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Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties
(COP) to the Protocol Concerning
Pollution from Land-Based Sources and
Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean
Region

Roatan, Honduras, 4 June 2019

**STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MARINE LITTER MANAGEMENT IN THE
WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**
Caribbean Node for Marine Litter
(GPML-CARIBE)



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The Global Partnership of Marine Litter (GPML) is a multi-stakeholder partnership that provides a unique mechanism to bring together all actors working on marine litter to share knowledge and experience and to advance solutions to this global issue. The Partnership was launched at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 in June 2012 in response to a request by Governments in the Manila Declaration.

The GPML Caribbean Node (GPML-Caribe) was formed in 2016 and represents a partnership for national and regional organizations, governments, research, and technical agencies and individuals, that work together to reduce the quantity and impact of marine litter in coastal zones of the Wider Caribbean Region. The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) and the Secretariat for the Cartagena Convention are the co-hosts of the GPML-Caribe. GCFI organizes activities including workshops and technical sessions at the GCFI annual conference, provides capacity-building opportunities, and provides information to stakeholders related to marine litter activities in the region. The Secretariat for the Cartagena Convention ensures synergies with the obligations of its Contracting Parties and supports implementation of the Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS) Protocol and the Caribbean Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter. This includes support for national and regional marine litter projects as well as promoting national policy and legal reforms. These activities are implemented through technical and high level meetings of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, a dedicated webpage, social media platforms, factsheets, infographics, development and implementation of solid waste and marine litter related projects, and sharing of information on new grant opportunities.

Strategic Planning Workshop

Marine Litter experts from the wider Caribbean region gathered in Miami, Florida from March 26 – 28, 2019 to develop a strategic outline for marine litter management in the wider Caribbean region to support the further implementation of the Caribbean Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter (RAPMaLI). This workshop was supported by the Canadian Government's Environment and Climate Change Division and organized by the UN Caribbean Environment Programme as Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention (CEP) and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI). Participants included representatives from government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector and regional institutions in the Wider Caribbean region and others who are engaged in marine litter-related governance, monitoring and awareness-raising programs.

Workshop Objectives

The aim of the workshop was to bring together national and regional marine litter experts to assist the GPML-Caribe to develop a strategic outline for Marine Litter Management including identifying priority actions which could be used as the basis for developing new project proposals and assist in resource mobilization efforts. This workshop also built on the findings of the Regional Experts Workshop on Harmonised



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Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes held in Miami in October 2018. This GPML-Caribe Marine Litter Management Strategy will support the continued implementation of the Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Wider Caribbean Region (RAPMaLi) and implementation of the LBS Protocol.

Development of goals, objectives, and actions

The structure of the strategic planning workshop relied heavily on the relationship between a specific theme and associated goals, objectives, and actions. In general, each goal was an overarching desired result associated with the theme. Objectives were management-focused and represented approaches that would help to achieve the associated goal. The actions were activities that would help achieve the objective. In this way, actions were tied directly to a management response. Each theme had multiple goals associated with it, each goal had multiple objectives, and each objective had multiple actions. Together, these formed the basis of the plan's development. Based on the RAPMaLi and previous mandates provided to the Secretariat, the following themes were proposed and endorsed:

1. **Research and Monitoring**
2. **Governance:** Including Institutional, Policy, Legislative & Regulatory Frameworks and Enforcement
3. **Communication:** Including Outreach, Education, Awareness and Advocacy
4. **Capacity Building & Training**
5. **Implementation**

Identification of priority actions

Following the identification of goals, objectives, and actions, participants prioritized actions using a survey instrument that was implemented using an online survey monkey platform. Participants were asked to rank actions as:

- High priority at the national level
- High priority at the regional level
- High priority at both the national and regional levels
- Not a priority

These will be used as the basis for further consultation and when developing new projects and activities depending on scope, donor interest and national, sub-regional and/or regional priorities.

PROPOSED OUTLINE FOR MARINE LITTER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Chapter 1. Executive Summary

Chapter 2. Introduction

Chapter 3. Marine Litter and the circular economy

Chapter 4. Linkages with previous marine litter activities

Chapter 5. The approach

Chapter 6. Strategic Action Development



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1. Goals, Objectives, Actions

2. Priority mapping

Chapter 7. Financial innovation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

Chapter 8. Barriers to implementation

Chapter 9. Emerging issues including alternative future scenarios and outcomes from those scenarios

