

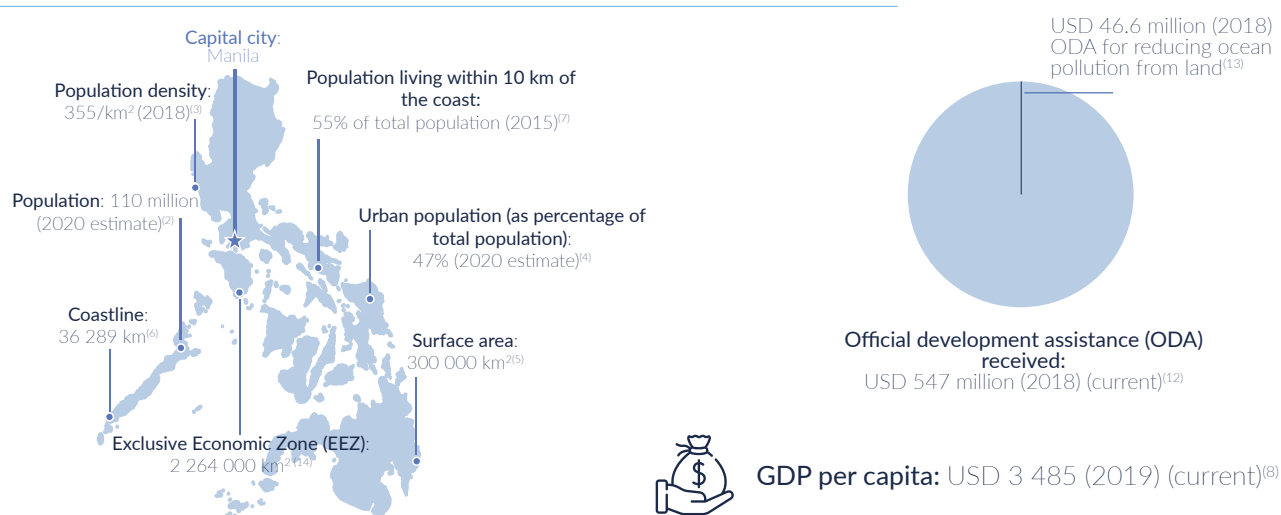
THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippines is implementing its National Plan of Action on Marine Litter, which has an overarching vision to achieve «zero waste to Philippine waters by 2040» through a series of cross-cutting policy interventions ⁽¹⁾.

Millions of tonnes of plastics enter the ocean every year, with tremendous environmental, economic and social costs that are difficult to quantify. However, the marine plastics pollution problem cannot be solved just by cleaning up the ocean. Most marine plastics are not discarded directly into the sea but derive from land-based sources. They end up in the sea due to a multitude of reasons, such as the inadequate filtering of wastewater, improper or illegal disposal, or unexpected natural disasters. Land-based initiatives are therefore essential to addressing marine plastics pollution.

The OECD stands ready to help develop policy advice and financing strategies to address marine plastics pollution in Southeast Asia, a region where this problem is particularly acute.

Figure 1. The Philippines: Key demographic, geographic, and economic indicators



In the Philippines, several government ministries and agencies are involved in addressing marine plastics pollution:

- **At the national level**, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is responsible for the conservation, management, development and proper use of the environment and natural resources.⁽⁹⁾ The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB),⁽¹⁰⁾ under the DENR, implements national environmental laws on toxic and hazardous substances, clean air, solid waste

management (SWM), clean water, environmental awareness and climate change. The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC),⁽¹¹⁾ under the EMB, manages the control, transfer, transporting, processing and disposal of solid waste in the Philippines (including the preparation of policies, framework and status reports). National and Regional Ecology Centres provide technical expertise and training for SWM, manages the information system for SWM, and manages a national recycling network.

