

PROMAR tracks the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

In March 2022, the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), decided to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. An Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) was convened to develop "the instrument", which is to be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic, including its production, design, and disposal.

The INC began its work during the second half of 2022, with the ambition to complete the negotiations by the end of 2024. The first session of the INC (INC-1) took place in Punta del Este, Uruguay from 28 November to 2 December 2022, followed by a second session (INC-2) in Paris, France from 29 May to 2 June 2023. The third session (INC-3) took place in Nairobi, Kenya from 13 to 19 November 2023. At INC-3 the Committee decided on the dates and venue for the subsequent sessions of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to be held in 2024.

Fourth session (INC-4) | 23 - 29 April 2024
| The Shaw Center in Ottawa, Canada

Fifth session (INC-5) | 25 November - 1 December 2024 | Busan, Republic of Korea

PROMAR's overall objective to prevent marine litter, in particular, plastic waste is aligned to the scope of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. In addition, the workstreams of PROMAR tackle several of the issues currently under negotiation for inclusion in the treaty (see footnote), as it can be seen in the table on the right.

Further issues under negotiation include the regulation of primary plastic polymers, of chemicals and polymers of concern, of problematic and avoidable plastic products, non-plastic substitutes and trade. In addition, and of particular importance for all PROMAR countries will be part III of the revised zero draft, which focuses on financing, capacity-building, technical assistance, and technology transfer. PROMAR is an excellent example of how successful such assistance can be.

During PROMAR's execution in Costa Rica, CEGESTI is contributing with the following outputs that can be used as tools for the eventual implementation of the treaty.



PROMAR's Outputs	Treaty aspect
Output I Monitoring systems are anchored in local public authorities at selected demonstration sites	Part II 13. Transparency, tracking, monitoring and labelling
Output II Circular economy solutions are implemented at selected demonstration sites and achieve measurable reductions of plastic waste entering aquatic environments.	Part II (cont): Life cycle 5. Product design and performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce, reuse, refill and repair plastics and plastic products. • Use of recycled plastic • Plastics and alternative products
Output III Capacities of political partners are strengthened to implement EPR systems, replicate measures for marine litter prevention beyond the selected demonstration sites and engage in transnational policy dialogue	Part II 7. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) 9. Waste Management
Output IV Awareness of stakeholders on marine litter prevention is enhanced and contributes to behavioural change	Part IV 7. Awareness-raising, education and research [and development] 8. [Partner and] Stakeholder engagement



In regard to plastic pollution, PROMAR supported the Costa Rican government in the elaboration and publishing of a methodological guide for sampling solid waste on beaches. The methodology allows communities to understand plastic pollution and taking actions to prevent it.

In terms of life cycle analysis and circular economy, PROMAR designed a methodology to measure the base line of circular economy for plastic companies. Ten companies completed the baseline.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a key concept of the Treaty. PROMAR-CEGESTI conducted a comparative analysis of regulations regarding EPR in Germany, The Netherlands, Colombia, Chile and Costa Rica. The research is being used as an input to the National Policy on Circular Economy under development by the Costa Rica Government.

Waste Management, mentioned in the Part II, section 9 of the Treaty Draft, is also a key component to prevent marine litter. PROMAR-CEGESTI developed a Guide for Integrating Marine Litter data analysis and prevention actions in the development of Municipal Plans on Integral Waste Management.

CEGESTI through PROMAR has been able to organize dozens of awareness and education activities and create educational material for schools.

And most importantly, all tools developed not only by CEGESTI but also by all PROMAR's partners adelphi, Parley and Socya can be found in our **BlueBox**. The BlueBox is a compilation of tools, guidelines, training and dissemination materials, video tutorials, success stories and best practices designed for local action against marine litter. Its instruments are based on PROMAR's experiences in the pilot implementations.

