



2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Final Compliance Report

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Feedback, as always, is welcome and is kept anonymous.

We encourage readers to send comments to

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18. Environment: Marine Plastic Litter

“We reaffirm our commitment to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter, as articulated by the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia	-1		
Italy	-1		
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.45 (73%)	

Background

The accumulation of plastics and microplastics in the world’s oceans pose a significant environmental, health, and economic threat to marine and coastal ecology and biodiversity.⁸⁷¹¹ The large-scale production of plastics and the ongoing trends of rapid population growth, urbanization, and increased resource consumption have contributed to the issue of marine plastic litter.⁸⁷¹² According to the World Economic Forum, without concrete and sustained action, the world’s oceans will contain more plastic than fish by 2050.⁸⁷¹³ Thus, protecting the global marine environment through actions to reduce and prevent the effects of plastics and microplastics has received increasing attention at G20 summits.

⁸⁷¹¹ G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter: Second Information Sharing based on the G20 Implementation Framework, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/G20mpl_20201214_IGES_second-edition.pdf

⁸⁷¹² G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter: Second Information Sharing based on the G20 Implementation Framework, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/G20mpl_20201214_IGES_second-edition.pdf

⁸⁷¹³ More Plastics than Fish in the Ocean by 2050: Report Offers Blueprint for Change, World Economic Forum (Cologne) 19 January 2016. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.weforum.org/press/2016/01/more-plastic-than-fish-in-the-ocean-by-2050-report-offers-blueprint-for-change/>

The G20 first recognized marine environmental protection as a distinct commitment area at the 2011 Cannes Summit.⁸⁷¹⁴ While safeguarding the marine environment had been mentioned at the Toronto and Seoul Summits, this summit was the first to offer a more serious consideration of the issue. G20 members committed to preventing marine accidents and those relating to offshore oil and gas exploration and development activities.⁸⁷¹⁵ They further called upon the Global Marine Environment Protection working group to report on the progress made on the commitment area the following year and committed to discuss marine environmental protection with relevant international organizations and stakeholders.⁸⁷¹⁶

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, G20 leaders welcomed “the establishment of a Global Marine Environment Protection Best Practices Sharing Mechanism website and look forward to its launch in accordance with the Cannes mandate.”⁸⁷¹⁷ The following year, G20 leaders stated “We appreciate the progress achieved since the establishment of the G20 Global Marine Environment Protection (GMEP) Initiative and welcome the launch of the GMEP Initiative website as a key element of the GMEP Mechanism for the voluntary exchange of national best practices to protect the marine environment, in particular to prevent accidents related to offshore oil and gas exploration and development, as well as marine transportation, and to deal with their consequences. We encourage participants to make full use of the website and share relevant information under the auspices of the G20 in cooperation with relevant international organizations in accordance with the GMEP mandates.”⁸⁷¹⁸ The marine environment was not mentioned at the 2014 Brisbane, 2015 Antalya or 2016 Hangzhou Summits.

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 members recognized the need to reduce and prevent marine litter for the preservation of human health and marine and coastal ecosystems.⁸⁷¹⁹ To display their commitment to marine environmental protection, the G20 members launched the G20 Marine Litter Action Plan to “prevent and reduce marine litter of all kinds, including from single-use plastics and micro-plastics.”⁸⁷²⁰ Additionally, the summit emphasized the importance of knowledge exchange and dissemination on marine plastic prevention and reduction amongst G20 members.⁸⁷²¹

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 members committed to taking “national actions for the prevention and significant reduction of discharges of plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans” thereby affirming the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.⁸⁷²²

⁸⁷¹⁴ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁸⁷¹⁵ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁸⁷¹⁶ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁸⁷¹⁷ G20 Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

⁸⁷¹⁸ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

⁸⁷¹⁹ G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-marine-litter.html>

⁸⁷²⁰ G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-marine-litter.html>

⁸⁷²¹ G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-marine-litter.html>

⁸⁷²² G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, the Saudi presidency prioritized safeguarding the planet and signalled a strong commitment to the issues of sustainable development, ocean preservation, and the reduction of food loss and waste.⁸⁷²³ Saudi Arabia built on the Japanese G20 presidency and advanced discussions on marine ecosystem preservation.⁸⁷²⁴ The commitment made by G20 leaders to reaffirm the Osaka Blue Vision highlights the growing importance and urgency of collective environmental protection.

Commitment Features

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.⁸⁷²⁵ The Osaka Blue Ocean Vision “aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 through a comprehensive life-cycle approach that includes reducing the discharge of mismanaged plastic litter by improved waste management and innovative solutions while recognising the important role of plastics for society.”⁸⁷²⁶ In this commitment, there are four requirements: 1) to reduce marine plastic litter, 2) to reduce microplastic waste, 3) to prevent marine plastic litter and 4) to prevent microplastic waste.

Marine plastic litter is any human-created plastic, “a synthetic organic polymer made from petroleum” discarded or disposed of in the environment, sea, ocean, or coastlines.⁸⁷²⁷ Plastic litter can come in different shapes or sizes, but plastic pieces less than 5 mm in length are called microplastics.⁸⁷²⁸ There are two categories of microplastics: 1) primary, which are released directly as small particles in the environment and 2) secondary, which originate from degraded larger pieces of plastic litter.⁸⁷²⁹ Examples of materials and products defined as plastic litter include plastic bags, plastic straws, single-use beverage cups, plastic water bottles and caps, plastic packaging, and microbeads, etc.

The “life-cycle approach” to waste management considers the environmental impact (emissions and resource consumption) of a product through its lifetime.⁸⁷³⁰ The life cycle of a product starts from its natural extraction to material processing, its manufacturing, distribution, and use, and ends with its re-use, recycling, energy recovery, and disposal.⁸⁷³¹

The word “reduce” means to “diminish in size, amount, extent, or number.”⁸⁷³² The word “additional” is understood as a preventative measure meaning “more than is usual or expected,” whereby “prevent” means “to keep from happening or existing.”^{8733,8734} Therefore, G20 members are

⁸⁷²³ Safeguarding the Planet, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-Safeguarding_the_Planet.pdf

⁸⁷²⁴ Safeguarding the Planet, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-Safeguarding_the_Planet.pdf

⁸⁷²⁵ Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁸⁷²⁶ About Us, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/about>

⁸⁷²⁷ Marine Plastics, International Union for Conservation of Nature (Gland) n.d. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-briefs/marine-plastics>

⁸⁷²⁸ What are microplastics?, National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/microplastics.html>

⁸⁷²⁹ Microplastics: sources, effects and solutions, European Parliament (Brussels) 22 November 2018. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20181116STO19217/microplastics-sources-effects-and-solutions>

⁸⁷³⁰ Life Cycle Thinking and Assessment for Waste Management, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/publications/>

⁸⁷³¹ Life Cycle Thinking and Assessment for Waste Management, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/publications/>

⁸⁷³² Reduce, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/reduce>

⁸⁷³³ Additional, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/addition>

required to take action to lessen the current amount of plastic litter in the oceans and to stop the release of plastic litter into the oceans.

G20 members can take domestic (or in the case of the EU, supranational) and international action to achieve compliance. Domestic actions refer to federal or national government-level initiatives undertaken by G20 members. Examples of domestic action include, but are not limited to, legislation that improves methods of waste management, the national reduction or prohibition of single-use plastics and microbeads, private sector partnerships to reduce the output of plastic litter and improving water filtration and wastewater treatment systems to reduce or remove microfibers.⁸⁷³⁵ International action refers to efforts undertaken by G20 members at the international or global level. Examples of international action include, but are not limited to, international cooperation with other members or states to improve national technical capacities, waste generation and littering and the promotion of sustainable consumption, engagement in information-sharing and scientific knowledge production on best practices through the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue, and international private sector engagement for the advancement of resource-efficient business models and environmentally sound product design.⁸⁷³⁶ Actions can also be partial or strong actions. If a G20 member gives verbal declarations of support towards the implementation of preventative/reduction strategies, organizes ocean clean ups or initiates environmental campaigns on marine plastic litter and microplastic waste, it would only be considered partial action. For strong action, a G20 member would have to engage in strong domestic or international actions listed above.

For full compliance, a G20 member must take domestic and international action to reduce and prevent both marine plastic litter and microplastic waste. Therefore, a G20 member would have to take domestic and international action to reduce marine plastic litter, reduce microplastic waste, prevent marine plastic litter and prevent microplastic waste. If a G20 member only takes action, domestically and/or internationally, to reduce or prevent marine plastic litter and/or microplastic waste, it would still be considered partial compliance. Actions that do not result in the reduction or prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter and microplastic waste will receive a negative score.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member takes no action to reduce NOR prevent marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.
0	The G20 member takes action to EITHER reduce OR prevent marine plastic litter AND/OR microplastic waste.
+1	The G20 member takes actions both domestically and internationally to both reduce AND prevent marine plastic litter AND microplastic waste.

