Konya Plastics Pact

PROBLEMATIC & UNNECESSARY PLASTICS ITEMS LIST

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WHAT IS KENYA PLASTICS PACT?

The Kenya Plastics Pact is an ambitious, collaborative initiative that brings together businesses, governments, researchers, NGOs, and other stakeholders across the whole value chain to set time-bound commitments to transform the current linear plastics system into a circular plastics economy.

This Plastics Pact aims to ensure that plastics never become waste by eliminating the plastics we don't need, innovating to ensure that the plastics we do need are reusable or recyclable, and circulating all the plastic packaging items we use to keep them in the economy and out of the environment.

The vision, targets, and ambition of the Kenya Plastics Pact are aligned with the circular economy principles of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's New Plastics Economy.
The Pact focuses on addressing the barriers to circularity in the plastic packaging sector through public-private collaborations that enable solutions to eliminate the plastics we do not need, bring innovation to packaging design and capture the value of the plastics we use.

THE PLASTICS PACT UNITES THE SECTOR BEHIND TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING FOUR TARGETS BY 2030:

Eliminate unnecessary or problematic single-use plastic packaging items through redesign, innovation, and reuse delivery models.

100% of plastic packaging is reusable or recyclable.

40% of plastic packaging is effectively recycled.

15% average recycled content across all plastic packaging.

INTRODUCTION

Plastic pollution is one of the most severe threats to the planet's health. Single-use plastics pollute most ecosystems, from rainforests to the world's deepest ocean trench. An estimated 37,000 tons of plastic leak into the ocean annually, and 67% of that leakage comes from urban centres (1). Leakage impacts our water systems in general including our drinking water.

The problem is projected to get worse: by 2060, plastic generation will be 1.9 million metric tons per year . At the present rate of population growth under a business-as-usual model, plastics production is estimated to double within the next 20 years . When consumed by fish and livestock, plastic waste ends up in our food chain.

Phasing out problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging is essential to shift our economy and community away from single-use disposable plastic packaging to more durable, reusable, and recyclable packaging. By tackling these problematic items, we will also reduce packaging consumption, litter, and waste, improve the economics of recycling, increase employment, lift recycling rates and help to boost recycled content in packaging.

Policy amendments that provide a detailed description of the design plastics packaging and its durability create incentives for product reuse and increases recycling potential. It is further recognized that intervention needs to be supported throughout the entire supply chain, from manufacturers to brand owners, retailers, and consumers.

(1). Paruta et al. 2020. Final Report for Kenya [PowerPoint slides]. IUCN, UNEP, Life Cycle Initiative, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, NEMA.

