

# **INSIGHTS PAPER:**

## EFFECTIVE NATIONAL PLANNING TO COORDINATE ACTION ON PLASTIC POLLUTION



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## **Countries are increasingly looking to national planning as a practical way to coordinate action on plastic pollution.**

Whether in preparation for Global Plastics Treaty implementation or as part of wider national priorities, structured, inclusive planning can help governments organise efforts, build confidence, and deliver more effective, joined-up responses.

## **The National Planning Working Group brings together organisations that have collectively supported national planning efforts in over 50 countries.**

This includes technical advice, facilitation support, development of tools and resources, and independent research into what makes national planning effective. While each organisation brings different expertise, together the group offers a shared space to exchange lessons, strengthen approaches, and provide practical support to countries developing or refining their national plans.

## **The strength of a plan is rooted in the process behind it.**

Planning that is inclusive, transparent, and locally led generates more legitimate priorities, builds trust across sectors, and lays the groundwork for delivery. When stakeholders are meaningfully engaged in shaping both content and implementation pathways, the result is a more resilient and actionable plan. This includes early and sustained engagement with the private sector, whose participation is key to shaping supply chains, driving innovation, and scaling viable solutions.

## **The structure of national plans can vary, but certain core elements are critical for success.**

National plans do not need to follow a rigid template, but they do need to be structured in a way that clarifies responsibilities, aligns with national strategies (e.g. climate, biodiversity, or circular economy), and enables coordination across the plastics life cycle. Legal backing, financing pathways, and institutional roles are core to whether plans translate into action. Greater alignment on key content such as metrics, monitoring approaches, and reporting structures can help improve comparability across countries and support global efforts to track progress.

## **National plans can unlock investment.**

They provide a platform to articulate financing needs and priorities, helping attract concessional finance, blended capital, and private sector funding to support scalable solutions.

## **Implementation and monitoring should be considered from the outset.**

Planning is not a precursor to delivery; it is the start of it. Countries that design for implementation by identifying practical entry points, aligning with existing strategies, and building in financing and monitoring mechanisms are better positioned to sustain action and adjust course as needed.

## **The tools for effective national planning already exist.**

But support is needed to apply them effectively. A wide range of resources is available, including case studies and national planning tools, but countries often need help tailoring them to their context, sequencing their use, and embedding them in facilitation processes that build capacity.

## **National planning is most effective when connected to broader transformation efforts.**

Plans that are aligned with wider priorities such as climate action, biodiversity conservation, health, or circular economy goals are more likely to gain political traction and attract investment. Integration helps reduce duplication and strain on resources, maximise synergies, and demonstrate relevance beyond the plastics agenda.

## **The Working Group is committed to supporting countries at all stages of their national planning journey.**

The group brings together practical experience, research, and lessons from existing efforts to create a space for sharing insights and connecting governments, partners, and technical experts. We invite governments and partners to connect with the group to access support, share experiences, and shape more effective approaches to national planning for plastic pollution.

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# CONTEXT

National planning is gaining renewed attention as a foundational tool to coordinate action on plastic pollution. It offers countries a structured mechanism to articulate priorities, mobilise resources, and align domestic efforts with regional and international obligations, as well as wider sustainable development goals. Where well designed, national planning for plastics can play a pivotal role in enabling cross-sectoral coordination, unlocking investment, guiding technical assistance, and ensuring alignment with other commitments, such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and circular economy strategies.

Plastics in particular present coordination challenges that heighten the relevance of national planning. The plastics life cycle intersects with a wide range of sectors (such as trade, agriculture, fisheries, health, tourism, manufacturing, and waste management) involving multiple ministries, levels of government and an all-encompassing range of stakeholders. Without coordinated national responses on plastics, efforts risk becoming fragmented, duplicative, or misaligned.

As negotiations towards a Global Plastics Treaty advance, national plans are expected to serve as a core mechanism for translating international ambitions into practical action at the country level. While national planning provides value beyond Treaty compliance, greater alignment and harmonisation of both process and content are needed to build state confidence, facilitate financing support, enhance stakeholder engagement, improve monitoring comparability, and drive more effective and ambitious action on plastic pollution. While this paper speaks directly to opportunities under the Global Plastics Treaty, national planning is equally relevant for countries advancing action through broader environmental governance, economic development, and sustainability strategies.



## What do we mean by national planning?

National planning refers to the full range of processes, frameworks, and collaborative efforts through which countries develop and coordinate responses to plastic pollution. This includes formulating either mandatory or voluntary strategies, roadmaps, action plans, pacts, and any other related instruments, and the institutional, financial, and stakeholder arrangements that support their design and implementation. It recognises that the effectiveness of national planning lies not only in the content of the final document, but also in the quality of the process, including the level of ambition set, how priorities are set, how actors are engaged, how resources are mobilised, and how actions are monitored and adjusted over time. Planning is not limited to government action, but often involves partnerships with the private sector, civil society, and communities.



# THE NATIONAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP FOR PLASTICS ACTION

This insights paper has been developed by the National Planning Working Group for Plastics Action (see Annex 1 for approach), a coalition of organisations that have collectively supported national planning in over 50 countries through providing technical support and additional capacity to public and private sectors (see Annex 2 for all countries supported). These countries and businesses, present in high income countries, large and mid-sized developing economies, and small island states, are frontrunners in developing and implementing national plans and roadmaps that include coordinated upstream and downstream measures (such as production, product design, reuse, and waste management), from which further action on national planning, either within or outside the remit of the Global Plastics Treaty process can learn.

Our aim is not to prescribe a single model, but to share lessons from existing efforts, highlight common elements of effective planning, and offer practical entry points for countries seeking to develop or strengthen national responses to plastic pollution. The group brings together expertise from across sectors, including technical specialists, policy experts, financiers, and organisations directly supporting in-country planning processes. Participants of the group include:

Common Seas	The Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP), World Economic Forum	The Global Plastics Policy Centre, University of Portsmouth
The Plastics Pacts Network convened by WRAP and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF)	The World Bank	International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
	Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd. (Eunomia)	

There is a shared commitment to making the content, tools, and lessons from this work accessible to countries that have not yet embarked on national planning, to help build confidence, increase ambition, and connect them to available support.

The Global Plastics Policy Centre at the University of Portsmouth serves as the key knowledge partner for the group. The Centre provides independent, evidence-based research to inform the design and implementation of plastics policy globally. With a specific focus on evaluating policy effectiveness and extensive research into national planning approaches, the Centre brings academic rigour, objective analysis, and policy-neutral expertise to the work of the group.

We recognise and value the many initiatives and tools developed beyond the Working Group. Ongoing efforts by partners such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and others continue to generate important guidance for national planning. A range of data capture and modelling tools have also been developed and applied to support plastic pollution modelling and evidence-based decision making. These tools include the GIZ Waste Flow Diagram (WFD, which is closely aligned with the Waste Wise Cities Tool, WaCT), the IUCN/UN Plastic Hotspotting tool, the SPOT model, the Plastic Pollution Calculator, and the Plastics to Ocean Calculator. In parallel, initiatives like the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter (GPML), for which UNEP provides secretariat services, offer existing mechanisms for coordination and collaborative action, mandated by member States through the United Nations Environment Assembly. This includes the GPML Communities of Practice on informing national action and harmonizing monitoring and assessment, which can support alignment across countries' national planning and ease future Treaty implementation. The Global Plastics Hub of the GPML is the largest global platform on resources, data, and partnerships on plastics. The stepwise country workflow on the Hub offers step by step guidance to develop evidence-based national planning, which UNEP has successfully piloted in 19 countries in 3 regions to date.

**The Working Group is grounded in practical experience and welcomes collaboration with other actors working to strengthen national planning systems for plastics, whether through technical support, capacity building, or knowledge development.**

## LESSONS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND EARLY NATIONAL PLASTICS ACTION

National planning has been widely used under multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to translate global commitments into coordinated national action. Examples from the Paris Agreement, the Minamata Convention, and the Stockholm Convention illustrate how structured national planning processes can support implementation, facilitate access to finance [1], and enhance domestic coordination [2].

