**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Ref. 32:20: Building a base-level information profile of marine plastic litter to serve for effective management, making decisions, and Viet Nam’s contribution toward the global treaty**

**I. Backgrounds**

Viet Nam is a developing country with high population of more than 90 million people. The tourism service and numerous residential areas and industrial zones along the coastline have been constantly developed recently.

Plastic products have generated a number of benefits for society, but at the same time, plastic pollution has become a persistent and widespread challenge. Viet Nam is ranked fourth on the list of contributors to marine plastic pollution worldwide following China, Indonesia, and the Philippines[[1]](#footnote-1). Therefore, the coastal environment of Viet Nam represents a global hotspot of marine plastic litters.

Viet Nam has recognized the issues on “marine litter” being highly priority as reflected in the issued policies. The challenges of Marine Litter and Micro-plastics are global, and require global solutions and initiatives framed within national and regional priorities. In 2020, Viet Nam takes a role as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and the chair of ASEAN 2020. By taking this chance, Viet Nam are striving toward cooperation with other countries in the fields of Blue economy, especially plastic litter issue.

Toward the achievement of the Target 14.1 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that calls for preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, Viet Nam has made great efforts through strong political commitments as well as practical activities in managing waste reduction. Viet Nam has adopted a development strategy to promote maritime economy in parallel with protecting maritime environment and ecosystem. One of specific objectives until 2030 settled out by the Strategy is “Preventing, controlling and significantly mitigating marine environmental pollution; being a regional pioneer in reducing ocean plastic waste”. The Government made a request to Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), including “Proactively, actively participate in and propose for implementing cooperation initiatives at international and regional forums”, “Promote the formation of a regional and international cooperation framework on prevention and mitigation of ocean plastic waste”[[2]](#footnote-2),[[3]](#footnote-3),[[4]](#footnote-4). The National Action Plan (NAP) on marine plastic litter management through 2030 sets requirements of “Successfully implement Viet Nam’s initiatives and international commitments to address plastic waste issues with a focus on marine plastic litter”, “Maintain and develop cooperation with international organizations on the sea issues; proactively sign and implementing international treaties; and coordinate in the control and management of marine plastic litter”[[5]](#footnote-5). At the G7 Summit in Canada in June 2018, the Prime Minister advocated for a “plastic free ocean” initiative, and called for a Global Cooperation Mechanism for Plastic Litter Mitigation with joint actions from all relevant countries for ever-blue oceans full of fish and shrimps and free from plastic, serving as valuable assets for future generations. Since beginning 2020, taking a role as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and as the ASEAN Chair, Viet Nam is striding toward cooperation with other countries, organizations in the fields of marine economic sustainable development, marine environmental protection, etc., It can be said that Viet Nam welcomes solutions and initiatives preventing plastic litter on oceans, and ready to work with partners for implementation.

Actually, there are gaps and inefficiencies from the central-level to local-level governances regarding the combating of marine plastic litter. Recently, there are many efforts for combating this issue, but in fact, marine litter and plastic pollution are still new, not only for managers but also for scientists in Viet Nam. There are some gaps of awareness, such as:

- General lack of knowledge about and overview of the policy measures implemented by State in order to prevent, control marine plastic pollution.

- Insufficient scientific knowledge about the scope, scale and causes of the marine litter problem.

- Common perception about the mobilization of human resources and the financial mechanism for dealing with marine plastic waste varies among localities, industries and sectors.

- Awareness and knowledge of ocean economy, circular economy have not been paid attention seriously comparing with brown economy (exploiting natural resources as a motivation for short-term growth and ignoring environmental issue).

Viet Nam Administration of Seas and Islands (VASI) is an agency under the Viet Nam Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), with the function of advising and assisting the Minister in the field of integrated management of marine and island resources and environmental protection.

Currently, the Government and Prime Minister assign MONRE (directly VASI) to take charge functions, duties and policy recommendations to make well-informed decisions relating marine plastic litter issue. The role of the MONRE/VASI for marine plastic litter issue can be reflected in the following duties:

*(1) Tasks and jurisdiction:*

- To assist Minister to submit mechanisms, policies, projects, and schemes concerning marine plastic litter issues to the Government, Prime Minister.

- To submit to the Minister drafts of national standards, national technical regulations, and econo-technical norms concerning marine litter issues.

- To direct, guide, examine, and organize the implementation of policies, legal documents on marine plastic litter issues.

- To take lead and coordinate with ministries, sectors and provincial-level People’s Committees of coastal localities in elaborating and submitting to competent authorities for approval, and implementing, programs, plans, schemes, projects, and tasks on marine plastic litter issues.

