



WasteForce Waste Crime Alert #3

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Work Package 2: Strategies and Methodologies

Deliverable 2.1: Waste Crime Alerts



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WASTEFORCE
Waste Crime Alert 3

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1. Introduction

The objective of the Waste Crime Alerts is to provide authorities with an up-to-date overview of developments in the illicit waste trade. The WasteForce project partners collected and analysed the latest information on waste crime to identify trends and possible threats of illegal waste trade, for example to certain geographic locations/routes and the identification of modus operandi for specific waste flows. The collected open source information includes news cases, enforcement agency bulletins, outcomes of court cases, relevant publications and policy updates. The Waste Crime Alert will be published by the WasteForce project every three months.

This Waste Crime Alert #3 summarizes information that was published between June 2019 and August 2019. While the waste crime alerts report primarily on transboundary waste crime cases, this issue is especially focused on the (illegal) trade in plastic. In addition to collecting crime cases, this issue will provide more background information on the plastic issue with several studies and videos on the topic.

The Waste Crime Alert is structured as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Illegal trade and disposal of plastic waste
3. Summary of enforcement operations
4. Analysis on all crime cases
 - Annex I: Publications and legislative/policy updates
 - Annex II: Videos and documentaries
 - Annex III: Cases reported in the news

Illegal trade and disposal of plastic waste

Since the ban on the import of plastic waste was implemented in China in 2018, several countries in the Southeast Asia region such as Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam have become main export destinations of (illegal) plastic waste. Generally, these countries are less equipped to handle these amounts of waste than the countries that export it. In response, action is taken on the national and international level. For example, by the development of new legislation and by taking law enforcement action. In this section several reports will be summarized that describe the issues around plastic waste in more detail, as well as the responses to this issue, including legislative and policy updates, videos and documentaries, recent crime cases and enforcement actions.

Publications

In [Annex I, Reports](#), several reports are summarized that published information on the current plastic trade and disposal. The Guardian (2019) has investigated to where the plastic waste from the United States of America is exported. The United States of America generated 34.5 million tons of plastic each year, while 1 million tons of plastic waste is

shipped overseas each year. The Guardian found that 68,000 shipping containers were exported to countries that mismanage 70% of their own plastic waste. The newest hotspots for handling US plastic recycling are some of the world's poorest countries, including Bangladesh, Laos, Ethiopia and Senegal (see Figure 1). Around 9% of the plastic waste in America was estimated recycled in 2015, of which more than half, 1.6m tons, was handled in China and Hong Kong. As much of the waste was contaminated or was non-recyclable, it had to be landfilled in China. Since the China ban, America's plastic waste has become a global hot potato, ping-ponging from country to country. (The Guardian, 2019)

America sends 1m tons of plastic waste overseas every year.



These are the newest hotspots

Figure 1: Newest hotspots for handling US plastic recycling Bangladesh, Laos, Ethiopia and Senegal, including
Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/jun/17/recycled-plastic-america-global-crisis>

On the website Visual Capitalist, the World's plastic waste flows are mapped. This includes the graphs shown in the report by the Guardian. The website shows that since 1950, humans have created approximately 6,300,000,000 metric tons of plastic waste. To date only 9% of this amount has been recycled and 12% incinerated, leaving 79% in landfills and the environment (Mapping the Flow of the Worlds Plastic Waste). Figure 2 shows an overview of the main plastic exporting and importing countries, before and after the Chinese import ban. (Visual Capitalist, 2019)

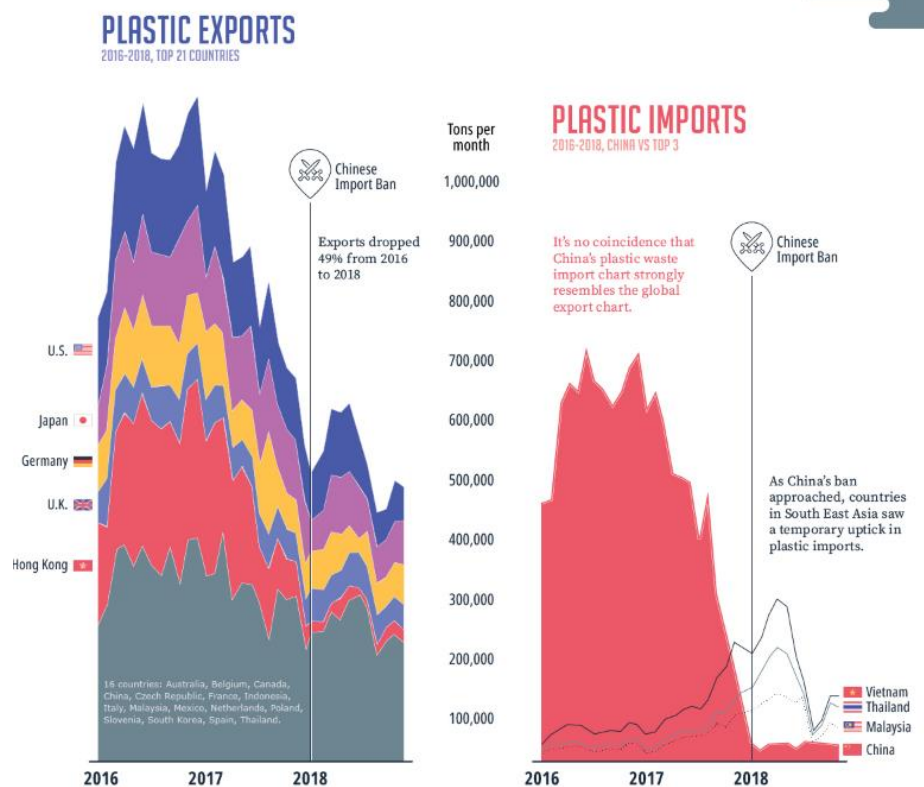


Figure 2: Overview of the main plastic exporting and importing countries, before and after the Chinese import ban. Source: Visual Capitalist, 2019: <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/mapping-the-flow-of-the-worlds-plastic-waste/>

