



PLASTIC PROGRAM NEWS

Issue 5 - Q3/2021

PROJECT “MITIGATING MARINE PLASTIC DEBRIS IN VIET NAM” (BMU)

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COMMUNICATIONS

(BMU)

Promoting Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) via national television and press

Funding source: BMU



Project has implemented a series of communication activities and media outreach to raise public awareness and promote extended producer responsibility (EPR) mechanism regarding production and plastic packaging at the national level. On the news broadcasting front, a report, named “The responsibility for collecting and treating discarded products”, was carried out on the national television channel. In particular, a member from the Project interviewed businesses’ representatives on the

difficulties and challenges when applying this mechanism, while also emphasizing the benefits of recovery and recycling of marine plastic debris. On the newspaper front, Project’s members answered a number of interviews for in-depth articles on Tai nguyen va moi truong newspaper. Apart from the overview of Project’s components, some recommendations for early successful implementation of the EPR system were given, along with appropriate proposed priorities and policy roadmaps to reduce plastic waste in Viet Nam.

Consultation workshop on “Research findings on the behaviors of people consuming single-use plastics”

Funding source: BMU

On July 23, the Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands, WWF-Viet Nam, and the Center for Natural Resources and Environment Communication have jointly organized the Consultation

workshop on “Research findings on the knowledge, attitude & practices of plastic-consumer” under the “Mitigating marine plastic debris in Viet Nam” project in Hanoi. This workshop aims to announce

research findings on the behaviors of people consuming single-use plastics, while seeking advice and solutions from experts to change the public awareness and practices on reducing single-use plastic consumption. The research was conducted in 9 provinces/cities across the country to identify consumers’ current awareness, attitudes and practices on the use of single-use plastic, as well as the gap between attitudes and practices on plastic consumption and reduction. The goal was to find the room for communication intervention to break target groups’ plastic consumption and disposal patterns. There was a strong sentiment at the workshop that the research was well conducted, the topic and objectives are meaningful, and the results were informative and valuable. In addition, this research was considered as a valuable source of information and data to determine the driving forces and barriers in the process of receiving and processing relevant information of the



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target research subjects, as well as the potential factors in changing consumption behaviors to reduce plastic consumption. Furthermore, the information needs and approach methods, including appropriate means of communication for intervention activities under the Project, were provided in the papers.

Webinar “Consultation on communication strategy for the Project: Mitigating marine plastic debris in Viet Nam”

Funding source: BMU

On August 6, the Webinar “Consultation on communication strategy for the Project: Mitigating marine plastic debris in Viet Nam” was held in Hanoi with the participation of representatives of the General Administration from the Vietnam Administration of Seas and Islands, WWF-Viet Nam, and the Center for Natural Resources and

Environment Communication and more than 50 experts from press agencies, organizations, universities, etc. The event kicked off with the presentation on Communication strategy scheme, along with its draft plan for communication activities. Participants and experts then proactively discussed and provided feedback about the communication

strategy to ensure a more efficient approach toward its audience. Based on the contributions from the workshop, the Project's communication strategy was then finalized, thereby identifying the stakeholders, as well as communication objectives and opportunities for each target group. This aimed to strengthen

plastic waste management in Viet Nam and increased the understanding of all stakeholders on the impact of plastic pollution on the environment and human health, thereby modifying consumption behaviors to cut back on single-use plastic and foster positive changes via collective effort.

Reduce the use of plastic bags in supermarkets

Funding source: BMU



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Under the framework of the project “Initiative to establish a supermarket alliance to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic bags in Viet Nam” of the Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment, the Project collaborated with the Institute to make a short clip called “Let’s shop without plastic bags!”, screened at 2 large supermarkets and some retail stores in Hanoi in July. The

goal is to encourage supermarkets and consumers to change their habits with a view to reducing the use of single-use plastic bags. The Project will continue to explore more collaborative opportunities with partners to promote creative forms of communication and potential activities to facilitate the reduction of plastic bags in particular and single-use plastics in general.