ABOUT THE REPORT

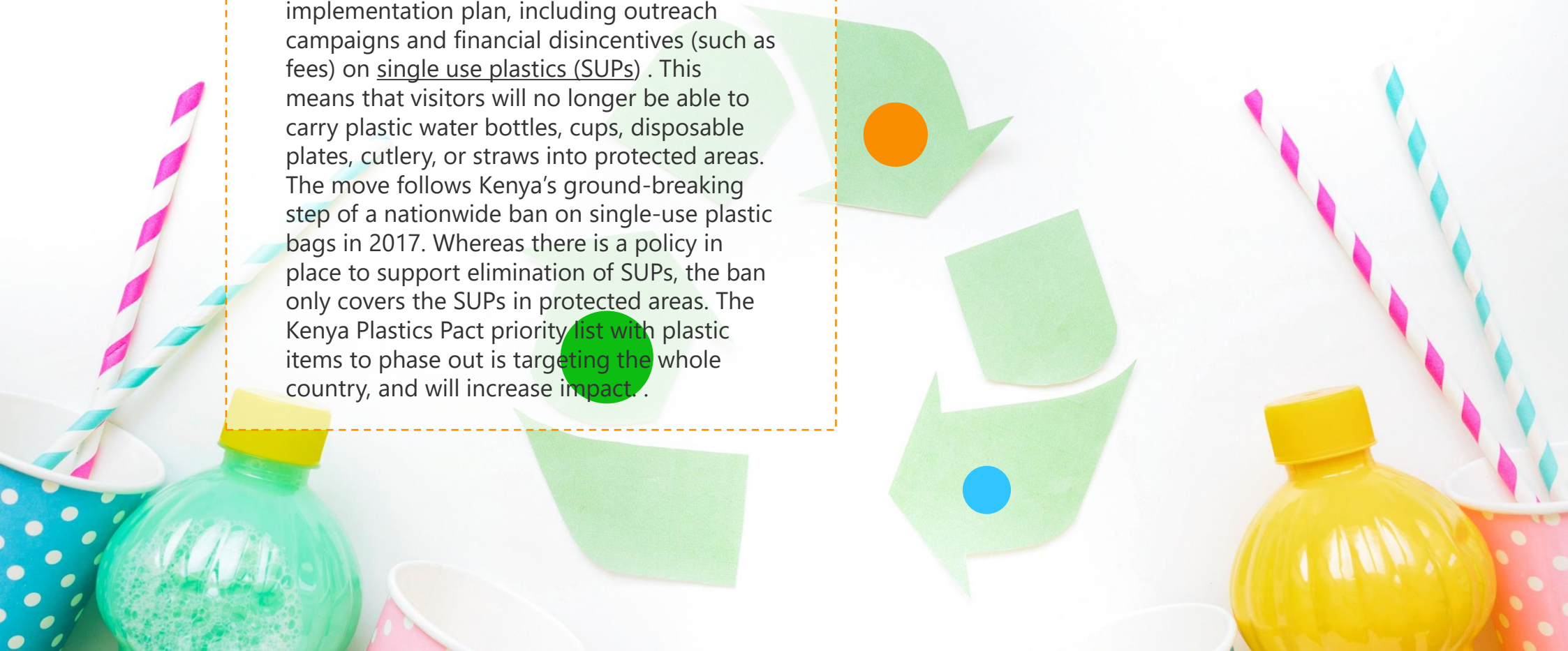
The Kenya Plastics Pact (KPP) has defined and published the priority list to support a collective plan to meet the 2030 target of phasing out problematic and unnecessary plastic items.

The list was developed over six months by the KPP working group one members drawn from brands, recyclers, voluntary PROs, NGOs, and government with expert advice from the technical team from Sustainable Inclusive Business (SIB-K), (WRAP), and Ellen MacArthur Foundation through coordination of the KPP secretariat, i.e., SIB-K. The items on the list were evaluated based on developed criteria to evaluate the ability to recycle and the comparison with comprehensive publicly available data to confirm the assumptions by the brands, recyclers, and producers.

The working group identified a range of plastic items and earmarked them as priority items for elimination. While some of these items may be considered for packaging, items such as disposable plastic cutlery, plastic plates and bowls, plastic straws, and plastic stirrers are frequently combined with packaging and therefore have been included in the list.

KENYA WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICIES TO ELIMINATE PROBLEMATIC & UNNECESSARY PLASTIC ITEMS

Kenya has made significant steps to eliminate problematic and unnecessary plastic items through policy instruments. On June 2020, the Kenyan President, through a presidential directive, banned the use of single-use plastics in protected areas, including National Parks, beaches, forests, and conservation areas, and developed a complementary implementation plan, including outreach campaigns and financial disincentives (such as fees) on single use plastics (SUPs) . This means that visitors will no longer be able to carry plastic water bottles, cups, disposable plates, cutlery, or straws into protected areas. The move follows Kenya's ground-breaking step of a nationwide ban on single-use plastic bags in 2017. Whereas there is a policy in place to support elimination of SUPs, the ban only covers the SUPs in protected areas. The Kenya Plastics Pact priority list with plastic items to phase out is targeting the whole country, and will increase impact. .



DEFINITIONS

Definitions were developed by Kenya Plastic Pact to reflect the Kenyan context based on definitions from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's New Plastics Economy Global commitment definitions and the National Sustainable Waste Management Policy 2021.

Alternatives

These are options available that can be used to substitute the plastic packaging whilst still delivering the intended function and not causing unintended consequences.

