

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

The **third Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting** of the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative was held virtually on 13th January 2021. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Ravi S. Prasad, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and Excellency Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund, Ambassador of Norway to India, Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi. The list of all participants in the meeting is enclosed in Annexure 1.

At the outset, co-chairs welcomed the participants to the third meeting of the Project Steering Committee.

1. The Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy highlighted the MoU and the Letter of Intent signed in 2019 between Norway and India establishing the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative. He further mentioned the difficulties brought around due to the unprecedented COVID-19 situation and that despite these issues, the project partners have been engaging virtually and progress has been gaining momentum through safe measures. He highlighted the work carried out by UNEP in bringing together all the stakeholders on a single platform under this project. The Ambassador complimented the Ministry for its cooperation in tackling marine litter pollution and stated that this project pivots on the guidance received from the Ministry. The need for a global agreement to stop plastic pollution was highlighted and it was informed that this issue would come up for discussion in UNEA 5. He further mentioned the importance of the proposed agreement and that negotiations based on it would be discussed in the concluding part of UNEA 5 in 2022. He also highlighted the release of Nordic Report by Nordic Council of Ministers on ‘Possible elements of a new global agreement to prevent plastic pollution’.
2. The Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC welcomed all participants in the third PSC meeting. He highlighted the focus on plastic pollution and marine litter in India and various approaches being adopted to deal with this issue. Keeping in view the elimination of identified single-use plastic items by 2022, the Ministry has been working diligently in framing Extended Producers Responsibility under PWM Rules which shall further help in the objective of reducing plastic pollution and ensuring re-use of plastic waste. He further highlighted various initiatives undertaken by the Ministry including the World Bank assisted project on integrated coastal areas and other projects through bilateral cooperation project such as India Norway Marine Pollution Initiative. The Additional Secretary also indicated that work carried out by project partners be utilized to develop best practices and models for marine plastic litter management in the country.

3. Following the remarks of the co-chairs, UNEP along with project partners were requested to provide an overview of the project. The summary is provided below:

- a) UNEP:
- b) The activities under the project ‘Coordinating and Providing a Common Platform’ being implemented by UNEP were also presented. The project has a three-year tenure. On the matter of the India- Norway initiative, it was communicated that UNEP’s role would be an overarching one, in order to support India to act globally, by supporting policy and technical work of the Marine Litter Cell of the MoEF&CC and facilitating stakeholder consultations and dialogue. The outputs of the UNEP project would take the shape of position briefs and knowledge products.

The progress made under the project was also presented. The proposed studies to be taken up for 2021 were presented and are given below:

- i) Formulation of a National Roadmap for Phasing Out SUPs
- ii) Compilation of International Best Practices for EPR implementation
- iii) Scaling up alternatives to SUPs - Understanding Markets & Business Models
- iv) Managing the MLP litter (*focus on two specific products*)
- v) Support the development of action plan for India for the Clean Seas Campaign

The presentation is at Annexure II. UNEP was asked to share brief write ups on the proposed studies with the Ministry. The list of studies to be undertaken by UNEP would be mutually agreed based on policy relevance and need.

- c) CSE presented their work on the project ‘Mainstreaming Circular Economy in Waste Management Sector’.
 - i. CSE presented the progress made from March 2020 – December 2021. The activities include webinars on landfill management for the forum cities, public webinars – on E-Waste management and landfill management, signed MoU with Agra.
 - ii. CSE informed the committee that activities shall be taken up in Gurugram in place of Muzaffarpur as a ‘model city’ under the project. It was informed that CSE is already working with Gurugram Authorities under a separate project and are receiving cooperation in implementation of the project. Muzaffarpur will continue to be part of the ‘Forum of Cities’ initiative, and where project objectives for the city will be achieved.
 - iii. It was also informed that the in addition to work undertaken under the India-Norway initiative being published in Down To Earth “State of Environment” National Report, 5 research publications have been published.

- iv. The CSE representative presented activities for the year 2021.

The presentation is at Annexure III.

- c) NIVA presented on the India-Norway cooperation project on capacity building for reducing plastic and chemical pollution in India (INOPOL). The Indian partners in the project are The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Mu Gamma Consultants (MGC), Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), SRM Institute of Science and Technology and Toxics Link. The focus of the project is to develop coherent systems for data collection and analysis and enhance ongoing efforts by key stakeholders including ministries, scientific institutions and NGO's. Gujarat is the focus area of the project taking Surat (Tapi River) and Vapi (Daman Ganga River) as project implementation locations.
 - i. The status and timeline of the project were presented. Work packages includes baseline study, monitoring – protocols, methods, QA/QC, management tools and modelling, impact, policy and reduction measures, capacity building and awareness raising and finally development of management tools and modelling.
 - ii. It was further informed that the report on assessment on the role of informal sector will be completed by April 2021 amongst others.

The presentation is at Annexure IV.

- d) SINTEF under its project, Ocean Plastic Turned into an Opportunity in Circular Economy – OPTOCE, highlighted that the project has been given provisional extension on a 'Non-cost extension basis' by Norad for 2 years, i.e until December 2023. The aim is to investigate how the involvement of energy intensive industries, like cement manufacturing, can be used to increase the treatment capacity for non-recyclable plastic wastes in India.
 - i. SINTEF presented the status of activities and timeline set out. Two Pilot demonstration sites identified in India- Ghazipur in Delhi and GWMC- Goa have been identified. The pilot at Gazipur in 2020 was delayed due to the pandemic COVID 19. One online workshop conducted in Dec 2020 involving academic collaboration, industry, and other partners.
 - ii. Implementation plan and budget for 2021 approved by NORAD and was informed that the contracts have been signed with partners such as Geocycle India and Jadavpur University (JU) for academic collaboration.
- d) SINTEF presented 2021 action plan to the Committee.

