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Fishing port Bacolod City, Philippines

GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND FEDERAL STATES PROGRAMME
BUND-LÄNDER-PROGRAMM (BLP)



Federal state - partner country
Hesse - Philippines

Title
Assessment and management of plastic waste flows and leakages in Bacolod City, Philippines

In cooperation with the GIZ programme
Reduce, reuse and recycle to preserve marine biodiversity

Financing arrangements
BMZ contribution 250.650 EUR
Hesse contribution 167.100 EUR

Duration
01.07.2023 - 31.12.2024

Responsible ministry
Hessian Ministry of the Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

This project helps to achieve the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Extracting value from plastic waste to reduce marine pollution

Local situation

In recent years, the issue of plastic waste leaking into the environment has attracted growing attention. Despite this concern, plastic production is increasing at around 3% per year and therefore generating ever more pollution. The challenge in the Philippines is that many people live in relatively small coastal communities without a regular waste collection system. Consequently, some of the plastic waste created is not properly disposed of and ends up in the sea. Although some waste is collected, this is often left to the informal sector, which mainly employs women on very low wages with little or no access to more valuable forms of recyclable waste.

As a result, waste generated on land often adds to the growing level of plastic pollution that is destabilising marine ecosystems. In the form of microplastics, it can even end up in the human body. Another problem created by waste is that it can block municipal drainage systems and therefore increase the risk of flooding, especially during typhoons. Waste management in the Philippines is therefore in great need of improvement. Addressing this need also creates an opportunity to improve the income situation of women in the sector.

“We strive to improve our local waste management situation but many challenges remain. In this context, we welcome the support offered by experts from the University of Kassel. We look forward to this collaboration, to learn from each other and to jointly propose innovative solutions that safeguard our environment and contribute to the circular economy in Bacolod City.”

Fe Trespuentes

Officer In-Charge of the Bacolod City Department of Public Services



Workshop with women waste collectors from the informal sector

Cooperation arrangements

The project has brought together a wide range of partners from the academic sector, (local) government and civil society. Hesse is represented by the environment ministry (in the role of political partner) and by the University of Kassel (as an implementing partner). Both these institutions have already implemented projects successfully in the waste sector, e.g. in Mauritius. The Philippines is represented by Bacolod City Council (including the local waste management division) and by the two local universities La Consolacion College and the University of St. La Salle. In addition, the NGO Friends of Hope, Inc. supports the project through its expertise in dealing with plastic waste and its network of women entrepreneurs. The project also works closely with the regional programme on reducing and recycling waste to preserve marine biodiversity in the ASEAN region.

What we are doing - and how

The objective of this project is to strengthen waste management in Bacolod City and find ways of improving the incomes of women who work in the sector.

Together with universities and NGOs, GIZ has developed a waste flow diagram that can act as a digital tool. Initially, it is being used to identify existing waste flows from Bacolod City into the sea and the

environment, with a particular focus on leakages. Using methods intended to set a good example, plastic waste is being collected in order to determine its market value. The project is also working with Bacolod City Council on management strategies to address the issue of plastic waste leakage and on a general waste management plan. Recently introduced legislation in the Philippines has created new business opportunities for those who collect waste. The project is holding a workshop with female waste collectors in order to harness those opportunities and develop new income-generating models. As part of the wider project, all ideas that emerge from the workshop are then assessed to determine whether they are sustainable in practice, especially in terms of their potential to improve the women's income situation.

Useful links

- Further information on the BLP:
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/132983.html>
<https://bund-laender-programm.de/en>
- GIZ programme “Reduce, reuse and recycle to preserve marine biodiversity“:
<https://www.giz.de/de/weltweit/105755.html>

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blp@giz.de | www.bund-laender-programm.de/en
Editors Dieter Anders (legally responsible for content),
Jelena Jorczik, Julius Nebel, Gabriele Kohlisch
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On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Division G43 Federal states and municipalities
Address of the BMZ offices
BMZ Bonn
Dahlmannstr. 4
53113 Bonn | Germany
T +49 (0)228 99 535 0
poststelle@bmz.bund.de | www.bmz.de/en
BMZ Berlin | Im Europahaus
Stresemannstr. 94
10963 Berlin | Germany
T +49 (0)30 18 535 0

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