



Activities of the GPML-Caribe (2021-2022)

Global Partnership on Marine
Litter - Caribbean Node





The Caribbean Node for the Global Partnership on Marine Litter



A healthy Caribbean Sea providing sustainable economic opportunities and reduced human and environmental risks from improper management of solid waste and marine litter.

Global Partnership on Marine Litter - Caribe (GPML-Caribe): a partnership between the UN Environment Caribbean Environment Programme (UN Environment CEP) and Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI). As a regional node, we facilitate training, research, resource mobilization, project development, outreach and advocacy on marine litter through a partnership approach involving all stakeholders.



Some of our projects include:

Map of the wider Caribbean

Research

ZIKA in the wider Caribbean (2017)

Focusing on high quality data from Puerto Rico, a possible correlation was researched between levels of marine litter and mosquito population, which carry the ZIKA virus.

Research

Microplastics in fish, 2017

A research partnership with Saint George's University in Grenada showed: The species of fish we eat all contained microplastics.

Advocacy and Awareness Raising

Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago litter reduction, 2016

This pilot study aimed to reduce marine litter through the use of effective communication strategies and economic incentives for stakeholders involved in the Carnival business.

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Interested in more information? Sign up for our mailing list:

<https://www.gcfi.org/gpml-carib-subscription-request/>

For more information on projects, please contact GPML-Caribe: gpml-caribe@gcfi.org

About GPML-Caribe

- A partnership for national and regional organizations, governments, research/technical agencies and individuals, that are focused on reducing the quantity and impact of marine litter in the WCR.
- The work of the Node directly supports Governments in meeting national, regional and global agendas.
- The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) and the Secretariat for the Cartagena Convention are the co-hosts of the GPML-Caribe.



Whitehouse & Bluefields Solid Waste Reduction

Partnership with the Sandals Foundation, Jamaica

This project aims to reduce and prevent pollution on both land and sea by focusing on the:

- Reduction of COVID19 litter by providing reusable masks and collecting data on incidence of COVID19 litter.
- Provision of sustainable meal containers in schools,
- Removal of plastic bottles to a recycling plant
- Administration of skills training about composting,
- Public education component of the project.



Clean Seas Campaign in St Lucia

**Partnership with St Lucia National Conservation Fund and
the Department of Sustainable Development**

- Support coastal and underwater cleanups to collect and properly dispose of debris dumped in the ocean
- Data collection and reporting including incidence of COVID19 Litter (masks and gloves etc)
- Development and broadcasting of a video documentary.
- Target students, general public, Government officials, policy-makers, and the private sector and will include programs to raise awareness

Action Plan for Marine Litter Monitoring

Partnership with Clean Coast Bonaire & WWF NL

To achieve a harmonized marine litter monitoring network within in the Wider Caribbean Region that also fits with the global context, it is recommended that an action plan be developed that includes:

- The most up to date methodology that is consistent with global harmonization instruments
- A capacity inventory of regional stakeholders
- An investigation into potential funding opportunities,
- A rollout strategy based on best practices.

Action Plan for Harmonized Marine Litter Monitoring in the Wider Caribbean Region

2021



C. Caporusso & M. Hougee



Partnership with University of Pará, Brazil

- Development of a synthesis of the knowledge and exposing the limitations and challenges in sampling and processing microplastics in the region.
- Gain knowledge on microplastics contamination of the Amazon biota
- Evaluation of the ghost shrimp *Lepidophthalmus siriboia* as a potential biomonitor of microplastic contamination
- Development of a non-invasive method to extract microplastics from the gastrointestinal tract of *Bunodosoma cangicum*, (sea anemone)

Microplastics Research



Waste Reduction in Tourism Sector



Partnership with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO)

- This work aimed to conduct research and formulate the framework for a strategy to address pollution and contribute to waste prevention and reduction in the Caribbean tourism sector.
- This work involved the development of educational and capacity building tools for the improvement of waste management activities undertaken by tourism stakeholders.

