Thailand, Sweden and Trade](#)"

Press releases, web stories and news items were shared through SEA circular, COBSEA and wider UNEP Regional Office channels on project knowledge products, activities and events throughout the year, including outcomes of a [virtual roundtable](#) with the hotel and hospitality sector, the side event at the [UN Forum on Responsible Business and Human Rights](#), the [Perceptions on Plastic Waste study](#) and launch webinar, the [marine litter research database](#) (featured by [GPML](#) and [COBSEA](#)), and other events/webinars and resources related to plastic pollution and human rights by UNEP and partners such as OHCHR and informal sector groups.

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Develop outreach products to communicate and disseminate project findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short videos on marine litter in COBSEA countries, highlight video(s) for SEA of Solutions and other major events - Partnership with existing content creators (e.g.: Circulous.Biz) for relevant content showcasing" - Formatted products (Country briefs, national policy papers, evidence-based policies report, guidance on harmonization of monitoring) - Infographics on marine litter - Presentations, slide decks 	75% - Advanced

Narrative

The project has worked with the UNEP Communications Division and graphic designers to format knowledge products in line with project branding and disseminated products through project and COBSEA channels. Marine litter resources and news from SEA circular countries are available on the project and COBSEA website.

The country briefs have been updated in Q4 2020 for launch in early 2021, including an improved format for easier online viewing while supporting print-on-demand. The briefs will include key data points and statistics (updated periodically) and data visualizations on plastic production and use, plastic waste management (including informal sector), recycling, plastic pollution and marine litter, from robust data sources and with clear reference to sources.. The country briefs will be uploaded to the project website to update current information on SEA circular countries, and will be disseminated widely,

including through newsletter and mailing list. This will also enable development of infographics for use in outreach.

Data on plastic pollution (including findings of the project and on COVID-19) are continuously collected and key messages, data, priority actions and solutions were shared in 3 videos launched at SEA of Solutions, including on [Financing and Investment](#), [Rights and Responsibilities](#) of duty bearers and rights holders, and impacts of the [Plastic Pandemic](#) on people and the environment.

Key plastic pollution data from the region is being identified as part of the expansion of the marine litter research database (see Output 2) and will, together with country briefs and other material, inform development of infographics and outreach products in 2021.

A project Communications Consultant was hired to plan outreach and campaign activities with partners, for acceleration in 2021. Development of audio-visual material and outreach stories to disseminate findings, e.g. from pilot demonstration sites, as well as designing an online catalogue of outreach and communication resources in the region are delayed, due to COVID-19. Presentations on the project and findings have been developed and used throughout the year. Slide decks will continue to be improved and updated in line with project visual identity by the Communications Consultant.

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

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Consumer awareness surveys in 2020 and 2021/2022	- Consumer awareness surveys	100% - Completed

Narrative

The [report](#) "Perceptions on plastic waste: Insights, interventions and incentives to action from businesses and consumers in South-East Asia", was launched in June 2020. Prepared with Food Industry Asia, the most extensive trade association of food manufacturers in Asia, a survey involving 400 respondents from the food and beverage manufacturing industry and 400 consumer respondents from Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam was conducted to understand the consumers and food and beverage businesses' perception of plastic waste issues in the region. The launch event was attended by over 200 participants. Report findings were covered in media, including by a number of industry-oriented magazines and news sites. Key findings from the report include over 90% of consumers are concerned about plastic waste, yet only slightly over half of the consumers are recycling, while only 38% have interest to do so in the next 12 to 18 months. 80% of businesses are extremely concerned about plastic pollution, but more than half of them are not yet part of any group tackling plastic issues. Responses imply that awareness and concern among both consumers and businesses is increasing, but that this does not necessarily lead to a sufficient change in practices. Both consumers and businesses want and expect further action by governments, including in relation to sorting waste at source, waste collection, and facilitating sorting and recycling through better labelling. The report provides insights that will support further strategic business engagement, including through existing plastic reduction commitment frameworks.

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Develop regionally appropriate training resources, including an updated MOOC in national	- MOOCs and other knowledge delivery mechanisms for specialized professionals	100% - Completed

languages with content from the region	- Establishment of a centralized resource database	
Narrative		
<p>The Marine Litter MOOC has been updated in collaboration with UNEP and Open Universiteit. The Leadership Track has been translated into two new languages from the region, Thai and Vietnamese. The free updated MOOC started on October 26, 2020 and is now available in nine languages, including five languages from the COBSEA region (Chinese, English, Indonesian, Thai, Vietnamese). The MOOC also includes case studies from the region, developed through SEA circular. A dedicated webpage for the MOOC is incorporated into the SEA circular project webpage and the course has been advertised through SEA circular, COBSEA and UNEP channels to encourage participation from the region. Other relevant training resources and webinars developed by UNEP and partners are available on the project website. The ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Secretariat, ASEAN University Network Thematic Network on Ecological Education and Culture and a dozen individual universities across South-East Asia have been leveraged in promoting the MOOC.</p> <p>Training material on HRBA related to marine litter is being developed in collaboration with UNEP Law Division, for integration into the MOOC in its next rounds. Throughout the year, online learning courses and resources on HRBA and environmental rights have been shared with SEA circular project partners (see Output 1), a dedicated space for these resources has been developed for the project website (under "free resources") and the database will continuously be expanded. A toolbox on HRBA and plastic pollution will be launched in 2021.</p> <p>The marine litter and plastic resource database, hosted on the SEA circular website, has been reformatted and recategorized for maximum exposure and efficiency in Q4 2020. Many tools, jobs, events, publications and videos have been added to the database.</p>		

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Develop audio-visual and other outreach material to showcase inclusive solutions, including information material for internal/external events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short films for social media - Various written pieces 	75% - Advanced

Narrative		
<p>Due to COVID-19 related implementation delays at demonstration sites and travel restrictions, development of films and other outreach material showcasing good practices and community engagement in pilot sites has been postponed. The project is working with national partners, including civil society organizations, and has identified good practice cases (e.g. initiatives engaging informal wastepickers and coastal communities) and initiated planning to develop audio-visual material in Q4 2020 and 2021. This activity will be accelerated upon recruitment of the Communications Consultant.</p> <p>Throughout the year, the project has developed and shared information material and web stories about internal and external events and project activities where highlighted during these events by speakers from UNEP, COBSEA and national partners, including at World Environment Day, World Oceans Day, International Women's Day, and the launch of a demonstration initiative 'Integrated Action and Participation on Marine Debris Management' in Rayong Province.</p>		

A short film for social media on [waste banks in schools](#) in Thailand was developed to showcase community-based solutions, share through social media channels and presented at SEA of Solutions. Plans for increased audio-visual storytelling are being developed by the Communications Consultant.

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Support for (sub)national and regional campaigns on plastic pollution and solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Sub)national campaign - Toolbox of audio-visual elements, infographics 	50% - Ongoing
Narrative		
<p>Existing campaigns have been mapped in Thailand and Malaysia, to inform needs and opportunities to streamline messaging and strengthen campaign efforts. In Malaysia, the signed implementation agreement for national activities supports the expansion and roll-out of a youth education campaign on reducing plastic leakage into rivers and the environment. The project catalysed 43 pledges from individuals, businesses and civil society entities in Malaysia that were launched at SEA of Solutions and integrated into the CleanSeas campaign. Malaysian partners are developing a social media campaign to share pledges and encourage new ones.</p> <p>The identification of existing campaigns and development of a toolbox to support regionally coherent campaigns with streamlined messaging in project country languages is underway through an SSFA signed with Meshminds, toward developing a toolbox of impactful marine litter campaigns for completion in 2021.</p>		

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Establishment of a Plastic Circular Economy Award promoting inclusive initiatives in communities and civil society, industry and the public sector	Annual Plastic Circular Economy Award	25% - Initiated
Narrative		
<p>Postponed to 2021 due to a year of unpredictable economy in 2020. The project is in dialogue with potential partners, including civil society organizations, to explore options for an award for innovative plastic pollution solutions and inclusive engagement, building on the project's business engagement efforts, and for integration into SEA of Solutions from 2021 onwards.</p>		

3.4 Output 4: Regional networking

A successful virtual consultation of the COBSEA WGML in June advanced progress on a range of issues, including developing a draft format or marine litter policy progress reporting (Result 4.1) and draft Terms of Reference of the Regional Node (Result 4.3). Good progress was made toward strengthening marine litter planning in line with the RAP MALI with technical assistance through SEA circular and the WGML (Result 4.1). This has also contributed to strengthening COBSEA as a regional mechanism. In light of COVID-19 travel restrictions and postponement of meetings, coordination efforts through virtual means are being stepped up to avoid duplication and leverage synergies with ASEAN, the World Bank and ongoing marine litter projects (Results 4.1, 4.2). SEA of Solutions was held successfully as a hybrid event via an online platform and physical meeting venue in Hanoi, with a focus on COVID-19 impacts on plastic pollution (Result 4.2). The foundation was laid for the establishment of the Regional Node of the GPML, including identification of key functions and possible hosting arrangements and work with regional partners continues to build the knowledge hub (Result 4.3).

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

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Technical support and guidance for marine litter planning in the context of the COBSEA RAP MALI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed reporting format/WGML meeting document - (Draft) policy papers - Report of the WGML meeting 	100% - Completed
Narrative		
<p>A progress reporting format to take stock of national marine litter planning progress in the context of the RAP MALI was discussed at the technical consultation of the COBSEA WGML on 23-25 June 2020 and further developed with input from the COBSEA WGML after the meeting. An updated format for progress reporting that align as far as possible with other reporting processes (incl. through UNEP and the G20) has been shared with the WGML and will be further refined at virtual consultations of the WGML in early 2021, for consideration by IGM 25.</p> <p>Good progress has been made at the country level to strengthen national marine litter planning, with technical support from national consultants/partners in Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam as well as from the COBSEA Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Malaysia, continued movement restrictions delayed stakeholder consultations, slowing the preparation of the Marine Litter Roadmap 2020-2030. A policy paper to guide the development of marine litter planning was developed with MIMA and the Roadmap will be finalized by Q1 2021 (previously planned for launch in October 2020). - In Thailand, a draft national marine litter policy paper was shared with DMCR in Q4 2020 to inform the development of a cross-sector National Action Plan (NAP) in line with both the RAP MALI and ASEAN Framework. A meeting to discuss the recommendations with relevant departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and stakeholders was postponed to Q1 2021 due to renewed in-person meeting restrictions; - In Cambodia, a national situation analysis with policy recommendations was developed in collaboration with FFI and will be shared with the Ministry of Environment in early 2021 to inform stakeholder consultations and guide marine litter planning and prioritization of activities; - In Viet Nam, a policy paper was developed to guide implementation of the NAP and development of respective legal frameworks. Technical assistance will be provided to the Vietnam Administration of Seas and Island (VASI) to support implementation in 2021. <p>Due to ongoing COVID-19 travel restrictions, no in-person Meeting of the COBSEA WGML was possible in 2020 and will likely not be possible before end of 2021 or 2022. The Secretariat will continue to conduct webinars, virtual consultations, regular email exchange, and bilateral calls with the WGML and COBSEA countries to advance activities identified at IGM 24 and the technical consultation of the WGML in June 2020. The next in-person Meeting is planned to take place immediately prior the in-person IGM 25 in 2021 (COVID-19 permitting) and options are being explored to use virtual and hybrid meeting modalities.</p>		

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Regional knowledge sharing and coordination with ASEAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation and other inputs to AWGCME meeting as well as other relevant meetings - Event report, resources/ presentations 	75% - Advanced
Narrative		

Knowledge sharing through meetings of the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME) and associated meetings has been complicated and delayed due to the impact of COVID-19 on meeting scheduling, formats and agendas (with several planned meetings postponed or conducted with reduced agendas). In November, the COBSEA Secretariat participated in the 21st Meeting of the AWGCME conducted online and shared opportunities for cooperation, including an information paper identifying potential joint activities and synergies on marine litter planning, monitoring and regulation.

