# A summary of the Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities project outcomes 2017-2021



**IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme**

## Summary

The Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities (MARPLASTICCs) project yielded 165 outcomes[1], ranging from facilitating new national policies and action plans for managing plastic pollution, fostering national-level partnerships, and  capacity building. All of these outcomes have contributed to achieving the project's goals which were to:

Examples of the secondary outcomes where actors were responsible for more than one outcomes were those related to the Circular Economy (CE) projects. For example, CE enterprises had multiple outcomes with 35 business sector outcomes being associated with 24 actors .



*Circular Economy Project, 2020, IUCN*

*Ongoing plastic pollution prevention work will bank on the gains of MARPLASTICCs and focus on the suite of knowledge products developed to date. Cascading these to other countries in the region will significantly increase the breadth and depth of the collective work on tackling marine plastics.*

*- Maeve Nightingale, MARPLASTICCs Regional Coordinator, Asia Regional Office, IUCN*

demonstrate the value of exploring different way to monitor progress as many of the unexpected outcomes would have probably not been captured if we had only focused on tracking progress against indicators.

*Figure 7. Expected and Unexpected outcomes by key result area.*

## Significance of Outcomes

Assessing the relative importance of the identified outcomes in relation to the project's goals indicated that the majority of observed outcomes were considered

action. Only 6% of the outcomes were rated as no or a low contribution (1 or 2 rating). Seventy-two percent of the project outcomes were rated as 4 or 5 (would not have happened without MARPLASTICCs).
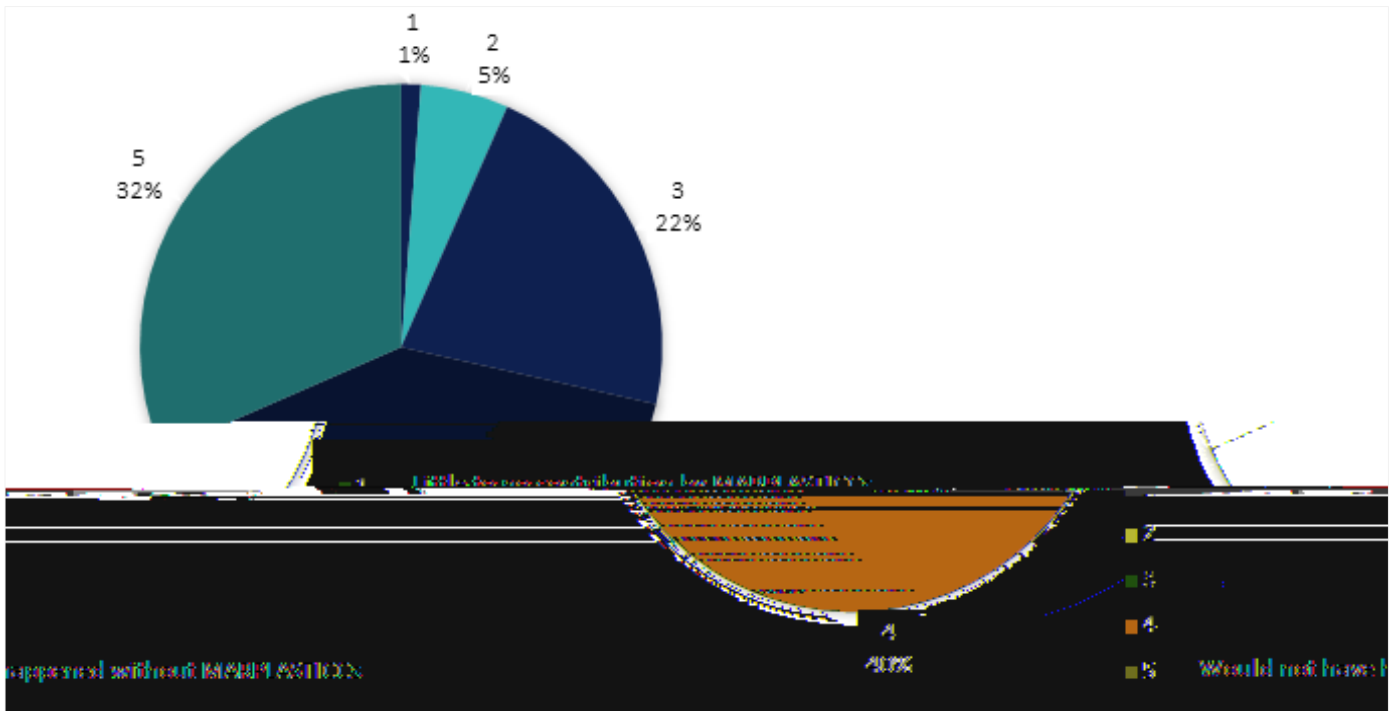


