

Working together
to mitigate
marine plastic
debris



Supported by:

 Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
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based on a decision of the German Bundestag

A photograph of two young children standing on a beach covered in plastic debris. The child in the foreground is wearing a white floral dress and is wading in shallow water. The child in the background is wearing a pink polka-dot dress. The background is filled with a large pile of discarded plastic and wood, suggesting a heavily polluted coastal area.

PROJECT BULLETIN “MITIGATING MARINE PLASTIC DEBRIS IN VIET NAM”

No.2 - Q4/2020

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Launching “Mitigating marine plastic debris in Viet Nam” project

Activity code: 1.1.5

The Launching Ceremony of “**Mitigating marine plastic debris in Viet Nam**” (hereinafter referred to as BMU Project) was successfully held on November 26th in Hanoi following the official approval of the project under the Decision No. 1462/QĐ-BTNMT dated July 2nd, 2020.

This is one of the important projects in combating marine plastic pollution in Viet Nam, sponsored by World Wide Fund for Nature in Germany with source from German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation & Nuclear Safety and implemented by World Wide Fund for Nature in Viet Nam (hereinafter referred to as WWF-Viet Nam) in partnership with Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands (hereinafter referred to as VASI). The BMU



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Project is implemented in 9 provinces/cities. It is expected to contribute to tackling plastic pollution in Vietnam through the development of plastic waste management policy, communication and behavior change campaigns to support the implementation of the National Action Plan on Marine Plastic Debris Management by 2030. [Read more.](#)

Launching Viet Nam National Plastic Action Partnership and BMU Project

On December 23rd, 2020, the launching ceremony of **The Viet Nam National Plastic Action Partnership** (hereinafter referred to as NPAP) and BMU Project was held in Hanoi. NPAP is a collaboration between the Government of Viet Nam, represented by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (hereinafter referred to as MONRE), and the Global Plastic Action Partnership - a multi-stakeholder platform at the World Economic Forum. It translates commitments to reduce plastic pollution and develop a circular economy.

As a cofounding member of the NPAP and



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as sponsor and co-implementor of BMU, WWF-Viet Nam will accompany the Government of Viet Nam to achieve objectives set in the National Action Plan for Marine Plastic Debris Management in Viet Nam by 2030.



COMMUNICATION

Project website launching

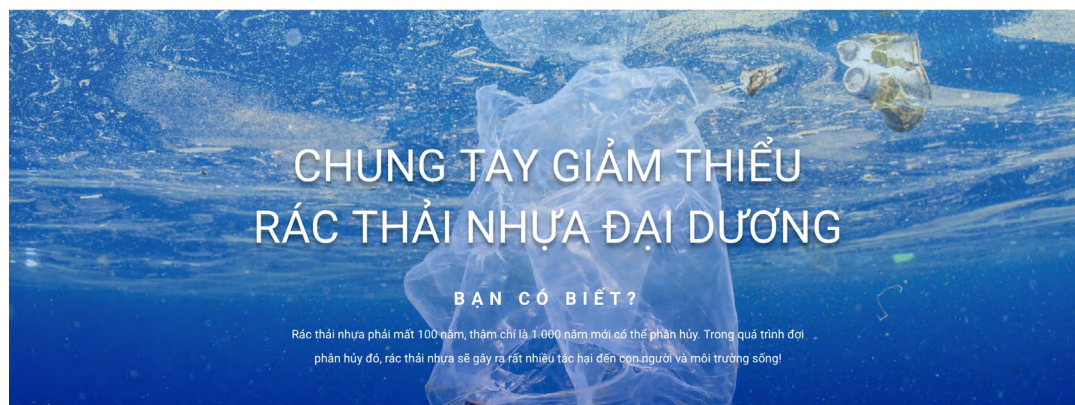
Activity code: 1.2.2

Hợp tác để giảm thiểu rác thải nhựa đại dương



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[Trang chủ](#) Giới thiệu ▾ Thực trạng Hoạt động ▾ Liên hệ Tin tức ▾ Bản đồ rác thải nhựa



BMU Project officially launched the website <https://GiamRacNhua.vn>.

The website was co-developed by the Center for Communication of Natural Resources & Environment and WWF-Viet Nam in September 2020 and provides information in the form of modern media and multimedia.

The launch of the websites demonstrates the extent to which the Project Management Board and partners are determined to strengthen communication and raise public awareness. The website is expected to serve as a source of truth, providing citizens and potential partners with accurate information to gain a more in-depth picture of the plastic waste situation, and opportunities to engage in BMU Project activities.

