



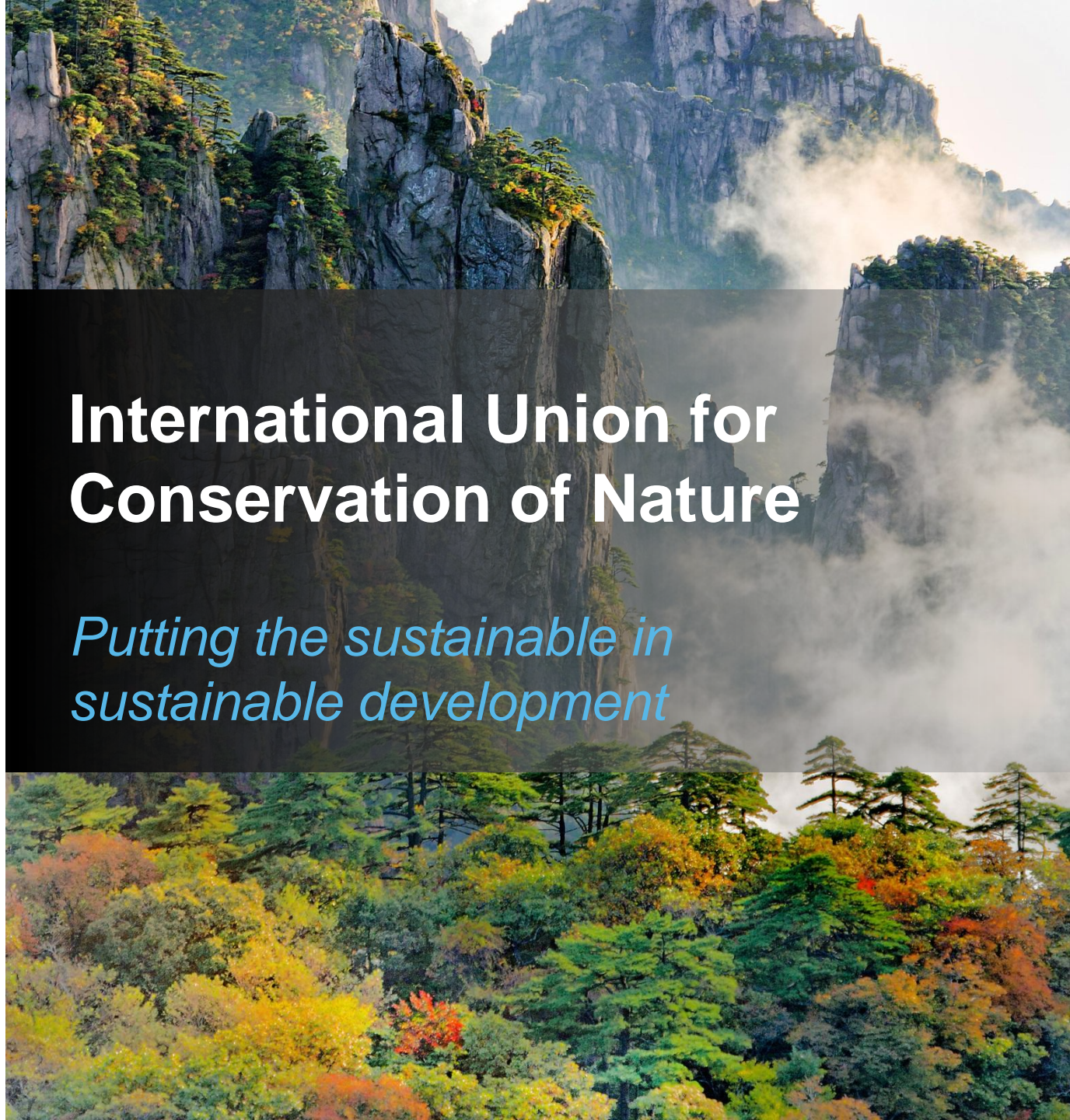
# Close the Plastic Tap

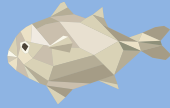
Cyprus, 20th Oct 2017



# International Union for Conservation of Nature

*Putting the sustainable in  
sustainable development*





# BeMed

BEYOND  
PLASTIC  
MED

- « Beyond Plastic Med » initiative
- **five organizations (IUCN, Tara Expeditions Foundation, Surfrider, the Mava Foundation and the Albert II of Monaco Foundation)**
- create an international platform, dedicated to research and implementation of solutions against plastic pollution in the Mediterranean Sea.
- This taskforce aims at bringing together the private sector, civil society, political and regional initiatives in a global cooperation network.


