





# NATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR PLASTIC POLLUTION HOTSPOTTING AND SHAPING ACTION

FINAL REPORT FOR CYPRUS

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#### **ABOUT**

**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 1,400 Member organisations and some 15,000 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.

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) opened in Malaga (Spain) in October 2001 with the core support of the Spanish Ministry of Environment and the regional Government of Junta de Andalucía. The Centre's mission is to influence, encourage and assist Mediterranean societies to conserve and use sustainably the natural resources of the region and work with IUCN members and cooperate with all other agencies that share the objectives of IUCN.

www.iucn.org/regions/mediterranean

**EA** is a research consultancy based in Switzerland, member of the European Network of Ecodesign Centres (ENEC). EA has developed a unique expertise in the field of marine plastic pollution and plastic footprinting. - <a href="https://www.e-a.earth">www.e-a.earth</a>

**Quantis** is a leading sustainability consulting firm specialized in supporting companies to measure, understand and manage the environmental impacts of their products, services and operations - www.quantis-intl.com

ea + Quantis

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

It is with deep gratitude that the IUCN Plastic Waste Free Islands Med (PWFI Med) project leaders wish to thank the various partners from government, private sector and industry, academia and research, civil society and non-governmental organizations that contributed to this work through their participation in workshops, meetings, field excursions, and related consultations within the country.

This work could not have been accomplished, first and foremost, without the partners and stakeholders who supported the data collection efforts within each country. Finally, the tremendous technical guidance, cooperation, and support from Feng Wang and Ran Xie of the UNEP was pivotal in the development of the hotspotting methodology guidance.

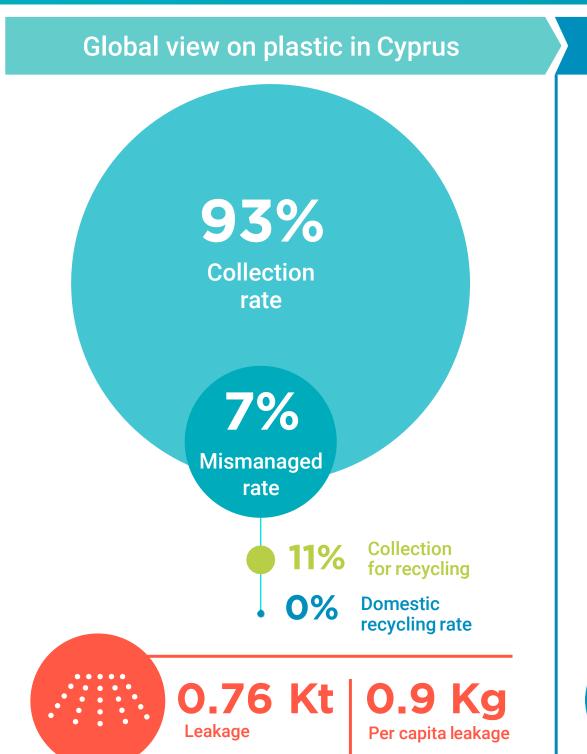
Above all, the PWFI Med team acknowledges the generous support of the Didier and Martine Primat Foundation.

IUCN wishes to thank the Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI) and the NGO Together Cyprus for their strategic guidance and support in ensuring that national activities and engagements were executed in a smooth manner. Special thanks to Philippos Drousiotis and Andreas Angeli for their support and providing data for this study.

The PWFI Med team would also like to thank the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, the Department of Environment, the Deputy Ministry of Tourism, the Cyprus Hotel Association (CHA), the Green Dot Cyprus, the Association of Cyprus Travel Agents (ACTA), the Cyprus Hotel Managers Association (CYHMA), the Integrated Solid Waste Management (OEDA), and the Cyprus Port Authority, for their support to this work.

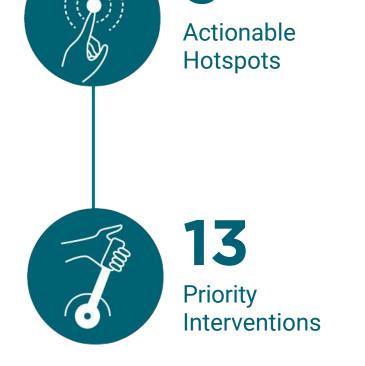
In addition, the PWFI Med team extends its gratitude to colleagues at IUCN Secretariat.

#### **SUMMARY AT A GLANCE**



#### Hotspots **Most critical Number of hotspots per** polymers waste management stage Synthetic Waste generation rubber PET Waste segregation LDPE Waste collection Polyester Leakage while waiting for collection HDPE PS Waste related behaviors PVC Waste management Other infrastructure **2** out of 5 responsible for **60%** of the **Provinces** plastic leakage

### Shaping action from the hotspots





#### INTRODUCTION TO THE GUIDANCE

Provides the objectives of the Guidance, and introduces its associated workflow and main deliverables.



#### PLASTIC POLLUTION HOTSPOTS

Provides a detailed assessment of plastic leakage across five distinct yet complementary hotspots categories and draws clear statements to help shape action.



#### **SHAPING ACTION**

Provides a preliminary set of possible interventions and instruments in line with the plastic pollution hotspots results.



#### **APPENDICES**

Provides additional information including results data tables, hotspot score assessments and modelling assumptions.



#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**



#### **PLASTIC POLLUTION HOTSPOTS**



2.1

#### **Country Overview**

Provides an outlook of the leakage assessment at the country level.





#### Detailed Hotspots Results

Provides a visual analysis and key interpretations across five complementary categories in which hotspots are prioritised based on a plastic leakage assessment.





#### **Actionable Hotspots**

Formulates clear statements based on the detailed hotspot analysis to help shape action towards plastic leakage abatement.



A. Polymer Hotspots



B. Application Hotspots



C. Sector Hotspots



D. Regional Hotspots



E. Waste Management Hotspots



#### **SHAPING ACTION**





Suggests meaningful actions based on the actionable hotspots drawn from the detailed plastic hotspot analysis.





Provides a list of possible instruments to implement and monitor progress of suggested interventions.



Data repository

Provides data tables with the detailed figures behind the graphs.

4.2 Data Quality
Assessment

Provides an in-depth analysis of the quality scores behind the graphs.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** 

#### ICONS AND COLOUR CODE TO GUIDE THE READER



Reference to the methodology (module/tool)



Learnings, that complement the key take aways with more details, of information that is not necessarily visible on the graph



Reference to the appendices



Limitations of the study, can be inaccurate data or gap in the modelling



Key take away as the main conclusion of a graph or result in a writen format



Things we foresee to unlock the limitations. They can serve as guidance for future studies



Methodology and appendices

Sections slides



**Results and interpretations** 

#### **KEY** DEFINITIONS

Hotspots: They refer to the most relevant plastic polymers, applications, industrial sectors, regions or waste management stages causing the leakage of plastics into the environment (including land, air, water and marine environment), as well as associated impacts, through the life cycle of plastic products.

**Interventions:** They are tangible actions that can be taken to mitigate hotspots and are to be prioritised and designed to address the most influential hotspots in the plastic value chain.

**Instruments:** They are the ways an intervention may be practically implemented through specific regulatory, financial or informative measures, in light of context factors such as country dynamics and existing measures. As an illustrative example, a country may identify "mismanaged polyethylene bottles" as one of its hotspots. A relevant intervention may be an increase in bottle collection rate. A relevant instrument may be to instate a bottle return deposit scheme.

Properly disposed: Waste fraction that is disposed in a waste management system where no leakage is expected to occur, such as an incineration facility or a sanitary landfill. We define a sanitary landfill as a particular area where large quantities of waste are deliberately disposed in a controlled manner (e.g., waste being covered on a daily basis, as well as the bottom of the landfill designed in a way to prevent waste from leaching out). Landfilling is mainly the result of a formal collection sector.

Improperly disposed: Waste fraction that is disposed in a waste management system where leakage is expected to occur, such as a dumpsite or an unsanitary landfill. A dumpsite is a particular area where large quantities of waste are deliberately disposed in an uncontrolled manner, and can be the result of both the formal and informal sectors. A landfill is considered as unsanitary when waste management quality standards are not met, thus entailing a potential for leakage.

Littering: Incorrect disposal of small, one-off items, such as: throwing a cigarette, dropping a crisp packet, or a drink cup. Most of the time these items end-up on the road or side-ways. They may or may not be collected by municipal street cleaning.

**Uncollected:** Waste fraction (including littering) that is not collected by the formal sector.

**Domestic waste:** Waste generated within the country.

Mismanaged waste: It is defined as the sum of uncollected and improperly disposed waste. It is plastic that is prone to be released to the environment. The mismanaged waste index is the ratio of the mismanaged waste and the total waste. It is abbreviated as MWI and its value given in percentage.

**Leakage:** it is defined as the plastic released to the to rivers and oceans. The leakage rate is ratio between leakage and total waste generated, and its value is given in percentage.

Release rate: It is defined as the ratio between leakage and total mismanaged waste, and its value is given in percentage.

Macro-plastic: Large plastic waste readily visible and with dimensions larger than 5 mm, typically plastic packaging, plastic infrastructure or fishing nets.

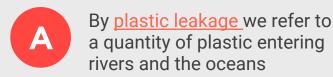
Micro-plastic: Small plastic particulates below 5 mm in size and above 1 mm. Two types of micro-plastics are contaminating the world's oceans: primary and secondary micro-plastics. In this study, we focus on primary micro-plastics which are are plastics directly released into the environment in the form of small particulates.

Mass balance: Mass balancing is a mathematical process aiming at equalising inputs and outputs of a given material flow across a system boundary. In our case, inputs consist of domestic production and imports while outputs consists of exports, waste generation and increase of stock. A mass balance allows to check data consistency and helps reconcile different datasets when needed.

Formal sector: Waste management activities planned, sponsored, financed, carried out or regulated and/or recognized by the local authorities or their agents, usually through contracts, licenses or concessions

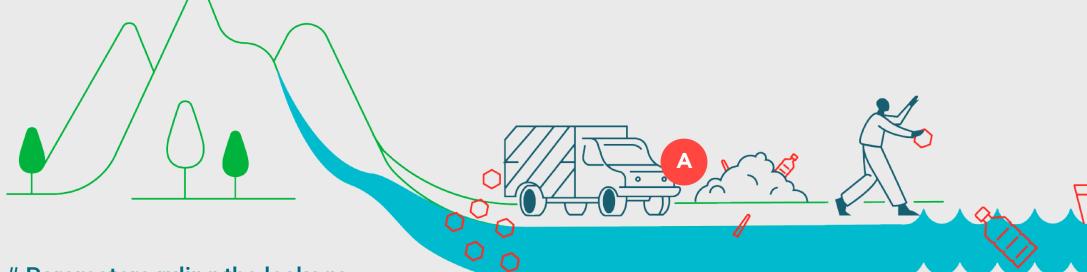
**Informal sector:** Individuals or a group of individuals who are involved in waste management activities, but are not formally registered or formally responsible for providing waste management services. Newly established formalized organizations of such individuals; for example, cooperatives, social enterprises and programs led by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), can also be considered as the informal sector for the purpose of this methodology.

#### WHAT WE MEAN BY PLASTIC LEAKAGE / IMPACTS





By plastic impact we refer to a potential effect the leaked plastic may have on ecosystems and/or human health

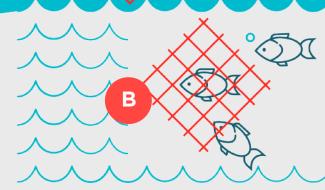


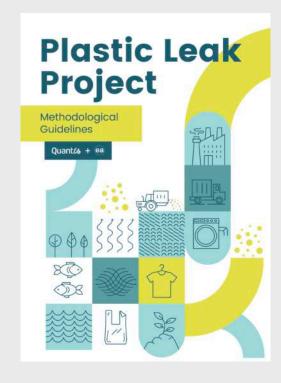
# Parameters ruling the leakage quantification in the model

- General waste management
- Recycling
- Wastewater and run-off water management
- Plastic consumption patterns
- Population density
- Value of the polymer
- Size of application
- Type of use
- Distance to shore and rivers
- Hydrological patterns

#### # Parameters ruling qualitative impact assessment

- Beach clean-up data
- Size and shape of applications
- Presence of toxic substances in polymers or additives





Leaked plastic stems from uncollected and improperly disposed waste.

Note that the rest of the uncollected and improperly disposed plastic may be leaking into other environmental compartments such as "soil", "air" or "other terrestrial compartment" as defined in the Plastic Leak Project (PLP) guidance.

This information is not required to shape action but could be calculated using the PLP guidance.

**LINK** to the PLP guidance

#### **LEAKAGE PATHWAY** AT A GLANCE



#### KEY ABBREVIATIONS AND UNITS

#### Polymer abbreviations

NAME	ABBREVIATION	TYPICAL PRODUCTS
Polyethylene Terephthalate	PET*	bottles, food wrappings
Polypropylene	PP	hot food containers, sanitary pad liners
Low-density Polyethylene	LDPE	bags, container lids
High-density Polyethylene	HDPE	milk containers, shampoo bottles
Polystyrene	PS	food containers, disposable cups,
Polyvinyl Chloride	PVC	construction pipes, toys, detergent bottles

<sup>\*</sup>In this study, PET resins are distinguished from Polyester which includes polyester fibres, polyester films and polyester engineered resins.

#### Key units

NAME	SYMBOL
Kilogram	kg
Tonne	t
Kilo tonne (or thousand tonne)	kt
Mega tonne (or million tonne)	Mt
Kilometer	km
Square kilometer	km²

#### Calculation variables

NAME	ABBREVIATION
Mismanaged waste index	MWI
Leakage rate	LR
Release rate	RR

### INTRODUCTION TO THE GUIDANCE

National guidance for plastic pollution hotspotting and shaping action

#### SCHEMATIC OF THE GUIDANCE



#### The guidance allows users to:

- 1. Generate country-specific plastic waste management datasets
- 2. Identify plastic leakage and pollution hotspots
- 3. Prioritise actions



#### DATA COLLECTION MODELLING Modelling polymer/application/ sector hotspots TECHNICAL STREAM (T1) Inventory of plastic flows Identifying waste management hotspots Characterisation of waste Modelling regional hotpots management Assessing impacts **HOTSPOTS** STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PRIORITISATION Where to act? Actionable hotspots formulation INTERVENTIONS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PRIORITISATION What to do? Intervention identification INSTRUMENTS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PRIORITISATION How to do it? Instrument alignment

#### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOTSPOTS, INTERVENTIONS AND INSTRUMENTS

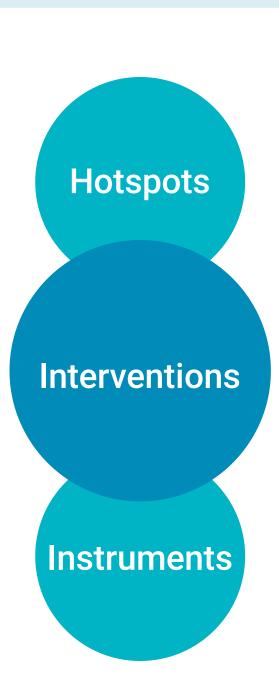


The guidance is built upon the backbone of three questions: where to act? (Hotspots), what to do? (Interventions) and how to do it? (Instruments)

A component of the system that directly or indirectly contributes to the magnitude of plastic leakage and/or its impacts. It can be a component of the system, a type of product/polymer or a region within the country.

An action that can be taken to mitigate the leakage from a given hotspot or reduce its impacts.

A practical way to implement the intervention and enable progress.



#### **Examples**

- Low recycling rate for flexible packaging
- Single-use plastic bags
- Low waste collection rate in rural areas
- Implement better eco-design + chemical recycling
- Reduce plastic bag use in the country
- Increase waste collection
- Develop funding mechanism through EPR scheme
- Ban on plastic bags / introduce re-usable alternative
- Help local waste pickers to create a revenue stream

#### STRUCTURE OF TOOLS ASSOCIATED WITH EACH MODULE



	MODULES	INPUT TOOLS	ASSESSMENT TOOLS	OUTPUT TOOLS
<b>T1</b>	INVENTORY OF PLASTIC FLOWS	Inventory of data sources  T1.1  Data collection  Fisheries model canvas  T1.3	COMTRADE data extraction T1.4	Raw data
T2	CHARACTERISATION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT	and data gaps T2.1 templates Waste model canvas		repository
	MODELLING POLYMER/APPLICATION/		Polymer quality assessment T3.3	
Т3	SECTOR HOTSPOTS	A	leakage calculation  T3.1  sector MFA & leakage calculation  Polymer/application/sector hotspots prioritization canvas  T3.4	
T4	IDENTIFICATION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT HOTSPOTS		Waste management hotspot canvas	Project data repository
T5	MODELLING REGIONAL HOTPOTS	Waste data by archetype	GIS model  T5.2  Leakage calculation T5.3  GIS modelling quality assessment T5.4	
Т6	ASSESSING IMPACTS		Plastic application impact assessment	
S1	ACTIONABLE HOTSPOT FORMULATION	T3.4 B		Actionable hotspot c formulation
<b>S2</b>	INTERVENTION IDENTIFICATION	Interventions library template	Interventions selection S2.2 Interventions prioritisation S2.3	Final intervention and instrument
<b>S3</b>	INSTRUMENT ALIGNMENT	Instruments library template	Instruments selection (S3.2) Instruments prioritisation	pairing

#### **DISCLAIMER**





This report intends to present only the results of the analysis and not the detailed modelling process.



Additional information on the methodology and modelling process can be found directly in the modules and tools associated with the guidance and highlighted by this icon.

