



ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris

Marine debris is a transboundary issue which requires integrated regional cooperation. In addition to robust national actions to address marine debris strategies for strong collaboration are particularly crucial for the ASEAN region. Without immediate action, marine debris pollution may negatively impact marine biodiversity, environment, health, society and economy.

ASEAN Member States recognise the urgent need to take action and have made notable progress in combating marine debris.

The ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris was developed to act on the recommendations from the ASEAN Conference on Reducing Marine Debris in ASEAN Region in Phuket in November 2017, taking into account the East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Combating Marine Plastic Debris in Bali in September 2017.

The Framework of Action on Marine Debris was welcomed by the Ministers and representatives responsible for natural resources, environment and marine affairs from all ASEAN Member States at the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Marine Debris on 5 March 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Framework comprises four (4) priority areas namely: (i) Policy Support and Planning; (ii) Research, Innovation, and Capacity Building; (iii) Public Awareness, Education, and Outreach; and (iv) Private Sector Engagement. Each priority area consists of actions and suggested activities for further collaboration in ASEAN region and among ASEAN and its partners in combating marine debris.

Framework / Actions	Suggested Activities*
Framework I: Policy Support and Planning	
A. Promote regional policy dialogue on prevention and reduction of marine debris from land- and sea-based activities by highlighting the issue, sharing information and knowledge, and strengthening regional coordination.	1. Organise regular regional policy dialogue/discussion on combating marine debris issues.
B. Mainstream multi-sectoral policy measures to address marine debris in national and ASEAN's development agenda and priorities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement long-term and robust strategy to combat marine debris, including having comprehensive waste management systems to prevent pollution and circular economy approaches. 2. Develop and implement extended producer responsibility (EPR) policies and schemes including design for environment, deposit refund, and take-back for reusing and recycling. 3. Encourage national authorities in collaboration with businesses to develop and promote product sustainability and circularity criteria to stimulate the market for sustainable products and secondary raw materials while concurrently, addressing the unsustainable use and disposal of single-use plastic products. 4. Develop/strengthen upstream policies for land-based leakage (including single-use plastics), and sea-based leakage (e.g. ghost nets, and waste from fishing vessels, maritime transport and marine tourism). 5. Welcome inter-sectoral initiatives and collaboration to effectively address marine debris through various relevant ASEAN-led mechanism. 6. Encourage national and local governments to incorporate marine debris issues in their priorities.
C. Encourage ASEAN Member States to implement relevant international laws and agreements related to waste management- such as MARPOL Annex V ship generated waste, Basel Convention, and UN Environment Assembly resolutions 3/7 on Marine Litter and Microplastics.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Incorporate international laws and agreements related to waste management into regional platforms. 2. Provide support for enabling conditions to the implementation of the international laws and agreement. 3. Conduct regular dialogue through webinar; and/or through Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia (BCRC-SEA).

Framework / Actions	Suggested Activities*
<p>D. Develop a regional action plan on combating marine debris in the ASEAN Region by applying integrated land-to-sea policy approaches.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a taskforce on development of ASEAN regional action plan on combating marine debris as a mean to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. exchange information on existing national policy instruments to combat marine debris. 1.2. develop elements for a regional action plan. 1.3. compile the regional action plan in accordance with the national and regional context. 2. Review and analyse best practices of Regional Seas Programmes to combat marine debris. 3. Conduct feasibility study/consultative meeting on development of an ASEAN agreement on management of marine debris pollution. 4. Conduct feasibility study/consultative meeting on establishment of an ASEAN Centre on Combating Marine Debris. 5. Contribute to EAS efforts to develop the regional plan of action on combating marine plastic debris.
Framework II: Research, Innovation and Capacity Building	
<p>A. Compile regional baseline on status and impacts of marine debris in the ASEAN Region.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and analyse information and data on status and impacts of marine debris in the ASEAN region, and develop a regional base-line report. 2. Assess information and data gaps, and identify possible approaches to bridge the gaps.
<p>B. Strengthen regional, national and local capacities to develop and implement national action plans/initiatives.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore standardisation of methods for the measurement and monitoring of marine debris, based on existing/established protocols. 2. Conduct capacity assessment on addressing marine debris issue where appropriate and when requested to assess the existing capacity and capacity need of the ASEAN Member States to address marine debris issues. 3. Provide trainings on combating marine debris among ASEAN Member States as well as with support from external parties including monitoring and management of marine debris.

Framework / Actions	Suggested Activities*
<p>C. Enhance scientific knowledge, transfer marine technology and promote innovative solution to combat marine debris.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support research and sharing of scientific knowledge, technology and innovation development among ASEAN Member States, including by engaging research institutions, public and private sectors, international partners, and other relevant stakeholders. 2. Promote cooperation and partnership across research institutions to collect and exchange data and information and develop collaboration on combating marine debris including through national and international events/meetings, exchange visits. 3. Promote efforts to identify and replicate innovative solutions implemented by cities for combating marine debris. 4. Enhance research/study on marine debris, including plastics and microplastics. 5. Explore the possible development of a network for sharing marine debris data and information. 6. Promote efforts on research and development cooperation on the development of environmentally-friendly alternatives in combating marine debris.
<p>D. Promote integration and application of scientific knowledge to enhance science-based decisions and policies on marine debris prevention and management.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote science-policy interface in order to enhance interaction between scientist and policy maker, and accessibility to scientific information. 2. Disseminate scientific knowledge through various communication channels such as peer-review publication, conferences/meetings and mass media. 3. Encourage participation of scientist in policy making process, when appropriate, in order to provide evidence-based inputs to the policy. 4. Encourage scientists to incorporate multiple points of view, especially from policy maker, into study design, delivery and communication.
<p>Framework III: Public Awareness, Education and Outreach</p>	
<p>A. Promote public awareness on status and impacts of marine debris and microplastics.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop communication materials on status and impacts of marine debris by incorporating science-based information. 2. Disseminate the information/materials to general public via advance communication platforms, mass media and public events.

Framework / Actions	Suggested Activities*
<p>B. Accelerate advocacy strategy/ programme to promote behavior change to combat marine debris, and to incorporate marine debris issue into ASEAN's Culture of Prevention Initiative.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop communication plan to promote public awareness and behavior change 2. Adapt and apply best practices and campaigns which successfully change behavior. 3. Share alternative solutions and practices to prevent and reduce land- and sea- based debris. 4. Integrate scientific finding on status and impacts of marine debris in advocacy strategy/programme. 5. Engage multi-stakeholders including youth, public and private sectors, and government agencies in advocacy programs and outreach activities on combating marine debris.
<p>C. Promote platforms for knowledge sharing, innovative solutions and best practices to combat marine debris.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organise expert exchange platforms and/or study-trip programmes. 2. Establish ASEAN information platform to exchange information and share innovative solution and best practices.
Framework IV: Private Sector Engagement	
<p>A. Promote collaborative actions with private sector and industry associations to implement measures to address marine debris issues.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support private sectors to implement measures to address marine debris issues.
<p>B. Encourage private sector investment in and contribution to combat marine debris.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage private sector in campaigns such as programme and campaign on circular economy, product life-cycle management, sustainable consumption and production and “3R” approaches. 2. Mainstream private sectors support to develop research and innovation such as through project funding, and prioritise CSR activities on combating marine debris. 3. Promote private sector investment in redesigning products/packaging and alternative materials. 4. Engage value chain stakeholders to establish enabling mechanisms /infrastructure to increase waste recovery and recycling rates.

**These are a listing of potential activities by ASEAN and its partners for further discussion under the proposed Action Plan (Framework I, Action D).*