

# e-Roundtable

Reducing plastic waste in the hospitality industry

## Event Highlights

27 March 2020



## Overview

**Name:** [SEA circular e-Roundtable, “Reducing Plastic Waste in the Hospitality Industry”](#)

**Date:** 27 March 2020, 14:00 - 17:30 Bangkok time

**Objective:** A call to the hospitality industry for action to reduce plastic waste

This first ever e-Roundtable, part of the **SEA circular Roundtable series for collective actions for less plastic wasted**, attended by hoteliers and tourism professionals in South-East Asia, was organized by SEA circular, a UN Environment Programme (UNEP) initiative.

The e-Roundtable had the following targets:

1. **Experience sharing:** How steps taken with industry players can be more impactful
2. **Pre-competitive collective actions:** Developing synergies and consensus
3. **Aggregate best practices:** Replicating actions proven to work by others
4. **Lifting the bar:** Advancing pledges and escalating industry-wide action

Hoteliers discussed best practices, lessons learned and incentives for aggregate industry action. The aim was to support and urgently scale-up plastic waste reduction initiatives and commitments. The e-Roundtable event explored solutions for more challenging issues, including the plastic items coming in from suppliers and from back-of-house activities. These involve areas which are not customer-facing - but are no less damaging.

The discussions also focused on current trends and opportunities to manage plastic use better, customer expectations, regulatory requirements, business profitability, and protecting brand reputation. The e-Roundtable served to find tangible actions undertaken by the hospitality industry in South-East Asia, and identify ways forward.

**Format:** Due to the COVID-19 virus safety precautions, the e-Roundtable was held using Bluejeans video-conferencing.

## Programme:

BKK Time (GMT +7)	Session	Speakers (Annex 1)
14:00 - 14:30	<b>Welcome and E-Roundtable Engagement Guidelines</b>  Plastics in the Industry: can we do without it?	Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida, UNEP  Maggie Lee, UNEP SEA circular
14:30 - 15:00	<b>Sharing Session: Case Studies</b>  Destinations and companies share their best practices, the challenges they face and the opportunities for less plastic wasted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phuket Hotels Association</li> <li>Marina Bay Sands Hotel Singapore</li> <li>Six Senses Hotels Resorts Spas</li> </ul>
15:00 - 15:20	<b>Enabling the Goal for Less Plastic Wasted</b>	Pablo Montes, Global Tourism Plastic Initiative
15:20 - 16:45	<b>Discussion: Business engagement for plastic action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic use in hotel operations and supply chains</li> <li>Regulatory, technical, and precautionary concerns and standards</li> <li>Challenges faced in addressing customer requirements and reputational risk</li> <li>Collective actions with partners: business solutions, technological interventions</li> </ul>	Breakout groups moderated by UNEP staff, with assigned notetakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pablo Montes / (Virginia Trapa)</li> <li>Janet Salem / (Katrin Holmgren)</li> <li>Natalie Harms / (Martha Fernandez)</li> <li>Maggie Lee / (Svitlana Mikhalyeva)</li> </ul>
16:45 - 17:15	<b>Recommendations and Commitments</b>  Establish a common direction and consensus for the next steps, to achieve milestones together	Breakout group leaders
17:15 - 17:30	<b>First Actions on Measurement: Plastic Footprint measurement</b>	Maggie Lee
	<b>Follow-up and next steps</b>	Maggie Lee, SEA circular

## Participants

The e-Roundtable was attended by more than **50 participants**, representing **26 hotels**, hotel chains and boutique hotels, hospitality associations, and hotel amenity providers from **Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam**, as well as UN personnel from multiple organizations. The Chatham House rule was observed, with special attention to ensure anti-trust precautions are taken. [\(Annex 2\)](#)

Participants called in via Bluejeans video conferencing.

## Pre-e-Roundtable self-assessment survey

Prior to the e-Roundtable, a self-assessment survey was sent to all the participants. The information provided a profile of the organizations, specifically as it relates to each property's practices and policies on plastic use, consumption, and waste. This was especially useful in framing the questions used during the breakout sessions, as well as in organizing the participants into the different breakout discussion groups to ensure diversity and best practice-sharing opportunities. [\(Annex 3\)](#)

## Programme

### Welcome Session

2:00 PM (GMT +7. Bangkok time)

The rules for engagement were emphasized prior to commencing the e-Roundtable.

**Maggie Lee, Project Coordinator for SEA circular, UNEP, Asia and the Pacific Office** welcomed delegates and presented a quick overview, 'Plastics in the Industry: Can we do without it?'. The presentation gave an overview of the challenge of plastic waste, and highlighted some opportunities for interventions to address the challenge.

**Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida, Regional Coordinator for Chemicals, Waste, and Air Quality, UNEP, Asia and the Pacific Office**, welcomed the delegates and reiterated the message that the solution to plastic waste is not a total abstinence from use nor a ban, but to ensure that it is produced, used and reduced sustainably.

An exciting announcement about a new commitment was also shared. The **Phuket Hotels Association (PHA)** recently signed up as a supporting organization of the [Global Tourism Plastics Initiative](#), the global alliance led by UNEP and World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in collaboration with Ellen MacArthur Foundation that articulates support and scale-up action by tourism stakeholders to fight plastic pollution.

The commitment of PHA to take leadership on plastic reduction in hotels in Phuket provided leadership by example, to inspire other participants to advance their own organization's journey towards less plastic wasted. This requires each hotel to examine their individual plastic value chains and commit to a more sustainable approach within their front of house, supply chains and elsewhere in their operations.

## **Case Study Presentations**

Presentations by leaders in the industry including Phuket Hotel Association, Marina Bay Sands, and Six Senses Hotels Resorts Spas were made - sharing best practices, the challenges they face and the opportunities within their strategies to see where more sustainable use of resources, particularly plastic, have been implemented.

A vision of where individual hotel actions might commit to was shared, with details about the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GTPI).

## **Breakout Sessions**

Four breakout groups were formed in which the participants were sent to virtual discussion rooms, each moderated by a UNEP staff and supported by a notetaker.

The discussions addressed specific topics on the challenges and opportunities to embark on a transformation of plastic consumption in their operations, potentially through the GTPI and SEA circular initiatives.

- Plastic use in hotel operations and supply chains
- Regulatory, technical, and precautionary concerns and standards
- Challenges faced in addressing customer requirements and reputational risk
- Collective actions with partners: business solutions, technological interventions

## Recommendations and commitments

The breakout groups re-convened after 90 minutes of discussions. Four moderators shared the key messages and directions which might be considered for collective action moving forward. These are summarized below:

### Policy

- There is a requirement to push for more consistent, less erratic, and enforceable regulations.
- External barriers should be addressed - including waste management issues, government regulations, etc. Partnerships with organizations like SEA circular, UNEP can support the hotel industry to address such external barriers.

### Education

- Culture shifting, and behaviours related to the use and consumption of plastics, need to happen not only at the corporate level, but importantly at the local level, community level. It is valuable that any awareness, training, and knowledge transfer targets take these into consideration.
- Hotels have a role to play in education - not only for within the hotel industry itself, but to influence consumer awareness and demand for less plastic usage.

### Market supply and demand

- Gen Y (or millennials, usually described as those born between 1980 and 1994) are expressing demand for alternatives to single-use plastic.
- There is a trend towards 'going green', but there is a lack of awareness of how it is to be done and what the implications are. Customers drive action - so hotels are mindful to address their requirements. The need for "clean, convenient, cold" (3Cs) can be more pressing than the 3Rs.
- The market is not ready to eliminate single-use plastics. Costs are a main consideration. Even with government policies or available infrastructure, it would still be difficult to consider alternative options and for company sustainability managers to get internal buy-in or management approval if the costs for doing so are prohibitive, especially if virgin plastics remain too cheap.
- There are challenges in what is available on the supply side in terms of alternatives to plastic - alternative products often don't align with hotel branding guidelines.
- It is necessary to manage the supply chain, and understand what and which products to drop or switch to (e.g. water bottles). To do this effectively, the organizations need to bear in mind any unintended environmental impacts.



- It can be useful to engage the informal sector in local communities - potentially to increase collection rates and the recycling infrastructure.

### Partnerships

- Collective action can add value through collective purchasing of alternative products - particularly if hotels can collaborate with others with similar target markets or in the same geographical locations. This can assist with issues such as minimum order purchase quantities and surmounting the lack of local infrastructure - which are particularly applicable in remote locations.
- It is valuable to share a common voice to raise ambitions for the sector.
- Many hotels have established timebound goals related to single-use plastics at front-of-house operations (water bottles, room amenities and toiletries), but are often looking for assistance - from hotel associations, NGOs, UN and other organizations - to help move their activities forward in a targeted way.
- Partnering and working with local/municipal/provincial governments on supporting strategies on waste management and recycling can be valuable.

### Data and information

- There is a need for industry standards to align direction and remove guesswork from proposed interventions.
- Industry is willing, but lacks access to best practices, facts, etc. There is a need for clear guidelines - i.e., what are bioplastics?
- Trusted certification would be useful. A discussion is needed on how this can be facilitated. Also useful are lists of endorsed, sustainable products at the global, regional, national and local level.
- Access to expertise is important. This can be in multiple forms, including workshops, provision of modelling to utilise, direct expertise to conduct an audit etc. This can ensure decisions are taken which are based on the best available advice, science and data.
- Understanding the current baseline plastic footprint is a first step towards moving on towards defined targets on less plastic wasted.

### Discussion and networking

- Roundtable discussion at the regional level was considered useful. In particular for sustainability focal points, peer to peer discussion and sharing is valuable - to share successes and lessons learned in a 'non-competitive' space. This is a useful platform to enable sharing, and pre-competitive discussions.

## Technology

- A spirit of innovation is embedded in the hospitality industry - which is being focussed on alternatives to particularly 'hard to replace' items - such as vacuum bags, clingwrap/clingfilm which is widely used in kitchens.

## Phuket Hotel Association announced its commitment to the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative

The Phuket Hotel Association announcement of support and involvement in the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GTPI) was a clear indication of commitment leading from this collaboration. Sharing this commitment with the e-Roundtable was an opportunity to inspire further action from participants. An invitation was also extended to all participating hotels to work with SEA circular and with the GTPI, to enable knowledge sharing and pre-competitive interactions, which can enhance individual hotel efforts towards less plastic wasted.

## Follow-up and next steps

SEA circular's engagement with key players in the hotel industry will continue to provide vital opportunities for industry information-sharing amongst common initiatives. The ultimate goal is that collective monitoring and promotion of best practices can drive industry standards towards less plastic wasted.

