Sedat Gündoğdu Editor

Plastic Waste Trade









Launch and Panel Discussion Plastic Waste Trade: A New Colonialist Means of Pollution Transfer

15 April 2024 | 15:00 - 16:30 CEST | Online (Webex)

End Plastic Pollution: Looking forward



UNEA-5.2

28 Feb – 2 Mar | Nairobi, Kenya Adoption resolution 5/14 End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument

INC-1

28 Nov - 2 Dec | Punta del Este, Uruguay Preceeded by a multistakeholder forum

INC-3

13 - 19 Nov | Nairobi, Kenya

INC-4

21-29 April | Ottawa,Canada

INC-5

25 Nov - 1 Dec | Busan, Republic of Korea

2022

30 May - 1 Jun | Dakar, Senegal

OEWG

2023

29 May - 2 June | Paris, France

INC-2

2024

26 Feb - 1 Mar | Nairobi, Kenya Report progress of the INC

UNEA-6

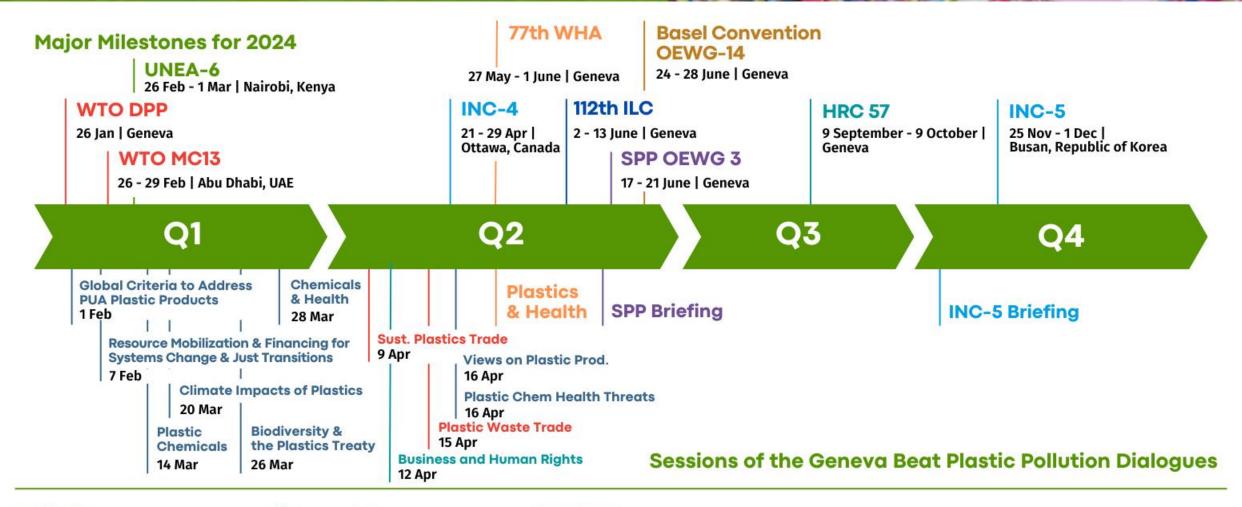
UNEA-5 resolution sets the ambition of completing the INC work by the end of 2024

2025

Mid 2025 | For the purpose of adoption and opening for signature the new instrument

Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries

GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALO









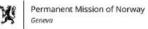


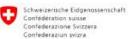












GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES







VIRTUAL

Launch and Panel Discussion | Global **Criteria to Address Problematic, Unnecessary** and Avoidable Plastic **Products**

01 FEB 2024 14:00 - 15:30 Online | Webex Nordic Council of Ministers, GEN

 Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics | Science O SDG12



VIRTUAL

Implementing a Treaty to End Plastic Pollution: A **Holistic Approach to Resource Mobilization & Financing for Systems Change & Just Transitions**

07 FEB 2024 15:30 - 17:00 Online | Webex TESS, GEN

- O Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics | Green Economy
- O SDG12



State of the Science on Plastic Chemicals

VIRTUAL

Launch and Panel Discussion | State of the **Science on Plastic Chemicals: Identifying** and Addressing Chemicals and Polymers of Concern

14 MAR 2024 14:00 - 15:30 Online | Webex PlastChem, GEN

 Chemicals and Pollution Plastics O SDG12



VIRTUAL

Launch and Panel Discussion | Climate Impacts of Plastics: Global Actions to Stem **Climate Change and End** Plastic Pollution

20 MAR 2024 14:00 - 15:30 Online | Webex GRID-Arendal, GEN

O Chemicals and Pollution | Climate | Plastics O SDG12 | SDG13

>>> tiny.cc/GENBeatPlasticPollution









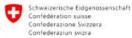












GENEVA BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION DIALOGUES







CONFERENCE

Biodiversity and the Global Plastics Treaty: IUCN's Proposal for a Specific Article on "Biodiversity Aspects" in the Future Treaty

26 MAR 2024 13:00 - 14:30 International Environment House I, Room 3 & Online I Webex IUCN, GEN

 Chemicals and Pollution Nature Plastics O SDG12 SDG14 SDG15



VIRTUAL

Chemicals in the Plastics Treaty: Perspectives on Protecting Human Health

28 MAR 2024 12:00 - 13:30 Online | Webex IPEN, GEN

 Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics O SDG3 | SDG12



CONFERENCE

Plastics Pollution and **Environmentally Sustainable Plastics** Trade: Call for Action

09 APR 2024 14:00 - 15:30 WTO and Online I Webex WTO, GEN

 Chemicals and Pollution Plastics O SDG3 | SDG12



VIRTUAL

Launch and Panel Discussion | Plastics Treaty: Aligning States Duties and Business Responsibilities with the **Guiding Principles on Business and Human** Rights

12 APR 2024 14:00 - 15:00 Online | Webex **OHCHR**

 Chemicals and Pollution | Plastics | Human Rights and Environment

>>> tiny.cc/GENBeatPlasticPollution







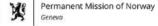


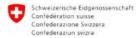






























TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- Throughout the event, you may raise your questions in the Q&A box
- Automatically translated subtitles in many languages are available through the captions button on the bottom left of your screen
- The recording, summary and documents will be made available on the event's website





ENGLISH CAPTIONS CAN BE ACTIVATED BY CLICKING ON THE BUTTON ON THE LEFT-SIDE OF THE BOTTOM BAR ON THE SCREEN





























Plastic Waste Trade: A New Colonialist Means of Pollution Transfer



15 April 2024 | 15:00 - 16:30 CEST Online (Webex) >>> tiny.cc/GEN15Apr24

SPEAKERS

By order of intervention.