**PLASTIC
SMART CITIES**
(BMU)

Plastic bags reduction model in Dong Hoi market

Funding source: BMU

With the goal of mitigating small businesses and customers' consumption of plastic bags and single-use plastic items at Dong Hoi Market, Dong Hoi City Women's Union cooperates with the Project to implement "a plastic bags reduction model" from September to December 2021.

Under the technical assistance from the Project, this model developed and rolled out communication products such as billboards, paper bags and radio bulletins in the market area. Some notable activities of Dong Hoi City Women's Union within the scope of the model include: Collaborating with the Market Management Board to conduct a survey on the current status of using plastic bags by small businesses via questionnaires; Printing and installing advertising panels at the market hall; Printing 2,000 paper bags and buying 100 plastic hand baskets for small businesses and customers as an effort in gradual replacement of single-use plastic bags; Organizing training to raise awareness on environmental protection and plastic waste for 200 women.



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From November to December, the Women's Union, supported by the Project, will coordinate with the Provincial Television Station to produce a television report on the implementation of this model at Dong Hoi market, and work with the city's radio station to broadcast radio bulletins at the market, promoting communication activities and boosting the model's efficacy.

Han Market joins hands to reduce plastic waste

Funding source: BMU



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In September, the Da Nang Department of Industry and Trade issued an action plan for the "Plastic smart Han Market" model, with a view to improving the waste management system, reducing plastic waste and increasing recycling rate. The pilot plan will be carried out in the period 2021-2025 under the Urban Plastic Reduction Program with the goals as follows: to reduce the total amount of waste generated from Han Market; to reduce the amount of plastic bags and single-use plastic products; to enhance waste segregation and retrieve of recyclable materials; to promote the model of plastic bags recovery from consumers and stimulate green consumption. To put these into practices, the model will focus on (1) reviewing and adjusting policies on "eco-labels" and plastic waste management; (2)

communication on waste segregation and plastic waste reduction; (3) improving solid waste management at the market; and (4) pilot models that increase plastic recycling rates. The plan was developed with the support of WWF and we will continue to cooperate with local partners during the implementation process to maximize resources for the best results.

Green land - Model for making Growing media from water hyacinth

Funding source: BMU



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Water hyacinth is a common plant, growing rapidly in rivers, large and small canals in Mekong Delta such as Kien Giang province. Water hyacinth plays an important role in water purification and pollution reduction. However, the overgrowth of water hyacinth is bringing about various problems such as waste traffic congestion, lack of oxygen in the water, negative impacts on aquatic species, river flow obstruction and garbage (especially plastic waste) backlog. With the dual goal of both utilizing precious resources in daily activities and improving the collection of plastic waste

in Rach Gia city, Kien Giang province, the Kind Arms (Vong tay Tu te) project – an enterprise geared toward green economy - embarked on a plan for the “Green soil” model to turn water hyacinth into organic fertilizer. Not only responsible for production, the Kind Arms project is also in charge of distributing through various sales channels, holding technology transfer seminars to replicate the model and introducing products to consumers. The model is expected to be piloted from October, 2021 to December, 2022 with the Project’s financial support and technical advisory.

Enhance environmental hygiene in the prevention of COVID-19 in Phu Yen province

Funding source: BMU

During the 4th outbreak of COVID-19 in Viet Nam in the last 2nd and 3rd quarters, Phu Yen province strengthened the management of waste generated

at medical facilities and concentrated isolation areas, ensuring people’s safety and limiting the infection through the discharge and collection of garbage.

