



Reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution in Latin American and Caribbean cities through a circular economy approach

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10547

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI CBIT NGI**Project Title**

Reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution in Latin American and Caribbean cities through a circular economy approach

Countries

Regional, Colombia, Jamaica, Panama

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Cartagena Convention Secretariat, Local governments (city administration)

Executing Partner Type

Others

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, International Waters, SIDS : Small Island Dev States, Learning, Large Marine Ecosystems, Pollution, Plastics, Chemicals and Waste, Waste Management, Hazardous Waste Management, Open Burning, Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Large corporations, SMEs, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Community Based Organization, Local Communities, Communications, Awareness Raising, Strategic Communications, Behavior change, Public Campaigns, Education, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Participation, Partnership, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Participation and leadership, Gender Mainstreaming, Beneficiaries, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Theory of change, Twinning, Knowledge Exchange

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 2

Duration

48 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

665,000

Submission Date

3/23/2020

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
IW-1-3	GET	3,500,000	20,541,544
CW-1-1	GET	3,500,000	7,000,000
	Total Project Cost (\$)	7,000,000	27,541,544

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

Reducing regional marine plastics and plastic pollution by facilitating governments and businesses at the city-level, to accelerate the transition to a circular economy thereby responding to national, regional and global marine litter and plastics-related action plans, resolutions and commitments Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC).

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Component 1: Municipalities led governance and policy development to enact circular economy approaches in selected cities, for improved circularity and reduced marine plastics and plastic pollution	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 1.1: Adopted policies and cross-cutting measures at targeted Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) municipalities to eliminate problematic and unnecessary plastics, to enhance circularity of plastics in the economy, reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution in the environment.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Number of new policies and measures on circular economy of plastics adopted by the municipalities</p> <p>(Target: at least 4 per city)</p> <p>Reduction/ avoidance of plastics entering the environment, including the</p>	<p>Output 1.1.1</p> <p>Evidence-based city-level policy frameworks and action plans developed and enacted (at least 5) by municipalities, to lay out the policy vision, objectives, targets and priority actions to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution through circularity approaches for key products for the targeted cities in this project.</p> <p>Output 1.1.2</p> <p>A series of on-site interventions (based on priority actions identified from Output 1.1.1) implemented by municipalities to reduce and/or eliminate unnecessary and problematic plastic products frequently found in the marine environment, <i>inter alia</i>:</p>	GET	2,650,000	10,341,544

oceans (*shared outcome with all other project components*) (**Target:** 5,000 tonnes which corresponds to 3,000 tonnes of avoided CO₂ emission)

Improved circularity of problematic products in priority sectors identified through a brand-audit compared to year 2020 (*shared outcome with all other project components* -

reduction in production of virgin materials and consumption of plastics as well as reduction in waste generation; increase in reuse rate, product lifetime) (**Target: 30%**)

1. Ban and/or restriction on problematic and unnecessary plastics (at least 8 product types).
2. Policies to promote alternative solutions (at least 4 alternatives).
3. Policies to support environmental acceptable plastic products (at least 2).

Output 1.1.3

A series of on-site evidence-based policy interventions (based on Output 1.1.1) implemented at municipality level to enhance **reduction, reuse, recycling** and **disposal** of plastic waste through, *inter alia*:

1. New or enhanced policies to encourage innovative solutions to reduce plastic consumption and the application of reuse models (at least 1 per city)
2. New or enhanced policies or standards to improve collection channels and waste segregation for separate treatment (at least 1 per city)
3. New or advanced policies to better integrate informal waste collectors and independent sorters for

enhancing circular economy approaches to plastic management (at least 1 policy per city)

4. New or enhanced policy to improve the recovery and recycling rate of key products (at least 1 policy per city)

Output 1.1.4

A series of **cross-cutting instruments and actions** including sustainable financial mechanisms developed by municipalities and co-implemented by the private sector (component 2) through public-private partnerships and with other actors along the value chain:

1. New or enhanced policy instruments such as sustainable procurement policy, eco-labels, standards and consumer information to increase demand for sustainable replacement products (at least 1 per city)

2. New or enhanced Extended Producer Responsibility schemes (at least 1 per city),

3. New or enhanced financing mechanisms and incentives for creating market for recycled plastics, encouraging more

sustainable design and business models, and supporting the better collection and recycling of key products (at least 1 per city)

<p>Component 2: Private sector led interventions to strengthen markets for investments in innovative, scalable upstream actions, waste management and recycling solutions to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution.</p>	<p>Technical Assistance</p>	<p>Outcome 2.1</p> <p>Improved and implemented sustainable business solutions by small, medium and large private sector entities and the informal sector to reduce marine litter and plastic pollution in targeted coastal cities.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Number of businesses improved and implemented sustainable business solutions to reduce marine litter and plastic pollution (Target at least 20 per city)</p> <p>Percentage of plastics being reused or recycled improved in new plastics products put on the market compared to 2020 (Target 30%)</p> <p>Decrease in the mis-managed waste index compared to 2020 in priority city sites (Target 20%)</p>	<p>Output 2.1.1</p> <p>A series of upstream solutions on alternative solutions, eco-design, sustainable production, business models developed and tested by plastic producing and consumer goods companies for priority plastics frequently found in the marine environment (at least 2 solutions per city)</p> <p>Output 2.1.2</p> <p>A series of sustainable consumption solutions developed and tested by the consumer goods companies and service providers for reducing the use of plastics in different premises and priority business sectors (at least 1 solution per city)</p> <p>Output 2.1.3</p> <p>A series of solutions on collection and recycling developed and tested by waste management companies, including</p>	<p>GET</p>	<p>2,650,000</p>	<p>10,400,000</p>
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solutions targeting the informal sector linking to the policies developed in Output 1.1.3:

- new collection channels established for priority plastic products (at least 4 per city)
- new and sustainable recycling technologies, solutions or facilities introduced by the private sector (at least 2 per city)
- At least 1,000 informal sector workers formally engaged in cities to work on the collection and recycling of priority plastic waste in all project cities.

Output 2.1.4

A series of industry roundtables on circular economy approaches to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution (at least 4 per city) organised by businesses and value chain stakeholders via:

- 1) Business innovation forums and transformation meetings for eco-design, sustainable production, business models (towards plastics producing and plastics using companies, start-ups and incubators)

- 2) Consultation and forums between municipalities and different business sectors and premises for adopting sustainable consumption and production measures
 - 3) TFSA (and other networks) and support generated for the implementation of waste management solutions
 - 4) Strategic partnerships with incubator networks to identify financing options for innovative and sustainable waste management solutions.
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Component 3. Inter-city marine plastics and plastics circular economy engagement network	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 3.1</p> <p>Enabled transition to circular economy approach in LAC cities through structured and systemic increasing use, sharing and collaboration in the generation and promotion of knowledge on successful solutions.</p> <p>Indicator</p> <p>Number of cities submitting regular reports on the progress of reducing plastic pollution under shared targets established by the inter-city network (Target 5)</p>	<p>Output 3.1.1</p> <p>A functional network of LAC cities established by leading cities in this project and accessible regionally with clear vision, governance and goals for collaboration to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution</p> <p>Output 3.1.2</p> <p>Documented and established collaboration between the LAC inter-city network with at least 8 global and relevant regional processes</p> <p>Output 3.1.3</p> <p>A harmonised city-level action plan approach developed for more cities to implement evidence-based circular economy approaches for the reduction of marine plastics and plastic pollution, with aligned visions, objectives and approaches in support of the implementation of (by linking to Output 1.1.2)</p>	GET	745,000	2,970,000
Component 4: Capacity development, visibility improvement, knowledge	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 4.1</p> <p>Project partners and all relevant stakeholders of LAC cities (including all municipalities, extended number of private sectors,</p>	<p>Output 4.1.1</p> <p>A communication strategy for the project formulated.</p> <p>Output 4.1.2</p>	GET	621,667	2,572,858

management and dissemination, and communications.

large number of consumers and citizens) have gained knowledge and improved awareness to adopt evidence-based circular economy solutions to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution

Indicator

Percentage of various stakeholders reporting awareness and behaviour change in adopting evidence-based circular economy approaches for problematic products, and sectors compared to 2020 (**Target 50%**)

An operational project website (compliant with IW:LEARN) on relevant information on evidence-based circular economy approaches to address marine plastics and plastic pollution to benefit LAC-CITIES, the wider region and global stakeholders.

Output 4.1.3

All project learning documented in reports, and at least 12 best policies, 20 business practices and 8 cross-cutting actions compiled at the city level, and information made available on the project website to benefit regional and global targeted audiences.

Output 4.1.4

Targeted capacity building activities organised by municipalities and businesses at the city level with a cadre of relevant stakeholder groups trained and reporting increased knowledge and awareness on evidence-based implementation of circular economy approaches to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution, through events and online sessions

- At least 5000 stakeholders at the city level trained in 30 events
- At least 50% of people trained are women

Output 4.1.5

A regional inter-city dialogue platform established by leading cities in this project for facilitating discussion for inter-sectoral stakeholders, peer-to-peer learning, and dissemination of lessons and experiences from the project (at least 2 high-level inter-city forums organised at the regional level)

Output 4.1.6

Lessons learned assembled and shared amongst UN member states through regional and global knowledge platform, international fora and other global initiatives with at least 5 new best cases in addition to Output 4.1.3.

Output 4.1.7

A long-term monitoring framework established to enable cities to assess and track their progress and performance on circularity approaches and pollution

control of marine plastics (at least 5 cities have monitoring plan and resources to continue record reduction in marine plastics and plastic pollution after project ends).

	Sub Total (\$)	6,666,667	26,284,402
Project Management Cost (PMC)			
	GET	333,333	1,257,142
	Sub Total(\$)	333,333	1,257,142
	Total Project Cost(\$)	7,000,000	27,541,544

C. Indicative sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	770,000
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	Investment mobilized	600,000
Government	Panama, Colombia, Jamaica	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	930,000
Others	GRID-Arendal	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	400,000
Others	GRID-Arendal	In-kind	Investment mobilized	1,841,544
Private Sector	TBD	In-kind	Investment mobilized	23,000,000
			Total Project Cost(\$)	27,541,544

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Overall, it should be noted that due to force majeure with COVID19, many co-financiers who were engaged during the PIF formulation process and who have shown real interest were unable to confirm their level of co-financing. Most institutions and governments are now working remotely. This has been impacting the decision making/approval process despite the pro-forma templates and calculators shared with them for securing written confirmation of their level of interest. Given the nature of activities under component 2, there is anticipated co-financing from the private sector to fund parallel activities aligning with the objectives of the project. There are on-going negotiations with the private sector companies mentioned in the stakeholder (section 2) and the private sector engagement (section 4), and they have expressed interests especially to contribute as "investment mobilized" to the business incubator. All figures including those from the national and regional private sector along the value chain are subject to further review and confirmation at PPG stage. It is, therefore, anticipated that the level of co-financing will be incremented once the PIF is socialized during PPG.

D. Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	3,500,000	332,500	3,832,500
UNEP	GET	Regional	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	3,500,000	332,500	3,832,500
Total GEF Resources(\$)					7,000,000	665,000	7,665,000

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required



PPG Amount (\$)

200,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

19,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	100,000	9,500	109,500
UNEP	GET	Regional	Chemicals and Waste	POPs	100,000	9,500	109,500
Total Project Costs(\$)					200,000	19,000	219,000

Core Indicators

Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 5.1 Number of fisheries that meet national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
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Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Number of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollutions and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (achieved at MTR)	Number (achieved at TE)
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0	0	0	0
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LME at PIF

LME at CEO Endorsement

LME at MTR

LME at TE

Indicator 5.3 Amount of Marine Litter Avoided

Metric Tons (expected at PIF)

Metric Tons (expected at CEO Endorsement)

Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)

Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

5,000.00			
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Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	0	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	3000	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
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Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)				
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Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
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Anticipated start year of accounting				
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Duration of accounting				
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Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
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Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)				
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Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	3,000			
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Anticipated start year of accounting	2021			
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Duration of accounting	4			
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Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 7 Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Shared water Ecosystem	Caribbean sea, Pacific Central American Coastal			
Count	2	0	0	0



Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional management institution(s) (RMI) to support its implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem Rating (Expected at PIF) Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement) Rating (Achieved at MTR) Rating (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministeral Committees (IMC; scale 1 to 4; See Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Caribbean sea	2			
Pacific Central American Coastal	2			

Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products(scale 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Caribbean sea	2			
Pacific Central American Coastal	2			

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	513,834			
Male	342,556			
Total	856390	0	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

- Indicator 5 and Indicator 6: Given the intervention scope of the project in 6 cities, and the likely number of new policies engendered through this project as well as the number of circular economy measures adopted, based on the Jemback estimates and based on the highlights in UNEP/EA.3/L.20 resolutions, it is anticipated that there will be a reduction or avoidance of plastics entering the environment including the oceans by 5,000 tonnes. Most of these avoided plastics will be reused and recycled to contribute to circular economy, which corresponds to 3,000 tonnes of avoided CO2 with the assumption that 1kg of avoided plastics corresponds to 0.6 kg of avoided CO2. The co-efficient of avoided plastics and CO2 was taken from empirical studies, and there is a potential that the avoided CO2 might be even higher, depending on specific products, polymers and recycling processes. During the PPG and project implementation phases, a detailed break-down of avoided plastic polymers and products will be accounted, to evaluate the avoided CO2 emission in a fully quantitative manner. - Indicator 7: Given the geographical scope, the project will impact at least two large Marine Ecosystems that is the Caribbean and North Brasil Shelf and, the South Pacific and North East Pacific. - Indicator 10: The project will contribute to Core Indicator 10 as improved plastic life cycle will reduce the portion of plastic waste ending up in landfill where they do burn. The PPG will evaluate the portion of plastics currently ending up in landfills open burning and therefore emitting uPOPs, the gTEQ will be evaluated and compared with the NIP and NIP update data in the 3 countries. - Indicator 11: The figures were estimated building on the Ocean Conservancy gender assessment methodology of women's roles in the waste collection industries in Asia, in function of the geographical scope of this project in 6 LAC cities and in function of their respective population. The assessment found that women participate both individually and alongside men (as a family unit) in the waste sector. The project will conduct city specific gender analysis of the roles of women and men in the plastic production and waste management sectors within the first three months of project start. Henceforth, this indicator will be adjusted during project execution.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1a. *Project Description.*

1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description);

Marine plastic and plastic pollution at global level and its root cause

The attention on marine plastics and plastic pollution has been intensifying in recent years among national governments and the global community. It is estimated that marine plastic pollution has reduced marine ecosystem service delivery by at least 1-5%, with an annual loss of US\$500-2,500 billion to society, even without including social and economic costs to key blue economy related sectors as well as human health^[1]. Addressing marine plastic pollution is an urgent action, considering the increasing levels of plastics in the environment and the impacts to coastal and marine ecosystems and their related services to local and regional inhabitants.

The root cause of the plastics pollution is the linear “take-make-dispose” pattern of the current plastics economy, which has drawbacks that are becoming more apparent every day. After a short first-use cycle, 95% of plastic packaging material value is lost to the economy. A staggering 32% of plastic packaging escapes collection systems, generating significant economic costs by reducing the productivity of vital natural systems of the coastal and marine environment and clogging urban infrastructure. The cost of such after-use externalities for plastic packaging, plus the cost associated with greenhouse gas emissions from its production is conservatively estimated at USD 40 billion annually – exceeding profit from the plastic packaging industry.^[2]

There are notable gaps in various aspects to solve the issues of marine plastics and plastic pollution. Gaps in knowledge around marine plastics include stocks, flows, pathways and fates of macro- and microplastics into the oceans, the environmental and socio-economic impacts of marine plastics, consumer behaviour and cultural drivers of plastics consumption as well as tools to assess innovative sector-relevant solutions.

It remains a challenge to define an effective strategy to address marine plastics in a systemic way due to the complexity of the plastics value chain, its numerous types of polymers and plastics applications, the diverse pathways and fates of various plastics and the unquantified magnitudes of impacts on the environment including marine ecosystems. The problem of marine plastics and plastic pollution is transboundary and cross-cutting and it requires evidence-based systemic solutions covering various areas including policy interventions, environmentally sound technologies, knowledge and research, and awareness raising and behaviour change, tailored for specific locations given that one solution does not fit all. In order to target marine plastics and plastic pollution, it is essential to start with addressing the plastics products that are the most prevalent in the marine environment through actions across the source-to-sea continuum and relevant steps in the value chain. This may include short-term intervention addressing key leakage points and accumulations and longer-term policy interventions.

Plastic pollution in the Latin America and the Caribbean region

The Caribbean is the second most plastic-contaminated sea in the world after the Mediterranean Sea. Estimations of the volume of plastic waste in this area range from 600 to 1,414 plastic items per square kilometre in different locations.^[3] Likewise in the Americas, the presence of 5,000 pieces/km² of plastic has been reported in the ocean at a distance of around 1,000 km from the coast of Chile and, 50,000 pieces/km²^[4] have been reported near Easter Island. Another survey^[5] reports a load of plastic waste of 1.7 to 5.4 kt in the South Atlantic, with a mean of 2.6kt. In the South Pacific, values range from 0.8 to 5.6 kt, with an average value of 2.1kt; the most significant source of plastic contribution in the southeast region of this area (EPS, plastic bags, food bags of salmon farms) were aquaculture-related activities (Eriksen et al., 2013). In the Caribbean, as recorded in annual campaigns of marine litter collection from 2006-2012, the five materials with the greatest presence were: plastic drink bottles (19.6%), plastic and paper bags (16.9%), caps and tops (11.4%), utensils, dishes and glasses (9.6%), and drink glass bottles (6.7%).^[6]

Seventy to eighty-five percent of marine pollution of the Caribbean Sea originates from land-based sources and activities. This is particularly of concern in a region that depends heavily on its marine and coastal resources for its economic development, providing livelihood through fisheries, recreation and income to industries such as tourism, manufacturing and agriculture. Marine litter, including plastic litter as well as other forms of marine pollution, is an immediate threat to economic growth, human health, food security, livelihoods, as well as habitats. It also negatively impacts economies such as tourism and fisheries, which many countries in the LAC region depend on.

