SEA circular

solving plastic pollution at source

SEA circular

2019 Annual Report

revised report, submitted 9 April 2020

Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in South-East Asia

From concept to inception	SEA circular was conceptualized as a project to solve plastic pollution at source, through inspiring market-based solutions and encouraging enabling policies to prevent marine plastic pollution. Subsequent to the signing of the funding agreement, the project entered its inception phase in 2018, in which the results framework and the organization of the project were developed.
From inception to implementation	The inception phase took place over approximately one year. The project implementation phase commenced in 2019 upon approval of the inception phase report submitted on 28 June 2019. There were notable milestones in 2019, including the formation of governance arrangements with national governments and the development of contractual and delivery partnerships. Project outreach activities have established an active, attractive and recognizable presence for the project. Notable publications were launched. SEA of Solutions 2019 was a successful and significant event, highlighting pledges and solutions from all sectors.

UN environment programme

COBSEA
COORDINATING BODY ON THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA

Sweden
Sverige

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ABBREVIATIONS

3R: Reduce Reuse Recycle
AHEG: Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics
ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AWGCME: ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment
COBSEA: Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia
DENR: Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Thailand
DMCR: Department of Marine and Coastal Resources
ECNU: East China National University
EJF: Environmental Justice Foundation
EPR: Extended Producer Responsibility
ERIA: Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia
ESCAP: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EXRI: EX Research Institute
FIA: Food Industry Asia
FTI: Federation of Thai Industries
GESAMP: Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GIZ: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
GPA: Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
GPML: Global Partnership on Marine Litter
IPSAS: International Public Sector Accounting Standards
IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature
HRBA: Human Rights-based Approach
MESTECC: Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Malaysia
MGCC: Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Centre
MOE: Ministry of Environment
MONRE: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MOOC: Massive Open Online Course
MOU: Memorandum of Understanding
NUS: National University of Singapore
OHCHR: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
ORA: Ocean Recovery Alliance
PCG: Project Coordination Group
PDP: Plastic Disclosure Project
PIG: Project Implementation Group
PMU: Project Management Unit
PRO: Packaging Recovery Organization
PSC: Project Steering Committee
RAP MALI: COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
RF: Results Framework
SCG: Siam Cement Group
SDF: Sustainable Development Foundation
SEI: Stockholm Environment Institute

Sida: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SOS: SEA of Solutions
SSFA: Small-scale Funding Agreement
SWAT: Solid Waste Management Association of Thailand
TEI: Thailand Environment Institute
ToT: Training of Trainers
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme
UNOPS: United Nations Office for Project Services
VASI: Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands
WGML: COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter
WINA: World Instant Noodles Association
WMAM: Waste Management Association of Malaysia
WWF: World Wide Fund for Nature

1. BACKGROUND

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) are supporting countries in South-East Asia through the SEA circular project to reduce land-based sources of marine litter through better management of the plastics value chain, improved marine litter planning and monitoring, outreach and knowledge sharing. The project advocates the coordinated efforts from multiple stakeholders including governments, private sector, communities, researchers and academia. It also leverages the COBSEA intergovernmental mechanism to achieve the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) adopted in June 2019 which guides action to reduce land-based and sea-based sources of marine litter, strengthen science-based monitoring programmes, and improve regional cooperation and outreach. SEA circular advances to create partnerships, strengthen commitments and foster ownership and engagement among stakeholders in the region.

Project title	'SEA circular: solving plastic pollution at source' Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in South-East Asia
Project duration	August 2018 – February 2023 (54 months, including inception phase)
Reporting period	1 January – 31 December 2019
Country(s) covered	Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam (target countries), Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Singapore (knowledge partners)
Project starting date	10 August 2018
Executing agencies	United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific (UNEP ROAP) and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
Donor	Government of Sweden - the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

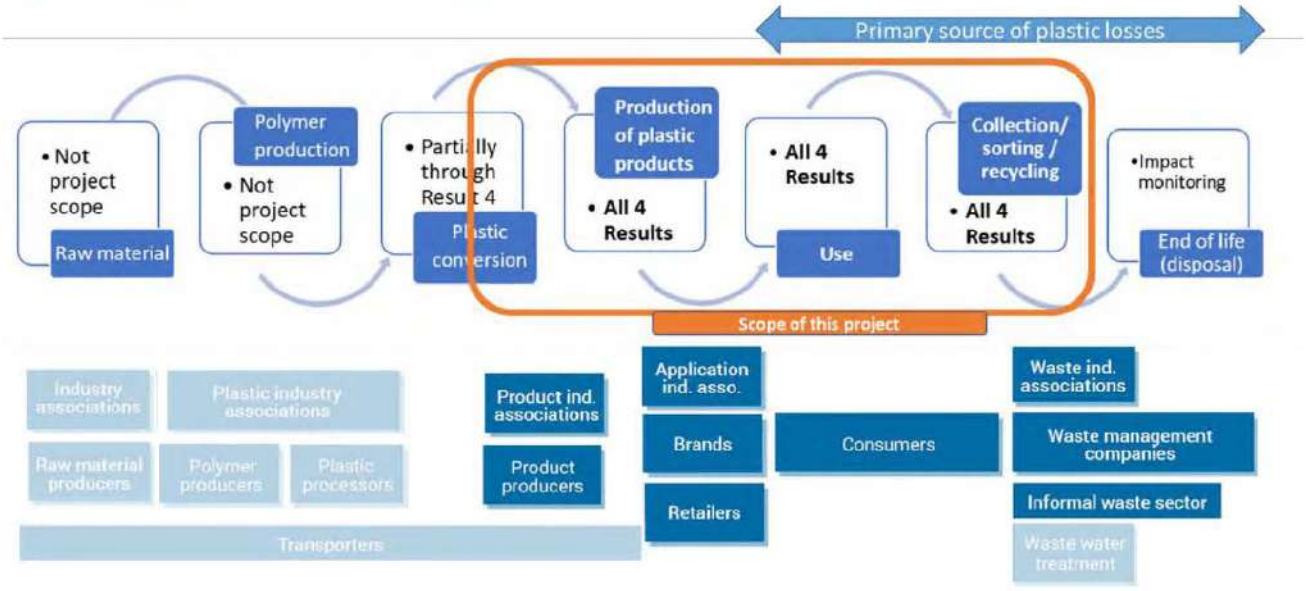
Project impact	Less plastic wasted, with reduced input to and impact on the marine environment as well as dependent people
Project outcomes	• Reduction in plastic that are difficult to collect and recycle • Increase in plastic reuse and recycle • Increase in awareness about marine litter and plastic pollution, and public and consumer support for policies to fight it
Project outputs	• Output 1: Market-based solutions towards 'less plastic wasted' • Output 2: Strengthening the scientific basis for decision-making • Output 3: Outreach • Output 4: Regional networking

About SEA circular

SEA circular aims to reduce adverse impact of land-based plastic leakage into the marine environment, by ensuring that less plastic is wasted at source and management of the plastic value chain is improved in South-East Asia. Considering waste management systems in the region remain largely inadequate to process increasing amounts of plastic waste, the project focuses on the lifecycle stages of (i) Production of plastic products, (ii) Plastic use, and (iii) Collection / sorting / recycling, to ensure that less plastic is wasted and strategically prevent plastic litter entering the ocean.

To achieve these objectives, SEA circular partners with national and local government agencies, businesses, producers, retailers, and associations in the packaging, consumer and institutional products industry. To promote inclusive whole-of-value-chain planning at the national and regional level, project activities actively engages civil society, consumers, informal waste workers, and communities most vulnerable to the impacts of marine litter.

Figure 1: Key plastic value chain stages and stakeholders



Products and Associations
- Malaysia Plastics Forum
- Public Private Partnership for Sustainable Plastic and Waste Management through Thailand Environment Institute (TEI)
- Plastic Institute of Thailand
- Thailand Plastics Industries Association

Others
- SCG Chemicals Co. (Raw material producer)
- UOB (Bank)

Application Industry Association
- Thai Beverages Industry Association
- Food Industry Asia (FIA)
- World Instant Noodles Association (WINA)

Consumer brands
- 35 member companies of FIA
- 13 member companies of WINA
- Coca Cola (Malaysia and Thailand)

Retailers and Contract Services
- IKEA Malaysia + IKANO Thailand
- Sodexo
- Food Panda

Waste industry / companies
- Solid Waste Management Association of Thailand
- Waste Management Association of Malaysia
- Heng Hiap Industries (Malaysia)
- Thai Negoro Co.
- GRACZ Thailand
- Miniwiz Co.

Informal waste sector
- WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing)

Coastal communities
- Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)

SEA circular
solving plastic pollution at source

This report illustrates the overall implementation progress, operational results and financial reporting of the SEA circular from 1 January to 31 December 2019, measured against the Workplan 2019 submitted with the Inception Report.

2. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR SEA CIRCULAR IN 2019

During 2019, SEA circular made substantial strides in forging partnerships and generating outreach. Highlights include governance arrangements with national governments and the forging of contractual and delivery partnerships to ensure the project is well placed to deliver effectively under each Output. Adoption of the (revised) RAP MALI has established common priorities in addressing marine litter across all countries of the region. A human rights-based approach (HRBA) and gender perspective has been mainstreamed across all SEA circular Outputs and activities in 2019 to guide implementation of a HRBA to plastic pollution prevention. SEA circular has worked to synergize and connect the work of multiple stakeholders and actors in various sectors. Project outreach activities have established an active, attractive and recognizable presence for the project.

2.1 PROJECT GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Substantial progress in 2019 included the successful completion of the inception phase of the project, finalizing of the project governance arrangements, identifying and entering into partnership agreements with COBSEA national government focal points and other project executing partners (see 2.1.4), and implementing output-based activities.

2.1.1 Inception phase report

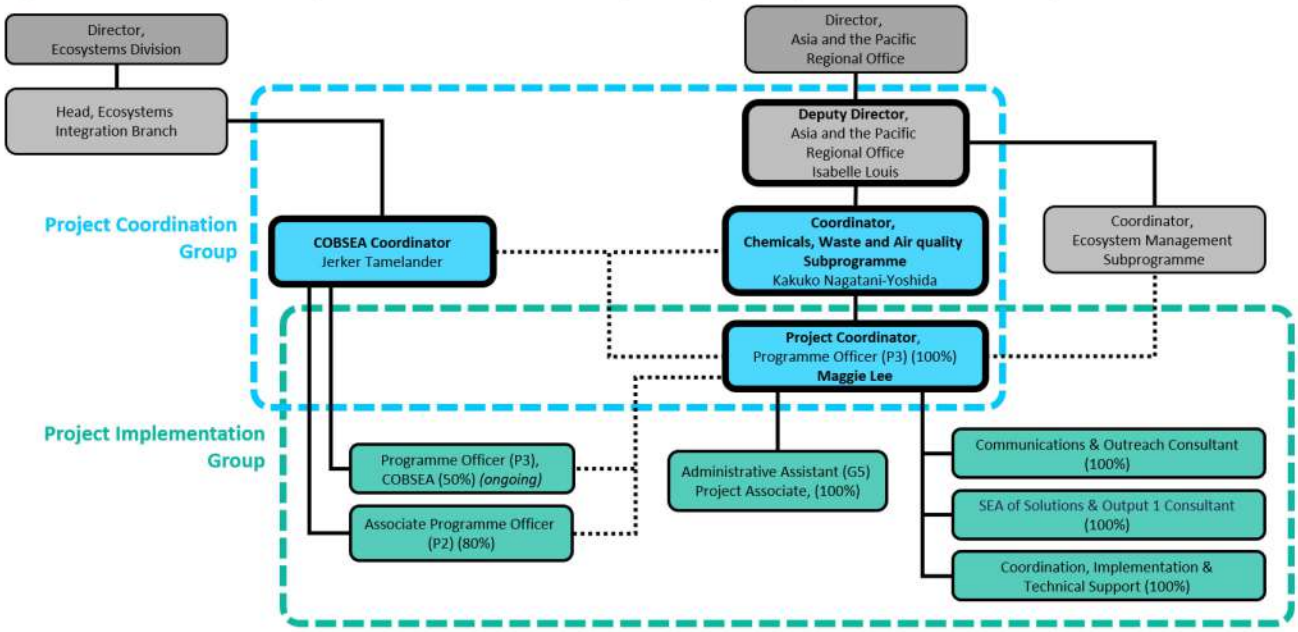
UNEP submitted the inception phase report on 28 June 2019, which was endorsed by the Government of Sweden.

2.1.2 Recruitment of the SEA circular project team and institutional capacity

In 2019, the project team experienced delays in recruitment and faced capacity challenges for implementation. To reduce delays and build the foundation for accelerated action pending the recruitment of the Project Coordinator, the project team fast-tracked the recruitment of regional and national consultants with relevant expertise to deliver specific tasks: a communications and outreach consultant supported the development of a project brand and established project outreach channels to promote results and track impact; a consultant with key expertise in event management and private sector engagement was hired to support the organization of SEA of Solutions and activities under Output 1; an interim coordinator was brought on board to support partnership development and project coordination for 6 months; national consultants in Malaysia (starting date: 20 August) and Thailand (starting date: 5 November) facilitated stakeholder consultations and mapping, and identification of pilot locations, needs and opportunities as a basis for targeted activities in 2020; and a national consultant in Viet Nam (starting date: 15 October) was recruited to support marine litter planning and monitoring activities. The Project Coordinator joined on 11 November and the Administrative Assistance joined full-time on 2 December, the recruitment of a COBSEA P3 has entered the final stage. Since November, the project

management tasks have been successfully handed over, and all members of the PIG are enabled to fulfil their respective roles to accelerate the rate of delivery in 2020. Continued strategic support and oversight is provided by the UNEP Deputy Regional Director, the UNEP Regional Coordinator for Chemicals, Waste, and Air Quality, and the Coordinator of the COBSEA Secretariat. The capacity of the COBSEA Secretariat has also increased significantly in 2019, enabled in part through the SEA circular project, including the recruitment of a P2 Marine Litter Focal Point with added expertise in HRBA. UNEP is committed to strengthening project governance in the future.

Figure 2: SEA circular Project Coordination Group / Project Implementation Group (2019)



2.1.3 Nomination of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) members

The full complement of the 10-member PSC was established during 2019. See ANNEX 4: PSC MEMBERS.

The PSC provides strategic guidance to the SEA circular project. In September 2019, an informal meeting of the PSC was convened, to update the PSC on project activities, communications and outreach, and the plans for SEA of Solutions 2019 (SOS2019). Feedback was gathered on the new SEA circular branding and website (launched August 2019) and the concept, programme, planning for SOS2019.

The second formal meeting of the PSC (PSC 2) was convened on 9 December 2019. During this meeting, the project progress for 2018-2019 was reviewed, and the draft framework of the 2020 work plan was shared. The PSC offered several recommendations for the project moving forward, including to conduct a quarterly update on the project progress, potentially virtually, in addition to one annual meeting. The committee also emphasized the need for active participation of all

members in PSC meetings, with a recommendation to review the membership if members did not physically participate in consecutive meetings. In terms of project implementation, the committee suggested to prioritize activities shifting from primarily planning, consultations and report production to results based activities that lead to achievements by the project and its partners that demonstrate less plastic is wasted. The PSC also recommended to identify innovative outreach activities, partnerships and campaign style messages to actively promote an enhanced visibility of project's niche approach and to mobilize results and solutions to reduce plastic pollution. The report of PSC 2 is provided in Annex 2.

2.1.4 Project implementing partnerships

The SEA circular project team has driven forward the process of creating partnerships[1] with national government focal agencies (Ministries and their Departments) and executing organizations, to implement joint activities through Small-scale Funding Agreements (SSFA) with UNEP.

The Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC) Malaysia established a Project Management Unit (PMU) to facilitate the implementation of SEA circular activities. The PMU's Scientific Advisory Committee together with other relevant Working Groups and the SEA circular national consultant for Malaysia will be working closely to deliver the SEA circular outputs relevant to Malaysia. In addition to providing day-to-day coordination of project activities, structures like the PMU illustrates the Government's ownership of and commitment to the project, which will continue in 2020, despite the announced re-structuring of MESTECC in early 2020 (for more details, see the 2020 Work Plan). Through SEA circular, MESTECC is driving forward and further strengthening efforts to develop and implement national policies and programmes on plastics and marine litter, including Malaysia's Roadmap towards Zero Single-use Plastics 2018-2030, delivering on the COBSEA RAP MALI. An SSFA on national activities in Malaysia has been developed and is in final draft form. MESTECC has appointed the Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Centre (MGCC) (formerly known as Malaysian Green Technology Corporation) as signatory to the SSFA, as a direct implementing partner of the Ministry. This will accelerate progress following delay in development of the SSFA due to a lengthy review and approval processes involving the Attorney General's Office. Besides national focal organizations, several other private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia and research institutions have been approached for partnership to execute project activities, including the Petaling Jaya Low Carbon Green City Task Force and Penang Green Council in pilot sites, Waste Management Association of Malaysia (WMAM), iCycle (Terra Phoenix Group of Companies), EcoKnights, The Green Guerilla Malaysia, and a range of Universities who attended stakeholder consultations.

