



# Project Information Document (PID)

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Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 09-Dec-2020 | Report No: PIDC30990



**BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

Country South East Asia	Project ID P175659	Parent Project ID (if any)	Project Name Southeast Asia Regional Program on Combating Marine Plastics (SEA-MaP) (P175659)
Region EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC	Estimated Appraisal Date Apr 05, 2021	Estimated Board Date Sep 28, 2021	Practice Area (Lead) Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	Implementing Agency ASEAN Secretariat, Environmental Division, Sustainable Development Directorate	

**Proposed Development Objective(s)**

Program Development Objectives: support long-term solutions to reduce marine plastics through strengthening institutions, harmonizing policies, and catalyzing actions at the regional and national level in ASEAN

Development Objectives for the ASEAN Project (Pillar 1): pilot innovative and sustainable marine plastics solutions and harmonize policies aimed at reducing single-use plastics products and plastic pollution in ASEAN

**PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**

**SUMMARY**

<b>Total Project Cost</b>	20.00
<b>Total Financing</b>	20.00
<b>of which IBRD/IDA</b>	20.00
<b>Financing Gap</b>	0.00

**DETAILS**

**World Bank Group Financing**

International Development Association (IDA)	20.00
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IDA Grant	20.00
Environmental and Social Risk Classification Moderate	Concept Review Decision Track II-The review did authorize the preparation to continue

Other Decision (as needed)

## B. Introduction and Context

### Regional Context

**Plastic is a ubiquitous “miracle” product, whose use has spread globally over the last 60 years, with over half of the plastics ever produced have been made over just the last 20 years.** Plastics’ durability, low cost, and malleability mean that it is being used in more and more consumer and industrial products. With the explosive growth – especially in single use plastics – many negative externalities have emerged, with plastics generation and waste far outstripping the capacity of waste management systems.

**Marine plastics litter adversely affects maritime country economies, particularly in the fisheries, aquaculture, coastal tourism, commercial shipping and agriculture sectors, and degrade ocean natural systems.** Plastics and solid waste in waterways (rivers, creeks) also hampers water flow and discharge during the rainy season which in turn contributes to flooding. In addition to the direct economic costs, there are potential adverse impacts on human livelihoods and health, food chains and other economic and societal systems. Plastics may be composed of hazardous chemicals, some of which become absorbed by the body upon ingestion. The evidence for microplastics in seafood to enter the human food chain through diet remains scarce and the implications of microplastic toxicity on human health have not been clearly established.

Across the globe, plastics have been observed to negatively affect habitats by altering species distribution, entangling organisms, and causing damage and even increasing mortality as a result of ingestion. Mismanaged plastics not only kill more animals; they also decimate coral reefs and have the potential to damage human health as microplastics enter the food chain.

**Although marine plastics litter is a global problem in nature, there is a strong regional dimension, with Southeast Asia and East Asia as its epicenter.** In a seminal study in 2015, Southeast Asian countries made up half of the top ten of contributors to marine plastic pollution. Ninety percent of global marine plastic pollution is estimated to come from just 10 rivers, 8 of which are in Asia. The transboundary, regional, and ultimately global environmental problem arising from marine plastics litter results largely from excessive plastics consumption (especially single use plastics), insufficient waste management, and lack of recycling options. Rapid urbanization, and economic growth have contributed to the growing problem with marine plastics litter. Restrictions imposed by China since 2018 on the import of certain types of plastic waste has resulted in a large diversion of plastic waste towards countries like Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia ---where regulations, markets and capacities remain inadequate to deal with



additional waste. These point towards a need for alignment across these dimensions, harmonized approaches, and collaboration for innovative solutions.

**In the region, addressing marine and riverine plastics involves working with a range of sectors and countries with diverse institutional and policy landscapes.** Middle-income (IBRD) countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines, Viet Nam and Thailand are relatively big contributors to plastic leakage and have shown some government efforts and growing interest in investments to improve plastics pollution prevention and management. However, there remain gaps in policies and regulations, limited access to technologies and innovation, and fragmented institutional arrangements related to waste management. A handful of low-income (IDA) countries, such as Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar, need urgent support as they struggle to cope with growing waste and plastic pollution. Given their weak enabling environments, and inadequate financing, low-income (IDA) countries need to build up their waste management infrastructure and combat marine plastics impacts on their key economic sectors.

