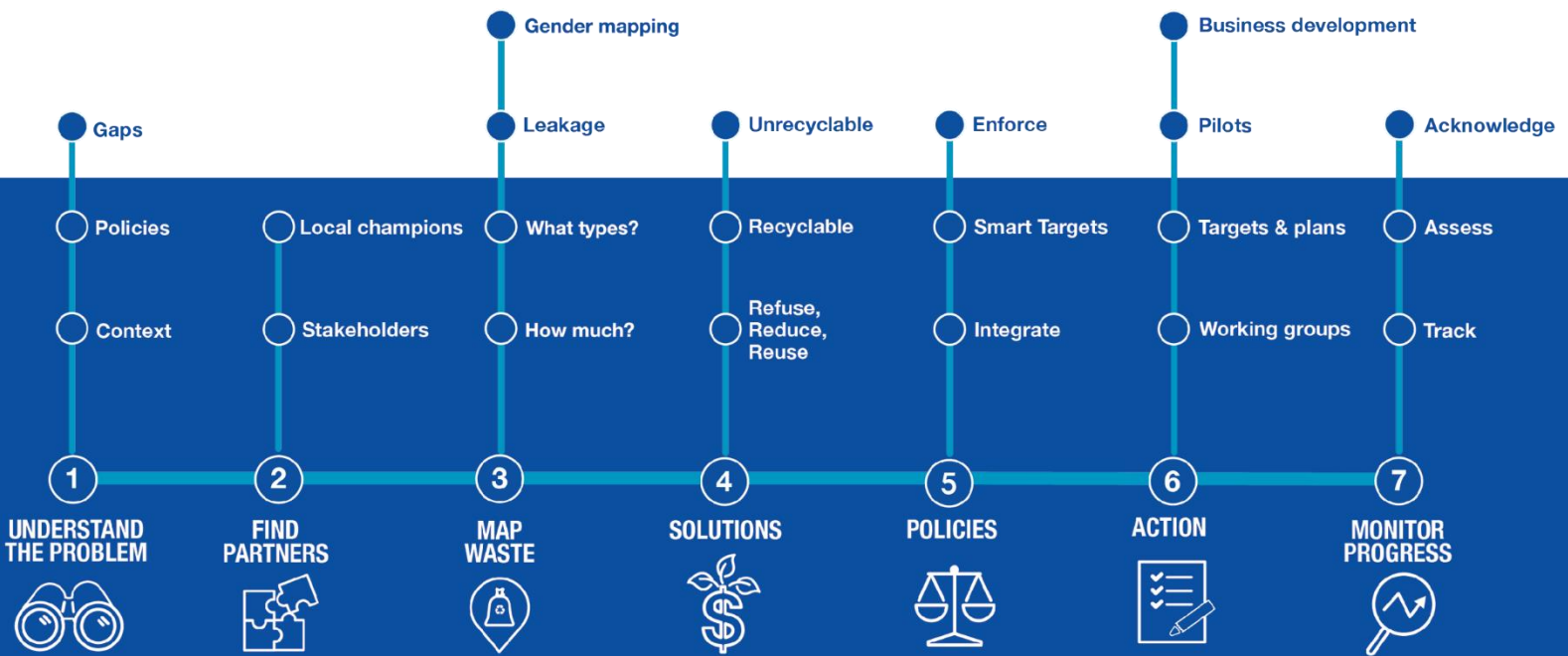


Plastic Waste Free Islands

Blueprint – a journey to zero plastic waste



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IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,500 Member organisations and some 18,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

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Layout and design Searious Business

Why a blueprint?