[1] More information on engagement of stakeholders identified in 2019 in upcoming project activities is provided in the 2020 Work Plan and Results Frameworks for target countries attached to the 2020 Work Plan. An overview of key stakeholders along the value chain (non-exhaustive) is presented in Figure 1.

In Thailand, project activities are more decentralized due to fragmented responsibilities across departments of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE). The project has established regular communication channels with the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) through COBSEA National Focal Points, with the Pollution Control Department (PCD), and local authorities in the demonstration site of Koh Samet, Rayong Province, supported by a national consultant. The Solid Waste Management Association of Thailand (SWAT) was engaged as a partner to facilitate pilot good practice activities under Output 1 (SSFA signed in February 2020). To provide targeted technical assistance, leverage synergies and avoid duplication of efforts under the ASEAN-World Bank support provided to Thailand, DMCR has suggested a focus of SEA circular activities under Outputs 2 and 4 on strengthening monitoring programmes and implementing the RAP MALI. This includes conducting hotspot assessments and building capacity for systematic data collection at the national level in cooperation with DMCR's research centres and a university partner. In 2019, specific needs, existing sources of marine litter data and respective responsibilities across agencies was mapped with the support of a national consultant, to inform targeted activities in 2020 (see 2020 Work Plan for details). Additional stakeholders engaged in activities in Thailand, including in stakeholder consultations and SEA of Solutions, range from national and local authorities, to businesses, trade associations, academia and civil society entities, such as Samet National Park administration, Phe Subdistrict Administrative Organization and Mueng Klaeng Municipality, the Food Administration Department, the Public Private Partnership on Plastic Waste, Thai Beverage Industry Association, Federation of Thai Industries (FTI), the Siam Cement Group (SCG), Chulalongkorn and Thammasat Universities, Thailand Environment Institute (TEI), the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), and Trash Hero.

Delivery partnerships

SEA circular has formed, and is in the process of forming, delivery partnerships with the following organizations to contribute to project impact. The status of delivery partnerships are as follows:

No.	Delivery Partner	Status*	Contribution to the project outputs
1	Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC) - Malaysia	Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Centre (MGCC) has been nominated, SSFA developed, pending signature	Output 1, 2, 3,4
2	Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) - Thailand	Implementation partner(s) for hotspot assessments identified – (Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) and/or a university in coordination with DMCR's	Output 2, 4

No.	Delivery Partner	Status*	Contribution to the project outputs
		Marine and Coastal Resources Research Centre). National consultant hired	
3	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Philippines	SSFA developed. Recruitment of national consultant pending (under recruitment)	Output 2, 3, 4
4	Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI)	SSFA developed. National consultant hired	Output 2, 3, 4
5	Ministry of Environment (MOE) of Cambodia	SSFA developed. Recruitment of national consultant pending (under recruitment)	Output 2, 3, 4
6	UNEP ROAP- Coca- Cola South East Asia Joint Partnership	Joint partnership agreement (non-SSFA no funding involved) signed on 30 May 2018	(non-SEA circular funding, contributing to Output 1- Zero Plastic Waste Koh Samet)

Contractual partnerships

SEA circular has entered into, or is in the process of entering into, contractual partnerships with the following organizations to deliver specific activities and products and contribute to the project outputs (for detailed information on joint activities, see Chapter 3, Results Framework and 2020 Work Plan for upcoming activities):

No.	Contractual Partner	Status*	Contribution to the project outputs
1	National University of Singapore (NUS)	Finalization of deliverables	Output 2, 4: mapping of research and development of a Regional Node (non-SEA circular funding)
2	Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)	Pending partner signature	Output 2, 4: knowledge management, joint development of a Regional Node
3	GA Circular	Due diligence in final stage	Output 1: plastic material flow and value chain analysis, landfill waste composition analysis, Solution Analysis for market transformation
4	Food Industry Asia (FIA)	Agreement signed	Output 1, 3: Business incentive and consumer awareness surveys
5	Ocean Recovery Alliance (ORA)	Agreement signed	Output 1: PDP training, Solutions Analysis on plastic avoidance and upcycling
6	Solid Waste Management Association of Thailand (SWAT)	Agreement signed (Feb 2020)	Output 1, 4: Plastic footprint reporting of 10 private companies (and 2 local governments), Solutions Analysis on

No.	Contractual Partner	Status*	Contribution to the project outputs
			improved collection, treatment and disposal of plastic waste, industry roundtables
7	Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)	Task completed	Output 3: Report on gender, human rights and economic dimensions of marine litter in the East Asian Seas

* As of 31 Dec 2019

- Task completed
- SSFA finalised / pending signature
- Agreement signed
- Partner identified

2.1.5 Mainstreaming a human rights-based approach

The project aims to take an overall human rights-based approach (HRBA) throughout the project. This provides among others an opportunity to recognize and address the underlying causes of discriminate impacts of pollution and environmental degradation. By applying a human rights lens, the project aims to empower and engage coastal communities and vulnerable groups in participatory processes and identifies opportunities to build the capacity of governments and businesses as duty bearers to act and protect the right to a healthy environment.

SEA circular activities in 2019 continued to mainstream and communicate these HRBA and gender-responsive aspects of marine plastic pollution to implementing partners and stakeholders. An in-depth analysis and documentation of 'Marine plastic litter in East Asian Seas: Gender, human rights and economic dimensions' was completed and launched at SEA of Solutions 2019. The evidence base gathered in the report, including knowledge gaps identified, informed a session on gender and human rights and marine pollution at the event, that engaged a broad range of stakeholders, including representatives of informal waste workers. The findings and recommendations from the report will inform project implementation in 2020 and onwards to ensure a fair, equitable and ethically-sound course of action, that leads to more effective, appropriate and sustainable outcomes in the longer term.

The working partnership established during the inception phase with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been strengthened through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNEP and OHCHR. With support from the UNEP Law Division, the SEA circular team is building on the work plan developed in line with the MoU and has identified opportunities for joint activities and leveraging of joint networks to effectively apply the HRBA across project activities. This includes a series of HRBA trainings for UNEP, regular knowledge exchange meetings, adaptation and application of tools and knowledge products, joint events, and joint development of trainings to develop the capacity of implementing partners and duty-bearers (including the adaptation of an

online course developed on environmental rights). The awareness of the project team and implementing partners has been strengthened to apply the HRBA lens across Outputs, such as prioritizing and communicating inclusive solutions; promoting accountability mechanisms; creating safe spaces for exchange to identify needs and interests e.g. of waste pickers; and adapting project communications and outreach to raise visibility of the importance of gender equality and human rights, use gender-responsive and culturally sensitive language and ensure accessible communication channels, and sharing good practice examples.

In conclusion, efforts in 2019 have been crucial to develop a HRBA, scope the knowledge, needs and sensitivities of executing partners and stakeholders, build the capacity of the project team on HRBA, establish partnerships with entities with human rights mandates and conceptualize activities to out a HRBA into action. In 2020, the project will accelerate implementation of mainstreaming efforts to demonstrate and catalyse people-centred solutions e.g. in pilot sites, in close coordination with OHCHR and local partners as relevant.

2.1.6 Synergies with other regional and global projects on plastic waste

SEA circular project advocates the coordinated efforts from multiple stakeholders including governments, private sector, communities, researchers and academia to reduce marine plastic litter. During 2019, the project team continued to engage in various networking meeting, consultation workshops and dialogues with stakeholders at national and regional levels to minimize the risk of duplication and overlapping with other initiatives on plastic pollution and achieve synergies with similar efforts to reduce marine plastic pollution in South-East Asia. For instance, in all Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat and the World Bank's ProBlue investment efforts is ongoing to avoid duplication in the development of National Action Plans. The project team identified areas for collaboration and to leverage synergies at the ASEAN/World Bank/Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) workshop on 'Supporting Marine Debris Reduction in ASEAN Member States' held on 29-30 October 2019. Discussions are ongoing *inter alia* with Thailand's DMCR to ensure a high degree of complementarity at the country level.

SEA circular increased its presence and representation at global / regional conferences and events in Q4 2019, as the full project team was assembled in Nov 2019. For example, SEA circular was represented in panel discussions during the 'International Conference on Sustainable Energy and Green Technology – Combating Plastics Pollution and Marin Litter Through Sustainable Public Procurement and Circular Economy', held on 13 December 2019 in Bangkok. SEA circular was also represented at the workshop held by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) MARPLASTICCs project, on 17 December 2019 in Bangkok. Progress was made in identifying the niche for SEA circular amongst other plastic and marine litter projects in the region, namely the people-centred value chain approach that addresses upstream sources of marine litter as well as

monitoring flows and impacts, and leverages COBSEA as an established intergovernmental mechanism. This provided an opportunity to discuss the project's role, alongside other UNEP projects in marine litter. The workshop was attended by project leads on plastic and marine litter. The need for better alignment of assessment methodology was identified and coordination continued in early 2020, including through the establishment of a project leads coordination group and a working group on analyses and monitoring. (More information on activities under this coordination group are provided in the 2020 Work Plan.)

2.1.7 Mapping of research efforts and initiatives in the COBSEA/ASEAN+3 region

In 2019, COBSEA leveraged additional non-project funding to expand and deliver Result 2.3, namely an extensive scoping of existing marine litter research and initiatives in COBSEA and ASEAN+3[2] countries. The National University of Singapore (NUS) was engaged as an academic research partner to conduct the analysis and draft a review report, which is currently being finalized. The scoping includes a dataset of peer-reviewed research in the region, an national analysis of research and initiatives in South-East and East Asia; a review of global and regional-level policy instruments, institutions and initiatives relevant for marine litter action, including finance institutions and partnerships, public and private sector efforts; and an analysis of gaps, needs and recommendations related to the implementation of the COBSEA RAP MALI. The findings will be published and disseminated through SEA circular, COBSEA and NUS channels in the first quarter of 2020 and developed into a searchable inventory of marine litter research efforts, institutions and initiatives, targeting primarily COBSEA National Focal Agencies, as well as research entities, development cooperation partners, and stakeholders engaged in SEA circular. The findings will contribute to strengthening the regional evidence base on marine litter and will provide access to relevant data generated in the region to inform more robust policy making. The gaps and needs assessment and outcomes of the analysis support results under Output 4 and will feed into the establishment of a Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML).

2.2 PROJECT COMMUNICATIONS

SEA circular has made considerable strides forward in establishing and advancing the visibility of the project during 2019. Highlights have included brand development, launch of two web platforms, the launch of two high profile publications, development of multimedia, publicity and media successes, social media outreach, and the communications outreach and knowledge management strategy and implementation for SEA of Solutions 2019.

[2] ASEAN+3 includes the 10 members of ASEAN: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam, plus the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

2.2.1 Brand development

SEA circular brand development was conducted in June 2019. During this time, the project logos, brand board, messaging and template designs were developed and disseminated. Designs were developed and consultation undertaken for the SEA circular project website in July 2019.

2.2.2 SEA circular web platforms

The SEA circular platform (www.sea-circular.org) was launched in August 2019, providing a hub for programme outreach and visibility, as well as knowledge management and dissemination. The aims for the platform are to provide the following:

- Knowledge hub for the region on solutions to plastic waste and initiatives to prevent marine plastic pollution, targeting policy makers in COBSEA countries, research and academia, civil society organizations and representatives of disadvantaged groups, businesses and producers;
- Go-to platform bringing together regional action, policy making, private sector initiatives to track, highlight and maximize solutions and action and advocate for people-centred solutions;
- Highlight champions amongst consumers, producers, and governments for gender and human rights elements of plastic use, disposal and marine litter through storytelling. This activity explicitly aims at empowering young entrepreneurs, women and initiatives engaging disadvantaged groups such as coastal communities and informal waste workers.

The platform features Regional Solutions partners - bringing inspiration and action to find solutions to plastic pollution at source. In addition, news and updates from around the region on plastic waste reduction and marine litter are highlighted. A regionally focussed resources section features publications, videos and training materials, forming a knowledge repository with the latest scientific data, policy developments and advocacy initiatives.

Following launch of the SEA circular website in August 2019 (4 months) the platform has expanded to 35+ pages, covering nine countries, news, 30+ resources in resource repository and six partner interviews. There were 1,000+visitors, 3,000+ page views 25+ linkages to partners, resources, external content during the first four months since launch in Aug 2019. The website was established as a sustainable and cost-effective portal, utilizing an opensource content management system, on a managed cloud-based server – which will be maintained at very low cost. In addition, the SEA of Solutions 2019 web platform was launched in September 2019 under the SEA circular domain (http://sos2019.sea-circular.org/).

SEA circular has launched two publications which have been well received, namely, 'The role of packaging regulations and standards in driving the circular economy' and 'Marine plastic litter in East Asian Seas: Gender, human rights and economic dimensions'.

A short film series for social media has generated excellent viewing stats and secured a broad outreach on various channels. SEA circular has been active on YouTube, Twitter, Flick and Facebook (under the UNEP Asia-Pacific group). Outreach has also included posters, booths, flyers and brief brochures to bring visibility to SEA circular. Further details are below under Output 3.

3. OVERALL RESULTS AND 2019 PROGRESS

This section contains key results, successes and lessons learned, in implementing SEA circular activities in 2019 against each Output and Result, as defined in the SEA circular Results Framework (ANNEX 5).

The baseline calculation for Outcome Indicators was undertaken in 2019 and is pending provision of additional data from Thailand. In the upcoming project cycle, reporting on Outcome and Output Indicators will be strengthened through additional data collection, including results of the business incentive and consumer awareness surveys. Dissemination and use of knowledge and outreach products will be tracked more strategically through project communication channels established in 2019 (such as the project website and newsletter). More information is provided in the updated Communications Strategy as an Annex to the revised 2020 Work Plan.

3.1 Results achieved for Output 1: Market-based solutions to 'less plastic wasted'

In 2019, the SEA circular team made substantial progress in preparing the groundwork and identified executing partners to conduct activities under Output 1. Under this output, SEA circular will encourage businesses to reduce, reuse and recycle plastic. Activities here include identifying incentives for businesses to reduce plastic wastage and leakage through Business Incentive surveys, support to measure and report their plastic footprint (PF) – which will be achieved through the plastic disclosure project (PDP), and the application of market transforming solutions on plastic reduction, re-use, recycling, upcycling, and recovery – via demonstrations of these solutions.

The table below illustrates the results achieved and progress made for Output 1:

Activities	2019 Target	2019 Progress[3]	Description of progress
Result 1.1 Stakeholders in South-East Asia measure and report their plastic footprint			
Collection of cases of plastic re-use and recycle and of reduction and elimination of single-use plastics and hard-to-recycle plastic packaging and preparation of factsheets	10 case studies	25%	Focal initiatives and organizations for case studies on plastic re-use, recycling and reduction have been identified during SEA of Solutions 2019 (SOS2019). Further businesses for case studies focus will be identified during the ongoing Plastic Footprint work, planned in Q1 and Q2 of 2020. 10 case studies will be prepared in 2020.

[3] 0% = no progress, 25% - activity initiated, 50% - under implementation, 75% - near completion, 100% - completed

Activities	2019 Target	2019 Progress[3]	Description of progress
Raise awareness on human rights and businesses: Dissemination of information material such as issue papers on human rights-based approach and gender dimensions of plastic management and marine litter	2 issue briefs	100%	Two issue papers on a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) and gender equality were developed and included in the inception phase report. These issues briefs have been finalized with input from OHCHR and others, shared with executing partners, and published through the SEA circular website. The report 'Marine plastic litter in East Asian Seas: Gender, human rights and economic dimensions' was launched at SOS2019 and published on the website (see Output 3).
Delivery of dedicated one-day trainings on human rights, gender equality & applying UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights for stakeholders and UN Environment colleagues	1 training	50%	The UNEP Regional Office has established a partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). SEA circular is engaged in the process and part of the coordination team, including regular knowledge exchange meetings. SEA circular is working with UNEP Law Division and OHCHR and UNDP to deliver HRBA trainings to colleagues and partners (1 internal training delivered in February 2020, outside of reporting period).
Plastic value chain analysis for the beverage, food, and retail industry and for low-value materials including flexibles (recognizing/ addressing gender-specific needs and contributions of disadvantaged groups) Landfill composition analysis (where landfill access is provided by	1 report	50%	Elaboration and scope of the research has been developed and agreed with GA Circular. Scope of the work defined is for detailed plastic material flow and value chain analysis (disaggregation of data by gender and including informal activities); landfill composition analysis, and solutions analysis for plastic recycling and energy recovery. The aim is to identify opportunities for increasing collection for recycling and energy recovery, reducing leakage of low-value materials and easing of bottlenecks/inefficiencies in plastic value chain management. These activities are planned for completion in Q3 2020.

