

Nigeria's Submission on CBD's Marine Litter Information Request

Solid wastes generated on a ship include glass, paper, cardboard, aluminum and steel cans, and plastics. It can be either non-hazardous or hazardous in nature. Solid waste that enters the ocean may become marine debris, and can then pose a threat to marine organisms, humans, coastal communities, and industries that utilize marine waters. Cruise ships typically manage solid wastes by a combination of source reduction, waste minimization and recycling.

Further, the Nation is already managing litter /garbage from ship by implementing Annex V of MARPOL Convention that deals with prevention of garbage pollution from ships. This is by ensuring adequate pollution of waste reception facilities by Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) and regulated by Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) and other relevant agencies of government.

For upland litter management, NIMASA has been doing awareness campaigns in coastal communities and recently developed a package on marine litter clean up i.e demonstration projects to change their mindset from seeing the ocean as a bottomless pit for waste disposal. Obvious marine litter issues for Nigeria are from plastic products, abandoned ship wrecks and fishing gear.

However, there is no direct official study yet on the impacts of marine litter that can be cited in this brief.

Currently, there is a collaboration proposal with UNEP-GPA and NIMASA on awareness creation on marine litter and formulation of a National action plan on marine litter management.