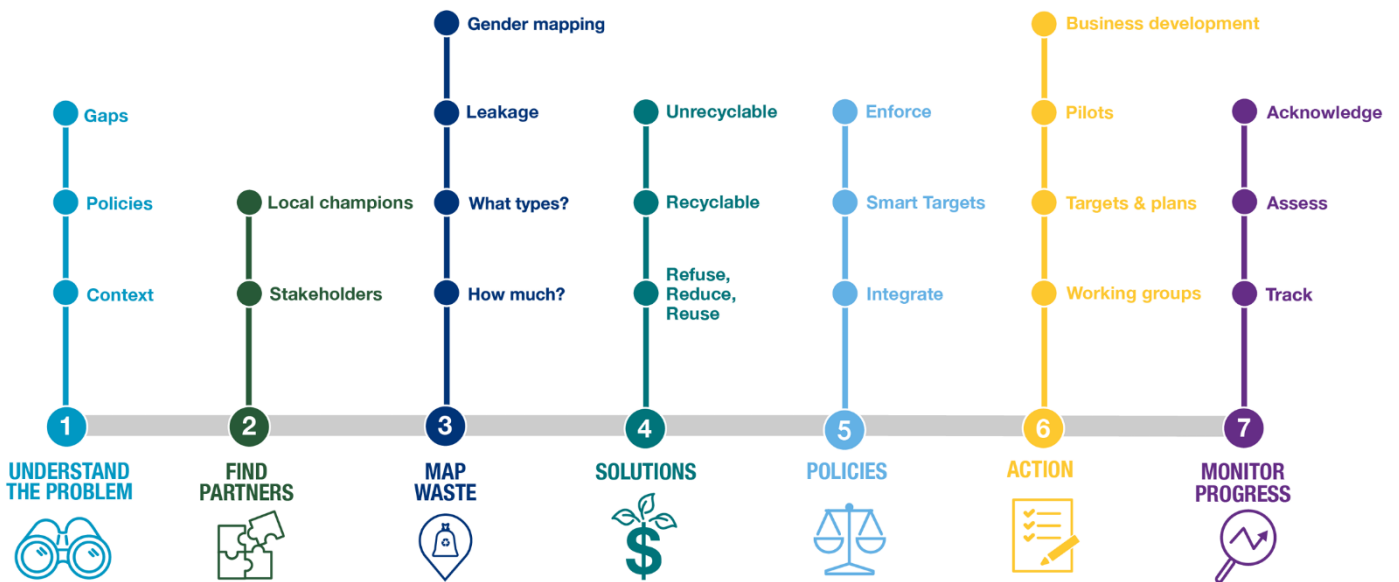
The blueprint is a complete Do-It-Yourself guide to reducing plastic waste on any island anywhere in the world. Plastic pollution is detrimental to our oceanic ecosystems, and the livelihoods and economies depending on it. Many large ocean states, particularly, are import-dependent without adequate waste management systems. As a result, large volumes of plastic arrive on the island with nowhere to go. With vulnerable economies that depend primarily on tourism and fisheries, islands have to deal with the plastic waste they generate themselves and plastic debris that washes ashore from other places. By sharing best practices among all practitioners and stakeholders, we can work together to prevent the environmental and social impact caused by plastic pollution and unlock new business opportunities. For the love of our ocean.

Who is it for?

All organizations, citizens and politicians. Working together and sharing information and results is the key to solving a problem that affects us all. We all depend on the same ocean, and only together can we develop and adopt creative solutions to protect our ocean and our livelihoods from plastic pollution.

How to use this document

This document will guide you on a journey from the status quo to a Plastic Waste Free Island with 7 main stops along the way. Each stop details actions to take, and spread, to speed up change. You can use it to find existing upstream and downstream solutions. Or it can be used to inform future developments and investments.





1 Understand the problem

Why?

At the start of the journey, it is important to get a complete picture of island society and infrastructure. Then foundations can be built to transform the island into a Plastic Waste Free Island.



What?

CONTEXT

Make a country snapshot by collecting data and assessing demographics, GDP composition, socio-economic profile, import/export profile, energy mix/capacity, biodiversity hotspots, waste management infrastructure, and critical locations.

Relevant sectors: Clearly define which island sectors contribute to plastic generation and waste, for example:



- Fishery sector: domestic and international fishing vessels and aquaculture



- Tourism sector: hotels, resorts, B&Bs, holiday accommodation, cruise ships, yachts, restaurants, bars and cafes



- Households and commercial: households, offices, commercial premises (shops/ malls/marinas, etc.)



POLICIES

Gain an understanding of current institutional waste management and plastic waste reduction framework, ambitions, and action plans per sector. Include sector-specific policies focusing on waste management, resource efficiency/recovery, sustainability, circular/blue economy, and environmental conservation.

Make a sectoral policy analysis.

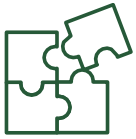


GAPS

Make a gap analysis and evaluate gaps between the private sector, government and Chief Strategy Officers at multiple levels (regional and national). The gaps analysis focuses on gaps in terms of knowledge, institutional frameworks, financial & fiscal mechanisms, technology, and change readiness levels (political engagement/will/momentum) to avoid plastic waste.

How?

Through interviews, desk research and surveys.



2 Find Partners

Why?

It is not possible to tackle plastic pollution alone. Going from linear to circular solutions requires new ways of working and united effort.