# CSTI




- CSTI sustainable approach to tourism – triple win – for tourists, villages and environment.
- With economic benefits to tourist operators because happy tourists return.




## How long does plastic remain in the ocean?




Bottle caps and bags float on the surface, where many animals search for food




Plastic bags need about 20 years to break down



Fishing nets need up to 600 years to break down



Plastic bottles need up to 450 years to break down



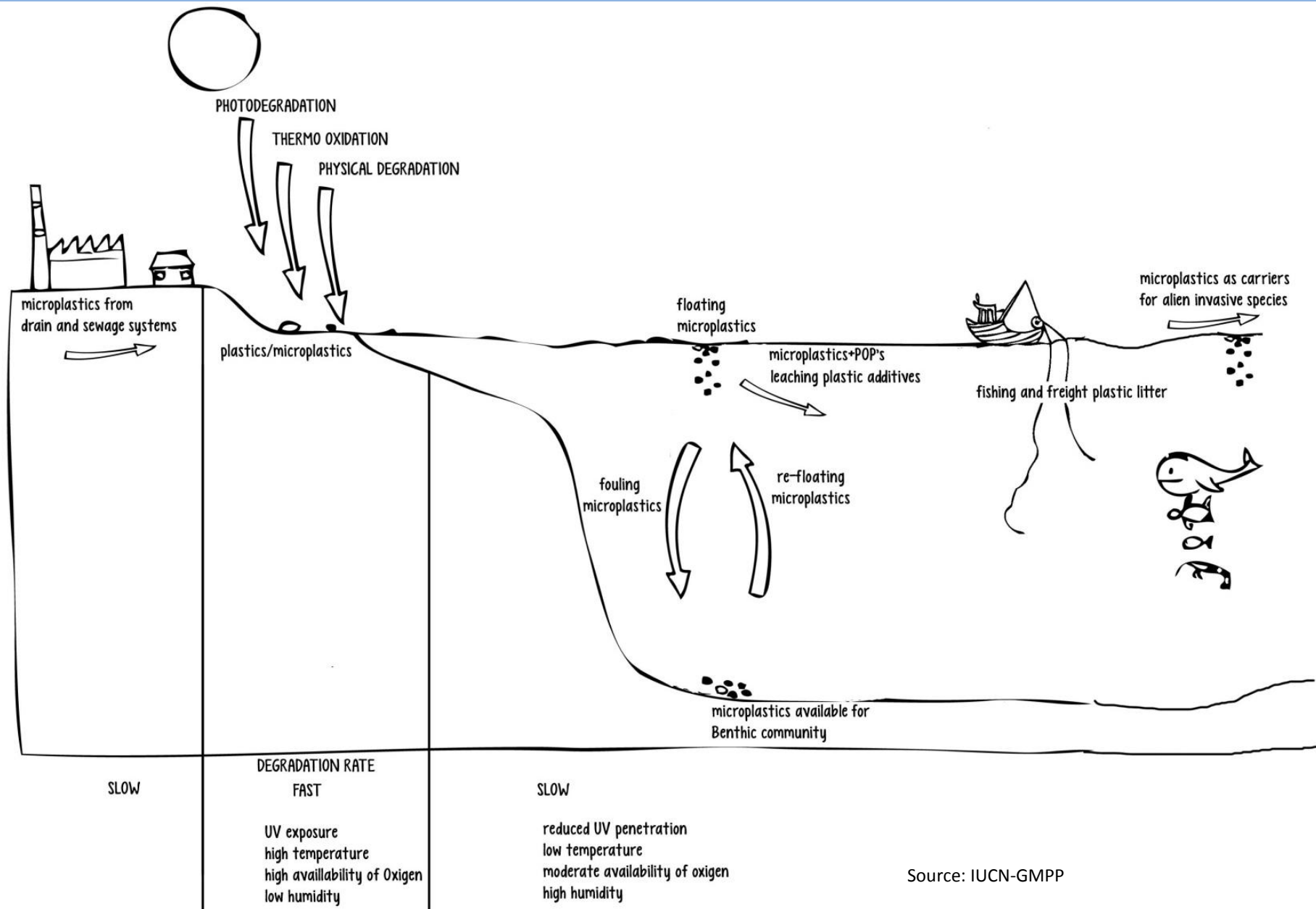
Plastic containers and heavier products sink down to the seafloor through the habitats of marine inhabitants



