

Marine litter and microplastics – Global and Regional Processes for Prevention and Action

Marine litter is found in all of the world's oceans and seas, even in remote areas far from human contact and obvious sources of the problem, constituting an increasing risk to ecosystem health and biodiversity, while entailing substantial economic costs through its impacts on public health, tourism, shipping, fishing and aquaculture. The side-event will provide an overview of the recently adopted Pacific Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter for 2018–2025 and facilitate discussion on how regional and national actions feed into global processes such as the UN Environment Assembly Process it will provide an opportunity to shape the outcome of the Ad hoc open-ended experts group on marine litter and microplastics during its next meeting 3-7 December 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The event, which is co-hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and UN Environment Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities will:

- Launch the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
- Discuss input from the Pacific region to the UN Environment Assembly Process

The Global Partnership of Marine Litter (GPML) is a multi-stakeholder partnership that provides a unique mechanism for bringing together all relevant actors working on marine litter to share knowledge and experience and to advance solutions to this pressing global issue. Massive open online courses and the Clean Seas campaign are among the partnership activities. A regional node for the GPML is hosted by SPREP supports the implementation of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

Programme (all times are tentative)

13.00: Introduction, UN Environment Assembly process on Marine Litter and Microplastics
Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra, Head of UN Environment's Pacific Sub-Regional Office

13.15: Introduction to the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan, Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General, SPREP

13.30: The Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan 2018–2025, Dr. Vicki Hall Director, Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme, SPREP

13.45: Questions and Answers & Launch of the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan

14.00: End

Relevant links:

1. **Pacific Regional Action Plan - MARINE LITTER 2018–2025:**
<https://www.sprep.org/publications/pacific-regional-action-plan-marine-litter>
2. **Join the Global Partnership on Marine Litter:** <http://marinelitternetwork.com/join-us/>
3. **Clean Seas:** <http://cleanseas.org/>
4. **2nd Ad-hoc open ended experts group:** <https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/second-adhoc-oeeg>