



Reducing Marine Litter from Sea-Based Sources

It is essential that ships and fishing vessels bring their operational waste and gear back to land instead of dumping it illegally into the sea, where it affects the marine environment. Improved port waste management regulations and services, for example port reception facilities and transparent cost recovery structures, as well as information and training can make a difference to reduce marine litter from such sea-based sources.

The fishing communities also play a significant role: Often, fishers catch plastic waste while working on the sea. Fishing for Litter approaches encourage the fishing community to collect and discharge this waste on land through incentives, connection to recyclers and providing information on marine protection.

'Rethinking Plastics' cooperates with various partners on identifying good practices and finding new solutions for Thailand.

Our Pilot Project in Thailand

Improving Ship Waste Management

The pilot develops an online platform for a better ship waste management in Bangkok Port. Moving towards efficient mandatory ship waste notification and financing structures helps to reduce illegal waste dumping into the sea.

Implemented by: Energy Research Institute of Chulalongkorn University until February 2022



More Information



Imprint

Published by:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

www.giz.de
www.thai-german-cooperation.info/en_US/

Rethinking Plastics – Circular Economy Solutions to Marine Litter
c/o Pollution Control Department (PCD)
92 Soi Phahonyothin, Phahonyothin 7, Phayathai, Bangkok 10400, Thailand

Editors:
Lena Kampe, Key Expert, lena.kampe@giz.de;
Imporn Arbutra, National Senior Advisor, imporn.arbutra@giz.de

Photo credits:
Page 2: GIZ/Guenther Wehenpohl, GIZ/Pascal Renaud
All other pictures: GIZ/Lena Kampe

As at: Bangkok, March 2021

This publication was produced by the 'Rethinking Plastics –Circular Economy Solutions to Marine Litter' project. Its contents are the responsibility of GIZ and Expertise France and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union or the BMZ.



Co-funded by the European Union



Joint Actions to Reduce and Manage Plastic Waste in Thailand





Why we need to Rethink Plastics

Marine litter is a growing global challenge, affecting more and more the marine ecosystem, biodiversity, human health and the economy especially within the fisheries and tourism sector. Plastics, for example from packaging and other single-use products, contribute to a huge amount of waste in the sea.

To reduce marine plastic waste, the **“Rethinking Plastics – Circular Economy Solutions to Marine Litter”** project works jointly with its partners towards a circular economy for plastics in seven countries in East and Southeast Asia. In a circular economy, resources are used and managed in a more efficient and sustainable way through the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle.

“Rethinking Plastics” is co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Expertise France between 2019 and 2022. In Thailand, the project cooperates closely with its political partner, the **Pollution Control Department (PCD)** under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE).

Joint Efforts for Plastic Reduction in Thailand

Thailand is aware of the environmental pollution caused by plastic waste. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) is assigned to develop new approaches for plastic waste management jointly with other stakeholders. The Pollution Control Department (PCD) developed for example Thailand’s Draft Roadmap on Plastic Waste Management 2018-2030, focussing on reducing plastic waste at source as well as on measures to reduce plastic waste during and after consumption. In February 2021, the Draft Action Plan on Plastic Waste Management was approved by the Thai Cabinet.

On a regional level, Thailand enabled the development of the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris during its ASEAN chairmanship in 2019.

With its activities,
the ‘Rethinking Plastics – Circular Economy Solutions to Marine Litter’ project supports Thailand in implementing its regional and national commitments.

Inspiration, Dialogue and Mutual Learning

Dialogue and learning from experiences and examples are key to the **“Rethinking Plastics”** project. It therefore enhances policy exchanges on circular economy approaches and plastic waste management between the EU, Thailand and the other project countries China, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam.

The project provides advice to its political partners, implements joint activities, and supports pilot projects to test new approaches or up-scale best practices for plastic waste management, sustainable consumption and production of plastic and litter reduction from sea-based sources. More than 20 pilot projects are currently being implemented in five countries, among them Thailand.

Knowledge exchange is further stimulated, for example, through workshops and conferences, webinars, sharing of good practices and policy examples. In addition, the project works on increasing awareness about plastic consumption and the impacts of littering on the environment.



Sustainable Consumption and Production of Plastics

Reducing and avoiding plastics, especially those for single-use only, such as cups, plastic bags and straws, can make a big contribution to reduce plastic waste. Products can for example be designed in a way, that they use less packaging or can be reused and recycled. To think about reusable or degradable alternatives is also a task for businesses and consumers.

‘Rethinking Plastics’ supports PCD for example in implementing a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between MNRE and several stakeholders to reduce single-use plastics from food delivery, which saw a rise due to COVID-19. In December 2020, PCD and the project organised the workshop ‘Reducing Single-Use Plastics in Food Delivery and Takeaway’** defining needs and next steps.

Our Pilot Project in Thailand:

Less Plastics in Phuket

Phuket, Thailand’s largest island, aims to reduce and better manage the amount of plastic waste in businesses and households. Alternatives to single-use plastics are for example explored with the food delivery and tourism sectors.

Implemented by: Phuket Environmental Foundation until December 2021



Improving Plastic Waste Management

If plastic waste is not properly disposed, collected, segregated, processed and recycled, it can leak into the environment and from there through rivers and other waterways into the ocean. New systems and actions to improve the management of plastic waste are needed.

‘Rethinking Plastics’ supports dialogue and policy development. It provides for example information and exchange on **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** and the inclusion of the informal waste sector.

EPR is an approach based on the principle that whoever introduces packaging or packaged goods into a country’s market remains responsible for it until the end of the packaging life cycle, including the time after disposal.

Our Pilot Projects in Thailand:

A Circular Economy for Islands

The island of Koh Libong in Trang Province is important for wildlife and marine biodiversity, as it is the largest seagrass area in Thailand and home for dugongs. To conserve this precious marine environment, the pilot partners work with local communities and the tourism sector to avoid and better manage plastic waste.

Implemented by: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) until February 2022



Households Fit for Recycling

Local communities, schools and stakeholders along the plastic value chain in Rayong Province engage for a better segregation and collection of plastic waste. The goal is to enhance its recycling rate and therewith reduce plastic leakage into the ocean.

Implemented by: Faculty of Engineering of Chulalongkorn University until February 2022

