

**clean
seas**

turn the tide
on plastic

UN
environment



COBSEA
COORDINATING BODY ON
THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA

Marine litter

ongoing efforts and policy direction

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COBSEA / UN Environment



EAS Congress 2018
Healthy Coasts and Healthy ASEAN: Saving the ASEAN Seas through Effective Collaboration

plastic is a solution that has become a problem



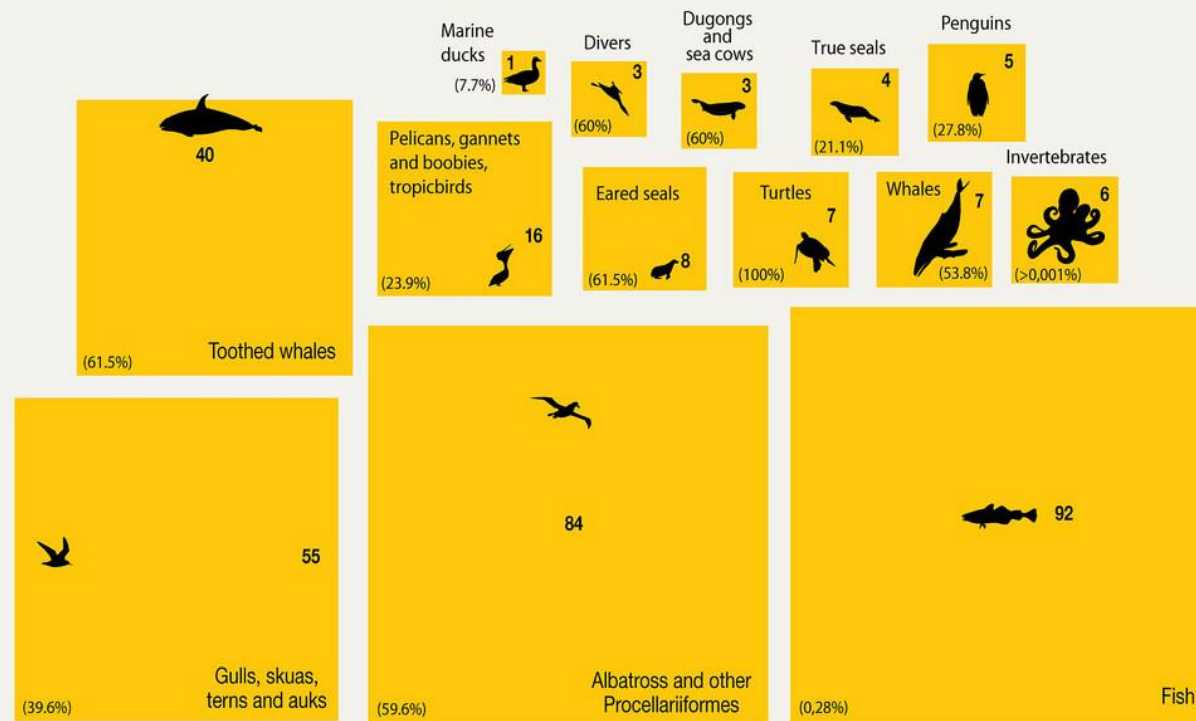
it's everywhere...



it hurts the environment...

