

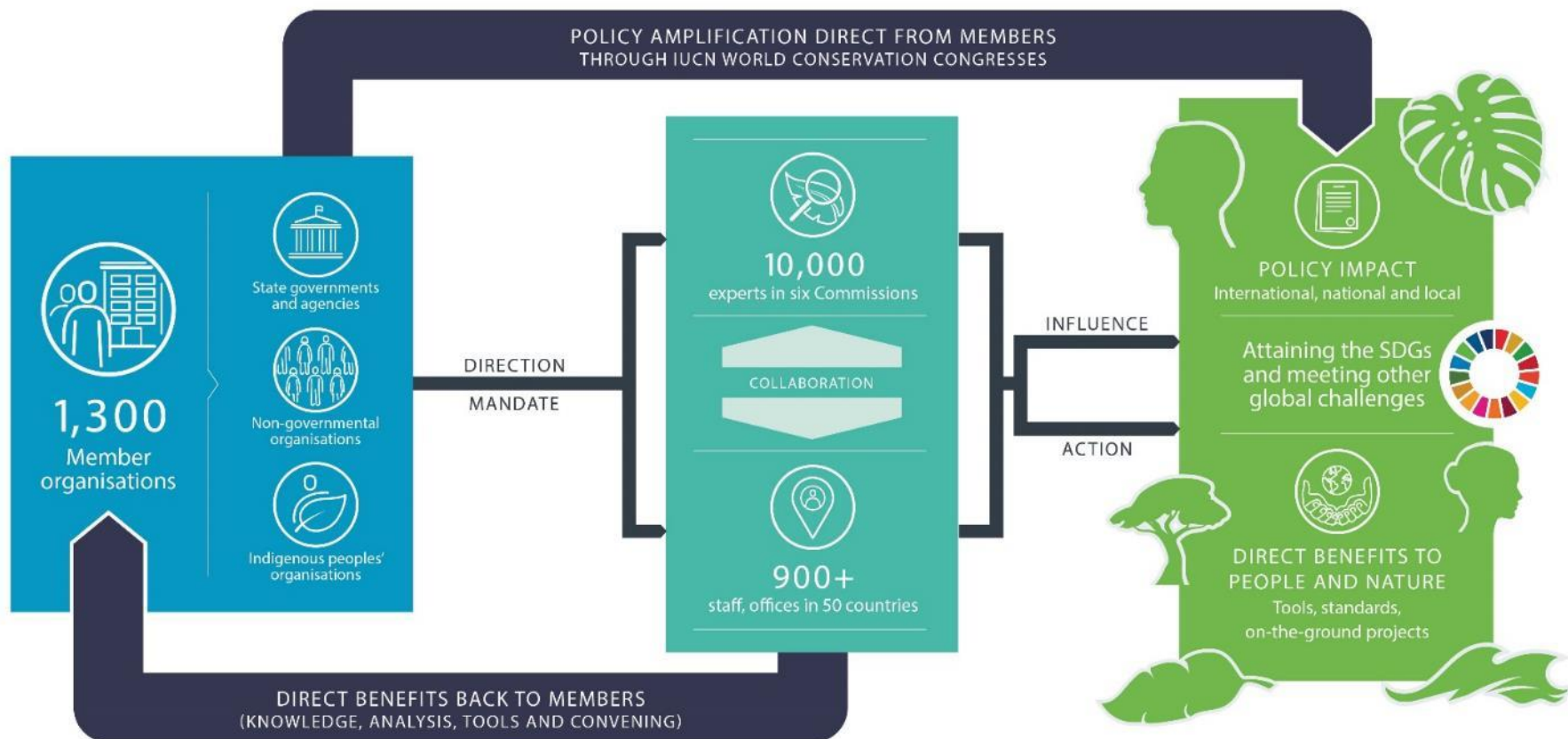
Global Marine Litter Situation

Katalin Czippan

deputy chair, Commission on Education and Communication



UNITED FOR LIFE AND LIVELIHOODS



- **Baltic Solutions Plastic Pollution Project:** assessment of all marine plastic litter in the Baltic Sea, climate change, biodiversity and human health impacts - funded by the Swedish Postcode Foundation
- **Plastimed:** assessment of all marine plastic litter plus annual contribution per country and sector into the Med – funded by Mava Foundation
- **Marplastics:** working together with South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam to tackle marine litter problem – funded by the Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation



Invisible plastic: microfibers are just the beginning of what we don't see
 Mary Catherine O'Connor

The tiny pollutants in our clothes are forcing us to look harder for, and think more carefully about, the ways humans have shaped the environment



Every time we wash our clothing the synthetic fibers the are comprised of leach into our waterways, rivers and oceans. Photograph: Jeff Haynes/Getty Images

Swiss honey contains harmful plastic: TV report

Malcolm Curtis
 news@thelocal.ch
 @thelocalswitzer

26 March 2014
 10:38 CET+01:00

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Photo: SRF

Most honey from Switzerland contains plastic particles that endanger health, according to tests conducted for a Swiss consumer affairs TV programme.



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94% Of US Tap Water Has Micro Plastic Fibers In It, Study Finds (Oh, & That Sea Salt, Beer, Flour, & Honey That You Buy ... It Does As Well)

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September 10th, 2017 by [James Ayrre](#)

The scale of the world's current micro plastics pollution problem can't be overstated. Plastics, and more importantly their nearly invisible half-broken-down remnants, are now everywhere. They're in the food you eat, the water you drink, and even often enough in the air you breathe.



EMOTIONS

“ There will be more plastic by weight in the ocean than fish by 2050 ”



FACTS

“ You can’t manage what you don’t measure ”

HOW DOES LITTER ENTER THE OCEAN?

- Poorly controlled waste management
- Illegal dumping
- Tourism
- Industrial and agricultural activities
- Too small to be caught by water treatment plants (microbeads, microfibres)
- Abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear (nets, ropes)
- Sewage from fishing or shipping boats
- Oil rigs
- Waste from cruise ships
- Unintentional spilling of cargo (165 ton plastic pellet spill, Hong Kong 2012)



- Unable to move and search for food
- Inability to eat (nutrient deficiency)
- Leads to a false sense of satiation
- Slow starvation
- Death in marine animals



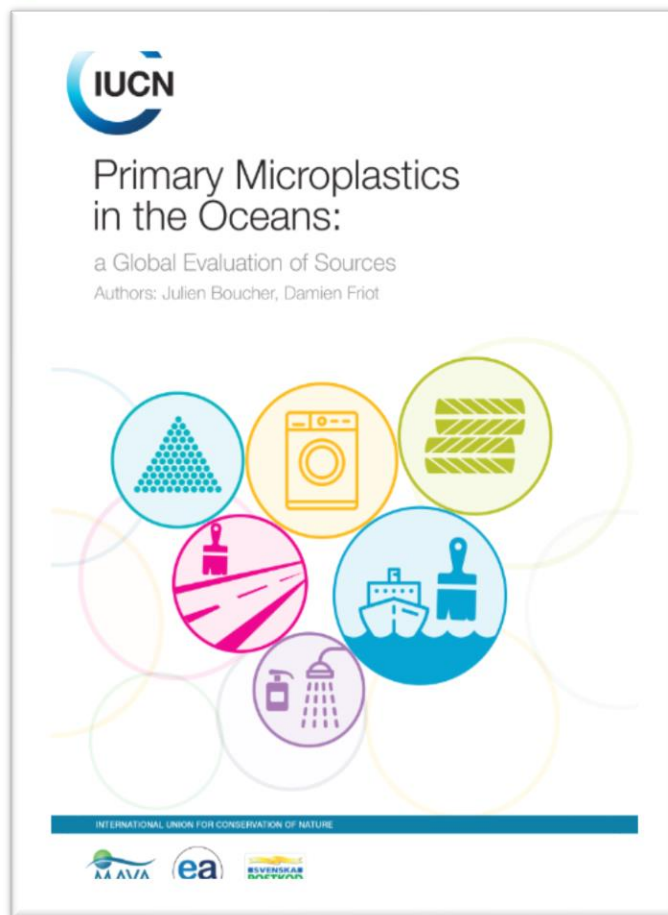
- Habitat destruction
- Implications of the food chain
 - Bioaccumulation
accumulation of
microplastics &
pollutants
 - Biomagnification -
> accumulation of
microplastics &
pollutants