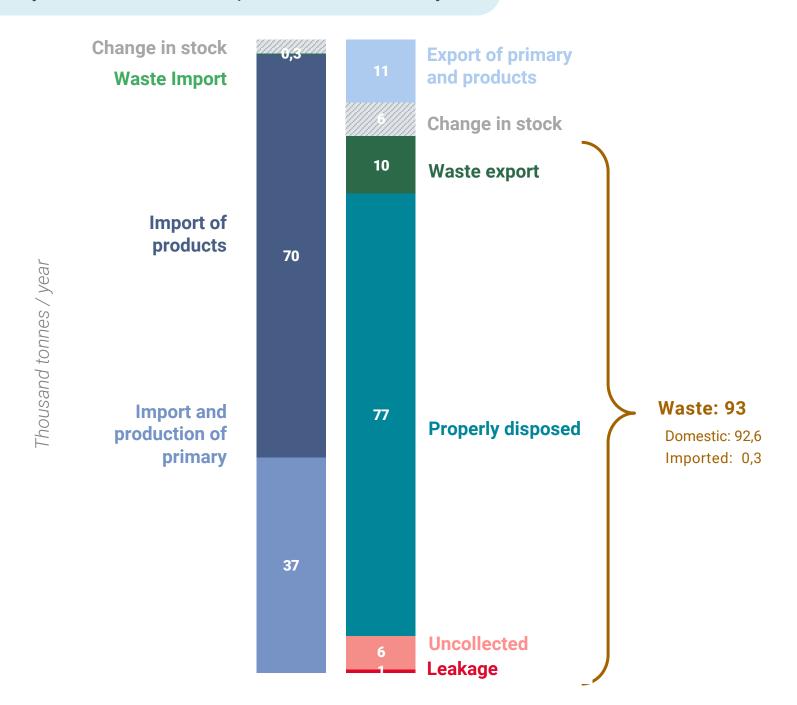
## 2 PLASTIC POLLUTION HOTSPOTS



#### [2018] **COUNTRY PLASTIC MATERIAL FLOW**



#### Summary of the results for all plastics in the country





#### **Key take-aways**

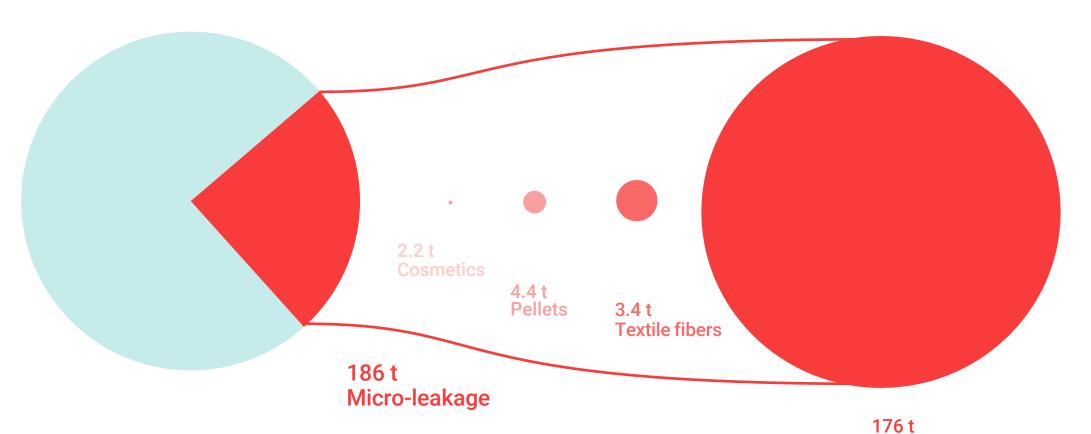
- No primary plastic production in Cyprus.
- 92'588 t of plastic waste generated, from which 10'495 t are attributed to tourism. Plastic waste generation per capita amounts to 94 kg/cap/year, well above the Western Europe average\* (64 kg/cap/year).
- 93% collection rate on average.
- No recycling facilities in Cyprus. Around 11% of plastic waste is exported for recycling.
- Only 7% of waste generated in Cyprus is mismanaged (stemming from littering and uncollected waste).
- 756 tonnes of plastic leak into waterways in 2018, including 86 tonnes from the tourism sector. This corresponds to 1% leakage rate and 0,8 kg/cap/year leakage per capita.

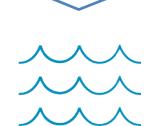
<sup>\*</sup> Average plastic waste generation per capita values are derived from the What a Waste 2.0 database (Kaza et al., 2018)

#### MACRO-LEAKAGE VS MICRO-LEAKAGE [2018]



570 t Macro-leakage





**TO WATERWAYS AND OCEANS:** 

Tyre dust

756 t



#### Key take-aways

Micro-leakage contributes for 25 % of the overall country leakage. This is mainly driven by tyre abrasion during road transportation.



In 2018, Cyprus has one of the largest number of passenger cars per thousand inhabitants with more 600 cars per 1'000 capita. Moreover, the waste water treatment efficiency in Cyprus is relatively high (around 80% of collected waste water is properly treated). This explains the huge discrepancies in micro-leakage contribution between tyre dust and other causes.



#### **OPEN BURNING:** A ROUGH ESTIMATE [2018]





Up to

**60%** 

Could be released into the air as noxious chemical substances through open burning



**POTENTIAL POLLUTION TO** THE AIR:

3.9 kt



#### Key take-aways

Open burning of mismanaged plastic waste can pose significant risks for human health (due to the release of noxious chemical substances such as dioxin and particulate matters) and directly contribute to climate change.



Limitations

Although we do not have specific data on burning, we suggest a rough estimate of how much plastic could be polluting the air by using the assumptions made in the Breaking the Plastic Wave report (Lau et al, 2020): 60% of uncollected plastic waste and 13 % of plastic waste at dumpsites are burnt on average worldwide. In the case of Cyprus, it would translate into having 60% of the total plastic mismanaged ending up polluting the air through open burning.



Unlocking limitations

Investigate open burning practices and conduct field studies to estimate the amount of mismanaged plastic waste that is burned.

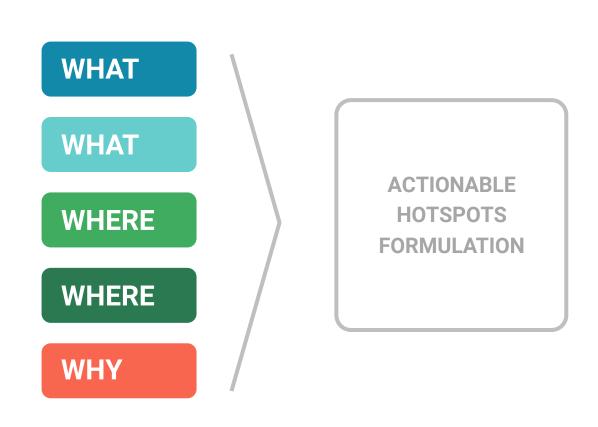


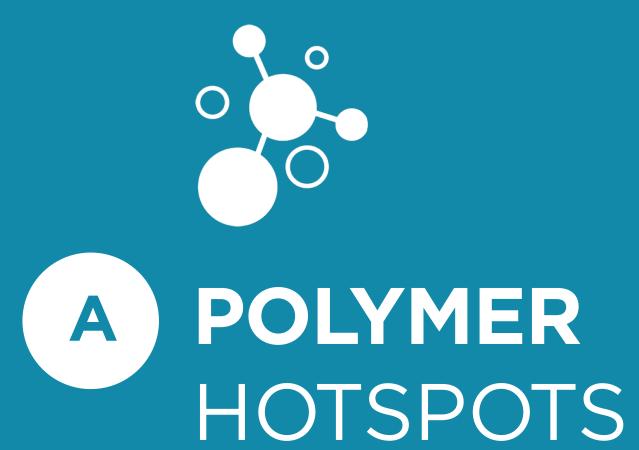
# 2.2 DETAILED HOTSPOTS RESULTS

#### **5 CATEGORIES OF HOTSPOTS**

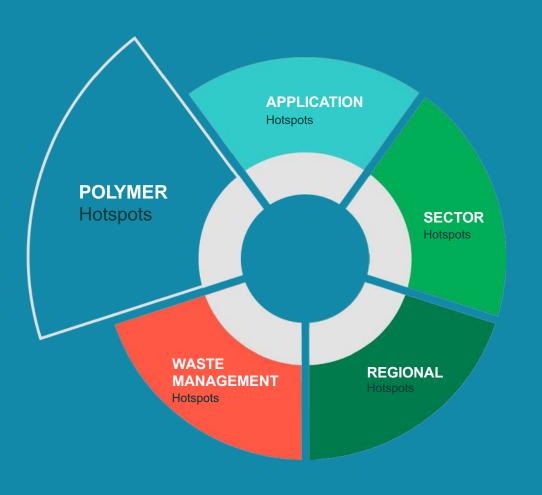








2 Plastic pollution hotspots



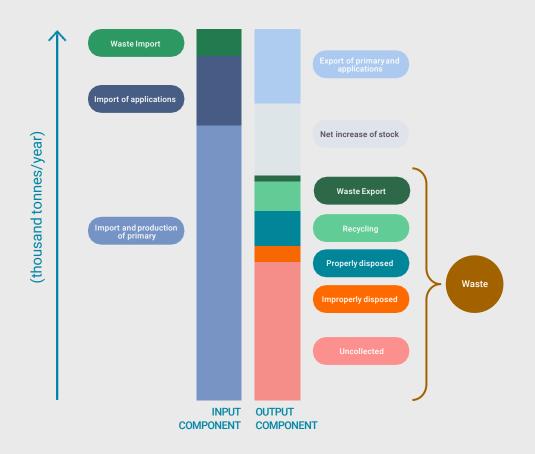
#### **OBJECTIVE AND INSTRUCTIONS**



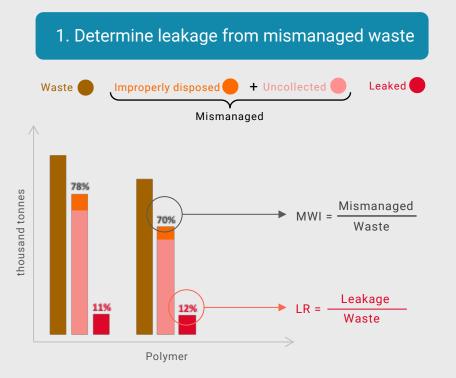
#### Key question answered:

Which polymers are most critical in the country regarding plastic leakage?

#### What are the bar components of the polymer mass balance graph?



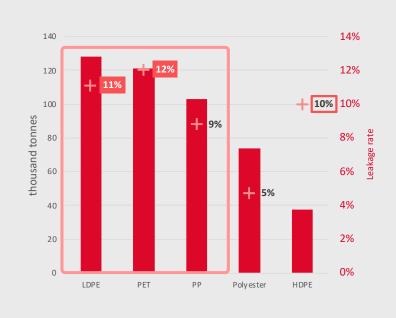
#### How to read the polymer hotspot graph?



3. Select hotspots based on absolute and relative leakage



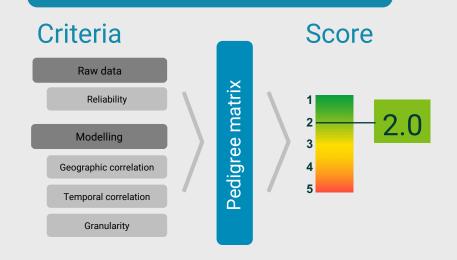
#### 2. Focus on leakage and leakage rate



For more details, please read the Methodology

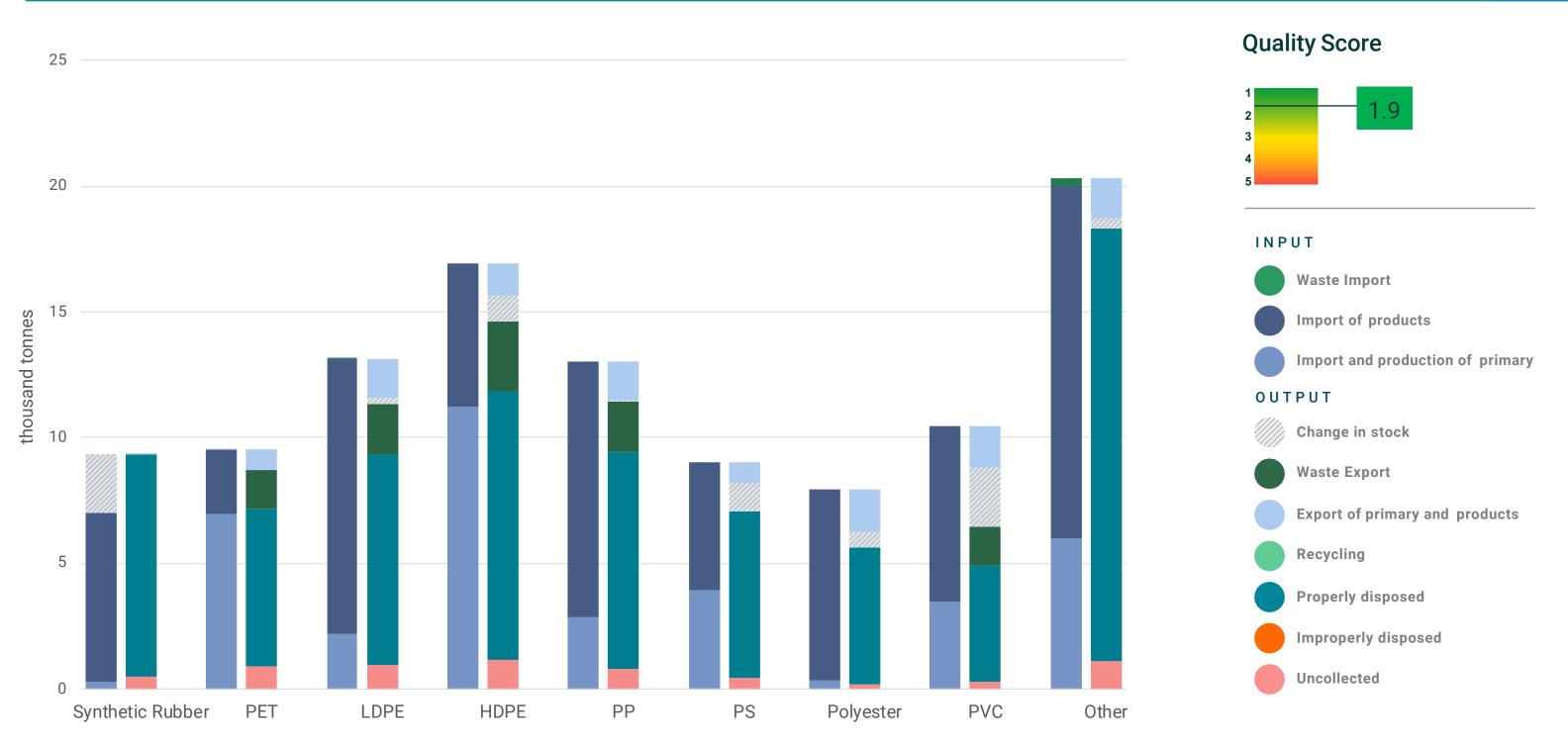


4. Assess the quality score of the results



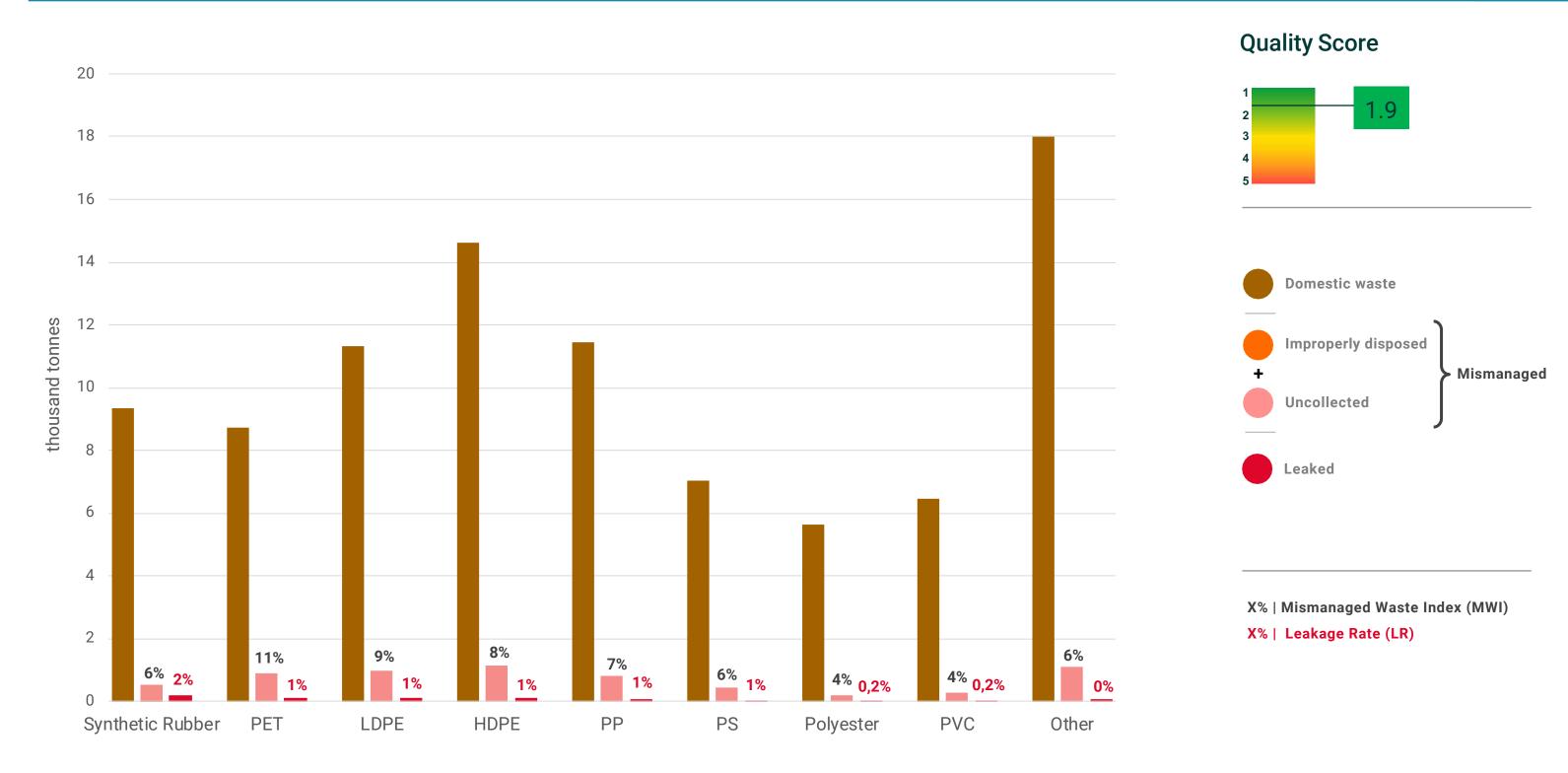
#### MASS BALANCE BY POLYMER [2018]





