



Safripol Sustainability Conference 2024

Global Plastics Treaty –
industry perspective

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Topics to be covered

- Local Industry vs Global
- Context of the negotiations
- Polymers of concern
- Chemicals of concern
- Risk-base approach and Definitions
- Circularity
- Funding
- National Action Plan - NAP
- Expectations

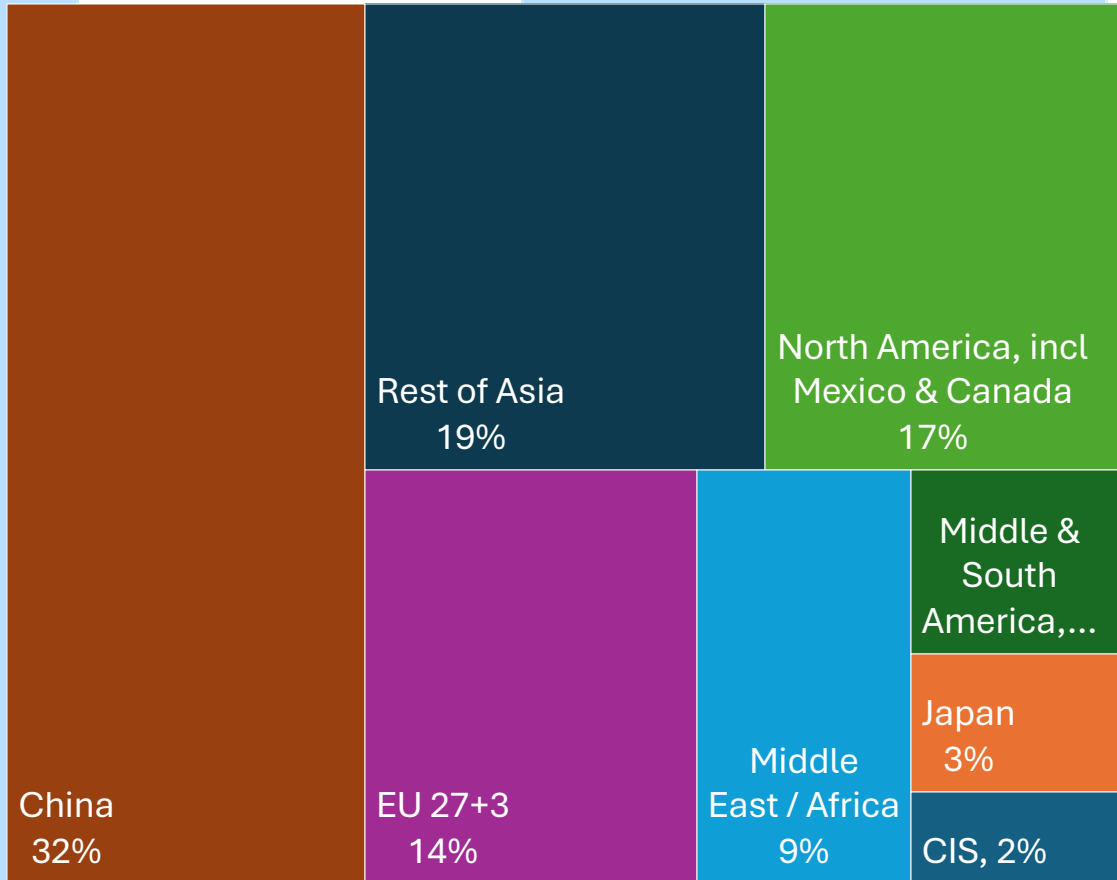


We're championing a global agreement to achieve the **goal of eliminating plastic pollution while retaining the societal benefits of plastics**

