Marine Litter

Global threat – Global Challenge

Ellik Adler, UNEP

UNEP's Global Initiative on Marine Litter

What's new…

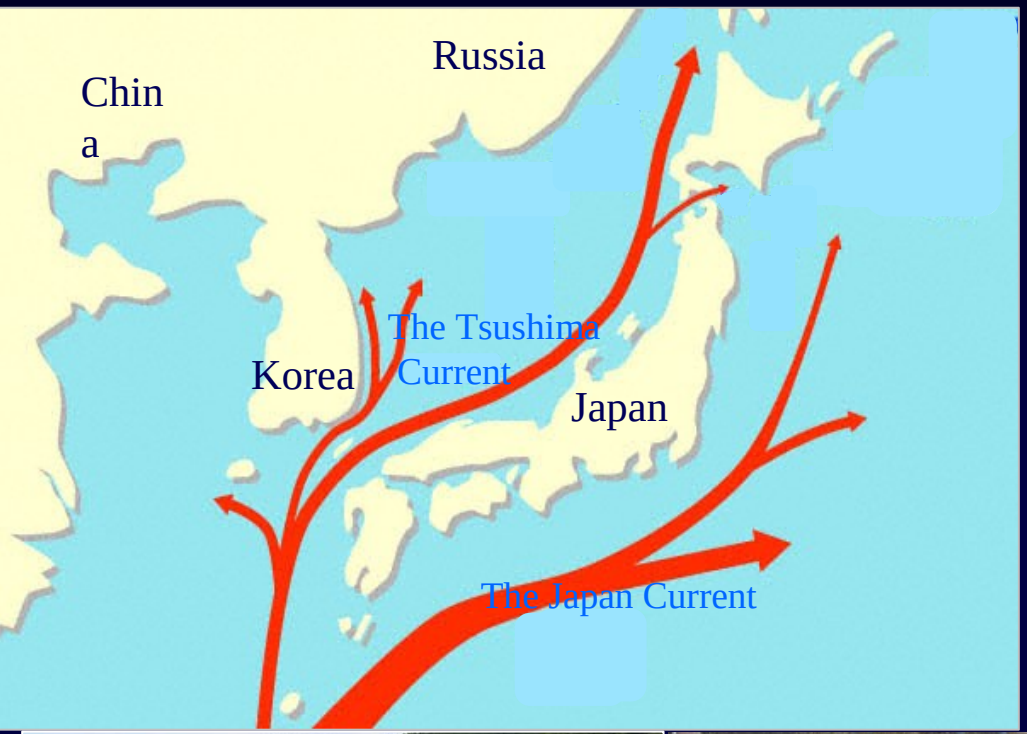
Just a reminder...

- ML is probably one of the most ‘exposed’ problems to the wide public; It affects, interests and irritates hundreds of millions of beach-goers, and many millions who are economically affected
- No other marine pollution component mobilizes such public participation and readiness to act
- A multi-sectoral problem
- A transboundary problem

RECENT OVERVIEW OF MARINE LITTER ISSUES IN JAPAN

Presenter :
Norihiko TANAKA, Deputy Director,
Global Environment Issues Division,
Ministry of the Environment
Tokyo, Japan

(1) Washed-up driftage from **foreign country**



Large volumes of plastic litters drift onto coasts and remote islands on the Japan Sea