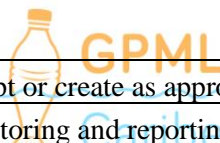
THEME: RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Goal 1: Reduce the risk to human well-being and the environment

| No | Objective | Actions |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Identify and assess social, political, economic and environmental impacts of marine litter (for broader regional and national decision-making) | Identify appropriate tools to examine alternative future scenarios Identify the impacts of marine plastics on specially protected species such as sea turtles, marine mammals, sea birds among others, and on other ecosystem functions Survey countries to determine existing studies examining impacts of plastics & microplastics in the environment Improve the socio-economical quantification of pollution impacts on selected key species / group of species including fishing resources Examine existing documents to create a baseline on areas impacted Develop region-wide spatial database on areas impacted Conduct a GAP analysis of overlap of high density marine litter areas with areas of high sensitivity (endangered species, key habitats, etc.) in order to prioritise clean-up and mitigation efforts Model the effects to individuals and populations resulting from climate-driven increased pollutant toxicity Identify and quantify social impacts from pollution to multiple sectors Reduce the transfer of non-native species via marine litter |
| 2 | Identifying pollution hotspots and assess major sources of marine litter | Develop comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach to understand hydrographic patterns that facilitate accumulation in localized areas Develop remote sensing approaches for identifying pollution Identify point and non-point sources of pollution |
| 3 | Identify best practices and develop technologies to reduce input of pollutants to coastal systems | Identify and facilitate the transfer of knowledge, best practices and appropriate technology aimed at pollution prevention and reduction by conducting a survey countries in the region to identify specific reduction / prevention pollution programs Evaluate most appropriate habitat restoration mechanisms that can reduce pollution and identify strategic targets to reduce and/or restore marine ecosystem functions altered by LBS/marine litter. Investigate innovative approaches and technologies for improving marine litter management including monitoring, recovery and removal Increase the number of programs dedicated to study feasibility of bio-remediation or other recovery actions |
| Goal 2: Increase monitoring and assessment activities related to pollution | | |
| 4 | Establish a statistically valid pollution and marine litter | Identify and share opportunities for improving marine litter monitoring and assessment programmes, laboratory strengthening and monitoring capacity, and technical training and assistance |



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| | monitoring program at national and regional levels | Identify existing standards and adapt or create as appropriate |
| | | Implementation of harmonised monitoring and reporting |
| | | Recommending indicators to harmonize monitoring, report and assess methodologies, taking into account the key sources of marine litter including plastic litter and microplastics in cooperation with relevant international organizations |
| | | Long-term monitoring of the effect of climate change on ocean circulation patterns, water masses formation and water exchanges through straits and the feedbacks on the climate |
| | | Identify and evaluate existing apps developed for citizen science marine litter monitoring programs |
| 5 | Increase investment dedicated to monitor pollution on coastal communities & biodiversity | Identify funding approaches to support monitoring activities |
| | | Identify potential partners & sources of funding for ongoing and new projects and activities in particular unfunded projects |
| Goal 3: Enhance inputs from scientific research in monitoring activities related to pollution | | |
| 6 | Enhance science based monitoring in response to management goals and objectives | Develop harmonised monitoring protocols by integrating existing programs (Trash Free Seas) with comprehensive beach monitoring protocols (OSPAR) at targeted sites |
| | | Development of long-term datasets that track persistent change in the environment. The data from these datasets provides context for policy development around management actions, spatial and temporal planning |
| | | Identify an internationally recognised protocol for identifying microplastics in biotic and abiotic samples |
| 7 | Improve coordination and understanding of monitoring objectives and surveys | Develop harmonised monitoring protocols by integrating existing programs (Trash Free Seas) with comprehensive beach monitoring protocols (OSPAR) at targeted sites |
| | | Development of long-term datasets that track persistent change in the environment. The data from these datasets provides context for policy development around management actions, spatial and temporal planning |
| | | Appoint national and/or sub-national co-ordinators for monitoring activities |
| | | Identify and secure funding for monitoring activities |
| 8 | Implement regional database for monitoring data | Review databases and determine if an existing database can be used, or if a new database needs to be created |
| 9 | Strengthen laboratories capable of conducting complex contaminants monitoring | Identify and survey laboratories to determine their ability to meet international standards for examining pollutants |
| 10 | Create progress in monitoring changes in circulation patterns due to contaminants and climate change | Long-term monitoring of the effect of climate change on ocean circulation patterns, water masses formation and water exchanges through straits and the feedbacks on the climate |
| | | Identify research to assess the role of sargassum as a transfer mechanism for marine litter |
| | | Identify how pollutants including litter are affected by changing conditions including acidification |
| | | Model the effects to individuals and populations resulting from climate-driven increased pollutant toxicity |



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Constructing usable climate change indicators improving the interface between science and policy

Goal 4: Increase stakeholder participation in research and monitoring activities related to pollution