Media outreach

During the fourth quarter of 2020, numerous events and activities have been carried out all over 10 sites in Viet Nam. They have been welcomed by both local governments and communities and well recognised by top-tier national media. More details [here](#).

Quang Binh City aims to become Plastic Smart City

Activity code: 1.1.3



© Natural Resource and Environment Newspaper

On November 19th, 2020 in Quang Binh province, Management Board of the BMU Project organised a workshop on **Mitigating Marine Plastic Debris** in the framework of BMU Project to and share local efforts and experiences in tackling the issues of plastic waste pollution in Viet Nam.

At the workshop, VASI, the People's Committee of Dong Hoi City, and WWF-Viet Nam signed an MOU on the coordination of project implementation. Three parties agreed to work together to develop plans and implement key activities towards a common goal of minimising the impact of plastic debris on marine ecosystems and building Dong Hoi into the pioneer Plastic Smart City of Vietnam and the region.



POLICY AND EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

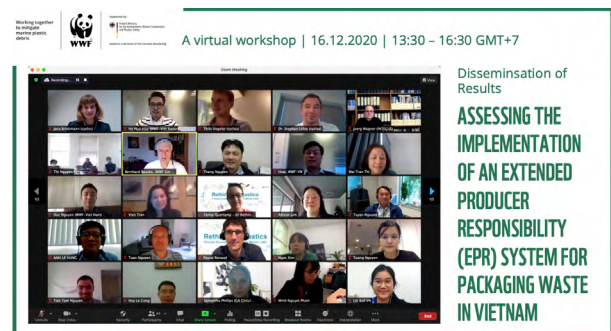
Develop EPR legal framework for packaging waste in Viet Nam

Activity code: 2.1.1

WWF-Viet Nam commissioned research **“Assessing the implementation of extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging waste in Viet Nam”**, analysing and outlining the best options and corresponding roadmaps for rolling out EPR over the next 5 years. After 6 months of implementation, the research was concluded in November 2020, with the complete report and an accompanying policy brief currently in their finalization stage.

On December 16th, 2020, a workshop was organised for the dissemination of the research results and discussion of the concrete next steps for EPR implementation in Viet Nam in the framework of BMU Project. The workshop was attended by nearly 50 experts from many organizations and companies, as well as the representing members of the EPR National Platform, a multi-stakeholder working group established by MONRE, that is aiding the development and implementation of EPR for various waste streams.

At the moment, the working group is supporting MONRE in drafting the Decree for EPR implementation, following the official adoption of Articles 54 and 55 on EPR in the recently approved amended Law on Environment Protection. With findings



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from the EPR assessment research and diligent considerations of Viet Nam’s specific legal and institutional contexts through the Decree drafting process, WWF-Viet Nam provides policymakers with the best available knowledge to continue the development of the legal framework for an EPR system that potentially boosts the circular plastics economy in Viet Nam and thus critically contributes to stopping the leakage of plastic into nature.

“WWF-Viet Nam provides policymakers with the best available knowledge to continue the development of the legal framework for an EPR system that potentially boosts the circular plastics economy in Viet Nam”

Develop survey procedure to assess the current situation of marine plastic waste

Activity code: 2.1.1

Through a project implementation partnership with the Viet Nam Institute of Seas and Islands (VISI), the working group aids with the research and development of a standardised “**Guideline for surveying and assessing marine plastic waste in Viet Nam**”. The activity is expected to deliver recommended procedures built upon international experiences and Viet Nam’s contexts, to be considered by authorised governmental agencies for official adoption.

Early December 2020, upon completion of the desk research and the first consultation with relevant experts, VISI and contracted experts conducted fieldwork to verify

proposed procedures for surveying plastic waste and microplastics in various marine environments, including estuaries, ocean surface and floor, and coastal shores. On December 15th, 2020, VISI organised the second consultation workshop to discuss the finalisation of recommended procedures, with new findings from fieldwork. With the completion of this research and its resultant recommendations in January 2021, Viet Nam is one step closer to standardising the methodology for marine plastic survey throughout the country and harmonising data for a national monitoring and assessment scheme in the near future.



Use binoculars to observe marine plastic debris.
© VISI



Testing the pull net to collect samples for marine plastic debris survey. © VISI

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

Activity code: 2.3.1

To effectively address the transboundary issue of marine plastic pollution, Viet Nam is exploring potential response options on national, regional, and international scales through dialogues with countries in the region and across the globe. In November 2020, VASI with support from WWF-Viet Nam submitted the written statement to the fourth meeting of the United Nations Environment Programme's initiated Ad hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastic (AHEG). The statement specifies that *"Viet Nam supports building a legally binding global agreement within the UN to help UN's member nations addressing plastic pollution"*. During this time, the working group also commissioned the development of a **"Marine Plastic Litter Profile"**, a knowledge resource on marine plastic detailing the current status, impacts, and legal frameworks that tackle this issue, to enhance the capacity of governmental partners in relevant work.

