



# **Regional Governance Frameworks relevant to Marine Plastics Pollution in Southeast Asia**

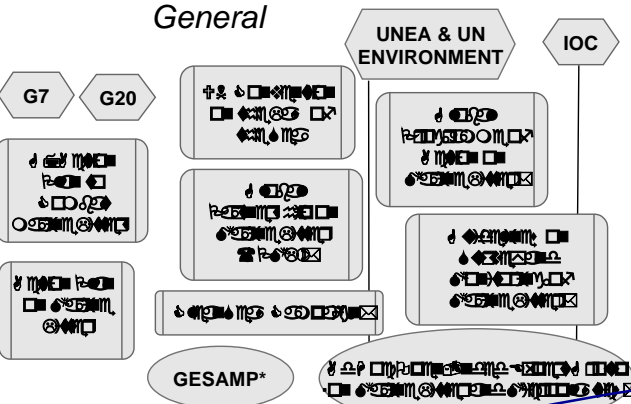
**Youna Lyons, Vu Hai Dang & Kanin Laopirun**

**SEA of Solutions  
11th November 2019, Bangkok, Thailand**

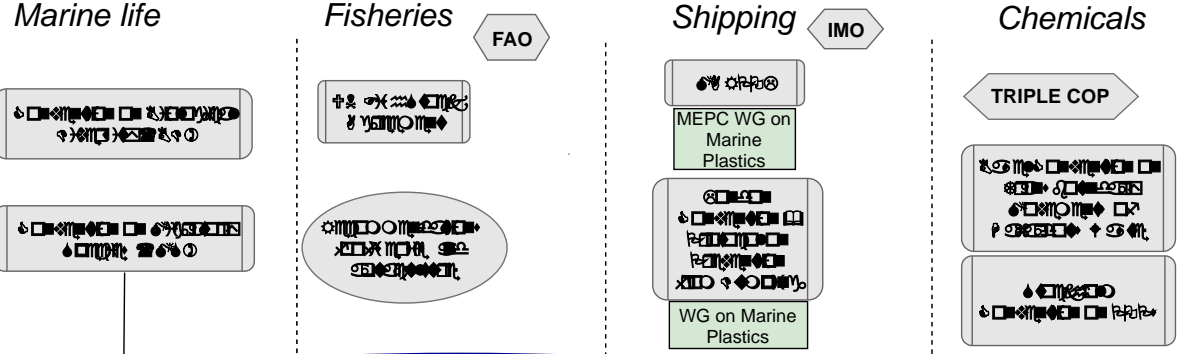
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NUS Research Project on combatting pollution from marine plastics through international law, governance and science – Youna Lyons, Neo Mei Lin, Amanda Lim, Vu Hai Dang, Kanin Laopirun and Yuke Ling Tay

