

# IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON MARINE LITTER IN THE ARCTIC (ML-RAP)

FEBRUARY 2024



ARCTIC COUNCIL

**PAME**  
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

# IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON MARINE LITTER IN THE ARCTIC (ML-RAP)

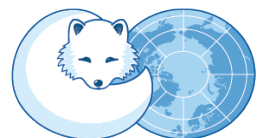
28 FEBRUARY 2024

This project gratefully acknowledges funding support from:



**The Nordic Institute  
in Greenland**

**PAME**  
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment



**ARCTIC COUNCIL**

## INTRODUCTION

The Arctic Council provides strong institutional support for the stewardship of the Arctic marine environment. In 2021, PAME completed the *Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic* (ML-RAP) in collaboration with the Arctic Council Working Groups (WGs), Permanent Participants (PPs), Observers and nominated marine litter experts.

The *Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic* sets out a range of 59 Strategic Actions that address both land- and sea-based sources of marine litter in the Arctic region, organized by the following eight themes: I) Reducing Marine Litter Inputs from Fisheries and Aquaculture; II) Reducing Marine Litter Inputs from Ships and Offshore Structures; III) Improving Onshore Waste and Wastewater Management; IV) Sustainable Materials Management in the Arctic Environment; V) Cleaning Arctic Coasts; VI) Strengthening Monitoring and Research; VII) Outreach; and VIII) International Cooperation.

The Arctic Council Working Groups will coordinate and cooperate closely to facilitate and support implementation of the actions listed in the ML-RAP. The Arctic States will support and contribute to the implementation of relevant strategic actions, in accordance with national circumstances.

The implementation of the ML-RAP will utilize the best available scientific information and traditional and local knowledge. The implementation will rely on existing structures and mechanisms of the Arctic Council, i.e., Arctic Council biannual Ministerial meetings, Senior Arctic Official (SAO) meetings, and the activities of the Arctic Council Working Groups, as well measures taken by Arctic States. Each Working Group, under the overall direction of the SAOs, implements, subject to available resources, those actions that relate to their mandate and incorporates them into their work plans by consensus. Cooperation with the full range of stakeholders will facilitate the execution of this work. Since a portion of the marine litter found in the Arctic comes from outside of the region, cooperation and collaboration between the Arctic Council and entities external to the Arctic will contribute to the objective of the ML-RAP.

