

## SECTION B

## LAND & SEA BASED SOURCES

**b4**

**KNOW  
FEEL  
ACT!**  
to Stop Marine Litter

**SAMPLE  
SURVEY  
QUESTIONNAIRE**

### TAKING INVENTORY OF OUR HABITS

**1a. How often do you visit your nearest coast or riverbank?**

never	annually	monthly	weekly	daily
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**1b. When you visit the coast, how often do you notice litter?**

never	rarely	sometimes	usually	always
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**2. A nice day at the beach has come to an end. You pack your things but you do not see any trash bin around. What do you do?**

- Leave your litter on the beach; it was not so clean anyway.
- Leave your litter in a closed bag.
- Carry your litter with you until you find a bin where you can dispose it.
- Collect other litter that you find as well. Put it in your bag and take it with you.

**3. In your opinion, how important are the following factors in contributing to the presence of litter on the coast and in the sea?**

*1: not at all 2: not very 3: somewhat 4: extremely*

People's behaviour when disposing litter. For example, they leave litter on the beach, discard litter in the toilet, etc.	1	2	3	4
Lack of bins in public areas.	1	2	3	4
Single-use/throw-away nature of many products used today.	1	2	3	4
Extensive use of plastic material in everyday products and packaging.	1	2	3	4
Behaviour of coastal industries (e.g. fishermen, restaurateurs, tourist centres).	1	2	3	4
Lack of enforcement of waste disposal management.	1	2	3	4
Losses during product or waste transportation.	1	2	3	4

#### 4. To what extent do you agree with the following?

1: not at all 2: not very 3: somewhat 4: extremely

The oceans are so large, it is unlikely that marine litter will cause lasting damage.	1	2	3	4
Marine litter is only a problem for coastal communities.	1	2	3	4
I am very concerned about the impact of marine litter.	1	2	3	4

#### 5. How willing are you to:

1: not at all 2: not very 3: somewhat 4: extremely

Opt for re-usable, rather than single use “disposable”, non-biodegradable products (i.e. cups, utensils, plates, food containers, etc.).	1	2	3	4
Ask people to pick up their litter if you see them littering.	1	2	3	4
Pick up litter that you see at risk of entering the sea.	1	2	3	4

**How can you make a survey questionnaire? Here are some tips for formulating questions.**

- Avoid lengthy questionnaires. No more than 1-2 pages.
- Open-ended questions allow for a wide range of replies but these replies may be difficult to categorise. Closed questions, matched with a list of possible replies from which to choose, are easier to use when drawing conclusions. Ensure the list includes the most likely replies and that you haven't omitted an important option.
- Questions should have clear wording. Instructions should be stated simply.
- Keep questions as short as possible using no more than 20 words.
- Avoid words with abstract or general meanings, e.g. “*What kind of products do you consume most?*”
- People taking surveys tend to give “politically correct” answers rather than give their true opinions. Keeping the survey anonymous helps people to express themselves honestly.
- If you decide to survey people's habits and behaviours, remember you can only record their “self-reported” behaviour. This may not necessarily be the respondents' actual behaviour which can only be monitored by observation.
- Avoid questions that may make respondents feel uncomfortable or embarrassed.
- Avoid “leading” questions. For example, “*Do you agree that XXX has to be done ...*”
- Before conducting a large scale survey, give the questionnaire a trial run with peers or family members. Use their feedback to improve your questionnaire in terms of size, phrasing, etc.