Efforts to strengthen regular online communication between ASEAN and COBSEA Secretariats and identify knowledge sharing opportunities for 2021 are ongoing. Regular update calls and knowledge sharing with colleagues from the World Bank to identify possible synergies and joint activities related to the development of a Regional Action Plan and NAPs under the ASEAN Framework and related data collection efforts took place in 2020 and will continue in 2021.

In July, SEA circular presented the project's plans on education on marine litter at the 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education, with a focus on the Marine Litter MOOC in 3 more ASEAN languages. The presentation was well-received with multiple organizations contacting SEA circular to be promotional partners of the MOOC.

Technical advice on regulatory frameworks based on the project report *Packaging Industry Regulations & Standards for Design, Labelling, Recovery & Recycling in ASEAN* is ongoing, but delayed. Progress in Thailand is slow due to factors beyond the control of the project. The deliverable will be reassessed and planned in greater detail by the new Programme Management Officer - Markets and Plastic Value Chain currently under recruitment.

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

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Constituency engagement through SEA of Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Event concept note, post-event report, including contingency for Covid-19 or unforeseen circumstances - Event report, pledges for plastic pollution reduction - Contributions to sessions, presentations, side events etc, dependent on COVID-19 implications for organization of the meetings 	100% - Completed

Narrative

[SOS2020](#) was held on 24-26 November 2020, a virtual event conducted over three days with in-person sessions convened in Hanoi, Viet Nam on the third day. A virtual event platform was used to enhance the networking and learning experience of almost 750 participants from over 55 countries, two-thirds from the Asia-Pacific region, including over 250 participants from the private sector and over 137 speakers, including ministers from 10 countries in Asia. The event programme included five plenary sessions, 10 parallel sessions, as well as 11 side events and 20 exhibitions. 27 pledges from individuals, businesses, NGOs, and social enterprises were submitted using the virtual platform, of which 7 are SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, time-bound) commitments which will be monitored for progress toward SEA of Solutions 2021.

This year's theme 'Wasting less plastic and keeping it out of the ocean: Has the needle moved?' addressed the progress and prospects for transformative action for government, business, and society in light of the severe impacts the COVID-2019 pandemic has made on stakeholders' efforts in the areas of plastic reduction and recycling. The full [event report](#) is available on the project website and all event content is also available on demand on the [digital platform](#). The event outcome summary is provided in Annex 4.

The event evaluation provided positive overall feedback on the SoS2020, including in engaging stakeholders and on using a hybrid in-person/digital event format. Feedback also included suggestions on designing activities and discussions for SEA circular roundtables and meetings with other potential partners in 2021, and possible themes and ideas for improvement of event design for succeeding SEA of Solutions events.

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Share findings and coordinate marine litter project activities in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contributions to sessions, presentations, side events etc, dependent on COVID-19 implications for organization of the meetings - Meeting minutes, agendas, presentations 	100% - Completed

Narrative

Throughout the year, project findings, recommendations, tools and knowledge products have been shared through relevant events. This includes:

- Joint development of a chapter on marine litter in the flagship report [Changing Sails](#) prepared for the 76th Session of ESCAP;
- Contribution to [Entry Point Profile 6 on Accelerating Transformation: Global Environmental Commons](#) related to marine litter status and frameworks discussed at the virtual sessions of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD);
- Preparation of a COBSEA Voluntary Commitment on marine litter building on SEA circular activities for submission to the 2020 UN Ocean Conference (postponed);
- Support to countries to participate in and share ongoing marine litter activities and findings at virtual meetings of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics (AHEG), including support for the preparation of the Regional Asia-Pacific Meeting of AHEG in August, participation in the 4th Meeting of AHEG (virtual) in November, and support for submission of existing marine litter policies and measures in the AHEG global stocktaking exercise (included in the [interactive dashboard](#) and [online repository](#) of the stocktake of global actions);
- Joint session with the OECD and OHCHR at the UN Virtual Forum on Responsible Business and Human Rights. The session titled '[Building Back Better: Responsible Business Conduct, Human Rights and the Environment](#)' was moderated by the Marine Litter Programme Officer, discussed opportunities for better plastic value chain and waste management and shared lessons from SEA circular stakeholders and partners on engaging disadvantaged groups like the informal waste sector. Around 330 participants (including 53 views on YouTube Live, see [recording here](#)) joined the session.

Since March 2020, SEA circular convened regular coordination meetings across 20 projects on plastic pollution and marine litter in South-East Asia, including civil society and intergovernmental organizations such as the World Bank, WWF, IUCN, ESCAP, and GIZ. This has included working group discussions on specific topics such business engagement strategies and directions, coordination of policy development support in South-East Asia and sharing of knowledge from pilot demonstration sites.

Partners have expressed interest in continuing regular coordination meetings and the format and timing will be revised and streamlined in 2021.

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Biannual meetings of the PSC (one in-person, one virtual) and additional information sharing sessions with the PSC as needed	- Meeting minutes, agendas, presentations	100% - Completed
Narrative		
<p>An Update and Dialogue Webinar for the Project Steering Committee (PSC) was organized on 29 September 2020, to share information on progress in implementation of the project workplan 2020, status of preparations for SEA of Solutions, invite dialogue on priority activities including responding to COVID-19, and to share information on preparations for the third meeting of the PSC.</p> <p>The third annual meeting of the SEA circular Project Steering Committee (PSC-3) took place in November 2020 as a virtual meeting. PSC-3 reviewed progress against the Workplan 2020 and the presented the draft annual costed Workplan for 2021 for comments, and discussed the composition of the PSC. See section 4 below for further information.</p>		

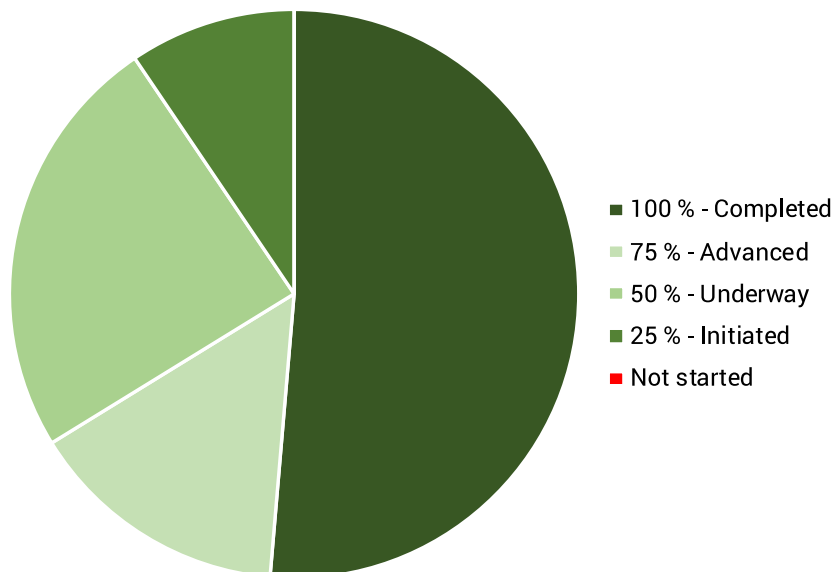
Result 4.3: An East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML improves knowledge management on marine litter

Activity (cluster)	Deliverables	Progress (%)
Plan structure and services of the Regional Node	- Proposed Regional Node description/ WGML meeting document - Comprehensive draft descriptions/WGML meeting documents - Website	50% - Underway
Narrative		
<p>Draft Terms of Reference for an East Asian Seas Regional Node of GPML, including proposed structure and functions/services were discussed at the technical consultation of the COBSEA WGML on 23-25 June 2020. A comprehensive description of the Node, possible hosting arrangements, and activities toward implementation was developed with input provided by the WGML following the consultation. Updated Terms of Reference will be further refined at webinars/virtual consultations in 2021 and finalized at the WGML Meeting immediately prior to COBSEA IGM 25 for consideration by the IGM.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference outline that Regional Node will provide knowledge management and networking services related to marine litter, i.e. an online knowledge repository of national and regional policy development, a regional research network and access to research findings, capacity building activities and resources. Discussions with regional partners to further develop these knowledge management and networking services of the Node are ongoing, including discussion of a possible hosting arrangement with the Regional Capacity Center on Clean Seas (RC3S). An SSFA was signed with NUS to expand the marine litter research database, develop a research network, identify capacity building resources and design a catalogue of experts as part of the Node.</p> <p>Integration of the Regional Node's activities and services with global efforts of the GPML, such as the marine litter data platform, have been identified and collaboration for integrated knowledge management will commence in 2021.</p>		

3.5 Implementation status summary

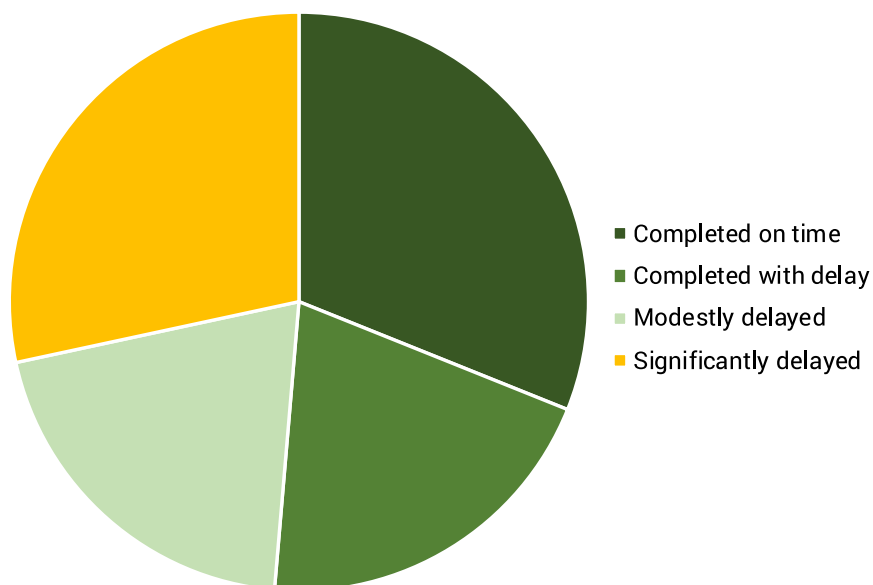
A summary of implementation status of the 74 activities in the 2020 workplan is provided here. This includes progress made in delivery of activities, as well as timeliness in delivery of activities.