On November 26th, at the SEA of Solutions 2020 conference, Deputy Minister of the Viet Nam's Ministry of Natural Resources &

Environment, Mr. Le Minh Ngan, affirmed that Viet Nam supports and is willing to participate and actively contribute to regional and global initiatives on marine plastic waste, especially in the negotiation and development of a global agreement. This officially elevated Viet Nam's commitment for a new global treaty on plastic pollution, from technical expert to ministerial level, signaling the country's positive contribution and active role in the potential negotiation process for this treaty. [Read more.](#)



Deputy Minister of MONRE Le Minh Ngan affirmed that Vietnam supports the global agreement at SEA of Solutions 2020 Conference.

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PLASTIC SMART CITIES

Series of events in Phu Yen province

Activity code: 3.3.2



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In October 2020, Phu Yen Department of Natural resource and Environment (DONRE) and WWF-Viet Nam co-organised a series of exciting and engaging events in BMU Project framework to kickstart the Phu Yen's commitment of joining Plastic Smart Cities programme:

- On 24th October, a clean-up event was taken place with the participation of 300 volunteers from Hon Yen villagers, Phu Yen Xanh youth, Phu Yen DONRE and WWF-Viet Nam. It resulted in 5 dumpsites and 500m coastline of Hon Yen island being cleaned up, covered with vegetation, and handed over to the local community to manage in the future.

- On 25th and 26th October, a taskforce of 50 villagers living in the Hon Yen area joined a training in awareness-raising and communication skills. They will then use the skills to plan and implement communication initiatives to raise awareness about the impact of plastic waste and elicit households' involvement in protecting the environment.
- On October 26th, business engagement workshop was held to discuss a business model to reduce plastic waste. The status and impact of plastic waste, as well as the role of businesses in contributing to reducing the amount of plastic waste lost to the environment were discussed among the participants. The businesses shared many impressive suggestions from businesses about the changes that can be made in their business models. In particular, businesses have known for the first time the PlasticACTion (PACT) Initiative which helps businesses build plastic reduction strategies in their business models and move into a circular economy.

Training on environmental education and plastic waste for key staff and teachers in Phu Yen province

Activity code: 3.4.1

In the framework of BMU Project, on December 15th and 16th, 2020 in Tuy Hoa city, WWF-Viet Nam collaborated with Phu Yen DONRE and the Department of Education and Training of Phu Yen Province to organise “**Training, fostering, and disseminating knowledge on environment with a focus on plastic waste**” workshop with the participation of more than 150 local officials and teachers. Identifying students as the

target group with great influence on the communities, the program aims to equip teachers with the necessary knowledge, skills, and methods about marine plastic debris towards the goal of developing and implementing the Plastic-free School Model. Teachers are expected to wield what gained from the workshop to coordinate and promote student behavior change towards a future with no plastic in nature.

Thanh Khe District promulgates the Action Plan for Plastic waste management until 2025

Activity code: 3.3.1



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Upon signing the commitment to participate in the Plastic Smart Cities program within the framework of BMU Project, Thanh Khe district, Da Nang city has worked with stakeholders to develop an action plan to reduce plastic pollution by 2025. The Action Plan comprises of

activities, implementing stakeholders, with specific timeline, and resources needed for those activities as follows:

- Review, amend, develop and complete mechanisms and policies on marine plastic debris management;
- Raise awareness towards behaviour changes on better single-use plastic and marine plastic debris treatment and management;
- Collect, separate, transport, and treat solid waste and plastic waste effectively in coastal areas and at sea;
- Prevent and minimise marine plastic debris leakage from land and at sea.

Organize communication program on plastic waste at the Library of Kien Giang province

Activity code: 3.4.1

On December 6th, 2020, in the framework of BMU Project, WWF-Viet Nam and the Kien Giang Provincial Library organised the communication program called the “**The Invasion of trash**” for 400 students of primary and secondary schools in which applied “play-based learning” approach. Through a variety of activities including interactive exhibitions, film screening, and fun activities incorporated

with educational messages, the program provided overall understanding and knowledge of plastic waste and its impact to the environment and human life. Additionally, the program was successful in providing training for local librarians in organizing communication initiatives as well as inspiring them to organize more awareness raising activities for many more students in the future.