However, although there have been some ongoing efforts to address plastic pollution in this region (see baseline section), Latin America appears to have relatively few regional initiatives in this region. In comparison, as mentioned in the GEF-ISLANDS programme, many countries in the Caribbean have developed legislation to ban or control plastics, especially Styrofoam cups, plastic bags and single-use plastic. According to a stocktaking study of initiatives on plastic waste by the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership working group^[7], even though more initiatives are arising in Latin American countries, the region still appears to be receiving less funding and may therefore be under-represented in terms of number of initiatives addressing the root causes of the plastics pollution, lagging behind in transitioning to a circular economy compared to other regions such as Asia, where there is considerable donor interest following the Jambeck 2015 study estimating that some Asian countries would be top contributors of marine litter. The GEF-ISLANDS programme, with 31 mil\$ invested in the region through IADB, FAO and UNEP, is starting to address this apparent lack of investment.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management in LAC: Status, Issues, and Trends^[8]

LAC is a region that is home to well over 600 million people. MSW management statistics in LAC countries have some noticeable differences compared to other regions in the world. The generation of MSW in LAC is 1.09 kg/capita/day, which keeps LAC on par with the Eastern Europe, and the Middle-East and North Africa(MENA) region. This rate is much higher than that for Africa, but much lower compared to the members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

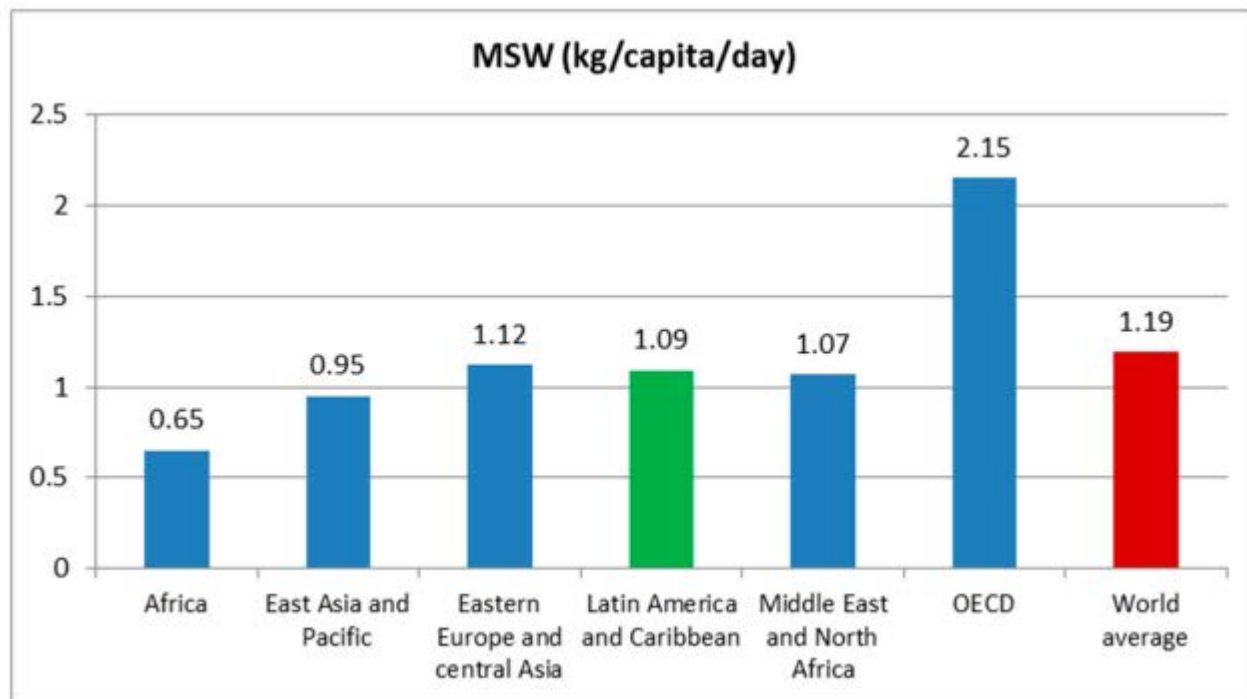


Figure 1: MSW generation (kg/capita/day) by various regions in the world.

Waste collection coverage in LAC countries is at a relatively high level. Compared to the global average of 73.6%, waste collection (as a percentage of the population) in LAC countries has a high level of coverage of 89.9%, with a few countries in the region even reaching the universal coverage of 100%. When the distance from an area of generation to treatment is long, it is recommended to implement transfer stations, which is still not a standard practice in LAC. Only a few large cities in LAC such as Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City, Caracas, and Buenos Aires use transfer stations to cover a little over 50% of the collection.

It is essential to progressively phase-out open dumpsites in the region. Although proper final disposal of solid waste has significantly improved over the past decades in Latin America and the Caribbean, approximately 145,000 ton/day end up in dumpsites, are burned or are otherwise inadequately disposed of. This is equivalent to 27% of the regional population, or to the waste generated by 170 million people.[1] Open-air burning of MSW and its disposal in bodies of water are also noticeable issues in the region and especially in Bolivia, Belize, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Panama. The GEF project: Development and implementation of a sustainable management mechanism for POPs in the Caribbean, has worked on improving better waste management practices to reduce open-burning of waste in landfills. The experience gained in this project will be useful to promote replication in Latin American countries.

[1] UN Environment (2018). Waste Management Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean. United Nations Environment Programme, Latin America and the Caribbean Office. Panama City, Panama.

Many LAC countries have not yet overcome the traditional unsorted collection practices. The formal segregation for recycling is currently not practised on a large scale in the region. Only very few countries have sorting plants and employ recycling as a common practice in their MSW management system. Formal means of recycling are still limited to about 2% among all MSW management methods in the region. As a result, lots of recyclables end up in landfills and dumps, creating a space for the informal sector to step into the business of service chain provisioning in recycling. Currently, recycling is mostly relying on the informal sector which often does not contribute to any official data on recycling rates. The United Nations' statistics estimate the total rate of recycling to be about 4%, which is still much lower than other regions in the world; for example, 17% being the same figure for Asia.

Table: Comparison between LAC and ASEAN countries on MSW management

	LAC	ASEAN countries
Population	over 600 million	approximately 625 million ^[1]
Per capita Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) generation	1.09 kg/capita/day	1.14kg/capita/day
Source segregation	Rate at regional level not found.	For most of the ASEAN countries, the source segregation rate is below 50%, except for the Philippines (50% - 70%) and Singapore (70%).
Collection	Waste collection coverage in LAC countries is at a relatively high level (89.9%). According to the data from World Bank, average coverage for urban areas is 85%. ^[2]	Rate at regional level not found. The collection rate at urban level varies from country to country. Countries with higher rate are Singapore and Brunei Darussalam ($\geq 90\%$); Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam ($\geq 80\%$). Indonesia (56-75%) and Lao PDR (40-70%) have a relatively lower rate.
Recycling	4%	Rate at regional level not found.
Open dumping	The predominant means of waste disposal in LAC is open dumps, which are highly connected to health and environmental issues. Open-air burning of MSW and its disposal in bodies of water are also noticeable issues in the region and especially in Bolivia, Belize, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Panama.	Open dumping and open burning of waste is prevalent in the majority of ASEAN countries. Composting and anaerobic digestion of organic wastes, and recovery of valuable recyclables such as plastic, metal and paper are common in ASEAN. Singapore stands as an exception to other ASEAN countries, as it has a sound and well-structured waste management system in place. Singapore opts for waste to energy (WTE) through incineration as the major waste management option, due to its limited land resources.

[1] https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/21134/waste_mgt_asean_summary.pdf?sequence=1&%3BisAllowed=

[2] According to the data from World Bank, waste collection coverage for the region is relatively comprehensive at 84 percent on average, and average coverage for urban areas is 85%. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/30317>, p. 55.

Gaps to address marine plastics and plastic pollution in the Latin America and the Caribbean region (See Figure 2 for the problem tree)

1. Lack of comprehensive policy and regulations to initiate and incentivize the sustainable consumption and production and circularity of plastic products and reduce the pollution from plastics

Despite the support of many on-going initiatives and established mechanisms including the UNIDO/UNEP established network of National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) with centers in LAC, so far circular economy approach for plastics has not yet been fully embedded in policy design and implementation in the region, considering all types of plastic products. There is lack of comprehensive policy framework to reduce plastic pollution which can orient national, sub-national and local level government to act in a systemic way, and this leads to missed opportunities to tackle plastic pollution in a more effective and coordinated manner. Insufficient incentives for sustainable alternative solutions leads to the absence of a fair level playing field to encourage more innovation for circularity. Policy instruments such as public procurement, eco-labelling and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulation are to be well established and implemented to initiate and incentivise the sustainable consumption and production of plastic products .

2. Lack of incentives and innovations from the private sector to tackle the plastic pollution from a systemic and value chain perspective

The current “make, use, disposal” linear economy model leads to significant loss of resources and value in the plastic value chain. Solutions need to be designed from a circular economy perspective, by promoting innovation and new technologies in which private sector plays a crucial role[1]. The current business models heavily relying on virgin plastics use need to be rethought and reshaped to address the challenge at its source. Relatively inexpensive oil price will make reuse and recycling of plastics economically less attractive, but reducing the consumption of virgin materials should be encouraged from the resources efficiency point of view. More upstream solutions, such as eco-design for products and development and application of reuse models, are needed to “close the plastic tap”. In the LAC region, open dumping of plastic waste and insufficient sorting have been identified as key hotspots at the end-of-life stage of the plastic value chain.[2] Downstream solutions to strengthen the waste management system are thus also needed to further increase recycling rate and engage informal sector.

3. Lack of knowledge and capacity to enable governments, businesses and other stakeholders to learn and adapt the best practices

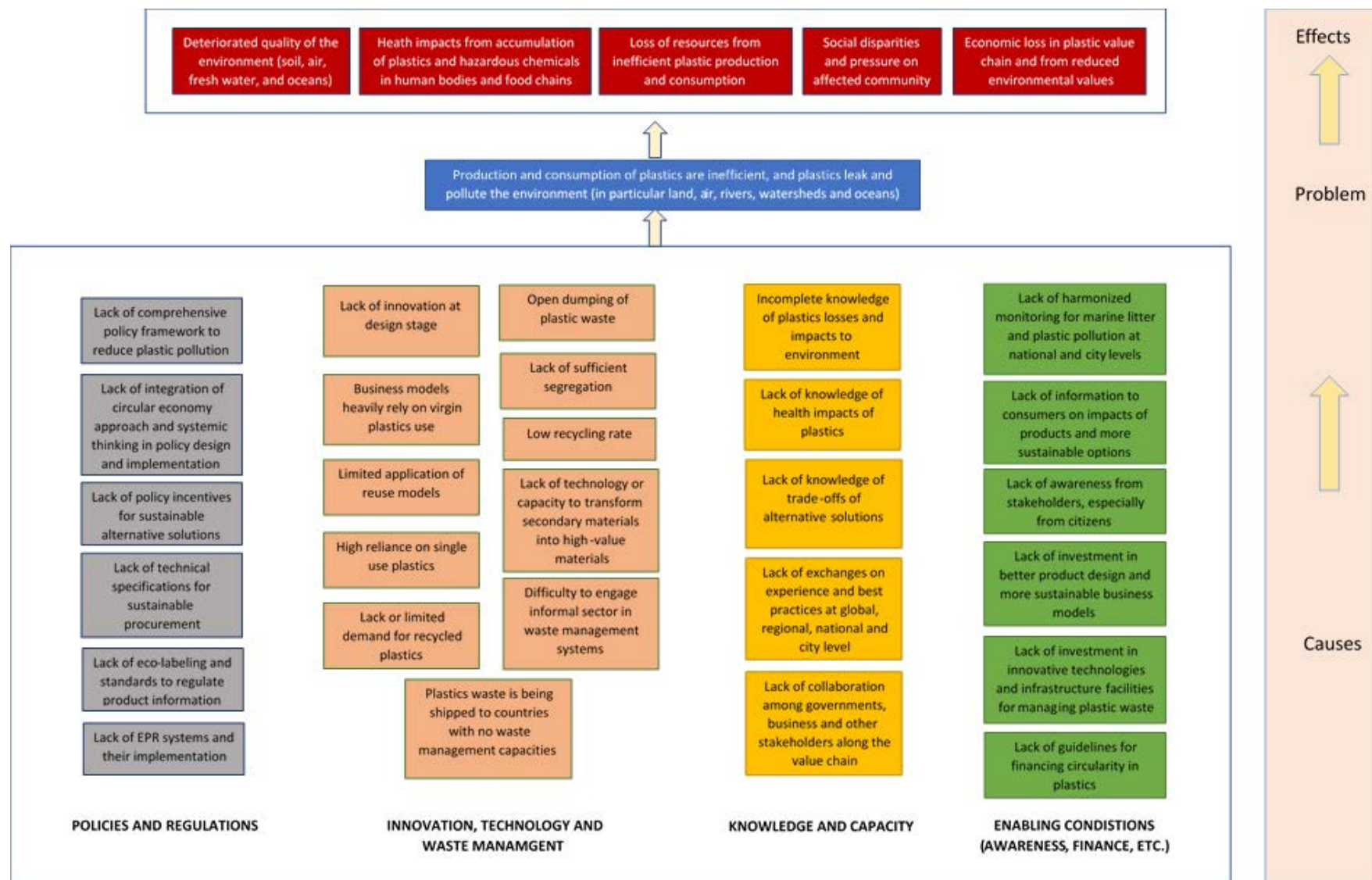
There is still lack of knowledge, resources, and capacity to implement existing strategies, policies and business plans to reduce the impacts from marine plastics and plastic pollution, as well as mechanisms to upscale the influence at the city, national and regional levels. Limited exchanges on experience and collaboration among governments, business and other stakeholders along the value chain blocks the replication and scaling up of best practices which could help accelerate the transition towards a more circular economy for plastics.

4. Lack of other enabling conditions for cities to adopt a circular economy of plastics: financing, market incentives, technical support, leadership, awareness

The lack of sufficient investment leads to the lack of infrastructure facilities for collection, treatment and disposal of waste, which further leads to the dumping of plastic products and mismanagement of waste in many cases. Raising awareness of the issues surrounding plastics and educating consumers is critical to encouraging behavioural change. Although consumer awareness has grown over recent decades, the lack of information on alternative products remain barriers on the way. Mobilizing investments for better product design, recycling and innovative technologies is crucial to ensure the circularity of

plastics. However, in LAC region, financing is currently insufficient to generate these required actions. In addition, the absence of a harmonized monitoring for marine litter and plastic pollution at national and regional levels leads to the difficulty to track progress and evaluate the effectiveness of actions in long term. In the Caribbean, the GEF-ISLANDS programme is setting up a private sector incubator for waste management SMEs to access the needed finance to adequately address the issue. Experience from this project on the specific issue of plastic waste will be crucial to identify and mobilise further financing for the region.

Figure 2: Problem tree



[1] Wang, F., L. Talaue McManus, R. Xie (eds.). [Addressing Marine Plastics: A Roadmap to a Circular Economy. UNEP, 2019.](#)

[2] See above “Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management in LAC: Status, Issues, and Trends”

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

The mounting concern about the detrimental effects of marine plastics and plastic pollution has triggered responses at the global and regional levels to be more proactive in addressing marine litter.

Global efforts to tackle plastic pollution

The Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) was formed in 2012 as a multi-stakeholder partnership which provides a unique mechanism to bring together all the actors working on marine litter to share knowledge and experience and to advance solutions to this pressing global issue. Its objective, as outlined in its mission statement, is to protect the global marine environment, human well-being and animal welfare by addressing the global problem of marine litter. GPML has five regional nodes that support the work of the partnership at the regional level, one of which serves the Wider Caribbean Region.

The Basel Convention’s Plastic Waste Partnership was launched on Tuesday 12th November 2019 at Palais Eynard in Geneva, sponsored by the Government of Norway and hosted by the City of Geneva. It aims to mobilise business, government, academic and civil society resources, interests and expertise to improve and promote the environmentally sound management of plastic waste at the global, regional and national levels and to prevent and minimize its generation. The Partnership promotes action and encourages dialogue between governments, regional and local authorities, Regional Seas Programmes, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and academia towards the ultimate goal of reducing significantly and, in the long-term, eliminating the discharge of plastic waste and microplastics into the environment, in particular the marine environment.

The Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) under PACE was established as a structured global platform for plastic action that enables public, private and civil society leaders and their initiatives to come together. GPAP’s common goal is to drive the transition towards a circular plastics economy while helping to restore our natural systems and creating growth opportunities.

Global #CleanSeas Campaign: UNEP launched the #CleanSeas Campaign in February 2017. Its main goal was to engage governments, the public, civil society, and the private sector in the fight against marine plastics and plastic pollution. It aimed to address the root-cause of marine litter by targeting the production and consumption of non-recoverable and single-use plastics. More importantly, the #CleanSeas campaign aims to highlight the scale of the problem and encourage individual and collective action.

The New Plastics Economy Global Commitment was launched at the Our Oceans Conference in Bali (Indonesia) on 29th October 2018. Led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation in collaboration with UNEP, the Global Commitment brings together and aligns the efforts of businesses, governments, and other organisations behind a common vision and targets to address plastic waste and pollution at its source (with a particular focus on plastic packaging). The Global Commitment aims to act as a lighthouse, enabling front running businesses and governments to inspire others and lead by example. So far, over 450 institutions have signed the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment. Built as an interface of the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment with the tourism sector, the **Global Tourism Plastics Initiative** promotes concerted action among businesses, governments, and other tourism stakeholders, leading by example in the shift towards circularity in the use of plastics.

GRID-Arendal is undertaking the following actions related to circular economy and marine plastic pollution that will inform this project, including:

- **NORAD Circular Economy**

Circular Economy Teaching Materials: Course to present principles important to applying circular economy to developing country contexts. Modules will include envisioning circular economy, and principles of circular economy for developing countries.

Circular Economy in Developing Countries Report summarizing major challenges, solutions, cases, and policy options for emerging circular economy in developing countries, and prevent a pathway/link from existing pathways to more circular ones. To the extent possible, cases and examples are relevant to plastic/marine litter.

Circular Economy Policy: Circular Economy Advisory Delivered to High Level Session of UN Climate Action Summit

Circular Economy Behaviour Change: A targeted/strategic 'behaviour change' intervention, relative to circular economy. Its criteria are: relevant to waste/marine plastic, relevant to developing countries, impact is pre-defined and measurable in quantitative form, and explores an emerging media/communication frontier

- **MOCE Arctic Marine Litter** - Alternative Plastics publication: Research into materials once used by Arctic indigenous people and that have now been replaced with plastic, but could easily be re-introduced. Also consideration of what would be needed to re-introduce traditional materials, what materials are locally available that can be used to replace plastic, and what are the most feasible to upscale.
- **GEO for Cities**: A new assessment on the state of the world's cities. This report will focus on urban environmental issues and their solutions. The first part of which will review the findings of the GEO-6 assessment, which will be released at the United Nations Environment Assembly in March, and determine their implications for cities. The second part of the report would focus on what steps cities can take to address these issues.
- **Marine Debris Action Planner (MDAP)** is a service developed to (1) optimise the use of public funds spent on marine debris mitigation, and (2) enable coastal cleanup crews to succeed in delivering a steady supply of recovered materials into a circular economy value chain. The MAP is based on a scientifically derived predictive model of beach litter deposition rates based on coastline characteristics. The outcome of MAP is efficient channeling of public funds earmarked for coastal cleanup, and the ability of material's recovery actions targeting marine litter in a circular economy framework to succeed by identifying the optimal collection plan.
- **NORAD Waste Action Package (WAP)**: This project directly supports efforts of the Basel Convention linked to improved household waste management practices. The Household Waste Partnership was established by COP 12 in 2015. The objective of the Partnership is to promote the environmentally sound management of household waste including its prevention and minimization, and enabling the decoupling of economic growth and environmental impacts associated with the generation of household waste and its initial handling by the public in their households.
- **MoCE Global Plastic Recycling (Basel)**: Plastic recycling is important step towards circular material use. It minimizes pressure from exploitation of natural resources and reduces waste being discarded in landfills. Unsound plastic recycling also harms human health and the environment. Considering these challenges, there is a need to gather more information about current scrap plastic recycling and its governance. This project focuses on developing a Policy Brief, side event at COP and a technical report.
- **NORAD Marine Litter** - Workshops supporting capacity for developing countries to engage in UNEA process on ML: Capacity building of senior government officials in UN processes to increase their engagement and negotiation skills.
- **NORAD Marine Litter** - Marine Debris Planner (MDAP): This project will modify the MDAP to fit to developing countries. An area around Accra in Ghana, has been selected as the test site.

There are also global projects addressing marine plastics and plastic pollution which this project will build upon (see coordination section).

Regional efforts to tackle marine plastics and plastic pollution in LAC region

1) The [Cartagena Convention](#) was adopted by countries in the Wider Caribbean in 1983 and is the only legally binding agreement of its kind in the region for the protection of the Caribbean Sea. Through the Convention, governments receive support to control, reduce and prevent marine pollution from all sources. Marine Litter is one of the priority pollutants being targeted for improved management by the Cartagena Convention Secretariat. The Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) of the Cartagena Convention which was signed in 1999 and adopted in 2010, along with the [Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter \(RAPMaLi\) for the Wider Caribbean Region](#) (see below) form the basis for the support provided to countries in the Wider Caribbean and the development and implementation of several marine litter programmes, projects and activities in support of the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and the LBS Protocol.

2) The [South-East Pacific Action Plan](#) was adopted in 1981 together with the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Zones of the South-East Pacific (Lima Convention) and its associated protocols. The Protocol for the Protection of the South East Pacific Against Pollution from Land- Based Sources; along with the framework programme for marine litter management (2007) and subsequent decisions and declarations of the CPPS member states form the basis for the support provided to countries in the region. The Action Plan is implemented within the framework of inter-agency cooperation between the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS), UNEP and some two dozen agencies, programmes and Convention Secretariats.

