



A unique group of leaders who are fast-tracking solutions to the most pressing challenges facing the Ocean



**GLOBAL
PLASTIC ACTION
PARTNERSHIP**

Global Plastic Action Partnership *Shaping a circular economy for plastics – from source to sea*

The challenge

We are now producing nearly 300 million tonnes of plastic every year. This miracle material has made modern life possible. But over 40% of it is packaging, which is used once and then discarded – either through landfill or burning.

About 8 million tonnes of plastic end up in the Ocean every year. Much of it arrives via the world's rivers, and it is choking our waterways.

If we fail to act, there could be more plastic than fish in the Ocean by 2050, and plastic is already severely disrupting marine ecosystems and food supplies. Evidence is growing that people around the world are ingesting microplastics through their food and drinking water.

The problem starts long before plastic reaches our Oceans, rivers and beaches – and so must the solutions.

Much plastic is designed without fully considering what happens to it after it is used. As well as the environmental damage, the financial loss is vast. The global economy misses out on an estimated USD\$80 billion to USD\$120 billion a year because of plastic waste.

Commitments to tackle waste

There is widespread agreement that urgent, concerted action is needed, and there have been major commitments from businesses and governments.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 calls for sustainable production and consumption while SDG 14 (Life Below Water or the 'Ocean Goal') calls for the prevention of marine pollution by 2025.

At the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi in 2017, more than 200 nations passed a resolution to eliminate plastic pollution in our seas.

In April 2018, the UK announced the Commonwealth Clean Oceans Alliance, and Canada championed the issue in its 2018 Presidency of the G7 as well as spearheading the development of the Oceans Plastics Charter.

But we cannot simply recycle and clean our way out of this crisis, we must move upstream to the source of the flow.



The solution: a circular economy

The solution must come through redesigning the global “take-make-dispose” economy as a circular one.

A circular economy is a regenerative approach to production and consumption, in which products and materials are **redesigned**, **recovered** and **reused** to reduce environmental impacts.

This is what the new Global Plastic Action Partnership aims to achieve.

What is the Global Plastic Action Partnership?

The **Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP)** aims to translate political commitments to address plastic pollution into action by fast-tracking circular economy solutions in coastal countries battling plastic waste.

It will operate on two levels – nationally in three specific economies, and globally.

GPAP will work collaboratively with government, business, community and other key stakeholders in **Indonesia, West Africa and the Pacific** who have national plans to combat plastic waste, convening national public and private leaders, developing national action and investment plans, and aligning investors to advance joined-up action that can support the implementation of targets.

The three geographies have all shown considerable scope for innovation and GPAP aims to have investable solutions in place by 2021, which can then be adapted and implemented in other countries and regions.

At the global level, GPAP will provide a platform and convening mechanism for the emerging range of initiatives seeking to tackle plastics pollution. This aims to foster exchange, collaboration and scaling of solutions.

GPAP is supported by the governments of Canada and the United Kingdom as well as several companies, namely The Coca-Cola Company, The Dow Chemical Company and the PepsiCo Foundation. More partners will be announced soon.

GPAP was launched at the World Economic Forum Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2018 in New York, during the UN General Assembly.

The World Economic Forum will host the partnership in collaboration with the World Resources Institute, allowing it to tap into two networks of experts, civil society, government and industry leaders: PACE (a circular economy platform) and the Friends of Ocean Action (a network of Ocean leaders dedicated to fast-tracking practical solutions to challenges facing the Ocean).

GPAP will collaborate with The Pew Charitable Trusts on data analysis and modelling at the national level to drive evidence-based action.

How will the Global Plastic Action Partnership work?

GPAP will translate commitments into tangible strategies and investable action plans, linking these efforts into a global platform that enables effective replication and scaling of these, and other, solutions.

It will approach this at the national and sub-national level in the three economies through:

- **Formalising collaboration** with senior government leadership;
- Developing **national action partnerships** which include the top 20–30 multi-stakeholder influencers at a national level identified as critical to shaping a circular plastics economy;
- **Developing roadmaps** based on best-in-class analysis to support the implementation of national targets; and
- Aligning strategic financing partnerships to help **channel funding** to plastics action projects.

At the global level, GPAP aims to achieve systemic transformation in the plastics economy by building a global plastics collaboration network that enables key public and private actors and NGOs to convene and identify collaboration opportunities to tackle plastic pollution. A key element of this network is the opportunity to exchange knowledge and learning from the national-level actions to advance systems change.

Governance of the Global Plastic Action Partnership

GPAP is comprised of a Governing Council, Steering Board and Advisory Committee.

The Governing Council consists of senior executives of the founding members of the Partnership, as well as key, identified stakeholders, who will guide its strategic direction and budget. Council members will also help promote GPAP and its activities within their extensive networks.

The Steering Board is made up of nominated representatives of the Governing Council who will oversee the management of the Partnership from an operational perspective. The Board will review the strategic plan and budget, submitting it annually to the Governing Council; supervise the Secretariat; and approve the Secretariat’s plan, the budget, and the proposed country programmes. The Board will also comment on GPAP’s annual performance review and impact assessments.

The Advisory Committee is comprised of key collaborating partners of GPAP and leading experts. The Committee will provide strategic input and guidance to the Partnership and, where mutual benefit is identified, actively collaborate to support programme delivery and implementation.

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More information

www.weforum.org

<https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-new-plastics-economy-rethinking-the-future-of-plastics>