- SEA circular will connect with interested participants, and facilitate the baseline measurement of the business' footprint through the Plastic Disclosure Project - a realistic, actionable first step to understand what the plastic use and consumption in hotel operations are. Training will be provided to determine the information that will allow hotels to not only to benchmark commitments and goals, but allow for a common understanding within the organization for more efficient plastic use and consumption.
- SEA circular will engage and work with the hospitality organizations as they commit to finite and measurable goals related to reducing their plastic waste. There is confirmed interest from the sector to attend future roundtable events. This will be an opportunity for SEA circular to provide support to produce greater impact and lead to higher commitments. SEA circular will continue to coordinate and collaborate with the hospitality industry and through the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GTPI) - allowing for synergy and for more efficient work with the tourism sector on their actions and commitments for less plastic wasted.



- SEA circular is seeking opportunities to work collectively and to support associations and partnerships to engage with the GTPI and plastic reduction initiatives, especially on a geographic/destination basis, as seen through the experience of Phuket Hotel Association. This allows for better leverage and presence to relate to and work with local governments, and to work pre-competitively on such aspects as product standards, aggregated quantities for sustainable volume orders, or even harmonized messaging on plastic targeted towards consumer education and awareness.

## Feedback from the event

- A short survey was sent out to all e-Roundtable participants after the event, requesting for feedback on the meeting, and the learning experience and information sharing with the rest of the industry. A total of 36% of the participants responded.
- Overall, 100% of those respondents who participated in the survey found the e-Roundtable to be helpful. Specific aspects which were helpful include (1) information about best practices in the industry on plastic and marine litter (100%), and more importantly (2) how the industry could work together to solve the problem (75%). In addition, the meeting also provided many of these respondents (3) information about “the linkages between plastic and marine litter” (67%). Multiple choice answers for this question was allowed.
- There was an almost unanimous readiness to work with SEA circular by undertaking the plastic footprint training, and/or to committing to stronger goals as an organization, if they have already embarked on some form of measurement. 9% were neutral. This provides concrete direction for the SEA circular team to progress on future discussions with these hotels.
- On the question of whether participants would be interested to attend upcoming roundtables related to their industry, there was strong agreement (42%), agreement (33%) and a neutral response (25%) from the participants. This is quite encouraging. Despite some minor hiccups that resulted with the use of the Blue Jeans video conferencing facilities, especially during the breakout into separate meeting rooms, the general satisfaction with a virtual arrangement gives more confidence that these industry discussions will be well attended and can only be made better with the use of more seamless technology and alternatives.

## Acknowledgements

SEA circular would like to thank:

**Phuket Hotels Association**, for their interest and close collaboration in this roundtable, and for the invaluable support in reaching out to their hotel members.

**Marina Bay Sands Hotel and Six Senses Hotels Resorts Spas**, for their inspiring presentations, and for the strong commitment to lead and to work towards realizing their objectives on less plastic wasted.

## Annexes

<b>Annex 1</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
<b>Annex 2</b>	<b>List of participants</b>
<b>Annex 3</b>	<b>Pre-e-Roundtable self-assessment survey: Profile of the hotels</b>
<b>Annex 4</b>	<b>Presentation materials</b>

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## About SEA circular

SEA circular is an initiative from the UN Environment Programme and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) to inspire market-based solutions and encourage enabling policies to solve marine plastic pollution at source. SEA circular is working in six countries in South East Asia: Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, from 2019-2023. The project is supported by the Government of Sweden. The focus is on several points along the plastic value chain. Interventions are designed and implemented with an understanding of land-sea interactions, and towards a circular economy. SEA circular works with national and provincial governments, private sector corporations, civil society groups and NGOs - and many other stakeholders - to support good governance and policy making and promote circular economy principles.

SEA circular focusses interventions on supporting market-based solutions, enhancing the science-basis for decision making, generating outreach to support awareness and behavior change, and promoting a regional approach through collaboration and networking.

[www.sea-circular.org](http://www.sea-circular.org)

## Annex 1      Speakers (in order of appearance)



### **Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida**

Kakuko is the Regional Coordinator for Chemicals, Waste, and Air Quality, UN Environment Programme, Asia and the Pacific Office. She was instrumental in preparing the groundwork for the SEA circular project and remains part of the Project Coordinating Group, which guides the work of the UNEP-COBSEA initiative with SIDA.



### **Maggie Lee**

Maggie manages the SEA circular project, an initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) to inspire market-based solutions and help formulate policies to prevent marine plastic pollution. She was previously leading the Market Transformation effort in Singapore for the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).



### **Jayne MacDougall**

Jayne has extensive experience in the hospitality industry in areas of health and safety, food safety, security, threat, policy development and the environment. As Director for Risk Management of Le Meridien, Phuket, Jayne handles training in areas of risk management, sustainability, HACCP and food safety systems, security, OHS, water safety and disaster planning. Jayne represents Le Meridien in the Phuket Hotels Association, and in the Environment Working Group.



### **Roger Simons**

As Marina Bay Sands Director of Sustainability, Roger's mission is to drive property performance, product innovation, partnerships, certifications, staff and consumer engagement across the US\$8 billion integrated resort. Roger is a Resource Person on Sustainable Tourism for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Leaders Programme (CIFAL) and member of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) sitting on their Business Travel Working Group.



### Jeffery Smith

Jeffery joined Six Senses in 2016, adding to the breadth of expertise and supporting the group's leadership position in sustainable hospitality. Jeffery draws on a decade of experience launching community-based tourism programs, where he focused on capacity building and facilitating connections between travelers, indigenous peoples, and the natural world. He is a strong believer in the hospitality industry's capacity to engage with sustainability, to welcome guests and communities to join in rebuilding a better future, and foster the authenticity and optimism our world so desperately seeks.



### Pablo Montes

Pablo Montes Iannini is a Value Chain and Private Sector Analyst at UNEP. He graduated with a MEM and an MBA from Yale in 2015. Previously, he was a Corporate Engagement and Finance Specialist at World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Colombia.

## Annex 2 List of participants

The e-Roundtable was attended by more than **50 participants**, representing **26 identified hotels**, hotel chains and boutique hotels, hospitality associations, and hotel amenity providers from **Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam**. The Chatham House rule was observed, with special attention to ensuring anti-trust precautions are taken.

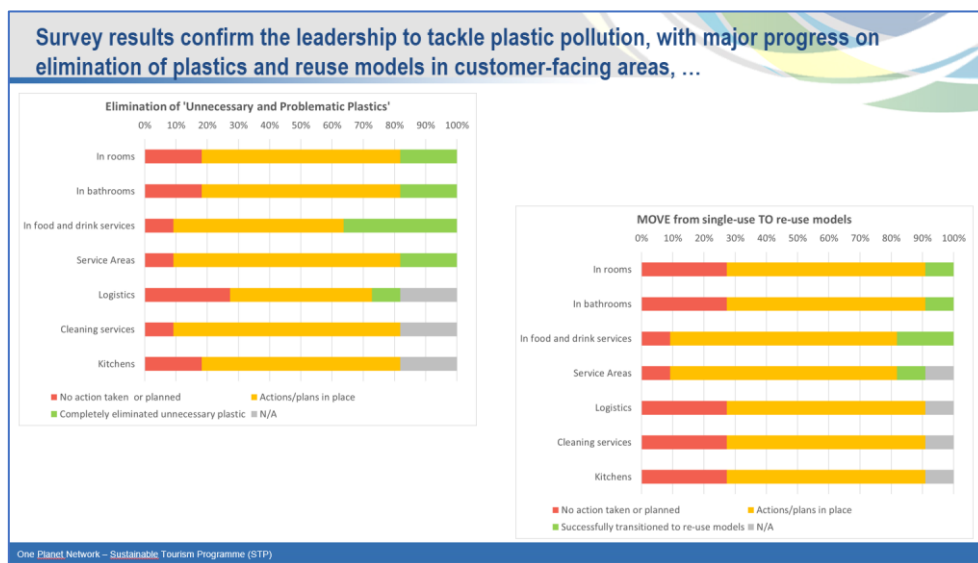
ACCOR Hotels	Singapore
Baan Talay Dao	Thailand
Bangkok Venue Collection	Thailand
Banyan Tree	Maldives
Batu Batu-Tengah Island & Tengah Island Conservation	Malaysia
BW Premier, Phu Quoc Island	Viet Nam
Club Med	Singapore
Development Mgt Group, Inc.	Thailand
Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC)	Thailand
Gem Hotels	Thailand
Guava Amenities	Singapore
SM Hotels and Conventions	Philippines
Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort	Thailand
Marina Bay Sands	Singapore
Minor Hotel Group	Thailand
Mövenpick Resort & Spa Boracay Island	Philippines
Novotel Suites Manila at Acqua	Philippines
Pacific Asia Travel Association	Thailand
Phuket Hotels Association	Thailand
SALA Samui	Thailand
Shangri-la Hotels	Singapore
Six Senses	Thailand
Six Senses - Uluwatu	Indonesia
Sukosol Hotels	Thailand
Tajara Leisure and Hospitality Group	Philippines
The Fullerton Hotel Singapore	Singapore
YTL Hotels	Malaysia

## Annex 3 Pre-e-Roundtable self-assessment survey: Profile of the hotels

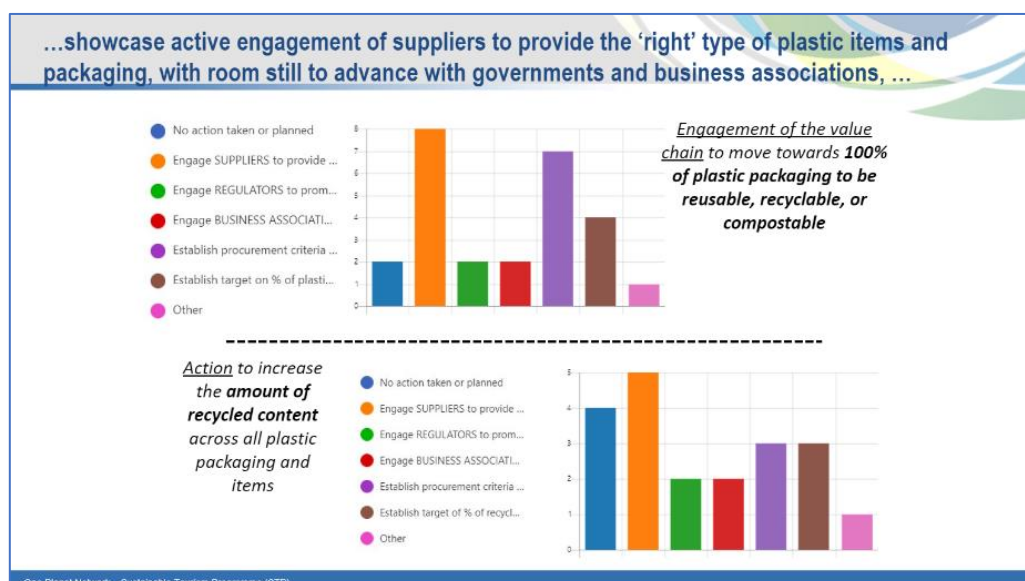
### Profile of respondents' activities on plastic & plastic waste

The short pre-e-Roundtable self-assessment survey was sent to participants, to determine the profile of their organizations especially as it relates to their plastic use and consumption.

