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IUCN Marine: Close the Plastic Tap Programme Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities Project



The aim of this international workshop was answer questions, and to share knowledge on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) across the workshop partner activities related to the topic. In all, 56 participants attended, representing parties from government, academia, NGOs, and civil society in Thailand, Viet Nam, and globally, making this a truly international exchange of ideas and knowledge.

The workshop and ensuing discussion highlighted the following issues/items:

The future road map of EPR in both Thailand and Viet Nam: What needs to happen in the next 2-5 years?

Thailand: Both the government and the private sector need to be more involved in the EPR discussions. In the broader political context, many ministries need to be involved with clear roles and linkages. Fiscal measures need to be evaluated to understand the impact of EPR. As policy instruments change with government changes, there are challenges with the consistency of these efforts.

Viet Nam: In the next 6 months, additional stakeholders need to be engaged as the process is moving rapidly, these include solid waste management stakeholders, ministries, others as identified in the multistakeholder platform and clearinghouse mechanism. In the next 5 years there is much to be done with the implementation of the clearinghouse, decree approval, and the plans outlined for 2023-2027.

IUCN's role to accompany this process?

IUCN noted that it has an active role to play in EPR in Asia, as a neutral organisation, it is able to bring stakeholders together and as a neutral party can create effective spaces for dialogue and learning. Our ongoing presence in both countries and long-standing relationships with the governments and ministries places us in a good position to continue to facilitate positive change in the EPR arena.

Indicators and Measuring Impact. Estimating the expected reduction in leakage of plastic into the environment from the strong EPR regulations.

In both countries, it is difficult to estimate this, but it was noted that in Viet Nam, in the next 3 years, until the recycling and waste treatment issues are fixed, there will be limited progress. Both countries need baselines and indicators set up first, additional data, and improved data management systems to implement EPR and manage data from the implementation effectively.

Recommendations to strengthen the EPR development processes

Thailand: Guidance needed on the legal formulation of decrees, funding needed to facilitate the process. There are also issues with national

security

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- The [redacted] is a unique voluntary-based mechanism for multi-stakeholder participation to increase the dialogues and synergize the resources for developing the EPR schemes in Viet Nam. This platform was founded by MONRE on 16 March 2020 as a Working Group with the participation of businesses, industry associations, commercial chambers, NGOs, and related governmental agencies but mostly in packaging groups.

In order to continue support the EPR development process, there are need to develop the [redacted] which details the implementation.

- Need for developing baselines and targets;
- A compulsory recycling rate and recycling standards;
- A study of the model and propose the establishment of National EPR Council and Viet Nam EPR Office; Draft the Organization and Operation Charter of Viet Nam EPR Office;
- Research and develop registration forms, reports and declarations for producers and importers;
- Research and develop regulations on the management of financial contribution to support recycling and waste treatment activities;
- Conduct surveys and propose recycling cost norms for product categories and used packaging; and
- Research and propose the construction of the national EPR Portal.

There are not currently formalised national EPR regulations in Thailand. Limitations to implementing EPR in Thailand are due to legislation as it exists now does not include the Packaging Recycling Organisations (PROs), retailers, etc. and needs to include all stakeholders, with clarity on their rights and responsibilities. Amending laws is a complex and long process and it was noted that voluntary schemes have many issues related to the national and subnational contexts, compared to decrees. A result of decentralisation, there are over 7,000 local administrations in Thailand, each of which would need its own EPR scheme, as things currently stand. Finally, for EPR to be implemented, Thailand needs to define the roles of the packaging sector, waste management sectors, and the informal sector to make EPR a success.

Thailand has a recent national action plan on marine plastic pollution, posted here https://www.iges.or.jp/sites/default/files/inline-files/S1-5_PPT_Thailand%20Plastic%20Action%20Plan.pdf by the Pollution Control Department and Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. This does not refer specifically to EPR, however.

Slides are shared in this dropbox:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e9u3qwupcrgbqeh/AAbewvzroi4iC8_atfrmrUWa?dl=0

[WWF MOOC: Going Circular – The EPR Guide](#)

Country Reports: examples of EPR systems in various countries that demonstrate legal backgrounds, objectives, and historical contexts.

[Chile](#)

[Germany](#)

[Republic of Korea](#)

[South Africa](#)

[Tunisia](#)

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! Ššµ ¼ ~ © pçç E ï š -acities are sufficient for above-mentioned locally generated, high-value recyclables. However, a huge number of recyclers and aggregators import and process imported recyclables, occupying large capacities. There is no fully traceable documentation of the imported material.

Low value and non-recyclables are mostly disposed of and collected together. There is no systematic separate collection and recycling of the low-value recyclables.

WWF-Malaysia