Sedat GÜNDOĞDU



Professor, Cukurova University, Türkiye



Peter STOETT



Dean and Professor, Faculty of Social Science & Humanities, Ontario Tech University



Jim PUCKETT



Executive Director and Founder, Basel Action Network (BAN)



Krista SHENNUM



Researcher, Climate Rights International



Jindřich PETRLIK



International Pollutants Elimination



Yuyun ISMAWATI





Senior Advisor and Co-Founder, Nexus for Health, Environment and Development Foundation (Nexus3)



Magdalena DONOSO

Network (IPEN)



Regional Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)



Griffins OCHIENG



Executive Director, Centre for Environmental Justice and Development | Co-chair, IPEN Toxic Plastic Working Group



Pui Yi WONG



Basel Action Network (BAN) | Moderator







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• Sedat GÜNDOĞDU | Professor, Cukurova University, Türkiye

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Why Waste Moves, the Global Efforts to Control the Trade and Remaining Gaps

• Jim PUCKETT | Executive Director and Founder, Basel Action Network (BAN)

Plastic Waste Trade Problems

Human Rights Consequences of Plastic Waste Trade

• Krista SHENNUM | Researcher, Climate Rights International

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Plastic Waste Trade: A New Colonialist Means of Pollution Transfer





Plastic Waste Trade: A New Colonialist Means of Pollution Transfer

Prof. Dr. Sedat Gündoğdu Çukurova University Microplastic Research Group

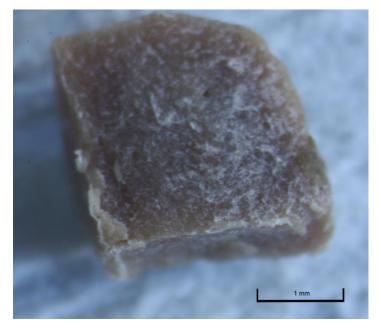


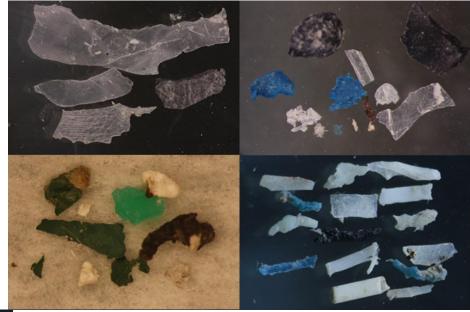


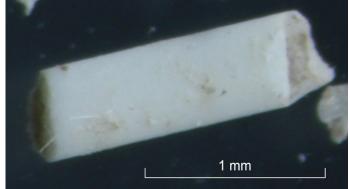
How it started



How it started











How it started











Waste Colonialism and Turkey

MAY 2020

NUMBER 1

IMPORTER

OF EU

WASTE

years

: 173 times

increase in

the last 15

SEPTEMBER 2019

THE BELL STARTED RINGING FOR TURKEY!!

BECOMING TOP DESTINATION OF EU'S WASTE FIRST GP MED INVESTIGATION OCT 2020

ADANA INVESTIGATION w GPDE



APRIL 2021

AGAIN NUMBER 1
DESTINATION
FOR EU WASTE
TRADE: 196 times
increase in the last
16 years and 241
truckloads of
plastic everyday

JULY 2021

BAN OVERTURN

NEW CIRCULAR: 1% LIMIT PROTECTED

DECEMBER 2019

WASTE IMPORT QUOTA

80% -> 50%

JUNE 2020

BBC NEWS:

"does it look like recycling" **JAN 2021**

BAN ON MIXED PLASTIC WASTE

TARGET OF "ZERO WASTE IMPORTATION" by MoE

TR DID NOT IMPLEMENT BASEL RULES

MAY 2021

GPUK CAMPAIGN LAUNCH: INVESTIGATION OUTPUTS OF GPUK AND GPDE

PE BAN!!

the ratio of contamination of imported plastic waste is limited to 1% in accordance with Ministerial Circulars

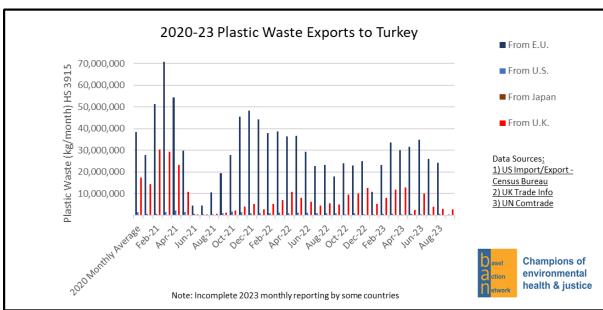
Progovernment or opposite parties are on the same page



Current Situation

Turkey still imports apprx 650 000 tons of plastic waste per year and illegal dumping and burning activities still ongoing.







The Book

Marine Pollution Bulletin 171 (2021) 112772



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Marine Pollution Bulletin







Why Turkey should not import plastic waste pollution from developed countries?

Sedat Gündoğdu a,*, Tony R. Walker b

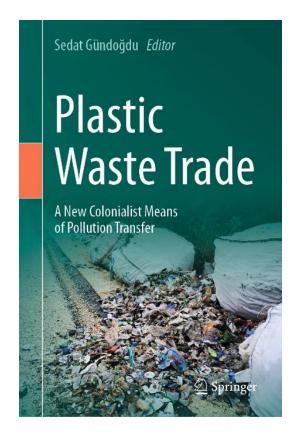
- a Cukurova University, Faculty of Fisheries, Department of Basic Sciences, 01330 Adana, Turkey
- b School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4R2, Canada

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Global plastic waste trade Plastic waste recycling Plastic marine pollution Turkey Import stop

ABSTRACT

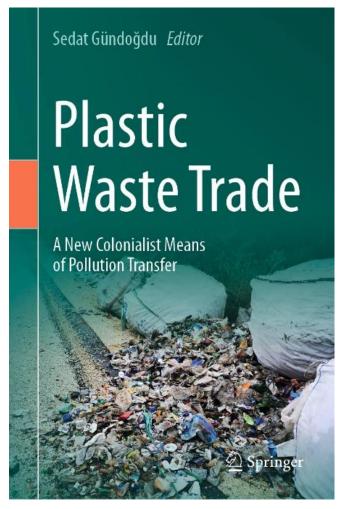
Turkey became a major importer of global plastic waste after China banned plastic imports on January 1, 2018. Turkey imported only 261,864 tonnes of plastic waste annually before the ban, but annual imports increased to 772,831 tonnes by 2020. Turkey recently implemented restrictions on importing plastic waste (quotas, %1 contamination limit, banned mixed plastic waste imports), yet illegal dumping and burning is widely reported. Turkey ranks second in Europe and seventh worldwide for plastics production, yet current domestic waste management and recycling programs cannot handle domestic plastic waste generation. Roughly 90% of municipal solid waste produced in Turkey ends up in landfills. Plastic waste mismanagement results in plastic leakage into the Mediterranean Sea with Turkey contributing the highest share (16.8%) of European marine plastic pollution. With this latest import restriction, Turkey now has an opportunity to strengthen and improve its own domestic waste management infrastructure to reduce indiscriminate plastic marine pollution.







