

EC- UNEP Project: Identifying and quantifying plastic contaminant sources and leakages into the aquatic environment

Part of ONE UNEP Plastic Project on Accelerating a Global Circular Plastic Economy to Reduce Plastic Pollution and its impacts

Terms of reference for a Working Group to support the pilot application of plastic pollution inventory toolkit developed under the project

Background (Org. Setting)

UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC), in collaboration with the European Commission Directorate-General for the Environment (DG ENV), designed a [project](#) to develop a toolkit to identify and quantify the sources of plastic pollutants entering the aquatic environment. The project is structured around three key components: toolkit development, pilot application, and project outreach.

A multidisciplinary Working Group (WG) was [established](#) to support the first stage of toolkit development. This collaboration proved essential to creating a sound, consensus-based methodology aligned with the project's objective; bringing Component 1 to a successful [conclusion](#).

Building on this experience, the project team is launching a **new call** to identify WG members and experts to provide technical advisory support during the next stage of implementation: the pilot application. Under overall coordination of IETC, this pilot application will take place in Kenya from mid-2026 through early 2027, entailing a diverse range of technical iterations, stakeholder engagement and project outputs.

1. Expected Duration

The second phase of Working group work is expected to be active for **12 months** from the date of its initial meeting (planned for Jun/2026).

2. Specific tasks and responsibilities

Under the coordination of IETC, WG members will commit to:

- i. Review and provide feedback on workplans, methodologies and data collection efforts;
- ii. Attend and actively contribute to virtual activities throughout the pilot application, including technical group sessions, bilateral discussions and progress reviews.
- iii. Offer practical insights to ensure the toolkit's application accounts for local context, including socio-economic factors and data availability;
- iv. Review and evaluate draft results of the pilot application, providing actionable recommendations on how to address technical gaps, inconsistencies or uncertainties;
- v. Support the strengthening of the toolkit methodology by providing strategic recommendations based on lessons learned from the pilot application;
- vi. Support the project's outreach and uptake by sharing insights and indicating potential synergies with similar initiatives and relevant partners.

3. Expected level of effort and work modality

At least **two group meetings** will be held during the toolkit pilot application, in addition to specific work required for document review and technical, strategic project planning. These activities are estimated to require a dedication of **one to two hours per month**, in addition to time required for potential project travel.

The WG will operate primarily **online**. Travel may occasionally be required for specific technical activities or project milestones, contingent on members' availability.

4. Workplan

The schedule below is a tentative one, and WG members will be kept informed about updates and upcoming activities and tasks.

Activity	Format	2026			2027		
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Group meeting 1: Toolkit validation	Teams meeting						
Document review, bilateral discussions	Email, Teams calls						
Mission to Kenya	To be confirmed						
Group meeting 2: pilot application workshop	Teams meeting						
Outreach/visibility activities	To be coordinated						

For more information

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Project webpage <https://www.unep.org/ietc/what-we-do/plastic-waste-management/eu-funded-project-sustainable-plastic-waste-management>