

3.2 Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)

COBSEA's work on marine plastic 'started' with the development of the 2008 Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) in January 2008. The 2008 RAP MALI was recently revised to address emerging regional priorities and global frameworks, and the 2019 RAP MALI was adopted by the 24th IGM of COBSEA in June 2019 in Bali, Indonesia. The 2019 RAP MALI provides an overarching regional framework for addressing marine litter in the East Asian Seas as a transboundary issue. It promotes consolidation, coordination and facilitation of efforts towards integrated management of marine litter, comprising actions in relation to preventing and reducing marine litter from land-based as well as sea-based sources, monitoring and assessment, and creating enabling conditions. A Working Group on Marine Litter (WGML) was established to provide strategic and technical support to the IGM and the COBSEA Secretariat, and to and facilitate information exchange and regional cooperation towards the implementation of the RAP MALI. See: <https://www.unenvironment.org/cobsea/events/intergovernmental-meeting/twenty-fourth-intergovernmental-meeting-coordinating-body-seas> and <https://bit.ly/COBSEArapmali>.

The RAP MALI comprises four main action items and proposed sub-actions for further development by the WGML:

- Action 1. Preventing and reducing marine litter from land-based sources
 - Legal and economic instruments
 - Integrated waste management
 - Removal of existing litter and its disposal

- Action 2. Preventing and reducing marine litter from sea-based sources
 - Legal and economic instruments
 - Removal of existing litter and disposal

- Action 3. Monitoring and assessment of marine litter
 - Expert monitoring group (under WGML)
 - Regional coherent national marine litter monitoring programmes (in line with regional guidance and global GESAMP guidelines)

- Action 4. Activities supporting the implementation of COBSEA RAP MALI
 - Regional and international cooperation and reporting (including synergies across regional frameworks such as ASEAN)
 - National planning and policy frameworks
 - Research activities
 - Information, education, outreach and involvement of stakeholders
 - Training and capacity building