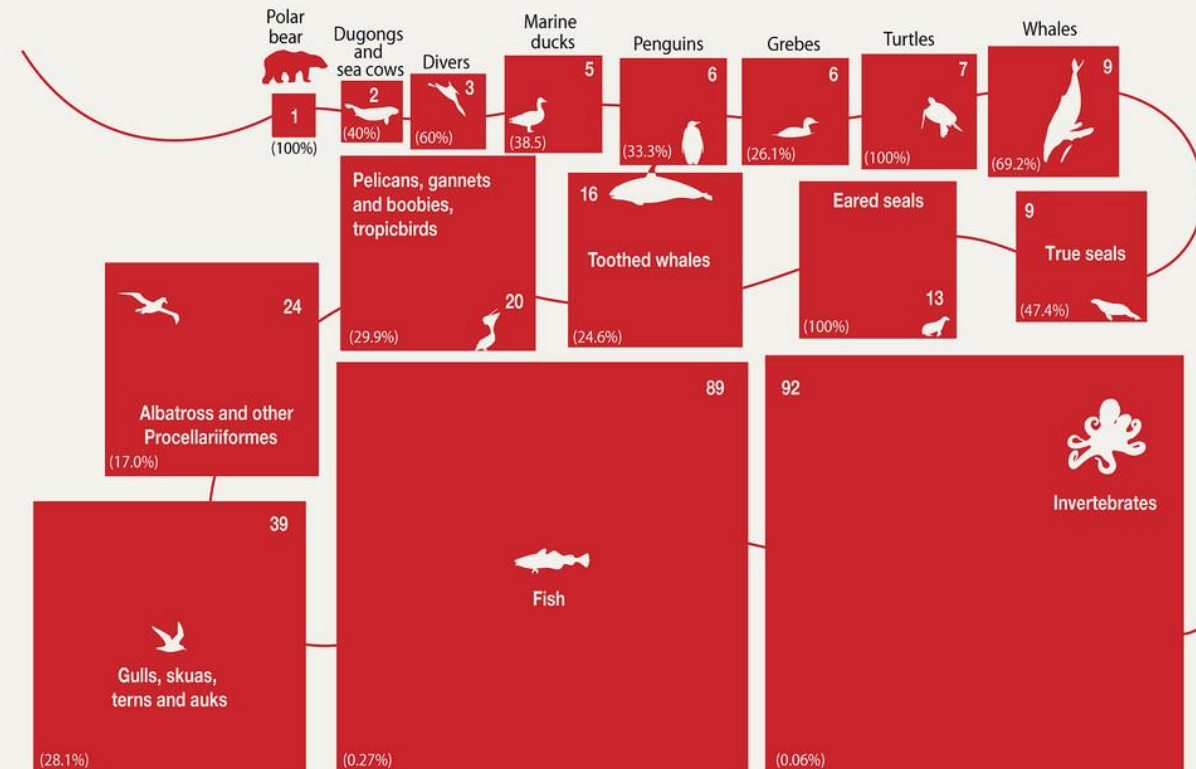
Plasticized animal species - Ingestion

Number of species with documented records of marine debris ingestion



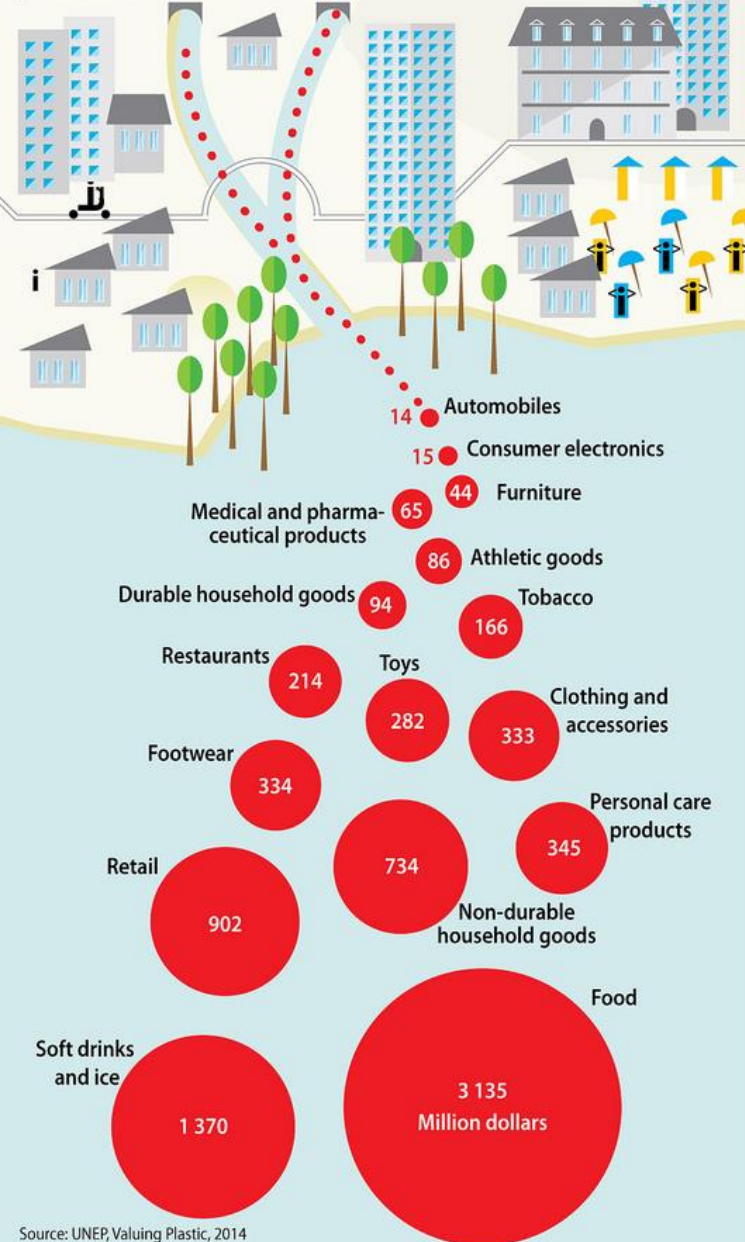
Plasticized animal species - Entangled

Number of species with documented records of entanglement in marine debris



The impact of plastic pollution on oceans is at least \$8 bn per year

