



3rd Africa Animal Welfare Conference
Theme: *Animals, Environment and Sustainable Development in 21st Century Africa: An Interlinked Approach*

Mitigating Climate Change; Eradicating single use plastic

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Outline

- ▶ Rationale on fight Plastics
- ▶ Plastics, Air pollution and Climate change
- ▶ Eradicating single use plastic: Mitigating Climate Change
- ▶ What to do?
- ▶ Rwanda's journey to Eradicate Plastics

Rationale on fighting Plastics

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- ▶ In the last few years, warnings on the effects of uncontrolled and mindless use of single use plastic have grown increasingly;
- ▶ According to [UNEP](#), Plastic packaging accounts for nearly **half of all plastic waste globally** and much of it is thrown away within just a few minutes of its first use.
- ▶ Global plastic production is estimated at [300 million tons/yr](#) (UNEP)
- ▶ Only [9%](#) of the plastic waste ever generated has been recycled and only [14%](#) is collected for recycling now (UNEP);
- ▶ [3-8 millions tons/year](#) are dumped into the sea.
- ▶ By 2050, the oceans could have more plastic than fishes ([Report](#) from Ellen MacArthur Foundation in partnership with the World Economic Forum)
- ▶ In Oct 2018, scientists found micro-plastic-beads in all tested [human bodies](#).
- ▶ Micro-beads from cosmetics or from the broken waste plastics and synthetic plastic fiber will cause more and more pollution.
- ▶ We only have seen the beginning of a much bigger problem when the ~150 million tons of waste plastics in the sea start to break down into micro-beads.

Where is the Right to the welfare of these animals ?

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Where is the Rights to the welfare of these animals ?

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- ▶ Plastic pollution of the oceans is a major concern but the effect of plastic on climate change has not so far been in the spotlight
- ▶ virgin and aged **polyethylene**, used in shopping bags, which are at the core of the single use plastic problem, are **prolific emitters** of these gases



Plastics, Air pollution and Climate change

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- ▶ Incineration of plastic waste in open fields is a major source of air pollution. About 12% of most municipal solid waste is made up of plastic. 40% of the world's garbage is burned. ([Toxic Pollutants from Plastic Waste – A Review](#))
- ▶ The burning of plastics releases toxic gases like **dioxins**, **furans**, **mercury** and **polychlorinated biphenyls** (better known as **PCBs**) into the atmosphere, and poses a threat to vegetation, and human and animal health.
- ▶ Burning plastic also releases black carbon (soot), which contributes to climate change and air pollution.



Plastics, Air pollution and Climate change

- ▶ Considering all GHGs emissions from the **production, transport and uncontrolled and mindless disposal** where an important quantity of used plastics are burned, GHG emissions from using plastics become **very huge!**
- ▶ According to the report "[Plastic and Climate: the hidden costs of a plastic Planet](#)" published by Centre for International Environmental Law et al by 2050, the GHGs emissions from plastic could reach over **56 gigatons - 10-13%** of the entire remaining carbon budget.
- ▶ As per the same [report](#) these emissions from the plastic lifecycle threaten the ability of global community to meet global target of keeping global temperature rise below **1.5 degrees Celsius**.

Say no to single use plastics ; Mitigating Climate Change for improvement of our animals welfare

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It requires to change our mindset and to start with what is seen as small actions

Reduce: Reduce your own plastic waste

Reuse: Bring your own reusable shopping and produce bags to markets, and avoid using single-use plastic bags.

Refuse: E.g. Refuse straws: It's as simple as adding, "**No straw, please**" when requesting beverages at restaurants or cafes.

- **Recycle:** E.g. Collect plastics then turn into other usable products
- **Replace:** E.g. Bio-based Materials or Plastics From plants instead of petroleum-based



What else to do?



Recycle



Collect and
manage
well



Replace



Rwanda's journey to Eradicate Plastics

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- ▶ **2003:** Ministry in charge of Environment assessed the problem of plastic in Rwanda. Alarming negative impacts of plastic wastes in Rwanda (on sanitation and general cleanliness, human health, agriculture productivity, water drainage systems, cattle health, air quality, water quality, etc.)
- ▶ **2004:** Government decided to ban plastic shopping bags,
- ▶ **August 2004:** Ministerial Instructions on the use and manufacturing of plastic bags in Rwanda. Banned shopping bags of <60 microns.
- ▶ **2008:** Law N°57/2008 of 10/09/2008 relating to the prohibition of manufacturing, importation, use and sale of polythene bags in Rwanda. Extended to all packaging plastics bags, with penalties provisions.
- ▶ **2019:** Review of the Law to include all single use plastics (Plastic bottles, cups, plates, cutlery, etc.).

Where we are

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- ▶ The challenge Rwanda faces today is not plastic bags, but extends to all plastics especially “single use plastics”.
- ▶ Single use plastics ban law already approved by cabinet and parliament waiting for HE’s signature to be gazetted
- ▶ Investing in reusable alternative, like water dispensers, jugs and glasses is not only good for the environment, but also cost effective.
- ▶ Promoting innovation in alternative to plastics; recycling and re-use into other materials



Let's all Say No to plastics;

Sing No to plastics

Preach No to plastics

Lets raise our voice for the voiceless



Thank
You

A blue paper cutout of the words "Thank You" in a playful, rounded font. The cutout is hanging from a thin brown string. The background is white.