Nonetheless, the domestic waste and medical waste is currently collected together, resulting in an enormous volume of waste that has to be treated in the form of hazardous waste, which creates financial pressure for the locality. Therefore, the solution of Phu Yen province is to equip 193 trash bins to strengthen the collection and segregation of waste in temporary treatment areas, concentrated isolation areas and blockade areas. These bins will then be distributed to local medical facilities for further use, as the province is back to the new normal. At the same time, the Project will continue to support localities in promoting



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communication and awareness raising activities to enhance waste segregation and plastic waste reduction, ensuring environmental hygiene and people’s health and safety.

Research on solutions for river garbage collection

Funding source: BMU



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According to studies, 80% of marine plastic debris comes from land, which is why waste collection in rivers can lessen waste leakage into oceans. There are currently a few solutions, either automatic or manual, for river garbage collection

being researched and piloted around the world. Meanwhile, these models in Viet Nam are only piloted on a small scale with a simple and manual approaches. For such reason, the Project conducted a Research to evaluate solutions for preventing waste leakage into rivers and seas, focusing on in-depth analysis of technical information, operation methods as well as the compatibility with the characteristics of rivers in Viet Nam, especially in the project areas including Da Nang, Phu Yen and Rach Gia. This, hence, provides recommendations on the implementation of appropriate models and systems for pilot areas in the next stage.



POLICY AND EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

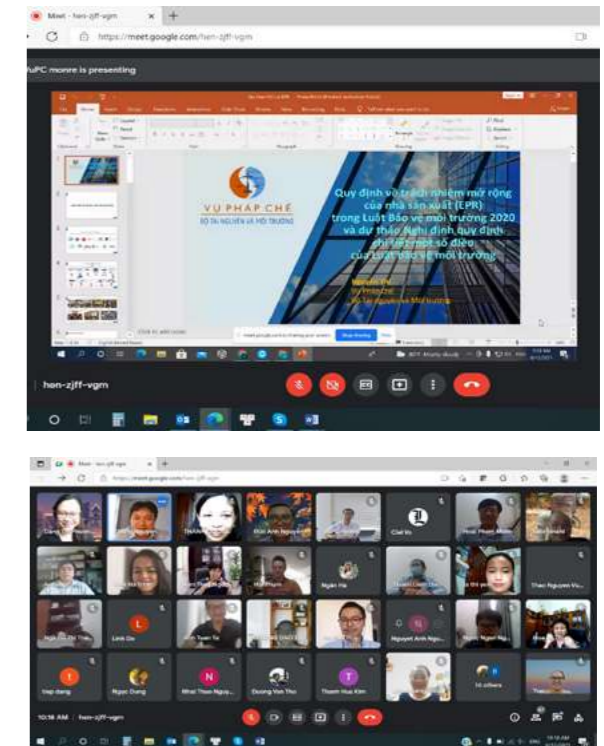
(BMU)

Support policy consultation on plastic waste management and EPR

Funding source: BMU

Over the past time, the Project has collaborated with MONRE's key partners, such as the Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE), Vietnam Environment Administration (VEA), and Department of Legal Affairs (DLA), to research and complete legal regulations related to plastic waste management, packaging, and extended producer responsibility (EPR).

Research on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the plastic industry about their readiness to carry out the responsibility of recycling products and packaging of manufacturers and importers according to the provisions of Articles 54 and 55 of the Law on Environmental Protection 2020, jointly implemented by the ISPONRE, has obtained positive results from the perspective of SMEs on EPR regulations, enforceability, roadmap, as well as advantages and disadvantages in technology, finance and markets. The findings and recommendations were shared with the DLA, the focal point for EPR regulation development, as well as widely published and consulted at the Consultation workshop on August 12, 2021, with nearly 50 participants representing SMEs, state management agencies, and experts from organizations interested in the EPR scheme in Vietnam. At this workshop, plenty of comments are given to help MONRE establish a multi-dimensional approach. Also, this feedback facilitates the review and improvement of



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EPR regulations in the Draft Decree, to ensure the high feasibility and practicality.