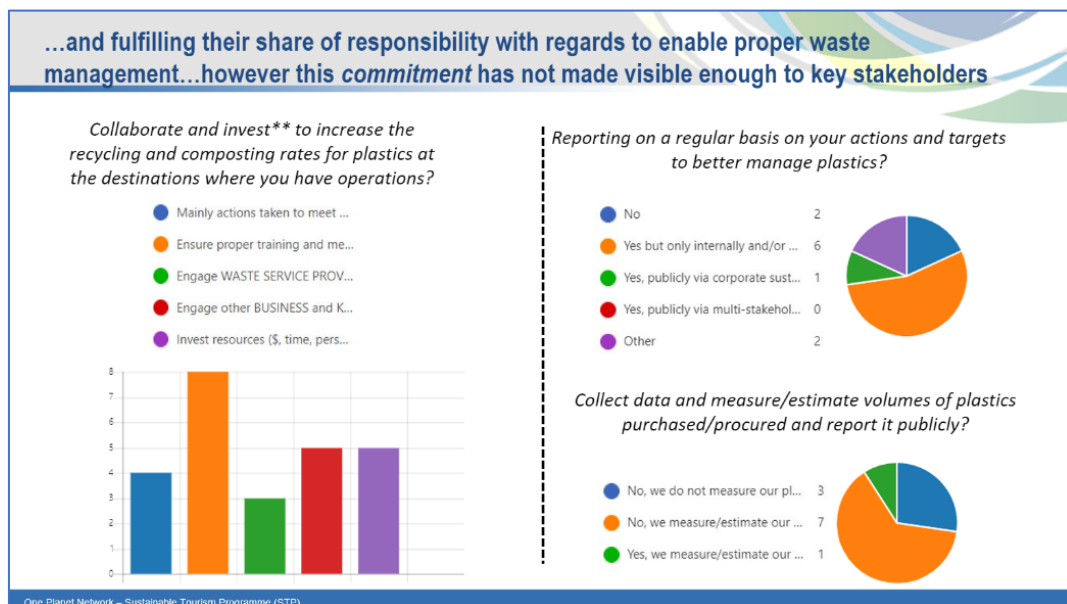
On asked "To what extent have you taken or plan to take action to ELIMINATE 'problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging or items' by 2025?", many respondents confirmed that their organizations already had plans in place for the elimination of plastics and reuse models, especially in customer-facing areas.



Almost all respondents also replied that there are ongoing conversations and active engagement with their suppliers for the 'right' type of plastic items and packaging.



On reporting, more than 50% of the respondents report internally, with those who do measuring and estimating plastics purchased and procured. These results are also not reported, nor disclosed outside the organization.



## Annex 4 Presentation materials

- **Plastics: Plastic in the Industry: can we do without it?**
- **About SEA circular**
- **Enabling the goal for less plastic wasted: The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative**
- **First Actions on Measurement: Plastic Footprint Measurement**





# E-Roundtable: Reducing plastic waste in the hospitality industry

27 March 2020



Reducing marine litter by  
addressing the management of the plastic value chain  
in South-East Asia



# **WELCOME & E-ROUNDTABLE ENGAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

**Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida**

**Regional Coordinator, Chemicals, Waste and  
Air Quality, UNEP Asia and Pacific Office**





## **PLASTIC IN THE INDUSTRY: CAN WE DO WITHOUT IT?**

**Maggie Lee**

**Project Coordinator, SEA circular**



## PLASTIC: THE ALL-PURPOSE MATERIAL

### ADVANTAGES:

- ✓ Light weight
- ✓ Reduced volume (warehousing & distribution cost reduction)
- ✓ No corrosion problems
- ✓ Good resistance to mold & bacteria.
- ✓ Generally inert chemically, but be wary of “solvents”
- ✓ Usually have good impact strength; difficult to break
- ✓ If breakage occurs, fragments tend to be less hazardous than glass.
- ✓ Wide design & decorative possibilities.
- ✓ Highly affordable
- ✓ Highly durable

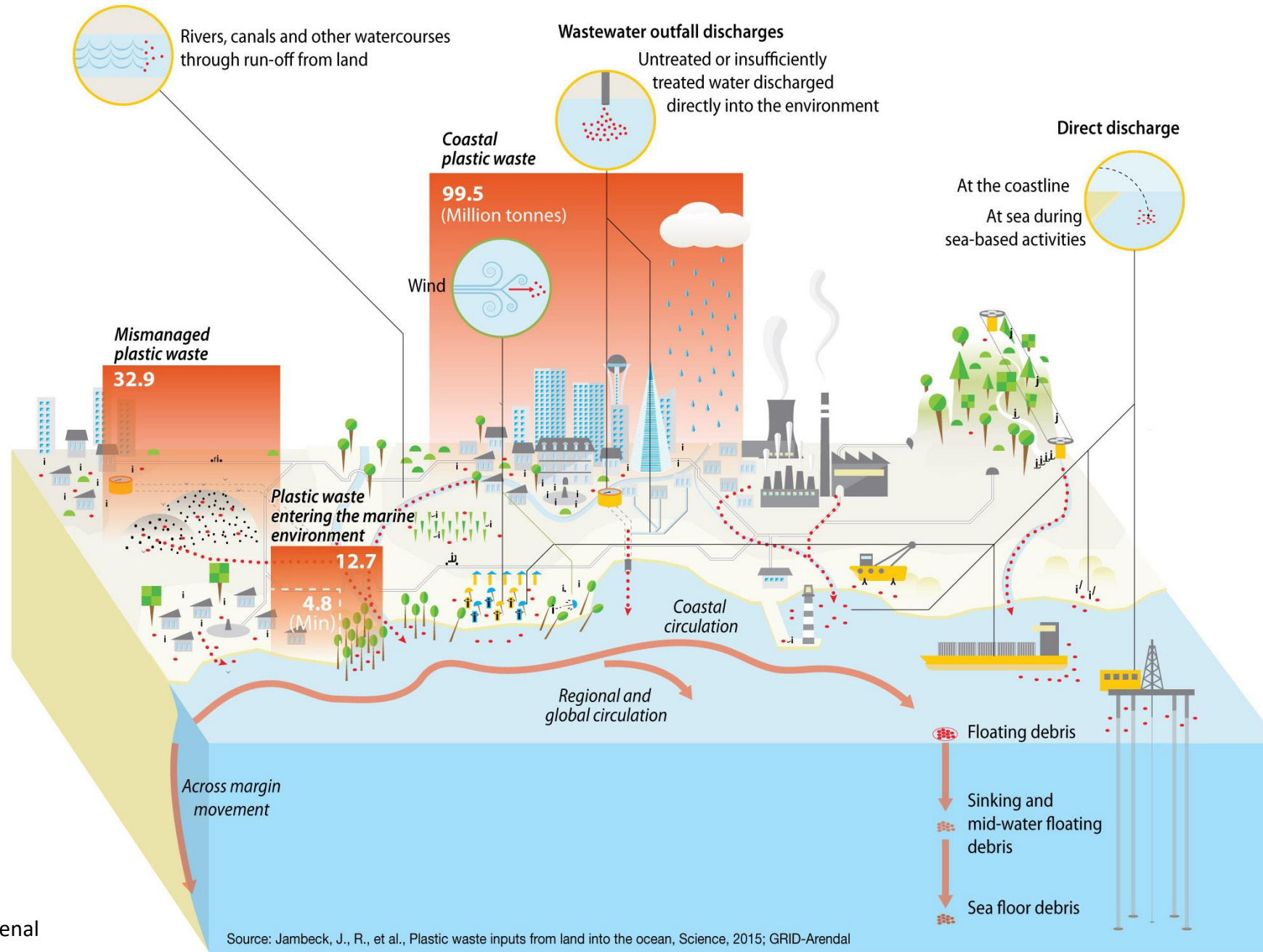


# Why is plastic becoming a bigger problem?

- 8 million tonnes of plastic waste is dumped in the ocean each year, and this number is set to double by 2025.
- Plastics is found in Arctic Snow, in the deepest ocean at the Mariana Trench, on the continent of Antarctica, on Mount Everest and in the atmosphere as small particles.
- Plastics is in 50% sea turtles and 90% of seabirds.
- Plastics is thought to be the main reason of death of baby dugong Marium at Koh Libong at Trang Province



# Why are plastics entering nature even when we “properly throw them away?”







PLASTICS

UNINTENDED  
CONSEQUENCES





# More than just animals - How does plastic impact nature?

1. Non-renewable resource
2. Climate change
3. Interfere with nature



# Human Impact

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- Waste management is direct impact
- Plastic is only one contributor to numerous hazards
- Air pollution
- Water pollution
- Less well understood
  - Ingestion / toxins



# Human Impact

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- Research exploring human health-related chemical impacts of plastic in the environment is limited
- Concerns:
  - Leaching of chemicals from plastic litter
  - Chemicals adhere to plastics and may be transferred to humans (i.e. heavy metals, POPs, endocrine disruptors),
  - Bioaccumulation of chemicals and additives







# How do we address Plastic Pollution?

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Eliminate unnecessary plastic

Double global plastic recycling and composting

Shifting to sustainable inputs for remaining plastic

# What is “Avoidable” or “Unnecessary” Plastic?

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Plastic that, if not used, would not create adverse environmental or social trade-offs

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Some are straightforward, others require rethinking how products are designed, delivered and consumed

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But bans or materials substitutions is not necessarily better!





# Shifting to Sustainable Inputs

- Recycled Content
- Responsibly Sourced Biomaterials
- Advanced Products







# Reducing virgin plastic production

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Currently, most plastic is not collected so we need virgin, fossil based plastic to meet our demand



By recovering, recycling and capturing the value in plastic, we can reduce the need for virgin plastic materials



Plastic is not infinitely recyclable; some virgin material will always be needed.




# What about beach clean ups?

- Alone, they are not enough! First, we need to stop the flow of plastics!
- Beach clean-ups are a good way to educate and engage the public, but they will not solve this crisis
- Beach clean-ups can be a part of a strong corporate engagement




# So... Why can't we just ban **all** plastic?

Eliminating plastic / single-use plastic / specific products may seem like the obvious answer to this challenge, but...