**Marine plastics is also a transboundary issue**, with shared river systems (e.g. Mekong), acting as conduits for plastic waste, and shared coastlines receiving plastics wastes carried by ocean currents. Accordingly, single country solutions to manage marine litter will not suffice; there is a need for regional collaboration to combat marine plastics pollution.

The **private sector has begun to play a vital role** in providing finance and operational solutions to the plastic challenge. With the potential for new markets in plastics recycling, growing interest in scoping out plastics alternatives, and innovations in materials, product design and business models, private sector financing is emerging to complement public sector investments to reduce plastic use, increase recycling, and promote circular economy.

**Recognition of the need to reduce ocean plastic pollution is growing.** Leaders in ASEAN member states have joined their global counterparts within The Group of Seven (G7), The Group of Twenty (G20), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the United Nations (UN) in committing to reduce plastic use and plastic waste. To support this goal, they have developed international agreements to support deeper cooperation between and across nations. Examples of such commitments include the G7 Ocean Plastic Charter signed at the 2018 G7 Summit in Canada, the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter signed at the June 2019 G20 Osaka Summit in Japan, the G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter launched at the 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit, and the G20's Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, which aims to eliminate additional marine plastic pollution by 2050.

## Sectoral and Institutional Context

**The ASEAN region accounts for about 20% of global plastic production.** Plastics and plastic-derived products represent a significant trade sector of ASEAN, with USD 41.65 billion in exports and USD 49.28 billion in imports.<sup>5</sup> Accompanying these trends, the region has developed a growing “takeaway food culture”, ‘e-commerce activities’ and ‘sachet economy’. Consumption preferences are shifting from traditional fresh food to packaged food, while at the same time, shopping on digital platforms (e-commerce) has increased.

**Among the ASEAN member countries, the growth in plastic production and consumption is strongest in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.** In *Vietnam*, the plastic industry grew on average by 16-18% from 2010 to 2015, and plastics consumption increased sharply from 33 kg per capita in 2010 to 41 kg per capita in 2015. In *Indonesia*, the annual plastic consumption was estimated at 17 kg per capita. The country imports more than 40% of its plastics from Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Europe and the US. *Malaysia's* plastic consumption is about 35 kg per capita and year, and the country has over 1,500 production companies, exporting to other ASEAN countries as well as to China and Europe. *Thailand's* plastic production industry has grown rapidly with over 5,000 companies operating in the country, while its annual plastic consumption (40 kg per capita) is one of the highest in



the ASEAN region. In the *Philippines*, plastic industries are expected to grow with a compound annual growth rate of 6.11% during 2018-2023, while its current annual plastic consumption is about 8 kg per capita.<sup>1</sup>

**Key findings from a UNEP (2017) report on waste management in ASEAN countries shows waste generation is increasing.** Municipal solid waste among ASEAN members countries is composed of 10-18% plastic. The consumption of single-use packaging has dramatically increased in ASEAN member states due to economic growth, rapid urbanization and changing consumption and production patterns. In the ASEAN region, plastics and plastics packaging value chains still follow a linear model of “take, make and dispose” rather than a circular economy of “reduce, reuse, and recycle”.

**Four ASEAN countries (Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam) and China are estimated to contribute to about half of the world’s marine plastic litter generation.** In these five countries, around 2.5 to 6.7 million tons of plastic waste entered from coastal areas into the ocean in 2010, compared to a global leakage of 4.8 to 12.7 million tons in the same year.<sup>2</sup>

**ASEAN countries are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including coastal and riverine floods caused by sea-level rise, increased rainfalls, hurricanes, typhoons and other extreme events.**<sup>3</sup> Unmanaged plastics waste common in densely populated cities clog the drains rendering storm drainage systems<sup>4</sup> useless during storm and heavy rain events, increasing risks to this climate change hazard in urban centers in the ASEAN countries. Protection against flood events can be achieved by reducing plastics use and waste in the cities. On the GHG emissions front, as a fossil-fuel based product, its entire lifecycle - plastic manufacturing and transport creates billions of tons of greenhouse gases. If plastic production and use continue at the current rates, by 2030, the GHG emissions they cause could reach 1.34 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year—equivalent to the emissions released by about 300 500-megawatt coal-fired power plants<sup>5</sup>. Thus, any reduction in plastic production or transport is an effective climate mitigating action.

