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Agenda Item: IIA

APEC Marine Debris Roadmap - Implementation Progress: Philippines

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Philippines



**16th Ocean and Fisheries Working Group
Meeting
25-26 February 2021**

APEC Marine Debris Roadmap

Economy : Philippines

1. Policy Development and Coordination		
No.	Action	Implementation progress
1.1	Identify and share effective measures taking into account existing global, regional and domestic action plans and frameworks on marine debris; and promote mutually beneficial collaboration with other relevant international, regional and sub-regional fora or organizations.	<p>1. Development of Philippines’ National Plan of Action (NPOA) for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Marine Litter (NPOA-ML) has been completed for adoption by the central agency mandated on solid wastes and marine litter. A Memo-Circular has been prepared for approval. Once adopted through a policy, this will be socialized to the national government agencies, the local government units and the private sector which are the major keyplayers.</p> <p>The NPOA-ML is a product of inter-agency collaboration and with active involvement of the private sector, civil society and academic institution. The NPOA follows the regional framework of the ASEAN and UNEP.</p> <p>About the NPOA</p> <p>Objective - To provide a blueprint to enhance the current efforts of the country in resource and waste management and to bring additional lens to marine litter issues and the control of additional leakage of waste into bodies of water.</p> <p>Overarching Goal - <i>“Zero waste to Philippine waters by 2040”</i> to support the vision of <i>“A Philippines free of marine litter through shared participation, responsibility, and accountability”</i> <i>“Zero waste to Philippine waters by 2040”</i> to support the vision of <i>“A Philippines free of marine litter through shared participation, responsibility, and accountability”</i></p> <p>The Process - The processes are participatory and involved a series of DENR core group meetings; levelling meetings, and multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral consultations/workshops; surveys and analyses; deliberations and agreements.</p>

The Plan of Action - Marine litter prevention, reduction and management measures have been clustered into programmatic cluster (consisting of six strategies) and enabling or cross-cutting cluster (consisting of four strategies) of actions, as enumerated below. Each strategy is further defined by its main activities – mostly with suggested sub-activities as future guide for the lead and cooperating agencies that tasked to implement each strategy.

A. Programmatic Cluster of Actions

Strategy 1: Establish science- and evidence-based baseline information on marine litter

Strategy 2: Mainstream circular economy (CE) and sustainable consumption and production (SCP) initiatives

Strategy 3: Enhance recovery and recycling coverage and markets

Strategy 4: Prevent leakage from collected or disposed waste

Strategy 5: Reduce maritime sources of marine litter

Strategy 6: Manage litter that is already existing in the riverine and marine environments

B. Enabling/Cross-cutting Cluster of Actions

Strategy 7: Enhance policy support and enforcement for marine litter prevention and management

Strategy 8: Develop and implement strategic and targeted social marketing and communications campaigns using various media

Strategy 9: Enable sufficient and cost-effective financing and other institutional resource requirements for the implementation of the NPOA-ML

II. Implementation of the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program

(CMEMP) – This Program addresses threats to the coastal and marine biodiversity such as the threat from marine litter pollution. To implement this in Marine Protected Areas, learning event on Marine Litter was conducted and participated by Protected Area Superintendents and other regional officers and staff. Subject of the learning event are: a) Basic issues, sources, threats, mechanisms and pathways of marine litter, b) Global policies and regional policies, frameworks and declarations on prevention and management of marine litter, the existing national and local policies, programs, initiatives related to marine litter reduction.