What?

STAKEHOLDERS

Make a stakeholder map by identifying all the key players in each sector. Then, by working together, problems can be evaluated, and opportunities can be identified. Stakeholders can decide how to help prevent plastic waste and leakage, and investigate circular plastic business opportunities.



How?

CHAMPIONS

- Identify local champions and focal person(s). These could be people from public or private organisations who have a strong local presence, network, and drive. Work with people that have a shared ambition for change, are communicative, and action-oriented.
- Confirm partnership with focal persons from the Ministry of Environment AND Ministry of Commerce/ Industry; and/or representative sector associations such as the recycling associations. It is not only an environmental problem, but can also be seen as an economic opportunity.
- To prevent donor and survey fatigue, combine different data collecting efforts and make interventions concrete and hands-on.
- Identify key stakeholders per value chain; list all key stakeholders involved in production/import, distribution, retail, (re)use, disposal, recycling, waste management, legislation, export of plastics, and business development/incubating/financing. Differentiate between those that are:

- Directly involved/impacted,
- Indirectly involved/impacted,
- Need to be kept informed.



Make sure to include women, youth, and the informal sector



3 Map waste

Why?

After gaining a clear understanding of the regional context and gaps, and potential partners have been identified, it is time to analyse which types of plastic and which sectors cause the most significant environmental impact and those that have the biggest potential for change.

What?

HOW MUCH?

When making a national plastic inventory/audit assessment, make sure to measure with a purpose. Focus on the sectors identified at stop 1 and define a breakdown of plastic waste by polymer type and application.

WHAT TYPES?

Divided per polymer type: **LDPE; HDPE; other; PET; PP; PS; PVC; synthetic rubber;** Divided by application: bags; lids and caps; drink bottles; other bottles; rigid food-packaging; rigid non-food packaging; flexible food-packaging; flexible non-food packaging; boxes, cases, crates; hygiene items; fishing gear and ropes.

LEAKAGE

Consider doing a litter analysis to identify commonly found items.

How?

Waste composition: Get a generic view of the composition of all waste – in total and sector-specific – to understand how plastic waste relates to other waste and related solutions.

Plastic waste composition:

Conduct sector-specific plastic waste audits and make a quantification overview of:

- plastic imported/produced
- waste generation, refused, reused and recovered (including export)
- leakage in total and per sector

Identify the top 5 largest volumes at polymer level and product level, differentiating food and non-food application. Additionally, consider doing microplastic analysis and biodiversity evaluation. Make a **Material Flow Analysis** at polymer level to understand the current flow of all plastics

Conduct **Waste Management Analysis** of households and commercial plastics;

- Who collects and recycles what plastics?
- How? How often? Budgets?
- List the roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders

Plastic breakdown by polymer type

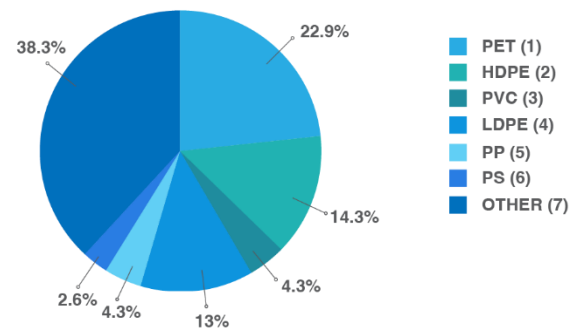


Figure 1: Household and commercial waste combined-Composition and disposal rated (APWC 2021)



GENDER MAPPING

Map gender roles and make a **gender action plan** aligned with national gender policies. Map responsibilities, time use, access to and control over resources and decision-making in key institutions such as the state, market, community and family.

- List the barriers to equal participation along the value chain. Categorise women's participation in these institutions as regulators (policymakers), market actors (business owners), workers, end-users (consumers) and community members.
- Understand gendered impacts and dimensions, transformational solutions and policy opportunities.
- Ensure representative groups are part of the Working Groups and business plan development.
- Dedicate budget to ensure transformational change towards equality.

There are different plastic waste auditing methodologies and tools, including: **APWC:**

Quantifying inputs and outputs of plastic (including imports and exports) based on locally sourced field-level data and regionally-focused published research and national statistical data sets. Data collection and assessment:

- Waste disposal data from households, commercial premises, tourism operators and fishing vessels.
- Visual landfill audit of trucks entering landfills
- Stockpile assessments
- Disposal data supported by sectoral interviews with key stakeholders.











































What?