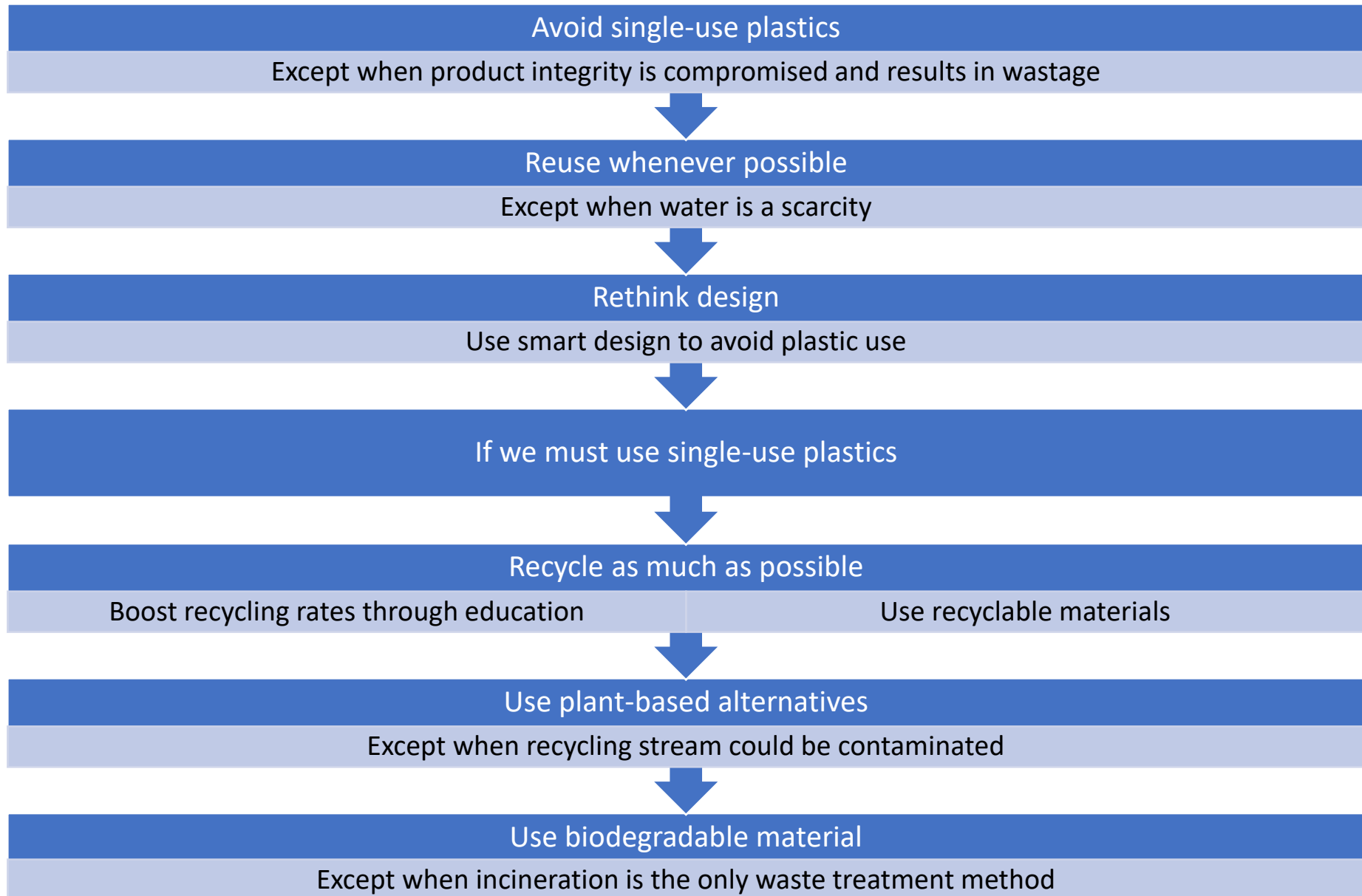


Removing one component may transfer environmental costs to another part of the system



**Keep a One Planet Perspective!**

# Some rules of thumb



# SEA CIRCULAR FOCUS AREAS

Overall goal: LESS PLASTIC WASTED

## ELIMINATE SINGLE USE PLASTICS



Elimination of single use plastics from selected value chains

## VIRGIN PLASTIC USE REDUCTION



Strengthened policy and fiscal incentives to reduce virgin plastic use

## ESCALATE RECYCLING



Escalation in recycling rates and plastic segregation at source

## PLASTIC PACKAGING REDUCTION



Increase in the variety of non-plastic and recycled plastic packaging

## CONSUMER AWARENESS



Growth in consumer demand for plastic pollution reduction



# SEA circular COUNTRIES

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Cambodia

Indonesia

Malaysia

Philippines

People's Republic of China

Republic of Korea

Singapore

Thailand

Viet Nam

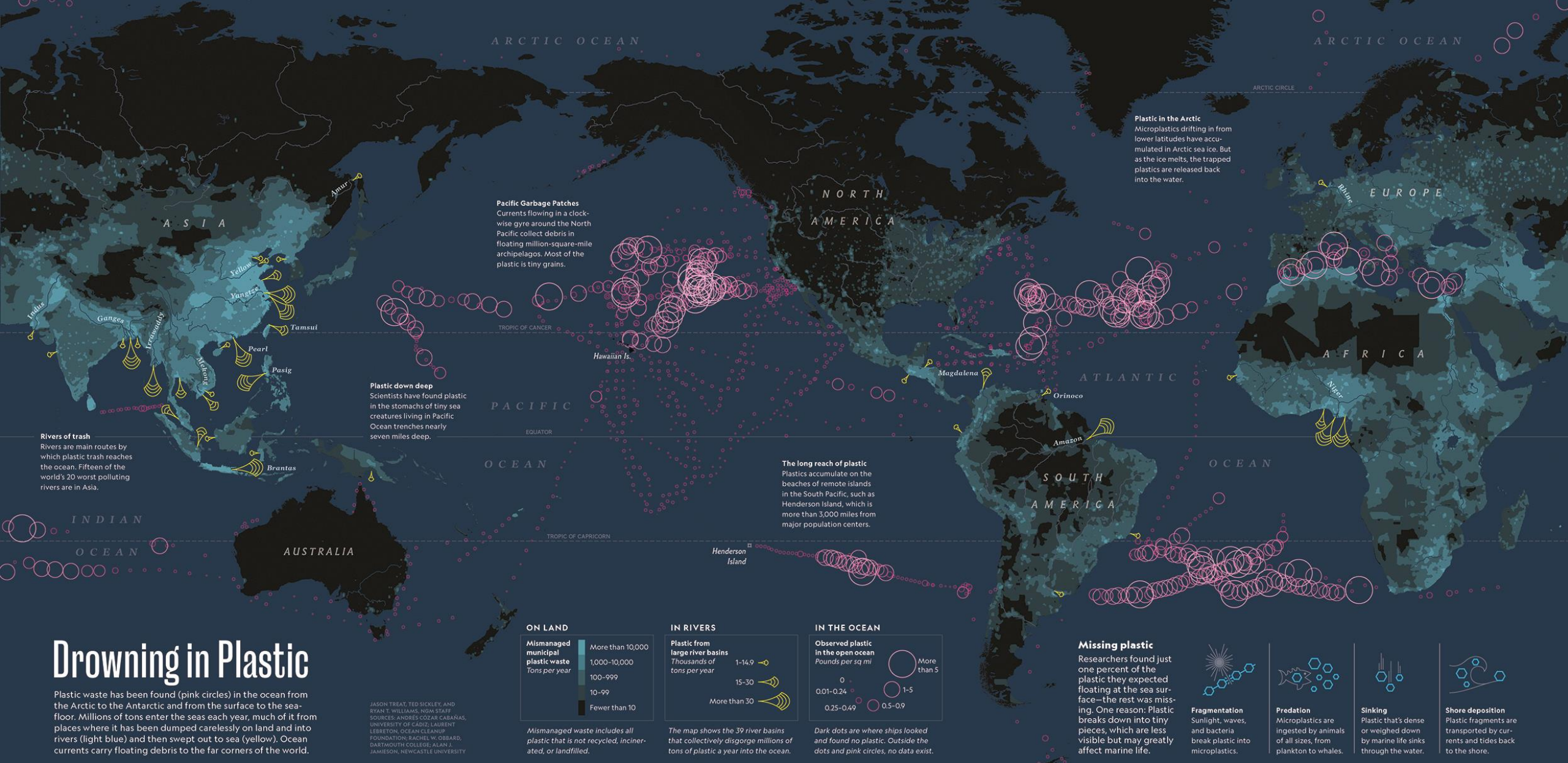


## HOW SEA CIRCULAR CAN ADD VALUE TO YOUR COMMITMENTS

- Shared advocacy on less plastic wasted allows for convening more stakeholders from relevant sectors
- Our work with governments, academia and research gives us a better read of the next trends
  - Synchronized step-by-step actions for industry for synergy and scalability at SEA circular roundtable meetings
- At the forefront of action on clean seas, sustainable consumption and production, and plastic use policies which will impact the market
  - Exhort you to higher ambitions with tools, data, and best practices







# Drowning in Plastic

Plastic waste has been found (pink circles) in the ocean from the Arctic to the Antarctic and from the surface to the seafloor. Millions of tons enter the seas each year, much of it from places where it has been dumped carelessly on land and into rivers (light blue) and then swept out to sea (yellow). Ocean currents carry floating debris to the far corners of the world.

# Where is your hotel?





**ENABLING THE GOAL FOR LESS PLASTIC WASTED:  
The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative  
Pablo Montes, UNEP**





**One planet**  
travel with care



**Global Tourism**  
Plastics Initiative

**in support of the  
New Plastics Economy  
Global Commitment**

# Agenda

1. Existing frameworks to tackle plastic pollution: Global Commitment and the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative
2. Setting the common ground to focus the action across Accommodation Providers