Marine Litter & MPA Small Grant Program

- Strengthen partnership between GCFI and Cartagena Convention Secretariat
- Help address regional and national goals and objectives and support the implementation of the RSAP
- Promote integration of the community-based grants to enhance collaboration between the Cartagena Convention Secretariat sub-programmes on Marine Biodiversity (SPA) and Marine Pollution (AMEP).
- This ACP-MEA small grant programme, funded projects with a focus on marine litter prevention and in MPAs.
- Implemented by two GCFI Initiatives: MPACoast & GPML-Caribe



Marine Litter & MPA Small Grant Program



Various grants: MPA, Marine Litter & Hybrid
Hybrid & Marine Litter Recipients included:

- Community Based Conservation at Cuba's Guanahacabibes National Park (Cuba)
- Bluefields Bay MPA Marine Litter Research, Education and Multi-Site Cleanup Event (Jamaica)
- Waste, People and Reef Health (Honduras)
- Citizen science as a management strategy for marine litter in Cienaga Grande de Santa Marta (Colombia)
- Plastics Solutions Academy (Belize)
- Redit and Vigie Beach Marine Litter Prevention Project (St Lucia)

Regional ALDFG Action Plan

Partnership with Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI)

- Funding from Fisheries & Oceans, Canada
- Managing ALDFG is essential to ensuring the future sustainability of fisheries and safeguarding people's livelihoods and food security.
- The Caribbean focused Regional Action Plan to Prevent ALDFG provides strategic guidance for a coordinated approach to managing ALDFG across the region through a variety of relevant best practices across prevention, mitigation and remediation strategies.



You can avoid the risk of **GHOST GEAR**

Time to replace gear?
Set the example. Become an **End-of-life fishing gear champion!**

Train crew on proper gear storage and disposal methods

Dispose of end-of-life fishing gear at on-shore facilities where possible

Recycle and reuse fishing gear components whenever possible

Small scale applications exist alongside industrial solutions

When lobster traps are no longer repairable, some fishers will give/sell them to restaurants to use as decor.

Find out more at: www.ghostgear.org

GHOST GEAR

Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)

As fishing gear is designed to be durable, if it becomes lost in the ocean, it persists for a **very long time** and can continue to capture marine life.

This is very dangerous since the gear continues to catch animals and **damage** habitats which can **deplete fish stocks** that people rely on for food and livelihoods.

Ghost fishing...
... occurs when lost gear continues to catch fish and other marine life with **no benefit to fishers.**

Ghost gear has caused a 5-30% decline in some fish stocks.

For example, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have found that ghost gear is directly responsible for a 5 percent reduction in total cod catch in the Baltic Sea and a 30 percent reduction of Greenland halibut off the coast of Norway.

Fish and other animals get trapped in lost gear like pots, nets or floating ropes, becoming injured or dying and attracting predators and scavengers which will often face the same fate.

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Lost at sea?
It has been suggested that... **640,000 tonnes** of fishing gear may be lost each year.

Average 15m fishing vessel

This is the equivalent of more than three times the size of the world's largest cargo ship

Location, Location, Location

Respecting equipment
Repair and maintain gear regularly

Time to replace gear?
Set the example. Become an **End-of-life fishing gear champion!**

You can avoid the risk of **GHOST GEAR**

Fishers are part of the solution

Fishers and vessel operators play the most important role in **preventing and solving this major threat** to their livelihoods and the natural environment.

Mark and report!

- Include your ownership details so gear can be returned
- Mark static gear to make it visible and easy to recover
- If possible, report lost fishing gear to authorities to improve chances of recovery

Seen lost gear?

- Equip your vessel and crew with retrieval equipment
- Retrieve any lost gear if you can do so safely
- Make sure there's always space to store recovered gear
- Share the location of ghost gear with other vessels when it could pose a risk to others

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Fishers and vessel operators play the most important role in **preventing and solving this major threat** to their livelihoods and the natural environment.

A responsible fisher...

- ... matches fishing methods to fishing conditions
- ... limits soak time to the minimum time to get a good catch
- ... only sets the amount of gear they can responsibly manage
- ... avoids setting gear near to or on other fishers' gear

Location, Location, Location

- Avoid fishing in high-risk areas or situations i.e. rough weather or areas with rocky obstructions
- Where possible, follow gear zoning initiatives
- Share information about local conditions and underwater obstructions with others to prevent damage or loss of gear

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Fisher led ALDFG Awareness Project



- Funding from Fisheries & Oceans Canada
- The Gladding Memorial Award (GMA) recognizes fishers with a vision for the sustainable use of marine resources
- Using the communication products developed, the GMA Ambassadors visited relevant fishing communities, markets, cooperatives and schools in Grenada and SVG to display and distribute communication products.
- These GMA Winners capitalized on their authority as respected leaders within their local communities to educate others and build capacity.