Activities	2019 Target	2019 Progress[3]	Description of progress
landfill operators) representative of waste entering the landfills to verify landfill rates for both high value and low value plastic materials entering the landfills in Thailand			
Training on Plastic Disclosure Project and technical support towards preparation of information on plastic footprint in Malaysia and Thailand	1 local government in 2 countries trained At least 2 companies in 2 countries report on footprint	50%	SEA circular team will conduct Plastic Disclosure Project (PDP) training in 2 pilot sites in Thailand and Malaysia – (Penang and Petaling Jaya in Malaysia, Koh Samet, Rayong Province and likely Chiang Mai in Thailand), engaging 10 private companies in Thailand and Malaysia (at least 2 companies to report footprint after training). ORA is identified as the partner to deliver the PDP training, and a partnership agreement is signed. In Malaysia, the groundwork for targeting companies for PDP training was conducted during the national stakeholder consultation on 5-6 November 2019. Around 80 small and medium-sized local companies have expressed interest in joining the training which has been scheduled for 23-24 March 2020. Activities are carried out in close coordination with MESTECC. In Thailand, the project team worked closely with SWAT to identify interested companies across the plastic value chain as potential participants in the PDP training (SWAT is piloting the reporting). The criteria for company selection include relevant sector (i.e., Food &Beverage, Retail, Hotels and Tourism), extent of plastic use in their Business to Business (B2B) operations (should be intrinsic to their operations vs incidental), etc. The Partnership agreement with SWAT was signed end of February.

Result 1.2 Stakeholders in South-East Asia demonstrate ability to manage plastic value chain better			
Identification of inclusive market transformation solutions on plastic reduction, reuse and recycling: i) Solutions analysis for plastic recycling and energy recovery	1 part of solutions analysis report	0%	Scope of work has been defined with GA circular to carry out inclusive market transformation solutions analysis for plastic recycling and energy recovery. Solutions identified include modern technologies that convert non-recyclable plastic from landfills into energy (electricity, fuels), co-processing, and recycled feedstock for new plastics and other products. Contractual arrangements are pending finalization of due diligence processes.
ii) Solutions analysis for improvement on plastic waste management - segregation at source, collection coverage, and plastic disposal (including informal activities)	1 part of solutions analysis report	25%	SWAT has been identified as a partner to carry out solutions analysis for improvement of plastic waste management segregation at source, collection coverage and plastic disposal. Potential solutions identified include plastic recovery by optimizing collection (e.g. through Packaging Recovery Organizations), incentive schemes for returning used plastic bottles, bans on certain kinds of plastic. Results will include recommendations for people-centred solutions that integrate/engage the informal sector and recognize their contributions to waste recovery and recycling. Contractual arrangements have been finalized in February 2020.
iii) Solutions analysis on plastic avoidance and upcycling	1 part of solutions analysis report	25%	Scope of work has been defined with ORA to carry out solutions analysis on plastic avoidance and upcycling. Potential solutions identified include designing products specifically for reuse (with lesser parts and lesser plastic) and upcycling recycled PET into more valuable products with a longer lifespan (high-value composite materials like those that would be used in bricks, wind turbine blades, surfboards, or snowboards). Contractual arrangements have been finalized and work is ongoing.
Delivery of solutions for better management of the plastic value chain	At least 2 pilot sites identified, at	100%	Koh Samet in Rayong, Thailand, and Petaling Jaya and Penang Island in Malaysia (3 in total) have

in 1 province in Thailand (Rayong) and 1 State in Malaysia (Penang, Sarawak / Sabah), ensuring an inclusive and gender-sensitive perspective	least 2 consultations held		been identified as pilot sites following consultation with the Governments and stakeholders. The pilot project in Koh Samet in Rayong, Thailand will feature implementation of existing policies to reduce plastic leakage into the environment, and to increase plastic waste collection and recycling. Partners are Coca-Cola Thailand (as part of the UNEP Coca-Cola South-East Asia Joint Partnership), Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF), City of Kitakyushu, and EX Research Institute (EXRI). A technical consultation and site visit took place in September 2019 in Koh Samet. Key challenges were identified as well as potential ways forward. Locally specific information was shared on plastic footprint, waste management and plastic leakage. Following this technical consultation and site visit, a planning meeting was held at UNEP ROAP in October 2019. Partners agreed on areas of work, potential interventions and roles of all partners. A roadmap is in process. In Penang and Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, preparations are underway to assess good practices in cooperation with the Penang Green Council and Low Carbon Green City Task Force. 2 stakeholder meetings on solutions for better management of the plastic value chain are scheduled for March 2020.
Delivery of solutions for better management of the plastic value chain in 2 companies each in Malaysia and Thailand (through the preparation of Corporate Sustainability Report), ensuring an inclusive and gender-sensitive perspective	4 companies prepare reports	0%	Activities are moved to 2020 – with MESTECC and SWAT. Reports will be published in 2020
Result 1.3: Business incentives for plastic reduction and recycling identified and applied			

Business incentive surveys in 2019 (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam)	1 survey	25%	A full set of Business Incentive surveys have been drafted which seek to identify how businesses are currently tackling plastic waste issues and identify the opportunities to scale up current efforts in five countries. The Business Incentive Surveys are crucial in developing a clear baseline for the SEA circular project. The surveys will be used to inform specific areas of intervention in each national context. The surveys have been translated into Thai, Khmer, Bahasa Indonesia, Tagalog and Vietnamese. The findings of the baseline survey are due in April 2020.
Roundtable on policy and technology for plastic re-use and recycling and alternative packaging, one each in Malaysia and Thailand	2 roundtables (1 each in 2 countries)	25%	Planning for a series of roundtable events was underway in 2019. The roundtables will develop business incentives to address plastic reduction, alternative packaging, and recycling, through reviewing strategies, evaluating practices, adopting technologies, and escalating concrete action. The roundtables will secure voluntary commitments and pledges from businesses, to measure their footprint and/or aspire to higher corporate goals regarding plastic production and use. Roundtables are planned for 2020 – and will be done jointly with MESTECC in Malaysia and SWAT in Thailand.

3.2 Results achieved for Output 2: Strengthening the scientific basis for decision-making

Good progress on Output 2 activities has been made. Adoption of the (revised) RAP MALI at the 24 Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA in Bali, Indonesia, in June 2019, establishes common priorities in addressing marine litter across all countries of the region. This includes assurance of high-level political support for regionally coherent national monitoring programmes. COBSEA and UNEP are working with a range of regional knowledge partners to identify research priorities in support of policy development and marine litter/plastic pollution management actions, facilitate research collaboration and share knowledge through COBSEA mechanisms and beyond.

Progress made in Output 2 is reported in the table below:

Activities	2019 Target	2019 Progress[4]	Description of progress
Result 2.1 Baseline data on marine litter leakage through the plastic value chain, including spillage sites and occasions as well as distribution pathways, collected, analysed and disclosed			
Identification of marine litter generation pathways and hotspots, including assessment of leakage through baseline assessment of the plastic value chain and identification of marine litter distribution patterns and accumulation hotspots: Selection of methodologies (available and under development) and identification of target areas in consultation with partners and based on need (including a citizen-science approach); Support application in target areas	1 methodology 4 assessment reports	25%	Plastic hotspot methodology has been developed and presented to COBSEA countries at the 24th Intergovernmental Meeting. A marine litter trajectory model developed through GPML at the global level, which can be populated with regional data, has been introduced to COBSEA countries at a regional Training of Trainers in 2019. An agreement with ECNU was under development in 2019 to pilot hotspot assessments in 2020, including in Cambodia and the Philippines (tbc). Planning for the first hotspot assessment in Malaysia was underway in 2029 and is planned to take place in 2020. The site of the first hotspot assessment in Thailand is being identified. The first pilot is underway in planning - scheduled for 2020. National marine litter and monitoring consultants have been hired in Malaysia, Viet Nam, and Thailand, with the recruitment process for Cambodia and Philippines underway to provide technical support to the countries to conduct hotspot assessment. In 2019, the foundation was laid to enable hotspot assessments in 2020. Coordination with the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, UNEP divisions, and other partners has been established and is ongoing to coordinate hotspot assessment efforts.
Result 2.2: Regular reporting on marine litter status and trends at regional and national levels			
Technical support toward development of a Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme and National Marine	Provide continuous technical support to 6	50%	Technical assistance to target countries to strengthen national marine litter monitoring programmes in line with global guidelines is ongoing throughout the duration of the project. Building on activities in 2019, efforts in 2020 will

[4] 0% = no progress, 25% - activity initiated, 50% - under implementation, 75% - near completion, 100% - completed

Activities	2019 Target	2019 Progress[4]	Description of progress
Litter Survey and Monitoring Programmes; Conceptual design for regional marine litter monitoring programme including process guidance on development of national marine litter monitoring programmes	target countries 2 scoping of national efforts and monitoring programme draft		focus on harmonizing approaches in the region and targeted national support. Through national consultants in Malaysia and Thailand (and at the regional level at the Training of Trainers, see below), existing monitoring and data collection efforts, capacities and responsibilities were scoped in 2019. Building on these efforts, technical support in 2020 will focus on developing monitoring programmes in COBSEA countries in line with regional guidance on harmonization planned for Q2 2020.
Support towards national marine litter monitoring programme development (workshop, technical advice)	1 regional training	100%	A Training of Trainers (ToT) on Monitoring and Assessment of Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics was organized jointly by COBSEA, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) in September 2019. The training built foundational capacity for improved national monitoring and assessment programmes and identified needs for follow-up capacity building and knowledge sharing at national and regional level –SEA circular countries voiced interest in national trainings which will take place in 2020. Considerable co-financing for the training was secured through GPML / UNEP. 27 participants from 8 COBSEA countries were trained, targeting representatives of government agencies with marine litter-related mandates, research organizations, and focal points of COBSEA participating countries, with varying levels of monitoring knowledge and experience.
Developing regional marine litter monitoring data management and access system (embedding a citizen-science approach)	1 data system	25% Target has been adjusted as per	The 24th Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA (IGM 24) that adopted the RAP MALI also formally established a COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter (WGML) to promote implementation. Regional guidance for harmonized marine litter

Activities	2019 Target	2019 Progress[4]	Description of progress
		country guidance	monitoring programmes will be discussed at the 3rd meeting of the WGML in Q2 2020. The RAP MALI calls for a step-by-step approach to exploring the development of a regional marine litter and microplastic monitoring database/portal. This activity has been adjusted accordingly in the 2020 Work Plan to accommodate this staggered approach.
Result 2.3: Scientific community in the region publishing findings on marine litter pollution and the plastic value chain			
Analysis and technical support for research relevant to addressing marine litter and plastic pollution; Mapping of current research efforts in the region	1 review report of marine litter research in the region 1	75%	COBSEA leveraged additional non-project funding to engage the National University of Singapore (NUS) to conduct an extensive review of research on marine plastics in the COBSEA / ASEAN+3 region. A review report is currently being finalized and findings will be published and disseminated through SEA circular, COBSEA and NUS channels in the first quarter of 2020, including the development of a searchable inventory of marine litter research efforts and institutions. The review includes an assessment of science gaps and needs with respect to addressing the policy priorities identified in the COBSEA RAP MAL. It also encompasses recommendations on the establishment of a Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) under Output 4. Findings will be disseminated to strengthen the evidence base for decision making and support the development of a research network.
Result 2.4: Policy and regulatory obstacles to and opportunities for reducing plastic wastage and preventing marine litter identified			
Review of regulatory drivers that hinder or enable equitable change, building on existing global/regional	1 review report	25%	The extensive scoping study conducted by NUS under Result 2.3 as well as efforts under Output 1 (Solutions Analysis) contribute to an evidence-based review of regulatory and policy drivers in the region. Building on knowledge gathered and gaps identified in 2019, the project will focus on a

Activities	2019 Target	2019 Progress[4]	Description of progress
research and outputs of this project Compilation and review of findings from existing global, regional and where relevant national reports, and identification of gaps with particular attention to the focus/objectives of this project			complementary assessment of existing policies and initiatives in the region, including through the WGML (to meet in Q2 2020). The majority of this work will take place in 2020 and feed into knowledge sharing activities under Output 4.

3.3 Results achieved for Output 3: Outreach

Substantial achievements under Output 3 during this reporting period include the completion of the project identity package, comprised of the SEA circular branding, project logo, and templates. Following this, two websites were designed, developed and launched – SEA circular website and the event platform for SEA of Solutions 2019 - as outlined above. A network database has been established of around 600 individuals, forming the basis of an outreach mechanism and network. An email newsletter system has been established for outreach, connecting the online platforms and outreach for SEA circular and SEA of Solutions 2019. These outreach systems and tools are being comprehensively tracked and managed in terms of outreach successes and potential. Visitors numbers and activity is being analysed and utilized to strengthen the communications outreach modalities. As mentioned above, six web-linked email newsletters were sent in 2019. Website stats for SEA circular and SEA of Solutions 2019 are given in this report. A Communications Strategy submitted in December 2018 has been updated with strategies to increase the visibility of the project and effectively communicate the project impacts, providing information on target groups and use of communication for advocacy (the updated Communications Strategy and 2020 Communications Plan are annexed to the revised 2020 Work Plan).

SEA circular films

Seven films have been developed in Q3/4 2019 (www.sea-circular.org/video). A series of three social media / introductory public service announcement-style films were developed - collectively entitled: Plastic Pollution Solutions (1) Trade in plastic waste (2) Packaging waste and, (3) Finance, innovation and technology. These films were embedded in the project website, promoted through social media channels, and published on the UNEP YouTube channel. The 3-minute and 10-minute versions highlight key messages and serve as a 'round-up' of all the key activities, sessions and

solutions, from the four-day event. In total, these films have been viewed a total of almost 3,000 times on YouTube, as of end December 2019. They have also been promoted on the UNEP Facebook account, reaching approx. 40,000 people. Each plenary session was filmed and uploaded to UNEP Asia-Pacific YouTube shortly after the session, to enable virtual participation. On request from the UNEP Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) these films are being adapted for dissemination in that region. The films will also be translated into regional languages in 2020 (likely Thai, Malay, Bahasa Indonesia) to continue outreach on these key topics.

Outreach through SEA of Solutions 2019

The SEA of Solutions 2019 Partnership week on marine plastic pollution prevention (SOS2019) held on 11-14 November in Bangkok was leveraged to increase project visibility in the region, attracting comprehensive media coverage. SEA of Solutions 2019 was very active both online and offline in marketing, communicating and outreach for the event. A web-linked event marketing drive was initiated, through email newsletters and social media (UNEP Asia-Pacific Facebook) to promote the event and follow up with participants following the event. The five mail newsletters contained links to key messages and knowledge products, reaching an average of 55% open rate and 7,907 views. The impact was substantial in terms of outreach, dissemination of key messages, awareness raising and knowledge management. Press advisories and a press release were generated through UNEP Regional Office channels raising awareness for the launch of a report and featuring the announcement by Coca-Cola of the switch from green to clear PET plastic bottles for Sprite™. As a result of the project's media coverage efforts, over 125 outlets[5] in and beyond the region picked up stories, articles and mentions of the event and project. A total of 1000 photos were shared through Flickr and have been viewed over 21,000 times as of end November. Approximately 300 tweets were sent using #SEAofSolutions. The total reach of these tweets to Twitter users can be estimated at approximately 20,000 views. The event benefitted from the invitation to, and participation of, a group of key social influencers[6] who were actively sharing SEA of Solutions messages, multi-media, news, thoughts and commitments on Twitter and other social media platforms. A '3D' SEA of Solutions 2019 stand was developed, for photo opportunities and engagement. This was used effectively throughout the event – showcasing the key messages, logos, and website access points. A set of five visual, free-standing banners were developed with key messages and website link. Posters with SEA of Solutions website QR codes and Event App QR codes were available on registration desk and widely available around the conference venue. An event app was developed containing links to the web platform for Programme, Speakers, Exhibitors,

[5] The following media outlets ran content: Daily Mail Online (UK), EuroNews, ABS-CBN News, ThisIsMoney.co.uk PhilStar, Toronto Sun, The Straits Times, Yahoo News, Vancouver Sun, Reuters US News, The Standard, National Geographic, London Free Press newswire, VN Express, The Irrawaddy, The Nation (Thailand), Eco-Business, Mail on Sunday (UK), ScandAsia, Fox 21, African Union News and many others.

[6] Including Antoinette Taus, Alexander Rendell, Veronica Pedrosa, Nadya Hutagalung, and others.