3) The [UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme \(CEP\)](#), which is also the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention, promotes best practices and shares experiences about the management of solid waste, marine litter and plastics through various platforms. These include participation at regional and international conferences, a regional Clean Seas campaign on e.g. reducing the use of unnecessary plastics, and the development of knowledge products in English, Spanish and French.

4) [The Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter \(GPML-Caribe\)](#)

GPML has five regional nodes that support the work of the partnership at the regional level, one of which serves the Wider Caribbean. Launched in 2016, the [Caribbean Node](#) involves national, regional organizations, governments, and academia that work together to reduce the quantity and impact of marine litter in coastal zones of the Wider Caribbean Region. Over the last 4 years, the Caribbean GPML Node has facilitated several projects for improving marine litter management in the region focusing on training, outreach, advocacy, resource mobilization and project development, **including but not limited to:**

Projects and Initiatives	Agency/Partner	Brief Overview
Investigating the incidence of microplastics in commercially important fish in Grenada	St. George's University in Grenada, GPML-Caribe	Microplastic ingestion by commercially important species of fish in the Caribbean region.
Developing marine litter reduction strategies for major Caribbean cultural events in Trinidad and Tobago	IAMovement (NGO) in Trinidad and Tobago, GPML-Caribe	Reduction of marine litter associated with activities during Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago, a major Caribbean cultural event.

<p>Enhancing the Solid Waste Reduction Project in the Whitehouse and Bluefields communities in Jamaica (Trash Free Waters Initiative)</p>	<p>Sandals Foundation, National Environment and Planning Agency of Jamaica, UNEP CEP, GPML-Caribe</p>	<p>This is a continuation of the Solid Waste Reduction Project implemented in the Whitehouse and Bluefields communities in Jamaica and includes improvements to the waste disposal system, enable sustainable meal-packaging in schools and implement upcycling opportunities through Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Business Training for the residents of the communities involved in the initial project.</p>
<p>Development of a regional Marine Litter Management Strategy</p>	<p>UNEP CEP, GPML-Caribe</p>	<p>A 5-year strategic outline for Marine Litter Management is being finalized to identify useful priorities for fund-raising efforts. The Strategy will complement the Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter.</p>
<p>Developing an approach to harmonizing marine litter monitoring in the Wider Caribbean Region</p>	<p>UNEP CEP, GPML-Caribe</p>	<p>The OSPAR Convention for the North East Atlantic and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat forged an agreement to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (#OceanAction17198). During 2019, the GCFI and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat completed a report for harmonized monitoring of marine litter including plastics pollution and initiated the development of a new Regional Marine Litter and Plastics Reduction Strategy. The harmonizing approach to monitoring marine litter allows for engagement with citizens for monitoring while ensuring good quality data collection, cost effective and efficient means of harmonizing data collection and maximizing litter removal on certain pre-selected sites.</p>
<p>Caribbean #CleanSeas Campaign</p>	<p>Caribbean Youth Environment Network, Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development, UNEP CEP, GPML-Caribe</p>	<p>UNEP launched the #CleanSeas Campaign in February 2017. Within the first year of the #CleanSeas Campaign, 10 Countries from the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) (all Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol), made commitments to eliminate marine litter.</p> <p>In 2019, a Regional Clean Seas Campaign was launched for the WCR. Through the campaign, capacity-building support was provided to various stakeholders on outreach, advocacy, resource mobilization and development of new project proposals for reducing marine litter and plastics.</p>

5) Caribbean Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter (RAPMaLI)

First adopted in 2010 as a regional policy response to the growing concerns of litter accumulation in the Caribbean Sea, the [Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter \(RAPMaLi\)](#) for the Wider Caribbean was updated and further endorsed by Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention in 2014. It serves as a comprehensive toolkit to assist countries of the WCR to adopt a range of practices for reducing the negative impacts of solid waste, marine litter and plastics. The Secretariat has mobilized financial resources to assist Governments in implementing elements of the action plan. Of the 26 Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention, 15 have ratified the LBS Protocol and all have endorsed the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan. A Regional Marine Litter Strategy is under development through the GPML-Caribe to complement the plan.^[9]

6) Regional State of the Convention Area Report

The [State of the Convention Area \(SOCAR\) report](#) provides a regional quantitative assessment of the state of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, with respect to land-based sources of pollution. This report incorporates the Driver-Pressure-State-Impact- Response (DPSIR) framework, which describes the interactions between human society and the environment. This report facilitates informed regional or country-level decisions on addressing such sources of pollution and provides quantitative data on solid waste and microplastics levels in the WCR.

7) **Status of Plastics and Styrofoam bans in the Wider Caribbean Region.** Over the last 5 years, many regional Governments have banned or restricted the use of *Styrofoam* and single-use plastics. A report on the [Status of Plastics and Styrofoam bans in the Wider Caribbean Region](#) was prepared by the Secretariat to highlight the ongoing efforts and lessons learned. This will assist in future efforts to regulate the production and use of single-use plastics and other persistent material. This report is complemented by an [interactive map](#) of the status of the bans on plastic bags and Styrofoam in the WCR.

8) The Trash Free Waters International Initiative in the WCR

The Cartagena Convention Secretariat, with financial support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and in partnership with the Peace Corps, UNEP's Regional Office for Latin America and its Caribbean Sub-Regional Office, Governments of Jamaica and Panama and other local partners, have implemented activities to reduce and prevent land-based trash from entering watersheds, coastal waters, and the marine environment in Jamaica and Panama. Based on the project's successes, additional resources were mobilized by the GPML-Caribe for additional activities in Jamaica to improve the waste disposal system, enable sustainable meal-packaging in schools and implement upcycling opportunities through Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Business Training for the residents of the communities involved in the initial project.

9) GEF ISLANDS programme

The GEF ISLANDS programme, approved in 2019 and currently in its development phase will contribute to a large reduction of marine litter in the Caribbean Sea through the adoption of better upstream waste management practices. Countries participated to the Programme have all adopted initiative to address Styrofoam cups, plastic bags or other single use plastic and their experience will be shared within the Programme but also with other countries of the broader LAC region.

Country-level efforts to address marine plastics and plastic pollution in the region

LAC countries are taking measures against marine plastic pollution by creating laws and policies that reduce the use of unnecessary plastic products, drive a new plastic economy and protect precious natural resources. The UNEP led Clean Seas Campaign - Turning the Tide on Plastic was launched in February 2017 and nineteen countries in the LAC region have joined the campaign to date.

Antigua and Barbuda was the first country in the Americas to ban plastic bags in 2016. Costa Rica adopted a strategy to drastically reduce the use of plastics by 2021. Belize and Bahamas have strategies in place to reduce plastic use and are promoting conservation strategies for the Caribbean Sea which is the 2nd most polluted with plastics. Meanwhile, Ecuador is transforming the remote Galapagos islands into a plastic-free archipelago by banning the use and sale of plastic products such as straws, bags, and bottles. Chile has approved a law to ban the use of all types of plastic bags in stores throughout the country. This initiative was promoted by the Ministry of Environment with a far-reaching social media campaign called "chao bolsas plasticas"(goodbye plastic bags) to raise awareness on plastic consumption and reduce waste generation. Likewise, in Mexico, authorities launched a campaign on radio and social networks to reduce the use of straws. Authorities also plan to engage different stakeholders to put in place more stringent measures like eliminating plastic straws. Local governments are also engaging on the issue. The Mexican state of Quintana Roo, home to stunning beaches and important marine ecosystems, has started the process of changing its waste management law to prohibit plastic bags, straws and Styrofoam.^[10]

For countries that will be the focus of this project, baseline and measures taken are as below:

Colombia: Colombia is one of the world's richest countries in terms of marine biodiversity, with 2,900 km of coastline and almost a million square km in the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean. Its national waters are home to 2,600 marine species, 155 hard corals, and 6 of the 7 registered turtle species. Government statistics and WWF figures show that in Colombia, the annual average consumption is about 288 plastic bags per person. Plastic pollution negatively impacts the livelihoods of fisherfolk and the tourism sector in this country, especially for iconic locations such as Cartagena on Colombia's Caribbean coast. The Government is keen to reduce this type of single-use plastic by 75 per cent. This reduction would lead to social, environmental and economic benefits to the tune of \$825 million.^[11] Colombia has been promoting eco-friendly options as substitutes to single-use plastic.

As of 1 January 2017, the government banned single-use plastic bags smaller than 30x30 cm and introduced alternatives with a higher load-carrying capacity. This action alone resulted in a 27 per cent reduction. In July 2017, the government went one step further and introduced a tax on single-use plastic bags. The objective of this legislation is to encourage consumers to use reusable bags, thus curbing drastically marine litter, which is mostly plastic waste. As of 1 July 2017, Colombians are paying one US cent (20 Colombian pesos) to purchase single-use plastic bags. As a deterrent to use this type of plastic, the government will annually be increasing the tax by 50 per cent.^[12] The measure has helped reduce plastic bag consumption by 35 per cent and raise a total of 10,460 million Colombian pesos (about \$3.6 million).^[13] There is a new resolution in 2020 banning single use plastics in natural and national parks. A law project was also approved in San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina. This project prohibits the entry of plastics such as straws and glasses and other product that are difficult to recycle to the island.

Colombia's National Circular Economy Strategy sets specific targets to increase the overall waste recycling rate, as well as of packaging waste, through instruments such as Extended Producer Responsibility. Colombia is engaged in the RAPMALI for the Wider Caribbean Region, the Framework for Marine Litter for the South Pacific and has a municipal marine litter action plan. It has different data inventories mapping out the major land sources, quantities and impacts of marine debris which have served as baseline input to the following actions/interventions:

- a) The national monitoring program of the surveillance network for the conservation and protection of Colombian marine and coastal waters (REDCAM) which normally provides technical support to environmental authorities with marine jurisdiction and, is supporting the national government with various activities such as the characterization of anthropogenic marine and terrestrial land-based sources of pollution, their impact and environmental

monitoring requirements. The detailed inventory of LBS in the coastal zone started with the development of case studies in Bolívar and Valle del Cauca in 2009, subsequently the departments of Cauca and Antioquia were made in 2010, La Guajira in 2011, Córdoba in 2012, Magdalena in 2013, Atlántico in 2014, the islands of San Andrés and Providencia in 2015, Sucre in 2016, the southern coast of Nariño and the Chocó in 2017.

- b) The first national diagnosis of solid and microplastic waste in coastal marine areas was carried out in 2017. It provides a national and departmental overview of environmental management and solid waste management issues and assess the state of marine litter pollution from plastics and microplastics on beaches and tourist assets.
- c) In 2018, an assessment of the state of marine litter pollution and its environmental impacts on the mangrove ecosystem of the Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta was developed.
- d) In 2019, a National Plan on Sustainable Management of single-use plastics was launched. It presents the lines of action for single-use plastics and prioritizes cross-cutting actions.

Jamaica: In Jamaica, as at 2015, each person has been using almost 500 'scandal' bags annually, an estimated 75 per cent increase from 2011, while more developed countries, like those in the European Union, average 200 bags per person annually (170 bags in Australia).^[14] The ban on single-use plastics, implemented in January 2019, relates to the importation, manufacture and use of plastic bags of dimensions 24"x 24" and thickness of 1.2 millimetres or less; the importation, manufacture and use of plastic drinking straws, except those attached to juice boxes and Tetrapaks as well as straws utilised by the medical sector and the disabled community. The Government has committing a total of \$75 million over three years, towards the implementation of a plastic bottle deposit scheme. Two Ministerial Orders have been signed to reinforce the ban on some single-use plastics on January 1, 2019, under the Trade Act and the Natural Resources and Conservation Authority (NRCA) Act respectively. These Orders provide the regulatory framework to support the announced policy measures. This was announced by "Minister without portfolio" in the Ministry of Economic growth and Job Creation, Hon. Daryl Vaz, who said this scheme is being put in place in partnership with a private sector entity which has already taken on the task of reducing plastic bottle waste in the country.

A "Trade Plastic Packaging Material Order" and a "Plastic Packaging Prohibiting Order" were signed by Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Audley Shaw, and Minister of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, on December 24. The Ministerial Orders make it illegal to import expanded polystyrene products, distribute or import plastic bags 24" x 24" or less in size and plastic drinking straws, effective January 1, 2019.

Effective January 1, 2020, the Government also imposed a ban on the local manufacture, distribution and use of expanded polystyrene foam products.^[1] Jamaica is engaged in the RAPMALI for the Wider Caribbean Region.

^[1] <https://jis.gov.jm/jamaica-will-see-benefits-of-plastics-and-polystyrene-ban-pm/>

Panama: At the beginning of 2018, Panama became the first country in Central America to ban polyethylene bags.^[1] In January 2018 Panama approved a law on the ban of plastic bags, 18-24 months phase-out period. The sanction of Law No. 1 of January 19, 2018, was published in the Official Gazette, a law which prohibits the use of polyethylene bags in supermarkets, self-service shops, warehouses or shops in general to transport products or merchandise. According to article 2 of the Law, the replacement of plastic bags with reusable bags will be progressive. In Panama, Law No. 6 of February 6th, 2018 "Which establishes integrated waste management in public institutions" orders public institutions to sort their waste and undertake recycling schemes for paper, plastic bottles, Tetrapak containers and aluminum cans. In 2019, Panama also presented a draft bill no. 030 to regulate the progressive reduction and replacement of single use plastics by 2021. The aim of the bill is to incentivize in a cross-cutting way, sustainable development in the public and private sectors, primarily in trade

and the industry, gradually reducing and replacing the use of materials single use plastics. Supermarkets, pharmacies and retailers will have 18 months to stop using plastic bags, and warehouses and wholesalers will have a period of 24 months. Since 20 July 2019, the use of plastic bags is prohibited for transport products and merits.

Panama is part of three Regional Seas Programmes – the Wider Caribbean Region and its RAPMALI for the Caribbean side, the South Pacific (Regional Action Plan -framework) and North East Pacific (Regional Action Plan under development). In addition, the GPML, UNEP GPA and UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP ROLAC) have supported the development of a National Action Plan on Marine Litter Prevention together with the Ministry of Environment and Mar Viva Foundation, which is to be launched in 2020.

[1] <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/latin-america-and-caribbean-bids-good-bye-plastic-bags>

Country-Specific Narratives on plastic bags: Latin American and the Caribbean (only countries that are the focus of this project are listed below. The full listing is available <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/legal-limits-single-use-plastics-and-microplastics>).

Country	Features of Plastic bag regulations
Colombia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rationale use of plastic bag program introduced for distributors. • Specifications included on recycled content, reuse, thickness and biodegradability • Requirements for charging for plastic bags included
Jamaica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only regulates disposal at national level (solid waste/ litter regulation) • Environmental Levy administered on imported and locally manufactured goods
Panama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of polyethylene bags to transport goods and products is prohibited in supermarkets, self-service shops, retail and commercial establishments. • Law focuses on the promotion of reusable bags

Rationale for the coastal city-level focus of the project

Cities are concentrated locations with a high-density of population, resource consumption (materials, water, food, products made from mineral resources and fossil fuels), energy use and waste generation. Due to the dense population, the demand, consumption and disposal of plastic products is often very high. Cities are responsible for solid waste management including litter prevention and collection, recycling, storm drain maintenance, tourism promotion, community health and protecting the local environment. Marine plastic pollution negatively affects each of these community functions and has environmental and socio-economic impacts on coastal cities – similarly the proximity of coastal cities to the ocean,

While waste management systems are designed to manage the amount of waste, including plastic waste in the city, landfilling, especially open landfilling near the coast or rivers increases the risk of plastic leakage into the ocean. This leakage is exacerbated during periods of heavy rainfall which is also the case for increased transportation of plastic litter through stormwater systems. Strategic interventions to reduce this leakage through environmentally sound

technologies such as litter booms, stormwater nets and landfilling solutions may reduce some leakage in the short term, while longer term solutions are put in place targeting problematic products, polymers and sectors.

Effective policies and innovative solutions have a high chance of making positive impacts in cities, as acceptance of new concepts, policies, technologies, business models and innovations is usually more progressive in cities. Cities can use proven techniques to decrease the number of certain products identified as being prevalent in the marine environment to put in place relevant policies and prevent leakage before it spreads to landscapes and waterways. While each city's specific tactics should be customized to local conditions, reduction of pollution at a low cost can be achieved through a combination of leveraging local regulatory authority, requiring retailer responsibility, collaborating with partners and engaging citizens to solve hotspots on plastic pollution. The experience from testing and implementing policy instruments and various innovative solutions can amplify the effects, if adopted by municipalities, businesses. Eventually, it will transform the behaviour of citizens, and rapid changes in cities can inspire actions at the national, regional and global levels as well.

Local action is needed and small steps with a cumulative impact will be key to a city's contribution to tackling plastics pollution, which is a significant issue at global level. Awareness raising, educating and taking action across the city will ensure that the city is making concrete and daily effort, together with its citizens. Local actions will also enhance the health of the city and support global citizenship and reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution with corresponding benefits to ecosystems and the services they deliver.

To achieve their responsibilities at the least cost to citizens, many cities are taking actions to address marine plastic and plastic pollution, including enacting plastic bag fees and bans, raising awareness among their citizens, improving waste management, etc. These local actions have proven effective in cutting litter, reducing taxpayer costs and improving recycling, and have generated best practices and lessons learnt which other cities could benefit from. Unfortunately, many cities and countries have not collected baseline information prior to putting these policies in place and are therefore unable to demonstrate a reduction of marine plastics and impact of their intervention.

An excellent example of an evidence-based approach is the European Commission's single-use plastics directive which introduces new restrictions on products and packaging to contrast environmental pollution and address the top ten most polluting products and packaging found on European beaches. Rather than focusing on all plastics, they first targeted what was most prevalent in the environment.

In developing this project concept, criteria were developed to identify suitable cities to engage within the overall programmatic concept to highlight the benefits of circular economy approaches to addressing marine plastics and plastic pollution. On the basis of these criteria, six cities in the LAC region with impacts on the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific will be targeted. The criteria used include:

- Adjacency to watershed and seas
- Population and density
- Production and consumption patterns of plastics products
- Waste management systems, including the activities from the informal sectors
- Existing action plans, policies and efforts on dealing marine litter prevention; and the
- Willingness to further explore targeted circularity approaches to prevent marine plastics and plastic pollution with a focus on problematic products which could contribute towards a circular economy.

The six cities targeted by this project are:

Colombia

Cartagena is located on the northern coast of Colombia in the Caribbean Coast Region. It is the capital of the Bolívar Department, and had a population of 1,028,736 according to the 2018 census. It is the fifth-largest city in Colombia and the second largest in the region, after Barranquilla. Major economic activities include the maritime and petrochemicals industries, as well as tourism.

Barranquilla is the capital district of the Atlántico Department in Colombia. It is located near the Caribbean Sea and is the largest city and second port in the northern Caribbean Coast region; as of 2018 it had a population of 1,206,319, making it Colombia's fourth-most populous city after Bogotá, Medellín and Cali. Barranquilla lies strategically next to the delta of the Magdalena River, 7.5 kilometres (4.7 miles) (originally 25 kilometres (16 miles) before rapid urban growth) from its mouth at the Caribbean Sea, serving as a port for river and maritime transportation within Colombia. It is also the main industrial, shopping, educational and cultural center of the Caribbean Region of Colombia.

Jamaica

Jamaica is an island country situated in the Caribbean sea. It is the third largest island of the greater Antilles and Caribbean Sea. It is an upper-middle income country with an economy heavily dependent on tourism. In Jamaica, national regulations and laws are set forth centrally and guided by legislation that is passed through national government agencies such as National Solid Waste Management Authority (key project stakeholder). This authority is institutionally part of the Ministry of Local Government that also oversees local parish/municipal councils (key target execution partner). Therefore, activities carried out at the city level will ultimately ensure effective execution of national regulations and laws. However, to ensure that city level actions are centrally coordinated, the proposed actions will create an enabling environment for a circular economy at the national level and implementation of specific activities will be piloted in the following two cities.

