

1.3 IUCN: Close the Plastic Tap Programme (IUCN - CPTP)

Summary of role: *International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a hybrid environmental network established in 1948 composing of both civil society and government organisations.*

Summary of work: *The IUCN's programme of work on marine plastics, titled "Close the Plastic Tap", focuses on tackling pollution at its source. Several projects run within this programme in different parts of the world and ocean basins.*

Keywords/research fields: *International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Close the Plastic Tap; MARPLASTICCS; workshops; tackling marine plastics in Thailand; PWF, Ha Long - Cat Ba Alliance; report; review of plastic footprint methodologies*

1.3.1 Background and aim

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was established in 1948. It is a membership union comprising both government and civil society organisations. It is therefore a hybrid of intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and functions as an environmental network. The IUCN's programme of work on marine plastics is named 'Close the Plastic Tap'. It focuses primarily on tackling pollution at its source.

1.3.2 Activities and projects

Several projects are run within this programme that focus on different parts of the world and ocean basins. Available: <https://www.iucn.org/theme/marine-and-polar/our-work/close-plastic-tap-programme/projects>.

Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities (MARPLASTICCS)

MARPLASTICCS is a 3-year initiative launched in 2017 and funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The overall goal is for governments and regional bodies within the Eastern and Southern African and Asian regions to promote, enact and enforce legislation and other effective measures that contain and reduce marine plastic pollution. MARPLASTICCS has been deployed in Thailand and Vietnam. Available: https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/marplasticcs_factsheet_final.pdf.

Under the MARPLASTICCS programme and funding, there have been several workshops held in Vietnam as follows:

- IUCN, together with the Legal Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam, organised a workshop on 10 June 2019, entitled ‘Plastic Pollution in Vietnam: from Science to Policy’. This workshop aimed to identify knowledge and legal gaps, explore impactful solutions, and define policy recommendations to reduce the ocean plastics pollution. Available: <http://vietnam.ird.fr/media/ird-sites-de-representation/vietnam/pdf/pdf-2019/plastic-pollution-workshop>.
- IUCN, in collaboration with the French Institute of Research for Development (IRD), held a workshop on 10 December 2019 in Vietnam on the theme of national guidance for identifying plastic pollution hotspot and working solutions. Available: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/workshop-provides-guidance-for-identifying-plastic-pollution-hotspots/165260.vnp>.

Tackling Marine Plastics in Thailand: From Community-based Actions to Policies

Phase 1 of this project (2018-2019) was funded by The Coca-Cola Company Foundation. It works from community-based actions to policies and aims to raise transformative awareness and change people’s behaviour towards solid waste management in key strategic locations in Thailand. As part of the project, 30 representatives from the Koh Yao Yai Subdistrict community went on a learning visit to Haad Nopparat Tara-Moo Koh Phi Phi National Park and Tarnbokorani National Park on 10 April 2019. This learning visit was organised by IUCN Thailand to understand approaches on solid waste management and how to reduce marine litter. Available: <https://www.iucn.org/news/thailand/201907/koh-yao-yai-community-learns-solid-waste-management-approaches-marine-national-parks>.

Ha Long–Cat Ba Alliance in Vietnam

This project was a 3-year initiative (2014–2017) that involved coastal clean-ups. It was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It aimed to foster partnerships between the Vietnam government, businesses and civil society, to catalyse actions in order to improve environmental management and protect the natural integrity of the Ha Long Bay World Heritage Site, including the Cat Ba Archipelago. Available: <https://www.iucn.org/asia/countries/viet-nam/ha-long-cat-ba-alliance>.

1.3.3 Reports

The IUCN also published a number of reports relating to marine plastics that are not specific to the Southeast and East Asia region, but are relevant. One report is the 2019 publication titled ‘Review of plastic footprint methodologies: Laying the foundation for the development of a standardised plastic footprint measurement tool’. It provides governments, industry and other important stakeholders a full review of existing and emerging methodologies that help identify the abundance, distribution, types, sources, pathways and sinks of plastic pollution at various scales (national, regional and global). Available: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48510>.

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Among the list of draft motions to be adopted at the IUCN World Congress scheduled in Marseille, France on 11–19 June 2020, draft motion no. 022 calls for the stopping of the global plastic pollution crisis in marine environments by 2030. Available: <https://www.iucncongress2020.org/motion/022>.