

Working together to mitigate marine plastic debris.



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PROJECT BULLETIN
“MITIGATING MARINE PLASTIC DEBRIS IN VIET NAM”
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COMMUNICATION

Support project teams and localities to implement a series of extra-curricular activities to reduce plastic waste in schools

Activity code: 1.3



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In the first quarter of 2021, the project team of the “*Mitigating marine plastic debris in Viet Nam*” project (hereinafter referred to as the Project) has collaborated with other localities, including the Office of Education and Training (OET), Youth’s Union (YU), and schools to implement a series of educational and extracurricular activities with the theme “*Reducing plastic waste in schools.*” The activities were both generalized towards a long-term roadmap and customized into detailed content, aimed at both teachers and students. These activities included conducting training for teachers with knowledge and skills to establish action plans and implement activities to reduce plastic waste in schools; guiding students to audit and separate waste

together with handing over trash cages to practice waste separation in school; introducing the creative educational tool - Mystery on Big Island comic book - into the school library and organizing book-reading and discussing sessions with the students; performing the interactive play with participation of students, creating creative exhibitions and dynamic game series. The activities were varied, practical, and customized to suit the culture and context of each locality. They helped teachers and students learn more about plastic pollution, evoke and nurture the love for nature, thereby promoting more positive actions. Extracurricular and educational activities are going to be implemented and replicated in schools in the project sites in the coming time.



POLICY AND EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

Continued assistance to the development of policy framework to address plastic pollution

Activity code: 2.1.1

In January 2021, Mr. Tran Hong Ha – Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) sent a letter of appreciation and acknowledgment of WWF-Viet Nam’s contribution to the revision of the Law on Environmental Protection in 2020. The project’s efforts in supporting the development and implementation of policies to improve solid waste management in Vietnam show that some initial results have been achieved.

The National Assembly passed the revised 2020 Law on Environmental Protection, with provisions for the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes and ancillary mechanisms such as at-source waste separation and promotion of recycling, and circular economy development. The

Project is continuing to develop policy recommendations and support MONRE in developing guiding documents for the implementation of relevant regulations, most notably the draft Decree on EPR implementation.

Early 2021, results of the research on the plastic and microplastic waste survey procedures in oceanic environments conducted by Vietnam Institute of Sea and Islands – Project partner were also formally submitted in writing to Viet Nam Administration of Sea and Islands (VASI). Recommendations of the study will be considered in standardizing the plastic waste survey process and building a data system on plastic pollution in Vietnam.

Support Vietnam’s participation at international and regional workshops on trans-boundary issues of marine debris pollution

Activity code: 2.3.1

In January 2021, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc signed Resolution No. 01/NQ-CP, assigning MONRE to develop a Proposal for Viet Nam to actively participate in negotiating the formulation of a new global agreement on plastic pollution, effectively contributing to the United Nations Environment Assembly’s activities.

Most recently, Viet Nam officially joined Ecuador, Germany, and Ghana to co-host a Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution in 2021 third quarter, following the announcement at a high-level panel discussion facilitated by the United Nations Environment Programme on March 31st, 2021.

WWF-Viet Nam and the Project is continuing to assist VASI and MONRE in the above activities, supporting Viet Nam to turn its commitment into action, pioneering in Asia in activities towards the establishment of a new global agreement to tackle plastic pollution.

These are major advancements following the efforts by VASI and MONRE in 2020,

especially after the SEA of Solutions Conference, in which Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Le Minh Ngan reaffirmed Viet Nam’s commitment to national and international actions against plastic pollution, especially in the negotiations of a global agreement.



