



Plastic Waste Free Islands (PWFI)



Inception Workshops

Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia & Grenada

January 27-31, 2020

Workshop Report

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APWC	Asia Pacific West Consultants
BAT	Best Available Technologies
EIA	Electronic Industries Alliance
IUCN	International Union for Conservation
IUCN ORMACC	International Union for Conservation of Nature, Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean
IW	Inception Workshop
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PWFI	Plastic Waste Free Islands
Q&A	Questions and Answers
SIDS	Small Island Developing States

1. Workshop Overview

1.1 Background

PWFI is an IUCN global initiative that seeks to address plastic waste leakage from six (6) Small Island Developing States (SIDS), divided evenly between the Pacific and Caribbean regions. The main objective of the project is for target SIDS to make a significant, quantified reduction in plastic waste generation and leakage within the planned project timeframe of three (3) years.

In the Caribbean region, the project is being implemented by IUCN's Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (IUCN ORMACC), alongside the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) who is acting as regional implementing partner. Project countries include Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada and Saint Lucia.

To start the implementation of the PWFI project in targeted Caribbean SIDS, three (3) national Inception Workshops (IW) with project partners and stakeholders were held during the last week of January 2020:

- In Antigua and Barbuda, the IW was held on January 27, 2020 in corporation with the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment.
- Saint Lucia's IW was held on January 29, 2020 in corporation with the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development. Present were representatives of the OECS.
- A third IW was held in Grenada on January 31, 2020 in corporation with the Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries and Disaster Management.

Workshop participants included representatives from government, private sector and civil society, who were engaged through presentations, group work sessions, plenary and group discussions. The different sessions aimed at ensuring participants' understanding of the project and its outreach, as well as obtaining their recommendations and input on strategic aspects that are relevant to project priorities, to be taken into consideration for the project's coordination and implementation.

1.2 Objectives

The main objectives of the workshop were to:

- Introduce project partners and stakeholders to the IUCN global and regional teams which will support the project;
- Inform national partners and stakeholders of the project's objectives, outcomes and outputs, and how the project aims to accomplish them;

- Perform a rapid stakeholder identification and analysis exercise¹;
- Understand, from government and OECS perspectives, the national and regional context, policies and challenges related to plastic waste; and
- Coordinate next implementation steps with the national government agencies assigned to the project, as well as with regional implementing partner, OECS.

1.3 Expected results

The expected workshop results were as follows:

- Participants develop an understanding of the project’s coordination structure;
- Project partners and stakeholders have a common understanding of the project’s objectives, outcomes and outputs;
- Additional stakeholders that are relevant within the context of implementation of proposed project interventions, expected outputs to be produced and anticipated outcomes are identified and analysed;
- IUCN receives input and feedback on the national and regional context, challenges and perspectives of plastic waste; and
- Agreement on implementation steps to follow reached.

2. Workshop methodology

The workshop methodologies were presentations, group working sessions, group and plenary discussions. The detailed approach used for each workshop objective is specified in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Workshop methodologies

Workshop objective	Approach
Introduce project partners and stakeholders to the IUCN global and regional teams which will support the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ice breaker – introduction of participants.
Inform national partners and stakeholders of the project’s objectives, outcomes and outputs, and how the project pretends to accomplish them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of PWFI global and region-specific strategic approach. • Presentation of PWFI lines of work and activities. • Presentations on Qualification and Quantification of plastics. • Plenary discussion - Questions and Answers (Q&A)

¹ The objective of this exercise was to gather inputs from participants that will feed into stakeholder registers, maps and engagement plans that are being produced under the “Stakeholder Mapping and Analysis” consultancy.

<p>Perform a rapid stakeholder identification and analysis exercise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on Stakeholder Mapping and Analysis scope and methodology. • Group working session: participants divided into three (3) groups and assigned a facilitator, who gathered input on their perceived level of involvement and support. Participants then identified stakeholders relevant to the project who were not present at the workshop.
<p>Understand, from government and OECS perspectives, the national and regional context, policies and challenges related to plastic waste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by government representatives on national perspectives of plastics. • In Saint Lucia, presentation by OECS representatives on regional perspectives of plastics. • Group discussions: Participants were divided into three (3) groups and were assigned a facilitator, who rotated among the groups. Using structured questions, mentioned in Section 3 of this report, facilitators gathered feedback from participants in the areas of economy, policy, communication/engagement of stakeholders, and learning.
<p>Coordinate next implementation steps with the national government agencies assigned to the project, as well as with regional implementing partner, OECS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-workshop wrap up discussion with national government focal points and representatives from the OECS.

3. Workshop discussions

This section summarizes the issues raised and discussed during the IW. Two discussions sessions were held, per workshop, in order to facilitate the sessions as per the set objectives.

3.1 Plenary discussions

At each of the workshops, the panel and national representatives took questions from the participants. Questions received by the panel could be categorised into three major groups:

Questions on the scope of the planned plastic leakage assessments was a main topic across the countries, relating to the inclusion of marine debris, assessing waste generated from the yachting sectors and on the inclusion of microplastics. The IUCN team reiterated the boundaries of the planned leakage assessments. It was also noted that it was important to ensure civil society participation in the program, a key point in the planned activities.

