



EASICO 3-YEAR REPORT

The East Asian Seas Initiative for Clean Ocean (EASICO) is an initiative focused on the **reduction of marine debris in East Asia.**

February 2025



Produced by

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Centre for Supporting Green Development (GreenHub)
Indonesian Waste Platform (IWP)
International Coastal Cleanup Philippines (ICC Philippines)

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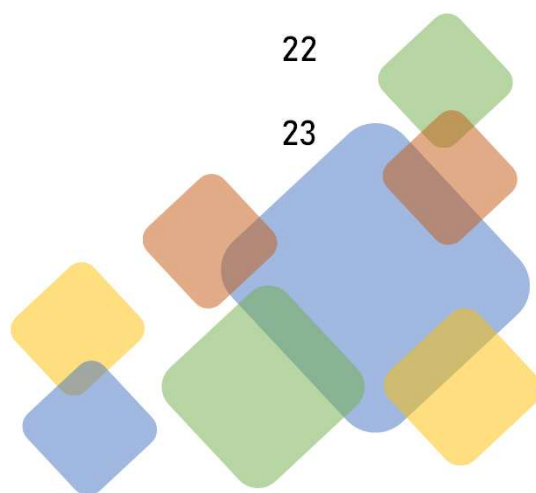
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Philippines

PEMSEA

Indonesia

Viet Nam

ROK MOF

OSEAN

01
EASICO Project Overview



Executive Summary

The East Asian Seas Initiative on Clean Oceans (EASICO) was established in 2021 to combat marine plastic pollution in East Asia, with the goal of achieving zero plastics in the region's seas by 2030. Funded by the Korean Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, EASICO has fostered regional cooperation by implementing capacity-building workshops, citizen science programs (CSP), and community participation programs (CPP). Over the past three years, these efforts have strengthened partnerships and advanced sustainable waste management strategies.

Capacity Building Workshops

EASICO conducted annual capacity building workshops to enhance knowledge-sharing and collaboration among stakeholders.

- ✓ **2022 (Indonesia):** The inaugural workshop in Labuan Bajo focused on community-based waste management, marine litter monitoring, and citizen science. Participants engaged in field visits and discussions on abandoned fishing gear and waste segregation practices.
- ✓ **2023 (Viet Nam):** The second workshop, themed “Enhancing Scientific Capacity for Plastic Reduction,” centered on data collection, policy engagement, and community education. Hands-on field training in Cat Ba and stakeholder discussions contributed to improved marine debris monitoring and policy integration.
- ✓ **2024 (South Korea):** The final workshop prepared stakeholders for the Global Plastics Treaty negotiations, featuring AI-driven marine debris tracking, discussions on regulatory frameworks, and training on digital citizen science tools. The hybrid format enabled participation from a broader audience, fostering international collaboration.

Citizen Science Program (CSP)

CSPs provided crucial data on marine pollution and engaged communities in scientific monitoring.

- ✓ **Beach Litter Monitoring:** Across all three years, EASICO partners, IWP and GreenHub, conducted systematic beach litter monitoring to track pollution trends and identify key waste contributors. Data collected informed local and national policies on plastic waste management.
- ✓ **Underwater and Coastal Cleanups:** ICC-PH led extensive underwater and coastal cleanups in Manila, addressing plastic accumulation in urban waterways. These efforts contributed to marine habitat restoration and raised public awareness.

Community Participation Program (CPP)

EASICO's CPP encouraged local engagement in sustainable waste management, with a notable example from GreenHub in Viet Nam.

- ✓ **GreenHub's Community Engagement:** GreenHub played a pivotal role in promoting community-led waste management by supporting women-led recycling initiatives and facilitating waste sorting and collection efforts.
- ✓ **Education Campaigns and Policy Advocacy:** Community training sessions and policy dialogues helped integrate grassroots waste management solution into local governance structures, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Executive Summary

In summary, over three years, EASICO has driven regional collaboration in tackling marine plastic pollution through knowledge-sharing, scientific research, and community action. Its programs have improved data collection methodologies, empowered local stakeholders, and laid a strong foundation for sustainable marine conservation efforts in East Asia. The initiative's work has demonstrated the importance of community engagement and policy alignment in addressing transboundary environmental challenges.

EASICO PROJECT AT A GLANCE

3-YEAR PROJECT

FUNDING

COORDINATION

EXECUTION



3 CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

at Labuan Bajo (Indonesia), Hoi An (Viet Nam), and Seoul (South Korea)



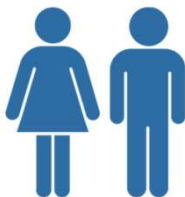
21 SITES

38 Monitoring surveys & 23 Beach Cleanups



52,077 pcs & 176,800 kg

Worth of trash cleaned



3,074 PERSONS

Involved in both CSP and CPP programs

Organization Introduction



OSEAN is a South Korean independent non-profit research institute focused on addressing the issue of marine litter.



GreenHub is a Vietnamese civil society organization committed to the green development of Viet Nam in biodiversity conservation, community development, capacity building, and networking projects.



