About IUCN

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 more than 1,500 Member organisations and some 18,000 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.

Understand the problem

Why?

At the start of the journey, it is important to get a complete picture of island society and infrastructure. Then foundations can be built to transform the island into a Plastic Waste Free Island.

What?

CONTEXT

Make a country snapshot by collecting data and assessing demographics, GDP composition, socio-economic profile, import/export profile, energy mix/capacity, biodiversity hotspots,

GENDER MAPPING

Map gender roles and make a **gender action plan** aligned with national gender policies. Map responsibilities, time use,

What?

QUALIFICATION OF PLASTIC

Once the amount and types of plastic waste generated and leaked on the island is known,

Solutions

Why?

Once a clear overview of the problem is gained, and a network of people who can help enact change is established, solutions to prevent plastic waste from being produced can be identified, and it can be stopped from entering landfill or the environment.

What?

Identify the best circular plastics solutions for the biggest volumes of plastics: set priorities and Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-Bound targets.

How?

REFUSE/REDUCE/REUSE

ET0(en)3(t)(t)-4(i)5(es)]TJETse t4(v)he)-4(s w)h teriTOentplae plastbiggstog0.00000912 0 612 792 reW*nBT/F1

and

How

can I assess the best practices?

To compare the best available solution for recyclables,

Alternative value chain matrix (Annex II). The matrix high
recycling methods for commonly used, recyclable plastic p
the comparison of different value chains in terms of enviro
benefits.
Best Available Technology assessment. Developed for
(see example matrix in Annex II).
For non-recyclables, the online tool **Deplastify** can be us
recycling technologies based on island context.

**The next step is to prioritise solutions involving all
is useful to summarise, conceptualise, and visualis**

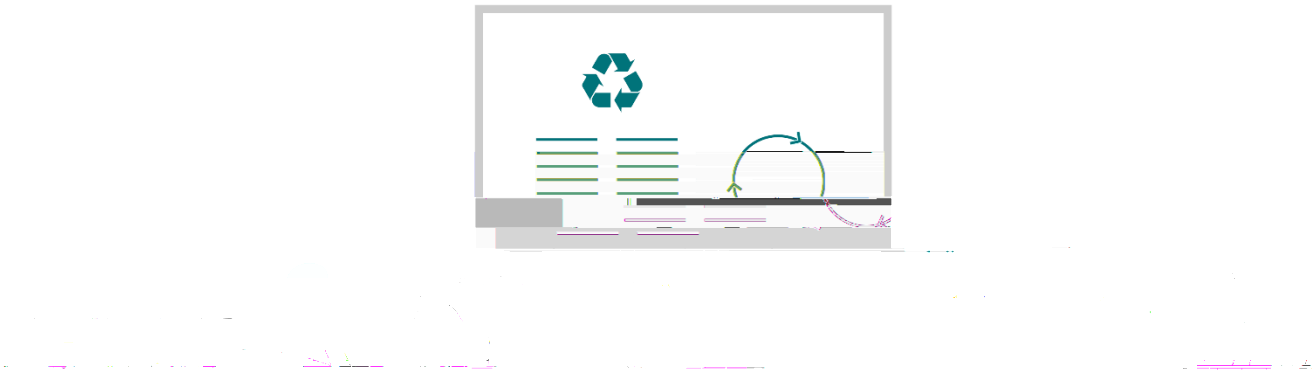
How
to summarise

Make a shortlist of the most promising solutions for the local context. Then prioritise them in a multi-stakeholder setting by using the following selection criteria:

Level of environmental impact: Potential to help prevent plastic waste in terms of volumes (weight).

Relevance for key stakeholders: Relevance specifically mentioned during direct

How
to prioritise



Once the fact-checking and number-crunching for the different solutions is complete, make sure to plan an inclusive prioritisation process. Invite key stakeholders from across the respective value chains, specifically decision makers from the 3 industries sectors, governmental (environmental AND industry departments) as well as the private sector and form a selection committee.

- **Select the top 2 solutions,** ideally consensus-based.
- **Make a shortlist of key stakeholders** to be invited for action-oriented working groups, including local business incubators.
- **Agree** on a working group approach.
- **Agree to a longer-term plan** to respond to the overall waste management recommendations and solutions that have not been prioritised, including source segregation of different waste streams, landfill management, etc.

Policies

Why?

Once the best solutions have been identified, it should be seen how they could fit within the overall policy strategy. To be sustainable, they need a proven economic business case and legislative backing where relevant.

What?

Action

Why?

Move from Fact to Pact to Act. Now it is time to turn those plans into action and start working towards the goal of a Plastic Waste Free Island.

What?

Assemble stakeholders and establish working groups with specific

PILOTS

Develop a proof-of-concept slide deck showcasing the following key elements:

Concept/product description

Name, dimensions, weight, intended use & impact.
Illustration of concept/product.
Potential alternative value chain.
Volume, source, market, and benefit flows.

Concept/product composition

Types of plastic included; the amount of plastics used & amount of plastic waste diverted.

Source and condition of used plastic types, including collection and recycling approach.

Cost of product/product development (plastic collection, transport, cleaning, recycling,

ANNEX I

Plastic pollution in general

Plastic production

Since the 1950s, production and use of plastics has increased from 2 million tonnes to more than 438 million tonnes in 2017. Up to 99% of plastics are made from polymers from non-renewable hydrocarbons, mostly oil and natural gas. Only around 10% of the plastic waste generated to date has been recycled. 14% has been incinerated and 76% has been disposed of in landfills or released into the environment. (Geyer 2020).