Experiences from other MEAs demonstrate that national planning can be a powerful tool. However, they also reveal persistent challenges. Plans have often lacked clear objectives, actionable measures, defined institutional responsibilities, financing arrangements, and systems for monitoring progress [3]. Planning processes have struggled to deliver tangible results where these elements are weak or absent.

In the plastics context, countries are already applying lessons from other MEAs. A wide range of national plans, roadmaps, and pacts are underway, supported by governments, businesses, and initiatives such as those led by the Working Group members. While these efforts vary in structure and scope, they reflect a growing momentum and present an opportunity to develop a more consistent and effective approach to national planning for plastic pollution.

Drawing on the collective experience of the Working Group and research by the Global Plastics Policy Centre on national planning efforts, there is clear consensus on three key insights that underpin effective national coordinated action on plastic pollution. This paper focuses on national planning as a process and enabling environment, rather than prescribing or evaluating the specific contents of national plan documents. While important work is being done on plan content, including by several Working Group members, this sits outside the scope of this report.



Photo: © James Wakibia

# 1 KEY INSIGHT

## NATIONAL PLANNING IS A PROCESS, NOT JUST A PRODUCT, AND INCLUDES IMPLEMENTATION

**The quality and success of a national plan are shaped by its content and by the process through which it is developed.**

A well-structured planning process generates more rounded evidence, builds legitimacy and buy-in across different groups, and establishes the institutional foundations required for implementation. Where processes are inclusive and transparent, they are more likely to foster political support, unlock financing, and build accountability over time. Conversely, fragmented, closed, or overly technical approaches can result in plans that are poorly aligned with reality, weakly owned, and difficult to operationalise.

**Experiences of the Working Group point to shared characteristics of effective national planning processes.**

Across diverse contexts, certain features such as trust-building, neutral facilitation by local actors who are independent of any stakeholder group, early cross-sectoral coordination, and visible political leadership consistently correlate with stronger institutional ownership and implementation delivery. These findings are supported not only by practitioner experience, but also by emerging evidence from national planning initiatives [4,5] and independent reviews [6,7,8].

Drawing on the collective experience of the Working Group and research by the Global Plastics Policy Centre on national planning efforts, there is clear consensus on three key insights that underpin effective national coordinated action on plastic pollution. This paper focuses on national planning as a process and enabling environment, rather than prescribing or evaluating the specific contents of national plan documents. While important work is being done on plan content, including by several Working Group members, this sits outside the scope of this report.

Effective national planning processes typically involve:

- **Clear institutional ownership, complemented by visible leadership** to drive momentum, supported by local focal points or co-chairs who champion the national planning process.
- **Meaningful stakeholder engagement** that is inclusive, transparent, genuinely co-creates the national plan across government, industry, civil society, and communities, ideally facilitated by a local secretariat or trusted national platform.
- **Early and ongoing cross-sectoral coordination** from the outset to ensure coherence across the full plastics life cycle and avoid siloed responses.
- **Transparent, iterative, and locally adapted facilitation**, including in-depth workshops or clinics to build shared understanding of complex issues.
- **Tailored and timely technical analysis** to inform the process, including baselining and data collection, which lays the groundwork for future monitoring and evaluation.
- **Strong alignment with existing national policies, institutions, and regulatory approaches**, leveraging what already exists to create coherent strategies and avoid duplication.
- **Public signalling and mobilisation**, such as launch events or leadership statements, to reinforce commitment and build momentum.
- **Finance-aware design**, with early discussions on costed actions, delivery mechanisms, and who pays for what.
- **Mechanisms for implementation and delivery**, such as multi-stakeholder platforms or national coordination bodies, which support context-specific solutions. Governments also need the institutional mechanisms, legal authority, and resources to enforce commitments to ensure sustained delivery.



## EFFECTIVE NATIONAL PLANNING TO COORDINATE ACTION ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

### Lessons from environmental agreements and early national plastics action

#### **Implementation should not be treated as a separate phase but integrated from the outset.**

In practice, countries that identify practical entry points, align with existing strategies, and embed financing and monitoring mechanisms into the planning process are better positioned to deliver. Vehicles for implementation already exist in many countries, such as national platforms that bring together stakeholders across the life cycle (including underrepresented voices) to co-develop context-specific solutions. These platforms provide a valuable blueprint for collaborative delivery and sustained action. Case studies from the Plastics Pacts Network [4] and NPAPs [6] demonstrate how inclusive, structured approaches can accelerate implementation once plans are in place.



#### **Planning should be informed by how people are affected and engaged.**

Effective national planning considers who is impacted by plastic pollution and how people participate across the plastics life cycle. Integrating a social lens from the outset helps identify risks, promote inclusive benefits, and support a just transition. This includes recognising the vital role played by informal waste workers in many countries, and exploring pathways for their meaningful inclusion and support. Tools such as GPAP's Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) assessment can support countries in mapping barriers, roles, and opportunities for more equitable outcomes.

#### **In practice, effective national planning takes time, although the timeline varies depending on each country's context and level of readiness.**

Experience across different countries shows that developing an inclusive, technically grounded, and politically supported planning process typically takes 12 to 24 months. The timeline depends on several factors, including the availability of baseline data, the human resources available, the strength of existing coordination structures, the level of stakeholder engagement required, and the degree of political alignment. For example, Ghana's NPAP and associated Roadmap took approximately 18 months to develop, supported by early coordination efforts and baseline data work. The Maldives National Action Plan on Plastics process by Common Seas was completed in just under two years, following extensive technical assessments and consultation.

#### **Implementation must be seen as part of the planning ecosystem.**

Planning is not complete when a document is published; the process must lay the groundwork for delivery. Where implementation is treated as an afterthought, plans risk remaining aspirational rather than practical. In contrast, planning processes that build institutional ownership, clarify responsibilities, and map resource requirements to actions are more likely to lead to effective implementation. Formal adoption by the government helps embed the plan within national systems and signals commitment to follow through.

**The Working Group offers countries practical support to strengthen the planning process on national action, from tested facilitation approaches to real-world examples of how inclusive, locally led processes build ownership and lead to more effective implementation.**

## 2 KEY INSIGHT EFFECTIVE NATIONAL PLANS SHARE CORE COMPONENTS

While national planning approaches vary by country, experience from existing strategies, roadmaps, and frameworks indicates a growing convergence around a set of core components in plans that underpin effectiveness. These elements provide a practical foundation that countries can adapt to suit their context, while still supporting alignment with international objectives and promoting coherent, lifecycle-based action.

Effective national plans typically include:

- **Clear objectives and measurable, time-bound targets** that are grounded in national priorities, reflect available capacity and resources, are ambitious, and aligned with relevant global goals on plastic pollution, climate, biodiversity, and health. Target-setting processes benefit from being inclusive, technically informed, and designed to build ownership across sectors.
- **Comprehensive life cycle coverage** that ensures plans address pollution risks across all stages. This includes upstream sources such as production and transport, alongside downstream issues like waste collection, sorting, and treatment. Interventions should aim to reduce production and waste generation, improve product design for reuse and recyclability, and strengthen systems for managing materials and preventing leakage. This also includes consideration of infrastructure needs and capacities across the plastics value life cycle to ensure plans are grounded in practical delivery.
- **Legal and institutional frameworks** that either support or are strengthened through the national plan. In some contexts, this may mean anchoring the plan within existing laws and institutional mandates; in others, it may require developing new legal instruments or coordination bodies to operationalise actions and ensure accountability. Either way, legal clarity and institutional legitimacy are essential for long-term implementation. These arrangements should also clarify how progress will be tracked and how stakeholders will be held accountable, for example through shared annual priorities (such as in the Plastics Pacts), transparent reporting cycles, or benchmarking systems.
- **Institutional arrangements that clearly define roles and responsibilities** across ministries, agencies, and other key stakeholders. Effective arrangements also establish coordination mechanisms (such as inter-ministerial task forces, technical working groups, or dedicated secretariats) that support collaboration, avoid duplication, and keep planning efforts connected to delivery. For example, IUCN's experience in Kenya and Thailand has shown how adapting institutional structures to fit existing governance arrangements can strengthen ownership and improve alignment with national priorities.
- **Cost assessments** that inform realistic and prioritised implementation. Estimating the costs of planned actions early in the process helps governments identify resource needs, set priorities, and shape feasible financing strategies. National plans can also serve as a platform to articulate investment needs, helping to attract concessional finance, blended investment, and private sector funding to support scalable solutions.
- **A financing strategy or mechanism** that identifies how actions will be resourced. This could include fiscal measures, dedicated budget lines, donor funding, or public-private partnerships. Plans that remain unfunded or disconnected from budget processes tend to stall in implementation.
- **A monitoring, reporting, and evaluation framework** with indicators tied to plan objectives, baseline data, and systems for reporting and review. Indicators should track both actions taken (eg. policies adopted, infrastructure deployed) and outcomes achieved (eg. reductions in plastic pollution, increases in reuse rates). See Key Insight 3 for more.
- **Explicit linkages to other national and regional strategies**, such as NDCs, biodiversity action plans, or circular economy roadmaps. These connections help to maximise synergies, reduce duplication, and make better use of available resources. Where aligned, national planning for plastics can strengthen implementation across multiple agendas rather than add to reporting burdens.

