Grant Programme against Marine Litter

The problem: plastic waste in the oceans

The oceans are the largest ecosystems on the planet and thus habitat and livelihood for a large number of species. At the same time, they are also an essential source of food and income for humans. However, these important ecosystems are exposed to increasing pressures. Around 13 million metric tons of plastic waste are washed into the seas every year. According to studies, each square kilometer of sea surface contains up to 18,000 pieces of plastic. The consequence: marine animals mistake plastic waste with food or become entangled and die. In addition, the plastic ingested by animals can get back to humans via the food chain. Estimates assume that the ocean’s annual plastic input will more than double by 2040.

Goals of the funding programme

The Marine Debris Framework – Regional hubs around the globe” (Marine DeFRAG) aims to prevent plastic waste from entering the seas by reducing it at the source. Therefore, it is particularly important to avoid the generation of waste in advance, and start at the beginning of the value chain, e.g. product design approaches. In addition, the short-term development of functioning waste and recycling management systems for waste that cannot be avoided must be established. Therefore, the funding programme particularly supports projects on technology cooperation and investments, to implement policies and strategies, and support policy advice and capacity building.

Milestones of the funding programme

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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Announcement and approval of the first project</td>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>Publication of the first call and submission of sketches as well as approval of four projects</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>Publication of the second call and submission of the outlines as well as approval of three projects</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>Publication of the third funding call</td>
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Regional focus for funding

In addition to regions from which plastic waste is transported into the sea from inland areas via rivers, the programme focuses on coastal countries/regions and island states. So far, projects in twelve countries have been funded in India and Bangladesh, Southeast Asia, Central and South America as well as North Africa. One project has a global focus.

About the grant programme

- Promotion of projects in countries of the Global South to reduce the land-based input of waste into the sea
- Initiated in 2019 by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)
- As project coordinator, the Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH supports the BMUV in achieving its policy goals
- The funding programme supports the commitment and international obligations of the Federal Republic of Germany to protect the oceans and thus also the goal of launching a ‘marine offensive’
- Selection of projects through idea competitions
- Partner countries must be eligible for ODA (Official Development Assistance)

Implementing project partners

- Federal implementing organisations, NGOs, business enterprises, universities and research institutions, German branches of international and multilateral organizations and institutions that have a registered office in Germany

Target groups of the program

- Policy makers, local stakeholders from waste management, tourism and nature conservation sectors, research, and the general public

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