Kingston is the capital and largest city of Jamaica with a population of 1,243,072 (2019), located on the south-eastern coast of the island. It faces a natural harbour protected by the Palisadoes, a long sand spit which connects the town of Port Royal and the Norman Manley International Airport to the rest of the island.

Montego Bay is the capital of the parish of St. James in Jamaica. The city is the fourth-largest urban area in the country by population, after Kingston, Spanish Town, and Portmore, all of which form the Greater Kingston Metropolitan Area, home to over half a million people. As a result, Montego Bay is the second-largest anglophone city in the Caribbean, after Kingston. Montego Bay is a popular tourist destination featuring a cruise line terminal and several beaches and resorts. The city is enclosed in a watershed, drained by several rivers such as the Montego River.

Panama

Panama City is the capital and largest city of Panama. It has an urban population of 880,691, with over 1.5 million in its metropolitan area. The city is located at the Pacific entrance of the Panama Canal, in the province of Panama. The city is the political and administrative center of the country, as well as a hub for banking and commerce.

Colón is the capital of Colón Province. It is the biggest port city found on the Caribbean Coast, and it has an urban population of 165,492 and sits on the Caribbean coast, at the entrance to the Panama Canal. Colón is an important port, commercial center, and tourist destination. It was made a free trade zone in 1953 and is the world's second-largest duty-free port (the principal tourist attraction).

Table: National/sub-national/city level action plans on waste management and marine litter with regards to the project cities and actors involved

City	Action plans	Policies and efforts addressing	Actors involved
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City	Action plan	Services and efforts addressing marine litter at national/sub-national/city level	Private investors
Barranquilla	Integral management plan for metropolitan solid waste Pgis-m.	In 2019, the Barranquilla District Council approved a draft Agreement through which they intend to adopt a model for the comprehensive management of solid waste in the city.	The Aqueduct Society, Sewerage and Public Leaning from Barranquilla S.A – (La Sociedad de Acueducto, Alcantarillado y Aseo de Barranquilla S.A)
Cartagena	Bolívar Regional Pact for the National Circular Economy Strategy 2018 – 2022: This is one of the regional pacts under the framework of the Circular Economy National Strategy which included plastics among their priorities. It aims at developing and using new environmentally friendly packaging. Likewise, the promotion of new business models for circular economy and the creation of collaborations between companies that facilitate the waste of some of the materials as raw material for others.	At national level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In 2019, a National Plan on Sustainable Management of Single-use plastics was launched. · National Programme of Monitoring Coastal Seas · An assessment on marine litter and mangroves in Santa Marta was developed. 	National level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ministry of Environment · Colombian Plastic Camera – Camara Colombiana de Plástico · Colombian Association of Plastic Industries (ACOPLASTICOS) Local level: Solid Waste Consortium of Cartagena
Kingston	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management for the Wider Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · National Solid Waste Management Authority Act · National Solid Waste Management Authority Policy · Policy framework for the management of plastic packaging materials · Trash Free Waters Initiative in the Caribbean 	The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA)
Montego Bay	Same as above for Kingston	Same as above for Kingston	Same as above for Kingston
Panama Cit	National action plan on marine litter	Basura Cero (Zero Waste)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Municipality of Panama

y	ne litter under development with the support of UNEP		ma · Autoridad del Aseo (A AUD), "Cleaning Authority" · Recycling Chamber of Panama · SUEZ Panama · Panamenian Industria l Syndicate (SIP) · Cervecería Baru · Cervecería Nacional · ANCON (NGO)
Colon	National action plan on marine litter under development with the support of UNEP	No information found	Same as above for Panama City

3) The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;

The problems caused and the impacts from marine plastics and plastic pollution on ecosystem status and the services they deliver, including on the livelihoods (e.g. fishing, tourism, etc.) of those living in coastal zones is summarised above (the global environmental problem - section 1a). Marine plastics and plastic pollution has garnered significant media attention and a strong willingness to act is seen in the many campaigns and initiatives around the globe addressing marine plastics. There is thus a great opportunity to capitalise on this ground swell of action, but coordination and leadership are required to ensure appropriate actions leading to sustainable solutions. Strategies and solutions need to be designed according to national and regional circumstances, identifying the most impactful products in the particular context, but in a globally consistent manner recognising the interconnection of ocean systems and global value chains.

According to the lessons and experiences from the GEF funded Medium Sized Project (MSP): 'Addressing Marine Plastics - A Systemic Approach'^[17], the issues of plastic pollution need to be addressed along the entire value chain (including production, distribution, consumption, reuse, collection and recycling, as well as final disposal of plastics), by making a systemic and fundamental shift from a linear to a circular economic model for plastics.

Recommendations from the GEF project highlight the actions needed in specific life cycle stages, as well as the cross-cutting solutions to link upstream and downstream stakeholders of the value chain to avoid actions done in isolation. It incorporates key upstream interventions including designing products for maximum durability and reusing products which can contribute to reducing plastic waste generation. It integrates downstream actions that address waste streams generated by the current business-as-usual linear economy.

Four building blocks are essential to achieve a circular economy for plastics, that will result in ecosystem status and service benefits, including:

- Creating cross-cutting enabling conditions including institutions in terms of legal arrangements and policy, research and knowledge, stakeholder engagement and dialogue, financing and capacity development.
- Eliminating all problematic and unnecessary plastic products, including toxic additives.

- Introducing innovative design, production and business models to ensure that the plastics we do need are reusable, recyclable, or compostable, and free of toxic additives.
- Promoting the concept of circulating all plastic products at their highest value within the economy to reduce the likelihood of these entering the environment.

In response to the urgency and mindful of the feasibility of various actions, actions in the above four areas need to be planned separately for both the short-term and medium to long-term. Considering the diversity in political, cultural, socio-economic and cultural situation, actions need to be tailored at global, regional, national and subnational scales (in city, coastal zone, watershed etc).

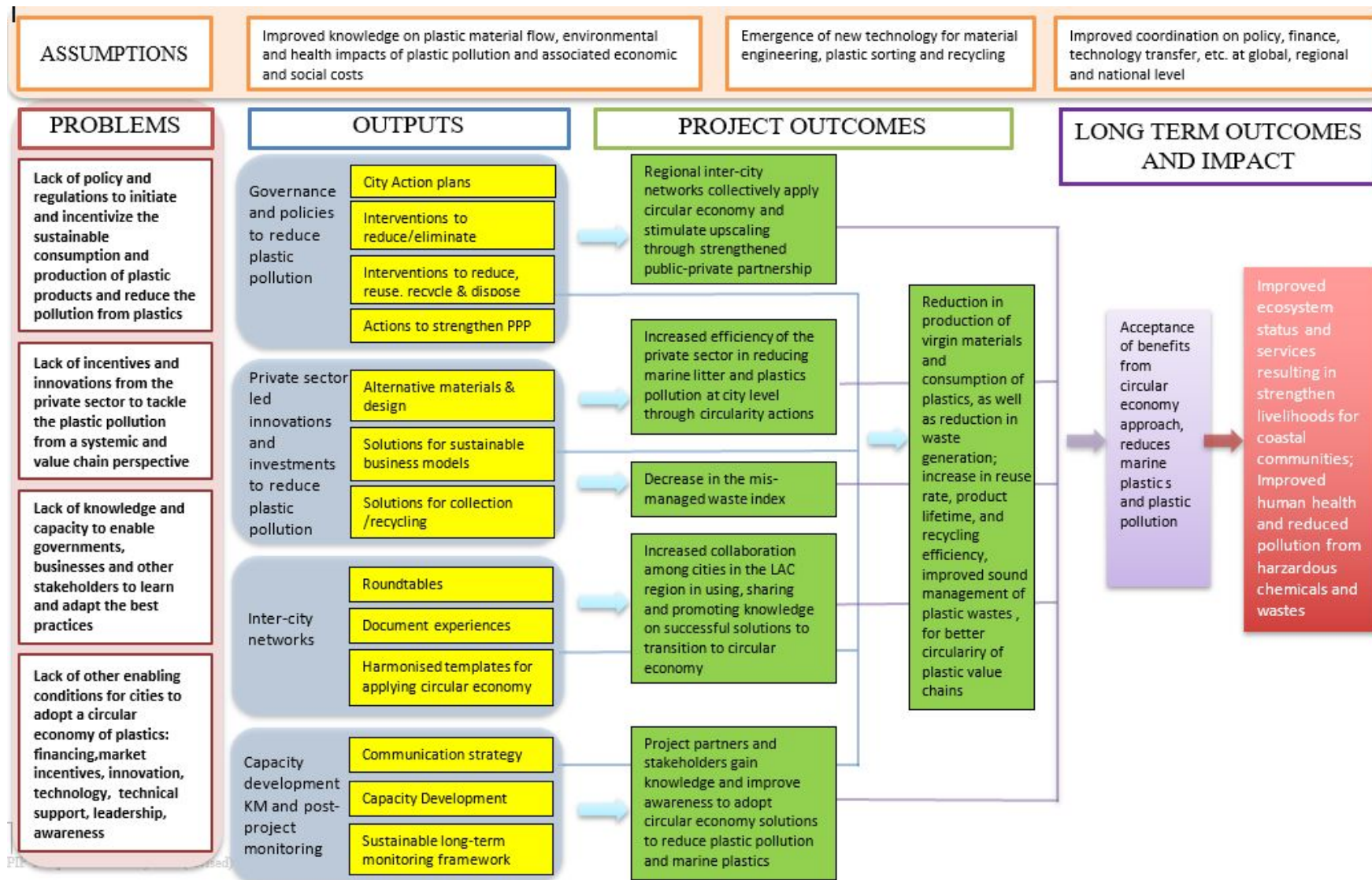
The project **Objective** (*Reducing regional marine plastic and plastic pollution by facilitating governments and businesses at the city-level, to accelerate the transition to a circular economy thereby responding to national, regional and global marine litter and plastic-related action plans, resolutions and commitments*) will be delivered through four interlinked **Components** and expected **Outcomes**.

Based on the root causes and problems analysed in the problem tree (Figure 3), this project focuses on those areas where relevant stakeholders in cities can directly address the gaps for actions. The key problem is that policy makers and businesses in LAC cities lack of the necessary policy framework, innovations, incentives, capacity and other enabling conditions to implement circular economy approaches for the plastics sector. The logic of the intervention is for municipalities to design and enforce new policies to regulate the production, consumption, and end-of-life management of plastics; for the private sector to innovate, redesign and upgrade their products, service, logistics and waste management; for all stakeholders to work in an orchestrated manner under shared visions, and enable cities to learn from each other. **Figure 3** presents the preliminary Theory of Change of this project in a diagram format.

Anticipated beneficial impacts include:

- Reduction of marine plastic pollution around the relevant cities through an evidence-based source-to-sea approach, resulting in improvements to ecosystem status and to the livelihoods of the population dependent on the services provided;
- Adopted policies and cross-cutting measures at municipalities to eliminate problematic and unnecessary frequently found plastics in the marine environment while promoting a circular approach;
- Adoption by the private sector of innovative and upstream actions to improve the circularity of key plastics products frequently found in the marine environment, as well as improving plastic waste management at city level with a focus on priority products and public-private partnership;
- Strengthened value chain actions through the collaboration of municipalities, companies including small and medium enterprises, and the informal sector;
- Enhanced knowledge and experience sharing from the created network of cities meant to demonstrate and amplify successful solutions for reducing marine plastics and plastic pollution and share lessons and ecosystem benefits learned throughout the project; and
- Strengthened knowledge, awareness and capacity of stakeholders on the actions required for implementing a circular economy/circularity approaches for marine plastics and plastic pollution management at city level.

Figure 3: Preliminary Theory of Change (ToC): Reduce marine plastic pollution by supporting governments and businesses at the city level to accelerate the transition to a circular economy.



The project intervention logic is as follows.

Component 1: Municipalities led governance and policy development to enact circular economy approaches in selected cities, for improved circularity and reduced marine plastics and plastic pollution

Outcome 1.1: Adopted policies and cross-cutting measures at targeted Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) municipalities to eliminate problematic and unnecessary plastics, to enhance circulation of plastics in the economy, reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution in the environment.

Outcome indicators:

Number of new policies and measure on circular economy of plastics adopted by the municipalities - **(Target: at least 4 per city)**

Reduction/ avoidance of plastics entering the environment, including the oceans *(shared outcome with all other project components)* **(Target: 5,000 tonnes and 3,000 tonnes of avoided CO₂ emissions)**

Improved circularity of problematic products in priority sectors identified through a brand-audit compared to year 2020 *(shared outcome with all other project components)* *(reduction in production of virgin materials and consumption of plastics, as well as reduction in waste generation; increase in reuse rate, product lifetime)* **(Target: 30%)**

To effectively address the impacts from marine plastics and plastic pollution, the multiple land-based sources need to be understood and action plans implemented to stem the sources of this pollution. During the project PPG phase, an initial snapshot analysis will be conducted, both in-situ and towards the overview of the plastics value chain in the target cities of the project, in order to determine the barriers to a circular plastic approach, the most problematic plastic products, key leverage points, and priority actions to address those barriers and the key actors in the life cycle who need to be engaged. Such assessments can be based on the existing methodologies and tools developed by UNEP, GPAP, SystemIQ/Pew and other global organisations. Relevant reference, data and studies will be compiled and analyzed to establish a city baseline during the PPG and early month of the project on: the production and consumption of plastic products; situation of waste management system; material flow analysis and life cycle assessment of plastics products; key activities, processes, sectors and actors causing the leakage and impacts of the most problematic plastic products and polymers found in the marine environment; and key geographical locations for marine litter and plastic pollution. In the first 6 month of project implementation, a detailed brand-audit will be done to identify key sectors and companies from the private sector for engagement, a short list of key actions will be further discussed and developed with the municipalities and local authorities of the target cities, in the form of city-level action plans. The action plans will set policy agenda and priority actions through city-level governance structure, policy framework and support for the implementation of regional and national action plans on marine litter. It has a specific focus on demonstrating relevant circularity approaches for the relevant products.

Following the identification of priority actions, this component will test and scale up innovative policy instruments, to ensure effective implementation and/or enforcement of new policies and laws by mayors, city councils, local authorities, municipalities and communities and different departments of cities. This will include dialogues on visioning, strategic planning, environmental policy and enforcement, waste management, finance etc. The introduction of new policies will require effective engagement with all stakeholders (especially the private sector and civil society) on cross-cutting actions, to collect feedback and gain support, but also to ensure that it is possible to measure the efficacy of the new policies or actions against the situation in the marine environment at the start of the project. In some countries, there are already existing policy and instrument introduced, so the project will focus on testing, adopting and implementing the existing national policy at the city level. In some countries without a national policy strategy towards plastic pollution, new interventions and instruments will be developed at the city level, to inspire and support the national process on introducing upscaled intervention at the country level.

Output 1.1.1 Evidence-based city-level policy frameworks and action plans developed and enacted (at least 5) by municipalities to lay out the policy vision, objectives, targets and priority actions to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution through circularity approaches for key products for the targeted cities in this project, via:

- Undertaking brand audit and snapshot evaluation of marine plastics and plastic pollution enacted and policy frameworks and actions developed and enacted (at least 5). This will facilitate to lay out the policy vision, objectives, targets and actions, to achieve a reduction in marine plastics and plastic pollution through the demonstration of circular economy approaches for the identified problematic plastic products for the targeted cities in this project;
- Supporting municipalities and local authorities to establish a policy framework and enact relevant actions. This will include the policy vision and targets for short, mid- and long-term implementation to curb plastic pollution and improve circular economy approaches in identified priority sectors;

- Developing a policy framework that will also include a list of key actions, time frames and responsibilities for implementation;
- Organising stakeholder consultation and survey to receive inputs and feedback from municipalities, local authorities, businesses, NGOs, consumer organisations and citizen representatives and to increase awareness within stakeholder groups on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of marine plastics and plastic pollution;
- Publishing and promoting action plans that will target different stakeholders groups and citizens in the region.

Output 1.1.2 A series of on-site interventions (based on priority actions identified from Output 1.1.1) implemented by municipalities to reduce and/or eliminate unnecessary and problematic plastic products identified as frequently found in the marine environment, *inter alia*:

- Introducing bans and/or restriction through policies, laws and/or regulations, on problematic and unnecessary plastics (such as single-use plastic products), or plastics that can be avoided (e.g. plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery and food take-away packaging) identified in the snapshot survey;
- Undertaking at city level assessments and preparing lists of plastics products that contains hazardous chemicals and fractions, or the ones that will cause hazards at its end-of-life (e.g. PFAS, BPA) including reviewing laboratory testing systems;
- Looking at eliminating the use of hazardous chemicals in plastic products and examine potential alternative products with a precautionary approach;
- Recommending alternative products to replace the banned or restricted products, while fully monitoring the potential trade-offs of the alternatives.

Output 1.1.3 A series of on-site evidence-based policy interventions (based on actions from Output 1.1.1) implemented municipalities to enhance reduction, reuse, recycling and disposal of plastic waste through, *inter alia*:

- Developing and implementing policies, laws and/or financial incentives to encourage innovative solutions for the reduction of plastic consumption and the application of reuse models (for instance, installing water fountains to reduce the use of plastic bottles; package-less re-fill design and solutions for beverages; reusable packaging and business models such as "Loop" to reduce single-use packaging);
- Implementing incentives and inclusive policies to better integrate informal waste collectors and independent sorters for enhancing circular economy approaches to plastic management, so that they can operate with independent financing with fair wage and thus not vulnerable to unscrupulous middlemen waste collectors;
- Improving collection channels and waste separation to segregate plastic waste for separate treatment.

Output 1.1.4 A series of cross-cutting instruments and actions including sustainable financial mechanisms developed by municipalities and co-implemented by the private sector (component 2) through public-private partnerships and with other actors along the value chain:

- Introducing and implementing sustainable procurement policy in both the governments and in businesses to promote use of sustainable products as well as encouraging businesses to improve their design and reduce the impacts of products from source;
- Promoting the use of eco-labels and standards for enabling increased consumer information on the use and impacts of plastics in products;
- Supporting existing or developing "Extended Producer Responsibility" policies and systems to encourage the private sector/producers to take the physical and financial responsibilities of improving products eco-design and management of end-of-life products;

- Reinforcing financing mechanisms and incentives to increase the market for use of recycled plastics and demand for recycled content, encourage better design and more sustainable business models, increase return of waste plastics from users, and support the better collection and recycling of plastic wastes;
- Introducing financial mechanism and other instruments (such as the 'no special fee' ports), in order to encourage the shipping industry and the tourism sector (cruise ships) to reduce the generation and management of plastic waste; Recommending where additional targeted research, knowledge and awareness-raising is required to support decision making.

Component 2: Private sector led interventions to strengthen markets for investments in innovative, scalable upstream actions, waste management and recycling solutions.

Outcome 2.1: Improved and implemented sustainable business solutions by small, medium and large private sector entities and the informal sector to reduce marine litter and plastic pollution in targeted coastal cities.

Outcome indicator

Number of businesses improved and implemented sustainable business solutions to reduce marine litter and plastic pollution (**Target** at least 20 per city)

Percentage of plastics being reused or recycled improved in new plastics products put on the market compared to 2020 (**Target** 30%)

Decrease in the mis-managed waste index compared to 2020 in priority city sites (**Target** 20%)

Activities will be developed with the private sector along the value chain to implement innovative solutions to address products identified in Output 1.1.1. The actors and their actions will include upstream, midstream and downstream within the value chain, including oil and chemical companies as the plastics/packaging design and using companies (such as food and beverage producers, textiles companies, cosmetics and personal care companies), plastics using business and premises (such as governments, offices, business centre, schools, shops and supermarkets etc.), collectors, logistic companies and recyclers. The types of business will encompass international companies, large companies, small and medium-sized companies (SMEs), and importantly, the informal sector.

