

Marine Environment and Wetlands Division
Department of Environment
Islamic Republic of Iran

Potential Response Options for Consideration by the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics (AHEG)



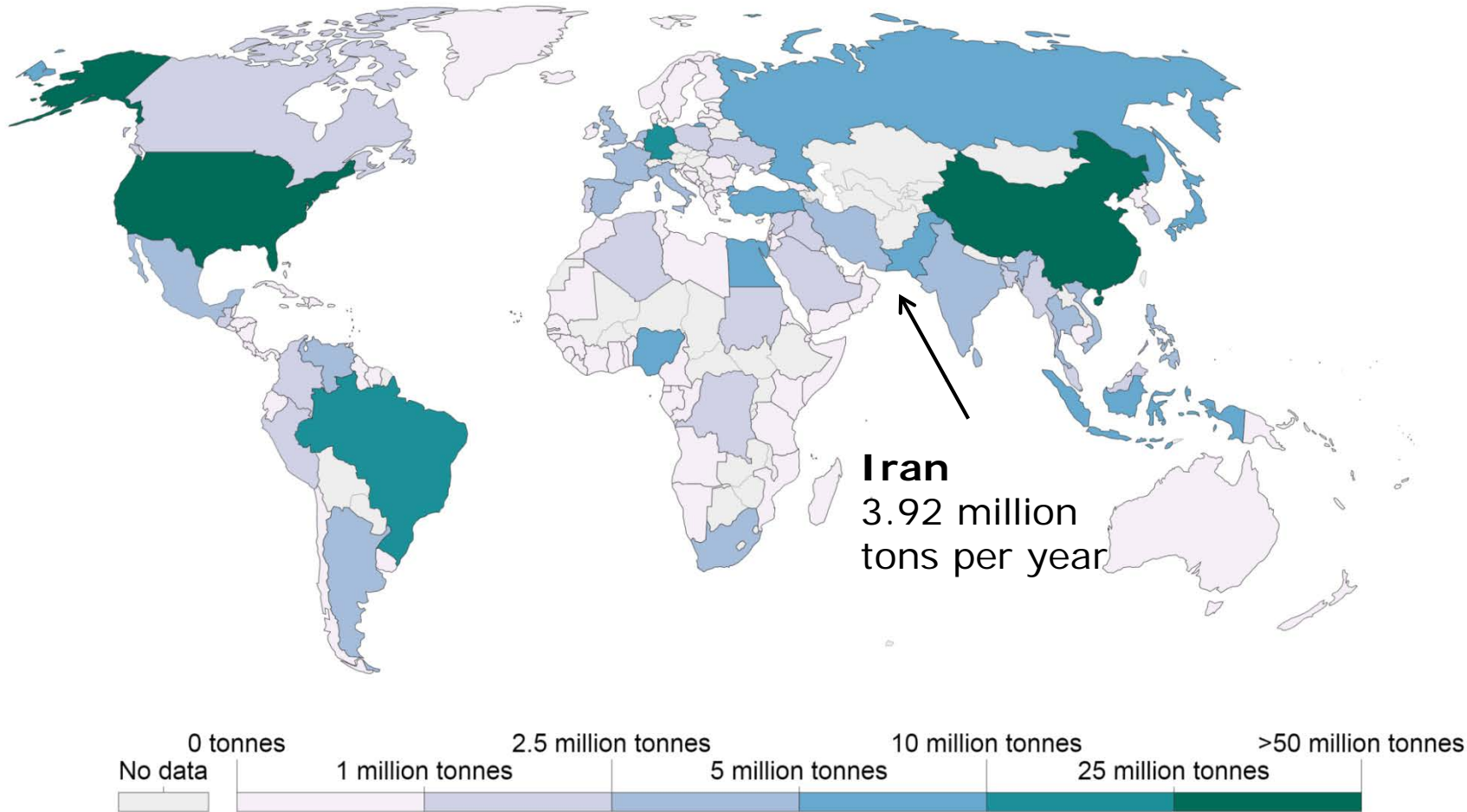
Presented by Dr Zahra Alavian June 24, 2020

Background

- The Caspian Sea is the largest in land water body on the Planet which is not connected with the World Ocean, located on the north of Iran
- In south of Iran, we have Persian Gulf and Oman Sea.



