



# Opportunities to Strengthen Regional Cooperation for Marine Litter Management in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam

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**Background**

# Marine Litter

“any persistent, manufactured,  
or processed solid material discarded, disposed  
of, or abandoned in the marine and  
coastal environment”

–United Nations Environment Programme

## Status of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution: Indonesia



generate **7.8 million** tons of plastic waste annually, and **58% is uncollected**



**~50% of mismanaged** waste ends up in waterways and enters the marine environment through rivers in Java (36.6%) and Sumatra (28.4%)

## Status of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution: Philippines



Generate **2.7 million tons** of plastic waste annually, and **20%–35% of it enters the marine environment.**



The remaining **33% is disposed of in open dumps or landfills**, and only **9% is recycled**

## Status of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution: Thailand



**2 million tons of plastic waste** were generated every year in the country over the past decade



**11%** of the total waste generated was **single-use plastic waste**

(plastic bags for hot and cold goods, plastic bags with handles, plastic cups, plastic straws, and foam food containers)

## Status of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution: Viet Nam



Between **2.8 million tons and 3.1 million tons** of plastic waste are discharged on land annually



Majority of the waste found in rivers and coastal sites is plastic waste, particularly food packaging, accounting for **94% of the waste** by the total number of items and 71% by weight



Governments made ambitious commitments to reduce marine litter

- supported by policies and projects at the national level
- further strengthened by declarations and programs at the regional and global levels



# Recommendations for a Marine Litter Management Framework

From *Marine Litter Legislation: A Toolkit for Policymakers* by UNEP (2016)



- (i) adopt legislation providing an overarching framework for preventing, reducing, and otherwise managing marine litter; and
- (ii) establish an interagency mechanism for coordinating among the diverse sectors with a role in addressing marine litter.

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## ADB BRIEFS

- Marine litter is a major concern for Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Hence, their governments have developed and enacted policies to address the sources and impacts of marine litter.
- A holistic and comprehensive marine litter policy must provide a framework to prevent, reduce, and manage marine litter while establishing effective interagency mechanisms. The current policies of Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam aligned with these recommendations.
- Addressing marine litter in the region requires robust policies, effective interagency

### Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Marine Litter Management in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam: Policy Analysis and Opportunities

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### Objectives:

(i) identify international and regional policy frameworks that enable the management of marine litter;

(ii) analyze the similarities and differences of existing national policy frameworks of four Southeast Asian countries—Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam—to prevent and manage marine litter; and

(iii) identify opportunities for regional cooperation.

## Global Frameworks

Treaty	Indonesia	Philippines	Thailand	Viet Nam
<b>UN Convention on the Law of the Sea</b>	✓ 1996 ratification*	✓ 1984 ratification	✓ 2011 ratification	✓ 1994 ratification
<b>London Convention</b>		✓ 2012 accession		
<b>MARPOL Annex V</b>	✓ 2012 accepted	✓ 1980 accepted		✓ 2015 accepted
<b>Basel Convention</b>	✓ 1993 ratification	✓ 1993 ratification	✓ 1997 ratification	✓ 1995 accession
<b>Stockholm Convention</b>	✓ 2009 ratification	✓ 2004 ratification	✓ 2005 ratification	✓ 2002 ratification

## Upcoming Global Plastics Treaty



- Forge an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution including in the marine environment
- Address the full life cycle of plastics
- Negotiations still ongoing

## Regional Frameworks



- Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Region
- ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris
- *ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Member States 2021–2025*



## Texts analyzed

- *Indonesia's Plan of Action on Marine Plastic Debris 2017–2025 (Executive Summary)*
- *Philippine National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction, and Management of Marine Litter 2021 (Abridged Version)*
- *Thailand Roadmap on Plastic Waste Management 2018–2030 (Summary); and*
- *Viet Nam's National Action Plan for Management of Marine Plastic Litter by 2030*

