



Ocean
Conservancy®

Supporting **VIETNAM**

in the Fight against Ocean Plastic Pollution



About Ocean Conservancy

Ocean Conservancy is a U.S.-based nonprofit dedicated to protecting the ocean from today's greatest global challenges. Since 1972, we have created science-based solutions for a healthy ocean and the wildlife and communities that depend on it. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., we have several offices along the U.S. coasts, including in Florida, California, and Washington state.



Ocean Conservancy's Trash Free Seas[®] Program

Ocean Conservancy has led the fight for a clean, trash-free ocean since 1986, when the organization launched its first annual International Coastal Cleanup[™] (ICC) on a beach in Texas. Since then, the ICC has expanded to over 150 countries and has mobilized millions of volunteers to remove hundreds of millions of kilograms of trash from beaches and waterways around the globe, all the while logging each item and building the world's largest database on marine debris.

Recognizing that cleanups are only part of the solution, Ocean Conservancy has leveraged that data and invested in additional science to better understand the sources of ocean plastics. In 2011, Ocean Conservancy convened leading researchers in an expert working group to establish a scientific baseline for the sources, fate and impact of plastics in our ocean. The resulting study by Jambeck et al. (2015) published in *Science* estimated, for the first time, the annual amount of plastics entering the ocean from land. In 2012, Ocean Conservancy launched the Trash Free Seas Alliance[®] (TFSA), bringing together conservationists, scientists and members of the private sector to work together for pragmatic, impactful solutions.

Among TFSA's accomplishments was the publication in 2019 of the "Plastics Policy Playbook: Strategies for a Plastic-Free Ocean," a new resource exploring measures across the value chain to improve the economics of plastic waste collection. Targeting the private sector, policymakers and NGOs, the Playbook is a research-based guide to the most impactful interventions available to close the collection financing gap, with a focus in geographies most impacted by ocean plastic pollution.

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As we grow globally, Ocean Conservancy is building the partnerships needed to put science and research into action: for example, to incentivize investment in solid waste management and recycling initiatives in Southeast Asia, we helped launch Circulate Capital, the world's first catalytic capital firm dedicated to keeping plastics out of the ocean. Together with the Circulate Initiative and Resilient Cities Network we created Urban Ocean, a platform to empower city leaders to engage on the issue. In 2019, Ocean Conservancy also assumed leadership of the Global Ghost Gear Initiative[®] (GGGI), a coalition of companies, governments and NGOs that aim to reduce the amount of lost and abandoned fishing gear (known as "ghost gear") entering the ocean.



Why Vietnam?

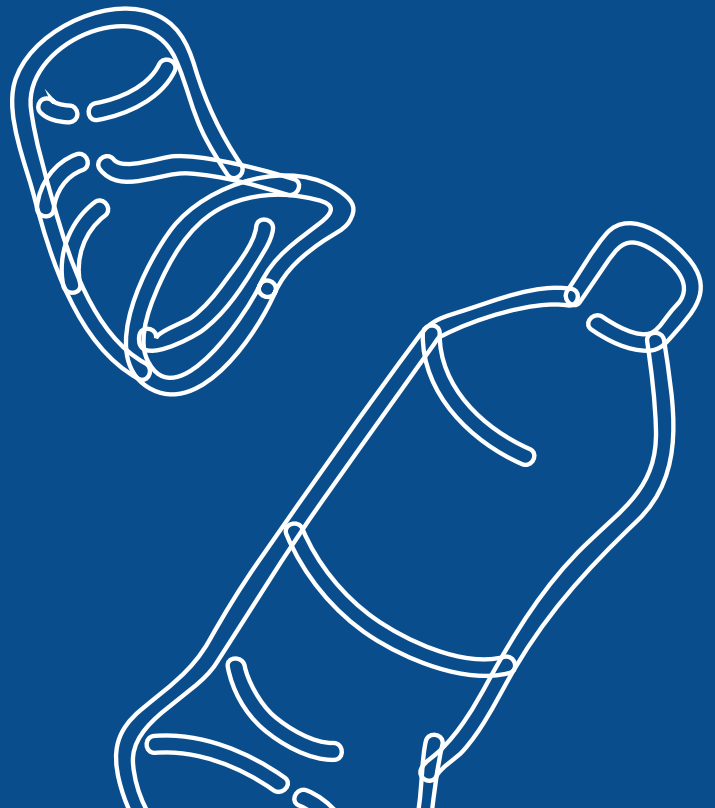
Plastic waste is a crisis of immense proportions for our ocean. Scientists estimate that 11 million metric tons of plastics enter the ocean each year¹, and that this number could triple by 2040 without drastic action.