In this component, key activities include:

Output 2.1.1. A series of upstream solutions on alternative solutions, eco-design, sustainable production, sustainable business models developed and tested by the consumer goods companies and service providers for reducing the use of plastics in different premises and priority business sectors, to enhance the reusability, repairability, recyclability of plastic application, while free of toxic additives (at least 2 solutions per city)

- Innovation and establishment of pilots to scale-up viable new product/packaging designs, such as package-less products, products with larger quantities, product and system to enable re-fill or providing core functions without packaging (such as water purification system or water fountain), reusable packaging and initiative (such as Loop) etc.
- Creating new business models and strategies to stimulate reuse and encourage durable goods with product life extension strategies (such as leasing products, shared ownership of products, provide service and functions instead of selling actual products, develop and introduce package-less products or refillable containers to deliver the same function and service) to shift from single-use to reusable plastic packaging and products. Such solutions will also take green and sustainable chemistry into consideration.

- Make assessment and forecast on the potential impacts and trade-offs of the new solutions based on the implementation experience in the target cities. This will ensure that new solutions do not create shifting of impacts among different environmental impact categories (such as shifting from climate change to human toxicity or to marine litter), or shifting to different actors and locations. The new solutions need to create net gain in environmental, social and economic benefits, based on a consistent measurement methodology (which have been developed by UNEP and other agencies).

Output 2.1.2. A series of sustainable consumption solutions developed and tested by the consumer goods companies and service providers for reducing the use of plastics in different premises and priority business sectors (in locations such as governmental and office buildings, schools, restaurants and bars, conference centres, hotels, supermarkets, shopping centres, movie theatres and event venues) (at least 1 solution per city)

- Establishing waste reduction policies and solutions in different premises and business sectors, by working with site managers, procurers caters and event management (in locations such as governmental and office buildings, schools, restaurants and bars, conference centres, hotels, supermarkets, shopping centres, movie theatres and event venues);
- Undertaking outreach and engagement with consumers, citizens and users in these premises to encourage behaviour change to adopt sustainable consumption lifestyles.

Output 2.1.3. A series of solutions on collection and recycling developed and tested by waste management companies, including solutions targeting the informal sector linking to the policies developed in Output 1.1.3:

- Development and implementation of technologies/best practices to sort, recycle, process, compost and dispose of plastics after use into high quality raw materials with strong support and co-finance from the private sector;
- Fostering public-private partnerships, with brands/industry contributing to the set-up of collection initiatives and treatment infrastructure to recycle and safely dispose of end-of-life plastics, with a focus on the most problematic products for marine plastics and plastic pollution;
- Enhancing effective engagement with informal waste collectors and sorters through policy or incentive schemes to improve the collection efficiency;
- Supporting and testing recycling solutions for reuse, upcycling and recycling of different plastic waste (such as up waste fishing nets into accessories, clothing, footwear, homeware, recreation);
- Reducing the adverse impacts from informal plastic recyclers, by improving the working conditions of the recyclers and closing down dumpsites and polluting working locations.

Output 2.1.4. A series of industry roundtables on circular economy approaches to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution (at least 4 per city) organised by businesses and value chain stakeholders via:

- Set up cross-sector dialogues and mechanisms to act as catalyzing incubator to stimulate business innovation and cooperation. This incubator will ensure there is a pre-competitive collaboration for a group of competing companies and value chain stakeholders to come together to develop and catalyze solutions for the shared problem on plastic pollution, so that the involving companies would gain a competitive advantage. Industrial stakeholders can include plastic producers and importers, logistics and distribution companies, consumer goods companies (using plastics as packaging), innovation companies and start-ups for eco-design and new business models, retailers, business associations, waste collectors and recyclers, and waste importers and exporters. In this incubator, new technologies, solutions, and academic and community ideas can converge together to induce radical innovation, and industrial players can collectively reach common vision and targets through scalable actions to reduce plastic pollution. Examples of topics and activities carried out in the incubators can include:

- o Share common understanding of the issues and identify key gaps for industrial players to address plastic pollution
- o Generate and share information and data on the types, applications, quantities, compositions, leakage, and impacts of different packaging and plastics products at the city level
- o Exchange new ideas and solutions on alternative materials (such as seaweeds based materials), eco-design (such as refill bottles from Coca-Cola), new technologies (such as water purification system from Unilever), new business models (such as reuse model from Loop, or leasing system), to stimulate testing and adoption in the companies in the target cities, and prepare for scale-up rollouts.
- o Provide a central place to SMEs, star-ups, micro business and innovation workshops to flourish and collaborate to develop new solutions
- o Enable the development of entrepreneurship and provide meaningful, safe and future jobs for designers, researchers, engineers, and artists, especially for female experts and partners.
- o Provide basic funding or connect with funding agencies to facilitate the development and implementation of new ideas and innovation
- o Reflect the learning and successful cases to other stakeholders (such as policymakers, governments, NGOs, consumers and academics at the city and national levels) to seek collaboration and support for scale-up actions.
- Establishing meetings to brainstorm and develop innovative options for eco-design and sustainable production, business models for plastic production and using companies;
- Organising meetings between municipalities and different business sectors and premises for adopting sustainable consumption and production measures;
- Collaborating with tax-free savings account / TFSA (and other networks) and support generated for the implementation of waste management solutions, especially with engagement of the informal sector;
- Encouraging strategic partnerships with Circulate Capital and other incubator networks to identify financing options for innovative waste management solutions.

Component 3. Inter-city marine plastics litter and plastics circular economy engagement network

Outcome 3.1: Enabled transition to circular economy approach in LAC cities through structured and systemic increasing use, sharing and collaboration in the generation and promotion of knowledge on successful solutions.

Outcome indicator: Number of cities submitting regular reports on the progress of reducing plastic pollution under shared targets established by the inter-city network (**Target 5**)

Activities in this component will include the engagement of targeted LAC cities in this project to establish a collaboration network to raise awareness on the problems resulting from plastic marine pollution and solutions to address these through the development of e.g. a common vision, aligned actions, stimulation of peer-to-peer learning for collective improvement, increased capacity and scaling up potential impact in LAC and other regions. The network is instrumental to amplify learnings and facilitate replication, adaptation and scale-up of best practices to reduce marine plastic pollution and accelerate the transition to a circular economy on a larger scale. Once the project has started and some results are available, some additional cities in the LAC regions (including Belem in Brasil and other cities in Honduras) will be approached and encouraged to join the activities of this inter-city network, with the commitment from these cities to bear the cost themselves as co-finance to this project, to participate in dialogue, networking and capacity development of the network.

In this component, key activities include:

Output 3.1.1. A functional network of LAC cities established and accessible regionally with clear vision, governance and goals for collaboration to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution

- Developing a proposal including the planning, vision, governance and declaration of the inter-city network to work on circular economy of plastics and reduce marine plastics to support the implementation of the marine litter action plans;
- Defining the main function, activities, facilitators, working groups, budget and timelines of the network among the targeted cities;
- Approaching the selected cities of the project in the LAC region to engage in the ongoing activities of the project network, to reach the expected objectives and goals shaped by the common vision;
- Establishing an indicator and reporting system to track the performance of the cities towards improving circularity of the plastic sector and reduction of marine plastics and plastic pollution (as per the indicators set out in the project and other relevant regional or global targets) to feed into the development of a post-project monitoring system (Output 4.1.7).

Output 3.1.2. Documented and established collaboration between the LAC inter-city network with at least 8 global and relevant regional processes (e.g. PACE, GPAP, GPML, NPEGC, EuroCITIES etc.), including:

- Connecting the LAC inter-city network on circular economy of plastics, with other regional and international processes (e.g. PACE, GPAP, GPML global and regional nodes, NPEGC, EuroCITIES, and within the IW:LEARN network, etc.);
- Organising regular calls, joint events and dialogues to exchange and harmonize the approach, and share knowledge and best practices.

Output 3.1.3. A harmonised city-level action plan approach developed for more cities to implement evidence-based circular economy approaches for the reduction of marine plastic pollution, with aligned visions, objectives and approaches in support of the implementation of regional and national marine litter action plans (linking to Output 1.1.2)

- Based on the city action plans developed in component 1, inter-city discussion will be organized to compare and align the actions to achieve the common visions and targets set in the inter-city network;
- Developing a template for city action plans that will enable other cities within the LAC region (and potentially more widely) to develop their own policy framework and strategies to achieve the common goal of the inter-city network.

Component 4: Capacity development, visibility improvement, knowledge management and dissemination, and communications.

Outcome 4.1 Project partners and all relevant stakeholders of LAC cities (including all municipalities, extended number of private sectors, large number of consumers and citizens) have gained knowledge and improved awareness to adopt evidence-based circular economy solutions to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution

Outcome indicator: Percentage of various stakeholders reporting awareness and behaviour change in adopting evidence-based circular economy approaches for problematic products, and sectors compared to 2020 (Target 50%)

An important element of this component will be increasing the awareness of problems resulting from the impacts of marine plastic pollution on ecosystems including the socio-economic consequences of these impacts. The project communication team and local municipalities will disseminate the learning from the project to a wide range of stakeholders for maximum outreach influencing behaviour change towards a plastics circular economy. This component will be supported by all project partners across the 4 project components and will develop knowledge products, capacity building activities, and disseminate them

through various means and channels at city, inter-city, national, regional and international levels. Significantly this component will also deliver an output to enable key city stakeholders (authorities, industry, civil society, etc.) to monitor the future impacts and benefits delivered through the use of circular economy approaches to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution.

Through the development of a pragmatic and affordable monitoring programme, based on the baseline information on marine plastics and plastic pollution levels established under this project, the cities will be able to showcase a robust mechanism to monitor and evaluate plastic pollution reduction to national and international financing organisations.

In this component, key activities include:

Output 4.1.1. A communication strategy for the project:

- Assessing the needs of communication by different stakeholder groups through workshops, surveys, etc.;
- Refining communications strategy (a preliminary strategy will be drafted in the PPG phase);
- Implementing the communications strategy across all activities of the project;
- Undertaking a detailed city-level gender analysis within plastic production, product use and waste management;
- Developing a gender strategy for project implementation (to be completed within the first three months of project start);
- Assessing the efficacy of the strategy in raising awareness in target groups (as an element of the project's routine M&E).

Output 4.1.2. An operational project website (compliant with IW:LEARN) on relevant information on evidence-based circular economy approaches to address marine plastics and plastic pollution to benefit LAC-CITIES, the wider region and global stakeholders.

- Designing , developing and maintaining an IW:LEARN compliant website;
- Uploading latest learnings from this GEF project
- Identifying links to other cities and their activities to address plastic waste to include on the website

Output 4.1.3. All project learning documented in reports, and at least 12 best policies, 20 business practices and 8 cross-cutting actions compiled at the city level, and information made available on the project website to benefit regional and global targeted audiences.

- Compiling project progress and results from training activities on a regular basis in all targeted cities;
- Developing best practices, lessons learned and success stories based on all component, packaged and disseminated to key audiences (e.g. city leaders, regional stakeholders and decision-makers, donors, civil society, etc.);
- Preparing relevant awareness raising material to increase the understanding of the socio-economic and ecosystem consequences of marine plastics and plastic pollution.

Output 4.1.4. Targeted capacity building activities organised by municipalities and businesses at the city level with a cadre of relevant stakeholder groups trained and reporting increased knowledge and awareness on implementation of circular economy approaches to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution, through events and online sessions

- Preparing and agreeing training plans for all the project activities and develop training materials as needed;
- Agreeing criteria and selection processes for trainees with relevant stakeholder groups;
- Training activities will be organised separately for policy makers (linked to component 1) and businesses (linked to component 2). At least 5,000 stakeholders at the city level trained in 30 events at the city level (6 per city over the life of the project);
- Organise study tour and technical support enable technology transfer and, share of best practices among cities and their stakeholders;
- Develop training material on chemicals of concern and suggested alternative options to inform stakeholders about chemicals, and to support the policy making process;
- Organising consumer campaigns and capacity building to enhance the sensitization for new policies with different stakeholders, especially for the citizens. The project will collect sex disaggregated information of participants (and their roles) with a target of ensuring that at least 50% of people trained by the project will be women;
- Undertaking the assessment of the feedback forms from training events to form an element of the project's routine M&E.

Output 4.1.5 A regional inter-city dialogue platform established by leading cities in this project for facilitating discussion for inter-sectoral stakeholders, peer-to-peer learning, and dissemination of lessons and experiences from the project (at least 2 high-level inter-city forums organised at the regional level)

- Establishment of an online space in the project website to enable the update and exchange of information for the inter-city network;
- Creating an online space to stimulate online debate, discussion, problem solving and communication;
- Organizing webinars and virtual events on the online platform to enhance collaboration among all participating cities;
- Developing or using existing online and physical training programs and technical sessions to share best practices from the GEF project as well as from cities in other regions, with differentiated content towards different stakeholder groups. Document the feedback, interactions, best practices and learnings from the training sessions;
- Organizing high-level face-to-face forum for city leaders and business pioneers to exchange best practices.

Output 4.1.6 Lessons learned assembled and shared amongst UN member states through regional and global knowledge platform, international fora and other global initiatives with at least 5 new best cases in addition to Output 4.1.3

- Participating in regional and global twinning events organized by IW:LEARN to facilitate uptake of circular economy approaches to address marine pollution from plastics;
- Sharing knowledge and best practices (project lessons and experiences) with relevant GEF IW and C&W projects through IW:LEARN and other platforms, includes the development and release of 5 GEF Experience Notes;
- Actively participating (with representatives from the LAC cities) in two GEF IW Conferences (anticipate participation at IW 11 and IW 12).
- Disseminate information and seek active coordination with ongoing awareness building efforts carried out by global and regional processes such as GPAP, PACE etc.

Output 4.1.7 A long-term monitoring framework established to enable cities to assess and track their progress and performance on circularity approaches and , pollution control on marine plastics (at least 5 cities have monitoring plan and resources to continue record reduction in marine plastics after project ends)

- Establishing common, simple and low-cost monitoring system for post-project assessments (to be conducted by cities) of the impacts from the adoption of circular economy approaches to inform multiple stakeholders;
- Assisting city staff (and relevant private sector and citizen representative stakeholders) identify means to conduct post-project monitoring;
- Agreeing a common reporting format to enable comparisons between cities' approaches to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution to be effectively assessed;
- Improving the understanding of the baseline conditions for all participating cities, with more recent and better data from statistics, trade and production data, industrial information, as well as surveys and citizen sciences. It will provide the latest status of the production and consumption of plastics, waste management systems, leakage quantities and locations for plastic waste and marine plastics in the project cities.

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;

The project is aligned with the GEF-7 Strategy for IW Objective 1 (*Strengthening National Blue Economy Opportunities*) through addressing pollution reduction in the marine environment. The project is also aligned with the GEF-7 Strategy for C&W program 1 on industrial chemicals that aims to support investments promoting circular economy approaches. Within program 1 and through tackling the Chemicals and Waste at end of life, the project will also *'prevent waste/products containing persistent organic pollutants from entering material recovery supply chains (including e-waste management with the aim of preventing e-waste from entering solid waste)*. The project is also directly relevant to the Basel Convention Technical Guidelines on the Identification and Environmentally Sound Management of Plastic Wastes and their Disposal. It will contribute to the implementation of legally-binding framework for plastic waste of the Basel Convention (introduced in May 2019) in the LAC region, to ensure global and regional trade in plastic waste more transparent and better regulated, whilst also ensuring that its management is safer for human health and the environment.

The project will strengthen inter-sectoral and inter-department co-operation at the city/municipality level that will also strengthen national inter-ministerial committee activities (IMCs) in line with GEF-7 corporate indicators. The proposed actions through public-private partnerships will help transform the plastic life cycle for problematic products and polymers and also contribute towards achieving the GEF-7 target on "Area of marine habitat under improved practices" by avoiding 5,000 metric ton of marine litter which corresponds to 3,000 metric tons of avoided CO₂ emissions.

Through the activities under component 3, inter-city network, valuable know-how can be transferred to cities in different geographies (e.g. Indonesia child-project where there are planned activities to address marine debris) under the GEF Sustainable Cities programme, and in particular with the GPSC (Global Platform on Sustainable Cities) as well as the Regional Seas Programme. The proposed activities will minimize the impacts of marine plastics and plastic pollution, especially microplastics, on the health of marine biodiversity and contribute towards outcome 7 of the Four-year Framework of Program Priorities under the GEF-7 Biodiversity strategy.

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;

The countries of the LAC region (including the Caribbean and the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem as well as the South Pacific and North East Pacific) have recognised the local issues associated with plastic pollution and their contributions to regional and global problems. They are all in the process of initiating various approaches to limit use and disposal of single use plastics. The GEF grant USD 7,000,000 is leveraging a co-financing contribution of USD 27,541,544 that will collectively contribute to the incremental activities and the current baseline. These experiences and lessons, coupled with those gained by the five cities working together in this proposed project, will be shared widely between the five-cities, across the wider Caribbean and LAC regions, and globally to encourage uptake of circular economy approaches to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution.

The GEF project is expected to contribute to a range of outputs that will contribute to enhancing understanding on circular economy approaches to reducing marine plastics and plastic pollution from increased awareness, enhance policies, practical interventions, sharing experiences together with a robust post-project monitoring and reporting of the impacts of this project. Ultimately, through the application of sustainable life cycle approaches and the transition to a circular economy, the project will ensure pollution reduction to the marine environment, improve the ecosystems health of large marine systems of global significance as well as marine habitat by avoiding 5,000 metric ton of marine litter. The resulting improvement of marine and coastal habitat will enhance the provisional services of such ecosystems and contribute to boosted economic and livelihood opportunities.

Without the GEF Grant - baseline scenario

It is likely that the initiatives that are underway at the national and city levels that form part of the baseline for this project will continue but may lack coordination gained through adopting a circular economy approach. In addition, the baseline scenario will lack inter-city dialogue to share experiences and lessons across the LAC region. Together, these isolated actions undertaken in the baseline will not result in the benefits expected from improved coordination and guidance with more limited impacts on reducing marine plastics and plastic pollution in the Latin America and Caribbean Region. In addition, the experiences and lessons gained in the LAC region will not have a vehicle for enabling these to be disseminated collectively more widely.

With the GEF Grant - incremental reasoning

The GEF grant is central to promoting circular economy by the municipalities at the city level (Component 1) and facilitating innovative interventions led by the private sector (Component 2). Component 3 will enable the sharing of experiences between the LAC cities to assist with the overall transition to the circular economy in LAC. Component 4 will provide national, regional and global capacity development and communication mechanisms to raise awareness through the lessons and experiences generated in this project, encouraging up-scaling thereby further increasing the global environmental benefits from the GEF support. Overall, GEF funding will enable the participating cities and countries, to create the conditions for change through the implementation circular economy approaches benefiting the LAC and global marine environments by:

- Reducing marine plastics and plastic pollution in the LAC region (and by future implementing upscaling actions, globally);
- Assisting countries in LAC in meeting relevant SDGs (including SDG 9, 11, 14 and 17) and other international convention targets (including the Cartagena Convention, Lima Convention, Land-based Sources of Pollution Protocols, Basel Convention, etc.);
- Promoting sustainable approaches to development in the region through the implementation of circularity approaches to addressing marine plastics and plastic pollution;
 - Establishing a network of cities sharing experiences and lessons on circular economy approaches to address marine plastics and plastic pollution, that will benefit the LAC region and be available as a model for upscaling globally;
 - The GEF grant will facilitate the coordination of public and private sector actions that will enhance the formation of sustainable public-private partnerships.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF);

The problems that result from marine plastics and plastic pollution are outlined above in section 1a “1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed”. These problems have been recognised by multiple organisations at global and regional level, supported by national governments. For example, the following statement has been made by António Guterres^[18].

