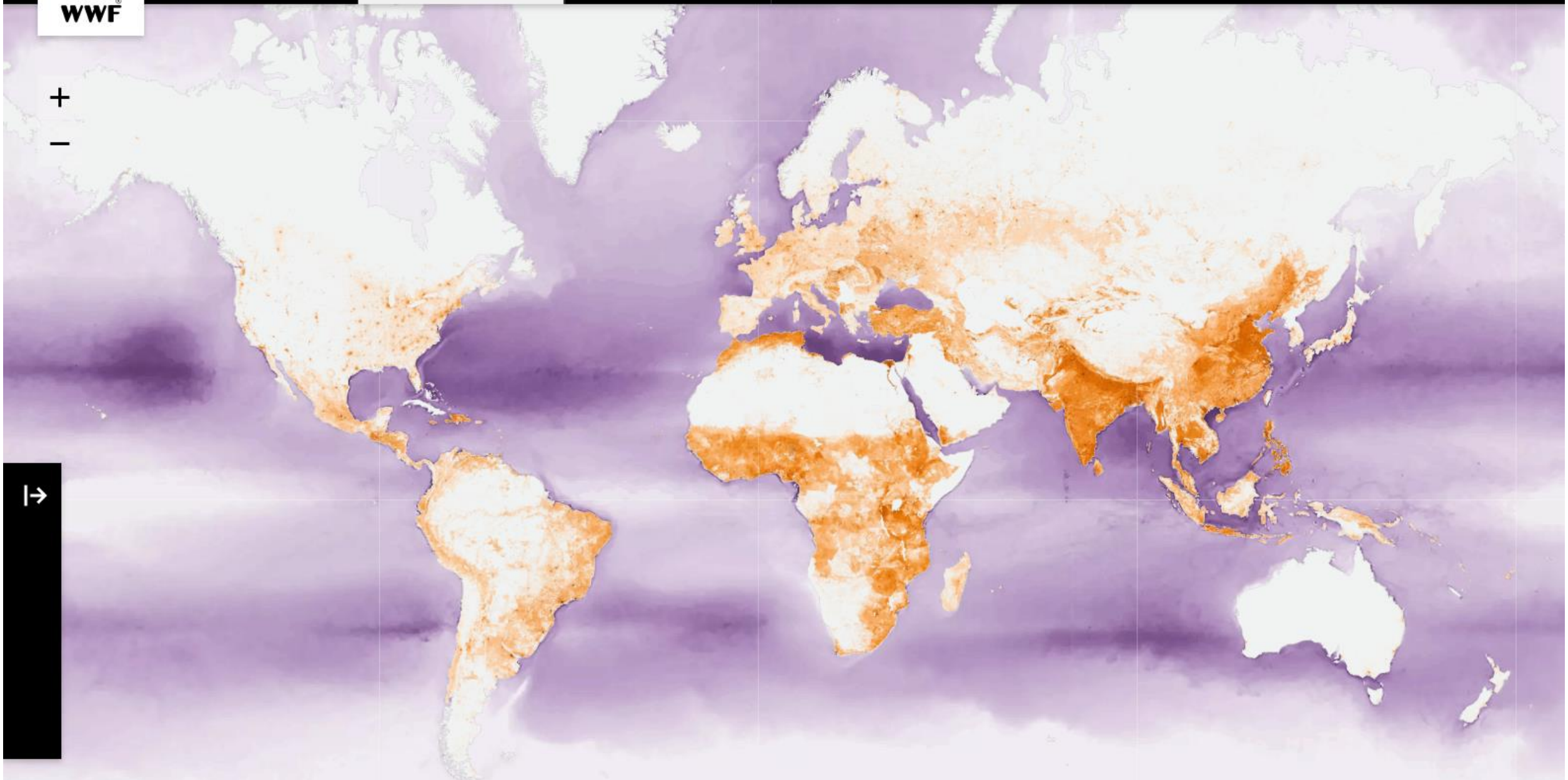
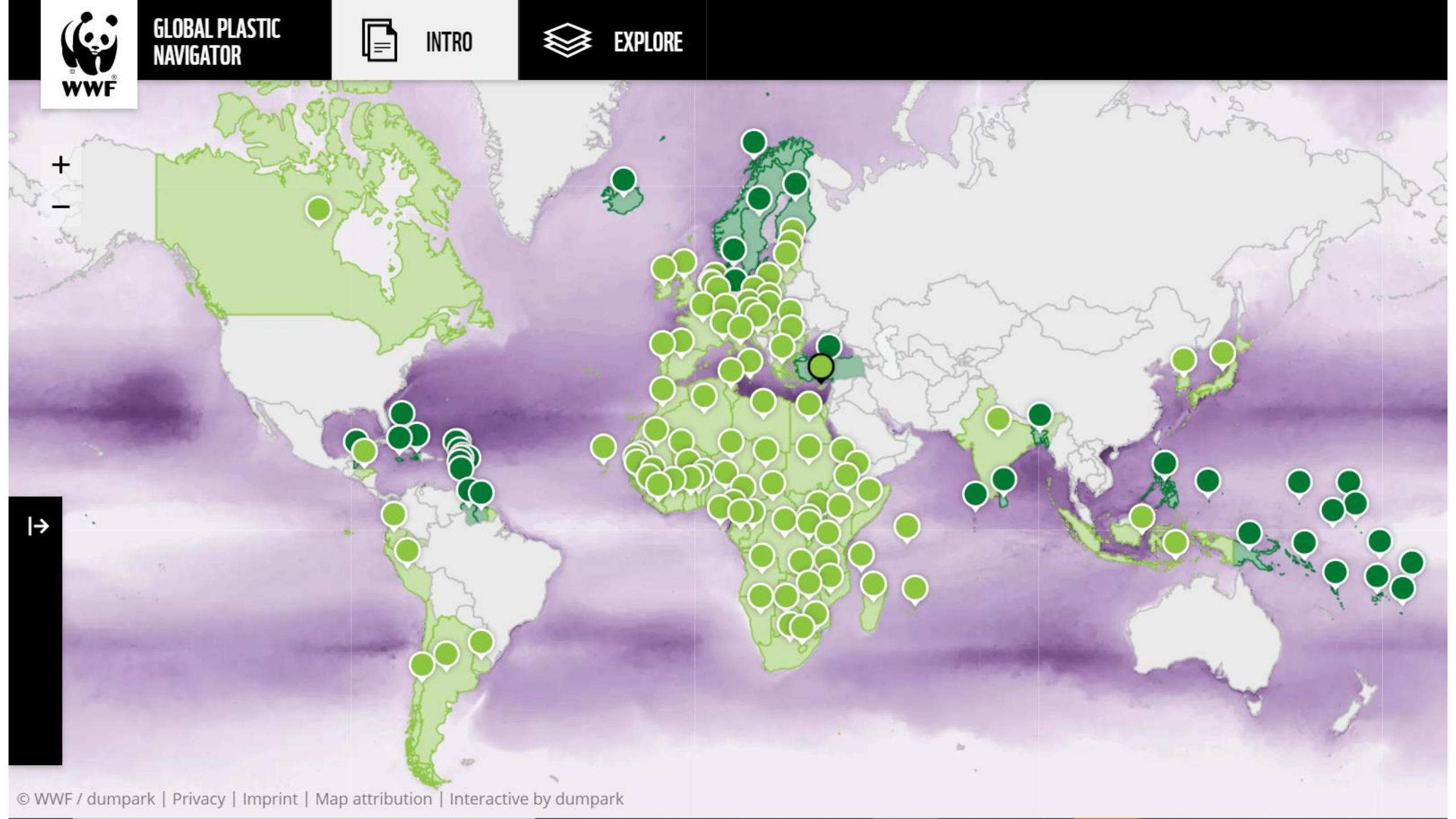
Global response options to plastic pollution