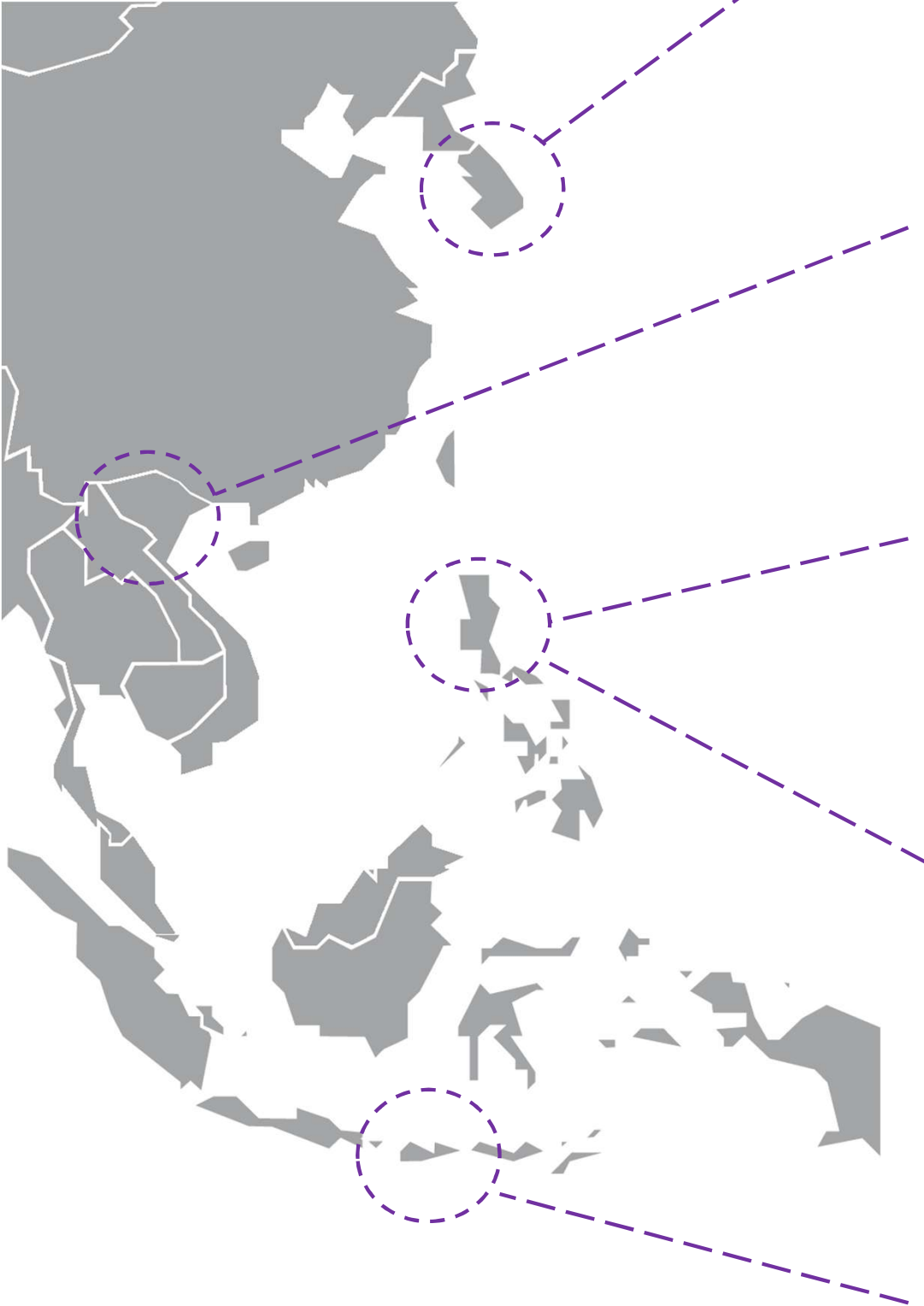
PEMSEA is a regional coordinating mechanism for the sustainable development of seas and coasts in East Asia.