## EFFECTIVE NATIONAL PLANNING TO COORDINATE ACTION ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

### Lessons from environmental agreements and early national plastics action

While structures and processes vary, national plans often include actions across the plastics life cycle such as upstream design interventions, infrastructure for reuse, refill, waste collection and recycling, informal sector integration, and measures for public behaviour change and enforcement. While there is no single blueprint, countries that build on these core components are better positioned to develop credible, coordinated national plans that translate ambition into action.

#### **The Working Group offers a collective platform for shared learning and practical support.**

By drawing on experience across diverse country contexts, it helps inform national planning processes and offers tested approaches to common challenges. Through tools, peer exchanges, and joint knowledge efforts, the group supports governments to strengthen their approaches and avoid repeating pitfalls others have already faced.

## 3

### KEY INSIGHT

## **METRICS AND MONITORING SYSTEMS ARE INTEGRAL TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NATIONAL PLANS**

#### **Clear metrics keep national plans focused and credible.**

Monitoring systems are frequently overlooked or underdeveloped in policies addressing plastic pollution, yet they are key to tracking implementation, assessing progress, and building accountability [9]. Without robust metrics, it is challenging to determine whether national actions are meeting their objectives, where additional effort is required, or how policy and investment decisions should evolve over time.

#### **Monitoring provides the evidence needed to make decisions.**

An effective monitoring system does more than produce data; it supports evidence-based decision-making, builds transparency, and facilitates alignment across public and private sector actors [3]. To achieve this, metrics must be integrated into national planning processes from the outset, rather than being added later. This includes clarity on what will be measured, how, by whom, and how often.

Evidence from the Global Plastics Policy Centre's research and the experience of the National Planning Working Group's participants has demonstrated the following components of effective monitoring systems for national planning:

- **Clear, policy-relevant indicators** that align with the plan's objectives and, where relevant, potential future plastics treaty commitments. These should reflect both implementation progress (for example, policy adoption, infrastructure investment) and impact (such as reduced plastic pollution, increased reuse).
- **Baseline assessments and regular reporting** to enable progress tracking. Comprehensive baseline data on plastic flows, material use, or leakage points are necessary to set targets, assess improvements and enable progress tracking.
- **Integration with related monitoring systems**, including those for climate (e.g. GHG reporting), biodiversity (e.g. NBSAP tracking), and chemicals. Shared metrics can enhance coherence, reduce duplication, and lighten reporting burdens.
- **Mandatory, standardised disclosure requirements** for key private sector actors, particularly producers, importers, retailers, and waste management operators. Robust monitoring relies on consistent, reliable data from across the plastics life cycle. Disclosure obligations should be proportionate, aligned with existing reporting systems where possible, and designed to minimise administrative burden while enabling effective oversight.



## EFFECTIVE NATIONAL PLANNING TO COORDINATE ACTION ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

### Lessons from environmental agreements and early national plastics action

- **Transparent and inclusive data governance**, including disclosure protocols that apply to both public and private actors. Monitoring must cover the whole plastics life cycle, not just end-of-pipe measures and should be underpinned by open, comparable data standards.
- **Practical, scalable tools** to support data collection and reporting. Tools should focus on key, widely recognised indicators such as waste generation, collection rates, sorting rates, recycling rates, reuse rates and leakage estimation. Scalability means countries could start with priority sectors, such as packaging, and progressively expand to other sources such as industrial or agricultural plastics, without overcomplicating the system.

Robust monitoring is not only a technical requirement but also acts as a foundation for accountability, confidence-building, and course correction as national plans move from design to delivery.

**The Working Group can help countries navigate the complexities of monitoring by mapping existing metrics, sharing success stories, developing practical templates, and facilitating alignment with other monitoring frameworks.**



# PREPARING FOR NATIONAL PLANNING

## **National planning is more than a technical exercise.**

National planning is a practical way for countries to build readiness, strengthen coordination, and generate the confidence needed to translate ambition into action to tackle plastic pollution. For many governments, particularly those concerned about the technical and resource burden of implementing their possible future obligations under the Global Plastics Treaty, national planning offers a meaningful concrete first step to organise efforts, align stakeholders, and identify priorities.

## **The Global Plastics Treaty process has further underscored the need for credible and aligned national responses.**

Providing a standard template or common guidance for national planning could help countries at all stages objectively evaluate their plans, identify gaps, and promote greater consistency across borders. For those already developing or implementing plans, this can support alignment with treaty obligations and strengthen delivery. At the same time, national planning does not need to wait for the treaty to be finalised. Countries at the start of this process can begin building momentum by drawing on existing evidence, tools, and lessons, improving readiness, and ensuring that action on plastic pollution is already underway.

## **The existing mechanisms and tools under the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter (GPML) and the Global Plastics Hub can be leveraged to materialize the harmonized approach for national planning, applying and scaling up the stepwise workflow.**

Insights, lessons learned and recommendations from various stakeholders could contribute to modify, enhance and further shape the stepwise workflow developed in the Global Plastics Hub.

## **National plans can be instrumental in shaping how global rules are implemented.**

Rather than being seen as a top-down compliance exercise, they offer a mechanism for translating international obligations into context-specific strategies. This approach can help safeguard national priorities, enhance policy coherence, and unlock access to technical or financial support aligned with treaty goals.

**The Working Group will continue to support national planning efforts by sharing lessons, tools, and examples, and facilitating peer exchanges between countries at different stages of their planning journey.** While the group is collectively exploring the most effective ways to support countries in light of the upcoming Treaty outcome and ahead of DIPCON / COP1, our shared aim is to help governments strengthen readiness and implementation.

We invite governments, development partners, and other stakeholders to connect with the group to access support, share experiences, and collectively shape more effective approaches to national planning to tackle plastic pollution.

Governments or partners interested in engaging with the Working Group can contact the Global Plastics Policy Centre who can facilitate connections with the full group or direct specific requests as appropriate. Contact points for each participating organisation are also listed in Annex 2.

Email: [globalplastics@port.ac.uk](mailto:globalplastics@port.ac.uk)



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# ANNEX 1:

## APPROACH

This paper draws on practical experience, desk research, and targeted stakeholder input to synthesise lessons on effective national planning to tackle plastic pollution. Sources of insight include:

- Existing academic and grey literature on national planning in multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including lessons from the Paris Agreement, the Minamata Convention, the Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Stockholm Convention.<sup>1</sup>
- Existing guidance materials developed by members of the Working Group, including the WEF NPAP Playbook, UNEP guidelines on developing national plans for marine litter<sup>2</sup>, and tools from Common Seas, WRAP<sup>3</sup>, EMF, IUCN, Eunomia, and others.
- The Global Plastics Policy Centre's evidence base, which includes effectiveness evaluations of national planning processes and analyses of over 250 plastics policy interventions globally.
- Interviews with Working Group members, conducted in May and June 2025, to gather perspectives on what constitutes effective practice, what challenges persist, and what kind of support countries most value.

These methods are intended to reflect the diversity of national contexts and the shared challenges that cut across them. The paper is shaped by a pragmatic focus designed to capture what is already known, what is being done, and where further work is needed.



