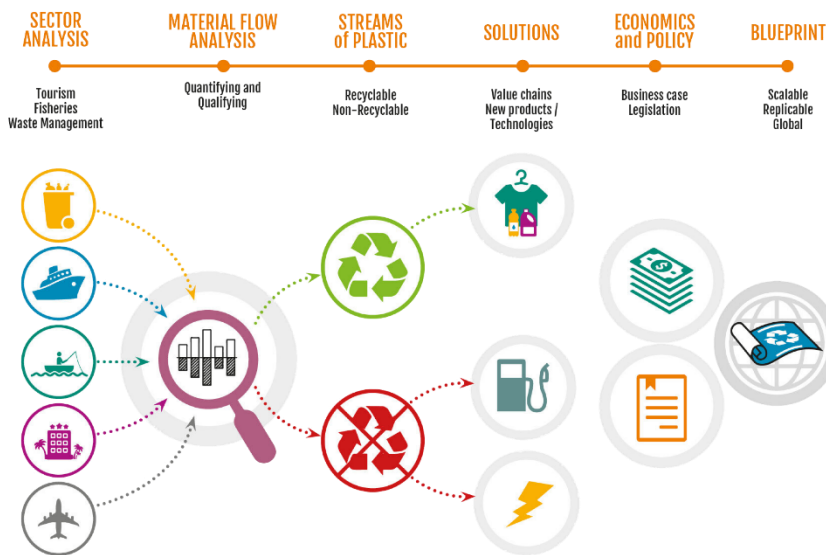
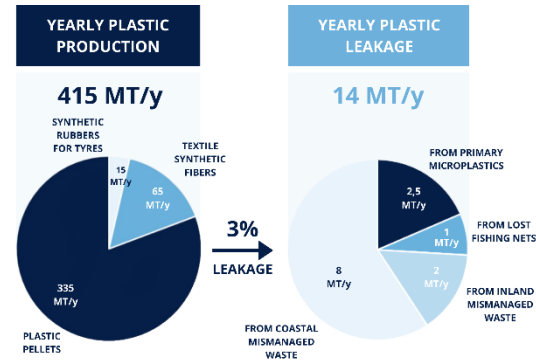


PLASTIC WASTE FREE ISLANDS

THE PLASTIC POLLUTION CRISIS

Plastic is a family of polymers that is cheap, lightweight, strong, durable and very versatile, which makes it a primary/essential choice for a variety of applications. However, the same reasons that make it a great material also make it an environmental burden and a human health concern. Up to 14 million tons of plastic waste enter the ocean every year. This has adverse impacts on the health of ocean ecosystems, the integrity of food supplies and people's livelihoods. Plastic pollution is caused by many factors, such as unsustainable consumption patterns, nonexistent or unenforced waste management legislation, nonexistent or inefficient waste management systems and a lack of coordination between different sectors. Plastic pollution is a design, production, consumption and disposal challenge that must be tackled across plastic's entire lifecycle. Most efforts to minimise and mitigate the impacts of plastic pollution are focused on the mainland, particularly rivers and coastal areas. To date, not much attention has been paid to islands.



ISLANDS' VULNERABILITY TO PLASTIC POLLUTION

- Many islands, particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDS), tend to have vulnerable economies that depend largely on tourism and fisheries.
- Islands have to deal with plastic waste they generate themselves, as well as plastic debris that washes ashore from other places.
- Inter-island waste management is particularly challenging for islands that are isolated or inaccessible.

THE PROJECT

3 years
2019-2022

6 islands
In the Caribbean and Pacific

3 sectors
tourism, fisheries and waste management

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

The project also aims to repurpose waste into commercially viable products, thereby generating job opportunities and income for local communities. Key regional bodies will develop and endorse a blueprint for looking at entire value chains, from production to disposal, and also at plastic usage and wastage in different sectors. These regional bodies will be able to identify opportunities to scale up the blueprint's application, which can be used by any island country.

OUTCOMES

- **Improved** knowledge of waste generation among 6 target islands
- **Increased** policy effectiveness in reducing plastic waste generation
- **Enhanced** adoption of plastic leakage reduction measures by tourism, fisheries and waste management sectors through alternate value chain development
- **Creation** of new value chains and jobs
- **Supported and facilitated** investment in waste management
- **Development** of Plastic Waste Free Island blueprint and endorsement by regional bodies.



<https://www.iucn.org/theme/marine-and-polar/our-work/close-plastic-tap-programme/plastic-waste-free-islands>



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