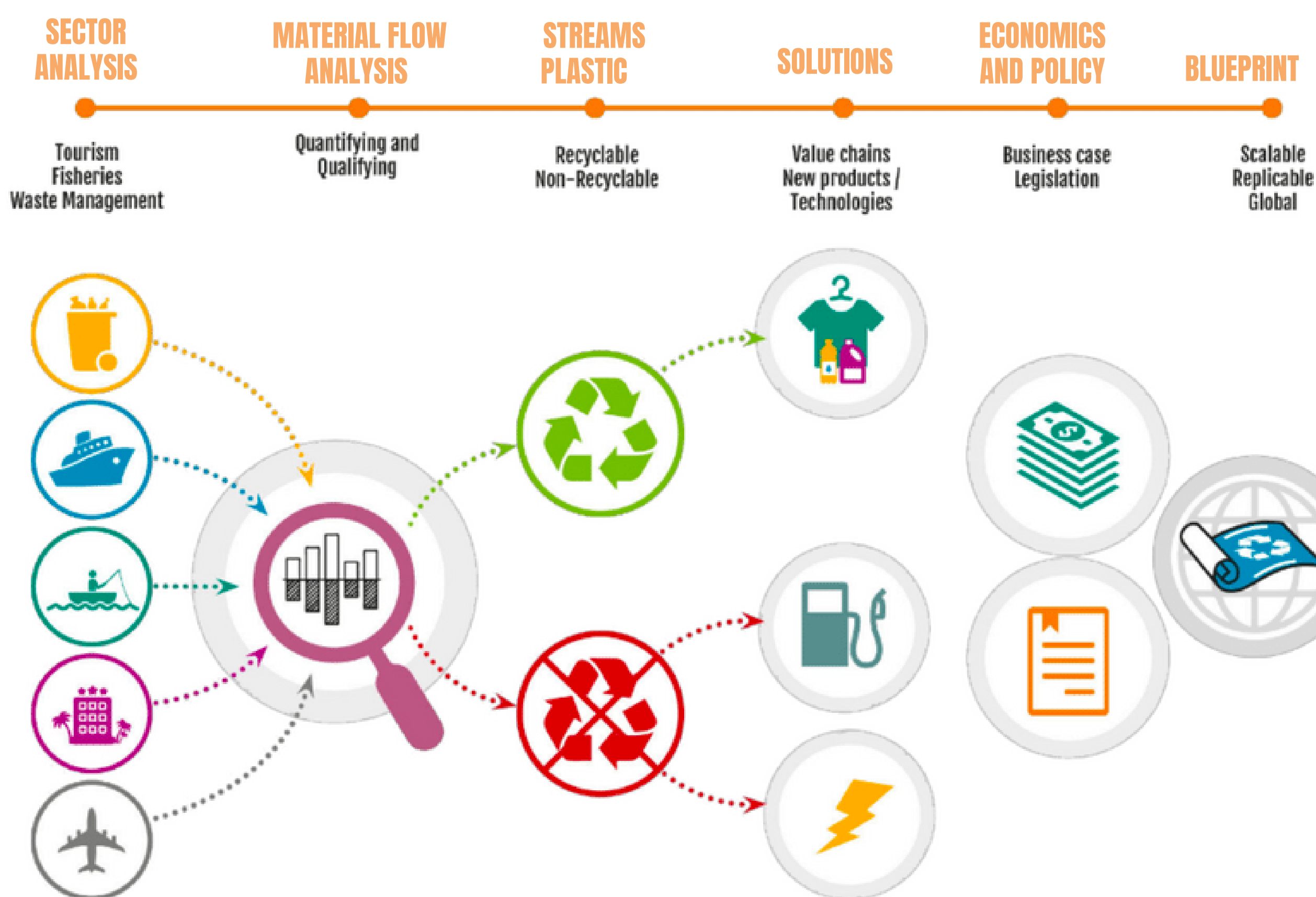


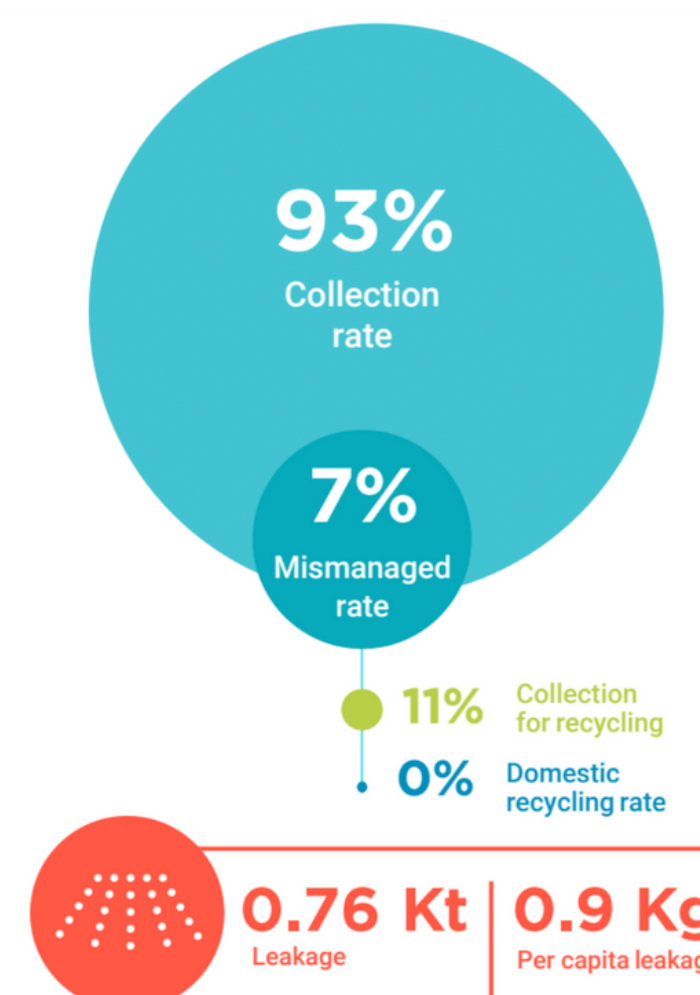
PLASTIC WASTE FREE ISLANDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