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Organise training for teachers and key staff in A Luoi district, Thua Thien Hue province and Ha Tinh city

Activity code: 3.4.2



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During November and December 2020, within the framework of the BMU Project, WWF-Vietnam cooperated with the local authorities of A Luoi district, Thua Thien Hue province and Ha Tinh city to organise a training on environmental education and plastic waste for 155 teachers and key staff of two sites, including teachers from primary schools, junior high schools, high schools and environmental officers. During training, the participants learned about:

- The impact of plastic, the environment and plastic waste;
- How to audit domestic waste in general and school waste in particular;
- Steps to develop action plans to reduce plastic waste in the community and schools.
- Methods of encouraging students to participate in activities to reduce plastic waste at schools.

In addition, the participants were able to visit their local waste treatment plant. It was shown that the participants were enthusiastic, actively participating in group discussions and proposing plastic waste minimisation solutions that can be applied to students at the school and local community

Roll out waste management pilot model in Tan An City, Long An province

On August 1st, 2020, the Launching Ceremony for the pilot model took place in Binh Dong 2 Commune, Ward 3, Tan An City with 425 households. Training for key staff, residential groups, and public organizations, schools, shops, etc. were conducted so that they would be able to communicate, guide, and assist citizens and households implement the waste separation practices according to the pilot model.



© Ngo Minh Hang / WWF-Viet Nam

After 2 months of successful implementation, the model was expanded for the whole Ward 3 and bordering areas with Ward 1, Ward 7 with about 4800 households. [Read more.](#)



**FISHERIES
AND MARINE
PROTECTED AREA**

500 fishing boats and cruise ships in Phu Quoc signed commitments to bring trash ashore

Mã hoạt động: 4.1.5



Workers of the Public Work Management Board collect garbage daily on Duong Dong River, Phu Quoc.
© WWF-Viet Nam

In response to the Phu Quoc Environment Day, on December 5th 2020, in the framework of BMU Project, WWF-Viet Nam coordinated with Phu Quoc District Economy Office and Duong Dong Port Border Control Committee has deployed awareness-raising activities for fishing boats and cruise ships in Duong Dong port about marine plastic debris on biodiversity and aquatic resources, and marine environment in Phu Quoc.

WWF-Viet Nam, Office of Economy, and Border Guard of Duong Dong Port Border attached 500 posters about marine plastic debris with content and messages close to the fishermen, distributed 500 recycled nets made of old fishing nets, and collected 500 pledges to stop dumping domestic waste and old fishing gears into the sea by fishing boats and cruise ships.



Communicational panel for fishermen.
© WWF-Viet Nam



Border guard attaches posters on marine plastic debris to fishing boat.
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Launch Con Dao Says no to Plastic bags pilot project at Con Dao market

Activity code: 4.3.4 and 1.1.6

On November 16th, 2020, in the framework of BMU Project, Dao District People's Committee (DPC), the Office of Natural resources and Environment (ONRE), and WWF-Viet Nam officially launched the project: **“Con Dao Says no to Plastic bags - Towards a goal of No plastic waste”** at Con Dao Market. With the support from the market management board, the launch ceremony attracted 74 market vendors and had many exciting activities: writing creative messages on blackboard with chalk to educate buyers; signing commitment to reduce giving plastic bags to buyers; introducing the rental stall that provided reusable bags in which 22 online news covered the event. WWF-Viet Nam also supported ONRE to establish a Facebook



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page to actively post related content and received 23,000 social engagements in just one week.

BMU Project will continue supporting ONRE and the market management board to survey the usage of plastic bags at the market, and training ONRE in using social media to raise awareness for Con Dao residents. [Read more.](#)

Organise training on organic waste treatment for Con Dao households

Activity code: 4.4.1



© Binh Vuong / WWF-Viet Nam

On November 23th, 2020 at the Community Center of Residential area No. 2, in the framework of BMU Project, Con Dao ONRE and WWF-Viet Nam organised a training on the trash situation of Con Dao and techniques to compost organic kitchen waste for 40 households in the area. Using

simple ingredients including leftover vegetables and greens kitchen waste, coconut fiber, effective microorganisms, and containers, the residents were excited to practice chopping leftover green waste, mixing with coconut fiber and effective microorganisms to make compost. Since the training was successful and received positive feedback from the participants, ONRE and WWF-Viet Nam planned to hold similar sessions for other residential areas and find suitable households with small farms to pilot models in composting organic waste from Con Dao market.

