



Webinar #16 - Sustainable Tourism Programme

# ADDRESSING PLASTIC POLLUTION IN TOURISM DESTINATIONS

29TH OF OCTOBER 2019 (14H00-15H00 CET)



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Ignacio Sanchez Diaz, Resource Efficiency Programme Officer, UNEP



Carl Hunter, Chair of the Saint Lucia Hospitality & Tourism Association Environmental Committee



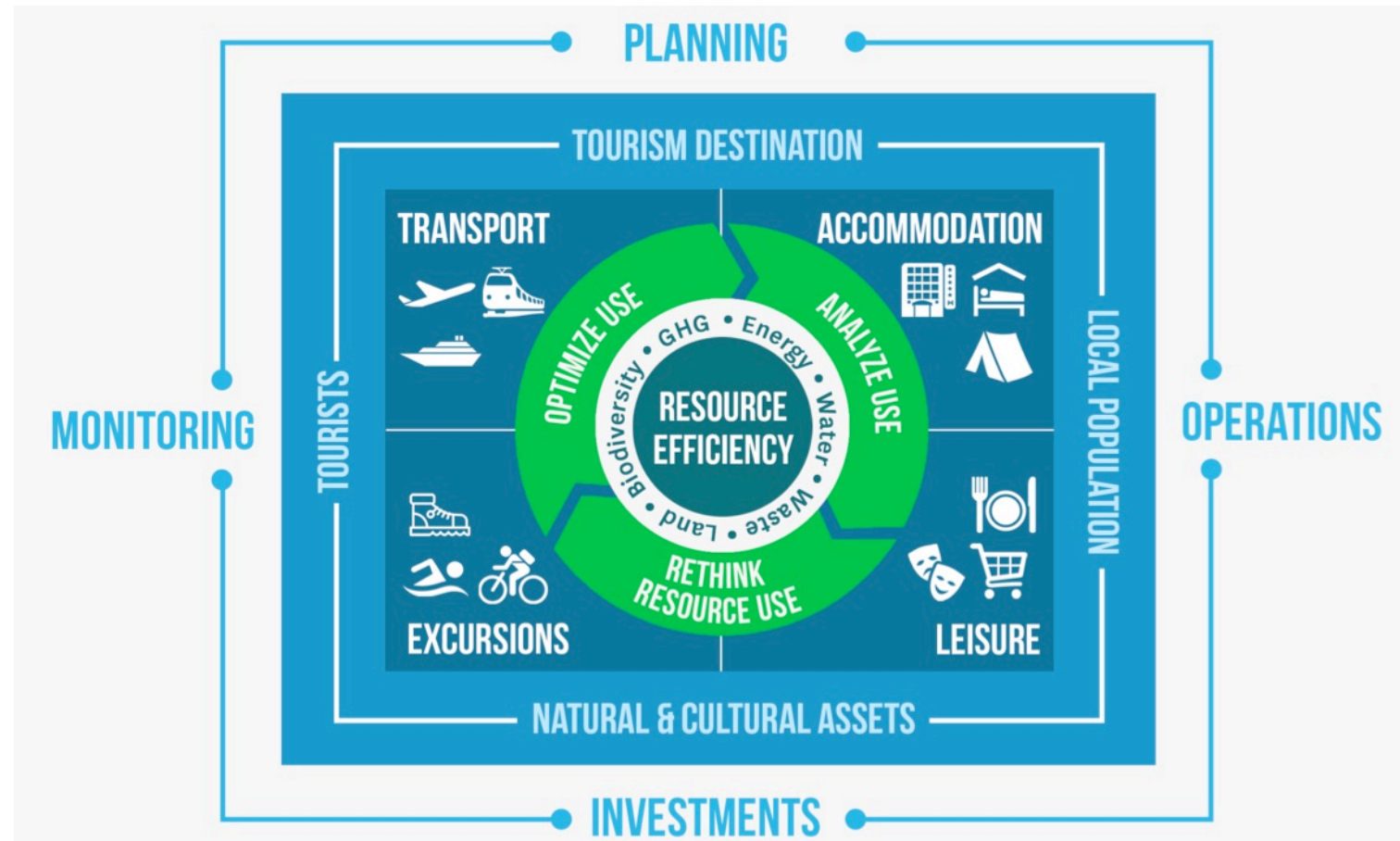
Saskia Pepping, Project Manager MVO Nederlands