A second area of focus for participants’ general questions related to policies and regulations, with focus on the project’s goals in terms of implementing and enforcing policies. It was noted that the project would work towards making recommendations and support the development of policies relevant to its goals, but will depend on the national governments to implement and enforce existing recommendations. It was also noted the project will not support governments on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) as it was outside the scope of the project. Participants also brought up questions of enforcement and corruption for specific issues in some of the session. Additionally, there were questions to government with respect to existing regulations.

Interest in alternate value chains and recommendations from project assessments were also addressed in the Q&A session. Specific areas of interest were if the project had pre-identified solutions, issues related to repackaging and rebranding products to be plastic free and the potential for solutions that lead to unintended consequences. The responses to the questions, reiterated the process by which the project team would develop and propose changes where required.

The detailed responses to the individual questions are presented in Annex 2.

3.2 Group discussions

Stakeholders were divided into three (3) groups and assigned a facilitator, who rotated among the groups taking stock of comments. The objective of the session was to perform a rapid assessment on aspects relevant to the project in the areas of policy, economy, communication / engagement with stakeholders, and learning. Participants were presented with structured questions for each area, presented below; comments, recommendations and ideas were gathered and are summarised below.

3.2.1 Structured questions

Table 2: Questions to facilitate group discussions

Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the current waste management policies and practices sufficient to address the issue of plastic leakage and waste? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If not, what are the issues? ○ What could be a solution and what role can the project play?

- Are there existing initiatives that support improving plastic waste management?
 - If so, what can the project do to enhance that work?
 - And if not, what needs to be done? Is this a priority?

- Are there solutions and technologies being promoted to address non-recyclable plastic streams?
 - If so, by whom and how can the project add value to the work
 - If not, what might be the challenges to addressing solutions to non-recyclable plastic

Economic

- What are your concerns regarding financial implications of solutions to reducing plastic waste?

- What potential interventions for the reduction of plastic waste would you suggest to be compared to understand their respective costs and benefits?

Communication, engagement and learning

- What recommendations do you have on engaging key stakeholders to support plastic waste management?

- Are there country specific factors to be considered when sharing learning and knowledge?

3.2.2 Inputs gathered

Table 3: Summary of inputs gathered from group discussions

<p>Antigua and Barbuda</p>	<p>Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The groups identified three (3) specific product areas where policies and action are needed: plastic bottles, produce bags and miscellaneous single use plastic (e.g. cling film); • There is a need to ensure policies and actions to support recycling and waste management; • Waste management policies need to be reviewed and revised as they are not sufficient to meet current needs; • Current tariffs related to the import of plastic bottles only apply to imported plastic bottles. Plastic bottles produced in country with raw materials are not subject to the tariff; • Environmental tariffs and fees raised go directly to the treasury and then redistributed, resulting poor linkages to taking action; • Current processing of waste management at the household level is a free service provided by the government and costs to address waste are primarily from government budget; • To address better recycling and sorting, incentives for separation and new businesses to adapt better technologies may be useful; • Payment systems for waste may not be practical; • There needs to be better coordination and responsibilities among government in enforcement of legislation and developing rules and regulation to address cabinet decisions and address confusion on the authority to deal with specific waste issues; • There needs to be a more unified budgetary process to take action on waste; • A large proportion of used tires are imported in Antigua, the regulations and rules associated with importing are unclear; • A number of entrepreneurs see an opportunity in the tire market and in the process of registering new businesses to import used tires; • On the tires issue, looking into the policies introduced in Saint Lucia by the insurance industry would be a good start at addressing the problem; • Land use planning and siting of waste dumps is weak and more effort should be placed into siting of locations. Some landfills are sited on wetlands, and leakage into the environment is an issue;
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For tourism, it was noted that there is a green tourism initiative, but it is voluntary. More support to regulate or formalise those principles to encourage local business to use them should be considered; and • Action to support learning from civil society initiatives and government need to be strengthened to enable sustainable action. Civil society organizations have the ability to raise funds to address specific problems. One option might be to develop national guidelines/strategy that supports civil society investments more strategically and results in a sustainable set of actions.
Antigua and Barbuda	Economic	<p>What are your concerns regarding financial implications of solutions to reducing plastic waste?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordability and costs of alternatives, for both producers and consumers; • There is an opportunity to save money by not buying plastic bottles; • There is also an opportunity for bottlers to sell water filters; • The relevant technology needed for small scale; • How to generate revenue through alternatives; • There is a need to involve the tourism sector in these solutions; • Consistency: How to maintain a solution? Will it last?; • Scalability might create more waste coming in; • Create tax incentive towards using new tires, as means to address the used tire importation issue; • Major international brands are not so much under scrutiny as small players on islands, a lot of burden is placed on islands; • Education needed for measures to change mind-sets; • Grants / subsidies are needed for alternatives. Oil / plastics, for example, are now heavily subsidized. Participants concerned that Government will raise taxes to pay for alternatives. • Currently, it is cheaper to dump; there is no cost for waste disposal. This creates the wrong incentives; • High costs for transportation, labour, and facilities for baling; • Resource pooling is necessary to make solutions efficient; and • Engineering skills needed for maintenance; ideal to build capacity within the country. It would be good to have more public-private sector partnerships in this area.