Progress in delivery of activities in the 2020 workplan



0 - Not started	Implementation not started, planning may be underway
25% - Initiated	Fully developed implementation plan, implementation modality/partner confirmed, implementation agreement in prep or initial steps of implementation taken
50% - Underway	Activity ongoing, agreement signed/procurement process finalized, significant progress made
75% - Advanced	Activity nearing completion e.g. advanced or final draft of a report
100% - Completed	Activity completed, deliverables, expenditure and progress reports from partner approved

Timeliness in delivery of activities in the 2020 workplan



Modestly delayed	No more than one quarter (3months) behind schedule
Significantly delayed	Two or more quarters behind schedule.
Completed on time	Activity completed in line with intended timeline
Completed with delay	Activity completed with delay

3.6 Co-financing leveraged in 2020

Project activities leveraged a number of co-financing contributions from partners in 2020, strengthening and broadening efforts towards achieving the intended results and outcomes of the project during 2020 and 2021. This includes the following:

- UNEP Law Division support towards development of a toolbox on human rights and plastic pollution and to organize targeted training for duty bearers on HRBA for plastic pollution prevention. This directly contributes to Result 1.1 (USD 20,000).
- UNEP Law Division will also provide support to strengthen national legislative action in COBSEA countries based on National Action Plans on Marine Litter (or similar) in line with the COBSEA RAP MALI. This directly contributes to Result 4.1 (USD 20,000).
- Through the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, UNEP is also supporting staff in the COBSEA Secretariat towards development of a regional node of the partnership. This directly contributes to Result 4.3 (USD 60,000).
- CSIRO is providing in-kind support towards the development of marine litter monitoring training modules for national trainings under the SSFA signed in 2020. This directly contributes to Result 2.1.
- Numerous entities provided support towards the successful SOS2020, including in developing the programme, organization of sessions, side events and exhibition booths. This directly contributes to Result 4.2.
- A joint project concept proposal with GIZ and WWF on marine litter prevention through reduction, sustainable design and recycling of plastic packaging was approved by by Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft (ZUG) under the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). The EUR 5M, 3-year project will focus on Thailand, and will leverage COBSEA's regional mechanism to share good practices, foster exchange between countries and build capacity on plastic pollution prevention (EUR 800k). A full project proposal will be submitted in 2021, with project activities likely to commence in Q4 2021 and end in 2024. This is relevant to all project outputs, directly contributing to output 4 in particular.

4. GOVERNANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

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

4.1 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), with a view to guiding the project towards impact. As of October 2020 the composition of the PSC is as follows:

- Isabelle Louis (Chair), Deputy Regional Director at United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- Eddy Mazuaansyah Mohd Ali Murad, Under Secretary, Pollution Control Division of the Ministry of Environment and Water, Malaysia
- Suwan Nanthasarut, Advisor to the Director General of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand
- Heidi Savelli-Soderberg, Programme Officer, Marine Litter, Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Åsa Stenmarck, Material Flow Expert – sustainable consumption, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
- Sara Öberg Höper (Observer), First Secretary, Programme specialist Environment and Climate Change, Development Cooperation – Regional Asia and the Pacific, Embassy of Sweden in Thailand
- Vong Sok (Observer), Head, Environment Division, ASEAN Secretariat.

An Update and Dialogue Webinar for the Project Steering Committee (PSC) was organized on 29 September 2020, to share information on progress in implementation of the project workplan 2020, status of preparations for SEA of Solutions, invite dialogue on priority activities including responding to COVID-19, and to share information on preparations for the third meeting of the PSC.

The third annual meeting of the SEA circular Project Steering Committee (PSC-3) was held on 6 November 2020 to review and provide feedback on the interim report on progress in implementation of the project Workplan 2020; and the draft annual costed Workplan for 2021. The PSC also discussed updates to the composition of the PSC, and adopted revisions to the PSC Terms of Reference, prepared by UNEP pursuant to discussions at the second meeting of the PSC on 9 December 2019. The report of PSC-3 is provided in Annex 2.

4.2 Project Implementation Group

The Project Implementation Group was restructured, to include a new project coordinator position at P4 level, and two full time programme management officers at P3 level, supported by a full-time administration officer. This new structure was put into effect as of 25 May 2020.

The new P4 project coordinator position has been established and recruitment is underway. The [Job Opening](#) was advertised on 16 October, and shortlisted candidates were interviewed on 2 February 2021. Every effort is being made to conclude the recruitment as quickly as possible. In the meantime Jerker Tamelander, COBSEA Coordinator, functions as interim project coordinator in 2020. The project coordinator leads project implementation, responsible for project management including managing financial and human resources; overseeing activity implementation; monitoring and reporting; leading development of strategic partnerships; and liaison with the donor.

The P3 Markets and Plastic Value Chain programme officer is responsible for implementation of project activities related to market transformation and moving businesses towards models in which less plastic is wasted. The position was vacated at the end of December 2020 and will be filled as quickly as possible in 2021 using a Temporary Job Opening. The [Job Opening](#) was advertised on 8 February 2021 with a closing date of 21 February 2021. While some tasks are possible to advance through reassignment to other members of the Project Implementation Group, this will entail some further delay to a number of activities

especially under Output 1 of the project. These delays are for the most part expected not to exceed one quarter and are expected to be recoverable during 2021.

The P3 Marine Litter Programme Officer is responsible for implementation of project activities related to the science basis for decision making and regionally coherent marine litter planning, and has a particular role in implementation of the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) including secretariat functions of the COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter. Ms. Natalie Harms was confirmed in this position in 2020, having previously served as COBSEA Programme officer (P2).

Terms of reference for the Communication and Outreach consultant and the SEA of Solutions event manager consultants have been revised. The SEA of Solutions event manager takes on additional roles in relation to development and management of business partnerships. The Communication and Outreach Consultant, under recruitment for appointment in October 2020, is increased to full time (from 80% previously).

5. CHALLENGES, RISKS AND LESSONS LEARNED

5.1 COVID-19

Project responses

The immediate priority in response to the COVID-19 pandemic is to protect people by limiting the spread of the virus. Temporary lockdown measures imposed in many project countries, restrictions on international travel and organization of in-person meetings, as well as other implications of COVID-19, have required adjustment to implementation modalities and led to activities being delayed or put on hold.

- Many meetings, trainings and other events that normally would be conducted in person have been converted to use of virtual meeting/event platforms, with only modest impact on quality, results and timeliness. The project has adapted quickly and developed a good practice, that will be useful also once the pandemic is under control. Furthermore, virtual meetings have enabled enhanced participation in some meetings and trainings, including cross-border participation where it would previously have been impossible due to prohibitive travel costs.
- Alternate implementation modalities and partnerships are gradually being developed for in-country implementation of activities without international travel, e.g. landfill composition and hotspot analyses. This requires more time and effort to broaden implementation partnerships and building capacity, with implications for the remainder of the project.
- Repurposing project activities to address COVID-19 impacts has been immediately possible in some instances, such as SEA of Solutions 2020.

Working habits and approaches developed in 2020 to continue implementation in spite of COVID-19 have informed the project's 2021 workplan.

Risks and mitigation strategies going forward

The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to continue impacting project implementation.

Temporary closure of office space and full time working from home modalities are likely to continue for some time, but are based on experience in 2020 unlikely to severely affect the Project Implementation Group and most project partners. A number of delays incurred in 2020 will be possible to recover in 2021. However, the possibility of more significant impacts on some project partners or in some locations remains, and may result in delay or need to revise activities.

No international travel is expected in the first half of 2021, and almost certainly beyond. Some meetings at national level are possible but this remains highly restricted for the foreseeable future, in particular impacting meetings with broad participation such as local-level stakeholder consultation. While meetings of a technical nature and many trainings can be conducted virtually, challenges are greater with policy-oriented and decision-making meetings, especially at the regional level, as well as with meetings targeting disadvantaged groups that may be less prepared or have less experience with or access to this modality. This may impact the number of issues that can be addressed and decided upon, and the pace at which that is done, with impacts e.g. on project activities dependent on decisions of the COBSEA Intergovernmental Meeting. Efforts are being made to minimize this risk through building a virtual meeting practice with partners and fostering a culture of 'digital diplomacy'. Broadened collaboration with relevant organizations/CSOs will be sought in engagement with disadvantaged groups, including at national/sub-national level.

COVID-19 has had a significant effect on businesses, including in sectors targeted by the project such as recycling. This may be further exacerbated especially if recession deepens. This is likely to limit the ability of some business partners to engage in project activities, reducing their scope or causing delays. This will require agility and an adaptive approach. However, it may also bring increased opportunity to work with some key sectors on addressing COVID-19 specific waste generation and recycling challenges. SEA circular is actively collecting information such as guidelines and tools that could help business leaders make decisions on reduction of plastics despite the new hygiene and sanitation challenges brought about by the COVID-19 outbreak. Importantly, project efforts may also be further turned towards addressing systemic challenges through the COVID-19 response, contributing to building back better.

5.2 Human rights-based approach

Increasing awareness and capacity of duty bearers to implement a HRBA to plastic pollution prevention and reduction remains challenging in light of the economic and social pressures associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The crisis has exacerbated risks to disadvantaged groups from increased (hazardous) pollution, loss of jobs and income, and limited access to social and health services, and has shifted priorities of governments and businesses to hygiene measures, with reduced emphasis on sustainable and inclusive practices, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable.

To mitigate these risks, the project will ensure efforts to implement HRBA take into account effects of COVID-19. Efforts to build capacity of duty bearers through targeted (online) training and related tools as well as awareness raising events and products will be intensified. This includes continued capacity building for the project and implementing partners, including through training on application of the HRBA tool developed by the Embassy of Sweden. A clause on HRBA has been included in all agreements with implementing partners and consultants and information shared on implementation and availability of resources.

5.3 Changes in the political and institutional landscape

The change of Government in Malaysia in early 2020 and resulting reorganization of Ministries had a temporary impact on the project through slight implementation delays. However, no significant substantive adjustments to project activities were made. In Thailand, protests in September-October and decrees issued by Government to quell these have not impacted project implementation. Some further delays may be possible in 2021 both in Malaysia and Thailand, depending on how the political situation

evolves. At the time of writing no changes to project plans are required, but alternate plans will be made in consultation with national partners if warranted.

Plastic pollution and marine litter continue to be issues of high political profile, in the region as well as globally, not least in light of the ongoing UNEA-mandated discussion on a global governance regime (AHEG) as well as ongoing work through ASEAN in the context of the regional Marine Debris Framework. The risk of redundancy among initiatives remains high. The project will continue to address this by working through COBSEA's formal regional mechanism where it has a mandate and comparative advantage. Closer and more regular informal consultation with ASEAN secretariat will be sought. The regional projects' coordination group established in 2020 will be further developed/focused to ensure it is fit for purpose.

5.4 Internal factors

Challenges associated with long recruitment periods for UN staff have been addressed through the appointment of an interim project coordinator while a P4 full time Project Coordinator is being recruited. The recruitment of a full time Project Coordinator is expected to be completed in the first quarter 2021.