EIRIK LINDEBJERG, GLOBAL PLASTIC POLICY MANAGER
WWF

About WWF

- One of the world’s largest environmental NGO
- Presence in more than 100 countries
- WWF works to conserve the world's biological diversity, ensure that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and promote the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.




GLOBAL PLASTIC NAVIGATOR
INTRO
EXPLORE
© WWF / dumpark | Privacy | Imprint | Map attribution | Interactive by dumpark

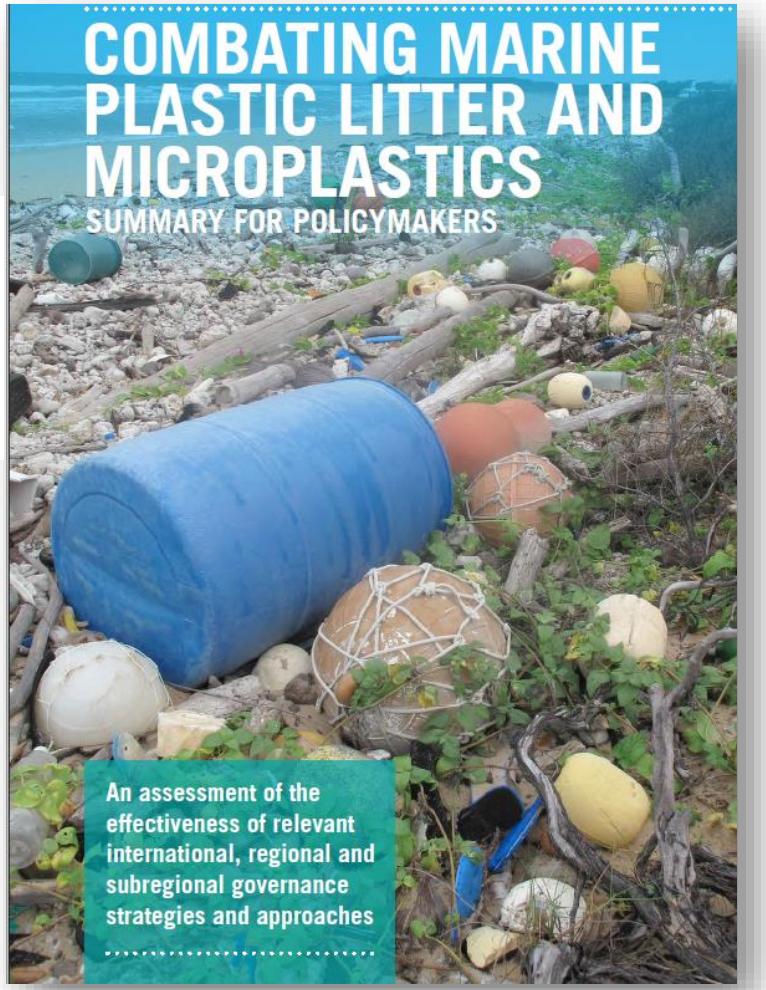
Global recognition of the problem

Sustainable development goals, target 14.1

By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

UNEA, resolution 3.7

1. *Stresses* the importance of long-term elimination of discharge of litter and microplastics to the oceans and of avoiding detriment to marine ecosystems and the human activities dependent on them from marine litter and microplastics



GAPS AND CHALLENGES

01

NO GLOBAL RULES

Lack of global rules, standards or recommended practices

02

NO CLEAR DIRECTION

Lack of global goals, coordination and obligations to follow up

03

NO REPORTING

Lack of common reporting, monitoring and review mechanisms and no scientific body to synthesize and advance global knowledge

04

NO FINANCIAL MECHANISM

Lack of financial mechanisms for supporting states in their efforts

05

SIGNIFICANT GAPS IN NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEGISLATION AND COMMITMENTS

A New International Legally Binding Agreement

What could it be?

