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Implementation of the Global Programme of Action  
for the Protection of the Marine Environment  
from Land-based Activities  
Fourth session  
Bali, Indonesia, 31 October and 1 November 2018**

# **Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) Framework Document**

**Note by the Secretariat**

The present document has been issued without formal editing.

# **Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)**

Purpose, function and organization

Creating an informed global community working together to achieve an ocean not harmed by marine litter – by eliminating discharges and carrying out targeted removal

October 2018

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## **1. Background**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide an overarching framework for pursuing a more sustainable society. Achieving the SDGs will require different sectors and actors working together in an integrated manner by pooling financial resources, knowledge and expertise. SDG 17 underlines that innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships will play a crucial role supporting the achievement of the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) by the year 2030.

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 pressing global issue. Its mission statement seeks to protect the global marine environment, human wellbeing and animal welfare by addressing the global problem of marine litter. The Partnership was launched at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 in June 2012 in response to a request in the Manila Declaration, which is an outcome of the Third Intergovernmental Review meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) held in January 2012. It is led by a Steering Committee and UN Environment (GPA) provides Secretariat services.

## **2. GPML Mission and objectives**

### **2.1 Mission statement**

The Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) seeks to protect the global marine environment, human wellbeing and animal welfare by addressing the global problem of marine litter through:

- Providing a mechanism for cooperation and coordination, sharing ideas, knowledge and experiences, identifying gaps and emerging issues;
- Harnessing the expertise, resources and enthusiasm of everyone involved;
- Making a significant contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in particular SDG 14.1 *“by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution”*

### **2.2 Specific Objectives**

1. Serve as the platform/mechanism for all stakeholders all over the world on the issue of marine litter to stimulate actions and maintain momentum;
2. Facilitate cooperation between inter alia governments, intergovernmental organizations, regional bodies, private sector, civil society and academia including on:
  - i. information sharing and improved knowledge management

- ii. awareness-raising
  - iii. development and/or dissemination of new environmentally sound technologies
  - iv. capacity building
  - v. preventive actions
  - vi. risk-based recovery actions
  - vii. emerging issues
  - viii. effective communication
3. Share relevant information on projects and initiatives to help identify and address gaps to avoid duplications, and on financing opportunities and to facilitate match-making;
4. Raise awareness of GPML, identify actors and bring in new members (all members, Steering Committee, Secretariat);
5. Contribute to marine litter action plans at different levels where appropriate (all members);
6. Communicate information and provide guidance based on the best available scientific knowledge and in accordance with the precautionary approach;
7. Reduce the leakage of plastics into the ocean, through improved design, the application of the '3Rs' principle (reduce, re-use, recycle), encouraging 'closed-loop' systems and more circular production cycles, maximization of resource efficiency and minimization of waste generation;
8. Support the implementation of relevant UN General Assembly resolutions including 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nation Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolutions on or applicable to marine litter and microplastics and other relevant international resolutions and decisions;
9. Support the implementation of legal, policy, institutional frameworks and relevant frameworks that implement international law relevant to marine litter and microplastic.

### **2.3 Members of the GPML**

Any entity can become a member of the GPML through the membership form on the GPML online platform<sup>1</sup>. They will receive a document confirming their membership and will be added to the GPML member mailing list. They will also receive information on the partnership and be invited to participate in GPML webinars.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://marinelitternetwork.com/join-us>

### **3. GPML Steering Committee**

#### **3.1 Terms of Reference**

The Steering Committee sets priorities on the strategic directions of the GPML including: its further development, relationship with other related initiatives, priorities and structures; identifies activities for the GPML through annual Work Plans and evaluate progress; and promotes actions and initiatives of the GPML and its benefits as a multi-stakeholder partnership.

#### **3.2 Functions/responsibilities**

The members of the Steering Committee have the following responsibilities: -

1. Develop and where relevant implement the annual Steering Committee Work Plan by contributing towards its activities;
2. Develop a long-term road map taking into account relevant processes and goals;
3. Attend the Steering Committee meetings and provide timely inputs;
4. Make recommendations to the Secretariat on specific tasks and provide advice and input on key activities;
5. Share and provide information on new and on-going initiatives and developments at the global and regional levels amongst the Steering Committee and for communication to wider GPML partnership where appropriate, including via the Global Partnership on Marine Litter online platform; and
6. Promote and represent the GPML as appropriate.