GLOBAL



INTERNATIONAL LEGAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

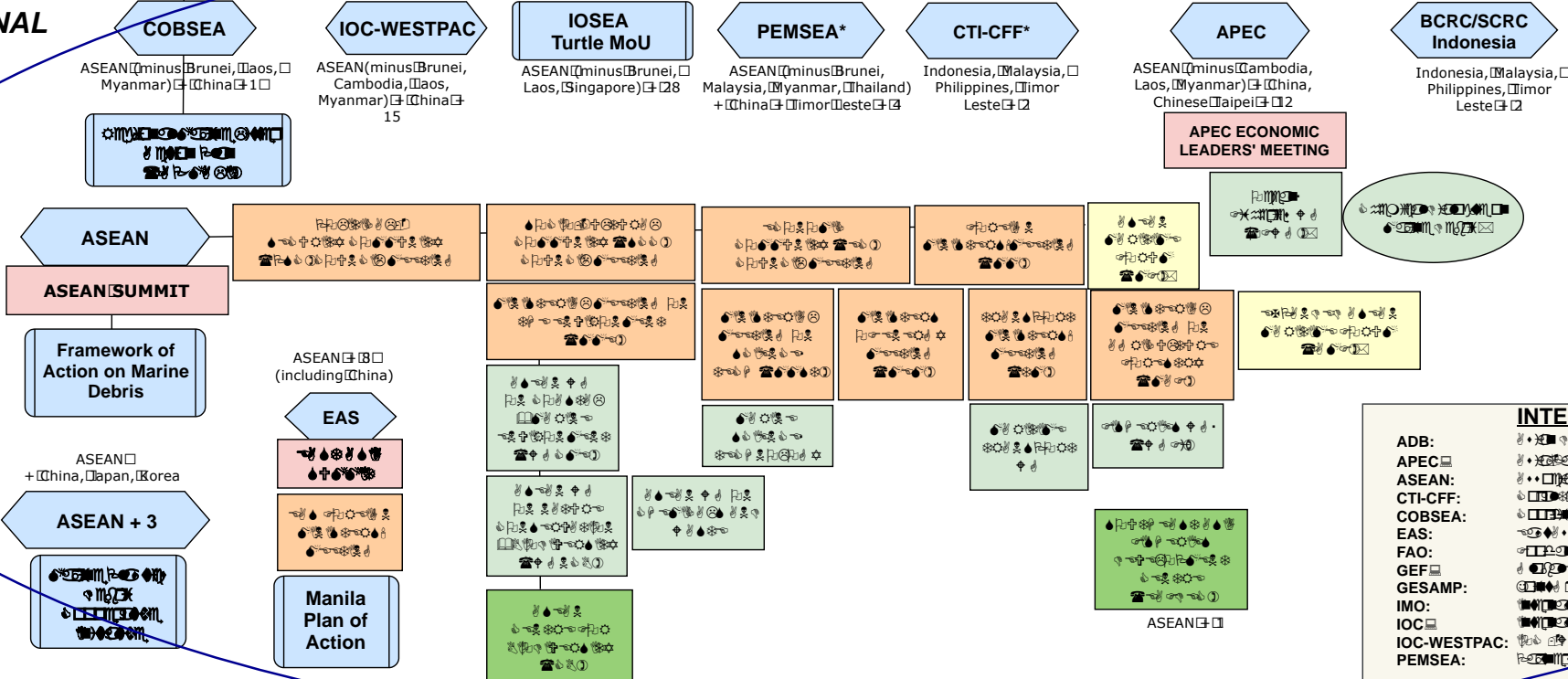


CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW National University of Singapore

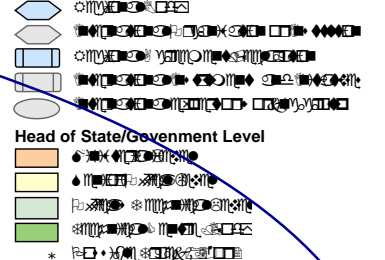
Ocean Law and Policy Programme

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND POLICY ON POLLUTION FROM MARINE PLASTICS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA<sup>1</sup>

REGIONAL



LEGEND



[Categorisation based on publicly available documents]

Footnote 1: Detailed notes regarding the categorization and data sources for the regional bodies.

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL BODIES

ADB:	Asian Development Bank
APEC:	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN:	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CTI-CFF:	Central Timor-Leste Interim Council of Fact-Finding
COBSEA:	Coastal Ocean Basin for Southeast Asian Waters
EAS:	East Asia Summit
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF:	Global Environment Facility
GESAMP:	Global Environment Status Assessment Programme
IMO:	International Maritime Organization
IOC:	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IOC-WESTPAC:	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission - Western Pacific
PEMSEA:	Partnership for Environmental Management in Southeast Asia

1. ASEAN
2. ASEAN+3 & EAS
3. East Asia Seas Mechanisms
4. APEC
5. COBSEA RAP MALI vs. ASEAN Bangkok Declaration and Framework of Action on Marine Debris

# ASEAN

- Members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam
- Three pillars for action: political-security, economic and socio-cultural

