

3.4 UNEP: Clean Seas

Summary of role: *Clean Seas is a campaign launched by UNEP with the aim of engaging governments, the general public and the private sector on pollution from marine plastic and develop education and provide outreach on this topic.*

Summary of work status: *A number of online and in-person training courses*

Keywords/research fields: *UN Environment Programme; UNEP; Clean Seas; marine litter; establishment; objectives; work in the region; online course*

3.4.1 Establishment

Clean Seas is a campaign launched by UNEP in February 2017 with the aim of engaging governments, the general public and the private sector in the fight against marine plastic pollution. Further information is available at: <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25398/Clean%20Seas%20Campaign%20on%20marine%20litter.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y>.

3.4.2 Objectives

This campaign focuses on:

- Establishing national and regional marine litter action plans;
- Educating and engaging citizens – resources are available on the Clean Seas website: <https://www.CleanSeas.org/resources>;
- Collaborating with governments and the private sector; and
- Replicating and scaling up efforts around the world.

3.4.3 Work in the region

Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand take part in this campaign, with 57 countries currently participating globally.

One of the recent outcomes of this initiative is the ‘Massive Open Online Course on Marine Litter’ created by UNEP and the Open Universiteit of the Netherlands, available at: <https://www.ou.nl/-/unenvironment-mooc-marine-litter>. This was organised with support from the GPA, Clean Seas and GPML. Two online courses have been coordinated to date, in 2015 and 2019 respectively.

In addition, Japan and UNEP also announced in March 2019 that they will join in efforts to boost information and know-how to develop countermeasures against marine plastic litter in Southeast Asia. The project will develop a simulation model for the movement of plastic leakage into and within the oceans and establish monitoring programmes to determine leakage hotspots along the Mekong River

(as well as the Ganges River in India). See: <https://www.cleanseas.org/impact/japan-and-un-environment-announce-new-cooperation-boost-knowledge-marine-litter-southeast>.