1. G20 Osaka Blue Ocean Vision: <https://g20mpl.org/partners/philippines>.

2. United Nations Population Division (2019), *World Population Prospects 2019*.

3. United Nations Statistics Division (2019), *Demographic Yearbook 2018*.

4. United Nations Population Division (2018), *World Urbanization Prospects: 2018 Revision*.

5. United Nations Statistics Division (2019), *Demographic Yearbook 2018*.

6. CIA (2020), *The World Factbook*.

7. OECD (2020), OECD Statistics (OECD calculations based on Florczyk et al, 2019), <http://dx.doi.org/10.2760/062975>

8. World Bank (2020), *World Development Indicators Database*.

9. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) (2021), <https://www.denr.gov.ph/>

10. DENR (2021), <https://emb.gov.ph/>

11. Environmental Management Bureau, Solid Waste Management Commission (2021), <http://nswmc.emb.gov.ph/>

12. OECD (2020), "Detailed aid statistics: Official and private flows", OECD International Development Statistics (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00072-en>.

13. Sustainable Ocean for All Initiative based on OECD/DAC Creditor Reporting System database

14. Source: Flanders Marine Institute, 2019

• **At the subnational level**, Provincial Solid Waste Management Boards and City/Municipal Solid Waste Management Boards co-ordinate efforts of smaller regional entities; integrate and implement SWM plans; and collect special and residual (non-biodegradable and non-recyclable) waste. *Barangays* (the smallest administrative region in the Philippines) are responsible for collecting biodegradable and reusable waste, and running information and education campaigns at the local level.

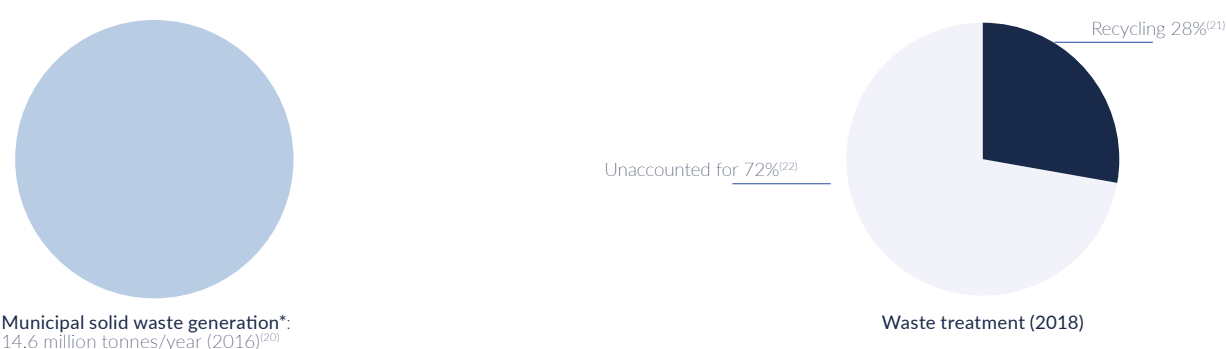
Government policies

The Philippines is in the process of implementing its National Plan of Action on Marine Litter initiated in 2019 by DENR in partnership with UNDP. The overarching vision of this National Plan is to achieve, «zero waste to Philippine waters by 2040» through a series of cross-cutting policy interventions, such as the establishment of a scientific baseline for marine litter, and enhancing

recovery and recycling coverage.⁽¹⁴⁾ The government has a target of 80% waste diversion from waste disposal facilities (e.g. through re-use, recycling, composting or other resource recovery activities that would divert the waste from ending up in landfills) by 2022. Approximately PHP 500 million (USD 10.3 million) is allocated to local government units for SWM programmes in 2016.⁽¹⁵⁾

There are some local regulations on single-use plastic items, but as yet no national ban or regulation. However, [House Bill No. 8692](#),⁽¹⁶⁾ Ban on Single-Use Plastic Products, was filed in January 2020. Single-use plastics have been banned in national government offices and Local Government Units (LGUs) since 2020.⁽¹⁷⁾ Thirty-one coastal Local Government Units (LGUs) signed a [petition](#) to ban single-use plastics nationwide.⁽¹⁸⁾ A [recent publication of advice](#) for the implementation of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme in the Philippines was related to plastics.⁽¹⁹⁾

Figure 2. The Philippines: Waste and plastics waste statistics at the national level