Daily reports, Videos, enabling networking between participants, dissemination of videos and other content and facilitating outreach i.e. through surveys and linking the app to social media outlets. 226 participants utilized the app, there were 1,230 user contributions, and 169 contact shares. This indicated the app was successful as an information dissemination and networking tool. For further information see Output 4 and the SEA of Solutions 2019 event report[7]. Over 3,600 viewers accessed the SEA of Solutions website linked to the project website during the event, with over 20,000 page views recorded during almost 7,000 sessions – as of end Nov 2019. The SEA of Solutions website will remain live and accessible as a valuable knowledge management platform. Daily reports were issued each evening (viewed 1,989 times, with a total of 28 social platform shares, as of end November 2019), highlighting the main messages and sessions of the day, in a dynamic and interactive format through summaries, quotations, pictures, links to videos and social media platforms, further raising visibility and ensuring effective outreach at the event. Event outreach increased through leveraging Plasticity's 5000 alumni database and social media channels (Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter), reaching over 6,594 views on the Plasticity page which was linked to the SEA circular website. An email database was generated with a total of over 600 contacts – forming a large network of stakeholders on plastic pollution prevention – which will be utilized and built on, for forthcoming regular SEA circular communications.

Publications

Project communication channels were leveraged to disseminate and raise awareness for two publications launched in 2019, that are available on the SEA circular website[8]:

- The publication 'The role of packaging regulations and standards in driving the circular economy' was published in November 2019 and launched at SEA of Solutions 2019. The report is available on UNEP knowledge repositories and a press release was issued on publication which had wide traction. The learnings from the report will be carried through in various initiatives in 2020. The report targeted policy makers and packaging industry in COBSEA and ASEAN countries to advocate for harmonized standards and definitions. Targeted advocacy in coordination with ASEAN and through COBSEA is planned in 2020 to implement recommendations of the report (under Output 4).
- The report 'Marine plastic litter in East Asian Seas: Gender, human rights and economic dimensions' was published on 11 November 2019 and was also launched during SEA of Solutions 2019 during a session on Gender and social dimensions of marine litter. Continuing with this assessment, SEA circular throughout its implementation will integrate gender and human rights dimension in the project activities including communication outreach. The launch of the

[7] www.sea-circular.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Sea-Of-Solutions-Event-Report_Digital.pdf

[8] www.sea-circular.org/publications/

report at SEA of Solutions increased awareness of people-centred approaches and recognition of SEA circular's in this space. As a result, the project team was approached by civil society and research entities to share good practices (such as Zero Baht initiative) and strengthen collaboration (such as with the Environmental Justice Foundation – EJF). Details of planned activities for outreach and promotion of good practices, including in pilot sites, are provided in the 2020 Communications Plan annexed to the 2020 Work Plan.

Progress made under Output 3 is reported in the table below:

Activities	2019 Target	2019 Progress[9]	Description of progress
Result 3.1 Social and economic impacts of marine litter better understood, leveraging interest and action across stakeholder groups			
Analysis of social and economic impacts of marine litter, with focus on key economic sectors as well as vulnerable groups such as coastal communities and informal waste pickers with gender-specific information, to inform project design and outreach and bring visibility to gender and human rights dimensions	1 report	100%	A report – Marine plastic litter in East Asian Seas: Gender, human rights and economic dimensions – was published on 11 November 2019, launched at SEA of Solutions 2019 (SOS2019), and available on the SEA circular portal. The report was developed with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) A session on Gender and human rights dimensions of marine litter pollution' was conducted at SOS2019 to bring further visibility to gender and human rights dimensions (under Output 4). The findings of this report will be referenced and reflected in SEA circular activities, communication and outreach throughout the project period.
Result 3.2: Outreach partnership for tackling marine litter and plastic waste broadened and strengthened			
Dissemination of a set of the project identity products (e.g. logo, slogan, key messages) and a launch and	1 brand package 1 project website	100%	A complete set of project brand identity package was developed, including a regularly updated project website (www.sea-circular.org) and a comprehensive dedicated event website for SEA of Solutions 2019 (http://sos2019.sea-circular.org).

[9] 0% = no progress, 25% - activity initiated, 50% - under implementation, 75% - near completion, 100% - completed

Activities	2019 Target	2019 Progress[9]	Description of progress
maintenance of the project website			
Mapping and tracking of stakeholders in marine litter reduction and plastic value chain management	1 updated Comms Strategy mapping stakeholders continual updating throughout the project	75%	An initial stakeholder mapping was conducted during the inception phase and was updated throughout the year and post SEA of Solutions. Updates to target groups / beneficiaries of activities and results, outreach channels and communication products to enable advocacy for change is detailed in the updated Communications Strategy and 2020 Communications Plan annexed to the 2020 Work Plan.
Formatting and dissemination of country briefs	6 country briefs 6 country reports	75%	Succinct country briefs are available on the SEA circular website, forming the basics of the Country Sections. Country reports submitted in inception phase are being updated into comprehensive country profiles and disseminated through the SEA circular project website and other channels.
Establishment and delivery of Plastic Circular Economy Award, highlighting champions and promoting inclusive approaches in communities and civil society, industry and the public sector – Thailand award 2019	1 Award Ceremony	25%	Possibilities for establishing awards are currently being explored. Consideration was given to supporting a 'plastics' category for the Asia-Pacific Environment Enforcement Awards. However, more lead-time is needed to establish the right positioning for an additional 'plastics circular economy' award – which may be as part of another established award framework.
Result 3.3 Increased consumer awareness of marine litter and plastic waste prompts behaviour change and support for policy reform			
Consumer awareness surveys in 2019 (Indonesia, Malaysia, the	1 survey	50%	A full set of Consumer Awareness surveys have been developed, to evaluate the level of understanding of plastic waste issues in the five countries. The surveys will reveal consumer attitudes towards plastic waste and provide

Activities	2019 Target	2019 Progress[9]	Description of progress
Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam)			perspectives on how to best tackle plastic waste. Surveys have been translated into regional languages: Khmer, Bahasa Indonesia, Malay, Thai and Vietnamese. The Consumer Awareness surveys are crucial in developing a clear baseline for the SEA circular project. The surveys will be used to inform specific areas of intervention in each national context. The surveys will be repeated in 2023, to understand progress made in the project duration. The findings of the Consumer Awareness surveys are due in April 2020.
Regional tailoring and delivery of Train-the-Trainers for marine litter education, outreach and action based on the global Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Marine Litter and a course segment on gender sensitivity and on human rights and stakeholder engagement (e.g. of vulnerable groups)	1 MOOC prepared	50%	4 MOOCs will be organized throughout the implementation of SEA circular. National consultants have been put in place to encourage and facilitate the participation of national and local stakeholders in COBSEA countries in the MOOC across different sectors and groups of society. Efforts are underway to develop regional modules of the MOOC and/or include case studies from the region. A Bahasa Indonesia version of the MOOC is currently being finalized and next steps to develop e.g. a Thai version are being explored for 2020 with global MOOC partners.
Implementation of the communication and outreach strategy for the project, including development and dissemination of campaign materials, drawing on the Clean Seas	1 plastic pollution media package (at least 3 videos) 1 mailing list and at least 1 newsletter sent	100%	A web-linked event marketing drive for SEA circular / SEA of Solutions 2019 was initiated, through email newsletters and social media (UNEP Asia-Pacific Facebook) 6 email newsletters were distributed for outreach, awareness and dissemination of knowledge (55% average open rate / viewed, shared and read almost 8,000 times. The reach of the email newsletters was therefore substantial.

Activities	2019 Target	2019 Progress[9]	Description of progress
campaign, analytical outputs from the inception phase, leveraging input from partners across stakeholder groups, covering: - Production of outreach products such as web stories, video clips, infographics - Preparation and dissemination of Op-Eds - Organization of media tours - Use of gender-responsive and culturally sensitive language and accessible communication channels			3 information videos on plastic pollution launched at SEA of Solutions (3-minute and 10-minute versions). 4 email newsletters issued ahead of SEA of Solutions 2019 for promotion, awareness-raising and information dissemination. 1 email newsletter issued 'post event' for all delegates to support knowledge management. Email newsletters contained links to the SEA of Solutions 2019 web platform registration form, daily reports and social media – to drive users to SEA circular domain and support SEO. An online database has been generated with a total of over 600 contacts – forming a large network of stakeholders on plastic pollution prevention – which will be utilized and built on, for forthcoming regular SEA circular communications 40+ content items on SEA circular website, including news items, resources, interviews with partners, country information.
Implementation of regional awareness raising campaign including nationally tailored sub-campaigns delivered through national partners (ensuring targeted/equitable outreach), and technical advice on sound disposal of waste collected on the World Cleanup	1 regional campaign toolkit prepared 2 national-level campaigns identified	75%	Nationally-tailored campaigns on marine litter have been scoped out in Malaysia –including potential opportunities for SEA circular involvement, including the Reimagine Consumption Campaign. A comprehensive social media outreach drive was initiated as part of the Malaysia National Stakeholders Consultation in October 2019 on Instagram and LinkedIn obtaining over 3000 and over 300 likes Groundwork was initiated for CleanSeas campaign materials and messages to be disseminated in Bahasa Indonesia through newly established

Activities	2019 Target	2019 Progress[9]	Description of progress
Day/the International Coastal Cleanup (ensuring targeted/equitable outreach and accessibility that respect the needs and capacities of right holders)			national outreach on social media channels in Indonesia, managed by UNEP Regional Office. Work is underway for the SEA circular Plastic Pollution Solutions film series to be translated into national languages – to support awareness raising. Media outreach for SEA of Solutions 2019 included national language presence – (although this was challenging to capture through established English-language media monitoring services of UNEP)

3.4 Results achieved for Output 4: Regional networking

COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)

A significant achievement under Output 4 was the adoption of the (revised) COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) at the 24th The Twenty-fourth Intergovernmental Meeting of COBSEA held in Bali, Indonesia, from 19-20 June 2019. The RAP MALI will guide national efforts to develop effective policies and measures to prevent and reduce marine litter including from land-based sources. The RAP MALI also formally establishes the Working Group on Marine Litter (WGML), which will provide technical expertise and develop rolling work plans toward implementing the RAP MALI including activities under SEA circular. Two meetings of the WGML are planned in 2020 to detail activities toward achieving the RAP MALI, develop guidance for the regional harmonization of national monitoring and establish an Expert Group on Monitoring, identify a process to track progress in implementing the RAP MALI including national marine litter planning progress, and provide further guidance on the development of a Regional Node of the GPML based on knowledge gathered under Result 2.

East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML

Good progress has been made to lay the groundwork for the development of a Regional Node of the GPML which will facilitate access to knowledge products, tools, research on marine litter collated and developed through SEA circular and can provide access to capacity building services to address identified gaps. The Node targets primarily COBSEA National Focal Agencies, as well as business, research and civil society stakeholders of the SEA circular project and will be useful to coordinate efforts among development cooperation partners. Building on results achieved in 2019, the 2020 Work Plan will outline how the development of a Regional Node will accelerate knowledge management in the region to support policy makers and other stakeholders to advocate for evidence-based change.

The Role of Packaging Regulations and Standards in Driving the Circular Economy

This publication was developed by UNEP and GA Circular, with support from the Government of Norway and the Government of Sweden. It outlines the role of policy interventions to halt the rapid growth of packaging waste and to increase the circularity, in countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) community. The publication warns that limited policies on packaging and packaging waste in ASEAN countries and their weak enforcement are aggravating the problem. The publication also points out that the community could benefit from a harmonized pan-ASEAN adoption of policies and standards concerning packaging reuse, packaging waste recovery and recycling, definitions related to packaging and packaging waste, labelling, and quality standards concerning recycling. Creation of technology hubs shared among ASEAN countries – for recycling or monitoring of plastic waste in trade – is also recommended. This report was developed in association with the UNEP Publishing Board and as such, was extensively peer

reviewed. The report will be leveraged by the ASEAN Secretariat for collaboration with SEA circular in 2020, to inform joint recommendations for harmonization of regulations and standards (including through COBSEA) and will be discussed and disseminated at upcoming events and enable further coordination on this ASEAN priority issue. Follow-up activities are detailed in the 2020 Work Plan.

SEA of Solutions 2019

Substantive progress was made under Output 4, through the SEA of Solutions partnership week on marine plastic pollution prevention, which was successfully convened from 11-14 Nov 2019. SEA of Solutions 2019 was the first annual partnership week convened by SEA circular to inform, inspire, and activate market-based solutions and encourage enabling policies to prevent marine plastic pollution in South-East Asia. SOS2019 was able to inform, inspire, and activate market-based solutions and encourage enabling policies to prevent marine plastic pollution in South-East Asia. The four-day event was successful in generating dialogue and promoting opportunities for future collaboration and partnership as well as enable participating government, non-government and private sector organizations to pledge their commitments towards better management of the plastic value chain. SEA of Solutions 2019 brought together governments, business leaders, scientists, UN agencies and community groups, to dialogue on solutions for marine plastic pollution. With around 600 participants from 40 countries, with 115 speakers in 20 sessions and 25 exhibition booths, all highlighting solutions to prevent marine plastic pollution, the first SOS event was successful in generating dialogue and promoting opportunities for future collaboration and partnerships. More than 300 organizations were present, including well over 100 companies, NGOs, governmental bodies, academic, and youth groups sent representatives from across the region to this event, fostering partnerships in the region to combat the transboundary problem of plastic pollution – under the uniting mantra of 'Together, less plastic wasted'. The event was also 'Livestreamed' through UNEP Asia-Pacific YouTube channel to enable virtual participation. Viet Nam announced the country would host the second SEA of Solutions in Q4 2020.

The substantial pledges[10] ('voices for plastic pollution solutions') received at SEA of Solutions 2019 were indicative of a groundswell of action and commitment in the South-East Asia region. Approximately 25 representatives of businesses, governments, academe, NGOs, CSOs, non-profits and youth spoke formally on behalf of their organizations. Pledges ranged from tangible commitments to eradicate single-use plastic to promoting circularity through supporting collection, retrieval, sorting and re-use of various plastics.

Representatives of informal sector and waste pickers such as WIEGO and Hasiru Dala were engaged as speakers in SOS2019 to raise awareness for the needs and interests of informal waste workers and women and children in particular –throughout the event and in a dedicated session

[10] A film was developed presenting some of the pledges made: www.youtube.com/watch?v=IO6BAUiA7Hs

on 'Gender and social dimensions of marine litter pollution'. As a result, pledges were obtained during SEA of Solutions which addressed human rights. For example:

- Circular Economy Asia, a company promoting circular solutions in Asia, pledged to give all recycling materials to informal recycling collectors – or Resource Recovery Agents;
- Hasiru Dala Innovations, a social impact organization based in India, pledged to support the network of waste pickers for predictable livelihoods and incomes (good practices to be shared cross-regionally).

The project will follow up on progress made toward pledges made in 2020 to be announced at the second SEA of Solutions. Key messages and learnings will shape project activities going forward (see 2020 Work Plan) and have been shared widely through the project communication channels to advocate for change (see Output 3).

An extract of key learnings from SOS2019:

- Trade of used plastic is an essential part of a circular economy, and, if on fair environmentally-sound terms, transboundary trade could be considered.
- Strengthened national and international policy making are key to industry reduction of single-use plastic.
- Cross-sectoral collaborations are vital to maximize existing plastic materials; stakeholders at each point in the plastic value chain must collaborate towards less plastic wasted.
- Strengthened municipal and national infrastructure and capacity building is required to enable and promote recycling.
- A better connection of scientific knowledge with on-the-ground implementation of solutions to marine litter is urgently needed.
- More data is needed on material flow analyses, hotspot evaluations and leakage control.
- Consumer awareness-raising and education will support a societal transformation from over-reliance on single-use plastics.

Progress made under Output 4 is reported in the table below:

Activities	2019 Target	2019 Progress[11]	Description of progress
Result 4.1: Regionally coherent national marine litter plans, leveraging all stakeholder groups			
Revision of COBSEA RAP MALI	1 RAP MALI	100%	The COBSEA RAP MALI was revised and adopted in June 2019, including the establishment of a WGML.
Development and guidance for national marine litter planning in the context of COBSEA RAP MALI	1 national marine litter plan (or similar) Provide continuous technical support to 6 target countries	50%	Technical assistance to target countries to strengthen marine litter planning is ongoing, including through national consultants (hired in Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam; recruitment ongoing in Cambodia, the Philippines for 2020). Viet Nam launched their National Action Plan for Management of Marine Plastic Litter in 2019. A national consultant was recruited to support VASI in finalizing the draft. The project will continue to support the Government in implementation in coordination with other marine litter partners such as ASEAN-World Bank.
Consultation and technical support for national planning in the context of COBSEA RAP MALI	2 national consultations / workshops	100%	National consultations took place in Thailand and Malaysia. Building on 2019 activities, a consultation to draft a Roadmap on Marine Litter is planned in Malaysia in Q2 2020. A Workshop on National Source Inventories was held for COBSEA countries and project partners on 15 November 2019, following SEA of Solutions 2019. Jointly with representatives of the GPML/GPA, GESAMP and regional knowledge partners, the workshop provided information on the development of national source inventories to guide national marine litter planning and monitoring efforts in line with regional goals and international standards/ methodologies.