Vietnam is among the countries most impacted by plastic pollution. Fortunately, the government has shown strong commitment to tackling the issue with Resolution No. 36-NQ / TW (NQ36) adopted by the 12th Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam on the “Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Marine Economy of Vietnam to 2030, with a vision to 2045”; and Decision 1746/QĐ-TTg (QĐ1746), signed by the Prime Minister on the “National Action Plan For Management of Marine Plastic Litter by 2030.”

Encouraged by this commitment, Ocean Conservancy is delighted to deepen our engagement and cooperate with local partners to strengthen Vietnam’s efforts to combat marine debris.

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¹ Evaluating scenarios toward zero plastic pollution; Winnie W. Y. Lau¹, Yonathan Shiran²; Science 18 Sep 2020; Vol. 369, Issue 6510, pp. 1455-1461; DOI: 10.1126/science.aba9475



Vietnam Engagement

Ocean Conservancy is working to assist Vietnam in combating marine plastic pollution through several projects.



Accelerating Efforts to Reduce Ocean Plastics in Vietnam

This project aims to accelerate the implementation of Vietnam's National Action Plan on Marine Plastic Waste Management (NAP), and leverages Vietnam's commitment to tackling the issue in various regional and international forums.

The project is focused on three objectives:

- a. **Supporting implementation of Vietnam's NAP and influencing similar progress on a regional and global level.** Promoting NAP implementation and sharing lessons learned through a robust network of partners in country, regionally and globally such as: ASEAN, APEC, the Our Ocean Conference, the UN Ocean Conference, the World Economic Forum, TFSA, the GGGI, Mekong-U.S. Partnership, etc.
- a. **Increasing access to financing for improved and more sustainable waste management.** Identifying and developing innovative financial instruments to increase financing for solid waste management as well as to provide the informal waste sector with access to financing.
- b. **Expanding the availability of Vietnam-specific science to inform data-driven policymaking and identify interventions to reduce leakage of waste into the ocean.** Working collaboratively with Vietnamese NGO, The Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Development (MCD), and international researchers at the forefront of global marine debris research Dr. Jenna Jambeck-University of Georgia and Dr. Chelsea Rochman-University of Toronto, to:
 - Identify major land-based sources of waste leakage in the marine environment using the Circularity Assessment Protocol (CAP), developed by Dr. Jenna Jambeck. The CAP provides information about local plastic use, disposal practices, leakage into the environment, and access to waste management that helps prioritize land-based intervention opportunities.
 - Determine existing plastic pollution levels along river and ocean shorelines, and evaluate the efficacy of river-based interventions to reduce the flow of waste into the ocean, with guidance from Dr. Chelsea Rochman.
 - Build capacity for local experts on global baseline assessment protocols and monitoring techniques.

For each of these initiatives, Ocean Conservancy will engage local researchers including those from universities and government agencies to participate in the research, adapt and translate global protocols, and build the capacity of these researchers to undertake ongoing data collection and monitoring.

Both the CAP and the shoreline assessment will be conducted in Hanoi and Nam Dinh. Expected results of the project include establishing and sharing best practices for addressing marine debris with government representatives in Vietnam and regionally; increasing access to financing in the formal and informal waste management sectors; building local capacity for advocacy; and producing actionable Vietnam-specific science to support efforts to combat marine debris.



