

**STOCKTAKE REPORT
ON MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION AND ITS
SOURCES IN THE CORAL TRIANGLE**

WWF Coral Triangle Programme

CTI-CFF PRE-SOM16 – 7 December 2021

CTI-CFF Stocktake on Marine Plastic Pollution & Upstream Sources - Context

- **15th CTI-CFF Senior Officials Meeting Action** – Requested a stocktake report on marine plastic pollution in the Coral Triangle & provide potential strategies
- **Commenced October 2020** with CTI-CFF & WWF Plastics Stocktake information webinar to CT6 NCCs, local experts
- **Draft Terms of Reference & implementation plan** presented to NCCs
- **Scope of stocktake scaled back** due to funding availability & COVID-19 restrictions
- **Virtual updates** - June & November 2021



Why a Stocktake was needed for the Coral Triangle:



- **Significant volumes** of marine plastic pollution entering Coral Triangle waters
- **Potential impacts** on human & ecosystem health including MPAs
- **Affects key industries** - fishing, aquaculture, tourism, shipping
- **Coastal communities** dependent on these sectors for income, livelihoods
- **Need information on** sources, volumes, hotspots of plastic pollution – to guide national, regional, global actions
- **Raise awareness** on MPA & conservation priority areas, coastal communities, tourism centres, LGAs



Objectives of Stocktake :

1. **Better understand scale** of marine plastic pollution & its sources
2. **Identify actions / existing strategies** by CT6 govts, local govt, strategic partners, MPAs, private sector, civil society, academia
3. **Assess appropriate scalable/ adaptable solutions**
4. **Assess applicability** of existing initiatives
5. **Identify** potential sources of funds/ support



Stocktake components:

- **Types & volume** of marine plastic pollution
- **Sources** from **land & sea-based activities**
- **Trade** in plastic waste for recycling
- Local Govt & MPA **Case Studies**
- Current & planned **Govt actions**
- Current **strategies, initiatives, models, best practices** for scaling
- **Funding sources & support** for activities / initiatives
- **Resources**
- **Draft Recommendations**



Findings from the Coral Triangle:

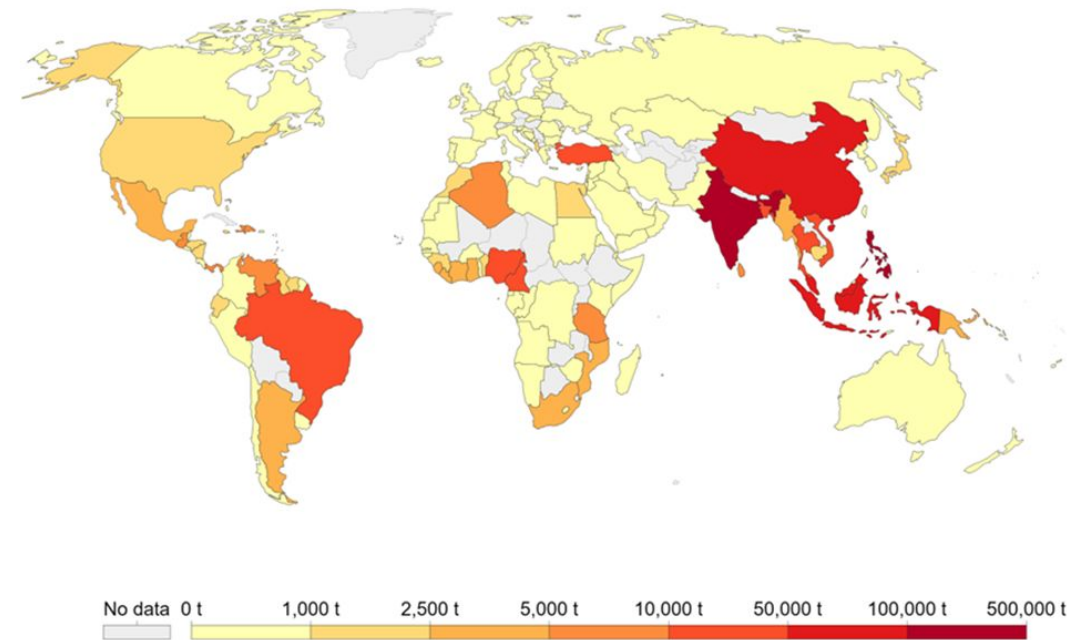
1. Estimated **6.17 ml tonnes mismanaged plastic waste** produced in Coral Triangle annually (2010 fig.)
2. Mismanaged waste predicted to **more than double by 2025**, based on business-as-usual (Jambeck et al., 2015)
3. Potentially **0.93 ml to 2.47 ml tonnes plastic entering ocean annually** from CT6 (2010 fig.)
4. Could increase to **5.9 ml tonnes** annually by 2025 (Jambeck, et al., 2015 Supp. Mat).
5. CT6 govts, industry & civil society **engaged in actions** to address marine plastic pollution
6. **Multiple regional & national strategies & initiatives** in Asia Pacific
7. **Complex problem** - No one solution