**One planet**  
travel with care

A global and diversified network involving over 160 actors with one common goal:  
**decoupling tourism growth from the consumption of finite natural resources**



## Tips for a smooth session:

- *All attendees are on listen-only mode (please make sure you are muted and your web camera is off)*
- *Attendees can ask questions to the panellists anytime throughout the webinar by posting them in the chat box of the control panel*
- *At the end of the webinar, during the Q&A session, the moderator will be reading out the questions*
- *The session is being recorded and the YouTube link will be sent to you and posted on the One Planet Clearinghouse and One Planet STP web page (UNWTO website) tomorrow*

## Objectives of the webinar are to:

- *Discuss how destinations can assess and reduce plastic pollution by improving their planning and management;*
- *Learn more about existing alternatives to plastic to revisit procurement strategies;*
- *Explore how the tourism sector can become a catalyzer for change and find innovative solutions to address plastic pollution and marine litter.*



Ignacio Sanchez Diaz  
Resource Efficiency Programme Officer, UNEP



# TOURISM SECTOR IN THE CARIBBEAN

The economy of the región depends heavily on tourism.

It had revenues of **US\$ 57,000 million** in 2017.

Represents the **15%** of the region's **GDP**.

Receives more than **30 million** visits every year.

As the industry grows, more natural resources are taken, especially from the oceans.

As a consequence, the levels of marine litter, mainly of single-use plastics, increase.

# ¿WHICH IS THE CURRENT SITUATION OF PLASTICS IN THE CARIBBEAN?

**12%** of solid waste generated, are plastics.

**322,745** tons of plastic are not collected every year\*\*.

There are **200,000** pieces of plastic waste per km<sup>2</sup>.

Plastic bottles represent **21%** of marine litter.

Source: World Bank Group, 2019. Marine Pollution in the Caribbean: Not a Minute to Waste.

\*\*In selected countries of the Caribbean.



# WHAT IMPACTS DO PLASTICS GENERATE?

Marine litter cost is about US\$13,000 million per year.

Annual loss in tourism of US\$622 million.

Reduction in the tourist rate: it affects the tourism supply chain, from food production to the provision of specialized services.

Degradation of beaches, coral reefs and mangroves; flooding due to plastic bottles, plastic bags and Styrofoam.



# WHAT IMPACTS DO PLASTICS GENERATE?

Contamination of the human food chain due to the intake of microplastics by fish and marine life.

Increased risk of disease transmisión: the obstruction of sewer networks creates the scenarios for mosquito breeding.

They release toxic chemicals and emissions if burned.





**PHASING OUT  
SINGLE-USE  
PLASTICS:**

**TOWARDS CLEAN  
SEAS AND  
SUSTAINABLE  
TOURISM IN THE  
CARIBBEAN**

Target countries



Saint Lucia



Dominican Republic

**OBJECTIVE**

Reduce volumen of single-use plastics in the Caribbean.

**HOW?**

Implementing sustainable procurement practices and eco-innovative solutions.





Picture: Marigot Bay Resort & Marina

### Current activities

### Next steps

## WHAT IS BEING DONE?



Engagement with  
hotels that  
prioritize  
reduction of  
single-use plastics



- *Assessment* on waste management and disposal practices
- Opportunities in the market for the substitution



Best practices and recommendations of proper waste management and sustainable procurement



Communications materials to highlight the importance of phasing out single-use plastics



**+ 20 hotels** have been participating between Saint Lucia and Dominican Republic.

**Case studies** about the substitution of single-use plastics in hotels.

**Communication materials:** videos and recommendations for tourists and hotels.

**Scale-up in the region**



Carl Hunter  
Chair of the Saint Lucia Hospitality & Tourism Association  
Environmental Committee

# Recommendations for the Saint Lucian Hospitality Sector for alternatives to Single Use Plastics

Presented by Carl Hunter

The document sought to communicate on the typical types of existing plastics and their impact / manageability within the Solid Waste Management structure of Saint Lucia.

We thought it necessary to reflect specifically on the ability for our existing waste management systems to sustainably manage plastic waste streams.

