

# PREVENT Waste Alliance and IUCN present:

## “CAPacity” to Act: Reducing Plastic Pollution through Capacity Development

8 August 2025

ICRC Museum, Café HINIVUU

Avenue de la Paix 17, 1202 Geneva



# Your facilitators today



**Lynn Sorrentino**

Programme Officer, Plastics  
Pollution, Plastics Treaty

IUCN



**Steffen Blume**

Advisor

GIZ / PREVENT

# Our Agenda Today

## Session 1:

- ✓ Welcome and opening remarks
- ✓ Introduction to capacity building
- ✓ Capacity building approaches
- ✓ Panel Discussion

## Session 2:

- ✓ Networking tables on 7 topics





# Let's remember – why are we here – mind journey.

“We are in a new era. The signatures on the treaty were more than names—they have been proven to be promises, woven from every continent, every coastline, every riverbank where plastic once gathered like a silent tide.

Picture yourself walking through your city, your village, your home. The air is lighter. The rivers run clearer. Children play on beaches where plastic debris is a memory, not a menace. Fishermen haul in nets filled with fish, not fragments. Waste pickers, once invisible, are now leaders—trained, and equipped with new tools and knowledge.

Factories hum with innovation. Products are designed to last, to be reused, to return to the earth or the economy, not to pollute. Markets thrive on circularity. Communities—once overwhelmed by waste—are now hubs of creativity and green jobs.

You see governments, businesses, and citizens working side by side. The treaty guides national action plans, and ensures that no one—no country, no community—is left behind.

You feel the pride of being part of this transformation. You remember the years of negotiation, the doubts, the debates. But now, you see the results: cleaner oceans and rivers, healthier children, restored ecosystems, and new hope.

This is not a distant dream. It is the world we are building—together—starting today. The treaty's ratification is not the end, but the beginning. The beginning of implementation, of action, of real change.

# OPENING REMARKS



**BMZ**

Lars Selwig

Head of Division

Water and Circular Economy



**IUCN**

Karine Siegwart

Senior Policy Advisor

Centre for Policy and Law

# Introduction: PREVENT Waste Alliance



**Alexander Batteiger**  
PREVENT Waste Alliance

# PREVENT Waste Alliance



**PREVENT**  
Waste Alliance

- International 'think and do tank' for circular economy practitioners
- 600+ members from the private sector, academia, civil society and public institutions
- Launched in 2019 by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Working groups on three material streams:
  - [Plastics](#) (incl. sub-topics such as EPR and Plastic Credits)
  - [E-Waste and Batteries](#)
  - [Organic Waste](#)
- Working groups on cross-cutting issues: Financing Circular Economy; Digitalisation and Circular Economy; Awareness Raising/Behaviour Change
- Pilot projects and innovation programmes



Visit our [website](#) and follow us on [LinkedIn!](#)

# PREVENT - A Think and Do Tank

01



## Knowledge sharing

We share our knowledge around the topic of circular economy.

03



## International partnerships

We connect different perspectives and act in international cross-sectoral partnerships.

02



## Guidelines and standards

We contribute to shaping international guidelines and standards for circular economy solutions.

04



## Circular solutions

We incubate and pilot scalable circular economy solutions worldwide.

# Our Projects

**Pilot projects**  
Innovation  
programmes



# Leadership Training **for Multipliers**

- Cutting-edge leadership training for multipliers in the circular economy
- 5 days, 16 participants
- Focus on four dimensions of transitional change: team, organisation, society and self
- Simple habits for complex times, practices and tools for everyday formal and informal leadership work



# Sneak peek: coming up in 2025

## AI Training and Accelerator Programme

- Supporting PREVENT members to leverage the potential of AI for their circular business models
- Combination of training and acceleration programme

## Finance Helpdesk

- Supporting PREVENT members in finding funding opportunities through:
  - CE Funders Database
  - CE Finance Navigator
  - Overview of grants and open calls for funding
  - Training materials

# The Global Action Partnership for EPR



## Jointly advancing EPR

- Global Action Partnership between **UNEP, GIZ, WWF and OECD**
- circular economy support from the **Ellen MacArthur Foundation** and close collaboration

The GAP strives to

- create a **common understanding of EPR**
- build an **international community** to share knowledge and expertise
- offer **technical support** on EPR development worldwide.



