

SECOND MINI PROJECT

PLASTICS

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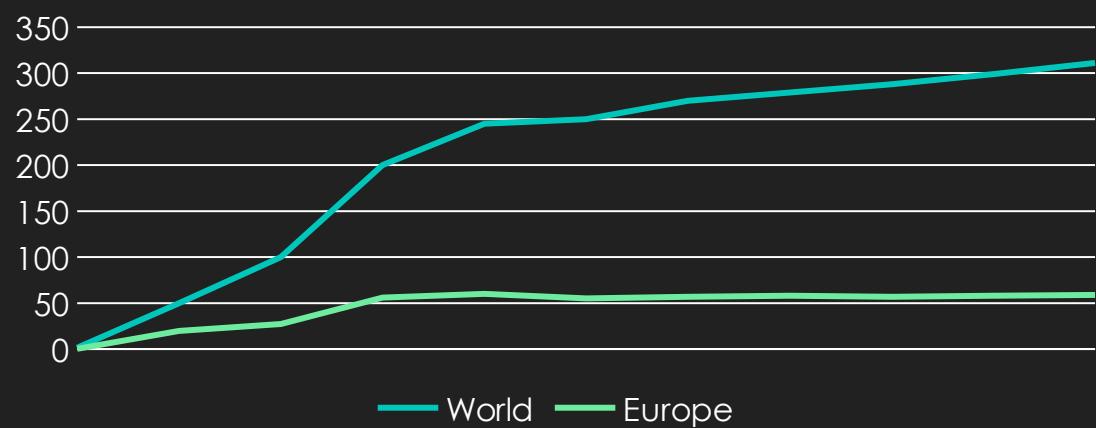
Susana Watts

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How can we use plastic?

- Electric appliances: mobile phone cases, computer towers, mouses...
- Packaging: tetrabricks, plastic bags, plastic trays...
- Building and construction: pipelines, window frames, cones...
- Transport: bags, aircraft materials...
- Sport, leisure, design: tracksuits, safety equipments...
- Farming: containers, flower pots...
- Medical and health industry: medicine containers, syringes...
- Innovation: virtual reality glasses, mobile phones...

World plastic production from 1950 to 2014



This statistic describes the worldwide and European plastic production from 1950 to 2014. In 2008, the plastic production was about 245 million metric tons.

Consumption per capita of plastic



Consequences of the use of plastic

- The plastic in the environment is fragmented into tiny pieces that attract and accumulate toxic substances.
- Plastics that come in contact with food poison humans.
- They are associated with different types of cancer, for example: breast cancer, uterus, ovaries, vagina and cervix, brain cancer, leukemia, etc.
- The world population consumes one million plastic bags per minute, which means almost 1.5 trillion per day and more than 500 billions per year. It is the waste that most pollutes cities and fields, harms, animals, hinders urban drainage and rivers, contributing to floods.
- Oil is both the source of plastic production and the main source of energy, so it is very necessary. Currently there is a very small amount of it, which should not be used in excess, which is why we must reduce the production and consumption of plastic.
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PICTURES



HOW LONG UNTIL IT'S GONE?



Consequences of the use of plastic in the sea.

