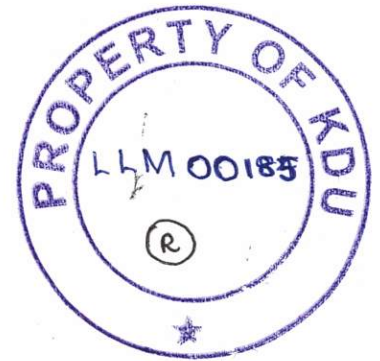


**STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENT LAW AND LAW OF  
THE SEA ON PREVENTION OF MARINE PLASTIC  
POLLUTION: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITH SPECIAL  
REFERENCE TO SRI LANKA**

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**ABSTRACT**

**STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENT LAW AND LAW OF THE SEA ON  
PREVENTION OF MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS  
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SRI LANKA**

by

P. L. Kularathna

Plastic substance reaches every part of the sea including the surface to the bottom of the seabed even in untouched areas of the sea such as Mariana Trench. The plastic density in the sea is rapidly increasing and it is predicted that in 2050 there is more plastic than fish in the sea if the issue of marine plastic pollution is not properly regulated.

Even though there are many international and domestic legal instruments relevant to marine plastic pollution, none of them mainly focused on the prevention of marine plastic pollution and not adequate to cover the full life cycle of plastic. The objective of this research is to identify and provide guidelines to prevent marine plastic pollution through proper legal instrument and effective implementing mechanism in Sri Lanka by analyzing and evaluating the existing legal framework of selected jurisdictions relating to the protection of the sea from plastic pollution.

This research is a doctrinal research which is excessively based on qualitative approach. The methodology of this research is included data-collection strategy typically as a library-based literature review which consisted in legal research and analysis to identify the key legal aspects of Environmental Law and Law of the Sea, including comparative legal analysis of the domestic legal framework of selected jurisdictions regarding prevention of marine plastic pollution. Therefore, it was guided by primary and secondary legal sources.

This study is explained the nature and impact of the marine plastic pollution, analyzed the existing legal framework relating to marine plastic pollution using International conventions and underline principles, evaluated the adequacy of the existing legal framework on marine plastic pollution, synthase the inspirations and lessons can be learned from international and other selected Jurisdictions namely Germany, Australia and United State of America, and made reforms and recommendations to improve existing legal land scape of Sri Lanka.