STOCKTAKE REPORT

ON MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION AND ITS SOURCES IN THE CORAL TRIANGLE

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CTI-CFF Stocktake on Marine Plastic Pollution & Upstream Sources

Background:

- **15th CTI-CFF Senior Officials Meeting** Nov 2019 **-** requested a stocktake report on marine plastic pollution in the Coral Triangle & provide potential strategies
- **Stocktake conducted** October 2020 to June 2021
- **Draft report submitted to CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat for Pre SOM** in November 2021
- **Review period** January – August 2022

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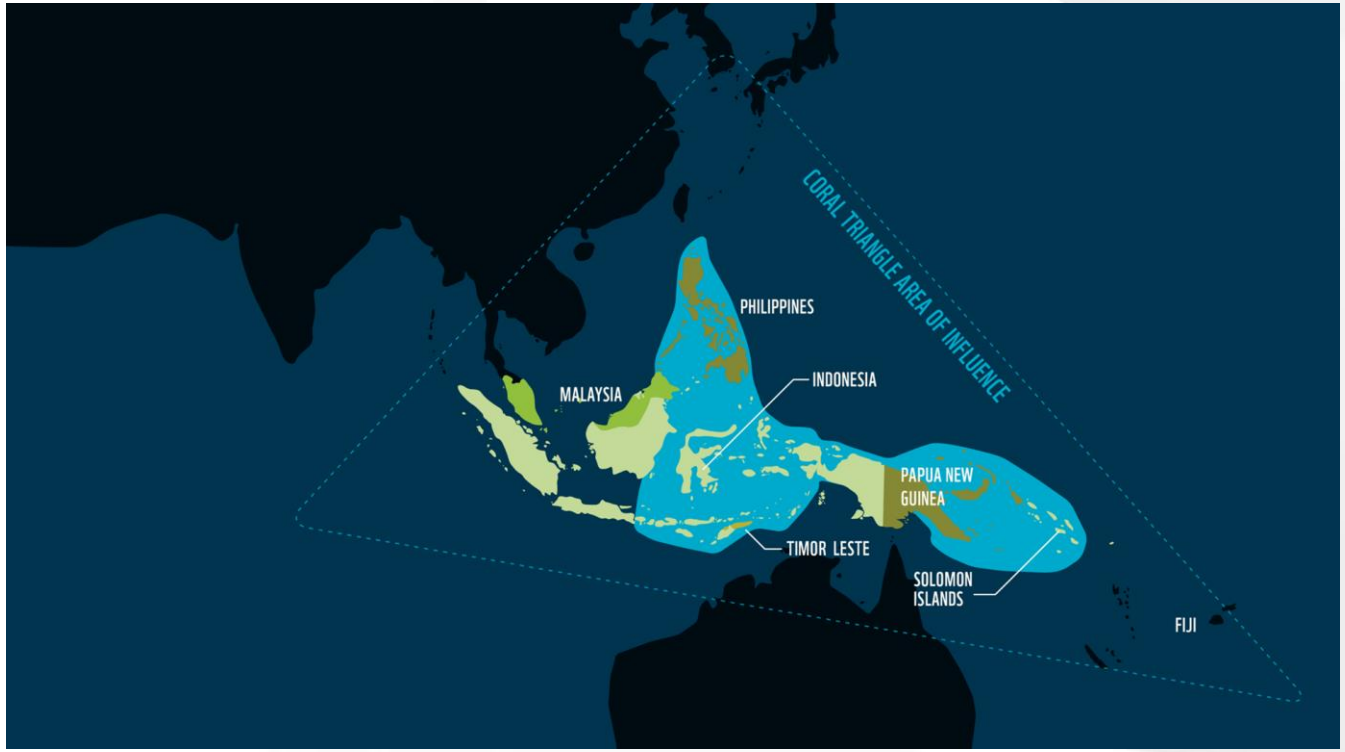
Why a Stocktake was needed for the Coral Triangle



- **Significant volumes** of marine plastic pollution entering Coral Triangle waters
- **Impacts** on human & ecosystem health including MPAs
- **Affects key industries** - fishing, aquaculture, tourism, shipping
- **Coastal communities** dependent on these sectors for income, livelihoods
- **Need information** on sources, volumes, hotspots – to guide national, regional, global actions
- **Raise awareness** on MPA & conservation priority areas, coastal communities, tourism centres, Local level government