		<p>What potential interventions for the reduction of plastic waste would you suggest to be compared to understand their respective costs and benefits?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling plastics into products; • Income-generating initiative supported by government of technical / marketing experts, to unemployed individuals; • Improve water infrastructure with filtered water; • Filter to gutters and waterways, and regularly clean and maintain them; • Yearly school competitions; • Only use bulk; • Make environmental protection a subject in school; • Expand ban works. Then you also need viable alternatives, like reusables or biodegradables; • Decrease range of plastics allowed on island; • Commercial composting facilities on island; • Create closed loops, to have circular economies on the island (e.g. bottles to t-shirts, waste to products). Examples mentioned are sandals, flower pots, roof tiles, garbage bags from recycled plastics; and • Use waste-to-oil to power institutions (not waste-to-electricity).
<p>Antigua and Barbuda</p>	<p>Communication, engagement and learning</p>	<p>What recommendations do you have on engaging key stakeholders to support plastic waste management?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving business individuals in order to engage them in the solution and therefore getting their support to the issue of marine plastic litter; • Reach after the big players to raise awareness and engage them; • Promote alternative technologies (e.g. filters for tap water, instead of plastic bottles) • Targeting plastic water bottles is not sufficient, the plastic problematic is broader than that (tyres, containers, car pieces, etc.); • Create and improve storage infrastructure to collect and deposit plastic items; • Promote a market strategy to incentivise refillable containers; • Promote small entrepreneurs; • Engage the schools, the education sector, in order to shift mentality; • Law enforcement;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing an alternative and be able to educate on that; • Incentives to return plastic bottles. Schools, for example, used to incentivise children to return their bottles; • Government should recognise existing skills in local groups, identify champions and work in coordination with them; • Tourism Destinations Stewardship Committee (NGOs, private sector) should be part of consultations; and • Create capacity within the country. <p>Are there country specific factors to be considered when sharing learning and knowledge?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to understand the quantity and quality of the garbage, in order to identify waste so that stakeholders know about it and a fair price is charged; • Create catchy messages to avoid littering; • Well designed campaigns that should be specific, constant and repetitive (radio, billboards, etc.) disseminate messages through the media; • Change of paradigm, people should start talking about resources and not waste (circular economy); • Give waste a value; and • Waste manufactures should be regulated as to the use of different plastics in one item.
<p>Saint Lucia</p>	<p>Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was unclear if there was a good set of policies with respect to waste management. It was mentioned that the Environmental Management Bill noted that a number of different departments have jurisdiction in its implementation and results in inefficiencies. A review of national waste management policies was a recommendation, the last review was in 2004; there is a draft, but it is old and may need to be re-examined; • It was noted that Cabinet established committees tend to be more efficient though mandates, this can vary depending on the structure of the committee; • Based on the implementation of the Styrofoam act, it was noted that there was good engagement among the different agencies. However, one area where there was a weakness was in enforcement and monitoring; • A major area for concern was with respect to recycling/sorting in terms of what happens to the material that is collected. It was noted that policies to promote efficiency of collection of recyclable materials are needed through incentives and education; • There are discussions on shipping material to Martinique, as that plant is under capacity but under the new Basel Agreement transboundary restriction of the movement of plastic means additional regulatory authorisation is required;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue of ship generated waste and capital waste (material and equipment disposed during port) and the policies surrounding it were unclear to the group; • Also noted that data collection and analysis was needed to make informed policy decisions; • It was noted that the Standards Department should be engaged to determine if there were standards on capital equipment that was bought to be used. It was noted that machinery bought by donors lies idle. It was recommended to develop guidelines for donors on investments in machinery to ensure purchases are useful and sustainable; • Tariffs for single use plastic bags raised a number of issues. It was noted that often these bags are re used and the issue may be more related to collection systems. Also noted that alternatives that do not have negative impacts particular for grass root industries who find their product quality suffers need to be looked at. Also raised was the issue of policies on food containers, standards and alternatives; • With respect to tariffs, it was noted that for glass bottles they had been successful, but it was brand specific. Voluntary systems such as Massey Stores had been extremely successful for plastic. • It was also suggested to look at Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA) standards for new waste disposal sites as the current site was reaching capacity. For plastic bottles, there has been a strong lobby from bottlers on returnable fees which has stalled the discussion; • It was noted that current waste collection involves no cost to the individual, and done through the government who contracts third parties for collection. For the private sector, haulage of waste needs to be paid by the individual company, but there is no disposal fee. The government gazette lists fees for waste.
Saint Lucia	Economic	<p>What are your concerns regarding financial implications of solutions to reducing plastic waste?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrational price increases on alternatives; • That all additional costs go to consumers; • How to cushion losses for producers? Implications for job losses; • Encourage Small and Medium Enterprises to embrace change. Best to implement tax / financial incentives and/or policy instruments to facilitate this; • Dispensing systems: health / freshness concerns. You need awareness and education; • Making sure that solutions are sustainable at end of life. How can you guarantee continuity? Best to create a revenue-generating system; • Funding of Capital expenditure needed for change, e.g. for recycling facility; • Changes need to be adapted to context. E.g. often high-end applications needed to make a solution sustainable; • Would deposit scheme enable a positive business case? What would the price need to be? (e.g. in Palau, the waste management authority charges a \$0.25 charge on companies importing bottles, \$0,05 of which goes to

