



Issue No. 1 | September 2023

3RproMar Newsletter



Updates on combatting marine debris within ASEAN

A service by GIZ project 3RproMar – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – protect marine environment and coral reefs

Dear Reader,

I am delighted to present to you the inaugural newsletter detailing the collaborative efforts of Germany and ASEAN to reduce plastic waste in the oceans. The project, 3RproMar, stands for "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – protect marine environment and coral reefs," and it began as an ambitious initiative bridging gaps between countries, various stakeholders, international organizations, and local changemakers.

When plastic ends up in the ocean, it poses a significant danger not only to marine life but also to humans themselves. People who depend on fishing may lose their livelihoods, and it can enter our bodies when we consume seafood and water. Simultaneously, plastic is an essential material in the production of our daily goods, as long as it doesn't end up in natural environments. With the approach of a circular economy, we aim to reconcile this contradiction by transforming our production methods to reuse resources and minimize unnecessary waste.

3RproMar aims to support ASEAN member states on their journey towards greater circularity. Operating in diverse countries such as Cambodia, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Indonesia, the

project offers a significant opportunity for ASEAN member states to collaborate and learn from each other regarding the most effective methods to reduce marine litter. Germany is delighted to support these activities and facilitate this exchange.

In this quarterly newsletter, we aim to inform you about the ongoing activities in ASEAN, our partner states where we work closely with the ministries for the environment, as well as on-site in our pilot sites. I hope this letter offers you inspiration and ideas on how you can contribute to cleaner oceans. Should any of our activities spark your interest, please feel free to reach out to 3RproMar.

Enjoy the read!

Oliver Hoppe

Counsellor for Development Cooperation at the German Embassy in Jakarta

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES	» In Close Cooperation with ASEAN
CAMBODIA	» Reducing Land-Based Waste Leakage in Cambodia
INDONESIA	» Improved Waste Management in Indonesia
PHILIPPINES	» Zero Waste to Philipinnes Waters by 2040
VIETNAM	» Implementing the National Action Plan and Global Treaty on Plastics Pollution
UPCOMING EVENTS	» Upcoming Events

Regional activities

In Close Cooperation with ASEAN

3RproMar's approach to combat marine debris links the local and national activities to the regional level.

The problem of plastic waste does not know any national borders, so it can only be tackled through joint efforts that do not stop at the borders of one country. 3RproMar is privileged to support ASEAN as a powerful regional organisation in its efforts to combat marine debris. With the Regional Action Plan on Marine Debris ASEAN member states have committed themselves to a set of actions and a strategic way forward. To facilitate the exchange and combine it with the implementation experience of the project, 3RproMar hosts its annual regional workshop series. This year the workshop could finally be held in person and international experts and representative of all member states were able to meet in Bali on May 25th back-to-back with the 24th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME) hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Republic of Indonesia. Under the inspiring slogan "Preventing Marine Plastic Pollution for a Stronger Circular Economy in ASEAN" the event picked up the urgent discussions regarding plastic waste. Next to exchanges on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan, the Workshop also focused on the latest international and regional developments. Representatives from World Bank and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) discussed the role of an international plastics treaty and its implications on the ASEAN region. Special attention is put on the concepts of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Behavioural Change and how they could be applied in Southeast Asia. "The implementation of the ASEAN Regional Action Plan will require coordinated action," said Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Socio-Cultural Community Ekkaphab Phanthavong, underlining the importance of such event.



During 3RproMar's 2nd Regional Workshop representatives of ASEAN Member States met international experts. © GIZ

3RproMar Regional Knowledge Partnership for Marine Litter Prevention

Knowledge and data regarding the issue of marine litter lay the foundation for effective policy measures. Given that marine litter is a global problem, various international organizations are gathering critical insights. A fundamental question is how to bridge these academic insights to the policy level. The 3RproMar Knowledge Partnership for Marine Litter is established to enhance accessibility to information about marine litter issues by linking research organizations to ASEAN. This partnership unites the efforts of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA), and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), aiming to empower political decision-making with invaluable insights and scientific expertise required to address the challenge of marine litter. During the second Regional Workshop the "3RproMar Regional Knowledge Partnership for Marine Litter Prevention" was formally introduced and launched to policymakers from all ASEAN member states.



Link to the platforms of the Knowledge Management Partnership

- » [The kNOwWaste platform under the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific \(RRC.AP\) hosted by the Asian Institute of Technology \(AIT\).](#)
- » [The Regional Knowledge Center for Marine Plastic Debris \(RKC-MPD\), hosted by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia \(ERIA\).](#)
- » [The International Knowledge Hub Against Plastic Pollution \(IKHAPP\), part of the Asian Scientific Alliance for Plastic Pollution and Value Network Management \(ASAP\) hosted by the Norwegian Institute for Water Research \(NIVA\).](#)

3RproMar Cambodia

Reducing Land-Based Waste Leakage in Cambodia

Raising public awareness and reaching the youth is key to improve solid waste management in Cambodia

In Cambodia, the project is working with the Ministry of Environment in particular with the Department of Solid Waste Management. The project is supporting information and knowledge management in Cambodia by providing technical trainings on solid waste management and other capacity development measures (e.g. workshops and forums).