- Loss of profit to commercial fisheries
- Hazards to boats and swimmers
- Lower beach enjoyment (eyesore)
- Lower levels of tourism
- Human health impacts



WHERE DO ALL MICROPLASTICS COME FROM ?



<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46622>

Project co-funded by the European Union (ERDF, IPA funds)

Microplastic in the Baltic video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZb1YER1_sk (6:14)

Primary microplastics are plastics directly released into the environment in the form of small

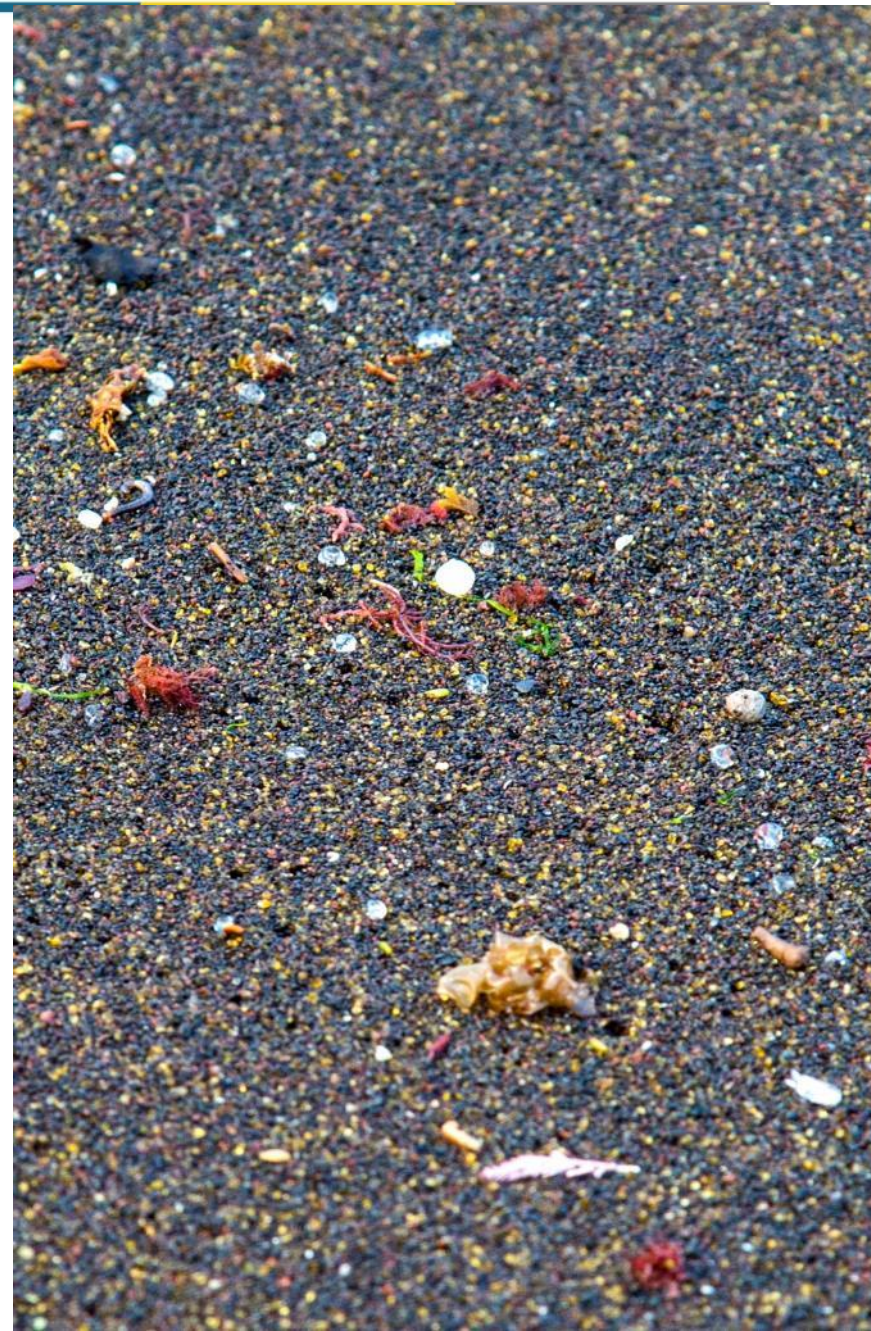
RELEASE:

Optimistic – 0.8 Mtons/year

Central – 1.5 Mtons/year

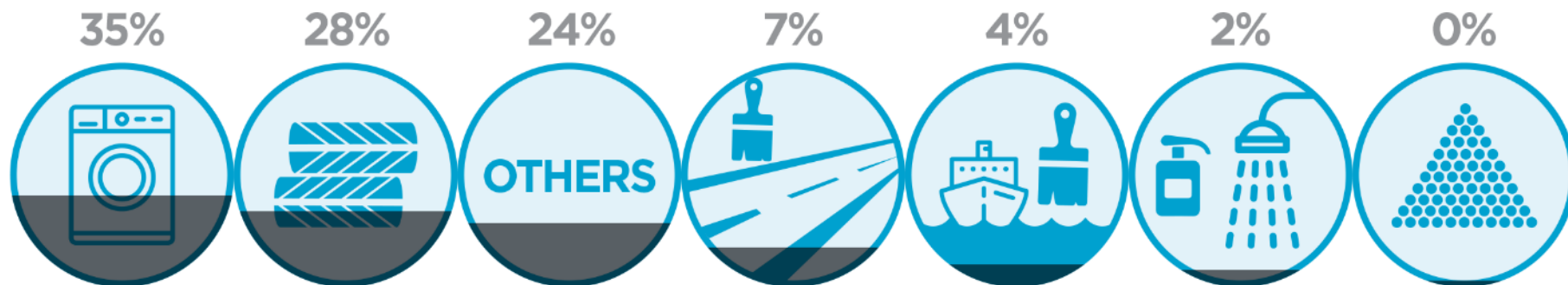
Pessimistic – 2.5 Mtons/year

Secondary microplastics are microplastics originating from the degradation of larger plastic

