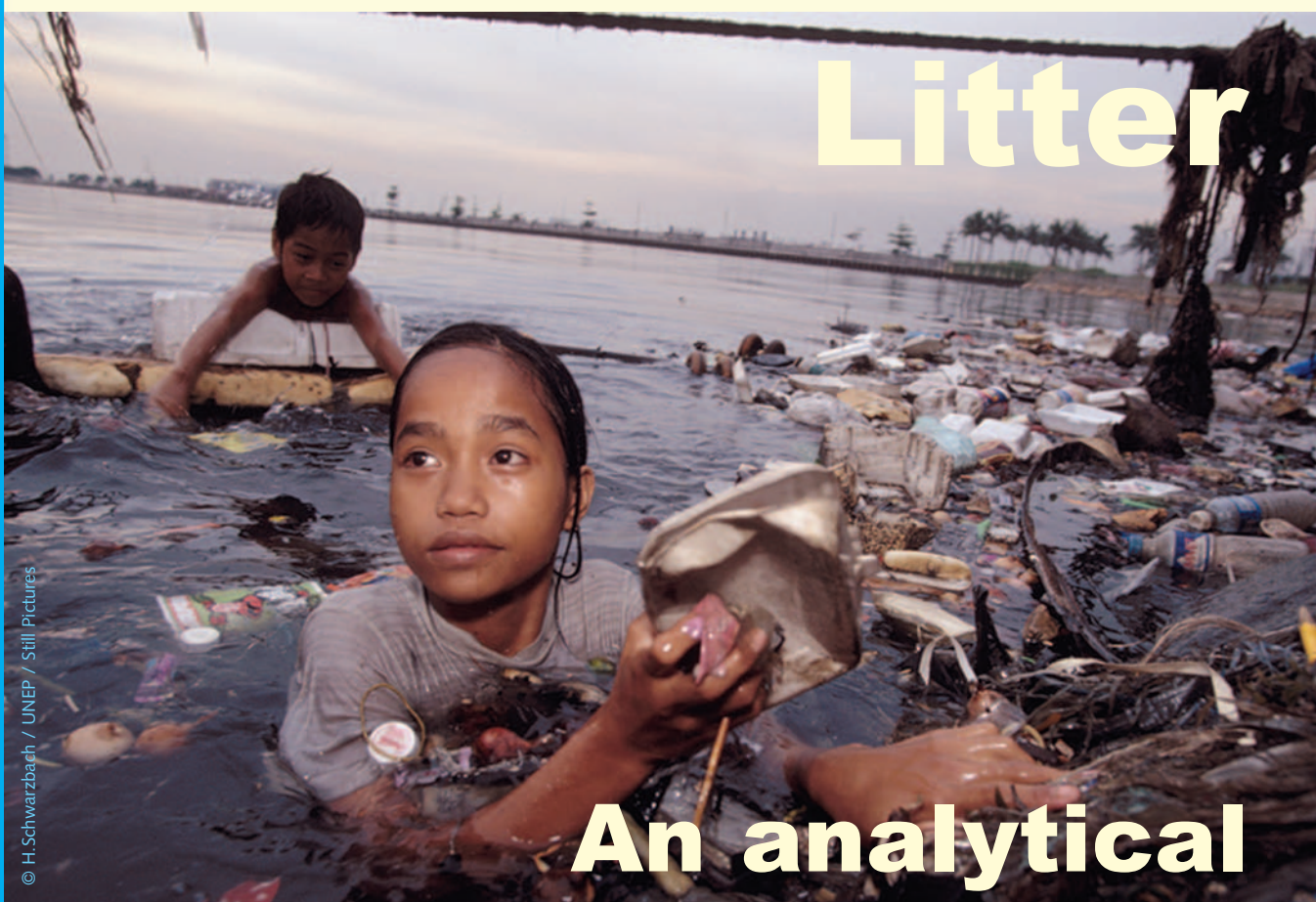




# Marine Litter



© H. Schwarzbach / UNEP / Still Pictures

## An analytical overview

This overview was prepared by the Regional Seas Coordinating Office, the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, and the Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC of UNESCO).

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on part of UNEP or contributory organizations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area in its authority, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Moreover, the views expressed do not necessarily represent the decision or the stated policy of UNEP or contributory organizations, nor does citing of trade names or commercial processes constitute endorsement.

© 2005 United Nations Environment Programme

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part and in any form for educational or nonprofit purposes without special permission from the copyright holder, provided acknowledgement of the source is made. UNEP would appreciate receiving a copy of any publication that uses this publication as a source.

No use of this publication may be made for resale or for other commercial purposes whatsoever without the prior permission in writing from the United Nations Environment Programme

UNEP  
P.O.Box 30552  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254 20 621234  
Fax: +254 20 623927  
Email: [cpinfo@unep.org](mailto:cpinfo@unep.org)  
Web: <http://www.unep.org>

For bibliographical purposes, this document may be cited as:  
UNEP 2005: Marine Litter, an analytical overview.



---

# **Marine Litter**

## **An analytical overview**

# FOREWORD

Marine litter poses a vast and growing threat to the marine and coastal environment.

It is found in all sea and ocean areas of the world – not only in densely populated regions but also in remote places far away from any obvious source. Marine litter travels over long distances with ocean currents and winds and is found everywhere in the marine and coastal environment, from the poles to the equator, from continental coastlines to small remote islands. Marine litter originates from many sources and causes a wide spectrum of environmental, economic, safety, health and cultural impacts. The very slow rate of degradation of most marine litter items, mainly plastics, together with the continuously growing quantity of the litter and debris disposed, is leading to a gradual increase in marine litter found at sea and on the shores.

