

3.3 SEA circular – solving plastic pollution at source

SEA circular is an initiative implemented jointly by COBSEA and the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), aimed at reducing and preventing marine litter in South-East Asia through better management of the plastic value chain, strengthened scientific evidence, and improved marine litter monitoring, planning, outreach and coordination. See: www.sea-circular.org/about-sea-circular.

This 2018–2023 project (US\$6.3 million) promotes a people-centred value chain approach across four outputs:

- Market-based solutions towards ‘less plastic wasted’;
- Strengthening the scientific basis for decision-making;
- Outreach on marine litter and plastic pollution; and
- Regional networking and multi-stakeholder constituency engagement.

More information on the project, its partners, knowledge products and events is available at: www.sea-circular.org/ and in the Project fact sheet available at: <https://openaid.se/activity/SE-0-SE-6-5102017601-ASI-41010/>.

3.4 Knowledge sharing and capacity building efforts

To support participating countries’ efforts to strengthen evidence-based marine litter planning and to build capacity to assess, monitor and address sources, flows and fate of marine pollution, COBSEA is further developing its institutional mechanisms, knowledge sharing platforms and initiatives in line with the RAP MALI.

To this end, COBSEA participating countries requested the Secretariat, in consultation with the WGML, to develop the East Asian Seas Regional Node of the GPML (see [Part 1, Section 3.3.3](#)). The purpose of the Regional Node is to support implementation of the RAP MALI by providing a regional marine litter knowledge management and networking mechanism engaging a range of stakeholders addressing marine litter. The Regional Node will facilitate access to scientific evidence, tools, methodologies, training and peer learning, and will seek to catalyse research and development and leverage funding and project development opportunities to address regional needs and priorities.

COBSEA countries further requested the Secretariat to explore the establishment of the new Regional Capacity Centre for Clean Seas (RC3S) in Bali, Indonesia, as a COBSEA Regional Activity Centre to offer regional capacity building services toward reducing and preventing marine litter.