



Global Tourism  
Plastics Initiative



Global  
Commitment

# GLOBAL TOURISM PLASTICS INITIATIVE

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PROGRESS REPORT 2021

# QUICK FACTS

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## **Businesses reporting:**

Accor, Club Med,  
Hong-Kong and  
Shanghai Hotels,  
Iberostar, Melco,  
Six Senses.



**Overall number of  
properties operated by  
businesses reporting:**

5,350



**Overall annual  
revenue of businesses  
reporting:**

approximately

19 billion USD<sup>1</sup>



**Reporting period:**

2020<sup>2</sup>

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1. Estimation made by the GTPI coordination team based on publicly available 2019 online data.

2. Two of the companies provided figures for 2019, one company for 2019 and 2020 and three companies for 2020.

# KEY INSIGHTS

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- Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis which almost brought international tourism to a complete standstill in 2020, accommodation businesses have continued pursuing efforts to advance towards a circular economy of plastics.
- Over 108 million plastic items and packaging have been eliminated in 2020 across the reporting businesses.
- Plastic items and packaging eliminated in 2020 represent a weight of 804 metric tonnes, which is equivalent to 27 large shipping containers.
- Promising progress has been made, especially in the elimination of unnecessary and/or problematic plastic items and packaging in food and beverage services, where about 34 million plastic items and packaging (>352 metric tonnes) were eliminated; and in bathrooms, with about 74 million of eliminated plastic items and packaging (>451 metric tonnes). Positive efforts are also ongoing to eliminate plastic items and packaging in service areas and rooms.
- The elimination of problematic and unnecessary plastic items and packaging in kitchens and cleaning services needs to be further addressed.





- Hotel chains are implementing measures to replace plastic items and packaging with reuse models. Their efforts have been targeting food and beverage services followed by bathrooms, service areas, and kitchens. One hotel chain also reported replacing plastic items and packaging in cleaning services.
- Hotel chains have engaged suppliers to work both on increasing the amount of recycled content across all plastic packaging and items and moving towards 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable. In addition, one company reported being engaged in discussions with regulators on these topics.
- Hotel chains reported having invested in capacity building as well as in technologies and equipment to help increase recycling and composting rates.
- Various hotel chains reported as major new challenge that COVID-19 led to an increase in the consumption of plastic to comply with sanitary guidelines and health and safety protocols.



# PROGRESS ACHIEVED IMPLEMENTING GTPI COMMITMENTS

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**The** Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GTPI) is led by UNEP and UNWTO in collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. It acts as the interface of the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment in the tourism sector and unites the tourism sector behind a common vision to address the root causes of plastic pollution.

This is the first progress report since the launch of GTPI in 2020. It provides insights into the progress made by large business signatories for which annual reporting is mandatory as part of their commitments to the GTPI. Notably, the report details the progress achieved by six accommodation businesses implementing the following commitments:

1. Eliminating of problematic and unnecessary plastic packaging and/or items by 2025
2. Moving from single-use to reuse models or reusable alternatives by 2025
3. Engaging the value chain to move towards 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025
4. Taking action to increase the amount of recycled content (post-consumer recycled content) across all plastic packaging and items used by 2025
5. Collaborating and investing to increase recycling and composting rates for plastics

This report covers the progress made in 2020 despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The results should be interpreted considering this event as the tourism sector was among the hardest hit. Some businesses reported delays in the implementation of some of their commitments and many properties were closed during several months in 2020.

