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## MANILA BAY: BETTER INFORMATION FOR TACKLING PLASTIC WASTE

The most economically and politically significant body of water in the Philippines, Manila Bay is also the largest and dirtiest body of water in the country. Inadequate solid waste collection is considered by several experts to be the biggest cause of leakage of plastic waste in Manila Bay.

### ADDRESSING A NEED FOR RESEARCH

The Ecological Waste Coalition of the Philippines (EcoWaste Coalition) project will address the government's need for reliable information and data to facilitate improved policymaking, planning, and program designs for solid waste management (SWM) and recycling. Research activities will culminate in a series of technical studies on the effectiveness of SWM and plastic waste leakage into Manila Bay.

In addition, EcoWaste Coalition will collaborate with the national government and private sector to gauge public awareness on the issue of plastic waste and its impact on the Philippines' marine environment to develop strategies for public educational campaigns. EcoWaste Coalition is expected to receive support on the design and evaluation of its Manila Bay research from a team led by Dr. Jenna Jambeck of the University of Georgia. This new research specific to Manila Bay will complement Dr. Jambeck's earlier pioneering research, published in *Science* in 2015, that provided the first estimates of land-based sources of ocean plastic pollution from 192 countries.

### ENABLING THE REHABILITATION OF MANILA BAY

EcoWaste Coalition is a not-for-profit, non-partisan national network of 150 environmental organizations promoting environmental protection, chemical safety, and community-based approaches to zero waste SWM and recycling. The project's overarching goal is to study the origin and volume of plastic materials produced in Metro Manila; the flow and pathways of these plastic materials in their lifecycle and the way they enter the waste stream; and how they leak into the environment and become plastic pollutants in Manila Bay. The findings of the studies are expected to contribute to the strengthening of national SWM policies, local regulations, and strategies for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

**PROJECT:** Assessment of Plastic Pollution in Manila Bay

**DURATION:** July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2020 | **IMPLEMENTER:** Ecological Waste Coalition of the Philippines (EcoWaste Coalition)

**LOCATION:** Manila Bay, Philippines | **BUDGET:** \$230,446

### KEY FACTS

- Despite a 2008 Supreme Court *writ of mandamus* demanding the rehabilitation and preservation of Manila Bay, the various plans to clean Manila Bay in the past decade were not implemented and **the dumping of waste continues unabated.**
- Research into the sources, causes, patterns, quantities, and processes of solid waste management in Manila will **provide important data and evidence that is currently missing and is critical to rehabilitating Manila Bay.**