**At the national level, efforts are underway among ASEAN member states to tackle plastic pollution.** Several countries are doing this at national and local levels by regulating single-use plastic products and/or packaging or planning for the elimination of single-use plastic products. In 2018, Malaysia drafted a roadmap to eliminate single-use plastics by 2030, starting with plastic bag charges and straw bans. Thailand announced its Plastic Waste Management Road Map 2018-2030, with the aim to phase out three types of plastics by the end of the year, four other types by 2022, and a plan to use 100% recycled plastic by 2027. Indonesia launched the ‘National Action Plan on Marine Debris (2017-2025)’, which calls for efforts to reduce 70% of its plastic debris from a 2017 baseline by the end of 2025. In Viet Nam, the Prime Minister’s Decision No. 06/2018/QĐ-TTg of 2018 seeks to reduce marine pollution.

**Regional initiatives are demonstrating the potential of collaboration and knowledge sharing on marine plastics solutions.** In June 2018, ASEAN Member States (AMS) formalized their commitment to combating marine debris through the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region<sup>6</sup>. The accompanying ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris<sup>7</sup> articulates the need for regional and national actions along four key

<sup>1</sup> Managing Packaging Waste in the ASEAN Region: From Linear to Circular Packaging Value Chains. GIZ Circular Economy Briefing Series. 2019.

<sup>2</sup> [“Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean”, Jenna R. Jambeck, Roland Geyer, etc. \(2015\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, pp. 1327-1370

<sup>4</sup> Honingh, Doriene et al. (2020). Urban River Water Level Increase Through Plastic Waste Accumulation. *Frontiers in Earth Science*.

<sup>5</sup> [“Plastic and Climate: The Hidden Cost of a Plastic Planet,”](#) Hamilton L.A, Feit S, Muffett C. (2019) Center for International Environmental Law

<sup>6</sup> [“Bangkok Declaration on Combatting Marine Debris in ASEAN region”](#), ASEAN, June 2019; details can be found in Annex II.

<sup>7</sup> [“ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris”](#), ASEAN, November 2017



pillars: policy support and planning; research, innovation and capacity building; public awareness, education, and outreach; and private sector engagement.

**The momentum to deal with plastics has suffered a major setback with the COVID 19 pandemic.** With public health now being of utmost priority, along with close monitoring of economic and social impacts, the implications of COVID-19 on the environment remains largely undervalued. Unmanaged plastics waste is particularly concerning due to its implications to natural ecosystems and public health and safety. Major legislation aimed at reducing plastics packaging has stalled as countries' priorities shifted towards containment of the pandemic and economic stimulus.. Single-use plastic use has seen an exponential increase from disposable masks and gloves, and plastic take-out food containers. Low oil prices have made plastic production cheaper than ever and resulted in products using virgin plastics costing less than those made from recycled plastics.

**It is both imperative and timely to invest today in marine plastics and waste management solutions for southeast Asian countries** –to address the impacts on key economic sectors, on ecosystems and biodiversity, and on human health. In the current COVID-19 pandemic context, there is now even more urgent a reason to dial back the overconsumption of plastics and combat plastics pollution, to maintain pre-COVID-19 efforts to limit plastics pollution and to limit possibility of newer health hazards related to excessive (new) plastics related contamination. Long-term sustainable solutions are moving from a linear economy towards a more circular economy –which involves waste reduction, more sustainable production and consumption patterns. And this requires local, national and regional actions.

#### Relationship to CPF

**The proposed Southeast Asia Regional Program for Marine Plastics (SEA-MaP) is well aligned with World Bank Group (WBG) corporate and IDA priorities.** The World Bank Group's goals of alleviating extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity are intrinsic in solutions for addressing marine litter. Coastal (blue) economies are particularly impacted by marine litter and its effects on several key sectors –fisheries, tourism, shipping, drainage. Development solutions that the WBG is supporting in these economies require adjustments in policies and regulations, investments in critical waste management infrastructures (and more) and influencing behavior change.

**The SEA-MaP program is also aligned with the WBG Covid-19 Crisis Response Approach Paper.** Economic recovery plans could include new green jobs and green stimulus opportunities. Specifically, plastics waste collection, clean-up, recycling, and production of alternative products would create job opportunities and contribute to green economic recovery from COVID-19. Reducing plastic use and recovering and retaining plastic value in a low- technology environment are labor-intensive tasks. Many alternative materials to single-use plastic are not yet produced at scale, leaving an opportunity for locally made options. Furthermore, there are proposed activities to support ASEAN Member States to develop a regional approach to deal with increasing medical plastics waste from COVID-19.

