



Collaborating for a cleaner, safer Pacific environment

Coordinated Actions to Combat Marine Debris

Implementation and innovative actions for combating marine debris, plastics and microplastics

Addressing marine debris for SIDS

Pacific Green Business Centre

- Established by PIDF and PIPSO with UNDP support
- Currently a virtual centre
- Current focus on 6 sectors
- One of the sectors 'Green Packaging'
- www.greenbusiness.solutions
- Facebook/Twitter: @PacificGBC



Pacific green business CENTRE

A digital platform to promote
GREEN BUSINESS MODELS
in the Pacific Islands

www.greenbusiness.solutions

Pacific Islands Development Forum PIPSO UNDP

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FISHING'S PLASTIC PROBLEM

Abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear has become a huge problem in our oceans. Fishing gear lost from boats accounts for 10% of all the plastic currently in the ocean. These modern plastics can last up to 600 years in the marine environment¹ continuing to capture and kill animals for much of its lifespan.



**GHOST GEAR IS ONE OF THE
MOST DEADLY FORMS OF
MARINE DEBRIS**

AT LEAST
640,000
TONNES OF FISHING GEAR
LEFT IN OUR OCEANS
EACH YEAR¹





If you or your organization are interested in supporting our work then contact us at
 secretary@pidf.int
 www.pacificidf.org
 Social Media @PIDF01

Our work on PLASTIC PHASE OUT

We acknowledge the need to **play our part** and work towards ensuring all **plastic** wastes generated by our towns and cities is **minimised** and appropriately **managed**, if not **totally eradicated**.

The ocean represents the largest ecosystem and life support system on our planet. Our Pacific Ocean plays a vital role in our lives and economy. Its health is paramount for our survival and prosperity. One of the major threats to our oceans' health is the proliferation of plastic waste. This by-product of urbanization and commercialization is detrimental to the health of the oceans and all life that it supports.

The issue of plastic waste is also addressed in at least three sustainable development goals. A partnership of concerned organisations has developed around this issue, and we would like to bring the private sector on board to take the lead in bringing about the desired changes on terms that are favorable to the sector, rather than having these terms imposed to the detriment of existing businesses. As such, Tallahas Sessions were held with Retailers and Manufacturers on the 12th and 13th of June 2017 respectively where the goal was to reach an agreement on acceptable timelines and a preferred process for a phase-out of plastic bags and a joint effort towards more responsible and "Clean and Green Packaging" in Fiji.

The Tallahas discussed the impact of plastic on our environment and particularly on our oceans, and thus the need for a plastic bags ban. With PIDF's focus on the Blue Economy and its multi-stakeholder governance, that includes the private sector, we would like to reach an agreement on acceptable timelines for such a ban and a process that is led by the Private Sector.

Where are we at?

- 1. Establishment of a National Steering Committee**
Need for equal participation and full engagement from all sectors including the Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organisations, Faith-Based Organisations and Academic/Research Institutions in the National Steering Committee to successfully develop a strategy or roadmap and subsequently achieve the phase-out of plastic bags in a targeted and managed way.
- 2. Legislation**
Government to regulate the import of plastic bags by introducing legislations that act as a disincentive to their import and subsequently, impose a ban on the import of plastic bags altogether.
- 3. Transition to Green Packaging**
Investment in Research and Development is lacking, and thus, there is a need for Government to put in place incentives and investment mechanisms to facilitate and encourage the private sectors' transition to green packaging.
- 4. Awareness Campaigns**
Run awareness campaigns which highlight the negative impacts of plastic waste and encourage resource conservation and proper waste management with our partners.
- 5. Waste Capture and Recycling System**
Establish, implement and enforce, through local governments and municipal town councils, waste separation procedures/processes before collection and compensation for return of all non-organic solid wastes at stations set up across the country.

PLASTIC STRAWS ARE MADE IN 10 MINUTES, USED FOR 20 MINUTES & REMAIN IN OUR OCEANS & LAND-FILLS FOR 200 YEARS OR MORE.



"NO STRAW, PLEASE"

TAKE THE PLEDGE www.pacificidf.org
Social Media @PIDF01

REDUCE YOUR PLASTIC FOOTPRINT

Did you know? Over 500,000,000 plastic straws are used each day.

In only the past twenty years, people have come to expect plastic straws in every drink, in an example of extreme waste being generated for minimal convenience. These short-lived tools are usually dropped into a garbage can with no further thought, instantly becoming a source of plastic pollution.

Strawless Pacific, an initiative of the Pacific Islands Development Forum's (PIDF) MyOcean-Matters campaign, seeks to add momentum to Pacific social mobilisation efforts, so plastic straws become a thing of the past.

In the short term:

- we work with our members, partners and most importantly you to encourage eateries, resorts and supermarkets to no longer automatically give plastic straws;
- we educate individuals to refuse plastic straws and encourage them to use eco-friendly alternatives; and
- we advocate to call for changes in national policies to stop this unnecessary plastic pollution.

