

Effective strategies for tackling marine litter

WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS
SEPTEMBER 2ND
14:30-16:30

Learning Outcomes

- Shared understanding of the current situation of marine litter
- Identify best practices in existing marine litter initiatives
- Identify potential constraints/obstacles to future initiatives and how these can be overcome
- Understand how aspects of successful initiatives can be replicated in participants' local context

Organisation of the session

- **Welcome and workshop introduction**
- **Overview of the current context of marine litter**
- Examples of inspiring initiatives in...
 - *Monitoring and data sharing*
 - *Innovation*
 - *Awareness/education*
 - *Repurposing /creating value for discarded plastic*
 - *Private sector initiatives*
- **World Café: Barriers you experience and how these might be overcome**
- **Plenary discussion: taking action on marine litter**
- **Review and close**

A few working agreements...

- **Honour time limits**
- **Listen, and consider the opinion of others**
- **Participate by sharing your own opinions and experiences**
- **Remember to keep your phone off/on silent**

What is marine litter?

- Also known as marine debris, it is **human-created waste** that is deliberately or accidentally released into a marine environment
- The majority of marine litter is land-based
- Sea-based sources include abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), waste from commercial shipping, maritime-based tourism (among others)
- Marine litter often accumulates at the centre of oceanic gyres (a system of ocean currents) or on coastlines
- Plastic as a very common form of marine litter: an estimated **8 million metric tons** of plastic waste enter the oceans per year (Jambeck et al 2015)

What is the harm of marine litter? (I)

Harm to marine life

- Entanglement, leading to starvation and/ or suffocation or cuts and infections
- Ingestion, leading to blockage of the mouth, nutrient deficiency, or starvation caused by false satiation



What is the harm of marine litter? (II)

- Habitat destruction – through physical interference e.g. obstruction of sunlight or smothering
- Invasive species harbored on floating debris



What is the harm of marine litter? (III)

- Loss of profit to commercial fisheries – abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG)
- Loss of tourism and lower beach enjoyment
- Human health impacts
 - Ingestion of microplastics through fish
- Navigational hazard - causing operational problems and engineer repairs



What is being done to address marine litter?

- Solutions to marine litter requires a range of actions:
- **Environmental legislation**
 - Bans and fees on single-use plastics
 - International Environmental Agreements e.g. UNCLOS, MARPOL, IMO etc..
- **International commitments**
 - Honolulu Strategy (NOAA and UNEP)
 - UNEA Resolution 1/6
 - G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter
 - Agenda 2030 and UN SDGs (Goal 14)
 - UNEP: Global Programme of Action; Global Partnership on Marine Litter

What is being done to address marine litter? (II)

- **Business practices**
 - IUCN Stakeholder Engagement (Monaco Framework for Action)
- **Research**
 - IUCN: Research (Azores, Baltic, Arctic)
 - NOAA Marine Debris Program
- **Public behavioural change and education**
 - NOAA Marine Debris Program public education and outreach materials
- **Targeted intervention and clean-up operations**
 - International beach clean-up campaigns
- **Advisory bodies and coordination of experts**
 - GESAMP – Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection

Monitoring and data sharing

VICTORIAN LITTER ACTION ALLIANCE

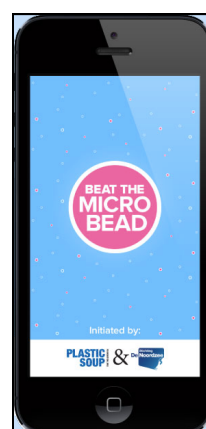
- Litter management and prevention in the state of Victoria, Australia established 2000
- A state-wide forum to compile data into a “report card” to identify key issues and priorities to guide decisions for investment and shape business plans for the government
- Education materials produced for the region, including litter management kits, which outline best practice litter management

Innovation

- Bay Islands: Guanaja, Utila and Roatan in Honduras
- Launched with an island baseline analysis to map plastic waste common items
- Microfinance to accelerate businesses on the islands
 - Investing in alternatives: distribution of paper products (cups, plates & straws)
 - Local arts and crafts centering on reusable bags to support the local bag ban
- Reducing marine plastics while generating economic opportunities



Awareness and education



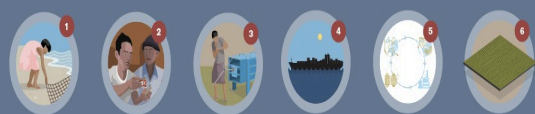
Beat the Microbead App

- International Smartphone App launched in 2012
- Allows consumers to scan personal care products to check for the presence of plastic microbeads
- Colour coding
 - Red: The product contains microbeads;
 - Orange: The product contains microbeads, but the manufacturer has indicated it will replace or remove in a given timeframe;
 - Green: The product is free from plastic microbeads

Repurposing or creating value for discarded plastic

Net-Works

- Using discarded nets from coastal communities to convert/recycle the fibres and used for carpets in the Philippines and Cameroon
- Creates community inclusion and a circular economy
- Re-investing the income into the community through education, provision of financial services/community banking systems



I Got Garbage

- Connecting people who want to get rid of the garbage to those who can pick it up
- Use mobile phones and website to keep in contact – creating an online marketplace
- Adds predictability and structure to the work of the informal sector, providing a decent living and social security

LIVELIHOOD IMPACT



AVERAGE MONTHLY REVENUE
PER STREET WASTE PICKER
₹ 4828



AVERAGE MONTHLY REVENUE
PER RECYCLING MANAGER
₹ 8834

Estimated from the data reported by our partners on I Got Garbage platform.

Private sector initiatives

CLOSED LOOP fund

- American cities spend a huge amount of money shipping trash from where it is produced to where it is landfilled (\$5 bill/year) instead of recycling it
- A fund of \$100M from retail and consumer goods companies -> e.g. Walmart, Coca Cola, Unilever, Goldman Sachs, Johnson & Johnson, P&G
- Applications can be made for funding municipal recycling facilities to allow cities to re-process waste and send the material directly back to companies for manufacturing products

Prompt questions

- What are the **actions** that you know have been effective on this theme?
- What are the existing **challenges** to taking action on this theme?
- What are some potential **solutions** to the issues we've raised?

Review and closing

- Identifying the best practices and creating guidelines for actions moving forward
- Identifying and overcoming barriers for implementation of these best practices

Please don't forget to leave your contact details on the sign-in sheet so we can send out meeting notes

Thank you, and enjoy the rest of the World Conservation Congress!