*Compliance Director: Nammal Khan
Lead Analyst: Omar Abdellatif*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

⁸⁷³⁴ Prevent, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prevent>

⁸⁷³⁵ Environment: Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/2019osaka-final/index.html>

⁸⁷³⁶ About Us, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/about>

On 30 November 2020, Argentina banned the production, importation, and marketing of cosmetic and care products containing microbeads.⁸⁷³⁷ According to the regulation, the cosmetic industry and companies have two years to adapt and exhaust their current stock.⁸⁷³⁸

On 8 April 2021, Argentina and 29 other countries signed on to a new United Nations-backed initiative, the GloLitter Partnerships Project, to prevent and reduce marine litter from the maritime transport and fisheries sectors.⁸⁷³⁹ The initiative is led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in tandem with the International Maritime Organization and funding from Norway through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.⁸⁷⁴⁰

On 1 September 2021, representatives from the Government of Argentina attended the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, hosted by the Governments of Germany, Ecuador, Vietnam, and Ghana.⁸⁷⁴¹ Argentina supported the creation of a Global Agreement on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution.⁸⁷⁴²

Argentina has taken domestic action through the ban on microbeads in cosmetic and care products and supported international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Kate Haberl

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 15 December 2020, Australia passed the Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, the first national waste reduction plan.⁸⁷⁴³ The legislation has the objectives of reducing the “impact on human and environmental health of products” and to “develop a circular economy that maximizes the continued use of products and waste material over their life cycle and accounts for their environmental impacts.”⁸⁷⁴⁴ This legislation serves to encourage the prevention of marine plastic

⁸⁷³⁷ Argentina Becomes the First Country in South America To Ban Microbeads, Beat The Microbead (Amsterdam) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.beatthemicrobead.org/argentina-becomes-first-country-in-south-america-to-ban-microbeads/>

⁸⁷³⁸ Argentina Becomes the First Country in South America To Ban Microbeads, Beat The Microbead (Amsterdam) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.beatthemicrobead.org/argentina-becomes-first-country-in-south-america-to-ban-microbeads/>

⁸⁷³⁹ New project to help 30 developing countries tackle marine litter scourge, UN News (New York) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/04/1089322>

⁸⁷⁴⁰ UN Global Initiative Tackles Marine Litter to Clean World's Oceans, The Maritime Executive (Fort Lauderdale) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/un-global-initiative-tackles-marine-litter-to-clean-world-s-oceans>

⁸⁷⁴¹ Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution (Geneva) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://conferencemarinelitterplasticpollution.org/home/>

⁸⁷⁴² Summary report, 1–2 September 2021 Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, International Institute for Sustainable Development Earth Negotiations Bulletin (Winnipeg). Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://enb.iisd.org/ocean/conference-marine-litter-and-plastic-pollution/summary>

⁸⁷⁴³ Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2020A00119>

⁸⁷⁴⁴ Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2020A00119>

litter by “regulating the export of waste material to promote its management in an environmentally sound way.”⁸⁷⁴⁵

On 17 February 2021, Australia joined the Global Oceans Alliance. The Alliance’s goal is to protect at least 30 per cent of the world’s oceans marine protected areas and marine conservation measures by 2030.⁸⁷⁴⁶ Additionally, Australia pledged AUD67.4 million to protect Australia’s oceans and marine ecosystems, AUD14.8 million to reduce the impacts of ghost nets and plastic litter, and AUD28.3 million to enhance marine parks.⁸⁷⁴⁷

On 4 March 2021, the Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment reaffirmed its commitment to the Pacific Ocean Litter Project.⁸⁷⁴⁸ This project works in tandem with Pacific island states to adopt single-use plastic bans, promote ocean cleanup plans, and raise “consumer awareness, support and motivation for reducing the use of single-use plastics.”⁸⁷⁴⁹ The Australian government has committed to investing a total of AUD16 million through 2025 to support this project.⁸⁷⁵⁰ Further, the federal government committed support to “coordinated global action to address marine plastic” with the United Nations.⁸⁷⁵¹

On 4 March 2021, Environment Minister Sussan Ley unveiled the National Plastics Plan 2021, which works to “fast-track the phase-out of particularly problematic plastic materials.”⁸⁷⁵² The plan affirms that by 1 July 2021, unsorted mixed plastic exports will be banned. Unprocessed single polymer plastic exports will be banned by 1 July 2022.⁸⁷⁵³ Minister Ley stated that the plan serves to encourage Australians to change the way they “produce, consume and recycle plastic.”⁸⁷⁵⁴

On 23 April 2021, the Australian government invested an additional AUD100 million towards the management of ocean and coastal environments and global emissions reduction.⁸⁷⁵⁵ The investment

⁸⁷⁴⁵ Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2020A00119>

⁸⁷⁴⁶ Australia joins Global Oceans Alliance, Australian Government (Canberra) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-joins-global-oceans-alliance>

⁸⁷⁴⁷ Australia joins Global Oceans Alliance, Australian Government (Canberra) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-joins-global-oceans-alliance>

⁸⁷⁴⁸ National Plastics Plan 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Canberra) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a327406c-79f5-47f1-b71b-7388407c35a0/files/national-plastics-plan-2021.pdf>

⁸⁷⁴⁹ Pacific Ocean Litter Project, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Canberra). Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.environment.gov.au/marine/international-activities/pacific-ocean-litter-project>

⁸⁷⁵⁰ National Plastics Plan 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Canberra) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a327406c-79f5-47f1-b71b-7388407c35a0/files/national-plastics-plan-2021.pdf>

⁸⁷⁵¹ Polystyrene to be phased out next year under Australia’s plastic waste plan, The Guardian News International Edition (London) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/mar/04/polystyrene-to-be-phased-out-next-year-under-australias-plastic-waste-plan>

⁸⁷⁵² National Plastics Plan 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Brisbane) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a327406c-79f5-47f1-b71b-7388407c35a0/files/national-plastics-plan-2021.pdf>

⁸⁷⁵³ National Plastics Plan 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Brisbane) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a327406c-79f5-47f1-b71b-7388407c35a0/files/national-plastics-plan-2021.pdf>

⁸⁷⁵⁴ Polystyrene to be phased out next year under Australia’s plastic waste plan, The Guardian News International Edition (London) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/mar/04/polystyrene-to-be-phased-out-next-year-under-australias-plastic-waste-plan>

⁸⁷⁵⁵ Joint media release: Australia announces \$100 million initiative to protect our oceans, Australian Government (Canberra) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-announces-100-million-initiative-protect-our-oceans>

aims to cut emissions to create cleaner beaches, improve fish stocks, and offer better protection and assistance for marine animals and indigenous communities reliant on oceans for their livelihoods.⁸⁷⁵⁶

On 2 May 2021, the Australian government announced an investment of AUD14.8 million towards Parks Australia's efforts to track and identify sources of ghost nets and ensure their removal from bodies of water.⁸⁷⁵⁷ The funding will get invested in initiatives that address ghost nets and marine debris litter, such as data collection and new technology.⁸⁷⁵⁸

On 11 May 2021, the Australian government unveiled its 2021-2022 budget, which includes funding for oceans, recycling, biodiversity, and climate resilience.⁸⁷⁵⁹ The budget sets aside AUD5 million to support small and medium-sized businesses to adopt the Australian Recycling Label and an additional AUD5.9 million for investments in industry-led stewardship schemes to reduce waste and increase resource recovery.⁸⁷⁶⁰ The budget further includes a new AUD100.1 million Oceans Leadership Package, which aims to restore blue carbon ecosystems, expand Australia's marine park network to protect 45 per cent of Australian waters, and protect marine species.⁸⁷⁶¹

On 18 May 2021, Minister Ley and Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management Trevor Evans announced eight new projects worth AUD111 million towards building and modernizing infrastructure.⁸⁷⁶² The projects include a wastepaper and cardboard recycling plant in the northern suburbs of Adelaide, a material resource facility in the southern suburbs, and a glass processing plant outside of Gawler.⁸⁷⁶³

On 24 May 2021, the Australian government released the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export Plastic) Rules 2021.⁸⁷⁶⁴ The rules come into effect on 1 July 2021 and implement regulations such as requiring licences that cover waste plastic, export declarations for the waste plastics.⁸⁷⁶⁵

On 1 July 2021, the Department of Industry, Science, Energy, and Resources promoted the annual "plastic free July" initiative by the Plastic Free Foundation LTD.⁸⁷⁶⁶ This initiative is designed to help

⁸⁷⁵⁶ Joint media release: Australia announces \$100 million initiative to protect our oceans, Australian Government (Canberra) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-announces-100-million-initiative-protect-our-oceans>

⁸⁷⁵⁷ Tackling the ghostly killers in our oceans, Australian Government (Canberra) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/tackling-ghostly-killers-our-oceans>

⁸⁷⁵⁸ Tackling the ghostly killers in our oceans, Australian Government (Canberra) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/tackling-ghostly-killers-our-oceans>

⁸⁷⁵⁹ Budget 2021-2022: Supporting oceans, recycling, biodiversity and climate resilience, Australian Government (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/budget-2021-22-supporting-oceans-recycling-biodiversity-and-climate-resilience>

⁸⁷⁶⁰ Budget 2021-2022: Supporting oceans, recycling, biodiversity and climate resilience, Australian Government (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/budget-2021-22-supporting-oceans-recycling-biodiversity-and-climate-resilience>

⁸⁷⁶¹ Budget 2021-2022: Supporting oceans, recycling, biodiversity and climate resilience, Australian Government (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/budget-2021-22-supporting-oceans-recycling-biodiversity-and-climate-resilience>

⁸⁷⁶² Joint Media Release: \$111 million boost for SA Recycling Industry, Ministry for the Environment (Canberra) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/111-million-boost-sa-recycling-industry>

⁸⁷⁶³ Joint Media Release: \$111 million boost for SA Recycling Industry, Ministry for the Environment (Canberra) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/111-million-boost-sa-recycling-industry>

⁸⁷⁶⁴ Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export – Waste Plastic) Rules 2021, Australian Government (Canberra) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021L00625>

⁸⁷⁶⁵ Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export – Waste Plastic) Rules 2021, Australian Government (Canberra) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021L00625>

individuals decrease their single-use plastic usage, and promote habits that will overall prevent more plastic use and disposal.⁸⁷⁶⁷

Australia has taken domestic actions and supported international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste through its 2021-2022 budget, National Plastics Plan 2021 and Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Matthew Brubacher and Sarah Weiner

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 8 April 2021, Brazil and 29 other countries signed on to a new UN-backed initiative, the GloLitter Partnerships Project, to prevent and reduce marine litter from the maritime transport and fisheries sectors.⁸⁷⁶⁸ The initiative is led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in tandem with the International Maritime Organization and funding from Norway through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.⁸⁷⁶⁹

On 1 September 2021, representatives from the Government of Brazil attended the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, hosted by the Governments of Germany, Ecuador, Vietnam, and Ghana.⁸⁷⁷⁰ Brazil did not support the creation of a Global Agreement on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution but supported further discussions.⁸⁷⁷¹

Brazil has taken partial action by supporting international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter. However, it has not taken domestic action to reduce or prevent marine plastic litter or microplastic waste.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Kate Haberl

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

⁸⁷⁶⁶ Plastic Free July, Australian Government (Canberra) July 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021.