Natural capital cost of marine plastic pollution by consumer product sector



Source: UNEP, Valuing Plastic, 2014

... and us

loss of life or injury at sea

micro- and nanoplastics in seafood

flooding damage due to blocked storm drains

vector borne diseases such as dengue

economic loss

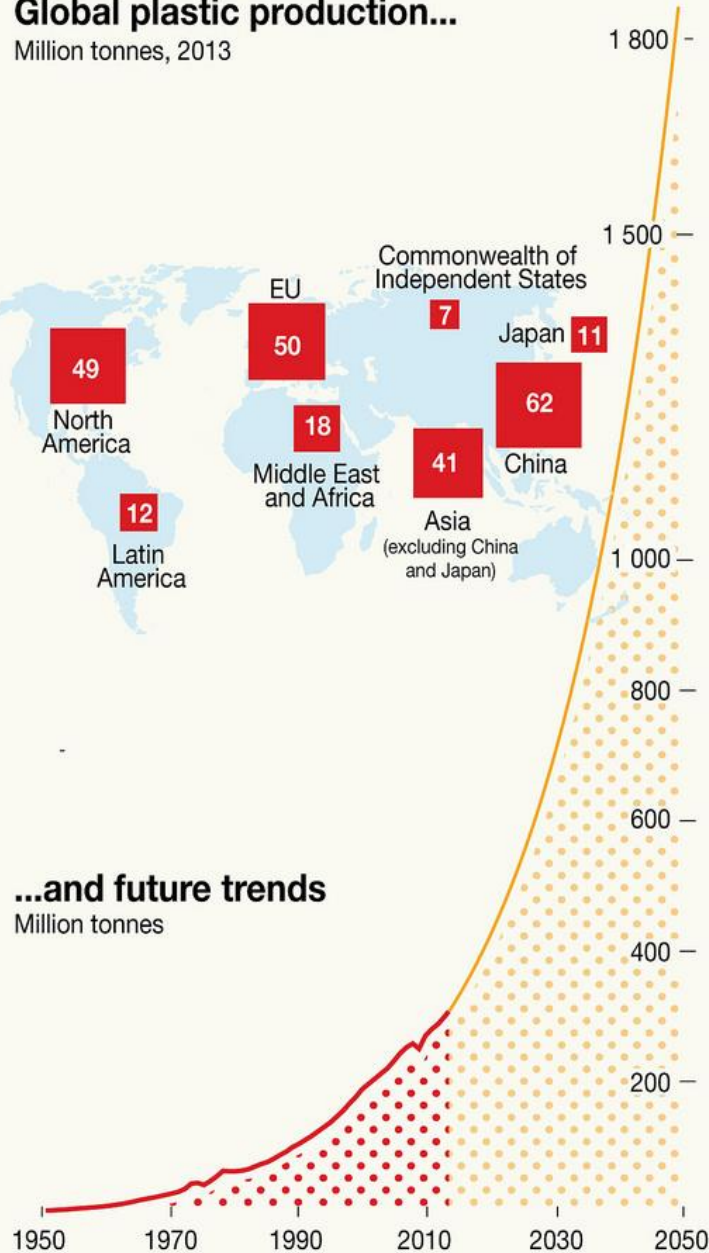
why?