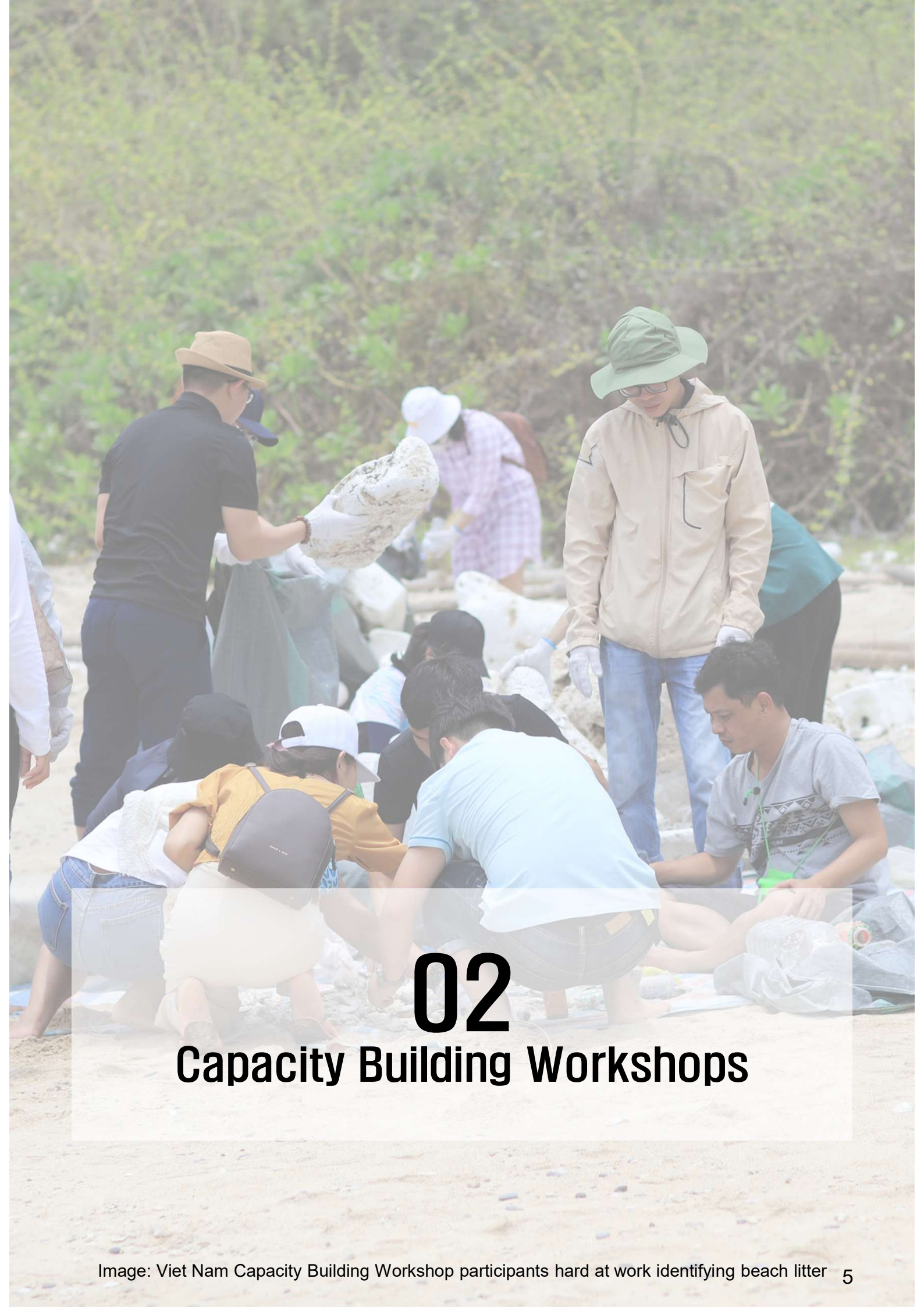


ICC Philippines is a non-profit organization dedicated to protect and conserve our ocean, beaches, and rivers through cleanups, marine environmental education and awareness campaigns.



Serving as a bridge for various stakeholders, IWP focuses on solid waste management, the impact of waste on the environment, and aspects of solid waste related to climate change.



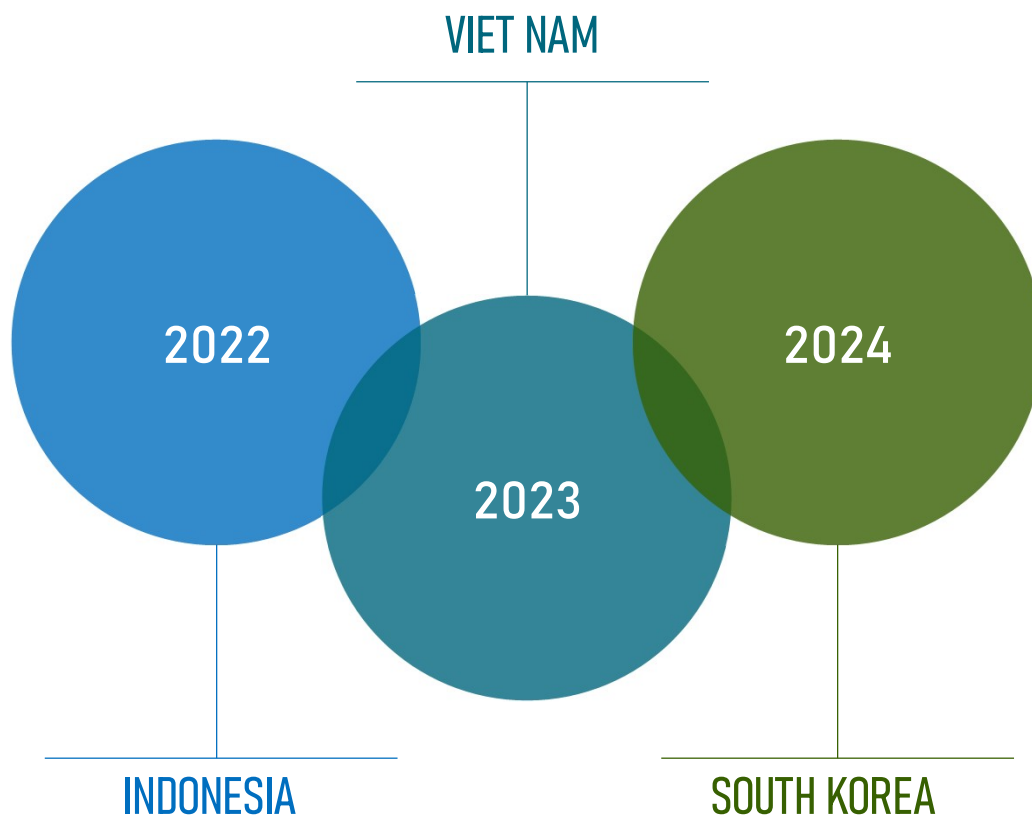


02

Capacity Building Workshops

Operate educational training workshops to foster local civic groups

By including 'Capacity Building Workshop' in the EASICO Project, we aimed to strengthen the partnership and networking between local NGOs. This will not only allow organizations to establish cooperative platforms, knowledge sharing, and expansion of networking between civic groups. The goal was not only for EASICO signees to expand their coverage in their countries but also outwards throughout the ASEAN region and PEMSEA member countries.





1st Capacity Building Workshop - Labuan Bajo, Indonesia



The first EASICO workshop, held in June 2022 in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia, brought together participants from South Korea, the Philippines, Viet Nam, and local communities to discuss strategies for reducing marine debris. The workshop featured a mix of theoretical discussions, field trips, and best practice sharing, focusing on community-led waste management, citizen science, and policy interventions. Participants gained hands-on experience in marine litter monitoring and explored waste management initiatives in Komodo National Park and nearby areas.