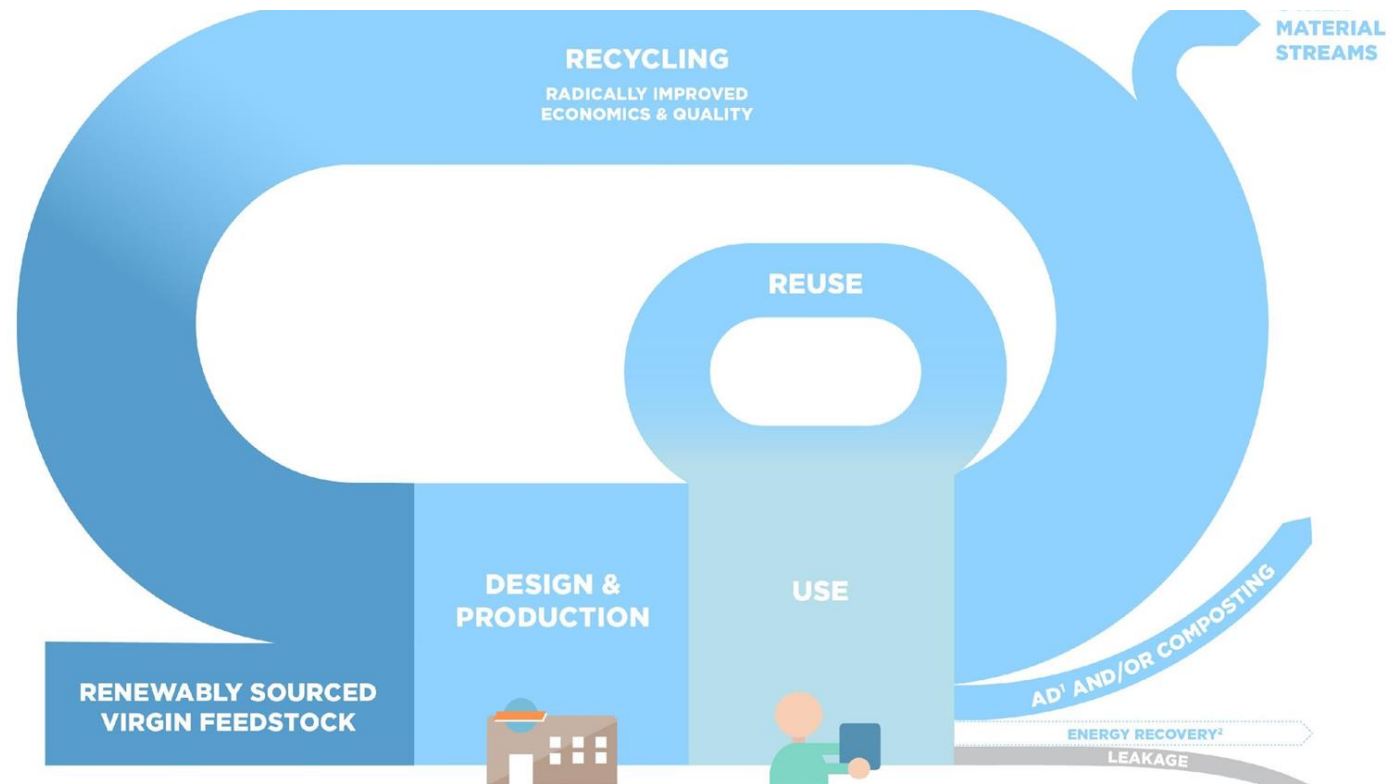
**ELLEN  
MACARTHUR  
FOUNDATION**



**NEW  
PLASTICS  
ECONOMY**

Catalysing action towards a future  
where **plastic never becomes  
waste or pollution.**

# VISION: A NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY



## GLOBAL COMMITMENT AT A GLANCE



**Uniting businesses, governments, and other organisations behind a common vision and targets to address plastic waste and pollution at its source.**

**450+**  
signatories

**20%**  
of all plastic  
packaging used  
globally

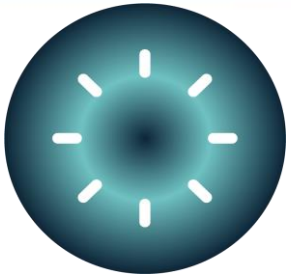
**20**  
national, sub-national  
and local level  
governments across five  
continents

**200+**  
Endorsing signatories,  
including National  
Geographic, WWF, WEF,  
IUCN

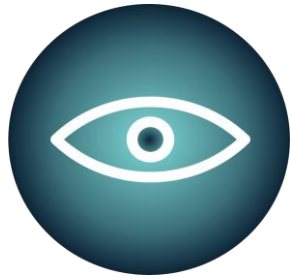




# Common vision



ELIMINATE



INNOVATE



CIRCULATE

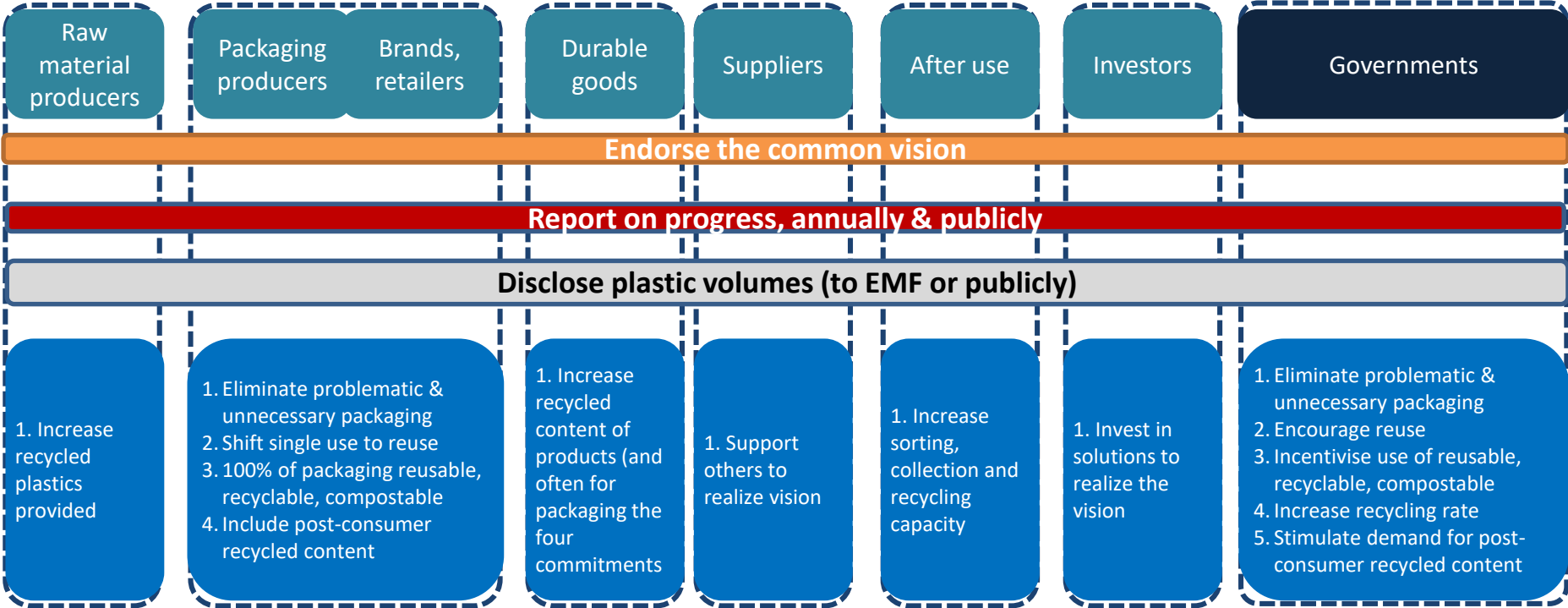
1. Elimination of **problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging** through redesign, innovation, and new delivery models is a priority
2. **Reuse models** are applied where relevant, reducing the need for single-use packaging
3. All plastic packaging is **100% reusable, recyclable, or compostable**
4. The use of plastic is **fully decoupled** from the consumption of finite resources
5. All plastic packaging is **free of hazardous chemicals**, and the health, safety, and rights of all people involved are respected
6. All plastic packaging is reused, recycled, or composted **in practice**

## + Common definitions for:

- Problematic and unnecessary plastic packaging;
- Reusable/Recyclable/Compostable packaging;
- Post-consumer recycled content
- + other key concepts...



# Commitment framework (Global Commitment)



# Global Tourism Plastics Initiative: Purpose and objectives

**Acts as an interface to the Global Commitment for the Tourism Sector:**

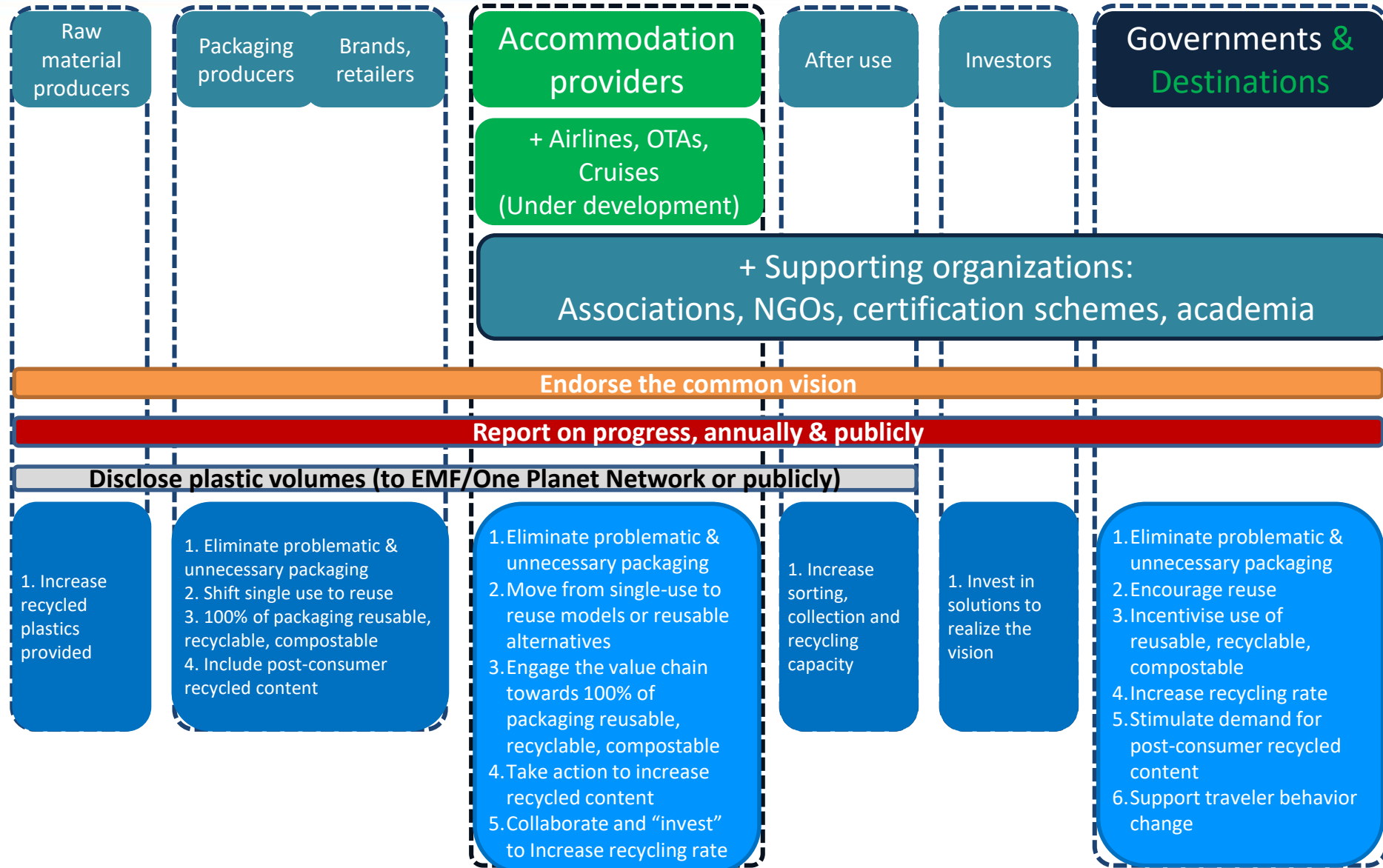
- Common vision and target for the tourism sector globally

## **Objectives:**

- ✓ **Eliminate** problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging and items by 2025;
- ✓ Take action to **move from single-use to reuse models** or reusable alternatives by 2025;
- ✓ **Engage the value chain** to move towards 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable;
- ✓ **Take action to increase the amount of recycled content** across all plastic packaging and items used
- ✓ Commit to **collaborate and invest** to increase the recycling and composting rates for plastics
- ✓ **Report publicly and annually on progress** made towards these targets.