# How to get Involved?



**PREVENT**  
Waste Alliance

- Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#)
- [Sign up for our newsletter](#)
- Share relevant news and events with us to be featured in our communication channels!
- [Become a member](#)
- For members: Log in to the [PREVENT HUB](#) to share your news and connect with other members



*We reach thousands of leading experts in the circular economy community.*

# CAPACITY BUILDING APPROACHES – OVERVIEW



**GIZ**

Jonas Barkhau

Circular Economy Advisor

Plastics Treaty Assist  
Toolkit



**IUCN**

Alima Koité

Plastics Programme Officer

West and Central Africa Regional  
Office, Senegal



# Plastics Treaty Assist Toolkit

# THE GIZ PLASTICS TREATY ASSIST TOOLKIT

The Toolkit provides:

- A clear explanation of the topic's relevance in the context of the treaty
- Common policy and technical measures
- 50 Case studies showcasing real-world examples
- 24 Additional tools and resources to support implementation, evaluation, and adaptation
- About 100 Further Reading documents



Regulatory Measures



Awareness, Education and Behaviour change



Economic and Fiscal Instruments



Services and Infrastructure



Collaboration and Voluntary Agreements

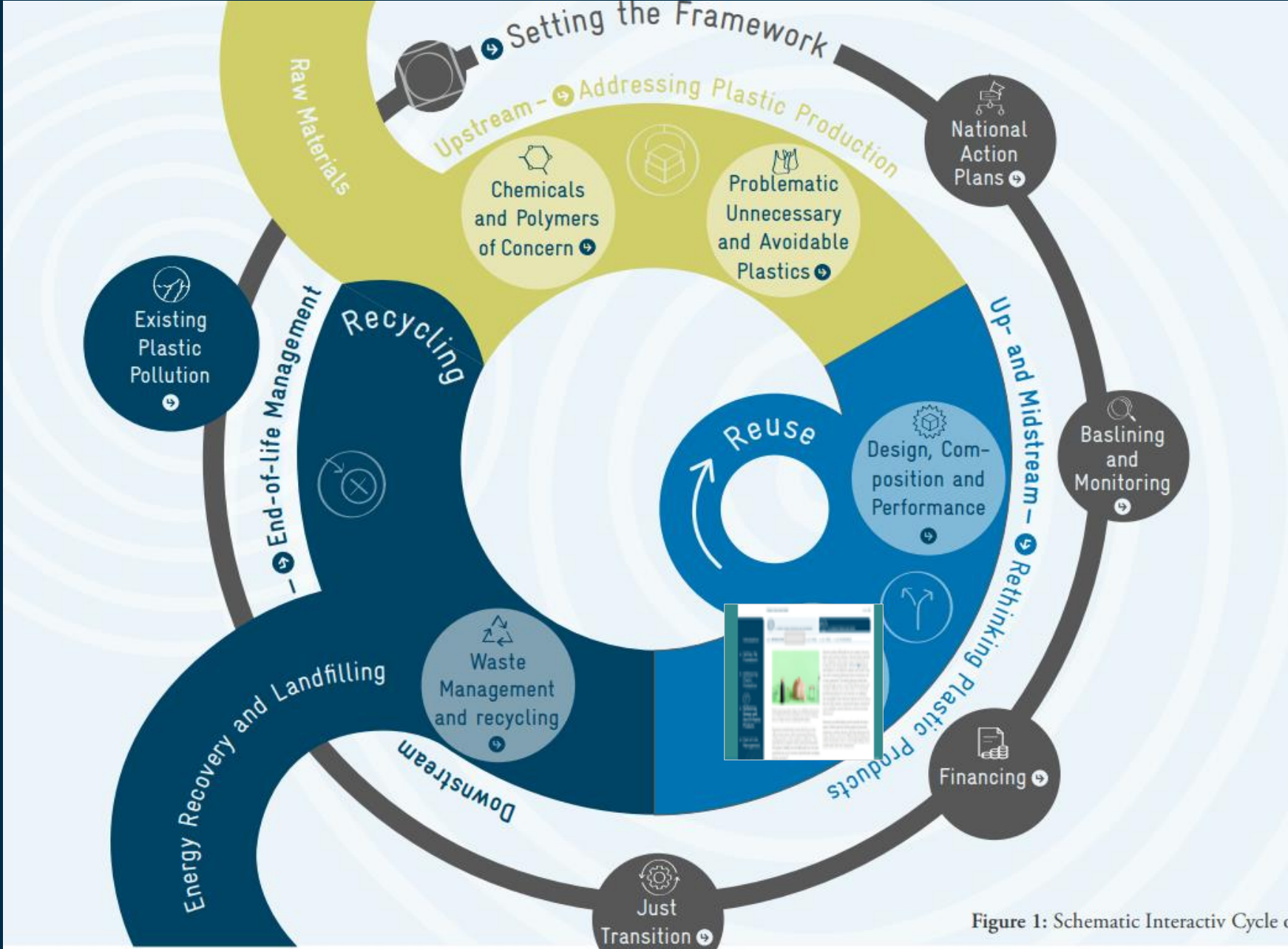


Figure 1: Schematic Interactive Cycle of this Toolkit



c1 PRODUCT DESIGN, COMPOSITION AND PERFORMANCE



c2 ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS AND SYSTEMS

## Introduction

### a Setting the Framework

### b Addressing Plastic Production



### c Rethinking Design and Use of Plastic Products

### d End-of-Life Management

c2.1 INTRODUCTION



↪ c2.3 CASES

↪ c2.4 TOOLS

↪ c2.5 REFERENCES



Besides improving product design, the availability and attractiveness of alternative systems and products are crucial to reducing the use of virgin resources and phasing PUA plastics.

Discussions around alternative systems often focus on reuse, refill, and repair systems, which extend product lifetimes by enabling repeated use without significant modification.<sup>1</sup> These approaches aim to minimise waste by reducing the demand for new products. Globally, reuse and refill systems were once widespread before the rise of convenient, disposable plastic packaging in linear economies.<sup>2,3</sup>