8 million tons of plastic leak into the ocean annually
equal to a garbage truck per minute

Global plastic production...

Million tonnes, 2013



...and future trends

Million tonnes

Source: Ryan, A Brief History of Marine Litter Research, in M. Bergmann, L. Gutow, M. Klages (Eds.), Marine Anthropogenic Litter, Berlin Springer, 2015; Plastics Europe

why?



today we produce over 400 million tons of plastic per year

... most of it designed to be used only once

... close to 40% is used for packaging

... and the average recycling rate is only 14 %

almost 80% of all plastic ever produced still exists,
in landfills and in the environment

...yes, but why?

plastics are
immensely
versatile

consumer behavior:
from adoption to
addiction

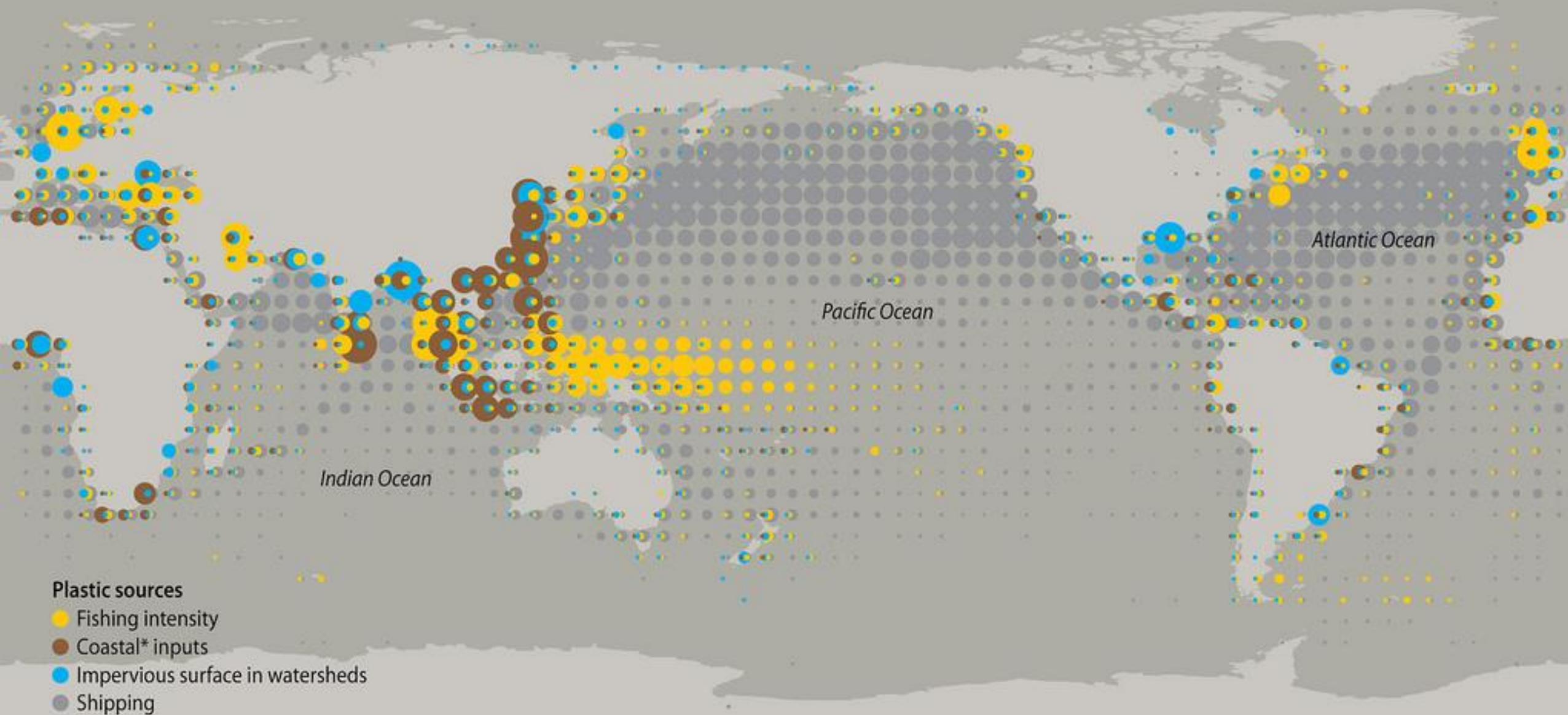
long-term implications
were initially poorly
understood

