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# Global framework to address marine debris, plastic and microplastics

SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT FRAMEWORK AND OPTIONS TO MOVE  
FORWARD



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OF WOLLONGONG  
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Cleaner Pacific Roundtable, 20 August 2018

# Relevant global binding agreements

## UN Law of the Sea Convention

Pollution

**Biodiversity  
& Species**

**Chemicals  
& Waste**

*18 international instruments*

*36 regional instruments*

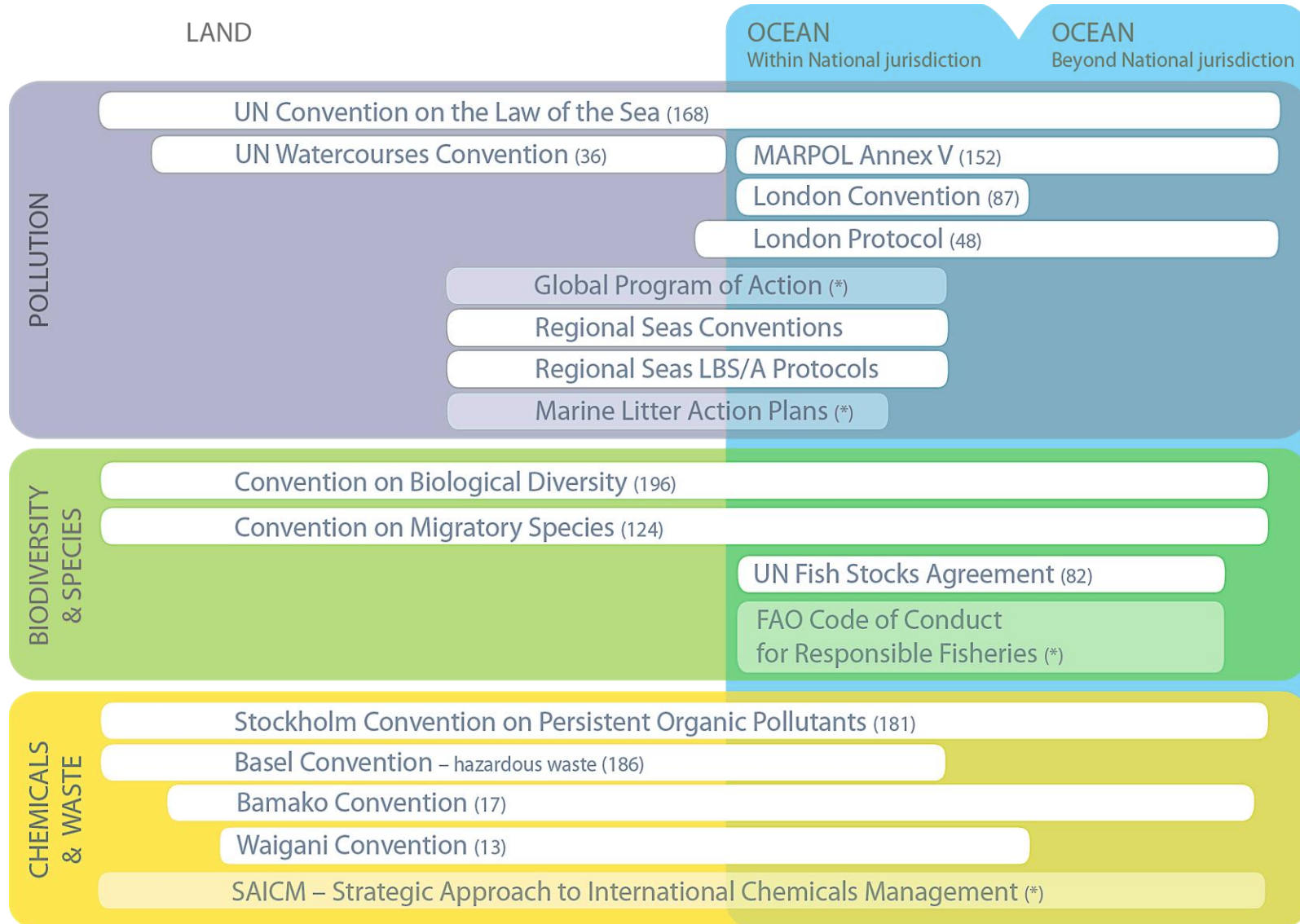
Combating marine plastic litter and microplastics: An assessment of the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and subregional governance strategies and approaches (UNEP/EA.3/INF/5)