Alternative products fall broadly into two categories: alternative plastics and non-plastic substitutes. Alternative plastics typically refer to bioplastics, which include a range of materials that can be biobased and/or biodegradable. | see tool 18 ↻ Biodegradable bioplastics can be designed to degrade under specific conditions such as industrial composting, marine environments, soil, or home composting.<sup>4,5</sup> Non-plastic substitutes include other materials like glass, metal, or wood.<sup>6</sup> Both biobased plastics and non-plastic substitutes aim to reduce reliance on conventional fossil fuel-based plastics but come with their own challenges. The sustainability of these alternatives depends on factors such as life-cycle GHG-emissions, environmental impacts, material and service availability, consumer behaviour, and waste processing infrastructure.<sup>7</sup>

Ultimately, successfully shifting toward sustainable alternatives requires a holistic approach involving regulatory frameworks, transparency, consumer education, and robust infrastructure for sorting, collection, and recovery. Without lifecycle thinking and evidence-based policies, there is a risk of simply shifting environmental burdens rather than reducing them.



c1 PRODUCT DESIGN, COMPOSITION AND PERFORMANCE



c2 ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS AND SYSTEMS

⇒ c2.1 INTRODUCTION    **c2.2 MEASURES**    ⇒ c2.3 CASES    ⇒ c2.4 TOOLS    ⇒ c2.5 REFERENCES

## REGULATORY MEASURES



### Bans and Restrictions

Banning or restricting PUA plastics can substantially reduce waste and accelerate the adoption of viable sustainable alternatives and reuse systems. Such regulations often include exemptions for items lacking feasible substitutes or are tailored to specific sectors or applications. It is crucial that bans do not merely shift the problem to other unsustainable alternative and practices. Usual examples include outlawing SUP take-away containers and requiring reusable alternatives to avoid replacing one single use material with another.