*No data available for 2016 for plastic waste as a percentage of total municipal solid waste

Waste collection and disposal

Approximately 70% of waste is collected in urban areas, whereas 40% is collected in rural areas.⁽²³⁾ In some cases, waste collection is done by organised bands of eco-aides (e.g. Linis Ganda in Metro Manila), door-to-door waste collectors, who collect more waste than informal street collectors. They serve as middlemen to junkshops and waste consolidators.⁽²⁴⁾ There is some conflicting regulation around waste

collection; while the Philippines encourages the integration of the informal sector into SWM, they ban waste picking in dumpsites and segregation areas unless allowed by the operator (often for a fee).⁽²⁵⁾ Although waste separation at source is mandatory in the Philippines, it is not commonly practiced.^(23,6) For plastics in particular, there is limited separation for high-value plastics, whilst low-value and non-recyclables are

14. APEC (2021), Marine Debris Roadmap -Implementation Progress: Philippines, http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2021/OFWG/OFWG1/21_ofwg_017.pdf

15. Bonquin, C. (2016), 50 LGUs face probe for violating Waste Management Act, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/nation/02/10/16/50-lgus-face-probe-for-violating-waste-management-act>

16. Republic of Philippines House of Representatives 17 th Congress (2018), Bill 8692, https://www.congress.gov.ph/legisdocs/basic_17/HB08692.pdf

17. De Vera-Ruiz, E. (2020), Single-use plastic banned in all government offices, <https://mb.com.ph/2020/02/24/single-use-plastic-banned-in-all-government-offices/>.

18. Oceana (2020), 31 LGUs sign nationwide petition to ban single-use plastic, <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1059646>

19. WWF Philippines (2020), EPR Scheme Assessment for Plastic Packaging Waste in the Philippines, https://wwf.org.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/WWF_REPORT_EPR_Philippines_11Mar21.pdf

20. World Bank (2018), What a Waste Global Database, <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/what-waste-global-database>

21. World Bank (2018)

22. World Bank (2018)

23. World Bank (2018), What a Waste Global Database, <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/what-waste-global-database>

24. cyclos (2019), Legal Framework Study of Extended Producer Responsibility, https://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/framework_study_epr_cyclos___final.pdf.

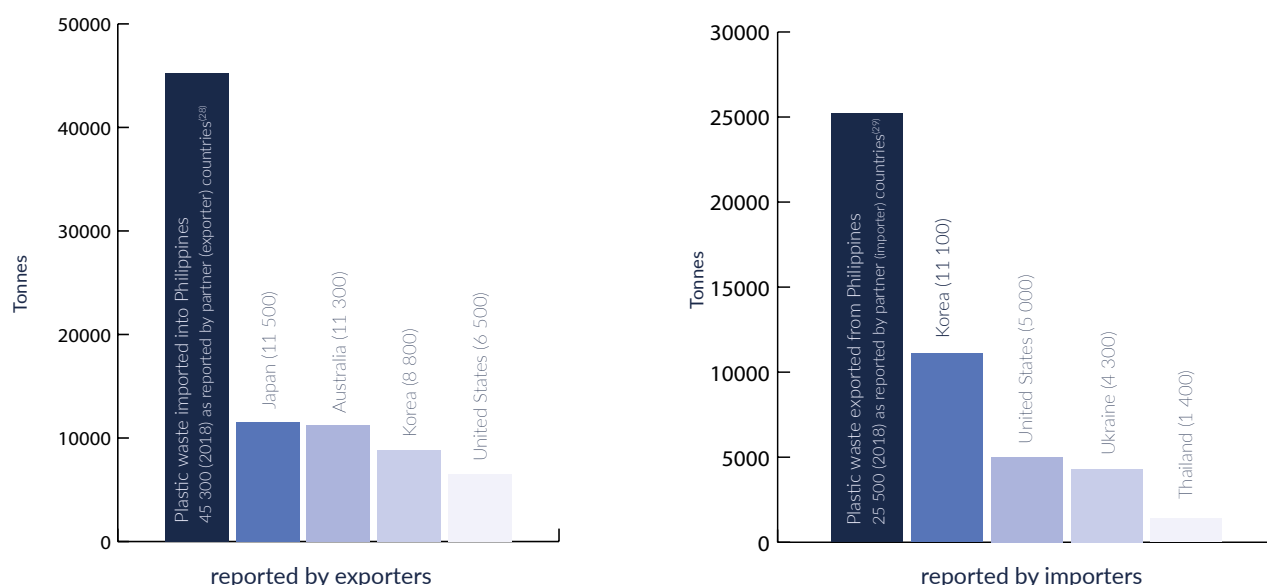
25. cyclos (2019)