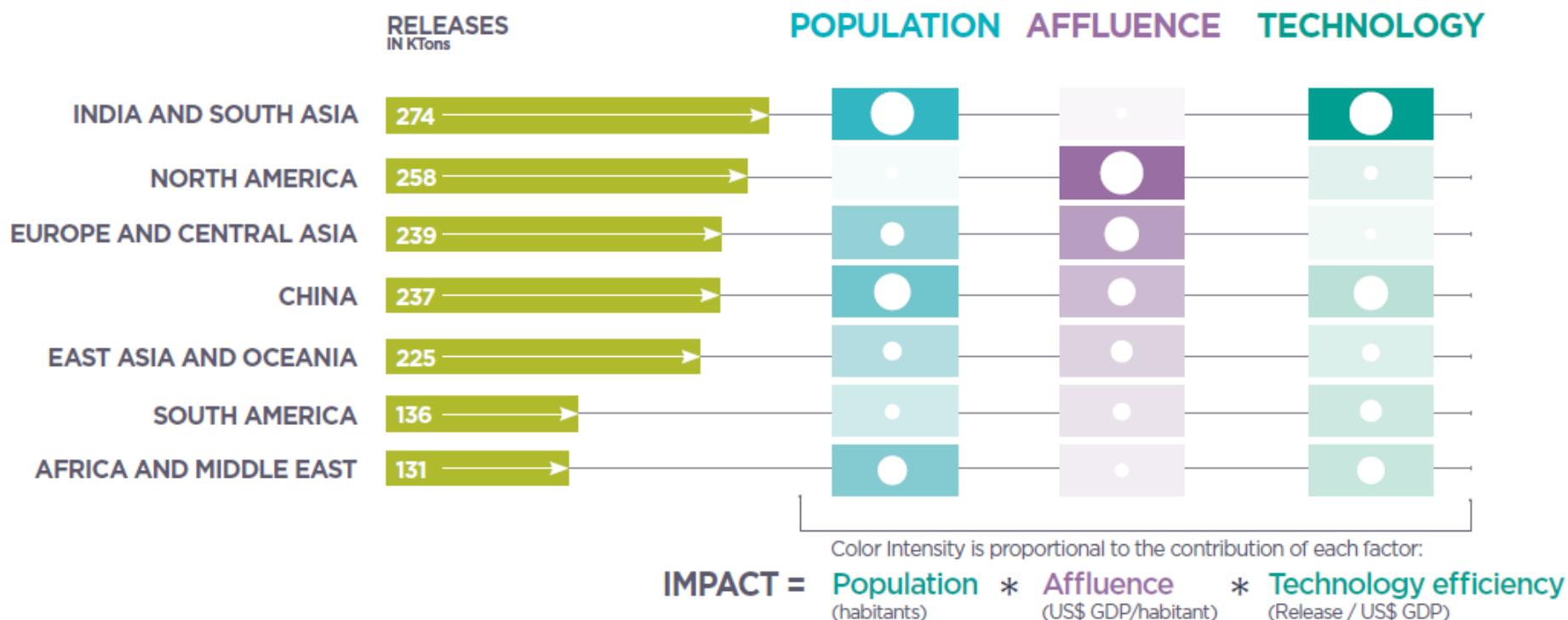


GLOBAL RELEASES OF PRIMARY MICROPLASTICS TO THE OCEANS: BY SOURCE (IN %).