### Standards and Requirements

Establishing standards and certification schemes for plastic alternatives ensures environmental integrity, transparency, and proper end-of-life treatment. As the range of substitutes grows, evaluating social, economic, and environmental impacts relative to conventional single-use plastics demands a full life-cycle approach, from raw-material extraction to disposal.

Life-cycle assessments (LCAs) offer a means of comparing the environmental impacts of alternative systems and products and generally demonstrate that each additional reuse cycle reduces the overall environmental footprint, regardless of the material used. To be credible, LCAs must adhere to internationally recognised standards (e.g. ISO 14040/44).<sup>9</sup>

see case 34 ↻ | see case 35 ↻ | see tool 19 ↻

a Setting the framework

b Regulating plastic production



c Rethinking design and alternatives

d End-of-life management



c1 PRODUCT DESIGN, COMPOSITION AND PERFORMANCE



c2 ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS AND SYSTEMS

→ c2.1 INTRODUCTION → c2.2 MEASURES → c2.3 CASES → c2.4 TOOLS → c2.5 REFERENCES

## TOOL 19



## THE LIFE CYCLE INITIATIVE CRITERIA FOR THE EVALUATION OF LCAs



LCAs can be very effective to ensure informed decision-making for plastic products and their alternatives. They are particularly useful to identify hotspots, defined as the materials or processes in a product's life cycle that have the biggest environmental impact.<sup>30</sup> This aids in focusing policy measures where impacts are greatest. Additionally, LCAs can help avoid burden shifting, where

resolving one environmental problem creates others, and ensure alignment with broader goals like the SDGs or national climate targets. However, LCAs are vulnerable to furthering specific interests and there is significant potential for misuse or abuse.

As such, the Life Cycle Initiative have outlined a Four-Point Guidance to help policymakers distinguish between robust science-based LCAs and ill-defined studies that could mislead the early stages of policymaking. According to the guidance, LCAs should meet all the criteria described below to be considered robust and credible:

#### 1. Adherence to Recognised Standards and Methods:

- Is the LCA study compliant with internationally recognised standards such as ISO 14040/14044?
- Does the study clearly describe its methods and follow established guidance on data quality and impact assessment? (e.g. sensitivity assessments, consistency checks)

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c Rethinking Design and Use of Plastic Products

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### c Rethinking Design and Use of Plastic Products

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#### 2. Alignment with Policy Objectives:

- Does the study's goal and scope fit the policy context?
- Is the functional unit clearly defined and appropriate?
- Are the geographic, temporal, and technical contexts relevant to your region or sector?
- Does it use locally sourced data or adapt international datasets appropriately?

#### 3. Completeness:

- Does the study cover the full life cycle: resource extraction, production, use, and end-of-life stages?
- Are multiple impact categories assessed (e.g., climate change, water use, human health, biodiversity, resource depletion) and were they selected through a transparent and scientifically rigorous process?
- Are the system boundaries clearly defined and are the comparisons fair?

#### 4. Transparency and Review:

- Are assumptions, data sources, methods, and uncertainties clearly documented?
- Has the study undergone independent peer or critical review by LCA and subject-matter experts?
- Is the review panel free from conflicts of interest and includes diverse perspectives?

Link:

- [UNEP: A policymakers' guide to Life Cycle Assessment](#) ↗

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## Addressing Plastic Production

⇒ 2 Problematic, Unnecessary and Avoidable Plastics





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## b1.1 INTRODUCTION → b1.2 MEASURES → b1.3 CASES → b1.4 TOOLS → b1.5 REFERENCES

Chemicals and polymers of concern refer to polymers or chemical additives that are associated with potential environment and health risks. These substances may exhibit hazardous properties such as toxicity, mutagenicity, endocrine disruption, environmental persistence, or bioaccumulation. Their presence in plastic products raises serious concerns for ecosystems, wildlife, and public health.<sup>1</sup>