QUALIFICATION OF PLASTIC

Once the amount and types of plastic waste generated and leaked on the island is known, the plastic waste lifecycle and reduction potential of the top 5 impact plastic streams (in volume) within the three key sectors identified in step 1 should be determined.

How?

- Get insight at sectoral level into plastic value chains for the most used plastic items. Look at product applications, seasonality, end-users and user scenarios, see what brands are involved, and check main suppliers.
- Identify barriers and limitations across the three sectors as well as willingness to implement sustainable solutions.
- Recyclable vs unrecyclable. Confirm definitions of recyclable vs unrecyclable and make an overview of recycling options on the island.

Type	Item	Tonnes/year	Brands	Supplier	User location	Recycling	Suitability for recycling	Market interest for recycled content
 PET	 water bottle	115,6	 	Supermarkets/ wholesalers & producers on the island	On the go	 No centralised recycling/only informal		
 OTHER	 Soft plastic packaging	96,2		Supermarkets/ producer on island	On the go	 No centralised recycling		
 HDPE	 Garbage bags	80,4		Supermarkets/ wholesalers on island	Hotel/ yacht	 No centralised recycling		
 LDPE	 Soft plastic packaging	42,8		Supermarkets on island	Hotel/ yacht	 No centralised recycling		
 OTHER	 Other single-use plastics	38,8		Supermarkets/ wholesalers on island	Hotel/ yacht	 No centralised recycling		
 PET	 Soft drinks bottles	32,3	 	Supermarkets/ producer on island	On the go	 No centralised recycling/only informal		
 HDPE	 Soft plastic bag	27,7		Supermarkets/ wholesalers on island	Hotel/ yacht	 No centralised recycling		



4 Solutions

Why?

Once a clear overview of the problem is gained, and a network of people who can help enact change is established, solutions to prevent plastic waste from being produced can be identified, and it can be stopped from entering landfill or the environment.

What?

Identify the best circular plastics solutions for the biggest volumes of plastics: set priorities and Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-Bound targets.

How?

REFUSE/REDUCE/REUSE

Assess alternatives to single-use plastic. Look for local and global best practice examples and solution providers who prioritise the higher elements of the waste hierarchy.

RECYCLABLES

Identify possible routes for readily recyclable plastic (e.g. PET bottles) and highlight the financial and environmental benefits. Understand the differences between biobased, (marine) biodegradability, and make sure that alternative single-use items can be locally processed (Annex 1)

UNRECYCLABLES

Map the best-advanced recycling technologies for unrecyclable in your region and assess cost vs benefits. that alternative single-use items can be locally processed (Annex 1)

HIERARCHY OF ACTIONS

Refuse		Ban/say no to unnecessary items, and hazardous/toxic materials Eliminate non-renewable/recyclable materials without a market value
Reduce		Minimise the quantity Use renewable (within 1 year), and recycled content
Reuse		Clean, reuse, repair, refurbish, remanufacture, repurpose products
Recycle		Collect waste streams separately and recover high quality material e.g. plastics with a positive market value Includes mechanical and bio/chemical recycling. Mechanical recycling is priority
Recover Energy		Incinerate non-recyclable waste for energy production e.g. bio-gas converter
Responsible Disposal		Waste which can't be processed is collected for disposal in a managed landfill