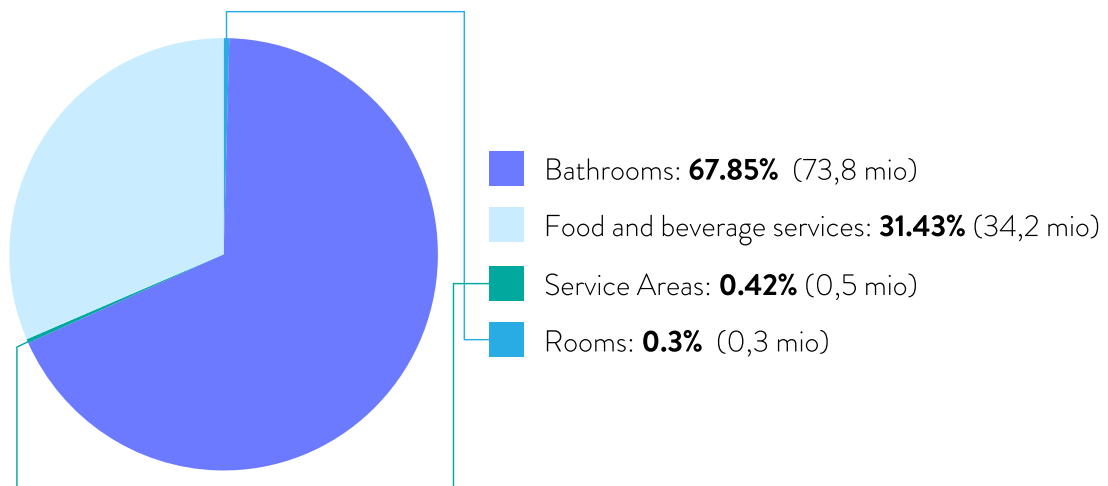
GTPI currently has over 100 signatories representing stakeholders from all segments of the tourism value chain. A broader reporting mechanism which would allow additional stakeholders that are signatories to the GTPI to report progress on the implementation of their commitments is in the process of being enabled.

# 1

## ELIMINATING PROBLEMATIC AND/OR UNNECESSARY PLASTIC ITEMS AND PACKAGING BY 2025

### AMOUNT OF ELIMINATED PROBLEMATIC AND UNNECESARY PLASTICS PER HOTEL AREA

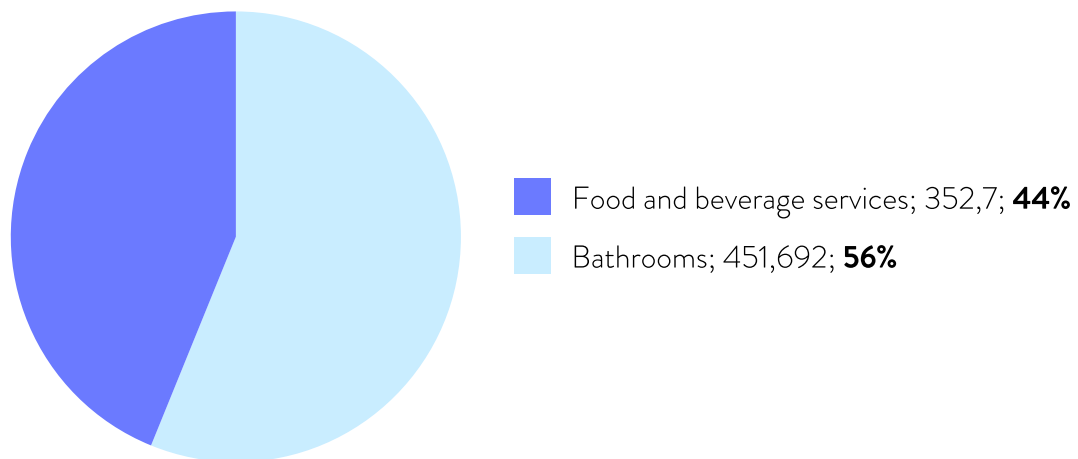
(TOTAL= 108 MILLION PLASTIC ITEMS)



**All** of the six hotel chains reported plastic elimination efforts, with five out of six providing supporting data on quantities eliminated. These five hotel chains (Accor, Club Med, Hong-Kong and Shanghai Hotels, Melco, Six Senses) reported that they have eliminated 108 million plastic items and packaging. The hotel chains focused especially on eliminating plastic items, such as single-use tableware (glasses, cups, plates, cutlery, straws etc.) and bottles, as well as plastic packaging such as those for wet amenities (i.e. shampoo and shower gel bottles). The majority of items and packaging were eliminated from bathrooms, followed by food and beverage services, rooms, and service areas. The kitchen and cleaning services remain an area where the issue of plastic is less targeted.

