

## 1. WORLD BANK

**Summary of role:** *The World Bank is an international donor, focusing on helping developing countries to reduce poverty, increase shared prosperity and promote sustainable development.*

**Summary of work:** *The World Bank approaches marine plastics as a barrier to development and poverty alleviation. Its work on prevention of marine plastic pollution focus on the development of waste management and upstream solutions. It supports studies and provides financial support to prevent pollution from marine plastic debris in East Asia and the Pacific.*

**Keywords/research fields:** *World Bank; engagement on marine plastics; examples of projects and initiatives; studies and reports; improving solid waste management in Indonesia; PROBlue Trust Fund; Indonesia - Marine debris hotspot rapid assessment; Solving Marine Pollution: successful models to reduce wastewater; agricultural runoff; marine litter*

### 1.1 Background and aim

The World Bank is an international donor consisting of five institutions, namely the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Development Association, the International Finance Corporation, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Dispute. Its mission is to provide funding and knowledge for developing countries to reduce poverty, increase shared prosperity and promote sustainable development.

The World Bank approaches marine plastics from a socio-economic perspective, as a barrier to development and poverty alleviation. Its focus is on the development of waste management and upstream solutions, including infrastructure development and data collection in this context.

The World Bank has established marine plastics as a priority topic for support in East Asia. It is supporting several studies and providing financial support to prevent pollution from marine plastic debris in East Asia and the Pacific. A World Bank Statement made at the 2019 Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Marine Debris reveals that it has adopted a Regional Marine Plastics Framework and Action Plan to align its engagements across sectors and countries. The Statement also indicates that at the national level, the World Bank has been working with regional governments such as Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam to support the development and implementation of policies and regulations, enhance analytic capacity, and finance critical investments. Available: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/speech/2019/03/11/world-bank-statement-at-the-special-asean-ministerial-meeting-on-marine-debris>.

## 1.2 Activities and projects

On 5 December 2019, the World Bank approved a \$100 million loan for Indonesia to improve solid waste management services for selected cities and districts across the country. Available: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/12/05/cleaning-up-indonesias-urban-solid-waste>.

The World Bank created PROBLUE, an Umbrella Multi-Donor Trust Fund in 2018 to support implementation of SDG 14 on Life Below Water. One of the four key themes of the Fund is to address the threats posed to ocean health by marine pollution, including litter and plastics. In 2019, the World Bank made available considerable grant resources under the PROBLUE Trust Fund for ASEAN 2019 to further the agenda on marine plastics. Available: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/brief/the-world-banks-blue-economy-program-and-problue-frequently-asked-questions>.

## 1.3 Reports

The World Bank published a report in 2018 on solving marine pollution, which includes a long section on marine plastics globally, with an emphasis on Southeast Asia. Available: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/651521537901259717/pdf/130154-WP-PUBLIC-SolvingMarinePollution.pdf>.

Together with funding from the embassies of Denmark and Norway in Jakarta, the World Bank conducted in 2018 a marine debris hotspot assessment for Indonesia, at the request of and with the support of relevant Indonesian government agencies. This report provides an informed and focused analysis of land-based leakage of solid waste, particularly plastics, into the marine environment. The assessment was a rapid study carried out in two phases, providing up-to-date information from 15 cities in western and central parts of Indonesia. The assessment aimed to support Indonesia's response to the growing crisis of plastics and debris in the country's and the world's oceans. Available: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/983771527663689822/Indonesia-Marine-debris-hotspot-rapid-assessment-synthesis-report>.

It is unclear whether similar projects are ongoing in other countries of Southeast Asia. Information on ongoing projects is available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/who-we-are/news/campaigns/2019/east-asia-pacific-marine-plastic-pollution>.