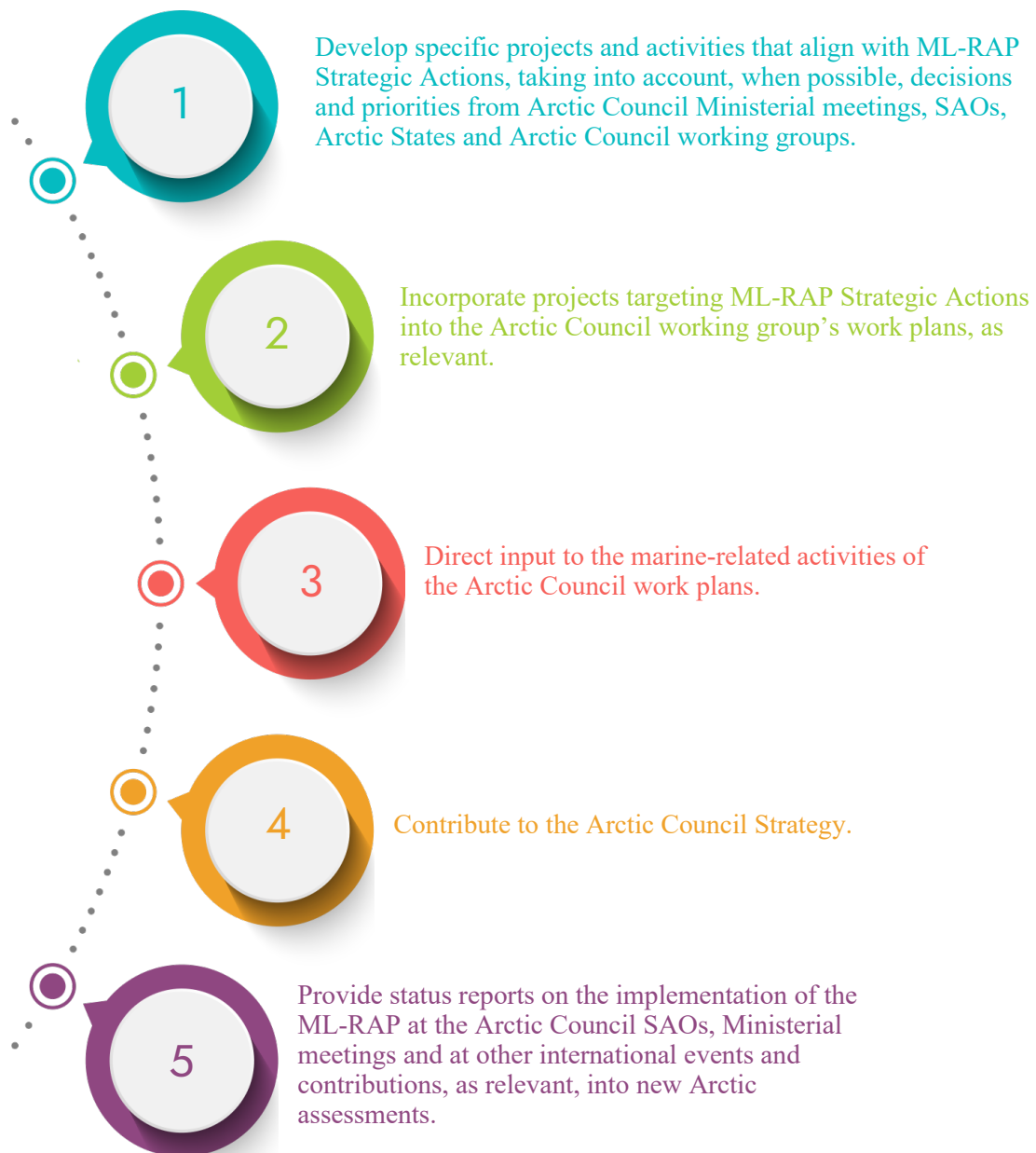
Working regionally offers an economy of scale, particularly for joint efforts such as research, monitoring, and technical cooperation, in collaboration with Indigenous peoples, local communities, and other stakeholders. Regional work can also improve policy and program coordination, which in turn helps strengthen implementation. The implementation of this ML-RAP may also foster Arctic State cooperation to promote Arctic initiatives in other relevant international and regional fora, as appropriate.

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

*The aim of the Implementation plan for the ML-RAP 59 strategic actions is to provide a structured approach that tracks follow-up activities (ongoing and planned) in close coordination and cooperation with other Arctic Council working groups through an overall guidance from the SAOs.*

### IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

General step in the implementation and reporting process may include:



## REPORTING TEMPLATE

The ML-RAP Strategic Actions Matrix will be used to track progress and convey the implementation of the ML-RAP. The Matrix will be published on the Arctic Council website and will be updated periodically.

## TRACKING PROGRESS

The 59 Strategic Actions in the ML-RAP are important in a circumpolar Arctic perspective and are guided by the key findings and recommendations of published Arctic Council products.

ML-RAP Implementation Reports will be submitted biennially to the SAOs/Ministers. The reports may include a summary of activities to date and the identification of gaps and needs.

Every four years, PAME, in collaboration with other Arctic Council subsidiary bodies, will lead a review and, unless otherwise decided, update of the ML-RAP. It is anticipated that additional actions may be required as new priorities emerge or new information becomes available through, for example, ongoing or new scientific studies and studies by the Arctic Council working groups.

**PAME SECRETARIAT**

Borgir, v. Nordurslod

Akureyri - Iceland

Tel: +354 461 1355

pame@pame.is

pame.is