National Geographic (2019) did a study on the crisis of plastic pollution. They provide some key facts on plastic, such as that:

- Half of all plastics ever manufactured have been made in the last 15 years.
- Production increased exponentially, from 2.3 million tons in 1950 to 448 million tons by 2015. Production is expected to double by 2050.
- Every year, about 8 million tons of plastic waste escapes into the oceans from coastal nations. That's the equivalent of setting five garbage bags full of trash on every foot of coastline around the world.
- Plastics often contain additives making them stronger, more flexible, and durable. But many of these additives can extend the life of products if they become litter, with some estimates ranging to at least 400 years to break down.

It is also described how plastic ends up in the ocean, this is flowing from land as well by major rivers. National Geographic (2019).

Finally, last July 2019, the PolyCE consortium published an article dealing with illegal and substandard plastic waste treatment and its possible risks for the consumers. PolyCE is a H2020 project whose expertise mainly lies in the development of advanced recycling and recovery solutions for high quality post-consumer recycled (PCR) plastics. Based on its expertise, the consortium elaborated a set of arguments to counter the idea that black plastics are commonly believed to represent a problem in Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) recycling because, allegedly, they are “wrongly sorted” and end up in

food-contact applications. However, mainly the lack of knowledge on best practices for plastic waste treatment as well as the illicit treatment and misuses of these substances, are the real reason for the widespread pollution. Efficient and systematic quality verification methods, instead, should become a substantial part of the recycled polymer supply systems.

Legislative updates related to plastic

In the section [Annex I, 'Publications and Legislative/Policy Updates'](#) several initiatives are described on the national and global level to address the (illegal) export of plastic.

At the international level, 187 member countries of the Basel Convention made a landmark decision to classify non-recyclable mixed plastic as 'hazardous waste' – restricting their flow across national borders. This will help to ensure that the poor countries do not become dumping grounds of this non-recyclable mixed plastic. Additionally, during the last session of the Basel Convention Conference of the Parties (COP) (COP-14, 29 April–10 May 2019), there was strong engagement with the "Break Free From Plastic Movement" (BFFP), who issued positions, statements and letters of support for the proposed changes. The World Customs Organisation was present as well, to strengthen cooperation and discuss the use of the Harmonised System (HS) to address social and environmental issues.

At the national level, the prime minister of Australia pledged to ban the export of recyclable plastic. Last year Australia exported 4.5 million tonnes of waste, mostly going to Vietnam, Indonesia and China. The Australian state ministers are developing a timeline to improve the national recycling system, in order to implement the ban 'as soon as practicable'.

Crime Cases

In [Annex III, 'Cases reported in the news'](#), a summary can be found of seven news cases involving the illegal transboundary movements of plastic. The cases involve illegal exports from the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands to Cambodia, Malaysia and Indonesia. There are also two cases of illegal plastic export within Europe (from the United Kingdom to Poland and from Italy to Croatia) and one case is about an illegal plastic export within the Asian region (from Bangladesh to Malaysia). In two of the cases the plastic was mislabeled as recycled or recyclable products. In four of these cases a take back procedure of the waste is ongoing. The waste is usually exported by companies, and in one case there was involvement of so-called 'waste mafia'. The quantities of plastic include 25 tonnes to 12,000 tonnes exported by one company over a period of time.

Video's/Documentaries

Finally, the link to five video's/documentaries about plastic are included in this WCA. The first is a video compilation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions 2019 Conference of the Parties, during which the illegal trade in plastic waste was high on the agenda. The second video is called "Plastic Waste - A World Problem", and it shows that since the rise of the plastic industry in the mid 1950s plastic has become a major concern. In the third video by the BBC an illegal recycling plant in Malaysia is visited. As included in an article in the previous WasteForce WCA, a number of these plants have been shut down recently in

Malaysia. The video shows how large piles of abandoned plastic are left at the plant, particles of which are contaminating nearby water courses. The fourth video “Dumping plastic waste on others” also discusses the export of plastic waste to Southeast Asian countries that are not equipped to handle plastic waste. The last video, from France 24, is also about the export of plastic waste to South-East Asia.

Summary of Enforcement Operations

Operation Green Earth March-April 2019

Building on previous global operations led by the World Customs Organization (WCO) on monitoring and control of illicit trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste, Korea Customs Service (KCS) and China Customs jointly propose a regional enforcement operation to target illicit trans-boundary movement of waste and to help with implementation of relevant MEAs. Under the codename “Operation Green Earth”, this operation was coordinated by the WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific (RILO AP). It focused on illegal shipments of hazardous waste and other waste by all routes (air, sea, land borders) and all the WCO member administrations in Asia and the Pacific were invited to participate and encouraged to cooperate and share information between countries. The intensive operational phase commenced on 25th March 2019 and lasted for a period of 8 weeks.

Operation Green Earth involved 17 participating administrations (Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Honk Kong China, India, Japan, Korea, Macau China, Maldives, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam). The participating administrations reported a total of 104 seizures cases during the operation (Korea: 30; China: 21; Hong Kong China: 21; Sri Lanka: 13; Thailand: 10; Malaysia: 5; Vietnam: 4). 81 cases were intercepted at entry point, 19 cases at exit points and 4 cases in transit and the vast majority involved transport by sea (96 cases). Plastic waste represented the majority in cases (45 cases) and quantities (more than 68,000,000kg), followed by e-waste, municipal waste, slag and metal waste, paper waste, rubber waste and other waste.