In the long run, this collective engagement around the gateway issue of plastic straws will meaningfully shift the way individuals and businesses think about plastic pollution and about our society's disposable culture on a larger scale.

You've got more power than you think! Here is how you can help:

- 1** Make a personal commitment by taking our online *Strawless Pacific* pledge to say "no" to plastic straws. Whenever ordering a drink, politely request "no straw, please."
- 2** Encourage your friends, family, restaurants, bars and resorts to take the pledge, and stop giving away "plastic straws" food.
- 3** Want to take your impact even further? Use your own paper, bamboo, or stainless steel straw instead and stick to your choice of not using plastic straws!



A United, Distinctive & Sustainable Pacific Society

Ghost gear will haunt your business

A case study on collaboration with fishermen in Wales



Author: Christina Dixon, Global Campaign Manager, World Animal Protection

Background: the problem

Human-generated marine debris is recognised as posing a major threat to marine animals globally¹. While much of the debris accumulating in our oceans originates from land-based sources, abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), also known as 'ghost gear', accounts for approximately 10% of marine debris and is one of the major threats to marine wildlife².

Research shows that traps and pots are amongst the most likely gear types to become ghost gear, and the deadliest when they do³. Pot loss is often linked to conflict with other gear, vessels and even large marine mammals. Theft, storms and other accidents also account for loss. Pots are usually baited when set to attract target species.



Ghost pots can essentially become self-baiting, where animals which have died after becoming trapped become new bait for other scavengers.

Ghost gear like this catches and kills fish and other wildlife would otherwise form part of the legal, monitored catch, in some cases worth millions. Gear replacement costs also negatively affect fisheries in a variety of ways, including gear replacement and repair costs, and loss of fishing time. Economic impact studies show fisheries can be negatively affected by a variety of factors, including costs of replacing lost gear and reduced populations of target species due to mortality in ghost fishing gear⁴.

Wales:

Following severe storms during the winter of 2013/14, the fishing industry in Wales suffered incredibly high losses of fishing gear; most of which was never recovered. These losses highlighted the issue of ghost fishing amongst the industry and spurred the creation of a new group, the marine-friendly Sustainable Shellfish Initiative (FSI), to tackle the problem.

In 2014 FSI introduced a series of voluntary measures such as gear tagging, biodegradable hooks, escape hatches and V-notching of lobsters with a group of fishermen in Penarthshire.



Aim:

FSI approached World Animal Protection to support the project by:

- Raising awareness and understanding of ghost gear amongst the fishing industry and coastal communities of voluntary measures to improve fishing sustainability
- Building trust with the fishing industry and gaining support for the Global Ghost Gear Initiative
- Providing expertise on best practices for ghost fishing prevention
- Creating communications materials to be used regionally and nationally
- Generating positive PR for fishermen who are engaging in best practice
- Encouraging the government and seafood sector to support wider implementation of programmes to combat ghost gear
- Funding lost gear retrieval

Conclusion:

The communications materials generated a positive response, with numerous requests for fishing associations for presentations to their staff and printed copies for distribution. Measuring impact of these measures remains a challenge, for evaluating the success of World Animal Protection's contribution, although media reports and video viewtimes for recorded.

The project as a whole highlighted that several practical steps can be taken to mitigate the danger posed by ghost fishing pots. In terms of crab pots, in addition to modifying traps to remove ghost pots, design modifications such as the inclusion of biodegradable escape panels can reduce unnecessary mortalities. Similar projects, for example in the Chesapeake Bay, suggested that biodegradable escape panels would reduce mortality from diesel pots by over 2.8 million crabs each year (Jillovic, Howens and Zowalski, 2014). Unbaited cotton twine, or 'rot cord' is already being used to create biodegradable escape hatches for crabs fitted in British Columbia (Canada) (Palmer and Coates Canada, 2007). This is something we hope to see more widely rolled out in the U.K.



Outputs:

- AS leaflet for fishers
- Two films (one regionally focused and one with broader appeal)
- Poster
- Media coverage
- Case study on Global Ghost Gear Initiative website
- Distribution of assets to national and regional fishing associations



Outcomes:

The film was distributed widely across the UK via fishing associations and to industry media both locally and nationally, eventually winning 'Highly Commended' in the TVE Global Sustainability Film Awards. The printed materials were distributed at several events internationally, by post and made available for download on the World Animal Protection website.

Find out more information:

- ▶ www.worldanimalprotection.org.uk/mo-ss4floss
- ▶ christina.dixon@worldanimalprotection.org

Join the Global Ghost Gear Initiative here:
www.ghostgear.org

¹Thompson, 2014 (Wiley); ²2014 (Wiley); ³2014 (Wiley); ⁴Wardle and Whittaker, 2007 (Wiley); ⁵2014 (Wiley)