Furthermore, the Project assisted VEA and MONRE in finalizing the Decree by providing consultancy to review and assess impacts of following policies: environmental zones; roadmap to limit the production and import of single-use plastic products and goods containing microplastics; automatic and continuous monitoring of wastewater and emissions; plastic circular economy; periodic monitoring of wastewater and emissions, taxes incentives, and environmental protection fees. The findings of the research and assessment have been shared with the VEA, timely contributing to the completion of the Decree.

Assisting Viet Nam to affirm the pioneering role at the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution

Funding source: BMU

The Governments of Ecuador, Germany, Ghana and Viet Nam jointly organized the Ministerial Conference on Marine litter and Plastic Pollution on September 1 – 2, 2021. Ms. Le Thi Tuyet Mai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Viet Nam in Geneva, reaffirmed Viet Nam’s readiness to actively engage in the process of negotiating and developing a global treaty on plastic pollution at the conference. At the same time, Viet Nam’s representative stated that Viet Nam was delighted to co-sponsor the Draft Resolution initiated by Peru and Rwanda - a decision on the establishment of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, kicking off the negotiation process for a legally binding global agreement at the 5th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in February 2022.

Previously, on August 16, 2021, the Prime Minister approved the Proposal on “Viet Nam actively prepares for and participates in the formulation of a Global Agreement on Marine Plastic Pollution”. This decision sets the foundation for Viet Nam to proactively prepare human resources, information, and databases and participate in the negotiations of a new UN global treaty on plastic pollution. Throughout these processes, the Project



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has always provided support by supplying information, research, and reports from WWF for Viet Nam in proactively preparing for and participating in the Conference, with the goal of negotiating a new treaty on plastic pollution.

Policy dialogue and consultation on the Draft Decree on circular economy: criteria, roadmap and incentive mechanism for the plastic packaging sector

Funding source: BMU, NPAP



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Within the framework of activities to support the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in the field of circular economy (CE), on September 24, the Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE) collaborated with the National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP), and WWF-Viet Nam via the Project, organized an online policy dialogue and consultation on the topic “Circular economy in the Draft Decree detailing a number of articles of the Law on Environmental Protection 2020 and recommendations for plastic and packaging sector”. More than 60 participants from embassies, corporations, and business associations, as well as specialists and scientists from universities, research institutions, and international organizations, attended the dialogue.

International specialists provided in-depth presentations and discussions

on international experience in the CE implementation. Ms. Laura Järvinen, Leading specialist, Sustainability solutions, Finnish Innovation Fund SITRA, provided an overview of “Finland’s experience in CE development: roadmap, goals, and strategic agenda.” Mr. Ashraf El-Arini, World Bank Environmental Specialist, presented “Market opportunities and challenges, recommendation for policy interventions to drive circular economy in Viet Nam”. He clarified detailed reports and figures on material flow analysis, the plastic value chain map, the potential benefits from plastic recycling, the pressures affecting profit value, collection and recycling rate, as well as provided recommended solutions for plastic recycling in Viet Nam with 12 priority actions. Ms. Ke Wang, Knowledge Lead, Platform for Accelerating Circular Economy, World Economic Forum, shared insights on the Global Circular Economy Action Agenda for Plastics, Textile, Food, Electronics and Capital Equipment. CE is considered as an important lever to achieve policymakers’ goals, including generating economic growth, creating jobs, and reducing environmental impacts. In cooperation with the ISPONRE, WWF, and NPAP have constantly emphasised the importance of CE development in addressing and eliminating plastic pollution holistically.



FISHERIES AND MARINE PROTECTED AREA

(BMU)

Develop a Handbook for recycling organic waste at source

Funding source: BMU

Environmental pollution resulting from poor domestic solid waste management has had a detrimental effect on many Vietnamese people's living conditions, health, and income over the years. While several groups of solutions are being proposed and adopted on various scales, many households, communities, and enterprises practice organic waste segregation, reuse, and recycling at the source. This approach provides significant economic, health, and environmental benefits to those who practice it.

