

Advancing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and action planning for plastic waste reduction in Lebanon

WES-BCA Activity: C1 N-LB-1

Inception Meeting

Tuesday 25 November 2025

09:30-13:00 Beirut Time (08:30-12:00 CET) - Hybrid event

Introduction to the WES-BCA project

The “Water and Environment Support-Biodiversity and Climate Action (WES-BCA) in the Neighbourhood South region” project aims to improve the protection of the environment, the restoration of biodiversity, and the management of scarce water resources, while enhancing resilience to climate change in the Mediterranean region. It seeks to strengthen the formulation and enforcement of relevant policies in the Partner Countries and support the two regional political frameworks, namely the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Barcelona Convention.

Implemented from November 2024 to November 2027, the project covers eight Partner Countries in the Middle East and North Africa and is funded by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (DG-MENA). Building on the experience and achievements of its predecessor projects (WES, SWIM-H2020 SM, SWIM SM, Horizon 2020 CB/MEP), WES-BCA ensures continuity while integrating new institutional, scientific, and technical developments. It promotes regional exchange of good practices and lessons learned, complemented by targeted national activities that address specific priorities.

The project is implemented through two complementary components: Component I, focusing on Water, Biodiversity and Environment, and Component II, dedicated to Communication and Outreach with an emphasis on Climate Action. Within Component I, five thematic topics are addressed, including Topic 1: Prevention and Reduction of Pollution and Topic 2: Curbing Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter, which are of particular relevance to ongoing regional efforts as well as national actions in Lebanon.

General background of the activity

Lebanon has long faced challenges in solid waste management, but recent years have seen renewed government efforts to establish a more sustainable system. Since the 2018 Law 80 on integrated solid waste management, progress has continued with the National Integrated Solid Waste Management Strategy (2024), promoting waste reduction, recycling, and the elimination of open dumping and burning. The Ministry of Environment (MoE) is advancing key reforms, including a cost recovery system, draft EPR decrees for e-waste, batteries, and plastics, and a national roadmap for plastic waste management. Supported by partners such as the EU, World Bank, UNDP, and UN-Habitat, these initiatives aim to



WES-BCA
Water and Environment Support -
Biodiversity and Climate Action
in the Neighbourhood South region

strengthen governance, improve infrastructure, and foster producer responsibility. The EU-funded WES project has laid the groundwork through national activities that identified suitable EPR models, developed a Plastic Take-Back roadmap, and promoted the reduction of Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) via voluntary agreements with the private sector. Building on these achievements, Lebanon is now moving toward practical EPR implementation to reduce plastic pollution, enhance recycling, and protect public health and the environment.

In this context, the Government of Lebanon has requested the WES-BCA Project to implement a national activity entitled “Advancing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Action Planning for Plastic Waste Reduction in Lebanon.” This activity aims to support the development of a national EPR legal framework by providing technical and legal guidance for drafting the relevant decree and preparing associated policy recommendations. It will also enhance national capacities and stakeholder engagement through targeted workshops and consultations, promoting source separation, recycling technologies, and alignment with ongoing initiatives supporting EPR implementation for single-use plastic packaging.

Objective of the Inception Meeting

Following the Kick-off Meeting on the 25th of July 2025 of this activity, and after a series of consultations and stakeholder updates, an Inception Meeting is planned for Tuesday the 25th of November 2025, in Beirut. The meeting will present and discuss findings from previous WES activities on phasing out single-use plastics (SUPs) and exploring EPR schemes, alongside other national initiatives aimed at reducing plastic waste. Its objective is to review the current state of plastic waste management in Lebanon and the region and to lay the groundwork for WES-BCA support in advancing SUP phase-out and EPR implementation.

Stakeholders invited to the Inception Meeting

The meeting is expected to gather around 30 participants from diverse sectors. The key stakeholders identified for invitation include representatives from government entities, such as the Ministry of Environment (MoE), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Industry (MoI), and the Directorate General of Customs; industry and private sector actors, including the Association of Lebanese Industrialists (ALI), the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut and Mount Lebanon, private sector producers, and the Syndicate of Supermarkets; recycling and waste management organizations; international and regional partners, including the European Delegation, EU/WES-BCA, UNDP and TADWEER, UN-Habitat and REMAL, UNEP Lebanon, and the World Bank; academic institutions, including AUB, USJ, USEK and LAU; and civil society organizations and NGOs.



WES-BCA
Water and Environment Support -
Biodiversity and Climate Action
in the Neighbourhood South region

Advancing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and action planning for plastic waste reduction in Lebanon Inception Meeting

Tuesday 25 November 2025
09:30-13:00 Beirut Time (08:30-12:00 CET) - Hybrid event

AGENDA

09:30-10:00	Registration
10:00-10:30	Welcome and Opening Remarks
30'	Opening remarks - Prof. Michael Scoulllos, Team Leader, WES-BCA - Mr. Cyril Dewaleyne, Deputy Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon - H.E. Dr. Tamara Elzein, Minister of Environment, Lebanon
10:30-11:15	Setting the Scene: WES-BCA Activities, National and Regional Context
5'	WES Video on Plastic Pollution and Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) - Short version
15'	Lebanon's Current Initiatives on Solid Waste, Plastic Reduction, and EPR in Lebanon Eng. Bassam Sabbagh, Head of Urban Environment Services, Ministry of Environment, Lebanon
15'	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): Concepts and Regional Updates Mr. Idalécio Matias Rodrigues, International Circular Economy Expert, WES-BCA
10'	Q&A session
11:15-11:35	Coffee break
11:35-12:00	Overview of WES-BCA Project and its Activities in Lebanon
25'	Project introduction and activities: Mr. Anis Ismail, Environment Key Expert, WES-BCA Communication aspects: Ms. Lisa Papadogeorgaki, Communication Key Expert, WES-BCA Stakeholder participation and impact monitoring: Dr. Emad Adly, Stakeholder Engagement and Impact Assessment Expert, WES-BCA
12:00-13:00	Advancing EPR in Lebanon: Opportunities and Pathways
15'	Policy and Legislations for EPR in Lebanon Ms. Maya Abi Zeid Richa, Environmental Legal Local Expert, WES-BCA
15'	Building on the SUPs roadmap: Exploring the Next steps for EPR Mr. Sammy Kayed, Circular Economy Local Expert, WES-BCA
30'	Concluding Session: Group Discussion, Key Takeaways, and Next Steps - Eng. Bassam Sabbagh, Head of Urban Environment Services, Ministry of Environment, Lebanon - Prof. Michael Scoulllos, Team Leader, WES-BCA
13:00	Lunch Break

For more information: www.wes-bca.eu

