RETHINKING PLASTICS

Catalyzing a Circular Economy

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No Time to Waste

The numbers are dire

- Estimated 300 million tons of plastics being produced annually Currently 150 million tons of plastics in the world's oceans
- Another 250 million will be added if current trends in urbanization, production and consumption continue

Regional dimension is clear

- The top regional generators of Mismanaged Plastic Waste are **Southern Asia, Eastern Asia, and South-East Asia**
- 90% of global marine plastic pollution is estimated to come from just 10 rivers, **8 of them is Asia**

The impacts are significant

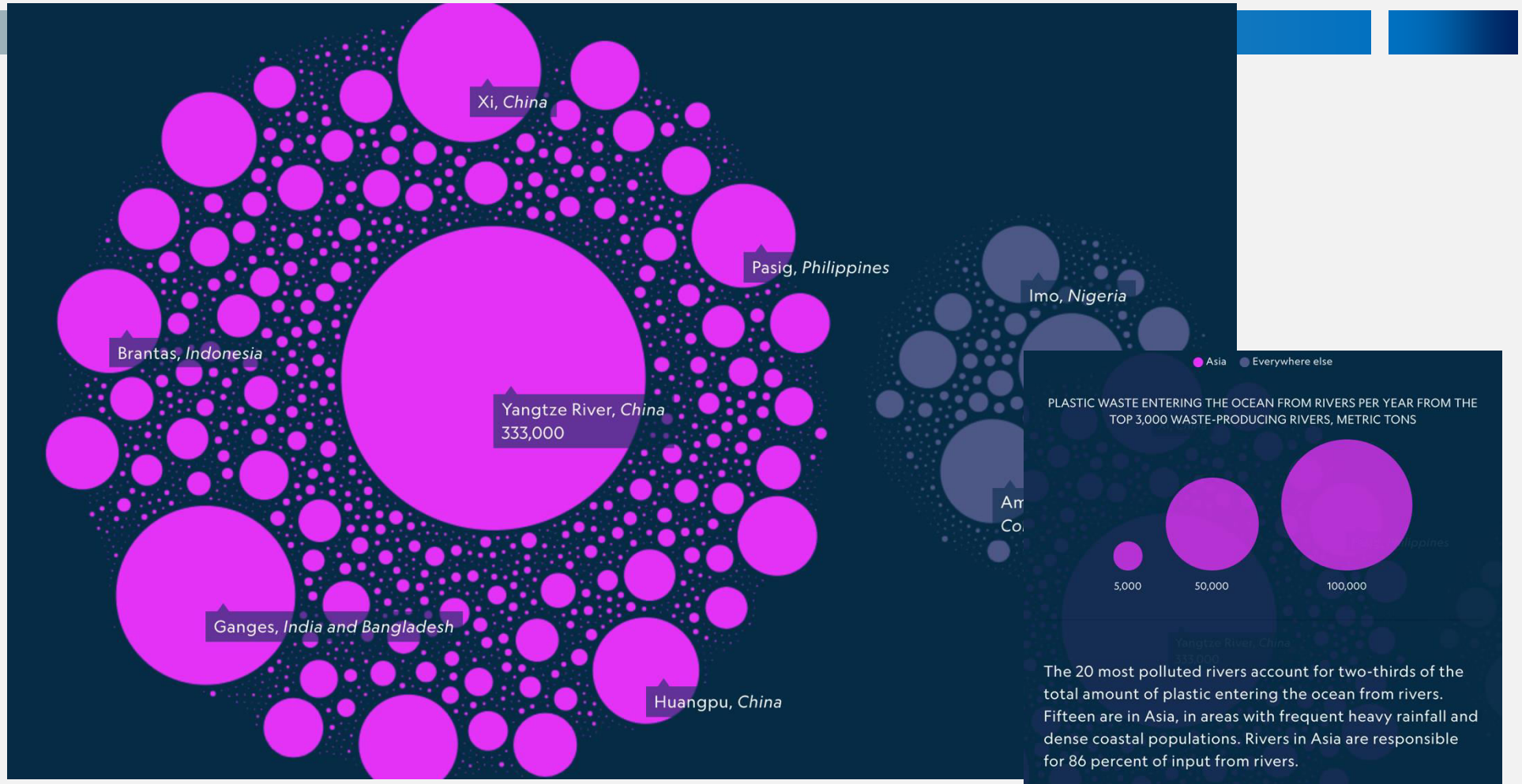
Economies, Sectors	Ecosystems, Biodiversity	Food Security
The cost of ocean plastics to tourism, fishing and shipping industries in APEC economies alone was $1.3 billion in 2008	*Damage caused by plastics to marine ecosystems estimated to be at least $13 billion per year*	*In Makassar fish market, plastic found in 28% of individual fish and in 55% of species sampled*