Unnecessary Plastics

These are plastic items that can be avoided (or replaced by a reuse model) while maintaining utility. They have limited social utility for which no alternatives are required and which can be phased out without significant behavioural or infrastructural change.

Recovery

This means retrieval of materials from waste and includes repair, refurbishment, recycling, remanufacturing, composting power generation, or any other initiative aimed at extracting value from material that would otherwise have been discarded as waste.

Recyclable

A plastic packaging is recyclable if it's successful post-consumer collection, sorting, and recycling is proven to work in practice and at scale.

Recycling

Recycling entails recovery of materials from waste for reprocessing and production of secondary raw materials. Recycling also entails preference to secondary raw materials in replacement where feasible of primary virgin material.

CRITERIA FOR THE LIST/ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Five criteria were used to evaluate and select the items for the list. The items were categorised as problematic and /or unnecessary based on the five criteria. Materials on the list met one or more of the following criteria:

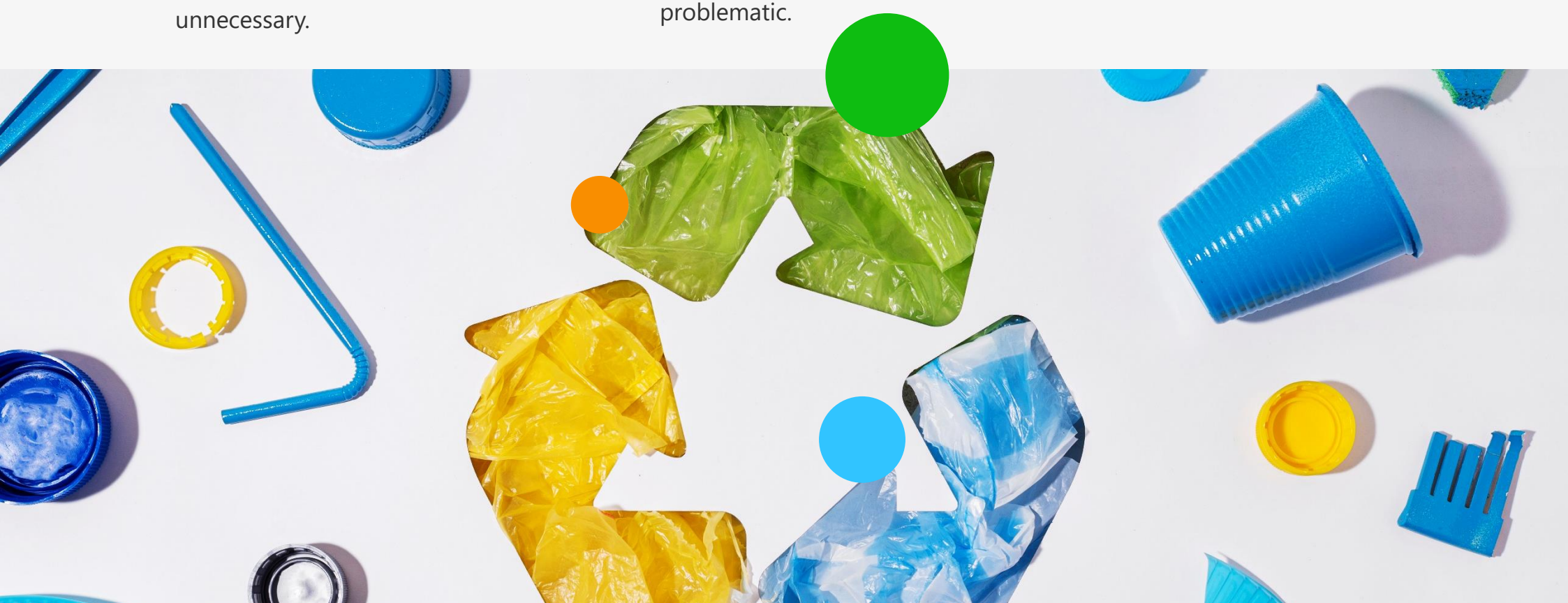
1. **Reusable and recyclable at scale.** Plastic items that are not reusable or recyclable are considered problematic.