<https://www.energy.gov.au/households/household-guides/seasonal-advice/plastic-free-july#toc-anchor-5-things-you-can-do-to-encourage-others>

⁸⁷⁶⁷ Plastic Free July, Australian Government (Canberra) July 2021. Access Date: 13 August 2021.

<https://www.energy.gov.au/households/household-guides/seasonal-advice/plastic-free-july#toc-anchor-5-things-you-can-do-to-encourage-others>

⁸⁷⁶⁸ New project to help 30 developing countries tackle marine litter scourge, UN News (New York) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/04/1089322>

⁸⁷⁶⁹ UN Global Initiative Tackles Marine Litter to Clean World's Oceans, The Maritime Executive (Fort Lauderdale) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/un-global-initiative-tackles-marine-litter-to-clean-world-s-oceans>

⁸⁷⁷⁰ Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution (Geneva) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021.

<https://conferencemarinelitterplasticpollution.org/home/>

⁸⁷⁷¹ Summary report, 1–2 September 2021 Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, International Institute for Sustainable Development Earth Negotiations Bulletin (Winnipeg) Access Date: 12 September 2021.

<https://enb.iisd.org/ocean/conference-marine-litter-and-plastic-pollution/summary>

On 9 December 2020, Canada concluded a public consultation period on a proposed integrated management approach to plastic products to prevent waste and pollution, initiated by a paper on the subject published in October 2020. The purpose of this initiative is to provide “the basis for the developed of an integrated management approach to plastics, including proposed actions across the value chain to achieve zero plastic waste (including a ban on plastic checkout bags, straws, stir sticks, six-pack rings, cutlery, and food ware made from hard-to-recycle plastics), as well as systemic improvements to recover and recycle plastic,” with regulations expected to be finalized by the end of 2021. This work directly stems from Canada’s adoption of the Ocean Plastics Charter in June 2018.⁸⁷⁷²

On 5 March 2021, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson announced four winners of the Canadian Plastics Innovation Challenges.⁸⁷⁷³ These small and medium companies, Magemi Mining Inc., CACITH Inc., Met-Tech Inc., and Singular Solutions In., will receive up to CAD150,000 to develop solutions to address plastic waste.⁸⁷⁷⁴ The Canadian Plastics Innovation Challenges are a part of the innovative Solutions Canada program and support Canada’s commitment to plastic waste reduction.⁸⁷⁷⁵

On 31 March 2021, Canada’s Parliamentary Committee passed a bill banning the export of non-recyclable plastic waste from Canada to foreign countries.⁸⁷⁷⁶ Bill C-204, sponsored by Member of Parliament Scot Davidson, was adopted by the environmental committee in a 6-5 vote.⁸⁷⁷⁷ The committee also approved an amendment requiring the Canadian government to implement the bill within 12 months of receiving royal assent.⁸⁷⁷⁸

On 9 April 2021, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety Joël Lightbound announced a CAD1 million investment to BOSK Bioproducts Inc.⁸⁷⁷⁹ The investment is a part of the second phase of the Bioplastics Challenge, aimed to help small businesses reduce pollution by

⁸⁷⁷² Canada: Coalition of Canadian Plastic Industry Members Launch Legal Challenge to Designation of Plastic Manufactured Items As Toxic Under CEPA, Mondaq (Toronto) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/canada/waste-management/1077476/coalition-of-canadian-plastic-industry-members-launch-legal-challenge-to-designation-of-plastic-manufactured-items-as-toxic-under-cepa>

⁸⁷⁷³ Government of Canada supports innovative made-in-Canada solutions to plastic waste, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-supports-innovative-made-in-canada-solutions-to-plastic-waste.html>

⁸⁷⁷⁴ Government of Canada supports innovative made-in-Canada solutions to plastic waste, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-supports-innovative-made-in-canada-solutions-to-plastic-waste.html>

⁸⁷⁷⁵ Government of Canada supports innovative made-in-Canada solutions to plastic waste, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-supports-innovative-made-in-canada-solutions-to-plastic-waste.html>

⁸⁷⁷⁶ Bill banning plastic exports passes through committee, Canada’s National Observer (Toronto) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2021/04/01/news/bill-banning-plastic-exports-passes-through-committee>

⁸⁷⁷⁷ Bill banning plastic exports passes through committee, Canada’s National Observer (Toronto) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2021/04/01/news/bill-banning-plastic-exports-passes-through-committee>

⁸⁷⁷⁸ Bill banning plastic exports passes through committee, Canada’s National Observer (Toronto) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2021/04/01/news/bill-banning-plastic-exports-passes-through-committee>

⁸⁷⁷⁹ Canada supports innovation for compostable bioplastic, Natural Resources Canada (Quebec) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-supports-innovation-for-compostable-bioplastic-824701707.html>

turning forest-based residue into sustainable plastic materials.⁸⁷⁸⁰ The BOSK Bioproducts Inc. will focus on installing a small-scale production line for proto-typing the formulations of compostable bioplastics made from forest biomass.⁸⁷⁸¹

On 15 April 2021, Minister Wilkinson announced CAD1.3 million to support five projects that aim to reduce plastic waste, prevent plastic pollution and support Canada's transition to a circular plastics economy.⁸⁷⁸² The projects will include recycling personal protective equipment from hospitals, improving the management of compostable products and supporting the development of new standards for bioplastics. The projects receiving funding from the government include the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation, the Canadian Coalition for Green Healthcare, the Conference Board of Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Ontario, and Scout Environmental.⁸⁷⁸³

On 16 April 2021, the Government of Canada, through FedDev Ontario, the federal economic development agency for southern Ontario, invested CAD5 million to the City of Guelph to develop the Circular Opportunity Innovation LaunchPad (COIL).⁸⁷⁸⁴ COIL is Canada's first circular economy test platform and is expected "to create 400 jobs, commercialize over 100 new products or services, and support the development and growth of up to 70 businesses."⁸⁷⁸⁵

On 12 May 2021, Canada published the Order Adding a Toxic Substance to Schedule 1 to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 regarding adding plastic manufactured items to the list of toxic substances. The purpose of this is to achieve zero-plastic waste by 2030 as stipulated under the Oceans Plastics Charter.⁸⁷⁸⁶

On 10 June 2021, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Bernadette Jordan launched a second call for proposals under the Ghost Gear Fund.⁸⁷⁸⁷ The Government of

⁸⁷⁸⁰ Canada supports innovation for compostable bioplastic, Natural Resources Canada (Quebec) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-supports-innovation-for-compostable-bioplastic-824701707.html>

⁸⁷⁸¹ Canada supports innovation for compostable bioplastic, Natural Resources Canada (Quebec) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-supports-innovation-for-compostable-bioplastic-824701707.html>

⁸⁷⁸² Government of Canada invests in reducing plastic waste and supporting the transition of a circular economy for plastics, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-reducing-plastic-waste-and-supporting-the-transition-of-a-circular-economy-for-plastics-879248296.html>

⁸⁷⁸³ Government of Canada invests in reducing plastic waste and supporting the transition of a circular economy for plastics, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-reducing-plastic-waste-and-supporting-the-transition-of-a-circular-economy-for-plastics-879248296.html>

⁸⁷⁸⁴ Government of Canada invests in Canada's first circular economy focused accelerator and test platform, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-in-canadas-first-circular-economy-focused-accelerator-and-test-platform.html>

⁸⁷⁸⁵ Government of Canada invests in Canada's first circular economy focused accelerator and test platform, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-in-canadas-first-circular-economy-focused-accelerator-and-test-platform.html>

⁸⁷⁸⁶ Canada: Coalition of Canadian Plastic Industry Members Launch Legal Challenge to Designation of Plastic Manufactured Items As Toxic Under CEPA, Mondaq (Toronto) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/canada/waste-management/1077476/coalition-of-canadian-plastic-industry-members-launch-legal-challenge-to-designation-of-plastic-manufactured-items-as-toxic-under-cepa>

⁸⁷⁸⁷ Government of Canada builds on success under the Ghost Gear Fund with second call for proposals, Newswire (Ottawa) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-builds-on-success-under-the-ghost-gear-fund-with-second-call-for-proposals-880241940.html>

Canada created the Ghost Gear Fund in 2020 to limit the contribution of lost, abandoned, and discarded fishing gear as one of the largest causes of marine pollution.⁸⁷⁸⁸ In 2020, the fund helped remove 63 tonnes of gear from Canadian waters.⁸⁷⁸⁹

On 14 June 2021, during the 18th EU-Canada summit, Canada and the EU announced that they will step up cooperation and multilateral action on the circular economy, the efficient use of natural resources and the adequate management of chemicals and waste.⁸⁷⁹⁰ In particular, Canada and the EU will work towards a new global treaty on plastics, including efforts to fight ocean plastic pollution. In this regard, they launched an Ocean Partnership Forum under the EU-Canada Ocean Partnership Declaration.⁸⁷⁹¹

Canada has taken domestic action through public and private sector partnerships to reduce the output of plastic waste and has taken international bilateral action to fight ocean plastic pollution.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Luisa Cortat Simonetti Goncalves