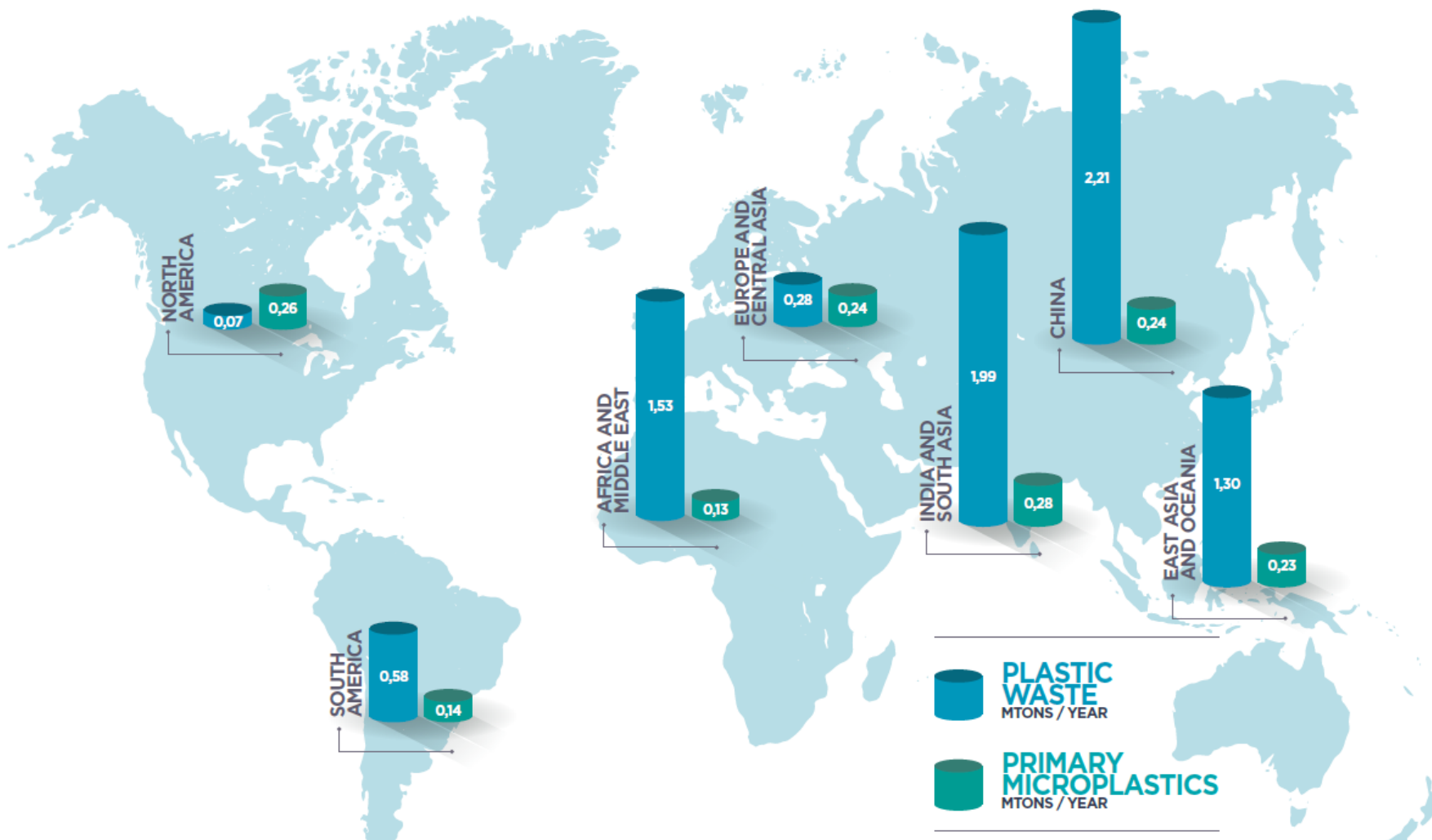
RELEASES



CONTRIBUTION OF THE DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE WORLD