The departure of the P3 Programme Management Officer – Markets and Plastic Value Chain at the end of 2020 constitutes an additional risk for delay early in 2021. In order to mitigate this risk a replacement is being hired through a Temporary Job Opening (TJO), which enables a more rapid recruitment process.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

The second project budget revision was approved on 12 October 2020. This budget revision (1) reallocated funds between expenditure classes due to changes in implementation modalities, mainly arising from continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This included reallocating travel funding mainly to grants and contributions and consultants; (2) added supply & material and equipment & furniture budget class to cover office equipment cost such as laptop and computer accessories.

Fund utilization

The approved annual budget for 2020 was USD2,268,900 (36% of the total project budget). Total expenditure and commitment (funding obligated in implementation agreements and other legal instruments) from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020 amounts to USD 1,615,738 (71% of annual budget). Actual expenditure from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020 amounts to USD 734,479 (32% of annual budget). The cash balance as of 31 December 2020 is USD 1,648,500, this includes 3rd Instalment balance and 4th Instalment (partial) amount of USD 962,750 received on 17th December 2020.

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 299,890 (48%) against the budget of USD 630,410. This includes the cost of Programme officer – Markets and Plastic Value Chain (P3: from January – December 2020), Programme officer – Marine Litter (P3: from September – December 2020), COBSEA Programme officer (P2: from March – August 2020) and the Administrative Assistant (G5: from January – December 2020).

The low expenditure rate is due to the fact that the Project Coordinator (P4) position has not yet been filled, while it was budgeted for a full year (\$191,400, i.e. making up 30% of the total staff cost). This is in line with standard practice, to ensure budget availability for a one-year contract on appointment.

Staff and other personnel costs under Output 4 is for the COBSEA Programme officer (P2: from March - August 2020) of USD 42,573. This expenditure will be adjusted to be reflected under Project Coordination component in subsequent reports.

Travel

The second project budget revision reallocated most travel funding to Grants & Contributions and Consultants budget classes. Total expenditure and commitment recorded under the travel budget class at the end of 2020 account for USD 372 (2%) against the budget of USD 15,000. Travel cost was incurred for the SEA circular project retreat in January 2020, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Consultants/Experts

Total expenditure and commitment recorded under the consultant budget line accounted for USD 181,267 (59%) against the budget of USD 306,890. Costs for long term consultants under this budget class include SEA of Solution development consultant, national consultants in Malaysia and Thailand, and Communications consultant. Short-term consultants were hired, inter alia, to support the development of the project and SEA of Solutions websites and knowledge database; to contribute towards organizing the SEA of Solutions event including a technical expert for digital events and a facilitator; and to support research and data collection in relation country briefs and project outcome indicators.

Contractual services

Total expenditure and commitment recorded under the contractual services budget class accounted for USD 41,208 (70%) of the approved budget USD 58,500. These costs include production of outreach material and virtual platform for SEA of Solutions 2020, as well as meeting venues and service cost for the SEA circular retreat at the beginning of 2020.

Grants and contributions

Total expenditure and commitment recorded under the Grants and contributions class accounted for USD 943,200.45 (92%) of the approved budget USD 1,023,500. Ten SSFAs have been signed in 2020 (Refer to Annex 3).

FINANCIAL REPORT 2020
Output-based 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 2020 to 31 December 2020)

(Expressed in US dollars)

	Budget	Expenditures	Commitment	Total Expenditures & Commitments	Balance	% Utilization
OUTPUT 1 : Market-based solutions towards 'less plastic wasted'						
Staff and other personnel costs	-	(12,869)		(12,869)	12,869	
Consultants/ Experts	27,000	11,970	15,000	26,970	30	
Travel	-			-	-	
Contractual Services	-	120		120	(120)	
Grants & Contributions (Grant out + IP direct + Grant out IDC)	542,000	953	475,315	476,268	65,732	
Operational Costs	-			-	-	
Sub-total	569,000	174	490,315	490,490	78,510	86%
OUTPUT 2 - Strengthening the scientific basis for decision-making						
Staff and other personnel costs	-	(12,869)		(12,869)	12,869	
Consultants/ Experts	34,000	23,970	(10,000)	13,970	20,030	
Travel	-			-	-	
Contractual Services	1,000	240		240	760	
Grants & Contributions (Grant out + IP direct + Grant out IDC)	268,500	25,348	232,360	257,708	10,792	
Operational Costs	3,600	1,674	-	1,674	1,926	
Sub-total	307,100	38,364	222,360	260,723	46,377	85%
OUTPUT 3 - Outreach on marine litter and plastic pollution						
Staff and other personnel costs	-	(12,869)		(12,869)	12,869	
Consultants/ Experts	62,000	5,970	41,000	46,970	15,030	
Travel	-			-	-	
Contractual Services	20,000	16,897		16,897	3,103	
Grants & Contributions (Grant out + IP direct + Grant out IDC)	102,000	25,353	73,846	99,199	2,801	
Operational Costs	1,000	268		268	732	
Sub-total	185,000	35,619	114,846	150,465	34,535	81%
OUTPUT 4 - Regional networking						
Staff and other personnel costs ⁽¹⁾	-	42,573		42,573	(42,573)	
Consultants/ Experts	121,000	27,231	52,000	79,231	41,769	
Travel	10,000	1,549	(1,431)	118	9,882	
Contractual Services	32,500	19,859		19,859	12,641	
Grants & Contributions (Grant out + IP direct + Grant out IDC)	111,000	17,290	92,735	110,025	975	
Operational Costs	4,700	5,380		5,380	(680)	
Sub-total	279,200	113,881	143,304	257,185	22,015	92%
Project Coordination						
Staff and other personnel costs	630,410	295,923		295,923	334,487	
Consultants/ Experts	62,890	106,403	(92,277)	14,126	48,764	
Travel	5,000	946	(692)	254	4,746	
Contractual Services	5,000	2,328	1,764	4,092	908	
Grants & Contributions (Grant out + IP direct + Grant out IDC)				-	-	
Operational Costs	52,233	30,704	197	30,901	21,332	
Supplies Commodities Materials	2,000	117		117	1,883	
Equipment Vehicles and Furniture	3,000		1,442	1,442	1,558	
Sub-total	760,533	436,422	(89,566)	346,855	413,678	46%
Programme Support Cost	168,067	110,019	-	110,019	58,048	
Total	2,268,900	734,479	881,259	1,615,738	653,162	71%

⁽¹⁾ Salary Cost under Output 4 to be adjusted to Project Coordination Component

Cash Status	Amount in USD
Funds Received	3,948,432
2018 Expenditure	10,000
2019 Expenditure	669,908
Prior Year Adjustment	4,427
2020 Expenditure	1,615,738
Cumulative Expenditure as of 31 December 2020	2,300,073
Exchange rate (loss)/gain	141
Cash Balance	1,648,500

Certified by



Ahmed Iftikhar Khan
 Administrative Officer
 Asia and the Pacific Office

Certified financial statement



1000/32CPL - TF Ctrpart Ctrs Supp Envrmt Activities
 M1-32CPL-000404 - M1-32CPL-000404 Marine Litter

Donor: PM OF SWEDEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Interim Certified Financial Statement for the period ended 31 December 2020


(Expressed in US dollars)

Income	
Contributions Received	3,948,432.27
Total Income	3,948,432.27
Expenditures	
Staff and other personnel cost	779,721.58
Supplies, Commodities and Materials	1,164.00
Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture	4,266.00
Contractual Services	66,242.48
Travel	59,865.29
Transfers and Grants	1,131,398.65
General Operating and Other Direct Costs	87,039.20
Total direct expenditures	2,129,697.20
Indirect Support Costs (United Nations) ^{*)}	160,209.42
Indirect Support Costs (Implementing Partners)	10,166.36
Total indirect support costs	170,375.78
Total expenditures	2,300,072.98
Net excess/(shortfall) income over expenditure	1,648,359.29
Exchange rate (loss)/gain	140.69
Available Balance	1,648,499.98

^{*)} Indirect support costs pending full batch run

Certified by: 
 Mohamed Elharati
 Fund Management Officer
 UN Environment

Date: 25.02.2021

Cleared by: 
 Vanda Andromeda
 Chief, Accounts Section, BFMS
 UNON


 United Nations Office at Nairobi
 ACCOUNTS SECTION
 Budget and Financial
 Management Service
 Date: 25.02.2021

Approved by: 
 Kathleen Creavalle
 Head Finance Unit
 UN Environment

Date: 02/03/2021

Annex 1: PROJECT RESULTS 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>Reduction in single-use plastic production and sale (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>Variety of alternative packaging (item) <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>Increase in collection of PET bottles for recycling (by tonnage) <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>Packaging recycling rate <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>Increased consumer awareness on marine litter and plastic pollution</p>

	<p><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></p> <p><i>49% say if a product is made from non-recycled material, they are less likely to buy it</i></p> <p><i>Target: To be confirmed after Q2 2020</i></p> <p>Data collection by FIA and UNEP</p> <p>Measured through consumer awareness surveys in 2020 and 2022</p> <p>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</p> <p><i>Baseline: Cambodia and Phnom Penh in 2018</i></p> <p><i>Target: 8 additional countries and cities in Southeast by 2022 in collaboration with World Bank, WWF and other city-based projects</i></p> <p>Data collection by: International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC), UNEP, other actors in civil society</p> <p>Measured through governmental reports and communications and civil society project reports</p>	
Output	Output indicators	
I: Market-based solutions towards “less plastic wasted”	<p>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</p> <p>Number of pilot demonstration on environmentally sound waste management supported</p> <p>Changes in policies in Malaysia and Thailand concerning recycled plastics</p>	
Results	Activities	Partners and roles
Result 1.1: Stakeholders in Southeast Asia measure and report their plastic footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information collected by the project coordination team and verified by all implementing partners 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 SDG 12.7.1 Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans

	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination of information material such as issue papers on human rights-based approach and gender dimensions of plastic management and marine litter • Delivery of dedicated one-day trainings on human rights, gender equality & 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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carried out by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coca-Cola Thailand and Malaysia for beverages • Food Industry Asia and/or GA Circular for food packaging (non-PET) • GA Circular for low-value materials (Flexibles and Plastic Bags) • GA Circular for retail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfill composition analysis (where landfill access is provided by landfill operators) representative of waste entering the landfills to verify landfill rates for both high value and low value plastic materials entering the landfills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodology for the landfill compositional analysis to be determined by GA Circular with inputs from other implementing partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through sector-specific roundtables in target countries • Plastic neutrality credit system by recovery with underprivileged or affected communities (informal sector) • With implementation by Ocean Recovery Alliance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propel plastic measurement, disclosure, offsetting, commitment and collaboration for solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carried out by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MEWA), in two local governments and 10 companies in Malaysia 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 Phuket Hotel Association, Thailand The Siam Cement Group Public Company Limited in ASEAN countries 2 companies with support of the Solid Waste Association of Thailand (SWAT) Thailand Environment Institute as Secretariat of the Public Private Partnership for Sustainable Plastic and Waste Management
<p>Result 1.2: Stakeholders in Southeast Asia demonstrate ability to manage the plastic value chain better</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of inclusive market transforming solutions on plastic reduction, reuse and recycling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solutions analysis for plastic recycling and energy recovery Solutions analysis for improvement on plastic waste management - segregation at source, collection coverage, and plastic disposal (including informal activities) Solutions analysis on plastic avoidance and upcycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inviting tech partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GA Circular - for plastic recycling and energy recovery Waste Management Association of Malaysia (WMAM) and Solid Waste Association of Thailand (SWAT) for plastic waste management Ocean Recovery Alliance - Solutions analysis on plastic avoidance and upcycling In consultation with informal economy networks and/or local waste picker representatives and human rights / gender equality advocacy such as: Women in Informal Employment Globalizing Organizing (WIEGO), Enlawthai Foundation, the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of solutions for better management of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carried out with MEWA in Malaysia and the MONRE in