<https://plasticscircularity.org/>

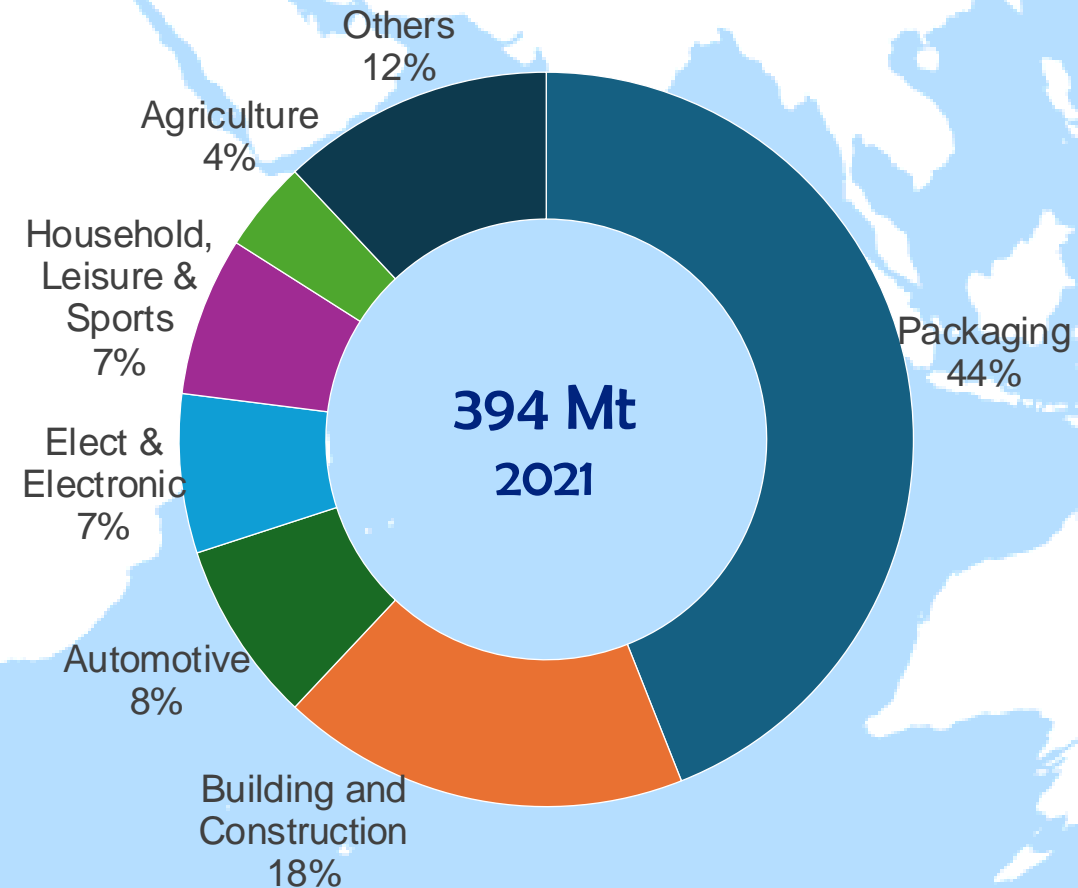


Plastics production by regions of the world in 2022



1. Production scope including fossil-based, recycled (mechanically and chemically), bio-based and bio-attributed plastics
2. CIS: Commonwealth of Independent States : Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
3. Rest of Asia includes Asian countries (except China & Japan), Oceania, Turkey and Ukraine