Life articles

Fishing nets and ropes

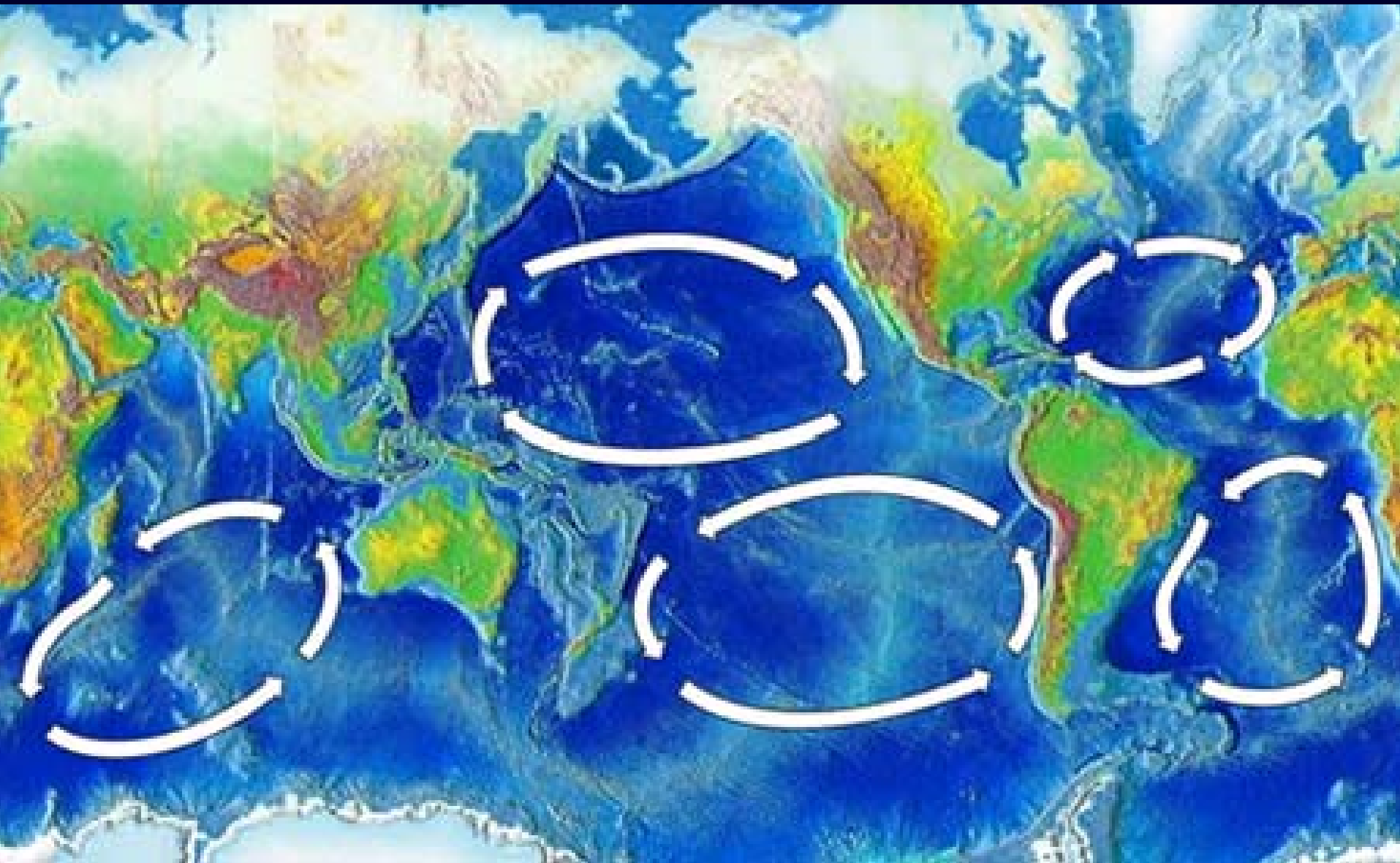
Styrofoam Floats

Plastic container

Definition of Marine Litter / Debris

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

The mid-ocean gyres – huge swirling mass of plastic



The Sea of Sadness (and Plastics)

One Hundred Million tons of Plastics in the Mid Pacific Trash Vortex…

970,000 ‘countable’ pieces of plastics per sq. km. and - unknown quantities of >5 mm pieces…

An increase of x3 in the last 10 years

100,000 marine mammals killed every year…

Platform for invasive species

Costs – some figures…

Seabed marine litter removal, Korea

- **UK – $3.9M to clean 900 km; collected 10,000 tons; Extrapolate for Europe…**
- **California – $350,000 for 6 miles…**
- **Shetland – each fishing boat loss – $16,000 to $50,000 per year**
- **Sweden – a small fishing community loss over $1M p/y**
- **USA – insurance companies: over $50M claims from fishermen due to ML**
- **UK – >200 rescues at sea because of fouled propellers - >$1.6M p/y**

This is
also
'costs'...