mostly disposed with other wastes.⁽²⁷⁾ Approximately 9% of plastic waste is recycled (estimated to amount to around 183,000 tonnes per year), largely limited due to the prevalence of many low-quality, non-recyclable plastics such as sachets

used to carry small volumes of goods.⁽²⁸⁾ There are 7,683 material recovery facilities serving 8,704 *barangays*.⁽²⁹⁾ However, fewer than 15% of local government units have access to a sanitary landfill.⁽³⁰⁾

Figure 3. The Philippines: Plastic waste trade indicators

Major exporters and importers of plastic waste



Measures to address marine plastic waste

Public-private partnerships to address solid waste management are incentivised through fiscal incentives (such as tax/duty exemptions, tax credits), as well as non-fiscal incentives and financial assistance. A green bond of up to USD 150 million is to be issued by the China Banking Corporation (a Filipino bank based in Manila),⁽³¹⁾ supported by the International Finance Corporation.

Some **clean-up efforts** have also been initiated. For example, Boracay Island was closed for six months in 2018 to clean up and reverse environmental

degradation, including encroachment on wetlands and forest land; and to address sewerage and SWM violations.⁽³²⁾ Presidential Proclamation No. 470 declared the third Sunday of September of each year as the International Coastal Clean-Up (ICC) Day in observance of the Global Coastal Clean-up celebrations.⁽³³⁾ Mother Earth Philippines, a non-profit foundation, promotes a project called «Zero Waste Philippines» and has partnered with LGUs such as the city of San Fernando (Pampanga) and a *barangay* in Manila with the goal of diverting the amount of waste destined to landfills by 72% and 92%, respectively.⁽³⁴⁾

26. Akenji, L. et al. (2019), *Circular Economy and Plastics: A Gap-Analysis in ASEAN Member States*, https://www.iges.or.jp/en/publication_documents/pub/policyreport/en/10382/FINAL_CE+and+Plastics+-+A+gap+analysis+in+ASEAN+Member+States_1004.pdf.

27. WWF Philippines (2020), *EPR Scheme Assessment for Plastic Packaging Waste in the Philippines*, https://wwf.org.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/WWF_REPORT_EPR_Philippines.pdf.

28. WWF Philippines (2020)

29. NSWMC (2012), *National Solid Waste Management Strategy 2012-2016*, <https://nswmc.emb.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/NSWM-Strategy-2012-2016.pdf>.

30. cyclos (2019)

31. UN Comtrade (2020), *UN Comtrade Database International Trade Statistics*.

32. UN Comtrade (2020)

33. IFC (2020), <https://disclosures.ifc.org/#/projectDetail/SII/41290>

34. Boracay closure to proceed sans TRO: Palace, <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1033221>

Education and awareness raising is another key measure. The Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008⁽³⁵⁾ mandates the integration of environmental education in school curricula at all levels, from daycare to professional education. It includes waste minimisation, segregation, recycling and composting. The Plastic Bag and Styro Redemption Caravan is organised by the Philippine Plastics Industry Association in conjunction with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila to raise awareness about segregation of waste (especially plastic).⁽³⁶⁾ People receive basic foodstuffs or school supplies at parishes in exchange for items such as clean and dry bags or Styrofoam.

35. International Coastal Clean-up, <https://dilg.gov.ph/events/International-Coastal-Clean-up/612>

36. USAID (2019), *Introducing Zero Waste to Batangas City*, <https://urban-links.org/wp-content/uploads/USAID-Mother-Earth-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.