# Commitment Framework

## (Global Commitment + Global Tourism Plastics Initiative)



# Leveraging existing multi-stakeholder mechanisms + strategic partnerships in alignment with SDGs



**One planet**  
travel with care

+



**ELLEN  
MACARTHUR  
FOUNDATION**



GOBIERNO  
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO  
DE INDUSTRIA, COMERCIO  
Y TURISMO

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO  
DE TURISMO



# Advisory Committee

Organizations and governmental entities participating in development and implementation of the Initiative





## Signatories of the initiative

- ✓ **Tourism businesses**, inclusive of all subsectors—accommodation, airlines, cruises, tour operators, travel agencies, event organisers, online booking platforms, excursion providers, etc.;
- ✓ **Suppliers of products and services** to tourism businesses with a high plastic footprint
- ✓ **Destinations**, including local/national governments and destination management organizations
- ✓ Organizations with strong multiplier effect: **business associations (ITP, WTTC, ABTA...), certification schemes, NGOs, academia, consultancies**

# Global Tourism Plastics Initiative: responding to the common interest of the industry



## Circular economy practices, common definitions and standards

"Iberostar is leading responsible tourism through its actions on moving beyond plastics and towards a circular economy. It is important for the tourism industry to adopt best circular economy practices, and the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative allows for just that. By working with organizations such as the One Planet Network and Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Iberostar supports setting common definitions and standards for a circular economy at least in one waste stream in the tourism sector. The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative is one of the guidelines Iberostar will use in its journey to become single-use plastics free in all of its operations by 2020, waste free by 2025 and carbon neutral by 2030."



## Joint message, raise ambition, address needs

"The plastics crisis can only be solved with the combined efforts of all key players in the system - from business to governments and individuals. Through our No Plastic in Nature initiative, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) advocates, amplifies and accelerates a connected suite of initiatives for change. We are working closely with other key organizations to convey a joint message on ambitious commitment, and to develop the tools needed to achieve these in partnership with companies, governments and civil society.

WWF therefore supports the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative to raise ambition and scale up action by the tourism sector to end the flow of plastic into nature." - John Duncan, Global Initiative Lead of No Plastic in Nature, WWF.



## Catalyse industry-wide action

"ITP is collaborating with UN Environment, UNWTO and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation through the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative's working group, bringing its industry expertise to the discussions to ensure any commitments can truly catalyse further industry-wide action on plastic waste". Madhu Rajesh, Director, ITP

# What is expected from companies?

1. **Endorse** the initiative
2. Make the following individual commitments\*:
  - i. Take action to **eliminate problematic or unnecessary plastic** packaging and/or items by 2025;
  - ii. Take action to **move from single-use to reuse models or reusable alternatives** by 2025;
  - iii. **Engage the value chain** to move towards 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable by 2025;
  - iv. Take action to **increase the amount of recycled content** across all plastic packaging and items used by 2025;
3. Commit to **collaborate** and invest to increase the recycling and composting rates for plastics
4. **Report** annually and publicly on progress towards meeting these commitments

\*Accommodation providers

# What do commitments look like...

2.i Eliminate problematic & unnecessary items & packaging

Choose from the menu of commitments a minimum of 3 areas , and for each area at least one category of plastic to which that commitment applies. Specify year by which this commitment will be achieved (2025 at the latest)

2.ii Shift single use to reuse models or reusable alternatives

Choosing from the menu of commitments a minimum of 2 areas , and for each area at least one category of plastic to which that commitment applies. Specify year by which this commitment will be achieved (2025 at the latest)

2.iii 100% of plastic items and packaging reusable, recyclable, compostable

Engage the value chain to provide data on recyclability and compostability , of plastic packaging to facilitate the move towards 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable by 2025

2.iv Increase the amount of recycled content

Take action to increase the amount of recycled content across all plastic packaging and items used by 2025.

3. Increase recycling rate

Commit to collaborate with others and we will invest in collection and segregation of recyclable and organic materials in our facilities to help increase recycling and composting rates in practice

4. Report publicly on progress

Annually report progress; at time of signing: choose from a band of volumes to estimate the plastic volumes you use OR fill in the measured volumes.

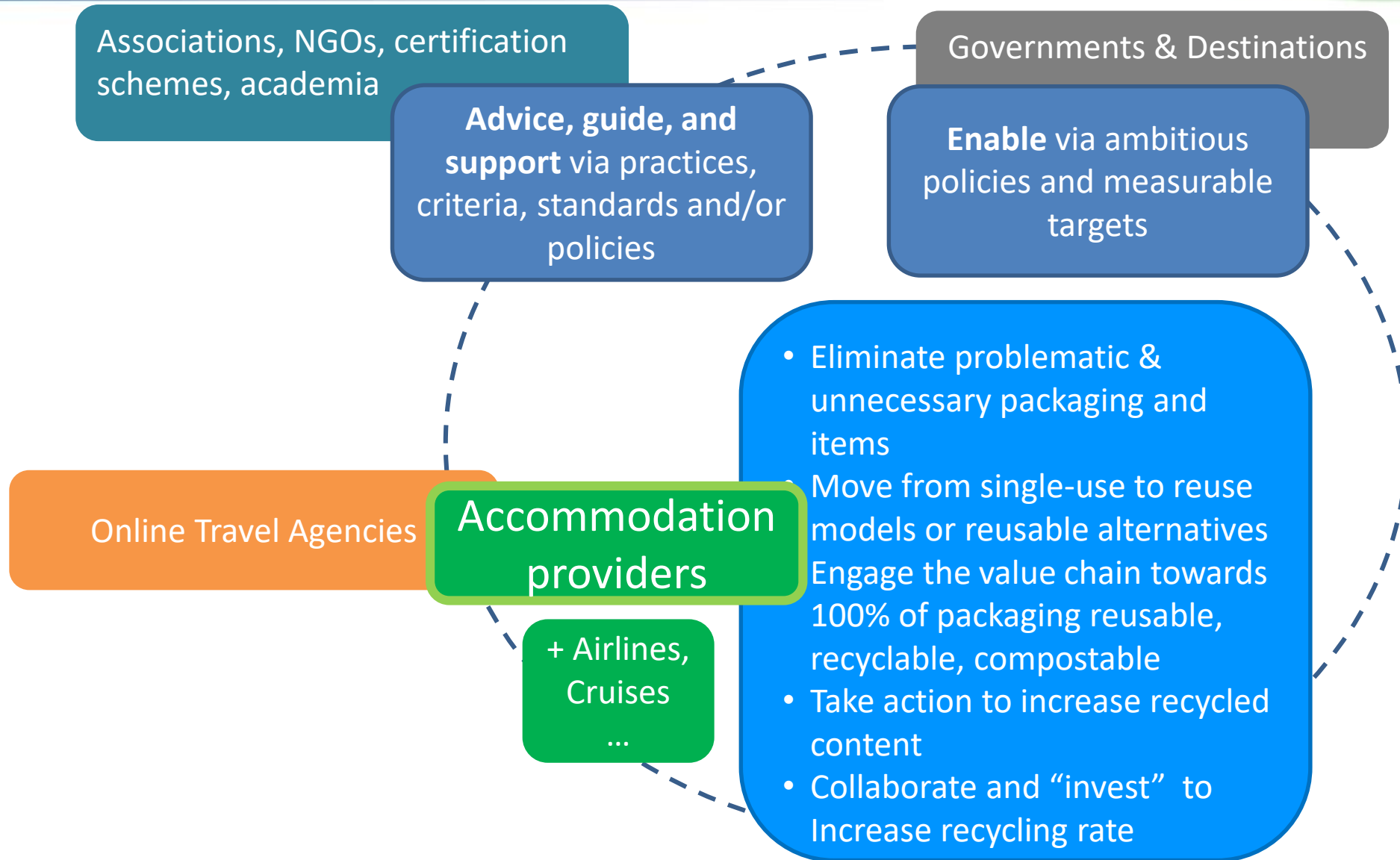
At the time of progress reporting, report volumes (tonnes) of plastics purchased/procured either measured or estimated



# Menu of Commitments - Elimination

Area	Category of plastics	Examples
Rooms	Plastic packaging	<i>Packaging around pillows, bathrobes, slippers, shoe shining, sewing kit, drinking cups, etc</i>
	Plastic items	<i>Such as drinking cups, laundry bags,</i>
Bathrooms	Plastic packaging	<i>Packaging around toothbrushes, cotton buds, shower gel, soap, shampoo, body milk</i>
	Plastic items	<i>Such as shower caps, toothbrushes, cotton buds</i>
Food and drink services	Plastic packaging	<i>Such as clam shells, bottles, carrier bags</i>
	Single-portion or single serving packaging	<i>single servings of yoghurt, milk, jam, butter, honey, etc</i>
	Plastic items	<i>Such as straws, stirrers, cutlery, plates, cups</i>
Wellness facilities, conference centers, meeting rooms, lobby and reception and other areas	Plastic packaging	
	Plastic items	<i>Such as drinking cups, pens, stirrers</i>
Logistics	Plastic packaging for logistics	<i>Packaging around cleaned linen and towels, pallet wraps</i>
Cleaning services	Containers for cleaning products	<i>Packaging around detergents, shower &amp; toilet cleaner, dishwasher, carpet cleaner</i>
Kitchens	Cling film	

