

3.3 Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)

Summary of role: *The Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) is a multi-stakeholder partnership of state and non-state actors working to prevent marine litter with the aim of sharing knowledge and experience and advancing solutions to this pressing global issue. Its mission is to protect the global marine environment, human well-being and animal welfare by primarily enhancing international coordination and cooperation to combat the global problem of marine litter.*

Summary of work status: *A GPML Platform was created to serve as a database on all measures such as treaties, decisions, action plans and projects relating to marine litter worldwide*

Keywords/research fields: *Global Partnership on Marine Litter; GPML; establishment; Manila Declaration; Honolulu Strategy; objectives; GPML platform; regional node; webinars; online course; training of trainers workshop;*

3.3.1 Establishment: Manila Declaration and Honolulu Strategy

The GPML was established by UNEP in 2012 and announced at Rio+20 prior to the establishment of UNEA. In 2012, member states of the GPA adopted the Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the GPA. This Declaration identified marine litter as a priority source category for action for 2012–2016 and triggered the development of the GPML. For more details on the GPA and Manila Declaration, refer to [Part 1, Section 3.4.1](#) below.

The GPML aims to further the implementation of the 2011 Honolulu Strategy, which is a global framework for prevention and management of marine debris developed in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States of America.

The GPML is a global partnership gathering international agencies, governments, NGOs, academia, private sector, civil society and individuals. UN partners include the IMO, FAO and UNESCO-IOC. The FAO provides technical advice to the GPML on the impacts of marine pollution on fisheries and aquaculture.

3.3.2 Objectives

Objectives of the GPML include:

- To reduce the impacts of marine litter worldwide on economies, ecosystem, animal welfare and human health;
- To enhance international cooperation and coordination;
- To promote knowledge management, information sharing and monitoring of progress;
- To promote resource efficiency and economic development through waste prevention and by recovering valuable material and/or energy from waste;

- To increase awareness on sources of marine litter, their fate and impacts; and
- To assess emerging issues related to the fate and potential influence of marine litter, including (micro) plastics uptake in the food web and associated transfer of pollutants and impacts on the conservation and welfare of marine fauna.

3.3.3 The GPML platform and regional node

The GPML functions as a network with regional nodes and includes a web-based platform designated to facilitate collaboration among supporting partners. Further information is available at <http://marinelitternetwork.com/global-membership/>. See also the 2018 GPML Framework Document, UNEP/GPA/IGR.4/INF/25. Available: http://marinelitternetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/gpml_framework_document.pdf.

The GPML platform uses Ecolex as source-database of relevant legal instruments, policies, global and regional action plans, regulations, court decisions and other relevant material on the topic of marine debris (available: <http://marinelitternetwork.com/global-projects/legal/>). The platform also has a listing of global projects on marine litter divided into different categories such as action plans, awareness, clean-up, coordination, education, emergency response, facilitation, monitoring, prevention, removal, report and research (available <http://marinelitternetwork.com/all-projects/>).

There is currently no regional node for Southeast Asia. However, efforts are being undertaken within the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) to develop a regional node for Southeast Asia that would be as inclusive as possible. At the COBSEA Intergovernmental Meeting 24 (IM24) in June 2019, the Secretariat was requested to develop an East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML for consideration by COBSEA IM25. This decision is available in Annex III to the IM24 report: <https://www.sea-circular.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/COBSEA-IGM-24-Report-adopted.pdf>.

The GPML also organises online courses and webinars relating to marine plastics such as the GPML Webinar on Innovation and Technology Solution for Marine Litter Prevention in March 2019 (available: <https://vimeo.com/328741879>) and the Massive Open Online Course on Marine Litter (available: <https://www.ou.nl/-/unenvironment-mooc-marine-litter>).

From 9–13 October 2019, the GPML and COBSEA organised the workshop ‘Training of Trainers on Monitoring and Assessment of Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics’ in Bali, Indonesia. A ‘Manual-Training the Trainers on Monitoring and Assessment of Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics’ was published in September 2019. In October 2019, the report of the workshop was also published. Both are available online: <https://www.unenvironment.org/cobsea/resources>.