#### **3.3 Membership**

A set of criteria has been established to aid the selection of members to the Steering Committee and guide their programme of activities:

1. Members should be drawn from the GPML partners
2. Members should participate in their institutional capacities with one representative
3. The Steering Committee should have sufficient representation of the expertise and regional diversity of GPML partners which may comprise of countries, UN agencies, regional bodies, private sector, civil society and other relevant organizations

4. The Steering Committee strives towards balanced gender representation
5. All GPML members can propose new Steering Committee members. The Secretariat approves new Steering Committee members in consultation with the Steering Committee. Consideration should be given to limit the number of SC members to assure adequate and effective communication.
6. Steering Committee membership is subject to rotation while ensuring continuity
7. Permanent seats in the Steering Committee are granted to UN Environment, FAO, IMO and GESAMP.
8. Two co-chairs will be selected by the Steering Committee members for a service of two years, renewable by agreement with the Steering Committee
9. Steering Committee may decide to invite other GPML partners as observers to its meetings
10. Steering Committee should meet physically at least once a year, take part in tele-conference meetings at least 6 times a year, and use the file-sharing application Basecamp for effective information sharing

#### **4. Involvement of Regional bodies – regional GPML nodes**

The participation of regional bodies is considered essential for the successful implementation of the GPML Work Plan. Regional Seas and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations provide existing networks of major relevant stakeholders and can where suitable be recognised as GPML regional nodes as per Annex I Regional Nodes of the GPML. However, other types of relevant institutions could also function as a regional node.

GPML members who can take on the responsibility can propose to the Steering Committee to establish a regional node. The proposal must be approved by the Steering Committee. Regional nodes are invited to have one representative in the Steering Committee representing all nodes.

#### **5. Secretariat functions**

UN Environment provides secretariat services (the Secretariat) for the GPML and its Steering Committee. The Secretariat is responsible for:

1. Working alongside the Steering Committee to support its functions, including but not limited to:
  - a) Working with the co-chairs to convene meetings, set agendas, distribute information, solicit inputs, making adequate reports of the meetings, as well as compiling and documenting relevant information;
  - b) Preparing briefings to the Steering Committee on the programme of work and budget of the GPML on an annual basis;

- c) Updating the Steering Committee of any requests or proposals relating to Steering Committee membership.
2. Initiating, based on Steering Committee input, activities which support the implementation of the GPML objectives, including but not limited to:
- a) Maintaining the functionality of, and accuracy of information on, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter online platform<sup>2</sup>;
  - b) Conducting outreach activities to organisations and institutions who have been identified as being beneficial additions to the wider GPML partnership and/or the Steering Committee;
  - c) Maintaining communications with the regional nodes and other relevant networks and periodically collecting updates from them which can be distributed to Steering Committee and wider partnership;
  - d) Hosting of webinars, meetings, conferences and other activities to which GPML partnership is invited;
  - e) Creating and maintaining an inventory of GPML members and networks which provides the partnership with information relating to the key activities, focal issues and geographical scope of GPML members with the ability to make direct contact with focal points; and,
  - f) Propose GPML priorities for seeking partnerships with external donors and/or potential members/partners

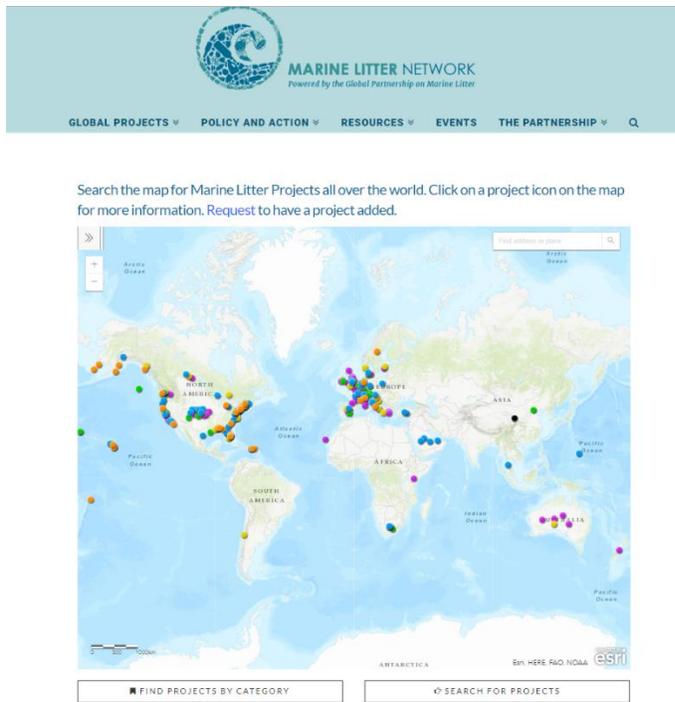
## **6. The Global Partnership on Marine Litter online platform**

The Marine Litter Network is the Global Partnership on Marine Litter's online platform for information exchange for members of the partnership as well as potential members and non-members. It is an open website that acts as an on-line information hub (Figure 2) gathering all relevant information on the partnership and offering an overview of projects of e.g. the members.