'Our world is swamped by harmful plastic waste. Microplastics in the seas now outnumber stars in our galaxy. From remote islands to the Arctic, nowhere is untouched. If present trends continue, by 2050, our oceans will have more plastic than fish. The message is simple: reject single use plastic. Refuse what you can't reuse. Together, we can chart a path to a cleaner, greener world.'

Seventy to eighty-five percent of marine litter in the Caribbean Sea is from land-based sources. Marine litter is one of three priority pollutants (the others being agrochemical run-off and domestic wastewater) that are being targeted for improved management. The previous GEF MSP identified the benefits of a circular economy model for plastics beyond improving marine ecosystems, with clear co-benefits of improved human health and livelihoods. There are also economic benefits, with significant opportunities for innovation in new materials and product systems. The project identified both the environmental and socio-economic benefits of adopting a circular economy approach to reducing marine plastics and plastic pollution.

Expected environmental and socio-economic benefits

The actions proposed by the project will bring benefits to the environment, including:

- **Marine environments:** Reduced marine litter and microplastics in the environment will greatly reduce the impacts on ecosystems and the ecosystem services they provide, national economies and health.
- **Biodiversity and ecosystem services:** Reducing plastics in the marine environment will help to protect threatened and endangered species due to less entanglement and ingestion of plastics and promote enhanced fish stocks for subsistence and commercial harvest.
- **Resource Efficiency:** Keeping key plastic products and polymers at its highest value, reducing the production and consumption of unnecessary plastic products, and improving reuse and recycling will ensure that resources are used in an efficient manner, at their highest potential, and reduce virgin plastic production and related fossil feedstock extraction.
- **Climate change:** More circularity in the plastics value chain will mitigate the effects from the consumption of fossil fuels to produce virgin polymers and reduce the emission from incineration of plastics at their end-of-life. For example: 45% of greenhouse gas emissions emanate from consumer goods production (cement, aluminium, steel, plastics and food); 55% from energy generation^[19].
- **Toxicity and human and ecosystem health:** Eco-design, green manufacturing, state-of-the-art recycling of plastics will reduce the emissions of chemicals (such as POPs) to the environment from different life cycle stages of plastic products and thus the associated impacts on human and ecosystem health.

Expected socio-economic benefits

Most plastic packaging is used only once; 95% of the value of plastic packaging material, worth USD 80-120 billion annually, is lost to the economy. The cost of negative externalities generated by plastic packaging, plus the cost associated with greenhouse gas emissions from its production, is conservatively estimated at USD 40 billion annually. [20]

The actions proposed by the project will benefit communities and industries that are currently impacted such as the fishing and tourism sectors. They will improve the livelihoods of people whose life and living environment are vulnerable to plastic pollution, such as the informal recyclers of plastics, residents in the SIDS and coastal areas, and fishing communities. Innovations in the delivery of plastic products and in recycling (upcycling) plastics waste will generate novel livelihoods and institutional arrangements, which have the potential to add value to quality of life and community well-being. Reduction of marine plastics and plastic pollution will indirectly save costs for clean-up operations and clean-up activities, and other measures of ecological remediation, climate adaptation and mitigation.

The GEB for the Chemicals and Waste area will be evaluated during the PPG phase through a plastic waste characterisation. The project will contribute to Core Indicator 10 as improved plastic life cycle will reduce the portion of plastic waste ending up in landfill and open burning. The PPG will evaluate the portion of plastics currently ending up in landfills and therefore emitting uPOPs, the gTEQ will be evaluated and compared with the NIP and NIP update data in the 3 countries.

7) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovation: The project will promote innovative solutions to problematic and unnecessary plastic products, waste collection, recycling and disposal at the city level. This will also involve the informal sector where relevant. The project will build on the approaches gained from the previous GEF MSP. One of the four building blocks recommended by the previous GEF MSP to establish a circular economy for plastics, called for *'Introducing innovative design, production and business models to ensure that the plastics we do need are reusable, recyclable, or compostable, and free of toxic additives'*. The project will also investigate novel livelihoods that may be directed towards women. Specific project outputs that will be encouraging the introduction of innovative policies, practices, design and use include:

- Output 1.1.3 with on-site evidence-based policy interventions to enhance **reduction, reuse, recycling** and **disposal** of key products that will identify policies to encourage innovative solutions to reduce plastic consumption of these and the application of reuse models;
- Output 2.1.1. A series of upstream solutions on alternative solutions, eco-design, sustainable production, business models developed and tested on for priority plastics applications frequently found in the marine environment, including:
 - o Innovate and set up pilots to scale up the most viable new product/packaging designs for package-less, reusable or refillable containers;
 - o Create new business models and strategies to stimulate reuse or encourage durable goods with product life extension strategies (such as leasing products, shared ownership of products, provide service and functions instead of selling actual products), to shift from single-use to reusable plastic packaging and products.
- Output 2.1.4 City meetings on innovative options for eco-design and sustainable production, business models for plastic production; and developing strategic partnerships with other incubator networks to identify financing options for innovative waste management solutions.

Sustainability: The project will actively assist cities/municipal authorities to develop sustainable partnerships with the private sector involved in plastic waste (both formal and informal sectors). The sustainability will also be encouraged through improving understanding and awareness to assist key stakeholders attract new sources of financing to adopt circular economy approaches to reduce marine plastics. The project will facilitate this increased understanding and awareness through: the inter-city networks, round-table discussions and strengthening inter-sectoral/inter-ministerial co-ordination committees, etc. This will also enhance the overall governance and improve engagement of stakeholders to address the issue of marine plastic pollution. This will be further supported by the project within the LAC region with the sharing of lessons, experiences and benefits from the circular economy approaches (including ecosystem benefits, socio-economic and economic benefits) to reducing marine plastics and plastic pollution.

Potential for scaling-up: A mechanism will exist, through a global framework, to facilitate the up-scaling of the results from this project to other cities within the LAC region and globally. In most cases it is anticipated that the scaling-up will require *incremental adaption* rather than *fundamental transformative change*, sustaining the approaches promoted by the project more widely.

[1] https://www.openchannels.org/sites/default/files/literature/global_ecological_social_and_economic_impacts_of_marine_plastic.pdf

[2] World Economic Forum, Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company, The New Plastics Economy – Rethinking the future of plastics (2016, <http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/publications>).

[3] Report on Status of Styrofoam and Plastic Bag Bans in the Wider Caribbean, Caribbean Environment Programme, UNEP, May 2019

[4] Eriksen, M. et al. (2013). Plastic pollution in the South Pacific subtropical gyre. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 68(2013): 71-76.

[5] Cózar, A. et al. (2014). Plastic debris in the open ocean. *PNAS*, 111(28): 10239-10244

[6] UNEP (2018). Waste Management Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean. United Nations Environment Programme, Latin America and the Caribbean Office. Panama City, Panama. P112.

[7] Stocktaking of initiatives on plastic waste, UNEP/CHW/PWPWG.1/INF/5.

[8] Hettiarachchi, Hiroshan, Ryu, Sohyeon, Caucci, Serena and Silva, Rodolfo, (2018). Municipal Solid Waste Management in Latin America and the Caribbean: Issues and Potential Solutions from the Governance Perspective. *Recycling*, 3(2), 1-15

[9] Countries such as Guyana, Barbados and Saint Lucia have received support to improve their national marine litter and solid waste management policies and legislation, expand monitoring and assessment programmes, and enhance their public awareness, education and outreach activities. GPML-Caribe continues to support regional Governments in implementing priority national and regional actions identified in the RAPMali.

[10] <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/carolina-herrera/latin-american-countries-act-protect-oceans-plastics>

[11] <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/colombias-plastic-bag-tax-concrete-step-towards-fighting-marine-litter>

[12] <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/colombias-plastic-bag-tax-concrete-step-towards-fighting-marine-litter>

[13] http://gefcrew.org/carrcu/18IGM/4LBSCOP/Info-Docs/WG.39_INF.8-en.pdf

[14] http://gefcrew.org/carrcu/18IGM/4LBSCOP/Info-Docs/WG.39_INF.8-en.pdf

[15] <https://jis.gov.jm/jamaica-will-see-benefits-of-plastics-and-polystyrene-ban-pm/>

[16] <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/latin-america-and-caribbean-bids-good-bye-plastic-bags>

[17] <https://www.thegef.org/project/addressing-marine-plastics-systemic-approach>

[18] United Nations Secretary General on World Environment Day 2018

[19] https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/sites/default/files/emf_completing_the_picture.pdf

[20] Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2016). The New Plastics Economy – Rethinking the future of plastics. <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/our-work/activities/new-plastics-economy/2016-report>

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

Cartagena (Colombia): [10°24'N 75°30'W](#)

Barranquilla (Colombia) : [10°57'50"N 74°47'47"W](#)

Kingston (Jamaica): [17°58'17"N 76°47'35"W](#)

Montego Bay (Jamaica): [18°28'N 77°55'W](#)

Panama City (Panama): [8°59'N 79°31'W](#)

Cólon (Panama): [9° 21' 26" N, 79° 53' 55" W](#)



2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Civil Society Organizations

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

The collaboration among various stakeholders in this project will be conducted through the establishment and operation of collaborative governance bodies and mechanisms. For instance:

- An inter-agency working group will be set up to enable different municipal agencies and offices to collaborate (city council, strategic planning office, environment and waste management office, procurement office, finance and tax office at the city level). This will be done in Component 1 of the project.
- Cross-sectoral dialogues and mechanisms will be established to ensure there is a pre-competitive collaboration for a group of competing companies and value chain stakeholders to come together to develop a solution for the shared problem on plastic pollution, so that the involving companies would gain a competitive advantage. This will be done in Component 2). Industrial stakeholders could include plastic producers and importers, logistics and distribution companies, consumer goods companies (using plastics as packaging), innovation companies and start-ups for eco-design and new business models, retailers, business associations, waste collectors and recyclers, and waste importers and exporters. A variety of industrial sectors using plastics will be engaged in the implementation of the project: food and beverage, consumer goods and retailers (plastic packaging), textiles and fashion, cosmetics and personal care, tourism, fishing and aquaculture, shipping.
- Multi-stakeholder dialogues and engagement mechanism will be established to ensure that the public sector, private sector, NGOs and academia can work together at the city level, in an orchestrated manner to test and implement innovative and sustainable solutions developed in this project. This will be done in Component 1 of the project.
- An inter-city marine plastics and plastics circular economy engagement network will ensure the experience from the pilots in the target cities of this project, and more cities from the LAC region will gather together to share best practices and enable peer-to-peer learning to develop capacity. This will be done in Component 3 of the project.

The following stakeholder groups have been consulted during the project identification stage and are expected to be consulted during the PPG phase :

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	MANDATE	CONSULTATION IN PIF PREPARATION & EXPECTED CONSULTATION DURING	ROLE IN PROJECT EXECUTION

		EXTENDED CONSULTATION DURING PPG PHASE	
National Governments			
PANAMA Ministry of Environment (MiAmbiente)	MiAmbiente has an executive role in sustainable policies set out by the government. Regulates all activities that affect the protection, conservation, improvement and restoration of the country's environment.	All of the listed institutions were consulted during PIF formulation. Panama is in the process of adopting the national action plan on marine litter sponsored by UNEP GPA/GPML which has been developed through a consultative process since 2018. Activities in this project support the implementation of the national action plan as well as the regional action plan on marine litter for the Wider Caribbean Region. During PPG, extensive discussions will be held with all relevant national and local agencies in order to ensure that the proposed activities are well aligned with national actions. In order to identify the appropriate local business to engage with, additional consultation will be carried out with CONEP.	MiAmbiente will support execution of activities under Component 1 on policy changes. CONEP recommended businesses (during PPG) will be involved in roundtables with authorities, CSO etc. This stakeholder will also participate in relevant training and sharing achievements for distribution within the project partners and more widely. Basura Cero will support execution of activities under Component 1 (policy recommendations for tackling marine litter waste) and component 4 on awareness building. They will also facilitate the identification and implementation of appropriate incentives to promote plastic waste and marine litter management.
PANAMA National Council of Private Business (CONEP)	The Union of Industry of Panama (SIP) of the Ministry of Environment (MiAmbiente) and the National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP) for a production model with friendly atmosphere announced the creation of a new "Circular Economy Center of Panama".		
PANAMA Basura Cero (Zero Waste)	The Municipality of Panama-City (MUPA) together with AAUD, Cervecería Nacional (CN), and the Association for the Conservation of Nature (ANCON) set up an alliance program called 'Basura Cero' (Zero Waste) in 2015, aimed to deal with the impending solid waste crisis in Panama. The strategy of Basura Cero entails consulting with citizens, implementing pilot programs with regards to waste collection, and monitoring and evaluation.		
PANAMA Authority for Urban and Household Waste	A comprehensive waste management plan for 2017-2027, highlights the composition of waste in Panama and outlined the finan		

e (AAUD) - Panama City Waste Recollecting Agency	cial and management aspects for AAUD.		nt.
Jamaica Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change	Formed in 2012, this ministry is responsible for the formulation and implementation of policy relating to water, land, environment and climate change.	All of the listed institutions were consulted during PIF formulation. During PPG, extensive discussions will be held with all relevant national and local agencies in order to ensure that the proposed activities are well aligned with national actions, especially the The Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan which is the strategic guide or roadmap to achieve development.	Identified institutions will be key partners during execution, especially, for the proposed policy-based activities of component 1, and anticipated support from the National Waste Management Authority for carrying out activities on waste collection/management (component 2).
Jamaica National Environment and Planning Agency	Monitors, reports and assesses the marine environment to minimize over-exploitation and depletion of the living marine resources, including fisheries and conducts recycling programmes in local schools. Also conducts a beach clean-up annually. Implementing a plastic waste minimization project.		
Jamaica National Solid Waste Management Authority	Manages solid waste, raises awareness of the problem of litter and removal of litter from the drainage system.		
Colombia Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Directorate)	Their National Development plan from 2018-2022 (PND) established 10 agreements for the local use of plastics and other recyclable materials in coastal municipalities of the Pacific and Caribbean.	All the listed institutions for Colombia were consulted during PIF formulation.	Identified institutions will be key partner during execution especially for activities being carried out in component 1.

<p>(Directorate of Environmental Affairs and Urban Sector (DAASU) and the Directorate of Marine and Coastal Affairs and Aquatic Resources (DAMCRA)</p>	<p>ean coasts in implementation.</p> <p>The Ministry of Environment together with Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism launched the Circular Economy National Strategy which included plastics among their priorities.</p>	<p>During PPG, a mapping exercise will be carried out in order to align in detail the project activities with the national development plan and the forthcoming Colombian Plastic Pact.</p>	
<p>Colombia Ministry of Housing</p>	<p>The Ministry of Housing, City and Territory is the national executive ministry of Colombia in charge of formulating, implementing, and orienting housing policy, urban planning, and water supply and sanitation services in the country</p>	<p>During PPG, the Ministry of housing will be consulted especially for the activities involving informal waste collectors.</p>	<p>It will be a partner during execution especially for activities being carried out in component 1.</p>
<p>Colombia The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism Attorney General's Office</p>	<p>The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, or MCIT, is the national executive ministry of the Government of Colombia concerned with promoting economic growth through trade, tourism and industrial growth.</p> <p>The Office of the Attorney General of Colombia is the Colombian institution part of the Colombian judicial branch of Government with administrative autonomy designed to prosecute offenders, in</p>	<p>The Ministry of Tourism is interested in developing a roadmap to reduce single use plastics in tourism sector. UNEP ROLAC has presented the Global Tourism Plastic Initiative (GTIP, see "One Planet network" in the coordination section for more about this Initiative) .</p> <p>Attorney General's Office is interested in the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment (see "Ellen MacArthur Foundation" in the coordination section for more about this Initiative) and willing to</p>	<p>They will support execution of activities under Component 1.</p>

	investigate crimes, review judicial processes and accuse penal law infractions against judges and courts of justice.	collaborate with the Vice-Minister of Tourism to explore further collaboration with the Initiative. During the PPG phase, the project will reach out to the 2 departments and identify how the activities under the project could be aligned with their interests and create synergies with the Global Commitment and GPTI.	
Civil Society Organisations			
Panama Costa Recicla Foundation	Focuses on retrieving waste with the purpose of recycling, while also providing education with regards to sustainability.	All the listed institutions were consulted during PIF formulation. At PPG stage, NGOs and CSOs (together with educational establishments) will be further engaged and consulted in each city through workshops and other outreach events as to define their role in project execution.	Subject to further review during PPG, it is anticipated that NGOs and CSOs will participate in a range of activities including invited to relevant roundtables with producers, recyclers and retailers of plastic to encourage community actions. CSOs/NGOs will also guide and education material needs
Jamaica Local Parish Councils	In Jamaica, Parish councils play a key role in the collection of waste from some waterways. The Parishes of Saint Andrew and Kingston which includes the largest urbanized area - city of Kingston where the largest amount of solid waste is generated. The policies, economic instruments etc., are usually national in nature but the waste collection and disposal system are centralized through the national solid waste management authority. However, the collection and management are based on zones and conducted in close collaboration with local parish councils. Many local parishes have their own local development plans etc. Therefore, working with these parishes is p		

	aramount		
Jamaica Jamaica Environment Trust (JET)	Operates Jamaica's largest environmental education program, the Schools Environment Programme, which has been in continuous operation since 1997. JET delivers a legal programme, providing legal advice to communities affected by environmental issues, and conducts campaigns to protect specific natural resources. They organize field trips, environmental events Also, coordinates the ICC in Jamaica.		
GRID-Arendal	Supports environmentally sustainable development by working partners, including execution of GEF projects. Implements a Waste and Marine Litter programme. Activities include support for global policy development, supporting countries in addressing waste and marine litter, promotion of circular economy solutions tailored for developing countries; and supporting improved clean-up of marine litter through upscaling of predictive mapping for marine litter accumulation.	GRID-Arendal was consulted during the PIF preparation and given its global work on plastics they provided relevant co-financing for the proposed concept.	Subject to further discussion during PPG, GRID-Arendal will be a consultative stakeholder especially for component 3 and 4.
Private Sector			
Regional/national/local companies	The following groups of companies are responsible and will be engaged in this project for reducing plastic pollution through value chain:	Based on the body of work in the region and in the global IW MSP interactions, the listed stakeholders were considered during PIF formulation. The PPG phase	The companies will be fully engaged in the implementation of all actions listed in the Component 2 of

- Polymer, plastics and packaging producing companies in LAC (e.g. Braskem in Brazil, Carvajal S.A., and PROPLAS S.A. in Colombia,)
- Plastics importing companies
- Durable goods and consumer goods producers (e.g. global brands: Coca-Cola, Nestle, Unilever, Procter & Gamble; Natura in Brazil; Postobón SA, Grupo Nutresa S.A. in Colombia; GraceKennedy Ltd, Seprod Limited, Jamaica Producers Group Limited, Jamaica Producers Group in Jamaica; Grupo HEPSA, Varela Hermanos S.A. in Panama)
- Retailers, food service companies, packed good companies
- Design and innovation companies for products and business models
- Collection, sorting and recycling industry (e.g. Wisewood Eco Solutions, Louisiana Chemical Equipment Co. in Colombia; Camar Plásticos Ltd, M.M.P. Plásticos, Plaskaper Termoplásticos, Raposo Plásticos, Voltoplast Indústria e Comércio de Plásticos Ltda., and Wisewood Eco Solutions in Brazil; Terra Polyester in Honduras; ACEBRI Construcción y Procesos Plásticos, Bioplast de Antioquia S.A.S, División Ambiental SAS, Promaplast, SC Recycling SA in Colombia)

will actively engage with, plastic producers, consumer goods companies, collectors, sorters, waste operators, etc. in a range of Private Sector Organisations including the informal sectors, small and large retailers, tourism companies, etc.

the projects. Different innovations and solutions will be consulted and tested in this companies, and success stories will be derived from them.