Mismanaged municipal plastic waste

Source: National Geographic

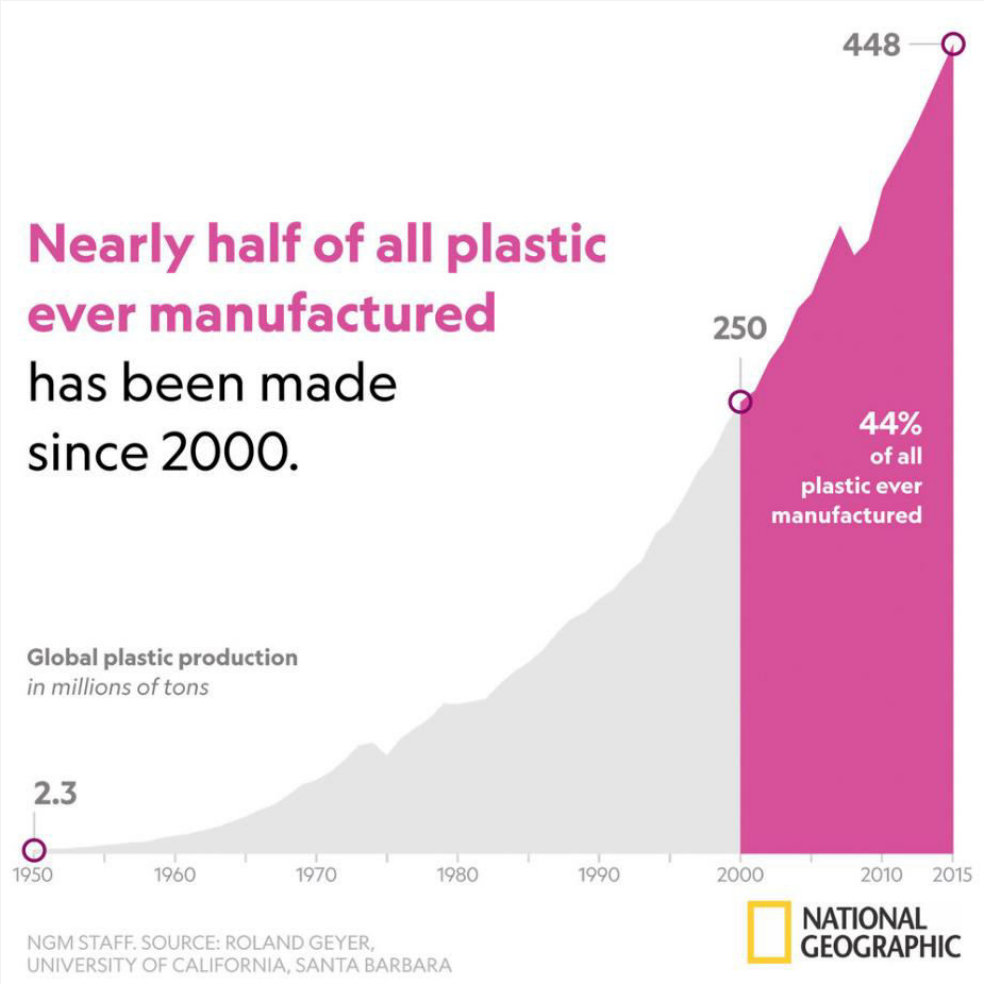
Let's start with how discarded plastic is handled on land. In 2015, researchers calculated how much waste is flowing from coastal countries into the oceans. Mismanaged plastic waste is defined as waste that doesn't make its way to proper receptacles, either intentionally or accidentally. Mismanaged waste tends to be higher in developing countries lacking municipal waste-collection systems that deliver garbage to recycling centers and/or landfills.