Plastic as part of municipal solid waste

Plastics are a growing segment of municipal solid waste (MSW). While plastics are found in all major MSW categories, containers and packaging had the most plastic tonnage at over 14.5 million tons in 2018. This includes bags, sacks and wraps; other packaging; polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles and trays; high-density polyethylene (HDPE) natural bottles; and other containers.

Common types of packaging

The most common types of plastic used for packaging are; PET (clear bottles and trays),
HDPE (cloudy milk bottles, shampoo/detergent bottles etc),
LDPE (plastic bags, squeezy bottles),
PP (Ice cream tubs, potato chip bags)

The circular economy for plastics

Applying circular economy principles to global plastic packaging flows could transform the plastics economy and drastically reduce negative externalities such as leakage into oceans,

ANNEX II

PLASTIC WASTE FREE ISLANDS

What’s a Plastic Waste Free Island?

A Plastic Waste Free Island (PWFI) is one where plastic waste is not seen as a national problem, but as an

Solutions:

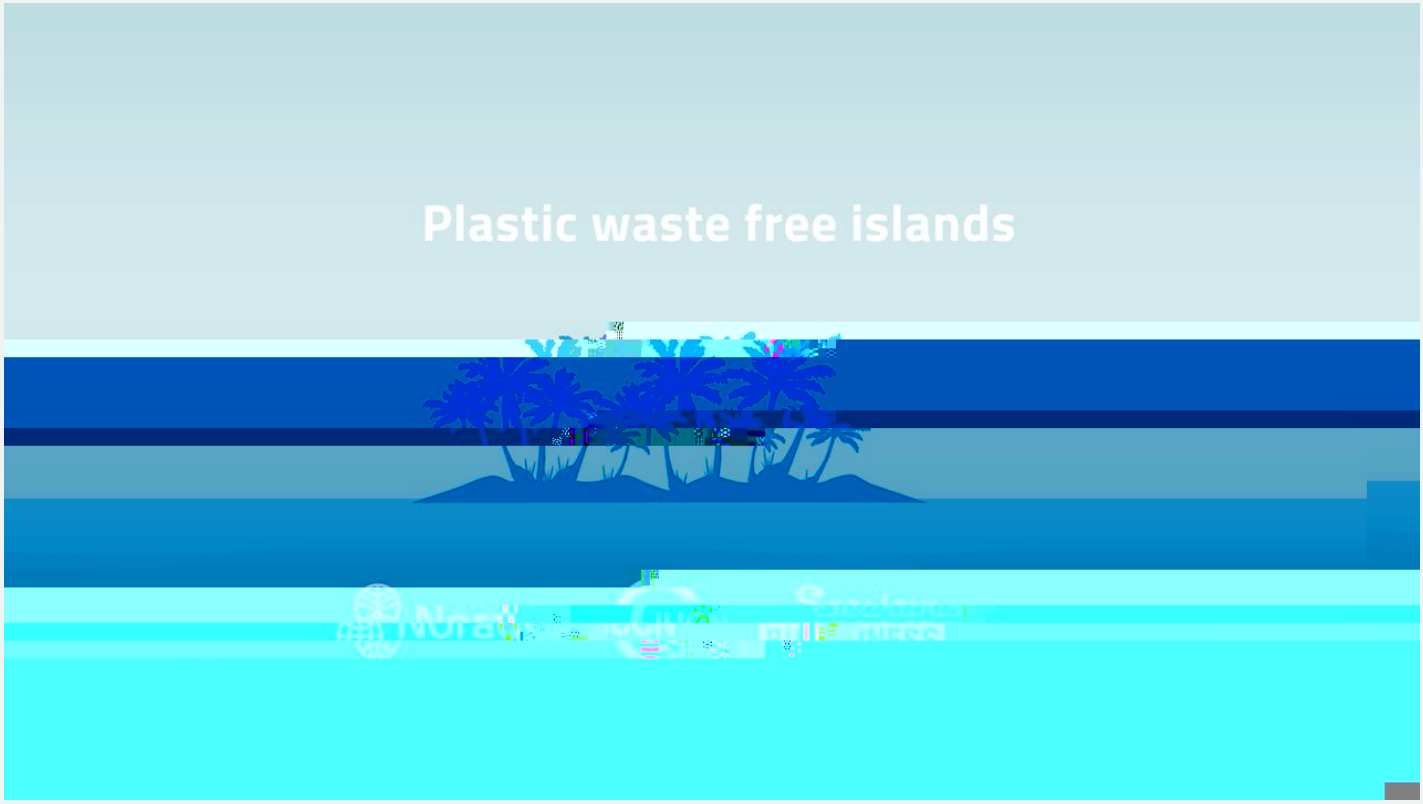
Regulatory solutions:

Strive for the introduction of regulations such as landfill bans, EPR, SUP-regulation, packaging waste directives, and plastic tax.
Regulations should be translated into national action plans on i.e., circularity, blue economy, and waste management for them to be effective.

The PWFI project

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. PWFI is a three-year project working in six islands in the Caribbean and Pacific. 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 stakeholders from governments, private sector and civil society, united in a vibrant learning and leadership network, will co-generate and demonstrate demand-responsive solutions to plastic waste incorporating policy, business operations, and citizen behaviour changes.

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