We can't recycle our way out of the plastic problem; First Refuse, reduce, reuse



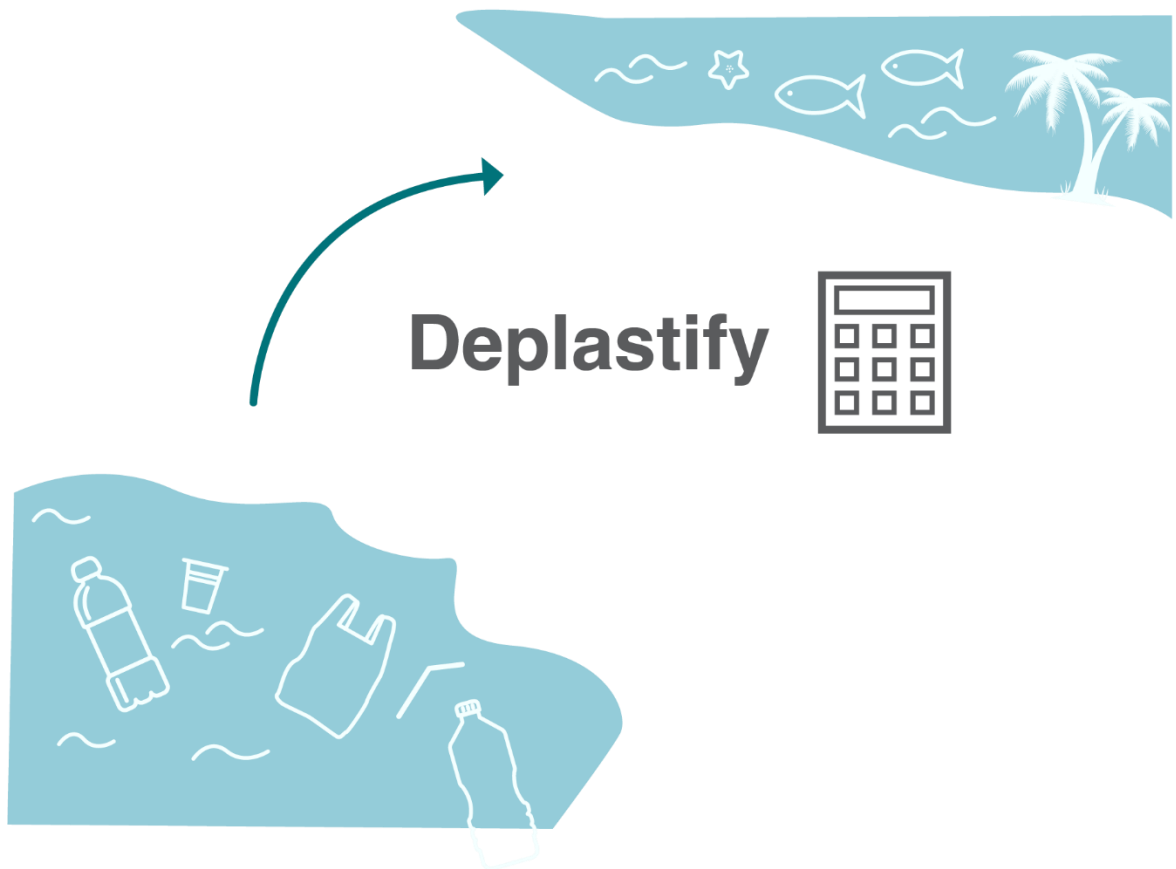
What technical aspects to consider?

and

How can I assess the best practices?

To compare the best available solution for recyclables, two tools are available:

- **Alternative value chain matrix** (Annex II). The matrix highlights the most beneficial recycling methods for commonly used, recyclable plastic products on islands, allowing the comparison of different value chains in terms of environmental, financial, and social benefits.
- **Best Available Technology assessment**. Developed for Waste to Product specifically (see example matrix in Annex II).
- **For non-recyclables**, the online tool **Deplastify** can be used to assess advanced recycling technologies based on island context.



The next step is to **prioritise** solutions involving all key stakeholders, for which it is useful to **summarise**, **conceptualise**, and **visualise** potential solutions first.

How to summarise

Make a shortlist of the most promising solutions for the local context. Then prioritise them in a multi-stakeholder setting by using the following selection criteria:

- **Level of environmental impact:** Potential to help prevent plastic waste in terms of volumes (weight).
- **Relevance for key stakeholders:** Relevance specifically mentioned during direct stakeholder contact (survey/inception meeting). Do the solutions meet governmental and/or private sector sustainability agendas and targets?
- **Parallels with other initiatives:** Are there existing initiatives that can be linked?
- **Technical & financial feasibility:** Expected cost/effectiveness for the whole value chain and investment readiness.
- **Scalability:** Viability of expansion and long-term market interest
- **Policy/legislative framework:** How likely is this to be supported by legislation?
- **Stakeholders' interest:** Ease of engagement/participation (across the three focal sectors)
- **Readiness level:** Mobility of stakeholders. What behaviour changes will be needed?

How to visualise

Visualise the shortlisted solutions. Highlight the potential financial, social, and environmental benefits. Then prioritise solutions together with key stakeholders.

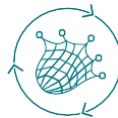
Don't forget to calculate the costs of inaction!

- **Develop** context-specific concept designs for the shortlisted solutions to make them come alive;
- **Visualise** the total plastic waste reduction potential when combining different solutions (see, for example, the Potential Waste Reduction Matrix in Annex II), as well as the benefits of the individual solutions.