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Objectives of Stocktake

1. **Better understand scale** of marine plastic pollution & its sources

2. **Identify actions / existing strategies** by CT6 govts, local govt, strategic partners, MPAs, private sector, civil society, academia

3. **Identify appropriate scalable/** adaptable solutions

4. **Assess applicability** of existing initiatives

5. **Identify** potential sources of funds/ support

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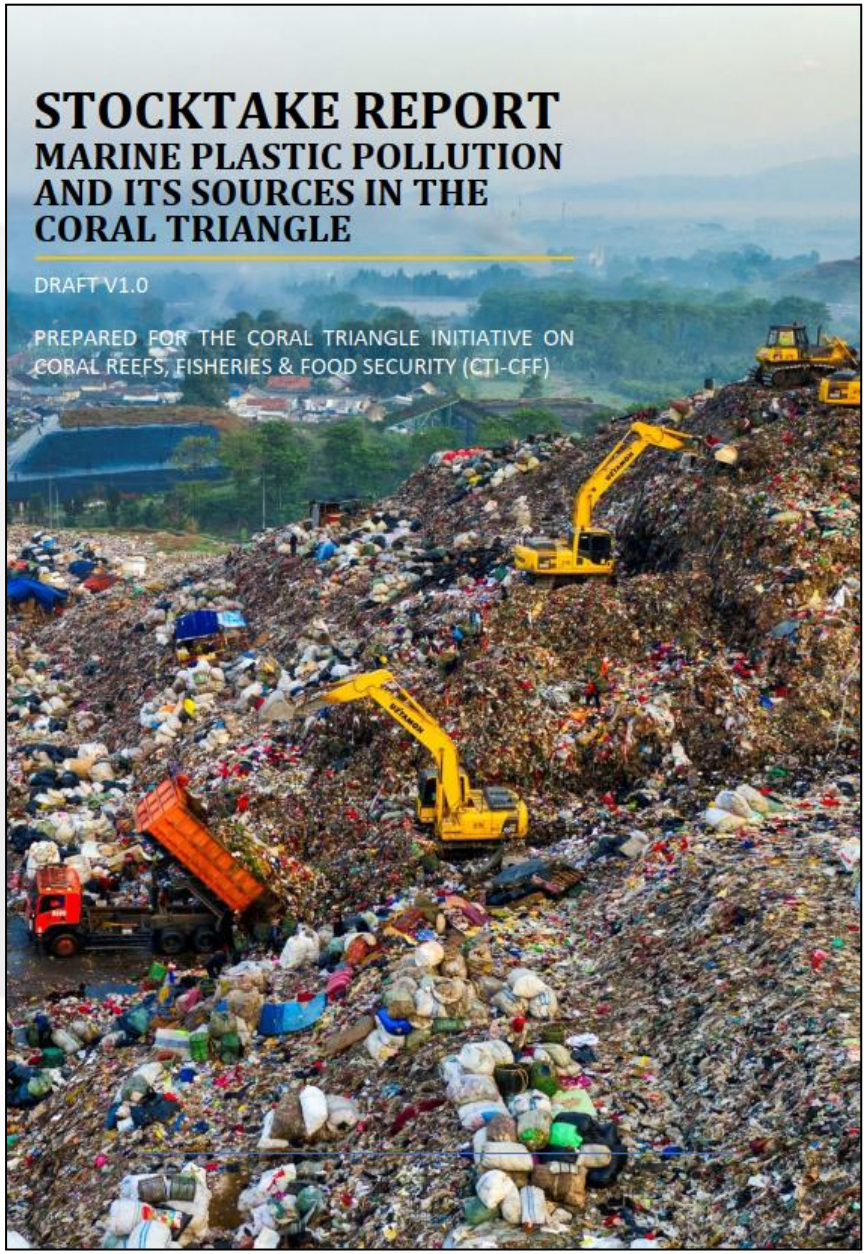
Stocktake components