Key sessions covered topics such as abandoned fishing gear, solid waste management policies, and preventive measures like refill and reuse systems. The event facilitated knowledge exchange among stakeholders and highlighted successful interventions in plastic waste reduction. Participants also visited local recycling centers and engaged with community-led efforts to combat marine pollution.



The workshop successfully fostered collaboration among EASICO members and local stakeholders, resulting in new partnerships and initiatives, including plans to expand monitoring activities and share educational resources. Participants expressed enthusiasm for applying lessons learned to their respective regions and emphasized the importance of citizen science in addressing plastic pollution challenges.





2nd Capacity Building Workshop - Ha Noi, Viet Nam



The second EASICO workshop, held in May 8-10, 2023 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, gathered local and international stakeholders from research institutes, universities, NGOs, and plastic waste management stakeholders to discuss plastic waste reduction strategies. The workshop aimed to foster collaboration, share best practices, and discuss effective policy implementation. Key sessions covered topics such as stakeholder ecosystem building, citizen science-based marine debris monitoring, and resource mobilization for plastic pollution mitigation.



The workshop featured presentations from experts across the participating countries, offering insights into plastic waste management strategies, policy impacts, and data collection methods. Participants engaged in theoretical sessions, discussions, and hands-on field trips to gain practical experience in marine litter monitoring. The combination of formal and informal networking opportunities provided participants—especially those from developing countries—with valuable chances to establish international connections, exchange knowledge, and explore collaboration opportunities in tackling plastic pollution challenges.



Key outcomes included strengthened partnerships, improved understanding of plastic waste management practices, and new opportunities for cooperation in addressing marine debris issues. The workshop emphasized sustainability by promoting reusable materials and fostering discussions on innovative solutions for reducing plastic waste.





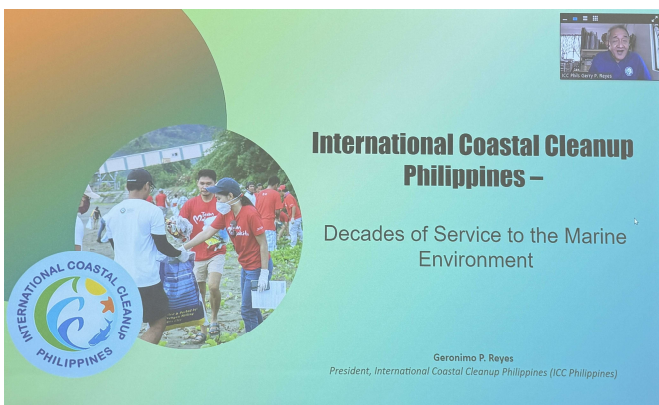
3rd Capacity Building Workshop - Seoul, South Korea



The 2024 EASICO Workshop, held in Seoul from July 8 to 11, brought together stakeholders from Viet Nam, Indonesia, and the Philippines to discuss marine debris mitigation and preparations for the upcoming Global Plastics Treaty negotiations. The workshop aimed to enhance understanding of the treaty, integrate findings from EASICO's citizen science programs, and strengthen regional cooperation. Key sessions focused on AI applications for marine debris tracking and policy responses from the Asia-Pacific region.

