



**Report on the IUCN Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Workshop  
Experiences & Challenges in the Asia Region, an International Exchange**



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IUCN Marine: Close the Plastic Tap Programme Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities Project



## Workshop Summary

The aim of this international workshop was answer questions, and to share knowledge on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) across IUCN's and partner activities related to the topic. In all, 56 participants attended, representing parties from government, academia, NGOs, and civil society in Thailand, Viet Nam, and globally, making this a truly international exchange of ideas and knowledge.

The workshop and ensuing discussion highlighted the following issues/items:

- The future road map of EPR in both Thailand and Viet Nam: What needs to happen in the next 2-5 years?

**Thailand:** Both the government and the private sector need to be more involved in the EPR discussions. In the broader political context, many ministries need to be involved with clear roles and linkages. Fiscal measures need to be evaluated to understand the impact of EPR. As policy instruments change with government changes, there are challenges with the consistency of these efforts.

**Viet Nam:** In the next 6 months, additional stakeholders need to be engaged as the process is moving rapidly, these include solid waste management stakeholders, ministries, others as identified in the multistakeholder platform and clearinghouse mechanism. In the next 5 years there is much to be done with the implementation of the clearinghouse, decree approval, and the plans outlined for 2023-2027.

- IUCN's role to accompany this process?

IUCN noted that it has an active role to play in EPR in Asia, as a neutral organisation, it is able to bring stakeholders together and as a neutral party can create effective spaces for dialogue and learning. Our ongoing presence in both countries and long-standing relationships with the governments and ministries places us in a good position to continue to facilitate positive change in the EPR arena.

- Indicators and Measuring Impact. Estimating the expected reduction in leakage of plastic into the environment from the strong EPR regulations.

In both countries, it is difficult to estimate this, but it was noted that in Viet Nam, in the next 3 years, until the recycling and waste treatment issues are fixed, there will be limited progress. Both countries need baselines and indicators set up first, additional data, and improved data management systems to implement EPR and manage data from the implementation effectively.

- Recommendations to strengthen the EPR development processes
  - **Thailand:** Guidance needed on the legal formulation of decrees, funding needed to facilitate the process. There are also issues with national

security which were not discussed in detail, but need to be explored, that do not include environmental security aspects which are affecting the implementation of EPR in Thailand. Addressing these from an inclusive perspective should be considered to move beyond this roadblock. There is no law yet banning single use plastics, this should be considered, also.

- **Viet Nam:** Recommendation to engage the private sector much more and to address their critical feedback on EPR schemes. Standardised mechanisms of EPR to be rolled out first, and then monitoring of results can happen with appropriate targets. Many of the national agencies and stakeholders have a variety of differing perspectives, and as such, these need to be given space to be shared and discussed for the best possible paths forward. Managing the pressure from the solid waste management side needs to be addressed as well. Funding is also recommended to move the processes forward.

### Workshop Objectives

- Enable a discussion around the EPR development process
- Discuss the future road map of EPR
- What is IUCN's role to accompany this process?
- Action to Improve knowledge on EPR
- Present the current state of the EPR policies and regulations
- Present international experiences and success cases of EPR
- Identify specific recommendations to strengthen the EPR development process

### Agenda

<p>Part 1: Focus on Viet Nam (35 min)</p>	<p>Question &amp; Answer 20 min</p>	<p>Part 2: Focus on Thailand (35 min)</p>	<p>Question &amp; Answer 20 min</p>	<p>Part 3: International View and Lessons (25 min)</p>	<p>Question &amp; Answer 30 min</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting the Scene</li> <li>• Current situation of EPR in Viet Nam</li> <li>• Rethinking Plastic Project – Viet Nam</li> <li>• The EPR Toolbox of PREVENT Waste Alliance</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting the Scene EPR</li> <li>• Rethinking Plastic Project – Thailand</li> <li>• Thailand Environment Institute perspective</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WWF Malaysia EPR projects</li> <li>• South Africa and EPR</li> <li>• Economic Analysis</li> </ul>	

### Definition of Extended Producer Responsibility

- The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) defines EPR as an environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a

product is extended to the postconsumer stage of a product's life cycle. In practice, EPR involves producers taking responsibility for collecting end-of-life products and for sorting them before their final treatments, ideally, recycling.'