	<p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With technical support of GA Circular, SWAT, Kitakyushu City Government (Japan), and the Ocean Recovery Alliance 						
<p>Result 1.3: Business incentives for plastic reduction and recycling identified and applied</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business incentive surveys in 2020 and 2021 (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jointly with Food Industry Asia (FIA) 						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With local trade associations for specific sectors • In cooperation with local/regional informal economy representatives (e.g. WIEGO) • SDG 12.A.1 						
<p>Milestones</p>	<p>Baseline</p>	<p>2018</p>	<p>2019</p>	<p>2020</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Total</p>	<p>Means of Verification</p>
<p>IA: Stakeholders in Southeast Asia report their Plastic Footprint</p>	<p>0</p>			<p>10</p>	<p>10</p>		<p>20</p>	<p>PDP "Plastic Footprint Challenge" online data</p>
<p>IB: Roundtables on policy and technology for reduction/elimination, re-use and recycle of plastic</p>	<p>0</p>		<p>1</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Published reports, knowledge hub, information sessions at plastic and waste conferences; COBSEA meeting proceedings</p>
<p>IC: Implementation of demonstration interventions for reduction/elimination, re-use and recycle of plastic</p>	<p>0</p>		<p>2</p>	<p>2</p>			<p>4</p>	<p>Published reports, knowledge hub, , information sessions at plastic and waste conferences; COBSEA meeting proceedings</p>
<p>ID: Report on policy and technology solutions</p>	<p>0</p>				<p>1</p>		<p>1</p>	<p>Published reports, knowledge hub, media coverage</p>

Output 2: Strengthening the scientific basis for decision making

Output

Output indicators

2: Strengthening the scientific basis for decision making	<p>Number of COBSEA countries publishing marine litter monitoring results</p> <p>Number of COBSEA countries that incorporate pollution loading as well as environmental, social and economic impact indicators in marine litter reporting</p> <p>Number of COBSEA countries that include a citizen–science approach in baseline data development and national monitoring programmes</p> <p>Number of new research projects/partnerships on marine litter and plastic pollution, including environmental, social and economic impacts and governance aspects</p>	
Results	Activities	Partners and roles
Result 2.1: 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"> 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. <p>Technical assistance toward development of regionally coherent marine litter monitoring programmes and associated data management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This entails capacity building and technical assistance e.g. trainings at the national and regional level supported through national consultants and regional experts. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> led by national government partners and local research partners in consultation with COBSEA WGML East China Normal University (ECNU), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), GPML supported by national consultants and regional experts
Result 2.2: Decision makers and academic community in the region have access to marine litter research	<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"> National University of Singapore (NUS), ECNU, and other relevant academic and research institutions in the region

and data on marine litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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). 	
Result 2.3: 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"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National University of Singapore (NUS) in consultation with COBSEA WGML leveraging networks of GPML supported by regional consultant(s) as needed

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	0			1			1	Published report

strengthen evidence-based policy and regulatory interventions								
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Output 3: Outreach		
Output	Output indicators	
3: Outreach	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	
Results ¹	Activities	Partners and roles
Result 3.1: Project products and results reach target groups and inform efforts to tackle marine litter and plastic waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination of a set of the project identity products (e.g. logo, slogan, key messages) and a launch and maintenance of the project website 	Led by the project coordination team, in consultation with UNEP Communications Division
Result 3.2: Consumer awareness of solutions to marine litter and plastic pollution is increased to inform decision making and behaviour change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment and delivery of Plastic Circular Economy Award, highlighting champions and promoting inclusive approaches in communities and civil society, industry and the public sector Consumer awareness surveys in 2020 and 2022 (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) 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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 of disadvantaged groups including the informal sector 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) FIA

¹ 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) 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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led by the project coordination team with national and local partners of the existing global campaigns, i.e. #BeatPollution, #CleanSeas, and #BeatPlasticPollution In consultation with GPML Carried out in Malaysia with MEWA Carried out in Thailand by local governments with help of the MONRE, Thailand 						
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	1		1	1	1	1	5	Campaign website and social media platforms

materials							
3G: Media tours	2		1	1	1		5

Output 4: Regional networking		
Output	Output indicators	
4: Regional networking for exchange, cooperation and integration	Number of COBSEA countries adopting or revising national marine litter action plans or equivalent in line with COBSEA RAP MALI 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. Number of products or polymers subject to recycling or reduction mechanism adopted regionally/by multiple countries Year-on year percent increase in regional marine litter knowledge hub online content as well as traffic 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	
Results	Activities	Partners and roles
Result 4.1: Regionally coherent national marine litter plans, policies, regulations and/or standards to prevent and reduce plastic pollution	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). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This entails guidance toward developing/implementing National Action Plans through national consultants and COBSEA WGML. Knowledge sharing through the ASEAN and its Working Groups to leverage synergies and promote alignment of national plans with regional frameworks. 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 & Standards for Design, Labelling, Recovery & Recycling in ASEAN) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led by national institutions, In consultation with COBSEA WGML Ensuring equitable participation of human rights / gender equality advocacy organizations and representatives of disadvantaged groups, academia, civil society, and private sector in stakeholder consultations Supported by national consultants NGOs, intergovernmental organizations, and other actors in marine litter and plastic value chains
Result 4.2: Information sharing and stakeholder	Regional constituency engagement, networking and knowledge sharing on marine litter through relevant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive stakeholder engagement and representation including national/local authorities, plastic producers,

engagement to support targeted action on reduction in plastic pollution and wastage	<p>events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convening an annual “SEA of Solutions” partnership week on plastic pollution prevention in coordination with regional partners to showcase inclusive solutions and accelerate action. • Presenting project findings and knowledge products at external and UNEP events. • Coordination of marine litter efforts in the region across projects and initiatives. 	<p>businesses and associations, recyclers, research institutes, academia, social enterprises, start-ups, disadvantaged groups, community initiatives, civil society organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 						
Result 4.3: An East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML improves knowledge management on marine litter	<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"> • The Regional Node will harness expertise and resources, provide a regularly updated 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. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional knowledge partners e.g. ECNU, NUS, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Regional Capacity Center for Clean Seas (RC3S) • In consultation with COBSEA WGML • In collaboration with the GPML 						
Milestones	Baseline	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total	Means of Verification
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: 3rd Meeting of the Project Steering Committee Meeting Minutes



SEA circular: Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in South-East Asia

3rd Meeting of the Project Steering Committee
6 November 2020 (virtual)

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item 1. Opening

1. The meeting was opened by Ms. Isabelle Louis, Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UNEP and Chair, SEA circular Project Steering Committee (PSC). She welcomed participants including new members of the PSC to the meeting, and noted that the meeting was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has also had significant implications for plastic waste generation, collection, recycling and leakage into the environment, and therefore also for the SEA circular project. She noted that this would be addressed in the upcoming SEA of Solutions event, and welcomed the participation of PSC members in the event. She mentioned significant progress made in project implementation, as well as changes to project implementation structure and PSC composition following recommendations arising from the second meeting of the PSC held in December 2019. She emphasized that the third annual meeting of the PSC is convened in line with its Terms of Reference, with three primary objectives: to review and provide feedback on the draft interim report on progress in implementation of the project Work Plan 2020, covering the period of January to October 2020; to review and provide feedback on and the draft annual costed Work Plan for 2021; and to consider for adoption proposed revision of the PSC Terms of Reference, prepared by UNEP pursuant to discussions at the second meeting of the PSC held 9 December 2019.

2. PSC members and observers in attendance introduced themselves. The list of participants is provided in Annex 1.

3. Mr. Jerker Tamelander, COBSEA Coordinator and SEA circular project coordinator a.i. gave a brief overview of recommendations arising from PSC-2, and presented the Agenda for PSC-3. No comments on the agenda were raised by PSC members. The Agenda is provided in Annex 2.

Agenda Item 2. SEA circular project Interim Annual Report 2020

4. Jerker Tamelander provided a brief overview of the SEA circular project, and presented a summary of the Interim Annual Report 2020, noting that it had been shared with PSC members for their review on 27 October 2020. He emphasized that the interim annual report had been prepared for the PSC and the project donor to supplement and support consideration of the draft project Workplan 2021, and that a comprehensive final Annual Report 2020 and certified financial report would be prepared early 2021. In this regard, he welcomed identification of issues that need to be addressed in the interim annual report 2020, as well as comments that could be addressed in preparation of the final annual report 2020.

5. He noted progress across all project outputs, including successful business engagement; knowledge sharing in relation to marine litter monitoring; new capacity building resources and opportunities; strengthened national marine litter planning as well as regional networking, leveraging COBSEA. He emphasized that the COVID-19 pandemic had necessitated adjustments to implementation modalities, some repurposing of project activities, and had caused delays to several activities.

6. He further informed the meeting that the project implementation group had been restructured as of May 2020, including the establishment of a new P4 project coordinator position, currently under recruitment, and noted that a new communications consultant was being appointed in the next few days.

7. Mr. Eddy Mazuaansyah raised a question regarding the project's COVID-19 response and how it can add value in "building back better". He informed the meeting that the 2021 national budget proposal by his ministry, emphasizing 'greener funding', was being considered by parliament, and suggested e.g. promoting use of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives under project output 1.

8. Jerker Tamelander noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had exposed a number of underlying weaknesses in waste management and recycling, and that there was an opportunity to use the COVID-19 response to address these issues. He welcomed the suggestion to leverage the project in supporting national fiscal and non-fiscal responses to the pandemic, and invited further discussion on how project activities could be tailored to address specific context at national level, in Malaysia and elsewhere.

9. PSC members noted good implementation progress in spite of COVID-19. Questions were raised regarding the project's business engagement and the extent of uptake and implementation by individual businesses, as well as capacity building needs and priorities. It was clarified that there is genuine interest from businesses in plastic footprint measurement and taking steps towards reducing plastic use and plastic waste, reflected in their participation in project activities, trainings and roundtables as well as feedback provided on this. However, there is still hesitation among businesses to publicly disclose plastic footprint and go beyond social responsibility approaches. The project is now looking at tailored solutions for "willing players" to enable further action, with continuous engagement on HRBA. The significant economic impact of COVID-19 was noted, affecting local companies as well as multinational corporations in South-East Asia e.g. in terms of

reduced ability to allocate human resource capacity to deal with plastics. Regarding capacity building needs, continued collaboration based on the ML MOOC, including expanding language offering and strengthening aspects of the course e.g. in relation to HRBA and gender, and in relation to marine litter assessment, monitoring and policy development was mentioned.