Key factors for high plastic waste in CT

- Marine litter is a **transboundary** challenge
- **Mismanaged waste a major contributor** of plastic leakage to Oceans
- **Unsustainable production & consumption**
- **Poor solid waste management; lack of infrastructure; low rates of recycling**
- Lack of adequate **legal & policy** frameworks; **poor enforcement**
- A lack of **consistent data** on plastic sources & leakage
- Lack of **financial & human capacity** to cope with escalating volumes of land & sea-based waste
- **Increasing demand** for plastics packaging & products
- Vulnerable communities often **lack resources for alternatives** to plastic or to manage plastic waste
- Large **influx of plastic waste** to SEA from Europe & US, (legal & illegal)
- **Growth in global fisheries** contributes abandoned, lost, discarded fishing gear to the ocean

Plastic waste emitted to the ocean, 2019



Source: Meijer et al. (2021). More than 1000 rivers account for 80% of global riverine plastic emissions into the ocean. Science Advances. CC BY



Tackling the plastic pollution challenges

Requires **significant changes** in the way we **produce, consume, and dispose** of plastic..... *a system change from a linear to a circular economy “where plastic never becomes waste”*. (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2018).

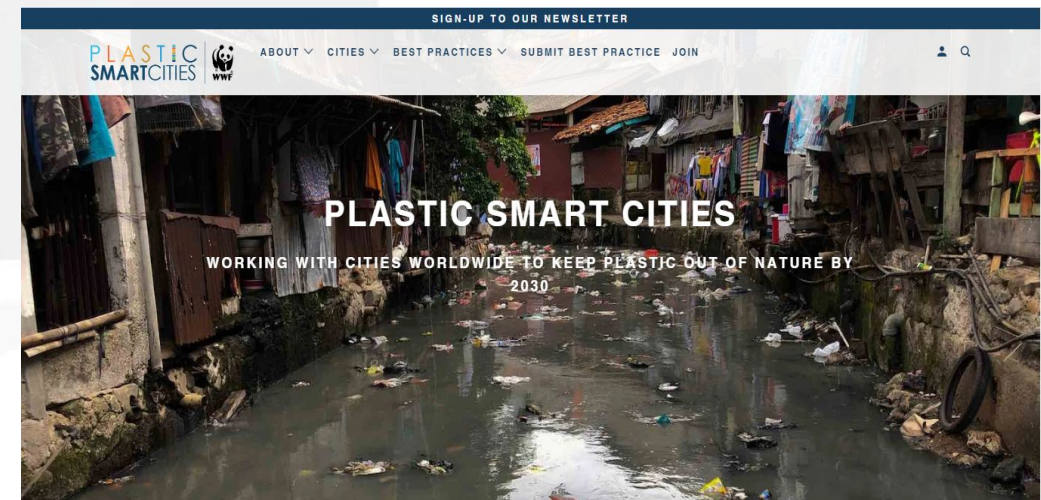
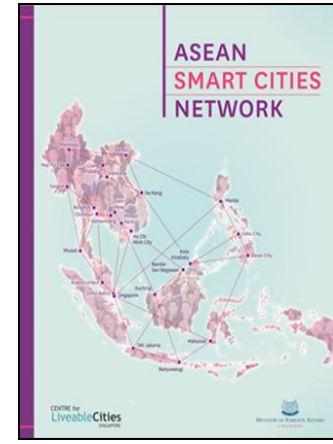
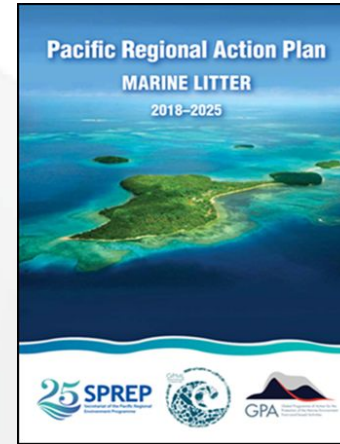
“Further innovation in resource-efficient & low-emission business models, reuse & refill systems, sustainable substitute materials, waste management technologies, effective government policies”, (Lau, et al., 2020).

