

## 5. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The comparative Table 1.6.5.1 shows the difference in breadth of the 26 visible non-governmental efforts established to combat pollution from marine plastics.

Ocean Conservancy stands out as one of the organisations with the greatest breadth and involvement. Another clear common feature is a focus on waste management and the circular economy (especially by private actors) as well as clean-up of hotspots.

Another clear observation is that, comparatively, some specialised and 'newer' research areas have received less attention (e.g. plastic-associated contaminants, port reception facilities, fibre-reinforced plastic vessels, hull scrapping and marine coating, etc.).

Table 1.6.5.1. Research focus by research institutions and non-governmental initiatives with respect to marine plastics.

Legend: Red = no research or interest expressed; Light-green = expressed but general interest without specific research or inferred interest; Dark-green = active/proposed research.

Research Focus	Global Hybrid Partnerships with IOs (AMPASA, GPAP, IUCN, GGGI)	Non For Profit – Sustained Clean-up efforts (FFI, OC, TH, TOC, 4O, PAware)	Scientific Research Institutions (CEFAS, CSIRO, ECNU, IETC, GRID-Arendal, OSEAN, PSHub)	Pub-Private partnership and purely private initiatives (GA Circular, Circulate Capital, The Circulate Initiative, FIA, OPC, EMAF, AEPW)
Policy, laws, administrative measures, action plans, guidelines	IUCN, IUCN	OC	OSEAN	
Upstream research/waste management, circular economy	AMPASA, GPAP, IUCN	FFI, OC	CEFAS, IETC, PSHub	GA Circulate, Circular Capital, The Circulate Initiative, OPC, FIA, EMAF, AEPW
Methodology for the monitoring of marine plastic litter, surveys and monitoring, pollution status	IUCN ( <i>plastic footprint methodology</i> )	OC	CEFAS, CSIRO, ECNU, PSHub, GRID-Ar	
Accumulation zones & hotspots	IUCN	FFI, OC, TOC, PA ( <i>seabed</i> )	CEFAS, ECNU, PSHub, GRID-Ar	OPC
Contribution from rivers		OC, TOC	GRID-Arendal	
Source differentiation		FFI, OC	CEFAS, OSEAN ( <i>shipping</i> ), GRID	
Discharge from offshore infrastructures (incl. aquaculture)			GRID-Arendal	
Contribution of fisheries/lost and abandoned fishing gear	GGGI	OC	GRID-Arendal	OPC
Fragmentation and degradation		OC	GRID -Arendal	
Ecological and environmental impact	IUCN	FFI, OC	CEFAS, CSIRO, PSHub, GRID-Arendal	
Socio-economic impact	IUCN	OC	GRID-Arendal	
Public outreach/ clean-up, social perception	AMPASA, GPAP, GGGI	FFI, OC, TH, 4O, PA ( <i>seabed</i> )	CEFAS, ECNU, PSHub	OPC, AEPW
Organic/ inorganic plastic-associated contaminants			CEFAS, CSIRO, ECNU	
Port reception facilities			GRID-Arendal	
Fibre-reinforced plastic vessels			GRID-Arendal	
Hull scraping and marine coating			GRID -Arendal	

## PART 2 – GAP ANALYSIS, OVERALL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This part is designed as a gap analysis between action plans to combat pollution from marine plastics in ASEAN+3, with the global legal and institutional framework and with the findings and ongoing research efforts on pollution from marine plastics.

It is divided into seven sections. The first five sections provide a gap analysis of policy developments to combat marine plastics in ASEAN+3 in five regional institutions where action plans are being adopted (i.e. ASEAN, COBSEA, ASEAN+3, EAS and APEC), through a comparison of their respective scope and content, and a gap analysis with the international legal framework, the status of regional scientific knowledge, and a discussion of a selection of regulatory barriers. Section 6 brings together the findings of Part 1 and the gap analysis to identify overall findings to be considered, and to make recommendations on the way forward in the development of the GPML node. Finally, Section 7 offers recommendations for the conceptual development of a regional node for Southeast Asia.