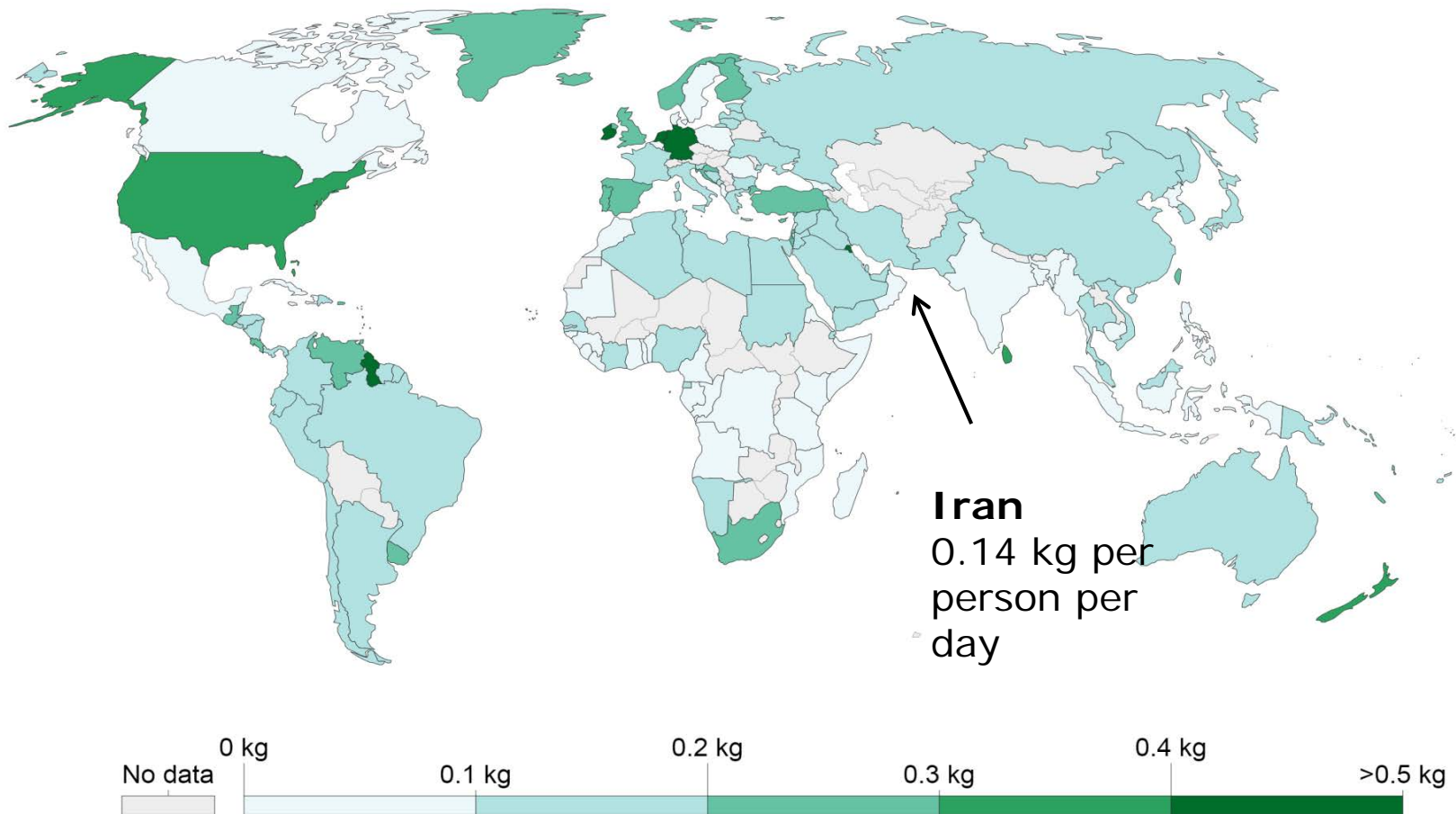
- Land-based sources are considered to be a major contributor to all sizes of marine plastic debris, rivers are a major pathway for plastic transport into the seas.
- In Iran, main sources of plastic waste littered are urban solid waste and costal tourism.