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 27 November 2020, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, through a video conference, highlighted the importance of the 14th Five-Year Plan for key river basins and the marine ecological environment.⁸⁷⁹² According to the consultation suggestions, provincial ecological and environmental departments would further fulfil their primary responsibilities and provide technical guidance and supervision to protect the marine environment.⁸⁷⁹³

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Commerce issued the Measures on the Use and Recycling of Disposable Plastic Products in the Commercial Field (Test) to encourage and guide the commercial field to reduce the use and actively recycle plastic bags and other disposable plastic products.⁸⁷⁹⁴ The measures aim to promote recyclable, easy to recycle and biodegradable alternatives, thereby reducing

⁸⁷⁸⁸ Government of Canada builds on success under the Ghost Gear Fund with second call for proposals, Newswire (Ottawa) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-builds-on-success-under-the-ghost-gear-fund-with-second-call-for-proposals-880241940.html>

⁸⁷⁸⁹ Government of Canada builds on success under the Ghost Gear Fund with second call for proposals, Newswire (Ottawa) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-builds-on-success-under-the-ghost-gear-fund-with-second-call-for-proposals-880241940.html>

⁸⁷⁹⁰ EU-Canada summit, Brussels, 14 June 2021, European Council (Brussels) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2021/06/14/>

⁸⁷⁹¹ EU-Canada summit, Brussels, 14 June 2021, European Council (Brussels) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2021/06/14/>

⁸⁷⁹² The Ministry of Ecology and Environment carried out scheduling and consultation on the compilation of the 14th Five-Year Plan for key river basins and Marine ecological and environmental protection, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-11/27/content_5565311.htm

⁸⁷⁹³ The Ministry of Ecology and Environment carried out scheduling and consultation on the compilation of the 14th Five-Year Plan for key river basins and Marine ecological and environmental protection, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-11/27/content_5565311.htm

⁸⁷⁹⁴ Ministry of Commerce: encourage and guide the business sector to reduce the use of plastic bags and other disposable plastic products, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-12/01/content_5566241.htm

the severe threat that plastics pose to the sustainable development of soils, oceans, organisms and people.⁸⁷⁹⁵

On 3 December 2020, the Ministry of Commerce unveiled a nationwide reporting system to record the use and recycling of disposable plastic products.⁸⁷⁹⁶ The reporting system intends to urge businesses to reduce reliance on single-use plastics and supports China's efforts to control plastic pollution by 2025.⁸⁷⁹⁷

On 8 December 2020, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment announced that China will institute a sweeping ban on all solid waste imports, which will come into force on 1 January 2021.⁸⁷⁹⁸

On 9 December 2020, Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, called on all parties to take joint action on building a maritime community with a shared future under the issue of oceans and the law of the sea at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly.⁸⁷⁹⁹

On 1 January 2021, China's plastic ban took effect, prohibiting restaurants and stores across the country from providing single-use plastic straws and plastic shopping bags.⁸⁸⁰⁰

On 7 January 2021, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and National Development and Reform Commission issued the Opinions on Further Strengthening the Control of Plastic Pollution, which covers three periods of time: 2020, 2022 and 2025, and sets out tasks and objectives for strengthening the control of plastic pollution in different stages.⁸⁸⁰¹ By 7 January 2021, 31 provinces had issued and enacted implementation or action plans related to plastic pollution control.⁸⁸⁰²

On 4 February 2021, China and Japan, during the 12th round of high-level consultations on maritime affairs, agreed to cooperate on the prevention and control of marine plastic waste.⁸⁸⁰³

On 23 February 2021, the State Council issued the Guidelines on Accelerating the Establishment and Improvement of a Green, Low-Carbon, and Circular Economic System for Development. The Guidelines suggest the consumption of green products, a green and low-carbon lifestyle, the prevention of food and beverage waste, and the sorting, reduction, and recycling of household waste

⁸⁷⁹⁵ Ministry of Commerce: encourage and guide the business sector to reduce the use of plastic bags and other disposable plastic products, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-12/01/content_5566241.htm

⁸⁷⁹⁶ China urges cutting use of disposable plastics, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/media_news/202012/t20201203_811327.shtml

⁸⁷⁹⁷ China urges cutting use of disposable plastics, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/media_news/202012/t20201203_811327.shtml

⁸⁷⁹⁸ In green milestone, China to end solid waste, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/media_news/202012/t20201208_811909.shtml

⁸⁷⁹⁹ China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations has called for joint efforts to build a maritime community with a shared future, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-12/09/content_5568474.htm

⁸⁸⁰⁰ China: Single-Use Plastic Straw and Bag Ban Takes Effect, Library of Congress (Washington) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/china-single-use-plastic-straw-and-bag-ban-takes-effect/>

⁸⁸⁰¹ Thirty-one provinces have issued implementation plans or action plans related to plastic pollution control, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-01/07/content_5577567.htm

⁸⁸⁰² Thirty-one provinces have issued implementation plans or action plans related to plastic pollution control, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-01/07/content_5577567.htm

⁸⁸⁰³ China, Japan agree to manage differences, promote cooperation in maritime affairs, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202102/04/content_WS601be05bc6d0f725769451e6.html

per local conditions.⁸⁸⁰⁴ Additionally, they promote the prevention and treatment of plastic pollution throughout the supply chain.⁸⁸⁰⁵

On 31 August 2021, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment held a regular monthly press conference to emphasize the importance of the reduction of marine plastic litter.⁸⁸⁰⁶ The Ministry highlighted four measures, including managing the source of plastic production, strengthening public education, and participation in marine plastic litter prevention, and facilitating the prevention and control of marine plastic litter by coastal local governments, including the marine litter plastic in the overall planning of special actions for pollution prevention and control.⁸⁸⁰⁷

China has taken domestic actions and promoted bi-lateral and international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tianyang (Victoria) Wang

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 1 January 2021, France enacted several measures as part of its anti-waste law to reduce plastic waste and single-use plastics in the country.⁸⁸⁰⁸ In particular, the enacted measures banned the distribution of plastic bottles in public and commercial facilities and professional premises, the use and production of plastic confetti and expandable polystyrene containers and the production and use of single-use plastics.⁸⁸⁰⁹ Additionally, supermarkets in the country are now obligated to provide sorting containers to encourage recycling.⁸⁸¹⁰ Further, France outlined future commitments: amongst them, effective 1 January 2022, public facilities must have at least one drinking water fountain on site, press publications will have to be expedited without plastic wrapping, toys distributed to children as part of menus will have to be plastic-free, and the State will no longer purchase single-use plastic

⁸⁸⁰⁴ The State Council issued the Guiding Opinions on Accelerating the Establishment and Improvement of a Green, Low-carbon and Circulating Economic System, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYRlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/shizhengyaowen/202102/t20210223_409950.html

⁸⁸⁰⁵ The State Council issued the Guiding Opinions on Accelerating the Establishment and Improvement of a Green, Low-carbon and Circulating Economic System, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYRlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/shizhengyaowen/202102/t20210223_409950.html

⁸⁸⁰⁶ Prevention and control of Marine garbage pollution should be strengthened at source, preventive measures taken and timely removal, the National Development and Reform Commission (Beijing) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021.

https://www.ndrc.gov.cn/xwdt/ztlz/slwzrlzxd/gzdt01/202108/t20210831_1295787.html?code=&state=123

⁸⁸⁰⁷ Prevention and control of Marine garbage pollution should be strengthened at source, preventive measures taken and timely removal, the National Development and Reform Commission (Beijing) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021.

https://www.ndrc.gov.cn/xwdt/ztlz/slwzrlzxd/gzdt01/202108/t20210831_1295787.html?code=&state=123

⁸⁸⁰⁸ The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁸⁸⁰⁹ The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁸⁸¹⁰ The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

whether for usage in its workplaces or the events it organizes.⁸⁸¹¹ To reduce microplastic in oceans, France announced that effective 1 January 2025, washing machine manufacturers must install a microfibre filter on any new washing machine put on the market.⁸⁸¹²

On 11 January 2021, France participated in the One Planet Summit to discuss accelerating international action against climate change.⁸⁸¹³ France and Costa Rica launched the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People, now composed of 52 states, pledging to protect 30 per cent of the world's land and oceans by 2030.⁸⁸¹⁴ President Macron announced France's commitment to abide by this level of protection by 2022 and published in January 2021 the National Protected Areas Strategy, which documents the efforts to reach this objective.⁸⁸¹⁵

On 12 January 2021, France, along with Spain and Monaco, launched the Exemplary Mediterranean in 2030.⁸⁸¹⁶ The coalition is built around four commitments of developing a grid of protected areas, putting an end to overfishing, fighting against marine pollution and putting an end to single-use plastic, and "greening up" maritime transport.⁸⁸¹⁷

On 16 April 2021, France issued a decree on the presence of industrial plastics in the environment.⁸⁸¹⁸ The decree stipulates the obligation for all sites producing, manipulating and/or transporting industrial plastic granules to adapt their equipment and set up procedures to prevent plastic leakages into the environments.⁸⁸¹⁹

On 30 April 2021, France published another decree which aims to reduce single use plastic waste by 20 per cent and to reduce "useless" single use plastic by 100 per cent, by the year 2025.⁸⁸²⁰

On 8 June 2021, France's Ministry of the Ecological Transition supported the creation of "Zero wild waste," an online collaborative platform focused on participatory effort.⁸⁸²¹ The platform was

⁸⁸¹¹ The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁸⁸¹² The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁸⁸¹³ One Planet Summit: Commitments to act in favour of biodiversity, Élysée (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/01/12/one-planet-summit-des-engagements-pour-agir-en-faveur-de-la-biodiversite>

⁸⁸¹⁴ One Planet Summit: Commitments to act in favour of biodiversity, Élysée (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/01/12/one-planet-summit-des-engagements-pour-agir-en-faveur-de-la-biodiversite>

⁸⁸¹⁵ National Strategy for Protected Areas, French Office for Biodiversity (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://ofb.gouv.fr/la-strategie-nationale-pour-les-aires-protgees>