THE PLASTIC POLLUTION ISSUE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

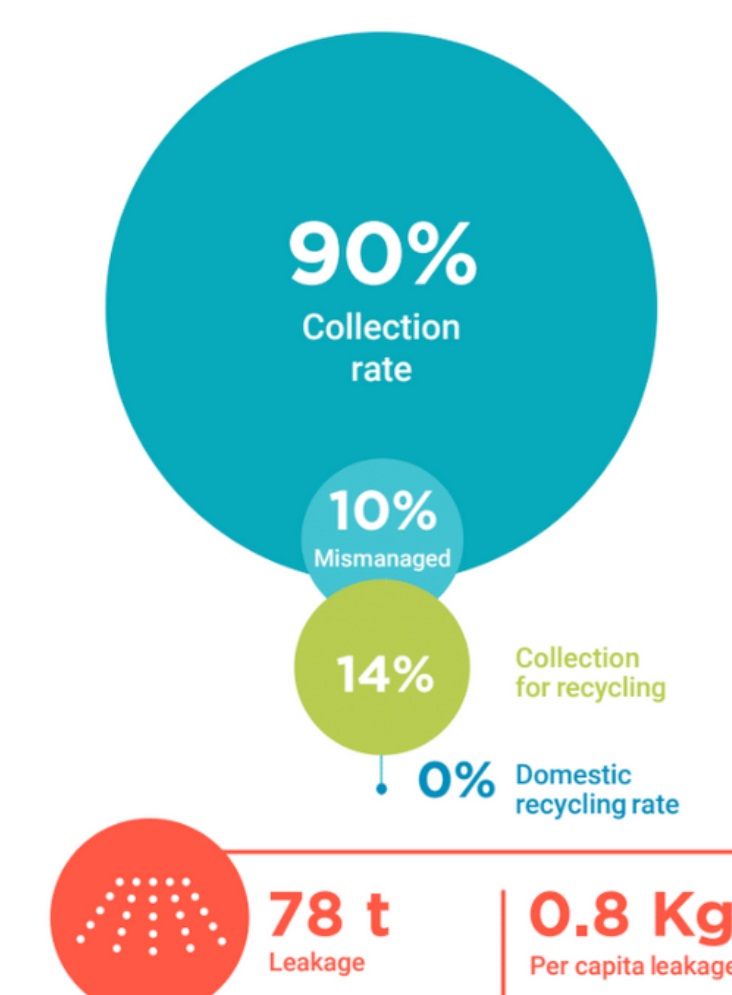
Widely regarded as one of the most threatened environments in the world, the Mediterranean Sea is subject now to ubiquitous plastic pollution. As a result of high population densities, lack of consistent waste-management schemes, and large influxes of tourists and strategic merchant navigation, this environment is under significant pressure. The total plastic accumulated in the Mediterranean Sea is estimated in the order of magnitude of 1,178,000 tonnes, with a possible range from 53,500 to 3,546,700 tonnes.¹ This has adverse impacts on the health of ocean ecosystems, the integrity of food supplies and people's livelihoods. Plastic pollution is a design, production, consumption and disposal challenge that must be tackled across plastic's entire lifecycle. Most efforts to minimise and mitigate the impacts of plastic pollution are focused on the mainland, particularly rivers and coastal areas. To date, not much attention has been paid to islands.



Global view on plastic in Cyprus



Global view on plastic in Menorca



ISLANDS' VULNERABILITY TO PLASTIC POLLUTION

- Many Mediterranean islands tend to have economies that largely depend on tourism and fisheries.
- Islands have to deal with plastic waste they generate themselves, as well as plastic debris that washes ashore from other places.
- In most cases, islands do not have any recycling facilities and, for this reason, they export plastic waste collected.

THE PROJECT

3 years
2019-2022

2 islands
Menorca and Cyprus

3 sectors
tourism, fisheries and waste management

In 2019, with support from the Didier and Martine Primat Foundation, IUCN Med launched the Plastic Waste Free Islands Med (PWFI Med) project, as part of the global IUCN's Close the Plastic Tap Programme. Implemented in Menorca and Cyprus, the project seeks to demonstrate effective, quantifiable solutions to address plastic leakage from both islands.

The project also aims to enhance the adoption of plastic leakage reduction measures by tourism, fisheries and waste management sectors. Best practices and lessons learnt will be packaged into a PWFI Med 'blueprint' for use beyond the initial two target islands. Key regional bodies will be equipped with the blueprint and supported to identify further opportunities to scale up its application.

OUTCOMES

- **Improved** knowledge of plastic waste generation among 2 target islands.
- **Increased** policy effectiveness in reducing plastic waste generation.
- **Enhanced** adoption of plastic leakage reduction measures by tourism, fisheries and waste management sectors through alternate value chain development.
- **Development** of Plastic Waste Free Island blueprint and endorsement by regional bodies.



Fondation
Didier et Martine
Primat



Project Webpage



@IUCN_Med



plastics@iucn.org

¹ Boucher, J. & Bilard, G. (2020). *The Mediterranean: Mare plasticum*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. x+62 pp.