A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

- a useful strategy for reducing marine litter?

Thérèse Björk
OHCHR Regional Office for South East Asia
What Is human rights-based approach?

1. WHAT AND WHY?
   - What human rights?

2. WHO?
   - Who has a right?
   - Who has an obligation to do something about it?

3. WHAT?
   - What is preventing action to address the problem?

CROSS-CUTTING
- Focus on the most vulnerable
- Gender equality, non-discrimination, participation, accountability and transparency
Why adopt a HRBA to environment programming?

1. The inter-dependence of human rights and environmentally sustainable development
2. A framework for addressing conflicting rights and interests
3. More effective and sustainable programmes
4. Attention to the poor and marginalized
5. An integrated approach
What and why?
How is marine litter impacting on human rights?

A safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is integral to the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, including:

- The right to a clean and safe environment
- The right to life and the right to health
- The right to food
- The right to clean water and sanitation
- The right to an adequate standard of living
- Non-discrimination

- The right to information, freedom of expression
- The right to participation in decision-making
Who?

Who has a right?
Who has an obligation to do something about it?

States have obligations to respect and protect the enjoyment of human rights from harm from marine litter

Businesses have an obligation to respect human rights
Responsibilities of States

Obligation to
• Respect human rights – not do harm to human rights
• Protect from marine litter and its negative effects + obligations to vulnerable groups

For example:
• National legislation and policies to limit marine litter
• Take action to safeguard human rights, for example by allocating budget
• Ensure access to justice
• Access to information
• Ensure participation