

## An EPR Scheme for plastic and packaging wastes by adelphi GmbH

The Maldives' seas are under pressure from both an increasing amount of littered plastic wastes as well as from unsafe (plastic) waste management practices. To address this situation, the government of the Maldives is in the process of mainstreaming and further developing its waste management policies. adelphi GmbH innovation project is fostering circular economy, zero-waste innovation, and reducing the amount of plastic and packaging waste generated and disposed in an uncontrolled manner on a long-term basis, by developing an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme, to internalize environmental costs in the Maldives.

The project started in March 2021 with a full 2 years of implementation to be completed by end of February 2023. The project succeeded to achieve the following till end of November 2022:



- Finalized a comprehensive baseline study to estimate the annual amount of plastic generated in the country
- Finalized a report on the analysis of the current legal framework for solid waste management (SWM) in the Maldives
- The Project Team commented on the draft Waste Act provided by the President's Office to strengthen the EPR section, enable data disclosure from producers, and include accountability mechanisms
- Finalized a financial feasibility analysis (cost-revenues) for Material Recovery Facilities and Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) in Maldives. The main results of this study showed the following:

Cost estimate per ton of waste (PRO operations)	Percentage of total PRO costs	USD
Collection costs on island level	8%	42
Transportation costs (to landfill/Material Recovery Facility)	23%	129
Material Recovery Facility OPEX	25%	138
Shipment costs	44%	246
<b>Total PRO Operation Cost per ton of waste</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>555</b>



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- The project team also reviewed and compiled good practice examples of EPR schemes globally to select the best for Maldives
- Developed and published an EPR manual on EPR principles
- Conducted series of workshops to raise awareness about EPR among concerned stakeholders in Maldives (116 stakeholders were approached)
- Set up digital awareness channels and published series of Instagram and Twitter posts to raise awareness of both the consumers and producers on the EPR scheme

The project team is aiming to finalize a roadmap with three different scenarios for implementing the proposed EPR scheme in Maldives and develop a concept paper for plastic and packaging waste in close coordination with MoE for a subsequent transposition into national law.

The project has a significant impact on the Maldives' new solid waste management strategy since EPR will be one of its pillars. The project team has been already in contact with the MoE's consultant to share experiences and suggestions. The team has been also involved in Parliament sessions to ensure that EPR will be part of the new waste legislation that the government intends to enact. Furthermore, the project team participated in a public consultation on the National Waste Strategy 2023-2027, which announced the expansion of EPR to products other than packaging, such as e-waste.

The results of the project activities were designed to ensure sustainability. Knowledge materials such as the manual, videos, and website will continue to be available and serve as a starting point for further discussions on EPR in other SIDS. Once implemented within the government framework, the law on EPR will provide a solid and sustainable foundation for further improvements in waste management in the Maldives and all SIDS. Infrastructure improvements and capacity enhancement at the national level can be achieved through future local project partners and NGOs to be trained by the project team. These enhancements will include knowledge in creating plans to eliminating single-use plastics, recycling including the recovery and reuse of solid waste that may still have economic value. The lessons learned from the implementation of the Maldives EPR system and the review of best practices will be used for upscaling activities in other SIDS with similar geographic, socio-environmental, and waste management challenges.