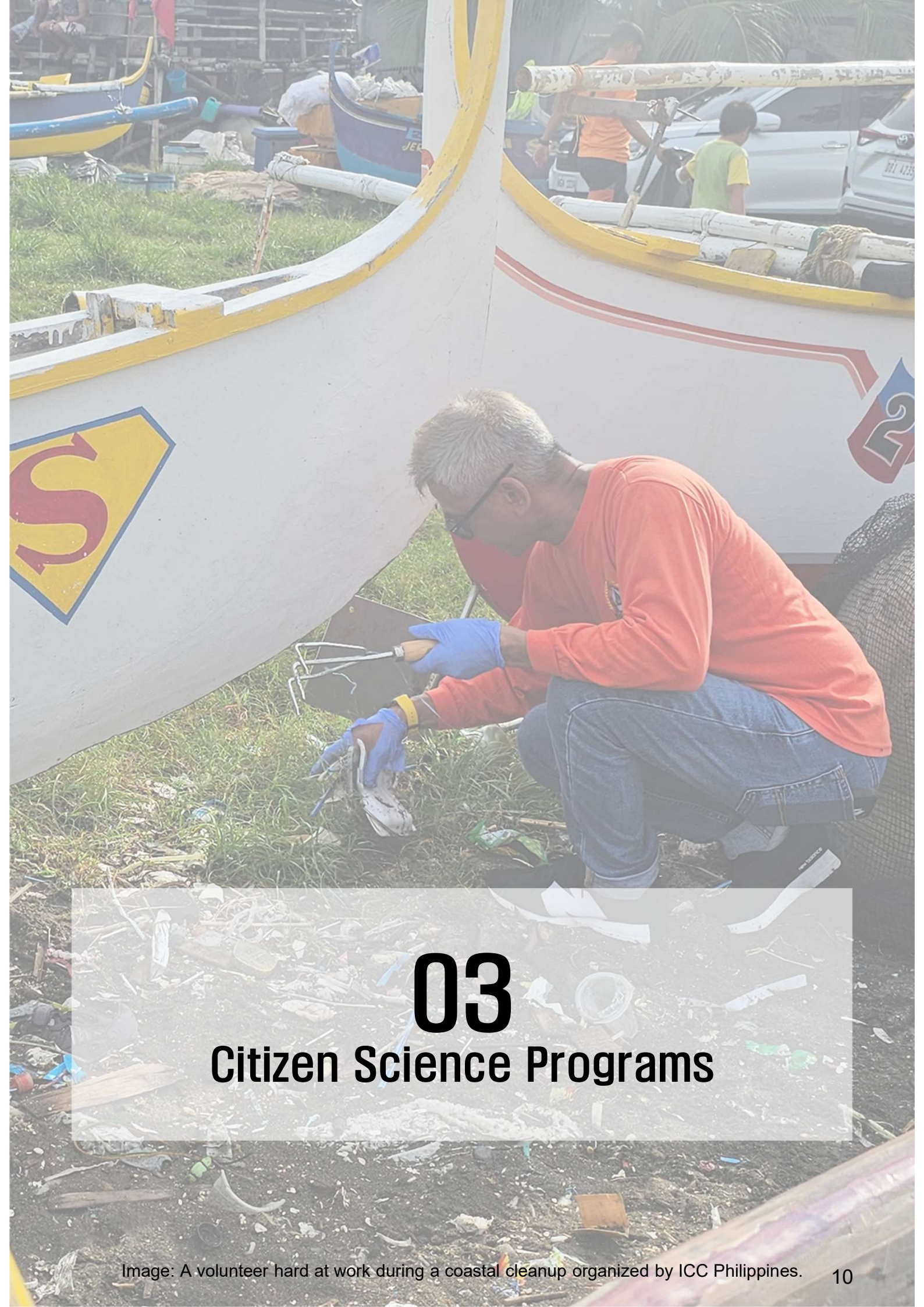


A major highlight was the introduction and hands-on practice of the Ocean Knights, which use digital tools and AI to improve waste monitoring. Participants engaged in field activities, data collection, and discussions to explore future enhancements. The event also featured expert presentations on marine debris challenges, policy developments, and successful community-based waste management initiatives across East Asia.



The workshop concluded with discussions on future plans, including the TEN2ONE International campaign to tackle the most problematic marine debris items. Participants expressed enthusiasm for the potential of digital tools and citizen science in addressing plastic pollution. The event received positive feedback, with attendees appreciating the opportunity to collaborate and exchange insights on sustainable waste management strategies.





03

Citizen Science Programs

Imparting methods of gathering scientific evidence using citizen science

Citizen science has time and time again proven to be a valuable resource for the good of the environment. In training local communities on evidence-based methodologies, this skill training will provide citizens with the necessary knowledge and skills to take action for the environment. By shining light towards the damaging effects of plastic to the marine ecosystem, maritime accidents, economic damages from tourism, and ghost fishing, this can push everyday people to be involved and inspired to make a change for the environment.



Indonesian Waste Platform (IWP)

In the past three years since the conception of the EASICO Project, IWP has carried out beach litter monitoring surveys at 13 different beaches throughout Komodo National Park. Beaches covered include Binongko, Labuan Bajo, Loh Dasami, Loh Liang, Loh Mbongi, Luwansa, Mangiatan, Mesah, Papagaran, Puri Komodo, Seraya, Siaba Besar, and Tatawa Besar islands.

Utilizing precise beach litter monitoring survey skills, IWP has trained not just staff but also local and foreign citizen scientists on accurate waste identification and methodology.

In total, 242.7 kilograms of waste was monitored along beaches then cleaned providing the local Komodo dragons and marine ecosystem with a cleaner habitat. Plastic was the most common type of trash, often representing at least 88% of collected waste. From all the surveys, the most commonly found items are beverage bottles, disposable cups, and lids.

IWP has also carried out various citizen science programs such as training programs to local youths to help raise awareness on the issue of marine litter, webinars for various stakeholders to learn about beach litter monitoring, as well as movie nights to keep the local community interested in marine litter and beach litter monitoring.

**12,108 pcs
and
243 kg
trash cleaned**

**13 beaches
covered for beach
litter monitoring
surveys**



International Coastal Cleanup Philippines

Within the three years of the EASICO Project, ICC Philippines has successfully organized a total of 23 coastal and underwater cleanups. These cleanups were taken place in Aguila, Ternate Marine Park, and the Maragondon Bay in Manila.

2,356 persons from Local Government Units, Coast Guards, civil society organizations, private organizations, and members of the local community participated in the cleanups.

In total, 30,765 pieces or an equivalent of 9,946 kg of waste were cleaned from beaches and underwater coral farms. That puts the amount of trash to be a total of 1,613 sacks worth of trash removed.

For all 23 cleanups, the most commonly found items were plastic beverage bottles and fishing gear. Fishing gear includes both recreational fishing waste such as fishing lines and hooks and commercial fishing waste such as fishing nets and ropes.

**30,765 pcs
and
9,946 kg
trash cleaned**

A total of
1,613 sacks
filled worth of trash
removed



Centre for Green Development (GreenHub)

In just three years, GreenHub has not only successfully carried out their plastic beach litter monitoring around Da Nang and Hoi An but has dedicated their time and expertise to the development of Viet Nam's beach litter monitoring and the sustenance of the 'Plastic and Health Digital Platform'.

11 monitoring surveys were carried out at five sites in both Da Nang and Hoi An. GreenHub brought everyday citizens, local communities, and even academicians to the beach to learn and carry out the beach plastic monitoring methodology. In total, 210 persons were involved with the monitoring survey to identify 9,204 pieces and an equivalent of 166,612 kilograms of trash on coastal beaches.

Results from all the monitoring surveys were accumulated, analyzed then shared with stakeholders from governmental, non-governmental, civil-society, academe, as well as marine protected area (MPA) and national park (NP) representatives through a four-day workshop. With clear evidence on hand on the importance of beach plastic litter monitoring the workshop saw active discussion and address towards the pressing issue of marine plastic pollution.