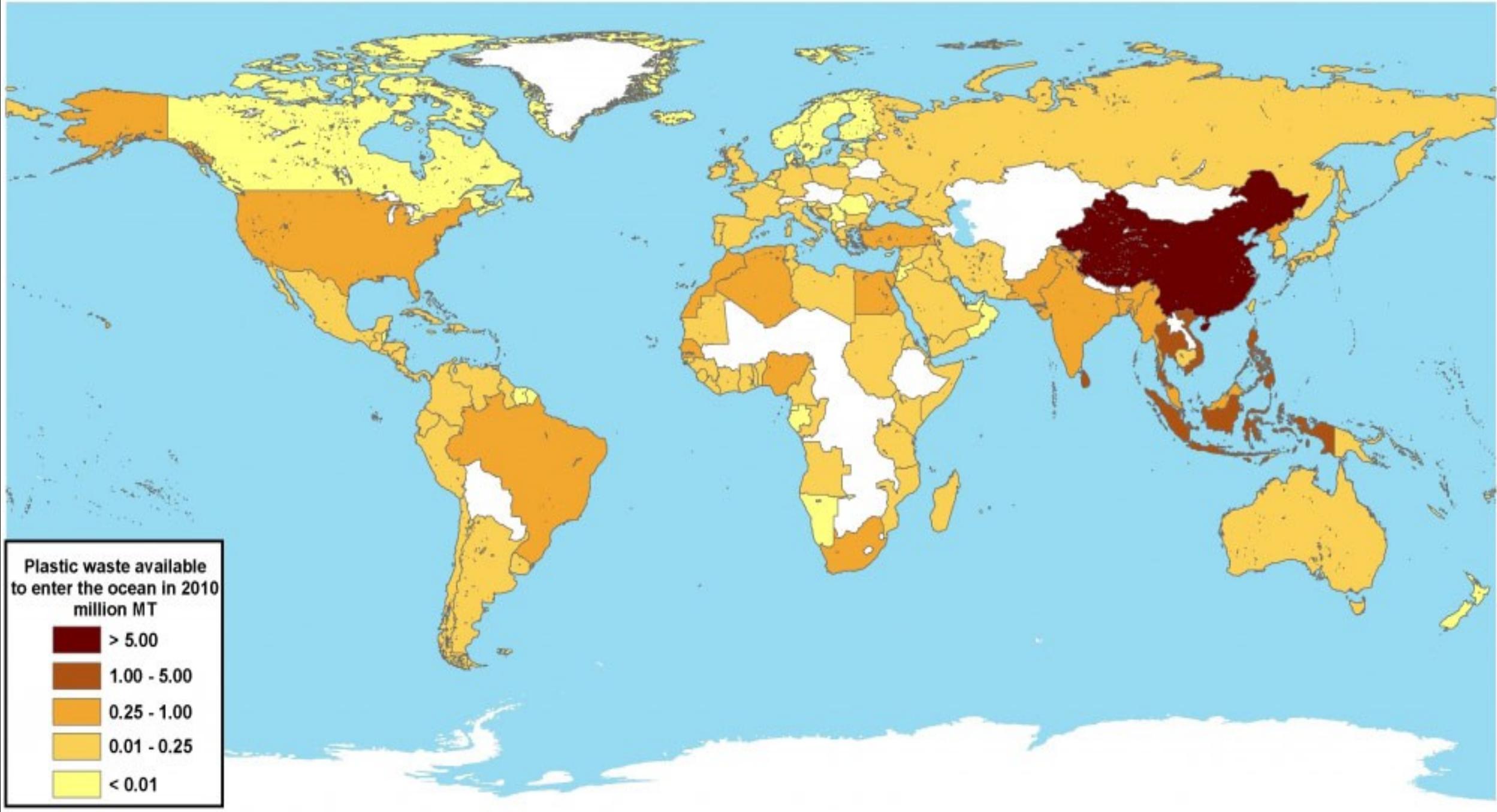
- It is estimated that between 4 and 8 million tons of marine litter enter the ocean each year. Currently, there are 62 million garbage items floating in the Mediterranean sea.
- Plastic bags cause more than 100,000 deaths of sea turtles each year when these animals confuse them for food.
- Large debris stains occur in the oceans as there is more plastic in suspension than plankton (more plastic than food), composed of small fragments and scattered on giant surfaces (the Pacific spot is larger than the US). And due to the size of the particles it is impossible to see them with the naked eye.

PICTURES



PICTURES





Conclusion / Solution

As you have seen in these abominable pictures and data we must find an urgent solution to these problems, and that is why we are going to propose the following solutions:

- Giving a second use to the plastic (for example the pens made with bottle plastic).
- Using edible plastics for animals, without damaging them.
- When we go to the supermarket carry our own bags to avoid the unnecessary consumption of plastic bags.
- Stop using oil as a raw material. We can turn to new technologies such as a catalyst made with iron nanoparticles.
- Encourage the use of biodegradable plastics.

4 R's rules and zero-waste

There are 4 rules that are used to help decrease the amount of waste:

- **R**educe: we must tend to reduce the waste, and we need to start reducing the consumption, because the less we consume, the less waste we produce.
- **R**ecycle: when we generate waste, we must deposit them into their corresponding containers (the plastic to the yellow containers, the glass to the Green, ...)
- **R**euse: before throwing any waste, try to take another use to it and you'll get two benefits; the object that you created and reduce the waste giving a second life to an object.
- **R**ecover: is about recover materials and try to use them in other industrial processes.

On the other hand is Zero-waste. Zero-waste is an internet movement that consists in produce the least number of plastic waste with YouTube videos, blog..., it starts with a Little kit and a change of habits, it learns tips like how to do your own toothpaste, deodorant, and this types of tips make the people be better with the waste.

Remember, the plastic belongs to
the yellow container.

The countries
winning the
recycling race.

The Countries Winning The Recycling Race

Recycled & composted waste as a share of total municipal waste in OECD countries (2013)

