



Were you aware that...

Every year, ten island states in the Caribbean generate more plastic debris than the weight of 20,000 space shuttles. These are Aruba, Antigua & Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Guyana, Barbados, Saint Lucia, Bahamas, Grenada, Anguilla and Trinidad and Tobago. (Ewing-Chow,D. 2019)



Plastic Waste-Free Islands

Saving our oceans from plastic pollution

Pillars of PWFI

Knowledge

IUCN works with countries to co-generate credible data and analysis to understand their current plastic leakage status, set targets, implement actions, and track progress towards targets over time.

Capacity

IUCN is facilitating collaboration amongst key public and private stakeholders to share best practices to enhance plastic waste management measures.

Policy

IUCN is supporting policy and legislative analysis and reform, to minimise plastic leakage. IUCN is working on identifying plastic leakage reduction options and potential solutions through development of scenario models.

Business

IUCN is working with the private sector, with a focus on the tourism, fisheries and waste management sectors, to enhance their plastic waste management measures and develop alternative value chains.

PWFI Caribbean countries of intervention



For more information contact us at:

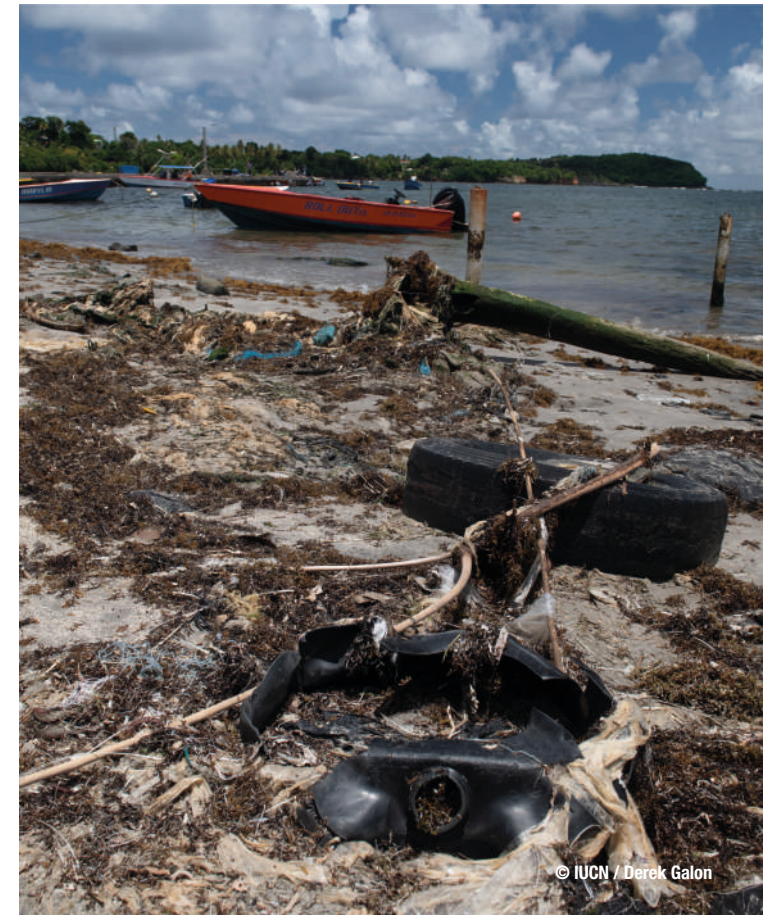
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Sources:

Boucher, J. and Friot D. (2017). Primary Microplastics in the Oceans: A Global Evaluation of Sources. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 43pp.

Ewing-Chow,D. (2019). "Caribbean Islands Are The Biggest Plastic Polluters Per Capita In The World". Forbes. [https://www.forbes.com/sites/daphneewing-chow/2019/09/20/caribbean-islands-are-the-biggest-plastic-polluters-per-capita-in-the-world/#363907b0774b]. (Accessed: 9 January 2020).

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE



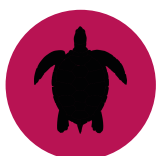


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The Plastic Pollution Crisis

Up to 12 million tons of plastic debris enter the ocean every year. This has adverse impacts on the health of ocean ecosystems, the integrity of food supplies and people's livelihoods. (Boucher, J. and Friot D., 2017)

Plastic pollution is caused by many factors, such as unsustainable consumption patterns, non-existent or unenforced waste management legislation, inefficient waste management systems and a lack of coordination between different sectors. It is also a design, production, consumption and disposal challenge that must be tackled across plastic's entire lifecycle.



Biodiversity loss

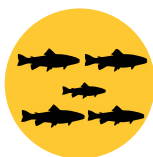
Impacts from mismanaged waste



Invasive species



Visual impact loss of tourism



Reduced income from fisheries

Plastic Waste-Free Islands

In 2019, with support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and the Didier and Martine Primat Foundation, IUCN launched the Plastic Waste-Free Islands (PWFI) project, as part of its global Close the Plastic Tap Programme. PWFI is a three-year initiative working in three regions: the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and Oceania.

In the Caribbean region, the project is being executed by IUCN's Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (IUCN ORMACC), alongside the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) who is acting as regional implementing partner. Project countries include **Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada and Saint Lucia.**

PWFI seeks to drive circular economy forward and to reduce plastic waste generation and leakage from SIDS. The project has selected three waste-related sectors: **tourism, fisheries and waste management**, to generate data, exchange information and sharing of best practices.

Key regional bodies will also 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 (such as tourism and fisheries).



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Objectives

The project aims to:

- **Provide** national partners with data and analysis to reduce the amount of plastic waste leakage.
- **Enhance** adoption of plastic leakage reduction measures by target sectors.
- **Co-generate** action plans for alternative value chains to strengthen coordination and cooperation amongst different stakeholders along the plastic value chain.
- **Develop** a blueprint for islands in collaboration with regional bodies. The blueprint will lay down IUCN's recommended approach to reduce plastic leakage on islands.

Did you know that...

Over the last ten years, we have produced more plastic than during the whole of the last century:

- Global plastic production has increased steadily and reached 320 million tonnes a year.
- Of the estimated 6.3 billion tonnes of plastic waste produced since the 1950s, only 9% has been recycled and another 12% incinerated.
- An estimated 100 million tonnes of plastic is in our seas, 80-90% of which has come from land-based sources.

(Secretariat of the Basel Convention, 2019).