policy and regulation
not keeping pace
with development

environmental and
social costs of plastics
not internalized



Plastic input into the oceans



*Includes mismanaged waste combined with population density
Note: the map utilizes a dimensionless model source input binned on 5x5 degree bins. Circles are indicative of the amplitude of the phenomena and do not express quantitative information.

Data courtesy of Laurent Lebreton/The Ocean Cleanup.

Sources: IPCC scenario SRES B2; Jambeck, J. R., et al., Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean, Science, 2015; Watson, R. A., et al., Global marine yield halved as fishing intensity redoubles, 2013; Halpern, B. S., et al., A Global Map of Human Impact on Marine Ecosystems, 2008.

stemming the flow of plastic into the sea



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SDG 6.3: halve proportion of untreated wastewater

SDG 11.6: reduce the adverse environmental impact of cities, paying special attention to waste management

SDG 12.4: environmentally sound management of all wastes throughout their life cycles

SDG 12.5: reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

SDG 14.1: prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution, in particular from land, including marine debris

SDG 14.2: sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts

Ocean Conference 2017: Call for Action

international governance

Current governance fragmented; legally binding agreements are limited in scope, soft law more specific e.g. on waste management

No international body with mandate to regulate land-based marine pollution

No global agreement specific to prevention of marine plastic litter and microplastics, and providing for a comprehensive lifecycle approach

Costs of remediation for environmental damage by marine plastic litter not represented in product or other liability legislation



Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics



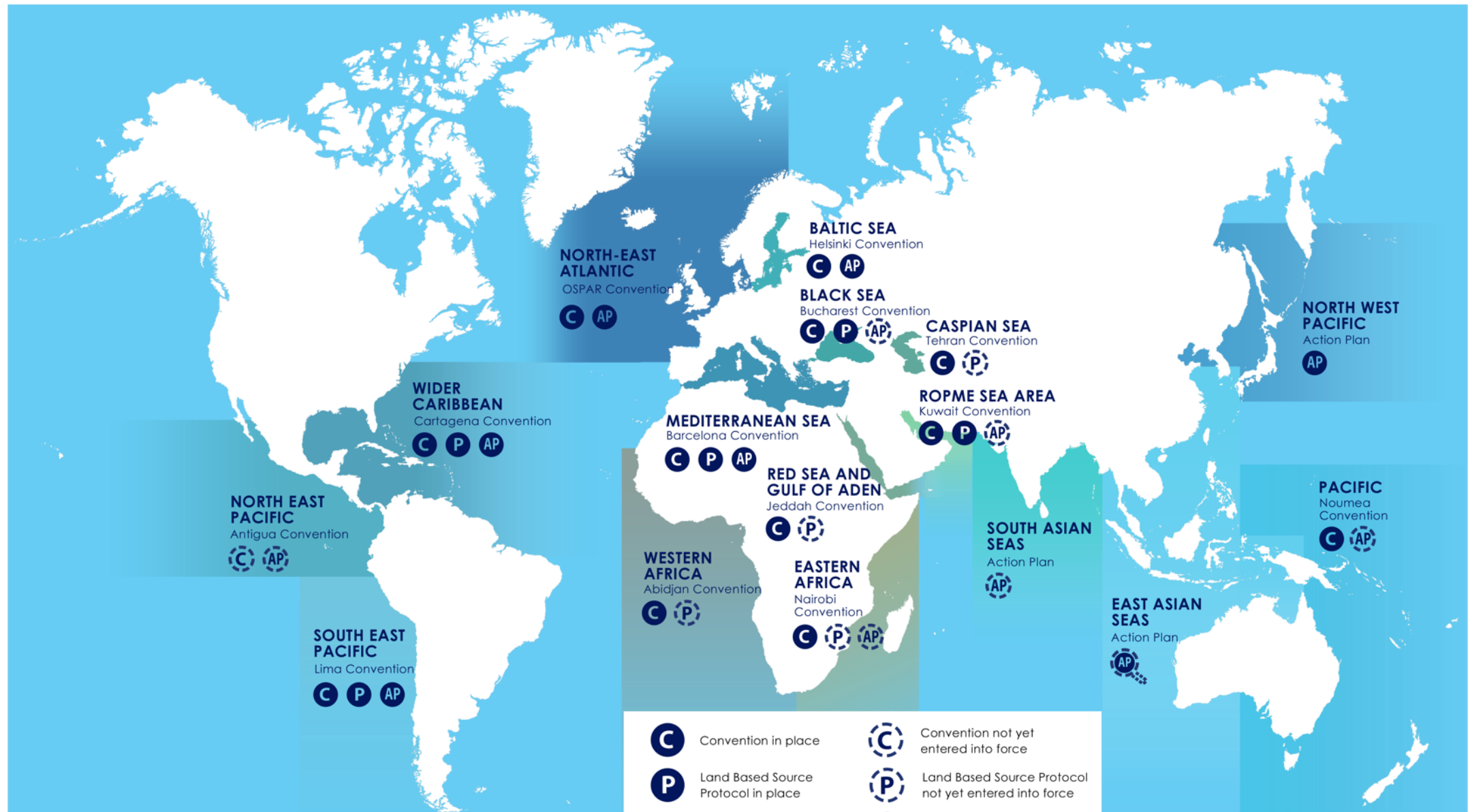
Established pursuant to **UN Environment Assembly resolution 3/7** to examine the barriers to and options for combating marine plastic litter and microplastics from all sources, especially land-based sources

- identify national, regional, and international response options, including voluntary and legally binding governance strategies and approaches
- identify environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of different response options, and examine their feasibility and effectiveness
- for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly (March 2019)

Second meeting of the expert group to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, 3-7 December 2018

Register: <https://reg.unog.ch/event/26945>

Documents : <https://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/second-adhoc-oeeeg>



A stylized map of East Asia and Southeast Asia in shades of blue and green, serving as a background for the left sidebar.

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the Seas of East Asia

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COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022

Adopted by Intergovernmental Meeting in April 2018

Land-based pollution

- a) nutrients and waste water: Identification of sources; and Prevention, reduction and control through appropriate measures.
- b) marine litter: COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

Marine and coastal planning and management

Strengthening biodiversity conservation in line with Aichi targets; Increasing resilience to climate change; national and regional policy on ecosystem-based approaches including MPAs and MSP; and Strengthening and mainstreaming in line with national SDG actions

Governance

Regional objectives and associated actions towards achievement of SDGs; Regional forum for exchange of experiences, policy and practice

[#OceanAction15986](#)

A stylized map of the Western Pacific region, showing the outlines of East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania. The map is rendered in a light blue color against a white background.

