

Action 59: Status PARKED

The second meeting of the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter (ICG-ML) agreed to halt activity on this Action as of November 2020. The related output: the [spreadsheet of good practice examples](#) is available on the [RAP Pages for Action 59](#).

Action 59 falls under Theme D of the OSPAR Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter: Education and Outreach. It was led by the Secretariat and intended to “Establish a database on good practice examples of marine litter measures and initiatives and share this database with other Regional Seas Conventions in order to make action more visible to the public.”

In its first meeting in 2019, ICG-ML agreed that in order to deliver on this action, a simple excel spreadsheet would be created to collect information on good practice examples of marine litter measures and initiatives. The intention was for the spreadsheet to be managed by ICG-ML, whereby updates to the spreadsheet would be made before each ICG-ML meeting, and once agreed, signed-off at ICG-ML. The spreadsheet would be held by the Secretariat and uploaded to the OSPAR RAP website by the OSPAR Secretariat. The updating of the spreadsheet has been included in the outstanding actions sheet as a recurring task after each ICG-ML meeting. The spreadsheet has been made available on the RAP pages on the OSPAR website under Action 59.

When ICG-ML met for their first meeting of 2020, it was observed that although the spreadsheet for collecting information on good practice examples of marine litter measures and initiatives was now in existence, there had been no new information provided since the list was first published. This was attributed to the lack of resources for follow up and oversight of this task.

In addition to this agreed mechanism to deliver Action 59, there have also been discussions regarding the potential role and relevance of the knowledge tool being produced by the Clean Atlantic project to support Action 59. The Clean Atlantic knowledge tool includes information about projects delivered over the past 15 years and up to the point of the completion of this Interreg project, is expected to be extremely comprehensive and include an extensive amount of information. The Clean Atlantic project team have identified a number of potential users for the knowledge tool at the end of the project, including OSPAR, UNEP, DG-MARE/DG-ENV, JRC, TGML as well as NGOs and research centres or universities.

It was noted that there is not the capacity within the OSPAR Secretariat to take on the management and maintenance of this knowledge tool, nor the funding to employ a dedicated resource to do this. The concept of a database or an exchange platform is one that is considered desirable, however not something that can be prioritised and too resource intensive to maintain.

The second meeting of ICG-ML in 2020 again considered that there would be value in being able to maintain the type of information contained within the CleanAtlantic Knowledge tool. However, it was agreed by the meeting that the level of resource required was too high and so continued effort to deliver this action should not be prioritised by the RAP technical assistance project. ICG-ML agreed to Park Action 59 and to take no further action as a result of their second meeting of 2020.