<sup>1</sup>See for example: March, A., Tsouza, A., Nieminen, L., Winton, S., Arora, H., Shejuti, S.M., Walker, T.R. and Fletcher, S., 2024. National Action plans: effectiveness and requirements for the Global Plastics Treaty. Cambridge Prisms: Plastics, 2, p.e11. <https://doi.org/10.1017/plc.2024.11>

<sup>2</sup>UNEP (2019) Reubenheimer, K. Marine Litter: Guidelines for designing action plans. United Nations Environment Programme. <https://smastr16.blob.core.windows.net/gerco/sites/256/2021/09/guidelines-for-the-development-of-action-plans-on-marine-litter.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>WRAP & Ellen MacArthur Foundation. (2024). Plastics Pacts – Scaling impact: The Plastics Pact Network's six-year journey towards eliminating plastic pollution and waste. <https://www.wrap.ngo/sites/default/files/2024-09/WRAP-EMF-ALL-Scaling-Impact-Pacts-Report.pdf>

## ANNEX 2:

# SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PLANNING SUPPORT BY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

This annex provides an overview of countries currently engaged in national planning processes supported by members of the National Planning Working Group for Plastics Action. While approaches vary, these engagements span technical support, stakeholder facilitation, policy design, and implementation advisory. Table 1 summarises countries where national planning is underway or in place, supported by one or more Working Group members.

Short organisational profiles follow, outlining each member's expertise and the type of support they provide.

**Table 1.** Countries currently with national planning underway or in place supported by the Working Group Members. For more details on each organisation, please see the organisational profiles that follow.

Angola (GPAP)	Ecuador (GPAP)	Mexico (Plastics Pact Network)	Singapore (Eunomia)
Antigua and Barbuda (IUCN)	Fiji (IUCN)	New Zealand (Plastics Pact Network)	South Africa (IUCN)
Australia (Plastics Pact Network)	Gabon (GPAP)	Nigeria (GPAP, The World Bank, Eunomia)	St Kitts and Nevis (IUCN)
ANZPAC (Plastics Pact Network; Regional)	Gambia (Common Seas)	Pakistan (GPAP)	Seychelles (IUCN)
Bangladesh (GPAP, World Bank)	Ghana (GPAP, IUCN, The World Bank)	Papua New Guinea (Common Seas)	Tanzania (GPAP, IUCN)
Barbados (Common Seas)	Grenada (Common Seas, IUCN)	Paraguay (GPAP)	Thailand (IUCN, The World Bank)
Belize (Eunomia)	Guatemala (GPAP, IUCN)	Peru (GPAP)	Tonga (IUCN)
Cabo Verde (IUCN)	Guinea-Bissau (Common Seas, IUCN)	Philippines (GPAP, World Bank)	Timor Leste (Eunomia)

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## EFFECTIVE NATIONAL PLANNING TO COORDINATE ACTION ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

### ANNEX 2:

### SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PLANNING SUPPORT BY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

**Table 1. (continued)** Countries currently with national planning underway or in place supported by the Working Group Members. For more details on each organisation, please see the organisational profiles that follow.

Cambodia (GPAP, The World Bank)	India (Plastics Pact Network)	Poland (Plastics Pact Network)	Tunisia (The World Bank)
Canada (Plastics Pact Network)	Indonesia (GPAP, The World Bank)	Portugal (Plastics Pact Network)	Tuvalu (Common Seas)
Chile (Plastics Pact Network)	Kenya (GPAP, IUCN, Plastics Pact Network, Eunomia)	Saint Lucia (Common Seas, IUCN, Eunomia)	United Kingdom (Plastics Pact Network)
Colombia (GPAP, Plastics Pact Network)	Lao PDR (GPAP, The World Bank)	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (IUCN)	USA (Plastics Pact Network, Eunomia)
Comoros (IUCN)	Madagascar (IUCN)	Samoa (IUCN, Eunomia)	Vanuatu (IUCN)
Costa Rica (GPAP, IUCN)	Mauritius (IUCN)	São Tomé and Príncipe (IUCN)	Viet Nam (GPAP, The World Bank, Eunomia)
Cyprus (IUCN)	Maldives (Common Seas, Eunomia)	Senegal (GPAP, IUCN)	Zambia (GPAP)
Dominican Republic (GPAP)	Mozambique (IUCN)	Sierra Leone (The World Bank)	



ANNEX 2:

**SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PLANNING SUPPORT BY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS**

# GLOBAL PLASTICS POLICY CENTRE

*University of Portsmouth*

**Contact point:** Dr Antaya March, Director [antaya.march@port.ac.uk](mailto:antaya.march@port.ac.uk)

**Website:** <https://plasticspolicy.port.ac.uk>



**Areas of support provided:**

The Global Plastics Policy Centre, at the University of Portsmouth (UK) is an independent knowledge partner focused on strengthening the evidence base for plastics policy design and implementation. In the context of national planning, the Centre provides tailored support across several areas:

- **Policy research and evaluations:** Drawing on analysis of over 200 plastics policies worldwide, the Centre offers evidence-based insights into what drives policy effectiveness. This includes evaluations of national plans, bans, reuse systems, EPR schemes, financial instruments, and implementation mechanisms.
- **Bespoke advice and technical input:** The Centre provides tailored policy support to governments, development agencies, and private sector actors, helping to shape and refine national planning approaches in response to local needs, capabilities, and treaty ambitions.
- **Review of tools and approaches:** The Centre has assessed the strengths and outcomes of tools and planning approaches developed by other Working Group members to support learning and development in existing policy approaches.
- **Support to negotiations and global coherence:** The Centre regularly engages with treaty negotiators and stakeholders to ensure national experiences and research evidence inform the design of global policy frameworks, and to support alignment between domestic planning and global objectives.
- **Convening and knowledge exchange:** The Centre plays a bridging role across research, policy, and practitioner communities, supporting learning through co-hosted events, participatory dialogues, and shared resources.

This combination of research, evaluation, technical support and convening is designed to build confidence and capacity for national action both within and beyond the treaty process.

**Key resources:**

- Effectiveness of National Action Plans: Policy Brief <https://plasticspolicy.port.ac.uk/research/national-action-plans>
- National Action Plans: Effectiveness and requirements for the Global Plastics Treaty <https://doi.org/10.1017/plc.2024.11>
- A global review of plastics policies to support improved decision making and public accountability <https://plasticspolicy.port.ac.uk/research/a-global-review-of-plastics-policies-to-support-improved-decision-making-and-public-accountability/>

**Lessons and reflections for the working group:**

The Global Plastics Policy Centre's research points to several enabling factors that can improve the effectiveness of national planning efforts to address plastic pollution.

- **Legal and institutional backing strengthens follow-through.** National plans that are anchored in domestic legal and institutional frameworks are more likely to be implemented consistently and sustained over time. This helps ensure continuity beyond political cycles and provides a clearer mandate for coordination across sectors and levels of government.
- **Monitoring and evaluation systems improve accountability.** Clear expectations around monitoring, reporting, and progress evaluation at both national and global levels can strengthen transparency and comparability. Independent review mechanisms or peer learning platforms may further enhance the credibility and usefulness of reporting.

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**SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PLANNING SUPPORT BY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS**

**Lessons and reflections for the working group:**

The Global Plastics Policy Centre's research points to several enabling factors that can improve the effectiveness of national planning efforts to address plastic pollution.

*(continued)*

- **Regular revision allows for responsiveness and adaptation.** Treating national plans as living documents, with staged targets and periodic updates, creates space to incorporate lessons learned and adjust ambition over time. This approach helps plans remain relevant as technical capacity, data availability, and policy contexts evolve.
- **National plans benefit from alignment with treaty goals and global ambition.** Plans are more effective when they contain national targets and implementation measures that align with global commitments. While national circumstances differ, coordinated framing can help drive collective progress and avoid fragmentation.
- **Implementation requires dedicated financial and technical support.** Delivering on national planning objectives, especially in low-resource settings, often requires external support. This may include guidance on setting targets, collecting data, or developing implementation pathways, alongside access to financing mechanisms or technology partnerships.
- **Compliance mechanisms support more consistent implementation.** Without enforcement, plans risk remaining aspirational. Light-touch compliance mechanisms such as shared commitments, review processes, or incentive structures can help ensure that national planning efforts translate into sustained action.