Plastic waste free islands CONCEPT SOLUTIONS



Bottle-to-bottle recycling



Fishery solutions:
Net-to-net recycling



Non-food
Dispensing system



Reusable PET water bottles from bottling company (25x reuses)



Fishery solutions:
Reusable fish packaging



Waste-to-product



Reusable water bottles at hotel



Reusable food containers



Circular B2B logistics

How to prioritise



Once the fact-checking and number-crunching for the different solutions is complete, make sure to plan an inclusive prioritisation process. Invite key stakeholders from across the respective value chains, specifically decision makers from the 3 industries sectors, governmental (environmental AND industry departments) as well as the private sector and form a selection committee.

- **Select the top 2 solutions**, ideally consensus-based.
- **Make a shortlist of key stakeholders** to be invited for action-oriented working groups, including local business incubators.
- **Agree** on a working group approach.
- **Agree to a longer-term plan** to respond to the overall waste management recommendations and solutions that have not been prioritised, including source segregation of different waste streams, landfill management, etc.



5 Policies

Why?

Once the best solutions have been identified, it should be seen how they could fit within the overall policy strategy. To be sustainable, they need a proven economic business case and legislative backing where relevant.

What?

INTEGRATE

Link private and public entities to ensure the solutions' future relevance. For example, many solutions may be industry-led, so engaging with the private sector is crucial to identify and communicate opportunities for more effective circular economy strategies.

S.M.A.R.T. TARGETS

Integrate with existing (inter)national and regional initiatives (at sectoral level), such as the Global Plastics Treaty, Global Commitment, and Global Tourism Plastic Pledge to inform the setting of Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound TARGETS.

ENFORCE

Analyse the effectiveness of current policy frameworks and determine how they could be improved or supported by better enforcement or awareness. Identify the policy change needed to underpin long-term plastic waste management strategy.

How?

Identify enabling fiscal, legal, and policy instruments and make a policy-influencing and awareness-raising plan.

Decide effective policy recommendations and ensure their enforcement and communication.

- Restrict the manufacture, import and sales of specified single-use items
- Improve waste segregation – to ensure clean streams for recycling.
- Standardise collection methods, including the informal sector.
- Ensure a just transition for the informal waste sector, improving working conditions, income and equity.
- Establish national deposit return schemes (DRS) to ensure higher collection rates on waste such as PET bottles and fishing nets.
- Regulate responsible landfill management and issue guidelines for legacy materials.
- Apply extended producer responsibility (EPR) as a funding mechanism for plastic waste management solutions.
- Set targets, e.g. for reuse and recycled content.
- Promote design for recycling, and apply price differentiation.



6 Action

Why?

Move from Fact to Pact to Act. Now it is time to turn those plans into action and start working towards the goal of a Plastic Waste Free Island.

What?

Assemble stakeholders and establish working groups with specific goals and targets. Develop an action plan and then run pilots to prove the concepts.

How?

FORM WORKING GROUPS

- Send out a call for interest specifying the goal of the working group, as well as the process of getting there, the timeline, and role division. Keep it simple; avoid proposing heavy governance and management structures, and go where the energy is.
- Organise working group sessions focused on delivering the following outputs:
- Overview of complementarity existing initiatives
- Identification and inclusion of any missing stakeholders
- Overview of market needs and drivers; performance sector, or solution-specific market analysis

TARGETS AND PLANS

- Make specific targets for each stakeholder/partner. Agree on deadlines, concrete actions and follow-up.
- Allow enough time for project implementation.
- Define a clear project vision, a roadmap with short- and long-term goals, and make a PR plan. Then, start with the low-hanging fruits and short-term goals and promote these with other stakeholders and the public.
- Prepare for potential risks with clear mitigation plans.
- Adapt project plans and research approach as needed. Be able to respond to unexpected events. When in-country research is challenged by outside factors, i.e. COVID-19, and stakeholders are impacted, try to tailor your activities to aid recovery activities. For example, develop a Build Back Better toolkit, targeting the hospitality sector to reduce Single Use Plastics and promote green tourism in a cost-neutral way.





PILOTS

Develop a proof-of-concept slide deck showcasing the following key elements:

Concept/product description

- Name, dimensions, weight, intended use & impact.
- Illustration of concept/product.
- Potential alternative value chain.
- Volume, source, market, and benefit flows.