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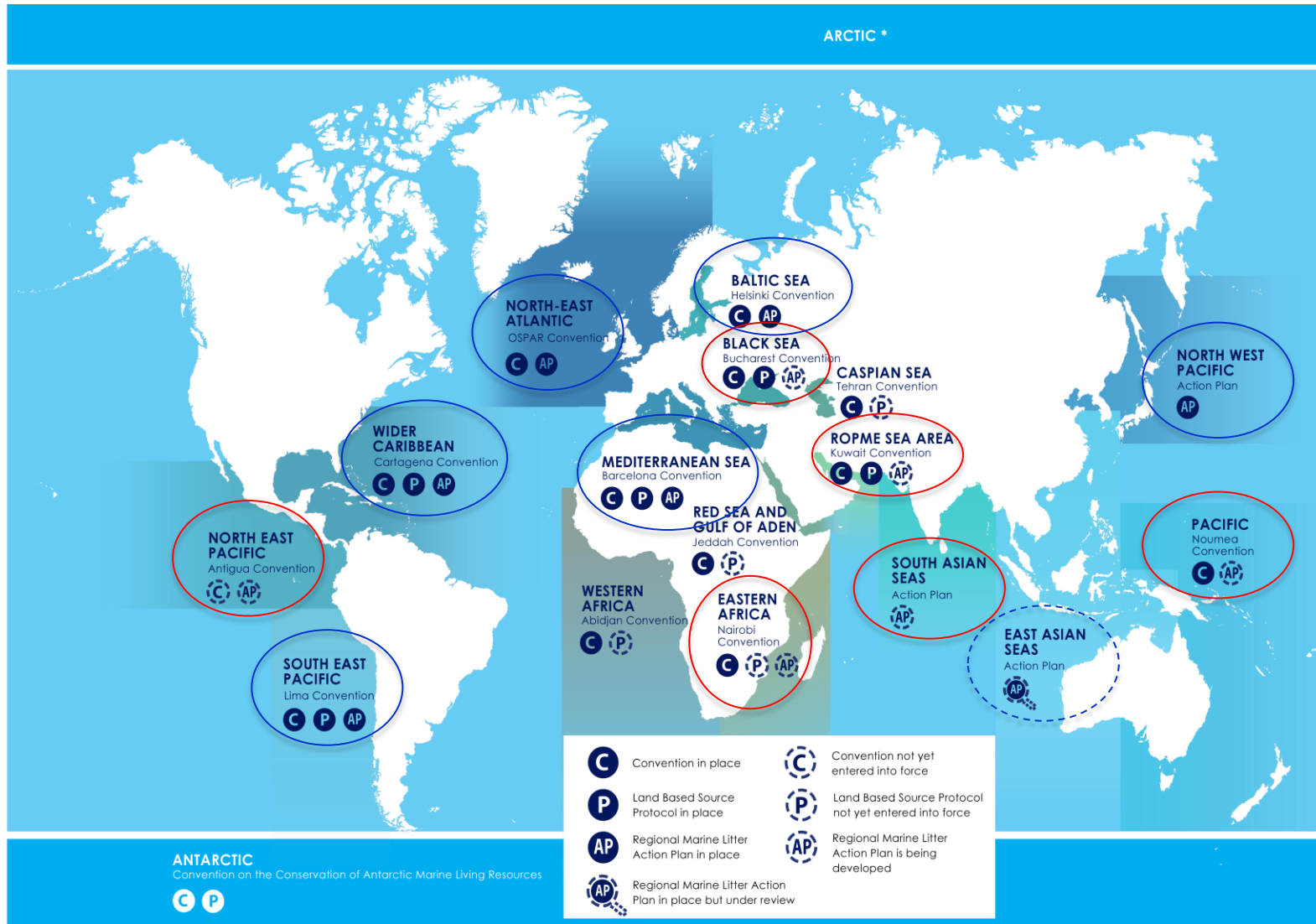
# Overview: international & regional instruments



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# Regional instruments – current status



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# Gaps in the current framework

## INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL



### INTERNATIONAL

#### Scope of application

- UNCLOS addresses activities resulting directly/indirectly to plastics entering the marine environment
- From land, sea and air

#### Definitions

- Most will cover plastic pollution, but limited within full lifecycle

## HUMAN HEALTH, MICROPLASTICS, CHEMICALS

### REGIONAL SEAS

#### Geographic gaps

- 14/18 have adopted a legal framework (one not in force)
- 9 of these have adopted LBS/A Protocols (four not in force)
- Not all States are party to the relevant convention or protocol