The presentation is at Annexure V.

4. The presentations were followed by deliberations amongst PSC members. Clarification was sought by Royal Norwegian Embassy from UNEP on the outreach activities done by UNEP. Clarification was also sought from Centre for Science and Environment on the choice of Gurugram as a model city with respect to marine litter Initiative

CSE stated that plastic waste in Gurugram can find its way through the drains into the Yamuna river where they are ultimately discharged. As a part of the ongoing partnership of CSE with Gurugram, it was felt that short- and long-term solutions based on the studies carried out by CSE would prove to be more helpful to Gurugram.

The Ministry enquired on the impact of COVID 19 on the activities of the project partners and possible delay, if any, in the proposed outcomes and how the project partners are accommodating this delay. The Ministry further suggested UNEP to discuss the studies proposed with the Ministry and Royal Norwegian Embassy. This shall help on streamlining the studies further and reduce duplicity. It was highlighted by the Ministry that the process of developing a roadmap on the phase out of SUPs and guidelines for implementation of EPR is under development. It would be appropriate that awareness activities are aligned with policy developed by the Ministry and the calendar of activities are shared with the Ministry. It was further highlighted that awareness activities carried out by all project partners shall be communicated to the Ministry and shall be supportive of the areas being focussed by both Ministry and Royal Norwegian Embassy.

The Embassy also highlighted that no cost extensions may be explored in case of delay in progress due to COVID 19. Further, it was also mentioned that despite the budget constraints, focus of the Ministry of Environment, Norway is to work together on the common cause of marine plastic pollution and streamline activities against this global issue.

The representative from National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India enquired on the methodology adopted by NIVA for the estimation of marine litter from source to sea. NCCR stated that considerable work has been carried out on the coast and that sharing of this work may augment the study. NIVA welcomed this suggestion and responded that they shall share the baseline study with MoES.

5. Concluding remarks were given by the Ministry wherein it was highlighted that under this initiative, several knowledge products are being developed and that sharing of these products on a common platform shall prove to be helpful to all in the larger interest of eliminating single use plastic in the near future. The Ministry encouraged all partners to revisit their individual proposals in light of COVID 19 delay and identify areas where they could make significant contributions. It was proposed that for the next meeting of the PSC, all project partners shall present their progress against the proposed outcomes for that period.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the participants.

**Third Project Steering Committee Meeting
India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative
13 January 2021**

List of Participants

S. No	Agency	Name	Designation
1.	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Mr. Ravi.S.Prasad	Additional Secretary
2.	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Mr. Naresh Pal Gangwar	Joint Secretary
3.	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Dr. Amit Love	Additional Director/Scientist E
4.	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/ UNEP	Mr. Dilip Menon	Technical Consultant
5.	Embassy of Norway	Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund	Ambassador
6.	Embassy of Norway	Ms. Camilla Dannevig	Counsellor
7.	Embassy of Norway	Ms. Karina Asbjørnsen	Second Secretary
8.	Embassy of Norway	Mr. Suresh Mathevan	Advisor
9.	Ministry of Climate and Environment in Norway	Ms. Kari Anne Isaksen	Senior Advisor
10.	Ministry of Earth Sciences	Cdr P. K. Srivastava	Scientist F
11.	Ministry of Jal Shakti, NMCG	Mr. Brijesh Sikka	Senior Consultant
12.	Central Water Commission (CWC)	Mr. Reading Shimray	Chief Engineer, P&D
13.	National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)	Dr. Ramesh Ramchandran	Director
14.	National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)	D Dr. C Saravana Kumar	Scientist
15.	National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR)	Dr. M.V.Ramana Murthy	Director

16.	Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)	Ms. Divya Sinha	Additional Director & DH (UPC-II)
17.	UNEP	Mr. Atul Bagai	Head
18.	UNEP	Dr. Divya Datt	Programme Management Officer
19.	UNEP	Mr. Karan Mangotra	Project Coordinator
20.	UNEP	Dr. Jitendra K Sharma	Associate Programme Management Officer
21.	UNEP	Mr. Minto Reang	Project Assistant
22.	UNEP	Dr. Sonia Devi Henam	Marine Pollution Expert (Consultant)
23.	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	Dr. Ramakant	Deputy Adviser (PHE)
24.	SINTEF	Dr. Kare.H.Karstensen	Chief Scientist and Programme Manager
25.	SINTEF	Mr. Palash Kumar Saha	Research Scientist
26.	Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)	Mr. Aditya Batra	Senior Director
27.	Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)	Mr. Atin Biswas	Programme Director- SWM
28.	NIVA	Mr. Eirik Hovland Steindal	Research Scientist
29.	NIVA	Mr. Hans Adam	
30.	NIVA	Ms. Marianne Olsen	Research Manager
31.	MuGamma Consultants	Dr. Girija Bharat	Director
32.	MuGamma Consultants	Ms. Pallavi Gulati	Consultants
33.	MuGamma Consultants	Ms.Manisha Jain	Research Associate
34.	TERI	Dr. Sunil Pandey	Director, Environment and Waste Management
35.	CIPET	Dr. Smita Mohanty	Scientist
36.	SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai (SRM)	Ms. Paromita Chakraborty	Associate Professor
37.	Toxic Links	Mr.Piyush Mahapatra	Sr. Programme Coordinator