		<p>consumers when they return bottles after use, and rest goes into collection, sorting & recycling). However, you need strong political will.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovations can be too burdensome on inhabitants. Standard of living is seen as high already; • Need to educate how to separate for collection (this education costs money); • To ensure change, incentives need to have a financial implication for the population; • Transportation costs; • Alternatives need to be affordable and with good quality. <p>What potential interventions for the reduction of plastic waste would you suggest to be compared to understand their respective costs and benefits?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cruise ships do not visit Saint Lucia as regularly as other islands in the Caribbean. Associations will need to align with different islands to raise the head tax collectively; • Education is needed before you implement change (start with schools, use different awareness and communication campaigns, including vendor relations); • Use local, fresh produce, unpacked; • Chairs, tables, soaps, different amenities locally produced and from recycled content; • Recycle plastics into construction material; • Use bottle-to-bottle recycling or refill. It's hard to compete with the low price of virgin bottles, taxation methods could be used to even that out; • Collection needs to be improved; • Funding mechanisms are needed to help sustain an innovation; • In the draft environmental management bill, the importance of involving several players is stressed. This project can try to bring them together; • Set up town hall meetings in places all along the river to avoid dumping; • Explore omissions on the Trash to Treasure initiative in St Lucia; • Dispensing systems for amenities in hotels or nuts, olives in supermarkets, for example; • Collection and sorting of plastics should improve, there is not enough feedstock.
<p>Saint Lucia</p>	<p>Communication, engagement and learning</p>	<p>What recommendations do you have on engaging key stakeholders to support plastic waste management?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate messages to communicate directly with target groups. For example, through videos, short targeted messages on marine litter, including messages for fishers; • Promote campaigns to increase the sense of national pride and keep the country clean. Messages should have a personal touch and highlight the impact of plastic littering;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop specific material for stakeholders that will be engaged; • The youth, hospitality, transport sectors, and tourism should be targeted; • Involve other civil society organisations; • Communication strategy should take into account on going communications strategies in the country; • Make education programs in schools more interactive • Use the media, e.g. radio shows, TV, social media; • In Saint Lucia all campaigns should be in English and French creole; • To involve local celebrities champions to disseminate the message; • Establish synergies with other ongoing initiatives; • A policy on separating waste on cruise ships should be pushed forward. <p>Are there country specific factors to be considered when sharing learning and knowledge?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised again was the importance of doing all communication efforts in English and French creole; • The newspaper is barely read by Saint Lucians, use social media, radio or TV; • Cultural adaptation as to how to disseminate information; • Introduce alternative solutions that are country specific that are financially feasible for consumers; • Minimise the technical jargon; • Communications need to be short and concise; • Use more pictures and less words in the messages.
Grenada	Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for enforcement of waste haulers, as there appears to be decreases among private haulers entering the dumps and illegal dumps on the south section of the island; • There is a need to support formation of best practices for waste management and the need for stakeholder buy in waste reduction and diversion to other products; • It was noted that when it came to waste management a “carrot and stick” approach needs to be used. Incentives through concessions, recognition of positive actions. • Drinks importers using bottles need to be encouraged to implement deposit schemes that encourage returns as in the case of glass; • Noted as in Antigua, tariffs and fees do not apply to raw material to create plastic bottles. It was also noted that most of the levies and fees collected do go directly to the agencies, except those through customs; • Take into account policies in terms of the burden of costs on small scale importers; • Support the development of a catalogue of alternative products and supply sources that can replace banned products;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted that the major manufacturing of the products that enter are in Barbados and Trinidad, so will need to engage with them to address the problems; • Consider how to look at gender sensitive alternatives to promote local green alternatives (e.g. 100% cotton bags can be produced locally at lower cost by women); • Support to enhance coordination among agencies and through the recently created sustainable development institute; • It was noted that there is a technology needs assessment for energy; this can be a good model for the Best Available Technologies (BAT) assessments. • Looking at benefits, barriers and action plans and incentive for action; • While there are land use policies, they may need to be assessed in terms of waste management and planning of the new waste site.
Grenada	Economic	<p>What are your concerns regarding financial implications of solutions to reducing plastic waste?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsorships by big brands may decrease because they have to spend more on operations; • Cost increase for products; • Potentially high upfront costs for investments to be made. <p>What potential interventions for the reduction of plastic waste would you suggest to be compared to understand their respective costs and benefits?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put a tax on importation of plastic bottles; • Design for recyclability or design for reuse; • Turn plastic waste into pit latrines, this will make them also lighter, and easier to clean than pit latrines from concrete slabs; • Give plastics value and incentive its collection. • Turn used plastics into other products, like plastic sheets, roof tiles for water collection for irrigation, chairs for kindergartens & students, etc. • Use Saint George's University in trial on dispensing systems for food containers. A lot of innovations on Grenada starts in the University; • Encourage home composting; • People need support, e.g. in getting a business loan;

