



*A review of marine plastic litter in
the WIO region:
Effectiveness of measures
undertaken and opportunities*



Science to Policy meeting
25th March 2021

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- **Background**

- Coordination and collaboration between the various stakeholders across the region has remained limited.
- In recognition of the need for a coordinated approach to the issue, a Group of Experts on Marine Litter and Microplastics was established.



- **Objectives of the study**

In order to further its understanding of the issue of marine litter across the region, WIOMSA commissioned three interrelated studies to assess:

- (i) the status of marine litter and microplastics knowledge in the WIO region.
- (ii) their ecological, human health and economic impacts.
- **(iii) the effectiveness of measures undertaken to address the challenge and opportunities that could be harnessed for enhanced interventions.**



“Review policy and institutional frameworks on marine plastic litter in the WIO region, including government and non-government (private sector, NGO, and community) actions and to analyse opportunities and needs”



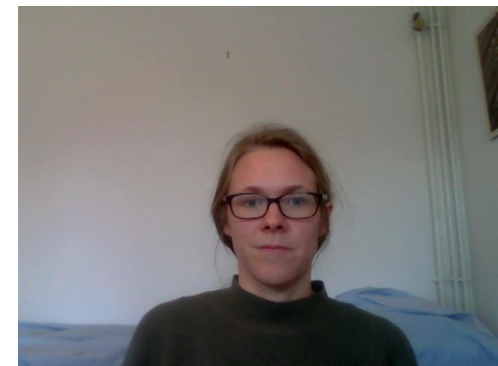


- **Scope of the study**

- **GEOGRAPHY:** 10 countries of the WIO Region.
- **TYPE OF WASTE:** Plastic waste, upstream of marine plastic litter, (macroplastics, microplastics and microbeads).
- **TYPE OF INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK:** : local/national regulations, strategies and action plans, and international frameworks that apply to plastic waste.
- **TYPE OF INITIATIVES:** For each country, initiatives on plastic management, including:
 - **avoidance** (promotion of alternatives),
 - **eco-design,**
 - **reuse** or **upcycling,**
 - **collection systems** or **recycling,**
 - **treatment** (generative of energy or fuel) technical plastic management.
 - Initiatives related to clean-ups and awareness raising are therefore out of the study scope. They are numerous and therefore could imply a whole study to address them.

- **Methodology**

- **LITERATURE REVIEW:** Scientific and grey literature, national regulations, internet for initiatives...
- **INTERVIEWS:** 15 on-line interviews with key national and international stakeholders of the WIO region.





Main findings on the regulatory framework

- Assessment at international/regional level
- Summary of the institutional and regulatory frameworks by country

Device	Type of Plastic	Comoros	Reunion Island	Kenya	Madagascar	Mauritius	Mozambique	Seychelles	Somalia	South Africa	Tanzania
Discouraging Manufacture/ Import	Plastic bags			⊘	⊘ <50 µm	⊘	⊘ <30 µm	⊘		⊘ <24 µm	⊘
	Single-use plastics					⊘		⊘ balloons			
Discouraging Use	Plastic bags	⊘ local	⊘ <50 µm	⊘	⊘ <50 µm	⊘	⊘ <30 µm	⊘		⊘ <24 µm >24 µm \$	⊘
	Single-use plastics		⊘	⊘ in protected areas		⊘		⊘ balloons			
	PET bottles		⊘ water bottles in schools and public events	⊘ water bottles in protected areas		⊘ ban on bottles < 1L					
	Microplastics		⊘								
Extended Producer Responsibility			⊘ household packaging	⊘**		⊘ PET bottles		\$		⊘ Plastic packaging	
Management of land sources			📄 📄	🚰 📄	📄	⊘ 📄 \$	📄		📄	📄	📄 local
Management of marine sources			⊘ waste in ports	📄		📄	📄	📄		⊘	

⊘ Legislation

📄 Strategic Plan/Policy

🚰 Industry Initiative

\$ Financial Incentive

■ Finalised and enforced

■ Finalised but not enforced

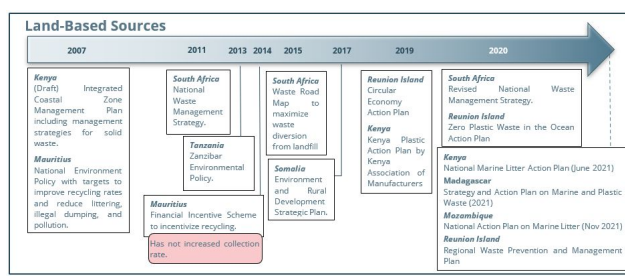
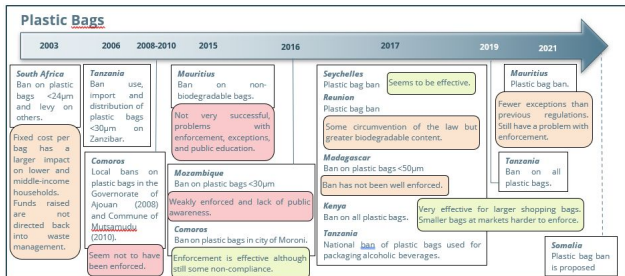
■ Under development

