

Zero Draft

Pacific Islands Regional Plastics Protocol Annexes and Appendices

Annex A. High-level Principles for Plastics Sustainability

Annex B: Indicators for Sustainability Criteria

Appendix 1: Guidance for National Plastics Management Plans

Appendix 2: Guidance for National Sustainability Standards

Appendix 3 Guidance for National Market-Based Measures

Appendix 4: Guidance for National Performance Reports

Annex A. High-level Principles for Plastics Sustainability

Sound management	Taking all practicable steps to ensure that plastic wastes are reduced and managed across the life cycle , including by reuse, repair, recycling and elimination of leakage to the environment, that will protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes.	
Holistic life cycle	Holistic interventions that prevent, reduce and eliminate the generation of residual waste that causes plastic pollution across all life cycle phases, from chemicals to microplastic leakage into the environment, comprehensively including all life cycle phases from plastic production, and consumption to final treatment, as well as trade of primary, intermediate and waste products, whether targeted directly or indirectly.	
Waste minimisation	The generation of plastic wastes, including residual wastes, should be minimized both in terms of quantity and in terms of their potential for causing pollution.	
Producer responsibility	A producer’s responsibility for a product extends through all phases of its life cycle, from its production to post-consumer phases.	
Proximity of disposal	The disposal of wastes should occur as close as possible to their sources of origin, recognizing that the environmentally and economically sound management of some of these wastes could take place at disposal facilities located further away from their sources of origin.	
Polluter pays	The polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment.	
Progressive targets	Progress implementation targets successively so that targets reflect the highest feasible level of ambition at a given point of time.	
Circular economy	A circular economy seeks safe circular material flows that maximise the value of the materials that circulate within the economy; minimise material consumption, paying particular attention to virgin materials, hazardous substances, and waste streams that raise specific concerns (such as plastics, food, electric and electronic goods); and prevent waste from being generated; reduce hazardous components in waste and products.	
Environmental democracy	Environmental democracy through access to information, access to public participation and access to justice, as well as the potential of citizen science.	
Precautionary	Where there is a risk or threat of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty must not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.	
Prevention	Action needs to be taken to prevent known risks of environmental harm from materialising.	

Annex B. Indicative Criteria for Plastics Sustainability

Sector	Criteria
A. Sustainable primary production	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Produce less plastics 2. Limit use of fossil-based feedstocks 3. Increase use of sustainably sourced biomass-based feedstocks 4. Increase use of post-consumer resins 5. Simplify resin types produced 6. Prevent leakage of plastic pellets, powder and flakes from industrial processes.
B. Sustainable manufacturing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop design standards that enable reuse and economically feasible recycling 2. Prevent leakage during intended use, e.g. abrasion releasing microplastics 3. Develop labelling and certification schemes 4. Develop market-based instruments to incentivize behaviour change by industry
C. Sustainable consumption	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eliminate products and materials of concern from the domestic market. 2. Influence consumer choice based on product design, including likelihood of abrasion (release of microplastics). 3. Influence consumer choice based on cost of disposal and likelihood of leakage. 4. Incentivize sustainable consumption practices across the value chain.
D. Sustainable Waste management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase collection rates 2. Minimize transportation costs 3. Identify means to reduce the costs and challenges of sorting 4. Increase decontamination and recycling of plastic waste
E. Chemical hazard reduction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure safety of chemical additives incorporated in plastic products 2. Ensure safe use of chemicals in different phases of the life cycle (production, recycling etc.) 3. Prevent reintroduction of regulated chemicals in recycling and reuse processes 4. Increase transparency and traceability of chemical additives along the value chain.
F. Elimination of microplastic releases	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eliminate primary microplastic releases. 2. Material and product redesign to minimize abrasion during intended use. This could include, inter alia, developing low-abrasion tyres and using natural fibres and improving fabric cuts and weaving style in textiles. 3. Ensure industrial standards mitigate release of microplastics to air, water and soil, including improving the capture of microplastics in wastewater treatment using best available treatment technologies giving due consideration to avoiding contamination of soils.
G. Sustainable Trade	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure compliance with Basel Convention amendments concerning trade of plastic waste. 2. Address particularly problematic environmental aspects of trade of plastic products and primary materials (pellets, powder and flakes).
H. Sea-based sources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure sustainable design of fishing gear, including minimize use of hazardous chemicals that make recycling challenging (OSPAR, 2020) 2. Reduce the loss or abandonment of fishing gear, including through MBIs and by increasing their traceability 3. Use best environmental practices to retain lost and abandoned fishing gear 4. Ensure compliance with existing conventions to prevent dumping and discharges of plastic waste
I. Sustainable removal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support plastic litter removal programmes targeting hotspots, including rivers, waterways, coastal areas, oceans and land.