**9,204 pcs
and
166,612 kg
trash cleaned**

**4-day
workshop
on data sharing
with various
stakeholders**





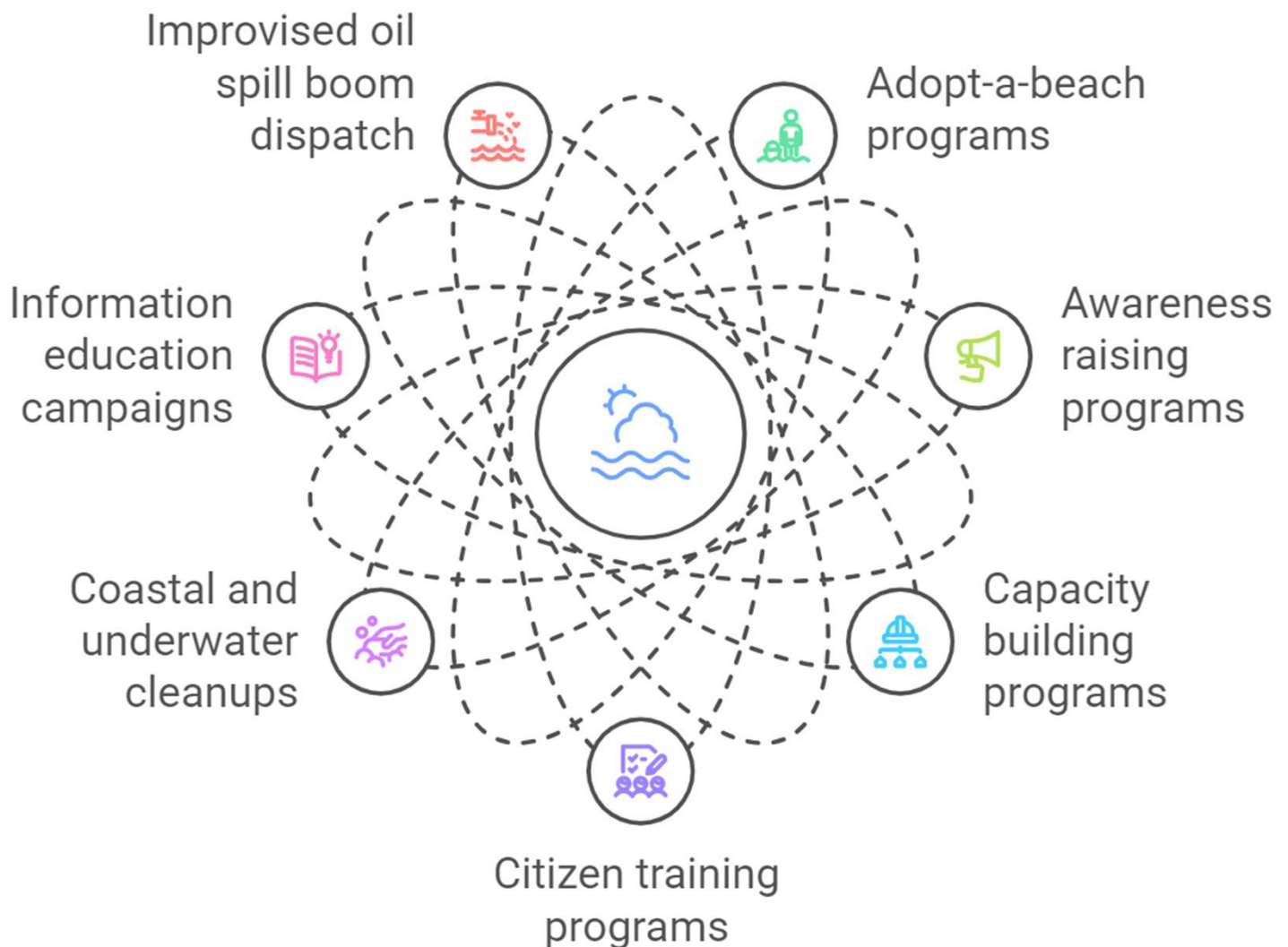
04

Community Participation Programs

Develop community-led programs in response to marine plastics

Community involvement is crucial in the success to protect our environment. By developing programs aimed towards preventing, collecting and properly disposing marine plastics, this will educate and include the local residents in the fight to protect our marine and coastal environment.

Community Participation Program





facebook

CALL FOR ACTION on plastic ice bags used in fisheries - Single use ice cooling bags and one potential feasible alternative. We continue the lobby for alternatives for ice packed in single use plastic and commonly used by fishermen to cool their catch while at sea. Fishermen commonly use 3 to 5 of these single use icepacks per styrofoam box on board. Attached pictures show these bags washed ashore, they come in every single day. ... 더 보기 — Joi Danielson 님 외 2명과 함께

YOU SEE THE DIFFERENCE. A TURTLE DOES NOT.

Indonesian Waste Platform (IWP)

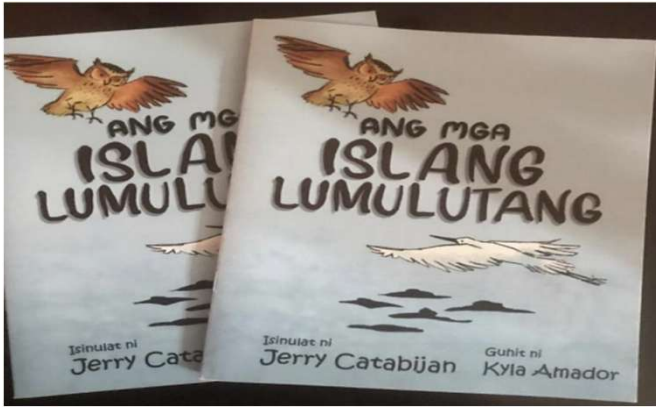
Over the past three years, the Indonesian Waste Platform (IWP) has implemented various community participation programs to tackle marine litter in Labuan Bajo and Komodo National Park. In 2022, IWP focused on reducing single-use ice bags used by fishermen by distributing educational materials and conducting awareness campaigns. This initiative aligned with Indonesia's 2025 National Action Plan to cut ocean waste by 70%. In 2023, IWP expanded its efforts by launching citizen science training programs, educating local volunteers on marine litter monitoring, and raising awareness on the impact of cigarette butts and tourist waste through public campaigns.

