Identifying and quantifying plastic contaminant sources and leakages into the aquatic environment

3rd Steering Committee meeting
16 May 2025

ietc@un.org

Agenda

5 min	Opening remarks	Janne Leskinen, EC task manager
25 min	Report on project implementation Q&A	Project coordinator
15 min	Budget update Q&A	Project manager
20 min	Upcoming activities (working plan) Q&A	Project coordinator
5 min	AOB	Project manager
5 min	Closing remarks	Takehiro Nakamura, head UNEP-IETC

1. Report on project implementation

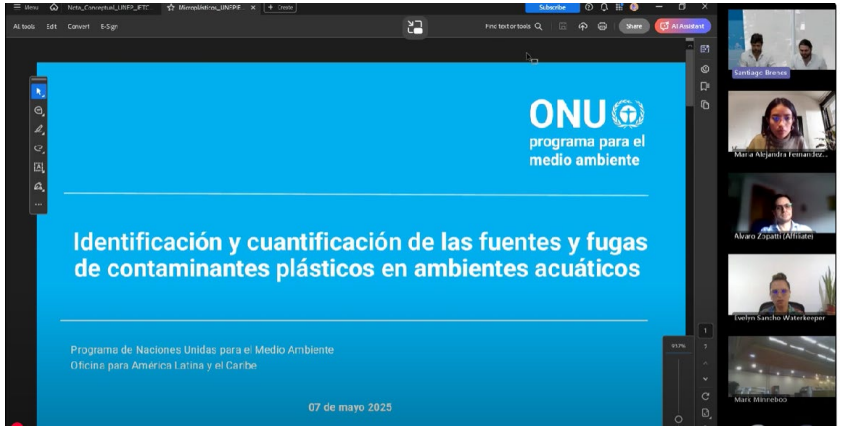
Since last meeting

- Development of “broad Scoping Document“, to organize discussions and inputs, and define toolkit’s scope
- Round of review
- Second material “Guiding Document V1”, with mains recommendations and comments from the review, and two leakage factors (Solid Waste Management and Plastic Recovery) as an initial proposal

1. Report on project implementation

Exchange session with LAC environmental information network

Meeting with LACO Office (REIN and Secretariat of the Working Group on Plastic and Microplastic Pollution, including the marine environment, in LAC)

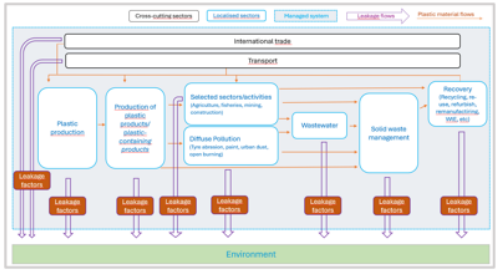
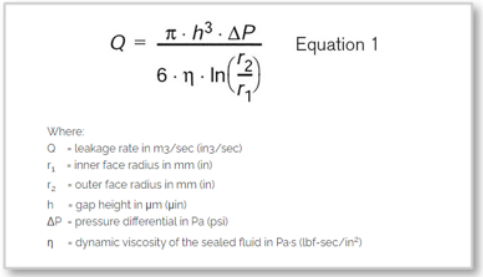
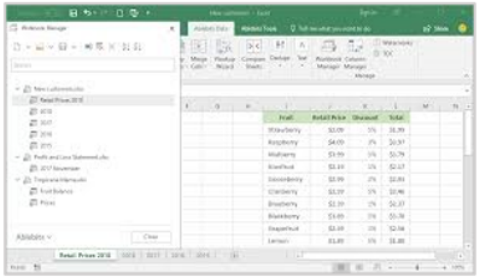
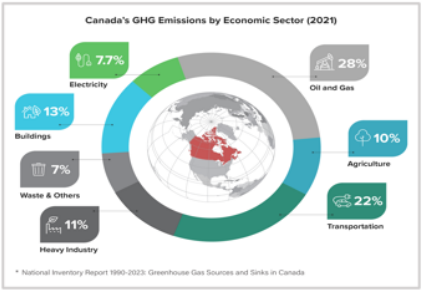


Main messages:

- From the audience: interest in the project with some emphasis on how the toolkit will work and what the intended audience is. Some countries are carrying out projects but mostly related to SWM and/or environmental monitoring.
- From our side: request of potential input data from countries and statistical organizations
- Potential meeting with other networks, in collaboration with regional offices

1. Report on project implementation

Current stage of work

	2024	2025	2026
Project component	**Output 1** Toolkit development	**Op. 2** Plastic pollution inventory	**Op. 3** Outreach
Activities	**Conceptual framework** - WG establishment - Definition of scope - Toolkit prototype	**Toolkit development** - Leakage factors - Reference values - Final formulae - Operation mode	**Toolkit application** - Country coordination - Data collection - Output data - Recommendations	**Follow-up actions** - Toolkit reinforcement - Monitoring data - Analysis reports - Dissemination
				