Appendix 1. Guidance for National Plastics Management Plans

	Elements
Targets and timeframes	<p>Specify one or more high-level targets that correspond to timeframes. The strategic goals provide guidance for formulating targets that address all areas of the plastics life cycle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination of problematic and avoidable plastic products • Sustainable management of essential plastics • Environmentally sound waste management • Chemicals hazard reduction
Scope	<p>Outline the scope of the plan. The following areas can be considered in defining the scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials and substances: are plastic polymers and chemical additives in focus? • Scales: are both macroplastics and microplastics covered? • Sources: are land-based and sea-based sources included? • Pathways and sinks: which environmental compartments are targeted? • Measures: what areas of life cycle of plastics are in focus?
Methodology	<p>Describe the preparatory process for the NPMP. The following measures can be considered in this context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a national plastics inventory to assess material flows and leakage points • Identify strengths and challenges and review existing legislation for its effectiveness • Develop a cross-sectoral coordination mechanism to prepare and implement the plan
Principles and features	<p>The design of a National Plastics Management Plan may incorporate the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Progression</i>, meaning that enabling action plans to function as a ‘living document’ that reflects the highest possible ambition and progression over time. • <i>Transparency</i>, meaning that information is presented in a way that is clear and can be understood and verified and displays minimum common elements that avoid incomplete or incomparable information between • <i>Policy coherence</i>, meaning that relevant sectors engage in a participatory approach to planning, implementation and review of the plan, or that the plan functions as an overarching framework for all relevant national instruments and agencies. • <i>Context-sensitivity</i> promotes a bottom-up approach and flexibility at the national level for setting targets and identifying measures. • <i>Measurability</i> means the use of quantified national targets to enable tracking of progress. Ideally, the targets should be formulated to be SMART (specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic, and time-bound). • <i>Long-term financial stability</i> means securing a stable and long-term source of funding to introduce measures that ensure sustainable management of plastics across the life cycle. • <i>Strengthening of institutional capacity</i> means political support; financial, human and technical resources; and analytical capabilities. • <i>Evidence-based planning</i> means that substantive amounts of data, knowledge, proper analysis and capacity are used to assess the potential outcomes of various policy options and to correctly inform the planning of goals, targets and policies.

Appendix 2. Guidance for National Sustainability Standards

	Regulatory standards
Production	Ban on single-use plastics <i>Ban on manufacturing, distribution and import of defined problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic. The policy is usually directive in nature at the national level and administered or enforced at the city level</i>
	Decentralized repurpose and reuse <i>Transforming plastic waste or unwanted plastic products into new materials or products</i>
Manufacturing	Eco-design standards <i>Policy measures setting plastic packaging material and design standards to improve recyclability and minimize overall environmental footprint</i>
	Best available techniques <i>Technologies used, operational practices and the ways in which installations are designed, built, maintained, operated and decommissioned that are accessible to the operator of a facility and take into account economic and technical considerations for a given Party or facility and are most effective in achieving a protection of the environment.</i>
	Recycling content standards <i>Requiring a certain level of recycled material to be used in plastic applications. Potential incentives or penalties could be levied on the producers and importers of plastic products to meet their recycled content levels</i>
	Ban on primary microplastics <i>Prohibition on the use of plastic fragments or particles less than 5mm in size (pre-production plastic pellets not included), such as are purposefully manufactured for uses in cosmetic products and toiletries and air-blasting technologies</i>
Consumption	Eco-labelling standards <i>Standards or guidelines imposed on packaging product labelling in order to inform consumers about packaging content and/or proper disposal methods, with the goal eventually to drive more environmentally friendly consumer-behavior</i>
Disposal	Takeback obligations <i>Mandatory obligations on producer brands to take back their products from end-users at the end of the product's useful life</i>
	Source segregation <i>Rules to govern quality of garbage collection at the household or institutional level, which mandates or incentivizes waste stream separation at the source of generation</i>
	Municipal collection points and recycling facilities <i>Requirements to set up dedicated collection points or recovery facilities by municipalities at a sub-district or city level where waste can be separated for further recycling or treatment</i>
	Regulations on waste import <i>Policies governing waste shipment into the country with the aim of prohibiting the import of solid waste or post-consumer recyclables</i>
	Sanitary landfills <i>Legal basis and funding for construction, operation and maintenance of sanitary landfills and the conversion of existing open and uncontrolled dump sites into sanitary landfills</i>