Source: OWID based on Jambeck et al. (2015) & World Bank

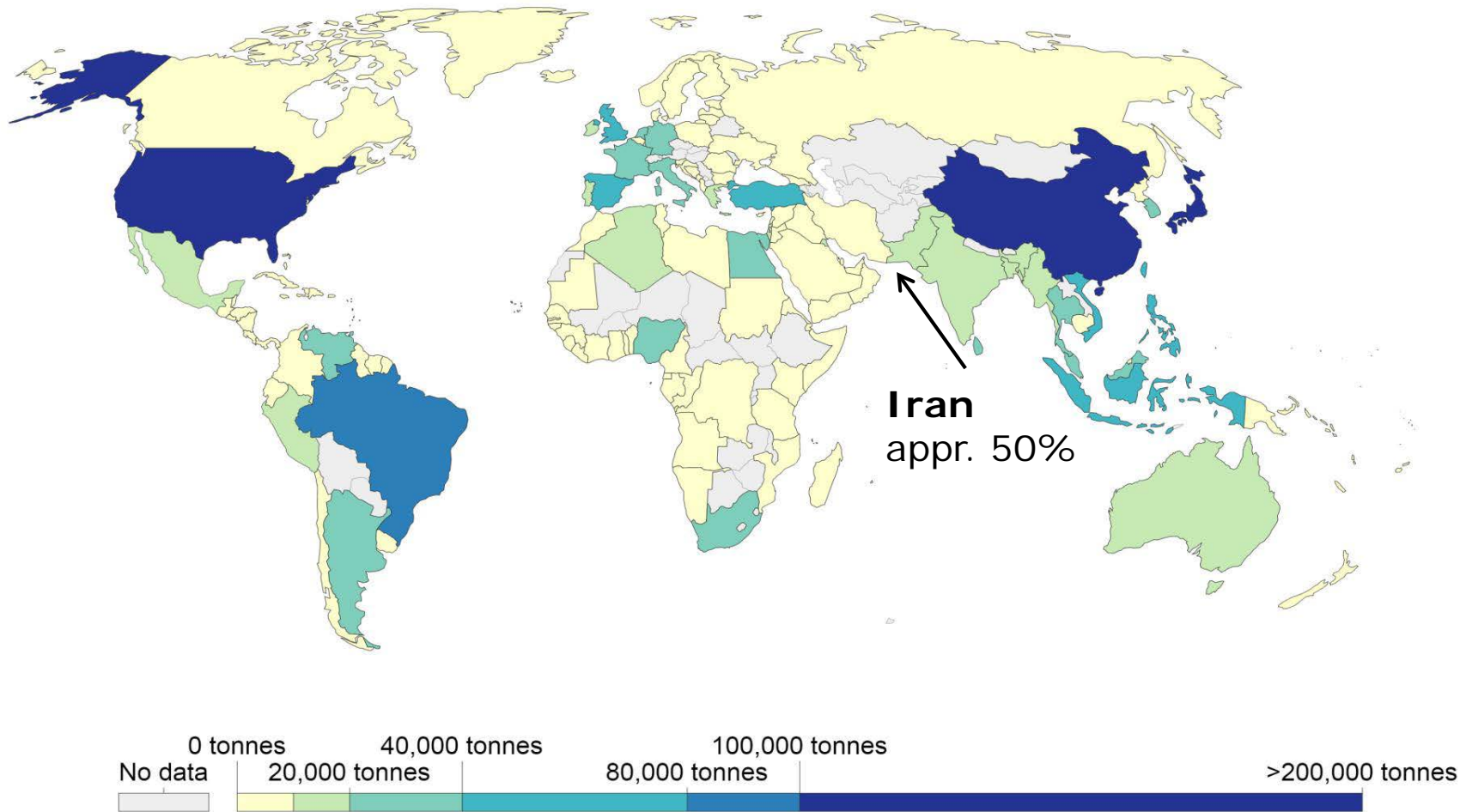
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Plastic waste generation in Iran