# Assessed Research Framework Elements



**Foundational  
Elements**



**Institutional  
Arrangements**



**Monitoring and  
Evaluation**



**Legal  
Integration**

Adapted from M. Yin and E. Techera. 2020. A Critical Analysis of Marine Protected Area Legislation Across State and Territory Jurisdictions in Australia. *Marine Policy*. 118. 104019

## Assessed Research Framework Elements

<b>Elements</b>	<b>Description</b>
Foundational Elements	Stated goals, aims, and strategic objectives
Institutional Arrangements	Authorities and institutions responsible for implementation
Monitoring and Evaluation	Methods for assessing progress
Legal Integration	Harmonization with national laws and other legal frameworks





# Foundational Elements



## Foundational Elements

Country	Goal/Vision
Indonesia	Reduce marine plastic debris by 70% by 2025.
Philippines	Achieve zero waste to Philippine waters by 2040
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Reduce and replace some single-use plastics by using environment-friendly products from 2019 to 2022.</li><li>● Recycle 100% of plastic waste through circular economy principles by 2027.</li></ul>
Viet Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Reduce marine plastic litter by 50% by 2025.</li><li>● Reduce marine plastic litter by 75% by 2030.</li></ul>



# Institutional Arrangements

# Institutional Arrangements: Indonesia



- **Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment** and is supported by the **Ministry of Environment and Forestry** (MOEF)
- Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries; Ministry of Transportation; Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing; Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Education and Culture; Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education; Ministry of National Development Planning; and Ministry of Industry
- **Tim Koordinasi Nasional Penanganan Sampah Laut** (National Coordination Team for Marine Waste Handling)

# Institutional Arrangements: Philippines



- **Environment Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources**
- Each of the 10 strategies of the NPOA-ML has corresponding oversight and steering agencies
- Established the NPOA-ML Technical Working Group
- “Extended stakeholder responsibility”

# Institutional Arrangements: Thailand



- **Pollution Control Department (PCD)** serves as the secretariat of the Plastic and Electronic Waste Management Subcommittee under the National Environment Board
- Supported by the **Plastic and Electronic Waste Management Subcommittee** and three working groups: Development of Plastic Waste Management, Campaign and Public Relations, and Development of Plastic Waste Utilization

# Institutional Arrangements: Viet Nam



- **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment**
- The Ministry of Finance and People's Committees, Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Information, Ministry of National Defense, Organizations of the Communist Party, the Vietnamese Fatherland Front and their affiliates
- Social organizations and socio-professional organizations



# Monitoring and Evaluation



<b>Country</b>	<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>
<b>Indonesia</b>	Coordinating Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Investment has shared a marine debris calculation formula they are using to track reduction
<b>Philippines</b>	To establish a robust monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and verification (MERV) system

<b>Country</b>	<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>
<b>Thailand</b>	Phase 2 of Thailand’s road map, implemented from 2020–2022, states the monitoring, evaluation, and review of the road map and action plan
<b>Viet Nam</b>	Laid out a timeline for annual monitoring, and every 5 years for a number of major drainage basins, estuaries, and insular districts + inspection and monitoring of the level of enforcement for regulations on the collection and processing of plastic waste from marine economic activities



# Legal Integration

<b>Country</b>	<b>Legal Integration</b>
<b>Indonesia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Solid Waste Management Act of 2008</li><li>● Decrees that reinforce 3Rs</li><li>● Regulations on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) - targets but does not include sanctions</li></ul>
<b>Philippines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000</li><li>● Amended in 2022 with the EPR Act: Focuses on reducing plastics by 20%, up to 80% by 2028</li></ul>

Country	Legal Integration
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="548 290 1684 470">● No national law on solid waste management but there are laws that cover national and municipal waste management and industrial waste practices</li><li data-bbox="548 489 1605 538">● Draft for Sustainable Packaging Management Act</li></ul>
Viet Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="548 587 1659 831">● Law on Environmental Protection: adopted in 1993 and amended in 2020 to integrate the Action Plan, a directive to transition to a circular economy, and institutionalize EPR</li><li data-bbox="548 855 1479 904">● Decrees on waste management and scraps</li></ul>



# Analysis

# Thematic priorities and strategies



All policy frameworks:

- Have waste reduction targets with specific timelines
- Highlight the importance of research, behavioral change, and policy support.

