

# Strengthening Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (3R) to Preserve Marine Biodiversity

## The challenge

Population growth, rising economic development, and changing patterns of production and consumption have led to a massive increase in the volume of waste globally. Equally, the composition of waste has become more and more complex. In the process, the durability of plastic, combined with inadequate waste management and recycling, has proven to be an increasingly serious problem, because as a result, plastics and microplastics have become massively ubiquitous in landscapes as well as in freshwater environment, and eventually in marine ecosystems<sup>1</sup>. This growing threat of marine litter affects over 800 species in marine and coastal environments<sup>2</sup>. About 60 to 90% of marine litter consists of plastics<sup>3</sup>, which mainly comes from single-use plastic products and packaging. Estimates based on 2010 data suggest that worldwide 5 to 13 million tons of plastic waste find their way into the oceans every year<sup>4</sup>. Furthermore, insufficient waste management and recycling poses considerable health risks and has negative consequences for the environment. These range from air pollution from uncontrolled burning of waste, to the contamination of soils, surface and ground water and the pollution of the seas. This endangers not only biodiversity, but also the health of many people in the region who depend on seafood for their protein intake. One of the most affected oceanic regions in Southeast Asia is the Coral Triangle, one of the global hotspots for marine biodiversity. The environmentally sound management of waste to protect the marine environment is increasingly perceived as a cross-border challenge in the ASEAN region and requires integrated regional cooperation. Without immediate action, this issue of marine litter pollution may negatively impact marine biodiversity, environment, health, society and economy. As a regional community, ASEAN Member States (AMS) have consequently recognised the urgent need to take action and made notable progress in combating marine litter.

Project name	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle to Protect the Marine Environment and Coral Reefs (3RproMar)
Commissioned by	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)
Project region	ASEAN (Indonesia, Philippines, Viet Nam, Cambodia)
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Duration	01.07.2020– 30.06.2023 (+1 year)*

\* subject to budget approval

## Our approach

Answering the aforementioned background, the reduction of waste to protect the marine environment is increasingly perceived as a cross-border challenge in the ASEAN region. Therefore, the ASEAN Member States (AMS) have been developing the “ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris”, the adoption of which was welcomed with the signing of **Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region** on June 22, 2019 by the AMS Heads of States. This increasing attention on reducing land-based sources of solid waste to reduce marine litter is enhanced by the commitment of stakeholders in the international cooperation sector.

The Declaration also reaffirms ASEAN's commitment to preserving marine biodiversity, strengthening regional cooperation in the management of marine waste. Given the transboundary dimension of marine litter, such a framework agreement provides an important basis for regional cooperation. At the same time, it helps to give greater visibility to national efforts, and it promotes exchange of good practice. Indonesia, for example, has committed itself to a national strategy to reduce the plastic waste input into the seas by 70% by 2025.



L. to r.: Land-based sources of solid waste



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*L. to r.: Preserving marine biodiversity for future generation*

## The objectives

The project 3RproMar aims to support the ASEAN Member States (AMS) in the improvement of implementation capacities for reducing land-based waste leakage to protect the marine environment. The interventions address four focal countries with geographical focus as the main source of marine litter along the Mekong river system (including Viet Nam, Cambodia) and the island states of the Philippines and Indonesia.

The **project outputs** include interventions in four areas of activities:

- 1) Enhancing **understanding of approaches** among the representatives of the ASEAN working groups dealing with marine litter and plastic pollution, to reduce land-based sources of marine litter.
- 2) Establishing **participatory procedures** among public players, including the related ministries of ASEAN Member States (AMS) and informal sector, to plan measures to reduce waste leakage into the sea.
- 3) Improving **requirements for the establishment of private sector efforts** along the value chain to reduce waste leakage into the sea.
- 4) **Pilot projects along the value chain** from sustainable consumption to enhanced waste collection and recycling will be implemented in selected municipalities. The pilot projects at the national level will lead to best practices, both in the field of policy development and implementation, which will be made available through regional cooperation and exchange formats for national and regional policy advice to support effective implementation and upscaling. The implementation of this output is subject to approval of budget top-up.

These outputs will take into account gender equality and the concerns of disadvantaged population groups. In summary, the project strengthens public awareness for the negative consequences of inadequate waste management and circular economy approaches,

causing littering of the seas and, ultimately, has negative impacts on the people in the region. All of these efforts will reduce the impact on the marine environment, and in turns, will ensure the health of marine biodiversity and their importance for the region's economic development.

## The implementation

Project activities are defined and implemented in close cooperation with regional, national, and local partners and the respective AMS representatives. Local institutions, civil society, private sector and universities will be involved. Technological innovations along the value chain provide opportunities for the development of materials that are recycled more easily, and which are less harmful to the environment.

The project is **funded** by the Federal Republic of Germany through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in close cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat.

A regional team of international and national advisors will be based in Jakarta, Indonesia with national advisors will also sit in the Philippines, Viet Nam, and Cambodia to implement activities and advisory services in the different areas of actions. Pilot projects by diverse partners and organizations will be identified and supported to establish and disseminate good practices.

<sup>1</sup> UNEP (2016) Marine plastic debris & microplastics – Global lessons and research to inspire action and guide policy change. P. 2. <https://wedocs.unep.org/rest/bitstreams/11700/retrieve>

German Environment Agency (UBA) (2017) Conference on Plastics in Freshwater Environments. Documentation 05/2017. <http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/plastics-conference-2016>

<sup>2</sup> Secretariat of the CBD (2016) Marine Debris: Understanding, Preventing and Mitigating the Significant Adverse Impacts on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity. CBD Technical Series no. 83, p. 16-18

<sup>3</sup> UNEP, GRID-Arendal (2016) Marine Litter Vital Graphics. P. 7

<sup>4</sup> Jambeck, J.R. et al. (2015) 'Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean'. Science, vol. 347, issue 6223, p. 768-77

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