Per capita plastic waste generation in Iran

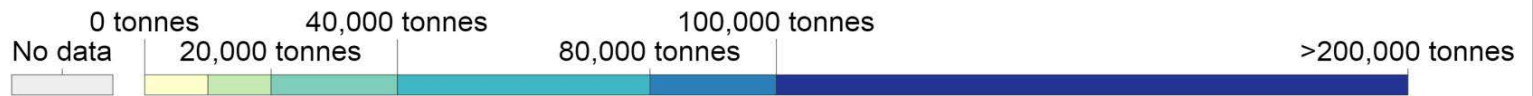
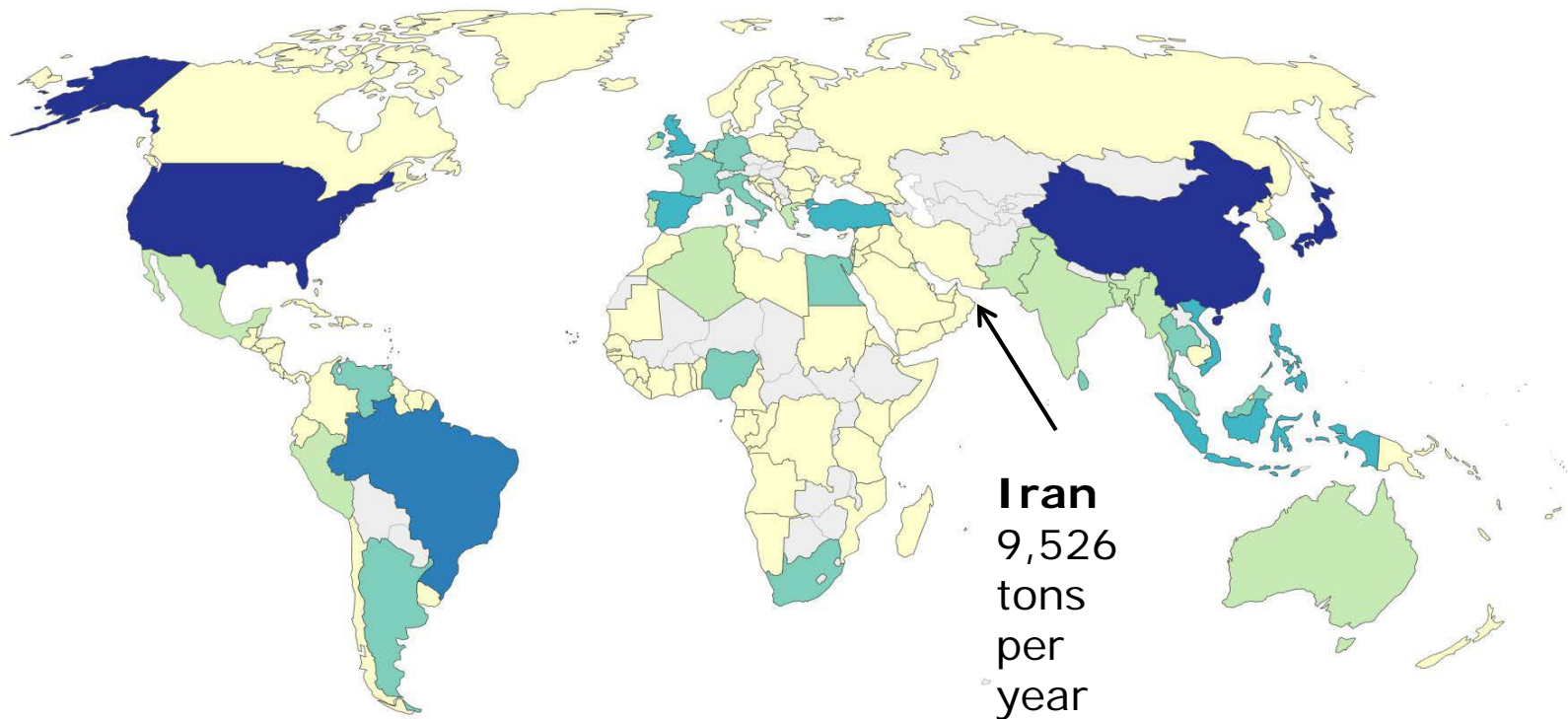
Source: Source: OWID based on jambec et al. (2015) & world bank