PLASTIC SMART CITIES

Introduction workshops of the “Plastic Smart Cities” program in Thanh Khe District

Activity code: 3.3.1

Following up the approval of the Action plan by 2025, an introduction workshop of the “Plastics Smart Cities” programme was organised by the Project and local partners on March 22nd, 2021 in Thanh Khe District, Da Nang with participation of representatives from DONRE, Thanh Khe District PC, District Party Committee, District PC, Fatherland Front Committee, URENCO, Management of Son Tra Peninsula, other relevant stakeholders and local media, to present the “Plastic Waste management Action plan by 2025” and consult with relevant stakeholders about the plan in 2021. People’s Committee (PC) of Thanh Khe District also went through specific activities specifically planned for 2021 quarters; of which, focusing on



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awareness-raising and environmental education; system of collecting - sorting - treating - recycling; pollution control; international collaboration; and regulation framework. This will serve as guiding pillars for PCs and relevant stakeholders to work together toward achieving expected results.

TOT training in communication skills for Youth’s Union in Rach Gia

Activity code: 3.3.2

To enhance awareness-raising and urging behavior change of communities in plastic consumption, WWF and YU in Rach Gia city organised a TOT training in communication skills from 11st to 13rd of March 2021 to build capacity of 20 YU’s leaders from various wards and schools. In addition to the ground understanding of plastics and their adverse impacts, knowledge of communication channels and digital marketing acquired through teamwork and interactive learning will support this local task force to conduct clean-up

and awareness-raising initiatives in the future to engage communities’ efforts in environmental protection. This training was supported by WWF-Netherlands.



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Workshop to disseminate results of plastic waste research in A Luoi district combine with the signing ceremony of participation in the “Plastic Smart Cities” program of A Luoi district

Activity code: 3.4.1



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On March 10th, 2021 in A Luoi district town, the Project launched a workshop to disseminate the results of research on plastic waste in A Luoi district combined with the signing ceremony of participation in the “Plastic Smart Cities” program among the PC of A Luoi district, VASI, and WWF-Viet

Nam. This event officially made A Luoi district the first mountainous district of Vietnam to participate in WWF’s global program, committed to solving the problem of plastic waste pollution towards the goal of no plastic waste in nature in 2030. Attending this event, 35 delegates were leading representatives of seventeen Commune People’s Committees and one township of A Luoi district, Leaders of the Departments of Natural Resources and Environment, Economy and Infrastructure, Women’s Union; Farmers Association; Youth Union; Public Works and Public Service Management Boards.

Training in environmental education and plastic waste for educators and officials in Thanh Khe, Da Nang

Activity code: 3.4.2



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To set a foundation for rolling out the Plastic waste-free programme at schools in Thanh Khe District, Da Nang,

the Project and relevant stakeholders co-organised a TOT training in environmental education and plastic waste for 130 educators and officials from kindergartens, primary schools, and high schools in the district on April 27th - 28th, 2021. Thanks to the sharing of WWF-Viet Nam, guest speakers, and trainer about environmental education, communications at school, and experiences of executing the Plastic waste-free programme at some

pioneering schools, educators teamed up and proposed various initiatives for minimising single-use plastics, feasible materials, and content to incorporate in

mainstream teaching programme as well as extracurricular activities for students in plastic waste reduction. This is one of the activities supported by NORAD.

The extra-curricular activities for secondary and primary schools in A Luoi district

Activity code: 3.4.2.1b

From March 13rd, 2021 to March 27th, 2021, the Project cooperated with the OET of A Luoi District and the School Management boards to organize a series of extracurricular activities to reduce school plastic waste for 5 schools including Quang Trung Secondary School; Tran Hung Dao Secondary School, Le Loi Junior High, Son Thuy Primary School, and Kim Dong Primary School. At each event, the Project



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representatives handed over to each school 2 trash cages to enhance waste separation, 10 Mystery on Big Island comic books; organised photograph exhibition on environmental education for students; The events welcomed representatives of the Department of Education and Training, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the Border Guard, the Parents, and Students Association, local authorities, the school administrators, along with 82 teachers, and 552 students.