Most chemicals of concern are additives intentionally used to enhance plastic properties such as flexibility, durability, colour, or UV resistance. However, risks also arise from non-intentionally added substances, which are chemical residues or by-products that enter the plastics value chain during manufacturing, use, or recycling. These can result in plastic products containing unknown chemical mixtures and concentrations, complicating risk assessment and safety controls.<sup>2</sup>

Substantial evidence has shown that problematic chemical additives can negatively affect human health and the environment, e.g. reproductive disruption, metabolic diseases, and cancer.<sup>3</sup> These substances are often found in everyday items, including

The plastic production process involves a wide variety of chemical substances, many of which are known to be hazardous, while others lack adequate toxicity data. Transparency across the plastic lifecycle, from production to end-of-life, is essential to identifying and mitigating risks. However, information about the identity, chemical composition, or potential toxicity of these substances is often unavailable. In many countries, plastic manufacturers are not required to disclose this information, limiting public and regulatory oversight.<sup>4</sup>





## Introduction

b2.1 INTRODUCTION → b2.2 MEASURES → b2.3 CASES → b2.4 TOOLS → b2.5 REFERENCES

### a Setting the Framework



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The term Problematic, Unnecessary, and Avoidable (PUA) plastics has gained prominence to categorise different groups of plastics that contribute disproportionately to pollution and waste management challenges.

Problematic plastics refer to products which have adverse impacts across the life cycle of the product and include products that are prone to generate emissions and products that contain chemicals or polymers of concern.<sup>1</sup> Many problematic plastics fall into categories such as Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) and sort-lived plastics, high-risk products like fishing gear, microplastics and oxo-degradable plastics.<sup>2, 3, 4</sup> Common examples include single-use plastic bags and food containers, packaging films, bottles, straws, shampoo bottles, and ice cream tubs.

Unnecessary plastics refer to items that serve no essential function.<sup>5</sup> For example, fruits naturally protected by their peel are often needlessly wrapped in plastic.

Avoidable plastics fulfil a function but could be replaced by non-plastic alternatives, alternative designs, or different usage practices.<sup>6</sup> One example are single-use plastic straws, which can be substituted with reusable options made of plastic, wood, or

Many PUA plastics are a significant component of marine litter and pose severe threats to marine ecosystems, biodiversity, human health, tourism, fisheries, and shipping industries.<sup>7, 8</sup> Assessing the necessity of these products, regulating their production, and supporting suitable alternatives are essential steps in tackling plastic pollution.





# Plastics Treaty Assist Toolkit

Download the PTAT now!








<https://prevent-waste.net/new-giz-toolkit-launched-in-light-of-the-global-plastics-treaty-negotiations/>

# Next Steps



Plastics Treaty Assist Toolkit

5 additional training modules:

-  National Inventories
-  Substitutes and Alternatives
-  Problematic Plastic Products
-  Finance
-  Just Transition

# Strengthening WA countries capacity for plastic treaty negotiations

Our experience with the AFRIPAC programme



# IUCN West and Central Africa (PACO)

- Covers **21 countries across West and Central Africa**
- Works with governments, NGOs, scientists and communities to drive conservation and resilience works
- Focuses on **biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development/ regenerative community-led initiatives**
- Leads **marine & coastal conservation, forest restoration, protected areas and environmental governance**
- Bridges **science, policy and practice** for impactful nature-based solutions

## **7** country programmes

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal, which implement their programmes and projects and ensure a better linkage with the global programmes and the **6** Commissions



## **6** IUCN Commissions

(CEC, CEM, CEESP, SSC, WCEL and WCPA)

## **4** regional thematic programmes (RTPs)

- Protected areas and biodiversity, based in Dakar;
- Forestry Conservation, based in Yaoundé;
- Marine and Coastal, based in Dakar; and
- Water and Wetlands, based in Dakar.

## **3** project offices

Ghana, Guinea and Chad.