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**SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PLANNING SUPPORT BY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS**

# COMMON SEAS



**Contact point:** Thais Vojvodic, Director of Partnerships. [thais@commonseas.com](mailto:thais@commonseas.com)

**Website:** <https://commonseas.com/what-we-do/government-partnerships>

**Areas of support provided:**

Common Seas collaborates with governments and leading organisations in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and small coastal countries to identify and accelerate the implementation of the most effective policies to significantly reduce plastic waste and pollution.

Working closely in partnership with governments and local stakeholders, **they collect and analyse data** on plastics and waste streams, engage key stakeholders through interviews and in-country workshops, and then **model the impact of policies** to identify the most effective interventions. This modelling is powered by [Plastic Drawdown](#), a UN-endorsed and peer-reviewed data modelling tool developed in consultation with 24 governments, more than half of whom are SIDS.

Through this process they co-create a national policy strategy—a roadmap to significantly reduce plastic consumption and pollution. Once national policy strategies are approved, **Common Seas facilitates implementation through activities such as:**

- **Targeted financing assessments** to connect local stakeholders with potential donors<sup>4</sup>, helping to catalyse investment and support implementation
- **Capacity and readiness assessments**, to identify other barriers and solutions to implementation
- **Pilot projects**, to initiate or gain more evidence that supports implementation.

Further support may be provided according to demand, working with other partners and local organisations where possible.

<sup>4</sup>More information on their Finance Workshop in the Gambia can be found here: [Impact report: focus on The Gambia | Common Seas](#)

**Countries supported: (table with details on the next page)**



## EFFECTIVE NATIONAL PLANNING TO COORDINATE ACTION ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

### ANNEX 2:

### SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PLANNING SUPPORT BY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

#### Countries supported:

Country	Type of planning instrument	Status	Role of organisation
Barbados	National Action Plan	Approved by Cabinet. Potential to reduce plastic pollution by 73% over 10 years.	<p>Leading on:</p> <p>1) Data analysis to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the composition of plastic waste</li> <li>Understand how much waste becomes plastic pollution</li> <li>Explore how the problem will change over the coming decade</li> <li>Analyse the impact of plastic-related policy</li> </ul> <p>2) Policy Modelling: to analyse the impact of plastic-related policy on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic pollution; and</li> <li>The amount of plastic that is landfilled.</li> </ul> <p>3) Cost modelling [under development]: assessment of indicative capital and operational costs. This allows direct comparison of environmental and economic impacts of each policy.</p>
Gambia	National Action Plan	Approved by Cabinet. Potential to reduce plastic pollution by 86% over 10 years.	
Saint Lucia	Report on Recommendations	Final report expected end of July 2025.	
Grenada	National Action Plan	Final draft being reviewed by government. Final NAP expected Q4 2025	
Maldives	Problematic Plastic Phase Out Strategy	Finalised. Used to inform the country's 2021 ban on single-use plastics.	
Guinea-Bissau	National Action Plan	First draft being prepared. Final NAP expected Q4 2025.	
Papua New Guinea	National Action Plan	First draft being prepared. Final NAP expected Q4 2025.	
Tuvalu	National Action Plan	First draft being prepared. Final NAP expected Q4 2025.	



ANNEX 2:

**SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PLANNING SUPPORT BY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS**

**Lessons and reflections for the working group:**

The lessons below are drawn from Common Seas' experience co-developing national policy strategies with several SIDS and small coastal nations. They closely reflect the key insights presented in this paper. Common Seas believes national planning should:

- **Be inclusive and collaborative.** Involving relevant national (and often regional) stakeholders in developing the national plan and deploying rounds of consultation is vital for its success. It draws on diverse expertise, local knowledge, and resources, builds ownership and accountability, and promotes alignment across sectors. Inclusive dialogue also clarifies roles and responsibilities, reducing the risk of fragmented governance.
- **Establish robust, consistent, and harmonized mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and data sharing at all levels.** Mandatory national monitoring and reporting are essential for tracking progress, identifying gaps, and ensuring accountability in implementing national plans. Standardized methodologies and periodic reporting cycles should underpin these systems to enhance credibility.
- **Be revised frequently to continually drive ambition, incorporate new knowledge and adapt to policy successes or failures.** National plans should be dynamic and updated regularly to sustain ambition, integrate new insights, and respond to both successes and challenges in policy implementation.
- **Be supported by technical and financial assistance to ensure successful implementation and compliance.** Lack of technical and financial assistance have been identified as key challenges for existing MEAs, and adequate assistance will be necessary for the successful implementation of national plans, especially for countries with limited capacities.

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**SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PLANNING SUPPORT BY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS**

# EUNOMIA RESEARCH & CONSULTING

**Contact:** [hello@eunomia.co.uk](mailto:hello@eunomia.co.uk)

**Website:** <https://eunomia.eco/>



Eunomia is a B-corp certified global sustainability consultancy, creating innovative, science-led approaches that drive positive change for the planet and people.

We combine real world consulting experience and deep knowledge with an active role in policy, to provide pragmatic, science-led solutions that reduce human impact on the planet.

We specialise in the Carbon, Natural and Circular Economies, with 150+ employees across 5 offices, spanning three continents.

**Areas of support provided:**

We are experts in the development of strategy and policy related to the management of plastic along its lifecycle. Our work engages a wide range of clients in government institutions, industry and civil society organisations to support the development and implementation of NPAPs.

This includes all the stages of strategic planning to address issues associated with plastic and plastic waste, such as:

- Mapping plastic flows and supply chains, identifying issues and root causes;
- Feasibility analysis, design and impact assessment to support strategy objectives, measures, and specific actions to improve the circularity of plastics and encourage alternatives;
- Data gathering and development of models, tools, and other analytical frameworks to quantify the impacts of plastic pollution, monitor progress against objectives, and enable transparent, evidence-based strategy;
- Implementation through design of regulatory, economic and voluntary initiatives, development of guidelines, capacity building and stakeholder engagement.

**Key resources:**

[Eunomia \(2025\). Implementation Guidelines for Single-use Plastics in Nigeria. Report for UNIDO.](#)

[Eunomia \(2025\). Scoping Study for a Nationwide Deposit Return System \(DRS\) in Vietnam. Report for Norwegian Embassy.](#)

[Eunomia \(2021\). Developing Plastic Waste Policy Solutions for Saint Lucia. Report for IUCN.](#)

[Eunomia \(2021\). Information Document for the preparation of guidelines to tackle single-use plastic items in the Mediterranean. Report for SCP/RAC.](#)