By 2024, IWP introduced the Adopt-a-Beach program, engaging local businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and diving operators to take responsibility for maintaining designated beaches. Despite regulatory challenges within Komodo National Park, IWP successfully built partnerships with tourism stakeholders to reduce waste leakage. The initiative has significantly increased community engagement, fostered corporate environmental responsibility, and contributed to policy discussions on sustainable waste management. These efforts have helped create a strong foundation for long-term environmental conservation in Indonesia.

Adopt the Beach program for Dive Masters Training

Learning the OSEAN method of monitoring marine debris with Indonesian Waste Platform

For further information and registration, please contact Your Diving Company
 +61813 3851 1345 | www.indonesianwaste.org | indonesianwasteplatform@gmail.com



International Coastal Cleanup Philippines



Over the past three years, International Coastal Cleanup Philippines (ICC-PH) has actively engaged in community participation programs, primarily in Cavite and Manila Bay. These initiatives focus on coastal and underwater cleanups, mangrove planting, and educational campaigns. In 2022, ICC-PH expanded its reach to local communities by conducting trash trap installations in rivers to prevent waste from entering marine protected areas. Volunteers, in partnership with the Philippine Coast Guard and local government units, engaged in cleanup drives and data collection to assess the impact of marine litter.

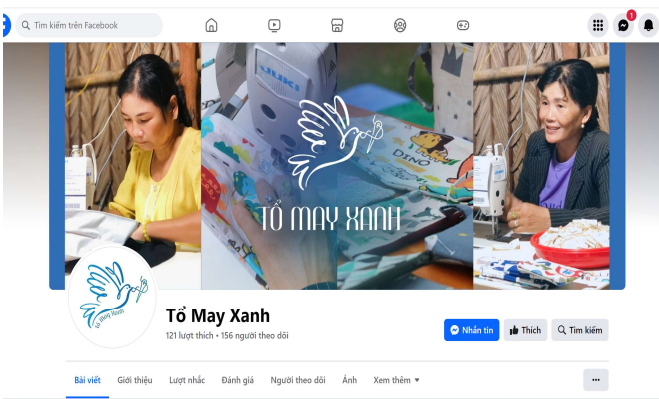


In 2023, ICC-PH intensified its efforts through 12 large-scale community activities, including coastal and underwater cleanups, reef assessments, and mangrove planting. More than 1,000 volunteers participated, collecting tons of marine debris, with major cleanups occurring on International Coastal Cleanup Day. Additionally, ICC-PH launched educational campaigns in schools, providing students with awareness materials and partnering with local government units to promote waste management initiatives.



By 2024, ICC-PH responded to new challenges, including the Manila Bay oil spill, by constructing and deploying improvised oil spill booms to protect marine habitats. The organization also continued reef rehabilitation projects, coral restoration, and large-scale public awareness campaigns. Through these continuous efforts, ICC-PH has significantly enhanced local engagement, strengthened marine conservation policies, and provided sustainable solutions for waste reduction in the Philippines.



