Circular Economy for Plastics Management

Combat Plastic Pollution

Create Solution

Implementation by UN Environment

22 May 2019
UNESCO, Bangkok
OUTLINE

01 Problem Statement: Plastics as one of the top priority

02 Solution Statement: Circular Economy

03 Delivery by UN Environment: Plastics management

04 Partnerships: Joint efforts to address high stake priority

05 Way forward
8.3 billion tonnes of plastic have been produced, using 17 million barrels of oil each year.

80% remains in landfills or the environment, 100 years for plastic to degrade in the environment, 13 million tonnes of plastic enter the ocean each year.

1 million plastic bottles, 10 million plastic bags bought every minute.

50% of consumer plastics are single use, and 10% of all human-generated waste is plastic.

100,000 marine animals killed by plastics each year.

90% of bottled water found to contain plastic particles, 83% of tap water.

http://worldenvironmentday.global/sites/default/files/toolkit_with_nature/wed_key_messages_english.pdf
PROBLEM STATEMENT

Marine litter: A mammoth challenge for our oceans

By 2050, an estimated 99% of seabirds will have ingested plastic.

Marine litter harms over 600 marine species.

15% of species affected by ingestion & entanglement from marine litter are endangered.

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#CleanSeas
Market based solutions towards less plastic waste in Southeast Asia

SOLUTION 1 A: Plastic reuse and recycle
SOLUTION 1 B: Reduction in single use packaging

Strengthening the scientific base for decision making on the plastic value chain in Southeast Asia

Region-wide awareness on marine litter and plastic pollution in Southeast Asia

Reduction in most harmful and difficult to recycle plastic

Increase in reused and recycled plastic (especially bottle to bottle recycling)
Generating circular economy for plastics to reduce plastics pollution and increase resource efficiency:

- goods (plastics and plastic containing),
- services (catering, waste management, )
WASTE MANAGEMENT IS EXPENSIVE

Waste Collection Rates by Income, World Bank (2012)
Towards Zero Emissions

Private Sector: Financial Share, Technical Innovation, Managerial Role, Local Knowledge, Backward & Forward Linkages

Public Sector: Regulatory Framework, Institutional Setup, Tariff Designing, Subsidies & Guarantees

Government

Circular Economy

Businesses

Citizens: Willingness to Pay, Awareness and Will, Environmental Friendly Life Styles

Community
PARTNERSHIPS

• The European Union funded SWITCH-Asia (Regional Policy Advocacy Component by UN Environment) for sustainable consumption and production in Asia

• Government of Sweden supported project in Southeast Asia

• Government of Japan supported project in Mekong sub region and India

• Government of Japan supported project on sustainable lifestyles

• Government of Republic of Korea support on green public procurement
A PROGRAMME OF THREE COMPONENTS

1. Policy Advocacy Component and National Policy Support
   ACA/2017/385-558
   With UN Environment

2. SCP Facility
   ACA/2017/388-441
   With GIZ

3. Grant projects on the ground
   10-12 projects per call
THREE AREAS OF WORK UNDER RPAC

Policy Advocacy Component

To strengthen the dialogue at regional, sub-regional and national policies on Sustainable Consumption and Production in selected Asian countries, thereby contributing to green growth and reduction of poverty in these countries.

Activity areas

- Advocacy of SCP-related regulatory framework at regional, sub-regional and national fora.
- Demonstration of SCP policy instruments.
- Support the uptake and reporting of SDG 12 and related SDG targets across the 2030 Agenda.
SWITCH-ASIA (EU Funded) for Sustainable Consumption and Production - Green Public Procurement

**Environmental problems**

- When combusted post-consumer plastics generate CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels
- Post-consumer plastics at EU level suffer from suboptimal waste management practices, indicating inefficient use of natural resources
- Additives to plastics may contain harmful substances that complicate recycling processes

**GPP Approach**

Procurement of products containing plastics should include requirements for:

1. Reparability, reusability and for recycled plastics whenever feasible.
2. Avoiding composite materials and plastics with black/near black color as these complicate recycling processes, except when made from recycled plastics
3. Excluding plastics exceeding certain threshold levels of harmful substances and/or mixtures.

**Objectives**

- Increasing demand for recycled plastic
- Increasing recyclability
- Reducing use of harmful substances

**Sustainability**

- Policy advocacy
- UN Environment
- KEITI (Korea Environmental Industry & Technology Institute)

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*Co-Funded by the European Union*
## CIRCULAR ECONOMY - FOCUSING VALUE CHAIN

### CIRCULAR PROCUREMENT MODELS

1. **System level**
   - Product service system
   - Public Private Partnership
   - Cooperation with other organisations on sharing and reuse
   - Rent/lease
   - Supplier take-back systems including reuse, recycling, refurbishment and remanufacturing

2. **Supplier Level**
   - Supplier take-back system
   - Design to disassembly
   - Reparability of standard products
   - External reuse/ sale of products
   - Internal reuse of products

3. **Product**
   - Materials in the product can be identified
   - Products can be disassembled after use
   - Recyclable materials
   - Resource efficiency and Total Cost of Ownership
   - Recycled materials

(Source: SPP Regions Best Practice Report)
Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia


**COBSEA:** Cambodia, PR China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

**COBSEA Secretariat:** Hosted by Thailand, administered by UN Environment

**COBSEA Strategic directions 2018-2022:** Land-based pollution including marine litter; Marine and coastal planning and management; Governance

**Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter:** Intergovernmental policy framework on marine litter, 4 main actions:
- Preventing and reducing marine litter from land-based sources;
- Preventing and reducing marine litter from sea-based sources;
- Monitoring and assessment of marine litter; and
- Activities supporting implementation of RAP MALI

**Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter:** knowledge management on marine litter efforts, tools, knowledge products, training etc.
Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in South East Asia

Timeline: 2018 – 2022

Lead agencies: UN Environment, Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)

Donor: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

Target countries: Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam

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

**Output 2:** Scientific basis for informed decision-making on plastic litter

**Output 3:** Outreach and awareness for marine litter pollution & solutions

**Output 4:** Regional networking / mechanisms for technical advice & exchange

**Outcomes:**
- Reduction in plastic products that are difficult to collect and recycle
- Increase in plastic reuse and recycle
- Increase in awareness of marine litter & plastic pollution, public / consumer support for policies

**Impact:** Less plastic wasted, reduced input to & impact on the marine environment & dependent groups
Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in South East Asia

A value chain approach targeting upstream sources of land-based marine pollution
Thank you!

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https://www.unenvironment.org/regions/asia-and-pacific