1.2	Establish mechanisms for cross-fora dialogue among relevant APEC Working Groups to encourage a coordinated and holistic approach to combating and managing marine debris.	Through the Regional Programmes such as the ASEAN. CTI, PEMSEA, COBSEA; international Conventions such as the CBD, CMS; bilateral agreement with Malaysia for the Turtle Island Heritage Protected Area (TIHPA) and all other development organizations such as the UNDP, UNE, GIZ, JICA, KOICA, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), EU, World Bank, ADB, etc. the issue of impacts of marine litter is reported. Interest and support for programs to address impacts of marine litter pollution to biodiversity in the Philippines is gaining consideration.
1.3	Strengthen coordination with relevant private sector, and civil society organizations.	<p>a. The Philippine government has embarked on a decisive action to draw cooperation and collaboration of the private sector and the civil society through : a) closure of Boracay, a top tourist destination for its rehabilitation from unsustainable tourism activities and developments and b) compelling the private sector to comply to water quality standards to rehabilitation Manila Bay, a pollution hotspot in the Philippines.</p> <p>b. Participation to International Coastal Clean-up</p> <p>The country is actively participating in the Ocean Conservancy’s flagship International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) mobilizing volunteers to remove trash from beaches and waterways worldwide while fostering awareness of the marine debris issue and a sense</p> <p>c. Clean Seas Pilipinas – a United Nations Development Programme in the Philippines under its Turn the Tide Against Plastics campaign is being implemented with a local organization to establish a national network of partners working with communities and schools to organize, support, and sustain a campaign to reduce ocean plastics. The campaign aims to produce the following outcomes:</p> <p>1) help identify and convince national partners, both public and private, to support a grassroots campaign.</p> <p>2) help partner academic institutions develop and implement policies that would ban, reduce, or lessen the selling and use of PET Bottles, Plastic Straws, and Plastic Bags within school premises.</p>

		<p>3) help and encourage partner LGUs and communities improve their system of collecting, managing, and consolidating discarded/ used fishing nets and other types of plastic waste.</p> <p>d. The National Ecosavers Program of schools is implemented encouraging children to bring their recyclables to school in exchange for incentives such as school materials. Under this Program, the country’ cities and municipalities have also taken the lead in promoting waste segregation at the household level and recycling.</p> <p>Similar programs have likewise been made in partnership with private organizations and with different targets (e.g. collection of soft plastics, bottles, etc.) and institutions (e.g. barangays, schools). Despite banking on financial incentives to drive participation, it has a strong potential for scaling up to a larger population and scaling out to other institutions if properly linked to local recycling industries.</p> <p>The country’ cities and municipalities have also taken the lead in promoting segregation at the household level under the National Ecosavers Program.</p>
1.4	Encourage economies to build upon and apply the ‘APEC Policy and Practice Recommendation for Overcoming Barriers to Financing Waste Management Systems and Reducing Marine Debris’ to address financing gaps for waste management infrastructure.	(get info and data from EMB, Philippine Recycling Association, NSWMC)
1.5	Encourage APEC economies to promote domestic inter-agency policy coordination mechanisms on marine debris and waste management.	DENR-BMB is part of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) headed by Maritime Industry Authority, of which marine litter (from sea-based sources) is among the issues being discussed. BMB also participates in the meetings of the Ratification and Implementation of International Maritime Conventions (ICCRIMC) and Multi-Sectoral Advisory Group on IMO Concerns (MAGIC), which are being convened by MARINA as well.
1.6	Promote sustainable waste management, and reduction and prevention of leakage of waste from land- and sea-based sources, at all levels of government and expand on successful experiences and models.	<i>Republic Act (RA) 9003</i> , otherwise known as the <i>Philippine Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000</i> , was signed into law. This law provides for the necessary institutional support mechanisms and instructs all LGUs to establish solid waste management (SWM) programs within their jurisdictions.