Source: Jambeck et al. (2015)

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Plastic waste that is inadequately managed



Source: Jambeck et al. (2015)

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Plastic waste littered

National Barriers

- **Legislative gaps in combating land-based and sea-based litter and microplastic**
 - ✓ A limited mandate on disposing garbage from land-based and sea-based into coastal area;
 - ✓ Lack of strategy framework for marine pollution;
 - ✓ Potential legislative gaps on production and use of materials causing marine litter;
 - ✓ Mandate reporting of gear loss and facilitate sharing of this information to reduce gear conflict ;
- **Weak enforcement of existing legislation**
 - ✓ Weak implementation of laws and regulations in disposing litter and wastewater from different industries into the coastal area;

National Barriers

- **Lack of proper information and reporting from land-based and Sea-based sources** :disposed to coastal environment ;
- **Technology**: Such as satellite monitoring systems like Clean Sea Net focus primarily on detecting oil discharges, lack of proper technologies to replace plastics and microplastic to environmental friendly materials;
- **Financial**: Lack of adequate financial resources to combat different items of litters and microplastic originated from land or sea;

What do we need to do at National level?

- Carrying on in a national bases of identification chemical properties, sources effect, fate and control of marine litter and microplastic ;
- Develop and implement marine litter and microplastic national action plan;
- Improve dumping and dumping sites with best available techniques or technologies;
- Replacement of plastic with environment friendly material such as biodegradable material textile bags and so on;
- Cleaning up of plastic floating in sea water via employing advance collecting devices and new machinery ;



- according to the AHEG chair letter dated 11th Dec 2019, (s)he asked the member states for submission of potential response options in the context of prior UNEA resolutions.
- Our submission of potential response options is outlined in the following slides.

Proposed response options

- Evaluation of effectiveness of the existing best practices of the national/regional level action plans on marine litter and microplastics is highly recommended;
- The AHEG should consider differences between Developed and Developing countries in all aspects; financial, technical, Data and;
- The AHEG should also consider developing guidelines for the circular economy on the basis of improving the economic mechanisms in the field of waste management;

- We would like to propose that the AHEG 4 and 5 should focus its work on:
 - Financial support to developing countries;
 - Financial resource & Mechanism;
 - Facilitate training and capacity building for requesting countries;
 - Implementation & Compliance Mechanism;
 - Harmonized monitoring system;
 - Recycling and reuse;
 - Development of life-cycle impact assessment methodologies;
 - Last but not the least, focusing on how the outputs of the scientific studies could turn into a practical marine plastic and microplastic waste management
- The response options at national level, regional level and global level at the same time with a long-term outlook;



**Thank you for
consideration**

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