Analysis of all news cases ([Annex II](#))

This section presents an analysis of the news cases of transboundary waste movements between June 2019 and August 2019. In total, 18 cases were found, of which an overview can also be found in Annex III.

**Global map with the listed news cases, the colors are linked to the type of waste.
For more information follow this [Link](#).**



1. Types of waste, quantities and routes

Between June and August 2019, 18 cases were reported involving the illegal trade in waste and one case involved the export of materials from an illegal e-waste dismantling factory. In seven cases plastic was illegally exported. The quantities of this illegal plastic export ranged from a truck with 24.4 tonnes going from Italy to Croatia, to 12,000 tonnes suspected to be shipped over a period of time between the Netherlands and Africa/Asia. In 4 cases hazardous waste was illegally exported, including 1 shipment of around 125 tonnes and 2 cases with shipments of around 180 tonnes. In the cases of mixed waste and other wastes, 10,000 tonnes of unspecified waste, 57,000 tonnes of illicit compost waste and 5,177 of mixed plastic and hazardous waste were exported. Another 23 tonnes of metal waste were exported from Italy to Slovenia. Table 1 shows are the types of waste and routes reported in the different cases.

Types of waste reported	Cases and Routes
E-waste	Case 1. Nigeria > China
	Case 18. United Kingdom > Nigeria
Plastic	Case 2. United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, France, Britain > Malaysia
	Case 3. United States, Canada > Cambodia
	Case 9. United Kingdom > Poland
	Case 6. Bangladesh > Malaysia
	Case 17. The Netherlands > Africa/Asia
	Case 15. Italy > Croatia

	Case 4. North America, Europe > Indonesia
Hazardous (household) waste	Case 10. United Kingdom > China
	Case 5. United Kingdom > Sri Lanka
	Case 4. United States, Canada > Indonesia
Textile waste	Case 13. Italy
Metal waste	Case 14. Slovenia
Mixed / other	Case 11. Italy
	Case 12. Italy
	Case 8. > China
	Case 7. South Korea - Philippines
ELV Ship	Case 16. Germany > Netherlands

Table 1: Overview of types of waste and routes reported in the news cases

2. Modus operandi

All cases involved the illegal export of waste or materials. The modus operandi was only provided in a few cases. In 3 of the 18 cases the waste export was mislabeled: (contaminated) plastic waste was labeled as 'recycled or recyclable products' bio and clinical waste, was labeled as 'used mattresses. In one case the illegal waste was also hidden behind legal waste in the shipment container. Another case was about an illegal e-waste dismantling factor in Nigeria, from which only the materials were shipped to China and Vietnam. In case 18 an illicit recycling company made claims over the recycling of over 19.500 tonnes of e-waste in 2011. In reality the company never handled the amount of waste described and was not entitled to receive money through the government backed Producer Compliance Scheme.

3. Criminal organisations

In 12 of the 18 cases, companies were involved, of which in four of the cases there was involvement of companies in China. In case 9, the media reported the involvement of 'waste mafia' and three criminal gangs and in case 13 a criminal group was mentioned, but this group was mainly made up of entrepreneurs.

4. Enforcement action

In 8 of the 18 cases a take back procedure was requested or implemented. In 3 cases it was reported arrests were made. Also, two Italian enforcement operations were done in Italy, operation 'smoking fields' and operation Prato Waste. In case 18 the waste criminal received a record custodial sentence of 16 years.

Annex I Publications and Legislative/Policy Updates

Legislation and Governance

Title	Top European Court Expands WEEE Definition: Certain Defective Equipment May Be Included
Organisation	The European Court of Justice
Date	04 July 2019
Type of Waste	E-waste
Summary	In a decision dated 4 July 2019, the European Court of Justice (“ECJ”) ruled that the definition of waste electrical and electronic equipment (“WEEE”) under the WEEE Directive may include defective products “that require repair, such that [the equipment] cannot be used for its original purpose”. The WEEE Directive requires Member States to appropriately enforce the collection, recycling and waste management of computers, televisions, cell phones, refrigerators, and other types of electronic waste at the end of their life cycle. Hong Kong traders that deal in used electrical goods may be affected by this new ruling. The Court’s decision comes about pursuant to a case brought before it on WEEE shipments being made out of the EU. In consequence, the case may have ramifications for traders shipping WEEE to, within or outside the EU.
Links	https://www.bailii.org/eu/cases/EUECJ/2019/C62417.html https://hkmb.hktdc.com/en/1X0AHZLI/hktdc-research/Top-European-Court-Expands-WEEE-Definition-Certain-Defective-Equipment-May-Be-Included
Title	Consigning the export of plastic waste to the dustbin of history
Organisation	Basel Convention
Date	15 May 2019
Type of Waste	Plastic
Summary	A landmark decision by 187 countries will see non-recyclable mixed plastics classified as ‘hazardous waste’ — restricting their flow across national borders. This will help ensure that poor countries do not become dumping grounds for the rich and boost waste reduction efforts and recycling closer to source, experts said.
Link	https://meta.eeb.org/2019/05/15/consigning-the-export-of-plastic-waste-to-the-dustbin-of-history/ , http://www.brsmeas.org/?tabid=8005
Title	Plastics at the BRS COPs 2019, Consigning the export of plastic waste to the dustbin of history
Organisation	The Basel and Stockholm Conventions
Date	May 2019
Summary	Many countries are taking steps to mitigate plastic pollution, recognizing it as a serious and rapidly growing issue of concern worldwide that needs an urgent global response. The Basel and Stockholm Conventions have a direct impact on the plastic waste trade, on standards for the management of plastic waste, and on the toxic exposure inherent in the plastic pollution crisis for large and microscopic plastics on the land and in the marine environment. The UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) had invited the Basel Convention “to increase

their action to prevent and reduce marine litter and microplastics and their harmful effects,” and the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Convention (BRS) Secretariat has participated in and presented at UNEA’s Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics.