Rivers polluted with most plastic…



Source: National Geographic

Marine Plastics



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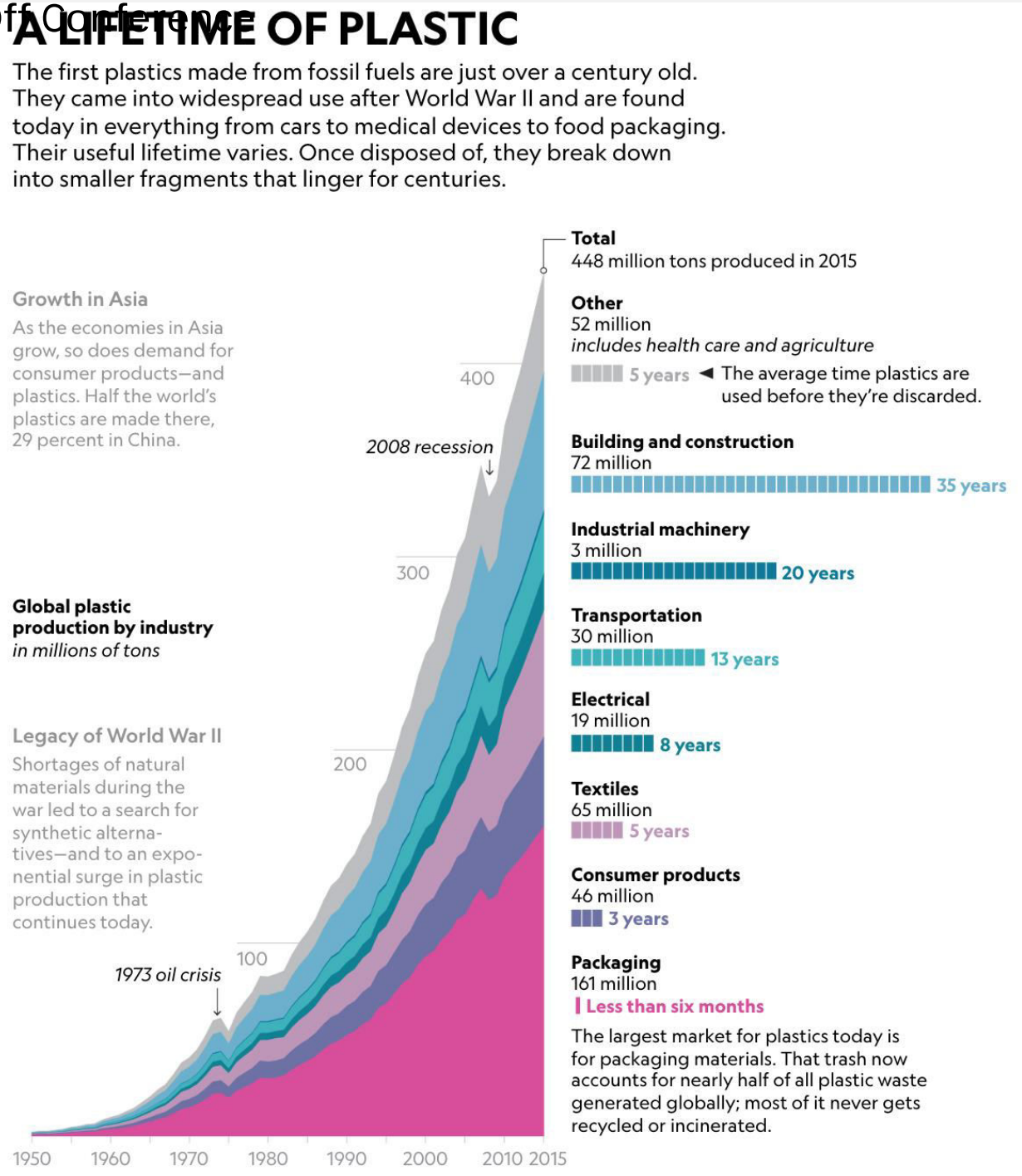
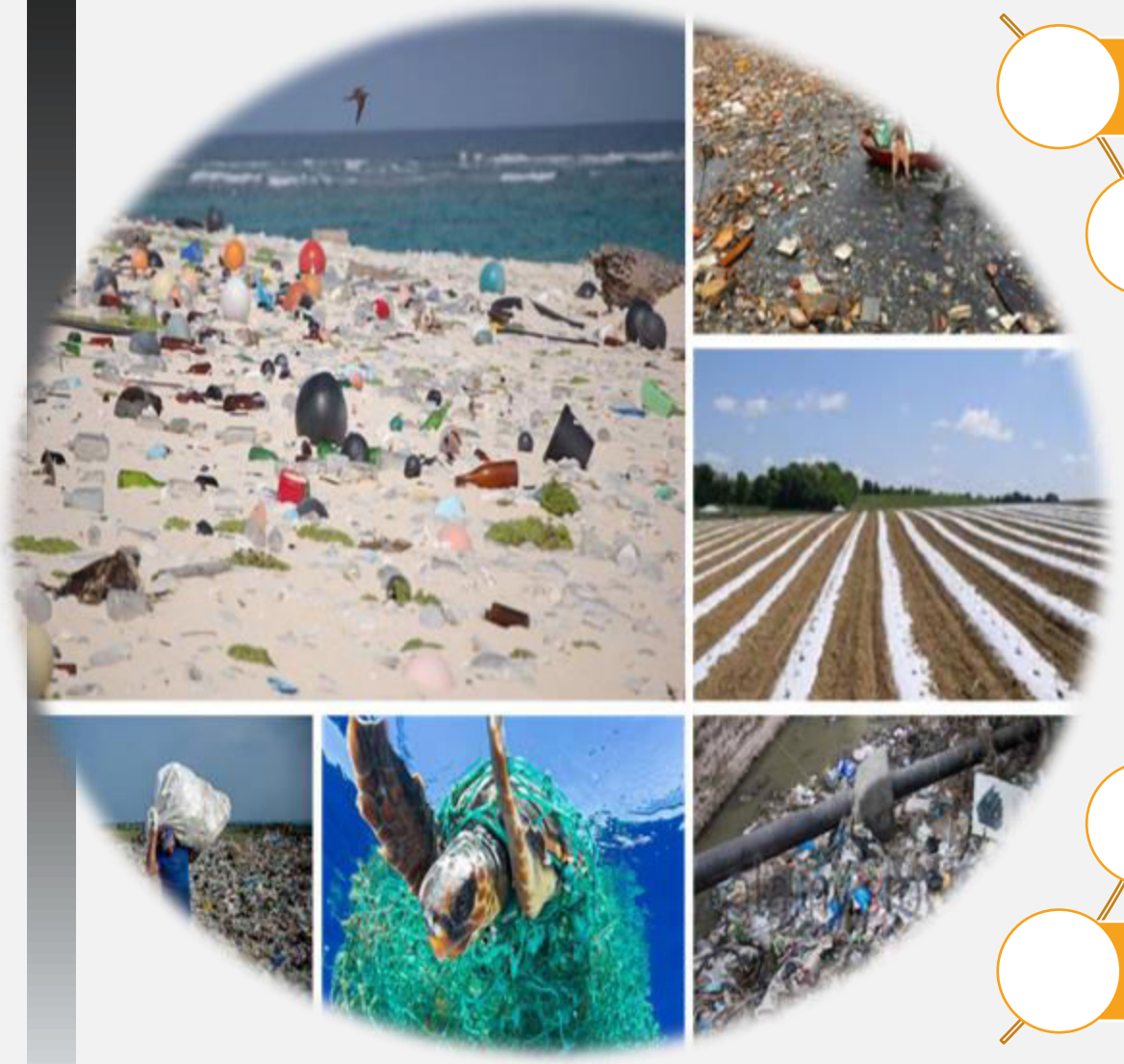
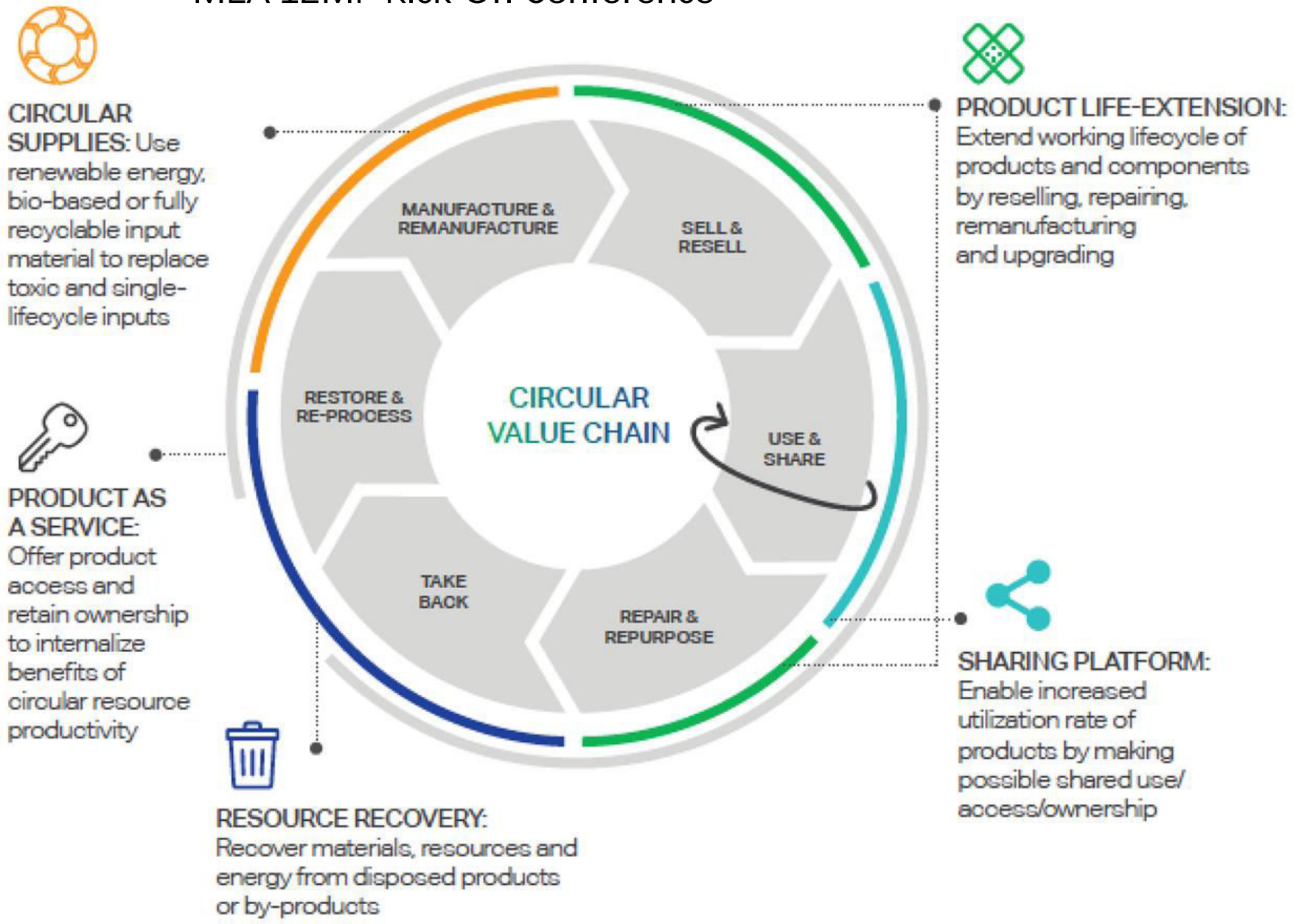