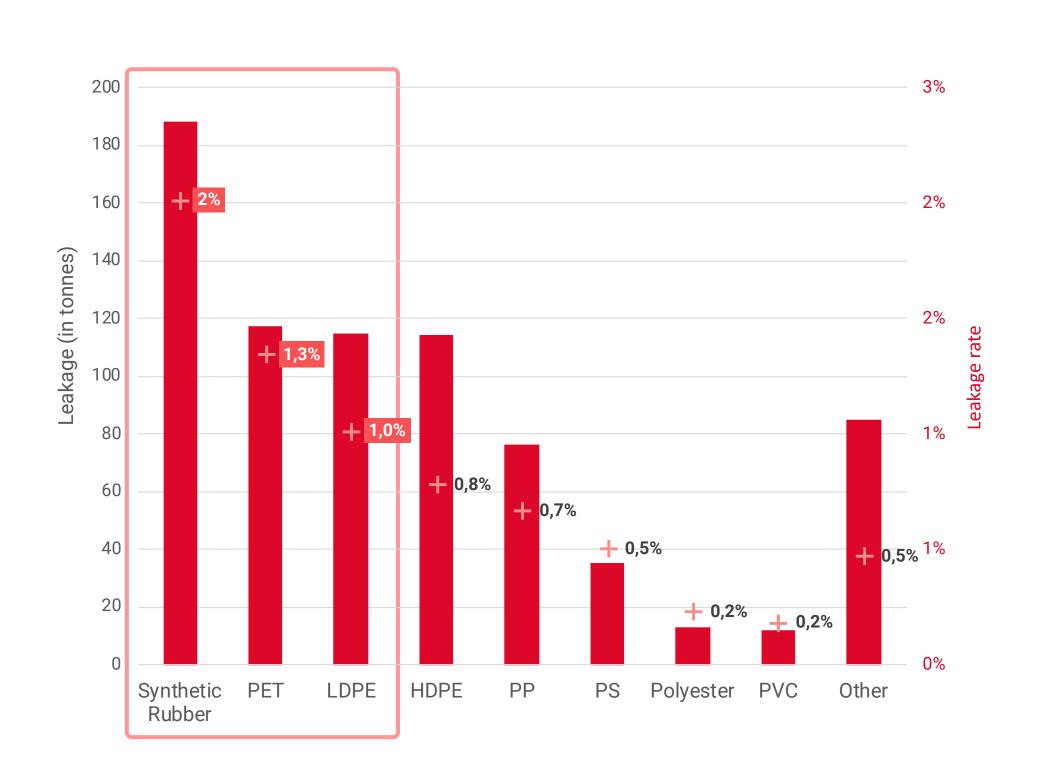
#### MISMANAGED WASTE AND LEAKAGE BY POLYMER [2018]





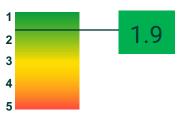
#### POLYMER HOTSPOTS [2018]







#### **Quality Score**





- **Synthetic rubber** is the top contributor in absolute plastic leakage (188 t), with the highest leakage rate (2%)
- **PET** is in second position, with an absolute plastic leakage of 112 t and a leakage rate of 1.3%.
- LDPE and HDPE follow closely with respectively 115 t and 114 t of plastic leakage.

#### **POLYMER HOTSPOTS:** INTERPRETATION AND LIMITATIONS



#### **Synthetic Rubber**



Synthetic rubber, which is mostly used in automotive tyres, has the highest contribution to plastic leakage in waterways and oceans. This leakage almost entirely stems from tyre abrasion which releases micro-particles into the environment, which is substantial in Cyprus. Indeed, the leakage from automotive tyres in Cyprus tantamount to 50% that of the packaging sector (see sector hotspots) when for some other piloted countries this figure remains below 5%. Consequently, Synthetic rubber eventually leaks more than other polymers which are used in multiple sectors.

#### PET



Even though the total quantity of PET plastic waste generated in the country is lower than that of HDPE and LDPE, its contribution to leakage is larger, thus placing it right after the most leaking polymer which is Synthetic Rubber. This is for two reasons: First, PET has the lowest collection rate among all polymers, hence a higher mismanagement rate than for other polymers. And secondly, PET has the highest release rate once mismanaged which means that in Cyprus, PET is more likely to end up in waterways than HDPE or LDPE.

#### LDPE & HDPE



Although LDPE and HDPE are the polymers with the highest waste generation, they are more recycled and less mismanaged than PET. Consequently they have a slightly lower absolute leakage than PET.

#### All polymers

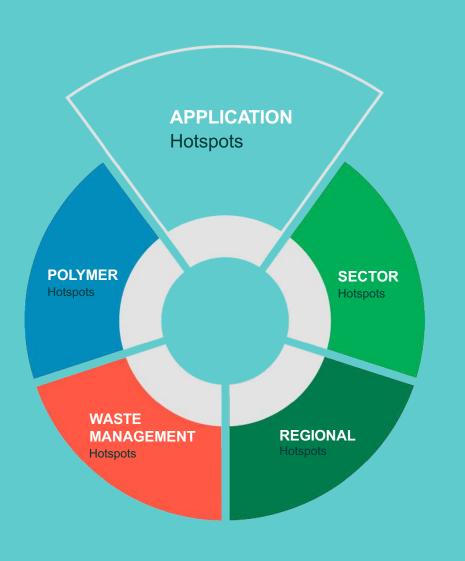


Since only the total quantity of plastic recycled is known (9.85 k according to the Statistical Services of Cyprus, 2019), we allocated the amount of plastic recycled by polymer based on the share of polymer waste generated out of the total plastic waste, which obviously does not reflect the reality.



Unlocking limitations Contact formal recyclers to have a better understanding of how much of each polymer is being recycled in Cyprus.





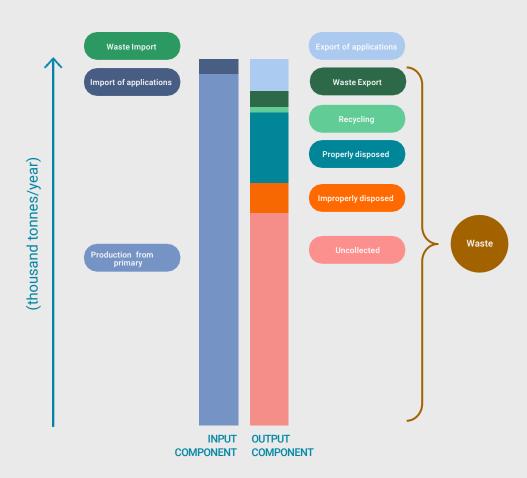
#### **OBJECTIVE AND INSTRUCTIONS**



#### Key question answered:

Which applications are most critical in the country regarding plastic leakage?

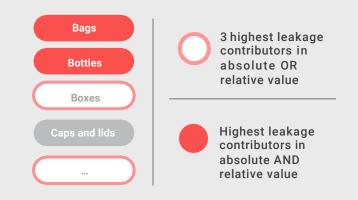
#### What are the bar components of the application mass balance graph?

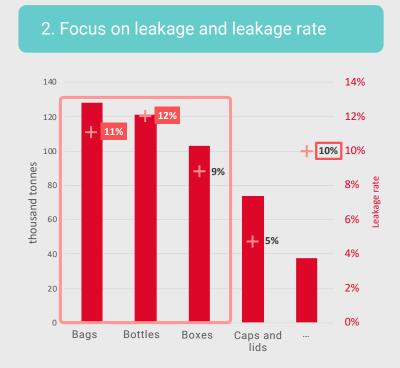


#### How to read the application hotspot graph?



3. Select hotspots based on absolute and relative leakage





For more details, please read the Methodology

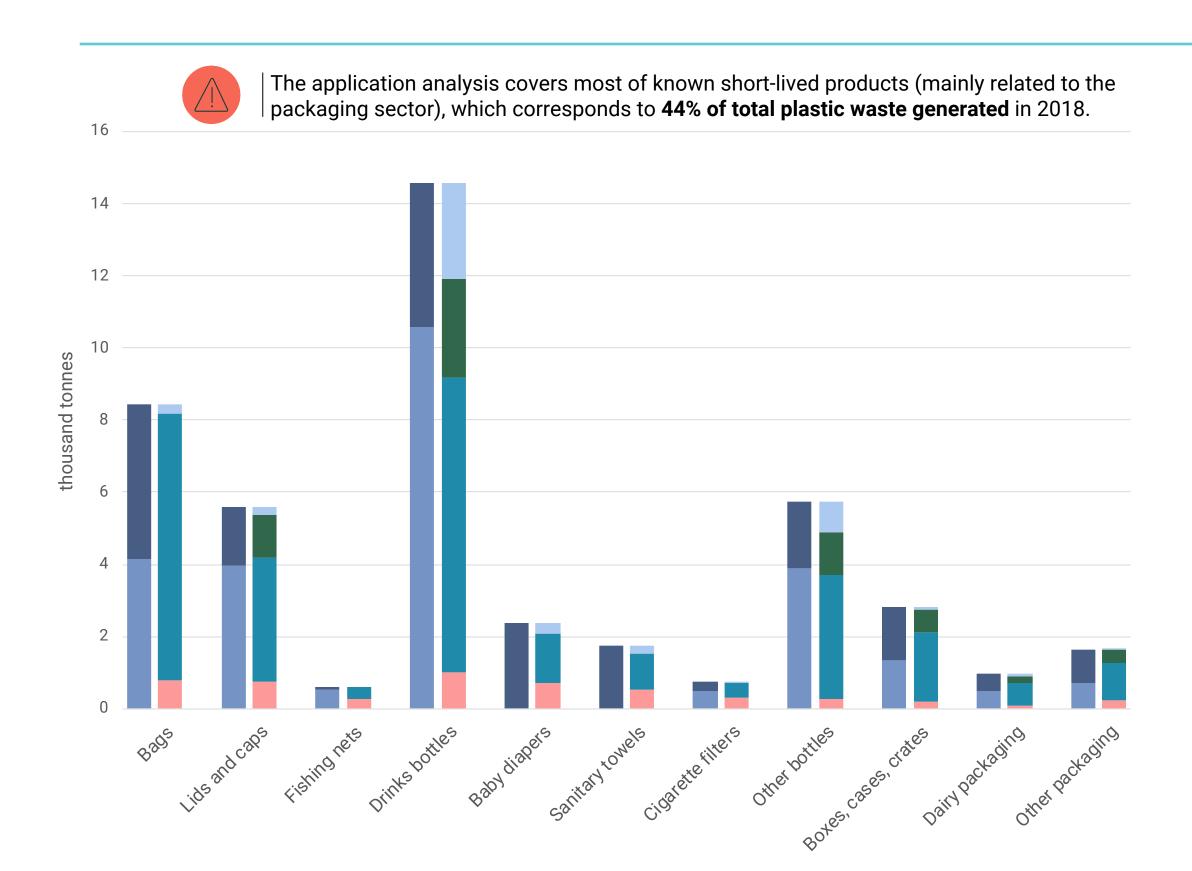


4. Assess the quality score of the results

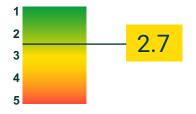


#### MASS BALANCE BY APPLICATION [2018]





#### **Quality Score**











#### OUTPUT







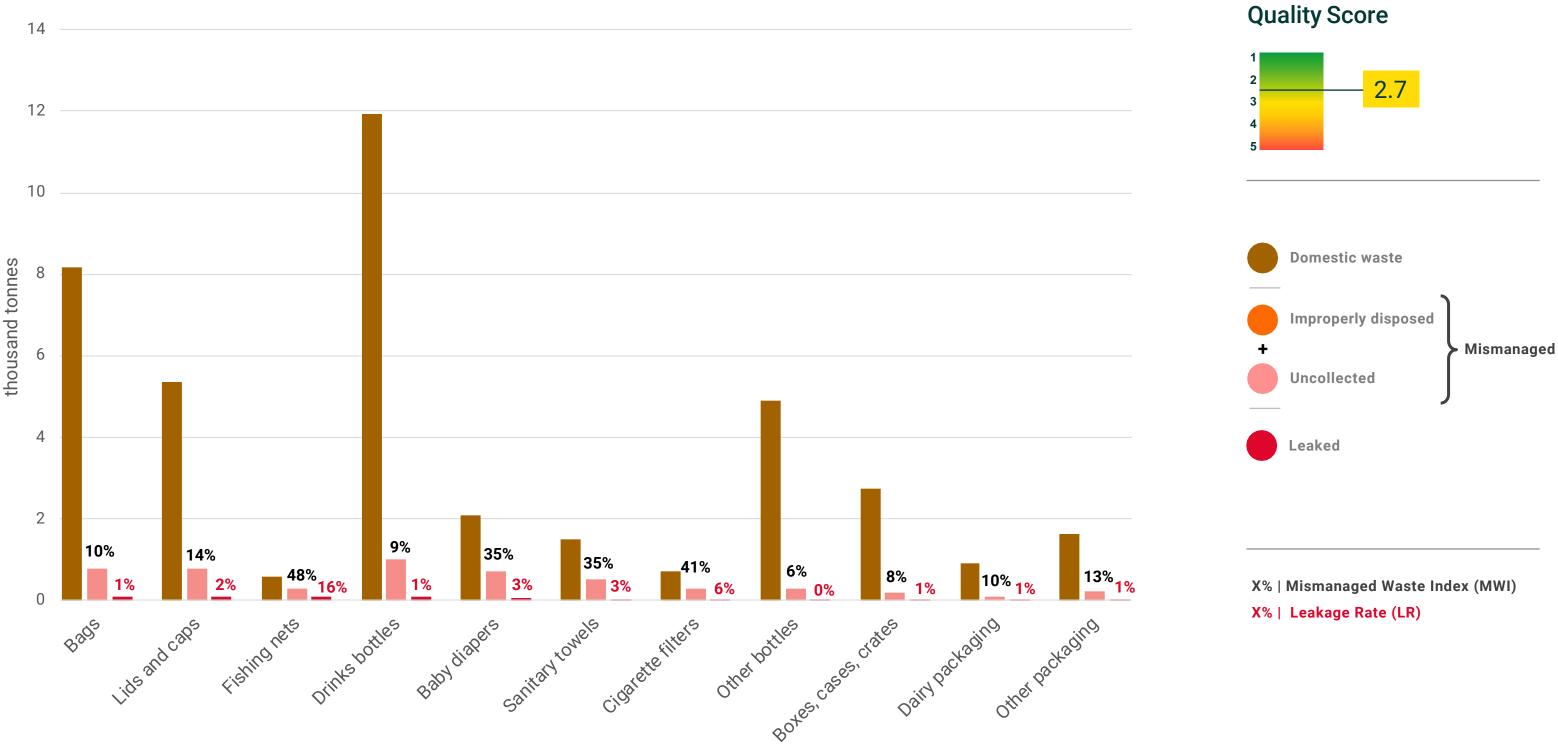






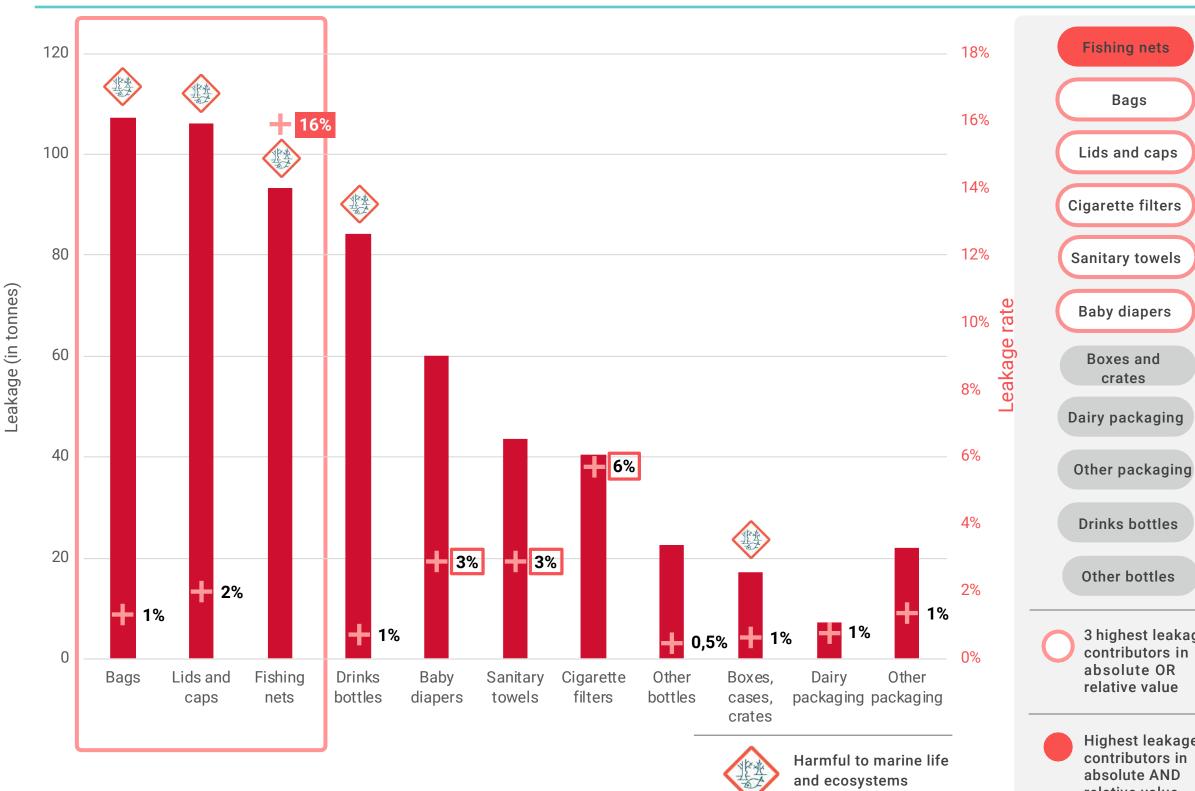
#### MISMANAGED WASTE AND LEAKAGE BY APPLICATION [2018]



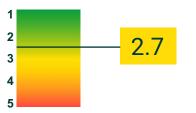


# **APPLICATION HOTSPOTS** [2018]





#### **Quality Score**





#### Key take-aways

- Bags are almost on par with lids and caps as top contributors to plastic leakage with 107 t and 106 t respectively. However, their leakage rate are low compared to other applications.
- Fishing nets rank 3<sup>rd</sup> in absolute leakage (84 t) but 1st in relative terms with a leakage rate as high as 16%.
- Although less critical in absolute leakage, cigarettes filters and sanitary products have a relatively high leakage rate (6% and 3% respectively) compared to other applications.