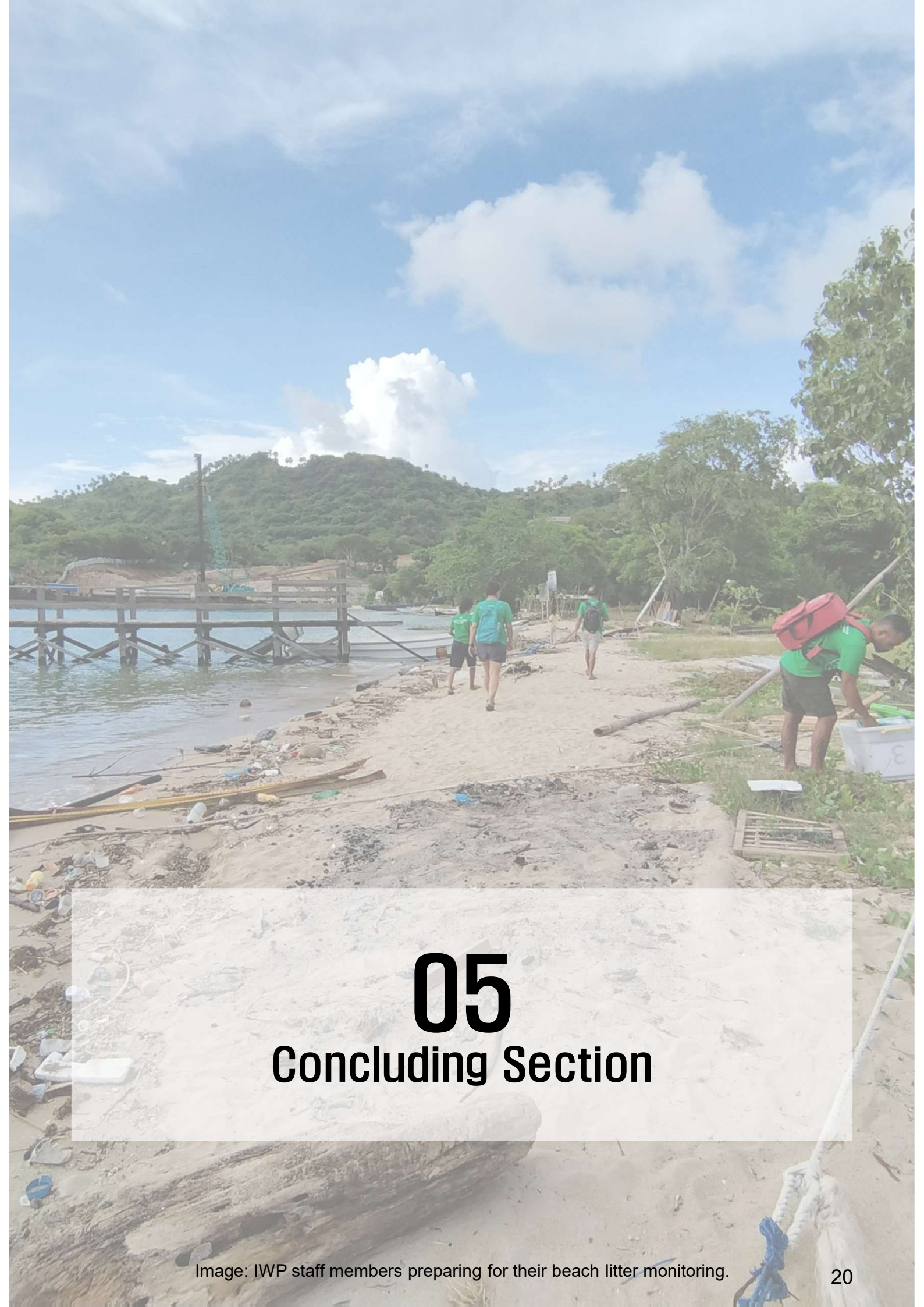


Centre for Green Development (GreenHub)

Over the past three years, GreenHub has led community participation programs focused on waste reduction and sustainable livelihoods in Hoi An, Vietnam. In 2022, it launched the Green Houses project, a waste segregation system supporting Hoi An's Women's Union members. These facilities enabled waste pickers and disadvantaged women to collect and sell recyclables, creating economic opportunities while reducing waste leakage. The initiative led to the establishment of 54 Green Houses in various wards, ensuring long-term community engagement.

In 2023, GreenHub introduced The Happiness Shop, a social enterprise that trained disabled and disadvantaged women to upcycle plastic waste and fabric scraps into products. Through workshops, coaching, and business development support, the initiative promoted waste repurposing and sustainable income generation. It gained national recognition with a short documentary on VTV1 Channel.

By 2024, GreenHub shifted its focus to Green Garment (To May Xanh), a women-led plastic recycling initiative. This project provided skills training, product development, and business networking, strengthening sustainable livelihoods while advancing Vietnam's circular economy.



05

Concluding Section



Conclusion

Over the past three years, the East Asian Seas Initiative on Clean Oceans (EASICO) has made significant strides toward addressing marine plastic pollution through collaborative efforts across Indonesia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. With a strong foundation in citizen science and community participation, the initiative successfully implemented various capacity-building workshops, coastal and underwater cleanup programs, and policy advocacy efforts to enhance regional cooperation in combating marine litter.

Through these coordinated actions, EASICO not only enhanced public awareness of marine plastic pollution but also strengthened the institutional capacity needed to support ongoing environmental monitoring and sustainable waste management. The initiative has successfully laid the groundwork for future regional collaboration, with data-driven approaches and policy recommendations that align with global efforts such as the Global Plastics Treaty.

Challenges

Despite its successes, EASICO faced several challenges that provided valuable lessons for future initiatives. One major hurdle was the inconsistent enforcement of marine plastic regulations at the local level, limiting the effectiveness of policy discussions integrated into workshops. Additionally, discrepancies in marine debris monitoring methodologies across different countries complicated data harmonization and regional analysis. Securing long-term funding beyond the project's duration was another significant challenge, affecting the sustainability of citizen science and community-led programs. Furthermore, local communities often faced socio-economic barriers that hindered their sustained engagement in environmental initiatives. The transboundary nature of marine litter also underscored the need for broader regional cooperation beyond the three participating countries.

Lessons Learnt

Key lessons from EASICO highlight the importance of stronger policy advocacy to ensure the adoption and enforcement of plastic reduction measures. Establishing standardized monitoring protocols would enhance data consistency and facilitate effective collaboration at regional and international levels. Additionally, securing diversified financial support through partnerships with the private sector, government agencies, and international donors is critical for sustaining long-term environmental programs. Community engagement can be strengthened through economic incentives, such as recycling-for-income initiatives, to ensure continued participation. The integration of technology, such as AI-driven waste monitoring applications and digital tools, has the potential to streamline data collection and improve the efficiency of marine debris tracking efforts.

In conclusion

EASICO has demonstrated the power of multi-sectoral collaboration in combating marine plastic pollution. By tackling key challenges and integrating valuable lessons learned, future initiatives can build on this momentum to drive lasting change. Achieving zero plastic waste in East Asian seas by 2030 is an ambitious goal, but with continued commitment, innovation, and cooperation, it remains within our reach.

Let's turn the tide on plastic pollution—our oceans depend on it.



Acknowledgements

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Behind The Scenes: The People Who Made It Possible

This initiative could never have been successful without the dedication and hard work of the individuals behind the scenes. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the team members from OSEAN, GreenHub, ICC Philippines, and IWP, whose unwavering commitment, expertise, and collaboration have been the backbone of this project. Your efforts in coordination, research, logistics, and implementation have been instrumental in making this initiative a reality.

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We sincerely thank you for being a part of this journey.

3 Year Report

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