Agenda Item 3. SEA circular project draft costed Work Plan for 2021

10. Jerker Tamelander presented the draft SEA circular project Workplan for 2021, which was shared with PSC members for their review on 27 October 2020. He explained that the workplan provides a brief narrative for each project output, followed by detailed listing of project activities, intended deliverables, implementation arrangements and timelines, as well as output-level budget by expenditure class. He noted that the draft workplan had been prepared for review by the PSC, prior to finalization for submission to the project donor. He invited feedback and guidance to support finalization of the Workplan 2021, in particular in relation to strategic aspects, constituency engagement and emerging issues.

11. PSC members noted that the draft workplan 2021 shows continuity from the workplan 2020, clearly building on activities implemented or underway, and expressed support for the draft work plan.

12. PSC members identified waste leakage and hotspot assessments activities with GPML and UN-Habitat as a good example of regional-global cooperation. A question was raised regarding data sourcing and data management for hotspot assessments. This work has been delayed due to COVID-19 but implementation modalities have now been redeveloped and the activity is underway. Working with UN-Habitat and University of Leeds, the project will develop regional land-based point source hotspot modelling, based on existing (municipal) solid waste management data as well as meteorological and geological data. At city level, the project will apply UN-Habitat's Waste Wise Cities methodology which includes landfill surveys and interviews at household level. These will strengthen the regional model of waste leakage, and data will be integrated into the UNEP-GPML global marine litter database. In 2021, building on these efforts, the project will also conduct on-site hotspot assessments of waste accumulation, including assessments in the coastal and (possibly) riverine environment, together with East China Normal University (ECNU) and other partners. The combination of modelling and primary data collection is aimed at addressing existing data gaps. Data and findings will also be incorporated in a global leakage model.

13. Heidi Savelli further informed the meeting that a multi-stakeholder platform was being developed by UNEP and the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, pursuant to UNEA resolutions on marine litter, which would include various layers of data to inform decision making. The platform will include a 'matchmaking' component for stakeholders and investors, and will connect with other digital platforms such as one developed under the Basel Convention and the World Environment Situation Room. A webinar on the platform would be held later in the month to share more information.

14. A question was also raised regarding linkages to ongoing global processes in response to UNEA resolutions, in particular the Ad Hoc Open-ended Expert Group (AHEG) and the possible

development of a global agreement on plastic. It was suggested that the project undertake a study on readiness for a possible new agreement among countries in the region, as it becomes clearer what the form of a possible new agreement may be.

15. Jerker Tamelander informed the meeting that the AHEG process was being closely monitored. By leveraging COBSEA's regional mechanism including the Working Group on Marine Litter (WGML) and ongoing collaboration with GPML, national input e.g. for global stocktaking had been catalyzed and engagement in the AHEG process increased, with good participation among COBSEA and SEA circular countries in the AHEG-4 meeting. This ensures that regional views inform global discussions on marine litter and governance arrangements, and supports follow up to global agreements at the regional level. He welcomed the recommendation to conduct a readiness study, noting that this would have to be pursued with consideration of project capabilities and without pre-empting outcomes of the AHEG process, and suggested that countries would also raise this in the context of the COBSEA WGML.

16. Isabelle Louis informed the meeting that UNEA-5 will be held in two 'parts', with a virtual session in February 2021 only focusing on the Medium-term Strategy, Programme of Work and budget, with other matters considered during an in-person session tentatively planned for early 2022. She further noted that the Asia Pacific regional ministerial forum is being planned for the second half of 2021 in the Republic of Korea.

Agenda Item 4. Proposed revision of the Terms of Reference of the SEA circular Project Steering Committee

17. Jerker Tamelander presented the draft proposed revision of the PSC Terms of Reference, noting that it had been shared for review on 27 October 2020. He explained that the proposed revision had been prepared pursuant to recommendations arising from the second meeting of the PSC and meetings between UNEP and the project donor, and invited comments and suggestions from PSC members.

18. PSC members in attendance expressed support for the proposed revision. Responding to questions by PSC members, some additional information on the process for identifying and admitting new members based on recommendations and prior due diligence was provided. It was noted that efforts had been made to ensure particular skills and expertise relevant to the project were represented on the PSC.

19. Ms. Sara Öberg Höper, Sida, attending as observer to the PSC, suggested that the role of the PSC should include providing advice on strengthening gender equality and a human rights-based approach; and that an even gender balance should be sought in composition of the PSC. She further suggested that composition could include participation from non-governmental organizations/civil society, and that members representing governments should represent different countries.

20. It was agreed that the comments raised would be reflected in updated draft revised ToR, which would be circulated to all PSC members for information, and with a request to provide any further input by a specific date. The revised ToR would then be considered adopted.

21. The revised ToR as adopted by the PSC at its third meeting are provided in Annex 3.

Agenda Item 5. Any other business

22. Jerker Tamelander mentioned that the SEA of Solutions 2020 event for partnerships and stakeholder engagement would be held 24-26 November, cohosted by the Government of Viet Nam. He encouraged PSC members to participate, and to share information about the event among their networks to help make the event a success.

Agenda Item 6. Summary and Closing

23. The PSC Chair informed the meeting that the project workplan 2021 would be finalized for submission to Sida by the end of November and reminded participants of the 13 November deadline to submit comments in writing on this as well as on the interim Annual Report 2020. She noted that the PSC meeting provisionally adopted the revised PSC ToR, subject to the procedure agreed. Draft minutes of the PSC meeting will be shared with meeting participants for review by 20 November.

24. Looking ahead, she informed the meeting that a Webinar for PSC members and observers would be held in the first quarter 2021, to share the final Annual Report 2020 and the final approved Workplan 2021. Noting the opportunity this provides to share information on matters relevant to the project as well as the wealth of expertise on the PSC, she suggested this webinar would include 'spotlight presentations' by individual PSC members.

25. The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking all participants for their participation and contributions.

Annex 1. List of Participants

Project Steering Committee

Isabelle Louis (Chair)
Deputy Regional Director,
UN Environment Programme Asia and the
Pacific
louisi@un.org

Heidi Savelli-Soderberg
Programme Officer, Marine Litter,
Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML),
UN Environment Programme
heidi.savelli@un.org

Eddy Mazuaansyah Bin Mohd Ali Murad
Deputy Under-Secretary
Environmental Management Division
Ministry of Environment and Water, Malaysia
eddym@kasa.gov.my

Åsa Stenmarck
Material Flow Expert - sustainable
consumption, Swedish Environmental
Protection Agency
asa.stenmarck@naturvardsverket.se

Suwan Nanthasarut
Environmental Expert, Department of Marine
and Coastal Resources,
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment, Thailand
snanthasarut@yahoo.com

Sara Öberg Höper (observer)
First Secretary, Programme specialist –
Environment & Climate Change, Development
Cooperation – Regional Asia and the Pacific,
Embassy of Sweden in Thailand
sara.oberg.hoper@sida.se

SEA circular Project Implementation Group
Jerker Tamelander
Interim SEA circular Project Coordinator
tamelander@un.org

Maria Martha Cecilia Fernandez
SEA of Solutions and Partnership
Development Consultant
fernandez21@un.org

Maggie Ka Ka Lee
Programme Officer, Markets and Plastic
Value Chain
maggie.lee@un.org

Dusadee Songyoo
Administrative Assistant
dusadee.songyoo@un.org

Natalie Harms
Programme Officer, Marine Litter
natalie.harms@un.org

Regrets

Betty Yolanda
Asia Regional Manager,
Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
yolanda@business-humanrights.org

Vong Sok (observer)
Head, Environment Division,
ASEAN Secretariat
vong.sok@asean.org

Annex 2. Agenda

Time (ICT)	Agenda Item
14:00	1. Opening Isabelle Louis, Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UNEP and Chair, SEA circular Project Steering Committee
14:10	2. SEA circular project Interim Annual Report 2020 Presentation by Jerker Tamelander, SEA circular Project Coordinator a.i., followed by discussion
14:40	3. SEA circular project draft costed Work Plan for 2021 Presentation by Jerker Tamelander, SEA circular Project Coordinator a.i., followed by discussion
15:20	4. Proposed revision of the Terms of Reference of the SEA circular Project Steering Committee Presentation by Isabelle Louis, Chair, SEA circular Project Steering Committee, followed by discussion
15:40	5. Any Other Business The Chair will invite PSC members to raise pertinent issues for information or discussion
15:50	6. Summary and Closing

Meeting Documents

Draft Interim Annual Report 2020

Draft costed Work Plan 2021

Proposed revision of the PSC Terms of Reference

Annex 3. Terms of Reference of the Project Steering Committee



SEA circular

Terms of Reference of the Project Steering Committee

Revised and adopted at the 3rd Meeting of the Project Steering Committee, November 2020

Background

The Sea circular project (“Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in Southeast Asia”) aims to reduce the adverse impact of marine litter from plastic leakage, by ensuring that less plastic is entering general solid waste streams where the coverage and effectiveness of the management systems is weak. The project will achieve this specifically by:

- Reducing most harmful and difficult to recycle plastic;
- Increasing plastic re-use and recycle (especially bottle-to-bottle recycling); and
- Creating region-wise awareness on plastic pollution and public support for policies to change plastic value chain management.

The project is funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and implemented by UN Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Secretariat of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) and runs from 2018 to 2022. The project will work directly with public and private sector as well as civil society partners and will involve stakeholders throughout the plastic value chain.

As stipulated in the Project Document contained in Annex 1 to the project agreement between Sida and UN Environment Programme, section III. Project Management and Implementation Arrangements, a Project Steering Committee is established during the project inception phase.

These Terms of Reference have been prepared in line with UN Environment's Programme Manual and Project Management Guidelines.

Role of the Project Steering Committee

The Project Steering Committee provides overall strategic direction, programmatic as well as budgetary oversight, and supports stakeholder engagement and coordination for effective and timely project delivery.

Specific tasks of the Steering Committee are to:

- review and provide guidance and feedback on draft annual workplans and associated budgets;
- review and provide feedback on project progress and financial reports as well as key deliverables;
- provide advice on modalities for project execution, including engagement of project partners;
- provide strategic advice on gender and HRBA integration in project activities as well as reporting on and communicating achievements;
- provide advice on broader constituency engagement in order to facilitate proactive and efficient networking with other relevant initiatives as well as stakeholder groups;
- support outreach about the project and its outputs, as well as facilitate partnerships in order to achieve higher impact and sustainability of project outcomes after project completion;
- provide timely information on emerging or sensitive issues relevant to the project;
- guide the project in its contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Development Agenda including in particular SDG 14 Target 14.1 "By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution"; SDG 12 Target 12.4 "By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment", Target 12.5 "By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse", and SDG 17 Target 17.17 "Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships", and
- guide the project in its contribution to the achievement of UN Environment's Programme of Work 2018-2019 and 2020-2021, specifically Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality subprogramme, Expected Accomplishment (b) on Waste: Policies and legal and institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for waste prevention and sound management developed or implemented in countries within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements; Resource Efficiency EA (a) on Sustainable Consumption and Production: Science-based approaches that support the transition to sustainable development through multiple pathways, including inclusive green economy and sustainable trade, and the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns at all levels, and Healthy and Productive Ecosystems subprogramme, Expected Accomplishment (a) on Marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems: The health and productivity of marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems are institutionalized in education, monitoring and cross-sector and transboundary collaboration frameworks at the national and international levels.