Fishing nets

Bags

Lids and caps

Baby diapers

Boxes and

crates

**Drinks bottles** 

Other bottles

3 highest leakage

contributors in

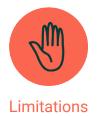
absolute OR

relative value

# **APPLICATION HOTSPOTS:** INTERPRETATION AND LIMITATIONS



# All packaging applications



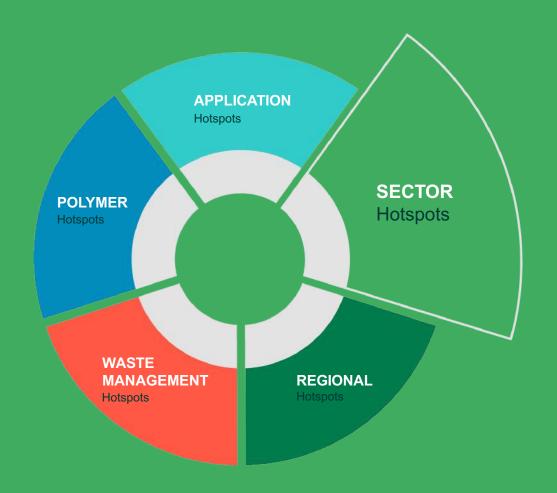
For the applications targeted in this study, Cyprus mostly imports virgin plastic or intermediate plastics such as plates, sheets and films of plastic, that are then turned into products by local manufacturers. Usually, the lack of insights on local manufacturing and retailing of products makes it very challenging to know precisely the consumption quantities. In the case of Cyprus, for packaging, we assumed that the production of an application is proportional to the relative importance that the application has in trade, and that the total production matches the total production from the packaging sector.



Unlocking limitations

Collect information on consumption quantities by packaging application in Cyprus, either by contacting manufacturers and retailers or by conducting a consumer survey.





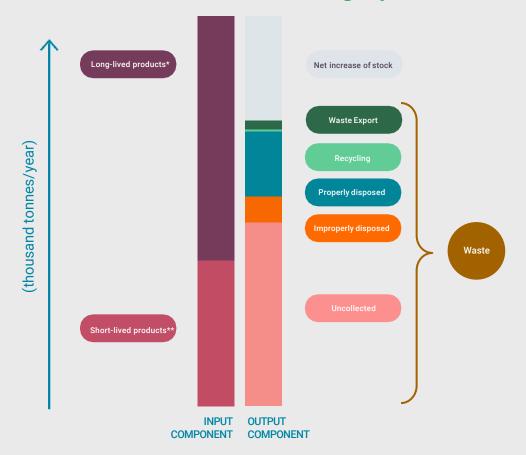
### **OBJECTIVE AND INSTRUCTIONS**



#### Key question answered:

Which sectors are most critical in the country regarding plastic leakage?

#### What are the bar components of the sector mass balance graph?



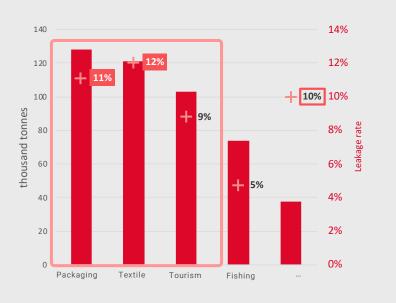
#### How to read the sector hotspot graph?



3. Select hotspots based on absolute and relative leakage



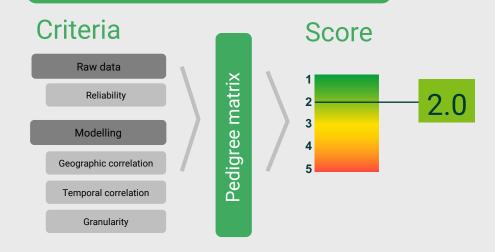
#### 2. Focus on leakage and leakage rate



For more details, please read the Methodology



4. Assess the quality score of the results

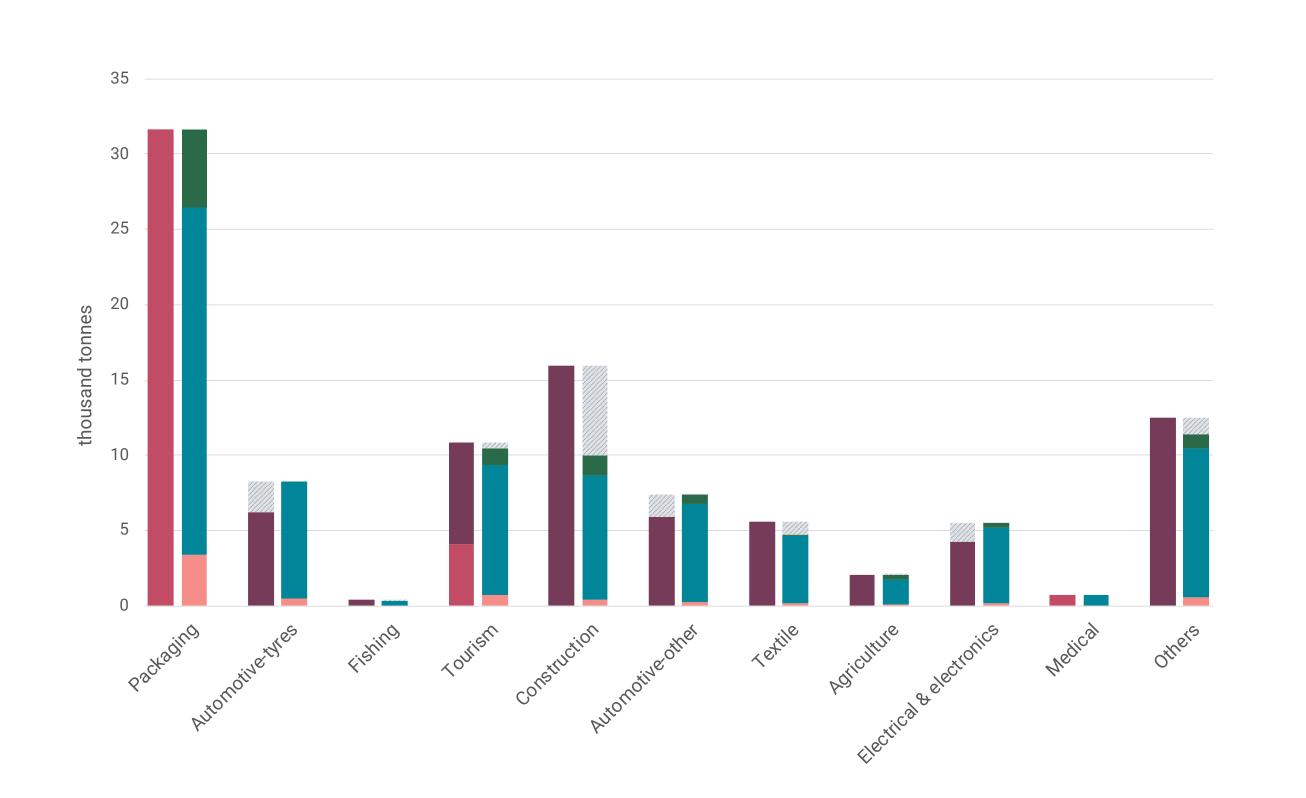


<sup>\*</sup> Short-lived products: products that are disposed within the year of study (Life-time < 1 year)

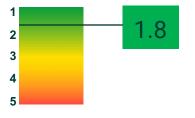
<sup>\*\*</sup> Long-lived products: products that are disposed after the year of study (Life-time > 1 year)

# MASS BALANCE BY SECTOR [2018]





#### **Quality Score**



#### INPUT

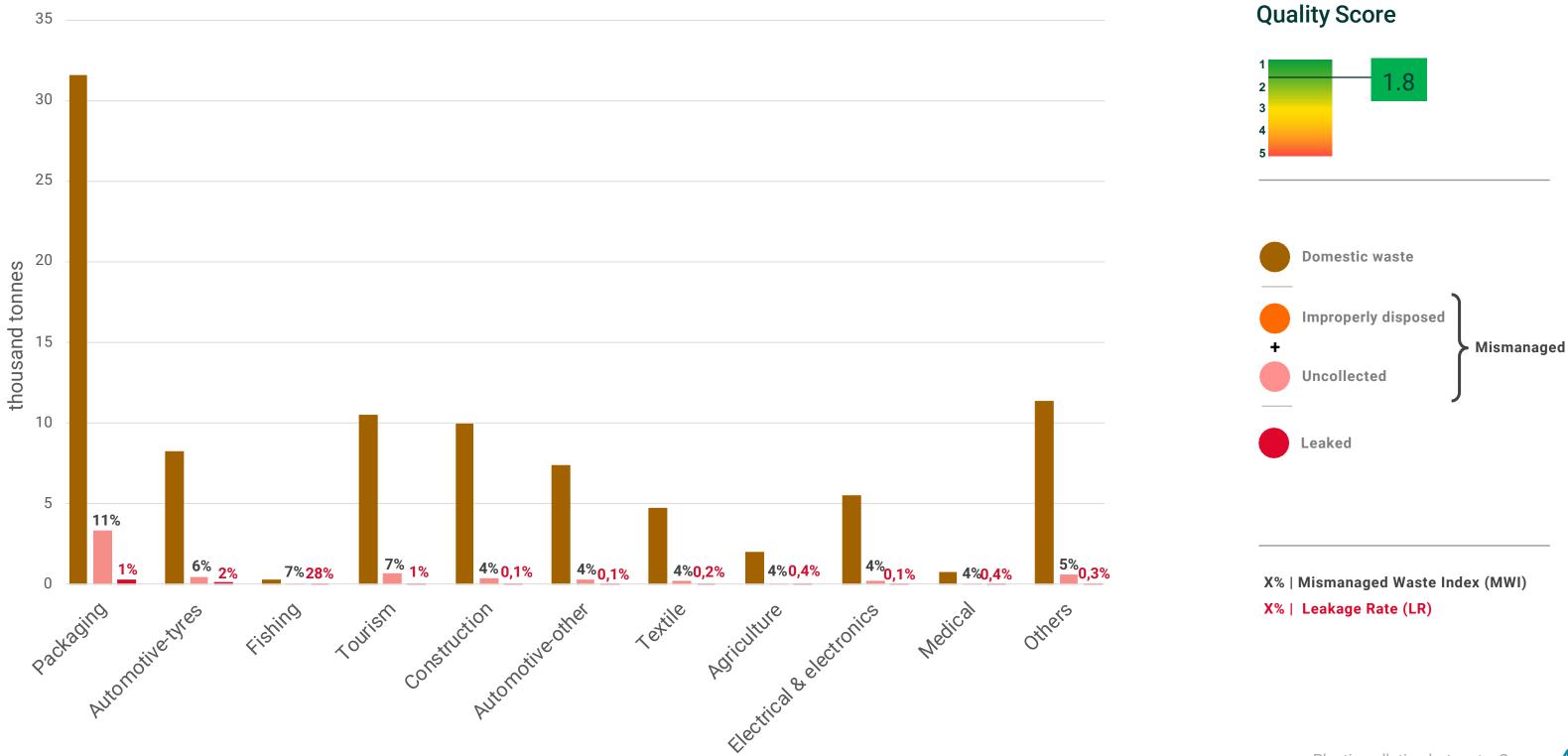
- **Short-lived products**
- Long-lived products

#### OUTPUT

- **Charge in stock**
- **Waste Export** 
  - **Export of primary and products**
- Recycling
- **Properly disposed**
- Improperly disposed
- Uncollected

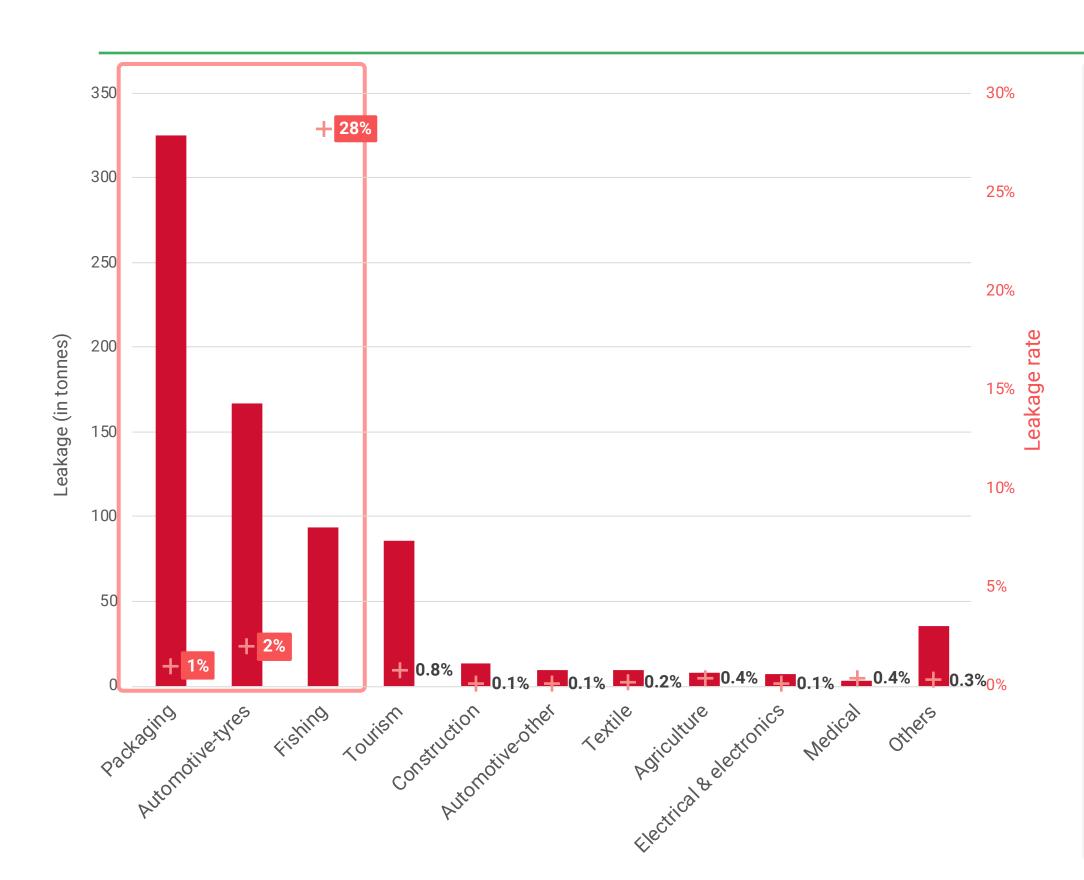
# MISMANAGED WASTE AND LEAKAGE BY SECTOR [2018]





# SECTOR HOTSPOTS [2018]

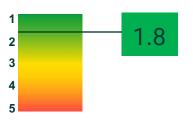






relative value

#### **Quality Score**





#### Key take-aways

- The packaging sector contributes to 42% of total plastic leakage with 325 t of packaging waste leaking into oceans and waterways.
- The automotive-tyres sector is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest contributor to plastic leakage in absolute value (167 t), mostly due to tyre abrasion on roads.
- Fishing and Tourism sectors are close behind with 93 t and 86 t of plastic leakage respectively, although Fishing seems has a very high leakage rate (28%).

# **SECTOR HOTSPOTS:** INTERPRETATION AND LIMITATIONS



# **Packaging**

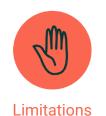


Packaging is the sector with the highest absolute plastic leakage. This is due to various reasons. Firstly, packaging is the sector with the highest plastic consumption and, unlike other sectors, all the products in the packaging sector become waste within the year (no stock). Secondly, although most of the plastic collected for recycling in Cyprus comes from the packaging sector, this represents only 16% of the entire plastic packaging waste. Thirdly, plastic in packaging has one of the highest chances of littering.

# **Fishing**



Fishing ranks surprisingly high as it is the third sector by absolute plastic leakage and the first by leakage rate. This can be explained by the prevailing use of longlines in Cyprus which have the highest plastic weight by unit as well as the highest chances of being lost at sea (Richardson et al., 2019).



The precise number of fishing gears is unknown. Thus, we are possibly overestimating the number of fishing gears that were actually used in 2018 by using the maximum length of gear authorised by license type as a default estimate of gear count.

# **Automotive-tyres**



Learnings

The automotive-tyres sector is the second sector by absolute and relative plastic leakage. The high leakage is due to the micro-leakage coming from tyre abrasion while driving vehicles on roads.



