

Position Paper

A. Name of your organization

Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention – UN Environment Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit for the Caribbean Environment Programme

B. Major barriers to combatting marine litter and microplastics

- Lack of appropriate business cases to encourage private sector investment in waste and plastic recycling;
- Analysis of implications for banning/restriction of single use plastics and/or Styrofoam – economic, environmental, policy and legal implications; availability of alternatives etc.
- Effective integration of responses across the multiple sectors contributing to marine litter as well as its management at regional, national and local levels: Tourism; Fisheries, Maritime Transportation, Agriculture, Environment, and Waste Management Authorities;
- Lack of a harmonized monitoring for Marine Litter at national and regional levels including a data base/information platform and improved characterization of solid waste generated at national and/or regional levels;
- Lack of detailed analysis for the financial cost (social, economic, environmental) associated with poor management of marine litter/plastics/solid waste at a national and in some cases sector level.
- Lack of effective policy, regulatory and enforcement frameworks for plastics within the waste stream – treatment of plastics as a hazardous waste?

C. Potential national, regional and international response options and associated environmental, social and economic costs

1. Development and implementation of waste to energy investments;
2. Enhancing. Replicating and/or Upscaling community/local marine litter projects;
3. Improved engagement of plastic industry as well as major users of plastic to identify and implement appropriate alternatives to single-use plastic but also to other packaging material like Styrofoam;
4. Conduct a national cost-benefit analysis to estimate the costs associated with marine litter and the benefits of taking action against marine litter in order to identify the most cost-effective approaches for addressing marine litter in coastal environments. The analysis should include the cost of inaction;
5. Policy, legislation and practices review and recommendations to establish enabling conditions for addressing plastics in the waste stream;

D. Feasibility and effectiveness of different response options

1. While waste to energy has been promoted especially for Small Island Developing States as a solution to the waste and plastic problem – more detailed analysis is required especially on the environmental impacts as well as long-term sustainability which will require more extensive waste characterization studies and possible co-management of solid waste with sewage sludge.
2. There are excellent examples of effective marine litter and plastic management programmes working in the Wider Caribbean Region lead by various regional, national and local organizations. Some of these are being facilitated through the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter Management and other community-based initiatives such as Trash Free International. These offer an opportunity to have a greater national impacts by support to their replication and upscaling. See examples here:

[http://www.cep.unep.org/meetings/documents/5f8eda92e855a648d115c9dfc0800ee1/@@download/en_file/LBS_COP3_UNEP\(DEPI\)CAR%20IG.38_INF.6%20Caribbean_Node-Marine%20Litter-en.pdf](http://www.cep.unep.org/meetings/documents/5f8eda92e855a648d115c9dfc0800ee1/@@download/en_file/LBS_COP3_UNEP(DEPI)CAR%20IG.38_INF.6%20Caribbean_Node-Marine%20Litter-en.pdf)

3. This will require the development and implementation of actions at the individual, household and national level as well as continued public awareness, education and advocacy e.g similar initiatives to the Nuh Dutty up Jamaica Campaign to assist in changing consumption and production practices.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZUQdVgEFCSOUkKSc0sSLlw>

E. Other – List of some key activities/outputs needed at national and regional levels.

- Assessment (including audit) of national management infrastructures for plastic waste (institutional and facilities for handling, elimination, recycling, reuse and disposal);
- Policy assessment /recommendations on national and regional incentives for substitution and recycling of plastics;
- Report on the economic aspects (barriers, opportunities etc.) to better management of plastics;
- Assessment of plastic use/waste within national pilot countries (types of plastics, sources, producers, users, etc.) – to identify opportunities: to Avoid plastic use especially of single-use plastics; to Shift disposal to reuse/recycle; and, Improve final disposal;
- Review of chemicals and pollution-related policies /legislation relevant to plastic components and breakdown products;
- Identification of potential use/reuse/recycling opportunities for plastics (plastics to fuel, energy production...etc.);
- Understanding of stakeholders' behaviours (inc. knowledge, attitudes and practices) associated with plastic use and generation of plastic waste;
- Catalogue of approaches to reform policies, practices etc;
- Draft plan for Regional Reception Facilities for marine sourced waste;
- Capacity development on: (1) Policy and legal frameworks; (2) Enhancing public awareness and participation; (3) 'Life cycle' assessment techniques; (4) Alternatives to plastics for packaging etc. targeted at private sector organisations; (5) Hazardous chemicals in plastics and breakdown products; (6) Presence and use of Micro plastics use, alternatives and avoidance in the environment; (7) Technical solutions to Avoiding, Shifting and improving plastics and protection of environment; (8) Identification of types of plastics in use.