[11] 0% = no progress, 25% - activity initiated, 50% - under implementation, 75% - near completion, 100% - completed

Activities	2019 Target	2019 Progress[11]	Description of progress
Result 4.2: Regionally coherent policies, regulations or standards support plastic reduction, recycling and marine litter prevention			
Stakeholder engagement to promote Packaging Recovery Organization (PRO)	1 scoping study & recommend-dations on PRO (as part of Solutions Analysis)	0%	GA Circular has been identified as a partner with relevant expertise to undertake an analysis of PRO initiatives and opportunities in target countries. This result and deliverable have been integrated in the analysis and solutions review conducted by GA Circular under Output 1, to reduce redundancies, which will continue through 2020. This activity has been moved to Output 1 accordingly for 2020 for ease of reporting.
Support towards ASEAN marine litter framework planning, including through the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME)	2 meetings continuous coordination	100%	Coordination with ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN working groups was strengthened, and synergies identified between the RAP MALI and ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris. Input was provided to the meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on the Coastal and Marine Environment in January 2019 and the ASEAN workshop on 'Supporting Marine Debris Reduction in ASEAN Member States' in October 2019 to ensure alignment of policy frameworks and coordination of efforts. ASEAN representatives are invited to attend COBSEA IGM and WGML as observers.
Guidance and seminars on measuring plastic footprint, analysis of plastic value chains including plastic leakage and hotspots assessment (linked to Activity 2.1 and drawing on knowledge and expertise from Output 1). Technical advice/seminars on priorities in development of the policy and regulatory	1 meeting 1 report & dissemination	75% continuous	Continuation of local adaptation and application will be in Feb 2020 in Thailand with the Stock Exchange Thailand. The report 'The Role of Packaging Regulations and Standards in Driving the Circular Economy' (conducted by GA Circular) was launched during SEA of Solutions 2019. The report will be leveraged by the ASEAN Secretariat for collaboration with SEA circular in 2020 for conferences and coordination. Activities underway in planning to implement recommendations and maximize the learnings from this publication in 2020.

Activities	2019 Target	2019 Progress[11]	Description of progress
framework based on the recommendations in the report, Packaging Industry Regulations & Standards for Design, Labelling, Recovery & Recycling in ASEAN.			
Result 4.3: Information sharing and stakeholder engagement support broad-based action on marine litter			
Establishment of regional constituency engagement, networking and knowledge management mechanisms on marine litter: Development and implementation of annually recurring SEA of Solutions partnership week for inclusive constituency engagement to showcase innovative and inclusive solutions	1 SEA of Solutions week	100%	SEA of Solutions 2019 partnership week on marine plastic pollution prevention was successfully convened from 11-14 Nov 2019 with over 500 participants from more than 40 countries representing governments, business, science, UN agencies and community groups. The event actively engaged representatives of disadvantaged groups and created opportunities to share and recognize needs and interests of informal waste workers and coastal communities, discussed in a dedicated session and reflected in 'voices' and pledges. Viet Nam will host the second SEA of Solutions event in 2020.
Establishment of a regional knowledge hub/regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter Technical/institutional support towards implementation of the regional knowledge hub / Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter	1 Guidance on development of a Node (establishment of Node ongoing in 2020 based on guidance, for consideratio	100%	The development of regional knowledge management through a Regional Node of the GPML is underway. Guidance for establishing a Node was presented to COBSEA countries at IGM 24 and the adopted resolution requests development of the Node, in consultation with the COBSEA WGML. Knowledge partners have been identified, including NUS, ECNU, ERIA and the Regional Capacity Centre for Clean Seas in Indonesia. Agreements and description of roles are under

Activities	2019 Target	2019 Progress[11]	Description of progress
	n at IGM 25 in 2021)		development. The Node is envisaged to have three pillars, building on deliverables from Output 2: (1) Capacity Hub for broader knowledge management and networking efforts, including capacity mapping and services; (2) Science Hub to develop a research network and inventory of marine litter initiatives, and to pilot a hotspot assessment methodology; (3) Online knowledge portal to map the policy space and existing initiatives and provide access to relevant data, ensuring alignment and reducing duplication with similar ongoing efforts in the region. The further development of the Node will be discussed at the 3rd Meeting of the COBSEA WGML in Q2 of 2020.

4. LESSONS LEARNED

As implementation of the activities laid out for the project accelerated in 2019, some internal and external challenges were faced while actions were taken in response as noted below:

Challenges of recruitment and team capacity

Delays in recruitment in 2019 have been the core factor in delay of project implementation, with impacts on budget expenditure (see Chapter 5) and team capacity. External recruitment challenges included difficulties in identifying suitable national consultants with relevant expertise in target countries (in Cambodia and the Philippines). Project activities and outputs that were not completed in 2019 due to recruitment delays are planned to be completed in 2020 and detailed activities have been updated where needed in the 2020 Work Plan. Hence, substantive readjustment to the Results Framework at the Output or Outcome level is not warranted. However, results will be modified and reduced across project Outputs based on lessons learned in 2019, including to streamline activity planning and implementation, add clarity, and simplify tracking and reporting. This will be detailed in the revised 2020 Work Plan.

Actions: Several steps were taken in 2019 to enable implementation in the interim, such as recruiting consultants with specific expertise to support project coordination and event management (see Chapter 2.1.2). The PCG provided increased guidance in 2019 and will continue to support the Project Coordinator. The full SEA circular core team is in place since November, with the recruitment of a COBSEA P3 Officer in the final stage and roles and responsibilities clarified at all levels. Since Q4 2019, additional job postings have been actively shared by project personnel through every channel, leveraging networks. UNEP will further assess project team setup to identify needs or possibilities to further strengthen it. The Embassy will be informed of progress on this matter as soon as possible. The project team will continue to engage regional and national consultants with relevant expertise as needed to deliver specific tasks. Revisions are being undertaken in 2020 and all recruitment activities not completed in 2019 will be completed in 2020.

Challenges of partnership arrangements

Additional internal challenges included lengthy due diligence processes required to develop partnership agreements with private sector entities, such as with GA Circular, delaying the start of activities under Output 1, in particular. These delays were exacerbated by the switch to a new module for partner agreements in UNEP's financial system and the migration of all agreements into the new digital Partners Portal, which required additional training of staff and technical problem solving. External challenges included lengthy approval procedures of government partners for legal agreements (such as in Malaysia).

Actions: Technical and capacity issues have now been solved and the new digital Partners Portal allows for swifter processing of agreements. All SSFAs are now expedited, including the process of

due diligence, financial reporting, contract wording and revision. For possible partnerships in 2020, SSFAs have already been drafted where partners are identified, to guide and accelerate partnership discussions.

Challenges associated with COBSEA's capacity

At the start of the project, challenges faced by COBSEA during previous years including a contraction in project activities and Secretariat capacity as well as their potential implications for country ownership were considered potential risks to the success of the project.

Actions: COBSEA has over the past five years been on a good trajectory to overcome its challenges. Meetings are well attended, engagement is active and constructive, and actions are more assertive both in relation to strategic and substantive matters. Income to the COBSEA Trust Fund through contributions of participating countries is stable.

The capacity of the COBSEA secretariat has been significantly strengthened, enabled in part by the SEA circular project, and the Secretariat now has four full time staff members with significant regional experience. The project contributed towards the revisions of the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, adopted at the 24th intergovernmental meeting held in 2019. This illustrates how countries use COBSEA to address shared environmental challenges. It also formalizes the COBSEA Working Group on Marine Litter for regional policy and technical dialogue, thereby directly enhancing mechanisms critical to the delivery of the SEA circular project.

Increased country engagement and trust in COBSEA is illustrated e.g. by Indonesia's proposal for their Regional Capacity Centre on Clean Seas to function as a COBSEA Regional Activity Centre, which was welcomed and encouraged by the Intergovernmental Meeting.

The SEA circular project will continue to leverage COBSEA towards catalysing change and achieving project objectives, based on COBSEA's mandate, processes and the regional and global expertise it convenes. Through this the project directly contributes towards improved regional collaboration for sustainable use of transboundary natural resources.

Challenges of coordination and avoiding duplication

Marine litter action in South-East Asia has become an increasingly crowded space. Additional marine litter projects focussed on similar activities may cause consultation fatigue of national partners and duplication of efforts.

Actions: Recognizing COBSEA and UNEP's unique position, SEA circular is taking the opportunity to actualize a convening role – to increase awareness and understanding about 'who is doing what' in this sphere. SEA circular is highly active in initiating dialogues with other players in the field to

generate synergies and maximize opportunities for collaboration whilst avoiding duplication. As the marine litter frameworks are transformed, this will continue to be essential work underlying the project activities in 2020 and moving forward. A "project leads coordination meeting" is being planned for Q1 2020, in the first instance bringing together the coordinators/managers of significant regional or multi-country initiatives in the region. The meeting serves as the first coordination effort of its kind, to convene and network efforts on marine litter and plastic reduction, and is expected to be held regularly, e.g. semi-annually. Key participants in these meetings include IUCN MARPLASTICCs project team and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) team, as well as team leaders of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the World Bank, the UN Development Programme (UNDP). and representatives of the World Bank ProBlue Fund supporting ASEAN efforts. This will promote alignment and reduce discrepancies amongst projects in the marine litter and plastic reduction space. Coordination will also continue with the ASEAN Secretariat and Working Groups, including through COBSEA channels.

Challenges of implementing an HRBA

At the beginning of 2019, the project included a very limited human rights-based perspective. The capacity and knowledge of the project team and of colleagues at UNEP to mainstream and implement a HRBA was limited. This threatened the sustainability and inclusiveness of the project and required concerted efforts and additional expertise on human rights and gender equality.

Actions: The capacity to develop a HRBA was increased substantially in 2019 with the recruitment of a P2 in the COBSEA Secretariat with relevant expertise. A good working relationship was established with OHCHR, UNDP and colleagues in the UNEP Law Division in 2019 to mainstream a HRBA across the project and identify opportunities to leverage cross-agency expertise. The MoU with OHCHR will enable more concerted efforts to address the needs and interests of disadvantaged groups identified in 2019 (further information will be provided in the revised 2020 Work Plan). Under this partnership, the capacity of the project team, executing partners and stakeholders will be built further in 2020 (a first internal training took place in February) to make the HRBA actionable and demonstrate people-centred solutions (e.g. in pilot sites).

Challenges of engaging the PSC

In 2019, the PSC was not leveraged to the fullest to facilitate project design and implementation. Several PSC members did not participate in the last PSC meeting in December 2019.

Actions: The documentation, presentations and minutes of the meeting were shared with all members prior and subsequent to the meeting. To ensure further active guidance and support from the PSC moving forward, the SEA circular team maintain formal annual PSC meetings. These meetings will be prefaced by the submission of semi-final Annual Reports and detailed Annual

Work Plans for consideration – ahead of their final submission. Any specific discussion topics, including questions regarding activities or implementation arrangements, will be tabled as part of discussion. In addition, the team will convene informal quarterly meetings of the PSC in 2020 (informal update and consultation sessions – potentially virtually) and maintain ongoing communications regarding project updates. Following the PSC meeting in December, absentee PSC members have been contacted to reaffirm their interest and availability to continue as PSC members with request for a response by end of March[12]. The project team may suggest restructuring the PSC accordingly in 2020 should these members be unavailable/uninterested. SEA circular aims to strengthen the PSC and improve representation, by potentially adding new members to represent disadvantaged groups and the private sector. Plans to strengthen the PSC and upcoming meetings detailed in the 2020 Work Plan.

[12] As of 8 April, no responses have been received.

5. CONSIDERATION OF RISK AND CORRUPTION

This section provides a brief overview of risks identified that will be addressed in 2020 and provides information on how the project is addressing issues of corruption. A more detailed discussion is provided in the revised 2020 Work Plan.

Internal risk factors

- Internal risks factors include project management capacity. With the full project team on board in 2020. UNEP is committed to further strengthening the project management capacity and the implementation effectiveness is expected to improve. Additional oversight by the UNEP Regional Coordinator for Chemicals, Waste and Air quality, and the Coordinator of the COBSEA Secretariat will ensure the continuity of the project. The capacity and engagement of the COBSEA Secretariat and participating countries will continue to be strengthened.
- Ensuring regular and effective participation of the PSC and stakeholders is another risk factor. The project team is taking steps toward strengthening the engagement of the PSC through more regular updates and proposes changes to the PSC membership and structure in 2020.
- Confidentiality of information and data related to the business solutions and plastic footprint reporting poses another challenge, as the project's knowledge products and activities will be made freely accessible. The project team is working closely with private sector partners to build trust and facilitate step-by-step approaches (such as participating in PDP training without committing to published reporting from the outset). Industry roundtables will create a safe space for sharing under Chatham House rules and promote trailblazers to encourage cooperation.
- To ensure targeted impact and enable wider outreach, the project aims to improve strategic communication strategically to promote achievement of project results across Outputs, including greater leveraging of knowledge products and other project deliverables as well as using COBSEA's channels for regional level outreach. This will also entail enhanced tracking of the utility of products across target groups. The Communications Strategy has been updated to capture strategic use of different channels to reach specified target groups for advocacy, impact monitoring, awareness raising and behaviour change. The updated Communications Strategy and 2020 Communications Plan outlining activities and expected impact will be shared as an Annex to the 2020 Work Plan.

External risk factors

- Changes in political structures or re-organization of government agencies are a risk for project implementation, such as the dissolution of MESTECC announced by the Government of

Malaysia. The project team will leverage its national consultants on the ground and good relationships through COBSEA channels to assess implications of such changes for project activities and identify opportunities to continue progress with partners while developments are ongoing. Mitigation measures and implications for 2020 activities are discussed in more detail in the 2020 Work Plan.

- The unexpected global outbreak of COVID-19 is leading to extended business disruption around the world that may considerably delay implementation of project activities due to travel and meeting restrictions. In response, the project team will revise the activities in the 2020 Work Plan to anticipate possible changes and will retain flexibility to reprioritize or adapt activities toward achieving overall results. Where possible, the project will conduct activities through virtual tools (such as video-conferencing).
- The differences in the USD SEK conversation rate lead to a lower overall project budget, which will require good financial planning and cooperation between finance teams.
- To avoid duplication of efforts in this increasingly crowded space, the project will aim to build synergies with other similar initiatives through consultation and coordination meetings and promote harmonized messaging towards plastic and marine litter solutions in South-East Asia.

Issues of corruption

Policy enforcement continues to contain risk factors as corruption prevails in predominant parts of South-East Asia – while the project has not encountered specific cases, it is known that when pollution control regulations are enforced, factors such as bribery and corruption dampen the controlling effort of such regulations. The project adheres strictly to UNEP's Anti-fraud and Anti-corruption Guidelines and follows a zero-tolerance approach toward corruption across operations and implementation. These Guidelines apply also to engagement of third parties including contractors and executing partners. The project team has identified potential risk areas that will be monitored actively to raise any suspicion of wrong-doing through established UNEP channels, i.e. potential misappropriation of funds by implementing partners is counteracted by transparent sharing of financial records and extensive due diligence processes for collaboration with private sector partners. Other areas of concern identified that will continue to be monitored closely to ensure long-term system change in line with the project goals, include awareness of issues related to 'waste mafias' and conflicting interests and incentives at the local level. In pilot demonstration sites, for instance, the project will work closely with government partners, civil society and businesses to identify relevant stakeholders and flag fraudulent or harmful activities and practices.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT 2019

The project budget is managed through 'Umoja' which is the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) compliant resource planning solution officially used by UNEP for its key processes including Funds Management and Donor Reporting. Financial reports are generated to capture actual expenditure (liquidated commitments for which confirmation of service delivery has been received) and open commitments (which are legal obligations entered by UNEP for which service delivery has not yet been received). The standard Umoja report categorizes all direct expenditures in the following budget categories 1) Staff and other personnel cost 2) Supplies, Commodities and Materials 3) Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture 4) Contractual Services 5) Travel 6) Transfers and Grants 7) General Operating and Other Direct Costs.

UNEP can only enter into a legal agreement (i.e. small-scale funding agreements or consultant contracts to execute activities) if the entirety of funds committed through the agreement is available in the financial system, requiring forward-looking budget planning across financial years. However, these commitments are only captured as expenditures upon receipt of financial reports and deliverables. Actual Expenditures may therefore be recorded in 2020 for activities conducted in 2019, if relevant financial report or proof of deliverables have not been received from the partner prior to the year-end closure of 2019 fiscal year.

