

# STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR MARINE LITTER

## Literacy, Prevention and Removal

### PRELIMINARY STEPS

Some simple, but crucial, actions can be triggered immediately

*Planning Programme Director* shall

1. Call the foundation of **State Policy for Marine Literacy**
2. Appoint an IAS Nodal Officer for Implementation of the project [and coordination of DCs]
3. Assign a **Seafaring Spark Force**<sup>1</sup> [to implement the Strategic Plan & start action]
4. Urge apt Government agencies [namely SICOM, KSCZMA, CMFRI, NIO, NCSCM] to design and conduct adjusted **Marine Literacy Program** for Coastal Communities
5. Direct coastal GPs and ULBs to pass a resolution for a **Seashore Waste Management Plan** [including chronic dumps and catchment areas], fixing needful MBIs (Market Based Instruments), EPR and PPP to decrease marine litter<sup>2</sup>
6. Instruct all ULBs and TPs to submit a **Plan for cleaning water bodies** and water flows, installing suitable mesh to all rain water outlets before monsoon
7. Instruct Coastal GPs and ULBs to **adopt the Chart for Offices Good Practices**<sup>i</sup>
8. Instruct Coastal GPs and ULBs to **fix warning boards** (with info on penalty) at the most vulnerable places to avoid littering and dumping
9. Monitor the **strict implementation of Solid & Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016**
10. Create a **Centre for Interpretation of Marine Litter** [to assess waste streams and sources]

<sup>1</sup> Inclusive of concerned coastal **GOs** [chiefly with GPs and ULBs, PDOs, EOs, CEO, ACs, DHOs THOs, AEEs, PCB, BEOs, Education Coordinators, Eco-Clubs Coordinators, Cluster Resource Persons, NCCs, NSSs, Tahshildars, Director of Fisheries, Director of Ports, Coast Guard, SP, Coastal Security Police, DDPI, Environmental Engineers, Director General Of Police, Secretary of Tourism Dept, Principal Secretary PSE, Chief Secretary HFW, Director of Mass Education, COMM of Information and Public Relations, Chief Secretary Revenue Dept., COMM of Survey & Settlement, COMM of Industries and Commerce, Additional Chief Secretary of FEE, COMM Social Welfare, Head of of Mass Education, COMM of Information and Public Relations, Chief Secretary Revenue Dept., COMM of Survey & Settlement, COMM of Industries and Commerce, Additional Chief Secretary of FEE, COMM Social Welfare, Head of Dept Dharmika Datti Ilakhe, Chief Secretary of Youth Empowerment & Sports, Principal Secretary of RDPR, Assistant Director Commercial Tax Dept

**and NGOs** [Fishers Groups, Tourism Operators, Business Groups, Mahabaleshwar and Murdeshwar Temple Management Committees, Other Temples Management Committees, Sneha Kunja, Khushi Parisara, Dharmasthala Gramabhivruddhi Samsthe, Mogaveera Samyuktha Sabha, Sharavathi Estuary Stakeholders Union UK Fish Marketing Federation, Schools and Colleges, Youth and Social clubs such as Rotary, Lions, JCI, etc. SHGs, Rag pickers, Merchant Unions, Banks (as CSR), Industries Association, Pharmacy Association, seashore Hoteliers Unions, etc.

<sup>2</sup> **Market Based Instruments (MBIs)** offer a complimentary approach to address the marine litter issue along awareness and legal framework. Such economic tools include taxes, charges, penalties, liability and compensation schemes, subsidies, incentives. and incorporate the Polluter Pays Principle (PPP) and the User/Beneficiary Pays Principle (U/BPP), acting as incentives to change behaviour, ensuring also true cost of environmental impact.

#### **SAMPLE of MBIS**

- Deposit-refund programmes on plastic and glass bottles –to reuse the bottles and reduce litter
- Tourist taxes, car parking fees (e.g., near waterfronts), and waterfront business charges.
- Award-based incentives for coastal villages
- Incentives to fishermen for reporting on/and remove debris
- Financial and technical support to install waste management system on fishing vessels

11. Request **increase of patrols at sea** to monitor waste disposal from fish farms and boats
12. Direct **random surveillance** lead by Police, PDOs, THOs, COs, HIs, EOs, KSPCB Officers of the most vulnerable places
13. Call all **press media for a sustained coverage** of the project development
14. Appoint a **Seashore Managing Team** for each specified stretch that will
  - a) assess the waste producing activities, the waste streams and its clearance
  - b) Identify illegal and historic coastal dumpsites
  - c) identify situations where litter “escapes” into the marine environment
  - d) identify schools and colleges willing to participate in the programs
  - e) train youths, students, community based organizations (CBOs) and volunteer groups in driving seashore cleanups and monitor its sanitation
  - f) create a platform to exchange experiences on good cleaning practices at seashore, riverbanks, catchment areas, ports and inland waterways

