

# Call for Expressions of Interest to develop ambitious National Action Plans to end Plastic Pollution.

Reduce plastic consumption and pollution through effective, evidence-based steps.

## The plastic problem

Plastic pollution affects Small Island Developing States disproportionately. In addition to the plastic waste generated by their own citizens and visitors, plastic produced by other nations washes up on beaches and risks harming the islands' pristine image that attracts tourists and investment.

*"The magnitude of plastic floating in our oceans is a real threat today to Palau's major economies – tourism and fishery – and the health of our people. Ocean plastic is extremely degraded and is difficult and, at times, impossible to recycle."*

**Ilana Seid**, Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations



## The Common Seas solution

We provide governments with tools and technical expertise to gather data, calculate baselines, agree reduction targets, and design National Action plans to stop plastic pollution.

Our unique, collaborative approach builds capacity and greatly improves national and regional understanding of the plastic problem. It also equips governments with the knowledge and authority to negotiate a robust UN Treaty. Our tools create transparency and accountability, allowing governments to monitor, evaluate and report on their ongoing progress.

*"Common Seas was critical in building the case for phasing out single-use plastics across the Maldives... Common Seas delivered not only solid evidence for what we could achieve, but also practical advice on how to achieve it."*

**Ibrahim Hood**, spokesperson for the President of the Maldives



## Funding available

Common Seas has secured funding to work with five SIDS/developing coastal economies to understand their country's plastic problem and identify the right solutions.

- Global plastic production is set to double by 2030.
- Ocean plastic pollution is set to quadruple in the next 20 years.
- Tourism and fisheries constitute over half of the GDP of small island economies, which makes tackling plastic waste a critical issue.

## A trusted partner, supporting you at every step

Common Seas works in partnerships with governments and businesses to design and deliver scalable solutions that tackle the source of the plastic problem.

Our step-by-step Plastic Drawdown tool will help you to:

- Establish national baseline data quickly, even in a low data environment.
- Visualise how this baseline is projected to grow over ten years.
- Understand the impact of different policy scenarios.
- Build a strong case for action.

Our team will work with you to:

- Align critical stakeholders on a journey from problem to solution.
- Train teams on developing effective plastic reduction policies.
- Understand which policies will best tackle the plastic problem.
- Publish a National Action Plan to end plastic pollution.
- Be equipped with knowledge and authority to negotiate a robust UN Treaty.
- Secure donor finance to deliver action.
- Become a global leader in tackling the plastic crisis.

## Call for Expressions of Interest - requirements

If your country recognises the risk of plastic pollution and wants to do something about it, we can help. In order to qualify for this support, potential partners must:

- Have a significant plastic pollution issue.
- Have access to data, e.g. customs data, waste characterisation studies, landfill data, existing waste data from other projects, etc.
- Provide a designated point person, providing ~2 hours a week support over a 6 week period.

Please submit your expression of interest via email to [hello@commonseas.com](mailto:hello@commonseas.com). A member of Common Seas will then book a discovery meeting to understand how this programme can align with national priorities and explore potential partnership.

## Plastic Drawdown

Plastic Drawdown was developed in consultation with 24 governments including low to middle income countries and SIDS governments. This highly adaptable and peer reviewed tool has been successfully used to understand the plastic problem and potential solutions in 7 countries, ranging from the Maldives to Indonesia.

Endorsed solution within:



2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

## Further Reading

[Case Study: Maldives](#)

[Common Seas Plastic Drawdown summary for policy makers](#)

# TECHNICAL ANNEX:

## How the process works

Common Seas' experts work hand-in-hand with government officials and other key stakeholders to plan and execute the local plastic reduction strategy.

### STEP 1:

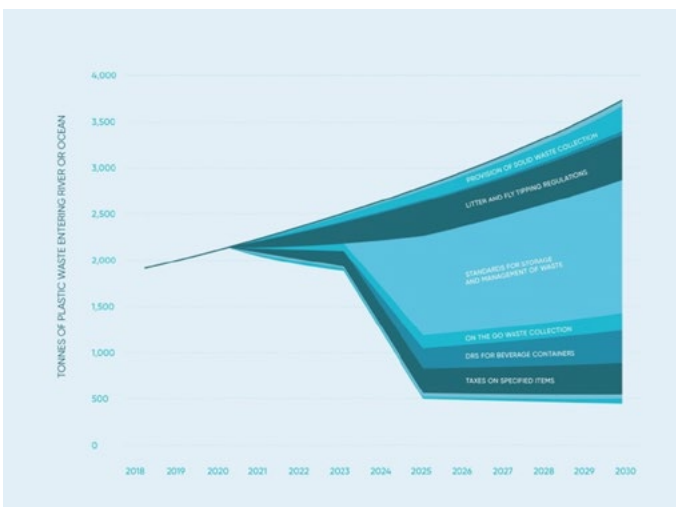
#### Mapping and modelling a country's plastic pollution

We identify which plastics are creating the most pollution in a country, and create a map of where, how, and in what volume plastic items leak out of the value chain into rivers and seas. We then model the trajectory of that plastic leakage from today to 2030.

### STEP 2:

#### Matching a country's plastic problem with the right solutions

Drawing on an in depth understanding of policy and technical guidelines, we identify which policy interventions will best tackle the problem plastics we've identified. We build scenarios, visualised in wedges, to show how different policies could reduce ocean plastic pollution by ~70% over a decade.



### STEP 3:

#### Working with stakeholders to turn strategy into action

We help decision-makers to co-create the most effective strategy for their country. We turn strategy into action by convening the right stakeholders, including national and local government, private sector, and civil society leaders. We identify and implement the practical next steps, such as finding funding, partners and developing R&D opportunities.

- Partner with hospitality businesses to measure and reduce their plastic emissions
- Work with educators to align curriculum and learning experiences about the impact of plastic on our environment.
- Design and implement circular systems. For example, Common Seas supported a water refill initiative in the Maldives, and seed financing for a women-led reusable diaper enterprise in Indonesia.