⁸⁸¹⁶ One Planet Summit: Commitments to act in favour of biodiversity, Élysée (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/01/12/one-planet-summit-des-engagements-pour-agir-en-faveur-de-la-biodiversite>

⁸⁸¹⁷ One Planet Summit: Commitments to act in favour of biodiversity, Élysée (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/01/12/one-planet-summit-des-engagements-pour-agir-en-faveur-de-la-biodiversite>

⁸⁸¹⁸ Fighting against plastic granules in the environment, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lutter-contre-granules-plastiques-industriels-dans-nature>

⁸⁸¹⁹ Fighting against plastic granules in the environment, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lutter-contre-granules-plastiques-industriels-dans-nature>

⁸⁸²⁰ Anti-waste law: towards the end of single use plastic, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/emballages-en-plastique-usage-unique>

⁸⁸²¹ Zero wild waste: launching of the national collaborative platform, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lancement-plateforme-zero-dechet-sauvage>

launched by MerTerre aiming to bring together the country, organizations, and stakeholders in contributing to reducing wild waste at the national level.⁸⁸²²

On 3-10 September 2021, France organized and hosted the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress, during which France defended the conclusion of an international treaty on plastic pollution.⁸⁸²³

France has taken domestic actions and supported international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Clémentine Benoit

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 11 January 2021, Germany participated in the One Planet Summit, where Chancellor Angela Merkel stated that “Germany would join the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC).”⁸⁸²⁴ The HAC for Nature and People is an intergovernmental group, composed of 50 states, committed to protecting 30 per cent of the world’s land and ocean inhabitants by 2030.⁸⁸²⁵

On 9 February 2021, Germany amended the Packaging Act to ban the distribution of lightweight plastic bags at the point of sale of goods, such as malls, grocery stores, and markets.⁸⁸²⁶ The ban will become effective starting 1 January 2022, and merchants will face a fine of up to EUR100,000 for violating the ban.⁸⁸²⁷

On 19 April 2021, Germany entered a partnership with India to establish the “Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment” programme.⁸⁸²⁸ The programme aims to reduce the discharge of waste into bodies of water.⁸⁸²⁹ The project will operate in the Indian states of Uttar

⁸⁸²² Zero wild waste: launching of the national collaborative platform, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lancement-plateforme-zero-dechet-sauvage>

⁸⁸²³ France welcomes international mobilization and advances made to preserve and restore biodiversity, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/france-se-felicite-mobilisation-internationale-et-des-avancees-obtenues-preserve-et-restaure>

⁸⁸²⁴ One Planet summit: Merkel rails against deforestation, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/one-planet-summit-merkel-rails-against-deforestation/a-56194295>

⁸⁸²⁵ One Planet summit: Merkel rails against deforestation, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/one-planet-summit-merkel-rails-against-deforestation/a-56194295>

⁸⁸²⁶ Germany: Lightweight Plastic Bag Ban to Take Effect January 1, 2022, Library of Congress (Washington) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/germany-lightweight-plastic-bag-ban-to-take-effect-january-1-2022>

⁸⁸²⁷ Germany: Lightweight Plastic Bag Ban to Take Effect January 1, 2022, Library of Congress (Washington) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/germany-lightweight-plastic-bag-ban-to-take-effect-january-1-2022>

⁸⁸²⁸ Plastic waste: India, Germany to stem discharge into water systems, Construction World (Mumbai) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.constructionworld.in/urban-infrastructure/wastewater-and-sewage-treatment/plastic-waste--india--germany-to-stem-discharge-into-water-systems/26692>

⁸⁸²⁹ Plastic waste: India, Germany to stem discharge into water systems, Construction World (Mumbai) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.constructionworld.in/urban-infrastructure/wastewater-and-sewage-treatment/plastic-waste--india--germany-to-stem-discharge-into-water-systems/26692>

Pradesh, Kerala and Andaman Nicobar Islands and the cities of Port Blair, Kochi, and Kanpur for a period of three and a half years.⁸⁸³⁰

On 6 May 2021, the German Bundestag adopted the law to “implement the requirements of the single-use plastics directive and the waste framework directive in the packaging act and other laws.” With this action, the European Directive (EU) 2019/904 will be implemented into German law. The aim of the European Single-Use Plastic Directive is to reduce plastic products waste on European beaches, protect the environment from plastics and microplastics, and promote recycling-oriented management of plastics.⁸⁸³¹

On 1 September 2021, Germany in coordination with Ecuador, Vietnam and Ghana co-hosted the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution.⁸⁸³² The conference highlighted the possibility of a global agreement on marine litter plastic.⁸⁸³³

Germany has fully complied with this commitment through bi-lateral initiatives and a verbal declaration of support for an intergovernmental initiative to safeguard the oceans. Additionally, it has taken measures to implement EU Directive 2019/904 to reduce and prevent marine plastic litter.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ema Marcheska

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 7 December 2020, India and the UK launched the UK-India Marine Litter Twin Cities project, an initiative conceptualized by India’s Ministry of Earth Sciences and the UK Science and Innovation Network.⁸⁸³⁴ Through the project, three coastal port cities in India are to be twinned with three coastal towns in the UK.⁸⁸³⁵ The project aims to promote bilateral engagement between scientists, innovators and policymakers in the twinned cities and strengthen best practices for managing marine litter.⁸⁸³⁶

On 16 February 2021, Minister of Earth Sciences Madhavan Rajeevan announced India’s intent to strengthen collaborations with Japan on the reduction of marine litter through scientific and regional-

⁸⁸³⁰ Plastic waste: India, Germany to stem discharge into water systems, Construction World (Mumbai) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.constructionworld.in/urban-infrastructure/wastewater-and-sewage-treatment/plastic-waste--india--germany-to-stem-discharge-into-water-systems/26692>

⁸⁸³¹ Drucksache 19/27634, German Bundestag (Berlin) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/19/276/1927634.pdf>

⁸⁸³² Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution (Geneva) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://conferencemarinelitterplasticpollution.org/home/>

⁸⁸³³ Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution (Geneva) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://conferencemarinelitterplasticpollution.org/home/>

⁸⁸³⁴ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁸⁸³⁵ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁸⁸³⁶ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

level data sharing.⁸⁸³⁷ Secretary Rajeevan announced this collaboration during the Indo-Japan online seminar “Marine Plastic Prevention and Management.”⁸⁸³⁸

On 19 April 2021, India and Germany signed an agreement to establish the “Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment” program.⁸⁸³⁹ The project aims to enhance practices to prevent plastic accumulation in oceans that adversely affect marine ecosystems on the national level.⁸⁸⁴⁰ The project will operate in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Andaman Nicobar Islands and the cities of Port Blair, Kochi and Kanpur over a span of three and a half years.⁸⁸⁴¹

On 8 June 2021, India launched a two-month-long plastic waste awareness campaign.⁸⁸⁴² The campaign aimed to raise awareness on plastic waste management and the elimination of identified Single-Use Plastics items.⁸⁸⁴³

India has taken partial action through bilateral efforts to engage in information sharing on best practices for marine plastic reduction. However, India has not taken domestic action to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Tianbe Wang

Indonesia: –1

Indonesia has not complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

Indonesia has not taken any actions or made any collaborative commitments both domestically and internationally to reduce or prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter and microplastic waste as articulated by the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of –1.⁸⁸⁴⁴

Analyst: Aida Zarghami

⁸⁸³⁷ India and Japan to strengthen efforts to fight marine litter, Indian Express (Pune) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/india-and-japan-to-strengthen-efforts-to-fight-marine-litter-7190967/>

⁸⁸³⁸ India and Japan to strengthen efforts to fight marine litter, Indian Express (Pune) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/india-and-japan-to-strengthen-efforts-to-fight-marine-litter-7190967/>

⁸⁸³⁹ India-Germany Enter into Agreement to Prevent Plastic Waste Entering Oceans, Swarajya (Coimbatore) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://swarajyamag.com/news-brief/india-germany-enter-into-agreement-to-prevent-plastic-waste-entering-oceans>

⁸⁸⁴⁰ India-Germany Enter into Agreement to Prevent Plastic Waste Entering Oceans, Swarajya (Coimbatore) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://swarajyamag.com/news-brief/india-germany-enter-into-agreement-to-prevent-plastic-waste-entering-oceans>

⁸⁸⁴¹ India-Germany Enter into Agreement to Prevent Plastic Waste Entering Oceans, Swarajya (Coimbatore) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://swarajyamag.com/news-brief/india-germany-enter-into-agreement-to-prevent-plastic-waste-entering-oceans>

⁸⁸⁴² World Oceans Day 2021: Plastic Waste And India's Awareness Campaign, NDTV (New Delhi) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/world-oceans-day-2021-plastic-waste-management-and-oceans-2458723>

⁸⁸⁴³ World Oceans Day 2021: Plastic Waste And India's Awareness Campaign, NDTV (New Delhi) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/world-oceans-day-2021-plastic-waste-management-and-oceans-2458723>

⁸⁸⁴⁴ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.indonesia.go.id/>, <http://www.menlhk.go.id/>, <https://kkp.go.id/>, <https://g20mpl.org>, <https://sdg.iisd.org/>, <https://www.unep.org/>, <https://www.rnz.co.nz/>, and <https://www.reutersevents.com/>

Italy: -1

Italy has not complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 30 December 2020, Italy published the budget law, which postponed the entry into force of the plastic tax from 1 January 2021 to 1 July 2021 (article 1084).⁸⁸⁴⁵ The plastic tax established the charge of EUR0.45 per kilogram of single-use plastic produced from virgin feedstock (i.e., not recycled).⁸⁸⁴⁶

Although Italy has the intention to support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter, Italy has yet to implement any concrete national actions or support international efforts concerning this commitment.