	SA in Colombia) - The informal sector working on collection and recycling of plastic waste - Investors (investment banks, funders for startups, foundations)		
Global bodies			
GPML, GPAP, PACE, Basel Convention, Scale 360, SAICM, IOMC	<i>Please refer to section below on coordination with non-gef initiatives</i>	At PIF stage, collaboration with the following initiatives has been confirmed: Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy (PACE), Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP), New Plastics Economy Global Commitment of Ellen MacArthur Foundation and UNEP, Ocean Conservancy, SCALE360. Further dialogue will take place during PPG as to define the terms and modalities of collaboration for project execution.	Subject to further definition during PPG, during project execution they are likely to be invited to meetings/workshops (and potentially PSC). Information shared with these bodies include experiences, papers, guidance for peer review etc. Dissemination of project learning and success stories will be done in collaboration with these organisations and initiatives.
Regional Bodies	<i>Please refer to section below on coordination with non-gef initiatives</i>	Discussions held with the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention at PIF stage	The Cartagena Convention Secretariat is likely to coordinate the execution of the project.
	UNIDO/UNEP established network of National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) with centers in LAC	UNEP is regularly interacting with NCPCs in LAC for project implementation and capacity building on cleaner production, eco-innovation and circular economy.	Possible engagement with NCPCs in the region will be reviewed and materialised during PPG

The city focus of this project will necessitate detailed discussions during the PPG phase with national and city authorities, civil society, private sector (national and international), etc. to finalise the specific actions to be implemented and confirm the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

The previous GEF MSP on addressing marine plastics conducted a gender assessment^[1] of women's roles in the waste collection industries in India, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam. The assessment found that women participate both individually and alongside men (as a family unit) in the waste sector. The project will conduct a city specific gender analysis of the roles of women and men in the plastic production and waste management sectors within the first three months of project start. During the PPG phase, a model for undertaking the assessment will be developed and tested in one city, this approach will be then rolled-out across all cities involved in this project at the start of project execution.

Despite women typically holding more informal roles in the waste sector than men, overall women's earnings were not significantly different than their male counterparts in the countries studied. While there are some similarities across countries, factors unique to each country necessitate a range of interventions designed to best support female workers in this sector. The project will also explore, for example, the informal sector, especially waste collectors, are mostly women so they could benefit from socio-economic initiatives like formalizing their work and providing employee benefits.

In order to improve the understanding of the role women and men play across the value chain, during PPG, the proposed project will develop a region/city specific gender assessment in circular economy activities. This information will be used to ensure gender equality and empowerment of women throughout the project execution phase. Based on the GEF-7 Core Gender Indicators listed in the Gender Equality Action Plan. Advancement of gender mainstreaming within policy and capacity building in support of all the components, especially in the interventions, will be of key significance. The proposed activities will create the enabling environment and facilitate the implementation of policy and the legislative provisions that are conducive to the needs of all stakeholders, especially, the special interest groups at risk. The proposed project will also ensure alignment with the GEF Policy on Gender (GEF Secretariat, 2017). All data relating to meetings, training events, dissemination uptake will be collected and presented against sex disaggregated targets. This will help to achieve an acceptably high number of women in participation (decision-making and implementation) it could be needed to apply affirmative action as it would help to compensate for past "discrimination" and/or to address existing inequalities. Affirmative action is a policy in which an inequitable situation (in this case gender inequality) is taken into account to increase opportunities provided to an underrepresented part of society (in this case women).

UNEP is coordinating the development of a study (undertaken by the organization Women in Europe for a Common Future) focusing on the inter-related issues of gender, chemicals and plastics. The report will be an important resource to inform the development of this project, for the identification of hotspots, key stakeholders, governance frameworks, initiatives and knowledge gaps.

[1] <https://gefmarineplastics.org/publications/the-role-of-gender-in-waste-management-gender-perspectives-on-waste-in-india-indonesia-the-philippines-and-vietnam-e2a6>

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? Yes

closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

Private sector organisations (large industries, SMEs, informal sector, retailer, tourism, etc.) will be key partners at the city level for this project and the specific organisations and their roles will be confirmed in detailed discussions with the municipality authorities in each city during the PPG phase. These detailed discussions will increase the likelihood of sustainability of the project's actions. The project will be guided by the outcomes of brand-audits around the target cities to identify relevant sectors to engage with, existing work undertaken throughout the development of the national and regional marine litter action plans, the engagement of GPML members as well as signatories outlined in the 2019 progress report of the 'Global Commitment' (The New Plastics Economy Global Commitment, led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation in collaboration with UNEP) in order to identify relevant private sector organisations to engage with on this project to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution. By partnering with the Global commitment, the project will take advantage of its business network, which connects large global consumer goods producers and retailers that are operational in the LAC region and target cities of the project (e.g. Nestle, Coca-Cola). Global companies will be engaged where relevant in the industry roundtable and intercity network to be established under the project, and in the activities on piloting and scaling up upstream solutions.

In addition to their roles in the project, the private sector, in partnerships with the municipalities, will have a significant long-term role to sustain the circular economy approaches tested in the project and will be an important vehicle for ensuring the upscaling and replication of these approaches in other locations. The experience with the private sector incubator developed for the GEF ISLANDS programme will also be useful to identify new financing opportunities to support the private sector development in this sector.

The project has been designed to address the problems of marine plastics and plastic pollution from cities with the involvement of municipality authorities and private sector organisations working with problematic plastic products frequently found in the marine environment which may also strengthen waste management for these products. Private sector organisations will be involved in all components of the project, including:

- In **Component 1** the private sector will be engaged in the dialogues on city level policy to reduce and/or eliminate unnecessary and problematic plastics products and polymers frequently found in the marine environment and promote the reduction, reuse, recycling and disposal of plastic waste, etc.
- **Component 2** will largely be directed at working with the private sector to implement the policies delivered in component 1 (Private sector led interventions to strengthen markets for investments in innovative, scalable upstream actions, waste management and recycling solutions) will be focused on working with and further developed in partnership with the private sector along the value chain to identify, assess and implement innovative solutions for the problematic products frequently found in the marine environment.
- In **Component 3** the private sector will support municipality authorities to share the experiences and lessons across the network of cities to promote evidence-based reduction of marine plastics and plastic pollution through circular economy approaches.
- In **Component 4** the private sector will be actively involved in the capacity development required at the different stages of the circular economy approaches and will be key to the long-term sustainable monitoring of the reduction of marine pollution that will be continued post-project.

The project will also build upon reports prepared by a range of international organisations, for example, ECLAC (Municipal solid waste management in the Caribbean^[1]) on national approaches to waste management. In addition to working closely with city-level private sector organisations (to be confirmed with city authorities during the PPG phase), the project will work closely to develop strong relations with multiple private organisations and groups with regional and national presence. These include:

- **GPAP** has indicated in a letter to the GEF CEO (submitted with this PIF), that as a multi-stakeholder platform focusing on promoting circular economy solutions in an effort to mitigate plastic waste and pollution, they are interested in supporting the project's activities. Whilst they cannot commit to a specific country or a certain level of financial resources at this stage, but have dedicated in-kind support as well as financial means to promote the delivery of GPAP's three pillars: collecting data and generating insights; developing an action roadmap based on the analysis work carried out in the first phase; and building on the second phase to deliver a national investment roadmap outlining the opportunities in country and specific financing tools to support engagement in addressing plastic waste and pollution. GPAP also brings in plastic audit and assessment tools which can be used alongside with UNEP, SystemIQ/Pew tools to support this project.
- The Secretariat of **Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy** also provided support to the project, considering its role as a global community for leaders and their organizations to accelerate the transition to a circular economy. PACE provides leaders in the circular economy with the connections, learning, and opportunities to pilot and rapidly scale best practices, including the work in the plastic value chain.
- **TriCiclos**^[2]: A network group based in Chile, Brazil and Colombia offering circular economy guidance and providing recycling stations (centres: spaces for voluntary or encouraged delivery of recyclable materials, often operated by Waste Pickers Cooperatives, where people learn about the different types of materials and its potential for recyclability, as well as the importance of its cleanliness and separation) in the LAC region. Their next target activities will be carried out in Colombia, especially, Cartagena.
- **Tetrapak**^[3] has expertise in a wide range of packaging and processing approaches. They are actively engaged in implementing circular economy approaches using plant-based (e.g. wood and sugar cane) in their low-carbon approaches. Currently their carton packaging material is 71% renewable and they are aiming to make these 100% from renewable materials.
- **Terracycle**^[4] is a social enterprise working in 20 countries. They provide a platform that offers zero-waste packaging options for products from a range of manufacturers (including P&G, Unilever, Nestle, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, etc.).

[1] ECLAC – Studies and Perspectives series – The Caribbean – No.22. https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/5053/1/S2012122_en.pdf

[2] <https://triciclos.net/en/recycling-station/>

[3] <https://www.tetrapak.com/>

[4] <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/>

5. Risks

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

The following table summarises the main risks, likelihood and mitigation strategies identified at the project concept stage.

Risk	Likelihood (H, M, L)	Mitigation
Policies only developed but not implemented or without practical solutions, which can be a risk as low policy implementation and enforcement will weaken the incentive structure for all other stakeholders to take actions	H	To ensure policy recommendation(s) uptake, engagement with national and city governmental institutions will be made during the PPG phase and from the beginning of the project. Close follow-up and ongoing monitoring of activity will be supported by the local governments
City authorities fail to mobilise private sector partners during policy development and implementation	L	Project will engage in a range of awareness and partner-building workshops to fully explain and engage circular economy and benefits to city and specific private sector partners. Specific target setting and measures towards priority plastic products and sectors will facilitate the collaboration with specific companies.
Interventions through the private sector (component 2) fail to be sustained or replicated within and between cities.	M	The project will continuously work closely with both the municipality authorities and a range of private sector operators to assist in identifying appropriate innovative approaches and to facilitate the identification of appropriate financing mechanisms to encourage replication. This will be supported by a proactive strategy to highlight achievements within and between the cities involved.
Failure of private sector to participate in the project, with low engagement from the large corporations	L to M	Engage corporations in early, principled dialogues that highlight their opportunity to be proactive in constructing solutions prior to inevitable mandates by government. Should this approach cease to work we will look for the appropriate means to apply pressure to resistant companies

Lack of industry or key corporations' engagement		ssure to resistant companies.
Failure of informal waste sector to participate	M	The project will proactively engage with the informal sector during the PPG phase to highlight the benefits to their operations from circular economy approaches and identify their potential roles in this project, while ensuring their livelihoods and health are improved
Cultural resistance from the citizens to accept new measures or adopt innovative solutions.	M	The Project will communicate information to the general public on new innovative measures in a way that is sensitive to local cultures and demonstrates direct benefits for the implementation of these new measures. It will be carried in various dissemination and communication forums through different media (such as TV, radio, newspaper, social media and consumer campaigns)
Civil society (including NGOs, CSOs, education establishments) unwilling to participate	L	Lack of adequate accessible information and access to the decision process will inhibit public participation. The project will encourage broad civil society involvement at all stages of the project's interventions and ensure that information released is in a form that encourages involvement.

For an analysis of safeguards risks, please see the 'Environmental, Social and Economic Review Note' (ESERN) uploaded into the documents section.

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The proposed project will be implemented through the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and executed through the Cartagena Convention Secretariat (CAR-RCU) with the support of municipalities and local government. For Jamaica, given that the project will facilitate country's transition to a circular economy with pilots at the city level, execution will be carried out in close tandem with relevant national agencies and local parishes/municipal councils. The project will build upon multiple regional projects and support global initiatives. The project will coordinate with planned and ongoing projects and activities (GEF IW and C&W and non-GEF) in the region and where relevant world-wide. Through the development of appropriate mechanisms (described below in Section 8 - Knowledge Management and in Component 4 activities) the results of this project will be shared widely. The dissemination of results will be guided by a communication strategy that will be drafted during the PPG phase and updated within the first few months of project execution. Subject to further discussion during PPG, the project will establish a project management unit (PMU) to coordinate all day to day activities.

Subject to further definition during PPG and in coordination with the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, based on its experience in managing GEF IW projects in LAC (including in the CREW+ and IWECO) and its expertise on regional marine plastics (RAPMali), CAR/RCU will be coordinating the execution of the project with local counterparts.

Project coordination: The PMU will be supervised by a Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting annually to ensure the delivery and quality of activities and outputs and to approve budget; the PSC will include relevant countries (city and national representative), GEF Agency, partners (including private and informal sectors), civil society, etc. The GEF Agency will be responsible for contracting independent evaluators for undertaking the mid and terminal evaluations. The PMU will be responsible for undertaking routine M&E activities to provide quantifiable evidence on the performance of the project in achieving the expected outputs and outcomes and for reporting this information to the PSC and assist the GEF Agency prepare annual PIR submissions to the GEF.

Coordination with other GEF projects: The project will work closely with IW:LEARN to participate in regional and global workshops to ensure that the results of this project are available to the wider IW community of projects. This project will also make relevant linkages with both the GEF Sustainable Cities and the Amazon Sustainable landscapes programmes, sharing experiences on plastic pollution and management at the city level, and approaches to support the sustainable development of the Amazon (via the city activities in Belem expected to be brought on board during PPG).

The project will also co-ordinate with relevant GEF C&W projects addressing plastic waste, including the recent UNIDO Ghana project and the UNEP ISLANDS programme. Opportunities will also be sought to participate with project and attend meetings (e.g. with Basel Convention activities on plastic waste) to ensure that lessons and experiences are shared within the C&W project communities.

In the LAC region, the project will coordinate with planned and ongoing GEF initiatives aimed at reducing land-based pollution (e.g. Amazon Basin SAP implementation, IWECO and CREW+) and CLME+ (implementing an SAP for the wider Caribbean region that includes the North Brazil Shelf and the Gulf of Mexico).

Project name	

<p>Establishing a circular economy framework for the plastics sector in Ghana</p>	<p>A recently approved GEF project that is also aiming to create the right enabling environment, build capacity including through public-private partnerships, test innovation solutions in order to mainstream circular economy for plastic management in Ghana.</p>
<p>CRew+: An integrated approach to water and wastewater management using innovative solutions and promoting financing mechanisms in the Wider Caribbean Region</p>	<p>Panama, Honduras, Jamaica, and Colombia are the four overlapping countries with the proposed project. The new CRew+ project will implement small scale solutions for the improved management of water and wastewater that can be upscaled and replicated. An integrated water and wastewater approach will be taken with solutions also being implemented in selected watersheds and freshwater basins to ensure greater water security for vulnerable rural communities. Construction and rehabilitation measures will be complemented by (i) institutional, regulatory, legislative and regulatory reforms; (ii) sustainable and tailor-made financing options; and (iii) knowledge management and promotion to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation.</p>
<p>Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco)</p>	<p>A full-size GEF-funded project being implemented by the UN Environment Programme. CARPHA; Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention/CEP; LBS Regional Activity Centres-IMA and CIMAB are the executing agencies of the project. The objective of the project is to conserve the Caribbean ecosystems for sustainable livelihood of the population through improved fresh and coastal water resources management, sustainable land management and sustainable forest management that also seek to enhance resilience of socio-ecological systems to the impacts of climate change. This project follows the previous IWCAM project and out of the nine participating countries, one of relevance to this project, namely Jamaica.</p>
<p>Catalyzing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf L</p>	<p>A project funded by GEF aims to promote the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the CLME+ region by facilitating ecosystem-based management and ecosystem approach to fisheries for the sustainable and climate resilient provision of goods and services from shared living marine resources. The project is fostering partnership among regional and international organisations working in the fields of environment and fisheries in the WCR. Relevant outputs of this project that complement the proposed project include the State of the Marine Ecosystems and associated Economies in the CLME+ region (SOME) report, the Status of the marine environment and associated economies for the CLME+ region report, the development of a regional nutrient reduction strategy, action plan and investment plan, a habitat restor</p>

<p>Large Marine Ecosystems (CMLE+)</p>	<p>ation strategy, action plan and investment plan and pollution and habitat research strategies.</p>
<p>Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme to Ensure Integrated and Sustainable Management of the Transboundary Water Resources of the Amazon River Basin Considering Climate Variability and Change</p>	<p>A project is a full-size project being implemented by the UN Environment Programme and executed by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) as well as the 8 participating countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela). The project will support the participating countries in implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the Amazon River Basin, promoting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and source-to-sea approaches, to improve ecological, social and economic benefits and, enabling the countries to meet their relevant SDG and convention targets in the Amazon basin. Brazil, Belem is part of the Amazon River Basin project and as such, synergies will be sought with regard to watershed management.</p>
<p>Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS)</p>	<p>This project will develop links as appropriate with the proposed work to be undertaken by the GEF/UNEP ISLANDS programme (initiated in 2019 and currently in the process of defining child projects). The ISLANDS provides funding to help implement policies that will prevent the release of 23,200 tonnes of toxic chemicals into the environment. The initiative spans through islands in the Caribbean, the Pacific and the Indian Ocean. During the proposed project PPG phase, discussions will be held on effective means to co-ordinate with the ISLAND programme and share experiences on plastic derived pollution and means to mitigate.</p>
<p>Establishing a circular economy framework for the plastics sector in Ghana</p>	<p>This project will work to develop linkages with this recent UNIDO approved project currently at PPG stage which has the similar objective to strengthen the national capacity of Ghana to transition to a circular economy framework that addresses plastic leakage into the country's oceans and waterways, facilitates sustainable plastics management.</p>
<p>Reducing UPOPs and Mercury Releases from Healthcare Waste Management, e-Waste Treatment, Scrap Processing and Biomass Burning</p>	<p>This GEF 6 project is looking to introduce Best Environmental Practices (BEP) and Best Available Technologies (BAT) to reduce the release of unintentionally generated Persistent Organic Pollutants (UPOPs) and mercury from the treatment of healthcare waste (HCW), the processing of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), processing of iron and steel, and biomass burning in the sugarcane sector. While focused on e-waste and on Colombia, it is also looking at EPR whose learning might be useful for this project.</p>

iomass burning (6928)	
Guidance Development and Case Study Documentation of Green Chemistry and Technologies	This GEF 6 project was launched in 2017, organized jointly by UNIDO and the SENAI-FIRJAN Green Chemistry Institute in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to increase global awareness and deploy Green Chemistry approaches and technologies. The multistakeholder initiative developed under this project brings together a broad network of partners, including the Centre for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering at Yale University, the German Federal Environmental Foundation, Braskem, the largest thermoplastic resins producer in the Americas, as well as several National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPs) from Latin America, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.