2. **Replaceable** (alternative material that is recyclable or reusable available). Plastic items that have alternatives are considered unnecessary.

3. **Contaminates recycling streams.** Plastic items that contaminates the recycling stream is considered problematic.

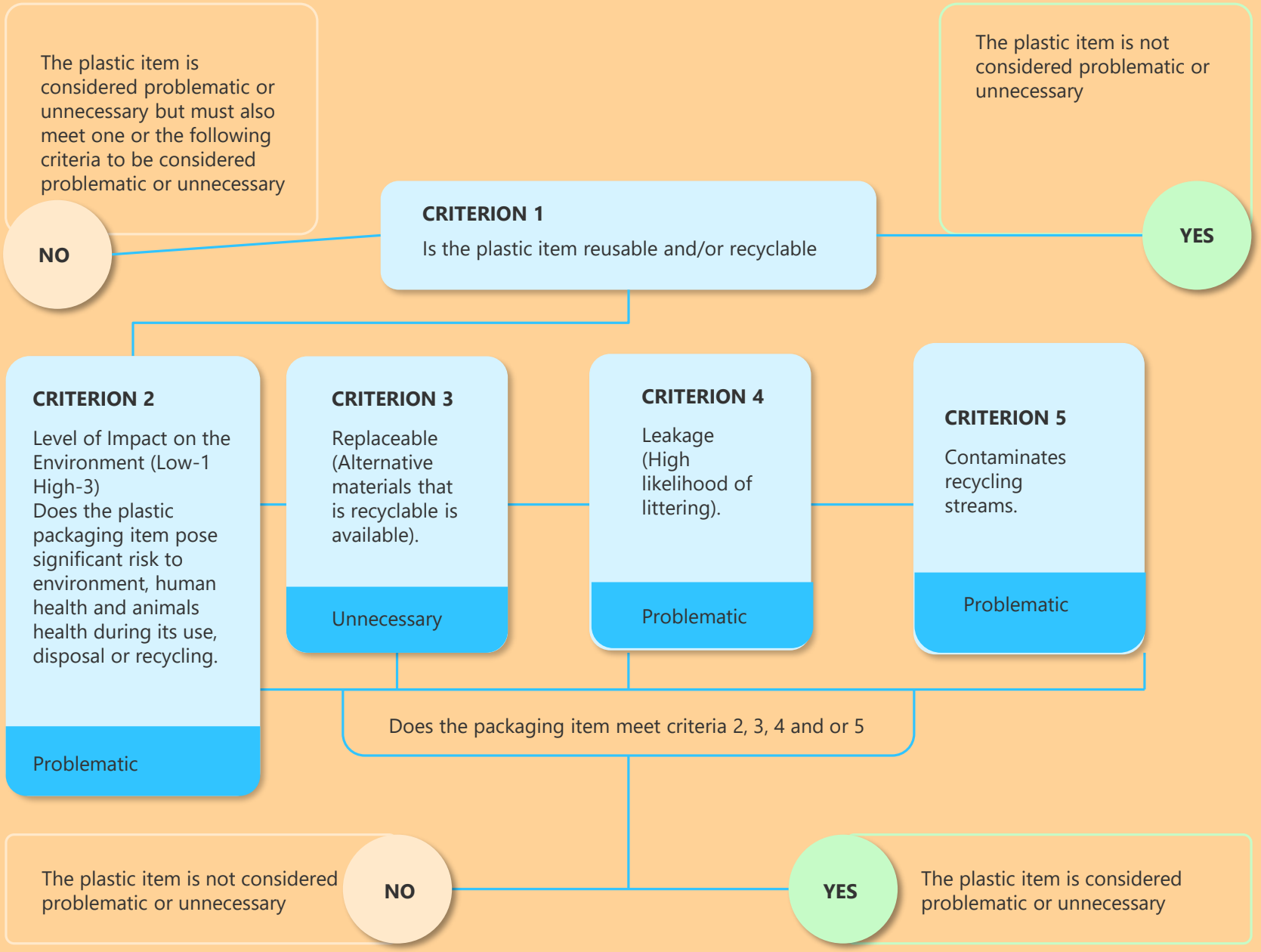
4. **Leakage: High likelihood of littering**
Plastic items with high likelihood of leakage are considered problematic.