Main Motto: "We send them vitamins, they send us toxic waste"





Background

| Part I The Theory, Background and the History of the Plastic Waste Trade | |
|--|----|
| Plastic Waste Colonialism: A Typology of Global Toxicity | 3 |
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| Global and National Instruments to Stop the Export and Dumping of Plastic Wastes | 67 |

Toxic effects

| Part II The Illicit Activities in the Plastic Waste Trade and Its Toxic Effects | |
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| Plastic Waste and Criminality | 107 |
| Toxic Contamination Caused by Plastic Waste in Countries of the Global South | 113 |
| The Human Rights Impacts of Plastic Waste Exports | 129 |
| The Darker Side of Dutch Colonialism: Exporting Plastic Waste Is Plastic Pollution Trafficking | 141 |

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Thanks

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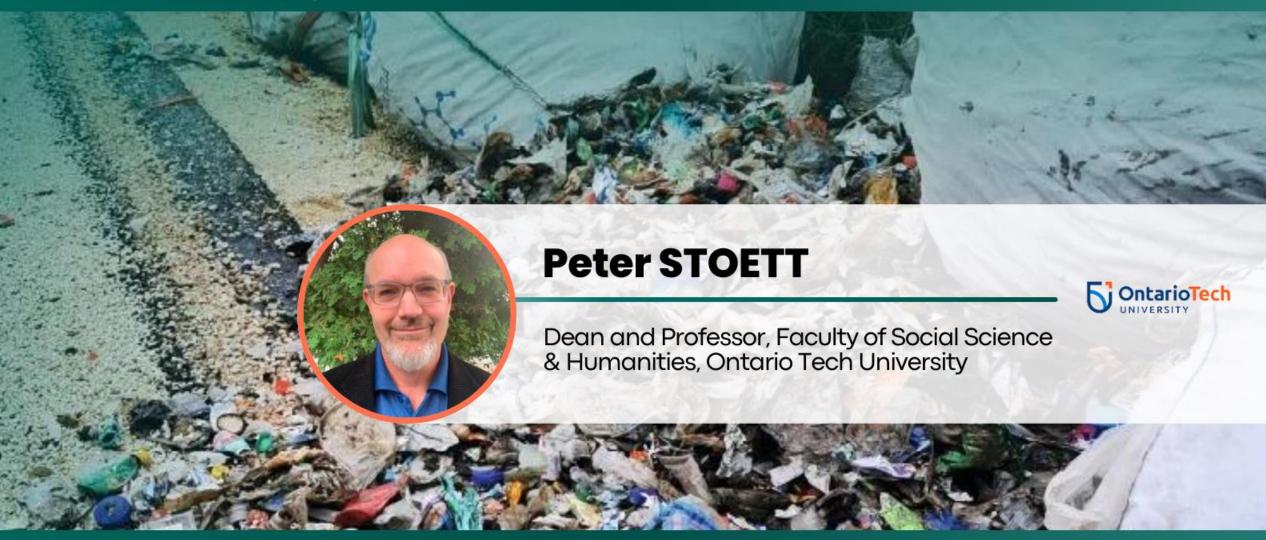


Plastic Waste Trade: A New Colonialist Means of Pollution Transfer





Plastic Waste Trade: A New Colonialist Means of Pollution Transfer





Sedat Gündoğdu Editor

Plastic Waste Trade

A New Colonialist Means of Pollution Transfer



Plastic Waste Trade: A New Colonialist Means of Pollution Transfer



Consult the book

https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-51358-9

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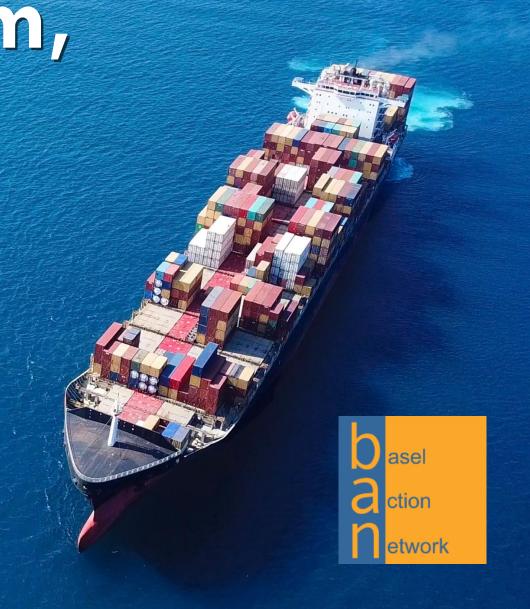


Plastic Waste Trade: A New Colonialist Means of Pollution Transfer





Waste Colonialsm, the Basel Convention, and the Remaining Challenges





Jim Puckett
Director/Founder
Basel Action
Network

ipuckett@ban.org www.ban.org





why waste moves to waste colonies

cost externalization

The history of pollution is one of "cost externalization"







COST EXTERNALIZATION

A market <u>distortion</u> that occurs when an action taken damages people or planet, often as a hidden cost, and yet that cost to either prevent or repair such damage is never paid by those causing it.

Waste follows a pathway of greatest opportunity for cost externalization.

These opportunities are functions of disparities in political or economic power.

Such waste trade is exploitation.

It is waste colonialism.

THE WORLD BANK/IFC/MIGA

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 12, 1991

TO: Distribution

FROM: Lawrence H. Summers

EXTENSION: 33774

SUBJECT: GEP

After extensive discussions with Lant on the c of the GEP '91 outline I would like to add to my suggestion immediate follow-up in my memo of December 10, the followin chapter by chapter comments on the outline. Also followin specific suggestions for data analysis I think will be use report.

Chapter 1

1.a As mentioned in a footnote, 1950 is a particul year for such comparisons as German and Japanese trade was exogenous reasons. The overall openness of the US and Jap economies is not much higher now than at the turn of the c

1.a Footnote two mentions that Taiwan, Singapore, are high income countries. Does this make them "industria If so, it seems odd that industrial country share fell.