# Why capacity building matters for African countries

## Challenges:

- Africa is highly vulnerable to plastic pollution impacts, especially coastal and marine
- Negotiations are highly technical and require strong legal and scientific skills
- Capacity gaps risk underrepresentation of African priorities

## **Targeted capacity building is essential for effective and equitable participation**

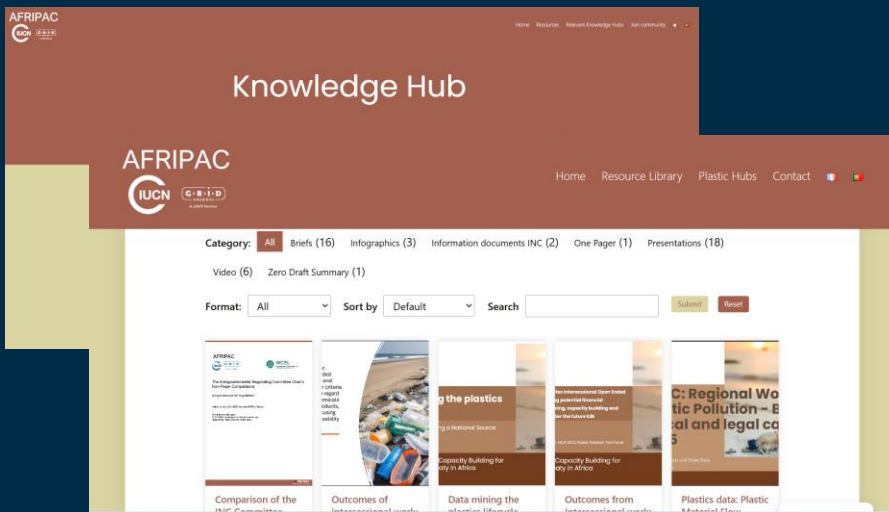
## Opportunities:

- Strong political will (AMCEN Decision 19/2)
- Regional coordination growing
- Treaty momentum supports capacity

# AFRIPAC programme capacity support approach

An adaptative approach with:

- Practical, demand-driven training for negotiators and in-country stakeholders: briefings, and 1:1 preparatory calls
- Organisation of national dialogues for countries' position preparation
- Real-time support during INC sessions (text clarifications, statement reviews, etc.)
- Continuous needs assessment: 1:1 post-INC meetings, tools adapted based on countries feedback



Link: [https://afripac.grida.no/index.php/resource\\_library/](https://afripac.grida.no/index.php/resource_library/)

## Examples of tools developed:

- Negotiation toolkits (e.g. factsheets on key topics, technical and legal briefs for negotiators)
- Science-based data on country's plastics management situation and for National Action Planning: trade data, plastics policy analysis and Material Flow Analysis
- AFRIPAC Knowledge Hub launched as a trilingual, open-access platform for technical and legal resources (*available in English, French, and Portuguese*)

# PANEL: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



## MEA Viewpoint

Kei Ohno-Woodall  
Senior Coordination Officer at the  
Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm  
Conventions (BRS)



## National Delegate Cambodia

### Southeast Asia

Than Monomoyith  
Department of Coastal Zone and Marine  
Conservation  
Directorate of Natural Protected Areas  
Ministry of Environment



## Informal sector perspective

Maditlhare Koena  
Treasurer  
International Alliance of Waste  
Pickers (IAWP)



## National Delegate Sierra Leone

### West Africa

Tamba Sangbah  
Associate partner with Kanu & Associates  
Director, Environmental compliance and  
enforcement  
Sierra Leone Environmental Protection  
Agency

# PANEL: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



## Partner Perspective

Kari Johansen  
Senior Adviser  
Section for Oceans  
Department for Climate, Nature and  
the Private Sector  
Norwegian Agency for  
Development Cooperation (Norad)



## OECD Perspective

Peter Börkey  
OECD Environment Directorate  
Lead for waste management, resource  
productivity and the circular economy



## Private Sector Perspective

Meghna Laxman MacDonald  
Director for Public Policy and Government Affairs  
PepsiCo Inc., Africa.