		<p>In 2004, the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) released the <i>National Solid Waste Management Framework (NSWMF)</i>, which puts emphasis on measures to encourage waste avoidance, reduction and recycling as highlighted by RA 9003 provisions on mandatory segregation at source and waste diversion targets of initially at least 25 percent (%), which should be increased thereafter.</p> <p>The DENR-EMB/NSWMC Secretariat continues to track the implementation of RA 9003 through its monitoring database, which consolidates information from EMB regional offices.</p>
1.7	Encourage the use of available scientific information for the development of policies.	
2.- Capacity Building		
No.	Action	Implementation progress.
2.1	Promote complementarily between member economies' initiatives within the APEC framework and other similar initiatives in the APEC region.	
2.2	Encourage consumer awareness activities and education	<p>Partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to develop modules on solid waste management and prevention, reduction and management of marine litter for the low-income families' awareness and education.</p> <p>DENR-BMB is conducting Outreach Programs and IEC /CEPA campaign activities</p>
2.3	Promote new technologies application and dissemination such as Artificial Intelligence and Block Chain to control and tracking marine debris	
2.4	<p>Promote complementarily solutions between member economies initiatives to share new approach in transforming plastic waste into new alternative of energy resource</p> <p><i>[ACTION ADDED BY INDONESIA IN MARCH 2020 COMMENTS]</i></p>	<p>Innovations on waste disposal such as biogas technology and using soft plastics as fillers for cement hollow blocks or recycled plastic furniture, are becoming more popular across many LGUs in the country as a strategy for diverting waste from ending up in landfills.</p> <p>The DOST-ITDI provides support through (a) certification of local inventions to ensure its design and operation are environmentally sound, and (b) dissemination of other alternative technologies (e.g. plastic densifiers) for waste management. In terms of quantity, however, these efforts are few and far between. Because these technologies are often adopted to the local context, a successful technology transfer requires not just the financial capacity to sustain the</p>

		alternative waste disposal method but also the compatibility of the technology with the waste characteristics in the area. Similar initiatives are being undertaken by the private sector and NGOs.
2.5	Address marine debris management issues in marine aquaculture in APEC economies	
3.- Past and Ongoing Activities (multi fora).		
No.	Action	Implementation progress
3.1	Promote research to identify policy drivers of marine debris and promote development and implementation of innovative solutions.	
3.2	Support research and promote knowledge sharing - to assess marine debris impacts on coastal ecosystems (e.g., mangroves, sea grass, coral) and the marine environment.	A Study by the DENR-Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) in 2020, entitled, “ <i>Microplastic Density In Selected Philippine Marine Waters</i> ” found that on average, 22 pieces of assorted microplastics are present for every liter of marine water sampled; the Cebu side of Tañon Strait registers the highest density at 45 pieces per liter. In terms of stratification along the water column, majority or 20 pieces per liter have been found along the shorelines at less than 1 meter depth but are still present at 5, 10 and 15 meters below the surface with values between 6 and 9 pieces per liter. Microfibers and microfragments represent the most prevalent microplastic types.
3.3	Encourage research on environmentally sustainable waste disposal and management.	
3.4	Support research on land- and sea-based sources, pathways, life cycles and impacts of marine debris, including potential impacts on human health.	The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) through its Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) has been providing trainings on Waste Analysis and Characterization Study (WACS) which will help the country’s Local Government Units (LGUs) identify the specific types of waste being generated. Enabling LGUs to conduct WACS improves understanding and ownership of local waste management strategies.

3.5	Support research on developing new resource and possibility to generate energy/electricity from plastic waste in coastal areas	
4.- Financing and Private Sector Engagement.		
No.	Action	Implementation progress
4.1	Consider the possibility of APEC sub funds to support sustainable management of the marine environment including marine debris.	
4.2	Consider applying circular economy or sustainable materials management approaches to strengthened markets for plastic wastes and drive sustainable waste management.	<p>Even though the Philippines does not have a specific circular economy law, it has a foundation of existing policies to accelerate the transition as demonstrated by the provisions embedded in its environmental laws and other policies that foster transition to green economic development.</p> <p>The formulation of a Philippine SCP Strategic Framework and Action Plan is led by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). The plan aims to guide and facilitate the implementation of SCP across sectors in the country and to lay down the priority strategies and activities per core SCP thematic areas to support and advance SCP implementation. Proposed interventions in three thematic areas include sustainable business and lifestyles; resource conservation, efficiency, and cleaner production; and recycling and waste and chemicals management.</p>
4.3	Explore opportunities for de-risking innovations and technologies to enhance access to international financing.	Participation to ASEAN Meetings which recently call for Project proposals relative to Marine Litter Partnerships with local and international organizations to come up with proposed projects/initiatives for submission to agencies offering funds