- **Types & volume** of marine plastic pollution
- **Sources** from **land & sea-based activities**
- **Trade** in plastic waste for recycling
- Local Govt & MPA **Case Studies**
- Current & planned **Govt actions**
- Current **strategies, initiatives, models, best practices** for scaling
- **Funding sources & support** for activities / initiatives
- **Resources**
- **Recommendations**



Findings from the Coral Triangle

1. Estimated **6.17 M Tonnes mismanaged plastic waste** produced annually (2010) - predicted to **more than double by 2025**, based on business-as-usual (Jambeck et al., 2015)

2. Potentially up to **2.5 M Tonnes plastic entering ocean annually** from CT6 (2010 fig.)

3. CT6 govts, industry & civil society **engaged in actions** to address marine plastic pollution

4. **Multiple regional /national strategies & initiatives** in Asia Pacific

5. **Complex problem** - No one solution; a systemic shift is needed

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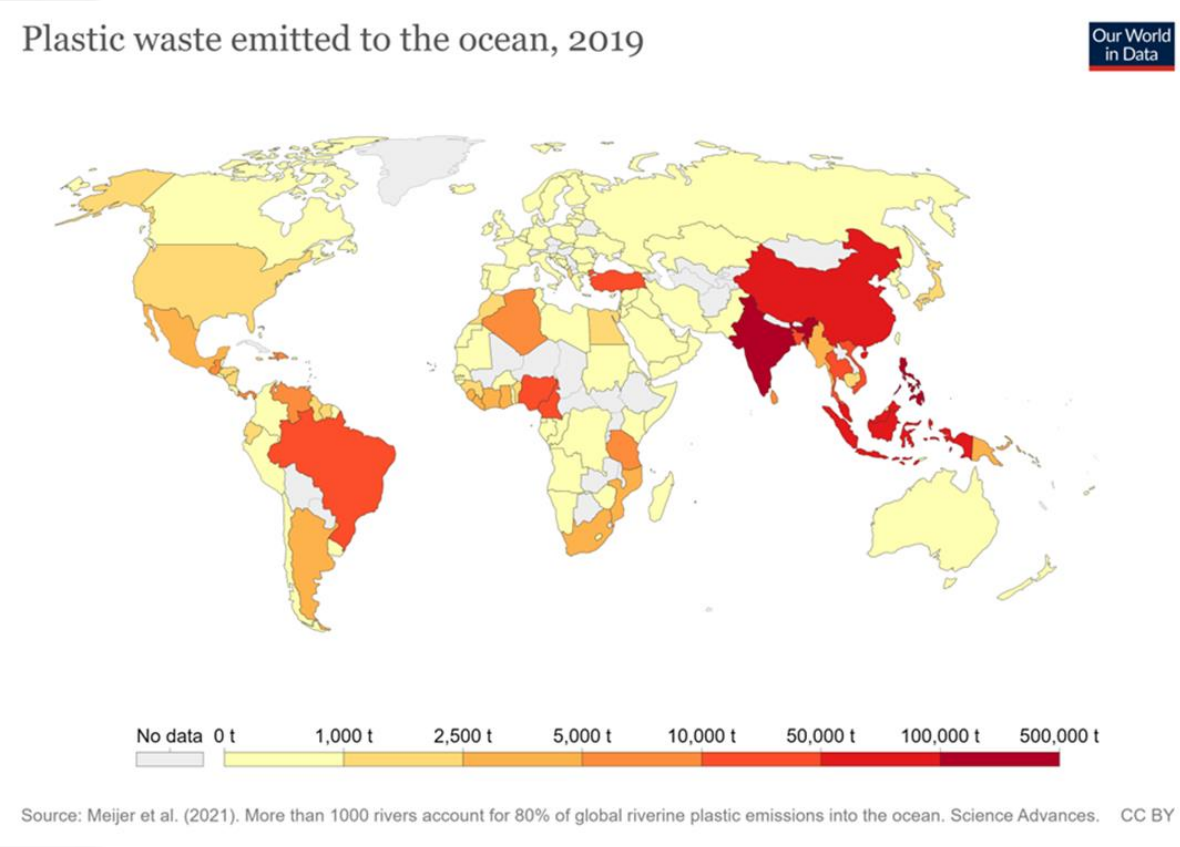
Key factors for high plastic waste in the Coral Triangle