If each and everyone of us recognizes that organic waste is a valuable resource that can be effectively reused and recycled, domestic waste pollution in our homes and communities can be addressed efficiently and easily. In order to provide basic knowledge and guidance on some methods of producing organic fertilizers and bio-products from organic waste at household and in the community, WWF-Viet Nam is responsible for developing this **Handbook for recycling organic waste at source**, including 2 main parts:

- Part 1: Provide an overview of the current status of waste generation, suitable domestic waste treatment methods, and explain the need of organic waste recycling at home and in the community.
- Part 2: Provide the main principles of the process of transforming organic



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waste into organic fertilizer, as well as guidance on practicing some widely applied methods.

The Handbook is intended for households (urban and rural), gardeners, farming households, communities, schools, businesses, restaurants, and hotels, as well as others who have only recently begun to prioritize organic waste reduction, reuse, and recycling at the source. WWF-Viet Nam hopes that readers will gain a new perspective on organic waste and an understanding of how to repurpose it rather than discard it after reading about the process portrayed in this Handbook of producing fertilizers and bio-products from organic waste.

Exhibition booth for recycled products from marine waste and domestic waste in Con Dao

Funding source: BMU



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The exhibition booth for recycled products from marine waste and domestic waste is one of the activities implemented in the third quarter of 2021 as part of a cooperation agreement between the Con Dao National Park Management Board and WWF-Viet Nam to implement the project “Mitigating Marine Plastic Debris in Viet Nam.”

The exhibition booth created in Nha Chung - Green Life Station, Nguyen Van Cu Street, Zone 9 is the first model produced as a result of a public-private cooperation between the Con Dao National Park Management Board and the Volunteer Group Trash2Art.

The model attempts to create a community destination for both locals and tourists. There they can purchase reused/recycled products made from marine or domestic waste in Con Dao such as soap from cooking oil, soap from used coffee grounds, shopping bags from old nets collected during beach cleanups, decorative and household products made from marine waste such as sea animal models, candle

holders, lampshade frames, lanterns, plastic trays, nets, etc.

In addition to displaying recycled products, the Nha Chung exposition booth serves as a meeting place for the green living community, hosting the following activities:

1. Con Dao beach cleanups,
2. The Zero-dong market, which attempts to recycle old items in the community,
3. Nha Chung Community Library, which has over 300 titles in various genres, and
4. A free English class for locals every Sunday.

The Group was formed during COVID-19. Due to the suspension of tourism operations, all propaganda, exhibition booth and other activities at Nha Chung were only available to residents and social network users via two fan pages: “Nha Chung - Green Life Station” and “Trash2Art-Keeping Con Dao Clean.” When tourist operations resume, the booth is intended to be one of the stops on the Con Dao National Park Management Board’s eco-tour.

Material Recovery Facility - MRF in Cu Lao Cham

Funding source: BMU

The Material Recovery Facility (MRF) is a pilot model for community-based recycling and segregation of domestic waste. GAIA and Pacific Environment erected the model with the help of the Management Board of the Cu Lao Cham Marine Protected Area (MPA) and the Tan Hiep Commune People’s Committee, with the involvement of 30 Bai Ong families, beginning in mid-April 2021.

In this model, WWF-Viet Nam assists the Commune People’s Committee in receiving and operating the model beginning in July 2021. At the same time, WWF-Viet Nam is closely monitoring the operation process in order to assess the model’s performance and the prospect of pilot extension within the foreseeable future.

As of September 2021, the model has categorized and recovered 1,900kg of organic waste, 126kg of low-value plastic waste, and 43kg of high-value plastic waste from 30 households, for a total collected volume of 4,171kg. The high-value plastic waste is resold to a scrap dealer, the low-value plastic waste is recycled at the REFORM plant, and the organic waste is sorted and transferred into compost and household cleansers at MRF.

