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# Addressing Marine Plastics

## *A Systemic Approach*

A project exploring innovative ideas to merge approaches, mechanisms and partnerships that can reverse the plastic crisis by focusing on its systemic drivers



**Addressing  
Marine Plastics**  
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The impacts of marine plastic pollution range from ecological to socioeconomic, and cost the world at least US\$8 billion dollars per year. Curbing plastic flows to the sea depends on reshaping the plastic economy while conserving its recyclable utility for modern living and ensuring waste is effectively and responsibly collected and managed. Key elements for a new pathway include material redesign that makes plastic recyclable from inception, sustainable product and packaging design, effective and clean technologies to collect, recycle, and manage the current amount of plastic waste, and networks of stakeholders – governments, producers, recyclers and consumers, among others – to build new models of sustainable consumption and production that underpin reduce-reuse-recycle-based economies.

The two-year project, led by UN Environment and supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), will harness the knowledge and experience of project partners in examining marine plastics and the value chain created throughout their life cycles. This analysis contributes to developing a strategic roadmap for building systemic models that stop plastics from flowing into the ocean and fully integrate them in circular economies at local, national and global scales. Targeted areas for developing proofs of concept include sites in Asia-Pacific region where plastic leakage is among the highest globally. Project partners include Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Ocean Conservancy, GRID-Arendal, and UN Environment through its Economy and Ecosystem Divisions.

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