Challenges for Addressing Marine Plastics

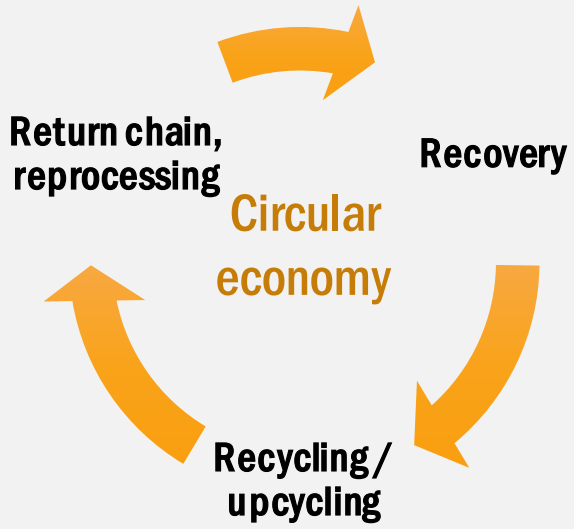


- Gaps in policies and regulations.
- Improper collection and sorting, leakage during transport, lack of treatment infrastructure.
- Lack of investment in basic solid waste infrastructure.
- Limited economic analysis relating to marine litter costs & solutions.
- Limited access to technologies and innovation.
- Fragmented institutional arrangements.
- Inadequate metrics and monitoring.