Organise workshop about plastic waste for key staff in Con Dao

Activity code: 4.5.3



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On November 24th, 2020 at the meeting hall of Con Dao DPC, Con Dao ONRE with the support of BMU Project organised a session on circular economy and reducing single-use plastic. 77 participants

attended including local government offices and associations, representatives of tourism companies, and community groups. The session stressed the waste situation of Con Dao, introduced threats of microplastic and experiences from WWF-Viet Nam's project in Phu Quoc. Similar sessions to communicate to the general audience will be organised to increase interaction with Con Dao community, connecting stakeholders to find solutions addressing plastic waste for the island.

Produce communicational videos on plastic waste for tourists coming to Con Dao

Activity code: 4.5.5



At the end of December 2020, together with Con Dao National Park (NP) in the framework of BMU Project, WWF-Viet Nam had completed 3 awareness videos with the key message: reducing single-use plastic to protect sea turtles, keep Con Dao a paradise, and introducing ways to reduce plastic waste. The short videos were not only filled with stunning sceneries of Con Dao but also contained

powerful images of waste pollution on the island. With striking, refreshing, and unique styles, the short videos hope to capture the attention of tourists visiting the island, who are still rising in numbers every year. The videos will be shown at Con Dao NP's ticket offices and education room, social media groups for Con Dao residents, and screens in public areas and ferries coming to the island.

Roll out communication activities about plastic waste for fishermen in Con Dao

Activity code: 4.5.1



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In November and December 2020, Con Dao NP with the support from the BMU Project organised 3 sessions to raise awareness for 40 fishermen in the Ben Dam port. This fishing port is identified as a plastic waste hotspot of fishing vessels littering. The engagement with this

audience is challenging due to the vessels are from other provinces and only stop in Con Dao for re-filling. Therefore, the BMU Project officer took the opportunity of fishing vessels not able to leave due to rough sea conditions, to organise 2 sessions on land and 1 session directly to anchoring boats. The BMU Project identified that awareness activity to discourage fishermen from littering to conserve fish stocks and ocean resources was essential, and the establishment of management regulations and building capacity for the management office at the port was the goal for upcoming years.

Carry out marine plastic debris monitoring program in the marine protected areas

Activity code: 4.5.1



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In the framework of the BMU Project, NP Management Board of Phu Quoc, Con Dao, and Cu Lao Cham have signed MOUs to implement waste surveys within the three marine protected areas (MPAs). The surveys will be conducted twice per year

to assess current situations of marine litter depending on seasonal wind direction.

The second survey of 2020 has been completed by November in Con Dao, and by December in Cu Lao Cham and Phu Quoc.

Clean up coral reef in Phu Quoc

Activity code: 4.5

The coral reef cleanup is a part of the MOU with the Phu Quoc NP which aims to clean up reefs in the core zones of Phu Quoc MPA. The Phu Quoc NP, with the support from the BMU Project, leads this activity with the support of voluntary professional scuba divers and young volunteers from Phu Quoc Green & Clean, and Youth Union in surveying waste composition and collecting waste from beaches on small islands.

The first survey was conducted on August 27th and 31st, 2020 with a total amount of 500kg waste from coral reefs, of which 325kg were many types of plastic waste,



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accounting for 65% of total collected waste. The second survey was conducted December 14th and 18th, 2020 with 365kg of waste collected, of which 75% were plastic and rubber.

Establish Cham Island Action Group for Marine Environment

Activity code: 4.4.1

On November 10th 2020, Management Board of Cu Lao Cam MPA issued the decision No. 59/QĐ-KBTB to establish the **“Action Group for the marine environment of Cham island”**, with the objectives of building a core group in the community to work together to mitigate marine plastic debris. This core group includes 35 members who are representatives of local people to participate in developing and deploying action plan in term of communication and monitoring of plastic waste reduction. After being established, the core group members were instructed to develop an action plan and attended training on marine waste surveying and monitoring methods.



© BQL KBTB Cù Lao Chàm

Communicating on plastic waste with 03 communities on Cham island and 09 coastal wards and communes in Hoi An City

Activity code: 4.5.5

In December 2020, Management Board of Cu Lao Cham MPA conducted 12 communication sessions on plastic waste for 158 delegates from 03 communities living in Cu Lao Cham and 458 delegates living in 09 coastal communes and wards in Hoi An city. The purpose of the activity is to raise awareness and of local people about the current situation and impacts

of plastic waste pollution, thereby calling people to join hands to reduce plastic waste. After staff of Cu Lao Cham MPA shared critical information about plastic waste's current status on Cu Lao Cham and its impacts on the environment and human health, delegates participated in discussions and exchanged opinions about how to reduce plastic waste.



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