Thus, Italy receives a score of -1.⁸⁸⁴⁷

Analyst: Luisa Cortat Simonetti Goncalves

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 18 January 2021, Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi gave a speech at the 204th session of the Diet and said that “Japan will accelerate its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and tackle global issues by making active and strategic use of Official Development Assistance. In particular, actively working on solving marine plastic litter issues to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”⁸⁸⁴⁸

In January 2021, the Ministry of the Environment released its initiatives to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and reiterated the Ministry’s resolution to promote measures to tackle marine plastic pollution in Japan and abroad.⁸⁸⁴⁹

On 19 January 2021, the Ministry of Economic, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of the Environment jointly compiled the Disclosure and Engagement Guidance to Accelerate Sustainable Finance for a Circular Economy.⁸⁸⁵⁰ The purpose of the guidance was to improve Japanese companies’ ability to promote a circular economy over the medium or long term and enhance the resource circulation for plastics waste.⁸⁸⁵¹

⁸⁸⁴⁵ State Budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Italian Government (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

⁸⁸⁴⁶ State Budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Italian Government (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

⁸⁸⁴⁷ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <http://www.governo.it/>, www.minambiente.it, <https://unfccc.int/>, <https://www.governo.it/notizie-presidente>, <https://g20mpl.org/partners/italy>, <https://www.thelocal.it/>, and <https://www.corriere.it/>

⁸⁸⁴⁸ Foreign Policy Speech by Foreign Minister MOTEGI to the 204th Session of the Diet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/pp/page3e_001106.html

⁸⁸⁴⁹ Japan Environment Quarterly, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/focus/jeq/issue/vol26/vol26l.pdf>

⁸⁸⁵⁰ Disclosure and Engagement Guidance to Accelerate Sustainable Finance for a Circular Economy Compiled, the Ministry of Economic, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0119_004.html

⁸⁸⁵¹ Disclosure and Engagement Guidance to Accelerate Sustainable Finance for a Circular Economy Compiled, the Ministry of Economic, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0119_004.html

On 4 February 2021, Japan and China, during the 12th round of high-level consultations on maritime affairs, agreed to cooperate on the prevention and control of marine plastic waste.⁸⁸⁵²

On 16 February 2021, Japan and India announced their intent to collaborate on the reduction of marine litter through scientific and regional-level data sharing.⁸⁸⁵³ This collaboration got announced during the Indo-Japan online seminar “Marine Plastic Prevention and Management.”⁸⁸⁵⁴

On 20 August 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched the “Marine Initiative” toward the realization of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, which aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050.⁸⁸⁵⁵ The “Marine Initiative” includes three concrete policy measures to advance effective actions to combat marine plastic litter at a global scale.⁸⁸⁵⁶ The policy measures are 1) international Cooperation, including bilateral ODA and assistance through international organizations; 2) international operations by Japanese companies, NGOs, and local governments; and 3) dissemination and sharing of best practices.⁸⁸⁵⁷

Japan has verbally reaffirmed its commitment and encouraged bilateral and international cooperation to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter. Furthermore, it has launched the “Marine Initiative” for the realization of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Tianyang (Victoria) Wang

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 27 May 2021, the Korean International Cooperation Agency and the United States Agency for International Development to implement joint development projects in the Philippines.⁸⁸⁵⁸ The Climate Resilient Cities project aims to strengthen the country's resilience to climate change and address marine plastic pollution through marine litter management initiatives.⁸⁸⁵⁹

⁸⁸⁵² China, Japan agree to manage differences, promote cooperation in maritime affairs, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202102/04/content_WS601be05bc6d0f725769451e6.html

⁸⁸⁵³ India and Japan to strengthen efforts to fight marine litter, Indian Express (Pune) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/india-and-japan-to-strengthen-efforts-to-fight-marine-litter-7190967/>

⁸⁸⁵⁴ India and Japan to strengthen efforts to fight marine litter, Indian Express (Pune) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/india-and-japan-to-strengthen-efforts-to-fight-marine-litter-7190967/>

⁸⁸⁵⁵ Japan's “MARINE Initiative” toward Realization of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ge/page25e_000317.html

⁸⁸⁵⁶ Japan's “MARINE Initiative” toward Realization of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ge/page25e_000317.html

⁸⁸⁵⁷ Japan's “MARINE Initiative” toward Realization of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ge/page25e_000317.html

⁸⁸⁵⁸ U.S. and Korea Strengthen Development Cooperation Partnership Through Joint Projects In The Philippines, USAID (Washington D.C.) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/philippines/press-releases/may-27-2021-us-and-korea-strengthen-development-cooperation-partnership-through-joint-projects-in-the-philippines>

⁸⁸⁵⁹ U.S. and Korea Strengthen Development Cooperation Partnership Through Joint Projects In The Philippines, USAID (Washington D.C.) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/philippines/press-releases/may-27-2021-us-and-korea-strengthen-development-cooperation-partnership-through-joint-projects-in-the-philippines>

On 3 September 2021, Korea launched the first National Action Plan on Marine Litter and Contaminated Sediment (2021-2030).⁸⁸⁶⁰ The National Action Plan aims to address marine plastic waste and microplastics problems using a resource circulation and carbon-neutral approach.⁸⁸⁶¹

Korea has fully complied by supporting bi-lateral initiatives and implementing a National Action Plan on Marine Litter and Contaminated Sediment.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tianhe Wang

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 1 February 2021, Senator Raúl Bolaños-Cacho Cué, the President of the Commission on the Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change called for more extensive regulation on the use of plastics and microplastics in Mexico during an Open Parliament session.⁸⁸⁶² Senator Cué has proposed a legislative draft for federal regulations on plastic pollution.⁸⁸⁶³

On 16 February 2021, Senator Xóchitl Gálvez Ruiz affirmed the legislative draft for federal regulations on plastic pollution by placing an emphasis on coordinating state and municipal action.⁸⁸⁶⁴

On 24 May 2021, the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources and the United States' Environmental Protection Agency launched the Border 2025 Environmental program as a joint effort to protect environmental concerns in the border region.⁸⁸⁶⁵ The policy is a continuation of the Border 2020 program, and builds on information gathered by the prior report.⁸⁸⁶⁶ This region covers

⁸⁸⁶⁰ The 1st National Action Plan on marine litter and marine contaminated sediment, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Kanagawa) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/republicofkorea>

⁸⁸⁶¹ The 1st National Action Plan on marine litter and marine contaminated sediment, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Kanagawa) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/republicofkorea>

⁸⁸⁶² Legislador urge una regulación viable sobre uso de plásticos Portal Ambiental (Ciudad de México) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.portalambiental.com.mx/legislacion/20210204/legislador-urge-una-regulacion-viable-sobre-uso-de-plasticos>

⁸⁸⁶³ Legislador urges viable regulations on the use of plastics, Portal Ambiental (Mexico City) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.portalambiental.com.mx/legislacion/20210204/legislador-urge-una-regulacion-viable-sobre-uso-de-plasticos>

⁸⁸⁶⁴ Management of plastic waste in states and municipalities must be coordinated, Portal Ambiental (Mexico City) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.portalambiental.com.mx/legislacion/20210218/manejo-de-residuos-plasticos-en-estados-y-municipio-debe-ser-coordinado>

⁸⁸⁶⁵ Border 2025: United States – Mexico Environmental Program, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/660612/2._B2025_English__2_.pdf

⁸⁸⁶⁶ Border 2025: United States – Mexico Environmental Program, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/660612/2._B2025_English__2_.pdf

the distance from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean.⁸⁸⁶⁷ Trash carried to the ocean is one of the areas of concern that will be monitored under this policy.⁸⁸⁶⁸

Mexico has affirmed its intentions to support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter but has yet to implement any concrete national actions or support international efforts concerning this commitment.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Matthew Brubacher and Sarah Weiner

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 5 March 2021, Russia, along with other members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) revealed plans to impose a ban on single-use disposable plastic bags by the end of March 2021.⁸⁸⁶⁹

On 12 March 2021, Russia and Norway began discussing the MPA-5 project which aims to tackle marine litter and microplastics in the Barents Sea.⁸⁸⁷⁰ Several Russian officials in the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia and the Marine Environment Monitoring Department of the Federal State Budgetary Institution attended the meetings. In addition, several Russian Oblasts are taking initiatives to reduce waste.⁸⁸⁷¹

On 12 May 2021, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin reaffirmed the government's intentions of developing a circular economy during the State Duma's annual performance review.⁸⁸⁷² He stated, "we are also going to develop a circular economy, stimulate businesses to stop making products that cannot be recycled, and generally reduce unnecessary packaging."⁸⁸⁷³

⁸⁸⁶⁷ Border 2025: United States – Mexico Environmental Program, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/660612/2._B2025_English__2_.pdf

⁸⁸⁶⁸ Border 2025: United States – Mexico Environmental Program, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021.

https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/660612/2._B2025_English__2_.pdf

⁸⁸⁶⁹ Russia & Eurasian Economic Union to Ban Disposable Plastics By End March 2021, Russia Briefing (Moscow) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021 <https://www.russia-briefing.com/news/russia-eurasian-economic-union-to-ban-disposable-plastics-by-end-march-2021.html/>

⁸⁸⁷⁰ A meeting of experts was held within the framework of the Russian-Norwegian project MOP-5 on marine debris and microplastics, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/sostoyalas_vstrecha_ekspertov_v_ramkakh_rossiysko_norvezhskogo_proekta_mor_5_po_morskomu_musoru_i_mi/?sphrase_id=348041

⁸⁸⁷¹ A meeting of experts was held within the framework of the Russian-Norwegian project MOP-5 on marine debris and microplastics, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/sostoyalas_vstrecha_ekspertov_v_ramkakh_rossiysko_norvezhskogo_proekta_mor_5_po_morskomu_musoru_i_mi/?sphrase_id=348041