# How does litter enter the ocean?

- Poorly controlled waste sites
- 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)

# Microplastics Source and Fate in the Marine Environment





# Non-biodiversity related impacts

- Loss of profit to commercial fisheries
- Hazards to boats and swimmers
- Lower beach enjoyment (eyesore)
- Lower levels of tourism (diapers in Batangas Anilao)
- Human health impacts
- As well as the visual impact of litter, plastic bags can impact on population health through the provision of breeding grounds for disease-carrying mosquitos.





# IUCN work on marine plastics

## AZORES PROJECT (Gallifrey Foundation)

Coordinated expanded **scientific research** in the Azores to establish a baseline for marine litter in the region

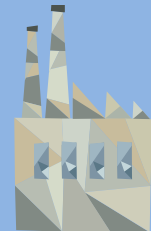


## ODYSSEY (Race For Water Foundation)

collect and analyze plastic waste in sediments in selected islands within the vicinity of the Oceans plastic 'gyres' or 'vortexes'

## MONACO STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM (Swedish Postcode Lottery Foundation)

a coalition of private sector (with initial emphasis on packaging, clothing and cosmetics) , governments and NGO's



## BEYOND PLASTIC MED TASK FORCE (Mava Foundation, Fondation Prince Albert 2, Surfriders Foundation, Tara )

Assessing the impact of plastic waste in the Mediterranean and commit to practical actions (Industry , local government representatives, scientists and civil society)





# Future work

## RESEARCH:

- **PLASTIMED:** Total plastic influx from riparian countries (and others) into the Mediterranean Sea, North-South intercities for tech transfer and capacity building
- **BALTIC SOLUTIONS:** Baltic Sea (biodiversity, food security, climate change)
- **ARCTIC:** subjected to funding (partially secured by KOPRI Korean Polar Research Institute)
- **NANOPLASTICS** (human health impacts)

## POLICY:

- Plastic text into existing Conventions
- Plastic classification as a toxic pollutant in water (main purpose)

