

3. THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)

Summary of role: *The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a development bank focused on the promotion of social and economic development in the Asia-Pacific region.*

Summary of work: *ADB launched the Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies for the Asia and Pacific region in May 2019. It signed a Letter of Intent with the Ministry of National Development of Indonesia to outline commitment on “South-South and Triangular Cooperation” on the reduction of marine plastic debris. In December 2019, ADB issued a tender on a new project titled “Promoting Action on Plastic Pollution from Source to Sea in Asia and the Pacific” for a knowledge and support technical assistance cluster.*

Keywords/research fields: *Asian Development Bank, (ADB); Asia-Pacific; loans; assistance; grants; Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, Promoting Action on Plastic Pollution from Source to Sea*

3.1 Background and aim

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) was established in 1966 to provide loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote the social and economic development in the Asia-Pacific region. It currently has 68 members, of which 49 are from the Southeast and East Asian region (including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong SAR, Taiwan, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Korea, Thailand and Vietnam).

3.2 Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies for the Asia and Pacific Region

Whilst ADB’s projects on pollution from marine plastic were initially outside Southeast Asia, this has changed. In May 2019, ADB launched the Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies for the Asia and Pacific Region, and announced a commitment to expand its investments and technical assistance in ocean health and the blue economy to US\$5 billion between 2019–2024. Available: <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/related/145036/Action%20Plan%20for%20Healthy%20Oceans%20and%20Sustainable%20Blue%20Economies.pdf>.

ADB also signed a Letter of Intent with the Ministry of National Development Planning of Indonesia to outline commitment on ‘South-South and Triangular Cooperation’ on the reduction of marine plastic debris in Indonesia and the wider region of ASEAN and Pacific countries. The collaboration is planned to include technical assistance and knowledge sharing for marine plastic debris solutions. Available: <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-indonesia-join-forces-tackling-plastic-debris-sea>.

On December 2019, ADB issued a tender on a new project titled ‘Promoting Action on Plastic Pollution from Source to Sea in Asia and the Pacific’ for a knowledge and support technical assistance cluster

(TA). The initial focus of this project is Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam). This TA is estimated to cost US\$5,700,000 with financing from ADB, Japan, RO KOREA and the GEF. The implementation period is December 2019 to July 2023. Available: <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/53068/53068-001-tar-en.pdf>.