Composition of the Project Steering Committee:

The Deputy Regional Director of the UN Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific will serve as Chair of the Project Steering Committee.

Regular members of the Project Steering Committee participate on the basis of personal expertise and/or institutional affiliation, for a period of two years (renewable). An even gender balance among members of the Project Steering Committee should be sought.

The Project Steering Committee encompasses the following:

- Two government representatives representing different countries;
- Global Partnership on Marine Litter representative (GPML);
- COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter representative;
- experts on matters of particular relevance to the project (including sustainable consumption and production, private sector engagement, gender equality, human rights-based approach),
- representation by non-governmental or civil society organizations; academic or research organizations; international organizations or governmental institutions;

The Secretariat of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as project donors, including Sida, participate in the Project Steering Committee as observers. Other observers can be sought to contribute expertise as necessary.

The Project Coordinator acts as Secretary of the Project Steering Committee and participates in its meetings in this capacity, ensuring the preparation of necessary documentation, organizing of logistical arrangements and follow up on decisions of the Project Steering Committee.

Project Steering Committee members are listed in Annex 1.

Organization of work

The Project Steering Committee will meet face-to-face once per year. Meetings will be held virtually when circumstance requires. Meetings will be held late in the calendar year or in January. Travel costs for the Steering Committee members will be covered by the project per UN Rules and Regulations, if necessary.

Informal virtual meetings/webinars of the PSC will be organized quarterly by the Project Implementation Group to share information and informally consult PSC members on project activities, the work of the PSC including organization of the annual PSC meeting, and other matters as relevant.

Members of the Project Steering Committee are required to attend annual meetings, and should endeavour to attend informal meetings/webinars.

All members and observers shall receive meeting documentation including draft work plan with budget no later than two (2) weeks ahead of the meeting. Feedback on the work plan and budget can be provided in written form or verbally prior to or during the meeting.

Steering Committee meeting reports and revised work plans, prepared in consultation with the Chair, will be circulated within one month of the Steering Committee meeting.

Annex 1

As of October 2020, the SEA circular PSC includes the following members:

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	louisi@un.org
2.	Eddy Mazuaansyah Bin Mohd Ali Murad	Deputy Under-Secretary, Environmental Management 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@naturvardsverket.se
6.	Betty Yolanda	Asia Regional Manager Business & Human Rights Resource Centre	yolanda@business-humanrights.org
Observers			
No.	First and Last Name	Position and Organization	E-mail
1.	Sara Öberg Höper	First Secretary; Programme specialist Environment – Climate Change Development Cooperation-Regional Asia and the Pacific, Embassy of Sweden in Thailand	Sara.oberg.hoper@sida.se
2.	Vong Sok	Head, Environment Division, ASEAN Secretariat	vong.sok@asean.org

ANNEX 3: Implementation Agreements

No.	Partner	Status*	Agreement amount (USD)	Contribution to the project outputs
1	National University of Singapore (NUS)	Task completed	\$42,000	Output 2, 4: mapping of research and development of a Regional Node (non-SEA circular funding, activity cofinanced)
2	Food Industry Asia (FIA)	Task completed	\$160,000	Output 1, 3: Business incentive and consumer awareness surveys
3	Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)	Task completed	\$43,750	Output 3: Report on gender, human rights, and economic dimensions of marine litter in the East Asian Seas
4	Ocean Recovery Alliance (ORA)	Task on-going per schedule	\$90,000	Output 1: PDP training, Solutions Analysis on plastic avoidance and upcycling
5	Solid Waste Management Association of Thailand (SWAT)	Task on-going per schedule	\$110,000	Output 1, 4: Plastic footprint reporting of 10 private companies (and 2 local governments), Solutions Analysis on improved collection, treatment and disposal of plastic waste, industry roundtables
6	VNU University of Science (VNU-HUS)	Task completed	\$10,000	Output 3: 2: Consumer awareness of solutions to marine litter and plastic pollution is increased to inform decision making and behaviour change
7	Center of Excellence on Hazardous Substance Management (HSM)	Task completed	\$10,000	Output 3: 2: Consumer awareness of solutions to marine litter and plastic pollution is increased to inform decision making and behaviour change
8	Center of Excellence on Hazardous Substance Management (HSM)	Agreement signed	\$62,070	Result 1.1: Stakeholders in South-East Asia measure and report their plastic footprint
9	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)	Agreement signed	\$50,000	Result 2.1: Marine litter status and trends are monitored, assessed, and reported at national and regional level Result 4.1: Regionally coherent national marine litter plans, policies, regulations and/or standards to prevent and reduce plastic pollution

No.	Partner	Status*	Agreement amount (USD)	Contribution to the project outputs
10	Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Centre (MGTC)	Agreement signed	\$154,500	Result 1.3: Business incentives for plastic reduction and recycling identified and applied Result 2.1: Marine litter status and trends are monitored, assessed, and reported at national and regional level Result 4.1: Regionally coherent national marine litter plans, policies, regulations and/or standards to prevent and reduce plastic pollution
11	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	Agreement signed	\$86,000	Result 2.1: Marine litter status and trends are monitored, assessed, and reported at national and regional level Result 4.1: Regionally coherent national marine litter plans, policies, regulations and/or standards to prevent and reduce plastic pollution
12	UN-Habitat	Agreement signed	\$155,400	Result 1.2: Stakeholders in South-East Asia demonstrate ability to manage the plastic value chain better Result 2.1: Marine litter status and trends are monitored, assessed, and reported at national and regional level Result 4.1: Regionally coherent national marine litter plans, policies, regulations and/or standards to prevent and reduce plastic pollution
13	National University of Singapore (NUS)	Agreement signed	\$68,600	Result 1.1: Stakeholders in South-East Asia measure and report their plastic footprint Result 2.2: Decision makers and academic community in the region have access to marine litter research and data on marine litter Result 4.3: An East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML improves knowledge management on marine litter
14	Meshminds Foundation	Agreement signed	\$80,000	Result 3.1: Project products and results reach target groups and inform efforts to tackle marine litter and plastic waste

* As of 31 December 2020

- Task completed
- SSFA finalised / pending signature
- Agreement signed
- Partner identified

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

Partner	Contribution to project outputs
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat	Output 4
COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter (WGML)	Output 2, 4
Coca Cola Foundation	Output 1
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines	Output 2, 4
East China Normal University (ECNU)	Output 2, 4
Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)	Output 2, 4
EPIC	Output 1
Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)	Output 2, 3, 4
Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA)	Output 2, 4
Ministry of Environment (MOE), Indonesia	Output 2, 4
Ministry of Environment and Water (MEWA), Malaysia	Output 2, 4
National University of Singapore (NUS)	Output 2, 4
Open Universiteit	Output 3
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	Output 1, 4
Penang Green Council	Output 1
Petaling Jaya City Council	Output 1
Phuket Hotels Association	Output 1
Pollution Control Department (PCD) - Thailand	Output 2
Public-Private Partnerships Plastics (PPP Plastics),	Output 1
Regional Capacity Center on Clean Seas (RC3S)	Output 4
Suez	Output 1
Sustainable Development Foundation (Thailand)	Output 1
Terracycle Thai Foundation	Output 1
Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce	Output 1
the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) – Thailand	Output 2
The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF), Indonesia	Output 2, 4
The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	HRBA and gender equality
UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	Output 3
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	HRBA and gender equality
Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI)	Output 2, 4

SEA_{of} Solutions

partnership week for marine
plastic pollution prevention

24-26 NOVEMBER 2020

> OUTCOMES

HIGHLIGHTS

System change is critical. We need a shift from linear to circular systems that put people and the planet first and engage all parts of society – policy makers, businesses, investors, consumers, academics, youth, and rural communities.

At a glance:

- > 750 participants in attendance from more than 50 countries; two-thirds from the Asia-Pacific region
- > Participation from across sectors, including 250+ delegates from the private sector
- > 137 speakers, including Ministers from 10 countries in Asia
- > 5 plenary sessions including a high-level session, a session on finance, and a technical session focusing on Viet Nam;
- > 10 parallel sessions; 11 side events and 19 exhibition booths

All content available on demand at <http://sos2020.sea-circular.org/>

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

A: Managing COVID-19-related waste and identifying ongoing efforts and multi-stakeholder responses and solutions, with a focus on reduction and recycling:

1. Local, regional and international **partnerships are key** to **efficient knowledge-sharing** and the **replication of good practices**. Nevertheless, there is often an institutional disconnect in countries to deal with different international mechanisms and agreements. With issues like illegal transport or waste crimes, critical **information is often not available** to stakeholders early enough to take effective action.

- > Address this by **reducing the complexity of the information** with better communication, include actionable next steps.
- > Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments and their enforcement will create the conditions for the global trade in plastic waste to become more **transparent**.
- > A number of **policy frameworks** are in place. Consider a global treaty bringing governments, industry and science communities together.

2. We need **enabling systems of governance and infrastructure** that ensure the demand and high-quality supply of recyclates and prevent waste leakage by putting in place **simple, convenient and effective waste collection and management systems**, and removing regulatory barriers to the use of recycled materials in packaging/products.

- > Work with international organizations and NGOs to target **holistic waste management systems** to address source segregation, discharge, collection, transportation, treatment and disposal.
- > Establish a common legal **institutional framework** for the extended responsibility of plastic-producers.
- > Develop and harmonize national systems of **standards** and technical regulations on plastics and microplastics.
- > Enhance efforts for **sustainable consumption and production** of plastic products with public education campaigns.
- > Establish appropriate **mechanisms** to allow plastic manufacturers to participate in environmental protection activities.
- > Incorporate measures to separate and dispose of hazardous waste and increases related to the COVID-19 pandemic into **national marine litter and plastic management planning and legislation**.
- > Establish a regional **research center** to **share information**, knowledge, experience, and technology, building on existing regional mechanisms and frameworks (such as COBSEA and ASEAN).

3. While national marine litter action plans are in place or under development, many local governments still lack the **capacity, frameworks and systems** to implement them.

- > Capacity building, **technology transfer**, and agreements to support and enable this are crucial
- > Partnering with local universities and organizations to **collect data on the ground, build awareness/capacity** and **support enforceable regulations** is key.

4. With COVID-19 creating '**new norms**' of **plastic consumption**, use of single-use plastics including personal protective equipment (PPE) is on a steep rise. COVID-19 has disrupted the food packaging, health, e-commerce, plastic packaging and plastic recycling sectors.