## BUSINESS:

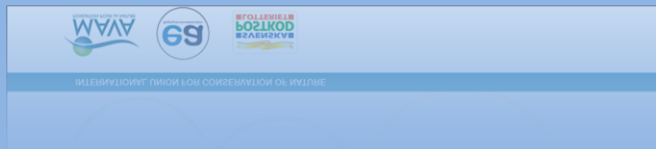
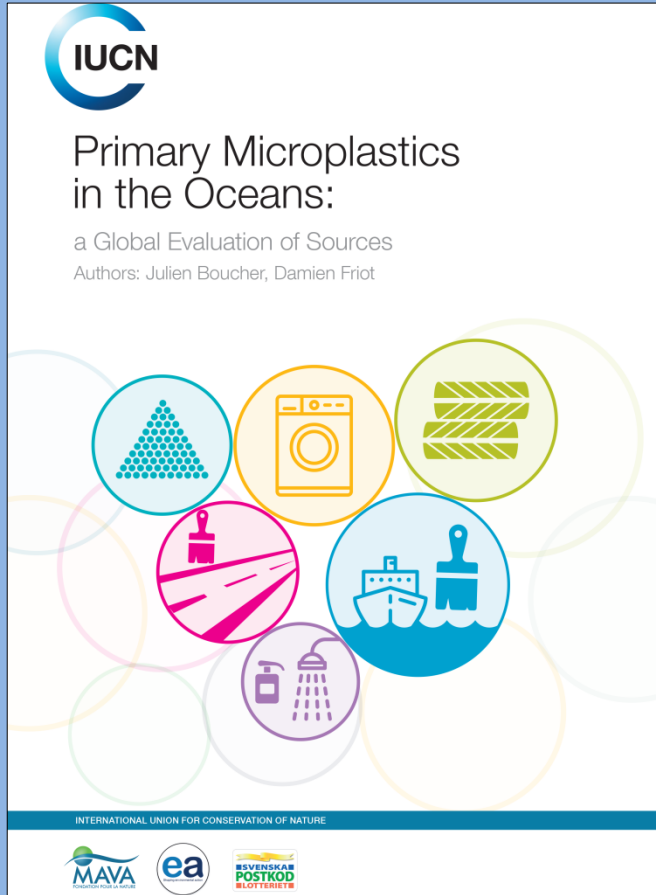
- Tyre Manufactures
- Synthetic clothing

## STAKEHOLDER PLATFORMS:

- Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam
- Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and South Africa

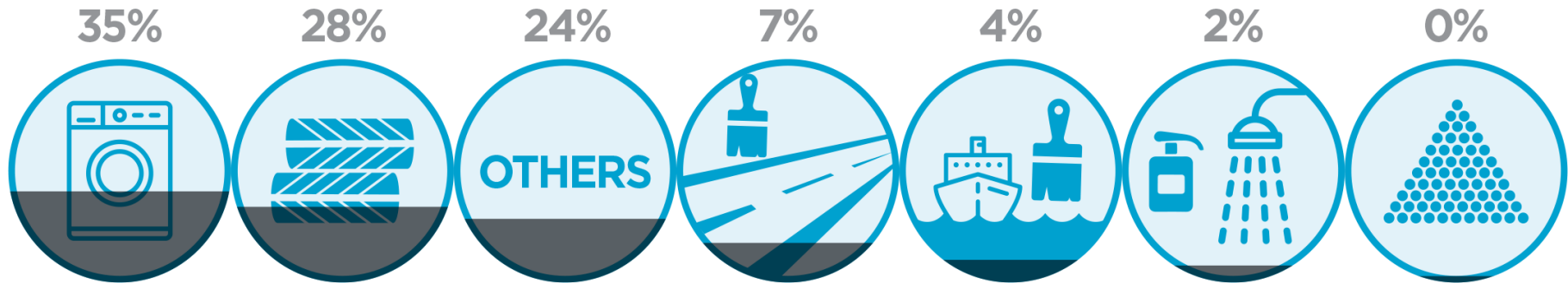


# WHERE DO ALL MICROPLASTICS COME FROM ?



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

RELEASES





**Rob Gordon**  
@MiniMike\_



Follow

Quand tu nettoies une plage et que tu trouves un Yoplait datant des JO de 1976.

View translation



RETWEETS  
**11,078**

LIKES  
**7,233**







# Thilafushi







Act now, sleep later...





# Thank you...



# Role of touristic operators

- Behavioural change with some help from tourist operators...(toys for kids in Mauritius)
- Plastic scan (manage their plastic footprint)
- Tourist Plastic footprint (what is my plastic footprint during holidays)