

Minutes of Fifth Project Steering Committee meeting to discuss various matters under India Norway Marine Pollution Initiative

The **fifth Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting** of the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative (INMPI) was held in hybrid mode on 21st February 2023. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Naresh Pal Gangwar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India and Excellency Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund, Ambassador of Norway to India, Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi. The list of all participants present in the meeting is enclosed in **Annexure I**.

1. The agenda was taken up ad seriatim. At the outset, Additional Secretary, welcomed all the participants of the fifth meeting of the PSC and briefed the participants on the India Norway Marine Pollution Initiative. This was followed by a presentation from MoEFCC on the Initiative. It was highlighted that projects under INMPI shall be approved by PSC and that quarterly progress reports may be submitted by project partners to MoEFCC and Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi.

A copy of the presentation is placed at **Annexure II**.

2. Ms. Marit Strand, Counsellor, International cooperation, Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi underscored that the publications and successful capacity building activities of the stakeholders. It was proposed that the Embassy will work with the project partners in providing a quarterly report on the progress of the work being undertaken and suggested organizing seminars to disseminate the knowledge gained from the studies undertaken on plastic waste including marine plastic litter and role of informal workers in plastic waste management. The Embassy also supported the dialogue to be continued with MoEFCC on the next phase of INMPI.
3. Mr. Naresh Pal Gangwar, Additional Secretary, highlighted that plastic waste management is matter of national priority and that in the last two years, several measures have been undertaken for effective plastic waste management, particularly banning of identified single-use plastic items and notification of guidelines for Extended Producer Responsibility on plastic packaging.

4. H.E Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund, Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi welcomed the PSC members and the participants to the fifth meeting of the PSC. It was underscored that progress had been achieved under the project but there was still more work to be undertaken. Marine plastic litter has become a global environmental challenge in last ten years.
5. The project partners were asked to highlight the activities undertaken in their respective projects. It was also mentioned that virtual meetings were held with each project partner, prior to the PSC meeting to understand the work carried out since the fourth PSC meeting in February 2022. The summary of work undertaken is given below:
 - a. **Mainstreaming Circular Economy in Waste Management Sector - Centre for Science and Environment (CSE):** Mr. Atin Biswas, Programme Director (Municipal Solid Waste), CSE presented on the work carried out by CSE under INMPI. The project objective is to address the land to sea pathways of waste by creating cost-effective, environmentally sound, and locally or regionally adapted solutions to land-based waste pollution. The project has two components: 1) Urban local bodies manage waste in accordance with the concepts of circular economy; and 2) Agra (UP) and Gurugram (NCR/Haryana) developed as model cities on waste management. The progress of activities undertaken were presented. CSE prepared knowledge products as part of the project activities. The way forward was presented for consideration of the PSC. A copy of the presentation is placed at **Annexure III**.
 - b. **India Norway Cooperation Project on capacity building for reducing plastic and chemical pollution in India (INOPOL) – NIVA:** Dr. Hans Nicolai Adams, Senior Research Scientist, NIVA made a presentation on their work and the case studies done in Surat and Vapi in Gujarat. The Indian partners in the project are The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Mu Gamma Consultants (MGC), Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), SRM Institute of Science and Technology and Toxics Link. It was highlighted that catchment study approach was adopted to study plastic and POPs linkages. The publications

prepared under the project and way forward activities were presented. A copy of the presentation is placed at **Annexure IV**.

- c. **Ocean plastic turned into an opportunity in the circular economy – OPTOCE:** Dr. Palash Kumar Saha, Research Scientist, SINTEF, presented on the work done under the Initiative. The objective of the project that is to investigate how co-processing can increase the treatment capacity for non-recyclable plastic wastes. Since last PSC meeting, a pilot demonstration with large quantity of non-recyclable plastic waste from Ambuja Bhatapara dumpsite in Chhattisgarh was incinerated for testing air emissions. It was mentioned that the project commenced in 2019, with a duration of three years and was extended till 2023 and currently, the project was awaiting a no-cost extension, from NORAD, till 2025. The activities undertaken since the fourth PSC meeting and the delay in deliverables were mentioned. The planned activities for the year 2023 were presented. A copy of the presentation is placed at **Annexure V**.

