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PILOTING A ZERO WASTE MODEL TO HELP REDUCE OCEAN PLASTIC POLLUTION

In Vietnam, the city of Hoi An and the nearby Cham Islands face mounting solid waste management (SWM) challenges due to an influx of tourists. To support a regional initiative managed out of the Philippines, USAID's Municipal Waste Recycling Program provided a grant to the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives Philippines Inc. (GAIA) to improve SWM and recycling practices in the Cam Thanh commune (a ward of Hoi An) and in the Cham Islands. In partnership with GreenViet Biodiversity Conservation Centre (GreenViet) and the Cham Islands Marine Protected Areas office, GAIA helped to pilot a "Zero Waste" model in these areas.

THE "ZERO WASTE" MODEL

The "Zero Waste" waste management approach emphasizes the responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of all materials to reduce the amount of waste incinerated, sent to landfills, or discharged into the water or air. With GAIA technical assistance and training by the GAIA Zero Waste Academy, GreenViet helped the city government develop ten-year SWM and recycling plans in line with the "Zero Waste" model and strengthened local organizations' capacity to implement localized "Zero Waste" programs. GreenViet also cooperated with local government environment officials, including the Cham Islands Marine Protected Area office, to deliver door-to-door training to households, businesses, and other community stakeholders on waste separation to improve the recycling value chain. GreenViet conducted waste management training courses for over 2,000 households to improve waste separation at source.

SUSTAINABILITY IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

GAIA and GreenViet will replicate the Philippines "Zero Waste" model,¹ a cost-effective way for municipalities and the private sector to manage household solid waste and reduce plastic waste leakage. The Cam Thanh commune and the Cham Islands piloted functional and scalable SWM and recycling programs and prepared ten-year SWM plans to guide future development. Plans detail efficient collection schemes, materials recovery facilities to temporarily store materials before sale to recycling firms, and procedures for composting organic waste.

¹ <https://www.no-burn.org/filipino-barangays-leading-the-way-in-zero-waste-models>

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Cham Islands Marine Protected Area office has committed to improve solid waste management and recycling practices** to reduce ocean plastic pollution.
- **Over 2,000 households** participated in GreenViet-led training courses on improving waste separation at source.

PROJECT: Building and Sharing Zero Waste Models | **DURATION:** April 1, 2019 – May 31, 2021 | **IMPLEMENTER:** GreenViet Biodiversity Conservation Centre (GreenViet) | **LOCATION:** Hoi An and Cham Islands, Vietnam | **BUDGET:** \$94,173