6.1 Fund utilization

The approved annual budget[13] for 2019 was USD 1,782,976 (28% of the total project budget). The sum of total expenditure (USD 401,768) plus committed funds (USD 268,139) from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019 amount to USD 669,908 (38% of annual budget). See ANNEX 2: FINANCIAL REPORT for details.

Staff and other personnel cost

In 2019, the total expenditure and commitment recorded under the budget class of 'Staff and other personnel cost' accounted for USD 52,095 against a budget of USD 341,350. The low spending rate of 15% in this category is due to the delay in the recruitment process of the Project Coordinator (P3), COBSEA Programme Officer (P3), and the Administrative Assistant (G5). The Project Coordinator was appointed in November 2019, followed by the appointment of the Administrative Assistant in December 2019. Recruitment of the COBSEA Programme Officer is underway. Unspent budget under this budget line was reallocated to recruit short-term consultants to support implementation of specific tasks while staff recruitment was ongoing (see below).

The expenditure and commitments are low in this budget class compared to planned budget for the following reasons: UN staff posts can only be created based on the UN standard costs for each level and full budget availability needs to be ensured for the entire duration of the contract prior to

[13] Figures in this section are rounded to avoid decimals for ease of reading. See ANNEX 2 for exact figures.

the recruitment process. Another important distinction is that staff salaries are only recorded as actual expenditure as they occur on a monthly basis and therefore Umoja financial report does not reflect the outstanding commitment in terms of salaries that remains to be paid to the staff for the remaining duration of their contract.

Travel

Total expenditure (USD 57,370) and commitment (USD 2,123) under travel amounted to USD 59,493 (41% rate). This included travel of representatives to the Thailand and Malaysia national stakeholder consultations (June / November 2019 respectively), PSC travel and travel under SEA of Solutions (see below for more information). Cost saving in this category is partially due to organizing only one COBSEA WGML meeting back-to-back with the IGM 24 (two meetings are planned in 2020) and cost-sharing for meetings such as the Training of Trainers with the GPML and leveraging COBSEA funding for overall lower representative travel in the absence of a full team.

Consultants/Experts

The total expenditure (USD 99,469) and commitment (USD 137,000) under 'Consultants/Experts' accounted for USD 236,469 against the allocated budget of USD 163,867 (144% rate). The deviation in the allocation versus the actual spending was due to the hiring of two short-term consultants to support specific tasks pending recruitment of the full team. The overspending under this budget class was covered by reallocation of budget from the 'Staff and other personnel' budget line reserved for salary of staff whose recruitment was delayed until November (for the Project Coordinator - P3) and December (for the Administrative Assistant - G5) 2019. Cost for three national consultants recruited to support activities in Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam are included in this budget line.

Commitments appear relatively high under this budget class, as Umoja requires all non-staff contracts to be committed in full even for contracts which may be overlapping across multiple years. This requires sufficient budget and cash to be made available prior to any recruitment of consultant contracts. Expenditure is recorded against any committed contract upon receiving progress reports or specific outputs as outlined in the terms of reference.

Other expenses under the 'Consultants/Experts' budget class include short-term contracts for communication and outreach services such as a web designer and graphic designers involved in the development of a project website. While these services were originally largely planned under the budget class 'Contractual services' actual spending modalities may require flexible adjustment depending on the availability of expertise (i.e. individual freelance design consultants are sometimes more readily available and suitable to develop products, while hiring a design company with a larger team was deemed more adequate to provide larger creative services such

as logo design and video development). A reduction in spending under other budget classes such as for contractual services is recorded accordingly (see below).

Contractual services

Total expenditure under this budget class amounts to USD 25,034 compared to a budget of USD 179,993 (14% rate). These costs include production of outreach material such as SEA of Solutions videos and exhibitions, meeting venues and service cost for the Thailand and Malaysia national stakeholder consultations and cost associated with organizing the first Zero Plastic Waste demonstration site consultation in Koh Samet (September 2019). Changes under this budget class are largely associated with changes made in spending modalities as described above.

Grants and contributions

Total expenditure (USD 69,516) and commitment (USD 128,849) under this budget class add up to USD 198,365 (26% rate). Costs under this budget class are largely allocated for SSFAs, which have experienced some delays in 2019 due to lengthy due diligence processes and administrational changes in developing and recording partnership agreements (see Chapter 4). Spending was recorded for:

- SSFA with SEI [reported in Inception Phase];
- SSFA with Ocean Recovery Alliance: Contract ends in Dec 2020. Activities include training on PDP and identification and delivery of market solutions on plastic avoidance and upcycling in Malaysia and Thailand;
- Contract for a communication and outreach consultant that were charged in this budget class as the contract was managed through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) through an inter-agency grant rather than individual consultant contract.

It is important to note that for the implementation of activities under SSFAs, Umoja requires budgets to be available for the full duration prior to signing of the partnership agreement. Once an agreement is signed and entered in Umoja, it is recorded as a commitment. However, expenditure is only captured when specific deliverables are completed and (interim) financial reports are received from the partners. Agreements currently pending signatures or registration in Umoja are not captured in the system and therefore in the Financial Report (these are considered 'pipeline' allocations). Although partners and activities have largely been identified and multiple SSFAs developed in 2019, spending and commitments appear low in the Financial Report due to delays in finalizing and recording partnership agreements (see Chapter 4).
Modalities to complete partnership agreements have been streamlined in 2019 and four additional agreements pending signature or signed outside of the reporting period will be captured in 2020 (including with FIA, SWAT, GA Circular and MGCC in Malaysia –see below).

Other unspent funds under this budget class are caused by a delay in activities such as hotspot assessments (Output 2) due mainly to low human resource capacity in 2019 before the recruitment of the full team (see Chapter 2, 3, 4) and cost savings due to cost sharing arrangements e.g. for the Train the Trainers workshop conducted jointly with the GPML in September 2019 (Output 2). Budget unspent for remaining activities will be carried over to 2020 to complete delayed activities.

SEA of Solutions

One of the major spending items in 2019 was related to the cost of organizing SEA of Solutions. A direct cost of USD 74,639 was covered by the SEA circular project for participant and speaker travel (USD 25,124), operational cost of the venue, catering, conference services and equipment (USD 31,000) and for other contractual services (mainly for communication cost such as preparation of videos and exhibitions USD 18,515).

Additional finance was leveraged through strategic partnerships to limit SEA of Solutions cost. Partner contributions amounted to an estimated USD 113,000[14] to cover: (1) travel and accommodation of partner session speakers and participants, (2) cost associated with organizing exhibitions and booths, and (3) in-kind coverage of travel and accommodation for self-financed speakers.

In addition, SEA of Solutions was organized back-to-back with associated marine litter events hosted by UNEP projects and programmes to leverage additional participation and limit overall spending, such as the meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics (AHEG), and workshops funded by COBSEA and the counterMEASURE project.

Conclusion

In summary, as of 31 December 2019, the amount of funds expended (paid out) stands at USD 401,768 (23% of budget) against the approved budget allocated for 2019 of USD 1,782,974. An additional USD 268,139 (15% of budget) has been recorded as committed in the financial system, bringing the total amount of expenditure and commitment to USD 669,908 (38%) with a balance of USD 1,113,068 (62%) to be carried over into 2020 to finalize delayed activities (see Chapter 3). This admittedly low spending rate is caused mainly by delays in recruitment of the project team and signing of partnership agreements. Since the project team in now on board and UNEP is committed to further strengthening of the project management capacity, the implementation effectiveness is expected to improve and major changes to the Outputs and Outcomes are the project are not deemed necessary.

[14] This calculation of travel and accommodation cost saved was extrapolated using the UN's Daily Subsistence Allowance amount as well as the cost estimates for flights to and from participant countries of origin.

6.2 Pipeline activities (2020)

Pipeline obligations are not captured in the Financial Report but are described here to provide additional information on expected expenditures in 2020. More detailed information on activities and budgets are included in the 2020 Work Plan and budget.

Of the budget carried over into 2020, USD 584,500 (33% of balance) is allocated to pipeline activities through various SSFAs established in 2019 – this amount is expected to be recorded in Umoja and subsequently reported as expenditure and commitments for the 2020 financial period:

- SSFA with FIA USD 160,000 ends in 2022, committed in the system in March 2020.
  Activities:
  - Business Incentive Survey (2020 and 2022);
  - Consumer Awareness Survey (2020 and 2022).

- SSFA with SWAT USD 110,000 ends in 2021, committed in the system in March 2020.
  Activities:
  - Identification and delivery of market solutions from improvement of plastic waste management, segregation at source, collection coverage, disposal (including informal activities);
  - Technical support to (10) private companies in measuring and publishing plastic footprint report;
  - Dissemination of lessons learned/roundtable.

- SSFA with GA Circular USD 160,000 ends in 2021, signature expected in April 2020.
  Activities:
  - Plastic material flow and value chain analysis in Thailand and Malaysia;
  - Landfill composition analysis;
  - Identification of inclusive market transforming solutions on plastic recycling and energy recovery.

- SSFA with MGCC, Malaysia USD 158,500, signature expected in Quarter 2 2020.
  Activities:
  - Develop a national marine litter and microplastic monitoring programme;
  - Conduct marine litter accumulation hotspot assessments;
  - Further develop and accelerate implementation of national policy or planning framework for addressing marine litter;
  - Support SEA circular outreach and capacity building;

- Training on Plastic Disclosure Project and technical support towards preparation of Corporate (Sustainability) Report and/or plastic sustainability reporting in a business' Sustainability Impact Report (SIR) for 10 companies each in Malaysia;
- Documenting cases of plastic re-use and recycle and of reduction and elimination of single-use plastics and hard-to-recycle plastic packaging in two pilot locations;
- Promote market-based incentives for plastic reduction and recycling.

The remaining amount carried over USD 528,568 (30% of balance) will be reallocated to 2020 to fund implementation of delayed activities (see 2020 Work Plan and budget).
These activities include:

- Hotspot assessments of plastic leakage and accumulation in South-East Asia;
- South-East Asia plastic management outlook - solutions report;
- Roundtable on policy and technology on alternative packaging and plastic recycling;
- Regional implementation of the Marine Litter MOOC;
- Implementation of communication and outreach activities including campaigns;
- In-country activities to support marine litter planning and monitoring in Cambodia, the Philippines and Indonesia, including through national consultants and other technical assistance activities.

ANNEX 1: MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE PSC

Second Meeting of the SEA circular Project Steering Committee
9 December 2019, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok

Full minutes of the second meeting of the SEA circular PSC were approved by the PSC. The following is a truncated version.

BACKGROUND

"SEA circular: Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in South-East Asia" (2018 – 2023) is an initiative implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and the Coordinating Body of the Seas of East Asia Secretariat (COBSEA) with funding from the Swedish Government and its administration conducted by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). The project aims to reduce the adverse impact of marine litter from plastic leakage by ensuring that less plastic is wasted at source and management of the plastic value chain is improved in South-East Asia.

A 10-member SEA circular Project Steering Committee (PSC), which is a representation of national governments, intergovernmental entities, global association, researchers and academia, and UNEP, meets once a year and provides overall strategic direction, programmatic as well as budgetary oversight, and support stakeholder engagement and coordination, for effective and timely project delivery.

The second meeting of the SEA circular PSC was held on 9 December 2019 at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok. The meeting was chaired by Isabelle Louis, Deputy Regional Director, UNEP ROAP.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- report on the implementation progress for 2018-2019
- receive inputs for the work plan for 2020
- follow up on matters arising from the 1st Project Steering Committee meeting

SHARING OF THE PROJECT PROGRESS & PLANNING

The second PSC meeting presented and exchanged feedback on the SEA circular project governance, role and terms of reference of the PSC, project implementation progress, SEA circular communication, outreach and knowledge management, including the SEA of Solutions 2019 partnership week on marine plastic pollution prevention (SOS2019), and the proposed work plan for 2020.

OVERALL FEEDBACK FROM THE PSC

PSC members echoed that the SEA circular project progress and plans are in the right direction. However, the project now must step up and progress faster with a clear focus on the end results and outcomes of the project. The PSC suggested the project team to use the momentum that SEA of Solutions has created to advance with further development and implementation of the project, create partnerships, strengthen commitments and foster ownership and engagement among stakeholders in the region. PSC approved of the progress and the draft framework of the work plan for 2020, and provided following suggestions for consideration:

- highlight the need for possible synergies at the regional and global level like ASEAN Marine Debris Framework and G20 action plans on marine litter
- interweave gender and human rights approach in project outputs and activities and ensure inclusion of informal waste sector
- suggested that the project and its scientific studies and reports do not become another academic exercise but are practical and useful to the communities, governments and businesses
- SEA circular project should not remain a silent academic exercise – effective and aggressive outreach and publicity of the project to the stakeholders and beneficiaries is important
- monitor and measure the impacts of reports and publications of the SEA circular- who are receiving these reports and how are they being referred and utilized
- establish a strong linkage among marine leakage, accumulation hotspots and upstream plastic value chain
- ensure coherence and harmonization in methodologies and the plans for marine plastic pollution reduction
- upgrade SEA circular as a supportive avenue for businesses to participate and contribute to fight against marine plastic pollution

- bring and engage local companies through chamber of commerce, rotary clubs etc. – build the trust of the private sector by illustrating results/solutions to entice them to join the cause
- prioritize focus areas, identify niche areas of the project and focus on those deliverables
- stay on top of the emerging issues like illegal trade of plastics, financing local solutions and other potential emerging issues
- boost the outreach and visibility of the SEA circular project; target youth, make the message 'viral' - allocate special budget for promotional activities
- explore financial/resources sustainability for the SEA of Solutions event to become a brand even beyond the SEA circular project duration
- focus on developing tailor made, simple yet impactful messaging of the project to target audiences.

CONCLUSIONS & SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

The Chair of the meeting concluded the meeting by thanking all participants for the valuable inputs to the SEA circular project, and provided a summary of the decisions made by the PSC as follows:

Implementation progress for 2018-2019 & plan for 2020: The PSC endorsed:

1. The SEA circular project inception and implementation progress report.
2. The draft framework on the work plan 2020, with an agreement to refine the plan further and resubmit to the PSC in January 2020 for further review and inputs before submission to the donor.

Mandates of the Project Steering Committee: The PSC recommended the following with regards to the PSC composition and mandates:

3. Meet more often perhaps virtually, instead of the current frequency of one annual meeting, as well as to conduct a quarterly update on the project progress – suggested the SEA circular team to propose the meeting calendar for approval. The PSC is open to meetings conducted virtually (web/tele-conferences).
4. Emphasize the active and constant participation of all members in PSC meetings, it was recommended that a review of the membership be undertaken, if members did not physically participate for consecutive periods. The number of absences will be discussed at the next PSC. New nominations will then be considered by the PSC.

5. Review the participation and membership of the international solid waste association (ISWA) with a recommendation to be prepared for the PSC of a suitable nomination of a representative of the recycling industry and/or the informal sector in the PSC. Also, urge the ASEAN secretariat to participate in the next PSC meetings. The PSC members also agreed to provide recommendations on members, upon which the SEA circular team will formally propose the new nomination to the for approval at the next PSC.
6. Design innovative dialogue sessions with the private sector to support the delivery of the project and its activities where private sector engagement will be essential instead of inviting as a formal member of the PSC.

Overall recommendations for project implementation: The PSC commended the project implementation progress, planned communication and outreach activities and the new work plan and suggested the following for enhancing the quality and effectiveness of the project:

7. Prioritize activities for more focus according to current needs of the project deliverables and indicators, the target countries and facilitate a reality check of actual deliverables of the project.
8. Shifting from primarily planning, consultations and report production to results based activities that lead to achievements by the project and its partners that demonstrate less plastic is wasted.
9. Identify simple set of key messages of the purpose of the project, its unique niche and focus which can be easily communicated by the PSC members, project team and partners so as to be easily understood by target audiences, and to mobilize large numbers of followers and advocates.
10. Identify innovative outreach activities, partnerships and campaign style messages that are actively promoted to enhance visibility of project's niche approach and to mobilize results and solutions to reduce plastic pollution.
11. PSC member Eddy Mazuaansyah Bin Mohd Ali Murad from MESTECC, Malaysia requested more regular inputs and support from the SEA circular team and the PSC members, to support the Malaysian government and MESTECC in particular:

    11 a. to provide inputs in drafting Ministry's Performance Indicators to deliver Malaysia's Marine Litter Roadmap (as part of Ministry's marine litter national planning), which will be officially launched in the end of Second quarter 2020 by the Minister;

    11b. to consider MESTECC's request for flexibility in the Malaysia SEA circular project contract deliverables to optimize and finance activities for quick results.