Limitations

We did not consider any special treatment for Automotivetyres waste, even though we know from the Department of Environment of Cyprus that there are two collective systems for the collection and treatment of waste tyres as alternative fuels. Indeed, we cannot estimate the quantity of tyres discarded through these systems, but this does not affect our result since more than 90% of leakage from the automotive-tyres sector stems from tyre abrasion during the use phase.



Unlocking limitations

Contact cement factories to know if and how many tyres they incinerate as fuel per year.

# **SECTOR HOTSPOTS:** INTERPRETATION AND LIMITATIONS



## **Tourism**



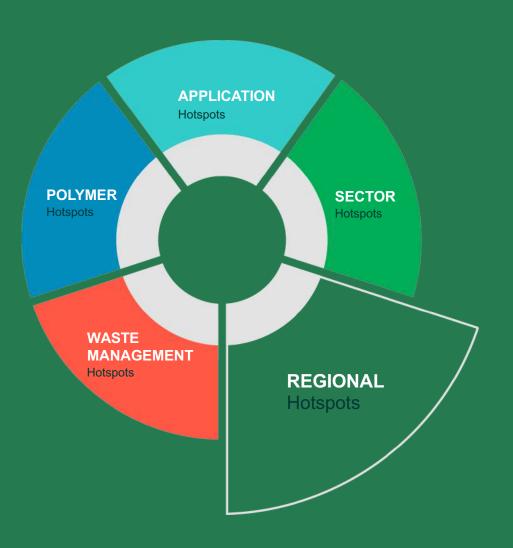
Although not in the top three plastic leakage hotspots, the tourism sector still contributes to 11% of total plastic leakage (same share as the fishing sector). This does come as a surprise since Cyprus is a very attractive destination with almost 4 millions tourists in 2018.



We assume that the tourism sector has an impact on every other sector which is proportional to waste generated in each sector. This means for instance that 11% of the waste produced by both the packaging sector and the automotive sector were allocated to the tourism sector.



2 Plastic pollution hotspots



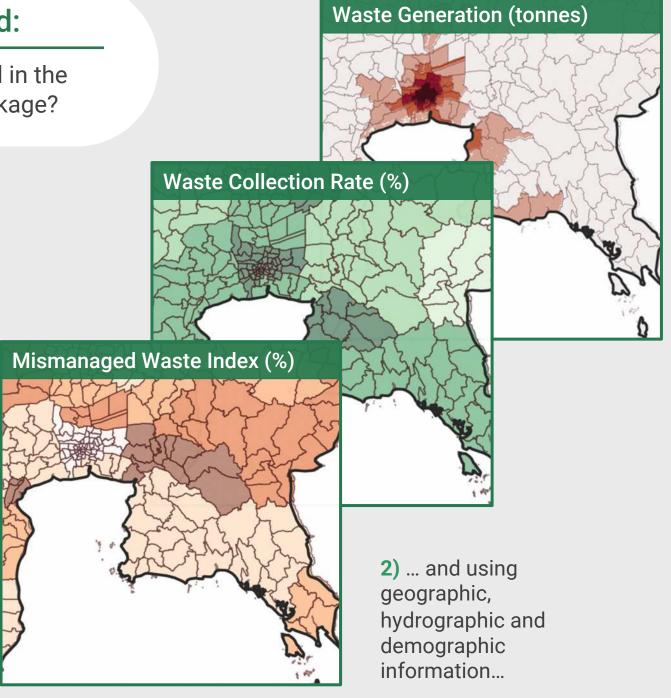
#### **OBJECTIVE AND INSTRUCTIONS**



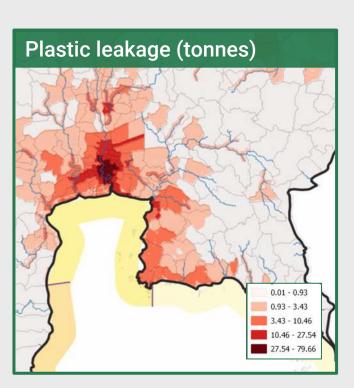
#### Key question answered:

Which areas are most critical in the country regarding plastic leakage?

> 1) Overlaying different information available at city / district / subdistrict level and/of modelled through archetypes...



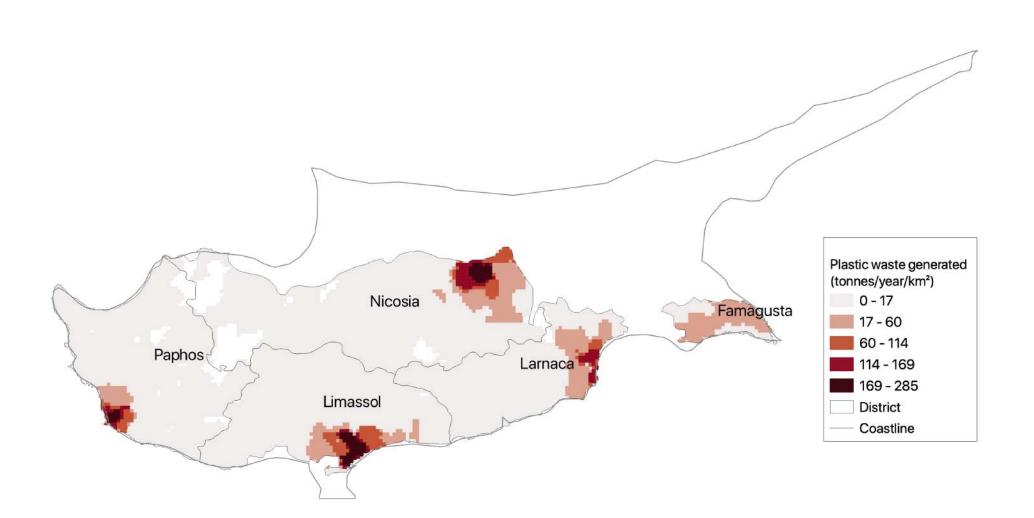
3) ... allows to compute a leakage map and identify regional hotspots



# **WASTE GENERATION:**

# MAP AND INTERPRETATIONS [2018]







#### Key take-aways

- Plastic waste generation is concentrated around the cities of Nicosia, Limassol, Paphos and Larnaca.
- On average, plastic accounts for 15% of the total waste stream.



Limitations

Although the total value of waste generated by tourists is known by province based on the number of beds, we cannot visualise precise tourist hotspots at a pixel level due to a lack of granularity in the geographical data.



Unlocking limitations Gather more granular data on where tourists are dwelling during stay with specific coordinate positions.



## **WASTE COLLECTION:**

# MAP AND INTERPRETATIONS [2018]







#### Key take-aways

 Plastic waste collection rate hits 93% on average in Cyprus.



Limitations

Due to a lack of granular data at province level, we assume that plastic waste collection is evenly distributed across the country, which does not reflect reality.



Unlocking limitations

Since all collected waste that is not exported for recycling is disposed at landfill facilities, it is important to trace the origin of the waste ending up at each of the three Integrated Waste Management Facilities in Cyprus. This information will reveal how much plastic waste is collected in each province in addition to already known amounts of recyclables.



## **MISMANAGED WASTE INDEX:**

# MAP AND INTERPRETATIONS [2018]







#### Key take-aways

• The average MWI for plastic waste is 7% in Cyprus.



Learnings

As we assume that only uncollected waste contributes to mismanagement, the map shown for MWI is the mirror of the waste collection map.



Limitations

Due to a lack of granular data at province level, we assume that plastic waste mismanagement is evenly distributed across the country, which does not reflect the reality.



Unlocking limitations

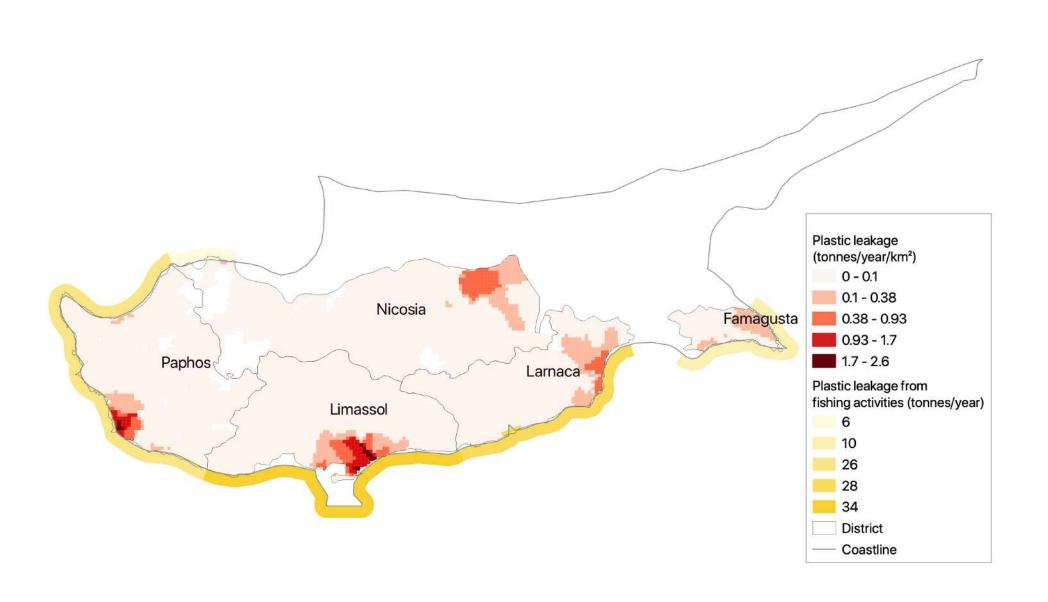
Improve data from Integrated Waste Management Facilities.



## **REGIONAL LEAKAGE:**

# MAP AND INTERPRETATIONS [2018]







#### Key take-aways

- Annual leakage of mismanaged waste: 466 tonnes
- Annual leakage from mismanaged/lost at sea fishing gears and from overboard littering: 93 tonnes.



Learnings

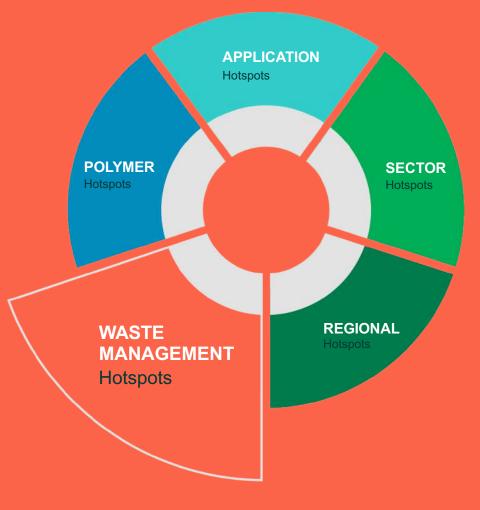
- Similarly to plastic waste generation, leakage hotspots are located around cities of Nicosia, Limassol, Paphos and Larnaca. However leakage density (per km<sup>2</sup>) is more important in cities and surroundings of Limassol and Paphos.
- Fishing vessels and fishermen are likely to substantially contribute to plastic leakage in Cyprus (12% of total leakage).







2 Plastic pollution hotspots



#### **OBJECTIVE AND INSTRUCTIONS**



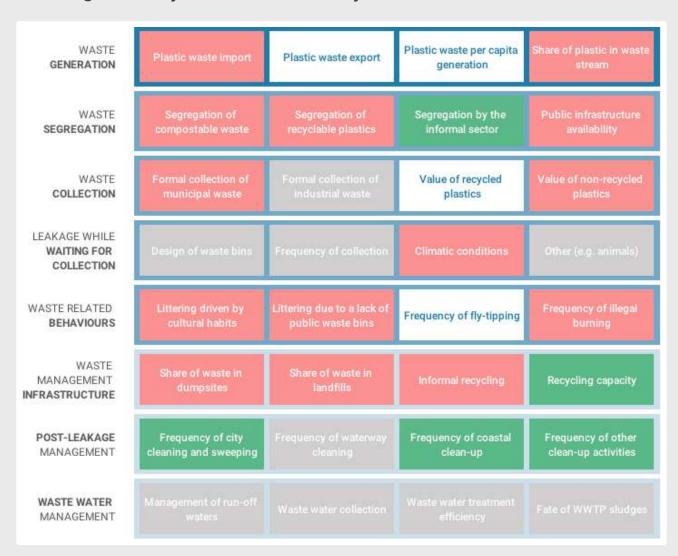
#### Key question answered:

Which waste management stages are most critical in the country regarding plastic leakage?

1) We decided for each element\* of the waste management system if its contribution to leakage mitigation is positive (coolspot), neutral or negative (hotspot)

Waste management stage	Potential hotpsot	Is it a hotspot?	Justification	Source	
	Plastic waste import	нотѕрот	Only 7% of the waste recycled in the country is locally sourced, the remaining 93% in imported. The formal sector only recycles imported waste (around 850kt a year) and it does not recycled domestic waste (cit. VPA, VCCI). Domestic waste is recycled by the informal sector in improper conditions.	VPA interview and VCCI report VN_r	
Waste generation	Plastic waste export				
	Plastic waste per capita generation		Vietnam produces around 50 kg of plastic waste per person per year	EA - Country baseline analysis	
	Share of plastic in waste stream	нотѕрот	Vietnam is a LMC (8% of plastic in waste stream on average), but the share of plastic in the waste stream is from 15% to 20% depending on the source	VN_r10 GA Circular summarises the waste characterisation studies	

2) Understand at a glance the status of the waste management system in the country with this dashboard



\*For detailed element descriptions and methodology, refer to tool T4.1



#### WASTE MANAGEMENT HOTSPOTS



SOURCE	WASTE <b>GENERATION</b>	Plastic waste import	Plastic waste export	Plastic waste per capita generation	Share of plastic in waste stream	
	WASTE SEGREGATION	Segregation of compostable waste	Segregation of recyclable plastics	Segregation by the informal sector	Public infrastructure availability	
COLLECTION	WASTE COLLECTION	Formal collection of municipal waste	Formal collection of industrial waste	Value of recycled plastics	Value of non-recycled plastics	
COLI	LEAKAGE WHILE WAITING FOR COLLECTION	Design of waste bins	Frequency of collection	Climatic conditions	Other (e.g. animals)	
	WASTE RELATED BEHAVIOURS	Littering driven by cultural habits	Littering due to a lack of public waste bins	Frequency of fly-tipping	Frequency of illegal burning	
	WASTE MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE	Share of waste in dumpsites	Share of waste in unsanitary landfills	Informal recycling	Recycling capacity	
END-OF-LIFE	POST-LEAKAGE MANAGEMENT	Frequency of city cleaning and sweeping	Frequency of waterway cleaning	Frequency of coastal clean-up	Frequency of other clean- up activities	
	WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT	Management of run-off waters	Waste water collection	Waste water treatment efficiency	Fate of WWTP sludges	

For more details and justifications, check tool T4.1



**Negative contribution** to the leakage



**Neutral contribution** 



**Positive contribution** 



Not assessed



#### Key take-aways

- Plastic waste generation per capita (94 kg/cap/year) is above the Western Europe average (64 kg/cap.year) and the share of plastic in the waste stream is high (16%).
- Waste collection rate (93%) is below average in high income countries 96%\*.
- There is a lack of adequately designed bins and they are not emptied on a regular basis.
- In 2018, Cyprus had no recycling capacity on its territory.
- There is a significant export of plastic waste (around 9% of the total) to countries with lower waste management standards (for instance Indonesia and India).
- Some positive aspects are the absence of unsanitary landfills, a high share of waste water collection and treatment, and low volumes of plastic waste import.