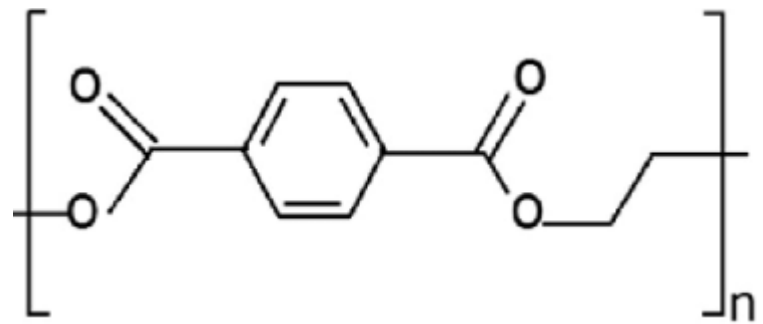
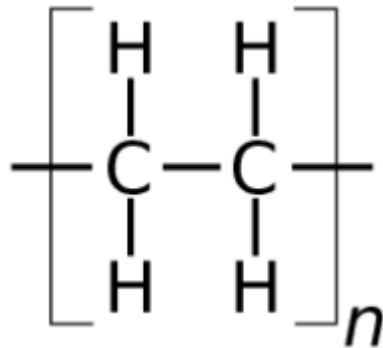
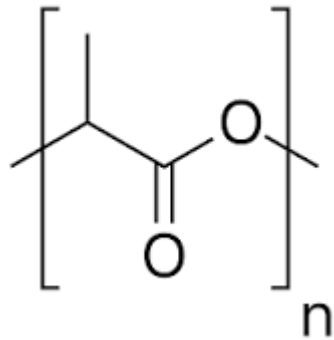


**Saint Lucia Solid Waste  
Management Authority**



We then looked at the major types of plastics currently favored as single use plastics and studied:

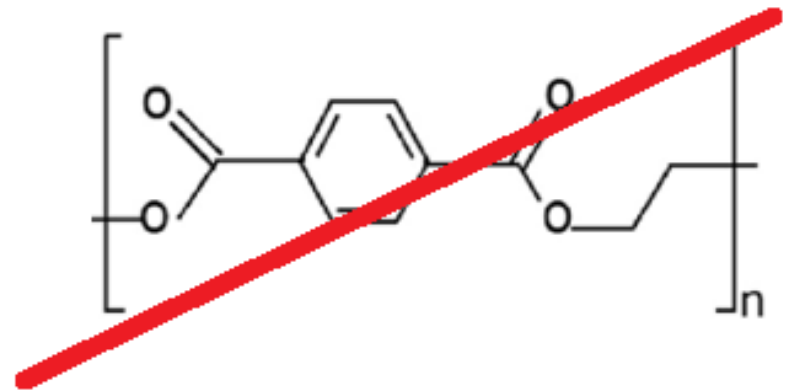
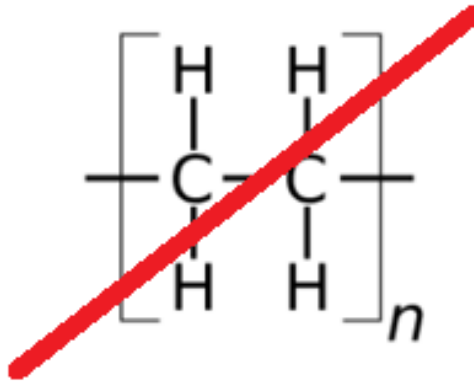
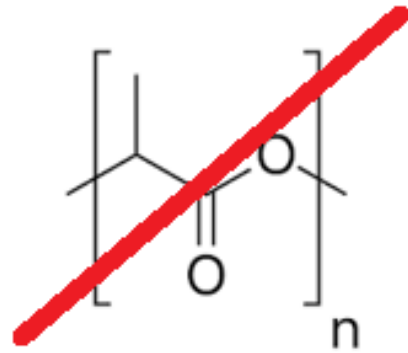
LDPE  
HDPE  
PET  
PS  
PLA



The review indicated that NONE of these plastics (not even PLA) would be suitable for St Lucia.

We assume though have not fully studied it that our situation would be fairly closely mirrored by other nations within our region.