1,a I thought it interesting that you mention that Asian economies are more diversified as a recent IMF report that by the conventional export diversification measures X roughly the same as the 1960; s. How are you measuring div

1.b. How are you defining "high technology" product understanding of the commonly used US depthof Commerce defithat is relies on R&O, intensity. This of course needn't b



I think the economic logic behind dumping a load of toxic waste in the lowest wage country is impeccable and we should face up to that.

The **RICH** "Impeccable **POLLUTION Economic** otic Massian Logic" of the **Waste Trade** COST **POOR**



E-Waste Trade -> Africa and Asia

















Key Drivers of Negative Externalities in Waste Colonialism

- 1. The Global Commons Syndrome caused by weak Global Governance e.g. carbon dioxide pollution
- 2. Lack of Democracy / Empowerment giving damaged people the right of redress against toxic exposure.
- 3. Global Inequity Creates desperation, labor cost disparity -- cheap labor via trade but with a lack of safety nets/protections in weaker economies
- 4. "Green Cloak" of the word "Recycling" and co-option of "Circular Economy"



preventatives against "Waste Colonialism"

Basel Convention successes and failures

VERY short history of the Basel Convention

- 1980s **Epidemic of Waste Trade Events** (1984-1990)
- Most invoked some kind of recycling pretext.
- Basel Convention Adopted (1989):
 Controlled wastes whether for recycling or disposal the same. Created PIC Procedure:
 Transparency and Right of Refusal. 191 Parties
- Created Basel Ban Amendment, Finally in Force (2019) as New Article 4a. 104 Parties
- Plastics Amendments (2019). In force (2021). Controlled Plastic Waste Trade for the first time! Supposed to Control all Plastic Trade....





Now Controlled: mixed and dirty plastics as Y48:

- -- Exports from US to Basel Parties Illegal.
- -- Exports from EU to developing countries Illegal.
- -- Notification and Consent needed for other situations



Plastics Amendment Failings / Work to do!

- 1. Countries Failure to Implement / Using Article 11 Agreements to undermine obligations -- Canada, US, Mexico, EU.
- 2. Countries Failure to Enforce: Japan, EU, UK, Turkey, Malaysia
- 3. Basel Failure to include all mixed and dirty Plastics (Y48) as originally Intended: synthetic textile, synthetic rubber, refuse derived fuel (RDF), plastics mixed into paper bales, etc. pose an unexpected exception.
- 4. Basel Failure to consider toxic additives as triggering hazardous waste definition (A3210) Every mixed load should be considered as hazardous.

- Zero Draft: one improvement proposed:
 All plastic waste exports would be subject to PIC control.
- INC-4 Draft: That option remains but two more options added reverting to Basel
- I fear Basel (status quo) will rule the day
- However, as waste trade is largely a symptom of overproduction of a non-circular material, the battle can be won through binding production phase-outs upstream!

What to
Expect on
Waste Trade
from INC
Process

One BIG Success Story EU

New EU Waste Shipment Regulation — In force in 2 years:

- For the first time EU will impose a ban on exporting Basel uncontrolled wastes (plastic) to non-OECD countries.
- To OECD countries like Turkey PIC will be required and nor more that 2% contamination allowed.
- After two years of close scrutiny, a ban to OECD will be imposed if evidence shows unsound management.

Thank You!



www.ban.org

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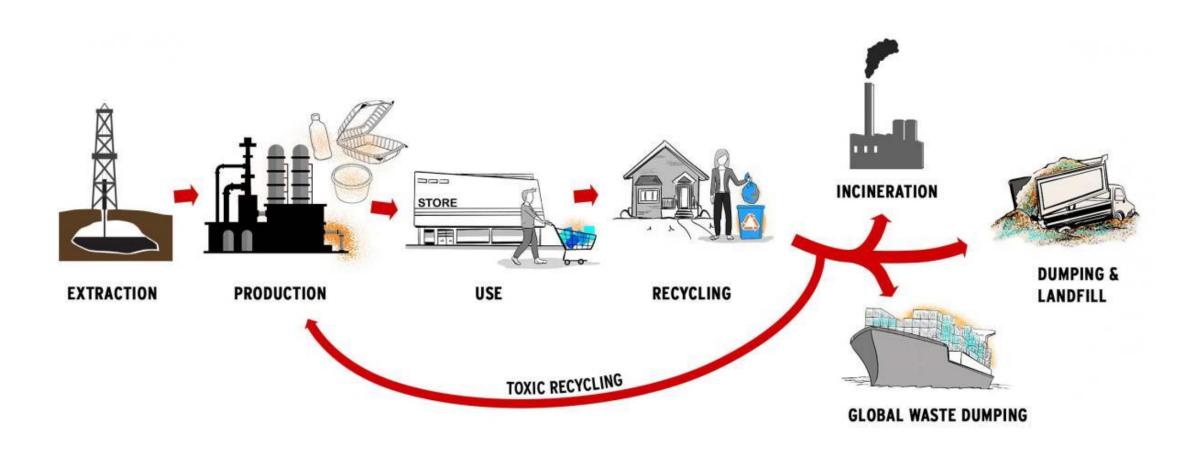
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Plastics as a Rights Issue



Source: IPEN

Right to Health

FIGURE

Plastic & Health: The Hidden Costs of a Plastic Planet

Humans are exposed to a large variety of toxic chemicals and microplastics through inhalation, ingestion, and direct skin contact, all along the plastic lifecycle.

DIRECT EXPOSURE

Extraction & Transport Refining & Manufacture **Consumer Use** Waste Management INHALATION INHALATION VOCs, and 170+ toxic Benzene, PAHs, and metals, POPs, carcinogens, heavy metals, dioxins and furans, PAHs, chemicals in fracking fluid EDCs. and microplastics toxic recycling Exposure: inhalation and Exposure: inhalation. Exposure: inhalation, ingestion, skin contact ingestion, and skin contact Exposure: ingestion and ingestion (air and water) inhalation (air, ash, slag) (air, water, and soils) · Heath: affects the immune Health: affects renal, Health: impacts can Health: impacts include system, sensory organs, liver, cardiovascular, gastroand kidney, impacts include include cancers, neurointestinal, neurological, cancers, neurological cancers, neuro-, reproductive, reproductive, and respiratory damages, and damages toxicity, reproductive and developmental toxicity toxicity, low birth weight, systems; impacts include to immune, reproductive, and eye and skin irritation cancers, diabetes, and nervous, and endocrine developmental toxicity system