In 2018, Norway proposed amendments to the Basel Convention annexes to bring the global trade in dirty, hard-to-recycle, or unrecyclable plastics under the scope of the Convention. Several members and partners of the #breakfreefromplastic (BFFP) movement issued positions, statements, and letters of support for the proposed changes and attended the concurrent meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the BRS Conventions (BRS COP). The BFFP member and partner engagement at these meetings is in concert with the ongoing work to support development of an international legally binding agreement on plastics and plastic pollution to address the entire life cycle of plastics, including: binding global reduction targets; caps on production and consumption of plastics; and requirements for loss prevention, collection, and recycling of all plastics.

Link <https://meta.eeb.org/2019/05/15/consigning-the-export-of-plastic-waste-to-the-dustbin-of-history/> , <http://www.brsmeas.org/?tabid=8005>

Title **Collaboration with the WCO highlighted at the BRS Conference in Geneva**

Organisation WCO, Basel Convention

Date 29 June 2019

Type of Waste E-waste

Summary The cooperation between the WCO and the BRS Conference Secretariats in using the Harmonized System (HS) to address environmental and social issues. Among the important tools discussed and adopted by the Council was the 2022 version of the Harmonized System. Some notable amendments are new headings or defining electronic waste (e-waste) and various gases with high global warming potential.

Link <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2019/june/wco-council-maps-the-road-ahead-during-its-annual-sessions.aspx>,
<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2019/may/collaboration-with-the-wco-highlighted-at-the-brs-conference-in-geneva.aspx>

Title **Prime minister Australia pledges to ban the export of recyclable plastic**

Organisation Australian Government

Date 13 August 2019

Type of Waste Plastic

Summary Australia will ban export of recyclable waste 'as soon as practicable', PM vows. State environment ministers will consult industry to develop a timeline to improve the recycling system. The prime minister has vowed to do more to tackle plastic waste in the world’s oceans, saying the export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres will be banned. Scott Morrison said only about 12% of materials are properly recycled in Australia and he wanted that to change. With state and territory leaders, he has laid out a plan for environment ministers to improve the recycling system. “There will be no export of plastics and paper and glass to other countries where it runs the risk of floating around in our oceans,” he said in Cairns after a Council of Australian Governments (Coag) meeting on Friday. We’ve got to start thinking about what we do when that happens. I would

like that date to be as soon as is practicable.” Last year it cost Australia \$2.8bn to export nearly 4.5m tonnes of waste, with most going to Vietnam, Indonesia and China.

Link

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/aug/14/how-will-a-domestic-waste-recycling-industry-work-in-australia,](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/aug/14/how-will-a-domestic-waste-recycling-industry-work-in-australia)
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/aug/09/australia-to-ban-export-of-recyclable-waste-as-soon-as-practicable-pm-vows>

Reports**Title**

Where does your plastic go? Global investigation reveals America's dirty secret.

Organisation

The Guardian

Date

17 June 2019

Type of Waste

Plastic

Summary

A Guardian report from 11 countries tracks how US waste makes its way across the world – and overwhelms the poorest nations. A team of Guardian reporters in 11 countries has found: Last year, the equivalent of 68,000 shipping containers of American plastic recycling were exported from the US to developing countries that mismanage more than 70% of their own plastic waste. The newest hotspots for handling US plastic recycling are some of the world's poorest countries, including Bangladesh, Laos, Ethiopia and Senegal, offering cheap labor and limited environmental regulation.

In some places, like Turkey, a surge in foreign waste shipments is disrupting efforts to handle locally generated plastics.

With these nations overwhelmed, thousands of tons of waste plastic are stranded at home in the US, as we reveal in our story later this week

Link

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/jun/17/recycled-plastic-america-global-crisis>

Title

Ecomafia 2019

Organisation

Legambiente

Date

4 July 2019

Type of Waste

Waste Crime + Environmental Crime

Summary

According to the yearly report published by Legambiente, in 2018 there has been a huge increase in the crimes related to the agro-food and construction sector, but also in the waste sector. The overall business of the so-called 'ecomafie' is estimated at 16.6 billions of euro - with more than 360 criminal groups involved. Specifically, regarding the illicit trafficking and management of waste, there have been about 22 illicit acts per day, - which means around 8 thousand in 2018.

Link

<https://www.legambiente.it/ecomafia-2019-le-storie-e-i-numeri-della-criminalita-ambientale-in-italia/>

Title	Illegal and Sub-Standard Plastic Waste Treatment: When Recycled Plastics May Be Harmful for Consumers — and Why Black Plastics Are Unjustly Blamed
Organisation	PolyCE Consortium
Date	25 July 2019
Type of Waste	Plastic
Summary	Last July 2019, the PolyCE consortium published an article dealing with illegal and substandard plastic waste treatment and its possible risks for the consumers. PolyCE is a H2020 project whose expertise mainly lies in the development of advanced recycling and recovery solutions for high quality post-consumer recycled (PCR) plastics. Based on its expertise, the consortium elaborated a set of arguments to counter the idea that black plastics are commonly believed to represent a problem in Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) recycling because, allegedly, they are “wrongly sorted” and end up in food-contact applications. However, mainly the lack of knowledge on best practices for plastic waste treatment as well as the illicit treatment and misuses of these substances, are the real reason for the widespread pollution. Efficient and systematic quality verification methods, instead, should become a substantial part of the recycled polymer supply systems.
Link	https://medium.com/@PolyCE_EU/illegal-and-sub-standard-plastic-waste-treatment-when-recycled-plastics-may-be-harmful-for-bb42d02c51c9
Title	Mapping the Flow of the World’s Plastic Waste
Organisation	Visual Capitalist, Iman Gosh
Date	03 July 2019
Type of Waste	Plastic
Summary	A visualisation of the top plastic export and import flows.
Link	https://www.visualcapitalist.com/mapping-the-flow-of-the-worlds-plastic-waste/
Title	The world's plastic pollution crisis explained
Organisation	National Geographic
Type of Waste	Plastic
Date	07 June 2019
Summary	The world's plastic pollution crisis explained. Much of the planet is swimming in discarded plastic, which is harming animal and possibly human health. This article aims to answer the question if it can be cleaned up.
Link	https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/habitats/plastic-pollution/