One key difference:

- Thailand focuses on plastic waste while Indonesia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam focus on marine litter
- Plastic waste and marine litter are closely related

## Legal integration and alignment



- All countries demonstrate compliance with the UNEP recommendations for legal integration and interagency coordination
- Provide the basis for additional legislation to reduce single-use plastics at source through bans, regulate non-recoverable items, promote waste prevention, and support marine litter cleanup efforts



# Institutional arrangements



- All policy frameworks are government-led and require cooperation and support from different agencies.
- Each country has additional stakeholders unique to their context.

# Financing mechanisms



- Indonesia and the Philippines articulated the need for financing in the foundational elements, but this does not suggest that Thailand and Viet Nam do not need financing.
- All governments have allocated financial resources from national budgets and are also working with various donors and partners, such as ADB and corporations

## Emerging trends and gaps



Since the policy frameworks were passed, discussions on circular economy, EPR, and the GPT have grown.

## Collective call for regional cooperation



A major similarity among the policy frameworks is the collective call for regional cooperation and support.



# Opportunities for Regional Cooperation



**National Action**



**Align national policy frameworks and national plans with the future GPT.**

Like other multilateral agreements, a national plan will be required for the GPT implementation



Integrate principles of justice, gender, equality, diversity, human rights, and inclusion across policy frameworks





# Regional Cooperation



Study the movement of marine litter across the region and strengthen capacity to interpret the study and its potential implications



### **Harmonize standards for a circular plastics economy.**

Possible regional standards are (i) standards for plastic recycling and recycled plastics, (ii) phasing out harmful additives in plastics, and (iii) eco-labeling and green procurement.

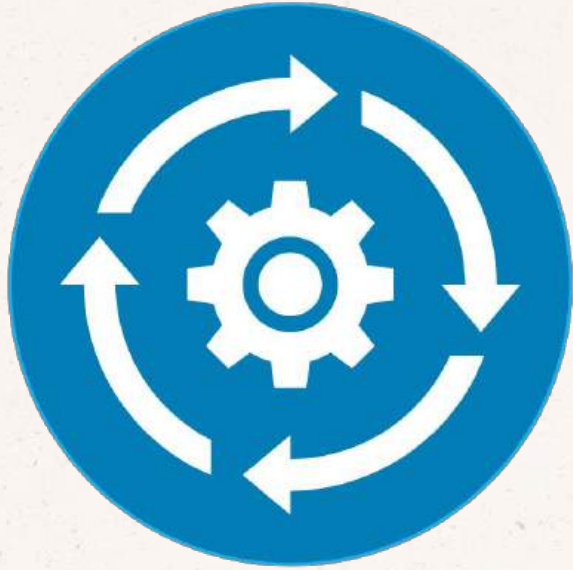


**Be a collective voice at the GPT.**

Given the wealth of experiences and commitments by Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam in preventing and managing marine litter and plastic wastes, they could be poised to have leadership roles at the upcoming GPT negotiations.



# Opportunities for ADB Support



Providing **technical assistance on designing or implementing national plans and complementary policies** to improve data collection and monitoring, strengthening enforcement, and future alignment with the GPT.



Providing policy-based lending to support the design and implementation of national plans

A policy-based loan (PBL) is disbursed when the borrower completes policy reforms or other agreed-upon actions.

In May 2024, ADB approved a PBL for \$500 million to support Indonesia's National Action Plan on Handling Marine Debris and Plastic Waste.



Supporting the development of finance mechanisms through loans, grants, and investments to reduce plastic pollution in line with country obligations





Connecting with current technical assistance work on digitalizing the plastic value chain and capacity building on using technologies for monitoring and enforcement policies.



Organizing dialogues on the outcomes of the extended producer responsibility implementation



Organizing continuous  
knowledge-exchange  
sessions on specific and  
specialized topics using  
existing networks



**Thank you!**

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