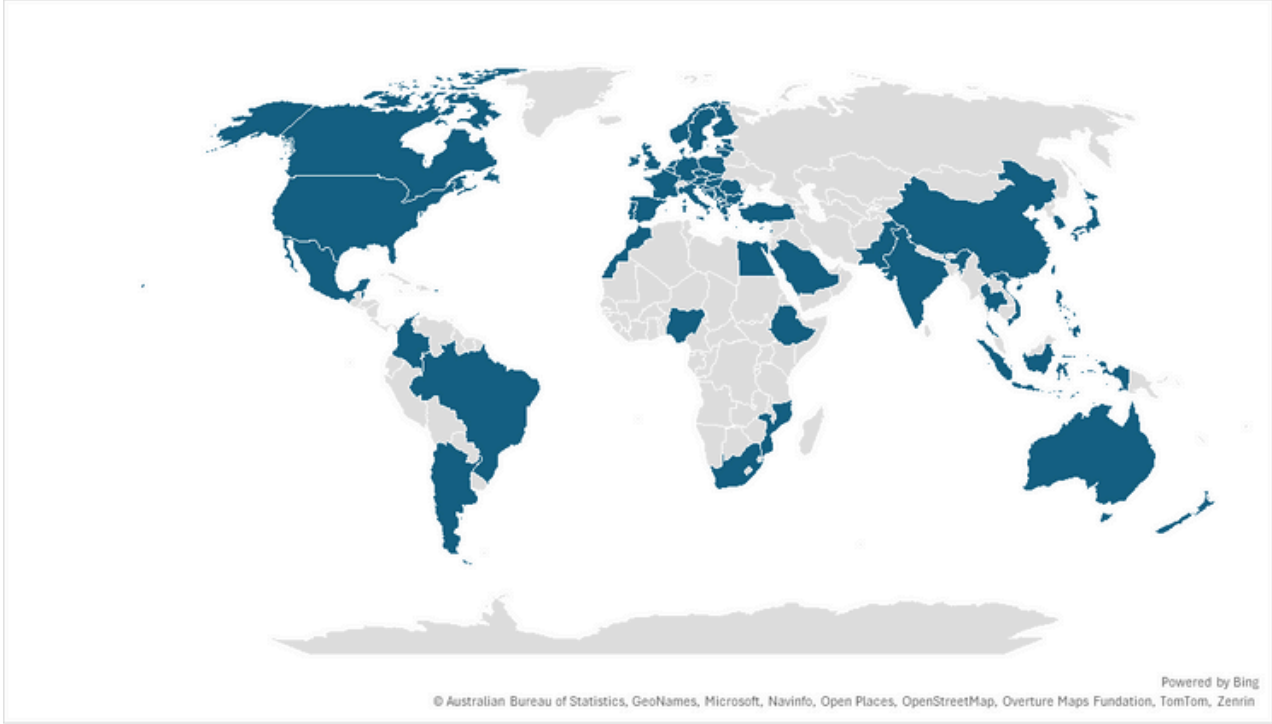
[Eunomia \(2019\). Plastic Drawdown: A new approach to identify and analyse optimal policy instruments to reduce plastic pollution in UK rivers and seas. Report for Common Seas.](#)

**Countries supported: (map on the next page)**

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**SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PLANNING SUPPORT BY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS**

**Countries supported:**

*Countries where Eunomia has worked on projects related to plastics and waste management (as of 2024).*





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**SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PLANNING SUPPORT BY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS**

# GLOBAL PLASTIC ACTION PARTNERSHIP

*World Economic Forum*

**Contact points:** Margherita Pucino, Global Metrics and Roadmap Lead. [margherita.pucino@weforum.org](mailto:margherita.pucino@weforum.org), Christian Kaufholz, Head of Community and Impact. [Christian.Kaufholz@weforum.org](mailto:Christian.Kaufholz@weforum.org)

**Website:** <https://www.globalplasticaction.org/home>



**Key resources:**

[GPAP Annual Report - 2024](#) ; [Example of Roadmap - Ecuador](#) ; [Example of GESI assessment - Nigeria](#)

**Areas of support provided:**

The Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) supports governments through its country-level platforms, known as **National Plastic Action Partnerships (NPAPs)**, to develop coherent, inclusive, and data-driven responses to plastic pollution. GPAP's approach is built on three core pillars: **local ownership and impact**, **evidence-based action**, and an **inclusive and holistic approach**. Each NPAP is established through formal collaboration agreements—often multi-ministerial—ensuring strong government endorsement, alignment with national strategies, and active engagement across sectors. These pillars guide the delivery of technical assistance, process facilitation, and multi-stakeholder coordination to ensure that solutions are contextually relevant, scientifically sound, and socially equitable.

GPAP's model is grounded in building nationally led, multi-sector NPAPs that bring together public institutions, businesses, civil society, academia, and the informal sector. A foundational element of its support is the co-development of a baseline, a comprehensive snapshot of the country's plastic pollution situation. The scope focuses on the plastic share of municipal solid waste, and it captures data on the types and volumes of plastic placed on the market, patterns of consumption, waste generation, collection rates, formal and informal recycling, and leakage into the environment. This process is conducted collaboratively with a Metrics Advisory Group (MAG) composed of 20–40 local experts, ensuring that the data and assumptions are transparent, grounded in local knowledge, and collectively owned.

Building on this baseline, GPAP facilitates the development of a Business-As-Usual (BAU) scenario, projecting current trends forward to 2040 in the absence of significant interventions. This modelling helps decision-makers understand the likely trajectory of plastic pollution if existing systems and policies remain unchanged and serves as a valuable benchmark for assessing the impact of proposed actions. The process then advances to a System Change Scenario, which models a reimagined future based on coordinated upstream and downstream interventions. In addition to quantifying changes in plastic flows, the roadmap includes indicative estimates of the potential impacts on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, job creation, and costs to government under both BAU and SCS pathways. The aim of the System Change Scenario is not to forecast outcomes, but to provide a structured, evidence-based tool that helps stakeholders explore the potential impacts of coordinated interventions across the plastics value chain.

Throughout this process, GPAP plays a facilitative and adaptive role translating global methodologies into locally relevant tools, aligning diverse stakeholders, and supporting iterative dialogue that builds political buy-in and implementation readiness. Gender equity and social inclusion (GESI) is an integral part of GPAP's workstream. Through dedicated assessments involving interviews and focus groups with vulnerable populations, especially women, informal workers, and other vulnerable groups, GPAP gathers critical insights into how plastic pollution and potential interventions impact these communities.

These findings form a foundational building block in shaping national roadmaps, supporting the design of just and equitable interventions that guide countries toward a sustainable, inclusive transition. By co-creating roadmaps and models through inclusive, data-driven processes, GPAP fosters national ownership and long-term commitment. Insights from work across more than a dozen countries highlight the critical importance of early institutional anchoring, trust-building among stakeholders, and designing tools that are technically sound yet practical for use by policymakers. The approach is designed to strengthen national decision-making today while also helping governments prepare for potential future obligations, such as those that may arise under a global treaty on plastics. Depending on national priorities, GPAP also supports governments with targeted methodologies and convening for related assessments, such as financing needs, trade impacts, or links to biodiversity—helping build a stronger evidence base for action across multiple dimensions.

## ANNEX 2:

### SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PLANNING SUPPORT BY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

#### Countries supported:



Countries supported by GPAP as of July 2025

**Roadmap published:** Viet Nam, Indonesia, Ghana, Mexico City, Pakistan, Nigeria, Maharashtra (India), Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica

**Roadmap under development:** Peru, Cambodia, Philippines, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Tanzania, Lao PDR

**Roadmap planned:** Zambia, Guatemala, Bangladesh, Kenya, Gabon, Angola, Senegal

#### Lessons and reflections for the working group:

- **National ownership and local relevance are essential.** GPAP's experience shows that sustained government leadership from the outset is critical for accountability and alignment with policy priorities. While NPAPs align with potential treaty goals, their strength lies in being deeply rooted in national realities, not following a one-size-fits-all model.
- **Process design is key.** Good data is essential, but how the process is run shapes legitimacy and uptake. Investing in facilitation and trust-building pays off.
- **Inclusion drives better outcomes.** When informal workers, women, and local voices shape the process, not just join it, the roadmap becomes more grounded, fair, and actionable.
- **Scenario modelling enables dialogue.** The system change scenario helps stakeholders explore trade-offs and align around shared goals. It's a decision-support tool, not a prediction.
- **Shared evidence builds alignment.** An agreed upon baseline or BAU scenario can help ministries and sectors coordinate, moving from siloed actions to joint planning.

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**SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PLANNING SUPPORT BY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS**

# INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN)



**Contact point:** Anabella Palacios, Senior Programme Manager, Ocean.  
anabella.palacios@iucn.org

**Key resources:**

[IUCN Plastics: National Guidance for Plastic Pollution Hotspotting; Plastic Waste Free Islands; Plastics in the Mediterranean: Annual Report](#)

**Overview of areas of support provided:**

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, bringing together over 1,400 Member organisations and 18,000 experts worldwide. Since its founding in 1948, IUCN has played a pivotal role in shaping global environmental governance, contributing to the creation of major international frameworks such as the Ramsar Convention, World Heritage Convention, CITES, CBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD. Reflecting the evolving global agenda, IUCN has expanded its focus to emerging environmental challenges—including plastic pollution—by applying its scientific expertise, convening power, and capacity-building strengths.