Annex II Videos and documentaries

Title	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions 2019 COPs
Organisation	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
Date	May 2019
Summary	Video of the 2019 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions COPS
Link	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftH-NEB0FkU&feature=youtu.be
Title	Plastic Waste - A World Problem
Organisation	SafePlanet
Date	16 May 2019
Summary	Marine plastic litter has been a growing concern since the rise of the plastic industry in the mid-1950s. Global plastic production has increased steadily and has reached 320 million tonnes a year. Of the estimated 6.3 billion tonnes of plastic waste produced since the 1950s, only 9% has been recycled and another 12% incinerated. The greatest burden of plastic waste entering the sea is likely to arise where waste collection systems are ineffective or even non-existent. Waterborne plastic poses a serious threat to fish, seabirds, marine reptiles, and marine mammals, as well as to boats and coasts. is an environmental problem occurring on a global scale today. Developing countries in particular may face challenges in managing the rapidly growing volume of plastic waste.
Link	https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=JV73HchPgmc
Title	Hugh visits an illegal plastic recycling plant in Malaysia
Organisation	BBC
Date	5 June 2019
Summary	At a recently closed recycling plant, Hugh and CK find vast piles of abandoned plastics, particles of which are also contaminating nearby water courses.
Link	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07c90ff
Title	Dumping plastic waste on others
Organisation	DW / Reuters
Date	03 July 2019
Summary	Globally, only a small fraction of plastic waste is recycled. Mountains of it, also from wealthy countries whose waste management systems are not keeping up with the production of plastics, pile up in Southeast Asian countries far less equipped to handle plastic waste.
Link	https://www.dw.com/en/dumping-plastic-waste-on-others/av-49451092
Title	Ecomafie 2019
Organisation	Legambiente
Date	7-8-2019
Summary	This video in Italian provides a summary of the main results included in the report published by Legambiente 'Ecomafie 2019'.
Link	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHre5C1SrA8

Title	Breathless
Organisation	Documentary by individual filmmaker Daniel Lambo
Date	24 June 2018
Summary	Following the deaths of his father and many others from his village, filmmaker Daniel Lambo sets off on a passionate quest to find the truth about the deadly asbestos industry. His search takes him to the largest asbestos waste dump in India and unveils a cold-blooded industry still endangering the lives of workers and consumers around the world. A gripping story on the fight of individuals against a booming asbestos industry.
Link	https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9266874/
Title	The Electronic Waste Challenge: A Global Perspective
Organisation	GIZ, BMZ, UNU SCYCLE
Date	12 August 2019
Summary	Growing electronic waste (e-waste or WEEE) volumes from consumers are a challenge for low and middle income countries. Informal recycling of valuable and hazardous components creates an income opportunity for the poor, but poses major health and environmental risks and also reduces resource efficiency. Illegal e-waste exports make this problem worse, particularly where there are no environmentally sound recycling facilities in countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Informal collection can be supported by trainings, formal e-waste management businesses, and legislation like extended producer responsibility (EPR) laws, leading to a more sustainable circular economy.
Link	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sY9hLOmQBUo
Title	Recyclage: après l'Asie du Sud-Est, où vont aller nos déchets ? (Recycling: after South-East Asia, where will our waste go?)
Organisation	France24
Date	23 August 2019
Summary	After the plastic and paper ban decided by China, exporting countries have turned to other markets like Malaysia and Vietnam. But this situation did not last long and the countries of South-East Asia were quick to close their borders, some even returning containers filled with waste in their country of origin. What will be the next destination for our waste? Will the developed countries be able to cope with the lack of opportunities?
Link	https://www.france24.com/fr/20190823-recyclage-dechets-plastique-chine-asie-sud-est-poubelle-papier

Annex III Cases reported in the news

Africa

Case 1. Nigeria

Title	Police uncovers Chinese toxic waste factory in Lagos.
Date	6-8-2019
Type of waste	E-waste
Quantity/Value	N.A.
Routes	Nigeria - China
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal (toxic) factory and exports of materials
Enforcement	Two arrests.
Action	
Criminal organisation	A company in Nigeria owned by two Chinese nationals.
Summary	The Lagos State Police command uncovered a factory where e-waste is assembled and exported to China and Vietnam. Detectives also arrested two brains behind the e-waste company. One of the suspects, Lin said: "We buy phone panels (Android and Nokia panels). We buy them from phone repairers and scrap sellers. We remove the panel I.C. with a machine and then ship it to China and Vietnam.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2019/05/28/plastic-waste-from-bangladesh-found-shipped-into-malaysia/

Asia

Case 2. Malaysia

Title	Malaysia to send 3,000 tonnes of plastic waste back to countries of origin
Date	28 May 2019
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Quantity/Value	3,000 tonnes
Routes	The USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, France, Britain - Malaysia
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal waste shipment
Enforcement	Take back procedure
action	
Criminal organisation	Company involvement
Summary	Malaysia will send as much as 3,000 tonnes of plastic waste back to the countries it came from, the environment minister said on Tuesday, the latest Asian country to reject rich countries' rubbish.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.reuters.com/article/us-malaysia-waste/malaysia-to-send-3000-tonnes-of-plastic-waste-