Coordination with non-GEF initiatives: There are multiple networks and groups addressing marine plastics and plastic pollution. A recent report^[1] for the Basel Convention identified over 80 regional and global networks and initiatives addressing marine plastics and plastic pollution. In addition, the main initiatives that will be engaged include:

Project/initiative name	
Cartagena Convention	The Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention, the only legally binding environmental agreement in the Region, ensures synergies with the obligations of Regional Governments that are its Contracting Parties and supports implementation of the Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS) Protocol and the Caribbean Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter ^[2] (RAPMaLI). This includes support for national and regional marine litter projects as well as promoting national policy and legal reforms. These activities are implemented through technical and high-level meetings, a dedicated web page, social media platforms, the creation of information materials, development and implementation of solid waste and marine litter related projects and sharing of information on new grant opportunities.
The Global Partnership of Marine Litter (GPML)	A multi-stakeholder partnership that provides a unique mechanism to bring together all actors working to prevent marine litter and microplastics, with the aim of sharing knowledge and experience and advancing solutions to this pressing global issue. Its mission is to protect the global marine environment, human wellbeing and animal welfare by addressing the global problem of marine litter, in line with Target 14.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals: <i>'by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds (...)</i> '. A Regional node for the GPML exists in the Wider Caribbean Region which can support e.g. the network of cities beyond the life span of the C

	an region which can support e.g. the network of cities beyond the life-span of the GEF project.
GPAP: The Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP)	The Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) is a public-private collaboration platform to help translate political and corporate commitment to address plastic pollution into concrete action plans.
The Basel Convention	Recently established a new Plastic Waste Partnership to mobilise business, government, academic and civil society resources, interests and expertise to improve and promote the environmentally sound management of plastic waste at the global, regional and national levels and to prevent and minimize its generation. The Partnership promotes action and encourages dialogue between governments, regional and local authorities, Regional Seas Programmes, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and academia towards the ultimate goal of reducing significantly and, in the long-term, eliminating the discharge of plastic waste and microplastics into the environment, in particular the marine environment.
UNEP Chemicals and Health branch	The Chemicals and Health Branch works to minimize the adverse effects of chemicals and waste on human health and the environment. It is the focal point of UNEP activities on chemicals issues and the main catalytic force in the UN system for concerted global action on the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals. Plastics is one of the sectors that the Branch is working on.
PACE: (Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy)	In order to scale and accelerate the achievement of circularity in Plastics there is a clear mandate for PACE. Embodying this mandate is the work currently deployed with in the PACE network. With 5 projects, divided over global, regional and local geographic focus, and mostly focused on use, reuse and waste stages in the value-chain. These are covered in a learning coalition, research, innovator or pilot capacity. PACE will support the dissemination of the project learning in the LAC region, and also at the global level.
UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP RO LAC)	UNEP's Latin America and the Caribbean Office is located in Panama City, Panama. It is working to build more resilient livelihoods through healthy ecosystems. There are also other UNEP offices in Brazil, Jamaica, Mexico and Uruguay in the region.
EUROCITIES	Launched a Plastics Declaration ^[3] in 2019. EUROCITIES is the political platform for major European cities with networks with the local governments of over 140 of Euro

	pe's largest cities and more than 40 partner cities that between them govern some 130 million citizens across 39 countries.
EMF (Ellen McArthur Foundation)	Established a global commitment signed by over 450 companies worldwide to ensure that there is a new plastics economy, where plastic never becomes waste or pollution. This is to be achieved through three actions to achieve creating a circular economy for plastic. Eliminate all problematic and unnecessary plastic items. Innovate to ensure that the plastics we do need are reusable, recyclable, or compostable. Circulate all the plastic items we use to keep them in the economy and out of the environment. EMF have recently established a national pact within the LAC region in Chile.
World Bank	In 2019 launched bonds to highlight the challenge of plastic waste in oceans ^[4] . These bonds are part of an ongoing initiative by the World Bank to engage with investors on highlighting the vital role of fresh and saltwater resources. Has implemented multiple waste projects worldwide. In the LAC region ^[5] actions have included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Argentina, \$40 million in loans and grants helped to reduce and properly treat food waste through partnerships with food banks and retailers, close over 70 dumpsites, and construct 11 waste facilities. ▪ In Sint Maarten, the World Bank is providing a \$25 million grant for emergency debris management with a focus on dumpsite management, in addition to broader sectoral support. There is ongoing support to develop a national solid waste management strategy and investment plans to further develop the solid waste management sector in an integrated manner. ▪ In Jamaica, community participation and waste collection services improved in 18 communities through results-based financing and infrastructure investments. Waste activities also led to job creation and contributed to a crime prevention and reduction program.
IADB	The private sector incubator being developed under the GEF ISLANDS programme will support SMEs engaged in waste management in accessing funding for their operations.
WWF	Recently launched a best practices platform for Cities to tackle plastic pollution ^[6] : a and they have signed an MOU with UN Habitat ^[7] . Cities must also continue to adopt

	<p>smart solutions that reduce the collective impact of their prospering communities.</p> <p>On plastic, this means preventing, minimizing and managing plastic, both as a resource, and as a global threat to our oceans. Plastic Smart Cities is the knowledge sharing platform on plastic. It is the place for collaboration, one where stakeholders can learn from the world's premier experts, where they can engage Best Practices and connect with solution providers.</p>
One Planet Network	<p>https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sustainable-tourism</p> <p>The One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme intends to enhance the sustainable development impacts of the tourism sector by 2030, by developing, promoting and scaling up sustainable consumption and production practices that boost the efficient use of natural resources while producing less waste and addressing the challenges of climate change and biodiversity. This initiative includes a global plastics initiative that focuses on circular economy in the region. The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative unites the tourism sector behind a common vision to address the root causes of plastic pollution. It enables businesses, governments, and other tourism stakeholders to take concerted action, leading by example in the shift towards circularity in the use of plastics.</p>
SCALE 360	<p>Initiated by the World Economic Forum, SCALE 360 is a global partnership that seeks to fast-track the circular economy through nationally-led innovation challenges. The idea is to reduce the environmental impacts of fashion, food, plastics, electronics and other material value chains. SCALE 360 will collaborate with government, business, civil society and entrepreneurs around the world to find bright new ideas that will help us cut the waste in our economies.</p>
Consumers Beyond Disposability	<p>To enable the large-scale adoption of new solutions that reduce waste to begin with, the World Economic Forum launched the 'Consumers Beyond Disposability' platform that brings together government, civil society and business. Through the platform, stakeholders will help identify, guide and accelerate innovative solutions that promise better outcomes for consumers and the environment.</p>
Circulate Capital	<p>Circulate Capital is an investment management firm dedicated to financing innovation, companies, and infrastructure that prevent the flow of plastic waste into the world's ocean while advancing the circular economy. Its goal is to increase the quality and quantity of investable opportunities for all investors while also demonstrate that investments in ocean plastic solutions can deliver financial returns.</p>
Regional coalition	<p>The region is establishing a regional coalition on circular economy, which aims to de</p>

<p>n on circular economy in Latin America and the Caribbean</p>	<p>velop a common regional vision and strategy on circular economy in order to have a bigger impact, to build cooperation and have a regional platform to exchange best practices and provide technical support. Strategic partners include UNEP, Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF), Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS-EKLA), the World Economic Forum (WEF), PACE (hosted by World Resources Institute), UNIDO and the CTCN.</p> <p>The coalition will be an open platform where all governments, private sector, institutions, non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental and international/regional organizations working on circular economy can participate and contribute to.</p>
<p>The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)</p>	<p>CTCN is already supporting 11 countries in the region to determine their long-term vision on circular economy. There are two multi-country technical assistance projects: one in Chile, Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay, and the second one in Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Cuba, El Salvador and Paraguay. The CTCN is also assisting Costa Rica to develop a circular economy at the local level. All projects focus on the climate benefits originating from a circular economy model and help to identify the advantages that circularity would produce towards the implementation of the NDCs and the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>CTCN technical assistance on circular economy is instrumental in three ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richness of information: Allowing participating countries to have a national assessment that goes beyond major cities, covering different regions with specific sectors. • Baseline: Establishment of a strong baseline to know the current country status on circular economy, and to measure what is going to happen in the future. • Lessons learned: To compare and share information between countries, their activities in circular economy, learn from them, and transfer learnings from successes and failures.
<p>The UNIDO/UNEP established network of National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) with centers in LAC</p>	<p>Collaboration with LAC NCPCs will be explored during PPG. Their scope of work is as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They raise awareness of the benefits and advantages of Resource Efficient & Cleaner Production including with central and local governments, private sector, academia and national and/or regional financial institutions. • They demonstrate the environmental, financial and social benefits of RECP through in-plant assessments and demonstration projects. • They help obtain financing for Resource Efficient & Cleaner Production investments: NCPCs also support the promotion of RECP investment projects to facilitate the transfer of Environmental Sound Technologies to industries – particularly SMEs – in developing countries. This activity is closely linked to the in-plant assessments which also enable NCPCs help industries identify and formulate RECP investment projects.

	<p>also enable NGOs help industries identify and formulate R&D investment projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They provide policy advice to national and local governments. • They help disseminate technical information. NCPs are thus able to obtain and share Cleaner Production information nationally and internationally.
Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)	<p>Adopted by the First International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM1) on 6 February 2006 in Dubai, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is a policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world.</p> <p>SAICM was developed by a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral Preparatory Committee and supports the achievement of the 2020 goal agreed at the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. SAICM's overall objective is the achievement of the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that by the year 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.</p>
The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)	<p>The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) is the pre-eminent mechanism for initiating, facilitating and coordinating international action to achieve the WSSD 2020 goal for sound management of chemicals. The IOMC brings together nine international organizations actively involved in chemical safety. The objective of the IOMC is to strengthen international cooperation in the field of chemicals and to increase the effectiveness of the organisations' international chemicals programmes. It promotes coordination of policies and activities, pursued jointly or separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment.</p>

[1] Plastic Waste Initiatives – Basel Convention

[2] <http://caribbean.cepal.org/content/regional-action-plan-marine-litter-management-rapmali-wider-caribbean-region-2014>

[3] <http://www.eurocities.eu/eurocities/news/EUROCITIES-launches-joint-plastics-declaration-with-the-city-of-Oslo-WSP0-BGE6KW>

[4] <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/04/03/world-bank-launches-bonds-to-highlight-the-challenge-of-plastic-waste-in-oceans>

[5] <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/brief/solid-waste-management>

[6] www.plasticsmartcities.org,

[7] https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/press_releases/?359490/WWF-UN-Habitat-end-plastic-pollution

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7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

Global Resolutions

Four marine litter resolutions have been adopted by the UN Environment Assembly to date namely 1/6: Marine plastic debris and microplastics (2014); 2/11: Marine plastic litter and microplastics (2016); 3/7: Marine litter and microplastics (2017); and 4/6 Marine plastic litter and microplastics (2019).

Key actions taken include the development of regional and national action plans on marine litter in cooperation with the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans; state of knowledge compilation; identification of governance gaps and options to address these and the establishment of an Ad hoc open-ended expert group whose mandate was renewed through resolution UNEA 4/6 in 2019. A number of other activities support the implementation of the resolution including the massive open online courses on marine litter, Training of trainers on the monitoring and assessment of plastic in the ocean, the Clean Seas Campaign, national source inventories approach for national action plan development etc.

The Global Partnership on Marine Litter has been highlighted as a key platform for improved coordination and cooperation for marine litter prevention and UNEA-3 requested UNEP to strengthen its contribution to the partnership (3/7/7) with the most recent resolution taking note of its framework document. The last resolution used the language “Marine litter including plastic litter and microplastics” as countries did not wish to specifically focus on single-use plastics or plastics alone (such paragraphs were moved to other relevant resolutions). The World Environment Situation Room is seen as a key platform for a thematic “Marine litter and microplastics” multi-stakeholder entry point. UNEP works closely with the International Maritime Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization through the GPML to also address sea-based sources of marine litter and microplastics.

The third session of the UNEP Assembly stressed the importance of a zero vision i.e. long-term elimination of discharge of litter and microplastics to the oceans and of avoiding detriment to marine ecosystems and the human activities dependent on them from marine litter and microplastics. It further urged all actors to step up actions to “by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution”. It further promoted the development of integrated and source-to-sea approaches to combat marine litter and microplastics from all sources, taking into account that plastic litter and microplastics are transported to the oceans from land-based sources via pathways such as rivers, wastewater plants and run-off or wind from land. It also highlighted that plastic litter is an important source of microplastics and includes the land/sea and freshwater/sea interface in action plans for preventing marine litter, including microplastics.

The project will contribute to relevant SDG reporting by the five countries including:

- SDG 6 (Water as litter pathway)
- SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)
- SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)
- SDG 14 (Life Below Water)
- SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)

The project will also be aligned with and contribute to national strategies and policies with gender mainstreaming through responsible ministries (e.g. Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport in Jamaica).

Panama

The Ministry of Environment (MiAmbiente) is working closely with UNEP to develop and launch its National Action Plan on Marine Litter Prevention (to be launched in 2020). The plan will help the country identify how to handle problematic marine litter throughout different sectors nationwide and decrease the amount of solid waste that reaches the oceans. The Union of Industry of Panama (SIP) of the Ministry of Environment (MiAmbiente) and the National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP) for a production model with friendly atmosphere also announced the creation of a new “Circular Economy Center of Panama”.

Strategic Plan 2020-2024 – Under this plan, the Panamanian government lays out several actions that aim to tackle environmental degradation, including, a key relevant action on implementing a system of municipal and industrial waste recycling at the national level, with priority attention to cities of Panama, Colon, San Miguelito, Santiago and David. The plan will also promote an environmental education program in order to create a culture of progressively reducing the use of polystyrene (foam) and plastics (plastic bottles, reeds, containers).

Policy of No Waste (Política No Basura) - This law promotes and develops a culture of no waste; however, implementation needs to be strengthened. The existing law consists of no incentives, such as subsidies, education, and tax-exemption in order to promote the transition to a more sustainable economy.

Jamaica

The Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan Vision 2030 Jamaica is the strategic guide or roadmap to achieve development.

Solid Waste Management Policy – To improve management of Solid Waste, the National Solid Waste Management Act (2001) was an outcome of the National Solid Waste Management Authority Policy.

National Solid Waste Management Authority (No. 27 of 2001; amended 2002)

Provides for the regulation and management of solid waste, to establish the National Solid Waste Management Authority. It also provides for the protection and conservation of the country's natural resources as well as safeguard public health from pollution.

National Solid Waste Management Authority Policy (2000) – This policy articulates the overall framework for the management of solid waste

Colombia

National Development Plan – 2018 – 2022.

Since 1991, Colombia has had a “green participatory constitution” given the importance it gives to the protection of the environment recognising the collective right of Colombian citizens to a healthy environment and introducing sustainable development criteria in the constitution.

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) is considered the highest environmental authority, it establishes public policies regarding the recovery, conservation, protection, management, use and exploitation of renewable natural resources. SDGs are an intrinsic part of the Colombian legal framework covering preventative actions, precautionary measures etc and, is based on environmental liability, polluter pays principle, etc. The National Authority of Environmental Licences (ANLA) is a subsidiary of MADS in charge of granting environmental licences. ANLA has the power to impose preventive measures and/or sanctions to transgressors of environmental regulation. It issues environmental licences. At the regional level, overseen by the MADS, there are thirty-three autonomous Regional Corporations (CARs) and Corporations for the Sustainable Development (CDS) established to implement environmental

policies at the sub-national level. However, the accountability structure of the CARs is considered to be rather weak, making it difficult to implement a national environmental information system and have transparent environmental licensing. At the urban/municipal levels, the CARs/CDSs' authority is delegated to the Urban Environmental Authorities (UEAs).

According to environmental regulation based on the 'Design, Take-back, Recover, Recycle or Dispose of Goods' principles, all generators of residue or waste and/or hazardous waste are obliged to register with the generators' registry of the competent environmental authority.

Colombia generates 1.5 kg waste/ person / day and does not have suitable infrastructure for waste treatment hence the urgent need for sound strategies to reduce waste production and to reincorporate these materials within the value chains. At present, 92% of municipal solid waste goes to landfills, 7% is dumped in uncontrolled sites and only 1% is recovered through composting or recycling. The country intends to professionalize its solid waste management, decreasing landfilling and increasing recycling and started the 'Basura Cero' (Zero Waste) approach although it is facing a number of challenges including *inter alia* creating environmental awareness, discouraging landfilling in favour of prevention, reuse and recycling, introducing the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility etc.

Colombia embraces the Circular Economy approach as a "*favourable model to reduce the dependence on the extractive sector, to create a diversified economy by exploring other economic opportunities such as the bioeconomy and different circular business models, to improve competitiveness through innovation, to create safe and rewarding job opportunities for all the people involved in the informal recycling sector and to induce an economy that regenerates the Earth's biocapacity and achieves a real Sustainable Development in the country*".

In July 2017, the government of Colombia introduced a ban on single-use plastic bags smaller than 30x30 cm and a tax on single-use plastic bags. The same year, Colombia hosted the Circular Economy Forum of the Americas (in Medellin). In the Americas, Colombia is considered as a pioneer in terms of plastic recycling. The emblematic project of "Conceptos Plásticos" which is building social houses made from recycled plastic blocks for families displaced by conflicts is a good example. Colombia has also developed a "Plastics Recycling Database" with stakeholders contact information along the plastic recycling chain i.e. waste pickers, material recovery facilities, re-processors, manufacturers, converters and retailers. Colombia is also attempting to create the necessary guarantees for waste pickers' safe and secure transition to formal economy.

In addition to the single-use plastic bags ban, some members of the Congress are seeking to ban plastic cutlery, straws, glasses and elements for cigarettes. The proposed legislation would prohibit the manufacture, importing, sale and distribution of single-use plastics by 2021 and by 2025 cigarette butts and the entire use of plastic bags.

The Ministry of Environment established a "plastic task force" to find innovative solutions to plastic use of plastics avoiding plastic waste in the ocean and draft plans for a plastics circular economy. It is also looking at promoting business models that incorporate the circular economy and create joint ventures between waste companies and manufacturers of raw material.

8. Knowledge Management

Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

Knowledge management is recognized to be a critical element of the project and has been incorporated into project design, especially through component 4 through the implementation of an IW:LEARN compliant website, a communication strategy and multiple capacity development activities to different stakeholder groups. The project will develop a communication and knowledge management strategy during the PPG phase to guide *all* project implementation activities. The project will also undertake a gender assessment and prepare a strategy (see above Section 3- Gender) to guide the overall implementation of the project. This strategies will also identify the required M&E indicators to be reported and will ensure that participant data is collected in a sex disaggregated format. These strategy will be revised/updated within the first three months of project execution.

The project will rely heavily on the management, dissemination, and scaling-up of knowledge, experiences, and results in order to achieve the overall project objective to reduce marine plastics and ensure long-term sustainability of the circular economy approaches in the LAC region that will also facilitate global up-scaling of the approaches.

The knowledge management and communications strategies will be tailored to specific stakeholder groups that have been identified in (section 2 - Stakeholders) including:

- **National authorities** (ministries, institutes, etc.) to ensure that the information and lessons are widely disseminated and accepted within each country to support the sustainability of actions. To further support inter-ministerial committees and aid decision makers on circular economy and marine plastic pollution;
- **City authorities** to assist with inter-sectoral information and awareness needs to support the various round-table discussions within cities;
- **Private sector** - information will be collected as relevant to the different needs of the various private sector partners and other stakeholders (large industry, small-medium size enterprises, informal sector and for specific activities within this stakeholder group - plastic producers, users, retailers, waste managers, etc.).
- **Civil society** to better engage with end-users on the benefits of seeking alternatives to plastics and guiding appropriate disposal of material;
- **International organisations** involved in addressing circular economy/marine plastic pollution (e.g. GPAP) to ensure wide up-take of results from actions in LAC supported by this project;
- **GEF IW and C&W** community of projects: Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the LAC region through the GEF IW:LEARN and LME:LEARN projects, in addition to the city networks and websites established by the project. The Circular Economy project will allocate at least one percent of the total GEF project financing for a suite of IW: LEARN activities to share lessons learned and results from the project to the broader GEF IW community, as well as actively participate in IW:LEARN capacity building workshops, forums, and biannual GEF IW Conferences. The project's website will meet the specifications suggested by the GEF IW:LEARN for International Waters projects. The project will also share information amongst relevant GEF C&W projects including the recent UNEP ISLANDS and UNIDO (Establishing a circular economy framework for the plastics sector in Ghana) projects.
- **International meetings**: The project will also look for other opportunities within the region and globally to share project results and other knowledge gained with the international community.

Regional Seas: Lessons learned from the implementation of marine plastic initiatives spearheaded through the regional seas programs globally will be utilised and shared to support the proposed project execution (e.g. SEA Circular in Asia, RAPMALis, GPML nodes etc). In turn, through the regional seas network, best practices and learning from this proposed project will be shared widely through the Regional Seas Programme.

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Gustavo Padilla Corro	Head of the International Coordination Office	Head of the International Coordination Office	4/22/2020
Gillian Guthrie	Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	3/26/2020
DAVID FELIPE OLARTE AMAYA	Head of the International Affairs Office	Ministry of Environment	4/6/2020

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place



Cartagena (Colombia): 10°24'N 75°30'W

Barranquilla (Colombia) : 10°57'50"N 74°47'47"W

Kingston (Jamaica): 17°58'17"N 76°47'35"W

Montego Bay (Jamaica): 18°28'N 77°55'W

Panama City (Panama): 8°59'N 79°31'W

Cólon (Panama): 9° 21' 26" N, 79° 53' 55" W