Documents	Scoping paper	Guiding docs. (v1, 2, 3)	Plastic pollution inventory	Project analysis reports

Master table of leakage factors

Source category	Sub-categories	Boundaries	Parameters[i]		
			Input data	Independent values	
				Adjustments values	Leakage factors
Production and manufacturing	Primary plastic production	Plastic materials handled by producers and manufacturers	Annual mass of plastic pellets produced, processed or handled		0,01% to 0,04 %
	Production of plastic products				
Agriculture	Mulching	Plastic materials used in each activity	Surface area with plastics	Retrieval rates[ii] 32% to 98%	(1 – retrieval rates)
	Greenhouses and tunnels			Collection rates 3% to 61%	(1 – collection rates)
	Irrigation		Area under irrigation system/silage activities	Application rate[iii] 400 kg/ha[iv] Retrieval rates 35% and 49%	(1 – retrieval rates)
	Silage tubes and bales			Application rate: 4.7 to 185 kg/ha Retrieval rates: 65% to 90%	(1 – retrieval rates)
Fisheries	Nets	Plastics used in fisheries activities	Gears deployed, no. of vessels, or fishing catch	Plastic mass of items Scarce information[v]	6% of items deployed
	Lines				29% of lines deployed (m)
	Pots and traps				9% of items deployed
Aquaculture		Plastic used in aquaculture activities	Plastic used (per farm, per cage, or per production)		0.13 kg to 0.18 kg per tonne harvested catch
Diffuse pollution	Artificial turf	Areas with synthetic turf field	Synthetic turf fields[vi] surface	Fiber density[vii] 1,300–1,700 g/m²	0.5% - to 10% per year
	Open burning	Plastic open burnt by target population	Plastic waste generation[viii]		0.07 to 0.4 kg/person/year
	Paints (architectural, maritime, road markings)	Painted surfaces	Painted surface areas	Application rate 0.15 to 0.8 kg/m²	23% to 71% within paint practical life[ix]
	Shoe soles	Walking/running distances by target population	Population		1.4 – 175 grams of microplastics/person /year
	Tyre	Distance travelled by the fleet	Distance travelled by the fleet	Plastic fraction in the thread: 35 to 60%[x]	45 – 658 mg per kilometre
Wastewater		Wastewater going though WWTPs	Volume of wastewater treated	Microplastic concentration 0.000067 to 10 mg/L	0.1 to 50%
Solid waste management	Collection	Plastic waste handled by waste sector within target area	Plastic waste generated	Plastic in solid waste composition 5% to 13%	6% to 45%
	Transportation				30% to 47%
	Sorting				2% to 6%
	Disposal				30% to 47%
Recovery sector	Mechanical recycling	Plastic handled by recycling facilities	Plastic waste received by recycling facilities[xi]	Sorting rate 65% to 91% Substitution factor 0.75 to 1	Plastic waste mismanagement applied to recycling/incineration residues
	Thermal recovery	Plastic burning in incineration plants	Plastics incinerated in incineration plants	Microplastics loss on ignition 2% to 4%	

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Q & A

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3. Upcoming activities

Next steps

- **Drafting of the baseline document and development of plastic leakage factors.** Guiding Document V2 is currently being finalized, containing a complete list of leakage factors for the plastics value chain sectors. In parallel, several new members have joined the WG, such as the FAO and IGES (Japan).

- **Organization of the 2nd Working Group meeting,** in July in Brussels (UNEP office).
  - Prep meeting with UNEP
  - Preparation of agenda
  - Logistics

3. Upcoming activities

Workplan

May			
Timing	Action	Lead	WG input
2-3	Guiding document v.2 with Leakage Factors	UNEP Project Team	
3	Review of Guiding document v.2 with Leakage Factors	UNEP Project Coordinator	Feedback on the document and inputs for factors
3	3rd Steering Committee Meeting	UNEP Project Coordinator	Project update, outcomes and next steps
June			
1-4	Preparation 2nd WG meeting (July Brussels)	UNEP Project Team	
1-4	Bilateral meetings with WG participants	UNEP Project Coordinator	Provision on comments and technical inputs to the G.D v2
July			
1	2nd WG Meeting	EC/UNEP	Feedback upon v.2 Guiding document and initial discussion for draft toolkit and its application
2-4	Preparation of Guiding document v.3	UNEP Project Coordinator	After the second WG meeting, a new consolidated Guiding Document will be prepared and delivered for WG consideration. The document will contain the latest contributions from relevant actors as well as indication for the design of the tool (e.g. Excell or other type).
4	Guiding Document v.3 review	UNEP Project Coordinator	Feedback on the document and inputs for factors

3. Upcoming activities:

Looking ahead

Toolkit application

Further materials (thesaurus, index references)

Follow up activities (toolkit reinforcement, environmental monitoring, pollution analysis)

Outreach (knowledge-sharing platform, dissemination, webinar)

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Thank you

Any other business…

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