- Marine litter is a **transboundary** challenge
- **Mismanaged waste a major contributor** of plastic leakage to Oceans
- **Unsustainable production & consumption**
- **Poor solid waste management**; lack of **infrastructure**; low rates of **recycling**
- Lack of adequate **legal & policy** frameworks; poor **enforcement**
- A lack of **consistent data** on plastic sources & leakage
- Lack of **financial & human capacity** to cope with escalating volumes of land & sea-based waste
- **Increasing demand** for plastics packaging & products
- Vulnerable communities often **lack resources for alternatives** to plastic or to manage plastic waste
- Large **influx of plastic waste** to SEA from Europe & US, (legal & illegal)
- **Growth in global fisheries** contributes abandoned, lost, discarded fishing gear to the ocean



Tackling the plastic pollution challenges

Requires **significant changes** in the way we **produce, consume, and dispose** of plastic..... ***a system change from a linear to a circular economy "where plastic never becomes waste".*** (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2018).

"Further innovation in resource-efficient & low-emission business models, reuse & refill systems, sustainable substitute materials, waste management technologies, effective government policies", (Lau, et al., 2020).

"Ideally, addressing the problem as far upstream as possible, from point of manufacture & throughout entire supply chain*, long before waste enters the coastal & marine environments will yield the* ***best outcomes & see the least waste lost to the environment."*** (Hardesty, et al., 2021).

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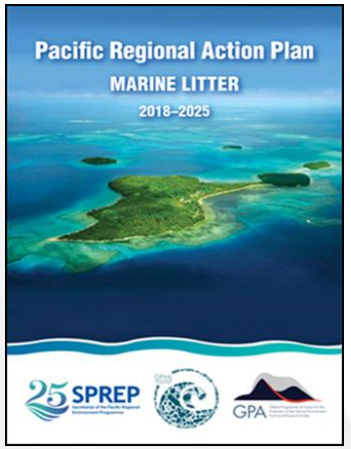
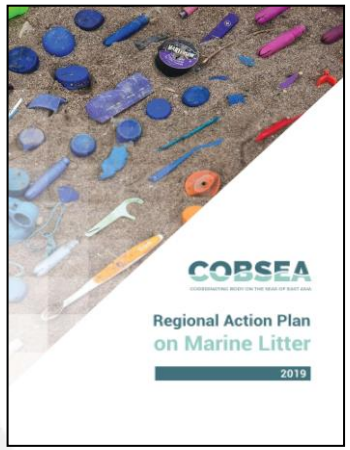
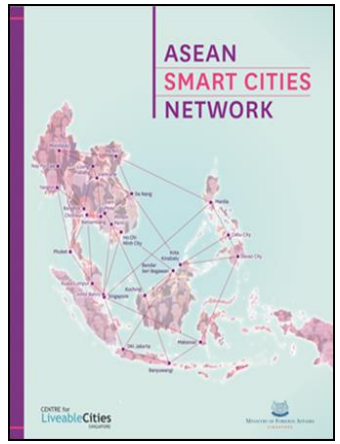
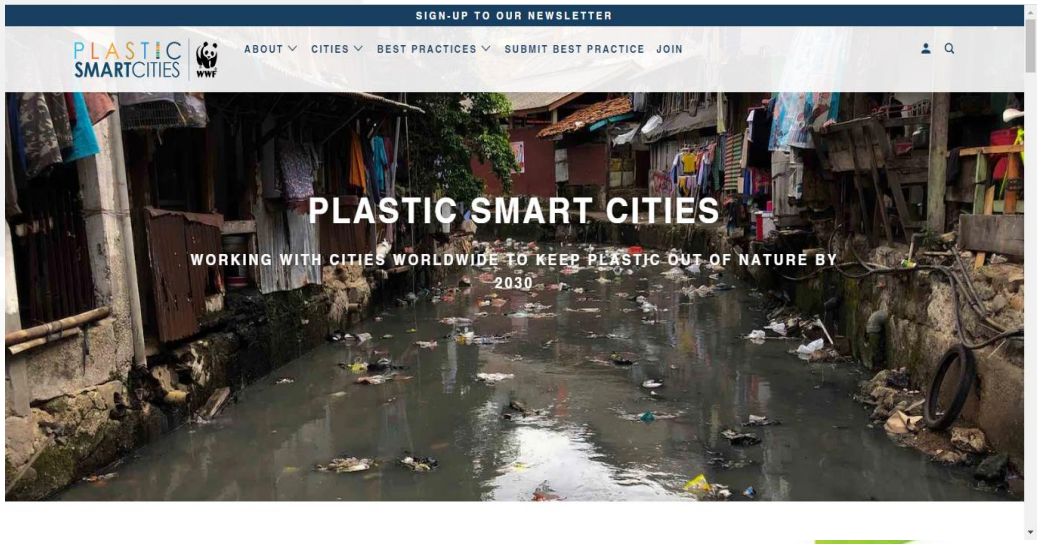
Discussion & Recommendations from Stocktake Report