For additional information on the "Accelerating Efforts to Reduce Ocean Plastic in Vietnam" program, please contact:
Vien Tran, Vietnam Senior Manager at Ocean Conservancy, at vtran@oceanconservancy.org.

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Strategic Plastic Litter Abatement in Song Hong—SPLASH

As the second longest river in Vietnam, the Song Hong (Red River) flows through the capital city of Hanoi and ends in the coastal province of Nam Dinh. At the mouth is a Ramsar site (a wetland of international importance, as designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands): the Xuan Thuy National Park, which boasts rich migratory bird habitat and mangroves that support local fisheries. Unfortunately, it's under threat by plastic pollution. A 2019 study conducted by Ocean Conservancy and partners indicates a negative relationship between the quantity of marine debris in the park and mangrove health.

To help reduce the amount of ocean-bound plastic and pressure on this vital ecosystem, Ocean Conservancy has teamed up with MCD to install five river trash capture devices at several trash hotspots in Nam Dinh, along the Red River. The device—comprised of trash guiding booms, a trash catchment, and a work platform—is simple and locally designed, sourced and constructed to allow for easy replicability and maintenance.

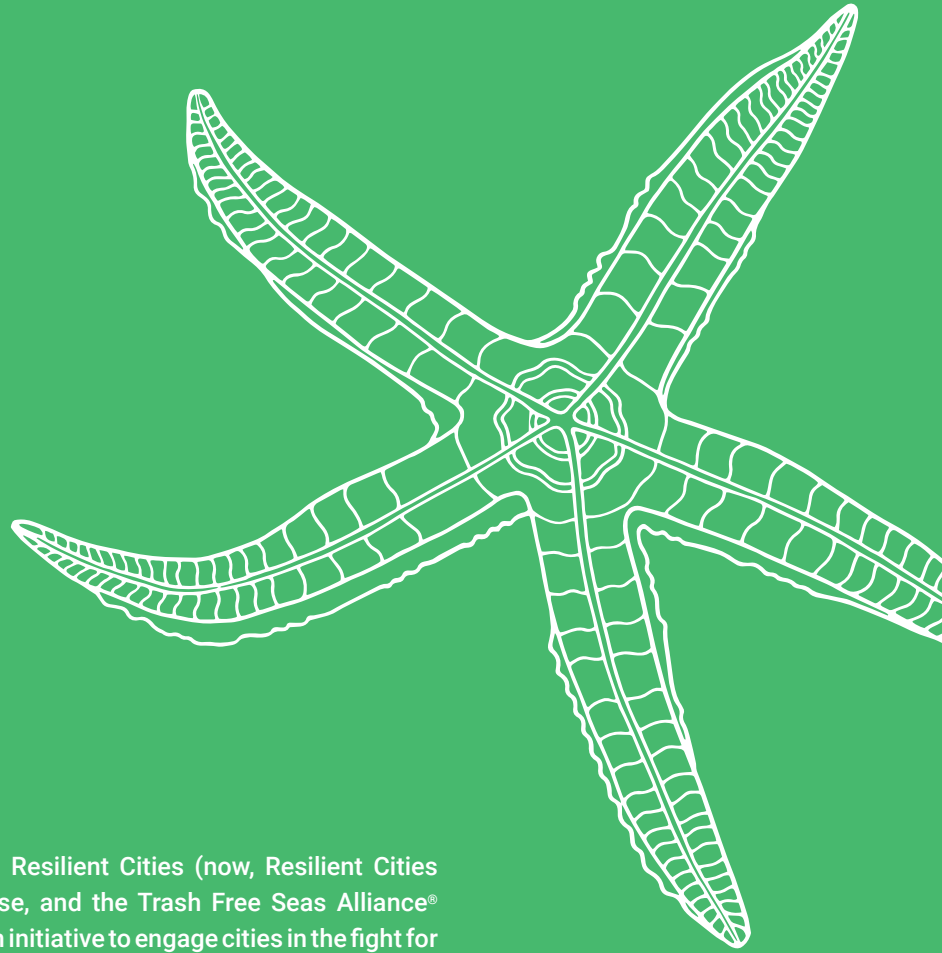
Scientific research will be conducted to evaluate the efficacy of the trash capture device to reduce the flow of waste to the ocean and establish key baselines of debris to pinpoint plastic pollution levels along river and ocean shorelines.

