

#### FIG WORKING WEEK 2019

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## **GVERVIEW OF MARINE PLASTIC DEBRIS IN VIETNAM IN RELATION TO INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT**

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#### Marine plastic debris - A Global Transboundary Concern

- Plastic used in all sectors: majority in packaging (40%), construction (20%), automotive (9%), electrical & electronic (6%) and agriculture (3%)
- Plastic increase from 1.5 to >380 million tonnes produced/year since 1950s.
- Global 2010: ~ 2.5 billion tonnes of SW produced; ~ 275 million tonnes mismanaged plastic waste generated from coastal countries; 4.8 to 12.7 million tonnes of this 275 million tonnes entered the oceans.
  - **Poorly managed** globally: ~9% recycled, ~12% incinerated, and remaining 79% landfilled or littered
  - Plastic items are consistently the most abundant type of marine debris identified around the globe, and can amount to more than 80 percent of reported debris.
  - 80% of the floating debris was composed of plastics items



Source: Ryan, A Brief History of Marine Litter Research, in M. Bergmann, L. Gutow, M. Klages (Eds.), Marine Anthropogenic Litter, Berlin Springer, 2015; Plastics Europe

## Marine plastic debris - A Global Transboundary Concern

Dead to marine creatures by digestion

Stuck in the floating fishing gear

Destruction of habitat



Import of alien species





Impact on ecosystems, the environment, health, and marine economic activities.

#### **Difficulties & Problems FACING**

- □ Not all plastics are recyclable or recycled
- Plastic waste may escape waste streams, enter the environment leads to environmental contamination on land, in freshwater and in marine environments
- ☐ Inadequate management of plastic waste has led to increased contamination of freshwater, estuarine and marine environments
- Mainly developing countries, experiencing rapid economic growth, but not yet having efficient waste-management infrastructures

80% of ocean plastics are originating as landbased leakage, therefore much of the solutions lies in the integrated solid waste management

#### **Difficulties & Problems FACING**

- VN among the top 5 countries with the estimated amount of plastic waste discharged into the sea
- Plastic debris forms a thick layer on bottom mud, covering roots and branches, causing great harm to the ecosystem.
- Highest collection rate of solid waste is 84% to 85%
- Solid waste is mainly treated by open dumping or incineration
- amount of plastic waste and plastic bags accounts for about 8 - 12% of domestic solid waste
- Types of plastic bags: PE, PP or PVC ... that are difficult to decompose
- The widespread use of plastic products and plastic bags in social activities.



t/v

rivers

#### **REAL IMAGES**



Waste at Ly Son fishing port, Quang Ngai





Waste in the fishing village on Ha Long Bay



Plastic Waste on mangrove in Hau Loc, Thanh Hoa

#### **Difficulties & Problems FACING**

- □ Limited Understanding: generating, dispersing & transforming, impacts on the environment, ecosystems and marine resources.
- □ Lack of practical experience in assessing the status of controlling and managing plastic waste at sea
- □ Investigation/survey and statistics activities are still limited, leading to incomplete information and data to serve management

#### **Responses & Achievements**

- Current management: OPEN DUMPS; Landfill, incineration, waste to energy, recycling
  Strategies/policies/regulations Issued.
- Decision No. 582/QD-TTg dated 11/4/2013: 2020 will reduce 65% of volume difficult-todecompose plastic bags at supermarkets and commercial centers compared to 2010"
- 2017: non-biodegradable plastic bags in supermarkets decreased by 50% compared to 2010
- 90% of supermarkets and commercial centers used E-friendly plastic bags to replace difficult-to-decompose plastic bags.
- Preferential policies: No environmental protection tax ON E-friendly plastic bags.

<b>Research Content</b>	International	Viet Nam
Current Status	Have evaluated	Evaluating
Impact	Have evaluated	Evaluating
National Action Plan	Some countries (Indonesia)	Developing

#### **Responses & Achievements**

- Enterprises' aim: produce E-friendly plastic bags.
- Enterprises/companies printed labels and product codes so that consumers can identify the types of Efriendly plastic bags (thickness > 30 micrometers) or biodegradable plastic bags.
- The country has 43 plastic-bag products of 38 recognized enterprises that are E-friendly







#### The way **AHEAD**

More information needed to understand the types, quantities and locations where plastics are entering the waterways and what can be effective policies and investments to reduce.....

#### Appropriate waste management strategies

- Limit and proceed to terminate the import, production and supply of difficult-to-biodegradable plastic bags from 2026 at commercial centers and supermarkets for domestic purpose (No. 491/QD-TTg dated May 7, 2018)
- Using 100% E-friendly plastic bags at commercial centers, supermarkets for living purposes to replace difficult-tobiodegradable plastic bags

#### Research need to be done:

- Current status of plastic and micro-plastic waste in coastal zone of VN.
- Impact of plastic and micro-plastic waste to environment.
- Policy developing in preventing marine plastic waste from the source.

## The way **AHEAD**

- → National Plan for the management of ocean plastic waste by 2030 with a vision to 2045
- Mechanism for reducing plastic waste that the PM stated at the G7 Summit (Canada 2018)
- Regional partnerships in the EAS on ocean plastic waste management (GEF 6 Da Nang)
- Increasing the tax rate for non-biodegradable plastic bags
- Cooperation and support of countries and financial institutions





#### The way AHEAD: VN' INITIATIVES



VN PM Nguyễn Xuân Phúc suggested the G7 (Jun 2018) countries develop a global cooperative mechanism to reduce plastic waste.

MONRE Minister: proposed a regional project to "Establish a regional partnership for EAS on marine plastic waste management" GEF 6 ASSEMBLY (June 2018)



#### **The way AHEAD - VN' INITIATIVES**



P.M Nguyen Xuan Phuc and WEF Founder Professor Klaus Schwab witness the signing of a letter of intent on developing initiatives for plastic waste treatment WEF 2019



MONRE Minister Tran Hong Ha proposed GPAP (The Global Plastics Action Partnership) to support Vietnam's initiative on establishment of International Research Center on marine plastics. (WEF on ASEAN 2018)



# **Circular** economy can help us transition to more **sustainable future**, without plastic waste

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

# **THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**