**LDPE**  
**HDPE**  
**PET**  
**PS**  
**PLA**

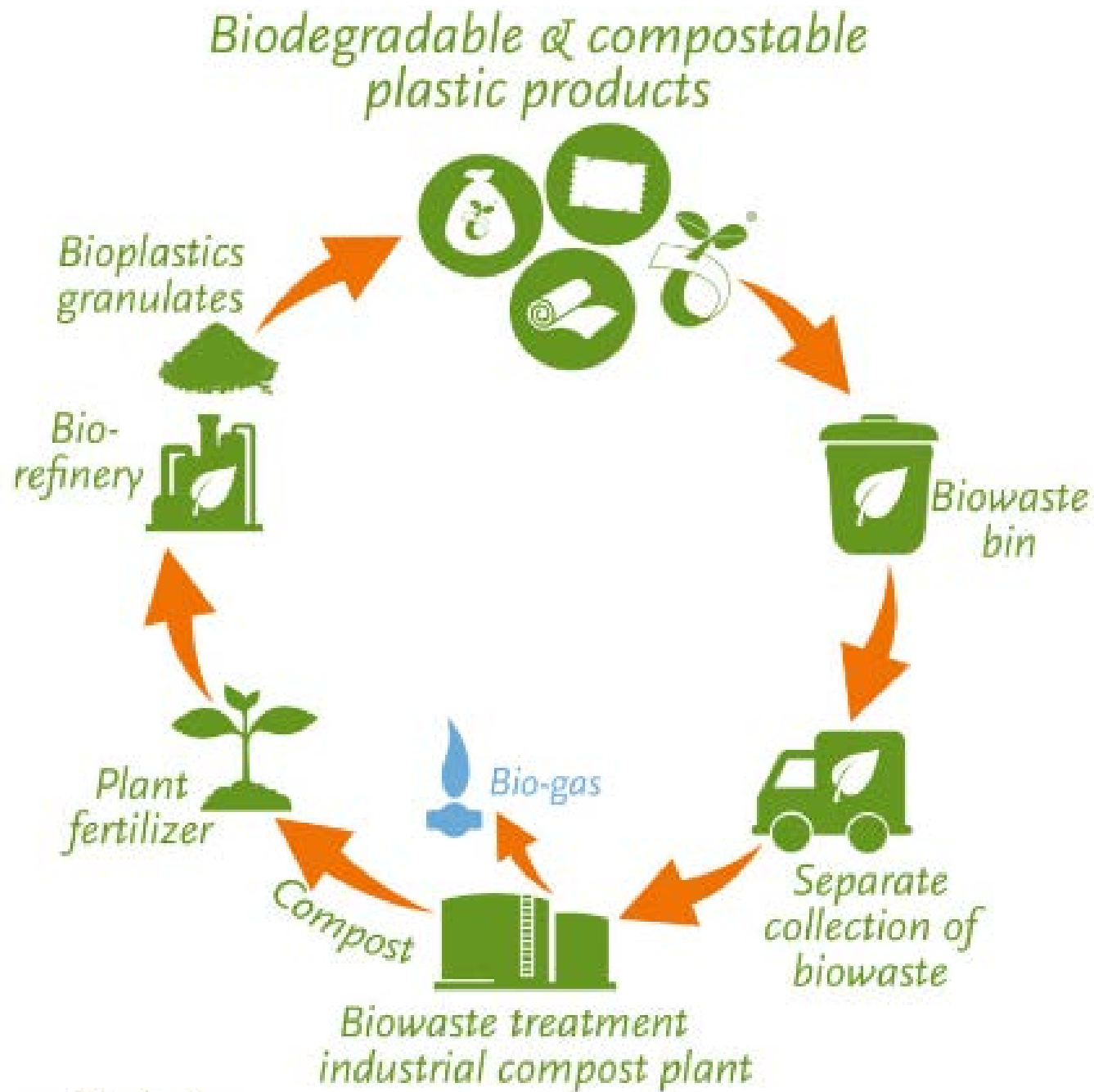


# Why PLA is a fail?

PLA (Poly Lactic Acid - Bio plastics – typically corn starch containers) are touted as the sustainable alternative to chemical polymers.

Where as this may be true in locations with a matured recycling and composting facilities. PLA would not be a solution for our needs.

PLA Requires an industrial composting process which occurs at a much higher heat level than back yard or agricultural composting.



PLA requires a 5 step process to be successfully recycled.