& Oceans

Workers' Rights



ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE

- Microplastics (e.g. tire dust and textile fibers) and toxic additives: including POPs, EDCs, carcinogens, and heavy metals
- Exposure: inhalation and ingestion (air, water, and food chain)
- Health: affects cardiovascular, renal, gastrointestinal, neurological, reproductive, and respiratory systems, impacts include cancers, diabetes, neuro-, reproductive, and developmental toxicity

Microplastics

Chemicals



Türkiye Case Study

Report Key Findings:

- Health impacts
- Toxic exposure to workers and communities
- Impacts on children, migrants, refugees
- Failure of the Turkish government to prevent harms
- Harms exacerbated by plastic waste imports



A Global Plastics Treaty that Promotes Human Rights



Lifecycle Approach



Cap Plastic Production



Ban Toxic Chemicals



Legally Binding

Launch and Panel Discussion

Plastic Waste Trade: A New Colonialist Means of Pollution Transfer



15 April 2024 | 15:00 - 16:30 CEST Online (Webex) >>>> tiny.cc/GEN15Apr24

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Toxic Contamination of Plastics

Jindřich Petrlík

Arnika – Toxics and Waste Programme

Dioxin & POPs Waste Expert – International

Pollutants Elimination Network





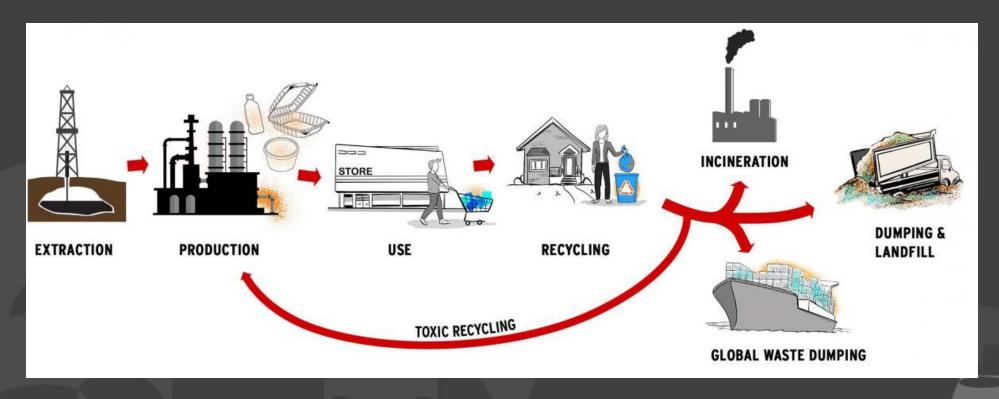
IPEN - A Global NGO Network

- IPEN Participating Organizations in 125 Countries working for a Toxics-Free Future
- Including both national activities and global policy efforts









Every stage of the life cycle of plastic involves toxic chemicals





"Without additives, plastics would not work"

- The British Plastics Federation

| Type of additive | Function | For example |
|------------------|----------------------|--|
| Plasticizers | Provides flexibility | Chlorinated paraffins (SCCP/MCCP/LCCP); phthalates (DIHP, BBP, DEHP) |
| Flame retardants | Prevent ignition | Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs); tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBPA) |
| Stabilizers | Prevent degradation | Bisphenol A (BPA); Cadmium, Lead, Zinc, Nonylphenol |
| Pigments | Provide color | Cadmium, Chromium, Lead compounds, Phthalates |
| Biocides | Antimicrobial | Arsenic, triclosan |





Examples of Annex III

(Basel Convention) characteristics

| | Example of Additive and health effect | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| H6.1 Poisonous (Acute) | Lead | | |
| H11 Toxic (Delayed or chronic) | Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals: phthalates, UV stabilizer and nonylphenol, dioxins Carcinogens: Cadmium, Chromium, Lead compounds | | |
| H12 Ecotoxic | Triclosan, Zinc compounds | | |
| H13 Capable, of yielding another material after disposal with Annex III characteristics | Halogenated flame retardants yields halogenated dioxins NOTE: Fluorinated plastics, cured resins and condensation products yield a range of H13 materials (e.g. fluoroalkenes, carbonyl fluoride and hydrogen fluoride, ammonia and cyanic acid) | | |



Chemicals in Plastics



Study 2021 - 10,000+ (Wiesinger et al., 2021)

Study 2023 - 13,000+ (Weber et al., 2023)

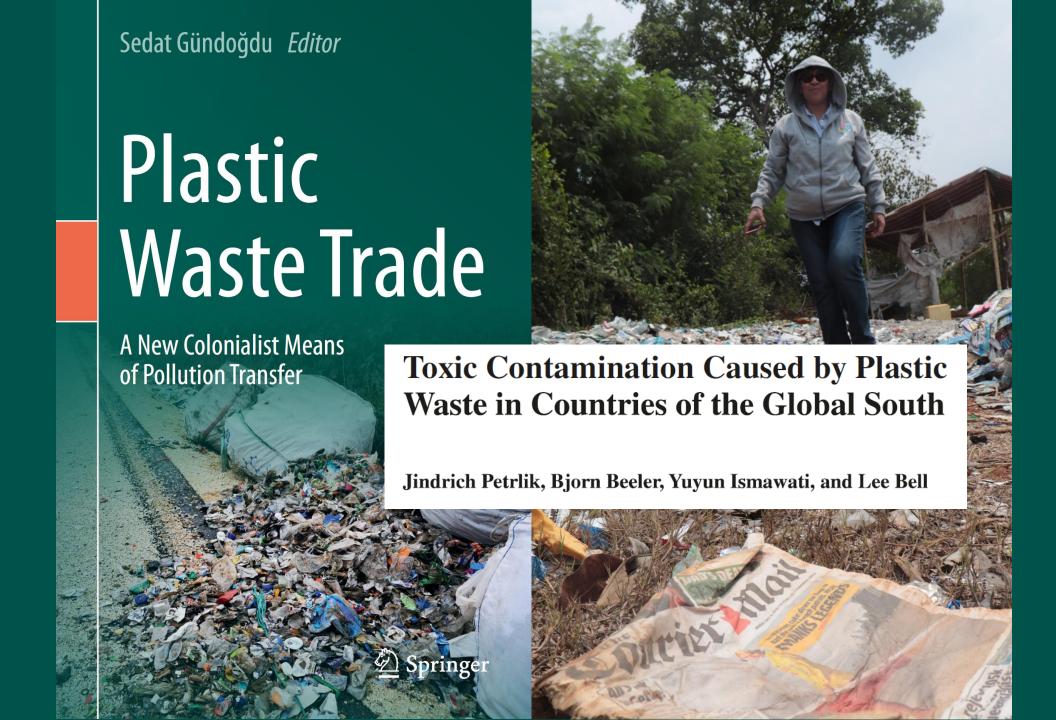
Study 2024 – 16,000+ (Wagner et al., 2024)

4,200 – persistent, bioaccumulative, mobile and/or toxic

Hazard information lacking for over 10,000 <6% currently subject to global regulation unregulated plastic chemicals of concern -

3600+

Martin Wagner, Laura Monclús, Hans Peter H. Arp, Ksenia J. Groh, Mari E. Løseth, Jane Muncke, Zhanyun Wang, Raoul Wolf, Lisa Zimmermann (2024) State of the science on plastic chemicals - Identifying and addressing chemicals and polymers of concern, http://dx.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10701706.