<sup>\*</sup> Average plastic waste generation per capita values are derived from the What a Waste 2.0 database (Kaza et al., 2018)



# 2.3 ACTIONABLE HOTSPOTS

#### **HOTSPOTS** IN BRIEF





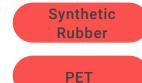
#### Polymer

#### **Application**

#### Sector

#### Regional

#### Waste management



LDPE

HDPE

Polyester

PP

PS

PVC

Other

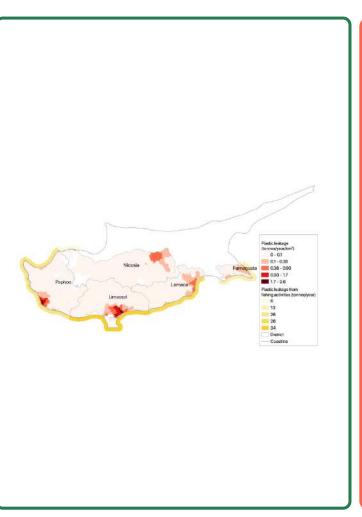


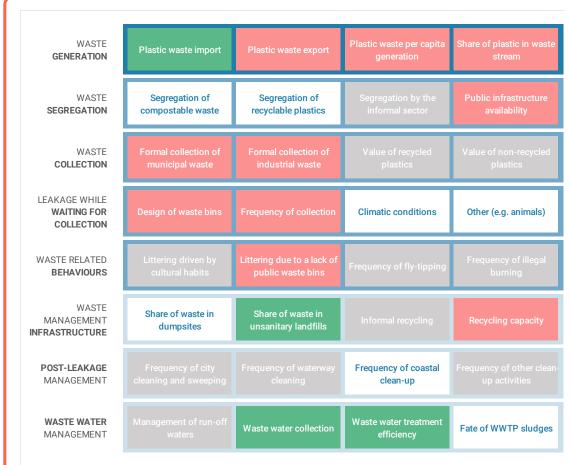
Other packaging

Drinks bottles

Other bottles

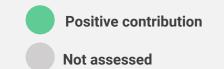
Packaging Automotive-Fishing Tourism Construction Automotive-Textile Electrical & electronics Medical Other











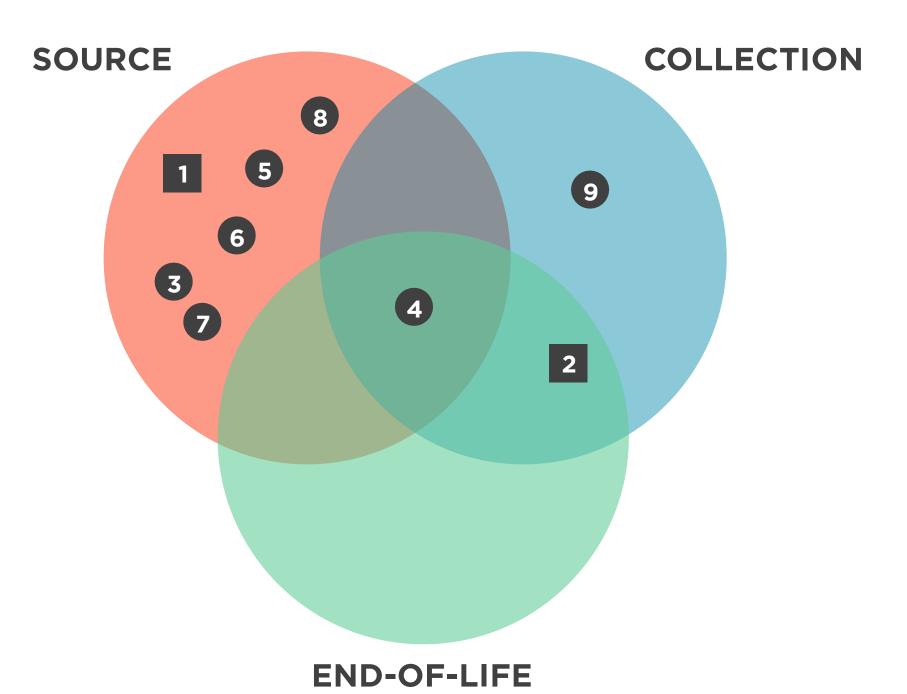
# **ACTIONABLE HOTSPOTS** LIST



[#]	[ ACTIONABLE HOTSPOT ]	[ <b>I</b> /•]
1	Plastic generation per capita in Cyprus is well above Western Europe average and plastic share in waste stream is increasing over the years due to a plastic consumption on the rise.	
2	All type of plastics are leaking in Cyprus due to low levels of segregation at source and a lack of incentives for recycling plastic.	
3	Synthetic Rubber is the most leaking polymer in Cyprus due to tyre abrasion caused by high use of road vehicles.	•
4	PET and LDPE, used for example in bottles or bags respectively, are seriously leaking in Cyprus because of a high consumption, lack of recycling incentives, and littering behaviours.	•
5	Plastic bags are the most leaking application (among those covered in the analysis) in Cyprus as it is the second most consumed application in the country and has high release potential in waterways after loss.	•
6	Packaging is the most leaking sector in Cyprus that consumes important quantities of plastic and covers products with high leakage potential.	•
7	Tourism has a relatively high leakage impact due to a high number of tourists who probably consume more single-use plastics with a high leakage potential.	•
8	Paphos and Larnaka are the most critical areas for plastic leakage per km <sup>2</sup> due to high population density.	•
9	Plastic waste is leaking because of a lack of adequately designed bins and a low waste collection frequency in some areas.	•

#### **ACTIONABLE HOTSPOTS** CHARACTERISATION





Each actionable hotspot can address plastic pollution at one or multiple stages along the plastic value chain. We notice that the list of actionable hotspots for Cyprus calls for actions concentrated on the source of plastic rather than its collection or end-oflife.

**GENERIC** (Concerns all plastic types and all regions)

SPECIFIC (Concerns specific plastic types or regions)

# 3 SHAPING ACTION



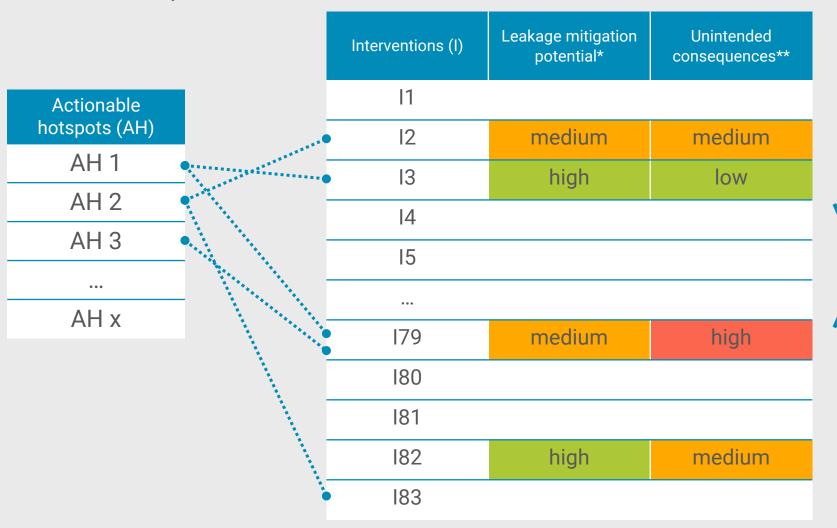
# 3.1 INTERVENTIONS

### **METHODOLOGY FOR IDENTIFYING INTERVENTIONS**



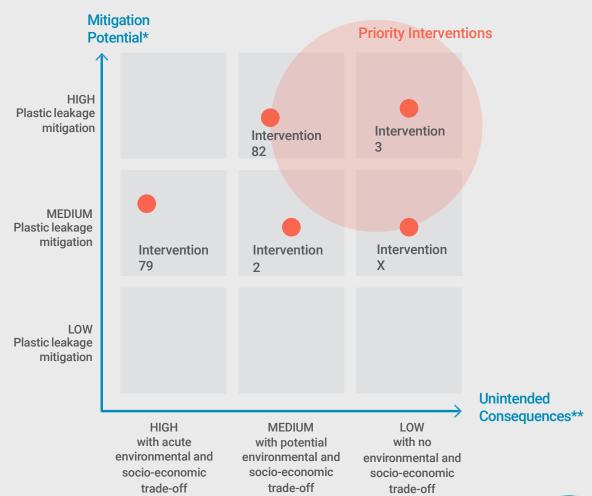
**STEP 1:** choose up to 3 interventions for each actionable hotspot

**STEP 2:** assess criteria levels for each chosen intervention



<sup>\*</sup> Leakage mitigation potential: high mitigation potential actions are those that contribute to meaningful reductions of plastic leakage and impacts.

**STEP 3:** visualise priority interventions in the top right corner of the chart



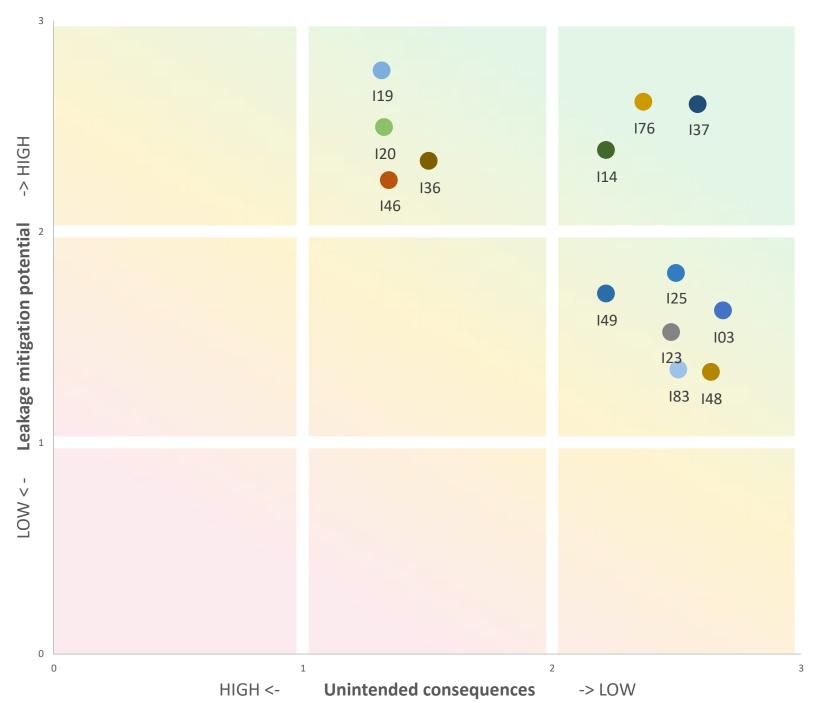


<sup>\*\*</sup> Unintended consequences: highly consequential actions are those most likely to generate unintended environmental or socio-economic trade-offs (e.g., substitution from plastic to another material may generate additional environmental impacts such as GHG emissions).

#### PRELIMINARY SELECTION OF INTERVENTIONS



#### Prioritisation of interventions



- IO3: Increase recycling capacity for domestic plastic waste (all polymers)
- I14: Reduce littering in urban areas
- I19: Reduce demand for, and use of, single-use, especially onthe-go, plastics
- I20: Reduce tyre abrasion
- I23: Increase demand for recycled material in the country (LDPE)
- 125: Increase demand for recycled material in the country (PET)
- I36: Promote design of material or process that substitute plastic by other material based on life cycle assessment
- 137: Promote design of material or process that favour reuse of plastic objects (e.g. deposit scheme)
- 146: Plan more frequent waste collection in areas prone to plastic leakage (taxi stations, informal settlements, ...)
- I48: Increase plastic segregation at household level
- 149: Increase plastic segregation in public space (sorting waste bins)
- 176: Reduce losses from waste management equipment (bins, transport)
- 183: Increase density of waste bins in specific areas prone to leakage



Learning

Points are randomly distributed within the designated box to avoid overlapping. Each box on this 9 facets grid corresponds to a couple low/low or low/medium or low/high, etc. Only the facet in which the point falls into should be accounted for, not its relative position to points nearby.



Limitations

The list of interventions results from the hotspot analysis; it is currently based on the authors perception. A final version of the interventions should be elaborated through a multi-stakeholder consultation process.

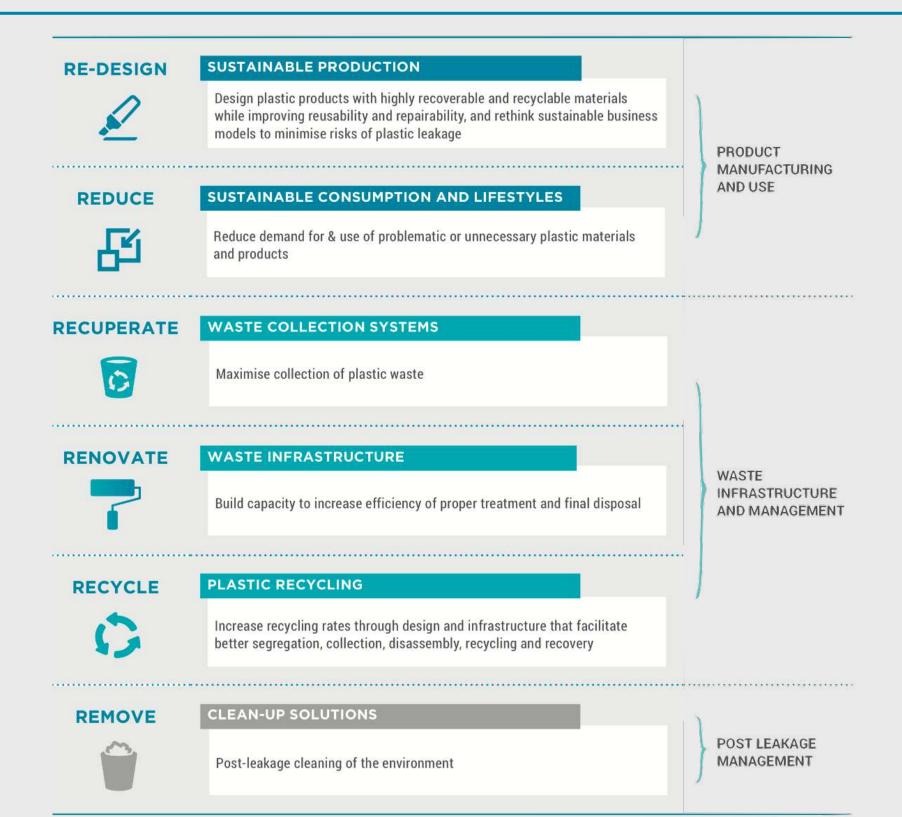


Set up a workshop for a multi-stakeholder process and repeat the interventions selection procedure.

#### **INTERVENTIONS** CLASSIFICATION



Interventions may occur at any point along the value chain. We categorise them into six types of approaches along the value chain.



# PRELIMINARY PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS LIST



[INTERVENTION CLASS]	[ PRIORITY INTERVENTION ]	[CODE]					
	Increase demand for recycled material in the country (LDPE)	123					
SUSTAINABLE	Increase demand for recycled material in the country (PET)	125					
PRODUCTION	Promote design of material or process that substitute plastic by other material based on life cycle assessment						
	Promote design of material or process that favour reuse of plastic objects (e.g. deposit scheme)	137					
	Reduce littering in urban areas	l14					
SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION  AND LIFESTYLES	Reduce demand for, and use of, single-use, especially on-the-go, plastics						
	Reduce tyre abrasion	120					
	Plan more frequent waste collection in areas prone to plastic leakage (taxi stations, informal settlements,)	146					
WASTE COLLECTION SYSTEMS	Increase plastic segregation at household level						
	Increase plastic segregation in public space (sorting waste bins)	149					
WASTE	Reduce losses from waste management equipment (bins, transport)	176					
INFRASTRUCTURE	Increase density of waste bins in specific areas prone to leakage	183					
PLASTIC RECYCLING	Increase recycling capacity for domestic plastic waste (all polymers)	103					



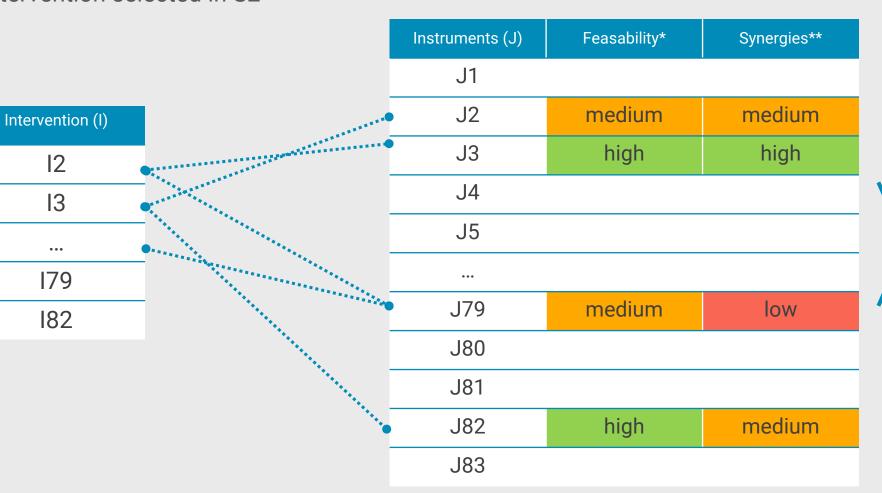
# 3.2 INSTRUMENTS

#### **METHODOLOGY FOR IDENTIFYING INSTRUMENTS**

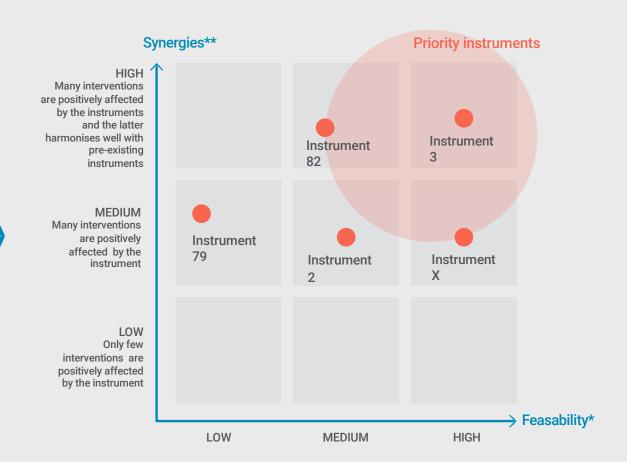


**STEP 1:** choose up to 3 instruments for each intervention selected in S2

**STEP 2:** assess criteria levels for each chosen instrument



**STEP 3:** visualise priority instruments in the top right corner of the chart



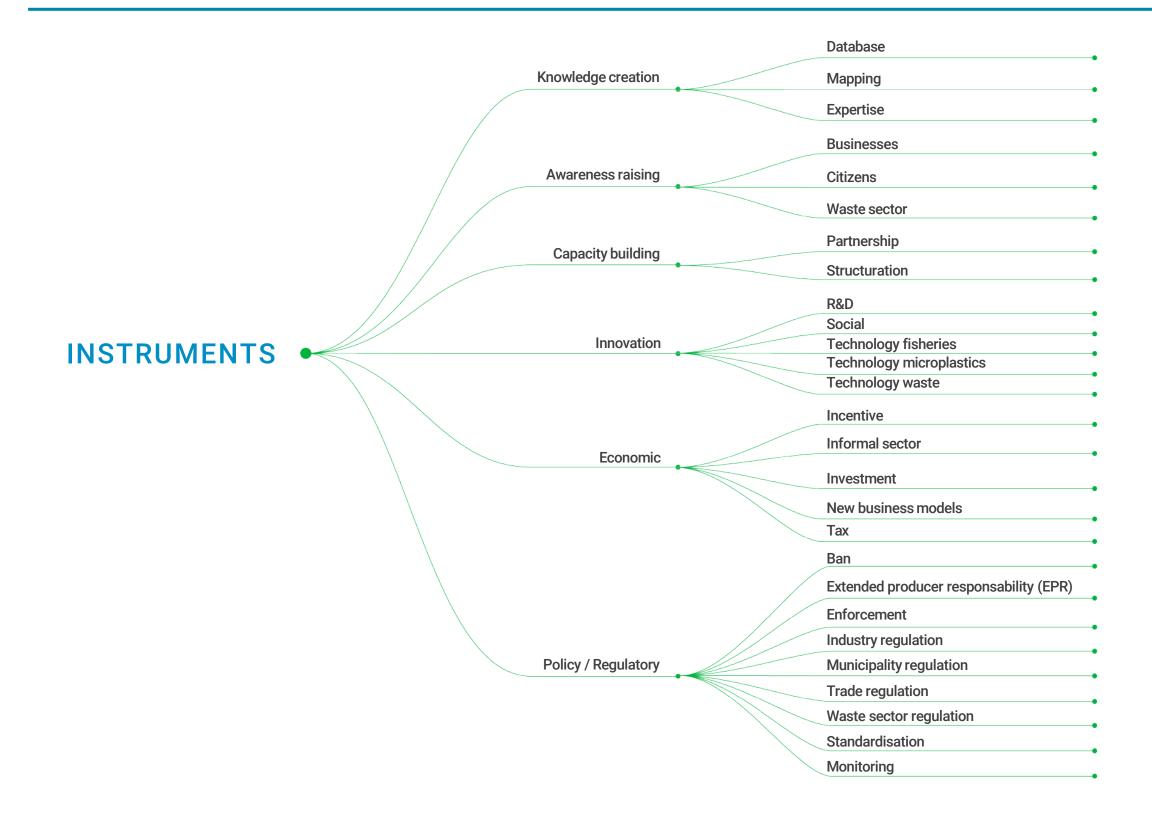


<sup>\*</sup> Feasability: technical and socio-economic assessment of each instrument should be performed. We do not assert a method to perform the assessment as this is beyond the scope of the Guidance. The user can decide on the method to use based on resources available. A by default qualitative assessment with three levels is suggested.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Synergies: Some instruments may be beneficial to multiple interventions, thus creating a positive synergetic effect. This criterion does not only evaluate the number of suggested interventions benefitting from an instrument, but also assess if the proposed instrument harmonises well with instruments already in place.

