



Guiding Governments from Insight to Action

Plastic Drawdown is Common Seas' data modelling tool. It uses a waste flow analysis, coupled with consultation sessions, to model and visualise the baseline flow of plastic waste through a country. It allows us to move beyond bans on single use plastics to identify and visualise the impacts of the most effective policies to reduce plastic waste and marine plastic pollution.

We developed the tool in consultation with 24 governments around the world, more than half of whom are SIDS. Designed for use in data limited settings, it combines available data with local insight, making it both robust and adaptable to country contexts. To find out more, you can read the methodology in the [Global Environmental Change Journal](#).

Model Objectives

Designed to help countries move from understanding plastic pollution to taking effective, targeted action, the tool works to:

**Build robust evidence**

Generate reliable, locally relevant data on plastic waste generation, management and leakage, even in data limited settings.

**Identify priority problems**

Highlight the most significant sources of plastic pollution, so efforts can focus where they matter most.

**Assess Policy Options**

Model the potential impact of different policies and interventions, demonstrating plastic pollution reduction under different scenarios.

**Enable decisions & action**

Accessible information informs national planning and guides the development of targeted, evidence based solutions and policy.



- ✓ Peer reviewed in Global Environmental Change Journal ([Royle et al., 2022](#))
- ✓ Developed with 24 Governments
- ✓ Deployed in multiple countries
- ✓ United Nations Endorsed

“ Plastic Drawdown was critical in building the case for phasing out single-use plastics across the Maldives. The model gave the Maldivian Government the confidence to set an ambitious target to phase out single-use plastics. 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 Maldives

Plastic Drawdown in Action

The impact of priority policies in the Maldives

2020

Common Seas partnered with the Government of the Maldives and used the Plastic Drawdown tool to help them identify policies to prevent **85% of plastic pollution in a decade**, including over 1.3 million single use plastic bottles.

2021

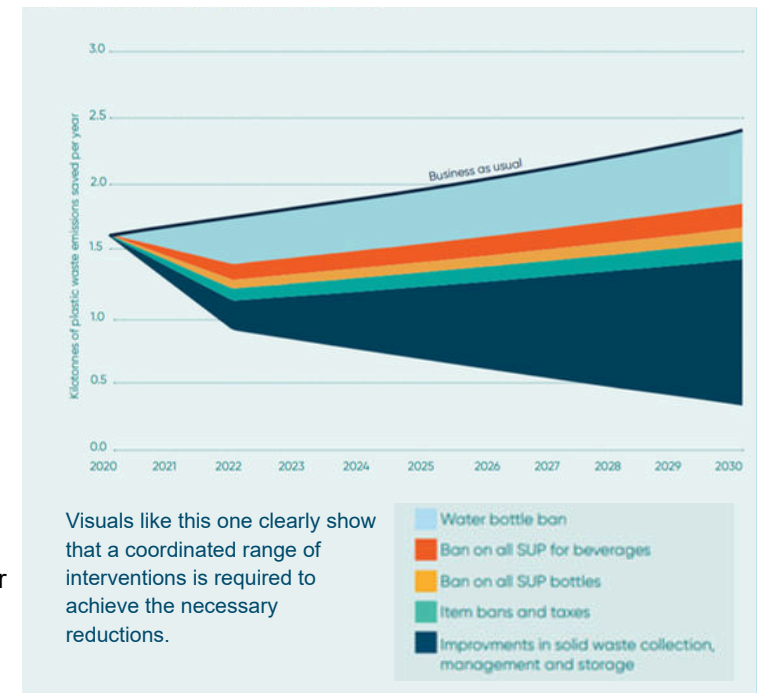
The President announced a National Phase-Out Strategy at the UN General Assembly. Subsequently, a range of upstream and downstream policies have been implemented, including ambitious bans on single use plastic and a reduction in open burning.

2022

The Maldives and Common Seas signed an Memorandum of Understanding to further support implementation, including analysis of Extended Producer Responsibility mechanisms, investing in water refill systems, private sector engagement to drive down tourism waste, public engagement, and NGO partnerships within fishing communities.

Today

We collaborate with governments and leading organisations in SIDS and small coastal countries to identify and accelerate the implementation of the most effective policies to significantly reduce plastic pollution, to protect people's health, safeguard the environment and benefit future generations.



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