Grenada	Communication, engagement and learning	<p>What recommendations do you have on engaging key stakeholders to support plastic waste management?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement of existing legislation, strengthen supervision; • Promote recycling behaviour and mentality in the population; • Campaigning in schools; • Educate the business sector to what is biodegradable; • Signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the business / private sector; • Education and sensitization; • Alternative packaging for food producers. <p>Are there country specific factors to be considered when sharing learning and knowledge?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the social media, local celebrities, influencers and the churches as channel to spread the message; • Organize competitions on different topics of plastics, to involve younger people; • Place an incentive to collect bottles and to take them into recycling centers; • Education to raise awareness; • Alternative technologies have to be realistic and feasible so that they can be applied.
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4. Achievements and next steps

4.1 Achievements against objectives

Achievements against workshop objectives are presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Workshop achievements

Workshop objective	Achievement
Introduce project partners and stakeholders to the IUCN global and regional teams which will support the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participants not only introduced to project team but also given an overview of the IUCN’s vision and mission. There is an understanding within the group of what IUCN is.• Project partners and stakeholders introduced to the IUCN global team and consultants, as well as the IUCN focal points within the region.• The workshop provided a space to enhance networking and exchange between different partners.
Inform national partners and stakeholders of the project’s objectives, outcomes and outputs, and how the project pretends to accomplish them	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participants given an overview of the IUCN “Close the Plastic Tap Programme”; participants understand that PWFI is part of a global initiative.• Project partners and stakeholders understand the PWFI project.• There was an opportunity to address participants’ inquiries and to obtain their recommendations, to be considered for better coordination and implementation of project activities.
Perform a rapid stakeholder identification and analysis exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participants had an opportunity to reflect on their role and involvement in the implementation of the PWFI project.• Stakeholders that were not present at the workshop and that are relevant for achieving the project’s outcomes identified and analysed with participants.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record was made of all participants' comments to incorporate in the "Stakeholder Mapping & Analysis" consultancy deliverables.
Understand, from government and OECS perspectives, the national and regional context, policies and challenges related to plastic waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants understand the main aspects relating to marine plastic litter in their respective countries. Recommendations obtained from participants on aspects relevant to the project in the areas of economy, policy, communication/engagement of stakeholders, and learning.
Coordinate next implementation steps with the national government agencies assigned to the project, as well as with regional implementing partner, OECS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-workshop wrap up session held with national government focal point and the OECS, next steps discussed and agreed.

4.2 Next steps

- Inception Report to be made available, electronically, to workshop attendees.
- Global consultancies for Quantification and Qualification of plastics, led by Asia Pacific Waste Consultants (APWC) and Searious Business, respectively, to start with a number of planned visits to Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia and Grenada to collect data on plastics and other non-sustainable wastes. APWC to perform stakeholder interviews and meetings, waste facility, hospitality, cruise ship and fisheries audits, as well as a review of best practices that will later feed into a qualitative analysis, performed by Searious Business. Both teams to work closely and coordinate actions with IUCN ORMACC, the national government agencies assigned to the project and the OECS.
- A feedback and socialization session to present results and findings of both Quantification and Qualification consultancies has been agreed; the sessions will be coordinated in close collaboration with the national government focal points and relevant stakeholders.
- Inputs gathered from stakeholder mapping and analysis exercise to be systematized, analysed and incorporated to stakeholder registers, maps, and engagement plans that are being developed under the "Stakeholder Mapping and Analysis" consultancy.
- IUCN to share the project's workplan with the national government focal points, focal points to review and identify actions / activities that are synergetic. A follow up meeting will be held between the parties to discuss identified synergies and way forward.

Annexes

Annex 1: Inception Workshops agenda

DATE	
8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:45	<p>Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Invocation • National Anthem <p>Opening Statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Janaka de Silva, Senior Programme Coordinator, IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme ○ Viviana Sánchez, Acting Regional Director, IUCN-ORMACC ○ Feature Remarks by Ministry representative²
9:45 – 10:00	Group Picture
10:00 – 10:15	Coffee Break
10:15 – 11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of participants • IUCN shared presentation, introduction of the PWFI program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PWFI global perspective and expected results- Janaka de Silva, PWFI Global Coordinator ○ PWFI in the Caribbean region - Dominique Finegan, PWFI Technical Focal Point for the Caribbean ○ Global engagement – Joao Sousa, IUCN Senior Programme Officer ○ Mind-shifting solutions for circular plastic use – Willemijn Peeters, IUCN Consultant ○ Quantifying the flow of plastics – Amardeep Wander, IUCN Consultant
11:15 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question and Answers • Stakeholder mapping and prioritization – Melesha Banhan, IUCN Consultant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stakeholder identification exercise
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch

² **Antigua and Barbuda:** Honourable Molwyn Joseph, Minister of the Ministry of Health, Wellness and Environment