MAKING PLASTICS MORE CIRCULAR



Circular Economy: Long-term Approach To Address Marine Plastics



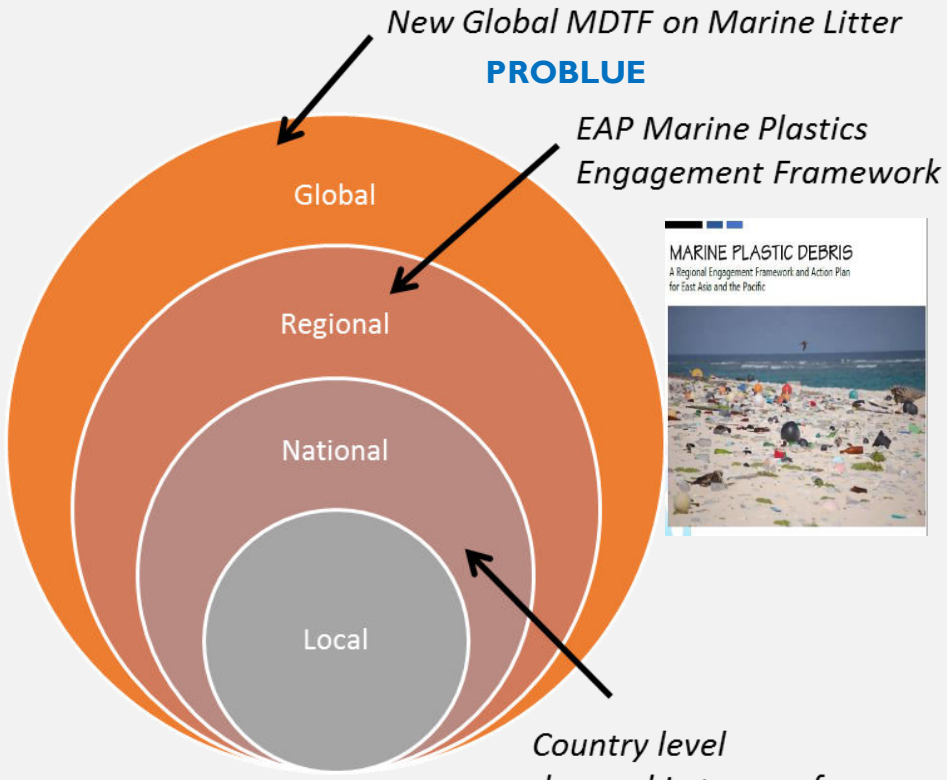
- Integrated Solid Waste Management => provide the feedstock for recycled plastics

- Recycling markets development
  - Public & private investments
  - At the regional level
  - Global standards in materials, product design
  - Disclosure & Monitoring at all market stages
  - Create commodity exchanges

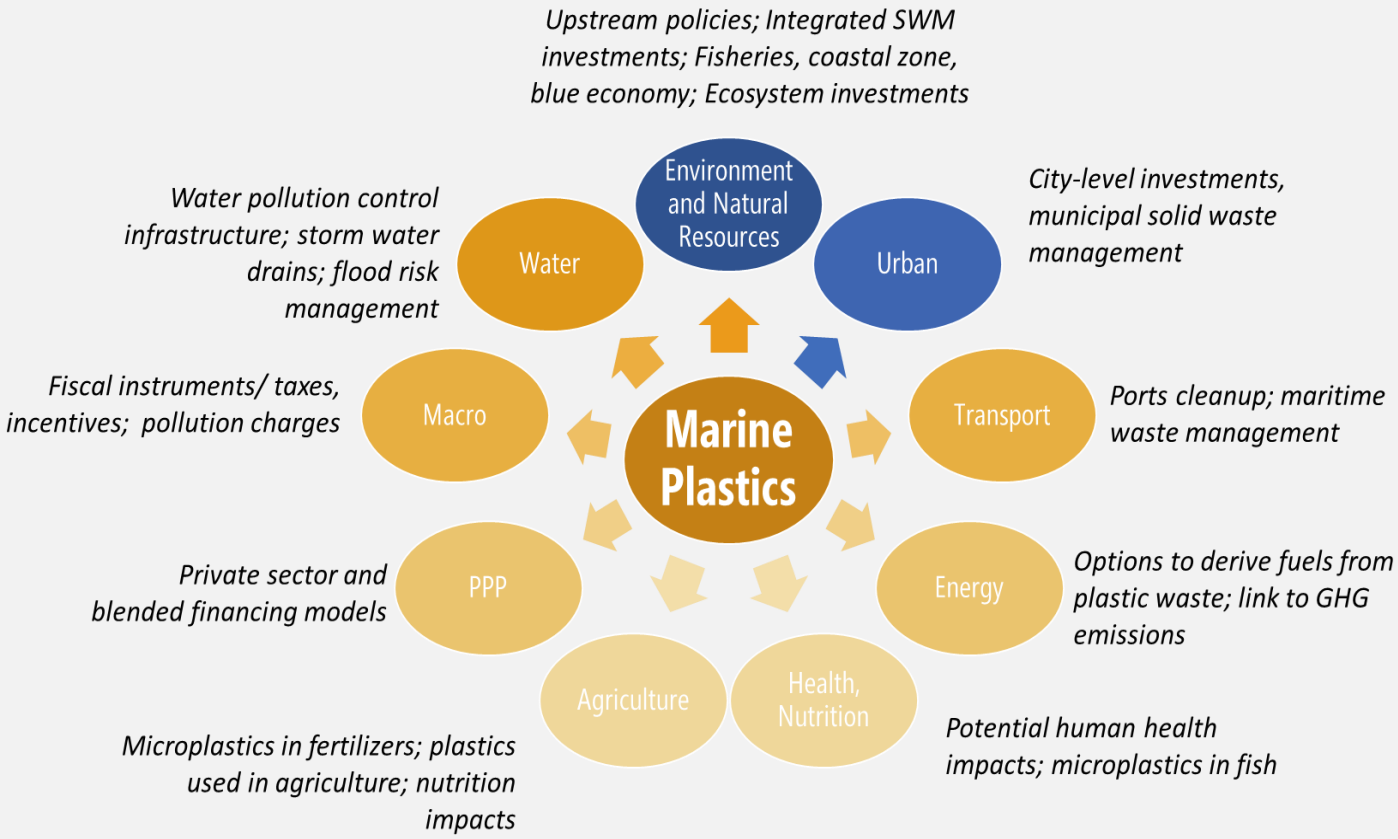
- Reducing consumption & contaminating products (resource efficiency & clean production) requires:
  - technological & social innovation
  - behavioral change
  - Policy reforms and Education