Case 3. Cambodia

Title	Cambodia probes Chinese firm over illegal waste imports
Date	21 July 2010
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Quantity/Value	1600 tonnes, waste was discovered in 83 shipping containers
Routes	United States and Canada - Cambodia. The containers were discovered in the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	The containers had been mislabelled as "recycled products".
Enforcement	Take back procedure.
Action	
Criminal organisation	Involvement of a Chinese company.
Summary	Cambodia is investigating a locally-based Chinese firm for illegally importing around 1,600 tonnes of plastic waste from the United States and Canada, the Southeast Asian country's customs chief told Reuters on Friday. Kun Nhim, director-general of Cambodia's General Department of Customs and Excise, told Reuters that a Chinese firm based in Cambodia had imported the waste, which was discovered this week in 83 shipping containers at the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.reuters.com/article/us-cambodia-waste/cambodia-probes-chinese-firm-over-illegal-waste-imports-idUSKCN1UE0PH

Case 4. Indonesia

Title	Indonesia returns five containers of trash to US, examines 65 others
Date	14 June 2019
Type of waste	Hazardous household waste and plastic waste
Quantity/Value	5 containers hazardous household waste and 65 containers of plastic scraps
Routes	US-Canada-Indonesia (household waste) and North America and Europe to Indonesia (plastic scraps)
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export
Enforcement	Take back of 5 containers
Action	
Criminal organisation	Four companies imported the plastic scrap into Indonesia
Summary	The Environment and Forestry Ministry reported on Friday that it had returned five containers of trash to the United States after finding that the containers that were supposed to contain only clean paper scraps also contained diapers, plastic scraps, wood, fabrics and shoes in "significant amounts". (...) Also on Friday, Batam Customs and Excise Office and Environment and Forestry Ministry officials oversaw the unloading of 65 containers that contained plastic trash from North America and Europe at Batu Ampar Port in Batam, Riau Islands.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2019/06/14/ri-returns-five-containers-of-trash-to-us-examines-65-others.html , https://www.nouvelobs.com/monde/20190616.OBS14457/l-indonesie-renvoie-cinq-conteneurs-de-dechets-aux-etats-unis.html#Echobox=1560675042

Case 5. Sri Lanka

Title	Some Of The Hazardous Waste Shipped From The UK To Sri Lanka Was Offloaded To Dubai And India
Date	29 July 2019
Type of waste	Hazardous waste
Quantity/Value	180 tonnes, 241 shipping containers
Routes	UK-Sri Lanka, and via Sri Lanka to India and Dubai.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	The waste had been mislabelled and imported as 'used mattresses', upon investigation they discovered bio and clinical waste.
Enforcement Action	The investigation is ongoing.
Criminal organisation Summary	Ceylon Metal Processing Corporation Pvt Ltd is the firm at the centre of the investigation. An investigation carried out by Sri Lankan authorities into almost 3,000 tonnes of illegally imported hazardous waste has revealed that a share of it was sent on to Dubai and India. Finance Minister, Mangala Samaraweera, informed parliament on Friday that the importer of the waste had shipped around 180 tonnes of raw waste to India and Dubai in 2017 and 2018 respectively. The customs department discovered how a local company had imported 241 shipping containers from the UK, 15 of which had been reshipped to India and 2 to Dubai.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.balebid.com/forum/post/some-of-the-hazardous-waste-shipped-from-the-uk-to/963?page=1 https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-49100887

Case 6. Bangladesh

Title	Plastic waste from Bangladesh found shipped into Malaysia
Date	28 May 2019
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Quantity/Value	10 containers, 450 tonnes and inspection into another 50 containers is ongoing.
Routes	Bangladesh- Malaysia
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export: the waste smuggled in was falsely declared as recyclable, the illegal waste was placed behind legal waste.
Enforcement action	Take back procedure.
Criminal organisation Summary	UK companies and a number of Chinese companies relocating their operations to Malaysia, with some setting up shop here as soon as the Chinese government announced the ban in 2017. Plastic waste from Bangladesh has been found to be shipped into Malaysia, as a container of waste was among nine opened and displayed to the media at Westport on Tuesday.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2019/05/28/plastic-waste-from-bangladesh-found-shipped-into-malaysia/

Case 7. Philippines

Title	Take back your garbage from Mindanao, South Korea urged.
Date	02 August 2019
Type of waste	Plastic waste, hazardous waste
Quantity/Value	5,177 tons
Routes	South Korea-Philippines
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export
Enforcement action	Requested take back procedure
Criminal organisation	N.A.
Summary	Environmental group EcoWaste Coalition has strongly called on the South Korean government to act on the 5,177 tons of illegal waste exports from the Philippines.
For more information, please visit:	https://news.mb.com.ph/2019/08/02/take-back-your-garbage-from-mindanao-south-korea-urged/ https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1141631/boc-team-vs-foreign-trash-backed

Case 8. China

Title	Chinese customs returns imported solid waste
Date	29-8-2019
Type of waste	Lead sludge from lead-acid batteries and slags
Quantity/Value	152.6 tonnes
Routes	Origin unknown - China
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal import
Enforcement action	Take back procedure
Criminal organisation	N.A.
Summary	Yantai customs in east China's Shandong Province has shipped back a batch of solid waste imported from overseas to where it originated, according to the General Administration of Customs. Seized during inspection last year, the 152.6-tonnes of garbage consisted of lead sludge from recycled lead-acid batteries and slags produced in metal smelting, which are banned from import in China.
For more information, please visit:	http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-07/14/c_138225605.htm