The entire amount of waste sorted and recycled at the MRF accounts for roughly half of total waste generated. The MRF operation team collected the first batches of around 200kg of high quality compost in Q3. The model was developed with the help of a local core group and 30 pilot households in Bai Ong.

The findings of the core group’s quality monitoring of household waste segregation suggest that around 80% of participating families perform well at source segregation, while the remaining 20% of households have not implemented. In the fourth quarter of 2021, the project will continue to assist the municipality in maintaining the model and will foster dialogue with stakeholders in order to establish a plan to increase the number of families participating in the pilot model over the next year.



PROJECT “HUE - A PLASTIC SMART CITY IN CENTRAL VIET NAM”

(TVA)

Carry out baseline studies of Solid Waste Management (SWM) System in Hue city and propose interventions for future Municipal SWMS for Hue city

Funding source: TVA

The technical and social assessments of the SWM system in Hue city took place from June to October to provide information on the volume and characteristics of solid wastes in Hue city, as well as the rate of plastic waste leakage into the environment. The collected data serves the development of a specific action plan towards the goal of Plastic Smart Hue City. Below are some key findings from the assessment:

- Domestic solid waste (DSW) of households accounts for the highest proportion in the total volume of DSW generation at the moment. In particular, organic waste has the highest share, followed by plastic and the others accounting for about 17%.
- In addition, the result indicated that the volume of plastic waste generated per capita in the “Hue core” is higher than that of the “expanded area”, while the average volume of plastic waste leakage per capita per day in the central Hue region is lower than that of expanded Hue region.
- The rate of plastic waste leakage in the expanded region is higher than that of the central region.
- The total number of plastic hotspots detected in Hue during the research is 19, distributed in 15 out of 36 wards/



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- communes. Hotspots on the ground accounted for 73.7%, while those at the edge or on water bodies accounted for 26.3%;
- Hue city’s recycling rate is 8%; Recycling is carried out by informal groups without any specific city’s policies defining roles, obligations and support for such groups. In addition, waste picker and collector, as well as workers at recycling facilities are working in unsafe environments and exposed to many health risks;
- Reflecting on SW-related issues through social networks, neighborhood meetings and especially Hue-S is highly appreciated, with 60%, 53.3%, and 47,8% respectively.;
- About 23.3% of households in Hue city think that the current fee for waste collection and transportation services does not match the quantity and quality of services provided.

Assess plastic waste leakage from Hue city and its impacts on the environment of Tam Giang - Cau Hai lagoon

Funding source: TVA



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With the aim to assess plastic waste leakage from Hue city and its impacts on the environment of Tam Giang - Cau Hai lagoon, TVA project has implemented the following activities:

- Carrying out field survey and analysis of origin and path of plastic waste from Huong River and other sources into Tam Giang - Cau Hai (TG-CH) lagoon;
- Modeling waste flows and distribution of plastic hotspots into the TG-CH lagoon;
- Assessing the impact of plastic waste on the environment, economy and society in TG-CH lagoon;
- Proposing areas of intervention and solutions to mitigate plastic waste leakage into the TG-CH lagoon environment.

