

"No more Plastics in the Oceans": Designing a legally binding global plastic convention

Project

Duration

Sep - Dec 2018

View Report

Plastic pollution of the world's oceans is a quickly growing environmental problem. A number of international instruments and treaties are trying to address the problem, but the growing amount of plastic waste that is polluting our seas shows these are insufficient. On behalf of WWF, the project team from adelphi and Ecologic Institute thus compiled a report on gaps in global plastic governance and developed options for the design of a legally binding agreement to eliminate further marine plastic pollution.

The aim of the report is to support the WWF in the ongoing discussions on an international agreement to combat marine plastic pollution at the UN Environment Programme and the UN Environment Assembly, which mandated an Ad Hoc Open-ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics.

The report suggests five elements for a legally binding, global agreement to combat marine plastic pollution:

1. A clear goal to stop further marine plastic pollution
2. Binding national plastic pollution reduction targets
3. A technical cooperation and financing mechanism
4. A follow-up and review mechanism and an enhanced science-policy interface
5. A central forum for coordination

Ecologic Institute contributed mainly to the chapters on the challenge of plastic pollution, existing initiatives at national and regional level, existing global governance frameworks as well as barriers to combatting marine litter and gaps in existing governance frameworks.

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adelphi, Germany
Ecologic Institute, Germany

Team

Doris Knoblauch
Linda Mederake
Katriona McGlade

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