Since 2014, IUCN has implemented a comprehensive and science-based approach to addressing plastic pollution across more than 20 countries in six global regions. With a project portfolio exceeding USD 100 million, IUCN works in close collaboration with governments, local stakeholders, civil society, and the private sector to provide targeted technical assistance in support of national and sub-national action planning. This includes conducting in-depth research, facilitating policy reform, strengthening institutional capacities, and enabling data-driven decision-making throughout the plastic lifecycle—from production and consumption to waste management and circularity.

A cornerstone of IUCN's work is the **End Plastic Pollution International Collaborative (EPPIC)**, a multi-year public-private partnership operating in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, and across African and Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). EPPIC promotes a just transition to circular economy models through capacity development, science-based solutions, trade and value chain analysis, and the co-design of public-private partnerships. EPPIC also supports governments in aligning domestic policies with global treaty objectives and building the evidence base for national action plans.

In West Africa, IUCN and GRID-Arendal co-lead the **AFRIPAC** initiative, supporting Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, and Sierra Leone in their engagement in the global plastics treaty process. The project strengthens national capacities to develop evidence-based positions, conduct trade flow assessments, align treaty provisions with national frameworks, and draft national action plans.

In island contexts, IUCN's **Plastic Waste-Free Islands (PWFI)** project—funded by Norad—demonstrated [circular economy solutions](#) and developed business cases to reduce plastic leakage in Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, and Grenada. Outputs include national cost-benefit analyses, waste management strategies, and business plans, now publicly available for scaling through platforms like [Ubuntoo](#).

Through the **Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities (MARPLASTICCS)** initiative in Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, and Tanzania—supported by Sida and AFD—IUCN provided plastic leakage hotspot assessments, policy and business engagement strategies, and extensive stakeholder training to support long-term systemic change.

At the core of these efforts is IUCN's **National Guidance for Plastic Pollution Hotspotting and Shaping Action**, developed with UNEP and the Life Cycle Initiative. This methodological tool enables countries to map plastic flows, identify leakage hotspots by polymer type and industrial sector, and prioritize interventions in regions with high biodiversity vulnerability. It has been applied in diverse contexts, including Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Thailand, Viet Nam, Cyprus, and Spain (Menorca), providing the basis for informed and targeted policy development.



ANNEX 2:

**SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PLANNING SUPPORT BY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS**

**Lessons and reflections for the working group:**

- **Integrated, multi-stakeholder approaches** are essential to designing effective national action plans that reflect local realities and engage key sectors.
- **Scientific evidence and trade flow data** are crucial for identifying priorities, informing policy, and attracting investment for circular economy solutions.
- **Tailored capacity-building and technical assistance** help strengthen institutional readiness to implement treaty provisions and national strategies.
- **Island and coastal contexts** offer important models for scalable circular economy solutions, particularly where data scarcity and waste logistics are major barriers.
- **Collaboration with business** is key to upstream interventions, innovation, and system-wide change.

Through its global plastics work, IUCN continues to support governments and partners in shaping ambitious, science-based national responses to end plastic pollution and foster inclusive, sustainable development.

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**SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PLANNING SUPPORT BY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS**

# PLASTICS PACT NETWORK

*Convened by WRAP and Ellen MacArthur Foundation*

**Contact points:** Andrea Cino, Senior International Partnerships Manager, WRAP. [andrea.cino@wrap.ngo](mailto:andrea.cino@wrap.ngo) / Marta Longhurst, Lead of Field building and Reuse, Ellen MacArthur Foundation. [marta.longhurst@ellenmacarthurfoundation.org](mailto:marta.longhurst@ellenmacarthurfoundation.org)

**Website:** [The Plastics Pact Network](https://www.wrap.org.uk/plastics-pact-network) | [WRAP - The Waste and Resources Action Programme](https://www.wrap.org.uk)



**Areas of support provided:**

The Plastics Pact Network is convened by WRAP and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, facilitating targeted knowledge exchange between different Plastic Pact countries, providing strategic global guidance and tailored technical support to strengthen their effectiveness. Plastics Pacts are led by a local organisation and bring together public and private stakeholders from across the value chain, aligned behind collective targets to co-develop and deliver a national roadmap that drives progress towards a circular economy for plastics. All Pacts commit to annual monitoring and reporting of quantitative progress against their targets, WRAP and EMF have provided technical advice and support to Pacts to ensure the robustness and consistency of this data. With support from WRAP and EMF, Pacts have mobilised national stakeholders to progress in their delivery programmes, helping to align national action with global ambitions and to accelerate systemic change.

**Countries supported:**



The Plastics Pact Network, convened by WRAP and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, has seen that voluntary action can have a significant impact. Six years after the launch of the first Pact, we have seen a reduction of over 360,000 tonnes of problematic and unnecessary plastics, a redesign of over 850,000 tonnes of packaging to now be reusable, recyclable or compostable and over 2.2 million tonnes of recycled plastic being used by 2022<sup>5</sup>. The Plastics Pacts have launched 70+ working groups and supported action through pilots, collaborative projects, and developed 100+ guidance tools, reports, and resources to tackle plastic waste and pollution at national level. However, this is not enough to address the scale of this issue.

<sup>5</sup>[Plastics Pacts - Scaling impact](https://www.wrap.org.uk/plastics-pact-network) | [WRAP - The Waste and Resources Action Programme](https://www.wrap.org.uk)

### ANNEX 2:

## SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PLANNING SUPPORT BY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

### Lessons and reflections for the working group:

The experience of this voluntary action has generated valuable lessons on driving systemic change to tackle plastic pollution. These learnings can inform the design and implementation of National Plans under the Global Treaty:

- **Early engagement of key stakeholders:** Success depends on involving all relevant actors early — businesses, NGOs, governments, informal workers, waste managers — through inclusive, multi-stakeholder public-private platforms to design and deliver national strategies collaboratively.
- **Systemic understanding of the problem:** The Network addresses the entire plastics lifecycle — from production, through design and reuse to recycling and markets — ensuring interventions are systemic rather than piecemeal.
- **Avoiding unintended consequences:** Solutions in the network are evaluated holistically to avoid creating unintended environmental or social harms. Pacts work to ensure enabling systems, standards, and social protections exist to accompany material and market shifts.
- **Data-driven decision-making:** The Network's "Target, Measure, Act" approach, which includes having measurable targets, transparent reporting, and robust data has been crucial to inform priorities, deliver and track real impact.
- **Regulations help to level the playing field and drive investment:** Whilst, different regulatory frameworks are in place in countries where Plastics Pacts operate, strong and cohesive policy including bans, EPR schemes and other instruments, create the right economic incentives to make solutions viable at scale.
- **Ensuring a just transition:** The Pact network recognizes the importance of including informal workers and remote communities, in decision-making to ensure they are part of the development of strategies and solutions pathways that then affect them directly.
- **Enabling innovation:** Clear targets, predictable rules, working collaboratively can help de-risk investment, avoid duplication of efforts and support innovation. Pacts work with businesses to commit to clear collective targets and to understand the crucial challenges and solution requirements to make the necessary shifts in the system to achieve them.
- **Building capacity for delivery:** Working with governments, businesses, and communities to strengthen national skills, knowledge, and institutional capacity has been essential for Pacts to deliver on targets.
- **International alignment and exchange:** The Network facilitates targeted knowledge-sharing and alignment on crucial challenges and solution pathways to catalyse action towards plastic circularity. Countries benefit from each other's insights, tools and technologies to accelerate progress towards their targets.
- **Mobilizing investment for impact:** The Network has had to leverage a mix of business, government, multilateral and philanthropy funding to drive measurable progress. Governments should design NAPs with clear investment propositions to attract private and public funding for implementation.

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**SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PLANNING SUPPORT BY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS**

# THE WORLD BANK



**Contact point:** Junu Shrestha [jshrestha@worldbank.org](mailto:jshrestha@worldbank.org)

**Website:** <https://commonseas.com/what-we-do/government-partnerships>

**Areas of support provided:**

The World Bank Group works to create a world free of poverty on a livable planet through a combination of financing, knowledge, and expertise. It consists of the World Bank, including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)<sup>6</sup> and the International Development Association (IDA)<sup>7</sup>; the International Finance Corporation (IFC)<sup>8</sup>; the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)<sup>9</sup>; and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)<sup>10</sup>.