**The proposed SEA-MaP program is well aligned to the IDA19 priorities including that of the Regional Window, and the Climate Change Special Theme.** A background paper for IDA19 Replenishment, Combatting Marine Litter: How IDA Will Play A Role made the case for IDA investment to address negative externalities associated with plastic pollution in the marine environment. The regional window under IDA19 mentions marine environment as a global public good, and marine litter as a significant threat to its healthy functions, allowing for grant money to be tapped for purposes of regional integration on common solutions. The IDA19 Climate Change Special Theme Paper highlights that resilience to climate change will also be achieved by combatting marine plastics. IDA19 emphasizes activities related to more efficient use of resources, while strengthening waste diversion systems and infrastructure to collect and process plastic materials and recapture the value of plastics in the economy. In addition, SEA-MaP objectives



align with the Private Sector Window (leveraging private sector financing), and the Jobs and Economic Transformation Special Theme (helping in creating new jobs).

**Tackling marine plastics is identified as one of the EAP Region’s strategic priorities.** This proposed SEA-MaP program is aligned to support World Bank Group engagement in the region –building on a strong base of analytical work and bringing critical grant financing to support policies and investments at the national and regional level. The marine plastics agenda is also aligned to regional and corporate priorities relating to climate change (linkages to flood risk, climate resilience and greenhouse gas emissions), gender (women entrepreneurs, and plastics), and private capital mobilization (crowding in private capital for emerging markets for plastics recycling/alternatives). The marine plastics agenda is also aligned to regional and corporate priorities relating to climate change (linkages to plastics, coastal resilience and greenhouse gas emissions), gender (women entrepreneurs, and plastics), and private capital mobilization (crowding in private capital for emerging markets for plastics recycling/alternatives).

**The World Bank Group is actively engaged in dialog and discussion at the country level, with over \$8 million in trust funds raised to support analytical activities across ASEAN countries.** Through financing from PROBLUE and KGGTF, among others, the World Bank Group has leveraged over \$8 million in funds to support plastics analytical tasks, and technical assistance to eight of the ten ASEAN countries, who have requested support on marine plastics plans and actions, especially linked to their integrated solid waste management agendas. This regional program is building on these policy and analytical engagements. Recent CPFs and SCDs in key countries include reference to pollution management, including on plastics within the pillar on environmental sustainability/resilience. Plastics related investments in Cambodia and Indonesia are under preparation/ early implementation, while new plastics entry points in other sectoral lending in Vietnam, Philippines, Lao PDR and Myanmar are being identified.

**There are several other development partner agencies, bilaterals and NGOs with marine plastics initiatives across the ASEAN** –which address specific areas of analytics, capacity building, research, and policy analysis. Some of these focus on city-level solutions (such as UNESCAP’s Closing the Loop, and WWF’s Plastic Smart Cities); while others provide capacity building and training related to marine plastics and waste management (such as JAIF, and ASEANO). Additionally, some initiatives are helping identify market-based solutions and enabling policies to prevent marine plastic pollution (such as UNEP’s SEA Circular program , IUCN’s Close the Plastic Tap program , and GIZ’s Rethinking Plastics); while others are providing support to public-private partnerships (such as National Plastic Action Partnerships in Indonesia and Vietnam). The World Bank is working collaboratively with all these partners to build on these results towards more concrete investments and national/regional actions.

**The SEA-MaP program will bring together financing from regional IDA and other sources and leverage parallel financing from the private sector and other development partners.** The program is seeking US\$ 20 million of IDA regional grant to support activities at the regional level and in the three IDA countries. Co-financing is sought from the IBRD Global Public Goods Solutions (GPG) Window (US\$ 10 million) and the Korean-WB Partnership Facility (US\$ 3 million) to support activities in the IBRD countries. In addition, parallel financing is being explored from donors, development partners, and private sector. The Government of Republic of Korea has expressed interest in providing financing support to the ASEAN regional program. The financing being mobilized is intended to support the harmonization of polices and standards, strengthening of institutions, and innovation on plastics solutions, building on the body of analytical work, policy support, and national initiatives. The program will serve to support key regional actions identified by the ASEAN member states in the ASEAN Regional Action Plan, by bringing in global expertise and best practices, working across sectors and with multiple stakeholders from the public and private sectors.



### C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

**Program Development Objectives:** support long-term solutions to reduce marine plastics through strengthening institutions, harmonizing policies, and catalyzing actions at the regional and national level in ASEAN

**Development Objectives for the ASEAN Project (Pillar 1):** pilot innovative and sustainable marine plastics solutions and harmonize policies aimed at reducing single-use plastics products and plastic pollution in ASEAN

#### Key Results (From PCN)

The following indicators are identified to measure the progress of achieving the development objectives of the ASEAN Project (Pillar 1) and will be refined during preparation.