- The meaning offered by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), within the context of Basel Convention, as an 'environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the waste stage of that product's life cycle.'

### Viet Nam Background

Law of Environment Protection (2020)

- Articles 54 and 55 to define the producers and importers responsibility for recycling and treatment
- In late 2020, Viet Nam National Assembly promulgated the reformed Law on Environmental Protection (LEP 2020) in which EPR was institutionalized into Articles 54 and 55 to define the producers' and importers' responsibilities for recycling and treatment;
- Take-back requirement in Article 54; and (ii) Advance Disposal Fee (ADF) in Article 55, two approaches for the post-use products and packages as detailed:
  - Recycling Responsibility system in Article 54 (Take-back requirement policy) will be applied for recyclable products and packaging. The proposed list by the Government includes the batteries, WEEEs, oil and lubricant, tyres, ELVs, and packaging
  - Treatment Responsibility in Article 55 (ADF policy) will be applied for products and packaging where collection is difficult, or they contain toxins (including the packaging of chemicals, paints, pesticides, diapers, chewing gum, cigarettes, some single-use plastics products), and other products containing plastic materials;

### EPR Roadmap

Around 25 meetings, consultation workshops, training, seminars have been organised since 2019 to date (MARPLASTICCs with other partners supported 12 events).

Sep 2021: submitted draft EPR Decree to Ministry of Justice.

Oct 2021: submitted draft EPR Decree to Government.

15<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> Nov: EPR Decree approval by the Government.

### EPR National Platform

- The EPR National Platform was established by Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and is led by Department of Legal Affairs (DLA) to increase the dialogues and synergize the resources for developing EPR schemes in Viet Nam;
- The MoU between MONRE and Packaging Recycling Organisation (PRO) Viet Nam, where EPR is a central topic, can be considered a **result of the first MARPLASTICCs/National Action Board meeting**
- The key findings in the **scoping report for IUCN/MARPLASTICCs** were shared in the **1st EPR workshop organized by Viet Nam Department of Legal Affairs in April 2019** as a foundation context for EPR concept discussion in Viet Nam.

- The **EPR National Platform** is a unique voluntary-based mechanism for multi-stakeholder participation to increase the dialogues and synergize the resources for developing the EPR schemes in Viet Nam. This platform was founded by MONRE on 16 March 2020 as a Working Group with the participation of businesses, industry associations, commercial chambers, NGOs, and related governmental agencies but mostly in packaging groups.

### **EPR Circular Economy – guiding the Decree implementation**

In order to continue support the EPR development process, there are need to develop the **Circular guiding the Decree**, which details the implementation. **To achieve this objective, IUCN through MARPLASTICCs and others support the:**

- Need for developing baselines and targets;
- A compulsory recycling rate and recycling standards;
- A study of the model and propose the establishment of National EPR Council and Viet Nam EPR Office; Draft the Organization and Operation Charter of Viet Nam EPR Office;
- Research and develop registration forms, reports and declarations for producers and importers;
- Research and develop regulations on the management of financial contribution to support recycling and waste treatment activities;
- Conduct surveys and propose recycling cost norms for product categories and used packaging; and
- Research and propose the construction of the national EPR Portal.

### **Thailand Background**

There are not currently formalised national EPR regulations in Thailand. Limitations to implementing EPR in Thailand are due to legislation as it exists now does not include the Packaging Recycling Organisations (PROs), retailers, etc. and needs to include all stakeholders, with clarity on their rights and responsibilities. Amending laws is a complex and long process and it was noted that voluntary schemes have many issues related to the national and subnational contexts, compared to decrees. A result of decentralisation, there are over 7,000 local administrations in Thailand, each of which would need its own EPR scheme, as things currently stand. Finally, for EPR to be implemented, Thailand needs to define the roles of the packaging sector, waste management sectors, and the informal sector to make EPR a success.