## WEIGHT OF ELIMINATED PROBLEMATIC AND UNNECESARY PLASTICS PER HOTEL AREA

(TOTAL= 804 METRIC TONNES)



**A**t least 804 metric tonnes of problematic or unnecessary plastic items and packaging were reported to have been eliminated in 2020 across four hotel chains (Accor, Club Med, Six Senses and Hong-Kong and Shanghai Hotels), with 353 metric tonnes eliminated from food and beverage services and 451 metric tonnes eliminated from bathrooms. Weight information was not provided for packaging and items eliminated from rooms and service areas.



## BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES REPORTED BY THE SIGNATORIES

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Accor reported to offer many bathroom items (such as toothbrushes, combs, and razors) upon request, rather than as default and has launched a communication campaign in China to encourage its clients to bring their own toilet accessories. As a result, Accor reported that they have eliminated 430 metric tonnes of plastic items and packaging in bathrooms.

Club Med reported full elimination of plastic items such as cups, plates, forks and spoons in their food and beverage services, resulting in the elimination of 101 metric tonnes of plastic.

Hong-Kong and Shanghai Hotels reported that they have fully eliminated plastic amenity packaging from their bathrooms and containers for cleaning products from all areas of the hotels.

Iberostar reported the full elimination of plastic items and packaging in its rooms, bathrooms, services areas and food and beverage services. Single portion or single-serving packaging has also been eliminated in rooms and bathrooms.

Melco reported having eliminated 2 million plastic items and packaging by taking actions such as switching to refillable wet amenity bottles.

Six Senses reported having fully eliminated plastic packaging, items and containers in bathrooms and rooms eliminating 23.000 plastic toothbrushes as well as single serve and disposable items in food and beverage services and in rooms.

## 2 MOVING FROM SINGLE-USE TOWARDS REUSE MODELS OR REUSABLE ALTERNATIVES BY 2025

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All six hotel chains reported taking action to replace single-use plastic items or packaging by reuse models. The main hotel area in focus is food and beverages services, for which three hotel chains indicated having fully replaced certain plastic items or packaging with reuse models and two hotel chains have indicated having partially replaced certain plastic items or packaging with such models, followed by bathrooms, service areas, and kitchens.

In addition, The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels reported replacing plastic items and packaging in cleaning services with reusable alternatives. Hotel chains particularly targeted plastic packaging to be replaced by reuse models followed by single-use amenities, specifically in the bathrooms, which were replaced with refillable bottles.



## BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES REPORTED BY THE SIGNATORIES

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Accor has replaced several plastic items, such as laundry bags with reusable cloth laundry bags. Reusable bottles are also being offered instead of plastic bottles in conference centers and meetings.

Club Med is replacing plastic packaging of wet amenities in the bathrooms by refillable bottles, while disposable cups are being replaced by reusable cups in the rooms.

Hong-Kong and Shanghai Hotels are distributing Ecolab cleaning products throughout the hotels via an in-house duct system, rather than buying products in individual packaging. This allowed them to fully replace plastic packaging in cleaning services with reusable alternatives.

Iberostar has fully replaced plastic packaging and single portion or single-serving packaging in its rooms, bathrooms, food and beverage services with reuse models. Efforts are ongoing to replace plastic packaging, plastic items, single portion, and single-serving packaging and cling films in kitchens.

Melco has replaced more than 680,000 plastic items and packaging with reusable alternatives, by, among other things, switching to refillable soap dispensers.