Given Cambodia's large young population, the primary focus is on reaching the youth. 3RproMar Cambodia has introduced the Youth Ambassador Initiative, which works closely with high school students who are passionate about environmental issues and waste management. The program provides trainings and facilitates activities to build skills and knowledge. The Youth Ambassadors are challenged to engage in activities to reduce waste and address waste-related issues through citizen engagement, and to raise awareness of environmental issues among youth, community members, and decision makers.



Youth Ambassadors visiting the Waste Summit 2023 and learn about composting / © Pry Kimleap

Raising awareness, especially about the importance of waste segregation at source, is also a goal of

a joint pilot activity with UNDP and the Ministry of Environment Cambodia (MoE). The aim of this pilot activity is to introduce waste separation at home, including dedicated collection schedules, within four gated communities in Phnom Penh.

The topic of this year's waste summit was "Why Waste Separation Matters." The waste summit is an annual event jointly organized with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS). It brings together relevant stakeholders in the waste industry, ranging from government representatives to NGOs, private sector, and civil society, to discuss creative waste solutions.



Waste Assessment from gated communities. © GIZ

Similar to the activities in Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Philippines, the project in Cambodia is also supporting the implementation of two pilot projects on waste management in selected municipalities. For Cambodia, two pilot projects have been selected:

1. Kratie City and Koh Trong Island, the home of the famous endangered Irrawaddy dolphins, are the selected locations with the aim of reducing marine plastic leakage into the Mekong River. In recent months, significant attention has been given to finalizing the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) for Kratie City with the goal of having it adopted by local officials. Additionally, extensive consultation and community engagement have taken place with the residents of Koh Trong, ensuring that the pilot implementation planning is closely aligned with the community's vision and needs. After the project implementation, all waste will be collected, properly treated, and disposed of on the mainland in pursuit of achieving Zero Waste. MoE has developed a guideline for Zero Waste to support small communities to manage their waste based on the experiences of Koh Trong.

Moreover, a Behaviour Change and Communications strategy has been further developed through a series of consultation workshops and engagement activities with Kratie partners.

2. The project aims to pilot an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme to upscale the waste collection system and recycling industry. In the case of Cambodia, the idea of EPR has been discussed primarily in the context of plastic management since 2021. Based on the review of lessons from other countries related to EPR and taking national circumstances into consideration, it is recommended that Cambodia starts with a voluntary EPR scheme to promote plastic circularity and gradually progresses towards a mandatory approach for plastic management. As a next step, Cambodia plans to bring together interested private sector enterprises to pilot a voluntary EPR mechanism.

Improved Waste Management in Indonesia

3RproMar works closely together with Indonesia to implement new regulation on Extended Producer Responsibility

In Indonesia the project 3RproMar supports the Ministry of Forestry and environment to strengthen Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulation. Indonesia has passed a new law that mandates producers to fulfill new criteria regarding the handling of waste. To make new requirements clear for businesses, 3RproMar supports by creating a Q&A guide on how to follow EPR steps. This Q&A helps businesses and stakeholders, ensuring a clear understanding of their responsibilities and obligations under the EPR regulation.



Signing of formal implementation agreement for the city of Manado. © GIZ

The project also supports KLHK to pilot a full waste management cycle in Manado city, North Sulawesi. Even though the pilot recently started, some activities are already concluded: a baseline study has been developed, that sheds light into the situation in Manado. The study is a crucial step in understanding the extent and sources of marine debris in the piloting area. The results of this study will be used by the local government to plan interventions and strategies to reduce marine litter in Manado. This is the first study to rely on a waste assessment in this area. Since changing the system of waste management involves many actors, 3RproMar supports KLHK to engage multiple stakeholders. The National Stakeholder Forum (NSF) aims to bring together, government, private sector, civil society and academia to tackle the pressing issue of waste. Collaborative efforts lead to more effective and sustainable solutions for reducing waste.



Informal sector workers in Manado were participating in the baseline study and are included in activities. © GIZ

3RproMar Philippines

Zero Waste to Philippines Waters by 2040

The 3RproMar Project in the Philippines aims to contribute to the overarching goal of “Zero Waste to Philippine Waters by 2040.”