5. **Level of impact on the environment (1 = low, 3 = high)**
Plastic items with high level of impact on the environment are considered problematic.



PROBLEMATIC OR UNNECESSARY PLASTIC ITEMS DECISION TREE

The plastic items were identified based on one and/or the five criteria as shown below



TARGET 1 PRIORITY LIST

The priority list is disaggregated into plastic packaging items, non-packaging plastic items, and additives.

Plastics packaging

- All polystyrene (PS) packaging
- Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) rigid packaging (including bottles)
- Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) plastics packaging for fast foods
- Polyethylene Terephthalate Glycol (PETG) in rigid packaging
- Secondary plastic cling film on takeaway packaging
- Consumer plastic multi-wrap around cans, tins, bottles, and cartons for multi-sales.
- PETG and PVC shrink sleeves on PET bottles

Non-packaging plastics

- Disposable plastic cutlery
- Disposable plastic plates and bowls
- Plastic straws
- Plastic stirrers
- Plastic cotton bud sticks

Plastics Additives

- Oxo-degradable plastics products

Exception on the priority list: Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) rigid packaging (including bottles).
This excludes medical/pharmaceuticals PVC packaging.

TARGET 1 PRIORITY LIST

ITEMS	RATIONALE BASED ON CRITERIA
PLASTIC PACKAGING ITEMS	
All polystyrene (PS) packaging	Alternatives exist.
Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) rigid packaging (including bottles)	There is currently no known PVC recycling system in the country. It contaminates PET and hampers PET recycling. Alternatives exist. Contaminates the environment and human health when disposed.
Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) plastics packaging for fast foods	Not currently recycled in Kenya. Lightweight material that has an extremely high litter propensity. Alternatives exist.
Polyethylene Terephthalate Glycol (PTG) in rigid packaging.	It is difficult to differentiate with PET and has a different melting point thus hinders recyclability of PET.
Secondary Plastic cling film on takeaway packaging.	Alternatives exist.
Consumer plastic multi-wrap around cans, tins, bottles, and cartons, for multi-sales.	Alternatives exist.
PETG and PVC shrink sleeves on PET bottles	Easily littered and contaminate PET recycling stream.
NON-PACKAGING PLASTICS	
Disposable plastic cutlery	Alternatives exist. Covered by the single use plastics ban in protected areas.
Disposable plastic plates and bowls	There are alternatives available. Covered under the single use plastics ban in protected areas.
Plastic straws	Alternatives exist. Covered under the single use plastics ban in protected areas. High leakage.
Plastic stirrers	Covered under the single use plastics ban in protected areas.
Plastic cotton bud sticks	Covered under the single use plastics ban in protected areas.
PLASTICS ADDITIVES	
Oxo-degradable plastics products	Fragmentates into micro-plastics and thus has a high level of impact on the environment. Undermined confidence in PE film recycling. Alternatives exist.

CONCLUSION

The target priority list is based on list of problematic and unnecessary items currently used by members of the Kenya Plastic Pact and will be updated based on new KPP members as well as evolving recycling infrastructure, available innovations in Kenya and national policies. Elimination of the priority list of unnecessary and problematic plastic items is scheduled to be collectively achieved by 2030 by KPP members.

The plastic items under the current ban in protected areas have been included since they are unnecessary and there are alternatives already available. Therefore, an indication that there could be a total ban in the near future and imperative for KPP members to initially embrace the ban and eliminate these plastics items in anticipation of national ban.

NEXT STEPS

By signing up to the Kenya Plastics Pact, members commit to work towards eliminating these problematic and unnecessary plastics items. To achieve this, KPP members are required to develop industry individual plans. Additionally, the progress will be tracked through an existing reporting system where progress is tracked against the targets. The baseline for tracking progress is 2021 and progress will be tracked until 2030.

GET IN TOUCH

If you have any questions about the Kenya Plastics Pact, please visit our website at **https://kpp.or.ke/** or contact **communication@kpp.or.ke**