World Bank Group Engagement in Marine Plastics

Working across levels



Working across sectors

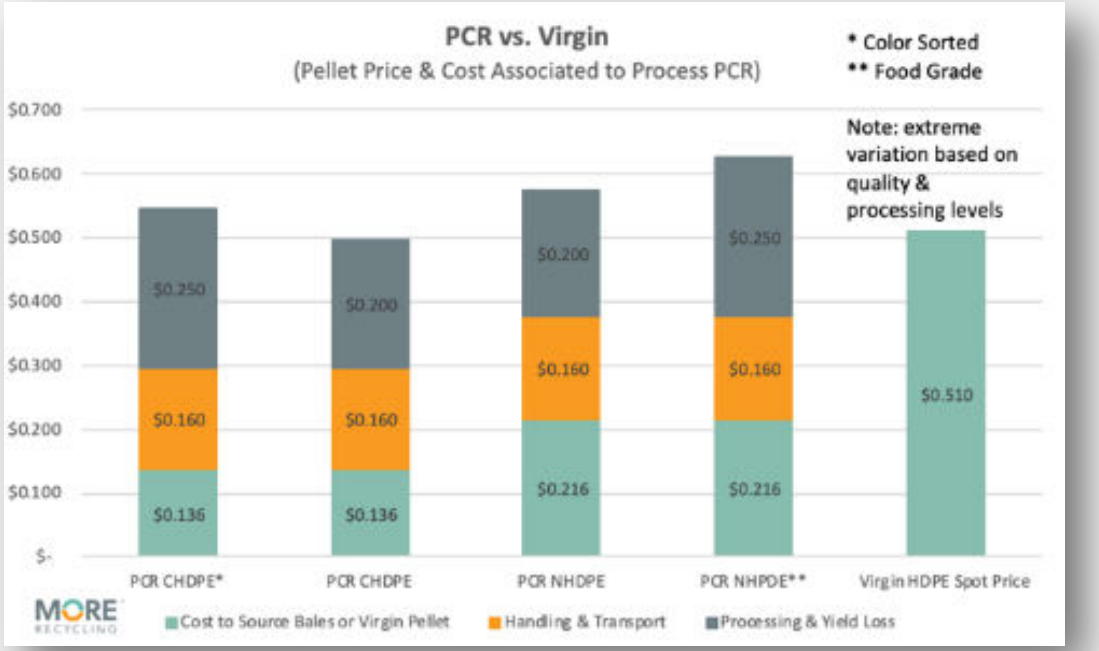


Key Messages - #1

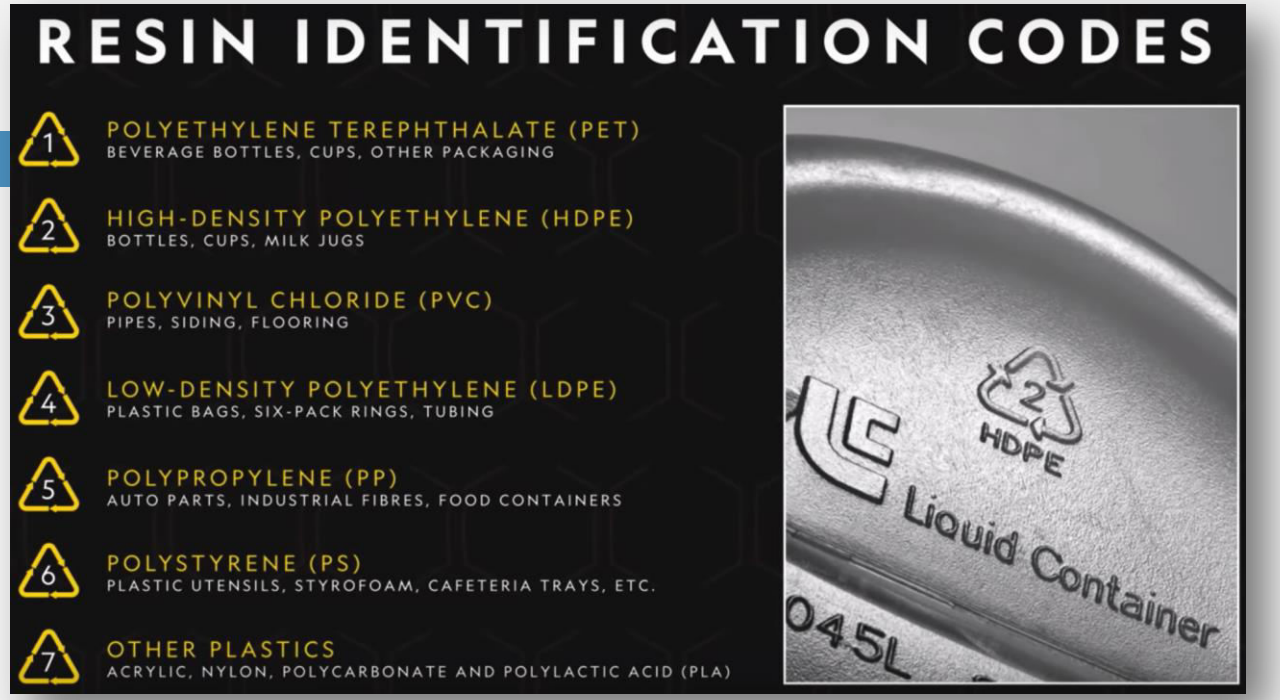
Pricing must be right for resources

- Circularity implies using fewer non-renewable resources. But **many countries still heavily subsidize both the extraction and consumption of natural resources**, reducing incentives for circularity.

- **National-level subsidy reforms can be undermined without adequate trade policies and international coordination**. Governments and industries are generally reluctant to phase out subsidies and to introduce environmental taxes unilaterally, for fear of undermining domestic competitiveness. However, fiscal and trade policies can be designed to address this concern.



Key Messages- #2



Harmonized product standards are key for trade to support the CE

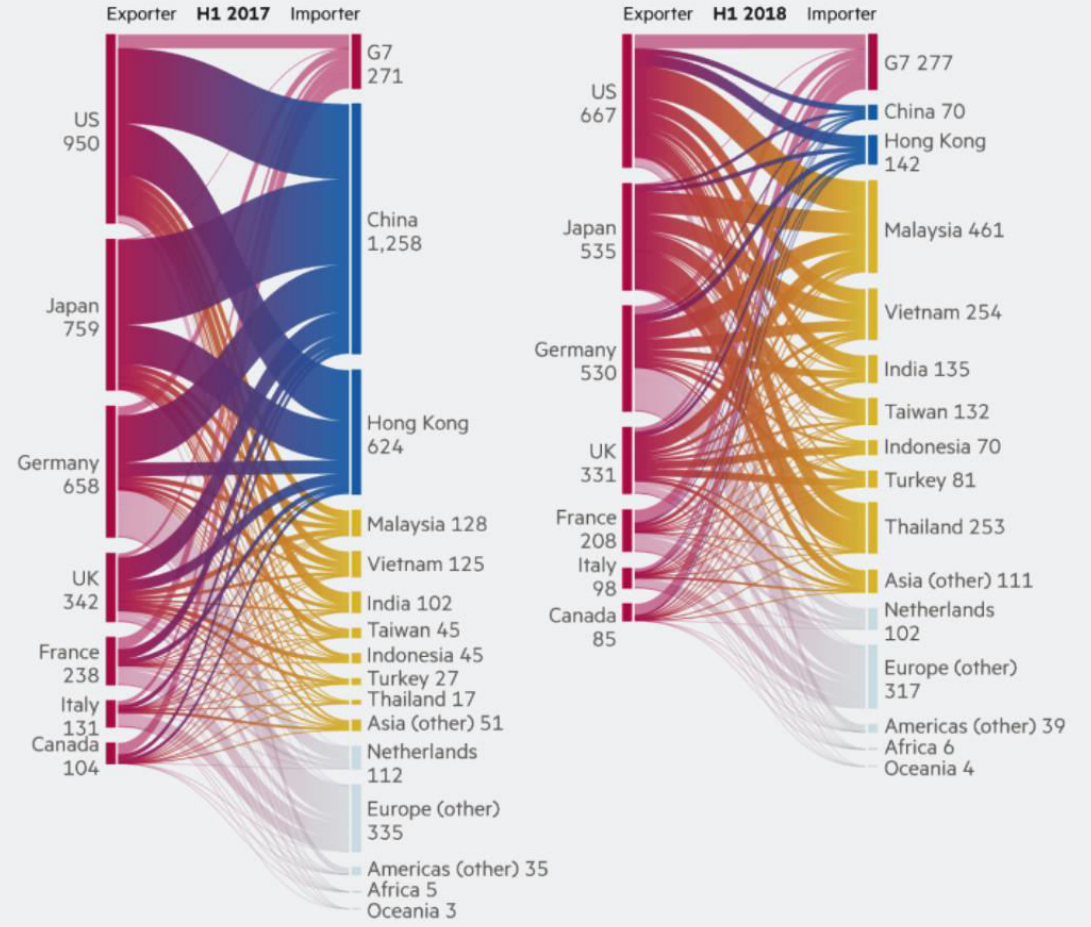
- **Toxins should be removed from products for the CE to become a reality**. In addition to the risks posed to consumers and the environment, products with hazardous substances are harder to recycle.
- **Many developing countries need support building the regulatory frameworks, institutional capacity and governance systems to phase out toxic products.** This notably means ensuring that imports meet domestic health, safety and quality standards, and that exports comply with foreign market requirements.