Europe

Case 9. Poland

Title	Poland won't take UK garbage any more
Date	25 July 2019
Type of waste	Plastic waste
Quantity/Value	The UK annually sends to Poland 12,000 tonnes of recyclable plastic. In April, investigators revealed 2,452 tons of illegally stored waste, the disposal cost of which they said could amount to almost 8 million zlotys (€1.9 million, \$2.2 million).
Routes	UK-Poland
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal import and disposal of waste
Enforcement action	15 people arrested in April
Criminal organisation Summary	'Involvement of 'waste mafia' and of three criminal gang, so far 47 people have been charged as part of the investigations, and 28 of them are still in custody. Racing to meet an EU recycling target, the waste market in Poland is booming. But Warsaw is increasingly fed up with illegally imported foreign waste, much of it from the UK. After China called a halt in 2018, Poland soon became the sixth largest recipient of UK waste in the world and the second largest inside the EU, behind the Netherlands.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.dw.com/en/poland-wont-take-uk-garbage-any-more/a-49725035

Case 10. United Kingdom

Title	Biffa found guilty in China MRF export case
Date	20 June 2019
Type of waste	Contaminated paper and household waste
Quantity/Value	7 containers (25 tonnes each), prices were 350,000 pounds for 5863 tonnes of mixed paper and 290,000 pounds for a shipment of 4992 tonnes.
Routes	UK-China
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export
Enforcement Action	Sentence is deferred until September 2019
Criminal organisation Summary	Large scale company One of the UK's biggest waste firms has been convicted of sending used nappies and other contaminated materials to China illegally. Biffa Waste Services Ltd was found guilty of exporting unsorted household waste that it said was paper. The company was prosecuted by the Environment Agency after investigators stopped seven 25-tonne containers from leaving Felixstowe in Suffolk over suspicions about the content.
For more information,	https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jun/25/uk-waste-firm-exported-offensive-materials-including-used-nappies,

please visit: <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/biffa-found-guilty-in-china-mrf-export-case/>

Case 11. Italy

Title	Illicit trafficking of waste and storage in the area of Brescia
Date	5 June 2019
Type of waste	General waste
Quantity/Value	10,000 tons, value of trafficking 1 million euro
Routes	from South (mainly Campania region) to North of Italy (mainly Lombardia and Veneto regions)
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	In the organized criminal structure, the producers were selling waste to companies formally authorized to their treatment, but actually operating illegally. These companies acquired, through intermediaries, industrial warehouses where they stored the waste without any authorization and with risks for the human health and the environment. The transport of waste was assigned to workers with extra-EU citizenship, with no legal contract and very low salaries.
Enforcement Action	20 people arrested and seizure of 7 dumping sites worth 400k euro
Criminal organisation	The company Winsystemp Group acted as intermediary in the illicit management of waste, illegally stocked in warehouses in the northern regions in Italy
Summary	A criminal organization disrupted by the Italian Carabinieri was responsible for organizing an illicit trafficking of domestic waste from the south to the north of Italy, where the waste was stocked in illicit dumping areas, also through the support of an intermediary company. The investigation started from a previous one, linked to the fire to a waste storage in Milan.
For more information, please visit:	https://www.bresciaoggi.it/territori/città/traffico-illecito-di-rifiuti-depositi-nel-bresciano-1.7378460 ; https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2019/06/04/rifiuti-20-arresti-per-traffico-illecito-in-sei-regioni-il-gip-di-milano-nei-capannoni-nessuna-precauzione-per-salute/5232068/

Case 12. Italy

Title	Waste trafficking in Rome - illicit compost buried in the fields. Irreparable damages for the environment and the public health
Date	13 June 2019
Type of waste	Illicit compost (waste)
Quantity/Value	57,000 tons of special waste illegally dumped in 4 years
Routes	Region of Lazio
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illicit trafficking of waste, provision of fake certificates, illicit dumping, obstacle to environmental control activities
Enforcement Action	Operation Smoking Fields. 3 companies, 10 vehicles, 1 dumping site and bank accounts for more than one million euro seized - as the illicit profit of waste trafficking.
Criminal organisation	The owners of the group SEP (ecologic society Pontina) created a fake compost, certified by illicit lab controls, actually mixed with different types of waste, including glass, plastic and metals. They paid the owners of neighbour lands to bury and hide the waste by polluting the land where they cultivated olives and corn. A manager from the Region of Lazio was also involved.

Summary The ecologic society SEP, in charge of developing compost from urban waste, was instead developing illicit compost by mixing other materials (plastic, metal, glass) and selling them to fields' owners. They were actually aware of the illicit nature of the compost, and due to the waste smell, they were paid to bury the fake compost into deeper parts of the fields, then used to cultivate corn and olives, and thus creating huge risks for the environment and the human health.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2019/06/14/traffico-rifiuti-latina-roma-compost-irregolare-interrato-nei-campi-danni-irrimediabili-per-ambiente-e-salute-pubblica/5253922/> ; <https://www.sabaudiainforma.it/cronaca/traffico-illecito-di-rifiuti-indagine-partita-da-pontinia/>

Case 13. Italy

Title Chinese made in Prato-Pistoia. Illicit trafficking of waste, Italians were also involved

Date 7 August 2019

Type of waste Waste from textile products

Quantity/ Value Not available, due to the difficulty to estimate the presence of Chinese people in the region, they manage almost entirely the textile sector in the area of Prato

Routes From Tuscany region to other regions in the North of the country and probably to African countries (not specified)

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi Illicit transportation and storage of waste from textile production

Enforcement Action Operation Prato Waste. Precautionary custody order for 6 entrepreneurs (4 Italians and 2 Chinese) + 10 owners of fake companies both Chinese and Italian.