## **MOUNTING STEPS** [sustainable and replicable]

### **A. Form District wise Executive Clusters**

1. **GPs** coordinated by CEO
2. **ULBs** coordinated by DUDC
3. **Representatives** (MP, MLA, TP, ZP, GP & Councillors) coordinated by respective office heads like ZP-CEO, TP-EO, GP-PDO, ULB-CO, and MP, MLA, MLC-DC
4. **Education** [formal and informal] coordinated by DDPI [Eco-Clubs, BEOs]
5. **Fisheries** coordinated by Deputy Director of Fisheries
6. **Tourism** coordinated by District Tourism Dept.
7. **Fishers** coordinated Mogaveera Samyuktha Sabha Presidents
8. **Fisherwomen** coordinated by Dept. of Women & Child Development
9. **Temples** coordinated by Muzrai [temple’s waste+visarjana]
10. **Seafont traders** (hoteliers, etc.) directed by GPs/ULBs/Excise/ Commercial Tax Dept

### **B. Activities to Achieve**

1. Create a marine literacy syllabus for coastal communities – **DDPI**
2. Run education campaigns, awareness and capacity building to ensure sustainable governance of marine litter by all stakeholders – **Directorate of Mass Education**
3. Spark stewardship of coastal communities for discarded fishnets and domestic waste – **Mogaveera Samyuktha Sabha, Fish Marketing Federation, Kharvi Samyuktha Sabha**
4. Operationalize the disposal system of fish gears – **Deputy Director of Fisheries**<sup>3</sup>
5. Incite all fishing boats to be involved in *Fishing for Litter*, ensuring that any boat involved in the scheme can land waste collected at sea – **Deputy Director of Fisheries**
6. Promote environmental awareness workshops for fishermen and fisheries sector – **Deputy Director of Fisheries**
7. Launch Incentive schemes for fishnet trade (e.g. discount on purchasing new fishnet if returning x discarded ones), for fish market packaging, for fish breaks composting, etc. – **Deputy Director of Fisheries**
8. Mandate periodic and regular fishing for plastics for trawl operators all along the coast – **Deputy Director of Fisheries**

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<sup>3</sup> DDF instructs the removal of all abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) to be handed over to ULB or GP. Fishers can also directly drop them to ULBs/GPs collection points or to collection vehicles.

9. Provide waste bins at visitors areas (tourist and pilgrim) – **GPs, ULBs**
  10. Establish an integrated system of collection, transportation, treatment, storage and disposal of solid waste with both informal and formal sectors – **GPs, ULBs**
  11. Levy waste collection fees from visitors and traders – **GPs, ULBs**
  12. Design and implement Good Practices Chart for
    - Port Authorities (civil and military)
    - fishermen – **Mogaveera Samyuktha Sabha**
    - fisherwomen (household and fish market level) – **Mogaveera Samyuktha Sabha, Dept. of Women & Child Development**
  11. Plan exhaustive removal of accumulated debris along the seashore and beaches - **DCs**
  12. Monitor the recourse to needful MBIs, EPR and PPP<sup>4</sup> by ULBs and GPs – **DMA, RDPR, UD**
  13. Call for a meeting of grass root people to present the action points – **GPs, ULBs, DWCD, CDPO, NGOs**, for example Dharmasthala Gramabhivruddhi Samsthe, Mogaveera Samyuktha Sabha, etc.
  14. Provide adequate disposal facilities to all Coastal GPs and ULBs – **DCs**
  15. Get government officers ready to perform their identified responsibilities – **Chief Secretary**
- C. **Monitoring of the implementation of Strategic Plan by the Seafaring Spark Force** – Board comprising Chairman of District Legal Services Committees, DCs, SPs, CEOs, ACs, Tahashildars, KSPCB, EOs and PDs of DUDC

**OPERATIONAL CLUSTERS** to engage key stakeholders to implement good coastal practices

- A. FOUNDING and STRUCTURING**
- B. LITERACY and OUTREACH**
- C. PREVENTION**
- D. REMOVAL**

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<sup>4</sup> The large amount of abandoned or lost fishing gears on marine litter shows that financial incentives/disincentives have to be fixed for fishers to bring them to shore. Moreover, the Govt should introduce EPR and PPP for fishing gear, and all the plastic components of the sector, to ensure its due collection and finance its environmentally sound waste management. The penalties for their mismanagement shall be effective, proportionate and dissuasive. The fight against marine litter has to be a joint effort between competent authorities, producers and consumers.