It is estimated that about 6.4 million tons of marine litter are disposed in the oceans and seas each year. According to other estimates and calculations, some 8 million items of marine litter are dumped in oceans and seas every day, approximately 5 million of which (solid waste) are thrown overboard or lost from ships. Furthermore, it has been estimated that over 13,000 pieces of plastic litter are floating on every square kilometre of ocean today.

Despite efforts made regionally, nationally and internationally, there are indications that the marine litter problem keeps growing. As long as the input of non-degradable or slowly degradable litter into the marine environment keeps increasing, their destructive impact on the ocean and coastal environment will increase likewise. Deficiencies in the implementation and enforcement of existing international, regional, national regulations and standards that could improve the situation, combined with a lack of awareness among main stakeholders and the general public, are other major reasons why the marine litter problem not only remains but keeps increasing worldwide.

Marine litter is part of the broader problem of waste management. Solid waste management is becoming a major public health and environmental concern in many countries, where generally a lack of appropriate systems for the management of waste, from its source to its final disposal or processing, exists.

However, proper waste management is increasingly being recognized by the international community as an important issue to be addressed worldwide. It was identified as one of the nine source categories of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, GPA, 1995, and recognized as a priority issue in a decision of UNEP's Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment meeting in Jeju, Republic of Korea, in March 2004. The issue of marine litter and the destructive effects of abandoned fishing gear were further emphasized in resolution 59/25 of the UN General Assembly on 17 November 2004 on Oceans and the Law of the Sea – Sustainable Fisheries". Furthermore, decision 59/22 of 10 November 2004 on Oceans and the Law of the sea recommends that marine debris should be included in the discussions of the United Nations Consultative Process on the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS) as well as in the 2004 Secretary General's Report.

Many organisations, including UN organisations, and other programmes have now dedicated themselves to fight marine litter in its various aspects. A wide range of marine litter-related activities have already been developed, mainly on regional or national scales. But the solutions are not keeping up with the problems, and a broader approach aiming at creating inter-agency partnerships to deal with the problem has yet to be explored and developed. UNEP could play a growing role in addressing this problem.

Considering the magnitude and the severity of the marine litter problem, UNEP's Regional Seas Programme, in cooperation with the GPA, initiated a "Feasibility Study on Sustainable Management of Marine Litter" to assess the global threat posed by marine litter worldwide and to examine the efficacy of current instruments, programmes and initiatives.

This study, summarized in the analytical review before you, proposes a series of global and regional activities aimed at controlling, reducing and abating the problem.

The UNEP Regional Seas Programme and the GPA, stand ready to play a facilitating role forwarding international action on marine litter through such activities as developing interagency partnerships, engaging stakeholders and setting the stage for enhanced action by all stakeholders.



Veerle Vandeweerd  
UNEP Regional Seas Programme  
Coordinator, UNEP Global Programme of Action

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) wishes to take the opportunity to extend special thanks to the lead authors, Dr. Ljubomir Jeftic, consultant, jointly with Mr. Bertil Hägerhäll and Ms. Britt Aniansson, consultants of Ardea Miljö AB.

This overview was initiated by the UNEP Regional Seas Programme in collaboration with the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GPA), and is the result of cooperation among a number of organizations and individual experts.

UNEP also wishes to extend thanks to the experts from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC of UNESCO); the International Maritime Organization (IMO); the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) and the Secretariat of the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), for their critical reviews and comments.

Finally, UNEP gratefully acknowledges the funding of the Dutch Government, which made this project possible.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Foreword .....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>Acknowledgements .....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1. Marine litter: what, where and how? .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Definitions .....	3
1.2 Global distribution of marine litter .....	3
1.3 Quantities of marine litter .....	4
1.4 Sources of marine litter .....	5
1.5 Effects of marine litter .....	5
<b>2. Measures to prevent and combat marine litter .....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 Global action, actors and initiatives on marine litter .....	10
2.1.1 Conventions and agreements .....	10
2.1.2 Other global actors and initiatives .....	15
2.1.3 Global networks of international civil society organizations .....	16
2.2 Regional action, actors and initiatives on marine litter .....	17
2.2.1 UNEP Regional Seas Programme .....	17
2.2.2 Other regions .....	22
2.2.3 Other regional organizations .....	23
2.3 National action, actors and initiatives on marine litter .....	25
<b>3. Analysis and areas for potential action .....</b>	<b>31</b>
3.1 Analysis .....	31
3.2 Possible tools and activities to address marine litter .....	32
3.2.1 Possible <u>global</u> tools and activities to address marine litter from <u>sea-based</u> sources .....	32
3.2.2 Possible <u>regional</u> tools and activities to address marine litter from <u>sea-based</u> sources .....	33
3.2.3 Possible <u>global</u> tools and activities to address marine litter from <u>land-based</u> sources .....	34
3.2.4 Possible <u>regional</u> tools and activities to address marine litter from <u>land-based</u> sources .....	35
3.3 Improvement of the common knowledge base .....	35
3.4 Information, education, outreach and public awareness .....	36
<b>4. Ways Forward .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>References .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Acronyms .....</b>	<b>47</b>

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码

<https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?rep>