## LIST OF POSSIBLE INSTRUMENT CATEGORIES







# 4 APPENDICES

# 4.1 DATA REPOSITORY

#### **DETAILED SHARES BY POLYMER**

Polymer Type	Waste produced in country	Domestic recycling of collected	Export of collected	Properly disposed	Improperly disposed	Uncollected	Tot	Collected	Mismanaged	Leaked	Waste produced and imported	Domestic recycling incl imported
PET	9	0%	18%	72%	0%	11%	100%	89%	11%	1%	9	0%
PP	11	0%	18%	75%	0%	7%	100%	93%	7%	1%	11	0%
Polyester	6	0%	0%	96%	0%	4%	100%	96%	4%	0%	6	0%
LDPE	11	0%	18%	74%	0%	9%	100%	91%	9%	1%	11	0%
HDPE	15	0%	19%	73%	0%	8%	100%	92%	8%	1%	15	0%
PS	7	0%	0%	94%	0%	6%	100%	94%	6%	1%	7	0%
Other	18	0%	0%	96%	0%	6%	102%	96%	6%	0%	18	0%
Synthetic Rubber	9	0%	0%	94%	0%	6%	100%	94%	6%	2%	9	0%
PVC	6	0%	24%	72%	0%	4%	100%	96%	4%	0%	6	0%
Average	-	0%	11%	83%	0%	7%	100%	93%	7%	1%	10	0%

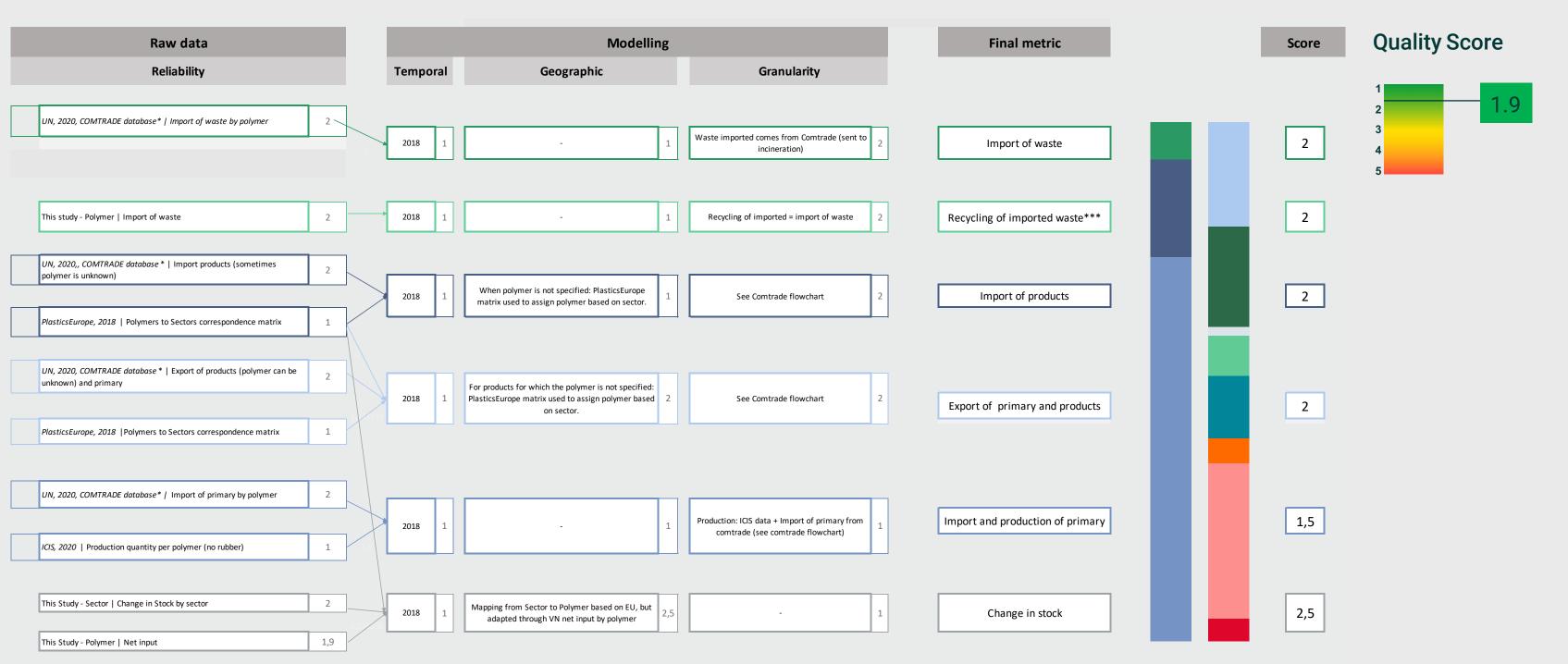
- Waste = Collected + Uncollected
- Collected = Domestic recycling of collected + Export of collected + Properly disposed + Improperly disposed
- Mismanaged = Improperly disposed + Uncollected

# WASTE MANAGEMENT BY PROVINCE

Province	Population 2020	Generated t		Properly disposed t	Improperly disposed t	Uncollected t	•			Collected kg/cap/yr	Mismanaged kg/cap/yr		Share of Mismanaged	Leakage rate
Limassol	264 852	25 960	24 154	24 154	- 0	1 806	1 806	167	98	91	7	93%	7%	0,6%
Nicosia	338 902	32 363	30 112	30 112	0	2 252	2 252	114	95	89	7	93%	7%	0,4%
	117 960	12 888	11 992	11 992	- 0	897	897	99	109	102	8	93%	7%	0,8%
Paphos  Larnaca	152 859	14 964	13 923	13 923	0	1 041	1 041	60	98	91	7	93%	7%	0,4%
Famagusta	47 644	6 412	5 966	5 966	- 0	446	446	25	135	125	9	93%	7%	0,4%

# 4.2 DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT

## **POLYMER HOTSPOTS** DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT (1/2)

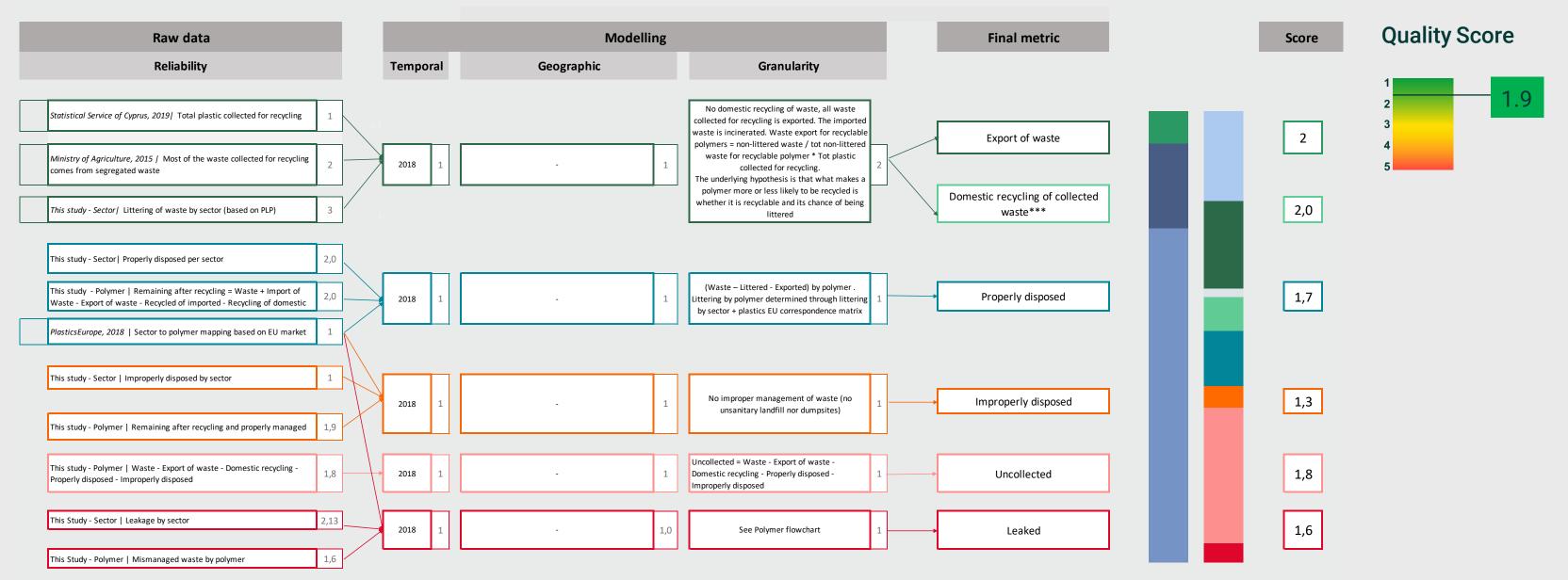


<sup>\*</sup> Data as reported by Cyprus to UN

<sup>\*\*</sup> Net input = Import waste - Recycling of import + import of products - Export of primary and products + Import and production of primary

<sup>\*\*\* &</sup>quot;Recycling of imported waste" together with "recycling of domestic waste" constitute the country's "recycling" bar

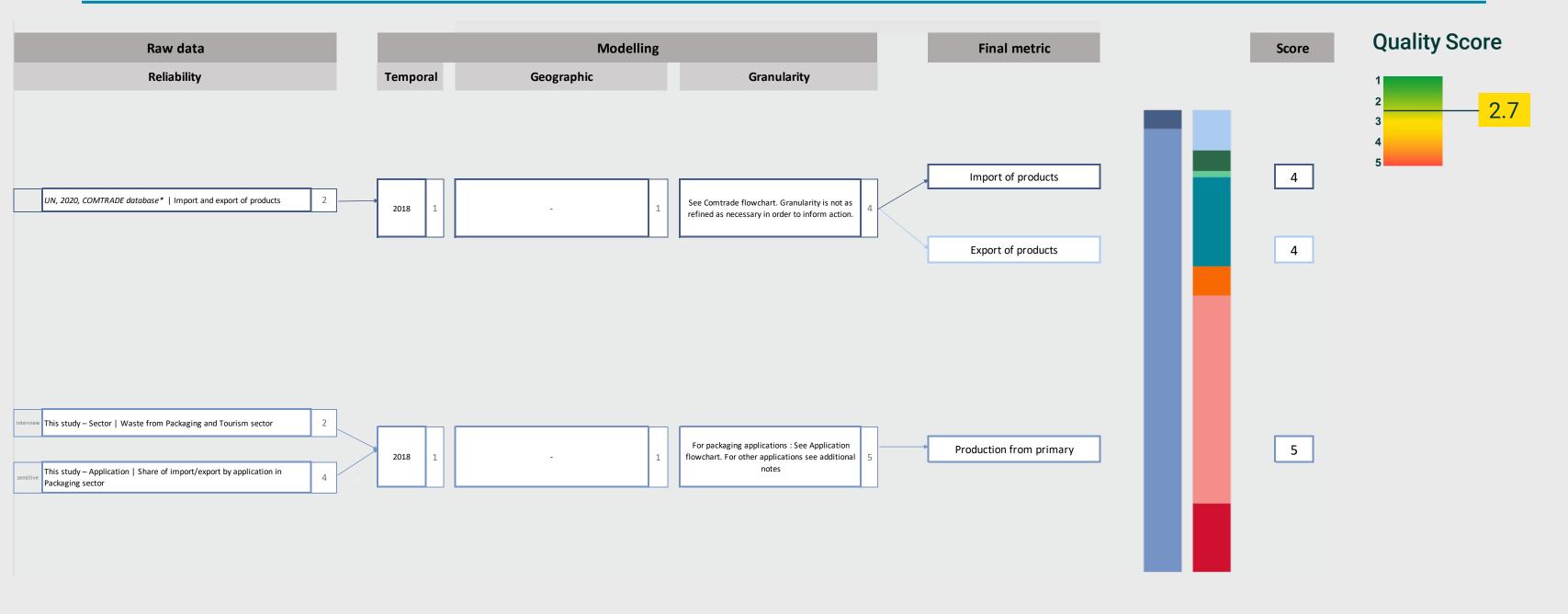
## **POLYMER HOTSPOTS** DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT (2/2)



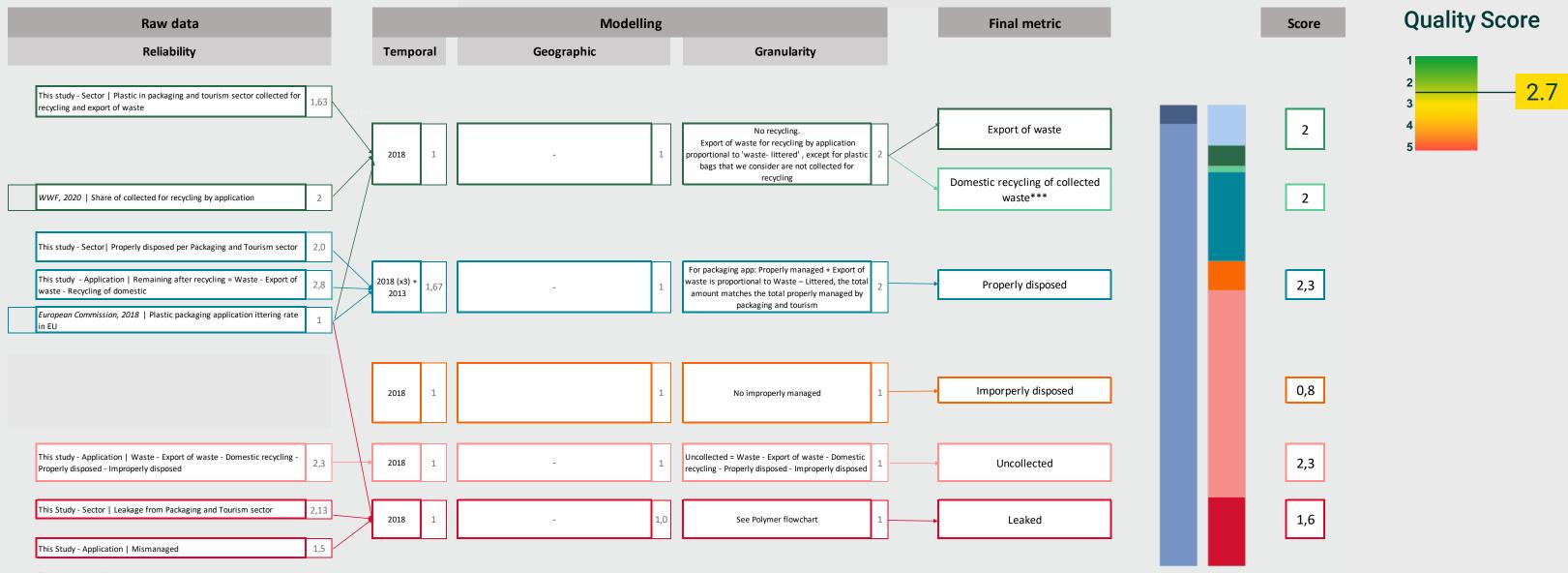
<sup>\*</sup> Data as reported by Cyprus to UN

<sup>\*\*\* &</sup>quot;Recycling of imported waste" together with "recycling of domestic waste" constitute the country's "recycling" bar

## **APPLICATION HOTSPOTS** DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT (1/2)



## **APPLICATION HOTSPOTS** DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT (2/2)



<sup>\*</sup> Data as reported by Cyprus to UN

<sup>\*\*\* &</sup>quot;Recycling of imported waste" together with "recycling of domestic waste" constitute the country's "recycling" bar