Criminal organisation Summary Criminal group mainly made by entrepreneurs of Italian and Chinese origin. Transportation of waste was made by people not authorized, with fake certificates to avoid controls. Waste, instead of being treated, was stocked and abandoned in warehouses mainly in the north of Italy. The owners of the storages were usually not aware, while the transporters disappeared after stocking.

For more information, please visit: http://www.affaritaliani.it/cronache/cinesi-made-in-prato-pistoia-traffico-illecito-rifiuti-ci-sono-anche-italiani-619921.html?refresh_ce

Case 14. Slovenia

Title Metal Scrap from Italy to Slovenia

Date 16 May 2019

Type of waste Metal waste

Quantity/Value 1 truck, 23 tonnes

Routes Italy – Slovenia

Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi illegal waste shipment

Enforcement Action Take back

Criminal organisation N.A.

Summary During the documentary and physical inspection of the shipment of scrap metal and metal alloys from Italy to Slovenia revealed that it was actually mixed waste (including bulky waste from ferrous metals, metal waste with pieces of plastic and pieces of wood).

For more information, please visit: <https://www.gov.si/novice/2019-07-03-vecje-stevilo-nakljucnih-akcij-nadzora-cezmejnega-posiljanja-odpadkov-na-avtocestnih-pocivaliscih-mejnih-prehodih-ter-v-luki-koper-2/>

Case 15. Slovenia

Title Plastic waste from Italy to Croatia

Date 12 June 2019

Type of waste Plastic Waste

Quantity/ Value 1 truck, 25,4 tonnes

Routes Italy - Croatia

Type of crimes/ Illegal waste shipment

Modus Operandi

Enforcement Take back

Action

Criminal N.A.

organisation

Summary The shipment of the waste mixture (declared as waste plastic and rubber on the documentation) from Italy to Croatia was recognized as an illegal shipment as no consent was obtained which would have to be obtained for such shipment.

For more information, please visit: <HTTPS://WWW.GOV.SI/NOVICE/2019-07-03-VECJE-STEVILO-NAKLJUCNIH-AKCIJ-NADZORA-CEZMEJNEGA-POSILJANJA-ODPADKOV-NA-AVTOCESTNIH-POCIVALISCIH-MEJNIH-PREHODIH-TER-V-LUKI-KOPER-2/>

Case 16. Germany

Title Illegal transfer of an end-of-life ship

Date 28 June 2019

Type of Waste Mixed hazardous and non-hazardous waste

Routes Germany -Netherlands

Quantity/ Value One ship

Type of crimes/

Modus Operandi

Criminal N.A.

organisation

Enforcement Fined €5000

action

Summary Transfer of a ship from Germany into the Netherlands that should have been declared a waste in violation with the Waste Shipment regulation (EC No 1013/2006). Illegal movements complicate the control of waste movements into the Netherlands by Dutch authorities. Rules are drawn up to protect environmental quality and public health. These goals have been undermined by the suspects behaviour. In determining the seriousness of the fact, the court considers it important that there are no indications that the authorities would not have authorized the transfer if they had been informed. Nor has it been found that environmental regulations were not complied with in the actual demolition of the ship. The court has taken these circumstances into account in determining

the penalty in favor of the suspect. The court has imposed a totally conditional fine of € 5,000.

For more information, please visit:

<http://deeplink.rechtspraak.nl/uitspraak?id=ECLI:NL:RBAMS:2019:4531>

Case 17. The Netherlands

Title	The public prosecution service suspects illegal export of 12 million kilograms of waste.
Date	21 August 2019
Type of waste	Plastic waste and other types
Quantity/Value	12 million kg
Routes	The Netherlands - Africa, Asia
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegal export
Criminal organisation	One suspect and his company.
Enforcement Action	The investigation is ongoing.
Summary	The Dutch public prosecution service suspects the illegal export of 12 million kilograms of waste to countries in Asia and Africa. The inspectorate searched two houses and the administration of a company in Venlo. The suspect did not have a permit.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.nu.nl/binnenland/5981397/om-verdenkt-man-van-illegaal-exporteren-van-12-miljoen-kilo-afval.html>

Case 18. The United Kingdom

Title	Convicted waste fraudster has more than 9 years added to jail time for failing to repay £1.3 million in ill-gotten gains.
Date	27 August 2019
Type of waste	E-waste
Quantity/Value	£2.2 million was acquired through illegal activity
Routes	Previous convictions were for export from the United Kingdom to Nigeria.
Type of crimes/ Modus Operandi	Illegitimate claims were made over the recycling of over 19.500 tonnes of e-waste in 2011. In reality the company never handled the amount of waste described and was not entitled to receive money through the government backed Producer Compliance Scheme. The company also claimed money for waste collections from streets and properties that did not exist and vehicles used to transfer waste were recorded being in different regions on the same day, some vehicles did not exist at all.
Criminal organisation	Company owned by a 48 year old man from Leeds.
Enforcement Action	The company owner (Terry Soloman Dugbo), is currently serving a record 7 years and 6 months custodial sentence. He was ordered to pay back more than 1.3 million on top over a 79,000 fine from a previous prosecution of illegal hazardous waste export. As he failed to make any payments, the court sentenced him to prison for a further 8 year and 14 months for the older order

Summary

and 2 months related to fraud. This adds up to a record sentence of 16 years. A convicted waste criminal has had an additional 9 years and 4 months added to his current 7 and a half year fraud sentence. The defendant will now serve a total of 16 years.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/convicted-waste-fraudster-has-more-than-9-years-added-to-jail-time-for-failing-to-repay-1-3-million-in-ill-gotten-gains>