ANNEX 2: FINANCIAL REPORT 2019

Financial Report 2019
Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in Southeast Asia
(1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019)
(Expressed in US dollars)

Activity	Budget	Expenditure	Commitment	Total Expenditure & Commitment	Balance	Percentage	Remark
1 Staff and other personnel cost	**341,350**	**51,927.38**	**167.37**	**52,094.75**	**289,255.25**	**15.26%**	
Project coordinator - P3 (100%)	152,100	48,885.09	167.37	49,052.46	103,047.54		
Associate Programme Officer - P2 COBSEA (80%)	no cost for 2019	-	-	-			
Programme Officer - P3 COBSEA (50%)	76,050	-	-	-	76,050.00		
Administrative Assistant - G5 (100%)	78,500	3,042.29	-	3,042.29	75,457.71		
Management Oversight and Technical Support (15-25%)	34,700	-	-	-	34,700.00		
2 Travel	**146,243**	**57,369.80**	**2,123.00**	**59,492.80**	**86,750.20**	**40.68%**	
Expert travel - Steering Committee, M&E, technical consultants	35,293	2,299.50	-	2,299.50	32,993.50		
Representative travel - regional policy workshops	32,500	6,129.74	-	6,129.74	26,370.26		
Representative travel- stakeholder consultation and training	29,250	9,608.00	-	9,608.00	19,642.00		
Staff travel - Project level	18,200	12,863.66	1,167.00	14,030.66	4,169.34		
Staff travel - Programme level	6,000	1,345.19	956.00	2,301.19	3,698.81		
Conference services - constituency engagement - marine litter/plastic pollution week and related	25,000	25,123.71	-	25,123.71	(123.71)		

3 Consultants/Experts	**163,867**	**99,469.02**	**137,000.00**	**236,469.02**	**(72,602.02)**	**144.31%**	
Monitoring and evaluation, constituency engagement and communication	38,581	-	-	-	38,581.00		*Reported under Grant and contribution*
Recycle plastic standards consultant	36,786	-	-	-	36,786.00		
Marine litter policy/planning specialist	45,000	12,000.00	64,000.00	76,000.00	(31,000.00)		
Marine litter monitoring specialists	43,500	10,500.00	-	10,500.00	33,000.00		
Plastic value chain specialist	-	10,000.00	(10,000.00)	-	-		*Reported in Inception phase*
Consultant - SEA of Solutions and Partnership Coordinator	-	30,000.00	61,000.00	91,000.00	(91,000.00)		
Consultant - Project implementation - SEA circular	-	11,000.00	22,000.00	33,000.00	(33,000.00)		
Consultant - Web Design	-	10,000.00	-	10,000.00	(10,000.00)		*This was budgeted under contractual services in the approved budget; Production of outreach material - a website*
Consultant - Graphic Design	-	10,000.00	-	10,000.00	(10,000.00)		*This was budgeted under contractual services in the approved budget; Campaigns on plastic reduction*
Consultant - Graphic Design	-	1,500.00	-	1,500.00	(1,500.00)		*This was budgeted under contractual services in the approved budget; Production of outreach material - one identity package including a logo and a flyer*
Campaigns on plastic reduction: VDO production	-	4,469.02	-	4,469.02	(4,469.02)		*This was budgeted under contractual services in the approved budget (UMOJA GL issue); Campaigns on plastic reduction*
4 Contractual Services	**179,993**	**25,034.84**	-	**25,034.84**	**154,958.16**	**13.91%**	
Conference services for the Inception planning and project launch	9,993	2,238.63	-	2,238.63	7,754.37		
Plastic value chain analysis for the beverage, food and retails industry	10,000	-	-	-	10,000.00		
Landfill composition analysis	5,000	-	-	-	5,000.00		

Identification and delivery of market solution (Thailand and Malaysia)	20,000	-	-	-	20,000.00		
Conference services - project coordination, project workshops and meetings	25,000	4,281.00	-	4,281.00	20,719.00		
Conference services - constituency engagement - marine litter/plastic pollution week and related	25,000	8,594.84	-	8,594.84	16,405.16		
Production of outreach material - one identity package including a logo and a flyer	10,000	9,920.37	-	9,920.37	79.63		
Campaigns on plastic reduction	20,000		-	-	20,000.00		
Production of outreach material - a website	5,000	-	-	-	5,000.00		
Implementation of communication and outreach activities including media tours	50,000	-	-	-	50,000.00		
5 Grants and Contributions	**771,000**	**69,516.00**	**128,849.00**	**198,365.00**	**572,635.00**	**25.73%**	
Plastic value chain analysis for the beverage, food and retails industry	100,000	-	-	-	100,000.00		
Business Incentive Survey	40,000	-	-	-	40,000.00		
Southeast Asia plastic management outlook - solution report	50,000	-	-	-	50,000.00		
Landfill composition analysis	20,000	-	-	-	20,000.00		
Training on plastic disclosure project	30,000	-	60,000.00	60,000.00	(30,000.00)		
Assessment of plastic leakage points in Southeast Asia (identification and detailed assessment of hotspots	120,000	-	-	-	120,000.00		
Regional implementation of the Massive Open Online Course on Marine Litter	20,000	-	-	-	20,000.00		
Roundtable on policy and technology on alternative packaging and plastic recycling	50,000	-	-	-	50,000.00		
Regional knowledge sharing: regional node of GPML and web maintenance	40,000	-	-	-	40,000.00		
Train-the-Trainers workshop on Marine litter	45,000	-	-	-	45,000.00		

Campaigns on plastic reduction	56,000	-	-	-	56,000.00		
Consumer awareness survey	40,000	-	-	-	40,000.00		
Identification and delivery of market solution (Thailand and Malaysia)	160,000	-	30,000.00	30,000.00	130,000.00		
Gender indicator and social economic analysis ** Inception phase	-	43,750.00	-	43,750.00	(43,750.00)		*Reported in Inception phase*
Communications, Outreach and Monitoring Impact consultant	-	25,766.00	38,849.00	64,615.00	(64,615.00)		*This was budgeted under consultant in the approved budget: Monitoring and evaluation, constituency engagement and communication*
Direct Project Management Cost	**48,450**	**48,260.50**	**-**	**48,260.50**	**189.50**	**99.61%**	
6 Operational cost	39,000	44,389.50	-	44,389.50	(5,389.50)		*Including staff operational cost and contractual service (UMOJA GL issue) : Conference services - constituency engagement - marine litter/plastic pollution week and related*
7 Supplies, Commodities, and Material	9,450	1,047.00	-	1,047.00	8,403.00		*This was budgeted under office hardware in the approved budget*
8 Equipment, vehicles and furniture	-	2,824.00		2,824.00	(2,824.00)		*This was budgeted under office hardware in the approved budget*
Net Total	**1,650,902**	**351,577.54**	**268,139.37**	**619,716.91**	**1,031,186.09**	**37.54%**	
PSC	132,072	50,190.71	-	50,190.71	81,882.00		
Grand total	**1,782,974**	**401,768.25**	**268,139.37**	**669,907.62**	**1,113,068.09**	**37.57%**	

Cash Status	Amount in USD
Funds Received	1,852,359.89
2018 Expenditure	10,000.00
2019 Expenditure	669,907.62
Cumulative Expenditure as of Dec 2019	679,907.62
Exchange rate (loss)/gain	(225.00)
Cash Balance	**1,172,227.27**

ANNEX 3: SIGNED COPY OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2019

[illegible]CPL - TF Cirport Ctrs Supp Events Activities

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

(Represent in US dollars)

Income	
Contributions Received	1,852,259.89
Total Income	1,852,259.89
Expenditures	
Staff and other personnel cost	298,555.77
Supplies, Commodities and Materials	1,997.88
Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture	2,824.60
Contractual Services	23,016.84
Travel	59,692.80
Transfers and Grants	159,365.00
General Operating and Other Direct Costs	44,380.50
Total direct expenditures	629,716.98
Indirect Support Costs (United Nations)	50,195.71
Total expenditures	679,997.62
Net excess/(shortfall) income over expenditure	1,172,452.27
Exchange rate (loss/gain)	(225.00)
Available Balance	1,172,227.27

Certified by: _____ Date: 17/02/2020

Mohamed [illegible]
Fund Management Officer
UN Environment

Cleared by: _____ 14/02/2020

[illegible]
Chief Financial Reporting Unit, BFMS
Nairobi

United Nations Office at Nairobi
ACCOUNTS SECTION
Budget and Financial
Management Service

Approved by: _____ Date: 20/2/2020

Kitch Geovah

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICE
Budget and Financial Advisor
UN Environment
20 FEB 2020
UNEP / CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

M.O.

ANNEX 4: MEMBERS OF THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC)

1 UN Environment Programme
Dr. Isabelle Louis
Deputy Regional Director
UN Environment Programme Asia and the Pacific Office (UNEP ROAP)
Email: louisi@un.org

2 Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)
Ms. Heidi Savelli-Soderberg
Programme Officer, Marine Litter
Email: heidi.savelli@un.org

3 Secretariat of the Association for South East Asian Nations
Ms. Natalia Derodofa
Environment Division, ASEAN Secretariat
Email: natalia@asean.org

4 Non-governmental or civil society organization
Mr. Doug Woodring
Founder and Managing Director, Ocean Recovery Alliance
Email: doug@oceanrecov.org

5 Academic or research organization
Dr. So Sasaki
Professor, Faculty of Economics, Chuo University Visiting Scholar, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University
Email: so-s@tamacc.chuo-u.ac.jp

6 Academic or research organization
Dr. Thon Thamrongnawasawat
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Fisheries, Department of Marine Science
Kasetsart University
Email: talaythorn@gmail.com

7 The Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
Marine Litter Working Group [Until the nomination by the Working Group is made]
Mr. Jerker Tamelander
COBSEA Coordinator
UN Environment Programme
Asia and the Pacific
Email: tamelander@un.org

8 Government representatives (x2)

8.1 Mr. Suwan Nanthasarut

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Thailand

Email: snanthasarut@yahoo.com

Alternative: Mr. Ukkrit Satapoomin

Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), Research and Development Institute

Email: ukkrit@yahoo.com

8.2 Mr. Eddy Mazuaansyah Bin Mohd Ali Murad

Under-Secretary

Pollution Control Division,

Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC), Malaysia

Email: eddyms@mestecc.gov.my

9 International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)

Mr. Costas Velis

Chair of ISWA Marine Litter Working Group

Email: C.Velis@leeds.ac.uk

10 Government of Sweden - As observer

Ms. Louise Herrmann

First Secretary/ Senior Program Manager- Environment and Climate Change, Embassy of Sweden in Thailand

Email: louise.herrmann@gov.se

ANNEX 5: SEA CIRCULAR RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Project Impact:	Less plastic wasted, with reduced input to and impact on the marine environment as well as dependent people	
Project Outcomes	**Outcome Indicators**	**Use of outcome indicators**
Reduction in plastic that are difficult to collect and recycle Increase in plastic reuse and recycle Increase in awareness about marine litter and plastic pollution, and public and consumer support for policies to fight it	**Reduction in single-use plastic production and sale** (plastic shopping bags, plastic straws and/or plastic cutlery) *Baseline: Indonesia 6.5% increase; Malaysia 3.9% increase; Thailand 4.16% increase; Viet Nam 7.2% increase between 2016 and 2017* *Target: Reduction in annual rate of increase* Data collection by national plastic associations, including Malaysia Plastics Forum and Plastics Institute of Thailand Measured through industry reports **Variety of alternative packaging (item)** *Baseline: 0 (no systematic documentation so far)* *Target: 50* Data collection by all project implementing partners Measured through case studies, factsheets and product information collected **Increase in collection of PET bottles for recycling (by tonnage)** *Baseline: 44 - 59% in Bangkok; 32 - 43% in Phuket; 20.8 - 27.9% for Kuala Lumpur (all in 2018)* *Target: 40% increase* Data collection by national plastic associations, including Malaysia Plastics Forum and Plastics Institute of Thailand Measured through industry reports	Outcome indicators show effectiveness and efficiency of project efforts and investments in creating conducive conditions for reducing marine litter through better management of the plastic value chain.

	Packaging recycling rate *Baseline: Standardization of recycling rate definition by Q1 2020* *Target: To be determined in Q1/Q2 2020* Data collection by national plastic associations, including Malaysia Plastics Forum and Plastics Institute of Thailand; UNEP as indicator coordinator of SDG indicator 12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled Measured through industry reports; governmental reports on SDGs **Increased consumer awareness on marine litter and plastic pollution** *Baseline: To be confirmed after the joint survey with FIA in Q1 2020* *Target: To be confirmed after the joint survey with FIA in Q1 2020* Data collection by FIA and UNEP Measured through consumer awareness surveys in 2020 and 2022 **Number of governments at all levels that are implementing waste prevention and sound management policies and good practices, in accordance with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant international agreements with UNEP support** *Baseline: Cambodia and Phnom Penh in 2018* *Target: 8 additional countries and cities in Southeast by 2022 in collaboration with World Bank, WWF and other city-based projects* Data collection by: International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC), UNEP, other actors in civil society Measured through governmental reports and communications and civil society project reports	

Output 1: Market-based solutions towards "less plastic wasted'

Output	Output indicators	Use of output indicators
1: Market-based solutions towards "less plastic wasted'	Number of companies operating in South-East Asia publishing sustainability reports with information on Plastic Footprint and number of companies committing to nation-wide private-sector plastic reduction programmes Number of pilot demonstration on environmentally sound waste management supported Changes in policies in Malaysia and Thailand concerning recycled plastics Amount of co-financing raised from private sector stakeholders towards achieving Output 1 (cash and in kind, USD) Saving achieved (including avoided costs) by companies and other entities through improved management of plastic value chain	These indicators illustrate: • Public and private sector commitment to plastic pollution reduction; • applicability and replicability of solutions generated, and • effectiveness of the project in leveraging upstream action by stakeholders. • The first indicator will be linked to SDG indicator 12.6.1 Number of companies publishing sustainability reports, which UNEP is indicator coordinator. Possible link to the component of Sustainability reporting of SWITCH-Asia Programme.
Results	**Activities**	**Partners and roles**
Result 1.1: Stakeholders in Southeast Asia measure and report their plastic footprint	• Collection of 35 cases of plastic re-use and recycle and of reduction and elimination of single-use plastics and hard-to-recycle plastic packaging and preparation of factsheets	• Information collected by the project coordination team and verified by all implementing partners • Cases will include, among others: IKEA Southeast Asia; The Siam Cement Group Public Company Limited and other members of the Public Private Partnership for Sustainable Plastic and Waste Management; natural fibre packaging by Gracz; UN Compound in Malaysia and Thailand; BNI Indonesia

		• SDG 12.7.1 Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans
	Raise awareness of rights and responsibilities, including business and human rights, and develop the capacities of duty-bearers (governments and businesses) to fulfil their obligations and address the needs of disadvantaged groups: • Dissemination of information material such as issue papers on human rights-based approach and gender dimensions of plastic management and marine litter • Delivery of dedicated one-day trainings on human rights, gender equality & applying UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights for stakeholders and UNEP colleagues, and scoping of additional opportunities to engage stakeholders in human rights training at internal and partner events (e.g. Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum)	• Implemented by the project coordinating team, targeting all implementing partners, organized in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and other UN partners (e.g. UN Women)

	• Plastic value chain analysis for the beverage, food, and retail industry and for low-value materials including Flexibles (recognizing gender-specific needs and contributions of disadvantaged groups)	• Carried out by:
		  • Coca-Cola Thailand and Malaysia for beverages
		  • Food Industry Asia and/or GA Circular for food packaging (non-PET)
		  • GA Circular for low-value materials (Flexibles and Plastic Bags)
		  • GA Circular for retail

	• Landfill composition analysis (where landfill access is provided by landfill operators) representative of waste entering the landfills to verify landfill rates for both high value and low value plastic materials entering the landfills	• Methodology for the landfill compositional analysis to be determined by GA Circular with inputs from other implementing partners

	• Training on Plastic Disclosure Project and technical support towards preparation of information on plastic footprint in 2 local governments and 10 companies each in Malaysia and Thailand	• With technical guidance from Ocean Recovery Alliance
		• Carried out by:
		  • Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC), in two local governments and 10 companies in Malaysia
		  • Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) and Pollution Control Department (PCD) of the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment (MONRE), with help of Kitakyushu City Government (Japan) in two local governments in Thailand
		  • Phuket Hotel Association, Thailand
		  • The Siam Cement Group Public Company Limited in ASEAN countries
		  • 2 companies with support of the Solid Waste Association of Thailand (SWAT)
		  • Thailand Environment Institute as Secretariat of the Public Private Partnership for Sustainable Plastic and Waste Management