Problems and bottlenecks

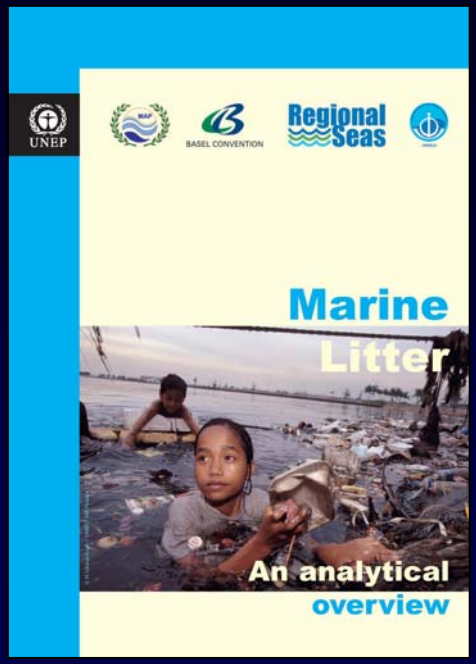
- Despite international, regional and national efforts, there are indications that marine litter is increasing; <u>Lack of scientific data</u>
- The lack of international legal instruments (except for Annex V) or Global Programmes
- Deficiencies in implementation and enforcement of existing regulations
- Lack of awareness among main stakeholders and the general public

ML is partially addressed by these Conventions and agreements

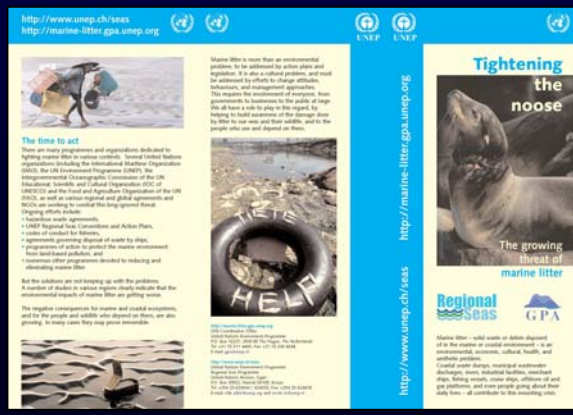
- IMO- MARPOL 73/78 Annex V (garbage from ships)
- London Convention and Protocol on Dumping
- Basel Convention
- Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
- CBD, with the Jakarta Mandate
- CMS - Convention on Migratory Species
- GPA - Global Prog of Action on LBA
- FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (abandoned/lost fishing gear)

OK, so what
is UNEP
doing about
this?....

UNEP's Global Initiative on Marine Litter



- The Analytical Review (Feasibility Study)
- Preparation of the GA decisions on Marine Litter!!
- Development of Regional Activities
- Cooperation with other U.N agencies
- Ties with the Civil Society and NGOs



A major achievement …

Decisions of the 60th United Nations General Assembly (Agenda item 75(a) -Nov. 2005; Resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea)

The General Assembly,

65. Notes the lack of information and data on marine debris and encourages relevant nations, regional and international organizations to undertake further studies on the extent and nature of the problem, also encourages States to develop partnerships with industry and civil society to raise awareness of the extent of the impact of marine debris on the health and productivity of the marine environment and consequent economic loss;

The General Assembly,

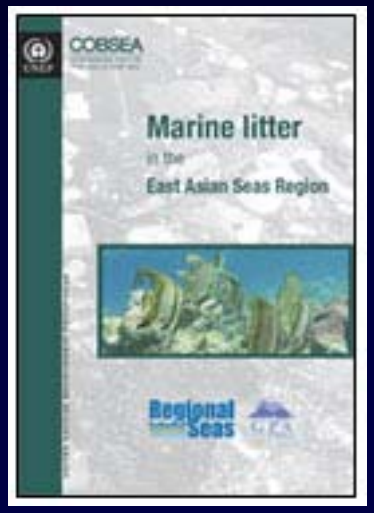
66. Urges States to integrate the issue of marine debris within national strategies dealing with recycling, reuse and reduction (of waste) and promote the development of appropriate economic incentives to address this issue, and encourages States to cooperate regionally and subregionally to develop and implement joint prevention and recovery programmes for marine debris;