*Figure 9. The contribution ratings of how much MARPLASTICCs contributed to the outcomes, with totals and percentages. Contribution rating of 1 indicated little to no contribution of MARPLASTICCs, it would have happened anyway, whereas a 5-rating meant it would not have happened without MARPLASTICCs interventions.*

*All of the actions implemented under the MARPLASTICCs initiative converge to contribute to strengthened regional and national frameworks to address marine litter and plastic pollution throughout the lifecycle of plastics and this work is catalysing the transition towards a circular economy.*

*- Peter Manyara, MARPLASTICCs Coordinator, Eastern & Southern Africa Regional Office, IUCN*

## Conclusion

With complex projects such as MARPLASTICCS, often the changes occur towards the end of the project cycle, as demonstrated by the 100 additional outcomes observed in 2021. Integrating and reinforcing the linkages between the Hotspotting tools and guidance, disseminating and linking their results to the policy knowledge products were key success factors in 2021. The circular economy outcomes and collaborations were key to identifying the causal links of MARPLASTICCs interventions and driving change.

The project's knowledge outputs reinforced  and will continue to reinforce each other to provide a solution "package" for the target countries and additional countries that are interested in a comprehensive methodology to tackle plastic pollution.

In a world where the annual production of plastic each year exceeds 300 million tonnes, and given the non-existent or weak infrastructure for managing plastic waste