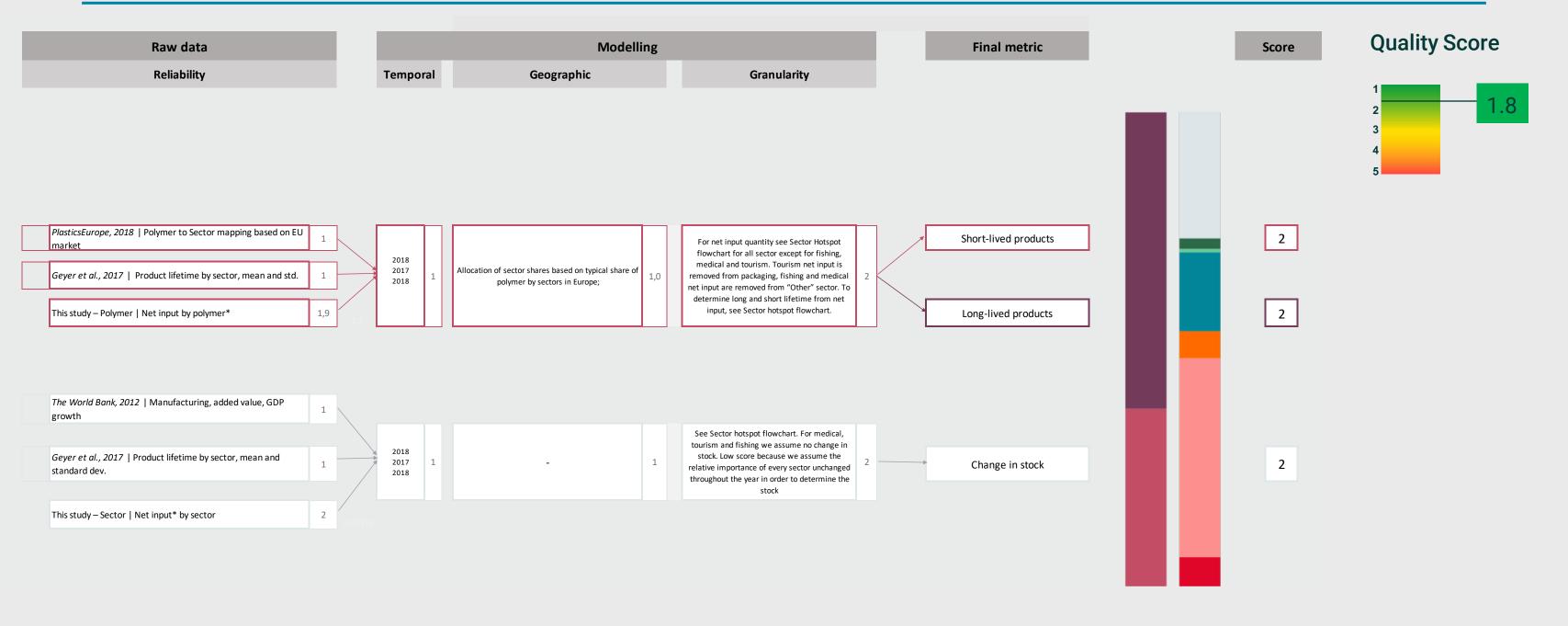
## **APPLICATION HOTSPOTS MODELLING NOTES**

Cigarette filters: We estimate the number of cigarette filters from cigarette consumption data of the Tobacco Atlas project (Kostova et al, 2014) combined with population data of Cyprus. The plastic weight of a cigarette filter is 0.17gr. From these data we obtain the waste generated. Trade data on import and export are determined through comtrade (code: 240220). Recycling is set to zero. The share of properly managed is taken from the average share of properly managed (sector hotspot), applied to the cigarette filters that are not littered. Littering rate is set to 29%, based on ICF, Eunomia EU littering report. The improperly managed is based on the average share of improperly managed (sector hotspot), applied to cigarette filters not littered or properly managed. The leakage rate is taken from PLP (25%) and applied to uncollected and improperly managed to determine de total leakage.

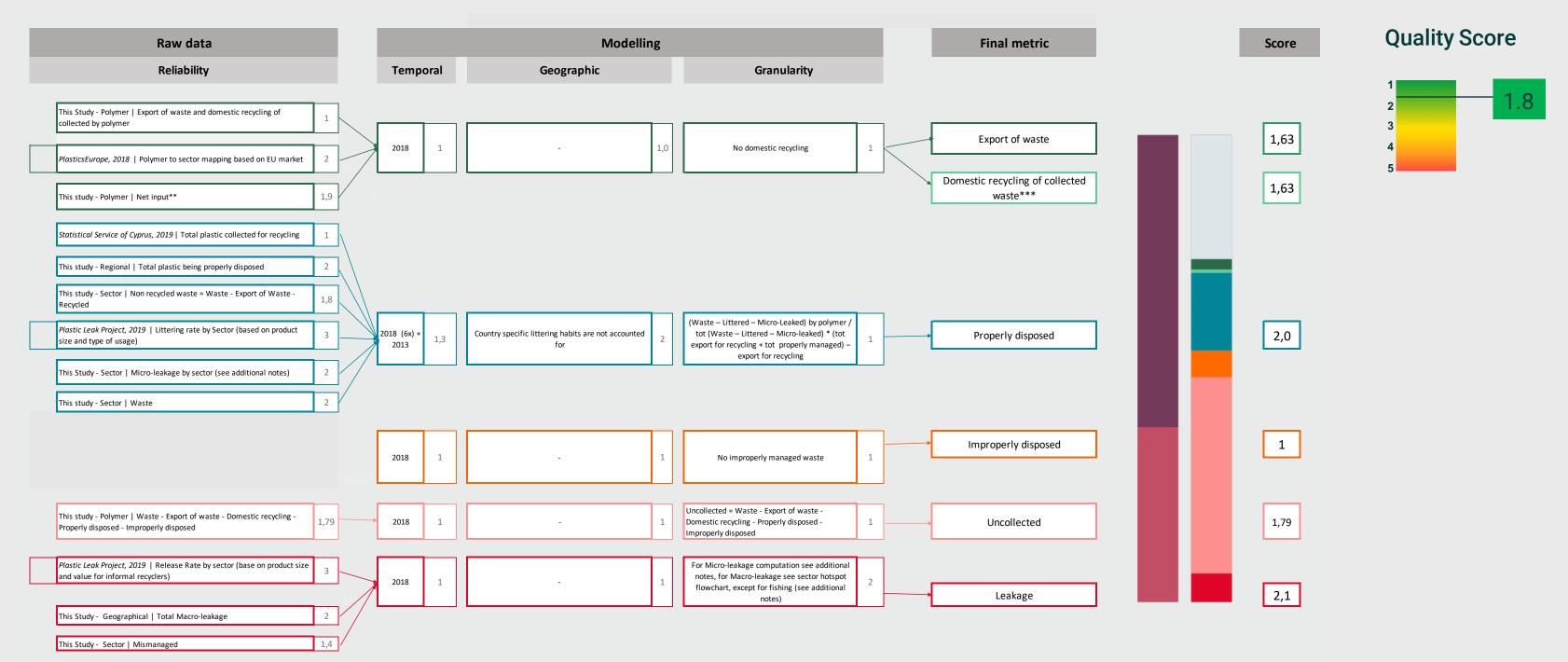
Sanitary towels: import and export are determined through UN COMTRADE (code: 961900). Waste generation is estimated to be 3 sanitary towels/ day, 4 days/month, 12 month/year for all the female population from 15 to 55 years old, with one sanitary towel weighting 2gr. Recycling is set to zero. The share of properly disposed is taken from the average share of properly disposed (sector hotspot), applied to the sanitary towels that are not littered. Littering rate is set to 21%, based on European Commission littering report (2018). The improperly disposed is based on the average share of improperly disposed (sector hotspot), applied to sanitary towels not littered or properly disposed. The leakage rate is taken from PLP (15%) and applied to uncollected and improperly disposed to determine de total leakage.

Baby diapers: import and export are determined through UN COMTRADE (2020). To determine de waste generation we consider the population of children between 0-2 years old (half of the 0-4 pop in UN statistics database), uses 4.16 unit of diapers/day (Mendosa et al., 2018). Average weight of a baby diaper is 29,1 gr, from which 33% made of plastic components (Espinosa et al. 2015). Recycling is set to zero. The share of properly disposed is taken from the average share of properly disposed (sector hotspot), applied to the baby towels that are not littered. Littering rate is set to 21% (using sanitary towels as a proxy), based on the European Commission littering report (2018) The improperly disposed is based on the average share of improperly disposed (sector hotspot), applied to baby diapers not littered or properly disposed. The leakage rate is taken from PLP (15%) and applied to uncollected and improperly disposed to determine de total leakage.

## **SECTOR HOTSPOTS** DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT (1/2)



## **SECTOR HOTSPOTS** DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT (2/2)



<sup>\*\*</sup> Net input = Import waste - Recycling of import + import of products - Export of primary and products + Import and production of primary

<sup>\*\*\* &</sup>quot;Recycling of imported waste" together with "recycling of domestic waste" constitute the country's "recycling" bar

## SECTOR HOTSPOTS **MODELLING NOTES**

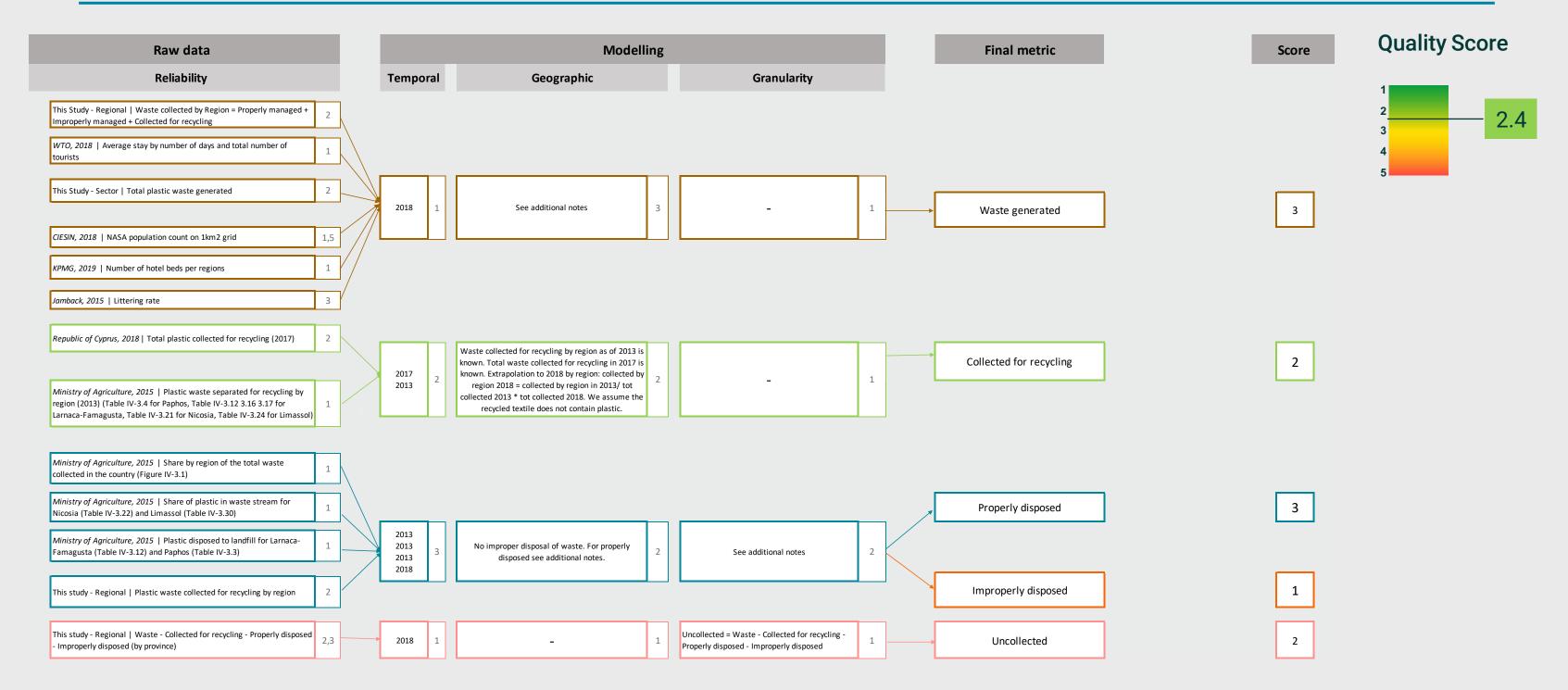
**Medical:** Total plastic waste generated by the medical sector is computed by combining the number of hospital beds (WHO statistics 2010, 38,3 beds per 10'000 inhabitants), the default average bed occupancy rate (80%), the total waste generated by bed and the average plastic share in medical waste (set at 4 kg/bed/day and 20% respectively). No distinction was made infectious and non-infectious medical waste.

**Tourism:** Data on number of tourists and average length of stay comes from the WTO Compendium of Tourism Statistics. We combine this information with the average plastic waste generation per capita per day derived from our calculations to estimate the plastic waste generated by the tourism sector. We make the assumption that a tourist will generate as much plastic waste as a Cyprus citizen.

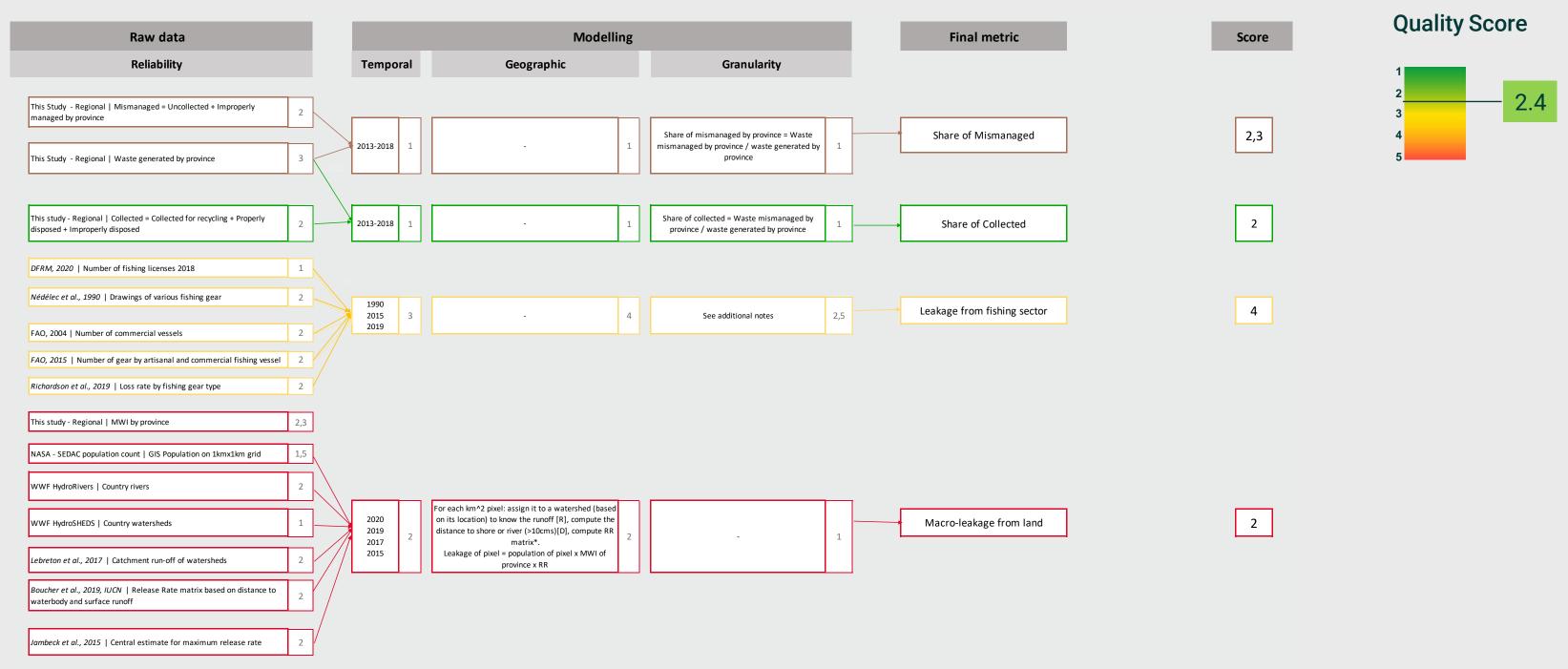
#### Micro-leakage contribution

- Automotive-tyres (Tyre dust): Loss and leakage of synthetic rubbers particles from tyres to the marine environment is calculated based on the methodology described in the Plastic Leak Project (2020). The number of cars was taken from Transport Statistics 2016 (Statistical Service, 2018) and the average distance by car for EU was used (ODYSEE-MURE, 2020)
- Textile (Textile fibers): loss and leakage of textile fibers to the marine environment is calculated based on the methodology described in the Plastic Leak Project (2020)
- Others (Cosmetics): loss and leakage of plastic microparticles from cosmetics to the marine environment is calculated based on the methodology described in Plastic Leak Project (2020)
- Others (Pellets): loss and leakage the marine environment of plastic pellets during transportation and production stages is calculated based on the methodology described in Plastic Leak Project (2020)

## **REGIONAL HOTSPOTS** DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT (1/2)



## **REGIONAL HOTSPOTS** DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT (2/2)



<sup>\*1</sup> With max release rate from Jambeck et al., 2015: 25%; D1 short < 2 km, D2 long > 100 km (Sistemiq), R1 small < 1st quartile of world runoff, R3 large > 3rd quartile of world runoff (Lebreton et al; 2017)

### REGIONAL HOTSPOTS **MODELLING NOTES**

Fishing: Plastic leakage from fisheries can be divided into three component:

- 1) Leakage due to gears lost at sea during fishing operations;
- 2) Leakage from gears discarded and mismanaged on land;
- 3) Leakage from plastic waste littered overboard by some fishermen.

To know how many fishing gear by type are used in Cyprus in 2018, the number of licenses by type provided in DFRM 2020 with the maximum gear length or number of hooks allowed has been used. By default, we use the maximum gear length or number of hooks to estimate the number of fishing gears in use.

(1) Leakage due to gears lost at sea is computed using loss rates by fishing gear type provided by Richardson et al. (2019). For some fishing gears, loss is considered for fragments of the gear only, thus we had to make an assumption on how big a fragment would be (10%, 50% or 90% of a gear unit). Our default calculation takes the assumption of a fragment representing 50% of a gear unit.

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