- d. **Marine Litter and Mindset change programme in Mumbai:** Mr. Suheel Syed, Manager- Project, Partnership Development & Outreach, Afroz Shah Foundation gave an overview of the progress under the project. It was mentioned that sixteen programs related to circular economy such as project bulk spices, bulk ration etc. had been successfully implemented under the mindset change programme. The implementation of the projects with respect to number of households impacted, reduction in carbon footprint, reduction in litter generated and amount saved were highlighted in the presentation. Future activities related to removal of plastic waste such as beach cleaning, mangrove cleaning were taken up. A SUP free daily ration shop has been set up. A copy of the presentation is placed at **Annexure VI**.

- e. **Coordinating and Providing a Common Platform for India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative in India:** Dr. Sumit Sharma, Programme Officer, UNEP, gave a brief on the progress made in the project under the Initiative. It was highlighted that UNEP has following components under INMPI (i) providing evidence-based inputs on key policy and governance aspects related to marine plastic pollution, (ii) facilitating knowledge exchange and (iii) capacity building, generating awareness and

coordinating with partners. It was informed that two reports had been released and three technical reports were under preparation. The status on research and reports, policy briefs/papers, engagement of partners and support to the Ministry were presented. The proposed activities for the year 2023 were also presented. The copy of the presentation is placed at **Annexure VII**.

6. After the presentations, the co-chairs requested the members of PSC for their comments/ observations.

- The representative from Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India informed the following:
 - Most of the knowledge materials presented by CSE is available online on the Swachh Bharat Mission Knowledge Centre. It was requested that knowledge materials on the work done by other partners be also made available to the SBM Knowledge Centre.
 - It was mentioned that the component of marine pollution control was being implemented by GIZ under the NAMA project, in the cities of Kanpur, Kochi and Port Blair and as there was a lot of common ground between this project and INMPI, lot of peer learning could be there between the partners in either project.
 - With respect to co-processing of plastic waste in cement plants, it was mentioned there might be a duplication as studies were carried out on the same matter by CPCB and Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board in 2012-13.
 - A suggestion was also made to include CPCB and DPIIT, as cement plants come under their jurisdiction, for development of better outcomes.
- With respect to co-processing of plastic waste in cement plants, UNEP informed that it had facilitated an MoU between National Environment Commission, Government of Bhutan and MoEFCC, Government of India, signed on July 2021. One of the focus areas of the MoU was on waste management and SINTEF had made a presentation with the possibility of having a workshop on co-processing of plastic waste in cement kilns and in the context of the work done under the INMPI on this matter, it would be worthwhile to take the discussion forward.

- It was informed by the representative of Royal Norwegian Embassy that through UNEP, regular meetings were being held with other agencies working on marine plastic litter to understand the work being done by respective agencies. The Embassy also mentioned that it would look forward to engaging with other agencies to understand the work being undertaken on the subject of marine plastic litter. The important role of informal workers in waste management was also highlighted.
- Representative of CPCB expressed that cement plants in the country are co-processing plastic waste. The study being undertaken by SINTEF needs to factor that in the ongoing works under the INMPI.
- MuGamma Consultants (Project partner with NIVA and co lead of INOPOL project) informed that data generated from INOPOL project was being utilized in the National Implementation phase II and National Water Policy formulation.
- It was highlighted by a representative of MoEFCC that INMPI is an initiative of Government of Norway and Government of India. There had been instances where project partners had been dealing with Royal Norwegian Embassy only regarding the project and activities under the INMPI. MoEFCC was just informed about the project and the activities. It was further mentioned that any such project/activity might not be covered under INMPI's PSC.
- It was observed that project proponents had an engagement with Government of Norway/Royal Norwegian Embassy) primarily and MoEFCC was just informed by the project and its activities.

7. Based on the deliberations of the PSC, the following decisions were taken:

- i. New projects/activities /future programmes to be taken up after the approval of MoEFCC and Royal Norwegian Embassy ensuring that there is no duplication of work as well as there is concurrence with the proposed activity. The activities to be taken up under the project shall be planned and designed in consultation with MoEFCC and Royal Norwegian

Embassy. The proposals shall be shared with MoEFCC and Royal Norwegian Embassy. The concerned stakeholders (State/UT Government, local govt. or other agency) will be engaged with by MoEFCC while reviewing the proposals for concurrence/approval by MoEFCC.