Thailand has a recent national action plan on marine plastic pollution, posted here [https://www.iges.or.jp/sites/default/files/inline-files/S1-5\\_PPT\\_Thailand%20Plastic%20Action%20Plan.pdf](https://www.iges.or.jp/sites/default/files/inline-files/S1-5_PPT_Thailand%20Plastic%20Action%20Plan.pdf) by the Pollution Control Department and Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. This does not refer specifically to EPR, however.

### **Session Summary**

Slides are shared in this dropbox:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e9u3qwupcrgbqeh/AABewvzroi4iC8\\_atfrrmruWa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e9u3qwupcrgbqeh/AABewvzroi4iC8_atfrrmruWa?dl=0)



## Viet Nam

Hien Buithithu, IUCN Viet Nam

- Setting the Scene: Viet Nam and EPR

Nguyen Hoang Phuong, Policy Advisor/IUCN Consultant

- Detailed presentation on EPR
- Presented the current state of the EPR policies and regulations national process to key stakeholders and authorities
- More details in slides and more info here  
[https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/viet\\_nam\\_policy\\_assessment\\_o.pdf](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/viet_nam_policy_assessment_o.pdf)

Fanny Quertamp, GIZ/EU Project Coordinator

- Expertise France / Rethinking Plastic Project – Viet Nam
- See <https://expertisefrance.fr/fiche-projet?id=778170>
- East and Southeast Asia are among the regions mostly affected by plastic pollution in oceans and by its impacts on biodiversity. In 2017, Asia accounted for 50% of global plastic production, and part of this plastic waste is from the EU which is exported to several East and Southeast Asian countries.
- Consequently, greater cooperation between the EU and its partners in the region, in the context of the “Rethinking Plastics” project, will bring about mutual opportunities on these issues.
- Developing a legal framework for Extended Producer Responsibility: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a key concept for ‘closing the loop’ in the packaging value chain, in line with circular economy principles. The [“Rethinking Plastics – Circular Economy Solutions to Marine Litter” project](#) supports the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) of Viet Nam in developing a legal framework on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

Elena Rabbow, GIZ PREVENT Waste Alliance

- [The EPR Toolbox](#): “Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a key concept for ‘closing the loop’ in the packaging value chain. The EPR Toolbox developed by the PREVENT Waste Alliance is a collection of internationally relevant knowledge on the topic of EPR for packaging. Its aim is to promote knowledge exchange and enhance development of EPR systems worldwide. The EPR Toolbox contains detailed training materials on EPR, practical country examples and a set of FAQs.” (PREVENT, website).
- Video Series on EPR Explained <https://prevent-waste.net/en/epr-toolbox/> described as “Several experts have shared their knowledge in a number of interviews. This video series briefly summarises the content of the EPR Toolbox and adds experiences from professionals in the field.”
- Additional resources from the PREVENT Waste Alliance include the following items which can help to move EPR forward with their use:
  - [EPR Toolbox in Chinese](#)
  - [EPR Toolbox in Viet Namese](#) (translated by Expertise France)
  - [Policy Brief: EPR for packaging waste in Viet Nam](#) (published by ‘Rethinking Plastics – Circular Economy Solutions to Marine Litter’)
  - [Policy Brief: EPR for packaging waste in Viet Nam](#) (Viet Namese)

- [WWF MOOC: Going Circular – The EPR Guide](#)
- Country Reports: examples of EPR systems in various countries that demonstrate legal backgrounds, objectives, and historical contexts.
  - [Chile](#)
  - [Germany](#)
  - [Republic of Korea](#)
  - [South Africa](#)
  - [Tunisia](#)

## Thailand

Maeve Nightingale, IUCN

- Setting the Scene: Thailand and EPR

Naporn Popattanachai, Consultant, IUCN

- Presented an overview of EPR in Thailand
- Plastic pollution has been one of the top priorities in Thailand's national environmental agenda. However, the possibility of devising legal and policy interventions in order to resolve the problem is under-explored.