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| 11 | Involve stakeholders in pollution reduction decisions, actions and financing | Conduct a survey of marine litter focused organizations |
| | | Identify potential partners & sources of funding for ongoing and new projects and activities in particular unfunded projects |
| | | Identify the domain of stakeholders involved in pollution reduction decisions, actions and financing |
| | | Evaluate the level of involvement of stakeholders involved in pollution reduction decisions, actions and financing |
| | | Develop an enabling environment for increased civil society and private sector investment in the prevention and reduction of marine litter (including microplastics) |
| | | Reduce the economic impacts from pollution pollution |
| 12 | Develop effective and sustained citizen science programs | Convince government on the value of citizen science |
| | | Identify social barriers to long-term commitments by volunteers |
| | | Identify or create accessible database for contributions for regional marine litter data from citizen scientists |

Goal 5: Identify and develop improved solid waste management approaches

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| 13 | Assess the value of waste and identify potential markets | Anticipate trends and changes to market values of marine litter |
| 14 | Assess opportunities and associated risks for involvement of private sector | Conduct risk assessments |
| | | Survey country representatives to determine existing public-private partnerships |
| 15 | Identify needs, barriers and gaps for solid waste management | Identify best use of technology to enable and support marine litter initiatives and remove counterproductive technology |
| | | Conduct risk assessments |
| | | Identify alternatives to existing products and technologies |
| | | Identify approaches for effective management of ship-generated waste |
| 16 | Assess the social and cultural underpinnings of behaviour associated with consumption, waste generation and littering | Support efforts to reduce excess and/or unnecessary consumer product packaging |
| | | Identify and quantify social impacts from pollution to multiple sectors |
| | | Conduct risk assessments |
| | | Conduct research on most appropriate types of messaging for effective communication at various levels to effect attitudinal and behavioural change |
| | | Conduct research on drivers of attitudinal and behavioural change |



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THEME: GOVERNANCE

Goal 1: Create or enable policies and legislation that contribute to the reduction in marine litter

| No | Objective | Action |
|--|---|--|
| 1 | Increase the integration of policy across government sectors | Conduct research on taxes, subsidies (import, export, stressors) |
| | | Review and evaluation on the integration principles to synchronized approaches for research and monitoring to compare across different areas |
| | | Identify investment needs |
| | | Level of stakeholder participation |
| | | Stakeholder mapping at national and regional levels |
| | | Assessment of existing policies, identification of gaps, and preparation of guidelines for integrating marine litter issues |
| | | Based on assessments, address weaknesses & gaps in policies & legislation for effective integration of marine litter issues |
| 2 | Promote greater coherence amongst regional agencies to create consistency and have enhanced regional governance | Develop/Identify institutional mechanisms for coordination at the regional level |
| | | Convene partnership forums to identify institutional mechanisms for coordination at the regional level |
| 3 | Overcome barriers to implementing pollution mitigation | Identify and assess the barriers to implementing pollution mitigation |
| | | Implement actions to break the barriers down through governance, communication and capacity building |
| 4 | Support design or update of new/appropriate legislation | Assessment of existing policies, identification of gaps, and preparation of guidelines for integrating marine litter issues |
| | | Based on assessments, address weaknesses & gaps in policies & legislation for effective integration of marine litter issues |
| Goal 2: Engage private sector to achieve policy and management-based solutions to pollution | | |
| 5 | Incentivize private corporate participation | Assess existing fiscal incentives, taxes, fines and subsidies (import, export, stressors) towards providing guidelines for fiscal policy reform and investment |



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| | | Develop recognition programs for eco-friendly products/ services that promote litter-free products/ services targeting the tourism, agriculture, and manufacturing sectors |
| | | Analyse governance arrangements to incentivize private sector |

| THEME: CAPACITY BUILDING | | |
|---|--|--|
| Goal: To provide capacity building support | | |
| No | Objective | Action |
| 1 | Provide capacity-building support for achieving research and monitoring activities | Develop training programs for citizen scientists |
| | | Develop approaches to ensure institutional knowledge is passed on |
| | | Develop personnel exchange programs and peer to peer collaborations for research and monitoring |
| | | Identify stakeholders including fishers to assist with marine litter research and monitoring |
| | | Identify platforms of opportunity for data sharing |
| | | Develop survey tools and approaches |
| | | Provide statistical support |
| | | Provide data management support |
| | | Facilitate exchanges of research and monitoring resources in the region |
| | | Provide training opportunities for scientists |
| 2 | Provide capacity building support for achieving effective governance activities | Provide training for judiciary/magistrates/enforcement officers & sensitization of politicians on marine litter issues |
| | | Facilitate workshops focused on developing effective governance approaches |
| | | Facilitate vertical and horizontal management interactions |
| | | Develop cooperative exchange and communications programs among enforcement agencies |
| | | Provide assistance to prepare or improve effective marine litter management plans |