Reduction of Fishing Gear Loss in the WCR

Partnership with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI)

- Funding from Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
- Baseline & modeling of hotspot locations completed in Belize, Mexico, Grenada, Jamaica & Montserrat
- Gear testing: Blue Ocean Gear and Resqunit gear
- Unoccupied Aerial Vehicle Surveys and AI Algorithms used to develop a neural network to detect ghost gear in images captured by UAVs
- Development of communication products
- Virtual workshop to be held in March 2023



Abandoned Lost and Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in the Caribbean: Solutions for End-of-Life Fishing Gear

Join us via Zoom on Wednesday, March 8th, 2023 @ 10:00 – 13:00 AST

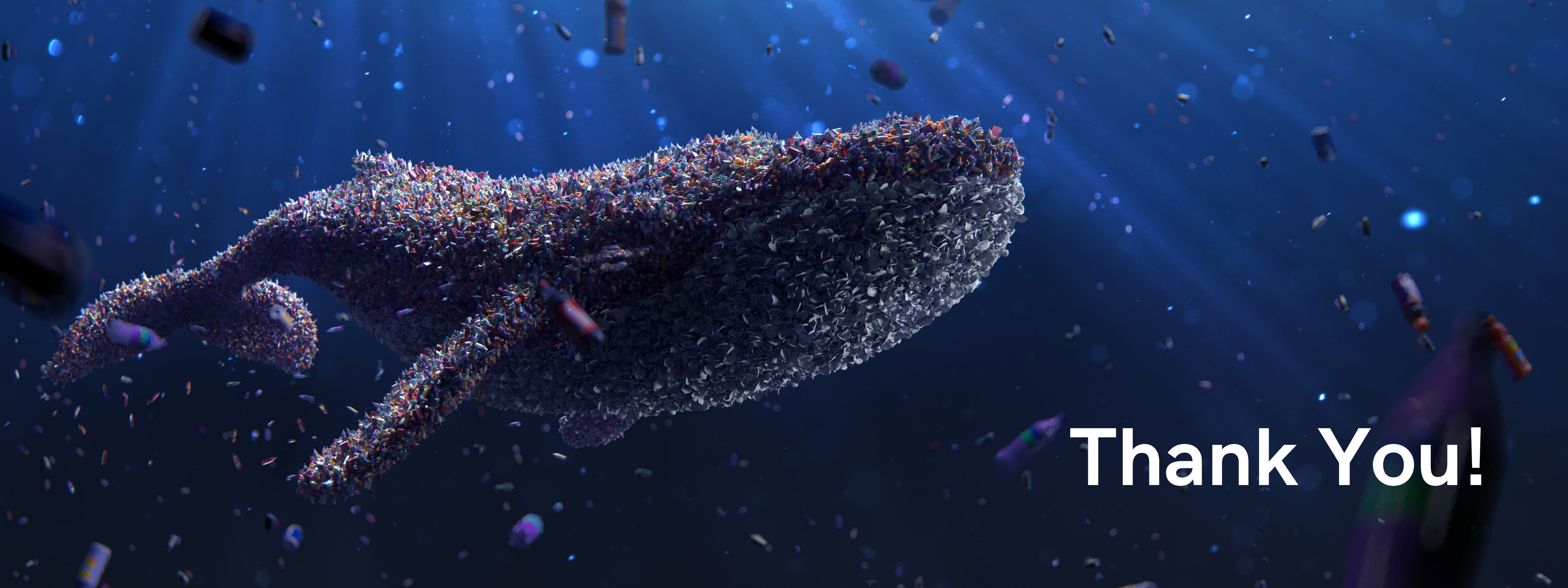
(Registration link: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0lf-2trDoqEtUDGamWll4CFdcbXhoF_dZU)

Presentation/Discussion Topics:

- Introduction to ALDFG in the Caribbean context
- Overview of ALDFG work in the Caribbean by Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) and Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)
- Options for end-of-life fishing gear solutions in the Caribbean, including case studies from the Caribbean and around the world
- Plenary discussion

Presented by:





Thank You!



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