

Why, How and Where to Monitor Plastic Pollution

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SUMMARY

Plastic volume in the ocean is increasing rapidly. It has detrimental consequences for wildlife, economies and potentially human health. Understanding why and where mismanaged waste enters the environment and how it moves in the environment is critical. This knowledge can help us to stop the leakage into the environment and provide useful information to governments about hotspots and intervention options that will likely be successful.

We have been involved in a series of projects to tackle this issue. We are working from local grass-roots levels to international scales. In this talk, we will discuss the value of harmonizing approaches to monitor plastic pollution, how to sample simply and effectively, and where we may want to focus our efforts. Together, with a robust, comparable baseline data collection approach, we can provide the information needed to underpin policy and enact change via on-ground activities at local, national and international scales.

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