



CITIES COMBATting PLASTIC ENTERING MARINE ENVIRONMENT

BACKGROUND

Current estimates suggest that globally some 9-10 million tonnes of plastics enter the oceans annually to become marine litter. Moreover, it is estimated that 15-20% of all plastics are entering oceans via riverine ecosystems of which 90% are contributed by 10 of the world's most polluting rivers only. Two of these rivers are located in India, namely Ganga and Indus. India remains one of the biggest plastic producing countries with a plastic processing industry that is expected to reach 22 million tonnes per year by 2020.

Whilst accurate data on plastic waste and marine litter in particular is largely unavailable for most parts of the country, India's waste management struggle becomes clear at the sight of poorly managed dumpsites and landfills, plastic piles along roadsides, rivers and beaches, as well as clogged drainage systems. Most of the solid waste ending up in rivers is generated by cities with poor municipal waste management systems located along water bodies. Waste segregation at source has been introduced in many cities but is not widely practiced and about 40% of the plastic waste generated remains uncollected.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the project is that "enhanced practices (incl. digital tools) to prevent plastic entering the marine environment are established in selected cities, states and at national level". The idea is to prevent plastic waste at source through sustainable waste management practices in cities by awareness generation, upgrading infrastructure, strengthening digital monitoring, exchange mechanisms and supporting the improvement of state and national framework conditions. The project intends to connect municipalities and bulk recyclers to improve the marketability of segregated plastic and other non-biodegradable waste streams thus ensuring maximum uptake. Notably, the project's strategy is reflecting the waste hierarchy starting with avoidance and waste prevention at source as the primary strategy, followed by minimisation and waste reduction, reuse and recycling while considering energy recovery and final disposal only as last options to promote resource efficiency.

APPROACH

The project works in the Coastal City of Kochi, the Industrial city of Kanpur and the Island City of Port Blair and their respective state governments. The project will follow a multi-level and multi-stakeholder approach that addresses actors from the municipalities, state (State Urban Development Departments), national level (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs) and private sector (specifically recyclers and producers) alike. It intends to provide a combination of national guidelines, specifications and standard operating procedures (SOPs), digital and technological tools, a digital platform for secondary raw materials as well as awareness raising and capacity building approaches. This will foster improvements in segregation, collection, transportation, treatment and disposal of waste in municipalities, thereby establishing an efficient system, which ensures that no waste finds its way into rivers or oceans.

In all three cities, demonstration projects for Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) will be implemented on a demonstration basis and tied up with bulk recyclers and producers in order to maximise resource recovery and to support the conversion of non-recyclables to recyclables, thus closing the material loop.

At the national level, the project will support the development of guidelines and digital tools for promoting resource recovery and data management in close cooperation with Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Regular dialogues between MoHUA

and other relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) that notified the 2016 Solid Waste Management Rules, will help initiate timely action leading to sustainable production and consumption practices minimising future marine litter formation.

EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- Improved procedures for collection, segregation and recycling of plastic are demonstrated in the selected cities.
- Types and qualities of segregated material in MRFs at demonstration sites comply with market demand of bulk recyclers and recycling industries as well as users for material and energy recovery (such as cement industry).
- Capacities for managing plastic and knowledge exchange are strengthened in the partner Cities and States/Union Territory.
- Guidelines on plastic waste management and other non-biodegradable waste management (e.g. MRFs, reception facilities in ports, fish landing facilities) are developed for application by cities.
- National guidelines on plastic waste management and other non-biodegradable waste management are issued by MoHUA.
- MoHUA reports enhanced practices on marine litter prevention to the national level authorities for contributions to G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter.

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Cities Combatting Plastic Entering Marine Environment

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