Result 1.2: Stakeholders in Southeast Asia demonstrate ability to manage the plastic value chain better	• Identification of inclusive market transforming solutions on plastic reduction, reuse and recycling:
	  • Solutions analysis for plastic recycling and energy recovery
	  • Solutions analysis for improvement on plastic waste management - segregation at source, collection coverage, and plastic disposal (including informal activities)
	• Solutions analysis on plastic avoidance and upcycling
		• Inviting tech partners:
		  • GA Circular - for plastic recycling and energy recovery
		  • Waste Management Association of Malaysia (WMAM) and Solid Waste Association of Thailand (SWAT) for plastic waste management
		  • Ocean Recovery Alliance - Solutions analysis on plastic avoidance and upcycling
		• In consultation with informal economy networks and/or local waste picker representatives and human rights / gender equality advocacy such as: Women in Informal Employment Globalizing Organizing (WIEGO), Enlawthai Foundation, the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)

	• Delivery of solutions for better management of the plastic value chain two provinces in Thailand (Koh Samet and Rayong) and two states in Malaysia (Penang, Petaling Jaya), ensuring an inclusive and gender-sensitive perspective • Delivery of solutions for better management of the plastic value chain in 10 companies each in Malaysia and Thailand (through the preparation of Corporate Sustainability Report), ensuring an inclusive and gender-sensitive perspective	• Carried out with MESTECC in Malaysia and the MONRE in Thailand • With technical support of GA Circular, SWAT, Kitakyushu City Government (Japan), and the Ocean Recovery Alliance
Result 1.3: Business incentives for plastic reduction and	• Business incentive surveys in 2019 and 2021 (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam)	• Jointly with Food Industry Asia (FIA)

recycling identified and applied	• Roundtable on policy and technology for plastic re-use and recycling and alternative packaging, one each in Malaysia and Thailand (ensuring safe spaces for gender-balanced and inclusive participation)	• Carried out by: o MESTECC in Malaysia o Solid Waste Association of Thailand (SWAT) in Thailand • Potentially drawing on SWITCH-Asia Programme (e.g. work with Lazada Singapore and Thailand and FoodPanda) • In cooperation with local/regional informal economy representatives (e.g. WIEGO) • SDG 12.A.1

Milestones	Baseline	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total	Means of Verification
1A: Stakeholders in Southeast Asia report their Plastic Footprint	0			10	10		20	PDP "Plastic Footprint Challenge" online data
1B: Roundtables on policy and technology for reduction/elimination, re-use and recycle of plastic	0		1			1	2	Published reports, knowledge hub, information sessions at plastic and waste conferences; COBSEA meeting proceedings
1C: Implementation of demonstration interventions for reduction/elimination, re-use and recycle of plastic	0		2	2			4	Published reports, knowledge hub, , information sessions at plastic and waste conferences; COBSEA meeting proceedings
1D: Report on policy and technology solutions	0				1		1	Published reports, knowledge hub, media coverage

Output 2: Strengthening the scientific basis for decision making

Output	Output indicators	Use of output indicators
2: Strengthening the scientific basis for decision making	Number of COBSEA countries publishing marine litter monitoring results Number of COBSEA countries that incorporate pollution loading as well as environmental, social and economic impact indicators in marine litter reporting Number of COBSEA countries that include a citizen-science approach in baseline data development and national monitoring programmes Number of new research projects/partnerships on marine litter and plastic pollution, including environmental, social and economic impacts and governance aspects	The indicator illustrates increased access to information in support of decision making The indicator illustrates increased decision-making relevance of marine litter monitoring data and reporting The indicator shows that the capacity and concerns of citizens are formally recognized in generating information for environmental management The indicator shows effectiveness of project facilitation, technical advice and capacity building efforts
Results	**Activities**	**Partners and roles**
Result 2.1: Baseline data on marine litter leakage through the plastic value chain, including spillage sites and occasions as well as distribution pathways, collected, analyzed and disclosed	*Identification of marine litter generation pathways and hotspots, including assessment of leakage through baseline assessment of the plastic value chain and identification of marine litter distribution patterns and accumulation hotspots* • This will be implemented through subcontracts with national and technical partners • Building on existing methodologies and methods being developed by UNEP and partners. Assessments will incorporate a citizen-science approach	• led by national institutions, in consultation with COBSEA WGML • ensuring engagement of academia, civil society and private sector, as well as relevant groups such as informal waste picker organizations • East China Normal University as well as other relevant technical partners e.g. NOAA, KOEM, JAMSTEC, WCMC, ISWA, NOWPAP

Result 2.2: Regular reporting on marine litter status and trends at regional and national levels	*Technical support toward development of a Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme and National Marine Litter Survey and Monitoring Programmes and associated data management* • This will be implemented through regional workshops and national consultations and may include hiring of national consultants • Drawing on global guidance including the Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) WG 40 guidelines, tools and resources developed through the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), as well as best practice in the region, and also embedding a citizen-science approach, ensuring that data are disaggregated, as far as possible, on the grounds of race, colour, sex, geographic location and so forth	• in consultation with COBSEA WGML • ensuring engagement of academia and civil society, including equitable participation of human rights / gender equality advocacy organizations and representatives of disadvantaged groups • TA from GPML and GESAMP WG 40
Result 2.3: Scientific community in the region publishing findings on marine litter pollution and the plastic value chain	*Analysis and technical support for research relevant to addressing marine litter and plastic pollution* • This will entail mapping of current research and technology with academic institutions and sharing a catalogue of efforts through the regional GPML node to be established, in order to facilitate research collaboration and 'matchmaking', making findings and information material available in accessible formats and languages as needed	• relevant academic and research institutions such as: University of Wollongong, NUS/CIL • in consultation with COBSEA WGML • leveraging networks of GPML, GUPES, NOWPAP as well as constituency networking and engagement mechanism (result 4.3)
Result 2.4: Policy and regulatory obstacles to and opportunities for reducing plastic wastage and	*Review of regulatory drivers that hinder or enable equitable change, building on existing global/regional research and outputs of this project* • Building on existing global/regional research as well as	• lead by technical agency, e.g. University of Wollongong, NUS/CIL

preventing marine litter identified	outputs of this project (incl. Output 1 and 3) • Implemented through technical partner institution(s), promoting accountability and capacity to monitor the realization of economic and social rights in line with international standards	• in consultation with COBSEA WGML as well as ASEAN Working Groups on Coastal and Marine Environment and on Chemicals and Waste (AWGMCE, AWGCW) • In cooperation with OHCHR and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) where appropriate

Milestones	Baseline	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total	Means of Verification
Milestone 2A: Baseline assessments on plastic pollution leakage and marine litter hotspots published (number of assessments subject to scale of target areas and may therefore be lower or spaced out over 2020-2021, max. 9)	2 (China; Malaysia)		2	3	3		10	Published reports
Milestone 2B: Regional workshops for development and implementation of national ML monitoring	0		1			1	2	Workshop report
Milestone 2C: Regional guidance on harmonized ML monitoring developed toward a regional data approach	0			1			1	Regional guidance document
Milestone 2D: Format for regional ML progress monitoring developed guiding progress reporting at IGM 25	0			1	1		2	Progress reporting
Milestone 2E: Catalogue of ongoing marine litter/plastic pollution research is shared	0		0	1				Review report and catalogue, to be made available through Regional Node of the GPML
Milestone 2F: Research network developed addressing gaps on plastic pollution and impacts	0			1	0	0		Research network and related agreements
Milestone 2G: Report on priority policy and regulatory interventions				1				Published report

Output 3: Outreach

Output	Output indicators	Use of output indicators
3: Outreach	Number of individuals completing Massive Open Online Course and distribution among stakeholder groups (government, private sector, academia, civil society and community-based organizations) Change in consumer awareness in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam Increased media coverage of social and economic impacts of plastic pollution and marine litter	The indicator shows to what extent capacity building is distributed among target groups and enables more targeted efforts to address gaps The indicator illustrates convergence around campaign messaging/delivery and therefore likelihood of impact The indicator reflects public discourse and thereby tendency of public and private sector to act, enabling further targeting of campaign effort
Results	**Activities**	**Partners and roles**
Result 3.1: Social and economic impacts of marine litter better understood, leveraging interest and action across stakeholder groups	• Analysis of social and economic impacts of marine litter, with focus on key economic sectors as well as vulnerable groups such as coastal communities and informal waste pickers with gender-specific information, to inform project design and outreach and bring visibility to gender and human rights dimensions	Carried out by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) *[completed]*
Result 3.2: Outreach partnership for tackling marine litter and plastic waste broadened and strengthened	• Dissemination of a set of the project identity products (e.g. logo, slogan, key messages) and a launch and maintenance of the project website	Led by the project coordination team, in consultation with UNEP Communications Division
Result 3.3 Increased consumer awareness of marine litter and plastic waste prompts	• Mapping and tracking of stakeholders in marine litter reduction and plastic value chain management (including informal sector), in recognition of needs and	• Mapping of national and local level stakeholders concerning waste management, recovery and recycling of plastic packaging, led by GA Circular, in consultation

behavioural change and support for policy reform	contributions of right holders	with civil society organizations (CSO) and representatives of disadvantaged groups including the informal sector • Mapping of regional level stakeholders on marine ecosystem management and marine litter, led by Centre for International Law (CIL) of the National University of Singapore (NUS)
	Updating, formatting and dissemination of country reports	• Led by the project coordination team with input from government partners
	• Establishment and delivery of Plastic Circular Economy Award, highlighting champions and promoting inclusive approaches in communities and civil society, industry and the public sector	• Led by the project coordination team • As part of Sustainable Business Awards (https://sustainablebusinessawards.com) • In collaboration with Solid Waste Association of Thailand (SWAT) and Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) in case of Thailand
	• Consumer awareness surveys in 2020 and 2022 (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam)	• Carried out jointly by Food Industry Asia (FIA) and UNEP
Result 3.3 Increased consumer awareness of marine litter and plastic waste prompts behavioural change and support for policy reform	• Regional tailoring and delivery of Train-the-Trainers for marine litter education, outreach and action based on the global Massive Open Online Course on Marine Litter and a course segment on gender sensitivity and on human rights and stakeholder engagement (e.g. of vulnerable groups)	• Led by International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) of the UNEP Programme • With support from UNEP Asia and the Pacific Office on gender issues, in cooperation with OHCHR, UNDP and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to deliver stakeholder engagement training
	• Implementation of the communication and outreach strategy for the project, including development and dissemination of campaign materials, drawing on the Clean Seas campaign, analytical outputs from the inception phase, leveraging input from partners across	• Led by the project coordination team, in consultation with UNEP Communications Division • In coordination with human rights / gender equality advocacy organizations and representatives of disadvantaged groups

	stakeholder groups through media and outreach (using gender-responsive and culturally sensitive language and accessible communication channels)	
	• Implementation of regional awareness raising campaign including nationally tailored sub-campaigns delivered through national partners (ensuring targeted/equitable outreach and accessibility that respect the needs and capacities of right holders for inclusive behaviour change, including in coastal communities and the urban poor, women and youth)	• Led by the project coordination team with national and local partners of the existing global campaigns, i.e. #BeatPollution, #CleanSeas, and #BeatPlasticPollution • In consultation with GPML • Carried out in Malaysia with MESTECC • Carried out in Thailand by local governments with help of the MONRE, Thailand

Milestones	Baseline	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total	Means of Verification
3A: Assessment of social and economic impacts of marine litter	0	1						Published report
3B: Public awareness survey on marine litter and plastic pollution conducted	0		1		1		2	Published reports
3C: Train-the-Trainers workshop	0		1					Knowledge hub
3D: Massive Open Online Course on Marine Litter, encompassing gender and human rights content	0		1	1	1	1	4	Knowledge hub
3E: Additional Clean Seas pledges from Southeast Asia (government/civil society/private sector)	2/1/0		2	3	3	2	10	Campaign website
3F: National sub-campaigns using regional campaign strategy and materials	1		1	1	1	1	5	Campaign website and social media platforms
3G: Media tours	2		1	1	1		5	Media coverage; knowledge hub

Output 4: Regional networking for exchange, cooperation and integration

Output	Output indicators	Use of output indicators
4: Regional networking for exchange, cooperation and integration	Number of COBSEA countries adopting or revising national marine litter action plans or equivalent in line with COBSEA RAP MALI Number of national or local/municipal regulations adopted, aiming to tackle marine litter e.g. by reducing or eliminating single use plastic, expanding markets for alternative materials, promoting plastic segregation and recycling, etc. Number of products or polymers subject to recycling or reduction mechanism adopted regionally/by multiple countries Year-on year percent increase in regional marine litter knowledge hub online content as well as traffic Year-on year percent increase in participation in a SEA of Solutions partnership week across government, private sector, academia and civil society, with particular attention given to the participation/representation of disadvantaged groups	The indicator illustrates strengthened national planning and enhanced regional coherence in national ML plans, as a key building block in further policy reform The indicator shows how successful the project is in strengthening policy and regulatory frameworks The indicator shows how successful the project is in catalysing regional or multi-country policy change The indicator shows effectiveness of project in delivering information to end users The indicator illustrates broadened engagement in addressing marine litter across stakeholder groups
Results	**Activities**	**Partners and roles**
Result 4.1: Regionally coherent national marine litter plans, leveraging all stakeholder groups	*Technical advice, guidance and capacity building for national planning in the context of COBSEA RAP MALI* • Regional workshops and national consultation (cross sectoral, inclusive stakeholder participation)	• Led by national institutions, in consultation with COBSEA WGML, ensuring engagement of academia, civil society, and private sector (guidance / requirement)

		• Ensuring equitable participation of human rights / gender equality advocacy organizations and representatives of disadvantaged groups
Result 4.2: Regionally coherent policies, regulations or standards support plastic reduction, recycling and marine litter prevention	*Technical advice and institutional support on the application of project analytical products in development of the policy and regulatory framework, including to support and leverage efforts through ASEAN* • Guidance and seminars on measuring plastic footprint, analysis of plastic value chains including plastic leakage and hotspots assessment (linked to Activity 2.1 and drawing on knowledge and expertise from Output 1). • Guidance to implement the recommendations in the report, Packaging Industry Regulations & Standards for Design, Labelling, Recovery & Recycling in ASEAN. • Technical advice and capacity building towards enhanced efforts through ASEAN to address marine litter equitably across the plastic value chain, with a focus on supporting ASEAN regional marine litter framework planning as well as, through ASEAN working groups, providing technical support on development of regional policy instruments or regionally coordinated, national incentives, standards or regulations.	• Led by Ocean Recovery Alliance, GA Circular and East China Normal University. • Carried out in consultation with COBSEA IGM and WGML; ASEAN (Secretariat, AWGMCE and AWGCW); GPML; SWITCH-Asia Programme partners and other relevant global and regional organizations • Ensuring equitable participation of human rights / gender equality advocacy organizations and representatives of disadvantaged groups

Result 4.3: Information sharing and stakeholder engagement support broad-based action on marine litter	*Establishment of regional constituency engagement, networking and knowledge management mechanisms on marine litter* • Annual partners engagement week, "SEA of Solutions", convened by UNEP and COBSEA Secretariat, in coordination with partners. Sessions, events and associated activities will be organized and sponsored by partners across sectors and stakeholder groups to showcase innovative and inclusive solutions, drawing on existing successful fora as model (e.g. Asia Clean Air Week, Asia Pacific Adaptation Forum etc.) • A regional knowledge and information sharing hub on marine litter will be established, to harness expertise and resources, provide a regularly updated inventory of marine litter efforts in the region, access to tools, knowledge products, and training opportunities as well as to ensure access to project outputs. This will entail establishment of a Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, and build on the existing infrastructure of the Marine Litter Network (http://marinelitternetwork.com)	• Consultation and collaboration with core partners inviting all stakeholders • Invite and enable human rights / gender equality advocacy organizations and representatives of disadvantaged groups to participate actively in constituency engagement events • Coordinate with UN Partners and others to invite implementing partners (government and business) to participate in external human rights-focussed events such as the Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum (in cooperation with UNDP) and AICHR Summits

Milestones	Baseline	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Cumulative	Means of Verification
Milestone 4A: Guidance for national marine litter planning in the context of COBSEA RAP MALI	0			1			1	Biennial work plan (for consideration at IGM 25 in 2021)
Milestone 4B: Consultation / capacity building meeting(s) for national ML planning	0		2	1			3	Meeting report(s)
Milestone 4C: National marine litter plans developed or updated in all EAS countries	2		1	2	6		11	Published national ML plans

Milestone 4D: Adoption of policies aiming to reduce marine litter/plastic pollution	2		1	1	1	1	6	National or municipal policies and regulations; Reports of ASEAN and COBSEA meetings
Milestone 4E: Regional knowledge hub / Regional Node of the GPML providing access to project outputs and other relevant information	0			1			1	Knowledge hub content and visitor/use statistics
Milestone 4F: SEA of Solutions constituency engagement and networking mechanism	0		1	1	1	1	4	Event report, press, social media