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COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

The only intergovernmental policy framework on marine litter in the region,
and a key element of the COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022

Being revised, taking into account recent global policy development and to ensure the
plan is fit-for-purpose. Countries have agreed steps towards its finalization

Covers

- Preventing and reducing marine litter from land-based sources;
- Preventing and reducing marine litter from sea-based sources;
- Monitoring and assessment of marine litter; and
- Activities supporting implementation of RAP MALI

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A stylized map of Southeast Asia in shades of blue and green, serving as a background for the left sidebar.

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Reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in Southeast Asia

COBSEA and UN Environment project 2018-2022, supported by Sida with USD 6.5M

Multi-stakeholder initiative to reduce marine litter from land-based sources

- identify and scale up market-based solutions and regulatory and fiscal incentives;
- strengthen the science basis for decision making;
- increase public awareness and promote consumer behavioural change; and
- facilitate regional networking, coordination and stakeholder engagement.

Contributing to COBSEA RAP-MALI as well as SDG Targets 14.1; 12.4 and 12.5; and 17.17

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Outputs

1. Market-based solutions

- 1.1: Stakeholders measure and report their plastic footprint
- 1.2: Stakeholders demonstrate ability to manage plastic their value chain
- 1.3: Business incentives for plastic reduction and recycling identified and applied

2. Science-basis for decision making

- 2.1: Baseline data on plastic leakage through the plastic value chain
- 2.2: Regular reporting on marine litter status and trends at regional and national levels
- 2.3: Scientific publishing on marine litter and plastic value chain
- 2.4: Policy and regulatory obstacles and opportunities identified

3. Outreach

- 3.1: Social and economic impacts of marine litter better understood
- 3.2: Outreach partnership broadened and strengthened
- 3.3: Increased consumer awareness prompts behavioral change and support for policy reform

4. Regional networking

- 4.1: Regionally coherent national marine litter plans, leveraging all stakeholder groups
- 4.2: Regionally coherent policies, regulations or standards support plastic reduction, recycling and marine litter prevention
- 4.3: Information sharing and stakeholder engagement support broad-based action

Outcomes

Variety of non-plastic and recycled plastic packaging increases

Elimination of single use plastics from selected value chains

Plastic segregation at source and recycling rates increase

Strengthened policy and fiscal incentives to reduce virgin plastic use and divert plastic from landfill

Growing public and consumer demand for plastic pollution reduction

Impact

Less plastic wasted, with reduced input to and impact on the marine environment as well as dependent people

A stylized map of the Southeast Asian region, including parts of China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The map is rendered in a light blue color against a white background.

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Meeting of the COBSEA Regional Working Group on Marine Litter

Bangkok, Thailand, 13-14 December 2018

Agenda:

- Update on global marine litter processes
- COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
- Activities in the context of RAP MALL: monitoring; hotspot assessment; current and emerging projects
- Regional networking and coordination, including establishment of a regional node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter

"Regional Solutions to Combat Plastic Pollution: Packaging Industry Regulations and Standards for Design, Labelling, Recovery and Recycling in ASEAN"

Workshop organized by UN Environment 11-12 December 2018 in Bangkok

[#OceanAction15986](https://twitter.com/OceanAction15986)

ASEAN



ASEAN Conference on Reducing Marine Debris in ASEAN Region
November 2017, Phuket, Thailand

GIZ ASEAN workshop “Managing Packaging Waste – Preventing Marine Litter”
October 2018, Bali, Indonesia

East Asia Summit Leaders’ Statement on Combating Marine Plastic Debris
November 2018, Singapore

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on marine litter and 3R meeting
March 2019, Thailand

Several emerging projects by ASEAN partners; extensive national efforts



priority actions

improve waste management - increase segregation, collection, recycling

promote alternatives - ensure they are better alternatives

encourage voluntary reduction - agreements with retailers and producers

public awareness, social pressure - educate consumers

strengthen policy and regulation - apply bans, regulations and economic instruments

enhance regional collaboration - coherent, more effective responses



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