



Global Partnership
on Plastic Pollution
and Marine Litter

THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON PLASTIC POLLUTION AND MARINE LITTER

OUR MISSION

Protect the global marine environment, human well-being and animal welfare by addressing the global problem of marine litter and plastic pollution.

“Marine litter and plastic pollution come mainly from **land-based sources**, eventually accumulating in areas beyond national jurisdiction, effectively becoming **pollutants without borders.**”

Preventing and managing the pressing global problem of marine litter and plastic pollution requires urgent transboundary cooperation, with no time to lose. With a multitude of actors working to address this issue, coordination to enhance impact and action is critical.


The **Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter (GPML)** was launched at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012. The partnership is led by a Steering Committee and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services.

The GPML is a multistakeholder partnership and platform whose mission is to protect the global marine environment and biodiversity, human well-being and animal welfare through addressing the global problem of marine litter and plastic pollution, including microplastics, by:

- Providing a mechanism for cooperation and coordination; sharing ideas, knowledge and experiences; identifying gaps and emerging issues
- Harnessing the expertise, resources and enthusiasm of all stakeholders
- Making a significant contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 14.1: By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

Specific objectives include: reducing the leakage of plastics into the ocean through improved design; the application of the ‘3Rs’ principle (reduce, re-use, recycle); encouraging **‘closed-loop’ systems and more circular production cycles**; and maximizing resource efficiency and minimizing waste generation.

For more information on the GPML’s purpose and mandate, please read our [Framework Document here](#).



“Multistakeholder engagement is at the core of the GPML, which seeks to include a broad set of perspectives in the global effort to address the problem of marine litter and plastic pollution.”

OUR WORK AND IMPACT

Key to the GPML’s evolution is the development of its multistakeholder Digital Platform. This one-stop-shop, mostly open source platform, compiles different resources, connects stakeholders through a “match-making” component and integrates data to guide action. The portal features: accurate data on marine litter, plastic pollution and related topics, stakeholders, action plans, initiatives, technologies, events and trainings, policies, technical and financing resources. We are coordinating with over 60 strategic partners in data, knowledge and technology, to ensure all the valuable work being done around the world is accessible through the platform. Read more in our **one-pager** and **sign up** to help shape the Digital Platform!

The GPML is developing five action tracks with the aim of advancing in priority areas, by connecting key stakeholders and facilitating collaboration and coordination. These are: 1) Science-policy; 2) Action plans on marine

litter and plastic pollution; 3) Development of guidelines, standards and harmonization; 4) Sustainable innovative financing; and 5) Access for all. Implementation of the action tracks is supported by stakeholders including GESAMP, the University of Wollongong (Australia), the University of Georgia (United States), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), UNEP, The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), GRID-Arendal, the Ocean Conservancy and the Global Ghost Gear Initiative, members of the GPML Steering Committee, and other experts.

One of the GPML’s flagship initiatives is a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Marine Litter, which is now available in 10 languages. Since its launch in 2015, more than 32,000 participants have registered for the MOOC, which equips people with the knowledge and skills to take evidence-based, targeted action to help end marine litter and plastic pollution.



The GPML facilitates the development and implementation of marine litter action plans to guide priority action. 13 Regional Seas Programmes have action plans in place and more are under development. The GPML also supports countries to develop source inventories to inform national action plans. Find out more [here](#).

The GPML has 5 Regional Nodes, which are essential to the implementation of its work plan: Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP); Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP); Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP); Wider Caribbean Regional Node. There is the opportunity to establish more nodes and the Terms of Reference can be found on our website.

The GPML also runs a Training of Trainers program on monitoring and assessment of marine litter and plastic pollution. 17 countries in two regions have taken part, and there are more regional courses planned.

Over 60 countries have joined the UNEP-led **Clean Seas Campaign** since it was launched in 2017. The Clean Seas Campaign contributes to the GPML's goals and aims to turn the tide on plastic, both on land and in our seas.

The GPML is always on the lookout for opportunities to work with initiatives that tackle marine litter and plastic pollution! We supported the expansion of Beat the Microbead, the establishment of Global Ghost Gear Initiative, Africa Marine Waste Network and catalyzed the Moana Taka Partnership.

The partnership supports knowledge generation (including on emerging issues) and the development of publications on a range of topics, for example on problems posed by fiberglass boats and hull scrapings (International Maritime Organization), and microplastics and risk assessment (GESAMP). We support stocktaking exercises, the development of online databases (e.g. on environmentally sound technologies), repositories and tools.

“At sea **10%** of all floating debris is **abandoned, lost** or otherwise **discarded** fishing gear (ALDFG).”



(Stelfox et al. 2016)

www.gpmarinelitter.org

All entities working to address marine litter and plastic pollution can join the GPML here.

Benefits include:

- **Tapping into and connecting with a global network to facilitate coordination of action and exchange of lessons learned**
- **An array of resources at your fingertips**
- **Learning what is being done around the world to address marine litter and plastic pollution**
- **Avoiding duplication of effort and optimising impact**
- **Discovering opportunities, including how to showcase your work**
- **Receiving the latest updates in our quarterly newsletter.**



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**Find out more: www.gpmarinelitter.org
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