#### Limitations in mandate

- Protection of human health (chemicals)
- Upstream activities

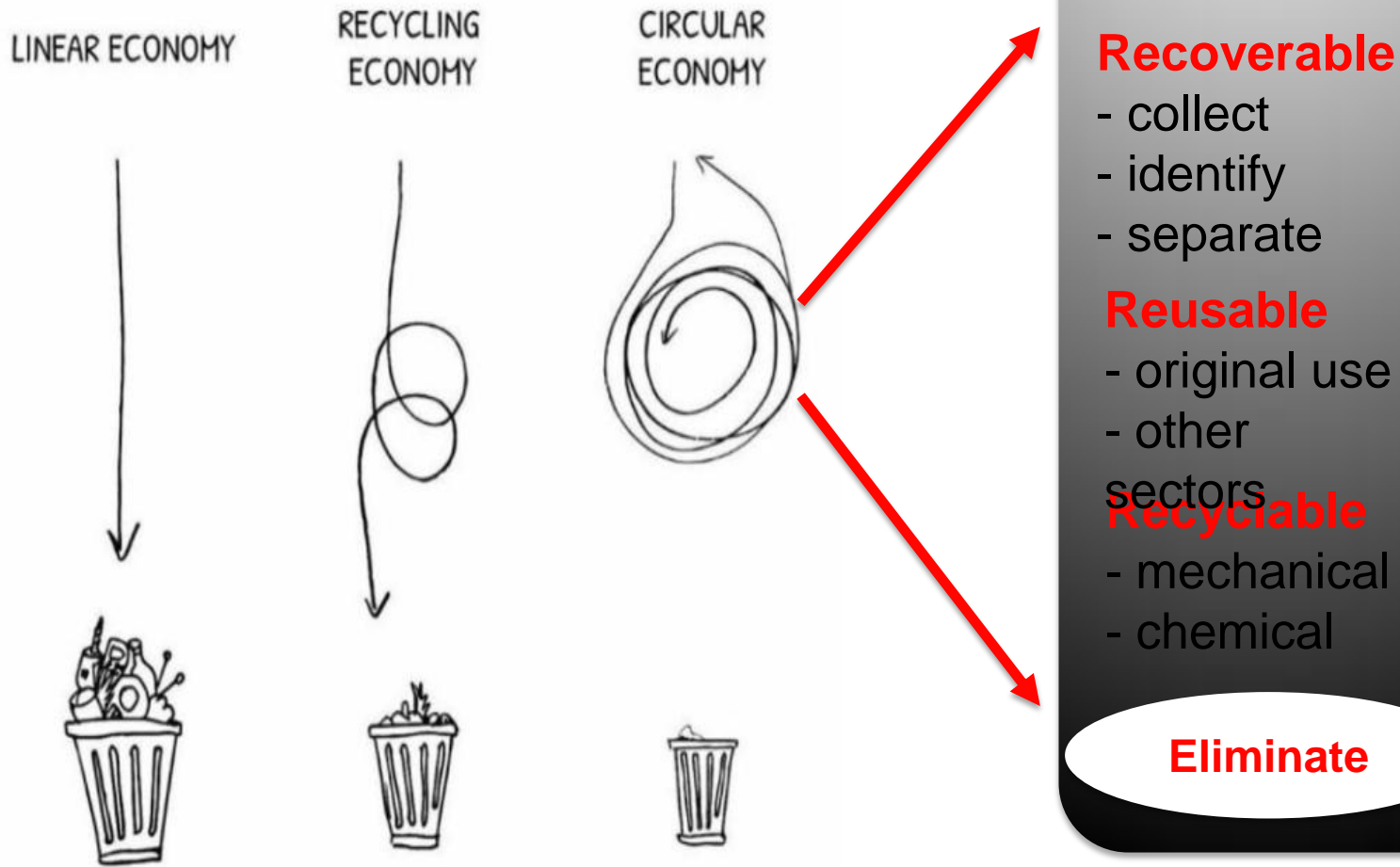


## IDENTIFY



# What is the end goal?

## TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

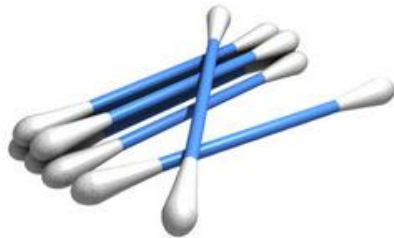


People's Design Lab

# The reality?

## BARRIERS TO THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

**Only 70% of the U.S. waste stream can be recycled or composted\***



## **EU plastics recycling strategy**

- 2030 – all plastics packaging to be recyclable
- 2030 – 55 % all plastics waste generated in Europe to be recycled