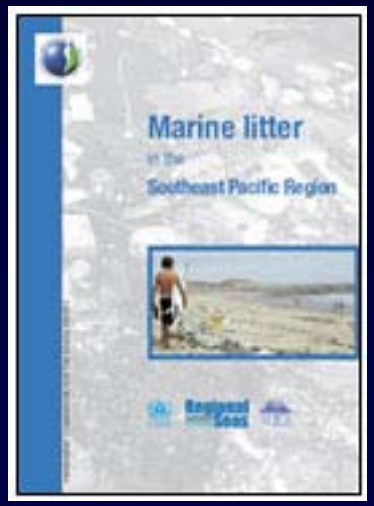
The 12 Regional Activities –

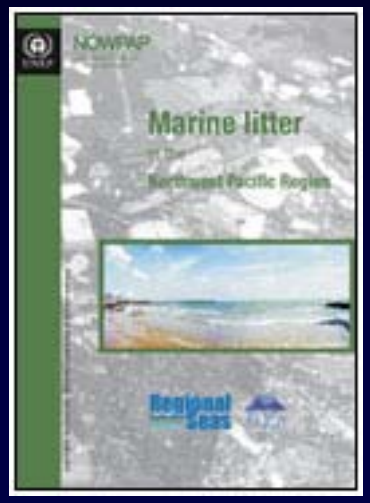
- Nat'l / regional **Assessments**, draft policy document, regional meeting of experts and nat'l authorities; final **Regional Action Plan** (or strategy).

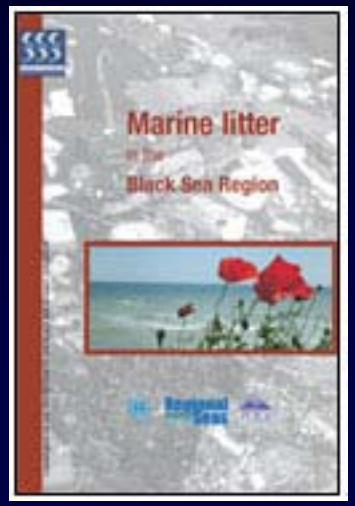
- **Role of RCUs:** Integrate the strategy into PoW; the legal system; achieve programmatic and financial sustainability.