PBDEs "emissions" flows



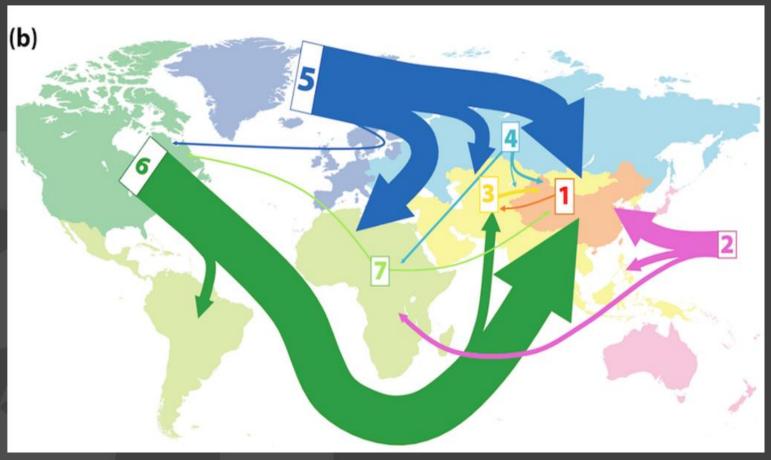


Fig 1. Illustration of the flows of the trade embodied emissions of PBDEs between the world regions. Source: (Tong et al., 2022).



Contamination in the Global South



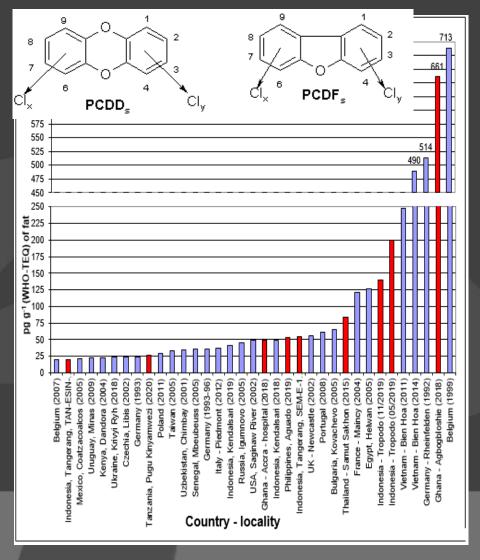


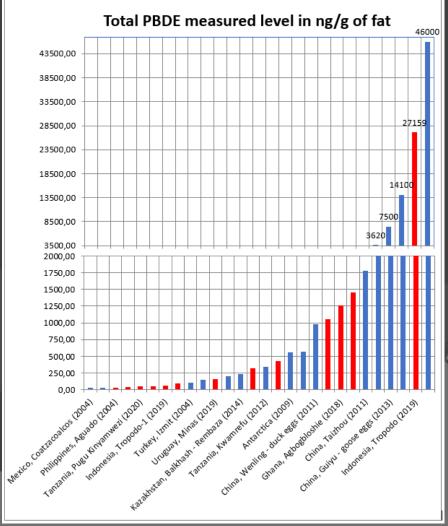




Toxics in eggs







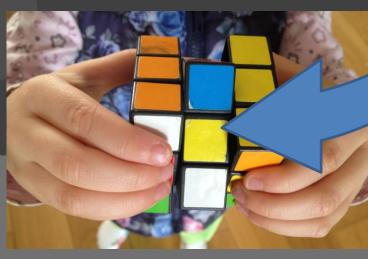


Recycling of POPs violates the Stockholm Convention







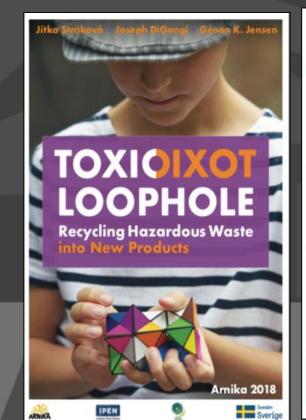




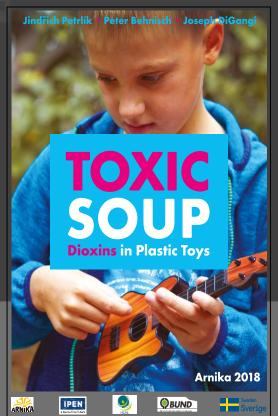
Toxic Recycling Due to Toxic Additives



- Toxic additives remains during recycling and new toxic chemicals can be formed during the process.
- Widespread contamination e.g. in children's products and food contact materials













HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS IN PLASTIC PRODUCTS

BROMINATED FLAME RETARDANTS IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS MADE OF RECYCLED PLASTIC FROM ELEVEN ARABIC AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES

May 2022







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Plastic Waste Trade in Indonesia and the Country's Response to Waste Trade Challenges