Saint Lucia: Silka Tobias, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Department of Sustainable Development

Grenada: Honourable Simon Stiell, Minister of the Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries and Disaster Management

1:30 – 3:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Regional and national perspectives on the impacts of plastic waste: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ministry representative³ ○ OECS representative⁴ • Group discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alignment and identification of priorities ○ Synergies • Agreements and next steps
3:30	Closure of workshop

Annex 2: Questions and Answers

Antigua and Barbuda

Mr Ruleo Camacho, Marine Ecologist from the National Parks Authority, inquired how the project plans to handle and audit the yachting sector, considering its significant impact on the country of Antigua & Barbuda, and particularly considering the amount of goods imported to satisfy this sector. Dr Amardeep Wander, Project Director from APWC, answered that waste from the yachting sector will be collected, to then be sorted and characterised, interviews with actors within the sector will also be facilitated.

Mrs Ruth Spencer, Founding Member of Zero Waste Antigua and Barbuda, mentioned that the country has signed on to local and international legislation, which required a local consultative process. Based on this, Mrs Spencer suggested that the project ensures that local communities are identified as key stakeholders in its processes. Mr Janaka de Silva, IUCN Senior Programme Coordinator, commented that the setup of multi-stakeholder platforms where all voices have an opportunity to be informed and share their opinions on the project is essential if the actions and recommendations are to be sustainable. It is expected that these structures for each of the countries will be set up.

Mr Eli Fuller, CEO of the Antigua Conservation Society, inquired if the project will consider legal action against plastic polluters an option. Mr de Silva stated that the project is not designed to take legal action, as that is the right of the government and not of the project. As part of the assessment of waste and identification of major issues, guidance to the government on policies and possible solutions will be produced. These could include recommendations for capacity building of enforcement capacity and look at the major impediments to effective plastic waste management from a policy and management perspective.

³ **Antigua and Barbuda:** Indira James, Environmental Implementation Coordinator, Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment

Saint Lucia: Jeanel Volney, Department of Sustainable Development

Grenada: Aria St Louis, Head of the Environment Division, Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries and Disaster Management

⁴ Joan Norville, Biodiversity Coordinator, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

Mr Fuller also mentioned that flotsam and jetsam are difficult to quantify, and wanted to know how the project intends to quantify this. Dr Wander answered by clarifying that though important, inputs of plastic waste on shorelines that are brought in will not be quantified; the scope of the project focuses on fisheries, tourism and land based waste.

Mr Keithroy Williams, representative of GCS Bottling Co LTD, inquired if there were any plans to move from plastic bottles that the country currently uses for drinking water to a different material other than plastic. Mr de Silva answered that as part of the alternate value chain assessment, the project will look at ways to reduce plastic use and suggest alternate products that are economically and socially viable. At this time, there are no preconceived but the solutions will be based on where the major issues are.

Saint Lucia

Mr Donovan Brown, Padi Master Instructor of Saint Lucia's Diving Association, wanted to know what is happening on the global front with respect to cosmetics that contain plastic beads. Mr Joao Sousa, IUCN Senior Programme Officer, answered this question by saying that small companies in general have been leading the way and have been causing the big companies to make effective change. Often, bigger companies would rather not make environmentally friendly changes because it would be costly and affect their profit margins. Once smaller companies commit to making changes that would curtail plastic waste, the bigger companies feel the pressure from their customers to follow suit.

Ms Noorani Azeez, representative of the Saint Lucia Hospitality and Tourism Inc. wanted some information on the success in the Pacific, Asia and the Caribbean of the rethinking, redesigning and rebranding for packaging of materials that use no plastics. Mrs Willemijn Peeters, Director of Searious Business, explained that so far there has not been much success or innovation in this area, but she was hopeful, that this might improve with advances in recycling infrastructure and separation of organic from plastic waste products. Dr Wander added that while it is not simple there have been a few successes in the Pacific with regards to the use of local weaved palm leaves to package fruits and vegetable instead of plastic. Lastly, Mrs Peeters suggested that using different platforms is extremely effective in bringing about positive changes through stakeholder interaction, following a comment from Mr de Silva, outlining that there are successes in Asia with the use of business and biodiversity platforms also.

A request was made to comment on the solving of one problem and the creation of another, for example, the increased use of biodegradable food containers may contribute to more solid waste in landfills, especially in countries with limited land space. Dr Wander explained that organic waste could be easily dealt with on a small scale with the use of alternative waste disposal sites such as commercial composting facilities, as opposed to landfill use.

Also raised was the issue of striking a balance between affordable biodegradable products while still maintaining quality, for example, leaking biodegradable plates. Mrs Peeters

explained that it depends on costs. Biodegradable products tend to cost more, so incentives and branding need to be employed to make these options more affordable and attractive. Mr Sousa added that in many instances misleading information is given to the consumer regarding the choice of products. The example of flushable wipes was given, in which case the wipes often take quite a long time to biodegrade in practice.

Grenada

Plenary discussions in Grenada began with a brief section in which the floor was opened for Honourable Simon Stiell, Minister of the Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries and Disaster Management, to answer questions regarding Grenada's Non-Biodegradable Waste Control Act. Questions and answers during this section were captured as follows:

Question 1:

How do you plan to make sure the legislation being put in place will be enforced?

