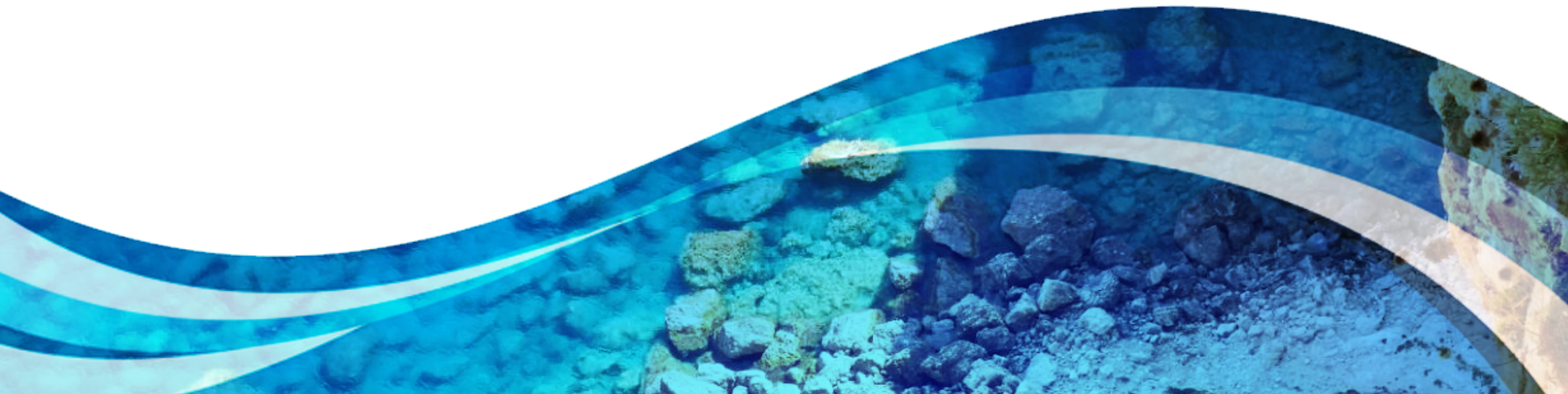




BlueMed Pilot Action For a plastic-free, healthy Mediterranean Sea

Mapping of initiatives – National Hubs ISRAEL

[Extract from the DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT, BLUEMED Pilot: For a Plastic-free, Healthy Mediterranean Sea
(Tuesday 12 March 2019, 9:00 – 17:00, Room: CDMA -1/44, Rue du Champ de Mars 21, Brussels, Belgium)]



Israel

In Israel, initiatives for the reduction of plastic waste have been growing since the early 21st Century. This is evident in novel legislation for recycling and treatment of plastics, public awareness campaigns in the media, as well as a growing number of NGO's dealing with plastic waste. Israel values its coastal resources, mainly from a touristic perspective and there are several institutionalized routine beach cleaning activities (daily during the bathing season) with governmental support and incentives for municipalities that are taking care to keep their beaches clean. Moreover, the Ministry of Environmental Protection supports the national Clean Coast Index program, which runs a weekly survey of plastic and other debris along the beaches.

Nevertheless, Israel is second in the world in the per-capita use of single-use utensils and widespread public awareness regarding plastic pollution related to these single use items is lacking. Each citizen produces ~1.8 kg waste per day, of which 18% is plastic. In terms of volume, plastic waste constitutes 41% of the total waste volume. Of all types of waste, 80% goes to landfills, and 20% to recycling (the amount of plastics entering the sea is yet unknown). The Israeli public uses 5 billion plastic bags per year, yet a recent surcharge on supermarket plastic bags has reduced their use by as much as 75%.

Efficient plastic waste management, including waste separation and recycling is a growing governmental concern and endeavor in Israel. Sustainable management of plastic use and production is one of the Ministry of Environmental Protection's main goals for the forthcoming years.