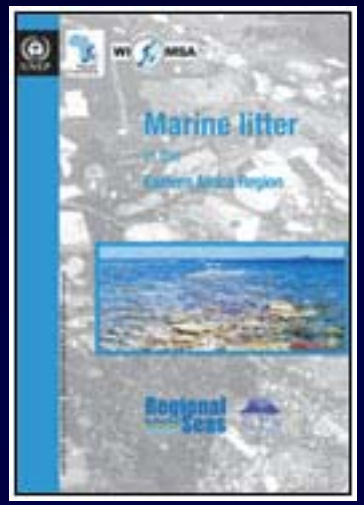
Regional Publications on Marine Litter

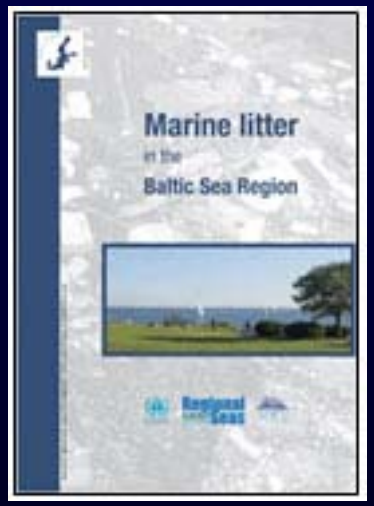


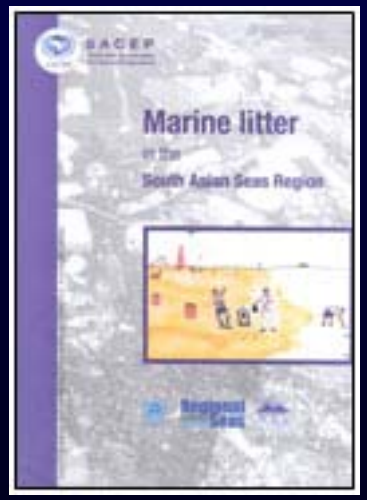


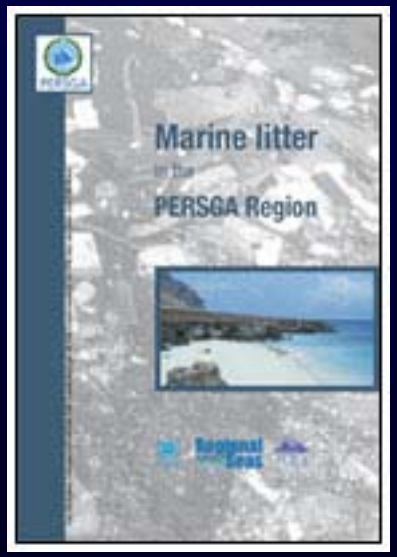


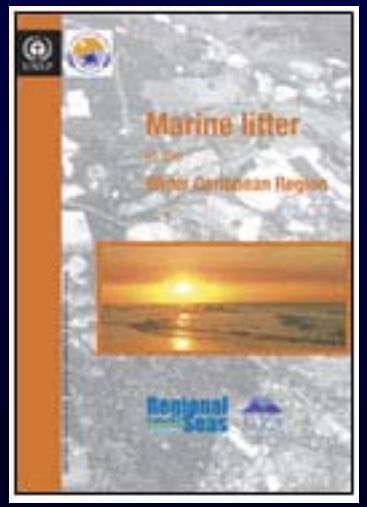












Regional Activities developed and sponsored under UNEP's Regional Seas

- Baltic Sea
- Black Sea
- Caspian Sea
- East Asian Seas
- Eastern Africa
- Mediterranean
- North West Pacific
- PERSGA
- South Asian Seas
- CPPS-South East Pacific
- Wider Caribbean
- OSPAR

And what about the others RSPs?

The Global Review and Analysis

- A 300 pages Global review and analyses based on the 12 regional studies and strategies;
- Most comprehensive and ‘global’ document on ML ever written;
- Including other Global Initiative products;
- Summary and Recommendations.

Abandoned and Lost Fishing Gear

UNEP and FAO Study: Abandoned and Lost Fishing Gear

Mandate: UNGA resolutions require action to reduce ALFG and marine debris in general.

Content:

magnitude and composition; causes; impacts; measures currently being taken to reduce ALFG; Recommendations for future actions.

General Assembly Resolution 60/31 3/2006 on Sustainable Fisheries: (extracts)

The General Assembly,

77. Calls upon States, FAO, IMO and UNEP, in particular its Regional Seas programme, regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and that have not yet done so to take action to address the issue of lost or abandoned fishing gear and related marine debris, including through the collection of data on gear loss, economic costs to fisheries and other sectors, and the impact on marine ecosystems;

79. Encourages close cooperation and coordination, as appropriate, between States, relevant intergovernmental organizations, UN programmes and other bodies, such as (FAO,UNEP,IMO GPA and Regional Seas arrangements, RFMOs to address the issue ALFG through initiatives such as analysis of the implementation and effectiveness of the existing measures relevant to the control and management of ALFG and related marine debris, the development and implementation of targeted studies to determine the socio-economic, technical and other factors that influence the accidental loss and deliberate disposal of fishing gear at sea, the assessment and implementation of preventive measures, incentives and/or disincentives relating to the loss and disposal of fishing gear at sea, and the development of best management practices;

79. **Encourages States, directly** and through regional and **subregional RFMOs**, to address the issue of lost and discarded fishing gear and related marine debris, through **joint prevention and recovery programmes**, establishing a clearinghouse mechanism to facilitate the sharing of information on fishing net types and other fishing gear, the regular, **long-term collection, collation and dissemination of information** on derelict fishing gear, and **national inventories of net types and other fishing gear**, as appropriate.