The World Bank is one of the largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries. It consists of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), a global development cooperative owned by 189 member countries, and the International Development Association (IDA), which provides grants and zero- or low-interest loans to fight extreme poverty in the world's 75 most in need and most vulnerable countries.

PROBLUE is a Multi-Donor Trust Fund, housed at the World Bank, that supports the development of integrated, sustainable and healthy marine and coastal resources. PROBLUE contributes to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) and is fully aligned with the World Bank's vision to create a world free of poverty on a livable planet. PROBLUE supports the World Bank's overall ocean portfolio. PROBLUE focuses on four key areas:

- The management of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture (PILLAR 1)
- Addressing threats posed to ocean health by marine pollution, including litter and plastics, from marine or land-based sources (PILLAR 2)
- The sustainable development of key oceanic sectors such as tourism, maritime transport and off-shore renewable energy (PILLAR 3)
- Building government capacity to manage marine resources, including nature-based infrastructure such as mangroves, in an integrated way to deliver more and long-lasting benefits to countries and communities (PILLAR 4)

PROBLUE's strategic approach to address plastic pollution: 1) Improving solid waste management to stop leakages; 2) Transitioning to a more circular economy, in which products are designed for reuse and recycling, making waste more valuable; and 3) Reducing upstream production and use of plastics. Under Pillar 2, PROBLUE has supported global, regional and national activities in more than 100 countries including plastic/waste analytics (metrics, monitoring, market studies, technical studies, economic studies), game-changing tools for policy decision making, national plastics/SWM action plans and roadmaps for policy development and leveraging investments transitioning towards a circular economy.

<sup>6</sup>The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) is a global development cooperative owned by 189 member countries. As the world's largest development bank, it works to create a world free of poverty on a livable planet by providing loans, guarantees, risk management products, and experience-based advisory services to middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries. For more information, visit [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org).

<sup>7</sup>The International Development Association (IDA) is the part of the World Bank that helps the world's low-income countries. IDA's grants and low-interest loans help countries invest in their futures, improve lives, and create safer, more prosperous communities around the world. For more information, visit <https://ida.worldbank.org/en/home>

<sup>8</sup>IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. IFC works in more than 100 countries, using its capital, expertise, and influence to create markets and opportunities in developing countries. For more information, visit [www.ifc.org](http://www.ifc.org).

<sup>9</sup>MIGA, the home of the World Bank Group Guarantee Platform, works to promote investment in developing countries by providing political risk insurance, credit guarantees, and trade finance guarantees to investors and lenders. For more information, visit [www.miga.org](http://www.miga.org).

<sup>10</sup>ICSID, a member of the World Bank Group, is the world's leading institution devoted to international investment dispute settlement. It has extensive experience in this field, having administered the majority of all international investment cases. For more information, visit <https://icsid.worldbank.org/>



## EFFECTIVE NATIONAL PLANNING TO COORDINATE ACTION ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

### ANNEX 2:

## SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PLANNING SUPPORT BY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

### WBG support on Plastic/SWM National Planning:

- **From 2003 to 2021, the World Bank Group provided approximately \$5.1 billion in official development financing for solid waste management. This accounted for 35% of global official development financing in this sector.**
- **Plastic Management and National Planning** support includes:
  - **Analytics** supporting the development of National Plastic Roadmaps: Plastic/Waste Baseline Assessments, technical studies and data gathering across the plastic value chain, aiming to identify different (plastic) waste streams (composition, types of plastic), estimate production/recycling/disposal rates, identify plastic hotspots and priority focus areas, etc.
  - **Tools** also informing and supporting Plastic/SWM National Planning. For instance, the Plastic Policy Simulator (PPS), PLAST-Invest or other country-specific tools developed considering specific policy instruments and needs (e.g. SWM Costing Model in Lebanon).
  - **Communication and outreach activities** ensuring further stakeholder engagement and promote policy action to continue developing or supporting development of the national plastic/SWM roadmaps developed.
  - **Analytics including the development of National Action Plans and Roadmaps:** supporting countries to assess policy impacts and gaps assessments, identify implementation challenges and provide specific recommendations informing further policy development, policy enforcement and additional investments.

### Examples of country-level activities supported for Plastics/SWM National Planning

Country	WB/PROBLUE specific support	Type of policy instruments	Status
Cambodia	National plastic roadmap developed by PROBLUE providing set of short/mid/long-term policy options to reduce identify priority plastics (roadmap) leading to plastics sub decree.	National plastics sub decree for Solid Waste Management and Plastics	Pending publication.
Vietnam	Report and policy brief "Toward a National Single-use Plastics Roadmap in Vietnam: Strategic Options for Reducing Priority Single-use Plastics" Baseline assessment of the flow of e-waste and packaging waste in Vietnam; (ii) implications of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regime	Single-Use Plastics Decree 08/2020/LegislationVietnam's National Action Plan on Marine Plastic Debris Management and Marine Plastic Litter 2030Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regime set up by Decree 08/2022/ND-CP and Circular 02/2022/TT-BTNMT on the current e-waste and packaging waste ecosystem	Launched by the Government in August 2022.
Indonesia	Report evaluating the successes and limitations of Indonesia's National Actional Plan and recommendations to accelerate progress and implementation post-2025. + ongoing analytics	Indonesia's National Plan of Action on Marine Plastic Debris	Targets outlined in Presidential Decree No. 83/2018.
Philippines	Analytical work supported included assessment of policy impacts on national plastic policies and roadmap for the management of plastic waste and reduction of non-recyclable single-use plastics in the Philippines.	Philippine Plastic Waste Management Roadmap	Adopted by DENR as the NSWMC Resolution No.1653, Series of 2024 (Feb. 2024).
Morocco	Analytical work supported the development of the Blue Economy Strategy in Morocco and the Litoral Sans Plastics Strategy (LISP) (National Policy on Plastic Pollution)	Initiative endorsed by Government and implementation supported through different operations/projects.	Informing the policy-making process, supporting the technical committee of the inter-ministerial commission

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#### Lessons and reflections for the working group:

- **Early national ownership and political engagement are fundamental:** Action Plans and Roadmaps are most effective when they are led and owned by national institutions with strong political support. WB's role has been catalytic, but long-term implementation depends on aligning with national long-term priorities and institutionalizing plans within government systems and government's budget. Early engagement with Ministries of Finance, Planning, and Environment is key.
- **Strong analytics and data:** Evidence-based diagnostics and gap assessments are key when developing effective and actionable national plans to address plastic pollution and improve solid waste management. Countries that have conducted robust baseline assessments – such as plastic leakage diagnostics or plastic market assessments – have been better positioned to prioritize actions, estimate investment costs and attract further investments. PROBLUE's technical assistance helps to close data gaps, strengthen decision-making and ultimately lead to better national planning.
- **Phased National Planning and Roadmaps demonstrating action while managing complexity:** Many countries are interested in addressing plastic pollution challenges but facing capacities and resources constraints. A phased approach -breaking down plans into short-, medium- and long-term phases- allows countries to implement most relevant and feasible actions and gradually address more complex reforms over time. Short term actions may include testing pilot initiatives and institutional learning leading to incremental significant progress. Phased roadmaps are also helpful and key for gathering additional funding, ensuring stakeholders and donors alignment, etc.
- **Implementing flexible roadmaps and action plans but considering specific objectives, targets and indicators.** Adaptive planning and phased approaches allow for mid-course adjustments and corrections as new technologies, stakeholders, policy reforms or mechanisms come into play. However, roadmaps and action plans should include and follow clearly defined phases, with timelines, milestones and cost estimates (key element when further financing and technical assistance is needed).
- Financing strategies and institutional reforms are crucial to ensure successful implementation of Plastics/SWM National Action Plans and road maps. Most action plans and roadmaps need reforms and investments. Clear financing pathways, strategies and/or instruments are key to ensure implementation and success of national roadmaps. Costing, fiscal recovery, financing strategies, donors' strategic alignment, thematic focus, and/or stakeholder engagement should be addressed while developing and implementing national action plans.