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Guidance Document on Developing a National Action Plan on Sea-Based Marine Plastic Litter



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Preparation of the Guidance Document on Developing a National Action Plan on Sea-Based Marine Plastic Litter

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This report is based on work conducted by Mr Edward Kleverlaan, under the technical supervision and coordination of the GloLitter Project Coordination Unit.

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Acronyms

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GGGI	Global Ghost Gear Initiative
GloLitter	GloLitter Partnerships Project
IMO	International Maritime Organization
LPC(s)	Lead Partnering Country(ies)
LPIR	Legal, policy and institutional reforms (LPIR)
MPL	Marine plastic litter
NAP	National Action Plan
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO(s)	Non-governmental organization(s)
Norad	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NTF	National Task Force
PC(s)	Partnering Country(ies)
PCU(s)	Project coordination unit(s)
PRFs	Port Reception Facilities
R&D	Research and Development
SBMPL	sea-based marine plastic litter
VGMFG	Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear, 2019

1 Introduction

The GloLitter Partnerships project (GloLitter), funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and implemented by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), aims to assist developing countries to prevent, reduce and control marine plastic litter (MPL) from the maritime transport and fisheries sectors.

The main focus of GloLitter activities is at a country level where it is envisaged that the real actions need to be taken to prevent and reduce sea-based marine plastic litter (SBMPL). To this end, ten countries have been confirmed to participate as Lead Partnering Countries (LPCs) and a further twenty countries have been confirmed to participate as Partnering Countries (PCs) of GloLitter.

LPCs will take lead roles in their respective regions to champion national actions to support the IMO Action Plan on Marine Litter and promote compliance with relevant FAO instruments, including the Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear, 2019 (VGMFG) as well as the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) voluntary guidelines. LPCs and PCs will work together, via a twinning working arrangement, to build regional support for GloLitter.

In first instance, country-level activities will heavily involve LPCs to reform their legal, policy and institutional structures based on the findings of the country assessments and the development of national policies and action plans for reduction of SBMPL.

This development requires close working relationships between the maritime administration, port authorities, fisheries authorities and environmental authorities to agree to the developed policies, strategies and action plans. While the activities will be coordinated by IMO, the main work will be implemented by the LPC National Task Force (NTF) under the oversight of the National Focal Point (NFP) and facilitated by a national consultant per LPC.

To support these activities, GloLitter will equip partner countries with tools such as guidance documents, templates, training materials and strategies as the main resources to help implement their legal, policy and institutional reforms (LPIR) at national levels.

This guidance document aligns with Outcome 2, Activity 2.1.1 of the GloLitter Project Document and focuses on how to prepare a National Action Plan to reduce and prevent on MPL with specific reference to the maritime and fisheries sectors.

2 Overall objective of the National Action Plan and Guidance Document

The objective of this document is to guide a country in its preparation of an NAP, tailored to address gaps, priorities and needs to more effectively prevent and reduce MPL from sea-based sources (maritime and fisheries sectors) as identified in the Country Status Assessment and the reduction policy and strategy exercise.

The NAP will be country specific and once it has been approved by the NTF on MPL, short-term and long-term priority actions will be identified that are feasible to implement with the support of GloLitter. Monitoring will be undertaken by the NTF, in partnership with the GloLitter project coordination units (PCUs) based in IMO and FAO.

3 Preparation of the NAP and using the Template

Important inputs to the development of the NAP are the completed Country Status Assessment and the reduction policy and strategy formulation exercise. Each can assist in drafting an NAP that will guide the implementation and monitoring of the LPIR identified. The assessment will provide the overall list of gaps, while the reduction policy and strategy will frame the desired overall outcome.

The NAP itself should include the policy context of the work it proposes to be undertaken in the coming years and should include a brief introduction that sets the objectives, the geographical scope, principles and approaches that should frame the implementation. The actions to be undertaken could be grouped in themes as follows:

- actions related to the legal, policy and enforcement reforms needed to effectively reduce plastic litter from sea-based sources;
- actions regarding the removal of existing plastic litter from the marine environment, such as ALDFG or plastic waste from fishing operations; and
- actions related education and outreach on the topic of MPL.

A further important element of the NAP is the monitoring of progress towards implementation. The NAP should outline how and by whom the plan will be implemented and how it is followed up for progress.

It will be important to identify the various types of actions needed to be taken, the priority level, as well as a proposed timetable to guide the achievement of these actions. Actions could include: general awareness-raising, capacity-building, additional national assessments, additional policy-making and action planning, developing and adopting national legislative frameworks and their implementation, more effective implementation and enforcement of existing international regulatory frameworks, provision of advanced port reception facilities (PRFs) in line with their national waste management objectives; linking to regional cooperation agreements on MPL management; R&D, policies promoting product substitution, gear modifications trials, gear marking trials; development/piloting of fishing for litter programs; etc.

At the same time, it will be useful to identify who will be the lead responsible entity(ies) and who the key target audience will be (such as key stakeholders, or the public in general) as well as an indication of what resources might be required. This could include staff or technical experts provided by GloLitter. All support sought from GloLitter must have been defined in the scope of the GloLitter Project Document.

A basic template for this purpose has been developed (see Annex 1), which shall list priority activities that can be successfully completed in partnership with GloLitter under the scope of the project as described in the Project Document and by the end date of June 2024. The NAP shall be signed off by the NTF and/or respective authorities that would commit to its implementation with the priority actions to be completed with the support from GloLitter by June 2024.

Annex 1 Template for National Action Plan

Introduction

Describe the SBMPL issues in the country with the focus on the findings of the Country Status Assessment.

Objectives of the NAP

Describe the overarching objectives of the NAP, that is to prevent and reduce sea-based sources of MPL.

Country context including geographical scope and current state of knowledge on SBMPL at national and local levels

Information such as population and description of the country in terms of coastline and adjacent seas, its geographical situation, and an overview of the current state of knowledge at a country level, regarding production of MPL from maritime and fisheries activities, scale and impacts.

Principles and approaches that should frame the implementation

List the primary overarching principles such as the precautionary approach; the polluter pays principle; the ecosystem approach; public and private participation; sustainable consumption and production and best available knowledge and practices.

Specific actions, responsible authorities/agencies/institutions, and timelines

Various ranges of actions should be identified and set out in the table in Annex 2. In this section the actions should be described, including why each action is necessary, who do you plan to engage and what is the expected outcome. Actions should respond to priorities and gaps identified in the Country Status Assessment. The Country Status Assessment should also provide information on the relevant stakeholders and institutions that should be engaged in the implementation of the NAP.

Monitoring progress

Describe how, by whom and when the progress will be measured. The GloLitter PCUs will also be involved in monitoring progress.

Annex 2 National Action Plan summary table

Name of Country

	Description	Priority level (high, medium, low)	Responsible authority	Start date	End date	Resources required (staff, tech, etc.)	Progress indicators	Methods of verification
1	Actions related to the legal, policy and enforcement reforms							
Action 1								
Action 2								
Action 3								
2	Actions related to institutional capacity and reforms							
Action 1								
Action 2								
Action 3								
3	Actions related to education and outreach							
Action 1								
Action 2								
Action 3								
4	Actions related regional and global cooperation							
Action 1								
Action 2								
Action 3								
5	Actions related to private sector engagement							
Action 1								
Action 2								
Action 3								



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