Global plastics by application

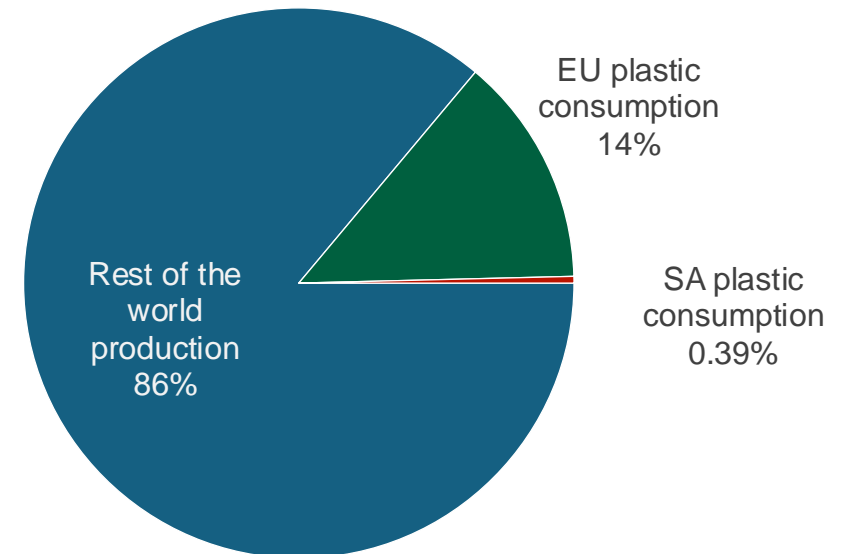


South African data



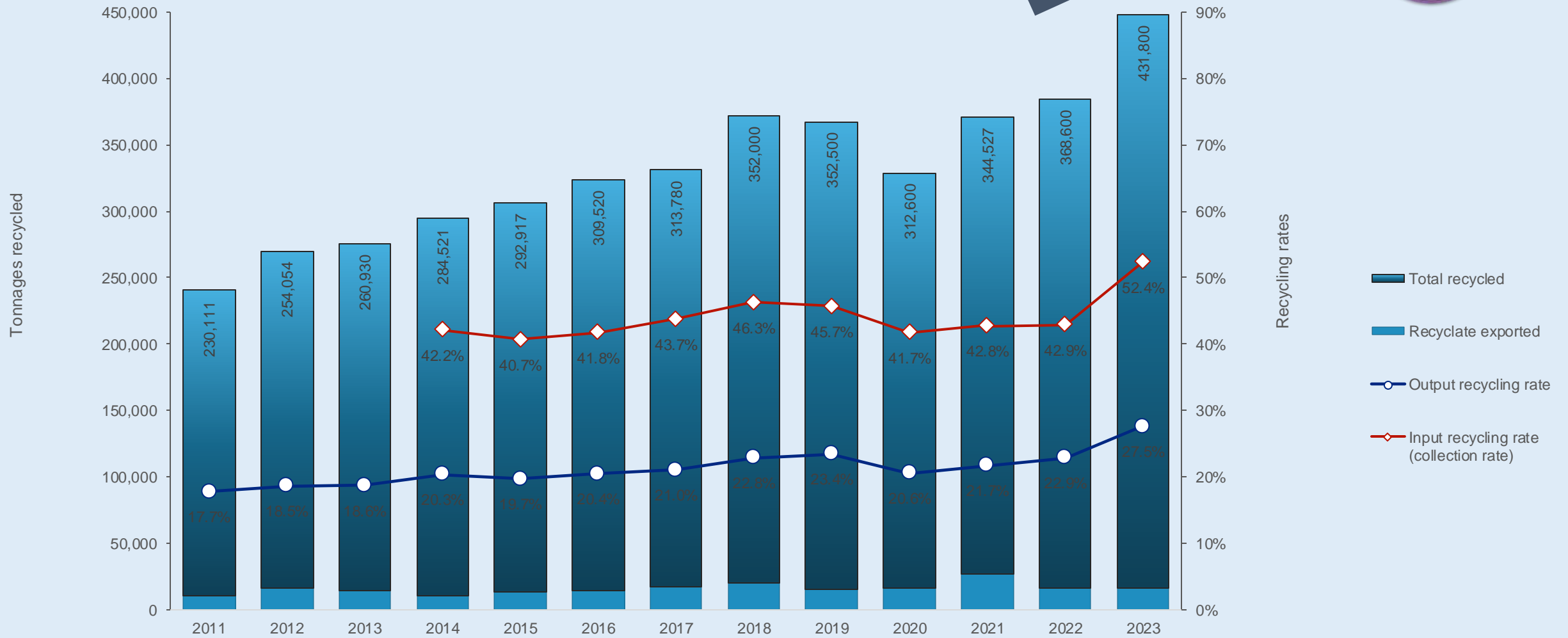
In global terms, the South African virgin plastics industry is significantly small – less than 0.4 %. South Africa's plastics industry is the largest of its kind in Sub-Saharan Africa

The local plastics industry supplies intermediate and finish goods to most of the economic sectors in South Africa and to most of the Sub-Saharan Africa countries





Tonnages recycled 2023





Resolution (5/14)

- In March 2022, at the resumed fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), a historic resolution was adopted to develop an international legally binding instrument on **plastic pollution, including in the marine environment**
- The international legally binding instrument could include both **binding and voluntary approaches**, based on a comprehensive approach that **addressed the full life cycle of plastic**, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as **national circumstances and capabilities**, and including provisions described in the resolution



Context of Negotiations



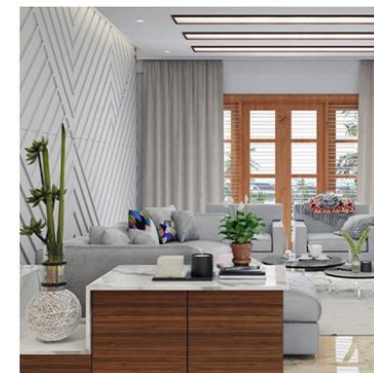
- Members negotiate
 - 175 countries
 - Global North and Global South
 - All at different levels of economic development and waste management systems
 - Need to agree on binding and non-binding elements
- Industry, NGO's and other interest groups are observers
 - UNEP aligned NGO's are allowed speaking interventions
- Industry provide input through written positions/comments, side events and bilateral discussions with members





General Observations

- Plastics feeds into every economic sector
- Members understanding of the plastics industry limited
- “More complex than any other previous negotiations”
- Difficult to get “their minds wrapped around it”
- Convergence on the requirement of sound scientific evidence
- Capacity for implementation
 - Data management
 - Reporting format and frequency
 - Skills required
- Members not utilising capabilities of industry
- Monitoring and Reporting a challenge for some





Polymers of Concern

- Local polymers produces according to international chemical management standards
- Imported material and products to comply with same standards
- Production caps suggested by some
- Interpretation of “Unnecessary” and “avoidable”
- Ensure that alternatives for plastics are equivalent or better for the environment and human health
- Consider socio-economic impact assessment on alternatives
- Criteria needs to be finalised and common decision tree developed