Concept/product composition

- Types of plastic included; the amount of plastics used & amount of plastic waste diverted.
- Source and condition of used plastic types, including collection and recycling approach.
- Cost of product/product development (plastic collection, transport, cleaning, recycling, equipment, assembly, distribution, etc.). Cost-Financial data includes expected sales data and ROI.
- Financial, environmental and social benefits of the product.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Detailed product and production overview, including user scenarios.
- Waste diversion and impact potential.
- Disposal, collection and recycling approach.
- USPs and differentiation from competition.
- Market analysis – key markets, market size, CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate), demand drivers, market needs (per differentiated customer group), locations & buying patterns of potential customers, launching customers.
- Market introduction and operational plan – key resources and staff needs.
- Financial metrics, including ROI/Payback analysis, cash-flow analysis, sales overview, profit and loss overview, financial & funding plan.
- Financial and funding plan.
- Benefits (social, environmental, financial).

Find partners

- Make an overview of context-specific business development/incubating/funding partners + funding plan.



7 Monitor Progress

Why?

It is important to keep track of all activities, so their effectiveness can be assessed and changes can be made if necessary. Be sure to communicate results to others, so success can be replicated.



What?

TRACK

Keep a record of all activities and track all the results from pilot projects, good or bad. There is no such thing as a failure: either you win or you learn. These findings will form the basis for upscaling measures and policy recommendations..

How?

ASSESS

Monitor uptake of solutions, i.e., how many containers were sold or how many bottles were collected, reused or recycled.

- Re-do quantification analysis.
- Consider doing microplastic analysis and biodiversity evaluation. Evaluate the effectiveness and uptake of proposed policy changes.
- Gauge public perception, i.e., media coverage and customer satisfaction survey scores.
- Re-examine gender mapping for improvement.
- Create shared online workspaces where stakeholders can report results
-

ACKNOWLEDGE

Recognise achievements and communicate success to keep stakeholders motivated.

END OF THE LINE



ANNEX I

Plastic pollution in general



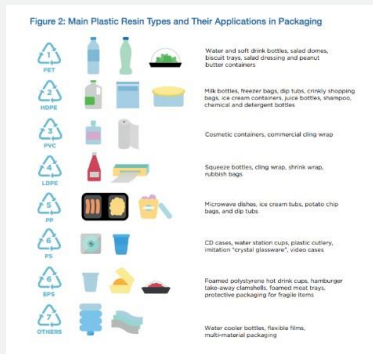
Plastic production

Since the 1950s, production and use of plastics has increased from 2 million tonnes to more than 438 million tonnes in 2017. Up to 99% of plastics are made from polymers from non-renewable hydrocarbons, mostly oil and natural gas. Only around 10% of the plastic waste generated to date has been recycled. 14% has been incinerated and 76% has been disposed of in landfills or released into the environment. (Geyer 2020).



Plastic as part of municipal solid waste

Plastics are a growing segment of municipal solid waste (MSW). While plastics are found in all major MSW categories, containers and packaging had the most plastic tonnage at over 14.5 million tons in 2018. This includes bags, sacks and wraps; other packaging; polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles and trays; high-density polyethylene (HDPE) natural bottles; and other containers.



Common types of packaging

The most common types of plastic used for packaging are; PET (clear bottles and trays), HDPE (cloudy milk bottles, shampoo/detergent bottles etc), LDPE (plastic bags, squeeze bottles), PP (Ice cream tubs, potato chip bags)



The circular economy for plastics

Applying circular economy principles to global plastic packaging flows could transform the plastics economy and drastically reduce negative externalities such as leakage into oceans, according to this new report from the Ellen MacArthur foundation.

The New Plastics Economy: Rethinking the future of plastics provides, for the first time, a vision of a global economy in which plastics never become waste, and outlines concrete steps towards achieving the systemic shift needed.

Impact of plastic pollution in small island developing states (SIDS)

Plastic pollution is a global problem and one which needs a global solution. However, islands can be inordinately affected by the impact of plastic pollution. Not only do they have to contend with the waste that washes up on their beaches, they must also deal with the waste they generate themselves. Islands often have fragile environments where waste disposal and management, and the supply of drinking water, can be problematic. These vulnerabilities are also exacerbated by seasonal weather events.

The economies of islands usually centre around tourism and fishing, two sectors negatively impacted by plastic pollution. Dirty beaches are less attractive to tourists and marine litter can result in damaged fish stocks or harm to ship propulsion equipment. Coastal communities can suffer from reduced income and employment, while also shouldering the costs of clean-up operations. There is also an increased risk of flooding due to blocked stormwater systems and drainage. This can mean higher maintenance costs for water infrastructure or reduce the opportunities for recreational activities.

