

Action Plan Workflow Guidance

This document outlines how the functionality of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) Digital Platform supports the development of national marine litter and plastic pollution action plans, within the different phases of the Action Plan Creation Workflow.

Get Started: Create and Manage Your Action Plan

Phase 1: Create

Purpose

This phase concerns the development of the action plan with engagement of stakeholders, starting from data collection and setting targets to defining a strategic approach and designing the monitoring and review programme.

How the Digital Platform can support

The Digital Platform contains various guidance documents that can be used when creating an action plan, including the [Marine Litter: Guidelines for designing action plans](#). In addition, the following functionalities of the Digital Platform can be considered for this phase:

The repository of [Action Plans](#) and [Policies](#) can be used to identify relevant examples of action plans and policies at the transnational and national level. Some of those are described in more detail as Case Studies.

The Digital Platform also contains various resources that can support the collection of baseline data, in the absence of national data. For instance, the waste data layer in the [Data Hub](#) provides statistics of urban waste generated and mismanaged plastic waste at the country level.

The repository of Monitoring & Analysis [Initiatives](#) can be helpful in identifying relevant data.

Calculation tools for providing national estimates, such as the [WFD Tool](#) and [ISWA plastic pollution calculator](#), can be found under Tools & Toolkits.

The [Connect Stakeholders](#) component can be used to identify and map stakeholders, as well as to identify organizations and experts that can provide specific services and expertise.

The Capacity Building section contains [Courses & Trainings](#) and [Events](#), such as the [MOOC on Marine Litter](#), webinars, and conferences, that provide training opportunities in different areas.

Phase 2: Implement

Purpose

The Action Plan is implemented through selected implementation actions. Implementation is supported by cooperation and engagement of stakeholders, sharing of information, reporting of progress on actions, education, outreach, and awareness raising as well as training and capacity building.

How the Digital Platform can support

Guidance on implementation actions can be found in various Guidance Documents. The Belize and PAME case study provide examples of different types of implementation actions that are being applied as part of a national and Regional Action Plan respectively. Other examples include:

Regional action plans

[OSPAR Commission, Regional Action Plan for Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in the North-East Atlantic](#)

[SPREP, Pacific Regional Action Plan MARINE LITTER \(2018–2025\)](#)

[Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea](#)

[Western Indian Ocean, Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter](#)

[NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter](#)

National Action Plans

[Canada: Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste, Phase 2](#)

Sub national Action Plans

[North Carolina Marine Debris Action Plan January 2020](#)

The Capacity Building section contains an extensive repository of Education & Awareness Raising Resources as well as Courses & Trainings that may be helpful in implementing education, awareness raising and capacity building actions. An example is the [MOOC on Marine litter](#).

Phase 3: Report

Purpose

At regular intervals, progress is reported on the implementation measures as well as the overall performance of the Action Plan with the purpose of tracking progress on implementation and effectiveness.

How the Digital Platform can support

Guidance documents for monitoring and assessment, including the [GESAMP Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean](#) can be found under Technical Resources.

The [Data Hub](#) component of the GPML Digital Platform offers a coordinated, authoritative point of access for information on marine litter and plastic pollution, from source to fate. It includes a data map, layers and dashboard, data catalogue (or metadata repository), an API platform, and education material including story maps. Tools and data made available in the Data Hub will support measurement of progress and reporting.

Analysis and comparison with other data layers such as hotspot data from the University of Leeds and UN Habitat Spatial-temporal quantification of Plastic pollution Origins and Transportation (SPOT) model, can help in assessing the effectiveness of action plans.

Phase 4: Update

Purpose

Based on an agreed methodology for measuring the effectiveness of the implementation measures as well as the overall plan, the Action Plan is reviewed at regular intervals, thus ensuring that it is relevant and effective.