- Recognize **vast amount of valuable information & work** already in place across Asia Pacific
- Encourage CTI-CFF to **utilize & build on efforts** by ASEAN, COBSEA, SPREP, UNEP, IUCN, & CTI-CFF Strategic Partners
- Advocate **multi-stakeholder collaboration, whole of supply chain & circular economy approaches**
- Recognize **CTI-CFF unique advantage** to bridge regional strategies & frameworks
- Support **CTI-CFF cross-sharing of knowledge & resources**; **collaboration** to foster new innovation & fill information gaps
- Support **policy & capacity-building ambitions to protect 30 % of coastal / marine waters by 2030 (30x30)**.
- Contribute to SDGs, particularly **Goal 14, Life Below Water**.









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CTI-CFF Regional Recommendations

1. **Engage academia, NGOs, Strategic Partners, Regional Orgs** (e.g. ASEAN, COBSEA, SPREP) & partnerships to identify **potential areas of collaboration i.e.**

    - **Share knowledge & resources** to support CT6 implement NPOAs on marine litter, build circular economies
    - Develop a **common research & monitoring agenda** for data collection
    - **Regional baseline & monitoring** with standardized /comparable measures
    - **Standardization of definitions** for plastic products & biodegradability
    - **Harmonized policies & regulations** i.e. Solid waste management, extended producer responsibility
    - Information sharing on **innovations & technology & approaches** for circular economy
    - Innovating /scaling **environmentally sound alternatives to plastic**
    - **Leverage private sector compliance** with sustainable consumption & production in packaging/plastics use
    - **Raise financial support & investment** for addressing plastic pollution
    - Regional/global cooperation to **stop illegal shipments** of plastic waste to CT countries

2. **Build into CTI-CFF 10-year capacity-building road map, knowledge management & sharing of local initiatives & solutions** that address marine plastic pollution to scale successful models, pilots demonstration projects **through CTI-CFF networks and regional exchanges**.

3. **Join Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI)** to share knowledge & best practices to CTI-CFF networks

National level recommendations for consideration

1. Develop /adapt existing **National Waste Management & Marine Litter Action Plans** to include circular economy approaches.
2. Develop **national policy & investment plans** as part of solid waste management (e.g. improved collection, recycling, source segregation, final disposal options)
3. **Reduce institutional fragmentation & strengthen legislation** to address upstream sources of waste & implement circular economy solutions.
4. **Encourage zero waste businesses models** to replace plastic with reusable packaging & provide services that eliminate need for plastics.
5. **Facilitate integration of local level govt** in development / implementation of national plans & strategies that support coastal communities, MPA/MMA management groups, tourism centres deal with marine debris **(& contribute to 30%x30 ambition)**.
6. Encourage **integration of the Global Ghost Gear Initiative Best Practice Framework & FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Marking of Fishing Gear** in national fisheries policies & regulations, where appropriate.
7. Support **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)** to develop **international legally binding treaty** that maintains **highest level of ambition** with transformative approach to address full lifecycle of plastics to end plastic pollution (Revised Sept 2022)

Next Steps

Draft Recommendations for Pre-SOM consideration:

1. **Receive** the Coral Triangle Plastic Pollution Stocktake report
2. **MEWG to submit report to Pre-SOM** November 2022
3. **Request Pre-SOM approve** the final stocktake report for publication and launch in Q1 2023

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