

Minutes of First meeting held of Project Steering Committee constituted to discuss the various matters under India Norway Marine Pollution Initiative

A meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) constituted for the Indo Norwegian project under the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative was held on 09 January 2020 at 11 AM in Godavari Conference Hall, 5th floor Akash Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003 under the Chairmanship of Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC. The list of participants is enclosed in Annexure 1.

1. The meeting commenced with a brief round of introduction and welcome by the Director, HSMD, MoEF&CC. The function of the PSC along with its role in the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative were discussed. The Chair emphasized the importance of oceans, coastal and marine resources which play a crucial role in human well being and social and economic development. The Chair also pointed out this initiative as a positive step towards cooperation between the two countries. It was highlighted that the efforts taken by various institutions and agencies working towards the cause of reducing marine pollution should not be duplicated and the project proponents shall ensure that the outputs are unique to the project's objective. It was also stated that project reports be vetted to avoid redundancy.

2. The representative of the Norwegian Embassy informed that marine pollution is one of the fastest growing environmental concerns and poses a threat to the blue economy and marine life. It was informed that in 2018, the Norwegian government had launched a development program, to combat, reduce marine litter and microplastics. This programme is intended to contribute in line with SDG 14 which states that the world should prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds. It was further informed that Norway will spend more than 180 million USD on this program from 2019 to 2022. Currently, 27 million USD has been dispersed to 34 projects in more than 12 countries, run by 24 various institutions and multilateral organisations such as World Bank, UNEP, UNDP and NGOs, research institutes working in collaboration with governments, the private sector, civil society organisations. It was apprized that out of the 5 projects under the Indo Norway Marine pollution Initiative, three projects have received funding in 2019 and two more will be funded in 2020.

It was informed that the partners engaged under this Initiative are CSE, Norwegian Institute of Water Research (NIVA) represented by Mu Gamma consultants, UNEP, Afroz Shah Foundation and SINTEF Foundation. It was mentioned that the criteria for funding and assessment of projects were done in line with Norwegian Ministry of Foreign affairs grant

management guidelines and Norwegian program to combat marine litter respectively. The capacity and competence of the project partners were assessed before the decision to support were taken. However, it was decided that a meeting shall be convened with the Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy to discuss the selection modalities of execution partners and implementation aspects of the Marine Pollution Initiative.

3. The representatives of CSE briefed the members of the committee about their project 'Mainstreaming Circular Economy in Waste Management Sector'. It was informed that the objectives of the project are to address the land to sea pathways of waste pollution, research and advocacy of policies and regulations to mainstream circular economy, strengthen implementation of SBM and capacity building. The two initiatives cited under this project are to manage waste in ULBs in accordance with circular economy and to develop two cities i.e. Muzaffarpur (Bihar) and Agra (Uttar Pradesh) as model cities for waste management. It was informed that as per the requirement of the project, Muzaffarpur was chosen due to the presence of water bodies and Agra due to its tourist prominence and presence on the banks of Yamuna River. Through this project it is expected to upscale the efforts carried out in Muzaffarpur and replicate the same to other cities and in Agra.

4. The representatives of Mu Gamma Consultants apprized the committee of the project 'Capacity building for reducing plastic and chemical pollution in India-INIPOL'. It was informed that project partners comprise of six institutions namely Norwegian Institute of Water Research, TERI, Mu Gamma Consultants, Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET), SRM Institute of Science and Technology and Toxic Links. It was stated that the main outcomes of the project are reduction of marine litter and microplastics pollution in India (NIVA, MGC, TERI, CIPET) and reduction in releases of POPs from plastics in India, by supporting implementation of Stockholm Conv. (NIVA, MGC, SRM, Toxics Link). The monitoring locations selected for the implementation of this project are Surat and Vapi river in Gujarat. The project shall entail baseline studies, monitoring, use of various tools to study the transport and fate of plastics, social and economic impacts and capacity building.

5. The representatives from UNEP briefed the committee of its role under the Marine Pollution Initiative. It was informed that UNEP shall contribute to the management of marine pollution in India by providing technical assistance, under Indo Norway Marine Pollution Initiative, to Marine Litter cell of the Ministry. This will be done by supporting the policy and technical capacity of the Ministry.

6. The representative from Afroz Shah Foundation presented a video on the activities done by Mr. Afroz Shah and his foundation in reducing plastic pollution via marine litter in various locations involving stakeholders.

7. The Chair informed PSC members that another meeting shall be held where all the inputs of the PSC members shall be addressed, and the projects shall be reviewed accordingly. It was decided that project details shall be shared with all concerned Ministries to ensure sustainability and continuity of the project initiatives.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

Annexure 1

S.No	NAME AND DESIGNATION	ORGANIZATION /DEPARTMENT	CONTACT DETAILS	EMAIL
1	ADITYA BATRA (SENIOR DIRECTOR)	CSE	9810825775	aditya@cseindia.org
2	SWATI SAMBYAL (PROG. MANAGER)	CSE	-	sunita@cseindia.org
3	AMARDEEP RAJU, SCIENTIST D,HSMD	MOEF&CC	-	adraju@gmail.com
4	M.K.GANGEYA,DIRECTOR ,HSMD	MOEF&CC	9405801777	m.gangeya@gov.in
5	MANORANJANA GUPTA (AFROZ SHAH)	AFROZ SHAH FOUNDATION	9999573606	
6	DR. BHAWAN SINGH SCIENTIST D	MOEF&CC	8859637899	bhawna.singh@gov.in
7	SALONI GOEL UNEP	UNEP	9415406999	Saloni.goel@un.org
8	JITENDRA SHARMA	UNEP	9730890757	Jitendra.sharma@un.org
9	SURESH MATHEVAN	NORWAY EMBASSY	9958890378	
10	CAMILLA DANNEVIG	COUNSELLOR, NORWAY EMBASSY	011-41363200	
11	R.RAMAN DIRECTOR	NCSCM, MOEFF&CC	9840966299	
12	DR. PAROMITA CHAKRABORTY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR	SRMIST, RESEARCH INSTITUTE	8122567071	promitc@res.srimstco.in
13	PARESH KUMAR DURIA, TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNER	TCPU, MoHUA	9990755285	paresh.duria@gov.in
14	DIVYA SINHA	CPCB	9868262316	divyasingh.cpcb@nic.in
15	MRUNAL MATHUR	TERI	9650927537	
16	GIRIJA BHARAT	MU GAMMA CONSULTANTS	9658740889	