existent or

| # | O U T C O M E \| Outcome statement | Country / Region | Primary Output | Results Framework Output |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | In 2019, Directorate of Fisheries (DFISH), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) developed an Action Plan to reduce the plastic pollution from fishery sector | Viet Nam | Output 3 (Policy) | 3.3 |
| 2 | In July 2019, the ASEAN, through the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment, declared to combat the impacts of marine debris through the Bangkok Declaration during the ASEAN Senior Environment Ministers Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. | Thailand | Output 3 (Policy) | 3.3 |
| 3 | In 2019, UNEP Life Cycle initiated public sharing or the IUCN-UNEP plastic hotspot methodology for review 1) internally with IUCN Global Plastics Team and 2) about 40 experts. | Global | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.1, 1.3 |
| 4 | In 2020, South Africa's Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), revised a draft five year national waste strategy that considers and integrates a marine plastics dimension for the first time ever. | South Africa | Output 3 (Policy) | 3.3 |
| 5 | Between Sept 2019 and Feb 2020, The Jan and Oscar Foundation set up a recycling center in Ranong and mobilized/ motivated communities to collect marine plastic | Thailand | Output 2 (Capacity) | 2.1 |
| 6 | In 2020, WWF-Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF) group expanded its network to include UNEP-Nairobi and UNEP Life Cycle into developing Global Metrics on plastic leakage | Global | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.1, 1.3 |
| 7 | In 2019, French Institute of Research and Development (IRD) moved beyond the traditional "science-policy interface" to a network of scientists, industry representatives (large and small scale), NGOs, and policy makers working together towards joint solutions | Viet Nam | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.3 |
| 8 | In 2019, Quantis-EA participation in the IUCN publication "Review of plastic footprint methodologies" resulted in the development of a Business Footprint Methodology as a response to a gap identified in the assessment. | Global | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.1, 1.3, 4.1 |
| 9 | In October 2020, The fisher communities of Thailand that are engaged with IUCN in this project collected marine plastics (40,000 kg PET bottles) for the recycling centre of the Jan & Oscar Foundation | Thailand | Output 4 (Business) | 2.1 |
| 10 | In 2019, Nestle revised their internal strategies on Plastic interventions, changing focus from CSR beach clean ups to commit to more sustainable and impactful actions. | Global | Output 4 (Business) | 4.1 |
| 11 | As of October 2019, Directorate of Fishery (DFISH), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) have increased knowledge of the current issues of plastic pollution from fisheries activities based on the evidence based data from beach monitoring and assessment conducted in 12 marine protected areas | Viet Nam | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.1, 1.3 |
| 12 | In 2018, national strategic coalition comprising government, business, civil society and academia, was established in Kenya to review and guide project implementation. Its role, scope, and function defined and agreed by coalition members. | Kenya | Output 3 (Policy) | 3.3 |
| 13 | In 2018, national stakeholders in Kenya outlined a Theory of Change for the MARPLASTICCs project that identifies top priorities and actions for consideration and implementation within the project. | Kenya | Output 2 (Capacity) | 2.1, 1.3 |
| 14 | In February 2020, fifteen organizations (government, academe, research, NGOs, businesses, interest groups (divers)) working on the issue of Abandoned, Lost, Discarded Gear (ALDG) formed an informal alliance to share information and collaborate on the design and implementation of projects in relation to research, knowledge and education, policy and practical solutions to resolve/ mitigate the issue of marine debris from fishing. | Thailand | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.1 |
| 15 | In November 2019, join coordination committee of Vu Gia - Thu Bon River Basin in Quang Nam and Da Nang increased their understanding of plastic pollution impact from upstream to downstream using the source to sea methodology at a river basin level | Viet Nam | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.1, 1.3 |
| 16 | In Feb 2020, Evergreen Lab (Social Enterprise) received the formal authorization to establish its processing centre facility for the pilot circular economy project in Hoi An City | Viet Nam | Output 4 (Business) | 2.1 |
| 17 | In 2019, the national legal expert effectively advised the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and other policy stakeholders including Vietnam Packaging Recycle Organization (PROVN) to direct specific policy interest including Extended ▮▮▮▮ucer Responsibility (EPR) | Viet Nam | Output 3 (Policy) | 3.3 |
| 18 | ▮▮▮19, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Ministry of Public Health reviewed policy in relation to the ban on the use of secondary plastic in food and beverage products based on scientific evidence demonstrating that there are no risks to human health | Thailand | Output 3 (Policy) | 3.3 |
| 19 | | | | |

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| 20 | In 2019, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya identified the national plastic hotspot assessment as the most important deliverable of the MARPLASTICCs project in guiding the country towards reducing marine plastic pollution. | Kenya | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 |
| 21 | In 2019, various stakeholders including governments, policymakers, NGO partners, academic institutions and the private sector from the five MARPLASTICCs countries understood and shared the importance of tackling plastic pollution. | Global | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.1, 1.3 |
| 22 | In 2019, WWF Thailand expressed their interest to use the MARPLASTICCs hotspot footprint methodology for one of its large plastics project and to support the data gap filling requirements for the national hotspot in Thailand improving accuracy of the output from the national analysis. | Thailand | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 |
| 23 | In 2019, the Kenya Sustainable Inclusive Business engaged IUCN to further the circular economy agenda amongst business and industry actors. | Kenya | Output 4 (Business) | 4.3 |
| 24 | In 2018, Nairobi Convention considered IUCN's inputs towards passage of decision CP.9/3. Management of marine litter and municipal wastewater in the Western Indian Ocean, which among others considers the development of a regional strategy or action plan on the management of marine litter and microplastics; establishment of a marine litter regional technical working group in the Western Indian Ocean region; development of capacity-building programmes on marine litter and microplastics; and phasing out of plastic microbeads. | Eastern and Southern African Region | Output 3 (Policy) | 3.3 |