The platform allows partners to share information on their own projects/initiatives as well as Best Available Technologies and/or Best Environmental Practices, case studies, action plans, major publications, and current events. Data management for the case studies and the global projects map is undertaken by the University of Georgia, while the Secretariat is responsible for ensuring that text and descriptions of the partnership is accurate and updated. The platform also provides access to the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) and other services sponsored by e.g. UN Environment. The platform also has a sign-up section for the partnership, which is administrated by the Secretariat.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://marinelitternetwork.com/>



**Figure 1.** Screen shot showing: *Map search for Marine Litter Projects all over the world.*

## **7. Funding**

The provision of secretariat services is currently housed within the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in UN Environment.

Where earmarked funding is provided for the GPML by donors, this may be used to fund priority activities in relation to Steering Committee Meetings, GPML Outreach (e.g. costs for the GPML online platform, members meetings) and specific activities identified as per the GPML Work Plan.

The GPML does not itself have a budget. It is expected that GPML members will retain responsibility for funding and implementing their own activities in support of the GPML objectives.

GPML strives to provide a match-making platform in that the Partnership will endeavor to seek out appropriate sources of funding and leverage other on-going initiatives where appropriate and provide information on funding opportunities or grants to members when funding allows for the establishment of such schemes.

## ANNEX 1

### **Regional nodes of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter: Proposed objectives and draft Terms of Reference (Under revision)**

#### **1.0 Proposed objectives of Regional Nodes**

Purpose:

To promote the development and implementation of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) on a regional basis

High-level objectives:

1. To create an effective regional network of public and private bodies to promote the objectives of the GPML.
2. To ensure representation from relevant governance, industrial/commercial, academia, education, citizen's groups and other relevant organisations.
3. To promote implementation of the GPML approach by developing regionally-appropriate communication channels, encouraging exchange of expertise and good practice, providing advice and training, developing cost-effective monitoring programmes and undertaking practical exercises to raise awareness.

#### **2.0 Draft Terms of Reference:**

1. Initiate a Regional Node through/in collaboration with a Regional Seas Programme or other established regional body, as appropriate.
  - Use existing networks, or create new networks, to extend invitations to participate to representatives of relevant groups and individuals (governance, industry/commerce, NGOs, communities, academia, special interest groups and others)
2. Develop a regional distributive network to communicate and cascade the objectives of the GPML, using appropriate communication channels (selection of languages; printed and digital media, including social media; radio and television; formal and informal education; social, commercial/industrial and political events; open-source materials), taking account of the differing cultural, social, economic and governance characteristics of the region.
3. Act as a clearing-house for who is doing what in the region, at a local, national and regional scale, including international organisations (e.g. IMO on port reception facilities; national and regional programmes supported by the GEF and World Bank.
4. Encourage regional organisations and individuals to register through the GPML online platform<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://marinelitternetwork.com/join-us>

5. Promote the involvement of public and private sector organisations in developing effective mechanisms for source reduction, re-use and re-cycling, including Extended Producer Liability, closing the 'plastic cycle', treating waste as a resource and embracing the concept of the Circular Economy.
6. Arrange regular awareness raising events including, but not limited to, periodic beach-cleans, involving the widest range of participation.
7. Post regional news and examples of good practice (public and private sector) via the MLN (and what does not work).
8. Contribute to the three Focal Area Groups A, B and C and contribute, via the MLN, to exchange information on relevant regional programmes, particular regional concerns and examples of good practice in each of the Focal Areas.
9. Develop and promote cost-effective methods, including automated systems (e.g. web-cams) for monitoring marine litter (floating, seabed and shoreline); promote the use of common sampling protocols and reporting formats.
10. Represent the GPML at regional stakeholder meetings.
11. Provide advice and guidance to GPML Demonstration Projects, if selected in the region.

### **3.0 Potential participants in Regional Partnership Nodes**

Despite anticipated differences in the precise make-up of each Regional Partnership Node, reflecting cultural, economic and social characteristics, certain types of organisation can be expected to be represented, in most cases (Figure 3.1). These are grouped below.

#### Governance:

- Regional Seas Organisations
- FAO Regional Fisheries Bodies
- IMO shipping - MARPOL Annex V, LC/LP
- National governments
- Municipalities and sub-national governance bodies

#### Industry/commerce:

- Aquaculture – commercial and artisanal
- Fisheries – commercial and artisanal
- Shipping
- Tourism
- Retail
- Manufacturing (including plastics)
- Recycling and waste management
- Cruise companies
- Entrepreneurs, engineering and product design

#### Academia:

- Natural/environmental sciences
- Material sciences
- Social sciences
- Economics
- Design and engineering

Others:

- Citizens/community groups
- Special interest groups, e.g. recreational fishing, diving/surfing, recreational boating
- Non-Governmental Organisations/not-for-profit
- Media and communications
- LME groups
- Foundations and other funding agencies