Appendix 3. Guidance for National Market-based Measures

	Market-based measures
Production	Virgin material tax <i>Taxes imposed on either resin manufacturers, packaging manufacturers, brand-owners and importers on production or plastic packaging elements which are either difficult-to-recycle or contain undesirable content</i>
	Anti-littering and anti-dumping levies <i>Taxes and fines imposed on serious litterers with the aim of preventing, eliminating and reducing of illegal dumping and littering</i>
	Sustainable conversion and offtake markets <i>Incentives in the form of subsidies, tax exemptions for intake of low-value, non-recyclable plastic to stimulate their sustainable end-of-life treatment markets</i>
Manufacturing	Taxes and levies on single-use plastics <i>Taxes and/or levies imposed on manufacturers, retailers or consumers for use of specific types of single-use plastic elements, including but not limited to, plastic bags, straws, cups and polystyrene food packaging</i>
Consumption	Advanced Disposal Fees <i>Non-refundable fees levied on individual products at the point of purchase. The fee is inbuilt in the pricing of the product based on estimated costs of collection and treatment</i>
	Preferential procurement <i>Mandates on public sector organizations for supporting or procuring repurposed plastic in their procurement contracts for products and services</i>
Disposal	Deposit return scheme <i>Refundable fee levied on an individual product at the point of purchase. The entire fee, or a portion of it, is refundable when the used product is returned to the point of sale or at a specified drop-off site</i>
	Packaging material fees <i>Producers pay fees depending on the amount of packaging material put on the market or their plastic recycling/recovery targets. Pooled fees are used to fund packaging waste management activities through a producer responsibility organization (PRO)</i>
	Plastic credits system <i>Producers meet their obligations by purchasing recycling certificates issued by accredited re-processors or recyclers based on the amount of plastic waste recycled</i>
	Incentives for recycling industry <i>Financial instruments such as credits, deductions, tax exemptions, as well as shortened depreciation lifetime, are designed to stimulate growth of the plastic recycling industry</i>
	Landfill taxes <i>Taxes charged by national governments to private or public landfill operators to help drive waste away from landfill towards preferable disposal alternatives, such as composting, recycling, and reuse</i>
	Pay as you throw <i>A policy instrument, typically used at the local level, whereby households are charged a fee for waste collection. These could be a flat monthly fee, an amount based on the frequency of waste collection, or an amount calculated per the measure of the generated waste (e.g., weight, number of bins, etc.)</i>
Funding	Municipal bonds <i>Debt instruments issued by the local or national government to finance capital expenditure for waste management (e.g., construction of recycling plants, MRFs, etc.) that are usually exempt from national and local taxes</i>
	Government grants and funds

	Market-based measures
	<i>Special funds established by the national government for solid waste management, which are used to provide grants, subsidies or special interest loans to municipalities, private sector and NGOs to scale waste management initiatives</i>
	R&D incentives <i>Financial incentives, like tax cuts or rebates on R&D expenses, designed to encourage innovation and development of resource-efficient materials and cutting-edge treatment technologies</i>

[Note: This Table reflects suggestions from the Ocean Conservancy’s “Plastics Policy Playbook” (Ocean Conservancy, 2019). Already underway in the region are bans and taxes on plastic bags (Fiji), a container deposit scheme (Kiribati). Palau has a US\$100 tourist entry fee.]

Appendix 4. Guidance for National Performance Reports

Strategic goals	Targets	Outcome indicators	Impact indicators
Elimination of problematic and avoidable products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problematic and avoidable plastic products are phased out by 20xx 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measurable quantitative reduction of problematic and avoidable plastic products 	<p>An impact-oriented target would include detecting a x% decrease of microplastics and plastics present in the environment by setting a specific goal year. Some countries have already ambitious reduction targets, with Vietnam and Thailand striving for 50% reduction and Indonesia 70% reduction of marine plastic litter by 2025</p> <p>Thresholds for good environmental status identified in the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive are relevant, including 20 pieces of litter along 100 meters of beach. A closely related national environmental target includes reducing plastic litter found on the shore in Finland by 30% by 2024.</p>
Sustainable management of essential plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastics are designed to be reused and recycled by 20xx Plastic products include x% recycled content by 20xx 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of pellets, powder and flakes Quantity of plastics produced, consumed and traded Recycled content of plastics 	
Sustainable waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastics are reused and recycled in practice by 20xx An EPR scheme is developed by 20xx 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rate of collection, reuse, recycling, landfilling, and incineration of plastic waste 	
Chemical hazard reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toxic chemical additives are phased out from plastic products by 20xx 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measurable quantitative reduction in use of toxic chemical additives 	