Answer:

The Government of Grenada does not foresee a challenge with enforcement, as the ban on plastics was done using a phased approach involving key-stakeholder engagement and public awareness. This requires consumers to make a cultural shift, so key importers and retailers were identified and work together with customers to get their buy-in. Understanding what dates of implementation best fits the stakeholders, ensuring that there was no strain or economic pressure on stakeholders made the process successful. Any upcoming challenges with quality of alternatives will also be addressed. This progressive act limiting the importation of single-use plastics will also aid in the upcoming implementation of the Litter Abatement Act.

Question 2:

How has Grenada's experience been in engaging the private sector for the implementation of the Non-Biodegradable Waste Control Act?

Answer:

There has not been any significant resistant in terms of legislation implementation from importers and consumers. We have experienced general compliance - however consumer compliance will continue to be observed after the 1st of February with the ban on single use plastics.

Question 3:

Can you provide clarification on the utensil regulation?

Answer:

March 1st's ban on the importation of disposable plastic utensils will begin a yearlong transition period, using a similar phased approach working together with importers, wholesalers and retailers.

Following presentations from the IUCN global and regional teams, the floor was opened for a second discussion. Discussions started with a question by Mr Benedict Peters from the Environment Division, who inquired if data from the quantification of plastics that will be performed within the framework of the project will be made readily available. Dr Wander noted that data will be made available to all stakeholders who wish to have it, in addition, a feedback session will be held with stakeholders in order to provide findings.

A request was made to comment on what a value chain is. Mr Sousa answered that the concept refers to the value of materials produced, all the way from the point of manufacturing to its sale.

Mr Deryck Ramkhelawan from the Ministry of Health and Social Security, wanted to know if the PWFI initiative will involve signing on to any MEAs, if so, he wanted to know what support will be provided to implement the same. Mr Sousa answered that PWFI will not pursue this; he added that it is not IUCN's goal to force a country to sign onto any MEAs.

Also raised was the issue of microplastics, participants wanted to know if the same will be on the agenda when considering the types of plastics. Mr Sousa clarified that microplastics will not be analysed during this specific process.

Annex 3: Feature remarks by Minister Molwyn Joseph, Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment

I have to give you a story because when the government policy was declared. there was objection even from within the government civil service. In fact, the leading public servant at the time went public and said it would not work but we were of the view that is not a matter of if it was an imperative that the issue of plastics especially simple use plastic bags had to be addressed.

I want to recognise one of the individuals in Antigua and Barbuda that has kept a sharp focus on the issue of environment and has been a tower of strength in putting us on this part, and that is Mr Eli Fuller who is in the audience. I would like to mention that he has to be recognised for the role that he has been playing for many years.

I also wish to recognise Mr Barrette as the operator of the largest supermarket in Antigua and Barbuda, and he too came on board with other private sector individuals. I am pleased that you are here again Mr Barrette, because it shows or demonstrates that you understand the success of the elimination of single use plastic is only one round, there are many more rounds to go.

The fact is that over the last several months, I have to make an admission here, I became a bit stuck, because we discussed in the Ministry of Health that the next steps are to hope that we can boast that we have successfully eliminated single use plastic bags and polystyrene. We did not believe that we had the technical capacity to go to the next step, and that next step is a policy of the government that simply states that all waste on the island should be considered

resource. We are thinking of zero (0) waste, but the idea of putting the necessary infrastructure, the necessary capacity for zero (0) waste, was not within our grasp.

Then we heard of IUCN and its capacity, being the longest and largest environmental serving organisation in the world. When they came to my office and they outlined the program I said I could not believe this, this is a gift. We had been wondering where we were going to get that capacity, so I want to say to you today that you are welcome, and that we are looking forward to the partnership in ensuring that we take the next step that is critical not only for Antigua and Barbuda but for the world.

We believe that we have a responsibility to the world, to all nations, and it is not a matter of saying keep Antigua clean and keep the coastline of Antigua clean. It's a view that we have an international obligation that must be fulfilled, and as a result of your presence I think that we are far ahead of many of the islands in the Caribbean in terms of single use plastic bags and Styrofoam, but that is not as far as we would wish to go. We would wish to have a holistic approach to the elimination of plastics and also a holistic approach as far as fossil fuels are concerned. This government has made another important decision that you should be aware of and that is by 2030 we anticipate that we should go through the complete transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy and that is our ambition.

Now of course as it was in the elimination of plastic bags so it is in the transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy. This is going to be a challenge and one that the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment has to undertake, but let me say publicly it's a fight I welcome because it is what we need to do for our people and for the global commitment that we have made at the United Nations. So far, as the transition from fossil fuel is concerned let me just share a tippet with you, by 2021 we anticipate that we will be able to generate approximately 25mws of renewable energy between solar energy and wind energy. If we are able to do that, we would satisfy all the electricity needs that are required by the government of Antigua and Barbuda that will leave approximately another 30mws that we need to change from fossil to renewable energy.