Waste management can be a serious problem due to wide variations in waste volumes depending on the season (higher during tourist months), insufficient treatment facilities (including recycling centres), and ultimately limited land to store and process waste.

Plastic pollution alters wildlife's habitats and natural processes, and reduces ecosystems' ability to adapt to climate change. This directly affects millions of people's health, livelihoods, food production capabilities, social well-being, and is creating economic instability.

Let's see what impact it had:

Health: [Plastic Health Coalition](#)

Environment, including marine and coastal issues: [IUCN - MARPLASTICCS Report](#)

Biodiversity: [WWF Report](#)

Economics: [OECD Global Plastic Outlook](#)

Sectoral impact: fisheries: [European Parliament Report](#)

tourism: [Global Tourism Plastics Initiative](#)

waste management: [UNEP Global Waste Management Outlook](#)

Summary of quantification data

Taking as a reference point SIDS with a population of 100,000, it is possible to identify a common pattern in the share of a waste stream divided by sector, type of plastic and common application.



ANNEX II

PLASTIC WASTE FREE ISLANDS

What's a Plastic Waste Free Island?

A Plastic Waste Free Island (PWFI) is one where plastic waste is not seen as a national problem, but as an opportunity to generate jobs and income for local communities. A circular economy mindset is applied to the entire value chains, from production to disposal in all key sectors. These efforts result in an improved knowledge of waste generation on the island, increased policy effectiveness in reducing plastic waste generation and enhanced adoption of plastic leakage reduction measures by tourism, fisheries and waste management sectors. In a Plastic Waste Free Island, waste is a valuable resource and is recognised and managed as such. Keeping plastic in the economy and out of the ocean.



PWFI in the tourism sector

The tourism sector must unite behind a common vision to address the root causes of plastic pollution. It enables businesses, governments and other tourism stakeholders to lead by example in the shift towards a circular economy of plastics.

Links:



PWFI in the fisheries sector

The establishment of extended producer responsibility (EPR) policies and schemes for fishing gear and ropes represents a clear and actionable response to this major source of plastic pollution.

Links:



Solutions:

Regulatory solutions:

Strive for the introduction of regulations such as landfill bans, EPR, SUP-regulation, packaging waste directives, and plastic tax.

Regulations should be translated into national action plans on i.e., circularity, blue economy, and waste management for them to be effective.

Links:



Industry solutions:

Translated into company level targets and joint industry pledges and initiatives. Examples of interesting initiatives by:

Links:



Solutions through consumer behaviour

Links:



ANNEX III

Useful Tools and Resources

Policy Analysis

[IUCN Policy Analysis tool](#)

Mapping Waste

[Leeds University SPOT Model](#),

[UN HABITAT Model](#),

[The Plastic Footprint Network](#)

[AWPC Reports](#),

[IUCN Mediterranean Blueprint](#),

[IUCN Waste Segregation Guide](#)

Microplastic Analysis

[UNEP Monitoring guidelines for litter and microplastics](#)

Reusable Packaging

[Standardisation in Reusable Packaging](#)

[Upstream solutions](#)

Reuse Business directory:

[Kennis Institute Duurzaam Verpakking \(KIDV\)](#)

[City To Sea](#)

[Plastic smart cities](#)

[Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#)

Design For Recycling Guidelines

[Australian plastics pact](#)

[US: US plastics pact](#)

[The Association of Plastic Recyclers - Design Guide](#)

[Europe: Recyclclass](#)

Organizations that are regulating recycled content (food contact packaging)

[EFSA –Europe](#)

[FDA-US](#)

[FSANZ](#)

[AUSTRALIAN PACKAGING COVENANT ORGANISATION](#)

The PWFI project



In 2019, with support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), IUCN launched the Plastic Waste Free Islands (PWFI) project, as part of its global Close the Plastic Tap Programme. PWFI is a three-year project working in six islands in the Caribbean and Pacific. Implemented in Fiji, Vanuatu and Samoa in Oceania and Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia and Grenada in the Caribbean. The project seeks to promote island circular economy and to demonstrate effective, quantifiable solutions to addressing plastic leakage from Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The project also aims to repurpose waste into commercially viable products, thereby generating job opportunities and income for local communities. Key stakeholders from governments, private sector and civil society, united in a vibrant learning and leadership network, will co-generate and demonstrate demand-responsive solutions to plastic waste incorporating policy, business operations, and citizen behaviour changes.

Plastic waste free islands



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