Chemicals of Concern

- Many countries maintain that chemicals should not be included
- Regulate under a national chemical management regulatory framework, supported by the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)
- Need proper management of all chemicals and not only those included in polymers to mitigate negative impacts on human health and environment
- Chemicals are added to plastic for different reasons, UV stabiliser, barrier
- Compliance and enforcement implemented through national legislation
- Avoid duplication with existing Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA's)
- Global Industry is developing a Additive Database



Risk Base Approach and Definitions

Hazardous vs Risk Base Approach

- None of the MEA's use a hazardous base approach
- Risk based and application based approach preferred
- Apply guidelines by using risk and application approach considering local conditions and needs
- Ensure that alternatives or substitutes for plastics are equivalent or better for the environment and human health

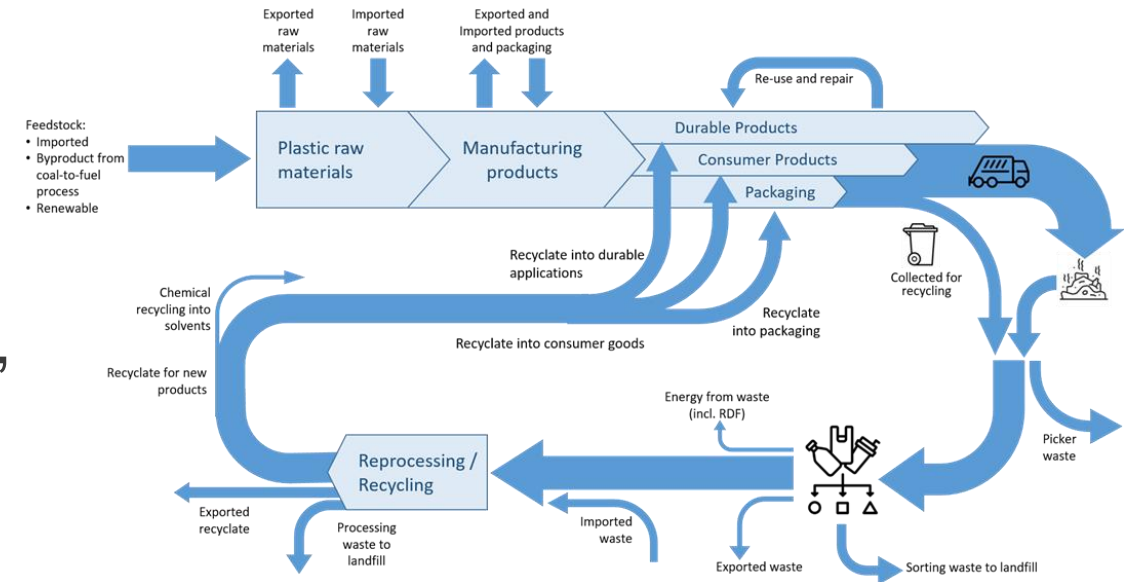
Lack of Definitions

- Many definitions but not agreed upon
- Negotiations taking place in vacuum of fussiness
- Misunderstanding due to lack of clarity
- Punting own definition forward to support own position



Plastics Circular Economy

- Need to Expand and Grow Circular Economy
- Keep material in the circular economy
- Suggested interventions to include sustainable product design
- Redesign products for circularity is critical, but...
 - develop collection systems
 - develop reuse opportunities
- Provide toolkit to assist countries to implement waste collection, recycling and market application (including market development)
- Ensure transparent and quality data





Funding

Support the introduction of a dedicated or voluntary fund providing certain criteria are met regarding disbursement of funds, including:

- a strong governance structure that allows for effective implementation of projects and accountability across all stakeholders
- a clear understanding of the scope, obligations of possible activities to be supported and a clear definition of projects that are not covered
- the local circumstances and needs of a country must be well understood
- funding must be ringfenced for the intended use
- Consideration should be given to the role of incentives and subsidies that drive sustainable programmes and job creation
- Additional taxes not supported (for example a Virgin polymer tax)



Development of National Action Plans



- Need a pragmatic approach
- Determine appropriate national action steps with timelines, targets and effective monitoring/evaluation
- Collaboration amongst stakeholders
- Waste Management System and Infrastructure
 - 39% of South African do not have access to waste management
 - South Africa has a “Broken Waste Management System”
 - Lack Separation at Source (S@S) and infrastructure
 - Transform from “picking” waste based on perceived value to the sorting of all waste
- Education and Awareness Campaigns
 - Address waste behaviour and thinking
- Support and incentivise just transition

INC5 Busan, South Korea



- Last Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee Meeting
- High expectations and pressure to reach an international agreement
- Still many areas of divergence
- Critical to work together - industry must be part of a workable and implementable solution
- Need an effective and implementable agreement for all countries that promotes circularity and eliminate plastic pollution





The fact is that
Plastics, if disposed of
correctly - is one of the
most **fit for purpose**
environmental friendly
material there is!



Thank you