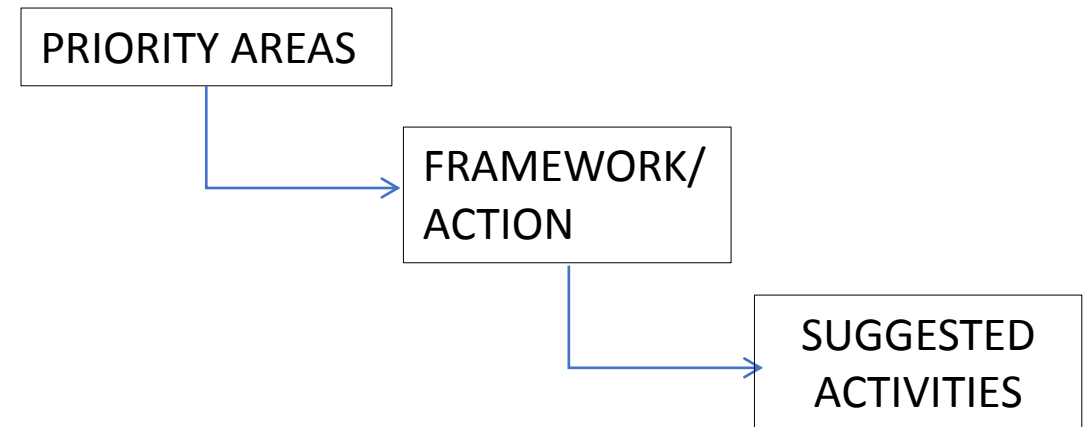
# Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region

- **STRENGTHEN** actions at the national level as well as through collaborative actions among the ASEAN Member States and partners...
- **ENCOURAGE** an integrated land-to-sea approach to prevent and reduce marine debris...
- **PROMOTE** inter-sectoral coordination between ASEAN sectoral bodies...
- **ENHANCE** the multi-stakeholder coordination and cooperation...
- **PROMOTE** private sector engagement and investment...
- **PROMOTE** innovative solutions to enhance plastics value chains and improve resource efficiency...
- **STRENGTHEN** research capacity and application of scientific knowledge...
- **ACCELERATE** advocacy and actions to increase public awareness and participation

# ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris

## 4 priority areas:

- Policy Support and Planning
- Research, Innovation, and Capacity Building
- Public Awareness, Education, and Outreach
- Private Sector Engagement



# ASEAN + 3 (China, Korea and Japan)

ASEAN + 3 Marine Plastics Debris Cooperative Action Initiative,  
November 2018, Singapore:

- Improve management of plastic waste by environmentally sound waste management and “3R”
- Promote awareness, research and education on marine plastic debris
- Strengthen regional and international cooperation

# East Asian Seas Summit

- ASEAN + 8 (China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea and United States)
- EAS Leaders Summit Statement on 15 November 2019, Singapore:
  - + IMPROVE and promote environmentally sound management of plastic waste and resource efficiency, including circular economy, product life-cycle management, sustainable materials management, and “3R” approaches
  - + PROMOTE awareness, research and education on marine plastic debris
  - + ENHANCE cooperation in policy reform and law enforcement
  - + IMPLEMENT policies that incentivise the private sector and end-user in reducing and combating marine plastic debris
  - + STRENGTHEN regional and international cooperation



# COBSEA

- Members: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam
- Mission: supporting the development and protection of the marine environment and coastal areas of East Asian Seas

# COBSEA Regional Action Plan for Marine Litters

- Adopted in 2008, reviewed in 2019
- Key actions:
  1. Preventing and reducing marine litter from land-based sources
  2. Preventing and reducing marine litter from sea-based sources
  3. Monitoring and assessment of marine litter
  4. Activities supporting the implementation of COBSEA RAP MALI