⁸⁸⁷² Annual Government Report on its performance to the State Duma, The Russian Government (Moscow) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42158/>

⁸⁸⁷³ Annual Government Report on its performance to the State Duma, The Russian Government (Moscow) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42158/>

On 22 June 2021, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin approved the expansion of MSW management facilities. The project is state sponsored in hopes of creating sustainable development and increasing recycling.⁸⁸⁷⁴

Russia has affirmed its intention to support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter but has yet to implement any concrete nation actions or support international efforts concerning this commitment.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Vlada Taitis

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 30 November 2020, Saudi Arabia's National Centre for Waste Management issued a new promotion of the circular economy activation.⁸⁸⁷⁵ These new measures include communications with different stakeholders to prevent and reduce plastic waste generation.⁸⁸⁷⁶

On 1 February 2021, the Saudi Council of Ministers issued new environmental regulations to achieve its 2030 vision by using best international practices.⁸⁸⁷⁷ As part of the new environmental regulations, The Saudi Council of Ministers produced an initiative to develop and implement a Marine Litter Prevention Strategy that will commence in 2022.⁸⁸⁷⁸ Some of these practices include the identification of existing initiatives and projects to align and incorporate in the strategy where needed.⁸⁸⁷⁹

On 1 February 2021, the Saudi Council of Ministers issued some of their best practices that evolve in three different sectors: national level, private sector and international cooperation.⁸⁸⁸⁰ The Saudi Council of Ministers will be investing in different national companies such as the Saudi in Saudi Investment Recycling Company.⁸⁸⁸¹ In the private sector, The Saudi Council of Ministers will be

⁸⁸⁷⁴ The government has expanded the list of measures to support the MSW management industry, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

⁸⁸⁷⁵ G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter 2nd Edition, Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/en/872.pdf>

⁸⁸⁷⁶ G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter 2nd Edition, Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/en/872.pdf>

⁸⁸⁷⁷ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudi Arabia>

⁸⁸⁷⁸ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudi Arabia>

⁸⁸⁷⁹ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudi Arabia>

⁸⁸⁸⁰ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudi Arabia>

⁸⁸⁸¹ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudi Arabia>

investing in a private company named “Sabic” to reduce plastic waste generation.⁸⁸⁸² The Saudi Council of Ministers will also be internationally cooperating with countries like Spain, Sweden, United States, Australia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and Germany to protect Marine Areas and practice waste management.⁸⁸⁸³

On 7 July 2021, Saudi Arabia announced their new action plan on the reduction of water pollutants.⁸⁸⁸⁴ Saudi Arabia will improve service levels in order to enhance the quality of the kingdom’s waste management by 42 per cent to avoid further pollutants from entering the water and threatening livestock.⁸⁸⁸⁵

On 26 July 2021, the Saudi Waste Management Centre signed an memorandum of understanding with PepsiCo to introduce innovative solutions to facilitate a more environmentally friendly Hajj once the country starts to welcome back millions of pilgrims.⁸⁸⁸⁶ This partnership has four main pillars which include, plastic collection and recycling projects, educational school activities, awareness campaigns and sponsorship events which are all aligned with Saudi Arabia’s goal of Vision 2030 to improve the efficiency of waste management, establishing recycling projects and reducing pollution.⁸⁸⁸⁷

Saudi Arabia has taken domestic actions and supported international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Aida Zarghami

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 15 March 2021, South Africa launched its National Water Week, hosted by Plastics SA and their partners.⁸⁸⁸⁸ The initiative aims to promote the importance of clean water and the involvement in marine and coastal clean-ups.⁸⁸⁸⁹

On 7 April 2021, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Barbara Creecy made amendments to Plastic Carrier Bags and Plastic Flat Bags Regulations.⁸⁸⁹⁰ These amendments focus

⁸⁸⁸² Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudiarabia>

⁸⁸⁸³ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudiarabia>

⁸⁸⁸⁴ Environmental Protection in KSA, Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/aboutksa/environmentalProtection#header2_13

⁸⁸⁸⁵ Environmental Protection in KSA, Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/aboutksa/environmentalProtection#header2_13

⁸⁸⁸⁶ PepsiCo and SWMC sign MoU to enhance environmental sustainability in Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (Riyadh) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.mewa.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News182.aspx>

⁸⁸⁸⁷ PepsiCo and SWMC sign MoU to enhance environmental sustainability in Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (Riyadh) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.mewa.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News182.aspx>

⁸⁸⁸⁸ National Water Week, Plastics SA (Midrand) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.plasticsinfo.co.za/2021/03/18/national-water-week-highlights-national-eco-heroes/>

⁸⁸⁸⁹ National Water Week, Plastics SA (Midrand) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.plasticsinfo.co.za/2021/03/18/national-water-week-highlights-national-eco-heroes/>

on all policies regarding plastic bags in the country and concentrate on promoting a circular economy.⁸⁸⁹¹ The amendment prohibits the manufacture, trade or commercial distribution of domestically produced or imported plastic flat bags and requires all plastic bags to contain 50 per cent recycled content starting in 2023 and increasing to 100 per cent by 2027.⁸⁸⁹²

On 4 May 2021, South Africa implemented a mandatory extended producer responsibility fee for any company or brand that produces plastic packaging for distribution.⁸⁸⁹³ Existing plastic producers must register with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries between 5 May 2021 to 5 November 2021.⁸⁸⁹⁴

On 14 May 2021, Minister Creecy delivered the budget speech to the National Assembly.⁸⁸⁹⁵ The speech called for the implementation of the National Waste Management Strategy 2020 and emphasized plastic reduction as a crucial component of managing environmental pollution.⁸⁸⁹⁶

On 8 June 2021, Minister Creecy announced that the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment developed the Source-to-Sea initiative which focuses on managing marine litter sources.⁸⁸⁹⁷ The initiative will commence in July 2021.⁸⁸⁹⁸

South Africa has taken domestic action through the ban on plastic production and restriction of commercial plastic bag usage to prevent additional pollution from plastic waste. However, it has not taken domestic or international action to reduce and prevent marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ema Marcheska

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

⁸⁸⁹⁰ Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on amendments to plastic bag regulations, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/amendments-plastic-bag-regulations-published-implementation-18-apr-2021-0000>

⁸⁸⁹¹ Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on amendments to plastic bag regulations, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/amendments-plastic-bag-regulations-published-implementation-18-apr-2021-0000>

⁸⁸⁹² Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on amendments to plastic bag regulations, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/amendments-plastic-bag-regulations-published-implementation-18-apr-2021-0000>

⁸⁸⁹³ South Africa implements mandatory EPR for plastics packaging from 5 May, Independent Commodity Intelligence Services (California) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.icis.com/explore/resources/news/2021/04/29/10634055/south-africa-implements-mandatory-epr-for-plastics-packaging-from-5-may>

⁸⁸⁹⁴ South Africa implements mandatory EPR for plastics packaging from 5 May, Independent Commodity Intelligence Services (California) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.icis.com/explore/resources/news/2021/04/29/10634055/south-africa-implements-mandatory-epr-for-plastics-packaging-from-5-may>

⁸⁸⁹⁵ Minister Barbara Creecy: Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Dept Budget Vote 2021/22, South African Government (Pretoria) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-forestry-fisheries-and-environment-dept-budget-vote-202122-14-may>

⁸⁸⁹⁶ Minister Barbara Creecy: Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Dept Budget Vote 2021/22, South African Government (Pretoria) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-forestry-fisheries-and-environment-dept-budget-vote-202122-14-may>

⁸⁸⁹⁷ Marine litter a global concern, SA News (Cape Town) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/marine-litter-global-concern>

⁸⁸⁹⁸ Marine litter a global concern, SA News (Cape Town) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/marine-litter-global-concern>

On 1 February 2021, Turkey announced that it is working to institute a credit rebate to citizens for recycling beverages and other containers.⁸⁸⁹⁹

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment by working on an initiative that will give a credit rebate for recycling, which will support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter. However, Turkey has not taken concrete action on this commitment.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Vlada Taitis

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 7 December 2020, the UK and India launched the UK-India Marine Litter Twin Cities project, an initiative conceptualized by India's Ministry of Earth Sciences and the UK Science and Innovation Network.⁸⁹⁰⁰ Through the project, three coastal port cities in India are to be twinned with three coastal towns in the UK.⁸⁹⁰¹ The project aims to promote bilateral engagement between scientists, innovators and policymakers in the twinned cities and strengthen best practices for managing marine litter.⁸⁹⁰²

On 18 March 2021, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs released plans for a new Waste Prevention Programme for England.⁸⁹⁰³ This program sets out how the UK and industry can minimize waste and its impact on the environment across seven key sectors, including packaging, plastics, and single-use items.⁸⁹⁰⁴ The plan will be open for stakeholder consultation until 10 June 2021.⁸⁹⁰⁵

⁸⁸⁹⁹ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

<https://g20mpl.org/partners/turkey>

⁸⁹⁰⁰ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁸⁹⁰¹ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁸⁹⁰² Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁸⁹⁰³ Government unveils plans for wide-ranging Waste Prevention Programme, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-plans-for-wide-ranging-waste-prevention-programme>

⁸⁹⁰⁴ Government unveils plans for wide-ranging Waste Prevention Programme, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-plans-for-wide-ranging-waste-prevention-programme>

⁸⁹⁰⁵ Consultation on the Waste Prevention Programme for England: Towards a Resource-Efficient Economy, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/waste-prevention-programme-for-england-2021/>

On 22 March 2021, the UK published an updated Marine Strategy Part Two. This update outlines the monitoring programs that will be used to provide the evidence for the 2024 assessment of progress towards Good Environmental Status within the UK Marine Strategy area.⁸⁹⁰⁶