- To monitor and summarize baseline surveys of marine plastic litters in nationwide scope.

- To analyze, evaluate, and forecast domestic and international developments and moves concerning marine plastic litter issues.

- To monitor marine resources and environment; to investigate, make statistics of, classify, and assess waste sources from activities carried out at sea and on islands under its competence; to assess the current state of marine and island environment pollution; to implement measures to prevent, detect, handle and remedy pollution and degradation of marine and island environment and ecosystems; to improve and rehabilitate the polluted and degraded marine and island environment and ecosystems;

- To take lead and and coordinate with related ministries, sectors, and localities in inspecting and supervising marine environmental activities.

- To guide and provide public information about marine plastic litter issues.

- To maintain and develop cooperation with international organizations on the sea issues; proactively sign and implement international treaties.

*(2) Blue economy:*

The Resolution No.36-NQ/TW sets out specific objectives until 2030 that concern marine plastic litter, such as:

- Preventing, controlling, and significantly reducing marine environmental pollution; being a regional pioneer in immigrating marine plastic litter issues.

- In the coastal provinces and cities, all hazardous wastes and domestic solid wastes will be collected and treated to meet environmental standards; all coastal economic zones, industrial parks and urban areas will be planned and constructed in a sustainable, ecological and smart manner, etc.,

- Marine, coastal and island ecosystems will be properly managed and protected.

In order to serve management and toward to contribution for global treaty, policy makers need to have a base-level information profile (general information about marine plastic litter in Viet Nam, ASEAN and global scale as well as international trends). Building a base-level information profile of marine litter and also developing initiatives, ideas, recommendation to contribute for global treaty require an individual national expert with long-term experience in the establishment and implementation of Viet Nam's marine environmental protection policies and institutions.

**II. Objectives**

- To strengthen awareness for management levels and policy makers through providing a base-level information profile of marine plastic litter.

- To study and develop initiatives, ideas, and recommendations of Viet Nam to contribute to a potential global treaty of marine plastic litter through keynotes, speeches, statements of Ministerial/Government levels in events, conferences, diagnoses, forums, etc.

**III. Scope of work**

The expert will be hired by WWF-Viet Nam and together technically managed by WWF- Viet Nam and Viet Nam Administration of Sea and Islands (VASI).

It is planned that a tripartite Agreement between WWF- Viet Nam, VASI, and expert shall be developed.

VASI shall retain overall responsibility for supervising and receiving the expected outcomes. VASI will assign one staff as from VASI to coordinate the activities of expert.

The work is conducted within four months, from the signing date of the Agreement.

The main tasks include:

***Task 1: Develop a set of records (base-level information profile) to serve the management and decision making on issues related to marine plastic litter***

(1) Collecting and reviewing international policies on management of marine plastic litter, concerning:

- Developed countries;

- Developing countries;

- ASEAN countries; and

- International organizations.

(2) Collecting and reviewing the current status of legal regulations related to plastic waste in Viet Nam

- Regulations on solid waste management in general and marine plastic litter in particular;

- Regulations on environmental protection tax on plastic waste;

- Regulations on preferences for recycling plastic waste, production, and use of environmentally friendly packaging;

- Reviewing and evaluating views and concepts related to plastic waste internationally that Viet Nam has signed and implemented.

(3) Collecting and reviewing existing information and data on the actual situation of marine plastic litter in Viet Nam.

(4) Collecting and reviewing industries and sectors of plastic waste generation and mitigation measures being applied.

- On land;

- On the sea and islands;

- Assessing the current situation of mobilizing human resources and financial mechanisms to handle the problem of marine plastic litter in Viet Nam.

(5) Overview of circulating economy, blue sea economy

- Collecting and synthesizing notions and concepts about circulating economy and blue sea economy;

- Basic elements that constitute the circulatory economy and the blue sea economy;

- Challenges to be considered, especially the plastic life cycle if applied in Viet Nam;

(6) Assess the advantages and disadvantages of Viet Nam when joining the global treaty on marine plastic litter

- Advantages and disadvantages;

- Viet Nam's role with the issue of mitigation of marine plastic litter as an ASEAN Chair and a non-permanent member of the United Nations;

- Viet Nam's plans, orientations, and strategies for management of plastic waste and marine plastic litter.

Output of Task 1 is an overview document.

***Task 2: Support in defining a roadmap, propose initiatives and ideas, and advocate for management levels, policy makers to attend meetings and forums to build a global agreement on marine plastic litter***

(1) Contribute to the elements of the agreement;

(2) Connect and support government leaders, policy makers to participate in meetings, discussions, surveys, etc.;

(3) Research and support in developing reports, drafts of documents, speeches, and statements of management levels, general policy makers at the General Department;

(4) Research and propose reports, drafts of documents, speeches and statements for the Ministers and Prime Ministers for management and policy making in the Environment Ministers Meeting of Countries Southeast Asia and other related high-level conferences and events.