Imporn Ardbutra, GIZ/EU Rethinking Plastics Thailand

- Rethinking Plastic Project – Thailand
- The [EPR Policy Brief](#) is a framework document for decision-makers to address the key principles and share international experiences on EPR mechanisms and legal frameworks.

Benjamas Chotthong, Thailand Environment Institute (TEI)

- The TEI Perspective was offered, and included points on:
  - A perspective through the framework for the management of marine plastic debris: production, consumption, waste management, and the reduction of environmental impact of plastics.
  - Targeted plastics products, especially those found on beaches: plastic bags, Single Use Plastics for food, Fishing gear, and other items.
  - Areas of responsibility and shared responsibility between producers and local authorities were discussed, along with the frameworks for mandatory or voluntary responsibility related to EPR.
  - Conclusion was that the picture of the policy and decision makers is that most of the measures are voluntary and makes the EPR process slow in Thailand now.

## International Perspectives

Jazlyn Lee, WWF Malaysia Southeast Asia Coordinator for EPR

- WWF's EPR projects in Malaysia - Three significant characteristics shape the Malaysian EPR context:
  - High-value recyclable packaging already separated from household waste to a very relevant extent and transferred to recycling systems. This applies especially to rigid HDPE, PP and PET. Extraction is largely informal and the subsequent value chain is based on a functioning market.

- Malaysia's recycling capacities are sufficient for above-mentioned locally generated, high-value recyclables. However, a huge number of recyclers and aggregators import and process imported recyclables, occupying large capacities. There is no fully traceable documentation of the imported material.
- Low value and non-recyclables are mostly disposed of and collected together. There is no systematic separate collection and recycling of the low-value recyclables.
- WWF-Malaysia [EPR Policy Review Booklet](#) (2021)
- Study on [Extended Producer Responsibility \(EPR\) Scheme Assessment for Packaging Waste in Malaysia](#) (2020)

Marie Parramon Gurney, Consultant IUCN

- South Africa: The EPR Experience
- The amended EPR regulations for paper and packaging, e-waste and lighting were published on 5 May 2021. For the most part, the development of EPR plans has been tasked to various existing industry Producer Responsibility Organisations as allowed for in the regulations. With the development of EPR plans underway, the focus now falls on the submissions and ability of Packaging Recycling Organisations to meet the legislative requirements.
- The PROs — namely, the Glass Recycling Company, MetPac, Plastics SA, Petco, Polyco, the Polystyrene Association of South Africa, and Fibre Circle — each represent very specific, industry interests. In the new EPR regulations, the producers are defined as not only the packaging manufacturing industry organisations but also brand owners, licensee agents, importers and retailers.
- Learn more <https://www.plasticsinfo.co.za/sustainability/extended-producer-responsibility/>

Leander Raes, IUCN

- Analysis of the economic impact of marine plastics  
Case studies on the fisheries sector in Thailand and the tourism sector in Viet Nam
  - Developed a baseline for Impact of marine plastics on fisheries in the Gulf of Thailand
  - Impact analysis of marine macroplastics on Thai net fisheries in the Gulf Thailand: Marine plastics pollution impacts amount to revenue losses of USD 23 million in 2019 due to the presence of 1,597,154 tonnes of plastics in fishing zone.
  - Developed a baseline for Impact of marine plastics on tourism in Viet Nam
  - Impact analysis marine plastics on tourism in Viet Nam: Potential loss in revenue USD 10,944,913,782 in 2 studies, due to plastic on beaches.

### **Additional IUCN Resources**

IUCN Policy Reports on EPR: <https://www.iucn.org/theme/environmental-law/our-work/oceans-and-coasts/marine-plastics>

Workshop Video link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/oof52i2sau6ebrj/video1767286124.mp4?dl=0>