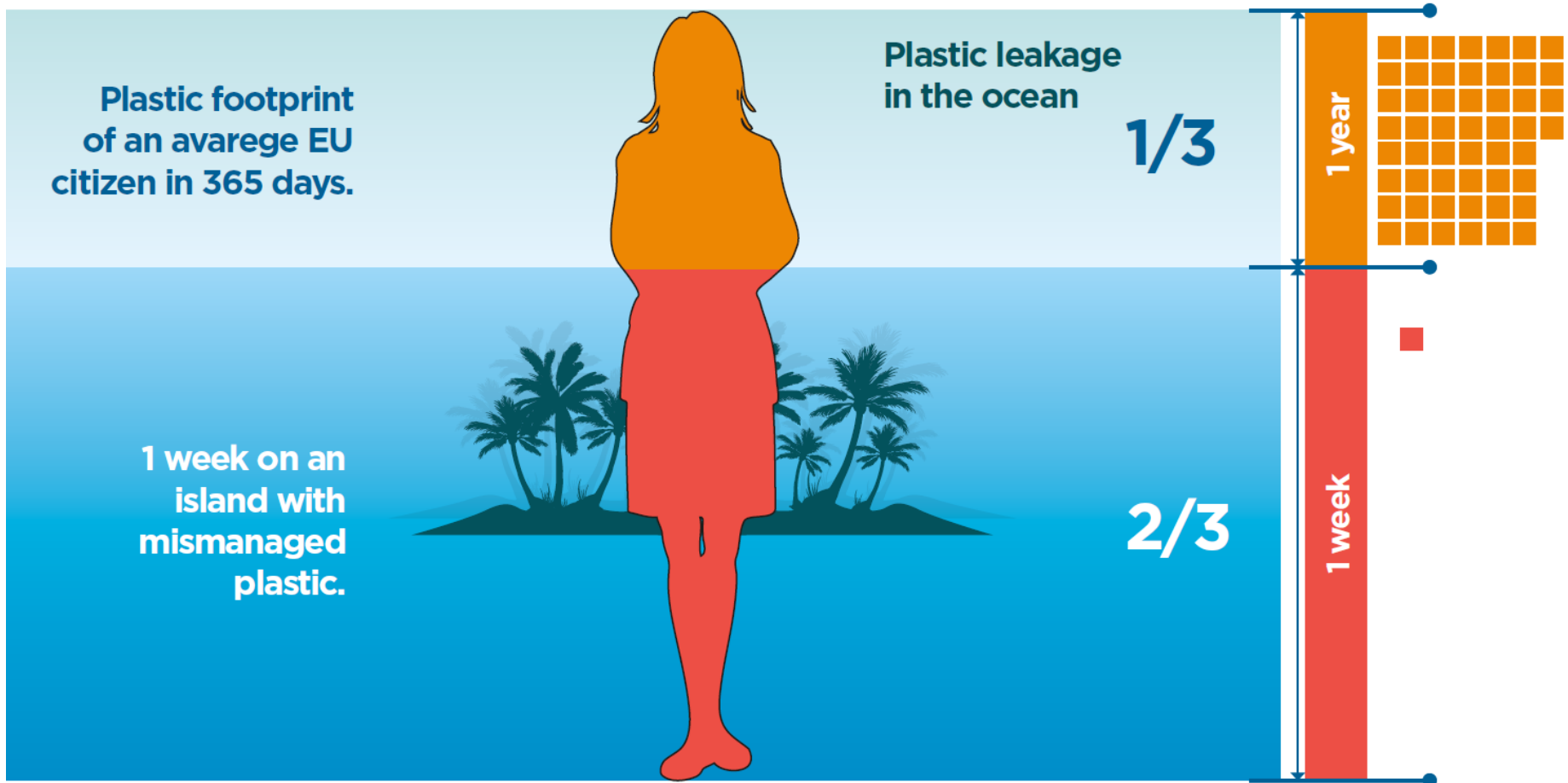
COMPARISON WITH PLASTICS ORIGINATING FROM MISMANAGED WASTES



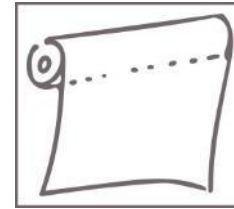
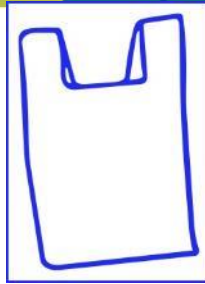


PLASTIC WASTE FREE ISLANDS

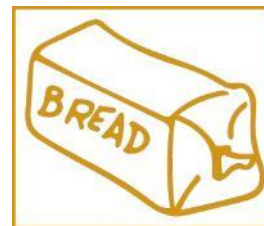
The tourist plastic trap



Multiple solutions



- Design for recyclability
- Alternative material solutions
- Improving and enforcing legislation
- Improved logistics, collecting and sorting
- Improving wastewater facilities
- Changing consumption behaviour patterns – education, communication, awareness raising
- Different geographical approaches (continent Vs Islands)



Thank you for your attention!

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Joao SOUSA , Marine Program Officer, IUCN

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Associated Partners: Interior Ministry, Hungary | Republic of Serbia Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection – Water Directorate | Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (SCC), Austria | State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine | Tisza River Basin Water Resources Directorate, Ukraine