Chapter 9 https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-51358-9 9

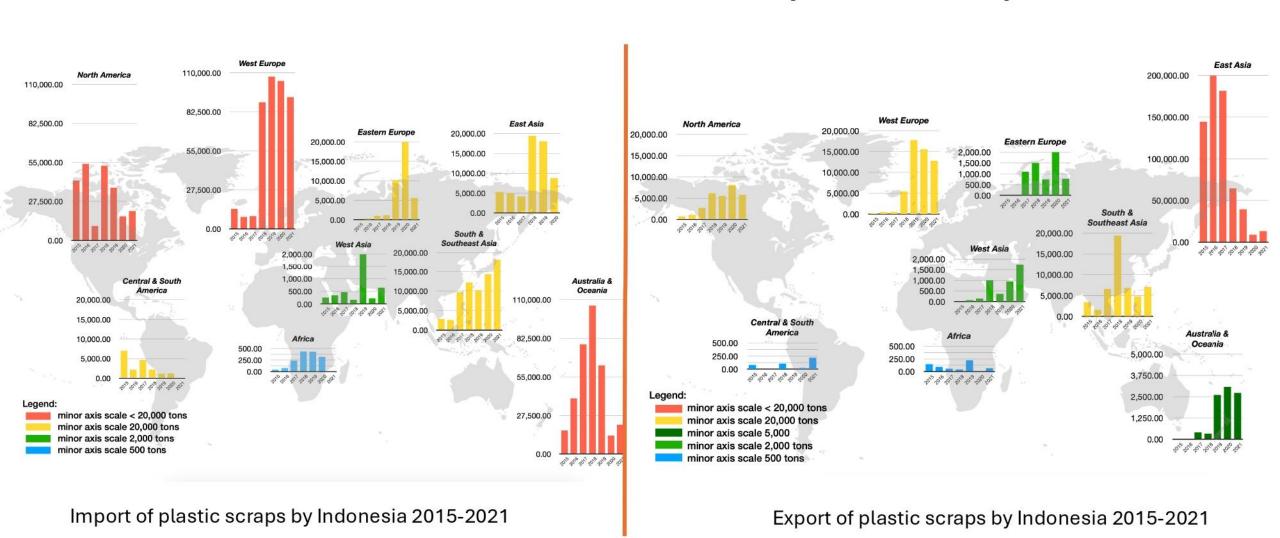
15 April 2024

Yuyun Ismawati, Mochamad Adi Septiono, Nindhita Proboretno, and Krishna Zaki

yuyun@nexus3foundation.org



Import and export of plastic scraps by Indonesia 2015-2021 (HS 3915)



Import and export of plastic scraps by Indonesia 2015-2020 (HS 3915) from and to the ASEAN countries

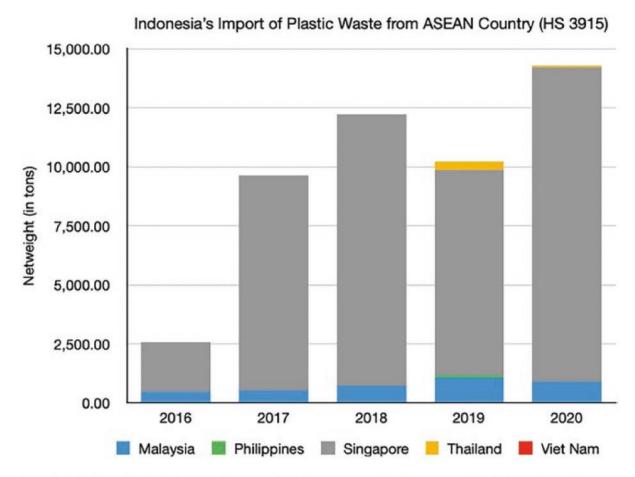


Fig. 16 Indonesia plastic waste imports (HS 3915) from ASEAN countries 2016–2020. (Source: Indonesia Bureau of Statistics, 2021)

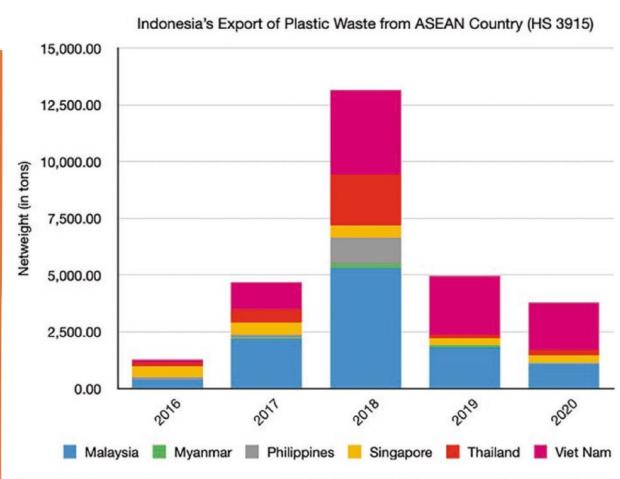


Fig. 15 Indonesia plastic waste exports (HS 3915) to ASEAN countries 2016–2020. (Source: Indonesia Bureau of Statistics)



RESOLUTION FOR CONFISCATED NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE CONTAINERS

Cabinet Secretary letter (SESKAB) No. B.164/SESKAB/EKON/05/2020

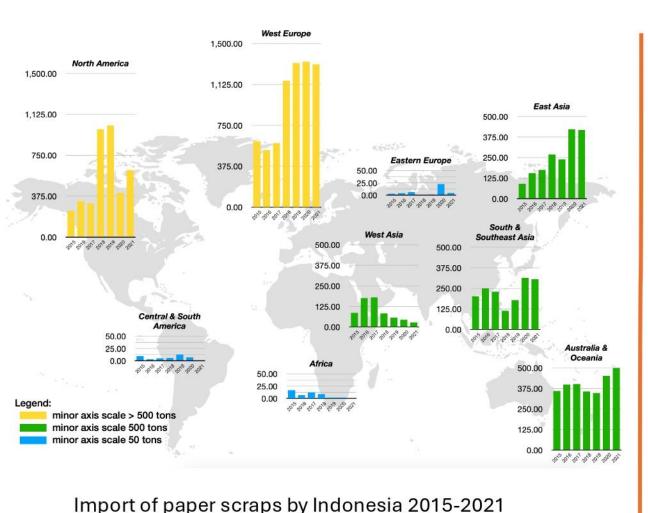
| [114 re-examined] [901 destruction supervised by MoEF (KLHK) and the cost covered by PT NHI] | Re-exported | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1051 containers | 63 containers | [5 clean containers] [15 containers re- exported] | |
| PT NHI | PT ART | PT AWP | |
| Method of destruction: incinerator/big furnace 1 unit burned 9 containers 3 days Purchased 3 furnaces No environmental safeguards to destroy illegal shipments | PT ART that did not have a surveyor report and Import Approval (PI) will be enforced by law to reexport (order issued by KLHK) | 20 containers belonging to PT AWP at KPU BC Batam were inspected by MoEF several times. | |
| Without any formal announcement, silently back to business | No details of re-exported containers | No details of re-exported containers | |

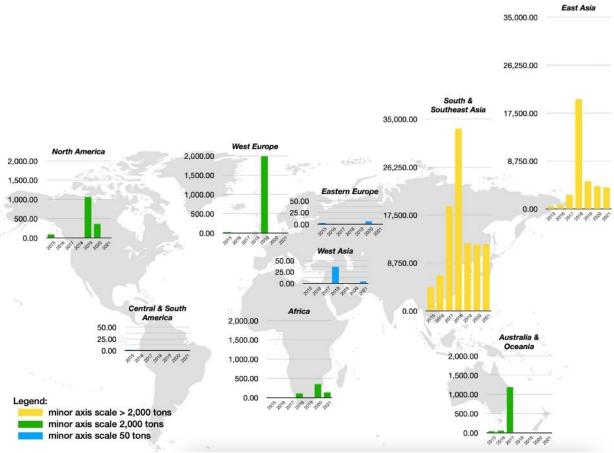






Import and export of paper scraps by Indonesia 2015-2021 (HS 4707)