- ii. The project and activities need to be completed in collaboration/partnership with the stakeholders (viz ULB/local govt, Department of State Govt, Min/Department of Central Govt. or any other stakeholder/agency) and an endorsement letter may be forwarded to MoEFCC for consideration of project/activities under the project to PSC.
- iii. In respect of all the proposed activities presented in the meeting, the proposals shall be shared with MoEFCC and Royal Norwegian Embassy. These shall be processed in consultation with stakeholders and will be decided by MoEFCC and Royal Norwegian Embassy on activity basis.
- iv. Quarterly reports on the progress of work done by the project partners shall be submitted and a monthly progress update through a format shall also be provided by project proponents to both MoEFCC as well as Royal Norwegian Embassy.
- v. All the information and knowledge products emerging from work being carried out under this Initiative shall be made available on the portal developed by UNEP for this Initiative.
- vi. New activities being proposed should be action-based with implementation in the field with participation and engagement of concerned stakeholders. It must clearly bring out the improvements to be achieved due to the project activity. The project activity must be replicable, scalable and sustainable. The stated outcomes shall be measured to measure the efficacy of the implementation of the project.
- vii. All engagements under INMPI must mention the project as “Name of the Project- Joint Initiative of Govt. of India and Govt. of Norway”. It must mention that the project is “Implemented by Name of Project Proponent”.

- viii. The stakeholder (where the project gets implemented) shall be involved in PSC meeting (viz ULB, Department of State Govt, Min/Department of Central Govt) to inform about the progress/outcomes of the project.
- ix. UNEP, India Country Office shall work under the guidance and mandate of MoEFCC and Royal Norwegian Embassy with regard to the coordination of projects under INMPI.

The meeting ended thanking the co-chairs and the participants.

ANNEXURE I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****A. List of participants who attended the meeting at Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, New Delhi:**

Sl. No.	Name of the participants	Designations	Organizations
	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India		
1	Dr. Satyendra Kumar	Director	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
2	Dr. Amit Love	Scientist E/Additional Director	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
3	Dr. Deepti	Consultant B	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
4	Dr. Omdeo K Gohatre	Consultant B	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
	Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi		
5	Ms. Marit M. Strand	Counsellor & Head of Cooperation	Royal Norwegian Embassy
6	Ms. Beate Langset	Counsellor (Climate & Environment)	Royal Norwegian Embassy
7	Mr. Suresh Mathevan	Advisor	Royal Norwegian Embassy
	CPCB		
8	Ms. Divya Sinha	Scientist-F & Head, UPC-II Division	Central Pollution Control Board

	MoES		
9	Dr. Pravakar Mishra	Scientist-F	National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR). Ministry of Earth Sciences
	UNEP India Office		
10	Mr. Atul Bagai	Country Head	UNEP, India
11	Dr. Divya Datt	Programme Management Officer	UNEP, India
12	Dr. Sumit Sharma	Programme Officer	UNEP, India
13	Mr. Kaushik Chandrashekar	Assistant Programme Management Officer	UNEP, India
14	Mr. Dilip Menon	Assistant Programme Management Officer	UNEP, India & MoEFCC
	Project partners: Mu Gamma Consultants Pvt. Ltd		
15	Dr. Girija Bharat	Director	Mu Gamma Consultants Pvt. Ltd

B: List of participants who attended the meeting virtually:

S.No.	Name	Organization	Email
	Government of Norway		
16	Ms. Silje Fagernes Anonsen	NORAD	silje.fagernes.anonsen@norad.no
17	Ms. Gunn-Eva Nordheim	Senior Advisor, Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment	gunn-eva.nordheim@kld.dep.no
18	Ms. Zanna Gleditsch	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of Norway	zanna.melina.ljungner.gleditsch@mfa.no
19	Mr. Erlend Haugen	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of Norway	erah@mfa.no

20	Ms. Helene aarvik	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of Norway	tone.helene.aarvik@mfa.no
National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management			
21	Dr. Purvaja Ramachandran,	Director, National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management	purvaja@ncscm.res.in
Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs			
22	Mr. J B Ravinder	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	jrb.ravinder@nic.in
Central Water Commission			
23	Mr. Pankaj Kumar Sharma	Central Water Commission	rdc2dte-cwc@gov.in
National Mission for Clean Ganga			
24	Mr. B.L.Meena,US(NMCG)	Under Secretary	bl.meena15@nic.in
25	Mr. Shubham (NMCG)	Consultant	tiwari.s@govcontractor.in
26	Ms. Ritu Pachori		Ritu.pachori@gov.in
Project partners			
27	Mr. Suheel Syed- Afroz Shah Foundation	Afroz Shah Foundation	suheel.syed@afrozshahfoundation.org
28	Mr. Hans Adam	NIVA	hans.adam@niva.no
29	Mr. Atin Biswas	CSE	atin.biswas@cseindia.org
30	Mr. Palash Kumar Saha	SINTEF	palashkumar.saha@sintef.no