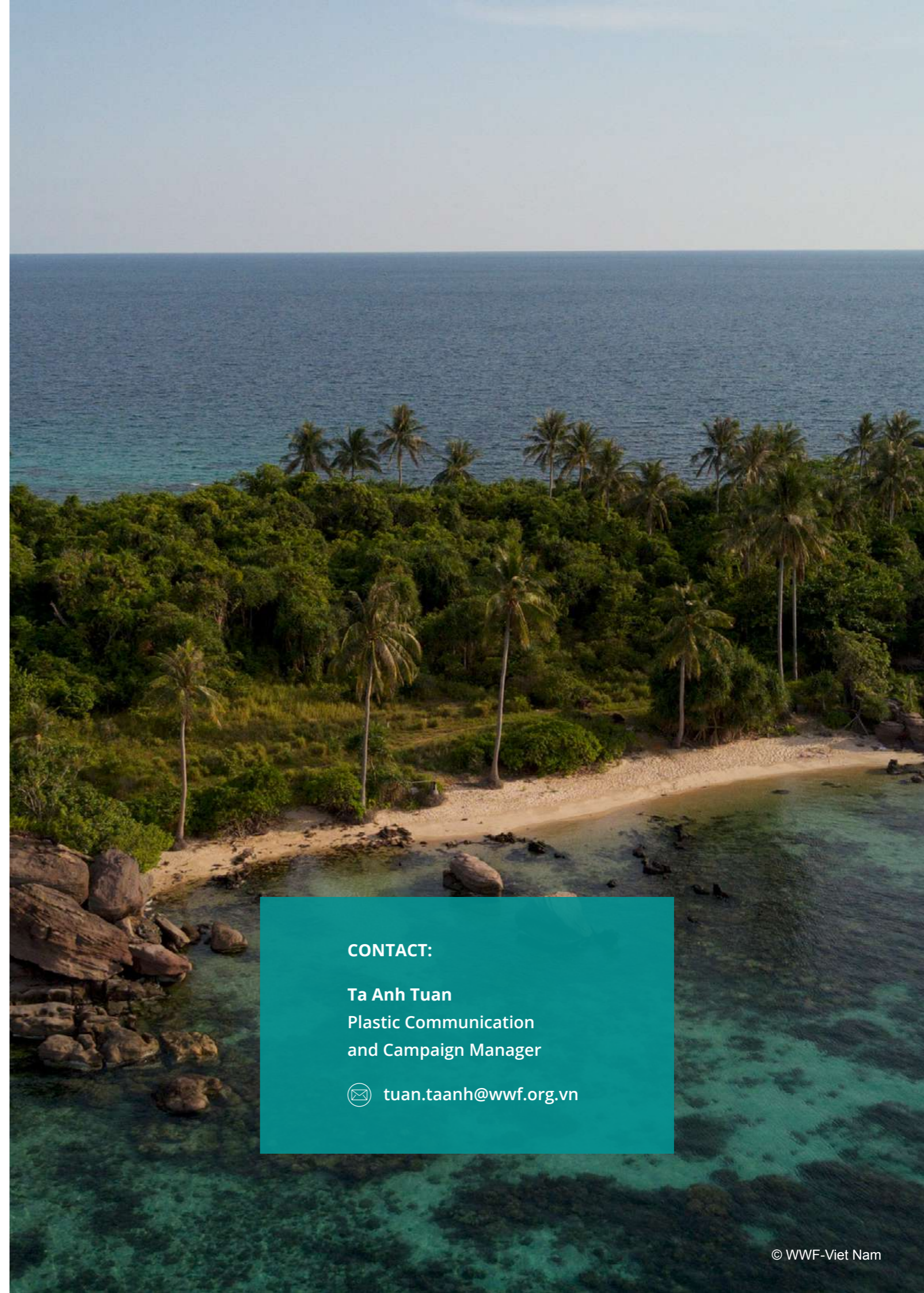
Some initial results show that:

- The biggest sources of SW generation in the periphery of the TG - CH are households, markets and restaurants. Regarding the composition of generated SW, organic waste accounts for the majority, followed by plastic waste.

- The main source of waste pollution, in terms of quantity and volume, comes from the consumption of single-use plastic;
- The estimated annual plastic leakage from the research area accounts for about 12% of the volume of plastic waste generated.
- More than 20% of households living along the lagoon of TG - CH often discharge plastic waste (packaging and plastic items) from fishing/aquaculture activities directly into the environment.

This is just the first step in a series of activities under a long-term program. However, based on the preliminary results, the Project and its partners proposed a number of intervention areas, including:

- Waste segregation at source and recycling of waste;
- Urban solid waste collection system;
- Infrastructure for SW treatment;



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