# Tackling the issue

## DECONSTRUCT THE PROBLEM

### 1) Unnecessary/problematic applications and materials

- Aim to reduce, eliminate
- Alternate materials

### 2) Necessary short- and medium-term applications

- Aim to manage

### 3) Long-term applications

- May have legacy issues
- How to manage in waste stream

### 4) Non-recyclable applications and materials

- Mechanical recycling into houses, roads, etc.
- Waste-to-Energy (with care)

### 5) Microplastics

- Aim to reduce, eliminate primary
- Prevent secondary thru design, regulation, lifecycle assessment





# EPR for packaging in Norway

## New amendment to waste regulation



- Must join approved compliance scheme (traditional)

- If supply market with min. 1,000kg packaging type / year
- Finance the collection, sorting, recycling & other processing of waste packaging

- May only place packaging on Norwegian market if:

- Complies with Annex I (Design, reuse, recycling requirements)
- % can be recycled into marketable products in compliance with community standards

- Must prevent waste & report

- Report % change in packaging onto market & decrease in waste generated from previous years



# Creating end-markets

## SUPPORTING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

### Creating supply

#### Landfill taxes/bans

- increase diversion
- international trade

#### Licence fees

- not recyclable
- no recycled content

### Creating demand

#### Procurement policies

- % recycled content
- Government



#### Recycling targets

- incentivise collection
- investment

**IMPLEMENT**



# Making it a reality

## POSSIBILITIES AS A REGION

### Harmonised national measures

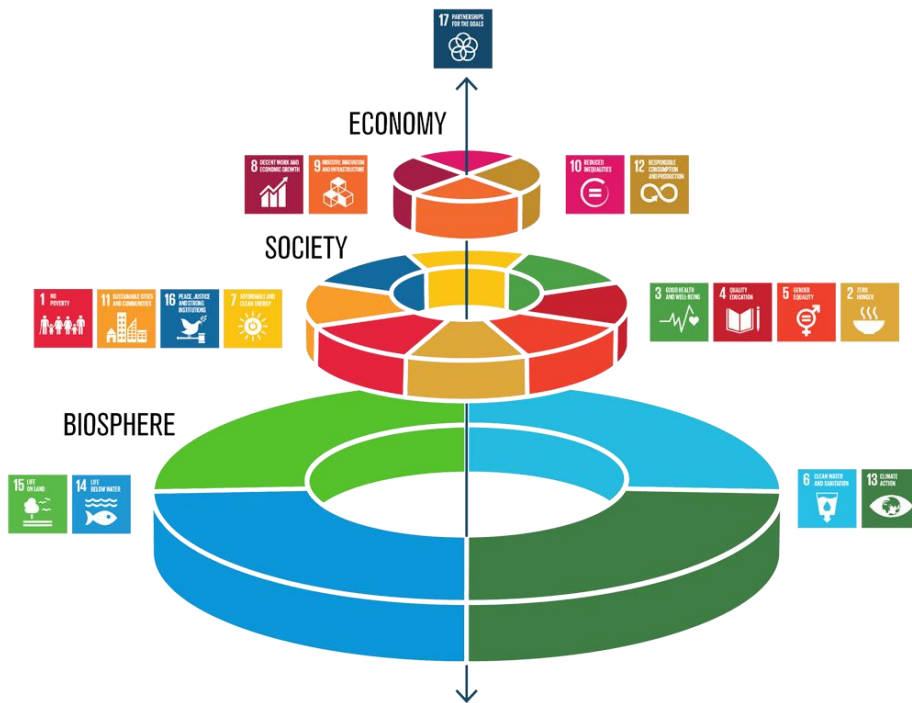
- Regulate manufacture, import & sale of single use plastic products
  - Bans, recycled content, recyclability
  - Prohibit microplastics in personal care products
- Collection
  - Container deposit schemes
  - Reverse logistics
- Raising funds
  - Non-Pacific visitor environmental levy
  - Environment fund based on levies/fees/charges:
    - Visitor levy, license fees for plastics manufacturers, importers, retailers
    - e.g. Taiwan EPA fund - <http://recycle.epa.gov.tw/>



**IMPLEMENT**

# Broadening the scope

## NOT JUST MARINE ECOSYSTEMS



### SDGS – beyond 14.1

- 2.1 : access to safe food
- 3.9 : hazardous chemicals
- 6.3 : water quality, wastewater (MP)
- 8.4 : consumption & production
- 11.6 : air quality, MSW
- 12.4 : lifecycle of chemicals, all waste
- 12.5 : reduce waste generation
- 14.1 : marine pollution
- 14.2 : marine restoration
- 15.5 : biodiversity
- 17.6 : cooperation, knowledge sharing
- 17.9 : capacity building
- 17.16: support SDG achievement

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Thank you



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