- Number of plastics policies, guidelines, or standards harmonized among ASEAN countries
- Number and volume of plastic circularity solutions piloted and tested for application
- Percent of ASEAN member states satisfied with plastics knowledge exchanges facilitated by ASEAN

For details, please refer to Annex I - Theory of Change Diagram.

### D. Concept Description

The regional program for marine plastics is designed as a Series of Projects and structured in two Pillars. The IDA regional grant project with the ASEAN constitutes Pillar 1 and is the first project in the series --- to strengthen the institutional capacity, support harmonization of standards and guidelines, and finance pilot innovative solutions across the ASEAN region.

The program has overarching objectives across the ASEAN region and is designed to achieve transboundary benefits through strengthening institutions, harmonizing policies and standards, and catalyzing public and private sector actions to reduce single-use plastics, increase plastics recycling and address plastics pollution at the regional and national level across the ASEAN region. The “regional integration” element is based on the recognition of the plastics pollution pathways through key transboundary rivers and coastal systems across in Southeast Asia.

The IDA regional grant project (the first project in the series, Pillar 1) will focus on actions relating to capacity building, technical assistance, as well as efforts to harmonize standards, guidelines, waste trade, and recycling markets at the ASEAN regional level. It is expected to comprise of 3 components:

#### **Component 1. Support Institutions and Strengthen Policies for Plastics Circularity**

This component is intended to support policy harmonization which is imperative to coordinate efforts and tackle transboundary marine plastic issues. It is also closely aligned with the regional actions being identified under the ASEAN Regional Action Plan and will help to build the capacity of regional and national institutions in developing and implementing relevant policies and investments.

##### **Subcomponent 1.1 Support Regional Policy Development, Harmonization, and Implementation**

This includes support for strengthening regulations policies, and standards and identifying potential for incentive and fiscal mechanisms (taxes or bans on certain types of plastics, recycled content standards etc.) to help correct market inefficiencies, overcome poor incentives for the private sector to recycle plastics or to explore alternatives, and facilitate investments which provide solutions. Several key regional actions were prioritized by the AMS under the





(upcoming) ASEAN Regional Action Plan. Some of these would be support through this sub-component, including:

- o Support regional policy harmonization, including discussions across ASEAN member states to align upstream plastics-related policies (such as regulations on single-use plastics) and economic instruments (such as taxes on plastic bags) and regulatory consistency where appropriate (e.g., recycled plastic for food-contact applications).
- o Develop regional guidelines to design harmonized standards for sorted plastics waste and recycled plastics, product specification, labeling, and certifications to promote greater market aggregation and industry uptake
- o Prepare regional guidebooks on approaches such as extended producer responsibility, financial mechanisms for investments in plastic waste management, and strategies for phasing out single-use plastics.

### **Subcomponent 1.2 Support Regional and National Institutions, Build Capacity and Knowledge Sharing**

This sub-component will help to build the capacity of regional institutions (including the ASEAN) to help IDA and IBRD countries strengthen regulations/policies and identify potential mechanisms to help to correct market inefficiencies, overcome poor incentives to recycle plastics, reduce plastic use, promote circular economy principles, and design sustainable financing mechanisms. Similarly, it will provide support to align national policies with regionally agreed upon and harmonized policies/regulations. At a local level, the component will facilitate awareness and citizen engagement to accelerate plastics reduction, reuse and recycling.

- o Strengthen an ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network on marine plastics
- o Develop guidebook for common methodologies for assessment and monitoring of marine litter
- o Build capacity for marine litter monitoring and evaluation at both national and regional levels
- o Develop and implement the regional training program on plastic waste management
- o Develop a regional behavior change and communication playbook
- o Support engagement of stakeholders and beneficiaries through consultative processes, and local engagement

### **Subcomponent 1.3 Enhance Private Sector Engagement to Advance Plastics Circularity**

This sub-component would involve support to key public-private partnerships that have been identified under the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris:

- o Establish a regional platform to support innovation and investments in plastic circularity and enhanced plastic waste management, and engage private sector champions across the plastic value chain
- o Develop and implement models and customized toolkits for voluntary and mandatory EPR policies and schemes and identify specific fiscal and non-fiscal? incentives for boosting plastics reduction, reuse, and recycling

## **Component 2. Supporting Public and Private Sector Actions in Plastics Reduction, Re-use, Recycling**

This component is intended to help identify, incubate, and implement innovative circular plastic economy solutions and facilitate the knowledge exchange and scaled-up investment of these solutions across the region.