(5) Research and propose about 10-15 (but not limited to) plastic items that need specific policies to handle or care about; taking regional factors into account for global agreements

(6) Research and assess legal gaps in Viet Nam and the region (if any); issues that need supplementing to the international agreements

(7) Analyse, evaluate elements and propose national, regional and global factors needed in the agreement.

(8) Proposing a roadmap to participate in a global agreement on marine plastic litter; roadmap to reduce plastic waste, marine plastic litter and micro plastic in Viet Nam.

Outputs of Task 2 Operation reports including description of works with attached documents on supporting/advocating high-level government officials on defining roadmaps, propose initiatives and ideas, and advocate for management levels, policy makers to attend meetings and forums to build a global agreement on marine plastic litter (English and Vietnamese languages).

**IV. Methodology**

In order to achieve the expected outputs within the scope of work, the expert will implement these following steps:

**Step 1 - Desk research (secondary research)**

Desk research is conducted for Tasks 1 and 2, including collecting, reviewing relevant information, statistics that are available from existing reports, scientific publications, domestic and international manuals, regulations and management processes in Viet Nam. The expert will meet and explore the support and supervision from MONRE, VASI, and relevant bodies for the needed assignments; follow up to ensure the outputs are on track and completion. The essential information that is missing might be provided through consultation with relevant stakeholders and other experts and through meetings/workshops.

**Step 2 - Report**

The expert will pperiodically report the implementation progress and updates every two months to VISA and WWF-Viet Nam.

Based on the results from Tasks 1 and 2, the expert will develop the base-level information profile and attachments as required. WWF- Viet Nam and VASI will review and comment. The expert will finalize documents after receiving feedbacks from relevant stakeholders and other experts in consulting with VASI and WWF- Viet Nam.

**V. Outputs and timelines**

Expected outputs and submissions are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Tasks | Month | | | | Content of outputs | Working days |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |  |
| 1 | Task 1 |  |  |  |  | Set of records (base-level information profile) in English and Vietnamese languages. | 43 (time sheet) |
| 2 | Task 2 |  |  |  |  | Operation reports on support/advocating high-level government officials on defining a roadmap, propose initiatives and ideas, and advocate for management levels, policy makers to attend meetings and forums to build a global agreement on marine plastic litter (English and Vietnamese languages). | 30 (time sheet) |

**VI. Ownership of outputs; right to use**

The full and unconditional ownership of the results of the work and the outputs that the expert or Sub-contractor participating in this Agreement will be handed over to the WWF-Viet Nam and VASI.

**VII. Expert qualifications**

The expert must hold the following experiences and qualifications:

- Good strategic to aim for the objectives of the work;

- Excellent communication skills including high cultural sensitivity;

- Demonstrated experience and proficiency in policy advocacy and development;

- Experienced in an environmental government agency at central and local levels, environmental NGO.

- Good understanding of regulations and institutions on waste management in Viet Nam as well as some related international regulations, ecological, social and cultural context of Viet Nam, including of relevant issues (for example issues related to marine ecosystems, waste management and pollution impacts, Basel Convention, multi-lateral environmental agreements);

- Eligible to provide consulting activities for WWF-Viet Nam and MONRE/VASI; and have experience working with international organizations.

**VIII. How to apply**

Interested consultants are invited to submit application (CV and quotation) to: [procurement@wwf.org.vn](mailto:procurement@wwf.org.vn), clearly indicating email subject of the tender reference: “**Ref. 32.20: Building a base-level information profile of marine plastic litter.”**

Application must be submitted to above email address **no later than 3 PM 20th May 2020**.

Late application will be declared invalid.

1. Jambeck, J. R., Geyer R., Wilcox C., Siegler T. R., Perryman M., Andrady A., Narayan R., and Law K. L. (2015). “Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean”. Science 347(6223): 768-771. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Resolution No.36-NQ/TW dated 22th October 2018 of Communist Party of Viet Nam Central Committee on the Strategy for the sustainable development of Viet Nam’s marine economy by 2030, with a vision to 2045. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Decision No.622/QD-TTg dated 10th May 2017 of Prime Minister on the Issuance of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Resolution No.26/NQ-CP dated 05th March 2020 of Government on Promulgating the Master plan and 5-year plan of Government for implementation the Resolution No. 36-NQ/TW. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Decision No.1746/QD-TTg dated14th December 2019 on Approval of the National Action Plan on Marine Litter Management through 2030. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)