Contaminants from paper scraps importer near Jakarta & near Surabaya

No sanctions for paper factories, no environmental safeguards and a lack of public health advisory for communities



Regulatory approach

- Several relevant authorities, namely, the MoT, MoEF, MoI, and the National Police, issued a joint decree in May 2020 to set a 2% maximum contamination for imported plastic and paper scraps.
- Exporters/foreign trade partners must be registered at the Indonesian embassy/consulate
- Re-exportation facilitated by the MoEF and Min. of Trade treated as B-2-B, not necessarily "returned to sender"
- Development of recycling roadmap for plastic and paper industries (since 2020, no progress)

RAW MATERIALS FOR PLASTIC WASTE INDUSTRY

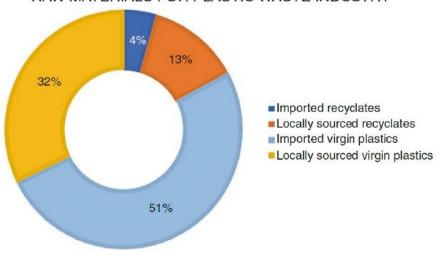


Fig. 3 Raw materials for plastic industry in Indonesia. (Source: Ministry of Industry)

Table 1 Number of registered exporters (August 2021)

| Country | # of registered exporters | Country | # of registered exporters |
|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| United States | 62 | Norway | 3 |
| Japan | 53 | Belgium | 3 |
| Singapore | 48 | France | 3 |
| Australia | 38 | Portugal | 3 |
| United Kingdom | 24 | Greece | 3 |
| South Korea | 18 | Poland | 2 |
| Netherland | 17 | Bahrain | 2 |
| New Zealand | 15 | Philippines | 1 |
| Italy | 10 | Denmark | 1 |
| Canada | 9 | Papua New Guinea | 1 |
| Malaysia | 9 | Austria | 1 |
| Germany | 9 | Vietnam | 1 |
| Spain | 7 | Brunei Darussalam | 1 |
| Brazil | 6 | Jordan | 1 |
| Chile | 4 | | |

Source: Kemenlu, Min. of Foreign Affairs (2021)



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Plastic Waste Trade: A New Colonialist Means of Pollution Transfer









Latin America, the Greenwashing Servant

- After China closed its boarders to plastic import, waste that used to be exported to China, is being sent to several countries in LAC, among others.
- By 2020, the US had distributed 44.000 tons of plastic waste to 15 countries in LAC.
- Complicity, opacity and lack of capacity from LAC governments.

Organizations started their research in 2020, being capable to build a case with the information found.



The audacity of the US

- The US is the most non-committal power.
- It is incapable of processing the plastic waste it produces.
- The recycling rate in the US has declined.
- In the past, the export of millions of tons of plastic waste to China was registered as recycled
- Hundreds of different types of synthetic plastic materials produced are fundamentally non-recyclable.
- While other countries now restrict imports of plastic waste to countries that do not belong to the OECD, the flow of U.S. plastic waste to countries with high rates of waste mismanagement continues at a scandalous level.
- It is of high concern the flow of waste coming to Mexico.



Questions not answered: lack of transparency or access to information

- Where exactly is it coming from
- Under what headings or subheadings is it entering
- What supervision is there from the ministries of the environment
- What industries are being fed with imported dirty plastic

The most disturbing of all questions: Do Ecuador or Mexico really have a greater recycling capacity than the United States?



Ecuador

- In August 2020, the U.S. registered an export record to four countries, including Ecuador, which received 1,100 tons of this type of waste.
- The Andean country barely manages to recover 4% of its waste, and this is mainly due to grassroots recyclers work.
- Besides the inconsistencies between the figures, at least 10,000 tons of plastic waste enter Ecuador annually. This number equals the total plastic waste production from 40 cities, with an average population of 266,688."
- As a signatory to the Basel Convention and the Plastics Amendment, the corresponding authority, the Ministery of Environment and Water, is in the dark about whether or not the waste arrives contaminated or if it is hazardous.



Mexico

- Through their website, the collective Malditos Plásticos provides a radiography of Plastic Waste Colonialism in Mexico.
- According to Mexico's Tariff Information System (Siavi), from 2015 to 2021, the country would have received 662,518 tons of plastic waste, with 94% coming from the United States, and 3% from Italy, Germany, Netherlands, and China.
- Nine companies control the plastic waste import market.
- Cement companies such as Cemex have set the ambitious goal of incinerating 19 million tons of plastic waste by 2030.



What do we have in our favor

- Active communities in resistance mode, and actively doing research
- The Basel Convention and the plastics amendment in addition.
- The Escazú agreement
- We still need a legally binding international Treaty that cover the entire life cycle of plastic.



Two take aways

- Plastics export is always a false solution because they are so pervasive that they
 are extremely tough to collect, virtually impossible to sort, harmful to the
 environment, expensive to reprocess, and they often contain toxic materials
 (The Guardian in October 2022)
- Waste colonialism should be understood as another stage of the life-death cycle
 of plastic: it does not end in its final disposal or treatment, but continues
 through colonialism, as a spiral of poison



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Sedat Gündoğdu Editor

Plastic Waste Trade

A New Colonialist Means of Pollution Transfer



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Consult the book

https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-51358-9

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THANK YOU!



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Griffins OCHIENG



Executive Director, Centre for Environmental Justice and Development | Co-chair, IPEN Toxic Plastic Working Group





Pui Yi WONG



Basel Action Network (BAN) | Moderator











VIRTUAL

Plastic Production: Latest Views from Scientists and the Public

16 APR 2024 13:00 - 14:30 Online | Webex Greenpeace, GEN

 Chemicals and Pollution Plastics O SDG3 | SDG12



VIRTUAL

Plastic Chemical Threats to Children's Health & **Development: Opportunities to Protect** Children's Health and their Future in the Plastics Treaty

16 APR 2024 15:00 - 16:30 Online | Webex IPEN, GEN

 Chemicals and Pollution | Health and Environment Plastics

O SDG3 | SDG12













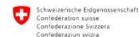












Sedat Gündoğdu Editor

Plastic Waste Trade









Launch and Panel Discussion Plastic Waste Trade: A New Colonialist Means of Pollution Transfer

15 April 2024 | 15:00 - 16:30 CEST | Online (Webex)