1. Global goal and national targets implemented in national action plans

2. Global architecture to coordinate, report and review

3. Intergovernmental panel of experts and harmonized measurement and monitoring

4. Global standards and regulations on high risk materials and disposal methods

5. Implementation support mechanism.
I.e., finance, technology, capacity building.

	GAPS	ACTION REQUIRED	POTENTIAL TREATY ELEMENT
KNOWLEDGE	**PROBLEM-KNOWLEDGE GAP** • **Insufficient scientific knowledge** about long-term effects of problem • **Lack of reliable data** on sources, leakage rates, pathways and concentration levels	**INCREASE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROBLEM** • Developing common indicators and methodology for monitoring the problem • Developing a system for regular and reliable collection and analysis of data • Establishing baselines, monitoring changes over time and estimate future trajectories • Feeding results of the scientific research into policy discussions at all levels.	**DEDICATED SCIENTIFIC BODY** • **Monitoring status** of the problem • **Assessing effects** of the problem • Evaluating trajectories to long-term goal • Advising on action required
KNOWLEDGE	**RESPONSE-KNOWLEDGE GAP** • **Poor of overview of policy measures** and regulatory interventions • Considerable **uncertainty about effectiveness** of response measures	**INCREASE KNOWLEDGE OF ABOUT RESPONSE** • Developing common standards for measurement, reporting and verification • Periodically taking stock of actions and activities on all levels and assessing effectiveness of response options • Monitoring progress towards long-term goal and make necessary adjustments to commitment levels	**MONITORING & REVIEW SYSTEM** • **Annual reports** by all parties with information on inventories (leakage data) and status of implementation of national action plans • **Comprehensive stocktaking**, at 4-5 year intervals, of actions and activities undertaken by States, with a view to assessing effectiveness of response measures on all levels, and to ensuring progress
RESOURCES	**RESOURCE-GAP** • Insufficient **financial resources** • Lack of **technical expertise and support** • Limited sharing of know-how and best-practices	**INCREASE AVAILABLE RESOURCES** • Scaling up international aid flows and improving coordination of aid flows (minimizing transaction costs) • Prioritizing the most cost-efficient response options (e.g. through national action plans) and transferring implementation costs to polluters (e.g. through EPR schemes) • Facilitating capacity-building and sharing of know- how, technological innovations and best-practices (e.g. through training programmes and a policy toolkit)	**IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT ARCHITECTURE** • **A policy toolkit/**clearing house mechanism, to facilitate sharing of know- how and best-practices, and to promote cost-efficient response options • **A dedicated financial mechanism** to support implementation of treaty obligations • **A programme for training** of technical experts • A support system for research, development and innovation
LAW	**RULES-GAP** • Lack of agreed and **globally applicable rules,** standards and obligations for tackling the problem	**AGREE ON A SET OF RULES AND STANDARDS** • Obligations to develop and periodically update national action plans, to serve as tools for achieving benchmark targets • Certain technical minimum standards and requirements deemed key to achieving the long term goal • Restrictions on certain high-risk substances or products • Explicit bans on certain acts considered to defeat the object and purpose of the treaty	**A SET OF TREATY-BASED OBLIGATIONS** • **Globally agreed minimum standards** and requirements • Framework for periodically reviewing and updating the globally applicable norms and standards

go.panda.org/plastics

Are we getting our *GLOBAL ACT* together?

A growing wave of support for global action.

Group of Friends to Combat Marine Plastic Pollution at UNHQ in New York with 55 founding members

European Commission

EU Commission decides to work for a new global agreement on plastic pollution, March 2020

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India

Minister of Environment of **India** calling for a global agreement to be explored, January 2020