➤ *List of Governmental action plans and initiatives*

Year	Governmental action plans and initiatives
1984	Initiation of the law for 'protection and cleaning the Environment'.
1993	Initiation of the law for 'waste collection and disposal'. Municipalities are obliged to manage their waste.
1999	Initiation of 'plastic bottles deposit' law. Includes plastic and glass beverage bottles and cans, excludes 1.5L plastic bottles.
2002	Launching plastic bottles deposit units.
2004	Initiation of the Coastal Environment Protection law.
2005	Initiation of the 'Clean Coast' program that awards municipalities that keeps their beaches clean.
2007	Initiation of Tires Recycling law.

Year	Governmental action plans and initiatives
2009 - present	Annual call by the Ministry of Environment for school's teachers to participate in a sustainability program that includes waste management, recycling, ocean and beach protection, etc.
2011	Launching a childrens' tutorial for the protection of the oceans.
2011	Initiation of the Packaging Management law
2017	Launching the surcharge on plastic bags in supermarkets
2017	Monitoring plastic debris in the oceans by the Israeli Oceanographic and Limnological Research institute (IOLR)
2019	Call by the Ministry of Environment for proposals to determine the sources of plastic debris entering the Israeli (Med & Red Sea) shores

➤ ***Nongovernmental organizations (NGO's) with plastic reduction agenda***

Name	NGO's action plans and current initiatives
Ecoocean	Running campaigns, community engagement and educational programs on plastic litter. Blue flag (since 2012) and FEE cooperators. Supporting plastic debris researchers with access to a Research Vessel and an ROV.
Zalul	Initiating the 'Plastic-free city' program in 2018 with city of Herzlyia. Promoting efforts to clean Israeli rivers and coasts.
Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel	Initiating educational programs and writing class tutorials. Public awareness and beach cleaning campaigns.
Israel Nature and Parks Authority	Taking part in educational programs related to waste management. Financing and managing the national turtle sanctuary, treating injured turtles, including those that have ingested plastics. Published reports on waste management, plastic, etc. Promoting efforts to clean Israeli rivers and coasts.

Name	NGO's action plans and current initiatives
Israel Union for Environmental Defense	Promotes and assists with legislation on initiation of clean coasts, and waste and pollution management.
Green Course	Launched in 2019; an initiative that aims to ban single-use plastic utensils and packaging.
The Mediterranean People	Promoting beach and other nature cleanups via the network of Beach Communities.
The Israeli Diving Association	Clean up operations of plastic and marine debris by SCUBA diving.
Kayak for all	Promoting the clean seas and initiating sea cleaning activities.
Straw-less Israel	Promoting the ban of plastic single-use straws and stirrers.

➤ *Educational programs*

Name	Institute	Program
Ocean Day	National	Elementary schools participate in educational programs, promote beach cleanup events and provide guidance on plastic use and waste.
Clean up Day	National	Elementary schools participate in public programs to reduce consumption and waste, and promote cleanup events.
Blue Green Ocean	Ashdod municipality and the Regional Environmental Association	Educating high school students for protection of the coastal and oceanic habitats

➤ *Researchers engaged in plastic debris research at sea*

Name	Institute	Research subject
Dr. Yael Segal	IOLR	Plastic and microplastic monitoring
Dr. Peleg Astrahan	IOLR	Chemicals adsorption onto microplastics
Dr. Dror Angel	Haifa University	Ocean plastic debris
Dr. Dor Edelist	Haifa University	Microplastics and jellyfish
Galia Pasternak	Haifa University	Plastic macro debris on the beaches and sea
Noam van der Hal	Haifa University	Ecological aspects of microplastics
Dina Shukis	Haifa University	Ingestion of plastic debris and chemicals by sea turtles
Debora Ramon	Haifa University	Microplastics in fish species
Dr. Noa Shenkar	Tel Aviv University	Microplastics in ascidians
Gal Vered	Tel Aviv University	Microplastics in ascidians
Prof. Eric Fredj	The Jerusalem College of Technology	Modeling microplastics distribution at sea

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