In St. Lucia we fail at step #2



# Alternative Recommendations.

First ask – WHY DO WE NEED/USE THIS?

**We do not need:**

Straws

Miniature amenity product bottles

Branding stickers on toilet rolls



# Alternative Recommendations.

## Next Ask – WHAT DID WE USED TO DO? – TRADITIONAL WAYS

The traditional use of calabash, coconut and bamboo for containers and cups is a great and sustainable use form. They offer a cool alternative to single-use food and drink containers.



# Alternative Recommendations.

## FOOD CONTAINERS - Sugarcane Bergasse

Bergasse containers are for St. Lucia most likely the best way to go. They come in the same format as Styrofoam containers.

There is currently an additional cost component which should decrease as the Styrofoam market is replaced with alternatives.



## Alternative Recommendations.

### CUTLERY – Edible cutlery is the way to go.



Edible cutlery requires much less energy to produce than plastic, they are made from a local food source but not removed from the food chain, they are tasty and nutritious, and their production is local and supports employment for production and sale.

**They are 100% edible or bio degradable**



# Lessons Learnt -

**To make effective sustainable decisions for alternatives you must understand the abilities for your location's Waste Management systems.**

**You should get your whole team involved in this – especially purchasing. Often the idea is in the room but we have not engaged our wider teams. The secondary spin off is that your greater team becomes focused on the issue and may start to transform their own personal practices.**

**You should study each need and select the appropriate alternative for your destination or culture – There is no one size fits all solution.**

**You should not shy away from returning to traditional ways – This actually enhances your guest experiences and introduces them to your culture and demonstrates your commitment towards sustainability**

# Thank You

[www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resources](http://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resources)



# Saskia Pepping

## Project Manager MVO Nederlands



# MVO Nederland (CSR Netherlands)

MVO Nederland is the biggest business network on CSR in Europe with 2.000 businesses as their partners.

# Towards a plastic pollution free tourism industry on Bali





Prevention  
plastic waste



HOTEL



Waste

organic waste  
Solution: grow  
fruit & vegetables



rest  
waste

Waste  
collector &  
Waste  
Banks

East Java  
Plastic Recyclers

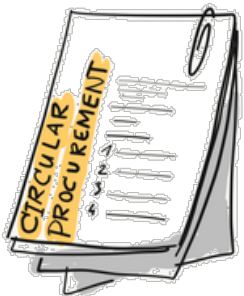
Landfill

Production  
plastic  
Products

Recycling



Application  
Recyclate



Tour Operators  
in the  
Netherlands



Better  
Places



Destination  
Managers in  
Indonesia/Bali



Business/Civil  
society



# Towards a plastic pollution free tourism industry on Bali

No more single use plastics from tourism industry

Circular business models to bring plastic waste management to a higher level

## AWARENESS

- Awareness raised by tourist via tour operators
- Awareness raised in the supply chain by DMC's
  - Supply chain provides infrastructure for the reduction of plastic

## REDUCING PLASTIC WASTE

- Explore how circular procurement can be adopted in Balinese context
- Share lessons learned with hotel and waste management sector on Bali

## CIRCULAR SOLUTIONS FOR PLASTIC WASTE

- Conduct innovation potential study on the plastic recycling industry on East Java
- Pilot to improve quality recycle & application of recycle
- Pilot for circular procurement with plastic manufacturers, brand owners, applies recycle




 **TUI CARE**  
FOUNDATION

 **TUI GROUP**

**noSun**  
Outdoor groepsreizen  
voor individuen

**Landal**  
GreenParks

 **Riksja Travel**

 **Passaat**



**MVO**  
NEDERLAND

**YES! WE SIGNED  
THE INTERNATIONAL  
TOURISM PLASTIC PLEDGE**

[www.tourismplasticpledge.com](http://www.tourismplasticpledge.com)



A decorative graphic in the top right corner consisting of several overlapping circles in shades of blue, green, and yellow.

# Many thanks!

Saskia Pepping

[s.pepping@mvonederland.nl](mailto:s.pepping@mvonederland.nl)





# Q&A session

Please send your questions through the chat box in the control panel





Thank you!

For more information on webinars, please contact:  
[oneplanetstp@unwto.org](mailto:oneplanetstp@unwto.org)