The results will be used to improve waste management and encourage plastic reduction policies and actions. Local communication activities will include annual International Coastal Cleanup™ (ICC) events, public opinion surveys and stakeholder engagement to improve awareness about the sources of and solutions to plastic pollution.

For additional information on the “Strategic Plastic Litter Abatement in Song Hong—SPLASH” program, please contact:
Vien Tran, Vietnam Senior Manager at Ocean Conservancy, at vtran@oceanconservancy.org.



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Urban Ocean

In early 2019 Ocean Conservancy, 100 Resilient Cities (now, Resilient Cities Network), Circulate Capital, SecondMuse, and the Trash Free Seas Alliance® announced the launch of Urban Ocean, an initiative to engage cities in the fight for clean, healthy seas by improving municipal waste collection and management systems. Working with leaders from city governments, academia, civil society and the private sector, the platform will develop best practices for embedding the reduction of marine plastic waste into other core city priorities like public health, economic growth and job creation. The partnership has since evolved and is now run by Ocean Conservancy, The Circulate Initiative, and the Resilient Cities Network. In June 2020, these three partners announced the first cohort of learning cities, Can Tho (Vietnam), Melaka (Malaysia), Semarang (Indonesia), Pune (India), and Panama City (Panama); and mentor cities, Christchurch (New Zealand), Milan (Italy), Rotterdam (Netherlands), and Toyama (Japan).

Urban Ocean will provide cities with tools, trainings, and opportunities to attract financing to tackle their specific plastic waste challenges, including assessments using Dr. Jambeck's Circularity Assessment Protocol and Resilient Cities Network's Systems Studio. Trainings began over the summer of 2020 with a virtual preparation forum with its cities, including a week dedicated to ocean plastics. Topics included "Building Smart Plastics Policies in Your City" and "Science-based Solutions to Macro- and Micro- Plastic in Municipal Waterways."



For additional information on Urban Ocean, please contact:

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The Global Ghost Gear Initiative®

The Global Ghost Gear Initiative® (GGGI) is the only cross-sectoral alliance dedicated to solving the problem of abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG)—widely referred to as “ghost gear”—around the world. Since 2019, the GGGI is housed under Ocean Conservancy’s Trash Free Seas® program. In 2017, the GGGI developed the Best Practice Framework for the Management of Fishing Gear (BPF), which has been adopted by a range of seafood companies, by certification schemes, and in national and regional marine litter and fisheries management action plans.

To support Vietnam’s National Action Plan, which includes the need to address ALDFG, the GGGI will assist with:

- a. **Mapping and analyzing hotspots:** Building an evidence baseline of why, how much and where gear is lost or is accumulating in hotspot locations in Vietnam through an ALDFG baseline analysis and hotspot mapping using spatial data and ArcGIS to overlay a variety of attributes. The results of the maps and species/habitat impacts will be used to formulate further solution projects. The Ghost Gear Reporter App will be translated into Vietnamese and launched as a part of the project to support data collection.
- a. **Building capacity to implement the Best Practice Framework for the Management of Fishing Gear in Wild Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture Operations:** The GGGI’s 2017 Best Practice Framework for the Management of Fishing Gear (BPF)—the first comprehensive set of guidelines offering proven strategies for reducing ALDFG across the wild capture fishing gear lifecycle—will be joined by a companion guide focused on preventing ALDFG from aquaculture operations.



For additional information on the Global Ghost Gear Initiative®, please contact:
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