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| 3 | Provide capacity-building support for achieving communication (E,O,A,A) activities | Present information on the marine litter issue at key environmental meetings and conferences in the Region |
| | | Provide access to communication tools and resources (e.g., webinars, social media, podcasts, informational materials) including those associated with the node |
| | | Facilitate linkages among disparate sectors |
| | | Translate critical EOAA documents into local languages for dissemination |
| | | Provide a regional platform for communicating proven and effective EOAA approaches |
| 4 | Provide capacity building support for implementing priority activities | Money |
| | | Technical expertise |
| | | Special equipment |
| | | Training |
| | | Site exchanges |
| | | Information |
| | | Roadmaps |
| | | Best practices |
| | | Inspiration/motivation |
| | | Approaches to overcoming legal roadblocks |
| | | Approaches to overcoming psychological and cultural barriers |
| | | Approaches to overcoming ineffective governance |
| Provide information and support for development of business cases for investment | | |



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THEME: COMMUNICATION

Goal 1: Ensure effective communication to ensure pollution mitigation and reduction

| No | Objective | Action |
|--|---|--|
| 1 | Develop effective advocacy approaches (e.g., lobbying, influencing decision makers) that result in decreased impacts of marine pollution on environment and society | Implement communication plans to inform stakeholders and public about marine litter (including microplastics) |
| | | Inform Governments and decision makers about what is being done elsewhere about measures to protect the environment |
| | | Conduct research to develop and improve open channels of communication between those responsible for the pollution issues including all levels of government and stakeholders. |
| | | Target community and national events to incorporate marine litter reduction strategies |
| | | Identify existing and potential sources for communications funding |
| | | Promote best practices for effective waste management including collection, recovery and disposal |
| | | Create, compile and share best practices for communications and messaging |
| | | Host webinars for target audiences on relevant issues related to marine litter |
| | | Establish and maintain a publicly available repository for relevant material related to marine litter in the region |
| | | Promote best practices of effective waste management to influence decision makers |
| 2 | Develop effective education approaches that result in decreased impacts of marine pollution on environment and society | Highlight case studies within communication plan about marine litter advances and best practices |
| | | Implement communication plans to inform stakeholders and public about marine litter (including microplastics) |
| | | Inform Governments and decision makers about what is being done elsewhere about measures to protect the environment |
| | | Conduct research to develop and improve open channels of communication between those responsible for the pollution issues including all levels of government and stakeholders. |
| | | Identify existing and potential sources for communications funding |
| | | Create, compile and share best practices for communications and messaging |
| Host webinars for target audiences on relevant issues related to marine litter | | |
| | | Establish and maintain a publicly available repository for relevant material related to marine litter in the region |



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| | | Highlight case studies within communication plan about marine litter advances and best practices |
| 3 | Develop effective awareness approaches (e.g., by communicating and making things available) that result in decreased impacts of marine pollution on environment and society | Implement communication plans to inform stakeholders and public about marine litter (including microplastics) |
| | | Conduct research to develop and improve open channels of communication between those responsible for the pollution issues including all levels of government and stakeholders. |
| | | Include marine litter related events on community and national calendars |
| | | Identify existing and potential sources for communications funding |
| | | Develop and implement media efforts to targeted audiences including an effective website; email distribution lists, newsletters; social media, multimedia, other new tools, |
| | | Seek additional support and financing to assist in having existing and future Programme outputs and existing training material translated into the working languages of the region |
| | | Make all key content available in the working languages of the region |
| | | Create, compile and share best practices for communications and messaging |
| | | Host webinars for target audiences on relevant issues related to marine litter |
| | | Establish and maintain a publicly available repository for relevant material related to marine litter in the region |
| | | Highlight case studies within communication plan about marine litter advances and best practices |
| | | 4 |
| Conduct research to develop and improve open channels of communication between those responsible for the pollution issues including all levels of government and stakeholders. | | |
| Identify existing and potential sources for communications funding | | |
| Develop and implement media efforts to targeted audiences including an effective website; email distribution lists, newsletters; social media, multimedia, other new tools, | | |
| Seek additional support and financing to assist in having existing and future Programme outputs and existing training material translated into the working languages of the region | | |
| Promote best practices for effective waste management including collection, recovery and disposal | | |
| Make all key content available in the working languages of the region | | |
| Create, compile and share best practices for communications and messaging | | |



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| | | Host webinars for target audiences on relevant issues related to marine litter |
| | | Work with GCFI to host a Marine Litter special session at the annual meeting in November. |
| | | Attend and present at relevant regional and international environmental meetings |
| | | Establish and maintain a publicly available repository for relevant material related to marine litter in the region |
| | | Highlight case studies within communication plan about marine litter advances and best practices |