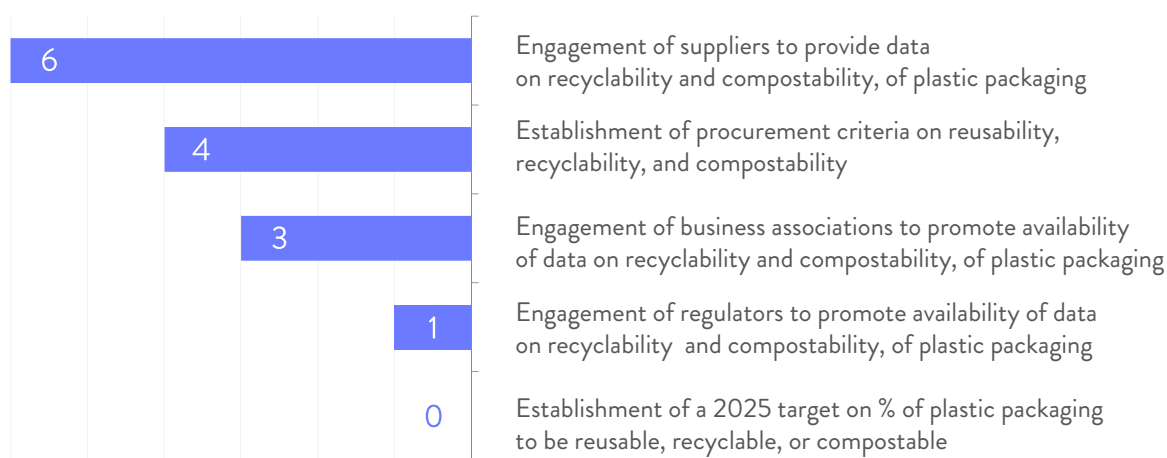
Six Senses has introduced reusable glass or porcelain jars for condiments and foods and circulated reusable wooden trays or reusable cooling containers among their suppliers, such as farmers and fishermen.

# 3 ENGAGING THE VALUE CHAIN TO MOVE TOWARDS 100% OF PLASTIC PACKAGING TO BE REUSABLE, RECYCLABLE, OR COMPOSTABLE BY 2025

All six hotel chains reported engaging at value chain level to advance towards 100% plastic packaging to be recyclable or compostable. All hotel chains reported interactions with their suppliers to ask them for data on recyclability and composability of plastic packaging and some (4 hotel chains) reported on the establishment of procurement criteria or discussions with business associations to promote the availability of data (3 hotel chains). One of the hotel chains, in particular Iberostar, also reported having engaged with regulators to promote the availability of data on recyclability and compostability of plastic packaging. For the time being, none of the hotel chains reporting has established a 2025 target on having a certain percentage of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

## ACTIONS TAKEN BY HOTELS TO ENGAGE THE VALUE CHAIN ON RECYCLABILITY AND COMPOSTABILITY OF PLASTIC ITEMS/PACKAGING

NUMBER OF HOTEL CHAINS REPORTING EACH ACTION



# 4 TAKING ACTION TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF RECYCLED CONTENT (POST-CONSUMER RECYCLED CONTENT) ACROSS ALL PLASTIC PACKAGING AND ITEMS USED BY 2025

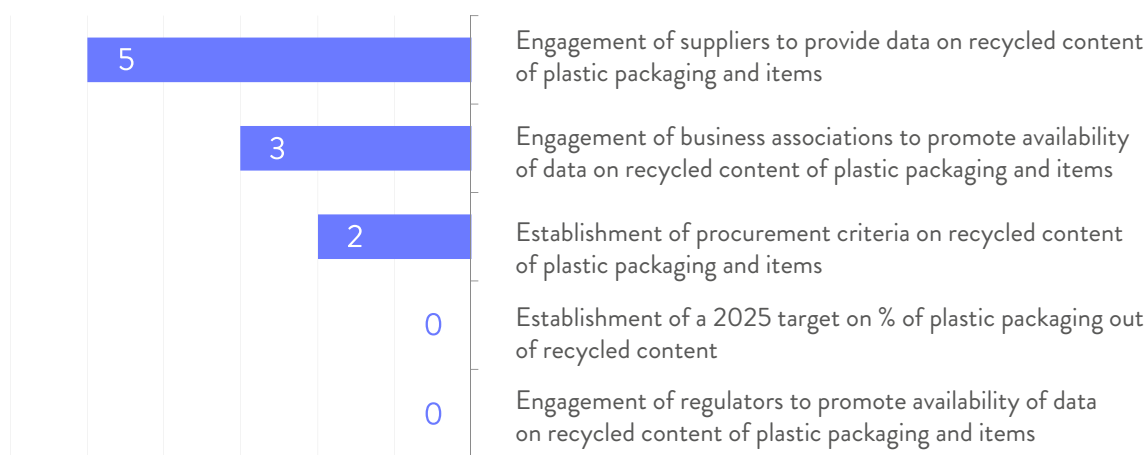
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**Five** out of the six hotel chains reporting indicated they have engaged with suppliers to provide data on the amount of recycled content in plastic packaging and items. Two companies reported having established procurement criteria on the recycled content in packaging and items. Yet, none of the hotel chains established a target to have a certain percentage of recycled content in packaging and items used in their operation by 2025 nor engaged regulators on the topic of recycled content within the plastic packaging and items used by the accommodation sector.