*“Ideally, addressing the problem as far upstream as possible, from point of manufacture & throughout entire supply chain, long before waste enters the coastal & marine environments will yield the **best outcomes & see the least waste lost to the environment.**”* (Hardesty, et al., 2021).



Discussion & Recommendations from Stocktake Report

- Recognizes **vast amount of valuable information & work** already in place across Asia Pacific
- Encourages CTI-CFF to **utilize & build on efforts** by ASEAN, COBSEA, SPREP, UNEP, IUCN, & CTI-CFF Strategic Partners
- Advocates **multi-stakeholder collaboration, whole of supply chain & circular economy approaches**
- Recognizes **CTI-CFF unique advantage** to bridge regional strategies & frameworks
- Support **CTI-CFF cross sharing knowledge & resources; collaboration** to foster new innovation & fill information gaps
- Support **policy & capacity building ambitions to protect 30 % of coastal / marine waters by 2030 (30x30)**.
- Contribute to SDGs, particularly **Goal 14, Life Below Water**.



CTI-CFF Regional Recommendations:

1. **Engage academia, NGOs, Strategic Partners, Regional Orgs** (e.g. ASEAN, COBSEA, SPREP) & partnerships (UNEP, GPML, World Bank, GEF, ADB, FAO, IUCN, Ocean Conservancy) **to identify potential areas of collaboration i.e.:**
 - **Share knowledge & resources** to support CT6 implement NPOAs on marine litter, build circular economies
 - Develop a **common research & monitoring agenda** for data collection
 - **Regional baseline & monitoring** with standardized /comparable measures
 - **Standardization of definitions** for plastic products & biodegradability
 - **Harmonized policies & regulations** i.e. Solid waste management, extended producer responsibility
 - Information sharing on **innovations & technology & approaches** for circular economy
 - Innovating /scaling **environmentally sound alternatives to plastic**
 - **Leverage private sector compliance** with sustainable consumption & production in packaging/plastics use
 - **Raise financial support & investment** for addressing plastic pollution
 - Regional/global cooperation to **stop illegal shipments** of plastic waste to CT countries
2. **Build into CTI-CFF 10 year capacity building road map, knowledge management & sharing of local initiatives & solutions** that address marine plastic pollution to scale successful models, pilots demonstration projects through **CTI-CFF networks and regional exchanges.**
3. Join **Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI)** to share knowledge & best practices to CTI-CFF networks



National level recommendations for consideration:

1. Develop /adapt existing **National Waste Management & Marine Litter Action Plans** to include circular economy approaches.
2. Develop **national policy & investment plans** as part of solid waste management (e.g. improved collection, recycling, source segregation, final disposal options)
3. **Reduce institutional fragmentation & strengthen legislation** to address upstream sources of waste & implement circular economy solutions.
4. **Encourage zero waste businesses models** to replace plastic with reusable packaging & provide services that eliminate need for plastics.
5. **Facilitate integration of local level govt** in development / implementation of national plans & strategies that **support coastal communities, MPA/MMA management groups, tourism centres** deal with marine debris (**& contribute to 30%x30 ambition**).
6. Encourage **integration of GGGI Best Practice Framework for Management of Fishing Gear & FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Marking of Fishing Gear** in national fisheries policies & regs, where appropriate.
7. Support negotiations for **global legally binding agreement to combat plastic pollution** – at 5th session of United Nations Environment Assembly, February 2022



Next Steps – 2021 to 2022

Draft Recommendations for Pre-SOM consideration:

1. **Accept/Receive** the Coral Triangle Plastic Pollution Stocktake report as a working draft.
2. **Task** the RS to circulate the working draft report to the NCCs and Strategic Partners for feedback by 31 March 2022
3. **Task** WWF / RS to revise the working draft according to feedback submitted by 31 March and prepare the final stocktake report for publication and launch by 30 June 2022.

