



3RproMar

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

The challenge



85% of marine litter consists of plastic—a looming threat to our marine environment. An estimated 33 billion pounds of plastic leak into the marine environment every year¹ — rough equivalent to dumping two garbage trucks of plastic into the ocean every minute.² In the absence of urgent action, an estimate of 23-37 million metric tons of plastic will enter the marine environment by 2040, posing considerable risks for marine life and land-dwellers alike.³ Coral reefs are smothered by plastic, precious marine life is intoxicated, and harmful chemicals found in plastics—bisphenol A, phthalates, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)—seep into our bodies. Exacerbating plastic pollution, COVID-19 and the mass-use of disposable protective equipment and single-use plastics has generated an estimate of above 25,000 tons of plastic entering the ocean,⁴ 73% of them originating from Asian rivers.⁵ This explosion of plastic marine litter puts communities dependent on marine environment in a particularly vulnerable position.

One of the most affected oceanic regions in Southeast Asia is the Coral Triangle, a global hotspot of marine biodiversity in which over 120 million people depend on its reefs for their livelihood. Therefore, the transboundary nature of marine litter calls for collective action from ASEAN to mitigate further degradation of the marine environment. An environmentally sound management of waste to protect the marine environment through an integrated regional cooperation is needed to protect marine biodiversity, environment, health, society and economy. As a regional community, ASEAN Member States (AMS) have consequently recognised the urgent need to act and have made notable progress in combating marine litter.

Our approach

To respond to this growing challenge, the ASEAN Member States have developed the “ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris”, the adoption of which was welcomed with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region on June 22, 2019 by the AMS Heads of States. The Southeast Asia Regional Program on Combating Marine Plastics (SEA-MaP) takes tackling marine plastic pollution a step further, in accordance with the Bangkok Declaration (2019) and the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris (2021 - 2025). This increasing attention on reducing land-based 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.

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:	Lead executing agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Duration:	01.07.2020 - 30.06.2025

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 **The ASEAN Secretariat**
3RproMar Project, GIZ ASEAN Office



The objective

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:

- 01,** Enhancing **the regional cooperation and knowledge management** among the representatives of the ASEAN working groups dealing with marine litter and plastic pollution, to reduce land-based sources of marine litter.
- 02,** Developing **national measures** for waste leakage reduction within the focal AMS as well as their translation into strategies at the local level.
- 03,** Improving **requirements for the establishment of private sector efforts** along the value chain to reduce waste leakage into the sea.
- 04,** **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.

These outputs will take into account gender equality and the concerns of marginalized and 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.

¹UNEP (2021) From Pollution to Solution: A global assessment of marine litter and plastic pollution, p. 14. <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/36963/POLSOL.pdf>

²Oceana (n.d.) Plastic pollution, Tackling the plastics crisis at the source. Overview Fact Sheet. https://usa.oceana.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/263943_FactSheet_v2-1.pdf

³UNEP, From Pollution to Solution: A global assessment of marine litter and plastic pollution,

⁴ Peng, Y. et al. (2021) 'Plastic waste release caused by COVID-19 and its fate in the global ocean'. PNAS, vol. 118, no. 14, p. 1.

⁵ Laville, S. (2021) 'About 26,000 tonnes of plastic Covid waste pollutes world's oceans - study'. The Guardian.



L to r Waste sorting and collection
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Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Content by

GIZ 3RproMar and GOPA

Layout

Nightless

As at

September 2023



implemented by:

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



In Cooperation with

The ASEAN Secretariat

On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

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GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.