## ACTIONS TAKEN BY HOTELS TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF RECYCLED CONTENT OF PLASTICS

NUMBER OF HOTEL CHAINS REPORTING EACH ACTION

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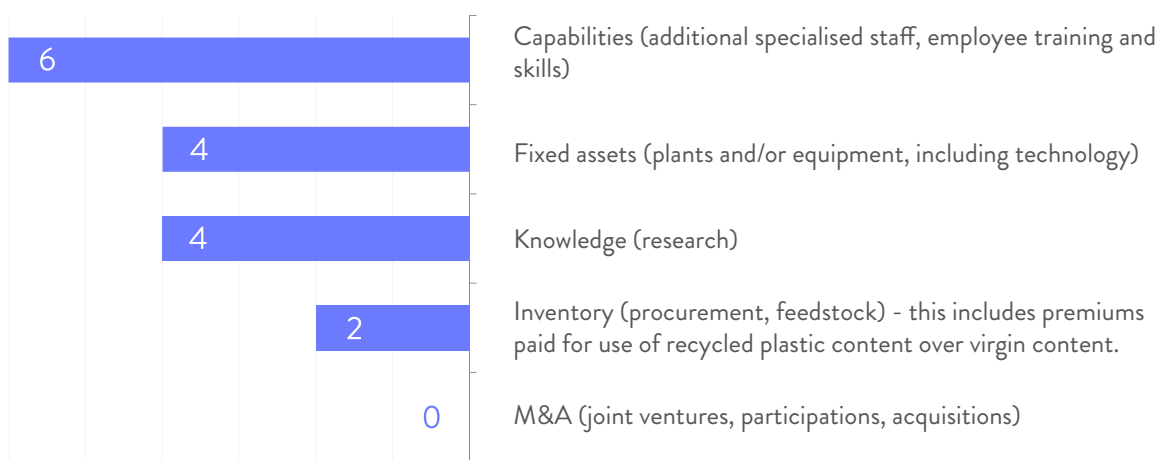
# 5 COLLABORATING AND INVESTING TO INCREASE RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING RATES FOR PLASTICS

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All six hotel chains invested in capacity building by either training their staff on the management of plastic or by forming specialized teams, with a view to improving collection and segregation of recyclable and organic materials to help increasing recycling and composting rates in practice. Four out of six hotel chains also invested in new technologies and equipment, or in research to identify alternatives to plastic. However, investments in inventory were only targeted by two hotel chains.

## INVESTMENTS MADE BY HOTELS

NUMBER OF HOTEL CHAINS REPORTING EACH ACTION



## CONCLUDING REMARKS

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Companies that participated in the first GTPI reporting exercise made some significant progress in terms of elimination of problematic and/or unnecessary plastic items and packaging, particularly in food and beverages services, bathrooms, service areas and rooms. The elimination of problematic and/or unnecessary plastic items and packaging in kitchens and cleaning services needs to be further addressed. With regards to the introduction of reuse models, stronger emphasis needs to be made on service areas and kitchens. In addition, tourism stakeholders should increase their efforts towards collaboration on value chain level in order to move towards 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable as well as in order to improve recycling rates.





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