### **Subcomponent 2.1 Plastics Circularity Fund for Innovations to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Plastics**

This sub-component would help support circular plastic economy solutions to reduce plastic waste through a “Plastics Circularity Fund” -- that would have eligible private sector entities, social enterprises, NGOs/CBOs from ASEAN member states apply and compete for grants. While the regional IDA funding will only benefit applicants from IDA countries, parallel financing leveraged from others (development partners, private sector etc.) will be able to provide grants to applicants from IBRD countries.

Details of the grants system would spell out the eligibility criteria, amounts available, thematic rounds relating to innovations in technology, alternatives, business models etc. This will take the form of calls for proposals for both



small size (just-in-time) grants (up to \$150,000), as well as medium-size catalytic grants (up to \$1.5 million) –which would provide seed funding to demonstrate proof of concept for innovative solutions for upstream interventions in the plastics value chain, to build new business models and provide opportunities to scale up promising initiatives. These activities will aim to not only reduce plastic use and pollution, but also mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and help build resilience and adapt to climate change.

Examples of these activities would include rounds on:

- Innovations for reducing the consumption of single-use plastic products –thereby also reducing associated greenhouse gas emissions;
- Pilots for new materials, product, packaging, designs, or business models to transition to a circular economy;
- Innovative business models for community recycling, reusing, upcycling existing plastic waste, and optimizing plastic-smart supply chains;
- “Social plastic” innovations bringing in communities and gender considerations, including green stimulus initiatives that help create jobs from plastics recycling and cleanup activities
- Innovative and cost-effective clean-up technologies coupled with viable value chains to process/recycle/ upcycle plastic waste, which can mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, reduce flood risks and increase resilience to climate-induced flood events

***Subcomponent 2.2 Fostering Knowledge Sharing and Promoting Investment Opportunities***

This subcomponent will support communication and outreach activities (seminars, workshops, communication products) to disseminate the knowledge and innovative solutions, connecting the winner organizations/individuals with potential donors and investors to exchange knowledge, raise public awareness, and foster collaboration for scaling-up and replicating investments. Technology expos for showcasing plastics innovations, and other regional events to help connect innovative solutions to appropriate funding sources.

**Component 3: Project Management**

This component will support strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat in terms of project management, disbursement of grants, financial management (including timely submission of annual project audit reports to the Bank), procurement, and environment and social risk management. Critical functions such as coordination, convening, benchmarking, and monitoring and evaluation would also be strengthened to ensure sustainability.

Legal Operational Policies	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	TBD
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Based on the Project component activities assessment, the E&S risk is rated Moderate. The Project is expected to have largely positive and beneficial impacts for the ASEAN region, by enhancing capacity of key institutions, enabling knowledge sharing, supporting capacity, building regional platforms for innovation solutions to reduce plastics use, increase plastics circularity and reduce plastics leakage into rivers and seas. The Project will also result in reduction in the plastic generation, use and dumping of plastic wastes in waterways that end up in coastal areas and oceans in ASEAN. The



Project development objective is to be achieved by supporting policy formulation and harmonization, regional coordination, research, awareness raising, knowledge sharing, capacity building and innovative technologies that reduce, reuse and recycle plastics. Under Component 2, the Project will only support small pilot of 3R (reduce, reuse and recycle) investments or technology innovation that will produce positive impacts on human and environment as well the pilot that supports resource-efficient and environment-friendly. The Project will use of negative list to ensure that grants recipients are specifically aiming towards solutions of reduce, reuse and recycle of plastics waste. The negative list and ineligible activities will include those that are pollutive (i.e., emit toxic gases and discharge water pollutants, generate more plastic wastes), resource intensive and cause health and safety risks to workers and communities.

Prior to project appraisal, Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be developed to guide the E&S screening of proposals/sub-projects for eligibility for funding by the project; the positive and negative lists of sub-projects will also be included in the ESMF. The ESMF will contain generic Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMPs) for grant recipients to manage E&S risks and impacts of the civil works including the small pilot project for 3R innovation technology for 3R and clean-up. For evaluation of proposal, resource use patterns will be assessed to ensure resources (energy, water and raw materials) are to be used in an efficient and sustainable manner.

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**APPROVAL**

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