On 6 April 2021, the UK opened the Fisheries and Seafood Scheme for applications. The scheme will provide GBP6.1 million over 12 months to support the seafood sector, coastal communities and the marine environment. It will work with the fishing industry to reduce emissions and provide environmental improvements.⁸⁹⁰⁷

On 30 April 2021, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Rebecca Pow announced that the charge for plastic bags in all UK retail stores would be doubled to GBP0.10, starting on 21 May 2021.⁸⁹⁰⁸ This is a delay from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs' original plan to implement the change in April 2021.⁸⁹⁰⁹

On 14 June 2021, at the UK hosted G7 Summit, Prime Minister Boris Johnson launched the GBP500 million Blue Planet Fund. The Blue Planet Fund “aims to support developing countries to protect the marine environment and reduce poverty, and seeks outcomes in biodiversity, climate change, marine pollution and sustainable seafood. Specifically, the fund aims to: improve marine biodiversity and support livelihoods by protecting and enhancing marine ecosystems, improve resilience, adaptation to and Prime Minister Launches GBP500m Blue Planet Fund mitigation of climate change, reduce marine pollution through action on land-based and sea-based sources, and ensure that seafood is produced and distributed in ways which support healthy ecosystems. The Fund is managed by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, and will run for at least 5 years.”⁸⁹¹⁰

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment by reducing and preventing additional pollution in India, has announced a new initiative to minimize waste and has implemented a higher charge for plastic bags. Furthermore, through the UK's Presidency of the G7, the Blue Planet Fund was launched which supports developing countries to improve the health of the marine environment, including by eliminating plastic litter.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Claire Parish

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

⁸⁹⁰⁶ Marine Strategy Part Two: UK updated monitoring programmes, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) March 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/971696/uk-marine-strategy-part-two-monitoring-programmes-2021.pdf

⁸⁹⁰⁷ £6.1 million Fisheries and Seafood Scheme opens for applications, Government of the UK (London) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/61-million-fisheries-and-seafood-scheme-opens-for-applications>

⁸⁹⁰⁸ Exclusive: 10p Plastic Bag Charge To Be Rolled Out In All Shops From May 21, Politics Home (London) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.politicshome.com/news/article/exclusive-10p-plastic-bag-charge-to-be-rolled-out-in-may#.YlwkGYBDHIs.twitter>

⁸⁹⁰⁹ War on plastic waste stepped up with extension of plastic bag charge, Department for Environment-Food & Rural Affairs (London) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/war-on-plastic-waste-stepped-up-with-extension-of-plastic-bag-charge>

⁸⁹¹⁰ Prime Minister Launches £500m Blue Planet Fund, CIEEM (Winchester) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <https://cieem.net/prime-minister-launches-500m-blue-planet-fund/>

On 21 December 2020, President Donald Trump signed into law the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act. This act aims to improve work and research surrounding marine debris and waste management.⁸⁹¹¹ The act created a Marine Debris Foundation and a Genius Prize for Save Our Seas Innovation, alongside grants for waste management and mitigation studies.⁸⁹¹² It also formalized US policy on international cooperation and federal outreach around Marine debris, encouraging action and cooperation to prevent and reduce marine litter.⁸⁹¹³

On 24 May 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency and Mexico's Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources launched the Border 2025 Environmental program as a joint effort to protect environmental concerns in the border region.⁸⁹¹⁴ The policy is a continuation of the Border 2020 program, and builds on information gathered by the prior report.⁸⁹¹⁵ This region covers the distance from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean.⁸⁹¹⁶ Trash carried to the ocean is one of the areas of concern that will be monitored under this policy.⁸⁹¹⁷

The United States has partially complied with its commitment by passing a law that will support the reduction and prevention of marine plastic litter. However, the United States has not taken enough significant, concrete actions on the commitment.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Claire Parish

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 14 December 2020, the European Commission's Independent Group of Chief Scientific Advisors (GCSA) unveiled a Scientific Opinion on Plastics' Biodegradability in the Open Environment, a report highlighting recommendations to assess which specific biodegradable plastic applications can offer environmental benefits.⁸⁹¹⁸ According to the Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius, the report's conclusions "provide a sound basis for the

⁸⁹¹¹ Bipartisan Save Our Seas 2.0 Act Signed into Law, Sheldon Whitehouse: US Senator for Rhode Island (Washington D.C.) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/news/release/-bipartisan-save-our-seas-20-act-signed-into-law>

⁸⁹¹² S.1982 – Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, Congress (Washington D.C.) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1982/text>

⁸⁹¹³ S.1982 – Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, Congress (Washington D.C.) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1982/text>

⁸⁹¹⁴ Border 2025: United States – Mexico Environmental Program, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/660612/2._B2025_English__2_.pdf

⁸⁹¹⁵ Border 2025: United States – Mexico Environmental Program, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/660612/2._B2025_English__2_.pdf

⁸⁹¹⁶ Border 2025: United States – Mexico Environmental Program, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/660612/2._B2025_English__2_.pdf

⁸⁹¹⁷ Border 2025: United States – Mexico Environmental Program, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 24 May 2021. Access Date: 8 September 2021. https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/660612/2._B2025_English__2_.pdf

⁸⁹¹⁸ New Scientific Opinion on the Biodegradability of Plastics in the Open Environment, European Commission (Brussels) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/new-scientific-opinion-biodegradability-plastics-open-environment-2020-dec-14_en

policy framework for biodegradable and compostable plastics announced in the new Circular Economy Action Plan.”⁸⁹¹⁹

On 16 December 2020, the European Parliament adopted the revised Drinking Water Directive.⁸⁹²⁰ The initiative aims to grant all individuals in member states better access to drinkable tap water and reduce plastic waste from water bottles.⁸⁹²¹

On 22 December 2020, the European Commission adopted new rules regarding the export, import and intra-EU shipment of plastic waste.⁸⁹²² Moving forward, the export of plastic waste from the EU to non-OECD countries will be banned, with an exception for clean plastic waste destined to be recycled.⁸⁹²³ Additionally, stricter controls will be implemented regarding plastic waste exported from the EU to OECD countries as well as imports within the EU.⁸⁹²⁴

On 14 June 2021, during the 18th EU-Canada summit, the EU and Canada announced that they will step up cooperation and multilateral action on the circular economy, the efficient use of natural resources and the adequate management of chemicals and waste.⁸⁹²⁵ In particular, the EU and Canada will work towards a new global treaty on plastics, including efforts to fight ocean plastic pollution. In this regard, both G20 members launched an Ocean Partnership Forum under the EU-Canada Ocean Partnership Declaration.⁸⁹²⁶

On 3 July 2021, the Single-Use Plastics Directive adopted by the EU in 2019 became officially and legally binding in all EU countries, banning several single-use plastic products such as straws and cups.⁸⁹²⁷

On 7 July 2021, the European Parliament approved the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, which allocates EUR6.1 billion to “support the blue economy, protect biodiversity, and promote international ocean governance.”⁸⁹²⁸ In the EU's budget for 2021-2027, more than 30 per cent of the funds will be dedicated to fulfilling the objectives of the European

⁸⁹¹⁹ New Scientific Opinion on the Biodegradability of Plastics in the Open Environment, European Commission (Brussels) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/new-scientific-opinion-biodegradability-plastics-open-environment-2020-dec-14_en

⁸⁹²⁰ The revised Drinking Water Directive, European Commission (Brussels) Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-drink/legislation_en.html

⁸⁹²¹ Commission welcomes final agreement on water quality and access to drinking water, European Commission (Brussels) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2417

⁸⁹²² Plastic waste shipments: new EU rules on importing and exporting plastic waste, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/plastic-waste-shipments-new-eu-rules-importing-and-exporting-plastic-waste-2020-12-22_en

⁸⁹²³ Plastic waste shipments: new EU rules on importing and exporting plastic waste, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/plastic-waste-shipments-new-eu-rules-importing-and-exporting-plastic-waste-2020-12-22_en

⁸⁹²⁴ Plastic waste shipments: new EU rules on importing and exporting plastic waste, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/plastic-waste-shipments-new-eu-rules-importing-and-exporting-plastic-waste-2020-12-22_en

⁸⁹²⁵ EU-Canada summit, Brussels, 14 June 2021, European Council (Brussels) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2021/06/14/>

⁸⁹²⁶ EU-Canada summit, Brussels, 14 June 2021, European Council (Brussels) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2021/06/14/>

⁸⁹²⁷ Say NO to Plastic, European Council (Brussels) 3 July 2021. Access Date: 7 September 2021. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/the-pulse-archives/2021_07_13_euandyou_plastic/

⁸⁹²⁸ European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 7 August 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210701IPRO7518/EU6-1-billion-to-promote-sustainable-fisheries-and-safeguard-fishing-communities>

Green Deal and contributing to clean and healthy seas and oceans through support for the collection of marine litter, including plastics and microplastics.⁸⁹²⁹

On 2 September 2021, the European Union backed a draft resolution presented by Peru and Rwanda regarding the creation of a committee to negotiate a potential accord on plastic waste.⁸⁹³⁰ The draft will be presented to the UN Environment Assembly in February 2022.⁸⁹³¹

The European Union has taken action through information sharing and regulations to prevent additional pollution from plastic litter, as well as officially implementing the Single-Use Plastics Directive.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Clémentine Benoit

⁸⁹²⁹ Supporting sustainability at sea: EU Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021.

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20210701STO07545/supporting-sustainability-at-sea-eu-maritime-fisheries-and-aquaculture-fund>

⁸⁹³⁰ Countries take steps toward curbing plastic waste in oceans, AP News (New York) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/europe-business-environment-and-nature-united-nations-3482e67b95a70c1b84f67975a55c05af>

⁸⁹³¹ Countries take steps toward curbing plastic waste in oceans, AP News (New York) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 6 September 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/europe-business-environment-and-nature-united-nations-3482e67b95a70c1b84f67975a55c05af>