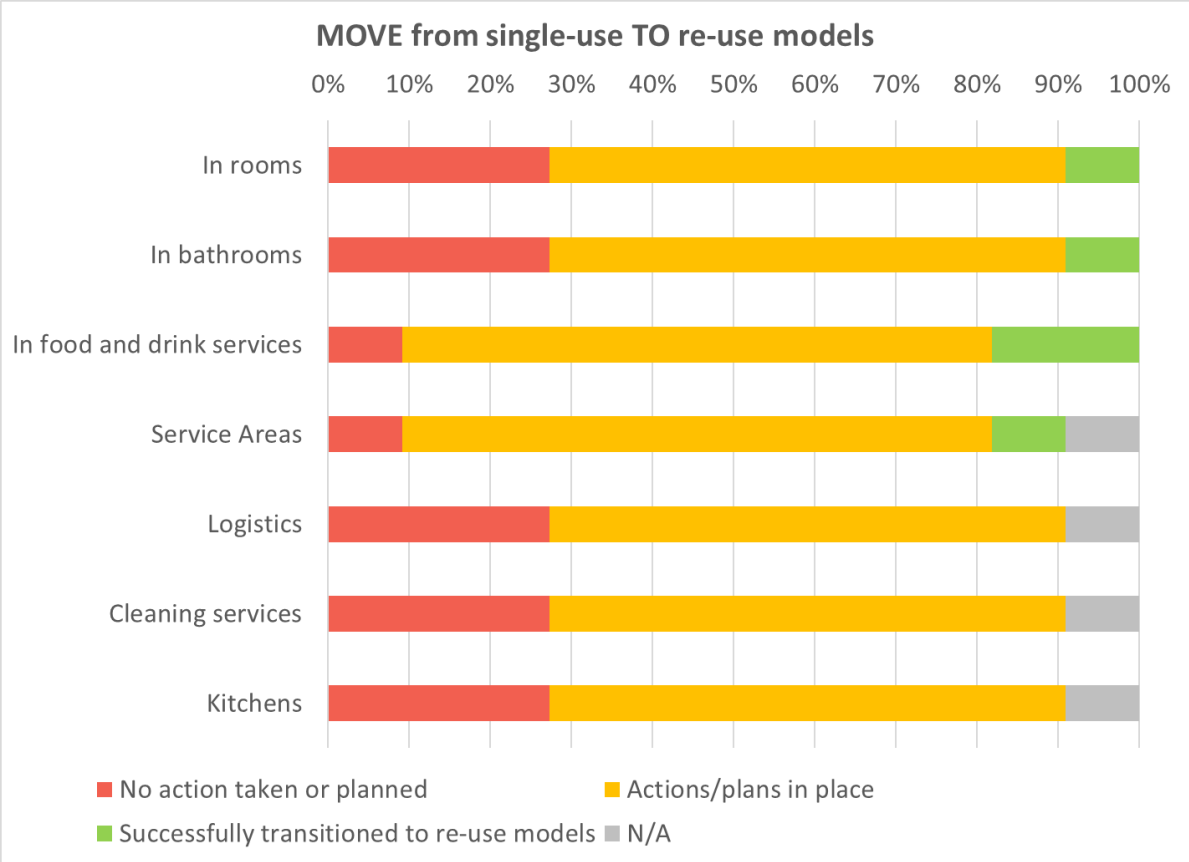
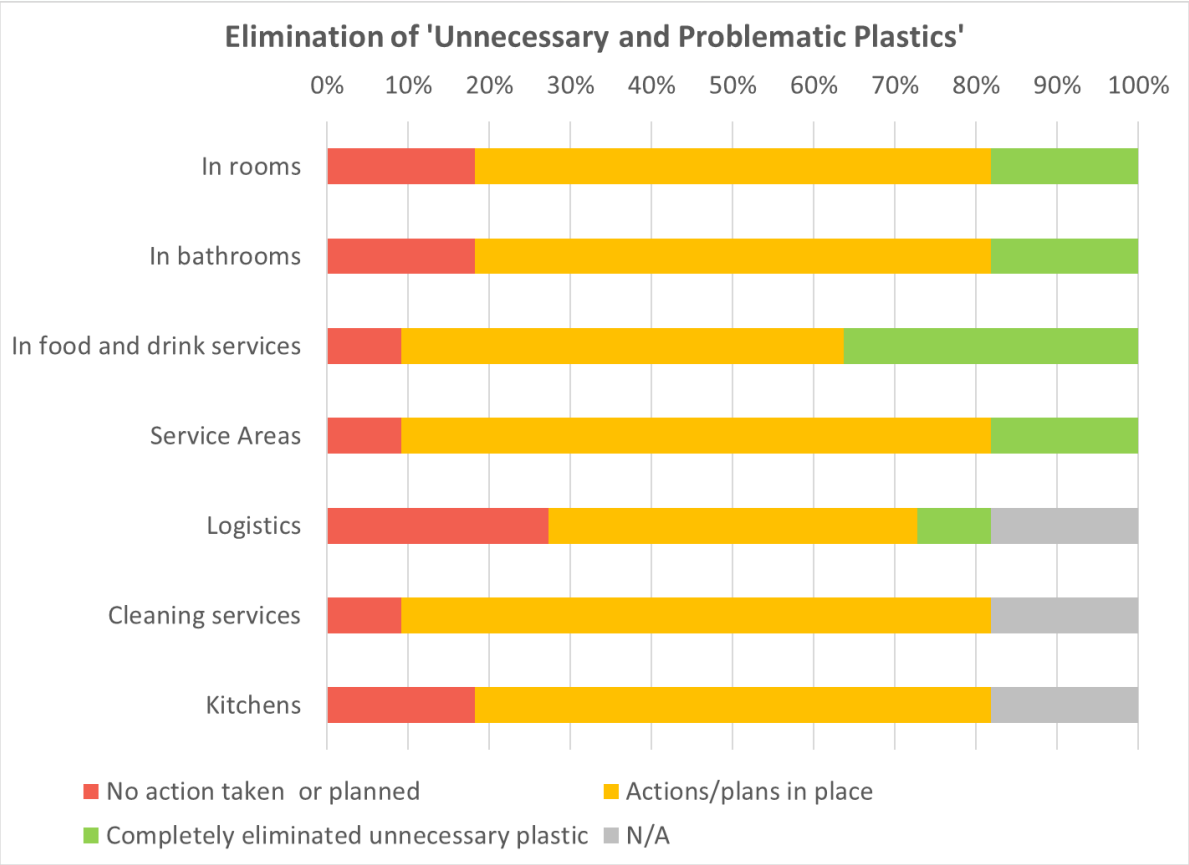
# Each actor has role to play, enabling action to occur in a concerted and coordinated manner



# What is the value added to the sector?

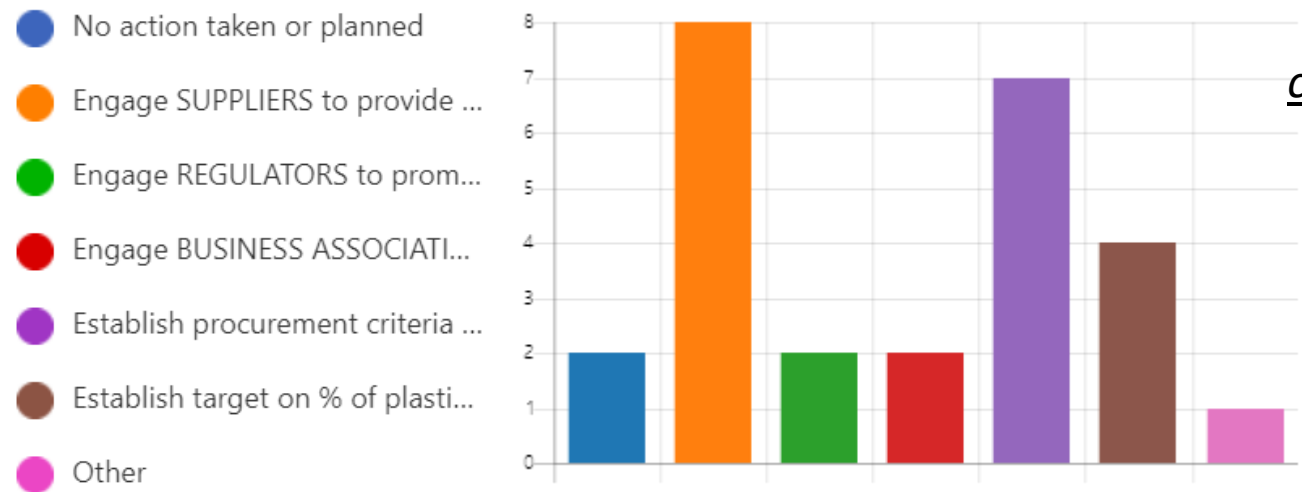
- **Knowledge sharing** -> Accelerate the replication and scaling up of successful on-going actions to address plastics pollution
- **Sustainable & circular procurement** -> Recommendations for sustainable procurement practices and collaboration with suppliers to improve sustainability purchasing requirements and criteria for plastics
- **Destination & value chain level cooperation** -> Fostering & supporting the work at the destination level to improve waste management practices and infrastructure
- **Track the progress and benchmark** -> Reporting annually and publicly on progress towards meeting these commitments
- **Visibility and international recognition**

# Survey results confirm the leadership to tackle plastic pollution, with major progress on elimination of plastics and reuse models in customer-facing areas, ...



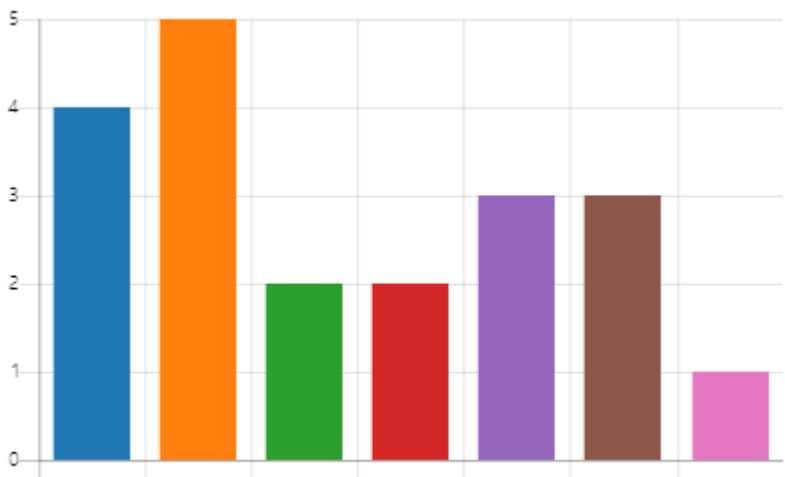
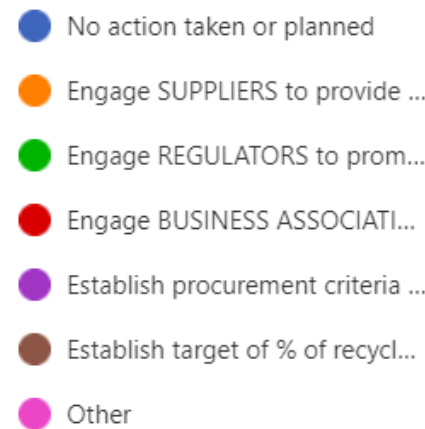


...showcase active engagement of suppliers to provide the ‘right’ type of plastic items and packaging, with room still to advance with governments and business associations, ...