⊘ Multiple measures

* Commercial packaging, toys, fishing gear

** Packaging, single-use plastics, bags, buckets and hangars

Chronological analysis by type of regulation



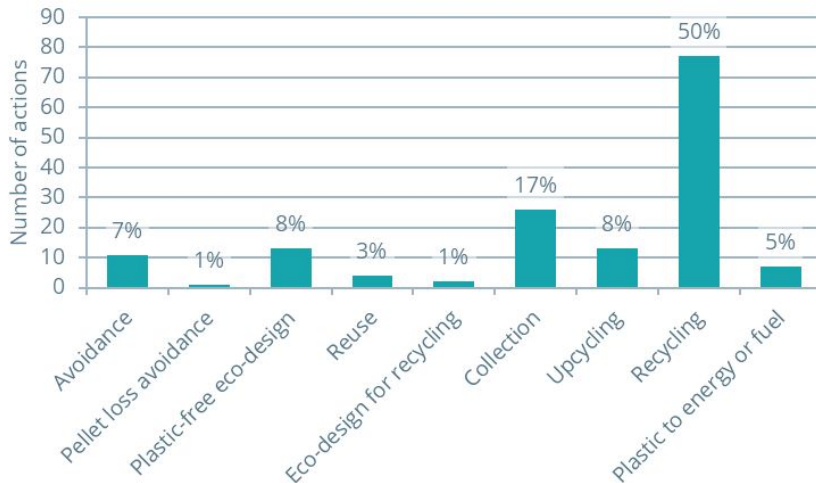


Main findings on the identified initiatives

- 129 initiatives identified in the 10 WIO countries, mainly in South Africa (29%), but also Kenya (17%), La Réunion (France) (15%) and Madagascar (12%). Little in Somalia and Mozambique.
- Reflects the awareness of populations, governments on the subject and the maturity of the waste management systems.
- Covers small-scale private (51%) or NPOs (33%) initiatives as well as national/local government (11%)

The majority (50 %) of the initiatives concern recycling, upstream initiatives (avoidance, eco-design) are less represented (17%). All but one initiative target macroplastics.

- Most of the initiatives target plastic waste coming from household or commercial waste (50 %) or litter (23%) in cities and towns (55%), which are the main sources of plastic waste.



Type of actions implemented.

- Almost 2/3 of the initiatives started between 2010 and 2019, reflecting an increased awareness on the subject.

NB: an action can be classified under multiple different types, so the total here is higher than the total number of actions.





Strengths

- Marine sources covered extensively in international agreements and action plans
- Recent development of action plans targeting land sources of marine plastic litter, completing policies and strategies
- *Implementation of regulations on plastic bags and SUPs effective, as is PET – PRO model
- *EPR: willingness of the industry to drive the system
- *Existing plastic waste management services and infrastructure, data monitoring
- Numerous initiatives (129), positive experiences of long-lasting initiatives and development of pilot projects

Regulatory framework

Waste mgmt

Initiatives

Weaknesses

- National regulatory framework limited on microplastics and marine plastic sources
- *Lack of enforcement of regulations
- Regulations forbidding transboundary plastic exportation in the island states
- *Lack of (plastic) waste management services and infrastructure, lack of funding
- Initiatives exist, but not sufficient to address the issue (non-cohesive, no cover of all the geographic area)
- Often lack of data on plastic waste to assess the impacts of the initiatives

Opportunities

- Possibility to control influx of plastics in countries without national plastic production
- Peer support system between WIO countries
- Support from international bodies exists or is possible (funding, technical support and capacity-building)
- Development of plastic waste management based on existing positive initiatives and stakeholders
- Possibility to build economically positive operations (win-win, generate income...)
- Increasing awareness of population and governments enabling further progress on the issue

Regulatory framework

Waste mgmt

Initiatives

Threats

- Unstable political situations and priority given to other sectors than waste management
- Complex, multi sectoral issue
- Influx of illegal material across borders in response to SUP and plastic bag bans
- EPR and levies: funds collected are not used for WM
- Difficulty to find funding and build sustainable activities
- International institutions' programs hard to access
- General lack of awareness on (plastic) waste and on WM practices

* Only some of WIO countries concerned





Recommendations - feedback from participants requested