Group photo of participants during the Planning Workshop with DENR-EMB and DENR-BMB on March 2023. © GIZ

The Philippine component of the 3RproMar contributes to the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Marine Litter (NPOA-ML). The objective is to collaborate with the Province of Guimaras to reduce land-based waste leakage into the ocean. The island of Guimaras, a popular destination for both local and foreign tourists, is home to a wide range of flora and fauna. To protect the marine biodiversity, the Taklong Island Marine Reserve (TINMAR) in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras was established as one of the marine protected sites in the Philippines.

In December 2022, the Project Kick-Off Meeting back-to-back with the Baseline Planning Workshop were conducted together with the Provincial Government of Guimaras and other relevant stakeholders. As part of the project activities, a baseline study was conducted to assess the current waste management practices, issues, and concerns of the relevant stakeholders in the island. The results from the baseline study will be used as a guide for the political and technical decision-makers to develop an Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan.

A Memorandum of Agreement between 3RproMar and the Provincial Government of Guimaras is scheduled for signing to formalize the commitment of each party to work together toward achieving the NPOA-ML goal of "Zero Waste to Philippine Waters by 2040."



University faculty representatives working together in identifying Solid Waste Management issues. © GIZ

Circular Connect: Localized Solutions to Marine Litter in the Western Visayas Region.

With the support from the Sector Network on Transport, Environment, Energy, and Water in Asia (TUEWAS), 3RproMar Philippines brings forth the competition "Circular Connect: Localized Solutions to Marine Litter in the Western Visayas Region." This initiative aims to mobilize the youth and enhance a competitive academic network in Western Visayas. Circular Connect unites higher education institutions (HEIs) across the Western Visayas region to address local waste management issues through research and development, leveraging the inventive capacity of the youth to combat the mounting challenge of marine litter. On July 27, 2023, in Bacolod City, 3RproMar Philippines and Circular Cities Asia (CCAsia) organized an event where representatives from Western Visayas universities showcased their waste management endeavors and research in circular economy and waste management. Participants engaged in collaborative workshops, pinpointing issues, barriers, enablers, and actions to elevate solid waste management systems and circular economy initiatives for faculty and students. Circular Cities Asia is a social enterprise dedicated to fostering a community that advances circular economy development throughout Asia. CC Asia aims to educate the youth on lean innovation and circular economy concepts, enabling them to tackle environmental waste issues. Through hands-on experiences, CC Asia empowers young individuals to craft and establish circular solutions and enterprises. The event paved the way for a competition that will be implemented by Circular Cities Asia, inviting student groups to incubate ideas and solutions related to marine litter, conservation, and a circular economy. Winners will gain funding support for implementation and the privilege of showcasing their concepts at the 3RproMar Philippines National Stakeholder Forum in November, amplifying their research and institutional acclaim.

Vietnam Progresses towards Implementing its National Action Plan and Global Treaty on Plastics Pollution

3RproMar in Vietnam serves as a multistakeholder platform for national measures and translation at the local level



National stakeholders share best practices sectors to reduce-reuse-recycle land-based plastic waste. © GIZ

In Vietnam, the project has been in close engagement with the Vietnam Agency of Seas and Islands (VASI) of Vietnam Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to contribute to the National Action Plan (NAP) on Management of Marine Plastic Litter to 2030 and to support Vietnam's active participation for the Global Treaty for Plastics Pollution. To achieve national goals, multistakeholder collaboration plays a key role. The National Stakeholder Forum will take place in Binh Duong province, November 2023 will serve as a platform for central and local level authorities, as well as the private sector and NGOs can meet and discuss joint measures.



Clean-up in Soc Trang province © GIZ

Coastal provinces at the river mouth are important gateways for plastic to enter and reach the ocean. Therefore, the project focuses its interventions on Soc Trang province, Mekong Delta. In June 2023, a clean-up in the port town Tran De took place in celebration of the “Make the world clean” day where Youth Union, Women Union and the local joined hands. The power of the community will be crucial in the upcoming steps. Awareness-raising events are designed to inspire the community to work toward a shared goal of reducing plastic waste in the area by 20%. Following the baseline study conducted following GIZ Waste Flow Diagram that identifies leakage points and recommendations to reach the reduction target, more activities are being discussed with the local Department of Natural Resources and Environment. One initiative in the pipeline is Training of Trainers (ToT) for community multipliers, youth and local schools on marine litter topics. Integrated waste management in the Tran De fish pier and aquacultural sites is envisaged in the upcoming quarters. These activities encompass waste separation training, the establishment of Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) models, and the provision of collection facilities for boats.

Upcoming Events

- **21.09.2023:** National Stakeholder Forum, Indonesia
- **07.11.2023:** National Stakeholder Forum, Philippines
- **22.11.2023:** National Stakeholder Forum, Vietnam
- **09.09.2023:** Clean-up and Community Outreach, Cambodia

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