| # | O U T C O M E \| Outcome statement | Country / Region | Primary Output | Results Framework Output |
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| 68 | In 2021, there is a marked increase in awareness of the MARPLASTICCs project and plastic pollution in Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Thailand and Viet Nam, regionally and globally thru more frequent targeted global communications. | Global | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.3, 2.3, 3.3 |
| 69 | In 2020, Thailand B-DNA Advisory Committee made a recommendation to focus on tackling plastic pollution and will conduct study of how marine debris affects biodiversity in Thailand | Thailand | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 4.1, 4.2 |
| 70 | In 2020, the Minister Barbara Creecy acknowledged IUCN's partnership and contribution to strengthening knowledge and circular economy action in the country. This follows her previous vocal support in 2019. | South Africa | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.3, 2.3 |
| 71 | In 2020, representatives from 130 Businesses had their awareness raised on EPR and Circular Economy at the 5th Annual Sustainable Inclusive Business in Nairobi Kenya | Kenya | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.3, 2.3 |
| 72 | As of 2021, 1,185,520 users of ECOLEX have access to The MARPLASTICCs policy reports (total 9). | Global | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.3, 2.3, 3.3 |
| 73 | In 2020, UNEP's 2nd Global Waste Management Outlook on marine plastic policy response report included feedback from MARPLASTICCs. | Global | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.3, 3.3 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 86 | In 2021, the Africa Marine Waste Network disseminated the results of the South Africa national plastics hotspotting assessment to more than 100 stakeholders | South Africa | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.3 |
| 87 | The Western Indian Ocean Regional TWG on Marine Litter and Microplastics advanced action to address marine plastic pollution in 2020 and preliminary results were presented at the Nairobi Convention Science to Policy forum. | Eastern and Southern African Region | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.3, 2.3 |
| 88 | In 2020, WIOMSA (Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association) showcased MARPLASTICCs supported circular economy project implemented by the WMA in Kenya through its regional newsletter sent to more than 1000 individual and institutional members | Eastern and Southern African Region | Output 2 (Capacity) | 2.3 |
| 89 | In 2020, The Sustainable Inclusive Business (SIB-Kenya), a subsidiary of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance, produced and posted on the Panorama platform a set of best practices case studies on circular actions across the region | Eastern and Southern African Region | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.3, 4.3 |
| 90 | In 2020, the South Africa's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, under its Waste RDI Roadmap decided to investigate possible pathways to improve the management of waste in low-income communities by exploring options to formalize illegal dump sites, with a focus on Drakenstein Municipality, Cape Town" | South Africa | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.3, 4.3 |
| 91 | In 2021, DEFF invited MARPLASTICCs as a reference point to the review of the national plastics carrier bags and plastic bags regulations. | South Africa | Output 3 (Policy) | 1.3, 4.3 |
| 92 | In 2020, Technical Univ Delft Netherlands decided to use findings from MARPLASTICCs to inform a global study on polices for a circular economy. | Global | Output 3 (Policy) | 1.3, 3.3, 4.3 |
| 93 | Water Research Commission of South Africa invited MARPLASTICCs to support in the identification of projects for potential funding in 2020. Projects are aimed at assessing patterns, distributions and impacts of microplastics between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. | South Africa | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.3, 3.3, 4.3 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 105 | In 2020, Second Life has engaged/ partnered with the Jan & Oscar CE pilot project and Wong Pangit Krabi providing essential opportunity to develop new value chains for plastic materials, offering premium and stable prices for plastic scrap, internalizing costs of transport from islands (for recyclable and non-recyclable materials) | Thailand | Output 1 (Knowledge) | 1.3, 3.3, 4.3 |
| 106 | In 2021, World Bank support the baseline data collection for implementing the Action | | | |

# Annex 2: MARPLASTICCs Theory of Change