This is the position of the Ministry of Environment. We know it's not going to be an easy way ahead, but we are ready to stand up so that the right thing is done, not only for the people of Antigua and Barbuda but for the global health of all nations. Now I want to give thanks to the government of Norway, who is also partner with the IUCN to undertake this project. As you know it was the government of Norway that financed the play it out concert here in Antigua and Barbuda, which was a tremendous success.

I want to declare publicly that I have confidence in the people of Antigua and Barbuda that they're fully on-board with the direction of this government policy. The fact is there could be many doubters but we have more people advocating good environmental practices than those who are doubting that we should go in this direction. It is a credit to the people of Antigua and Barbuda, there are many islands states that are struggling to go through this conversion to get

their citizens to embrace the responsibility of preserving the environment, I dare say not so in Antigua and Barbuda.

I think that we have turned the corner in terms of the citizenry and the consciousness of the importance of preserving our environment and I want to commend the people of Antigua and Barbuda and for the record, I would appreciate it if you would give yourself a round of applause. We in here have also embarked on national efforts to demonstrate that the holistic approach embraces everyone; every community as I stand here, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with other ministries has undertaken an island wide clean up of derelict vehicles in Antigua and Barbuda. I know many of the communities of Antigua and Barbuda welcome this because interestingly we cannot separate the effort to clean up from the issue of health.

The fact is that we have millions of tires all over Antigua and Barbuda that provide room for mosquitoes and the spread of dengue. We have thousands of abandoned cars that are home to mosquitoes and rodents and so when we think of our work in the environment we should also think of the importance of the work in the context of national health, they cannot be separated. We need to look at or take a holistic approach, and be committed strategically how we overcome these challenges in Antigua and Barbuda.

As I indicated before the presence of IUCN, the meeting I had in my office with representatives from IUCN was very heart-warming because as a small country, it is sometimes very difficult to get the technical competency as part of your democracy and your presence here today cannot be overstated in terms of its importance. I want to assure you that we appreciate your presence, and I want to assure that there is no challenge that we will face that we will not undertake and overcome. I wish to say to the participants I am very pleased to see the numbers and you are now by declaration advocates of the environment you're by declaration the eyes and ears of the nation of Antigua and Barbuda and do not underestimate the importance of the contribution that you are making today. It's not only the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment and the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda but it's the entire citizenship of Antigua and Barbuda and those who reside here and visit. So good morning again and thank you all for coming and I look forward to a productive workshop.

May God bless you all.

Annex 4: Feature remarks by Minister Simon Stiell, Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries and Disaster Management

Salutations:

Regional Representatives of the IUCN, Permanent Secretary and Ministry Representatives, Non-Government organisations, Private Sector Representatives and the media.

Welcome:

- I am happy to be here today at the launch of the PWFI Initiative!
- I am pleased to see a wide range of stakeholders here for this important dialogue, many who were involved in our blue growth stakeholder consultations, Styrofoam and plastic handle bag meetings and discussions.
- Consultations such as this launch help to continue the national dialogue on Blue Economy, while supporting environmental protection and offering green jobs and livelihood opportunities for sustainable blue growth.
- I hope that we can continue to count on the support of local stakeholders who are essential partners in this process.

Introduction:

- We are here today, because Grenada wants to ensure we have clean plastic free oceans and we are not alone in this vision, as the marine sea that separates us, in fact, unites us in addressing this challenge in a unified manner.
- In this decade of “Ecosystem Restoration” we recognise the daunting and urgent need to address marine pollution and especially to focus on how to reduce the impact of single use plastics getting into our marine environment.
- Grenada has made a number of commitments in this light to address land based sources of pollution in an integrated and holistic manner:
 - We have set out an integrated approach to management of coastal and marine resources through our robust coastal zone policy and coastal legislation.
 - We have piloted ecosystem based adaptation efforts at the community level and supported restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems recognising the sustainable livelihood opportunities that come from healthy marine ecosystems
 - We continue to use area based management tools including marine managed areas and marine protected areas which results in effective fisheries resource management
 - And today, we work together to build momentum for reducing ocean plastic in Grenada through this plastic waste free islands initiative.

The next steps:

- Grenada intends to ramp up efforts to sustainably managing its marine resources and coastal zones with the implementation of three key pieces of legislation:

1. The Abatement of Litter Act;
 2. The Non-Biodegradable Waste Control Act; and
 3. The Coastal Zone Act.
- All stakeholders have a role to play in helping to realize the ocean and coastline that WE want for the future.
 - Our future marine space and resources and the sustainable investments they attract are dependent on our actions today.
 - A vision of a plastic waste free ocean supporting healthy marine ecosystems and managing our climate system must be our constant motivation.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the Ministry of Climate Resilience, Environment, Forestry, Fisheries and Disaster Management remains committed to Sustainable Development and I take this opportunity to thank our Private Sector partners including Academia and our local organizations for their continued support.

We hope that this PWFI initiative will signal another milestone step towards restoration and management of our marine resources to reap blue economy benefits, now and in the future.

Thank you.

Annex 5: Participants list

Antigua and Barbuda

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Grenada

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Annex 6: Presentations

(See separate PDF file)