> Many companies are already exploring ways to address this. **Clear regulations** from government will level the playing field and incentivize greater sector action.

> Presenting **alternatives to single-use plastic that benefits citizens** are necessary to make bans and restrictions implementable. Increasing awareness, education, citizen engagement and ownership are important success factors.

5. **Plastic protection without pollution**. Consumers responsible for **sustainable plastic consumption**, industries should promote innovations and adaptation of smart plastic waste management, and governments should create a conducive environment.

> Scientific evidence shows that reusable models are capable of providing the **same level of hygiene** as single-use plastics. Technology and solutions are available to meet hygiene needs while reducing environmental impact.

> Propose **plastic recycling legislation and regulation** in South-East Asian countries.

> Continuously **advocate applying recycling material** where possible, including for food packaging. These can be supported by loop packaging systems, RFID-tagging for plastics.

> **New business models of packaging** (design for hygiene and sustainability) and mobile applications to track and monitor **safe disposal** of packaging waste.

6. **Information** on packaging recyclability is often **misleading**, and often gives little or no information on how to separate and sort products. Shifting to more **sustainable lifestyles** must be as **simple and transparent** as possible for consumers.

> Efforts to recycle plastic correctly can be successful if **easy to understand, convenient and affordable**. Make it easy for people to bring packaging to a place where it can be effectively collected and recycled. Enable the role of informal waste workers to collect and monetize waste resources through simple systems and technology.

> **Standardization of labelling and production standards** in ASEAN would create predictability and transparency, de-risking investments in circular product design and simplifying waste management.

> Efforts to **engage consumers and incentivize behaviour change** to reduce consumption of single-use or hard-to-recycle products need to be easy to understand and speak to consumers' interests and needs.

7. Cities need **data** for **evidence-based planning** related to waste generation, composition, volume of waste uncollected and leaked into waterways, waste streams and spatial waste distribution.

> **Digital** multi-stakeholder **platforms** that integrate high-quality data from many sources to support digital interactions, identify gaps and facilitate target setting available soon, allowing users to map and visualize data and interact.

> **Citizen science** is becoming accessible through digital technology, and an opportunity to ground-truth secondary data analysis and involve people in the process. Challenges to data quality and accessibility remain but can be addressed.

> We need business models that **create data-based revenue streams**, including use of AI, digital platforms and innovative, inexpensive, sustainable open-source technology to share data and knowledge.

> **Blockchain** enables us to create digital infrastructure with **accountability**, streamlined collaboration, and **incentives** for organizations to partner and tackle problems as a group - without a 'middleman'.

> Robust **analytics** inform effective investment decisions and enable more financing opportunities.

8. Plastic pollution creates **physical risks, economic losses, transition risks, and liability risks**. Multilateral development banks, private sector alliances, and the insurance industry have the power to de-risk investments and shift assets toward a circular economy.

> There's no shortage of capital, but consistently, we're hearing about the need for **enabling the environment for investments**, and for getting companies to understand, disclose and communicate their risks.

> Governments can **de-risk private finance** by introducing clear plans, communications, commitments, directions and clean budget allocations to enable confidence for effective financing pipelines and to leverage private sector investment.

> **Financial incentives** for smaller community-scale solutions and models that can easily be replicated through grants and impact investments are needed.

B: Transformation through footprint measurement, reporting, and disclosure, plastic neutrality and monetizing waste for communities and businesses:

Business representatives shared the societal concern over the damage of plastic pollution to the environment and to people and showcased a range of ways to solve the problem. **Innovative technology, enabling regulations** and **economic incentives** were highlighted as an indispensable part of solution-creation.

1. Plastic footprinting
2. Plastic credits and neutrality
3. Extended producer responsibility
4. Use of alternative materials and designing for sustainability
5. Harmonized regulations and standards
6. Levelling the playing field for players in an industry with global guidelines and models that work

C: Policies and incentives towards less plastic wasted through a deeper understanding of market perceptions and consumer behaviour.

Solutions include placing more **value on plastic itself** and holding accountable businesses producing waste. To improve the livelihoods of waste collectors, it is necessary to understand the informal waste management sector, remove the societal stigma of their work and waste in general and **acknowledge their labour** as a public service. Solutions can also be found through awareness raising and capacity building for governments and businesses, allowing waste collectors to form unions and build markets to recycle plastic.

1. Demand that action be taken by governments. There is genuine opportunity for **waste reduction, segregation at source, waste collection, labelling, imposing littering fines and charges.**
2. There is a **science-policy divide** and one across different bodies of policy. Scientists and policy makers need to 'speak the same language'. It is key to translate the data into **tangible findings that speak to policy questions** and are **easy to access and understand** by markets and consumers.
3. The **most severe impacts** of environmental degradation will be felt by **young people, future generations, and disadvantaged groups.** Governments and plastic producers/industry are key duty bearers with the responsibility to protect the rights of consumers and those most exposed and vulnerable to plastic pollution and marine litter. Preventing plastic pollution is a **human rights issue** and it is **everyone's business.**
4. To leave no one behind, it is crucial that rural and remote/island locations have **access to financing and solutions that work** for and empower smaller communities.
5. We need a **shift in mindset** to recognize informal waste management as a public service and develop integrated solutions that promote respect and protect those most vulnerable and exposed to (hazardous) waste.

Commitments pledged at the event:

Viet Nam is investing in regional and national partnership in combating marine plastic litter, research and information sharing new technologies for marine environmental protection and circular economy transition, formation of a blue alliance between authorities, enterprises and NGOs and a global agreement on marine plastic litter management. Viet Nam aims to be a regional pioneer in marine plastic litter management.

The Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group will eliminate all single-use plastic from its premises by the end of March 2021 and beyond, by collaborating and providing leadership to colleagues, suppliers and industry peers to establish responsible procurement as the new normal.

Unilever will collaborate with partners and stakeholders by 2025 to: a) use 100% recyclable, reusable, or compostable packaging, b) build from its current position as the first users of recycled plastic in Home & Personal Care categories, to create further demand by using at least 25% PCR in its total portfolio, c) Pro-actively Pilot and share learnings for "Less Plastic" business models, d) help collect and process more plastic than we sell while contributing to higher value circular models.

Heng Hiap (HHI) pledges to recycle cumulatively 30,000 tons of Ocean Bound Plastic by the year 2025. HHI will be partnering with NGO, local community and stakeholders to clean up the ocean plastic scrap as well as secure 225 spots to collect the ocean plastic scrap every month.

SEA of Solutions in an annual partnership event on preventing plastic pollution organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) under the SEA circular project, with support from the Government of Sweden.

ANNEX 5: Key Deliverables

Publications, knowledge products (in alphabetical order)

[Changing Sails: Accelerating Regional Actions for Sustainable Oceans in Asia and the Pacific](#)

SEA circular contributed to Chapter 5 on plastic pollution in the environment in this report prepared by ESCAP.

[Entry Point Profile 6 to Accelerate Transformation: Global Environmental Commons](#)

Contribution on marine litter status and frameworks that was discussed at the virtual sessions of the ESCAP Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development on 20 May.

[Perceptions on Plastic Waste - Insights, interventions and incentives to action from businesses and consumers in South-East Asia](#)

Findings of a survey of over 400 businesses and 400 consumers in Viet Nam, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia on perceptions of plastic waste issues.

[Status of Research, Legal and Policy Efforts on Marine Plastics in ASEAN+3: A Gap Analysis at the Interface of Science, Law and Policy](#)

A report of published plastic pollution research, policies, and initiatives as well as a searchable database of research of nearly 400 scientific publications in 13 South-East and East Asian countries.

Case Studies

Enabling Hotels to Sustainability through Voluntary Collective Action

Phuket Hotel Association's strategy in rallying member hotels to sustainability commitments, efforts, and less plastic wasted in Thailand's premier tourist island destination

<https://www.sea-circular.org/enabling-hotels-to-sustainability-through-voluntary-collective-action/>

Local Strategies to Effective Plastic Waste Management Models

A small community in Wangwa, Rayong demonstrates exemplary approaches to the way plastic is managed within the community leading to increased recycling, reduction in single-use plastic packaging, and improved health and wellbeing of the people.

<https://www.sea-circular.org/local-strategies-to-effective-plastic-waste-management-models-case-study-wangwa-community/>

Influencing Value Chains to Reduce Plastic Use

Six Senses Hotels and Resorts and working with the supply chain to reduce plastic use

<https://www.sea-circular.org/influencing-the-value-chains-to-reduce-plastic-use-case-study-six-senses/>

Experiences in Plastic Offsetting

Starboard shares its experience using the Plastic Disclosure Project footprinting methodology and shaping its work with fishing communities

<https://www.sea-circular.org/starboard-experiences-in-plastic-offsetting/>

Ecosystem Business Model for Small Communities and a Renewed Sense of Value

Sustainable business models for remote, island communities

<https://www.sea-circular.org/ecosystem-business-model-for-small-communities-and-a-renewed-sense-of-value-inherent-in-plastic/>

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

[E-Roundtable: Reducing plastic waste in the hospitality industry \(27 March\)](#)

Online event held together with One Planet – Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GTPI), an initiative by UNEP and UN World Tourism Organization accommodated 27 corporations from seven countries.

[Side Event ‘Building Back Better: Responsible Business Conduct, Human Rights and the Environment’ at the UN Virtual Forum on Responsible Business and Human Rights \(12 June\)](#)

The event discussed the role of businesses in protecting people’s rights to a healthy and safe environment in the face of plastic pollution and climate change in a post-pandemic world. View the [session recording on YouTube](#).

[Technical consultation of the COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter \(23-25 June\)](#)

The virtual consultation with representatives of COBSEA countries and observers shared progress and sourced input to ongoing activities in line with IGM 24 decisions and the RAP MALL.

[Virtual Report Launch – Perceptions on plastic waste: Insights, interventions and incentives to action from businesses and consumers in South-East Asia \(23 June\)](#)

The launch event attracted over 100 guests who posed meaningful questions and requested for the access of the report, which is available on SEA circular’s website.

[Technical consultation of the COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter \(23-25 June\)](#)

The virtual consultation with representatives of COBSEA countries and observers discussed progress made and sourced input in relation to ongoing activities responding to decisions made at IGM 24 and the RAP MALL.

[E-roundtable – Reducing plastic waste in the food delivery service sector \(18 September\)](#)

The event with the WWF-PACT initiative shared best practices, discussed collective actions, and industry-wide commitment with food delivery services from Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, and China.

[Regional webinar on inventorizing marine litter monitoring efforts \(7 October\)](#)

The webinar with CSIRO shared information on process and timelines to map existing monitoring efforts toward harmonized monitoring with contact persons in COBSEA countries.

[SEA of Solutions partnership week on plastic pollution prevention 2020 \(24-26 November\)](#)

SOS2020 brings together governments, businesses, academia, civil society, and development partners to exchange solutions along the value chain and enabling networking, collaboration, and partnerships.

[Responsible business practices, human rights and plastic pollution workshop \(17 December\)](#)

This dialogue built the foundation for a better understanding of environmental rights and responsible business practices, shared good practices, and identified capacity building needs of businesses on human rights.