



Uncovering Africa's Blue Economy

## PLASTIC POLLUTION

THE CRISIS IN AFRICA



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## WHAT IS PLASTIC

## POLLUTION?

Plastic pollution occurs when plastic waste, such as bottles, bags, and straws, accumulates in the environment. Since plastic takes hundreds of years to decompose, it poses a long-term threat to ecosystems and packaging.







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PROBLEM?



- Over 8 million tons of plastic end up in oceans every year.
- It is estimated that by 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish.
- Plastic waste is found in deep oceans and polar regions.





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### WHY IS PLASTIC

POLLUTION HARMFUL?

01

#### Non-biodegradable

Plastic doesn't break down easily, harming the environment. 02

#### Toxic Chemicals

Plastic contains harmful chemicals that pollute the soil and water.

03

#### Wildlife Impact

Animals mistake plastic for food, leading to injury or death.





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# IMPACT ON ON MARINE LIFE



Marine animals, such as fish, turtles, and seabirds, often mistake plastic for food.

Plastic ingestion can lead to choking, poisoning, or even starvation.

Marine ecosystems suffer, affecting biodiversity and food chains.

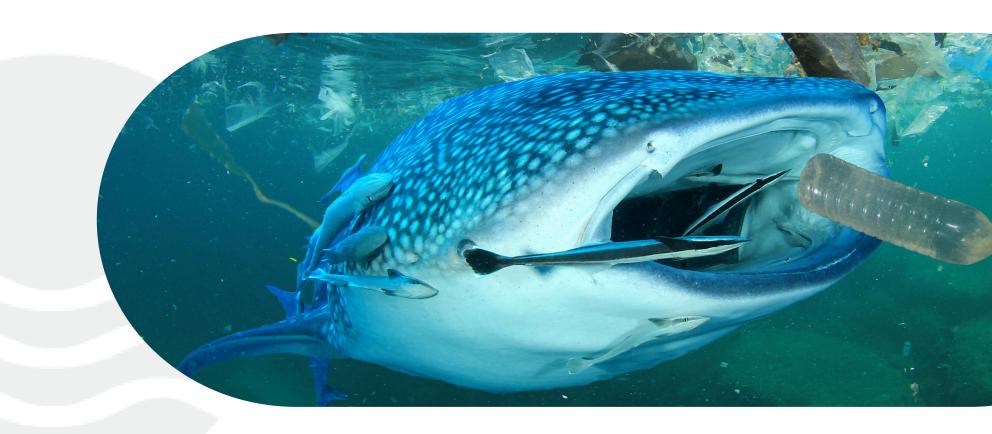




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## EFFECT ON

HUMAN HEALTH





Microplastics, tiny plastic particles, enter the food chain, impacting both marine life and humans. These particles are found in seafood, drinking water, and even the air. The long-term effects on human health are still being studied, raising concerns about their potential risks.



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# WHAT CAN WE DO?



O 1 Use Reusable Bags

Avoid single-use plastic bags.

Drink from Reusable Bottles

Say no to bottled water; use a refillable bottle.

O S Avoid Plastic Straws
Opt for paper or metal straws.

Recycle

A Recycle





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## SIMPLE ALTERNATIVES

Use paper or cloth bags instead of plastic ones.



TO PLASTIC

Choose bamboo or metal products, like cutlery & toothbrushes.



Purchase products with minimal or eco-friendly packaging.