Nordic Council of Ministers

AMCEN
African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

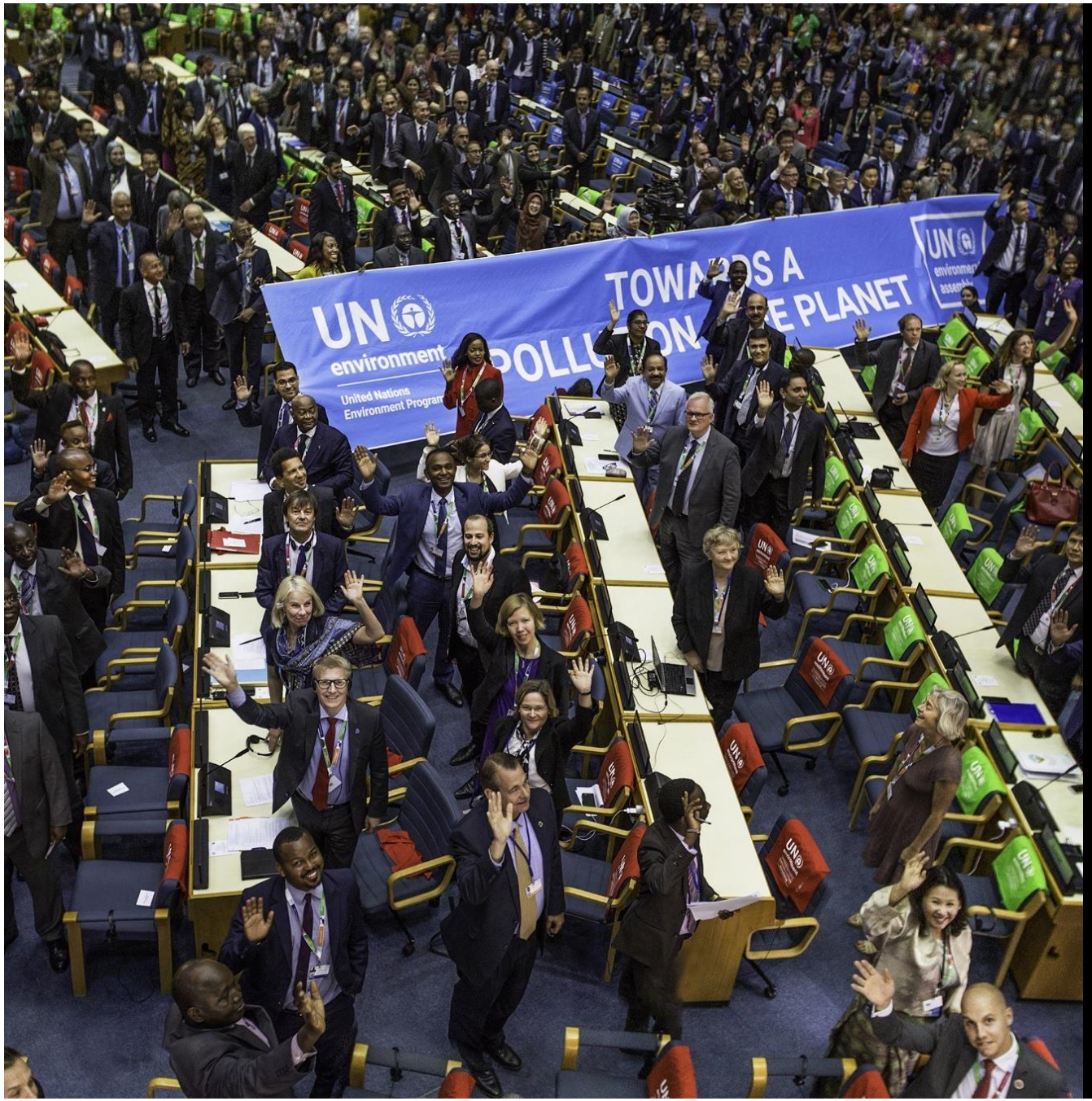
Joint AMCEN declaration by **African Ministers of Environment,** November 2019

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

CARICOM
CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY
A Community for All

The Caribbean, Nordic and **Pacific** governments called for a new global agreement through regional heads-of-state declarations, 2019

WWF



The world needs a new *binding global agreement* and the adoption of a *negotiation mandate* at UNEA5

MAKING IT HAPPEN AT UNEA5

UN environment assembly


Thank you!