FISHERIES AND MARINE PROTECTED AREA

National Action plan for reducing plastic waste in the fisheries and aquaculture sector is approved

Activity code: 4.1.3.1

On February 5th, 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issued Decision No. 687 / QĐ-BNN-TCTS on the approval of the Action plan for marine plastic waste management in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, period of 2020-2030. This has resulted from the support of the BMU project for a survey on the current situation of plastic waste that emerged from the fisheries and aquaculture sector, stakeholder consultation, and determination to act of the Directorate of Fisheries. The Action Plan has specific notable goals such as:

- From 2021 to 2025, at least 50% of fishing boats collect plastic waste and bring them ashore, from 70% or more of fishing ports will organize the collection and classification of plastic waste,

100% of the MPAs develops a plan to monitor and organize the collection and classification of plastic waste, reducing the use of styrofoam buoys by 30% in marine aquaculture.

- In the period of 2026-2030: 50% reduction of styrofoam buoys used in marine aquaculture, 100% of fishing boats collect plastic waste and bring them ashore, 100% of fishing ports will organize the collection and classification of plastic waste.

These are relatively ambitious goals, but with the determination of the sector and the support of many stakeholders, the amount of plastic waste from fisheries and aquaculture activities, especially marine activities will be minimized.

Read more [here](#).

Extracurricular activities “Reduce plastic waste in schools” in Phu Quoc

Activity code: 4.5.5.5

On March 29th, 2021, WWF-Viet Nam collaborated with the People's Committee, OET, and YU of Phu Quoc city to organize the event “Reduce ocean plastic pollution at elementary school Duong Dong 1”. The event had the participation of 1,600 students, teachers, and representatives of every school in Phu Quoc city. The extracurricular activities included interactive play, creative exhibition, and games on the





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topic of refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle of single-used plastic. The OET and the headmaster of the school committed to expanding this extracurricular program to

other schools in Phu Quoc and take strong actions toward the model “Reduce plastic waste in school”.
Read more [here](#).

TOT training in developing the Plastic waste-free School program for teachers in Con Dao

Activity code: 4.5.5.4

On April 11st 2021, as part of the Project, WWF-Viet Nam has collaborated with the ONRE of Con Dao to organize a training workshop for teachers on the island, discussing topics on plastic waste and guiding ways to develop the *Plastic waste-free School* program. Nearly 180 teachers came together at Le Hong Phong middle school, spending the entire Sunday eagerly participate and share thoughtful opinions, demonstrating their determination to contribute to efforts in improving the waste situation on the island. At the end of the day, six schools: the kindergartens Huong Duong, Tuoi Tho, Sen Hong, the primary school Cao Van Ngoc, the middle school Le Hong Phong, the high school Le



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Hong Phong, with help from the energetic trainer, all planned in details and presented their comprehensive Action Plan for each school. WWF will provide technical support to complete the action plans before sending them to ONRE and the Education Office for governmental approval. Finally, the action plans will be implemented for the new semester after summer 2021.



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Continue training in composting using organic kitchen waste for locals in Con Dao

Activity code: 4.4.5.1



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On April 9th, 2021, as part of the BMU project, WWF-Viet Nam collaborated with the Office of Natural resources and Government (ONRE) of Con Dao to organize the second composting workshop using organic kitchen waste for 60 locals from 6 residential areas in Con Dao. The participants came together at the Education Center’s venue on a Friday

night, listening to sharing on the island’s plastic waste and ways that individuals can help to relieve the waste pressure on Bai Nhat dumpsite. Most importantly, the instructors guided the locals to compost leftover greens and vegetables from the kitchen using a simple and clean method. A local from residential area No. 2 who participated in the first workshop back in November 2020, also stopped by to receive a reward for successfully growing greens using this technique. In addition, the project also surveyed potentials to establish a composting model for the cemetery (using flowers, fruits) and the public trees management company (using dried leaves, grass). WWF will continue working with ONRE to consider piloting these models.



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