It's not enough to improve product standards on a country-by-country basis. Product components often come from many countries – all with different environmental regulations. We need international agreements and cooperation on manufacturing and recycling standards for toxic substances.

Key Messages - #3

- **The transition to a CE will result in greater trade in second-hand goods, end-of-life products, secondary materials or waste, and in related services**
- For this reason, there need to be **clearer rules, quality standards, data and management systems for trade of second-hand goods, secondary materials and waste.**
  - China's ban – impact on redirecting waste/recyclables to other Asian countries.

Countries must strengthen standards and their capacity to safely process waste – and avoid being a dumping ground for low-quality second-hand products and waste shipments.

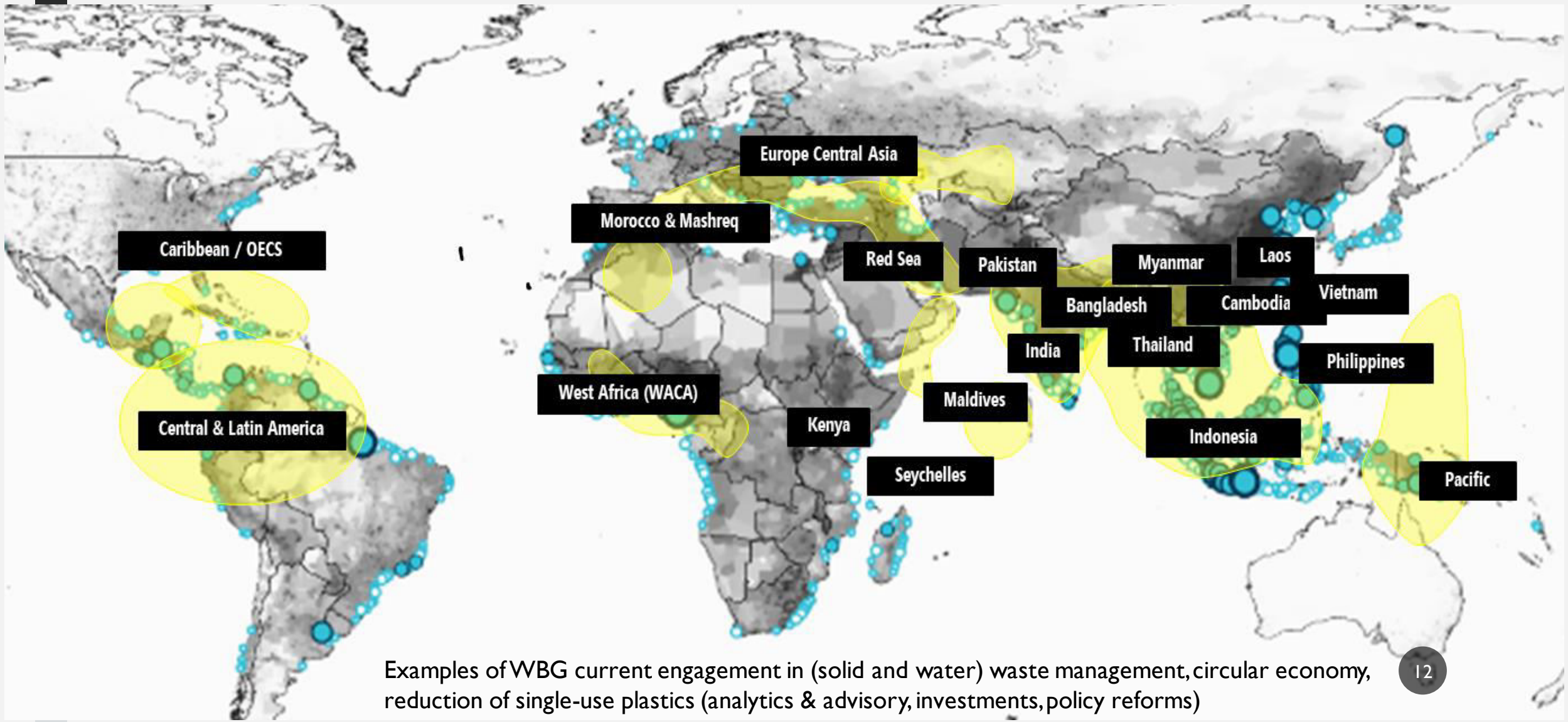


Source: Financial Times

Regulations and charges on waste imports and exports could be considered at a national-level. In addition to standards on waste quality, it should not be possible to export waste to countries without evidence that they have the regulations, infrastructure and systems in place to safely process them.

- Basel convention –welcome step towards strengthening rules governing the transboundary movement of waste

WBG is Investing and Supporting Policy Reforms



Examples of WBG current engagement in (solid and water) waste management, circular economy, reduction of single-use plastics (analytics & advisory, investments, policy reforms)

THANK YOU