Cleanup of lost fishing gear – south west Japan

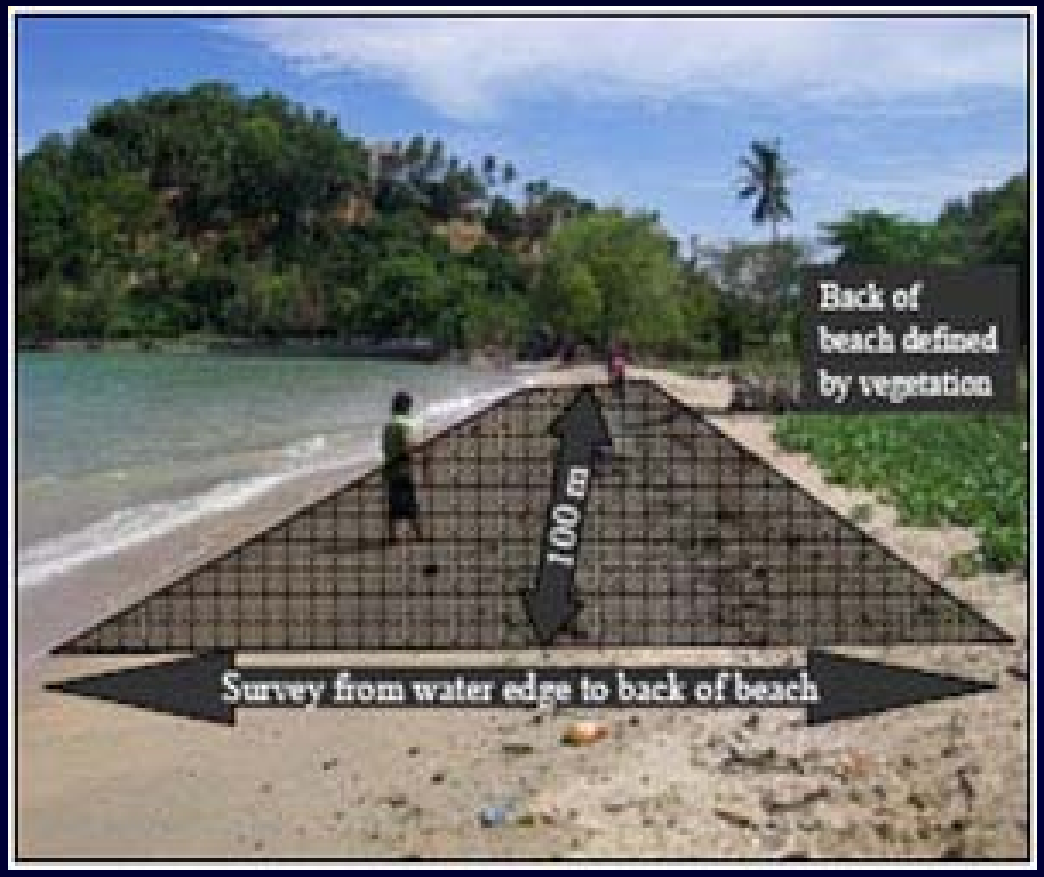
UNEP and IOC

Operational Guidelines on Survey and Monitoring of Marine Litter

As recognized in the UNGA Resolution A/60/L.22, one of the significant barriers to addressing marine litter is the absence of adequate science-based monitoring and assessment programmes that will provide useful information.

Although monitoring of ML is currently carried out in some countries, the methods of survey and monitoring used are different, preventing comparisons and harmonization of data across regions or time-scales.

The Global Guidelines



will assist scientists and policy makers in efforts to address the harmonization of monitoring and assessment of marine litter.

Developed by a world group of experts under Prof. Anthony Cheshire, Australia.

The Guidelines include a comparative analysis of existing methods for surveys, monitoring, reporting protocols and assessment of marine litter.

UNEP/IOC Guidelines

Guidelines for monitoring benthic litter;

Seabed litter;

Floating litter;

Beach and coastal litter;

Rapid Beach litter assessment.
Technical annexes, forms, etc.

The Guidelines do not include methods of statistical analysis and interpretation

2 Studies with APEC and with IEEP: The use of economic and market based instruments to address Marine Litter.

***Emission charges/fees/taxes; User charges/fees/taxes; Product charges; Non-compliance fees; Deposit-refund systems; Non-compliance bonds; Performance bonds; Liability payments; Subsidies*.**

The main Challenges of the Global Initiative

- Sustainability of the Global Initiative
- Sustainability of the Regional Plans + integration into RS PoW
- Cooperation with Global Partners (IMO, FAO, IOC, DTIE, Basel)
- The GEF Project (?)– change in GEF's priorities/strategies
- Special Focus on
  - Lost Fishing Gear
    - Economic Instruments
      - Global Monitoring Guidelines

We have to remember...

Marine litter is not an environmental problem that can be solved solely by means of legislation, law enforcement, beach cleaning campaigns and technical solutions.

Marine litter is also a cultural problem. Efforts to change attitudes, behaviours, management approaches, education and involvement of all sectors and interests, need to be undertaken.

So much to do…