*Engagement of the value chain to move towards **100%** of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable*

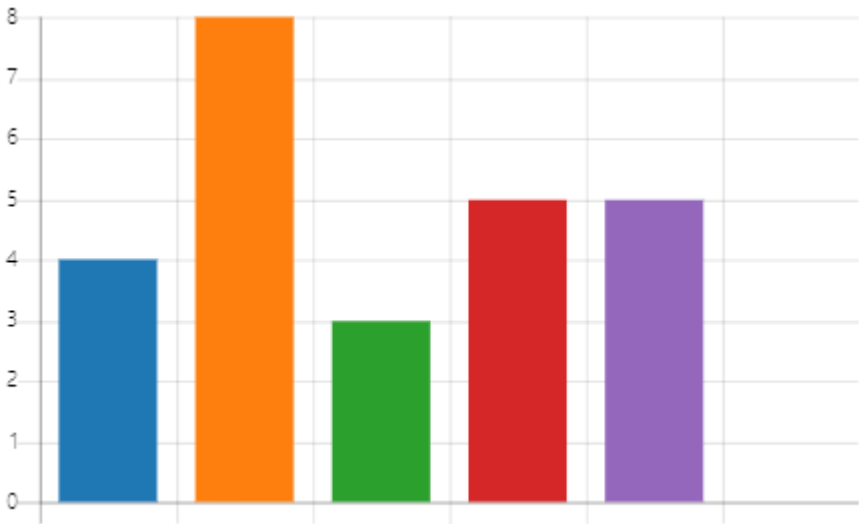
*Action to increase the **amount of recycled content** across all plastic packaging and items*



...and fulfilling their share of responsibility with regards to enable proper waste management...however this *commitment* has not made visible enough to key stakeholders

*Collaborate and invest\*\* to increase the recycling and composting rates for plastics at the destinations where you have operations?*

- Mainly actions taken to meet ...
- Ensure proper training and me...
- Engage WASTE SERVICE PROV...
- Engage other BUSINESS and K...
- Invest resources (\$, time, pers...



*Reporting on a regular basis on your actions and targets to better manage plastics?*

- No 2
- Yes but only internally and/or ... 6
- Yes, publicly via corporate sust... 1
- Yes, publicly via multi-stakehol... 0
- Other 2



*Collect data and measure/estimate volumes of plastics purchased/procured and report it publicly?*

- No, we do not measure our pl... 3
- No, we measure/estimate our ... 7
- Yes, we measure/estimate our ... 1





# Thank you!

**For more information, visit:**

[https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/  
gtpi](https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/gtpi)

**To contact us:**

[tourismplastics@oneplanetnetwork.org](mailto:tourismplastics@oneplanetnetwork.org)



## Supporting Slides



# Common Definitions

## **Problematic and unnecessary plastic packaging**

The following list of criteria is provided to signatories to help identify problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging or plastic packaging components:

1. It is not reusable, recyclable or compostable (as per the definitions below).
2. It contains, or its manufacturing requires, hazardous chemicals that pose a significant risk to human health or the environment (applying the precautionary principle).
3. It can be avoided (or replaced by a reuse model) while maintaining utility.
4. It hinders or disrupts the recyclability or compostability of other items.
5. It has a high likelihood of being littered or ending up in the natural environment

## **Post-consumer recycled content**

Proportion, by mass, of post-consumer recycled material in a product or packaging. Post-consumer material is that generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end users of the product, where that material can no longer be used for its intended purpose.

This includes returns of material from the distribution chain, but it excludes pre-consumer material (e.g. production scrap), as defined by ISO 14021.

# Common Definitions

## **Reusable packaging**

Packaging which has been designed to accomplish or proves its ability to accomplish a minimum number of trips or rotations in a system for reuse.

A system for reuse defined as established arrangements (organisational, technical or financial) which ensure the possibility of reuse, in closed-loop, open-loop or in a hybrid system, as defined in ISO 18603:2013.

A framework to understand reuse models, and 69 examples of reuse in action can be found in the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's REUSE book.

## **Recyclable packaging**

Packaging or a packaging component is recyclable if its successful post-consumer collection, sorting, and recycling is proven to work in practice and at scale.

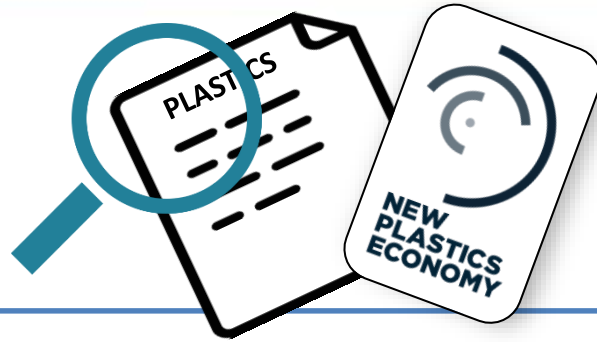
The threshold suggested to prove recycling works 'in practice and at scale' is a 30% post-consumer recycling rate achieved across multiple regions, collectively representing at least 400 million inhabitants.

## **Compostable packaging**

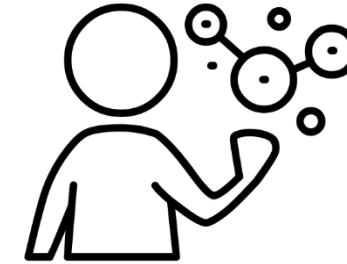
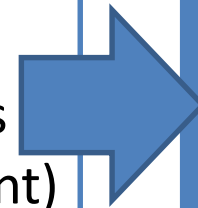
Packaging or a packaging component is compostable if it is in compliance with relevant international compostability standards and if its successful post-consumer collection, sorting, and composting is proven to work in practice and at scale.

The threshold suggested to prove composting works 'in practice and at scale' is a 30% composting rate achieved across multiple regions, collectively representing at least 400 million inhabitants.

# Overview of Tourism Companies' Actions to Address Plastic Pollution



- Leadership and engagement
- Elimination of unnecessary plastics
- Substitution w/ reusables
- Targets on properties of plastics (e.g. % of post-consumer content)
- Collaboration to increase recycling at destination
- Reporting on efforts



- Potential to accelerate impact through sharing of experiences
- Focus on procurement to extend reach of influence
- Increased recycling at destination requires collective efforts

# What is expected from governments and destinations?

1. **Endorse** the common vision
2. Commit to have ambitious **policies and measurable targets** in place well ahead of 2025 in order to realise and report tangible progress by 2025, at country and/or destination level, in each of the following areas:
  - i. Stimulating elimination of problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging and/or products;
  - ii. Encouraging reuse models where relevant, to reduce the need for single-use plastic packaging and/or products;
  - iii. Incentivising the use of reusable, recyclable, or compostable plastic packaging;
  - iv. Increasing collection, sorting, reuse, and recycling rates, and facilitating the establishment of the necessary infrastructure and related funding mechanisms;
  - v. Stimulating the demand for recycled plastics
3. **Support traveler behavior change** on recycling and reuse, throughout their journey at a destination;
4. **Collaborate** with the private sector, NGOs, and other destinations towards achieving the vision and objectives of the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative;
5. **Publicly report** on progress of the implementation of commitments annually;
6. **Communicate** successes to travelers, local stakeholders, and externally;



## What is expected from tourism associations, business networks, NGOs, certification schemes, academia and/or consultancies ?

1. **Endorse** the common vision
2. **Encourage** affiliated organizations and businesses or partners to join the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative
3. **Advice and guide** affiliated organizations and businesses or partners to better manage plastics in their operations through **practices, criteria, standards and/or policies**, and support them on the implementation of their commitments
4. **Communicate** successes to affiliated organizations and businesses or partners, travellers and key local stakeholders
5. **Publicly report** annually on progress of the implementation of their own commitment

# Working streams to support signatories

## KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

- Develop & curate webinars and case studies
- Trainings on plastics management
- Research to support the Initiative's strategy: Hotspots analysis of plastics(\*), Policy and regulatory landscape at destinations

## SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT PRACTICES

- Sustainable procurement guidelines and tenders
- LCA assessments of alternatives

## SUPPORT TO DESTINATIONS

- Support on technical aspects and coordination mechanisms

## MEASUREMENT, MONITORING, AND REPORTING

- Establish reporting mechanisms
- Annual Report
- Development of Tools and methodologies

## COMMUNICATIONS

- Communication activities showcasing the leadership of the sector
- Awareness raising campaigns

# Expression of Interest to join as Signatories

## Business Associations, NGOs

- ABTA\*\*
- Airline Sustainability Forum
- ANVR (Dutch Travel Association)
- MVO Netherlands (International Tourism Plastics Pledge)
- PATA
- Roteiros de Charme (Brasil)
- Travel Foundation
- WWF\*

## Tourism Businesses, Service Providers

- Accor
- Iberostar
- TUI
- Betterfly
- Considerate Group
- Travel without Plastics

## Destinations

- Chile\*
- France\*
- Seychelles\*
- Spain
- Dominican Republic
- Philippines

\*Signatories of the Global Commitment

\*\* Including Travelife (Certification Scheme) and some of its members



**BREAKOUT DISCUSSION:**  
**WHAT CAN HOTELS DO TO ELIMINATE PLASTIC MARINE LITTER?**

**PABLO, JANET, NATALIE, AND MAGGIE**







## **RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMITMENTS**

**PABLO, JANET, NATALIE, AND MAGGIE**





**FIRST ACTIONS ON MEASUREMENT:  
Plastic Footprint Measurement  
Maggie Lee**



## PLASTICS FOOTPRINT: DO YOU KNOW YOURS?

- Credible, legitimate, real data to guide actions
- Understand current status, identify risks and opportunities
- Guide target setting and courses of action:
  - Measure
  - Manage
  - Reduce
- Track progress towards targets over time
- Disclose to your stakeholders



*If you don't measure  
it...*

*...you can't manage  
it.*



# PDP AND SEA CIRCULAR

## Baseline & Benchmark with the PDP

By being part of the UN's SEA circular initiative, you will have training and support for undertaking the PDP, and become a leader in Southeast Asia with respect to plastic knowhow and management within your operations.

Undertaking the Plastic Disclosure Project (PDP) will allow your company to better manage its plastic use, recovery and waste impacts.



# WHAT DOES THE PDP DO?

## Objectives:

- Reduce plastic waste in the environment
- Encourage sustainable business practices
- Inspire improved designs & innovative solutions



## Mission:

- Annual disclosure of plastic footprints / management strategies
- Efficiencies in plastic use, reuse and recycling
- Awareness of plastic investment risks & opportunities



Companies and institutions can make improvements by ...

- Increasing recycled content
- Improving recycling programs
- Using less plastic packaging and reducing supply chain waste
- Developing new designs
- Introducing new materials

...reducing environmental impact





## **FOLLOW-UP AND NEXT STEPS**



Thank you  
[sea-circular@un.org](mailto:sea-circular@un.org)