# PEMSEA

- Members: Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timo-Leste and Viet Nam
- Mission: foster and sustain healthy and resilient coasts and oceans, communities and economies across the Seas of East Asia through integrated management solutions and partnerships
- Projects on waste management in Thailand and Viet Nam

# APEC

- Members: 21 Pacific Rim Member Economies (Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Hong Kong-China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, United States and Viet Nam)
- Mission: Accelerating regional economic integration
- Mechanisms dealing with Plastics:
  - + Ocean and Fisheries Working Group
  - + Chemical Dialogue
  - + Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris

So far 13 projects relating to marine plastics have been implemented under APEC:

- APEC Marine Debris Stakeholder Meeting on Improving Data and Coordination and Developing New Partnership
- Study on the Origin and Distribution of Microplastics in Typical Marine APEC Region
- APEC Marine Debris Management Guidelines

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# COBSEA's RAP MALI vs. ASEAN's Bangkok Declaration and Framework of Action on Marine Debris

**COBSEA REGIONAL ACTION PLAN  
ON MARINE LITTER (RAP MALI) 2019**

**BANGKOK DECLARATION ON  
COMBATING MARINE DEBRIS IN ASEAN  
REGION & ASEAN FRAMEWORK OF  
ACTION ON MARINE DEBRIS 2019**

**GOALS**

- 1) Sustainable and integrated marine litter management in the East Asian Seas region
- 2) Delivery of SDG 14.1 on marine pollution prevention and reduction and associated targets

**OBJECTIVES**

- 1) Prevent and reduce to the minimum marine litter pollution in the marine and coastal environment of the East Asian Seas Region
- 2) Foster sustainable consumption and production in a multi-stakeholder whole lifecycle approach to prevent and reduce leakage at source
- 3) Remove to the extent possible already existent marine litter by using environmentally acceptable methods
- 4) Improve monitoring and assessment of marine litter and its impacts for a science-based approach
- 5) Enhance knowledge sharing and awareness about marine litter and its impacts amongst all stakeholders and all groups of society in the East Asian Seas Region
- 6) Support national efforts towards adequate institutional, policy and implementation frameworks, cross sector coordination and regional and international cooperation

COBSEA REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON MARINE LITTER (RAP MALI) 2019	BANGKOK DECLARATION ON COMBATING MARINE DEBRIS IN ASEAN REGION & ASEAN FRAMEWORK OF ACTION ON MARINE DEBRIS 2019
<b><u>Action 1: Preventing and reducing marine litter from land-based sources</u></b>	
1.1) Legal & economic instruments	Notable focus of ASEAN Framework on Basel Convention and Regional Centre as well as Extended Producer Responsibility
1.2) Integrated waste management	ASEAN framework is less specific: no mention of illegal dumping and rivers
1.3) Removal of existing litter and its disposal	No mention of clean-ups in ASEAN Framework
<b><u>Action 2: Preventing and reducing marine litter from sea-based sources</u></b>	
2.1) Legal & economic instruments	ASEAN framework is less specific: no mention of Reception facilities, London Convention and FAO Code of Conduct or other code of conduct
2.2) Removal of existing litter and its disposal	No mention of clean-ups in ASEAN Framework
<b><u>Action 3: Monitoring and assessment of marine litter</u></b>	
3.1) Expert group	No specific mention of establishment of expert group for monitoring in ASEAN Framework but extensive mention of review of analysis and status in research and capacity building
3.2) Regional & national marine litter monitoring programs	Might not be fully included - No such programme mentioned but reference to exploring standardization of monitoring and evaluation methods, as well as regional baseline report
<b><u>Action 4: Activities supporting the implementation of COBSEA RAP MALI</u></b>	
4.1) Regional & international cooperation and reporting	Similar objectives but different language. Could regional task force efforts and information platforms be joined?
4.2) National planning & policy frameworks	Mostly equivalent
4.3) Research activities	Comparable but different language. Alignment may be possible
4.4) Information, education, outreach & involvement	Mostly equivalent
4.5) Training & capacity building	