# NETWORKING TABLE TOPICS AND CO-HOSTS

## Table 1

Reuse and upstream solutions: Willemijn Peeters (Searious Business), Anabella Palacios (IUCN), Laura Griestop (WWF), Andrea Cino (WRAP)

## Table 2

Action planning and roadmaps: Margherita Pucino (WEF - GPAP), Charlotte Davies (Common Seas), Thomas Maes and Clever Mafuta (GRID-Arendal)

## Table 3

Extended Producer Responsibility Schemes: Peter Börkey (OECD), Jonas Barkhau (PREVENT)

## Table 4

Digital AI approaches (SPOT Model, Costas Velis - Imperial; SURPLUS German Startup; negotiateAI)

## Table 5

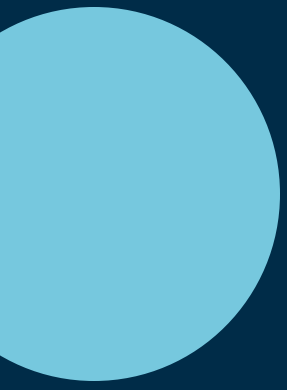
Innovative financing – plastic credits: Stefanie Beitien (PCX)

## Table 6

Protecting biodiversity: Karine Siegwart (IUCN), Alexandra Harrington (IUCN WCEL)

## Table 7

Social inclusion: Lynn Sorrentino (IUCN), Jean-Christophe Laugee (INCLUDESEO), John Chweya (Kenya) and others from the informal sector



# Documents and tools from PREVENT member



# Learn more about Circular Impact Procurement Initiative (CIPI)



Scan and get the latest CIPI news, insights, and event invitations.





# Learn more about CirculaRise Accelerator



Scan and get the latest  
CirculaRise Accelerator news,  
reports, and event invitations.





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HUB

# Learn more about Open Reuse



Scan to learn more.





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GLOBAL SOUTH



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# **UNPACKING REUSE IN THE PLASTIC POLLUTION TREATY**

**A historic opportunity for scaling up reuse**

# Survey on Innovative financing



# GIZ Tools and Publications



# GIZ tools and publications



**[GIZ Plastics Treaty Assist Toolkit](#)** (please download and use in Adobe Acrobat Reader for full functionality)

The GIZ Plastic Treaty Assist Toolkit (PTAT) provides policymakers and key stakeholders with knowledge and supporting tools for common measures that can be implemented to achieve the ambitious and comprehensive provisions that are currently being discussed in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC).



## **[Waste Flow Diagram](#)**

The Waste Flow Diagram (WFD) tool is the perfect solution for understanding and addressing plastic pollution. Developed by GIZ, the University of Leeds, Eawag-Sandec and Wasteaware, this tool estimates the amount of solid waste entering nature and the oceans from different sources. Through a scenario function, it simulates how improved waste management could reduce environmental pollution and prevent marine litter.

# GIZ tools and publications



## Towards Clean Oceans

The publication takes stock of the technical development cooperation implemented by GIZ and its partners and derives important recommendations for the implementation of marine litter prevention projects in developing countries. With this publication, we seek to contribute to the discussion, conceptualisation of new solutions and, above all, to the implementation of rapid solutions to the urgent problem of marine litter.



## Challenges and opportunities of a global agreement on plastic pollution for SIDS

The study analyses the challenges, needs and opportunities for SIDS in the context of a global agreement on plastic pollution. To this end, it briefly summarises the extent, sources and impacts of plastic pollution and reviews existing policies and regulations in SIDS that address plastic pollution. Based on this analysis, the challenges faced by SIDS in addressing plastic pollution are identified. From these challenges, key needs of SIDS are derived that would (ideally) be addressed in a global agreement and would help SIDS to overcome their challenges.

# Together for Solutions

Reach out to us at:

[contact@prevent-waste.net](mailto:contact@prevent-waste.net)

IUCN: [plastics@IUCN.org](mailto:plastics@IUCN.org)



**PREVENT**  
Waste Alliance

