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What is PROMAR?

PROMAR is a project dedicated to the prevention of marine litter in the Caribbean Sea, by raising awareness, developing strategies for local action, and promoting Circular Economy. PROMAR supports eight countries of the region to improve their legal framework and infrastructure in solid waste management, and creates sustainable tools, such as the PROMAR BlueBox, that can help the partner governments and local actors to eliminate plastic waste and reduce marine pollution.

The PROMAR project stands at the forefront of driving initiatives in circular economy, among other actions through its pilot recycling programs. It also focuses on contamination monitoring, integration of marine litter prevention in Municipal Solid Waste Management Plans, international processes such as the Global Plastic Treaty, and actively promotes awareness on the environmental impacts of marine litter. Furthermore, PROMAR plays a crucial role in establishing legal framework e.g. for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

This multifaceted approach underscores the project's commitment to sustainable practices and its comprehensive strategy in mitigating the impact of plastic pollution in marine environments. PROMAR is financed by the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV). See more details in www.promar.org.



Collection Station in Santo Domingo, DR

PROMAR SUMMIT 2023, Colombia



PROMAR held on 20-21 November in Medellin, Colombia, the PROMAR SUMMIT 2023, an annual meeting that brought together experts from 8 countries to address circular economy solutions in the prevention of plastic pollution.

With the participation of 354 attendees, the event featured 35 specialised presentations, providing key technical information on recovery, recycling and reintegration technologies for used plastics, as well as generating high-level discussions, interactions and new contacts. It focused on economic, social and environmental aspects, including policy, community engagement strategies, roles of authorities, producers and consumers, as well as technological responses from industry. The event highlighted advances in physical-mechanical and chemical recycling, highlighting the importance of closing plastic material cycles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition, the event reported on the progress, implementations, lessons learned and tools created from the PROMAR project.

Looking ahead, PROMAR SUMMIT 2024 will continue this regional exchange to contribute to concrete actions towards a circular economy.

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PROMAR BlueBox



www.promar.org/bluebox

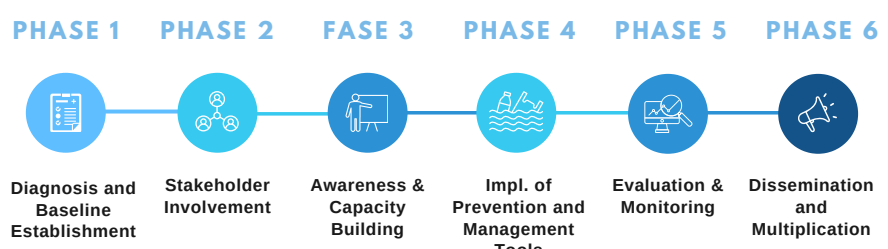
PROMAR has launched its BlueBox, a compilation of tools, guidelines, training and dissemination materials, video tutorials, success stories and best practices designed for local action against marine litter.

Launch events took place in Colombia, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, as well as during the World Congress of the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) in October 2023 in Muscat, Oman.

Users of the BlueBox

The BlueBox can be applied by various groups, such as municipalities, government authorities, NGOs, educational institutions or individuals. The toolbox is bilingual in Spanish and English.

Structure of the BlueBox



The BlueBox offers a range of tools that are divided into six phases. These tools are designed to analyze problems, develop baseline assessments of waste, give technical guidance for waste pilot projects like river interceptors or demonstrate how to integrate marine litter in municipal waste management plans.

Even though the six phases build on each other, tools can be used with flexibility. It is not necessary to follow a step-by-step approach and tools can be chosen individually to meet the demands of a specific situation.

Selected PROMAR Pilots

River Boom, Dominican Republic

PROMAR technicians successfully installed a so called River Boom in the river Yaque del Norte, the longest river of the Dominican Republic. The structure floats on the surface of the water and is anchored to the bottom. It serves to capture floating plastics. With the help of an electric conveyor belt (operated by a solar cell), the waste is transported ashore. There, a cooperation partner collects the waste and transports to a recycling facility.



Circular Economy in Santa Marta, Colombia



The circular economy pilot in Santa Marta, Colombia, focuses on reducing the flow of household waste into water ways and ultimately the Caribbean sea. New recyclable collection routes cover 16,000 households via tricycles, led by the waste pickers' association COEMPROMAC.

A financial model was developed, considering material flows, collection costs, and market prices for recyclables. Awareness campaigns on marine litter and recycling were conducted and reached over 40,000 people so far. The RE-PACK program, part of PROMAR, collaborates with local recycling companies and connects to the Colombian EPR packaging system, providing extra income to waste collectors. As of December 2023, over 3,000 tonnes have been collected and closed-loop recycled. The waste pickers' association receives municipal payments, enhancing financial stability and service sustainability.

Selected PROMAR Events

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) is a United Nations committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. Experts from PROMAR supported the Dominican delegation to the Committee with scientific background knowledge and in the negotiations process. Therefore, they traveled to Paris together for the INC-2 session. The process is still ongoing and will continue in April 2024 with the INC-4 in Ottawa, Canada.



INNOVAPLAST, Costa Rica



INNOVAPLAST 2023, took place in November in Costa Rica, organised by PROMAR, Cegesti and ACIPLAST. It brought together more than 100 entrepreneurs from the plastics industry, as well as national and international experts, all committed to innovative regulations and actions for the sustainable growth of the sector.

INNOVAPLAST 2023 featured discussions of new technologies aimed at sustainability in the plastics industry. PROMAR played a leading role in promoting key initiatives towards circular economy in companies in the sector. It highlighted how we can build a plastics chain aligned with the principles of circularity.